THE WIRE

VOL. 4

January—December 1950

THE WIRE

The Corps Magazine of the
ROYAL SIGNALS

The Official Organ of the
SIGNALS ASSOCIATION

All correspondence and matter for publication for "The Wire" should be addressed to The Editor, "The Wire," 88 Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1. Matter for publication must be received by the 15th of the month preceding publication.

Remittances should be made payable to: Royal Signals Association. Subscription rates (post free, except air mail): Twelve months, 10s.; single month, 1s.

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JANUARY • 1950

Vol 4 *New Series* **No. 1**

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PRICE: ONE SHILLING

Editorial

1950 for THE WIRE as indeed for many of us, is going to be a difficult year. We have to close the gap between costs and sales. It is closing but not yet closed.

This number is an expensive one. Too many pictures. We shall have to cut down in February and March.

Please keep up your contributions and factual articles, particularly those descriptive of the work of Royal Signals Overseas. We will publish all we can.

The Christmas number of that most excellent Magazine *The Gripper* has just reached us. If any contributors ever leave 1 Training Regiment we shall welcome something from their pen, pencil, or camera for THE WIRE.

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LOOKING FOR A JOB?

If you have left the Corps, or are about to leave it, you may be thinking that a few more years service would not be a bad idea, if you could only be sure that you would not be uprooted and put on a "slow boat to China," or even a fast one to some other distant place. You may be one of the many who say "I'd love to stay with my pals in the Corps, but there are the 'missus' and kids to think about. I can't go overseas again."

Ever heard of the Type "T" Short Service Scheme? This may be just the opening for you. Below is a brief outline of the conditions, but for fuller details, if you are interested, you may apply to your nearest Recruiting Office, or T.A. unit or to the Officer i/c Royal Signals Records, Reading, if you are no longer serving, or to your C.O. if you are still in the Corps. A.C.Is. 199 and 399 of 1949 are the authorities.

Employment—On the permanent staff of Royal Signals T.A. units only, in the United Kingdom except, possibly, in the event of embodiment of the T.A.

Period—Four years.

Age limits—30 to 45 years.

Medical—PULHEEMS down to BE; medical categories down to B.2.a. (Special War Office sanction is required for soldiers who were invalided from the Service, but they are not barred).

Army character—Not less than "Very Good."

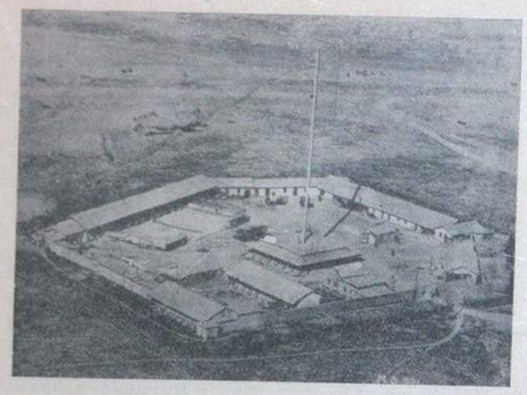
Rank—Sergeant (details in A.C.I. 199/49).

Pay, allowances and marriage allowance—Appropriate to rank under current rules, subject to any changes which may be introduced at any time.

Leave—As for Regular Army personnel. 28 days terminal leave.

Pensions—Type "T" service is reckonable for pension increments in certain circumstances.

The A.C.Is. quoted above contain the fullest information.



Dear Per Ardua,

How we enjoyed that tale! We laughed and laughed and came to the conclusion that we had more than a nodding acquaintance with that mud brick compound; in fact we think we spent several sticky years behind its hospitable walls. So sure are we that we have dug up an ancient aerial snap from the bottom of the desk to refresh your memory. You will laugh if it is the wrong spot.

The spot marked X at the bottom of the mast is where the famous board hung. That marked XX is where the Youngers bottles were buried. (Hope you are not listening, Captain Bremner).

Mr. Tinwhistle will doubtless recognise his tiny mess to the left of the gate behind the Guard-room.

Methinks 'tis the same Mr. Tinwhistle who constructed and got around the world with short-wave sets comprising old copper tubing and adds and ends. (A bit different to your modern gear, Sir, I'll wager).

Fellow-sufferers will recognise the barrack-room top left, kitchen, library, I.R. shop in corner where our worthy I.R. Corporal Wort did his stuff; Seargeants' Mess and charging room looked after by Paddy [illegible]r and Taff Williams and there you have it.

And now, look what I have found wind up with! Have a good look at yourself as you were twenty odd years ago.

I wonder, Per Ardua, do you look out fn this little lot? Anyway, jolly good luck to you, Sir.

In conclusion, if any member of this hap section should perchance see this, greeting and all the bcof luck to you from sometime

2308451 SIGNALMAN. LEDGER.
Wa'side Filling Station,
Malton Road,
York.

REUNIONS

S.T.C. (B) MHOW

The third annual reunion of the STC(BMHOW will be held at the Victoria Hotel, Buckingham Palace Road, S.W.1. on Saturday, 25th February, 1950 at 5.30 p.m.

Tickets, price 12/-, are obtainable from the Secretary at the undermentioned address: Joseph W. Lucas, 4 Ronelean Road, Tolworth, Surrey. Tel.: Elmbridge 7883.

* * *

18th, 6th and 70th Divisional Signals, Special Force (Chindits) Signals and Special Force Training Signals, 34 Indian Corps Signals and Norfolk Coast Defence Divisional Signals.

The first All-Ranks Reunion of the above-mentioned Units will be held in London on Saturday, 4th March, 1950, starting at 7 p.m.

Full particulars from Brigadier F. R. W. Jamon, Standwell House, Oxted, Surrey.

* * *

The Royal Signals O.C.T.U. Reunion Dinner took place at the Connaught Rooms, London, on Saturday, 9th October, 1949. Colonel W. H. N. Dent, O.B.E., presided, 32 officers were present. The date of the next dinner is 28th October, 1950.



OBITUARY

Lord Pender

Lord Pender died in London on 4th December. As Mr. J. C. Dennison-Pender he had been in Telecommunications for some forty years. He entered the service of the Eastern Telegraph Company on leaving Eton and was largely instrumental in forming the Cable and Wireless Group of Companies of which he was a governor. He was created a Baron in 1937, taking the title of Lord Pender of Porthcurnow. To us in Royal Signals he will be remembered as Honorary Colonel of 56 or The London Divisional Signals (City of London Signals) T.A., where at Signal House, Clapham Park, his unfailing interest and generosity made him a real friend to all ranks. This in no small measure enabled this Territorial Army Signal Regiment to put on a Display at the Royal Tournament of 1937.

The Memorial Service at St. Peter's, Eaton Square, near to his London home of pre-war days was attended by a number of officers who had served with City of London Signals while Lord Pender was Honorary Colonel. These included Major G. M. Welsford representing Brigadier A. C. C. Willway, Captain W. A. Buttle, Lieutenant-Colonel H. R. Firth, Chief Signal Officer London District and Lieutenant-Colonel T. E. Dobson, the Commanding Officer of 56 (London) Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment T.A. (City of London Signals).

To his sons, the present Lord Pender, and Major The Honourable R. E. Dennison-Pender, Royal Signals, our great sympathy.

FORMATION SIGNS

During the war a number of us from Brigadiers to Signalmen made a collection of the Formation Signs; starting with the formations we served with and alongside and then enlarging the scope. What many of us lacked was an authorative work of the subject. That lack was partly our own fault because had we written to Gale and Polden they, as so often, could have helped.

Memory of those collector days was revived by a letter from Accra asking for the assistance of the WIRE in making known a collector's need.

We have referred to him the two standards works on the subject, HERALDRY IN WAR, which deals essentially with those badges worn during the war, is temporarily out of print, a third edition is in production. This is a beautiful book containing a mass of historical data and I'd wager that any soldier taking it up will not put it down again under a couple of hours and will then acquire a copy for leisurely reading. Albeit with six pages of colour and ten plates the essence of the book is the black and white picture of each of five hundred Formation signs with something of the history of each Formation and the way in which the sign was acquired. Thus we learn of the "EYE" of the Guards Armoured Division being the same sign as was worn by the Guards Infantry Division of the First War. Every picture and every line of print brings a memory or a new fact. The subject sounds dull. It is in fact absorbing.

The companion volume, BADGES ON BATTLEDRESS, deals mainly with the post-war Army. This is available now and makes equally good reading.

HERALDRY IN WAR 12/6, BADGES ON BATTLEDRESS 6/6, both by Lieutenant-Colonel Howard N. Cole, both from Gale and Polden Ltd., Aldershot.

Corporal G. Campbell (3055781) writes from Gold Coast Signal Squadron, Giffard Camp, Accra, West Africa, as follows: "One of my hobbies is collecting Formation Signs of the British Army, and any other Army for that matter. There must be some other chaps in Royal Signals who are also collectors, I hope they will write to me at the above address with a view to swopping signs."

ROYAL SIGNALS DINNER CLUB

The Annual Dinner will take place at the Hyde Park Hotel on Wednesday, 31st May, 1950, at 7 for 7.30 o'clock.

This year the attendance is limited to subscribing members of the Club. Price of tickets 15/-.

Officers not members wishing to attend the Dinner may of course join the Club first.

The Tea Party for Regular Officers will take place at the Hyde Park Hotel on Thursday, 1st June, 1950, at 4 for 4.30 o'clock. Tickets 8/6.

Details regarding the Club, the Dinner or the Tea Party from the Hon. Secretary, Royal Signals Dinner Club, Room 97, Horse Guards, Whitehall, S.W.1.

A CAUTIONARY TALE

By **Lieutenant-Colonel ALEX MONTEITH, M.B.E.**

Sir Thomas Winterbottom-Hall
Had hardly any brain at all,
A failing which ensured that he
Would make an excellent M.P.
Accordingly, for years and years,
Ignoring Opposition jeers,
He sat for Muckle-in-the-Wold
And tried to do as he was told.
Sir Thomas used to spend his nights
Imbibing vintage port at White's,
Unless, as often was the case,
He drank it in some other place.
War came, and Winterbottom-Hall
Burn'd to respond to duty's call.
He pestered every friend he knew
To find some job that he could do.
His friends all thought with might and main
—One baronet deranged his brain—
But fret and puzzle how they would
It didn't do the slightest good.
In war a chap with any wits
Is bound to find some job that fits,
But it is very hard to find
Posts for a man without a mind.
Resigned to Fate, Sir Thomas sought
His solace in a sea of port
Until one day a faithful friend
Brought this stagnation to an end.
"The very thing for you, old boy!"
Sir Thomas fairly jumped for joy;
"A splendid chance in Middle East—
You'll be a Brigadier at least."
"By gad, sir, you're a decent sort!"
Cried Thomas. "Have a glass of port!"
"When do I sail?; tomorrow, eh?"
"I'll get my uniform today!"
The Turf Club, then, instead of White's,
Was where Sir Thomas spent his nights.
But there, since vintage stuff was short,
He tippled gin instead of port.
He could not write, he could not spell,
He could not read so very well.
What did he do?: as you may guess,
That is a fact I must suppress.
But certain rumours which I hear
Suggest, that in a certain sphere,
Men trembled at his slightest nod,
And thought him little less than God.
The moral, then, is plain to all:
Drink port, like Winterbottom-Hall,
Belong to some good club, like White's
And you shall set the world to rights.
Speak much but never, never think,
Take plenty of expensive drink.
Obey these rules and one and all
Shall be like Winterbottom-Hall.

Dr Rogers' Letters

FROM THE CRIMEA

THE WIRE is indebted to Brigadier W. H. G. Rogers, C.B.E., for permission to publish extracts from the letters of his grandfather, **Surgeon Captain Thomas Lawes Rogers.**

These letters will, it is felt, be of interest mainly to the very young and very old in Royal Signals. Allowing for the slightly pedantic phrasing of those days they are word for word almost exactly the same as letters of today written in similar circumstances. Purely personal matters and some of the more actionable comments on the senior officers of those days have been deleted, otherwise they are printed as written.

On board the *Kangaroo*,
29th May, 1855, Cork Harbour.

We left Liverpool about 2 o'clock Wednesday afternoon, but I went on board at 11. We had only one officer, a captain in the R.E., a very nice fellow with whom, of course, I fraternised, and a clergyman who is proceeding to Constantinople. We landed the same evening and went up to Cork where we slept last night and the night before. There is a very liberal mess provided and nothing to pay, I relieve, and the owner of the vessel who came down with us from Liverpool was so liberal as to pay our hotel expenses at Cork. We messed last night with the 2nd Somerset Militia, who are quartered here.

We are very busy now taking the horses on board, about 120, a troop of artillery, after that is done we shall dine together, when we shall commemorate the circumstance with some champagne I have no doubt, as they have plenty on board and we have already broached several bottles—one advantage of carrying the owner of the vessel. We shall probably not be off before tomorrow; now nearly half-past five Cork time.

You must not expect to hear from me for some time after this, not till we get to Malta which will be in about 10 days.

I am senior medical officer on board and am consequently responsible for all the stores, etc., which involves a little writing, but I shall make the "subs" do all the work, at least what there is to be done which I anticipate will not be very much.

3rd June, 1855.

I am attempting to write to you but the jarring of the screw I am afraid will oblige me to desist from the attempt.

We left Cork last Sunday morning at a little before noon, the day was wet but there was not much wind, fortunately, or we should all have been turned up. The next day was finer and we could get on deck between storms. By Tuesday we were in the Bay of Biscay and the vessel going very easily and smoothly and most of the people recovering from their sickness, but the day following it was very rough and the ship rolled awfully, but the wind was blowing "aft" so the sea did not come over us when the steam was well up The roughness of the weather caused relapses in many of our friends. For myself I have not suffered at all and have been able to eat all the way, and really this seems the greatest part of our employment on board.

Thursday we passed the Portugese coast pretty closely and saw the promontory behind which Lisbon is situated, but could not see the town itself. Friday afternoon was rather ominous, the ship rolled a great deal without there being any wind, the Mother Carey's chickens kept in the wake of our vessel and the swallows lighted on the yards, the night soon came on, the swell of the sea increased and the moon could not break through the clouds, the skies were, however, frequently illuminated by lightning. This was not a very satisfactory evening for entering the Straits of Gibraltar and the Captain was not at all at his ease and began to consider whether it would not be better to lay off the Morocco coast and not attempt the passage till morning. However, about nine o'clock (the nights are dark sooner here than in England, you know) the moon made herself perceptible and the flashes of sheet lightning revealed the African coast a little ahead of us, and we entered the Straits by broad moonlight, but just before we reached the Rock of Gibraltar a squall sprang up, which was rather pleasant than not, and I stood it out till it began to rain, when I turned in and went to sleep.

We have a very nice mess on board and not *too many* officers, so that most of us have a cabin each and I find it quite hot enough at night with only one in the berth. Our mess consists of one Colonel of the 63rd, a Captain of the Engineers, a Captain and two Lieutenants, one Assistant Surgeon and one Veterinary Surgeon of the Artillery, and five Lieutenants and Ensigns of the 49th Regiment. Then there are the Captain and Surgeon and Purser of the vessel and a clergyman who is proceeding to Scutari.

Steam Transport *Kangaroo*,
14th June, 1855. Balaclava.

We stayed a day and a half at Malta. Valetta is *the* town and where the harbours are both situated, the first is for general shipping and is very safe and commodious, the other was formerly used as a quarantine harbour and goes by that name now although not used as such. The town itself is all up and down hill and is consequently tolerably clean, although I don't think the people are particularly addicted to cleanliness. Directly on entering the harbour which we did about 4 or 5 o'clock Tuesday morning, we were surrounded by boatmen with the Maltese boats which are very comfortable and safe, something like canoes, but the people are never satisfied with what you give them, and when I gave the man twopence in the evening for taking me back to the ship after having given him a shilling in the morning, you would have been amused to have seen his face.

The thing most worth seeing in Valetta is the Church of St. John's, which is extremely beautiful, being paved with marble and most richly ornamented. The screen of one of the altars is made of silver which was preserved when the church was pillaged by Napoleon by being painted black.

We went to the opera in the evening. There was an Italian company there and I being very tired slept through the last part of the performance, but from what I saw of the first I did not regret it. It is a large and rather pretty theatre, but not being the season it was not nearly full, though there were officers of near every regiment in the service there.

Things are naturally cheap at Malta but the English have spoiled Malta as every other place in that respect. Whilst we were in harbour we saw two brigs full of Arabs who were just returning from their pilgrimage to Mecca. Their dress was very peculiar looking as if they had cut a hole in a blanket and pushed their heads through and that appeared their only garment. We were much amused at seeing some of them trying to embark and their comrades for some reason did not want them and pushed them back, and one poor fellow went into the water and they made a great noise, but could not understand what they said.

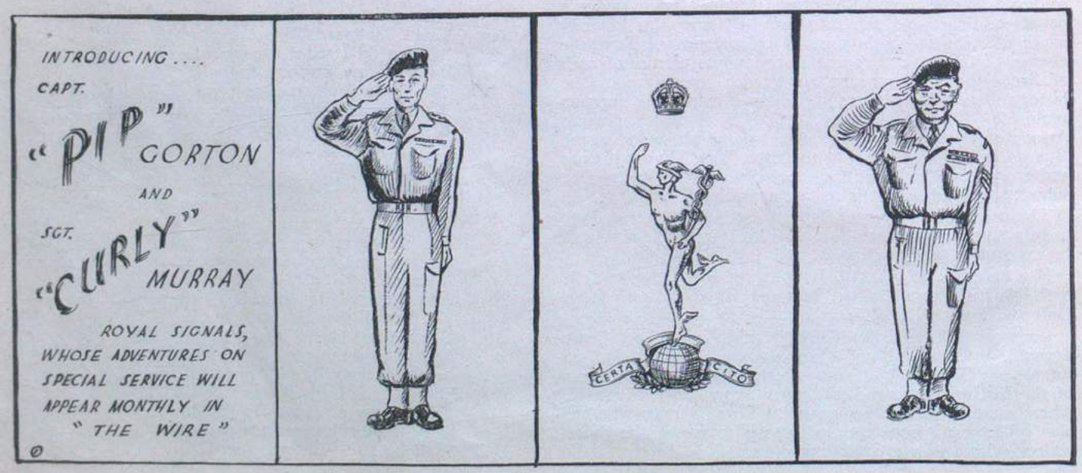
We had a very pleasant passage up the Dardanelles fortunately, having daylight as we entered about 12 o'clock on Sunday. They are not broader than a good sized river, one of the American's for instance, or the Thames at Gravesend.

We stayed all day at Constantinople. It is a beautiful city to look at from Bosphorous, but when you get into it, it is one of the dirtiest holes I entered. I went first to Scutari and saw that immense hospital which is now in a very good state, but I was sorry to hear that Miss Nightingale was ill, she having gone to the camp and fallen sick there was brought down to Scutari. She is now slowly recovering and is to return home when sufficiently well.

I went over the burying ground which is rather a melancholy affair, seeing the huge graves side by side, each of which contains from one to three score of soldiers. I was not much struck with the Mosque of St. Sophia, it is a very handsome building but not at all comparable to St. John's at Valetta.

We got to Balaclava yesterday about 2 p.m., but they have not yet let us into the harbour, but we are at anchor outside. My first landing was romantic. A lot of us went out in a boat after dinner and scaled the heights of Balaclava, coming upon the hospital tents at once. Our station is on the heights which are very healthy, but not so the town as the harbour is still rather impure. It appears a beautiful country, too good to be devastated by the hand of war. Our mess will be pretty well separated after tomorrow, some to the front, others to Balaclava.

There has been a smart engagement on the 7th, but you will get more accurate intelligence in *The Times* than I can give you. I am just going ashore to report myself and must conclude.





Yeoman Warders of H.M. Tower of London

By **Yeoman Warder G. A. E. GAVEY,** *late Captain, Royal Signals*

VERY few of the general public know the difference between the Corps or "fellowship" of Yeomen Warders, and that of the Yeomen of the Guard.

This article is an attempt to explain this difference.

A permanent body of Royal retainers was in existence within the Tower, and this body performed the duties of warders over prisoners, gate keepers, and armed defenders of the fortress, very many years before the Yeomen of the Guard were formed.

The Yeomen Warders of today claim direct and unbroken descent from these keepers of the gates, and their "fellowship" is considered to be the oldest of any known association of men carrying on the same duties from century to century, up to the present day.

The earliest warder who can be traced by name is "John of London," who lived in the 14th century, in the reign of Edward III.



Yeoman Warder Geoff Gavey in full state dress. (The ceremonial weapon is a "Partisan" and not a pike)

For the formation of the Yeomen of the Guard we must go back in history to the battle of Bosworth in 1485. Henry Tudor (Henry VII) had been in exile in Brittany, and faithful followers who had shared his exile, and had marched with him from Milford Haven, through Wales; were formed into a personal bodyguard, to be known as "Yeomen of the Guard." An extract from the "Tower Warders' Order Book" reads thus: "On the 22nd May, 1485, Henry, Earl of Richmond was, by public acclamation saluted on the battlefield of Bosworth, King over England, and was crowned on the 30th October following. In the first year of his reign the Yeomen of the Guard were first ordered, of which the Yeomen Waiters, or Warders of the Tower hath the seniority." It was not until 1551 that the Yeomen Warders were sworn extraordinary members of the guard, and permitted to wear the same livery as they did. This came about in the following manner: When the Tower was a Royal Palace, and the King frequently lived there, the Yeomen Warders were in constant evidence as his bodyguard; but when these visits became less frequent, there was some danger of the Yeomen Warders losing their ancient privileges and rights.

During the reign of King Edward VI, the Duke of Somerset (Lord Protector) was a prisoner in the Tower. The Duke was on very friendly terms with the Warders, and they made a petition to him, asking that their ancient dress and privileges might be restored to them. The promise to see to the matter on his liberation on his liberation was made and kept by the Duke of Somerset.

Most of the general public quite erroneously call the warders "Beefeaters," this is a name we do not acknowledge, having no direct connection; except as regards uniform with the Yeomen who in times past served the "buffet" at St. James's Palace, from whence the word "Buffetier" was possibly derived and later corrupted to "Beefeater." (St. James's Palace is still the headquarters of the Yeomen of the Guard).

Here it might be convenient to add that a Yeoman of the Guard wears a crossbelt, wheras a Yeoman Warder does not; but both carry a "partisan" when in State dress.

When both formations are on parade together for a State occasion, Yeomen Warders always hold the entrances while their Majesties are inside the building, and the Yeomen of the Guard do duty inside the building; perhaps some readers noticed this distinction when their Majesties attended St. Paul's Cathedral for their silver wedding thanksgiving service?

It is the Yeomen of the Guard who carry out the traditional search of the vaults of the Houses of Parliament, before a new Parliament opens; they also do bodyguard duties at Buckingham Palace. On the other hand it is usually Yeomen Warders who attend the Royal family when they make a ceremonial visit to the City of London. A bodyguard was recently provided for H.M. Queen Mary when she opened the north aisle of All Hallows Church.

Having, I hope, explained the difference between the two bodies of Yeomen, a little now about the present establishment of Yeomen Warders.

Our establishment and strength is now 39; this, however, has varied in the past, and it was not until 1826 when the Duke of Wellington was Constable of the Tower that an order was introduced, closing the wardership to all but



Yeoman Warder Allan Griffin in normal working dress

old soldiers. The Duke's order reads "No person shall be admitted to be a Warder of the Tower of London, but deserving gallant and Meritorious Sergeants of the Army."

In ancient days each warder had purchased his place from his predecessor for about £300 and counted on selling it again to his successor at the same price; if, however, he died a warder, his money was lost, as the incoming warder's fees became the perquisite of the Constable of the Tower. After a new warder has been sworn in, both as a warder and a "special constable" his health is proposed by the Chief Warder as follows: "Warder so-and-so, your health, and may you never die a warder!" Presumably, the "constable" in those ancient days, drank the opposite toast!

Members of the R.A.F. are now eligible for membership, and at present we have two warders, ex-R.A.F.

Almost without exception all warders at present on the establishment are ex-warrant officers.

The conditions for registration are contained in an appendix at the back of King's Regulations.

Warders are appointed from a waiting list kept by the resident Governor and this list is compiled of applicants taken impartially from every branch of the Army, and R.A.F. The appointment being made by the Constable of the Tower.

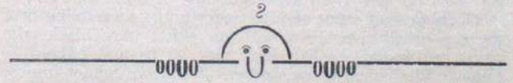
Readers of THE WIRE may like to know that our Corps is represented by Allan Griffin (late Captain Q.M.) of 2 G.H.Q. Signals, who was "sworn in" during July, 1939. Called up for Army Service from Reserve on the outbreak of the war, commissioned on 22nd May, 1941, and rejoined the active list of warders in 1945. And Geoff Gavey (the writer of this article) (late Captain 1 H.Q. Signals, B.A.O.R.), "sworn in" during January, 1949, having been released from Army service in November, 1948.

In fairness to would-be applicants for a wardership it must be explained that there is usually a long waiting list, but qualified serving men MUST apply before being released from the service, and be in possession of the Long Service and Good Conduct medal.

Irrespective of the rank held while serving, we all rank the same as Yeomen Warders, except (a) the Chief Warder, called at one period "Yeoman Porter." It is one of the picturesque duties of the "Chief" nightly to lock the gates of the fortress, and deliver the keys to the Resident Governor. Many readers have, no doubt, heard a broadcast of the "Ceremony of the Keys." (b) Next in dignity comes the Yeoman Gaoler, at one period called the "Gentleman Gaoler," whose duty it is to carry the Ceremonial Axe (this was last carried before a prisoner in 1820). The axe, however, is still carried by the Yeoman Gaoler when he is wearing State dress.

Both these dignitaries wear FOUR STRIPES on the right arm—the Chief Warder having crossed keys above the stripes; while the "Gaoler" wears a heavily gold braided badge depicting the White Tower, above the stripes.

The State dress as worn on State occasions and Royal Salute days comes down from the reign of Henry VIII, but the thistle and shamrock emblems worn on the State coat were later added to the Tudor rose on the Union of Scotland and Ireland to form the United Kingdom. Our blue working uniform is only about 100 years old, and was introduced to save the wear of the very expensive State dress costing over £100 to make.



Wot! No Moan?

OH! Isn't there? Gentlemen (and ladies too, we are sorry to say) 12 months ago we let off steam about what our compositor calls "unfair copy," meaning thereby manuscripts that are difficult to read and to correct, and we gave a few general hints as to how to prepare an article for publication. Some of our correspondents did comply with the few simple rules laid down, (a) Type on one side of the paper only, (b) Use double spacing, (c) Leave a margin at least 1½ inches wide on the left, and a narrower one on the right, (d) Do NOT abbreviate, (e) Put the title of your unit IN FULL at the head of sheet 1, (f) Pack your photographs securely between cardboard, mark each one with the unit stamp, and do NOT use pins through them.

On the debit side, however, we continue to receive notes typed with close single spacing and a margin of only half an inch, leaving absolutely no room for the necessary corrections. Is is any wonder that in such a case the harassed Editor expunges the whole paragraph containing the offending phrase? ("Harassed" is used advisedly for in preparing the December number, the "stooge" sub-edited 23,000 words in two days, but for the final corrections by the Editor, only half a day was available).

Turning to the subject of abbreviations, these are most prevalent with ranks, and the nasty old habit, engendered by the preparation of nominal rolls, of putting an individual's initials after his surname is creeping in; the latest example is where a certain unit reported an inspection by Maj. Gen. A———, P. D. O., accompanied by Brig. B———, X. Y. Z. So please cut out the nominal roll technique.

Several photographs have recently been received crumpled, creased, folded and pierced by pins. Remember that the Editor has now less space at his disposal, and less money for blocks, so that he can only afford to print the best ones received. Photographs for reproduction should be sharp and of good contrast, and should be as large as possible.

We can always do with good cartoons, they are cheaper to reproduce than photographs, but they must be in black Indian ink on good quality white paper.

If THE WIRE is to get out in time, we MUST have your contributions by the FIFTEENTH OF THE MONTH BEFORE PUBLICATION, but we like them earlier than that so that we can send the work off to the printer by instalments instead of in one batch at the last minute.

Now for a word to our subscribers, please let us know of your movements so that we can notify your latest address to the printer. Don't depend on the fact that your unit is moving and the move has been notified to us; we cannot spare the time to search through some thousands of cards to find a number of subscribers who may be serving in a unit that has moved. You can obtain a postcard A.F.A.2049c from your orderly room. Please don't write and tell us that you have not received your copy for six months. One gentleman wrote to that effect from M.E.L.F., and on checking up we found that the latest address we had for him was S.E.A.C. and in the interim he had served in B.A.O.R. and U.K.!

Please don't depend on your move being notified in the "White List," (a) it does not show units, nor in the case of overseas command does it show stations; (b) it is published only quarterly, and cannot be guaranteed to be up-to the minute—we know, for we publish it!;(c) we cannot spare the time to check all its entries against our card index. If you are writing from a new address, please indicate whether it is permanent or only temporary.

Please remember that if you have a manpower shortage, so have we. The Editor is a serving officer, and so can only spare part of his time for the magazine, while the "stooge" has to handle all the rest of the publications side of the Association including distribution, correspondence, proof and copy reading, so try and help us all you can.

Journey to Jagannathganj

By **JOHN WHITNEY**

I BLAME it all on the Staff Captain. When he came strolling into our rather ramshackle office, Sergeant Ryan looked doubtfully at me—but no comment was necessary. We knew from his hunched shoulders and the queer grin on his face that some devilment was brewing.

"When did you last go to Jagannathganj?" He spoke abruptly, but an engaging abruptness that never cluttered up the trunk lines.

I grinned. "When *did* we last go to Jagannath, Sergeant?"

"Never, sir, as far as I know!"

"And we are not likely to now," I carried on, "for there is absolutely nothing for Signals to worry over there except a beastly terminal station where the submarine cable enters the Brahmaputra, and one little local line that comes through somehow on the Posts and Telegraphs circuits."

"But that is where you are wrong!" It was now the Staff Captain's turn to grin. "Another labour battalion arrived there this morning and we want them on the telephone at once."

"Funny we are never told until units have actually moved in!" He did not rise to the bait. "Well—Sergeant Ryan can go . . ." Seeing the Sergeant's reproachful stare, I hastily continued, "or I am sure we can spare a Jemadar—after all it is only 50 odd miles by road."

"If there *was* a road," put in Ryan. The Staff Captain broke into this cross-talk. "I have got to go to Jagannathganj, and I thought you might like to come with me." He sounded hurt, so I put some sympathy into my voice. "I would like to come, old chap, but there is only one train a day . . . and that means two whole days wasted just to do five minutes work that our newest sepoy could do as well."

"Your Colonel found time to pay them a visit," he replied with the air of playing his trump card.

He had won the trick, but I gave in reluctantly. "But I do not intend to travel on the front of the engine, or clinging on the outside of a fourth-class carriage door!"

Ryan suddenly became very helpful. "I'll see if Movement Control can reserve a compartment for you both ways." He picked up the handset. I will pass over that long-winded telephonic argument. It was only successfully ended by playing one of our trump cards. "Ask them if they still want that extra telephone," I said to Ryan as he held his hand over the mouthpiece.

When we arrived at the railway station the next evening we found that movement control had done us proud. The over-crowded train was already in, and our compartment was quite unmistakeable. "Reserved for Staff Captain" a big daubed notice ostentatiously shouted at us, "Reserved for Signals" ran another large sign plastered across a window. And a large crowd of friends had gathered to see us off. It was with many chaffing condolences that we climbed into our compartment. Everyone knew by repute the deadly dreary place we were to visit, but looking out of the carriage windows we felt we had overdone the preparations for our visit.

There was no platform at Jagannath. Just a siding by the river's edge and a rough ramp leading to the water and the waiting ferry boat. All the passengers streamed on to the ferry, leaving us alone with the Brahmaputra, shining evilly in the moonlight and looking as vast as the ocean. After the train had been shunted away we found a rough bamboo hut with a damp matti floor, and there we spent a chilly and restless night. At an extraordinarily early hour we were up eating a rough breakfast of stale sandwiches.

When we had spent several weary hours scrambling over the sun-baked river bank and our shirts were black with sweat, an Indian civilian took pity on us and offered us lunch. We looked at each other. "But we cannot impose upon you, sir."

He raised his hands and clapped them. "I have already arranged it, hearing you were here . . . although I do not know what kind of food you eat." There followed a very strange meal worthy of chronicle. We each had a whole baked chicken placed on rough wooden plates in front of us. Having struggled through that course with no cutlery, we then smeared our faces with layers of pineapple. Then glasses were ceremoniously brought in and filled with a rough raw whisky. That loosened our tongues.

At last our host broke into the conversation. "There is no need for you to wait another seven hours here; there is an earlier train at the junction."

"But that is ten miles away." The Staff Captain gave a hopeless shrug. I had a faint glimmer. "Have you a truck hidden away here?"

"No."

(*continued on page* 11)

"The Wire" is privileged to republish the following article from "Signals," the Journal of the Armed Forces Communications Association of the United States of America. Owing to its length it is reprinted in three parts.

Of this article Col. Gaither says, "The form of presentation may be somewhat different than that of the usual treatise." To which we add, and how! and how delightfully so. Col. Gaither might have added to his title "Techniques without Tears." We hope you enjoy this as much as we did on first reading it.

Col. Gaither is presently Eucom Communications Chief.

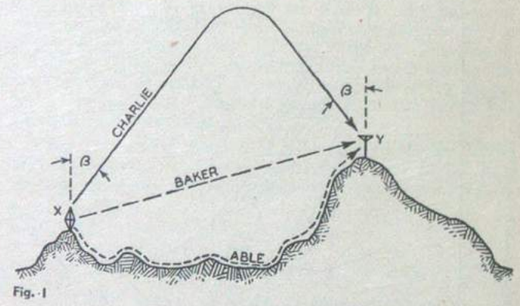


Fig. 1

Radio Propagation and the Use of Antennas

By **Lieutenant-Colonel LOREN E. GAITHER**

"If it's going to happen, it's going to happen; if not . . . it sometimes does anyway!" — (Anon.)

ONE often wonders if some of our military agencies and an appreciable number of communications personnel are not inclined to have this same, quixotic opinion of radio propagation.

Before proceeding, however, may we excuse the hot-shot technicians and the long hairs who can inhale while saying, "integrate the equation and . . .", not that we intend to belittle or fail to recognise their ability; we simply wish to interest only those of the Armed Forces who do not give a tinker's dam about the technical aspects of radio but who are sometimes confronted with the problem of making a radio circuit work. It is our contention that operations personnel and supervisors too often overlook the simple rules of radio propagation and throw away hours of communications by incorrect usage of antennas. It should be common "horse-sense" to understand that, if an antenna does not transmit energy in a given direction, it isn't the fault of the radio set per se! This brings us to two important quasi-theorems:

a. If an antenna doesn't transmit in a desired direction, turn it around so that it does. This is the old mountain-Mohammed routine but it is often overlooked by the faithful.

b. If, at a given frequency, a radio propagation path does not exist between points X and Y, no action short of rolling out the prayer rugs—or changing to a suitable frequency—will establish radio contact.

If we consider theorem b above, we find ourselves concerned with the mechanics of radio propagation, a most complicated mechanism, but fortunately one adaptable to rule-of-thumb application. From our viewpoint we will agree that we are not interested in inverse distance fields, nor will we be interested in knowing the electronic density of the sporadic E layer above Pea Ridge, Arkansas at 0101 on 16 August 1941, but we shall be interested in knowing why a perfectly good radio channel, one we have been using all afternoon for 100 per cent transmission, suddenly fades out. The approved solution may be that the late afternoon sun's rays have decreased in intensity to such a degree that the upper atmospheric regions have lost their ability to return the rays to earth. And so, instead of transmitting a requisition for four more tons of Form 36-B-0-0-0 to Base Section, we suddenly start warming poor Uncle Snazzy's spirit; which at the moment happens to be wandering midway between the fourth and fifth psychic planes, someplace in the vicinity of Pluto.

We most certainly should be interested in knowing how radio signals travel from X to Y; all of which brings us to the low habit of referring to Fig. 1. If our transmitter has sufficient power perhaps we can use path Able. If the path of least resistance is Baker, we may use path Baker. If neither Able nor Baker will work we may, in some cases, use path Charlie by selecting a proper frequency. Of course we will not overlook the possibility of signals arriving at the same instant over paths Able, Baker, and Charlie. If this happens we normally expect great trouble in the form of rapid fading of the signals. For a first approximation may we state that Able and Baker are rather solid citizens but Charlie is quite a lackadaisical rake; here today and gone tomorrow!

Let us examine path Able in detail. We will not call this path "ground wave propagation." Actually the wave travels in contact with the ground and the characteristics of the ground are controlling factors in determining whether or not we can successfully use the "ground-wave" for communication. If, for example, we find ourselves in the North Country where, so I've been told, it's fine for women and dogs, but hell on men and radio, we may find that low frequency, ground wave propagation is virtually the only means communicating with Fort Blow, back of the mountains. All right, if we are so smart, where can we, and where can we not, use Path Able?

Noises

Permit us, right here, a defensive statement or two before we stick out our neck. "Noise Level" may upset our very best calculations in a few cases. If, for example, an electrical storm has the sky all lit up like father on Christmas Eve we may find a high noise-level over-riding our strong signal-level; and so no communications. If not that, Joe Giezel may decide to denude his cheeks (by Schick) with the same

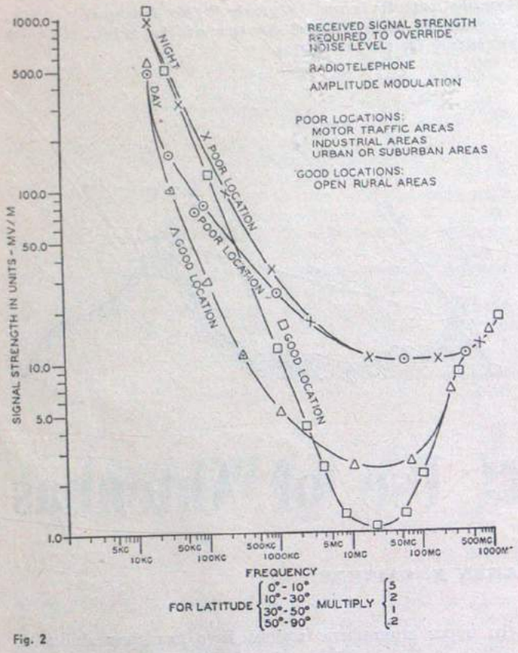


Fig. 2

net result . . . all noise and no signals. We can protect ourselves to some degree by plotting average expected noise for a given location and so to Fig. 2. Here we optimistically combine atmospheric noise, cosmic noise, man-made noise in a pseudo-military area, receive noise, and antenna noise into four simple curves for good and poor locations and we state that at a given frequency, subject to variations of local meter or, let us say, for simplicity, in *units*) in all regions of approximately 30 to 50 degrees of latitude, north or south. storms, we expect to find these noise levels (in microvolts per Correction factors for other latitudes are listed above, Fig. 2.

Signal and Noise Levels

The first, or should we say basic, requirement for communications is the necessity of the signal-level over-riding the noise-level; therefore, the approximate data in Fig 2 gives us the all important starting point. For any frequency we may read the noise level expected and then observe other factors to ascertain if the path will be workable with the equipment we have on hand.

To effect the final solution of our ground wave propagation problem we will need the information given in Figures 3 and 4. The important, general information we get from Fig. 3, at first glance, is the observation that ground wave propagation over earth is not feasible above 5,000 kilocycles, except for very short distances in the order of one tenth mile to ten miles, depending upon our power output. To say this in another way, *frequencies above 5.0 MC (megacycles) are virtually useless with military field equipment for covering distances in excess of ten miles by use of the ground wave.*

The second most important, quick information we can glean from Fig. 3 is to note that the lower the frequency, the better the propagation *using ground wave only.*

At this point, assuming one has studied Figs. 3 and 4; to those who have become discouraged, to those who may suspect that ground wave propagation is generally less efficient than a yak-cart, may we reiterate that it is *sometimes the only way* one can maintain contact. In any event, "leave" us observe two examples.

Or Else

Suppose the General wishes to communicate by radiotelephone with a station 80 miles distant. The receiving station is located behind a range of mountains. Sky Wave Propagation has failed. The receiving site has an approximate latitude of 70°. The intervening terrain consists of low, rocky hills. We do not have specific knowledge of receiving conditions at the receiver so we assume a poor location as a factor of safety. Our transmitter and antenna has a radiated power output of 40 watts.

Since the required frequency is the factor we wish to calculate, we cannot immediately use Fig. 2 but we may study Figures 3 and 4. Here we note that the distance must be, in effect, increased by reason of the actual transmitter radiated output being 40 watts instead of the 50 watts, which was the basis of the plotted data. Our power ratio is therefore

$$\frac{40}{50} \text{ or } .8.$$

Selecting this value on the vertical scale of Fig. 4 we read .85 on the horizontal. But if we use

$$.85 \times 80 \text{ miles} = 68 \text{ miles},$$

this distance will not have any significance, for it is a shorter distance instead of a longer distance. The distance

$$\frac{80}{.85} = 94 \text{ miles}$$

does have significance. In decreasing power we, in effect, increase distance. This 94 miles is the "apparent" distance upon which we must base our analysis. Now, from 3 we note that approximately 450 KC will be the minimum frequency we may use for a 94 mile path providing we can get satisfactory reception with a 10 unit signal strength. Fig 2, for a 450 KC signal, at night, in a poor location, indicates we will need a 50 unit signal strength but the "latitude factor" listed in Fig. 2 allows us a factor of .2 thus,

$$50 \times .2 = \text{the number of units required,}$$

and so, having examined both the noise level and the signal strength, we are confident our selection of 450 KC will work under the stated conditions. *A higher frequency will not permit ground wave propagation.*

For a second example, suppose we have a radiotelephone transmitter capable of radiating 1,000 watts on a fixed frequency of 2,000 KC and we wish to know the maximum communicating range from Island I, latitude 8° south, over sea-water to a receiving station on a ship. Good receiving conditions are known to exist on the ship. Figure 2 will indicate for night operation, a *required* signal strength of about 27.5 units (5.5 times the latitude factor of 5). Fig. 3 will indicate a working range of 63 miles (10.6 miles from

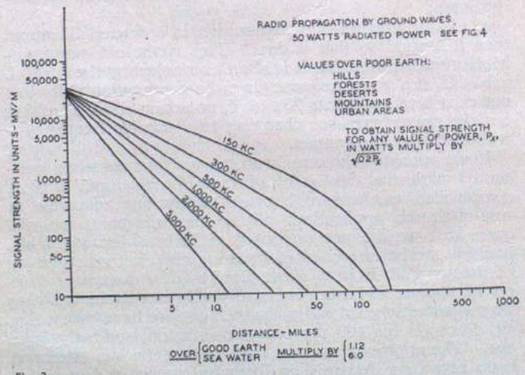
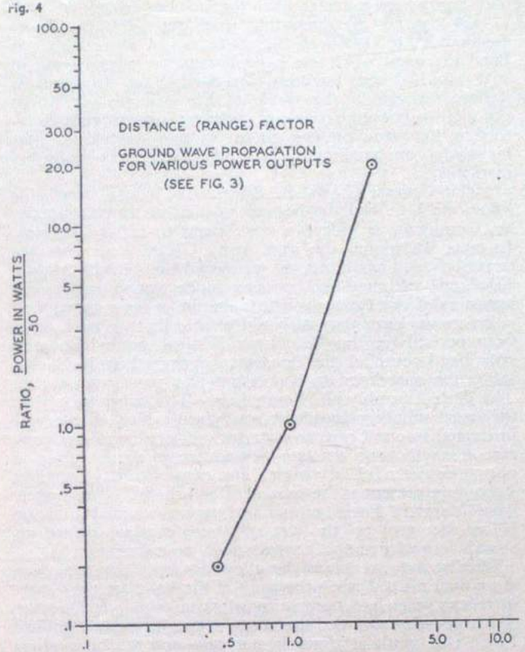


Fig. 3

Fig. 4



the chart multiplied by the factor 6 noted at the bottom of the figure) under the stated conditions for a 50 watt transmitter. For our 1,000 watt solution we observe from 4, a means of obtaining our power factor; namely for a power ratio of 1,000 divided by 50, or 20, a factor 2.5,

Thus :

63 miles times 2.5 equals 157.5 miles—our final solution and our range.

One final observation of Figures 3 and 4 is in order. The curves were not plotted for signal strengths lower than 10 units for two reasons. A ten unit signal strength is about the minimum necessary for satisfactory radiotelephone operation, and furthermore, most military situations will predicate this level in order to over-ride noise. Radio telegraph will usually give us ranges much greater than those indicated but, in any event, we may be certain of the calculated ranges being reliable under virtually any condition excepting *severe* atmospheric storms or *extreme* man-made interference.

So much for path Able.

Considering path Baker, this is the path we define when we say, "The line of sight path." This statement, the way we usually use it, is slightly in error since most of our VHF (very high frequency) transmission paths are in excess of the actual line of sight distance. If we wish to be approximately correct we will call this path the direct path and we will agree that this path will always work unless the ray is absorbed or reflected by something encountered along the path.

The preceding statement is not true! We admit this because some guardhouse lawyer may protest that he can stand on Hill 301 with a one-thousandth watt transmitter and not be heard on top of Old Baldy, the top of which is visible over yon, far horizon. For the last time, may we ask that our statements be considered in the light of everyday usage of common military items of equipment. From now on, if a statement is essentially correct, we will not deviate to explain the exceptions.

All right! We insist that the direct path, Baker, will always work unless the ray is absorbed or reflected by something encountered along the path. Would you believe it that a certain AN/TRC circuit in Western France skimmed along over the top of a dense forest; and would you believe it that this circuit became inoperative for a short time following dawn and for a short time before dusk; and would you believe it that this occurred every day and every day; the reason being that crows would fly back to their roosts during the evening thus interposing a very effective, absorbing screen for a few minutes! Perhaps this isn't a true story, but surely it is of reasonable basis!

Parts Two and Three of this article will appear in February and March. It is recommended that each part is kept so that eventually the article may be re-read as a whole.

DAGGER DIVISION

The Story of 19th Indian Division

It is given to few commanders in modern war to form, train, and command throughout its career a Division that was to become as well known throughout the Commonwealth as any. Such a privileged task fell to Major-General T. W. Rees, C.B., C.I.E., D.S.O., M.C.

First met in 1941 his Divisional Signals, being formed much later than units of other Arms was of necessity embroiled in formation training before the men had learnt how to Signal. They learnt fast, the hard way, as indeed did the rest of the Division. Intended as one of the "follow up" Divisions for 33 Corps' assault across the Bay of Bengal, it was diverted first to the defence of Southern India and then to general reserve. The Division therefore was training for three years, and under General Rees, training was training. Many Indian formations were committed to battle before they were ready. 19 Indian Division were indeed ready and raring to go.

Confined by Topography to leg work their speed and capacity for hard fast hitting was reminiscent of General Patten's Americans in Europe. General Rees with his personality, his inevitable scarlet scarf and his determination to get their first had under his hand an instrument that was worthy of him.

The story of their fighting is an epic. Someone should write the story of the training which made this Division successful in all their battles from first to last.

Published in India but available from Gale and Polden, post free 1/8. *AND IT'S WORTH A LOT MORE THAN THAT.*

Journey to Jagannathganj

(*continued from page* 8)

"But I can arrange for a bogy."

"A what?"

And on a borrowed railway trolley we set out, pushed by two borrowed coolies. We shouted our farewells with an inane gaiety that was probably more due to the fiery brew than to our ludicrous perch on top of our kit on that bogy.

Our late host shouted his farewells. "I have got through to the stationmaster—he is reserving a compartment for you" we heard faintly as our trolley shot along the track.

We were feeling vastly pleased with ourselves and the world when we got back that evening. Ryan was there with a Signals truck to meet us. To his "Had a good trip" we said "Fine, fine," and patted his back jovially.

"It would have been fine," said Ryan, looking sternly at both of us, "if either of you had taken a railway warrant for the journey!"

THE CORPS BAND 1949

1949 proved to be a very successful year for the Corps Band in many ways.

First and foremost we received a fortnight's notice that the Band was to be inspected by the Inspector of Army Bands who is the Commandant of the Royal Military School of Music, which is situated in Sir Godfrey Kneller's old mansion just near the rugby ground at Twickenham. He was accompanied by the Director of Music of that school —Major Meredith Roberts, M.B.E.

The Band was assembled in Baghdad Gymnasium which had been carefully prepared for the occasion by 7 Selection Regiment, who gave us all the assistance they could, in the traditional Corps manner.

Every section of the Band was examined, and given test pieces. The military band, full orchestra, light orchestra, dance orchestra, and the male voice choir. All the instruments and equipment was inspected, as was also the library and our programme of training, etc.

Our report pleased everyone and we had many kind letters from H.R.H. the Colonel in Chief downwards. We were classified by the Inspector of Army Bands as an "Outstanding Band" of the British Army, which is the highest classification given.

We visited all Commands during the course of the year and also had to do duty at the Officer Cadet School, at Eaton Hall, Chester. We were offered more private engagements than we could fit in, in spite of the Musicians' Union demand that Army bands charge what is in most cases, an unworkable fee for the Corporatioon who engage them.

Visits were made to Eastbourne, Bath, Glasgow, Edinburgh Festival, Victoria Embankment Gardens, Hyde Park, Brighton, Scarborough and Worthing. Whilst playing in Hyde Park we were honoured with a visit from the Director of Signals, Major-General W. A. Scott, C.B.E., Brigadier F. S. Straight, C.B.E., M.C., Lieutenant-Colonel H. R. Firth and many other officers of the Corps who have proved to be good friends to us, and done much for our welfare in past years.

Most bands in the Army, including the Brigade of Guards, are advertising frantically for men, but we are over strength with Regular soldiers and waiting for our establishment to be increased to 60 to absorb the overflow. Six men have recently returned from a year's course at the Royal Military School of Music and seven have just been admitted to the school. Our boys last year were a particularly good set. Our establishment is for 10 boys and the last two to be enlisted both have the Oxford University School Certificate. Experience shows that music is as much a matter of education and an alert brain, as natural aptitude.

In the Band's scrapbook there is a letter which was received from very high authority which reads "Why was a man with such high educational qualifications allowed to join the Corps Band"!!!

During 1949 we lost Major D. Dickson as Band President. His term of office came at a very difficult time, and I think it is safe to say that no officer ever discharged the duties of Band President with greater keenness and enthusiasm. He battled with all and sundry, including the Musicians Union, and crisis after crisis in our affairs were solved as if by magic. After long discussions about our permanent peacetime home, we were allotted a segregated portion of the A.T.S. block, but not until an "iron curtain" had been built to keep the A.T.S. out!! Meticulous practice is now possible under ideal conditions in the cold of winter, as our rooms are centrally heated and encourage evening classes and private practice during leisure hours. It is this interest in their music in off duty hours that lifts a band from the commonplace, and our new accommodation has done much to stimulate a certain keenness that is very hard to foster when the facilities are not at hand.

1949 also saw the departure from our midst of Major-General R. T. O. Cary, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., ad.c., who was Band President when the Band became an official band in 1938, and had been intensely interested in the Band and its welfare throughout the whole of his service. We would not like his passing from our midst to happen without recording his great kindness to us on many occasions. His knowledge on band matters in all spheres was really remarkable.

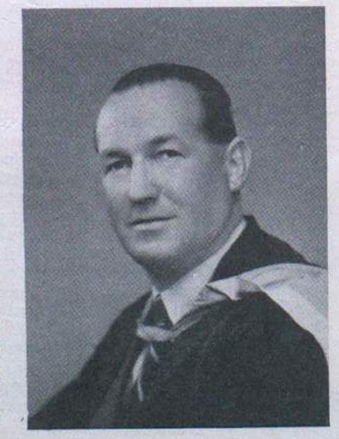
Major-General C. M. F. White, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., for whom we have had the honour to play in many countries and continents is indeed a new friend to us in Catterick. In 1945 we toured the 21st Army Group under his instructions, and again in 1947 we toured units in the Middle East and welcomed the occasion to be again worthy ambassadors of our Corps, and to come under his command.

Before we leave 1949 it should be said that we have again been booked for the Edinburgh Festival and will be the only band south of the border to appear there, and certainly the only band to be booked two years on the run. The Bath Assembly also wanted us. Throughout the year the usual monthly broadcast was given which enabled all interested in our Corps to hear us. At one broadcast concert at Eastbourne on 24th September when the place is not particularly full of visitors, and on a Saturday morning 5,000 were present at the bandstand to hear us. The singer, Miss Margaret Eaves, of national repute, arrived an hour before we went on the air, and our rehearsal before an already crowded arena caused much amusement.

Finally, may we please be allowed to say that we were more than pleased when the work of the Band for the Corps in recent years had been acknowledged with our Director of Music being awarded the M.B.E. in the Birthday Honours List. Our work at times is not easy and we have often very exacting duties to perform, which apart from demanding a high degree of musical skill call for other sterling qualities, and it is only the kindness and encouragement of our senior officers that makes such results as we achieve possible.

Our Director of Music also was awarded the Degree of MUS. BAC. at Durham University in July last, and was also made a Fellow of the Trinity College of Music, London. If 1950 shines as brightly for us in all respects as 1949, and we get confirmation of our increased establishment to 60, perhaps another interesting page of the year's work may be written at this time next year.

To all we have played to during 1949 and to all who have looked after our welfare and made our lives just that little bit happier we send our most loyal and respectful good wishes.



CAPTAIN J. L. JUDD, M.B.E., Mus. Bac., F.T.C.L., L.R.A.M., A.R.C.M.
Joined the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers as a Bandboy in 1917 and in 1930 was appointed Bandmaster of the Highland Light Infantry, being at that time the youngest Bandmaster in the Army. He transferred to Royal Signals in 1942, and was promoted Director of Music in 1947

SIGNAL TRAINING CENTRE

CATTERICK CAMP

1 TRAINING REGIMENT

Winter is always a great season of sport in the Regiment and for this reason we have little else to report on. During the last month there have been no major social events—everybody is holding fire in preparation for the festive season rapidly approaching. The Christmas children's party arrangements are occupying a great deal of time and causing much thought to senior members of the unit—rumour has it that they are busy looking for a benevolent W.O. to play the part of Father Christmas. You will hear more of this in the next issue. Now for the reports of our special correspondents.

Rugby Football. There have been several representative games in the last six weeks in which many 1 Training Regiments players have taken part.

The following have played for Northern Command, unbeaten against Yorkshire, Cranwell and Western Command: Lieutenants Reeve (1), Hoskins (3), Thomas (2), Couch (3), Lance Corporals Bidgood (1), Turnpenny (3), Cross (3), Signalmen Beckett (3), Johnson (1), Smith (2), Holliday (3), Smith (3).

Cross and Lieutenant Reeve have been playing for Yorkshire and Northumberland respectively as well as playing for the British Army; Lieutenant Reeve was selected for the 1st England Trial.

1 Training Regiment have won the first two rounds of the Army Rugby Cup by beating 14/20 Hussars and 4 Training Regiment. The next round is to be played on the 14th December against 8 Training Regiment Royal Engineers.

Cleckheaton were beaten 25-19 in the 5th round Yorkshire cup-tie on Saturday, 3rd December by the Signals side after a hard struggle. A newcomer, Wood, of 4 Training Regiment, played a grand game in the centre, as did Turnpenny of 1 Training Regiment at stand off. The Signals side entertain Leeds University at Catterick on Saturday, 10th December, kick-off at 2.30 p.m.

Unfortuniately Morphy's knee injury sustained in last season's Easter Tour is still preventing him from playing after showing such promise in the centre last season.

Shooting.—A .22 Rifle Club has been formed in the Unit and is firing in the Garrison League. The standard is high considering that few members have had previous experience and competition is keen for the 8 coveted places in the team.

In the first month 3 matches have been fired, victories having been scored over 2 Training Regiment and 8 Training Regiment, Royal Engineers, whilst the 3rd match was lost by only 2 points in an exciting finish.

The team is sorry to lose the inspired services of Captain K. K. Addy, of the Royal Northumberland Fusiliers, the Unit Messing Officer, who has left us for release.

Soccer. The Regiment, apart from other sporting activities is running a first and second eleven Soccer team with some success. The first Eleven are 3rd in the Catterick District League, and the 2nd Eleven, 2nd in the Second Division. We aimed high this year and entered for the Army Cup, remembering that last year we won the Northern Command Cup, but unluckily we were beaten 4-3 by the 9th Lancers at Edinburgh in a very exciting match. The 1st Eleven are now in the 3rd round of Norco Cup having beaten 4 Training Regiment 5-1 in the second round.

Signalman Nielson, our inside forward, has played for the Army on three occasions, and has had a "Good" press. Lance-Corporal McReady, outside right, and Lance-Corporal Mason have both played for Royal Signals. To give justice to a fine bunch of players here are their names: Signalmen Middleton, Glanfield, Sergeants Dean and Leppington, Lieutenant Smith, Signalman Tighe, Lance-Corporal Weedon, Signalmen Neilson, Cronin, Gray, Lance-Corporal McReady.

We will omit the 2nd Eleven but we will give you the rumour to expect big things of this nursery team. Now for the Norco Cup.

2 TRAINING REGIMENT

Christmas is in the air, or at least the smell of our future Christmas dinner is! S.S.M. Mellor has been observed to smile once or twice so the festive season must be on the way.

The main topic of conversation is of course—Leave. "How much?" "When?" and "What can we wangle?" There has been quite some confusion over this during the last few weeks, so much so in fact, that one man, mistaking the meaning of "Personnel may make their own way home," borrowed a truck for the purpose. The M.T.O. wishes to make it known that 15 cwts. are not to be used thus, and in any case they should not be left at Crystal Palace with the gear lever missing. That should curb enthusiasm!

Our congratulations this month go to R.S.M. Irvine, who is now the father of a fine baby girl. Who said that R.S.M.s are not human?

The Unit has proved fairly successful in sport during the past month, although the football team was knocked out of the third round of the Army Cup Competition by 8 Royal Tank Regiment. The Unit rugger team has suffered from a certain lack of support though. In fact, before one match, two of the players, apparently in some doubt as to the actual shape of a rugger ball, were heard to say that they "Wouldn't mind having a bash." Incidentally, our thanks here go to Sergeant (Paddy) Harper, of the W.R.A.C., for the grand work she has been doing in washing the kit for the football and running teams. Her efforts have kept the teams looking good anyway.

The Corporals' Mess is now priming itself for the annual bout of feasting and drinking that goes under the name of "Christmas Party." This year it is to be held in the N.A.A.F.I. Club, for the first part of the evening in a private room, and for the second part, in the tavern. Transport, or relays of fatigue men will probably be arranged for when it is all over.

Headquarter Squadron. This month has seen a great change in the Squadron—we have a new Sergeant Major. During the month we lost S.S.M. Edwards to 3 Squadron, and his place was taken by S.S.M. Mellor, to whom we extend greetings. Since his arrival he has shown us some of the places on a rifle where we thought it quite impossible



for dirt to accumulate. Ah well . . . Per Ardua ad Demob!

The Squadron was unfortunate in the recent inter-Squadron boxing contests, coming last. However, our representatives put up a good show although they were beaten, and that is all that matters.

3 *Squadron.* We start this month's notes with a farewell to our S.S.M., S.S.M. Walsh who has left us for the trials that 7 Selection Regiment has to offer. He has been replaced by W.O. II Edwards, late of H.Q. Squadron, who is no doubt finding it rather strange to be in a Squadron where all the men go on parade and read Squadron Orders. Sergeant Wilson, a newcomer to our Squadron, has been taken to our bosom, but it has been noted that no sooner had he joined us than he applied to buy himself out at any price! Could this be a reflection on our high power efficiency?

Our tractor has been causing quite some concern recently, for it has been casting clods of earth over local roads as it leaves the Mud Flats, known more officially as the P.L. Training Fields. This apparently results in danger to vehicles which have the misfortune to run on four wheels instead of tracks. Now when on main roads it is followed by a train of attendants equipped with buckets and spades to remove the offending portions of mother earth. Who said that mechanisation removed the tedium attendant upon horse transport?

The Squadron is still well represented in the field of sport. It has five first team soccer players, and fourteen Regimental cross-country runners. In the recent inter-Squadron boxing contests, it acquitted itself well, by coming third to 1 and 2 Squadrons with only a deficit of three points.

5 TRAINING REGIMENT

Much to our regret our Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel I. F. Meiklejohn, is leaving us in a few weeks, having been nominated for a War Office appointment. During his comparatively short time here, Colonel Meiklejohn has endeared himself to us all, and it is sad that ere long we shall be bidding him farewell. We all wish him every success in his new appointment. Incidentally, the arrival of our new Commanding Officer will mark the fourth C.O. under whom our Adjutant, Captain A. L. Dowell, and R.S.M. H. W. Russell have served!!

The highlight of the month has undoubtedly been our victory over the 12th Royal Lancers by the narrow margin of one point in the final of the Catterick District Inter-Unit Team Boxing Championship. We have now won this event for the third successive time, and in view of this fact Catterick District have seen fit to present us with the cup to keep within the Regiment for all time! Much credit is due to Major A. Stirk, who left us recently to return to "Civvy Street" after having been Officer in charge Boxing for three years. His successor is Captain W. E. Brock, who has just joined us from B.A.O.R.

What can we say of the actual contest? One of the cleanest and closest fights we have ever been privileged to witness. After the tenth bout we stood 15 points all, and on the shoulders of Lance-Corporal White the final decision rested. None of us will forget that last bout which was won decisively on points after a wonderful exhibition of boxing. We feel certain that White will not be allowed to forget either! It now remains to be seen what will be the result of the finals of the Northern Command Championships on 12th January at Ripon. We need hardly say that we have every confidence in our team, and are certain that they will put up a first-class show!

We were all sorry to bid farewell to S.S.M. Haughney, who has left us for the Boys' Squadron. We congratulate him too, on his recent marriage, and wish him all that he would wish himself. His place in 3 Squadron has been taken by S.S.M. Parker, late of No. 1 Independent Selection Squadron. With vehicle mechanic training in the New Year he has a full-time job ahead of him.

No. 1 Squadron continues to fluctuate. Major Hammond has now left us for an appointment with the Army Wireless Chain at the War Office. His place is shortly to be taken by Major F. D. McConnell-Wood, late of 4 Training Regiment.

Captain Thomas has arrived from the School of Signals to become Second in Command No. 1 Squadron. It is rumoured that upon hearing of his forthcoming appointment with driving squadron, Captain Thomas felt is expedient to dispose of his large American car!!!

The Squadron has now one Driver Class I on its strength, Corporal L. Townend. It is believed that he is the only Class I Driver now serving in the Corps.

7 SELECTION REGIMENT

On Remembrance Day, the Regiment provided a contingent under the command of Major W. J. Hotchkiss, for the parade and service held in St. Martin's Church. After the service Brigadier W. C. V. Galwey took the salute at the march past of the main Regiments from the S.T.C. It was a most impressive sight and must have stirred the young soldiers taking part in the parade, as much as it did the onlookers.

A thrilling evening entertainment was witnessed in Baghdad Gymnasium by those who attended the semi-final of the District Boxing Championships against No. 5 Training Regiment Royal Signals. Although the Unit team were decisively beaten, they are to be congratulated for their fine performances throughout the tournament. Captain Rattue, our Boxing Officer, has been unable to maintain the same team throughout the competition, and for the semi-final two of his boxers were from the intake that had arrived the previous day.

The best fight of the evening was in the second string middle weight when Lance-Corporal White, 5 T.R., gained a decision over Lance-Corporal Eccles. In this fight both boxers went all out from the first bell, and although Lance-Corporal Eccles was receiving hard punishment, he stood his ground until the end of the final round.

Later, at the presentation of the medals by Brigadier W. C. V. Galwey, O.B.E., M.C., Commandant, S.T.C., it was announced that Lance-Corporal Eccles was unable to receive his medal.

Although the contest was not held in the "Blood Tub" (Cradle of Corps Boxing), we are sure that the fighting spirit and physical fitness displayed by both teams was a credit to the traditions of the Corps.

Individual Results (5 T.R. first).

Bantam: Lance-Corporal Hearns K.O.d Signalman Christmas.
Feather: Corporal Menzies beat Signalman Pincomb on points.
Light: (1) Driver Riding beat Lieutenant Wilson-Wilcox on points; (2) Lance-Corporal Rollinson beat C.S.M. Osborough on points.
Welter: (1) Driver Burk beat Signalman Lane on points; (2) Signalman Band K.O.d Signalman Wickes; (2) Signalman Hill K.O.d Signalman Trood.
Middle: 1 Signalman Goulston lost to Sergeant Gelfs by K.O.; (2) Lance-Corporal White beat Lance-Corporal Eccles on points.
Light-Heavy: Lance-Corporal Croot beat Signalman Garniner on points.
Heavy: Driver Burke beat Lance-Corporal Davies.
Final result: 5 T.R. 21 points; 7 S.R. 12 points.

The Unit has continued its improved standard of hockey and during the last month has played three matches—won two and drawn one.

In the Catterick District Knock-Out Competition we defeated 12 Royal Lancers by three goals to two after a hard game; only the brilliance of the goalkeepers prevented the scores from reaching double figures. We congratulate our team on their very fine efforts, especially Staff-Sergeant Roome, in goal, and Sergeant Gibbons, at back.

Although hockey is not a sport publicly acclaimed, the spectators witnessed an afternoon packed with thrills and great excitement.

We have now reached the second round of the Army Hockey Cup and our next opponents will be 6 Battalion

R.A.O.C., Chilwell. This we understand will be played at Chilwell in the middle of December.

Results:

v. 12th Royal Lancers	..	..	..	Won 3—2
v. 17/21st Royal Lancers	..	..	..	Won 3—2
v. R.A.F. Catterick	..	..	..	Drew 1—1

Parades, on 16th November, 1949, Nos. 1 and 2 Squadrons, and on 30th November, 1949, Nos. 3 and 4 Squadrons. On the occasion of these parades Brigadier W. C. V. Galwey, O.B.E., M.C., accompanied by the Commanding Officer, inspected the Squadrons prior to taking the salute for the march past. Later, in the Gymnasium, he presented proficiency certificates to the best trainee in each Squadron.

During the month a Regiment in Catterick put forward a claim that the total service of their Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess was 250 years, with 13 members of the Mess holding the L.S. and G.C. medals, and many others becoming eligible for the medal in the next few years. This has been hotly contested by R.S.M. Lynam and the Warrant Officers and Sergeants of the Regiment, who claim a sum total of 1,279 years' service with 36 holders of the L.S. and G.C. Medal.

So far, no other Regiment has been able to rival this claim, but it would be interesting to establish whether this is a record for the Corps and indeed the Army.

NEW YEAR'S HONOURS LIST

Royal Signals wish to congratulate the following recipients of awards in the New Year's Honours List:

C.B.

Major-General W. A. Scott, C.B.E.

O.B.E.

Colonel J. D. Haigh; Lieutenant-Colonel A. T. Sladen.

The list of recipients of the M.B.E. and B.E.M. is not available in time for inclusion in the January issue of THE WIRE.

* * *

WAZIRISTAN SIGNALS

The Second Annual Reunion Dinner will be held on Saturday, 21st January, at "The Wheatsheaf," Rathbone Place, London, W.1, 6.30 for 6.45. Tickets 12/6 from Captain D. G. Jamieson, 27 The Drive, Harefield Place, Uxbridge, Middlesex.

* * *

The photograph on page 14 is of Zena Marshall, a star of the J. Arthur Rank Organisation. In her latest film, "I Want to Get Married," she appears as Marcelle Dulos, a French girl who offers a £500 dowry to anyone who will marry her and give her British nationality.

* * *

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We gratefully acknowledge receipt of the following:

QASID, August.

THE SIGNALMAN, October.

ST. GEORGE'S GAZETTE, October and November.

R.E.M.E., December.

JOURNAL OF THE ROYAL ARMY SERVICE CORPS, December.

TANK, December.

QUEEN'S OWN GAZETTE, December.

ROYAL PIONEER, December.

ROYAL ARMY ORDNANCE CORPS GAZETTE, December.

SAMBAND (Royal Norwegian S.T.C.), Christmas number.

CATTERICK EXPRESS, 1st and 20th December.

1 INDEPENDENT SELECTION SQUADRON

Richmond

It's come at last. We are, of course, referring to the snow, and according to local legend it will only be a matter of days before we are completely isolated. We certainly envy Catterick down on the "plains." The timing of this first fall was most opportune, as it came in the middle of a board meeting, which was discussing the fuel requirements for Gallowgate Camp. We hope they were consequently biassed.

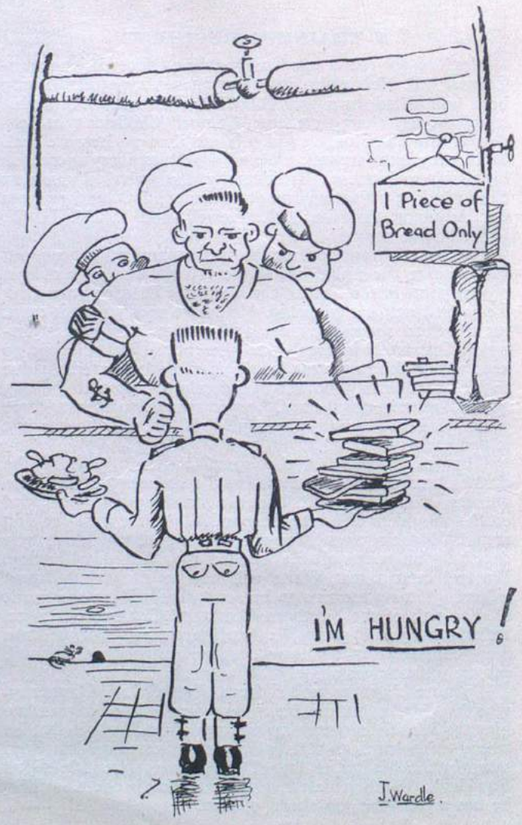
Since our last contribution much water has passed under Richmond bridge, in more ways than one. Apart from the Green Howards, of course, a Boys' Squadron is in sole possession of the Barracks, and our basic training squadron for regulars has moved to Gallowgate Camp. The Squadron, cum Regiment, is now in two parts, with R.H.Q. at Gallowgate, once again almost "'phoneless."

Captain N. G. R. Halliday recently gave up standing on his head on a motor-bicycle to take a more stable position as O.C. Boys' Wing

A Sergeants' Mess has been courageously opened at Gallowgate, and with great success judging from their "Housewarming" party; after Christmas the officers will follow suit.

A rifle club has been going "great guns," but apparently they have not found an "Annie" yet. The highlight of the months is, however, a visit by H.R.H. the Princess Royal to St. Martin's Church on Sunday, 18th December; preparations are well under way for a church parade.

Finally, we wish all other units a very happy New Year.



School of Signals

Officer Training Wing

There has been only one pass off parade during this month, on 25th November, 1949, when Course 237/8 passed off, the salute being taken by Colonel C. E. A. Browning, M.C., Commandant, Ripon Wing, S.M.E. For the first time we turned out with swords and medals. The Commandant's cane was awarded to Officer Cadet Place.

On 24th November, 1949, a special Regimental guest night was held to mark the retirement of that grand old soldier, Major-Quartermaster "Shoey" Harris, the senior Quartermaster in the Corps. Major Harris's service goes back to 1917, when he enlisted in the ranks of the R.E. Signal Service, and most pre-war members of the Corps will remember meeting him in the Mounted Wing, where he served as a W.O.I, and subsequently in the Depot Battalion, where he was Quartermaster during mobilisation at the beginning of the war. All ranks of the Corps will join us in wishing "Shoey" the best of luck and a long and happy retirement.

The Wing played 8 Royal Tank Regiment in the first round of the Army Hockey Cup on 31st October, 1949. We opened the scoring and for a time the score stayed at 1—0. However, the steady pressure on our goal slowly wore down our defence and by half-time our opponents had scored twice, making the score 2—1. In the second half our opponents kept up the pressure and despite the most praiseworthy efforts of S.S.M. Craig in goal, scored two more goals, to make the final score 4—1 against us. Although 8 Royal Tank Regiment deserved to win, it was unfortunate that owing to one of our backs being injured in the first few minutes of the game, we were unable to give them as close a game as we gave them in the final of the District Cup last year.

The annual sports fixtures with the Ripon Wing, S.M.E., took place on Saturday, 26th November, 1949, at Ripon. Despite the most appalling weather the programme went entirely as planned, with very keen play in all sports and some very close results.

The outstanding event of the fixture was the rugby match which was played for the most part in half light and drenching rain. Both sides never relaxed for a moment and the standard of play, having regard to the conditions, was exceptionally high. We gained three points in the first half and fought tenaciously to increase this lead, but the Sappers, fighting back with great determination, equalised. In the last part of the second half, both sides tried very hard to score but were far too evenly matched and the game finished as a draw.

Results of the other matches were:—

Soccer	..	..	..	Lost 3—0
Hockey	..	..	..	Lost 1—0
Cross-Country	..	..	..	Lost 39—41
Fencing	..	..	..	Lost 10—6
Shooting	..	..	..	Won 711—665
Boxing	..	..	..	Won 3—1
Basket-Ball	..	..	..	Lost

We ended the day with an excellent entertainment provided by our hosts.

All Arms Wing

56 R.S.I. Course is nearly over, the students leave on 13th December, 1949. Our next, and we think final R.S.I. Course, starts on the 12th January. If everything goes according to plan, this Wing will close down in April, 1950, and future R.S.I. Courses will be run by the Arm of the Service concerned. It is possible that some of the staff of the Wing will be posted to the School of Infantry and the School of Artillery next year to help start their own Signal Wing.

We have welcomed some R.A.F. Regiment Officer and N.C.O. students on the present course. We hope they have enjoyed their stay with the "brown jobs." Our four Malay Regiment students have been looking very cold recently. Statements to the effect that "it can be much colder at Catterick if it tries" have not been received favourably by them. However, in spite of the cold we hope that they have enjoyed themselves. It must be difficult taking a course on regimental signalling in a "strange" language.

From our cadre of 138 all ranks we got together a team of 11 and entered it for the District inter-unit knock-out boxing competition. We lost to 3 Training Regiment in the first round but by a margin close enough to soothe our pride.

Most of the permanent staff will be away for Christmas, except those unlucky ones who have been selected to remain or who have no more privilege leave to come.

The Depot Regiment

Pocklington

The Depot Regiment progresses. Autumn has passed, and the football and rugby season is with us once again. The football team have found their feet, and have won three matches against No. 4 Command Workshops, R.E.M.E., Bridlington Police, and the Depot East Yorkshire Regiment. The rugby team have lost their hands, apparently, and were beaten in their two matches played, one against R.A.F., Leconfield, and another against St. John's College, York. Doubtless, however, they will vindicate themselves when they play Northern Command (M) Signal Regiment on 7th December.

On 1st November we lost "two weeks on one day"—Major G. W. Weeks and Sergeant L. Weeks, also R.S.M. H. J. Fry. Major Weeks has taken the Plough Inn, Allerthorpe, a nearby village. We lost, too, during the month, Captain D. S. Sidney, who is a P.S.O. in Catterick.

The Armistice service was held on 13th November, conducted by Rev. McDermid in the Unit chapel—known on weekdays as the gymnasium.

Christmas preparations are in full swing—a Christmas ball for the junior N.C.O.s and men on 15th December, and a children's party on 21st December. We understand that S.S.M. "Pop" Langham is studying stove chimneys with a jaundiced eye, and is growing a long white beard. Our worthy P.R.I.—Major G. A. Low, M.B.E.—is studying his accounts similarly. The usual men's dinner will take place on Christmas Day, and it is hoped there will be an officers' party in the New Year; not, unfortunately, on the same scale as the last; our bank manager turned pale at the prospect!

By the way, we hurry to inform the villagers of Nunburnholme that the threat of enemy paratroops landing there has now definitely passed. Our officers' training syndicates have very efficiently annihilated them.

We wonder what Omar Khayyam would have thought of the Depot Regiment. Perhaps something like this—

"Tis but a chequer board of Nights and Days,
Where Officers' Wing with men for pieces plays,
And, hither and thither loses, moves and slays,
Then one by one, back in the dead-file lays."



Anti Aircraft Command

2 A.A. GROUP (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT

Aldershot

Since our last appearance in print we have had our annual administrative inspection, carried out by Major-General M. N. Dewing, C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., Commander 2 A.A. Group. There was the usual amount of dusting everything that moved and blancoing anything that didn't. However, everything passed off well and the G.O.C. seemed quite pleased with us.

5 *A.A. LINE MAINTENANCE TROOP.* During the latter part of the glorious English summer this Troop was engaged on "Operation Bulldog" on the South Coast. The majority of the Troop were stationed at Fort Fareham, acting as the Line Troop for 10 A.A. Brigade Signal Troop.

The work consisted of wiring several control rooms around the Solent area and although long hours were worked, many very happy hours were spent in the local hostelries imbibing in the usual "foaming jug."

A small party went over to the Isle of Wight to complete the control rooms there. Whether by good luck, coincidence or conspiracy, both of the Line Sergeants were among the party. Still, a good time was registered as we had a very able guide in Sergeant Dixon, who was back on his old stamping ground and it was with great reluctance that we embarked and sailed (before closing time) from the "King's Head."

The W.R.A.C. element of the Unit have taken to painting during the past month—No! they are not endeavouring to emulate the works of Picasso as one might at first imagine, their artistic talents have been turned in the direction of home decoration. All furniture in the W.R.A.C. quarters have been given a fresh coat of paint and most attractive is the result, even though the Q.M. was heard to breathe a fervent prayer with regard to the reaction of the Barrack Officer when he saw our latest design in wardrobes!

Apart from painting, our energies have been put to full advantage in the field of netball. To date we have played six matches, winning three and regrettably losing three, but our "goals for" are considerably more than the total number of "goals against," so we press on for further triumph in spite of a large number of A.F.B. 117s during the past 10 days.

Our gossip column is quiet at the moment, the main item being the forthcoming marriage of Lance-Corporal Crawford—one of the longer established members of the Unit.

Our Uxbridge Troop continue to flourish under the care of Sergeant Gould. On a recent visit, the Junior Commander was met with a roomful of furrowed brows, the upgrading classes were in full swing under the capable direction of Lance-Corporal Crawford. If enthusiasm is any criterion we shall gain 100 per cent passes.

3 A.A. GROUP INDEPENDENT (M) SIGNAL SQUADRON

Currie

During November, several notable events took place.

On the 4th November, Major-General H. A. Hounsell, C.B.E., the new G.O.C., paid a visit to Craigiehall and inspected the Unit on parade.

Major D. L. Hyde departed for the sunny south on the 9th November and we welcomed Major J. L. Tanner as the new Commanding Officer.

On 5th November, Guy Fawkes Day was celebrated in the traditional way. A fancy dress ball, a carnival march, with a bonfire and fireworks combined to make the evening a memorable one. The "Oohs!" and prolonged "Ahs!" of the dancers as they watched the rise and fall of the rockets, made a discordant accompaniment to the skirl of the pipes, ably piped by Second-Lieutenant D. M. Thomson. All concerned are to be congratulated on the variety and originality of the costumes. Private Chapman as "Bo Peep" and Sergeant Houghton as the Devil, obtained first prizes. It was not until identities were revealed, that a mystery was solved. Earlier in the evening Major Tanner had seen a young lady dressed in the full finery of Elizabethan times on the main staircase. After giving him a "wan" smile she disappeared. The "wan smile" was no doubt caused by the fact that the main staircase is out of bounds, but the C.O., having in his mind the story told to all newcomers of a "Black Abbess" said to walk the gloomy corridors on all festive occasions, did not question the apparition on her ability to read.

We had the pleasure of the company of Major Kidd and Captain Robbins, with a wireless troop from H.Q. A.A. Command for several days. We did not see as much of them as we should have liked as they were extremely busy.

For a small unit we have a good football team and we hope for reports of success in future issues of THE WIRE.

The Unit watched 1 Training Regiment play the second round in the Army Cup at Redford Barracks against 9 Lancers. Unfortunately, Royal Signals lost the match but their very good football satisfied us with an exciting game.

4 A.A. GROUP (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT

Peninsula Barracks, Warrington, Lancs

Two successful Regimental week-ends have been held. At Cardiff on 12th/13th November we concentrated on training for the trade tests which were held at Warrington on 3rd/4th December. The results were most encouraging. It was also good to see that so many of our new enlistments from Coventry and Swansea had managed to visit R.H.Q.

We have added boxing to our sporting activities and held our first match on 8th December. We lost to R.A.F. Padgate by 17 points to 15, but our boxers showed that they were not lacking in courage and determination although most of them have not yet learned the finer points of the sport.

The details were as follows:—

Bantam: W.O.2 O'Connor (C.S.O.'s Staff) *v.* Corporal Hind (R.A.F.), lost on points.

Feather: Signalman Francis (1 Squadron) *v.* Aircraftsman Rowlands (R.A.F. lost on points.

Light: (1) Signalman Campbell (1 Squadron) *v.* Aircraftsman Parker (R.A.F.) lost on K.O.; (2) Lance-Corporal Hadfield (1 Squadron) *v.* Aircraftsman Fennel (R.A.F.) lost on K.O.

Welter: (1) Signalman Nichol (1 Squadron) *v.* Aircraftsman Cox (R.A.F.), won on points; (2) Lance-Corporal Hicken (1 Squadron) *v.* Aircraftsman Coburn (R.A.F.), lost on K.O.; (3) Signalman Hopkins (1 Squadron) *v.* Corporal Thomas R.A.F.), lost (fight stopped in third round).

Middle: (1) Signalman Beer (1 Squadron) *v.* Aircraftsman Sparks (R.A.F.), lost on K.O.; (2) Lance-Corporal Smith (1 Squadron) *v.* Aircraftsman Cumber (R.A.F.), won on points.

Light-Heavy: (1) Bombadier Roberts (4 A.A. Group) *v.* Sergeant Keenan (R.A.F.), won on disqualification; (2) Sergeant Smith (1 Squadron) *v.* Corporal Parkinson (R.A.F.), won on points.

5 A.A. GROUP (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT

Scarborough

Last month we said good-bye to the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel R. M. Adams on posting to B.A.O.R. This month we welcome our new Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel A. T. Sladen and Mrs. Sladen. We hope your stay will be a long and happy one and here's wishing you all the best of luck for the future.

Armistice Day, or Remembrance Day as some prefer to call it, was held on the 6th November, 1949, at St. Mark's Church, Newby, in which the Regiment took part. The parade under the Command of the Adjutant, Captain T. G. Simpson, marched to Church, followed by the W.R.A.C. under the Command of Junior Commander N. G. Dallas. On completion of the Service the parade returned to barracks where it was dismissed. The rain just prior to the parade was pouring down, but luckily ceased and the remainder of the day was fine.

The Regiment was due to meet 81 H.A.A. Regiment Royal Artillery, Newcastle, in the Third Round of the 5 A.A. Group Motor-cycle League Trials, but due to the fact that the Gunners were delayed during Gunnery Practice the meeting had to be postponed until the 5th December, 1949. We are also due to ride against 62 H.A.A. Regiment, Royal Artillery, Lincoln, in the Fourth Round by the 2nd January, 1950, but this meeting has been brought forward to December.

The Education Officer, Captain C. E. Kilminster, has been exceptionally busy this month as has also his staff in preparation for the Second and Third Class Examinations which were held at this H.Q. on the 22nd and 8th November, 1949 respectively. Results are not yet known but it is hoped that a good percentage of the candidates will have succeeded in passing the examination.

It is proposed to hold an All-Ranks Dance on the 2nd December, 1949, in the Gymnasium of the Northern Command School of Physical Training, and the Dance Committee are very busy at the moment in making all necessary preparations. By the amount of hard work they are putting into it, success is assured.

Sport. On Wednesday, 16th November, 1949, we played our old rivals the "Butchers" in the semi-final of the Wednesday League Cup, which we lost by 5-3. It was a very hard fought game on a ground that had had a great deal of rain. Signals opened the scoring shortly after the commencement of the game but the Butchers soon equalised. At the end of the first half the score was 2-all and it was anybody's game. On the resumption the Butchers continued to press and got two very quick goals, which were soon followed by another making the score 5-2. Royal Signals then got on top, and for the last twenty minutes were pressing very hard, the game being played practically the whole time in the opposition's half. The team did everything but score, the Butchers continually kicking into touch and defending the goal very stubbornly. Just before full time we did score but it was too late, and the game ended with the Butchers winning by 5-3, and passing into the final of the Cup. The game which was seen by about 200 spectators was a very good one and thoroughly enjoyed by all.

We are still unbeaten in the League and head the table, results to date being :

				Goals		
P.	W.	D.	L.	For	Against	Points
7	7	—	—	28	2	14

Two Hockey matches have been played against the Northern Command School of Physical Training during the month. Both games have been played at top speed and have been thoroughly enjoyed by all participating. The results were as follows : Lost 2-1; drew 3-3. The next game will be played in the New Year when we hope to record a win.

EASTERN COMMAND SIGNAL REGIMENT

Canterbury



November has been a quiet month and there is little military activity to report except for our participation in Exercise "Victor," which is described in a separate paragraph. This exercise, in which 29 Independent Infantry Brigade took part, received considerable publicity in the Press and on the B.B.C. and was carried out in miserable weather in the Stanford Battle Area.

To turn to events nearer home: Our best congratulations to Captain and Mrs. "Ken" Adlam on the birth of their second son, Keneth Robert, on the 21st November, 1949, and also to Captain and Mrs. Eric Glover, whose son arrived a few weeks earlier. We are much looking forward to the forthcoming visit of a strong detachment of the Middlesex Yeomanry for a week-end camp. The annual inspection is over and we feel confident that we have survived with credit. This year the Q.M. remembered to have the inventory boards up to date and somebody else had ensured that the daily newspapers were on show in the Welfare Hut. The Adjutant is running a highly organised junior N.C.O.s' drill and duty course, and the next Trade Board is fixed for January, 1950. We welcome Captain Brown from Malta and S.S.M. Phillips is back with H.Q. 2 Squadron after taking part in a six months' recruiting drive for the Corps which has taken him all over Eastern Command. He says that his travelling claims brought him in a handsome amount of "beer money." R.S.M. Berwick has been taking some well earned leave in North Wales, where he is reputed to have climbed both Snowdon and the Great Orme on foot, scorning the funicular railways which lead to these so-called beauty spots. The Commanding Officer recently inspected Home Counties District Signal Troop at Shorncliffe. Command H.Q. Troop at Hounslow have five Signalmen in the Command soccer team and our XI at Canterbury would like to give them a game. Transport difficulties are the main obstacle. On the 20th December, 1949, we are entertaining the Signals families at our Christmas party to which all R.E. families in Canterbury have also been invited. The officers are holding a cocktail party on the following day and the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess are busy organising a bumper party for New Year's Eve. For this an enormous goose, still on the "hoof," has been earmarked. Early in the New Year both the District H.Q. Troops have arranged courses for cadets from our numerous C.C.F. units which promise to be very well attended. These notes are not complete without mention of S.Q.M.S. Foster of 2 Squadron, who has just finished a fire fighting course at Colchester, and in the subsequent examination came out top of a class of 18 students, but unfortunately lost some teeth in the process. He subsequently blotted his copy book by getting mixed up with a motor-cycle in some tram lines near Lewisham and is now spending his time alternatively redecorating the bar in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess, which is beginning to look something like the Ritz, or pinching funny little toys to make them squeak—presumably a sort of inspection test before they are packed up for the Christmas party. He is also S.Q.M.S. in his spare time.

Finally, a word about Exercise "Victor":

The Regiment supplied communications for the umpires on Exercise "Victor," which was the try-out for the newly formed 29 Independent Infantry Brigade. The exercise was held amidst the rabbits and pheasants of Stanford P.T.A., north of Thetford in Norfolk.

The three main wireless links consisting of Enemy, 29 Brigade and Umpire Control were manned by a hastily collected crowd of Corps and Regimental Signallers

ranging from a Corporal of Horse to Privates. The sets (19s and 88s) were gleaned from more units than were believed to exist and the vehicles from yet more units. S.Q.M.S.s (F of S.) Bradley and Render performed miracles in fitting the sets into the vehicles so that both worked (at most times anyway).

The umpires' omnibus line with "tap in" points every 200 yards was laid up the main axis of 29 Brigade's advance. The 14 miles of this D8 twisted and knotted line only worked intermittently with relay points and after it was extended to 18 miles with "borrowed" cable that the other units had left behind, it never worked again. A tired lineman was heard to say that he had a "creeping dis" on his stretch.

But although communications were not what one would desire, the training was invaluable. Everyone now has a line to shoot and happy memories. Mention must be made of Major Camp, who was wherever the chaos was thickest, organising and getting things going again.

NORTHERN COMMAND (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT

York

Since our last issue, little of outstanding note has occurred. The F.S.S. Troop and Construction Troop have dispersed themselves over the Command repairing the ravages of the gunmen during the practice season, and installing new cables in readiness for next year. The line parties on the Catterick-York route are still carrying out their unending battle with the Royal Tank Regiment, who appear to consider the poles most excellent obstacles for their trainees. It is rumoured that there is a shortage of fuel in Catterick. A sharp look out is being kept for tanks fitted with mechanical saws.

Christmas is now approaching and committees are springing up in all directions for dealing with the Christmas festivities. The children's Christmas party being not the least of the problems. The Messing Officer having successfully starved the Unit for the past two months, has announced she has saved sufficient to produce an adequate meal for Christmas. We trust the R.S.M. has not forgotten the traditional bottle of whisky for the Commanding Officer!

The football team has been doing well, in spite of the loss of several old hands; and we have at last succeeded in tempting sufficient players from soccer to produce a rugger XV. Although suffering a severe defeat from a well drilled R.A.F. team from Acaster in the first match, enthusiasm is undiminished and with experience we should be able to hold our own. The girls have succeeded in obtaining four places in the Command W.R.A.C. hockey team and have, so far, recorded a win against Scottish and a draw with Western. We wish them good luck in their next engagement against Southern.

The Officers' Mess have suffered a severe loss in Signalman Phillips and Private Robertson, W.R.A.C., who have decided to set up house together and are being married on 3rd December. We wish them every happiness and the best of luck. We also hope the electric clock presented by the officers will arouse Signalman Phillips in time to get the breakfast.

Do you know the address of your local Branch of the Signals Association? If not, write to the General Secretary, 88 Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1.

WESTERN COMMAND SIGNAL REGIMENT

Blacon Camp, Chester

Our annual inspection by the C.S.O., Brigadier E. V. McCormack, C.B.E., took place last month and apparently everything was satisfactory as a number of people went on leave immediately afterwards with complacent smiles.

During the parade the very coveted "gong" for "Old Soldiers" was presented to R.S.M. J. T. Justice from N.W. District Signals, and to S.S.M. L. Causey of 3 Squadron. The traditional "wetting" in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess during lunch was successfully proceeded with.

Captain P. W. Powley, who is looking after 1 Squadron, also got the L.S. and G.C., but although his award arrived, I understand, with his "fan" mail, the ribbon on his chest caused him a number of requests for the appearance of the Mess barman.

Really there are so many "Old Soldiers" now in the Unit it is getting increasingly difficult to "spin a yarn" to anyone.

During last month Major J. D. B. Thornton and Major W. J. S. Gray joined this Unit. Major Thornton, I hear, is becoming very expert on Courts of Enquiry.

The W.R.A.C. contingent of Western Command moved into our camp on 3rd December. Some of the troops here are hoping that soon they may contact a good "sock darner." The N.A.A.F.I. are selling a lot of hair cream. I wonder why!

On 30th November a civilian concert party from Liverpool visited this camp and gave a very good show to the troops. It was much appreciated by everybody, especially as it was given free. We are not aware of the identity of the very "untidy" person who invited two different ladies to accompany him to this show, both of whom turned up. Was his neck "red"?

The C.O.'s driver went away to civilian life on 2nd December, which happened to be a "pay day." The whole of the Troop turned out to see him off. The task next day was "clutch and gear box." They said they never were lucky.

NORTHERN IRELAND DISTRICT (M) SIGNAL SQUADRON

Lisburn

The most outstanding event in the last month was "Remembrance Day," when the whole headquarters paraded on that sunny Sunday morning of 1st November. The C.S.O., Lieutenant-Colonel H. C. B. Rogers, O.B.E., commanded the parade and Royal Signals also provided the parade Adjutant. After the inspection by G.O.C., Northern Ireland District, Lieutenant-General Sir Reginald Denning, K.B.E., C.B., the parade marched off to the playing of the "Corps March" to the garrison churches.

Shooting has now been started seriously and the Squadron has taken over the miniature range. Membership has also been obtained for the Army Rifle Association and keen practice has commenced for the Company smallbore match, for which the Squadron has entered.

SIGNAL COMMUNICATION WING

The Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst

As this is our first contribution to THE WIRE it would be as well to explain the organisation of our Wing. We were formed in January, 1947, when the R.M.A.S. reverted to the pre-war role of training Officer Cadets for Regular Commissions. The Wing consists of N.C.O.s of all arms. Our function is to train Officer Cadets in the basic principles of all arms signalling and their responsibilities as officers in this connection. We train an intake of 360 Cadets during a term. They come to the Wing 120 at a time and work in six classes each under the direction of a S.Q.M.S. from the Corps, who is assisted by two Sergeants from various arms of the service. Equipment and stores are handled by our own workshop staff, who are also responsible for public address equipment, which is always in demand for the various activities held here.

Sport is always to the fore. The Wing have always done well in Permanent Staff Inter Wing Competitions, holding at the present Cricket, Basket Ball and Athletic Cups. On 7th December the Corps Hockey team visited the Academy to play the Cadet 1st XI and drew 1-1. Every facility is given to the Permanent Staff to visit other Establishments, Military and Civil, and keep themselves up to date. Our travels have taken us to such places as Larkhill, Portsmouth and the Royal Aircraft Establishment, Farnborough, whilst we recently visited Rootes Group factories at Coventry, the B.B.C. and Radiolympia.

Past and present members of the Corps will I feel sure be interested to know that the following Officers, W.O. and Senior N.C.O.s are at present serving with the R.M.A., Sandhurst in one capacity or another :

Lieutenant-Colonel D. A. Pringle, Major P. C. Williams, Major P. E. M. Bradley, D.S.O., Major J. H. St. G. Hamersley, Major A. J. Deane-Drummond, M.C., Captain G. Proudman, Captain R. F. C. Gladwyn, M.B.E., S.S.M. J. D. Tucker, M.C., S.Q.M.S. J. Potts, S.Q.M.S. F. Lindley, S.Q.M.S. B. Derrick, S.Q.M.S. F. Holt, S.Q.M.S. G. A. Green, M.M., S.Q.M.S S. G. Barnes.

B A O R

2 INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT

Hilden

The winter training programme is in full swing. The Regimental junior N.C.O.s drill and duties courses are progressing well; the past high standard being maintained. We welcome visitors from other Signal Regiments in B.A.O.R. who are with us for the duration of the O.W.L. and radio mechanics upgrading courses.

At long last we are pleased to note that the Regiment has managed to form a dance band, which although still in its infancy shows signs of being a great success. Starting off with only piano, sax and drums, they acquitted themselves with honours on their first public appearance in the Ding Dong Club. We wish success to the lads who have put in a considerable amount of hard work and practice. Good show and keep it up.

1 Squadron. The month has seen many arrivals and departures.

In the field of sport we are in the midst of the Inter-Troop League competitions. "O" Troop have won every game that they have played so far in the football league, and "A" Troop is well up in the hockey league. We are confident that if the same enthusiasm that is shown in the shooting, cross-country and boxing competitions, the challenge cup for the best all-round troop of the year will be won by a 1 Squadron Troop.

2 and 3 Squadrons. "E," "F" and "G" Troops have spent the month in preparation for the annual inspection by the C.R.A. So far, their efforts have been rewarded by favourable comments to the effect that the usual high standard is being maintained. "R" Troop, serving with the 3rd Hussars, have said good-bye to Sergeant Tribe and wish him the best of luck. At the same time they extend a welcome to Sergeant Danks, their new Troop Commander.

Rugger. Thanks to the arrival in the Unit of Second-Lieutenant Botterill, the rugby season got away with a swing, and fixtures for at least one match per week for the rest of the season have been arranged. Nine or ten games have been played, culminating in a very hard fight against 2 Battalion Grenadier Guards on 26th November in the first round of the B.A.O.R. Cup. We were not weighty enough for the husky Guardsmen and went down 12 points—0. They should go far this season. The most enjoyable game was Mr. Barrett's (Regimental Sergeant-Major) team from the Sergeants' Mess against the Rest. The Adjutant (Captain R. J. Harvey) proved too heavy for Foreman of Signals Mahon and the resultant Army Form 117 has just been sent away. Good clean fun though, with the Rest the victors, 14 points—6 points. Several games are arranged over Christmas, so more news later.

Soccer. So far as Regimental soccer is concerned, the month has been mainly devoted to trials, and talent spotting in the inter-troop league matches. With the Divisional League matches starting next month, we look forward to considerably more success than we had in the B.A.O.R. Cup competition last month, when we had the misfortune of being knocked-out in the preliminary round, after a hard fight with 5 Infantry Workshops, R.E.M.E., the Unit team being very ably captained by Corporal Rankin.

Inter-troop soccer, however, is in full swing and half the matches in the league have already been played. Judging by the enthusiasm shown, the second half of the competition promises to be even more exciting than the first.

Hockey. The outstanding match of the month was that played against the 1st Battalion The King's Own Royal Regiment. The game was extremely fast due to the smooth surface of the pitch, and failure to stop a long pass or a free hit inevitably resulted in an 80 yards sprint to recover the ball. However, the match resulted in a hard earned win for our Unit team, with a score of 4—2.

We wish all the best to our ex-half-back, Corporal McDonnell on his posting to another unit.

Troubles rarely come singly, and at the moment Foreman of Signals Mahon and R.Q.M.S. Grant are both "out of order." Let us hope that they are back in their old positions as soon as possible.

Despite an acute shortage of umpires, twenty-six inter-troop games have been played in the Inter-Troop League since 5th November and some players have come to the fore.

Preliminary round of the B.A.O.R. and Army Inter-Unit Hockey Cup versus 22 L.A.A. Regiment, R.A.—result: win 3—0.

Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess. As usual the fortnightly dances, held on 3rd and 17th November, were enjoyed by all.

The Mess as a whole were a little dubious when Regimental Sergeant Major Barrett challenged the rest of the Unit to a Rugby match. However, 15 willing members turned out and forced a draw of 6 points—6 points at full time. This score appearing unsatisfactory to both sides, it was agreed to play an extra 30 minutes. Final result: Rest 14 points; Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess 6 points. Many souvenirs of the game remained with us in the Mess for the following two weeks.

H.Q. B.A.O.R. SIGNAL REGIMENT

General. During the month of November 3 A.S.S.U. moved into our barracks. They are only attached to us for administration and for how long we do not know. However, we do hope their stay will be an enjoyable one.

Preparations for Christmas are in full swing. Walking round the barracks the other evening a delicious smell greeted me, which after great deduction in the Sherlock Holmes fashion I decided came from the cookhouse. Entering the cookhouse I found the cooks up to their elbows in Christmas cake and pudding mixture. I only hope that the cakes are as light as the cooks were lightheaded; the rum seemed to have affected them strangely.

The Regiment has really knuckled down to planning the Christmas programme and it looks, with all the activities planned, as if the P.R.I. account will have a large debit balance.

Besides the various other activities an all ranks Christmas dance is being planned, if it is successful, further dances will be held monthly.

Football. Harewood Rangers—our Unit football team—are ninth in the Z.E.C.O. league and, I'm glad to report, are improving rapidly. It is hoped that they will be up with the leaders at the end of the season.

The team drew with 101 Provost Company in the first round of the B.A.O.R. Cup.

It also reached the semi-finals in the 7 Armoured Brigade knock-out competition by defeating 101 Zonal Postal Depot 3—0. The Regiment turned out in great strength to cheer the team on to victory.

Hockey. The hockey team has more than held its own against all comers. Unfortunately it lost to the Rifle Brigade in the second round of the 7 Armoured Division Cup; but I am glad to report that this is the only match it has lost up to date.

Basketball. Basketball within the Regiment has started in earnest. We are practising regularly and hope to produce an unbeaten team. Unluckily we were drawn against 50 R.H.U., who are an exceedingly powerful team, and I regret to report that we lost—although we were by no means outclassed.

ROYAL SIGNALS BAND—B.A.O.R. TOUR, 1950

Saturday, March 4th—Proceed to Harwich.

Sunday, March 5th—Arrive Hilden, 2nd British Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment.

Wednesday, March 8th—Proceed to Munster, 1 Wireless Regiment.

Thursday, March 9th—Proceed to Herford, H.Q., B.A.O.R. Signal Regiment.

Monday, March 13th—Proceed on night train to Berlin, Berlin Signal Squadron.

Wednesday, March 15th—Proceed on night train to Bad Eilsen, 11 Air Formation Signal Regiment.

Saturday, March 18th—Proceed to 7th Armoured Division (Desert Rats), Signal Regiment.

Tuesday, March 21st—Proceed to Hamburg.

Friday, March 24th—Proceed to U.K.



Standing: Signalman Harding, Driver Jennings, Driver Homan, Signalman Murrell, Driver Abrams, Corporal Bond, Driver Gregory, Signalman Lee, Signalman Souter, Corporal Clawson. Seated: Corporal Lennon, Sergeant Stead, Lieut.-Colonel J. E. S. Sanders, Captain K. G. Holdway, Signalman Suthers, Signalman Kennedy

7 ARMOURED DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT

Celle

The first snow has fallen in Celle and we are settling down for what should be a hard winter.

It seems unfitting to mention tennis at this time of year. We were beaten, however, in the finals of the B.A.O.R. Signals Tennis competition at Bad Oeynhausen, on one of the last five days of the year.

At Soccer we have unfortunately been knocked out of the B.A.O.R. Cup by 54 Company R.A.S.C. Basketball is the only game which is flourishing amid the rain and snow. Our Regimental Basketball team boasts an unbeaten record, but they were recently taken to 13-17 by the officers in a spirited game in the Gymnasium practising for the return match.

" G " Troop have been issued with new equipment involving gumboots and a ski-ing cap with an immense peak. Training has the appearance of a meeting of the Klu Klux Klan.

The Sergeants' Mess entertained the officers recently at a Mess Dance at which the officers were plied with the usual large amounts of doctored beer, tasting like whisky. Everyone enjoyed themselves very much.

Two new officers, Major Sheepshanks and Captain Elsmore have recently arrived and we have lost Major McKean who has gone to the Air Formation Signals and Second-Lieutenant Cumberbirch who has been released.

We extend our congratulations to Corporal Wilson who was married on 5th November at Hanover.

We extend a welcome to S.S.M. Davis from H.Q. B.A.O.R. Signal Regiment to fill the long vacant post of Sergeant-Major of No. 1 Squadron.

4 A.G.R.A. SIGNAL SQUADRON

Luneburg

It is regretted that no notes from this Squadron were submitted last month—the first miss in something like eighteen months actually—but due to pressure of work, and lack of anything terribly exciting to write, etc., etc. . . and yours truly bows himself out with an apology, and a promise of " Things to come," etc.

However, the month of November has been brimful of matters of local interest, the selection of which presents the only difficulty. During the first half of the month, a combined Whist Drive and Tombola was held in the men's Mess room, and proved itself a great success. Nothing unusual in a whist drive—appreciated, but this was something different, in that it was held in the men's very home, including an excellent Buffet provided by Sergeant Newell and his most capable staff. The evening was graced by the presence of the O.C. Unit, Major R. E. Button, Royal Signals, and Mrs. Button, various married members and their wives, and a sprinkling of W.A.A.F.s from the R.A.F. Station, Lüneberg. A right jolly time was had by all, and it is hoped that this may prove merely a forerunner of many such social events to follow. How about it Nobby?

Lieutenant Dunn and his selected Four—representing a Christmas committee—have been closeted in an office for the past three or four days, presumably formulating and organising a Christmas programme, but more than likely having a crafty hand of " Solo." Whatever the arrangements and preparations, it's a pretty safe bet that a grand time will be had by all. The Jungle griff is that Lieutenant Dunn and S.S.M. Hall are to dress and act as clowns at the Children's parties, if this be true then at the very least we are all assured of a real good laugh. Such parts come natural to certain types, and are in fact very ordinary and everyday, and the outcome is eagerly anticipated, to see which of the two, Lieutenant Dunn or S.S.M. Hall, can act a part, and be his natural self at one and the same time, with the greater amount of success. Any bets?

Football possibly receives the greater following and interest than Basketball, but in both these fields of sport the Squadron again excels. Possibly the best display of the soccer eleven this season was the holding of the Royal Scots Greys to a 1-1 draw, which held the Greys to the second place in the league table, on goal average, to ourselves. It was a grand match, hotly contested, and although a draw was an honourable and possibly fair result, we were somewhat unlucky, having had something like seventy-five per cent of the play. Our most comfortable win to date was nineteen goals for, and one against, versus 7 Medium Battery R.A.

Having relaxed for a few months after their misfortune at Bielefeld in the B.A.O.R. championship, the Basketball team have come into the open, and only require to win one more match to become 4 AGRA, and league champions.

BERLIN SIGNAL SQUADRON

B.A.O.R. 2

During the last month the Squadron has been busy settling down in its new quarters. These bid fair to be very comfortable, especially when the new Unit Canteen is completed, and the Games Room is fitted up. Meanwhile the painters and decorators, who have dogged us for the last six months put the final touches to their work.

It is doubtful whether newcomers are greatly endeared to the weather we have been having lately. Rain, sleet and gales have predominated, the latter causing quite an amount of minor damage to Squadron property. In Berlin itself many bomb damaged buildings were blown down by these gales which are said to have reached nearly 100 m.p.h.

The first XI Soccer Team celebrated winning the B.T.B. Junior League by going down to a 4-3 defeat at the hands of British Military Hospital, Berlin. This was unfortunate, but it concludes a programme of matches in which they have the considerable distinction of only having been beaten twice in 18 matches. Well done!

The combined H.Q. B.T.B. and Signals Hockey team continue to enjoy a large measure of success. Their record which includes only 1 defeat in 9 games deserves praise. On Wednesday afternoons the Squadron has fielded its own team and has played a number of very successful and exceedingly enjoyable friendly games.

Preparations are well advanced for the party which the Squadron intends to give for local destitute German children. Under the able guidance of Captain Beaumont, S.S.M. Rockall, Corporal Alexander and Signalman Topen—the last three stalwarts who helped to make last year's party a success—Raffles, Tombola Evenings and collections have been arranged to bring in the necessary cash. The Squadron have rallied to the call and the vast majority have voluntarily forgone sweet and chocolate rations, while a hardy band have volunteered to do the donkey work.

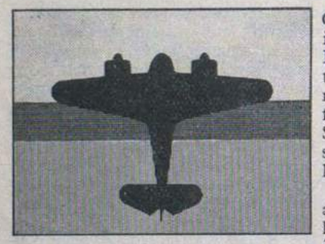
The Squadron was almost depopulated of Senior N.C.O.s recently, when the Army Certificate of Education 2nd Class examinations were on. It is too early to give a verdict on the performances of the people in question, but it is significant that the Education Sergeant sincerely hopes he will be on leave when the results come out!

Why not have your monthly copy of **THE WIRE** mailed direct to your address?



A party of C.A.F.S.O.'s staff out shooting

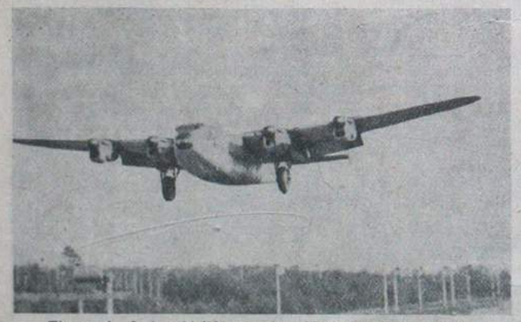
C.A.F.S.O. BRANCH, H.Q., B.A.F.O.



Again our C.A.F.S.O. Colonel L. de M. Thuillier, O.B.E., put the Branch to the fore in the field of sport by reaching the quarter-finals of the B.A.O.R. Squash Championships, 1949. Congratulations, sir.

The other sporting activity of the Branch has been game shooting. Visits have been made to various parts of Germany, and all ranks have had many a good day's sport and exercise. During a shoot many miles of rough country—up hill and down dale—over plough and stubble—through thickets and root crops—are covered and as the Sergeant-Major says "If we were ordered to do this, sick parade would be doubled, sir." It is indeed very weary sportsmen who return to billets.

His Majesty the King has expressed a wish to inspect a representative parade of personnel who took part in the Berlin airlift operation. Five representatives of Air Formation Signals are to form a detachment under command of Captain W. C. Barber, S.O. 3 Lines of this Branch, who during the greater part of the operation was O.C. 41 Wing Signal Troop at Gatow.



The end of the Airlift, the last York arrives at Gatow

11 AIR FORMATION SIGNAL REGIMENT

Bückeburg

We welcome to the Regiment Lieutenant-Colonel R. M. Adams who has come from 5 A.A. (M) Signal Regiment to take over command from Lieutenant-Colonel A. T. Sladen who has now left us to take over Lieutenant-Colonel Adams' old Unit.

In August we sent a line troop to U.K. to assist Eastern Command Signal Regiment in Exercise "Viking" held at the beginning of October. A lot of hard work was done in preparation for the exercise, but this was suitably rewarded by fourteen days leave in the U.K. after the exercise was completed. We should like to thank Eastern Command Signal Regiment for the very nice things they said about us in the November issue of THE WIRE and can assure them that if they need our help again there will be no difficulty in getting volunteers.

Boxing. The British Air Forces of Occupation Command Individual Championships were held at Bad Eilsen on 24th November 1949. Five members of the Regiment entered for these Championships and three fought their way to the finals. Corporal Pollard (31 Con. Tp.) fought one of the best bouts of the evening to win the Middle Weight contest from A. C. Golgan, R.A.F., and to become Command Champion for 1949/50. Driver Shearan (67 W.S.T.) put up another very good performance to win the Light Weight competition from A. C. Black, R.A.F. and also to become Command Champion for 1949/50. Our other finalist was Signalman Nash (2 S.H.Q.) who narrowly lost on points to Corporal Harris, R.A.F., a more experienced boxer. Our congratulations to all three for showing the R.A.F. that Signals don't only confine their activities to laying lines and maintaining teleprinters.



The Air Formation Signals contingent on the King's Review of Berlin Airlift personnel

80 *Wing Signal Troop, Wunstorf.* Now that the famous Berlin Air Lift has ended Wunstorf is rather a dead place, all the Aircraft gone and the hustle and bustle died down, but apart from having only a few less phones, the general work has not lessened, in fact now that we have the chance a big reorganisation of lines and systems has taken place. The usual internal and external circuits are still working though at a slightly slower pace.

Driving around the perimeter track one is sure to come across a group of men brandishing blow lamp, solder and other jointers' equipment. This is our "Peri Squad"; types who like to wallow in trenches sorting out colour-codes. They are responsible for the maintenance of a series of cables which come up to ground level at different points and enable the different mobile airfield Control Units to "Plug in" according to the direction of take-off from our two runways.

Such Units are E.C.A., Station Hanover, B.A.B.S. and Runway Controller, all there for the safety of Aircraft and almost entirely depending on the "Peri-Squad."

Many of us remember the night last March at the height of the Airlift, when this cable went down causing an emergency which brought every available man, from Clerk to Tele-Mechanic on to the airfield at midnight to dig a small trench across the peri track—frequently crossed by Plainfare Aircraft—and over about a 100 yards of concrete. The important lines went through and the troop returned to bed.

A touch of humour is recalled in the tale of the two linemen testing a line from the Control Tower to a point on the airfield. They had been unable to make contact, and when at last they did the one in the tower asked the other what had been the trouble—he was told and in no uncertain terms. This was all right except for the fact that he spoke over a loud-speaker system which boomed his words round the tower causing several members of the W.R.A.F. to blush violently. It is said he did so also when told of his mistake.

One of our jobs here is the maintenance of external and internal lines for B.A.F.Os Master Radar Station, and it is here that three ex G.P.O. Line-mechanics are in their element, for the Telephone Exchange and Equipment is G.P.O. Here again it is evident that an awful lot of the efficiency of M.R.S. depends upon 80 Wing's maintained lines, for old teleprinters having gone through Plainfare are beginning to show signs of weariness, it needs a lot of coaxing to keep them up to standard; but we cope!

Out of only about 30 men in our Troop we have a football team, which we consider to be one of the best in the Regiment, and even up to the standard of the Regimental team itself. We hold this opinion because up to the present we have beaten all but one of the teams on this station at least once this season, and therefore we have high hopes for the Station Championship, for out of 22 games we have only lost one.

139 *Line Troop Fassberg.* During the last month this Troop has had a full sports programme. On 7th November, 1949 we visited 80 W.S.T. and a most enjoyable game of football was played, resulting in a win for Wünstorf by 7 goals to 2. Signalman H. Cliff played a particularly good game at left wing. Several representatives of our Troop were selected to play in the Station team versus 15 Medium Regiment R.A. at Münsterlager on 5th November, 1949, resulting in a victory for the Station, score being 8-1. We also have three members of 139 Line Troop in the Station football team which has had a very good month.

The 16th November 1949 saw the demob of the Station Cinema projectionist and football referee, Signalman Thomas. His successor in the Cinema is Signalman Riddlesden.

There is little work left for us at Fassberg now, as the hand-over to Deutsche Post has been completed, but our Detachment at Celle Airfield is still going strong.

53 *Con Troop, Uetersen.* The line-mechanics and tele-mechanics have been busy recently, installing 6 of the new Auto transmitters and receivers in 85 Group teleprinter room. Most of their work had to be done at night when teleprinter circuits were closed down. This, and the fact that stores were rather hard to come by, were just two of the difficulties that were dealt with. But eventually all printers were working and the job completed on 3rd November 1949.

3 AIR SUPPORT SIGNAL UNIT

Herford

Winter is with us at last and this winter finds us sharing barracks with H.Q. B.A.O.R. Signal Regiment on 15th November.

A.S.S.U. moved from Minden to Herford. The move was completed in so short a time, coupled with a short and very welcome leave, that most of us scarcely realised we were moving until the last convoy slowly moved off on the final Tuesday morning. As the vehicles moved away we sorrowfully realised we were seeing the last of the barracks that had housed the unit for so long.

It is taking us rather a long time to become fully acquainted with all the H.Q. methods, but on the whole the Unit has settled down remarkably well, the only noticeable difference being the rather cramped stores and garage space in comparison with that at Minden, but with much manoeuvring and arranging, most things are now under cover.

In the Unit itself there is much activity, the return of the Trieste detachment and the despatch of their relief, the posting of several new operators and drivers to the Unit, the drafting wing being in the next block, it is never possible to tell when a few new "bods" will drop in to boost the Unit strength.

With the winter training programme in effect we have some eleven trainee drivers, daily enhancing the appearance of a number of jeeps, endeavouring to become skilled at their trade, much to their harrassed instructor's amusement, at the H.Q. Signal Regiment training school. Those operators not a present on upgrading courses seem to have to spend a great deal of time sheeting down vehicles, a number of which have developed leaks since the vehicles have been garaged in the open, exposed to the elements. Courses seem "A la mode" at present the basis of the training this season being upgrading and then unit training.

Football.—Before our departure from our late address it was the team's misfortune to challenge the local German team who left them in a rather dazed condition, vaguely aware that the score was somewhere in the region of five to nil at the finish.

The team's results up to the present have not been spectacular, but what with moving and the unpredictable state of the weather here recently, little more can be expected. The Unit has in unison with other Squadrons in H.Q. competed in the fortnightly cross-country race held by the Regiment. The race is carried out at a spectacular pace—probably due to the pre-breakfast training every morning from the check parade to the cook house. The amateur radio station has been temporarily suspended due to lack of suitable accommodation, but on this being found the now familiar call sign will once again pierce the wave bands.

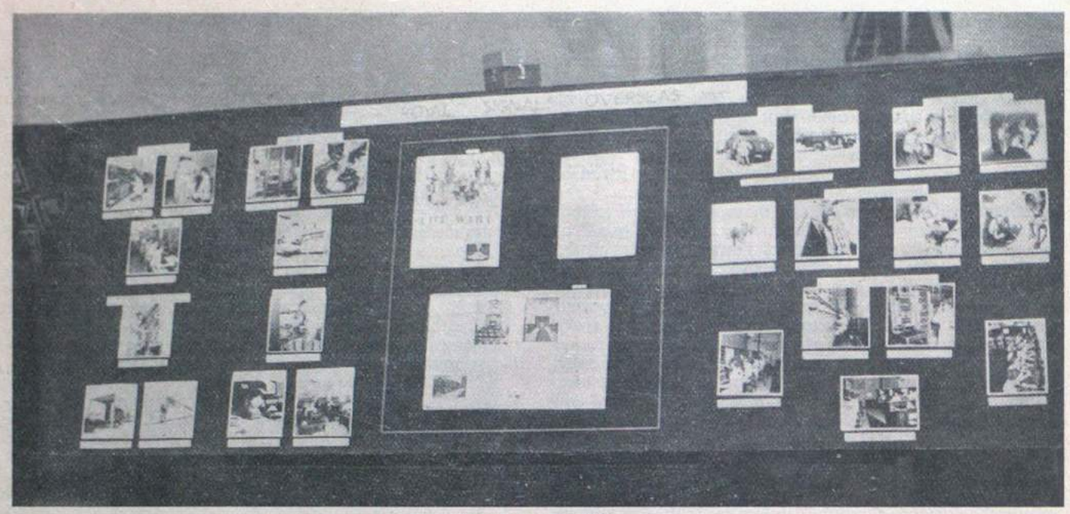
In Herford, Bad Oeynhausen, Minden, and other surrounding towns, preparations for the Christmas festivities are in full swing, the streets are all aglow with countless multi-coloured lights, the shop windows displaying a remarkable show of gifts, and suitably decorated for the season, we did have a little snow to complete the picture, but alas, it was evidently decided our Christmas should be modern, for the snow has melted and has not appeared again.

In barracks preliminaries will naturally take a little longer, nevertheless preparations for an all-ranks dance are under way.

Do **YOU** *belong to the*
Signals Association?

If not . . .
JOIN NOW!

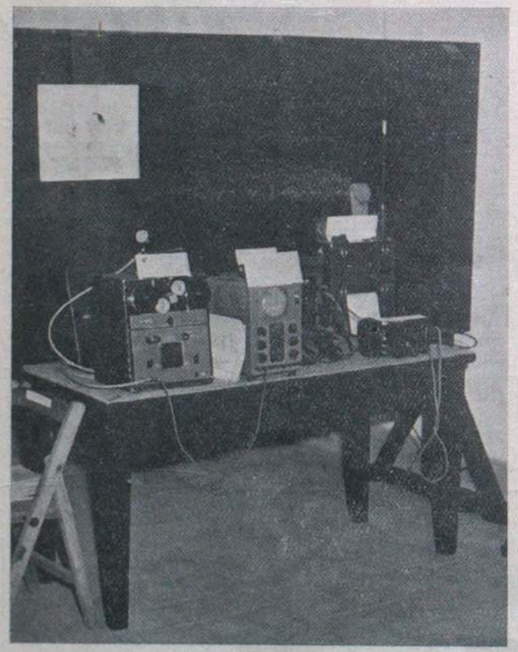
Your military service will come to an end one day and you may then need help
Ask your unit representative for further details



"Know your Army"

Signal Activities in Moascar

The autumn months in Egypt, when the temperature is more congenial than in the summer, are by custom, a period of much activity. This autumn has been no exception and the Corps has as usual played its full part. Some account of two major events may be of interest to readers, particularly those who know these parts and habits.



The recording section

Searchlight Tattoo. The Searchlight Tattoo 1948 held in Moascar for three nights was so successful that the event was repeated this year and most spectators would agree that it was an even better show than the last. To those unconnected with the Army, it is at least a thrilling spectacle; to Regular Officers and men accustomed to daily administrative struggles with insufficient resources, it provides a timely encouragement and a refreshing reminder that the old standards are not forgotten. It shows the National Serviceman a side of the Army that he will not readily find elsewhere at the present time in his short term of service, and even the most cynically minded old sweat cannot resist a stirring of pride in his Service as he watches.

The Corps was involved in this year's Tattoo in two aspects; in the provision of the necessary control communications and in producing the traditional DR Display Team.

1 Squadron Egypt Command Signal Regiment carried out the former in a workmanlike manner and, briefly, provided the following communications :—

(a) For searchlight control, telephone lines were laid from a concentrator (switchboard UC 10 line) on the central control tower to each of ten 25ft. high searchlight towers. To avoid bad speech as a result of high attenuation, individual quad cables were buried and to give a high speech and reception level each searchlight tower used a head and breast set coupled to a telephone EE8B. Volunteer Signals operators received the lighting instructions from the control tower and passed them verbally to the RA searchlight operators.

(b) Quad cable was also laid and telephone sets F used for the point to point circuits provided between each searchlight and its generator.

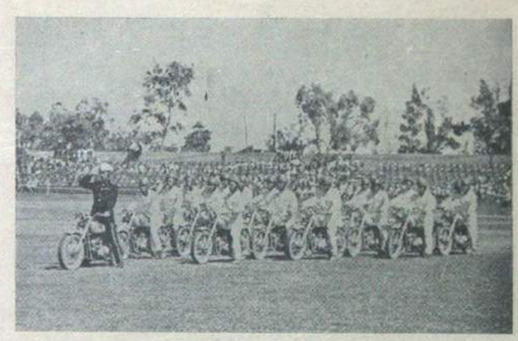
(c) The spectacular finale to the Tattoo included AA "fire" at a bomber flying over the arena and a direct circuit was provided to R.A.F. Flying Control for the co-ordination of this item.

(d) A central 5 +20 CB switchboard connected to Moascar Exchange was installed to cater primarily for the assembly area, gate controls and First Aid Post, and secondly to provide an alternative routing to R.A.F. Flying Control.

(e) Finally two direct private wires to Forces Broadcasting Service FAYID were arranged for the live broadcast of the final performance.

It must also be mentioned that 1 L of C Signal Regiment provided and manned the PA equipment over which the music of the various bands was relayed and some consternation was caused at rehearsals when the moving coil loudspeakers were found to be allergic to the gunfire of the Royal Artillery. Replacements were urgently obtained but only met the same fate and the problem was eventually solved by the judicious application of a pair of socks at the crucial moment.

One of the highlights of the Tattoo was the Corps DR Display Team. This team was raised by calling for volunteers from Signal units within Egypt and it is interesting that a fourth of the team were not DRs at all but drivers. Captain C. Walton, Royal Signals of 3 G.H.Q. Signal Regiment, who has had some experience of display riding, was in charge of the thirty riders comprising the team, about half of whom were Regulars. No special motor cycles were used and the team rode reconditioned 350 cc solo Matchless cycles while two 150 cc Enfield Airborne and two 500 cc Nortons with sidecar, performed the tricks which provided a light relief. Special springs were, however, fitted to the motor cycles used in the jumping stunts. All cycles were painted silver and all riders wore specially issued white overalls; half the team wore red helmets and half blue and the overall effect



of the turnout of the team in the beams of the searchlights was most effective. The team trained for nine weeks under the care of Egypt Command Signal Regiment, practising firstly on a tarmac runway kindly made available by the R.A.F. and then transferring to the grass arena on which the Tattoo was held.

The repertoire of the team was similar to that performed by the home Display Team. The standard of riding was high and the team received an enthusiastic reception from the audience at each performance. The team has now dispersed but some of its members can still be recognised from the style which they use as they ride past the roundabout and pull up at the Moascar Signal Office.



The Teleprinter section at the Exhibition



"Know Your Army" Exhibition. Following hard on the heels of the Tattoo, came the "Know Your Army" exhibition, with which the new Command Education Centre in Moascar was inaugurated. The opening was made by Brigadier R. G. C. Poole, C.B.E., Commanding 3 Infantry Brigade District, and the exhibition remained open for five days.

The object of the Exhibition was to publicise the part played and the work done by the various arms of the service with an eye on the recruiting of the National Service man to the Regular Army.

A Royal Signals stall was planned by X Branch H.Q. B.T.E. and the work of making stands, providing equipment and wiring up some of the gadgets to amuse visitors, was executed by the T.M. Troop and 1 Squadron of Egypt Command Signal Regiment. Royal Signals were the only Corps to provide practical demonstrations of equipment and the wire recorder wired to a C.R.O. amused many would-be broadcasting stars.

A leaf was taken out of Southern Command Signal Regiment's book by borrowing from them the idea of two teleprinters wired together across a cloth model of a stretch of country. Our model was needless to say a sand model in every way. Copies of THE WIRE were displayed and were perused by many visitors. An A.C.V. 6 x 6 of B.T.E. Mobile Signal Troop was on view and was a source of great attraction to many small boys. As a tailpiece it might be whispered that this A.C.V. was in R.E.M.E. Workshops awaiting a new pump prior to opening day. As all the other A.C.V.s in the Troop were out on a wireless exercise, the only solution was to tow it into position with the aid of a Scammel. As its place of honour was across some horribly soft sand, it will be no surprise to learn that it got stuck. However, by the time the Exhibition was due to be opened it was in place, the deep ruts made by both the Scammel and A.C.V. had been filled in and the sand smoothed over and no-one was any the wiser.



1 L. OF C. SIGNAL REGIMENT, M.E.L.F.
El Ballah

Salt Lake City has begun its winter months with a good heavy deluge of rain. It has damped the spirits of our newly arrived National Service employees, who no doubt had visions of using up all the local sun-tan lotion.

Gazing from our windows these mornings what do we see but the local tailor chalking and chalking for all he's worth the solid ranks of battle dresses, now in full-time use. One never quite knows why these garments have to be tailored afresh every year. It looks like home to see B.D. once again on the C.O.'s Saturday morning parade.

Cross-country running is becoming very active in the Regiment and even although none of us are up to the Wooderson standard, we enjoy our jog round the course. The local inhabitants usually turn to gaze at this strange spectacle—was it something about "mad dogs and Englishmen" we heard them mutter?

Soccer is as usual taking precedence and even although we never seem to field the same team twice, S.S.M. Irving always manages to pull off something.

The officers made merry last month and held a ladies' guest night in the Mess one evening. All our guests, wives and living out members, made the rendezvous. The furniture was pushed against the walls, the carpets were lifted and the merrymaking began. A buffet was laid on in regal style—tiers upon tiers of "goody-goodies." Even though our dance floor was made of stone, and several of us had tender feet the following morning, these social evenings are earmarked for once per month.

Lieutenant (Q.M.) R. L. J. Shove, R.S.M. Turner and Corporal Catesby have represented the Corps in hockey this season. Our Unit team have been faring very well, winning four out of six matches.

The Warrant Officers and Sergeants also appear to be coming out of their shell. They have spent vast resources of wealth on decoration—curtains being well to the forefront. Two dances have been held which have proved themselves worthy of repetition in the future.

3 G.H.Q. SIGNAL REGIMENT
Fayid, M.E.L.F.

Our main diversion during the past month was the first Corps week-end. To quote a much abused phrase "A good time was had by all." But in this case the phrase is fully and truthfully descriptive. On Saturday afternoon the sports field became the venue for novelty sports arranged by the Officers' Mess, the events being more distinguished for hilarity than athletic prowess. Also on the field of battle was a fun fair arranged by the Sergeants. Judging from the number of prizes distributed by the stall-holders the Unit and their friends must qualify as "Coconut Knocker-offers Class One." In the evening was held a Sergeants' Mess dance to which the officers were invited. The Corporals held a (very) social evening and the other ranks had an Egyptian cabaret giving them a show in the N.A.A.F.I. Apropos this last, there is no truth in the rumour that several of our chaps want to become cabaret dancers.

Sunday morning was opened on a quieter note with the celebration of an International Remembrance Day Service, after which was a march past, the salute being taken by Major-General W. O. Bowen, C.B., C.B.E., C.S.O. M.E.L.F. Later in the day came motor-cycle racing at the Mercurians' speedway track—the central theme being "You want the best thrills, we have 'em." The main event of this display

of mechanised manoeuvre being the race between officers and novices. After the first bout it was decided to handicap the novices, giving the officers three laps to the novices' four. This enabled our ace rider, Second-Lieutenant R. P. Jacomb, to win an excellent trophy. The trophy was presented by General Bowen and conceived and produced by W.O.I Lockey of R.E.M.E. As this consisted of a driving sprocket, connecting rod, crash helmet and piston rings closely interwoven with four bottles of beer, readers may assume that it is very carefully treasured by the winner.

Other entertainment in the past month has been provided by the Unit Theatrical Party, who produced the famous Ralph Lynn farce, "Tons of Money." This is generally accepted as the best effort the party has made to date, the show being almost professionally produced by Captain C. B. P. Meik, ably assisted by Second-Lieutenant Jacomb and Lance-Corporal Carlisle. The cast included Major Nash, Captain Webb, Lieutenant Baker, Second-Lieutenant Douet and Lance-Corporal Overett. Unfortunately, many of the present company are due to leave the Unit shortly and everyone is hoping that we shall be able to find someone to take their places from new arrivals. So if any of you chaps at home are due for posting and have Thespian leanings, come to M.E.L.F.

In regard to sport we are doing pretty well. The Corps hockey team is still undefeated and the Unit football team is in a good position in the District League. As the football team is still in the formative stage regarding team work, we can expect fireworks from them when they are more practiced. We cannot say very much yet regarding the rugby team, but with two stalwarts such as Captain Willis and Sergeant Rees in control we have little to fear.

H.Q. SQUADRON. As this squadron proudly boast the nucleus of the Regimental football team it will be obvious that, for us, football is *the* sport. In the Troop League, H.Q. Administration and Operating Troop are neck and neck at the top of the list and what happens next is anyone's guess.

Obituary. Since the completion of these notes a more sombre note appeared in an otherwise pleasant month. The Unit has been deeply shocked by the tragic death of Signalman D. E. Marshall whilst on duty at the transmitter site. He was well liked and a good worker and we would all wish that he was still with us. He has been buried in Fayid with full military honours. All members of the Unit offer their sincerest condolences to his family.

THE MAURITIAN SIGNAL WING, M.E.L.F.

These are the first and the last WIRE notes of this Unit, which has been in existence since August of last year and which is now rapidly running to its close.

Training Mauritians for employment in the Corps in large numbers was a new venture and it was felt that to send in our monthly notes before we had proved that we could justifiably see the Unit mentioned on equal terms with other units of the Corps would have been premature.

From various reports of Signal Regiments now employing some of the personnel trained in the Wing it seems that the scheme has been a success and the Mauritian as a radio, line or tele mechanic, O.W.L., O.K.L., or lineman, is working and mixing well within those Regiments.

The greatest advantage lay in the fact that the O.C. of the Wing himself recruited the trainees in Mauritius. This gave a knowledge of the background of the men and also made for a fair degree of confidence on the part of the trainees in an officer under whom they had served since they were originally enlisted.

At first the plan had envisaged only one complete series of courses commencing in October of last year and ending in July of this year. The establishment was therefore designed for a maximum of ten months. Later, when the potential of the Mauritian had been more appreciated it was decided to increase the numbers and the Wing carried on. Release of N.S. instructors was being felt very keenly but was offset by using Mauritian trainees who had done well on the first courses as A.Is on the second series.

The Mauritians now trained and employed by Royal Signals are actually enlisted into the Royal Pioneer Corps, the only Corps which is recruiting on the island. By special arrangement those now recruited for Royal Signals are extra-regimentally employed from the Pioneers and wear modified Royal Signals badges and titles.

There are now several hundred of these men serving in Royal Signals Units in Egypt and North Africa. They include cross-sections of all the communities and religions of Mauritius—French, Indian, Chinese—Christian, Mohammedan, Hindoo—yet all loyal British subjects under their national title of "Mauritian."

Their island as may have been judged by the frequent notes from the Signal Troop of Mauritius itself, is a very lovely spot in the Indian Ocean. Its green and luxuriant foliage contrasts sharply with the black volcanic stone of the hills and the silver-whiteness of the sand near the water's edge.

Replicas of French cathedrals and churches, strongly built of this dark stone are scattered over the island and, with the Creole, which is the Mauritian *lingua-franca*, still pay tribute to the early French colonisers of the 18th century, as do also the names of many towns and villages like "Rose-Belle," "Beau-Bassin," "Curepipe" and "Quatre Bornes."

In the south, forest grows down to the edge of the sea. In this forest district the *chasse* or the hunting of stag is still carried on—yet another link with the early French colonials who imported the stag for hunting.

Only 35 miles at its longest and 28 at its widest, the island has 500,000 inhabitants. They are a friendly, hospitable and sentimental people.

While these notes are in the nature of a "good-bye" to the Mauritians on the part of the writer, it is hoped that they will in their publication represent generally "Hallo—and welcome into the Corps."

THE MAURITIAN SIGNALS
A Tribute by C.S.O., M.E.L.F.

The last lines of THE WIRE notes from the Mauritian Training Wing, hoping that the Mauritian would be welcomed to work with the Corps, give me an opportunity as their chief user, to say in print as I have done in person on my inspections: "We are glad to have you with us."

At least four of my Signal Regiments will be composed of a large number of Mauritians during the coming year and I feel sure that in loyalty and pride of the Corps they will fully justify the confidence which has from the beginning of this scheme been placed in them.

2 WIRELESS REGIMENT
Cyprus

Socially, the month has been noteworthy for a brief visit to Famagusta paid by units of the United States Fleet.

Hospitality was extended by the Officers' and Sergeants' Messes to the Officers and Petty Officers of the destroyers U.S.S. *John W. Weekes* and U.S.S. *Hainsworth*. This was wholeheartedly accepted and reciprocated by our American friends and an enjoyable week-end resulted during which international friendship was firmly cemented. (The mixture used is a Regimental secret).

We have to report that the Unit lost the final of the Island Inter-Unit Cricket Knock-out Tournament against the R.A.F., this was attributable, to a large extent, to the untimely departure of Major J. E. V. Rice on a course; he has been the mainstay of the Unit batting.

The R.A.F. lost the toss and were put in to bat, this eventually proved the undoing of the Regiment, sufficient

consideration not having been given to the very rapidly shortening hours of light at this time of the year. The R.A.F. made 114 for 7 wickets at the end of their 25 overs.

The Regiment then batted and were doing rather nicely, scoring 37 for the first wicket, after which wickets began to fall rather rapidly in a fast fading light, at the score of 60 for 4 wickets an appeal against the light was made, this was not upheld, so the Regiment continued to play in the "dark" with bats flitting around the field, and at the end of their 25 overs had scored 78 for 8 wickets.

It is certain that a different tale would have been told had the light not been so bad.

However, we offer our heartiest congratulations to the R.A.F. and assure them that next season they will have to fight very hard to retain the shield.

The Unit hockey team got off to a very bad start, being beaten in their first match by 1st Loyal Regiment by 7 goals to nil. Since then things have improved and we hope to give a good account of ourselves in future. To date, results of matches played are as follows:—

v. 1st Loyal Regiment	Lost 7—0
v. R.A.F.	Lost 4—3
v. 625 Ordnance Depot	Won 10—0

Amateur Radio Club. Since first going on the air two months ago nearly 1,000 successful QSOs have been made. With a membership of 18 we can, power supply permitting, maintain nearly 24 hours activity per day. Transmitters in use at the moment include a BII and a crystal controlled line-up putting out 20 watts. Plans for a VFO are on hand and soon we shall be "rock-bound" no longer. If you would like a contact with MD7DC keep an ear open for us any night between 1600 and 2300 G.M.T. on 14040 and 14080 kcs.

Aerials in use are a 135ft. end fed, half-wave dipole and ¾-wave zepp.

QSL cards are a bit difficult just now, but we shall have an adequate supply shortly and can guarantee 100 per cent QSLs.

Always on the hunt for that rare bit of DX we shall be very glad to give any Signal hams a contact.

64 WING SIGNAL TROOP

Habbaniyah, Iraq

Further to our contribution of the 28th April, 1949, which came under the caption of Iraq Air Formation Signal Troop. Our title is now as above mentioned, which means we come under command of 1 Squadron, 4 Air Formation Signal Regiment, at R.A.F. Abyad, in the Suez Canal Zone, and that we are no longer an independent Troop.

The other ranks' wall lockers in the R.A.F. billets are being exchanged for wardrobes, and the present folding beds are being replaced by ones with more resilient springs.

As far as sport is concerned, at football three of the Troop play for the R.A.F. Hospital team, who are now playing very well in the Habbaniya League Division II; one of our linemen, Signalman Dalby, is top scorer for this team. On the cricket field the R.A.F. Hospital won the Cricket Cup of Habbaniya, each player receiving a medal, including two of our own, S.Q.M.S. Taylor and Signalman Dalby. At hockey the R.A.F. Hospital team is in pride of place in the Habbaniya League, this team includes Sergeant Jones of the Troop. The last race meeting was on Sunday, 13th November, the arrangements for this went off very well with the addition of the new starting gates, which ensured a speedy and fair start. The Troop is the owner of a twin-engined cabin cruiser constructed by the Somerset builder, Driver ("Mad-Jack") Gooding; this boat shows a very workmanlike performance at Lake Habbaniya.

65 WING SIGNAL TROOP

Aden

65 Wing, 4 Air Formation Signal Regiment is a small detachment of 30 men, though normally we have a working strength of about 15 men, due to demob., postings, etc. A high percentage of our work is U.G., and we have in our care several of the Aden Protectorate Levies Lines, and also the main airfield at Khormaksar. In addition, we have out-stations stretching from Asmara in Eritrea, to Masirah in South Arabia, a distance of 1,700 miles. Most of these are accessible only by air.

Aden is built on a peninsula of volcanic rock bearing no natural vegetation. The main town is Crater, situated, as the name suggests, in the heart of the extinct volcano. The colony consists of various towns and villages around Crater. Our billets, near the foot of the volcano, overlook the harbour entrance.

Two months ago the peace of Aden was shattered by the firing of 21-gun salute to honour the return of H.E. The Governor of Aden. He had been absent for four months.

With the advent of the cool weather (90 degrees F.) we shook the moths and woolly-bugs out of our football kit and took the field. So far we have managed to draw three matches. Two of our number are in the Army first team and one is in the second.

The 5th November saw the advent of the horse racing season. The O.C., Captain Pike, had the task of commentating, and proved almost as good as a B.B.C. commentator (unpaid). The few words he had to say were well and truly to the point (i.e. "They're off," etc.). The close of the day found Signals dismantling their equipment, poorer, sadder and wiser men.

Other more profitable pastimes include tennis, swimming, canoeing, sailing, fishing and rock climbing. From which you will gather that Aden is not too bad a posting.

COME TO SUNNY ADEN.

CARIBBEAN AREA SIGNAL SQUADRON

Kingston, Jamaica



The arrival of H.M.T. *Empress of Australia* in mid-November brought about great changes in our Area. The British Battalion, 1st Gloucestershire Regiment, are now replaced by 1 Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, and some 75% of our U.K. personnel in company with the Glosters should be just about at Liverpool as these notes are written. Space does not permit a comment on all our old "diehards" now departed, but we take this final opportunity of wishing them the best of everything for the future.

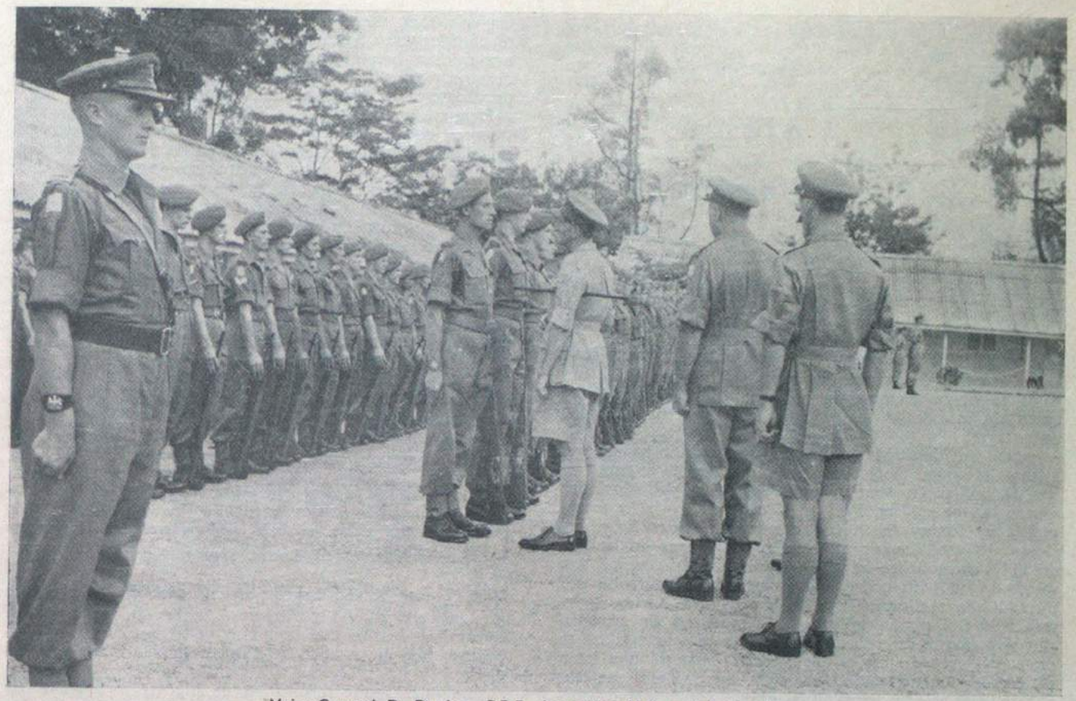
To those of us newly arrived in Jamaica, we see through our U.K. rationed stomachs a land of plenty, where little, if anything is rationed, but prices are high.

And so to one or two Troop notes.

We in FSS Troop welcome Mr. Dacre as our new O.C. We wish to him and our other new arrivals a happy tour. The change over period has permitted us to get several useful jobs done. Our Newcastle exchange has been rewired and overhauled and this last week or two has seen us quite busy improving the line layout of the Ordnance Depot.

In Operating Troop, Sergeant Mewett, our Troop Commander, is paying a short visit to Belize. Apart from our normal routine commitments we have completed a 19 set exercise in the Kingston Area.

League Sport in the Area is at a standstill, but we are managing to have several friendly games, and are well represented in the Garrison hockey and soccer sides.



Major-General D. Dunlop, C.B.E., inspecting H.Q. and 1 Squadron

FARELF

It is regretted that notes from nearly all FARELF Regiments posted on 13th December reached 88 Eccleston Square on 20th December, too late for publication in this number.

G.H.Q. SIGNAL REGIMENT, FARELF

Singapore

There have been various events in the Regiment and it has been kept hard at work.

All officers and men passed their annual qualification on small arms on the Seletar Range. To classify everyone the range was used for a period of four days. Once again the Sergeants' Mess "A" team won the Shooting Cup. Sergeant Harris had the highest individual score—79 points out of 80.

On 9th September, the Unit was inspected by the G.O.C. Singapore District, Major-General D. Dunlop, C.B.E. For weeks prior to the inspection the Regiment was kept busier than bees around a jam pot; how the Q.M. managed to fit everyone out with new O.G. must remain a Q.M. mystery. A typical tropical storm on the night preceding the inspection fortunately cleared in time for the march past and all ranks were congratulated on their fine turn out.

A further inspection by the new C. in C., Lieutenant-General Sir John Harding, K.C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., on 19th September, brought further praise.

Sport. The soccer season now being closed, rugby and hockey are in full swing. The rugby team having got off to a shaky start, have now found their feet and have won their last three matches by large margins against first-class opponents. The hockey team, however, got off to a good start and, but for a slight lapse, are continuing to make good progress.

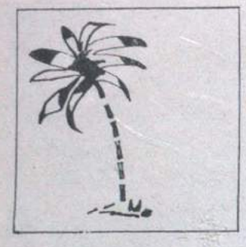
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West Africa Command

Troop Plane to West Africa

By **Corporal MATHESON,** *Gold Coast Signal Squadron*

SOME people like air travel; others abhor it; many have not had the opportunity to judge for themselves; but to all to whom trooping by sea means unglamorous hours spent on messdecks, modern air trooping offers decided advantages.

If you are destined to come to West Africa by air you cannot, of course, look forward to two weeks of more or less tranquil acclimatisation to the sun. You will start your journey at the cold hour of 5 a.m., when you will be transported by luxury coach from London District Assembly Centre to the Airport at Heathrow. There, in an incredibly short space of time, you will be documented, weighed, fed with coffee and rolls and generally bustled through the preliminaries necessary to any journey overseas. By 8 a.m., unless you are a seasoned air traveller, you will find your inside turning over as you taxi on to the runway preparatory to the take-off. Five minutes later, with your stomach settled the right way up and the fear of being sick receding with every minute, you may find yourself concerned over your kit. Is it safely aboard? You have not seen it since it was weighed; and if you have ever previously struggled aboard a troopship, carrying all your worldly possessions, this fact will give you food for thought.

Personal comfort and amenities in the air will vary with the type of aircraft. For most, it will be a charter plane of the Dakota, York or Wayfarer class. These craft carry from 20 to 40 persons. The seating consists of high-backed leather seats sufficiently easy to read or doze in in comparative comfort. A few fortunates will come by normal B.O.A.C. planes of the Viking class. These seat about 20 passengers, carry an air stewardess and are luxuriously upholstered. Box lunches, coffee and cold drinks are provided in the air. Smoking is permitted except while taking off or landing. Hot meals and good hotel facilities are arranged at convenient places of call.

The route varies slightly with different journeys. My own draft, probably the first full one to fly to West Africa, made first for Bordeaux where we landed for an hour to refuel, stretch our legs and sample French wines according to taste. Our next was an overnight stop at Gibraltar, which presents a wonderful view from the air. We were accommodated in Windmill Hill Barracks and, somewhat to our surprise, were really well catered for.

At dawn we were headed across N.W. Africa, by-passing the Atlas Mountains and crossing the uninteresting terrain of the Sahara to Abigir. Apart from fuel for the plane this port of call offered us nothing but a further chance to stretch our legs, and we were pleased to take off again for Dakar.

Dakar was our second overnight stop. There we were quartered, not as might be expected with the French Foreign Legion, but in the Airport Hotel. This provided us each with a separate room and we were served with an appetising meal accompanied by a bottle of French wine. The latter, sad to say, tasted very much like vinegar, but an excellent bar gave us the opportunity to forget the flavour in more pleasant forms of liquor.

The following day we crossed first the vast swamps of Gambia, then the dense vegetation of Sierra Leone. We touched down at Freetown and again at Abijan, where the tropical heat became apparent and cold drinks were in high demand. Less than two hours later, on the evening of the third day, we disembarked finally at Accra.

Here we were, about five degrees off the equator. Had we been coming by sea we should by then have been not quite across the Bay of Biscay, still in battle dress and possibly doing our best to carry out some sort of ship's duty in the intervals of being seasick. Admittedly our ears were still buzzing from vibration and we had not been able to converse comfortably above the noise of the engines; but we had had no boat drill or other parades, no fatigues and certainly not one unpalatable meal.

We might have been airsick, but the pilot was able to avoid such small storms as crossed our path. Was it dangerous? The crew took it all as a matter of course and, certainly after the first day, my own mind was as untroubled by such thoughts as if I had been travelling by train.

If you are coming this way, and you foresee disadvantages in moving by air, console yourself with the thought that none of them can last for more than three days.

Juju in West Africa

Adapted from an article submitted by Sergeant Tackie, Gold Coast Signal Squadron

JUJU, even today, largely governs the behaviour of the majority of West Africans. Those in contact with European ideas of religion and education affect to disbelieve, but in practice all respect it and many fear its power.

Juju takes many forms. At its highest it is good law and good medicine; at its lowest, it is a mere charm, capable of bringing to its votaries power, riches, health, an abundance of male children and, in fact, all those things which humanity normally terms good luck. Thus a thief will invoke a juju to enable him to filch with success property which has been impregnated by its owner with a juju against theft. A man will call down a juju of devastation upon the head of his neighbour, who in turn has provided himself with a juju to ensure abundance from his crops or his fishing. The people of a village may invoke some form of juju *en masse*.

In most cases a witchdoctor or fetish man is required to perform certain rites (and receive certain fees) before the potency of a juju is assured. Such "juju men" are held in high esteem. In the interior they are adept at inspiring scenes of abandoned frenzy in the best traditions of "White Cargo" and "Song of the Island"; in more civilised parts they carry themselves with the air of church dignitaries and obtain their psychological effects by a reserved aloofness of manner.

The strongest argument in favour of continued belief in juju is that it does produce results. It is very commonly employed to determine which of several suspects has committed some particular crime. A theft occurs. Several persons are suspect. The services of a juju man are enlisted, usually at the request of all concerned, and in due course he arrives with the tools of his trade, in this case two small boys, two thin bamboo canes and a copy of the Koran or some other holy book.

The two small boys seat themselves crosslegged upon the ground, facing each other about four feet apart. The ends of the canes are placed under their armpits and are thus supported, parallel to each other, about a foot apart and two feet above the ground. The juju man seats himself at a few yards distance, the holy book open in his lap, his head bent in meditation. The suspects gather round. The first approaches the canes, bends over them and places his right arm downwards in the centre, midway between the boys on the one hand and the canes on the other, his extended forefinger touching the ground. In this somewhat uncomfortable position he remains until the juju either proves him guilty or vindicates his honour. The juju man begins to chant. He recites passages from his holy book, invoking the power of his god. His monotonous singsong goes on and on, endlessly. The air becomes tense with expectation. The muscles of the bending man whose fate hangs in the balance begin to tremble with the strain. No one, however is interested in this. All eyes are fixed upon the canes. After a time they begin to bend, sometimes inwards, sometimes outwards. If they bend inwards until the arm extended between them is trapped and held, then the bending suspect is adjudged guilty. Each suspect must take his turn. The period of each test is fixed by some mysterious law known only to the juju man, whose chanting continues without ceasing throughout the ordeal.

To a modern thinking mind the process is patently capable of direction, or misdirection, by either the juju man or one or both of the small boys; but no African called upon to do so will refuse to submit himself to this form of trial. To do so would be to admit his guilt. The culprits concerned in quite large robberies are frequently apprehended by this means, even after the police have confessed themselves baffled.

Apparently amazing cures of sick and dying persons have also been effected by similar rites inexplicable to modern medical science. The fetish man, or priest, having set his stage, again invokes his god who suggests to him the method of cure. This may be merely to give certain herbs or medicines or it may involve phenomena more miraculous such as the passing of psychic power and healing properties through the priest into the body of the patient, by breathing or other physical means.

Hypnosis, mass psychology, necromancy, witchcraft, such terms fly readily to the western mind. Juju may or may not comprise any or all of these. It is undoubtedly a religion. It has its gods and its priests, its laws and its ritual, and its votaries by the million. Like other religions it is built upon belief, belief in a primary awareness of soul and in powers of the spirit which cannot be clearly apprehended by the senses but which nevertheless exist, are to some extent demonstrable and can be utilised by those who study their laws for good or ill. "By their deeds ye shall know them."

Cannibalism in Sierra Leone

By **S.S.M. F. I. MANSARY**

Cannibalism in the Protectorate is commonly done by means of Leopard and Baboon society; which origin will be explained later. The society comprises of tribal authorities and noble men of the country. The materials used for the functions are easily obtained from hunters in the chiefdom. One day, I was sent by my uncle from my village to another village about nine miles distance. On my way, I came to a certain object where I met seven savages. They were all dressed in leopard skins; when I saw them a shade of alarm crossed my face as I gazed long at them —I was too near them. I was greatly alarmed and thought of what I have seen, and very uncomfortable feelings were in my heart. I went into the bush thinking that I will be saved from the hands of them. When these men noticed that there was someone coming towards them, they took up defensive position, which sight was frightful to behold. As no footstep could be heard, and seeing that nothing will be gained by this, and that the loss of time might turn the tide of their proposals to no success, they made up their minds to attack me at once, and with a wild jump and shout they came to the area where I was hidden. Here they left me for the purpose of pursuing after a woman who suddenly appeared before them. They seemed anxious of securing her, and they bound her hands and feet with ropes, and carried her into the bush. What became of her I know not. I kept silent in my hidden place for some considerable time. As I saw that everything was quiet, I made my way back quickly. However, it was understood later that the woman was the wife of one of my teachers in my school. The woman was on a short visit to her parents. The sad event was reported to Government for investigation and quick search was made but no trace was found. Special Commission of Enquiry was appointed by the Government of this country to enquire into the matter. Court messengers were armed and soldiers instructed to be on the watch. On this occasion, a certain soldier from Daru Barracks went hunting. The soldier was Private Peyah, who went out and subsequently came across a bambu wine in a swamp. The soldier had been out for long hunting. He climbed up the bambu tree in order to have a drink of the wine. The savages came with the intention to attack him, not knowing that the soldier was armed with rifle and the rifle already loaded with five rounds .303 ammunition. As they made their attack, the soldier, being a marksman, aimed and fired with one arm and at the same time commanded them to stand still. All of them stood still while the soldier came down the tree and arrested them all. The District Commissioner then judged them and sentenced them to death.



14 A.A. (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

Speke, Liverpool

R.H.Q. and 4 A.A. Gp. (M) Signal Office Squadron, T.A., Woolton, Liverpool. November has proved a full month both from the training and social point of view.

On 17th November, 1949, Brigadier W. H. G. Rogers, C.B.E., C.S.O. A.A. Command, accompanied by Lieutenant-Colonel J. D. Morris, O.B.E., C.S.O. 4 A.A. Group, visited the Regiment. Despite some heavy rain there was a good attendance of all ranks. After inspection of personnel of R.H.Q. and 4 A.A. Group (M) Signal Office Squadron on parade, the C.S.O. saw all ranks at their usual training, finishing with a visit to the other ranks' canteen and the Officers' Mess.

A week-end exercise was held on the 12th/13th November, 1949. All ranks who attended were represented and the evening, the first of its kind held at R.H.Q., was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

34 A.A. (M) Signal Squadron, T.A., Salford, Manchester. The normal routine drill nights has been enlivened by a very successful dance on the 19th November and by the paying out of the annual T.A. bounty.

We are now busy preparing for an "At Home" on 14th December. This is being organised by H.Q. 70 A.A. Brigade, R.A., but the civic dignitaries will be shown our training rooms.

96 A.G.R.A. A.A. Signal Squadron, T.A., Atherton. Attendances at drill nights have increased considerably and talk of next year's camp can be heard already.

The Squadron canteen has just been fitted with new heating arrangements and a new piano. Both men met with unanimous approval when we held a "Get Together" party on 3rd December and our social life promises well for the future.



By courtesy of "Brighton Herald"

44 (H.C.) INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

Stamford Brook, W.6

The Regiment attended annual camp with 47 Brigade at Shorncliffe during the summer and everyone agreed that the camp was in every way up to the pre-war standard, in fact a real T.A. camp.

Since returning from camp the Regiment has been extremely active in both military and social spheres. A club has been formed at H.Q. to embrace all ranks and their wives and families, the members of the O.C.A., and all honorary members of the Officers' and Sergeants' Messes.

A Regimental rifle club has been formed under the presidency of Captain S. J. Williams. The club recently joined the National Small Bore Rifle Association. There is a very keen wave of enthusiasm for the club, backed up by R.S.M. Turner and S.Q.M.S. Schurer. New B.S.A. rifles have been purchased and the amount of ammunition expended is going up by leaps and bounds. On the first Sunday of each month the club holds a rifle meeting combined with a social evening when the ladies are invited to take part, and very good they are too, particularly Mrs. Turner, who has, no doubt, been well instructed by the R.S.M.

A team from the Regiment, consisting of Captain S. J. Williams, Captain J. B. Fenwick, R.S.M. Turner and Signalman Trew, recently took part in a Sussex Rifle Association competition and won the Mhow Cup for snap shooting. It is interesting to note that the cup was first won by E. Company, 1st Training Battalion Royal Corps of Signals in 1921 and the Regiment is the first Royal Signals Unit to win the cup since then.

On the 28th October, Captain E. B. Williams took a very smart detachment to Ardingley College, Sussex, to give a demonstration to the cadets. After the detachment had been entertained to lunch, Captain Williams gave a short talk to the cadets of the Signal Platoon on the work of the Corps, while the remaining platoons were conducted round the vehicles and equipment which were actually working a net in the college grounds. The Signal Platoon then took over communications, which were established with Regimental Headquarters at Stamford Brook. Under the supervision of the vehicle crews the cadets spent a most enjoyable and beneficial afternoon.

On Armistice Sunday a detachment of No. 3 Squadron, stationed at Regimental Headquarters, attended an Armistice Day Remembrance Service on Chiswick Green.

The training period since camp has benefited considerably from the services of Captain S. W. Williams, M.B.E., T.D., who has recently been gazetted. Captain J. B. Fenwick has also joined the Squadron at Brighton. We welcome particularly sixteen new other rank recruits.

Three most successful dances have been held, but the most outstanding function has undoubtedly been the Officers' Mess Annual Dinner. This really excellent event, because of a change in the order of functions, has taken place only eight months after the last one.

Lieutenant-Colonel R. F. Gandy, who has completed his tour of duty, retires in the spring, and to show his appreciation for the co-operation he has received from all ranks in helping to bring the Regiment up to its comparatively high standard, has presented a most beautiful "loving cup" to the Regiment.

The Honorary Colonel, Major-General C. E. N. Lomax, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., proposing the toast of the Regiment paid tribute to Colonel Gandy's work for the T.A. General Lomax said he first met Colonel Gandy when he was sent to him as Brigade Signal Officer in the early days of the War in the Desert and has known him almost continuously since. He was very proud to be Honorary Colonel of the Regiment of which Colonel Gandy was the C.O., and he knew it was due in the main to the efforts of Colonel Gandy who had inspired his officers and men to produce the comparatively high standard of this, the post-war 44th (H.C.) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment.

Colonel Gandy, in his reply to the toast, said his one great interest in life after his family was the T.A., and he had spared no efforts to do all in his power to make his Regiment the finest T.A. regiment in the Royal Corps of Signals. It was to mark his appreciation of the co-operation of all ranks that he was presenting the "loving cup." He then called on the senior subaltern, Mr. G. T. Kent, to accept the cup on behalf of the unit in order that it should be used for the formal "last night in camp" ceremony each year.

Mr. Kent, accepting the cup, thanked the Colonel on behalf of all ranks and assured him it would remain one of our most cherished possessions for all time and used in the right and proper manner befitting such a gift.

The cup was then filled and passed round the tables in the traditional manner, each drinker being guarded by the backs of his neighbours, commencing with the Honorary Colonel.

Major K. Baldwin, proposing the health of the guests, said how happy we were to have "at our Board" so many old friends, particularly the Chairman and Secretary of the Middlesex T.A. Association, the Mayor of Brentford and Chiswick, the Mayor of Hammersmith, and the representatives of the Cadets.

Major Baldwin mentioned the Cadets particularly because they were now going to be our own Cadets, wear our uniform and flashes and our "very own Jimmy."

Brigadier Rackham, C.B.E., M.C., D.L., thanked Major Baldwin on behalf of the guests and pointed out the importance of being on good terms with the civic powers, which we obviously were, and then spoke of the Cadets, who after their full-time service would come back to us as Territorial soldiers.

The toast of the Regular Service was proposed by Colonel Gandy and replied to by Group/Captain Cavanagh, who said that although the Navy were not actually represented he felt qualified to speak for them as he was really a sailor and only a newcomer to the R.A.F.



By courtesy of the Portman Press Bureau

Major-General C. E. N. Lomax, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., and Lieutenant-Colonel R. F. Gandy



By courtesy of White Cliffs Studios, Ltd.

Still discussing R.T. Remote Control

Left to right: Brigadier R. H. O. Coryton, Captain E. B. Williams, Lieutenant-Colonel R. F. Gandy, General Sir Evelyn Barker, Major K. B. Baldwin, Lieutenant D. W. Petchey, Captain R. List



11 A.A. (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

Brompton Road, S.W.2

We held one of our regular Dances on the last Saturday in November. The occasion was graced by the presence of Brigadier and Mrs. Kapur, of the Indian Army. During the evening the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel G. H. T. Shrimpton, T.D., Royal Signals made a short speech of welcome to our Guests of Honour and asked that they convey the greetings of the Regiment to all ranks of the Indian Signal Corps.

Training has gone ahead during the past month and in addition to the regular weekly indoor training there have been one or two outdoor schemes. The most successful, perhaps, was a well-attended whole day training exercise in the Godstone area. Whilst the men were engaged in line construction the W.R.A.C. put in some very useful practical work in the art of map reading. All ranks worked very hard and when darkness fell and work finished, there was a general feeling of accomplishment.

There have been two major sporting items, and whilst both of them were netball matches, all manner of people took the field of play. The first match was between the men and women of 23 Squadron. This game was enjoyed by the onlookers as much as by the participants, and although the game was won by the military, the W.R.A.C. were certainly not disgraced; the men's victory was a case of brawn prevailing over science. This game was excellent practice for the women as their next match was against a Commanding Officer's team which consisted of both sexes. This game was far more scientific and the Commanding Officer's team triumphed by the narrow margin of three goals, thanks largely to some very accurate "lobbing" by our W.R.A.C. Adviser, J. Commander D. Aylen. The zest with which this game was played was in no way diminished when afterwards sausages appeared for the contestants' sustenance.

A special parade was held on the 6th December, 1949, for the presentation to S.S.M. E. T. H. Griffiths of the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal. The Commanding Officer, who presented the medal, paid tribute to S.S.M. Griffiths' eighteen years sterling service and emphasised that it was the quality of his work rather than the time spent at it that had earned him the medal.

The tempo of preparation of our New Year's Eve Fancy Dress Dance increases. Judging from gossip about the Drill Hall, some ingenious disguises are already being prepared.

"FLAK."

13 A.A. (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

Glasgow Edinburgh

Winter training started at the end of October. Up till then we devoted our energy to the more social activities though we arranged visits to various departments of the G.P.O. which we found to be extremely useful and interesting.

The Officers' Mess held a cocktail party at Brandon Terrace Drill Hall on 1st October and we met many interesting people including the Commanding Officers of other T.A. units in 3 A.A. Group. This was followed later by the officers' annual Regimental dinner, which this year was held in our own drill hall in Edinburgh on 19th November. Having it in our own home was something in the nature of an experiment and we think it was a great success.

On Friday, 14th October, the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess in Edinburgh undertook the running of an all ranks dance which was held in the Drill Hall. This was a jolly affair and was well supported by all ranks in Edinburgh and by a number who came specially from Glasgow to attend.

Of our recreational pastimes, the most popular is perhaps the Badminton Club which meets in Edinburgh on Tuesday and Sunday evenings. We also have been fortunate in securing the services of Junior Commander Alexander of H.Q. 3 A.A. Group who has been very kind in running Scottish country dancing classes. 30 A.A. (M) Signal Squadron in Glasgow has been concentrating on table tennis and is organising a knock-out tournament.

The Squadron Commanders have produced ambitious training programmes for the winter and we are already preparing for next year's camp, hoping for an even better one than this year. That is no vain hope for we intend to go all out and make it a huge success and therefore our training programmes are designed to ensure that we reach a very high standard by next July.

A very successful convoy exercise planned by S.S.M. Hendry was undertaken on 9th October. All the Edinburgh drivers assembled at Brandon Terrace early in the morning and drove in convoy to Berwick where they had lunch and returned to Edinburgh to arrive at about eight o'clock in the evening. The experience received was extremely useful since most of the drivers had done very little driving before. It is hoped later to produce a scheme on similar lines but to include our Glasgow squadrons as well and to stress training in map reading.

Recruiting, always one of the biggest problems, has improved, and we have recently increased our strength by 11 W.R.A.C. and seven other ranks. This is not a large figure, but it compares favourably with other T.A. units in Glasgow and Edinburgh.

On 17th October, 30 Squadron in Glasgow was honoured by a visit from Major-General Fladgate, the Representative Colonel Commandant, accompanied by Brigadier Rogers, C.S.O. A.A. Command. The General spoke to the men and women of both 29 and 30 Squadrons on parade and stressed the important part they had to play in the defence of the country. He then adjourned to the Officers' Mess where he met and chatted with the officers.

ARMY PHANTOM SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A. (The Princess Louise's Kensington Regiment)

Hammersmith

The Trade Tests mentioned in our previous notes were completed very satisfactorily to the credit of all concerned, especially the Instructors, Major D. C. Cocks, Captain E. G. Jones and Captain K. E. Jones, and consequently training for the Regiment is now in full swing again.

Congratulations to Sergeant Clare on his appointment to a T.A. Commission in the Regiment, and we also welcome to the Officers' Mess Leslie Harper, who served with W., L. of C. Signals, S.E.A.C.

Having recently taken up Basket Ball, we are keen to hear from units interested in arranging fixtures with us at this popular game. Under Captain Bennett's enthusiastic leadership we hope to produce a first-class team. Our social activities in the near future will include an All Ranks' Social to be held in the Drill Hall on 17th December, and a Children's Party on 4th January, to both of which the people concerned are looking forward to with great expectations.

2/20 ARMY SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

Wanstead

Our activities this month have been large concerned with the handing over and checking of squadron stores occasioned by the movements reported in our last notes.

Captain "Wally" Lamb achieved glory when he arrived in the black-out caused by the Barking Power Station fracus. He had the Lister generator started, and by massing some quad for leads and juggling with the three phase wiring with which we are blessed, he amazed his willing helpers by producing light throughout the building instead of the explosion which was confidently predicted.

Major A. L. Thomas, late of 22 Corps Signal Regiment, T.A., has now been posted to our supernumerary strength and it is hoped will relieve the hard-pressed Second-in-Command, Major L. H. Gentry, of some of his many "headaches."

Newly joined also is Lieutenant "Jack" Stokes, late of Hong Kong Signal Squadron. He has been handed "entertainments," if he can continue to produce dances which are as successful as the one which was held on 10th December he's got a job for "keeps." We wish him success with the Gala Dance which he is organising for New Year's Eve, this should be well patronised because it is the venue for the "Draw" for the Children's Christmas Party Fund.

43 (WESSEX) INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

Taunton

No. 2 Squadron, Bridgwater. Signs of activity, reminiscent of summer preparations for Camp were seen during the last week in November when every available member of the Squadron played a part to enable us to fit our vehicles ready for use in Exercise "Moonbeam" which took place in the Barnstaple Area and which was designed to give the inexperienced members some idea of 2 Squadron's part in a Divisional Signal Regiment.

R/T communication was used throughout and although procedure was far from good a lot was learnt about R.A. work. Our linemen too had a chance to lay lines to Batteries and here Corporal Bevan and his gang excelled.

Our D.R.s (both without lights) put in some good recce work. Signalman Slater's selection of a lunch-time halting place on Sunday, 27th November, 1949, deserves special mention. Was he sent there on purpose?

All vehicles completed the 200 mile route without serious mishap.

Sport. We are no longer the Taunton and District League "Holder-uppers." Our drawn match against Wellington enable us to climb one rung. On 3rd December, 1949 we encountered Milverton at whose hands we suffered a 6-2 defeat, however, our optimism and will to win remain unaltered and we feel sure we shall have the Unit Football Trophy in Bridgwater this season.

60 H.Q. SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

Edinburgh

Things in general have been quiet during the past month but training and recruiting still go on successfully.

Once again we have to report the departure of our Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel A. B. McVittie, O.B.E., Royal Signals, who took over the command of the Regiment in August of this year has now left us for sunnier climes. In saying farewell to Colonel McVittie we extend the hand of welcome to his successor, Lieutenant-Colonel H. E. F. Middleton, Royal Signals.

Our Edinburgh Squadron, 155 (L) Independant Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron T.A. held an At Home for the wives and friends of the Squadron personnel on Sunday, 20th November and this proved a great success. Our thanks go to Mrs. Grace, wife of the P.S.I. (S.S.M. A. H. Grace) for her excellent efforts in purveying which proved one of the most popular parts of the proceedings. Everybody in the Squadron is now looking forward and preparing for the Children's Christmas Party which will be reported on in our next issue.

A very successful dance was held by 20 Engineer Group Signal Troop at Paisley on 2nd November and a grand time was had by one and all. It may prove a big help toward recruiting in Paisley and first results are very satisfactory.

23 (SOUTHERN) CORPS SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

Fulham House, S.W.6

They seek him here, they seek him there,
The Committee seek him everywhere.
Is he in Harrod's or Barker's Stores,
That demned elusive Santa Claus.

The Qualification Sheet as yet has proved too exacting, and no one over 6ft. and with a 42 in. girth has shown himself able simultaneously to read a map, operate a 62 set, drive a jeep and wave to children—not forgetting the possibility of having to change gear and frequency at the same moment. So we look forward with keen anticipation to our children's party in January—and better netting drill.

We are shortly losing our Quartermaster, and before he goes all of us in the Unit would like to thank him for his many good works on our behalf. Fulham House has known him a very long time, and it has been a happy association. To him and Mrs. Dolbear we send our best wishes for the future, and the hope that we shall see them frequently at our functions. To his successor, Major (Q.M.) F. G. Strange, we extend our greetings, and have no doubt that he will be true to the Quartermasters' motto so dear to his predecessor, "A boot in hand is worth two on the feet."

During November we held two successful dances. The all-ranks was the first of the winter season, and true to first night tradition had a long free list but too few "regulars." Those that were there enjoyed some energetic dancing, and particularly the sight of a certain officer, who shall be nameless, sitting in the middle of the floor having his shoes and socks whipped off by an over-enthusiastic partner during the spot waltz—alas, his suspenders held and lost them the prize. The Officers' Mess dance was well supported and with the added attraction of an entirely impromptu cabaret proved a great success. During the evening Major Watson gave the first showing of the excellent colour film he took at camp, which was enthusiastically received. The writer, of course, is predjudiced on these matters, but does feel that truth will out. At last we know the attractions of Brattlesham Bay and Beachy Head—it was food.

All social activities are now centred on financing the children's party, which Lieutenant Baker and his hard-working committee seem to have well in hand. But more of that next time.

15 WIRELESS SQUADRON, T.A.

Devonport

Since the Unit's return from camp, nearly every Sunday has seen an exercise of some type. The drivers and D.R.s have undergone convoy work (some were night runs) and rough riding, and practical map reading.

The operators have had a series of Wireless Exercises both static and mobile and the more ambitious schemes have amalgamated the operators, drivers and D.R.s.

The practical lessons learnt during the exercises proved invaluable when the Squadron provided communications for two local motor clubs during their trials. This is the first time that Army Signals have operated with motor clubs in the South West, and the results have been highly satisfactory. Wireless Sets were stationed at various hazards, line was laid on several long hills and the phones manned by enthusiastic drivers and the officials of the club were provided with a rover set and D.R.s. The last trial at which the Squadron assisted, the results were ready a few minutes after the last man had reported in at the finish.

The Squadron members now have two important social events before them. The first is a children's party to be held on 17th December, a very comprehensive programme consisting of a tea, conjuror, Punch and Judy show, musical games and a Christmas Tree with presents for all the kiddies to be distributed by a real "Father Christmas."

The following week the Squadron Stag Party takes place. Following the success of the last two a more ambitious one has been planned this year and it looks as if a good time will be had by all.



STRAIGHT ON FOR TOKYO

By **Lieutenant-Colonel O. G. W. WHITE,** *D.S.O.*

RAISED in 1755, the Fifty-Fourth Regiment now the Second Battalion The Dorsetshire Regiment have as their motto the words PRIMUS IN INDIS and on their colours the battle honour AVA. How narrowly they missed the honour of being the first Battalion across the frontier of Burma and many other matters is the subject of one of the best volumes of Regimental History every written.

As Sir Montague Stopford says so clearly in his foreword. It is the tremendous esprit de corps which permeates such a Battalion which alone enables the British Infantry to overcome insuperable difficulties.

How 2 Dorset encountered difficulties and dangers, notably at Kohima but equally in many another battle and at the same time kept alive the finest Traditions of the Fifty-Fourth, must be read to be believed.

During the pursuit from Kohima to Imphal, an officer happened on two "stragglers." 2 Dorset had been brought into Brigade reserve earlier in the day. These two had been unable, or unwilling to withdraw. They were indescribably dirty with the fog of five days hard fighting still on them. They were so weary they had to be helped aboard the Jeep. After a mile or two in silence a cigarette loosened their tongues a little and the officer mentioned the very high reputation of 2 Dorset throughout the Corps and quoted as his authority Brigadier G. N. Wood, B.G.S. of 33 Corps and until his promotion, the Commanding Officer of 2 Dorset. "Mr. Woods, Sir? Put us out to walk, Sir! We couldn't let our old C.O. see us like this, Sir!" The fact that the B.G.S. was, if possible prouder of his Regiment than any of us, failed to convince, and our two heroes were manifestly relieved when decanted at the patch of Jungle which was the temporary home of their Battalion without meeting him.

The whole epic story of 2 Dorset in France and Flanders in 1939-40; in India until 1944 and throughout the operations of 33 Corps from Manipur to Rangoon is told. The Fifty-Fourth were always a hard fighting Regiment; perhaps never before in their history had they fought so hard under such adverse conditions as at Kohima. The account of the formation in India and subsequent service in Japan of "Force 152," "Brindap" 5th Infantry Brigade begins in tragedy. Selection for this service bestowed as an honour, well deserved, caused the Second Battalion The Dorsetshire Regiment to be reformed. All officers and men with long war service were to be left behind and the Battalion brought to strength by drafts from other units. "Saturday, 15th September was for all of us one of the saddest experiences of our lives. It was the end of an epoch. Men who had served the Battalion for six years of war were now to leave it."

How 2 Dorset received its reinforcements, reformed the Battalion, got its Colours from England, reformed its Corps of Drums, underwent considerable privations, Trooped the Colour in Tokyo, all so graphically told brings us in the book to the Illustrations, the lists of the fallen, the decorations won and other statistical data.

This is the history of one Battalion of the Infantry of the Line. The story of others may be as graphic, of few will it be as well told.

We of Royal Signals have a short history, we are proud, our esprit de corps is high.

It is good for us however to read of the work of other Arms,, particularly of the Infantry, to discover how the spirit of a Battalion, the traditions of the Regiment inspire the ordinary man to face, and conquer through the unmeasurable hardships and dangers, which fall to the lot of the Infantry.

This most excellent book is published by Gale and Polden, 15/-, and is strongly recommended.

Association Notes

Birmingham

It seems such a few days ago that we were wishing you a merry Christmas, and now it is all over for another year. How apt are those unforgettable words, which elude me for the moment, by that famous and well remembered poet whose name I am unable to recall. So did you have a merry Christmas after all? What are your plans for 1950? Will you give up smoking, football pools and writing on walls? I think I will give up writing on walls, but football pools are my only hope of a comfortable old age. As I am quite unable to fill up a coupon without a cigarette I cannot reasonably be expected to jeopardise my nebulous future. If you see what I mean. Which I doubt.

Once again we enjoyed the company of a fair gathering of members at the Crown Hotel on the last Thursday in November. The Armistice dance on 11th November was a very pleasant affair as I told you last month, but if more help to prepare the hall is not forthcoming, and if more members do not support the dance by buying tickets, there is every chance that this particular event will fade away.

I hope to be able to tell you about the annual dinner in my next notes. It will be as well if I say no more at this stage. Let us see what happens. It is so difficult, this writing for a Regimental magazine. One has to be very careful not to offend the Government, the Opposition, the War Office, the N.A.A.F.I. and Uncle Tom Cobley. Having a bash at once or the other is great fun, but I see your point. It wouldn't do.

I had a nice clean sheet of paper for my notes at the Branch meeting the other Thursday, but I was so fascinated by the Hon. Secretary's telling the Committee where they got off that I finished up with a nice clean sheet of paper. Which doesn't help to lengthen these notes but gives you a little more room for something interesting.

As my friend, Miss Gloria Mundi, who is always so sick in transit, very rightly observes "Non credere a quell'uomo, e bugiardo."

The Birmingham Branch have asked me to send you their very best wishes for 1950. Isn't that nice of them?

BARLEUX

London (City)

Our "Get Together" was a real homely gathering. The fog came down like a blanket and threatened to put paid to our entertainment, but despite the dullness of the night outside, everything was merry and bright inside.

A number of members, with their womenfolk to keep a watchful eye on them, turned up, and now everyone is asking for another at the earliest possible moment. This speaks for itself. I thank all who worked so hard to make it a success, especially our entertainers. The Landlord, a man who drinks his own beer, gave us two songs, which set the show going on an even keel. Then yours truly obliged with his own script and proceeded to act as compère. Jack Clark's rendering at the piano of "The Egg" was greeted with "Encore." No doubt, as an ex-foreman of Signals, he has laid quite a lot in his time.

The surprise of the evening was when Paul Morgan, from the Rank School of Actors, gave us a few delightful tunes at the piano. Classics, old and modern numbers, all came alike to him. He has the touch of a mother. Every number so beautifully rendered, and we wish him every success in his new play.

That, you might say, would be all. But, No, Sir! Messrs. Clark and Wanklin did a comedy duet, accompanied by Paul Morgan, "Where did she lose it?"

As the fog had got worse, the parade of talent had to come to an end; apparently these people *have* got houses; aren't they lucky? I didn't worry at this stage of the party, as I had already collected enough fruit for our Christmas cake, whilst introducing the turns. Should any Branch require some solid entertainers of the highest brand, write to me, Hon. Secretary, and I will be only too pleased to quote.

To our guests from H.Q. Staff, we hope you will come along again. Of course, the motive of it all was to fleece them of their cash, which we did by raffling a Tea Cosy, given by our "Lily of the Branch Life." This slightly improved our financial position, and I thank you all on behalf of the Branch.

Getting out into the fog, everyone felt their way home, with the feeling that they'd had a wonderful night. When I got to the station, I said to the booking clerk, "Where do I want to go?" and the nice man said, "This is Paddington, not Piddington."

Well, cheerio everyone. See the photo for people you owe money to. I hope you had a good Christmas and New Year.

F. STEEL.



By courtesy of United Photographers

Scarborough

Obituary. It is with the deepest regret that I have to report the death of one of our members, the Late No. 2320937, S.Q.M.S. P. J. Ryan (Paddy), who passed away in York County Hospital, from a relapse following an operation; he died early in the morning of Saturday, 10th December, 1949.

Paddy Ryan's last Unit was, I believe, No. 1 Training Regiment, Catterick. He joined the Royal Signals, as a Driver (H.T.) in November, 1930, and was released from the Service in February, 1948, as S.Q.M.S.

He was buried in the Catholic Cemetery, Glenside, Scarborough, on Wednesday, 14th December, 1949, and a representative party of Royal Signals Old Comrades, Scarborough Branch, also a party of Royal Signals from No. 5 A.A. (M.) Signal Regiment, Burniston Barracks, attended the funeral ceremony to represent the Corps.

Paddy was only 36 years of age, he will be greatly missed by us all. Our deepest sympathy goes out o his widow in her bereavement.

Hon. Secretary. In the notes last month it was reported that Mr. Carter was taking over the duties of Hon. Secretary of this Branch, this should be amended to read, Hon, Secretary;

Mr. Webster, c/o Attenborough Hotel, Scarborough.

Mr. Carter has been unable to carry out the duties due to ill health. We hope that he will soon be back "on the road and in active circulation."

Weddings. Our belated congratulations to Mr. Don Cooper on his marriage at St. Mark's, Newby, to Miss Jean Kennedy on 20th August; you keep it dark, Don, still good luck to you both, and may all your troubles be little ones.

We have also heard that Mr. Richardson has crept quietly away to do the same thing, but in the absence of pukka gen, 'Nuff said.

Agony. If R.Q.M.S. Skinner somewhere in Africa reads the "Wire" as he should do, I would remind him that his Subs are now due.

East Africa

The East African branch held its annual dinner on Tuesday, 8th November, 1949, preceded by the usual monthly meeting.

The meeting was well attended, 22 members being present together with six associate members.

The business discussed was confined entirely to appointing the various officers for the ensuing 12 months. As the President and Vice-President had held office only since the previous April, it had unanimously been suggested that they be asked to take office for the ensuing year. After intimating their acceptance, Lieutenant-Colonel A. G. W. Hammond (retd.) was re-elected to the office of President, and Colonel J. L. Henderson (C.S.O. East African Command) to the office of Vice-President.

The remainder were thrown into the melting pot and the following emerged elected or re-elected to office for the next 12 months: Chairman, Major W. C. Savage; Vice-Chairman, Mr. Archer; Secretary, S.S.M. Fox; Treasurer, Mr. Adams; Committee: Captains Shaw-Hamilton and Tommy Dodds (shades of Maresfield Park in 1920, his version of the story of how a certain Captain and his wife were met at Uckfield station with a coach and six, complete with outriders and trumpeters is worth hearing repeatedly), and Messrs. Fox, Wysman and Bramley.

It is of note that we are at last not so dependent on the Regulars with regard to our office bearers, a position we have striven so long to attain. Not that we do not appreciate the help we are gladly given by such stalwarts as Captain G. E. Aitken (Tommy to you), and the members of the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess, Killarney Camp.

After the meeting we forgathered in a private room of the Queen's Hotel to partake of a few appetisers, and to reminisce of old times before sitting down to a dinner which only those who have served in Kenya can imagine.

A photograph was taken during the repast and as you can see for yourselves everyone was happy.



THE WIRE

The Corps Magazine of the
ROYAL SIGNALS

The Official Organ of the
SIGNALS ASSOCIATION

All correspondence and matter for publication for "The Wire" should be addressed to The Editor, "The Wire," 88 Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1. Matter for publication must be received by the 15th of the month preceding publication.

Remittances should be made payable to: Royal Signals Association. Subscription rates (post free, except air mail): Twelve months, 10s.; single month, 1s.

☆

FEBRUARY • 1950

Volume 4 *New Series* **No. 2**

☆

PRICE: ONE SHILLING

Editorial

IN the January number we commenced publication of three features which we hope will entertain you for some little time.

Captain G. A. E. Gavey commenced a series of articles on the Tower of London. We commenced a republication of certain letters by Surgeon Captain Thomas Lawes-Rogers, written during the Crimea War, and last but not least we started a strip cartoon about the hyperthetical doings of an imaginary officer and sergeant of Royal Signals.

With the republication from *Signals* of Colonel Gaither's article on Radio Propagation we commenced what it is hoped will be a series of articles of technical interest.

The young ladies of the J. Arthur Rank Organisation continue to appear, but the business of having individuals nominated by the Regiment has ceased. In this connection, however, if any Regiment wishes to nominate the cinema star of the month, and to have her sign her photograph with some message to them, application should be made in very good time to the Editor who can probably arrange it.

For the rest, January and this the February WIRE take their normal form, but we are very anxious to obtain from correspondents articles of a factual nature describing the work of Royal Signals, particularly from those portions of the Corps stationed overseas.

☆

THE WIRE welcomes Miss S. Mitchell to its Editorial staff, which badly needed some expert assistance.

Her tasks will be two-fold. She will restart the excellent practice of replying promptly to letters dealing with copy for THE WIRE. She will hunt up some of our old and valued contributors and goad them into production again.

She will also assist on the business side by pursuing, tactfully and by letter those few who receive THE WIRE without paying for it. She will also assist in tracing those who migrate whether voluntary or under compulsion and do not give us the new address for mailing.

It has been a matter of great regret that sheer lack of time, and ability, has prevented the Editor from keeping up with his correspondence. It has meant that very many letters have had to remain unanswered, or at best replied to after weeks of impolite delay.

Miss Mitchell will remedy all that.

☆

ALL readers of THE WIRE will sympathise with Captain L. N. Lloyd who, since the 1st January, has been very ill in hospital with a duodenal ulcer. Advices at the time of going to press indicate that he is recovering and hopes to be back at THE WIRE in about a month's time. As is known, Captain Lloyd is the member of the staff who really does the work, and any criticism of matter in the January and February issues should be tempered by the knowledge that they have had to be produced in his absence.

NEW YEAR'S HONOURS LIST, 1950

It is now possible to publish the full list of awards to Royal Signals:

C.B.:

Major-General W. A. Scott, C.B.E.

O.B.E.:

Lieutenant-Colonel (Temporary Colonel) J. D. Haigh, M.A., A.M.I.E.E.; Lieutenant-Colonel A. T. Sladen.

M.B.E.:

Major (Temporary) B. Butler; 2325516 W.O.1 G. M. Derwent.

B.E.M.:

2329884 S.Q.M.S. C. P. Bolton; 2379936 Sergeant S. F. Caird; 21057655 Signalman P. Cowley; 21028882 Sergeant N. S. Richardson; 781498 Sergeant W. E. Welsh.

[*London Gazette* No. 38797 a/d 2nd January, 1950]

* * *

L. G. SEMPLE, M.B.E.

His many friends in Royal Signals will wish to congratulate Mr. L. G. Semple, Regional Director of the North Eastern Region of the G.P.O., on the C.B.E. awarded to him in the New Year's Honours List.

Bill Semple served in World War I in the Royal Flying Corps and got his wings and what is more, being Bill Semple, he continued to wear them on his rare appearances in uniform as an officer of the C.C.G. after World War II. I, who was on his staff at the time, constantly used to show him orders on the highest authority forbidding the practice, but he, as always, was oblivious of rules and regulations.

After a career in the G.P.O. which was noteworthy for rapid promotion he was Regional Engineer in South Eastern Region during World War II, handling the alarms and excursions of "bomb alley" and a very big build up of telecommunications for defence.

First as Deputy, but for the bulk of the time as Director General, he was at the head of the Post and Telecommunications Branch of the Control Commission for Germany from 1945 until recalled to his present appointment in 1949.

Only those who served with him in Germany can really appreciate the magnificent work he did now so rightly recognised by the award of the C.B.E.

* * *

Colonel T. J. TULLY

His many friends in Royal Signals will be interested to know that Colonel Terence J. Tully, deputy President of the Signal Corps Board at Fort Monmouth, New Jersey, has been ordered to London to represent the three armed services when expert advice is required on communications problems arising under the military air programme.

Prior to his Fort Monmouth assignment, Colonel Tully was Commanding Officer of the Alaska Communication System. During World War II he was American Chief Signal Officer of the Mediterranean Theatre and Commanding General of the Army Service Forces Training Centre at Camp Crowder, Missouri. Colonel Tully has been officer-in-charge of the Signal Corps tradition programme, at Fort Monmouth, where Colonel J. D. O'Connell has assumed this duty.

This information is extracted from the November/December copy of *Signals*, the Journal of the Armed Forces Communication Association of the U.S.A.

* * *

A vacancy exists at Harewood House, Yorkshire, for a married couple, without small children, to act as caretakers; a self-contained flat is provided. Applicants should address the General Secretary, Royal Signals Association, 88 Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1.

PAKISTAN SIGNALS PIPE BANNERS

A letter from Colonel P. H. Smitherman, Commandant, Headquarters Signal Training Centre, Cambridge Barracks, Rawalpindi, Pakistan:—

We have in the Pakistan Signals band a number of pipe banners presented to the Indian Signals band by Royal Signals Commanding Officers before the war. I understand that it was the custom for Commanding Officers to be invited to do so. Unfortunately, in a number of them, the name of the donor has been lost from the banner. As each banner bears the crest of the donor it should not be impossible to find out who they were. I should very much like to do so, and to have the names put on the banners.

The crests in question are:—

1. A wheatsheaf. Motto: "Per vim et virtutem."

2. A hand grasping a crescent. Motto: "Sola virtus notilitat."

3. An arm and hand grasping a scimitar. Motto: "Dieu pour la tranche qui contre."

4. A lion's head, around collared. Motto: "Perseverando."

5. Argent, a chevron or, and three bugles. Crest: A bugle. Motto: "Fac Recte nil Time."

Will any officer who can assist Colonel Smitherman to find the donors or give any information please communicate with him.

* * *

SUEZ BLUES

When your'e tired, worn and weary,
And your mind's got in a mess.
When you feel you should be winning;
But you find you can't care less,
And your main idea of Hades
Is a dinner night—full dress
You've got the Suez Blues.
When the thought of leave in Cairo
Just causes deeper gloom.
And you curse the chap who comes to talk
When you're sitting in your room.
If making up a four at bridge
Is self-inflicted doom.
You've got the Suez Blues.
If you watch the small boats sailing
And look down your nose in scorn.
When the thought of a swimming party
Makes you wish you'd not been born.
And even Stella Beer
Can't bring a brighter morn,
You've got the Suez Blues.
When thoughts of home and beauty
Can't even raise a spark.
And another spell on duty
Makes a darkened life more dark.
If a date with some blonde cutie
Is not a "smashin' lark."
You've got the Suez Blues.
If you're longing for the cold days,
And when they come you want the hot.
If you're offered leave in England
And think, "Shall I go—or not."
When you feel the folks around you
Are just a shocking lot.
You've got the Suez Blues.
I'm sorry for the fellow,
Such as described above.
He's got no time for work or play,
And little or none for love.
The only thing the poor chap's got—
And I wouldn't be in his shoes,
He's got what I've talked about before—
He's got the Suez Blues.

OLD BILL

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

R.S.M. (W.O.1) L. S. Partridge, H.Q. Northern Command, writes to the Editor:

In editions of the daily papers of the 10th January, 1950, there appear articles lauding the comforts of the troops on the new troopship of 18,000 odd tons named *Empire Orwell* which, it is stated, has been reconstructed at a cost of over £2,500,000.

During a discussion in my Mess one outstanding disadvantage for married soldiers received immediate comment from the majority of the members. It would seem that it is still the intention of "the powers that be" that married soldiers moving abroad *with* their families are to be accommodated separately. Any soldier who has moved abroad with his family knows only too well the disadvantages and really unnecessary inconveniences of this arrangement.

It is probable that the War Office branch responsible will immediately quote lack of shipping space and the number of families to be moved. This ship, however, has presumably been built to be useful for a long time and I cannot see why, on all troopships, facilities should not be made available for families to travel in the same accommodation.

The spectacle of a married soldier below the rank of Warrant Officer standing adjacent to the second class accommodation in order to talk to his family would have to be seen to be believed by civilians and yet has been only too common a sight on troopships in the past. The average man who it is desired to enlist and retain as a *long* service regular soldier is far too intelligent to allow all this to happen to him. Indeed it is in direct contradiction to the modern trend of thought.

The lack of response to recruiting appeals is only too well known and the War Office, it is hoped, will give further thought to the idea that the majority of men of the type they wish to enlist are, or hope to become, married men. Therefore, any and every facility should be given to encourage the ideal that, in normal peacetime conditions, a married soldier will be able to move to overseas stations with his family accompanying him. *Not* just on the same troopship, but in married accommodation aboard ship as any intending civilian passenger would naturally expect and insist upon if travelling with his family abroad to take up a position there.

Great improvements have quite evidently been made on the new troopship, but it is hoped that the War Office will not forget to bring to their plans that "personal" touch that would, I am sure, pay dividends in the minds of the troops for whom these ships are intended.

* * *

Sergeant H. McKeer writes to the Editor:

We have been asked to tender constructive criticism with regards to the Corps journal THE WIRE with a view to increasing the circulation of same, so—here goes and I hope that if I wax a bit strong it will not be held too much against me.

As an "old timer" of 28 years standing, all of which has been spent in the "Corps," I cannot find it in my heart to wax over enthusiastic about our modern journal!! Perhaps it is because of the modern trend of things or again perhaps it is the lack of interest, that is prevalent in the present day Army and the incredulous C.C.L. feeling that seems to pervade the world!! Who knows what it is—but, and I say *but* with reservations that the fault in my opinion lies within the many units that make up our beloved "Corps." They feel that owing to pressure of work there is no time for notes or photographs!! Again, I feel that the National Serviceman has not the same *esprit de corps* that was so apparent in pre-war years, so, if we wish to see the "Corps" right up at the top!!—we must use the medium of our journal to bring us together whether we be thousands of miles away or within the shores of dear old Blighty!!

I can well remember in the old days how we all used to look forward to THE WIRE. How often did one hear—"I hope old Bill has answered my question in the last issue"—or "Gosh! me for the boat, don't forget to ask Jim to tell Bert to keep me a bed in Ponky." Ah! the good old days when the Corps meant something to us all, and THE WIRE was our "chitty" for keeping in touch with old pals. Gone also are the harmless jokes that Signalmen love to crack about their superiors!! All good natured fun and making for a bond of friendship and respect that is sadly lacking today. Therefore I would suggest that we take a leaf from the book of our old soldiers and run our modern WIRE much along the same lines as the pre-war WIRE. I feel sure that if every member at present in the Corps would co-operate if they could be made to feel that THE WIRE was, figuratively, their medium for each and everyone's contribution, we should have the first "leg of the ladder" in place. Admitted we get the "odd bod" who wants to "go to town" as it were, but there is always that trusty piece of wood and carbon "ye blue pencil." Yes, sir, I think the answer lies within the Units themselves—let them send the material, I am sure they will print it. Let's have more "U Kan Larfe" features from Barleux!! and the many other good features we used to have. Those plus co-operation from all Units would, I am sure, solve the problem.

A NEW CHELSEA PENSIONER

Sergeant G. H. King, D.C.M., who holds the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal and the three medals for the first world war, became a Chelsea Pensioner on 3rd January, 1950. He served in Royal Engineer Signals. He writes that he had his membership card, No. 232 of the Royal Signals Association, when Mr. Butler was Secretary, at Belgrave Road.

He was in 1st Divisional Signal Company at Mons. Captain P. R. Bald commanded and later Major Dobbs took over command at the end of the battle of Loos.

Sergeant King was then posted to one of New Army Divisions and won his D.C.M. at Trones Wood with Brigade Signals under Brigadier-General Marinden (Black Watch).

He writes also of Brigadier R. H. Willan, who was one of the officers of 1st Divisional Signal Company in 1914.

* * *

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION EMPLOYMENT BRANCH

The Association is still doing its best to help ex-Service members of the Corps find suitable employment. We have approximately 200 applicants on our books at Headquarters, both technical and non-technical, and new applicants are being registered in ever-increasing numbers.

Members knowing of vacancies for any type of worker, in any part of the country, are urgently requested to get in touch with Headquarters, and give us the opportunity to circulate the information to suitable applicants. We are particularly anxious to hear of jobs in the area of Portsmouth.

* * *

ROYAL SIGNALS DINNER CLUB

The Annual Dinner will take place at the Hyde Park Hotel on Wednesday, 31st May, 1950, at 7 for 7.30 o'clock.

This year the attendance is limited to subscribing members of the Club. Price of tickets 15/-.

Officers not members wishing to attend the Dinner may of course join the Club first.

The Tea Party for Regular Officers will take place at the Hyde Park Hotel on Thursday, 1st June, 1950, at 4 for 4.30 o'clock. Tickets 8/6.

Details regarding the Club, the Dinner or the Tea Party from the Hon. Secretary, Royal Signals Dinner Club, Room 97, Horse Guards, Whitehall, S.W.1.

MERCURY HOUSE

BOURNEMOUTH

All members of the Corps both past and present and especially those contemplating holidays by the sea this coming summer, will be interested to hear the progress to date of Mercury House, Bournemouth.

As all know, the House was purchased by the Corps in February, 1948, and did very good business during the first season—a good deal better in fact than was generally anticipated. Any doubts that the good start would not be maintained were dispelled early in 1949, and by March of that year most of the available accommodation for the spring, summer and early autumn was booked. This 1949 season got off to an early start due mainly to Royal Signals officers attending the Staff College course, who took their mid-course break at Mercury House in May and the arrival in England on leave of members of the Corps with their families from Pakistan. The hotel remained practically full until mid-October, and during the period May to October, 256 adults and 60 children spent holidays of one or two weeks at Mercury House. Of these numbers about 90 per cent were other ranks and their families.

The hotel closed for a short period in October for staff holidays and cleaning, but opened shortly afterwards to receive guests in November and December. In response to requests a special Christmas week was organised during which 12 guests were entertained and the management received letters of appreciation from all after their return home.

But perhaps the highlight of the 1949 season was the visit of H.R.H. the Princess Royal on 18th July, 1949. Twenty-one guests who had reserved rooms from 16th July, and who knew nothing of the Royal visit until arrival, were delighted when they received invitations from Brigadier Kennett and members of the Committee of Management to the dedication ceremony and unveiling of a memorial plaque. The Mayor and Mayoress of Bournemouth, who were among the invited guests, requested to be shown over the house, and expressed great interest in the amenities available and this form of military memorial which was so new to Bournemouth.

And now for 1950. Mercury House is ready for another season—a short winter season before the main summer season begins. There is probably no better place than Bournemouth with its excellent theatre, ample cinemas, ever open ice rink, winter gardens, exclent promenade, and a good football team, for a winter holiday or even a week-end. The management at Mercury House are ready to accept bookings for any number of days or for week-ends during the winter season at an inclusive charge of only 10/- a day.

But what of the summer season. Bookings are likely to top the two previous seasons, and intending residents should book up now if they are to avoid disappointment. It might be timely to say bookings from June to September can only be accepted on a Saturday to Saturday basis and for no longer than one or two complete weeks.

REUNIONS

18th, 6th and 70th Divisional Signals, Special Force (Chindits) Signals and Special Force Training Signals, 34 Indian Corps Signals and Norfolk Coastal Divisional Signals.

The first All-Ranks Reunion of the above related Units will be held in London on Saturday, 4th March, 1950, starting at 7 p.m.

Full particulars from Brigadier F. R. W. Jameson, Standwell House, Oxted, Surrey.

COLWYN BAY

It was always the intention to purchase a second Mercury House but it was decided to postpone its purchase until the Bournemouth one had been well established. Early in 1949 it was considered that the time had come to start negotiations for the purchase of the second house and it was decided that it should be so sited as to serve the large number of serving and ex-members of the Corps who could not normally be expected to travel to the South of England for an annual holiday.

Whether it should be situated in a well established holiday resort such as Blackpool or in a smaller and less crowded resort was the subject of much thought; it was decided to ask the C.S.O. Western Command to endeavour to find a suitable property somewhere within the very considerable area covered by Western Command; the problem of deciding on a suitable locality was a comparatively simple matter compared with that of actually finding a property suitable for the project in hand.

It was decided to endeavour to purchase a "going concern" in the form of a guest house suitably sited to serve our purpose and a small committee was set up by the C.S.O. (then Brigadier W. O. Bowen, C.B., C.B.E.) to start negotiations. The committee got in touch with estate agents covering the best known holiday resorts and many properties were viewed in Blackpool, St. Annes, and North Wales areas.

In June, 1949, Haddon Lodge, Colwyn Bay, came on the market and, on inspection, proved to be exactly what was required; a fine house, adequately furnished, and situated in the best residential part of Colwyn Bay—also within a stone's throw of Llandudno, and giving access to the beautiful mountain country along the coast of North Wales. The house had been completely redecorated, rewired, refurnished and appeared to be of sound construction; a surveyor's report was obtained which was highly satisfactory.

The Corps committee was approached with a view to its purchase and Major-General C. W. Fladgate, C.B.E., visited Colwyn Bay and approved of the choice. Negotiations for its purchase were proceeded with and were completed on 1st December, 1949.

In the meantime the post of manager was advertised in THE WIRE, *Manchester Guardian* and *Daily Telegraph;* after much deliberation Captain Watson was given the appointment and he and his wife are now in residence and are making preparations to open up on 1st April, 1950.

It is hoped that Mercury House No. 2 will be as successful as that already established at Bournemouth. The country surrounding Colwyn Bay is magnificent and it is hoped that, even during the close season, the house may attract visitors in search of a quiet, restful holiday.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We gratefully acknowledge receipt of the following:

CATTERICK EXPRESS, 20th December and 5th January.
SIGNALS, November/December, 1949.
QUEEN'S OWN GAZETTE, December and January.
ROYAL ARMY ORDNANCE CORPS GAZETTE, December and January.
THE SIGNALMAN, January.
JOURNAL OF THE ROYAL ARMY SERVICE CORPS, January.
THE BORDERERS' CHRONICLE, December.
THE TANK, January.
THE CLARION, December.

* * *

Lance-Corporal John S. Smith, 40, Fairthorn Road, Charlton, S.E.7:

"Will be pleased to hear from any lads who were stationed at 4 Company 3rd O.T.B., Huddersfield, between April, 1942 and April, 1943."

Announcement!

ROYAL SIGNALS WAR MEMORIAL FUND

MERCURY HOUSE, COLWYN BAY



A second Mercury House, to be run on the same lines as the existing one at Bournemouth, has been purchased by the Corps Committee. It is situated at Colwyn Bay and until recently was functioning as the "Haddon Lodge Private Hotel"; it has accommodation for twenty-five guests and will be open for visitors from 1st April, 1950.

It is situated in the delightful residential area of Colwyn Bay, on the edge of the famous Pwllycrochan woods, and within a few minutes walk of the sea. The shopping and entertainments centre is also in close proximity. The house stands in its own grounds, and both lounges and the dining room overlook a wide lawn. Each bedroom has hot and cold running water, and the rooms themselves are large and airy with pleasant views from all windows.

Colwyn Bay is an attractive all the year round resort, having a relatively mild climate. It is on the verge of grand mountain scenery, and is an excellent centre for visits to Snowdonia, as well as Anglesey, the Menai Straits and Llandudno.

Charges will be at the following comparatively low rates:—

April to September	£4 10 0	a week for adults with reduced charges for children by arrangement with the Manager according to age.
October to March	£3 10 0	a week for adults, and again reduced charges for children.

All members and ex-members of Royal Signals and R.E. Signals are eligible as guests in the House, also their wives and children. Widows and children of members of the Corps killed in the 1939-1945 war are also eligible.

Llandudno Junction and Colwyn Bay railway stations are both suitable for arrivals and departures.

Captain Watson, well known to members of the Corps in the Huddersfield area during the war, has been appointed Resident Manager, and he and his wife are already in residence.

The House has been purchased with funds contributed by all ranks of the Corps during the 1939-45 war.

Reservations can be made at any time with The Manager:

Mercury House, Brackley Avenue, Colwyn Bay

Telephone 3402

"The Wire" is privileged to republish the following article from "Signals," the Journal of the Armed Forces Communications Association of the United States of America. Owing to its length it is reprinted in three parts. The first part appeared in "The Wire" for January.

Radio Propagation and the Use of Antennas

By **Lieutenant-Colonel LOREN E. GAITHER**

Corrigenda

Since publishing the first part of Colonel Gaither's article, we have received the November/December number of *Signals* in which he points out an error made by himself. He writes:

"As anyone with reasonable good sight can see, the reading from Figure 3 should have been (approximately) 18.0.

"If one uses the correct figure of 18.0 in lieu of 10.6, the *correct* final solution and range is:

"18.0 x 6 x 2.5 = 270 miles."

The paragraph referred to was printed on page 10 and 11 of the January WIRE as follows:

"For a second example, suppose we have a radiotelephone transmitter capable of radiating 1,000 watts on a fixed frequency of 2,00 KC and we wish to know the maximum communicating range from Island I latitude 8° south, over sea-water to a receiving station on a ship. Good receiving conditions are known to exist on the ship. Figure 2 will indicate for night operation, a *required* signal strength of about 27.5 units (5.5. times the latitude factor of 5). Fig. 3 will indicate a working range of 63 miles (10.6 miles from the chart multiplied by the factor 6 noted at the bottom of the figure) under the Stated Conditions for a 50 watt transmitter. For our 1,000 watt solution we observe from 4, a means of obtaining our power factor, namely for a power ratio of 1,000 divided by 50, or 20, a factor of 2.5. Thus:

"63 miles times 2.5 equals 157.5 miles—our final solution and our range."

* * *

PART II

On Reflection

If we are using very high frequency (VHF) we may be certain that objects the size of airplanes will reflect an appreciable amount of energy and for this reason we will endeavour to locate our terminals away from landing strips. If we cannot transmit through a hill, directly in front of us, we may be able to bounce enough energy off a mountain at the side of our path to contact the station on the other side of the hill. These are interesting observations but we must not lose sight of the basic premise that Baker must be an unobstructed "bee-line" from transmitter to receiver. Very confining, we agree; for we observe that even if we had unlimited power and two antenna poles *ten thousand* feet high for path Baker, we could only erect the poles 280 miles apart and maintain contact for, if installed a greater distance apart, the ground would "belly-up" and cut off the direct path and thus absorb the rays.

Another observation is that a VHF set with a short antenna in a row boat, drifting on a river, will be effectively out of sight, behind the curvature of the earth, to a similar set placed on a sand-bar, when the row-boat is approximately three miles downstream. Thus, antenna placement becomes, obviously, of vital concern in planning direct propagation. Figure 5 will give us more information than an elaborate written description. So, with a bow to Figure 5, we state that this diagram will answer all problems using path Baker.

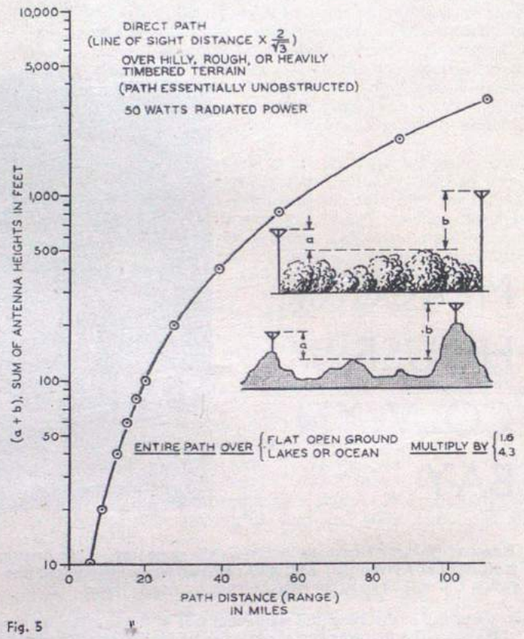


Fig. 5

One must merely remember that the path must be—we repeat—must be unobstructed. If one is willing to gamble a bit, we will allow one to increase these distances by a factor of 1.6 for transmission over plains or meadows, and we will be most generous to the Navy and allow an increase in distance by a factor of 4.3 for direct propagation over salt water. This in effect permits one to transmit beyond the curvature of the earth under favourable conditions using path Baker. From the viewpoint of long distance communication, however, we admit that Baker is useless, and we remind one that Able is also useless for frequencies above 5 kilocycles. (*And to the die-hards of the kilocycle per second school, an acknowledgment that we know it—why don't you mind your own business!*)

Here's Charlie

Now that we have decided that both Able and Baker are virtually useless for military field usage over appreciable distances, we come to that most brilliant performer, that old ace in the hole, that erratic *!æ*? Charlie!

Path Charlie is known as sky wave propagation. If one wishes to determine if Charlie will work, one must calculate a baker's dozen of factors, any one of which may prevent

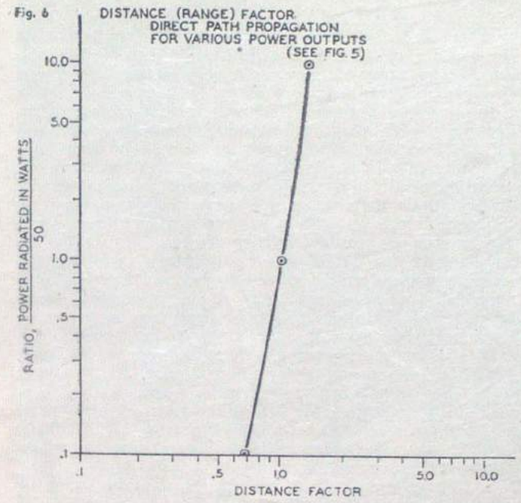


Fig. 6

the sky wave path from working! Here, however, we propose to blithely disregard a host of things and give the simple data on sky wave propagation and gamble that we will be right 85 per cent of the time! Before we consider the omnipotent diagrams, we shall need a few concepts of the path.

Wild "Something" Yonder

To travel from X to Y by path Charlie, it should be noted that the path leaves the transmitting site and arrives at the receiving site at the same vertical angle. It should also be observed that the ray is bent back to earth at the middle of the path. These are the two fundamentals. If the ray does not leave the transmitting site at the correct angle and if our receiving antenna is not receptive to waves arriving at the correct angle, transmission is nil or inferior. If "something" doesn't bend the ray back to earth we cannot use the path. It now should be manifest that we must use the correct frequency; that our transmitting antennas should have the ability of "squirting" all of our power in the direction of the receiving station *at* the optimum vertical angle; that our receiving antennas should have maximum response in the desired azimuth and at the desired vertical angle, and if possible, the additional ability to reject all signals arriving from other directions or vertical angles. These elements are subject to design or selection. The one thing in the hands of chance (or prediction) is the "something" which affects the return of the radio wave to earth.

In the outer atmospheric shell of the earth we have the same physical conditions existing as are found in fluorescent lamps and neon signs. The condition of a near vacuum with the presence of small amounts of gaseous elements exists in both the tubes and the outer atmosphere. And, for the record, I would like to be the first to predict some enterprising advertising agent's spectacular sign for "Sziltch's Beer" being projected in the sky in flaming letters two thousand miles in width, visible from Bombay to the Top of the Mark, for when this rarefied atmosphere is subjected to a high electrical potential, it may be made to glow like a baboon's behind in a bright light. If it is subjected to energy bombardment from outer space (from the sun) it will also glow, creating the northern lights, or it may, at lower intensities, actually not glow but merely bend certain radio waves back to earth.

HF Hard to Reflect

One fact we must accept; the more severe the bombardment the more the bending. Thus at noon of a given day we find the maximum bombardment of energy from the sun striking the atmosphere directly above us and we expect certain high radio frequencies to be reflected back to earth; frequecies *which will not be reflected back to earth at midnight of the same day.* Since experience will indicate that a highly active entity is harder to deflect from a straight line than a slow, languid entity we may suppose that the higher frequencies will be harder to deflect by the ionosphere, and so it is.

Daily and Seasonal Cycles

The ionosphere, by the way, is the name given to the outer atmospheric shell responsible for deflecting the radio waves back to earth. The ionosphere at noon will bend back much higher frequencies than it will at night and, by reason of the sun being the prime mover of the ionosphere's reflecting power, it should be evident that there will a difference in the degree of bending, contrasting winter with summer as well as day with night. A marked difference is also observed between periods of sun spot maximums and sun spot minimums.

All of this may be consolidated into an idea of daily, seasonal, and yearly variations, repeating in cycles, which are most certainly predictable providing we have observed the behaviour of the ionosphere long enough to collect the necessary prediction data. The Radio Propagation Unit working under the direction of the Chief Signal Officer and the Central Radio Propagation Laboratory of the National Bureau of Standards are two agencies who have been interested in this work for many years. In brief, in war or peace, someone published the information necessary for basic radio propagation predictions.

If an accurate prediction is desired, up to three months in advance, the CRPL Series D predictions may be obtained from the National Bureau of Standards or from the Department of the Army, Navy, or Air Force and the problem may be calculated quite easily. If one is merely interested in rule-of-the-thumb prediction, may we "sell" Figures 7 and 8. These figures should be fairly accurate for the distances shown in the northern hemisphere at a latitude from 30 to 50 degrees for the period of the next two years.

The information in Figures 7 and 8 should be self-evident.

Actually the frequencies given in Figure 8 are average optimum working frequencies and are the best, average selections (not forgetting the more accurate and calculable CRPL Series D results) regardless of our transmitter power, our receiver sensitivity, or the type of service—telephone, code, teletypewriter, etc.

If this graph is followed there will be obtained the best results possible. (Even so, the circuit may not be workable due to other factors!)

Actually there are sporadic periods when ionospheric

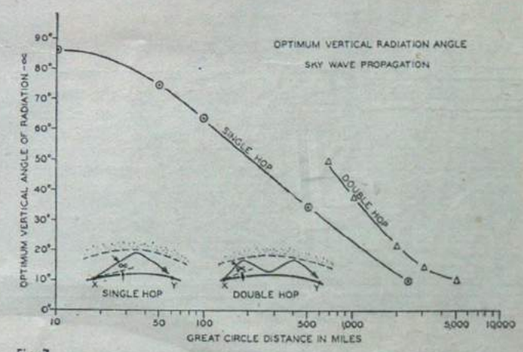
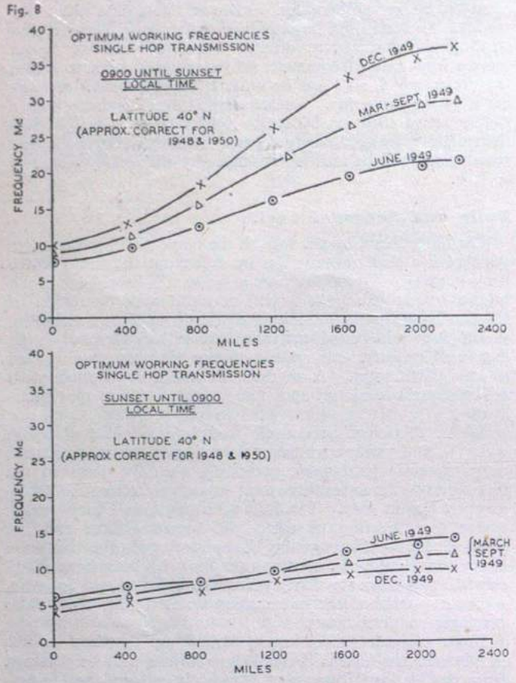


Fig. 7

Fig. 8



storms, atmospheric or man-made noise, and/or absorption will absolutely prevent sky wave communication. Nevertheless, we insist these rough predictions *are very much better than a guess* and should serve as a guide in deciding if an unsatisfactory frequency is too high or too low. *For the purposes of this article we will agree that the maximum value of frequency we may use is only ten per cent higher than the optimum frequency shown in Figure* 8.

In other words, we must look with a jaundiced eye at frequencies higher than the optimum frequency before we decide to shift to a higher frequency. We will be most quick to change to a higher frequency, though, in the event our unsatisfactory frequency is lower than the optimum. To be doubly certain that we are not misunderstood may we say this again in this way, " Stay as close to the optimum working frequency as possible, realising that one can go either too far above or too far below for satisfactory operation, and realising that one usually cannot go much higher than optimum but *quite often* one may go an appreciable degree lower." One, in addition, should remember the following important rules regarding use of sky wave propagation:

(a) Sky wave propagation is questionable or useless below 3,000 kilocycles during daylight hours.

(b) For the next few years sky wave propagation will normally be nonexistent above 25,000 kilocycles during summer daylight hours and above 40,000 kilocycles during winter daylight hours. (Maximum night frequencies, are as explained before, much lower).

(c) Never use sky wave propagation if ground wave or direct path propagation will work.

The remainder of this article will consist of a brief discussion of radio antennas. We would like to drum up an avid appreciation of antennas and we would like to present some practical and assimilable data. This data will not be of interest to those who have a sound, operational knowledge of antenna theory since all of the information expounded in this article may be found in the usual handbooks. The form of presentation and the emphasis upon certain elements may be, however, somewhat different than that of the usual treatise.

Part three of this article will appear in March. It is recommended that each part be kept so that the article can be read as a whole.

Interesting Ceremonies and Customs

IN H.M. TOWER OF LONDON

By **Yeoman Warder G. A. E. GAVEY,** *late Captain, Royal Signals*

Installing the Constable—Its History

THIS office of Constable of the Tower is one of the oldest in England, and dates back to the days of William the Conqueror. It has always been an office of great honour and dignity.

There have been in all about 150 Constables from Geoffrey-De-Mandeville (about 1078) to the present holder (the Rt. Hon. the Earl Wavell, P.C., G.C.B., G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E., C.M.G., M.C.).

Our present Constable was appointed 19th March, 1948, and installed 1st June, 1948. The Lord Chamberlain (the Earl of Clarendon) represented His Majesty at the Installation Ceremony.

Before describing the picturesque ceremony, readers may like to know something about past holders of the ancient title.

A soldier has not always been the holder of the title as records tell us that the Church appears to have furnished many distinguished men for the post.

One of the most famous of the earlier Constables was Thomas-à-Becket (Archbishop of Canterbury) in the reign of Henry II, about 1162.

We read too, that in all, no less than five Archbishops of Canterbury, and seven other Bishops held the distinguished title.

When the Tower came into greater use as a State Prison the Constable appears to have delegated the duty of guarding the prisoner to the Lieutenant, and removed himself from the Constable Tower. This Tower is now occupied by a Yeoman Warder and his family. The present Lieutenant of the Tower is Lieutenant-General Sir Arthur Smith, K.C.B., K.B.E., D.S.O., M.C.

In the early days the pay of the Constable was quite small—£100 a year, but the custom of the age allowed him



SANDRA DORNE

to add to this income in various ways. Thus we read that every prisoner who came into the Tower, and these were always of high rank, had to pay the Constable certain fees. A Duke £20, an Earl £15, a Baron £10 and a Knight £5; all high sums in those days. The Constable too, was allowed to take toll in various ways such as, two flagons of wine from every ship arriving from Bordeaux. One maund from every ship bringing oysters, mussels and cockles to the London market. Other fishing boats that passed the Tower paid him a fee, and all fishing between London Bridge and the Tower were also his. Any cattle that fell off London Bridge became the Constable's perquisite, so he need never have gone short of meat in those days. This also applied to any swans that floated below the bridge, so no doubt the Constable's table was always well supplied. All flotsam and jetsam on the river, and there was often valuable timber, was his.

In those early days it was the custom to use rushes instead of carpets, and there was a brisk trade in these in the city. All boats bringing in these rushes could be called upon to surrender a toll in kind to the Constable.

A fee on all skins dried in Smithfield, which was then within the Tower liberties, was received from the merchants.

The Tower Ditch (now known as the moat) was also a source of income, as all carts that fell into the ditch became the absolute property of the Constable.

One can well understand that the Constable of those days was passing rich, as besides the perquisites described, he usually held other lucrative appointments—sometimes as high as the Archbishop of Canterbury; at others as modest as the Keeper of the Lions, with extra salary of one shilling a day and sixpence for each beast.

Limited space prohibits a description of the many illustrious Constables of the Tower, but mention must be made of Field Marshal Arthur Wellesley—Duke of Wellington—Constable of the Tower for 26 years (1826-52) in the reigns of George IV, William IV, and Queen Victoria. It is to the Duke of Wellington's influence that we owe the many improvements and reconstructions that were necessary to arrest decay of this historic monument of the past.

The Ceremony of Inducting the Constable

The earliest records of the installation of a Constable is dated 12th June, 1707, when the Earl of Essex was installed as Constable of the Tower.

The Constable holds his appointment by Royal letters patent under the Great Seal and he is honoured with the privilege of audience and direct communication with the Sovereign. The Lieutenant of the Tower is similarly appointed and when acting for the Constable has the full powers and privileges.

On this parade (1st June, 1948) the newly appointed Constable, Field Marshal Earl Wavell was received by the general salute while the King's Keys—the gold master-keys of the Tower—carried by the Lord Chamberlain representing His Majesty, were met with a royal salute.

Surrounding Tower Green were the Yeoman Warders in their State dress which was granted to them by Edward VI in 1552, for the humane treatment they gave to the Duke of Somerset when he was a prisoner in the Tower. They carried partisans, the same weapon with which Henry VII armed his personal bodyguard, and swords. The Chief Warder carried the silver mace, a model of the White Tower, and the Yeoman Gaoler the ceremonial axe which was first used in the reign of Henry VII.

So that readers can follow the sequence of the ceremony here is an extract from orders issued from the Lord Chamberlain's office:

Installation of Field Marshal The Earl Wavell,
G.C.B., G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E., C.M.G., M.C.
as
Constable of the Tower of London
On 1st June, 1948

At 3.15 p.m. a detachment of the 98th Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery, under the command of Major R. J. Hoare will be formed up in threes in open order on Tower Green facing south.

The Royal Artillery Band will be formed up in the centre rear of the detachment.

His Majesty's Yeomen Warders of the Tower of London will be in position in a circle on Tower Green. All ranks will take orders from the Commander of the parade.

At 3.20 p.m. the Earl of Clarendon, Lord Chamberlain, arrives at the steps near the Bloody Tower and proceeds direct to King's House. Here the Keys of the Tower will be handed to him by Major-General Sir John Kennedy, Lieutenant of the Tower, on behalf of the retiring Constable of the Tower, Field Marshal the Lord Chetwode.

Attention	Slope Arms
Slope Arms	Royal Salute
General Salute	Present Arms
Present Arms	(All Officers Salute)
Order Arms	Slope Arms
Stand at Ease	Order Arms
Attention	

At 3.25 p.m. Field Marshal the Earl Wavell, accompanied by Colonel E. H. Carkeet-James, Major of the Tower, and the Rev. R. M. La Porte Payne, Chaplain of the Tower, will take up his position facing south in the circle of Yeoman Warders. The band will play the General Salute.

At 3.30 p.m. the Lord Chamberlain leaves the King's House bearing the keys of the Tower, and enters the circle of Yeomen Warders. He will be accompanied by Major-General Sir John Kennedy, Lieutenant of the Tower, Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Terence Nugent, Comptroller of the Lord Chamberlain's Office, and Brigadier Norman Gwatkin, Assistant Comptroller.

The band will play a verse of the National Anthem.

The Major of the Tower will then read His Majesty's letters. Patent appointing Field Marshal the Earl Wavell, Constable of the Royal Palace and Fortress of the Tower.

The Trumpeters, Royal Artillery, will sound the "Flourish."

The Lord Chamberlain will then deliver to the Constable, the Keys and Custody of the Tower in the King's name and on His Majesty's behalf.

The Chief Warder, doffing his headdress, will then cry "God preserve King George," and the Yeomen Warders will reply "Amen."

The parade will then present arms to the King's Keys, the band playing a verse of the National Anthem.

The Constable will then pass the Keys to Mr. A. H. Cook, Chief Warder of the Tower. The Yeomen Warders, under the command of the Yeoman Gaoler, will form up in single file facing south in front of the detachment.

The Constable, accompanied by the Lieutenant, the Major and the Chaplain of the Tower and preceded by the Chief Warder bearing the Keys will inspect the Yeomen Warders, the detachment and the band.

On completion of the inspection the Constable will receive a general salute and return to the King's House, where the Lord Chamberlain will give him formal possession of that residence.

Lord Chamberlain's Office,
St. James's Palace, S.W.1.

Why not have your monthly copy of **THE WIRE** mailed direct to your address?

THE

2nd Division Signal Company

1914—15

THIS Company, commanded by Captain R. M. Powell, R.A., proceeded to France in August, 1914, with the 2nd Division and was among the first units of the B.E.F. to be engaged. The officers with the signal sections at Brigades were Lieutenant H. C. Wemyss, Lieutenant O. P. Edgcumbe and Lieutenant G. E. Sampson at the 4th, 5th and 6th Bde. H.Q. respectively. The H.Q. Subaltern was Lieutenant V. Evelegh.

The Company took part in all the early fighting and movement which culminated in the first battle of Ypres. Lieutenant Evelegh was wounded on the Aisne and Lieutenant Wemyss was wounded at Ypres. The replacement officer at H.Q., Lieutenant C. H. H. Vulliamy, was also wounded at Ypres.

After the Division had been withdrawn from Ypres and refitted they took over the line from the Indians in front of Bethune at Christmas, 1914, and they remained on that part of the front for the next year, and thus became intimately acquainted with the country round and about the town. They took part in the battles of Festubert and Loos during that year and at the latter operation the Signal Company provided a detachment to work the signals for Colonel Carter's force which was formed by three regiments from the Division. The force took over part of the line near Vermelles with the idea of continuing the push but by the time it arrived the battle was easing up and it was never used for the purpose.

The 2nd Division Signal Company was run as a happy team and this spirit was due in large measure to the tact and friendliness of the C.O., Captain Dickinson.

Discipline was excellent—but there was little parade of stiff military procedure and everybody worked with a will and what was more important they knew their jobs.

When opportunity arose the Company would turn out on parade as smartly got up as any peacetime unit.

Captain R. M. Powell was succeeded as O.C. in February, 1915, by Captain D. P. Dickinson, the Welch Regiment, and the loss of Lieutenant Vulliamy at H.Q. was made good by Lieutenant B. Howorth, R.E., S.R., and Lieutenant L. G. Phillips took over the 4th Brigade Signal Section; a little later Lieutenant C. J. Phipps, King's Liverpool Regiment, succeeded Lieutenant Sampson at the 6th Brigade.

A photograph, which shows the officers who served in the Company during 1915 and which was taken in Bethune in the autumn of that year is of interest and particularly so because of the subsequent careers of some of the officers.



The names and ranks at that period were:

Standing (*left to right*): Lieutenant O. P. Edgcumbe, D.C.L.I., Lieutenant H. C. Crone, R.E. (temporary), Lieutenant C. J. Phipps, King's Liverpool Regiment, Second-Lieutenant W. A. Dimoline, East Surrey attached 5th Kings.

Seated: Lieutenant L. G. Phillips, Worcesters, Captain D. P. Dickinson, Welch Regiment, Captain B. Howorth, R.E., S.R.

It is a matter of some pride to know that of this small company of seven officers no less than four became Major-Generals. Of the other three, Lieutenant Phipps died on service in February, 1919, and the other two, being civilians, had careers of a very different kind from the others. Also it must be recorded that the original officers prior to 1915 also rose to high rank after brilliant service.

The details which follow are mostly abstracted from *Who's Who*, 1948.

Major-General D. P. Dickinson, C.B., D.S.O., O.B.E., M.C., Colonel of the Welch Regiment, Captain, 1914, Colonel, 1936, Major-General, 1939. Passed staff college 1920. Upon leaving the signal service he was on the staff till the end of the 1914-18 war. Later he was on the Directing Staff of the Staff College 1925-28, commanded 1st Battalion The Welch Regiment, 1934-36, Commandant Nigeria Regiment, 1936-39. He then commanded the East Africa Force in 1940. On relinquishing this command he became Colonel of the Welch Regiment and retired in 1944. He was then appointed Secretary of the National Rifle Association in 1944 and he died in 1948.

Major-General W. A. Dimoline, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., served with the East Surrey Regiment 1914, and in 1915 was attached to the Signal Service transferring to the Corps in 1920. After service in India 1920-22, Iraq 1921, West Africa 1922-28, he was at the Staff College from 1933 to 1934. Service in India, Quetta earthquake, N. Rhodesia, was followed by his acting during the 1939-45 war as Brigade Commander in the Abyssinian Campaign at Gondar and Madagascar. He commanded the 11th East African Division in Burma, afterwards becoming G.O.C. in C. East Africa. He is now G.O.C. Aldershot District. He has the Belgian Croix de Guerre.

Major-General O. P. Edgcumbe, C.B., M.C., Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry, transferred to the Royal Corps of Signals in 1920 after serving in the 1914-18 war with the Signal Service. He passed the Staff College in 1928 and was Chief Signal Officer, Eastern Command, 1937-39, Inspector of Signals, 1939, A.A.G.R. Signals, 1939-40, Deputy Director of Organisation, then Director, 1940-42.

After other employment he became Commissioner, Allied Control Commission, Hungary, 1945. He has now retired.

Major-General Sir Leslie C. Phillips, K.B.E., C.B., M.C., the Worcester Regiment, transferred to the Royal Corps of Signals in 1920. He served with the Signals in the 1914-18 war and commanded the Guards Division Signal Company when that was formed during the war. He saw service in the Waziristan operations 1936-37 and was Director of Signals 1943-46, and retired in 1946.

The other officers mentioned who left the Unit before February, 1915, were:

General Sir H. Colvile B. Wemyss, K.C.B., K.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., Royal Engineers. He became Assistant Adjutant General, War Office, Imperial Defence College, Director of Mobilisation, Adjutant General to the Forces, Head of British Army Staff in Washington, 1941-42, Military Secretary to the Secretary of State for War, 1942-46. He retired in 1946.

Major-General C. H. H. Vulliamy, C.B., D.S.O., Royal Engineers, transferred to Royal Signals, 1926. India 1921-30 and 1935-38, Waziristan, W.O. 1931-34, C.S.O., A.A. Command, the Signal Officer in Chief Middle East, 1943, H.Q.

(*continued on page 68*)

Dr Rogers' Letters

FROM THE CRIMEA

21st June, 1855. Camp before Sebastopol.

We arrived at Balaclava as I told you, on Wednesday, but the ship did not come into the harbour before Saturday, until in fact I had left her. The Guards were encamped at a pleasant spot on the slope of a hill a Balaclava when I arrived, but the situation was not healthy and we had suffered from cholera there. I slept at our then camp for the first time on Friday night and was called up the same night to a man with cholera. Saturday we were under orders to march up to the front this day, as it was said for a few days, and to leave our comfortable huts to sleep in tents, as a grand affair was expected to come off on Saturday or Monday, which grand affair, as I shall tell you hereafter, was a terrible failure. We marched up to the camp about half-past five and the senior surgeon being ill, I had to take charge of the Battalion. I managed to buy one pony with a pack saddle and panniers for about £8/10/- just before we started, to carry my luggage and set out to walk myself. The men were in heavy marching order, and out of less than 600, 75 fell out going that short distance and I had consequently got some way behind, when one of Lord Raglan's staff who was passing by, good naturedly offered me his horse and by the help of a Sardinian wagon that was going up, I managed to get all the men to their journey's end within a short time of the others halting.

Sunday. I slept very well in my tent the first night, being tolerably fatigued with the previous day's work. The morning opened with a brisk fire from the French and English batteries beginning at about three o'clock and lasting the whole day. The breakfast was rather peculiar for the first time in camp, consisting only of some bread and coffee taken sitting on the ground.

25th June, 1855.

The sharp fire of the French musquetry woke me up this morning but not too soon, as we were under orders to march at 3 a.m. The men all went off in excellent spirits, everyone expecting to be in Sebastopol before night, and that the long protracted siege would be over, but we were all cruelly disappointed. The 1st Division were to be held in reserve and to follow up the attacking party and one other division which I don't know, and the orders were positive that the French were to have the possession of the Malakhoff before we attempted the Redan. However, the French had not taken the Malakhoff and about 9 a.m. I should think, we heard the sharp roll of English musquetry but yet could see the Russians were still in possession of the Malakhoff. From our position by the Picket house at the head of the ravine, we could not see the English attack on the Redan as Gordon's battery was between us and it, but were shortly alarmed to hear that the English attack had failed and that the assaulting party were nearly destroyed. At the same time we heard that the strength of the party was not nearly so great as it was given out it should have been. I had conversations with several men who had been in the assault and come out alive and they all said that their men were nearly all lost before they reached the fortress by the terrible fire of grape and cannister which had been sent against them by the Russians, who were perfectly aware of what was to take place.

29th June, 1855.

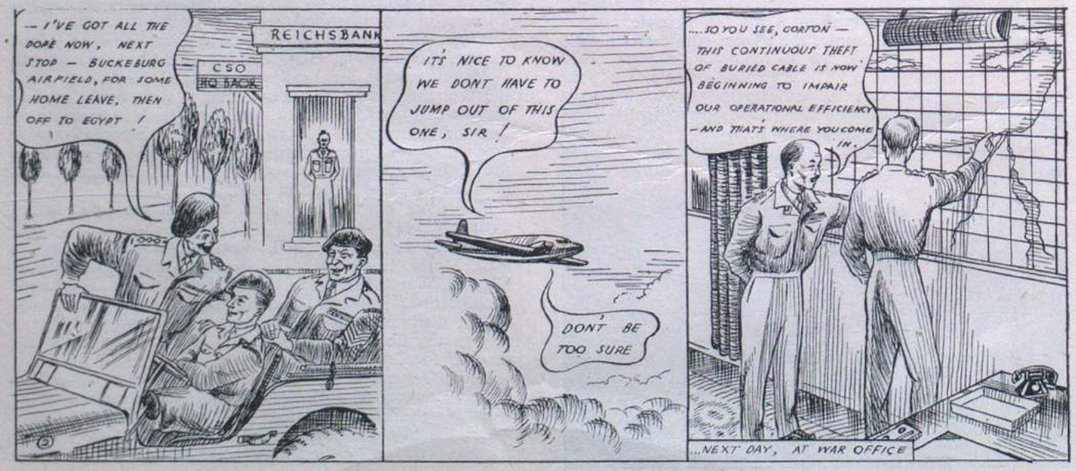
I went to see an officer of the 18th the day before yesterday, the Adjutant who came out with me from Constantinople. He only left the vessel Sunday evening to join his regiment and had to go on parade at 12 at night to be ready for the front work the next day. His was not the assaulting party but almost worse, for they were under fire the whole of the day without an opportunity of returning it. They were to have taken the Creek Battery as soon as the Redan was carried, but that failing they went down into Sebastopol and got into some of the houses, but were soon shelled out and lost about 240 men and 10 officers killed and wounded. He said the houses were beautifully furnished. It is said we are not going to make another attempt on the Redan but we have taken possession of another advanced work or quarry since the attempt, which brings us within one hundred yards of the Redan. I have not had my turn in the trenches yet, as it came when I was on the sick list. It is not so bad now, but in the hot weather it is very disagreeable and in the wet it can't be very pleasant.

You would hardly think we were in an enemy's country now, so little appearance is there of warfare or sound of firing except sometimes at night, when they blaze away for half an hour or so, but every 24 hours brings its return of killed and wounded notwithstanding, but anyone who goes into the trenches can hardly wonder at that considering the reckless way in which many of our men will expose themselves at that distance, looking over the parapets to take aim at the Russians, who in the meantime are potting at them and often hit them. We are very short of Generals out here now and are without our head as well, Lord Raglan having soon followed his subordinate, General Estcourt, General Pennefather who had the second division is gone home and several Colonels are acting as Generals. There is little inducement for the men to come out here as they have no opportunities of showing their experience. If we had taken the field as was expected, no doubt we should have discovered some talent among the younger officers, but it is difficult to decide on a man's abilities when he has never been face to face to an enemy, nor ever been tried to adverse circumstances, and in neither of our battles here has there been any generalship exhibited. At present there is only Sir George Brown and Sir Richard England remaining of the original divisional generals. We had looked forward to a campaign with some anticipation, pitching our tents in a fresh spot every night and striking them in the morning. The excitement of being exposed to unexpected danger, as well as of getting a brush with the enemy, and seeing a new and probably fertile country every day, these are what give charm to a soldier's life. Instead of that here we are cooped up in the same ground we have occupied now nearly a twelvemonth with a barren waste before us, instead of the luxuriantly fertile soil it was when we came here, and with every prospect of spending the winter here unless indeed with a change of commanders we get a change of tactics.

18th July, 1855.

I passed my first 24 hours in the trenches on 1st July and the previous night (Saturday and Sunday) not the pleasantest place to spend a Sunday in that you can imagine. Our own guns make such a row and it is generally so horribly hot. I had not very much to do that day and our own brigade escaped without a single casualty. They go in now by Divisions so that each Division takes its turn every three nights, so my turn will be only once a fortnight now, in fact, whilst I am doing the duty of Battalion Surgeon they ought to let me off altogether. I was here last Tuesday night when our whole division went in for the first time, and we suffered very considerably. I had three or four men waiting at a time with their limbs mangled by pieces of shell, some of our own they say that fell short and the fragments came back. That is one disadvantage in being so near. The medical officers have a tolerably safe place to stay in, but it is too far from the Division, and the journey to and from the advanced works is not particularly safe, and the field officer will occasionally send for them to go to the advanced works of all, but they generally bring the men to you.

There was some severe fighting last night. I hear it was a sortie and an attack on the Mamelon, which was repulsed by the French, though with considerable loss. Our Division goes in again tonight and my helper with them, so I shall be left alone, and no doubt we shall have some wounded, so that I am likely to have a disturbed night's rest. In these night duties one sees all the consequences of warfare without ever witnessing an engagement or seeing the enemy. I wish we could do something decisive or else were fairly out of the siege and in the field, but I suppose we must make up our minds to stay here for some time yet.

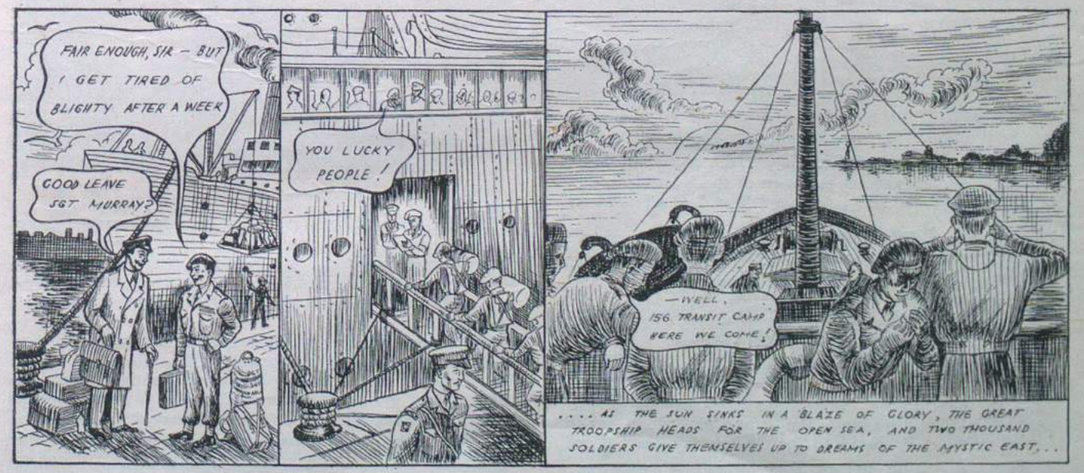


A DISTANT DRUM

By **Captain J. PEREIRA**

Many of us will remember "The Diary of an Infantry Officer," by Sassoon, that most excellent story of World War I. "A Distant Drum" is to some extent the contemporary equivalent.

Captain Pereira had the privilege, accorded to few officers of His Majesty's Foot Guards, of serving with the 5th Battalion Coldstream Guards throughout its life. The story is Regimental history at its best in that it gives us a full and clear picture of the work and fighting of one Battalion of a famous Regiment. More than that it gives a very human picture of the mental and physical reactions of the normal man to the hardships and dangers of the soldier's life in war. It is not a story of the horrors of war, they are mentioned because in war horror and valour alternate with fright and boredom. It is a classic, in that, through reading it, the understanding reader will get many a glimpse of the professional excellence that conceals itself in peace-



time (and in war if opportunity offers) behind the facade of "Boodle's," "White's," "Public Duties," "The King's Guard," Wellington and Chelsea Barracks and the hardships of exile at Pirbright Camp.

The book throughout breathes the spirit of the "Brigade." Failure is never contemplated and in fact never occurs.

"My dear Ian, even if they don't blow the bridge when the first shot is fired, surely they (the Germans) won't let you walk about on it cutting wires under their very noses."

Replied Ian: "Well, it's the only way it can be done. Oh, yes, I think it will certainly work—so long as I don't forget the wire cutters."

By some miracle it did work, 5 Coldstream Guards earned a Victoria Cross.

For all of us who have friends in the Brigade of Guards the book is almost a necessity. For those of us not so fortunate the book is equally a necessity that we may understand something of what can produce the finest soldiers of the Empire (or of the world).

To the student of Military organisation there is much to ponder on. A great part of the fighting from Normandy to the Elbe was done as far as our story goes by "The Coldstream Group." The 1st Battalion in armour, the 5th Battalion as infantry. Both were in the Guards Armoured Division and were handled thus rather than as an armoured brigade and an infantry brigade.

In fine it is necessary only to repeat the last sentence of the book "War is only an incident in the history of the Coldstream Guards"—but, my, what an incident.

Gale and Polden, 21/-, and it ought to be in every military library.

SIGNAL TRAINING CENTRE

CATTERICK CAMP

Lest We Forget . . .



IT was the evening of Saturday, 17th December, 1949. . . . And for officers and men of the Royal Corps of Signals at Catterick Camp, "R-Day" was only a few hours ahead.

As the hours slipped smoothly by, so the temperature steadily dropped. The handful of late-picture-goers coming from Camp Centre stepped warily along the icy pavements as the damp surface that remained from an earlier rainfall was gradually transformed into a glassy expanse. The little traffic that had dared to venture out crawled slower and slower until it was almost at a standstill.

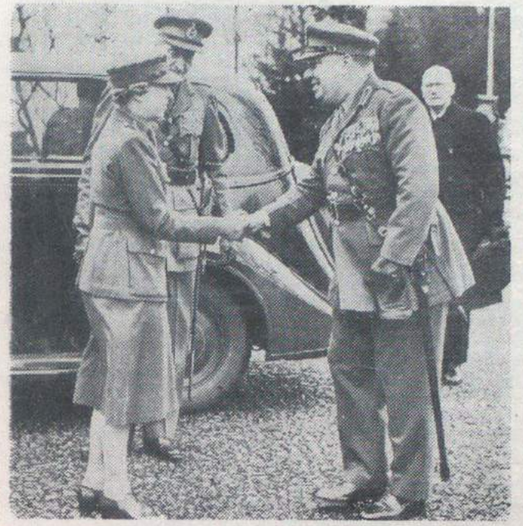
By 9 o'clock Catterick Camp Centre was almost deserted . . .

But in the distance, behind the twinkling lights that glittered invitingly through the frosty air, there was a hive of activity. Preparations for the big day were in full swing.

For the morrow, Sunday, 18th December, was, to those young soldiers—Royal Day; the day chosen for the visit of their Colonel-in-Chief, Her Royal Higness the Princess Royal, to unveil the memorial plaque dedicated to the members of the Corps who gave their lives during the 1939-45 world war.

The following morning, almost miraculously, every trace of frost and ice had disappeared. The biting east wind had dropped, and now a warm wind gently fanned the trees and as the arrival time of Her Royal Higness drew near, the sun, though as yet a little watery, broke through.

It was truly a Royal Signals day, and it was fitting to the occasion to see the many medals and campaign ribbons of



the old soldiers coming to pay tribute to their comrades of the last war, who had made the supreme sacrifice.

St. Martin's Church has many sentimental attachments for the Royal Signals. The Old Comrades' Association met there earlier this year and it is in fact known throughout by the older residents of the camp as "the Signals Church."

Timed to perfection, the day's programme went through without a hitch. As 10.30 a.m. struck, the first salvo of a 21-gun salute echoed across Mons parade ground to greet Her Royal Highness as she entered the Garrison, accompanied by Major-General C. W. Fladgate, C.B.E. (Representative Colonel Commandant) and preceded by an escort of Royal Signals motor-cycle outriders.

Met at Druggon House, residence of the District Commander, by the G.O.C., Major-General C. M. F. White, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., the Princess inspected the Guard of Honour provided by 1 Training Regiment. 1 Training Regiment made an impressive welcoming detachment and as Her Royal Highness walked along the ranks, the fixed bayonets flashing in the sunlight, she paused to speak with several of the young soldiers.

Arriving at the church 15 minutes later, the Princess was received by Brigadier W. C. V. Galwey, O.B.E., M.C., Commander of the Signal Training Centre.

The church was filled to capacity, and even outside many stood in the roadway lining the route to the church. The orchestral section of the Band of the Royal Corps of Signals played both before and during the service.

Then came the moment the congregation had been waiting for. Major-General Fladgate invited Her Royal Highness to perform the unveiling ceremony with these words: "Your Royal Highness, on behalf of the Officers, Warrant Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers and Men of the Royal Corps of Signals, I invite you to unveil this our memorial to those members of the Corps who gave their lives in the 1939-45 War."

Walking across the church to where the plaque hung shrouded in a Union Jack, the Princess unveiled the memorial with these words: "In proud and thankful remembrance of all ranks of the Royal Corps of Signals who laid down their lives in the 1939-45 War, I unveil this memorial."

Set in the east wall of the church, the bronze plaque, mounted on oak, is embossed with the words: "To the Glory of God, and in Proud Memory of the Officers, Warrant Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers and Men of the Royal Corps of Signals who gave their lives in the World War, 1939-45."

Dedicating the memorial, the Reverend G. P. Druitt, C.B.E., offered a short prayer in which he said: "O Almighty God, we give Thee high praise and hearty thanks for these thy servants who, counting not their lives dear unto themselves, laid them down in the service of their country. May this memorial be to us and to those who come after, a constant reminder of their valour and self-sacrifice, and we pray that rejoicing in their fellowship and following their good example, we may with them be partakers of Thy Heavenly Kingdom through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."

The "Last Post" was then sounded, and a wreath was laid by Major-General Fladgate. Silence was observed, and then the notes of "Reveille" echoed through the church as the vast congregation paid respect to all those who had fallen.

The Lesson was read by the District Commander, and the Reverend G. P. Druitt gave an address.

After the service, the Princess's own Standard was unfurled from the masthead in Kitchener Road, and Her Royal Highness took her place at the saluting base for the march past.

Led by Lieutenant-Colonel W. M. Ponsonby, O.B.E., commanding the parade, detachments of 2, 3, 4 Training Regiments, 7 Selection Regiment, 1 Independent Selection Squadron and the School of Signals, marched past accompanied by the Royal Signals Band.

The Princess Royal was later entertained to lunch at the Headquarters Mess, where senior officers and their ladies were presented to Her Royal Highness.

Another salvo of 21 guns—by the 45 Field Regiment, Royal Artillery, was fired as Her Royal Highness left Catterick Camp.

This article is contributed by the "Catterick Express" and the photographs by the "Evening Gazette"; our thanks are due to both.

1 TRAINING REGIMENT

And a merry Christmas was had by all! As we promised last time there is much more to report this month—a big round of social events in fact.

Our Christmas was honoured by the visit of H.R.H. Princess Royal to Catterick on Sunday, 18th December. 1 Training Regiment provided the guard of honour for H.R.H. at the G.O.C.s residence, Druggon House. After inspecting the guard of honour H.R.H. attended a service in St. Martin's Garrison Church and unveiled a plaque to commemorate the fallen of Royal Signals during the 1939-45 war. After the service the Princess Royal took the salute at a march past of contingents of the Signal Training Centre.

The Catterick District Guard Cup. 1 Training Regiment provides a guard for H.Q. Catterick District two or three times a month. The guard is personally inspected by the G.O.C., Major-General White, who allots points for turn-out, bearing and drill. The guard provided by this Regiment along with all other Regiments in the Garrison have been competing for the Guard Mounting Cup. On 6th January the G.O.C. presented the cup to C.O. 1 Training Regiment in the presence of the Adjutant, R.S.M. and a guard which was provided by 2 Squadron. The G.O.C. congratulated the Regiment on providing such excellent guards over the last quarter. The guard marched off after the presentation, exchanging compliments with the guard of 2 Training Regiment on guard duty outside District H.Q. This is the first time this cup has been competed for and we intend that it should become a permanent fixture in the Sergeants' Mess. The credit for the high standard is mainly due to R.S.M. Carr.

At about 4 p.m. on Friday, 16th December, coaches began



R.S.M. H. Carr, Royal Signals

to arrive at Loos N.A.A.F.I. bringing the children of the Unit from all parts of the camp for the annual children's party. Mrs. Muray was the organiser in chief and a fine job of work she did. The entertainments included a Punch and Judy show and a conjurer. Sergeant Gilbey also entertained with his piano accordion. Father Christmas (S.S.M. "Busty" Tyers) entered in traditional fashion down a specially erected chimney and distributed presents to the kiddies. At 7 p.m., when the time came for leaving, the children took away with them sweets, Christmas cake and a memory of a happy evening.

The bare walls of the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess were magnificently transformed by S.S.M. Pitt and his band of helpers on the night of 20th December to form a good setting for the Christmas ball and draw. We were very pleased that Colonel R. J. Moberly, O.B.E., now C.I. School of Signals, was able to visit the Mess for the occasion. The Mess was crowded, indeed, that night, and we all enjoyed the proceedings, which included dancing to the "Gripper" Dance Band. When, late in the evening, the draw was made, S.Q.M.S. "Pip" Powner carried off an enormous turkey. Mr. Tyler was also lucky and won a prize for the second year running. There were many other prizes, far too many to enumerate here. Congratulations are due to both the P.M.C. and the Caterer for making such a success of the occasion.

The Royal Signals Dance Band provided the music at the H.Q. Officers' Mess Ball on Wednesday, 21st December, 1949. There were at least 130 present at the Mess on this memorable occasion and a grand time was had by all. Elaborate decorations were provided by Captain J. A. Randall and our thanks are due to both him and Major J. J. Cooper, President of the Dance Committee for their painstaking preparations.

Thursday, 22nd December, 1949, saw the exodous of the main bulk of the Regiment on Christmas leave, which judging by reports, and personal experience, was thoroughly enjoyed and appreciated. But those remaining behind were not forgotten. On Christmas Day the Officers and Sergeants turned waiters for a day, taking coffee round in the morning and serving Christmas dinner, in the best Army traditions. 3 Squadron, led by Captain J. V. Dearden, gained a resounding win in an inter-Squadron comic football match on the square, and on Christmas night there was an all-ranks dance in Loos N.A.A.F.I., organised by Captain Dearden and S.S.M. Eley. This was thoroughly appreciated.

Major A. W. de Corcy-Browne, of the Royal Australian Signals, has arrived in the Unit and has assumed command of No. 1 Squadron.

Last season the cross-country running team won all the Army competitions for which it entered except the Royal Signals Catterick League. They made amends for this lapse this season by winning this competition on 30th November, 1949. We wish the team every success in their attempts to retain the District League Championship at the final meeting on 11th January, 1950, and to win the Catterick Garrison and Northern Command Inter-Unit Championships on 26th January. All members of the team are now training enthusiastically for the big occasions.

Our miniature rifle team is meeting with a good deal more success in the Catterick District League than they experienced last year. At the moment of writing the team stands second in the table having won four out of the first five matches.

The Unit basketball team is also playing well this season. They are at present well among the leaders in the Catterick District League, having won nine out of 12 matches. The captain of the team, S.I. Palmer, A.P.T.C., has an almost entirely new team under him this season and it is to be hoped that they play as well in the second half of the season as they have done in the first half.

In Memoriam. It is with much regret that we hear of the passing of an old Mess member of ours, "Paddy" Ryan. We are sure that all who knew him will mourn the passing of one of the personalities of the Corps.

2 TRAINING REGIMENT

The birth of the New Year found the Regiment slowly getting under way again, after the hilarious shipwreck of Christmas. For several days, the Lines were filled with men wearing creased uniforms and hangovers, but now things seem to be getting back into their old accustomed groove.

The Scots, who had been on duty over Christmas, went off to celebrate the New Year in their own peculiar way—I am told that it consists of a sort of test to see just how much whisky one can hold—and they in turn came back bleary-eyed but contented, on the fourth.

The men's Christmas party, that very sensible Army function, where the senior N.C.O.s wait on the men, was a great success. All the Mess rooms were decorated and really looked quite attractive. Our compliments go to the Messing Officer and cooks of the A.C.C., whose meal really "made the occasion." It comes as rather a shock to realise that all those happy Sergeants and Warrant Officers were in fact the same that make our lives a misery throughout the year!

The Corporals Mess party mentioned in the last issue, passed off quietly but well, and a great deal of credit is due to the organisers, who made it such a success. Sad to relate, it was too quiet for a certain party of daring spirits, who stole Corporal Kimberley's bed, in the early hours of the following morning. The bunk was as black as the pit, but they found no diamonds there!

The familiar shapes of the W.R.A.C. contingent have now, sad to say, gone from the Lines, the few that are left being those in important posts. At the beginning of the month, a large party of them was posted. The last night was the occasion for a gala send-off party, but just as the last tender "good-byes" were being made, the move was postponed. Possibly because of a money shortage the second send-off a few days later, was not half so good or as tender. Some trouble was caused by the fact that Sergeant "Paddy" Harper's cats did not want to leave their home, but at last even that was settled. The billets vacated are now going to be taken over by the Regiment as the Trade Training Centre, as soon as the "pin-ups" can be cleaned off walls and ceilings.

The Unit Drama Group, in spite of its apparent rest lately, has in fact been quite active, under the surface. Plans are now afoot for the production of "Winter Set," a dramatic play which should appeal to most with its theme of revenge for a "framed" prison sentence. Until the time when the production can really get under way, the Group intends to feature a series of "broadcast" play readings to audiences in Mons N.A.A.F.I. These plays will be performed in the Education Office, and relayed through loud speakers to the N.A.A.F.I. This is not a new venture, but it is hoped that this time a selection of good plays will make it an even greater success.

The Depot Regiment

Pocklington

Since our last appearance in THE WIRE, the face of the Depot has changed but little. However, fortified by Christmas festivities (albeit, with lighter pockets as a result), we entered 1950 ready to face forthcoming changes; and changes there are bound to be, for we hear a rumour that Lieutenant-Colonel Denholm-Young and Major Low will be leaving us before the summer arrives. We shall be sorry to see them go, but we wish them as happy a time in their new appointments as we hope they have had with us.

Christmas opened with an excellently organised party for the children on 21st December. Veteran of the Corps, S.S.M. "Pop" Langham officiated as Santa Claus and, we think, surprised even himself at his ability to produce Christmas trees at will. There was, of course, a general exodus to all corners of England when the holiday really started, but for those who remained behind, a most enjoyable time was to be had. The customary serving of "gunfire' in the very early hours, and of the Christmas dinner at a more reasonable hour, went off without a hitch, and the dinner was very well attended. Congratulations and thanks must go to the Messing Officer, R.S.M. Hobbs, and all his worthy staff for the very excellent feast which was provided. Just how the ensuing afternoon was spent is not on record but, from a study of subsequent ration indents, obvious! In the evening a "smoker" was held in the Unit theatre and proved a success.

For those remaining in camp, the New Year was heralded without any particular show of rejoicing, most of us having either no money or no appetite!

Sports and games in the Regiment have died down someexpected shortly. We hope both rugby and association football teams will celebrate many victories before the season is out.

We must record that we received a visit from our new District Commander, Major-General C. M. F. White, on 12th December, 1949, who gave us a very thorough inspection. Although the visit was originally planned for an earlier date, we feel confident, nevertheless, that it did not spoil his Christmas for him!

Finally, we congratulate R.Q.M.S. Baker of the Ripon Squadron, on the award of the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal, which he has thoroughly deserved. We hope to have some more awards to announce ere long.

School of Signals

Officer Training Wing

There has been one pass off parade during the month. On Friday, 16th December, Course 239 passed off, the salute being taken by Colonel R. J. Moberly, O.B.E., the Commanding Officer's cane was awarded to Officer-Cadet Fowke.

On the evening of Saturday, 3rd December, 1949, Second-Lieutenant Montgomery, with a cast of Y.O.s and Cadets, produced Harry Segalls "Halfway to Heaven." Despite the whimsical nature of the plot, the actors made everything seem possible, and yet still managed to exploit the many farcical situations to the full. In a good all-round cast, Second-Lieutenant Jarvis as Joe Pendleton, Officer-Cadet Higham as Sam Parkin and Second-Lieutenant Montgomery in the role of Mr. Jordan, deserve special mention.

A Wing cross-country race was held on 21st December, over a gruelling course which went over countless hills and moors and through at least four streams. All parts of the Wing were represented and over 200 runners lined up for a mass start by the Commanding Officer. The championship cup for the best team was won by 235/6 Course (160 points), with 241/2 Course (203 points), and the Cadre and R.Y.O.s team (361 points) second and third respectively. The first three individuals home were Captain A. Holifield, M.C., Officer-Cadet Ashton and Driver Edwards.

The first event in the Christmas celebrations was the Cadets' Christmas dinner, which was held in the Cadets' N.A.A.F.I. on 15th December, 1949. It was followed on Saturday, 17th December, 1949, by a most enjoyable all ranks dance in the Somme Gymnasium. Early the following week we held our annual children's party, attended this year by a record total of over 100 children. The staff work behind the party was excellent, and Father Christmas, who made an entrance through the chimney to the surprise and wonderment of children and parents alike, had a correctly labelled gift for every child in the room.



A Christmas dinner was held in the Officers' Mess on 20th December, 1949, and an enjoyable social evening in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess on the following day.

The last and most important occasion was the Christmas dinner celebrated in the Men's Mess on 25th December, 1949, by a small but enthusiastic rear party, with the Commanding Officer and many of the Cadre officers in attendance.

Royal Signals Wing

On 15th December, the Officers held their annual Christmas Ball, and borrowed the H.Q. Mess for the evening as Helles Mess was still in hands of the contractors. The ball was a great success due to the efforts of the dance committee, who are to be congratulated on their work, and to the excellent co-operation we received from the P.M.C. and Officers of H.Q. Mess whom we thank for helping us so admirably.

Two days later the Christmas draw and dance took place in the Sergeants' Mess. This was enjoyed by everyone and it was strange, perhaps, how much pleasure S.Q.M.S.



Top right

Major-General C. M. F. White, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O. (G.O.C., Catterick district) dancing with Miss Sylvia Scott. (Miss Scott is the eldest daughter of Major-General W. A. Scott, Director of Signals.)

Bottom left

Major-General and Mrs. Scott leaving the ballroom

Bottom right

Major-General W. A. Scott, C.B.E., Director of Signals at the War Office, dancing with Mrs. Dickson





Banham and Sergeant Knight seemed to derive from shouting "Hard lines" and "Try again."

Monday, 19th December, was Children's Day. At the end of the tea the tables could well be described as being "lightly loaded." After tea, as a form of digestive, the company were treated to a Punch and Judy show and several slapstick comedy films. Then Father Christmas arrived in his power-driven sleigh. Unfortunately, we were unable to borrow any of Major Sutherland's beagles to act as a dog-team. However, the children were quite happy with their presents, their sweets and their balloons.

We congratulate S.Q.M.S. (F. of S.) Martin and Sergeant Judy Cargill on their recent marriage. A photograph of the ceremony shows (*from L .to R.*): R.S.M. J. H. Lea, who gave the bride away, Mrs. (Steve) Smith (matron of honour), S.Q.M.S. (F. of S.) "Taffy" Martin, Sergeant Judy Cargill, C.Q.M.S. Smith (best man).

Hockey. Our tie versus 8 Royal Tank Regiment (the present holders) in the second round of the Army Cup ran to two matches. The first match resulted in a goalless draw. In this game the half-backs of each side dominated the play. Several scoring opportunities were missed by both sides. A draw was a very appropriate result to the game.

In the replay we were unable to field our full team. 8 Royal Tank Regiment were much quicker than us on the ball. These two factors attributed to our defeat by 4 goals to 1.

Rugger. This continues to flourish and several most enjoyable games have been played. One in particular, versus 1 Training Regiment, which was played in a sea of mud is worth recording and resulted in a victory to 1 Training Regiment by 6 points to nil.

Our shooting team is maintaining its unbeaten record and is producing better results than ever. In this current season we have won all five matches, with an average team aggregate of 745 points. The team holds the highest aggregate in the district; individually, Captain Reid and Major Thompson returned top and third highest scores in the District for November.

16 INDEPENDENT PARACHUTE BRIGADE GROUP SIGNAL SQUADRON

Aldershot

16 Parachute Brigade Group returned to England in the autumn of 1949, and with it, of course, came the Signal Squadron. The substance of our last appearance in print was a lament over our deserted German barracks, and these notes—the first to be written in our new home—may serve as a record of our move.

A substantial party was despatched well in advance to prepare our new accommodation. Heaven knows, Lille Barracks seemed bleak enough when *we* arrived, but it is painful even to imagine the desolation which must have faced these stalwarts initially, and which would have faced us also but for their efforts. This party was reinforced, first by new blood from Pocklington, and then by a detachment which accompanied Brigade H.Q., so that a sizeable reception committee was available to greet the arrival of the vehicles, despite the large numbers on leave. This reunion was necessarily postponed, however, as bad weather upset the shipping programme, and the vehicles were not finally embarked until a fortnight later than had been anticipated. Despite this delay, and the sceptical prophecies of our friends, the transfer of some 70 vehicles was achieved with only minor incident, and those of us left in Hanover had our responsibilities reduced accordingly.

The next duty, though, bore heavily on our minds and muscles alike. The unfortunate officer detailed to supervise the move of the Unit baggage had been heard for some weeks previously to mutter "Eleven hundred boxes—42 tons—5,000 cubic feet" and other apparently meaningless gibberish—(had he known the full extent of the ordeal by railway siding and dockside he was yet to undergo, his mutterings would have been even more intense!)—but we had little inkling of its significance until we were called upon to move this mountain of baggage. However, with vigour and team spirit which reflects credit on all concerned, all the stores were moved from the barracks to the railway sidings in five hours, and loaded on to the train in four hours on the following day.

Having thus exhausted its usefulness (and itself) the remainder of the Squadron packed its own belongings and returned to England. At first things were somewhat unsettled, for rumours of various changes in establishment and other reorganisation prevented adequate planning, and, to add to our difficulties, we lost some senior members of the Squadron—Sergeants Halliday, Fairweather and Morgan to name but three—to civilian life. Routine took some time to re-establish and fatigues were very much the order of the day. If we have not worked much, however, we have at least played hard, and rugger, soccer, hockey, basketball and motor-cycling have all had their share of enthusiasts. Some hardy spirits have even been seen on Queen's Avenue carrying swimming costumes, but we feel sure that this was merely bluff. We have managed to amuse ourselves in our spare time too, though the austerities, expenses and restrictions of home service came as a blow after the low cost of living in B.A.O.R.

But now we have started a new year. A comprehensive training programme, which includes continuation air training and an opportunity to justify our parachute pay, lies before us. Refreshed (in all senses!) by a Christmas or New Year break, we have every intention of attacking this programme with our usual energy. We conclude, then, with New Year greetings to all our friends, both within and outside the Corps, and hope that 1950 may indeed be a happy new year for us all.

EASTERN COMMAND SIGNAL REGIMENT

Canterbury



We wish the Editor and his staff, and all members of the Corps who read these notes a Happy and Prosperous New Year. May 1950 see better things in store for all of us.

The Unit Christmas party went off extremely well and the following account appeared in the local paper:

"It is a well-known tradition in the Army that Christmas is essentially a children's festival, and plans are made accordingly. Tuesday afternoon was no exception, when, in Wemyss Barracks gymnasium, Eastern Command Signal Regiment held a Christmas party for children of their personnel together with a small number of Royal Engineers' children. About 90 in all were present, the youngest being 15-day-old Glenda Tilley, daughter of Sergeant and Mrs. E. Tilley.

"After an excellent tea, taken in the gaily decorated and beautifully lit gymnasium, the children were entertained by clowns and buffoons until the arrival of Father Christmas at 5.45.

"Punctually, dead on the minute in fact, the 'Grand Old Man" set down his mechanical sleigh on the barrack square. Circling the square twice, he drove in through the big double doors and stopped in the middle of the gymnasium. His 'sleigh' was laden with intriguing-looking bags, labelled for such destinations as New York and Jamaica. For his world-wide trip, Father Christmas (W.O.1 B. Parkinson, the garrison schoolmaster), had borrowed an Army truck, on which to install his throne. His driver (S.S.M. Phillips) was in hunting pink, and his footman was a Moroccan sultan (Lance-Corporal Hill). In some mysterious way his car-

riage had grown antlers on the radiator. A large star on the roof of the driver's cab lit the way through the dark skies.

"Father Christmas immediately 'got cracking' with his Canterbury engagements of distributing presents to the children. When tiny Glenda Tilley was handed to him, he called for three cheers, in honour of the baby.

"Most touching moment was when two-year-old Barbara Parkinson, daughter of 'Father Christmas,' climbed up on his knee and confidentially whispered her requests into his ear. But the whole romance of the moment was nearly dispelled when a soldier father was heard to say in a stage whisper, when his child received her toy, 'Thanks, "schoolie".'

"Credit for this first-class party must be given to Mrs. Barker (wife of the C.O.), Major and Mrs. Cooke, and their committee."

The Regiment is most anxious to compile a documentary historical record. Will any reader of any rank who served in Eastern Command Signal Regiment during the period 1939-1946 who happens to read this article kindly get in touch with Major H. R. V. Cooke, Second in Command, who will forward a questionnaire for completion.

Congratulations to Sergeant and Mrs. E. Tilley on the birth of their latest child, Glenda. They are now the proud parents of four girls and two boys. How's this for another Corps record.

Home Counties and East Anglian District troops have both recently organised local Signal Courses for members of Combined Cadet Force Units in the Command. It speaks well of the keenness of these lads that no less than 43 of them from various schools gave up part of their Christmas holidays to attend these courses.

Signalman K. B. Tutt is distinguishing himself playing left back for the Eastern Command hockey XI. They have not lost a game yet. It is rumoured that Tutt may get an Army trial soon. Second-Lieutenant Clissold of East Anglian District Signal Troop collected three nice cups for good marksmanship at the recent District rifle meeting.

The officers of the Unit stationed at Canterbury entertained the members of the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess on the 6th January to a New Year's beer party. The hosts enjoyed themselves as much as the guests. Some 30 men formed the rear party over the Christmas break, and Lieutenant Beverly organised an excellent feast on Christmas Day. All the available officers were there in force. A Scotsman was heard to ask the R.S.M. whether the cost of the dinner would have to come out of his credits.

Our football team is making headway and Canterbury Town already have their eyes on some useful players.

The New Year's Eve supper party, held in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess was voted a 100 per cent successful evening and some 30 members and their guests sat down to a truly magnificent repast, thanks to the hard work and resourcefulness of S.Q.M.S. Foster, who has by the way absolutely no connection with the Black Market.

COOKLO

NORTHERN COMMAND (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT

York

The month of December has been a period of rushes. Rushes to finish off the many jobs before the New Year, the rush of those proceeding on Christmas leave and finally the rush to prepare the various Christmas festivities.

The first of these was a Regimental guest night for all officers from the outstations. Lieutenant-Colonel W. M. Ponsonby, Royal Signals, one of the guests, gave his usual brilliant display of wizardry. The Q.M. was so impressed that it is understood he is applying for a course in advanced sleight-of-hand.

This was followed by a ladies' guest night for all wives and daughters. We were very pleased to welcome two ex-members of the mess in A. Moverley and Mr. J. McLean, who left us during the year to take up civil employment. The event of the evening was a "spirited' display by Major Dirs on a motor-cycle.

The Unit Christmas children's party, held in the N.A.A.F.I., took place on 22nd December. A conjuring show which was appreciated as much by parents as the children, was followed by an enormous spread of delicacies dear to the hearts of the young. The presents were then presented by Father Christmas in traditional style. From the cries of approval on all sides, we feel that the Selection Committee (Mrs. R. C. B. Stuart and Senior Commander Morris) were amply repaid for their arduous task.

Christmas Day was celebrated in traditional style. The Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess were the guests of the Officers' Mess prior to the Christmas dinners.

The Messing Officer excelled herself in the Christmas fare, so much so that a number of the Unit decided to forego their leave and joined in the Unit festivities. The Officers and Sergeants performed the duties of waiters with great éclat.

The barbarians from North of the Tweed have departed to their snowy fastness to celebrate Hogmanay, after which we hope to settle down to normal once the Unit disperses again to its many commitments throughout the Command.

Our next excitement is a Unit week-end on 11th February, when this Unit will be on the "air" in the Regional programme followed by the annual administrative inspection.

WESTERN COMMAND SIGNAL REGIMENT

Blacon Camp, Chester

December! What a month. Spring cleaning of the "Abe Nay" tray, parties, spending of much money, eating of much rich food, more parties, aspirins, receiving and giving presents, again more parties, and the inevitable "Never again," followed by a number of rash resolutions which gradually fade and die as the human frame improves again. But it is a grand month really with all its spirit of goodwill, which seems to brighten everyone's lives, especially the children who live in a perfect whirl of expectation that "Santa" will do his stuff. There is much mistletoe about this Christmas, and in the words of one of our hard-bitten drivers, everybody was in for "a real sloppy do." Well, why not. Everything else is taxed, and after all, the best things in life are free, so it is said.

On Christmas morning Major "Tim" Barron, M.C., with some willing helpers, took some "laced" coffee round to the troops left in camp. One individual whom we understand was a strict living young fellow, quite enjoyed it until he found out that it was not quite as issued. We hope it didn't really spoil his Christmas.

A very successful kiddies party was organised and run by the Colonel, Lieutenant-Colonel T. W. Boileau, O.B.E., and his wife. Over 50 children attended. It started with a film show followed by a most excellent tea provided by the N.A.A.F.I., and then the tree and the giving of presents by the gentleman with the "white whiskers"; this year our T.O.M., Major G. R. Bishop, grew them. After some round games had been played the youngsters who were showing signs of being visited by the "Sandman" were given sweets and oranges and off they went home. Brigadier G. H. N. Todd, M.C., the Garrison Commander, came along to the party and appeared to be enjoying it equally as well as the children.

Sergeant D. Hood, of the M.T. Troop, burnt his boats and got married to Miss M. Hodgkiss. The wedding took place at Nantwich, and two of the Troop went along to see fair play. The Unit join me in wishing the happy couple every success for the future.

Anti Aircraft Command

5 A.A. GROUP (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT

Scarborough

Christmas celebrations commenced within the Regiment with the children's Christmas party which was held on 14th December, 1949. The party (by kind permission of Major T. L. Fletcher, Commandant, Northern Command School of Physical Training) was held in the gymnasium for all children of the Barracks, and a better place couldn't have been chosen. One end had been curtained off, behind which the Christmas tree, which was illuminated, was hidden from the inquisitive eyes of the children. At the other end, tables had been laid out at which the 50 or so children along with their mothers, partook of an excellent tea. In the centre of the gymnasium a slide had been erected and which proved extremely popular with all the children and some of the grown-ups as well. When tea had been disposed of the children then sat down in front of the curtain waiting for the big moment when Father Christmas would arrive. Finally, the curtain parted and Father Christmas (Sergeant Child) descended the chimney and proceeded to distribute the presents to the children. The party finally closed with a conjuring show and the ever popular Punch and Judy show and was voted a huge success by all.

Great credit is due to the organisers of the children's Christmas party and to all who helped to make it such a huge success.

On 15th December the Officers were entertained to a social and dance in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess. The evening was thoroughly enjoyed by all and the Mess must congratulate themselves on a first-class show.

On Christmas morning, the proverbial coffee and rum was served to the few remaining members of the Regiment who were staying behind during the Christmas period. Later on in the morning, at about 11 a.m. a six-a-side comic football-cum-rugger match was played between the Officers, Warrant Officers and Sergeants and Other Ranks. Surprising talent was unearthed at this game and many and varied were the costumes displayed. Lieutenant (Q.M.) P. J. McCunnin playing goalkeeper was very good in his check suit, and was complete with "stools wooden headed Sergeants" in order that he could reach the crossbar. After a fast and furious battle of 40 minutes the game ended in a draw, a fitting result.

At 1300 hours the Officers, Warrant Officers and Sergeants served Christmas dinner to the men in the one end of the decorated dining room which had been curtained off, the whole of the room not being required. An excellent dinner was provided and Corporal Symonds, A.C.C., Corporal Dillon, W.R.A.C., and their helpers are to be congratulated on a first-class meal. A vote of thanks was proposed which was heartily endorsed by all. There were few survivors to attend the high tea a few hours later.

The Officers, Warrant Officers and Sergeants played the Other Ranks at an indoor games tournament on Boxing Day held in the N.A.A.F.I. restaurant commencing at 2000 hours. Games of snooker, darts, cribbage, dominoes and table tennis were played. An interval for refreshments was taken midway through the tournament which proved very popular. At the end of the games the score was totalled and found to result in a draw. On completion of the games, the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel A. T. Sladen, O.B.E., inaugurated one or two games, new to the majority of those present, but which certainly went with a swing. On 2nd December, 1949, an all ranks dance was held in the gymnasium which was very strongly attended, there being about 200 present. The evening was a great success and the Dance Committee are to be congratulated on a first-class show.

In the Group Motor Cycle League trials meeting in which we met 81 H.A.A. Regiment Royal Artillery at Newcastle, in the third round, on 5th December, 1949, we had to admit defeat after a very close struggle. However, better luck next time.

Two games have been played in the Wednesday Football League during the month, both of which, unfortunately, we lost. Against the "Sparkers," who have improved tremendously, we were decisively beaten by 6—0, and against our old rivals the "Butchers" after a very good and hard game, we lost by 2—0. However, we still have a chance of winning the league which we are all hoping will materialise when the last games are finally played off.

Stop Press.—Congratulations from all ranks of the Regiment to the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel A. T. Sladen, O.B.E., who was awarded the Order of the British Empire in the New Year's Honours List.

1 A.A. GROUP (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT

Laindon, Essex

Since the last Unit notes we have changed our Commanding Officer and our station.

Lieutenant-Colonel Gray is now on the strength of the Depot and we wish him all the best in the future. Lieutenant-Colonel F. S. Whiteway-Wilkinson has arrived from British Military Mission, Greece, to take command of the Unit and we hope that he will have a happy and successful tour of command.

As foretold we had an extremely busy time "moving house" from Whetstone to Laindon and we were finally clear of Whetstone by the beginning of December. So 1 A.A. Group (M) Signal Regiment have left London District after a very long stay. All ranks have noticed the change from being stationed near a London tube station to being two miles from a country one in Essex. But judging by the numbers arriving at the country station in the early morning, several people have still an interest in London.

Others, including certain members of the Sergeants' Mess, are becoming very mobile and making contacts around the countryside and will doubtless soon be able to give first-hand reports on the Units' activities at Orsett and Southend.

ROYAL SIGNALS, CATTERICK, HOCKEY FIXTURES

25 Feb.	*v.* Royal Engineers.	Catterick.
1 Mar.	*v.* Manchester University.	Catterick.
18 Mar.	*v.* Saltburn.	Catterick.
25 Mar.	*v.* Norton.	Norton.

B A O R

H.Q. B.A.O.R. SIGNAL REGIMENT

The kiddies' Christmas party got off to a great start with a picture show in the Sergeants' Mess. The kiddies toddled over to the Officers' Mess, where they had ice-cream, jelly and cakes. Afterwards they were entertained by a conjurer. Father Christmas, in the guise of Sergeant Acton, then appeared driving up in a sleigh and distributed to all the kiddies, presents from the Unit. The party was a great success.

The Christmas dinner was excellent with plenty of everything. I hear that twice as many dinners were served as there were diners. Thanks, cooks, for a grand job of work. There was plenty of beer and everyone was decidedly merry.

The Officers and Sergeants football match was won by the Officers by two goals, one umbrella and two pints, to one goal and two pints. It was a hard and fast game with the Adjutant, Captain J. Y. Ferguson, getting a face full of mud and a shower.

In October, 23 and 24 Construction Troops under the command of Captain J. H. Pearce mirated to the "Hook of Holland" for six weeks. During this period 7,000 yards of underground cable was laid.

Besides the hard work put in by all, they had plenty of sport and relaxation. Two men of the Troops represented the Garrison in a football match against a Dutch military team. The Garrison won 4—1, the four goals being scored by these two men. The Troops also turned out their own football team, and of five games played, only once were they defeated. Time was also taken off to visit the Hague and Rotterdam, and the unanimous opinion was that they are two really beautiful cities. A surprise to all was the fact that the films were in English, with Dutch sub-titles.

Colonel Roberts of the Royal Signals Association visited us in December and spoke to us of the Association and its work. As a result of this an Old Comrades Association has started in the Unit and the first meeting was held on 19th December, when a committee was elected.

Our next meeting will be held on 17th January, 1950, by which time we hope to be enrolled with the Association Headquarters in London.

Hockey. We were defeated in the Army Cup by the 11th Hussars, score 1—0. It was a hard and fast game, and although we had 80 per cent of the play we were unable to score.

Football. Our Unit team was defeated in the semi-finals of the 7th Armoured Brigade knock-out competition by the Royal Horse Artillery, 4—0.

C.A.F.S.O. BRANCH, H.Q., B.A.F.O.

Marriage

STEVENS.—Corporal J. Stevens, C.A.F.S.O. Branch, H.Q. B.A.F.O. B.A.O.R., to Miss Grace Stevens on 21st December, 1949, at Salisbury, Wiltshire.

Birth

VAUGHAN.—A son, Allan Howard, to S.S.M. and Mrs. Vaughan, C.A.F.S.O. Branch, H.Q. B.A.F.O., B.A.O.R.

BERLIN SIGNAL SQUADRON
B.A.O.R. 2

Since our last contribution a number of important events have taken place, and perhaps the most important of these was the move of the Signal Office from Marina House to Deutschland House. The transferring of such delicate equipment as high speed wireless, automatic exchanges, teleprinters and terminal equipment, etc., was no easy job. Alterations in the new establishment had to be made to suit our requirements, and the Garrison Engineers were continually knocking walls down in one department and building them up in another. Eventually—after much toil and sweat, the move was completed and normal working resumed with negligible delay. There still remains quite a lot of work to be done, but we hope eventually to have one of the finest Signal Offices in the Corps.

No less important was the visit to the Squadron on 12th December of the Secretary of the Royal Signals Association, Colonel A. W. Roberts, M.C. We were very impressed by the method in which he explained to the Unit the object of the existence of the Royal Signals Association. During his talk Colonel Roberts introduced his usual witty cracks; older members of the Corps who have met him before will no doubt remember him as the officer who lectured them at Jubbulpore when they arrived there as a draft before reposting to a Field Unit.

In the evening, all ex-members of the Corps serving in the C.C.G. in Berlin, assembled in the British Legion Club to meet the Secretary. Several old and familiar faces were there to meet him, and remembrances of times way back were freely discussed. As a result of Colonel Roberts' visit we are now in the process of forming our own branch of the Association, and we hope to have a record number of applicants for life and annual membership.

The German children's Christmas party was another brilliant success. On the afternoon of the 22nd December, 264 children, chiefly orphans, assembled in the dining hall and were given a lavish tea. Later, after all "tummies" had been well and truly filled, the children were taken to the visitors' canteen where they were shown a series of Micky Mouse films. The highlight of the afternoon's entertainment was a German Punch and Judy show which the children (and the grown-ups) enjoyed immensely, and the grand finale was the presentation of a toy to each child by Father Christmas—(guess who).

Christmas Day commenced in the usual traditional way. The members of the Sergeants' Mess serving rum and coffee to the other ranks in bed; most of the lads were waiting for this auspicious occasion, but Driver Savage couldn't wait—he was already up and dressed, and was observed playing with his "barra." The Christmas dinner was a grand affair and was served as usual by the Officers, Warrant Officers and Sergeants.

The Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess was not lacking in its Christmas festivities, a bumper draw was held on the evening of the 22nd.



2 INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT
Hilden

The general activities at Hilden over the Christmas and New Year period were in keeping with the festive season. It was, truly, a period where goodwill and good-fellowship prevailed.

The Christmas fare served to the lads by the Officers, Warrant Officers and Sergeants on the 25th was certainly "something to write home about." Full marks and a vote of thanks to Sergeant E. P. Ribbans and his A.C.C. team for the beautifully prepared meals throughout this day in particular. The G.O.C. visited the Mess during the "spread" and talked to many of the members of the Unit, leaving with a touch of cramp after signing so many menus.

Lots of "Upgrading" was in the air during December, and for those who made the grade, a rise in pay in the just reward. Courses were run at which members of other Signal Units in B.A.O.R. attended, and we were very glad to have them with us for a few weeks. To offset this hard work, as many as could be fitted in were sent on leave during this between exercise period. In most cases it was a well-earned rest.

The spotlight was on hockey for this month. Ably led by Captain J. T. Rogers, we won the preliminary round in the B.A.O.R. Championship against 22 Light A.A. Regiment, Royal Artillery. Result 3—0. From there we went on to win by 2 goals to 1 against the 1st Battalion Norfolk Regiment, thus getting into the second round to be played



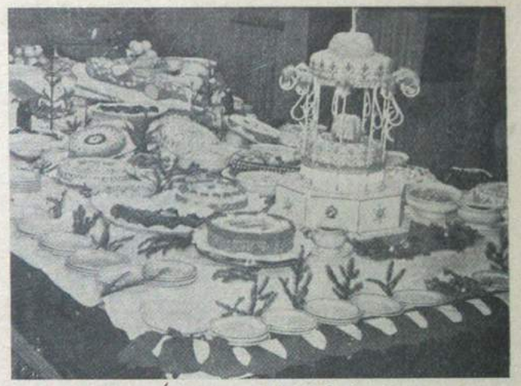
"All India" Night

on 7th January, 1950. While the team as a whole is strong, Sergeant Warren and Corporal Pearce deserve special mention.

The rugby team has played many games, and while the results have in most cases been against us, nothing has been lost in enthusiasm, and after all the game is the thing, and if played hard and clean the result is secondary. The North Rhine Rugby Club on Christmas Eve gave us all a very welcome thirst with which to start the festivities and entertained us to tea and high spirits at the Dusseldorf Yacht Club afterwards. We have a full and interesting fixture list for the rest of the season.

Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess. As usual our two monthly dances were held during December, this time however, they were craftily arranged to take place at the beginning of the month. These and the Mess shoot acted as suitable curtain raisers for the Yuletide festivities.

The shoot, which also acted as a display of military fashions, was attended by the majority of our members. Forty-eight hares fell victims of our eight guns during three hours' shooting.



Part of the "spread" on Boxing Day

The Christmas festivities opened with a party for all the children of the Unit, held in the Mess. The highlight of the party was the telephone conversations of the children with Santa Claus (Sergeant "Aspro' Brandreth) before his arrival in his appropriately decorated jeep and trailer.

After spending Christmas Day in the traditional manner of acting as general fatigue men and waiters, our Christmas started on Boxing Day with a visit to the Officers' Mess followed by Christmas dinner and Mess dance. The 36 prizes offered for the draw were distributed fairly evenly during the interval.

A social afternoon held on Tuesday, 27th December, gave opportunity for the indoor games championships to be decided.

Once again we were honoured by the presence of all the Officers and married families on the occasion of the "Married Families Dance."

With apologies to the ladies we feel compelled to report that the "All India Night," held on 29th December, was the climax of the festivities. With all members dressed in the traditional "shirts outside pyjamas" style we opened with a meal of curry and rice which was devoured by various means due to the deliberate lack of utensils. The frivolities ended with four of our members being baptised in true Mohammedan fashion. In the absence of the Ganges the nearby lake acted as an able substitute for the "Holy Water."

After a well earned and welcome night's rest on Friday, Saturday night brought the New Year's Eve Ball. The majority of members attended in fancy dress, the prizes going to Mrs. Yates as a flower-girl and to Sergeant "Jock" Borthwick for his impromptu impersonation of a haggis—the bill for boot polish is still outstanding!

7 ARMOURED DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT
Celle

R.H.Q., H.Q. and 1 Squadron. Individual training continued this month and we have ended it with a spate of trade boards.

We started the Christmas break with a children's party complete with a Father Christmas who appeared from an extremely fine cardboard chimney. Christmas presents were handed out, a clockwork motor boat or aeroplane for the boys and dolls for the girls. They all had an enormous tea and thanks to the very generous chocolate contributions from the Squadrons every child had at least one bar of chocolate to help make itself feel really ill.

On Christmas day the Officers, Warrant Officers and Sergeants served the men's Christmas dinner, a sumptuous meal

of turkey, Christmas pudding, fruit and beer. Almost twice as many portions as there were men were served out.

Next there was the Sergeants' Mess party, followed by the Officers' cocktail party in which the Officers entertained the Sergeants' Mess and families. The Officers much admired the incredible amount of drink the Sergeants could manage.

We finished off the Christmas season with New Year's Eve dances all round.

A serious music club has been started. The very large attendance at the first meeting was probably due to there being a "jam" session of re-bop and be-pop and similar music just before the meeting.

At hockey we have been knocked out of the Army Cup by the Rifle Brigade.

The Officers' basketball team have by now succeeded in beating the Squadron team.

3 *Squadron, Goslar.* Christmas in the Squadron was, on the whole, enjoyable. An excellent dinner was served by the Officers, Warrant Officers and Sergeants to the men in traditional fashion on Christmas Day. On the day following Boxing Day, the whole Squadron spent a pleasant morning on the .22 rifle range. There were prizes for the best team, and the best shot, who was Lance-Corporal Walker. The holiday finished with a really excellent dance run by Y.M.C.A.

11 AIR FORMATION SIGNAL REGIMENT

Bäckeburg

Berlin Airlift Parade. It was the privilege of Captain Barber, C.A.F.S.O. Branch, Foreman of Signals, S.Q.M.S. Bolton, Lance-Corporal Udell, Lance-Corporal Langden and Signalman Crook to represent the Regiment at a parade held in London on the 7th December, 1949, to commemorate the Berlin Airlift.

The parade assembled at Wellington Barracks and then marched into the quadrangle of Buckingham Palace where His Majesty the King accompanied by Her Majesty the Queen inspected and spoke to many of the personnel. After the inspection by Their Majesties the parade marched to the Guildhall, via the Mall, Strand, Fleet Street and Ludgate Hill, where after an inspection by the Lord Mayor of London, lunch was served.

Christmas was celebrated in a very lively manner by the Regiment and a good time was had by all. Our heartiest thanks must go to Flight-Lieutenant Houghton and Flight-Sergeant Lowe for the marvellous Christmas dinner which they prepared in the Mess. Thanks must also go to Mrs. McKay and her hostesses at the Malcolm Club for the fancy dress ball and other activities which they handled so well for the entertainment of the station.

There have been one or two changes in the Regiment in the last month. 67 Wing Signal Troop have left Schleswigland and have now joined 2 Squadron H.Q. and 53 Construction Troop at Utersen where it is understood they have settled down well.

81 Wing Signal Troop has relieved 31 Construction Troop of their appointment at Buckeburg Airfield which they have held since December, 1947; 31 Construction Troop, on handing over responsibilities to 81 Wing Signal Troop, returned to Buckeburg Barracks.

73 Wing Signal Troop had a rather strenuous time at the beginning of the month but it is good to hear that things have straightened out now. The R.A.F. were laying a new perimeter power cable and a mechanical digger was employed to cut the trench. Not knowing of their location the digger cut through our perimeter, G.C.A. and caravan cables. 73 Wing Signal Troop were called upon to do the jointing and when Sergeant Everest, Corporal Jones and several linemen set out to repair the damage it started to rain and so further complications set in. But everything was straightened out and credit must be given for the prompt action of the Troop.

80 Wing Signal Troop at Wunstorf has also had bother with their underground cables. The recent rain making the sandy soil very heavy, caused two breaks within a week of each other, but owing to quick action by the line mechanics in localising the fault and the linemen in jointing, communications were soon established again.

Very little sport appears to have been played in the last month and the only report that has been received is from 1 Wing Signal Troop in Austria, who have marvellous facilities at the R.A.F. Leave Centre, Lachtalhause, for skiing, skating and other winter sports. It is with envy that the rest of the Regiment hears of this.

On 4th January, the Regiment has been drawn to meet H.Q. B.A.O.R. Signal Regiment in the first round of the Royal Signals Unit Knock-out Boxing Competition.

We wish Corporal Southall, the trainer, and his team, all the best in this and we hope succeeding rounds.

4 A.G.R.A. SIGNAL SQUADRON

Luneburg

For this Squadron, the final festivities began with a party for German children on the afternoon of Thursday, 22nd December, comprising the children of the German staff, plus 30-odd kiddies from a nearby children's home. Fifty children were invited, 56 catered for, and despite the lessons and warnings of previous years, 74 children eventually sat down to tea! Sergeant "Paddy" Newell certainly had a crisis, but eventually managed to miraculously produce the necessary for the additional 18. After a very nice tea, the children were sent into screams of laughter by the clownish antics of Lieutenant Dunn and Signalman Moore, who both clowned surprisingly well with such little practice! A film show followed—of which, after 90 minutes of showing, the kiddies clamoured for more—this was followed by community singing of German carols, etc., instigated by a most realistic Santa Claus, who finished off a really enjoyable party with the issue of novelties, sweets, oranges, apples and chocolates.

A party on very similar lines was given to the British families' children on the afternoon of Friday, 23rd December, but on a somewhat smaller scale, none the less enjoyed by the kiddies. Special thanks are due to Mrs. Howell, wife of Corporal (Arthur) Howell, for the excellent work put in by the purchase of so many novel toys at such economical cost.

A gala dance was held on the Friday evening, in the men's Mess room. Admittance was by invitation only, and ably assisted by about seven lesser inibriates, Lance-Corporal (Jimmy) Weller successfully performed the somewhat thankless task of Master of Ceremonies.

A smoking concert was held in the Mercury Club on the evening of 24th December, during which the prizes of the "swindle" were drawn.

Suplemented by such lesser items as a 400lb. pig, the Christmas Day fare was of the best. Despite the high quality and huge quantity of foodstuffs, Driver "Man Mountain" Hammond amazingly succeeded in getting outside of three full breakfasts and two complete dinners! A feat less capably performed by any other two members of the Squadron.

During the morning of Boxing Day, a comic football match was played on the hockey field—gym shoes by order. The round off to a really enjoyable Christmas, was a block reservation of seats at the Horrocks Theatre, Luneburg, and a jolly good time was had by all.

Sporting activities throughout the month have been mainly confined to soccer, and despite one defeat by 301 E.A.D.C.U., the Squadron maintain their proud position of leaders in the Minor League.

British Troops in Austria

VIENNA SIGNAL SQUADRON

By the time these notes appear in print Christmas will be just a memory. But at present it is still very much in the mind's eye. And the digestive system. The last turkey has gone to its doom, the last fragment of Christmas pudding has been scoffed, and all that remains are a few waistlines which still bulge, and a glazed look which still lingers, in the case of one or two of our more valiant trenchermen. Space will not permit the listing of the complete Christmas menus. Suffice to say that thanks to Captain S. S. Moffett, Sergeant Turner, Corporal Marshall and their Messing staff, some really magnificent meals were turned out. Apart from waiting on the men at dinner, some of the luckless Officers and Sergeants were called upon to entertain on the stage as well. Major McAnsh, Captain Brett, Major Coles, Captain Adams, Sergeants Taylor, Kidd and Sanford, and other well-known vaudeville stars, were included in the Command Performance.

On Boxing Day a Sergeants versus Officers football (sic) match was played. One or two rather interesting variations of F.A. rules were introduced. For instance the type of ball changed frequently, until in the end everyone was pursuing a hockey ball. Then again, teams were allowed to decide which way they would like to kick *during play*, which completely baffled the goalkeepers. Nobody remembers what the score was. Nobody cares. But some rather original costumes were apparent. Sergeant "Knocker" White's famous top hat stood up well to punishment. .

Other events included an all ranks' dance in the Schonbrunn N.A.A.F.I., and two parties for kiddies. The first of these was for poor Austrian children, and the second for children of British families. One of the busiest men was undoubtedly Sergeant Lockwood, who doubled the roles of Punch and Judy with that of Father Christmas. The only thing lacking at Christmas was snow, which has now put in a belated appearance. Incidentally, the number one song on the Squadron hit parade over the Christmas period was "Alouette." We suspect "Knocker" White of being a song plugger on the side . . .

Detailed sports news will have to wait till the next issue, but the soccer team is second in the Vienna League.

MELF

EGYPT COMMAND SIGNAL REGIMENT

Moascar

Cable Thieving in the Canal Zone

In past months we have referred in our WIRE notes to the problems arising from the theft of U.G. cables in the Canal Zone. This cutting of cables has become so intensive that it has had the effect of bringing at least the line element of this Regiment on to the quasi operational basis; and about 90 per cent of our communications are by line. As the circumstances are likely to be of general interest to readers of THE WIRE and of particular interest to past members of the Regiment we are devoting the whole of our space this month to a brief review of what has happened during the past year.

For those who have not served in Egypt recently we must make passing reference to our role in life. The Regiment is designed to operate the static communications for all Army Headquarters and Units in the Canal Zone with the notable exception of G.H.Q. M.E.L.F., which is served by 3 G.H.Q. Signal Regiment at Fayid. Consequently we are very widely dispersed from Port Said to Suez with our main commitments at Port Said, the El Ballah group of camps, Moascar, Fayid, Suez and the old wartime Ordnance depot at Tel-el-Kebir which we were told was going to fold up but seems to be taking an unconscionably long time in dying. For our purpose the Zone is divided into squadron areas with Squadron Headquarters at El Ballah, Moascar (Ismailia) and Fayid. Squadrons are responsible for the maintenance of trunks in their own areas. We have no construction squadron or even construction troop; it was not envisaged that we might become involved in any large scale construction work.

Although the Canal Zone is not large, the distance from Port Said to Suez is barely 100 miles, we have to maintain no less than 638 miles of trunk cable. In most trenches there are more than one cable giving us in all some 305 miles of trench. There is only one short overhead trunk route.

The majority of this cable is 14/40 and there is only 34 miles of 28 pair cable. Almost all the cables are laid along the verge of the Treaty Road. A few of the cables have been in the ground since the war, but the majority were laid for us rather hurriedly by the Egyptian State Telephones and Telegraph under contract in 1946 when the British Army left the Delta. Because they were laid hurriedly they were not laid deep and for the most part they were buried at one about two feet in the sand.

At this depth it is quite easy to dig down, cut the cable or all the cables in a trench, tie the ends to a lorry or camel, pull 200 or 300 yards out of the sand and be away within about 20 minutes.

Another factor which affects our work is that we are living in a foreign country and although we have the co-operation of the Egyptian Police we cannot take drastic action with the use of firearms when we see, or think we see, cable thieves; in any case such action might incite the most unfortunate retaliatory action on our unprotected jointers.

Cable thieving is not a new industry in Egypt, it was carried on during the war and in the succeeding years; but it has only become intensive during the past two years. Nor is it limited to British Army cable, the Egyptian State Telephone and Telegraph Department also suffer but to a lesser extent.

Experience during 1949

The majority of cuts have been at night and our experience shows that generally speaking a gang of thieves have settled on a particular area and worked it until cir-

cumstances have become too hot for them; they then lay off for a bit or move elsewhere.

We have experienced the following number of cuts (each cut two joints) during 1949:

	Squadron Area			
	1 Sqn. (Central)	2 Sqn. (South)	3 Sqn. (North)	Total
January	61	42	21	124
February	9	29	7	45
March	7	28	2	37
April	4	38	—	42
May	7	28	7	42
June	8	42	15	65
July	11	19	12	42
August	10	47	5	62
September	3	48	2	53
October	5	97	10	132
November	7	83	5	95
December	11	30	8	49
Total	143	531	94	768

The total length of cable stolen amounts to 54,431 yards; this gives an average of 71 yards per cut. The approximate cost to the taxpayer for replacing this cable in the ground is in the neighbourhood of £7,600 (estimated at the old rate of £7/3/9 per 100 yards of 14/40).

There is evidence to show that very often the armouring is stripped from the cable very near to the site of the theft and on more than one occasion we have found evidence that the copper and lead have been melted down in the same way.

There are three associated problems. The first is that with the pressure of repair work we have never really succeeded in keeping our records up to date. Cable markers are frequently stolen, quite independently of cable cuts, and of course it has not been practical to insert a cable marker at every new joint made. Consequently in a number of cases loading pots have been stolen without our knowledge. We can only measure the efficiency of the cable by taking the insulation resistance and cross-talk figures. If the efficiency of a cable has become very low we have little option but to take it out of service and break it down into short lengths at least in the area where it has been most mutilated.

The second problem is that we have failed to develop a reasonably accurate electrical method of locating the cuts. If as sometimes happens the thieves take steps to conceal the place of theft by obliterating their marks in the sand the resulting delay in finding the ends of the cable is not always acceptable to higher authority.

A third and almost the most serious associated problem is the migratory habits of our U.G. jointers and test clerks. No sooner have they learnt a little about the problem and position of cables in the ground than they return home on release or python. Incidentally there seems to be very few officers or O.R.s in the Corps with a good knowledge of U.G. work and it was only recently when an experienced T.O.T. was posted to us that we began to recognise some of our shortcomings.

Methods to counter the effects of this intensive cutting have been both offensive and passive. It is clearly not possible to guard the full length of the cables with British troops; however, an extensive system of patrolling has been used. The patrols being found by Infantry and R.A. Units. An alarm is fitted to each cable and this rings in the area maintenance control as soon as a cable is cut, an approximate localisation is made and the information passed out by wireless to the patrol. On paper the scheme seems to be fairly efficient but in practice very few thieves have been intercepted.

On one occasion early in the year when the number of cuts was very excessive 42 Commando were ordered out to rectify the situation. They employed all the ruses which one associates with the Commandos and their efforts in certain areas were highly successful. But the force used was comparatively large and in the circumstances such action could obviously not be used too frequently.

Our passive means of overcoming the trouble is to bury the cables deep. Tests have shown that cable buried at 4 feet 6 inches will not pull out of the sand; if attempted the cable breaks. If the cable is to be stolen from this depth then it must be dug out; this requires a much more extensive operation and it is hoped that our opponents will find the effort not worth while. With this in mind all cable buried to replace that stolen is buried deep.

In the meanwhile the incidence of cuts between Moascar and Port Said and Geneifa and Suez have rendered these cables more or less unserviceable and rather than overhaul them in their present vulnerable position it has been decided to relay them at 4ft. 6ins. 71 and 74 Construction Troops have been placed under our command for this purpose and the work is proceeding. The extent to which this expensive effort will be successful remains to be seen.

Another proposal is to abolish the patrolling system and to employ local ghaffirs to guard the cables. To the Western mind this does not sound a very creditable solution but those who have spent many years in the East think that it may prove at least a partial success.

3 G.H.Q. SIGNAL REGIMENT

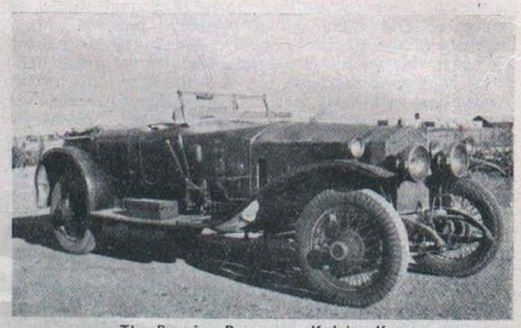
Fayid, M.E.L.F.

The period since our last notes has been a quiet one, both officially and socially. Everyone seems to be saving up surplus energy for Christmas. The work of the Unit goes on as smoothly as ever and the Signal Office staff have been heard to claim some increase in traffic, but not sufficient to cause any undue expenditure of effort.

The main official event was the occasion of an inspection of the Unit by the new M.G.A. M.E.L.F. Everything went off with a minimum of fuss and a maximum of smoothness.

Another feature has been the range practices which have been fired during the last month. The scores appear to have been very good and do NOT include range wardens or members of the butt party. A certain S.S.M. was heard to murmur something about "compulsory education" when he saw some of the butt registers returned, but he seems to have been the only casualty. Further exercise has also come the way of many members of the Unit in the shape of P.E. tests which also started during the month. Several people surprised themselves (and others) with remarkable displays of agility. Your writer hasn't yet been on them but when he does someone would appear to be in for a bad time. He has to be carried for a hundred yards at the run—and he weighs sixteen and a half stone (unloaded weight).

Two distinguished visitors were in the Canal Zone during the month—Lady Baden-Powell (World Chief Guide) and



The Benzine Burner or Kolvins Kar



S.Q.M.S. (F. of S.) Dolbear and wife in Consulate Gardens, Alexandria, after their wedding

the Rt. Hon. Emmanuel Shinwell, the Secretary of State for War. Neither of them, unfortunately, visited our Unit, but it is nice to know that the Canal Zone is still on the map.

We offer our congratulations and good wishes to S.Q.M.S. (F. of S.) Dolbear on his marriage to Miss Maria Santouri. The wedding took place in the British Consulate at Alexandria on Saturday, 10th December and, from an eye-witness description, was a very pleasant wedding. The honeymoon is being spent in Luxor and Asswan.

One final social, or perhaps it should be anti-social, note. Our Adjutant, Captain Meik, has become the proud possessor of a CAR. It has already been given many names, amongst the more polite being "Land Lugger" and "Benzine Burner." Actually, he is one of the few people in this part of the world who can claim to ride around in a Rolls-Royce. Because this the car undoubtedly is—albeit a 1914 (yes, fourteen is correct) model. He is now spending much time and energy on M.T. maintenance and at last report had succeeded in persuading backfires to come out of the back—instead of through the floorboards. Petrol consumption is reported to be in the region of 8 g.p.m.—or should that be the other way round. It's at least sufficiently high to make an English "basic" look very sorry for itself. But, in spite of these various rude remarks, it is a tribute to the traditional Rolls workmanship that, apart from a deterioration in looks inevitable with age, the car can still hold its own with most of the cars out here.

As for sport in the Unit. The only members of our sporting fraternity who cannot really be said to be on the up and up are our Unit soccer team. They are rather going in the reverse direction having lost most of their recent matches. This is not the fault of individual players, however, but largely due to the fact that it has been almost impossible to get a properly integrated team together due to constant personnel changes. They are by no means downhearted and promise that they will recover their former glory once a fairly constant team can be got together. For the other sports we can present a more cheerful picture. The rugger team has won the balance of its matches and looks like going from strength to strength in spite of damage to some of the stalwarts such as Captain Willis and Lance-Corporals Steele and O'Brien. In the cross-country league the Unit team is already a fixture amongst the top three and shows every promise of doing even better. Preliminary trials have also been held with a view to forming a Unit boxing team, and we seem to have found some useful "talent." Altogether a very satisfactory showing. In the Troop soccer league the fight for leadership goes on between H.Q. Administration and Operators, though the Signal Office is moving into a challenging position and may soon make it a three-cornered battle.

1 INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT

Tripoli

The months of November and December have seen us busy with collective training. There have been three Divisional exercises, each being more comprehensive than the one before.

The final exercise, "Bounder," was a comparatively large scale affair with enemy actually on the ground and air support for both sides. Divisional H.Q. was attacked by enemy shock troops and although they had some initial success they were finally wiped out by the Signal Office staff and others who reacted quickly to the situation, and under the command of Captain Fountain completely surprised the enemy by suddenly blocking the road with a vehicle. We finished the exercise with five stens, a dagger and a bag full of thunderflashes to the good.

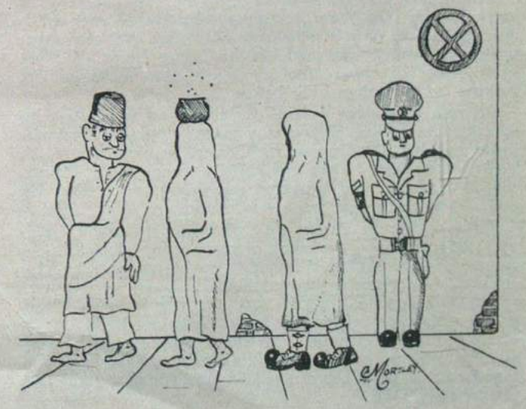
Communications worked well. The linemen however, had a hard time as having laid a 15 mile line to the leading brigade it was sabotaged by enemy agents so they found it impossible to keep it through.

We had our legs pulled by the security section, one of whom acting as an enemy agent entered the Divisional Signal Office and stated that if there was anything for Guards Brigade he would take it. He was, without question immediately handed the outstanding packages, some of which were marked SECRET, and that was that! With our British characteristic of trusting almost anybody it is a point to be remembered if we ever go to war again.

Having finished this exercise, preparations for Christmas became top priority.

The festivities began with a children's party in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess, followed by a special evening for men only.

Both were a great success and the children having first



seen some Charlie Chaplin films and been for a ride in the "Christmas Special," a very odd looking train "built" and driven by Sergeant Burgess, then ate a huge tea and finished up with getting a present from Father Christmas. Miss Gay, aged three, daughter of our R.S.M., sang us a carol as a solo. A very good effort for one so young.

The social that followed developed into a games match against the officers. The final result was never recorded but even if the Warrant Officers and Sergeants did win the Boat Race, they get more practice of course, the officers did get their own back at "Tip It."

During the holiday period there were football matches, cinema shows in the barracks and a concert in the Pigeon Club canteen at which Sergeant and Mrs. Brierley provided the star turn.

The football match—Officers and Sergeants v. Other Ranks, ended in a draw after a lot of excitement. Although very tired at the end the former thought it might be called a draw in their favour as someone did score a "try" in the second half.

An inter-troop seven-a-side knock-out competition was also played. This produced some good matches. In the semi-finals R.H.Q. and S.H.Q. beat "O" Troop, and A/B Troop beat C/D Troop. In the final R.H.Q. and S.H.Q. just got home against A/B Troop and so won a free supper in the N.A.A.F.I.

Christmas Day followed the usual traditional routine. The cooks provided a very good dinner which was enjoyed by all. They themselves had their Christmas dinner two days later in the Pigeon Club.

There had been a procession of Troopers stopping here in Tripoli, both homeward and outward bound. R.S.M. Gay and family have departed for leave in the U.K., Corporal Snellin, our number two cook, accompanied them on release, and Sergeant Stork and family on Python.

The football team scored their first success of the season by beating 595 Ordnance Depot 3—1. A newcomer, Signalman Hill (D Troop) at left-back, has greatly strengthened our defence.

The hockey team have not settled down as well as was hoped and have been beaten by the 4/7 Royal Dragoon Guards and 1 Battalion Grenadier Guards. With a little more practice the team will improve.

[One cartoon has been held over owing to pressure on space.—ED.]

ATHENS AREA SIGNAL TROOP

Greece

After the heat and the dust of Greek summer, an occasional autumn shower has brought up the flowers and grass, and the days now have the sunny crispness of an English spring. Those of you who have been here will remember the garden which was made in the Troop Lines. We are now seeing the reward for our labour, and the Lines are looking brighter than ever before.

On 14th November we had our annual administrative inspection, for which, as you may guess, a special effort was made by all. The Inspecting Officer, Brigadier J. H. N. Poett, accompanied by the C.S.O., Colonel A. S. Milner, toured the Lines and inspected the Troop on parade. We understand the report was very favourable.

Trips to Mount Parnis are still being organised. This very attractive spot, the scene of many troop picnics in the summer, is now no less pleasant in November, and the trips are even more popular than previously. Besides the flowers which have appeared, 4,000ft. up, mistletoe is to be found, so our Christmas celebrations will at least not be lacking in one old English custom. Christmas promises to be very successful, as we have a pig and a dozen turkeys being fattened up, in pens constructed by the linemen (with the assistance of D8).

With the cooler weather the Troop dances are even more popular, and we spend some very happy evenings in the Unit canteen every other Saturday.

Our Unit has now received orders for disbandment, as have all others in Athens, and we are all very sorry to be leaving Greece. No other nation could possibly have treated British troops with more continuous friendliness and kindness. Our memories of our stay in Greece will always remain some of our happiest.

K TROOP

Greece

The big event of the month for us was the visit of the C.S.O. Mideast, Major-General W. O. Bowen, C.B., C.B.E., who, unfortunately had so many engagements to fulfil that he was unable to stay with "K" Troop as long as we would have liked him to.

Everyone here is now preparing for the pending move to Cyprus. Our advance party is due to leave in a few days' time on the M.V. *Westralia*.

Of course, with the month being December, almost everyone spent a lot of their time getting merry on the local drink of Retzina. Christmas Day was spent in the traditional way with the O.C. and S.S.M. Hague "waiting on" at the Christmas dinner. Quite a few of the Chaps had invitations to various Greek homes and were able to see how well our Greek friends celebrated Christmas.

In closing may we wish all our fellow members of the Corps, both past and present all the very best for 1950, and in particular we should like to say how grateful we are to the 16th Regiment of Foot (The Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire) in whose barracks we have been living, and to wish them all the very best in their new station.

The 2nd Divisional Signal Company, 1914-15

(*continued from page 51*)

N.W. Europe 1943-45, Director of Signals 1946. He was awarded the Legion of Merit, U.S.A., and Officer Legion of Honneur.

Colonel R. M. Powell, D.S.O., R.A., became in turn A.D. Signals 10th Corps, 23rd Corps, then C.S.O. 2nd Corps on the Rhine. Later he was C.S.O. Western Command during which time he transferred to the Royal Corps of Signals and afterwards he commanded A Corps Signals and in 1925 became C.S.O. British Troops in Egypt, retiring in 1931.

Colonel G. E. Sampson, D.S.O., Inniskilling Fusiliers, held commands of Signal Companies in Egypt and also of the 4th Division Signals before going to Aldershot as C.S.O. in 1934. He was for some time officer in charge of Royal Signal Corps Records before he retired.

Major C. J. Phipps, D.S.O., M.C., King's Liverpool Regiment, commanded the 2nd Signal Company later in the 1914-18 war and died at the end of that war.

Major Ben Howorth, R.E., S.R., left the 2nd Signal Company at end of 1915 and after training 2nd line companies at home during 1916 he commanded the 30th Signal Company in France. Later he was Commandant of the 4th and 5th Army Signal Schools and finally D.A.D. Signals 5th Army. He retired on age limit and continued in his profession as a Civil Engineer till 1948.

Lieutenant H. C. Crone was an architect and his diagram work on lines was especially useful. He returned to his practice after the 1914-18 war.

FARELF

The Visit of the Director of Signals to FARELF, 4th-18th November, 1949

We were recently honoured by a visit from the Director of Signals. This is a somewhat historic occasion as General Scott is the first Director to set foot in F.A.R.E.L.F.

After certain changes and delays of aircraft the Director arrived at Tengah airfield at about 7.30 p.m. on Friday, 4th November, having travelled practically non-stop from Rome. A tiring performance.

However, the Director appeared in remarkably good spirits and departed for Flagstaff House, where he stayed with General Sir John Harding till Monday morning.

Saturday morning was spent at G.H.Q. and visiting the G.O.C. and C.S.O.'s staff, Singapore District. That evening the Director was able to meet most of the Royal Signals officers and wives, resident on Singapore island, at a small party at G.H.Q. Signals Mess.



The Director of Signals with Lieutenant-Colonel E. J. F. Heap, O.C., Malaya District Signal Regiment

Monday 7th was spent in Kuala Lumpur.

On Wednesday 9th we set out for Hong Kong. After a somewhat uneventful flight, we found Kai Tak airfield concealed by a carpet of low cloud. After circling round for about an hour, occasionally getting glimpses of the sea and some very inhospitable looking hill tops, the pilot unexpectedly opened up everything and we discovered we were off to Manila for the night. At that time the Phillipines were on the edge of a typhoon and the centre of a General Election with its consequent riots. Fortunately, neither of these things caused us any trouble. There was one unusual circumstance—no one had any use for our money. I have at times found it difficult to get reasonable value for my pound, but never before has a room boy or his equivalent refused a tip because it was valueless.

We arrived at Hong Kong without further incident just about in time to start the programme, as originally arranged.

We found 40 Division in good heart, went on to look at the New Territories and called on the Commando Brigade. We then returned to the island and left the Director at Flagstaff House to stay with the G.O.C.-in-C., Sir Robert Mansergh. We left Hong Kong on the Saturday, arriving well ahead of schedule at Tengah. The Director spent a few days at the Chief of Staff's house before returning to stay with me.

A morning was spent at H.Q. F.E.A.F. and an afternoon doing an air recce of some jungle country.

During the course of his stay the Director met the three Commanders-in-Chief and was entertained by H.E. The Commissioner General and H.E. The Governor of Hong Kong.

We can only hope that the somewhat strenuous programme backed up by a number of evening parties and dinners did not prove too exhausting. The visit was of the utmost value to us and we hope the Director enjoyed it half as much as we did. True to form the weather played up magnificently and made it rather difficult to say, at frequent intervals, "I don't know what's happened to the climate, it's usually stinking hot!"

F.P.L.G.

G.H.Q. SIGNAL REGIMENT, FARELF

Singapore

The past month or two has been a little unusual and hectic from our point of view—the G.O.C. decided to carry out his annual inspection of this Regiment.

Spit and polish then became the order of the day. Parades were held and rehearsed in places where they had never been rehearsed before and a Signalman who had been "up" before the C.O. in the morning could quite easily find himself taking the salute at the march past rehearsal in the afternoon.

We were finally inspected by the G.O.C., Major-General D. Dunlop, C.B., C.B.E., who expressed himself well pleased with all that he saw of the Unit and camp.

During the visit of the Director of Signals, Major-General W. A. Scott, C.B.E., to this Command, the Regiment had the honour of not only acting as hosts to a cocktail party in the Officers' Mess but also of having him as the guest of honour at a Regimental dinner. Almost exclusively Signals (Chief of Staff, F.A.R.E.L.F., Major-General J. N. Kirkman, C.B., C.B.E., was also a honoured guest) the night was a happy and enjoyable one. Other guests included the C.S.O. F.A.R.E.L.F., Brigadier F. P. L. Gray, D.S.O., O.B.E., and the C.S.O. Singapore District, Colonel H. D. Mountford.

As these notes are being written this Regiment has just been informed that His Majesty has approved the follow-

ing operational awards for service in Malaya and Singapore.

The M.B.E. to R.Q.M.S. H. W. J. Hickman and Mention in Despatches to S.S.M. V. H. Humby of the Army Wireless Chain Squadron.

Our heartiest congratulations to them both.

The sporting activities of our Unit continue to thrive in spite of our "Little Monsoon Season," which like all seasons anywhere is never at the right time.

We have an off period for soccer at the moment, but rugby is going great guns. The Unit XV is averaging two games per week. Taking on anyone, including civilian and Service sides on the island. Results so far have been good in spite of a few players' lack of experience.

One Corps match against the R.A.O.C. has so far been played and won 11—6. Thirteen of the team were chosen from this Regiment. Hockey has also a full season. All Service teams are being met. Out of 15 games so far played we have only been beaten once so far. That by the R.A.F., Changi. Revenge, however, was sweet on the return match.

Badminton is also gaining in popularity. Some of our Malay other ranks of whom we have nearly a hundred—are good but some of the B.O.R.s are not far behind.

Having the advantage of two excellent hard courts within the Units Lines, tennis is always popular and a Unit Tennis Championship is being considered in the near future.

GURKHA SIGNAL TRAINING AND HOLDING WING

Kuala Lumpur

The beginning of October was notable for a general return to normal routine after the Dushera festival, much in the same way as January, the first of any year, is a signal for British troops to come down to earth after the yearly Christian festive season. Last month we reported in some detail our Dushera activities but unfortunately were unable to include any photographs. We enclose two fairly reasonable ones of the "Headcutting Ceremony" with this contribution. In the first Lance-Corporal Manbahadur Gurung is about to decapitate the young buffalo, a split second later it had happened in no uncertain manner, and in the second, that rather proud young Gurkha is shown receiving the traditional monetary reward from the O.C. for so doing.

Important visitors during October, were the C.-in-C. F.A.R.E.L.F., Lieutenant-General Sir John Harding, K.C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., the G.O.C. Malaya District, Major-General Boucher, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., who is also "Major-General, Brigade of Gurkhas," Brigadier Leonard, O.B.E., Chief Recruiting Officer British Gurkhas, India, and finally a second visit by the C.S.O. Malaya District, Colonel J. W. Gordon, accompanied by his relief, Colonel K. E. Holmes. We offer the latter a hearty welcome to Malaya.



Lance-Corporal Manbahadur Gurung about to decapitate the buffalo



Receiving his reward from the O.C.

The 7th November was an auspicious day; we were visited by the Director of Signals, Major-General W. A. Scott, C.B.E. A very important visit this because as a small new type of Royal Signals Unit we are naturally anxious to identify ourselves as a proper member of the Corps. The Director gave us the impression that he was very interested in what he saw and heard and displayed considerable knowledge of the traits of the Gurkha soldier.

The keenness shown by our Gurkha trainees is surprising; their eagerness to learn untiring. Oft in the stilly watches of the night the Orderly Officer will hear, long before he detects the slippered sentry, "Hullo all Stations Ablel, Baker, Charlie," etc., etc., said with a grim insistance which would hearten any flagging and wearied instructor. Despite previous reputation earned by the camp before we came, we have not yet been pilfered by the local inhabitants who surround us. Maybe the combination of such muttered incantations and a ready kukri is sufficient rein on their superstitious impulses.

Training is going with a swing, the Owls and Linemen coming on by leaps and bounds, and the D.R.s going bumpety-bump with some casualties. We have at last received a number of "bog wheels" for the latter, to help teach the art of balance on two wheels. By this time most of the potential D.R.s had managed to achieve a fair state of equilibrium on a motor-cycle. To our mortification and surprise, however, we had to make a completely fresh start with the bicycles. Eventually, all things being possible, they can now ride both types of vehicle.

Under normal conditions one of the engaging qualities of our G.O.R. trainee is that he has considerable faith in the veracity of his instructors. On occasion it wobbles, however, as the following incident shows. The class was told that when the generator handle of the telephone was turned, the bell on the other instrument of the demonstration model would ring. The handle was turned, the bell did not ring. General consternation, and then a cry of "Electricity Chhaina!" (which means in English "Juice not is"). The ruffled instructor considered this lack of faith unjustifiable so the class held hands, the outer men held the wire and the instructor turned the handle. An old method of persuasion admittedly, but faith restored thereby.

The front cover shows one of the Linemen squads under instruction practising a river crossing. This is the type of country they will have to work in, in Malaya, when they have completed training. It may surprise you to know that the river and jungle is at the bottom of our garden, so to speak, in that it bounds two sides of our camp. It's only a small piece of jungle and there are no bandits in it, but it is very useful for training.



Jemedar Birendrasing Gurung is Second-in-Command Training under Captain J. I. Parkinson, Royal Signals. He came from 2/6 Group in Hongkong. This King's Gurkha Officer was Signal Officer of his Battalion before he came, and his background and experience are proving most valuable to our training organisation. He is the son of a famous Gurkha Officer, namely Hon. Captain Chankhe Gurung, O.B.I. 4/4 G.R.

Sport. Our main relaxation is soccer. The G.O.R.s have displayed a terrific zest for this game. We have coveted eyes on the Brigade of Gurkhas "Nepal Cup," which is competed for annually by all British Gurkha Units. We have the makings of a team with the right energy and spirit, and an able coach in Sergeant Goldring. Games with other teams this season have been few because our main effort is bent on developing talent within the Unit first. Results of the four representative games played so far are, won two, drawn one and lost one.



Linemen training in typical country. — See also front cover

We still seem to be the centre of the "inspection wheel," for during this month we were visited by the Director General of Military Training. His visit was necessarily short but he wanted to, and did, see almost everything. The Chief Signal Officer of the Police also paid us a visit and was very impressed with the efforts made and results obtained.

We don't brag about sport yet, but we would like to have it on record that we beat Malaya District Signal Regiment 2—1 and 2/7 Gurkha Rifles 2—1. It might also be recorded that H.Q. Malaya District beat us 6—2.



Jemedar Dhanbahadur Gurung is acting as Jemedar/Adjutant of the Unit. Came to us from 2/2 K.E.O. Gurkha Rifles, and, as his cheerful mien indicates, is quite pleased about it. So are we

MALAYA DISTRICT SIGNAL REGIMENT

Kuala Lumpur

Major-General Scott paid us a flying visit on 7th November; on arrival he was met by the C.O. who introduced to him the Officers and senior N.C.O.s. He was then shown round the Regimental H.Q., including of course the Signal Office. He expressed his satisfaction with everything he saw. We are sorry his visit was so short.

On 8th November, we organised a dinner at the Station Hotel, Kuala Lumpur, for all Signal Officers in the Federation. This was in every way a great success. Some 23 officers attended and apart from affording a chance for us all to get together—a thing which is rarely possible nowadays—it also served as an opportunity for us to say good-bye to our C.S.O., Colonel J. W. Gordon, who is leaving to take up an appointment in England, and to welcome his successor, Colonel K. E. Holmes. Our thanks go to Captains Smith and Fuller for all the hard work they put in to ensure the success of this function.

The question of leave is always difficult due to continuous operational commitments. We do, however, manage to send six men down to Port Dickson (approximately 70 miles away) every week-end, where they can lie in the sun on the palm-fringed sands and bathe all day long in a sea that's so warm its almost unbelievable. We find these quiet week-end picnics are a great benefit to health and minds.

2 Squadron are even luckier as they are not far from one of the main leave centres in Malaya—Penang—the Jewel of the East. Whenever possible, they send a few for the week-end, and do we envy them!

Following note received as a second instalment:

First, we would like to extend our hearty congratulations to our C.O., Lieutenant-Colonel E. J. F. Heap on being awarded the O.B.E.

We also congratulate the following on the awards shown: Sergeant Martin, 1 Squadron, Mention in Despatches; Lance-Corporal Hurst, 2 Squadron, British Empire Medal; Lance-Corporal Goucher, 2 Squadron, Mention in Despatches; Signalman Stevens, 2 Squadron, Mention in Despatches.

We feel justly proud of the credit they have brought on the Regiment.



The Director of Signals being introduced to the W.O.s and Senior N.C.O.s of Malaya District Signal Regiment

SINGAPORE DISTRICT SIGNAL REGIMENT

Good-byes are the main feature of our story this month.

Our first regret is that we cease to be actively associated with Major J. Tidey and his Squadron ("D"), which rejoined Malaya District Signals at the beginning of this month. We hold very pleasant memories of our work and play together and feel sure that they will acquit themselves in both of those spheres as well up in the Ulu as they have in Johore.

Salamat berpisah, happy hunting, many bandits, and good—but then we know the communications will be good.

Captain Q.M. Bosher has left these pleasant surroundings for the fogs and noise of Chelsea. His loss will be keenly felt. His prowess on the cricket and hockey field is well known. He represented the Corps and the Regiment at both games. His happy knack of hitting innumerable sixes and fours has often changed pessimism to optimism. We trust that he and his will be as happy in their new as they were in their old sphere.

Our last good-bye is to the rubber forest of Yio Chu Kang. A departure that is viewed with mixed feelings. The move is not yet completed as "A" and H.Q. Squadrons are still in the transitory stage. Our new home is to be Ayer Rajah and Calcutta Camps. These camps are situated at the Alexandra end of Ayer Rajah Road. Many ex-Singaporeites may remember it as a beauty spot. (Sunsets and Tiger beer at the Gap). Now it is somewhat barren. Bulldozers do not strew rose petals in their wake. Moves of Units always mean plenty of work and when we look beyond the work the future is not too unpleasant to contemplate. Time will tell.

The fortunate few who somehow manage to get away on leave are still able to bathe and laze at the Changi leave camp. It is situated on the eastern end of the island which is cooler and possesses better bathing facilities than the rest of it. It must be very pleasant to get away for a few days and leave behind too frequent guard duties and other little things that irk.

Another happy facility that is available to troops in this area is that of being able to take leave in such far away places as Ceylon and Hong Kong by troopship and Australia by R.A.F. planes. By these modes of travel it is at least inexpensive and consequently is becoming more and more popular. "Seeing the world" is Corporal Cracknell, who has already holidayed at Penang and Hong Kong and has now applied for a spell in Australia.

This Regiment looks forward to a New Year spent in new surroundings, because ere the New Year is rung in, we shall have marched out. Yio Chu Kang will know us no more. We can never forget "Yio Chu Kang take it or leave it." Much as we disliked having to take it, in leaving it, a stroll round showing bare patches with small ditches marking where tents once stood, and many other signs of the evacuation makes one wonder if it is not a parallel to the migration of birds and whether or not we are leaving summer for winter.

"A" Squadron have now left for the new abode and only the remnants of H.Q. Squadron remain.

A blind ex-Signalman, Mr. Chris Williams, of 36 Tudor Road, Kingston Hill, Surrey, collects used razor blades, which he sells in aid of the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association. We have been in touch with Mr. Williams, who says that he would be most grateful if any members who can help him in this object by sending him their old blades for disposal.

19 AIR FORMATION SIGNAL REGIMENT

Changi, Singapore

Since our last notes we have said good-bye to Lieutenant-Colonel R. Webb, who carries with him our good wishes for the future. We welcome Lieutenant-Colonel E. C. Thompson, O.B.E., with whom we look forward to a happy and united period of service.

With repatriations exceeding reinforcements and work still remaining at the same level we are hard pressed. The Malayan increments to the Regiment have proved their worth and are of first-class value. Up to present, we have been predominantly Malayan but soon we expect Chinese to be posted in.

Hari Raya Puasa and Hari Raya Haji, the two most important holidays of our Malay personnel, were suitably celebrated, the former by a substantial Makan Besar to which the Commanding Officer and Officers were invited, and the second by a very good Malayan variety show (including a fire eater) held in the Malayan camp.

Changi looks green and pleasant as ever and is fast becoming the "Brighton" of Singapore Island. Everyone remains in good health and spirits, despite the odd moments of supreme "flap." Although the "bottom of the pot" has almost been reached, we have managed to send certain juniors on a local drill and duty course.

Education is in full swing for all grades. The Regiment obtained a 100 per cent pass with 3rd Class candidates, and we are now waiting for the result of the 2nd Class examination.

On working out various statistics, we find that of our 12 Officers their average age is 40 years and service 19 years. Is this a record?

R.S.M. S. K. Miller has been appointed Chairman, Mess Committee, Changi R.A.F. Station Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess.

Correct us if we are wrong, but we don't think the fact has yet been mentioned in these notes that Colonel T. A. R. Scott, C.A.F.S.O., H.Q. F.E.A.F., is Commodore of the R.A.F. Yacht Club.

You may or may not be aware that Officers of this Regiment normally live in the Air Headquarters (Malaya) Officers' Mess which, by courtesy of the Air Officer Commanding, Air Vice-Marshal F. J. Mellersh, C.B.E., D.F.C., we have been invited to regard as our own. It was appreciated by all of us as a proud occasion when, at the farewell dinner to Air Marshal Sir Hugh P. Lloyd, K.B.E., C.B., M.C., D.F.C., Commander-in-Chief, Far East Air Force, the toast of our Colonel-in-Chief was called after the Loyal Toast. As far as we are aware, this is the first time that the toast of our Colonel-in-Chief has been called in a Royal Air Force Mess.

In the hockey field the Regiment at time of writing is top of the R.A.F. Changi Inter-Section League, having won all matches played. The first game of the Badminton League was played on Sunday, 27th November, with a Malay team representing the Regiment versus 110 Squadron, R.A.F. Result, a win for the Regiment.

On the anniversary of Battle of Britain and Armistice Day, this Regiment provided a party to attended the R.A.F. parade on Changi Station.

THE ARMY WIRELESS CHAIN SIGNAL SQUADRON

We are now firmly established as an Independent Squadron attached to G.H.Q. Signal Regiment, F.A.R.E.L.F.

Our Squadron although small in numbers has a second to none sports record of any Squadron in F.A.R.E.L.F. The football team had two of its members picked for the Army team and seven at one time represented the Corps in Singapore. Its record in the 1948 season was also very good; we won the G.H.Q. F.A.R.E.L.F. League championship, the knock-out cup and completed the hat-trick by winning the G.H.Q. Signal Regiment Hammond Cup for good measure. In 1949 we were the winners of the league and finalists in the knock-out cup. The Hammond Cup this year is for hockey and we hope to carry this off as well. The G.H.Q. Signal Regiment Athletics Championship was carried off very comfortably, too.

Although not strong enough to field a rugger side we have seven members in the Corps team.

Our social life is composed of dances and bottle parties, held at the least excuse, either at our Receiver Station at Buona Vista, the Transmitter Station at Changi Road or the Shackles Club in Singapore.

A LINK IN THE CHAIN

40 INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT

Hong Kong

Since the last publication of these notes, the Unit has settled itself down into a more or less permanent camp. However, the "odd" scheme rears its head, to be quickly submerged by yet another. The last one proved that the Dragon can wag its tail—as convoys of vehicles were carefully herded round the New Territories by the R.M.P., with the help of our wireless detachments, of course.

In the midst of all these happenings we have found time to hold a trade board for all trades, and approximately 50 chaps were suitably tested before Christmas. The preview of results looks encouraging, with 50 per cent passes overall.

Christmas came upon us, but went all too soon. However, we had time to carry out the usual traditions of the time. At the Christmas dinner, we were entertained by the very unexpected visit of Lance-General H . . ., who delivered a very fine speech, and then proceeded to whip the officers into a frenzy of activity in serving the Christmas meal.

An auction of the C.O.'s caravan, listed as being fully equipped for jungle warfare, took place. We are glad to record that the sum of 22 dollars has NOT been accepted. However, a reserve price of 50 dollars has been placed upon the vehicle by persons unknown.

Christmas was one long line of activities—there was an inter-troop knock-out basketball competition, which took place on Boxing Day, and this was followed in the afternoon by an excellent fun fair. Perhaps it wasn't quite what one would expect at Butlin's Holiday Camp, but nevertheless, it was very enjoyable, and a good time was had by all.

The following day we had treasure hunts, tombola, whist drives, and in the evening, a concert party took place in the swimming pool—now empty, of course—where for days previously bridging material, M.A.L. poles, D8, spun yarn and canvas had all been lashed together to provide quite a substantial stage. We even managed to have the correct full lighting, thanks to Corporal Dickie of "M" Troop. The show, which lasted for two hours, was a great success, much delight being caused when Captain Metcalf, in an Officers Crazy Gang turn, was covered in whitewash, and when later in the turn Captain Turner had the entire contents of a bucket of water thrown upon him! In the interval, we had the grand Christmas draw, for which the R.S.M. had been selling his 50 cent tickets for many days. But the prizes well justified all that was spent, and there were a total of about 50 altogether, which went round quite well.

In the field of sports we have been gaining honours, the hockey team having won five and lost one game, and this one was against a team representing the whole of 28 Brigade. The football team, too, has only lost one game, and, we say this in a whisper, they met a team very much their masters, and were defeated by—hush, eleven goals. But their morale is still high. Cross-country practice takes

place every Wednesday afternoon, and some fine runners are being turned out to form a Unit team. And yet a further activity has been added, we now have a rifle range constructed at the back of the camp (in the mountain). By way of film shows, we have the regular visit once a week by the A.K.C., and in addition have managed to find a very good source of recent films in Kowloon, which we are able to show over our own projector. This we do twice a week, which means three separate film shows every seven days—not bad going.

21 FIRE COMMAND SIGNAL TROOP, 27 A.A. REGIMENT

Hong Kong

We have, however, settled down here, and on the whole, are liking it very much.

We find the climate of Hong Kong rather like England—unpredictable. I have never seen drawers-woollen put on and cast off so many times in one week. The old-timers assure us that the "Typhoon" season is over, which is a blessing as our detachments on mountain-tops tend to imitate the mole on such occasions. During the summer we had some glorious weather and had almost decided to move the Troop H.Q. to Shekko Beach, but alas, the rains came!

Well, I suppose it has to be mentioned some time or other—WORK. Many people ask, "What is a Fire Command Signal Troop?"—as did we when we arrived at Scarborough for our mobilisation, but we have learnt since, and feel it only fair to let you into the secret.

As we serve an Anti-Aircraft Regiment, R.A., it would not be giving anything away to say that they have various gun positions scattered around the area (usually in the most inaccessible places, much to the S.O. III (Lines) disgust!). Well, these guns require information concerning targets, restriction of fire, hostile and friendly aircraft, etc., and this information is gathered together in the Anti-Aircraft Operations Room, manned by a Fire Command Troop, R.A., and we are here to see that it gets to the guns —or else.

Before closing, may we express our grateful thanks to all concerned at 5 A.A. Group (M) Signal Regiment, Scarborough, whose task it was to "organise" us and despatch us aboard H.M.T. *Dilwara*. Our stay with you was very short but extremely pleasant.

CARIBBEAN AREA SIGNAL SQUADRON

Kingston, Jamaica

First of all, we would like to wish all members and ex-members of the Corps the best of everything for 1950.

Space does not allow the description of all our activities over the Christmas period, but here are a few notes.

An "educational" trip was organised for the Squadron to visit the local brewery on Friday, 12th December. After an hour's tour and deliberation by the manager as to how the brew is made, the delegation retired to his office to taste the finished product.

The Squadron Christmas dinner was held on Thursday, 22nd December, at the local Union Jack Club. All round, it was a very successful evening.

With the General Election in Jamaica on 20th December, operating troop were standing by. There were no incidents, and after one or two sleepless nights, we stood down to stand up for the Christmas festivities. The recent U.K. arrivals to the troop have now completely settled down.

To members of 5 Squadron, 4 Training Regiment, our two "figure shufflers" here are the corrupt gentlemen, W.O.2 "Cheesey" Cheshire and Sergeant "Spud" (Airborne) Taylor. Enough said.

Although no league games are being played until January, the Squadron has been "limbering up" at football and hockey.

Our hockey XI beat the Sappers 2—0 and R.A.P.C. 7—3 during December, and lost to British Overseas Services.

The football XI have beaten R.A.O.C. 13—1 and drawn with R.A.M.C. 1—1.

THE PAKISTAN SIGNAL CORPS

On 15th October, the Signal Training Centre was honoured with a visit from Field Marshal Sir William Slim, the C.I.G.S. He arrived at eleven o'clock accompanied by the Commander-in-Chief, at Gharial, where the Boys' Regiment, with its Band and Colours, was drawn up to receive him. After the C.I.G.S. had inspected the parade the Commander-in-Chief fulfilled a long-standing promise, and presented the Boys' Regiment Band with a drum major's staff. After the presentation the Boys' Regiment trooped its colours in a very impressive and workmanlike fashion. The confidence of the Company, Regimental and Guard Commanders was particularly noticeable. As good as the Guards? Well, We had one Guardsman spectator and he did not seem unduly upset, so perhaps we were not too bad.

In the afternoon we had the Signal Training Centre sports, for a part of which Field Marshal Slim and the Commander-in-Chief were able to stay. This year the Workshops Company took the championship shield from



The Commander-in-Chief presenting the Drum-Major's staff to the Drum-Major of the Boys' Regiment



The C.I.G.S. takes the salute as the Boys' Regiment marches past. With him are the Commander-in-Chief and Major N. J. Coslett, commanding the Boys' Regiment

the Boys' Regiment, who won it last year, but only after a close tussle. The final scores were:

Workshops Company (Technical Training Regiment)	102
Boys' Regiment	91
Military Training Regiment	80
Operating Company (Technical Training Regiment)	75
Line/M.T. Company (Technical Training Regiment)	34

The day finished with a cocktail party in the Officers' Mess, at Gharial, where prohibition was given an appropriate welcome.

Yes, Prohibition is among us again in the West Punjab. However, those who wish to drink can get a permit to do so, which seems a very reasonable form of Prohibition.

The Army Sports Championships were held recently in Rawalpindi. The Corps was represented, and did reasonably well, but would have done a lot better had more adequate notice of the championships been given. We hope that this will be rectified next year.

59 Officer Cadets from our Cadet Training Wing have just passed out and taken their place as Officers of the Corps. We wish them all success and hope that they will be happy and worthy members of our community.

Captain A. A. Khokhar, Staff Officer to the Commandant, Signal Training Centre, has just left Pakistan to take his place on the Provisional Frequency Board at Geneva, replacing Captain Siddiqui, who has been there for the last year. We hope that we shall continue to get our pound of aether.

Captain Mahboob, whom many will remember in the old days as a V.C.O., is retiring to enjoy a well earned pension. We wish him all happiness after his long and valuable service. And so we end this edition of notes from Pakistan with good wishes to all of our friends in Royal Signals.

LEAVE

By **S.S.M. F. I. MANSARY**

One day I was granted 34 days annual leave. After two days' journey on board the troop train, I arrived in my village where I met my father, brothers and other friends at the station laughing, loving and peaceful when they saw me. In the evening my father and mother arranged a traditional dance for me; with the kind permission of the village chief. The dance was delightful to the eyes and general of traditional significance, mostly representing devil play called the Yavie Society and Yandidi. The drums of the ancient warriors were in attendance. The dancers were dressed in bright natives clothes; drinking palm wine, jumping over heads and enjoying themselves. Traditional dances of this kind are an important feature in many parts of the country. At the conclusion of the dance, upon the appreciation, my village chief gave me a present of £2 (two pounds), two fowls, one bushel of clean rice, etc., followed with short introduction by my chief and all the people were glad to see me once more.

On the following day my father asked me to accompany him to the farm where we meet the rest of the families ploughing the rice farm. They were more energetic than the other families I left in the village. After a few minutes my father told me that farming this year was bad owing to shortage of materials and workmen. I told my father that I will instruct them on farming some time during my leave. He was glad when I said this. I said, although you are my father and farming is your trade, I think my instruction to you will supply a long felt want. He greeted this with great happiness.

A few days later he asked me for my instructions, which I was quite willing to give. I told him that a good farmer always cares for his farm, and it is entirely dependent upon oneself to watch the following rules regarding farming, i.e. hard work, will power and perseverance. That during dry season, he and the families must take their matchets and other materials, and go into the bush where the forest is strong and thick for cultivation and cut down all trees and leave them under the sun to dry and eventually should be burnt. After this the farm is left for some time, until the ground is cold, ready for ploughing after the first rain and that he must not be acrimonious to the ground and sow them by digging with a hoe, as usual. I told him that birds and other animals like sowing seeds. He must always be sure that somebody is detailed daily, to prevent the birds and such animals from damaging the sowing seeds. This will be carried out until such time as the soil is opened and the plants appear strong and if you are unable to plough the farm, he should please get in touch with the Chief, whom I am sure will be able to help you, on mutual agreement of the whole village. After this, weeds always play their part for seeds are like any other plants, always grow taller above plants from getting fresh air and sunlight. Weeds must always be cleared before getting taller. After this get a fence so called "Cucoi" round your farm for animals, and if possible make sure that there are some holes in the fence, with traps, so that animals wishing to enter the farm may be captured, killed and sometimes used as soup for the workmen. Then leave the plants to reach their full size to produce grain crops. But, do not forget to watch the farm. Always care for your farm. My father and brothers thanked me for my instructions. Four days' later there was a Rahmadan Festival celebration. On this occasion, all natives were called upon to attend the show. The dances consisted of Yavie-Society, Mamakpar, or Stick-Walker and many dances too numerous to mention. This stick dance is one of the most wonderful dances in this country. A stick of about nine to twelve feet high

(*continued on page* 87)



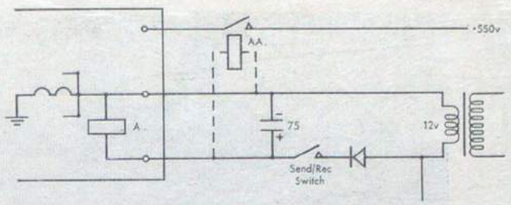


Fig. 1

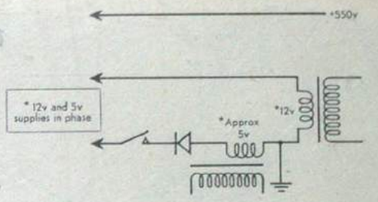


Fig. 2

Domesticising the W.S. No. 19

By **Major A. F. DOWLING,** *M.B.E.*

MANY units, particularly of the T.A., equipped with the ubiquitous 19 Set will find themselves using the A portion as a ground station. In the T.A. there is scope for working such stations from the homes of individual operators who may be keen enough to erect an aerial and secure permission from the mistress of the household to introduce some alien "furniture" into the home. Whether such stations are operated from military or private premises however, the battery supply requirements present problems. There is no need to detail here the work needed to keep secondary batteries in good condition, not least of all carrying the heavy things to the charging engine. These considerations prompted the writer to carry out some experimental work with a view to working 19 Sets from the A.C. mains.

It is obviously useful to have a power supply which can be switched on at any time and be used for any duration however often or seldom the station may be required. In addition if the normal 19 Set power unit can be dispensed with the elimination of the generator noise is a real aid to operating comfort. Furthermore, it becomes possible to connect a small low impedance loud speaker in place of the headphones if desired.

The "comfort" advantage were discovered at a later stage in the experiments however, because as an initial approach a power supply was constructed to deliver 12 volts D.C. rectified and smoothed from the output of a suitable mains transformer. This supply was used to run the standard power unit used with the set. While this was quite successful, it was found difficult to achieve good voltage regulation with varying loads on "send" and "receive," the selenium rectifiers required to handle three or four amps are large and expensive, and unless the supply is well smoothed the send/receive relays will not operate. Furthermore, the noisy power unit has not yet been eliminated.

The practicability of a further step was governed by the fact that whatever external connectors and circuit arrangements were used, no wiring alternations to the set itself could be permitted. Although the 19 Set is designed solely for D.C. working no receiver hum was heard when the valve heaters were fed with 12 volts A.C. Unfortunately, however, the send/receive relay is internally wired to the heater circuit and demands reasonably smooth D.C. for its operation. The circuit arrangement shown in *fig* 1 will do the trick provided the voltage drop across the internal resistance of the rectifier is not too great. If, however, the resultant voltage across the relay is insufficient for reliable operation an additional A.C. voltage can be inserted in series as shown in *fig* 2. Thus the low tension requirements of mains operation can be met by using only a small rectifier rated at approximately 0.2 amp.

If it is desired to retain the send/receive pressel switch on the microphone an extra pair of wires will have to be added to the microphone lead to switch the rectified A.C. arrangement described above. The writer prefers a separate send/receive switch on the operating table, and in any case this is essential if C.W. working is required.

The normal power unit supplies two H.T. voltages—275 volts at 150 mAmps and 550 volts at 50 mAmps. These will have to be derived from power packs constructed in the normal manner for A.C. working. The prolific ex-Government surplus market will probably yield suitable mains transformers at a reasonable cost since the voltages are not critical to limits of five per cent or so. If the transformers have rectifier heater windings the use of metal rectifiers for one of the H.T. supplies will leave a 5 volt A.C. supply available for operating the send/receive relay. If a transformer with 550 volt windings is not available, a 275 volt transformer with its windings in series in a half-wave circuit will do the trick. Note that the negative lead of the 550 volt supply is not earthed on the 19 Set Mk. III. The positive side is switched either by an external relay (A.A.) or by an extra contact on the send/receive switch.

The microphone and headphones (or loud speaker) are best connected directly to the lower 12-point socket rather than via a control box which would need modification. It will be realised that for power and headset connections suitable plugs are required to fit the sockets on the set. These two plugs will have to be "won" in some manner or alternatively (as in the writer's case!) bought for a shilling or so from a "surplus" dealer.

Whichever Mk. of set is used the connections to the pins are as shown below.

Power sicket-pin: 1, Earth. 3, 12 volts A.C.. 4, positive 550 volts. 6, positive 275 volts. 7, minus 550 volts. 8, send/receive switch.

Headset socket-pin: 1, microphone. 4, headphones or loud speaker. Frame. Microphone and headphone common return.

Other points to remember are:

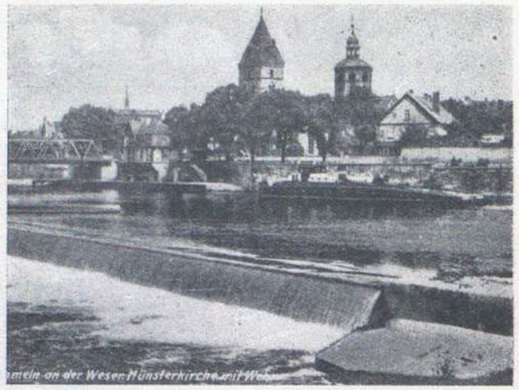
If C.W. is required, insulate the send/receive contact on the key jack (do this anyway in case someone does stick a key in sometime) and use the separate switch for send/receive.

The pressel switch has a second contact in series with the microphone and this contact should be short-circuited if the pressel switch is not to be used on "send."

No doubt interested readers will wish to try variations of the above suggestions and certainly there is scope for further development, but the arrangements described above have produced satisfactory results in practice and enabled an all-mains, all-dry, all-quiet 19 Set ground station to be installed.

A Visit to the Pied Piper's Town

By **Lieutenant-Colonel W. B. ROWETT,** *Royal Signals*



TO-DAY we have visited the place widely known as HAMELIN, the town of the famous "Pied Piper." It is a quaint place, full of interest and well worth a visit by anyone stationed in the British Zone of Germany.

There are many discrepancies between the legend of the Piper, as known locally, and the version of the story recorded by Robert Browning in his immortal lyric "The Pied Piper of Hamelin," published in 1855. A few comments may be of interest.

"Hamelin Town's in Brunswick,
By famous Hanover city;
The river Weser, deep and wide,
Washes its wall on the southern side."

Comments:

(1) The town is now known as HAMELN. HAMELIN appears to be an anglicised version of the name.

(2) Hamelin is not in the district of Brunswick. Nor was it at the time when Browning wrote these lines. But it is not far from the border: a further comment will be made later on this subject (See (8) below).

(3) The city of Hanover is some 30 miles distant.

(4) The river Weser skirts the west-south-west part of the town.

"His queer long coat from heel to head
Was half of yellow and half of red."

(5) The piper's coat in local paintings, and in an effigy in the local museum, is depicted as being half red and half blue. The trousers or pantaloons are sometimes shown in yellow.

"As the Piper turned from the High Street
To where the Weser rolled its waters
Right in the way of their sons and daughters!
However he turned from South to West,
And to Koppelberg Hill his steps addressed . . .
When, lo, as they reached the mountainside,
A wondrous portal opened wide,
As if a cavern was suddenly hollowed;
And the Piper advanced and the children followed."

(6) There are some curious anomalies here. To carry out the same manoeuvre today the piper would not reach Koppelberg Hill. This hill lies well to the east of the town. (It is no longer called Koppelberg Hill, and maps over 400 years old have to be searched to find the name Koppelberg. But there is a Koppelstrasse still in existence). It seems that Browning used his poetic licence to secure a good rhyme for his couplet.

(7) Crossing the river today in a south-westerly direction, and then turning slightly to the east, we ascended the slopes of a wooded hill overlooking the town and river. Half-way up this hill is a cave known as the "Rattenfänger höhle" (Ratcatcher's Cave). It runs into the hillside for about 150 yards, sloping slightly downwards. At the end of the tunnel are some stone models of the piper and some children. This cavern, we were told, dates from about 1750. It is interesting, but it has obviously been developed by some individual with an eye to the commercial possibilities of the tourist trade. The hill is certainly not Koppelberg Hill, which lies well to the east.

(8) There is some reason to believe that the direction of Koppelberg Hill is the direction in which the children of Hamelin did disappear many years ago. In the 13th century the Bishop of Minden was at war with the Duke of Brunswick. Hamelin lay near the border of the former's territory, and the rights of ownership in that area were in dispute. There is a well-founded legend that the war was so grievous that even the children of Hamelin were pressed into service, and that from one of these battles none of the children returned. No doubt the battle-ground lay to the east of Hamelin, beyond Koppelberg Hill.

"And so long after what happened here
On the Twenty-second of July,
Thirteen hundred and seventy-six;
And the better in memory to fix
The place of the children's last retreat,
They called it, the Pied Piper's Street."

(9) It is strange that Browning should have given this definite date. It is not supported by the local legend. There is good reason to believe that the events concerned with the original Pied Piper occurred in the year 1284. Some 300 years later, in about 1580, an individual is said to have arrived in the town from some place unknown dressed in motley and calling himself the Pied Piper. This second Pied Piper claimed the thousand guilders. The people of that period were apparently so superstitious that they offered him the money, in fear, lest he might spirit their children away again. It seems that he did not wish the "debt" to be settled in money but in property. So they gave him a house instead, in which he spent the rest of his days. This house is still to be seen on the main street and is called the "Pied Piper's House." This adventurer, with all the mental resources of a "confidence-man" well ahead of his time, died in comfortable circumstances about 1610.

"But opposite the place of the cavern
They wrote the story on a column,
And on the great church-window painted
The same, to make the world acquainted
How their children were stolen away,
And there it stands to this very day.
And I must not omit to say
That in Transylvania there's a tribe
Of alien people who ascribe
The outlandish ways and dress
On which their neighbours lay such stress,
To their fathers and mothers having risen
Out of some subterraneous prison
Into which they were trepanned
Long time ago in a mighty band
Out of Hamelin town in Brunswick land,
But how or why, they don't understand."

(10) There is no column standing today opposite the cavern on the hillside to the south of the town, nor as far as we could ascertain, on Koppelberg Hill. There is only a small column with the story of the Pied Piper in the children's playground in the town.

(11) The church with its "great church-window" was unfortunately destroyed by aerial bombardment in 1945 on the last day of the 1939-45 war in the European theatre. By an ironic stroke of fate the Town Hall close by was destroyed at the same time. Only the "Wedding Hall," a large adjacent building in which the patrician burghers held their banquets and celebrations in mediaeval times, is left standing.



The Pied Piper's House, Hamelin



Hamelin Town Hall. This building, and most of the church behind it, were destroyed by aerial bombardment on the last day of the 1939-45 war in the European theatre. The "Wedding Hall" on the right still stands

(12) Recent investigations in the last two years have disclosed the curious fact that there are some country people in Silesia whose dress, language and customs are entirely different from their immediate neighbours. Their dialect closely resembles that spoken in and around Hamelin. The heart of Silesia lies some 350 miles to the east-south-east of Hamelin. Transylvania in Roumania is some 450 miles further on in the same direction, or 800 miles from Hamelin. It is not known whether any Transylvanian folk have been found whose customs resemble those of the people of Hamelin.

☆

Hameln has many other attractions. There is a curious 14th century church on the south-west side of the town near the Weser bridge. This church has been greatly enlarged in the last century. The old church forms a small chapel or chancel at the east end some ten feet above the level of the nave of the modern church. Both old and new churches have altars and organs but share a pulpit and a lectern. The font is strangely placed on the north side of the lower altar.

There is a well-equipped museum, containing a tableau with model figures of the Pied Piper and children. There is also a memorial tablet recording the birth of septuplets (seven infants at one birth) to a local lady; they lived for 11 days, from 9th January to the 20th, in the year 1600 A.D. Glass rats are sold for 70 pfennigs (approximately 1/2) each as souvenirs of the episode connected with the Pied Piper. Both N.A.A.F.I. and the Church Army run well-appointed clubs and canteens for members of the Allied Forces in Hameln.

Carry your bag, Sir?

By **J. J. ANNS**

IT was the usual slack period of early morning in the jewellers shop, when the rakish looking sports car drew up outside.

The man next to the driver reached into the back of the car and found what he was looking for. A quick movement of his wrist sent the brick crashing through the plate glass window. Hardly had the glass splintered than the car was revving up and moving away, soon to disappear round the corner of the street.

The jeweller rushed out, closely followed by his assistant, blowing a whistle, while an attendant crowd materialised from nowhere.

The constable forced his way through the crowd and, pulling his notebook from his pocket, became very official. "Now, what's going on here?" he called to the jeweller, "give me the full details." The almost incoherent jeweller gasped out his story of hearing a crash and finding the brick among the ruins of his window and stock.

A young man, well to the forefront of the crowd, carried the story back to where he had noticed the man in the flashy sports car actually throw the brick.

The constable questioned him about the appearance of the car, its number and colour, and asked for details of the men in the car. That they both wore hats and dark suits was all that the one and only eye witness could tell.

"Well, then," went on the policeman, licking his pencil, "now we'll have a list of the missing articles." The jeweller, who had been clearing up the debris in the window, came over the policeman and said, in an awestruck voice "There's nothing missing." "What," exploded the Law, "nothing missing?"

The eyewitness leant forward. "Neither of the men got out of the car—at least, not while I was looking." There was a sudden hush as the crowd digested this piece of information. They felt cheated, you could feel, out of the excitement and enjoyment of a recital of the pieces of jewellery looted by the bandit in the sports car.

In no time at all, the pavement cleared, leaving the jeweller, the eyewitness and the policeman. This last was laboriously completing his report and by the way in which he snapped shut his book, you could feel that he was of the opinion that he had won the race only to find there was no prize for him. He sighed and moved off along the road.

The jeweller, who meanwhile was examining his window, looked up as the eyewitness approached and spoke to him. "I can give you the name of a man who will come and fix that window today, if you like," he said, and held out a card, with a name and telephone number on it. "Thanks," replied the jeweller, "it will save a lot of trouble if it's done today. I'll go and 'phone him now." He went back into the shop and the young man sauntered off.

About an hour later, a small van pulled up outside the jeweller's shop and two men got out and went into the shop. Strapped to the outside of the van by webbing was a large sheet of glass. After a few moments, they came out again with the jeweller and discussed the smashed window and its replacement.

The jeweller then returned to his counter and the two men outside started work. They knocked out all the pieces of broken glass and cleared away the old putty. They were efficient and worked quietly and quickly, obviously well versed in the art of replacing broken windows.

The frame having been prepared, they went back to the van and carefully unstrapped the glass from its carrier. With equal care, they transported it across the pavement and leant it against the shop window. At this stage, they called to the jeweller and his assistant to help them while they lifted the pane into position. The four of them panted and heaved and grunted amid cries of "To me"—"Steady now"—"Up a bit" and finally it was settled.

The jeweller and his assistant went back into the shop and the two men began to put in the putty. As they worked, the morning wore on and the street became busier. Customers and gossips took up the jewellers time and his patience and even the assistant was not spared. Then it was all finished and the two men picked up their heavy tool kits and came over to the jeweller, "Well," said the taller of the two, "that's your window finished—we'll be off. The boss will send you the bill tomorrow good-bye!" and he and his mate stepped off the pavement and put their kits in the back of the van.

As they moved off and disappeared round the corner, the man nearest the kerb waved his hand and the jeweller's assistant waved back—feeling rather foolish as he did so. For it was only then that his eyes fell on the empty shelves in the window and he realised why the workmen's kitbags had been so heavy.

ARMY PHANTOM SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.
(The Princess Louise's Kensington Regiment)
Hammersmith

Training has been resumed after the short Christmas and New Year "break" and, in addition to training in Trade Groups, indoor exercises have been carried out to prepare all ranks for the exercises we look forward to during the spring and summer.

Social activities recently have included an all ranks social in our own Drill Hall at which those present captured the Christmas spirit in good time for the festive season. The annual children's party, brief mention of which was made in our last notes, was again as in previous years, a great success—and some 60 children of the Regiment and O.C.A. were entertained.

We would like to congratulate the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel R. Wasey, M.B.E., T.D., on his tenure of command being extended for a further period of one year.

15 WIRELESS SQUADRON, T.A.

December being the festive month of the year members of the Squadron attended in force the Exeter and Torquay Old Comrades' Association dinner and to round off the year held two most successful parties of their own.

The first—a children's party—was held on 17th December, when 54 children of members of the Squadron were entertained by a Punch and Judy show, a liberal tea and a visit from Santa Claus who distributed presents from his sack and the Christmas tree. Harry Goodman is to be congratulated on his successful efforts to obtain a present for each child.

The following Thursday the Squadron held their annual stag party—a bigger and better event than ever before. The P.S.I.s did a wonderful job decorating the bar and canteen. Nearly 80 members and their guests attended and made a real night of it. "Mac" and Sergeant Lale relieved the gathering of a little surplus cash at the bar and Johnnie Brunyee, as M.C., kept the party going with a swing. After the formalities of supper the serious drinking commenced, interspersed with a "boat race" and another mild game involving the use of five-gallon oil drums and crash helmets. With the assistance of a pianist an excellent "sing, say or show" session developed—dare we say that a member of the "Senior Service" expressed regret that no man's repertoire let them down at the crucial moment.

1/20 (SM) ARMY SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.
Birmingham

I would like to make some plausible excuse for missing last month's WIRE, but the fact is I discovered years ago that I am a very amateur liar. When I was a Royal Engineer rat I was perpetually impecunious and spent much time thinking up convincing reasons why mother should send me a postal order. I had what I thought in those days to be a flash of genius when I added a postscript to my usual request for five bob. "P.S.—I was so ashamed at asking you again for money that I ran down to the post box to recover this letter. I was too late."

Life at Cateswell House Drill Hall developed a lively tempo from early December and when people could be spared from training they were pressed into service to transform the Drill Hall into a Smugglers' Cave and Treasure Island. This was the setting for the Officers' annual dance and was followed a week later by the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess dance. Both extremely good shows. It was a remarkable achievement on the part of the permanent staff directed by the architect, or rather Adjutant, Captain J. E. Denton. How they contrived to demolish the lot and have the Drill Hall cleared for a public dance in less than 24 hours remains a mystery.

The annual children's Christmas party on 24th December was another triumph of organisation, thanks to R.S.M. H. Griffin and Sergeant W. Chandler. An energetic and willing committee of wives clinched the success of this traditional function. Santa Claus bore a marked resemblance to Sergeant A. Hone, but who am I to destroy an illusion. The public dances held on Christmas Eve, Boxing Day and New Year's Eve have dispelled for ever the stupid theory that a quart won't go into a pint pot.

There is some doubt as to whether 1950 is rightly called the turn of the half century. How one can keep right on learning. I found out that "the turn of the century" was nothing to do with a guardsman arriving at the end of his beat and going back. It is also nothing to do with the notes of this Regiment so let us press on. The life of the post-war T.A. is only a little bit out of the last 50 years, but it is doing very well, thank you. We have made good progress in this little time. The men already in are first-class types, as volunteers always are. Any National Servicemen due to join us this year may be happy in the knowledge that they will be joining a grand family. Let us keep it that way. There is work, of course. Bags of it. You wouldn't want to play all the time, would you? Remind me to write you a highly technical article on the subject of Army Signals equipment. And see if you get it. Since we had our television set installed in time to view the opening of the Sutton Coldfield station, we may as well claim to be among the first of the Midland T.A. units to have a TV set.

Any moment now we hope to see the contractors starting on the extension to our garages. We have already branched out in two directions. No. 3 Squadron will train at Welsh House Farm, Harborne. A share in a camp on the outskirts of Coventry will interest the G.E.C. boys and Major "Bill" Suggars in particular. To end on a constructive note, I would advocate the total abolition of Caps G.S. khaki for the T.A. and the immediate introduction of Berets blue. Not important, you say? Brother, you haven't got your ear to the ground. Never mind how much it will cost. Get them.

BARLEUX



35 (ULSTER) A.A. INDEPENDENT (M) SIGNAL SQUADRON, T.A.

Belfast

Starting from scratch less than two years ago we are proud to state that we have recruited over 60 per cent of our establishment and our target of 100 per cent is already in sight. As there is no National Service in Northern Ireland we will have the advantage of a 100 per cent Volunteer Unit.

Last June we went overseas to Towyn in North Wales with 51 A.A. Brigade R.A. for our annual camp.

When training for the day was over we enjoyed dancing in the evenings to our own Squadron dance band the "Signalaires," who were formed only a few months before camp.

During our stay at Towyn we were honoured by visits from the G.O.C. in C. A.A. Command, G.O.C. Northern Ireland District, G.O. 3 A.A. Group, C.S.O. A.A. Command and the C.S.O. 3 A.A. Group.

Although we are only a small Unit, such visits made us feel that the work we were doing was appreciated.

Since our return from camp we have started our second year of training at our headquarters in Belfast.

Interest is maintained by week-end training for linemen, collective training at the local A.A.O.R. for operation and reliability trials for the D.R.s.

Our D.R. team have already made a name for themselves, being placed third in the Northern Ireland District trials and also being well placed in the Scottish Command trials some months ago.

The success of our D.R. team is due in no small measure to the enthusiasm shown by our O.C., Major C. F. C. Lindsay, who himself is a well-known racing motorist.

Monthly dances at which our "Signalaires" Band perform and table tennis matches are permanent features of the social life of a Squadron where friendliness and good comradeship predominate.

23 (SOUTHERN) CORPS SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

Fulham House, S.W.6

December was socially very busy, beginning with the usual monthly dance on 10th, of which there is regrettably little to report, and the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess dinner on the 16th, this latter was held locally and though yours truly was unable to extract an invitation, there is evidence that it was a merry gathering. Colonel Vigers, the Honorary Colonel, the C.O., Adjutant and both Quartermasters were welcome guests. After the speeches, which naturally included one of Colonel Vigers inimitable stories, a move was made over to the Mess, where the party carried on in an atmosphere of internal satisfaction, which might account for the otherwise unaccountable mix up in the greatcoats of the R.Q.S.M. and S.S.M. Medlycott!

The Christmas draw took place in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess on 21st December and the air of anticipation was only damped by the regrettable inability of Mrs. Collins, who kindly consented to make the draw with Mrs. McCarthy, to find a ticket belonging to a member of the Unit in time for the major prizes. However, we can scarcely begrudge some consolation to those many friends of the Unit whose support made the children's party possible, and maybe next year will bring us more than S.S.M. Medlycott's hard won cauliflower. We all had a most enjoyable evening, not least yours truly, who was seen in the early hours of next morning running down the road presumably on his way to work.

Over Christmas we closed down, and everyone had a well earned rest in preparation for the children's party on the 7th January. Lieutenant Baker, ably assisted by R.S.M. French, S.Q.M.S. (F. of S.) Endicott, Sergeants Bailey and Camp, Corporal Alexander and Lance-Corporal Genery, put in a lot of hard work raising the money and ensuring the smooth running of the proceedings, and a hearty vote of thanks is due to them. It was a wonderful afternoon for the children, if not the parents, and the Drill Hall looked its smartest. We started with a conjurer to give us all the party spirit, and in spite of the obvious counter-attraction of the well-laden tables he put it over. Of the tea, let it just be said that the spirit was typified by one small boy who never had time to take his cap off, it was all so scrumptious. The Mayor and Mayoress of Fulham arrived to be greeted by a shower of balloons let down from the ceiling and in time for the big moment of the afternoon. To shouts of "We want Father Christmas" and the music of "Jingle Bells" a motor sleigh piled with presents and gaily decorated appeared through the doors and passed the green light. After a little parking trouble and a somewhat husky greeting from Father Christmas came the distribution of the presents, and what presents.

21 CORPS SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

Derby

At the time of writing, training has now recommenced after the Christmas recess. Preliminary notice has been given of a series of week-end camps, commencing with two for officers in February and March, at Bamford and Bakewell respectively; afterwards, there will be an all ranks week-end camp arranged approximately each month, at Derby, generally, but with one at Chilwell.

Much work has been done at the drill halls at Derby, Nottingham and Chesterfield, with the installation of training aids of various kinds. A lines officer and P.S.I. were recently noticed surveying with glee a pile of decrepit-looking ironmongery and pottery, acquired by courtesy of the local Post Office officials, which, they informed the present writer, would eventually end up as a breast route and an artificial line network in the basement of the Chesterfield Drill Hall. O.C. No. 3 Squadron has also completed his operators' training rooms at Chesterfield. A recent visit by the Catterick Method of Instruction team was found extremely helpful.

The annual Officers' Ball, held at the Assembly Rooms, Derby, on 16th December, was attended by upwards of 250 officers, friends and guests, including officers from local Regular and T.A. Units of other arms. The guests were received by Lieutenant-Colonel R. A. Waldron, T.A., T.D., and there was dancing to Jan Berenska and his Orchestra.

Social events were also arranged for the Nottingham contingent during December, which were thoroughly enjoyable; and we have heard rumours of a "Fish Supper and Entertainment" to be arranged at Chesterfield early in January.

It is provisionally proposed to hold annual camp at Marske-by-the-Sea again this year, during August, following our very successful and enjoyable camp there last year.

Since leaving the Regular Forces recently, Captain (T.O.M.) N. Goodison found that he couldn't leave it alone, and we are glad to welcome him to fill the vacancy in this Unit.

50 (N) INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

Darlington

On the night of the 8th November,1949, the officers of the Unit entertained the following guests to dinner: Brigadiers D. Marley, D.S.O., M.B.E., T.D., R. Steward, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., A.D.C., G. H. Walton, C.B.E., T.D., D.L., C. C. Fairweather, O.B.E., T.D., D.L., Colonel A. MacLeod, T.D., Lieutenant-Colonels R. Stevenson Wight, T.D., M. J. B. Burnett, D.S.O., Major R. Tyson Hodgson, Surgeon Commander R. Stubbs, R.N.V.R.

The occasion was unique in that it provided an opportunity for Brigadier Marley to present to us a silver rose bowl belonging to the 5th D.L.I. as a reminder of the Company of that Regiment who were our good neighbours in the Darlington Drill Hall between the wars, and who are now converted to an R.A. Searchlight Regiment and stationed elsewhere; and for Brigadier Walton and Colonel Wight, the Honorary Colonel and late C.O. of our disbanded 2nd Line Unit, the 23rd Divisional Signals, to hand over to us the whole of their Officers' Mess silver.

It must be seldom that any Regiment is so fortunate as to be the recipient of so many delightful and valuable additions to its collection of silver and it is as difficult to express in words our adequate appreciation as it is to deserve the expressions of high praise for the past and hope for the future with which the presentations were made.

It was fitting that the occasion should be attended by Commanding Officers of the Unit covering an unbroken sequence from 1925 to 1942 and particularly that Colonel MacLeod, the founder of the Mess, should be present. Colonel Wight had come specially from his labours on the Coal Commission in B.A.O.R. and it was very pleasant that this function also gave us the chance to dine in Brigadier Steward who has recently joined 50th Division and Northumbrians District as Deputy Commander.

It is a sad event for many when an established formation breaks up but we are confident that all ex-officers of the 23rd Divisional Signals will be glad to know that the memory of their Unit is perpetuated in the home from which they sprang.

51 (H) INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

Aberdeen

1 *Squadron and R.H.Q.* With the first of our winter courses over the Squadron got down to preparing the hall and individual Messes for the festive season, the main hall taking priority over all. On Friday, 23rd December, the Squadron turned out in force for our Christmas dance and with the aid of paper hats, masks, scores of balloons and other decorations the evening was a great success.

On the following day, Christmas Eve, all children of members of the Squadron and R.H.Q. were entertained in the main hall. The Honorary Colonel, Colonel E. B. Reid, O.B.E., T.D., made an excellent Father Christmas and delighted all the children by presenting them with gifts from the Christmas tree. The entertainment also included community singing and a Charlie Chaplin film show. On Christmas Day there was great excitement in the Sergeants' Mess where turkeys, geese, hens, whisky and rum were drawn for. R.Q.M.S. Ronnie Grant and S.Q.M.S. Bill Garrod were the only members of the Mess to be lucky. Trust the "Q" department! Sergeants Rhind and Melvin delivered the goods, or say they did, hoping, no doubt, for a bit of good cheer. Friday, 30th December, the Sergeants' Mess dance was held. This was a great show, thanks to the efforts of Sergeant "Pip" Morris. The Pipe Band did its stuff and played throughout the evening for the Highland dances. We all went home looking forward to a "first foot."

2 *Squadron.* During the month of December the Squadron continued with the winter training programme, when some useful hours were spent advancing the knowledge of all tradesmen. As the festive season was fast approaching, thoughts were soon turned to more jovial affairs and we held our first whist drive and dance of Friday, 2nd December in the Drill Hall. There was a large turn-out of members and friends, and Mrs. McMain, wife of the O.C., made a good job of handing over the prizes. We hope to be running more of what appears to be a popular function.

On Friday, 23rd December, we held the first post-war annual dance. During the past year or two this has been held in conjunction with the Royal Signals Association (Central Scotland Branch) but we felt that we were now strong enough to run this dance on our own and by all accounts it appears to have been a success. On Saturday, 24th December, we held a joint children's Christmas party with the Old Comrades' Association, to which the children of all past and present serving members of the Corps, residing in the district, were invited. There were some 120 children all told, accompanied by about 50 mothers (and some fathers) and after a Christmas feast of many good things, each child was handed a present off the Christmas tree by Santa Claus, this duty being ably carried out by the O.C.

Since publishing last THE WIRE notes we wish to offer congratulations to Major T. B. S. McMain, our O.C., on being promoted to that rank.

44 (H.C.) INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

Stamford Brook, W.6

Since my last notes appeared little of military interest has taken place, because in the Regiment, as in all national activities, Christmas holidays and the attendant festivities have held the floor.

The grand Christmas dance, attended by Colonel and Mrs. Gandy, and a record number of revellers, danced until a late hour to the lucky "spots" which entitled them to draw from the grandest drum (made by Mr. McKenzie, an Old Comrade) one has ever seen.

The tickets, which were for the Christmas draw, caused great excitement. There were 40 prizes, the first being a hamper containing all one needed for the family's Christmas dinner.

The dance was organised by Major Ken Baldwin and the ladies' committee, with Mr. Turner, the R.S.M., as the model M.C.

The other event of note was the party given to over 60 children of the Regiment and their friends. There was a cinema show and every child received a present from Father Christmas (Major "Tiny" Angell), who caused considerable amusement by nearly falling off the roof of the Officers' Mess before entering the window with his sack of good things.

The Regiment is stretching out its tentacles again, this time to raise "H" Troop at Bromley, Kent, the headquarters of the Divisional Artillery.

56 (LONDON) ARMOURED DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A. (City of London Signals)

20 Atkins Road, S.W.12

The Unit, combining with 51 L. of C. Signal Regiment, T.A., held a very successful dance on 10th December, 1949, in the Drill Hall. The hall was filled to near capacity. Entertainment was provided on the stage prior to the commencement of the dance by members of the local telephone exchanges. This was greatly appreciated by all guests. Congratulations to all concerned for a very enjoyable evening. We hope to repeat in the near future.

The 17th December was a big day in the lives of children of members of the Unit. That day, the Unit gave its annual children's party. It was voted a big success by all who attended. The children sat down to tea at 4 p.m., which was followed by a cinema and Punch and Judy show. Finally, there appeared the main item of the evening, which the children had long been looking forward to, namely—the appearance of Father Christmas. He made a successful landing on the roof of the premises and worked his way down to the main hall via the Unit offices. This job was done admirably by Sergeant "Bob" West. A very

successful evening rounded off the 1949's year of entertainment.

The year's activities can be summed up in one word—"Successful." Our social life has numbered amongst its many functions, the following main items: Dances, Regimental "At Homes," visit of the Corps Band and, not the least, the public performance of the Unit Motor-cycle Display team, which we are fully restoring to its pre-war glory. The team gave shows at Morden, Thatcham, Hurst, Godstone, Oxshott, Ruislip and finally at Wimbledon Stadium. Our congratulations to all concerned, with a special word for Sergeant "Nobby" Clark who put in long hours to keep the machines display-worthy. We wish the team success in the coming year.

14 A.A. (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

Speke, Liverpool

All Squadrons under Command are now busy settling down to training once again after the Christmas and New Year "break," and in spite of many hangovers," OsC. report good attendances.

December proved to be a month of social activities, All Squadrons held very successful children's parties, and some very enjoyable dances were held at Woolton (R.H.Q. and 4 A.A. Group (M) Signal Office Squadron) and at Atherton (96 A.G.R.A. (A.A.) Signal Squadron).

An exercise is to be held at Woolton in conjunction with the Royal Artillery Brigade H.Q., on 22nd January, and a Junior N.C.O.s' Drill and Duties Course is scheduled for the end of January—this has been designed with an eye towards annual camp—which will probably be held during the first two weeks in July.

33 A.A. (M) Signal Squadron (T.A.) at Runcorn have started the New Year with a swing—4 W.R.A.C. T.A. recruits were enlisted on the first drill night in the New Year. Keep it up 33.

96 A.G.R.A. (A.A.) Signal Squadron (T.A.) at Atherton we hear are busy negotiating for the purchase of a television set for their canteen. If this doesn't prove a stimulus to good attendances and recruiting, well . . . ! !

In conclusion we say that we are confidently looking forward to 1950 as a bumper year for the Regiment, both from the recruiting and training point of view.

11 A.A. (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

Brompton Road, S.W.2

Spotlight this month is on 20 Squadron stationed at Chatham. A very interesting Signal exercise was arranged for the visit of Chief Commander R.D. Allerton, A.D.W.R.A.C. H.Q. 1 A.A. Group, who saw men and women at work on a Traffic Scheme involving two Signal Offices. The Assistant Director expressed her pleasure at the keenness evident everywhere, and noted especially the smart turn-out and bearing.

20 Squadron have also done some rifle shooting at Milton Range, Gravesend. The men were ably assisted by the W.R.A.C. who came to their rescue as butt markers. In one case a W.R.A.C. N.C.O. was seen instructing her husband in the intricacies of butt duties.

There was a pronounced family atmosphere about 20 Squadron's Christmas party held at Chatham on 16th December, 1949. Those present included wives, wives-to-be and many friends. The Committee, headed by W.R.A.C. Corporal Betty Morris, did some really hard work and the excellent buffet supper was one of the outstanding features of the evening. A most pleasing ceremony was carried out by Mrs. Little (the wife of the O.C.) when she distributed presents from a beautifully illuminated Christmas tree to about a dozen younger guests who were having a night out.

Some members of the Squadron made the journey from Canterbury. In spite of their necessarily early departure they appeared to enjoy themselves thoroughly.

December has seen great sporting activities in the Regiment. A number of netball trials have been held at Brompton Road, with the purpose of selecting a team to represent the Regiment in the 1 A.A. Group W.R.A.C. Netball Tournament. We have been fortunate in receiving a bye in the first round and are now to meet 562 (Mixed) L.A.A./S.L. Regiment in the second. 23 Squadron have not been content to let matters rest here. They have arranged a number of fixtures of their own against outside business houses and banks.

On New Year's Eve, a successful fancy dress ball was held at Brompton Road. This was a truly Regimental occasion for, apart from the Kensington Squadrons, representatives from Brentford, Chatham, Canterbury and Norwich were present. Brigadier and Mrs. Rogers and Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. Shrimpton were the judges of the fancy dress parade, and Mrs. Rogers kindly presented the prizes. The first prize went to Captain (Giles) Anger. Unfortunately, the 8ft. high monster with hypnotic flashing eyes and quaintly exposed vertebrae arrived too late for adjudgment. R.Q.M.S. Lee appeared at midnight as a realistic Old Father Time, and Private Mooney appeared close behind as a most charming Miss 1950.

Our congratulations to Lieutenant Leese on his wedding on 5th January. We wish Lieutenant and Mrs. Leese every possible happiness.

Association Notes

Sheffield and District

Our December meeting was held on 28th December at the D.E.G.A. Club, Sheffield.

There was little formal business on the agenda, and upwards of 40 members and friends settled down to an enjoyable evening.

There was dancing to a live band, and several prizes for "lucky number" and other selections.

We were delighted to welcome Major and Mrs. G. E. Stone, and as usual, Mrs. Stone had done great work with the organisation of the refreshment service. Major Warburton, Branch Treasurer, was in a genial frame of mind, and was not at all surprised when several members paid their subscriptions for the year in advance.

Mr. Ryalls, who is acting as Hon. Secretary, vice Mr. Parnaby, who has now left the district, and other committee members, worked hard to make the evening the success which it fully deserved to be.

"JONAH"

Aldershot

Since our last notes, quite a lot has happened, and we have been very busy.

On 8th October, we sent a party to Salisbury for the Regimental week-end and Old Comrades reunion, arranged by Southern Command (M) Signal Regiment, 14 members going in all, this being the largest branch attendance there, and a good time was had by all.

On the Wednesday previous to this, 5th October, we held our first annual general meeting, at which our Chairman, Mr. W. J. Abbott, Secretary, Mr. A. H. Green, and Treasurer, Mr. E. A. Smith, were all re-elected to office for a further year.

The Committee were also re-elected with the exception

of Mr. Murphy, whose vacancy was filled by Mr. J. Chamberlain, and Mr. Peacock was elected Vice-Chaidman.

Major-General C. W. Fladgate, C.B.E., our Branch President attended.

Remembrance Sunday on 6th November, saw eight members including the Chairman and Secretary, attend the parade and service held in All Saints Garrison Church, Aldershot, and afterwards in the march past of Old Comrades of other branches and British Legion, at which Major-General W. A. Demoline, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., took the salute.

On 7th December, instead of our monthly meeting, we held a social evening with songs given by our Chairman, Mr. Abbott, Mrs. Fox, our Secretary, Mr. Green, with Mr. Cooper on the piano, and Mr. Nash on the accordion, and at 8.30 p.m. our first Christmas draw, from which our funds benefited considerably, for which thanks are due to our ticket sellers.

We are all looking forward to our first annual dinner, which we hold on 28th January, at the Victoria Hotel, Aldershot. Major-General W. A. Demoline, G.O.C. Aldershot District, Major-General C. W. Fladgate, Branch President and Representative Colonel Commandant of the Corps, and Colonel Roberts, the General Secretary, are attending.

Birmingham

With very great regret we record the death on 14th December of Mr. Bert Harding. He had a long and painful illness which he bore with amazing fortitude. The Branch extends to Mrs. Harding its very sincere condolences in her loss and hopes that she will continue to keep in touch with us. The wife of such a gallant member as Bert Harding will always be welcome.

Thursday, 28th December, saw a somewhat quieter and smaller gathering than usual at the Crown Hotel, Broad Street. This was to be expected. Not everyone can make a lightning recovery from Christmas. The annual dinner held at Cateswell House in December was a very pleasant function attended by about 130 people. Not so many as we could have wished for. Whether they know it or not, those who passed this up missed a very good evening. We are indebted to the permanent staff of 1/20 Army Signal Regiment, T.A., for their work arranging and decorating the Drill Hall and for their part in the entertainment which followed the dinner. The opening of the Sutton Coldfield television station was seen on the Unit set. This was a surprise item for most of the diners. After some "horse" racing and housey-housey, there was an hour or so of dancing to a famous trio whose name is suppressed because, as Bob Barlow and Ralph Ironmonger say, "People already know how good we are."

I find now that arrangements to have the Corps Band down to Birmingham for the summer have broken down. Nevertheless, we shall proceed with arrangements for our summer dance in the Botanical Gardens on 30th June, 1950. With Archie Savage and his band on the stage I can promise you a good time. Do try and turn up.

The anuual general meeting of this Branch will take place at the Crown Hotel, Broad Street at 7.30 p.m. on 23rd February. The last Thursday. If you have this copy of THE WIRE before that date you are requested to attend. You know that everyone comes to the annual meeting, so just cancel those other arrangements.

I blushed with pleasure and screwed my handkerchief into a ball to see that there are still one or two people who remember "Barleux" of the 1920s and 30s. 1950 is a good time to think about those days, if you can. They were good years if you were in the Army. I regret not being able to write a private column as in pre-war days. There is little time for nonsense in these stern times. In the war years, of course, it was another matter, and one could usually produce a private magazine on a typewriter with a new name every time to dodge the padre. *The Maintenance Mercury*, price two eggs, *The Termoli Times* and the *Cassino Courier* all had a good reception. The last named offered a 1260 watt charging engine as a prize for guessing who shot holes in the C.O.'s pyjamas. Nobody won this. Windy. Now we try to be our age, which is plenty. Not TOO hard, of course.

BARLEUX

Glasgow Branch Fixtures

Friday, 24 Feb.—Smoker. Drill Hall.
Friday, 31 Mar.—Annual General Meeting. 21 Jardine St.

London (City)

This will be the last news of our meeting in 1949, as we are now well on with 1950. Our meeting in December attracted quite a good crowd, with a few new members rolling in all the time. Old met old, and the pioneers of the Corps reminisced together, while young and old blended and got the Christmas feeling.

I made a dash north on Boxing night and landed in Middlesbrough amongst the "Ironfighters." The Middlesbrough Branch very kindly entertained me, and gave me an invitation to visit them in the future. How keen these hardy target-breaking steelworkers are, to get going again, and WHEN (?) the Boro come to Wembley, the London (City) Branch will do their utmost to entertain them. (Bring some spare Cup Final tickets with you).

By the time I got making my way back, I was almost broke, so to H.Q. I had to go to retrieve the cigarette ends from the bronze beer measure, that has a card hanging from it, telling all to deposit their fag-ends in. Those who had been there must have been non-smokers or cigar smokers, for my reward was ash and matchsticks. Please think of the poor when you visit there in future.

Our Treasurer, Ron Fennimore, sends his best wishes to Bob Barleux, of Brum, whom he met down at Mercury House last summer. Keep up the good work with THE WIRE notes, Bob!

Our notes are a little shorter this month, so I must crave indulgence, as I have not really recovered from the festive season.

FRED STEEL

Middlesbrough

I am very pleased to report that after a lengthy period of inactivity the Middlesbrough Branch of the Royal Signals Old Comrades' Association once again held a reunion meeting in the Exchange Hotel, Richardson Street, Middlesbrough on Tuesday, 3rd January, 1950, and was attended by 2 members.

It was good to see old faces once again, Jack Olson, Jack Thomas, George Alderson, Freddie Ford and Arthur Jones, just to mention a few names that come to mind. There were a few sore wrists after the hand-shaking that took place, when old friends meet once again.

The biggest snag this Branch has to contend with is the lack of a permanent home, therefore meetings have to be held where one can be engaged. Mr. Fred Steel (London City) who has been on a visit once more in the area attended this meeting, and I think he was impressed by the spirit which prevailed among the members.

The next meeting to take place has been arranged for Friday, 27th January, 1950, in the same place, and will be over when these notes appear in print, so I will report on this meeting in the next submission of notes. It is hoped to have a mixed meeting in the near future, time and place to be arranged.

Owing to business commitments and various other reasons, the following gentlemen asked to be released from their official capacity:

Brigadier C. C. Fairweather, Chairman; Major G. R. Thompson, Hon. Treasurer; Mr. H. E. Stock, Hon. Secretary.

The under-mentioned members were elected and accepted office as follows:

Ex-Corporal Arthur Jones, Chairman; S.Q.M.S. Arthur

Alderson, Vice-Chairman; ex-Sergeant Frank Thornton, Hon. Treasurer; ex-R.S.M. Jim Gibson, Hon. Secretary.

The Branch offers a very hearty welcome to the following new members: Mr. D. A. Thomas, of Egglescliffe, who I am very pleased to say was at the meeting, also to Mr. Gowland (Life Member) and Mr. Oddy.

Scarborough

Christmas and New Year festivities have come and gone and now we are looking forward to all the good things that the year 1950 will bring us. We in Scarborough have all had a very nice festive time and sincerely hope that all members of the Corps and other branches were as lucky as we have been.

The monthly general meeting of the Branch was held in the Castle Hotel, Scarborough on 4th January, 1950; we were very pleased to have a few new faces with us, and we were all delighted to meet Lieutnant-Colonel Sladen, O.B.E., the new C.O. at Burniston Barracks, who attended accompanied by his Adjutant, Captain Simpson. Members who had served in India were very interested in a copy of the *Signalman* that Colonel Sladen brought along and so very kindly presented to the Branch; it is a very good journal and credit is due to the Editor and staff for this excellent publication.

The Secretary went north to the "Land of the Haggis" at the New Year, to celebrate, with the usual heathen customs, that happy period. When in Edinburgh he was given a most cordial welcome by all at the Club and by the Committee and members of the Association. A visit on business was paid to Scottish Command Signals and more friends were found there—in all a most satisfactory and enjoyable time was spent in the Scottish capital.

Regards were passed back by Lieutenant-Colonel Scarborough, Major "Mac" Webster, Corporal Whelan and others to various members of the Scarborough Branch. Edinburgh members are assured of a hearty welcome if they find themselves in Yorkshire.

Arthur Teal, hospitalised in Middlesbrough, tells us that Mr. F. Steel, Secretary of the London (City) Branch, paid him a surprise call on 3rd January. The usual chat followed and Arthur certainly appreciated the visit—many thanks, Mr. Steel.

Anyone knowing Cyril Ginders and interested in the Scout movement, will be pleased to hear that he has been presented with his Warrant as Assistant Scoutmaster in the 44th Scarborough Sea Scouts.

He specialises in the Signal instruction for the boys.

What memories were recalled when I saw in the last copy of THE WIRE a note from George Lawson and Stan Ledger. I thought that pair had been caught up with long before this. I notice that they did not give an address; anyway, "Jock" Hunt and Frank Mansfield send their very best wishes to them, and hope to have the pleasure of a meeting at the next reunion at Catterick.

We were also very pleased to see the photograph of the Old Comrades' meeting in the Southern Command notes, and all those very old familiar faces, Joe Cotterell, Jimmy Emblem, old "Toot" and "Barny," shades of Maresfield, a certain cookhouse and old "Nobby" Clark's bye-product dump, remember those sausages "Chogger"?; and "Red Ted's" piano story, also the bag of coal that was carried around every Saturday afternoon. Good old days.

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lead after a quarter of an hour. This was again neutralised by a good goal from Wragg. Knock, Royal Signals left-back, pulled a muscle and had to leave the field, but Royal Signals continued to press but just could not find a way through the Manchester defence. The University took the lead from a breakaway. Langford, the University centre-half, also pulled a muscle and left the field ten minutes before time, and both teams continued with ten men. Full time came with the University winners by 4—3.

SPORTS NOTES

Army Rugby Football Challenge Cup, 1949/50—Fourth Round

The tie in the fourth round between 1 Training Regiment Royal Signals and 2 Training Battalion (BASIC) R.A.O.C., Aldershot, was played at Aldershot on 4th January, 1950, and resulted in a win for 1 Training Regiment Royal Signals by 40 points to 6.

A very large crowd saw a good clean game played at a fast pace throughout.

R.A.O.C. opened the scoring by a penalty goal within five minutes of the start, and their keen tackling and close marking broke up many promising movements by 1 Training Regiment. It soon became evident that R.A.O.C. were concentrating on marking Second-Lieutenant Reeve very closely and this fact gave more scope to the other Royal Signals backs. After 10 minutes Second-Lieutenant Hoskins kicked a penalty goal and this was followed by a good try by Holliday. R.A.O.C. had some skilful backs, e.g. Corporal Wilkinson (centre) and Private Jackson (wing) are both Army players, and Captain Pike plays for Aldershot Services. A burst through and kick ahead by Second-Lieutenant Reeve bounced kindly for him and he scored under the posts. The next try was a glorious effort by Signalman Morphy, who side-stepped his way through the defence. Second-Lieutenant Hoskins converted both these tries, and 1 Training Regiment led by 16 points to 3 at half-time. Although R.A.O.C. played hard it was soon obvious that 1 Training Regiment were by far the better team. Tries were scored by Signalman Holliday (2), Captain Luxombe, Signalman Saunt, Second-Lieutenant Hoskins and Corporal Cross, and Second-Lieutenant Hoskins converted three of them. For Signals Signalman Mason at scrum-half and Signalman Morphy at stand-off were outstanding. Signalman Morphy had been badly crocked on the Easter tour in Wales last year and this was one of his first games since then. If he can remain fit there is no question but that he will go far. Holliday on the right wing too, attracted attention and completely outplayed the Army wing, Private Jackson. Luscombe, Johnson and Cross were the pick of the forwards and Second-Lieutenant Thomas out-hooked his opponent and showed up well in the loose. R.A.O.C. never relaxed but 1 Training Regiment were clearly the better side in all departments. 1 Training Regiment now play 1st Battalion The Welch Regiment in the semi-final at Aldershot on Thursday, 2nd February.

Association Football

Royal Signals, Catterick, travelled to Manchester on 14th December, 1949, to play their annual fixture with Manchester University 1st XI. The sun was shining when we left Catterick, but the usual grey skies and damp cold met us when we passed Huddersfield. Andrews, our captain, lost the toss, and the game started with a fresh wind blowing diagonally across the pitch. Our defence, with two new faces, took some little time to settle, and the University took advantage to register a goal by their inside-right in the first ten minutes. Signals equalised through Wragg after 25 minutes, but University took the lead again five minutes' later. Wragg, who played well throughout, laid on for McReady to equalise, and ten minutes' later Cronin gathered the ball and from 25 yards crashed in an unstoppable shot which rattled into the back of the net.

The referee signalled a goal, and then noticed one of his linesmen flagging. On consulting his linesman, the referee changed his decision and awarded a free kick against McReady for an alleged infringement. Half-time came with the score at 2—2. In the second half Signals pressed continuously but it was the University who scored, taking the

(*continued at foot of previous column*)

Leave (*continued from page 75*)

would be tied on the dancers' feet and he dances up in the air and dancers were called in, one after the other. On this occasion the stick dancer was entertained by the chief. On the third rounds he was called upon by announcer when he entered the grounds, the spectators were looking at him admiringly; he danced immediately towards the spectators; to greatest surprise of everybody, the gentleman up the stick suddenly fell from the stick on the ground with such speed that his left arm was fractured. However, he was given an immediate medical treatment by a European medical officer of my village; and taken to hospital at once. In this respect it was realised by spectators, according to traditional belief, that there had been certain tricks played by strong members of the same society. At any rate, this dancer was formerly known as one of the most successful dancers in the country.

Leave up country is most enjoyable, and I am looking forward for my next leave.

ROYAL SIGNALS, CATTERICK.
RUGBY FOOTBALL FIXTURES

25 Feb.	*v.* Sedbergh School.	Sedbergh.
11 Mar.	*v.* Billingham.	Billingham.
17 Mar.	*v.* Aberdeen G.S.F.P.	Aberdeen.
25 Mar.	*v.* Darlington G.S.O.B.	Darlington.
8 Apr.	*v.* Northern.	Newcastle.
10 Apr.	*v.* Pontypridd.	Pontypridd.
12 Apr.	*v.* Ebbw Vale.	Ebbw Vale.
15 Apr.	*v.* Stockton.	Stockton.

Seven a side tournament.



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I am, yours gratefully, B. C. R.

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THE WIRE

The Corps Magazine of the
ROYAL SIGNALS

The Official Organ of the
SIGNALS ASSOCIATION

All correspondence and matter for publication for "The Wire" should be addressed to The Editor, "The Wire," 88 Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1. Matter for publication must be received by the 15th of the month preceding publication.

Remittances should be made payable to: Royal Signals Association. Subscription rates (post free, except air mail): Twelve months, 10s.; single month, 1s.

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MARCH • 1950

Vol. 4 *New Series* **No. 3**

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PRICE: ONE SHILLING

Editorial

All ranks of Royal Signals will congratulate most heartily Egypt Command Signal Regiment on winning the Army in Egypt Rugby Football Cup for the second year in succession. Our congratulations and good wishes also go to 1 Training Regiment who entered the finals of the Army Rugby Football Cup by beating their most formidable opponents the 1st Battalion the Welch Regiment. 1 Training Regiment have also, as last year, been carrying all before them in cross-country running.

The front cover of this number heralds the publication of a long awaited article on "Operation Planefare." The Berlin Airlift ceased, to everybody's relief, a long time ago, but Colonel L. de M. Thuillier has only recently found the time to write this account.

In this number on the second page we commence what it is hoped will be a permanent feature, that is a brief recommendation to readers of what the Editorial staff think is the most significant reading matter in the current number of THE WIRE.

It is a matter for great regret that no Regimental news has been received from F.A.R.E.L.F. It has been posted but has not arrived in time.

☆

DINNER CLUB DATES

Annual Dinner, 31st May; Tea Party, 1st June; Reunion Buffet Supper, 9th December; Territorial Army Tea Party, 9th December. All at Hyde Park Hotel.

☆

APOLOGIA

It is very much regretted that through a mistake between the Editor and Printer, acknowledgment of our thanks for permission to publish photographs of The School of Signals Ball was not made to Marjorie, Swale Studios, Frenchgate, Richmond, Yorks.

☆

ANOUK

The J. Arthur Rank Organisation star whose photograph appears on page 100 is Anouk, and as we go to Press the hoardings of London are advertising her as appearing in "The Golden Salamander." The critics have been enthusiastic about her.

It is a matter for regret that acknowledgment was not made of the photograph of Sandra Dorne in the February issue.

ARMY RUGBY FOOTBALL FINAL

8th March, 1950. 1 Training Regiment, Royal Signals, 36 points ; R.A.M.C. Depot, Crookham, Nil.

Obituary

Lieutenant-Colonel A. GREAVES

It is with great regret that we have to report the death of Lieutenant-Colonel A. Greaves, Officer Commanding 61 H.Q. Army Signal Regiment, T.A., a Life Member of the Signals Association and Chairman of our Bedford Branch. A wreath was sent from Association Headquarters on behalf of all members.

W.O.II (S.S.M.) J. W. BOND

It is with deep regret that we have to record the death of Warrant Officer Class II (S.S.M.) J. W. Bond at the City General Hospital, York, on Thursday, 19th January, 1950, after a sudden collapse on the same day.

S.S.M. Bond joined the Corps on 31st December, 1929, and served in Egypt and Palestine during the first year of the war. After a brief spell at home he again saw service in the Middle East from where he was sent for a tour at the Royal Signals O.C.T.U. at Catterick Camp. The last eighteen months of his service was spent with the Gold Coast Signals and Nigeria Signals, West Africa, until his return to England on 2nd November, 1949.

He will be remember by all who served with him as a very popular Warrant Officer always willing to help others in every way.

He was interred with full Military Honours at Wisewood Cemetery, St. Polycarps, Sheffield, on Wednesday, 25th January, 1950, a funeral and firing party from the Depot Regiment, Royal Signals carrying out the compliment.

The deepest sympathy is extended by all ranks of the Corps to his relatives in their sad bereavement.

IMPORTANT READING IN MARCH

Operation Plainfare, by Colonel L. de M. Thuillier (p. 91).

Messrs. Gale and Polden, Ltd., have kindly permitted THE WIRE to republish a characteristic article from the pen of Major-General C. H. H. Vulliamy, C.B., D.S.O., which appeared in the January number of *The Fighting Forces* (p. 98).

Colonel Gaither's article on Radio Propagation is concluded (p. 94).

Army in Egypt Rugby Football Cup (p. 113).

Gebel Shabrawit Challenge Cup (p. 113).

Semi-final, Army Rugby Football Cup (p. 122).

Cross-country Running (p. 123).

A LETTER FROM THE ROYAL SIGNALS WING, SCHOOL OF SIGNALS

Dear Sir,

What can we say, other than that we are horrified!

To find that THE WIRE has gone in for strip cartoon did not perturb us, (much!), but when we examined the last picture of the January strip, our colleagues almost called an M.O. to our assistance. Then, when THEY examined the last picture we sent for an M.O. each!

What ails us?

Sir! Are you aware that someone is using BAD PROCEDURE? And in THE WIRE, of all places!

Pray look at that message form.

Firstly, the message form itself is incorrect, since the security classification is in a spot which distinctly states "This line for Signals use only."

Next—the procedure. The awful procedure!

The message is an In Message. Agreed? Then why the blank has the operator put a code sign in the OUT space.

The routing clerk is the next man for the axe—because he put the precedence prosign before the call.

We would then beg words with the message originator, (a) because the identifying letters in the originator are illegal, and (b) because the subject matter is very far from UNCLASSIFIED.

In fact sir, never has there been a single message with so much in it likely to make the S.S.O. go mad.

Having said which, two long suffering Instructors (School of Signals) will now examine your advertisement column for mention of a good hair restorer.

* * *

The artist and author of Pip Gorton replies:

I understand that certain experts have been pained at the procedure used in Pip Gorton's message in the January issue.

I wish to point out that:

(a) I claim a modicum of artistic licence in these matters.

(b) Certain intentional (?) mistakes of all kinds *will* appear just to test the awareness of readers.

(c) Airborne wireless operators work in action under conditions in which speed is more important than exact procedure. (N.B.: Procedure is a means to an end, NOT an end in itself.)

I will be pleased to note who spots the error first in future issues.

"WINGED MERCURY"

By **C.R.A.S.**

"What do I do with this letter now?" I asked the Signal Officer, as I gummed down the flap of the envelope.

"Write S.D.S. on it and put it in your 'out' tray," he replied. "S.D.S.?" "Signals Despatch Service." "Oh, not the good old D.R.L.S., meaning Dispatch Rider Letter Service?" "No, we put that on." "We?" "The Signal Office does that. We decide how all letters go out—official letters, of course." "Of course. But why can't I put D.R.L.S. on the envelope if it is in fact going by D.R.L.S.?" "Perhaps it won't; it may go by A.L.S., or some other means. It all depends upon whom the addressee is, you see." "I see, but what is A.L.S.?" "Air Letter Service." "But surely your braves won't put A.L.S. on this envelope? The addressee is only five hundred yards away, and there's no landing ground there. Nor is there one outside the Signal Office." "In that case it will go by D.R.L.S." "So, after this letter has gone to the Signal Office and through various processes there, somebody will mark it 'D.R.L.S.' and send it off. Correct?" "Correct." "Then a D.R. will get out his motor-bike and rush off with it. Correct?" "Not quite. You see, we have no motor-bikes now. They have all been returned to Ordnance, and so we use a 30cwt. instead." "Then why not be consistent and call it the 30 cwt. L.S., or, more simply, T.L.S.?" "T.L.S.?" "Yes, Truck Letter Service." "But we've got a T.L.S. already, to 2 N.R. at Abeokuta. Train Letter Service." "Oh. What else have you got?" "Well . . . there's L.L.S. . . . and F.A.L.S. . . ." "L.L.S.?" "Launch Letter Service to Tarkwah Bay . . . but only when the General's launch is working." "And F.A.L.S.?" "Fast Air Letter Service." "How does that differ from ordinary A.L.S.?" "It's faster." "Goes in a different aeroplane?" The Signal Officer began to look a little less self-assured. "Or are F.A.L.S. letters put in the front of the aeroplane and A.L.S. in the tail?" I asked. "Why?" "Because if they were in the front they would be bound to reach the other landing ground before those in the back, always provided that the aeroplane isn't abnormal and doesn't land tail first." "Shall I take your letter along?" he asked. "One moment," I replied. Picking up my pen wrote four letters on the envelope before handing it over. "What's this?" he asked. "We've no R.A.L.S. that I know of." "No," I replied, "but I have. It means 'Running African Letter Service.' Just give it to the orderly outside the office will you? He'll nip off with it and bring me the answer in five minutes."

Operation Plainfare

By **Colonel L. de M. THUILLIER,** *O.B.E.*

Chief Air Formation Signal Officer, Headquarters, British Air Forces of Occupation.

Note.—In writing this article, I am indebted to the many "I was there" stories contributed especially at my request by members of 11 Air Formation Signal Regiment and to previous contributions to THE WIRE. *I have found that limitations of space have prevented my using more than a fraction of those stories, but I hope that their authors found as much pleasure in writing them as I have in writing this.*

AT 0600 hours on Monday, 26th June, the first aircraft, a Dakota, loaded with flour, took off from Wunstorf *en route* for Gatow. By nightfall, 12 more had flown in to deliver a total of 44 tons of food. To the Russians, who no doubt counted every plane as it flew over the Russian Zone, it was a joke. Forty-four tons to feed 2,500,000 people!! Ten months later, on 16th April, 1949, 1,398 aircraft took off from eight airfields and delivered 12,940 tons. To the Russians, if they could count up to that number, the airlift had become a nightmare.

In that 10 months a vast organisation was built up which enabled an aeroplane to land at Gatow on average every five minutes, nine and a half seconds, night and day, day and night, and since there were a similar number of take-offs the average time between movements of aircraft on the runway was two minutes 34 seconds.



Securing quad cable on a road crossing. R.A.F. "Yorks" in background. Other cables on the pole are D8

That briefly was Operation Plainfare. In support of it there was an extensive communication system, part R.A.F., part Army. Of this it is only possible here to speak of that part which was the responsibility of the Army, the provision of landlines, the installation and maintenance of line equipment, telephone and telegraph instruments, telephone and telegraph switchboards and all the associated bits and pieces that go with them.

Let us take a quick look at the landline system. This made provision for a number of separate telephone and telegraph networks to meet the up-to-the-minute requirements of the R.A.F. First came the vital air traffic control (A.T.C.) circuits, both speech and telegraph, vital because on their uninterrupted working depended the smooth flow of aircraft in the corridors and in approaching and taking off from the runways. These circuits stretched across Germany between the Air Traffic Centre at Bad Eilsen, near Buckeburg, direct to the flying control towers on each airfield. Then there followed the ops speech circuits joining up the ops room at H.Q. British Air Forces of Occupation to the ops rooms at its subordinate H.Q.s, one of which in the early days was H.Q. Transport Ops which later became H.Q. 46 Group, and to the ops room at each major airfield. The third important network comprised the teleprinter circuits for the rapid passage of weather reports, and the teleprinters on them were without exception the busiest teleprinters in Germany. There was nothing wrong with a teleprinter that stood up to the solid 24 hours a day, seven days a week, pounding that some of these teleprinters received. Like the A.T.C. circuits, these radiated from the Metereological Office at Bad Eilsen to all airfields. For all the humdrum daily routine and administrative matters there was yet another network, connecting H.Q. B.A.F.O. with the main administrative exchanges on the airfields, with the civil network and all with each other. Then descending to the level of the airfield where, so they say, all the work is done, the internal operational requirements were met by a perimeter or "peri-cable" which ringed the flying arena and came up at advantageously placed distribution points (D.P.s), usually at each end of the runway and elsewhere according to requirements. The peri-cable served a multitude of useful purposes such as connecting the Flying Control tower with the flare path, radio transmitters, and R.A.F. flying aids like G.C.A., B.A.B.S., and V.H.F. Homers.

The responsibility for the provision of the above requirements was roughly that the Army found all the circuits within the perimeter of an airfield, while long distance trunk circuits, speech and telegraph, were engineered and maintained by the Deutsche Post. The latter usually installed and maintained all the larger C.B. and auto exchanges, leaving the smaller field exchanges and R.A.F. keyboards to be set up by the Army.

To 11 Air Formation Signal Regiment therefore, the provision of communications on the airfields was neither a joke nor a nightmare, though there was many a laugh and not a little sleep lost over some of the jobs they had to do. The Regiment took it all in their stride, just another 100 or more teleprinters to be maintained on a 24 hour watch basis, just another 1,500 telephones to be installed, always required by yesterday and invariably provided by tomorrow, though never quite in the right place, ("Would you mind awfully, lineman, if we shifted this table and telephone a little bit



15 pair terminal blocks in a Nissen hut on the Skymaster servicing site. Sergeant Caird, N.C.O. i/c Lines, who received the B.E.M.

that way so that I can get a better view of the runway? "), cables for ops, cables for Met. and cables for Tannoy loud-speaker systems. At almost every hour of every day throughout the whole operation, a "brown job" (as he is affectionately known to the R.A.F.) wearing the sleeve flash of a red aeroplane superimposed on the Corps colours was at work somewhere.

Let us begin the story at one of the airfields, Wunstorf, on that morning in June, 1948, when the first Dakota took off. There 80 Wing Signal Troop under command of Captain McIntyre, with Sergeant Jenkins as his right hand man, held the limelight. Assisted by B.A.O.R. Signal Regiment, a Signal Office and switchboard was set up for the Army Air Transport and Supply Organisation with direct communications to H.Q. B.A.O.R. and elsewhere. For the next three months, life was hectic. Second-Lieutenant Barker came to take over from Captain McIntyre, who was being released, and this is what he thought about it:

"To cope with all the extra work thrown upon the Troop, some reinforcements were sent. A large number of extra telephones were required and the number of telphones has gone up by 50 per cent.

Fifteen extra phones were required by the civilian air lines people. The one switchboard on the airfield was being worked to capacity as a result.

The Dakotas left and were replaced by four-engined York aircraft—it seems as if every York in England is now at Wunstorf . . . New cables had to be laid all over the place—flying control, operations room and check point. The weather was shocking while all this was going on and chaps were out at all hours of the 16 hour working day (no union hours here) . . . All requests for phones were met and these became so numerous that a directory typed out say on Tuesday was out of date on Thursday. It became necessary to replace the station switchboard by another one—a job which was completed in record time. Requests went from the sublime to the ridiculous when it was suggested that the W.R.A.F. teleprinter operators might be housed in more congenial mosquitoless surroundings, which if approved would have meant moving the exchange!! The devotion of some members of the Regiment for the W.R.A.F. is great but it was sorely tried at this point . . ."

This was the kind of thing that happened at all the airfields. The details might be different. Sergeant Withey, Troop Sergeant of 139 Line Troop at Fassberg described it like this:

"This was it. Operation Plainfare already in the making. Dakotas made their appearance on the airfield. This Troop knowing full well that they were going to bear the brunt of initial installation and consequent maintenance, really rolled back their sleeves and said as if in one breath 'We are equal to it.' One felt very apprehensive and very rationally so as to whether with the extremely youthful and obviously very inexperienced National Servicemen who composed most of the Troop we would bear up to it.

Anon it will be very clear that they did. Without any more ado, this Line Troop were briefed. Given the basic facts of what had caused the institution of Operation Plainfare, what was expected of them, and told also that the keynote was hard work, improvisation and team spirit.

All perimeter cables were tested, trunk lines were traced and insulation proved . . . All distribution cable heads were located and subsidiary cables noted as it was very obvious that all lines and communications would be tested to the very utmost.

All was well. This Troop was coping."

American Skymasters came to Fassberg, to oust the British Dakotas which had to be transferred to Lubeck, on the Baltic coast. Here the task fell to 67 Wing Signal Troop, under command of Lieutenant W. H. Muir, with Sergeant Mildren as his Troop Sergeant. Not a moment was wasted once orders had been received. Extra telephones were installed for the R.A.F. and for R.A.S.O. even before the officers arrived. There was no perimeter cable, so with the aid of a plough borrowed from the R.A.F. the job was completed in one week-end. Then came a flap; flying control wanted to move its offices to the top of the flying control tower, and the ops staff, not to be outdone, moved themselves too. That meant re-wiring and more re-wiring. And then a final flap and the morning of 17th September will not be forgotten by those of 67 Wing Signal Troop who were there. Half the main administrative switchboard went out of action temporarily. Imagine the scene, if you can, and pray that none of your switchboards, or even half of them, break down in the middle of such a vital operation as Plainfare. History draws a kindly veil over the reason for the temporary breakdown, but the incident is no longer mentioned in 67 Wing Signal Troop circles.

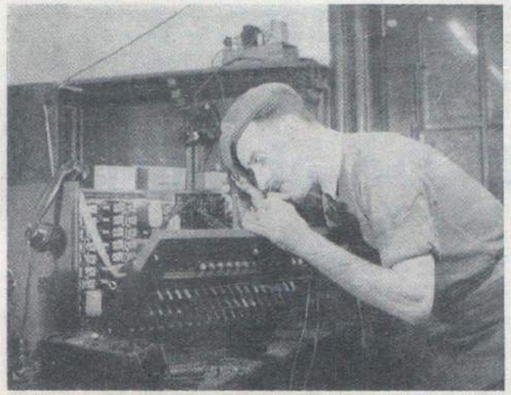
And while 67 Wing Signal Troop are still holding the stage, let Corporal Kirk describe what happened at Schleswigland when that airfield was later made operational for Plainfare with the latest troop carriers of the R.A.F., the Hastings:

"On arrival at Schleswigland I found the Troop busy laying three 14-pr. cables to the new flying tower so it was one more coat off and get stuck in. I arrived in time to complete the making of the last four joints and the terminations. This was completed in record time.

"We then had to start the internal wiring which, as the



"York" coming in at Gatow



S.Q.M.S. F. Bolton, who received the B.E.M., servicing a R.A.F. 20-line keyboard

place was newly built, was quite a job. There were to be 12 lines for the use of the Flying Controller and 30 lines for the R.A.F. Signals who were installing a new receiver station. After much scrounging (which we were never taught at Catterick) we finally obtained all the required stores and the whole place was completed in less than three days. The old flying control was changed and the new one taken over without a hitch . . ."

It is time now to take a look at the receiving end of the Airlift, and in particular at Gatow, where 41 Wing Signal Troop, diminished in size but not in stature, first under Captain McNair and then under Captain Barber, with Sergeant Hassal as the Troop Sergeant for the whole period, was stationed. Before the airlift, Gatow was primarily a fighter station with one runway and with its perimeter cable and other communications already installed. As the airlift progressed, so these had to be greatly enlarged, the work being done by the Deutsche Post personnel working in close co-operation with, and under the technical direction of, the O.C. Troop. The success of the line communications here was entirely due to teamwork; teamwork at the top between Captains McNair and Barber representing the Army, Messrs. Allen, Anderson and Prindable representing the P. and T. Staff of the Control Commission for Germany, and the Reichpost technical engineers, teamwork at the bottom level between the British and German personnel working side by side on the job.

The last airfield to be opened for Plainfare was Celle, when everybody realised that the Russians were not going to give way. 59 Wing Signal Troop, first under command of Second-Lieutenant S. Foulson with Sergeant McCollom as Troop Sergeant, was given the task of getting the airfield communications ready before the arrival of the American Skymasters. Sergeant McCollom had already been there for some months, sorting out a 252-pr. cable and arranging distribution of the pairs to some 22 I.P.s, so what he did not know about the landlines was not worth knowing.

"With the commencement of Operation Plainfare," he said, "there was a terrific initial rush of urgent telephone installation required. The system I employed to cope with this was one N.C.O. and two men to each Sub Distribution frame, each phone terminating there being their responsibility. Five frames, five parties; this worked very well as it enabled each party to become very familiar with a small area instead of not so familiar with the whole cable network.

"New cable installations were handled well by Corporal Henshaw and his party, ably assisted by a mechanical ditching machine he borrowed from the D.C.R.E. His most notable achievement was the laying of 440 yards of cable, buried to a depth of six feet, terminated, and six phones working over the same to R.A.S.O. check point No. 1, all in ten hours."

After the airfields, the briefest of glimpses must be thrown at the disposition of the H.Q.s controlling the whole operation. As the number of airfields in the British Zone continued to multiply so it became increasingly difficult to exercise control from Wunstorf. Some more central location was indicated and the choice fell upon Buckeburg. Here one week-end in July, the nocturnal ramblings of ghosts in an old Schloss were distributed by strange intruders, speaking in a strange language, and acting (to them) in a strange manner. But it was only linemen of 31 Construction Troop wiring up rooms in the dark (lighting not being a Signal responsibility) to get the H.Q. ready by the following morning. Further expansion of the airlift disclosed the inadequacy of Buckeburg as a H.Q. site, and H.Q. 46 Group, which had come out from the U.K. to take charge of the British side of the operation, moved to Luneburg, where it remained to the end. At about the same time, the Combined Airlift Task Force H.Q. was set up at Wiesbaden in the U.S. Zone to exercise overall supervision over the whole combined airlift. This meant the extension of A.T.C., Ops., Met., and Admin. circuits to Wiesbaden and the establishment of similar circuits from there to the two airfields, Fassberg and Celle which were being used by American Skymasters.

No account of Plainfare can be completed without a tribute to all those who laboured unceasingly behind the scenes. The telegraph mechanics who performed prodigious feats to keep all the teleprinters, especially those for Met. purposes, on circuit, the line mechanics and line test clerks who maintained unceasing watch in fault controls, the Regimental and Squadron H.Q. staffs, who administered, clothed and maintained a full pipeline of technical and project stores, all must be mentioned. Nor can we pass by the immense contribution of the Deutsche Post whose long distance trunk circuits played their part in the successful build-up and smooth running of the airlift. Without their aid and that of the P. and T. staff of the Control Commission for Germany under whose technical control the Deutsche Post laboured, the airlift might well have failed.

The work of Air Formation Signals has not gone unrecognised. Here is an extract from a Special Order of the day of 8th August, 1949: "For G.O.C.-in-C., from Secretary of the State. Please convey to the Troops under your command the sincere appreciation of the Army Council for the substantial and important part which the Army played in the Berlin Airlift. Particularly I would like to mention the four organisations which were most directly concerned. 1st. The A.F. Signals . . . Once again the Army has demonstrated its quality by adapting itself efficiently to new and difficult problems. For this the Nation is grateful."

And here is an extract from a message from the C.-in-C. B.A.F.O. to the G.O.C.-in-C. B.A.O.R.: "I am particularly grateful to the Army Commander for the large and efficient A.A.T.O. and Signals Organisation which backed up the airlift and without which the operation could have succeeded."

Finally, in the New Year Honours for 1950, the following awards were received:

O.B.E.	Lieutenant-Colonel A. T. Sladen (O.C. 11 Air Formation Signal Regiment).
M.B.E.	S.S.M. E. M. Derwent.
B.E.M.	C.Q.M.S. (F. of S.) C. P. Bolton.
B.E.M.	Sergeant S. F. Caird.
B.E.M.	Sergeant N. S. Richardson.
B.E.M.	Signalman P. Cowley.

Do you know the address of your local Branch of the Signals Association? If not, write to the General Secretary, 88 Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1.

"The Wire" is privileged to republish the following article from "Signals," the Journal of the Armed Forces Communications Association of the United States of America. Owing to its length it is reprinted in three parts. The first parts appeared in "The Wire" in January and February

Radio Propagation and the Use of Antennas

By **Lieutenant-Colonel LOREN E. GAITHER**

Antenna Design Neglected

The radio antenna is often considered to be part of a radio set. We could be wrong . . . the matter seems to be one of relativity . . . but we are much inclined to feel that the antenna is infinitely more important than the radio set. Our observation is that the design engineer's interest comes to an abrupt end at the antenna terminals. He snubs the antenna with the verve of a Long Island matron fluffing off the country cousin from Four Forks.

Tucked away in a certain radio handbook we find the bland statement, "Commercial radio antennas are designed to exhibit as much as 22 db gain." This statement might be easily passed over without one appreciating the magnitude of a 22 decibel gain. This is a power gain of 158. This is *terocious* and don't bother to look up the word—it is one of our own coining and should extend the usable, upper limits of Hollywood's adjectival spectrum! Given a 40 kilowatt transmitter, exciting an antenna designed to exhibit a power gain of 22 decibels, the transmitter appears to have an output of 6,320 kilowatts viewed from the receiving end of the path! This same degree of gain *may also* be incorporated into the receiving antenna, thus bringing electrocution by remote control within the realm of possibility! The startling feature of this power increase appears when we state that it may be accomplished with virtually nothing more than some wire, a few poles, and a few insulators. Perhaps, before we allow our public relation complex to hypnotise our customers, it will be advisable to define the limits of this utopia. It shall be necessary, first, to define one basic premise.

The half wavelength antenna is fundamental. The simplest antenna is a half-wave antenna, though like Aesop with the camel, we may not always observe the whole of the beast. Physically, we may not see a half wavelength in a short whip antenna, but we may be certain that the entire half wavelength is there, either coiled up electrically into a loading inductance, or partly supplied by some ground connection hokus-pocus called "the image."

Half-Wave Formula

This isn't too important to us except from one angle. We correctly state that electrically our antenna must consist of one or more half wavelengths; the more the better. We may string these half-wave elements end to end or we may arrange them in some sort of a fancy bird-cage with the same thought in mind; the more the better. The thing to give us pause is the physical length of this half wavelength along a wire suspended above the earth in the usual fashion for antennas. A good, approximate formula for the length of the half-wave, along a wire, in feet, is 468 divided by the frequency in megacycles.

As an example, the shortest wire length for an antenna, not connected to ground, that will operate on 1,000 kilocycles (1 megacycle) is 468/1 or 468 feet and, although a small pasture will accommodate this antenna, it would look a bit silly mounted on a jeep . . . so what do we do if we wish to operate at this frequency in a jeep? We simply wind most of the antenna into coil, a fifteen foot end protruding electrically, and we call it a whip antenna. The fact that we have lost most of the radiating efficiency in the process and are requiring a small boy to do a man's work is blithely ignored. We end up with a thousand dollar radio working through a ten-cent antenna . . . at best a compromise and maybe an admission that we have been neglecting antenna research for research on more complicated equipments.

For the Happy Medium

Perhaps if we would spend a little more effort in developing radiators of increased efficiency we could expect increased reliability with smaller sets. We admit we could possibly carry this idea to the extreme where we would be using a ten-cent radio with a thousand dollar antenna. We contend this also would be stupid; somewhere there is a reasonable balance between the two factors. We are way to the left of centre at the present date.

The one basic premise we set out to define in the paragraph above is rather effectively screened by a bit of propaganda. The premise is, actually, the appreciation of the size of antenna half wave elements. With present day techniques, antenna arrays with sizable gains may be constructed for little cost in a limited space using very high, ultra high, and super high frequencies by reason of the physical dimensions of the half wave falling between the limits of fifteen feet and a fraction of an inch for these frequencies. An extreme case would be the consideration of the size of a half wave for 30 kilocycles (.03 megacycles). For this frequency the length of the simple antenna would be 15,600

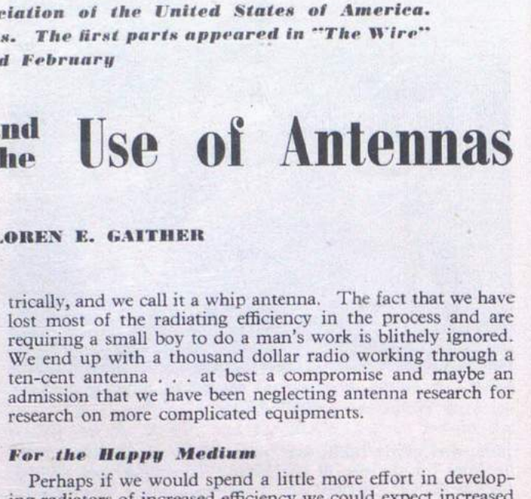


Fig. 9

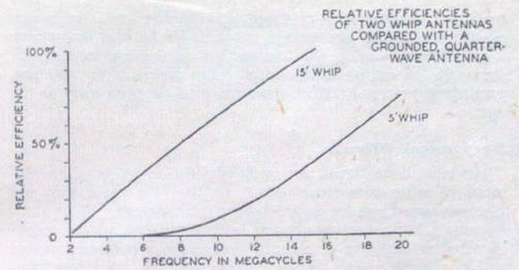


Fig. 10

feet and dimensions alone would make the construction of an array of many of these half-wave elements a project of Herculean proportions. A further appreciation of the basic half-wave antenna predicates that the entire half wavelength should be electrically exposed if we are to expect good radiating efficiency; we must not expect good results if we resort to electrical tricks to utilise a physical length of antenna which is only a fraction of a half wave in length.

Now that we have presented a bit of sales talk on antennas, may we discuss their usage.

Many military situations, especially those of mobile operation, require the use of short antennas with omni-directional characteristics. In other words, we desire 360° azimuthal coverage from our transmitting site and the ability to receive signals from any direction with the same degree of efficiency. To accomplish this we usually select a single, vertical radiator such as a whip, a tower or a vertical wire. Of course, we should realise that with this ability to transmit or receive equally well in all directions we sacrifice the opportunity to beam or concentrate all of our radiation in a desired direction. It is in those situations wherein we only need to transmit in a given direction that we goof off with lackadasical operations using omni-directional antennas when we actually have the time and the materials to construct a directional antenna.

Whip Limitations

We also expect our whip antenna to accomplish many things without one thought of its limitations. We operate it at the lower end of the high frequency band and wonder why we do not get better results. As previously explained, all of the antenna isn't in sight. Only part of it radiating and the greater portion of our available energy is wasted in heating up the set or the ground. Please look at Figure 10. We also may be surprised to learn that the vertical antenna is useful for only low or even *very* low angles of radiation. A review of Figure 7 and a quick glance at Figure 9 will clarify this entire consideration.

We note that a vertical half-wave antenna does not radiate well at vertical angles greater than 40°. *We must never disregard the low radiation (or reception) angle of a vertical antenna; yet we do!* From Figure 7 we note the optimum vertical angle is about 75° for sky wave transmission over a 50 mile path, such as a jungle path wherein we have complete absorption of the ground and direct waves. We now suspect that a vertical antenna will be worthless for this application and we are correct. Figures 9 and 10 furnish us with factual data relative to the vertical angle efficiencies of vertical half-wave antennas and vertical fractional-wave whips. This information, plus that of Figure 7, should take us a long way toward solution of sky wave propagation problems using vertical grounded and ungrounded antennas.

For ground or direct wave propagation we may assume that our best vertical angle of propagation is zero and Figures 3, 6, and 9 will yield essential data to those who wish to carefully study and evaluate the information. In general, vertical antennas are useful for ground wave, most direct wave, and long-distance sky wave paths; verticals are usually unsatisfactory for short and medium sky wave paths.

Polarisation Tricks

At this point polarisation rears its ugly head and its importance should be recognised. A rather spectacular demonstration of the importance of polarisation may be performed with two half-wave antennas of the same length. When one is excited at its natural or resonant frequency as a transmitting antenna and the other has a small light bulb inserted in the centre of the antenna, thus becoming a receiving antenna, we find, when the latter is brought into proximity with the transmitting antenna that the light bulb will glow brightly when the antennas are parallel, but the light bulb will not glow when the antennas are at right angles to each other, no matter where in space we place either or both of them. This demonstration is impressive and, once observed, will probably prevent one from making the mistake of using a vertical antenna at one end of a path and a horizontal antenna at the other. Please remember, transmitting and receiving antennas should always be parallel to each other —long distance, multi-hop transmission engineers disregard this statement; consult the nearest soothsayer holding a valid union card.

Horizontal Misuse

When antennas are operated in proximity with the ground, say within a ten wavelength distance we observe a change in the vertical angle of radiation with a change in the height above ground due to an image effect. This applies to all antennas, grounded or ungrounded. Incidentally, we repeat the statement that, at a given frequency, if an antenna has one or more peculiar characteristics for transmitting, it has exactly the same characteristics for receiving . . . and vice versa. This is the important reciprocity theorem and is a very helpful tool on analysing antenna phenomena.

We mention the image effect of the ground on an antenna although this actually has nothing to do with usage of antennas; it is rather one of the basic principles. Whenever we physically ground an antenna or whenever an antenna is

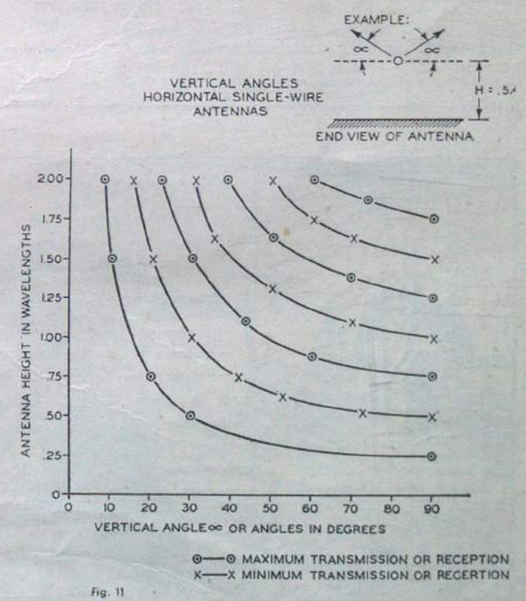


Fig. 11

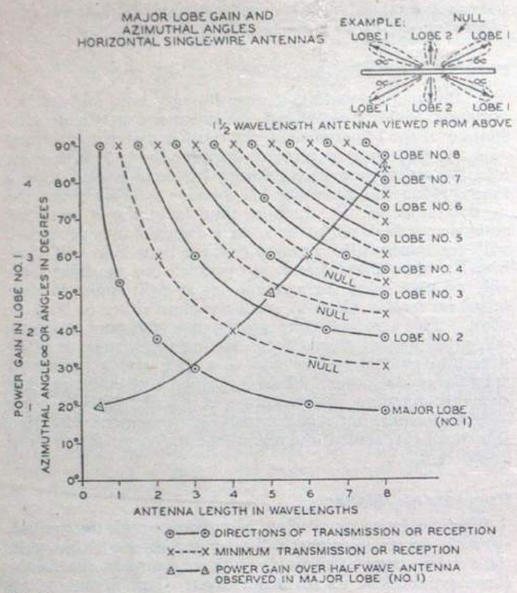


Fig. 12

near the ground there appears to be, from all points of observation above the ground, a mirror image of the antenna in the ground. For example, if we erect a vertical one-quarter wavelength antenna above the ground and physically connect the bottom of the antenna to the ground, from all points in space we observe another quarter wave extending into the ground from the end of the actual antenna. These two quarter-waves form, in effect, a one-half wavelength antenna. The advantage of this connection is the opportunity to operate a short length of antenna on a frequency exactly one-half of its normal, resonant or natural frequency. The disadvantage of this connection is the appreciable increase in absorption losses noted when we place an antenna, particularly a transmitting antenna, in close proximity to the earth.

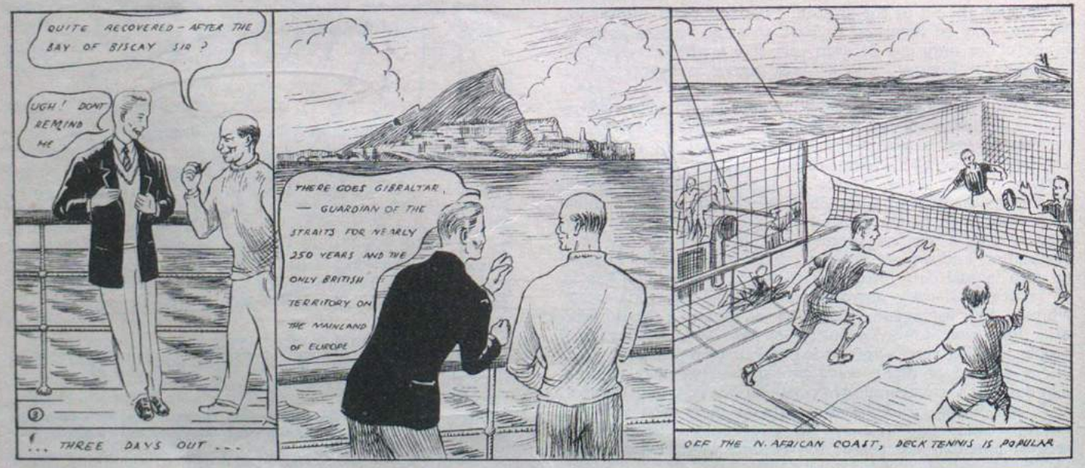
Horizontal Misuse

Horizontal antennas are probably the most misused element in radio communication. In the first place they are virtually worthless for ground wave propagation. Why? . . . Because a horizontal antenna is horizontally polarised, meaning that it operates only with horizontally polarised waves and *the earth short circuits a horizontally polarised wave when the wave attempts to travel along the earth.* To those who object, we defend this statement as being true within the limits of efficient communication practices.

Horizontal antennas have very definite azimuthal directions and very definite vertical angles in which they do and do not operate, no matter whether used for transmitting or receiving. The azimuthal directions with respect to the antenna depend upon the length of the single wire antenna or upon the number and configuration of the several antennas in an array. *The azimuthal direction normally is not influenced by the height above ground. The height above ground is, nevertheless, the normal, governing factor in defining the vertical angle or angles.* We cannot discuss antenna arrays in this article but we invite attention to Figures 11 and 12. We have attempted to extract the germ from the whole treatise of single wire antennas and present the information in a useful form to one who may wish to operate correctly without knowing the full reason why. If one does not limit the operation of horizontal antennas by these general rules, or, should we bluntly say, if one attempts to operate without knowing what one is doing, the results will have a 50 per cent chance of being lousy.

With apologies for the liberties and short-cuts taken in this article, we sincerely hope that we have prepared a brief, usable handbook in the form of the encompassed figures and graphs. We sincerely believe that careful evaluation of the graphs will accomplish much more than all the yakety-yak we have written on this paper.

CONCLUDED



Dr Rogers' Letters

FROM THE CRIMEA

27TH JULY, 1855 *CAMP BEFORE SEBASTOPOL*

The wind is blowing into my tent and it is difficult to keep the paper down whilst I write. On Tuesday we had quite a small hurricane, it began with a thunderstorm and I was just congratulating myself at being under shelter in one of the hospital marquees when a sudden shift of the wind pitched it over, burying the whole of our medical staff, patients and all in the ruins. I was just dressing some wound when I found myself carried away. The rain was pouring at the time and all the people except those under the ruins were pretty well drenched. Fortunately no one was hurt, but out of the six marquees belonging to the Brigade only one was left standing. My tent was more fortunate though badly pitched, but the commanding officer was completely enveloped and had to shout for help. However, out of evil comes good and we have now two new ones in place of the other marquees which were worn out.

Nothing has occurred lately in the progress of the siege of any importance, people say that there will not be another attack for three weeks, meanwhile firing is brisk now night and day. We have only lost one man, wounded, of our Regiment as yet, I hope we shall continue as fortunate.

With regard to the roots Mary speaks of, any English fruits or seeds would grow here to perfection I should think, for the climate is very similar; some celery would not be bad for the winter. I shall want you to send me out some things before the cold weather comes on as I am not provided with a single waistcoat, but August is to be the hottest month in the year, but July has been very pleasant owing to the frequent rains. A case of "Bitter Beer" would be more to the purpose than one of roots.

25TH AUGUST, 1855

On Tuesday we were ordered under arms at 3 in the morning though we did not leave the camp, and yesterday everyone was confined to camp, expecting to be called out and the Highlanders were actually marched down to the plain last night, but I have not heard of anything having taken place there. Meanwhile, we have been keeping up a heavy fire against the Russian works for the last week, with what object I don't know exactly, and we have of course suffered considerably from the enemy's fire in return. We have been expecting something to be done for several days past, but as yet there is no sign. I wish that an end could be put to the siege at once, for the constant drain upon the men is, I think, worse than a wholesale lop which must be whenever an assault is attempted. Up till lately we have come off lightly but the last few times we have had men killed, and this morning an officer, Capt. Drummond has been brought in wounded through the lung so that his chances are small.

8TH SEPTEMBER, 1855

We are likely to have plenty to do today as it is intended to renew the attempt at assault today by the French and "Sardines" on one side and our 2nd Division are to be in readiness for anything on our own side. We are to march down as a reserve I believe, and I sincerely hope to more purpose than on 18th June. Our men will have had enough of it for a time as they have been in the trenches now 36 hours without relief. They are to come off at 8 and form about 11 a.m. I suppose, as they say, the attack is to take place at noon. For the last two or three days and nights there has been a perpetual growl of artillery and the wind has been very high especially at night, which makes one feel a little alarm for the stability of one's tent.

11TH SEPTEMBER, 1855

Well, Sebastopol is ours at last, thanks to our gallant allies, we as usual made a botch of it after sacrificing 2,000 of the flower of our army. I was left in camp that day to take charge of the wounded, and the whole of the Division were in reserve in nearly the same place as last time and



did about as much. In fact, the plan in the British Army appears to be to have lots of reserves and then not to support the "enfans perdus" who make the assault. This was the case on Saturday for our fellows went in gallantly enough into the Redan and remained there fighting more than an hour, whilst the Brigade next in support never left the trenches to help them, and eventually they were overpowered by numbers and driven out, although all our trenches were full of our men at the time. The French took the Malakhoff in prime style. They had only a little way to go and the plans were not divulged till the same day so that even the Russians were taken by surprise, whilst their rations were being issued so it is said, and being once fairly in they kept the place, but it was all the worse for our men as they wanted to see the result of the French attack, and in that time the enemy were prepared to receive them and sent all the available men into the Redan. One officer whom I knew very well, was killed in the assault and another who came out with me in the *Kangaroo*, had his arm shot through the shoulder joint, breaking the collar and blade bones also. The arm was removed at the joint and I trust he may do well. So ends this memorable siege. It seems strange to hear no firing after one is so used to it, although every now and then we hear explosions as the town is full of magazines and the Russians fired it in several places before they left it. They also blew up some of their ships and sunk the rest before they took themselves over the water. The French have been allowed 48 hours for pillaging the town but none of our men have been allowed to pass our advanced works, which is felt to be rather a hardship as they have risked their lives in endeavouring to take the place they have been trying to take so long.

I rode down yesterday, passing the sentries by some excuse and went into the Redan and Malakhoff. It is no wonder that we were so long taking the place when you see the enormous strength of these works, and the Russians ought never to have let them go out of their hands. I went through part of the town also, we had removed all our wounded and buried the dead Russians as well as English.

There was a flag of truce in the afternoon and the Russians came over and carried away all their men who were not buried. It was rather a horrid sight passing along the inside of the Russian trenches which were strewn with their dead in all postures. The town is fearfully damaged with our shot and shell, and beside the fires that have been lit, but it is built of stone and won't burn well. The streets are even barricaded and some of them contain small batteries.

Danger of Anachronisms in Military Thought

By **Major-General C. H. H. VULLIAMY**, *C.B., D.S.O.*

A GIBE which has often been made at the expense of Commanders of the Fighting Services, particularly of the Army, is that they train for the next war with the methods of the last and then proceed to fight its opening stages using the old methods even though outmoded by new weapons which may and certainly could be available. Often I have argued in defence of my professional brothers with the non-regular officers of war time, with professors and with journalists who are particularly prone to doubt the intelligence of the Regular officer. There can, however, be little doubt that there is some basis for the gibe. The cause is difficult to find, but the fact cannot be denied. By a curious paradox it may be due to the retirement, after any major war, of those officers with experience, before that war, higher than command of a unit or brigade. Those that are left have but a nodding acquaintance with the principles which do not change, but are fully conversant with and immersed in the details of the fighting (in the late war) of their units, brigades and the lower formations generally. There is a rush to incorporate this knowledge in manuals or even as a doctrine of war. Principles are overlooked and a mass of detail from the war, just over, becomes the basis of military teaching with the inevitable result that training on the "method" of the last war becomes the order of the day. More directly the cause may be adherence to out-worn ideas in high places, a general reluctance to take the risk of scrapping the old and tried methods in favour of the new.

An excellent example of the persistence of the out-of-date in military thought is to be found in this year's subject for the Trench Gascoigne Prize Essay which may gain the Gold Medal of the Royal United Service Institution, that seat of military learning, one of whose main objects should be to promote and stimulate the advance of "military thought." The subject chosen is roughly to the effect that in war only a small percentage of the men in the Services get to grips with the enemy while the remainder form an administrative tail : what can be done to reduce the latter and increase the proportion of the former? The choice of the subject of this essay is not mere chance. In the War Office, and in all probability in the other Service Ministries, the brains of the General Staff are consulted. The final selection is the result of their studied consideration.

An immediate reaction to such a choice is that the subject is redolent of the past. It brings back memories of the late Lord Milne's summing up after the War Office exercise at Malvern in 1931, held to study the composition and employment of armoured formations. The then C.I.G.S. was most insistent that "the tail must not be allowed to wag the dog," and that the percentage of men in the fighting arms in comparison with the whole must be kept high. True of the First World War, but not so applicable to the era of military machines which by 1931 had opened. Looking back to the 1914 division of all arms, from memory, the establishment was some 20,000. Of these about a half were infantry and a quarter artillery. In the remaining quarter were to be found the sappers, signals and the administrative tail which was, therefore, obviously not a high percentage of the whole. In the armoured division of thirty years later, it is doubtful if the actual fighting troops were more than a quarter of the division. Tasks which in in the past would have been regarded as maintenance were in 1944 performed by men wearing the badges of the fighting arms. Essential maintenance had by this time encroached on the field of combat. The suggested tail which Lord Milne had ridiculed in 1931 had been far surpassed in 1944 in the interests of efficiency learned in the hard school of experience, instead of being introduced at a far earlier date as the result of reasoned study.

The introduction of more complicated weapons requires more men for their maintenance. As the numbers available for the forces are not unlimited, the natural sequence in an increase in the proportion of the "tail" *vis-à-vis* the "teeth." A comparatively small number of men provided with modern means of destruction are far more effective in battle than a large number armed with outmoded weapons. The ultimate outcome of the search for the most effective way of destroying an enemy must necessarily be the adoption of more powerful and hence more complicated weapons. An illustration is the use of bomber aircraft. Here the numbers in actual contact with the enemy, represented by the bomber crews, are a very small percentage of the total human effort involved. They are, however, capable of spreading destruction at great ranges over a wide area. Prior to the Second World War, this power, though possibly not completely ignored, was certainly not accepted at is real value.

During the First World War, air power was in its infancy, in fact, at the beginning of the war it was practicalyy non-existent as a military weapon, but by the end was well established, with an obviously important future. There is no gainsaying that during the inter-war years the development of air power was hampered by a lack of elasticity of mind outside the Air Force, by a general tendency to the known and to shirk the untried weapons with the methods to give them effect. This attitude of mind persisted, if not throughout, well into the Second World War. In the First World War, threatened on our natural heritage, the sea, by a great Power with the resources of a continent behind them, the nation fought a grim struggle for existence on sea, land and in the air. The land effort was on an unprecedented scale, the air effort was new. Failure to grasp the potentialities of air power caused the adoption of a similar form of strategy in the Second World War. The attempt to maintain sea, land and air forces each of the first magnitude and equipped at strength in the modern sense was beyond the capacity of the national resources, and very nearly brought disaster. The sea forces were (and always will be) vital to this country, for on the sea are carried the very means which enable the nation to continue any struggle. A more modern outlook during the inter-war years should have resulted in the allotment of more of the national defence effort to the Air Force at the expense of the Army. Incidentally, there were not lacking some in the Army itself, even in high places, who, looking ahead, advocated this course, but their opinions were not accepted.

During the Second World War the Army absorbed fifty per cent. of the national war effort, the Navy twenty and the Air Force twenty-seven. Of the latter, one quarter, or seven per cent. only of the total war effort, went to Bomber Command. Sir John Slessor has said: "I have often wondered if the allotment to the bomber offensive had been increased to ten per cent., whether we would not have been able to return to Europe in 1944 on a march table rather than an operation order." The answer, of course, can never be known, but there is much food for thought in the consideration that such might have been the case had military thought, as a whole, been sufficiently advanced to give the Air Force that to which their undoubted power to strike entitled them. How much more is this true today in the age of the atom bomb. Lord Trenchard, as reported in the Press, made himself clear on this point in the House of Lords a short while back.

For any future conflict the gloves are off and no holds are barred. There is no reason for suspecting our adversary of undue kindness of heart towards the armed forces or the civil population. The time interval of the last war is unlikely to be available again. The sooner the knock-out blow is delivered, the greater our chance of survival. The armed forces (air, sea and land), our means to this end, are interdependent, and in any future conflict one cannot be successfully employed alone. Surely it behoves us to direct the current of thought to the examination of the methods of organising, arming, supplying and employing these forces with the object of how best to destroy the enemy with the least loss to ourselves of the one irreplaceable asset, our man power. The need for the most modern and efficient methods of destruction is axiomatic. Large numbers are required for their production and maintenance, considerable numbers are necessary to control their employment, while owing to the high mobility and immense power of the weapons which can be produced, the actual fighting crews who come in contact with the enemy are likely to be small by comparison. It is probable that the roles of the air and land forces will be completely changed, the latter becoming a mere subsidiary to the former. It is essential to strike the enemy; a bomber air force is the weapon for this. It is equally essential to ward off the enemy's blows; a fighter air force is the weapon for this. Human masses (even if the nation could make them available) on the ground will not bring victory in the next war. That part of the national effort allotted to defence must be reserved for essentials; outworn traditions and methods must be dropped to ensure this. Bayonets won Waterloo, but at what a high proportionate cost in human casualties amongst the forces employed. In future, victory will belong to the nation which most ruthlessly employs the best mechanical means of destruction against all its adversary's powers to resist.

The Services must cast off the shackles of tradition and, may it be said, inter-Service jealousies; they must take the risk and cease to waste the national effort on out-worn methods with out-of-date weapons; they must devise new practice for the employment of the latest weapons; otherwise they will try to fight and surely lose the next war with the ways and weapons of the last.

[*This article appeared in the January issue of "The Fighting Forces," and is reprinted by kind permission of the author and the publishers, Messrs. Gale and Polden.*]

Indian Cipher Operators

I NOTICED that the Editor of THE WIRE was asking for articles on the early days of the Indian Signal Corps. I must confess to being much too young a soldier to know much about the early days of that Corps. In fact, when it was formed I wasn't even a nasty look in the S.S.M.'s eye. But I did have the privilege of helping in the training of a very new branch of the I.S.C. in 1947.

When it became obvious that India was to become independent in some form and that all British troops would be leaving, the powers that were ordered the training of Indian Other Rank cipher operators. To get a proper picture of what this decision meant the whole position of cipher staffs in India up to that time has to be considered. Up to 1947 the only purely Indian personnel employed on cipher duties were a few Indian officers and W.A.C.(I). All the rest, probably 90 per cent, were British or Anglo-Indian. It had almost been a basic tenet of policy that I.O.R.s did not possess the needed qualifications for cipher operators. And now we had to start training them.

A cipher training school had existed in India for many years, first under the able command and expert guidance of its virtual founder, Major E. V. Staynor, Indian Signals, and, at the time of which I am writing, was part of the Indian Signal Corps School, Mhow. It was a very smoothly functioning organisation commanded by Major C. J. Prince (now with the Pakistan Signal Corps) but the whole of the syllabii and training plan was based on the training of British ranks. The main question was—could this organisation be adapted to the needs of I.O.R. training.

It was decided that the training period would cover 12 weeks, instead of the then six weeks, and a tremendous amount of work was put in by the O.C. and his instructional team in the amending of syllabii, the extending and subdividing of lectures and exercises and all the other things that had to be done in this reorganisation. But when all was done the question would still be—could we produce I.O.R. cipher operators? If we couldn't then all the lectures in the world were so much waste paper.

One of our particular worries was to select for training those I.O.R.s with a sufficient command of the English language. Contrary to general belief cipher operators are neither Einsteins nor morons. But, if they are to be any good, they do have to possess two basic requirements. Firstly, a thorough command of the English language in its widest sense and, secondly, a vast store of general know-



ledge (sometimes classified as useless information). Unfortunately, these were two things we did not expect to find in Indian troops. So, to avoid a lot of unnecessary work, all applicants for courses were carefully pre-selected by means of a series of intelligence tests devised at the school. These tests were passed out to the various units or H.Q.s and applicants were tested before being sent to the school. Anyone who failed this pre-test was rejected at his unit and so saved a lot of wasted time for us.

Eventually, sufficient numbers were assembled to start a course. And the instructors got a shock. After approaching the course with much doubt and trepidation, they found that the students took to the job like a duck to water. There were still those who failed and those who passed—but only just. But in most cases there was very little difficulty indeed. There were still troubles with English and general knowledge and "howlers" of various kinds were perpetrated. As for instance the laddie who said that I.E.M.E. meant "Indian Engineers and Mechanical Electricians." Or the other who explained in a written answer that "we had to get to the route of the matter.' But most did reach an average standard and some were particularly good.

The language difficulty was attacked by making students speak English at all times, even in barrack rooms and leisure time. We almost instituted a Gestapo to make sure this was done, but it certainly worked. We helped along the problem of general knowledge by holding "quizzes." Setting one-half the class against the other. And weird and wonderful were the questions asked. But each period brought out and drove home some bit of knowledge for someone there (including the instructors). With all these measures and the natural aptitude of the students—plus a tremendous amount of hard work on the part of all involved, we were able to produce a pass ratio of three-to-one from the first course. Far more than even the most optimistic had dared predict.

Subsequent courses followed the same pattern but matters were slightly complicated by the terms of the final settlement in India, i.e. the division into the two Dominions of India and Pakistan. The classes we had were naturally mixed as regards race, creed and loyalty. But good sense prevailed and everything went along just as smoothly as before, Indians and Pakistanis working together and helping each other in every way. The instructors made it quite clear that they were completely impartial and their only criterion would be "Is he a good cipher operator?" The students realised that and a potentially difficult situation never materialised. A particular bouquet is due to Captain Tornay, Indian Signals, who had at this time succeeded Major Prince as O.C. of the Cipher School. Although an Indian officer and still, to the best of my knowledge, serving with the Indian Army, he held the balance with strict impartiality and insisted that all his staff did likewise.

Up to the time of my departure from the school we had turned out about 100 Indian cipher operators for the two Dominions and I think the criterion of our work is that, when almost all British cipher personnel left the country, both countries had an effective, working (though somewhat short staffed) cipher organisation.

From the purely personal viewpoint, as a confirmed lover of the India that was and the Dominions that are, I am glad to think that I helped in some small measure to give them a fair start. And that I made some good friends whilst so doing. Good luck to the cipher staffs of both countries, and may all your corruptions be simple ones.

OLD BILL

One Minute, Please!

I AM known as a bad man from one end of the country to just a little beyond the same end. Practically every one in my class in kindergarten went into business after graduation, and when I say business I mean business. Whenever I see them now they are always dressed up in stiff shirts and are making marks on the backs of envelopes. Get me a hundred of my old schoolmates together and let them talk from 9 a.m. until almost dinner time and I won't understand a word they are saying.

But not until I have had it said to me eight or a dozen times that I ought to be more businesslike. "Good old Bob," they say (those of them who remember that my name is "Bob"), "you are just a sucker to be so impractical. Why don't you let us take some of your money and triple it for you?"

Leaving aside the question "What money?" I am frankly at a loss for something to say. Here I am, just a dreamer.

Of course, if I wanted to, I might point out that out of a possible $5,000 which I have made since I left school I have had $3,000 worth of good food (all of which has gone into making bone and muscle and some nice fat), $1,500 worth of theatre tickets, and $500 worth of candy; whereas many of my business friends have simply had $5,000 worth of whatever that stock was which got so yellow along about last November.

I was sympathetic with all the boys at that time and even advanced a little cash in a sparing manner, but I couldn't help remembering the days during the summer when I had to sit and listen to them say "Well, I made $650,000 over the week-end. What will you have, Bob, old man?"

I do not intend to dwell on this phase of life's whirligig, however, who can tell, perhaps some day even we spendthrifts may find ourselves short of cash.

What I do want to dwell on is the point that there are still a great many practices which are considered business-like and efficient and any one of us old dreamers could improve upon and speed up. Now you sit still and read this. I have sat still and listened to you long enough.

First, there is the question of business telephoning. During the last five or six years there has spread throughout the business world a method of telephoning which so far as I am concerned, bids fair to destroy all channels of business communication. If it keeps up, I, for one, will go back to the old Indian runner and carrier pigeon methods. I won't stand for this another day. In fact, I stopped standing for it a year ago.

I refer to the delayed pass play, so popular among busy executives. In this play your busy executive, when he wants to get me on the telephone (why he should want to get me on the telephone is a mystery), says to his Secretary: "Get me Mr. Benchley on the wire, Miss Whatney." You see, he hasn't got the time to get me himself, what with all those stocks he has to tend to; so he has Miss Whatney do it for him. So far, pretty good! Miss Whatney looks up my number in the book and gives it to the operator at the switchboard thereby releasing the busy executive for other duties such as biting off the end of a cigar or drawing circles on his scratch pad.

The scene now changes and we see me, the impractical dreamer, sitting at an old typewriter with nothing to do but finish an article which was due the day before. My telephone rings and I, in my slipshod impractical way, answer it. And what do I get for my pains?

"Is this Vanderbilt 0647? Is Mr. Benchley there? Just a minute, please!"

Having nothing to do but woolgather, I wait. In about two minutes I hear another female voice saying. "Is this Mr. Benchley? Just a minute, please, Mr. Kleek wants to speak to you."

Remember, it is Mr. Kleek who is calling me up. I

don't want to speak to Mr. Kleek. I wouldn't care if I never spoke to him. In fact, I am not sure that I know who Mr. Kleek is.

"Just a minute, please," comes the voice again. "Mr. Kleek is talking on another wire."

Now, fascinating as this information is, it really wasn't worth getting up out of my chair for. Mr. Kleek could be busy on eight other wires and my life would go on just about the same. Am I to be called away from my work to be told that a Mr. Kleek is talking on another wire? I think this out as I stand there waiting.

Finally, after several minutes, I hear a man's voice.

"Hello," it says gruffly. "Who is this?" I am not only to be told to wait until Mr. Kleek is ready to speak to me, but I am to be treated by Mr. Kleek as if I had infringed on his time. At this point I frankly flare up.

"Who is this yourself?" I snarl. "This was your idea, not mine!"

Then evidently Miss Whatney tells Mr. Kleek that she has got Mr. Benchley on the wire, and he is somewhat mollified. But I want to tell you, Mr. Kleek, that by that time I am not on the wire any longer and you can stick that telephone ear-piece into the side of your head. Furthermore, from now on, the minute I am called to the telephone and told to wait a minute, that Mr. Anybody wants to speak to me, I hang up so quickly that the hook drops off. If Mr. Kleek or any other busy executive wants to speak to me he can be there within four seconds after I answer or he can put in the call again. I may be just an old wool-gatherer, but I want to gather my wool somewhere else than at a telephone receiver.

It is possible that the telephone has been responsible for more business inefficiency than any other agency except laudanum. It has such an air of pseudo-efficiency about it that people feel efficient the minute they take the receiver off the hook. A business man could be talking with Ajax, the mechanical chess player, on the other end of the wire and still feel he was getting somewhere, simply because to any one passing the door he looks as if he was busy. There is something about saying "O.K." and hanging up the receiver with a bang that kids a man into feeling that he has just pulled off a big deal, even if he has only called up Central to find out the correct time. For this reason business men use the telephone exclusively when almost any other form of communication would be quicker.

In the old days when you wanted to get in touch with a man you wrote a note, sprinkled it with sand, and gave it to a man on horseback. It probably was delivered within half an hour, depending on how big a lunch the horse had had. But in these busy days of rush-rush-rush, it sometimes is a week before you can catch your man on the telephone. The call is put in, but he is out. You can tell your Secretary to keep calling, but, if the man takes any kind of care of himself at all, he is out most of the day in the fresh air. So day after day the Secretary keeps calling, and, in this way, autumn turns into winter and winter into spring. Perhaps you never get him.

A busy executive said to me the other day in an exasperated tone: "Aren't you ever in? I have been trying to get you on the telephone for five days. What do you do with your time, cut lawns?" You see, I am the one in the wrong. I was the impractical one.

I might have told him about that new invention called the "typewriter" whereby, if you can't get a man on the telephone, you can drop him a note which will reach him the next morning. Or I also might have told him that I was in my office all the time, but was so busy working that I left word with the telephone operator not to bother me with time-wasting calls from business men. In either case, dropping me a note would have saved him four days of telephoning. But apparently, note-dropping is considered a relic of civil war days and is not to be considered in the bustle of modern business. You must use the telephone, even if it doesn't get you anywhere.

The telephone is the particular pet of the go-getter who won't take no for an answer. He has a passion for long distance calls. Let us say that his organisation is getting up a dinner in Chicago and wants to get an after dinner speaker from New York. The go-getter is, of course, Chairman of the Dinner Committee because he gets things done. He guarantees to get the New York speaker. "Leave it to me" he says, knowingly. And, even as he says it, he is putting in a long-distance call for New York. Bingo—like that. The New York man answers and gets the following: "This is Ferley of the Autumn Coat and Suit speaking! We are holding a dinner here on 10th February, and you're coming out to speak for us!—Oh yes you are! I won't take no for an answer . . . Oh yes, you can—I'll call those people up and tell them you are coming to us . . . Now, not another word!—See you on the 10th!"

With this he hangs up and reports to the Committee that he has the speaker sewed up. The fact that the New York man can't go to Chicago on the 10th and has no intention of going doesn't enter into the calculations at all. No one is supposed to be able to resist the man with the telephone personality. He sweeps everything before him.

The only drawback is that, two days before the dinner, when it is found out that the New York speaker meant what he said and really isn't coming, the go-getter has to go-get somebody through a local agency to do card tricks for the diners. "That's the trouble with dealing with these literary guys!" he thunders. "You can't count on them!" And he puts in another long-distance call just to quiet his nerves.

And so it goes through life. There are the doers and the dreamers, the men who make every second count and the men who waste their time with nothing to show for it. The first are the business men of the country, the others are the impractical fellows who write and draw pictures. Or perhaps it is just the other way round. I always get these things mixed.

(Reproduced from "One Minute, Please" by Robert Benchley, by kind permission of Dennis Dobson, Ltd.)

Cordon and Search

By **Major R. D. WILSON,** *M.B.E., M.C.*

THE story of 6 Airborne Division in Palestine makes for the soldier proud but bitter reading. Proud as always that the ordinary regimental officer and soldier can do so well under such adverse circumstances. Bitter that the army should be put to such tasks for political expediency.

A quotation perhaps best expresses the opinion of the men concerned: "It would be unfair in many ways to ask or try to explain what was achieved in the obscure and repugnant campaign. The British Army in Palestine with 6 Airborne Division as part of it were faced with a task with which they completed to the best of their ability. What mattered to them at the time was not so much the outcome of the fundamental problem which had caused their service in the country; with others lay the responsibility for its solution. Their concern was primarily with their own problems and how they might best solve them within the limits allowed."

"Within the limits allowed." This is the operative phrase. As always when engaged in "Duties in aid of the Civil Power," the army was not given a free hand, it was the old business of going about normally until fired at and then waiting until it could be proved that the fire was both deliberate and dangerous.

As Major-General Sir Hugh Stockwell, K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O., the last Commander of the Division, writes in his foreword to the book: "Throughout its history the British Army has from time to time been called upon to carry out tasks in peacetime which are often akin to war; they are often difficult and sometimes distasteful; they require tact, forbearance, cheerfulness, determination and courage, and the British soldier has shown himself to be supreme under such conditions.

The Airborne Division and the Battalions of the Parachute Regiment which composed about half the force employed had not previous direct experience as is normal in Regiments of the Line with 300 years of history. As is told, however, in this book those very qualities which make the Airborne soldier in some ways superior to the ordinary "walker" were those best suited to this unpleasant and repugnant task.

This book is the history of a Division and not of a Regiment or Battalion. The story is told objectively. There are few heroics except by inference. It is a story of the ordinary officer and the ordinary soldier undertaking a novel and unpleasant and an unpopular task.

The documentation is admirable, there are staff lists, orders of battle and a most excellent diary. One regrets the omission of a list of honours and awards but this in itself is typical of the spirit of the Division. Although written as history it is, indeed, an eulogy. It is also, perhaps without intent the first whole length text-book in the use of troops in certain duties in aid of the Civil Power.

It is a considerable tribute to Lieutenant-Colonels P. E. M. Bradley, D.S.O., and D. A. Pringle, that the Divisional Signal Regiment and various Royal Signals detachments thereto is mentioned in the appendix, but not at all in the text. The work of "Signals" was very good.

The book is by Gale and Polden at 10/6, and will be of very great interest, not only to those who served in Palestine in the post-war period, but also to all who enjoy reading of the life and work of the British soldier.

H.M. TOWER OF LONDON

Interesting Ceremonies and Customs

Swearing in a Yeoman Warder, and Ceremony of the Punchbowl

By **Yeoman Warder G. A. E. GAVEY,** *late Captain, Royal Signals*

WHEN a vacancy exists for another Yeoman Warder to be appointed, the waiting list is consulted by the President Governor, and the name of the person on top of the list is usually chosen. If still eligible, i.e. under 50 years of age, the candidate is offered the appointment by the Resident Governor, on behalf of the Constable of the Tower in whose hands the appointment rests. Arrangements are then made between the Resident Governor and the candidate for the latter to report for duty. A day having been fixed, a general muster of all Yeomen Warders not on duty, is ordered for them to witness the swearing in ceremony.

During the summer this takes place on Tower Green in the evening; and during the winter months, in the Warders' Club. The warders having been formed up by the Chief Warder in the form of a hollow square, the Resident Governor issues from the King's House to the table on which rests a Holy Bible and a card containing the Oaths to be administered (a) Oath for a Yeoman Warder, and (b) Oath for a Special Constable. The candidate, still wearing civilian clothes, is then marched to the table, and he, having signified his willingness to take the Oaths, the Resident Governor first administers the Yeoman Warder Oath to Mr. ————, immediately afterwads the Oath for the new warder to act as a Special Constable is administered. This completed, the new warder is marched so as to take his place as the centre file of the assembled warders, and the whole body marched to the Warders' Club for the ceremony of the "Punchbowl."

The ancient Punchbowl presented in the reign of George I is placed on a table in front of the Resident Governor, but is not now used as a drinking vessel. Glasses are charged, and the Royal toast is proposed by the Governor and drunk by all present. It is now the turn of the Chief Warder to propose the toast of the new warder. This he does but only after he has explained the origin of the quaint toast. (In ancient days each warder had purchased his place from his predecessor for a sum of about £300 and counted on selling it again to his successor at the same price. If, however, he died a warder, his money was lost, as the incoming warder's fees became the perquisite of the Constable.

These fees were all laid down and it may interest readers if I mention one of the later occasions on which a Constable of the Tower has left a record of them. This is dated 17th February, 1713.

	£	s.	d.
To the Warder who surrenders	262	10	0
" " Constable	21	0	0
" " Secretary	6	6	0
" " Gentleman Porter	5	5	0
" " Yeoman Warders	5	5	0
" " Gentleman Gaoler	5	0	0
" " Clerk of Cheque	2	2	0
" " Stamp for the Warrant	2	0	0
" " Parchment		1	6
" " Governor's Servant		5	0
	£309	14	6

The following shall be the fee paid by any person on succeeding a Yeoman Warder who may die:—

	£	s.	d.
To the Constable	262	10	0
" " Secretary	6	6	0
" " Gentleman Porter	5	5	0
" " Yeoman Warders	5	5	0
" " Gentleman Gaoler	5	0	0
" " Clerk of the Cheque	2	2	0
" " Stamp of Warrant	2	0	0
" " Parchment		1	6
" " Governor's Servant		5	0
	£288	14	6

From a comparison between which two lists may be gathered the inner meaning of the Warders' toast:—

"May you never die a Warder."

The Constable, presumably drank the opposite toast. Those were the days of "purchase" exactly in the same way as Officers in the Army purchased Commissions, and sold them on retirement.

A "Wardership" was the warder's purchased property, and it was open to him to sell it to anyone passed fit by the Constable to succeed him. This system stood until 1826 when the Duke of Wellington—Constable of the Tower, closed the Wardership to all but old soldiers.

The toast to the new warder having been drunk, he of course, replies to the toast in a few suitable words. Although the new warder's name is placed on the daily "Wait" book for the first four or five weeks, his whole time is occupied in learning the history of the Tower, after which he is ready for the Resident Governor to give him a practical test before he is allowed to pass on his knowledge to the public.

N.B.—The "Wait" book referred to above is what service readers would know better as a "detail of duties" book. The word "Wait" is from "Waiter" as Yeomen Warders were at one time Yeomen Waiters as well. This goes back to pre-Commonwealth days when the Tower was frequently used as a Royal Palace.

SIGNAL TRAINING CENTRE

CATTERICK CAMP

1 TRAINING REGIMENT

As predicted in my last notes, 1 Training Regiment, Royal Signals, on 11th January won the final meeting of the Catterick District Cross-Country League, and with it the league championship for the second year in succession.

RESULTS (FOUR MEETINGS)

		Total score
1st	1 Training Regiment, Royal Signals	688 points
2nd	14/20 Hussars	1022 ,,
3rd	12 Royal Lancers	1598 ,,
4th	4 Training Regiment, Royal Signals	1800 ,,
5th	O.T.W. School of Signals	1994 ,,
6th	2 Training Regiment, Royal Signals	2093 ,,
7th	3 Training Regiment, Royal Signals	2332 ,,

On the 7th January we had a friendly run with H.M.S. *Ceres* at Wetherby. This provided little competition as the Royal Signals team of 12 runners filled the first three, and all other positions between five and 13. Tippett, the Royal Navy three miles champion, came in fourth.

On Saturday, 14th January, Royal Signals, Catterick, sprang a surprise on the Northern Counties teams by winning the Darlington annual 5½ miles road race as a team and providing the first man home in Sergeant Colbert. Nine teams comprising a field of 70 runners competed in this race which is for the Grange Clark Cup and first won by Darlington Harriers as long ago as 1905. Incidentally it has never before been won by a service team.

Signalman Birch (second in the 1948 Junior National), Sergeant Colbert (Inter-Services steeplechase champion, 1949) and G. Grieve (1949 individual winner and Northern Eastern Counties mile champion) took the lead from the start. At the three miles stage Sergeant Colbert was leading Grieve by some 30 yards, which he further increased by the time the four miles point was reached, to 80 yards, and then went on to finish strongly with over 200 yards to spare in the good time of 31 minutes 59 seconds.

Result: 1st, Royal Signals Catterick, 23 points; 2nd, Saltwell Harriers (1949 holders), 24 points.

Placings, Royal Signals (8 *to run*, 4 *to count*)

1st, Sergeant Coleman (1 T.R.); 2nd, Signalman Bird (4 T.R.); 3rd, Signalman Nelson (1 T.R.); 4th, Lance-Corporal Martin (1 T.R.).

2 TRAINING REGIMENT

The Regimental Drama Group, undeterred by the weather, have pressed forward with the production of their new play—"The Ten Little Niggers," by Agatha Christie. This thriller is already cast and it is hoped to produce it in Mons N.A.A.F.I. at the end of March. Now that the W.R.A.C. have finally left us, there has been some difficulty in casting the female parts, but after a few fruitless attempts with men with high voices, this has been overcome with the enlistment of outside help. The play chosen, a thriller in the true sense, should repeat the success of the last production "Journey's End."

The accent has been on sport during the last few weeks. The hockey team have won through to the finals of the Catterick District Cup match, and now have a very good chance of winning altogether. Perhaps the highlight of the month was the boxing match between a team from O.T.W. School of Signals, and a team chosen from this Regiment. The result was a very decisive victory for us, although it is realised that had O.T.W. fielded a full team, the result might not have been so overwhelming.

Well, the W.R.A.C. have gone at last, to places unknown. After much "humming and harring," rumours and false starts, they have gone, leaving the Regiment slightly less picturesque, but at least quieter. R.H.Q. is now almost entirely staffed by Civil Servants who make the Orderly Room look almost like some khaki is definitely in the minority over there, the rifle racks are filled with neatly rolled umbrellas. Head scarfs and bow ties seem to be in predominance.

5 TRAINING REGIMENT

In the Garrison Theatre at Ripon on 12th January, our victorious team of the Catterick inter-unit boxing competition fought out a tough and sinewy battle with the 1st Battalion East Lancashire Regiment for retention of the Northern Command Team Challenge Cup. This trophy had been held by 5 Training Regiment now for the past three years. However, one cannot always win, and undoubtedly, on the form produced, the better team in the shape of our opponents carried the day—*and the cup!* Nevertheless we certainly gave them a run for their money, and by half-time there were only two points in it either way, and it could have been anybody's evening. Anyway, that's what we thought, but the East Lancashire Regiment turned the heat on us in the second half and we finally stood 14 points to 19. "Down but not out" however, was never better exemplified than by gallant Lance-Corporal White who, in the final bout won by a decisive knock-out in the third round! This illustrates more than anything I can say here the fighting qualities of our team. These qualities, I can promise you, will be used to very good effect in recovering our lost laurels, and we will be happy ONLY when Royal Signals have that cup right back here in the District—and if we know anything about it, in Barnard Castle as well!!!

With the soccer season in full swing, let us give you some results. Not startling, we'll admit, but reasonably consistent and the legacy of some good hard play.

In the Catterick District League, we have, to date, played 13 games, won six, drawn two and lost five, giving us 45 goals FOR and 36 AGAINST, leaving us, at the time of going to Press with a total of 14 points.

We are also supplying some good material for the Corps team, and on 14th December Lance-Corporal Townend and Signalman Newall played centre-half and goal respectively for Royal Signals versus Manchester University. Signalman Newall also played in goal for Northern Command versus Stockton F.C. on 3rd January.

In other sports we've been mixing it. With basketball, hockey and shooting. The shooting team since being formed, has been functioning with varying success. The team is constantly fluctuating and we have some new arrivals who show great promise and we keep our fingers crossed as we see our averages slowly improve.

Vehicle mechanic training in 3 Squadron is now increasing in intensity as more intakes of trainees arrive. We are not a little proud of some of our "training aides," the result of Unit improvisation only as assistance from outside still remains very much a myth. In spite of this, we still intend to have a model course running here, and some of our training methods and aides can already show a lead to establishments which have been tackling this sort of training over a period of years.

To conclude, let us put on record here and now our regret at the coming departure of Major J. G. Oliver, O.B.E., our 2 I/C and Chief Instructor. It is all the more regrettable as it comes so soon after the departure of our late C.O. Major Oliver has endeared himself to all in 5 Training Regiment (and I speak for all ranks), by his personality and energy.

SOUTHERN COMMAND (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT

Salisbury

Our Training Cadre under the able direction of Major J. M. L. Drudge-Coates together with his small but very hard-working band of instructors have been for some time running a very comprehensive series of up-grading courses for Royal Signals tradesmen, in addition to a multitude of other commitments, such as courses for the ACF/CCF, demonstration columns, recruiting displays and the like. Drill and duties Courses for Lance-Corporal and for Senior Corporals are run quarterly under the guidance of the Adjutant (Captain M. L. Willway). The above Courses are open to, and attended by Royal Signals personnel throughout the Command, and much benefit appears to have been derived from them.

A number of Officers in the Regiment recently attended the C.S.O.s Exercise "Wendigo" held at Bulford for the study of Signals Problems in Airborne Operations. The Exercise was attended by both Regular and Territorial Officers in Southern Command. No doubt a full report of this excellent week-end training will be found in the notes of 63 H.Q. Signal Regiment T.A., who sponsored the programme.

The Officers' Mess held their Annual Dance at Figsbury Barracks on 4th February. In all there were about 60 guests, and among them we were very pleased to see the C.S.O. and his wife (Brigadier B. B. Kennett and Mrs. Kennett), the members of the C.S.O.s staff, and many other personalities from the district.

Although we are numerically thin on the ground at Figsbury Barracks, we manage to produce football, hockey, rugger and basket ball teams capable of holding their own against most Units of our size in the neighbourhood.

Hockey. During the winter season we have played a number of hard-fought contests. Recently we have lost Second-Lieutenant E. L. Rogers, who has played with the Corps XI, and Captain J. L. McIlvride, our goalkeeper, but have found able replacements for them in S.S.M. Dixon, D. A.A., and S.Q.M.S. Ware, S.A. Two main stays and props of our team are S.S.M. Wagstaff and Sergeant Pettigrew, both of whom come over every week to play from Command Troop, Wilton. Among those teams we have beaten are R.A.F., Old Sarum, 46 M.S. H.A. 12 Regiment R.A., and R.A.F. Middle Wallop.

Football. Although we have not had any great success in the Salisbury Plain District Small Units League, on the whole the Season has been a profitable one. We have beaten 52 Gp. R.P.C. and the Salisbury City Police. Our lack of success is due to the fact that we rarely have the same team for long, owing to release and postings. A special word must be said for Corporal Milchem who has held the team together so successfully.

Rugger. We reached the semifinals in the Small Unit League against the R.A.M.C. Tidworth (13-0), but were beaten by a strong team from W Company 1st Battalion Royal Hampshire Regiment by 28 points to nil.

Basket Ball. Here we have won most of our games under the very capable leadership of Lance-Corporal O'Nions against 3rd Dragoon Guards (59-15), and 32 Asslt. Regiment R.E.

Exercise Wendigo

C.S.O. Southern Command instructed that one major S.E.W.T. for the 49/50 winter months should be devoted to a study of Signals in airborne operations. The C.O. of 63 H.Q. L. of C. Signal Regiment, T.A., was given the task of writing and staging the exercise.

Wendigo took place on the week-end 28/29th January, 1950, at the Study Centre, Bulford, and was an unqualified success. All available Regular and T.A. Signal Officers in the Command attended and in addition over 18 Airborne Signals, veterans of every airborne operation, including such well-known names as Colonel R. J. Moberly, O.B.E., Major P. E. M. Bradley, D.S.O., Major A. J. Deane-Drummond, M.C., and Major G. S. Fenton. In all 60 Signal Officers were present including two R.A.F. Signal Officers. The Director of Signals attended the exercise on the second day and gave a brief address before C.S.O. Southern Command summed up the two days' discussion.

The Directing Staff consisted of Brigadier B. B. Kennett, C.B.E., C.S.O. Southern Command, Colonel R. J. Moberly, O.B.E., Chief Instructor School of Signals, Lieutenant-Colonel D. J. Goldsmith, Commander 63 H.Q. L. of C. Signal Regiment, T.A., Wing Commander S. V. Vaizey, R.A.F., Major P. E. M. Bradley, D.S.O., and Major B. R. M. Hayles, Staff Officer to C.S.O. Southern Command.

After a short introductory address by the C.S.O., and some preliminary remarks by Lieutenant-Colonel D. J. Goldsmith, Colonel R. J. Moberly, O.B.E., gave a first-class lecture on airborne operations. This was immediately followed by a playlet lasting 25 minutes which was designed to bring out the communication problems involved in the base communication system of a major airborne operation. The playlet was extremely well done by a small group of officers from London, Netheravon, Salisbury and Winterborne Gunner. Captain W. G. Tucker as Mr. McTavish from the G.P.O., being a roaring success. Incidental music was the stirring zither melody of the Third Man.

After an adjournment to a well-stocked bar and excellent buffet supper provided by N.A.A.F.I. and Catering Staff of Salisbury Plain District respectively, the exercise carried on with a very forceful and extremely interesting lecture by Major Bradley on "Airborne Signals" which was delivered with such zest that the lecturer mislaid his voice towards its close.

Following hard on this lecture was an excellent demonstration by 16 Indep. Para. Brigade Signal Squadron from Aldershot, commanded by Major R. C. Pringle. This was conducted by Captain S. W. Brackenbury and consisted of a demonstration by a detachment of Airborne Signals O.R.s in full equipment getting a 62 set into action. Then we came to the second playlet which was a Signal conference held at Corps H.Q. of the ground force engaged in battle on whose front the Airborne Division was to land in 10 days' time. The playlet was rehearsed for the first time the previous evening and was, then, unbelievably bad. When actually put on it turned out to be as good if not better than the first. The performance of the two other ranks, S.S.M. Drake and Sergeant Lloyd being of high entertainment value.

The A.K.C. then produced "Operation Varsity," an excellent film which added the final touch to the evening's gathering of airborne atmosphere designed to enable officers to attack on problems the next day.

And so, in some cases, to bed. It is reported that the airborne regulars had a congenial reunion at the County Hotel. C.O.s of 43 Divisional Signals and 63 H.Q. also got hold of their officers at the Cathedral and White Hart hotels respectively and discussed matters of grave import in the approved T.A. style until a late hour.

Sunday was a day of hustle. There were five problems discussed, first in syndicate rooms under the guiding hand of regular airborne officers with each syndicate, and then in the model room around the cloth model followed by D.S. discussion. The problems were conducted by Captain G. Proudman, Major G. S. Fenton, Captain W. E. Lyske, Captain R. F. C. Gladwyn, M.B.E., and Major A. N. Griffiths, each an expert on the problem in question. D.S. summing up was by Colonel R. J. Moberly, O.B.E., and Major P. E. M. Bradley, D.S.O.

During the morning Major N. T. Warren, M.B.E., who commands 10 A.S.S.U., T.A., gave short but lucid exposition of this complex unit. The complete A.S.S.U. layout was demonstrated on the table model indicated by a system of lights and switches. Available also for inspection were Rebecca and Eureka, R.A.F. V/F sets, 76 and 62 sets and an A.B. A.S.S.U. Tcl.

Immediately after lunch the Director of Signals arrived and the remaining problems were concluded by 3.30 p.m. We then had two excellent but necessarily brief lectures by Major G. S. Fenton from A.A.D.T.C. on Airborne Development and Major A. N. Griffiths from Signals 3 B on Wireless Development with regard to Airborne Operations. Wing-Commander S. V. Vaizey gave us a brief idea of how Rebecca Eureka works and the Director of Signals and the C.S.O. brought the exercise to an end by 5 p.m.

We feel that everyone thoroughly enjoyed Wendigo and got very good value from it. May we in conclusion, on behalf of the T.A., thank Colonel R. J. Moberly, Major P. E. M. Bradley and other airborne officers for the great help and co-operation they afforded us in staging the exercise.

7 SELECTION REGIMENT

Unfortunately, it has been decided by War Office that we shall lose all our Infantry Instructors during the next few months, and in their place we shall have Royal Signals Instructors. It is satisfying to know that Royal Signals representatives will soon be completely responsible for the training of National Servicemen for the Corps, but at the same time we are indeed sorry to see our "Infanteers" go. Many of them have been in from the start, and it is largely due to their hard work and unselfishness that the standard of drill turn-out and general training has been attained.

During the month we have lost Colonel Ponsonby on promotion. We wish him and Mrs. Ponsonby who has done so much for families welfare the best of luck for the future. We welcome his successor, Lieutenant-Colonel N. M. Hay, M.B.E.

The New Year Revue "Cheer Up" was presented to Unit audiences on three nights at the end of January. Co-produced by Captain Boyle and Second-Lieutenant Chapman, the show was a great success.

Much of the stage scenery and props were collected or made under the guidance of Second-Lieutenant Croft, whose tireless efforts as stage manager certainly produced the right atmosphere for the revue.

It is always difficult to praise any individual in a concert of this nature, but special mention must be made of S.S.M. Brant for his polished performance as leader of the "Salvation Singers," and to S.Q.M.S. Black for his general good acting all through the show.

The feminine charm was presented by Doris Allen, Jean and Joyce Brown and Iris Godden, who were all very excellent in their individual turns.

The highlight of the show was the "Salvation Singers," in which the whole cast made a very determined effort to save the audience from the "horror of whisky" and "the ravages of gin"!!!

"Cheer Up" is the fifth revue produced by the Unit in the last two years and the fourteenth concert presented to a Unit audience.

Plans for the Easter concert are already well advanced, and this show when it is finally produced, will be our effort for the Northern Command Competition. We hope to improve on last year's result when we came third in this competition.

We understand that the show is to be called "It will be all right on the night"—it had better be!!

The Officers' Training Wing has passed out another draft of National Service Officers.

Hockey along with our other sports has suffered from real Catterick weather!! We have only managed to play one match this month—beating a Catterick District Headquarters team by 4 goals to 2. This was a hard fought game, with District being unlucky not to at least force a draw with the Unit team.



Anti Aircraft Command

1 A.A. GROUP (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT
Whetstone

As foretold in our previous notes, we have completed our move from Whetstone to Laindon, and by now the Regiment has become completely countryfied. Our "Townies" from London were at a bit of a loss at first but with our newly formed Aero Model Club, a new billiard table, and the help of the A.K.C. they seem to be settling down to a quiet life.

The Unit has at last managed to get our F. of S., S.Q.M.S. R. Marshall, back from the A.A. Command Wireless Trials. Everything apparently was a great success. Captain Robins, the Trials D.C., was last seen with an ice bag on his head trying to make out his 1771. Using the new wireless equipment, Captain Robins has installed a radio telephone link between A.A. Command and H.Q. 1 Group, which is working satisfactorily. The G.P.O. had better watch out or we'll be giving them most of their lines back!

The Regiment has just held its third Regimental weekend—a great success. The main highlights of interest being a soccer match between Officers, Warrant Officers and Sergeants v. The Rest, which the Officers, Warrant Officers and Sergeants won, 4-0—a great surprise to all; and a Fancy Dress Ball. The latter being of note for the first-class impersonation of the W.R.A.C. kitchen staff by Messrs. McSweeney, Hamilton and Pament of the M.T.

The W.R.A.C. element of the Unit has seen some changes in the past month. Junior Commander C. H. Ellis, late of H.Q. A.A. Command, has assumed the duties of O.C. W.R.A.C., and her predecessor, Subaltern M. Muirden, has taken over command of A.A. Command and 1 A.A. Gp. S.O. Tp.

From Junior Commander downwards, the W.R.A.C. have taken to painting. Not, thank goodness, trying to emulate the works of Salvidor Dah, but just the ordinary housemaid stuff. You may be surprised to learn that quite a lot of the paint seems to be going into the right places!

Owing to our recent move from Whetstone, our sport has been sadly curtailed, but we are getting started again under rather difficult conditions. We have a football field temporarily and 63 H.A.A. Regiment R.A. have kindly lent us a set of goalposts.

We produced six boxers for the eliminating round of the Group Individual Championships. Signalmen Croucher and Plowmen succeeded in getting through the next round, and we are eagerly awaiting the results. The others are to be congratulated for trying hard under very difficult conditions. We have no gym. or trainer of our own, and it was a very good effort to produce what we did from such a small Unit.

The football team has been re-formed and has started its new life by winning 6-5 against 482 H.A.A. Regiment, R.A. (T.A.). This is pretty good, considering they had never played together before. It has placed them on the first rung of the Group Championship ladder. We have great hopes of them.

We expect to extend our sports soon. While the P.R.I. was away on a course, the Sports Officer took the opportunity to spend some of his hoarded wealth on football boots and other kit, and the Sports Storeman is now busy with dubbin and cleaning rigs. We hope to start hockey on the Square, and the W.R.A.C. weekly delight idle onlookers with their displays of netball. Thank you, ladies.

2 A.A. GROUP (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT
Aldershot

A rather lively Regimental week-end was held on 28th/29th January consisting of a knock-out football competition for the men which was won by the L/M. Troop, and netball for the W.R.A.C., followed by a dance in Barrosa N.A.A.F.I.

The Regiment turned up in force to see 1 Training Regiment win their semi-final against the Welch Regiment in the Army rugger. It was one of the best games ever seen at the Stadium and that's saying something. Keep it up, 1 Training Regiment, we'll be there to cheer you on to victory in the final.

Great changes have taken place on the W.R.A.C. front since last we appeared in print.

Having struggled valiantly for so long with our faithful few, we were suddenly inundated with new faces. Almost overnight our W.R.A.C. strength rose from 34 to 50, and the problem then arose to try and expand our barrack rooms sufficiently, in order to fit in everyone without having to open a new block. However, we have managed fairly well, and we extend a very hearty welcome to our new members.

The advent of a real live Sergeant-Major, W.R.A.C., greatly cheered the Junior Commander, who promptly applied for seven days leave on the strength of it!

A church parade of W.R.A.C. members of the Unit was held at St. George's Garrison Church, Aldershot, on Sunday, 5th February, to commemorate the first birthday of the W.R.A.C. Our women, though small in number, were a credit to the service, and looked extremely smart on parade. After much persuasion the Junior Commander was prevailed upon to read the Lesson and it is still a matter for speculation who was the most nervous, W.R.A.C. part of the congregation who suffered for the reader, or the reader herself!

4 A.A. GROUP (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT
Peninsula Barracks, Warrington, Lancs

R.H.Q. and No. 1 A.A. (M) Signal Squadron have survived their annual administrative inspection. They are now making feverish preparations for the G.O.C.'s inspection on 21st February. In spite of these activities we have been able to venture into the realms of competitive sport—but without much success. 21 H.A.A. Regiment, R.A., put us out of the 4 A.A. Group Hockey Tournament to the tune of 6-1. The weather for this match was as cold and as miserable as possible, and both teams are to be congratulated on the standard of play achieved.

In the Group Cross-Country Championships we had three individual entries. L/Cpl. T. J. Thomson (Royal Signals) in 17th place was our first man home.

Our T.A. Squadrons report no activities of general interest. Recruiting continues to show a steady increase and training proceeds normally. We look forward with pleasure and confidence to meeting 14 A.A. (M) Signal Regiment in camp again this year. We are booked for Languard near Ipswich from 18th June to 2nd July and the weather prophets fortell a dry spell.

THE DEPOT REGIMENT
Pocklington

From the climatic point of view, Pocklington is, to say the least, a somewhat contrary spot. It has been said that whatever the B.B.C. forecasts in the way of weather will have been reversed by the time it reaches Pocklington. However, for once the "Met Types" appear to have made it and these notes are being written during a howling gale; one of the type which, owing to the flatness of the surrounding country, has really been able to get into its stride and is doing its level best to uproot our sub-standard dwellings.

The past month has seen little change in the Regiment, although there has been no lack of activity both socially and otherwise. The training of Officers, W.O.s and Senior N.C.O.s is now in full swing. Twice a month we all get together and discuss some aspect of the multitudinous tasks which the Corps performs. These sessions are as a rule both controversial and amusing while the information gained if not always new to everyone is at least refreshing and worthwhile.

In the worlds of social life, sport and dramatic art we have also been active. The Officers' and Sergeants' Messes have had a party and a dance respectively. Events which do a great deal to remind us of some of the more pleasant aspects of civilisation and help us to forget that from a social point of view we are almost in the back of beyond. Thanks to the efforts of Second-Lieutenant Montgomery, there now exists in the Unit a keen and energetic cast of amateur actresses and actors who will be presenting their first production on the 14th of February.

The football team has been most successful and in its last three matches the results were:

v. A.F.C. Driffield	won 5-3
v. E. Yorks Depot	won 6-2
v. 91 M.S.W. R.A.F.	won 4-1

We regret to report however that the rugby team is still deep in the wood and has lost the two games played since the New Year; one against the R.A.F. Station Driffield which was lost 30-3, and one against Northern Command (M) Signal Regiment, lost 8-3.

NORTHERN COMMAND (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT
York



The highlight of the month has been the visit of the Corps Band which was a great success and very much appreciated by everyone.

A Regimental dance was held on the Saturday evening which attracted a large attendance including a strong detachment of W.R.N.S. from H.M.S. *Ceres*.

Sunday morning the Unit marched to church for a parade service which was broadcast on the Home Service. From comments of listeners this was a great success, although the B.B.C. nearly let us down by arriving with their batteries "flat." Fortunately, the T.O.M. was able to come to the rescue.

After the service the Unit marched back to barracks headed by the Band, the salute being taken by the C.S.O., Brigadier C. Childs, C.B.E.

The visit ended with a concert of light music in the N.A.A.F.I. theatre at which the orchestra was given a rousing reception. We are looking forward to the next visit which we hope will be in July.

WAR OFFICE SIGNAL REGIMENT
Kingston-on-Thames

This, so far as we are aware, is the first time that a serious effort has been made to publicise the doings of the denizens of the dungeon known familiarly as "the Citadel."

Why it is known as the Citadel is completely beyond us. To our oxygen-starved brains the name "Citadel" conjures up visions of embattled towers or, at the very least, a meeting place for the Salvation Army; in either case in God's fresh air. This particular chemical compound is something we know little of. Can it be the stuff that is pumped day by day out of a hole in the wall and directed at a particularly vulnerable point in the back of the neck? Our common sense, which we deprecatingly lay claim to, tells us that it cannot. Air, so we are told, is a gas, or a mixture of gases, which leaves no trace of its passing. This is semi-solid and leaves indelible traces in the form of a thick precipitate. It comes in the same category as a "non filterable virus." This is demonstrated to us daily by our friends in the Ministry who are ever ready to show us the compound actually *going* through the filters.

But we digress. The Citadel, or Montague House Annexe, to be more official, lies fully 30 feet below ground and, believe it or not, forms the foundations of a massive 10 storey edifice now leisurely being built and which will eventually house—the mind reels at the prospect—thousands of Civil Servants! You may think, as we did, that 30 feet of concrete could reasonably be taken to offer a fairly solid foundation for almost anything. You would be wrong, as we were. The strength and stability of our institution was mistrusted. To be frank it hurt a little at the time but the pain went quickly when the ministry installed in our midst the largest spirit level we have ever seen.

Is it necessary to explain the purpose? We will whisper; come closer. There was a doubt about who would finish on top, the Citadel or the 10 storey building, and the gadget was there to tell us when we were going! We so appreciated their thoughtfulness. Honesty forces us to admit that so far there has only been insignificant indication of our sudden elevation. Nevertheless, fully prepared to take up our lives anew in a different element, our smoked glasses are ready to meet the glare of daylight. We can, however, definitely state that the rumour of the preparation of a decompression chamber in case our rise is too sudden, is without foundation. It is now thought that the effects will be relatively slight.

One point must be underlined. The Citadel is where we work. We live, as you will probably have gathered from previous contributors, in the rural and, let us add, delightful surroundings of Richmond Park. We regard that as our country residence while the other, that hoary old foundation, is our town house for which we have the strongest affection. As Signalman Peawhistle so rightly said: "We won't stand no knocking of the place."

Why not have your monthly copy of **THE WIRE** mailed direct to your address?

16 INDEPENDENT PARACHUTE BRIGADE GROUP SIGNAL SQUADRON
Aldershot

After a short preliminary course in loading and lashing, Corporal Evans and crew took a complete W.S. 62 jeep and trailer station to Exercise Demon—a demonstration of airborne techniques. A team of instructors is paying regular visits to the C.C.F. contingents of schools in the district, to assist in the training of cadet signallers. And at Exercise Wendigo—a synopsis of Airborne Signalling principles for T.A. officers—the Squadron was well represented. The officers attended in an advisory capacity, and Corporal Stevens took a party to demonstrate a parachutist's equipment. (This exercise, incidentally, provided a magnificent excuse for a "get-together" of Airborne Signals officers, and was a great success! Another reunion held recently was the Regimental dance of the Middlesex Yeomanry—now the Divisional Signals of 16 Airborne Division (T.A.)—where we again had the opportunity to greet old friends in appropriate fashion).

Despite this impressive record of industry, we have found time to play too. We have not, perhaps, distinguished ourselves unduly, but we have enjoyed ourselves, and rugger, soccer, hockey, basketball, cross-country running and motorcycling have all continued to flourish. Boxing, too, is joining the list of our activities, as several members of the Squadron are attending boxing courses.

An account of this month's activities would not be complete without some mention of the Regimental week-end. This was our first introduction to such a function, and it was regarded in a very dubious light by many. Once in full swing, however, it proved very successful; we played our games on Saturday afternoon, and thoroughly enjoyed a dance on Saturday evening. It is hoped to introduce parachute jumping into further programmes.

And there we must take our leave. Let us hope that, by the time you read this, spring will be upon us, for at present we shiver in biting winds, and rub our frost-benumbed fingers as we write. We close then, as always, with our best wishes to all our friends everywhere.

NORTHERN IRELAND DISTRICT (M) SIGNAL SQUADRON
Lisburn

The Signal Office in this Headquarters is worth mentioning. It is still in the old stables of Magheralave House where some members of the Corps may remember it was initially installed in 1940. A good many improvements have been carried out since those days and re-arrangements are still in progress.

The duties in the Signal Office are now entirely carried out by women of the W.R.A.C., excepting those of course, of the D.R.s and runners.

The wet weather of Northern Ireland has unfortunately curtailed most of the outdoor sports of the Squadron, and only seldom has use been made of the hockey and football pitches. Practice has however continued on the miniature range and those men who do not normally participate in the Squadron sports have been able to enjoy a game of basketball.

Cross-country running has also played a part in the sporting programme. Training was carried out for the N.I.D. Cross-Country Championship, for which the Squadron entered a minor units team which came second in its section.

B A O R

H.Q. B.A.O.R. SIGNAL REGIMENT

Easketball is continuing to be a very popular sport, particularly in 3 Squadron, where an inter-Troop league has been run. 6 Medium Wireless Troop remain the undisputed champions.

To enable the Regiment to field as strong a cross-country running team as possible an inter-Squadron championships have been organised. Once more, in the field of sport, 3 Squadron is leading in this competition which is at present in its sixth round.

We have had two runs against H.Q. B.A.F.O. both of which we won. We came fourth in the 7 Armoured Brigade Cross-Country Championships.

The Regimental hockey XI continue to give all-comers a really first-class game.

On Wednesday, 11th January, 1950, six members of the Unit team played No. 1 W.R.A.C. Signal Squadron XI. The men emerged the victors by 14 goals to 2.

Other games played during the month were:—

7th Jan.	H.Q. BAOR Sig. Regt. *v.* ZECO XI	3—1
18th ,,	H.Q. BAOR Sig. Regt. *v.* H.Q. BAFO	3—2
22nd ,,	No. 3 Squadron *v.* The Rest	0—0
25th ,,	H.Q. BAOR Sig. Regt. *v.* 208 C.R.A.S.C.	0—2
29th ,,	H.Q. BAOR Sig. Regt. *v.* ZECO XI	2—0
4th Feb.	H.Q. BAOR Sig. Regt. *v.* 2 Brit. Inf. Div. Sig. Regt.	2—3

11 AIR FORMATION SIGNAL REGIMENT
Bückeburg

The following members and ex-members of the Regiment received awards in the New Years Honours List for the part they played in the Berlin Air Lift :

Lieutenant-Colonel A. T. Sladen (Now C.O. 5 A.A. Signal Regiment)	O.B.E.
S.S.M. Derwent (Now 7 Selection Regiment) ...	M.B.E.
S.Q.M.S. (F. of S.) Bolton	B.E.M.
Sergeant Caird (Now released from Service) ...	B.E.M.
Sergeant Richardson (Now released from Service)	B.E.M.
Signalman Cowley (Now released from Service) ...	B.E.M.

We are justly proud of the above awards and we would like to take the opportunity of passing on the Regiment's congratulations to the recipients.

Royal Signal Association. In December Colonel Roberts (the General Secretary) paid us a visit during his tour of units in the B.A.O.R. when he was exploring the possibilities of Units starting their own Branches. Since then we have not let the grass grow under our feet and feel rather pleased with the fact that we now have over seventy members with applications coming in daily from new members wishing to join. An interesting point is that quite a number of them are from National Service Men. Official Sanction has been received from Headquarters for us to go ahead and our branch is now known as No. 3 Unit Branch (11 Air Formation Signal Regiment).

Boxing. On 4th January, 1950, the Regiment met H.Q. B.A.O.R. Signal Regiment in the 1st Round of the Royal Signals (B.A.O.R.) Knock-out competition. The competition consisted of seven bouts and the competitors were so evenly matched that at the end of the sixth bout the result was a draw—nine points to each team. In the seventh bout, it did not take long for Signalman Hawkins (11 Air Formation Signal Regiment) to prove he was the more experienced boxer, disposing of his opponent in the second round with a K.O. Thereby making 11 Air Formation Signal Regiment the winners by eleven points to ten.

The Regiment has had a walk-over in the semi-finals of the competition and are due to meet 7 Armoured Division Signal Regiment in the finals at Buckeburg on 2nd February, 1950.

1 *Wing Signal Troop (Austria).* The Troop consists of two detachments, one at Schwechat in the Russian Zone outside Vienna and H.Q. at Zeltweg. Now that the teleprinters have been handed over to the R.A.F., work has been largely concentrated on the repair and maintenance of the two cable systems. Assistance has, however, still to be given to the R.A.F. in maintaining their teleprinters until their own mechanics are available.

Winter sport is now in full swing and most of the Troop have tried their hand, with varying degrees of success at ski-ing. Excellent facilities exist at the R.A.F. Leave Centre at Lachtalhaus, the only casualty to date has been the Troop Sergeant who endeavoured to tie knots in his skis, unfortunately fracturing his leg, but he was soon back on duty, hard at it again. Skating has also begun in earnest and ice-hockey is fast becoming the rage with the more accomplished members of the Troop.

2 INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT
Hilden

We were the hosts to the Chief Signal Officers' Conference, which was held at the Rhine Centre, Dusseldorf, on 26th to 28th January. It was a great success, and to our visitors from England and other B.A.O.R. Signal Units. We say that it was grand to have them here for three days, and we wish it could have been for longer.

We are now preparing for our old friends and comrades, the Corps Band, due in early March. We shall use all they have to offer to the fullest extent, and are looking forward to their visit as a break from the normal routine of life. We know that their show will be a great entertainment.

Past inmates of St. David's Barracks will be glad to hear that at last there is a N.A.A.F.I., and a very fine modern place it is, with all conveniences. The lads seem to like it, although many still cling to their true and faithful friends, the Catholic Womans League.

Our four young R.M.A. officers are off to Norway for six weeks as guests of the Norwegian C.S.O. "Who said that they objected to giving up their leave!"

Lance-Corporal Cross, of "D" Troop, deesrves a mention by having been selected to join the Signals Display Team at Catterick. No doubt we shall be seeing and hearing more of him. He will acquit himself well, even amongst the star collection comprising the team. From Army Type to Triumph Twin is a pleasant step.

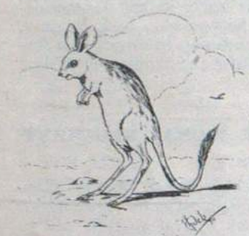
Amongst sports at present in vogue should be mentioned cross-country running. We have recently engaged in a friendly three-sided contest with our keenly athletic neighbours of Wuppertal, the 1st Battalion of the Manchester Regiment, and the 19th Field Regiment, R.A., of Lohausen, near Dusseldorf. The result was an overwhelming defeat for us both by the Manchesters, who in the best tradition of the "footsloggers" were in magnificent fettle.

Despite this defeat, however, we plod on with our training in preparation for greater battles yet to come; more particularly for the "B.A.O.R. Royal Signals Inter-Unit Cross-Country Running Championship," which mouthful is due to take place on 15th March, 1950. This event is being greatly looked forward to by our team of 12, who have been practising keenly during the last few weeks, in the wooded country round Hilden. This they do to the unbounded amazement of the local inhabitants, who whilst on their Saturday afternoon strolls, pause a while in the woodland glades to turn and gaze inquiringly at such "mad Englishmen!"

Hockey. A very pleasant match was played at Herford on 4th February against the H.Q. B.A.O.R. Signal Regiment. The score was 4—2 in our favour. The teams were very evenly matched and the score is not a true indication of the tempo of the game.

Rugby. The hard spell ended activities for a short while, but on the whole we have managed to play regularly and keenly, if not always, winningly. We did beat the Divisional Maintenance Area, and had a hard fight against the North Rhein C.C.G. Club at Dusseldorf Stadium. 42 Field Regiment, R.A., proved too strong especially outside, but the important feature is that there is no lack of enthusiasm among the players, and the games are obviously played for the enjoyment obtained, and not the results. We are looking forward to a game with B.A.O.R. Signal Regiment next month, and to finish the season with an Inter-Signal Unit knock-out competition.

7 ARMOURED DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT



1 *Squadron*. During the past month the Squadron has taken part in two exercises. Elements of "A" Troop provided communications on the 19th and 20th for Exercise "Halberd." The exercise was found to be of great value, by virtue of the fact that it proved that a 53 set will still work in sub-zero temperatures.

We had the pleasure of a visit from Captain Smitherman and Sergeant Hickham, of the U.S. Army Signal Corps, for one week, while we enviously despatched Major Saunders and Sergeant Knowles for a similar visit to the U.S. Zone. We hope we entertained our guests as successfully as 97 Con Signal Squadron looked after our two representatives.

We were grateful to Captain Babcock and his Method of Instruction team for paying us a visit and showing us "how it should be done." We are now watching our instructors with critical eyes—and expecting great things.

It is with deep regret that we have to record the death of 22097750 Signalman A. W. Blincow, who died on 15th January, 1950, at Storehouse County Hospital, Lanarkshire, while on leave. The deepest sympathy of all ranks is extended to his parents.

3 *Squadron*. The chief events for this month were two wireless exercises, in which the Squadron took part. The first one was for a week when we helped to provide neutral signals for the Danes and the Norwegians on their Exercise "Finmark." Your scribe was not on the exercise but from all accounts it was successful and there were no serious breakdowns in communications.

Here in Goslar it has continued pretty cold and at the time of writing there is a good deal of snow on the ground. If it continues it is hoped to raise some ski-ing volunteers in time for the Brigade Ski Meeting which we hope will come off in the near future.

4 A.G.R.A. SIGNAL SQUADRON

Luneburg

Social activities within the Squadron have been considerably quieter since the festive season ended, but have recently re-awakened, with the emphasis on Quiz. The Squadron have challenged the 4 A.G.R.A. Warrant Officers and Sergeants' Mess to a Quiz competition to be broadcast over the British Forces Network, in the "Do you know" programme, which challenge the Sergeants' Mess have kindly accepted. Naturally enough, since the idea was born the Squadron have been hard at work trying to sort out the four most intelligent members to be the representative team Weekly Quizzes have been held each Thursday—with the exception of the last Thursday evening—on a knock-out basis, and quite a lot of good, healthy and intelligent fun resulted. The selected four—the possibles—were challenged by the probables, and the standard of knowledge generally was reasonably high, considering the very small strength of this Squadron. Just recently, the Unit have received a challenge from the C.C.G. to a Quiz to be held in the A.K.C. Globe Cinema, again to be broadcast over the B.F.N. Network. We have readily accepted, and are looking forward to a couple of enjoyable evenings on the air.

Despite a recent setback, in the shape of a five to one defeat, the Unit soccer team still maintain their proud position of league leaders in the 4 A.G.R.A. Minor Football League. Very little other sporting activities have taken place during January with the exception of an occasional game of hockey, due to the general weather conditions.

A team of 10 men, representing the Squadron, ran in the 4 A.G.R.A. Area cross-country championship on 1st February. Unfortunately the team, as a team, were last. But when one considers the relative strengths of the opposition—Regimental strength—this small Unit of 30 odd strong did not really do at all badly. One or two of our lads actually ran very well and secured reasonable placings.

BERLIN SIGNAL SQUADRON

B.A.O.R. 2

The weather conditions we are having in Berlin are not quite what we expected of the German winter. Hard frosts, with temperatures well down below freezing point we have had in plenty, but as yet we have had very little snow. Nevertheless the weather has been severe enough to cause us some inconvenience, particularly on the sports field, and to make us very thankful that the excellent central heating system in our lines has not let us down.

The soccer XI won the B.T.B. Junior League (Winter Tournament) in a convincing manner. They have now covetous eyes upon the Spring League championship, and hope to go a long way in the knock-out competition. Unfortunately they will be playing this second half of the season with the somewhat different team. A trial match was held to find replacements for those players now demobbed, but the glassy condition of the pitch meant that very few of the players displayed their true form, and as such the trial was unreliable.

Several members of the team are vying for representative honours of various kinds. Three of the team, Signalman Brand, Signalman Reade and Signalman Rhodes, have been invited to take part in a B.T.B. Combined Services trial match. Also, a team representing the Squadron visited 11 Air Formation Signals for the purpose of selecting a combined team to represent the two Units. Our team was rather heavily beaten by a very good team, but several of our players acquitted themselves favourably.

The Combined H.Q. B.T.B.-Berlin Signal Squadron hockey team came second in the Winter Hockey Tournament to the Royal Fusiliers, who took over the very good record that the Queens left when they departed from Berlin, and proceeded to maintain the same standard. Our team was only one point behind the leaders.

The Royal Signals hockey team which plays midweek friendly matches have had many good and enjoyable games, and have maintained a very presentable standard. They won two of the three matches played during January.

A small but hardy band of enthusiasts are busy training for the B.T.B. Cross-Country Championships. They turn out for regular runs on Wednesday and Saturday afternoons in preparation for the gruelling six mile run through the Grunewald over which they will race on February 10th.

Two members of the Squadron have lately engaged in activities of a rather different nature. As part of the Berlin Amateur Theatrical Society they took part in the annual pantomime. Signalman Cushnaghan came in at the last moment as "2nd Man at Arms" and Signalman Judges, who is normally the pay clerk, continued in his off stage role as villain of the piece.

VIENNA SIGNAL SQUADRON

Well—we didn't get a white Christmas, but just as everyone was commenting on the exceptional mildness of the weather, a cold spell set in, and down came the snow. Certainly nobody minded very much, except some of the local W.R.A.C. girls who like to have dull noses and shining eyes, and took a dim view when the weather reversed the process. Signals types who have been patiently polishing skis, and carefully rubbing in wax in the approved manner, with nary a trace of snow to encourage them, were most jubilant to find things turning out all white after all.

There are first class ski-training facilities here in Austria, and the Squadron has not been slow to take advantage of them. After a week's dry-shod ski-training in Vienna, every week a party of men sets out for Schmeltz, the ski-school in the beautiful Austrian mountains. The course is highly popular, and men returning from Schmeltz are never slow to grip those who have not yet gone, about "Slaloms" and "Snowploughs" and all the rest of the technical jargon they have acquired. So far the Unit has not suffered any casualties, although three-point landings are not uncommon!! The snow has temporarily suspended hockey activities, but you can't have everything. The Squadron football team has continued to do well, and is currently fighting it out with the Duty Battalion for leadership of the Vienna League.

Several friendly matches have been played against the French, with honours about even at present.

Sergeant Taylor continues to act as the Squadron boxing coach, and has some likely looking leather-pushers lined up, he tells us. We must congratulate Sergeant Ron Porter on the extremely plucky performance he put up against the American Golden Gloves Champion, who won on points during a recent Anglo-American boxing tournament.

Fencing has recently been added to the Squadron sports curricullum, and instruction is in the capable hands of Second-Lieutenant Bruce Crammond, who recently won the sabre competition in the B.T.A. Fencing Club, and was a member of the B.T.A. team which defeated the local Fencing Club. Fencing looks like becoming extremely popular in the Squadron. There have been no accidents so far, and there is certainly no truth in the rumour of perforated tape being sent high speed by a perforated operator.

However, hot or cold, rain or shine, Vienna is still a good station and nobody has any reason to complain. The devaluation of the Austrian schilling has meant a large and favourable increase in the sterling exchange rate, and many varieties of the local beer can be bought quite cheaply! Food is plentiful and cheap, and the shops are crammed with goods. It's a wonder everyone doesn't sign on!

Truth Will Out

IS it in heaven? Is it in hell? That damned elusive B.E.T.F.O.R., Nell?" (With apologies to no one at all).

When the average army wife in England asks: "Darling, where *is* Trieste?" her wretched husband usually looks faintly embarrassed and mutters something about: "Never was any good at geography. Somewhere in Austria or Italy, isn't it?" Believe it or not, that's the way it is!

First of all, it's pronounced Triestay. And it isn't in Austria and it isn't in Italy. It has Italy on one side and Jugo Slavia all the rest of the way round. What's more, the city itself was, and is again becoming, a large and important seaport, owing to the convenient presence of the Adriatic Sea. (And, furthermore, it isn't in the West Indies, as you might suppose if you happened to open the Army List at the page before all the Field Marshals!). And—it's a "Free Territory"! "A what?"—"You heard!"

The Free Territory of Trieste (F.T.T.) is divided into two zones: the British/United States Zone and the Jugo Slav Zone; the British/United States Zone being administered by the Allied Military Government (A.M.G.). What happens in the Jugo Zone is beyond our powers to describe, because, if you should happen to cross the zone frontier, firstly you are "put in the bag" for a week or two, and, secondly, on your return to your friends and relations you are immediately put under close arrest for disobeying orders.

The Allied Military Governor is Major-General T. S. Airey, C.B., C.B.E., who is assisted by a formidable number of British and American officers and civilians, together with some Italian civilians. The more junior British officers of A.M.G. are frequently to be seen with very worried expressions, trying to make up their minds if the day is one suitable for civilian clothes or for uniform. (We would like to point out, for the information of our more old-fashioned brethren, that the ability to speak fluent Urdu is no recommendation towards getting a job with A.M.G., and is of only limited use when ordering a litre of Chianti!).

General Airey is, in addition, the Allied Commander of the British/U.S. Forces, and is G.O.C. in C. of the British Element Trieste Force (B.E.T.F.O.R.).

The Deputy Allied Commander is Major-General Hoge, who is also the Commanding General of Trieste United States Troops (T.R.U.S.T.).

B.E.T.F.O.R. Signals has (or rather, should have) 10 officers and (we go on hoping) 250 other ranks. We are normally fairly static, but we do signal exercises now and again with unbelievable mobility. We work normal hours; we play the usual games (some of them rather well) on the very few B.E.T.F.O.R. grounds; and we save our £1 or spend our 1,730 lire according to our individual fancies.

We live and feed in comparatively good style; married quarters, in hotels or flats, are allocated on the normal points system and are not so numerous as we could desire; civilian accommodation is procurable, but at what a price!

Winter woollies are the vogue from about the end of September until early in May, when khaki drill comes into its own again. (If *only* there were some Chinese laundrymen here!).

The cost of living is what you make it—luxury goods fill the shops; eats and drinks are plentiful, although some, but not all, are expensive; riding is quite inexpensive for all ranks, on horses belonging to the Venezia Giulia Police (the large local police force); sailing is available in the spring and summer at a very reasonable cost; and winter sports can be enjoyed at the leave centre at Cortina, in the Dolomites, at a price well within the reach of all ranks between captain and signalman (field officers normally have to make their own arrangements for accommodation outside the leave centre or in Austria, and find things more expensive). A car, for those who are lucky enough to own one, is a very useful asset, especially for those who wish to visit Venice, Rome and other places in Italy, or in Austria.

Unlike other places which we could mention, if you ever have a couple of quid to "blue" here, you can do so in your own way without breaking a law or offending any moral code, perhaps with the feelings of a sincere but puzzled canary which has been temporarily let out of a cage which used to be comfortable and homely.

So now, when your wife again thirsts for knowledge, you will be able to shoot a modified line on, at any rate, one subject—B.E.T.F.O.R.

M E L F

1 INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT

Tripoli

The climax of the work of the past month has been a five day exercise which took Divisional Headquarters to the hills some 90 miles by road south of Tripoli.

These hills are 2,000 feet high and the road to Divisional H.Q. twists and turns in its steep ascent; so that driving in convoy was more exciting than usual, particularly coming down the hill again on the last day after a night of heavy rain which threatened at one time to "bog down" the whole exercise.

The exercise was a great success from the Signals viewpoint. The wireless worked well on all nets, C cable kept us in touch with Guards Brigade over a difficult 25 miles cable route, there were no vehicle casualties, and even the rain had its compensation in that we got the traditional rum ration.

Interest was added to the exercise by the co-operation of the aircraft from H.M.S. *Glory* which provided every type of close support.

The success of this close support depended largely on the ability of the land forces to brief the pilots before the exercise started and this in its turn depended on good R/T communication.

H.M.S. *Glory* was returning from an inter-carrier exercise and was about 100 miles out to sea steaming towards Tripoli when the first call was made to her by the 53 set at Divisional H.Q., a range of about 150 miles in all. Communication R5 each way was established within a few minutes and maintained throughout the exercise. A satisfactory performance.

At the end of the exercise H.M.S. *Glory* with her escorting destroyer H.M.S. *Vigo* came into Tripoli for a three-day social visit, the first time since the capture of Tripoli that an aircraft carrier has come into the actual harbour.

Our football team continues to fight doggedly against its self-imposed handicap of having entered the Major Units League instead of the Minor Units League, which would have been more appropriate to our numbers. But the team has considerably cheered its supporters by defeating 6 Field Regiment by 2 goals to nil in an exciting match in which Signalman Hill scored in the first minute and Signalman Martin in the last few minutes of play.

The "Speedway," the new dirt track being built on the sea front near the barracks is nearly finished and we hope to see some racing there in March. S.Q.M.S. Pattison, Sergeant Burgess and Corporal Thomas, all crack members of last year's team, have been in hospital recently (but none of them as a result of motor-cycle accidents) and the doctors have stopped them riding. But Sergeant Allen of "D" Troop is hoping to rain up some "new blood" to maintain the old standard; and has already been "showing them how" on a few trial runs round the new track.

3 G.H.Q. SIGNAL REGIMENT

Fayid, M.E.L.F.

Much has happened since our last screed was produced and, over this last two months we have lost our C.O. for many years, Lieutenant-Colonel F. R. B. Moore, who is now bound for the U.K. to take up a post at home. We wish him the best of luck and a good voyage. We also have the pleasant duty of congratulating our new C.O., Lieutenant-Colonel J. H. E. Panton, on his promotion and appointment to command. We cannot say that we welcome him in the sense that he is newly arrived, although everyone welcomes his appointment, because he has been, for a long time, our second in command. May he have a long and happy stay in his new post.

The big official event of the period was an inspection of the Unit by Major-General W. O. Bowen, C.B., C.B.E., Chief Signal Officer, M.E.L.F. This went off with excellent results and the Regiment was proud of the C.S.O.'s remark that our parade and march past was the best that he had seen in M.E.L.F. Since then the inspection report has been circulated and we can only report, with all due modesty, that it was excellent. A tremendous amount of work was put in by all ranks and it is good to know that we did so well.

SPORTS REPORT

	Played	*Won*	*Drawn*	*Lost*	*For*	*Against*	*Position*
Rugger	13	10	1	2	131	47	2nd
Soccer	15	5	1	9	37	42	10th
Hockey	11	7	0	4	37	23	3rd
Cross-Country	Four races run—Third in league						

EGYPT COMMAND SIGNAL REGIMENT

Moascar

Having won the Army (Egypt) Rugger Cup for the second year in succession we are devoting our notes this month to an account of our efforts on the field.

This 1949-50 rugger season has been a successful one for the Corps in general and for us in particular. The twelve 1st XV fixtures played up to 14th January, 1950, show 11 wins and 1 draw, with 192 points for and only 18 against (5 penalty goals).

It all started with a seed planted by Colonel J. C. Hardy in 1948 which sprouted, was nursed, trained and pruned by that tireless expert rugby coach S.S.M. "Pop" Rider into the Cup winning side of that year. Lieutenant-Colonel G. U. Finney took over this bloom and was determined that it should flower again this season. The man with the all seeing eye Pop Rider was still with us and he set about the task with a will. There were not many experienced rugger players in the Unit but there was a fair supply of raw material. With eyes on the Cup we started off in September with trial matches and training. Anyone with the right build and energy was tried. "Pop" arranged simple fixtures to ensure that the pack had suffifficient experience and enabled the half-backs and backs to know each other.



Captain Smith receiving the cup from Lady Erskine



Army (Egypt) Rugger Cup. The winning team

Every match was reported and put up in the Unit Information Room.

THE SEASON'S FIXTURES

FRIENDLY MATCHES

27th Oct.	v. 1st Battalion Lincoln Regiment	Won	8—0
31st „	v. 1 L. of C. Signal Regiment	Won	32—0
1st Nov.	v. R.A.F. Station, Ismailia	Won	5—3
5th „	v. R.A.F. Station, Deversoir	Won	17—0
8th „	v. 41 Field Regiment R.A.	Won	8—0
1st Dec.	v. H.Q., B.T.E.	Won	20—6
7th Jan.	v. R.A.F. Station, Abu Sultan	Won	20—3

THE ARMY (EGYPT) CUP

6th Dec.	v. 1st Battalion Lincoln Regiment	Drew	6—6
11th „	v. 1st Battalion Lincoln Regiment ..	Won	11—0 (replay)
13th „	v. 80 Light A.A. Regiment R.A.	Won	37—0
24th „	v. R.E. Services	Won	5—0 (semi-final)
14th Jan.	v. G.H.Q., MELF	Won	24—0 (final)

The team and their trainer have put in some very hard work and have been justly rewarded. We had only one outstanding player, our team captain, Captain Smith, who as a three-quarter has that remarkable side-step which is apt to leave his opposition moving in the wrong direction at the critical moment. However, he is well known and usually well marked. For the remainder of the team it was sheer guts, good team work and a determined spirit. Amongst the forwards R.Q.M.S. Jenner deserves special mention; at 39 he is still able to lead the forwards in the loose and to quicken the pace of a game.

The team: Lance-Corporal Adams, Captain A. G. Smith *(R) (Capt.), Signalman Freeman (R), Lance-Corporal Ryan, Corporal Howell *(R), Lance-Corporal Smith (R), Corporal Lewis *(R), Sergeant Fears *, R.Q.M.S. Jenner *(R), Lieutenant Plant *(R), Captain Webb, Corporal Stewart, Sergeant Crispin (R), Second-Lieutenant Leadbetter (R, Lance-Corporal Bowen (R).

Trainer: S.S.M. Rider.

* Played in the 1949 winning team.

(R) Represenetd Royal Signals (Egypt).

Gebel Shabrawit Challenge Cup

The annual race for the Gebel Shabrawit Challenge Cup, locally called "The Pimple" race, took place in the Canal Zone on 21st January. This race is instigated and organised by Royal Signals and is open to units of all arms.

It is essentially a team race; teams of eight of whom six are to count, but there are also individual prizes.

The Gebel Shabrawit is a hill standing some 730 feet high behind Fayid, a well-known landmark. The race is novel in that no course is marked out, the start and finish being in the same place. The competitors find their own way to the top of the hill, where they are identified, and back to the finish. The distance is approximately four miles. The ground on the approaches to the hill is sand; the hill itself is rock with a loose surface and is fairly steep. The race is something half-way between a normal cross-country race and a kudd race of the type well known to those who have served in India.

Last year the race was organised by 3 G.H.Q. Signal Regiment who live conveniently near to the site; but this year, since it is a Corps function, the organisation was taken over by the Royal Signals (Egypt) Cross Country and Athletics Committee who were assisted by a number of enthusiastic Officers and O.R.s borrowed from local Royal Signals units.

Fourteen teams competed so there was a good crowd at the start when Major-General Bowen, C.S.O. M.E.L.F., lowered the starting flag. For the spectators, of whom there were about 200, the race was made very much more interesting by an excellent running commentary for the technical side of which 2 A.G.R.A. Signal Squadron were responsible.

An essential quality for the competitors is that they be physically very fit.

The team results were:—

		Points
First	1st Battalion North Staffordshire Regiment	74
Second	3 G.H.Q. Signal Regiment	79
Third	71 Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment	157

and the individual results were

First	Lance-Corporal Hodson . .	3 G.H.Q. Signal Regiment
Second	Lance-Corporal Kenyon . .	1st Battalion North Staffordshire Regt.
Third	Corporal Grant	3 G.H.Q. Signal Regiment

3 G.H.Q. Signal Regiment did very well to run the 1st Battalion North Staffordshire Regiment so close. The latter have taken their running very seriously this year and have won the Canal Zone Cross-Country Championship.

It was a fine day but there was a strong wind blowing down from the Pimple towards the start. Lance-Corporal Hodson did particularly well to win the race in 30 minutes 47 seconds; 38 seconds better than last year's time.

The challenge cup and prizes were presented by Mrs. Bowen and the whole tone of the function was raised by the presence of Lieutenant-General Erskine, G.O.C. B.T.E. The event did much to keep up the high prestige of Royal Signals.

After the race some 200 officers and their wives attended a tea party in the 3 G.H.Q. Signal Regiment Officers' Mess as the guests of the Royal Signals Officers in the Canal Zone.

The Growing Importance of Welding

By **C. W. BRETT**

UNTIL the commencement of World War II the progress of scientific welding was a record of steady advance but, with the advent of wartime conditions, unusual needs, particularly in the matter of repair work, created a stimulus the great benefits of which are being reaped today.

For one thing the remaining remnants of prejudice withered in the light of facts, of which one of the chief is the absolute dependability of first class welding. That there were too few adequately experienced operators when demands of all kinds began to pour in is another matter altogether. Always there have been too few real craftsmen but those whose work is of a truly superlative standard are largely in the organisation of specialist firms.

Although the personal element has been emphasised because of its importance, research has been unremitting, so much so that the means have almost always been one jump ahead of requirements. Metal of great thickness can be handled with certainty nowadays; in fact ultra-thin materials are more likely to prove troublesome because they call for greater precision and a more complex technique. Strength alone is relatively easy to impart but accuracy of alignment is equally vital in most instances.

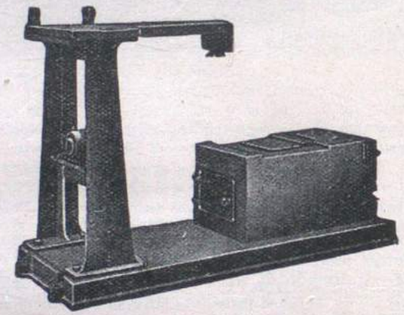
The subject is of no small importance to those whose work it is to concentrate upon the complexities of signals. Time and again there are invaluable contacts with welding, or at least needs which could be dependably and quickly met with its aid. Moreover this does not apply merely to one particular phase of signals but ranges from delicate equipment to the repair of transport vehicles. The latter are more in the limelight for it is in this respect that the versatility of scientific welding shows to special advantage.

The speed with which the plating and tracks of a tank can be repaired is an outstanding example of welding opportunity but it conveys no idea of the equally fine precision engineering that can be accomplished. Crankshafts are a case in point. Sometimes these break and they are apt to become distorted as a result of the smash.



For the repair and construction of unusual equipment scientific welding is often the most efficient and cheapest method. This piece of apparatus was broken before it was put into service

Skilled operators can rejoin the broken portions and restore fully the original strength but they leave no trace of repair. Furthermore, the maximum tolerance allowed anywhere is one-thousandth part of an inch however badly the shaft may have been distorted.



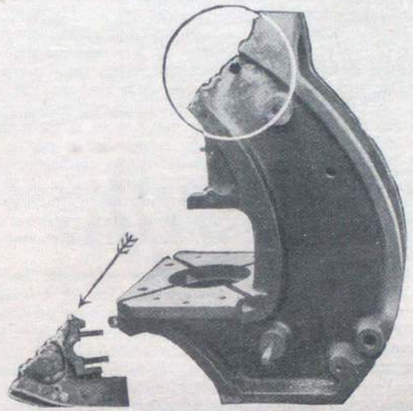
The same machine after repair. The job was guaranteed and was not expensive. (Repaired in the Barimar Welding Works)

Invariably a guarantee on a money-back basis accompanies every finished repair. At least that is the practice of well-known specialists in this work.

It has taken a long time for engineers to realise that a broken crankshaft can be made completely dependable once more and that welding is not a makeshift to tide over an anxious period until a replacement can be secured. The record of shafts handled in this way is absolute proof of their trustworthiness provided, of course, that those responsible really do know their job. One of the most important aspects of repairs of this class is to obtain a normalised result without internal strains or denaturisation which includes hardening when it is not required and thus can become a weakness rather than a strength. When dealing with steel and using multi-runs, each succeeding layer of weld metal normalises the previous one. The final layer is applied solely for this purpose after which it is removed as surplus.

Even the apparently simple manipulation of the oxy-acetylene cutting flame, generally considered as a purely destructive agent, has promoted production enormously. Not only are intricate parts including gears and sprockets cut from the solid, often in preference to the use of castings or forgings, but also frames of many of the heavier classes of equipment.

The ability to weld together metals that are totally different from each other is a valuable asset the gaining of which has been a hard struggle extending over many years. Apart from oxidation great differences in the co-efficients of expansion were a stubborn obstacle to the utterly dependable result that is demanded. At first work was confined to the ferrous group of metals but so effective have been the means employed that nowadays it is no more than routine to weld aluminium to steel perfectly. Many other unlikely combinations are equally trustworthy.

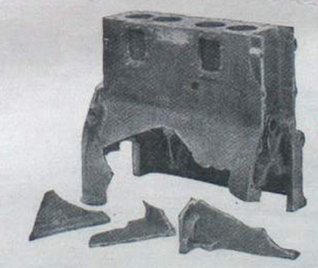


Power presses, used so frequently for the production of electrical and radio fittings, are prone to breakage when over-loaded or incorrectly adjusted

It is not generally known that copper presented several stubborn problems before a technique was found to weld it perfectly. The chief problem was oxidation at the high temperatures inseparable from the work.

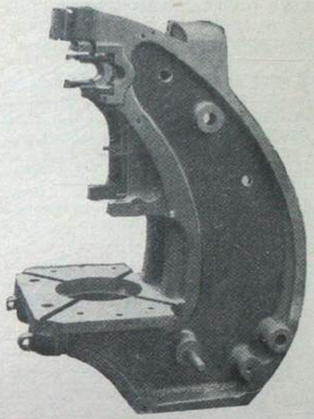
Only one class of repair concerns actual breakage for a great deal of welding is applied with striking success to overcoming corrosion and wear, the latter often on account of abrasive influences that cannot be avoided. By a knowledgeable selection of weld metal far greater resistance to these conditions can be imparted.

It is by no means unusual for worn items built up in this way to last twice or even three times as long as a spare part of the original type but costing many times the price of welding, but it is not only the modest cost of this work that is of such advantage, nor the complete dependability of the result, for the speed with which the job can be finished is often vital too.



Motor vehicle engine parts are constantly "coming to grief." Even when the damage is as bad as this there is no need to throw the casting on the scrap heap

The question is sometimes asked: "How is it that welding engineers can be so certain of an absolutely sound job? The meticulous care taken and an exacting inspection at each stage is the answer. Toward this end the latest radiographical X-ray equipment is used. In this way a weld can be viewed in depth. Thus in the remote event of there being a hidden flaw, however small, it is at once disclosed and eliminated.

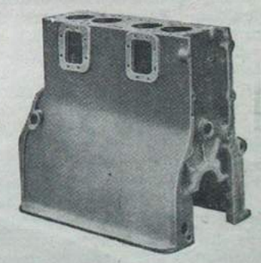


Fortunately a repair by scientific welding is speedy, reliable and inexpensive. This is the repaired press. (Repaired in the Barimar Welding Works)

Another process, now used extensively, is the spraying of molten metal. This hardly comes within the category of true welding but it is a useful off-shoot. When zinc is deposited in this way it is an extremely satisfactory alternative to galvanising. Almost any metal can be handled in a similar manner. In the form of a wire or powder it is passed through an oxy-acetylene flame. Molten particles are formed instantly and these are ejected by a stream of compressed air. The result is a tenacious coating on any matt surface, even paper, for a surprising characteristic of the process is that it does not scorch.

Another question that is puzzling to some, is why gas welding is used in some instances and electric welding in others. There is no rigid line of demarkation but generally electric welding is associated with the handling of steel.

It is the ever widening scope of this work that makes it so important for there is scarcely a requirement in the handling of metal in which scientific welding cannot lend its aid whether it be in the field of new construction or repair.



Cylinder block after repair by scientific welding. (Repaired in the Barimar Welding Works)

Three Months on Detachment

THERE is no denying that the coast of North Cornwall is as beautiful as any to be found in England. The Ack Ack practice camp sited at Cleave near Bude was no exception and the grass topped cliffs falling down to the sea forms the rugged coastline for which Cornwall is renowned. Now in May a beautiful picture presents itself full of native wonders and to the city folk a most desirable change.

Looking back over the last month one wonders at the remarkable change in camp life. The detachment, six in number, arrived in Cleave Camp at the beginning of February. At that time the winter was particularly bitter and the camp situated on the open cliff edge received the full force of the bitterly cold gales. When we arrived there were only four officers and a handful of men forming a holding detachment and accordingly the initial stages were hard going. Eventually a N.A.A.F.I. was opened together with a cinema both of which were a great asset of the camp life.

Although the detachment were sent down for one specific job, that of providing communications for the gun park, it was soon apparent that many more undertakings would fall



to our lot. The camp being large and spread over a large area we were soon swamped by requests for adm. phones and although the South West Fixed Signal Service Troop had provided three men it was evident that so small a section could never hope to cater for all requirements. As far as possible the South West Fixed Signal Service personnel were occupied with adm. lines but amalgamation was the only answer, and that proved highly successful.

The previous year a similar detachment had been despatched from 2 A.A. Group (M) Signal Regiment for exactly the same purpose and it was hoped that many of the cables in site could be utilised this year. Unfortunately, this year's layout consisting of 10 heavy A.A. and two light A.A. sites was different from that of 1948 and we were faced with the task of laying many miles of new underground cable. A target date had been fixed for 1st April and for so small a detachment it was most certainly going to be hard work.

Initially everything seemed against us. The weather grew from bad to worse and then to the unbelievable. In biting wind and rain the detachment set to work digging the cables trenches which in a matter of a few hours became waterlogged. The first few weeks were solely devoted to this work. Eventually this most strenuous task was completed and from then onwards the work became progressively more interesting. The majority of the men had no experience of underground cables or the laying of communications for gun sites, so that a large proportion of the practical work fell to the lines N.C.O., Corporal Armstrong, who had worked at Cleave Camp the previous year. It was agreeably surprising to see how very quickly the detachment mastered the situation and set down to hard work. For the whole three months, to ease up would have been fatal for the detachment had become interested and were keen to finish by the target date. It was realised that little time could be spared for leisure and there can be nothing but praise for the way that the job was tackled and completed. Work continued most week-ends and evenings and many was the time that a small party worked through the night with the aid of hurricane lamps on a particularly urgent job. By the end of March it was evident that the job would not be completed by 1st April. The inevitable snags coupled with bad weather had put us behind and although the camp had not officially opened until 1st May we were disappointed that the target date had passed and we were still working on the gun sites.

During the month of April due to increased commitments the detachment was forced to ask for more linemen. There was no doubt that all lines for the gun sites would be in operational order by 1st May but we were also faced with providing communications for an A.A.O.R., a searchlight arc covering nearly six miles, and for communications to the Territorials tented encampment. Once again the detachment was split, and individuals allotted particular jobs. This seemed to give the parties an added interest in their job and a further incentive to finish by the time that the first Brigade was expected to arrive.

The A.A.O.R., which initially seemed complex, proved to be a straight forward line layout and although theoretically it provided all Signal requirements it was, practically, a "muck up," solely for training purposes. The internal wiring was a slow job but the two Signalmen detailed, completed all lines within a fortnight.

The standard searchlight layout comprising of eight lights covered an area of radius four miles. It was decided that an omnibus circuit terminating at a W.D. 10 line exchange would provide all that was needed. Several line reconnaissances were made and a plan formulated which dovetailed with existing G.P.O. routes. Once again the G.P.O. were ready and willing to help the Corps and give the Signal Office permission to use many of their poles. Without this aid the route would have been exceptionally difficult and we are indebted to them for all their consideration.

The canopy was removed from the 15 cwt. truck and an A.C.L. No. 11 fitted for line laying. Equipped for the job a small party of between four and five men took a fortnight to lay this route which contained many poled



and buried crossings. This route was laid with a view to lasting the season and hence extra care was taken that a strong route was built. Where road crossings were made M.A.L. poles stayed with wire B.B.II were used and whenever the type of country warranted it, the D.8 was slung from the G.P.O. poles.

The line requirements to the Territorial tented encampment warranted the building of two quarter-mile M.A.L. routes. This was a straightforward job but with only four men compared with the accustomed 19 it took nearly 10 days to build. This route had been barely completed before it was involved in an accident. A three-ton lorry carried away one of the poles resulting in extensive damage which has now been rectified. Fortunately, the lines were not in use at the time and repair was able to be effected without disturbance to subscribers.

Ginger is Robbed of £5 by the Sergeant

By **FRED STEEL**

"LEFT, Right, Left, Right," bellowed the smart khaki-clad figure with three Victory "V" signs showing up lily white on his sleeve. This, as our character, Ginger Samson, was to find out, held the rank of Sergeant. He had to be addressed as Sergeant, no "yes, Dick" or "no, Tom" as a matter of fact, Ginger didn't think they had any such names, nobody ever referred to them in that way, but replied smartly in an upright position, such as "Yes, Sergeant" or "No, Corporal," whichever the case may be. These Foremen, for that is what they would be in a civilised world, shouted orders at them and didn't seem to be able to make up their minds which way to go.

Ginger, who had just come into this marching, saluting, over-walked Army a couple of months ago, belied his name. He stood five feet nine inches, weighed a mere eight stone two pounds, or 114 pounds in American weight, sleek auburn hair and a dreamy mind, which wandered *ad lib*. At the present time Ginger's mind was thinking about his first week-end home on leave, which should take place tomorrow.

"I'll tell them what it's like. Bessie," that's his girl—though he didn't know it then—"will be proud of me now," he mused as he followed the others in a circular movement.

"Samson, pick up that step," he seemed to hear far away. Ah, but when they play the "King" in the pictures I'll stand there upright. That's it, I'll stop until the end, and then, it hit Ginger instantly and he was changing feet and back in the Army. The voice bellowed. No Crosby or Sinatra tone about that. "Samson, pick it up," and no one had ever been to the pictures and back in the Army as quickly before. Suddenly, "halt" and after a lot of talking by the Sergeant of the things they had done wrong, and this and that, Ginger waited anxiously. Those famous words would come "Dismiss," and then off.

No strolling now—hurry to the Y.M.C.A.—a cup of tea, a cake, some fags, if they had any. Today is pay day, and tomorrow—Ah, Bessie, Grantown, pictures, football match and the boys. What a wonderful life it will be then.

"Going on a week-end?" said a voice behind him and bringing him back to earth.

"Yes," said Ginger. "That is, I think I am, if my pass has been granted." Pass, thought Ginger, I can't go without that, better see about getting it. I know, I'll ask the Orderly, Tom Jones, he'll know, he knows all that goes on, and he sleeps in my room. As a matter of fact, Tom runs the show. The Colonel—he's there just like a figurehead, to give blokes ten or fourteen days' C.B., and that's all he does (mostly for being late). Tom's a humanitarian, so he says, and couldn't do things like that. Yes, I'll ask Tom. Of course, it will cost me a fag or two, but I'd give a guinea for it so long as it is O.K.—if I had one that is. Pay parade. Back to the barrack room to make sure everything is just so. Ah! here comes Tom Jones now. When Ginger was five cigarettes less, and that long later, he found that his pass had been granted. Fine! to the station tomorrow. I wonder if they are still running trains? After all we are cut off from the outside world, and it seemed so long ago. Even if they don't, I'll get there somehow. "Soon be lights out," said my bed-mate, "better get ready for tomorrow, a good sleep tonight."

All ready. Pass in hand, clean, smart, a smile and headed for the station was Ginger, wondering what a train was like. Ah! the booking office, a return to Grantown, no messing now. How queer the man looked issuing the tickets, after seeing nothing but khaki suits for two months. He doesn't realise what he's missing, going on leave like this.

On to the platform. It was deserted almost, except a young lady sitting on the far seat. Ginger approached and said "Good morning." "Good morning," she replied, then he asked a question, "Do you know when the next train to Grantown is?" "Yes, 50 minutes' time," came a feminine voice, "We've just missed one." Then trains still run, thought Ginger, "May I sit down." "Help yourself," said the girl, her cigarette between her ruby lips. "My name is Eve, and I don't talk to soldiers as a rule," Eve hinted, "but as we are fellow travellers, well, why worry, and you can't help it, can you?"

Ah! A policeman at the other end of the platform—making some enquiries, no doubt. Ginger relaxed with arms outstretched—one just below Eve's wavy hair. "This is the life," thought Ginger, "better than he had ever hoped for, this was."

The policeman was coming towards them now. "I'm O.K. from him, no need to be scared of police now." When the policeman was only a few yards away something happened which left Ginger reeling. "Officer! said the demure Eve "This 'ere soldier has stolen my pearls." "Who? Me?" cried Ginger, jumping up as if obeying an Army command.

"Now, now, we'll soon settle that, my boy," said the policeman. "Settle it," thought Ginger, "It's about settled me and my week-end."

"You will have to come with me—both of you. Got a pay book and pass, soldier?"

Ginger, looking depressed, fumbled in his top pocket and produced them. Round to the police station they both went. Ginger really thought the end of the world had come.

Inside, things were explained to the Sergeant and even the Inspector seemed a little interested.

"Where have you come from?" Unit, Company, Platoon, Section — they don't leave anything to chance, thought Ginger.

The Police Sergeant got on the phone to verify all this, and then Ginger heard them say that they would send an escort . . . for what? . . .?

Oh my!!! After all, Tom Jones wouldn't try him, it would be that Colonel who thought nothing of giving ten days, or even a fortnight away in C.B. Dear, dear, it's terrible!

"Take him and search him," said the Inspector, who cast a suspicious eye at Ginger as he was led away.

This was no search, they took you to bits and inspected every morsel, or atom, which is a more up-to-date word. Having gone through the ritual of the search, and nothing was found on Ginger, he proceeded, very unhappily, to dress. He seemed to have lost a stone in weight, and had given up all hopes of his first week-end with Bessie, Grantown, football match, the boys, and most of all, standing smartly to attention at the end of the pictures. Back to where the Sergeant, Inspector, and of course, Eve were, the policeman assured the Inspector that he had no pearls.

They seemed to take his word for that, but the Inspector said: "You will have to wait for an escort. After all, the

Army can't have men on week-ends who are accused of stealing a string of pearls." Sitting there, browned off, and depressed, something struck Ginger like a bolt from the blue, from where he never knew. "Why not search her," he said, pointing to Eve, who seemed all composed. "That's right," replied the Inspector, and a lady who was a matron, or something, took the high-heeled, nylon-legged Eve, to go through the rigours of being searched. It seemed an eternity before they returned, but it hadn't been so long, when the matron, holding up the pearls, handed them to the Inspector. Apparently, they had lodged in her clothing on the way to the ground.

"I'm so sorry for you," said Eve, extracting a handkerchief from her bag, and sniffed as though she was really sorry. Ah! "this was different," thought Ginger. "I'm going to sue you" said Ginger in a very firm voice.

"Yes, for wrongful accusations," he had read in the *Echo*, where someone had got quite a sum of money by doing this.

"Oh! please don't do that," said Eve, wiping a tear from her eye. "I'll give you anything," the repenting Eve said, "but don't take me to court."

"I think it will be better for all if you can settle this out of court," said the Inspector, who had taken a keener interest in the proceedings since the turn of events.

"I'll give you five pounds if you let it drop," said Eve tearfully. Five pounds, thought Ginger, what can I buy with a Fiver. Very tactfully Ginger said "O.K." He was a hero now. "Then it happened"; she opened her bag and started counting out one, two, three, four, when a khaki clad Sergeant said "Samson, if you don't get up I'll stop your week-end leave."

Five minutes more, and Ginger would have been "five pounds" richer.

44 (H.C.) INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

Stamford Brook, W.6

It is with deep regret that we report the death of Signalman F. L. Partridge, who was a member of "G" Troop of this Regiment, stationed at Hurstpierpoint, Sussex. Only recently did we learn that for some months he had been suffering with cancer. He died quite unexpectedly on 30th January, 1950, and was buried at Hurstpierpoint Cemetery. Lieutenant P. A. Lancaster, Sergeant D. Smith, Sergeant W. Beadle and Sergeant J. Stockhill represented the Regiment at the funeral. A Canadian of cheerful disposition, Signalman Partridge settled down in this country on release from the Canadian Army at the end of the war. To Mrs. Partridge and her two children we extend our very deep sympathy.

On Saturday, 28th January, the Officers and their wives entertained their guests at the Officers Annual Ball, held at Regimental Headquarters, Stamford Brook. It was a grand evening in the old style with a number of officers in scarlet. Dancing was to Reg Farrow and his Band. Among the guests were Brigadier B. B. Rackham, C.B.E., M.C., D.L.,



[*Acknowledgement: Portman Press Bureau*

Chairman of the Middlesex Territorial and Auxiliary Forces Association of the County of Middlesex, Colonel J. W. Gordon, Royal Signals, who was recently appointed C.A.G. Royal Signals, and Group Captain A. S. W. Dore, C.B., D.S.O., T.D., D.L.

On the following Saturday evening Warrant Officers and Sergeants held their ball and another grand evening was enjoyed by about 300 revellers.

However, it hasn't all been eating, drinking and dancing. Two first-class exercises took place recently. Captain E. B. Williams and his Demonstration Team provided the communications for the Divisional Intelligence Exercise for which we received a letter of thanks from the Divisional staff. The entire permanent staff attended an exercise on the reception of the N.S. men into the T.A.

No. 2 Squadron and No. 3 Squadron at Chatham and Stamford Brook respectively, held a combined cable exercise.

43 (WESSEX) INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

Taunton

This month has seen a major turn-over both in the Permanent Staff and T.A. with the departures of Major (Q.M.) F. F. West, M.M., T.D., Captain J. C. Clinch, Captain F. W. S. Turton (T.A.), and the arrivals of Major (Q.M.) A. J. Carpenter and Captain J. H. Walmesley-Cotham.

Captain Clinch's departure on leave and ultimately to the Combined Ops. School (he hopes), will be regretted by every member of the Unit. He has been a pillar of "Adjutantial" strength since the re-formation of the Regiment in 1947.

"Frankie" West deserves a very special mention. His retirement marks the completion of 42 years of service of which 18 have been with 43 (Wx) Infantry Division Signals. He enlisted in the Somerset Light Infantry in 1908 and transferred to R.E. Signals in 1911. His service with the Regiment commenced in 1924 as R.S.M. on the permanent staff and was terminated in 1939 when as Captain Q.M. he went to 45 Divisional Signals on the split of the Unit. He rejoined us on the reconstitution of the T.A. in 1947 as Major Q.M. An impressive record!

As to the Regiment, we are busy preparing for Trade Boards, motor-cycle trials, a Divisional exercise, annual camp, and ultimately the reception of our first National Servicemen in July.

1/20 (SM) ARMY SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

Birmingham

If we could find a few more enthusiastic supporters of THE WIRE we might also find material for a paragraph or two. As it is, quite a few of our members, good chaps as they are, have come from the R.A., Infantry, R.E.M.E., and even from the Royal Navy. They do not find much in our various Unit notes to interest them. Another article like "Radio Propagation and the use of Antennas" will rope in these boys. Several of them are already on the permanent list so that they do not miss Parts 2 and 3 of Colonel Gaither's article.

I have myself just completed a clever essay on the Telephone 110, but I find now that this instrument has been superseded. How times flies. It is all very disappointing. My diagram showing how the handle should be operated in a clockwise direction was well spoken of by the Institution. It was spoken of anyway. They said "Who done this 'ere. Wheel him in." They are an ignorant lot.

The big thing in our lives for February is a motor-cycle trial organised by the Regiment with the assistance of the Pyramid Motor Cycle Club. Perhaps I should say by the Adjutant, Captain J. E. Denton. He will undoubtedly carry the can if everything doesn't go off beautifully. Teams are entered from all over the country and there will be about 100 riders starting from Stonebridge on the Coventry-Birmingham road at 1030 hours on 12th February. The course includes 23 observed sections with the finishing point at Cateswell House. As our notes must leave here several days before the event a report on this trial will be given in the April number.

Our L.A.D. Section under Sergeant Muston, R.E.M.E., is getting well into stride. The steady stream of indents coming from their office suggests that they are going to start a private army. It shows willing.

No. 3 Squadron is rapidly settling down at Welsh House Farm, Harborne. Lorry loads of technical stores for S.Q.M.S. Moore and Sergeant Davies to worry about, have already gone over.

I hope you put your X in the proper place on 23rd February. Did you? BARLEUX

TELEVISION EXHIBITION FOR BIRMINGHAM

The Radio Industry Council announces that a radio exhibition, with television as the main feature, is to be held at Castle Bromwich, Birmingham, in September next—the exact date to be announced later. As previously stated, there is to be no National Radio Exhibition in London in 1950.

50 AIR FORMATION SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

Wolverhampton

Outside activities in the new year have been confined to motor-cycle trials and on 22nd January we were able to finish second and fifth out of eight teams in the trials organised by 5th Battalion South Staffordshire Regiment (T.A.) Our "A" team which finished second to our neighbours 1/20 Army Signal Regiment (T.A.), Birmingham, was Lieutenant J. Millar (recently joined us from 264 Beach Brigade Signal Squadron, Glasgow), Sergeant H. D. S. Curzon and Driver W. E. Bull. We thus acquired our first piece of plate, in open competition with other units, in the form of a silver rose bowl.

Our No. 2 Squadron at Greenfields Camp, Shrewsbury, continues to grow and another enjoyable evening organised by Captain R. F. Pedley and S.S.M. Hewitt was held on 4th February for all ranks and their friends.

13 A.A. (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

Glasgow **Edinburgh**

It is with pleasure that we can report an improvement in our recruiting figures, and we have recently celebrated the signing on of the one hundredth W.R.A.C. recruit in the Regiment.

On 13th December, 1949, at the Locarno Ballroom in Glasgow, two of our girls from 30 Squadron took part in a display of Scottish country dancing which was organised by Junior Commander Alexander of H.Q. 3 A.A. Group. Owing to the success of this venture we are repeating it at the Palais in Edinburgh on 22nd February, 1950, when the team will be composed entirely of girls from R.H.Q. and our Squadrons stationed in Edinburgh. We expect this will attract more recruits to swell our ranks.

On 16th December, 1949, an all ranks dance was held at Brandon Terrace Drill Hall which was a pronounced success.

The Entertainments Committee have for some months now been holding secret sessions, and have been concocting devlish plans for our future entertainment. They have at last come out into the open and inform us that they have arranged a "Krazy Nite" for 10th February, 1950. We still don't know what form the craziness will take, but we are prepared for anything.

On 18th and 19th February, 1950, we are holding a week-end camp for N.C.O.s at Craigiehall, South Queensferry.

The object is to train our N.C.O.s to a higher standard of both technical and military efficiency in preparation for annual camp which is to be at Burrowhead, 9th-23rd July.

11 A.A. (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.
Brompton Road, S.W.2

Twenty Officers were present at the farewell dinner of Captain and Mrs. John Rayner, which took place at the Brompton Grill on Friday 13th (a significant date for the Unit). Although, at first, there was an atmosphere of sadness the party soon warmed up, especially when the diners retired to the Mess, where they met a number of Officers who were unable to attend the meal. The C.O., on behalf of the Officers of the Unit, presented Captain Rayner with a silver cigarette box and tankard and in a short speech said how indebted we were to Captain Rayner for the sterling work put in by him during his three years with us. The Unit wishes him every success in the future.

Our new Adjutant, Captain P. E. Hutchins, has now joined us and we all hope his stay with us will a very happy one.

23 (SOUTHERN) CORPS SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.
Fulham House, S.W.6

Activities are now concentrated on preparation for a Trade Board around Easter, and we hope to get in a week-end of outdoor practical training before then. Naturally, our Adjutant is well briefed in providing for our creature comforts on such outings.

We welcome back an old friend in Major Christopher ("Chris" to many of us), and have little doubt that his experience in the selection of comfortable and congenial surroundings for wireless training will be put to advantage—though be it known that England, 1950 is not quite France, 1940. He will also be a welcome recruit to that select band among us, whose training bears the unmistakable mark of Cecil Humphreys, Bill Lloyd and Hugh Rogers.

On 26th January the Officers Mess "dined out" Sid Dolbear, and the C.O. on their behalf presented him with an inscribed tankard as a token of appreciation of many years' loyal service. After the speeches, the party took on a less formal, and livelier air. All the usual feats of strength, capacity and speed of swallow were practised, culminating in a hearty, if somewhat confused send-off to the guest of honour.

ARMY PHANTOM SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.
(The Princess Louise's Kensington Regiment)
Hammersmith

A highlight in our training programme on 1st February, was a lecture by Colonel R. K. Millar, D.S.O. (C.E. London District) on "Crossing the Rhine." This extremely interesting and fascinating subject was of great value to all ranks, especially to those who served in other theatres of war, and to whom the details of this complicated operation were new. Colonel Millar described in some detail, illustrated by epidiascope photographs of equipment, maps and charts, the Royal Engineers part of the operation of 23rd-24th March, 1945.

Our wireless training progresses steadily in preparation for our first week-end exercise of 1950 to be held 11th-12th March, the first of a series of such schemes leading up to our summer camp at Felixtowe.

Basketball continues to be enthusiastically supported, and our inter-squadron competition will soon be in full swing.

Our social calendar includes an all ranks dance on 4th March which promises to be even more popular than our first similar event, held in our redecorated hall, last year.

Association Notes

Chester

Our meetings take place at The Cross Foxes Hotel, Chester, on the first Thursday of each month under the able and capable Chairmanship of Lieutenant-Colonel W. E. Gill, M.I.E.E., now Officer Commanding 23rd Armoured Brigade Signal Squadron, T.A. About thirty or forty members attend these meetings but there is still room for more. It is gratifying to see a goodly gathering of serving members attending.

The last meeting of the Branch was verily a beehive of activity. The final arrangements for the Annual Dinner and Dance were made. A pantomime outing was also arranged—the venue, Liverpool and the panto, "The Sleeping Beauty," which reminds me of one of our worthy and distinguished members who very kindly allows his wife to creep down the stairs in the middle of the night to see what the good kind postman has brought—only to find piles of O.C.A. official mail behind the door. Oh! Baby it's cold outside (and inside too).

The annual dinner and dance was a huge success. About one hundred and twenty members and guests sat down to an excellent dinner at The Bars Hotel, Chester. Many of the guests came from afar, London, Liverpool, Birmingham, Catterick, and many from over the border, our friends from Wales.

Colonel Gill introduced the Branch President, Brigadier E. V. McCormack, C.B.E., The C.S.O. remarked that this was the first function he had attended and that it certainly would not be the last. The Brigadier then proposed a toast to His Majesty The King. Captain C. Shepherd, M.B.E., D.C.M., then proposed the toast to our Colonel-in-Chief, the Princess Royal. The Toast to the Royal Signals Association was proposed by our Chairman and responded to by Colonel A. W. Roberts, the General Secretary to the Association. And lastely, Mr. S. Pointon proposed Our Guests, responded to by Captain (Q.M.) Bennett of 22 Corps Signals T.A., Liverpool.

After dinner we danced to our heart's delight. Mr. K. West was the M.C.

We have heard many many stories of big grips, but quite honestly it's a wonder that earthquakes didn't occur at Bulford, Aldershot, Maresfield and Crowborough, not to mention Jub. and Poona. Being only a young soldier I listened and hung my head when one worthy gentleman remarked that in nineteen nought Blob he rose to the exalted rank of one striper.

Many other old sweats joined in the grip, the competition was keen, the conversation terminated with horses tails, early morning rides and the duties of a good stableman.

We hear that Joe Cotterell is taking a large and active part in the activities of the Association. Joe was spoken of quite often at the dinner and dance and for yours truly many memories of Bulford days when I was chased over Bulford Fields and up and down The Beacon. All the best Joe, from all your comrades at Chester.

The Annual General Meeting takes place on the second of February when the election of new officials takes place. It is only fitting that we should pay tribute to our Chairman, Colonel E. W. Gill, the Vice-Chairman, Captain R. D. Hardy, the Secretary and Treasurer, Mr. R. Ryan and the Social Committee under the Chairmanship of Mr. S. Pointon for the sterling work they have done in the organisation and social well being of the Branch.

Middlesbrough

Am glad once more to report that the Middlesbrough Branch had another successful meeting in the Exchange Inn, Richardson Street, Middlesbrough, on Friday, 27th January, 1950.

Judging by the attendance (30 members were present) and the grand spirit shown, the Branch is now well on the way to recovery after the setback it sustained. After the meeting was closed for business we were entertained to an impromptu concert by two artistes who were invited by the Chairman, ex-Corporal A. H. Jones, and the eats were supplied by the Treasurer, ex-Sergeant F. Thornton.

The Vice-Chairman, S.Q.M.S. G. A. Alderson, informed the meeting that the local branch of the R.A.F. Association located in Marton Road, Middlesbrough, had kindly invited us to a social evening on Friday, 17th February, 1950, and we have accepted this kind offer and we are now looking forward to the meeting. Notes on this will be forwarded for the next month's WIRE.

I am very pleased to report that the local Branch was represented at Gateshead on the occasion of the visit of H.R.H. the Princess Royal, by Mr. A. H. Jones, Mr. J. Gibson, Mr. C. Tuffs, and Mr. F. Dodds. Shift work and transport difficulties prevented further representation of the Branch.

H.R.H. inspected the 50 Infantry Division Signal Regiment in the Elm Grove Terrace Drill Hall, and then the representatives of Gateshead, Darlington and Middlesbrough Branches of the Royal Signals O.C.A. It was grand to meet old friends of long standing once again, personalities that went back to the days of 1921, which brought back many pleasant memories to the members concerned.

Our next meeting is arranged to take place on Friday, 10th March, 1950, at the same place, Exchange Inn. Ex-Signal personnel are cordially invited to attend if they are available on that evening.

Birmingham

Once again it is our sad duty to record the loss of another staunch member. Mr. Reed William Realf died in his sleep early on Sunday, 5th February, quite unexpectedly. He was with us at the Branch meeting on Thursday, 26th January and seemed fit though a little quieter than his usual cheery self. "Billy" will be remembered with affection not only by his large circle of friends in the Birmingham Branch but by many old-timers of the 48th Divisional Signals, T.A., with whom he served as C.S.M. His death at 61 comes as a shock to us all. Our deepest sympathy goes to Mrs. Realf and family in their great loss. The funeral took place at Lodge Hill Crematorium on Friday, 10th February.

When I told you that our general meeting was to be held on 23rd February none of us knew that it was to be Election Day. In order that members shall be free to go and do their duty like good citizens we have changed the date of the annual general meeting to Thursday, 30th March. Perhaps we shall see some of our ex-A.T.S. members on that occasion. Of the 44 we show on the book, Jean Hopkins, Betty Hancox and Jean Pilkington turn up to the meetings with unfailing regularity. Some of the others may have married, and this we are prepared to accept as a good excuse. Somebody has to stay in while Dad goes to the dogs.

I told you that we were arranging a dance at the Botanical Gardens on 30th June. This will cost you (if you are lucky) 10/6, including refreshments at the buffet. Pretty good value, eh? The absolute limit is 250 tickets so waste no time in securing yours. New members continue to arrive at the rate of three or four a week and occasionally an old member wakes up and renews an overdue subscription. If all goes well we expect to gather another party to visit Catterick for the big meeting there on 22nd July. Those of us who made the trip last year are not likely to forget the grand hospitality extended to visiting old comrades. Another thing we must contrive is a visit to the Royal Tournament. We were very disappointed last year. I still think that Regimental Associations should be given a chance to book seats. Even a priority chance. Usually, by the time we know anything about it most of the seats have been sold. We don't want a dozen here and a dozen there. No, sir. All in a lump or none at all.

Colonel F. E. B. Jones, O.B.E. T.D., took the chair at the January meeting in the unavoidable absence of Brigadier E. A. James, O.B.E., T.D. The usual party turned up and enjoyed a couple of hours of good company.

Many of us were very interested in the photographs of Geoff Gavey and Allan Griffin. The article by Captain Gavey on the Yeomen Warders has enlightened us a lot. Those picturesque figures always intrigued us.

How come there were only four branches represented in the January WIRE? Many of the strongest supporters of THE WIRE belong to Association Branches somewhere or other.

I was surprised to find, when I stayed at Mercury House last summer, that several old Signals people did not even know where their nearest branch was located. In fairness to someone or other, I should add that they appeared not to have made much of an effort to find out. This seems to prove something if proof were needed, and greater efforts should be, or rather every encouragement ought to—

Uncle Alf: How can you be so vague?

Me: It just comes naturally.

Aren't you glad to hear that Germans can now go shopping without their ration books? Poor little Reich boys.

BARLEUX

Singapore

We are glad to announce that a Branch of the Signals Association has been formed in Singapore, the headquarters of which is Washington House, Singapore, under the able direction of Major E. C. Daniels, whose address is c/o Crichton and Co., P.O. Box 1156, 14a Robinson Road, Singapore.

London (City)

"Baby, it's cold outside," seems to have been the theme song for January, as, at our meeting, we had only a very small number present. We sat around the fire and decided to hold a social event on 17th March (it will have taken place by the time you read these notes).

At the February meeting, a good crowd gathered despite the rain, and our new members seemed to keep coming in. Everybody is happy about 17th March, and volunteers came forth readily to assist in making it a memorable occasion. Nobody seems to want to go behind the bar, I don't know why? Maybe they have too good a time on the other side. But it's funny to me.

We have invited Colonel Roberts, M.C., the General Secretary, to come and make the draw for our Grand National effort. I like putting Colonels to work; they gave me plenty in my time (people who know me are asked not to make any comments about work). Several other notable figures have been invited (BLACK MARK, not those sort of figures) but up to the time of going to Press (which is rather early), have not yet accepted. I intend to introduce my "Jimmy" at the social event; he's the boy to make them jump. If "Baron" Roscoe, of 1st Division fame reads this, it's the "Admiral" writing. Have you seen "Ginger"? If not turn to page 117.

So leaving you all with the best of luck for the draw. To all helpers in the draw, "I thank you."

* * *

City of London Signals O.C.A.

Informal meeting at 7 p.m. on Saturday, 25th March, at Signal House, 20 Atkins Road, S.W.12.

RUGBY FOOTBALL

NOTES FROM CATTERICK

Rugby Football has been flourishing at Catterick this season and there are a large number of more than useful Rugger players in Royal Signals here. Competition to find a place in any of the Fifteens is keen and the standard is high. Although there are no Royal Signals Internationals in Catterick this year such as (Captain T. G. H. Jackson in London, Nim Hall playing for Richmond, Glyn Davies, Hon. Sec., Cambridge University), Brian Reeve has played in all the International Trials and is spoken of as a useful substitute should anything go wrong with the present England centres. Reeve, Jackson and Cross play regularly for the Army, and Holliday, Bidgood, Cross and Wood played in the Final Yorkshire County Trial, the two last-named representing Yorkshire in County matches. Reeve has played several fine games for Northumberland. The following have played for Northern Command : Lieutenant Couch, Second-Lieutenant Birtwistle, Second-Lieutenant Reeve, Signalman Wood, Signalman Holliday, Signalman Mason, Second-Lieutenant Thomas, Signalman Johnson, Second-Lieutenant Hoskins, Signalman Burns, Lance-Corporal Cross, Signalman Smith, and only injury has kept Signalman Morphy out of the Northern Command side, and perhaps even higher honours.

Our record for Royal Signals (Catterick) R.F.C. and Corps matches to date (mid-January) is:

				Points	
Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	For	Against
14	9	0	5	171	121

We started the season by defeating Huddersfield at Catterick by 6 pts. to 3 on 10th September and travelled to Glasgow on the following Saturday where we beat Glasgow University by 15 pts. to 3, in an excellent game. On 24th September we fielded three "Fifteens." 1 Training Regiment played Northern on the Stadium ground while a depleted Royal Signals (Catterick) side played Billingham on the Central ground. Northern who had six County players, won by 1 pts. to 6 and Billingham 1st XV were also successful 18—5.

Billingham 2nd XV were defeated by Royal Signals 3rd XV on Scotton ground by 21 pts. to 3. The entertainment of more than 50 visitors taxed the resources of the rugby clubhouse to capacity but "a good time was had by all" after the various matches.

On 1st October Halifax, with the best team since the war, gave us one of our hardest games of the season and a victory for Royal Signals (Catterick) R.F.C. by 21 pts. to 11 was an excellent performance, and stopped Halifax's run of success this season.

On 15th with Reeve playing in Ireland and four other players playing for the "Combined Commands" XV at Kendal we lost to Durham City at Durham by 8 pts. to nil. On 29th October and 2nd November respectively we played Oxford University Greyhounds and Cambridge University LX Club—two very enjoyable fixtures. The Greyhounds were by far the best team we had met this year, the backs being very speedy and combining beautifully. Although we had Captain T. G. H. Jackson assisting us, the absence of four County Trial players weakened our side, and the Greyhounds deserved their win by 28 pts. to 11.

Our team, without Jackson but strengthened by the return of the Trial players, gave a good performance against the LX Club, winning by 6 pts. to 3. There was a good crowd at both these matches and it was very nice to meet some of the numerous ex-Signals up at the 'Varsities.

Among others we met R. T. Shenton and C. Bell at Oxford (H. Tranter was away playing for Richmond) while Glyn Davies and Ian Gloag were there to greet us at Cambridge.

The return match v. Huddersfield clashed with a Northern Command game v. R.A.F. College, Cranwell, and our much weakened side lost by 0-13.

On 9th November the Royal Engineers played us on the Command ground and we won an interesting game by 13 pts. to 3. The game was noteworthy for a characteristic try by T. G. H. Jackson who ran from half-way to score, after brushing aside or knocking aside a series of would-be tacklers!

Stockton were easily defeated on 12th November by 17 pts. to 0 on a very cold day when a howling gale of wind made conditions difficult.

Royal Signals (Catterick) defeated Cleckheaton in the fifth round of the Yorkshire Cup on 3rd December by 25 pts. to 19. Signalman G. Wood played a fine game for Royal Signals, whose backs handled well and were much superior, but the Cleckheaton forwards played a tough game, and their forward rushes were responsible for a revival in the second half.

Leeds University and Stonyhurst College matches unfortunately had both to be cancelled on account of the weather.

On 17th December we played R.A.C. at Aldershot and the Corps side gave a good display to win by 28—3.

It was nice to see Signalman Morphy playing again after his long absence and it is hoped that his rugby career will have no further set-backs.

On 7th January Durham City were defeated in the return match by 18 pts. to 6, but our trip to Oswestry to play the "Gunners" in a Corps match was not successful. The team (without Jackson, Reeve and Cross playing for the Army v. Gloucester) gave a lethargic display and although they had hard luck in a corner flag effort by Birtwistle being disallowed in the last few minutes, they hardly deserved to win against a lively "Gunner" side who played good football and seized their opportunities. It was a near thing too when Signalman Wood crossed but had the ball knocked out of his hands, before he could touch down.

1 Training Regiment have won their way into the semi-final of the Army Cup by victories over 14/20 Hussars (27-3), 4 Training Regiment Royal Signals (28-6), 8 Training Battalion R.E. from Elgin (30-3) and finally 2 Battalion R.A.O.C. Aldershot at Aldershot by 42 pts. to 6. They meet 1st Battalion The Welch Regiment in the semi-final on the Command ground, Aldershot, on Thursday, 2nd February, and there is no doubt the Welch Regiment have a first-class team with several well-known players including one international. This is sure to be a very keen struggle.

ARMY CUP SEMI-FINAL

1st Training Regiment Royal Signals v. 1st Battalion The Welch Regiment

The semifinal of the Army Rugby Cup was played on Thursday, 2nd February, 1950, at the Command Ground, Aldershot, in a strong wind and continual rain.

Among the many distinguished officers present the following serving and retired officers of Royal Signals were noticed to be enjoying the sight of the Royal Signals team gradually wearing the opposition down.

Major-Generals Rawson, Naylor, Penney, Fladgate and Vulliamy, Brigadiers Rodgers, Coryton, Straight and (R.A.C.) Henderson, Colonel Harries and Lieutenant-Colonels Hepper (O.C. 1 Training Regiment), McGregor, Whistler, Vulliamy and Whiteway Wilkinson.

There were also 400 all ranks from S.T.C. Catterick to add their support.

Unfortunately, or fortunately, the Welch Regiment were not at full strength. Private W. Major, their left wing, was required by Wales in their international on Saturday against Scotland, and therefore had to rest.

The Welch Regiment kicked off into the wind and Royal Signals were immediately in the attack with a 3/4 movement and a forward rush which brought them right up to the Welch goal-line. However, the Welch cleared their line well. Play continued in midfield and the Welch halves and backs handled the greasy ball with great skill, but the Royal Signals defence and midfield covering was magnificent.

Our forwards were devastating in the loose and there always seemed to be at least three forwards on the ball. From one of these rushes D. R. Hall picked up and dived over for a try which Hoskings converted. Soon after this a penalty was awarded against a Royal Signals forward and Gantz kicked a good goal.

The Welch continued to press, getting the ball from both line-outs and loose scrum and Royal Signals were lucky when a final pass was knocked on after a good run and cross kick by Private Wynne.

In the 33rd minute the Royal Signals backs got moving and Second-Lieutenant Reeve sent Halliday away on the right wing. A lovely cross kick found Hoskins in the right place and he gave to D. R. Hall who scored his second try after a 20 yard run. Hoskins failed with the kick. Half-time 8—3.

The Welch continued to press and the Royal Signals line was cleared after good work by Morphy and Bidgood.

The game became more and more a forwards battle with the Royal Signals forwards taking the ball at their feet and the Welch forwards trying desperately to get their backs moving. Gantz, the Welch full-back, was very sound, and five minutes from the end kicked his second goal when Hall was caught offside and the game ended with the Signals forwards still pressing.

Score: Royal Signals 8, Welch Regiment 6.

For the Welch Regiment Major Champion handled the greasy ball with great skill and got a sound 3/4 line moving time and time again.

Full praise must go to the Signals pack for their play in the loose. It is impossible to pick anyone out but the two second row men, Stewart and Saint, did tremendous work.

Mason covered very well in defence and Lance-Corporal Bidgood was sound but must learn to kick with his right foot.

CROSS-COUNTRY RUNNING

The Northern Command and Catterick District Inter-Unit Team and Individual Cross-Country Championships were held at Catterick Camp on 26th January, 1950, over a course of six miles, which included plenty of ploughland, a few streams and undulating country. Fifteen teams and 20 individuals comprising a field of 170 runners competed.

The race was started by Major-General C. M. F. White, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., District Commander, Catterick.

At the drop of the flag the 1 Training Regiment Royal Signals team shot into the lead which they maintained throughout the race, and for the second year in succession they won both championships with the remarkably low score of 56 points.

As winners of the Catterick District League Championships, 1 Training Regiment also received the Championship Cup for 1949-50.

Signalman Birch, 4 Training Regiment, Royal Signals, was the first man home in 38 minutes 34 seconds, followed by Sergeant Colbert, 1 Training Regiment, Royal Signals, and Sergeant West, Royal Engineers.

RESULTS

CATTERICK DISTRICT INTER-UNIT TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS

		Points
1st	1 Training Regiment, Royal Signals	56
2nd	1st Duke of Wellington's Regiment	322
3rd	14/20 Hussars	338

NORTHERN COMMAND INTER-UNIT TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS

1st	1 Training Regiment, Royal Signals	56
2nd	6 Battalion R.A.O.C.	238
3rd	1st Duke of Wellington's Regiment	322

"On 11th February, 1950, Royal Signals Catterick won the North Eastern Counties Junior Cross-Country Championship. Signalman Martin, 1 Training Regiment, was first man home."



(Acknowledgment: D. P. & E., Darlington

First three home. Left to right: Sergeant West, Royal Engineers, third. Signalman Birch, 4 Training Regiment, Royal Signals, first. Sergeant Colbert, 1 Training Regiment, Royal Signals, second

KING EDWARD VII's HOSPITAL FOR OFFICERS

When Sister Agnes founded this hospital in 1899 she used her own home in Grosvenor Crescent for the purpose. Her intention, which was fulfilled, was to provide a hospital for officers on the active list of the Royal Navy and the Army, a privilege which was naturally extended to the Royal Air Force when it came into being. It has now been further extended so that all officers of the fighting services, active and retired, permanent and temporary, are eligible for admission.

The hospital was bombed in 1941, but a new building was found and bought, namely Beaumont House, Beaumont Street, W.1. This was opened in October, 1948, and is now a nursing home of the highest class.

The hospital has both single rooms and ward beds, and in the latter, serving officers are entitled to free nursing and maintenance. These beds are also available for retired officers at a very moderate fee.

The charges generally are kept constantly under review, and are far below those in similar institutions of a comparable status. It is hoped that as the number of subscribers increase it will be possible to further reduce the fees.

The hospital is mainly for the treatment of surgical and medical cases. A part-time Medical Officer is attached to the hospital, and patients can obtain preliminary advice from him free of charge.

The hospital is equipped with an X-ray plant for the use of patients at a very moderate cost. Patients make their own arrangements for the payment of their physicians and surgeons.

The hospital has NOT been taken over by the Ministry of Health, and is therefore entirely dependent on voluntary support.

Subscribers are asked to pay £1 yearly by Banker's Order

which can be obtained from the Hon. Appeals Secretary, Commander Sir Jameson Adams, K.C.V.O., C.B.E., D.S.O., R.N.R., 1 Chesham Street, S.W.1, who will also be pleased to receive donations.

Royal Signals Golf Society, 1950

Spring Meeting

Harrogate Golf Club, Starbeck, Harrogate—1st and 2nd May.

Autumn Meeting

West Hill Golf Club, Woking, Hants—7th and 8th September.

Details of both will be sent to members by the Secretary for H.Q., School of Signals, Catterick Camp.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We gratefully acknowledge receipt of the following:—

CATTERICK EXPRESS, 2nd February.

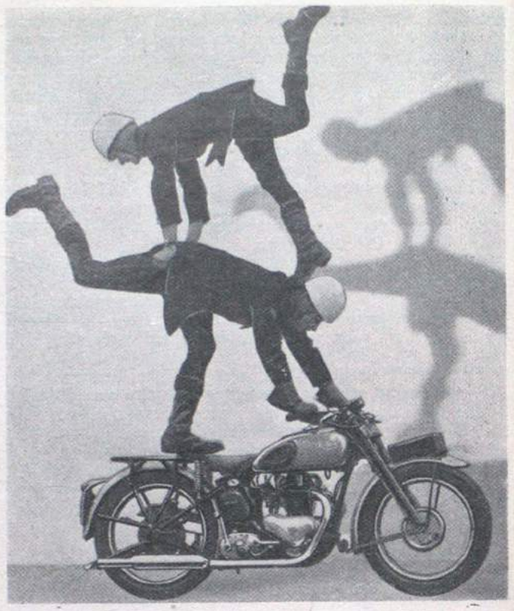
ST. GEORGE'S GAZETTE, 31st December.

R.E.M.E. MAGAZINE, February.

THE JOURNAL OF THE ROYAL ARMY SERVICE CORPS, February.

QUASID, January, 1950.

JOURNAL OF THE ROYAL TANK REGIMENT, February.



IT'S EASY ON A TRIUMPH!

Few motorcyclists want to emulate the skilful riders of the Royal Signals Display Team, but it is good to know that the remarkable stability, accurate steering and ease of control on which these experts rely is to be found in every Triumph, for their machines are standard in every way—exactly the same as you will buy.

TRIUMPH

The Best Motorcycle in the World

TRIUMPH ENGINEERING COMPANY, LIMITED
MERIDEN WORKS, ALLESLEY, COVENTRY



While you Sleep 'ASPRO' GETS RID OF THAT COLD!

Directly a cold begins to show itself, tackle it straightaway by taking a couple of 'ASPRO' tablets. Follow this up at bedtime by taking a further two with a hot drink. Then while you are warm and at rest **'ASPRO' gets busy helping Nature to dispel the cold.** We all exude a slight moisture through the pores of the skin and 'ASPRO', acting as an anti-pyretic or fever-reducer, increases this. As a result **the temperature is lowered—the feverishness goes.** You awaken with a clear head—the uneasy, shivery sensations have disappeared. It's a mistake to attempt to suppress a cold—dispel it with 'ASPRO' as quickly as possible. It's a fact that

SUPPRESSION WON'T BEAT COLDS BUT 'ASPRO' WILL!



Fit as a Fiddle Next Morning

Gentlemen, Hackney, E.9.
It is with the greatest pleasure that I write this letter to prove the genuine effect of your 'ASPRO' tablets. I sometimes have a headache which is unbearable, but a little while after I have taken two 'ASPRO' tablets it has gone. When I have felt a "flu" cold coming over me, I have gone to bed with 2 'ASPRO' tablets and a hot drink and the next morning I am as "fit as a fiddle."
I am, yours gratefully, B. C. R.

From N.A.A.F.I. CANTEENS AND CHEMISTS EVERYWHERE

Made by ASPRO LTD., Slough, Bucks ASPRO

THE WIRE

The Corps Magazine of the
ROYAL SIGNALS

The Official Organ of the
SIGNALS ASSOCIATION

All correspondence and matter for publication for "The Wire" should be addressed to The Editor, "The Wire," 88 Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1. Matter for publication must be received by the 15th of the month preceding publication.

Remittances should be made payable to: Royal Signals Association. Subscription rates (post free, except air mail): Twelve months, 10s.; single month, 1s.

☆

APRIL • 1950

Vol. 4 *New Series* **No. 4**

☆

PRICE: ONE SHILLING

Editorial

SOUTHERN RHODESIA SIGNAL CORPS

HIS MAJESTY THE KING has approved an Alliance between the Royal Corps of Signals and the Southern Rhodesia Signal Corps. This was notified in Army Order No. 122/1949.

A message to the Corps has been received from the Officer Commanding on behalf of all serving ranks of the Southern Rhodesia Signal Corps. He expresses their pride in the Alliance and sends greetings to all ranks of the Royal Corps of Signals.

We on our side welcome this Alliance, which is, too, a source of pride to us. The greetings from Southern Rhodesia have been reciprocated and we hope that the formed Alliance will long endure.

☆

It is sad to record changes in the Headquarters staff of the Association. Miss M. B. Measures joined the staff of the Association in September, 1947, and throughout has worked in the Welfare Branch, in which she succeeded Miss Clementi Smith as chief in June, 1948. Possibly not even the recipients of assistance from the Welfare Branch realise the very great amount of detailed work carried out with such sympathetic attention which goes to each case, and there are very many, which comes before them. It is certainly no reflection on any of her predecessors to state that under Miss Measures the Welfare Branch achieved its maximum efficiency. She has been compelled to relinquish for family reasons, and we at Headquarters will all miss her very much.

Another loss to the Headquarters staff is Miss A. E. Haas, who since June, 1948, has been working in the Accounts. This side of the Association work is not spectacular, but it is obviously very important. It is understood that Miss Haas is going to Australia, and we hope that someone in the Royal Australian Corps of Signals will notice this mention of her.

Readers of THE WIRE particularly will join with the Editorial staff in thankfulness at the return to normal work of Captain L. N. Lloyd. The Editorial staff have done their best with the Magazine in his absence. It has been a poor best.

☆

All ranks, Royal Signals, will wish to pay their humble duty to H.R.H. The Princess Royal, C.I., G.C.V.O., G.B.E., their Colonel-in-Chief, on the occasion of her birthday, 25th April.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Major-General C. H. H. Vulliamy, C.B., D.S.O., writes to the Editor:—

I read with interest your article on the 2 Divisional Signal Company, R.E., in the February WIRE. There is one error which, in defence of the officer concerned, should be corrected. The H.Q. Subaltern was Lieutenant E. N. Eveligh, R.E., and not as stated Lieutenant V. Eveligh.

E. N. Eveligh had a remarkable war career in 1914-20. During this period he was awarded the D.S.O. and M.C. He was A.D. Signals of a Corps, held first-grade staff appointments, commanded a Lieutenant-Colonel's command of Infantry and of Cavalry. One might say that fighting was his metier.

Unfortunately, after the war he returned to the Royal Engineers and was lost to our Corps.

* * *

C. J. Sharp writes to the Editor:

I am convalescing after a major operation and shall be proceeding to Hertfordshire in the early part of March in search of permanent accommodation.

My next temporary and accommodation address will be at my sister's: C/o Mrs. E. West, 106 Western Road, Tring Herts. I should be glad if you will have my copy of THE WIRE sent there until further notice.

I was very proud to read in the February issue, the History of my old unit, 2nd Divisional Signal Company, 1914-15, and can endorse all the bouquets that have been thrown at us. During the Mons retreat when Captain R. M. Powell was in command, we arrived at Etreaux and he and I broke open a butcher's shop on the Paris side of the canal to set up a Signal Office. We were very concerned about two of our motor cyclists who had been sent to Brigades and not returned. They eventually turned up soon after daybreak and we ascertained they had been caught in a traffic jam and side tracked into a field for the night. But the spirit of co-operation with Officers and O.R.s was brought out to one when Captain Powell got up during the night and took over Signal Master for two hours to give one a chance of a sleep. The same spirit prevailed when we got our new officers in 1915, i.e., those in the photo published. We certainly all pulled together and we had a good show. Captain Dickenson was one of the best and inspired confidence in all. I could go on for hours extolling the virtues of those gentlemen even if we did think Mr. W. A. Dimoline was the baby of the party.

I also see that "Banger" King has gone into dry dock at Chelsea. I well remember him in 1st Division. We also had a King in 2nd Division, but he was a short chap. "Banger" need not shout about his Life Membership number of 232, mine is 192, dated 17th December, 1924, and I had been an annual member from the inception of the Association. I was also a member of the Signals Branch of the R.E.O.C.A. Yes, Freddie Marchant, it's the same old "Barney" Sharp who helped to form the present Signals Association.

You must excuse my shaky handwriting, Mr. Editor, but in addition to the big operation I had on 5th January this year, I am also crippled with rheumatoid arthritus in all my joints. I'm thankful to say I have not yet become bedridden, but have difficulty in getting about.

Oh! by the way, I could give Charlie Mepham and George Waterhouse a good run so far as Service goes, 42 years (Regular and Auxiliary) and medals and honours eleven. You can't keep old soldiers down.

I must close now as you'll be getting tired of my twaddle.

Oh, I like the articles published in THE WIRE. Why doesn't Freddie Marchant send us some more of his yarns as published in THE OLD CONTEMPTIBLE. Also what has become of the old 54th (EA) Division Signals, Wanstead. I can't think of their new name.

Ex-Signalman S. G. Willder, 93 L. of C. Malaya Command Signals, writes to the Editor:

I see in this month's WIRE quite a lot of news about Singapore, but never a mention of any of the war-time stations or sections. Are they all disbanded?

What became of the old 93rd L. of C. Malaya Command Signals, also the Wireless Stations we used to run, operations at Lime Road, Neesoon, sets at Tanglin, Alex and Thompson Roads in the police grounds and our grand final in the Cathay?

Also what about a few local photos? A lot of us only remember Changi as a prison camp, for ever on the move. What became of the shrine we had to build for the Nips on Bukitt Tinah Hill? When you look at that, try and think of every bit cut and laid by hand.

This is the main reason why I still buy THE WIRE, in the hopes of reading something about old pals, etc, so is it possible to give a few short records of some of the old war-time Sections?

IMPORTANT READING FOR APRIL

The Manual Interconnection of Local Calls, by J. Singleton, A.M.I.E.E., is the beginning of a series of articles by Officers of the S.R.D.E. (p. 130).

In similar vein is an article by Captain H. J. Funnell, Royal Signals, on the Reorganisation of Telecommunication Facilities at H.Q., B.A.F.O., in Rhine Army (p. 136).

The Vale to Brigadier W. C. V. Galwey, O.B.E., M.C., is on p. 127.

An account of the winning of the Army Rugby Football Cup for the third year in succession by 1 Training Regiment, Royal Signals, is on p. 169.

THIRD ANNUAL REUNION OF THE S.T.C. (B). Mhow

The Third Reunion Dinner was held at The Victoria Hotel, Buckingham Palace Road, on 25th February, 1950, attended by forty-three ex-members of the Unit. The Secretary expressed the regrets of Lieutenant-Colonel H. R. Firth and Major D. C. P. Hall for their absence, and passed on the wishes of some twenty members who were unable to attend. Mr. J. W. Ludgate said that the next dinner would be at the Victoria on 24th February, 1951, and that in the meantime it was intended to form an Old Comrades' Association.

Old Mhowites are invited to write to the Secretary at 4 Ronelean Road, Tolworth, Surrey, or to telephone Elmbridge 7883.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We gratefully acknowledge receipt of the following:
SIGNALS, November-December, 1949.
THE QUEEN'S OWN GAZETTE, February.
THE ROYAL ARMY ORDNANCE CORPS GAZETTE, February.
CATTERICK EXPRESS, 16th February, 2nd March.
THE THISTLE, January, 1950.
THE JOURNAL OF THE EAST SURREY REGIMENT, November, 1949.
THE ROYAL ENGINEERS' JOURNAL, March.
ST. GEORGE'S GAZETTE, 31st January.
R.E.M.E., March, 1950.
THE JOURNAL OF THE ROYAL ARMY SERVICE CORPS, March.

THE BRITISH INDUSTRIES FAIR

The B.I.F. will take place from 8th to 19th May simultaneously in London and Birmingham. In the main the distribution of exhibits will be Castle Bromwich, Birmingham—civil engineering; Earls Court, London—printing machinery; Olympia, London—office appliances, jewellery, silverware, cutlery, toys and games, stationery.

VALE

Brigadier W. C. V. GALWEY O.B.E., M.C.



[Photograph: Sydney H. Wood, Darlington

ON 7th March, 1950, Brigadier W. C. V. Galwey, O.B.E., M.C., left the Signal Training Centre, which he had commanded for 2½ years, to go into retirement after 35½ years' Army service. There were none to whom his departure was not a matter for very deep regret and many to whom it brought home a sense of very personal loss. Few commanders can have been more accessible or have taken more personal interest in all under their command than he and few can have been better liked and respected.

Brigadier Galwey was first commissioned in the 3rd Battalion, 18th Royal Irish Regiment, on 18th November, 1914, and remained with the 3rd Battalion until May, 1915, when he was posted to the 2nd Battalion. He served with the 2nd Battalion in France and Belgium from May, 1915, to May, 1919, during which period he was awarded the Military Cross and Bar for gallantry in action. He became adjutant of the Battalion on 12th April, 1917, which appointment he retained until 11th April, 1920. He was Mentioned in Despatches twice, and was gassed and wounded in 1915.

In May, 1919, he brought the 2nd Battalion home from France and later embarked with it for India on 13th February, 1920. In September, 1920, he was unfortunately admitted to hospital with enteric and invalided home.

In September, 1921, he rejoined the 1st Battalion, 18th Royal Irish Regiment, in Upper Silesia. Later he had the honour of carrying the King's Colour of the 2nd Battalion, when the Regiment was disbanded and the Colours laid up at Windsor in 1922.

In August, 1922, he was transferred to the King's Own Royal Regiment, seconded for duty with Royal Signals and joined the Signal Training Centre, where he was posted to the Boys' Platoon of "C" Company, commanded by Major A. E. Phayre-Mudge, O.B.E.

In October, 1923, he joined No. 8 "Q" Course with other well-known officers of the Corps, such as Major-General Bowen, Brigadiers Knowles, Wheatley and Major Walford. On 14th August, 1925, he was appointed adjutant of the Depot Battalion, and on 25th August, 1925, moved with the Battalion from Maresfield to Catterick Camp. With Brigadier Power, he was one of the first inhabitants of "U" lines single officers' quarters, later to be known as "Virgin Villas."

He remained with the Depot Battalion until October, 1928, when he embarked for India. During the period January, 1929, to March, 1932, he commanded the Razmak Brigade Signal Section for two years and later joined Headquarters Waziristan District Signals. He was later awarded the North-West Frontier Medal (1930-1931). In March, 1932, he was posted to the Signal Training Centre, Jubbulpore, where for two years he remained as staff officer to the Signal Officer-in-Chief, India, Brigadier H. Clementi-Smith, D.S.O., who had the dual role of Commander S.T.C.(I.) and S.O.-in-C.

In January, 1934, he became adjutant of Peshawar District Signals and commanded this unit for eight months in the absence of Major W. M. Miller, M.C.

In March, 1935, he returned to England and from May, 1935, to February, 1936, he commanded 3 Company of 2nd Divisional Signals at Aldershot with the rank of Major. On 17th February, 1936, he was appointed Senior Instructor (Regimental Signalling Courses) at the School of Signals, which appointment he retained until February, 1939.

In June, 1939, he was posted to Egypt Mobile Divi-

sional Signals with the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel, where he was second in command to Colonel (later Brigadier) F. A. H. Mathew, O.B.E., M.C. This unit subsequently became the famous 7th Armoured Divisional Signals. He was later awarded the 1936-39 Palestine Medal and Clasp.

From June, 1939, to August, 1941, he was Chief Signal Officer British Forces Palestine and Transjordan with the rank of Colonel, and for his work during the Syrian Campaign, 1941, was awarded the O.B.E. Brigadier Power, in his speech at the Headquarters' Mess guest night in Brigadier Galwey's honour on 28th February, 1950, said that one of the Brigadier's greatest qualities was "the ability to get on with the other fellow," and that it was his magnetic and jovial personality which helped considerably to enlist the co-operation of the incompatible elements of his command at this difficult time. The right man had indeed been chosen, and from August, 1941, to February, 1943, as Military Director of Communications Syria and Lebanon, he successfully co-ordinated the activities of the French C.S.O. and Syria and Lebanon P.T.T.

In February, 1943, he was appointed C.S.O. Headquarters British Troops in Egypt with the rank of Brigadier. In March, 1944, he returned to England and in June, 1944, was appointed C.S.O. Western Command at Chester. June, 1945, found him once again in India as C.S.O. Central Command, Agra, which appointment he held until in May, 1946, he was appointed C.S.O. General Headquarters Allied Land Forces South East Asia (Singapore), with communications in the following territories: Hong Kong, French Indo China, Siam, Malaya, Burma, Ceylon, Java and Sumatra. He held this appointment until August, 1947, when he returned once again to England and in September, 1947, assumed command of the Signal Training Centre.

As Commander Signal Training Centre he has, during the past 2½ years, worked unceasingly to give the National Service men the best training possible and, what is perhaps more important, to make their service in the Signal Training Centre as happy as possible. For the Brigadier was, above all things, interested in the welfare of the men under his command. Every intake day he would watch the recruits coming in at the station and examine the preparations to receive them in 7 Selection Regiment.

On pass-off day in 7 Selection Regiment he would interview every man not satisfied about the trade to which he had been allocated for training, and if it was possible he would ensure that the man was re-allocated to the trade for which he had expressed a preference. It was natural for the Brigadier to take a personal interest in all the officers, warrant officers, N.C.O.s and men under his command, for he was endowed with that rare quality, "the common touch," which endeared him to the hearts of all who served under him.

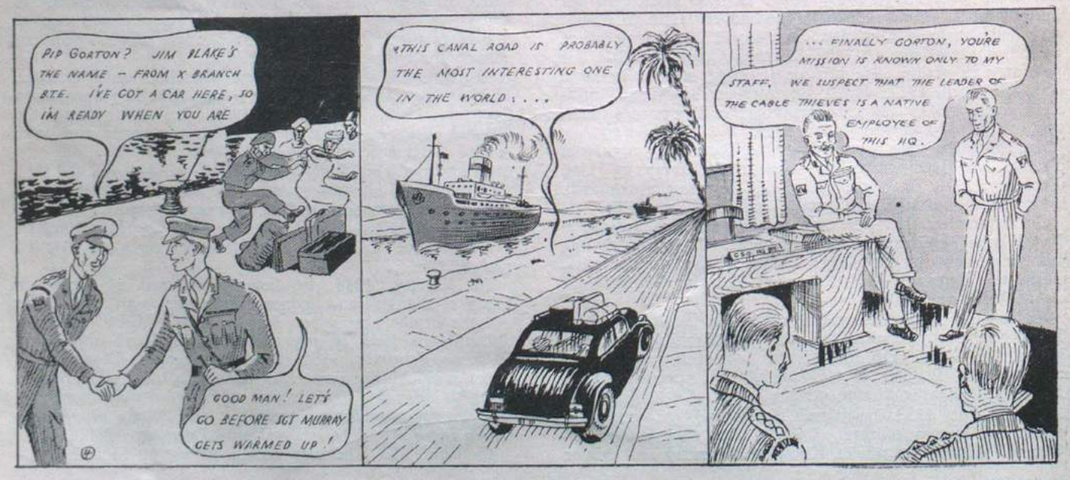
The Brigadier's interest in sport was always most keen, and never has the Signal Training Centre achieved so much in the sporting world as during the 2½ years of his command. Three times the Army Rugger Cup has been won, once by the Signal Training Centre in 1948 and twice by 1 Training Regiment in 1949 and 1950. 1 Training Regiment also excelled themselves both in 1949 and 1950 by winning the Army Inter-Unit Team Cross-Country Championships. Indeed, all Regiments of the Signal Training Centre have won many Northern Command and local trophies in all sports, the list of which is too long to record here. It is, however, sufficient to note that the sporting record of the Signal Training Centre has never before been so high as during the years 1948 and 1949. The Brigadier, at the Headquarters' Mess guest night in his honour on 28th February, said that he had been very fortunate in commanding the Signal Training Centre at a time when its sporting achievements were so high. He stressed that none of these successes was due to his efforts, but that credit must go to the "fine chaps" he had had the honour to command. The real truth is, however, that none of these successes would have been possible without his helping and guiding hand, ever giving encouragement to his sports representatives.

The Brigadier himself is a keen golfer, and every fine summer evening would find him on the Catterick Golf Course. His shout, on making a bad shot and his rolling hearty laughter at some joke, were often to be heard. The Brigadier's laugh, completely unaffected and rich in enjoyment, was a tonic to all who heard it.

The Signal Training Centre, in saying goodbye to Brigadier Galwey, is losing a great commander, who has left behind a memory which will long be cherished. Farewell, dear Brigadier, and on behalf of every member of the Signal Training Centre, we wish you much happiness in the days to come.

CORPS TIES

A limited supply is now available at the Headquarters of the Association, artificial silk at 7s. 6d., and a *very* small number of the uncrushable quality at 10s. 6d.



Questions and Answers about "The Wire"

I HAVE often thought how THE WIRE could be improved and how it was not really exactly the paper I wanted, and in thinking of the many improvements I should like to see in it I have at the same time thought of some of the reasons why my wishes are not obeyed.

First of all, I have remembered that we live in a changing world, and that the people of the world change with it. In other words, am I in a strong majority or do my views represent only my own opinion and perhaps that of a few friends and contemporaries? For we must remember that we of Royal Signals are in fact a pretty fair cross-section of the community. While I and many of us can be trusted to "speak for England" in grave matters, the fact that we are Englishmen will ensure that we differ greatly in small ones. Having thus put myself firmly into a minority, let me examine some good ideas for improving the Corps magazine of Royal Signals. It is an ambitious title. First and foremost the price. I, like most people I know, am hard up, and a couple of wars and four years of "austerity" have caused me to try and get value for money.

Before the war THE WIRE was 6d., or 9d. including subscription to the Association. It was nice that around December or January at the most expensive time of the year one mustered 9s. and the deed was done. THE WIRE arrived monthly, if one did not change one's address too often, and membership of the Association gave one a prescriptive right to all the unknown benefits thereof.

I can, though I regret it, understand the increase in the price of THE WIRE. The Editor spends much printers' ink in explaining it, and anyway practically everything else has gone up in price.

True the newspapers still sell for a penny, but they are less than half the size. Only the other day I read of that grand old friend the *Strand Magazine* ceasing publication because with 100,000 copies sold each month it could not keep its income above its expenditure.

Papers like *Illustrated* and *Picture Post* must sell in millions to keep it up as they do.

No, in comparison, THE WIRE, with its present circulation, is not bad value at 1s. if one likes that sort of thing. But it does seem a pity that we cannot have an all-in subscription to cover THE WIRE and the Association. I know enough about "Associations" to know that one of the greatest difficulties faced is the man who joins and then drifts out.

A subscription to the Association, which also included THE WIRE, would assuredly help to stop this drift, and more especially so if in the monthly WIRE the Headquarters of the Royal Signals Association gave us real news of what the Royal Signals Association really was doing. I wager that a majority know as little about it as I do, and that is practically nil.

I see sometimes in THE WIRE that the Benevolent Fund has handed out several hundreds of pounds to deserving applicants, all no doubt very good, but where does the money come from and who pays it out?

As I say, I think the subscription to the Association should include THE WIRE, or vice versa, and the Association should tell in THE WIRE the members of the Association what they are doing.

Actually in this view I don't think I am in such a minority.

Now as to quality or what do I get for my 1s. The character of THE WIRE is changing and sometimes I sigh for the old days when reading THE WIRE, brim full of personalities I could recognise, a majority of them mentioned by their nicknames. I had a shrewd idea of the writer of each Unit note, a pretty fair notion of whom or what he was getting at. Well, the Corps was smaller in those days and more of a closed corporation (or is that a pun?). We were long service Regulars, and most of us had met at one time or in one place or another. It is different now, Royal Signals is larger and younger, and serves for less months than we did years. I don't like it and a lot of better informed people than I don't like it, but we have to take things as they are.

Certainly some of the Regimental notes are most excellent reading and indicate that the post-war Corps is keeping up our best traditions in work and play. Others are interesting in their description of new stations for Royal Signals. Sometimes they bear the unmistakable marks of having been knocked up in a hurry by someone of the calibre of the Orderly Room Corporal, where the same incident is described

Continued on page 148



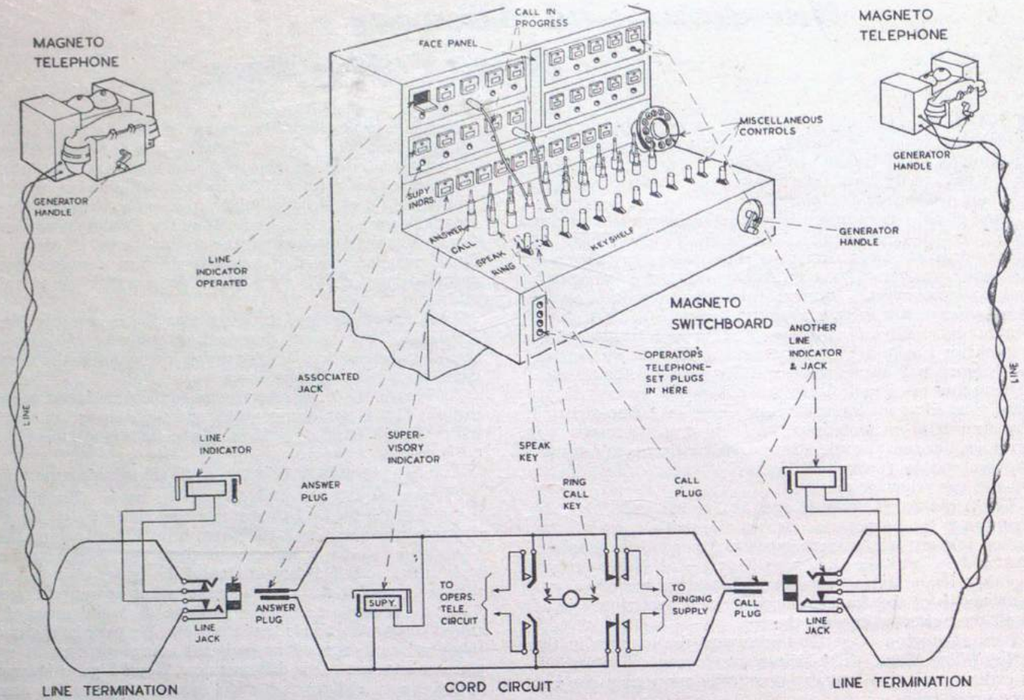


Fig. 1

The Manual Interconnection of Local Calls

By **J. SINGLETON,** A.M.I.E.E.
(Signals Research and Development Establishment, Christchurch)
MARCH, 1950

SUMMARY

[*The article describes in simple language the elements of Army switchboard signalling with particular reference to local calls. The Magneto and Central Battery Systems are described in detail, a comparison is made between the two, and trends of future development are mentioned.*]

Introduction

A number of telephone users who desire to inter-communicate are connected to an exchange. The process of making the required connections at the exchange can be performed either manually at a switchboard, or automatically by means of electro-mechanical switches under the control of the user. Connections between users on different exchanges can be performed by either of these methods or by a combination of them.

The function of a telephone exchange is frequently a "closed-book" to the user, often to the detriment of the service. This article has been written in an attempt to outline in everyday language the principles of Army manual telephone switching systems, with particular reference to local calls, since such systems are most commonly used. Circuitry and mechanical details of special interest are included and modern trends of design have been given.

At the outset it is desirable to define two terms which will be used in the article. Thus, the term "extension-line" is used to denote a local telephone line, that is one connected direct to the exchange, whilst the term "trunk" denotes a telephone circuit (either a metallic circuit or a carrier circuit or a radio-link) which connects two exchanges. The corresponding terms in civil practice are "subscribers-line" and "junction" or "trunk," but these terms are associated with the revenue-earning objects of such systems and thus they cannot be applied to military systems where the prime object, of course, is speedy and efficient communications.

Requirements

The main requirements for establishing connections between extensions on the same switchboard are, briefly:—

(a) the calling party should be able to call the exchange (an action which can be termed simply "calling")
(b) the operator should be able to answer, and ascertain requirements ("answering")
(c) the operator should be able to connect the caller to the required line and to ring the bell in the distant telephone ("ringing")
(d) the operator should have a means of knowing and checking that the two parties are in actual communication, so that he can proceed with other calls ("supervision")
(e) the speech delivered into the mouthpiece at either end must be converted into electrical energy so that it can be transmitted over the connection. At the distant end this energy must be re-converted in the earpiece into a faithful reproduction of the original speech. The electrical energy is usually referred to simply as "speaking current"
(f) the two parties should have a means of attracting the operator's attention if they are in difficulties after the call has been established ("recalling" or "flashing")

and

(g) when the call is finished, this fact should be conveyed to the operator so that he can take down the connection at the switchboard ("clearing").

Fundamentally, the above requirements are essentially problems of signalling and speaking, and in practice there are two main methods of providing the facilities. The first method uses low-frequency currents entirely for signalling, with small batteries, associated locally with the extension-telephones, for speaking. The second method uses a single battery located centrally at the exchange for both signalling and speaking purposes. These two methods are called the "Magneto" or "Local Battery" system and the "Central Battery" (C.B.) system, respectively, and although there are combinations of the two systems (the most important being one which uses a central-battery for signalling and local batteries for speaking) the two basic methods are by far the most commonly used.

The Magneto System

The principles of Magneto switchboard signalling are shown in Figure 1. In this system the user calls the exchange by turning the handle of a small magneto-generator incorporated in his telephone and the ringing-current output is received at the exchange on a device that gives visual warning to the operator that a call is required. It should be noted that the calling signal is transitory; that is, it persists only so long as the caller is turning the generator handle; thus the receiving device should convert this momentary calling signal into a steady signal. The device can be either an electro-magnetic indicator which, when actuated, releases a hinged drop-flap (as shown in Figure 1), or a rectifier and relay, which lights a lamp, with facilities for electrically "locking" the operated relay. The drop-indicators or the calling lamps are located on a vertical panel (known as the face panel) directly in front of the operator. The extension lines terminate on "jacks" located directly underneath these drop-flaps or lamps.

The operator is provided with a telephone circuit to assist him in operating the switchboard. This may take the form of either an actual telephone set, or as is more usual, a "built-in" circuit. When he receives a call he connects his telephone circuit to the calling line in order to ascertain requirements.

Interconnection of calls on manual switchboards can be achieved in three main ways, namely by switches or keys (such switchboards are termed "cordless" boards), or by cords and plugs individual to, and connected in parallel with, each line jack ("single-cord" boards), or by double cords and plugs common to the switchboard ("double-cord" boards). The first and second methods are used only on very small switchboards, so the more commonly used double-cord type will be dealt with, and this is shown in Figure 1. It is important to realise that the cord circuit in Magneto systems is simply a call-connecting link with facilities for the connection of the operator's telephone circuit and ringing current, etc. The cord circuits are called "double," because they have two separate plugs and cords, one for answering a call (the "answer" cord) and one for connecting a call to the required line (the "call" cord). In Army switchboard practice, it has been found that 12 to 15 such cord circuits are sufficient to deal with the calls of 40 terminated lines. The plugs and their associated control keys are located on the horizontal desk-portion ("keyshelf") of the switchboard. The "answer" plugs are arranged in a row along the back of the keyshelf and their "call" plugs in another row in front of them, whilst the "speaking" and "ringing" keys, etc., are similarly arranged in rows, all being associated with their respective plugs.

The operator answers a call by taking-up a free "answer" plug and inserting it into the jack of the calling line. This action restores the drop-flap indicator (usually mechanically) or extinguishes the calling lamp. He then throws the "speak" key associated with that plug and ascertains the calling party's requirements. Next, he selects the wanted line (assuming that it is not already engaged) and inserts the "call" plug of the particular cord circuit into the jack of that line. The ringing of the called extension telephone is the next step and this is achieved by throwing the "ring-call" key. Usually, this action in itself is sufficient to send out ringing current which is generated locally by some automatic device such as a ringing vibrator or generator. Sometimes, however, it is necessary for the operator to turn the handle of a generator built-in to the board whilst he holds the ringing key over. The key is spring-loaded or "non-locking," so that when released it immediately restores to normal.

The operator stays in circuit until the called party answers his telephone and conversation over the link commences, speaking current being supplied by the local batteries in each telephone. His work of setting up the call is now complete and he restores the "speak" key of the cord circuit in use, and proceeds to deal with other calls.

Suppose now the caller finds that he cannot satisfactorily complete his business with the person at the called extension, and that he wishes to try another line. He therefore re-calls the operator by turning his generator handle, and the action operates an indicator associated with the cord circuit. This is the "supervisory" indicator, and it will be seen from Figure 1 that it is placed permanently across the two wires of the cord circuit. It is important to realise at this juncture that an operated supervisory indicator can warn the operator of three things, namely:

(i) that the calling party is in difficulty
(ii) that the called party is in difficulty, and
(iii) that the two parties have finished their conversation (as described below).

This state of affairs is one of the drawbacks of magneto systems, as will be discussed later. To deal with a calling or called party in difficulties, the operator throws the "speak" key associated with their cord circuit and proceeds to remedy the trouble. The operated supervisory indicator is usually restored by hand.

At the end of their conversation the two parties turn their generator handles for a second or so, and this actuates the supervisory indicator as previously mentioned. The operator on seeing this signal throws the appropriate "speak" key, checks that it is a "clear" and not a "re-call" (as, for example, by asking "Have you finished, please?"), and when satisfied, he withdraws the two plugs and restores them to normal, an action known as "taking down" the cords.

The above description is confined, of course, to the pro-

gress of a simple call. The operator has other controls to assist him with more complex types of call, and the reader is referred to the standard text-books for a fuller description of the system.

The Central Battery System

This system uses a common battery located centrally at the exchange for both signalling and speaking purposes. There are several types of C.B. working and it is convenient to introduce the subject by reference to the normal type of civil C.B. system shown in Figure 2. The same system is in common use in the Army in larger exchanges, but modern trends favour a slightly different form of circuitry, which will be discussed later.

Prior to embarking upon a description of the action of the circuits, it may be as well for the benefit of those unfamiliar with telephone diagrams to explain that the items of apparatus are symbolised generally in accordance with the standard Inter-Services symbols and that the "detached" contact method of showing relays is employed. In this method the relay contacts are divorced from the relay and may appear anywhere on the diagram. Each relay is allotted a code letter; this letter forms the numerator of a fraction, the denominator being a figure representing the number of contact spring-sets possessed by the relay. Thus a line relay with two spring sets is coded L/2 and the spring-sets are marked L1 and L2. Finally, it should be noted that although the battery symbol appears many times on a diagram, this is done for simplicity and ease of drawing, and in actual fact there is, of course, only one working battery.

To make a call, the user lifts his receiver or hand microtelephone from the spring-loaded switch-hook or cradle and an internal switch in the telephone causes a "loop" to be placed across the line. Current from the exchange battery flows via contact CO1, round the loop, back via CO2, and through the L. relay, which operates. Contact L1 closes the circuit of the calling lamp, which glows, thereby warning the operator that a call is required. The relays are located on apparatus racks in the exchange and the calling lamps appear on the face panel of the switchboard, with the associated line jacks beneath them.

The procedure for answering a call is similar to that for the Magneto system, in that the operator takes up a free "answer" plug and inserts it into the jack of the calling line. This action causes earthed battery on the "sleeve" or "barrel" of the plug to be connected to the "sleeve" or "bush" of the jack; this operates the CO relay and contacts CO1 and CO2 disconnect the battery and L relay from the line, since they have served their purpose and their continued connection would interfere with speech. The resulting release of relay L extinguishes the calling lamp. It should be stated in passing that although the L and CO relay method of switching is widely used, there are other methods that use auxiliary contacts on the line jack and work with one or no relays.

The operator ascertains the caller's requirements by throwing the "speak" key of the cord circuit, and he extends the caller to the required line (if it is disengaged) by the "call" plug. Ringing the called party's telephone is the next step, and this is achieved in the same way as for the Magneto system, with the difference that the CO relay of the called extension line is operated from the sleeve of the plug immediately it is inserted. This clears the battery and L relay from the line. The bell at the called extension telephone is connected in series with a condenser which, of course, provides a path for the low-frequency

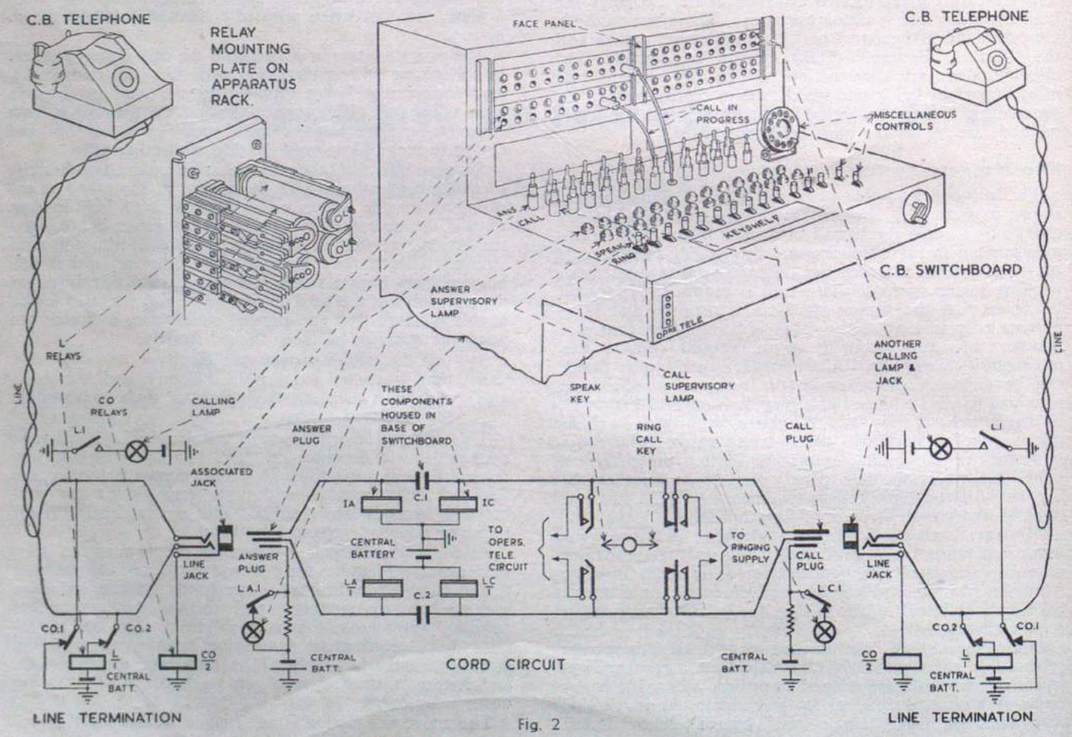


Fig. 2

ringing current, but which blocks any direct current in the line.

Before proceeding further it is necessary to examine the cord circuit of Figure 2 more closely. In the Magneto system the cord circuit was simply a connecting link, but in the C.B. system it also serves as the source of supply of the speaking current. Now since the common battery may be called upon to supply speaking current to several independent calls at once, it is essential that this battery should have negligible internal resistance, otherwise the alternating speech currents of one conversation will cause small voltage variations across the battery and these would produce variations in the current flowing in the other connected circuits, causing in other words, overhearing. The battery feed to each connection is therefore made via a "transmission bridge." This device gives a battery feed that has a high-resistance (or more correctly, a high-impedance) to speech currents but a negligible resistance to direct currents, and that is individual to each connection. Thus speech currents from one end of a connection develop an alternating potential across the bridge and this in turn sends speech current to the other end.

There are two main types of transmission bridge, one due to H. V. Hayes and the other to J. S. Stone, and in practice these two types appear in several forms. Perhaps the most common is the one shown in Figure 2. This is based on the Stone system; the components marked IA, LA, IC and LC are high inductances in the battery feeds to the "answer" and "call" plugs of the cord circuit. LA and LC are actually relays, used for supervisory-signalling purposes as will be seen later. The speech potentials developed across the outer ends of IA and LA and of IC and LC are passed to the opposite sides of the cord circuit via the condensers C1 and C2.

Returning now to the progress of a simple call, it will be appreciated that when the called party answers his telephone, a loop will be placed on the line, just as it was when the calling party lifted his receiver. The loop at the called extension telephone, however, is used to indicate to the operator that the called party has answered, thus obviating the need for the operator to listen-in until this occurs. The signal is given to the operator on a lamp (the "call-supervisory") fitted on the keyshelf and associated with the cord circuit. This lamp lights as soon as the operator plugs into the called extension-line jack, since it is in the sleeve circuit of the plug and shares the current which flows through the sleeve of the jack to operate the C.O. relay. When the called line is looped, current flows from the central battery, through the coil IC, round the loop and back through relay LC, which operates. Contact LC1 opens and disconnects the "call supervisory" lamp. The darkening of the lamp is the operator's signal that the extension has answered. It will be noted that the *calling* extension is already receiving speech current via IA and LA and that another signal lamp, the "answer supervisory" (situated behind the "call supervisory" lamp) is darkened all the time, since LA will be operated by current flowing round the loop.

The conversation can now proceed, leaving the operator free to attend to other calls. If however, one of the parties in the established connection wishes to re-call or "flash" the operator, he moves the receiver hook or cradle up and down slowly. This breaks and makes the loop on his line, which causes the LA or LC relay (depending whether it is the caller or the called party who is flashing) to alternately release and re-make. Thus the "answer" or "call" supervisory lamp flashes in and out with the motion of the LA1 or LC1 contacts, thereby attracting the attention of the operator who throws the associated "speak" key to deal with the difficulty.

Finally, when the call is finished, the two parties replace their receivers, the two loops are broken, resulting in the release of both the LA and LC relays, and both supervisory lamps glow steadily. On seeing this condition, the operator can take down the cords without having to break into the circuit to enquire whether the conversation is in fact finished.

The connection of calls on two-position switchboard-suites is easy and one operator can stretch across if a wanted extension happens to appear in front of the other operator. With three positions this "stretching-across" becomes difficult between the two end operators, and with four or more positions it is impossible. Steps must therefore be taken to enable any extension to be connected to any other extension in an easier and more practical manner. This is achieved by the use of "transfer circuits" or by "multipling." Transfer circuits, now seldom used, were employed to extend a caller to the position on which the called party appeared. Multipling is used almost universally on the larger switchboard suites; each position is allocated a limited number of incoming lines, not necessarily in numerical order, but arranged so that all operators share the traffic equally, and *all* the lines appear within easy reach of *each* operator. This second or multiple appearance of each circuit is used for the outgoing side of calls. Both sets of jacks appear on the face of the switchboard, the incoming or "answer" jacks appearing at the lower or "home" section and the outgoing or "call" jacks appearing in the upper or "multiple" section. With multipled switchboards means must be provided to enable the operator to ascertain quickly whether the wanted extension is engaged elsewhere on the suite or not. This is effected by some form of "engaged" test.

The Relative Merits of Magneto and Central Battery Systems

In comparing the two systems described above, it is important to remember that the arguments relate to military spheres of use, although some of them, of course, apply equally to civil practice. The principal advantages and disadvantages are probably best given in tabular form thus:

(a) *MAGNETO*

Advantages

(i) Minimum amount of equipment, which is simple, robust and reliable.
(ii) Signalling batteries are not required.
(iii) The system is workable over relatively poor and long lines, and single-wire earth-return circuits can be used.
(iv) Maintenance required on the system is a minimum.

Disadvantages

(i) Supervisory signals are inadequate. The operator is unable to distinguish between "recall" and "clear" signals; users forget to ring-off. All this makes for a low speed of operating.
(ii) The local batteries in the telephones are often neglected, which results in poor speech.
(iii) Multiple working is difficult and involves complications.

(b) *CENTRAL BATTERY*

Advantages

(i) Calling and clearing signals are given automatically, and flashing is distinctive. Operating is thus speeded-up and the operator has complete supervision of all calls.
(ii) The central battery can be properly maintained in good condition, thus ensuring a uniform grade of speech and signalling.
(iii) Multiple working is easy to arrange.

Disadvantages

(i) The system involves extra weight and complexity (in the form of relays, etc.).
(ii) A relatively heavy central battery is required.
(iii) Good 2-wire lines are required; earth-return circuits cannot be used.
(iv) Maintenance more complex than Magneto.

Up to date, Magneto working has been the backbone of Army field telephony, and although the advantages of C.B.

working have long been realised, the main stumbling block in the path of its universal use has been the bulk and weight of the equipment involved (the central battery alone weighs several hundred pounds, even for small exchanges). The C.B. system has been used extensively in static situations for some time, of course, and it may be worth recording that the system was introduced into this country from America at the turn of the century.

Future Trends

It is certain that Magneto working will never be entirely eliminated in the Army, and its value for forward-areas and jungle conditions, where simplicity and lightness are of paramount importance, cannot be under-estimated. There is no doubt, however that the Army of the future will require better telephone systems than those in use at present and the trend of development is towards more efficient Magneto systems for forward field use, and the wider use of C.B. systems for certain field and static applications.

There is very little that the designer can do to improve magneto working and its main failure is in the hands of the users—when they forget to ring-off, thereby leaving the operator without a supervisory signal. One of the other drawbacks of the system, namely the confusion of "recall" and "clear" signals at the switchboard, can be overcome to a certain extent by providing double supervisory indicators, one associated with the "answer" cord, and the other with the "call" cord, both being located on the key-shelf like the supervisories of the C.B. system. The elements of a Magneto cord circuit incorporating such a feature is shown in Figure 3. The transformer is designed so that it passes speech frequencies quite freely, but blocks the low-frequency ringing. Thus, ringing current from either end of a connection is developed across the condenser, so operating the supervisory indicator associated with that side. Improvements to components are constantly being made; the indicator, which is the most important item on a magneto switchboard, is receiving particular attention. The drop-flap calling indicator is a direct descendant of the indicators used on magneto switchboards over 50 years ago, and although it is much improved, especially in sensitivity, it is still not perfect. Drop-flaps are not entirely satisfactory for Army conditions of use, and they certainly cannot be employed on the keyshelf as supervisory indicators. The future will probably see a robust, sensitive, dual-purpose indicator that shows a "flag" in front of a window when it is actuated.

Turning now to central battery systems, it is obvious that weight-reduction and ruggedness are the designer's first tasks. Simplicity and flexibility are important too, and a scheme known as the "sleeve-control" system has advantages in this direction. The scheme described earlier is termed the "bridge-control" method, because supervisory signals are received at the transmission bridge in the

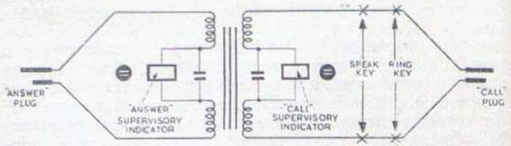


Fig. 3

cord circuit. The sleeve-control method on the other hand places the transmission bridge in the line termination circuit, and supervisory signals received there are passed to the cord circuit over the sleeve wire of the cord. The sleeve-control method was developed primarily to meet the requirements of modern junction and trunk working for civil practice. Its principal feature, apart from the method of supervisory signalling, is the provision of one type of cord circuit capable of forming a straight-through connecting link between all kinds of line circuits, irrespective of line signalling conditions. The previously-used bridge-control methods were found very cumbersome in their circuitry since numerous relays (24 in one case!) were necessary in the cord circuit to discriminate between the various types of lines; alternatively, several types of cord circuits had to be fitted on a switchboard, thus increasing the complexity of operating.

In Army practice where a great deal of the telephone traffic is over trunks, and where it is not always possible to forecast the type of signalling over the circuits (civil, allied and ex-enemy networks might be utilised for instance), the advantages of sleeve-control working can be fully realised. The cord circuits can remain plain, standard connecting links, whilst the line termination circuit can be varied to suit the line. Although the circuits differ, the arrangement of the switchboard controls is unchanged from that shown in the sketch in Figure 2. Full details of sleeve-control working are given in the standard text books, although none show it applied to local lines because it is considered uneconomical in civil practice to handle such calls by the system. Figure 4 shows one method of applying the system to local calls and the operation is briefly as follows:

When a caller lifts his receiver, the loop operates relay L and contact L1 lights the calling lamp. When the operator inserts an "answer" plug into the jack, the S relay operates and disconnects the calling lamp by contact S1. With contact L2 operated (i.e. open) the two coils of the S relay are in series and the resistance of this circuit is such that there is insufficient current to light the "answer" supervisory lamp in the sleeve of the "answer" cord, but just enough to keep the S relay operated. When the operator inserts the "call" plug into the jack of the required extension, the

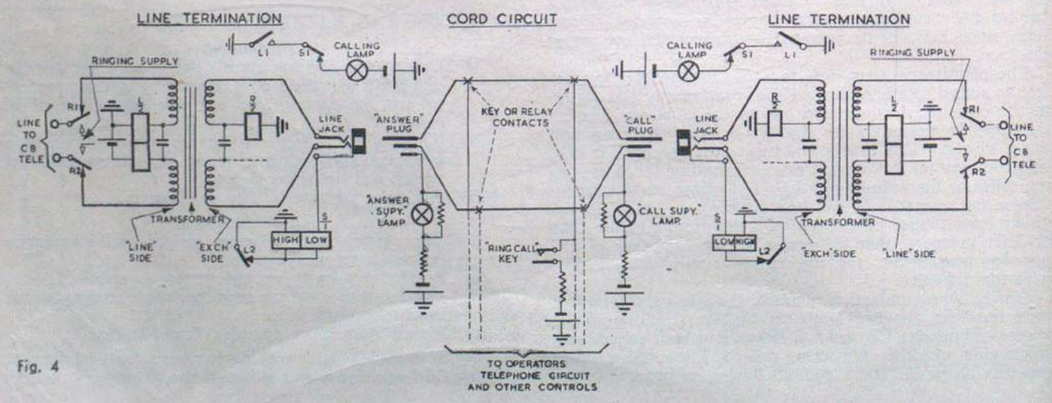


Fig. 4

high resistance coil of the S relay is shorted out by the normal L2 contact, and the resistance of the circuit is low enough to cause the "call" supervisory lamp to glow, and to hold the S relay operated on its low-resistance coil. Ringing is sent out to line by the operation of the R relay, controlled by the "ring" key. When the called party answers, the L relay operates to the loop and the opening of contact L2 removes the short circuit from the high resistance coil of the S relay, and thus the "call" supervisory lamp is darkened. The re-lighting of the supervisories occurs when the parties flash or clear.

The transmission bridge is of the transformer type, based on the Hayes principle, although the Stone system could be applied. It will be noted that D.C. current is fed through the L relay, which has two balanced windings, since it is in a balanced line circuit throughout the conversation. Speech potentials developed across the "line" side of the transformer induce a corresponding E.M.F. in the "exchange" side. The current due to this E.M.F. flows through the cord circuit to the "exchange" winding of the transformer in the other line termination, and again by induction the speech is passed out to line, superimposed upon the D.C. line current. Although there are two transformers in each connection, the system is as electrically efficient overall as the Stone bridge-control system described earlier.

From the above brief description it will be realised that each circuit, local or trunk, can have its own relay-set to change the line signalling conditions into standard signalling conditions for use inside the exchange. These relay sets can be designed as plug-in units, and this provision for flexibility and maintenance is an undoubted boon for Army use.

Dr Rogers' Letters

FROM THE CRIMEA

15TH SEPTEMBER, 1855 CAMP BEFORE SEBASTOPOL

I rode into Sebastopol yesterday. It seems funny to see English sentries posted everywhere about the public buildings. Only a part of the town belongs to the English; this includes the dockyards, which are very large but in an unfinished state. The barracks had been so damaged by our shot and shell that they could no longer be inhabited, and the soldiers appear to have occupied private houses more distant from our batteries, but even these had not escaped. These houses reminded me of the dwellings in some of our smaller towns in England. They mostly had courtyards before them, and some few belonged to artisans, apparently; some had been well furnished, but all the furniture was then either broken or carried away. I have not yet been into the left part of the town, which is in the hands of the French. They would not admit us yesterday on account of the firing from Fort Constantine; that is the most interesting part, of course, as there all the best dwellings, etc., were. The Russians are in considerable force on the north side of the town and appear to be throwing up new works; we have not hitherto molested them. I suppose we are waiting till our ships can get in or else out of that feeling of delicacy, honour, or what you like to call it, which generally prevents us following up our advantages, and in the meantime give our enemy the opportunity of strengthening his position. The north side consists of nothing but a few forts so that there would not be the interest in settling down before it that has all along accompanied the siege of the south side. They have burned their steamers and sunk their ships of the line so the Russian Navy in the Black Sea is at present as limited as anybody could wish. I am afraid I cannot say much for the Russian doctors; they appear to have bolted with the rest, leaving all their wounded behind. Our people were removing them, but then there was a flag of truce and the Russians removed some of them but left a great many more, for on Wednesday we sent a fatigue party to remove them and they found about 500 dead bodies with one or two men still living. Many of them appeared to have been dead for some days, and the officer who was in charge informed me that it was the most disagreeable job he had ever been employed in. The next day a lot of Turks were set to work to sew them up in their bedclothes and bury them in the Redan. It seems to me very appropriate making them a huge burial ground considering the loss of life there has been in attacking and defending it. The more one sees of the works the more one feels that with the troops they had in the town they ought never to have let us take the place. It was a very bright idea of General Pelissier's attacking at dinner time and by so doing he landed all his men in the Malakhoff, whereas our men were mown down in approaching it. If we had held the Redan I think our loss must have been much greater as there were large reserves behind it and the French loss is very much more than ours. You have read the account of Traktir-bridge. That was as bloodless and at the same time as glorious a victory for us as any in the whole campaign. That and the fall of Sebastopol in the Crimea and the destruction of Sweaborg in the Baltic will, I should think, bring the Russians to their senses.

I have not the most remote idea of what we shall do next, but it seems probable that we shall winter here again, and if so I shall get you to send me out some creature comforts both for the outward and inward man. We can get things tolerably cheap in Balaklava now; bread is dear, being 1s. a small loaf, butter 2s. per lb. and not particularly good, beer 18s. per dozen or if you get it on board ship as low as 13s., but then you have to get it landed and taken up to camp, which puts perhaps a shilling a dozen more on it. Fresh meat you can buy also when they issue salt, but there is a dearth of vegetables. Brandy is cheaper here than in England and wines about the same. The French are the best off for all these things as at their canteens they are obliged to sell things at regulated prices to suit the incomes of the French officers, which are not so large as ours, but they fleece any English soldier or officer worse than our own canteen people. On the whole, some of our officers live capitally out here. The great thing is to have a good servant, and next a good kitchen. I have not yet built one, having gone shares with one of my colleagues, but if we winter here I must get some boards and put up one, but I have no ambition to be renowned for my culinary propensities. I wish, when you write again, you would send a few simple recipes for making dishes of odds and ends, etc., soups, curries, puddings, anything you may think proper. I have a pretty good servant but he won't do anything for himself, so I require to be able to instruct him. Monsieur Soyer is in the camp and is going to build a hospital kitchen for us, which is to be quite a model. I have seen some of his recipes already and have tried them frequently, especially one called Cossack pudding, made out of pork fat instead of suet, and which is certainly very good. I must try to get some more from him.

Please to thank Eliza for her suggestion about the flies. I never tried the experiment as since we left Balaklava they have never been so very troublesome. My worst enemies are the fleas, of which we have plenty. I think I am attacked by nearly half a score every day. I have also lots of mice in my tent, which is excavated, and they get under some canvas I have lining the wall. I tried to catch a cat in Sebastopol yesterday, but they were all too wild. However, I hope to get one from there before long.

Do you know the address of your local Branch of the Signals Association? If not, write to the General Secretary, 88 Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1.

Reorganisation of Communications at HQ, BAFO

By **Captain H. J. FUNNELL,** *Royal Signals*

IT will nearly always be necessary to reorganise and rationalise the communications of a large headquarters that have been built up to suit the operational requirements of a campaign, when that headquarters changes over to control of occupational forces after the cessation of hostilities.

Operations Rooms, Information Rooms and Wireless Rooms may no longer be required, or if they are still required will be smaller. Army carrier terminal equipment will disappear, and only incoming tails from the local P. and T. will remain.

The result will be lavish cabling, much of which is not required, most of which is badly installed, and all of which is likely to be unrecorded. There will be gaps and unwanted spaces in terminal equipment rooms where apparatus has been removed, and these gaps will tend to get filled up with administrative paraphernalia, until technical and administrative become hopelessly mixed.

H.Q., B.A.F.O., presented such a picture a year ago. The building had originally been a palatial five-storeyed hotel with a large basement. After that it had been the Focke-Wulf Design and Production Offices, then it became H.Q., T.A.F., and finally H.Q., B.A.F.O.

The equipment comprised a 500-line auto exchange with an associated 8-position manual board, a 60-cct. repeater station, a V.F. system having about 60 channels made up of

3 x 12 Channel ST and C equipments,
1 x 12 Channel German Army field equipment,
3 x 3 Channel British Army equipments,

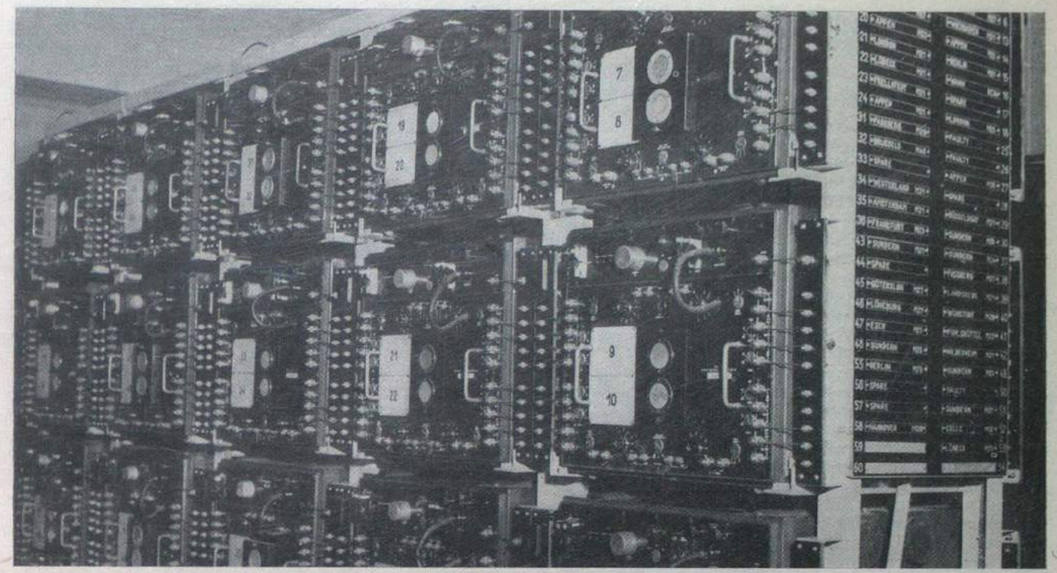
and sundry S+Dx equipments.

There are many ways of tackling such a problem. No particular merit is claimed for the method that is described below. It is merely what was done at H.Q., B.A.F.O. The normal sequence of work was not followed, because it was important to dispose of those points first which, though not always of major importance, cause users the most vexation.

The first task undertaken was the Auto distribution. A very little experience of H.Q., B.A.F.O., made it obvious that flexibility had to be the keynote of the work. It was also



Corporal (now Sergeant) Overington testing 12 channel V.F. equipment



A bank of two-circuit repeaters

obvious that telephones, office inter-communication systems, and bells would be required on a lavish scale. As the offices of the C.-in-C. and other very senior officers were on the first floor, it was decided to provide four pairs of wires in each office on that floor. Three pairs of wires would suffice in offices on the other floors.

Distribution boxes were installed in the same position in the corridor on each floor. The boxes were made up of tag blocks on which cables from the Auto exchange had been terminated. Distribution was effected by terminal blocks placed in carefully selected places in the corridors. The terminal blocks were then connected to another set of tag blocks by jumper wire. The advantages of this method are:

(a) Lines and extensions are accessible without it being necessary to enter offices. This is particularly desirable where civilians are employed.

(b) Flexibility. This is important when branches are in the habit of changing offices frequently.

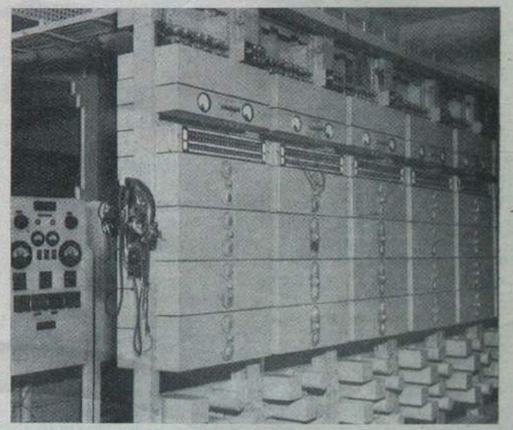
During the re-wiring of the building, there was ample opportunity of testing subscribers' apparatus and ensuring that everything had been neatly and properly installed.

Incoming cables were next reviewed. Though there was a main distribution frame, this in fact housed only about 50 per cent. of the cables, the remainder being led in all over the building. It was decided to concentrate all incoming and outgoing cables in one main distribution frame and to install three intermediate distribution frames, one for the Repeater Station, one for the Auto Exchange and one for the V.F. Telegraph circuits.

Difficulties were encountered whilst this was being done. Working cables had to be paralleled, and the new lengths terminated on the new frame. One cable had been "tailed" in E. and S.W., and it was decided to parallel it in on the side of the joint remote from the frame. The joint was completed, but after that there was a chaos due to crossed legs, leg and leg, etc. On investigation it was found that this particular joint had been used to correct all the jointers' errors throughout the cable. Moral: Test both ways before "tee-ing-in." German tailing cable is not E. and S.W., but impregnated paper insulated. The markings only differentiate between the A and B legs; the pair number is decided by the "lay" of the cable, and not by colour or any other marking. Therefore, when stripping German cables, proceed very, very carefully.

Having paralleled the incoming cables, the distribution had next to be considered. The Auto and floor distribution were easy. All that was necessary was to parallel the cables, cross jumper on to the new frame, and then cut out the old frame and complete the joint.

Things were not so easy in the case of the Repeater Station, or the V.F. Frames. In B.A.O.R. one is always urged to live on the German economy, and so the obtaining of



12 channel V.F. telegraph equipment

standard G.P.O. stores is a complicated and lengthy business. The kind of I.D.F. required was of the test jack type or similar to "U" link system.

No suitable German store was available, and "U" link panels were therefore designed in the Regiment and manufactured by a German firm. These panels were made the same size as the standard G.P.O. fuse mounting (2000/2), and were mounted on a 240 pr. I.D.F. They enabled repeaters, equalisers and ringers to be permanently wired to the "U" link blocks; the other side of the blocks was wired to the lines from the M.D.F. This system provides an excellent set of test points, and by means of patching cords each ringer, etc., can be taken out for maintenance without running a jumper. It also greatly reduces fault clearance times.

One word on the change-over of the Repeater Station. There were two alternatives: either to rewire to the existing site or to rewire to a new site, paralleling the cables and then moving the repeaters to the new site one by one. The latter course was chosen, because the existing wiring was old and its insulation bad, and the termination of system cable on the actual terminals of the repeaters was unsatisfactory. It was obvious that repeaters would have to be easily interchangeable and therefore ease of renewal was another important point.

An angle iron framework was constructed and all cables were soldered on to tags at the back of a terminal strip. The terminal strips were so positioned on the framework that they were exactly opposite the terminals of the repeaters. The strips and terminals were then connected by a 100 lb. copper strip. The power supply was connected by means of a flexible rubber-covered cord via a G.P.O. blocks terminal, 20/4, which makes a neat insulated power termination for small power consumption.

When everything had been tested, and was ready, the repeaters were carried from the old position to the new. The problem of equalising was overcome by installing a spare repeater, adjusting it to show the same control positions as No. 1 repeater of the working bank. Such was the quality and standardisation of these repeaters that the equalisation was good enough to enable the repeaters to work straight away in the new position without further adjustment. This was most fortunate for it meant that for the remaining 58 repeaters the repeater thrown spare could be adjusted, off circuit, to the same position as the one it was to replace and then put into the position. This reflects great credit on the manufacturers, and shows what accuracy is demanded by C.I.E.M.E. on acceptance tests.

The last task was to move, whilst still on circuit, three by twelve channel V.F. systems fed by common power supply and test and measure apparatus. The same technique was employed here. First a new I.D.F. was installed, and the lines from the existing frame were paralleled off. Next the interbay wiring was lengthened to allow each 12-channel system to be moved to its new position whilst it was still connected to test and common apparatus. Finally the permanent wiring was substituted for the transit wiring.

As they were carrying Meteorological and Air Traffic Control circuits, these systems were working spasmodically throughout the 24 hours, which made changing over parallels a very precarious matter indeed.

H.M. Tower of London

INTERESTING CEREMONIES AND CUSTOMS—"THE BEATING OF THE BOUNDS"

By **Yeoman Warder G. A. E. GAVEY,** *late Captain, Royal Signals*

SOME of the boundary stones of the Tower Liberties are situated a fair distance from the Tower itself. To the north, one is outside Toc H Headquarters, 42 Trinity Square. To the west, one outside the Tiger Inn, and to the east, one just outside the East Gate of the Wharf (St. Katharine's Way). The River Thames, of course, marks the south boundary of the Liberties.

In all there are now 31 stones to mark the Liberties boundary, and these were fixed during the reign of James II, in 1687. The Charter is preserved in King's House.

The earliest recorded instance of beating the bounds of the Tower Liberty is 1555.

Nowadays the ceremony takes place every three years, although the perambulation of the boundaries and inspection of the boundary stones is done each year by the Chief Warder of the Tower.

During the war the custom was maintained in a modified form. Five of the 31 boundary stones were damaged by bomb splinters and one of them, near the Minories, was destroyed during an air raid in 1940. It was replaced in 1942.

The origin of the term is apparently that at each boundary mark a small boy was beaten so as to impress on his memory, as well as by the pain inflicted on his person, the exact position of the boundary pillar.

This is not now the system, however, as the choir boys from the Chapel Royal of St. Peter ad Vincula and all others in possession of wands, after the Chaplain has anathematised "Cursed be he who removeth his neighbour's landmark" and on the Chief Warder shouting "Whack it, boys, whack it," proceed to beat the boundary stone with much vigour and enjoyment.

To give readers some idea of the varied officials who used to take part in the procession, the following extract from the Yeoman Warder's Order Book is of interest:

"In 1843, after Divine Service had been performed in the ancient chapel of St. Peter ad Vincula, the procession for 'Beating the Bounds' was formed on the parade ground as follows:

The High Constable of the Tower Hamlets.
The Headsman, bearing the Axe of Execution.
A painter to mark the bounds.
Yeomen Warders in full dress with Halberts, walking two and two abreast.
Children of the Tower National School with wands.
Children of the Welcome School.
The Deputy Governor of the Tower.
The Fort Major of the Tower.
The High Bailiff of the Tower.
The Chaplain.
The Master Gunner of the Batteries.
The Vestry Clerk of the Tower Precincts.
Officer of the Royal Engineers.
Criers of the Royal Court.
Beadles of the Liberties, with their staves of office.
Peace Officers.
Jurymen of the Court-Leet.
Inhabitant Householders.

"The procession thus formed, consisting of one thousand persons, then moved forward, stopping at the different boundary stations, where the 'Broad Arrow' was painted in red on a white ground as a boundary mark, whilst the Chaplain piously anathematised, 'Cursed be he who removeth his neighbour's landmark.'

"The ceremony lasted about one hour, and on its conclusion, in the afternoon, the gentlemen who accompanied the procession sat down to an elegant cold collation at the Gold Chain Tavern within the Tower, at the expense of His Grace the Duke of Wellington, Constable of the Tower."

The form of the procession is now considerably modified. When the ceremony was last performed, on Ascension Day, 6th May, 1948, its order was as follows:

Chief Warder with Mace.
Chaplain of the Tower.
Choir of the Chapel Royal of St. Peter ad Vincula, in pairs and carrying wands.
Children of the Tower, in pairs, boys leading and carrying wands.
Resident Foreman—Ministry of Works.
Eight Yeomen Warders in State dress, in file and carrying Partisans.
The Constable and Lieutenant of the Tower.
The Major of the Tower and Master Gunner within the Tower.
The Medical Officer of the Tower and O.C. Tower Guard.
Eight Yeomen Warders in State dress in file, carrying Partisans.
The Yeoman Gaoler with Axe.
Residents of Tower, in pairs and carrying wands.

On arrival at each boundary stone, the Chief Warder gave the sign to halt by raising his Mace above the head, and to march off he similarly raised his Mace, and lowered it as a sign to move off.

After perambulation of the boundaries and the beating of the stones, the procession formed up on Tower Green and sang the first verse of the National Anthem.

ROYAL SIGNALS DISPLAY TEAM

THE coming month of May will once again see the start of another season for the Royal Signals Display Team. It is regretted that the limited distribution of the 1949 Pictorial Souvenir has not given everyone an opportunity to appreciate the success that the team once again achieved throughout the 1949 season. It can be fairly stated from the tributes paid to the team, from all parts of the country, both for the display itself and for the general bearing and smartness of all members of the team off the field, that their standard has never been higher.

The season's appearance at the Royal Tournament brought the team's total number to double figures. However, it is regretted that after appearing for three successive seasons, the team must make way for other displays this year.

The more important engagements completed included visits to Edinburgh, Glasgow, Stafford, Leicester and Londonderry. The team also appeared again at the Chester Tattoo, and, of course, the Catterick Fair. New engagements of special interest included a visit to the R.M.A., a performance for the Old Comrades at their successful weekend in Catterick, and an appearance at Wembley Stadium before a crowd of 93,000 assembled for the final of the World's Speedway Championship.

There are many changes in the new team which is at present being trained amid the wind, rain and snow of Catterick. The presentation remains the responsibility of Captain J. St. C. W. Robinson, Royal Signals, but the Team Officer will be Captain P. H. F. Webb, Royal Signals, who has come from the Army Apprentice School to replace Captain N. G. R. Halliday, Royal Signals, now with the newly-formed Boys' Squadron.

Sergeant P. W. Turner, Team Sergeant, is shortly due to go abroad and must be replaced, but there remain five or six of last year's team, who will form a sound nucleus for this coming season.



Whoops—a Daisy! PHELVIN

The preview will take place in Catterick on Wednesday, 10th May, and will start another very full programme.

Many applications for the team have again had to be refused as bookings are now almost complete. Full details will be published next month for the season.

Signal Companies' Camp Burghclere–1909

By **Major BEN HOWORTH**

FOR six weeks all the Signal Companies from Aldershot were in camp at Burghclere, near Newbury. The site was situated close under the old Roman camp on Beacon Hill and close to Highclere Park, the home of the Earl of Carnarvon. The country around, besides being ideal for training purposes, was very beautiful.

In 1909 the Telegraph Units of the Army were divided into two groups, viz., Army Troops and Divisional Companies, the first consisting of the Wireless, Air-line and Cable Companies. The wireless was at that time exclusively for use with the Cavalry, and it was, of course, very much in the experimental stage. There was no wireless at the camp in 1909.

The Air-line Companies, of which there were two in the whole Army, were supposed to build and work a line from the base or advanced railhead to the Army Headquarters, and each Company could build 60 miles of air-line and lay 24 miles of cable, all single line, without having to refill from base.

The Cable Companies were used for keeping the Army Headquarters in touch with the Divisions, and each Company had nine cable wagons with 90 miles of line between them.

Beyond the Division Headquarters there was a Communications Company or Divisional Telegraph Company; this Divisional Telegraph Company was a Royal Engineer Unit, but the signallers with their flags, heliographs and lamps were provided from the Infantry Signals and Artillery.

The system was further continued from Brigade Headquarters to the Battalions by the use of runners on bicycles and on foot and the use of light telephone sets carried on mules with the small cable drums carried on the pack saddles of the animals.

The Divisional Signal Companies, with a full Royal Engineer organisation, were started when the 1909 camp broke up and the Units returned to Aldershot. The 2nd Divisional Telegraph Company was formed and later it became the 2nd Division Signal Company, R.E.

The Units in camp were all provided with horse-drawn transport and no signs of mechanical means of haulage were seen. Even motors cars were practically unknown.

The Air-line Company had large wagons drawn by four horses and they were capable of being taken across country, and frequently were, although it was usual to run the lines reasonably close to the roads to save heavy going. The building of an air-line was fairly heavy work, carried out at a steady pace, and it required full team spirit to achieve success.

The writer well remembers doing his recruit drill on air-line on one of the hottest of June days when the job was that of jumping the holes for the poles at about 80-yard intervals. The jumper was a wickedly heavy bar of steel and the hammers were at least 14 lb. Luckily the opposite number on this particular day was a brawny sapper of the village blacksmith type, and so the day was got through with nothing worse than a dose of sunstroke, about the last chance there was at that camp for it rained nearly all the rest of the month. The rain was so heavy and continuous that the sound of "no parade today" became almost a regular feature, but was always greeted with cheers from the men's tents.

The cable-laying was nearly always carried on along the roads, although the four-horsed wagons were quite capable of any rough cross-country work. The cable team consisted mostly of mounted men, and it was quite a sport the laying out of the cable with the horses going at a smart trot. The mounted man directly behind the wagon had to direct the cable through his crook stick, but it was in reeling up that the fun began, when the same man had to guide the cable, again by the crook stick, from the ground to a height suitable for winding directly on to the drums. These drums were chain driven from the wagon wheels, and at a smart trot the speed of pick-up was quite high enough to try out the horsemanship of the number in the bight of the cable.



Royal Engineers Signal Companies in camp at Burghclere, 1909

Standing from left to right: Second-Lieutenant F. G. Hill, R.E., Lieutenant Aston, Lieutenant J. Tomlin, Lieutenant Prickett, ———, Lieutenant D. S. Lewis, ———, Lieutenant Ted Carden, Lieutenant R. Chevenix-Trench, Second Lieutenant Ben Howorth, R.E.S.R. Seated from left to right: Captain Lefroy, Captain Tim Evans, Captain J. P. Muir, Major R. P. Lee, Captain Sholto-Douglas, Captain Clementi-Smith, ———.

Author's Note: All these officers were Royal Engineers except Hall and Howorth, who were Royal Engineers Special Reserve, and the ——— between Lewis and Carden, who was a Territorial, and the last on the right seated, who was an Infantryman or Cavalry.

It was not all hard work at this camp, and plenty of sport and fun were enjoyed by all ranks. The local inhabitants were generous with their hospitality and they entertained the officers to a dance on the last night in camp. This dance followed the sports and was kept up till well after dawn, so that it meant a quick change into uniform on return to camp ready for the move from camp back to Aldershot. Breakfast was taken at tables in the open, the tents having been struck, and the main dish, which is still remembered, was strawberries and cream, no doubt left over from the sports tea. Strawberries and cream at 5 a.m. are not everybody's cup of tea, but if memory serves it was no hardship to some of the healthy young subalterns.

The trek back to Aldershot following the strenuous day and night made many people very tired, and when one part of the Unit picking up the air-line previously laid to the camp stopped for dinner and sleep at Hook, the officer in charge went to sleep in between each mouthful of food, and he appeared to derive quite a rest this way, and by the time dinner was finished was almost alive again. But, alas, the juniors just collapsed into bed.

Thus ended the 1909 Signal Companies' Camp, and in a way also ended a period when the horse was all and everything and Units were happily self-contained. The earliest beginnings of the co-ordinated schemes for the transmission of messages from base to port troops were then showing up and wireless was pushing ahead to revolutionise the whole science of our art of communications. In our 1909 camp at Burghclere we were happily and blissfully unaware of all this awaiting just round the corner.

PATH OF THE 50TH

By **E. W. CLAY**

THERE are some Divisions which become legendary during England's wars. There are other Divisions which, although really of equal quality, are never spoken of. It is a matter essentially of efficiency and, as always, a modicum of luck. In any assessment we do well to eliminate the Guards Division be it armoured or infantry. This Division is always in a class by itself being occasionally equalled, never surpassed.

It is, however, a surprising thing that the ordinary Regular Divisions (1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th) do not seem to capture popular acclaim in the way that others have done. During the first world war they were hardly mentioned. The popular Divisions, if memory serves, were the 29th, composed of regular battalions from the India garrison with arms and services from the London Territorial Army; the 51st Highland Division, and to those who were knowledgable, the 50th Northumbrian Division. These three Divisions were popularly supposed to be the best in the Army. In World War II, 7 Armoured Division (The Desert Rats), the Airborne Division, the Commandoes and, curiously enough, the 50th Northumbrian Division, were the ones which captured popular imagination.

The 5th Division had a certain following chiefly because of its distinction of serving in more theatres of war than any other; but it was the 50th Division recruited by Tyne and by Tees that the Commanders asked for. One of the first Territorial Army Divisions to get to France in 1939, its capacity for hard skilful fighting caused it to be one of the last off the beaches at Dunkirk. With far less ballyhoo than was accorded to others it was quickly and quietly re-equipped, mark you, it did not lose as much as most, and very soon afterwards found itself embarked for North Africa. During its first major battle in that theatre it had the tragic misfortune to lose the 150th Brigade complete and for the remainder of its time with the 8th Army fought either as Two Brigade Division or with a third Brigade composed of "foreigners." Under this heading must be classified a magnificent formation of Free French; two more Brigade Groups recruited south of the River Humber, and at least one Brigade of Indians.

Suffice it to say that whatever its composition 50th Division continually enhanced its already great reputation. Small wonder then that when the time came for the 8th Army to provide certain war-tried formations for 21st Army Group for the invasion of the continent of Europe that 50th Division should be one of the chosen. Again around Arromanches they fought their way dourly and doggedly; they forced their way through the Bocage, and after taking a part in the slaughter of the German troops in the Falaise Pocket, 50th Division rather surprisingly seemed to be in the forefront of the pursuit across France and Holland to the Rhine. The remarkable story of this remarkable Division is published by *Gale and Polden, price 25s.*

THE BATTLE OF AMIENS, 1918

By **Lieutenant-Colonel A. KEARSEY,** *D.S.O., O.B.E.*

OFFICERS who worked for the staff college between the two wars, or even those who took part in tactical exercises without troops, must have been struck by the emphasis which was placed by those responsible for their studies on those operations in the history of the British Army where conventionally a small British force was withdrawing before a vastly superior enemy force.

Certainly if we exclude the official history, the literature of the 1914-18 war places very great emphasis on the period up to the middle of 1915 covering the retreat from Mons to the River Marne, and to a much less extent the somewhat fortuitous advance from the Marne to the River Aisne. Lieutenant-Colonel Kearsey, therefore, makes a notable contribution to the study of this now out of date war by his account of what is really one of the most notable periods in the history of the British Army. So much thought and discussion has been given to the 1914-15 period and so little to that very amazing period which came so quickly after Ludendorff's offensive beginning in March, 1918, and so nearly separated the British Army from the Armies of France, and so nearly accomplished the German aim in two wars of driving the British back to the Channel ports.

Ludendorff's offensive admittedly was held in May and June, but the most remarkable thing is the speed with which, under the direction of that military genius Ferdinand Foch the British were enabled to attack, and again attack and yet again until we came into the Battle of Amiens on 8th August, the date described by the German historians as the black day in the history of the German Army. The short period covered by Colonel Kearsey's book teems with illustrations of the principles of war, which are emphasised by real life examples, and for the student this is almost as fruitful a period as that of May and June, 1940, the history of which from the German point of view has not yet been published.

Concurrently with reading Colonel Kearsey's book your reviewer has also been reading the History of the Second Divisional Signals, a pamphlet written primarily for consumption within the present Second Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment.

The period from 1914 to June, 1915, is given 22 pages, the period 1915 until the end of the war in 1918 occupies six pages, of which the terrific fighting from March, 1918, is dismissed in two pages. War by then had become routine hence the lack of literature on the subject. Colonel Kearsey has indeed done a service to provide an incentive to the student of military history to go further into this most glorious period in British military history.

The Battle of Amiens, price 7/6, from Gale and Polden Ltd.

Army Ski-ing, 1950

By **Captain E. J. BARDELL,** *Royal Signals*

IN A.D. 680, according to legend, a hunter on the northern slopes of the Tauren mountains wounded a hill stag. He followed the blood spoor, came upon the beast bathing its wounds in a spring and, like St. Hubertus (the patron saint of blood sportsmen), he was so overawed by the beauty and mercy of nature that he forgot the chase. Two monks joined the hunter and together they tended the stag. During the following three days it repeatedly immersed itself in the stream and on the fourth day its wounds were healed and once again it took to the hills. The monks christened that part of the stream the Holy Wells, and from that day countless thousands of sick have relieved their sufferings in the same waters and have been cured of countless ills. Bad Gastein, the town standing over the Holy Wells, lies at the head of a steep valley in the American Zone of Austria and was the scene, this year, of the Army Ski Championships.

Competitors and their friends came from the U.K., B.A.O.R. and B.T.A., and one or two from as far afield as Trieste and the Middle East. We arrived at Bad Gastein to find that the town band was at the station to play us in and flags were flying from every conceivable point on the many hotels in our welcome.

During the period of our stay the pre-Lent festivities were in full swing; there were masques and carnival processions and, in addition, the festival of the bells. Bad Gastein church was to receive a new peal of bells to replace St. Nicholaus, which had been in the belfry since 1654. The procession started about nine in the evening; it was a clear night and the lights of the flaming torches carried by small boys could be seen slowly winding down the hill across the valley. The bells were carried on decorated sledges surrounded by young girls dressed in white with wings on their backs and garlands of flowers in their hair. Preceding them was a herald in 14th century costume mounted on a gaily caparisoned horse and attended by mounted whips. Each man had a thong some twelve or fifteen feet in length mounted on a heavy wooden stock. The whips were then cracked in unison, keeping in time with St. Nicholaus ringing in the belfry; the effect was much the same as huge fire crackers exploding. At the church porch the procession halted and formed up in the small square. In front were the bells, the church banners, and the elders in their green-faced jackets and tall black stove-pipe hats, and behind them stood the town band and the fire brigade. The very earnest little fellows carrying their flaming torches on long staves stood round the outer perimeter. In the flickering torchlight the pastor conducted a short service and the dedication of the bells was complete.

The weather was not unreasonable and we only missed one day's ski-ing during our stay due to the thaw and rain. There were several downhill runs to choose from and the best of these, a little over 3,000 feet drop in two miles, was chosen for the race. The day of the downhill race was misty, the snow new, and the competitors had to cross one steep traverse through the cloud. Of the field of fifty who started, six runners failed to complete the course; one broke a shoulder, another a leg, and the others suffered such minor ailments as broken ski and twisted ankles. For the slalom on the second day, however, the weather was perfect, the sun shone, the snow was good, and the whole town lined the slopes to watch the racing.

As light relief while the langlauf was in progress, the beginners and ladies of the party decided to hold their own "Camp Followers'" race. While the loudspeakers gave a running commentary, the spectators cheered and laughed as the favourites slid or sprawled down the slopes; one game competitor finished on one ski a good ten seconds after her first ski had crossed the line. Although style and dash was somewhat awkward and spasmodic, spirit was certainly not lacking among our camp followers. First place in the 15 km. langlauf, a hard race on wet snow, finally went to the 1st West Yorkshire Regiment in a time of 68 mins. 32.4 secs.

The G.O.C.-in-C. British Troops, Austria, presented the several cups, the 1st Battalion Rifle Brigade being Unit champions this year and Lieutenant John Boyagis, Intelligence Corps, the individual champion.

From Bad Gastein two teams went on to Switzerland to represent the Army. One was led by Lieutenant Boyagis to St. Moritz to take the first four places in the Inter-Services meet, and the other to Andermatt to take part in the International Patrol Race. At St. Moritz the average speed for the descent in the downhill was 47 m.p.h.



"Bad Gastein"

Taken all round, it has been a successful year for the Army Ski Association. It is to be regretted, however, that although a member of the Corps won the British Ski Championship this year, our entry in the Army's own winter sports meeting was a poor one.

THROUGH

By **F. V. MERCHANT**

THE Telegraph Detachment which was stationed at Pretoria for a few years after the conclusion of the Boer War was a small party of one officer and about a couple of dozen other ranks and, quartered with other troops forming the Garrison at Roberts' Heights, had a reasonably enjoyable time which was punctuated occasionally by alarums and excursions caused by Boer malcontents out on the *veldt*; for all the Boers were not in entire agreement with the peace terms which were signed by their leaders at the conclusion of hostilities.

It so happened that a party of these discontented burghers had formed commando about 40 or 50 miles away on the *veldt*, and certain troops were detailed to be in readiness to march at short notice should it be decided to send a mobile column out against the rebels. Well, matters went from bad to worse and a small punitive expedition was undertaken, consisting mainly of Hussars and Royal Horse Artillery, accompanied, of course, by a cable detachment of the Telegraph Section, R.E., and the order to march was given, communication being maintained between Base and the moving column by cable laid by the detachment.

The rendezvous was reached in due course and negotiations were, presumably, being carried on between the Government in Pretoria and the rebel leaders, during which the cable behaved itself and kept free from faults; for the climate was dry and there was very little traffic to cross and recross it to cause breaks, the main risks being damage by small wild animals of the springbok type, or kaffirs who might require a length of cable for domestic purposes, so the linemen had little to do beyond routine patrol; while the operators exchanged signals with each other in the code of the period, namely, H.Q.: How are signals? and G.D.: Good, every 15 minutes, for messages between the Mobile Column and the Base—or vice versa—were few. ("Paper" had not developed then, and the expedition escaped the notice of newspaper correspondents.)

This peaceful situation was threatened from the Base one day by the Section Officer warning the cable detachment that the cable must be kept through at all costs until midnight because a message would be coming through about then ordering either a withdrawal to Base or opening of fire on the rebels—depending, presumably, on the gist of a message Pretoria was expecting from the discontented commando. That warning was a challenge to any self-respecting cable, and accordingly the hitherto well-behaved and faultless line went temperamental, and the operator when next he tapped out .... – – . –, received no reply. "Line's dis, corporal," he reported. The lineman, who had just returned from his routine patrol and had off-saddled and fed his horse, was disposing of his own bully beef and biscuits (Fanny Adams and earth-plates), the staple diet of mobile columns when Edward VII was King, did not take kindly to the need to saddle up, *vootsak*, and not return till the line was through. However, he supposed he had to earn his corporal's pay (fixed at the daily rate of half-a-crown which, plus his engineer pay of one shilling, worked out at 1⅜d. an hour, meant very little because the lowest monetary unit in South Africa, even amongst the kaffirs, was the "ticky" or threepenny bit), so he got on with the job, mounted his animal and rode along the cable, running it through his crookstick as he progressed. Mile after mile he rode, each joint being in order, but the line still "dead" and useless. Night fell—and there is no twilight to speak of in that latitude—and the cable still "dis." No longer could he see the cable, and had to run it through his bare hand for, should a break be encountered, one end had to be held while the other was located, and it is an elementary fact that the ends of field cable spring apart when a break occurs. Mile after mile at a walking pace, with torn hands, and a horse beginning to tire, for the lineman had ridden him more than 40 miles that day.

At last, springy spirals of cable were encountered, denoting a break; and now the end was reached. Having bared the end for its connecting reef-knot, the lineman now had to search for the other end. What a life! Pitch dark! Unable to leave his mount or it would disappear into the night and probably be lost. *Ikona*!

There was no moon, and the stars were of no help. Treeless *veldt*—not even scrub. Might as well have been in the desert. Was it midnight yet? Cripes! the line was *wanted* then.

He obtained a rough idea as to his direction by straining on the cable; then he tied his towel, which, if no longer white, showed faintly in the darkness, to it and, with misgivings, laid it on the ground, and walked forward, scraping feet and one hand along the surface hoping to find the other end of the cable, which could be the only obstacle lying on the ground in that god-forsaken bit of Africa. Luck was with him, and he found it and prepared the end for jointing, and made his way back to look for his towel. At last both ends were united. He took out his tapper to listen in and heard Base talking to cable cart. His duty accomplished—but was he in time? He asked the operator for the time. 11.45 p.m. 11.45 p.m.! Through, by God! and 15 minutes to go. Through!

He made his way, still running the cable through his hand so that he would not lose direction, back to his detachment, off saddled, rubbed down and fed his mount. There was very short time for rest for him, for operations were to begin. The expected message had come through along the line he had repaired, and the column was moving into action against the rebels, and the artillery opened fire with such effect that the rebellion petered out and the commando dispersed.

It used to be said—in military circles—that in minor operations such as these no medal was issued unless the artillery were actively employed. If but one round were fired that was sufficient qualification. What now? Would a medal be issued for the corporal to display way back home? The answer in this case was a negative.

The Section Officer at Base called up the corporal who had spent a black and solitary night on the *veldt*. What now? Was he to be ticked off for delay, or complimented for doing what he was expected to do? He'd soon know.

"Here, sir! What's that, sir? Orders! I'm for home on promotion? Return to Pretoria at once? Right, sir. *Ek dum*! Thank you, sir."

Through!

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". . . if YOU want more articles, then YOU must write them . . ."

Commentary on Article Writing—Enigmatic Mechanism Revealed

By **Captain CORMACK JENKINS,** *Royal Signals*

"WRITING, to be good," says Sir Walter Raleigh, "requires a lively intelligence and sympathy, a well-stored mind and a feeling heart. It must be sincere, lucid and vivacious." Inspired by this theme, let us respond to the appeal launched by the Editor of THE WIRE for more articles on subjects of general interest to all who read the only magazine of the Royal Corps of Signals. In almost every sphere of military and civil society, at home and abroad, from Catterick to Hong Kong, something has taken or is taking place which would probably arouse widespread interest. Unless such occurrences reach the pages of THE WIRE through the medium of the serving or ex-serving soldier, then a unique experience, novel gadget or nostalgic memory may be lost for ever.

First Considerations

Writing of any kind is not easy, and requires much training, practice and patience. Article writing is a highly specialised form of writing, in demand mainly by the Press. It is self-contained and before going into print must be "tailored" to fit in with the paper or magazine which publishes it, e.g. articles switched from the *People* to the *Sunday Times* without any alterations would clash with the other material, and upset the "rhythm" of the paper.

All who wish to take up the pen and write may do so, provided the writer can express himself, knows his subject, can vouch for every single word written, and has the urge to write. The first few articles you submit may be rejected, but keep on trying and one day your effort will be accepted. Every editor of every magazine is always wanting suitable articles, about subjects for the particular magazine. Here it may be convenient to explain the position of the editor. With him rests the decision whether or not to accept the article, which is a justifiable right; as he has various legal and moral obligations, quite apart from the responsibility of making the magazine a financial success and popular with the readers. Bear in mind he is a busy man, and the Editor of THE WIRE is a serving officer with a very small staff, so that it is impossible in the available time to re-write any submitted articles or cross-check every fact in the context. Reliance is placed on the presumed integrity of the writer, but once a breach of confidence has been made the offender need not offer anything else for a very long time.

Try to imagine the type of person who will be reading the article, set in the background of the magazine. The young radio mechanic in Catterick, pre-war Sergeant Brown with his Line Troop in B.A.O.R., 1919 retired. S.Q.M.S. Smith in the Isle of Wight, imaginative Prudence Robinson of the Cipher Room . . . each one a person of average intelligence, curious and critical. Create the impression that each word is written for the reader's own information, guidance and/or amusement. Cultivate a simple style, with words of common usage, unless with wider experience you have the ability to become elaborate.

Tools Required

Large exercise book, pencil, rubber, good dictionary and a copy of Fowler's "King's English" are probably the minimum material requirements. An extra exercise book is useful for random fact-taking, note-taking from reference books, and the drawing up in outline of your proposed article. If you still want to spend some more money, then a few standard reference books and a typewriter would make life happier. Few editors, by the way, will accept an article or short story unless it is typewritten. The rest of the effort is up to the individual, as to how he or she can exploit to the full the imagination, powers of observation and flair for anticipating the requirement for an article about a particular person or event. Selected photographs and sketch maps should be included when practicable, i.e. if there is sufficient space and permission can be obtained from the copyright holder of the photograph. You may find any of these useful, which are on sale at Foyles, Charing Cross Road, London, and other similar firms:

(a) Guide to Article Writing. Blackie, 6s.
(b) First Steps in Free Lance Journalism. Pitman, 7s. 6d.
(c) Inside Information for New Writers. Wellgarth, 5s.
(d) Modern Punctuation Handbook. Fleet Publications, 5s.
(e) My Editor Says . . . Pitman, 2s. 6d.
(f) The Reading and Writing of English. Hutchinson, 6s.
(g) Refresher Course in Punctuation and Spelling. Newnes, 6s.
(h) Hartrampfs Vocabularies. Psychology Publishing Co., 30s.
(i) Plain Words. H.M.S.O., 2s.

(Prices given do not include postage)

What to Write About

The question to ask in our case is, what do the readers of THE WIRE want to read about? Shall it be about valves, marriage, food subsidies, white mice, fishing, gardening or hiking? The net is thrown wide for would-be contributors of THE WIRE and there must be thousands of topics to write up. It is as well to leave out topics covered by the professional Press and Service magazines, so that your final list may look something like this:

(1) Should a soldier marry?
(2) Should a soldier be allowed to vote?
(3) Influence of V.H.F. technique on modern military communications.
(4) Focus on the—Operator, Lineman and Despatch Rider.
(5) Does the Army offer a career today?
(6) Must we have military discipline?
(7) Life in the Army in 1900.
(8) What I would do to make life in the Army more attractive.
(9) Whither radio in this modern age?
(10) Television and the modern Army—has it a role?
(11) Romance and importance of the radio amateur.
(12) Shall I join the T.A.?
(13) How efficient is modern telecommunication equipment?
(14) How the new Civil Defence Command is to be organised.
(15) Training and life of a musician in our Corps Band.
(16) What happens when you telephone Hong Kong from Catterick.
(17) Qualities of the ideal soldier.
(18) Modern economics: Effect on the serving soldier.
(19) Signals in action: North Africa, Burma, Italy, France and Germany.
(20) Signal Training in the U.S. Army and Dominion Armies. etc., etc., etc.

You may say something has been written on all these subjects. This is probably true, but that applies to almost every topic you care to choose; e.g., much has been written about television and the National Serviceman in the Press in the last few months, but it is claimed with the art of writing, backed with original thought and industry, the topic can emerge like a Victorian lady in a "new look" gown. Make full use of all words at your command, and as your vocabulary increases, new ideas will flow more easily. The average man has about 8,000 to 10,000 words in his "mental armoury"; Mr. Winston Churchill, despite being a poor scholar at school, has now a potential vocabulary range of 60,000 words.

Finding the Facts

"One per cent. inspiration, 99 per cent. perspiration," says the old hand; so do not expect the facts you want to come into your lap like ripe plums from a summer tree. When you have decided upon the subject for the article, draw up your programme of facts required in any order, as they can be re-arranged later. Distinguish between fact and fiction, leave gossip and rumour to the columnists and opinions for the editorial. It is an irksome business fact hunting, but like most things, one learns by experience. Public libraries are the best and cheapest form of general information, and normally there is a trained staff on duty. In a few minutes the book you want can be in your hands. Many large industrial firms, and almost every Government Department, has a Public Relations Section. It is from here you will find answers to your specialised questions, and a precis of the Department's main activities is given in what are known as "hand-outs." Regard this as a privilege, and with courtesy on your part; they can do much to help. Sometimes in the course of fact-finding you receive information of a confidential nature, which must not be passed on or allowed to appear in print. Any request from your informant must be recognised and respected, as a reputation of dishonesty travels fast and may land the writer (and editor) in the High Court to answer serious legal charges.

To save further time and space, you may care to read W. A. Bagley's useful little book entitled "Facts and How to Find Them," published by Pitman for 7s. 6d.

Conclusion

With all your facts assembled, you can proceed to build up your article for the required length, i.e. 500 to 2,000 words. Revise frequently and drastically. Think of an attractive heading which will catch the eye of the casual reader. It must be brief but contain the substance of the article, e.g. the articles appearing in current issues of the *Daily Telegraph* illustrate this point. There are, of course, very many aspects of this specialised art which have not been touched upon, but it is hoped the curtain has been partially lifted to start you thinking—and writing. Professional tutors exist through correspondence courses and the universities, covering the whole field of journalism. Further details are available from your Education Officer, if you are still serving, or from your nearest Public Library, if you are no longer serving. If you have not the time or inclination for study, may the well-known words of Ivor Brown be left with you:

"The craftsman is proud and careful of his tools: the surgeon does not operate with an old razor blade: the sportsman fusses happily and long over the choice of rod, gun, club or racket. But the man who is working in words, unless he is a professional writer (and not always then), is singularly neglectful of his instruments."

Rabbie was Right By **OLD BILL**

SERGEANT HARRIS was miserable. He just sat and ruminated, rather like the cow—but not so contentedly. It was such a beautiful plan, he thought. And look what happened. It all started when Sergeant Harris decided to "sign on regular." Although a sergeant, he was a National Service man. But he was a clever sort of chap and he had a liking for the army. He was in a fairly good position—being a sergeant with still a couple of months to do before demob. So he decided he'd sign on. There was only one fly in this particularly soothing ointment. That is if anything so large and imposing as the Squadron Sergeant Major could, without irreverence, be called a fly. Sergeant Harris didn't like the S.S.M.—and the feeling was mutual. And Sergeant Harris thought he'd like to be able to get even with him just for once. And he saw a way of getting even with his causer of gloomy Mondays and also of staying in the army and, more important, catching no official repercussions for getting even.

He had many times seen in orders "Signalman Stooks discharged 2359 hours and re-enlisted on Regular engagement 0001 hours." That gave Sergeant Harris his idea. Looked at any way at all he was NOT in the army for two whole minutes on the day of his discharge and immediate re-enlistment. So the army couldn't do anything about anything he did in those two minutes. So, thought Sergeant Harris, I have two minutes to do something about the Squadron Sergeant Major.

The campaign was carefully planned. Find out the date he was due for discharge. Make sure that the Squadron Sergeant Major was in the Mess at 2359 hours that day and then—for like all great ideas this was simple—solemnly anoint him with a quart of ale, push the empty bottles down the back of his neck and for exactly one a half minutes generally maltreat this helpless Squadron Sergeant Major.

Sergeant Harris was lucky. The Squadron Sergeant Major was in the Mess on the great day and our gallant sergeant contrived to see that he remained so. The electric clock was merrily turning over the minutes and 2200 was perfectly correct as he had assured himself. And so at exactly 2359 and 15 seconds Sergeant Harris got cracking. It was pathetic—our poor Squadron Sergeant Major was so surprised that he just couldn't do a thing and by the time he'd got the beer from his hair, the bottles from down his neck and the remains of a sardine sandwich from his eyes—it was 0001 hours. And it is just as much a crime to commit mayhem on a junior rank as it is on a senior.

The Squadron Sergeant Major asked politely what Sergeant Harris thought he was doing. Sergeant Harris explained equally politely. The Squadron Sergeant Major verbally described Sergeant Harris, his sanguinary ancestor and his even more sanguinary and hypothetical descendants. Sergeant Harris now a regular soldier, accepted these comments in the spirit that all good soldiers accept the comments of the Squadron Sergeant Major. And there the matter would have rested until the Squadron Sergeant Major had delved into the matter of legal technicalities. But someone turned on the radio and the B.B.C. said, "After the chimes of Big Ben the B.B.C. Light Programme is closing down until nine o'clock tomorrow."

And sitting in his bunk complete with escort Sergeant Harris found out what had happened. The Mess Caterer, hoping to get away early, had very unobtrustively put the clock forward fifteen minutes. And so Sergeant Harris ruminated—Rabbie Burns was right after all. I wonder what it will be like to be a signalman again? OLD BILL.

SIGNAL TRAINING CENTRE

CATTERICK CAMP

2 TRAINING REGIMENT

There are many beauty spots within easy hiking distance, and in the lovely dales one finds scenery comparable with any to be found in England. Richmond itself teems with history.

The bright sunlight also serves to show up more clearly the odd dark spots, and so we set out, in common with all other householders, on our spring cleaning. Begone the cobweb! and on with a little colour.

Soon we shall have our gardens in trim again and the whole of our lines a source of pride and pleasure.

During the past month we have regretfully bidden farewell to Brigadier W. C. V. Galwey, O.B.E., M.C., who has for so long fathered and mothered us in our many difficulties. With all the host of invitations he received throughout the station he was able to accept one from our W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess and spent a convivial mid-day hour with our senior N.C.O.s.

In the realm of sport we still keep very active, taking part in every branch and acquitting ourselves creditably.

In the Catterick Signals boxing tournament we managed to beat 3 Training Regiment by one point after an excellent night's sport. We hope to put up as good a show in the remaining contests. In the Catterick Novices' Competition we lost in the second round to 14/20th Hussars again by only one point, and it was voted by all "a splendid evening."

We are proud of our cross-country team who, although they could do nothing against the illustrious 1 Training Regiment, still did very well in all the competitions, and, in particular, we congratulate Lance-Corporal Wilkins on coming 29th in the N.E. Counties C.C. Championships.

A recent innovation is the Ju-Jitsu Club opened in our gymnasium, under the very capable hands of an expert (Mr. C. Edwards) for the benefit of all serving in the district. We trust that many from the Regiment will go along.

4 TRAINING REGIMENT

The Sergeants' Mess New Year Ball in January went with a great swing. We were honoured by the attendance of the G.O.C., Catterick District, Major-General C. M. F. White, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O. Invitations have now been issued for a further dance this month which I am sure will meet with a similar success. There was also a games tournament between the Sergeants' and Officers' Messes, the result, unfortunately, was unrecorded.

The Officers' Mess has been a scene of quiet respectability enlivened by the farewell dinner given to Brigadier W. C. V. Galwey, O.B.E., M.C., Commander S.T.C., shortly before his departure. The dinner coincided with the General Election, the results of which had long since ceased to be issued over the radio before the party finally came to an end. We sincerely hope that among the many memories Brigadier Galwey is bound to take away with him as Commander S.T.C., 4 Training Regiment will be amongst them.

There has been much internal activity, 4 Squadron having moved back to Gaza Lines, vacating Gallowgate Camp for use by the T.A. The Barrack Square now resounds to the stamp of marching feet and sharp words of command as the various Junior N.C.O.s and Pre-Foreman of Signals Courses are put through their drill and duties training. The Records Documents team have just departed, after much checking and counter-checking of every document officialdom decrees we keep. I understand that all was found to be in order, no documents having been used for purposes other than that laid down. I feel it must have something to do with the care the Adjutant exercised in selecting his female civilian staff. Our Administrative Inspection falls due at the end of the month, in preparation for which, everything other than training is relegated to the background. Rumour has it that we are also going to be busily employed in practising the high standard of drill demanded by a ceremonial parade.

Now to record our successes, or otherwise, in the field of sport.

The Inter-Regimental Novices' Boxing Championships are now being held. The first round we were fortunate enough to draw a bye. The second round was a hard-fought battle against the 17th/21st Lancers in which we gained 15 points to the Lancers' 12. We actually won 6 matches and lost 3. In the Bantamweight, Signalman Whitehead easily out-pointed his opponent, the referee stopping the fight in the second round. Signalman Gallagher, our Lightweight, took heavy punishment in the first round, but by some excellent boxing managed to turn the tables and out-pointed his opponent in the next two rounds. The Middleweights, Lance-Corporal Wickes and Corporal Kelly were both easy winners and seemed to have perfected the technique of the straight left. Signalman Rimmer, Welterweight, put up the star performance of the night and after a well-fought match gained the decision on points. Our Light-heavyweight, Lance-Corporal Barnes, also gave a good exhibition of boxing and out-pointed his opponent. We thus go into the semi-finals, our opponents being the 12th Royal Lancers. Twice before they have beaten us, but I sincerely hope when I next write my contribution to THE WIRE I shall be able to say "they fought well, and were gallant losers."

In the Northern Command and Catterick District Cross-Country Championship our team was placed sixth, 1 Training Regiment being the only Signal Regiment to beat us. We also had the pleasure of seeing Signalman Birch, 4 Squadron, come in first, after a strenuous six mile race. He has followed this up by coming second in the Army Cross-Country Championships.

We reached the semi-finals in the District Inter-Unit Hockey Championship, but after a very exciting game against the School of Military Engineering we were knocked out of the competition.

At football, though we are pleased to say three members of our team, namely Lance-Corporal Shurben, Signalman Rudge and Signalman Sharp have been playing for the Corps in the last few matches, we ourselves, due to constant changes in the team, are well out of the running in the League Competition.

Our Small Bore Rifle Team have been going from strength to strength under the able leadership of Captain S. L. Gant. Only two matches have been lost out of the last thirteen, to 2 Training Regiment and the 8th Royal Tank Regiment. It is improbable through this that we shall be at the top of the league, but I think I can safely say we ought to be in the first three. Next month sees the commencement of the Northern Command Competition on the open ranges, in which I hope I shall be able to record some successes.

7 SELECTION REGIMENT

On the 14th February, we celebrated our second birthday. It is exactly two years ago since the Regiment was formed under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel J. R. Beeton, and since those far off days we have received and trained nearly 24,000 National Servicemen. This figure represents an average "output to time" of 1,000 individuals per month, and it is very satisfying to think that all the non regular element of the Corps have once, in their service, passed through this Regiment.

In the entertainment world, the highlight of the month was the Grand Anniversary Ball held on Friday, 10th February. Newbiggin Hall was requisitioned by our Entertainments Officer, Captain Boyle, for the occasion, while the Corps Dance Orchestra, under the direction of Band Sergeant-Major Purvis, provided suitable rhythm. As no birthday is complete without a cake, the Messing Officer and his staff provided a very handsome and delicious cake which the Commanding Officer cut during the evening's entertainment.

We have at last managed to persuade our Basket Ball Officer to write some notes for this edition of THE WIRE.

Since the beginning of the year, the team has shown great improvement, and the standard of play and enthusiasm for the game has been very high indeed. The Regiment has done remarkably well in the Catterick District League, winning six matches out of seven played. Four of these successes have been at the expense of the four Signal Training Regiments in Catterick, while our only defeat has been at the hands of last year's Army finalists—12 Royal Lancers, who, incidentally, have yet to be beaten.

As a result of the improvement in the weather, it has been possible during the month to play three hockey matches.

The game between the Officers and the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess resulted in a win for the latter by 7 goals to 1, but although this would appear a decisive win, the game was hard fought and much closer than the score indicates. Our two Regimental matches resulted as follows:—

v. 4 Training Regiment, 1—6.
v. 5 Training Regiment, 1—1.

Unfortunately, our team has been considerably weakened by the loss of S.Q.M.S. Deegan (now Lieutenant (Q.M.)) on commissioning, and eventual posting to M.E.L.F.

"Q" Deegan has consistently played for both the Corps and district teams, and could always be relied upon to give of his best. The team will do well to find a player of such sterling qualities to fill the gap caused by his posting.

During the month, both 1 and 2 Squadrons have had a welcome break between intakes, and some of the more fortunate types have been able to get away and complete their leave entitlement for the year.

On the other hand, Captain Green and a small staff of our last remaining "Infanteers" have been hard at work, preparing and running courses of instruction for our newly arrived junior instructors and star classification tests for all and sundry.

The reconstituted soccer teams have shown continued improvement during the month with the arrival of new players. It is pleasing to note that the first team have not been beaten since 14th December last year, while the second team, which has had a similar run of successes since 2nd November, unfortunately were beaten by the Royal Lancers 4 goals to 2.

Congratulations to Corporal Dunne, Signalmen Foster, Warrender and Griffiths, on being chosen to represent the Corps. Corporal Dunne and Signalman Foster are regular members of the Regimental team, while Signalmen Warrender and Griffiths are now with Nos. 1 and 2 Training Regiments respectively, doing their trade training.

School of Signals

Royal Signals Wing

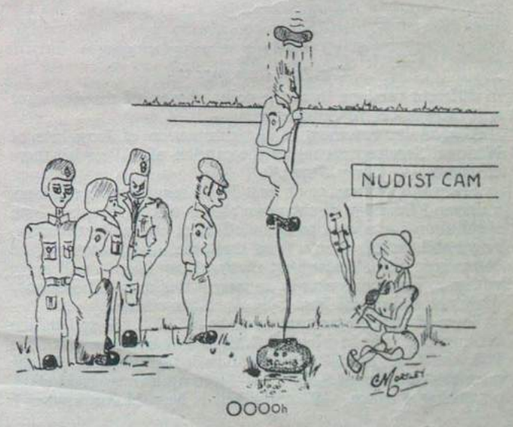
At the beginning of the month we held a Regimental Guest Night in the Officers' Mess to say farewell to Brigadier W. C. V. Galwey, O.B.E., M.C. This was a sad occasion for us as we realised it was the last time he would be dining with us as a serving soldier. We would like to take this opportunity of wishing him the very best of luck in the future wherever he may be.

The Officers' Mess is still in the hands of the contractors. The work of conversion has brought about many changes which are aimed, not only at providing proper peacetime scales of accommodation for officers, but also at improving very considerably the standard of comfort and efficiency of the Mess.

The Sergeants' Mess had a most enjoyable evening a week or so ago to celebrate the promotion of W.O.I Cairns to the rank of Lieutenant (Q.M.). We congratulate him heartily and wish him the best of luck in his new job on the wrong side of the ledger.

Catterick weather is still traditional at this time of year and as a result most outdoor sports have been cancelled on account of frost and snow. On one or two occasions, however, we have been able to play some most enjoyable Rugger and Soccer friendly matches and also to complete a Hockey fixture in the District League versus 17/21 Lancers which we won by the odd goal.

In spite of losing our match versus 1 Training Regiment, we are still at the head of the District .22 Shooting League. Both 1 Training Regiment and ourselves have now lost one match. So the end of the season race has begun in earnest. There is no reason at all why we should not win it.



We were unlucky to lose our match versus Depot R.A.M.C. in the semi-final of the Army Inter-Unit Small Bore Rifle Championship by the narrow margin of 5 points. The scores were high—964 and 959 respectively. The team are to be congratulated on their efforts.

We were extremely unlucky to have been knocked out in the first round of the inter-unit squash competition. Our first string won his match quite easily. Our second and third strings both lost their matches in the fifth game by 9/7 and 10/8 respectively. When matches run as close as this they might just as well be decided by a flip of a coin. Certainly it would be less exhausting to watch.

All Arms Wing Since last writing, our final R.S.I. Course has started. The instructional staff returned from their Christmas and New Year leave looking suitably refreshed. The Wing is scheduled to break-up in April this year and naturally everyone is anxious to know what the future holds for them. As yet there has been no official announcement on this subject. It is highly likely that most of the instructional staff will carry on turning out Regimental Signalling Instructors at the Arm of Service Schools concerned. What will happen to the Royal Signals Administrative staff is anybody's guess.

Officer Training Wing Since our last notes we have said goodbye to the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel C. D. Gardiner, who has left us to take up an M.S. appointment. We welcome in his place Lieutenant-Colonel M. A. Charlton, O.B.E.

Cadet Course 240 had their commissioning parade on 13th January, the salute being taken by Brigadier R. H. R. Steward, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., A.D.C.

Regular Young Officers' Course No. 4 have arrived and to them we extend a hearty welcome. Cadet arrivals during the past two months have been Courses 243/4, 245/6 and 247/8. Departures have been Regular Young Officers' Course No. 3, and Courses 235, 236 and 237/8. On 17th February, 1950, Brigadier W. C. V. Galwey, O.B.E., M.C., took the salute on the commissioning parade of 241/2 Cadet Course.

The senior Y.O.s gave an excellent show on 17th and 18th February and again on the 22nd. The show, a revue, produced first-class entertainment and much credit must go to all who took part.

Two unit cross-country runs have been held of late. Both have been won by O.T. Squadron, but O.R.s of the cadre have been close seconds.

We have also developed a form of POTTED SPORTS held on Regimental weekends. These have proved very successful and all troops of the unit have proved their prowess at some sport or other.

Q. AND A. ABOUT "THE WIRE"

Continued from page 129

in different versions from the point of view of the Regiment and of each of the Squadrons.

A good improvement is the elimination of long lists of National Service men under the caption of "We wish them all success in Civvy Street."

There is, however, or at least I and many others think so, a demand for news of the whereabouts of old friends. I see the Editor has offered to print off a column of births, marriages and deaths, agony, Jews' mail, etc. Such news will be better here and I know that many of my friends will agree with me that names should appear in Regimental notes only when the individual has really done something.

Some of the bouquets given make me mad. I read in one column that my old friend R.S.M. Z—— has been given the L.S. and G.C. Medal or a Mention in Despatches. In the next column that R.S.M. Y—— put up a very good show organising a dance. What the hell is he paid for, anyway?



1 INDEPENDENT SELECTION SQUADRON

Beverley

When these notes are published we are hoping to have settled down at our new location, Victoria Barracks, Beverley, near Hull. With the prospect of more sports fields and colonies of lecture rooms, we are looking forward with much pleasure to this move. We leave behind many happy memories and unfortunately, temporarily, some of the families. However, time will solve the latter problem with complete satisfaction.

To mark our departure from Richmond we are holding a Ceremonial Church Parade on the 26th March, and also a Ceremonial Parade at Beverley Minster on St. George's Day —Sunday, 23rd April, 1950.

Since its birth in November, the numbers of the Boys' Squadron have vastly increased and we have just launched our third Troop.

Many of us are getting to know the hill from the Barracks to Gallowgate Camp quite well, but this problem has now been eased by the fact that the Unit has its M.T. sheds packed with lorries, 3 ton G.S., instead of our one original doubtful starter.

Finally our congratulations to Boy Dick on his fine performance in the exhibition contest fought during the finals of the Inter-Services Boys' Boxing Championships at Reading.

THE DEPOT REGIMENT

Pocklington

For those who are still in the dark about these things, the Depot left Catterick about ten years ago, and Thirsk some five years ago. It is now split between those delectable Yorkshire holiday resorts of Pocklington and Ripon. The Headquarters and the Home Postings organisation is at Pocklington while the Overseas Drafting Squadron is in Urebank Camp, Ripon.

We are told on the very best authority that there is no question of a further move of this Regiment until it ultimately moves into what will be its final home. This happy state of affairs seems to be about as far off as World Peace!

On 14th and 15th February, the Regiment was honoured by a visit from Major-General W. A. Scott, C.B., C.B.E., Director of Signals. We managed to show the Director something of all the many activities of the Regiment in this short stay. The highlight of the visit was a play—"See how they run"—presented by the officers, O.R.'s and Ladies of the Permanent Cadre, in the Regimental Theatre. This play was produced most ably by Lieutenant Montgomery.

On Saturday, 18th February, we gave a performance of this play to the staff and pupils of the local public school. The schoolboys were a most appreciative audience—almost too appreciative, as they laughed so much and so loudly that it was difficult for the actors to make themselves heard. A great success!

The Regiment is developing quite a useful Rugger XV. On Wednesday, 8th February, we were only narrowly defeated by the R.A.F. Station, Dishforth by 6 to nil. Even the fact that the C.O. was acting as referee in this match couldn't quite turn defeat into victory! But we won our next game against St. John's College, York, by 6 to nil.

We are now busily overhauling our cricket gear and hope to be able to field quite a strong side in the coming season.

SCOTTISH COMMAND (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT

Edinburgh

To those interested in the day to day happenings of this Regiment, we can report that we have done all the things we should have done at the appropriate time. The fact that at present we are in the midst of firing our annual range course has no connection with the fact that the local assurance agent has been seen often in Barracks of late.

Burns' Night was celebrated by a gala meeting of the Reel Club. The accompanying photograph which the editor may find room for, includes R.S.M. and Mrs. Buchanan, R.Q.M.S. and Mrs. Roscoe, S.Q.M.S. (F. of S.) Larner and Lance-Corporal Sleath, W.R.A.C.

In the world of sport we have had a limited amount of success. The cross-country team from the Regiment finished third in the Command Cross-Country Championships, Signalman N. Smith finished seventh, a most creditable performance.

S.Q.M.S. Quartermaine put up a good performance to become the winner of the Flyweight in the Scottish Command Individual Boxing Tournament. In other sports we continue to do our best and enjoy ourselves.



EASTERN COMMAND SIGNAL REGIMENT

Canterbury

With regret we record the movement of our correspondent, Major H. R. V. Cooke. Westco must be having a sales drive for THE WIRE by now. To use an old "Wirism," their gain is our loss.

At Canterbury Spring is in the air. Annual Range Courses are very serious affairs; Flags by the R.S.M., Bulls by the C.O. are duly recorded, while the T.O.M. watches with an eagle eye for the "Dead-eyed Dicks." Everyone expects much from the Unit sharpshooters.

In athletics we are preparing the ground in many ways. This year the track will be 5 laps to the mile; to conform with Oxford U.A.C. Many times a week crowds of bodies disappear into Old Park in an endeavour to find a Cotterell or Stoneley. So far, Lieutenant Beverly has arrived home closely followed by Signalmen Eaves, Evans and Bowles.

The Sergeants continued with a social at which there was a much amended version of Arthur Pond's muddled magic. George and Alfred Black, please note.

That ends the news. Here is an advertisement. Would Royal Signals personnel not required by the Olympic team kindly apply for transfer to this Regiment. We were 5th in the District Sports last year and hope to win first place this season.

WAR OFFICE SIGNAL REGIMENT

Kingston-on-Thames

VERY BRIEF ENCOUNTER

(With apologies to Mr. Noel Coward)

THE young man gritted his teeth with impatience. It really was too bad that public transport, and nationalised transport to boot, should be so aggravatingly slow. He glanced at his manicured fingernails. They were not quite up to standard. To pass the time he took a small buffer which he kept for the purpose in a specially made pocket in his trousers and assiduously polished the offending digits. When they shone with the same dignified sparkle as the toes of his footwear he desisted after examining both hands critically at arms length. He fluttered his long eyelashes in despair. They would have to do. They were not by any means up to his usual standard but it was so difficult these days to keep oneself decent. Last night he had spent literally hours with the electric iron trying to put some sort of order into the state of his jacket and trousers. It was such a waste of time but one couldn't let the side down, could one?

The train jerked sickeningly to a halt and the doors throbbed open. A screaming mob hurled themselves at the opening, thrusting aside like chaff caught by the wind, those who sought to enter. The mob surged over them and disappeared, leaving havoc behind. While the victims were recovering their senses and their hats the machine working the doors gave a gasp and, like a guillotine in slow motion, they closed inexorably as fate. One man, younger and fitter than the rest, had only been slightly concussed. Shaking his head vigorously to collect his scattered senses, he leaped like an arrow from a bow towards the rapidly-closing orifice. In vain; he crashed against the side of the now moving coach and rebounded in a heap on the platform. Well tried, Sir! Better luck next time. You could hardly expect them to stop for you. After all you are only the paying public!

Our hero held his sides with laughter as he watched this little drama. It almost made him forget the clumsy oaf who, in the hurry to get out, had walked over his beautifully polished footwear. Ah well, no time to repair the damage now, he reflected as he settled himself comfortably in his swaying seat. He carefully unfolded a copy of THE TIMES and started to read the first leader. He was deeply immersed in abstruse political argument when the tube again came to a stop. Curses; another influx of the *genus hoi polloi!* What a mouldy looking lot! Look at that little man with the ridiculous moustache carrying a despatch case. The most important things it ever contained, he'd bet a fiver, were the sandwiches for lunch. Presumptuous little man. But wait a bit. Not a bad looking girl just getting in. In fact she is positively beautiful. Hope she sits on this seat. Must try to keep her a place. He shuffled over to the edge and looked discouragingly at those who cast acquisitive eyes at the vacant place. His plan worked. As the girl came opposite he moved over. She sat down beside him. There was a slight smile on her beautiful lips. A glow of pleasure pervaded his whole body. What a girl! Dare he speak? Would he be risking the most awful snub? He glanced shyly in her direction and saw that she was looking at him with a little quizzical smile wrinkling the smoothness of her perfect skin. Her eyes were deepest blue and held a prospect of heaven in their depths. Her hair was done in the style known as "the urchin crop." He couldn't have imagined anything more appropriate.

Awful travelling in rush hours, wasn't it? She gave a merry laugh as though his remark had been of the wittiest. He was quite satisfied. He took it for the go ahead signal. Did she travel often? She nodded and then, oh heaven, she spoke. Afterwards he would have been hard put to describe her conversation but of her voice he had no doubts. Its lilting quality, its beautifully modulated trills and nuances sent, as he afterwards recounted the incident to an appreciative audience, little bells running up and down his spine.

There was so little time. The train was speeding on. One more station and he would have to leave, and perhaps never see her again. He could not leave it to chance. The very urgency of the situation steeled him to action.

Would she see him again? Tomorrow, perhaps? He would be free . . . Her merry laugh again pealed through the compartment. But she hardly knew him. It was much too quick. She thought that perhaps they would meet. After all she did the same journey every day. . . . He was in despair. Why would she prevaricate so? The train was slowing down. The seconds were fleeting past. It was all so inevitable—like fate. One last effort. He begged her—all pride was gone now—to make a date. The following evening, he could be free; he was not on anything; was she?

The train ground to a stop. The doors swung open. He hung back for her words. Her lips parted, the teeth showed white as snow against carmine lips. She was going out with . . . her husband . . . to the flicks.

Signalman Snooks grabbed his haversack and just made the doors as they closed. He mounted the escalator three at a time for he was a bit pushed for his relief at the Signal Office.

16 INDEPENDENT PARACHUTE BRIGADE GROUP SIGNAL SQUADRON

Aldershot

As the bright sunshine and fresh mornings remind us that summer is approaching, we find ourselves more and more deeply involved in the year's training programme. Gone are the days when we felt that the Army did no work in the United Kingdom—now we wonder if the Army ever has time for anything but work, for the list of our commitments is already formidable, and increases daily.

In our capacity as a Brigade Group Signal Squadron, we are to be fully employed in providing communications in the forthcoming summer exercises. Exercises ostensibly for Brigade H.Q. cannot proceed without Signals, and later in the year there are Brigade Signals schemes which will tax our resources (and our resourcefulness!) even more. The R.A. Signal Troop is shortly to be detached for three months to join the 33 Airborne Light Regiment, R.A., at Barton Stacey, and at their practice camp, and in fact we shall soon be fulfilling our official function of providing the Brigade communications.

To some extent, too, we are being given an opportunity to justify our parachute pay. On our last Regimental week-end some thirty of us were able to refresh our parachuting technique by training jumps from a balloon on the Queen's Avenue playing fields. Despite a fresh breeze, the morning was a very successful one, and served as a pleasant reminder of our slightly specialised military role. In the future we are to go in detachments to Netheravon, to do some advanced air training, and learn something about tactical parachuting, DZ drill and kindred matters.

In addition to these routine duties, as one of the few regular signal units in the country, we are frequently being called upon to give demonstrations, and provide various signals facilities. A small team from the Squadron is constantly in action setting up public address equipment for various occasions. We pay regular visits to Cadet Force contingents of schools in the district, giving specialised or general instruction as circumstances may demand. We are making big preparations for a demonstration to the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst. This demonstration, which is due to take place in May, will illustrate the layout of Signals in Airborne action.

NORTHERN COMMAND (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT

York



The annual inspection was carried out by Brigadier W. C. V. Galwey, O.B.E., M.C., accompanied by Chief Commander H. I. Wilson, W.R.A.C.

After the usual Commanding Officer's inquisition a tour of the barracks was carried out finishing at the Officers' Mess, where the occasion was suitably celebrated. Brigadier Galwey remarked that it was "A jolly good show," and all concerned agreed that they deserved a day's holiday. (Which they got).

We take this opportunity of thanking Brigadier Galwey for his kind remarks and to wish him all the best in his future activities. His departure from the active life of the Corps will be much regretted by all ranks. We would like to remind him that there are two golf courses nearby and we shall always be pleased to welcome him back again.

Rifle shooting is now to the fore and the Regiment's marksmen are having training under the able instruction of S.S.M. Walsh with a view to being selected as representatives of the Northern Command Signals team for Bisley.

Unit sports have again been badly hampered by frost and snow, but have not completely closed down.

The rugger team has been hard at work and was unlucky recently to be defeated by York Agricultural College who always field a tough side.

The girls have been keeping up their reputation on the hockey field, and we congratulate North Midland District Troop on winning the District Basketball Competition.



Anti Aircraft Command

1 A.A. GROUP (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT

Laindon

Since our last notes the Annual General Inspection has taken place. On 10th February, 1950, Major-General J. M. S. Pasley, C.B., M.V.O., G.O.C. 1 A.A. Group, inspected the Regiment on parade. This was followed by an inspection of the lines by the G.O.C. whilst the Adjutant and Quartermaster tried to explain away their misdeeds of the past year to the sympathetic (?) representatives of the "A" and "Q" Staffs. But like all martial things the inspection eventually came to its appointed end and we believe and trust that the Regiment obtained a good report.

Apart from this very military activity there is very little to report. The Regiment continues to play its part in local sporting events.

2 A.A. GROUP (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT

Aldershot

On the last weekend of the month we held our Regimental Weekend. This was started on the Saturday afternoon with a soccer match against the Depot and T.E., R.A.D.C. If our dentist friends are as good at filling teeth as they were at filling our goal, we give them our sincere congratulations. At night we had the usual hop, which was considerably brightened by the attendance of a bevy of beauties from "A" Company, W.R.A.C. Luckily the weather was cold so that was a good excuse for the numerous red noses.

On the Sunday we finished off with an inter-Troop soccer tournament which was won by the Line Troop.

The warm weather seems to have brought the Line Troop into being again. They have departed for a few weeks to shoot a few lines down at Cleave Camp, Bude. It seems that the situation for obtaining sky hooks is much easier there.

The highlight of the month of February as far as the W.R.A.C. members of the Unit were concerned, was undoubtedly the regimental weekend held on the last weekend of the month.

We decided to join forces with Southern Command Signals, who were "regimental weekending" at the same time.

We started off on the Saturday afternoon with a scheme in the Signal Office at Aldershot District, in which all the T.P.O.s and S.B.O.s of the Unit, both Regular and T.A., participated. The scheme was arranged by Junior Commander Crowe and Subaltern Ruston, both of the Aldershot District Troop, to whom we offer our sincere thanks for the hard work they put in and allowing us to join with them. The scheme was a great success, and we hope to be able to join in another such scheme in the not too distant future, when we may put into practice many of the things we learned.

Southern Command Signals joined us in the evening at our Unit dance, where they, together with our own W.R.A.C., endeavoured to persuade our military members to dance. It seems that men are the bashful sex these days!

Sunday started with a really first-class church parade, somewhat marred by the very strong easterly wind, which had the effect of making the Junior Commander proceed down Queens Avenue rather like a bull in full charge, head down! She arrived at the church exhausted, but triumphantly, with her hat still on!

The afternoon saw us off on a treasure hunt to Seale. The girls were split up into four parties, armed with a map and list of clues, and off we went. Three parties arrived within 15 minutes of each other, but the unfortunate fourth party did not turn up until two hours later, having walked about ten miles! We have not yet discovered who was to blame, but it surely was the map!

Well, that seems to be all our gen for this time, so once again the Unit scribe can hibernate for another month.

3 A.A. GROUP INDEPENDENT (M) SIGNAL SQUADRON

Currie

The Unit has lost many friends during the last three months. Amongst other welcome arrivals is Junior Commander D. I. Denton, W.R.A.C., who is responsible for all W.R.A.C. matters in the Unit. Soon after arrival she paraded with the women of the Unit on the First Birthday Parade of the W.R.A.C., which was held in Edinburgh on 5th February, 1950.

Two successful week-ends have been held by the T.A. recently which helped to foster the already existing goodwill between 13 Anti-Aircraft (Mixed) Signal Regiment, T.A., and 3 Anti-Aircraft Independent (Mixed) Signal Squadron.

On 27th January, 1950, the Unit took part in an Air Defence Exercise held jointly between the Army and the Navy. The exercise was a success, and as it was held under difficult conditions, it was satisfactory to know that the resulting lessons might well have an influence on anti-aircraft defence for the U.K. base.

On the sporting side the Unit has been very active. Fencing classes have been introduced and are receiving enthusiastic support.

Signalmen Darroch and Brockett represented us to good effect in the Group Boxing Tournament, and it is pleasing to report that they have been selected for the A.A. Command Trials. Their efforts have encouraged many others to take up the sport, and recreational training now produces many black eyes and puffed lips.

As far as soccer is concerned, we have beaten our opponents in friendly matches, but have had less success in league games, where the opposing team could not be so carefully selected by the Sports Officer! The fact that the pitch was under water for a considerable time caused several matches to be cancelled.

The Unit Concert Party has put on its first performance, and it is to be hoped there may be repetitions of this form of entertainment which was enjoyed as much by the performers as by the audience.

4 A.A. GROUP (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT

Peninsula Barracks, Warrington, Lancs

The main pre-occupation during February were ceremonial drills which culminated in the G.O.C.'s Annual Inspection on the 21st February. He expressed his satisfaction with the high standard of turn-out and drill shown on this Parade.

The Group Individual Boxing Championships were held on the 16th and 17th February. The Regiment had three finalists—Lance-Corporal Smith who lost to Gunner Price on points, Lance-Corporal Hopps who was disqualified and Lance-Corporal Nicholl who won the Welterweight Lance-Corporal Nicholl has since been posted to Edinburgh.

Arrangements are in hand for us to start an Amateur

Wireless Station. A hut has been allotted and the power route has been built into it.

The Regimental weekend this month was held at Sutton' Coldfield, Headquarters, 40 Squadron, at which everyone enjoyed themselves. The object of the weekend was to test the individual training done during this winter, and the results on the whole were not unsatisfactory.

44 Squadron have been recruiting very well in Swansea. We are still very cramped for accommodation, but work on building our huts is expected to start very soon.

5 A.A. GROUP (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT
Scarborough

Regimental Training commenced early in January and Troop Commanders were responsible for making out the programme and submitting them to the Commanding Officer for approval. Upgrading courses are being organised for Linemen, Switchboard Operators and Drivers from Class III to Class II, and N.F.Q. to Class III. Also a certain number of General Duty personnel have been selected to upgrade in the various trades, and it is hoped that they will all be successful.

To give personnel as much training in the trade as possible for which they are upgrading, they have taken part in various minor exercises which have been held at the A.A.O.R.s at Wawne Hall, near Hull, and at the Drill Hall, Derby. These exercises have been both interesting and helpful and enables personnel to get an idea of the actual working of the different types of Signals and G.P.O. equipment which is installed in these A.A.O.R.s.

The Line Testing Team, furnished by the L.M. Troop, go out every month to the various A.A.O.R.s for which the Regiment is responsible, for the purpose of testing the lines. This is also very helpful, particularly to the Linemen, and full advantage is taken of these monthly line tests to show them the line layout and installations.

The Chief Signal Officer, A.A. Command, Brigadier W. H. G. Rogers, C.B.E., accompanied by the Chief Signal Officer, 5 A.A. Group, Lieutenant-Colonel L. R. C. Watson, paid the Regiment a visit on 8th and 9th February.

Both C.S.O.s were entertained to dinner on the 8th February, and many were the stories that were exchanged during the course of the dinner and afterwards. After dinner, and being joined by the ladies, the games were commenced, which were very entertaining, a very pleasant evening being spent and enjoyed by all.

The C.S.O., A.A. Command, inspected the Regiment on the first works parade on the morning of the 9th February and spoke to many members of the Regiment, both military and W.R.A.C. The C.S.O. was very interested in the Troop training and preparations for the forthcoming Trade Board, and the barracks in general. He departed early in the afternoon of the 9th February and was, apparently, very well pleased and satisfied with all he saw during his visit.

The Annual Administrative Inspection of the Regiment was carried out by Brigadier A. W. Drew, O.B.E., Commander, 83 A.A. Brigade, on the 22nd February, 1950. After he had inspected the Guard and the Regiment, which was drawn up on the Parade Ground in review order, the Regiment marched past in column of route, the Brigadier taking the salute.

On completion of the parade, the Brigadier, accompanied by the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel A. T. Sladen, O.B.E., inspected the whole of the Barracks. According to reports the Brigadier was very well pleased with all he saw, and the Regiment is to be congratulated on putting up such a good show. The weekly whist drives and tombolas are still proving very popular.

The Barracks soccer team are now second in the Wednesday League Football Competition, the Sparkers having taken the lead. Two games have been played, both of which have been won, these are:—Signals 10, United Bus Co. 0; Signals 12, Police 0.

The team is due to meet the Sparkers in the semi-final of the Medal Cup Competition on the 15th March, 1950, when it is hoped that we shall be successful and enter the final.

WESTERN EUROPE SIGNAL TROOP
Fontainebleau

This, I am sorry to say, is only our third contribution to THE WIRE. It seems that although this Troop is talented in many ways, we do not shine in the literary field. Anyway, it has been decided that we should be put back on the map at least for this month. We are still in the beautiful French town of Fontainebleau, which at the moment is reasonably quiet, but after a few signs of better weather everyone is getting ready for the tourists who will soon be invading, and we shall be busy again chatting to the majority of them who are amazed to find British troops here.

Sports. Owing to our small numbers, we are unable to field a football team to compete in the league, but we combine with H.Q. Land Forces and usually supply over half the team. We are unfortunately at the bottom of the league. Signalman Aird is a regular H.Q. first team player and Driver Lawrence and Lance-Corporal Lawry have played for the second team. We are not lacking in other sports. In hockey we have Corporal Cardinal, Signalman Ashton, Sergeant D. A. G. Stephens and Lance-Corporal Lawry; in Rugby, Lance-Corporal Dove and Lance-Corporal Delve represent us. These two teams play first-class French teams and as yet the hockey team is the only one to record a win, although there have been many close scores. We have only one star cross-country runner, Sergeant Carnell, who in a recent run came in eighth to help his team win by a clear 20 points.

The H.Q. paper, *Uninews*, is now ably handled by almost a Signals staff, the officer in charge Captain J. McD. Glass (O.C. Troop), editor Sergeant D. A. G. Stephens, assistant editor Signalman Gordon, and sports editor Corporal Davies, who is always to be seen with his pad and pencil at all the matches. There is always a genius in the Unit in the form of Corporal Bill Lodge, a crossword expert (" now we know where he gets his cash! "). He has now taken over table tennis correspondent. The accountant, Aircraftman P. G. Morris, is a member of the R.A.F. Signals who works with us, so he is almost one of us. He also won the recent cross-country run. The paper always welcomes criticism by others in the Unit, and some very good ones they get, too!

We have now a theatre which has put on three successful shows. Thanks go to Signalman Ashton and chief assistant Corporal Oddy, who built it practically from bits and pieces they picked up. They have many willing helpers among the Troop who give a hand when needed.

We are always glad to hear from any old friends and we hope to be with you again next month through the medium of THE WIRE.

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DINNER CLUB FIXTURES, 1950

Annual Dinner, 31st May.

Regular Officers' Tea Party, 1st June.

T.A. Officers' Tea Party, 9th December.

Buffet Supper Reunion, 9th December.

All at Hyde Park Hotel. Information from Secretary, Royal Signals Dinner Club, Room 97, Horse Guards, S.W.1.

B A O R

2 INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT
Hilden



.22 Team Winners. L Troop, 2 Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment
Signalman Studley, Signalman Wakefield, Signalman Hollis, Corporal Lloyd, Second-Lieutenant I. M. Rose, Lance-Corporal Hewson

March has begun for us here in Hilden with a buzz of excitement. The month had just started when we were visited by those most welcome of guests, the Royal Signals Corps Band. Practically simultaneously we were honoured by an official visit by the Representative Colonel Commandant, Major-General W. R. C. Penney, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C. A full account of their visits will appear next month.

The Regiment entered two teams in the 2 Division Small-Bore Competition, and although our results were not in the first ten, thus not qualifying for the B.A.O.R. Championship, we found several dark horses, including our Signalman Bryant, a National Serviceman from " H " Troop, who beat all the " old stagers," including R.Q.M.S. Grant, whom we thought pretty good. " Well done, that man."

We are now looking forward to the B.A.O.R. Signals Shoot, when we fire against the winners of H.Q. B.A.O.R. Signal Regiment and 7 Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment. We are quite optimistic about the likely results.

Inter-Troop .22 Competition. This shoot took place in December, '49, and January, '50. After enthusiastic practice on our own small range, and despite much pessimism on the part of " L " Troop, the scores were: " L " Troop, 352 points; " G " Troop, 295 points; " A " Troop, 267 points.

Soccer. Our Regimental team was entered in the B.A.O.R. Cup, but owing to the depleting effect of demob we were too weak to compete on an equitable basis, and were knocked out in the first round.

In the Divisional Competition the Regiment were going great guns, playing their first six games and losing only one, with two more games to go.

The next round was with the Black Watch. They had not been beaten in their first six matches, but we managed to hold them to a draw. In the last round we lost to the R.A.S.C., leaving us as runners-up with 11 points, and the Black Watch leading with 14 points.

The Regiment was honoured by the selection of Corporal Rankin to play for the Division against B.A.F.O. last month.

Hockey. The past month proved to be a most successful one; out of six matches played we have won four and drawn two.

The outstanding match of the month was played at Celle against 7 Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment. This was the first of the B.A.O.R. Royal Signals Inter-Unit Hockey Shield. After an extremely hard tussle during the first half, resulting in no score, we managed to force in two goals, and left the field victors by two goals to nil. This win now leaves us to play H.Q. B.A.O.R. Signal Regiment in the semi-finals on our own ground.

Rugby. Since the last issue of THE WIRE the rugby team have had two fixtures, both of which we lost. Our lack of success is due to the fact that we have to make constant changes in the team owing to demob. We have unfortunately lost the services of two of our most valued players. Major R. H. Rowntree has left us, and leaves a gap in the scrum that will not easily be filled, and Corporal Jeal, our willing fly-half, has returned to Civvy Street.

Next month is a full one for us, and we look forward to more success when we meet H.Q. B.A.O.R. Signal Regiment on the 18th March.

Factory Visit. An interesting afternoon was spent by "L" Troop at a well-known foundry in Mulheim. Various stages in the handling of molten metal were viewed, perhaps the most impressive thing being the tapping of the crucibles holding the molten metal. This visit was really in the nature of an experiment by 40 Army Education Centre, and the Troop now looks forward to further outings.

7 ARMOURED DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT
Celle



1 SQUADRON. Ice and snow were still with us at the beginning of the month — rather more ice than snow—then a period of spring-like weather, ending once more in a bout of snow and mist.

We had a visit from about 30 O.W.L.s from the other Squadrons, early in the month, who came up to take a trade board. What with that and the junior N.C.O.s' D. and D. course, we are becoming acquainted with quite a number of the rest of the Regiment.

The Squadron had an " outing " on 2nd February, when 100 of its members went to 11 Air Formation Signal Regiment for the day to support our boxing team against that Regiment.

Although the football grounds were unplayable for the greater part of the month, we played two matches—both against H.Q. B.A.O.R. Signal Regiment. The first one,

played away, was a draw 2—2. At the replay we managed to secure a win by 4—1. The team must be congratulated on doing so with conditions so unfavourable to organised practice.

On Saturday, February 18th, we lost a hard-fought hockey match against 2 Divisional Signal Regiment by two goals to nil. It was a good game and very much enjoyed by all, after which we had the pleasure of entertaining the visiting team until Sunday afternoon. On 25th February we beat a team from H.Q. 7 Division by 2—0. This was a match in the 7 Divisional District Cup —and we are now fancying our chances.

We took part in another exercise, which was mainly memorable for mud—lots of it. It was a great deal damper than the last one, but not so cold. We hope for better weather next time.

H.Q. B.A.O.R. SIGNAL REGIMENT

The Unit's Old Comrades' Association has now been officially started and is known as No. 2 Unit Branch, H.Q. B.A.O.R. Signal Regiment. Our next meeting is on 6th March, and we hope to enrol many new members and start our activities in earnest.

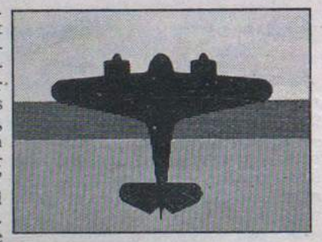
We have been knocked out of the Inter-Signals Knockout Football Competition, our last remaining competition, by 7th Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment, who defeated us 4—1.

In the Z.E.C.O. League things are looking more cheerful; three of our last four games we have won and the fourth we drew with C.I., R.E.M.E., 3—3, who are, incidentally, second in the league.

We have got going with Rugby Football in the Unit and our team is steadily improving. We have played five matches to date, four of which we have lost and the fifth we defeated the Rifle Brigade by 9 points to 3, and I can report that we should do much better in the future.

Here's wishing our Unit Hockey Team the best of luck when they meet 2 Divisional Signal Regiment in the Inter-Signals Unit Cup semi-finals this month. We have a good Hockey Team, I am glad to report, and it should prove a hard and fast game. Here's hoping we reach the finals.

C.A.F.S.O. BRANCH, H.Q., B.A.F.O.



When Captain W. C. Barber, now at Headquarters, commanded 41 Wing Signal Troop, 11 Air Formation Signals Regiment, at Gatow, during "Operation Plainfare," a silver "Victor Ludorum" Cup was purchased from Troop funds. After the end of the Berlin Air Lift, the Troop disbanded. Now, Air Formation Signals has presented the cup to R.A.F. Station, Gatow, with the request that it be presented annually to the best all-round athlete serving on the station.

The cup travelled on Friday to Gatow with Air Marshal Williams, who was making an informal visit to the station.

Sergeant J. R. Hassall, a member of the Berlin Signal Squadron, attached to Gatow, presented the cup on behalf of Captain Barber, the originator of the gesture designed to commemorate the friendship which existed between 41 Troop and the R.A.F. during the Air Lift.

Wing-Commander A. D. Grace, Officer Commanding, accepted on behalf of Gatow.

BERLIN SIGNAL SQUADRON
B.A.O.R. 2

After an exceedingly mild February, which led all of us to believe that spring was on its way, March has come in like the proverbial lion, to prove just how wrong we all were. Snow fell to a depth of eight or ten inches over the week-end, and has persisted without thawing all through this week. Temperatures have been well down below freezing point—a headache for the M.T. N.C.O. if nobody else. Naturally, this weather has effectively put paid to all outdoor sports this week, but February was a good month, and many pleasant games were played.

The Soccer XI was the most active. They have played three of their B.T.B. Junior League (Spring Tournament) matches, of which two games were won and one drawn. They share the leading position in the league at the moment, but we have great hopes that they will forge ahead and win the league as they did in the Autumn Tournament.

The Hockey Spring League has been slower in getting going, and as yet no games have been played; instead, many enjoyable friendly matches have been played, and much good practice gained in games against "A" Squadron Royals, C.R.E. Berlin and the Royal Fusiliers.

A very interesting and exciting match was played last Saturday when we entertained a team from 11 Air Formation Signals. Every man in the team pulled out his best, and the team was unlucky to go down by three goals to two. S.S.M. Rockall, Sergeants Crampton and Richardson and Corporal Briggs were outstanding in the Squadron team, and they go forward to the Combined Hockey Team which will represent the two Units in the Royal Signals B.A.O.R. Interzonal Tournament. The Squadron Hockey Team have entered for the B.A.O.R. Minor Units Competition. So far the luck of the draw has favoured them, because they obtained a bye in the first round, and in the second round entertain No. 3 B.A.D. in Berlin.

The Squadron Cross-Country Team did not distinguish themselves in the B.T.B. Cross-Country Race. Corporal Hamlin, however, ran well to come in the first twenty, which proves that football must be good for the running muscles. The Squadron's success in this event was confined to the excellent commentating on the progress of the race that the O.C., Captain Greenwood, and Lieutenant Davies did over the P.A. system.

The buildings around us seem to have been the very hub of the sporting world in the last few weeks. Firstly, two rounds of the B.A.O.R. Boxing Tournament followed each other at short intervals in the Kuppelsaal. In these the Gordons narrowly beat the Royal Norfolks, but lost to the Rifle Brigade. There were some very good fights on both occasions. Last week-end the Danish Badminton Touring Team played two matches in the Stadium Badminton Hall. The first of these, against B.A.O.R., they won by eight matches to two, but the second, against Combined Services, they lost by seven games to five. On Saturday, in the swimming baths, there will be a competition amongst the three teams representing the British, American and French Armies of Occupation in Germany. This promises to be exciting, especially as in a previous match a few months ago B.A.O.R. beat the Americans by one point!

11 AIR FORMATION SIGNAL REGIMENT
Bäckeburg

Boxing. On Thursday, 2nd February, the Regiment met and decisively defeated 7 Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment in the finals of the Royal Signals (B.A.O.R.) Inter-Unit Knock-out Competition. The competition was staged in the Gymnasium at Bückeburg—the officials being provided by the R.A.F. and the refereeing being in the very capable hands of Group Captain W. I. G. Kerby, O.B.E. Over 300 spectators, including about 100 supporters



11 A.F. Signal Regiment Boxing Team

that had come along to cheer 7 Armoured Divisional Signals Team, watched the boxing.

At the conclusion of the competition Brigadier A. E. Morrison, C.S.O., B.A.O.R., complimented both teams on the standard of boxing, and at his request Air Marshal T. M. Williams, C.-in-C. British Air Force of Occupation, presented medals to both teams and the Championship Shield to Captain Cosstick, who had put in a lot of hard work as Officer i/c Boxing to ensure the success of his team.

Result: 11 Air Formation Signal Regiment 13 points, 7 Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment 7 points.

Cross-Country Running (British Air Force of Occupation Command "Junior" Championships, 1950). On 1st February a team travelled to Celle to represent the Regiment in the above championship, for which the only qualification required was to be under 20 years of age.

Our team returned to Bückeburg triumphant, bearing not only the cup but also the congratulations of Air Marshal T. M. Williams, C.-in-C. B.A.F.O.

Individual placings of our first four men home were: Craftsman Kerrigan 1, Signalman George 5, Lance-Corporal Dance 6, Signalman Milligan 11.

In addition to our Regimental team, eight R.A.F. Station teams participated, our nearest rivals being R.A.F. Station Luneburg.

Cross-Country Running (British Air Force of Occupation Command "Senior" Championships, 1950). Fourteen teams, of which the Regiment entered two, took part in these championships, which were held at Bad Eilsen on 5th February, 1950. The run was over a course of 6½ miles of very difficult country, including hills, woods, streams and ploughed fields. To add to this it rained for a few days previously and during the race, so there was no shortage of mud. The Regiment's "A" Team repeated its success at Celle a fortnight previously and romped home first with 44 points, followed by H.Q. (Unit) B.A.F.O. into second place with 47 points. Our congratulations to Craftsman Kerrigan and Signalman George in their very fine performance in being first and second man home. The championship cup was presented by Air Marshal T. M. Williams, C.-in-C. British Air Force of Occupation. Our next run is in the Royal Signals (B.A.O.R.) Inter-Unit Run at Bad Oeynhausen on 13th March.



Corporal Pollard, 11 A.F. Signal Regiment, British Air Force of Occupation Command Middleweight Champion, 1950, receiving winner's medal from Air Marshal T. M. Williams, C.-in-C., B.A.F.O., at the final of the Royal Signals (B.A.O.R.) Inter-Unit Championships at Bückeburg on 2nd February, 1950

Football. The Regiment met Hamburg District Signal Squadron in the semi-finals of the Royal Signals B.A.O.R. Inter-Unit Knock-out Competition, 1950, at the Sportsplatz, Bückeburg on Wednesday, 15th February. Although it was heavy going with a continual drizzle throughout the game some very good football was seen. The result: 11 A.F. Signal Regiment 4, Hamburg District Signal Squadron 1. We are due to meet either 2 Divisional Signal Regiment or



11 A.F. Signal Regiment Cross-Country Team

7 Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment in the final during March.

On 4th February we played Berlin Signal Squadron's team, who had travelled down to spend the weekend with us, in a friendly. Our Regimental team turned out to be a little too strong for Berlin Signal Squadron, the result being: 11 A.F. Signal Regiment 9, Berlin Signal Squadron 0.

Hockey. On 26 January the Regimental hockey team travelled to Hameln to play Depot Squadron R.E. in the 1st round of the 7th Armoured Divisional Knock-out Competition. This turned out to be a very fiercely contested game and it took two lots of extra time before the issue was finally decided, a result which carried the Regiment into the next round. Result: 11 A.F. Signal Regiment 4, Depot Squadron R.E. 3. The 23rd of February saw the Regimental team at Detmold to play H.Q. Transportation Unit in the 2nd round of 7 Armoured Division Knock-out Competition. Once again extra time was played to decide the winners. Result: 11 A.F. Signal Regiment 3, H.Q. Transportation Units 2. On 25th February the team travelled to Berlin to play Berlin Signal Squadron. In addition to a very good game the team spent a very pleasant time as guests of Berlin Signal Squadron and we should like to express our thanks for the way we were entertained. Result: 11 A.F. Signal Regiment 3, Berlin Signal Squadron 2.

SOJOURN IN SOMALIA

By **Captain E. A. McLOUGHLIN,** *Royal Signals*

Now that Somalia, or to give it its pre-war name, Italian Somaliland, is being returned to Italian trusteeship under the United Nations, I thought it might be of some interest to readers to hear some details about the place, its people, etc., from one who served there recently.

Somalia is situated on the eastern seaboard of Africa, bounded on the north by British Somaliland, south by Kenya, west by Abyssinia and east by the Indian Ocean.

Practically all of the country is dreary flat desert covered in patches with low scrub. Large numbers of stock subsist on this scrub and on the stock subsist the people, their diet being confined to milk and meat.

It is divided into four administrative provinces, Medjertain, Mudugh, Benadir and Upper Juba. The principal towns are Mogadishu, the capital (see photo), and Kismayu.

There are two main rivers, the Juba, which flows all the year round, and the Wabi Shebeli, which flows for about eight or nine months. Both rivers are fast flowing and heavily infested with crocodiles. At odd patches along their banks these rivers are utilised to irrigate small fields. Between Brava and Kismayu, the Juba waters a large irrigated cultivated area which is farmed by Italian settlers, the main produce being bananas, paw paw, mangoes and green vegetables.

The climate is hot, tropical and humid. The humidity is particularly intense around the coast line, where its effect on metals has to be seen to be believed.

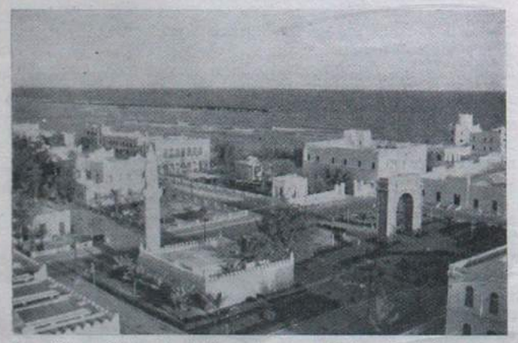
The Somali is a nomad by nature and Mohammedan by faith. He is a proud, courageous fighter, who is more loyal to a leader than to any particular cause.

The Somalis are physically more beautiful, particularly the females, according to European ideas of beauty, than any other African race.

Somalia was developed by Mussolini as a base for the war on Abyssinia complementary to his base in Eritrea. As a direct result of this, the Italian population of Mogadishu increased from 1,500 in 1926 to 10,000 in 1939. These were mainly technicians and their families, engaged in road building and engineering workshops.

The main form of recreation to be found in Somalia is shooting. There are elephant, wild pig and every conceivable type of the gazelle family. In bird shooting there are Greater Bustard grouse, partridge, guinea fowl, duck and geese in the river area.

And now what of Somalia's future? Will she again become a threat to Kenya, Abyssinia or British Somaliland? I think not, because she lacks at least two major requirements necessary to any potential enemy—a good all weather port supported by good road communications and the wherewithal to provision any fair-sized body of troops.



Mogadishu. Note the Italian victory arch in the right centre

M E L F

1 INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT
Tripoli

The Divisional motor cycle trials were held on 11th February in perfect weather.

Lance-Corporal Bonner had very bad luck. He seemed certain to get first place, until, at the very end of the trial he misunderstood the instructions for the flexibility test and lost points. Despite that he tied for second place.

Sergeant Ball also tied for sixth place, so Lance-Corporal Bonner and Sergeant Ball each raced the riders who tied with them over half a mile. The rivalry was keen but no blood was spilt and the M.P.'s lining the route conveniently forgot the speed limit.

S.S.M. Jones had the bad luck to be last away, when the ground was well and truly ploughed up, but despite this managed to achieve 10th place and a First Class Award.

And S.Q.M.S. (F. of S.) Pattison and Lance-Corporal Eggett got 2nd Class Awards, so that we had a very high proportion of awards in our small team of 7 Signals Riders in a field of about a hundred.

3 G.H.Q. SIGNAL REGIMENT
Fayid, M.E.L.F.

The main sports event was the boxing tournament held between Egypt Command Signal Regiment and ourselves. As is almost traditional by now, our Regiment was the winner by a very close margin and, as is very definitely traditional in meetings between our two Regiments, the fights were distinguished by keenness and a very high sense of sportsmanship.

For other things, we are at present looking forward to the visit of the Director of Signals, War Office, Major-General W. A. Scott, C.B., C.B.E., who is due to arrive in the next few days. We have no doubt that the Regiment will produce both its traditional efficiency and hospitality during his visit. We are also getting ready for the Unit sports meeting, which is due to take place on the 11th March. We were hoping to be able to hold up this report to include the sports results, but, if we do, we feel that our worthy Editor may have comments to make. So Sports Report will appear next month.

One section of the Unit activities that has not received a fair share of " write-up " is, we feel, the Unit Sailing Club. It has been in existence for some long time, but recently, thanks to the efforts of the original members and particularly the Secretary, Captain Gilbertson, it has become a very lively concern indeed. The Commodore is Major-General W. O. Bowen, C.B., C.B.E., C.S.O., M.E.L.F., and the membership has now reached 40. The Burgee is a conventionalised version of the wing on " Jimmy's " foot. At present they are a bit short on accommodation, but with the enthusiasm of true yachtsmen they are planning to build a new clubhouse. When this is done and our boats supplemented (we have at present five of our own, with two on loan from the Inter-Services Yacht Club), the Unit Sailing Club should be one of the finest in M.E.L.F.

BERMUDA COMMAND SIGNAL TROOP
Prospect

It has been some time now since an article has appeared in THE WIRE relating to Bermuda Command Signals.

Firstly, we regret we are not able to provide much information on our sporting activities; being an extremely small Troop we are unable to organise anything in the way of sports on our own. However, we do combine with teams organised by other departments. Sergeant " Jock " Stewart has been putting in some extremely good work on the soccer field and has received special mention in the local daily papers on several occasions.

To turn now to the work carried out by the Troop, we provide and maintain the communications for the British Garrison Headquarters at Prospect Camp and also man the Command exchange. We have two other commitments, one at St. David's and one at Warwick Camp.

All the communications for the Garrison Headquarters are provided at the moment by overhead and field type cables, but it is hoped that they will eventually be put underground owing to the prevalence of hurricanes. At the time of this report going to press—the weather having been pretty filthy of late—the curses uttered by the linemen at the number of lines put out of order by particularly gusty breezes, is nobody's business.

CARIBBEAN AREA SIGNAL SQUADRON
Kingston, Jamaica



February has seen much activity. Major G. S. K. Maydon, Royal Signals, paid us an inspection visit in early February, and we trust that he enjoyed his short stay with us. This was followed very closely by the visit of H.M.S. *Glasgow*, and many members of the Squadron took the opportunity of paying a visit to the ship. The Squadron has also paid a visit to Dunns River, a beauty spot some 60 miles from Kingston.

We have no major construction projects to report, but routine maintenance and recovery work has kept us very busy. A few of the FSS Troop went fishing for submarine cable in Kingston Harbour. The mention of sharks and barracuda deterred one or two of our swimming enthusiasts from diving for the cable. We located the cable nevertheless.

Sport. Our football XI has held its own in the friendly matches we have played. In the Curphey Cup we have beaten H.Q. Company Jamaica Battalion 5—1 in a replay. In the next round "A" Company Jamaica Battalion were our victims (3—1). We now go forward to the semi-final, the only Corps side in the area who have survived the preliminary rounds.

The hockey XI also holds its own with notable victories over H.M.S. *Glasgow* and a combined R.E.M.E./Pay side.

CYPRUS SIGNAL SQUADRON

At the time of joining the Unit (May, 1949), the Squadron had about forty British ranks and twenty attachments from the Cyprus Regiment. The Cypriot personnel carried out some very good work running the S.D.S. while British ranks were employed on Signal Office, Wireless Links, Cipher, Exchange Operating and Driving. British and Cypriot personnel worked very well together and made a small but happy Squadron. The Squadron is accommodated in a Nissen Hut Camp about two miles from Nicosia (Capital of Cyprus) and on sufficiently high ground to catch a nice breeze during the warm months, when it can become uncomfortably hot.

The close of the year 1949 was a sad time for all of us in Cyprus. On the night of 21st December there was torrential rain which caused widespread floods, and amongst many casualties one British driver and one of our Cypriot D.R.s were lost while crossing a flooded river on an S.D.S. run; the loss of these young chaps in the performance of their duty was keenly felt by all in the Squadron.

February saw the arrival of the first of "K" Troop, 2 Infantry Brigade Signals from Greece and by early March the whole of the Troop had arrived and were administered by us. Their stay with us was not to be long, however, and at the time of going to press the Troop have now been split up, some going to M.E.L.F., a few to us and the remainder to dear old Blighty. A hearty welcome is extended to those who have joined this Squadron and may your stay with us be a happy one.

FARELF

21 FIRE COMMAND SIGNAL TROOP, 27 A.A. REGIMENT
Hong Kong

We were rather ashamed of the celebration to mark the anniversary of Guy Fawkes' effort, having just witnessed our first Chinese New Year (17th February). We feel that when we return home the " Catherine Wheel " and " Golden Rain " will definitely have to be replaced by a few of the Chinese crackers which the local population seem to go for in rather a big way. They tell us that this year is " The Year of Tigers and Gold."

Another notable event during the month was a musical programme and display by the Massed Bands of 40 Division. Artistically illuminated by searchlights, it certainly proved that the British Army can still stage the finest show on earth. It must have had its communication headaches, too!

40 INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT
Hong Kong

With the advent of February we have had our first spell of really cold weather; the thermometer has fallen to the bitter forties! Suddenly everyone burst out in battledress, a bit creased, of course, and with marks of hasty ironing, but nevertheless the old familiar battledress.

Since our arrival in the New Territories we have moulded together quite a formidable regimental hockey team. Ex-India-ites will be interested to know that Signalman (Boy) Gardner is playing as well as ever—in fact he is one of the stars in the Army side here in Hong Kong. Against Service sides we have maintained an unbroken record.

In the semi-final of the Hong Kong Inter-Unit Hockey Knock-out Tournament we were drawn against the Local Defence Force, a strong side, and after a good, fast game were beaten 3—2.

Corporal Moynan (ex-2 T.R.), having come seventh in the Army Cross-Country, topped that effort by being

placed ninth in the Inter-Services Run, where the Army had eight of the first 10 men home, including the first three.

The hams, under Captain Barry, have at last made a contact with England. A regular contact in Australia, Callsign VS6BS, has three Eastbourne girls staying with him, and they want to speak to anybody who has been to Eastbourne, but, alas, we haven't anyone in the Unit. Any offers?

Out at the Brigades (26th Gurkha, 27th and 28th) the news that "The tempo of training will slacken due to losses in personnel on release and Python Protection" was greeted with hollow laughter by the signal troops, who still find themselves involved and fully committed in not only Divisional exercises but also those thought up by the inventive minds of the Brigade Commanders.

26 Gurkha Infantry Brigade Signal Troop are viewing with slight lack of enthusiasm their impending move from their present rather solid H.Q.—one-time residence of a retired bandit general—to the bleak slopes of "Commando Camp," some few miles north—oh Lord! Spare them in the next typhoon!

27 Infantry Brigade Signal Troop are still soldiering on undismayed in "Far East Farm," just north of Divisional H.Q., while 28 Infantry Brigade Signal Troop continue to live by the sea and are looking forward to the coming summer with its swimming and sailing! (We hear that they "persuaded" their Brigadier to take a swim on Christmas Day—fully clothed!)

HONG KONG SIGNAL SQUADRON

During February the whole squadron or at least what's left of it took part in a Colony-wide exercise which was given the name "Alabaster" by the staff and another name by the participants. All went very well, wireless sets through, lines working and D.R.'s running, when suddenly, without a word of warning, saboteurs exploded a bomb 'neath the holy portals of the Signal Office; this happended at the unearthly hour of one o'clock in the morning—no sense of humour, some people.

Due to being sons of labour and toil, the squadron hasn't been able to get down to much serious sport during the last month. Nevertheless, we have been most fortunate in that the Hong Kong Boxing Championships were held within the confines of our Barracks; we witnessed some excellent boxing and good sport. We regret to say that we did not reach the finals.

2 GUARDS BRIGADE SIGNAL SQUADRON

Kuala Lumpur

The following members of the Squadron received recognition in the second Malayan Operational List of Honours:—

British Empire Medal: Corporal J. Longworth.

Mentioned in Despatches: Major P. G. Curry, Royal Signals, Corporal C. Calvert.

Since our last contribution much water has flowed under the bridge. We have emerged from a long and intensive period of operations, and are now enjoying a period of re-training.

It must have started when the Bandit-in-Chief (whoever that may be) decided to move his minions into Pahang, the largest and wildest State in Malaya, covering some 12,000 square miles. This move was countered by the security forces, and battalion after battalion rolled along tortuous jungle-flanked roads to the scene of pressure. Tactical Headquarters of the Second Guards Brigade with its Signal Centre was established in the middle of Pahang.

In November there were nine battalions and two squadrons of Hussars from all over Malaya under command. As the designation of each new arrival was chalked up on the blackboard of the Signal Office an old-timer would have recognised that peculiar expression that characterises the faces of all Signal Office staffs when there is a smell of impending stress in the air. By the time the ninth battalion arrived they had ceased caring. The Signal Office staff looked like the Crazy Gang at a Hammersmith Hippodrome repeat performance with the counter clerk trying to play a piano with his feet as well. At one period there was a queue of infantry signallers, D.R.s, linemen and orderlies of all shapes and sizes outside the Signal Office, each trying to get quick results.

Once, after the Signal Office shift had been on duty for a very long period they visited the canteen and fell on to their beds in a deep sleep. The problem was how to shake off the cobwebs before their next spell of duty. This was achieved by a remarkably agile performance of follow-my-leader, led by the Commanding Officer, over the various contrivances on the local children's playground, including high bars and a chute.

It's still a mystery how no message went astray, or if it did, how no one noticed it.

Lieutenant Charles and Driver Brittin were lucky in failing to get blown up by their own hand grenade when the jeep in which they were travelling was overturned and the impact sheared off the retaining shoulder of a hand grenade.

In December Pahang was handed over to a newly-formed Gurkha Brigade, and to their Signals we send our best wishes for a good innings.

All were back again at our base camp in Kuala Lumpur in time for Christmas, and celebrations lasted for three days.

GURKHA SIGNAL TRAINING AND HOLDING WING

Kuala Lumpur

The training Officer was overwhelmed with applications for trade upgrading and additional trade training for B.O.R.s. It appears that we have with us all the future (?) R.S.M.s of the Corps. Now from 0700-0915 hours one sees small parties of one or two mechanics training as linemen or O.W.L.s; O.W.L.s on motor cycles, or swinging hammers; lineman tying knots with the innards of wireless sets, etc. It is amazing how wrong the P.S.O. has been. One lineman has produced a wireless set (on paper) that will revolutionise the radio industry. Over and above this yearning for technical knowledge, we now have a well-educated Unit. Every B.O.R. has a certificate and only four of our G.O.R. trainees are not in possession of some educational certificate.

On the Gurkha training side we are making good progress. The first O.W.L. section has had its barrier test after 17 weeks of training (which includes one-third education), and about 50 per cent. passed a B3 standard test. We have hopes that in another month or so they will complete their Class 3. This augurs well for the remainder, and we feel that the wastage rate will be fairly low.

The official football season starts on 1st March. We have entered a team in the Selangor Football League and are in Division III North.

The hockey season has almost ended and, to keep it going, Malaya Signals entered a team in the FARELF inter-Unit tournament. The Suffolks were the first and last opponents. Four members of this Unit were selected to play for the Signals team. Next year we hope to have a ground and our own hockey team.

Various cricket enthusiasts are contemplating teaching the G.O.R.s to play that noble game. I have little doubt that it will mean brighter cricket.

Corporal Sherbahadur Gurung is our sole representative in the FARELF individual boxing.

Sergeants' Mess. A badminton court has been built and the necessary gear purchased. Enthusiasm is high and prowess low. As Malaya is the champion country at this game, we must keep our end up—but if you think that badminton played out here is like that "pat game" seen at home, we suggest you come out here and have a bash.

We now possess two pairs of pigeons. The hope is that these birds will breed and their offspring will soon be in service (and, by the look on the face of the messing member, their service will be short).

19 AIR FORMATION SIGNAL REGIMENT

Changi, Singapore

During the last month the Unit was visited by Colonel J. C. Hardy, Deputy Director of Signals Air Formation Signals, whilst he was undertaking a tour in the Far East. Later, the G.O.C. Singapore District, Major-General D. Dunlop, C.B.E., paid us a call.

Much to the chagrin of G.H.Q. Signal Regiment, who were the previous holders and are now runners-up, the Regiment won the C.R.E.M.E.'s cup for the Signal Unit with the best maintained M.T. in Singapore District.

To show that all our efforts are not devoted to work we proceeded to win the R.A.F. Hockey League with a final result of:—

				Goals		
Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	For	Against	Points
12	11	1	0	43	14	23

All members of the Unit will be interested to hear that the R.A.F. Station at Sembawang has returned to Naval Control, so that our small detachment there has now returned to Changi.

The New Year brought relief to some of our technical worries when the R.A.F. took over the responsibility of the care and maintenance of their teleprinters.

During the month Signalman Jesney finally had to bid his farewell to that delightful tropical island, Car Nicobar, where all he required was Jean Simmons to complete his idyllic life, in order to catch the homebound s.s. *Orduna.* Signalman Hewitt is his fortunate relief.

MALAYA DISTRICT SIGNAL REGIMENT

Kuala Lumpur

R.H.Q. AND 1 SQUADRON. For the past four weeks the Unit has had an education drive. Every possible man who could be spared has attended lectures and classes. Recent Part II Orders prove that these hours were put to good use; the majority now have second class certificates.

Release groups continue to thin our ranks regularly, and rarely does the new draft fill this gap. However, by careful planning on R.H.Q. level we manage to keep the flag flying and Signals' name to the fore.

The winter sports season, rugger and hockey, has finished. We were unable to field a rugger team, but we did manage to hold our own on the hockey field, playing 17 games, winning eight, losing seven and drawing two. The team did not shine with the brilliance of other seasons. We did, however, have the honour of providing two members of the Army team which held the State team to a goal-less draw.

2 SQUADRON (TAIPING). From an operational point of view we have suffered a temporary eclipse as the heavier efforts to liquidate bandits have been taking place in Central and Southern Malaya.

This Squadron covers the whole of Northern Malaya from a point a few miles south of Ipoh to the Siamese Border and including Kota Bahru on the East Coast. At Kota Bahru there is a Wireless Detachment consisting of an N.C.O., operator and radio mechanic. They man a 399 set which provides a rear link for 3 Malay Regiment. The only way to get to Kota Bahru from Malaya is by air, and many of 2 Squadron have had the opportunity of their first air trip on being detached to this duty.

SINGAPORE DISTRICT SIGNAL REGIMENT

A brilliant moon smiled good-night at me as I returned to my quarters after a picture show. The same moon derisively grinned at me when, having spent a few hours twisting and turning in order not to oversleep, I left the comfort of my quarters to pick up a couple of chaps and drive twenty to twenty-five miles away in order to fire my annual course. We arrived at 0630 and started around sevenish, to finish somewhere about 1600. This was the last of four days at Majeedie ranges. Sunburn was fairly prevalent, some were lucky and were drenched. On this, the last day, it was that hot sort of day which Kipling could so well describe. A couple of days before we began, the local paper had told of an angry female tiger with two cubs that roamed the particular range we were to use. The mate and father had been caught. Hence Mama's anger. The shooting was such that I am glad we did not see the tiger.

We were entertained to a very good evening of boxing on 19th January, when the result of hard work on the part of our Sports Officer, Captain T. Ball, blossomed into the Regimental Boxing Championships. Those to capture the titles were: Fly-weight, Lance-Corporal Hassan; bantam-weight, Lance-Corporal Gallistan; feather-weight, Corporal Koh Peck Seah; light-weight, Signalman Colley; welter-weight, Sergeant Robert Oh; middle-weight, Corporal Shread; light-heavy-weight, Signalman McGrandles. The latter two were unable to be matched, so they very sportingly had a go together, which McGrandles lost by a very small margin. Quite a few old soldiers will be pleased to know that Sergeant Jock Brackenberry still has a useful left. He started on Sergeant Robert Oh, Oh! and in his later fight was as impetuous as ever and didn't stand back quite long enough, and methinks he could have won that one.

The hockey season is now drawing to a close, but on looking back, although our unit team has suffered defeat in most cases, we can say it is not through lack of material, but lack of practice. This cannot be attributed to the fault of the players, but a handicap through the move of the Unit in mid-season and the subsequent waiting for a new pitch to be built.

We have given every team a run for its money and have quite a few players of exceptional ability, so much so that three have been selected for the Corps team. They are Sergeant Woodford, Corporal Tripp and Signalman Phipps.

G.H.Q. SIGNAL REGIMENT, FARELF

Singapore

Anti-bandit month is in full swing, and the last of the Unit "volunteers" (?) could be seen this week doing their field-craft in the grounds of "Tyersall Palace" under W.O.1 (R.S.M.) Bevan, M.M. We feel sure that had any of the bandits been watching they would have thrown in the towel. (I mean the bandits, not the volunteers.)

The face of Singapore is slowly changing as married quarters for all ranks go up in the various parts of the island.

We newcomers, who visualised a rather "jungly," uncivilised place as our destination, were most favourably impressed by the modernity of Singapore, by the friendliness of the people we met, and by the joy of the services of a bootboy for a dollar a week, and we were amazed by the opulence of thousands of Asian immigrants.

The Signal Office has been improved out of all recognition, and when they crank up the air conditioning plant which has just been installed, we shall have that sensation we probably miss most—a temperature below 80 deg. F.

The Telephone Exchange, which is also being modernised and air conditioned, is now being manned mainly by civilians owing to the high marriage rate of W.R.A.C.'s! Our anti-marital precautions do not appear to be sufficiently effective.

Army Wireless Chain Squadron. The air-conditioning plant in the Auto Room should soon be finished, and at the Receiver Station they are waiting impatiently for the contractor to get busy there. Some of us haven't been really cold since we left Liverpool.

A couple of weeks in the sun playing with aerials has given most of the staff at Transmitter Station a sun tan which would make even a film star envious.

The Squadron has been well represented in the Unit and Corps Rugger and hockey teams. We now look forward to the Soccer season, which is just about to begin. We have two representatives for the Army trial match—Corporal Gilroy and Signalman Angell.

Our sympathies are with S.Q.M.S. (" Paddy ") Ford, who broke his leg in a recent Rugger match, and we wish him a speedy recovery.

The Unit Rugby XV has had a very successful season, and for three months we did not lose a game. Fourteen of the team played for Royal Signals, Singapore.

We entered for the Singapore 7-a-side competition and were unlucky to lose after two periods of extra time.

The Unit hockey team has just completed a good season. We lost to 223 B.O.D. in the second round of the cup. We fielded five players for Royal Signals, Singapore.

We have several keen boxers and five are entering for the Singapore district individual boxing championships.

Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess. In a games tournament on 28th January we thrashed the " Devons," who brought a strong team ably supported by several families. We had a most enjoyable evening.

On 3rd February we danced in the Mess to the dance band of the " Devons," and we were honoured to have with us the Chief Officer and several members of the ship's staff of *H.T. Orduna.*

Rain has held up our Mess tennis tournament. We also get our share of wet weather.

THE TERRITORIAL ARMY

of London

As this, the April WIRE, reaches Regiments, the first batches of National Service men to be transferred to the Territorial Army to complete their reserve service will be deciding what they are going to do about it, and this article is with the idea of giving the Londoner, and indeed, those living outside London and working in London some idea of the Regiments of the Corps which are stationed in London. As many will realise, it is often more convenient to go to the Territorial Army drill hall on the way from work rather than come home first and then turn out again quickly. By doing it this way men who have been comrades during their service in the active Army may, in London, at any rate, without much difficulty, arrange to serve in the same Regiment of the Territorial Army.

The locations are taken roughly from west to east:—

Fulham House, Putney Bridge, S.W.6
23 (S) Corps Signal Regiment, T.A.

During and after the first World War this Regiment was 47 (2 London) Divisional Signals, and as such had a distinguished career with the 2nd London Division. In 1935, in order to provide the troops for the increasing Anti-Aircraft Command, a number of Territorial Army Infantry Battalions were converted to Anti-Aircraft and transferred to the 1st Anti-Aircraft Division. This left only sufficient infantry battalions to form one division, another Divisional Signal Regiment was selected to serve with it, and the Regiment stationed at Fulham House changed its name and role and became the 2nd (London) Corps Signals, T.A. As such they went to France with the 2nd Corps and fought with the 2nd Corps during 1939 and 1940. After a variety of changes of name, but during which they retained throughout their identity and the formation sign of the 2nd (London) Division, they are now firmly established as a Corps Signal Regiment. As such their requirement is for all, or nearly all, of the normal trades in Royal Signals.

190 Hammersmith Road, W.6
Signal Reporting Regiment, T.A.
(The Kensington Regiment)

190 Hammersmith Road has been the home of the Kensingtons for very many years. As an infantry battalion they date back to the old volunteers before the Haldane Reforms of 1908. As infantry, or later as a machine gun battalion, the Princess Louise's Kensington Regiment earned fame in two world wars. During the second war, one battalion of the Kensingtons provided the bulk of the personnel for a " phantom " Regiment. It was reasonable, therefore, when the Territorial Army was reconstituted that the First Phantom Signal Regiment should be the Kensingtons. The future title of this Regiment is Army Phantom Signal Regiment, the Princess Louise's Kensington Regiment. They are, as far as is known, the only Signal Regiment to carry colours. The trades in this Regiment are mainly operator wireless and line, and operator keyboard and cipher.

Stamford Brook Lodge, Ravenscourt Park, London, W.6
44 (H.C.) Infantry Division Signal Regiment, T.A.

This Signal Regiment is the only Regiment stationed in London which has not changed its name or its job. Since it came into existence it has always been the Divisional Signals for 44th Infantry Division. It has Squadrons stationed outside London, but the Headquarters of the Regiment is at the above address.

Duke of York's Headquarters, Chelsea, S.W.1
16 Airborne Division Signal Regiment, T.A.
(The Middlesex Yeomanry)

One of the oldest Yeomanry Regiments of the British Army, the Middlesex, was converted to " Signals " between the two wars and was named the Second Cavalry Divisional Signals. They have the privilege of wearing their own yeomanry buttons and badges, and are very proud of their yeomanry traditions,. Despite this their efficiency as a Signal Regiment is well known. As the Divisional Signal Regiment for the Airborne Division, they accept mainly men with airborne experience.

Signal House, 20 Atkins Road, Clapham Park, S.W.12
56 (London) Armoured Division Signal Regiment, T.A. (City of London Signals)

This Regiment goes back to the days of the Royal Engineer telegraph companies. During the First World War the Regiment found initally the Divisional Signal Company for the famous 29th Division which was formed by withdrawing regular infantry battalions from service in India and providing them with artillery and signals from the Territorial Army in London.

The second portion of the Regiment provided the Signal Company for the 1st London Division. Between the two wars it was known as 56 (1st London) Divisional Signals, and the title " City of London Signals " was accorded by the Lord Mayor in 1934. During the Second World War the Regiment fought as the 56 Divisional Signals and provided the bulk of the personnel to raise London District Signal Regiment. Its requirement is largely for wireless operators and, indeed, for all trades who have experience in armour.

Also at Atkins Road, but eventually to have its own headquarters in the City of London, is **51 L. of C. Signal Regiment, S.R.** This Regiment was originally the L. of C. Signals Supplementary Reserve, and as such was recruited almost entirely from the General Post Office. It served in France and Flanders in 1939-40 and then under various names throughout the last war.

89 Turnmill Street, E.C.1
Special Communications Regiment

This type of Regiment was formed during the Second World War to provide point to point wireless communications for various Government departments other than the Armed Services. It is to become a mixed Signal Regiment having a large quota of W.R.A.C. Signals. The requirement is mainly for operators wireless and line.

T.A. Centre, Selsdon Road, Wanstead, E.11
2/20 Army Signal Regiment, T.A.

Until 1945 this Regiment was the Divisional Signals for 54th East Anglian Division. This Division has now ceased to exist and the Regiment, therefore, has become an Army Signal Regiment. It has a Line Troop outstationed at Colchester.

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2/20 ARMY SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.
Wanstead

We have not submitted notes recently—our news has been purely routine and of little interest outside our own sphere.

Our numbers are growing slowly and our enthusiasm keeps pace with the demands made upon it. Weekend camps are well supported, and evening training has been organised to cope with Trade Boards on 15th and 16th April.

Our Annual Camp this year is being held at St. Martin's Plain, near Folkestone, during the fortnight 18th June-2nd July. We shall be sharing the camp with 51 L. of C. Signal Regiment, and since it promises to be our best site so far there is much hopeful anticipation.

We have not had many personnel changes, but we do welcome Captain " Bill " Adams, who will be remembered by old colleagues of " Z " L. of C. Signals, S.E.A.C.

Great value has been obtained from a monthly film show, in which technical films are relieved by the odd cartoon. They draw good attendances and are most instructional.

We have been able to get a Line Troop started in Colchester; anyone in that area who is interested will find 305 Line Troop, under command of Captain N. R. Williams, at Reed Hall Camp. He will be very pleased to answer any inquiries.

Our D.R. Troop under Captain " Robin " Chell has been very active over the last few weeks. They are now twelve strong, of whom half are " old sweats " and the rest new blokes. The latter have settled down well and practised hard under the expert guidance of Sergeants Newton and Ginn. They do long Sunday runs and spells of rough riding. Five B.S.A.s have recently been added to our original issue of Matchless bikes, so there are some spares for any newcomers.

On 12th February the Troop rode to Birmingham and took part in the trials organised by 1/20 Army Signal Regiment, T.A.—our sister unit—to whom go our sincere thanks for being such excellent hosts. Sergeant Newton brought back the cup for first-prize winner in the 500 c.c. class, a fine performance. The rest of the party thoroughly enjoyed themselves, and although they won no prizes, they gained considerably in experience. The team consisted of Captain R. Chell, Sergeants Newton and Ginn, Corporal Conlan, Lance-Corporal Oates and Signalman Birch.

14 A.A. (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.
Speke, Liverpool

Every month that goes by brings Annual Camp — the " high spot " of our year—nearer. Preparations are already afoot and our Adjutant and Quartermaster who recently visited the camp site at Landguard (No, not Towyn this year! !) have brought back glowing reports. Let's hope they will be fulfilled! !

Our recruiting has proceeded steadily and our W.R.A.C. element are nearly topping the 100 mark—but they still have some leeway to make up to overtake the men. Come on you girls in Liverpool, Runcorn and Manchester!

On the social side, a very successful Regimental dance was recently held by 33 A.A. (M) Signal Squadron at Runcorn, and our darts team at Woolton are topping the West Lancashire T.A. Darts League. Our teams in the Snooker and Miniature Rifle Range League have not been so successful—but great enthusiasm is displayed by all ranks who take part in these activities.

15 WIRELESS SQUADRON, T.A.
Devonport

Since the New Year the activities of 15 Wireless Squadron have been confined to small exercises, in which all trades were employed, and in moving the H.Q.

The premises, whilst still in Raglan Barracks, offer much better accommodation and provide more scope for the rapidly expanding strength. Briefly, the new H.Q. provides a large store, drivers', operators' and radio mechanics' training rooms, and officers' and O.R.s' bar and recreation rooms. The latter is to be shared by members of the Royal Signals Old Comrades' Association, several members of whom are also members of the Squadron. In addition there is ample office accommodation, and opposite is the M.T. garage. Consequently the Squadron can now feel justly proud of their new H.Q., and no effort is being spared to make it the best in the area.

Despite the seasonal slackness in recruiting new members continue to roll steadily along, and with the coming better weather (we hope) and promise of Camp at Penhale, we look forward to an even better year than 1949—at least we feel confident to cope with the expected influx of National Service men.

Next season the Squadron will field its own soccer team in the Plymouth and District League, and already have in hand the organisation of a Tattoo in the autumn.



Susan Shaw appears by kind permission of the J. Arthur Rank Organisation.

51 (H) INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

Aberdeen

On the 4th and 5th February we ran an Officers' Training Week-end, which was attended by all officers of the Regiment. On the Saturday, Lieutenant-Colonel C. H. Barker, Commanding Scottish Command Signal Regiment, conducted a T.E.W.T. for us. It was based on the operation of 15 (S) Division South of Caumont in 1944, and was most instructive, creating plenty of food for thought. We are most grateful to Lieutenant-Colonel Barker for his co-operation.

The T.E.W.T. was followed by a Regimental Dinner in the evening, at which we entertained Major-General R. K. Arbuthnott, C.B., D.S.O., M.C. (Divisional Commander), Brigadier R. W. Morgan, O.B.E. (C.S.O.), Lieutenant-Colonel C. H. Barker, Brigadier M. W. Hope, D.S.O., Lieutenant-Colonel H. J. Butchart, D.S.O., Lieutenant-Colonel R. A. Elliott, M.B.E., R.A., Lieutenant-Colonel A. Milne, T.D., Lieutenant-Colonel D. P. Davidson, O.B.E., M.C., T.D., Colonel J. S. Fraser, T.D., Lieutenant-Colonel G. M. R. Duffus, M.B.E., Lieutenant-Colonel W. M. McNiel, M.B.E., Lieutenant-Colonel W. A. Dursar (50 L. of C. Signal Regiment, T.A.) and Major Gregory (Scottish Command Signal Regiment). There were also a number of ex-officers present, including Lieutenant-Colonel James Cochran, O.B.E., T.D. (a war-time Commander of this Regiment) and Lieutenant-Colonel P. A. Dewar, O.B.E., T.D.

Sunday's programme included a very interesting lecture by the C.S.O. on A.A.T.O. Signal Regiments, and lectures by the C.O. and the M.O. on Civil Defence.

50 AIR FORMATION SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

Wolverhampton

On 12th February, the Unit D.R. Team took part in the Motor Cycle Trial organised by the 1/20 Army Signal Regiment (T.A.) at Meriden, in Warwickshire. The hazards proved to be interesting and difficult enough to test the best riders and favoured those on the lighter machines. The team came 10th out of 27 teams to finish the course.

1/20 (SM) ARMY SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

Birmingham

March, 1950, marks the end of phase one of our post-war life. Lieutenant-Colonel D. G. Collins, M.B.E., T.D., hands over command of the Regiment to Lieutenant-Colonel E. R. Price. Our regret at losing our old C.O. is tempered by the knowledge that the new one is a worthy successor well known to us all. Despite the post-war difficulties with which he had to contend, Lieutenant-Colonel Collins accomplished a great deal during his tenure; he was with the 48th Divisional Signals, T.A. in pre-war days so that he was no stranger to Cateswell House. It may strike him as unusual not to be on his way to the Drill Hall on Monday and Friday evenings. If he SHOULD happen to forget the address, be very sure that we shall ring him up. I know that I speak for all members of the Regiment in wishing him the best of luck. 78th Division please note. Up the Battleaxe!

Lieutenant-Colonel E. R. Price transferred to T.A. from the R.N.V.(W)R. and went into the 2/48 Divisional Signals in December, 1938. Incidentally, he is not our only ex-sailor. Old members of 61st Divisional Signals, 1 H.Q. Signals and 21 Army Group H.Q. will no doubt remember him well. He knows a great deal about Signals and specialises in wireless. We all wish Lieutentant-Colonel Price a happy tour of duty.

When our motor-cycling team secured sixth place in the Trials on 13th February we were by no means cast down. It was a creditable performance as you would have agreed had you seen the talent we were up against. Not to mention the weather. The only thing the Meteorological Office failed to issue was a sandstorm and a thick fog. We had everything else. The Pyramid Motor Cycle Club, which consists of many old ex-Signals D.R.s, bore the brunt of the organising. This Regiment supplied wireless communications and loudspeaker apparatus. There were 100 riders from all parts of the country and about 70 of them were accommodated at Stoneleigh Park Camp with the R.A., to whom we offer our grateful thanks. It is not easy for T.A. Units to provide lodgings but we managed to look after a dozen officers at Cateswell House for one night.

The course, about 32 miles, lay over specially selected country (and how) from Stonebridge via Packington Ford, Banners Wood, through sand quarries, mud baths, etc., to Shirley and Hall Green. Lieutenant-Colonel D. G. Collins, M.B.E., T.D., welcomed the crowd into the Drill Hall as soon as the arithmetic was dealt with, and Mrs. Collins presented the prizes. Winning team: 5 Training Regiment, Royal Signals; 2nd, 31 Training Regiment, R.A.; 3rd, 64 Training Regiment, R.A. Individuals, 500 c.c class: 1st, Sergeant Newton, 2/20 Army Signal Regiment, T.A. 350 c.c. class: 1st, Lance-Corporal Jakeman, 5 Training Regiment, Royal Signals.

Other sport. Football. We were unlucky to—



Major (now Lieutenant-Colonel) E. R. Price, Royal Signals, T.A.

R.S.M. We haven't got a football team.
Me. Oh! I'll tell them about the boxing.
R.S.M. There is no boxing team.
Me. Then what shall I do with these footballs and gloves?

This conversation only went a little further. There seemed to be no point in prolonging it.

43 (WESSEX) INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

Taunton

The event of the month was our Annual Regimental Dinner held on 25th February, 1950, at the County Hotel, Taunton. Amongst those present were Major-General C. F. C. Coleman, D.S.O., O.B.E., G.O.C. South-Western District, and Brigadier B. B. Kennett, C.B.E., C.S.O. Southern Command.

How we managed to audit the Regimental accounts next day nobody will ever know.

1 *Squadron*. Since our last notes we have been concentrating on training and preparing for a scheme which is being carried out during the Whitsun Holidays.

"A" Troop carried out a successful wireless scheme in the Barnstaple Area on 25th/26th February.

A Trade Board is being held here on the 1st/2nd April, and we have three entries.

In the Dorchester Motor-Cycle Trials, our Squadron team came 11th out of 35 teams, and we hope to do well in our Unit Trials being held in Stoke Woods, Exeter, on the 12th March.

A range practice is being held at Honiton Range on Sunday, 19th March, in order to select a team to enter for the China Cup.

Our Squadron still holds the Unit Football Cup, and from present form it seems inevitable that we are going to retain it.

ARMY PHANTOM SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A. (The Princess Louise's Kensington Regiment)

Hammersmith

A successful weekend exercise, PANDA, in co-operation with 10 A.S.S.U., Southampton, took place on Saturday and Sunday, 11th/12th March, when Unit patrols working in the Chilterns and 10 A.S.S.U. in the New Forest area, worked to R.H.Q. at Bisley. Although rather cold, the weather was clear and fine. We look forward to co-operating with other units from time to time.

Our All Ranks' Regimental Dance at Headquarters was attended by our Honorary Colonel, General Sir H. Colville Weymss and many other friends of the Regiment and Old Comrades' Association.

On 4th March, Corporal Cast, our Civilian Orderly Room Clerk, and the first recruit of the Reconstituted Regiment in 1947, left to rejoin the Regular Army. We wish him "Good Luck" in his new unit.

The Basketball enthusiasts are to have the benefit of advice from the American Air Force who are to visit our Headquarters to help us in the formation of a first-class team. We are still waiting to hear from units interested in arranging fixtures!

22 CORPS SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

Liverpool

We suffered a great loss at the end of January when our very popular and able R.S.M., Mr. Pyne, left us to take his discharge from the Army. Any words I can use are completely inadequate to express the Unit's feelings towards Mr. Pyne, and I feel that we, like himself, felt a lump in the throat at parting. He was a very efficient W.O.1 and, above all else, was, at all times, a perfect gentleman whom it was automatic to like and respect. All ranks wish him the greatest good fortune in his civilian adventure and hope sincerely that we may see him again soon.

We are making strides in the developing of our athletic and recreational training, having formed a sports commitee to explore all the means of improving the lighter side of our activities. To date we have only managed one Soccer match, which we lost 2—1, but we can hope now for further fixtures and, maybe, greater success.

On 1st February the Liverpool Branch of the Royal Signals Association held their annual general meeting and dinner at Signal House. Colonel Roberts, the General Secretary, addressed the meeting and thanked the branch for the £50 presented to the Association. To our chagrin we discovered later that the Prescot Branch outdid us by presenting £51. Well done, Prescot.

We should like to congratulate Colonel Baron, O.B.E., T.D., on being honoured with the appointment of Deputy Lieutenant of the County of Lancaster. He is so much a part of this Unit that we in our turn feel some of the reflected glory.

51 L. OF C. (CITY OF LONDON) SIGNAL REGIMENT, S.R.

20 Atkins Road, S.W.12

It seems a long time since any notes from us appeared in THE WIRE and an effort is overdue to keep us, and our many friends, in the news.

A major calamity is due to strike us in the very near future when we lose our very popular Adjutant, Captain T. G. H. Jackson, of Rugby fame; it is a hard blow for us as he has proved himself a pillar of strength and will be missed by all ranks. However, with his departure our stationery consumption may be reduced considerably, and no doubt the thanks of the Command Secretary may be heaped upon us.

Congratulations are due to the following: The C.O., Lieutenant-Colonel H. K. Hagon, O.B.E., who has added T.D. after his name; Lieutenants Herbert and Penn, recently promoted to Captain; Signalman Farrant, who has started to climb that long ladder; and to "Taffy" Davies (of the Permanent Staff), Corporal Porter, Signalmen Caulfield and Trude, who have all become proud fathers within the past few weeks.

Cupid also paid us a visit way back in October, 1949, when Corporal Fielding and Lance-Corporal Gale, of our W.R.A.C. Squadron, were married at St. Luke's Church, West Norwood. Well, well, well!—and I didn't even get a bit of cake.

We have just finished our second Trade Testing Board and are very pleased with the results.

To conclude, preparations for camp in June are in full swing. This year we go to Shorncliffe with 2/20 Army Signal Regiment, T.A., and all are looking forward to it. As in 1949, we take our W.R.A.C. Squadron along with us, and it is hoped that they, too, will enjoy it as much as they did last year.

After that, all hands on deck for the first N.S. intake.

Late News. There is a very persistent whisper that wedding bells will be ringing round about 11th March. Can anybody lend me a top hat?

P.S. National Servicemen. Please note: Our T.A. Centre is at Signal House, 20 Atkins Road, Clapham, S.W.12. Tube stations, Clapham South and Balham; electric trains, Balham; buses, 88 and 118 from The Plough, Clapham; trams, 2, 4, 6 and 8 from The Plough, Clapham. Drop in and see us on any Tuesday evening.

50 (N) INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

Darlington

Saturday, 11th February, 1950, saw the flags out at 3 Squadron at our T.A. Centre at Gateshead and with every reason.

Having arrived by train at Newcastle Station, H.R.H. The Princess Royal, C.I., G.C.V.O., G.B.E., Colonel-in-Chief, Royal Signals, proceeded to the Royal Signals T.A. centre in her own car escorted by a motor cycle detachment of 50 (N) Divisional Signal Regiment. Amongst the many senior officers present were:—

Brigadier C. Childs, C.B.E., C.S.O., Northern Command; Brigadier T. T. J. Sheffield, O.B.E., T.D., A.D.C., Honorary Colonel of the Regiment; Brigadier G. H. Walton, C.B.E., T.D., D.L., Chairman of the Durham T.A. and A.F. Association and a member of the Corps Committee. Lieutenant-Colonel R. M. Percival, T.D., O.C. of the Regiment, conducted H.R.H. to the parade ground where she inspected the Regiment under the command of Major W. A. Lee, O.B.E.

The Royal Signals Band under Captain J. L. Judd, M.B.E., played for the parade. H.R.H. then inspected the Darlington, Middlesbrough and Newcastle and District Branches of the Old Comrades Association, escorted by Lieutenant-Colonel T. S. Mensley, M.B.E., T.D., an ex-officer of the Regiment.

H.R.H. presented Territorial Army Efficiency Medals to:—

S.Q.M.S. W. J. Corps, Sergeant R. H. Dennison, Corporal A. M. Ridley, Lance-Corporal D. Marshall, Lance-Corporal B. Beveridge, Signalman W. Kennedy, Signalman C. K. Bland.

The Colonel-in-Chief then took tea with the officers and their ladies. The Royal Signals Band played in the Officers' Mess.



[*Courtesy: Newcastle Chronicle and Journal, Ltd.*

H.R.H. presenting the T.A. Efficiency Medal to S.Q.M.S. Corps

This is the first time we have had the honour of a visit from the Colonel-in-Chief and it gave all of us the keenest pleasure from every point of view. Gateshead in February hardly provides the ideal location or time and with the



[*Courtesy: Turners (Photography), Ltd., Newcastle-upon-Tyne*



[*Courtesy: Newcastle Chronicle and Journal, Ltd.*

H.R.H. after presenting T.A. Efficiency Medal to Lance-Corporal D. Marshall

Regiment so widely dispersed, rehearsals, under T.A. conditions, were practically impossible. However, even the sun shone, and with the experience and keenness at all levels the whole show went off entirely according to plan and, just as in the story, "The Princess charmed everybody's heart."

The Regiment in its medalled glory, magnificently supported by the Corps Band, and under the critical eyes of its old pals ranged alongside, was a really inspiring sight. It provided an adequate answer to any who may doubt whether the T.A. is getting anywhere since the War.

Even the Old Comrades were not unimpressed and we, in turn, admired their steadiness on parade, to say nothing of the galaxy of medals and the bowler hats. Some 70 of them were present and most remained for a Smoker afterwards.

44 (H.C.) INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

Stamford Brook, W.6

In the Army, as in all walks of like, changes will take place whether we like them or not and with the posting to the Regiment of Major D. N. Deakin, who joined us from S.X. Branch, Headquarters, B.A.O.R. on the 15th February, as second in command, we have gained the services of a regular soldier of some experience and proved ability.

Major Deakin served with the Regiment in the Spring of 1942 so we are happy to have him with us again. When Colonel Gandy retires on the 1st May it will be Major Deakin who will take over the duties and command the Regiment.

If we were doubtful about the prospects of service under a regular Commanding Officer, Major Deakin has already dispelled those doubts, and we feel confident that he will not only maintain the high standard required by the Corps but will also help us maintain the Territorial Army spirit which is so essential to a unit of this type.

We also welcome to the Regiment as Quartermaster Captain (Q.M.) "Tubby" Webber, from West Africa. "Tubby" is already known throughout the Corps and so requires no introduction.

The Rifle Club is doing particularly well. Captain Eric Williams and Signalman Good will be welcome additions to the team. The team spent a day at Gravesend where some good shooting took place in fine weather. An old member of the unit's pre-war shooting team, Mr. C. J. Nutting, was present at the trial and proved he had lost none of his prowess. He has applied to rejoin this Regiment and by the time these notes are published we hope he will be back in uniform again. So far we have knocked out 1561 (Parachute Brigade) Company, R.A.S.C. and the 16th Airborne Division Ordnance Park Company in the Middlesex Territorial Army Knock-out Small Bore Rifle Competition.

Recruiting has taken a decided turn for the better since my last notes were published. We are happy to welcome nine new recruits to the Regiment.

"Gentlemen, dinner is served." Sergeant Brown's great voice boomed across the gaily decorated Drill Hall and the blue and khaki-clad officers, non-commissioned officers and men of the Regiment emptied their glasses and took their places at table for the annual All Ranks Dinner.

It was a very private and intimate party with not many speeches but it marked a very definite period in the history of this Regiment. The end of our first post-war commanding officer's tour of duty, Major Deakin's first social function with the Regiment and our last dinner together before the arrival of the National Servicemen were all features of this function. Major K. B. Baldwin, M.B.E., proposed the health of Lieutenant-Colonel Gandy in a short speech, recalling the hard work he put in with little signs of progress and success in the early days, but we now know that they formed the basis of the successful Regiment we now know. He said his two outstanding memories of the Colonel will always be summed up by the words tradition and discipline. Tradition—pride in the Regiment and Regimental etiquette, pride in the Corps and pride in the Territorial Army. Discipline—the highest standard known in the Army in battle and on parade, with the full sense of comradeship all the time.

Sergeant Brown unveiled a very fine statue of "Jimmy" and Sergeant Hatcher presented it to the Colonel.

Colonel Gandy in his reply thanked the members of the Regiment for the gift and said, "This is my last Regimental function, I feel it very much; my heart has always been in the Territorial Army. It is up to you, members of the Regiment, to keep the traditions alive and when the National Servicemen arrive, by your example they will become good and efficient Territorials."

Association Notes

Bristol

The Annual General Meeting was held at the "Old Duke" on Friday, 10th March. Brigadier G. L. G. Pollard, C.B.E., presided, and we are fortunate that our keen and hard-working officers were re-elected.

A number of suggestions were made for future social activities, of which I hope to report more fully later.

Mr. A. H. Rogers gave us a short report on the progress (or should I say the prowess?) of the Skittle Team, which has, playing in the O.C.A. League, lost only four of its 18 league matches.

In closing, I hope that these few lines come to the notice of one "Holbrook," who, basking in the sunshine of Trinidad, has S O S'd us for news of the Branch. T.R.

Birmingham

As so many of our members served in the old 48th Division they may remember the excellent band and concert party that was formed early in the late war. They were known as the "Rascals," a name chosen after very careful thought by someone in the R.A.S.C. I met Jack Artis, their West Indian pianist, at Cateswell House a few days ago, and it was only then that I discovered that John Avery, the leader of Les Williams Band at the Drill Hall of 1/20 Army Signal Regiment T.A., was the tenor saxe of those old days. I knew I had seen that guy some place else. What a pity it is that out of our large membership in Birmingham we cannot produce our own little band. A pianist and a violinist doubling cinema organ and flute would just about set us up.

We are looking forward to the annual general meeting at the end of March because this is the one occasion when we really pack them in. We shall hope to see Colonel J. W. Danielsen, D.S.O., T.D., for one. He has been very ill recently, and if he should be well enough to attend this meeting, why, that will give us all a lot of pleasure. I wish we could attract a few more members from the 1/20 Army Signal Regiment T.A. Perhaps some of them do not know that they are eligible. I also wish that there was something that I could grouse about, outside politics, of course. Don't you find that you can always let yourself go if you feel really peeved about something?

But there it is. We are all quite happy. Of course, we would like to see a few more members attending the monthly branch meetings. Undoubtedly, those of us who turn up regularly really enjoy the couple of hours of congenial company.

Arrangements for a trip to the Royal Tournament are going ahead, and by our next meeting we should know exactly what seats Captain Frank Davies has managed to secure for us.

Any time you are in Birmingham remember the place, the Crown, Broad Street; the day, the last Thursday in the month. There are some more wishes, but we will not bother with them now. I will just hope that you have a clear conscience about what you did on polling day.

ROYAL SIGNALS BENEVOLENT FUND

Subscriptions received during October, 1949

	£	s.	d.
H.Q., B.A.O.R., Signal Regiment	2	8	0
S.T.C., Catterick (Combined Units)	64	19	10
Kent Coast Troop	3	17	2
Donations received during October, 1949			
Mr. P. J. F. Karn		8	0
Mr. K. J. Cooper		2	6
Mr. G. Carson		15	0
Mr. T. S. Stephens		4	0
Total receipts	£72	14	6

Expenditure during October, 1949, £511 3s. (includes: General assistance; rates, rent and insurance; cots and prams; bed and bedding; furniture; clothing; funeral; removals; rehabilitation; fares; tools; convalescence).

Analysis of cases. Families of soldiers serving in U.K., 4; families of soldiers serving in B.A.O.R., 1; families of soldiers serving in M.E.L.F., 1; widows and dependants, 8; released and discharged soldiers, 59; total cases assisted, 73.

* * *

Subscriptions received during November, 1949

	£	s.	d.
5 A.A. Group (M) Signal Regiment (Officers' Mess)	28	3	6
3 Air Support Signal Unit	8	15	1
Thames Estuary and Eastern Coast Troop	1	7	0
Donations received during November, 1949			
A.A. Signal Training School (Northern Area)	2	18	0
Royal Signals Corps Fund	60	4	5
Army Welfare Services (Sussex Division)	200	0	0
Lieutenant (Q.M.) S. H. Vaughan		5	0
Mr. E. Gay	1	1	0
Mrs. Mayhew		10	0
Total receipts	£303	4	0

Expenditure during November, 1949, £414 12s. 9d. (includes: General assistance; rent, rates and insurance; cots and prams; bed and bedding; furniture; clothing; funeral; removals; rehabilitation; fares; convalescence).

Analysis of cases. Families of soldiers serving in U.K., 3; families of soldiers serving in B.A.O.R., 1; widows and dependants, 11; released and discharged soldiers, 57; total cases assisted, 72.

Subscriptions received during December, 1949

	£	s.	d.
Eastern Command Signal Regiment (Officers' Mess)	9	7	0
35 (U) A.A. Independent (M) Signal Squadron, T.A.	2	18	1
Kent Coast Troop	4	15	7
Thames Estuary and East Anglian Coast Troop	1	4	0
Shoeburyness Troop		11	1
Donations received during December, 1949			
Kirkburton Parochial Church Council	5	6	11
Mr. H. E. Prater		5	0
Mr. E. F. King	1	0	0
Mr. E. Fickling		10	0
Mrs. R. Wakeling		2	6
Total receipts	£26	0	2

Expenditure during December, 1949, £386 17s. 5d. (includes: General assistance; rent, rates and insurance; cots and prams; bed and bedding; furniture; clothing; hospital and doctors; removals; rehabilitation; fares).

Analysis of cases. Families of soldiers serving in U.K., 4; families of soldiers serving in M.E.L.F., 2; families of soldiers serving in FARELF, 1; widows and dependants, 4; released and discharged soldiers, 55; total cases assisted, 66.

* * *

Subscriptions received during January, 1950

	£	s.	d.
S.T.C., Catterick (Combined Units)	37	10	0
10 Wireless Training Squadron	10	0	0
Vienna Signal Squadron	20	0	0
Donations received during January, 1950			
War Office Wireless Station		17	0
Army Benevolent Fund	3,000	0	0
Robert Hart's Trust	50	0	0
Mr. K. W. Stevens		7	0
Mr. D. H. McEwan	14	6	2
Mr. W. G. White	1	1	0
Captain W. H. Tenell		15	0
Captain V. L. R. Dugdale		5	0
Treasurer, R.E.M.E. Church, Singapore	3	18	7
Royal Signals Corps Fund	9	10	8
Royal Artillery Association (Southend Branch)	1	1	0
Total receipts	£3,149	11	5

Expenditure during January, 1950, £691 0s. 8d. (includes: General assistance; rent, rates and insurance; cots and prams; bed and bedding; furniture; clothing; funeral; removals; rehabilitation; fares; tools; convalescence; education; surgical appliances).

Analysis of cases. Families of soldiers serving in U.K., 8; families of soldiers serving in B.A.O.R., 1; families of soldiers serving in FARELF, 1; widows and dependants, 5; released and discharged soldiers, 76; total cases assisted, 91.

SPORTS NOTES

Golf

The Royal Signals Golf Society Spring Meeting, 1950, will be held at Harrogate Golf Club, Starbeck, on 1st and 2nd May. Information may be obtained from the Secretary, H.Q., School of Signals, Catterick.

Cross-Country Running

At Harwich on 4th March, Royal Signals, Catterick, won the Junior Championship from the East Cheshire Harriers by 15 points.

Thirty-four teams and 50 individuals competed. Placings were:

Royal Signals 1st with 119 points.
East Cheshire Harriers 2nd with 134 points.

Hockey

Accounts of the following matches have been received, but this number is so full that it is possible only to list the fixtures and the results.

Royal Signals	v.	Liverpool University	at	Liverpool	Lost	0—1
,,	,,	R.E.M.E.	,,	Catterick	Lost	1—3
,,	,,	R.A.O.C.	,,	Chilwell	Lost	0—1
,,	,,	R.M.A. Sandhurst	,,	Sandhurst	Drew	1—1
,,	,,	R.A.S.C.	,,	Aldershot	Won	4—2
,,	,,	Mil. Coll. of Science	,,	Shrivenham	Won	3—1
,,	,,	Royal Artillery	,,	Woolwich	Lost	2—3
,,	,,	Watsonians	,,	Edinburgh	Won	7—1
,,	,,	St. Andrews' Univ.	,,	St. Andrew's	Lost	3—4

Lawn Tennis

The following Corps fixtures have been arranged for the 1950 season:—

Corps Trials at Catterick		15th May
,, ,, ,, ,,		16th May
,, ,, ,, ,,		17th May
Corps Matches	v. Ironsides at Catterick	6th June
	v. R.E.M.E. at London	14th June
	v. R.E. at Chatham	15th June
	v. R.A.S.C. at Catterick	4th July
	v. R.M.A. at Sandhurst	8th July
	v. R.A.O.C. at Catterick	3rd Aug.
Corps Championships at Catterick		10th-15th July

Any Officer or O.R. who considers he is approaching Corps Standard and would like a trial should forward his name and qualifications to Lieutenant-Colonel E. L. L. Vulliamy, O.B.E., 2nd Training Regiment, Royal Signals, Catterick Camp, Yorks.

Similarly anybody up to the required standard who may be home from abroad during the summer and who could make himself available for any particular match, should notify Lieutenant-Colonel Vulliamy as early as possible.

RUGBY AT CATTERICK

On 8th February the Corps side journeyed to Chilwell to play the R.A.O.C. The R.A.O.C. had a very different side to that of last year and Jackson (2 Training Battalion R.A.O.C., Aldershot), who has played several times on the wing for the Army, was the best back on the field. Every time he got the ball he made ground and he was a continual source of danger to Royal Signals.

A very good game resulted in a win for us by 17 pts. to 14. Our best try was one by Signalman Morphy, who cut through to score under the posts. Although we crossed the R.A.O.C. line on five occasions, only one try was converted.

On 15th February Leeds University were played at Leeds on a waterlogged ground and good play was handicapped by the appalling conditions. We won a very hard game in the mud by 6 pts. to 3.

On 18th February Royal Signals (Catterick) played Roundhay in the sixth round of the Yorkshire Cup on the Stadium Ground, Catterick Camp. A strong wind which blew diagonally across the ground favoured Roundhay (who won the toss) in the first half.

Royal Signals were without two of their heavier forwards and their lighter pack had difficulty in holding the energetic Roundhay eight.

After a quarter of an hour's even play the Roundhay left wing got possession at half-way. Eluding the defence, he kicked ahead and a lucky bounce enabled him to gather the ball and run round to score behind the posts. Encouraged by this success, Roundhay pressed and at half-time they led by 14 pts. to nil.

The wind had dropped slightly in the second half, and five minutes from the re-start Roundhay had increased their lead by an unconverted try.

Royal Signals appeared leg-weary and no doubt recent Army games and the Leeds University game on the previous Wednesday had taken the edge off their play. Whatever the cause, their backs never got going and their defence was indifferent.

Roundhay, who had three county players and a county trial player among their backs, deserved their win and adapted themselves much better to the breezy conditions.

NORTHERN COMMAND CUP FINAL

1 Training Regiment, Royal Signals v. 1st East Lancashire Regiment

The above cup final was played on the Central Ground, Catterick Camp, on Wednesday, 22nd February, and resulted in a decisive win for 1 Training Regiment by 37 pts. to 9.

Play was somewhat scrambling at the start and several promising movements by Royal Signals backs broke down through faulty passing. After 15 minutes a fine cut through by Holliday opened the scoring. The try was unconverted. A break from a line-out by Saunt led to a second try, and further tries by Turnpenny and Holliday followed before half-time.

In the second half Turnpenny scored twice and Cross once, and Hoskyns kicked two fine penalty goals.

Careless play by Cross led to the East Lancashire Regiment scoring in the corner, and their full-back landed two penalty goals.

The final score was: 1 Training Regiment, 5 goals, 2 penalties, 2 tries (37 pts.); East Lancashire Regiment, 1 try, 2 penalties (9 pts.).

1 Training Regiment, Royal Signals v. Sedbergh School

This game at Sedbergh was useful in giving practice to the 1 Training Regiment XV, and although the School were outclassed among the backs, they played very correct football and their line-out work gave the 1 Training Regiment forwards a useful lesson. The weather was ideal and a very enjoyable open game was the result.

1 Training Regiment were the winners by 32 pts. to nil.

ARMY RUGBY CHALLENGE CUP FINAL

R.A.M.C. Base Depot and Training Estb. 0—1 Training Regiment, Royal Signals (Holders), 36 pts.

At the Military Stadium, Aldershot, on Wednesday, 8th March, 1950.

Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal, accompanied by Major-General W. A. Dimoline, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., was met by Lieutenant-General Sir Kenneth N. Crawford, K.C.B., M.C. (President Army Rugby Union), and Brigadier R. G. S. Hobbs, D.S.O., O.B.E. (Hon. Secretary Army Rugby Union), and escorted to the Royal Stand, where presentations were made. Among those presented were the Adjutant-General and Lady Stack, the Quartermaster-General and Lady Kirkman, the G.O.C. Southern Command and Lady Roberts, the Director of Signals and Mrs. Scott, Brigadier J. J. Duvivier, O.B.E., the new Commandant S.T.C., Brigadier W. C. V. Galwey, O.B.E., the retiring Commandant S.T.C., Lieutenant-Colonel M. G. A. Hepper, O.C. 1 Training Regiment, and others.

At the conclusion of the game, Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal presented the cup to Second-Lieutenant P. B. Reeve, captain of 1 Training Regiment XV, and medals to each member of the winning and losing teams. Her Royal Highness stayed to tea after the match and congratulated Major G. M. Fraser, 1 Training Regiment, on the success of Signals in winning the Army Rugby Cup for the third year in succession.

The R.A.M.C. kicked off in bright sunshine towards the A.S.P.T. end and were immediately on the attack. Sheldon found touch on the Royal Signals' goal line, but the dangerous situation was saved by a good dribble by Cross. Mason and Morphy were not hitting it off at all well and several dangerous situations were saved by good covering by the Royal Signals backs and forwards. From one such loose pass, Reeve picked up and gave to Holliday, who beat his man and passed to Smith. Reeve was up to take the final pass and score in the corner. Hoskings failed with the kick. At this stage, Glenhill was injured and had to retire. Royal Signals continued to press; first, a certain try was spoilt by a forward pass and then Bidgood was inches out with a drop kick. Stevens, the R.A.M.C. right-centre, had to retire with a dislocated shoulder. Whilst the R.A.M.C. were two short, first Turnpenny beat his own man by speed and the full-back with a lovely swerve to score under the posts, then Holliday kicked ahead a bad pass and beat all opposition for the touch-down. Hoskings failed with both kicks. The R.A.M.C. were nearly over when Liversidge hit the post with a penalty. However, Royal Signals swept back and a penalty against the R.A.M.C. backs for offside gave Hoskings an easy goal. Half-time arrived with the score 12—0 in our favour.

Royal Signals started the second half with a strong forward rush, followed by a quick heel, and Reeve once again sent Turnpenny over in the corner. Hoskings again failed with the kick. A strong R.A.M.C. rush, led by Wilson, saw Cross touch down just in time. Stevens retired finally after dislocating his shoulder again. A lovely run by Bidgood, who can seldom have played a better game, led up to a lovely try under the posts by Morphy after a jinking run. Hoskings kicked the goal. Bedford saved another try with a brilliant fall at the feet of the Royal Signals' forwards and kick for touch. From the ensuing line-out a careless knock back by the R.A.M.C. forwards



[Courtesy: Marshall's of Camberley

1 Training Regiment, winners for the third time of the Army Rugby Football Championship, 1950



[*Courtesy: Gale and Polden, Ltd., Aldershot*

Aldershot, 8th March

found Cross up to score again in the corner, which Hoskings converted. From another R.A.M.C. attack, Morphy jinked his way up the field and sent Mason away. The latter, after beating two men, gave Holliday another try under the posts, which again Hoskings converted. An orthodox movement saw Holliday go over the R.A.M.C. line once again with Graham hanging on to his feet, and then came the best try of the day. A normal three-quarter movement to the left, where Turnpenny took a reverse pass and, when tackled, passed to the forwards who were all lined up, the ball passed along the line to Cross who scored, and there were still four forwards outside him. Hoskings failed to add the extra points.

The team were as follows:—

	1st Training Regiment, Royal Signals	*Depot Training Establishment, R.A.M.C.*
1.	Lance-Corporal D. M. Bidgood	Lance-Corporal J. Liversidge
2.	Signalman M. H. Holliday	Private A. R. Woodman
3.	2/Lieutenant A. C. Birtwistle	Lieutenant R. F. F. Stevens
4.	2/Lieutenant P. B. Reeve (*capt.*)	Lieutenant P. R. G. Graham
5.	Corporal L. J. Turnpenny	Lance-Corporal R. Thornhill
6.	Signalman A. D. Morphy	Corporal J. Gledhill
7.	Signalman W. R. Mason	Private J. R. D. Bedford
8.	Signalman G. Fathers	Staff/Sergeant J. B. Scott
9.	2/Lieutenant G. Thomas	Sergeant J. Gillies
10.	Captain T. H. Luscombe	Staff/Sergeant E. G. Smart
11.	Signalman D. Stewart	Lance-Corporal L. Gwilliam
12.	Signalman B. Saunt	Private A. Fielden
13.	Lance-Corporal R. Cross	Lieutenant W. P. Wilson (*capt.*)
14.	2/Lt. K. Hoskings	Lieutenant J. Wright
15.	Signalman H. S. Smith	Corporal G. M. Seacombe

Referee: Mr. H. H. Smith (London Society)

The R.A.M.C., who were handicapped by the injury in the semi-final of Captain D. W. C. Smith, their Scottish international, played for three-quarters of the game with only thirteen players; their forwards played gallantly and were well led by Wilson and, among the backs, Graham and Bedford were outstanding. The 1 Training Regiment team won the day by team work and fitness; seldom have a team shown such ability to cover and turn defence into attack. It is impossible to pick out any players individually, but special mention must be made of Saunt, Stewart and Cross in the forwards, and Reeve, Bidgood and both wings in the backs.

ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL

v. Manchester University

The Royal Signals Association Football XI played Manchester University 1st XI at Manchester on Wednesday, 15th February, 1950, in the second fixture of the season. In the previous encounter the University had come out winners by 4—3 after a thrilling game.

A strong wind was blowing diagonally across the ground when Signals kicked off, and the University took full advantage of this to put in some good attacks. Sharp, the Signals' custodian, was very safe, however, and some good clearances by Shurban, the centre-half, relieved the pressure. Some good combination between Wragg and Warrender, Signals' right wing pair, carried the play to the other end and started a series of Signals' attacks. After twenty minutes, Signals took the lead through a well taken goal by Cronin from an accurate through pass by Wragg.

Five minutes later Warrender made a good run along the right wing and crossed a high ball for Cronin to head just wide of the upright. Half-time came with Signals leading 1—0.

In the second half the University came more into the picture, and Sharp was called upon to clear his lines four times in as many minutes. Play moved to the other end, and Griffiths had the misfortune to see a terrific drive hit the

'keeper's knee and rebound into play. In the ensuing melee the University managed to scramble the ball away. Warrender was again prominent with some good runs, and he went close with a low fast ball which had the 'keeper well beaten, but which went just the wrong side of the upright. After 70 minutes the University attacked, and their centre-forward scored from close in. Despite valiant efforts on both sides, no further goals were forthcoming, and the match ended in a draw, 1—1.

v. Royal Engineers

The sun was well in evidence when the Corps XI took the field for the annual soccer match with the Royal Engineers at Aldershot on Tuesday, 28th February, 1950. Conditions underfoot were slightly soft, and the pitch looked as though it might churn up as the game progressed. This, however, did not occur, and the turf stood up very well to the end of the game. Signals' inside men were early prominent with some good short passing, but were inclined to over-elaborate, and their attacks broke down each time on reaching the penalty box. The Engineers played much more direct, forceful stuff which, although not such a pleasure to watch, from the spectators' point of view, certainly brought results. Shurban, Signals' centre-half, handled the ball outside the 18 yard line after twenty minutes, and Engineers' inside-left, Jordan, anticipated the referee's signal to send a short pass through to Watson, who scored whilst the whole of the Signals' defence awaited the referee's whistle.

Signals began to take command of the game, but the wingers were well held by their opposing full backs, and could make no headway. Engineers' 'keeper was kept very busy and dealt very competently with shots from Foster, Cronin and Neilson. Foster had the misfortune to see a ball which had the 'keeper going the wrong way strike the latter's knee, and the Sappers' defence scrambled it away.

The Engineers' left-half, who had worked exceptionally hard, was very prominent hereabouts, and started the move which led to Jordan making no mistake when he registered their second counter. Half-time came with the R.E. leading 2—0.

In the second half Signals strove valiantly to get on terms, but the Sappers' defence held firm, and the Sappers' left wing, Micklewright, took advantage of a slip in the Signals' defence to add a third goal. Signals' insides were still playing well and were well supported by the wing half-backs, Neilson and Andrews, our captain. They finally had their reward when Foster beat two men and scored from an oblique angle. Signals now stormed the R.E. goal and forced three corners in quick succession, but the Sappers' defence stood up well to the gruelling and gave away no further goals.

Neilson, Andrews (sen.) and Andrews (jun.) were outstanding on the Signals' side and strove hard to pull the game out of the fire. This was not to be, however, and the Sappers ran out worthy winners of a very exciting game.

Royal Engineers 3, Royal Signals 1.

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All correspondence and matter for publication for "The Wire" should be addressed to The Editor, "The Wire," 88 Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1. Matter for publication must be received by the 15th of the month preceding publication.

Remittances should be made payable to: Royal Signals Association. Subscription rates (post free, except air mail): Twelve months, 10s.; single month, 1s.

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MAY • 1950

Vol. 1 *New Series* **No. 5**

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PRICE: ONE SHILLING

Editorial

A.F.C.A.

IT has been announced in the January-February number of *Signals*, the journal of the Armed Forces Communication Association of the United States of America, that Brigadier-General Stephen H. Sherrill has ceased to be Executive Secretary of the Association. Brigadier-General Sherrill was the first incumbent of this office and as is so rightly stated in *Signals*, much of the success which attended the inauguration of this Association is due to Brigadier-General Sherrill. We in this country are much beholden to him in his capacity as Editor of *Signals* for much kindly advice and help and permission readily granted to reprint in THE WIRE certain articles taken from *Signals*. The most noteworthy of these is perhaps the article on Radio Propagation and the Use of Antennas, by Lieutenant-Colonel Loren E. Gaither. There are also many others.

His post as Executive Secretary of the Armed Forces Communications Association has been taken by Colonel George P. Dixon, who is well known to many of us in this country. We venture to hope that he will accept our good wishes for a successful tenure of appointment.

☆

Major-General Spencer B. Akin, Chief Signal Officer, United States Army, is paying a very short visit to this country from 18th to 25th May. Some account will be given in the June number of THE WIRE.

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The Burma Reunion will be held on 26th May, 1950, at the Royal Albert Hall. Tickets 3s. 6d. each, obtainable from Secretary, Burma Reunion Committee, c/o British Legion, 26 Eccleston Square, S.W.1, or at the door. Admittance limited to those wearing the Burma Star.

OBITUARY

It is with regret that we announce the sudden and tragic death of Captain L. W. Jenkin, Royal Signals, in a car accident on 15th March, 1950.

Captain Jenkin was a most popular officer and was liked by all with whom he came into contact. He leaves a widow and three small daughters, to whom our deepest sympathy goes in their sad loss.

He was interred with full military honours at Fulford Road Cemetery, York, on 20th March, 1950. A full escort and firing party were provided by the Regiment to pay compliments. The C.S.O., Northern Command, was represented by Lieutenant-Colonel W. Clark, M.B.E., Royal Signals, and the C.O. and all Officers of the Regiment were present.

Captain Jenkin served throughout the late war in Royal Signals and the Glider Pilot Regiment, which he joined in 1943. He was commissioned in 1945 and left the Army in 1946, to return again in 1949. At the time of his death he was serving in the Depot Regiment. He will be greatly missed.

DINNER CLUB FIXTURES, 1950

Annual Dinner, 31st May.
Regular Officers' Tea Party, 1st June.
T.A. Officers' Tea Party, 9th December.
Buffet Supper Reunion, 9th December.

All at Hyde Park Hotel. Information from Secretary, Royal Signals Dinner Club, Room 97, Horse Guards, S.W.1.

* * *

It has recently been announced that Major-General L. B. Nicholls, C.B., C.B.E., has become managing director of Cable and Wireless, Ltd. It will be remembered that on leaving the Service he became one of the Government nominated directors of Cable and Wireless, Ltd., and his many friends in Royal Signals will congratulate him on this his latest appointment.

* * *

The C.R. Signals, 43 (Wessex) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A., Burton Place, Taunton, writes to say that all Royal Signals N.S. Officers now serving (whenever they are due for release from full-time service) who live within 15 miles of Taunton, Exeter, Torquay, Bridgwater or Bristol should apply to be volunteers in 43 (Wessex) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A., which has Squadrons (or detachments) in each of those localities.

GOLF

All golfers are reminded that the 1950 Autumn Meeting of the Royal Signals Officers Golfing Society will take place at the Westhill Golf Club, Woking, Surrey, on Thursday, 7th, and Friday, 8th September, 1950. This meeting is open to all officers, Regular and otherwise, who are serving or have served with Royal Signals. It is requested that the meeting be given all possible publicity. Full particulars can be obtained from the Hon. Secretary, Royal Signals Officers' Golfing Society, H.Q. School of Signals, Catterick Camp, Yorkshire.

ROYAL SIGNALS RECRUITING DISPLAY—"QUICKSILVER"

PROGRAMME FOR 1950

Date	*Place*	*Telephone No. of Recruiting Officer Concerned*
25th-26th May 1st- 3rd June	Retford Worksop	Nottingham 43629
6th- 9th June	Catterick Camp	
12th-14th June 15th-17th June 19th-21st June	Castleford Pontefract Wakefield	Leeds 25819
24th June to 1st July	Peterborough	Northampton 3986
5th- 8th July	Dewsbury Batley	Leeds 25819
14th-17th July 18th-20th July	Pocklington Market Weighton	Hull Cen. 15901
22nd-23rd July	Royal Signals O.C.A., Catterick Camp	
24th July to 24th August	Catterick C.C.F. Camps and Catterick Fair	
26th-31st Aug. 1st- 5th Sept. 6th- 9th Sept.	Beverley Driffield Bridlington	Hull Cen. 15901
12th-16th Sept.	West Hartlepool	Middlesbrough 43413
18th-23rd Sept.	Sunderland	Newcastle 28748

SAWBRIDGEWORTH SERVICES CANTEEN REUNION

Proposed reunion for all who were with us 1940/45 and friends. Waterloo Station Restaurant, Saturday, 10th June, 6 p.m. Tickets 5s. each from Mrs. Kampe, Sawbridgeworth, Herts., before 25th May.

SALE—EXCHANGE—WANTED

Personal announcements of articles for sale or wanted can be accepted for insertion in THE WIRE at the rate of 5s. per insertion not exceeding forty words. They should be addressed to the Editor, accompanied by remittance, and typed in double spacing.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND DEATHS

Announcements couched in the usual formulae and limited to 40 words can be accepted for insertion in THE WIRE free of charge. They should be typed in double spacing and on a separate sheet of paper from other contributions, and sent to the Editor.

RECOMMENDED READING FOR MAY

H.R.H. The Princess Royal, C.I., G.C.V.O., G.B.E., Colonel-in-Chief, Royal Signals, has visited Edinburgh (p. 188).

A stained glass window has recently been unveiled in St. George's Garrison Church, Moascar, as a memorial to members of the Corps who died while serving in Egypt and the Middle East (p. 182).

The Principles of Telegraph Machines, by P. A. Chittenden, Esq., A.M.I.E.E., continues the series of articles by officers of the S.R.D.E. (p. 176).

A notice of the retirement of Mr. J. H. Williams, O.B.E., well known to all Cipher Officers is at p. 187.

Royal Signals Officers of the Rhine Army have dined together (p. 194).

The Representative Colonel Commandant, Major-General W. R. C. Penney, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., has visited Rhine Army (p. 196).

The achievements of Royal Signals (Egypt) Rugby Football, Association Football and Hockey Teams are chronicled on p. 208.

Cross-country Running of Royal Signals, Catterick, and particularly 1 Training Regiment are recounted on p. 210.

* * *

Major George Weeks wishes all his old friends in the Corps to know that he has now settled at the Castle Hotel, Clifford Street, York (right opposite the Empire Theatre), and will be delighted to see them at any time they are passing through York.

* * *

Mr. I. B. Harbour, of the Inca Bees Village, "Mawnan," Eridge Lane, Groombridge, Sussex, a former member of the Corps, has a successful and increasing apiary.

He is willing to take for training as an apiarist any member of the Royal Signals Association. The course would include practical honey farming and coaching for the necessary examinations. Such training would secure a successful candidate, who stayed the course, an income of between £500 and £600 per year.

As Mr. Harbour cannot at present offer either salary or accommodation, applicants would have to have sufficient capital to carry on for a period, and they MUST NOT BE AFRAID OF BEES or of being occasionally stung by them.

Further details will be supplied by Mr. Harbour on application.

* * *

The star of the month is Helen Cherry, of the J. Arthur Rank Organisation. She is at present appearing as the wife of John Mills in the current production of "Morning Departure."



Principles of

Telegraph Machines

By **P. A. CHITTENDEN**, *A.M.I.E.E.*
(Telegraph Section, S.R.D.E.)

Introduction

PRESENT-DAY machine telegraph systems are the result of much development of telegraph sending and receiving instruments, from early hand-operated systems using the Morse code to machine systems using modern telegraphic codes. To be a practicable proposition, a machine telegraph system should comprise three types of instrument, i.e. the teleprinter, the automatic tape transmitter, and the tape perforator. These must work together using an agreed telegraph signalling code. It is, therefore, important to discuss telegraph codes, before considering the machines which will operate from them.

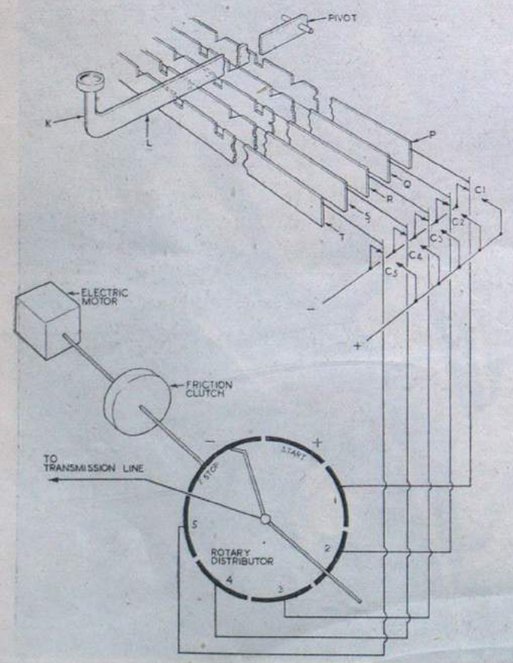


Fig. 1.—Teleprinter Transmitter

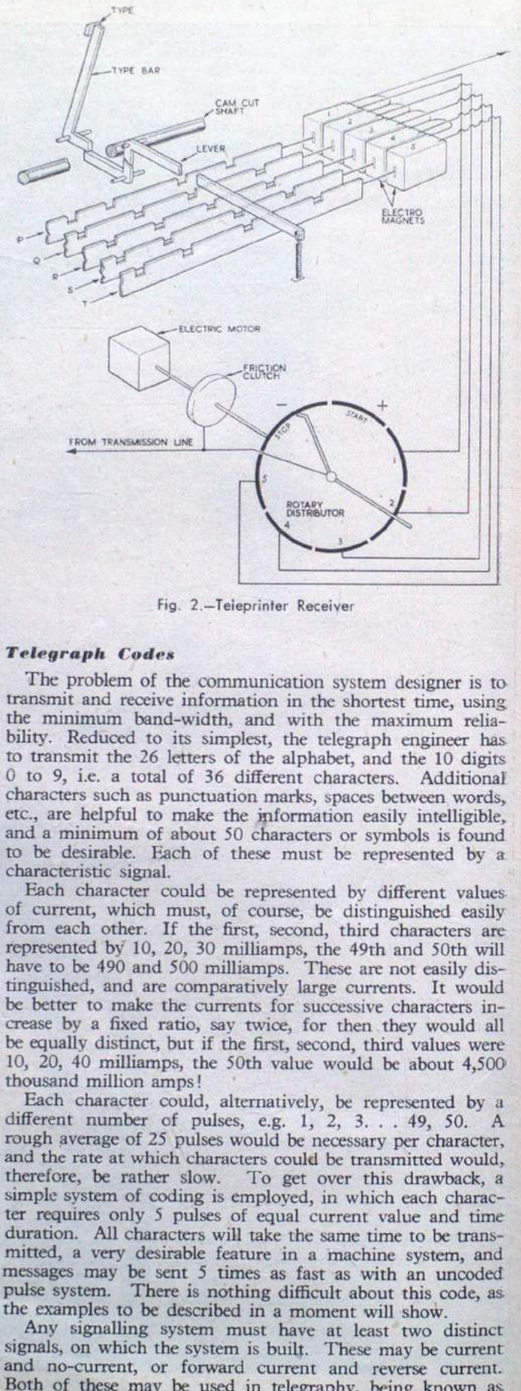


Fig. 2.—Teleprinter Receiver

Telegraph Codes

The problem of the communication system designer is to transmit and receive information in the shortest time, using the minimum band-width, and with the maximum reliability. Reduced to its simplest, the telegraph engineer has to transmit the 26 letters of the alphabet, and the 10 digits 0 to 9, i.e. a total of 36 different characters. Additional characters such as punctuation marks, spaces between words, etc., are helpful to make the information easily intelligible, and a minimum of about 50 characters or symbols is found to be desirable. Each of these must be represented by a characteristic signal.

Each character could be represented by different values of current, which must, of course, be distinguished easily from each other. If the first, second, third characters are represented by 10, 20, 30 milliamps, the 49th and 50th will have to be 490 and 500 milliamps. These are not easily distinguished, and are comparatively large currents. It would be better to make the currents for successive characters increase by a fixed ratio, say twice, for then they would all be equally distinct, but if the first, second, third values were 10, 20, 40 milliamps, the 50th value would be about 4,500 thousand million amps!

Each character could, alternatively, be represented by a different number of pulses, e.g. 1, 2, 3. . . 49, 50. A rough average of 25 pulses would be necessary per character, and the rate at which characters could be transmitted would, therefore, be rather slow. To get over this drawback, a simple system of coding is employed, in which each character requires only 5 pulses of equal current value and time duration. All characters will take the same time to be transmitted, a very desirable feature in a machine system, and messages may be sent 5 times as fast as with an uncoded pulse system. There is nothing difficult about this code, as the examples to be described in a moment will show.

Any signalling system must have at least two distinct signals, on which the system is built. These may be current and no-current, or forward current and reverse current. Both of these may be used in telegraphy, being known as single-current and double-current working respectively. Let us call the two signals Mark (M) and Space (S).

If the two signals can be used once only to identify a character, only 2 such characters can be identified, i.e. $2^1=2$

M ... ... (1)
S ... ... (2)

If the two signals can be used twice, 4 characters may be identified, i.e. $2^2=4$

M M ... ... (1)
M S ... ... (2)
S M ... ... (3)
S S ... ... (4)

If the two signals can be used three times, 8 characters may be identified, i.e. $2^3=8$

M M M ... ... (1)
M M S ... ... (2)
M S M ... ... (3)
M S S ... ... (4)
S M M ... ... (5)
S M S ... ... (6)
S S M ... ... (7)
S S S ... ... (8)

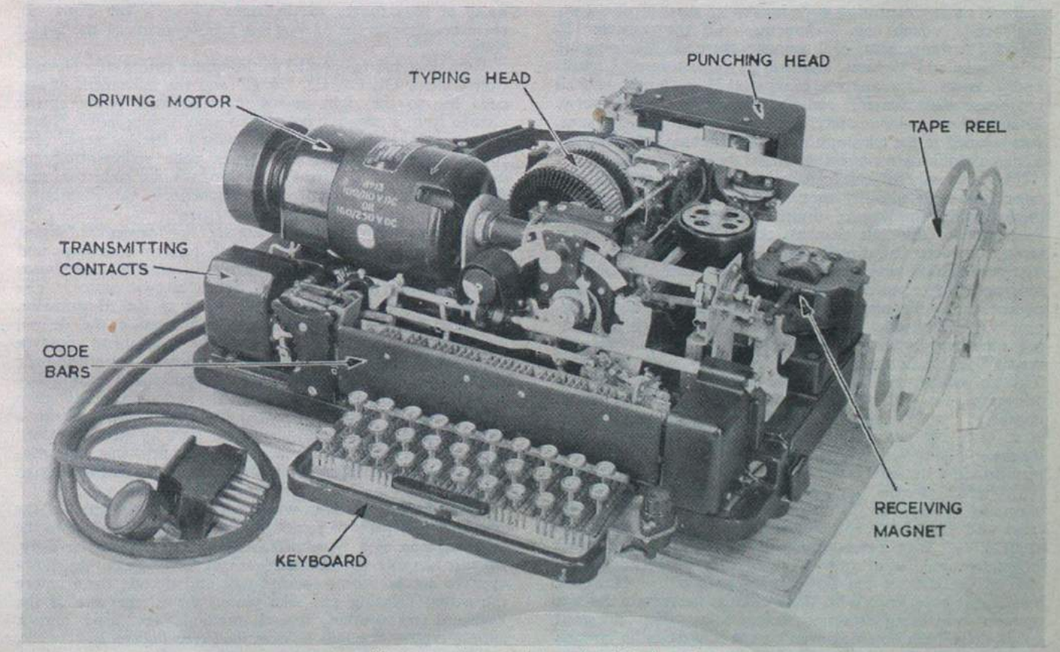
If it is desired to identify at least the 26 letters of the alphabet, the signals should be used 5 times to give 32 distinct arrangements ($2^5=32$). The six spare arrangements are very useful for performing special operations on the receiving machines.

It may be asked how digits 0-9 and other useful symbols can be identified when only 32 arrangements are possible. The answer is that, as hinted above, one of the arrangements not required for the alphabet can be used to operate on the telegraph receiving mechanism in such a way that the arrangements may be used again. Thus the figure 4 may have the same arrangement as letter R, but is preceded by a special arrangement to indicate that figures are following.

In this way nearly 64 characters may be identified for 5 units of signalling current. These units of current usually follow one another in time sequence, and are called code elements. The system is commonly called "5-unit code working."

The signalling speed, or speed in bauds, is defined as the inverse of the duration (expressed in seconds) of the shortest element of telegraph modulation. The unit of telegraph speed, therefore, corresponds to 1 shortest telegraph element per second, and is called the "baud." The "baud," like the "knot," is a unit of speed. A telegraph engineer never speaks of a telegraph system working at so many "bauds per second," any more than a sailor speaks of his ship travelling at so many "knots per hour." The telegraph system works at so many bauds and the ship travels at so many knots. Thus a speed of 50 bauds means that 50 elements are sent per second. In Morse working, a dot is the minimum telegraph element, the spaces between dots (or between dots and dashes) are of the same length as the dot, and the dash is equal to the length of 3 dots. Thus the baud speed is 3 times (number of dashes) plus number of dots plus number of spaces per second, assuming continuous sending, and remembering that there are 3 spaces between letters and 5 spaces between words. At a speed of 50 bauds each dot, or signal element, is 1/50 second or 20 milliseconds long, and each dash is 60 milliseconds long. At 75 bauds, each element is 1/75 or 13.3 milliseconds long. With 5-unit code working all the code signal elements are of the same length, and the same number of elements is required to identify any character.

To enable a telegraph receiving mechanism to interpret the coded signal it is necessary to prefix each arrangement of 5 elements with an additional element called the "Start" signal, and to follow the 5 elements with a "Stop" signal, which is $1\frac{1}{2}$ elements long. Thus each complete character requires $7\frac{1}{2}$ elements.



Modern typing reperforator (with keyboard)

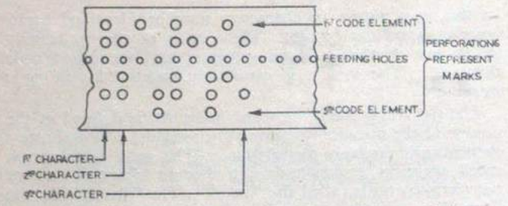


Fig. 3.—Typical 5-Unit-Code Perforated Tape Ordinary Perforator

If the code and the speed in bauds are known, the average number of words per minute may be found. The average word is assumed to consist of five letters and a space, i.e. a total of 6 characters, or 6 x $7\frac{1}{2}$=45 elements. Then at 50 bauds, the number of words per minute is $\frac{50 \times 60}{45} = 66.2/3$. At 75 bauds, the number of words per minute is $\frac{75 \times 60}{45} = 100$.

Telegraph codes other than the 5-unit code have been used. The 6-unit code gives 64 possible arrangements (2^6=64), and a different arrangement of code elements may be used for letters and figures. It is therefore no longer necessary to prefix figures with a special arrangement. This is of value on circuits which tend to mutilate the signals (e.g. radio circuits), because if, when using 5-unit code, the mutilation happens to produce the arrangement which says that figures are following, the rest of the message will appear as figures, until such time as an arrangement is received which says that letters are now to follow. This cannot happen with 6-unit code, where letters and figures have their individual arrangements.

There is an interesting code known as the "error-detecting" code, which uses 7 elements. Of the possible 128 (2^7=128) arrangements of 7 elements there are 35 consisting of 4 marks and 3 spaces, and also 35 consisting of 3 marks and 4 spaces. One of these groups of 35 is chosen, and all characters must therefore contain, say, 3 marks and 4 spaces. If any other number is received, e.g. 2 marks and 5 spaces, it is rejected in the telegraph receiving machine, which prints a star to indicate an error.

The advantage of this code over the 5-unit code is that errors are made easily noticeable. This is particularly important in the case of figures. When an error due to mutilation of the code elements occurs with 5-unit code, a wrong character is printed which may make a new word, e.g., "WHEN" may become "THEN," and this may or may not be detected depending on whether the message now makes sense. Alternatively, a new word may not be formed, e.g., "WHEN" may become "QHEN" in which an error has obviously occurred. In the case of figures, however, "1059" may become "5059" which is not detectable. This is where the 7-unit error-detecting code gives an advantage, for with this code the mutilated number would appear as "x059" and the fact that an error has occurred is at once obvious. This facility is not obtained free of charge. The price is two extra elements per character, resulting in a slower message speed.

On good circuits, e.g., land lines, the 5-unit code is adequate, because the factor of safety against mutilation is large and the chance of errors is very small. On poor circuits, e.g., long distance radio links, the chance of errors is greater and 7-unit code working may be of advantage, even at the cost of the slower message speed. However, insufficient experience with these circuits prevents a definite opinion from being expressed, except to say that very good results have been obtained even on the longest radio circuits with 5-unit code only, and since there are advantages in using the same code and machines for all circuits, 5-unit code will continue as the universal standard until it is shown to be really unserviceable. It should, perhaps, be made clear that the 7-unit code is "error-detecting" only, and does not correct errors.

It will be readily understood that if the telegraph system used in one country is to work with the telegraph system used in another country, it must use an agreed arrangement of 5-unit elements for each character or symbol. Such agreement exists in Europe by the adoption of the International 5-unit Code Alphabet. This Alphabet is also used by America, except for a few cases of symbols, and attempts are being made to resolve even these few differences so that complete interworking can be achieved.

The Teleprinter

The teleprinter is probably the most fundamental and commonly known of any telegraph machine. It consists of a keyboard transmitter for producing 5-unit code signals, and a telegraph receiver for accepting 5-unit code signals, decoding them, and printing the required character on paper. These two parts of the machine are mounted on a common baseplate, and operated from a common electric motor.

The keyboard transmitter is similar in appearance to the keyboard of an ordinary typewriter. Depression of a key does not result in a type-bar printing direct on paper, but in the setting of a mechanism from which the 5-unit code representing that character may be transmitted. There are several mechanisms in use, and a typical one, easy to understand, will be described (see Figure 1).

When the character key K is depressed, the lever part L between the pivot and the finger plate moves into five horizontal code bars P, Q, R, S, T, whose top edges carry V-shaped notches in such positions that certain code bars move to the right. Thus, if the key for the character R were depressed, code bars P, R and T would move to the right. If the key for character Y were depressed, code bars Q and S would move to the right. A different arrangement of bars moves to the right for each key depressed, corresponding to the 32 possible arrangements of the 5-unit code.

Each code bar is coupled to the centre spring of a change-over contact C1, C2, C3, C4, C5 and the movement of any code bar to the right makes the associated centre spring change from a negative polarity to a positive polarity. These centre springs are joined electrically to the segments of a rotary distributor, and the 5-unit code representing the desired character is therefore set up, via the code bars and the change-over contacts, on the segments of this distributor in terms of positive or negative polarities.

The depression of any character key causes a friction clutch on a shaft carrying the distributor arm to engage, and the distributor arm makes one revolution over the distributor segments, from power supplied by the electric motor. The distributor arm is connected electrically to the transmission line, and the 5-unit code signals representing the desired character are therefore sent out. The mechanism must be so arranged that it is not possible to release a key during the transmission of a character, and to prevent a second key from being depressed before the first is released. This gives rise to what is called a "locked keyboard," and calls for a steady rhythm in typing on the part of the keyboard operator. It will be appreciated from this that the teleprinter operator differs from the typist in a similar way as the Marathon runner differs from a sprinter.

The telegraph receiver, which forms the second part of the teleprinter, is perhaps somewhat similar in appearance to the printing side of a typewriter, and performs a similar duty, since it has to print characters on paper. It also has, however, to accept 5-unit code signals and decode them before the actual printing can take place. As in the case of the keyboard transmitter, several methods are used and a simple typical one will be described (see Figure 2).

The five code elements, arriving in sequence, are distributed to five electro-magnets by means of a rotary distributor, whose arm makes one revolution per character under the control of the electric motor and friction clutch released by the "start" signal. Each of these magnets accepts one code element, and its armature moves if the code element is positive.

Associated with each magnet armature is a code-bar with notches in the upper edge generally similar to the code bars in the keyboard transmitter. The code bars are therefore moved, or not moved, under the control of the magnets, and at the end of the five code elements are in such a position that only one of 32 levers can drop among the notches. The operations are similar to those in the keyboard transmitter but take place in the reverse order.

Each of the 32 levers is associated with a type bar, and the lever which the code bars have allowed to drop marks its type bar, which receives an impulse from a cam-cut shaft during the "stop" signal. The head of the type bar carries the type, which imprints its character on the paper via an inking ribbon. When this has been done the paper is moved a distance of one character, the code bars are reset and the machine is ready to receive the next character.

It will be clear from the above brief description that the receiving mechanism must know when a set of code elements will arrive and it is for this reason that a "start" signal precedes the code elements. Also, time must be allowed after the code elements for the receiving machine to reset itself to normal, and for this the "stop" signal is provided. The receiving machine and the keyboard transmitter must also run in synchronism during the transmission of a character to ensure that the code elements are distributed to the correct magnets. This is done by governing the motors on the transmitting and receiving machines to run at approximately the same speed (±1%), and allowing the transmitting and receiving mechanisms to operate only during the actual transmission of characters. This "start-stop" working ensures that each transmitting and receiving cycle of operations is complete in itself and that small variations between speeds do not become cumulative. To prevent a fast-running transmitting machine racing a slow-running receiving machine, it is arranged that the complete cycle of operations of decoding and printing takes place in the receiving machine in the time of only $6\frac{1}{2}$ elements, i.e., in 130 milliseconds at 50 bauds.

The alternative to start-stop working is "synchronous" working, in which the sending and receiving machines run at identical speed and are so phased that when the arm of the transmitting distributor is entering, say, the first distributor segment, the arm of the receiving distribution is also entering the first distributor segment. To keep this high degree of synchronism and phasing over a long period

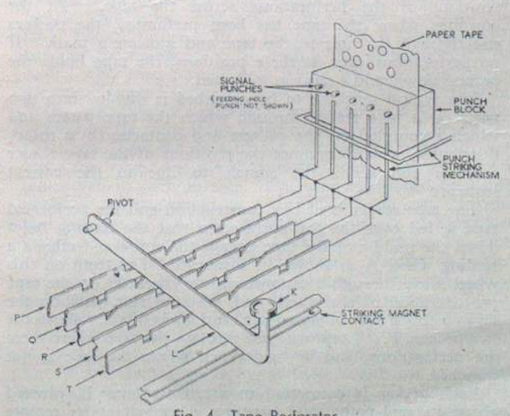


Fig. 4.—Tape Perforator

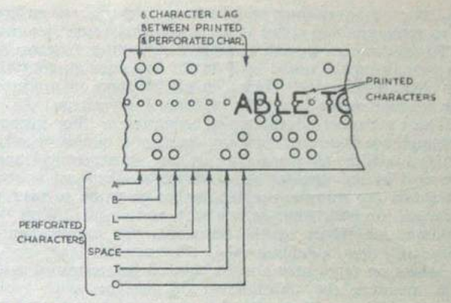


Fig. 5.—Typical 5-Unit-Code Perforated Tape Printing Perforator

requires extremely stable motor speeds, such as can be obtained from motors operating from crystal-driven oscillators. Circuits must also be provided to check periodically the speed and phase of the receiving machine against the incoming telegraph signals, and correct it where necessary. In addition, since keyboard operators are liable to originate characters at any moment, storage circuits must be provided to hold the originated traffic and release each character at the appropriate instant to suit the synchronous transmitter. It will be realised that all this represents a considerable complication of the machines, and "start-stop" working is therefore favoured wherever possible for its greater simplicity.

To increase the number of characters which are obtained from the 5-unit code, i.e., to provide figures and symbols as well as letters, a paper carriage shift may be used similar to that in a typewriter. On receipt of a 5-unit code signal not required to indicate a letter, a mechanism will be operated which will move the paper up (or down) to bring it opposite a second set of characters (figures, symbols, etc.) on the type bars. Figures or symbols will, therefore, be printed instead of letters. This condition will remain until a 5-unit code signal is received to restore the paper to its original position, when letters will again be printed.

Some ingenious devices have been added to the teleprinter to facilitate operating procedure. The alternative to letter D is labelled "Who are you?" When this code is received by the distant teleprinter, no character is printed, but a cam is set in motion which transmits back to the calling machine an identification number associated with the called teleprinter office. In this way it is possible for a teleprinter operator to check the identity of the office to which he is connected.

By a similar device, the alternative to letter J may be made to strike a bell at the called machine, and so to attract the attention of the distant teleprinter operator. These devices, together with arrangements for starting the distant teleprinter motor automatically when a character is received, or for stopping it if no character is received for say, 40 seconds, are adjuncts which make for easier and more economical use of the machine, and do not affect its fundamental principles.

The Telegraph Tape Perforator

A telegraph machine which is also of importance is the Telegraph Tape Perforator. This machine produces the perforated paper tapes on which telegraph messages are stored and from which they can be transmitted with the help of an Automatic Tape Transmitter as described later.

Message storage on tape is an important facility on a Machine Telegraph System, particularly on long-distance circuits, which are expensive to install and operate and which should, therefore, handle traffic with the highest possible efficiency. The traffic for these circuits does not occur at an easy steady rate. It is irregular, and at some time of the day may be 10 times what the circuit can accommodate,

and at other times there may be barely one message an hour. Also messages may arrive at a transmitting centre for many different destinations and a method of routing messages and of evening-up the traffic load on the transmitting circuits is an obvious necessity. This can all be done by producing the message in the form of a perforated paper tape.

There are other advantages of using tapes. For instance, although the theoretical sending speed of a circuit operating at 50 bauds is 66 words per minute, the practical speed achieved by an operator on a teleprinter keyboard is about 30 words per minute, because he has to pause to read the message, to check what he has sent, and so on. With tape sending, the whole of the 66 words per minute can be obtained, thus doubling the efficiency of the circuit. Messages on tapes may also be checked before transmission, thus avoiding the transmission of messages with typing errors, which would require the message to be repeated and again would waste valuable circuit time. If a message has to be repeated because of mutilation in the transmission path, e.g., through radio fading or bursts of atmospherics, it can be repeated immediately and without any trouble if it is stored on tape. The full importance of these remarks will be realised when it is stated that their disregard will require the provision of additional circuits to carry the traffic with additional trained operators, accommodation, maintenance of equipment, power supplies, etc.

The telegraph characters are stored on the tape in 5-unit code in rows of holes across the width of the tape, each row representing a character, and each hole representing a mark (or negative current) code element. A piece of typical tape is shown in Figure 3. The line of smaller holes in roughly the centre of the tape are used for moving the tape forward one character at a time.

The Perforator consists of a keyboard and code bars similar to that used in a teleprinter, a punch block with six punches (five signal hole punches and one feeding hole punch) and a means of driving the punches through the paper tape. A typical mechanism is shown in Figure 4.

The code bars set up the 5-unit code for the character whose key is depressed, and the setting of the code bars is transferred to the punch-striking mechanism so that the punches corresponding to the code bars moved to the right by the character key pierce the paper tape when the striking mechanism operates. The striking mechanism may be operated very conveniently by an electro-magnet when the character key is depressed fully, and on its return stroke can be made to move the paper tape through the distance equal to one character.

A variation of the perforator is the Reperforator, which, instead of being set up from a keyboard, accepts 5-unit code signals from a line, and produces punched paper tape to correspond. In this case the signal elements from the line are fed by a distributor to five electro-magnets, whose armatures set up the punch-striking mechanisms as did the code bars in the perforator. The striking mechanism operates during the stop signal, and the reperforator is then ready to receive another character.

It will be understood that the perforator and reperforator may be combined, i.e., the reperforator may be fitted with a keyboard and code bars. It then becomes a "Reperforator with Keyboard" and can be used to produce perforated tape from keyboard operation or from a line circuit.

A variation of the reperforator is the Typing Reperforator, in which the paper tape is punched with the signal perforations and the actual message is printed on the tape in clear text. This machine is a combination of teleprinter and perforator. Signals from a line are resolved by the usual five magnets and code bars into the appropriate character which is printed on the paper tape as in the teleprinter. The setting of the code bars (or magnet armatures) is also transferred to the punch block striking mechanism as in the perforator, and the tape is punched.

In this machine the punch block and the typing head cannot occupy the same position on the tape, and so there is a difference in position between a punched and printed character on the tape. This difference is kept as small as possible in the design of the machine and amounts usually to about six characters. A typical typed and perforated tape is shown in Figure 5.

The Typing Reperforator can be fitted with a keyboard in a similar way to the Reperforator and for the same purpose. It is then called a "Typing Reperforator with Keyboard."

The speed of operation of simple perforators is, of course, of no significance, as they operate only in a local circuit. Reperforators have to work with signals originated in a distant station, and the speed must be such that interworking with any other machine is assured, as for the teleprinter.

The Automatic Tape Transmitter

This machine is used to transmit to line telegraph signals from the punched paper tape produced by the perforator already described.

In operating, this machine "senses" the paper tape with five "peckers" whose heads coincide with the nominal positions of the perforations across the tape. At the positions where the tape has been perforated, the peckers rise through the hole in the tape and indicate a mark. If no perforations exist at these positions, the tape holds the peckers down, and a space is indicated.

The typical machine to be described is divided into two parts (a) a tape reader through which the tape passes and which accommodates the peckers and contacts; (b) a rotary distributor, which examines the positions of the tape reader contacts and sends the signals to line in the correct sequence.

The tape reader is of box construction and the perforated tape is fed over the top surface, so that the feeding holes down the middle of the tape engage the sprocket teeth on a feeding wheel A as shown in Figure 6. The teeth on this wheel move through a distance of one character on the tape per operation of the wheel, and, when at rest, position the tape so that a row of signal perforations is directly above the five peckers P. These will rise through the tape where there are perforations, and be held down where the tape is not punched.

Each pecker is connected to a contact lever L, pivoted about its mid-point, and carrying a contact at its remote

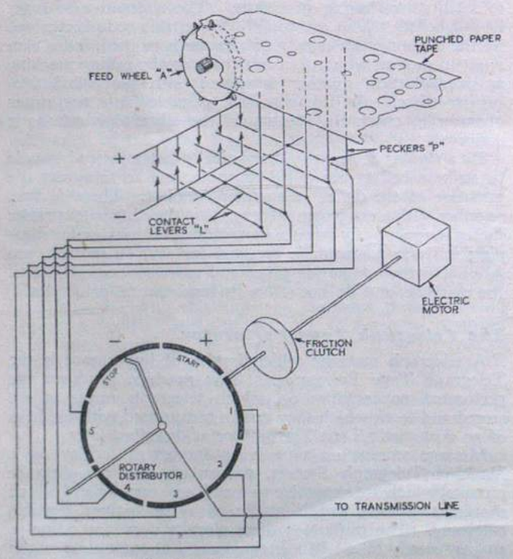


Fig. 6.—Automatic Tape Transmitter

end which is connected to negative polarity if the pecker has risen through the tape, and to positive polarity if the pecker is held down by the absence of a perforation. In this way the signal perforations in the tape are converted to polarities which may be scanned by a distributor and transmitted in sequence.

After scanning, all peckers are withdrawn out of the way of the paper tape, the feeding wheel moves through the distance of one tooth and the peckers are allowed to rise and sense the perforations for the next character. This process repeats until the message tape is finished.

The associated distributor is quite simple, consisting only of a seven-part contact ring and a brush arm. The contact ring has a "start" section, joined permanently to a positive polarity, five code sections joined to the five contacts of the tape reader, and a "stop" section joined permanently to a negative polarity. When at rest, the brush arm rests on the "stop" section, and it makes one revolution per character under the control of an electric motor and a friction clutch. The brush arm is connected to the transmitting line.

In operating the Automatic Tape Transmitter, the perforated tape is placed in the tape reader and a tape cover is closed to ensure that it does not ride off the sprocket feeding wheel. The action of closing the tape cover, and the fact that tape is in the tape reader, sends a signal to the friction clutch on the distributor, which engages and causes the distributor arm to revolve once and read off and transmit the first character sensed by the peckers. The tape reader feeding wheel is moved one tooth, either by an electro-magnet and ratchet and pawl operated during the stop signal, or from a cam driven by the distributor motor, and the next character on the tape is read and transmitted. These actions are repeated until the tape has run through the tape reader, when an auxiliary pecker is allowed to rise by the absence of tape, and the signal to the distributor friction clutch is interrupted. The distributor arm stops rotating and rests on the stop section, sending a steady mark to the transmitting line.

Conclusion

In these few notes the principles of the 5-unit telegraph code, and of the machines which use it, have been described. There are, of course, variations of the machines, and it is hoped that, with these notes to help, detailed descriptions of such machines will be more easily understood.

A Slight Attack of Nostalgia

CONVERSATION. "Give me a Blue Nile and a tin of Churchmans No. 1, boy." "Blue Nile, what's that?" "Whisky and lime cost about fourpence ha'penny and fifty fags a bob."

Scene. A sergeants' mess in Singapore.

Time. Alas not now. 1939 yes, but returning ten years later only gives rise to the age-old yearning for the good old days.

* * *

Arriving with reinforcements to force Emu, September, 1939, I stood in the sharp end and listened to some one pick out Fullerton Building, Fort Canning, Mount Faber and other spots. Surrounded by a milling throng of anxious trepid wives and shouting inquisitive children in February, 1949, I found that the old landmarks are still there.

A closer inspection showed few major changes in the city. The smells are still there. I'd say the River Kallang is worse, though many heads will shake and mutter "Impossible." It is certainly no better. The picturesque rickshaw has gone, outlawed beyond return. In its place the march of progress (?) has put the trishaw, a cycle with a two-seater sidecar; the coolie, who once trotted, now pedals with an equal, if not greater, disregard for other traffic and the rules of the road. Soon, so rumour says, there is to be an improved (??) trishaw, practically the same thing powered by a small i/c engine.

I never knew the days of red flags preceding motor cars, but a trip round the island nowadays makes one see there is sense even in such an idea. One who mentioned he would prefer a car that would go when called upon was told that that was rather pointless, as there is nowhere in Singapore where you can let a car go. How fast did those Triumph twins move along the Bukit Timah road? Traffic has trebled and quadrupled, hand signals are more varied and just as little to be relied upon. Road sense has not grown with the traffic. The civil traffic police are now a large separate department with their own uniform. Traffic courts are busy throughout the whole day. Many sunsets have been watched over the top of a frosted glass from the Gap Roadhouse and many cars have tarried in the pleasant quietness of Ayer Rajah Road. It is with a certain amount of regret that I saw bulldozed devastation, prefabricated hutments and dumps of vehicles or stores instead.

Frequent large notice boards, marked "Protected place, protected area, Tempat Larangan," and a word or two in "Jawi" made me think that a rather extensive system of small national parks to protect the local race and its inhabitants was under weigh. I found it the reverse. The type of military camp and the shortage of manpower combine to make safeguarding of stores somewhat difficult. The determination and abundance of thieves made it necessary to arm guards, and any person after dark who does not come to heel when called is likely to get shot, or at least to get shot at.

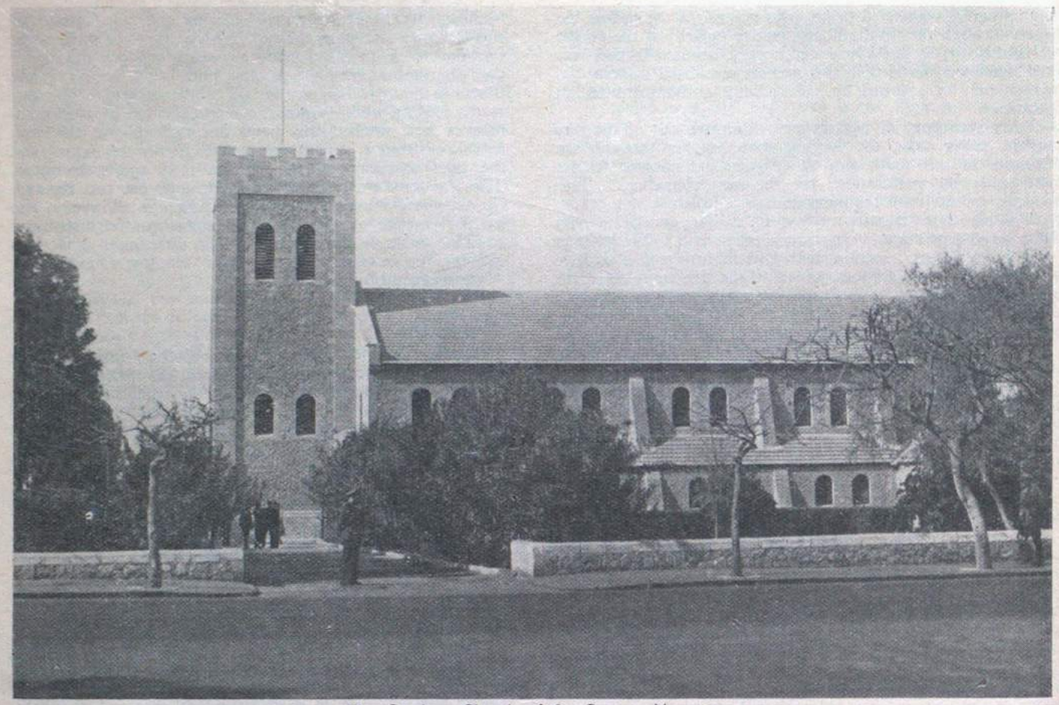
The cinemas are still here, the films just as good, but 7s. to see Myrna Loy, 3s. 6d. for a Tiger beer (the local brew) and about three half-crowns to get from Alex to the Cathay tell their own little story.

Maybe the swimming club is somewhat crowded and that happy "stag" on Sundays until 4 p.m. is no more. Those large tins of talc and snow-white towels are absent, but it is still one of the pleasantest spots to laze in and the Makaan is still worth a longish journey for it.

Picnics to Kota Tinggi and runs up to Mersing for a quiet one in the rest hours are "out." The banditry, of course. Driving instruction and No. 11 set schemes fifty to a hundred miles off the Island are but a pleasant memory.

The Fortress Signal Office, now the Singapore District Signal Office, operates from the main block at Fort Canning, and teleprinters have replaced the Fullerphone. The Battle box is shut. Telephone conversations are not quite so easy, but then there are so many more. Some of the old cables are in use also. The two coconut tree stumps that flung the radio signals from the bottom of Friendly Hill to Aldershot may still be there, but they are quiet. Rhombics along the East Coast Road give out, and along the Ayer Rajah Road receive our Blighty traffic. Ex-Singapore traffic, once handled by a small part of a Signal Company, has brought into being a Signal Regiment.

There are far more troops, far more deficiencies to establishments, far more work, but the sun still shines, the same puggled pawnee is served in a bottle with a palm tree and a tiger on its side. I cannot find a Euchre School, but I still like being here.



The Garrison Church of St. George, Moascar

The Unveiling and Dedication

OF THE CORPS WINDOW AT MOASCAR

IT has been said that the Church of St. George, at Moascar, is the finest of all Garrison Churches in British stations overseas. Few of the many members of the Corps who know the Church will disagree with this view. Built of pinkish cream Fayid stone with a red tiled roof, it stands back from the road behind a smooth lawn and trim hedges and is approached under an avenue of trees through a lych-gate. This setting and the charming simplicity of the design, particularly the spaciousness of the interior, are pleasantly reminiscent of a typical English village church and bring a happy relief from the sandy wastes of the Canal Zone.

The beauty of the Church is now further enhanced by the addition of a Regimental window which has been presented by the Corps and which is now in position in the Baptistery Chapel at the west end of the Church. The design of the window comprises the Corps badge in gold and silver super-imposed on a wide blue cross. The window is the work of Charles Blakeman, Esq., C.M.G., who is one of the acknowledged experts in this type of art. Its presentation was made possible by the generosity of the Corps Committee who kindly made a grant of £100 from the Corps War Memorial Fund, the balance of the cost being found from subscriptions donated by all ranks of the Corps serving in the Middle East.

The unveiling and dedication of the window was made the occasion for a special Corps Church Parade and was timed to coincide with the visit of the Director of Signals (Major-General W. A. Scott, C.B., C.B.E.) to this theatre for the annual conference held by C.S.O., M.E.L.F. The ceremony thus took place in Moascar on Sunday, 19th March, 1950.

The Corps was honoured by the attendance of both the C.-in-C. M.E.L.F., General Sir John Crocker, G.C.B., K.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., A.D.C., and the G.O.C. British Troops in Egypt, Lieutenant-General G. W. E. J. Erskine, C.B., D.S.O., who were accompanied by Lady Crocker and Mrs. Erskine. In addition to the Director, C.S.O., M.E.L.F. (Major-General W. O. Bowen, C.B., C.B.E.) and C.S.O., B.T.E. (Brigadier C. A. H. Chadwick, C.B.E.), all C.S.O.s of the other Commands in the Middle East were present, together with the District Commander and other Senior Officers of B.T.E. A large number of officers and other ranks of the Corps with their families also attended the service which was conducted by the Rev. J. C. Purves, S.C.F.

The address was given by the Assistant Chaplain General to B.T.E., the Rev. K. A. Puntan, O.B.E., and in it he referred to the fine record of the Corps in the past and spoke sympathetically of its difficulties at the present time. The work which devolved upon Signals demanded a high sense of duty from each member of the Corps, he said, and it was this same attitude as a member of the Christian Community that was needed in the world today.

After the address, the window was unveiled by the Director, who drew aside the covering drape with the words:—

"I unveil this window to the greater glory of God and in memory of the Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers and Men of Royal Signals who have served in Egypt and the Middle East."

The Assistant Chaplain General then dedicated the window.

After the service, the C.-in-C. M.E.L.F. took the salute at a march past of the parade and was accompanied on the saluting dais by the G.O.C. B.T.E., the Director of Signals and C.S.O., M.E.L.F. The march past was led by the band of the 1st Battalion Royal Lincolnshire Regiment (by kind permission of the Commanding Officer) and was commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel G. U. Finney, Royal Signals, O.C. Egypt Command Signal Regiment. There then followed three squadrons representative of all Signal units in the Canal Zone as follows:—

1 Squadron	Egypt Command Signal Regiment.
2 Squadron	3 G.H.Q., Signal Regiment. 1 L. of C. Signal Regiment. 1 Squadron, 4 Air Formation Signal Regiment. 1 M.E. Signal Park. Army Wireless Chain, Fayid. X Branch, G.H.Q. C.A.F.S.O. Branch, M.E.A.F. X Branch, B.T.E.
3 Squadron	2 A.G.R.A. Signal Squadron. 3 Infantry Brigade Signal Troop. 17 Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron. 1 R.H.A. Signal Troop. 41 Field Regiment, R.A. Signal Troop. 4 Royal Tank Regiment Signal Troop. 16/5 Lancers Signal Troop. 2 A.S.S.U. Signal Equipment Troops, Tel-el-Kebir and Geneifa.

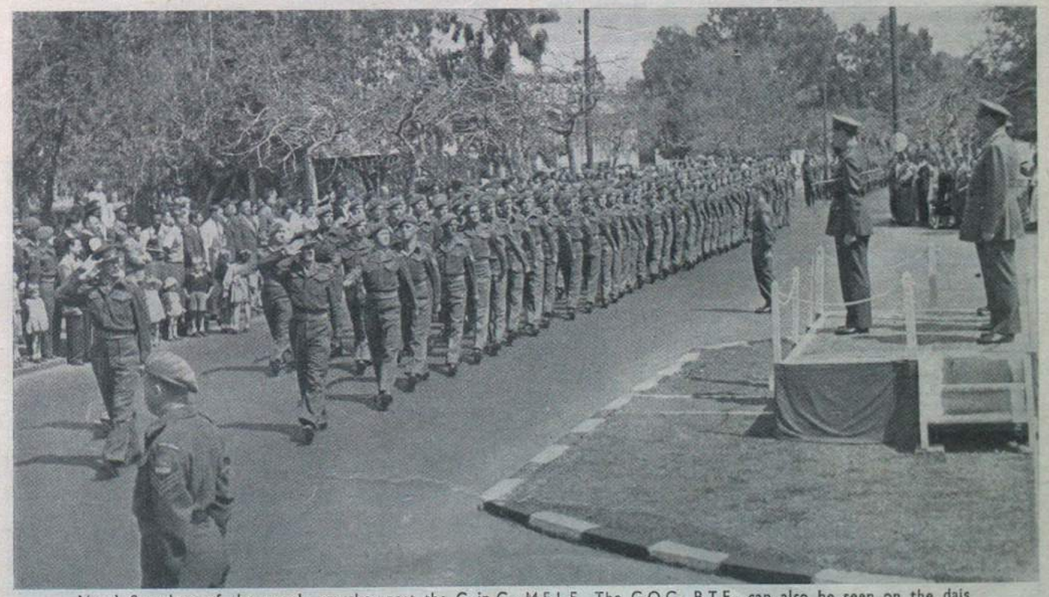
The parade strength was approximately 350 all ranks.

The arrangements for the parade and the service were adequately carried out by Egypt Command Signal Regiment and the Officers of X Branch, B.T.E., acted as ushers at the Church.

We, in Egypt, who are now the present beneficiaries of the window, would like to take this opportunity of thanking Major-General Scott for honouring this domestic event with his presence and for unveiling the window. The occasion was a very happy one for us here and will not readily be forgotten by those who witnessed it.



The Royal Signals window



No. 1 Squadron of the parade marches past the C.-in-C., M.E.L.F. The G.O.C., B.T.E., can also be seen on the dais

Z *for* Danger

By **JOHN WHITNEY**

UNDER the awning on the foredeck we found some shelter from the glare of the sun, and there we spread our blankets. Roy Bullock, after a moment's disdainful stare at the muddy brackenish brown of the Red Sea rippling past the ship's side, was soon asleep and gently snoring.

Not so the young fellow stretched lazily out on my other side. He was wide awake, and so was I. We little thought, as we chatted, that we were about to tie-up the loose ends of a story of a bombed convoy four years previously. It was only by luck that we got round to the subject at all. A commotion above our heads made us stretch our necks to stare, through a gap in the awning, at a signal flag being slowly hoisted on the halliard.

"Those confounded flags!" I found myself saying. "We used to hate them when we were on watch on the bridge of the *Britannic*. We enjoyed working with the Aldis lamp, but how we detested those flags! We were such complete landlubbers with them, I suppose. And although we soon knew them all alphabetically, we never really mastered the code which was hung up just inside the wheelhouse door.

"One dull day I shall never forget," I continued. "Just the usual large circle of grey sea with the 50-odd convoy ships dotted about the horizon. Fred Powell was on watch with me, as usual, and our four hours' spell of duty seemed never ending. Even the ship's officers seemed depressed—their frightful responsibilities could, of course, always be seen in their faces, but they were never depressed—and as they mechanically strolled backwards and forwards on the narrow decking of the bridge, they were silent and glum that day. There was absolutely nothing doing that watch. We hadn't sent or received a single message, hadn't hauled up one single blessed flag. Feeling lifeless with inaction, Fred and I did our march and counter-march along the starboard bridge, our eyes continually sweeping the sea for any sign, our thoughts counting the minutes until our signal relief should arrive and we could nip down for a belated tea. The fourth mate, an especial pal of ours, did catch up with us once, but instead of the usual joke or ribald remark, all he muttered out of the side of his mouth was 'We are only about 200 miles off Gib,' and that meant nothing to us then.

"But when, a minute later, the Captain appeared, puffing a little as he mounted the last rungs of the ladder to the bridge, we knew something must be about to break.

"'Flag up!' several shouted together. We quickly read the fluttering signal on the mast of the ship ahead, without glasses.

"'Z for Zebra,' Fred called out in his mellow voice, while I dashed to the flag locker to repeat the flag on our signal mast.

"'Look for it! Look for it!' was shouted, and someone cursed very feelingly. As by that time we were already hauling the flag up, we looked round in very real astonishment, with a very insubordinate remark hovering on the tip of our tongues.

"'What's all the fuss over a bally flag?' I asked Fred, the edge of sarcasm in my voice meant for other ears.

"'Dunno,' replied he with a grin, hauling away at the halliard.

"'Look for what, sir?' I inquired of a ship's officer as he dashed into the wheelhouse.

"'Z flag—enemy aircraft,' he shouted hoarsely. Fred Powell saved the day for Signals. Snatching up a pair of binoculars, he swept round the sky in one swift movement, steadied them for one very long second, and then, pointing with a finger in a starboard direction, he called out, 'There she is, sir!'

"Just at that moment, when the aircraft was heading straight for the gigantic bulk of the *Britannic*, when orders were being shouted, when the telegraph was clanging furiously, and everywhere on the bridge was tenseness and drama, just at that moment, our signal relief arrived, looking shamefaced, and with sheepish apologies for being five minutes late for duty.

"And then Fred Powell and I made our big mistake. Instead of remaining inconspicuously in a sheltered corner of the bridge, we went below for our tea. Once below decks we lost our temporary status as members of the Merchant Marine, and were forcibly prevented by Military Police from regaining our vantage point."

"So you never saw any more of the action, then?" enquired my companion.

"Not a thing. We heard plenty of firing, of course, and the ship shuddered alarmingly once or twice, but we weren't hit, and when we were allowed on deck, everything was peaceful and quiet, and all the ships were complacently steadied on their course again.

"And, believe it or not, we never found out if any of the ships were sunk. A security embargo was immediately placed on the subject."

Our talking awakened Roy Bullock from his gentle snooze. "Don't believe a word he says," he advised our companion. "He is making it all up—whew!—doesn't even know if any ships were sunk, eh? What a tale"

I properly ignored this.

"From A deck," I continued, "it was of course impossible to count all the ships in the convoy, but next morning when we were on duty again, high up on the bridge, we did carefully count the convoy—and one small ship was missing."

"Don't believe you," said Roy Bullock in a bantering tone.

At this our companion handed round cigarettes. "Well, I believe him," he said.

"And for why?" asked Roy, working up for an argument.

"Because,"—and here he tantalisingly inhaled and exhaled a great cloud of tobacco smoke—"Because I was on the bombed ship! We were not carrying 4,000 odd troops like the *Britannic*, but we had a cargo of army lorries, and the usual military party to look after them. We were hit by a bomb, the convoy had to abandon us, and after a very rough time, I assure you, we limped into Gibraltar, and very thankful, too."

"That reminds me of another occasion . . ." I began, but broke off to smile at Roy. "What's the use, though, of keeping strictly to the truth, with such an unbeliever around. But he ought to have known that the Signals do get into such *queer* places!"



Dr Rogers' Letters

FROM THE CRIMEA

22ND SEPTEMBER, 1855. CAMP BEFORE SEBASTOPOL

Here we are, still in the same place, although it was all the talk a few days ago of our moving up the country to meet the enemy. The Generals seem to take a long time to make up their minds. Meanwhile the Russians are doubtless making the most of their time, though why should they keep a large army in the Crimea now that they have no longer Sebastopol to defend?

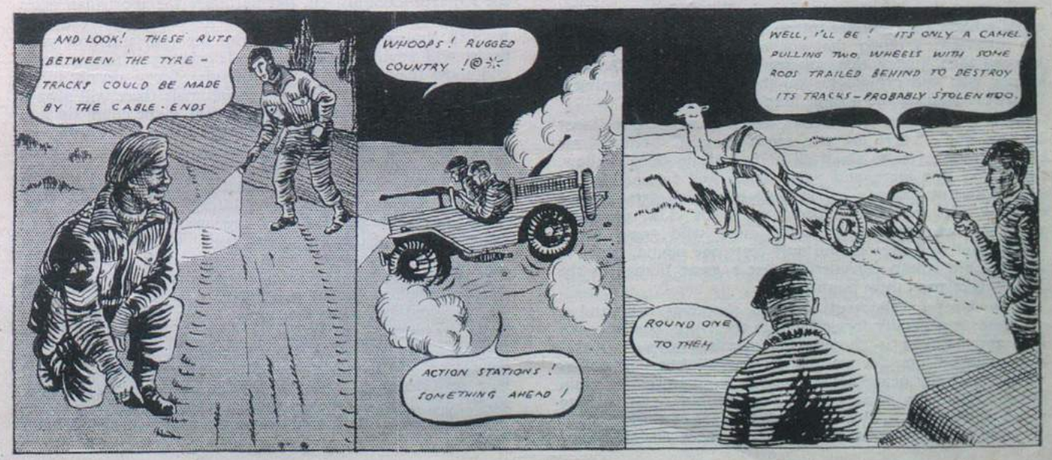
I believe there is every prospect of our wintering here now, although there is time yet to do something before winter arrives.

How different the weather is to what it was this time last year, when the Allied armies landed in the Crimea. Then it was hot and fine, but all this present month it has been very cold with several wet days. I hope we shall yet have some more fine weather, and unless the seasons vary immensely we shall, as October was a beautiful month last year.

There is nothing to write about in the Crimea now. I have not been into Sebastopol lately, not having had time or else being prevented by the rain. There is some little firing going on at intervals every day, I believe from Port Constantine, and a horse belonging to the Quartermaster-General was killed by a stray shot some days ago. I don't know what we are to do if we remain here all the winter. The soldiers are at present employed at road-making at Balaklava, which will be a good thing done at all events. There was great rejoicing and feasting in our camp on the 20th, the anniversary of the Alma. All the officers who were present dined together and also the non-commissioned officers of the Brigade; the latter did not separate till rather late, and as they amused themselves by singing chiefly choruses, it was late in the morning before I could get any sleep.

29TH SEPTEMBER, 1855

I am stationed at Balaklava now, one of our surgeons having gone on sick leave. There is not very much to do and one has the advantage of a hut to live in instead of a tent, but there is greater difficulty in posting letters as we must either send up to headquarters or else into Balaklava before 8 a.m., and we are nearly a mile from the post office. I may not be here long, but there is some talk of establishing the entire hospital establishment here instead of at the front,



in which case I shall very likely remain here all the winter, that is if the Regiment remains here, but as they will have nothing to do I should think it better policy to send a few of our Regiments either home or to some of the Greek or Mediterranean Islands. There is a good deal of desultory firing across the harbour now, the French having established some batteries, or rather, have opened some of the Russian guns against their original proprietors, and these keep firing at us and the French. We had one Regiment quartered in our part of the town, but they lost two or three men one night and so they were removed. The Ruski seem strengthening themselves on the north side, throwing up earth works, etc., but we can do nothing against them on this side and our ships don't seem disposed to go into the harbour to take any part in the proceedings. The only way to get the north side is to go round and invest the place, but then comes the difficulty how to do this, and one has heard nothing of taking the field lately. All the men are employed in making roads, but if they are going to remain here all the winter, an army half the size would be sufficient to garrison the place and defend our position, and there would not be so many mouths to feed.

Game Shooting in B.A.O.R.

By **S.S.M. T. A. VAUGHAN** *(Cafso's Branch)*

ORDERS have been published and you find that you are to join a draft proceeding to the British Army of the Rhine.

If you are a game-shooting man you should be very pleased about this and you can look forward to many happy off-duty hours out with your gun. On your embarkation leave clean up your gun and pack it away carefully. If you possess a sporting rifle make sure that your firearms certificate is in order and if necessary renew it for a further period.

It is possible to bring your guns with you to B.A.O.R., but make sure that you obtain a certificate at the port of embarkation from the Customs and Excise officer, stating that you took the guns out of England on that date. Pay particular attention that the correct number of the gun is entered on the certificate; this is to ensure that there will be no difficulties with the Customs officers when you return with your guns to England.

If you intend to bring your sporting rifle with you, it is suggested that you bring some ammunition as well, especially if your rifle is of an unusual calibre. Rifle ammunition is not easy to procure in B.A.O.R. Shotgun ammunition is quite easy to obtain for 12 and 16-bore guns. If your gun is a 20 or 28-bore then I suggest that you bring some cartridges with you, as these sizes are a little more difficult to obtain.

When you arrive at your Unit in B.A.O.R. you will be asked what sports you are interested in; then you must tell the interviewing officer that you are a keen shooting man. He will then suggest that you see the Unit Game Shooting Officer who will explain to you the method of obtaining a firearms certificate and a game licence.

Firearms certificates are free, whilst game licences must be paid for. There are two kinds of game licences, one which enables you to shoot all hooved game—Red, Fallow, Sikka and Roe Deer, and wild pig as well as small game. This costs two pounds. The other is a small game licence enabling you to shoot Capercailzie, black cock, pheasant, partridge, woodcock, snipe, wild duck, wild geese, hares, rabbits and wild pigeon, and only costs one pound, which is indeed quite cheap considering that a game licence in the British Isles costs three pounds.

Each Unit is allocated a game shooting area, and a syndicate is generally formed within the Unit. Meetings are held and a leader is chosen; this member generally makes the arrangements for all large shoots, keeps members informed of any new rules governing the shooting of certain game, and makes arrangements for members who wish to shoot on the area. This entails quite a lot of work such as contacting the German owner of the shoot and the local German game warden and these people generally ensure that you see plenty of game.

You will also be allowed to shoot on the various "Pottering Areas" which are generally within walking distance of your barracks. To shoot on these areas you have to make no previous arrangements, just pick up your gun on your off-duty periods and off you go. True, there is not a lot of game on these areas, but one can generally find enough game for an afternoon's sport.

Your Unit will also be allocated areas where you will be able to shoot deer and wild pig. The syndicate leader or perhaps the Unit shooting officer will be able to give you the name and address of the forester in charge of the area; you must then arrange with the forester to meet you. Most of the foresters being able to understand a little English this is not difficult, and he will then accompany you, and show you the best place to stand where you will get a shot at the game you are seeking. Some Units organise large drives for wild pig, and it is very easy to get an invitation as most Units ask the sportsmen from nearby to participate. The German foresters are very helpful, and one must remember that they have to pass stiff examinations to be a forester so they generally know what they are talking about, so a little tip is to take full heed of what you are told to do.

The division of the flesh of a shot animal is controlled by the Control Commission, but naturally the sportsman takes the head with his share, and most foresters will arrange to have the horns or the tusks set up for you, and how your breast will swell with a little pride when you return home and show the trophies to your friends; if you are not lucky enough to shoot one of the larger animals there will always be photographs of the day's shoot when at the count up it is found that you were the day's champ with so many pheasant, partridge, hares and, perhaps, a woodcock. Blank days are few and far between in Germany. Here the hare is as prolific as the rabbit is in England; wild fowl of all breeds are very plentiful and offer great sport during the winter months, especially if you happen to be stationed near the coast, an estuary, or one of the many lakes.

If you don't possess a gun of your own don't despair. Most Units have a few sporting guns that are loaned out to licence holders, but if you have a gun then bring it with you to avoid being disappointed when you especially want to go shooting.

So you sportsmen that are warned for B.A.O.R., clean up your guns and look forward to many happy days shooting here in Germany. Just one word of warning, DON'T FORGET THE SAFETY RULES and always remember, "All the pheasants ever bred won't repay for ONE man dead."

Instructional Technique

By **Lieutenant-Colonel J. M. HAYCROFT**

IN this admirable little volume is summed up everything that the inexperienced instructor and so-called experienced instructor should need. It is a book which should be in quantity in every Regimental library, and in such Regiments as those of the Signal Training Centre should be so easily available that every instructor is given a copy—if he has not already got his own copy of the book.

Looking back on a career of 32 years in the Army, during which time the writer has done a great deal of instruction, and then reading this book, brings home to one how shamefully one has treated the bulk of those committed to one's care. For us in Royal Signals, especially the elderly, the book opens pleasantly with at page 3 two diagrams of the Trembler Bell—and who amongst us has not drawn that diagram very many times?—for this page alone the book is worth its price just for the sake of showing us what a nonsense we have made of the diagram in the past.

Needless to say, there is much more to it than the Trembler Bell, but the author goes through the whole gamut of instruction, of instructional aids, of film strip projectors, of cloth model exercises, of group discussion, and even includes amongst "miscellaneous tips" the statement: "A little praise and encouragement goes a long way."

Having spent more of his 32 years being instructed rather than instructing, the writer most fervently endorses that statement.

Another quotation taken from the book, "A picture is worth a thousand words." We knew that, but we did not know it was attributed to Confucius although many of us know some of the statements about women which Peter Cheyney attributes to the same authority.

Gale and Polden, Ltd., price 3s. 6d.

J. H. WILLIAMS

Esq., O.B.E.

On 1st May, 1950, the Corps lost the services of one who, although he has never been in the Corps, has been a civilian officer in the Signals Directorate, War Office, for eight years. During this time he has made many friends and few enemies amongst the many officers and other ranks with whom he came into contact.

Although a Civil Servant, Mr. Williams has a military background. As a young bank clerk of 18 years of age he joined the 4th Volunteer Battalion, South Wales Borderers, in 1906. When the Volunteers were incorporated into the newly-formed Territorial Army he continued to serve in the Monmouthshire Regiment. In 1914 he was embodied and went to France with his Battalion in 1915, being promoted to corporal and commissioned as a second-lieutenant later in that year. With the 29th Division he fought on the Somme and at Ypres, and was wounded in the arm.

In 1917, as a lieutenant, he was evacuated from France, suffering from trench fever, and was attached for light duties to a Territorial Battalion in South Wales, and in 1918 was transferred for cipher duties to the War Office (M.I.1). This was his first introduction to the work to which he was destined to devote his energies for the next 32 years.

In 1920 he was demobilised and was given a Civil Service Commission as a Junior Civil Assistant, becoming a Senior Civil Assistant two years later. He was responsible for the production, distribution, operation and security of all Army codes and ciphers. He continued to perform these important tasks until his retirement, the only major change being that in 1942 his branch was transferred from M.I. to the Signals Directorate. In these many years he developed the science and art of Army cryptography from the elementary and insecure systems of 1918 to those which obtain today. It is regrettable, however, but a veil must be drawn over these achievements.

Although largely responsible for cipher material, Mr. Williams never forgot the personal aspect. Before the war he trained every cipher officer, drawn in those days from what is now the R.A.E.C., and was personally known by them all. During and after the war, when training had to be extended to other ranks, it was carried out in a Cipher School to which Mr. Williams was a frequent and welcome visitor. Whilst he could no longer know every cipher officer and other rank personally, he was always very accessible to those who called at the War Office. He also concerned himself with postings, particularly during the late war, to ensure as far as possible that square pegs were not put into round holes, and he pressed for conditions of service to be made as favourable as possible for those employed on cipher work.

During the late war, although employed in the comparative safety of the War Office, he was knocked down and slightly injured by the blast from a V.1 and on three other occasions took refuge under his table in anticipation of a near miss by these infernal machines.

For his services in two world wars, Mr. Williams holds the Territorial Efficiency Medal, the British War and Victory Medals, 1915/18, the O.B.E., and the U.S. Medal of Freedom.

To those of us who have served with him, his retirement is a great blow. His erect and active figure, his benevolent countenance and his keen sense of humour have been such familiar features to all who knew him, from the highest to the lowest, that the corridors will seem empty without him.

In appreciation of his great qualities, his friends from all over the world have presented him with a wrist watch and two easy chairs. May the former remind him of many strenuous and at times anxious moments in the War Office, and the latter afford him and his wife some easement and relaxation in the years to come. Our best wishes go with them both.



J. H. Williams, Esq., O.B.E.



[*Courtesy: "Edinburgh Evening Dispatch"*

Edinburgh and District Royal Signals Club

UNVEILING OF MEMORIAL PLAQUE

HER ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCESS ROYAL visited the Royal Signals Club at 7 Torphichen Street, Edinburgh, on Friday, 31st March, and in a simple, but moving, ceremony unveiled a plaque in memory of the officers, N.C.O.s and men of Edinburgh and district Royal Signals, who gave their lives in the 1939-45 world war.

The Club was packed to capacity by members and their relations, and in the main lounge, where the unveiling took place, space was so restricted that many members had to sit in adoining rooms where the proceedings were relayed.

Her Royal Highness, who is Colonel-in-Chief, Royal Signals, was accompanied by her lady-in-waiting, The Hon. Mary Lampson; Major-General W. R. C. Fenney, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., Colonel Commandant, Royal Signals; Brigadier R. W. Morgan, O.B.E., Chief Signal Officer, Scottish Command; and Chief Commander R. J. Wells, A.D., W.R.A.C., Headquarters, Scottish Command.

The President of the Club, Colonel J. Gardiner, received the royal guest.

The Princess removed the Union Jack covering the oak plaque with the words: "To the glory of God and in remembrance of all ranks of the Royal Corps of Signals of the Edinburgh district who laid down their lives in the 1939-45 war, I unveil this memorial."

Colonel Gardiner had this to say about the gathering: "Friendships formed during the world wars take many forms of expression, but seldom does the knitting of friendship ties reflect itself in the foundation of a Royal Signals Club." "That," he declared, "was what they had achieved in Edinburgh."

"We are proud of the Club which has a membership of more than 150 old comrades," he said, "and it is, I believe, the first Signals Club of its kind in Great Britain which has been formed with its own premises and run by members of the Corps. It was a fitting tribute to the *esprit de corps* that existed among the Royal Signals that the ties of comradeship were so strong they could bring veterans of two world wars together."

"We are proud to include within our membership men of the Royal Engineers (Signals) as well as members of the Royal Corps of Signals," Colonel Gardiner declared.

"The spirit of goodwill which permeated the Club extended itself to full serving members of the Royal Corps of Signals and all local units. It offered to each, without restriction, full club facilities.

"Tonight," said the Colonel, "the Royal Signals Club in Edinburgh have gathered in strength to pay homage to its comrades in the district who made the supreme sacrifice in the last great war. It is in honoured remembrance, and in humble tribute to their sacrifices, that members of the Club have had this plaque erected."

Colonel Gardiner, on behalf of members of the Royal Signals Club, then invited Her Royal Highness to perform the unveiling ceremony.

The act of dedication was performed by the Rev. F. P. W. Alexander, O.B.E., Assistant Chaplain General, H.Q. Scottish Command. This was followed by the playing of the "Last Post," and a piping lament. The 23rd Psalm, "The Lord is My Shepherd," and "The Day Thou Gavest Lord is Ended" were sung. Mr. W. Inglis was organist.

Afterwards the royal visitor inspected the Club and talked to officials.

Those presented to Her Royal Highness were: Past President, Brigadier L. H. Harris, C.B.E., T.D.; Vice-President, J. H. Riddell; Chairman, J. Hunter; Vice-Chairman, J. D. Ramsay; Secretary, J. A. S. Wright; Treasurer, G. Williamson; and committee members G. J. Johnston, R. Cameron, S. Stewart, J. Elder, J. Mann, W. Forbes and H. Grainger.

(Reprinted from "Edinburgh Evening Dispatch")

SCOTTISH COMMAND (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT

Edinburgh

"*Royal Redford.*" The announcement in the Court Circular of the 1st April, 1950, that H.R.H. The Princess Royal, Colonel-in-Chief, Royal Signals, had spent the morning of 31st March with the Scottish Command (M) Signal Regiment and had afterwards had lunch with the officers, was a very official way of describing what had, in fact, been a great day for this Regiment.

Her Royal Highness, accompanied by Major-General W. R. C. Penney, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., the Representative Colonel Commandant, arrived at Redford Barracks promptly at 1115 hours. After the Commanding Officer and the Adjutant had been presented, Her Royal Highness proceeded to the parade ground where a Guard of Honour gave the Royal Salute. In addition to the Guard of Honour provided by this Regiment, there were also on parade the Pipes and Drums of the 51st Highland Divisional Signal Regiment (T.A.) (by kind permission of Lieutenant-Colonel T. P. E. Murray, O.B.E., T.D., Royal Signals, and the officers). The splash of colour given to the parade by the band in full Highland uniform added to the spectacle considerably.

On the completion of the inspection of the Guard of Honour by Her Royal Highness, the remaining officers of R.H.Q. and the R.S.M. were presented. A tour of inspection of the barracks then commenced, proceeding by way of the W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess, where the C.S.M., W.R.A.C., played the part of hostess. A visit was made to the club room of the Regimental Scottish Country Dance Club. Here, after the President of the Club had been presented, a set of eight O.R.s of the Regiment danced a reel for Her Royal Highness. It is hoped, once the Corps Committee have given their approval, that this reel will become known as the Reel of the Royal Corps of Signals. The demonstrators, four W.R.A.C. and four Royal Signals members of the Regiment, dressed in appropriate costumes,



[*Courtesy: The Scotsman, Edinburgh*

certainly gave it a "Royal" start on its first public performance.

Leaving the club room, Her Royal Highness then visited in turn the Regimental Institute, the Dining Hall and the Cookhouse, where preparations for lunch were in full swing.

The Colonel-in-Chief displayed a great interest in these preparations much to the delight of the Sergeant Cook and his staff.

The domestic side of the Regiment was then put on one side for the moment whilst Her Royal Highness was shown, by O.C. Edinburgh Squadron, around the Technical Equipment Demonstration Room, the Wireless Room, and finally, the Wireless Training Room, where Her Royal Highness watched a class of Wireless Operators undergoing R.T. Training.

Passing on from there, a visit was made to the W.R.A.C. quarters of Edinburgh Squadron. The W.R.A.C. officer of this Squadron was presented at the main door and conducted Her Royal Highness around. The recently refurnished and redecorated sitting room of these quarters was much admired. Having seen where the ladies of the Regiment who wear uniform live, Her Royal Highness was then shown where the wives, who, after all, are ladies of the Regiment, reside.

It was now lunch time and a move was made to the Officers' Mess where the Officers of the Regiment were most honoured to entertain Her Royal Highness to lunch. Prior to lunch, the remaining Officers of the Regiment were presented to Her Royal Highness.

As a very charming conclusion to a memorable day, Her Royal Highness was presented, as she was leaving the Mess, with a bouquet of spring flowers by the daughter of the Commanding Officer.

Throughout the inspection, Her Royal Highness was accompanied, in addition to the Colonel Commandant, by Brigadier R. W. Morgan, O.B.E., Chief Signal Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel R. J. Wells, W.R.A.C., A.D.W.R.A.C., both of H.Q., Scottish Command, and the Hon. Mary Lampson, Lady-in-Waiting.

The very nice things that have been said to us since the inspection have proved an ample reward for the hard work done, in preparation for Redford's Royal Day, by every single member of the Regiment.

POSTED

SIGNALMAN HARRIS was in contemplative mood. Not, be it noted, the contented contemplation of an insignificant portion of his anatomy such as is ascribed to a famous Eastern diety. It was, in fact, a discontented meandering of his mind over the events of the past few months. He realised that the events leading up to his present unhappy position were largely his own fault. Briefly, they were as follows; he had recently been a full blown sergeant, and he had also "signed for seven." Life had been very bright, and could offer little more to the then Sergeant Harris. But his downfall had started on the day his regular engagement had been put through. How he came to be a signalman has already been related (a word which even elementary schools of journalism say we shouldn't use), so the details will be familiar to our readers. But Signalman Harris didn't mind that very much. He had asked for it—and he had got it. And that should have been the end of his travail. But it was only the beginning. Hence, he was downcast.

After the sensation caused by his reversion to signalman had passed, he was posted out to another Unit. He had received a fatherly talk from his C.O. about starting again, and how a man of his obvious qualities would easily make a name for himself in the Army. And, full of confidence, he had joined his new Unit ready for the fray. He had settled in quite nicely, and was doing well as a clerk in the Orderly Room, when a certain corporal from his old Unit also joined them. And this corporal had suffered somewhat at the hands of the late Sergeant Harris. But, thought Signalman Harris, it was just a little more than poetic justice that the corporal should have been posted on promotion to Orderly Room Sergeant. It was unfair, a final trick of a malignant fate which took all the savour out of life. It was rather like putting a man on the rack, and then offering to fit him for a new suit. It just wasn't playing the game. But he did his best. He suffered the daily round of tasks imposed on him by his new Orderly Room Sergeant, tasks selected with an almost diabolical ingenuity, those which were the most boring, those most likely to involve him in a one-sided argument with the Adjutant. In short, he was "put upon" in no uncertain manner, and he bore it with a patience that made Job appear a hasty tempered old man. But the worm had to turn. And that was where Signalman Harris had made his second mistake.

Even so, he should have known better. He had been in the Army long enough to know better. But he applied for a posting. His application was carefully worded, bearing all the usual "respectfully requests," etc., and stating "anywhere in Europe or the Far East." The application was duly considered and granted. Wherefore, as we started off this tragic episode, Signalman Harris was discontented and contemplative. He realised now that he should never have mentioned either Europe or the Far East. If he hadn't done he would certainly never have been where he was at present, just disembarked and sitting in the Transit Camp contemplating. Contemplating what? His past life and the entrance to the Suez Canal, Port Said.

OLD BILL

Have you ordered

your copy of

The Wire?

THE DEPOT REGIMENT

Pocklington

As already announced, we have received rather disturbing news in the way of postings. In one fell swoop we shall be losing our C.O., Lieutenant-Colonel C. P. S. Denholm-Young, O.B.E., Major G. A. Low, M.B.E., Second-in-Command, Major T. J. Harris, M.B.E., Records Officer, and our Quartermaster, Major R. E. Minion. However, on the credit side so far we are getting Lieutenant-Colonel R. Webb as as new C.O., and Major G. Powell as a replacement for the Records Officer. They will certainly be welcomed with open arms.

Having put on an excellent performance of "See How They Run," which was played during the visit of the Director of Signals to the Regiment, Second-Lieutenant Montgomery is now going ahead with rehearsals for "The Happiest Days of Your Life," which it is hoped will be staged during the month of May.

During March, after two postponements, we eventually had the Annual Administrative Inspection, and came through with flying colours (we hope!).

After a series of defeats in the Rugger field we have improved considerably, and finished the season with a winning team. Our new M.O., Lieutenant Tear, R.A.M.C., has proved a great asset.

With sunnier days in front of us we turn to Cricket; and, with Easter leave finished, we are shortly taking the field in a talent spotting game of Officers, W.O.s and Sergeants *versus* The Rest.

SIGNAL TRAINING CENTRE

CATTERICK CAMP

4 TRAINING REGIMENT

Yes, at last it is over. Everything is shining, lawns are well trimmed, hedges cut, fresh bright paint everywhere. Spring, or was it our annual administrative inspection, was in the air. This last month beside our usual training routine we have been busily preparing for our administrative inspection by Brigadier J. J. Duvivier, C.B.E. For many of us it was the first opportunity of meeting the new Commandant, S.T.C., and we hope he will honour us with many more visits in the future. After a very thorough inspection, followed by lunch in the Officers' Mess, the Brigadier left, the Regiment being given the remainder of the day off.

4 Squadron, who as we mentioned in our last month's notes had just moved back to Gaza Lines from Gallowgate, are now well settled in as if they had never moved at all, and are busily employed on schemes, drill and basic military training.

The only social of the month was the Sergeants' Mess St. Patrick's Night Ball, which upheld their reputation as extremely good hosts.

Apart from boxing, there is little to record about the sporting events of the last month. The Regiment, unfortunate enough to have been knocked out of the league competition earlier in the season, is now looking around to see what cricketers it can find. One word in passing. Signalman Birch, our champion cross-country runner, going from success to success, came in first in the Inter-Services' Cross-Country Championships. We give him our heartiest congratulations.

Boxing, though our successes have been few, has provided us with matches of great interest and excitement. In the Catterick District Novices' Competition, after reaching the semi-finals we met our old opponents of last year, the 12th Royal Lancers, who after some hard-hitting fights defeated us by one point. Signalman Whitehead, who is outstanding as a bantamweight, fought very well and made a great impression on the audience, winning his fight with ease. Signalman Massey, featherweight, won in the second round, the referee stopping the fight. Lance-Corporal Rogers, lightweight, fought well but lost on points. Lance-Corporal Gallagher, however, our second string lightweight, restored the balance by winning his match. Lance-Corporal Barnes, light-heavyweight, gave us an excellent display of boxing for a novice, and was an easy winner. Corporal Kelly, middleweight, also won his fight, and with three more matches to go the stage appeared to be set for us to go ahead and win, but in spite of good boxing, our opponents were better and we lost all three. Signalman Rimmer, welterweight, came up against a very strong fighter and lost in the first round, the referee stopping the fight (he didn't know Rimmer). Lance-Corporal Wickes, second-string middleweight, put up an admirable defence and lost by what must have been a very narrow margin. Signalman Jordan, second-string welterweight, also lost, being defeated in the second round.

In a friendly match against 2 Training Regiment we put up another novices team, and again after much blood being drawn and some hard hitting, we were the losers by one point. The Regimental team in a friendly match against 3 Training Regiment were easy winners, the score being seven matches to three. Signalman Rimmer avenged himself after his earlier defeat, and knocked his opponent out in the second round.

In the near future we hope to stage an all-star boxing programme in aid of Regimental Funds, with first-class exhibition fights. Bruce Woodcock, unfortunately, has just commenced serious training for his forthcoming fight in June against Lee Savold and has had regretfully to decline our invitation. We are hoping, however, Dave Davies, light-heavyweight champion of North-East England, and such well-known amateurs as Fallon, Hunter and Hurst will appear. Still more of this next month.

7 SELECTION REGIMENT

On the 10th March, the Annual Administrative Inspection was carried out by Brigadier J. J. Duvivier, C.B.E., Commander, Signal Training Centre.

On the 29th March the Regiment was honoured by a visit by the D.C.I.G.S., Lieutenant-General J. F. M. Whiteley, C.B., C.B.E., M.C., who was visiting various Units in the Camp.

Our "Garden Notes" this month are a special contribution of our Agricultural Officer, who points out that no mention of his activities has been made in past editions of Unit notes submitted for THE WIRE. We hasten to amend our misdoings and hope that "everything in the garden will be lovely." The P.R.I. has assisted Captain Green by providing, at no small cost, a greenhouse and numerous packets of seeds. The gardeners have added to their past sowing of cabbage, kale and potatoes, some peas and beans, with the object of not only providing the Messing Officer with ingredients for soup making, but to, in some measure, rest the ground and ensure a more balanced rotation of cropping.

We welcome into the Corps and our Regiment, Sergeants Maddison, Lockwood, Swaddling, Corporals Brewer, Courcha, Critchley, Dunne and Kinsella, on transfer from Infantry Regiments. We hope that they will all enjoy their remaining years of service and will remember with greatest pleasure their time served with the Corps.

The Football season is drawing to a close, and so far we can report fairly satisfactory achievements in spite of our First XI being badly hit by injuries in the early part of the year. Although we have not been able to make up ground lost during our spell of misfortune, we have been able to keep our position in the top half of Division I in the Catterick District League. David Blakey, the Chesterfield centre-half and one of our mainstays last season, has not kicked a ball since he injured his spine in a Cup Match against 2 Training Regiment.

Congratulations to Signalman Foster, the Chesterfield and Regimental inside-right, on being selected to represent the British Army *v.* the French Army on Saturday, the 1st April. For this match the Corps is represented by four Signalmen from Training Regiments within the S.T.C.

Our Second XI are trying to emulate last year's achievement of the First XI, of winning League Division II, and,

with six games to play, are in the running for that honour. Good show, Second XI, we'll keep that Cup!

Results are as follows: —

FIRST XI

				Goals		
P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	Pts.
19	6	3	10	50	53	15

SECOND XI

				Goals		
P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	Pts.
21	13	3	5	94	43	29



School of Signals

Royal Signals Wing

It was with great regret that we said goodbye to Major Glen S. Waterman, U.S. Signal Corps, who was U.S. Signal Corps Liaison Officer with the School of Signals. He joined us late in 1946 and rapidly made his mark in Catterick, especially during the water polo season. He captained the Garrison and Royal Signals teams; he also initiated the annual match between Helles Officers' Mess and the Royal Signals team. He will be sadly missed this season. Rugger was not his forte, for during the winter of 1947 he rashly volunteered to play and, tackled by an exceedingly small opponent, sustained two cracked ribs. As a result, he vowed never to play such a rough game again. A farewell party was held in the Mess on 6th March, when he was presented with three engraved tankards as a token of esteem. He will be missed not only in the Mess but throughout the Garrison, for he was an exceedingly popular officer.

The Mess has now taken on the "new look"; the painters and decorators have departed and carpets now adorn the corridors, ante-rooms and hall.

The shooting team finished the season having shot 15 matches and won 13—a very creditable effort.

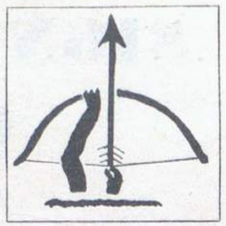
Combining with Officer Training Wing, we are forming a School of Signals team to enter for the District Rifle Meeting in May and for the Army Championships at Bisley in June. Good luck to them.

Congratulations to Major Thompson and R.S.M. Howley on their selection to shoot for the Army in the Inter-Services Small Bore Championships.

On 23rd March the Wing was inspected by Brigadier G. S. O'N. Power, C.B.E., Commandant, School of Signals. The parade was held on 7 Selection Regiment parade ground and the Band of the 17th/21st Lancers played during the inspection.

As a result, more of us are now wearing a less strained and hunted look.

Why not have your monthly copy of **THE WIRE** mailed direct to your address?



Anti Aircraft Command

1 A.A. GROUP (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT
Laindon

March has been a month of activity on Exercises and line construction.

Lieutenant Rance and his troop provided communications for H.Q. 11 A.A. Brigade on Exercise North Pole at the beginning of the month. Second-Lieutenant Ashton organised and ran a Regimental Signallers' Course at Sheerness, which was attended by the local R.A. Regiments. Afterwards he commanded the Signal Troop with H.Q. 1 A.A. Brigade on Exercise South Pole towards the end of the month.

The best job, a subaltern's independent command in Signals, went to Lieutenant O'Connor, who, with his line maintenance troop, proceeded to A.A. Command Practice Camp at Weybourne to build new routes for R.A. and R.E.M.E. communications and to clean up existing routes. Judging by the rapidity with which their tasks were completed there must be some attraction in serving at Laindon after all. This troop returned to R.H.Q. in time to go on Easter leave.

5 A.A. GROUP (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT
Scarborough

A Regimental Week-end was held on the 4th and 5th March, 1950. Saturday afternoon Inter-Troop Football and Hockey games were played. This was followed in the evening by an Inter-Troop Games Tournament, the Quartermaster organising a series of games which caused many thinking caps to work overtime, and a Tombola run by the Adjutant and S.Q.M.S. Howcroft, both of which proved very popular. The Swing Club then commenced and gave the youngsters a chance to get rid of some of their energy, and to do the latest bepop and jive dances. Sunday morning an open-air Church Service was held on the Parade Ground. The service was taken by the Reverend L. R. Melling, of St. Mark's Church, Newby. Sunday afternoon was devoted to minor games such as basketball, and this was followed in the evening by the Inter-Troop Concert Competition which provided some very good entertainment.

A prize was awarded for the best Troop, this being won by Fire Command Troop, with H.Q. "Q" Troop being a very close second. Altogether a very successful Regimental Weekend.

During this month two more Motor-Cycle League Trial matches have been run off, one of which was won, the other being lost.

The Corps Band is opening the season at Scarborough at Easter once again. The Regiment is looking forward very much to the Band Concert which is being given on the evening before the Band returns to Catterick. The Band has a very good reputation in Scarborough and the Scarborians look forward immensely to the concerts they give at the Spa Concert Hall.

Sport. The Inter-Troop League Games Competition is now drawing to a close and the results, which will be published on completion, will prove to be very interesting. Great rivalry exists between the Troops to see who will be the Champions. Following this competition, Boxing will take place during April, and this will be followed by the Inter-Troop Cricket and Tennis Competitions.

On 15th March, 1950, the Semi-Final of the Medal Cup Competition was played against the Sparkers. As was to be expected, it was a very good game and well worth watching. The team played good football and are to be congratulated on winning by 2—1 and so entering the Final. Lance-Corporal Carmichael scored both goals.

The Final is to be played on the Scarborough F.C. Ground on 12th April, when we meet our old rivals, "The Butchers." To decide who will be League Champions we have to play the Sparkers on the 26th April. Both teams have the same number of points. Our goal average is better, but that is not taken into account, so a play off to decide who will be League Champions has to take place.

107 (ULSTER) INDEPENDENT INFANTRY BRIGADE GROUP SIGNAL SQUADRON

The Squadron spent a very pleasant week-end in the Ballymena Area in delightful summer weather on the 25th/26th March. The "O.W.L.s" had a busy week-end, and cable laying, D.R. and Driver training kept all fully employed. An obstinate wireless tender brought much sweat to the brows and oil to the hands of S.S.M. Davies and Signalman Skelly.

Our new canteen is becoming more and more like a home from home, and a great deal of energy and paint are combining together with pleasing results. Corporal Barry, with an almost baffling ease, has painted a truly remarkable sketch of the Squadron going into action on one of the canteen walls. A copy of this sketch is published on this page.

16 INDEPENDENT PARACHUTE BRIGADE GROUP SIGNAL SQUADRON
Aldershot

In the last few weeks we have gone steadily ahead with the programme outlined in last month's WIRE, namely, that of preparing ourselves for our signal duties in the summer manoeuvres. Now our preparations are to be put to the test, for a Signal Troop has already been detached to join 33 Airborne Light Regiment, R.A. In addition to our present static commitment of battery charging, first line maintenance and exchange operating, the Troop will provide necessary Regimental communications during the practice camp and Regimental and Brigade exercises. Before joining the Gunners, they are to undergo ten days' continuation air training, during which they will learn something about airborne operations in general as well as refreshing their parachuting technique.

The rest of the Squadron is likewise making ready for the summer, and, in particular, for the demonstration at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, at the end of May.

Sport has been well supported as usual. Our basketball team has been conspicuously successful, and our soccer team, though not so fortunate, has acquitted itself well. In the Brigade seven-a-side Rugby tournament held just before Easter the Squadron team was narrowly defeated (5—0) in the second round by the Guards Independent Company, who subsequently had no difficulty in beating the remainder of their opposition to prove eventual winners of the tournament. The approach of warmer weather is indicated by the number of swimming enthusiasts we muster, and cricket and athletics will no doubt soon be in evidence in what spare time remains to us.

Domestic matters remain to be recorded. We offer our heartiest congratulations to our O.C., Major R. C. Pringle, Royal Signals, on his recent marriage, and wish him and Mrs. Pringle the very best of luck in the future.

WESTERN COMMAND SIGNAL REGIMENT
Blacon Camp, Chester



We were lucky to have the Royal Signals dance band to play at our All Ranks dance on 30th March, and S.S.M. Purviss met many old friends. The band were at the top of their form and their repertoire included a good selection of really up-to-date numbers. The following day the band played at Eaton Hall for the Cadets' passing-out parade and their playing was warmly appreciated.

North-West District Signals (Preston). We have done well at Basketball this season and at one time had high hopes of winning the N.W.D. League. Unfortunately we lost to 21 H.A.A. Regiment, R.A., and are now placed second with the Depot The Loyal Regiment just above us occupying pride of place.

Owing to our small numbers we have been unable to produce a sufficiently reliable soccer team for regular competition play. However, friendly matches are arranged



"Into Battle" with 107 Independent Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron

weekly. We have quite a nucleus of clever players, and with the energy and enthusiasm of the also rans, on occasions our team has been quite formidable.

Mid-West District Signals (Shrewsbury). Recent departures include Major G. G. Freemantle, who has been released after some 28 years' service, and Captain (T.O.M.) E. A. T. Marchant who should be in M.E.L.F. by the time these Notes go to Press. Our very best wishes to both and to all ex-Salopians.

NORTHERN IRELAND DISTRICT (M) SIGNAL SQUADRON

Lisburn



The dedication of a Memorial Chapel to those members of the Royal Irish Fusiliers who gave their lives in the South African and both World Wars was carried out on St. Patrick's Day in the Cathedral at Armagh.

This Squadron provided public address equipment.

Microphones were installed in the pulpit, on the lectern, and in the small chapel being dedicated. Two loudspeakers were installed in the nave, and two, mounted on stands, were fitted up outside the Cathedral.

The actual dedication ceremony consisted of the handing over of a Book of Remembrance, containing the names of the fallen, by the Colonel of the Regiment, Lieutenant-General Sir Gerald Templer, K.B.E., C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., to the Dean of the Chapter to be deposited in the chapel. The chapel was then dedicated by the Archbishop and Primate of all Ireland. This was followed by the sounding of Last Post and Reveille by the trumpeters of the Royal Army School of Music. The trumpeters were concealed and this, combined with sound repeated by the external loudspeakers, gave the impression that they were actually being sounded outside the building. They sounded extremely beautiful and later many were heard to remark that they had never heard trumpets sound so magnificently.

After the conclusion of the service we were much gratified to hear from many sources that the service had been clearly audible both to the congregation and the large crowd assembled outside.

Sport has been followed this month with increasing enthusiasm, and many evenings have been devoted to hockey and soccer practices.

The practices were well rewarded, and we were able to enter a hockey XI for the N.I.D. Knock-out Tournament; although we lost to the "Camp" XI by one goal to nil, the side showed great promise and merely lacked some of the fitness displayed by our more experienced opponents.

Our one Rugby match was lost to Wallace High School (12—3). This was a new fixture and provided some good entertainment.

The W.R.A.C. element of the Squadron were on parade on Sunday, 26th March, to commemorate the anniversary of the founding of their Corps, and were inspected by Lieutenant-General Sir Reginald F. S. Denning, K.B.E., C.B., who took the salute on the march past. The General expressed his appreciation of the standard and turnout and bearing displayed.

The Band of the K.D.G.s played for the parade and at the short service which was held afterwards.

B A O R

ROYAL SIGNALS, B.A.O.R., DINNER

Royal Signals, B.A.O.R., held their first Dinner at the 21 Club, Bad Oeynhausen, on Monday, 13th March.

One hundred and two officers of Royal Signals attended the dinner.

Major-General W. R. C. Penney, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., Representative Colonel Commandant, Major-General J. D. Shapland, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., and Air Vice-Marshal Sir Harry Broadhurst, K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O., D.F.C., A.F.C., were the guests for the evening.

Before commencing his speech welcoming the guests, Brigadier A. E. Morrison, O.B.E., Chief Signal Officer, B.A.O.R., read the following telegrams:—

To H.R.H. The Colonel-in-Chief: "The Chief Signal Officer and Officers of your Corps in B.A.O.R. assembled at their Annual Dinner at the 21 Club, Bad Oeynhausen, B.A.O.R., on Monday, 13th March, 1950, send their loyal and humble greeting to your Royal Highness."

"My warmest thanks to Chief Signal Officer and all Officers of my Corps in B.A.O.R. for their loyal message of greeting which I appreciate very much. I have very happy memories of my visit in B.A.O.R. in 1948 when I was able to see something of the activities of my Corps both there and in other parts of Germany. I hope that you will all spend a pleasant evening together."—Mary, Colonel-in-Chief.

He then stated that he sincerely hoped that the Dinner would become an annual affair and that this the first occasion coincided very nicely with the visit of the Representative Colonel Commandant and the Corps Band.

Major-General Penney said that he would like to take the opportunity of explaining some of the functions of the Corps Committee. "First of all," he said, "I want to make it quite clear that we do not differentiate between the National Service Man and the Regular Soldier." He then stated that it is extremely difficult for Officers serving overseas to get to London for the Corps Annual Dinner and he regarded it as a very sound proposition to hold one in B.A.O.R.

He said he was very glad to tell us that the guest of honour at the Royal Signals Dinner in London this year would be the Chief of Air Staff.

The Colonel-in-Chief he said was to be present at the Corps Tea Party and "another function has been taking place in another part of the world at Jubbulpore, the reunion of the Indian Signal Corps and an invitation was sent to our Colonel-in-Chief and myself. Our Colonel-in-Chief is still Colonel-in-Chief of the Indian Signal Corps."

He went on to talk about Corps Funds and the Benevolent Fund. Regarding the former he said that the Committee had been clearing up the aftermath of war, making successful progress and finding out what Regular Officers subscribed to them (at one time only 30 per cent. subscribed); of the latter he said that the Benevolent Fund had been assisted by funds from disbanded units. The Fund's expenditure (approximately £700 in grants per month) was still in excess of its income, and although income had been increased to £600 per year the gap had not been filled. He emphasised the vital necessity for increasing capital.

Speaking of the Old Comrades' Association, he said that a very good start had been made in forming branches among men still serving, but that it was difficult to explain to the men into what they were paying their money. They themselves might not be in trouble but it might be another chap in the same barrack room.

Emphasising the need for greater circulation of THE WIRE, he explained that the cost of production had now risen to 2s. 6½d. per copy and that the added cost "had to be borne by somebody."

Finally he reminded the company that there was an Officers' Central Fund and concluded, "When I go back and put in my report to our Colonel-in-Chief, I shall be able to assure her that her Corps is still all right. Thank you and good luck to you all."

The evening continued in the traditional manner.

SXEODUS

2 INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT

Hilden

The Regiment began the month of March in a flurry of excitement and preparation for the annual visit of the Representative Colonel Commandant, Major-General W. R. C. Penney, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., who arrived early in the month.

The Royal Signals Corps Band also arrived and gave us a series of most delightful band concerts, under the brilliant leadership of their Director of Music, Captain John L. Judd, M.B.E., MUS.BAC., F.T.C.L., L.R.A.M., A.R.C.M.

During Major-General Penney's visit the Regiment held a Church Parade, at which the Corps Band also performed. We were all delighted by the way in which the Band's playing enhanced the beauty of the church service, which was taken by the D.A.C.G., the Rev. R. J. F. Mayston.

After the service, the Representative Colonel Commandant took the salute on the march past, at which the Corps Band played.

On 9th March, we inaugurated a Unit Branch of the Royal Signals Association and held our first committee meeting on that date, with Major T. G. V. Stephenson, O.B.E., Royal Signals, our Second-in-Command, as chairman. It was decided at the meeting by the Entertainments Sub-Committee to run periodical dances and coach and steamer trips for members of the Association in the future. It was also decided to hold an Association whist drive, which duly took place on 29th March, to the enjoyment of all participants.

Another event of a more energetic kind took place on the same date as the whist drive; this was the Sergeants *versus* Officers hockey match. It is the first of a series of projected games between the Sergeants and the Officers of the Regiment, the other games being soccer, rugger and cricket.

At the hockey match a grand game was enjoyed by both sides. The score was only two to one in favour of the Sergeants, much to the surprise of everybody. Most damage, however, was suffered by the Sergeants, for Sergeant Offord sustained an enormously swollen knee, whilst Squadron Sergeant-Major Boon came away the worse for a black eye!

Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess. In addition to our usual two monthly dances, we were honoured by the presence of the Dance Band Section of the Corps Band on 7th March. The response to our open invitation to Sergeants and their wives was that the Mess was literally invaded by practically every Regiment of the British Army on that occasion.

Our heartiest congratulations are afforded to Foreman of Signals Mahon on his recent marriage to Miss Martha Hoppe, also to Sergeants Tiffin and Romney on their promotion.

Football. On Wednesday, 22nd March, we played 7th Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment an "at home" at Hilden. We drew, the score being three to each side. This game constituted a semi-final for the B.A.O.R. Royal Signals Shield.

On Friday, 31st March, our team went to Celle to play 7th Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment on their own ground. Fifteen minutes before the end of the second half, the score was one to nil in favour of the Desert Rats. Then they scored a further goal against us. After that our defence seemed to collapse entirely, and 7th Armoured scored two more goals in rapid succession. The final score was thus four to nil in favour of 7th Armoured.

Shooting. In this sphere there has been very little activity recently, with the exception of our shoot against 7th Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment at Celle.

In this event, despite a gallant show put up by Sergeants Warren and Newsham, together with our young soldier competitors, Signalman Holmes and Driver Bryant, we were well and truly beaten by our opponents.

Hockey. With the passing of March, the end of the season is in sight, and although the Inter-Troop teams will continue to play, the Regimental fixture list is almost exhausted. The Unit team reached the semi-final of the B.A.O.R. Royal Signals Inter-Unit Competition, but was beaten by H.Q., B.A.O.R. Signal Regiment. The latter was too strong for us, and emerged victorious by three goals to one.

Despite all the sport detailed above, the Regiment is, in fact, settling into the Spring Training Season. We have recently returned from a small Divisional Exercise, "ARCTIC III."

This is only the prelude to a rapidly rising tide of exercises of all kinds and sizes, working up to a crescendo culminating in our two final large-scale exercises during early May.

H.Q. B.A.O.R. SIGNAL REGIMENT

This month has proved a full one for the Regiment. On Wednesday, 6th March, the Corps band arrived at Harewood Barracks. The following evening we were entertained by a concert of light music in the Schützenhof theatre, which was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

On Saturday evening, 11th March, we were treated to an informal evening of request tunes when the band played in the Regimental Canteen. For a Saturday evening the Canteen was full to capacity. Through the pages of THE WIRE I wish to thank the band on behalf of the Regiment for an enjoyable time during their short stay here.

On Sunday, 12th March, a Royal Signals Church Parade was held in Bad Oeynhausen.

The Parade consisted of the Corps Band and four contingents, one each from the Old Comrades' Association, H.Q., B.A.O.R. Signal Regiment, 11 Air Formation Signal Regiment, and 1 Signal Squadron, W.R.A.C.

The Parade marched to the Garrison Church, which was full to capacity, and there an excellent service was held, with the band providing the music for the service.

After the service the Parade marched past the saluting base where the G.O.C.-in-C., Lieutenant-General Sir Charles F. Keightley, K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O., took the salute to the Martial Music of the Corps March. The contingents were a fine sight indeed, and their turn-out and bearing were of the best.

The Parade went off excellently and the C.-in-C. was pleased with the saluting dais supplied by this Regiment.

The following day the Regiment was honoured by the visit of Representative Colonel Commandant Major-General Penney, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C.

Good work was put in by all to make the inspection a success and the Regiment was rewarded by being given the afternoon off.

Semi-Final Inter-Signal Units Knockout Rugby Football Cup.

On Wednesday, 22nd March, the Regiment played 7 Armoured Division Signals at Bad Oeynhausen, winning 25 points to nil.

The H.Q. B.A.O.R. Signals forwards played an



extremely fine game, combining well, especially in the loose scrums, being quick on the ball and heeling out to their three-quarters, who made good use of their opportunities.

Signalman Southward stood out particularly in this department and it seemed only fitting that he scored the first try. This he did beating three men and placing the ball near the posts to score three points. Unfortunately Lance-Corporal Burgess failed to convert.

H.Q. B.A.O.R. Signals played extremely well and by half-time were leading 12 points to nil.

In the second half 7 Armoured Division set the pace, but never looked really dangerous, until in the final ten minutes when they entered their opponents' 25 and looked like scoring, but the whistle for "no-side" saved H.Q. Signals.

At the final whistle H.Q. B.A.O.R. Signals had won by seven tries and two conversions, 25 points to nil, the scorers being Signalman Southward, Signalman Gerrish two tries, Lance-Corporal Grant, Lance-Corporal Burgess, Signalman Eyre 1 try. Lance-Corporal Burgess converted two tries.

Royal Signals B.A.O.R. Inter-Unit Hockey Final

The game, played under ideal conditions, was probably one of the best games witnessed this season in this area.

H.Q. B.A.O.R. Signals fielded a team that, during their previous two or three games, had blended into a perfect combination, whilst 11 Air Formation Signals were strengthened by the inclusion of Berlin Signal Squadron.

The game opened with honours fairly even, the 11 A.F.S. goalkeeper bringing off some very fine saves. The H.Q. B.A.O.R. Signals forward line were working much better than their opponents and it was good combination that assisted Lance-Corporal Lee to go through to give H.Q. B.A.O.R. Signals the first goal lead.

This did not, however, deter the efforts of the Air Formation, who, five minutes later, made a gap in the B.A.O.R. Signals' defence to give them the equaliser.

By this time the spectators were being treated to thrills galore, plus an extremely high standard of hockey.

Air Formation did not give B.A.O.R. Signals time to recover from the equaliser when they dealt them another severe shock with a second goal scored in almost the same manner as their first. Lieutenant (Q.M.) Robertson of the Air Formation at right-half was, at this time, almost spoon feeding his wing forwards.

H.Q. B.A.O.R. Signals were still playing the better Hockey and a pass from Lieutenant-Colonel Sanders sent the outside-left, Captain Richards, away to an almost open field. The goalkeeper came out to intercept, but Captain Richards gave him no chance.

Lance-Corporal Lee later took the score to three, Captain Haxell making the decider with the fourth.

The Air Formation were not disgraced by any means. They were playing against probably the best team in B.A.O.R. at the moment.

Result:—

H.Q. B.A.O.R. Signal Regiment 4—11 Air Formation Signal Regiment 2

7 ARMOURED DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT

Celle



The month opened with the visit to the Regiment of The Representative Colonel Commandant, Major-General W. R. C. Penney, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C. On the 10th March he spent the afternoon with 1 Squadron inspecting a guard of honour and the Unit lines. Afterwards he was the guest at the families' tea party in the Riverside Club, and later the same evening met the Officers of the Regiment at a cocktail party given by Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. Gambier.

In the field of sport our hopes are very high of seeing the Royal Signals B.A.O.R. Inter-Unit Football and Shooting Shields in our grasp. We have won our way to the finals of both sports by defeating 2 Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment four goals to nothing at football and by 151 points in the shooting. Corporal Goodier and Signalman Wyatt brought honours to the Regiment when they came first and second in the Royal Signals B.A.O.R. Cross-Country Championships. As a team we came third.

In hockey we have not done so well, having lost 2—0 to the Royal Scots Greys and by the same score to 2 Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment. We won our game against H.Q., 7th Armoured Division, only to be beaten by the R.A.F., Celle, the following week-end. The basket ball team still remains unbeaten, although in a game against the Celle Wives' Club the opposition was found to be greater than expected.

Our first game of Rugby, played at Herford against H.Q., B.A.O.R. Signal Regiment, ended in defeat.

Towards the end of the month we were visited by the Corps Band. Their very full programme included playing at a dance in the W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess on Saturday, with music in church on Sunday, and a concert at the Schloss Theatre on Monday evening. The combination of Alexander's Ragtime Band and Grieg's Piano Concerto was appreciated by all. We look forward to the next visit of the Corps Band, however distant it may be. We would like to extend a welcome to 4 A.G.R.A. Signal Squadron, which became 2 Squadron of the Regiment on the 1st April.

Next month we hope to be able to bring you news of our success in this year's Speedway Meeting at Hanover, and of the results of the first fixtures in our cricket programme for this summer.

BERLIN SIGNAL SQUADRON
B.A.O.R. 2

Since the last notes were written, Spring has taken the place of Winter, not only on the calendar, but also as far as the weather is concerned, for although there is as yet little evidence of buds and green leaves, the days are longer and much warmer. And, as if to clinch the issue, the cricket nets have gone up.

The programme and fixture lists of the various Squadron teams are nearing their completion. The hockey players, in particular, are having a strenuous end of season programme. Most notable of their achievements has been their reaching the semi-final of the B.A.O.R. Minor Units Competition. The Squadron team did this by a 3—2 win over No. 3 B.A.D., a victory in which Corporal Briggs played a prominent, in fact, dominant part.

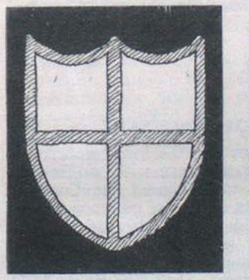
The journey of four members of the Squadron to the Zone to play for the Combined 11 Air Formation Signals—Berlin Signal Squadron team in the final of the Royal Signals B.A.O.R. Inter-Unit Hockey Tournament was ill favoured. To begin with the team lost 4—2 against H.Q., B.A.O.R. Signal Regiment, and in addition Sergeant "Snowey" Richardson was taken to hospital for an immediate stomach operation before he had the opportunity to play for the team. We are glad to say, "Snowey" is once again up and about, although we can scarcely hope for any more assistance from him on the hockey pitch this season.

The combined H.Q., B.T.B.-Berlin Signals Hockey Team, which plays in the Berlin Hockey League, continues to maintain its successful run of games, which will lead ultimately, we hope, to the winning of the League Championship. Victories over the C.R.E., Berlin, and R.A.F., Gatow, and a draw with the 1st Battalion Gordon Highlanders, suggest that the championship is not out of their grasp.

Of the six games played by the Squadron this month, three have been won, two drawn, and one lost. This record puts us in the position of sharing the top place in the league with 247 Provost Company. Both teams have one more match to play. These games are keenly anticipated.

Meanwhile, the soccer team have had the opportunity of seeing something tangible for their efforts in the Winter Tournament. They were presented last week with the Junior League Shield. I gather, however, that there remains a certain reluctance to "go in and see the shield."

KLAGENFURT SIGNAL SQUADRON



We were sorry to say goodbye the other day to Major and Mrs. "Timber" Woods, bound for the Far East. Major Woods came to Austria with 46 Division in 1945. For nearly two years the Squadron has held him in the highest respect as O.C., and Mrs. Woods will be remembered as the especial friend of the married families. We bid them Godspeed in their new adventure.

The Squadron has had an active year. Our function is to supply communications to the whole of the British Zone of Austria, except the Vienna area, working in close co-operation with the Austrian telegraph and rail services. The Zone stretches from the Semmering Pass in the Russian Zone on our eastern flank to near Salzburg in the American Zone to the west, with the rivers Enna and Salza marking our northern boundary, and Lienz guarding the way to Italy and East Tirol in the south-west. Sheltering the whole length of the Drau Valley in the south is the first splendid mountain range of our neighbour, Jugoslavia. Accompanying border patrols from one or other of the battalions is the most exciting of our Wireless Troop's activities, while the most strenuous is supporting the Infantry exercises that flourish in the summer. On an exercise last Autumn one of our operators found himself intercepting British bombers on the Berlin Air-lift; but otherwise our record has been good.

"E" Troop at Villach holds a vital position at the junction of the Vienna, Medloc and Trieste routes. Their couriers spend many long days shepherding S.D.S. bags down the full length of the line. The Troop at Graz has been reduced to a small detachment. The time-table of their local S.D.S. runs, however, is still about three times as long as our own. Now that H.Q., B.T.A., is again at Klagenfurt, there is a marked increase in our work and responsibilities in all aspects of Signals activity. And for those who love the lonely grandeur of massive mountains, the finality of endless forest and the romance of skyline castles, the serenity of deep lakes and the odour of old-world agriculture, this is the happiest locality in the world.

In the sphere of sport we are not without distinction. Last spring we led the Minor Units in the B.T.A. Cross-Country Championship, thanks to the brave leadership of Second-Lieutenant G. Clarke, though he had had no previous experience of running. Now we are in full training for this year's event on 15th April. In Signalman Cowell, who has just romped away with the Squadron Individual Cup, we have a very fine runner. In the summer we headed the B.T.A. Cricket League, under the sure hand of Captain Bullard, winning every match we played until losing by only 20 runs to R.A.S.C., Austria, in the final of the knock-out competition. Our athletics team must take the field this summer without many of last year's giants: Corporal Blake, B.T.A. high jump champion, Signalman Marriot, B.T.A. high hurdle champion, Signalman J. Burton, our outstanding sprinter, and Signalman Halton, javelin thrower, all having gone on release.

Now, though the Unit is well under 200 strong, we have hockey, rugger and soccer teams out at much the same time. Throughout the winter 12 men went each week on ski courses at Schmelz. Indoors, basketball has held an honoured position. The Officers' team successfully defied all comers, and "O" Troop defeated all other rivals. Table tennis and badminton are reviving, but as summer approaches it will be to the cricket and athletics fields, and to the mountains, rivers and lakes, that our eyes will be turning.

1 WIRELESS REGIMENT

Münster

We are beginning to feel our feet at Münster, although finding it a little strange after the glittering lights of Hamburg and the rural isolation of Glückstadt.

The last two months, so far unchronicled by our scribe, after due apologies can now be summarised. The Officers' Mess held a very successful farewell cocktail party at the beginning of February, to which were invited representatives from neighbouring units, including the Danish Brigade and from the C.C.G. It was a great pleasure to meet the Danes, most of whom seemed to be Signals, and everyone was awed by their command of English, also aware of our own shortcomings as far as foreign languages were concerned. The W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess has meanwhile bid farewell in traditional style not only to Glückstadt, but to Sergeant "Buggsy" Ringrose, who is leaving the Army after 22 years' service. Both he and his family have been well known to us for many a year now, and he will be greatly missed. Finally, a week before the main party left for Münster, the Unit held a grand farewell dance at the Unter Den Linden. In spite of the rain there was a record attendance.

Then came the move and after that the Regiment had time to pay its respects formally to the new district and take stock

of its position. The barracks seemed excellent and there were N.A.A.F.I. Club and cinema to be had in the town. In fact, the only snag appeared to be the walking distance between the camp and these facilities. Soon after arrival the Officers' Mess put the Unit formally on the map by holding a dance at the Garrison Ballroom. This coincided with a visit by the Corps Band, which had played to a full and appreciative audience in the gymnasium in the afternoon; and so the dance had the benefit of a first-class dance band to keep the party going. A few days later the W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess held a farewell evening for Sergeant Webster, who has given the Unit a connoisseur's palate through his wonders from the cookhouse during the last four years, and who could evade "Python" no longer.

On the sporting side the Unit has suffered a good deal because of the move. When prospects looked very bright indeed it had to drop out of both soccer and hockey leagues in Hamburg District, and only in the last few weeks have the two teams been able to sort themselves out. In both the B.A.O.R. soccer and the Hockey Cup the Unit team found itself travelling to Berlin. They were very unlucky to lose 5—2 against the Royal Welch Fusiliers, playing on a rock-hard ground in the bitterest weather, and met strong opponents when they lost 5—1 against the Royal Fusiliers in the Hockey Cup. Meanwhile the Rugger enthusiasts had been making full use of their new pitch and in two games against 29 Field Regiment, R.A., lost 3—0 and 5—3. Both matches were keenly contested and in the second one a dry day would have given us certain victory. So far at Münster only the soccer team has played any matches. In two recent "friendlies" they have beaten a R.A.F. team 7—0 and 3 Hussars 4—3. The hockey team are playing the Hussars, our immediate neighbours, on the 1st April, and we hope to see another decisive victory. Rugger, unfortunately, is only in the embryo stage at the moment, no units in the district being able to supply us with opposition, but there have been two internal seven-a-side games and enthusiasm is still strong. Basketball is in abeyance until the gym is fitted with goals, and then interest promises to soar prodigiously.

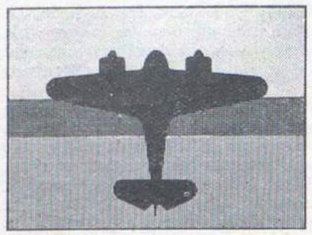
Individual performances this winter have been quite considerable. Lance-Corporals Futcher and Sutton played soccer for Schleswig-Holstein and took part in Hamburg District Trials, while no less than five members of the unit played in the Hamburg District Rugger Team at various times, and Signalman Shepherd, also long-distance runner and ventriloquist, recently won the Men's Singles in the B.A.O.R. Table Tennis Championships.



A combined team from 11 Air Formation Signal Regiment and Berlin Signal Squadron, runners-up in the Royal Signals, B.A.O.R., Inter-Unit Hockey Cup

11 AIR FORMATION SIGNAL REGIMENT

Bückeburg



On 7th March, the Regiment had the pleasure of a visit by Major-General W. R. C. Penney, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., Representative Colonel Commandant, who visited all detachments of the Regiment

A detachment from the Regiment attended the Corps Church Parade at Bad Oeynhausen on 12th March. The Corps Band was on parade. The G.O.C.-in-Chief took the salute.

On 17th March, the Corps Band, under Captain John L. Judd, visited us. They began by playing "Music While You Work" in the bandstand at Bad Eilsen. The bandstand being immediately in rear of the B.A.F.O. main H.Q., many hundreds were able to enjoy the music by merely opening the office window.

In the evening the Band gave an orchestral concert in the town theatre, Bückeburg, in the presence of A.O.C.-in-Chief, B.A.F.O. About 300 seats were given to the Resident for distribution to Germans and over 1,000 people applied for tickets. Prince Christian of Schaumburg Lippe and his wife were present. Compliments were showered upon the Band at the end of the concert and subsequently.

Our cross-country team, which has done so well in B.A.F.O., came second to B.A.O.R. Signal Regiment in the Royal Signals Cross-Country on 13th March.

The hockey team, having battled its way through many rounds of the 7 Armoured Division Tournament, lost in the quarter finals to a strong team, 1 Royal Tank Regiment, at Detmold. In the Signals Competition we lost to B.A.O.R. Signal Regiment in the final. Our congratulations to B.A.O.R. Signal Regiment on both the hockey and cross-country wins. Our hockey team lost to H.Q., B.A.F.O., in the semi-final of the R.A.F. Inter-Station Tournament.

Corporal Pollard and Driver Sheahan won their weights in the 7 Armoured Division Individual Boxing Championships at Minden.

On 27th March, many members of the Regiment attended a reception and tea party at Bad Eilsen to meet the Right Rev. the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

☆

RAMBLING REMINISCENCES

It was quite pleasant in Razmak in '37, but there were no bright lights, no lonely ladies to dance with, no broken-kneed Tats to ride, at least so bemoaned the Corporal. "Pity you didn't break your leg instead of cut your finger," said a voice—the Corporal held up a bandaged finger and, thinking aloud, said, "You've got something there."

He reported sick next morning and told the M.O. he had to report to Bannu on the morrow. Should he see the M.O. there?—most certainly—would you sign this then, please, Sir? The C.S.M. was shown a chit—Corporal "X" will report to the M.O. at Bannu on 1st August, '37. Signed, "Y," M.O., Razmak. This procedure was successfully repeated at Bannu and Pindi.

The Corporal had two very pleasant months at Murree before Admin caught up with him, and he thought that the loss of three months' seniority well worth it.

M E L F

3 G.H.Q. SIGNAL REGIMENT

Fayid, M.E.L.F.

A very busy month all round in our Unit. First has been the visit by the Director of Signals, War Office, Major-General W. A. Scott, C.B., C.B.E., who came to M.E.L.F. for a conference with his C.S.O.s in the Command. A very comprehensive official and social programme was laid on, and we feel sure that the Director must have been very pleased by what he saw of our working life and conditions. The main official item in this Unit was a ceremonial parade and march past, followed by an inspection. A lot of work had been put into these items, but we feel that our reward was the way everything went along so smoothly, in spite of the difficulties common out here. The social programme, again from our Unit side, consisted of a cocktail party and film show in the Officers' Mess. This was attended by many guests and the families of our officers and was a big success. Two points which struck your writer were the excellent quality of the dry martinis and the fact that the film show, "The Third Man," does not stale by seeing more than once. But does everyone "have" to hum the "Harry Lime Theme" all the time? As all the other Signal Units in the area also had their own social events during his stay, we think that the visit must have been quite a success.

Also during the month was held the Dedication Service for the Royal Signals Memorial Window in the Garrison Church at Moascar, but as this was largely controlled by our friends of Egypt Command Signals, I will leave it to my fellow scribe in that Unit to describe.

March has also been the big month for sports. We had the Inter-Squadron Sports, the District Sports, a Triangular Sports Meeting between Signals, Milocarians and 4th Royal Tank Regiment, the Rugger Cup Final and the Rugger Seven-a-Side Final, and the Inter-Services Seven-a-Side. In the Inter-Squadron Sports, 1 Squadron were winners by a comfortable margin. We took the District Seven-a-Side Cup and reached the finals of the Inter-Services Competition. And we also reached the quarter-final in the Rugger Cup. The athlete of the month is undoubtedly Second-Lieutenant Dan Prince, who put up a really fine all-round performance in all the sports events. His javelin throwing has to be seen to be believed. Fine business in the rugger team was done by Sergeant Rees and Corporal O'Brien, who have been team stalwarts throughout the season.

Our hockey team have also been doing themselves pretty well in spite of a lot of misfortune. They suffered a crop of injuries playing against civilian teams in Cairo and had barely recovered from that when three members of the team became involved in an outbreak of rabies. They all survived without foaming at the mouth, but their usefulness as hockey players was definitely limited whilst undergoing treatment. However, now the team is in full working order again they stand a good chance of finishing second in the Major Units League.

In Regimental life, "H.Q." Squadron have acquitted themselves pretty well. They took the Inter-Squadron Drill Cup and also the Unit Tug-of-War Cup, and a team composed of "H.Q." men finished up in the final of the District Tug-of-War. Your writer, who doesn't often get a chance to pat himself on the back, feels very proud of this as the team has been his own personal baby.

The only other big event has been the visit of the Khamsin. For the benefit of people who have not been out here, that is not a local dignitary but a rather vicious sort of sandstorm. Most of the Units in the area are still looking for tents and roofs that went absent without leave, and are more than busy getting sand out of everywhere that sand will get—in this case, just everywhere. The report that the Cook Sergeant used his dixie of soup to plaster the walls of the cookhouse is *not* true. But "Sand in my Shoes" is not a popular request item.

ERITREA DISTRICT SIGNAL TROOP

Asmara, Eritrea

Asmara, capital of this ex-Italian colony, is by no means the worst station in the Red Sea area, being well up in the mountains and enjoying an almost European climate. Its reputation as a health resort dropped appreciably, however, following the recent riots, in which over forty were killed during two or three days.

Political and religious differences between the rival groups—Coptics and Moslems—were heightened by the presence of a U.N.O. Commission, which is to make a report soon to the General Assembly as to the future of the territory.

The rioters seem to have acquired a plentiful supply of hand grenades! It is understood that survivors on both sides now have, at any rate, one point of agreement—that it is advisable to get rid of a grenade quickly after the pin is out!

Signals were called upon to provide communication from a H.Q. in the native quarter to the two infantry battalions engaged in the town. With fire-raisers at work (mostly on each other's shops), as well as the usual stabbing, shooting, etc., an exciting time was had by all.

We took off our hats to one determined infantry sergeant who hit a running looter in the arm with his Sten at eighty yards, firing from the hip, and trailed the bloodstains through half a mile of back alleys to get his man and bring him in.

Apart from town riots, the main concern has been the Shifta, or bandits, in the outlying areas who have been specialising in road hold-ups. A second battalion was brought in to relieve the situation.

The Shifta are well armed with Italian weapons, and seem to have remarkably fine intelligence service. They are also not without a signal system!

A large scale drive, in which Signals took part, was organised in the Adi Ugri area, near the Abyssinian frontier. Two Shifta were killed in a running fight, right on the border, just before this started, but it must be presumed that the majority played the old guerrilla game of burying their "tools" and reverting to peaceful pursuits whilst the operation was on, as little else transpired. We found that theory was justified, and that frequencies of the 2 Meg variety do bend neatly round the hills.

The battalions have a considerable number of 19 and 22 sets, and get good results. Occasionally, they use rather wicked mules to transport them (shades of the old N.W.F.), and our one only radio mech., Lance-Corporal Wells, is most exceedingly busy, the nearest R.E.M.E. being in Khartoum. However, like his predecessor, he is only to be with us for a week or two before going out on release.

The pressure of activities has eased somewhat in the last couple of weeks, and we have been able to heave up new aerials for 53 set working to Khartoum.

FARELF

GURKHA SIGNAL TRAINING AND HOLDING WING

Kuala Lumpur

We announce with regret the departure from Malaya of Major-General C. H. Boucher, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., who unfortunately, has been invalided home.

With the threefold responsibility of directing operations against the bandits, administering his District on normal peace-time procedure, and raising and training Units of the Gurkha Division, the General had quite a "plateful" here in Malaya. Yet, he always managed to find time to take a keen and lively interest in even the smallest Unit in his Command.

His frequent visits to this Unit and his close concern in our problems made him very popular with us all.

With him, on his return to England, go the sincere regards of all ranks of the Unit, and our best wishes for a speedy recovery.

We have little new to report as far as the work of the Unit is concerned this month; we continue to expand and our training commitments continue to grow. Otherwise the training of our G.O.R.s as Signals tradesmen goes along with a swing.

We expect some 200 additional Gurkha Trainees to arrive by the end of June. The first batch of 50 plus 20 ex-boys are due in April. There is feverish activity in the various departments of the Unit preparing for them. The ex-boys are a very welcome addition to our intake of G.O.R.s and, as may be imagined, we have ambitious training plans for them.

On Friday, 3rd March, the Gurkha ranks of the Unit celebrated the festival of "Holi." The origins of this festival are connected with the ascent of the god "Krishna" to his rightful throne. The ritual of the festival itself, however, has developed over hundreds of years so that only the "initiated" really understand it. To the ordinary B.O.R., the main accent seems to be on much dancing, singing and feasting; with, as is usual with Gurkha soldiers, a little rum on the side, and, with the use of what appeared to be draughtsman's coloured inks, applied with great artistic flair by certain nominated devotees, on to other people's clothes and persons. The B.O.R. guests present may not have understood the whole theory of the ritual, but at least they thoroughly enjoyed taking part in it. Unfortunately, the Unit cameraman was not in attendance, so we have no evidence to show you.

"Work at a no cost basis," which is the usual edict from above when the Unit demands some small service these parlous days, proceeds on the amenities of the Camp in our endeavour to make ourselves as comfortable as possible. At the moment we are busy clearing the jungle adjoining the Sergeants' Mess Area to make a Gurkha Married Families' Site. Here, we shall erect tents, cookhouses, wash-places, etc., with any material we can lay our hands on so that we may house our small but "growing" married families pending the erection of proper married quarters. We hope to send you some pictures of it and of our families for the next issue of THE WIRE. In other parts of the Camp we are busy rehabilitating or making such things as Badminton courts and Netball pitches. Whilst on the subject of amenities, it is with pleasure we note that H.Q. Malaya District is very soon to provide a swimming pool for the soldier in Kuala Lumpur. The provision of this amenity is probably the most popular move ever made in the eyes of the troops.

The Soccer Season has started and we have bravely entered our mixed British-Gurkha team in the third Division of the Kuala Lumpur Football League. This, admittedly, is only a small beginning, but as yet we are a small Unit, and Sergeant Goldring and the B.O.R. soccer enthusiasts have long-term plans for the development of the standard of soccer of our G.O.R.s.

In the Hockey world, Captain J. I. Parkinson represented the District in the series of Army Hockey matches between Malaya, Singapore and Hong Kong, on the 10th, 11th and 12th March. It is understood that he acquitted himself with his usual dexterity and agility. We understand that he has volunteered to start a hockey school in the Unit during the close season.

As a preliminary to the FARELF Boxing Championships, Malaya District boxing championships took place on the 3rd, 4th and 5th March. Our one Gurkha entry, Corporal Sherbahadur Gurung unfortunately lost his bout; but his pluck and cheerfulness drew steady applause, and we are glad to acknowledge him as a good sportsman.

There is nothing to report on the Sergeants' Mess this month except that our holdings of pigeons, although varied in size, shape and breed, are greatly increasing.

MALAYA DISTRICT SIGNAL REGIMENT

Kuala Lumpur

We are looking forward to the arrival of the next two boats as we are due to receive a reasonable draft of men to fill up our sadly depleted ranks. Those who are lucky enough to get posted to our out-squadrons will find themselves on Operations before they know where they are.

We are just completing the last of our Officers' Days which have been very successful in all respects. We are holding a Regimental Guest Night on 20th March, to which all Signal Officers in the Federation have been invited.

No. 2 Squadron (Taiping). Malaya now being in the throes of its Anti-Bandit Month, 2 Squadron thought that it should play its part. In conjunction with the R.M.P. Detachment we provide a jeep and wireless sets, and patrol the streets of Taiping at nights.

The Squadron managed to get a little closer to the jungle than usual lately when we spent two days firing on the jungle range. This was found to be very instructive and enjoyable. From the general appearance of the situation it seems that things are brewing up in this district, and some of us might be getting even closer to the jungle fairly soon, to which we are certainly looking forward.

The H.Q. has been honoured by a visit from the G.O. C.-in-C., General Sir John Harding. During his stay the General resided at Maxwell Hill, the local hill station. We provided a wireless link from the top of the hill to Taiping, which as well as being a useful exercise, was a pleasant change for our operators, as the air and climate is very like that of England.

No. 3 Squadron (Seremban). The "signal strength" in the 3 Squadron area has increased by 50 per cent. this last month due to the arrival of a detachment of the Guards Signal Squadron, and also a number of reinforcements. These very welcome additions have strengthened our Royal Signals sports team to such an extent that we look forward with confidence to the coming season.

The average distance we have to travel on various duties has increased, to the delight of our "escort volunteers."

Faces once pale with office work are becoming brick-red from exposure in open trucks.

No. 4 Squadron (Temerloh). During the past month we have continued with our policy of modernisation and we are now able to announce that all our tents are equipped with electric lighting.

The highlight of February was the flooding of the area. We were cut off from "Civilisation" for about one week and the swimming was enjoyed by all! Official mail was air-dropped on the camp, but private mail, unfortunately, was left to accumulate in Mentakab Post Office until a wading party managed to get through.

The bandits are still with us and there is no let-up in Signal work. Everyone seems to thrive on it, despite the complete absence of civilised amenities in Pahang. Our main relaxations are sport and a weekly cinema show.

The Squadron soccer team continues to do well and have not been beaten in the last month. We are getting a very workmanlike side together though we shall miss "Geordie" Hamilton who has left for civil life.

HONG KONG SIGNAL SQUADRON

We offer our hearty congratulations and best wishes to Lieutenant (Q.M.) A. L. Phillips, M.M., on his commissioning, but he is departing for a land nearer home. As with all Units, the headache is man-power, but we at least can employ C.O.R. (Chinese Other Ranks) and civilians to help keep us up to strength.

Twice weekly, officers and N.C.O.s gather in a classroom where they are being initiated into the mysteries of Cantonese. The language, it appears, depends on five tones, but judging by results an excellent choir would seem to be emerging. However, also it seems as if our instructor (a civilian of much patience) will be speaking excellent English before we master his language. But we are sure that benefit will be gained on both sides.

"O" Troop remains much as usual, still operating the Signal Office. The addition of RTTY to Singapore and a 'printer to Division has helped a lot—even if it has produced strange language when mark reads space and space mark!

"W" Troop has been recently formed in the Unit, and is responsible for all our numerous wireless communications. Also attached to the Troop is part of the FARELF A.S.S.U. Troop, who seem to spend their time on one continuous exercise.

"L" Troop have been very busy laying a new cable to 40 Division in the New Territories. An excellent cable locator/detector has emerged from the Troop workshops which guarantees to find any cable at any depth.

The O.C. Troop is now engaged in developing a method by which he can locate the radio rediffusion cables and obtain music while you work.

The W.R.A.C. element of the Squadron, though small in number, are doing a grand job manning the Combined Services Telephone Exchange, under the competent supervision of Sergeant J. "Mac" MacKenzie (ex ack-ack radar), W.R.A.C. They find their work far from boring. Not only is their operating a full-time job but they act as an information bureau for the whole of the Colony, and do they get some "teasers." They are expected to know, and do know, everything from what the latest election results are to who is going home on the next trooper. (I wonder where they get their information from.) Last month we said *au revoir* and the best of luck to Lance-Corporal Jan Baird, Privates Josie White and Carol Mitchel (W.R.A.C.), all homeward bound on Release and Python. Matrimony seems to be all the vogue at present. Corporal "Billie" Marshall was married to Chief Petty Officer J. Wood, R.N., this month, and we would like to take this opportunity of wishing them both every happiness. There are more marriages in the offing, one particularly on 1st April between a member of the W.R.A.C. and a Commando; it shows signs of being quite a social event.

Sport. Owing mostly to shortage of W.R.A.C., sport is very much to the background at the moment. However, perhaps when our long-awaited reinforcements arrive advantage will be taken of the new tennis court situated in the grounds of the W.R.A.C. Mess and Quarters.

Tennis fever is now spreading and, having got the use of the G.O.C.'s courts, we hope to produce many champions. Next on the agenda will be swimming at Shek O Bay in the near future.

Amateur radio rears its head again, Sergeant McTurk having returned from a long course in Malaya. He is active on the 14 and 28 mcs. bands as VS6BI. He now has a little assistance from VS6BS. Both stations are always on the look-out for Signals contacts from 1100 G.M.T. onwards. We should like to see a consolidated list of Signals call signs published in THE WIRE for reference.

21 FIRE COMMAND SIGNAL TROOP, 27 A.A. REGIMENT

Hong Kong

This month has been quite a busy one, commencing with "Practice Firing," which took place from two of the gun positions on 7th, 8th, 9th and 10th March. It is on these occasions that an operator is selected, not for his operating abilities, but for his seamanship; Lance-Corporal Ambrick will no doubt regard his forthcoming release as complete freedom from the periodical bouts of seasickness to which he was gradually becoming accustomed, through paying for his experience the hard way. However, the duties aboard the safety launches are normally quite pleasant and provide an interesting relief, especially when the skipper orders "Splice the main brace."

Although the communication set-up had to be prepared and established on all four days, we only managed to fire on one of these, owing to heavy cloud and strict safety precaution, the latter designed to prevent the mail-plane and a 3.7 shell becoming coincident.

We are still waiting for the official letter to arrive stressing the fact that Masts, Aerial, 36 ft., will not be used to hoist such haberdashery as Red Flags and Black Cones; still, it's good practice!

40 INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT

Hong Kong

By far the biggest event during the past month has been the preparation for the Divisional Ceremonial Parade. Unusual drill parades caught Signals off guard—but not for long. During the fortnight preceding the parade, drill was centralised under the R.S.M., and in no time Divisional Signals looked a different body of men. The parade date, 17th March, dawned fine and clear, and our convoy phased in with troops from all over the territory dead on the minute for the trip to Sek Kong, the parade being held there on the airstrip. Having formed up, our C.O., Lieutenant-Colonel P. M. P. Hobson, D.S.O., marched us to our allotted station for the inspection, whence we stood easy and polished our rifles and boots. According to the local papers, there were about 5,000 men on parade, spread over a thousand-yard front.

At 10.45 the Divisional Commander, Major-General G. C. Evans, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., took over the parade, and ordered the Division, *en masse*, to give a general salute on the arrival of the G.O.C.-in-C., Lieutenant-General Sir Robert Mansergh, K.B.E., C.B., M.C. On the stroke of 11 o'clock a bugle

announced the arrival of H.E. The Governor, when a Royal Salute was given.

H.E. The Governor, Lieutenant-General Mansergh and Major-General Evans then took to jeeps and inspected the parade, commencing with the immaculate tanks formed up on the right of the line to the Divisional Provost Company on the left. Having got back to the saluting base, H.E. The Governor then addressed the parade, commenting favourably on the turnout and drill, and congratulating the Division on being worthy ambassadors of Britain.

The parade then marched past to the accompaniment of the massed bands of the King's Own Scottish Borderers, the Cameronians and the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders. Quite a pleasant surprise to hear "Begone Dull Care" again!

Much comment was expressed by spectators and Press alike of the "racing" march past of the King's Shropshire Light Infantry, with their fine bugle band to the fore and marching at the trail. "Glamorous" was one of the adjectives used by the Press to describe them.

Off the Cuff. We learn that 26 Brigade is shortly going to Malaya to help against the bandits, and with them our Signal Troop under Captain C. De Lyle-Turner. Good hunting!

SIGNAL TROOP, 58 MED. REGIMENT, R.A.
Hong Kong

Most of us managed to attend the R.A. Units' Motor Cycle Trial held a few weeks ago, and an enjoyable afternoon's entertainment was had by all. The Troop entered a team consisting of Lieutenant Hiles, Signalman Anderson and Signalman Askew, and was placed second. In the individual championship, Signalman Anderson was placed a very close second and we congratulate him—it was tough going.

THE TERRITORIAL ARMY

SIGNAL TROOP, QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY TRAINING CORPS, T.A.
Belfast

Since the New Year Bristol, London and Nottingham Universities have joined the Universities Wireless Net, which now covers two-thirds of the Universities in the United Kingdom.

Taking a very big chance on the weather, a party under Captain Burns set off on a wireless and line exercise on the morning of 18th February. The scheme centred on a Brigade Headquarters at Whitehead, County Antrim, with a wireless link back to Belfast (17 miles). On the first day three mobile wireless sets followed the movements of three imaginary battalions on the Islandmagee Peninsula, and an area of coast as far north as Ballygally, about 12 miles from Whitehead. Remote-control units and a switchboard were brought into operation at Whitehead to enable re-broadcasting and the working of telephone/wireless relays. During the night 18th/19th February a line was laid to a position near Ballycarry. An enemy patrol, found by the Infantry Unit of the U.T.C., came from Belfast to locate the cable and tap or cut it, but failed to carry out their task, although the cable detachment actually heard the patrol searching for the line, and passed back information as to the enemy's movements. The move back to Belfast took place on the afternoon of the 19th after all cable had been recovered. Traffic passed on the exercise included 98 formal messages. The party of 22 other ranks who went out included a number of recruits, and valuable experience was gained in both wireless and line work, driving, etc. The thanks of Signals are due to Corporal Bamford of the U.T.C. Medical Unit, who went on the exercise as chef and did excellent work. Thanks are also due to the Clerk of the Weather, who justified the trust placed in him, and produced a quite unseasonably fine and dry week-end.

24th, 25th, 26th and 27th March saw us at Ballykinlar, doing our best with rifle and L.M.G. to mutilate targets on the ranges. The weather provided no excuse for low scorers, being again dry and sunny, but our next excursion, on 1st and 2nd April, was not so well favoured. Who chose two of the "Borrowing Days" for an exercise? (If you don't know the story of the Old Cow write to the Editor, and he'll ask us to contribute it to a later issue.) We toured the parishes of Killyleagh, Killinchy, Kilmood and Tullynakill with wireless vehicles, laid and recovered a few miles of cable, spent a night in the farm buildings of Colonel Groves-Raines, a former C.O. of Queen's O.T.C., and obliterated a bus-stop at Killyleagh, returning from County Down to Belfast on the evening of 2nd April feeling damp but (thanks again to some of the "Medicals") well fed.

Officially we have now lost Major J. H. A. Patton, M.C., T.D., who has become Second-in-Command of the Contingent, but we think that he is likely to continue to be seen very often with the Signal Unit.

ARMY PHANTOM SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.
(The Princess Louise's Kensington Regiment)
Hammersmith

The sincere congratulations of all ranks are extended to our Adjutant, Captain J. E. L. Adams, and Mrs. Adams on the arrival of a son, Robin John, on 16th March.

On 5th April, A.D.O.S., London District, Lieutenant-Colonel Bransbury, R.A.O.C., gave a most interesting lecture on "Ordnance." Colonel Bransbury gave some very useful information about the responsibilities and duties carried out by the R.A.O.C., and the tremendous number of specialist tasks carried out by that Corps.

Miniature range shooting under the guidance of Lieutenant Allen and Corporal Ceazar is progressing favourably, and a number of first-class shots are being coached by two expert marksmen—Sergeants Williams and Isely. The week-end exercise in co-operation with 10 A.S.S.U. (T.A.), Southampton, briefly mentioned in the last issue, was a definite success, and the standard of training reached on this scheme was most satisfactory, and the general enjoyment of the week-end was assisted by fine weather. The end of March marked the appearance of the first issue of our Regimental Magazine, *The Kensington*. Hitherto this publication has been entirely devoted to Old Comrades' Association news, but now the Regiment can express itself through the medium of our own Regimental Magazine, published quarterly and controlled by its own Magazine Committee, made up of representatives from R.H.Q. and the Squadrons.

1/20 (SM) ARMY SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.
Birmingham

My appeal for information of interest from the Squadrons and individuals of this Regiment has borne no fruit beyond an occasional raspberry. With Easter falling so soon after Good Friday this year I am caught unawares. How can I get this contribution into the C.S.O.'s Branch yesterday? I managed to find out something a couple of days ago whilst talking to the caretaker. There seems to have been some competition of one sort and another amongst the W.O.s and Sergeants. Our picture this month shows Lieutenant-Colonel D. G. Collins, M.B.E., T.D., our late C.O., presenting the Snooker Cup to S.S.M. W. Hade at the Mess Social. Runner-up was Sergeant R. Docker. Both are P.S.I.s and work here all day. There is a clue here somewhere. Lieutenant-Colonel E. R. Price, the new C.O., is also in this picture, having trouble with his tie. W.O.II Muston, R.E.M.E. (L.A.D.), was presented with a cup for the highest score in the .22 shooting match. I should have asked for a lot more detail, but I was sewing a button on my sock at the time and anyway they will be competing for them again next year. The cups, I mean, not my socks.

Everything points to an Annual Camp this year at Warren Camp, Pembrokeshire. The Adjutant and Quartermaster attended a conference on the site of the camp and carried out a perfunctory butcher's hook. It is a long way from Birmingham. Indeed, it would seem to be a long way from anywhere. Flies are prevalent and there is no pub in a five-mile radius. Sounds pretty good to me. Variety is the spice of life and sure enough this looks like being a little different. There is safe bathing within four miles, the ground is firm and well drained, and but for the curve in the earth's surface you would be able to see South America. There is nothing in between to interfere with a good clean wind, except, of course, a large floating factory where they manufacture the famous brand of rain which spreads from the west, together with numerous deep depressions. Anti-cyclones are mostly for export to Bournemouth and the French Riviera. This will give you a preliminary picture to be going on with. Further details follow. See small bills. Officers see large ones after Camp.

The Junior N.C.O.s' D. and D. Course, under R.S.M. H. Griffin, came to an end when the candidates went through their paces in the Drill Hall on Monday, 3rd April. They all put up an excellent show and will undoubtedly make useful N.C.O.s. Chevrons were presented to these new N.C.O.s by the C.O., Lieutenant-Colonel E. R. Price. The C.O. also presented the L.S. and G.C. Medal to S.S.M. W. Hade on this parade.

Rest of the News. No. 3 Squadron, under command of Major R. N. Houston, T.D., are now firmly entrenched at Welsh House Farm Camp and ready for their share of the N.S. men. The Regiment staged an "At Home" at this location in March. The Royal Engineers, who also occupy a part of the camp, co-operated and between us a very interesting show was produced. There was not quite the crowd that we could have hoped for, but the local inhabitants were given an excellent chance to see what goes on. I was hoping to tell you this next one last month, but time doesn't wait even for Adjutants. Dierdre Margaret Denton, aged 0, arrived on Monday, 13th March, to join the family of Captain and Mrs. J. E. Denton. Congratulations.

A few volunteers from this Regiment will be operating wireless sets at Silverstone Motor Racing Track on 21st and 22nd April. We get around. I am still thinking about our Annual Camp this year. In fact, I am thinking about next year's, too, and wondering why they don't send us to Switzerland or Austria. Jolly good training ground, I reckon. At least we should be able to ski for ourselves. Yes, perhaps you're right. I'll go now.

BARLEUX

PRESENTATION OF THE SNOOKER CUP TO S.S.M. W. HADE



44 (H.C.) INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

Stamford Brook, W.6

The outstanding event of the last month was undoubtedly the visit, by the Commanding Officer and eight of his officers, to the Stanford Training Area where the Regiment will go in July, to spend the two weeks in camp for Annual Training.

The arrangements for accommodation and messing were excellent and the Divisional Headquarters Staff had spared no effort to ensure the comfort of the officers attending the Exercise.

We, in the Divisional Signals, were accommodated in the Duke's Head Hotel, King's Lynn, and those readers who know this historic hotel will envy us.

On Saturday morning, T.C.V.'s were waiting early to take us out to the Training Area and it was not long before the Staff were initiating us into the mysteries of the hundred and one "do's" and "dont's" of the ranges for tanks and guns of all types and calibres.

On Sunday we spent the day arranging our camp exercises and reccying the surrounding countryside. What was one of the most enjoyable week-ends "back in the Army," finished with tea and a drive back through some extremely pleasant countryside.

With the election of Major K. B. Baldwin, M.B.E., to the Presidency of the Mercury Club and two new committee members, the Club comes under new management. Membership is increasing each week and it is hoped to introduce many new ideas as time and money become available.

While on the subject of the Club, we would like all Royal Signals personnel living near any of our Drill Halls to know that they will always be very welcome in the Club and Headquarters. This applies in particular to those members of the Corps who will eventually be posted to this Regiment. We want all National Service men to feel very much at home with us and we want to know you, so come along on any drill night. We know you will like us because we want to like you—but we can't—if we don't know you.

Once again we are pleased to welcome even more recruits to the Regiment.

Lastly, on Easter Saturday evening a really good party was held in the Mercury Club by the Ladies' Committee to help increase the Regimental purse. Mrs. Turner and her helpers put on a free buffet, dancing, party games, and many other attractions, including a weight-guessing competition for a cake presented by one of the ladies.

51 (H) INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

Aberdeen

This month we were honoured by our Pipe Band being invited by Scottish Command (M) Signal Regiment to go to Edinburgh and play on the occasion of a visit by H.R.H. The Princess Royal. This engagement was fulfilled with pleasure on 30th March. Her Royal Highness spoke to many members of the Band, including Pipe Major E. Johnstone who was carrying the Pipe Banner presented to the Regiment by Her Royal Highness in 1938.

1 Squadron. Sergeant J. Buchan left this Unit for Canada at the beginning of March. We have already had a communication that he has established himself in a good job. Up to date he has not found the recruiting officer of the Royal Canadian Corps of Signals. Before his departure he was presented with a fountain pen, suitably engraved, by members of the Squadron Sergeants' Mess, wishing him the best of luck.

We welcome to our establishment from Civvy Street Sergeant (ex-W.O.) A. L. Boynton who is joining the permanent staff as D.R. Sergeant. He will be remembered by those who served with the 10th Armoured Division Signals.

At the beginning of the month we held a recruiting drive from 13th to 20th March, 1950. This included a smoker to which each member of the Squadron brought along a friend. The hall was filled with training aids and one of every type of equipment we hold. That the social side of the evening was a great success goes without saying, but we now see the results of our efforts by the numbers of recruits that are coming in.

2 Squadron. Sunday morning usually sees us out, sometimes on a convoy run for the benefit of learner drivers and D.R.s and last Sunday we held a full-day Signal Exercise in the Auchterarder area of Perthshire.

We had a good day so far as the weather was concerned. I hear, however, that they still have a squadron of pigeons on the Corps strength somewhere? From the end of April onwards, it seems that we are fully booked (especially the officers) every weekend until after Camp in July. With all these weekends and three to four hourly periods on two nights per week, we are beginning to feel just about as active as the five days per week, six hours per day "Active Army" and they have the advantage of occasional trips to warmer climates.

Our strength continues to increase steadily. We are now 40 all ranks in the Squadron and we have hopes of the half-century being reached before Camp.

It is with much regret that we record the death of Sergeant W. F. Stewart, who died very suddenly on 8th March, 1950. Sergeant Stewart was a pre-war member of the Unit and served through most of the last war with 4th Division Signals, including their period in Greece. He was a keen N.C.O. who put in a great deal of work for the Squadron. The funeral was attended by a detachment from the Squadron and a piper and bugler were supplied from the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders. Sympathy from all ranks goes out to the deceased's wife and family.

Tailpiece. For S.Q.M.S. Cochran, ex 3 Squadron Detachment, Hooge Lines, Catterick Camp. From Sergeant Pip Morris, ex 3 Training Regiment: I came across your ex-Storeman, J. Davidson, a little while ago and he sends his regards. He has told me a few tales that even I didn't know. He will be looking for a few words in THE WIRE from you in the near future.

11 A.A. (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

Brompton Road, S.W.2

There have been two major events in the past month, the Unit's participation (in a communication capacity) in the California Cup Motor-Cycle Trial, and Easter Camp. In the former we assisted the North London Motor-Cycle Club in the running of the Trial at Church Crookham, near Aldershot, on 12th March. Our D.R.s were attached to trial marshals along the route, and were used to bring back score cards to the central control point. In addition, we ran out a D.8 line over roughish country normally used as a tank testing ground, on which our W.R.A.C. manned telephone report centres. Due either to the magnificent construction or to the fact that no tanks were present that day, the circuit remained "through" throughout! Moreover, the North London Motor-Cycle Club claim that our efforts enabled them to produce their results in record time, and our thanks go to the club secretary for affording us an enjoyable day and an opportunity for exercising our talents and handling some "live traffic."

Easter Camp took place at Pendell, near Redhill, and was a great success in spite of the weather. Some 120 all ranks attended. Here, again, our special thanks go to 500 Squadron, Royal Auxiliary Air Force, for the interesting day which we spent with them on Easter Saturday at West Malling. Their hospitality was typically "R.A.F.," and we hope that they enjoyed their return visit to us in the evening. D.R.s were also active over the holiday, and did a training run to 12 A.A. (Mixed) Signal Regiment at Bristol, bringing back a

party of that Unit's D.R.s to spend Saturday and Sunday with us. We thank them for the reception they gave us at their end, and hope that this will be only the first of many such interchange visits, both with that Unit and others.

The Camp was rounded off on Easter Monday by a visit from the C.S.O. A.A. Command, Brigadier W. H. G. Rogers, C.B.E., who inspected military and W.R.A.C. other ranks at drill and then gave us a talk on "A.A. Signals." We thank him for sparing us a part of his holiday. Finally, we have to congratulate our W.R.A.C. netball team on reaching the finals of the 1 A.A. Group Knock-out Competition (further comments in the next issue) and regretfully to say goodbye to S.Q.M.S. V. Adams, who leaves us on taking up an appointment in Singapore. We wish him all good fortune and thank him for the untiring efforts which he has exerted on behalf of 21 Squadron, particularly in the field of entertainments.

12 A.A. GROUP (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

Bristol

Before this month's WIRE goes to press R.H.Q. will have changed its abode. We are moving on 12th April to a newly-built hutted camp, the honours of which we will share with 2 A.A. Group R.A.S.C., Column West. We shall be very loath to leave our present Centre, but on the other hand it will be rather nice to start from scratch on very virgin soil.

With the better weather, everyone in the Regiment seems to have gained a new lease of life. Over the Easter week-end we are taking part in 11 A.A. (M) Signal Regiment's week-end camp by receiving six of their D.R.s at Bristol on Friday, and sending back six of our own to Pendell Camp on the Saturday.

Since last we wrote, our new Squadron has been raised at Edenbridge in Kent, under the command of Captain John King, and with Sergeant A. M. Murphy as the P.S.I. A dance was held to mark the raising of the Squadron, and a very good show it was. Now we hear that 42 Squadron is running a whist drive to encourage wives to come along and see what their husbands get up to at T.A. Centres. As the prizes appear to range from nylons to sacks of wood, all tastes seem to be catered for.

We have a bevy of new N.C.O.s in the Regiment, both Military and W.R.A.C. For the W.R.A.C. a N.C.O.s' weekend course is being held this month at the new R.H.Q., when N.C.O.s from Plymouth, Southampton and Edenbridge will come to Bristol. We understand that the W.R.A.C. contingent are going to go to a show together after duty on Saturday, the 22nd.

This year we are having a change of scenery for our Annual Camp.

The Regiment goes to Braunton, North Devon, from 25th June—9th July.

Braunton is eight miles from Barnstaple, and the camp site faces the sea. There is a glorious stretch of beach, and we are planning to do some racing there in sand yachts which are now in process of being built at R.H.Q. We hope that our camping weather will be up to the standard of the past two years. If it is, most of our off-duty time should be spent on the beach and sand dunes. If the weather is bad we shall have the consolation of a very good bus service into Barnstaple, and a very good camp concert hall.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND REUNION

The Annual General Meeting of the Royal Signals Association will take place at The Signal Training Centre, Catterick Camp, Yorkshire, on the 22nd and 23rd of July, 1950.

Association Notes

Headquarters

All Branches have been notified of the date of the Hon. Secretaries' Meeting, which is being held at the H.Q. 16th Airborne Division Signal Regiment, Duke of York's H.Q., Chelsea, S.W.3, on Saturday, 6th May, 1950. We are hoping for a good attendance.

It is notified for general information that the Annual General Meeting and Old Comrades' Reunion will again take place at Catterick on 22nd and 23rd July, 1950. The Commandants School of Signals and S.T.C. are kindly arranging to entertain 300 Old Comrades. We have not yet received full details, but Branches will be informed in good time, and any member who does not belong to a Branch can obtain details by applying to the General Secretary.

The number of Branches is steadily increasing, but there are still many areas with a large ex-Signals population where no Branch exists. The General Secretary is always glad to hear from any ex-members of the Corps, of any rank, who are prepared to help in forming a Branch.

We have now restarted the Unit Branches in B.A.O.R., and every major Signal Regiment in Germany has got its Branch. These are proving very useful to National Service men and others leaving the Forces in obtaining employment and advice on return to civilian life, and the home Branches are all anxious to contact them on their return to their home towns.

We are particularly pleased to welcome to our fold the newly-formed Tunbridge Wells Branch, the Hon. Secretary of which is Mr. G. E. Paling, the first Editor of THE WIRE. Branches have also recently been formed in Bangor, Cardiff, Chesterfield and South-East Kent, and to these we extend a hearty welcome. Several Unit Associations and Dinner Clubs have also become affiliated to the parent body, and we look forward to hearing from others. There are no conditions or responsibilities attached, and we do not hinder or interfere in any of their previous activities. Quite the reverse—we encourage them to continue.

London (City)

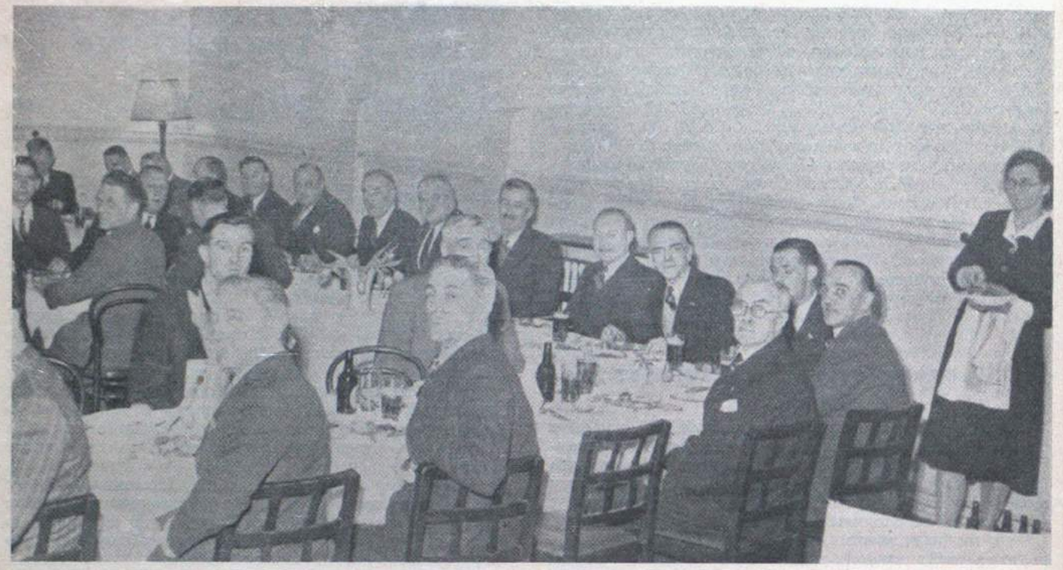
On the 17th March, a Social was held at our new meeting place, the Star Hotel, Old Street, E.C.1. This was attended by some fifty members and friends. Amongst our guests we were pleased to see Colonel Roberts, the Association Secretary. During the evening the draw for our Grand National Sweep took place, and the result of this draw is now known and our congratulations go out to the lucky ones.

On the 25th March it was our pleasure to welcome and entertain members of the Aldershot Branch. It was a grand evening and a return visit to Aldershot is being arranged for the 15th April.

Friday, 6th April, was an occasion—it was the first of our monthly meetings at our new headquarters and we were pleased to see old members and new ones too.

Our meeting in May is on the 28th and we shall be pleased to see as many members who can attend. A welcome goes out to all Association Members who may be in town on that evening.

Our Secretary, Fred Steel, will be in Jersey from 10th to 14th June, staying at Swanson's Hotel, the Esplanade, St. Helier, and will be pleased to meet any Signals who are there.



Aldershot

On 28th January we sat down to our first Branch Annual Dinner at the Victoria Hotel, Aldershot.

We were 50 in number, and had as our guests, Major-General W. A. Dimoline, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., G.O.C. Aldershot District, and Colonel A. W. Roberts, M.C., the General Secretary.

The toasts of "The King," "H.R.H. the Princess Royal," and "The Corps" were proposed by our Branch President, Major-General C. W. Fladgate, C.B.E., who followed with a short speech, during which he congratulated the Chairman and Secretary on the hard work that must have been expended in the inauguration of the branch last April, maintaining interest during the summer months, and finally arranging this dinner.

He then introduced our principal guest, Major-General Dimoline, giving an outline of his history in the Corps, leading up to his final war command of the East African Division in Burma, and his latest command, Aldershot District.

In reply, General Dimoline thanked the branch for the honour accorded to him, stating that this was his first Old Comrades' Reunion function that he had been invited to attend and was thoroughly enjoying it, and congratulated the branch on its rapid growth since its opening, promising his full support for any future entertainment or business for the good of the branch.

I am including with these notes a few photographs of our dinner, which include as many members as we could possibly fit in.

Among those present were Brigadier Henderson, Brigadier Thursby Pelham, Colonel Winckley, Colonel Higgs, Colonel Rowley, Colonel Hose, Lieutenant-Colonel Beeton, Lieutenant-Colonel Beattie, Joe Cotterell, Jimmy Emblem, "Dolly" Grey, Rev. P. Burroughs, and, of course, our Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer, Messrs. "Bud" Abbott, "Dodger" Green, and "Smudger" Smith, respectively.

3rd April

Since penning the above notes we have seen the final of the Army Rugby Cup, which 1 Training Regiment won for the second year. Well done, Signals.

On Saturday, 25th March, 26 members proceeded by coach via the Great West Road and one pub to Tottenham football ground to see the new first division team play West Ham and beat them in a first-class display of team work and speed, and we came away satisfied with a good afternoon's sport.

We then proceeded to the Victory Club for tea, which though not being actually satisfying, at least left us with the impression that someone must have had a good feed there at some time, if it was only the Yanks.

We then made our way to the Headquarters of the London City Branch at the Star Hotel, City Road, to a social evening arranged by Freddie Steel and his merry gang for which our sincere thanks are due for an enjoyable evening.

Our next function will be a social evening at the Alexandra Hotel, Aldershot, on Saturday, 15th April, when our guests will be the London City Branch.

Birmingham

After all I have written about members doing their best to attend the Annual General Meeting on 30th March, I was, myself, unable to be present. There was an unavoidable journey to a remote spot in Pembrokeshire on that very day. So I must rely largely on hearsay. They tell me that there was a good attendance and that the room in the Crown Hotel was comfortably full, as were the glasses. Brigadier E. A. James, O.B.E., T.D., our President, was in the chair. The Hon. Secretary, Captain Ralph Ironmonger, and the old Committee were re-elected, the members presumably agreeing that the affairs of the Branch are in good hands. Colonel F. E. B. Jones, O.B.E., T.D., was elected a vice-president, so we shall have the pleasure of seeing more of him as business permits. The A.T.S. contingent consisted of our usual charming trio, plus one newcomer. We shall spend the next twelve months wondering if the other 40 girls will come to the 1951 General Meeting. There was some entertainment but I was unable to get the low-down on this. My informant just sniffed. A sort of Third Programme sniff.

At last we have definite news of our chances of attending the Royal Tournament. Captain Frank Davies has booked three coach-loads for us and it now remains for you to apply for your seats right away—10th June. There will be a dinner on the way home. I feel I must add that Captain Davies was given every help at the Royal Tournament Booking Office. He received personal assistance from the officer in charge of booking. It would have been so easy for someone to have told him, "You've had it." In a nice way, of course. I have become so accustomed to hearing this uncouth expression that I find it difficult to indicate a disappointment in more elegant words. Alas for our language! I am reminded that if you do not apply quickly for your tickets for the dance at the Botanical Gardens, Birmingham, on 30th June you also will find that you've—no, I won't say it.

Mrs. Faith Ironmonger, wife of our Hon. Secretary, entered for the "Write a Tune" competition. I waited patiently to hear it come over the radio because it had real merit. See previous articles in connection with my undisputed qualifications to judge music. I waited in vain. The competition was probably won by whoever managed to pack in the most relations and friends at the auditions.

Are you taking your holiday at Mercury House this year? Have you thought any more about leaving a postcard size photograph of yourself for the House Album? What an interesting collection this could make after a few years. "Blimey! Look at old Barleux. Hasn't he aged?" I was unlucky this year, and left my application for Mercury House too late. I shall be in Bournemouth just the same. I would like to write some more, but I have contracted to wash the car, paint the bath, plant some seeds, mend the Hoover, get some fags from the corner shop, and buy Joe some lights. You don't know Joe, do you? I will tell you about him sometime. Are YOU married?

BARLEUX

Tunbridge Wells and District

A new branch of Royal Signals Association is being formed at Tunbridge Wells, Kent, serving the surrounding and intermediate districts of Sevenoaks, Tonbridge, Edenbridge, Crowborough, Uckfield, Hawkhurst and Cranbrook.

Response from ex-Royal Signals personnel over the whole area is very gratifying and the Branch promises to be a real live unit of the Association; its officers will spare no effort in the furtherance of comradeship by arranging reunions and other social activities locally, in an endeavour to foster that special brand of *esprit de corps* peculiar to ex-Royal Signals the world over.

Members residing in the area should contact the Honorary Secretary, Mr. G. E. Paling, Vale Towers, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, who would be happy to furnish details of future arrangements.

Watch THE WIRE for further bulletins.

Middlesbrough

Owing to the illness of our Honorary Secretary notes for the March issue of the THE WIRE were not available.

I'm pleased to say that the Secretary has now recovered and enjoying good health once more.

Since the last notes the Branch members have had a games tournament with the Middlesbrough Branch of the R.A.F. Club in Marton Road, Middlesbrough.

This was a mixed company, the ladies being invited, and a pleasant evening was had by all concerned who attended. The return visit with the R.A.F.A. is provisionally fixed for Friday, 28th April, 1950, and is to be held in the Signals Drill Hall, Lytton Street, Middlesbrough, by kind permission of the Officer Commanding, Major G. R. Thompson. To add to the interest for the evening, shooting on the .22 range is also included in the entertainment, which is being looked forward to very much.

The Branch is beginning to thrive once more, and a most hearty welcome is offered to the follow new members, Mr. A. M. Gibson, Mr. V. B. Gibson, Mr. H. Walker and Mr. R. W. Markham, and may they have a most enjoyable stay with us.

Our next General Meeting is to take place on Friday, 21st April, 1950.

For this meeting, the Branch has been very kindly given the use of the United Services Club, situate in 149/151 Grange Road, Middlesbrough.

The Branch is most grateful to Major W. E. Telfer, M.B.E., for his efforts in securing for us this new meeting place. I hope to report fully on this meeting in the next month's notes.

ROYAL SIGNALS BENEVOLENT FUND

Donations received during February, 1950

	£	s.	d.
Palestine Command Signal Regiment ...	657	7	9
Royal Signals Corps Fund	58	17	8
Liverpool Branch	50	0	0
Colonel J. Tennent, D.S.O., D.L., J.P. ...	1	0	0
Total receipts ...	£767	5	5

Expenditure during February, 1950, £574 18s. 5d. (includes: General Assistance; rent, rates and insurance; cots and prams; furniture; clothing; removals; rehabilitation; fares; legal costs; invalid chair accessories).

Analysis of cases. Families of soldiers serving in U.K., 6; widows and dependents, 10; released and discharged soldiers, 64; total cases assisted, 80.

Donations received during March, 1950

	£	s.	d.
Captain J. C. L. Reid	5	0	0
Mrs. D. Lomas	2	0	0
Mr. J. W. Barham	1	0	0
Headquarter Mess	3	1	3
Total receipts ...	£11	1	3

Expenditure during March, 1950, £476 3s. 5d. (includes: General assistance; rent, rates and insurance; cots and prams; bed and bedding; furniture; clothing; funeral; removals; fares).

Analysis of cases. Families of soldiers serving in U.K., 7; families of soldiers serving in B.A.O.R., 1; families of soldiers serving in M.E.L.F., 1; widows and dependents, 8; released and discharged soldiers, 60; total cases assisted, 77.

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Royal Signals (Egypt) Rugby Team, 1949-50

Back row: Captain R. F. Brown (hon. secretary), Major T. B. McVicker, Captain H. McD. Chapman, Second-Lieutenant V. H. Leadbetter, Sergeant L. J. Crispen, Corporal Howell, Lance-Corporal Bowen, S.S.M. C. Rider. Seated: Major J. R. Piddington, M.C., Lieutenant D. W. Callaghan, Captain A. G. Smith, Colonel C. C. Danby, O.B.E. (chairman), Lance-Corporal Steele, Lieutenant R. Plant, Sergeant D. F. Rees. Front row: R.Q.M.S. C. W. Jenner, Signalman G. A. Freeman, Corporal I. J. Lewis. Also played: Lance-Corporal J. O'Brien, Signalman A. G. Henderson, Signalman Blaza, Lieutenant J. Prince, Sergeant Hawe, Sergeant Fears, Captain W. W. Webb

Royal Signals (Egypt) Season 1949-50

RUGBY

The Corps in Egypt have good cause to be proud of their record this season. The Corps team defeated all comers, including a R.A.F. team claimed to be as strong as the R.A.F. representative side, and, without having their line crossed once. Egypt Command Signal Regiment won the Army (Egypt) Challenge Cup for the second consecutive year. 3 G.H.Q. Signal Regiment and Egypt Command Signal Regiment fought their various ways through the Inter-Services seven-a-side tournament to appear against one another in the final which was won by Egypt Command Signal Regiment after a very exciting game. This last result very definitely established the fact that Signals were *the* people in Canal Zone rugby. It was suggested in various circles not connected with Army estimates that the Corps team should do a bit of challenging in the U.K. Nice thought! Recce transport forward.

The only match in which we conceded a goal is worthy of note, as it was played against a rather unusual team. This was the Corps team of the Royal Pioneer Corps and it was unusual as it was composed entirely of Second Lieutenants whose average age was about 19 years. The experts, not Signals, of course, predicted a possible win for the Pioneers or, failing this, a very close game. The Pioneers had played together since the beginning of the season and had the advantage of a scrum-half and stand-off who had played together at school and for the Army (Egypt).

Signals kicked off into a following wind and were immediately on the attack, and were unfortunate in having a try disallowed after about ten minutes' play. This shook the Pioneers into some vigorous attacking movements which were nipped in the bud by the cunning of our two wing forwards. The Pioneers' combination at scrum half and stand-off couldn't cope with these two, who were on to the ball almost as soon as they were. The first Signals try came as a result of a forward rush down the field, which ended in a scrum 10 yards out. The ball quickly came back to our scrum-half, Corporal Lewis, who saw a gap in the defence and went over to touch down near the posts. The try was not converted. At the kick-off the ball was collected by Bowen, who dummied his way past four defenders to find touch just inside the Pioneers' 25. This kept the play in this area and very soon a line out resulted in a quick passing movement which enabled the wing three, Captain Smith, to get round behind the posts. Once again there was no conversion, the wind being inclined to vary at the wrong time! Again the Pioneers put in some hard attacking movements which were broken up by quick tackling. Following a loose maul on our 10 yards line, Sergeant Rees picked up and dashed away, completely outstripping the defence, to score after a beautiful 75 yards run. Yet again the kick at goal went haywire. Another try was scored just before half-time as a result of a long dribble by Signalman Henderson, our hooker, which was completed by Captain Chapman. Score 12—0.

In the second half, Signals faced the wind. Pioneers used some good kicking to put them into a strong attacking position, and following a scrum on our 25 line, the Pioneers' stand-off got a quick pass, found a hole in the defence, and touched down under the posts. The try was converted by the full-back to make the score 12—5. This surprise set off the Signals' attack again and Corporal Howell was unlucky twice in rapid succession, the ball bouncing the wrong way when tries seemed certain. Pinned down in their own 25, the Pioneers struggled hard but failed to stop Lance-Corporal Smith getting across. Lance-Corporal Steele converted to make the score 17—5. From the kick-off Pioneers forced their way into our 25 only to see Signalman Freeman dash away down back to their own 25 before he was stopped. That was the end of the Pioneer attacks. Signals forwards were battering away at their threes, who just could not get the ball moving. A neat movement started by Freeman to Sergeant Rees and then to Corporal Howell produced a further try, once again converted by Steele. After two more narrow escapes for the Pioneers, the game finished with a score of 22—5 and with the Signals forwards going great guns.

A large measure of the success achieved during the season was due to the enthusiasm shown by the the majority of Units. Egypt Command Signal Regiment, 3 G.H.Q. Signal Regiment, 1 L. of C. Signal Regiment, 4 Air Formation Signal Regiment, 2 A.G.R.A. Signal Squadron, "X" Branch B.T.E., and 1 R.H.A. Signal Troop all produced very useful players, who, right from the start of the season, played well together and welded themselves into a happy team formidable in attack and devastating in defence. Credit is also due to the shrewdness of S.S.M. Rider, whose knowledge of rugger tactics has been profitably passed on. Useful too was the publicity-mindedness of "Barbarian" (Lance-Corporal Smith), whose well-written reports on the various matches did much to bring in many supporters.

We were honoured by the presence of the Director of Signals at the final Corps match of the season. This was played on 22nd March before a large number of spectators, against the R.A.S.C. who up to this match had not lost a game. They were defeated by 5 goals and 2 tries to nil. This win of 31 points brought the total points scored up to 233 against 20. It was a most exciting game as the R.A.S.C. were determined not to help our record and fought hard all the time. They were, however, no match against the speed of the wing threes, Captain Smith and Corporal Howell, or for the cunning and dash of Sergeant Rees at centre. Their few attacks were crushed by the hard, accurate tackling of Signalman Freeman, centre and Lieutenant Callaghan, stand-off. The Corps attack was led by Second Lieutenant Leadbetter and Lance-Corporal Bowen, wing forwards, who broke through time after time ably abetted by the rest of a vigorous and hard working pack. At the end of the game the Director of Signals presented Corps colours to 17 entitled players. Results of Corps matches, season 1949-50:

3rd December, 1949	v. R.A.E.C.	Won	70 pts.—3
17th December	v. R.A.	,,	16 pts.—3
31st December	v. R.E.	,,	11 pts.—3
4th January, 1950	v. R.A.O.C.	,,	45 pts.—0
1st February	v. R.A.F. Casuals	,,	13 pts.—3
15th February	v. R.P.C.	,,	22 pts.—5
22nd February	v. R.E.M.E.	,,	25 pts.—3
22nd March	v. R.A.S.C.	,,	31 pts.—0

SOCCER

An Inter-Corps League was run in Egypt this season in which a Royal Signals (Egypt) representative side took part.

We have played all our matches and the league is almost completed. The present order and the result of each of our games are as follows:—

1.	R.A.O.C.	Lost	4—1
2.	Infantry	Lost	5—0
3.	R.A.S.C.	Lost	4—0
4.	R.P.C.	Drew	2—2
5.	R.E.	Drew	1—1
6.	R.A.C.	Lost	4—3
7.	R.E.M.E.	Lost	4—0
8.	Royal Signals		
9.	R.A.M.C.	Drew	1—1
10.	R.A.	Lost	4—3
11.	A.P.T.C. and A.C.C.	Won	4—1
12.	R.A.P.C.	Won	5—0



Royal Signals (Egypt) Soccer XI, 1949-50

Standing (left to right): Captain J. R. Hall (hon. secretary), Signalman Holmes, Signalman Jones, Corporal Aldwinkle, Signalman Griffiths, Signalman Hogg, Sergeant Collins (trainer). Seated: Lieutenant J. Hellier, Sergeant Young (captain), Lieutenant-Colonel T. A. K. Howe (chairman), Lieutenant D. Callaghan, Lance-Corporal Williams. On ground: Signalman Leadbetter, Signalman Blakely

Although our position in the table is a lowly one, it can be said that only on two occasions were we soundly beaten. The Corps side played good football but lacked the ability to round off their good approach work. In most of the games we enjoyed territorial superiority, but that does not win matches—it is goals that count—and we lacked finish in front of the enemy goal.

However, spectators were treated to some very good football and we hope to improve our position in next year's league.

"Jimmies" for the 1949/50 season have been awarded to the following players:—

Sergeant Young	3 G.H.Q., Signal Regiment
Lance-Corporal Williams	Egypt Command Signal Regiment
Signalman Griffiths	4 Air Formation Signal Regiment
Sergeant Frost	Egypt Command Signal Regiment
Signalman Blakeley	Egypt Command Signal Regiment
Signalman Hardcastle	1 L. of C. Signal Regiment
Signalman Hogg	Egypt Command Signal Regiment
Corporal Aldwinkle	Egypt Command Signal Regiment
Lieutenant Callaghan	Egypt Command Signal Regiment
Signalman Gibson	Egypt Command Signal Regiment
Signalman Chalice	3 G.H.Q., Signal Regiment
Signalman Ellison	Egypt Command Signal Regiment
Lieutenant Hellier	Egypt Command Signal Regiment
Signalman Holmes	Egypt Command Signal Regiment
Signalman Jones	Egypt Command Signal Regiment

The photograph shows the Corps side which played against the Royal Artillery.

HOCKEY

The 1949/50 season saw hockey played at a Corps level in Egypt for the first time. Royal Signals led the way by the formation in October, 1949, of the Royal Signals (Egypt) Hockey Committee, presided over by Lieutenant-Colonel F. R. B. Moore, O.C., 3 G.H.Q., Signal Regiment, and succeeded in January, 1950, by Lieutenant-Colonel J. H. E. Panton.

Hockey on this basis got off to a slow start, and it was some time before firm fixtures could be arranged. To fill the gap, a match was arranged against Gezira Sporting Club, Cairo, on 29th October, 1949. A pleasant time was had by all, and the Corps won the match 6—3 after a fast and furious game.

After a trial game to find more talent, the Corps then played G.H.Q., M.E.L.F., on 19th December, a fixture which was considered to be a stern test for our team, and lost 1—0 after an exceedingly hard game.

More trials were then held at Moascar and Fayid, and eventually the programme of friendly fixtures against other Corps was started.

Matches and results were as follows:—

Royal Artillery	Played at	Fayid	3rd January, 1950	Lost	0—1
R.A.S.C.	,,	,, Moascar	18th January, 1950	Won	6—0
Royal Engineers	,,	,, Moascar	8th February, 1950	Won	4—2
R.A.O.C.	,,	,, Moascar	2nd March, 1950	Drew	2—2

The Corps team played with keen enthusiasm in all their matches, being mostly ably led by Major R. F. Locke, and it included such stalwarts as Major J. T. Brett, Captain A. G. Smith, Captain M. Cullen, R.S.M. Turner and S.S.M. Swinson. We look forward to an even more successful season in 1950/51. The search for fresh talent goes on, and we hope to find some young outstanding players amongst new arrivals from the U.K.

ROYAL SIGNALS (CATTERICK) A.C.C. AND R.W. ASSOCIATION

The Royal Signals (Catterick) Cross-Country Team completed their most successful season in the history of the Corps. They won all their races except one—the Junior National Championship, in which they were runners-up for the second year in succession.

It is not too much to say that the Royal Signals team is one of the most popular and best-known teams in Great Britain. Whether it is the type of chap we get into the Corps, the Catterick air or the coaching that produces such prolific results, we don't know. But one thing we do know, the team produces results, as the following goes to show:

1949-50. Winners N. Yorks and S. Durham Cross-Country League Championship. (Won for the third time by Royal Signals.)

14th January, 1950. Winners of the Darlington Road Race for the George Clark Cup. (Won for first time by Royal Signals.)

11th February, 1950. Winners of the North-Eastern Counties Junior Cross-Country Championship. (Won for third year in succession by Royal Signals.)

25th February, 1950. Winners of the Northern Counties Junior Cross-Country Championship. (Won for first time by Royal Signals.)

11th March, 1950. Runners-up for the National Junior Cross-Country Championship.

18th March, 1950. Winners Newcastle Road Relay Race for the Royal Signals Trophy. (Won for the third year in succession by Royal Signals.)

Individual Honours

Lance-Corporal Birch (4 Training Regiment). Winner of the Northern Command and runner-up Army Cross-Country Championship, 1950. Runner-up Yorkshire County Championship, third in the Northern, and tenth in the Senior National Championships, 1950. Represented Yorkshire in Inter-Counties Championships. *Winner Inter-Services Cross-Country Championship, 1950.*

Sergeant J. D. Colbert (1 Training Regiment). Individual winner Darlington Road Race, 1950. Represented the Army in Inter-Services Championships, 1950, eighth to finish.

Signalman J. D. Martin (1 Training Regiment). Junior Champion, N.E. Counties, 1950. Represented the Army in Inter-Services Championships (ninth).

The following have represented Royal Signals in winning teams during cross-country season 1949-50:

Second-Lieutenant V. S. Singh, Sergeants J. D. Colbert, A. W. Godfrey, Corporal L. K. Brewis, Lance-Corporal J. S. Richardson, Signalmen J. D. Martin, W. F. Rowbottom, J. Elders, E. Sutcliffe, D. G. O. White, J. C. Noel (all of 1 Training Regiment); Lance-Corporals J. F. Wilkins and J. F. Hughes (2 Training Regiment); and Lance-Corporal D. C. Birch (4 Training Regiment).

SHOOTING

1. *The A.R.A. Individual Small-Bore Championship, 1949/50*

This competition closed on 15th March, 1950, with 198 entries. Seven competitors entered from the Corps and five appeared in the prize list amongst the first 40. Their places and scores, out of a maximum 400, were:

3rd	Captain E. H. Davies	War Office (Signals 6)	397
4th	Major G. A. Dutton	,, ,, ,,	396
13th	Major H. J. Thompson	School of Signals ...	394
21st	R.S.M. L. V. Howley	,, ,, ,, ...	391
36th	Major R. C. Kendall-Baron	,, ,, ,, ...	386

2. *The Inter-Services Small-Bore Match, 1950*

This match was completed on 31st March, 1950. The result is not yet known, but the following were chosen to shoot for the Regular Army team (of 40):

Major H. J. Thompson, R.S.M. L. V. Howley, Captain E. H. Davies, Major G. A. Dutton.

1 TRAINING REGIMENT

Army Cross-Country Championships

At Colchester on 3rd March, 1950, 1 Training Regiment Royal Signals won the Army Inter-Unit Team Championships for the second year in succession.

A field of 93 runners faced the starter, comprising seven teams and 23 individuals. Ninety finished.

The 6-mile course, which was fast and very flat, was covered by Private Hesketh (R.A.S.C.), the National and Northern Counties Junior Champion, in the fast time of 31 minutes 37 seconds. Lance-Corporal Birch, of 4 Training Regiment Royal Signals, was second in 31 minutes 44 seconds.

1 Training Regiment went into the lead from the start, a position which they maintained more or less throughout the race. First man home for the Regiment was Signalman Martin (N.E. Counties Junior Champion), closely followed by Sergeant Colbert (Inter-Services Steeplechase Champion).

1 Training Regiment's team came in as follows:—

3.	Signalman Martin
4.	Sergeant Colbert
7.	Signalman Rowbottom
9.	Signalman Nelson
17.	Sergeant Godfrey
19.	Signalman Elders
20.	Lance-Corporal Richardson
21.	Second-Lieutenant Singh
100	

Their nearest rivals were 1 Training Regiment, R.E.M.E., with 137 points.

ROYAL SIGNALS (CATTERICK) SQUASH RACKETS

On Wednesday, 22nd March, a Royal Signals (Catterick) officers' team played a friendly match against the R.A.O.C. at the courts of the Officers' Club. A very close and keen match ensued and resulted in the R.A.O.C. winning by three matches to two. The deciding factor was the final game of the first string, in which Major J. Yule (Royal Signals Wing) just lost to Lieutenant-Colonel K. G. Anson 9—7. It is hoped that next season a proper Corps team will be organised and a good fixture list built up.

The Royal Signals (Catterick) Officers' Squash Challenge Cup was played off for in the courts of H.Q. Mess during the third week of March. There were 15 entrants for the Catterick Area. The Cup was won by Captain J. St. C. W. Robinson, H.Q., S.T.C., who beat Captain A. S. Rawson, O.T.W., in the final.

ROYAL SIGNALS OFFICERS' SADDLE CLUB

The Club is established in the old Veterinary Hospital in the lines of 1 Training Regiment Royal Signals at Catterick.

It owns eight horses and has a membership of ninety.

All Regular Y.O.s are taught to ride during their course at the Officer Training Wing.

Rates are kept as low as possible and could be brought down if members used the horses more. Details may be obtained from the Secretary, Captain Reid, School of Signals.

Northern Command Hunter Trials. These trials were held on 30th March, 1950, over an excellent course prepared by the 17th/21st Lancers.

In the Regimental event the Royal Signals' team, mounted on Saddle Club horses, was third out of 12 entries.

Saddle Club Hunt Ball. With the object of raising funds, a Hunt Ball is being held in the H.Q. Mess on 4th May, 1950, at which the Corps Band's Dance Orchestra will play.

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THE WIRE

The Corps Magazine of the
ROYAL SIGNALS

The Official Organ of the
SIGNALS ASSOCIATION

All correspondence and matter for publication for "The Wire" should be addressed to The Editor, "The Wire," 88 Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1. Matter for publication must be received by the 15th of the month preceding publication.
Remittances should be made payable to: Royal Signals Association. Subscription rates (post free, except air mail): Twelve months, 10s.; single month, 1s.

☆

JUNE • 1950

Vol. 4 *New Series* **No. 6**

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PRICE: ONE SHILLING

Editorial

Major-General SPENCER B. AKIN

AS announced briefly in the May WIRE, the Chief Signal Officer, United States Army, arrives in this country for a short visit as THE WIRE goes to press.

It is possible at this time to give only a brief forecast of his itinerary. It is hoped to publish a fuller description later. General Akin arrives in London on 18th May, and spends the day in Whitehall and Grosvenor Square. Major-General W. A. Scott, Director of Signals, is giving a small dinner party for him in London. On 19th May, General Akin is to visit the Signals Research and Development Establishment at Christchurch. After this he is to spend the weekend staying in the country with Major-General Penney and others who served with him during the war.

On Monday, 22nd May, and Tuesday, 23rd May, General Akin is visiting Royal Air Force Establishments at Watton and Malvern, and it is hoped that travel facilities can be arranged so that he can visit Catterick on 24th May. In any event he leaves England on 25th May.

☆

All ranks of the Corps will wish to congratulate the following on the awards notified in the *London Gazette* dated 19th May, 1950, for services in Malaya. C.B.E.: Colonel T. A. R. Scott. Mentioned in Despatches: Brigadier F. P. L. Gray, D.S.O., O.B.E.; Major P. F. Pentreath, M.B.E.; Sergeant P. W. Johns; Sergeant Mohd. Sadiq B. Laldin; Corporal M. R. Hinton; Lance-Corporal I. Sopp.

☆

It is regretted that several readers who have previously received their copies of THE WIRE by post will not do so this month. The reason may well be that they have not paid their subscriptions for it. A number of others were cut off in January.

The mailing list is usually arranged so as to give two or three months' grace to those whose subscriptions are overdue, but this cannot be extended indefinitely.

May we remind readers that the annual subscription of 10s. runs from January to December and that a form for renewal of subscription is included in every copy of the magazine for the last quarter of the year.

This number of THE WIRE will be despatched later than usual. The intervention of Whitsun and the Royal Signals Committees, etc., on 31st May and 1st June have made adherence to normal timing impossible.

☆

25 INDIAN DIVISIONAL SIGNALS REUNION

The Third Annual Reunion Dinner of 25 Indian Divisional Signals Officers' Dinner Club was held at the Waldorf Hotel on Saturday, 6th May, 1950. Lieutenant-Colonel J. N. Barker was in the chair, and members had the pleasure of entertaining Major-General G. N. Wood, G.O.C. of the Division from 1944 to 1946 and now Director of Quartering, The War Office, and Brigadier F. J. Allen, late C.S.O. 15 Indian Corps. Lieutenant-Colonel A. M. W. Whistler, the first C.R. Signals of the Division, and nine former officers of the Unit, also attended.

The next Reunion Dinner will be held in 1951, and former officers of the Unit who wish to attend should apply to the Honorary Secretary, Major K. H. Renton, Greenside, Baden Powell Road, Riverhead, Sevenoaks.

DINNER CLUB FIXTURES, 1950

T.A. Officers' Tea Party, 9th December.
Buffet Supper Reunion, 9th December.

Both at Hyde Park Hotel. Information from Secretary, Royal Signals Dinner Club, Room 97, Horse Guards, S.W.1.

FULL DRESS

It is desired to know whether or not there is in existence a coloured picture of a Royal Signals Officer wearing full dress uniform which is suitable for reproduction. Any Officer in possession of such a picture is requested to communicate with the Editor.

* * *

The reproduction of "Through" on the cover of the October, 1949 issue brought us a number of inquiries for large reproductions of this picture and of "Menin Gate." We can arrange to supply black and white photographic reproductions of these pictures on double-weight paper, approximately 18in. by 15in. at £1 per picture.

HAM RADIO

It is proposed with the assistance of contributors to publish a column giving details of amateur wireless stations of Royal Signals in order that enthusiasts may more readily get in touch with one another.

Will Regimental contributors please give on a separate piece of paper a short paragraph giving call-sign, frequencies, hours of work, etc.

* * *

The young lady whose photograph is on page 219 is Lana Morris, a star of the J. Arthur Rank Organisation. She is appearing in the current production of "Morning Departure."

* * *

Mr. R. C. Moy, formerly of 56th London Divisional Signals, T.A., has recently opened a small boarding house and will be pleased to see any of his old comrades who happen to be in Eastbourne. His address is "Burlingham," 37 Cavendish Place, Eastbourne, Sussex.

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IMPORTANT READING IN JUNE

Mr. E. Coop, M.Sc. (Tech.), A.M.I.E.E., has contributed the third article of the S.R.D.E. series on the effects of climatic conditions on communication equipment (p. 216).

Lieutenant-Colonel P. O. J. Nicolsen at page 227 provides a description of the somewhat unusual experience of a party of Royal Signals Linemen engaged in assistance to British Railways.

A description of a short holiday by courtesy of the Royal Air Force taken from Malaya and visiting Australia is at page 222.

The 1950 D.R. display season is heralded by a report at page 215 and is also the subject of the photograph on the cover.

There is an interesting article on Roman Catterick on page 219 and a Pilgrimage to Rome on page 224.

BIRTHS

MARSH.—At Kingston, Jamaica, to S.Q.M.S. and Mrs. Marsh—a son.

FISK.—At Changi, Singapore, on 10th March, to Captain and Mrs. A. W. Fisk—a son (Alan Leonard).

BALDWIN.—At Changi, Singapore, on 2nd March, to Captain and Mrs. Baldwin—a daughter (Jane).

DAVIES.—At Malta, on 18th December, 1949, to S.Q.M.S. and Mrs. P. Davies—a daughter (Jane).

GAHAN.—At Malta, on 5th December, 1949, to Sergeant and Mrs. Gahan—a daughter (Angela).

McLOUGHLIN.—At Aldershot, to Captain and Mrs. E. A. McLoughlin—a son.

STAGG.—At Celle, to Lieutenant and Mrs. E. G. W. Stagg—a son.

HUNT.—At Scarborough on 14th March, 1950, to Captain and Mrs. J. Hunt—a daughter (Clare Elizabeth).

ELSMORE.—At Catterick, to Captain and Mrs. B. D. E. Elsmore, on 14th March, 1950—a daughter (Felicity Anne).

MARRIAGES

COWLEY—WYLIE.—At St. Andrew's Church, Kowloon, on 1st April, 1950, Private Nan Wylie (W.R.A.C.), Hong Kong Signal Squadron, to Sergeant Cowley, 3 Commando Brigade, Royal Marines.

SEYMOUR—TREWIN.—At St. Mark's Church, Newby, late in March, 1950, S.Q.M.S. (F. of S.) Seymour, Royal Signals, and Sergeant Trewin, W.R.A.C., both of 5 A.A. Group (M), Signal Regiment.

ROYAL CORPS OF SIGNALS BAND ENGAGEMENTS, 1950

June 18th to 24th	Eastbourne
June 25th	London District and Eastern Command
July 5th to 6th	Brighton Flower Show
July 7th	Return to Catterick
July 30th to Aug. 5th	Tunbridge Wells
Aug. 6th to 12th	Eastbourne
Aug. 13th to 20th	Glasgow
Aug. 21st to 27th	Edinburgh
Aug. 28th to 31st	Scottish Command
Sept. 3rd to Oct. 1st	Eastbourne

ROYAL SIGNALS DISPLAY TEAM ENGAGEMENTS, 1950

June 17th	Derbyshire Agricultural Society	Derby
,, 21st	Lincolnshire Agricultural Society	Stamford
,, 28th	5th Training Regiment, Royal Signals	Ripon
,, 30th	Army Apprentices School	Harrogate
July 1st	Leeds School Athletic Association	Leeds
,, 5th	Ipswich British Legion Fete	Ipswich
,, 8th	Harrodian Club	London
,, 11th	Royal Military Academy	Sandhurst
,, 14th-15th	Wolverhampton Floral Fete	Wolverhampton
,, 19th	Pocklington R.F.C.	Pocklington
,, 22nd	Old Comrades Association	Catterick Camp
August 1st	Gandale Cadet Camp	Catterick Camp
,, 3rd-5th	Workington & District Agricultural Society	Workington
,, 7th	Northumberland Agricultural Society	Hexham
,, 8th-10th	South Shields Tattoo	South Shields
,, 14th	Catterick Fair	Catterick Camp
,, 16th-17th	Shropshire Horticultural Society	Shrewsbury
,, 19th	Catterick Fair	Catterick Camp
,, 25th-26th	County Borough of West Bromwich Horticultural Show	Birmingham
,, 30th-31st	Northern A. & H. Society	Guernsey
Sept. 5th	Clacton Carnival	Clacton
,, 9th	Pitlochry Highland Games	Pitlochry
,, 12th	Ashfield Speedway	Glasgow
,, 13th	White City Speedway	Glasgow
,, 16th	Meadowbanks Speedway	Edinburgh
,, 20th-30th	Southern Command Tour	
,, 21st	Wembley Stadium—Final of the World's Speedway Championship	London

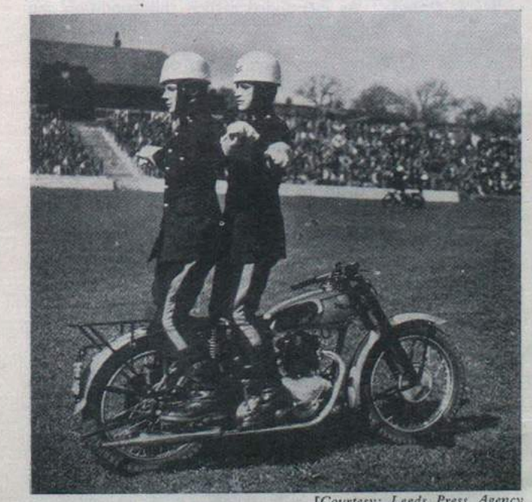
Confirmation of additional bookings awaited.

The 1950 Royal Signals Display Team

ON Wednesday, 10th May, 1950, the Press Show for the 1950 Royal Signals Display was held on the Central Ground, Catterick Camp.

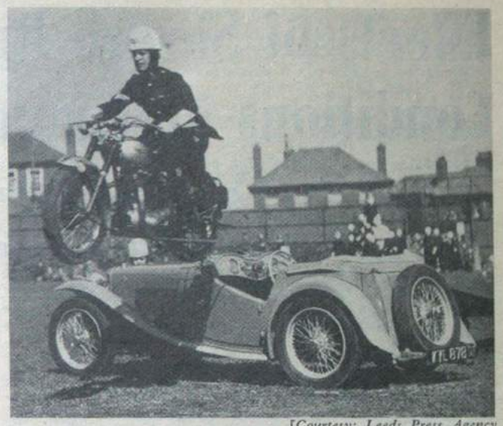
When the final rehearsal was held on the Tuesday afternoon, in a dull, drizzling and decidedly unpleasant atmosphere, it was almost doubtful whether the show could be staged the following day. However, Wednesday dawned with such warmth and splendour, that even our wildest hopes were surpassed. It was a real summer day for Catterick at last, and as if to celebrate, hundreds of troops, families and friends thronged the terraces of the Central Ground until shortly before 3 p.m. it was packed to capacity.

We welcomed a galaxy of Press representatives and cameramen who seemed to enjoy every minute of the show which was to follow, and for the first time at a Press show the B.B.C. sent along a recording car, together with a television cameraman. They were so impressed with the tradition and performance of the display that at least 30 minutes of recording time were taken. However, it was drastically cut by the News Editor, but we were delighted to hear all about ourselves, if only for about five minutes, the following evening in the Northern programme "Up to Date," but at the moment we have not heard whether we have made an appearance on the television newsreel.



[Courtesy: Leeds Press Agency

Backwards riding by Corporal Howe and Signalman Palmer



[Courtesy: Leeds Press Agency

Corporal Howe doing the car jump

The display followed the general lines of previous years, but it included several new items, and the familiar ones were produced with a new twist and turn which welded the display into a really fast-moving and breath-taking presentation.

The display opened with the roar of sixteen Triumph machines, their riders in blue and wearing dazzling white crash helmets, set a cracking opening pace which was maintained right to the end. By contrast, the opening ride was quickly followed with a faultless exhibition of the forward ladder ride. Pair riding and the paper hoop jump then led up to the introduction of a new item, the Corgi chariot. This was made entirely by the team, and proved a great novelty, especially with the younger generation in the crowd.

Both the tableaux performed in the 1949 display are now bigger and better, and they give a very clear indication of the balance and steadiness which must be attained if calamities are not to occur frequently.

The fire jump has now been developed into the burning bridge jump, and was successfully taken by Captain P. H. F. Webb, Royal Signals, who is the team officer. A skeleton bridge has been made in the display workshops and is set into a most impressive blaze by the single explosion of several crackers.

Amongst many other acts, an extremely good one which we have not seen before is entitled "A Glimpse of the Past." In it, a genuine 1911 Triumph motor cycle splutters and chugs off round the arena, finally finishing up with a remarkable turn of speed. This act proved to be immensely popular, and was much enhanced by its spectacular rider dressed in a dashing red coat and brassed helmet, not to mention his handlebar moustache and whiskers.

Finally, to emphasise that all this madness is really disciplined to a very fine degree, the closing ride with the double figure of eight crossings gave everyone a thrill which will be remembered when all else is forgotten.

A pleasant programme of light music was played before the display began by the Band of the Royal Corps of Signals directed by Captain J. L. Judd, M.B.E., Royal Signals.

It is to the great credit of the new team that the display was widely acclaimed as having surpassed the high standard set last year. This is particularly so, as the training has been carried out, undaunted by the miserable weather which has been experienced, on soft and slippery surfaces. However, it is with great regret that the team will commence their tour without three promising members, Lance-Corporal Haywood, Signalman Thompson and Signalman Parris, all of whom have suffered in varying degrees during the training period.

Effects of Severe Durability and Climatic Conditions on Communication Equipment

and the Laboratory Test Methods Employed in the Design of Modern Equipment

By **E. COOP,** *M.Sc. (Tech.), A.M.I.E.E.*

Introduction

IT is, perhaps, unnecessary to state here that Communication Equipment used by the Army must be capable of withstanding very severe conditions, both mechanical and climatic. Equipment is not only required to operate under these conditions, but it must also be capable of being stored for long periods under severe climatic conditions, of which damp heat is the most harmful, especially when effected by a close tarpaulin covering. Figs. 1 and 2 give a general impression of the appearance of a Wireless Set returned from Burma for repair or disposal. The photographs cannot convey the real extent of the damage to this equipment, but the set is inoperative and could not be made usable without a major overhaul involving practically rebuilding it. The transportation of equipment also introduces its own problems. As pressure is restored when an aircraft descends from a high altitude, the air flowing back into the equipment, if it is not hermetically sealed, carries moisture with it, which, coupled with the rapid change of air temperature imposes appreciable thermal and mechanical stress on the equipment. To meet these conditions of use, many new components and constructional techniques have had to be developed, and extensive facilities provided for the testing of components, materials and finishes, and complete equipments. Some of the facilities available at the Signals Research and Development Establishment for carrying out this work are described below.

The Effects of Severe Durability and Climatic Conditions

Some of the effects of the severe mechanical and climatic conditions to which Army Equipments are subjected are as follows:—

Mechanical. Damage may be caused by the inadequate support of heavy component parts or assemblies, and resonance effects in parts of the equipment. In addition to actual mechanical damage, broken connections may result, and, if the equipment is not actually put out of action, its performance may be adversely affected.



Fig. 1. W.S. (Canadian) No. 19. Returned from Singapore. Front

Dry Heat. Exposure to dry heat may cause changes in the values of components, resulting in a change in the performance of an equipment, in addition to permanent damage, such as the melting of waxes and warping of materials.

Dust. This can result in excessive wear of moving parts and sealing devices, and also in the reduction of electrical insulation resistance, which may lead to the breakdown of an equipment.

Damp Heat. Prolonged exposure to damp heat conditions may give rise to:

(a) Excessive corrosion of metal parts, due to the use of unsuitable finishes or to the conjunction of dissimilar metals.
(b) Surface moisture causing serious reduction of insulation resistance, especially where any form of moisture trap exists.
(c) Mould growth, which is harmful to the finishes of materials.

Low Temperature.—This may cause seizure of moving parts, embrittlement of metals and plastic materials, and changes in the electrical constants of components.

High Altitude. As mentioned earlier, this condition can impose appreciable thermal and mechanical stress in an equipment.

Rainfall and Water Immersion. This can cause electrical breakdown, while prolonged exposure may result in the corrosion of metal parts.

The Development of Components to Meet Service Conditions

Before the war, many of the components used in Service Equipment were of the ordinary domestic type, which were, of course, never designed to function under the arduous conditions to which Service Equipment is subjected. The development of special ranges of components to meet this condition was vigorously fostered by the Service Research and Development Establishments, and an Inter-Service Organisation (I.S.C.Tech.C., now R.C.S.C.) was inaugurated to deal with the specification, standardisation and type approval of components. In addition to commercial types, many special components are required, and the majority of these are also developed on an Inter-Service basis, either in the Research and Development Establishments, or in collaboration with the Industry. Reliability of components is of paramount importance, and work is unceasingly directed to the improvement of reliability, while the ever-increasing complexity of modern equipment and the need for miniaturisation has also necessitated the development of many new components. The testing of components for

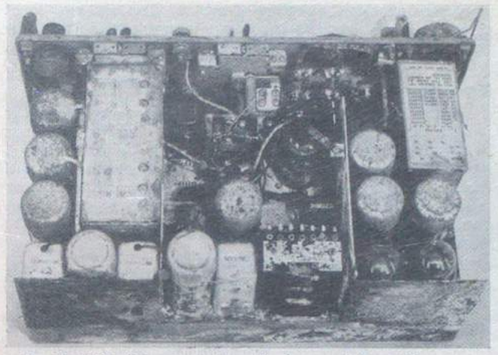


Fig. 2. W.S. (Canadian) No. 19. Returned from Singapore. Internal

Type Approval is shared by three of the Service Establishments. This work, together with the testing of new components while under development, and tests carried out for equipment designers requiring more explicit knowledge of the performance of components than can be obtained from the published data, has necessitated the provision of an extensive range of equipment for the conditioning and testing of a wide variety of components.

Component Testing

The testing of components can be divided into two distinct phases:—

(1) the conditioning of the components, and
(2) the measurement of their characteristics before and after the conditioning processes to determine the effects of this treatment.

Conditioning may be defined as subjecting the components to the mechanical and climatic conditions to which they may be exposed in Service use.

The electrical measurements on the components are made in a temperature-controlled laboratory to avoid the necessity for making temperature corrections to the very large number of measurements made, and also for ensuring that the relative humidity is sufficiently low to have a negligible effect on insulation resistance and permittivity measurements.

This laboratory is well equipped with the wide range of test gear required for carrying out the various tests, including D.C., A.F. and R.F. bridges, electrolytic capacitor test sets, a 30,000v. D.C. and A.C. dielectric test set, signal generators, resistor noise measuring equipment and standards of inductance, capacitance and resistance.

The conditioning of the components is effected in a series of climatic chambers immediately adjacent to the measurements laboratory. These comprise cold chambers, damp heat and dry heat chambers and a very flexible distribution system enabling power to be fed into any of the chambers, so that the components can be stressed electrically during the conditioning procedure.

Major test chambers are fitted with automatic continuous recording gear for temperature and, in many cases, relative humidity.

Apparatus is also available for spraying components with salt water, after which they are put into a climatic chamber.

Considerable importance has been attached to the mechanical aspects of components testing; in addition to the usual range of mechanical test gear, such as bumping and vibration tables, etc., special mechanical testing gear has been developed for the life testing of plugs and sockets, potentiometers, switches, etc., and to meet special requirements such as to determine the acceleration at which relay contacts just commence to open.

The need for special test equipment is continually arising. Two examples of new apparatus which are now under development are precision temperature co-efficient measuring equipment, and an apparatus for measuring torque over a wide temperature range.

Equipment Testing

In order to ensure that a complete equipment will pass the durability and climatic tests to be applied to it, with a minimum of modification during the development stage, tests are carried out on portions of an equipment, such as sub-assemblies, during the development stages, so that any necessary changes can be made before the design has gone too far. At this stage, certain tests only are applied, such as a vibration test, which may indicate that some part of a structure may require stiffening to avoid resonance effects, or that some components are inadequately secured.

Complete equipments are tested to the W.T. Board Specification K114, in which a number of tests are mandatory and others optional—details of the test to be applied in the latter case being stated in the Specification for the equipment. The mechanical tests are applied before the climatic tests and the layout of the testing apparatus has been arranged to follow, as far as possible, the sequence of the specification. The mechanical testing laboratory has a gantry fitted with an electric crane, so that heavy equipments can be hoisted directly from a lorry on to the bumping table, which has a capacity of 1 ton and gives a free drop of 1in. about three times per second. After this test it is hoisted with bump release gear for the drop test and then finally subjected to a vibration test. A number of vibration tables are available, including an Admiralty pattern 5cwt. table with a vibration amplitude of 1/16in. and a frequency range of 0-12 c/s, hydraulically-operated tables, having a load capacity of 10lb., amplitude of .002in.-.005in. and a frequency range up to 100 c/s, and a new machine operating on a reaction principle, with a load capacity of 100lb., amplitude .002in. to .01in. and a frequency range up to 150 c/s.

A demand has also arisen for vibration testing at frequencies as high as 1,500 c/s, and this has been met by the development of a moving coil type of vibration table, which is driven by an audio-frequency amplifier having an output of 2-4 kW over the frequency range 0.2 to 2,000 c/s. This

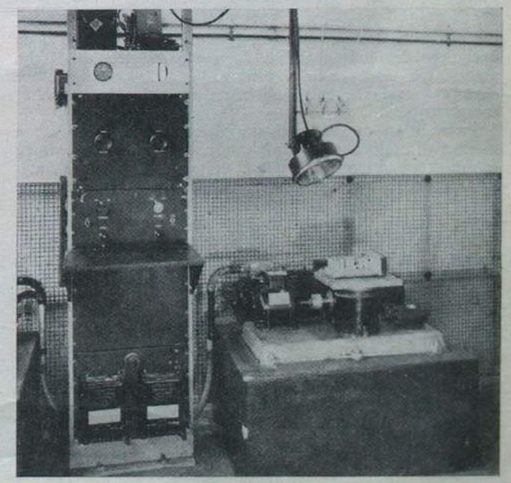


Fig. 3

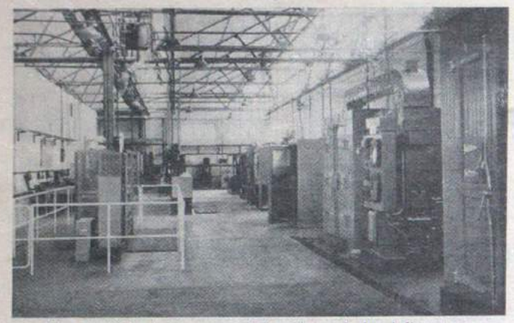


Fig. 4. Main Laboratory. Climatic and durability tests

table can accommodate a load of 50lb. and the amplifier can be excited either by a beat frequency oscillator for sinusoidal vibration, or from a direct recording of the actual noise in a vehicle.

During the vibration test the equipment is examined stroboscopically to detect mechanical resonances in the chassis and sub-assemblies.

Figure 3 shows the Wireless Set No. 88 on one of the hydraulic vibration machines, with the strobe lamp above it. To the left of the machine can be seen a panel which provides a speed control for the vibration machine, which may either be by hand or the vibration frequency can be made to sweep slowly through the whole range automatically.

After mechanical testing, the equipment is subjected to climatic tests. It is first given a dry heat test at 55° C., with the equipment operating, and then a further test at 70° C., usually with the equipment non-operative. It is next passed to the damp heat test, usually at 40° C., with relative humidity greater than 95%, but optionally at 55° C., with 85% R.H., and then to the low temperature low pressure test. The latter test is conducted at a temperature of −25° C. to −55° C. and a pressure equivalent to an altitude of 25,000ft., depending on the type of equipment and the conditions it is required to withstand. The dry heat cycle is carried out once, but there are three damp heat cycles.

Fig. 4 is a view of the main laboratory, and shows the chambers mentioned above. The first chamber on the right of the photograph has internal dimensions of 6ft. x 6ft. x 6ft. and will go down to −55° C. Next to this can be seen the 6ft. cube humidity chamber, and next, with the door open, the dry heat chamber. In the background of the photograph are the low pressure and low temperature chambers, and the small chambers used for conditioning components.

In addition to the mandatory tests above, there are a number of optional tests, such as the driving rain test, where splash-proof equipment is placed on a rotating turntable and sprayed with water at high pressure from eight shower heads, and the dust test to simulate desert sandstorms or dusty roads. Facilities are also available for immersion testing of hermetically-sealed equipments at a pressure up to a 30ft. head of water. At the conclusion of these tests the equipment is placed in a damp heat chamber for 84 days for the jungle storage and mould growth tests.

Sealing Tests

From the present trend towards the hermetic sealing of equipment there has arisen the demand for the evaluation of the efficacy of the sealing measures—both of complete equipments and of components. This is usually determined by measuring the rate of leakage of air into or out of the component or equipment under a given air pressure difference. Very sensitive apparatus has been developed for measuring very low leakage rates, and a specially ingenious apparatus enables the sealing of meters, vibrators, etc., to be carried out without necessitating tampering with the components to provide a means of connection to the manometers.

Testing of Materials and Finishes

In addition to the provision of satisfactory components, it is necessary to ensure that all the materials and finishes used in components and equipments will be satisfactory. Apparatus is available for the necessary mechanical and electrical testing, and a well-equipped chemical laboratory is also available for analytical work and general guidance on chemical questions.

Photographic Aids to Component and Equipment Testing

A special photographic laboratory is proving increasingly useful in the components and equipment testing field. This laboratory is equipped with a 100 kV X-ray apparatus, photo-micrographic apparatus, a high-speed camera, etc., and a projection microscope will also be available shortly. Some examples of the use of this laboratory are the X-ray examination of castings before and after mechanical tests, the examination of the interior of components, such as all-metal valves, sealed relays, etc., and the photo-micrographical examination of materials and finishes.

Conclusion

It is impossible to convey adequately, in this short article, the amount of work and equipment involved in developing components and testing of complete equipments, quite apart from the actual design of the equipments, but it is hoped that enough has been said to indicate that everything possible is done to ensure that the Communication Equipment provided for the Army will give satisfactory service under the most onerous conditions.

MORE HARD LINES

By **OLD BILL**

WHY, thought Signalman Harris, do these things have to happen to me? I arrive in M.E.L.F. full of good intentions; I swear to keep out of trouble, to eschew all forms of contact with evil ways, and then this happens.

For again we find Signalman Harris in difficulties. As we know, he had not wanted to come to M.E.L.F., but he had arrived and was filled with the aforesaid good intentions and hopes of achieving the lofty eminence from which he had once gazed down upon the world, to wit, the rank of Sergeant. Perhaps that was the trouble. He had arrived and been posted to a unit which gave full scope to his peculiar talents as a general handyman. He had been put on the line maintenance party, whose chief job in life, so it appeared to him, was to lay large quantities of underground cable solely in order that the local populace could dig it up again. This kept everyone happy except Signalman Harris. He thought the fun was just a little too one-sided in that the cable could be removed at the pleasure of the people doing the removal, but he had to turn out at the most unearthly hours of the day and night, particularly night, in order to put some more down for the said local populace to take away again.

And he had brooded on this for some time, until late one evening we see him in a truck moving along peacefully—a steady fifty-five—on a detail that had nothing whatsoever to do with cables, when in the gloom, just off the road, was seen a party engaged in surreptitious digging. Visions of nights spent in repairing the ravages of just such parties rose before him. He tasted the sweet fruits of revenge (and also the possibility of a stripe for his recently shorn arm) and the driver dropped all anchors. Signalman Harris



and the driver bailed out and advanced on the marauders with the highly regrettable intention of inflicting grievous bodily harm on any marauder attempting to leave without permission. To this end they had armed themselves with a couple of pick helves, which were part of the reason for their journey, and moved in with vigour and determination. The party collapsed under the sight and were duly rounded up and, not without considerable discourse and inconvenience, herded into a sadly overladen truck. In passing, the discourse was largely one-sided, as neither of our friends had more than a vague knowledge of Arabic, and even that was not designed to be read at more than fives. Still, a pick helve speaks any language equally well.

So the culprits were handed over to the nearest Police Station and Signalman Harris reported his capture to the unit by phone. Then he sat back and dreamed of promotion and compliments from all concerned. So why the gloomy forebodings with which our story opens? Why this deep depression that we feel sure must be surrounding him? Simply that within a matter of minutes an extremely irate officer came roaring into the Police Station demanding to know what this extremely sanguinary signalman thought he had done with his (the officer's) even more sanguinary digging party—and, what was even more important, where were the spades that the said party had been forced to leave behind.

Roman Catterick

By **P. M. JONES**

TWO thousand years ago, when Britain was still a country of Rivers and Marshes, and the wolf and bear hunted on the river bank that was to become London, the finest army that perhaps the world has ever known landed on the south coast of Britain. No strong force met them, and in modern language, "a bridgehead was firmly established." From that bridgehead, the Roman Army began to spread, to conquer resistance and in time to cover the whole of the country. Roads spread like fingers pointing the advance, and along them swung the legions of Rome, ever following the Eagle that glinted in front.

The most important of all roads in this island was our "Great North" of today, laid as it is over the original Roman road. Like an artery it stretched from the Wall in the north, behind which lay the restless tribes, their eyes on the growing wealth of Britain, to the south, where already Londinium was a Roman city and Diana was being worshipped where today the Bank of England stands. Along this artery poured the life blood of Britain—the Legions.

Far to the north, ten days' march, lay Hadrian's Wall, and to it led the road. Straight as an arrow it went, taking hills and rivers in its stride, and along it at intervals of a day's march lay the storehouses, each with its little fortress and settlement guarding the grain upon which the Legions depended. Such a place was Cataractonium, lying upon a ford of the River Swale, and through it regularly marched the legions grumbling as infantry always will and singing, perhaps, of the girl at home they wanted to see, or the wife they did not. They were the famous legions, the "Augusta" from Caerleon in South Wales, the "Aduitrix" from Chester, or perhaps the "Hispana" from Eburacum, the city that was one day to become York.

In spite of the fact that the country around Catterick had been very successfully pacified by the Roman General Agricola, and the Brigantes, a fierce and warlike tribe, subjected, there was still unrest. As yet another Cohort or Century moved out from the shelter of the fortress, and the clang of the shield on shoulder at the end of the Imperial Salute, rang over the Bracken, many must have been the whisperings amongst the peoples on the hills. In winter, when hunger made them desperate, the bravest would venture down to steal food, but few would take the risk of facing the terrible stabbing sword that had carved an empire out of the tribes of Europe. It did not pay to anger Rome, for as Galgacus, a British chieftain, said: "They make a solitude and call it peace."

Life in the little fortress was never monotonous. Each day would see the movement of troops up and down the road, bringing the latest news from London and the Wall. Imperial messengers galloped through, stopping only to change horses, on their way to the nearest port with messages to or from Rome. Roman Legionaries, the backbone of the army, cavalry from Spain, and black auxiliaries from Africa, all passed through to take their turn at watching the tribes of the North. To the east of the settlement, the land was very thickly wooded, and periodically this would have to be cleared back to prevent its giving cover to any attack. Just outside the fort would be the cemetery, and today the ashes of many a Centurion and Legionary lie near where the heavy trucks pass.

The Roman Army, with its short sword and throwing spear, was trained for battle in the open, and attack was the policy of defence. Foraging parties would be sent off on to the moors to show the Eagle to those tribes who might have forgotten the might of Rome. Many such parties must have come through the site of the Catterick of today, for it was a natural route through the open woodland on the west of the fort to the moors. The surrounding country was rich in wolf and bear, too, and the smoke from the thanksgiving altars after a good kill must have often seemed to the tribes as if another village was being burnt to the ground.

In the fifth century the legions left Britain, and the little fort was left to sink back into history. Then, at the beginning of the present century, the Catterick Camp of today was built. Catterick Camp therefore has its foundation rooted deeply into history, and its tradition was established before there was a British Army. Just over the hill from Camp Centre, history was made and the soldier today owes a great deal to those men who trod this ground two thousand years ago.

Look down towards Catterick Bridge, where the legionary must often have looked. Shut out from your mind the houses, and see only the road. The light from the stream of traffic must look now as did the glints of light from the bronze armour and steel spear heads of the past. Look back towards the camp of today, and if your imagination is good enough to take out the gaunt shapes of the Vimy Blocks, it is not difficult to mistake the pillar of smoke from the R.E.M.E. workshops as another British settlement being shown the Roman Peace. Out towards Scotton, the shade of a long dead Centurion in the guise of a farmer burning rubbish celebrates again on a rough altar his first wolf killed, and down in the camp itself the shouts of a corporal drilling a squad have not altered since the same ground heard a decurion drilling auxiliaries, only in Latin.

Two thousand years, and the Romans are still in Catterick!

Quid Nobis Ardui

Army Phantom Signal Regiment

AN OUTLINE HISTORY OF PRINCESS LOUISE'S KENSINGTON REGIMENT

Early Roots

IN 1859, the warlike policy of France under Napoleon III, made necessary the enrolment of large numbers of enthusiastic volunteers, who, despite lack of official interest, succeeded in forming themselves into an organised military body. The 4th Middlesex Volunteer Corps, raised by Lord Truro, was such a body, and became affiliated to the King's Royal Rifle Corps. Royal patronage was given in the following year, when Queen Victoria reviewed the volunteers in Hyde Park.

Steady progress in organisation was maintained until the outbreak of the South African War gave them their first opportunity to prove their worth. The 4th Middlesex served with the City Imperial Volunteers and earned their first Battle Honour—"South Africa, 1900-02."

The War over, the Regiment settled down to become, in 1905, "The Kensington Rifles," bearing the arms and motto of the Borough, until in 1908, the formation of the Territorial Army by Viscount Haldane led to the amalgamation of 2nd (South) and 4th Middlesex Volunteers, to form the 13th London Regiment, with the Red and Grey facings of the old 4th Middlesex.

1909—a memorable year indeed, when King Edward VII presented colours at Windsor, colours worked by ladies of the Royal Borough under the presidency of H.R.H. Princess Louise, a daughter of Queen Victoria, who afterwards became the Colonel-in-Chief of the Regiment in 1913.

World War I

The Kensingtons were at camp when the dramatic news of war came through, but soon returned to their Headquarters for equipping and further training—the colours being handed to The Mayor of Kensington, in the presence of Princess Louise, for safe keeping.

A second Battalion was now in course of formation, and October, 1914, saw two Battalions of the 13th in being, ready to live up to their motto, "Nothing too hard for us." Three Battalions of the Kensingtons saw service in the struggle, their colours consequently bear for all time such proud Battle Honours as "Neuve Chapelle," "Aubers" (1915), "Somme" (1916), "Arras," "Ypres" (1917), "Cambrai" (1918) and the all-embracing "France and Flanders" (1914-18).

In another quarter of the globe, they earned "Macedonia" (1916-17), "Gaza," "Jerusalem" (1917), "Sharon" and "Palestine" (1917-18). Casualties during the four years from the 1st and 2nd Battalions alone, were 60 Officers and 864 Other Ranks, whose memory is perpetuated on a Memorial at Regimental Headquarters, unveiled by the Princess Louise in May, 1921.

The Years Between

In 1920, the Territorial Regiment was reformed as one Battalion, with a nucleus of personnel from the wartime Battalions, and although progress was slow, spirit was willing. Gradually the Battalion took shape, and through the unstable post-war years settled down to its official and social life, annual camps with the Brigade of Guards, having a very good effect on all concerned. A unique distinction came in 1928, its cooks winning the T.A. cooking shield at Olympia, a contest open to the whole T.A. The successful formation for the first time of a Regimental Band, and notable successes at sport, especially Boxing and Athletics, were all features of this period. The Brigade Commander at this time was Colonel H. R. L. Alexander, D.S.O, M.C., a name well-known to a later generation of serving men.

As the inter-War era drew to a close, the Kensington Regiment with the approach of 1939, once more rallied to the call, and prepared to show the 1914 Kensingtons that their traditions were to be maintained, and their hard-won Battle Honours, gloried further. And so it was with half a century of loyal and efficient service already to their credit, that the Kensington Regiment embarked upon the second struggle within 25 years.

World War II

April, 1940, saw the 1st Battalion in France, serving with the 51st (Highland) Division in front of the Maginot Line when the German assault commenced. After a race across France with delaying battles on the Bresle and the Somme, one half of the Battalion were evacuated from Le Havre, ten days after "Dunkirk." Two companies were captured with that part of the Division trapped at St. Valery.

Early in 1943, the 1st Battalion became the first Support Battalion of the British Army, being equipped with Heavy Mortars and 20mm. Oerlikon guns, in addition to their machine guns; this involved considerable increase in strength.

In May, the Battalion sailed for North Africa, joining the 8th Army, becoming the Support Battalion of the 78th Division. The Battalion took part in the first full-scale Allied invasion of Hitler's Europe, via Sicily to Italy, a campaign which for 21 vital months of the war pinned down and finally defeated 500,000 German troops. Space does not permit the details of all the battles in which the Kensingtons fought, and it must be sufficient to record that the Battalion saw the now legendary monastery of Cassino, before, during and after the great battle there. Unfortunately, some troops were drowned in the assault crossing of the River Sangro, and more than one Platoon was overrun by tanks. The nagging fire of the German six-barrelled mortar, his 88mm. gun and the German M.M.G., all these were the soldiers' daily "ration," not to mention the treacherous minefields, which claimed many victims.

The Kensingtons, however, fought on to avenge their 1940 losses, and inflicted casualties ten times their own. The 4.2 inch mortars gave the enemy a heavy overdose of his own medicine, and the crackle of their machine guns warmed the hearts of British Infantrymen as they poured nickel-cased lead into the "overlords of Europe."

With immense fire power at their disposal, the 1st Battalion were employed in all 78 Division's major offensives, and, at the same time, acting as a rock of defence whenever a counter-attack was imminent.

At the end of hostilities, the Battalion disarmed thousands of their former enemies, and carried out occupational duties in Austria and later assisted the Greeks in their struggle for rehabilitation.

Meanwhile, the 2nd Battalion, the Princess Louise's Kensington Regiment, had been very active, creating for

themselves and for posterity, a war record second to none, being employed in exactly the same role as the 1st, from 1943 onwards. In 1941, the 2nd Battalion joined the 49th Infantry Division in Iceland, returning to England the following year, prior to remaining as part of the Division for the remainder of the war.

In 1944, after only a short time as a Support Battalion, the 2nd reverted to Machine Guns, but formed one Company of 4.2 inch Mortars before landing in Normandy in June.

The following two months were spent in bitter fighting in close country against the desperate and ruthless Panzer Divisions, taking part in the 48-hour offensive culminating in the recapture of Havre. In the "break-out" battle that followed, the Battalion raced across France and Belgium, where their advance was impeded somewhat by the jubilant population who showered upon them garlands of flowers, peaches and wine. Pushing on into Holland, they occupied positions round Nijmegen (on the Upper Rhine) where the winter of '44-'45 was spent.

The Germans had blown dykes, and the district was flooded, DUKWs and "Weasels" being the transport required by the patrols and ration parties.

Taking part in the Rhine crossing in March, 1945, the Battalion assisted in the assault on Arnhem, having reached the Grebbe line across the river, when hostilities ceased.

The Battalion took part in the occupational duties following the unconditional surrender, being stationed for some time at Schwerte in the Ruhr valley.

And Now—The Phantom Rôle

The Kensington Regiment was reconstituted as a Territorial Battalion in 1947, under the command of the present Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel R. Wasey, M.B.E., T.D., but in a role far removed from anything expected by those who had served before or during the war.

It was the Kensingtons' proud duty to carry on the traditions and activities of a comparatively youthful organisation, "Phantom," the eyes and ears of the High Command, the G.H.Q. Liaison Regiment of 1939-45. Under the guidance of the Royal Corps of Signals, whose trades and methods the Regiment adopted, the Kensingtons have the unique distinction of being the only Support Battalion of the new T.A. and the only Royal Signals unit to carry colours. Since 1948, when the last independent Squadron of "Phantom" in the Regular Army was disbanded, Princess Louise's Kensington Regiment have been the only representatives of this novel force in the British Army. The official title of Army Phantom Signal Regiment (T.A.) is followed by the historical "Princess Louise's Kensington Regiment," a reminder of their past and an incentive for the future. Personnel in the Unit are drawn from several sources, pre-war Kensingtons, wartime Kensingtons, wartime Phantoms and Royal Signals, and those to whom the T.A. is a new interest. Soon the first of the National Servicemen will join the Regiment, and he, with all those mentioned, will share the knowledge of a fine tradition, and the slogan: Once a Kensington, always a Kensington!

QUID NOBIS ARDUI

Air Lift to Australia

By **"DIGIT"**

EVER since I came to Singapore it had been one of my minor ambitions to spend a leave in Australia, but the travelling expenses threatened to be a serious obstacle. Then Regimental Orders brought to light a solution whereby the journey could be made in a R.A.F. aircraft. All the necessary applications were submitted and approved in a very short time, kit was packed and everything was ready, but at the last moment there came a telephone call announcing the delay of the aircraft for 24 hours, to be followed daily for a whole week, by a similar message.

With a rush one evening I was told that the aircraft was ready and would be leaving on the following morning. Long before dawn I set off for the airfield, where I met my eight fellow travellers, also on leave. All our documents were checked and we were instructed in the use of a "Mae West" before being taken to our aircraft by coach. We found that a Dakota was waiting for us with our luggage aboard.

Once inside and seated the pilot gave us our final instructions, which included the use of the safety belts that were fastened at the back of every seat. The door was closed, engines were tested and we taxied along to the runway. After a final check on the engines the brakes were released and the Dakota raced down the runway, bouncing a little as it gained speed. Then rather suddenly all was calm except for the continuous throb of the engines. Gaining height, the tone of the engines changed and we headed out to sea. This first day's journey took us to Sourabaya in just less than five hours. Food *en route* was an excellent meal provided by the N.A.A.F.I.

Arriving at Sourabaya soon after midday, we were taken by coach to the Dutch Fleet Air Arm quarters and accommodated in the various messes, where we found conditions very similar to the permanent quarters here in Singapore.

In the evening transport was provided for those who wished to visit Sourabaya; by the general gloom and silence that prevailed the following morning, it appeared that a good time was had by all.

The second stage of our journey took us to Darwin, after stopping to refuel at Koepang. Unfortunately, no rations had been provided, but the sandwiches that I had brought with me from Singapore, although rather dry, helped to keep us from starving. At Darwin all our luggage was closely examined by the Customs officials and then we were taken to the R.A.A.F. camp nearby. We were given half an hour to have a shower bath while a truly Australian meal of steak, eggs and chips was prepared. By the time we had finished eating we were too full and too tired to do anything but retire for the night in quarters that are specially reserved for Service personnel passing through Darwin.

On the following day we took off with the intention of reaching Alice Springs in seven hours, but being warned of bad visibility due to a dust storm, we stopped at a cattle station called Tennent Creek. The staff who maintain the radio station and landing strip there lent us a weather-beaten Dodge 15 cwt. and directed us to the local hotel, where they had already ordered dinner for us. Later in the afternoon we continued on to Alice Springs, where we were taken by taxis to the Alice Springs Hotel; again all arrangements had been completed earlier in the day with the aid of those two inventions, radio and telephony. At Alice Springs we met our first sign of real civilisation, a reasonable town and a bar. Alice Springs is one of Australia's winter holiday resorts, where the selected few are able to escape from the cold weather on the Southern shores. The local cinema was quite a popular attraction, followed on the way back to the hotel by a session in the town's up-to-date milk bar.

The last stage of our journey was a six-hour trip to Adelaide; on board was a large supply of bread, tinned meat, fruit and tomato juice, which had been provided by the R.A.A.F. at Darwin and left untouched due to our landing at Tennent Creek. I hardly need mention that very little was left by the time we landed.

At Adelaide we were left to continue the remainder of various journeys at our own expense, but a lift in an Australian National Airways coach was available to get us to the main railway station.

With an overnight train journey to Melbourne, my goal was reached and leave really began.

For the return journey a different plane and crew picked me up at Melbourne and went on to Sydney, where 48 hours were spent sight-seeing. Then reluctantly we continued on to Brisbane, Darwin, Sourabaya and Singapore.

Throughout the whole journey the crew gave us every possible aid, in preparing in advance for our arrival, and in doing their utmost to ensure that rations for the day's journey were provided. Thanks to them and, of course, the staff at all the airports concerned, we never had to wait for more than two minutes for transport from the aircraft to the night's accommodation.

* * *

Considering the distance involved and the amount of willing co-operation from all possible sources, I can honestly say that the journey was one of the best I have ever had the fortune to experience.

Dr Rogers' Letters

FROM THE CRIMEA

8TH OCTOBER, 1855 — CAMP BEFORE SEBASTOPOL

There seems very little going on here now; it is said the enemy is gradually retiring from the north side of the town, but at any rate they make a fair show at night on the Mackenzie Heights, as they always burn great fires. One thing is certain, they cannot be very well off for water or provisions there; on the other hand, we may live like fighting cocks, especially at Balaklava, where or rather at Kadikoi you can purchase anything. There is one watchmaker established here even, and saddlers, chinamen and drapery salesmen, so that the winter need not be like the last. It is amusing to see the officers come down from the front on foraging expeditions to the shops and vessels lying in the harbour to get the first chance of fowls, ducks, geese and turkeys before they are all bought up by the retailers from the Turkish vessels that bring them in. I have disposed of the stock I had, but if we settle down at the front I must lay in some for the winter. They have varied considerably in price, the fowls from 2s. to 7s. the couple, the average being 5s., and eggs 2s. per dozen, though at Scutari they may be got cheaper.

There were some races last week, the so-called "Light Division Autumn Meeting," which came off in the plain above Balaklava. The day happened to be fine, much more so than the sport, but there were a great many officers of all Services mustered there. There was an attempt made by the stewards to get up a kind of national race between the Sardinians and French against some of our own officers, but they both declined on the plea of having had no notice of it. The fact is, I fancy they did not like the notion of being beaten, which, I fancy, they would have been, as the English are pre-eminent in that particular sport, I take it.

19th OCTOBER, 1855 — BALAKLAVA

I am going back to the Regiment tomorrow or next day, as it is intended to give up our detachment hospital and keep up only one at the headquarters; consequently I am just in the pleasant midst of packing up. I hope we shall stay in the same place when I get there, as it is not pleasant to move after you are nicely settled with a kitchen and stable built and yourself hutted. There was some talk of our going to Eupatoria this week, either with or in place of the Highlanders, but the Commander-in-Chief received an express by telegraph from Berlin (through the Government) saying that the Russians meditated an attack on our lines at Tchorgoun and Traktir Bridge, and the consequence is that neither our division nor the Highlanders went, and the whole Army turns out every morning at 5 o'clock. Another telegraph says that the enemy is retreating and a feint may be made as a diversion to cover their retreat. It is certain that their lights are less numerous on the Mackenzie heights. If they vacate the north side and the heights I suppose some part of our Army will occupy them. We have now one brigade of infantry near Nicholaieff and the light cavalry brigade at Eupatoria threatening the enemy in the rear.

I hardly think we shall have another engagement here, and I hope they will soon leave off turning us out in the morning, though it has not affected me as yet being stationed here. They seem rather severe on General X in England; he certainly is not quite up to his work, and that unfortunate admission of his in his despatch that he could not organise a second attack because the trenches were so full of troops, told very much against him. At the same time he could not tell the truth, viz., that our soldiers would not go forward? Another great mistake consisted in cutting up some of the regiments into several sections, the men not fighting nearly as well among others as they would if they had gone altogether; thus the 77th were divided in five lots, and of course lost their identity as a regiment in consequence.

27th OCTOBER, 1855 — CAMP SEBASTOPOL

We have lovely weather now, the days are sunny and warm, but the nights cold and frosty with a beautiful moonlight, so that there is no danger if you are out late at night of falling into the enemies' hands. We have had no rain to speak of for some time, indeed this month has been both finer and warmer than the last, but we anticipate having some rainy weather shortly, and to provide for this, there is an immense amount of building going on in the camp, in the way of huts, stables, kitchens, etc. The officers are not very sanguine about having huts supplied by Government until the winter is past, and so, profiting by the experience of last year, they are hutting themselves with wood obtained from Sebastopol. Every day you meet mules with pack saddles and carts laden with flooring, bricks, etc., coming out of the town, but it is not always quite safe to pursue the pillage carelessly, as the Russians are constantly firing from the north side, and several horses have been killed and some men injured.

We have just constructed a large battery behind the remains of Fort Paul, which will open in a few days, and it is expected will demolish Fort Catherine, but still not much can be done by firing across the water, and I imagine our chief success will be in annoying the enemy in his rear by cutting off the supplies, etc., for which purpose our Light Brigade of Cavalry, with several regiments of French Infantry, are gone to Eupatoria. At present we have no fighting to do here with the exception of the serving the

battery before mentioned, but the French keep up a fire all along their position at Inkerman across the valley, and the Russians return it from the numerous redoubts they have on the opposite heights, and sharpshooters, French and Sards, skulk about the Tchernaya all day and night to prevent the enemy getting any water from that source.

We are still turned out every morning at half-past five, which I get in my turn since I have been at the front again, but no one apprehends an attack now, and if there is one the French and Sardinians will have the first brush.

A PILGRIMAGE TO ROME

By **Signalman W. HALDANE**

(7th Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment)

WHEN our R.C. Chaplain told us at Padre's Hour of a proposed pilgrimage of Rhine Army to Rome, I was very enthusiastic, but not very hopeful. Sixteen pounds sterling was high finance to me and that was that; however, an underground movement was already at work to topple the price for impecunious privates and many of us have to thank the good ladies of the Catholic Women's League at Hanover for their noble efforts to raise a fund to assist us. I want to thank them now for their assistance to me.

We were 350 strong when we scrambled aboard the special train at Hanover on Monday night at 2100 hours 17th April. Third class travel was not luxury, but we were ready to take fourth class to Rome.

Every 25 years the Pope declares a " Holy Year " and asks all the Catholic world to take stock of their spiritual life and by prayer, example and good works to bring about peace. Peace in family, in National and in International life. If possible, he asks us to journey to Rome as pilgrims, not as holiday makers, and there to visit the four great Basilicas, reciting set prayers together for the above intentions and then to visit him in the great public audiences as thousands of my fellow soldiers did during the war in Italy.

The journey was via Gottingen, Munich, the Brenner Pass, Bolzano, Trentino, arriving Rome 0830 hours on Wednesday. There we were welcomed by the Military Attaché and taken to a specially prepared camp of huts just outside the City.

I cannot hope to describe this great city, which is the cradle of pagan and Christian civilisation; monuments, ruins, churches were everywhere, the centuries were rolled back and history was retold in living stones. We saw Pagan temples now turned into great churches, the prison where St. Peter was kept and the Colosseum where pagan Rome tried to stamp out the early Christians. All the artists of Europe seemed to have flocked here to build, paint and sculpt for the glory of God, since the beginning of Christianity.

St. Peter's Basilica is so perfectly proportioned that one does not realise its immense size until told that it held 60,000 people on Easter Sunday and 500,000 between the huge pillars outside. It is built over the tomb of St. Peter and has been standing for over 400 years. On Saturday morning we assembled there to greet the Pope. He was carried in on his chair and toured each set of pilgrims. He then sat on a throne and spoke to each group in their own language. He greeted " the band of pilgrim soldiers of England representing the three Services in Germany " and asked us to pray and work for peace. For me, this was the highlight of the pilgrimage.

Pope Pius XII was a Legate in Poland after the 1918 war when Russia temporarily overran that country. He saw the rise of Hitler in Berlin, he was a personal friend of the late President Roosevelt and knew our late King and Queen. He has studied in the British Museum and admires our British way of life.

Our five days were soon over and we left Rome with life-long memories of a great experience.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We gratefully acknowledge receipt of the following:

THE QUEEN'S OWN GAZETTE, March, April.

THE ROYAL ARMY ORDNANCE CORPS GAZETTE, March, April.

THE CLARION, March.

CA IRA, March.

ST. GEORGE'S GAZETTE, 28th February.

THE TANK, March, April, May.

JOURNAL OF THE ROYAL ARMY SERVICE CORPS, April, May.

R.E.M.E., April, May.

THE JOURNAL OF THE EAST SURREY REGIMENT, May.

THE SAPPER, May.

THE ROYAL PIONEER, March.



THE GENERAL SECRETARY REPLIES TO

Questions & Answers about The Wire

I WAS very interested to read the article in the April issue under " Question and Answers about THE WIRE." Such articles are, to my mind, very useful and from the point of view of the Association very helpful. People who criticise, obviously, are those who have thought about the subject and they are the people we like, as it helps us to help them. The writer of that article obviously is not very conversant with the workings and activities of the Association, due, he will no doubt assert, to the absence of explanatory matter under Association Notes! Well, let us go into the problems he mentions.

(1) Combined Subscription for Association and " Wire "

This suggestion is by no means original and has been explored by the Central Committee of the Association and by a special Publications Sub-Committee set up last year to consider ways and means of increasing the circulation and reducing the deficit on THE WIRE. The idea is an excellent one and one which the Association would like to adopt, but after due consideration it has been found impracticable.

We have roughly 6,500 life members who pay £5 for ...icers and 30s. for other ranks. We have, roughly, 30,000 ...ial members who pay 5s. officers and 2s. other ranks. ... we made a combined subscription of, say, 10s. annually could bank on retaining that membership, all might be ... but we who have to deal with branch members and ...ervice members generally, know that very few these days ...id be willing, or even able, to afford 10s. annually.

...t the present circulation, our monthly issue ...s at least 1s. per copy to produce, sometimes a little over ... seldom less. Against that we have our income from ...tisements. Mind you, this is a wonderful improve- ...t since the date when our present Editor took over, when it was costing over 1s. 6d. per copy and we were only selling half as many.

As is not always appreciated, the Headquarters side of the Association deals with the business aspect entirely and leaves in the very able hands of branches the social and entertainment side. For this purpose, branches retain the whole of their annual and one-third of life membership subscriptions.

In pre-war days they retained only one-half of the annual and NONE of the life membership subscriptions. Without this 2s. per annum per head branches would not be able to carry on. Branches themselves are positive that they would not be able to retain a working membership if the annual subscription was raised to 10s., including THE WIRE.

After all, members of the Association are not all interested solely in THE WIRE. The employment side attracts, and has been, and is, of the greatest service to members and a day in the life of Headquarters would surprise most people if they knew the variety of subjects and problems which bring letters and individuals to our door. All this they can get for 2s. annually and, in some cases, for nothing, as, with the exception of finding employment, we assist any ex-member of the Corps irrespective of Association membership. We do not profess to be able to answer every problem, but what we can and do do, is to put them in touch with people who specialise in those subjects.

In pre-war days, when we had the biggest circulation of any Regimental magazine, the vast majority of readers were serving Regulars. Today, the Regular soldier forms only a small proportion of the modern Army.

Let us explore actual costs. Supposing, for example, under the proposed scheme of combined membership we were lucky enough to enrol 20,000 members, this would bring us in an annual income at 10s. of £10,000.

At present levels, we will say that 20,000 copies of THE WIRE cost £1,000 per month=£12,000 annually (this would work out at proportionately less with a larger circulation).

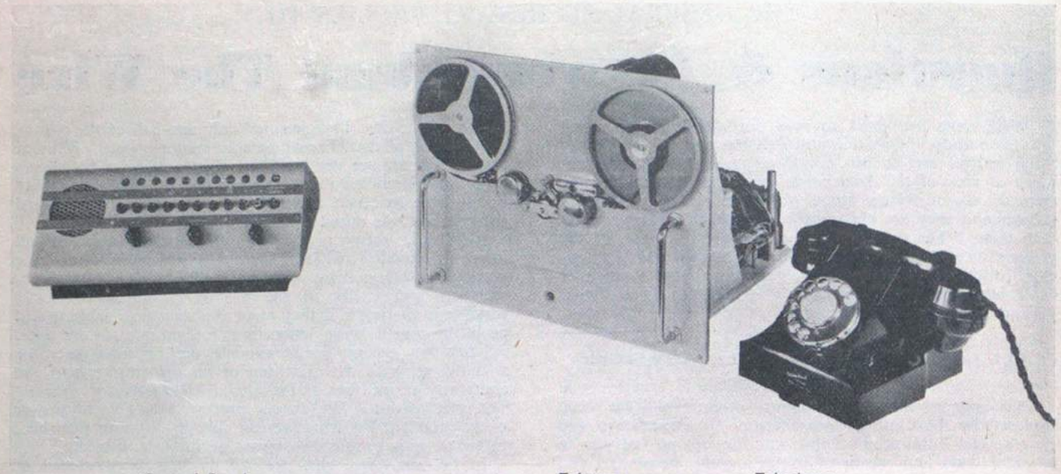
This gives us an annual loss of £2,000 and branches would not have their 2s. per head for their own expenses. To give them 2s. out of the 10s. for each member would further embarrass the financial problem.

Although these figures are purely guesswork it will be seen that to combine the subscription with THE WIRE would be well nigh financially impossible.

The question of the present 6,500 life members who have already paid their joining fee would have to be considered. They would have to be given free copies of THE WIRE, which at 1s. per copy (approximately) would mean a further £3,900 annual expenditure.

(*Continued on page 230*)





Control Panel Teletape Telephone

Despatch from Park Lane

By **Captain C. M. JENKINS,** *Royal Signals*

TELEVISION and Radar during recent years, together with the economic need to satisfy numerous overseas customers, have fashioned the many components of our present-day radio equipment. In the Armed Forces the requirements of Commanders and their staffs for telecommunications in modern war—both in the "fighting" and "cold" wars—have caused research to be made in different fields. But a common aim of purpose stands out—something smaller, lighter, reliable and inexpensive. In April last, the Radio Industry Council of Great Britain presented their 7th Annual Exhibition in Grosvenor House Hotel, London, to show the world the latest and best Britain can offer.

The accent remains on miniaturisation with the minimum loss of technical efficiency, stimulated by the increasing demands for television, car radio, deaf aids and radio for jet aircraft, e.g., a valve made by Mullards is so small that three can fit into a thimble and it has a filament less than one-tenth of the diameter of human hair. More attention is being paid to the reliability of components and a number of Panels have been created by the Radio and Electronic Component Manufacturers' Federation to set up minimum performance standards. Results are then published by the Radio Industry Council and in due course will cover all manufactured components. It is significant that the sale of British-made components has risen rapidly in the past three years, Argentine, South Africa, India and Australia being our best customers.

It would be impossible to comment in the space allowed on all exhibits, so a random selection has been made which might be of general interest. So let us call on our first stall and hear about something novel at:—

Stall One.—Have you ever telephoned and obtained no reply? After two years of experiments, Associated Electronic Engineers, Ltd., Dolstan Gardens, Stanmore, have solved the problem by a specially-designed teletape. How does it work? When an incoming call has been ringing for a given period a relay operates and starts the tape play-back by a voice designed to say something like this: "Mr. Brown is out—can I take a message?" You then give your message (limit to about 10 minutes) and when you have finished, indicated by the replacement of your handset, the tape automatically ceases and flashes a red light on a panel. Foot control switch enables the message to be played at any speed. To enable full use of the equipment, three channels can be used.

Cost, less P.T. is £90 per channel.

(See photograph opposite for layout of equipment.)

Stall Two.—P.A. Equipment is frequently used by the Army in a variety of ways, at Home and Overseas, so the latest microphones and speakers displayed by Messrs. Reslosound, Ltd., 359 City Road, London, is worth noting. The design of the microphone features a low corrosion duralumin ribbon which is formed by heat treatment and permanently retains its original characteristic, no matter how subjected to excess pressures.

It should last about ten years in any climate, and is easy to maintain. List price is £8 with another £3 15s. for an adjustable floor stand. (Small discount is allowed for H.M. Forces.) This microphone should work to any low impedance amplifier and can be modified to higher impedance if desired.

This firm incidentally made the famous Type 2715—the Hailing Loudspeaker—which is so suitable for speech projection. 25,000 were used on many fighting ships, airfields and on the beaches during the war.

Stall Three.—Rendezvous for the "Ham" who has plenty of cash. Rotary switches claimed to be the smallest in the world—metal rectifiers to simplify and cheapen television—multi-core cables which pass both electric currents and water for use in R.F. heating work circuits handling up to 60 kVA—new range of hermetically-sealed transformers, claimed to offer 30% saving in volume and weight—latest techniques in suppressors from fluorescent lighting and the new type engineered in collaboration with the G.P.O. in preparation for compulsory suppression—high quality loudspeaker for canteens, messes, at £135 list price, frequency response 30/15,000 c.p.s.—gramophone designed to operate at speed 78 from 6v. or 12v. battery—new "X" outdoor aerial with chimney lashings.

Stall Four.—Radio Bookstall offered "Foundations of Wireless" (M. G. Scroggie) 4th Edition—"Basic Mathematics for Radio Students" (F. M. Colebrook) 2nd Edition—"Radio Laboratory Handbook" (M. G. Scroggie) 4th Edition—"Radio Valve Data" (by "Wireless World" Staff)—"Television Explained" (W. E. Muller) 3rd Edition—"Guide to Broadcasting Stations" (by "Wireless World")—"Shortwave Radio and the Ionosphere" (T. W. Bennington)—"Great Circle Projection Map of the World" (34in. x 27in.)—"The Cathode Ray Oscilloscope: How it is Used" 3rd Edition—"Radio Interference Suppression" (G. W. Ingram) 2nd Edition—"Technical Instruction for Marine Wireless Operators" (9th Edition). (If you want any further information drop a postcard to Messrs. Iliffe and Sons, Ltd., Dorset House, Stamford Street, London, S.E.1.)

What of the future? Remarkable achievements have been witnessed in this "electronic" age, but it is apparent more are yet to come. Closely allied to the equipment is the frequency spectrum in which it can be used, which probably presents greater problems because of the international interests involved. What is reasonably certain is that the same exhibition will be organised next year, 10th-12th April, in the same place. A month later the immense Festival of Britain Exhibition opens which is being planned to contain the very latest in radio and electronic technique.

Operation "Snowstorm"

On the night of 26/27th April, 1950, a freak snowstorm occurred in part of the South of England, causing extensive damage to railway and G.P.O. communications in a belt of country from Esher to Andover. The damage to railway communications was so bad that its like had not been experienced since the turn of the century.

The catastrophe started with a fall of rain which began to freeze, and icing set in on all telegraph routes. This was immediately followed by a heavy fall of snow coming down in large flakes. This fall quickly built up on the frozen base on the wires, so that in a very short time all wires were carrying a load of frozen snow over one inch in diameter. The wires gradually stretched, and in places formed arcs almost to ground level, further snow accumulations being built up at the apex of the arcs. As the strain got too great the wires broke, poles snapped off, and those that did not snap were very often badly "sprung." All damage took place in a period of about three hours.

As a result of the storm all the railway communications were out of action, and all trains passing through the damaged areas were subject to bad delays. Time tables could not be adhered to, and generally inconvenience was caused to all regular train users.

During the morning of the 27th April, 1950, an appeal was received by the C.S.O., Southern Command, from the Railway Signals Engineer at Woking, for D8 cable and technical personnel to help the Railway Signals to build up a temporary signals system over the main route from Esher to west of Basingstoke.

Arrangements were immediately made for the release of the necessary cable, but owing to the manpower commitments of Southern Command in connection with the dock strikes, the request for manpower aid had to be referred to the War Office. During the late afternoon Southern Command were given permission to use all Royal Signals linemen, and also up to one hundred general service personnel. The latter were made available from the R.A.O.C. Training Centre in the Aldershot Area, and Signal detachments were sent out to Aldershot that night from the Portsmouth F.S.S. Troop and also from 146 Line Troop then working with Salisbury Plain F.S.S. Troop. Later a detachment of linemen arrived from the Plymouth F.S.S. Troop.

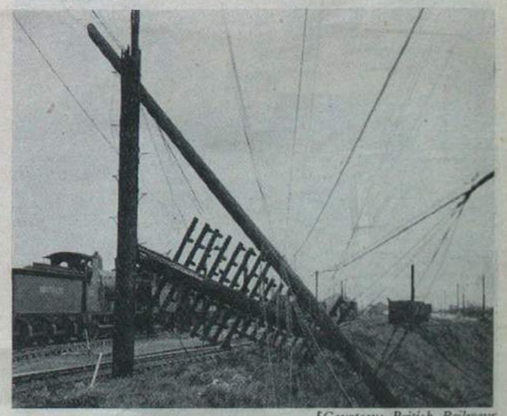
That night a preliminary investigation was made by O.C. Aldershot F.S.S. Troop, in conjunction with the Railway Signal personnel at Woking, which disclosed about 150 poles (average height 45 feet) broken, twice this number out of alignment, and about 300 miles of wire down, on the main railway routes. The railway had no communication system working on the Esher—Basingstoke main route, and were forced to adopt the "time period" principle for passing trains through sections.

As a result of this investigation, it was decided to split up all available troops into mixed parties of railway wiremen, linemen and R.A.O.C. personnel, with orders to:—

(a) Restore temporary communications using D8 and quad cable to signal boxes between Farnborough and Basingstoke.
(b) Clear existing derelict routes and cut away broken wires.
(c) Transport new poles from dumps to places where replacements were required.
(d) Assist in rebuilding of routes and strengthening sections of standing routes by extra staying.

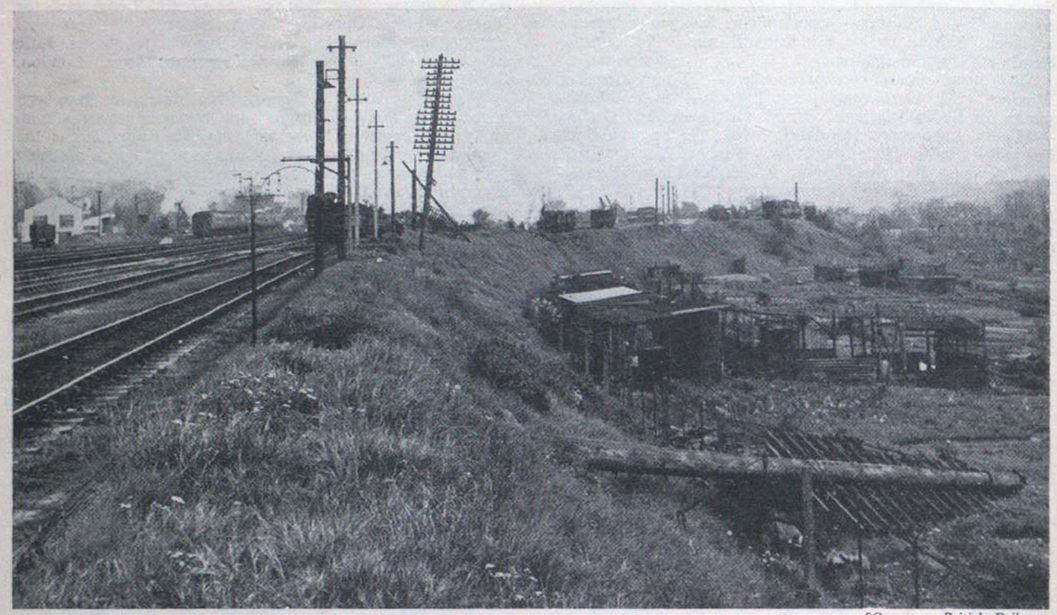
These instructions were issued at 2300 hours on the 26th April, 1950, and all parties were in position by 0845 hours next morning.

Good progress was made throughout the following days, and the programme was expanded in the Farnborough—



[Courtesy: British Railways

Storm damage, west of Basingstoke



Storm damage, west of Basingstoke

[*Courtesy: British Railways*

Woking area. By the evening of the 3rd May, 1950, normal working on a temporary basis had been restored on main routes, to give " block " working between Esher and Woking, and auto and box signalling between Woking and Basingstoke. Also temporary signalling had been provided on branch routes.

The first object had been attained, normal train running with complete safety had been ensured by the provision of temporary communications; and once again the British Public could use the railway knowing that they would arrive at their destination on time. British Railways could safely be left to rebuild the routes in their own time, a task that will extend into months of hard labour.

Royal Signals, however, were not yet finished, as on completion of the Railway Emergency task, there still remained the damage to Army Communications in the Aldershot and Salisbury Plain areas to be repaired. This work had been left in abeyance to help provide the necessary railway communications for the smooth running of British Railways.

Personnel engaged in the repairs were provided as follows: 65 Railway wiremen, 28 Royal Signals linemen, 100 R.A.O.C. General Service men.

* * *

The following letter of appreciation has been received by the Director of Signals at the War Office from Mr. J. C. L. Train, of the Railway Executive:—

Dear Major-General Scott,

I have reported to the Railway Executive on the snowstorm damage to the Southern Region and they have requested me to thank you for the very valuable help which you supplied from the Southern and Eastern Commands in the serious emergency which arose due to extensive damage to communications.

You will be interested to know that largely due to this assistance so generously and speedily given we were able to restore practically all the signal box to signal box block and telephone communications in a temporary way by the night of 28th April.

I made an inspection of some of the work on Friday last, and saw some of your men at work, and I am now in an even better position to appreciate the value of the help given.

I have not written to you before as I wished first to survey the position with regard to permanent restoration in the light of railway assistance which we were able to obtain from other Regions.

(Signed) J. C. L. TRAIN.



[*Courtesy: British Railways*

Storm damage near Winchfield

SIGNAL TRAINING CENTRE

CATTERICK CAMP

2 TRAINING REGIMENT

With the arrival of warmer weather, our thoughts turn again to running tracks, cricket and tennis, country rambles and all the other summer pursuits which in Catterick are so admirably provided.

It is little realised by the average young soldier how full of interest is the local countryside. A short article, "Roman Catterick," by Lance-Corporal P. M. Jones is attached.

In the past month we have had our Annual Administrative Inspection by Brigadier J. J. Duvivier, O.B.E., who passed some very complimentary remarks.

Our men have been very pleased to see the old wall type lockers replaced by the very fine steel wardrobes, with ample capacity for the hanging of uniforms and mufti.

During April, our Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel E. L. L. Vulliamy, O.B.E., had the honour of receiving from Major-General C. M. F. White, C.B., D.S.O., M.C., G.O.C. Catterick District, the cup for the Regiment providing the best all-round guards at District H.Q. during the preceding quarter.

We are also proud of winning the Northern Command Six-a-Side Hockey Tournament. The final was played at Strensall, and the cup presented to us by Lieutenant-General P. M. Balfour, C.B., C.B.E., M.C., G.O.C.-in-C. Northern Command. Our team consisted of Lieutenant-Colonel E. L. L. Vulliamy, O.B.E., Major G. S. Grey, M.B.E., Second-Lieutenant P. L. Ellis, Second-Lieutenant A. H. Henderson, Sergeant Carter and Corporal Archbold. A photo is enclosed.

We have commenced construction of a tennis court for the use of all ranks. Our hope is that it will be completed in the next few weeks, so that we can train up for the Inter-Unit Competitions.

Our best wishes go to S.S.M. Edwards (son of ex-R.S.M. Edwards, of "A" Corps Signals) now in Cyprus.



[*Courtesy: A. J. Glover, Richmond, Yorks.*

7 SELECTION REGIMENT

Training continues as before but our Infantry Instructors are now leaving us at the rate of about eight a month. As each week passes, we see new faces appearing beneath Signals cap badges.

Our two big items in April were the arrival of twenty-one Regular Y.O.s on a month's attachment, and, at the end of the month, preparations for the dock strike operation.

Entertainment. On 18th April, our Unit Revue, " It'll be Alright on the Night," was judged for the Catterick Variety Competition, which we won. The show actually ran for four nights in Baghdad N.A.A.F.I. and was seen there by approximately twelve hundred people.

At the time of writing, we are appearing at the Cary Theatre, and on 6th May the G.O.C., Catterick District, presented us with the Concert Party Challenge Cup. The Revue starred S.Q.M.S. (" Nig-nog ") Black; Captain A. N. Pote; C.S.M. Will Brant; C.S.M. Johnny Jones, and our latest discovery, ex-television tap dancer Lance-Corporal Ronnie Duke. The female side of the cast was ornamented by Miss Vivienne Child, Miss Doreen Allen and a team of talented dancers drawn from local families. Our special thanks are due to Mrs. Muriel Child for her help and hard work in ensuring that " It'll be Alright on the Night." The Revue was written by S.Q.M.S. Lyn Black, produced by Captain A. Peter Boyle and directed by Second-Lieutenant Kemble Croft. We regret to announce our production team is breaking up, as Second-Lieutenant Croft leaves us on release in May, and Captain Boyle goes to M.E.L.F. in July.

Sport. Hockey. The last fixture of the season *v.* 1 Training Regiment resulted in a win for 7 Signal Regiment.

R.S.M. Dawson, newly arrived in this Regiment, has proved himself an outstanding goalkeeper, and is a valuable addition to the team.

Fencing. We are now getting together some equipment and elementary lessons are already being held. Later in the season, we hope to meet other Regiments " on the boards."

Cricket. Trials have been proceeding during April. We are fortunate in having Signalman Close, the English cricketer, with us for this season. To date, we have played one match only: 7 Signal Regiment, 79 all out; Military Hospital, 32 all out.

Soccer. The season wound up in a blaze of glory for 7 Signal Regiment after a bad start. The first team staged a storming recovery to finish well above the half-way mark in the lead. In the home game, the team defeated the Northern Command Cup winners and potential Division League Champions by four goals to two and gave one of the finest displays of football seen at Catterick for a long time. Lance-Corporal Blakey, just back after three months in hospital, was playing.

The second eleven have won the Second Division League Championship for the second year in succession.

Tribute must be paid to the respective Captains, S.Q.M.S. Humble and Sergeant James, who have so largely contributed to the success of the teams by their leadership and encouragement to the younger players.

The following members of the Regiment have played for the Corps, the Army, etc.: Sergeant Dunne, Lance-Corporal Foster, Lance-Corporal Blakey, Signalman Cromer (Queen's Park Rangers).

Small Bore Shooting. Inter-Squadron matches have been proceeding, and in April 3 Squadron were the monthly winners. The highest score was attained by Corporal Gillam with 95 points.

Athletics. The season started well with a meeting of the Royal Signals League. Our Unit team won the 440 relay handsomely and took second place in three other events. There are a number of athletes of good promise amongst the permanent staff and recruits and a successful season is anticipated.

THE DEPOT REGIMENT
Pocklington

Lieutenant-Colonel R. Webb, Royal Signals, assumed command of the Regiment on 1st May. The Colonel and Mrs. Webb are now living in the district and we wish them a happy time at Pocklington.

Annual Range Firing was carried out at the end of March and we hope to enter a team at the Catterick Meeting in the middle of May.

We are hoping for some better weather in order to get our cricket season off to a good start. We have a full fixture list, and hope to be able to improve considerably on our form last year.

Little else of interest is happening at Pocklington or at Ripon at present, but with the increase of activity, due, we hope, to warmer weather, our notes should not be so short next month.

(*Continued from page 225*)

(2) "Wire" Notes of the Association Activities

I think our correspondent is a little wrong when he says that the majority of members of the Association know as little about the activities of the Association as he does!

As I have said elsewhere, the Headquarters of the Association deals entirely with the business side and leaves the entertainments and social activities in the hands of branches.

Branches are encouraged to send notes to THE WIRE reporting their activities and some do, but I'm sorry to say many do not. We have some 60 odd branches now and I wonder what the Editor would say if he had notes from *each* branch monthly! I *do* know!

When anything of general interest crops up in Headquarters, such as forthcoming meetings, etc., these are reported under Headquarters Notes. Also you will see periodic statements of monies paid out by the Benevolent Fund under its various headings. Then every year we publish details of the Annual General Meeting and Balance Sheets of the Association, which by law have to be published in this way.

What more could we publish of greater interest? The activities of the Association are explained very fully in the Corps Diary. This could, dependent upon available space, quite easily be reproduced occasionally in THE WIRE, if it is required. This is a good suggestion and one which presents no difficulty, apart from space.

There are, at present, constant reminders in THE WIRE regarding the Signals Association and we are ever anxious to answer queries regarding its activities.

Well, there are our remarks. I repeat, we encourage criticism and I can give my personal assurance that every constructive suggestion is given all consideration by the Committee. If you have an idea, let us have it. That the Association is very much alive is beyond doubt. Even after this long period since the war ended new branches are springing up in all directions and there is plenty of room for more.

School of Signals

Royal Signals Wing

The Long Telecommunications Course has returned to Catterick after—from all reports—an extremely pleasant, but strenuous, two months at the G.P.O. Training School, Stone.

April appears to have been a very popular month for marriages for we have to congratulate Captain J. S. N. Dale, Major F. Felton and R.Q.M.S. Bell on taking the plunge.

The W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess held a dance on All Fools' Day. The receipts would indicate that it was a great success, due no doubt, to that very capable M.C., S.Q.M.S. O'Connor, who officiated at very short notice, and to the excellence of the refreshments provided.

Soccer. The final of the Wing Knock-out Soccer Competition was played on Friday, 28th April, 1950.

After a hard-fought game, Wireless Equipment Group defeated Line Equipment Group by 2 goals to nil.

Some very good football was maintained in spite of a very strong cross-wind.

Colonel E. I. E. Mozley presented medals to the winners.

We are now looking forward to some fine weather in order to enjoy some lawn tennis and cricket.

Officer Training Wing

We have just had our Annual Administrative Inspection and a lot of hard work has been put into it. We await our report.

R.S.M. Dixon has arrived from Norway to take over from R.S.M. Marshall, who is due to go to Northern Command Signal Regiment in the near future.

No. 4 Regular Y.O.s Course is at present attached to 7 Selection Regiment but we hope to have them back in the middle of May. We have, nevertheless, managed to call on some of their number for our various sports teams. No. 240 Course has now left us and the officers have gone their various ways.

We have welcomed Courses Nos. 247/8, 249 and 250 who have recently arrived from Mons Officer-Cadet School and we hope their stay with us will be pleasant.

Commissioning parades for 243/4 and 245/6 Courses were held on 17th March and 21st April respectively, the inspecting officers being Brigadier H. T. de B. Lipscomb, A.D.C., Commander, R.A.C. Training Brigade, and Lieutenant-Colonel R. N. Seddon, O.B.E., Royal Signals, Commanding 4 Training Regiment.

We now have a new form of Commissioning Parade which we feel is a great improvement on the old.

Our Drill Sergeant-Major has recently paid a visit to the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, and came back very impressed with all he saw there and also with the warm reception he received.

Inter-Course Boxing has just finished, and the competitors showed a great amount of zeal if not skill. The Inter-Course Boxing Trophy was won by 247/8 Course.

WAR OFFICE SIGNAL REGIMENT
Kingston-on-Thames

On 4th April we said farewell to Major C. D. Hinds our Second-in-Command, who is retiring after nearly 30 years' service to take up farming in Tanganyika. We shall miss him, but wish him luck in his new venture. In his place we welcome Major F. A. Young, recently home from West Africa.

A Visit to Rospa House. On 1st April a party of 12 D.R.s and Drivers of this Unit paid a visit to Rospa House (Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents), Knightsbridge, for a tour lasting approximately four hours on causes and prevention of accidents. Great interest was taken in the Reaction Testing Cars and the Miles Training Car, adapted from the R.A.F. Trainer. Many of the party who thought they could drive found themselves careering on to the grass verge. Imagine the surprise of the driver who found he had taken off and was about 500 feet above ground! The cooling and lubricating systems of cars and motor cycles were electrically reproduced, showing what goes on, or ought to go on, when the vehicle is in motion. Electrically-driven models of vehicles and pedestrians demonstrated how accidents were caused. The final item was a film of great interest to the D.R.s on motor-cycle riding and correct road drill; this film was made by the Chief Instructor of the Metropolitan Police. All enjoyed the visit and agreed that they had learnt a lot. We hope to pass all the D.R.s and Drivers through Rospa House in the near future, it is well worth it.

LONDON DISTRICT MID-WEEK LEAGUE
Section "B"

Position at top of Table

	Played	W	D	L	Points
H.P.D., R.E.	14	11	1	2	23
C.A. and A.A. Wing, R.A.	13	11	0	2	22
W.O.S.R.	14	9	1	4	19

Leading goal scorers: Corporal Dixon, 21; Corporal Paterson, 17; Signalman Forsyth, 11; Signalman Cousins, 9.

In the Army Cup, Preliminary Round we lost 5—1 to the Life Guards, Windsor. In London District Cup we were again defeated by the Life Guards, this time by 6—3. The Life Guards were eventually the winners.

Total goals for have been 79; total goals against have been 38.

H.Q., LONDON DISTRICT

We in London have just had what is now becoming an annual event. That is a dock strike at the end of April or early May, which precedes nicely the rehearsals for the Trooping of the Colour and also, to intervene between these two events, is Army Day.

As far as the dock strike is concerned, Headquarters, London District, went on to their operational organisation on Monday, 24th April; although considerable preparation had been made by the Post Office engineers before then. Considerable reinforcement, both in the Signal Office and the switchboard was necessary, and the usual "area" headquarters were established in the Dock area, necessitating the provision of a large amount of telephony. This was as normally routed and provided by the G.P.O., and operated by the Army. The hours of work and the number of calls on the switchboard, of course, increased very rapidly, and the picture shows half of the board during a slack period. This was at 281024 hours.

An unusual problem was set by the necessity to provide wireless communications to operate tugs, and a small wireless (three afloat, one ashore) net was set up. It was found that the W.S. 31 was competent for the distance over water. The service was inaugurated by the following Royal Signals staff: one S.S.M., one Sergeant P.S.I.T.A., two Corporals, Eastern Command Signal Regiment, who, at the same time, instructed four signallers from a Battalion of the Brigade of Guards until they were competent to carry on.



[*Courtesy: Sport and General Press Agency, Ltd., London*

For Army Day the Corps had a number of tasks, including the provision of loud speakers for a drumhead service to be held in Hyde Park. This was complicated in so far as it was difficult to arrange the speakers in such a way that the preacher was not irritated by hearing his own voice after a slight time lag. Those concerned were slightly disappointed that heavy rain on the day prevented the holding of the service and the proof of their success. Besides which they got very wet to no purpose. The afternoon of 7th May was enlivened in Whitehall by a minor battle between Communists and police, in which the police, as usual, proved victorious. We are now set for the rehearsals for the Trooping of the Colour, and are hoping for better weather.

NORTHERN IRELAND DISTRICT (M) SIGNAL SQUADRON
Lisburn

Due to very bad weather this month, the Squadron's outdoor activities have been severely hampered, our Soccer and Hockey practices suffering in particular.

However, despite the weather, some of our more promising shots managed to put in two visits to the Open Ranges at Ballykinlar, which proved very successful. Although the shooting was not of a very high standard, it was useful practice, and a new and interesting experience to some.

Looking immediately ahead to the summer months, we find some attractive fixtures in both Cricket and Athletics. This year we are combining with "Camp" for Cricket, and

are hoping to have quite a number of representatives in the combined XI.

The climax of the season's athletics takes the form of the N.I.D. Individual Championships, which are to be held in Lisburn on 7th June.

We have received some very promising results from the Trade Tests which have been carried out during the past month, an encouraging enthusiasm being shown in all the various spheres of Signal Work.

We were also given a very good report on the recent C.I.V. Inspection.

EASTERN COMMAND SIGNAL REGIMENT
Canterbury



As an enlargement of the very brief remarks on the activities of 1 Squadron, Major R. A. Hatcher has agreed to the following account being published:—

All Troops of 1 Squadron keep very busy, particularly Thames Estuary and East Anglian Coast Troop. The big U/G cable project at the A.A. Practice Camp at Weybourne has now been completed and handed over to 1 A.A. (M) Signal Regiment.

The formidable task of rewiring the Control Rooms of H.A.A. gun sites has begun with the Weybourne site, where we have also carried out a new system of cabling necessitated by new developments in A.A.

Thames Troop are also now very busy in the Stanford Practical Training Area erecting temporary poled quad routes in preparation for the coming training season. A large U/G project has also been prepared for War Office approval for the same area, the actual work to be completed by 1951.

Again in Thames Troop, there's another little thing coming off nearer Troop H.Q. It is understood that the O.C. Squadron is going over and over his nominal rolls trying to pick out the best divers and those who are suitable for training as frogmen.

Volunteers are welcome, particularly those with experience of using a " Lamps, Brazing, 1 pt." under water.

Sergeant Filmer has been to see his new Detachment H.Q. at Bury St. Edmunds and thinks it quite a refreshing change from the Landguard area. It is understood that the move will come just in time to save his reason! " Too many seagulls," he says.

For the rest of the Unit we have produced eight marksmen at Canterbury, and the Unit team for the District Cup is in strict training.

The Regimental Weekend was a success.. R.A. Troop won the Potted Sports but the average performance was not very high. The Dance, organised for the Garrison by " The Buffs " was well attended.

It will be of interest to many of the Corps to know that this Regiment occupies the Barracks of the pre-war 4th Division Signals and, last year the Barracks were named after one of our Colonels Commandant, General Sir H. Colville B. Wemyss. Using this background, our Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel J. N. Barker has worked to weld the remnants of the Mushroom War Commands, without their war incentive and reluctance to relinquish their independence, into a single Regiment. Judged by results he has been successful and, everyone with knowledge of this has begun to look upon Wemyss Barracks, Canterbury, as the home of Royal Signals in Eastern Command. However, even Royal Signals can be affected by the housing situation and now it seems certain we shall move to a destination, as yet uncertain, in the very near future.

It is with deep regret that we announce the death, on Sunday, 26th March, 1950, of Mr. H. H. Balch, a civilian switchboard operator of Kent Coast Troop, employed on the switchboard at H.Q. Shorncliffe Garrison. Mr. Balch, who was 58, had served in the Corps before joining the Regiment as a civilian in 1937.

The Commanding Officer and all ranks extend their deepest sympathy to his widow.



Anti Aircraft Command

2 A.A. GROUP (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT
Aldershot

It is in spring when . . . 2 A.A. (M) Signal Regiment seriously thinks of its main annual commitments, namely, the installation of Gun Line Communications at No. 2 A.A. Practice Camp, Cleave, Cornwall.

In past years part of the Regiment's Line Troop has been detached for this mission, to remain at the Camp until the season closes. THE WIRE, *Vol. 4, No. 3, Page 116.*

Since Cleave Camp has always provided plenty of work, and hence valuable experience, it was decided this year that the Regiment's one and only Line Troop should proceed *en masse* to this beauty spot, complete with A.F.G. 1098 and all available linemen.

Like all A.A. practice camps, Cleave is situated on a desolate part of the Cornish coast but surrounded by some of the finest scenery.

Much of the open-air work was hindered by bad weather. It is felt that Cleave Camp ought to have a separate paragraph in the weather forecast, since it was always a cross between Lundy and Fair Isle.

The complete task was only finished a few hours before firing was due to commence. Minor setbacks and improvisation of equipment provided plenty of scope for bright ideas.

By the time we were ready to leave, everyone was quite conversant with such technical terms as " Computor " and " Predictor."

During these six weeks all linemen were, at one time or another, engaged on O/H, U/G and Field Cable construction; we could not have wished for a more varied programme.

With the experience gained and the many lessons learnt, the Troop feel they have now done something towards justifying their title of " Linemen."

By the time these notes are seen in print we shall have said goodbye to Second-Lieutenant B. C. Complin, O.C. 5 Line Troop, who goes on demob this month. Unlike most of our officers who seem to come and go with the seasons of the year, Mr. Complin has been with us for most of his Army Service. His loss will be felt throughout the whole Unit and especially by our Line Troop.

April was a fairly quiet month as far as the W.R.A.C. was concerned. We played only two netball matches, winning one and losing the other. We are not deterred by our loss, however, and when we have recovered from our bruises and sprained ankles we shall doubtless continue to fight on.

We had another successful Regimental weekend on the 28th/29th April, when we were once again joined by our friends in the Aldershot District Signal Office Troop.

Our plans for the Saturday afternoon were spoiled by extremely bad weather, but Lance-Corporal Sutton stepped nobly into the breach and arranged an excellent programme of indoor team games, etc., which kept us all amused, excited and very energetic until tea time.

On Sunday, the weather was kind to us and we had another church parade to St. George's Garrison Church. The girls all looked extremely smart and their appearance was commented on very favourably by all onlookers. After the service, the salute was taken by Lieutenant-Colonel Ellingsen, A.D.W.R.A.C., Aldershot District.

The parade on the Sunday was originally planned as a farewell to Captain Prosser, O.C. W.R.A.C., but it appeared too much for her as she promptly signed on again on the Monday morning.

We were very pleased to have Lieutenant Vaughan-Morgan with us on the parade, as our representative from 2 A.A. (M) Signal Squadron, T.A., at Reading.

Congratulations to Captain and Mrs. E. A. McLoughlin on the birth of a son.

5 A.A. GROUP (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT
Scarborough

The results of the Unit Trade Board held at this Headquarters at the end of March for the upgrading of Linemen, Switchboard Operators and Drivers were published in April. Congratulations to the successful candidates and better luck next time to those who failed to make the grade.

As reported in last month's notes, the Corps Band, who opened the season in Scarborough at Easter, gave a Band Concert to the Regiment the evening prior to returning to Catterick, which was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended. The Regiment extends its thanks to Captain J. L. Judd, M.B.E., Director of Music, and all members of the Corps Band for an excellent evening's entertainment.



S.Q.M.S. (F. of S.) and Mrs. L. Seymour

The marriage took place at St. Mark's Church, Newby, at the end of March, 1950, between S.Q.M.S. (F. of S.) Seymour and Sergeant Trewin, W.R.A.C. After the ceremony a reception was held at the Pavilion Hotel, Scarborough, and toasts were given to the Bride and Bridegroom. Shortly afterwards the happy couple left on their honeymoon. Congratulations and all good wishes for the future from all at Scarborough. The photograph of the Bride and Bridegroom was taken outside the Church just after the ceremony. S.Q.M.S. (F. of S.) Seymour is now in FARELF and Mrs. Seymour is serving in Northern Ireland.

The Regiment, especially the Line Maintenance, and Fire Command Troops, have been kept very busy just lately with various exercises, namely Goshawk, Sparrowhawk and Kittyhawk. These exercises have proved most useful and many lessons have been learned from participation in them.

The Inter-Troop Spring League Games Competition was completed this month, the winners being as follows:

Soccer: Headquarters " Q " Troop.

Hockey: Headquarters " A " Troop.

Indoor Games: Headquarters " Q " Troop.

Boxing: Line Maintenance Troop.

The Commanding Officer presented trophies to the winning Troop on a parade on Friday, 5th May, 1950, for the various competitions that have so far been concluded.

The Final of the Medal Cup Competition was played on the Scarborough Football Club Ground on the 12th April against our old rivals, The Butchers, which resulted in a win for The Butchers by 3 goals to 1. The first half produced some good football and at half-time the Regiment were leading by an opportunist goal scored by Lance-Corporal Carmichael. On the resumption the Butchers pressed hard and were soon on level terms. Unfortunately, the Regiment met with quite a number of casualties and the Butchers scored two more goals when we had only 10 men on the field. However, our opponents played good football, and fully deserved to win. A fortnight later on the 26th April, the Regiment met the Sparklers in a game to decide who would be the League Champions. This was played in very bad weather and on a rain-soaked and muddy ground and resulted in a win for the Sparklers by 6 goals to 1. For this game we had a depleted team owing to injuries and other causes and were no match for our opponents.

However, the Regiment has completed a very successful season being in the Cup Final and Runners-up in the League. All who have played are to be congratulated on the good show they have put up and here's hoping to go just one better next season.

4 A.A. GROUP (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT
Peninsula Barracks, Warrington, Lancs

The transition from the individual to the collective training season was accomplished in a Telegraph Exercise on 1st/2nd April. Over 600 messages were passed in the 24 hours the exercise lasted, and though at times D.S.O.s were appalled at the amount of uncleared traffic they learned that good procedure and steady operating soon reduced the pile. Another similar Exercise is to be held this month.

Squadrons are now on Troop Training, working up toward the Regimental Exercise to be held during Camp, which this year is at Felixstowe during the last fortnight in June. 14 Line Maintenance Troop is on a five weeks Training Camp at Stoneleigh, concentrating in MAL construction and the finer points of surmounting obstacles with a view to coaching the T.A. for their stars.

B A O R

H.Q. B.A.O.R. SIGNAL REGIMENT
Bad Oeynhausen

Now that April is upon us the Camp has become a hive of industry. The training of the winter months is to be put to the test next month when Exercise "Concord" is due to start. Relays of wireless vehicles have been visiting 22 Heavy Workshops in Hamburg, where the wireless equipment has been checked for serviceability.

23 and 24 Construction Troops have been out in the field for several weeks and have made an excellent job of preparing the site for the Tactical H.Q. under extreme difficulty. The weather instead of being kind to us as was hoped by all, did everything except give us a heat wave. Work at high pressure was carried on through a heavy snow storm followed by rain for several days.

After a week of this appalling weather the wireless vehicles tested the state of communications from the site. The heavy wireless vehicles were moved in through a sea of mud and still the rain poured down. After a week of this the wireless crews returned to camp appreciating the fact that they were not members of the Construction and Line Troops.

23 and 24 Construction Troops are still out there in the field preparing the way for "Concord" and if the results of the scheme are the same as the results of their labour then it will be a great success.

Sport. B.A.O.R. Royal Signals Inter-Unit Rugby Final took place at Bad Oeynhausen on 15th April, between H.Q. B.A.O.R. Signal Regiment and 2 Divisional Signal Regiment.

The game became fast from the start and the players and spectators soon forgot the cold drizzle which fell throughout the game.

The first score was made after 15 minutes, when Sergeant Graveling of H.Q. B.A.O.R. Signal Regiment, scored just on the touchline, and only just failed to convert when the ball hit the crossbar. Soon after this Lance-Corporal Eyres scored and touched down in the centre. Sergeant Graveling again took the kick and this time converted successfully.

At half-time the score was 8—0 for H.Q. B.A.O.R. Signal Regiment. Both sides were now beginning to feel the strain of this fast game where they had been playing all out throughout.

In the second half 2 Divisional Signal Regiment rallied somewhat, but failed to prevent Lance-Corporal Burgess from scoring a try which was again converted by Sergeant Graveling. Signalman Southward scored shortly afterwards and for the third time Sergeant Graveling converted. 2 Division made another great effort and the play remained in H.Q. Signals "25" for ten minutes when 2 Division managed to score with a forward rush.

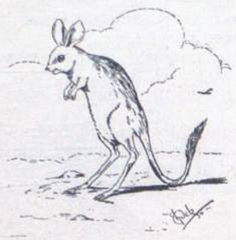
The final score was H.Q. B.A.O.R. Signal Regiment 18, 2 Divisional Signal Regiment 3, after a very hard game.

The game was mainly a three-quarters' one and the superior speed and team work of the H.Q. Signals team, especially the three-quarters won the day.

The championship shield and medals were presented to the winning team by Lieutenant-Colonel P. R. Hyde, O.B.E., Royal Signals, of S.X. Branch.

The winning team consisted of: Lieutenant Banks, Corporal Grant, Lance-Corporal Burgess, Lance-Corporal Innes, Signalman Gerrish, Second-Lieutenant Tucker, Lance-Corporal Williamson, Signalman Janney (forwards); Lance-Corporal Collett, Signalman Pinfield (halves); Driver Pooley, Signalman Southward, Lance-Corporal Eyres, Sergeant Graveling (three-quarters); Captain Ferguson (full-back).

7 ARMOURED DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT



Concentrated Troop training has been in progress this month, rising to a climax after Easter with a Divisional scheme.

Regimental Swimming and Water Polo teams are hoping to live up to the high standard set by the Regiment in 1948 and will begin practice next month.

Easter Sunday opened the speedway racing at Hanover, and 1 Squadron were well represented with three old hands, Corporal "Skid" Fookes, Lance-Corporal G. Broughton and Signalman "Ace" King. Six more are following in their footsteps. At the second meeting of the Hanomag Speedway we won the cup for the Best Pairs of the Meeting.

On the 26th April, we were defeated by 11 Air Formation Signal Regiment 3—1 at the Hanomag Stadium in the final of the B.A.O.R. Signals Football Competition. This lost us the shield which was won by this Regiment last year, when a high percentage of the team was from 16 Parachute Brigade Signal Squadron.

It was a hard-fought game and showed good play on both sides.

We should like to congratulate the Shooting Team in their victory against 2 Divisional Signal Regiment on 31st March.

"N" Troop have won their spurs this month by playing three out of their seven for the Royal Engineers football team. It is perhaps as well that the Troop is not larger or the Engineers themselves might not be represented.

Sergeant Spearman has been appointed Secretary of the newly-founded branch of the Old Comrades' Association and it is hoped that those leaving the Regiment will meet again under its auspices.

The main interest in 4 Squadron has been the move from Bad Lippspringe to Soltau. This brings them nearer Divisional H.Q. and the new accommodation, called Bournemouth Barracks, is admirable from every point of view, and O.R.s, housed in a very comfortable barrack block, are able to enjoy the amenities of an excellent Regimental Institute.

Work is by no means completed on the Barracks and one has to step warily after dark or go down to the ankle in wet concrete. Drivers say Hampton Court Maze would be easy after finding a way in and out of Barracks each day. R.E. Services have still a lot to do and the S.Q.M.S. is heard muttering darkly about some racking for his stores almost daily.

W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess, H.Q. 7 Armoured Brigade, to which 4 Squadron W.O.s and Senior N.C.O.s belong, started life in the new Mess premises with a Dance and Social Evening on Easter Sunday. It was voted a great success by all who attended.

BERLIN SIGNAL SQUADRON
B.A.O.R. 2

Winter is giving way to Summer; Football and Hockey are giving way to Cricket; Battle Dress to Shirt-sleeve Order, and to emphasise that this really is the season of change, even our khaki berets have had to give way to blue ones.

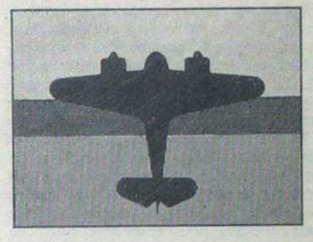
Now is the time to sum up the Winter season's sport—and a very successful season it has been. The Hockey team were the most spectacular. They won their way through to the final of the B.A.O.R. Minor Units Hockey Tournament with a semi-final win over H.Q. Transportation Units (R.E.) by 4—2. However, they lost in the Final to B.A.O.R. Transit and Release Centre by 2—1 after extra time. We like to think they were unlucky to lose, because, three minutes from time they were winning 1—0. Their opponents' goal in the last few minutes and the second in extra time decided the issue and our team had to be content with bronze plaques. Nevertheless, well done!

Although there were a few changes in the composition of the side during the course of the tournament, the following is a representative Squadron Team: Corporal Harper (goal); S.S.M. Rockall (right-back); Sergeant Wheldon (left-back); Signalman Fraser (right-half); Sergeant Crampton, captain (centre-half); Captain Beaumont (left-half); Major Sawers (outside-right); Corporal Briggs (inside-right); Sergeant Richardson (centre-forward); Signalman Jacobs (inside-left); Sergeant Coombes (outside-left). Reserve, Signalman Leadley.

The Football team finished up at the top of the Berlin Junior League (Spring Tournament), but had to be content with sharing first place with 247 Provost Company, Royal Military Police. In order to decide who should hold the shield for the next year a play-off is to be arranged. We earnestly hope they will win so that the shield can stand beside the Winter Tournament Shield in a place of honour. The team was less successful in the knock-out tournament. After defeating CRAOC (Berlin) by 4—1, they were knocked out in the semi-final by the Royal Horse Guards by 1—0 in a match which was a thriller.

The May Day Celebration time in Berlin might well have caused one of our little bits of excitement. For most of the Squadron, however, the excitement was confined to being C.B. for the day. We earnestly hope that the march on Berlin at Whitsun is no more exciting.

11 AIR FORMATION SIGNAL REGIMENT
Bückeburg



Football. Royal Signals (B.A.O.R.) Final. At Hindenburg Stadium, Hanover, on 26th April, the Regimental Team met 7 Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment in the final of the Royal Signals (B.A.O.R.) Football Competition. Both teams were fairly evenly matched and half-time came with no goals scored. After ten minutes play in the second half, 7 Armoured Division Signal Regiment scored the first goal which was equalised shortly afterwards by a long drive from Signalman Jones. The Regimental team continued to press hard and added two first class goals scored by Lance-Corporal Barnett and Craftsman Rowlands. The game finished with a win for 11 Air Formation Signal Regiment by three goals to one. The shield and medals were presented by the Chief Signal Officer, Brigadier A. E. Morrison, O.B.E.

20 LIAISON AND H.Q., BRITISH TROOPS

It is not often that one hears about Royal Signals personnel employed on Liaison Duties with the Army of a Foreign Power. 20 Liaison and H.Q. British Troops are serving with the Headquarters of the Belgian Corps in the Belgian Army of Occupation. The following notes, written by Corporal H. G. Mithinson, Royal Signals, after serving for two years with 20 Liaison and H.Q. British Troops, give an interesting account of his liaison duties.



11 Air Formation Signal Regiment Football Team. Winners, Royal Signals (B.A.O.R.) Inter-Unit Football Competition, 1950

"On coming to 20 Liaison and H.Q. British Troops, attached to Belgian Corps, I found myself transplanted from the everyday discipline of the British Army to the life of a pioneer in a foreign allied army. I say 'a pioneer' because when one realises that the Belgian Army had not long been re-formed, it made one feel that its formation was a personal problem from the highest to the lowest rank. Of course there were veterans of the old Belgian Army, but on the whole the Army was young, and with its youth came the eagerness to learn. Royal Signals personnel quite naturally had more opportunity to mix with the members of this new army, helping and giving advice where it was thought to be needed. The Belgians quickly recognise efficiency, and respect it. When a British soldier is placed in their ranks, they are confident of his ability without question. The soldier should be aware of this, and, therefore, must be constantly alert. A question unanswered regarding his work will result in his being in a very uncomfortable position. We have set a high standard and it must be maintained at all costs.

"Under the rank of Officer there are three duties performed by Signal personnel: cipher, signal office superintendent, and telephone exchange. The first is naturally confined to a closed room, with hardly any personal contact with the Belgians. Signal office superintendent has more opportunity. His job is mainly that of "go between" between British and Belgian forces; lost and delayed packages; messages coming over the teleprinter that might be unreadable by the Belgians; locations. Exchange duties really give that opportunity to mix, which seems the whole basis of liaison. Here one does the job of British supervisory element and that of exchange operator for about seven hours a day. He sits side by side with his allies and it is here that one gets to know the Belgians, who are very easy to converse with, always willing to help, just as one is with them. Above all, they are exceedingly polite.

"Let us hope that there is never another war, but if there is, we can be sure that the job we are doing, however small it may seem, will stand us in good stead and win the first battle—allied co-operation."

2 INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT

Hilden



April has been a month of intense work, and preparation for the great exercises on which we are about to embark. As a result, our sporting activities have been limited in extent, by comparison with other recent months. Everyone has, in fact, been working at full pitch throughout the last few weeks.

After the end of the current exercises, that is, on or about 17th May, we propose to start our Inter-Troop Athletic competition.

Dramatics. Over the past few months a new outlet for our energies has been found, in the Hilden Amateur Dramatic Society, which has gone from strength to strength, with our Regiment strongly represented. The Society's first ambitious effort was a production of Terence Rattigan's play, "Flare Path" and generally acclaimed a great success, Lieutenant-Colonel Bell and his wife giving a true-to-life performance as a Polish Flight-Lieutenant, and his English wife. The very effective flarepath itself, which plays an important part in the plot, was provided by courtesy of our TOT, and M. Troop. This play was followed by Noel Coward's "Hayfever," which maintained the high standard and brought further Royal Signals personnel into the fast-growing club. Already on the production line is a "one-act night" and another full-length piece, so further news of their activities may be expected from month to month.

Cricket. With the coming of the warmer weather, cricket is now a major outdoor activity. The turnout to net practice and "scratch" matches has been heartening and some enthusiastic and capable players have made their presence felt. An inter-Regimental knock-out tournament has been organised and will be under way as soon as we return from the May exercises.

The number of promising players within the Regiment will make the selection of the Regimental representative teams quite a difficult task. We played our first social game against 2 Divisional Provost Company on 29th April, 1950. This resulted in an easy victory for our team. We have entered for the 2 Infantry Division and B.A.O.R. Signals competitions and with the well-balanced teams that we may field we should at least set a good standard. We have a very busy season ahead of us.

Our "Curtain-raiser" match of the season between the Officers and the Warrant Officers and Sergeants on 19th April, resulted in a victory for the former and a grand day out for all concerned, including the spectators. Every member of each team was called upon to bowl and some surprises were experienced. The Officers' team wishes the Warrant Officers and Sergeants better luck in the return match which we hope to have later in the season.

Soccer. With the approach of May, and Cricket, Winter and Soccer came to a close with an Inter-Troop knock-out tournament. Although "L" Troop are now stationed a very long way away, the distance didn't deter them from travelling all the way to "G" Troop and beating them, only to return home and be beaten by the eventual winners, "J" Troop.

Pressure of work made it necessary for "K" Troop to play off their semi-final against "H" Troop in the morning, and then in the afternoon, take part in the Final. They deserve praise for their keenness and sportsmanship, in raising no objection to this arrangement.

Although "K" Troop took the field rather tired, they played very well indeed. "J" Troop played a grand game, their forwards doing particularly well. Both wingers excelled, and centre-half Barker played a real captain's game, with beautifully - placed passes, and fine defensive work. They ran out eventual winners by 4 goals to 0 and would have won in any case, even had "K" Troop not played in the morning.

The cup was presented to "J" Troop by Major Hancock, O.C. 2 Squadron.

SIGNAL TROOP, 58 MED. REGIMENT, R.A.

Hong Kong

April has seen the last of our National Servicemen depart for release. Out of the remaining 22 members of the Troop nearly all are M.T. personnel. However, with the aid of drivers, our small Signal Office (which serves two Regiments) manages to keep going.

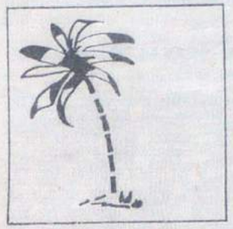
Lines, with only the N.C.O. in command left, are a headache, but, again, we carry on with the help of all and sundry.

Another problem is the satisfactory working of our W/T link between R.H.Q. and one of the Batteries which is up at the Chinese border on detachment. Lack of operators is the big snag, of course. With only two O.W.L.s to work the R.H.Q. set and Regimental signallers at the Battery H.Q. there has been much tearing of hair this end and no doubt many tears at the other end. What a blessing D.R.s and telephones are!

Our sporting activities are now very limited but a combined R.H.Q./Signal Troop football team is doing very well in the Inter-Troop Knock-out Competition, having reached the final.

Other Stations Overseas

SIGNALS IN WEST AFRICA



There are quite a number of readers who may, in the not too distant future, be potential "Old Coasters." For their benefit—and with no idea of starting a stampede—we thought a few notes on what you will find here might be useful.

First of all, due to our troopship *Empire Bure* having succumbed to old age last year, and civil passages being scarce, you will most likely arrive by charter plane—a Viking usually. The trip takes two or three days, with night stops at Gibraltar and Kano, or Gibraltar and Dakar, depending on the flight route. Your baggage entitlement is 66 lbs., but if you send M.F.O. boxes in advance they will arrive some six weeks and two months after dispatch. Incidentally, B.O.A.C. do the trip in 23 hours, and there are five mail planes per week. Your letter home costs 2½d.—a concessional rate.

The tour in West Africa, since 1st January this year, is three years, with three months' recuperative leave at home after your first 18 months. This makes a welcome break in your tour, and the time does pass quickly. The climate during the winter and spring is hot, and humid in certain parts, but by no means unbearable. Temperatures range round the 80-85 degree mark. But, for instance, in Accra there is a strong sea breeze which helps a lot. From about May the rains start and the atmosphere becomes much cooler—one even has to use a blanket at times. It does not rain continuously, but intermittent, heavy rain falls.

Ideas on West Africa are generally vague, so it may help you to know that there are three colonies to which, as Signals, you may be posted, the Gold Coast, Nigeria or Sierra Leone. There are at present no Signals in the Gambia. Usually all Signals land at Accra Airport, are given a week or two to look around, kit up and become acclimatised, and may be posted to another colony later. There are three independent Signal Squadrons stationed at Accra, Lagos and Freetown, the capitals of the three colonies respectively. Command H.Q. is at Accra. In the Gold Coast there are three outstations, in Nigeria four outstations, and in Sierra Leone one outstation, and, depending on your trade, you may land up as B.N.C.O. i/c one of these, although four of our outstations are run solely by Africans with an African N.C.O. in charge. There are no British ranks below lance-corporal in West Africa. If you land as a signalman, you are promoted lance-corporal at once and full corporal within a month. It is up to you whether you keep it or not.

What's it like? Well, the accommodation is usually reasonable war-time type, long, low bungalows with verandahs, separated into separate rooms, called "giddahs." Generally O.R.s get one each, or at times of stress two to a room. A personal servant A.O.R. is shared between two or three B.N.C.O.s.

I cannot go into much detail of the stations, but Accra is five miles from the Camp, has well-stocked shops owned by British, Greek, Syrian and Indian firms. It follows no set pattern, is growing rapidly and is a typical example of its type. You rarely visit it except for shopping or the cinemas. There are, of course, Mess dances and Camp cinema shows, so that a lot of entertainment can be found in Camp. Cost of living is high, but you do get extra allowances to meet it and most B.N.C.O.s can save out here.

The big attraction in Accra is the beach—you can't swim there, but the surfing is good. And there is a swimming pool if you want to swim. The beach is only about one mile from Camp. Despite being on the sea, Accra has no harbour—off-loading is done by surf boats. The Gold Coast port is Takoradi 170 miles away.

Lagos is similar, but being a main seaport is much larger. Nigeria itself is, of course, four times larger than the Gold Coast. The climate generally is stickier, but there are more forms of amusement—more cinemas, clubs, swimming, sailing, fishing, etc.

Freetown is, of course, a seaport and is widely built over a very hilly coastal district, a pleasant change after Lagos and Accra which are built on flat plain land. Freetown has a wet climate, but everyone there seems to like the place. It has some delightful swimming beaches, the usual cinema, club, etc.

The hours of work are roughly 0800-1330 hours each weekday with minor variations in each Colony and, of course, for certain trades shift work. You work hard—our establishment does not allow of Weary Willies, especially with short hours of work. The climate is healthy enough if you look after yourself—the old story of the "White Man's Grave" died a long time ago. There is plenty of sport and Signals are well to the fore.

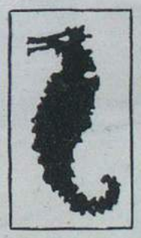
The African by and large is a cheerful type, and very friendly once he knows you. Most of the Infantry Troops are Hausa from the Northern Territories, but the technical services accept mainly Coast "boys" because of their higher educational standards. Some of the old timers are Burma campaign men, of course, and rightly very proud of the fact. All African troops speak English—they are very quick at languages. Many of them are from French Territory and speak French as well. All this in addition to their own tribal dialect.

I think this will give you some idea of conditions out here. Next time I'll tell you about West Africa from the family aspect.

I trust I have not painted too rosy a picture. As in all countries some people like it, some don't. But by and large it compares favourably with other overseas postings, and it is observed that prior to the West African tour being extended to three years, that is, when you only had to do 18 months out here, a large number of officers and B.N.C.O.s volunteered for a second tour of 18 months.

CARIBBEAN AREA SIGNAL SQUADRON

Kingston, Jamaica



The highlight of the month was the Royal Signals Dance, which was attended by more than 300 people and held at the Silver Slipper Club, Jamaica, on Saturday, 25th March, 1950. The dance, we can fairly say, was a success in every way and reflected great credit on the Dance Committee and helpers.

Our Troop Notes this month, whilst brief, consist mainly of congratulations, welcomes or goodbyes.

Signals H.Q. Welcome to Mrs. Holdsworth (wife of the S.Q.M.S.), who arrived in Jamaica recently per the s.s. *Cavina.*

Op Troop. Another "hello" to the wives of Sergeant Mewett and Corporal Garner. Mrs. Garner is at present way up in the mountains at Newcastle, enjoying a climate similar to that in the homeland.

We of Operating Troop have little outstanding to report. Belize has received the close surveillance of the Foreman of Signals and one of the Coventry Climax generators has been replaced. These ex-operators of the Troop will be interested to note the hand back of the *Catania* and *El*

Alamein to the Americans. Both vessels were, of course, lend-lease!

Sport. In the Curphey Cup we went down fighting to a stronger and better side—The Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers Second XI.

We have not fared very well in the Command Hockey League. After defeating the Inniskillings third XI 3—1, we narrowly lost to the Royal Engineers, and were decisively beaten by British Overseas Airways and the Inniskillings first XI, both strong teams. We look forward to better fortune in the knock-out competition which starts in the near future.

MALTA SIGNAL SQUADRON

The Unit were very pleased to welcome Major-General W. O. Bowen, C.B., C.B.E., on his first visit to Malta as Chief Signal Officer, M.E.L.F., on 28th January.

On 20th March, the General Officer Commanding Malta Garrison, Major-General G. W. E. Heath, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., carried out the annual administration inspection of the Unit, which included a ceremonial parade on Floriana Parade Ground. The Unit wore their blue berets for the first time.

George Cross Parade. Each year since 1942, the George Cross presented by His Majesty the King to the people of Malta is paraded with due ceremony on the Palace Square, Valetta. For the first time the Unit was honoured by providing part of the guard mounted over the George Cross, the men for this guard being selected from the Maltese Signal Troop.

The Unit athletic meeting was held again this year on the Marsa Ground and although there were no starting results or records broken, the meeting provided a very enjoyable afternoon's entertainment.

Signalmen Cox and Newnes have represented the Army in Malta in representative boxing matches, including matches against the R.A.F. (Malta) and the 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards, and to date have won more fights than they have lost.

Signalman Hallam did very well to be included in the Army team in the Inter-Services Cross-Country Competition coming in 15th. The Unit team were third in the Army Cross-Country Competition being beaten by 73 H.A.A. Regiment and 36 H.A.A. Regiment, R.A., both very much larger units.

Captain Donaldson won for the second time running the Malta Garrison Stroke Play Tournament (36 holes).

1 INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT
Tripoli

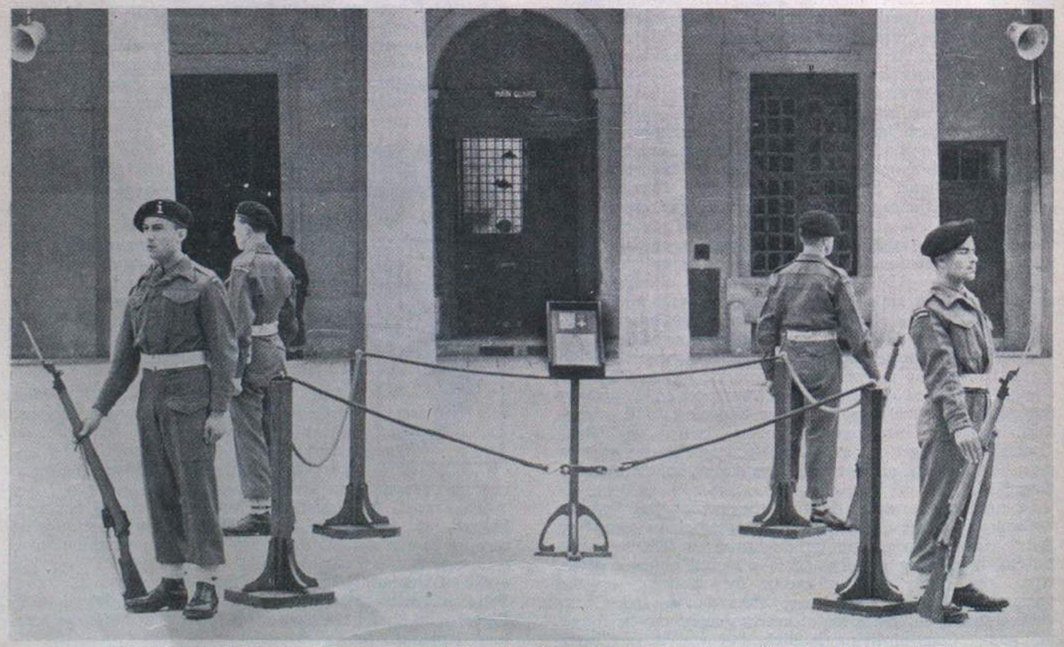
April has been a month of inspections and visits. The season was opened immediately after Easter by Lieutenant-General G. W. E. J. Erskine, C.B., D.S.O., G.O.C., B.T.E., who honoured us with a short visit. Then a few days later we had the pleasure of entertaining Major-General W. O. Bowen, C.B., O.B.E., C.S.O., M.E.L.F., who came to spend four days in Tripoli. Major-General Bowen arrived by air on Sunday, 16th April, just in time to see the second half of a very exciting Speedway match in which our team just managed to beat the local Italian team by one point. On the Monday the C.S.O. saw the Unit on parade and inspected the barracks. From then on we did not see as much of him as we should have liked as he had to turn his attention to Tripolitania Signal Squadron and to our own "E" Troop out at Homs. The General did, however, find time to attend a party in his honour in the Sergeants' Mess and another in the Officers' Mess and was able to meet all the Officers and Sergeants of the Regiment and their wives.

We reluctantly said goodbye to General Bowen on the Thursday, and immediately turned our attention to preparing for our annual Administrative Inspection by the C.R.A., Brigadier R. G. S. Hobbs, D.S.O., O.B.E. This last inspection was held at the end of April, and the C.R.A. seemed very pleased with all he saw. The inspection over, the Regiment has settled down to its summer routine and the start of the individual training season.

We were particularly pleased to have been able to show General Bowen a Speedway Match with our own team competing. Speedway is a new venture for Tripoli: it started with a few friendly meetings on a sand track outside Tripoli, the leading spirits being this Regiment and the 1st Battalion, Grenadier Guards. Last winter a cinder track was built on the sea front very close to our Barracks, and some 50 motor-cycles were bought by welfare and distributed to Units. There are now eight teams, including one Italian civilian team. All the teams have lurid names, such as Wombats, Cobras, and Bulldogs; and there is racing every Sunday afternoon. "M" Troop are now busy installing floodlights, and as the weather gets hotter we hope to have the meetings on Sunday evenings.

Our own team, the Meteors, have so far raced twice on the new track. On the first occasion we were lucky to beat the Black Devils, the local Italian team, by one point. This was the very exciting match which Major-General Bowen watched; and the result was in doubt right up to the last race. By the time of the second match our team had lost S.Q.M.S. Woods, who had pulled a muscle in a nasty spill during the first match, and Sergeant Ball, who had gone home on release, and we had to bring in some new talent to produce our full team of eight riders required by the rules.

The second match was against the Hellcats, our old rivals the Grenadier Guards. We started well and were leading on points up to the 5th race, but a chapter of accidents in the next three heats lost us this lead and we finally lost by 34 points to 40. Nevertheless, it was an exciting meeting and we stood a good chance of winning right up to the last heat. Sergeant Allen, the team captain established a new track record of 63 seconds in heat 2, which was promptly broken in the following heat by a Hellcat rider with a time of 62.7. Lance-Corporal Bonner, who was riding very well, equalled this new track record in a later heat. Our new riders did very well, Lance-Corporal Tilson, of Trip Signals showing particular promise, and we have little doubt that after a bit more practice we will be able to reverse the result of this last match.



Guard from Maltese Signal Troop mounted over the George Cross Palace Square, Valetta, 15th April, 1950

21 FIRE COMMAND SIGNAL TROOP, 27 A.A. REGIMENT
Hong Kong

It never rains but it pours, fortunately just in time, as a few days ago the reservoirs were alarmingly low and the prospect of shaving in light ale was imminent. However, the crisis has been averted and at least the shortage proved to us how much we take our Public Utilities for granted.

On the Troop achievements scale, one item is outstanding, namely, the rewiring of the A.A.O.R.

When we arrived here everything was in short supply and in setting up the A.A.O.R. we had to manage as best we could—with D8 and odd lengths of what P.V.C. we could scrounge. Although it worked we were never satisfied with it as a "showpiece" and fault finding was never a straightforward job (as the Hong Kong Signal Squadron Test Clerks well know!), coupled with the fact that catching one's foot in a length of D8 is never the best way for an A.A.D.C. to start his tour of duty. The O.C. went scrounging and fortunately received a sympathetic hearing from the "powers that be" or rather "the powers that have the cable," and after a noble effort by Lance-Corporal Waudby and Signalman Crimes we have had the tools and duly finished the job.

The annual Regimental Sports were held at Sookunpoo last week and the Troop assisted R.H.Q. up to Battery strength and entered a team. Corporal Shelley did well to be placed in the 100 yards.

Two excellent opportunities are now available for seeing "the mystic East"—or the East we would normally have missed (sorry). The Navy have offered to take some of us landlubbers on their Japanese cruises and we are looking forward to our allocation and some, I believe, have already started buying "Kwells." Also, McKinnon and Mackenzie, the shipping agents, have offered round trips on the ships to Japan at a very reduced rate and this is proving extremely popular indeed.

Next week all the operators start their six weeks' course covering the syllabus for O.W.L.s and A.A. Signal Tactics. We hope at the end of this to get rid of some of the "N.F.Q." tags hanging on to the nominal roll.

Practice firing is due to take place in a few weeks' time and we are eagerly awaiting the details for the Safety Launch parties, involving quite a pleasant day's outing with the Navy.

40 INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT
Hong Kong



Having had a very mild "winter," we were looking forward to Easter and its attendant holiday with fine weather. But it was not to be. Rain began to fall on Good Friday (eliminating our holiday attractions—"A Day at Margit," etc.) and has continued, along with the fog of the past fortnight. Almost looks as if we were in Catterick. However, on Easter Monday it cleared up in the evening, and a stage was hastily improvised by R.S.M. McDonald for a show put on by a party of Chinese conjurers and acrobats. Although poorly dressed and working with the minimum of equipment, they kept us guessing from beginning to end, and drew rounds of applause for their acrobatics—especially the incredible contortions of a little girl of about five.

In the soccer field we were knocked out of the Army knock-out competition by the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, two goals to one in the second round, and by the same score in the Divisional knock-out by the Middlesex Regiment. However, in the athletic field we have done better. Both Driver Bayliss and Lance-Corporal Gardner were placed in the Hop, Step and Jump, and Long Jump, respectively, in the Army Championships, and Corporal Moynan won both events, his distances being 43ft. 9in. for the H. S. and J. and 21ft. 10in. for the Long Jump, both very creditable performances.

The P.R.I. has at last purchased a 16mm. projector so that we are now quite independent of the A.K.C. and make our own provision of films from the R.K.O., Eagle-Lion, and Gaumont British agencies out here. The only difficulty is a suitable space as an auditorium. The swimming pool (empty) makes a fine open air theatre until it rains, but now with the advent of Phase II (the erection of permanent buildings in the camp) we shall be able to use the N.A.A.F.I. and laugh at the weather.

Very welcome leave schemes are afoot—a fortnight's trip to Japan is the latest development; to leave camps provided by the Australians.

HONG KONG SIGNAL SQUADRON

This month has seen the departure to U.K. of Major (TOM) H. V. Wattley, B.E.M. Major and Mrs. Wattley will be missed by all in the Squadron, particularly the married members. We take this opportunity of wishing them both every happiness, and good luck for the future.

The rains—and thunderstorms—have started again, and the water situation has improved. Not that D.R.s or line-

men really appreciate rain even though the weather may be warm. The big snag of this weather is the uncertainty of mail arrival, and the Signal Office is generally deluged with questions about it. The mail which was scheduled last week was delayed 48 hours, and again delayed 48 hours, and again delayed 48 hours, etc., *ad infinitum*.

The promised new Signal Office is at last making an appearance, and already the external walls are up. It is destined to be the last word in Signal Offices having air conditioning and strip lighting. Further details may be read later in these notes.

W.R.A.C. The first day of April by no means found the W.R.A.C. element napping. Private "Nan" Wylie, one of our switchboard operators, married Sergeant Cowley, 3 Commando Brigade, Royal Marines, at St. Andrew's Church, Kowloon. After the ceremony the happy couple were ably towed by members of the Commando Brigade, in a jeep gaily festooned with many flags of varying sizes and colour, to Whitfield Barracks where their reception was held in the W.O.s and Sergeants' Mess. Luck must certainly be with them. They sail for home together this month on the "Halladale." Now we wonder how they managed that! ! !

W.R.A.C. The "patience of a saint" is more than necessary in the exchange these days. The "powers that be" have decided to erect a new Signal Office adjoining the exchange. What with irate subscribers, coolies putting up walls and knocking down old ones, and picks taking a short cut through the cables, the operators are longing for June when the job is completed and peace is once more restored. Who says the gentle sex can't take it?

Sport, Soccer. Early in April (was it the 1st?) a soccer match between Officers, W.O.s and Sergeants *v.* the Rest was organised. To assist, the W.R.A.C. were invited to play—and they did. On the nominated day, 22 stalwarts took the field of Battle. Little shall be told of the game except the W.R.A.C. scored two goals, and after playing for 15 minutes in the second half, the game was declared null and void, i.e., when the men had had enough. Everyone immediately sprinted for the refreshments thoughtfully provided by the Sergeants' Mess.

Even in consuming shandy the W.R.A.C. proved to be on form.

Hockey. One match this month resulted in a win. The Telecoms Section of H.M.S. *Triumph* gave us a hard and fast game which we enjoyed but emerged the victors by one goal. We hope that we shall have another game with that team soon.

GURKHA SIGNAL TRAINING AND HOLDING WING

Kuala Lumpur

Evidently we have been heard of in the United Kingdom, because we have had four British N.C.O.s arrive from home, who volunteered to come to the Unit whilst in Catterick.

The first intake of Gurkha ex-boys arrived in the Unit this month. They number 19, and from the little one has seen of them in this short period, the Gurkha Boys' Company attached to 1/6 Gurkha Rifles has certainly made a very good job of this batch, and we are pleased to have them.

The first O.W.L. section is in progress of taking a Class III Trade Test, and so far 50 per cent. are through. This is very good work when one considers the fact that they are three months ahead of time. Very few of this section were ex-Infantry signallers, and six of them are late 1948 recruits from rifle battalions, average age 18 and original educational background nil.

All the D.R.s can now get about town either on motor cycles or jeeps, and the linemen are making an excellent job of wiring up a signal office and laying all types of cable routes from it, through and around the camp.

Now that we are seeing their training applied practically we are more than ever confident that they can, and will, make very good Signal tradesmen and will certainly be an asset to the Corps.

On Easter Saturday the B.O.R.'s Club threw a very enjoyable party, to which were invited the officers, W.O.s and sergeants. Talent abounds, and our Quartermaster's repertoire has more variety than the vocabulary of Ordnance Stores.

Sport. We have played a few football league matches, the results being:—

P	W	D	L
5	1	nil	4

Not too good, but we seem to suffer a lot of casualties; however, the season has only just started.

Recently the Unit was presented with "Soft Ball" equipment, and we are now clearing some waste ground to provide a "Diamond." The game is gaining favour in Kuala Lumpur, due mainly to the enthusiasm of the American Consulate staff. They no doubt miss baseball and find our rugby and soccer either slow or "soft"! We hope to show them that we can play their "new-fangled" games too—and beat 'em. "Cor stone the crows"! Rounders, that's all it is.

Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess. Towards the latter end of last month a social evening was held in the Mess, as a farewell to four members homeward bound. The three Signals members concerned were Sergeants R. Jones, T. Mewes, and R. Whittington, who have been with the Unit from the early days of its formation. The fourth was our "Round the Bend" muscleman, S.S.M. (I) Monks (A.P.T.C.), whose work in the Unit was well appreciated and certainly showed good results.

We take this opportunity of wishing them all a Gurkha Signals' Farewell; we assure them their company will be missed at our usual Sunday curry tiffins and hope they soon find a comfortable corner in some Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess at home.

Our standard of badminton has certainly improved, and quite a few of the "Tiger" enthusiasts with well-developed forearms and elbows have decided to change their favourite pastime to this more vigorous but less alcoholic sport.

Our local Education Officer has started a Gurkhali class, comprising a majority of Mess members. We wish them the best of luck and would appreciate them holding their conversation practices anywhere but in the Mess, because it is becoming quite a usual occurrence to hear of our Gurkha sergeants speaking Gurkhali with a Manchester accent.

Our evenings are often brightened by a pukka display team show by Sergeant "Bujho" Jones, who gives us quite a few thrills both in yarns and actual feats on a civvy motor bike. I think he has convinced all members that the Royal Signals Display Team will have a difficult time finding a replacement for him.

2 GUARDS BRIGADE SIGNAL SQUADRON

Kuala Lumpur

The Squadron is still fully employed with two Brigade's worth of signal commitments to provide, but luckily a number of badly needed operator reinforcements arrived at the end of March, and now we have at least one operator with each battalion. However, this leaves us thin on the ground in camp, and those who are not on duty are seized upon by S.S.M. Fox to "clear up the bashas." This is because a storm on Easter Sunday night blew down two of the attap roofs under which our tents were pitched. These roofs, a kind of palm thatch on a frame of stout poles, were built for an exhibition a few years ago and kept the sun off the tents, making them cooler than they would be otherwise. However, although their days were numbered, nature beat us to it, and they were blown down. Luckily, not one of the 36 men sleeping underneath was badly hurt, although the material damage was considerable, both by

breakage and from the rain. New tents have arrived, and soon we shall have the camp repaired again.

Our Soccer team has been handicapped by the absence of players on detachment, and by the rain, which has a bad habit of starting at about half-past four in the afternoon. So far this season we have played four matches, of which we have won two, drawn one, and lost one. Signalman Senior is to be congratulated on being chosen to play for the Combined Services Malaya team, but, unfortunately, is on detachment and cannot be spared at present. When this operation is over we he will be able to play for them for the rest of the season.

MALAYA DISTRICT SIGNAL REGIMENT

Kuala Lumpur



R.H.Q. and No. 1 Squadron, Kuala Lumpur. The main item of interest this month was our Regimental Rifle Meeting on the Batu Caves Range.

Nearly 80 competed and a considerable number attended as spectators and butt markers. A very enjoyable day although some of us got badly burnt by the sun. A cold lunch was provided on the range and N.A.A.F.I. attended with beer and soft drinks.

We were very pleased that 3 and 4 Squadrons were able to send a team and must congratulate 4 Squadron in winning the Individual Sten Competition and providing the runner-up.

Unfortunately, due to illness, our C.O. was unable to attend. Mrs. Heap was to have presented the prizes.

The results were as follows:—

Winning team, Signal Office "B," cup. Champion shot, rifle, Signalman Buckland, engraved tankard. Runner-up, rifle, Corporal Bradshaw, tankard. Individual Sten, Corporal Hutchinson, engraved tankard. Runner-up, Lance-Corporal Chee, tankard. Officers, revolver, Captain Walsh, engraved tankard. Runner-up, Captain Fuller, tankard.

No. 2 Squadron, Taiping. Anti-Bandit Month continued to tax our resources and culminated in Operation "Carp" which is still continuing, involving the use of three Battalions, all of which are being supplied by air. Tactical Headquarters have gone out together with a Royal Signals element. Security prevents the publication to date of any details of this operation, but it is hoped that an account can be given in the next month's notes.

Members of this Squadron are now wearing the General Service Medal awarded for services in Malaya.

Those readers of these notes who have wondered just where and what our station looks like may be interested in the following details.

Taiping is situated midway between the towns of Ipoh and Penang and has a population of some 45,000, predominantly Chinese. As in most parts of Malaya, tin and rubber are the main industries. There are several large tin dredges in and around the area, and innumerable rubber plantations. The European population numbers some 200, excluding the Army, and the station is one of the best in Malaya from the point of view of civilian-Army co-operation. There are three cinemas in town showing quite a large proportion of British and American films. The inevitable cafes and restaurants, not to mention Coronation Park, (a type of amusement park).

Headquarters, North Malaya Sub-District is located at Kamunting, a small village some four miles out of town. Here an Army cantonment is growing. To date, British Other Ranks Married Quarters and a large N.A.A.F.I. have been built. We are promised new bathhouse facilities, an Army Kinema, Corporation Cinema and improvements to living quarters in due course.

Swimming is always popular in this climate, and a newly-constructed pool is now available for use by the military. The aim is ultimately to have a pool of our own at Kamunting.

Taiping is generally conceded to be cooler than most places owing to its constant heavy rain. At times it is possible to say, "Oh, it's raining, must be four o'clock!"

Hours are long and work is arduous in 2 Squadron owing to manpower shortage and constant operations, but it is surprising how many men are anxious to return to Taiping after service in other stations, and generally speaking, we consider there are many worse places.

No. 3 Squadron, Seremban. The past month has been very quiet in 3 Squadron with little of note taking place. With the football season now in full swing, the squadron is gratified to find that Sergeant Wilson has been "Capped" for the Army team in Malaya, while Lance-Corporal Howard is a regular player with the H.Q. South Maldist Senior Team.

No. 4 Squadron, Temerloh. There is little of note this month. The bandits had the effrontery to instigate two incidents within a hundred yards of the camp, including planting a flag in the middle of the road, but the only effect it had was to make "Signals" leave their beds quicker than the S.S.M. had ever dreamt possible.

We are very happy to be able to announce that Lance-Corporal Lyons, who has been with the Squadron for some time now, and who was very seriously wounded in action at the beginning of the month, is now progressing very satisfactorily indeed. All ranks wish him a complete and speedy return to health.

On the sports side, we are still hampered by the lack of adequate pitches, although now we have completed two new badminton courts and a basketball pitch inside the camp itself.

G.H.Q. SIGNAL REGIMENT, FARELF

Singapore

The Rugby and hockey seasons have just finished, and we can look back with pride on some successes in each case.

In the final of the FARELF Boxing Championship, Corporal Morehouse of the Army Wireless Chain Squadron lost on points in the final of the middle-weight.

The Easter period being over, the 3rd British Junior N.C.O.'s Drill and Duties Course has concluded, the Regiment is now commencing the comparatively quiet life of firing on the range. An athletic meeting is in the offing in the G.H.Q. Branch League. The Squadron Association football teams have been vieing with each other for the honour of holding up the rest, but the situation has eased somewhat lately.

The Army Wireless Chain Squadron are once again leading the other two Squadrons, and at the time of writing are second in the league.

The Regimental team have so far won two and drawn one in the Singapore Amateur Football Junior "A" League, and won one, drawn one and lost one in the Major Army League.

The weather so far has been too wet for cricket.

19 AIR FORMATION SIGNAL REGIMENT

Changi, Singapore

March has been a quiet month for the Regiment, and as a result we have managed to complete most of the leave entitlements before the end of the year.

A good show in the boxing ring was given by Sergeant Wood. In the District Championships, fighting in the light class, he went through to the finals, when he was beaten by Sergeant (Instructor) Lowe, of the A.P.T.C. FARELF. Sergeant Wood was selected to represent Singa-

pore in the FARELF Championship as a feather-weight and later, for the Army, in the Inter-Services.

Congratulations to Captain Nix on winning the R.A.F. Yacht Club quarterly trophy and also two spoons.

The event of the month has been the annual range firing. Both rifle and sten were fired, and although odd lizards and flies sunning themselves on the walls flanking the butts were given several shocks, and snakes, beetles and snails received brutal treatment immediately in front of the firing point, it was found, on counting, that no fingers or toes were missing.

SINGAPORE DISTRICT SIGNAL REGIMENT

About a year ago District H.Q. devised a scheme whereby every troopship coming into Singapore would be looked after by a Regiment. We were allotted the old lady H.T. *Lancashire*.

Unfortunately for both of us she has always, until this Easter, passed through rapidly on route to Hong Kong. However, in spite of this a friendship sprang up between us and we were able to entertain a certain number of Officers and crew each time she passed through.

This Easter she was in harbour for about five days and the opportunity was taken to clinch our friendship.

On Easter Saturday a football match was played on a waterlogged pitch, and the ship being more used to watery conditions, won and thus became the first holders of the Challenge Cup.

In the evening the Warrant Officers and Sergeants were at home to the whole ship's company. This was a most successful party and really was the beginning of the clinching of our friendship.

On Easter Sunday the ship was at home to the Regiment, and a party of Officers, Warrant Officers, Sergeants and men, plus wives and children, went out to the ship. We took this opportunity to bind for ever our affiliation and friendship to the *Lancashire* in a small, but impressive, ceremony.

The crew and ourselves filled the Port side of "A" Deck forward, and on the Starboard side was formed up a Guard of Honour consisting of Malays wearing their colourful Regimental Mufti. They looked very smart and were in all respects a credit to the Corps.

After the Master of the *Lancashire*, Captain Jeffries, accompanied by the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel P. G. Goodeve Docker, had inspected the Guard of Honour, the final binding together of our friendship took place, which was the presentation to the ship of our Corps Crest with a suitable inscription below. After Captain Jeffries had replied to the C.O.'s speech and accepted the plaque on behalf of the ship, he then presented to the Regiment a shield carrying the Bibby Line Crest. This shield had been made by one of the ship's officers.

The presentations having been completed, the ship was then thrown open to us to go where we liked. Everybody was impressed with the space and comfort that now prevails for the troops; she now carries 901 troops instead of 1,900 of pre-war days. The bridge was another source of interest, especially to the children, who gave a sing-song over the Tannoy!

After a very good lunch with our hosts, we had to return to dry land, having had a day that will live in the memory of this Regiment and our ship, the *Lancashire*.

The Singapore District Boxing Championships were held in February.

Three of our best boxers were unfit to fight, but those few who were left in the competition gave a good account of themselves.

Signalman Birch became our only district champion by winning the middle-weight title. Lance-Corporal Hassan was defeated in the final of the flyweight. The latter, Lance-Corporal Hassan, was chosen to represent the Army in the Inter-Services Competition, and won his fight, becoming Inter-Services Flyweight Champion of Singapore.

Territorial Army

51 (H) INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

Aberdeen

The Unveiling of the War Memorial (1914-18 *and* 1939-45)

Major-General C. W. Fladgate, C.B.E., A.D.C., chairman of the Royal Signals Association, very kindly agreed to come up and unveil the Memorial "In memory of all Ranks of the 51st (H) Divisional Signals, who gave their lives in the two World Wars—1914-18 and 1939-45." The ceremony took place in the Regimental Drill Hall on Sunday, 30th April.

Colonel E. Birnie Reid, O.B.E., T.D., chairman of the Aberdeen Branch, Royal Signals Association, in his opening remarks, spoke of our debt to the relatives of the fallen. He told of the care that had been taken to make the list of names on the Memorial as complete and accurate as possible. The work was carried out by a committee under the chairmanship of Lieutenant-Colonel W. H. Arnold. He then asked General Fladgate to unveil the memorial.

The Rev. J. McIlwraith, Moderator of the Aberdeen Presbytery, then dedicated the memorial. This was followed by the Last Post, blown by a Bugler from the 4/7th Battalion Gordon Highlanders, T.A. The Pipers of the Regiment then played a lament. The Bugler followed with "Reveille," and all present then sang the 23rd Psalm. Colonel Arnold then handed over the memorial to the Lord Provost of Aberdeen, who is President of the City of Aberdeen Territorial and Air Forces Association. The Lord Provost handed the memorial into the safe keeping of Lieutenant-Colonel T. P. E. Murray, O.B.E., T.D., Commanding Officer.

The placing of a wreath and the National Anthem finished what, to all present, had been an impressive ceremony.

The ceremony was watched by relatives of the fallen and present members of the Unit, also by members of the Royal Signals Association. No. 1 Squadron supplied the Guard of Honour, under the command of Lieutenant J. H. Moonie, M.M. The Squadron also carried out the various duties which helped to make the day the success that it was.

No. 2 Squadron had taken the opportunity afforded by a Squadron Week-end Exercise to come up from Stirling to be present. Among those attending were a large number of Old Comrades from the First World War, including Major Sutherland, Captain A. McK. Johnston, Captain C. M. McEwing and Mr. G. Anderson. Past Commanding Officers and ex-Officers of the Regiment included Lieutenant-Colonel E. G. McHutcheon, O.B.E., T.D., Lieutenant-Colonel J. Cochran, O.B.E., T.D., Lieutenant-Colonel J. Grey, O.B.E. T.D., Major A. Fraser, M.B.E., M.C., Major F. Wright, Captain D. J. Bogie and Captain W. G. Leburn. We were also pleased to see Colonel H. J. Butchart, D.S.O., and Major R. N. Christie from the Aberdeen City T. & A.F. Association. The presence of Lieutenant-Colonel P. Jeffrey, O.B.E., T.D., Commanding 117 Field Engineer Regiment, T.A., reminded us, as ever, of our association with the Sappers.

Thus ended three years of hard work that has given our Drill Hall an ever-present reminder of the pride we have for and the debt we owe to those who have been before us in the Regiment, and have given their lives for their country.

* * *

The heartfelt sympathy of all ranks is accorded to Lieutenant and Mrs. J. H. Moonie in their loss, in an accident, of their son Douglas.

ARMY PHANTOM SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A. (The Princess Louise's Kensington Regiment)

Hammersmith

Our weekend exercise on 15th/16th April taught everyone quite a few useful tips, and great benefit was gained from a scheme under which Phantom Patrols working in the Bisley area, worked to Regimental Headquarters on Hatfield Heath. One Patrol, under Lieutenant D. A. W. Clark were as far afield as Birmingham as a special test. The Bisley party were the guests of the Middlesex Rifle Club, and despite rather dull weather the exercise was very popular with all ranks.

Miniature Range shooting is regaining popularity with the approach of the competition season, and soon the Regiment will begin to train teams in real earnest in order to maintain our shooting reputation among T.A. Units.

Basketball is a very popular part of the Unit's "off parade" activities and Captain P. G. Bennett (Regimental Sports Officer) is to be congratulated on the progress made in this direction. We hope next autumn to run a Regimental Soccer Team, and if support is forthcoming, to enter in local and inter-Unit Leagues.

Soon the Regiment will receive the first intake of National Service men, and all concerned with their reception and training are preparing with great enthusiasm and interest. Our aim will be to make these youngsters feel as welcome and as much "at home" as is possible, and to any who may read these notes, we extend a premature welcome and look forward to having them with us in the near future. To any National Service man who may wish to know more of our role and activities, a note to the Adjutant will bring you all the details of a most interesting and unique branch of the Corps. Combining the traditions of Royal Signals, Princess Louise's Kensingtons, and the wartime "Phantom," we claim to offer something a little out of the ordinary, but including , of course, the usual Signals trades, methods and equipment.

1/20 (SM) ARMY SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

Birmingham

We have a Field Security Section attached to this Regiment. If they keep their secrets as closely as our Squadrons guard their activities then they will prove to be a very good F.S. Section indeed. I am too busy to run after them and ask questions, but I know that our Signals are very active. One of these days, evenings rather, I shall take time off to poke my nose into everyone's business. I have invited all and sundry to supply me with material for Unit notes. What do I get? You are quite right, though I should have put it in more refined language myself!

Congratulations to Corporal P. M. Vane on the result of his interview with the W.O.S.B. "Recommended for T.A. Commission." Good show.

Some people are born lucky, some are single from choice, and others get themselves sent to B.A.O.R. for a course on the treatment of National Service men arriving in the T.A. Sergeant Donald Davies, who should by rights be holding the fort at 3 Squadron H.Q., Harborne, is at this very moment in Germany, picking up useful tips. I wonder if there are any courses going on at Venice or Sorrento?

We hope to give you news of progress in the matter of a Camp site on the outskirts of Coventry very soon. It is proposed to re-form No. 1 Squadron there. Our fear is that they will recruit too rapidly from the large pool of ex-Signals in that area, so that we in Birmingham may find the tail wagging the dog. Maybe it will turn out to be pride instead of fear. Up Coventry!

With a soft hissing sound the fierce Malayan sun sank in blood red splendour in a—in a—

Uncle Alf: Blaze of glory?

Me: No. That's been said. In a welter of foam.

Uncle Alf: Where do you get this foam nonsense?

Me: You are bound to get foam when the sun—Oh, scrub round it.

Our erstwhile Adjutant, Captain T. W. Baynes strangled a couple of bandits with one hand and refilled his fountain pen with the other. He puts his cup of tea in the "Out" tray and starts to write. He sends greetings to all the old originals of 1/20 Army Signals and trusts that they find life as interesting in Acocks Green and Deritend as he finds it in Singapore. He rings for another cup of tea and shoots another bandit while he waits. Look out for our next thrilling episode. And see if you get one.

Have you got your blue beret yet? Don't say I never tip you off.

BARLEUX

44 (H.C.) INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

Stamford Brook, W.6

During the month of April, no less than three really first-class exercises were held.

The first was run by Regimental Headquarters in the "G" Troop area and took the most novel form.

The Crawley and Horsham Hunt invited us to provide the communications for their point-to-point meeting. We organised a weekend exercise which would give the operators plenty of practice and at the same time give all who attended an opportunity of enjoying one of the pleasantest sporting events of English country life. The Local Command Vehicles which we took down gave those not actually operating the sets a grandstand view of the racing.

When the meeting was over we carried our "scheme" on to the Downs where we substituted, for the peaceful atmosphere of the sporting meeting, the fiercest of battles.

If the members of the Hunt remember us for our services, we shall certainly remember them for giving us the opportunity of an "exercise" that was out of the ordinary.

The second exercise was run by No. 3 Squadron stationed at Stamford Brook. It was designed by Captain S. J. Williams to train the men in map reading. It proved most useful and was thoroughly enjoyed by all who took part.

The third weekend was, from a Divisional Signals' point of view, the best Regimental training exercise held for some time. The rendezvous was the weekend training area at Montreal Park, Sevenoaks, in Kent, where the set-up is, from the Territorial soldier's point of view, ideal. There is a permanent staff so that no time is lost in fatigues or guards; thus one is able, from the word "go," to get on with the job.

Colonel Deakin believes that if one wears the Corps titles on one's shoulders then in an emergency one should be able to talk over the "air" irrespective of one's rank or trade. Every driver, mechanic, despatch rider and electrician took a turn at the controls of the wireless sets and passed messages over the air, under the guidance of the experts.

It was great fun, and the weather, which started off badly on the Saturday, changed in the afternoon, the Sun broke through, the temperature rose and the remainder of the weekend was as perfect as one could wish.

The only social event of interest was on Colonel Gandy's last night in Mess when a cocktail party was held. The Officers turned up in force on this drill night and everyone thoroughly enjoyed the excellent buffet arranged by Captain "Bill" West.

Do you know the address of your local Branch of the Signals Association? If not, write to the General Secretary, 88 Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1.

Royal Signals in London

GUIDE TO TERRITORIAL ARMY REGIMENTS

Regiment	Address	Nearest Underground Station	Other Information that may be Helpful
2/20 Army Signal Regiment (T.A.)	Drill Hall, Selsdon Road, Wanstead, E.11 Tel. WANstead 5131/2/3	Wanstead (Central Line)	Turn *left* up *main* road (Cambridge Park) outside underground. Proceed 600 yards. At a large recruiting notice turn left (Selsdon Road). Entrance is 20 yards down on right.
56 (L) Armd. Div. Signal Regiment (T.A.)	" Signal House," 20 Atkins Road, Clapham, S.W.12 Tel. TULse Hill 7051	Clapham South (Northern Line) Balham (Southern Region Stn.)	Transport will leave Clapham South Underground Station every 15 minutes between 1400 and 1700 hours on days N.S.M. are due to report.
23 (S) Corps Signal Regiment (T.A.)	" Fulham House," Fulham High Street, London, S.W.6 Tel. RENown 5807/8	Putney Bridge (District Line)	Turn *left* out of Station, take first right and first right again for 100 yards. Following buses stop within 50 yards of H.Q.—14, 30, 22, 74, 85, 93, 96. Trolleys—628, 630, 655. Alight northern side of Putney Bridge and walk down Gonville Street.
16 Airborne Div. Signal Regiment (T.A.)	Turks Row, Duke of York's H.Q., Chelsea, S.W.3 Tel. SLOane 6268 Ext. 118	Sloane Square (Inner Circle)	
11 A.A. (M.) Signal Regiment (T.A.)	206 Brompton Road, London, S.E.3 Tel. KENsington 5581	South Kensington (District Line) Knightsbridge (Piccadilly Line)	Turn *right* out of South Kensington Station, then left down Exhibition Road to traffic lights, turn right and H.Q. is 300 yards down the road. From Knightsbridge Station take the Brompton Road exit and H.Q. is about 300 yards away beyond Harrods. Buses 14, 30, 74, 96 pass the door.
No. 1 Special Communications Unit R. Signals (T.A.)	89 Turnmill Street (off Clerkenwell Road), London, E.C.1 Tel. CLErkenwell 4644	Farringdon (District Line, Metropolitan or Inner Circle)	Turn *sharp left* upon leaving the Station. T.A. Centre less than 100 yards on the right-hand side of Turnmill Street.
Signal Reporting Regiment (T.A.) (The Kensington Regiment)	190 Hammersmith Road, London, W.6 Tel. RIVerside 7673/4	Hammersmith (Piccadilly & District Line and Metropolitan Line)	From Piccadilly and District exits turn *right* which leads into Hammersmith Road. From Metropolitan Line exit take *left* exit, turn left and take first pedestrian crossing, then turn right into Hammersmith Road. The H.Q. is about 200 yards from the Broadway on the left side of Hammersmith Road, and is situated between the West London Hospital and the King's Theatre.
44 (H.C.) Inf. Div. Signal Regiment (T.A.)	The T.A. Centre, Stamford Brook Avenue, London, W.6 Tel. RIVerside 7705/6	Stamford Brook (District Line)	On entering the street from Station turn *left* under Railway Bridge, then bear left into Stamford Brook Avenue where the main road forks. The T.A. Centre is located about 300 yards further on the right-hand side.

Cut out and keep for reference if you are a National Serviceman likely to be posted to London

53 (WELSH) INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.
Cardiff

We have reluctantly said farewell to our Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel V. W. Hawkins, O.B.E., T.D., who has transferred to the T.A.R.O. Our very best wishes go with him.

We welcome to the Unit our new Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel G. B. Stevenson who took up his new appointment in March. We hope he will have an enjoyable stay with us and that both he and his wife will soon settle down in this part of the country.

Very briefly I must tell you something about this Unit, for the benefit of the sixty-seven newcomers arriving in June, July and August this year. I am pretty confident that sixty-seven readers will be making a special point of reading this column. Some by the time they do read this will be packing their kitbags in such far off places as Vienna, Malaya and Malta, ready to return to England and Wales. We are now making arrangements to receive the first of the N.S. men, who are going to join us for the next four years (and more, we hope). At present the Regiment is formed up in Cardiff and Newport. The Headquarters and 1 Squadron in Cardiff and 2 Squadron in Newport. No. 3 Squadron will soon be formed in Wolverhampton, so those who have received their Posting Orders to report to us in Cardiff and who live in Staffordshire need not fear a mistake has been made. This Squadron is being formed from the present 50 Air Formation Signal Regiment, T.A. We hope later intakes for that area will go direct to our Squadron at Wolverhampton.

Our volunteer strength is now 15 Officers and 75 Other Ranks. Our M.T. is growing fast, with new vehicles arriving weekly at our workshops at Llandaff.

Our training of late has been mainly on outdoor exercises. Wireless Ops, Linemen and D.R.s all playing their parts.

2/20 ARMY SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.
Wanstead

The tempo of training in the Regiment has been increasing of late with the approach of Annual Camp, but we still have time for a little " play."

Our recent Trade Board was very satisfactory and most Tradesmen improved their ratings. We have had weekend exercises in the St. Neots—Cambridge area, and are having a final pre-Camp exercise in two or three days time.

One of our Officers has just completed a course at the Royal Signals Wing, School of Signals. He returned full of enthusiasm, and was most pleased with the instruction he received and the general consideration that was given to him.

The Unit Dramatic Society run by Captain Bob Matthews, is having the last feverish rehearsals prior to its first public presentation. We have a well-equipped stage now, with lighting, curtains and scenery and hope to do really great things this winter. The lighting is a real work of art by Sergeant Filtness, our P.S. Radio Mechanic who produces the most weird effects with dimmers which only he can understand.

13 A.A. (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.
Glasgow **Edinburgh**

The display of Scottish Country Dancing mentioned in our last WIRE Notes was a real success, and thoroughly enjoyed by all. For this, our thanks are tendered to Captain A. Alexander, W.R.A.C., of H.Q. 3 A.A. Group, for her untiring efforts to get our girls up to standard. The accompanying photograph shows a section of our girls during the display.

Our training is now progressing, with full attendances on Thursday evenings, during which all trades are intensively coached for forthcoming trade boards, which it is hoped to hold prior to Annual Camp.



[*Courtesy: Associated Press*

Annual Camp this year is being held at Burrowhead, Wigtownshire, from 9th-23rd July. Already we have had a good response to the annual question of, "Will you be able to attend Annual Camp?" and nominal rolls are now being conscientiously prepared.

Sergeant ("Big Joe") Adams, our "live wire" sports representative, has arranged a football match *versus* 3 A.A. Independent (M) Signal Squadron. The Arsenal F.C. have nothing on the average age of our team, which will be something like 37; nevertheless this will be our first competitive game with an outside unit and all are looking forward to a good game.

14 A.A. (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.
Speke, Liverpool

Annual Camp is now only a month away and all Squadrons are busy preparing for the "Great Day." Weekend camps have recently been held at Liverpool, Runcorn and Manchester.

Posting Orders for our National Service men are arriving thick and fast. A total of 62 are reporting to us before the end of July—a number which far exceeds anything we (or even the powers that be!) expected. Preparations are already afoot to make their reception as smooth running and efficient as possible.

On the social side, 34 Squadron at Manchester recently held a very successful "At Home." Invitations were sent out to ex-members of the Corps and friends of serving T.A. members of the Unit. A demonstration of Signals A.A. equipment was given after the guests had been put "in the right humour"—and a very successful evening resulted in a 10% increase of the Squadron strength. Well done, 34! !

40 A.A. (M) Signal Squadron, T.A. Commander 13 A.A. Brigade visited the Squadron during April and was very pleased with everything he saw.

41 A.A. (M) Signal Squadron, T.A. The high spot in our recent social activities has been the starting of a Branch of the Royal Signals Association in Cardiff. A Signals reunion on 24th March was well attended and was followed by an official Opening Meeting on 21st April at which the General Secretary was present. The Committee was appointed and some thirty of those present joined immediately after the meeting.

On 11th, 12th and 13th May, 1950, the City of Cardiff held a Tattoo in which the W.R.A.C. of this Squadron represented the Army in the Combined Services March Past.



[*Courtesy: Castle Studios, Cardiff*

W.R.A.C. Officers and N.C.O.s, 41 A.A. (M) Signal Squadron

Their excellent standard of drill and turnout earned them this honour, and they deserve our heartiest congratulations.

Our first practical task has been the wiring of the Battery at Neath, and so on Saturdays and Sundays up to the time of writing we have been employed in digging holes and laying lines in real earnest. It has been useful experience and we feel we can now lay claim to having cut our first tooth. We might mention that in this process we also had to cut pieces out of a concrete road, but it worked out all right. We even had a bit left over.

11 A.A. (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.
Brompton Road, S.W.2

"To the almost blind enthusiasm of our early days has been added a more sober realisation of the difficulties and hazards of the job we have taken on . . . and we are suitably prepared to receive, and train, the National Service men who will shortly be with us." Such was the theme of Lieutenant-Colonel Shrimpton's speech when he replied to Lieutenant-Colonel Hemsley's toast of "The Regiment" at our Annual Dinner on 6th May. Other speakers were Major Wardrop and Brigadier Rogers, who, speaking for the guests, produced the greatest applause of the evening on announcing that



[*Courtesy: Castle Studios, Cardiff*

W.R.A.C. Element, 41 A.A. (M) Signal Squadron

Lieutenant-Colonel Shrimpton is to be with us for another year.

About 200 Officers, Men and Women from all Squadrons assembled at 206 Brompton Road to dine, wine and dance. Our other guests included Colonel Roberts of the Royal Signals Association, Brigadier Wickens, our Padre, the Rev. Copeland, Lieutenant-Colonel Allerton, W.R.A.C., and Colonel Ellis. We were also very pleased to have back with us, if only for the evening, Lieutenant-Colonel Scarborough, now commanding one of our sister Units across the border.

Earlier in the week, our W.R.A.C. netball team, led by Corporal Prior, had won the 1 A.A. Group netball competition. After a most exciting match they beat 567 L.A.A./Searchlight Regiment, R.A., T.A., by 13 goals to 8. We were lucky to take the initiative with two early goals, a lead which we not only maintained but exploited throughout the game. In spite of a strong counter attack soon after half-time, when the score was 8—4, superior team work and greater ball control secured the objective. Our congratulations to both teams for providing such a thrilling display.

Our best wishes go to Sergeants E. Marshall and J. B. Cooper, of 22 Squadron, who were married on the 8th April, and to Private B. Williams, W.R.A.C., also of 22 Squadron, who was married on 18th March.

ASSOCIATION NEWS

ROYAL SIGNALS BENEVOLENT FUND

Subscriptions received during April, 1950	£	s.	d.
Officer Training Wing, School of Signals	18	13	6
B.A.O.R. Signal Regiment		18	0
Thames Estuary and East Anglian Coast Troop	2	15	0
Kent Coast Troop	2	8	0

Donations received during April, 1950	£	s.	d.
5 H.Q. Signals Officers' Mess	5	0	0
Graz Signal Troop	18	10	3
M.E. Benevolent Fund	19	9	4
2 Infantry Division Church Account	4	4	0
Colonel A. Tozer	1	0	0
Mr. E. Cook		11	0
Mr. S. G. Willder		3	0
Total receipts ...	£73	12	1

Expenditure during April, 1950, £553 7s. 1d. (includes: General assistance; rent, rates and insurance; cots and prams; beds and bedding; furniture; clothing; removals; fares; rehabilitation; tools).

Analysis of cases. Families of soldiers serving in U.K., 7; families of soldiers serving in B.A.O.R., 2; families of soldiers serving in M.E.L.F., 1; widows and dependents, 4; released and discharged soldiers, 54; total cases assisted, 68.

Headquarters

The Annual Meeting of the Honorary Secretaries was held on 6th May at the Duke of York's Headquarters, when 50 branches were represented, including three Unit branches from B.A.O.R.

The Chairman (Major-General C. W. Fladgate, C.B.E.) opened the proceedings by welcoming everybody to this our fourth gathering, and outlined briefly the activities of the Association during the past year.

He was followed by Major-General W. R. C. Penney, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., the Representative Colonel Commandant, who explained very clearly the manpower situation and mentioned the Corps' recent sporting successes.

Miss Hyde Parker, the Assistant Secretary (Welfare), then gave a résumé of the activities of the Welfare Committee, explaining how appeals were dealt with and the general activities of her department.

Brigadier G. S. O'N. Power, C.B.E., Commandant, School of Signals, then enumerated briefly the proposed programme for the Annual General Meeting and Old Comrades' Reunion, to be held at Catterick on 22nd/23rd July, and asked branches to notify him direct of numbers likely to attend. They can accommodate roughly 300 Old Comrades for the week-end, and cater for larger numbers at lunch and tea on Sunday; this year's function will be quite up to standard. Branches are being circularised in procedure to be adopted and it is hoped that we shall have a full gathering.

After lunch, many questions were discussed and much useful information was gathered by both H.Q. and Branches. Amongst other things the desire for a smaller Association Badge was evident, and this is already in hand and should be available shortly. Those preferring the present badge will be able to obtain them. The new badge will sell at 2s. as opposed to the present 3s. The question of obtaining a cheaper Corps tie is also in hand. Full details of the meeting has been circulated to branches.

At the conclusion, the Chairman thanked all present for their efforts on behalf of the Association and hoped that we should have another meeting next year.

Headquarters. We gratefully acknowledge the receipt in February, 1950, of a donation of £50 from Prescot Branch.

This donation was credited to the General Fund.

Tunbridge Wells and District

The inaugural meeting of the above Branch of the Association was held at the Telephones Sports and Social Club, 58 York Road, Tunbridge Wells, on Monday, 24th April, 1950. In spite of the inclement weather, a goodly gathering was present, representative of all parts of the wide area served by the new Branch.

The chair was taken by Colonel F. K. Wilson, and the meeting was addressed by Colonel A. W. Roberts, M.C. (General Secretary), who clearly and concisely explained the manifold activities of the Association down to the minutest detail.

Branch officers were elected as follows: President, Colonel F. K. Wilson, Royal Signals (Rtd.); Chairman, Major W. J. Packman; Secretary, G. E. Paling; Treasurer, Lieutenant G. W. Dyke; Committee, Lieutenant R. S. P. Branson, G. E. Watts (ex-C.Q.M.S.), G. E. Kingswood (ex-sergeant), W. Hibbit (ex-C.S.M.), and Mrs. A. Larkin (ex-lance-sergeant A.T.S. Signals).

The next Branch meeting has been fixed for Wednesday, 7th June, 1950, at 1950 hours, and thereafter on the first Wednesday in the month at the same hour. All serving or ex-Service Royal Signals, who may be visiting or residing in the neighbourhood and are able to attend the meetings will be accorded a very hearty welcome. All communications should be addressed to: *G. E. Paling, Vale Towers, Tunbridge Wells, Kent.*

London (City)

Since the appearance of our last notes it has been our pleasure to attend a Social Evening held at the Headquarters of the Aldershot Branch. Our thanks to that branch for a very enjoyable evening.

To further the "Social" activities of our branch a social committee has been formed. It is hoped that by their efforts we shall be able to attract more members and non-members to our meetings.

We were, thanks to the notice in the London *Evening News*, pleased to welcome new members at our last meeting. Ex-members of the Corps are always welcome.

The date and place of our June meeting is 30th, Star Hotel, Old Street.

Birmingham

I wonder how I can get at the men now serving who will eventually come to live in Birmingham. Certainly not through these notes. If they read THE WIRE they are more likely to glance at notes from their own Units, cock an appreciative eye at the film star and settle down to study one of the technical articles.

Uncle Alf: : You don't know the present-day serving soldier, evidently.

Me: Why? Have they changed? Different somehow?

I would like to make them see that they are eligible to join an exclusive club in the Royal Signals Association. That they may never need assistance is just a very good reason for joining. They can help simply by being members, to ensure that those in need of assistance, get it. Others may not feel too sure of themselves in civilian life. There's another good reason for being a member of the Association. Not necessarily with the idea of asking for financial help. The chances of meeting ex-Signals who will probably be able to put them on the road to a better job are not to be sniffed at.

At the monthly meeting of this Branch on 27th April last, I was interested in all that Mr. Carl Brown had to say about his work on welfare. Such a large proportion of the men he has helped are not members of the Association. Not that we bother about that if they have served in Signals. Few of the people helped ever bother to let us know whether they sink or swim. Do they think we don't care?

Maybe you are reading this after all, so why not join your local branch as soon as you come out of the Service? Get among men who speak your language. Signals types. Men like you.

The Birmingham Branch now numbers 826 members, plus a few score who will turn up and pay their overdue subscriptions with a light laugh when they think of it.

Herewith the final notification regarding our Annual Summer Ball at the Botanical Gardens Ballroom, Birmingham, on 30th June. Tickets 12s. 6d. each, including buffet. You are probably too late, but ring SPR 3693 or ERD 3461 and try. We shall be glad to see you.

My next paragraph may annoy those people who object to names but will interest certain grey, and possibly, bald-headed old gentlemen who were already old soldiers when the Royal Signals were formed. It was at the meeting of Branch Secretaries in London on Saturday, 6th May, that Mr. G. E. Palin dug me in the ribs and asked me if he had changed much. As it is 29 years since I last saw him I admitted that if one looked quickly he only appeared to be about 30 years older. Mr. Palin was the first Editor of THE WIRE. What a magazine, even in those days. I wish I hadn't lost all my early numbers in the blitz.

Talking of the Annual Meeting of Hon. Branch Secretaries, held at Headquarters, 16th Airborne Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A., on 6th May, though not at length because that isn't my job (pause for breath), we who attended were intensely interested in the addresses by Major-General C. W. Fladgate, C.B.E., and Major-General W. R. C. Penney, C.B., C.B.F., D.S.O., M.C.

The Hon. Secretaries are really keen on Association work. This was amply demonstrated by the questions, suggestions and criticisms which came from members representing every part of the country. Brigadier G. S. O'N. Power, O.B.E., Commandant, School of Signals, gave us a good idea of the arrangements for the Annual General Meeting and Old Comrades' Reunion, at Catterick, on 22nd/23rd July. If they are as good as last year's, we can look forward to a good time. And I mean good. I meant to have bought the band the music of that march about Boys of the Old Brigade, but there is not much time left for them to try it over. A pity. We appreciated Miss M. Hyde-Parker's résumé on the work of the Welfare branch. Even WE were surprised at the great amount of assistance given to ex-Signals personnel. I would like to have stayed on and continued digging up the past with many good friends, but whatever one may say about British Railways, they do start from a terminus on time. I do not seem to have said much about Birmingham after all. As if it matters. I can assure you that you are pretty certain to run up against someone you know if you look in at the Crown, Broad Street, Birmingham, on the last Thursday in the month.

BARLEUX

Scarborough

I must first of all apologise for the absence of notes from this branch for the past two months, but this is entirely due to the lack of activities and nothing to report.

Our monthly general meetings are being held on the first Wednesday of each month at the Castle Hotel, Queen Street, Scarborough, should any members of the association be in Scarborough we shall be very pleased to meet them there.

We are very pleased to welcome the following new members, and hope that they will find time to give us their maximum support: Mr. H. Fussey, Mr. D. Wightman, Mr. L. Norton, Mr. G. R. Radford.

If any other ex-members of the Corps find their way to Scarborough and wish to join our branch, we shall always be pleased to give them a welcome and to find a corner for them.

By very kind permission of Lieutenant-Colonel A. T. Sladen, O.B.E., Royal Signals, a most enjoyable evening was spent at Burniston Barracks on Sunday, 7th May, 1950.

Members of the Scarborough Branch Old Comrades' Association were invited to the barracks for an indoor games tournament, and about 15 turned up to do "battle."

The O.C.A. team was captained by Colonel "Sam" Goddard, and I am sorry to report that we were seen off by the "Barracks" team, which included such experts as Colonel Sladen, Captain Simpson, Captain "Nan" Dallas, W.R.A.C., the Q.M., the R.Q.M.S., Sergeant Dee and others (no wonder we lost). The score was, I think, 26—23, so we put up a fairly reasonable show, without any training, and can afford to hold our heads up.

We look forward to another "do" in the near future, and hope that it will be more supported by "old soldiers" and that we shall be able to turn the tables on the "young soldiers."

Anyhow, we are very grateful to our friends at the Barracks for giving up their Sunday evening to our entertainment.

Colonel Roberts, the general secretary of the association, has promised to come to Scarborough on the 14th June, 1950, to meet us all, and it is hoped that as many members as possible will make themselves available on that evening to meet him.

Due to the season, members cannot find time for social functions, so the weekly whist drives have been cancelled, but we hope to arrange one or two during the season to help swell the funds.

Bristol

Sunday, 7th May, saw the combined Bristol Old Comrades' Associations on their annual church parade at St. Mary Redcliffe Church.

Our branch was represented by a party headed by our Chairman, Major A. M. Keeling, and we were fortunately able to obtain from H.Q. a standard which was nobly carried by Mr. T. Fegan; in all a good show in spite of the foul weather.

The monthly meeting on 12th May was held at the Old Duke. Through the kindness of mine host, Mr. Jones, there has been fitted in the clubroom a dart board, together with other games, for the benefit of members.

The main event of the evening was the darts tournament, which was organised and run by Mr. V. A. Savigar; the President's (Brigadier G. L. G. Pollard, C.B.E.) prize was won by Mr. J. Hardwick, M.M.

In bringing these few notes to a close I would like to convey all good wishes to serving members and hope to see any of you at our meetings if you happen to be in Bristol.

Middlesbrough

I am very glad to report that the Middlesbrough Branch of the Royal Signals Old Comrades' Association is still a very live and active movement.

We held our first Mixed Social Evening in the United Services Club, 149/151 Grange Road, Middlesbrough, on Friday, 21st April, 1950. This club was officially opened by Sir William Wyndham-Green, on Saturday, 29th April, 1950, and our Chairman represented the Branch at this function.

The Social turned out to be very popular and was voted a huge success. A small concert party were engaged and provided some good fun and some nice songs. Unfortunately, owing to illness, the Vice-Chairman, Mr. G. A. Alderson, and the Hon. Treasurer, Mr. F. Thornton, could not be present, and we offer our sincere wishes for their early recovery to good health again.

Our thanks are offered to Mr. C. Stuart and his merry band of committee men for their splendid effort in organising the raffle which was held. A beautiful box of mixed fruit was the first prize, and cigarettes the second and third prizes.

JIM GIBSON

East Africa

Our monthly meetings continue to be fairly well attended, thanks to the kindness of the manager of the Queen's Hotel, who allows us the use of the small parlour behind his bar.

As well as the regular faces, we occasionally get a visit by members who live outside Nairobi, or who spend a lot of time on safari, and just happen to be in Nairobi on the date in question. (Note: Our fixed date of meeting is the second Tuesday of the month at 8.30 p.m.).

We were very pleased at our April meeting to welcome Lieutenant-Colonel J. H. Ellis, Royal Signals, now C.S.O. No. 1 A.A. Group, London, and at one time our Vice-President. In answer to a few words of welcome from the Chairman, Colonel Ellis said how pleased he was to be able to attend and thanked us for the invitation to do so, "although," he added, "I should have come in any case, invitation or no invitation." It is just such an occasion as this which makes the O.C.A. worth while, as otherwise there would have been many who could not possibly have had the pleasure of meeting him.

We held our Quarterly Sundowner in the W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess at Killarney Camp, by kind permission of the Commanding Officer and the P.M.C. and members of the Mess, on Saturday the 6th May, and it went off with a bang. We had a record attendance of members and their friends, and everyone appeared to have a very good evening.

We are indebted to the Mess members once again for the use of their very nice mess, also to those who kindly assisted in the preparations and running of the refreshments, bar, etc. In particular, we wish to thank those members (ex Somalia) who put on their cabaret, under the able direction of R.Q.M.S. Hutton. We were kept entertained and highly amused by the antics of Sergeant Batchelor, S.S.M. Willis, Sergeant Bell and Sergeant Hickmore. It is a pity these very able entertainers are to be split up and posted over the wide expanse of East Africa Command. Some, we hear, are due for repat very soon, but we cannot, of course, begrudge them that.

MIDDLE EAST SPECIAL WIRELESS ASSOCIATION

As a sequel to the reunion in London last September at the Victory Club, a Northern Reunion Dinner was held on 22nd April at the Mitre Hotel in Manchester.

The Victory Dinner, with the President, F. C. G. Greening, in the chair, was attended by Colonel Scott, Lieutenant-Colonel Lonnon, and some 65 members of all vintages. While many of those who helped to launch this Association on its way in the closing stages of the war have now departed overseas—not irretrievably, we hope—or for other reasons have retired from active participation in M.E.S.W.A. functions, it is encouraging to find so many enthusiasts ready to keep things going in the London area and to help with the extension of activities to other parts of the country.

An intensified address-gathering campaign during 1949 enabled us to track down fifty more members whose whereabouts previously had been unknown. Among recent "discoveries" present at the London dinner were Hamesh Blair-Cunynghame, B. W. Beale, Geoffrey Claridge, Ivan A. de la Chaumette, Paddy Flynn, Henry Howat, J. P. de Courcy Meade, Harold Napper, Tony Peck and the two Timbers—Stewart Oakes and G. F. Woods.

We were glad also to welcome for the first time at a dinner several of our A.T.S. members. Mary Billet, on leave from Europe, and Barbara Leyshon, *en route* to the West Indies to join a husband, both found time to look in at our Victory Club Reunion before leaving the country. Salaams were received from "Bunny" Emmott, who had cabled specially from "down under," having left us earlier in the year amidst ceremonies as near to true 2 Wireless Company traditions as post-war circumstances and U.K. licensing hours would allow!

A fuller account of the London Dinner and news of M.E.S.W.A. activities up North will be given later.

The 1950 Fixture List will appear in the July issue of THE WIRE. In the meantime the following meetings are imminent:—

Friday,	June 23rd	The Doves Inn, Hammersmith.
Friday,	July 21st	The Black Boy, Nottingham.
Saturday,	July 22nd	The Midland Hotel, Birmingham.
Friday,	July 28th	The Fatted Calf, Manchester.

Further details about these and about M.E.S.W.A. matters in general can be obtained from the Hon. Secretary, D. J. Oswald, Canfield, Esher Avenue, Walton-on-Thames, Surrey (Tel. Walton 519).

Have you ordered your copy of ***The Wire?***

SPORTS NOTES

RUGBY NOTES FROM CATTERICK

The season 1949/50 was concluded on Saturday, 29th April, when Royal Signals (Catterick) played in the Yorkshire "Sevens" at Huddersfield. Here they lost the cup they had won the previous year in the Semi--Finals 0—6 to Huddersfield, who defeated Sheffield in the Final by 21 pts. to 3.

Nim Hall, Jimmy Hall and Harry Tranter were playing for Huddersfield, while Gerald Wood assisted Headingley and D. R. Hall played for Sheffield, so Signals were well "in the picture." Nim Hall was playing in his best form and was the outstanding player on view, while Tranter's speed was too much for P. B. Reeve who had to play on the wing after Corporal Turnpenny had retired owing to a pulled muscle. This was most unfortunate as Turnpenny was the only man likely to stop Tranter, who scored both tries for Huddersfield by kicks ahead and a fine turn of speed.

On the previous Saturday also we were without Corporal Turnpenny and Corporal Cross (the Army forward) when we were beaten in the Finals of the Preliminary Competition of the Middlesex "Sevens." The result was disappointing as our "Seven" fully expected to reach the final stages of the Competition at Twickenham—they had trained hard in the peculiar "Sevens" game and were quite useful, but casualties hit us hard.

A victory over Stockton at Stockton on 15th April by 21 pts. to 12 pts. was our last "Fifteen" game.

Prior to this we had undertaken our usual Easter tour. The tour commenced with a game *v.* Northern, on Easter Saturday at Newcastle. Royal Signals although without Reeve and Cross played in their best form to defeat Northern 24 pts. to 0 on a very hard ground. As Northern had Bell (Northumberland) hooking, J. L. Baume (Army and England) among the forwards, and several County players, this was a first-class performance. Unfortunately, an X-ray examination next day revealed that Second-Lieutenant Thomas had broken some bones in his hand, and with everyone at Catterick away on Easter leave it was not possible to replace him or Corporal Pollard, who suddenly developed "flu," and we actually arrived at Pontypridd so short that Lieutenant Couch (scrum-half) played wing three-quarter and Lance-Corporal Bidgood (full-back) played wing forward.

Bidgood must be one of the most versatile players playing good class Rugby, since his record this season reveals that he played full-back for Northern Command, and in the Final Yorkshire County Trial, full-back, stand-off or wing three-quarter for 1 Training Regiment in the Army Cup, centre three-quarter for the Combined Command XV *v.* Cumberland, scrum-half for his own club, Roundhay, and now wing-forward for Royal Signals (Catterick)! !

Storms of rain had affected the Pontypridd ground and players on both sides were soon unrecognisable in conditions the exact opposite to the baked conditions in Saturday's game *v.* Northern. A muddy, but enjoyable, game before an enthusiastic Welsh crowd ended in a win for Pontypridd by 11 pts. to 3. Pontypridd had won all their matches since Christmas and their handling of the greasy ball was excellent. Signalman Morphy, our stand-off, had been badly bruised in Saturday's game *v.* Northern and his play had slowed up. Captain T. G. H. Jackson and Second-Lieutenant Pendle arrived the next day and played against Ebbw Vale. Morphy, who had been badly injured in the corresponding game last Easter, played centre to Jackson, while Bidgood played stand-off.

The Ebbw Vale ground must be a "bogy" one for Morphy, as once again, he was injured, and left the field before half-time, H. S. Smith being brought out of the pack.

As shortly after half-time Captain Luscombe cracked a rib, our side was sadly depleted, and Ebbw Vale won by 12 pts. to 3.

The team played very well and were on even terms until the last quarter of an hour. The two teams spent an enjoyable evening together at Ebbw Vale after the match.

Royal Signals (Catterick) record for the season reads: Played 24, won 15, lost 9, points for 312, points against 200.

The matches lost usually occurred when "star" players were away assisting the Army or Counties. Our best performances were victories over Glasgow University, Cambridge University LX Club, Aberdeen Grammar School F.P., Northern, and Halifax, who won the Yorkshire Cup.

Records of players are as follows: —

Army v. Navy, R.A.F. and French Army—Second-Lieutenant P. B. Reeve, Corporal R. Cross.

Combined Services, All the England Trials, Barbarians and Northumberland—Second-Lieutenant P. B. Reeve.

Yorkshire—Corporal R. Cross, Signalman A. G. I. Wood.

Final Yorkshire County Trial—Signalman Holliday, Lance-Corporal Bidgood.

Northern Command XV — Lieutenant Couch, Second-Lieutenant Hoskins, Second-Lieutenant Birtwistle, Second-Lieutenant Thomas, Second-Lieutenant Watts, Signalman Beckett, Lance-Corporal Bidgood, Signalman Johnson, Signalman H. S. Smith, Signalman Holliday, Signalman Mason, Signalman Fathers.

The most unlucky player must be Signalman Morphy, a player of great promise, who was kept out of all representative football by injury.

* * *

W.R.A.C. Netball. Northern Command (M) Signal Regiment, W.R.A.C., York, were the winners of the W.R.A.C. Inter-Unit Netball Championships held at Gaza Sports Ground on the 19th April. They beat "A" Company, 3 Battalion, W.R.A.C., by 11 goals to 7.

* * *

LAWN TENNIS FIXTURES

July 4th	R.A.S.C.	Catterick
,, 8th	Royal Military Academy	Sandhurst
,, 9th	Staff College	Camberley
,, 10th-15th	Royal Signals Championships	Catterick
,, 17th	Ironsides	Aldershot
,, 22nd-29th	The Army Championships	Aldershot
Aug. 3rd	R.A.O.C.	Catterick

FARELF CORPS CRICKET CLUB

The first of seven Corps cricket matches during the season, 1950, was to have been played against the Royal Artillery at Blakang Mati on 22nd April, but had to be postponed because of rain. On 6th May, the Royal Signals Corps Cricket Club had a very enjoyable game at Tanglin with R.E.M.E. FARELF. R.E.M.E. produced their two Army bowlers and we lost the game by 93 runs.

R.E.M.E. batted first, scoring 190 for 7 wickets declared; Royal Signals managed 97 runs.

ROYAL SIGNALS OFFICERS' SADDLE CLUB

Bedale Point-to-Point. Ballindrum, ridden by Captain Reid, started but fell.

Rides. The following rides are in progress at present: — Four Royal Signals Regular Y.O.s rides, three beginners' rides, one intermediate ride.

A children's ride was held during the Easter holidays.

Owing to exceptionally bad weather during the month, not very much hacking has taken place.

Hunt Ball. The Saddle Club Hunt Ball held in the H.Q. Mess was attended by about one hundred people. Although it was an excellent party, this number was insufficient to produce more than a moderate profit for the Club funds.

GOLF

The Royal Signals Officers' Golfing Society held its Spring Meeting at Starbeck Golf Club, Harrogate, on 1st and 2nd May, 1950.

Prizes were presented as follows: —

(a) Royal Signals Open Championship Cup (Spring Meeting), Major M. S. C. Shardlow.
(b) Royal Signals Championship Challenge Cup (Spring Meeting), Major G. S. K. Maydon.
(c) Royal Signals Silver Putter (36 holes medal on handicap), Major S. Cox.
(d) Royal Signals Bogey Challenge Cup (Spring Meeting), Major S. Cox.
(e) Royal Signals Foursome Challenge Cup (Spring Meeting), Lieutenant-Colonel P. Jennings, Captain J. M. Butterworth.

* * *

The Royal Signals Officers' Golfing Society Autumn Meeting will be held on the links of the Westhill Golf Club, Woking, Surrey, on Thursday, 7th and Friday, 8th September, 1950.

A list of the events is attached. The events are open to all officers, including T.A. officers, who are serving or who have served with Royal Signals.

The following information is required from each Officer wishing to take part and should be forwarded to the Hon. Secretary, Royal Signals Officers' Golfing Society, H.Q. School of Signals, Catterick Camp, Yorkshire, as soon as possible and not later than 1st August, 1950:

(a) Rank, name and address (block letters).
(b) Regular, S.S.C., N.S., T.A. or Retired.
(c) Name of partner, or state "NO partner."
(d) Handicap and name of club.
(e) Whether a caddy is required.
(f) Events for which you wish to enter.

Royal Signals Individual Handicap Bogey Challenge Cup. Open to all Officers who are serving or who have served with the Corps.

Junior Officers Individual Handicap Bogey Challenge Cup. Open to all serving Officers of the Corps with less than six years commissioned service on 1st September, 1950.

Royal Signals Foursome Challenge Cup. Open to all Officers who are serving or who have served with the Corps.

Royal Signals Championship Challenge Cup. Open to all Regular serving Officers of the Corps.

Royal Signals Handicap Challenge Cup. Open to all Officers who are serving or who have served with the Corps.

Royal Signals Open Championship Cup. Open to all Officers who are serving or who have served with the Corps.

Note: There are no entrance fees, but green fees are 7s. 6d. per day, luncheons 5s., teas 1s. 6d.

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The Corps Magazine of the
ROYAL SIGNALS

The Official Organ of the
SIGNALS ASSOCIATION

All correspondence and matter for publication for "The Wire" should be addressed to The Editor, "The Wire," 88 Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1. Matter for publication must be received by the 15th of the month preceding publication.
Remittances should be made payable to: Royal Signals Association. Subscription rates (post free, except air mail): Twelve months, 10s.; single month, 1s.

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JULY • 1950
Vol. 4 *New Series* **No. 7**

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PRICE: ONE SHILLING

Editorial

HISTORY REPEATS ITSELF

Eastern Command Signal Regiment have forsaken the fleshpots of Canterbury for the rural amenities of Maresfield Park Camp!

Maresfield was from 1919 to 1925 the Cradle of the Corps, for on quitting the various scattered camps on the borders of Bedfordshire and Buckinghamshire, the Signal Service Training Centre with all its horses, cable-wagons, G.S. wagons and other horsed transport migrated to Sussex and took over from the Machine Gun Corps (Cavalry), who moved on to Shorncliffe.

The present camp, about 400 yards from the Gatehouse on the Newick Road occupies the site of the old stables of "E" Company, commanded in those days by Major L. G. Phillips of the Worcestershire Regiment. Shades of Captain Jack Bray and "Those * — * — * !! motor-cars!!!" One can almost hear the raucous voice of "Tommy" Hewitt, "Damn liar you are, you are, you know you are!" We may not have known Mrs. Hewitt, but we certainly knew her son!! To how many of us was that same Newick Road a *Via Dolorosa* along which we trudged, all the way from Piltdown Common, our saddles on our heads and leading our horses, our standard of "Horsemastership"—save the mark—having offended the same "Tommy" Hewitt or his pal "Tich" Adams of Cossack-riding fame, and so, back to stables to the tender mercies of Sergeant Fred Dowie, Parsons or Agombar, or even Second-Corporal "Jerry" Young or Lance-Corporal "Jackie" Cutler.

Our cover picture of the Gatehouse will surely revive memories of guard-mounting parades under "Black Jack" Mepham, and defaulters' parades under the Provost Sergeant, "Paddy" Walsh.

Other names that spring to mind are Brigadier-General Godfrey-Faussett, his successor, Brigadier Newbigging, Major G. M. H. Henderson, the B.M. and his Staff Captain, W. R. C. Penney, Colonels Mackworth and Mordaunt, commanding respectively the Training Battalion and the Courses Battalion. In "A" Company Captain "Bobby" Benfield was the terror of the recruits on the square, together with his two C.S.M.s, "Jock" Scott and Wickens. Ex-Boys and O/Ls. of "C" Company will recall Captain J. A. S. Tillard and his C.S.M., "Tubby" Newlands, while former O/V.s will not have forgotten the C.Q.M.S. of "B" Company, known throughout the S.T.C. as "Trotsky"—very few of us ever knew his real name. In "F," the M.T. and Workshops Company were "Busty" Lane and "Sammy" Hughes—the latter still in the neighbourhood in the flesh.

The "Chequers" and Wickham's, the village store, still hold their memories, and what about that long tramp along the winding muddy road to Uckfield and back, past the Ringles Cross Hotel, by that time—alas—closed!!

Far be it from the Editor of this journal to act as mentor, but we cannot forbear to remind Colonel Barker and his men that any deviation from the standards maintained by the Corps since those distant days would be sure to attract attention in their new location, and we certainly would not wish any of those named above to emulate "Revolving Joe," by a continuous turning movement in the tomb.

Visit of the

CHIEF SIGNAL OFFICER, U.S. ARMY

to The United Kingdom, May 1950

IN 1948, the Director of Signals, Major-General C. H. H. Vulliamy, C.B., D.S.O., visited the United States as the guest of the U.S. Signal Corps. General Vulliamy was able to spend some six weeks in the States during which time he was able to visit many laboratories and installations.

Major-General Spencer B. Akin, the Chief Signal Officer, United States Army, accepted an invitation for a return visit to the United Kingdom but was unable to come until 18th May, 1950. He arrived in this country after an arduous tour of U.S. installations in the Middle East and Germany, and he may have hoped for a leisurely tour of the U.K.; his eight days, however, were very crowded and the programme presented to him upon arrival resembled a railway timetable.

At midday on 18th May, General Akin was met at London Airport by representatives of the Joint American Military Advisory Group, who accompanied the party during the remainder of the tour. The first afternoon was spent visiting United States Service Departments in London, and the War Office where General Akin and General Scott were able to discuss Signal problems. The U.S. Signal Corps is responsible for a wider range of "electronics" than Royal Signals, thus data transmission, radar, guided missiles, etc., were of interest to General Akin and discussions were held with the Director of Weapons and Development, Major-General G. P. Walsh, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., and the Deputy Director of Royal Artillery, Brigadier K. R. Brazier-Creagh. During the evening General Scott held a dinner in honour of General Akin which was attended by the Director of the Signal Division of the Admiralty, the Director General of Signals of the Air Ministry, the Chairman of the British Joint Communications Board, members of the Ministry of Supply, the Joint American Military Advisory Group and the War Office.

The next day an early start was made for the Signals Research and Development Establishment, accompanied by



[*Courtesy: War Office Reproduction Services*



[*Courtesy: War Office Reproduction Services*

Seating plan of the dinner held by Major-General W. A. Scott, C.B., C.B.E., Director of Signals, The War Office, in the United Service Club on 18th May, 1950, in honour of Major-General Spencer B. Akin, The Chief Signal Officer, United States Army

Right hand side: Captain A. D. Lenox-Conyngham, R.N., Chairman, British Joint Communications Board, Dr. D. H. Black, Ministry of Supply, Major-General Spencer B. Akin, Chief Signal Officer, United States Army, Major-General W. A. Scott, C.B., C.B.E., Director of Signals, The War Office, Air Vice-Marshal E. B. Addison, C.B., C.B.E., Director General of Signals, The Air Ministry, N. F. S. Hecht, Esq., Ministry of Supply, Colonel C. D. Clapp

Left hand side: Captain I. G. Swan, Royal Signals, Colonel Henry C. Hine, Jnr., General Staff Corps, United States Army, Colonel J. F. Longfield, Colonel T. J. Tully, United States Signal Corps, Major-General G. P. Walsh, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O, Director of Weapons and Development, The War Office, Captain R. G. Swallow, R.N., Director Signal Division, The Admiralty, Brigadier J. B. Adams, Colonel Charles L. Olin, United States Signal Corps

General Scott and Dr. Black, Director of Telecommunication Research and Development, Ministry of Supply. The party spent a most interesting day as the guests of Dr. Sutton, the Chief Superintendent, and saw various line, wireless and power equipments in advanced stages of development. The evening was spent with Major-General W. R. C. Penney, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., Representative Colonel-Commandant of the Corps, at his residence near Reading, where General Akin was able to see some of rural England.

Mrs. and Miss Akin arrived in England from the Continent on Saturday, 20th May and the Akin family were able to spend the week-end visiting places of interest in and around London.

Monday, 22nd May, was spent at the Central Signal Establishment, Watton, Norfolk, where the party were the guests of Air Vice-Marshal E. B. Addison, C.B., C.B.E., Director General of Signals, the Air Ministry, and Air Commodore P. Jones, who commands at Watton. Besides seeing various aircraft installations and being given details of current electrical research, an opportunity was made of meeting the Mayor of Norwich who provided interesting accounts of local ceremonies in that ancient city and also a most interesting tea! The next morning a De Havilland Dove took the party in a very short space of time to Defford airfield near Malvern, thus it was possible to have a whole day at Malvern which otherwise would have been mostly spent in travel.

At Malvern, Dr. Black and Mr. Pollard, the Chief Superintendent of R.R.D.E., received the party and explained the most recent developments in the radar field. After lunch Mr. Hecht, Deputy Director of Communications Development, Ministry of Supply, and Mr. Richards, the Chief Superintendent of T.R.E., conducted the party round T.R.E.

It had been planned that the 3rd U.S. Air Division would fly the party to Yorkshire that afternoon so that the evening of the 23rd and morning of the 24th May could be spent with the Commandants of the School of Signals and Signal Training Centre. It was unfortunate that because of an adverse weather forecast, the U.S. Air Division could not guarantee to land the party or to bring them back to London in the time available and with great regret the visit was cancelled.

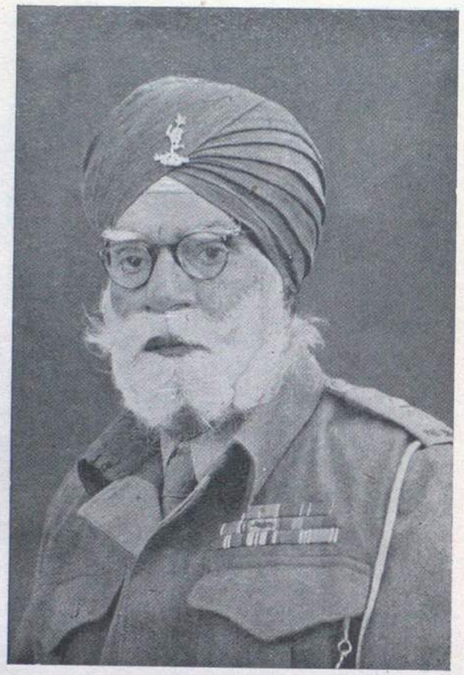
The 24th and 25th May were spent in London with officers of the Joint American Military Advisory Group and General Scott made a brief return to London from Exercise "Horatius" on 24th May in order to have a final discussion with General Akin.

General, Mrs. and Miss Akin left London by air early on the morning of the 26th May for the United States via Germany.

VALE

Lieutenant-Colonel Jiwan Singh

Sardar Bahadur, M.B.E., O.B.I.



THE Corps of Signals, known until 26th January, 1950, as the Indian Signal Corps, has once again said good-bye to Lieutenant-Colonel Jiwan Singh, who has retired for the third time.

Jiwan has been quoted often as an example of a rise from Sepoy to Commanding Officer. Actually this is not correct, as he was never a sepoy. In 1914 after 31 Divisional Signal Company had done its remarkable non-stop march from Barian to Pindi to catch the last train to catch the last boat to Mons it left a rear party. Jiwan, then I think a clerk in Murree Brewery, joined up with the rear party as a junior N.C.O. clerk. The only occasion upon which he dressed as a sepoy was when we called upon him to reduce himself from Subedar to Signalman so that we could take a photo of what we regarded as the ideal looking Sikh soldier.

Jiwan saw considerable service overseas in the 1914-18 war and returned to India when Iraq and Persia were settled. Peshawar saw him again on active service later.

He took his promotion on the clerks' roster up to the rank Jemedar, and as at that time there was only one jemedar clerk in the Corps he was in a position to wield considerable influence on the Corps. It was a blessing that this power rested in the hands of so fine a man. Jiwan had religious tolerance to a degree not often met with at that time when narrow-mindedness among Indian officers holding the Viceroy's commission was not regarded as unbecoming. He was at home in any society of any rank or social status. Together with the famous Gurkha Subedar Major Tej Sing Gurung he led the way in unifying the Warrant Officers and Sergeants with the V.C.O.s when off parade, so that socially as well as technically the Corps became one, regardless of rank or colour.

Jiwan was exceptionally helpful when the proportion of ex-Indian Army Officers fell and the proportion of British Service Officers increased. His English was so perfect that he could safely give intimate advice to young officers without fear of misunderstanding. This is not to say that he never said anything unpalatable. On the contrary if he thought an officer stood in need of a "raspberry" he duly gave him one. This education of British Officers paid a good dividend. Those who had been taught were dispersed, and passed on the knowledge.

Jiwan took an active part in games; a good footballer and a good hockey player and a real sportsman. When officiating as umpire or goal judge in first-class civilian hockey nothing daunted him. The imprecations of a hostile crowd left him unmoved.

In 1937 Jiwan was one of the representatives of the Indian Signal Corps at the Coronation and found that by giving the guide the slip and popping into a pub he could see more of Great Britain than those who did entirely what they were told. He had the honour of meeting H.R.H. the Princess Royal who gave him a cigarette box. This present greatly intrigued him and he "dined out" on the story for years to the doubtful approval of his less tolerant Sikh friends.

He retired just before Hitler's war as Subedar Major. The author needed an administrative officer in the second year of the war. Jiwan jumped at the chance to come back and did so as a Captain. After a year or so commanding a Squadron, greatly exceeding the duties for which he had been commissioned. An opportunity came to recommend him for advancement, and to the general satisfaction of his thousands of friends he became Commanding Officer of a Signal Training Battalion in the newly formed S.T.C. at Sialkot.

Having been since an early age, "improperly in possession" of a white beard there were many who thought he was an old man. They were soon proved wrong. He was as energetic as ever, and as always put the Corps first and himself nowhere. On the disbandment of his Battalion in 1944 he retired again.

It was a source of satisfaction to his friends that during the chaos which attended the transfer of power and the partition of India, he was able to move from the wrong side of the border to Meerut where he acquired property, and that in the move his family suffered no casualties. No one will be surprised to know that his old home in Pindi was, under him, a place of refuge and a strong point.

The Indian Signal Corps needed a Records Officer. It took them no time to choose one. Jiwan stuck out a mile and back he came. Now he has decided to give a younger man a chance, but I am sure that if the Corps is ever in a jam again Jiwan will return, as young, as humorous, as lovable as ever.

All ranks in the Commonwealth who have had the pleasure of knowing him will join in wishing him and Taran Kaur the very best in this third attempt to retire.

SAT SIRI AKAL.

PECKHAM

BIRTHS

GAHAN.—At Pocklington on 14th May to Captain and Mrs. P. F. W. Gahan—a son.

WILFORD.—At Pocklington on 8th May to S.Q.M.S. and Mrs. Wilford—a daughter.

SCOTT.—To Captain and Mrs. Scott, 7 Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment—a son.

IMPORTANT READING FOR JULY

The short visit to England of Major-General Spencer B. Akin, Chief Signal Officer of the Army of the United States of America, is reported at page 254.

The series of articles by officers of the Signals Research and Development Establishment of the Ministry of Supply is continued by "The Principles of Carrier Telephony" by Mr. T. Blashill on page 260.

Some account of the life and times of that almost legendary figure in the Indian Signal Corps, Havildar, Subedar-Major, Captain, Lieutenant-Colonel Jiwan Singh is on page 256.

On this page is a report of the Annual Dinner of the Officers' Dinner Club and the Regimental Tea Party.

On page 266 War Office Signal Regiment introduce a new Cartoon Character "The Widget."

SALE—EXCHANGE—WANTED

WANTED for 6 to 8 weeks beginning late September, hired loan of saloon car, model and year no importance, provided sound runner and good appearance. Offers by Air Mail to P. W. D. Fairbarns, Fraser and Neave, Ltd., Bangkok, Siam.

GEOFFREY DUKE

All members of the Corps will wish to congratulate Mr. Geoffrey Duke on his splendid exploit in winning the International Senior Tourist Trophy Motorcycle Race over the famous Isle of Man Course on 9th June, 1950 at the record speed of 92.27 miles an hour. Riding a Norton machine he also smashed the lap record at 93.33 miles per hour.

He owned his first machine at the age of 16, and it was perhaps only natural that in 1941 when he reached 18, he should have volunteered for Royal Signals as a despatch-rider. He served until 1947 and was a prominent member of the Display Team of 1945.

His training and experience in the Corps stood him in good stead, for on leaving the Service he spent his gratuity on a machine, riding with success in the Clayton Trial, and winning the Cheshire Centre Championship as well as several other keenly contested amateur events. The turning point in his career was the Scott Trial, after which he changed over to Nortons.

In 1948, when leading, a split oil tank ruined his chances, but the following year he rode to victory in the Senior Clubmen's T.T. at 82.4 miles per hour, his fastest lap being at 83.7 miles per hour.

Last year in the Junior Race for the Manx Amateur Grand Prix he had a spill at Ramsey Hairpin when avoiding a fallen rider, yet finished in second place, and the same week smashed the lap record for the Senior Race at 87.4 miles per hour, winning at a record speed of over 86 miles per hour.

We regret that details of his career in the Corps are not immediately available.

HAVE YOUR OWN PERSONAL COPY OF

THE WIRE

MAILED DIRECT TO YOUR ADDRESS

ROYAL SIGNALS DINNER CLUB

Annual Dinner, 1950

The Royal Signals Dinner Club held their annual dinner at the Hyde Park Hotel on 31st May. After the Loyal Toasts the following telegrams were read:

From His Majesty The King

"I sincerely thank the Colonels Commandant and Officers Royal Signals dining together tonight for their kind and loyal message which I greatly appreciate.—GEORGE R."

From Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal

"My warmest thanks to the Colonels Commandant and Officers of my Corps for their telegram of loyal greetings sent on the occasion of their annual dinner.

"I much hope that all Officers present will have a very happy evening and I send my best wishes for the coming year to all those assembled here.—MARY, Colonel in Chief."

Telegrams of good wishes were received from the Chief Signal Officers on behalf of all officers serving in F.A.R.E.L.F., M.E.L.F. and B.A.O.R. Telegrams of regret for absence were received from a large number of individual officers.

Major-General W. R. C. Penney proposed the toast of Absent Friends. It was one of the privileges of the year of office as Representative Colonel Commandant to be Chairman at the annual dinner and in keeping with tradition to give some brief account of the state of the Corps.

Royal Signals are very proud of their close association with the Royal Air Force and to have the Chief of the Air Staff, Sir John Slessor, as their guest.

There was a notable absence of officers of B.A.O.R., Lieutenant-Colonel G. B. Bell being the sole representative, but Brigadier Morrison, the C.S.O., had been unable to spare any large number of officers during the rather critical period about Whitsun. As Representative Colonel Commandant he had recently in Germany dined with 106 Officers of the Corps at their annual dinner. He was very sorry that the dates of the visit to England of General Spencer B. Akin, Chief Signal Officer of the Army of the United States of America, did not cover the dinner. He knew that all would wish him to voice their very sincere greetings to Colonel Tully, who was representing the Signal Corps.

Amongst many letters and telegrams of regret for absence was one from Brigadier Galway and all were sorry that he was not at the dinner.

The present year was one of difficulty mainly due to the lack of replacements for those who had served throughout the war and were now leaving the service. It was a period of very great strain for Commanding Officers. The pressure on them was perhaps greater than ever before. This year the National Service men who had been such a success in and an asset to Royal Signals of the Active Army were going to the Territorial Army in increasing numbers. It was very important to make a success of the scheme. He was pleased to note the re-formation of certain Units of the Supplementary Reserve and the present Regiments would inherit the very great traditions of their predecessors in the Supplementary Reserve.

He referred to the first occasion on which our Colonel in Chief had witnessed a rugby football match. Her Royal Highness had seen the victory for the third year in succession of 1 Training Regiment in the Army Rugby Football Championship.

The "brown jobs," as Air Formation Signals were referred to in the R.A.F. had had some successes in the Royal Air Force Individual Boxing Championships.

From Rhine Army young officers and soldiers were able to learn skiing as the guests of the Signal Corps of the Norwegian Army.

The Principles of Carrier Telephony

By **T. BLASHILL**, *B.Sc., M.I.E.E.,*

Signals Research and Development Establishment, May 1950

Summary

The article is intended to present, in broad outline, the principles of carrier telephony. In addition, some reference is made to the salient features of complex systems, rather as a guide to indicate their general position in the scheme of things, and possibly as a starting point for more detailed examination in the available literature.

THE frequency band required for good quality speech transmission extends from about 300 c/s to 3,000 c/s. This band must therefore be passed over a twin conductor cable between the two telephones of a simple system. However, service cables are necessarily designed with a margin of mechanical and electrical strength, and, although their transmission efficiency decreases as signal frequency increases, it is frequently found that they are effective in handling frequencies very much higher than 3 kc/s, at ranges in common use. Is this capacity to be wasted; and if more circuits are required is it inevitable that each of the extra pairs of telephones be connected by an additional two wires? The answer is no! and the problem is resolved by applying the principles of carrier telephony.

At this stage it is worth noting that carrier telephony involves a technique in which several speech circuits each covering a frequency range between a few hundred cycles and three to four kilocycles are suitably translated, so that each occupies a different frequency range, although, of course, the bandwidth required by each is the same. Thus, four speech circuits each accommodated within a band zero to 4 kc/s might be so translated and assembled to cover a range of 4 kc/s to 20 kc/s, i.e. 4—8, 8—12, 12—16, 16—20 kc/s. After transmission over a single pair, such signals could be transferred back to their original 0—4 kc/s band. Evidently, the number of channels which can be so transmitted over a cable depends on the quality of the cable, the range required and so on. For example, in civil practice, many hundreds of circuits are passed via expensive, buried coaxial cables in a frequency band extending into the megacycle region. The Services are, in general, concerned with less complex networks, although the principles are essentially the same.

The optimum choice between the type of cable used and the number of circuits to be transmitted is governed by economic considerations, and in this respect the military user has to take particular note of the tactical factor. If large numbers of circuits are required, "wide band" cables must be used, and these are expensive and heavy. Such cables are difficult to transport and handle on available drums, and a lengthy period may be required for installation, especially under deterrent enemy action. Failure of any one cable may, on the basis of "all eggs in one basket," have serious repercussions. A better solution may be two or three cables of a smaller and lighter type, each carrying fewer circuits.

Frequency Translation

The process of frequency translation indicated in the opening paragraph is produced by modulation. For our purpose it is at present sufficient to say that, if two signals are passed through a non-linear device, new frequencies, not necessarily present in either of the two basic signals, are produced. (A non-linear device is an electrical network which produces distortion, in that its output is not a scalar copy of its input; such networks usually include rectifiers.) Carrier telephone technique selects these new frequencies and uses them as described later. Paradoxically, probably the two most important links in a carrier telephone system are modulators which, as stated, must have this property of non-linearity, and amplifiers, which must have the highest possible inverse property of linearity. This linearity criterion is examined later.

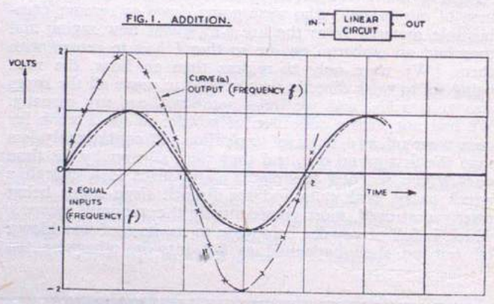
Modulation

The process of generating new frequencies from a pair of single frequencies is illustrated below. Here a distinction is drawn between the direct addition of two frequencies in a linear system, as against the process of modulation with its inherent non-linear circuit factor.

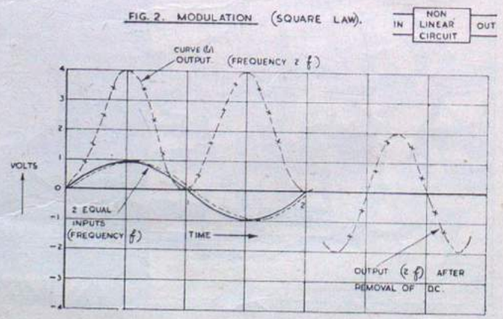
For the sake of simplicity, this illustrative example deals with two signals of the same frequency and of equal strength.

1. *Linear System (Addition)*

Fig. 1 shows two precisely similar signals whose "strength" varies in a sine wave manner with time change. The peak



value of each signal is assumed to be unity. If these signals are passed through a linear network (for example, a perfect amplifier, or attenuator) their sum will exist in the output, no other frequencies being present. Such a summation is shown in curve (a).



2. *Non-Linear System (Modulation)*

Fig. 2 shows two similar signals, but it is assumed they are transmitted together through a non-linear network. Here a case is assumed where the output signal is proportional to the square of the input. The input at the crests will be (1+1), the output therefore will be +4 (positive even for the troughs). The output is shown in curve (b). This curve is evidently a sine wave of double frequency, together with a D.C. component. If this D.C. component is removed (by subtracting a fixed value = ½ the peak to peak value, i.e. 2 units) from all values of the curve, we are left with the ordinary sine wave of double the original frequency as shown in the right hand side of Fig. 2. The D.C. component is removed electrically by insertion of a capacitor or transformer.

Extension to Differing Frequencies

Suppose the foregoing processes had been applied to two different frequencies f_1 and f_2, it would have been found that in the "addition" or linear case we should have an output which is simply a copy of the input, i.e., only the frequencies f_1 and f_2 are present, their amplitudes possibly being modified depending on the gain or loss of the linear network.

On the other hand, the important point to note is that the non-linear system (assuming the square law network of the earlier example) would derive frequencies of zero (D.C.); double the original frequencies; frequency of the sum of the original frequencies; frequency of the difference of the original frequencies. These sum and difference terms are important in the modulation process.

Let us turn back to the simple case of two equal frequencies, each of value f considered as a modulation process. According to the previous paragraph modulation produces zero frequency (D.C.), double each original frequency say 2f, sum of original frequencies, f+f=again 2f; difference frequency in this case nil. The total summation is therefore as shown graphically D.C. plus 2f.

The more general case of different angular frequencies A and B is shown in "basic" mathematics as follows:—

For a linear network of amplification factor K

$$K(\sin A + \sin B) = K \sin A + K \sin B$$

showing no change in the frequencies.

For a non-linear (square law) network

$$(\sin A + \sin B)^2 = \sin^2 A + \sin^2 B + 2 \sin A \sin B$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} - \frac{\cos 2A}{2} + \frac{1}{2} - \frac{\cos 2B}{2} + \cos(B-A) - \cos(B+A)$$

If A and B are representative of original frequencies f_1 and f_2 we have respectively therefore, terms of the following frequencies: zero, twice f_1, zero, twice f_2, f_2-f_1 and f_2+f_1.

In a particular case, an audio signal of 1 Kc, modulated by 8 Kc/s, via a square law modulation process would result in frequencies of zero (direct current), 2,000 c/s, 16,000 c/s, together with the important ones of 1 ± 8, i.e., 9 kc/s and 7 kc/s. In the practical design of modulators, these sum and difference frequencies are the "wanted" frequencies, and efforts are made to suppress all other "unwanted" frequencies to a low amplitude.

In telephony, we are interested in handling a band of frequencies, for example, the audio frequency band, not merely single frequencies. However, if each of the frequency components in such a band is regarded as operated on, that is modulated by, a single frequency—termed the carrier frequency—then the whole band is made to occupy a new position in the frequency spectrum.

For instance, developing the previous example, an audio band including all frequencies between 300 c/s to 3 kc/s, modulated by 8 kc/s would produce the following signals:

Firstly, the 1,000 c/s component as before.

1,000 c/s ——— 2,000, 16,000 7,000 and 9,000 c/s plus D.C.

Then the limiting frequencies 300 and 3,000 c/s.

The limiting frequencies:

300 c/s ——— 600, 16,000, 7,700 and 8,300 c/s plus D.C.

3,000 c/s ——— 6,000, 8,000, 5,000 and 11,000 c/s plus D.C.

Considering only the underlined frequencies, it is noted that there are two groups,

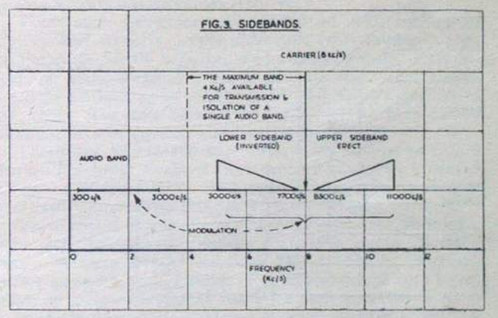
viz.: (a) 5,000, 7,000, 7,700 c/s derived from 3,000, 1,000 and 300 c/s respectively.

(b) 11,000, 9,000, 8,300 c/s also derived from 3,000, 1,000 and 300 c/s respectively.

Actually, of course, in this case, all frequencies in the 5,000—7,700 c/s and 8,300—11,000 c/s ranges are present.

These groups are ranged on either side of the 8 kc/s carrier frequency. On the basis of what has already been said it is apparent that the omission of any frequency in the 300—3,000 c/s range will result in the omission of a corresponding derived frequency in *both* of these groups. Similarly, variations of strength of any frequency in the audio range will result in corresponding variations in the new (derived) frequency bands.

These points are stressed because it is implicit that the variations of frequency and amplitude which take place in the single audio group, and which carry all the information, are present in each group, and therefore it is unnecessary to transmit both groups. Because of their symmetry about the 8 kc/s carrier, the groups are termed sidebands. The



conventional way of illustrating this process is shown in Fig. 3, which omits specific mention of 1 kc, but includes the band as a whole.

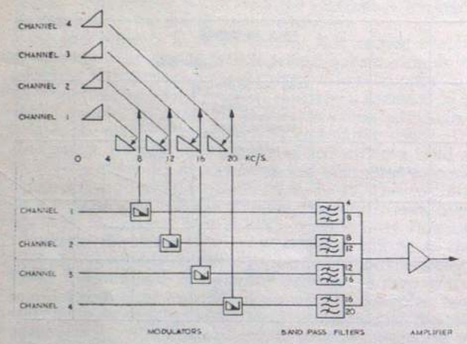
The group below the carrier is termed an inverted sideband, because its highest frequency, 7,700 c/s, is derived from the lowest (300 c/s) audio frequency, whereas its lowest frequency, 5,000 c/s, is derived from the highest (3,000 c/s) audio frequency. Conversely, the upper group is an erect sideband, low frequencies being derived from low audio frequencies, etc. To some extent, the wedge shapes give a picture of these conditions.

If four (or more) audio bands are to be arranged in continuous sequence, it is obvious that each band may not occupy more than its allotted span, which in modern practice is 4 kc/s. Fortunately, as has been shown, only one sideband need be transmitted. The carrier frequency conveys no information but is required for an inverse process known as "demodulation." It may be transmitted, wholly, partially, or be regenerated at the receiving end. One advantage of sending a single sideband without the carrier is that only "intelligence" power is transmitted. Before referring in more detail to "demodulation" it is useful to indicate how the required frequency ranges are selected, and spurious frequencies rejected—and in this connection it must be realised that modulators do not follow a square law strictly.

They are networks consisting of copper oxide or germanium rectifiers, and at higher frequencies valve rectifiers such as diodes. The process of modulation results, in fact, in a complex range of frequencies within which exists the wanted band.

Band Pass Filters are used to extract the intelligence carrying single sideband, and to suppress the unwanted frequencies (the carrier is very appreciably reduced by balanced modulators). They are devices which pass a band of frequencies and suppress frequencies above and below this band. Such filters include a number of tuned circuits, efforts being made to avoid losses by using efficient inductors and capacitors. Only thereby is it possible to present extremely steep skirts to the attenuation frequency response curve. Filters which attenuated only slowly beyond the limits of the required band would be inefficient because it would then be impossible to place the groups sufficiently close together without mutual interference. This close spacing is necessary to use the maximum capacity of the frequency spectrum provided by a carrier line. As an indication of this factor, the internationally agreed (C.C.I.F.) space allocation for an audio band is 4 kilocycles (although 3 kc/s has been used in the past). These 4 kc bands may be placed in frequency sequence. A block schematic with its associated frequency translation plan is shown in Fig. 4.

FIG.4. FREQUENCY TRANSLATION PLAN AND ASSOCIATED BLOCK SCHEMATIC (4 CHANNEL)



Here the conventional notation for modulators, filters and amplifiers will be observed. A technique which is known as double modulation and which simplifies filter requirements is covered at the end of these notes.

Amplification

If each and every telephone circuit were passed over a separate pair of wires, it would, on long circuits, be necessary to provide amplifiers for each channel at suitable intervals. On the other hand, a number of channels assembled into a broad band in the carrier telephone system, as indicated earlier, may all be amplified by a single amplifier. In the last two decades, amplifier technique has been considerably extended, so that this broad band technique is attractive. Remembering that our channels have been carefully assembled in non-overlapping groups, and that they have eventually to be redirected to their initial frequency spectrum at a receiving station, it is apparent that amplification along the route must include no non-linear networks. Amplifiers which are overloaded or of poor design will act in part as modulators. New frequencies will be generated and located in a complex manner within the transmitted frequency band, and no filtration process can subsequently remove them. Such spurious signals result at least in noisy circuits, at worst the system may be unusable.

For these reasons, carrier frequency amplifiers must, when handling full traffic, have extremely low distortion. Apart from this amplitude linearity requirement, there are two other controlling factors. Firstly, amplifiers must amplify each group in the whole band to the same degree, that is, the amplitude-frequency response must be flat (or in some cases vary in a controlled manner). Secondly, but not necessarily of less importance, stability is essential. This especially applies in the face of inevitable variations in power supply voltages, ageing of valves, and the unavoidable manufacturing tolerances of certain components in the make-up of the amplifiers. The characteristics of the cable determine the intervals at which amplifiers must be spaced. If a succession of amplifiers initially engineered so that their amplification just cancelled the attenuation of the preceding cable sections were subsequently to increase their gain by a small amount, the additive effect would produce excessive input levels, progressively more serious along the route; overloading and noise interference between circuits would result, due to modulation effects. Alternatively, loss of gain would imply an excessive ratio of random noise to signal. Brief consideration will also show that cable attenuation along a long route cannot be cancelled by a single centrally located amplifier of very high gain. The input signal would be lost in the circuit noise, and the amplifier output (if available) would possibly run into many kilowatts.

Modern carrier amplifiers incorporate a feature known as negative feedback. This makes long and stable circuits quite practicable. Negative feedback is a circuit arrangement in which a potential difference derived from the output signal is reintroduced into an earlier stage of the amplifier. In this process the fedback signal is reversed so that it partially cancels the signal which drives the amplifier (and from which it originated). The net result is a fall of amplifier gain due to feedback. This loss of gain is eliminated in design by making the amplification circuits give a much higher gain than would otherwise be required. Thus an amplifier required to have a 10,000 : 1 power amplification (40 decibels) would in earlier days have been designed directly to this value. The modern negative feedback amplifier would be designed, say, to have a basic gain of 70 decibels with 30 decibels negative feedback—a net gain of 40 db—the 30 db representing the loss of gain referred to earlier.

Negative feedback has been compared with the function of the governor of a steam engine, in which a mechanically operated valve depending on engine revolutions controls the effective energising (steam) input, so tending to keep engine revolutions constant under variable load conditions. The analogy of a feedback amplifier and speed regulation of an engine is not exact, but both are examples of a closed loop system in which the feedback is negative and tends to cancel out the initial effect.

One important result of negative feedback is that distortion terms present in the output are reduced, and variations in the performance of the elements actually producing amplification are minimised. These brief notes do not allow the treatment that the importance of this subject warrants, but it is worth while quoting the basic equation

$$A = \frac{\mu}{1-\mu\beta}$$ where A is effective voltage amplification, μ is the actual internal voltage amplification due to the valve and coupling circuits, and β is the fraction of μ which is fed back. Normally μ is made large and $\mu\beta$ is very much greater than 1, so that A equals almost exactly $\frac{1}{\beta}$. Now β is a fraction, so that $\frac{1}{\beta}$ is greater than 1.

This is the effective amplification, the fact which determines, for instance, the 40 db gain in the previous example.

The important thing to note is that β is usually determined by a simple resistance or reactance network (the feedback connection), and such networks are independent of power supply voltages as well as being very stable. Evidently, if any of the valves should develop a degraded performance, the forward amplification may fall very appreciably before the foregoing approximation becomes invalid—that is, $\frac{1}{\beta}$ is effectively unchanged.

Demodulation

The previous paragraphs have outlined the translation on a frequency basis of a number of audio channels into a continuous frequency spectrum and subsequent transmission *en bloc* with necessary amplification over a cable route. It is now required to isolate each group and reconvert it to audio for transmission on separate pairs to terminal telephones. Much of this process is covered by the reverse of the earlier subject matter, so only brief indication is given. The complete frequency spectrum is split up by filters and the output of each filter carries one audio bandwidth still in its translated frequency position. Demodulation consists of passing these outputs separately through non-linear networks resembling modulators—that is, rectifier assemblies. It is assumed that the carrier frequencies have not been transmitted, and in consequence, as they are required as part of the demodulator input, must be generated at the receiving station, precautions being taken to ensure that they are within a few cycles of the frequencies of the corresponding carriers at the sending end.

Reverting to the sending circuit example, it will be recalled that an audio 300—3,000 c/s band was modulated by 8 kc/s carrier and transmitted as a lower (inverted) sideband in the range 5,000 to 7,700 c/s. In the demodulation process, the 8 kc/s carrier is reintroduced at the receiving station, and, as before, sum and difference sidebands appear. These are

8,000 — (5,000 to 7,700) = 3,000 to 300 c/s

and (rejected by a low pass filter)

8,000 + (5,000 to 7,700) = 13,000 to 15,700 c/s.

This typifies the demodulation process.

Extension of Technique

The following paragraphs outline some of the more important developments of these basic principles:

(a) *Group Working*

By modulation processes, not only on audio band, but a complete group of channels may be translated into a higher frequency spectrum. Thus, four audio channels may be assembled in the range 4 kc/s to 20 kc/s. Three such sub-groups, each differently translated, may be arranged in the band 60-108 kc/s, giving a 12 channel group. Such a group is mobile, and is, in fact, an internationally agreed group. For example, it may be modulated again with a 120 kc/s carrier, giving a lower sideband of 12-60 kc/s, suitable for transmission over quad cable. Alternatively, it may form the bottom group of several such 12 channel groups assembled continuously in a range 60 kc/s to 4 megacycles or so. Obviously, here is a large channel capacity which warrants the use of expensive cable. This need is satisfied by coaxial cable in civil systems.

(b) *Two and Four-Wire Working*

The development of high gain stable repeaters having made carrier working a most worthwhile process, paradoxically has introduced a trend to increase the number of pairs in the cable, in one respect. This is because two separate pairs are now used extensively, one pair for the carrier "go" circuit and another pair for the "return" circuit. This is called "four-wire working."

The full application of carrier principles, of course, uses two-wire working, in which "go" and "return" circuits are transmitted along a single pair and in superimposed groups—so-called "two-wire working." This involves directional filters at each repeater station to route each individual group through an amplifier "facing" in the correct direction. Higher amplifier gains and consequently wider repeater spacing may be used if four-wire working replaces two-wire working.

In these brief notes, it is impossible to consider the many refinements of circuit design, but possible to refer in general terms to some of the more important.

There are, for example, two systems in wide use. One translates audio bands directly to a relatively high frequency range, and uses the great selectivity of crystal filters to eliminate unwanted frequencies, even though the bandwidth of the required sideband is small compared with the mid-band frequency.

Alternatively, double modulation systems arrange a first stage of modulation at relatively low frequencies, where commercially practicable iron-cored inductors provide filter elements sufficient to give adequate discrimination. In a further stage of modulation, the sidebands become appreciably spaced and filtration at the higher frequencies is correspondingly easy because of the frequency interval.

As an example of double modulation, the production of a 12-channel group in the range 12-60 kc/s may be quoted.

In this, four audio bands are individually modulated with 8, 12, 16 and 20 kc/s, selection of lower sidebands (inverted), giving a complete spectrum 4-20 kc/s.

Three such sub-groups are modulated with carriers of 56, 72 and 88 kc/s, upper sidebands (still inverted) exist in the range 60-108 kc/s, i.e., a 12-channel group. Examining this latter stage in a particular case, 4-20 kc/s modulated by 88 kc/s gives sidebands of 92-108 kc/s and 68 to 84 kc/s. The gap between 84 kc/s and 92 kc/s allows simple filters to develop adequate attenuation.

Thereafter, the 60-108 kc/s band is modulated with 120 kc/s. The lower sideband (now erect) includes the required range 12 kc/s-60 kc/s, the upper sideband being remote and easily removed at 180-228 kc/s.

There are, of course, many variations of carried technique, some relatively simple schemes such as a recent development, Repeater Field Telephone No. 1, which, in effect, halves an audio band, a range of approximately 2 kc/s being used, on a two-wire carrier basis, for each direction.

In fully-developed systems, various automatic devices simplify maintenance and installation, and promote reliable operation.

The need for these will be apparent when it is realised that inter-working may be required between several systems. This usually means that carrier frequencies must be synchronised, or highly accurate and stable.

The cable characteristics present a problem requiring careful consideration. Because the cable attenuation increases with frequency, the upper sub-groups included in a wide band will be less effectively transmitted. This deficiency is corrected by introducing equalisers at the end of cable sections. These are networks which have a greater loss at low frequencies than at high frequencies, and by choice of a correct characteristic (the inverse of the cable) equality over the wide band is established. However, even these precautions do not meet the exacting requirements of long systems because the cable characteristics vary with temperature. Auxiliary equalisers, which are controlled by ambient temperature in some cases, provide a solution. An alternative is to transmit single frequency pilot tones (one, two, or sometimes three) suitably positioned in the spectrum. These are periodically filtered off and automatically monitored. Any incorrect pilot level then brings into circuit corrective equalisers. More than one pilot is used because the change of cable characteristics with temperature is not the same at all frequencies in the band. These complica-

tions are usually built into the attended repeaters (two-way amplifiers). In between the attended repeaters it is often possible to operate up to eight unattended repeaters. These are usually of a simpler type and are designed to have a high efficiency so that they may be supplied with power over the communication cable itself.

Acknowledgment

Acknowledgment is made to the Chief Scientist, Ministry of Supply, for permission to publish this article.

A WRAC LOOKS AT ALIPH-BAKER

The Cold Dawn on Saturday, Twentieth May,
Discouraged us somewhat; but this was the day
For Exercise Aliph. Oh, Boy! What a flap
As we dashed to the office to scan the Route Map.

In best skirt and tunic we looked very neat
As, with some apprehension, we each found a seat,
"It ought to be easy" we thought with a sigh,
"And if we can't do it at least we can try."

The 'printers all whirred and the Orderlies ran;
Then into the hut walked the Newspaper Man.
He wanted to learn if we could still run
Wide-spread operations, as he had once done.

With T.A. to help us we put up a show
Which shook that Reporter, who wanted to know
If we pulled together. We proved they are barmy
Who say no team spirit is left in the Army.

There's much I could tell of this scheme we put through,
With Linemen and D.R.s and O.S.T.s too.
Security bars all the best of the news,
So here's to a verse of my personal views.

From Birmingham, Cardiff and Coventry, too,
We rolled up to prove what I knew to be true.
On the whole, by and large—now cut out that crack!—
There's lots to be said for a life in the W.R.A.C.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We gratefully acknowledge receipt of the following :—
THE R.A.O.C. GAZETTE, May.
THE QUEEN'S OWN GAZETTE, May.
ST. GEORGE'S GAZETTE, April.
THE THISTLE, April.
THE SAPPER, June.
R.E.M.E., June.
CA IRA, June.
THE JOURNAL OF THE R.A.S.C., June.

Subscriptions for "THE WIRE"

Annual subscriptions at 10s. are calculated from January to December. Back numbers can be supplied. Subscriptions for a portion of the year are calculated at the monthly rate of 1s. per copy.

School of Signals

Royal Signals Wing

As these notes are being written the sun has put in a welcome appearance, so perhaps our Cricket Knock-out Competition can get under way once more.

The results to date are:—

Wireless Equipment Group beat Workshops Troop by one run.
"H.Q." Squadron "A" team drew with H.Q. School of Signals.
Line Equipment Group beat Tactics Group by four wickets.

Special mention is made of the School of Signals shooting team which did so well at the Catterick District Rifle Meeting.

The success of the team is due in no small measure to Major H. J. Thompson.

Royal Signals Wing, combining with Officer Training Wing, formed a School of Signals team at the Catterick District Rifle Meeting.

After several weeks of hard practice in every kind of weather, mostly rainy, our efforts brought us many successes.

Major H. J. Thompson, our team captain, won the Individual Championship and was chaired in the traditional manner at the conclusion of the meeting.

Regimental Sergeant Major Howley, Second-Lieutenant Deverill and Regimental Quartermaster Sergeant Bell were among the first 12 in the Individual Championship.

The School Officers' team won the Officers' match, beating the 1st Battalion The Duke of Wellington's Regiment.

The Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' were second in their match, losing to the Duke's by the narrow margin of two points.

The School inter-Unit team won the Inter-Unit Cup, beating the Duke's again.

Once more the Duke's met us, in the final of the falling plates competition, beating us by a couple of plates.

Officer Training Wing

The last pass off parade was held on 19th May, 1950, when 247/8 Course was commissioned. The inspecting officer was Lieutenant-Colonel P. J. Palmer, and the Commandant's Cane was presented by him to Second-Lieutenant H. G. Hardie.

The two main events of the past month were the inter-Squadron six-a-side hockey tournament on the 2nd/3rd May, and the visit of Scottish Command (M) Signal Regiment for an inter-Unit sports week-end on 6th/7th May, 1950.

The six-a-side hockey tournament was won by Technical Squadron.

The visit of Scottish Command (M) Signal Regiment was a great success despite bad weather. A number of inter-Unit games were arranged including soccer, six-a-side rugger, hockey, tennis, basketball and table tennis and, in addition, a boxing competition. As can be imagined, every game was keenly contested and although we won four events, we were the victors by a narrow margin only.

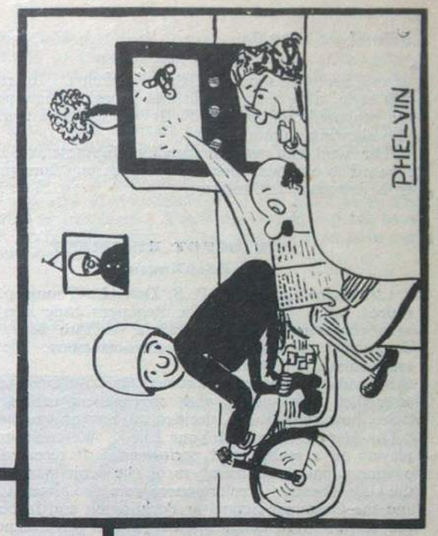
The lighter and less energetic entertainment for the week-end consisted of a concert for all ranks and families, parties at the Officers' Club and the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess, and an informal dance in the Men's Canteen. It was during this period of rest that our guests entertained

(*Continued on page 266*)

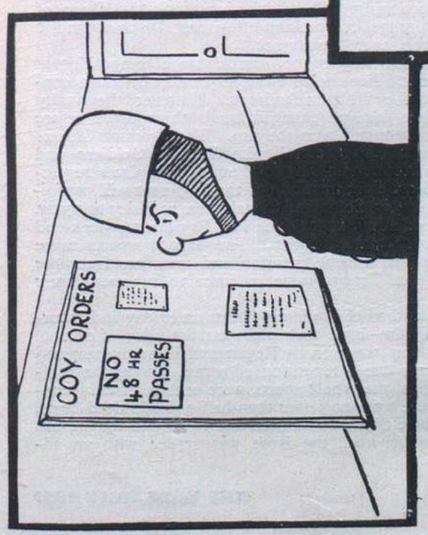
Royal Signals Display Team

A large air display organised by S.S.A.F.A. The display proved to be an outstanding success and was televised by the B.B.C. For those who are lucky enough to be able to enjoy television, it is hoped that the appearance of the display in the evening Newsreel on Saturday, June 3, came as a pleasant surprise.

General Sir Mosley Mayne, G.C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., Chairman of S.S.A.F.A., was good enough to write to the Director of Signals, Major General W. A. Scott, C.B.E., and say that the display was the outstanding event, and that each member of the team made a remarkable contribution to the success of the show.







THE Display Team set off their season with rather a rainy start at Beverley and Nottingham. At the latter, they completed a show for S.S.A.F.A. and also for the University.

However, with the arrival of the drier weather, the first appearance at Wembley Stadium went down extremely well before a good crowd of Speedway enthusiasts. The first appearance at an agricultural show was at the Cambridgeshire and Isle of Ely Show which was held near Ramsey. This was our first visit to this part of the country and judging by all the comments and extracts from the Press so far received, a return one is assured. On Whit Monday the team visited Maidenhead to take part in

School of Signals

(*Continued from page 264*)

us to a demonstration of Highland dancing. In truly Scottish style, with sporran, kilt and pipes, we saw performed the proposed "Corps Reel." It was indeed a spirited display showing no mean agility.

The week-end was thoroughly enjoyable and we look forward to our next meeting—perhaps on "foreign soil"—with abundant enthusiasm.

THE DEPOT REGIMENT
Pocklington

Lieutenant-Colonel C. P. S. Denholm-Young, O.B.E., has retired. The Officers of the Regiment bade him farewell at a party in the Officers' Mess on 13th May; he was despatched on his way with due ceremony. He will be sadly missed by all ranks.

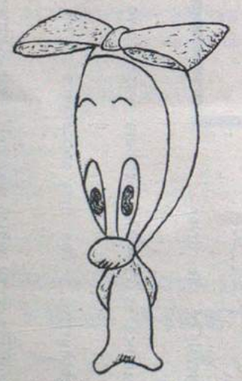
Second-Lieutenant Montgomery and our amateur players after their first success with an excellent performance of "See how they Run," decided to put on another show, "The Happiest Days of Your Life." We congratulate the players on a really good performance, it received a great ovation from those members of the Unit who saw it in the Unit Theatre. Performances were also given at Beverley and the Grammar School at Pocklington and in both cases the players were congratulated on the performance. We are looking forward to the next production and hope that it will be in the near future.

WAR OFFICE SIGNAL REGIMENT
Kingston-on-Thames

Richmond Park Camp is at its best in this delightful weather and the reserve water tanks are undoubtedly a temptation to many. The gardens begin to look attractive but with the larger grass areas in addition, a lot of time and labour is taken up to keep them maintained even in a small way.

There has been keen competition among many to get into the Eastern Command Signals rifle team to compete in the forthcoming A.R.A. championships at Bisley. Training for our annual inter-squadron athletic championships, which take place in July, is going on with keenness but in this weather most of the enthusiasm enters the water at Surbiton Lagoon and Kingston swimming baths—the latter at the expense of the P.R.I.

Troubles of a Radio-Mech. or, "It must have been the Widgets!"



No. 1.—Widget—at ease (very rare)

The D.R. Troop of our No. 3 Squadron had to provide D.R.'s for exercise "Horatius" at the Staff College, Camberley. Accordingly, eight stalwarts with Corporal Stephen in command, shining and polished on gleaming machines, left to uphold the reputation of the Regiment in particular and of the Corps in general. We were very pleased to learn that after the exercise, the C.I.G.S. thanked them, together with other attached personnel for their services.

On 7th June, 1950, the Institution of Electrical Engineers held a *soirée* which involved 3 G.H.Q. Signal Regiment, M.E.L.F. and ourselves in an unusual role. We provided two teleprinters and one speech channel from the *soirée* in London to Fayid Signal Office over the Army Wireless Chain S.S.B. link.

Conditions were not good and circuits went out at times, but the members of the I.E.E. and their ladies sent a number of messages and held numerous telephone conversations with our opposite numbers in Fayid. We congratulate the latter on their remarkable conversational powers with a long succession of complete strangers!

A broadcast of "Much Binding in the Marsh" also took place from the I.E.E. that evening and amongst those who talked to Fayid were Phillip Slessor and "Dudley Davenport."

The radio mechanics of No. 2 Squadron hope that the cartoon on this page will explain their troubles with the "Widgets." This inaugurates a "Widget" series.

EASTERN COMMAND SIGNAL REGIMENT
Maresfield

Last month it was "Destination unsettled." This month is is "Operation Scat." The Regiment is in the throes of moving to Maresfield Camp, Sussex, where we shall be firmly established by the 19th June, 1950.

Before we receive a spate of letters from the "Old Signals," with enquiries such as "Is it near the Chequers?" "How far is it from the Bridge Hotel, Uckfield?" "Do you know Wickhams?" Let us point out that the camp is on the road to Newick about 400 yards from the gates of Maresfield Park.

With the worry, flurry and organisation we remembered to keep functioning. These functions took the shape of our annual range competition, Regimental sports and a church parade, apart from work.

Tuesday, 30th May, 1950: Annual range competition at Lydden Spout. For the competitors at least it was a continuation of the Whitsun holidays. However, the rivalry was such that the lead changed hands three times before the Officers eventually won the cup. The Warrant Officers and Sergeants came second with Regular Soldiers and National Servicemen holding third and fourth places respectively. At least eight members of the Regiment will participate in the Eastern Command Signals team at Bisley this year.

Friday, 2nd May, 1950: The last Regimental week-end in Canterbury started today. The annual sports were brought forward for the occasion and members from the Regiment's out Troops came in force to represent their Squadrons.

After a marathon of eliminating heats on Friday and Saturday morning the finals took place on Saturday afternoon.

The team cup was won by Regimental Headquarters and although there was a repetition of names among the individual winners, the whole sports were enthusiastically contested. There were no fewer than half a dozen dead-heats. In two of these Signalmen Lovell and Moss tied for the 100 yards individual cup, the issue was settled with an additional cup. Triple crowns were won by Lieutenant Beverley and Signalman Eaves.

Prizes for team and individual winners were given away by Mrs. J. N. Barker.

Sunday, 4th June, 1950: Church parade in the Garrison Church. The Reverend Meredith, the Vicar of Chislet, who has for a long time, as far as his work would permit, been "Our Padre," took the service. He chose the famous order of the day by the Elizabethan John Hawkins, as the text for his sermon:

"Serve God daily.
Love one another.
Preserve your victuals.
Guard against fire.
Keep good company."

So ends the Canterbury tour. The Regiment as a whole and the inhabitants in the main regret our going. In the local the other day I heard one old man of Kent correct another with "It is Wemyss Barracks now, not Cavalry." This and the fact that the R.S.M. was heard to give an order to the Carpenters to "Fix firmly the name boards of 'Fowler' and 'Mercury' blocks before the Regiment's departure," is sufficient to ensure that we, like 4th Divisional Signals, shall be well remembered.

5 TRAINING REGIMENT
Harper Barracks, Ripon

Amidst the historical beauty of Ripon, we bid our *au revoir* and give thanks to Lieutenant-Colonel I. F. Meiklejohn, Major J. G. Oliver, O.B.E., Major Garlick and Captain R. W. Dowell, and wish them success in their new appointments. With our warm welcome to our new C.O., and Garrison Commander, Lieutenant-Colonel R. B. Eraut, and to Major B. H. Bogle, Major Jarvis, we add our hopes that they will long be with us.

Settling down in our new surroundings we commenced with taking part in the civic procession to Ripon Cathedral. Lieutenant-Colonel Eraut accompanied the Mayor with other leading personalities for the march past at the saluting place. Ripon has it that we are out in the Royal Engineers' footsteps for the Freedom of the City. Why not, since we do not over estimate ourselves and frankly believe we can do it. Only if we are to be here for a short while, then we must have our illustrious and industrious "Mercury" in lead to speed our way to that aim.

We request all Signal cricket enthusiasts to mark our rise to fame, and sport a challenge to our brothers locally for matches to be played. You'll like Ripon and we have a perfect pitch. What says S.T.C., now that you have our ex-cricket captain?

WESTERN COMMAND SIGNAL REGIMENT
Blacon Camp, Chester

Lieutenant-Colonel T. W. Boileau, O.B.E., has completed his term of Command and has left us to take Command of a T.A. Unit.

He is to be succeeded on 15th July by Lieutenant-Colonel N. de la Poer Tate, who up to recently has been C.S.O. Ceylon.

Regimental sports were held on 24th May, Mid West District Signal Troop were the winning team. We welcome Captain J. Willis to North West District from 3 G.H.Q. Signal Regiment, M.E.L.F., and R.S.M. Justice who has returned to Blacon Camp. The Sergeants' Mess has been renovated inside and out by the R.S.M. and looks very gay.

In conjunction with 1/20 Army Signal Regiment, T.A., from Birmingham, which provided team and exhibits for



[*Courtesy: C. Finey*

Mayor's Sunday

the Military stand for the Bath and West Show held this year in Birmingham, 31st May to 3rd June.

Editor's Note: The most excellent photograph illustrating a full description of Western Command Signal Regiment's part in the Bath and West Show are being held over until August for the following reasons:

The photograph, at any rate, is so good that we require it for the front cover of the magazine, and without the article the picture on the front cover would be meaningless. A very good description of the Bath and West Show and another photograph will be found in the notes of 1/20 Army Signal Regiment, T.A., at page 286 of this issue.

It is most unfortunate that the front cover for July was already booked by a picture of Gatehouse at Maresfield.

Early May we saw the annual race meeting at Chester, and we sent a detachment down to the Roodee racecourse to supply a walkie-talkie wireless service for the Police. The party arrived at noon each day, were given an excellent lunch, armed themselves to the teeth with "88" sets and sallied forth in the heat of the day to do battle at various strategic points of the course. From the top of the truck, just behind the winning post, we had a really first-class view of the course.

Needless to say, wireless conversation was not always on strictly military subjects and in between calls for ambulances and other important messages the air hummed with mystic incantations about "Khorassan—six to four, Castle Rock—nine to two, 3.3.0—Napoleon Bonaparte." The man at the starter's gate was reputed to get his tips straight from the horse's mouth, but judging by our empty pockets this seems unlikely. The Clerk of the Course expressed himself well satisfied with the work of Corporal Daglish and his party. In fact the success of the scheme prompts us to wonder if the tic-tac men of the future will be equipped with "88" sets, in place of the conservative yellow gloves.

NORTHERN IRELAND DISTRICT (M) SIGNAL SQUADRON

Lisburn

This has been a month of inspections, sports and, not solely due to the former, a month of hard work.

The weather has been kind to us, particularly on the two occasions on which it was most desirable that it should be so; namely for the inspections on 9th May, 1950, by the G.O.C. Northern Ireland District, Lieutenant-General Sir Reginald F. S. Denning, K.B.E., C.B., and on 23rd May, 1950, by the Representative Commandant, Major-General W. R. C. Penney, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C.

These were two most enjoyable and satisfactory visits, and on both occasions the Squadron was complimented on its turn-out, drill and bearing.

On the evening of 23rd May we had a Regimental guest night in honour of Major-General Penney and it may safely be said that a good time was had by all.

Both the shooting teams which we entered for the H.Q. Miniature Range Competitions fared well. Unfortunately, our "A" team had to knock out our "B" team in the semi-finals, but they went on to win the tournament, beating "G" Branch in the finals by two points.

With practice, our open range shots are showing considerable improvement, and three, R.Q.M.S. Surfleet, Corporal Ash and Lance-Corporal Williams are going to Bisley as members of the Western Command/Northern Ireland District Signal "Battalion" team.



[Courtesy: W. Abernethy

Practice for the N.I.D. Athletics Meeting which takes place on 7th June has been in full swing; after breaking down the barrier of modesty which is so often put up on such occasions, we discovered several promising athletes and some of them are now well up to Regimental standard, and should do well in the sports if they can pull out their best.

SIGNALS RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ESTABLISHMENT

The Ministry of Supply Military Establishments have now been issued with Formation Signs, a reproduction of which is opposite. The official heraldic designation is as follows:

"In a circle Azure out of a mural crown or, a dexter cubit arm proper, the hand grasping a thunderbolt, argent, winged, gold."

The device symbolises:—

"Arising from Defence (The Mural Crown)
the Strong Arm of Britain wielding
Modern Weapons, (The thunderbolt) in the
midst of endurance."

"Summer is i-cumen in," which to all of us will mean another season of swimming, a generous appreciation of the female form divine along the beaches, Unit sports, and perhaps not quite so interesting, preparation for the annual Range Course. At the moment we are doing a spot of "spit and polish" in preparation for the visit of H.R.H. the Princess Royal, to S.R.D.E. on 17th July. As we have only 29 members of the Corps on our strength, we can just scrape a guard of honour together, and that is not meant literally.

Do you know the address of your local branch of the Signals Association?

If not, write to the General Secretary, 88 Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1.

Anti-Aircraft Command

1 A.A. (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT

Laindon

On the 3rd of May, on a Regimental parade, the Commanding Officer presented the Regiment's oldest soldier, Captain (Q.M.) N. Mulcahy, with a much belated Long Service and Good Conduct Medal. Well done, Nick!

The Regimental week-end was held on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th June, and was voted by all to be a success. We were honoured by the presence of the C.S.O. 1 A.A. Group, throughout the week-end. On Friday evening, the Q.M. produced a concert, which entertained the remainder of the Regiment, for two hours, with turns that would have done credit to a much larger Unit. With only approximately one hundred people here in Laindon, it must have been a difficult task to produce so much talent, and, what is more keep it secret. It would be difficult to pick any one item for special praise, but the Regiment is no less grateful to all who worked so hard to produce such a good show.

On Saturday morning the C.S.O. inspected the Unit, and later judged a competition between two Signal Office detachments in laying lines and setting up Signal Offices. The team from 1 L.M. Troop won by a very narrow margin. A netball competition between two W.R.A.C. teams resulted in a win for "A" team.

During the afternoon the camp took on the appearance of "'appy 'ampstead." All the fun of the fair was there including coconut shies, a gypsy fortune teller, Aunt Sally, etc., etc., not forgetting "Peanut Pamment." Once again the Regiment's thanks are due to those who worked so hard to make the afternoon such a fine show.

On Saturday evening the whole Regiment congregated in the N.A.A.F.I. for an "All Ranks" dance. This followed the standard of the previous events and was enjoyed by all. It is a pity that the Q.M. couldn't persuade the couple who performed so well on the "mike" during the late evening to have appeared in the concert the previous evening.

On Sunday morning the week-end was brought to a close with a voluntary church service at which the Commanding Officer officiated.

This was very well attended and provided a fitting close to a very enjoyable week-end.

Note: Which A.A. Signal Regiment was it whose exchange operator, on being asked for a connection with the Squadron Commander, replied "I'm sorry, sir!! you must have the wrong number. This is the A.A. not the R.A.F."

2 A.A. (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT

Aldershot

At the time of writing the unit is a hive of intense activity owing to the approach of the annual summer camp. This will be held at Gilkicker Camp, Alverstoke, Hants, from June 10th to June 24th.

On our last Regimental Week-end we were honoured by a visit from the band of the Royal Corps of Signals. In the early evening they entertained us with a concert which included fine singing as well as an excellent rendering of several well-known musical pieces. Afterwards, at the dance, they lost no time in proving to us that they could play music for dancing as well as the more serious type. We offer them our sincere thanks for their part in the proceedings. We should also like to thank Mrs. Beeton, the charming wife of the C.O., for her fine rendering of two of today's popular songs. They were a memorable part of the evening. The dance owed its success to the valuable co-operation of all the various Signal Units in Aldershot particularly 16 Parachute Brigade Signal Squadron. We were particularly pleased to see some old and familiar faces from the Aldershot branch of the Signals Association. The profit from the dance which amounted to £9 was presented to the Royal Signals Association Headquarters.

3 A.A. INDEPENDENT (M) SIGNAL SQUADRON

Edinburgh

In common with our colleagues serving in other A.A. Signal units we have been fully committed both operationally and administratively since we were last in print three months ago. Exercises involving line laying and maintenance has kept our line troop busy in all parts of Scotland.

We are eagerly anticipating a change of air in July when we proceed to Burrowhead, on the South-West Scottish coast, to annual camp. This year we are pleased to be joining forces with 13 A.A. (M.) Signal Regiment T.A. and we are looking forward to a visit from Brigadier W. H. G. Rogers, C.B.E., C.S.O., A.A. Command during our stay.

A report of our camp activities will be included in our next notes.

The Squadron acquitted itself well at the 3 A.A. Group annual sports, held at Stenhouse Stadium, Edinburgh, last month. Among the W.R.A.C. contingent Sergeant Fuller, Lance-Corporal Leak, Privates Birchall, Hunter and Allan did well to beat the 3 A.A. Group H.Q. W.R.A.C. Company by 24 points to 22. Events which were won by our team were the 400 and 220 yards relay and the long jump.

Among the men Lance-Corporals Brooks and Stafford and Signalman Cox assisted Group Units into second place in the Group championship, Lance-Corporal Stafford being in the team to win the 120 yard hurdles. Signalman Cox was a good second in the javelin contest.

4 A.A. (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT

Peninsula Barracks, Warrington, Lancs

We held our last Regimental week-end before camp on 20th/21st May, 1950. In spite of really heavy rain which washed out the motor cycle trials we had a useful and enjoyable time. The W.R.A.C. operators ran a teleprinter exercise between Warrington, Liverpool, Coventry and Cardiff, each office clearing about 200 messages during the 16 working hours. The men concentrated on physical efficiency tests and M.A.L. construction in Stoneleigh Park.

The Press arrived in some strength and the *Coventry Standard* wrote up the week-end with considerable effect.

On Sunday, 4th June, the Mayor of Warrington required an escort to and from church. H.Q. 4 A.A. Group provided the escort but the majority of those on parade came from 4 A.A. (M) Signal Regiment, and the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel R. C. Yule, O.B.E., Royal Signals, took the parade. He also accepted the Mayor's thanks, praise and appreciation after the parade. (Did they taste good, sir?).

Biblical Reveries

ANOTHER ADVENTURE IN THE LIFE OF SIGNALMAN HARRIS

"THERE must be something in this Commandment business," thought Signalman Harris. Also in the old saying about the broken mirror and seven years' bad luck. And, as he'd just signed on for seven years he didn't feel at all happy. But he couldn't remember when he'd broken the mirror.

As we favoured readers know, Signalman Harris had arrived in M.E.L.F. and the only thing of importance that had happened to him was a somewhat one-sided fracas with a gentleman whose digging party he had removed. But even that didn't affect his social life. The one main fact that affected his life as a pillar of society was that he couldn't dance. Unlike Mr. Noel Coward's heroine who wouldn't dance—he just couldn't, incontrovertibly and utterly he just had no idea. This he decided to rectify even if only because there were in the immediate vicinity a certain number of ladies of the W.R.A.C. who could do what he couldn't, i.e. dance.

Dancing classes were being held at a local institute and he joined them. In his favour it must be said that he proved an apt pupil. Starting with the one, two, three of the waltz, he graduated very rapidly to the more exotic rhythms of the rhumba and tango—"Mamam y Quero" and "La Paloma" were his meat and drink. And he learnt that a chassis was not just something on a truck—or even a dance step. He found that his instructress had one as well.

Which was really the cause of his downfall, because even though it hurts this historian to record it he was in trouble again. His instructress, as we have observed, was endowed with a modicum of feminine charm sufficient to cause any right thinking man to get ideas. Our hero got ideas and pursued them to such good effect that very shortly he found himself dancing regularly and accompanying, equally regularly, his instructress on various social jaunts and occasions.

Life was very pleasant for him until one evening. He had gone to the cinema along with his newly acquired girl friend, and there he met a gentleman who gave him a rather dirty look. The gentleman in question being famed for the lavish abandon with which he dispensed dirty looks Signalman Harris had not been unduly worried. It wasn't until much later that he realised why dirty looks had come his way without apparent cause. He had then done seven days C.B., a week of fire piquet and a guard. Light had dawned unto his darkness and he realised the truth of the Commandment (slightly modified) which says: "Thou shalt not, as a Signalman, covet thy Provost Sergeant's girl friend—even less shalt thou appropriate her to thyself."

OLD BILL

The Work of the Signals Branch

BRITISH MILITARY MISSION, GREECE

The evolution of the Greek Signal Corps, one of the finest achievements of the Mission, shows an expansion from a few senior ex-Engineer officers and a few poorly educated trainees who assembled in Athens in March, 1945, to a Corps of 500 officers and 7,000 men.

In those early days no equipment whatsoever existed for training purposes. Some had to be borrowed from British Signal units which had come into Greece with the relieving forces and some was collected from a salvage dump at Pireaus.

The low educational standard of the trainees was due to the occupation by the Germans and to the general disorganisation then prevailing in the country.

This latter condition was reflected in the state of telephone and wireless communications throughout the country. British Signal units rebuilt the main telephone routes from Athens to Salonika and to Patras, besides many less important routes. Since then these and other circuits have been expanded by the use of British carrier and teleprinter equipment, which is in use to this day. Communications to the Islands were re-installed by the use of wireless sets, many of American origin, in use by the British Army.

The Signals branch of the British Military Mission was formed early in 1945. Its task was formidable, though it should be stated that the keenness and native intelligence of the Greeks, and their capacity for short-term improvisation were encouraging factors. These qualities, allied to the war experience of the British Signals' instructors, and their foresight and long-term planning, began to show results. When, in 1946, the bandit activities constituted a national menace calling for large-scale military operations, and when equipment came in in large quantities, the adolescent Greek Signal Corps was equal to its first big task of providing communications for the army.

By 1948, when modern American Signal equipment began to arrive in large quantities, and the British Signals' instructors were supplemented by American Signals' officers and men, the Greek Signal Corps began to have the aspect of a first-rate service. At a busy Corps Headquarters, one could see rows of modern wireless sets working with remote control, large and busy exchanges, a highly efficient registration office handling up to a thousand messages a day, and a despatch rider service carrying three times that number of packages.

One item of equipment which deserves special mention is the British No. 22 set. This small, robust equipment provides speech up to 10 miles and morse up to 20 miles. In the words of a Greek soldier, "It can roll down the hillside on its mule. The mule is finished, but the 22 set works." The bandits were not slow to realise its potentialities, and often tried to capture 22 sets in their raids, sometimes with success. Then, with their tenuous cunning, they would join in on Greek Army wireless circuits to try and extract information. The Greek Signal Corps, however, were equal to this, and having trained some operators specially for this role, soon turned the tables on their adversaries.

The British officers attached to Greek formations in the field required their own system of communication. This was provided by British wireless detachments. Some of these had thrilling experiences, such as the one which was snowbound "in the blue" for four days, and had to be fed by aircraft—which, incidentally, was unable to find them for the first two days.

Many friendships have been formed between British and Greek Signalmen. The common task, the sharing of common hardships, and the common will to maintain communications under all conditions, were strong enough to break down the barrier of language, aided be it said, by the manual gesticulations of the Greeks and ability of the British soldier to make himself understood anywhere.

The Greek Signal Corps has now three years' experience in the recently ended bandit war. The British Military Mission is being reduced, and British Signals in Greece will soon be less than one-tenth of their former strength. The tasks of clearing the ground, laying the foundation and building the house are now ended. It remains to maintain it and keep it up to date.

The Ceremony of The Keys

THIS ancient ceremony is now known to many readers through the medium of the B.B.C. broadcasts conducted from time to time—however, this is possibly one of the oldest ceremonies that is regularly carried out in this country. An interesting extract from the Warder's Book gives the origin of this quaint and interesting ceremony: "In King Edward III's day (1327-77) there was one, John of London, a handy craftsman, and an armourer that had custody of the gates, portcullises, and drawbridges of the tower, with the wages of fourpence per diem and twopence for a varlet to carry his Keys after him, and also twopence a day during the time that he should be employed in scouring the harness in the armoury within the tower, and had the same clothes and a Ruff gown, and a Halbert allowed him as the rest of the Yeomen had. He had to see the Main Gates of the tower daily opened, and locked at the usual times; and to shake the bars and search the locks at the shutting in of the same, and then in his own person to bring up the keys with the rest of the warders who waited at the gates, and deliver them to the Lieutenant."

At about 9.53 p.m. every night, the Chief Warder, dressed in a long, Red Watch Coat and wearing his Tudor hat with red-white-blue rosettes surrounding the rim, approaches St. Thomas's Tower. In one hand he is carrying an ancient lantern with a lighted yellow candle inside it, and in the other hand he carries the keys with which to lock the gates. An escort of one N.C.O. and two armed men with fixed bayonets, and drummer to carry the lantern, are waiting on the road between the "Bloody Tower" archway and St. Thomas's Tower. The lantern is handed to one of the escorts, whilst the Chief Warder places himself in the centre of the escort so that he is closely guarded. The N.C.O. calls the escort to attention, and the party marches towards the front gate. (Here comes in a curious point in military etiquette. In ordinary times the Chief Warder would salute an officer, but when he carries the King's Keys, an officer salutes him; or rather, salutes the King's Keys; whilst a civilian takes off his hat.)

At the Byward Tower the Chief Warder and his escort are joined by a second warder (Watchman) to assist in shutting the gates. As the keys pass, the Spur Guard turns out at the Middle Tower and presents arms to them. Arriving at the front gate (near which stood the Bulwark Gate) the Chief Warder, assisted by the man with the lantern, locks the gate, whilst the escort turns inwards and presents arms, so that no felon may stab the Chief Warder in the back, or otherwise interfere with him or his duty.

The procession then re-forms and marches back to the Middle Tower, where the Spur Guard again presents arms. The escort, turned inwards as before, comes to the "Present" whilst this gate is locked. The keys and escort then march back across the bridge over the moat, which in ancient times was a drawbridge, to the Byward Tower, where the same ceremony is repeated. Here the warder who is assisting (unless there are members of the public present as spectators) leaves the procession and remains on guard all night within the Byward Tower (spectators, if any, are required to wait near the St. Thomas's Tower, and the second warder joins them there). The procession then passes along Water Lane, between the "King's House" and St. Thomas's Tower, and when opposite the Traitor's Gate, turns in under the famous Bloody Tower. Directly the party is observed, the sentry on the Main Guard lowers his bayonet to the on-guard, and challenges:

"Halt—who comes there?"

The Chief Warder replies, "The Keys."

The sentry then demands, "Whose keys?"

"King George's (reigning monarch) Keys," replies the Chief Warder.

"Advance King George's Keys, all's well," and the sentry lifts his bayonet point.

Thus permitted, the Chief Warder, with the keys and escort, advance, and when opposite the Main Guard, form up and halt, facing the Main Guard. The officer on guard then gives the order, "Guard and escort, present arms," which being obeyed, the Chief Warder steps to the front, takes off his hat, and in a clear reverent voice pronounces the words: "God preserve King George." The officer and men of the guard and escort together answer, "Amen." A slight pause and then the bugler, who has been waiting at the top of the main steps, sounds the nightly Last Post. The Keys are then handed over to the resident Governor and locked up in a safe.

Now, readers, just a few further words about this very ancient ceremony, dating from before the Commonwealth period. At one time the residents numbered more than they do now. Besides, the Royal Mint was located within the Tower until 1810—the site is still known as Mint Street. The Royal Armoury, too, was situated within the Tower walls.

The need for the Yeoman Porter, as the Chief Warder had been known for five hundred years, to be protected whilst he locked the gate was, in those early days, a necessity.

There is little risk these days of a felon concealing himself with the intention of stabbing the Chief Warder; however, it is still hoped this ancient ceremony will be carried out for centuries to come.

The old lantern was lost or stolen, but the Honourable Artillery Company, in memory of the period during World War I, when the garrison was manned by them, have presented a very handsome substitute.

Have you notified your latest address for Corps Publications to the General Secretary, Royal Signals Association, 88 Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1

Announcement!

ROYAL SIGNALS WAR MEMORIAL FUND

MERCURY HOUSE, COLWYN BAY



A second Mercury House, to be run on the same lines as the existing one at Bournemouth, has been purchased by the Corps Committee. It is situated at Colwyn Bay and until recently was functioning as the "Haddon Lodge Private Hotel"; it has accommodation for twenty-five guests and was opened for visitors from 1st April, 1950.

It is situated in the delightful residential area of Colwyn Bay, on the edge of the famous Pwllycrochan woods, and within a few minutes walk of the sea. The shopping and entertainments centre is also in close proximity. The house stands in its own grounds, and both lounges and the dining room overlook a wide lawn. Each bedroom has hot and cold running water, and the rooms themselves are large and airy with pleasant views from all windows.

Colwyn Bay is an attractive all the year round resort, having a relatively mild climate. It is on the verge of grand mountain scenery, and is an excellent centre for visits to Snowdonia, as well as Anglesey, the Menai Straits and Llandudno.

Charges will be at the following comparatively low rates:—

April to September	**£4 10 0**	a week for adults with reduced charges for children by arrangement with the Manager according to age.
October to March	**£3 10 0**	a week for adults, and again reduced charges for children.

All members and ex-members of Royal Signals and R.E. Signals are eligible as guests in the House, also their wives and children. Widows and children of members of the Corps killed in the 1939-1945 war are also eligible.

Rail passengers should book to Colwyn Bay station.

The House has been purchased with funds contributed by all ranks of the Corps during the 1939-45 war.

Reservations can be made at any time with The Manager:

Mercury House, Brackley Avenue, Colwyn Bay

Telephone 3402

British Troops in Austria

KLAGENFURT SIGNAL SQUADRON

"Not so fit as I was last year," declared Signalman Cowell, ten minutes before the race. Hardly surprising, when we learned he had returned from a dance at 1 a.m. that morning. Bot how it eased the going to catch the cry of "Cowell still leading" as we padded past innumerable markers! He came first of the 100 odd starters representing most B.T.A. Units in the 6½ mile cross-country championship held on 15th April. The Squadron team as a whole came fourth, though the last man was only 54th and we were the second team to have all runners home.

Several members of the hockey XI played in elimination matches for the B.T.A. trials, and Captain Bullard was selected to play in the successful match against B.E.T.F.O.R. Superior play on the part of R.A.S.C., Austria, blasted our hopes in the knock-out series. We'll get our revenge on the cricket pitch!! !

The Squadron has given considerable attention to its soccer in recent weeks, and we came third in the B.T.A. League. Signalman Whitehurst was our top scorer with 22 goals in 11 matches. In the knock-out competition our six-a-side team reached the quarter-final, with Signalman Little and Signalman Bailey, late of 2 Training Regiment, to the fore. We provided several members of the Royal Signals Austria team in the seven-a-side rugger which thrashed two opponents to get into the semi-final, but then succumbed to the West Yorkshire Regiment from Vienna.

A curious sport is taking root in some quarters in the shape of weight-lifting. Grunts and thuds precede a scuffle and the glint of chromium when the door of the S.D.O. is flung open, to be explained away gaspingly as, "Just my daily, sir." Less obscure are the five sports cycles just acquired by the P.R.I. for general use. The glories of this lovely land will be more richly enjoyed for this happy purchase. The O.C. went to take a look at them early on the day they became available, but was met with "Zu spät—gone already, sir." The B.T.A. summer motor-cycle trials began recently, but we have not yet repeated the triumphs of last year.

The shooting season opened for us with the coming of May. Twenty men down the first week from Vienna Signal Squadron; 17 of our own painfully spared to replace them; 35 on the Warmbad range; much credit to the remainder that communications were still alive in B.T.A.! In subsequent weeks the 20 from Vienna have continued to come, but we send only a bare two or three in return. The training programme is a novelty. All men off-duty come in for instruction on their own trade over a period of weeks with the aim of raising their star classification. And—disaster to the bench happy!—an hour of P.T. almost every day.

Otherwise business has been normal, except that we were recently troubled by the overnight disappearance of 1,560 metres of 7-pair aerial cable. But we fathomed the mystery without having to call in experts from M.E.L.F.

The enclosed photograph shows the Squadron cross-country team, with the O.C., Major G. R. Edwards, on the left, and Captain (Q.M.) T. L. Harries on the right. Signalman Cowell is No. 49.



The Klagenfurt Signal Squadron Cross-Country Team

Royal Engineers Special Reserve

By **Major BEN HOWORTH, R.E., S.R., Retd.**

FORTY-ONE years ago, in January, 1909, the first batch of officers of the Special Reserve of Officers reported for duty at Brompton Barracks, Chatham.

The Reserve had been created, by an Order in 1908, to provide enough officers to complete to War Establishment the units of an Expeditionary Force whenever that might become necessary. While there was no very serious shortage of officers of the Royal Engineers, there were many employed abroad or in posts from which they could not be quickly released.

The Royal Engineer Units of the B.E.F., when they were mobilised in 1914, had a considerable number of these reserve officers with them, and it is doubtful whether the units could have been fully officered without the Special Reserve.

In the first three or four months of the 1914-18 war wastage of officers, especially in the Royal Engineers, was very high, and it was not long before all the Regular and Special Reserve men, who drifted home from overseas or were released from employment, took their places in the front line units.

The officers of the Reserve for the Royal Engineers were selected in the first place by the President of the Institution of Civil Engineers, and they were in every case student members of that Institution. Some were graduates from Universities with engineering degrees. Some sort of training in engineering was required from each man as the length of the course to be undergone at the S.M.E. was only twelve months instead of the usual two years for Regular officers.

The men of the first batch, 15 in number, were older than the average young officer, and some had had a fair amount of experience on works at home and abroad, and this previous training was of great help.

The batch was given a good send-off at a special complimentary dinner at the mess in Brompton Barracks. The President and Council of the Institution of Civil Engineers were the guests, and several toasts were honoured, and the dinner and speeches lasted three hours, a record for the Chatham Mess.

Training began, as with all officers, on the Square, and then proceeded to lectures and tactical schemes, and at the end of April the batch was dispersed to various field units at Aldershot and other commands.

Individual officers were posted to Telegraphs, Balloons, Field and Fortress Companies, and they remained with their units till September, when the batch reassembled at Chatham for Field Works, Survey, Construction and Fortification, winding up with demolitions and bridging. It was, in fact, a full Royal Engineers' course compressed into a few months.

The training with the field units was most interesting, and what was particularly pleasing was the way in which the Regular officers welcomed the individual officers posted to their units.

The writer was posted to the 1st Air Line Company, which was equipped with the heavy four-horsed waggon, which was able to go across country to a considerable extent, but mostly preferred the roads.

After a month in the Riding School at Aldershot, the training continued at Burghclere, near Newbury, where all the Signal Units were in camp.

On completion of the year's training with Regular units and the S.M.E., the officers' commissions were confirmed and they were posted to units which they were to join on mobilisation and with which they were expected to train for not less than fifteen days each year. A small annual payment or retaining fee was made, subject to the provision that the officer had carried out his annual training. No officer could proceed abroad without War Office permission.

The members of the first batch having been released, the second and third batches were called up, and there continued to be two such batches in existence, with six months' interval between until 1913. By that time the numbers of trained officers had risen to the useful number of about 120, so that the Royal Engineer units were fully staffed on mobilisation.

During the 1914-18 war the Special Reserve officers were practically absorbed into the Corps of Royal Engineers, and many various kinds of jobs were filled by them, both in Field units and L. of C.

Again, the writer can only actually speak of his own experiences, which started with the 2nd Divisional Signal Company, 1914-15; instructor at home for second line units, 1916; O.C. 30th Signal Company and Commandant 4th and 5th Army Signal School, 1917-18; and lastly D.A.D. Signals to the Army. Other officers of the first batch had similar experiences, either in the Signal Service or with Field Companies.

After the 1914-18 war a return to civilian duties practically ended most officers' connection with the Army, for annual training was suspended, and most officers gradually retired as their age limit for their rank came along

A number of men were recalled to the Army during the General Strike in 1926, and the writer among them had the pleasure of serving once again with the 2nd Divisional Signal Company at Aldershot.

The Special Reserve gradually faded out, but it can be honestly claimed that while it was in existence it proved of value over and over again.

B A O R

H.Q. B.A.O.R. SIGNAL REGIMENT
Hilden

The Regiment with a detachment from 101 Zone Postal Depot, Royal Engineers, is in full preparation for His Majesty the King's birthday parade on the 8th June. Our new parade ground echoes every morning to the sound of the Regiment drilling in earnest for the parade; there is great promise shown and the National Servicemen are drilling like veterans. A very high standard is being maintained and the parade should be a great success.

The weather has been very kind to us here in Herford and shirt sleeve order was brought into effect in time for the Whitsun holiday.

The Barrack area has been carefully tended by Corporal Bullock and his gardening staff and the riot of colour is indeed a pleasure to the eye, besides this there is an excellent vegetable garden and the Unit will indeed be fortunate later on when they are ready for eating. The careful nursing by Corporal Bullock in his home-made greenhouse of these young plants for this and the pleasant spectacle of the barrack area afforded to all.

2 INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT
Hilden

The Regiment as a whole, having completed the Spring Exercise Season by turning out on Exercise Concord One, has now switched to a programme of high pressure indoor training courses, for upgrading in all trades. These courses will culminate in a Trade Board which will duly sift the good from the bad.

Cricket. On most Wednesday and Saturday afternoons the Regimental team is busily engaged, playing social games with neighbouring Units and Formation Headquarters. To date, we have played most enjoyable games against 2 Division Provost Company, The Rhinelanders (C.C.G.), C.C.G. Wahnscheids, H.Q. 5 Brigade, and we are eagerly anticipating our return games against these teams. The enthusiasm so far displayed, by older and budding cricketers alike, is most heartening.

We played our first round in the 4 Brigade Inter-Unit Knock-out Competition against the 1st Battalion The Welsh Guards during the month, but, despite the stout effort of Sergeant Warren, we failed to make the grade. We all thoroughly enjoyed the game and are looking forward to social matches with our victors later in the season. The team is settling down quite well and is showing great promise. Our next great aim is to carry off the B.A.O.R. Royal Signals Cricket Shield this year.

Amateur Dramatics. The Hilden Amateur Dramatic Society was founded in the latter part of 1949 and is now "well on its feet." The Society has already successfully presented "Flare Path", "Far, Far Away," "Hay Fever," and "Personally or by Letter," and is now very busy in producing "Interference," which is to be presented on 3rd, 4th and 6th June, 1950. The Regiment is well represented in the H.A.D.S., the following members and ladies of the Regiment having played in various roles: Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. G. B. Bell, Major T. R. Warren, Major C. E. Storey, Captain R. J. Harvey, Mrs. H. L. Lacey, Lieutenant R. C. Anderson. Captain J. T. Rogers is the Society's sound effects expert.

Sailing—Whitsun Regatta. We live and learn and then die and forget it all. Those of us who took part in the Whitsun week-end excursion to Baldeney See certainly lived through an exciting regatta. We like to think we learnt much. A few gained unwelcome publicity by falling in the drink though at no time did they appear likely to suffer the extreme penalty.

2 Division and C.C.G. between them entered a total of nine teams of which 1 Battalion Welsh Guards, 19 Field Regiment Royal Artillery, 2 Divisional Signal Regiment and 2 Division Headquarters came from 2 Division.

A vote of thanks is hereby proposed to the rescue launch which in less time than it takes to tell the story fished out eight swimmers on Day 1, the stormy Sunday, and one crew on Day 2, the unsettled Monday.

To those who like explanations the blame for capsizing is placed on the squalls which arrived uninvited, did their worst and then innocently disappeared.

Actually the weather-beaten experts admitted that they had seldom seen the wind change direction so quickly and with so little warning.

Yes, Whit-Sunday is a day to be remembered!

End of it all was, that 2 Division Headquarters won the team event with 19 Field Regiment as runners-up.

Warrant Officers and Sergeants' Mess. Social life in the Mess continues with its usual gaiety, although two exercises threatened to interfere. We had our usual fortnightly dances and an especially enjoyable time at Whitsuntide. The high spot of the holiday was a hockey match on Whit Monday between Married Members and Living-in Members. In spite of valiant work by the living-in members and a certain amount of sabotage in the Mess before the match, inclusion of seven Regimental players in the married members side forced a result of 8—1 against the living-in members.

However, "spirits" were revived by the "Over 40s Race" round our lake between A.S.M. King (R.E.M.E.) and S.Q.M.S. "Legs" Reece (Royal Signals). Although heavily backed to win, S.Q.M.S. Reece decided that the effort to be expended was not worth the reward and finished a plucky last. We all enjoyed drinks on the loser and these merged imperceptibly into a social evening.

J. Troop, 4 Guards Brigade. The change-over from an Infantry Brigade to a Guards Brigade is now complete. It has meant farewell to several old friends which is compensated by the arrival of many new ones. Through it all "J" Troop has plodded on steadily and survived the rigours of training exercises. The weather was kind to us and the nights spent in the open do not seem to have affected anyone adversely although it was noticed that the average appetite increased in comparison to the number of hours' sleep lost. The O.C. was extremely hungry! We felt that we had come through this period fairly satisfactorily and this was confirmed by the Brigade Major who congratulated the Troop on their successful efforts at a special parade held for this purpose. Our next efforts are directed to the Brigade Training period to be held in August on that well-known battle ground of Sennelager.

7 ARMOURED DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT
Celle



Exercise Concord has been the main interest this month. It entailed days of preparation which proved their value on the four day scheme.

We would like to congratulate the Unit small bore shooting team for defeating 11 Air Formation Signal Regiment, 1,004—959.

We regret the loss of Captain J. B. D. Lane, who has left us for U.K., and hope that the frozen winters of Germany will have prepared him for the Catterick summer.

We would like to congratulate Captain and Mrs. Scott on the birth of a son and welcome them to the Regiment.

2 Squadron has been testing athletics ability in an inter-Troop meeting which H.Q. Troop won.

H.Q., R.A., have also had an individual championship meeting and Signals had some successes.

3 Squadron have spent most of the month, apart from Concord One, in the hand over/take over of Major Humphries and Major Kendal Baron.

4 Squadron joined in the Brigade H.Q. sports and in spite of the fact that they were outnumbered by three to one they managed to win most of the track events but were defeated by 44 points to 28.

A very enjoyable football match, Officers and N.C.O.s v. The Rest ended in a draw of 4 all and a replay has been asked for.

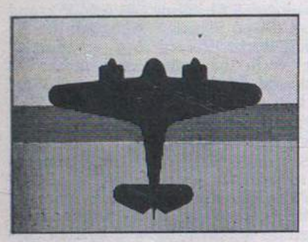
We were pleased to welcome Major Keeling and S.S.M. Williams from the Bristol T.A. for a 10 days' stay, and hope they enjoyed themselves here as much as we enjoyed having them with us.

Obituary

It is with great regret that we announce the death of No. 2322152 S.Q.M.S. J. H. Ellison, of 3 Squadron.

The sympathy of the Commanding Officer and all ranks is extended to Mrs. Ellison and family.

11 AIR FORMATION SIGNAL REGIMENT
Bückeburg



1 *Squadron, Bückeburg.* At the beginning of the month the Regiment was visited by Major-General Scott who after having presented to him all Officers and Warrant Officers of the Regiment at Regimental H.Q., visited H.Q., B.A.F.O. and saw Fault Control and Telecommunications which are operated by 112 T.E. Troop. The Director visited 81 Wing Signal Troop at Bückeburg Airfield and also saw 31 Construction Troop and 141 Line Troop who all the time were participating in "Exercise Concord."

During the last month the weather has been really marvellous, and we have seen the opening of both the cricket and swimming seasons. As yet the cricket activities are confined to net practice and friendlies, but it is hoped that league matches will be arranged in the near future.

31 *Construction Troop, Bückeburg.* The Troop has had a taste of living hard this month. We moved out of barracks on 21st April to a location south-east of Paderborn and spent the first couple of days preparing the camp-site and quarrying stone for hard standings.

The weather changed on 22nd April and thence began a period of "freak" weather, culminating in a heavy snowfall on the night of the 23rd. However, apart from one case of frostbite, we were none the worse and meanwhile work was going ahead on a triple-quad route in preparation for Exercise "Concord." This was "live" construction with a vengeance and our N.S. men worked with a will; even if "skill" was not greatly in evidence.

Brute force and ignorance won the day and after many "pullings down" and "puttings higher up" we looked with pride on our rather shaky *Magnum Opus*. The route was spaced on poles M.A.L. for the first mile and thence bunched and built on a mixture of poles and convenient trees out to "Neernheesse," five miles from Force H.Q. This was to be the R.A.F. Remote Transmitter site for "Concord."

The great day finally arrived and "battle" began. Having tortured the wretched route with a bridge megger we sat back and waited for the umpires to do their worst (it was rumoured that a spot of line cutting might occur). However, they (the umpires) and the fates were kind, the R.A.F. "remoted" over our lines to their hearts' content and there were no faults throughout the exercise.

On the 7th May we despatched Second-Lieutenant Ellams and a line detachment to H.Q. Norge Brigade, reported to be at Hamelin. Apart from the language difficulty, things went very well with this detachment and the C.O. has recently received a "Thank you" message from the Brigade Commander.

After a "bloodless" but far from "mudless" battle, reeling in commenced at 14.00 hrs. on 12th May and it was a case of all records broken!!! Five miles of triple quad fairly sizzled on to its drums and was whistled into the Field Signal park by 16.00 hrs. on the 13th.

And so back to Bückeburg to the comfort and ease of a typical R.A.F. barracks. O.C. Troop stayed behind—ostensibly to check through the stores but it is thought that an adjacent trout stream might have influenced his decision. However, he arrived back on Monday, having lost his flies, box and all—to an inquisitive heifer!!

81 *Wing Signal Troop, Bückeburg Airfield.* In the field of sport the Troop has distinguished itself through some of its members. Corporal Dale was selected to play in R.A.F. Station Bückeburg's B.A.F.O. Cup-winning team, when, at Hamburg, they defeated No. 5 M.T.B.D. by 8 pts. to 6. In the final of the Royal Signals Inter-Unit Knock-out Competition Signalman Monery and Driver Primmer of this Troop helped our Regimental soccer team to run off 3—1 winners of the trophy, their opponents were 7th Armoured Division Signal Regiment.

At present the Troop is taking part in the Station Inter-Section Cricket League, and in our first match we were defeated by 33 runs. While enthusiasts may say our play "isn't cricket," no one can say we are not keen.

BERLIN SIGNAL SQUADRON
B.A.O.R. 2

It is pleasant to be writing these notes from Berlin; the first since Whitsun, when according to the more expansive claims of some of the East German Republic leaders, we should have been driven out by now. That we have not been is common knowledge. The vast amount of preparation entailed in ensuring that the utmost was done to meet any emergency meant that a considerable strain fell on most of the Squadron during this period. The preparedness, however, of all British troops, and the added assistance of the weather, which was of such a type as to damp the ardour of even the most red-hot Communist, ensured that our position in Berlin remains as strong and as comfortable as it has ever been.

Since Whitsun we have had to say goodbye to the Company of the Gordon Highlanders who shared our quarters with us during the emergency. Their stay was short, but



Inspecting the Guard of Honour



Presentation of L.S. & G.C. to Corporal Barry

nevertheless pleasant. The two Units worked side by side with the utmost harmony. It has, for instance, been noted that members of the Sergeants' Mess have had a tendency to be short-winded recently, their eyes too seem to protrude prominently from their sockets. These characteristics we understand are not unconnected with their efforts to play the bagpipes.

On 8th May the Squadron was honoured by a visit from Major-General W. A. Scott, C.B., C.B.E., Director of Signals. The General made a thorough inspection of the Squadron lines, the Signal Office, the Workshops and the T.X. site. During his visit he was introduced to the Officers and Senior N.C.O.s and presented the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal to Corporal Barry who has completed 18 years with the Colours.

This month has seen the departure, on posting to the Zone, of Sergeant "Bill" Bain. Bill has a history in Berlin which dates back to 1945, and which enabled him to lay claim to having the longest spell of unbroken service with the Squadron. He was always cheerfulness and efficiency personified, and we view his departure as a genuine loss to the Squadron. We wish him good luck in his new Unit.

Cricket dominates the sporting horizon at the moment, although the prospect of a seven-a-side summer hockey tournament is causing a certain amount of interest. Not unnaturally too, swimming is a very seasonable sport. However, looking back a little way, we find that the football XI finished off their season in fine style by winning the play-off for the Berlin Junior League spring tournament against 247 Provost Company. The game was not productive of good football, but the more direct methods of the Squadron team proved decisive, and they ran out good winners at 3 goals to 1. Thus ended a very successful season.

The cricket team do not seem to be the force they were last year. Individually, player by player, they seem on paper to be every bit as good as their predecessors. Somehow, however, the team spirit which produced the fine fielding side of last year seems to be lacking. Perhaps, as time goes by the team will combine better, and prove to be a force equal in strength to last year's team. The record to date is one of two matches won and two matches lost in the B.T.B. Junior League. The only friendly match played so far was won. Individuals, whose performances to date are worthy of note include Sergeant Crampton, Sergeant Barrett and Corporal Reece—bowling, and Sergeant Frost and Corporal Briggs—batting. Corporal Briggs' fielding deserves note too.

In the B.T.B. Individual Athletic Championships Corporal Briggs took second and third place in the hop, step and jump and the high jump respectively; we say "Well done," and wish him further success in the forthcoming B.A.O.R. Championships.

The most important event for the future agenda is the King's Birthday Parade on 8th June. This parade is to be held on the Olympische Platz where representatives of all the Units in Berlin will take part. Rehearsals for this parade are well advanced.

With the Vikings

A SKI COURSE AT THE NORWEGIAN SIGNAL SCHOOL

EIGHT slightly bedraggled officers, all students for the first British Officers' Ski Course in Norway, stepped from a stuffy, cramped, uncomfortable train into the bright sunlight of a crisp Norwegian winter morning. At Oslo we were met by Major N. A. C. Clubb, M.B.E., Royal Signals, who is the Signals Adviser to the Norwegian Army School at Lillehammer. We were whistled away in a staff car to meet Colonel Palmstroem, the Norwegian Inspector of Signals, who in a very short time succeeded in making us feel completely at home in Norway. We were then taken to the Signal School where we were met by the Commandant, Major Sparr, who introduced us to our two instructors, Lieutenant Hoydalsnes and Lieutenant Sandin, soon christened "Harry" and "Sandy."

After the initial shock of finding we could have as much ham, eggs and milk as we required, we drew loads of equipment from the Quartermaster. However much nations may differ in speech, customs, habits and traditions, Quartermasters remain the same the world over.

The first three weeks of this six weeks' course were spent in learning to ski, and the second half of the course was devoted to collective training. With one exception, none of us had been on skis before, but we quickly settled down to a fairly normal routine. We learned three ways of stopping; first the way the Norwegians do it, second wrapping oneself delicately round the trunk of the nearest tree, and thirdly the method perfected by the British officers—lowering oneself gracefully to the ground and

burying one's arms up to the elbows—a method guaranteed to stop anyone, but not recommended when the ski trails are icy!

We were then attached to the Norwegian Signals O.C.T.U. for two weeks' winter manoeuvres and communications exercises. The Norwegian cadets train at the Befal Skoler, the equivalent of our O.C.T.U., for a little over a year, and when they pass out they become sergeants. They complete a year's service in this rank and, if successful, become second-lieutenants. At this O.C.T.U. we lived with the cadets in tents—two British officers and six Norwegian cadets to a section. The tents were Swedish Army bell tents built round a stove pipe which rests on a board supported by logs. A small stove fits into the stove pipe and a constant watch is kept throughout the night to keep the stove alight. To put up our tents we had to dig through five-six feet of snow.

Training consisted mostly of skiing, shooting, weasel ski-jouring, map reading and wireless schemes. Weasel ski-jouring was perhaps the most exciting. A weasel (a form of carrier with broad tracks for crossing snow) can pull two ropes V fashion with up to 15 men per rope and is by far the quickest and most efficient method of transporting large numbers of troops from one place to another in this type of country. Learning the art of ski-jouring had its moments, a fall by one would bring down the rest on that rope in a milling heap of bodies and skis. It was interesting to see 22 W/T sets mounted on sledges (the O.W.L.s having lengthened leads for their headsets) and the ease with which the 68 set could be carried by a man on skis.

The climax of the training was a 50 km. trek with full pack and rifle and bayonet, which we completed in ten hours.

It was during the "green stage" of the first week that the Director of Signals, Major-General Scott visited the school. In his honour the Norwegians put on a parade in which we participated. We thought we knew all about parades, but never had we met one quite like this. A parade on skis which included a ski past in quick time. Fortunately we managed to stagger through the parade without a fall.

During the course one of our pleasantest memories was a visit to the famous Holmenkellen jumping at Oslo. Here we saw some of the best ski-jumping in the world. To the Norwegians this event is like our own cup final.

Another social occasion was the weekly bath. We were taken to a bath house, first herded into a cold shower and then straight into a very hot room with a temperature of over 200° F. We sweated and gasped and when the door was eventually opened we were grabbed by husky Norwegians and rolled in the snow—such is life!

Our last week with its dinners and its ball, had only one strenuous incident. This was a 10 km. course which had to be completed in under 65 minutes to gain the Norwegian Ski Association bronze medallion. We all managed to complete the course in less than 55 minutes.

When we climbed on the train to return to our units we were richer not only by a diploma and a bronze medal for a ski event, but most of all by the unforgettable experience of six glorious weeks of skiing with our friends in the Norwegian Army.



M E L F

1 INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT
Tripoli

We are very pleased this month to welcome to the Unit as second in command Major J. G. Oliver, O.B.E. He comes to us from 5 Training Regiment and so is well-known to D.R.s and Drivers throughout the Corps.

Speedway is still in the news. "M" Troop have finished the floodlights, and racing now takes place in the cool of the evening every Sunday. The races look even faster and more exciting when run under the glare of lights, and each match draws a crowd of between one and two thousand spectators. Our own team, the Meteors, have ridden a second match against the local Italian team, the Black Devils. We had won our previous match against them by only one point, so the Black Devils had high hopes of beating us and a large and partisan crowd came to watch us. The Italians were in the lead three times in the course of the meeting, and when the riders for the final heat were called up our team was only one point to the good. But in this last heat Staff-Sergeant Cook and Lance-Corporal Bonner came in a very good first and second and finally clinched our victory by 43 poins to 36. As can be imagined, the excitement among the crowd was maintained at fever pitch, particularly as the racing was particularly fast and the track record was broken twice during the course of the meeting, first by Staff-Sergeant Cook, a R.E.M.E. member of our team, and later in the meeting by Sergeant Burgess.

To turn to a quieter sport, the cricket season has also opened with a most encouraging start. Of course, this may be due to the fact that, since March, the majority of our 1st XI have spent a large part of their off duty time practising in the nets. Whatever the reason, however, the fact remains that of our first five league games, we were the victors in four of them, and were not disgraced when we lost one game by a narrow margin of 12 runs.

2 WIRELESS REGIMENT
Cyprus

On the 29th of April the Unit, together with other Units of the Famagusta Garrison took part in a parade and march past on the occasion of the farewell visit of the C. in C. General Sir John Crocker, G.C.B., K.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., A.D.C., who afterwards lunched in the Officers' Mess together with the District Commander, Brigadier A. A. Crook, D.S.O.

Our Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess social functions were on a larger scale than usual last quarter, as during February we were again fortunate in having a return visit of the U.S. High Seas Fleet, this time the Mess having the pleasure of entertaining the P.O.s of the U.S.S. *Midway*, Aircraft Carrier. During their stay a "Pirates" dance was held complete with appropriate dress, and the decoration of the Mess resembled one of Capt. Morgan's more disreputable vessels. The dance was attended by the District Commander.

Rifle Club. At the end of November last year our home-made .22 miniature range was taken into use. Since then we have had a number of competition shoots, both open and team. The Officers beat both the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess, and the Other Ranks team, whilst the Regimental team beat the local Infantry Battalion. Our latest challenge was from the newly arrived "B" Company The Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry, which we lost by 8 points, the score being 337 points against 329 points. We were somewhat consoled, however, by a 55 point victory over H.M.S. *Childers*.

In April and May the range is being used for a prelim shoot for all ranks.

Some of our .22 shots have partly transferred their affections to long range pracice in preparation for the Island Rifle Meeting.

Soccer. The Unit had a successful soccer season, all matches were won, the most notable being wins against two Royal Navy teams, a combined R.A.O.C.-R.A.S.C. XI, and 695 Company R.A.S.C. 1 Squadron reached the final of the area league when they lost to "C" Company The Loyal Regiment, 4—2.

Throughout the season, Lance-Corporal Gaskell was the leading light of 2 Squadron and Unit football.

Basketball. 1 Squadron hit the headlines by beating the R.A.F. in the final of the all-island inter-service basketball league cup and are challenging all comers.

3 G.H.Q. SIGNAL REGIMENT
Fayid, M.E.L.F.

Little or nothing to report this month. The sports season is just changing over and, whilst athletics have finished, swimming and cricket have not yet got fully under way. True, our cricket team (Major Nash's XI) did a good job for themselves as representatives of the Army in Cairo. Having gone up for a week-end visit they played two matches and, although they lost one, they won the other by a far larger margin and are hoping for a return match to prove that they can get settled in against any team that they can come up against.

In other fields of sport, swimming is coming more and more forward and there is quite a lot of divided loyalty. Swimming or some other sport? Whilst we don't expect to produce any Johnny Weismuller types (and certainly no Esther Williams—having no W.R.A.C.) we feel confident that we shall produce a team good enough to deal with any opposition we are likely to meet.

For the rest the accent seems to be on sailing. The Unit Sailing Club is going on from strength to strength and the number of people of all ranks with helmsman's certificates has to be seen to be believed. These last do not include your correspondent, whose only adventure into the realms of sail ended with his being ignominously towed in behind a waterlogged lugger. But he still perseveres and hopes that eventually he may at least be allowed to become second oarsman in a Snipe (or is that what I mean).

Seriously though, the Club is doing very well indeed and is one of the most flourishing concerns in the Regiment.

Congratulations this month go to Captain J. N. Hallett on his engagement to Captain Terry Day of the W.R.A.C., and to S.S.M. Symonds on his promotion to R.Q.M.S., both being, we feel, well deserved rewards for services rendered. Amongst the new arrivals, ranking as a social event, are Major Grey, late of the Training Regiment, and Captain Sturge. We hope their stay will be happy and long.

The latest military event was the celebration of His Majesty's birthday. The whole of the district in which we are situated held a parade in honour of this and contingents from all Regiments and Corps were present. It causes me a considerable amount of smug satisfaction (along with all ranks of the Regiment) to record that, on the report of completely impartial witnesses, the smartest Officers on parade were those of this Unit. And that the

smartest man was a member of the Corps attached to an Armoured Regiment.

For the rest, saying it again, the summer has arrived and many things are going from hot to hotter. This being the season when old soldiers are heard to mutter, "It's got nothing on D.I.K. (or Jacobabad or Multan or what have you)." Let them mutter—it is still too hot to be pleasant. The "Ham" Club is again champing at the bit. There have been rumours that hamming is shortly to be allowed again and your writer, as a ham (albeit a very hammish one), hopes that these things will come to pass. It would be wonderful to call CQ again.

FARELF

19 AIR FORMATION SIGNAL REGIMENT
Changi, Singapore

On the 21st April we were visited by the Air Officer Commanding Malaya, Air Vice Marshal F. J. W. Mellersh, C.B.E., A.F.C. The visit which had been delayed for various reasons, went with a swing. The A.O.C. was very interested in Fault Control and, taking a hypothetical case of his own telephone being faulty, followed the action taken to report, test and repair it.

Congratulations to Sergeant C. Wood on his performance at the Far East Air Force Boxing Championships, 1949-50. Sergeant Wood fought as a featherweight in a special contest and was the only Army competitor. He knocked out his R.A.F. opponent in the second round. Sergeant Wood has now left us on posting to Gurkha Signal Training and Holding Wing, Kuala Lumpur.

Tabloid sports were held on the 15th April, and we found several budding athletes who, we hope, will be with us when the R.A.F. Station Changi annual sports take place in May.

GURKHA SIGNAL TRAINING AND HOLDING WING
Kuala Lumpur

Gurkha recruits arriving now, are those recruited from Nepal during the October, 1949—February, 1950 season. They are all ex-soldiers who served with the Indian Army during the war. They are being fed into the training machine as they arrive and they will be sorted into trades as they progress. A point of interest is that such recruits are now being subjected to "Personnel Selection Tests." Special ones are designed to take the Gurkha apart and see what makes him tick.

The latest batch of recruits include ex-Infantry signallers, parachutists, drivers, riflemen, mortarmen and one Piper! So you see the P.S.O. has an "interesting" task.

It is amusing to note that the Piper is earmarked as a potential O.W.L., presumably on the basis that the only instrument in a Signal Unit which produces "sonic" torture of the correct earsplitting frequency, is a wireless set.

These past two weeks we have had a pleasant break from Signal and Education Training; we dressed ourselves up in jungle order and fired our annual range practices.

Most of the men, B.O.R. and G.O.R., had had little, if any, experience of the No. 5 Rifle before, but results were surprisingly good.

Our Admin. Officer, Major Elliot, 1/2 Gurkha Rifles, Gurkha/Captain Chandraman and S.S.M. Tompkins, are to be congratulated for running a very successful shoot; we all enjoyed it.

We are now organising a Sunday Rifle Club in an endeavour to raise the standard of shooting generally and to form a team to take part in the forthcoming Malaya District Competition in September.

Preparations for the King's Birthday Parade are now under way. Due to the emergency of course, the parade here in Kuala Lumpur will be a small representative one as far as the Army is concerned. In fact the only military Units taking part are this Wing and the 2nd Coldstream Guards. As you can imagine, the combination of Guardsmen and Gurkhas on the same parade is going to require a certain amount of compromise from one or the other as regards the marching step to be adopted. Coupled to this is the difficult situation created by the fact that Royal Signals must be "right of the line" whereas the motto of the Coldstreamers is *Nulli Secundus*.

The sporting activities of the Unit are largely internal, in an effort to get everyone to take some exercise once a day. With soccer, basketball, badminton and netball every evening, there is no time for a chap to become a lounge lizard.

The O.C. has now introduced "Softball," unfortunately the ball is hard enough to hurt! Still, life is never dull.

The Unit soccer team is fighting valiantly to make a name for itself in the Selangor League. The standard of play among the Gurkha members of the team is rapidly improving and although we have lost the odd game against some of the better teams in the league, we still refuse to be beaten by Malaya District Signal Regiment.

The Nepal Cup soccer competition is due to start soon and we are busy training a team to enter it.

This competition is for Gurkha Units only. The teams to be composed of 10 G.O.R.s and one British Officer. Since Captain Parkinson's game is hockey, the Quartermaster is too heavy and Major Elliot confines himself to badminton, the O.C. is almost certain to get his place in the team. He tells me that he has lost three big toenails already, trying to become a footballer, and that he has besought C.S.O., F.A.R.E.L.F., to post a soccer-playing Subaltern at the earliest possible moment. Otherwise our Nepal Cup team is coming along nicely and we hope to do well in the competition.

2 GUARDS BRIGADE SIGNAL SQUADRON
Kuala Lumpur

Once again this contribution marks the end of intensive operations by 2 Guards Brigade and the Brigade Area has contracted to normality. We are no longer directly concerned with operations in Negri Sembilan and have withdrawn our detachments. A bandit killed ten minutes before the Brigade handed over command brought the total up to 50 accounted for in this particular operation. Corporal Gillyatt has brought the Tactical Signal Office back from Seremban and Coronation Park is full again. Our new camp has risen like a Phoenix out of the Easter Collapse and engineering organised by S.S.M. Fox is making a model camp. We have at last been promised huts and they will be a great improvement on tents.

The football team now looks more formidable with some of the old members returning to it and it will soon show results. In the local league we have won four, lost two, and drawn one.

G.H.Q. SIGNAL REGIMENT, FARELF
Singapore

The Regiment's main activities have been centred round athletics during the past month, the annual meeting went off with quite a swing, the Army Wireless Chain Squadron again winning the Inter-Squadron Cup, in fact they won so many of the events that the meeting was in danger of becoming a procession. The one bright spot was the winning of the "Victor Ludorum" Cup by Corporal Smith of the Line Troop with a total of 22 points. The spectacle of the R.S.M. throwing the hammer was marred by the fact that all the spectators took it into their heads at that moment to watch a wedding at the nearby Garrison Church, leaving a rather chagrined W.O. I surrounded by judges.

The Regiment supplied three members of the Corps cricket team versus R.E.M.E. on Tanglin ground, Sergeant Drake, Corporal Miller, Signalman Stirling, which unfortunately ended in rather a heavy shower and defeat. There are, however, five more Corps matches this season in which we hope to do much better.

The A.W.C. Squadron's excursion into cricket, however, ended in even more of a debacle; challenging the rest of the Regiment, they went down to the tune of an innings and 142 runs, Signalman Foxall making a century for the Rest. This defeat does not seem to have damped their spirit, however, as they are conducting extensive searches for new talent.

A.W.C. and 1 Squadrons are now faring quite well in the G.H.Q. Branch League, they now lie first and third respectively. Even 2 Squadron have jumped one place, they are now second from bottom!

MALAYA DISTRICT SIGNAL REGIMENT
Kuala Lumpur



The Regiment has been very active during April, and operations have given zest to this business of soldiering in Malaya.

2 Squadron, normally located at Taiping, provided Tac communications and rear links for operations around Ipoh, and all went very well indeed—as usual.

4 Squadron, who are with 48 Gurkha Independent Brigade, have moved into the centre of Pahang, and are now fighting elephant as well as bandits. Reaching them means either a trip by Auster Co-operation Aircraft, or a long journey over unhealthy roads. Unhealthy, that is, from the point of view of bandits, who fire their range practices at convoys.

Major-General Briggs, the new Director of Operations, has given a great fillip to the war, and we expect a lot of action in the near future. The 3rd Commando Brigade are in process of arriving, and will undoubtedly be very effective as always. Their "Signals" will not be attached to the Regiment, but there will be plenty of liaison necessary.

Training in so far as operations permit, is going well. Musketry, trade training, and N.C.O.s courses are flourishing, and all are leaping out of bed at first light, in the lighthearted way known only to Royal Signals. Trade training is difficult, of course, because time is limited, but working on the theory that anything worth having is worth working for, we are getting good results.

Congratulations are due to the following, who were mentioned in the last list of Honours and Awards:

British Empire Medal: 14161372 P/A/Sergeant D. Stopforth.

Mentioned in Despatches: 18015600 P/A/Sergeant Mohd Sadiq B. Laldin; 2549328 Lance-Corporal I. Sopp.

We record with deep regret, the death of Signalman Derek John Plumpton (22155178) on 25th May, 1950, at Kuala Lumpur, after having been involved in a car accident. He was a recent addition to the Regiment, having joined us in April, 1950, but we all knew him enough to regret the passing of a good comrade and soldier.

HONG KONG SIGNAL SQUADRON

This month we were visited by Lieutenant-Colonel A. B. McVittie, O.B.E. (G.H.Q. F.A.R.E.L.F.), and Major T. V. Mulliss (War Office). During a brief stay the visitors managed to see the Telephone Exchange, Signal Office, the Transmitters at Lyeman, and the Peak Receiver Station. A day was spent in the New Territories with 40 Division Signal Regiment.

Due to re-organisation in the Colony the Squadron have now taken over the whole of Murray Barracks and have concentrated all personnel within its bounds.

SINGAPORE DISTRICT SIGNAL REGIMENT



The Regimental annual athletics took place, and with with the clerk of the weather on our side the spectators were treated to a very entertaining and at times thrilling afternoon. Captain C. A. Clarke, Royal Signals, who called the roll of the winners, began to despair of calling any name but that of Signalman Phipps.

Sergeant Mudge is very much like "Johnny Walker" in that he is still going strong. He ran into first place in the three and one mile races. Corporal Young set the pace for the last lap in each of those events only to give way to Sergeant Mudge and Signalman Kessler. We expect to hear far more of Young later when he has a bit more experience.

Signalman Gallistan took the pole vault this year leaving Phipps in the second place.

Our old soldiers either haven't sufficient years over 18 or they train on the wrong stuff or were debarred by the doctor. Lieutenant-Colonel G. F. Bayliss, O.B.E., M.C., won a very close finish from Brigadier F. P. L. Gray, D.S.O., O.B.E. When the line-up took place the winner seemed so far ahead of me that I expected him to run backwards.

Our soccer team still continues on the crest of the wave. Results since last going to Press are:—

Major Army League—Top.
Singapore Amateur F.A. League—Top.
Minor Army League—7th of 14.
M.O.R. League (Knockout)—now in third round.

Once upon a time it was the prerogative of troopships to be "heavily laden with time expired men," but this month has seen the beginning of this honour being shared with the night mail to Kuala Lumpur. The original local enlistments are now beginning to visit all departments with their final clearance certificate and some are facing once again the rigours of civilian life. A few, far too few, are extending their service. We are pleased to retain the "extenders" and our best wishes go with those who have left us, *Selamat Berjalan Sampai Bertemu Lagi*.

The brightest news this month is the increase of local overseas allowance restrospective to 1st January of this year.

Our congratulations go to our Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel P. G. Goodeve-Docker, Royal Signals, Sergeant Thripp, Corporal Cross, Corporal Lee Kok Hong and Signalman Venis A. Tambi, who were chosen to represent the Corps at cricket against R.E.M.E.

Unfortunately the result was a win for R.E.M.E. by three wickets.

In the Singapore Knock-out Cricket Competition we were successful against the 986 Water Transport Company, R.A.S.C., and lost to the 1st Singapore Artillery Regiment, R.A., in the semi-final.

40 INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT
Hong Kong



The Divisional Rifle Meeting held at Kai Tak range was a great success and the Regiment's representatives acquitted themselves quite well. Sergeant Crosby, of Dog Troop, carried off the Individual Rifle Championship Cup (Non Infantry) and Lieutenant Walker, of Easy Troop, followed him closely, taking a medal for third place. Lieutenant Walker also came a close second in the individual pistol event. The Regiment's Officers and Sergeants took second prize in the team match and only missed the cup by 12 points (the less said about L.M.G.s that jam, the better!!!).

Corporal Moynan recently followed his successes at the Army Athletic Meeting by setting a new Colony record of 41 feet 9½ inches for the hop, step and jump, and took second place in the long jump at the recent Quadrangular Athletic Meeting between the Royal Navy, Army, R.A.F. and South China Athletic Association. The Army carried the day.

As the typhoon season approaches we note with satisfaction that at last our Nissen huts are taking shape. We hope they will be completed before the next "big blow"!!!

A lighter note is struck (?) by the collapse of the end wall of one of our large huts to the consternation of the N.C.O.s quartered therein. It appears that a wall one brick thick is cheaper than one two bricks thick. This plus a Chinese contractor equals the above quoted calamity!!!

21 FIRE COMMAND SIGNAL TROOP, 27 A.A. REGIMENT
Hong Kong

At the moment the Troop is in the throes of moving to Lyemun — Hong Kong Signal Squadron's old barracks. Perhaps being stuck in the country will not appeal to everybody. No more pictures every night—but swimming more easy as we stall be right on the spot.

Yesterday, in the midst of our packing for the move, a French Colonel was shown round the A.A.O.R. during a small exercise. He showed great interest in everything that went on, including the communications side. Fortunately for us, all lines were in working order, and all signal strengths were O.K. Whew!

ERITREA DISTRICT SIGNAL TROOP
Asmara, Eritrea

With the ceasing of the Asmara riots attention is once again centred on the "Shifta" problem. Large groups of bandits roaming the territory are as much of a menace as ever. Following further attacks and murders, nearly all civilian road traffic is now convoyed with military escorts.

Ground/Air communication is now in operation between H.Q. Eridist and R.A.F. recce aircraft. Signalman Hurst is reported to be sprouting wings and acquiring a perfectly wizard R.A.F. vocabulary now that he has been formed into a one-man A.S.S.U.

Old members of the wartime Eritrea Signals, or the subsequent Eritrea District Signal Squadron, may be interested to know that the Asmara/Khartoum carrier project—conceived in those days—has now been completed by the P. and T. Rockets are now deliverable by telephone as well as by signal or A.D.S.

MAURITIUS SIGNAL TROOP
Vacoas

It won't seem the same place without "Pop" Harris, our old-timer who is even now impatiently pacing up and down the verandah waiting for his farewell speech—the *Empire Pride* is a suitable ship for such a seasoned warrior of the very old school—shades of Poona, Rawalpindi, Razmak and Nowshera. His record certainly makes good reading.

Joined the Shropshires in 1922 at the age of 18 and then after nine years transferred to the Hampshires and finally in 1942 came to us in the Corps as a cipher operator and has been with us ever since. His stations were:—

Army of the Rhine—1924.
India—1925-1930 and 1932-1937.
Palestine—1937-1939.
North Africa and Palestine—1940-1943.
Mauritius—1947-1950.

Our picture shows him as he is today after nearly 28 years of continuous service. Well done! Sergeant Harris.

Coming shortly. In the near future we're holding an Army Day to show the local inhabitants just exactly what we do and how we do things in the Army. We hope to show everyone (not only the local inhabitants) how to put on a good show.

Sports. In the middle of a cyclonic rainshower the Garrison soccer side with the O.C. at inside-right showed the "Blue Ducks" that they couldn't swim and we were victorious by one goal to nil. We're hoping the weather is good for the second round of the cup tomorrow.



Cricket has again commenced for the season and the weather is getting very slightly better. With the addition of some new players from 6 (T.T.) Battalion the King's African Rifles just arrived from Tanganyika we hope to do better this year.

SOMALILAND AREA SIGNAL TROOP

This will be, I think, the first time this Unit has put forward any notes for THE WIRE. Alas, it will be the last as we are in the throes of disbandment.

* * *

Somalia was handed back to the Italians on 1st April and on 5th April the last British troops stepped on to the Z Craft for embarkation on the two troopships *Empire Ken* and *Empire Pride*. The majority of the Unit came south to Mombasa and thence to Nairobi where we are being looked after by the East Africa Command Signal Squadron until final disbandment.

Most of us are sorry, in some ways, to leave Mogadishu; we enjoyed our stay but are thankful to get away from that very sticky heat. Sad farewells were said to the Croce del Sud and the Savoia not to forget the "Chez Nous." One looks back on these places and regrets that the day of "far gone" parties is over. Happy memories.

Operation "Caesar," as the evacuation was called, developed into a race against the weather. If the rains had come down too early two large columns of transport, both of over 200 vehicles, would have been virtually unable to move on the black cotton soil roads which form the main L. of C. from Mogadishu to Nairobi and Nanyuki.

We were lucky, however, and they got through. Wireless contact was maintained with both columns until they crossed the border into Kenya.

At about 09.30 hrs. on 2nd April, 1950, our link to British Somaliland closed and at 13.25 hrs. on 4th April, 1950, the O.C. sent the final "close down" to Control, Nairobi. Then followed a race against time; two L.C.V.s had to be run on to a waiting "Z" Craft before she floated with the tide; this was done with only three or four minutes to spare. Our last wireless link was with H.M.S. *Loch Quoich*, a frigate which was covering the evacuation and which the G.O.C. East Africa Command, Lieutenant-General Sir Arthur Dowler, K.B.E., C.B., had made his Headquarters. She had taken over communications with East Africa Command after our set had closed.

At 08.00 hrs. 5th April, 1950, the link with the *Loch Quoich* was closed and we embarked on a waiting Z Craft. A guard of honour supplied by the 1st Battalion The East Surrey Regiment completed the final departure ceremony, at which the G.O.C. took the salute. Finally, at about 09.30 hrs. the G.O.C. stepped into his launch and the hand-over to the Italians was completed.

As the *Empire Ken* sailed away from Mogadishu we said a final farewell to that "Land of Sand"—Somalia.

The Gun

CONTRIBUTED BY 61 H.Q. ARMY SIGNAL REGIMENT (T.A.) BEDFORD

SO much curiosity, either expressed or inferred, has arisen about the large brass cannon now in possession of the Officers' Mess that I feel it necessary to give some of the true facts relating to its history, and at the same time to reveal the origin of some of the quaint ceremonials associated with the infrequent appearances of what is affectionately know as "The Gun."

It should be made clear at once that documentary evidence is slight; but plenty of hearsay evidence has been handed down from past generations, and there is ample reason to suppose that the story, as given, approximates to the true facts.

It appears that early in the 17th Century there existed in Bedford a Worshipful Company of Inn-Sign Writers, who drove a thriving trade in inn signs over most of East Anglia, and whose interpretations of such masterpieces as "The Nag's Head" and "The Goose and Gimlet" were received with mirth and approbation by jovial rustics in five countries (later reduced to three countries).

Men being required for a war, which was then current, a recruiting party appeared in the Market Place and began to draw up for recruits. The Worshipful Company of Inn-Sign Writers, being respectable tradesmen, went down to see the fun, and were standing in a group just south of the pump when up came a smart sergeant and asked who all these handsome young men were.

A certain apprentice, whose name has not been handed down, but who was famous at the time for his whiskers, replied: "Well, Sergeant-Major, we were just admiring your remarkable display of martial activity and since you asked, we are inn-sign writers."

To this the sergeant is reported to have replied: "Ah, yes, fall in here will you, I've been given a shilling each for you."

This group became famous as "The Sign Writers," and later found themselves in the Low Countries, where they spent much of their time bending down to talk to the inhabitants. At this time they were led by a certain Walter de Hellesworth, known usually as Wat de Helle. He had a serving man who was also called Walter, and to distinguish them he was called Wat's Wat.

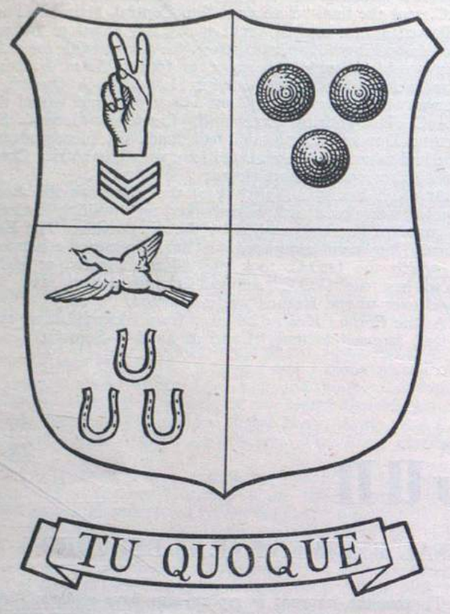
These two were out doing a bit of fratting one night when they heard a distant noise of gunfire and confused shouting. Not wishing to be caught with their trousers down, in a manner of speaking, they fled into the dark, and almost at once found themselves entangled with a group of men who wished to proceed in the opposite direction. Wat's Wat, observing a bottle-shaped object on a passing waggon, behaved true to tradition and snatched it up. Next morning he found that he had a small cannon in bed with him, and not being able to give a satisfactory explanation for it was duly put on a charge. This put de Hellesworth on the spot; but being a quick thinker he rapidly spread a story about a private reconnaissance which he and his man had carried out, and explained how they had captured the cannon single-handed the night before.

This led to congratulations all round, and pleased everybody except Wat's Wat, who now had an additional piece of brass to clean.

The Company spent the next 150 years in the West Indies and, needless to say, were unrecognisable by the time they returned to home stations. After a short demob leave the

Company was re-formed in order to take part in the War of American Independence. Of course the Gun went with them and proved to be most useful for waking everybody up in the mornings after Tom Minnims, the trumpeter, lost his trumpet.

The story goes that one, Bert Ton, who was known as the Foreman among his friends, got up for an early morning smoke and absentmindedly knocked his pipe on the touch hole. The resultant discharge not only wakened the



entire force, but brought down a small tree in which six enemy officers were lodged. Bert leapt to his feet and, seeing the Force Commander bearing down on him demanding "Oo the 'ell 'ad fired that ruddy cannon," immediately jumped over the breastwork and, holding his precious pipe in front of him, made off followed by half the camp. The enemy, mistaking the pipe for some new and terrible weapon and the pursuit for a desperate charge, immediately retired, leaving a number of prisoners. From this incident arises the custom of discharging the piece after dinner by pressing the President's cigar stub in the touch hole, and it has also given rise to the custom of the most junior officer leaving the Mess rapidly immediately after the conclusion of the meal.

This custom once led to an amusing incident when the company was in the Peninsula. On this occasion they lay next door to the 154th, who were, for some reason, known as the Amazons or the Wreckers. The gun was duly discharged. The final destination of the ball was never discovered, but after much hoarse-voiced recrimination it was worked out by one of the "Signwriters" that either the ball followed a series of concentric spirals before eventually disappearing vertically, or else every member of the 154th stood in a long line exactly two inches to the left of the path of the ball. As a result of this incident a steel plate is always erected behind the chair of the most junior officer before the meal begins.

The Signwriters next appear in the cinema, where they started the joke about "Snow on your Boots." At this time they had among their officers one who was incurably optimistic and who always forecast success. From this he was developed the phrase "The Prophetic Smile." This officer is reported to have ridden an almost unmanageable steed. However, his exploits were as nothing compared with those of one, Trooper Cowpar, whose antics on the "khaki camel" belong to a later campaign.

When next heard of, the Signwriters were on intensive manœuvres in and around Salisbury, and made their mark in a place called Mere. The gun makes its appearance again. This time a group was indulging in a surreptitious brew prepared by a man known as George. On the word being passed that "The old man was coming," the brew was hastily concealed in the muzzle of the gun. The gun had previously been loaded with blank for the purpose of firing a salute for a visiting general. There was no time to remove the rabbit pie, and when the salute was fired, the third Aide de Camp, who was wearing the white uniform of the . . . well, why go on? But that is why all visiting officers are now asked to stand well behind the gun.

On the breach of the gun there have been roughly scratched the arms of the Signwriters. The first quarter shows three stripes surmounted by a clenched right fist with the first two fingers extended in a V sign. The second quarter shows a pyramid of cannon balls inverted in memory of the occasion when the War Office forgot to send the fares and the Company had to pawn the ammunition to get home.

The third quarter shows three horseshoes surmounted by a cuckoo flying backwards in memory of the Battle of Blunham. The fourth quarter is blank, as a constant reminder that there may be some event in the future as worthy of commemoration as the events of the past.

The carriage of the gun is itself a record of events. Scratches such as "1813 WGD" and "RSM ¼," "COZI 5 to 1," are all fraught with meaning. Of course the gun has not remained completely unchanged. Twice in national emergency the barrel has been melted down and has played its part, afterwards being carefully salvaged and returned to its original shape. For example, the gun served on Galipoli as a set of brass terminals at Divisional H.Q., and is believed to have been a Spitfire for part of the most recent war.

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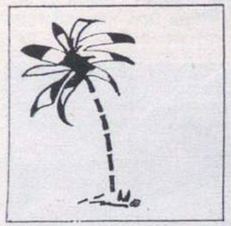
A TRIBAL CELEBRATION

Road Clearing

By **GC 82116 Private E. Q. AHUNU,**
C.S.O. Branch, H.Q., W.A.C.

IN the Western Province of the Gold Coast, there lies on the coast an ancient town called Gomoa Fetteh. This town has a very attractive historical background and in days immemorial was warlike and triumphed over many villages and towns in the Gold Coast. And among her most popular and enjoyable customs and celebrations is one called "Akwan-bo"—Road Clearing—concerning which you will read much presently.

This celebration has been carried out since the ancient times, but the enjoyment derived and the unusual enthusiasm characteristic with it can never be underestimated. In fact,



West Africa Command

it has achieved so much importance that any citizen who fails to attend is fined by a special board of inquiry when found guilty. It is celebrated annually between the months of August and September.

One week to the real celebration, viz., the carriage of the "Akwan-bo god"—called "Kyin-na-adze"—Drum plus something—all citizens of the town who have travelled abroad return to "home, sweet home," to commemorate the occasion. Lorries full with cheerful participants, young and old, pour into the town. At this juncture a Christian is reminded of the "Passover celebration" we know much of.

Every morning from Monday to Saturday, Asafo drums sound and all men rush willingly to clear all roads leading into the town, returning each day before noon with Asafo songs and drummings. They then put on their best attire ranging from the richest African Kentne to the simplest cover cloth and go to places of activity such as playing fields for a football match.

Sunday is the time for the major celebration of the festival. Whilst the road clearing is in progress, the high-priests of the god of road clearing called "Kyin-na-adzez," as named already, are also busily engaged with performances of rites: pouring libation in quest of blessings for the citizens, and slaughtering sheep to the god and gods of the town.

At two o'clock (Sunday) this god, symbolised by two native drums, is carried by two men, accompanied by his drummers to a lake called "Abow-ano"—Gate Mouth—in order to wash. All spectators are stopped about one hundred yards away and the priests take the god to the bath.

The god is in two drums, one representing young people and the other old. Each drum is put in a deep brass pan bound with white cloth, and in front of each hangs a looking glass, a black and white chain and some "powerful leaves."

After washing, the god drums have to be carried home and very often at this point the difficulty is experienced as to who is to be the victim of such a powerful god; for strong-hearted men who disbelieved in the god voluntarily come out and bet with the priests in that the god is nothing and cannot control their personalities when possessed as it claims to. But before long two dauntless men emerge from the crowd amidst great ovation. Rites are performed and on to the head of each goes a drum followed by drummers, fetish men and women and spectators, all anxious to see what is to happen to these two argumentative men.

Meanwhile the whole Asafo company of the town, including everybody, save Christians who prove their Christianity by tickets, has been divided into six groups or more, likened into battalions in the British Army, each numbering 300 to 500 strong, headed each by two or three captains and armed with guns, cudgels, cutlasses and sticks in simple native dresses suitable for the occasion, parade the town with Asafo songs and drummings, shooting bulletless guns into the air and dancing to the tunes, all attributing to the joy of the celebration.

But sooner or later those two argumentative carriers of the god incarnated in two drums, walking and halting on the command of the drummers, begin to shake, bending forwards, backwards and sideways and then finally being possessed are floored, made to run, jump, kneel and do anything. This means the god has conquered them. Women participants in various attires fan and praise and publicise the ability of the god in healing, in assisting fishermen and farmers to have good catches and raise good crops respectively, in saving people from the grasp of deaths and dangers and many things which would be too much for words.

Now turning to the carriers, who are quite exhausted by this time (about 6.30) they are caught and carried off shoulder high to the abode of the god, because once possessed with the spirit of the god, they cannot accept the drums being taken off their heads very easily. And most wonderful of all is that whilst these carriers run, jump, fall and kneel, the drums never fall from their heads. It is said that then their hands are stuck to them. The drums are now taken from them, water poured on them, made to rest awhile and off, painfully, they go with wounds, not very serious, of course, and dirt all over them through the bewildered and agape crowd. To be an ex-carrier of this god is to have a great reputation because it marks you as brave indeed.

At 7 p.m. all are tired and the celebration is closed.

1/20 (SM) ARMY SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

Birmingham

In accordance with my usual custom at this time of the year I am leaving out a clever story entitled "What to do in the garden in July." The principal character is a girl called Fanny, a sweet child. Lack of space, the insistent demands of the girl's father, Mr. Adams, for royalties and the necessity for giving you much duller fare, persuade me that some other time will be better. Before we come to the dull part I had better tell you about the "Signals" Stand at the Bath and West Show held at Castle Bromwich Aerodrome from 31st May to 3rd June. As soon as possible after my Whitsun tour of the Sussex lanes and byways I trundled along the runway and located the quite imposing Army Stand. We co-operated with Western Command Signal Regiment and between us exhibited many interesting pieces of Signal equipment.

There was a Reception Set R.209 completely submerged in a large tank containing goldfish. I don't know why. It was working very well too. Many people agreed that this proved something. There were Wireless sets 31 and 88, Telephones F. connected to a 20 line board and Teleprinters working as well as the operators could spell. These Teleprinters were connected via a 1 inch to 1 foot scale model of a PL route. A very neat piece of work by Sergeant "Nick" Carter if I may say so. I do say so. Perhaps there is a photograph showing Sergeant Carter surveying his route. The Wire Recorders amused and shocked many visitors.

"Is that really my voice?"

"I'm afraid so madam."

Not quite the tactful and gallant reply perhaps but as most of them seemed to agree that there was reason for dismay no great harm was done. Captain J. E. Denton and his P.S.Is really deserve a lot of credit for the work they put into the preparation of these interesting exhibits. Their Royal Highnesses The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester visited the Show on 1st June and were conducted round the Signal Stand by our C.O., Lieutenant-Colonel E. R. Price, T.D.

The 20 line Switchboard was being looked after by a bevy of charming W.R.A.C. girls whose further acquaintance I neglected to cultivate for two reasons which we could call (a) and (b), though if there is one thing my wife hates it is being referred to as (a). The Chief Signal Officer, Western Command, Brigadier E. V. McCormack, O.B.E., toured the Show and inspected the Army Stand on Saturday, 3rd June. Once again I am sure we have influenced a number of Birmingham men to join the T.A. We shall know in the near future.

R.S.M. H. Griffin is engaged in taking the Regiment through its musketry. Everyone by now should have fired on the minature range. Who made top score? You'll never guess. The next stage will be Kingsbury Ranges, and I hope it keeps fine for us on 2nd and 9th July. In the meantime, nine members of the Regiment have been competing in the Birmingham Bisley Rifle Meeting organised by the Midland Counties Rifle Association. We bask in the reflected glory of a second prize in the Warwickshire "200" won by our Sergeant H. King at Kingsbury on 3rd June.

Billy Ternent and his Dance Orchestra played for us at the Drill Hall, Cateswell House on 20th May. A sensation? Well, no. We have had bigger crowds but none more appreciative. It was not intended to be a financial coup.

Uncle Alf: What's a financial coup?

Me: Coup! Aren't you ignorant.



[*Courtesy: St. John's Studios*

Our Annual Church Parade takes place on 25th June. I will tell you about it next time. I could tell you about it right now but as this has to be posted before 8th June, readers might think there was something phoney about my contribution.

As Mr. Braden says, I look forward to our next meeting with feverish indifference.

BARLEUX

11 A.A. (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

Brompton Road, S.W.2

We extend a warm welcome to the Officers and Cadets of 51st Signal Squadron, Army Cadet Force (late "A" Company, "C" Battalion, The Middlesex Regiment), who have become affiliated to 21 AA (M) Signal Squadron at Brentford.

On Sunday, 14th May, at Regimental H.Q. at Brompton Road, a small ceremonial parade was held to mark the occasion. The Cadets, under the Command of Lieutenant C. Boultwood, and 21 Squadron under the Officer Commanding, Major W. A. Guest, were inspected by the Commanding Officer, and Lieutenant-Colonel C. Pritchard of the County of Middlesex Army Cadet Force. After an address of welcome by the Commanding Officer, to which Lieutenant Boultwood replied, Lieutenant-Colonel Shrimpton presented, on behalf of 21 Squadron, a Royal Signals flag as a memento of the affiliation; this was accepted by Cadet Sergeant J. Bull for the Cadet Squadron.

After watching a demonstration of Signal Office working by 23 Squadron, the Cadets and 21 Squadron returned to Boston Lodge, Ealing. We are now looking forward to welcoming our next arrivals, the National Servicemen, and what could be a better place than an Annual Camp in the New Forest in which to do it.

With Camp almost on top of us great activity is to be seen on all sides. The Lines Officer is adding up poles and bits of wire, the switchboards and teleprinters are working overtime so that their operators shall be able to tell one from the other by 10th July, the Wireless Troops are rather awed by the presence of C.V.s, and the D.R.s are busy cooking out the route, appropriately enough perhaps, to Dartmoor.

50 (N) INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

Darlington

A brief silence please whilst we recover our modesty after reading the article on "The Path of the 50th" in the April WIRE. Anyway, the world now knows the target we are aiming at and which largely explains our many activities in April. These included week-end exercises for both Officers and Senior N.C.O.s, and quite a flow of recruits, which gives fair hopes of achieving the second century before the end of the season. But first and foremost was the second Regimental Ball of the Officers and ex-Officers on 21st April, which happily coincided with a Catterick Exercise and thus gave an opportunity of inviting several distinguished and very welcome members of the Corps.

The accompanying photograph speaks for itself. We were also honoured by the presence of Major-General C. F. Loewen, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O. (G.O.C. 50th Division) and Mrs. Loewen, and the Mayor and Mayoress of Darlington, and immensely gratified by the turn out of our ex-Officers from far and near.

When you add to this the dance section of the Corps Band in their usual sparkling form and everyone in the right mood for a party, success was assured—and how!

On the 30th April we said "Goodbye" to our Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel R. M. Percival, T.D. Having completed his tour of command he has gone on to the T.A.



[*Courtesy: Northern Despatch*

Reserve of Officers and we hear rumours of holidays abroad and more help in the garden for Mrs. Percival. He was "dined-out" on the 29th April when we were pleased to see present three former Commanding Officers—Brigadiers Walton and Sheffield, and Colonel McLeod. Another welcome guest, whom we had not seen for many years, was a former Adjutant, Lieutenant-Colonel Percy Jennings. Colonel Jennings told us that he completed Colonel Percival's papers when he first joined the Regiment as a Second-Lieutenant—way back. Colonel Percival is succeeded by Lieutenant-Colonel W. A. Lee, O.B.E.

2/20 ARMY SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

Wanstead

Of late the order of the day has been training, and yet more training, in preparation for annual camp. Several week-end exercises have been held to this end.

We are now loading ready for our move to Folkestone at the end of the week.

A motor-cycle "maintenance and cleanliness" competition was held by the Despatch Riders, and the machines were inspected by Lieutenant-Colonel J. L. Lilley, T.D. The results were first class. One particular D.R. Sergeant, who shall be nameless, is reputed to have had his machine covered in cellophane which he neatly removed on the approach of the inspecting officer.

This month's black mark. The wireless detachment who located themselves in the courtyard of a hostelry. Although they gave their map reference to H.Q. it wasn't until one of the four searching D.R.s became thirsty that their hideout was discovered.

Our Dramatic Society's recent stage show was a great success. The cast: Lance-Corporal J. Whyte, Private J. Strobel, Private M. Blowes of 54 Signal Squadron, W.R.A.C., and Sergeant E. Young.

Next month you will hear how we got on at camp.

44 (H.C.) INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

Stamford Brook, W.6

Sometimes I feel one has a lot more copy from the social side than from the technical, but I would hasten to assure our readers that our social life in the 44th is small indeed in comparison with our technical life.

This month for example, Sergeant Fiddes and his linemen are completely happy. After two years of grumbling they have at last been presented with a T.E.V. Into this

they have installed a telephone exchange and a 40-line test frame. The rest of the vehicle is fitted like any Signal Office—and the linemen never grumble now.

A few months ago the Regiment possessed two motor cycles, now we have 15. Can you imagine the noise and fumes outside the Headquarters on a drill night, but the Despatch Riders are happy.

After reading the pros and cons of church parades in the daily Press, one wonders if anyone ever has a church parade now. We had one during May. The occasion was the Chiswick Civic Week and the Regiment was invited by the Mayor to send a detachment. No. 3 Squadron provided a particularly smart detachment under the command of Captain S. J. Williams, M.B.E., T.D., and mention must be made of our Cadet Squadron, the 53rd, who paraded with us under Lieutenant C. W. Wallace. They looked most impressive.

I should like to mention here how fortunate we are in having our Cadet Squadron using the same Headquarters. The cadets are able to take part in our exercises and this makes them keener than ever. We foresee very keen competition and feel this must surely lead to recruits for the Regiment when these lads have finished their military service.

Captain E. E. Bigg has just returned from an attachment to 2nd Division in Hilden, North Rhine, where he spent two enjoyable weeks with the Divisional Signal Regiment.

ASSOCIATION NEWS

London (City)

All members of the Branch join me in extending to "The Duke" every good wish on his 72nd birthday. His presence at our meetings is always welcome.

Since our last notes we have had two meetings and we were very pleased to welcome new members.

Just a word to the regulars—keep it up.

We are very pleased to note that six members of this Branch will be going to Catterick on 22nd July. We hope to meet old friends and make new ones.

Plans for our first annual dinner are being formed and we hope to give the date soon.

Salisbury and District

We held our annual reunion dinner at the Cadena Cafe on Friday, 5th May, and a very enjoyable evening it turned out to be, there was lashings of excellent food, both solid and liquid, and after the admirable speeches the company were entertained by two male entertainers.

We were favoured by the presence of the Mayor and Mayoress of Salisbury, Councillor and Mrs. Bridges, other guests included Brigadier B. B. Kennett, C.B.E., C.S.O. Southern Command, Major H. Glanvill, representing Southern Command (M) Signal Regiment. The Reverend W. Hughes, and our old friend Mr. Fred Coles, the first Branch Secretary of No. 1 Branch, who is now living at Exeter.

Unfortunately our notes have been conspicuous by their absence, but we are still active and although we are not so strong in numbers we have great hopes of building up our strength in the coming year.

We are sorry to have to lose our most able Treasurer, Major F. Dowie, who together with the fine co-operation of the Southern Command Signal Regiment has been of great help to us; I hope that by the time these notes are in print York Branch will reap the benefit of our loss.

During the past year we had a visit from the Corps Band and again Southern Command Signals were very helpful in arranging a dance on the Saturday evening and a nice day's entertainment on the Sunday, and although the Saturday function was marred by torrential rain the enthusiasm and enjoyment was in no way damped (only, of course in the right place).

The arrangements for the Sunday church parade and band concert were first class and we would like to say to all those of the Regiment who were responsible for the fine arrangements, "Thanks a lot."

We had the honour of a visit to Salisbury of Lord Montgomery of Alamein and the Branch was represented by members who found time to parade with our Standard on which complimentary remarks were made by his Lordship.

We are now looking forward to the next visit of the Corps Band and trust that we shall meet many of our old friends again.

Our Secretary attended the annual Secretaries' Meeting and reports that all the "Remember me to so and so" have been passed on and wishes to return all the messages of goodwill.

"SARUM"

Bristol

On Friday, 26th May, at the invitation of the Bath Branch the skittle members and their ladies enjoyed a pleasant evening at the Midland Hotel, Bath. A friendly game was arranged, and with the help of the ladies the result was a win for us by only two pins.

In all a very successful evening, and one which the writer hopes will be repeated in the near future.

Bournemouth

Excuse me a moment, this waking up process takes quite a time. Good grief! It's summer! Was it all a dream or did Barleux comment on Bournemouth's quietness? Anyway, even our own members are crying out for notes, so maybe you too would like to know how we are progressing. These notes should really be heralded with a fanfare of trumpets but any form of music is a talking point down here just now, so we'll dispense with that.

These last few months have not been a mad whirl of activities but we have held our A.G.M. with but few changes in the officers of the Branch. Mr. H. T. Gregg is now our President and right worthily he fills that position, "fills" being the operative word. In fact, our meetings have a wonderful air of wellbeing, and an air of being better attended than they really are when both our President and Chairman are present. In that connection too, we all appreciate the fact that they invariably are present, both gentlemen taking a very lively interest in their duties.

Early this year we took the opportunity of inviting our many good friends from the Depot Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess, Bovington Camp, to join us for a social and dance. It was nice to see so many of our own members in attendance too and we hoped to have a picture for publication to prove it, but someone suggested that it would be more appropriate in the columns of the POLICE GAZETTE and they haven't returned it yet. So maybe next month—maybe! Our guests enjoyed themselves to such good purpose that they insisted on our paying them a return visit shortly afterwards and we were, once more, overwhelmed by their hospitality—the beer was good too.

We understand from Major Dunningham that Mercury House is going to do good business again this year—we should be pleased to see anyone or everyone, that goes without saying, and if you've seen us before take a chance, we all improve in time.

Scarborough

The monthly general meeting of the Royal Signals Association (Scarborough Branch) was held in the Castle Hotel, Scarborough, at 7.30 p.m. Wednesday, 14th June, 1950.

It was a most auspicious occasion for us, because we had the very great pleasure of welcoming the General Secretary, Colonel Roberts, from Headquarters, to it, this being his first visit to our Branch.

Colonel L. D. Goddard our President, introduced Colonel Roberts to the members and then invited him to address the meeting.

Colonel Roberts then gave us a very interesting and enlightening talk on the work at Headquarters and all the many and varied tasks that have to be faced.

One member was heard to say, "It's amazing how he remembers all the points, without referring to any notes. He must have a wonderful memory." I can confirm, he has; and it's a jolly good show, Sir. The old 'uns want some whacking, but look at the training he has had. A number of ex-rats were seen trying to get under the nearest table, when he mentioned service. 41 years, and some of us thought that we were "Old Soldiers."

Anyway those members of the Branch that turned up for the meeting, have a far wider knowledge of the activities of the Association now, and we are all very grateful to Colonel Roberts for finding time to come and see us. We know how busy he always is and it is difficult to fit in visits to places so far North East as Scarborough, but we shall be delighted to see you again, Sir, should you ever be this way.

Another very pleasant surprise, was the visit at the same time, of Major George Stone, a very well known ex-member of the Corps, who has come to reside within striking distance of this beautiful town of ours.

He is "Mine Host" of the Kirby Misperton Hotel, about two miles from Pickering, and quite easy to find.

George tells me that he is concentrating on Market Gardening and Poultry, but does catering as well, for parties and individuals, he has a real lovely old place, just the ideal spot for a holiday, so if anyone is travelling this way, and wants a real home from home, call and see him, and you will be sure of a "right good do."

We had a few "Old Timers" present that remembered George Stone in those far off Crowborough days, what fun there was in the Boys Company—it's a pity that leather belts were ever issued for Walking Out. George had a strong right arm, as most ex-boys will remember, and it seemed to be much stronger, with a leather belt in it. Still we are very pleased to have him with us again, and I am sure the Branch will benefit with such a strong character.

The Scarborough season is beginning to take shape in spite of such changeable weather and visitors are flocking in to the town to see us or our *Hispaniola's*, we began to think that the Corporation were collecting them. We have one small edition at the "Mere" for trips to "Treasure Island" and the much larger one that was used in the film, which was bought by the Corporation. This vessel is to be used as a museum and will be permanently docked in the Harbour. It is rather confusing for the visitors who want to see Long John Silver and visit Treasure Island in a search for Doubloons, to find a selection of *Hispaniola's*, still "They'll get used to it."

By the time these notes appear, the date for the Annual Re-union at Catterick will be almost with us, and I am sure that lots of members will be looking forward to it, especially those that went last year. What a splendid time we had and what marvellous organisation. I shall not miss the opportunity for such a grand day out, and have already made my plans. Roll on.

F.M.

Tunbridge Wells and District

At the monthly Branch meeting held on Wednesday, 7th June, 1950, several new members were welcomed, increasing the Branch strength past the 40 mark with eight life members and 33 annual members. Among the "old cronies of early vintage" we have ex-R.S.M. "Sammy" Hughes and ex-C.Q.M.S. "Jumper" Watts (both of whom were probably "crimed" for dirty bows and arrows in the reign of Boadicea)—these "lads" will be remembered with affectionate regard by all who were at Maresfield Park (1920-1923).

"Sammy" Hughes is now "Mine Host" at the Bridge Hotel, Uckfield, Sussex, and any member of the Association can be assured of a "signal" welcome at any old time —WAIT FOR IT!!—during licensed hours.

Another recommended venue for travelling members is the Angel Hotel, High Street, Tonbridge, Kent (appointed A.A. and R.A.C.) the host of which is another very active Branch member—Jack Balch (Life Member No. 6647). Any Association member calling here is certain of a warm welcome, a congenial glass and, if required, a satisfying meal reasonably priced and daintily served.

The Branch has decided to organise a draw for the Cesarewitch Stakes and to invite participation by all sister branches. The draw is designed to raise funds to carry out the Branch programme for the forthcoming year from which, it is hoped, the Corps Benevolent Fund will reap considerable benefit.

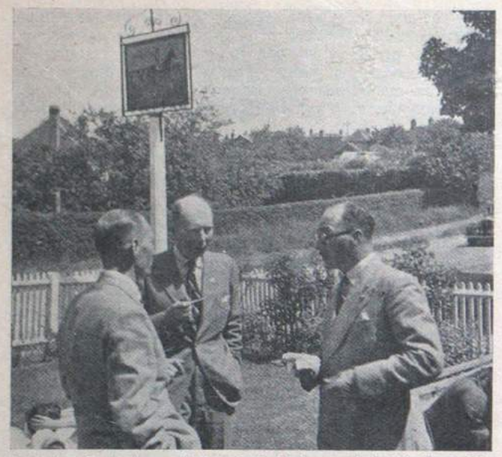
The occasion of the visit of the Corps Band to Tunbridge Wells on a civic engagement from 30th July to 5th August, 1950, is receiving the attention of the Branch Committee. It is hoped that arrangements can be made to entertain them for at least one evening during their stay in the town.

Tunbridge Wells Branch meets on the first Wednesday in each month at the Telephones Sports and Social Club, 58 York Road, Tunbridge Wells, at 7.30 p.m. Any member likely to visit this "neck o' the woods" on a meeting night will be sure of a hearty welcome.

Birmingham

My recent activities in no way qualify me to write notes for this Branch. Once again I was absent from the monthly meeting at the Crown Hotel, Broad Street. This time I was speeding through heavy rain in the general direction of Sussex, and at the time when I might have been listening to the wise words of our Hon. Secretary in Birmingham, I had my elbow on the bar of the Chequers Inn, Maresfield. I'm sorry if that name means nothing to you. Ask your Dad. Many of you will be surprised to learn that Mrs. Tester still keeps the village post office.

The abolition of petrol rationing emboldened me to journey into Kent. Whilst having a coffee in Dover and bemoaning the fact that I knew never a soul in that battered town, who should walk in but Lieutenant-Colonel McGregor. We went through the polite fantasy of lying about each other's excellent preservation and my ten minutes became half an hour. If this is another name you don't know, get among some of the old Corps footballers. They will put you wise. I suppose you will say that you don't know Tommy Cobb either. Well, I met him in Telephone House, Canterbury, a noble edifice similar to the one we have in Birmingham where you may go to find out that you can't have a telephone either today or any of the tomorrows.



Brigadier E. A. James, Major R. F. Barlow and R.S.M. H. Griffin in a rural setting en route for the Royal Tournament

On Saturday, 10th June, we set off in one coach on our long awaited trip to the Royal Tournament. Thanks to Hitler or somebody there is obviously not the money going spare these days. Two years ago we ran three coaches. Let us not talk about next year.

Colonel A. W. Roberts, M.C., joined our party in the stalls and we settled down to enjoy a very slick show which, whilst following the same pattern year after year, never fails to delight. The big national newspapers have asked me not to give a too detailed description of the Royal Tournament so that their own writers may not be thrown out of work. An excellent dinner at Aylesbury on the return journey put us all in good spirits. This was just as well because at 12.30 hours, being half an hour out of Aylesbury, the near side rear wheel of our coach started to come adrift. The driver, very wisely I thought, decided not to continue the journey on three wheels. We are greatly indebted to the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess, R.A.F. Station, Bicester, for extending to us the hospitality of their Mess for a large part of the four hours we had to wait for a relief coach. A mechanic with new locking ring, etc., arrived with the relief at 01.30 hours and we abandoned our old driver to his job, the which he tackled cheerfully, being an ex-R.E.M.E. type.

Dawn's rosy fingers were tracing a pattern in the sky as I let myself into Barleux Castle with an absence of sound that must be the envy of my burglar friends. But for Joe, who lifted up his stupid tom-cat voice in protest just because I trod on him in the dark, all would have been well.

These Birmingham notes are published exclusively in THE WIRE. Order your copy early. Or not. Who cares?

BARLEUX

ROYAL SIGNALS BENEVOLENT FUND

SUBSCRIPTIONS RECEIVED DURING MAY, 1950

	£	s.	d.
Royal Signals Wing, School of Signals	8	0	0
No. 1 Training Regiment	10	0	0
Shoeburyness F.S.S. Troop		10	6

DONATIONS RECEIVED DURING MAY, 1950

Royal Signals Corps Fund	212	14	0
Peshawar District Signals (£35 3% Defence Bonds)	35	5	2
Anonymous	3	10	0
Mr. T. W. Forse		10	0
Mr. L. J. Jennings		10	0
Mr. J. B. Knock		3	0
	£271	2	8

Expenditure during May, 1950 .. .. £612 10 1

(Includes general assistance, rent, rates and insurance, cots and prams, bed and bedding, furniture, clothing, funeral, removals, rehabilitation, fares, convalescence.)

ANALYSIS OF CASES

Families of soldiers serving in U.K.	10
" " " " " B.A.O.R.	2
" " " " " M.E.L.F.	3
Widows and dependants	4
Released and discharged soldiers	39
Total cases assisted	58

THE SIGNALS ASSOCIATION OF THE ROYAL CORPS OF SIGNALS

Membership of the Association is open to all serving and ex-servicemen of the Royal Signals and R.E. Signals, and also to members of the A.T.S. and W.R.A.C. who have served or are now serving with the Corps in a Signal trade.

Membership Subscriptions

	Officers	*Other Ranks*
Life subscription	£5 0 0	£1 10 0
Annual (from date of application)	5 0	2 0

The following sections exist at Headquarters:—

Civil Employment (Members only)

Ex-Service members of the Corps put in touch with employers. (This also applies to married couples when one is a member.)

Write for an Employment Form!

Rehabilitation information and advice on general subjects given to assist resettlement in civil life.

In co-operation with:—

Local Branches of the Royal Signals Association.
The Ministry of Labour and National Service.
The Regular Forces Employment Association.
The British Legion.

Note: No testimonials can be given by this Headquarters, unless the applicant is personally known to a member of the staff. Ex-A.T.S. and W.R.A.C. members should apply to the A.T.S. Benevolent Fund Ex-Service Employment Office at 73 Elizabeth Street, London, S.W.1, for assistance in finding employment.

Members are asked to notify Association Headquarters when they have found suitable employment and no longer wish to hear of vacancies, so that their names can be deleted from the Employment Register.

The Benevolent Branch

The relief of hardship and distress among past and present members of the Corps and their families, in co-operation with:—

The Forces Help Society and Lord Roberts' Workshops.
Local Branches of the Royal Signals Association.
Sailors', Soldiers' and Airmen's Families Association.
The British Legion and other organisations.

Assistance is given regardless of Association membership, but all serving and ex-service members of the Corps are invited to become members of the Association.

Publications Branch

Publishes the Corps monthly magazine THE WIRE, 1/- per copy or by annual subscription (January-December 10/-) and the ROYAL SIGNALS OFFICERS' QUARTERLY GAZETTE, 15/- per annum (includes supplement), RETIRED LIST SUPPLEMENT, 1/- per annum, published in July.

Changes of Address

Members are requested to inform Headquarters immediately if they change their address.

General Information

All social activities, reunions, etc., are run by local branches of the Association. Headquarters deals with all aspects of the business side, but does not issue information concerning local activities.

Members wishing to know more about these should contact the Honorary Secretary of their nearest branch. You may, if you like, become a member of a branch and pay your subscription through them instead of direct to Headquarters. General queries may be addressed either to Headquarters or to the Secretary of your local branch.

MEMBERS ARE ADVISED TO JOIN A BRANCH EVEN IF THEY DO NOT LIVE NEAR ENOUGH TO ATTEND BRANCH FUNCTIONS IN ORDER TO RECEIVE NEWS OF GENERAL ACTIVITIES WHICH, OWING TO SHORTAGE OF STAFF, CANNOT BE CIRCULATED TO INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS BY HEADQUARTERS.

The General Secretary is always glad to hear from members who would be interested in forming new branches in their own district, and every possible help is given by Headquarters in the formation of new branches.

All correspondence should be addressed to:—

The General Secretary,
Royal Signals Association,
88 Eccleston Square,
London, S.W.1.

THE ARMY CRUSADERS (ARMY OFFICERS) ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL CLUB

A meeting was held at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, on 4th May, 1950, with the object of reviving the above Club.

The objects of the Army Crusaders are:

1. To give officers an opportunity of interesting themselves in Army football and of getting games of the type to which they are accustomed.

2. To run a series of matches against as many soccer playing Public Schools as possible.

3. To play the officers of the Sister Services.

4. To further the true amateur spirit of the sport.

Membership of the Club is open to officers of the Regular Army (including National Service officers), Reserve of Officers and Territorial Army, and Officer Cadets of the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst.

The rates of subscription are as follows:

Life Membership	£2 2 0
or	
Annual Membership	5 0

It is hoped to defray any match expenses incurred by individual players.

Several fixtures have already been arranged for the season 1950-51, the first one for October, 1950. These fixtures include a match against the officers of the Royal Navy. Although no fixtures are being arranged in the North of England at present, it is hoped to arrange a fixture list with schools in the North later on.

It is hoped to arrange at least one trial match in the Aldershot area in the second half of September. Officers desirous of playing next season are asked to submit their names before 1st August, 1950, if possible.

Applications for membership or for further information should be sent to:

Captain N. W. Watson, R.A.E.C.,
Hon. Secretary,
Army Crusaders Football Club,
Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst,
Camberley,
Surrey.



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THE WIRE

The Corps Magazine of the
ROYAL SIGNALS

The Official Organ of the
SIGNALS ASSOCIATION

All correspondence and matter for publication for "The Wire" should be addressed to The Editor, "The Wire," 88 Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1. Matter for publication must be received by the 15th of the month preceding publication.

Remittances should be made payable to: Royal Signals Association. Subscription rates (post free, except air mail): Twelve months, 10s.; single month, 1s.

☆

AUGUST • 1950

Vol. 4 *New Series* **No. 8**

☆

PRICE: ONE SHILLING

Editorial

EDITORIAL

As is well known the cost of producing Regimental journals continues to go up, and in our case at least, the number of paying subscribers remains about the same.

Seeking, therefore, for means of effecting economies, the genteel practice of exchanging THE WIRE with the journals of other Corps and Regiments came under review.

As a result of courteous correspondence carried out with the Editors of other journals, it has been decided with reluctance to cease exchanging with a majority of them.

☆

IMPORTANT READING IN AUGUST

The first instalment of an article on "Frequency Modulation," by Mr. E. Husbands, continues the series of technical articles by Officers of the Signals Research and Development Establishment, and is on page 302.

Yeoman Warder G. A. E. Gavey contributes the first of a series of articles on the Crown Jewels which appears on page 299.

The report will be found on page 306 of the visit to Catterick of the party of Egyptian Officers under Brigadier M. I. Seif el Din, Commandant of the Egyptian Staff College.

Doctor Rogers' letters from the Crimea are concluded on page 305.

A unique event in the history of the Corps is recorded on page 296 in the report on the Tercentenary Parade of the Coldstream Guards where the Corps participated for the first time in full dress.

The photograph on the front cover and description of the part taken by Royal Signals in the Bath and West Show were held over from last month because of the desirability of having a picture for the front cover. Article, page 294.

☆

ADVERTISEMENT

One or two Radio Mechanics experienced in the grinding and testing of quartz crystals. Suitable applicants should write for an interview to PIEZO CRYSTALS LIMITED, 26 St. Albans Road, Watford, Herts., giving full particulars of their age, qualifications and experience, etc., stating when available and the salary required. Successful applicants must be willing to reside in or near Watford. The position offers excellent prospects to the right men.

☆

ROYAL SIGNALS DINNER CLUB

T.A. Officers' Tea Party, 9th December.
Buffet Supper Reunion, 9th December.
Both at Hyde Park Hotel. Information from Secretary, Royal Signals Dinner Club, Room 97, Horse Guards, S.W.1.

☆

17th INTERNATIONAL RADIO EXHIBITION

Will be held at Castle Bromwich, Birmingham, from 6th September to 16th September.

THE BATH AND WEST SHOW

The front cover shows the interior of the Royal Signals Exhibition and the following article describes it. Sent by Western Command Signal Regiment for July they have been held over until now mainly because of the excellence of the photo by War Office Reproduction Services and by its suitability for the front cover.

IN conjunction with 1/20 Army Signal Regiment (T.A.) Birmingham, we provided a team and exhibits for the Military stand at the Bath and West Show held in Birmingham, one of the biggest agricultural shows in the country. Added attractions were stands provided by the three services. The only exhibits of Military equipment were those provided by the Royal Corps of Signals.

Amongst our exhibits were a "Bumble Bee" of *papier maché* in a Flying Saucer slung from the roof of the stand and controlled by a No. 31 set. Talking, whistling or even breathing heavily into the microphone made him vibrate his wings. A R. 209 receiver, connected through an amplifier to a loudspeaker and working in the bottom of a goldfish tank demonstrated the water-proofing of the set. These exhibits were explained by some very artistic (!!) paintings produced by our draughtsman, aided by a fertile imagination and under the guidance of Major Tim Barron who is never at a loss on these occasions. Another exhibit was a teleprinter provided by 1/20 Army Signal Regiment advertised as the "Electric Brain" to tell your future. This was in great demand, even by the President of the Show, who wanted to know what he was likely to make on the Show itself; after some rapid calculations by Signalman Hodgkins who was located with a second teleprinter in a T.C.V. concealed outside the stand, gave him the figure of £20,000.

T.R.H. the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester came to visit us and the Duke was highly amused at the "Bumble Bee."

Field Marshal Viscount Montgomery was unable for lack of time to give more than a glance at our stand before leaving; we also had a short visit from the Under Secretary of State for Air.

The C.S.O. Western Command, Brigadier McCormack, came round to see our efforts and we feel he went away satisfied.

Amongst those whose voices were recorded on one of our wire recorders were two representatives of the B.B.C. team engaged in televising the musical drive of the King's Troop, R.H.A., and other exhibits at the Show. We had three members of the W.R.A.C. with us to look after the Switchboard F. and F., another of our exhibits. One of them was photographed on the arm of a Guards Sergeant in full ceremonial dress looking at the recruiting poster exhibits in the stand next door which we hope to see in THE SOLDIER magazine—posed, need we say, by the photographer.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Sergeant E. H. King, Royal Signals, 8 Ward, Royal Hospital, Chelsea, S.W.3, writes to the Editor:

I would like to send my grateful thanks through the medium of the Corps journal to an ex-officer of the Corps (whom I met at a Signals social at Old Street on 30th June) for the six copies of THE WIRE, January to June inclusive, so kindly sent.

Unfortunately at the same time I did not obtain his name and address, hence my message of appreciation through you.

The gift was made more interesting by the fact that in the April edition a group of Officers photographed in camp at Burghclere, 1909, summer training, are all very well known to me together with very happy memories of those days.

Open letter to "Barney" Sharp, from George King, Royal Hospital, Chelsea:

I was delighted when reading your very interesting epistle in the April edition of THE WIRE, but how on earth did you come to christen me with that irritating pseudonym "Banger." I do know that I was sometimes known as the "Saint" because I was always most successful in eluding C.B. I was also known as the "Gorgeous Wreck" by my cronies, a corruption perhaps, of Georgius Rex (George King). About the dry dock, "Barney," you would be surprised to know how wet it can be in this place if one only wishes to be lifting one's arm every minute of the day, but that's all right while it lasts; but it's the next morning that tells a different story, "enough said." I saw Charlie Mepham in Camberley sometime ago, and I thought he looked very fit, also Major Bill Gallagher at Mons Barracks, Aldershot.

I congratulate you, "Barney," on your fine breast, I have only got five, but I find that plenty when I have to clean them every day. I am indeed sorry, "Barney," about the rheumatoid arthritis. Unfortunately, there seems to be no permanent cure for it, and I can only conclude by wishing you all the best.



INSIDE AGAIN

Further Adventures of Signalman Harris

AS faithful followers of this chronicle will know, Signalman Harris was a man of many parts. The way he felt at present he thought it was almost too many parts. But there is no doubt that he was one of those men endowed with a natural skill for doing things—and doing them fairly well. Wherefore, when the proposal to start a motor-cycle racing club was first mooted in the Unit, Signalman Harris was a leading light. Almost the headlight, in fact (old boots will not be thrown). There was a little discussion of ways and means. Chiefly means—because, although the spirit was willing the cash balance was awfully weak. However, subscriptions were raised and various officers interested contributed a modicum of their beer money to help the club get on its wheels.

There came the day when the first of the club's machines arrived. Army surplus disposals at a few pounds each and looking worth much less. But this did not daunt our embryo speedsters and with great skill and much ingenuity —and even more scrounging, a sufficient number of bikes was finally assembled. A truly motley collection, my friends, old fire extinguishers for petrol tanks and sand grip tyres from wheels far bigger than any to be found on even the most optimistic motor-cycles. But still things of beauty in the eyes of our racing fraternity.

Much practising had to be done and many toils and tribulations endured. But, eventually, Signalman Harris had arrived as one of the star riders. This, let it be said to his credit, due to unremitting care of his machine and an uncanny skill in apparently defying the laws of motion. And his girl friend (referred to in our last episode) considered him to be even more of a hero than ever. And yet, he mused bitterly, he was inside again.

It all happened on a sunny Sunday afternoon. The team had gone to a meeting and there had been many good fights and true on the cinder track. The opponents were of a sister regiment and numbered many old hands at the speedway game in the team. It was said of them that they tucked their machines into bed and slept in the garage themselves. True or not, they could ride and had done so to some effect. And Signalman Harris had drawn to ride against the best of them.

Lying on his hard bed, Signalman Harris thought of that race—and shuddered. It would have to be him and he would have to be racing against the Flying Captain. Why had he had to spend the last few minutes talking to his girl friend, instead of preparing for the race. And why hadn't he noticed it. But he hadn't and had gone away in grand style. And he kept going for a considerable distance —but that was after the bike had stopped. And so he was inside again. Not the guard room—the hospital. The moral appearing to be—never try racing a motor-cycle unless your oil tank is full.

OLD BILL

BIRTHS

STORK.—To Sergeant and Mrs. Stork, a son.

McCUNNIN.—At Scarborough on 27th May, 1950, to Captain (Q.M.) and Mrs. P. J. McCunnin, a daughter, Patricia Ann.

PHILLIPS.—To Captain and Mrs. G. Phillips, 44 H.C. Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A., a daughter, Vivien.

MARRIAGES

RUMSEY—DAVIES.—At Rawalpindi, Captain (T.O.M.) W. P. J. Rumsey, Royal Signals, attached Pakistan Signal Corps, to Miss Gwyneth Davies.

BOYLE—FULTON.—At Middlesbrough on 21st June, 1950, Captain A. P. Boyle, 7 Selection Regiment, Royal Signals, to Miss Joan Fulton.

BOALER—GRÖNBERG.—At Jacobi Kirche, Goslar, on 15th June, 1950, Driver H. Boaler, 7th Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment, to Fraulien Addelheid Grönberg of Lauthenthal.

O'CONNOR—ELLIS.—At Weston-super-Mare on 15th July, 1950, Lieutenant Michael O'Connor, Royal Signals to Captain Cynthia Ellis, W.R.A.C. Signals, both of 1 A.A. (M) Signal Regiment.

FORTHCOMING MARRIAGE

CATTERMULL—ELLIS.—A marriage has been arranged and will take place on 12th August, between Lieutenant David Cattermull, Royal Signals, and Lieutenant Gwen Ellis, 1st Signal Squadron, W.R.A.C.

NOTICE

A small supply of hand woven woollen ties in Corps colours are available from this Headquarters at a cost of 8s. 6d. each.

Remittances should be forwarded with orders.



Nulli Secundus

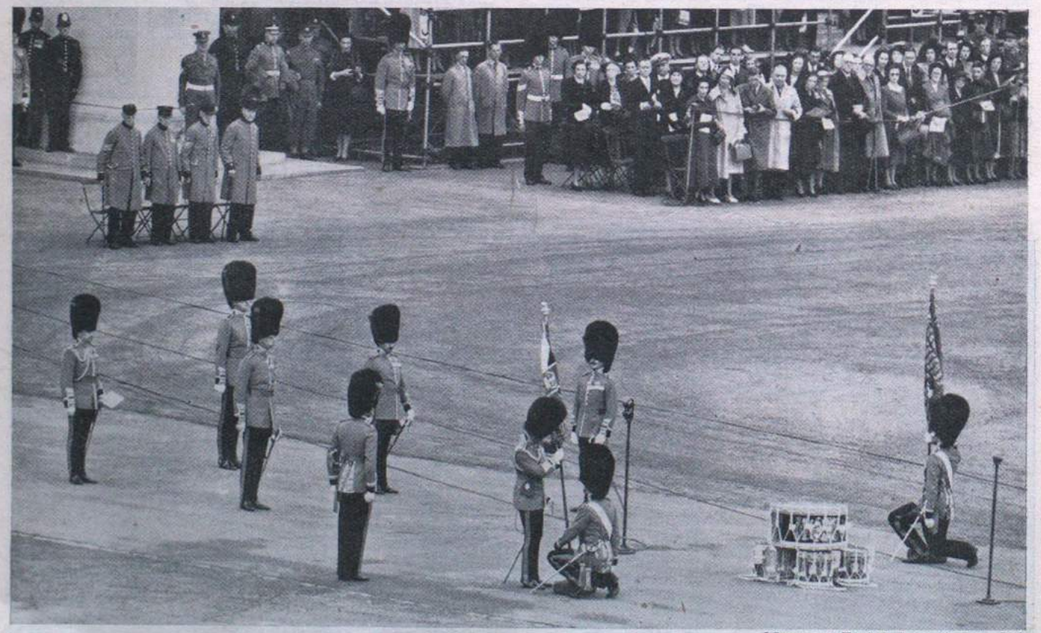
IT has been said "war is only an incident in the history of the Coldstream Guards." Another "incident" perhaps is the Tercentenary Celebrations of the forming of the Regiment by General Monck, which are now taking place. This anniversary year has been celebrated by the Regiment with the First and Second Battalions serving overseas and so the honour of the Regiment has been upheld mainly by the Third Battalion stationed in London.

A part of these celebrations was the presentation of new colours to the Third Battalion by His Majesty on the Horse Guards Parade on 5th July, which parade was also attended by the Coldstream Companies from the Depot and by Coldstream detachments of the Guards Airborne Company. There were also present on parade a very large company of old Coldstreamers of the older generation wearing the medals of two great wars. The stands built for the Trooping of the Colour and left in situ were filled with the guests of the Regiment and very many thousands of Londoners and visitors to London packed all available standing room around the parade ground.

Royal Signals were responsible for giving loud speaker coverage for this great multitude and also for assisting the B.B.C. in producing a broadcast with Mr. Richard Dimbleby as commentator, and also the sound track for the television programme. The very many acoustic problems involved in trying to avoid "echo" in a confined space are dealt with elsewhere in this article.

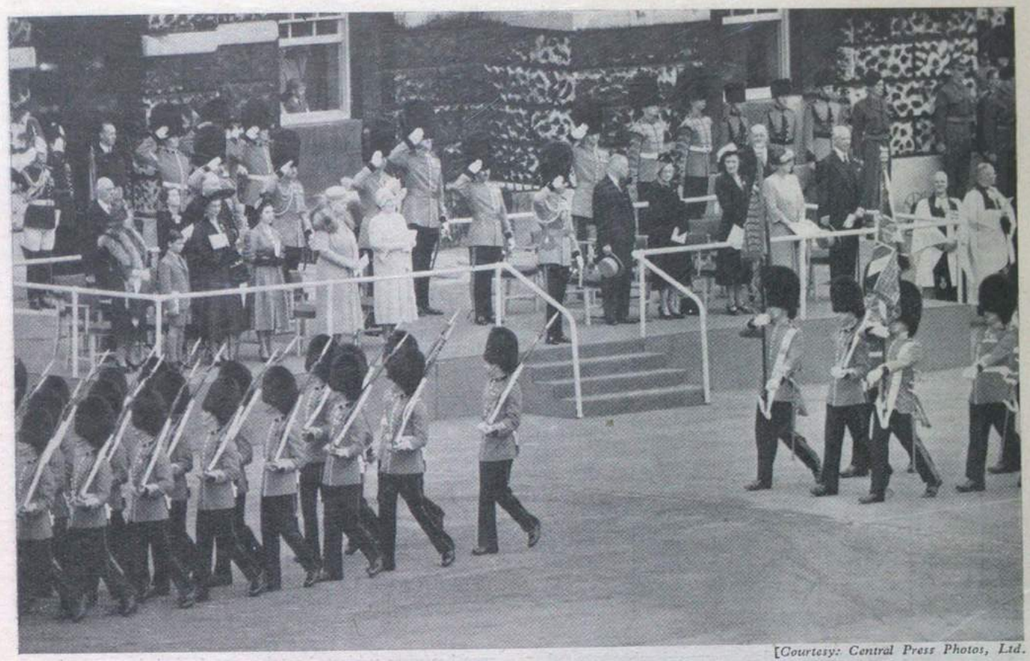
Briefly after the old colours had been trooped and then marched off His Majesty came on parade and inspected the Regiment. While this was going on preparations were made for the dedication of the new colours and for the presenting of them by His Majesty. Drummers of the Regiment piled their drums. The new colours were laid upon the altar thus made. For the close broadcast of the speeches and prayers three microphones on stands were carried to the centre of the parade ground. One microphone was for His Majesty, one for the Chaplain General and one for the Commanding Officer of the Battalion. That these microphones were carried by members of Royal Signals wearing the full dress uniform of the Corps is a tribute to the generosity and willing co-operation of Captain J. L. Judd, M.B.E., Director of Music and the band.

As is well known, bandsmen of the Corps are trained Signal Tradesmen. It is seldom that they are called upon to demonstrate their technical ability in public, and never before have they done so in full dress. The appearance on



[*Courtesy: Topical Press Agency, Ltd.*

His Majesty and the microphone immediately to his left as he gives the Colour. The other microphone was used by the Chaplain General. Note the "parade ground" precision of the long leads from microphone to amplifiers



[*Courtesy: Central Press Photos, Ltd.*

The Colours passing the saluting base. The Royal Signals Detachment are seen in the background. The engineering by both Royal Signals and B.B.C. in the room immediately behind

a parade of this nature of men of another Regiment is unusual. It was a happy coincidence that it was possible for Royal Signals to be dressed as were all others on the parade in the "King's scarlet." They looked and were very smart as indeed was mentioned in the broadcast.

As a culmination to a strenuous and anxious morning it was very gratifying to receive a telephone call from Buckingham Palace conveying a most gracious message of congratulation and thanks from His Majesty the King.

The problem from the Signals angle was two-fold. Firstly to get the microphones out on to the parade ground and back again at *exactly* the correct time and secondly to ensure P.A. coverage of the parade and as many as possible of the spectators.

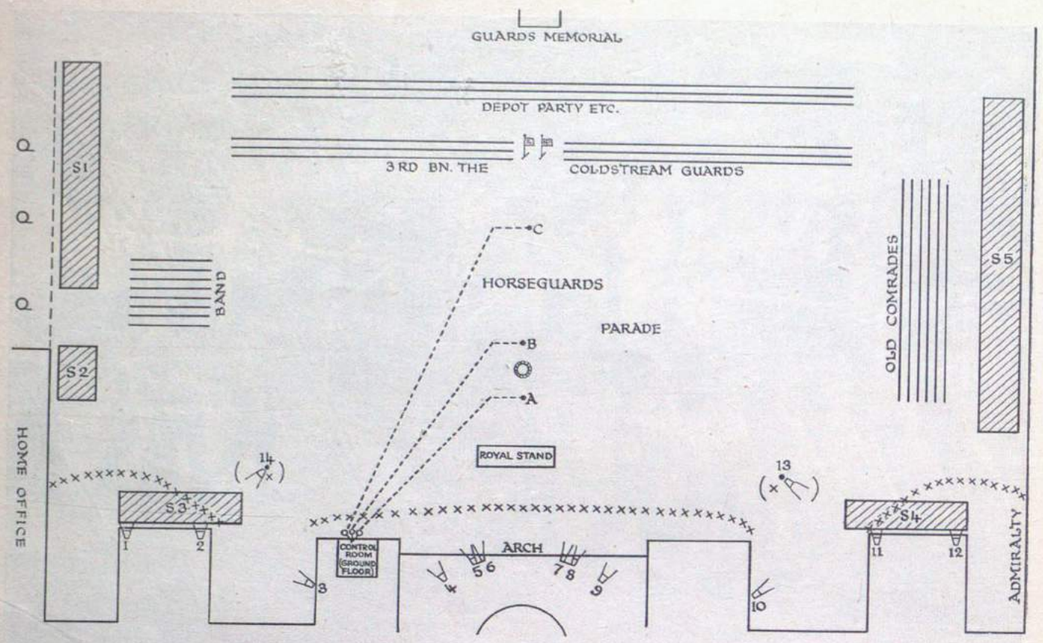
How the first problem was solved has already been described and it is necessary only to add that a team of three men had to be carefully drilled for each microphone to ensure that the drums revolved easily, that the tension on the carried microphone was even, and that slack was pulled up giving them straight lines (see photograph).

The second problem was extremely interesting in that the area to be covered was large (approximately 100 yards by 200 yards), surrounded on three sides by tall buildings, and no loudspeakers were allowed to be placed on the parade ground and finally owing to the position of the Horse Guards Parade and its proximity to Downing Street protracted trial and error tests were forbidden. During the preliminary planning it was not known that the B.B.C. would cover the parade and as this information was only forthcoming on 20th June some adjustments had later to be made to the original plan.

After a number of preliminary discussions it was decided to use a large number of speakers and amplifiers so that all equipment should be working at a relatively low level. In order to be able to work three different microphones and a number of speakers through one piece of control equipment a four-way mixer unit was procured for use both on this occasion and others such as the London Tattoo, Army Day, etc. To produce the maximum efficiency each amplifier drove two loudspeakers, and three microphones and stands were chromium plated. When it was decided that the ceremony was to be broadcast the B.B.C. provided the microphones and fed our mixer with clean speech at the required level—in order to facilitate work a combined control room was established in a ground floor room of Headquarters, London District.

The final layout of speakers, etc., can be seen on the rough plan. Loudspeakers are numbered from 1 to 12; stands S1 to S5; microphone A was used by His Majesty, microphone B by the Chaplain General, and microphone C by the Commanding Officer of the Third Battalion, The Coldstream Guards.

All the loudspeakers, which were standard W.D. reentrant type were situated on the roof of the Horse Guards building at a height of about 50ft. from the ground. The bulk of the parade ground being covered by a battery of six speakers 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9. The two sides of the area were covered by the speakers 1, 2 and 11 and 12 respectively. All these speakers had to point towards the four corners of the parade ground if feed back and echoes were not to result. During practice it was found that the whole parade ground was covered except for an area approximately 10 yards in front of the main building which included stands S3 and S4. In order to try and overcome this loudspeakers 3 and 10 were placed in position on a 2ft. ledge as far forward as they could safely be put without hold-fasts to secure them; but this only partly solved the problem as an echo was produced from reflection and the



output on these two speakers had to be considerably lowered —the resultant blank spots being on this occasion accepted (the approximate blank spots being enclosed by the lines xxxx). It is of interest to note that these blank areas in the stands were subsequently covered by two loudspeakers at points 13 and 14, which were used successfully for the London District Tattoo where positioning of speakers on the parade ground was permissable.

A further difficulty which had to be accepted was that the Chaplain General and the Commanding Officer in their speeches were subjected to the sound of their own voices at approximately 1/10 second's time lag. In the case of His Majesty's microphone the time lag was not so apparent and also he was shielded by the balustrade and from the direct effect of the loudspeakers. In order to reduce all these effects to a minimum the Lieutenant-Colonel of the Coldstream Guards agreed to the piled drums being further from the Battalion than is normal.

Perfect reception was even reported near St. James's Palace.

THE ADMINISTRATIVE AIDE MEMOIRE

Compiled by **Major R. C. W. THOMAS, O.B.E.**

THIS is a devastating little book. It contains simply and briefly 500 short sharp questions. Liberty has been taken to extract a very few of them and the writer of this review will wager that few officers can answer all or even the few quoted with a clear conscience.

Seriously, as the author says in his introduction, "it only requires a commander to inquire about one particular matter to a single person for his inquiry to be repeated throughout his formation or unit, eventually resulting in a large number of personnel investigating the matter that has been raised, and initiating any action that may be found necessary."

The book is well worth its purchase price for almost all ranks. To the very senior about to undertake a series of administrative inspections, the writer guarantees that the selection of a few questions taken at random will score several points at the expense of the administration of even the most efficient Regiment. Equally down to the lowest ranks reading and rereading of the questions will prompt an enquiring mind to acquire and on demand to produce the answer to a majority of the questions.

We invite our readers to ponder over the following:—

(4) Have orders been issued restricting the amount of money that may be left in a safe for any length of time?

(45) What steps are being taken to ensure the same damage or loss is not paid for over and over again?

(62) Where are unit boot repairs carried out, and how are boots despatched and collected?

(119) Is there a men's mess committee? How often does it meet, who presides, and are the Minutes seen by the Commanding Officer?

(148) Is a register maintained within the unit of all personnel who are permitted to handle secret, security and confidential documents?

(221) What orders have been issued about the use of electric fires, wireless and irons?

(265) Are all other ranks being required to report sick on the day after their return from leave?

(312) What is the system of checking the use of free postage labels?

(339) Is there a list of mess rules which all officers are required to read and initial?

Needless to say the book fits neatly into the pocket and is cheap at 2/6 from Gale and Polden, Ltd.

The English Regalia and Crown Jewels – 1

By **Yeoman Warder G. A. E. GAVEY,** *late Captain, Royal Signals*

IN these articles I want to briefly describe the Regalia by groups in the following form:—

(1) The Coronation Regalia.
(2) Historical Jewels in the Regalia.
(3) Regalia on view but not now in use.
(4) The Royal Plate.
(5) The Insignia of the Orders of Knighthood.

* * *

THE CORONATION REGALIA

Consists of: (a) St. Edward's Crown, (b) the Imperial Crown of State, (c) H.M. Queen Elizabeth's Crown, (d) the Orb, (e) the Ampula, (f) the Sceptre with the Dove, (i) the Queen's Sceptre with the Cross, (j) the Queen's Ivory Rod, (k) St. Edward's Staff, (l) the Sword of State, (m) the Jewelled State Sword, (n) the Second Sword, (o) the Third Sword, (p) the Curtana or Middle Sword, (q) St. George's Spurs, (r) the Royal Maces, (s) Coronation Ring.

All but two pieces are post-restoration, for Oliver Cromwell in his hatred for all things Royal destroyed all the Crowns, Regal emblems, Ecclesiastical and Royal Plate except the Ampula and the anointing spoon. Of the Plate only Queen Elizabeth's Salt Cellar was saved.

(a) *St. Edward's Crown*

This crown, known as the Coronation Crown or the Crown of England, was made by Sir Robert Vyner, who was appointed Court Jeweller by Charles II.

It was made so as to resemble as far as possible the crown that had been destroyed. This crown, however, has been altered from time to time and the stones have been reset and rearranged. It weighs about 5lb., is made of gold and set with diamonds, rubies, emeralds, sapphires and pearls.

The crosses-patee and fleur-de-lys which have long been associated with all English crowns have been used.

The crown is closed with two arches, the sign of Hereditary and Independent Monarchy, and the arches are depressed at the centre thus indicating a Royal and not an Imperial Crown.

Another feature of old English crowns which is included in St. Edward's Crown is the Orb surmounted by a Cross which rests on the summit of the arches. Inside is a cap trimmed with ermine, this is sometimes called a Cap of Estate or Cap of Maintenance.

The St. Edward's Crown is only used for the act of Crowning itself, and it is immediately replaced by the Imperial Crown of State, being an emblem of greater imperial role.

(b) *The Imperial Crown of State*

The Crown of St. Edward, being the Crown of the Realm at one time was kept with the rest of the National Regalia in the custody of the Dean and Chapter of Westminster. After the Coronation ceremony it was given back to the Dean for safekeeping.

It, therefore, became necessary for the Sovereign to have another crown to be worn on other occasions of State. Since the Tudors this extra crown has been known as the Imperial Crown of State.

As already explained a new Crown of State was necessary for the Coronation of Charles II and this was used in subsequent reigns until George IV had an entirely new Crown of State made. The frames of these two crowns are in the London Museum.

The present Imperial Crown of State was made by the Court Jewellers (Messrs. Rundell and Bridge) for Queen Victoria in 1838, but it has been dismantled and the stones reset for successive Sovereigns.

A visitor to the Jewel House will notice that this crown has the Imperial Arches. These arches are not depressed at the centre but slope upwards to the point of intersection.

This crown is a mass of precious jewels, some of great historical interest. It contains 2,783 diamonds, 277 pearls, 18 sapphires, 11 emeralds and five rubies.

In front will be seen the Second Star of Africa cut from the Cullinan diamond. It is oblong in shape and weighs 309 3/16 carats and is the second largest cut diamond in existence. Above it is the Great Black Prince's Ruby. At the back is the large Stuart Sapphire which had adorned the Crown of Charles II but had passed to the Stuarts to be reinherited by George III.

From the point of intersection of the arches hang four large pear-shaped pearls, as large as pigeons' eggs, said to have been the earrings of Queen Elizabeth.

In the centre of the diamond cross which surmounts the crown is a beautiful sapphire which is said to have adorned the ring of Edward the Confessor.

Within the crown is a purple Cap of Maintenance lined with ermine. The total weight of the crown is 39oz. 5dwt. This crown is also used at the opening of Parliament, and at the funeral of the Sovereign.

(c) *H.M. Queen Elizabeth's Crown*

Since the Restoration it has been usual for a new crown to be made or for an old crown to be remade for each Queen Consort which has enabled the Queen's Crown to be in keeping with the fashions of the time. The present crown was made for Her Majesty in 1937 by Messrs. Gerrard and Co. (Crown Jewellers).

The foundation of the crown is a Regal circlet first made for Queen Victoria and worn on many occasions by Queen Alexandra and Queen Mary. It has been entirely reset and is composed of clusters with large diamond centres alternating with important quartre-foil ornaments all held between two plain diamond fillets. From the regal circlet rise four conventional crosses-patee and four fleur-de-lys supporting four arches surmounted by the Orb and Cross. In the centre of the cross-patee is the Third Star of Africa, weighing 92 carats. The Fourth Star of Africa of 62 carats is set in the centre of the regal circlet.

Each fleur-de-lys carries three large drop-shaped diamonds while three of the crosses-patee carry four large round stones as their most important feature.

In the fourth cross-patee is set the Koh-i-Noor of 108 carats. According to tradition this stone must only be worn by a woman, thus since the reign of Queen Victoria it has adorned successively the crowns of the Queen Consort.

The motifs of the four arches are similar, to match the lower band each composed of two tapering diamond fillets.

(d) *The Orb*

As an emblem the Orb is not so ancient as the Crown and Sceptre, and its probable origin is Roman. The Roman Emperors, whose title was "Imperatores Orbis Terrarum," probably suggested its use as an insignia. When Rome was converted to Christianity the Orb was surmounted by a Cross. It was not until 1685 that the Orb was delivered at the Coronation ceremony.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Sir,

As a regular reader I am pained beyond measure by the continued lack of reference in your columns to the great strides which have been made by the more technical and scientifically minded members of the Corps; this is all the more strange because when there is any scrapping to be done, one usually finds a bunch of Signals types mixed up in it somewhere, using new devices and apparatus dreamed up by the long-haired, back-room gentlemen sitting in obscurity. I feel it is time the veil was lifted on at least one of their latest ideas.

I am compelled, therefore, sir, to call your urgent attention to a development in modern warfare which has not only come to stay, but which will undoubtedly be strengthened by the advent of the atom bomb; goodness knows the trend was strong enough even before that event happened for the first time. I refer, of course, to the complete monopoly of what our American cousins call combat by the Staff, through the medium of its Signals technicians and development personnel.

There was a time, long, long ago, when men were men, and fighting was pretty much of a rough and ready sort of business in which only the really tough guys took active part. When the alarm was raised, these men of valour sprang from within their dank caves smiting their hairy chests, and rushed in an undisciplined body to the scene of action, there to bludgeon and belabour the foe and anyone else within reach with rocks, clubs, blunt instruments and other weapons of the period until the side which bludgeoned the hardest carried the day. Then they lopped off a few ears as proof of victory and dashed back home to the little women to be acclaimed and comforted; I notice there is a distressing tendency toward that practice even today.

Now, sir, I want to emphasise that in this form of warfare there were no lines of communication, no Signals and very certainly no Headquarters; war was, in fact, nothing more nor less than a bunch of toughs slugging it out at the front. Q, for instance, simply had not been thought of; supplies were taken forward, if at all, on the person in the form of old meat bones and ripe fruit, thrust down the garment of the day. When the rations were gone, fighting stopped; there was no such thing as the "unexploded portion."

But it was inevitable that very soon the more enlightened toughs began to realise that this sort of thing was not altogether too efficient, and so someone came up with the idea of starting the Army. This began, even then, as a particularly unwieldy organisation, and as time progressed it became more and more complex; the underlying idea, of course, was that such an organisation would enable a far larger number of roughnecks to bash each other about for a much longer period, and at the same time would allow the more ambitious bruisers to put on fine raiment and boss the other suckers about. You see, sir, the Ambitious Types had at last tumbled to the idea that it was far nicer to sit back home in a comfortable dry cave with the rations and the Little Women than to get mixed up in all the untidy stuff going on up at the front end; the idea as you are probably aware, has stuck.

As wars followed wars, the habit grew until, by 1914, it was pretty well impossible to find a dry, watertight residence of any note behind the lines which had not already been commandeered; this was because by that time there had sprung into being a maze of Headquarters of all sorts, shape and sizes, with depots, dumps, parks, bases and every other conceivable kind of local government, overrun with Adjutants, A.D.C.s, Camp Commandants, things called Provost, to say nothing of the limitless host of minor fry to run errands for the High Priced Help.

But by the time we got through with this last show, sir, with its mechanised divisions and its Intelligence and Army Catering Corps formations, the whole thing was completely out of hand, whilst the size of the Staff needed to run it simply beggared description. The communications side, as you are well aware, resembled the rising sun, but with rays far more numerous and even more magnificent.

Visualise now the inevitable trend, which Signals, in their great wisdom, have had the foresight to anticipate.

In the next unpleasantness we shall find a one-man combat force comprising but a single tough, representing the entire side, and carrying all our hopes and aspirations; he will be encased in a shatter-proof combat vehicle, capable through atomic power of supersonic speed on land and sea and in the air, toting sufficient guided missiles with atomic warheads to wipe out the entire opposing force. This individual will be in constant communication with the Staff through the latest discovery of Signals—two-way thought transmission on a micro-cosmic wave; think, sir, alone of the importance of that amazing invention—we shall no longer need to spend sleepless days and nights learning the Morse Code. Even the "A" side, U.N.R.R.A. and "Q" will be able to follow our tough on his course of death-dealing destruction on the Headquarters television screens, whilst "Ops" will plan his next manœuvres by radar devices which will lay bare the innermost secrets of the enemy terrain and dispositions.

Think, too, sir, of what this will mean to the poor old ground hog, and of the numberless advantages this modern tactic will bring. No longer will a Supreme Commander need to have qualified in the Boer War to run a common brawl, but rather will our next Architect of Victory have to be a studious thinker—a chess player or a Culbertson; such types of men will be the next occupants of the seats of the Mighty at General Headquarters, because one little slip of the mind—bang goes victory.

Whilst fully appreciating the tremendous load and responsibility such far-reaching changes will bring to our Corps, I am to some extent consoled when I think of the saving factors which must follow. There will no longer be any need for Field Censors, Town Majors, R.T.O.s, B.O.D.s, Echelons of all kinds and War Correspondents; no need at all, mark you, for any of the present parasitical excrescences. We shall only need, for instance, one refuelling point, one N.A.A.F.I., one airfield and one reinforcement depot. In fact, there need be nothing other than our one super-combined-operation in his indestructible machine, and one great big beautiful Headquarters, stuffed to the gills with cipher Officers, Intelligence wallahs, Personal Assistants, Chief Clerks by the thousands, the Staff itself—and Signals. For by then everyone who is not part and parcel of the Headquarters will have been drafted into Signals, by whom, as I have already said, the entire action will be directed and fought.

Many new trades will have to be created. There will, naturally, still be the Linemen, making the usual cross connections on the terminal board, Electricians (Signals) burning their fingers off in the age old tradition with molten solder, but a flock of fresh technicians such as Electricians (Television) will be needed for wiring up the screens to pass the myriads of chits, messages and minutes to every nook and cranny of the Headquarters, whilst the whole system will be dominated by a bunch of Master Thinkers (Royal Signals), tuned in constantly to the enemy wave on a 24-hour shift, all trying desperately to out-think the foe, knowing that if they fail the entire place will fuse and blow up.

I submit, sir, that with this in view, the technical side of our Corps hides its light today under too modest a bushel; perhaps what they used to call us in the Armoured Corps when the radios went on the fritz is true—we should be the real Silent Service. We are, I am afraid, still regarded as a necessary evil, to be tolerated when all goes well, but to be castigated and looked upon as a particularly offensive Fifth Column when communications fail. Nevertheless, sir, I rejoice now to think that at last we are about to come into our own, to the chagrin of the Brigade of Guards, the Army Film Unit and the Pioneer Corps.

All this may sound fantastic, but then modern war itself is so fantastic anyway that I am not at all sure we may not yet once again see the full cycle, and return to the system of the foetid cave and the Little Women.

It is possible that the Atom Bomb could persuade us.

Yours faithfully,

ALEX MONTIETH

Some Thoughts on Advertising

HAVING an idle hour, and as a result of some thirty odd years of service, idleness is now a recurring boon; I glanced at the advertisements in the WIRE and thought to myself "there is a story here."

The Triumph Engineering Company Limited; brings a memory of the first days of the Display in 1931 when the Triumph Motorcycle first appeared in Olympia at the Royal Tournament. From 1931 to 1950 there has been only one Royal Tournament without the Royal Signals Display and the Triumphs and that was in 1937 when City of London Signals T.A. did the job on Rudge Whitworths. Now we hear that in 1950 there was no Royal Signals Display at the Tournament at Earls Court although the Display itself is having its usual arduous summer tour. It was a break with tradition and London regretted it.

Lloyds Bank at 6 Pall Mall takes us back to the old days of Cox's and King's Bank which was absorbed some time in the 1920's. Time goes on; the old faces are fast disappearing from the counter and the cashiers' grills. There was the story of Dunkirk days when an officer employed in London stepped into the bank to cash a cheque, and wished the cashier his usual cheery good morning.

"How can you speak like that Sir! when I think of all those officers, clients and friends for 30 years and more, dying on those beaches." So spoke a man who had indeed been a friend to very many of us. Happily a majority of the bank's customers came back safely from that affair.

The Goldsmiths and Silversmiths Company. That advertisement takes us older ones back to the days when as "wealthy" Captains we bought our presents there and of the old business of taking over some article of plate to be conveyed as personal baggage and smuggled through the customs en route to officers' messes scattered over half the world.

The King's Head Hotel in Richmond looking out on to the old cobbled square set on such a slope that the buses used to skid to glory and to imminent damage to Fred Cherry's windows at the bottom of the market place. A friendly town is Richmond, where the townsfolk have dealt out unremitting courtesy and kindness to generations of wives of officers of Royal Signals. In the old days the morning's shopping, all done within the Market place, was a full morning of three hours or more. The shops had a bench on the customer's side of the counter and in this hospitable atmosphere, the small business of buying a bit of fish or a chop became a social occasion.

R. Spence and Co., Ltd., the old man must be dead by now, but the shop keeps up its old traditions even to the extent of cashing small cheques for impecunious national servicemen who are on duty during banking hours.

Croft, Marr and Smurthwaite. Do they still give you a glass of fine sherry when you go and pay your bill? They always used to in older and better days. But what has happened to Halls the butcher. Miss Hall, the reigning toast of the 1930's is perhaps married, the business perhaps in other hands, and where is Mr. Murphy—one time master tailor of the Irish Guards. It is said that a brother is established in Catterick Camp.

There is a full page advertisement for the N.A.A.F.I., that much maligned institution which, despite everything, has given and continues to give us, such good service. Thanks partly to pressure by our own General Cary the N.A.A.F.I. now has a magnificent club in Catterick, the grandeur of which must be seen to be believed. Alas and alack since the N.A.A.F.I. has to be run from profit making motives, while the club is adequate five days in the week, it is overcrowded on Saturday and Sunday just when it is most necessary.

Mercury House at Bournemouth, after two years, seems to be on a sound footing, and has been enjoyed by very many of us. There is another at Colwyn Bay now in the middle of its first season.

Then there is Brylcreem with its quite unmerited tradition of a R.A.F. monopoly. One is reminded of an overheard remark by a hard-faced long service regular Infantry Corporal as he waited his turn to disembark at Glasgow after some fifteen years' foreign. His double row of campaign stars and medals had not reached him and the queue in which we were, was held up to allow passage of some hundred or more youngsters of the R.A.F. who were to disembark first. They were wearing the new emblem of the Burma star. Remarked the Corporal in a disillusioned way to the world at large: "There go the Brylcreem boys wearing their Chowringi's."

Roses will be remembered for their admirable war-time advertisement of the Gin and Lime drinking subaltern and his faithful "Jeeves."

The only other advertisement that "rings a bell" is Blanco, and what a difficult matter that is. We are still an independent-minded nation, and pay some lip service to democracy. But why, oh why! could not the War Office in their wisdom have been more definite about the colour we should blanco our gaiters and belts. They have left the choice of colour to local commanders which puts us in Royal Signals into a position of divided loyalties. Nothing new perhaps, but nevertheless a chronic irritation. Do we colour our belts as directed for Royal Signals or in a contrasting colour to match with that worn at the Headquarters which we serve. It is a nice point, best answered by having two belts and four gaiters, but this, in times of austerity, is not economic.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We gratefully acknowledge receipt of the following:—

THE TANK: June.
THE QUEEN'S OWN GAZETTE: June.
THE R.A.O.C. GAZETTE: May.
ST. GEORGE'S GAZETTE: May.
THE BORDERERS' CHRONICLE: June.
CATTERICK EXPRESS: 6th July.
R.E.M.E. MAGAZINE: July.
THE CLARION: June.
THE JOURNAL OF THE R.A.S.C.: July.

PART ONE

Frequency Modulation

By **E. HUSBANDS, B.Sc.**

Signals Research and Development Establishment, Ministry of Supply

Introduction

UP to the end of the war, all R/T sets used by the British Army employed amplitude modulation, but at the present time sets are being introduced which use a new system of modulation, known as frequency modulation. In this article we hope to explain what this new method of modulation is, how it is done and why it is being used. At the end of the article there are brief descriptions of some of the new sets which you may come across in the near future.

What is F.M.?

Before dealing with Frequency Modulation (F.M.) let us consider the limitations of the A.M. transmitter. Suppose we have a set capable of producing 10 watts of carrier power on C.W. If we want to transmit on R/T we have two ways of modulating the P.A. valve; anode or grid modulation. The P.A. stage has probably an efficiency of 50%, so its H.T. consumption for 10 watts output is 20 watts. To anode modulate this will require a modulator giving 10 watts, which itself will consume about 20 watts of H.T. That is, to produce a 10 watt modulated carrier requires 40 watts of H.T. power, not forgetting the additional L.T. consumption of the modulator. In small field equipment the use of anode modulation raises three difficulties: high battery consumption, size and weight of the set, and the extra heat introduced inside the set.

Because of these objections, anode modulation is not normally used in small sets and we find grid modulation employed instead. However, this introduces another difficulty. To handle 100% modulation the valve must be capable of producing on modulation peaks, an output voltage of twice the carrier voltage, or since power is proportional to voltage *squared*, a peak power of *four* times the carrier power. For this reason, if we decide to grid modulate our 10 watt valve, we shall first have to bias back the grid until the carrier power is reduced to 2½ watts.

So far we have dealt with amplitude modulation, that is to say, the *frequency* is kept fixed, but the *amplitude*, or voltage, of the sender output is varied by the microphone output. Suppose, however, we keep the amplitude fixed and wobble the frequency slightly in sympathy with the microphone output. Provided we have a new kind of receiver which will detect the frequency wobble, we can transmit speech this way, in fact, we would be employing frequency modulation.

While there are many advantages of F.M., which will be dealt with later, it will now be realised that the A.M. transmitter difficulties discussed above, are immediately overcome, and we can obtain the full rated power from the P.A. valve in the same way as we do for C.W.

The amount by which the carrier is wobbled is called the DEVIATION. If we transmit speech signals up to 5 kc/s on an A.M. set, we need a receiver with a bandwidth of 10 kc/s. If we restrict ourselves to this bandwith for F.M. we can use a deviation of 5 kc/s. However we need not limit ourselves to 5 kc/s deviation because we are transmitting a 5 kc/s signal. We could use a bigger deviation, and the ratio of the deviation to the highest speech frequency is called the MODULATION INDEX. In most of the new sets a modulation index of 3 is used, giving a deviation of 15 kc/s for an upper speech limit of 5 kc/s.

Frequency Modulation Circuits

It is now obvious that in F.M. there are two processes that are basically different from those used in A.M. and it is to be expected that very different circuits will be used. These two processes are :

(a) Modulation in the sender;
(b) Demodulations (or detection) in the receiver.

It is therefore proposed to describe in some detail circuits used for accomplishing (a) and (b). It must be understood that there are many alternatives to the circuits to be given, but it is not possible to deal with them in a short article. However, the circuits here are the most widely used, and are those which are being used in the new sets.

Figure 1 shows a block diagram of a simple F.M. sender. In practice there might be buffer or doubler stages between the Master Oscillator and the Power Amplifier, but this does not affect the basic principle. It will be seen that the modulator is not connected to the P.A. as in A.M. but instead it is associated with the M.O. Its purpose is to convert the microphone signals into corresponding variations

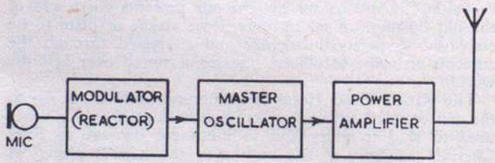


FIG. 1. F.M. TRANSMITTER

in the frequency of the M.O. and the way in which it does this will be explained by reference to Figure 2. In this diagram, V1 is the master oscillator and V2 is the frequency modulator. The master oscillator is tuned by L1 and C1, and L2 is the grid coil coupled to L1. The oscillator circuit is not confined to this type and any of the various well known circuit arrangements can be used. The grid of the modulator, V2, is fed from the oscillator through the small capacitor C2 and the values of C2 and R are so chosen that there is approximately 90° phase shift between the voltage across L1 and the voltage on the grid of V2, which is leading by 90°. Consequently, the R.F. current flowing from the tuned circuit, through the anode of V2 to earth, also leads the voltage across L1 by 90°. In other words, V2 has the characteristic of a condenser so far as its action on the tuned circuit is concerned, and the amount of current passed by

V2, or the apparent value of its capacity, depends on the bias applied to its grid, or, if we apply speech voltages to the grid, the capacity of V2 will vary accordingly and

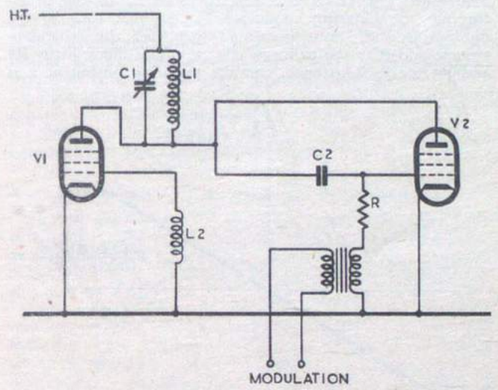


FIG. 2. REACTOR CIRCUIT

produce modulation of the frequency of the master oscillator, V1.

The positions of R and C1 can be exchanged making V2 behave as a variable inductance, and in this case C2 may sometimes be omitted, the input capacity of the valve itself being sufficient. Because the valve V2 is being employed as a reactance (capacitance or inductance), the stage is called the reactance valve, or more commonly, the REACTOR.

It will be realised that while bias changes on V2 cause a shift of frequency, so also will changes in L.T. and H.T. supply voltages and this may lead to undesirable frequency instability. However, it is possible to combine the capacitance and inductance circuits in a push-pull arrangement so that this undesirable effect is cancelled in the opposing halves. Such a reactor is shown in Figure 3. In

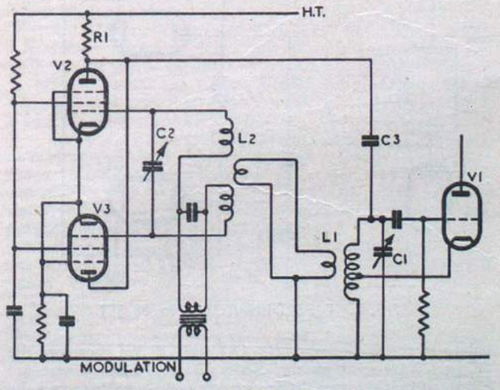


FIG. 3. PUSH-PULL REACTOR

this case the use of push-pull has the added advantage of reducing distortion, in the same way as a push-pull audio amplifier.

In this circuit, V1 is the master oscillator tuned by L1 and C1 and the tuned circuit L2, C2, which is link coupled to L1, provides R.F. drive to the grids of the push-pull reactor valves V2 and V3. The necessary phase shift between L1 and L2 occurs automatically in the link coupling. The centre of the coil L2 is opened and the modulation is introduced at this point. The anodes of V2 and V3 are paralleled and are resistance-capacity coupled to the oscillator by means of R1 and C3.

We shall now turn our attention to the receiver and see how the F.M. signal is dealt with, a block diagram being given in Figure 4. The radio frequency amplifier, mixer and local oscillator are conventional and the first point of diifference from A.M. practice will be found in the I.F. amplifier. In the familiar A.M. Army sets the I.F. amplifiers have a band width of about 6 kc/s, but this is not sufficient for F.M. where a deviation of say 15 kc/s is used. The band width required is 30-40 kc/s, so the I.F. coils are normally damped by shunt resistors, reducing the amplification per stage, and so requiring 3 or 4 I.F. stages in place of the familiar one or two.

Now our F.M. signal is supposed to be of constant amplitude and before attempting to pass it to the detector

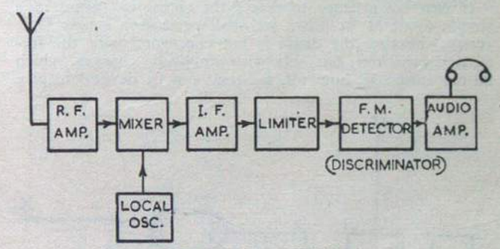


FIG. 4. F.M. RECEIVER

for recovery of the speech, we must ensure that this condition is complied with, otherwise the receiver output will not be a true copy of the original modulation. We have several reasons for suspecting that the amplitude of the signal is no longer constant :

(a) The effect of rapid fading, especially in mobile equipment;
(b) The effect of the selectivity of the sender and receiver tuned circuits as the frequency swings to and fro;
(c) The receiver is also picking up noise and interfering signals, and creating some internal noise, all of which appear as undesirable modulation on the carrier.

Before being presented to the detector, then, our signal is passed through a stage which slices off all the unwanted amplitude variations, leaving a true F.M. signal. The valve which carries out this operation is called a LIMITER and it is nothing more than another I.F. stage with a very low anode and screen voltage (50-100 volts) and grid leak bias so that the valve overloads or saturates with a very small input, and above that input is incapable of producing any more output. This behaviour is shown in the graph of Figure 5.

It might be hoped that by the limiting process *all* noise and interference would be eliminated from our signal, but this is unfortunately not so because noise produces F.M. as well as A.M. and so appears at the receiver output. However, as we shall see later, considerable improvement is obtained by using F.M.

It is usual, in high grade equipment, to provide two limiter stages in cascade, so that small variations which escape the attentions of the first valve are effectively dealt with by the second stage and virtually perfect limiting is then obtained.

It will be realised that this very effective levelling of all signals renders the use of A.V.C. unnecessary and on very

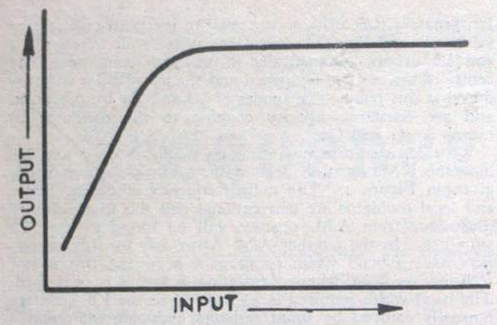


FIG. 5. LIMITER CHARACTERISTIC

strong signals some of the I.F. stages will also add to the limiting action.

If now we attempt to detect the signal by means of a simple diode as in A.M., we shall produce a steady D.C. voltage, because the diode is not concerned with the frequency variations, but only with amplitude changes, which do not exist. If, however, a circuit can be devised to give

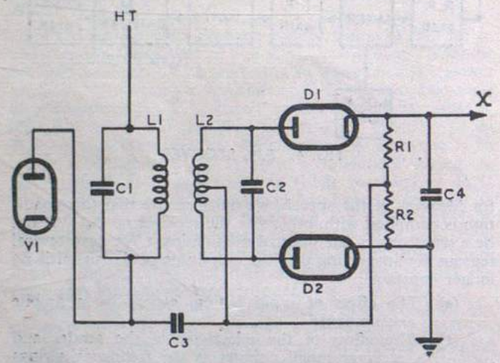


FIG. 6. DISCRIMINATOR CIRCUIT

an I.F. output voltage proportional to frequency swing and this is then rectified by a diode, we can recover the original modulation. The circuit which does this is called a DISCRIMINATOR, the most commonly used type being known as the Foster-Seely, a circuit of which is given in Figure 6. In this diagram V1 is the final limiter and L1 and L2 are the discriminator coils which are magnetically

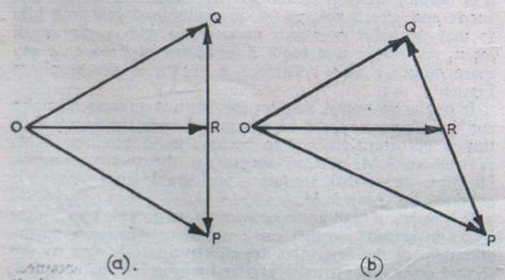


FIG. 7. DISCRIMINATOR VECTOR DIAGRAM

coupled and tuned to the Intermediate Frequency by C1 and C2. These components are normally to be found in a single can and are arranged as an ordinary I.F. transformer, except for the somewhat tighter coupling between the coils. The "hot" end of L1 is connected to the centre-tap of L2 through the blocking condenser C3, so that each of the diodes D1 and D2 is presented with half the secondary voltage added to the primary voltage. The diode loads R1 and R2 are back to back, and the resulting output at x is

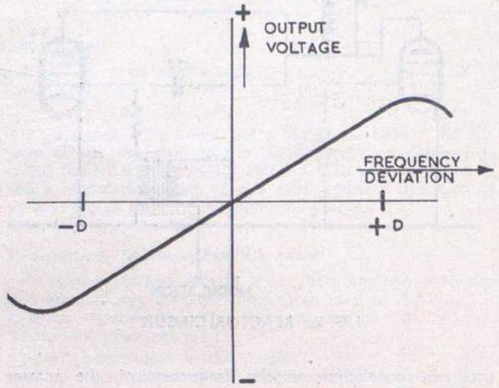


FIG. 8. DISCRIMINATOR CHARACTERISTIC

therefore equal to the difference between the individual diode outputs.

The action of the circuit is best explained by the vector diagrams shown in Figure 7. Figure 7 (a) represents conditions when the incoming carrier is right on frequency. Under these conditions the voltage across L2 is exactly 90° out of phase with the voltage across L1, by reason of the fact that the coils are mutally coupled and the secondary is exactly on tune. In the diagram OR represents the primary voltage, RQ and RP represent the votages across the two

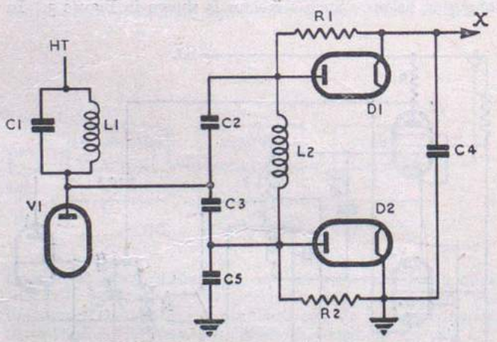


FIG. 9. DISCRIMINATOR—No. 88 SET

halves of the secondary coil. OQ and OP are therefore the voltages impressed on the diodes D1 and D2. These are equal, so that the two diode outputs exactly balance and the resultant output at X is zero. If the frequency shifts off centre, the phase difference between primary and secondary voltage is no longer 90° because the secondary is detuned and the conditions are now as shown in Figure 7 (b), i.e. OP is now greater than OQ, so that there is a D.C. voltage at X. A frequency swing in the direction would produce a voltage of the opposite polarity.

Reference to Figure 8 will show the general performance of a discriminator of this type. By careful design a very straight response can be obtained over the maximum deviation range. Outside this region the curve turns over and falls rapidly due to the normal drop in primary and secondary voltages on detuning.

There is a variation of this basic circuit used in some Army equipment (e.g. Wireless Sets No. 31 and 88), the circuit being shown in Figure 9. In this type of discriminator L1 and L2 are not magnetically coupled but are in separate screening cans and L2 is not tapped, but the tuning capacity is centre-tapped instead. The coupling between L1 and L2 is by the small capacity C5 which provides the equivalent of top capacity coupling.

The Advantages of Frequency Modulation

Having dealt with the ways in which F.M. signals are produced by the sender and how they are handled by the receiver, we must now consider whether any real advantages are to be gained, particularly for Army use, by introducing the new technique.

Let us first examine the effects of noise on a radio communication link. At short range the signal is much greater than the noise, whether picked up by the aerial, or internal to the receiver, and there is no difficulty in carrying on communication. As the range is increased, the signal is reduced, until at the limit of operation the ratio of signal to noise is so small that the speech is masked by noise and communication becomes impossible. There are two ways in which the situation may be improved. One is the brute force method of increasing the transmitter power, which means a bigger set with a greater power consumption, and the other is to reduce the effects of noise in the receiver, assuming we can invent some means of doing so. Now if we change to F.M. we can bring about both these improvements at once. We have already seen how by using F.M. instead of grid modulation we can get four times the carrier power using the same transmitter valve and roughly the same input power. We shall therefore obtain twice the signal (in microvolts) at the receiver input (because power is proportional to the *square* of the voltage) and we shall obtain a two to one improvement in signal-to-noise ratio. But an even greater advantage than this can be obtained in the F.M. receiver. The limiter which precedes the discriminator effectively disposes of amplitude variation caused by noise, leaving an F.M. noise effect on the carrier, but this is not so bad as A.M. noise, and in fact an improvement of between 1.7 and 2 times is obtained in an F.M. system using a modulation index of one. But we are not limited to this and we can use a modulation index of, say three, that is 15 kc/s deviation for speech signals going up to 5 kc/s. This will give a further improvement of 3 times. By using F.M. we shall thus have gained a total improvement of $2 \times 1.7 \times 3 = 10$ times or 20 decibels, or the equivalent of increasing our A.M. transmitter power by $10 \times 10 = 100$ times. We can, of course, make use of this improvement in one of two ways; we can stay put and enjoy the improved signal, or we can move out to a greater range than was possible with the original A.M. set.

Now let us see what happens in A.M. and F.M. when our wanted signal is being interfered with by an unwanted signal. Suppose, for example, the unwanted signal is 1 kc/s off the required signal and is half its strength. In an A.M. set we should hear a strong 1 kc/s heterodyne whistle corresponding to a 50% modulation on the wanted carrier.

In the case of the F.M. receiver this A.M. effect would be removed by the limiter and an F.M. interference effect would remain. The effect is easily calculated as follows : the interfering signal is $\frac{1}{2}$ the wanted signal and it is 1 kc/s away. The resulting interference deviation is simply $\frac{1}{2} \times 1 = \frac{1}{2}$ kc/s. But full deviation is 15 kc/s, so the interference is only 1/30 of the wanted speech, instead of $\frac{1}{2}$ as in the case of A.M., an improvement in rejection of 15 times. This effective rejection of slightly weaker signals by an F.M. receiver is called "CAPTURE EFFECT" and the value of this is shown later in the description of the No. 88 Set.

It should be pointed out at this stage that much of the improvement over A.M. is brought about by using a fairly large deviation, and we must not expect to reap the full benefits of F.M. if a small deviation is employed.

There are other useful properties of F.M. equipment which might be regarded as secondary to the foregoing, but which, nevertheless are of great practical importance. If the modulation of an A.M. transmitter is adjusted for maximum range, it is almost impossible, without complex circuit arrangements, to avoid overmodulation at the peak levels of speech. This produces an objectional form of distortion due to the abrupt cutting off of the wave at the troughs of modulation. Although over deviation in an F.M. set will undoubtedly cause distortion, there is no effect comparable with this sharp cut-off, and the distortion has much less effect on the listener.

The use of the limiter in the receiver provides a constant signal output and in this respect the F.M. receiver is much better than its A.M. counterpart even when the latter is fitted with a very comprehensive A.V.C. system.

☆

Dr Rogers' Letters

FROM THE CRIMEA

(Concluded)

1ST FEBRUARY, 1856. CAMP SEBASTOPOL

Letter writing day has come round again, but it does not now bring any ideas or events to relate, in short the Crimea is getting very dull now, the same routine day after day and nothing to vary the scene, and I shall be heartily glad when we move away from it, either for old England or for a spring campaign as the case may be. How I should like to know what is going on in London now and what people's ideas of the probability of peace is. The last news does not confirm the intelligence we had received here and only states that they had agreed on the preliminaries of a conference which may terminate as that at Vienna last year, but however it terminates it will not prevent any of the contemplated movements in the Crimea or at least wherever the war is to be carried, of the army, I should say more properly. The greater part of our brigade seem to expect that we shall return home shortly, but the last mail brings us tidings that another draught is on its way out to join our regiment. It is really quite pitiable the state of excitement in which the men who want peace for the sake of their own comfort are placed by the conflicting accounts that we receive here, but after all, they are actuated by selfish motives and deserve little pity. For my own part, it does not disturb me much, if there is peace I shall be glad to get home and see you again, and if we are to continue the war there will be a change of scene and all the excitement of a campaign, things that I know very little about from actual experience, whilst those who came to the Crimea with the expedition are always talking of the "flank march" after the Alma, which certainly was something like campaigning.

28TH FEBRUARY, 1856. CAMP SEBASTOPOL

There has been more than usual of interest in the past week. First of all on Sunday we had a grand review or field day of the whole army, or at least the whole of the infantry excepting six regiments which were employed at Balaklava and elsewhere, in all 42 regiments, comprising

about 23,000 men. The day was fine but cold and the men assembled at the back of our hospital encampment along the edge of the plateau occupied by the English troops. They were first inspected as they stood and then they all marched past the General in quick time with the bands and drums playing and colours flying. It was an extremely pretty sight and such a one as we could scarcely see anywhere else. The men are all in excellent condition now, and they covered a great deal of ground. There were comparatively few lookers-on as the order only came out the same morning and nobody knew what was about to take place except those who were to take part in it. Several days had been fixed for it previously, but the weather had changed just in time to prevent it and so at last Sunday was chosen. General Pelissier was present and was no doubt highly gratified, as also were some Sardinian officers who seemed to enjoy the sight immensely. The troops marched off their parade grounds at 11.30 a.m. and returned home about 4.30 p.m. though the Highlanders could not have got home till nearly six, as their encampment is full three miles off the Kamara. They looked very picturesque in their kilts and white gaiters and bonnets and the Guards also looked extremely well in the bearskins. It is said that they are to be reviewed again shortly and the number to be increased by the different divisions of the Land Transport Corps, and by the Artillery or by a few field batteries at least. All the Artillery could scarcely be spared as they are so busy fetching up guns from Sebastopol.

* * *

It remains only to thank Brigadier W. H. G. Rogers for his kindness in providing and permitting the publication of these extracts.

They show, at any rate, that the army has changed very little in the last 95 years, and that the soldier's point of view remains almost exactly the same.

BROKEN THREAD

By **Major-General F. S. G. PIGGOTT, C.B., D.S.O.**

IN this autobiography, General Piggott writes with the authority of many years of intimate knowledge and friendship with the Japanese nation. Naturally his friendships were made mainly with the cultured military and diplomatic set. He is, however, wholehearted in his admiration for the whole nation and brings much evidence to justify it. The book is of the greatest interest for its comparison of the pre-war anglophile society in Japan with what we know of the conduct and views of the ruling classes during the war.

It is an excellent study of the career of an officer who makes a language his main professional interest and the opportunities for an unusual and interesting life that proficiency in a language gives.

General Piggott covers the period from when as a young officer and student of the language he finds himself in Japan at the time of the Russo-Japanese war; his father's position with a salaried post under the Government; his own boyhood spent in Japan made him *persona grata* with the younger military and diplomatic clique who were at that time coming to the top as rulers of the country. Friendships then made lasted through the period of the Anglo-Japanese alliance from 1902 to 1921 and this takes much of the theme of the book. During the next 20 years despite every effort by the author and his friends, friendship between the nations deteriorated into dislike and contempt. The book ends, therefore, on a note of failure.

Although written on a purely personal story, the book provides considerable meat for the student who wishes to arrive at some understanding of how our devoted ally of 1914-18 became our ferocious enemy of 1942-46.

[*Published by Gale and Polden, Ltd. 21/-.*]

School of Signals

VISIT OF OFFICERS OF THE EGYPTIAN MILITARY STAFF COLLEGE

THE Commandant of the Egyptian Military Staff College (Brigadier M. I. Seif el Din), together with his Chief Instructor (Colonel M. Yusef), some of his senior instructors and a complete course of students, visited the School of Signals and the Signal Training Centre on the 13th June, 1950, to study the methods of training in Royal Signals.

The programme for their visit included an opening address by Brigadier J. J. Duvivier, C.B.E., Commandant, S.T.C., on basic Signal training. This was followed by an address on higher Signal training by Col. R. J. Moberly, O.B.E., Chief Instructor, School of Signals.

The Egyptian officers then visited two regiments of the S.T.C.; 7 Selection Regiment where they displayed great interest in the method of selection of recruits for particular Royal Signal trades, and 1 Training Regiment where they saw the training of Radio, Line and Telegraph Mechanics.

They returned to the Headquarter Mess, Royal Signals, for lunch, where they met the G.O.C. Catterick District, Major-General C. M. F. White, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O.

In the afternoon the Egyptian officers visited the two Wings of the School of Signals. At the Officer Training Wing Brigadier Seif el Din was particularly impressed by the guard of honour provided by the Cadets, and the party was amused and pleased by the Arabic writing on the syndicate boards.

Their visit to the Royal Signals Wing included the Tactics Group, where they were very interested in the method of teaching with models, and also some of the line equipment and workshop demonstration rooms.

The senior Egyptian officers stayed in the Headquarter Mess where a guest night was held. The remainder were accommodated in the Royal Signals Wing (Helles) Officers Mess.



[*Courtesy: Northern Echo*

Some of the party outside the Headquarter Mess, Royal Signals. Major-General White is standing second from left, front row, with Brigadier Seif el Din and Colonel Yusef

Officer Training Wing

On 13th June the Wing was visited by the Commandant of the Egyptian Staff College, and 35 Egyptian Army Officers. During their visit they were shown Regular and National Service Officers in various phases of their training, including drill, Assault Course training, a Signal Tactics Exercise, and a line laying demonstration. Our visitors we believe were greatly impressed by all that they saw.

The Commissioning Parade for 250 Course took place on 23rd June, the salute being taken by Major-General C. M. F. White, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., the District Commander. The Commandant's Cane for the best Cadet of the course was presented by him to Second-Lieutenant M. G. D. Golding.

For the past month the sports field has been used extensively by coaches and athletes limbering-up in readiness for any event that may come. The result of their efforts is now apparent, for no less than three first places were won by representatives from the Wing at Northern Command Individual Athletic Championships. They were: One mile and three miles, Officer Cadet Birch in 4 mins. 40 secs. and 15 mins. 23 secs., respectively; and putting the weight, Officer Cadet Wood with a putt of 42ft. 9 ins. Both these competitors qualified for the Army Championships in their events—a feat of great credit.

With the recent period of fine weather cricket has been to the fore, although athletics, postings and Corps cricket requirements have weakened our Wing XI. Despite this, however, we have won two of the four matches played, the others having been lost.

At the end of this month the annual cricket match, Cadre Officers v. Warrant Officers and Sergeants, is scheduled to take place. The preparations for this have been of the keenest—the match itself should be even keener since the result of the annual soccer match was a draw!

Royal Signals Wing

For once Catterick managed to produce the right weather at the right time and the first Regimental Week-end was a success.

The week-end started on Saturday afternoon with a Soft Ball Knock-out Competition, in which 26 teams were entered. It was won by User Trials Squadron "A" team who defeated the (U.N.O.) Short Tels Course team after a titanic struggle.

Mrs. Benton presented the prizes to the winning team.

In the evening the Officers, Warrant Officers and Sergeants enjoyed a dance and a little beer in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess whilst the rest of the Wing was entertained by the "Cock Sparrows," a concert party that was voted as first-rate entertainment.

On Sunday morning the church service was well attended, and after lunch six coach loads of sightseers were transported to Bolton Castle where Captain Thompson and his band of helpers provided an excellent picnic tea. (The appetite of a certain young lady was truly terrific).

Conducted tours were arranged for the whole party, after which the tour was extended to Aysgarth Falls before heading for home.

The journey back was enlivened by the rendering of "Auld Lang Syne" in Siamese by Captain Prasit Vong Ruttoh of the Short Tels. Course. A short halt was made at Leyburn to muster the convoy before the last run in.

Sport. The cricket season has been mostly rained off, but H.Q. Squadron "B" team defeated Line Equipment Group in the final of the Inter-Group Knock-out Competition by three runs at the end of a very thrilling match.

The Inter-Group League is now in full swing.

A team from the School of Signals has departed to Bisley where we hope they can maintain the excellent record which they set up at the Catterick District Rifle Meeting.

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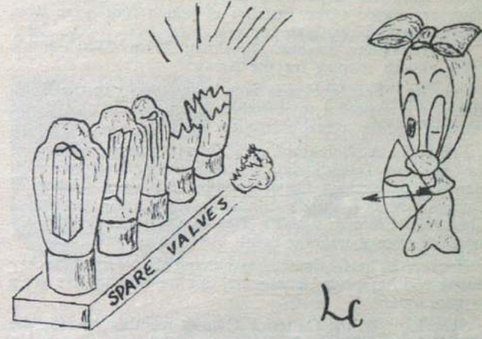
WAR OFFICE SIGNAL REGIMENT
Kingston-on-Thames

We have had rather a full and interesting month—in work, sport and recreation. Sport has been varied with cricket and basketball matches, tennis and swimming. At basketball we are playing some good London teams such as the Central Y.M.C.A., Regent Street Polytechnic and American Army teams and holding our own. We have applied to enter the London league.

Our marksmen have been on the target shooting their way into the Eastern Command Signals rifle team competing in the Army Championships at Bisley.

Regimental Days were held on 3rd and 4th July, when we were fortunate in having the Corps Band playing for us on both days. Monday, the first day, was very wet and

No. 2—It must have been the Widgets!



washed out all the outdoor arrangements. However, we made the most of the indoor facilities with games competitions of billiards, table tennis, etc., between all ranks. In the evening the Corps Band, conducted by Captain J. L. Judd, M.B.E., gave us an excellent concert in the Gymnasium, which we all very much appreciated.

On Tuesday we held our Unit athletic individual and team championships on the ground at Kingston Barracks. The day was fine and throughout we enjoyed a programme of events many of which were very keenly contested. As last year we again had the pleasure of the presence of that great Corps athlete, S.S.M. W. M. "Joe" Cotterell, who is an enthusiastic as ever. His memory is good for he pointed out that the hammer thrown by Lieutenant J. H. S. Weston of 99ft. 8ins. beat a throw by ex-Sergeant Griffen of 98ft. 2ins. which won him the Army championship in 1923—the Corps diary was produced to check the exact distance in 1923. The Corps Band played during the afternoon and competition became keened as the points towards the Inter-Squadron Cup competition grew.

We congratulate No. 2 Squadron on winning the cup for the second year in succession.

The Officers' Mess beat the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess in the final of the tug-of-war.

We finished off the day with a gala dance in the Gymnasium with the Royal Signals dance band and the Melody Makers playing a continuous programme.

Outside a "fun fair" with several amusement stalls was a popular innovation.

7 SELECTION REGIMENT

The Regiment continues its "Magnum Opus" by "passing off" approximately 400 trainees almost every other week.

The salute for the march past on 7th June, for 1 and 2 Squadrons was taken by Colonel Boucher, French Army Signals, attached to S.T.C., Catterick, from "Ecole d'application des Transmissions," Montargis, France.

Our next "pass off," which was for 3 and 4 Squadrons, on 21st June, was without a march past; this, because of heavy rain. However, on this occasion, as is normal, the Commander, S.T.C., addressed the "output," presented certificates to each Squadron's best recruit, and to Troop Sergeants of the winning Troop in each Squadron. It is fitting to record here that Corporal Ireland, South Lancashire Regiment, won the Troop Sergeants' stick for the third time and consequently was presented with a stick which, in accordance with our custom, will remain his personal property.

Athletics. At present there are great preparations for a Regimental Sports Day; of this, more next month.

Boxing. Inter-Squadron event—2 Squadron gained a victory over 1 Squadron by one point, after an evening notable for the high standard of the fighting.

Cricket. The weather, over the past month, has not been encouraging to cricket enthusiasts. The Regiment has, however, played seven matches of which four were won, one drawn and two lost.

Congratulations to our Signalman Brian Close on his being chosen to play for the Army.

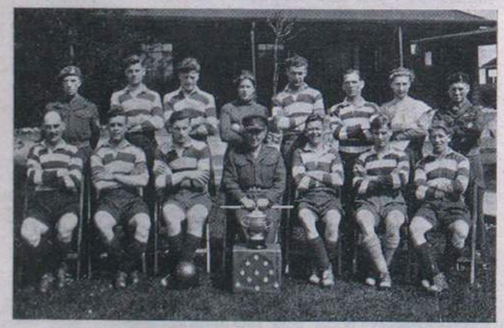
Fencing. Foil fencing is now being taught in the Regiment; it is expected to introduce sabre should this "new venture" prove a real attraction.

Football. A photograph of 4 Squadron team, winners of the 1949/50 Inter-Squadron competition, together with glimpses of ancient Depot buildings, a small corner of Captain "Mark" Duke's Adjutant's office, and a portion of Lieutenant-Colonel Walsh's Headquarters block (slightly modified against last war bomb blast), is enclosed.

Hockey. The Regiment has entered the summer hockey league and has played one game, this we won by five goals to two.

Shooting. In the Catterick District meeting we won the L.M.G. competition. At Bisley, we have seven entries in the Army Championships. Teams have also been entered for the following competitions: Britannia Trophy, the Revolver XXX, The Royal Ulster Rifles Cup. On going to Press, we are in the last eight teams for the last named item.

Swimming and Water Polo. Congratulations to Captain Parker and Lance-Corporal Peters on their being chosen to play water polo for Northern Command.



No. 4 Squadron. Winners of the Inter-Squadron K.O. Competition, May, 1950

Back row (left to right): Sergeant Mathews, Signalman Walters, Signalman Summers, Signalman Stewart, Corporal Fisher, Sergeant Dunne, Signalman Vernon (trainer), S.S.M. Derwent, M.B.E. Front row (left to right): Captain Gillett, D.W.R., Signalman Thomas, Corporal Blakey (captain), Major R. O. Wilson, Royal Signals (Squadron Commander), Signalman Rogers, Lance-Corporal Foster, Signalman Stewart

H.Q., LONDON DISTRICT

Operation "Oxhide"

The period 20th June to 14th July was spent in preparation for execution of and recovery from another of these periods when a lot of sailors, soldiers and airmen are drafted in to London to help in distributing food or keeping the docks going or working power stations.

From the telecommunications angle all are similar, all are covered by comprehensive standing orders. In every case there is or has been that subtle difference that makes all the forethought and planning of little avail and in fact as in battle one has to play it off the cuff.

"Oxhide" dealt with the use of soldiers and airmen, and a very few sailors to provide the eleven million inhabitants of London with a very little meat. Not a great task and it had been done before in 1947.

The normal arrangements for setting up an operations staff in the Horse Guards building were complicated by the fact that two important rooms in the "set up" were already earmarked and in use by Signals and B.B.C. as an instrument room for the broadcast and speech amplification of the parade of 3 Battalion Coldstream Guards on 5th July. This made the alterations and increases of telephone points in the Horse Guard building difficult. The work of the switchboard increased sevenfold, not so much in hours of work but in the greatly increased calling rate. The Signal office as is usual had very long periods of boredom interspersed with very short periods of activity.

It was in fact mainly a telephone battle.

About half-way through the operation 51 L. of C. Signal Regiment, S.R., answered a call for an L.C.V. to provide offices for a traffic control point near Smithfield Market. Reinforcements had to be asked for and eventually Royal Signals engaged in "Oxhide" included men of 1 and 2 A.A. (Mixed) Signal Regiments, Eastern Command Signal Regiment and War Office Signal Regiment as well as the few permanencies of London District (Mixed) Signal Squadron.

As usual the engineering staff of London Telecommunications Region cut smartly through a mass of red tape and gave the required circuits in record time.

London Saturday Tattoos

The last four Saturdays in July saw an innovation in the production of a small Tattoo. Royal Signals were represented firstly and to popular acclaim by the Motor Cycle Display Team of 56 (London) Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A.

It will be remembered that the pre-war edition of their party successfully represented Royal Signals at the Royal Tournament in 1937.

Secondly and unnoticed was the work of Royal Signals in providing the communications of the Tattoo and the voice amplification that carried the commentary to all the very large audience.

The opening performance on 8th July was witnessed by Captain P. H. F. Webb who captains the Royal Signals Display from the Signal Training Centre.

They had been performing during the afternoon on the outskirts of London.

NORTHERN IRELAND DISTRICT (M) SIGNAL SQUADRON

Lisburn

This month has meandered pleasantly on its way and the passage of time has hardly been noted due to our being fully occupied.

Early in the month a Line Party proceeded to Ballyedmund Camp to carry out the installation of a telephone system for use of the Territorials and Cadets whilst in camp.

The camp is ideally situated on Carlingford Lough, and is a really first-class place to spend a holiday. The linemen were lucky in having good weather, and managed to find time to take full advantage of it. On completion of the installation they reluctantly returned to Lisburn leaving three of their number to man the exchange, and to maintain the lines. Those returning to the Unit found plenty of work awaiting them and were soon busily preparing for the installation of telephones at Balmoral ready for the Royal Review in July.

On 24th June, three of our "Dead eye Dicks" proceeded to Bisley to polish up their shooting prior to competing in the Rifle Championships as members of a Combined Western Command and N.I.D. Signals team. We are hoping that they will have assisted the team to victory in the competitions in which they are entered. Even if they have not, we shall be pleased to see them as they will strengthen our team for the N.I.D. Rifle Championship and will be able to pass the benefit of their experience on to the rest of our team.

The N.I.D. Rifle Championship takes place on 29th and 30th July, and we are hoping to enter teams in several events and feel confident that we shall give a good account of ourselves.

The N.I.D. Athletic Championships were held on Wednesday, 7th June. In comparison with our numbers we had a fair number of entries, and even managed to produce a tug-of-war team. No successes were gained by individuals on the male side, although the tug-of-war team reached the final and were defeated after putting up a good show by two straight pulls. Considering the fact that they had had no training and met a team who were obviously trained and well coached, they did extremely well.

The W.R.A.C. element of the Squadron, however, were well to the fore and won the 100 yards, 220 yards, long jump and high jump, the first three being won by Lieutenant M. Cunliffe and the high jump by Private Woods. In addition, Sergeant Burford obtained three seconds and Private Woods one second.

Netball is the sport at present and the W.R.A.C. element have been proving too good for the men. Secret training, however, is being carried out by the male element and the W.R.A.C. are in for a surprise in the near future.

35 (ULSTER) A.A. INDEPENDENT (M) SIGNAL SQUADRON, T.A.

Belfast

As the *Ulster Prince* steamed slowly up Belfast Lough on the last stage of the journey home from annual camp at Weybourne, Norfolk, one could hear the usual remarks: "It's good to be home again," and "Too bad it's all over."

Our camp at Weybourne was very enjoyable. Training was carried out during the day under very realistic conditions, as the nearby A.A. guns supplied the necessary "sound effects" and the local terrain supplied more than sufficient hazards to test the skill of the D.R.s. During one trial Captain Pearcey attempted to ascend an almost vertical incline. It proved too much for his machine which stalled half-way up. In true Signal tradition the rider carried on, but unfortunately took a short cut over the handlebars with disastrous results.

During the evenings, dances organised within the camp to the music of our own band, the "Signalairs," were always a popular form of entertainment. For those who did not enjoy dancing, there were always impromptu sing-songs at the locals in Weybourne and Kelling.

The highlights of the Sports Day at camp was the winning of the challenge cup by the Squadron against strong opposition from the Regiments in the Brigade. Signalman Roberts was a good first in the 440 yards, and a tremendous effort was put up by Sergeant Biles, Private Baxter and Signalman Williams in the sack race which was won by the Squadron by four yards.

The one depressing feature of the whole camp was the knowledge that Major Lindsay, our O.C., was with us for the last time. He will be relinquishing his commission in the near future. We take this opportunity to extend a hearty welcome to Major D. Waite, M.B.E., who succeeds Major Lindsay as O.C.

NORTHERN COMMAND (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT

York

By scraping the pot the Command R.A. Troop has now been more or less completed, and under the Command of Lieutenant Galbraith is battling over the moors with the T.A. gunners. The T.M. Troop has been covering itself with glory by providing P.A. equipment at numerous places so far without a breakdown their latest efforts at the "Open to the Public" day at the Central Ordnance Depot evoked a letter full of praise from the Commandant.

Officers' Training Days have produced much interest and several pleasant days in the country, our next, by kind permission of the R.A.F., will be in the air. We hope there will be no vacancies in the establishment as a result.

On Tuesday the 20th the G.O.C. Catterick District, Major-General C. M. F. White, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., visited the Unit where he met a number of ex-members of his old Unit of Sidi Barrani days. He afterwards lunched in the Officers' Mess which, largely due to his efforts, has now become habitable.

The Unit has provided three members for the Command Signals team for Bisley. We wish them the best of luck particularly in the "Pool" bulls.

The cricket team has been doing well, and recently recorded a win against the Duke of Wellington's Regiment.

Major Cox came back to form in the Royal Signals Golf Meeting at Harrogate and brought off two wins in the 36 hole handicap and bogey competition.

Lieutenant-Colonel Stuart and Major Cox also tied for first place in the Garrison monthly bogey competition, played at Fulford golf course with an exciting finish, the issue being in doubt until the last putt.

Our girls though now so few must not be forgotten.

Lance-Corporal Browning and Private Williams have been representing the Unit at the Royal Tournament, while Lance-Corporal Rogers qualified at the Command Sports for the Army Championships in the long jump.

Major Tansley Witt and C.S.M. Buckle, W.R.A.C., are probables for the Command tennis team.

Our next big activity is our Regimental Sports Meeting on 20th July which will be followed by an all ranks dance

with the Corps Band in attendance. We shall be pleased to welcome them again.

We report with regret the retirement of Major (T.O.T.) T. Patterson, M.B.E., so well known to many members of the Corps. We would like to take this opportunity of thanking him for all the work he has put in during his years in this Regiment and to wish him and Mrs. Patterson the best of luck for the future.

ARMY WING, COMBINED SIGNAL SCHOOL
Fremington, Barnstaple

On 27th June, Vice Admiral the Earl Mountbatten of Burma, K.G., P.C., G.C.S.I., G.C.V.O., K.C.B., D.S.C., LL.D., visited the Combined Signal School We show in a photograph his arrival at the school—being introduced to the heads of the four services. The tour included a visit to our latest Exhibition Room.

On 29th June our Naval Course saw for themselves how troops land from L.C.A.s. In a mock battle the course landing on the North Devon coast was in fairly deep water. The waterproofing was able to stand the test and we had no casualties either to men or equipment.

Brigadier A. E. Morrison, O.B.E., C.S.O. B.A.O.R., is at present at the Centre and has met the instructors here.

We have had a visit from 12 A.A. Mixed Signal Regiment, T.A., who are doing their annual camp in the area. Brigadier A. C. Sykes, C.B.E., D.S.O., is their Honorary Colonel.

This month Sergeant Hammond arrived here from 4 A.A. Signal Regiment, Warrington. Having spent most of his years in India he is a Corps hockey player and in fact a good all-round sportsman. The Centre cricket team, quick to hear of his capabilities, included him for a match against Bideford Cricket Club. The Royal Signals Wing of the School therefore now supplies four regular first team players which is a record for the Unit.

It is some time now since we have been in the news but activities have been going on as usual. We have seen several changes recently, firstly our Officer Commanding, Major A. S. P. Salter, Royal Signals, has left us for the Staff College, and his place has been taken by Major G. D. Meiklejohn, M.B.E., Royal Signals, who has recently arrived from the Middle East. Captain W. A. Sykes has left us to go to the Royal Marine Signal School at Eastney—a case of "out of the frying pan into the fire." He has been replaced by Captain J. C. Clinch, Royal Signals, from 43 Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A.

Last month we did our usual landing on the North Devon coast but this time at 5 in the morning—and the sea is still fairly cold—believe me.

The landings went very well but there was some discrepancy in the depth of water and one or two enjoyed a morning swim.

This month we were privileged to attend the Royal Marines annual exercise "Atlantic City," held in the Portsmouth area. A very thick fog made the landing more difficult than usual and Brigade H.Q. spent some time in a L.C.A.—rather longer than planned. A first-hand explanation of this may be obtained from Major R. Brown, Royal Signals, who came as an observer from the Tactics Wing, at Catterick.

Most of the exercise was done on foot, and a total of 70 miles is certainly no exaggeration.

On 9th June the demonstration team went to Penhale Camp to pass on the word to 63 H.Q. L. of C. Signal

Have you ordered your copy of
The Wire?



Regiment, T.A. We all had a very good time and thank Lieutenant-Colonel G. D. Goldsmith and the Unit for their great hospitality.

On 26th June we had a visit from Brigadier B. B. Kennett, C.B.E., C.S.O. Southern Command.

EASTERN COMMAND SIGNAL REGIMENT
Maresfield

"*Maresfield.*" As a conclusion to the numerous operations entailed in settling our destination and the necessity to be down here in quick time, we now come to the operation of "Rediscovery."

The G.O.C. Home Counties District has already paid us a visit with the express purpose of seeing how we had settled in, with particular attention to Messes. The Officers' Mess has already been "warmed" with the assistance of the string section of the Corps Band. The Mess has also had the company of two senior officers of the Corps who pin-pointed the position of the old guard room for those who were either not born at the time of its existence or did not know we had been in Maresfield before.

The men have been mostly about their lawful occasions. Regaining the acquaintance of the scythe and stirrup pump together with bags of whitewash. They, too, were entertained by the "strings" of the Corps Band, in the Camp N.A.A.F.I. They hope the band noticed that the noise of crockery, cutlery and squeaking chairs did not prevent them showing appreciation in the usual way. Out of camp our lads have rediscovered Brighton and Haywards Heath, from the latter it is reported that numerous new pairs of feet have appeared under some of the inhabitants' tables.

The Home Counties District Sports were not the success for us we had hoped. In the track events our poor showing was disappointing, in the field events we did well. For the Regiment, the honours of the day go to Captain R. D. Smith, who threw the discus further than any other competitor.

The R.A. Signal Troop and Training Cadre still continue their suitcase existence. R.A. Troop will be away for many months, while the Training Cadre's programme looks like a debutante's engagement card. It might be said in all truth that THE WIRE is our medium of communication with these hard-working troops. Now, you Officers Commanding, may we have some material for the next issue.

Anti-Aircraft Command

1 A.A. (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT
Laindon

The Unit have had some interesting commitments during June, the main one being the attachment of the Line Troop to No. 1 Railway Telegraph Signal Squadron at the R.E. Transportation Centre in Longmoor. A very enjoyable and instructive fortnight was spent by the Troop and we hope for more of such jobs when possible.

Our National Servicemen are gradually linking up with their new units and arrangements are in hand for parties to attend drill nights of local Royal Signals T.A. Units to get into the swing of things, whilst a small party are off to camp at Haxland, Hants with their future T.A. Unit, 11 A.A. (M) Signal Regiment (T.A.) on 10th July.

We, ourselves, are being unceremoniously uprooted from our bucolic torpitude here in Laindon next month, when we go to annual camp in Otley, Yorkshire.

We hope to return with lots of higher trade ratings; physically perfect and saying "Eh, by gum, but it were a reight proper good do."

What the Stars Foretell. (Unprintable.)

Reason: Our worthy Acting R.S.M. returns from a six weeks drill course with the Guards at Caterham on 22nd July.

5 A.A. (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT
Scarborough

General. The Regiment are still kept busy with various exercises, line tests and wireless tests at the various A.A.O.R.s.

During May and June the Regiment have been practising hard on route marches in preparation for the march to annual camp; this was held at Rolston Camp, Hornsea, Yorks, from 17th June to 1st July. At 08.00 hrs., 14th June, the Regiment, less the rear party and the W.R.A.C., moved off on the first stage of the march to camp. The following day stage two was completed, and on Saturday, 17th June, the road party arrived at Rolston Camp. During the march the Officers and men had to cook their own rations. These were issued to them at each place where they had halted for the remainder of that day. This apparently was a highly successful venture and thoroughly enjoyed by all.

The weather at camp, although not all that good, did not stop the training programme from being carried out. Except for one day the training was of a comprehensive nature, and consisted of general training, map reading, annual range firing and rafting, etc. During camp the Regiment was visited by the Commander 5 A.A. Group, Major-General L. K. Lockhart, C.B., C.B.E., M.C., and the Chief Signal Officer, A.A. Command, Brigadier W. H. G. Rogers, C.B.E.

Sergeant Copestake is due to proceed to Bisley on 1st July, to partake in the Army Rifle Association Meeting and has been chosen as a member of the Northern Command Signals composite team. Sergeant Copestake is, and always has been very keen on shooting and the Regiment wish him the very best of luck at Bisley.

Sport. The Regiment has entered for the Evening Cricket League and also for the two knock-out competitions. We have been eliminated from both the knock-out competitions but gave a good account of ourselves in one of them, only being beaten in the last over of the match.

In the Evening League we have not done very well, winning only two out of ten matches played. However, the games excite great interest and are thoroughly enjoyed by all.

The Inter-Troop Cricket Competition has now commenced and is progressing quite satisfactorily. Troops are, however, finding it difficult at times to produce the necessary eleven men for the teams, due to the numbers who have been released which have depleted them to quite an extent.

The competition is proving very popular however and all personnel taking part seem to enjoy themselves immensely.

14 A.A. (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.
Speke, Liverpool

The Regiment comprising 4 A.A. Group (M) Signal Office Squadron, T.A., 33 A.A. (M) Signal Squadron, T.A., 34 A.A. (M) Signal Squadron, T.A., and 96 A.G.R.A. A.A. Signal Squadron, T.A., has just returned from annual camp held this year at Landguard Camp, near Felixstowe, from 18th June—2nd July.

The weather-man was once again very kind to us and a thoroughly enjoyable (and instructive!) time was had by one and all. From the training point of view—the first week was devoted to individual trades training under Squadron arrangements, and the second week to an A.A. scheme. All ranks benefited considerably from the experience gained, many lessons were learnt, and there is no doubt that the hard work put in by everyone on drill nights during the winter months proved extremely valuable.

A very heavy social programme was carried out. All Squadrons organised coach trips to local beauty spots and 96 Squadron even ventured forth as far as London Town—where, from all reports our Atherton miners made a big impression! In the Officers' Mess two very successful dinner nights were held and a cocktail party at which Brigadier W. H. G. Rogers, C.B.E., C.S.O. A.A. Command, who had inspected the Regiment on the same day, attended. Judging from the amount of liquid consumed this party was an *enormous* success! The Sergeants' Mess, too, held a very successful dinner night which, again judging from "morning after" appearances, was not a sedate tea party! Everybody enjoyed themselves, the spirit of the Regiment was readily apparent—what more can be said?

We are now back at our normal duty stations and are already dealing with the influx of N.S. men. Thirty-seven have reported to us so far, and to them and to all who may join us in the future we extend a hearty and sincere welcome.

Have you notified your latest address for Corps Publications to the General Secretary, Royal Signals Association, 88 Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1

2 INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT

Hilden

This month the accent has been on sport, and we have been indulging in games of all kinds not always with success, but never without enthusiasm.

Athletics have taken the most prominent place, starting with the Divisional Individual Meeting at the beginning of the month at which Second-Lieutenant R. D. Whitehead was successful in the pole vault. This success took him to Berlin for the B.A.O.R. Meeting, and thence to Aldershot for the Army contest. We entered a team for the 4 Guards Brigade Inter-Unit Championship, but were unfortunately knocked out and so will not be represented at the 2 Infantry Divisional Meeting next month.

Our domestic Inter-Troop Swimming Meeting on the 14th June was a great success, and was won by 4 Guards Brigade Signal Troop, ably captained by Captain G. H. Hoerder. Mrs. G. H. Hoerder continued the good work by winning the ladies' race by a short lead from Mrs. R. J. Harvey (learn a diving start Mrs. Adjutant!). Presentation of medals to the winning team by Mrs. G. B. Bell was followed by tea for all in surroundings, which visitors will admit, are extremely pleasant. From the hidden talent produced at this meeting we should be able to raise a team for the Brigade Championships in July.

Sailing at Baldeney See has passed many pleasant weekends for the enthusiasts in the Regiment, and we can produce a number of qualified skippers this year. An Inter-Squadron Regatta is contemplated for August.

Shooting, cricket, golf, yes and hockey and soccer are all in full swing these light evenings. R.S.M. Barrett has the ladies handling the "two-twos" like Bisley marksmen, and there isn't room to tell of the activities of Major T. R. Warren, Royal Australian Signals, in the field of cricket. He is a great enthusiast and while much in demand by H.Q. B.A.O.R. and 2 Infantry Division for the bigger matches, he keeps the game alive on the Unit level, and many pleasant afternoons are spent on our little ground in the shadow of the Autobahn.

Tuesday, the 20th June, saw most of us on the way to Gütersloh for the B.A.F.O. Air Demonstration, and it was well worth the train journey. Plenty to see, plenty to eat, and enough to prevent dry throats, sunshine and a cooling breeze, made it a great day, and we feel we should like to see more of the R.A.F.

We are receiving a steady stream of T.A. attachments who are very welcome, both Officers and N.C.O.s, and we endeavour to show them the things they wish to see and give them an opportunity of talking to the N.S. tradesmen who will be in the various T.A. Units in the near future. Among recent visitors have been Major Angell, S.Q.M.S. Read, and Sergeant Steinmetz of 61 H.Q. Army Signal Regiment.

We have said cheerio to Captain (Q.M.) S. T. Parker and his family and Captain H. L. Lacey, both to U.K. Welcome to Lieutenant E. C. Lonton as Quartermaster, he will be well-known to the older members of the Corps, and we are very pleased to see him.

The H.A.D.S. produced "Interference," by Roland Pertwee on 3rd, 4th, 5th June in the Hilden Club and Signals were well represented in the cast with Charles Storey as Fred, a hall porter, Dick Warren as Childers, a manservant, Inspector Haines by Bob Harvey with his constable portrayed by Bob Anderson, and finally Esme Lacey gave a fine performance as Mrs. Florence Rooke, a fussy sister of Sir John Marlay, the eminent doctor.

Amateur Radio. Following are the call signs of amateur radio experimental stations run by members of this Unit:

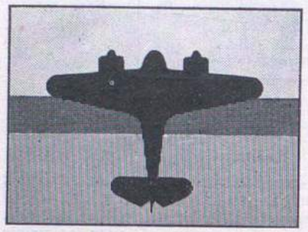
DL2LP—2 Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment Amateur Radio Club.
Times of working: —Evenings, weekends.
Bands: 3.3, 7 and 14 MC/S.

DL2OY—Lieutenant M. F. U. N. Seddon, Royal Signals.

DL2PT—R.S.M. R. Barrett.
Times of working: —1900-2200 hours, weekends.
Bands: 7 and 14 MC/S.

11 AIR FORMATION SIGNAL REGIMENT

Bückeburg



Bückeburg. The Regiment again took the right of the line at the British Air Force of Occupation parade in honour of the King's Birthday. The C-in-C., Air Marshal Sir T. M. Williams, who was awarded the K.C.B. on that day, took the salute.

The B.A.O.R. Royal Signals Inter-Regimental .303 Shooting Competition was held at Herford on 5th June. Four teams entered and there was an exciting "ding-dong" battle between ourselves and the combined Hamburg/Berlin team. Major Jordan who scored 76, the best score of the meeting, gave Hamburg the lead at the start and with various ups and downs the result was in doubt up to the tenth detail, when we began to forge ahead to win by 39 points. S.S.M. Vaughan was our team captain and trainer. The best scores in our team were Captain Hill 68, Signalman Hepburn 66, S.S.M. Vaughan 59. These scores were second, third and fourth respectively in the competition.

31 Construction Troop are perfecting a new quad drill which they deny is the same as a quadrille. We wonder how "Met" can be so sure of the dates of the early autumn snow storms thus enabling the manoeuvre dates to be fixed so early.

The non-swimmers are splashing throughout the length and breadth of Germany. The Inter-Troop Swimming Trophy goes to whichever troop has the best proportion of swimmers by the autumn.

81 Wing Troop at Bückeburg Airfield report that their lack of success at cricket is due to their having become muscle bound through too much indulgence in P.T. and drill. Tummy pains in this troop would be more easily cured by a picquet on the troop orchard rather than by the doctor.

Outstanding cricket performance was a stand of over 100 by Major Vic King and Signalman Butterworth of 64 T.M. Troop against 53 Construction Troop.

Gütersloh. In spite of tanks, ploughs and other horrors which dug up our cables and turned them into spaghetti at the last moment 75 Wing Troop were able to play their part in making B.A.F.O. Air Day 100 per cent successful and free from accident.

Uetersen. Sergeant Pugh has returned from Caterham. "He has never seen anything like 2 Squadron in all his life."

Celle. The photo shows the A.O.C., Air Commodore the Earl of Bandon, inspecting 139 Line Troop. His approval was signified by an additional day being given at Whitsun.

Wunstorf. At the moment of writing Sergeant Noble is afloat having been selected as a member of the R.A.F. ocean racing crew. In addition to his capabilities as a yachtsman he is a good plain cook and is naturally splendid ballast. The present race is from Copenhagen to Kiel.

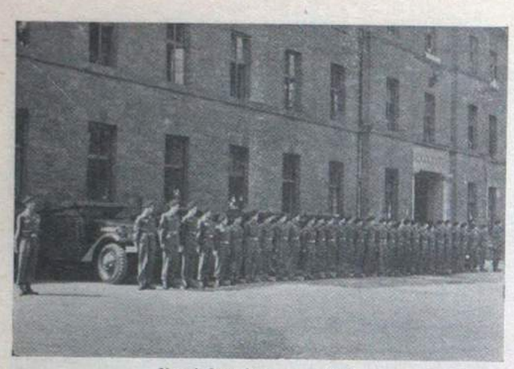
Henley. Second-Lieutenant Pearson is rowing for B.A.O.R. at the Henley Royal Regatta.



11 A.F. Signal Regiment .303 Rifle Team. Winners Royal Signals (B.A.O.R.) Inter-Unit Shooting Competition, 1950



A.O.C., 2 Group, Air Commodore Earl of Bandon, C.B., D.S.O., 18th June, 1950



Signal Squadron on parade

7 ARMOURED DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT

Celle



R.H.Q. and 1 Squadron. The month of June arrived bringing with it plenty of heat and sunshine and the annual administrative inspection of the divisional commander.

We welcomed the sunshine with open arms, and although we greeted the administrative inspection not quite so readily, we must admit that it helped to clear the air even to the extent of proving to the fire inspector that our fire appliances really do work.

On the divisional commander's parade L.S.G.C. medals were presented to S.S.M. Judd and Sergeant Spearman, to both of whom we offer our congratulations.

R.H.Q., H.Q. Squadron, and 1 Squadron formed two composite squadrons and took part in the King's birthday parade at H.Q. 7 Armoured Division on 8th June. The main 7th Armoured Division parade was held at Hanover where there was a most impressive display. The firing of the "feu de joie" by the troops on parade is worthy of special mention.

Our speedway team is making a brilliant show at the Hanomag stadium. Not a week goes by without Corporal Boughton bringing back a huge trophy and various other prizes.

Sergeants Scoffin and Edmonds were selected for trial with B.A.O.R. Signals cricket XI. The former has been given a place in the team and starts his tour with them at the end of the month. We probably won't see much of him now until the end of the season.

A party of about a hundred went to the B.A.F.O. Air Display at Gütersloh on 20th June. The event was extremely well staged and was very much enjoyed. We all regretted that the advice to bring sun glasses has not been heeded.

Obituary. It is with great regret that we announce the death of No. 22137814 Signalman T. N. Reeve.

The sympathy of the Commanding Officer and all ranks is extended to Mr. and Mrs. Reeve.

2 Squadron H.Q., H.Q. R.A. Luneburg. After a month of sun our nursery garden is providing unlimited "greens" and fruit for consumption in the mess room and by the families. Pounds of strawberries have been eaten in the last few weeks. If I were Barleux I could think up something about the man who, for a change, asked for raspberries, but I'm not that clever.



Captain R. D. Elsmore, Royal Signals, S.S.M. P. E. A. Hall, Corporal D. J. B. McDonald



Lining up for the parade

"E" Troop, 3 R.H.A., Verden. During most of this month the troop has been away on exercises and at practice camp. The members of the Troop think that their designation "Easy" gives a false impression, and would like the phonetic alphabet altered to "Exercise."

However, during the few days spent in Barracks we beat the Regiment at Basketball, provided most of the players for the R.H.Q. football team, and have made good use of racing bicycles loaned by the Regiment. Combining work with pleasure, a communications race is being organised in the near future, and we are looking forward to this eagerly.

"F" Troop, 3 R.H.A., Hildesheim. Sergeant Stevens was married at the end of May, and we all wish him and his wife the best of good wishes. Second-Lieutenant Warburton arrived to take over the troop from him while he was on his honeymoon. It never rains . . . he acquired a wife and a troop officer all within two weeks.

Signalman Reid won the Javelin Throw at the Regimental sports, at which the troop, combined with R.H.Q. Troop, came second out of five teams.

Most of the month has been spent on Regimental exercises, and we go to practice camp with the Regiment on 1st July.

"H" Troop, H.Q. R.A., Lüneberg. This month we have been away on several exercises, and have "controlled" many wireless nets of varied composition.

At the end of May we held a Troop dance in the Mercury Club, and with the aid of hot music, hot dogs, cold beer and charming ladies, all had an excellent evening.

On the 8th June, after watching the King's birthday parade we went off to Barum for swimming and a Troop picnic. The day went well until a thunderstorm broke at tea time. The heavy rain found its way everywhere, and the cooks are adamant that this was the cause of the weak tea.

We have just opened a Troop library, reading and writing room. We hope it will be popular, and not only used on the night before pay day.

3 Squadron. June, 1950, still finds the Squadron stationed in Goslar in the Harz mountains. It is accommodated in the same barracks as the 31st Lorried Infantry Brigade. It is interesting to note that the office used by the O.C. of the Squadron, Major R. C. Kendall Baron, T.D., was Field-Marshal Rommel's office when he was commanding the 17 Jäger Battalion in about 1936.

On 8th June, 1950 the Squadron took part in the King's birthday parade. The officer in charge of the Royal Signals contingent was Captain R. D. Elsmore, and he commanded three jeeps and four White scout cars complete with crews. After the parade and a Royal Salute of 21 guns fired by the 6-pounder antitank guns of the 1st Battalion Sherwood Foresters from the front of the Palace of the Kings of Saxony, there was a march through the town. The salute was taken by the Brigade Commander together with the British Resident.

Ex-8th Army Signals will be interested to hear that Lale Anderson (Lily Marlene) presented to the Squadron on 21st June, 1950, a signed photograph of herself. This is being framed and will be kept in the Squadron office.

4 Squadron. The big event in the past month has been the King's birthday parade of 7th Armoured Brigade. Troops taking part were 4 Squadron, 7 Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment, H.Q. Squadron, 7 Armoured Brigade and 5th Royal Tank Regiment. The parade was inspected by, and the salute at the march past, taken by Brigadier H. R. B. Foote, V.C., D.S.O., who expressed his pleasure at the very good turnout of our Squadron. The day of the parade was a very hot one but the R.A.M.C. personnel standing by had no fainting casualties to deal with, however, all concerned were glad to take advantage of the remainder of the day off,



Corporal Boughton leading Lance-Corporal Meacher



Corporal George Boughton (one lap flying start)

and to indulge in a bath and change back to shirt sleeve order.

A long range signal exercise, in which we participated this month was enjoyed by all taking part. One surprising result was the comparative success of working a horizontal wire aerial to a vertical rod. Communications were originally established from Mellendorf, West of Celle to the top of the Vichen Gebirge range of hills just West of the Minden Gap. We were visited by several high ranking officers during the scheme, including Lieutenant-General Sir Charles F. Keightley, K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O., G.O.C.-in-C. B.A.O.R.

The football season has now closed, and lacking a cricket ground, enthusiastic practice at the nets is the order of the day.

One game of softball has been played so far, resulting in a win for us of 36 to 2 against H.Q. Squadron, 7 Armoured Brigade.

3 AIR SUPPORT SIGNAL UNIT

B.A.O.R.

During the past few months we have been busy training and we have had some very interesting and successful exercises. Four tentacles have been attached to Airfields for the past couple of months and from reports received they are having good times as the R.A.F. are looking after them very well indeed.

The Unit paraded with H.Q., B.A.O.R. Signal Regiment for the King's Birthday Parade and after being inspected by Major-General L. M. Inglis, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., V.D., a static display of vehicles and equipment was held. A considerable amount of interest was shown in one of our new tentacles which Corporal Moody and his detachment had suitably burnished up for the occasion; our new receiver coach with an extending side also proved an attraction. B.A.F.O. Air Day held on 20th June was extremely interesting and A.S.S.U. was well represented in both the Set Piece and Static Displays. Corporal Crombie and his tentacle took part in the set piece battle and followed the tanks into the attack. Great credit is due to Corporal Glendenning and his detachment for the very fine stand which they produced for the static display. Driver Naish made a wonderful job of his half-track which looked like a "Rolls" standing in a Bond Street motor showroom, we wonder where he managed to find all the red and white paint, and is he going to continue to use real tyre paint at 21/2 Deutsche Marks a tin?

On Sunday, 25th June, a joint exercise was held with 10 A.S.S.U. (T.A.), everyone was most enthusiastic and although it was a Sunday nearly every man in the Unit wanted to operate the Set. Certain Corporals now know what can be done.

Thanks a lot 10 A.S.S.U. for the work which you put into the scheme and lets have another one before long.

Our radio club is now going very strongly, we are on the air most nights so listen out for our CQ on 40 metres CW or 20 metres "fone" our call sign is DL2PA.

BERLIN SIGNAL SQUADRON
B.A.O.R. 2

June was a very pleasant, but at the same time rather an active month. Activities included the most important ceremonial parade of the year—the King's Birthday Parade—the B.A.O.R. Individual Athletic Sports Meeting, held in the Olympic Stadium, and of course the usual round of sporting events, and duties which are the normal lot of the Squadron. All this was carried on in a month which, while not fully deserving the title of "Flaming June" nevertheless was comfortably dry and warm.

The King's Birthday Parade in Berlin was held on the Olympische Platz. This must be one of the finest parade grounds in the world—certainly one of the most impressive. It is nearly a quarter of a mile long and about seventy-five yards wide, and tiled over the whole of its area, with buff and red tiles, arranged in a geometrical pattern. This pattern together with the serried rows of flag masts running along the complete length on either side of the ground produce this impressiveness, while the huge bulk of the Stadium itself forms the background. Against this setting, and with huge Union Jacks flying at all save three of the masts—reserved for the flags of the other three occupying powers—the parade was held. It fully did justice to its surroundings. Every unit in Berlin was represented, the Squadron contingent consisting of every man not on essential duty, and the smart turn out and fine marching on the parade could not fail to have impressed the visiting Commandants of the other occupying Powers, or the thousands of onlookers, British and German.

The most popular sporting event of the month was the Sergeants' Mess v. Squadron Challenge football game. The Squadron has won both the Junior League Winter and Spring tournaments, and was presented with the Challenge Cup by Brigadier D. R. Morgan, D.S.O., M.C., Commander Area Troops Berlin. It was to mark this presentation that the challenge game was arranged. Let me say now, without beating about the bush, that the W.Os and Sergeants lost by 2-4, but let me add quickly that they were by no means disgraced.

One gets the impression in fact that fewer discussions of tactics over the bar, and more practical training might have enabled them to force a draw. Certainly stiffness was the main topic of conversation in the mess the next day. Mention must be made of the Sergeant on the left wing who after running half the length of the pitch chasing the approximate direction of the ball collapsed slowly, but inexorably to his knees by the corner flag. Nevertheless the general verdict was—a very enjoyable game in which a good time was had by all.

A party from the Squadron went down to the Zone to watch an Air Display given by B.A.F.O. at Gütersloh. The general verdict of the lucky chosen few was that it was a thrilling display. Not the least in causing comment was the acrobatic flying of the 4 Meteors tied wing tip to wing tip and the rocket firing of Typhoons.

Cricket continues to hold the field as the only sport at which the Squadron is in active competition at the moment. Our team does not seem to have settled down so well this season, and have as a result a rather inconsistent record. The domination of cricket as a summer sport is to be challenged by the hockey enthusiasts shortly. They plan to compete in a six-a-side hockey tournament, and also a hockey Summer League for full sides. The badminton enthusiasts are also banding themselves together to form a team to challenge other teams in Berlin to friendly games. A report that ladies are likely to join us for mixed doubles should make the game popular.

There are an exceptionally large number of "events to come," for us to look forward to this month. They include the Squadron Athletic Sports, the B.T.B. Inter Unit Sports, and the B.T.B. Individual and Inter-Unit Swimming Galas.

We greet Captain Mitchener, who joins us from Catterick. We hope he enjoys his stay with the Squadron. We also welcome our new next door neighbours—Camp H.Q. B.T.B.—who have moved into an adjacent part of the Reichssportfeld buildings. Although they are completely separate from us, the Sergeants' Messes have joined forces. We look forward to an era of peaceful co-operation such as we have enjoyed for instance when a Company of the Gordons occupied these billets.

1 SIGNAL SQUADRON, W.R.A.C.
B.A.O.R. 1

In spite of rude remarks from certain quarters, our Squadron is still in existence, in fact very much alive and kicking. Seriously, however, we do not blame anyone for thinking we had disappeared, as we have not sent a contribution to THE WIRE for such ages. Please forgive.

The Unit has had a tremendously active summer so far, having taken part in the march past, when Major-General W. R. C. Penney, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., visited B.A.O.R., the King's Birthday Parade and various athletic meetings, at which the girls did very well. The great activity on at the moment is the camp at Herford which is lasting for three weeks, and at which the girls are learning all the usual things, such as pitching tents, map reading, field cooking, etc., things which are supposed to help in an emergency which never seems to arise (we hope!). The open-air life though is doing them a world of good, and they look browner and bonnier than ever.

We have said hallo and goodbye to so many people since we last appeared in THE WIRE that it is now quite impossible to mention them all. We would, however, like to wish Captain "Pip" Carlisle, now Mrs. Mitchell and now living at the Hook of Holland, all the very best of luck—we are very glad that she has not deserted the Royal Corps of Signals even if she has deserted the Women's Royal Army Corps.

Very best wishes also go to Lieutenant Gwen Ellis, W.R.A.C., and Lieutenant David Cattermull, Royal Signals, upon their engagement—wedding to be held on 12th August, 1950.

We say goodbye to Lieutenant M. E. Johnson, who is on terminal leave out here in Germany—we are losing a very good officer, and a vivid personality, who deserves lots of good luck in civvy street.

Lieutenant J. H. Parke leaves us on completion of tour—all best wishes go to her wherever she may be posted.

Sergeant Thornton (née Pennington-Jones) has left us on completion of her tour in B.A.O.R. In her going the Squadron has lost one of its most energetic, cheerful and versatile members. Sergeant Thornton was married prior to leaving B.A.O.R. The wedding reception being yet another occasion for the Mixed Signals Sergeants' Mess here to show its wonderful hospitality.

Although Lieutenant M. Nash has been with us now for about three to four months, we would like to welcome her in officially and we trust that she will like her stay in B.A.O.R.

The writer of this column also leaves the Squadron at the end of July on completion of ten years' service, and having completed a very happy two years in B.A.O.R., leaving behind one of the best sets of officers and women it has been possible to have.

WESTERN EUROPE SIGNAL TROOP
Fontainebleau

We have, during the past few months, had some very pleasant weather but it has been rather spasmodic and not nearly as good as last year although we are still living in hopes. Needless to say the Plage de la Forêt (swimming pool) has been doing big business and we are only waiting for a swimming gala so as to be able to show our paces.

Work is still being carried on in the Signal Office and we have now combined with the French and Belgians with regard to Signal Despatch Services and consequently the sign language is much in use as we have no bilingual operators with us. We are fortunate in having a Belgian Sergeant who can speak English with an American accent who is unofficial interpreter. French couriers also travel with ours on the S.D.S. runs.

Sports. We recently held a sports meeting in which we combined with H.Q. Land Forces to make a team. We finished second out of the four teams competing, the R.A.F. winning, helped by two very good runners who between them pulled off almost every event. Out of the Troop Lance-Corporal Holmes came second in the 880 metres, Signalman Fred Ashton ran very well to come in fourth in the 1,500 metres, and Sergeant Carnell came third in the 5,000 metres which was won incidentally by a Frenchman who lapped everyone in the field with the exception of the man placed second. He lapped Sergeant Carnell just at the post as Sergeant Carnell started his last circuit, that must have been very disheartening after plodding all that way. Sergeant Carnell also collected the Cross-Country Team Cup at the prizegiving.

We still have a game of cricket on most Sundays against the British Standard Club at Versailles. This is the only team we can play as cricket is a game of mystery to the French. Perhaps we should send the England XI out to play the French if only to make certain of winning one test (or would we??). Corporal Davies is Secretary of the team and is also a regular player, others are Corporal Molony, Lance-Corporal Lawry, Signalman Davies and Signalman Valiquette. Lance-Corporal Lawry is, incidentally, a bad weather player who cannot resist the swimming pool on a fine day.

Although a little early we have thoughts of the approaching football season, with hopes of raising a team which will be at the top end of the league table for a change. We have quite a few new faces amongst us since last season although very few of them look as if they have been kicked around a soccer pitch. Still who knows, we may find a budding Tommy Lawton.

This week we had a visit from Michael Wilding, Jack Hulbert, Edward Rigby and Constance Cummings together with a few luscious girls from the film world whose names do not matter. In a few minutes our usually serene N.A.A.F.I. was turned into a bobby-soxers club. However, things have now returned to normal. We have also had a visit from Valerie Hobson during the last couple of months and on several occasions she was to be seen handing out tea at the Y.M.C.A.

ROYAL SIGNALS (B.A.O.R.) CRICKET

Corps matches were played against Hamburg District, 7 Armoured Division and R.A.O.C. on 1st, 2nd and 3rd July, 1950. The Hamburg District game was lost by 59 runs. Hamburg batted first and by lunchtime were 5 wickets down for 51 runs. After lunch, some vigorous hitting raised their total to 161. Royal Signals batting broke down completely in reply, a total of 102 being scored on a very indifferent grass wicket. Of the batsmen Second-Lieutenant Brooke (15), Major Wainwright (21) and S.Q.M.S. Pritchard (14) all reached double figures. The bowling in the first innings was by Major Warren, 5 for 56, Sergeant Scoffen, 2 for 31, Corporal Groves, 0 for 9, S.Q.M.S. Pritchard, 2 for 26, and Sergeant Tiffen, 1 for 25.

The 7 Armoured Divisional side contained five Rhine Army players and Royal Signals did well to win this game by 75 runs. Features of the game were an excellent innings by Major Warren (52) who was well supported by Sergeant Catt (34), Lance-Corporal Groves (17), Lieutenant-Colonel Sanders, Major Wainwright and Corporal Moseley all made 15. There was some very steady bowling by Sergeant Scoffen who took 4 wickets for 10 runs in seven overs which had most of the Divisional side in difficulties. He was ably supported by Major Warren, 5 for 54 and Corporal Gomm, 1 for 20.

The first Inter-Corps match was against R.A.O.C. Royal Signals batted first and made a useful total of 153, thanks chiefly to an aggressive opening by Second-Lieutenant Brooke. R.A.O.C. started well and at the tea interval had plenty of time to get the necessary runs. After tea, however, some accurate bowling by S.Q.M.S. Pritchard had the batsmen in difficulties, and the game was finally won by 35 runs with about a quarter of an hour to spare. Lieutenant-Colonel Sanders (28), S.Q.M.S. Pritchard (30 not out) and Lance-Corporal Groves (12), provided most of the runs after a splendid 54 by Second-Lieutenant Brooke.

THE PAKISTAN SIGNAL CORPS



The big event in our lives since we wrote last has been Signals Week, 1950, held in Rawalpindi during the week ending 1st April, with usual mixture of games, athletics and social functions. We were glad to note a very big improvement in both games and athletics since last year. It is obvious that everyone has been pulling his socks up during the year to some effect. In athletics there were 20 "Jimmy" winners this year as opposed to six last year, the standards being the same.

The finals of the Games Competitions saw some very close matches, the winners being:—

Hockey: Technical Training Regiment.
Football: G.H.Q., Signal Regiment.
Volleyball: 9 Divisional Signal Regiment.
Basketball: G.H.Q., Signal Regiment.
Wrestling: L. of C. Signal Regiment.
Boxing: Gharial Signals.

The winners of the overall games cup, presented by the Commander-in-Chief, were G.H.Q. Signal Regiment, who beat the Technical Training Regiment by one point.

The athletics shield was won also by G.H.Q. Signal Regiment after a hard struggle with 10 Divisional Signal Regiment. The last race of the day, the 100 metres relay, which G.H.Q. Signals just won from 10 Divisional Signals, finally decided the winner of the shield. No better ending to the day could have been devised.

We entertained 22 Old Comrades during the week. There were a number of farriers and drivers among them who were not quite sure whether lorries are as good as their horses and mules, but apart from that they seemed happy that the young army is keeping up the traditions of the old. We have sent along a photograph of them taken with all the Commanding Officers of units. There may be some faces familiar to those who served out here in the old days. *(We regret that the photograph is unsuitable for reproduction.—Ed.)*

A very gratifying feature of the week was the performance put up by the band, which has improved both in size and quality since last year. This is in a great measure due to the work of Sergeant Cockburn of the Royal Scots and Sergeant Galley of the Duke of Wellington's, who have been out here for some months training bands. As they live in

Cambridge Barracks with our band, they have devoted a lot of their spare time to us, with very marked results.

The social events of the week were beating Retreat in the Mess garden on Tuesday, the annual Corps guest night on Friday, and an excellent party in the Mess on Saturday evening given by the Pakistan Officers to the British Officers and their wives, most of whom are leaving Pakistan this year. No better ending to a very enjoyable week could have been devised.

On the last day of Signals Week, Captain "Bob" Rumsey was married in Rawalpindi to Miss Gwyneth Davies. We wish them all happiness in the future.

Next month Majors Taj Mohd and Arshad are leaving for the U.K. for a course at Catterick, where we hope that they will keep the flag flying. Majors Shafi Choudry, Talati and Qureshi are already in the U.K. doing a course at Chelmsford with the Marconi Company.

CARIBBEAN AREA SIGNAL SQUADRON
Kingston, Jamaica



Prior to the arrival of the Troopship H.M.T. *Empire Ken* in mid-June our National Service linemen had their first experience of reeling in D8, the route hugging the shores of the blue Caribbean Sea and it was a welcome break from trade tests and 100lb. copper.

H.M.S. *Glasgow* has recently arrived in Kingston for another short visit.

Congratulations to Signalman Field, who joined the happy band of married pilgrims on 1st July, 1950.

Members of S.E. Kent Branch of the Signals Association will be pleased to learn that their ex-Hon. Secretary, Lance-Corporal Wakefield, is now with this Unit.

Cricket. The Unit team has opened quite well in the Inter-Unit Cricket League. We have played four games, won two, lost two; the two we lost were against Battalion sides and we have yet to be beaten by a Corps team.

Shooting. We are in the process of shaping a shooting tea for the Area Shoot in October, and have a match with the Jamaica Battalion on the 19th of this month.



1 INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT
Tripoli

"Div. Sigs continue to make a much better showing at cricket than they do at ——, and remain at the top of the league." This comment by the local Press, if a little unkind to the —— team, did at least convey the fact that the Regiment's 1st XI are enjoying a run of well-deserved success.

The league consists of 19 teams from minor units in the area, and during the course of the season each team plays every other team once, so 18 league matches have to be played. Not a major league of course, but enthusiasm is high.

Matches are played on a time basis, so that draws are a not infrequent result. To date the Regiment has lost but one of its 12 matches, but its position at the top of the league is being strongly contested and this holds promise of some exciting games to come.

The team are very keen. Indeed, our late captain, Signalman Wilkins showed a marked reluctance to depart for the U.K. Our present captain is R.Q.M.S. Willoughby, who recently arrived from Egypt, and who is rapidly making his mark. Mention must also be made of W.O.II McKenzie who, being our permanent umpire, has found time to be present at *all* matches. When readers remember that this requires complete impartiality in temperatures around a hundred degrees in the shade, it shows a devotion to the game of a very high order.

The local populace show but feeble curiosity, and one member of the Italian speedway team expressed the opinion that he considered the game "peculiar." His attempts to enliven it by giving a demonstration of speedway riding on the pitch and whilst a game was in progress were not appreciated.

Speedway continues to draw large crowds every Sunday evening, and our own team, although seriously weakened by the loss of Staff Sergeant Cook, managed to win their match against H.Q. 1 Guards Brigade on 2nd July.

From August onwards speedway is going to be held twice a week, on Sunday and Wednesday evenings, so that each team in the league will ride about once a fortnight, instead of as at present, once a month. Unfortunately, that is just about the time when our own team will be further weakened by the loss of Sergeant Burgess, one of our crack riders and the present track record holder, who goes home on 6th August.

A small party has just returned to the Unit after being under canvas for five days, where they were attending the "Homs Weekend." This weekend was a very successful affair organised by 6 Field Regiment R.A., who live out at Homs, 75 miles from here along the coast. Every unit sent down parties who lived under canvas and took part in the cricket, tennis, squash and table tennis matches, and in the motor-cycle trials and gymkhana which the Field Regiment organised. As our party only consisted of 38 people all told and as they took part in everything bar the gymkhana, they had a busy time. But they managed to find time for plenty of swimming and for some sight-seeing and seemed to have thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

3 G.H.Q. SIGNAL REGIMENT
Fayid, M.E.L.F.

Summer having now been in full swing for two months the accent is now definitely on hot-weather pastimes. Swimming and sailing being in vogue. Cricket is also to the fore and much hard labour has made the desert bloom into a cricket ground as nice as any in the Canal Zone. There several times each week go many of our seekers after relaxation—some to play and others to watch, or merely doze beneath the protecting canvas of the pavilion. Those who do not follow this ancient English pastime can usually be found drinking large amounts of Great Bitter Lake in the guise of swimming. For our quota of non-swimmers the lake is ideal as the consistency of the water is such that it is almost a physical impossibility to sink. A fact which is rapidly cutting down the numbers of non-swimmers.

The month's big event was the Corps week-end held on the 1st and 2nd July. Many people were heard to say that, judging from the condition in which they finished up, it should have been spelt "weak" end. But everyone enjoyed it and that is the main thing. The Officers held a Regimental guest night on the Friday which was attended by the Chief Signal Officers of M.E.L.F. and H.Q. British

Troops in Egypt and several Officers of our sister Regiment, Egypt Command Signals. On Saturday morning there was an inter-Squadron shoot on the open range, No. 1 Squadron being the winners by a good margin. This was again followed by a cricket match and a children's party in the afternoon and at night by a concert party and dance at the Sergeants' Mess. On Sunday the unit attended a church parade at which the salute was taken by Major-General W. O. Bowen, C.B., C.B.E. Altogether a very pleasant weekend. Many thanks are due to those who gave up their time and energy to the organisation of the events. I feel a special commendation is due to Major Ken Nash and his concert party crew for the really grand show they gave. Incidentally, a piece of mouth-watering news for you people in U.K., at the Sergeants' Mess buffet the place of honour was held by one whole roast pig. What more could one want.

The Regiment was in the news in another sphere also, thanks to Sergeant C. D. Beale who swam the Great Bitter Lake from east to west at its widest point (just over eight miles). This is thought to be the first time that this has ever been done and the time taken, 5 hours 33½ minutes, was considered to be more than good. Good show, Sergeant Beale.

Nothing else of import this month, except that these will probably be the last set of notes from your present correspondent as he is leaving for a warmer clime. (Not where you think, Signalman Stooks).

MAURITIUS SIGNAL TROOP
Vacoas



Army Day in Mauritius

27th May saw the inauguration of what will in future be an annual event in Mauritius.

Quite a comprehensive programme had been arranged and we are quite sure that the civilian population of the island now know a good deal more about the British Army, its organisation and activities, than they had done previously, and we know that all the hard work that was put in to make our day a success was amply rewarded by the reception we got and by the smoothness with which each demonstration and exhibit went off.

The committee early decided that one of the best methods of holding attention was by short, snappy demonstrations in addition to the normal exhibits of individual corps and regimental activities. That this decision was a good one was early borne out by the enthusiasm with which these demonstrations were received.

Army Day began on Friday night with a searchlight display over Port Louis, the capital, by the 1st (Mauritius) Coast Battery, R.A. Before this, of course, radio and newspapers had been telling the local listeners and readers what was in store for them so that on Saturday morning we had a very colourful and varied crowd of Hindus, Muslims, Creoles, white Mauritians (French and English) to contend with.

At midday on Saturday, H.E. the Governor and Commander-in-Chief of Mauritius, Sir Hilary Blood, K.C.M.G., L.L.B., took the salute at a ceremonial parade of Unit representatives, Signals supplying one despatch rider and two M.O.R.s equipped with 38 sets. Other representatives included a bulldozer, armoured car, jeep, breakdown truck, ambulance, ration truck and a 25-pounder, which were in the rear of the Mauritius Naval Volunteer Force, 6th (T.T.) Battalion, King's African Rifles, Royal Pioneer Corps (Mauritius) and the King's African Rifles Band which had just recently arrived with the Battalion from Dar es Salaam.

After the march past the parade dispersed to the main arena where the show was open to the public from 13.00 hrs. until 18.00 hrs.

As we walked round viewing other unit stands in comparison to one's own, it was evident that much hard work and imagination had been used to raise the standard as high as possible and *esprit de corps* would appear to rate very high in this area. Among the many interesting shows was one put on by the Station Hospital demonstrating the use of blood transfusions. The "patient" could be seen to be improving as he lay there in the bed. Military Records also had a very interesting show tent, the main attraction being a Roll of Honour containing the name of every Mauritian soldier who gave his life during the world war in the cause of freedom. It was a pathetic sight to see some of the older people weeping as they looked at the names and yet their pride too was evident as they pointed them out to the officer in charge. Another interesting exhibit was a display of all the medals and campaign stars awarded during the last two wars. Our own tents were very colourful and photographs of Corps activities kindly lent by units and individuals in East Africa and Middle East proved a great attraction. We would like to take this opportunity of expressing our thanks to those who helped us to put up a good show with the aid of these photographs. Our British O.W.L. produced a very fine display of Q.S.L. cards from all parts of the world and he was kept very busy explaining at length what it was all about. We also had heliographs, aldis lamps and lamps signalling daylight in addition to 22, 38 and 88 sets and reception sets R107. The latter probably proved the biggest attraction as Radio Australia and the Mauritius Broadcasting Service helped us out considerably with Western and Arabic musical interludes. THE WIRE now has a larger circle of readers too, as after the exhibition, we distributed all our back numbers to those people interested.

The first of Saturday's demonstrations was our own, this being a display of communication by line, wireless and flags, in that order. The line section made that old drum barrow red hot and the dirt flew as the mattocks rose and the line was buried. For the wireless scheme a R.107 was tuned in to the same frequency as the 22 sets and everyone was able to hear the calls and messages passed over the public address system. Would-be announcers and commentators from amongst the spectators were then invited to come and try their hand and this proved very popular. It was some time before everyone was satisfied and the demonstration completed with a short display of flag signalling. Much credit is due to our lines and operating N.C.O.s for the very efficient manner in which this exhibition was carried out.

Probably the highlight of the demonstrations was the one by the Station Workshops. It was the old one of assembling the jeep but it was something which had to be seen to be believed by the local population. R.E.M.E. did put up a fine performance in doing the task in just 2 minutes 35 seconds from the word go. There was thunderous applause as the jeep triumphantly made its round of the arena before driving off to stables.

There were other very interesting events which included African dancing by the King's African Rifles, drill display and the guarding of an ammunition dump in M.E.L.F. by R.P.C. (M). This latter proved quite humorous as it was complete with live "Wogs." The Station Hospital showed us how they set up an emergency casualty clearing station in the field in eight minutes and the 6th (T.T.) Battalion King's African Rifles mopped up enemy paratroopers on the mountainside. The Mauritians simply loved this exercise but most of the British wives voted that it was much too noisy.

The day ended with Beating the Retreat by the Band of the 6th (T.T.) Battalion King's African Rifles. This was indeed a very impressive ceremony and a fitting finale to a really good display by the band. I think a word of praise

is due to the Bandmaster for their wonderful playing and deportment throughout the whole of Army Day.

The purpose of Army Day was to educate the public in some of the lesser known activities of the Army and to create a closer bond between the Army and the civilian upon whom the Army depends for its resources. I think our object was attained.



SIGNAL TROOP, 58 MED. REGIMENT, R.A.
Hong Kong

Since the onset of the present hot, sticky weather, training has dropped from the fever pitch of large scale exercises to the more leisurely pace of Regimental training. With 3 Commando Brigade's move to Malaya we are coming into contact with the civil population in the form of the Police Force through our duties "In aid of the Civil Power." Our first exercise took place on Monday, 26th June, when Corporal Trevethick netted 25 mobile stations in six minutes flat and held them QSA 5/5 for the duration of the exercise. (Do I hear jeers from the Armoured Brigade Control ops?).

HONG KONG SIGNAL SQUADRON

This month has brought many changes. We welcome Major G. A. Fleming from B.A.O.R., who is taking over command of the Squadron from Major J. W. Eagle, M.B.E. Also Captain F. Ramsbottom from West Africa, who is now Adjutant. Lieutenant Abercrombie who has been with the Squadron for some considerable time has left to take over the duties of O.C. 58 Medium Regiment R.A. Signal Troop.

His Excellency the Governor of Hong Kong inspected the parade of Locally Enlisted Personnel which included two Royal Signals Troops. After the parade the public inspected stands depicting the work of the Chinese Other Rank within his particular Arm of the Service. In our opinion the Royal Signals stole the limelight with two P.L. routes with 'printers working over them, a complete A.S.S.U. tentacle and various other items of equipment.

2 GUARDS BRIGADE SIGNAL SQUADRON
Kuala Lumpur

No. 2329594 Sergeant P. W. Johns, of this Squadron, was awarded a Mention in Despatches in the third Malayan Operational List of Honours for the period 30th June—1st December, 1949.

The scale of operations has now eased and opportunity is being taken to send men on leave before the next storm breaks. We have established a rest camp at Port Dickson on the water's edge and by changing round small parties everyone so desirous has had the opportunity. In some cases this has been the first leave for a year.

The highlight of the month was a visit by the Rt. Hon. John Strachey, Minister for War, who visited Brigade H.Q. accompanied by General Officers at all levels. After being shown a display of jungle wireless sets, in which he showed great interest, he visited the Signal Office and there talked to each soldier.

Captain D. K. P. Hannigan has replaced Captain M. M. Barker as Second in Command, the latter returning to the U.K. via New Zealand, where he will visit his father, Major-General Barker, who since leaving the Corps in 1945, has been rearing Canterbury lambs.

19 AIR FORMATION SIGNAL REGIMENT
Changi, Singapore

Artist Prisoners of War. After the capture of Singapore by the Japanese some of the prisoners occupied their time by covering the walls of their quarters with various mural designs. In the Changi area there are two examples which are of Corps interest. The first, which was started by Royal Signals Officers of 18th (East Anglian) Divisional Signals is a large scale map of the world through Singapore eyes, it is drawn on the wall at the top of a staircase in what is now a R.A.F. Warrant Officers' married quarter. The drawing is protected with a perspex cover. It was started in July, 1942, by Captains M. Drinkwater and J. A. Robinson of 18 Divisional Signals, and finally completed by Major D. M. Shearn of the East Yorkshire Regiment and Major M. R. Braithwaite of the Royal Norfolk Regiment.

(Unfortunately it will not reproduce in THE WIRE.—*Ed.)*

The second, a drawing of a Corps badge is one amongst many Regimental badges executed on the walls of a small building which was used as a sports pavilion at Selerang. Unfortunately the weather is starting to play havoc with



the badges, which were drawn by Major Pedley, of the Royal Artillery, before he was whisked away to Formosa in a hell-ship.

This month we have lost our Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel E. C. Thompson, O.B.E., on his appointment as C.S.O. Malaya in the rank of Acting Colonel, and we wish him the very best of luck in his new job, though it is with regret that we lose him.

Our congratulations also go to our C.A.F.S.O., Colonel T. A. R. Scott, on his C.B.E., and to Corporal Hinton, now back in civvy street, on his "mention in despatches." Both citations were put up by the R.A.F.

During the month two parties, one of Officers and one of B.O.R.s, made liaison visits to the Flying Boat Wing, Seletar. The morning was spent in looking over the boats, workshops, and so on, and as a grand finale, the parties were taken for a flight in a Sunderland. Air-mindedness is a strong point here, and our close co-operation with the R.A.F. is made all the closer by these visits.

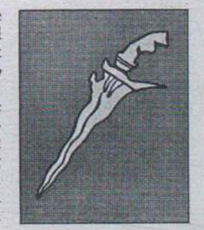
The new runway at Changi is open at last. Messrs. Gammons with their bulldozers, cement mixers, and all their other sleep dispellers have finally gone, and a nice smooth strip of tarmac, surrounded by what we hope will be nice smooth stretches of grass, stretches across the landscape. On it we have a truly varied collection of aircraft landing and taking off — Yorks, Hastings, Lancasters, Dakotas, Devons, Havards, Austers, to name only a few. And now we have two "Dragonflies"—Sikorski S.51 helicopters, if you prefer it—which don't bother to use the runway at all, but come in and park themselves in any space that offers. Only the other day the Commander-in-Chief flew home in one and landed on his own lawn!

As a result of the opening of the new strip, we have had to lay several new cable routes to serve the dispersal areas, and in the near future we start putting in the main perimeter cable. This will keep us busy for the best part of a month.

The Officers and senior N.C.O.s are now learning Malay. Twice a week they gather together to study the intricacies of "Satu, Dua, Tiga." There is, however, a school of thought which suggests that the Malay teacher is improving his English faster than his pupils are learning Malay.

Thanks to the increase in strength of the detachments at Seletar and Tengah, these stations can now raise their own hockey and football teams. Some very keen inter-station matches have been played already, and we hope that further tussles are not far ahead.

MALAYA DISTRICT SIGNAL REGIMENT
Kuala Lumpur



R.H.Q. and No. 1 Squadron. The last month has been one of hard work, not that we don't always work hard, of course, but the tempo seems to have been stepped up.

No doubt other Squadrons have the same difficulty—lack of manpower. We are trying to combat this by constant training and trying to make each man a jack of all trades. To be an efficient Signalman in this Squadron you must be an expert gardener, a first-class shot, be able to type, know Q work backwards, and of course hold all the Education Certificates possible. Who says the Army isn't a good training ground for young men?

Those of you who remember Captain (T.O.M.) Fuller, M.B.E., will join with us in congratulating him on his rise to Field Rank.

No. 2 Squadron. The past month has been a busy one. As is now generally known 3 Commando Brigade have arrived in Northern Malaya from Hong Kong. This has resulted in greatly increased traffic on all circuits.



[Courtesy: Dept. of Public Relations, Malaya

Lieutenant-Colonel E. J. F. Heap, O.B.E., Royal Signals, O.C., Malaya District Signal Regiment, receiving his award from H.E. the High Commissioner

A number of Commando Non Commissioned Officers have been attached to us to learn "shore ways" and a fine crowd of chaps they are.

During May the entire Squadron has been on an extensive firing and jungle training course. The training culminated in a field day, when our ageing Officer Commanding was pried from his chair to go out with us (he is nearly 35, the oldest man in the Squadron).

Every type of country was covered. One, Signalman Fagan, stepped on a pie crust of tin tailings and was promptly covered by the country. It took several men to pull him out of the thick mud and water that lay under the apparently firm surface.

There were several well-planned ambushes and equally well-planned anti-ambush counter-attacks together with heated arguments of who shot whom. The patrol finished with a two mile patrol along a river, and this nearly finished Mr. Harrison our Second in Command who took cramp in the waters. Our Officer Commanding seemed a little hurt when during an ambush he collapsed under the water saying he had been hit. The senior Non Commissioned Officer rapidly assumed command but failed to send anyone to assist the supposedly severely wounded Officer Commanding.

However, tired, wet and muddy the Squadron returned to base after a hard but interesting day and the general feeling is that more such training would be a good thing.

Tail-piece (True). The local B.O.W.O. dump requested that their 'phone be removed. The request was passed in to an Asiatic Telecomns man for necessary action. He returned after a little while and said "he had been to the animal infirmary but they didn't know anything about a 'phone removal."

No. 3 Squadron. The past month has seen a few changes in the Squadron dispositions and personnel. The main

change is that the operators have now more opportunity to get out with the fighting units. Competition for such outstanding work is, as usual, very keen.

No. 4 Squadron. The past month has been a busy one for the Squadron. After almost six months in Temerloh, 48 Gurkha Brigade, which we serve, has moved to the State Capital, Kuala Lipis. An advance party of the Squadron, under Second-Lieutenant Ross, moved up on 12th May and the remainder followed on 20th May.

The change of scenery appears to be welcomed by all ranks. Kuala Lipis is a very small town, but after Temerloh it is a veritable metropolis. We have a cinema, a few reasonable shops, and a first-class soccer pitch. Judging by the very smart civvy clothes seen in town, there are other attractions too!

Lance-Corporal Lyons who was very badly wounded in the head during a road ambush in early March left for the U.K. in the *Empire Trooper*. All ranks wish him a good journey and a speedy return to full health. We regret the loss of a first-class sportsman and a good operator.

This month we lose six of the older hands, returning to the U.K. on completion of tour of National Service. Among these is Corporal I. Cadwallader, who leaves after two and a half years with the Squadron. We wish them all a good journey and the best of luck.

The Squadron continues to do well in the soccer world. It is good to see two M.O.R.s playing in the side as regulars and more than holding their own.

Finally we come to honours and awards. The recently published Malayan Operational Lists contained the names of three members of this Squadron: B.E.M., Sergeant D. Stopforth; Mention in Despatches, Lance-Corporal I. Sopp, Sergeant Mohd Sadiq.

We tender them our heartiest congratulations. Old-timers in the Squadron will know of Sergeant Stopforth's sterling efforts, and of Sergeant Sadiq's and Lance-Corparal Sopp's journeys to Kampong Aur and Tesak Bera respectively.

40 INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT

Hong Kong



Somehow these notes always seem to start with a criticism of the weather, probably because it occupies most of our daily conversation. However, after much research we have found something which a Hong Kong summer has in common with an English one — they occur round about the same time of year, and that's about all. After having rained almost continuously for eight days, we now find ourselves in the middle of a heatwave.

Fortunately in Cafeteria Camp, we are blessed with a magnificent beach just opposite the camp entrance, and should there ever be a fire in the Unit lines it would probably be much easier to "Call the Roll" over there.

The main topic of interest this month has been the visit of the Secretary of State for War, who carried out a somewhat swift but comprehensive tour of troops in the Colony. Representatives from all ranks of the Regiment were invited to meet the Minister to put forward the many questions they had to offer, and as the saying goes, "time will tell."

During the summer months, while the weather is a little too warm to do any full scale exercises, we are taking advantage of the many leave schemes available, perhaps the most popular being a round trip to Japan aboard one of the British India Company's normal passenger/cargo ships. The Commanding Officer, who has just returned is full of praise for the scheme, and also the fine Indian curry on board!

Our congratulations are extended to the members of 28 Infantry Brigade Signal Troop who, in keeping with the tradition of the Corps, formed the backbone of a first-class variety production, "Flying High," which was presented in the Kowloon Y.M.C.A. and thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Very little has happened on the sports field due, mainly, to the hot weather, but also, the shortage of numbers has increased the difficulty in arranging Inter-Squadron/Troop fixtures.

Stage II (The erection of Nissen Huts) is progressing favourably and the tents are gradually disappearing. It is hoped that by the time the "Typhoon" season arrives we shall all be under a solid roof.

Finally, to the "powers that be" who increased the Local Overseas Allowance recently, we say "Thank you"; no doubt this is also echoed by the resident Dairy Farm Ice Cream salesman.

GURKHA SIGNAL TRAINING AND HOLDING WING

Kuala Lumpur

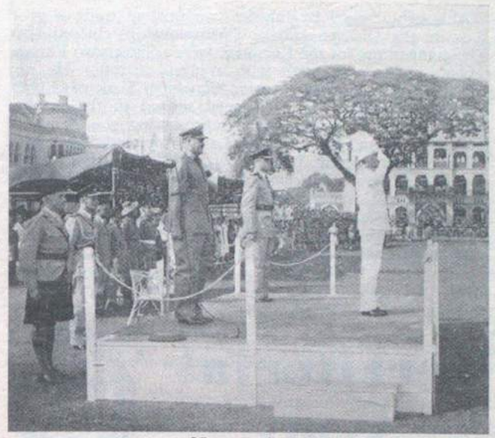
This year's King's Birthday Parade is now history for us as it was our first public appearance in any strength on a ceremonial occasion. Since the only other large contingents on the parade were from the Coldstream Guards and the Federation Police, both of whom have an enviable reputation for doing that sort of thing with a high degree of smartness and precision, a lot of practice was necessary. This did not perhaps entail blood and tears but it did entail toil and perspiration before these Officers and men selected to take part in the parade were considered ready for the dress rehearsal stage. Some difficulties were encountered in progress towards this stage; notably those of slowing down the marching pace of our Gurkha ranks to the 120 paces per minute required, and the phasing in of our rifle drill with the accentuated slow time set by the Guards. By dint of practice however, we achieved the required results and "on the day" under the critical eyes of His Excellency the High Commissioner for Malaya, Sir Henry Gurney, K.C.M.G., the G.O.C. Malaya District, Major-General R. E. Urquhart, C.B., D.S.O., and many other notabilities, Captain Parkinson and his contingent from the Wing conducted themselves with proper military proficiency and bearing. After a presentation of honours and awards by His Excellency to military personnel and civilians, the parade marched past with the Gurkha Signal Training Wing leading, to the strains of "Begone Dull Care." Our congratulations to those members of the Unit who took part, on a very good show.

We have at last received pleasant news on the subject of Gurkha pay for B.O.s and B.O.R.s. This additional pay is now awarded to British personnel of the Unit under similar conditions as those which govern the issue of extra pay to British personnel serving with Colonial troops, and long awaited as it was, the authority when it arrived gave us all a pleasant little shock.

Sporting activities this past month have continued unabated, but we confess we have little that is earth-shaking to announce concerning our efforts outside the Unit sports

Do you know the address of your local branch of the Signals Association?

If not, write to the General Secretary, 88 Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1.



[*Courtesy: Dept. of Public Relations, Malaya*

His Excellency the High Commissioner taking the salute with the G.O.C., Malaya District, and the Commissioner of Police in attendance

programme. Within the Unit everyone has a "bash" at some game or other several times a week these days, including the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess, who now joyfully descend from their Olympian heights on "Nob Hill" and give battle to the other sections of the community. With limited sports ground facilities the organisation of a programme to cover our endeavours, gave Captain Parkinson, the Sports Officer, a headache, but the resulting instructions issued to one and all were impressive to say the least. Some of the chaps after the first week's intensive sport, showed signs of strain, but since then we have settled down a little.

The Nepal Cup team continue to improve, and are almost good enough to challenge the supremacy of the B.O.R.s of the Unit. We plan to get down to some serious training now that the mixed British/Gurkha team which represents the Unit has nearly completed its Kuala Lumpur league fixtures. A training committee has been formed and given the use of a classroom and blackboard to further their efforts. This committee includes Sergeant Johnston and Lance-Corporal Smedley (recently arrived from U.K.) as the coaches.

Our pugilistic A.P.T.I., Sergeant Fisher (A.P.T.C.) continues his endeavours to raise a crop of boxers from the G.O.R.s of the Unit.

He has been joined quite recently by Sergeant Wood, a new arrival from 19 Air Formation Signals, Singapore. Both of these N.C.O.s are boxers of some repute, and with their enthusiasm and our G.O.R.s' willingness to have a crack at anything, we ought to achieve something in due course.

Sergeant Wood took part as a lightweight in competitions in Singapore during February and March, and won a runners-up medal in the Inter-Services Championships. His efforts altogether, by the way, were quite considerable, and we reckon he earned that medal—nine bouts, four wins k.o., two wins points, one lost k.o., two lost points.

Seems an awful lot of fighting to us, and yet he seems a nice quiet sort of chap really.

The B.O.R.s' Club gave a party on Sunday night (11th June) and entertained their seniors and their wives in no uncertain fashion.

Highlights of the evening were the incredible luck of Sergeant Slater at a certain game of chance and the delicious pastry and eats produced by our only representative of the A.C.C., Private Duke. We congratulate all 20 members of the Club on being excellent hosts, and please may we come again.

The Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess also have dark plans to enhance their social standing; it concerns, I understand, certain works services on a no cost basis (almost) with S.Q.M.S.s Bagent, Nichols and company producing soft lights and sweet music on a Saturday night. As long as they stick to foxtrots and rhumbas, etc., and eschew the Gurkha Nautch all will be well.

In closing, we would like to mention that our new C.S.O., Colonel E. C. Thompson, O.B.E., paid us a visit on 16th June.



B.O.R.s' Club, Gurkha Signal Training and Holding Wing. June, 1950

Top (left to right): Lance-Corporal Gray, Signalman Lundy, Corporal Henry, Corporal Smyth, Corporal Gibbs, Signalman Stass, Corporal Simpson, Corporal Bricknell, Lance-Corporal Lynch, Corporal Holloway, Lance-Corporal Smedley, Private Duke. Bottom (left to right): Lance-Corporal Edwards, Corporal Childs, Corporal McAlpine, Signalman Thompson, Captain J. I. Parkinson, Major A. C. Cox, M.B.E., Corporal Brown, Corporal Ogilvie, Lance-Corporal Doel, Corporal Yule

We welcome him to Kuala Lumpur and we hope that, once he has settled in, he will not miss the attractions of Changi too much.

SINGAPORE DISTRICT SIGNAL REGIMENT

We are told that approval for our new Barracks is just around the corner. Those of you who like the open air life of living in tents had better look slippy and get back here quickly.

As ever, "A" Squadron (the Lines Squadron) are still hard at work with maintenance and construction of communications on the island. Subversive elements on the island do not make our job any easier, we still have trouble at all the usual places, plus a few new ones. Old members of the Regiment may have some memories revived. Members of "A" Squadron have enjoyed several days on the sea surrounding this island whilst locating and under-running pre-war submarine cables. We are looking forward to the possession of a cable ship which should answer some of our present difficulties on the briny.

We are about to commence the installation of a P.A.B.X., at Selerang Barracks, as an experiment, which we hope will lead to a more economical and efficient service there.

Many new projects may commence in the near future and redoubled efforts will be asked of us.

The rehabilitation of P.L. routes on Pulau Brani which have been standing for some 15—20 years, has now become urgent and the Regiment is trying to work it in with other priorities. Poor Mr. Routine has a very thin time these days since Mr. Priority became so active.

Our football teams continue to keep our hopes on a very high plane. Even the match at Tyersall when G.H.Q. Signal Regiment trounced our senior eleven only brings home the truth that "you can't win every time." This particular game rivalled the match against the *Lancashire*, at least there was more mud in our goalmouth for the first half than there was on the whole field when the "Old Lady's" team came ashore. Sergeant Blight played a muddy fine game.

The pleasantly soft climate of this island really distinguished itself recently. Occupants of the prefabs have been envious of the new semi-permanent quarters at Pasir Panjang and Nepal Park, but the storm of a few days ago did not take the roofs off the prefabs but several of the nice new houses lost portions of roofs, rooms were flooded and, in at least one case, the family moved into the garage. Prefabites now consider dry carpets and a whole roof much better than a lock-up garage. The quarters situation on the island has vastly improved over the last few months and within reason a newcomer stands a good chance of getting into quarters before his tour ends. In the case of Other Ranks quarters, the waiting time will be reduced still further when large blocks of flats, now under construction, are completed.

The King's Birthday was very successfully celebrated on the Padang and those who attended last year's parade and have since returned home can rejoice that this year it did not rain. The Regiment was represented by a marching column of 42 men commanded by Major F. S. P. H. Lang, Royal Signals. We also supplied a contingent from our Mobile Security Column. Our Commanding Officer commanded the Army contingent on the parade; he will remember this parade for many years. He should have been in bed but decided to attend the parade and has since been heard to say "That was the first King's Birthday Parade I've seen, completely upside down, at least twice." He retired to hospital the same day and is now having a spell of "Sick in Quarters."

Although dogged by injuries, we put up quite a good show in the District Athletic Championships (placed 8th). The competitors for the Regiment were: Signalman Phipps, second in the pole vault with a jump of 10ft. He was beaten by another Signals entry, Signalman Slade of G.H.Q. Signal Regiment. He was placed second in the hurdles and stands a good chance of representing the Army in this event. Our relay team of Lance-Corporal Sabri, Signalman Darmaropala, Lance-Corporal Collier and Signalman Chan Oh Chee, came second—credit for this must go to Lance-Corporal Sabri running to 880 yards who, taking over last, nearly won.

Next year we hope to win these championships and have some very promising material.

Territorial Army

ARMY PHANTOM SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.
(The Princess Louise's Kensington Regiment)
Hammersmith

Our annual camp this year is to be at Felixstowe; the Regiment, under Lieutenant-Colonel R. Wasey, M.B.E., T.D., will carry out training from 23rd July until 6th August. The programme, which includes several 48-hour exercises, and shooting, should prove a full and interesting one. We are pleased to hear that our Honorary Colonel, General Sir H. Colville B. Wemyss, K.C.B., K.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., intends to visit the camp during the first week. We are also to be honoured with visits from the C.S.O. Eastern Command, Brigadier R. H. O. Coryton, C.B.E., and both the Chairman and Secretary of the County of London Territorial Association, during the second week.

Congratulations to Major B. R. Wood on being awarded the Territorial Decoration; his recent work as Officer i/c Training has done much to bring the standard of efficiency in the Unit to a high level.

The fourth and last of our week-end exercises, was held in the Stoke Common area early in June. The first three —"Panda," "Brumas" and "Constable," were held in the Chiltern area, Bisley and Hatfield Heath, and East Anglia respectively.

All these schemes have done much to pave the way for more ambitious exercises at camp this summer. Mistakes have been made, not once but often, only by rectifying these mistakes shall we profit by the experience and lessons learned. This we intend to do, and looking back we can claim that the week-ends have been enjoyed by all concerned.

2/20 ARMY SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.
Wanstead

We have just returned from a very successful and enjoyable camp at St. Martin's Plain, Shorncliffe, Kent.

We shared the camp with 51 L. of C. Signal Regiment and 54 and 55 Signal Squadrons, W.R.A.C. They proved to be most pleasant companions, and we were sorry when the fortnight was up and we all went our various ways.

Our distinguished visitors this year included Major-General W. R. C. Penney, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., Brigadier R. H. O. Coryton, C.B.E., Colonel J. W. Gordon and Lieutenant-Colonel H. R. Firth.

Exercise "Springboard," in which we co-operated with other Signal Regiments, proved to be of great value.

A motor coach from London brought a number of the families to the camp on 24th June and they were entertained at the Regimental Sports in the afternoon. A highlight was the tug-of-war competition. Twenty-two stone Signalman Doe, a recent recruit, was the anchor for the H.Q. team. It is rumoured that some of his own team had to pull in the wrong direction to keep some sort of equilibrium. Man in rear rank: "Why wasn't he posted to a Squadron instead of being kept on H.Q. till after the sports?"

Mrs. L. H. Gentry gindly consented to present the prizes. These ranged from silver tankards to a small glass snail. The latter prize was presented to the Adjutant for occupying a somewhat rearward position in the Officers' handicap race. He has placed it on his mantelpiece with his only other sports trophy—a china duck (lame).

The Officers' billets were somewhat disorganised at times by the depredations of an animal reputed to be a "blind monkey." After rescuing certain portions of his bedding from the roof of his hut, the writer decided that it was perhaps time this myopic biped packed his kit and returned to the jungle.

Captain Les. Hammerson took his usual ciné film at camp. The "rushes" are very promising, and after titling and editing the film will be released to the general public ("A" Certificate).

1/20 (SM) ARMY SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.
Birmingham

The second batch of National Servicemen who passed through our Drill Hall on 6th July are pretty good types. We shall be glad to have them as T.A. volunteers when they have had time to think about it.

Annual camp is almost up on us and the advance party will be on its way to Castle Martin, Pembrokeshire, on 26th July. The main body will follow on 29th—and "the best of luck." They will need it. One hundred and seventy miles is a fair run for a convoy even if they break the journey at Hereford. Now there's a town. When the old 48th were there in 1940 we used to . . .

Uncle Alf: Get on. This is 1950.

We shall of course, have more news of camp in our next instalment.

The annual church parade on 25th June was one of those very pleasant functions which people are so sorry they missed. We should have been glad to see more members of the Signals Association. They were invited. More apathy I guess. The service in the Drill Hall was conducted by Canon Barton of Coleshill, an old pre-war friend of ours. Among the guests we were glad to welcome Brigadier and Mrs. E. V. McCormack, Brigadier and Mrs. E. A. James and Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. D. G. Collins. Brigadier James is now our Honorary Colonel and in that capacity he inspected the parade which consisted of members of our own Unit, Army Cadet Force and Air Training Corps.

An A.T.C. drum and trumpet band of girls played on the square after the parade. A fine sight. The sound of the trumpets . . .

Uncle Alf: Those things were bugles.

Me: Oh! I didn't notice what they were blowing.

No. 1 Squadron is rapidly getting organised at Binley Camp, Coventry, where Sergeant F. Carter is begging, borrowing but, I trust, not stealing, all sorts of things to improve the amenities there. And now, owing to a technical hitch over which we have no control we shall have to leave you. As though I should apologise. Ha! BARLEUX

107 (ULSTER) INDEPENDENT INFANTRY BRIGADE GROUP SIGNAL SQUADRON, T.A.

The Squadron has just returned from a fortnight's camp in North Wales, where they were in camp with 53rd (Welch) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment (T.A.).

Despite the fact that the winds and rains of Wales tried to make the tented camp unpleasant, an excellent fortnight's training was carried out by all.



[Courtesy: Birmingham Post & Mail

Our Ulster tongues hesitated somewhat at the formidable list of Welsh names, but we were much cheered when one of our Welsh comrades confessed that there were quite a few names he could not pronounce himself!

The Drivers and D.R.s underwent a rigorous course under S.Q.M.S. Escott and the majority of them were successful at a Trade Board held at the end of camp.

The operators were able to see the fruits of their training when they took part in a two-day exercise with the 53rd (Welch) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A., and the experience thus gained will be invaluable to them. Unfortunately an Operators' Trade Board could not be completed, but we have high hopes of an increase in our tradesmen in the near future.

We should like to convey our appreciation of their assistance to Lieutenant-Colonel G. B. Stevenson and the Officers and N.C.O.s of 53rd (Welch) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A.

Now that we are back at home we are putting in some hard "square bashing" in preparation for the review of the Territorial Army in Ulster by Her Majesty the Queen on 15th July.

63 H.Q. (L. OF C.) SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.
Wilton

Take 100 assorted T.A. "bods" mixed well with 70 W.R.A.C.s, place in a well constructed camp such as Penhale, season with a sprinkling of Regular instructors and allow to simmer for a couple of weeks in warm June sunshine and you have the ingredients for a successful camp.

That was the general opinion of those attending the annual camp of 63 H.Q. L. of C. Signal Regiment, T.A., at Penhale Camp, Newquay. Set in beautiful surroundings with glorious sands and bathing second to none, with Newquay only seven miles away, two weeks soon passed, especially as most people found themselves trying to do at least three jobs in the time normally allowed for one. Most of us found that 26-hour days were the only solution.

The units taking part were 15 Wireless Squadron (Plymouth), 90 A.G.R.A. (Reading), 26 Engineer Group (Salisbury), and 56 Squadron (W.R.A.C.). Regular officers from War Office, Vistre, Catterick, and other training establishments, entered into the spirit of the T.A. and worked with a will to give us the maximum benefit during the short time available.

Apart from trade training and a 48-hour exercise, personnel were given a very intensive course of lectures by such experts as the S.R.D.E. staff, Combined Ops representatives, Signals Records and the C.S.O., Brigadier Kennett.

So that time did not hang too heavily on our hands, there were D.R. trials, operating tests, cricket matches, football matches, netball, infantry night exercises, concert rehearsals, tabloid sports, swimming parades and, horror upon horror, an Officers' Trade Test.

It will be seen that all available time was taken up, although it is said that two or three men actually got outside camp one evening.

The girls deserve a special word of praise. Their general turnout and smartness on parade made many an old soldier open his eyes with surprise. In all their activities be it drill, games or operational role, their smartness and efficiency were most praiseworthy. Well done the W.R.A.C.

Starting with infantry work, we progressed via a series of highly technical lectures to our more normal role in a 48-hour exercise, where astonishing things happened, but where much was learnt, even by people who should have known better.

The sponsor unit did a fine job in running the camp and putting on some excellent meals. They put up an unbeaten soccer team and won the tabloid sports by a short head from 15 Wireless Squadron. Bridgwater Troop (W.R.A.C.) were the best W.R.A.C. Troop.

The D.R. trials were won by 15 Wireless Squadron. The operating test and the football shield was won by 26 Engineer Group Signal Troop; 15 Wireless Squadron won the trophy for the best all-round Squadron and also provided a guard of honour for G.O.C. Salisbury Plain District —Major-General F B. de Fonblanque, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O.

Thanks to Jimmie Walke and his music several excellent dances were arranged. There were, of course, those classic evenings—Officers at home to Warrant Officers and Sergeants and *vice versa*. The less said about those the better.

Our final day was a memorable one, chiefly because we were losing our first Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel D. J. Goldsmith. It was due to his drive and enthusiasm (and accessibility) that 63 H.Q. L. of C. Signal Regiment was formed and made into a first-rate formation. The way of a Regular C.O. in a T.A. Unit is strewn with thorns, and great credit must be given to Colonel Goldsmith for the way in which he kept the iron hand well inside the velvet glove.

During our two weeks we saw quite a lot of his successor, Lieutenant-Colonel S. F. P. Wolferstan. We were going to like him and count ourselves fortunate in having such a C.O. and we wish him a very happy stay with 63 H.Q.

To return to the final day—a parade with the Band of the Royal Tank Regiment was held in the morning. In the afternoon, in ideal weather and surroundings, Visitors' Day saw the annual feud, Officers versus Warrant Officers and Sergeants at cricket. The match was won this year by the latter.

In the evening came the concert—and what a concert. Captain (Q.M.) Freddie Spearpoint had done a wonderful job arranging and rehearsing the cast. Whereas most people in camp were bronzed and sunburnt, he was pale and worn through spending his days in the theatre.

Helped by the Band of the Royal Tank Regiment the show really went with a swing—the W.R.A.C. in their "Nigger Minstrel" and "Can Can" numbers were grand, but the highlight of all was 15 Wireless Squadron's "Omlet



[Courtesy: Charles Woolf, Newquay

Some of the winning team at Tabloid Sports

The Bridgwater Can-Can Girls



[Courtesy: Charles Woolf, Newquay

of Hamlet." It will be a long time before the sight of "Mac" McDonald as the fair and lovely Ophelia fades from our memories. The best individual performance went to Sergeant Joy Alderman (W.R.A.C.). Her songs with Jimmie Walke at the piano nearly brought the house down.

The concert was followed by an all ranks dance which went on until the small hours, the music was provided first by the Royal Tank Regiment and then by Jimmie and his band, and so ended T.A. camp, 1950. General impressions were : very strenuous but very instructive and enjoyable.

56 SIGNAL SQUADRON, W.R.A.C., T.A.
Bridgwater

Troops from Bridgwater, Exeter, Salisbury and Southampton joined together again this year and went to Camp with 63 L of C Signal Regiment T.A. at Penhale in Cornwall.

How did we cram so much into a fortnight? Except when there had been night exercises, the day started with P.T. at 0645hrs., which certainly wakened everybody up thoroughly. After breakfast the whole Squadron was out on Drill parade, and practice at this throughout the fortnight showed gratifying results when the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel D. J. Goldsmith took the salute on the morning of Friday, 16th June.

Trade training was carried out until 3 or 4 p.m. Our one clerk, one cook and one medical orderly were not heard to complain this year of too much time on their hands. Switchboard operators had some practical training on the PBX installed for camp, and they joined the T.P.Os in lectures and practice as Signal Office clerks. The climax of this side of training was the 48 hour exercise in which W.R.A.C. personnel worked at Army and Corps Headquarters. Their work was somewhat hampered by a series of technical hitches but at least they learned of a number of the difficulties that can arise for Signals. Lieutenant Bushrod, W.R.A.C. (T.A.), and the girls who worked with her at Corps are not likely to forget their musty barn and the farmyard smells! They had real cause to complain when the night shift personnel found that haversack rations had been issued without due preparation. Those eggs SHOULD have been hard boiled!

The inter-Troop netball matches were played again and the trophy passed from Bridgwater to Southampton after an exciting struggle. To make up for this one of the Bridgwater teams was successful in the Tabloid sports. That was an enjoyable but strenuous afternoon which resulted in overtime for the Medical Reception Station—patching up cuts, bruises and sprains. Private Trownson, of Southampton, won the honour of being the first to reach the top of the greasy pole.

The biggest laugh of the sports events came on the middle Saturday when the Squadron accepted a challenge from the Royal Signals officers to play a cricket match in costume. The improvised dresses did nothing to improve the standard of the game but after a hilarious match we were the victors by one run.

It was not possible to have a whole day's flying with the R.A.F. at St. Eval as we had hoped, but from members of the Squadron who did go up we received glowing reports of the experience.

Shooting and fencing were fitted into the evening's programmes. There was general regret that there was not more time for these activities. We must definitely have a month at camp next year! The end of this one came all too soon. The last evening was a major event, when the Squadron was well represented in the camp concert. Much hard work had gone into rehearsals to produce such a fine performance. Any remaining high spirits in the Bridgwater troop should have been spent in the high kicks of the Can Can, but judging by the dance that followed there were still plenty to spare. It was hard to recognise the Southampton girls behind their disguise as nigger minstrels, but we know they were all there. A clever "television" item was given by two members of the Salisbury troop, who took on professional night club voices and made the audience forget the gramophone behind the scenes. Private Humphries' songs were even more successful than last year and we hope she has a chance soon of a much larger audience.

All ranks of 56 Signal Squadron would like to send hearty thanks to the regular W.R.A.C. personnel who joined in our sports and social events as well as giving us such excellent assistance in training and regimental duties. We found a very useful cricket coach in Captain Thomas, W.R.A.C., who came to give up-to-date training in Regimental duties. R.S.M. Mackay helped us enormously towards standards of drill and discipline of a regular unit. Corporal Jones put us through the paces at P.T. as gently as she could and kept the sports programme running. Sergeant Alderman gave practical help in running a Signal Office and proved a great asset at the concert. Our thanks too to Lance-Corporal Langden and Private Speight who worked in the M.R.S. and nursed the halt and lame back to health.

To depart from the W.R.A.C. for a moment, we would like to thank Captain Carrol, Royal Signals, for the expert advice he gave in training and for his gentle treatment of the W.R.A.C. in his capacity as D.S. on the exercise. The officers (W.R.A.C.) have no doubt made their own comments already.

We list him, too, as a great asset to the W.R.A.C. cricket team.

We do hope that all the Regular Army personnel enjoyed their stay as much as we enjoyed having them.

In conclusion, the Squadron would like to take this oppor-

tunity of sending very best wishes to the departing Commanding Officer of 63 H.Q. L. of C. Signal Regiment, T.A., through whose efforts we have benefited from two excellent camps. We hope that Lieutenant-Colonel Wolferstan will have our cause as much at heart, and allow us to join his Regiment at camp next year.

44 (H.C.) INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

Stamford Brook, W.6

The sun is shining brightly, there is a pleasant breeze, and the Regiment is in camp for annual training. To those people who have not been to the Stanford Practical Training Area, and who sooner or later will pass this way, let me assure them that, if one must train in the back of the beyond periodically it is one of the best places to spend a couple of weeks that I have encountered.

To help us with our training we have the very able assistance of Captain Charles Walton and his Troop from Eastern Command Signal Regiment. Charles Walton has given us a lot of help and we would like Colonel Barker to know how much we appreciate this gesture.

We wish, also, to thank the Commanding Officer of the War Office Signal Regiment and the Officer Commanding London District Signal Squadron for loaning us personnel.

Captain S. J. Williams has been commanding No. 3 Squadron for some months. He has now been promoted and we congratulate "Bill" on attaining his majority for a second time. Incidentally "Bill" really is most energetic, at six in the morning he can be seen with George Philips, the Adjutant, playing with a medicine ball, and at seven one sees him returning to the Officers' Lines with Ted Hughes (who is working with the Adjutant) after an early morning swim.

Two good stories worth recording. The first about a wireless operator—no names, no pack drill. "The cable wasn't quite long enough to reach the table where it had been decided to put the remote control unit. Without further ado the operator took a length of twisted D3 and tied, in the manner one ties most knots, the ends together. It was fortunate that a lineman was passing at the time. He was able, when he recovered, to instruct the operator in the correct method of making a field joint."

My second story concerns Bill West. Now Captain West is the Officers' Mess Secretary and is also Catering Officer, so I suppose one could hardly blame him for choosing a room in the Mess in preference to a bell tent, which is the traditional living accommodation for all officers of this Regiment when in camp.

On Sunday night there was the worst storm I have ever known, and no doubt a number of the officers were wondering how long it would be before the torrential rain and lightning or a thunderbolt forced them into the field. When the storm was abating Bill suddenly appeared in a mac and gumboots absolutely drenched. He had come out in the most paternal manner to see if we were all right. Poor Bill had been flooded out.

62 H.Q. L. OF C. SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

Chester

Hello! we're still here, alive and kicking. At one time it was understood that we were to be disbanded with the reorganisation of the T.A. Tears were shed amidst muttered curses, and then, hey presto! came the glad news that we had been given a new lease of life. So here we are again.

Since our last contribution there have been changes. Firstly, the R.S.M., Mr. Dawson, has left us for No. 7 Selection Regiment. Good luck, "Jerry," in your new duties. We have also reluctantly said farewell to our Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel K. F. Woodham, T.D., who has retired to civvy street. Our very best wishes go with him.

We welcome to the Unit our new Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel T. W. Boileau, O.B.E., who took over his appointment in May, and we hope he will enjoy his stay with us.

We are now busy making preparations for this year's annual camp at Castle Martin but, despite the hustle and bustle our Sergeants' Mess have still found time to win the Western Command Billiards League. The final play-off against the Royal Pioneer Corps Sergeants' Mess proved a most exciting battle. Cups and pewter tankards were awarded to the winning team. Congratulations on a good show.

Our congratulations also to the Adjutant, Captain L. S. Bamber, who again represented the Corps in tennis matches; incidentally, Captain L. S. Bamber has also recently been granted his Short Service Regular Commission.

43 (WESSEX) INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

Taunton

The Regiment has just returned from its third annual camp which was held this year at Penhale, near Newquay, in Cornwall from 18th June to 2nd July.

If it was a bit remote and the weather was not all it might have been we succeeded in completing a very full programme. Photographs showing the very large attendance will be available before next month's publication.

Now we are back and settling down again to another year's hard work and training; and also to making welcome the N.S. men posted to the Unit. Of these we have already received 15—a good bunch of chaps who seem keen to make a success of their time with the T.A.

It seems a pity, however, that they are so abysmally ignorant of what the T.A. is and does. Quite a number are under the impression that doing "drills" consists of a weekly dose of square bashing in the Drill Hall.

May we assure them that this is far from the truth and that they will find in the T.A. in general, and in this Regiment in particular a hearty welcome and a useful interesting job to do.

10 AIR SUPPORT SIGNAL UNIT, T.A.

Southampton

Since the last contribution from this Unit appeared, three weekend exercises have been held. For the first, in March, we joined forces with the Army Phantom Signal Regiment, T.A., for a Signal reporting scheme, which was a pleasant change, and gave much useful experience in medium distance W.T. working to our tentacle crews.

In April we ran a R.T. and Codes scheme in the form of a radio-directed treasure hunt, to which there was a most exciting finish, when two detachments arrived at their last points simultaneously. Without doubt the masterpiece of the day was a clue in the form of a rhyming couplet, completely encoded in Slidex, for which Captain English was responsible.

For the third weekend, held in June, we looked further afield, and with the co-operation of 3 A.S.S.U. in B.A.O.R., held a most enjoyable and successful long distance air support exercise. Army/Air H.Q. was located at Herford in B.A.O.R., and worked to our tentacles in the Southampton area. We have no doubt that the Kremlin must have been much impressed by our imaginary air power, and not least by the refusal of the Air Staff to order the attack on a certain target on the grounds that it was a war crime to destroy a pub!

The main object of the exercise was to see how our operators would fare when working with those of 3 A.S.S.U., in view of the forthcoming attachment of a party to 3 A.S.S.U. in B.A.O.R. for the autumn manoeuvres. The answer was, we think, quite encouraging, and we hope that 3 A.S.S.U. will now view our visit with less trepidation than they might otherwise have done.

The permanent staff, and a few who are unable to get away in September to go to B.A.O.R., have recently returned from camp with 63 H.Q. L. of C. Signal Regiment (T.A.), at Penhale. The Officers' Mess, under the direction of the joint Mess Secretaries, Captains Hone and English, was again in the hands of 10 A.S.S.U. No more need be said. Several other members also managed to get to Penhale for the last weekend, the O.C. by plane, and others by an equally swift means in Signalman Pearlberg's car!

The hockey team finished their season in April. Many good games were played, but we think it better to draw a veil over the summary of results. S.Q.M.S. Bourner again ably captained the team, and although supported by a good defence in Signalman Ludford and Lance-Corporal Whitemore, found lack of shooting power in the forwards the biggest difficulty.

At the T.A. Centre, the fitting out of training rooms has been completed, and we have taken over eight bays in the newly erected garages, in place of the ramshackle structure made from old aircraft packing cases, which has been the rather damp and dreary home of our transport to date.

Our efforts are now being directed to preparations for the annual inspection, and for our attachment in B.A.O.R.

4 ARMOURED REPLACEMENT GROUP SIGNAL SQUADRON, T.A.

Bristol

Chairs scuffed back and glances were exchanged as the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Goldsmith, announced what was, unfortunately, an anti-climatic statement regarding the future of the Unit. The local Press had already informed us that this Unit was to disappear in favour of No. 3 Squadron, 43rd (Wessex) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment. It is believed that the present personnel in their entirety will follow Major Keeling to his new command. This is regarded as a certainty after his statement that the usual round of weekend camps and schemes and exercises would continue, almost as before, especially after transfer to our new camp at Filton.

Signalman Stainthorpe informs us that the laying of lines at the new camp may now be safely (?) left in his hands, after his recent success at a trade board. Further additions to the nominal roll have come in the form of Captain Cook at Bristol and Signalmen Powell and Evans at Bath who have enlisted and proved ardent attenders. All of which pleases Sergeant Mellors when thinking of returning from schemes in the Bath area. No doubt the Cheltenham troop of Sergeants Mitchell and Barrat, will devise additional schemes to Bath, on the lines of the recent one under Major Keeling's auspices. All present voted for a repeat dinner performance by the O.C., but 2 o'clock came and the scheme had to go on, although Signalman Cotterell was still eating.

Training of Army Cadets has been in vogue for the past six weeks with creditable success for the cadets, but loss of hair (he can afford it) for Sergeant Emery. Sergeant Hewlett remains busily aloof, immersed in the construction of his T.V. set, which we hope will shortly be completed. S.S.M.s Hayer and Williams carry on sturdily, and although the latter will nominally be lost to us on our move, it is hoped that he will remain with us for a long time to come.

And speaking of the time to come, it's now time to go.

Looking forward to our new role,

We were,

4th Armoured Replacement Group Signal Squadron.

Association Notes

Tunbridge Wells and District

By the time these notes appear in print, all Branches of the Association will have received a nucleus supply of tickets for the Members' Draw, organised by this Branch, for the Cesarewitch (1950) Stakes. These have been circulated in the fond and certain hope that our sister Branches will assist us by disposing of as many tickets as possible, thus helping us in our high endeavour to acquire CAPITAL.

Yes! we aspire to big business in the realm of Entertainment.

Our ambition is to organise, in the first place, a Grand Signals Ball in Tunbridge Wells and to devote the whole of the proceeds to the Royal Signals Benevolent Fund and afterwards, to arrange a series of dances at various points in the Branch area, such as Uckfield, Crowborough, Tonbridge and Sevenoaks, throughout the forthcoming season, with the dual object of sustaining a lively Branch interest and, at the same time, raising funds for the Benevolent cause. Such is our vision and, with the team spirit extant amongst our members, there is not the slightest doubt about the issue.

It is with very great pleasure we welcome the advent of the Eastern Command Signal Regiment to our Branch area. Maresfield Park is "Jimmy's" home and, although a goodly part of his playground has been utilised for providing homes for the civilian population, it is nice to know that there is still a corner where he can "kip" down.

We would pass a friendly warning, however, to the Eastern Command Signal Regiment, that their new site is undoubtedly haunted, and if they *should* hear "skirlin's an' groanin's o' nights," it may not be the Pleistocene Piltdown Man looking for his skull; but more probably one of the members of the old High Rip Gang "thanking the Deity we have a Navy." Still, Maresfield is a delectable spot and holds a lot of happy memories for those of us who were privileged to witness and experience the birth of a Corps destined to be the "eyes and ears" of the British Army. We wish the very best of luck to all members of the E.C. Signals, and would say that we hope to get a party of Old Comrades together to pay them a visit shortly.

At the Branch monthly meeting, held on 5th July 1950, a hearty welcome was accorded to our new Vice-President, Lieutenant-Colonel T. H. Winterborn. Four new members were enrolled, bringing Branch strength up to 52.

Footnote.—New laid eggs are realising 30/- doz. just now (including decorated basket).

Birmingham

I see that Ukann Larfe's old friend, Lord Elpas, has got himself into a radio programme. There is no end to the things people will do to make money nowadays. There is also no end to the things they will do to avoid spending it. Now tell me that there isn't much money about. Go on. Tell me. I'll tell you instead. There is a lot of money about though I do agree with you that if you want to buy something you NEED a lot of money. I will make an exception in the case of the tickets for our annual summer dance. This dance was arranged to take place in the Botanical Gardens on 30th June at 10/6 a head including buffet supper. So few people supported the project that the committee had to cut their losses and cancel the whole thing. Naturally we had the support of the usual loyal members some of whom bought tickets whether they intended to come or not. Alas, this enthusiastic band by

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itself was not enough to carry the show through. It makes you think.

What a happy crowd we had at the monthly meeting on Thursday, 29th June. Several new faces and more of the old ones than we've seen for some time. Someone told me an awfully good story about a beautiful princess who was wandering in the woods . . .

Uncle Alf: Not here, please.

Me: Oh!

Surely you can see how pleased your friends are when you walk in, or don't you notice?

One of the things that always strikes me at the Branch meetings is that no one ever talks about things that are uninteresting. We do not have to force ourselves to listen patiently. You all know those interminable monologues where you get your face frozen into a faint smile while you think "Why the devil is he telling me all this?" No sir. There is a sparkle about the conversation at our meetings. Probably because no one hesitates to interrupt an over long sentence or to switch the subject from the Canal Zone to Monte Cassino without apology. I have never been close enough to our few ex-A.T.S. members to discover what they talk about. It could be the nylon racket or the price of nail varnish. Or even a learned discussion on glow-worms, especially those to be found in the Bicester lanes at midnight.

It must be nearly a month since I reminded you that our meetings take place at 8 p.m. in the Crown Inn, Broad Street, on the last Thursday in the month. Don't make silly excuses. Just come.

Now I will tell you about the Signals reunion and general meeting at Catterick on 22nd/23rd July. Once again we had a most . . .

Uncle Alf: Today being the 13th July, you haven't been yet fathead.

Me: Why don't you keep out of this?

I forgot what else I was going to tell you this month, but perhaps you are not reading this anyway. Most embarrassing and really rather rude of you. You might have told me that you were reading notes from 1/20 Army Signal Regiment, T.A., all this time.

BARLEUX

ROYAL SIGNALS BENEVOLENT FUND

	£	s.	d.
Subscription received during June, 1950:			
3 Training Regiment	13	2	3
4 Training Regiment	10	0	0
7 Selection Regiment	17	3	8
2 A.A. (M) Signal Regiment	9	0	0
Singapore District Signal Regiment	11	9	10
Donations received during June, 1950:			
Athens Area Signal Troop	23	19	5
Mauritian Signal Wing	25	16	2
B.A.O.R. Signal Regiment		9	0
H.Q. Officers' Mess, Catterick	2	12	2
Birmingham Branch	20	0	0
Total Receipts—June, 1950	£133	12	6
Expenditure during June, 1950 (includes General Assistance; Rent, Rates and Insurance; Cots and Prams; Beds and Bedding; Furniture; Clothing; Removals; Fares; Rehabilitation; Tools; Convalescence; Legal Costs).	£707	12	0
Analysis of cases:			
Families of Soldiers serving in U.K.			7
ditto B.A.O.R.			1
ditto M.E.L.F.			1
Widows and Dependants			6
Released and Discharged Soldiers			61
Total cases assisted			76

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THE WIRE

The Corps Magazine of the
ROYAL SIGNALS

The Official Organ of the
SIGNALS ASSOCIATION

All correspondence and matter for publication for "The Wire" should be addressed to The Editor, "The Wire," 88 Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1. Matter for publication must be received by the 15th of the month preceding publication.

Remittances should be made payable to: Royal Signals Association. Subscription rates (post free, except air mail): Twelve months, 10s.; single month, 1s.

☆

SEPTEMBER • 1950

Vol. 4 *New Series* **No. 9**

☆

PRICE: ONE SHILLING

Editorial

LIKE all Editors we are always glad to receive helpful suggestions, and where practicable to adopt them. During the last two years we have accepted various innovations at the suggestion of our readers, but very few of them have evoked any enthusiastic response. For our short story competition, which offered a money prize, we received only TWO entries. The competition for photogenic members of the then A.T.S. produced only one group photograph; and how few suitable photographs have been submitted for use on the cover! Of those published so far, only ONE was submitted as a cover picture, the remainder having been extracted from those sent in to illustrate articles published, or produced by the Sub-Editor.

Among our latest ventures is a column of Births, Marriages and Deaths, entries for which we requested should be submitted on a separate sheet of paper, and give full particulars. We still have to sort these out from the text of Unit notes, in many cases woefully lacking in detail, so that in the case of a birth we sometimes have only rank and surname of the happy father, no date, and no names of the infant.

A Ham Radio column was another suggestion, but if you will not supply the information, we cannot publish it. We shall require call sign, frequencies, whether Morse or speech, times of working (in G.M.T., please), name of operator or club. We can then produce a useful Ham Radio Directory which can be kept up to date if you will notify us of any relevant changes.

PERSONAL COLUMN

Nearly all will agree that it is inappropriate to publish long lists of undistinguished people who "have recently left us for civvy street," at the same time the movements of those older and better known should be noticed.

It is possible for the Editor to list postings of Officers within and to and from the United Kingdom, but he cannot without help list the postings of Officers anywhere else.

He has no source of information of the postings of the almost more important senior Warrant Officers and Non-Commissioned Officers.

At the same time we all want to know where our friends are, and Unit notes are not the place in which to put the information.

We appeal, therefore, to correspondents to let us have entries for the personal column which will be devoted mostly to the movements of individuals and their families.

The information should be given separately to "Unit Notes," and for obvious reasons should be limited to the elderly and/or distinguished.

OBITUARY

Brigadier F. A. HEYMANN, O.B.E.

It is with a great sense of shock that his very many friends in Royal Signals learned in the newspapers of the sudden death of Brigadier F. A. Heymann, O.B.E., on 16th August, 1950.

As reported in the newspapers, he was shooting over the moors near his home at Bedale when he collapsed and died.

Aged 68, he belonged to an older generation, and his appointments as a senior officer included Chief Signal Officer, Northern Command, India, in the late '20's, followed by Commandant, Signal Training Centre, in the 1930's.

He attended the church parade of the Old Comrades' Reunion in Catterick on 23rd July.

The deepest sympathy of his many friends will go to Mrs. Heymann and the family.

THE SIGNALMAN

The July number of *The Signalman* contains, amongst other matters of interest, a most excellent account of the first reunion of the Corps of Signals of the Dominion of India. A number of Officers of Royal Signals received invitations to attend but distance prevented them doing so, nearly all of them, however, wrote giving good wishes to their old comrades of the Indian Signal Corps. Space does not permit republication of the names, photographs or any great account of what occurred.

A list follows of the retired Viceroy's Commissioned Officers who were present. It is amongst them that we are most likely to meet old friends, and we are sure that the other serving and retired members of the Corps, both senior and junior will take no offence at our selecting this small number.

Sub-Majors (Hony. Capts.) Chagga Singh Sardar Bahadur, O.B.I., R. Pachanada Bahadur, O.B.I., Mohd Sahad Khan Sardar Bahadur, M.B.E., O.B.I. (A.D.C.), Joginder Singh Bahadur, M.B.E., O.B.I. R. Seshachalam, M.B.E., Shiv Singh Bahadur, O.B.I.; Subedars Ahmed Badsha, G. Moses, M.B.E., Asa Ram Bahadur, O.B.I., I.D.S.M., D. Narayanswami, O.B.I.; Jemadars Gulaba, A. George, I.D.S.M.

An account by Colonel C. L. Day of the career of the late Subedar Major (Hon. Capt.) Abdur Rashid Bahadur, O.B.I., which extended from 1897 to 1928, also appears.

DINNER CLUB FIXTURES, 1950

T.A. Officers' Tea Party, 9th December.

Buffet Supper Reunion, 9th December.

Both at Hyde Park Hotel. Information from Secretary, Royal Signals Dinner Club, Room 97, Horse Guards, S.W.1.

Notices are being sent out during September, but readers of THE WIRE are most earnestly asked to inform their friends of these two affairs. Both are popular, both could be attended by many more officers and ex-officers to the enjoyment of themselves and their friends.

APOLOGIA

When publishing in August the first part of Mr. E. Husbands' article on "Frequency Modulation," it was known that the Signals Research and Development Establishment, who were sponsoring the article, were indeed in some slight difficulty on grounds of security in publishing certain information contained in the second half of the article which it was proposed to publish in September.

Most unfortunately a variety of circumstances have made it impossible for the author to revise the second half of the article in time for publication in September. It is hoped that it will be published in October.

It is always difficult to serialise an article of this nature, and it is admittedly a bad practice to let a number appear in the middle of a serialised article.

Fortunately, the current number of *Signal*, the journal of the Armed Forces Communications Association of the United States of America contains an interesting article on "Operation Sweetbriar" which we are permitted to republish. This may for all we know be rather apposite to the times in which we live.

The article is entitled "Signals in an Arctic Maneuver," and is by Colonel Glenn H. Palmer, to whom go our grateful thanks.

ROYAL SIGNALS BROADCAST

It is expected that the B.B.C. Midland Region will broadcast a programme devoted to Royal Signals on Thursday, 7th December.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Major-General C. H. H. Vulliamy, C.B., D.S.O., writes to the Editor:

"Sir,—I believe that the miserable pittance in the way of a 'Compassionate allowance' on which an officer's widow is expected to exist and the meagre pensions accorded to officers on retirement are too well known to require further comment here.

"The Officers' Pensions Society was brought into being three years ago as a new idea, a fighting body, to combat these conditions chiefly by bringing pressure to bear on the authorities. The main factor which the latter recognise is numbers, as the greater the numbers the more active the campaign and the greater the effect on public opinion. So far the membership is about 3,000, we want to double this.

"There are probably retired officers in the Corps who read THE WIRE and who would be interested in fighting for themselves, no one else will do it for them, and wives of serving officers who may someday be widows, who would like to try and better the position of officers' widows. Any such should write to the Secretary, The Officers' Pensions Society, c/o Gale and Polden, Ideal House, Argyll Street, Oxford Circus, London, W.1., for details of membership."

* * *

Brigadier A. C. Sykes, C.B.E., D.S.O., writes to the Editor:

Dear Sir,—Few things have given me greater pleasure than your article on Lieutenant-Colonel Jiwan Singh, who was my Subadar-Major when I was commanding 3rd Indian Divisional Signals in 1935 and 1936.

Having passed exams in that language before the first world war, I naturally restudied Urdu before sailing for India at the beginning of 1935, so that I could greet the Indian Officers, N.C.O.s and men on arrival in Meerut.

As the three preceding commanding officers spoke no word of that language, you can well imagine the effect, and as long as I live I shall never forget the expression on the faces of the Indian Officers when I first greeted them. From that moment no word of English ever passed Jiwan Singh's lips when speaking to me, except occasionally to translate an unusual word, although his English was as good as mine and his English handwriting much better. He knew at once that the more Urdu I spoke, the more everyone else, including myself, would be pleased.

It was not long before I noticed the more flowery idiom, again his perfect politeness, when talking to me. What might be a mere "atcha bandobast" for the other officers, was for his Commanding Officer a "Khub intizam"!

I doubt whether any Indian Officer has ever been a greater influence for good throughout the long history of the Indian Army, and I can myself vouch for his exceptional religious tolerance. In a mixed unit of Sikhs and P.M.s he was liked better by the latter than some of their own I.O.s.

I still get a card from him at Christmas.

It is with the very greatest happiness that I pay tribute to one of the very finest officers that I have ever had the honour to serve under me.

* * *

Indian Signal Units held their third reunion dinner at the Charing Cross Hotel, Strand, on 27th May. Brigadier H. I. Allen, C.B.E., D.S.O., was elected President and took the chair for the evening.

A very happy evening ensued for the 62 members of the Association who were present.

Any further information about the Indian Signal Units Association and Dinner Club may be obtained from Captain W. A. Dowley, Sonny Home, Bedford Crescent, Frimley Green, Near Aldershot, Hants.

BIRTHS

GLADSTONE.—At Habbaniyah, Iraq, to Captain and Mrs. D. W. Gladstone—a son.

TUCKER.—At Hilden, B.A.O.R., to Corporal and Mrs. Tucker, 2 Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment—a son.

HOPSON.—At Hilden, B.A.O.R., to Lance-Corporal and Mrs. Hopson, 2 Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment—a son.

HAYES.—At Catterick, to S.S.M. and Mrs. Hayes, 7 Selection Regiment, on 27th July, 1950,—a son.

CLEVELEY.—At Imtarfa, Malta, on 8th August, to Major and Mrs. N. C. B. Cleveley—a daughter.

GALLIVAN.—At Catterick, to Sergeant and Mrs. Gallivan, Officer Training Wing, on 20th July, 1950—a son.

DUNKLEY.—At Catterick, to Lance-Corporal and Mrs. Dunkley, Officer Training Wing, on 6th June, 1950—a second son.

MARRIAGES

SHARPLES—ROWLEY.—Corporal Sharples, 7 Selection Regiment, to Irene Rowley, on 17th June, 1950.

WEBB—LIDDELL.—At Changi on 8th July, 1950, Corporal E. Webb, 19 Air Formation Signal Regiment to A.C.W. M. A. Liddell, W.R.A.F.

EXTRACT FROM THE LONDON GAZETTE
30th June, 1950

Balances due to Estates of Deceased Officers and Soldiers.

In pursuance of the "Regimental Debts Act, 1893," notice is hereby given that there is available for distribution amongst the next of kin or others entitled the sum of money set opposite the name of each of the deceased Officers and soldiers named in the lists which are published in this notice in the *London Gazette*. Applications from persons supposing themselves entitled as next-of-kin should be addressed by letter to "The Under Secretary of State, The War Office, Whitehall, London, S.W.1," and marked outside "Effects."

G. W. TURNER

War Office,
30th June, 1950.

List 747, Effects 1946, Maley, H., Driver i/c, £32/17/-. List 743, Effects 1943, Butler, J. H., Driver, £58/18/3; Effects 1944, Beresford, J., W/Corporal, £103/4/6. List 739, Effects 1944, Bushe, C. K., Signalman, £66/15/3; Collett, H. A., Lance-Corporal, £42/0/8. List 735, Effects 1942, Lorant, L. L., Driver, £38/12/6; Effects 1943, McCarthy, H. J., Captain, £72/4/7. List 734, Effects 1940, Brown, R. W., Signalman, £13/3/1; Higgins, C. J., Signalman, £8/0/5.

44th DIVISION 1939/1942 OLD COMRADES' RALLY, FRIDAY, 20th OCTOBER, 1950

Major-General I. T. P. Hughes, C.B., D.S.O., M.C., G.O.C. of 44th Division for a part of the war, has asked us to announce that it is proposed to repeat the 44th Old Comrades' Rally, prior to the El Alamein Reunion on Friday, 20th October, 1950.

The rally will take place at Forbes House, Halkin Street (near Hyde Park Corner), London, S.W.1, between 17.00 hours and 18.30 hours. "Supper snacks" and tea will be provided, and there will be a fully licensed bar.

The timing of the rally will enable ex-members of 44th Division who were at El Alamein to get together before proceeding to the Empress Hall, Earl's Court, for the El Alamein Reunion, but it is emphasised that the RALLY is for ALL ex-members of the Division and not only for those who took part in the Battle of El Alamein.

Wives or lady friends of ex-members of the Division are invited.

Tickets, 3/6 each, are obtainable from: The Adjutant, 257 (H.C.) Field Regiment, R.A. (T.A.), Drill Hall, Church Street, Brighton, and a cheque or postal order should accompany all applications.

OF INTEREST IN THIS NUMBER

The front cover depicts the Semi Auto Room at the War Office and demonstrates the world wide activity of the War Office Signal Regiment.

For rather more than a year we have been publishing pictures of some of our more beautiful film stars, but on page 343 of this number we have a photograph which we feel in its very special way conveys to those of us serving overseas something of the very spirit of England. The portrait is of Mr. A. Henson, and the location—the White Hart Hotel, Witley, Surrey.

Her Royal Highness, the Colonel in Chief, has recently honoured the Signals Research and Development Establishment with a visit. This is described on page 340.

Yeoman Warder G. A. E. Gavey continues his series of articles on the "English Regalia" on page 345.

A report of the recent Royal Review at Belfast upon which Her Majesty the Queen presented colours to three Irish Territorial Battalions appears on page 350.

"Signals in an Arctic Maneuver" by Colonel Glenn H. Palmer, U.S. Army Signal Corps, at page 336, shows that our friends of the Signal Corps and our cousins of the Royal Canadian Corps of Signals are well aware of certain probable aspects of a future war.

In the notes from the East Africa Branch on page 375 appears an interesting description of a visit paid by the members of the branch to a coffee farm.

The report of the Old Comrades' Association Annual General Meeting is at page 368, with the accounts of the Royal Signals Association at page 372.

RESIDENTIAL CLUB FOR RETIRED SERVICE OFFICERS

Unmarried or widower retired Officers nowadays find it difficult to get accommodation they can afford.

With this in view a retired senior Officer has acquired an hotel on the Norfolk coast for retired Service Officers as permanent residents.

The property is situated in one acre of grounds overlooking the sea, in the healthiest part of England, 10 minutes from golf course, and with facilities for most sports near at hand.

Here retired Officers will find, in their own atmosphere, real comfort, excellent catering and complete valet service, including laundry, and care of linen and clothes at an inclusive fee of from £5/5/- to £7/7/- per week, according to room. Two comrades sharing large bedroom at reduced rates.

This venture has the good wishes of the War Office.

Applications for reservations to: Wing-Commander K. W. Bransby, Abbeville, Mundesley-on-Sea, Norfolk.

PERSONAL

Major (Q.M.) Henry Golden who retired in 1945 is now running a guest house, "Wellesley," St. Martin's, Guernsey, and will be glad to hear of, or from, old friends.

HAVE YOUR OWN PERSONAL COPY OF
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Signals in an Arctic Maneuver

THE WIRE is privileged to republish the following article from SIGNAL, the Journal of the Armed Forces Communications Association of the United States of America.

By **Colonel GLENN H. PALMER,** *Signal Corps*

DURING February of this year there took place in the Yukon Territory of Canada and the eastern part of Alaska a military maneuver which was of especial interest because of the varied sources from which the participating forces were drawn and because of the weather conditions prevailing during the exercise. The first combined peace time maneuver of United States and Canadian armed forces, "Exercise Sweetbriar" represented the first important test of the ability of these troops to carry on combat operations, and their support, using standard equipment in extremely cold weather.

The Preparatory Phase

United States Army service troops required to prepare bases and staging points for the exercise and for the movement of combat troops to and from the exercise area began moving by motor over the road from Camp Carson, Colorado, in July, 1949. These troops, as did all later highway convoys, moved via Great Falls, Montana; Edmonton, Alberta; Dawson Creek, Alberta and the Alaskan military (ALCAN) highway to Whitehorse, Yukon Territory, taking on the average about 20 days for the trip. Some of these troops were required only for the preparatory phase, and returned to their home stations in December. Others remained at Whitehorse to take part in the exercise and close-out the base activities after the exercise.

Combat troops of the United States forces (including the bulk of the Signal troops) moved from Camp Carson to Whitehorse during January, 1950, mostly by highway convoy. Approximately 625 ground combat troops were moved by air, with combat equipment, in two lifts. Participating Canadian forces similarly moved by both motor and air to the exercise area, principally during January.

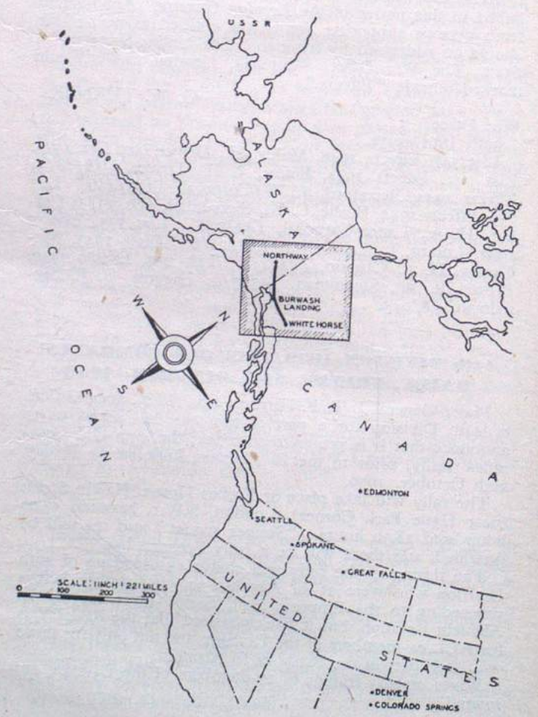
All U.S. Army troops participating in the exercise were given cold weather indoctrination during the winter months preceding the exercise, U.S. troops at Camp Hale, Colorado (in the Rocky Mountains above Colorado Springs) and at Whitehorse. Much of the equipment used during the exercise, while of standard types, was especially processed by using troops assisted by technical specialists, to insure its ability to function under conditions to be met in the exercise. All personnel in the area during the exercise, whether participating or observing, were provided with standard items of clothing suited to the climate encountered. During the exercise there were very few casualties, and those only minor, which could be ascribed particularly to the cold weather. In general the health of the participating troops during the exercise was as good as, or slightly better than, the normal health rate at their home stations.

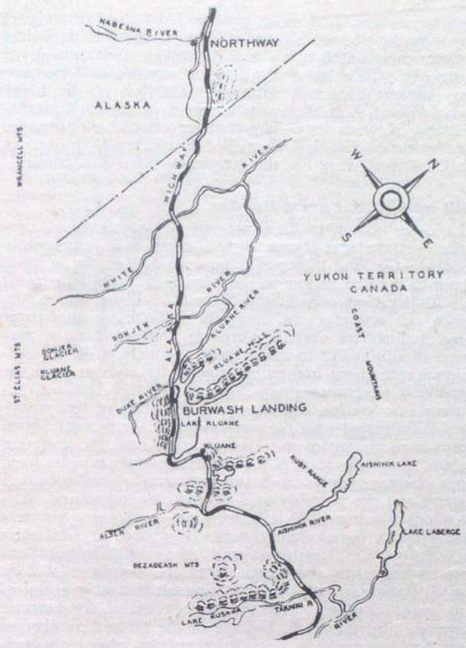
The tactical conception which guided operations during the exercise was that the maneuver enemy, "Aggressor," had seized air fields in Alaska and was advancing southeastward along the ALCAN Highway in Yukon Territory. The Allied Forces were required to stop his advance and retake the airfield at Northway, one of the easternmost in Alaska. This action involved movement of reserve forces into contact with the enemy by motor at night over a distance of 220 miles, and a ground advance through combat operations against the enemy over a distance of 142 miles. The ALCAN highway was the axis of advance since there are no other through motor roads in the area. Due to the many mountains in and immediately surrounding the exercise area, movements of forces off the highway were generally limited to distances of the order of five or ten miles, such forces moving by tracked vehicle or on foot.

Signal Operations

The general consensus of opinion of those who observed or took part in the exercise is that, with prior indoctrination such as that received by the participating troops, and proper preparation of equipments, it is definitely practicable to carry out an operation of this kind. There are, of course, improvements in mind which will make such operations in the future more effective from all points of view.

Now let's look at the exercise from the Signal point of view. Signal communications within the battalion combat teams were quite normal in terms of types and amounts of equipment used and operating personnel. Signal communications within the Allied and Aggressor forces above battalion level, communications for umpire maneuver control





and administrative purposes, and logistic support of all signal operations other than airborne were provided by approximately 300 officers and men of the U.S. Army Signal Corps and 104 troops of the Royal Canadian Corps of Signals. The Canadian signal troops furnished communications and logistic support for the Canadian battalion combat team and the accompanying umpires, while the United States signal troops provided communications for the United States Army forces and to link the various exercise activities above the battalion of the different forces among themselves and with the world outside the exercise area. Communications to the outside world were carried on over the facilities of the Northwest Communications System (Canadian) and the Alaska Communications System of the United States Signal Corps.

Communications Net

Mobile radio stations of considerable power accompanied all convoys moving to and from the exercise area, and altogether some 43 radio stations were operated by United States and Canadian troops in addition to the very portable, short-range stations which are organic equipment of the battalion combat teams, and the radio stations in aircraft. Voice and teletype channels over radio relay equipment linked the commanders of the battalion combat teams to the Allied Army Forces commander's headquarters, while similar channels provided by the facilities of the Alaska and Northwest Communications Systems linked the Allied Army Forces command post, at which was located the Joint (Air-Ground) Operations Center, to the Allied Force commander's CP, to the forward flying field and the fixed bases of the Allied Air and Army Forces. All these were similarly linked to the headquarters from which the maneuver commander and the chief umpire controlled the maneuver, and that headquarters linked to the Aggressor Force and its base at the west end of the exercise area.

Communications of the magnitude and nature required by Exercise Sweetbriar, and other Signal Corps functions involve problems of funds, personnel, and types of equipment which are frequently met and solved by signal communications agencies of all the armed forces and by civil agencies, but there were inherent in the exercise other problems of more unusual nature whose solution was required. These problems are grouped and discussed below under their general causes. The causes which gave rise to them in this exercise will give rise to much the same problems in any future exercise or combat operation in which the same factors are present, and their solution in this exercise should facilitate future operations.

The problems arising from the organization of the military forces taking part in the exercise have been touched on above in indicating the amount of communications required. In considering these communications with a view to determining what might be required for another more or less similar operation, the effect of the organizational factors and peacetime conditions under which this exercise was held must be recognized.

In Exercise Sweetbriar troops performing signal functions outside the battalion combat teams totalled (U.S. and Canadian) 404, 12% of the whole ground force, 8.5% of the total force taking part in the Exercise. Compare which Signal troops represented at peak with 3.88% of the total U.S. force which Signal troops represented at peak strength in the European Theater during World War II.

In considering this ratio between Signal troops and total force for the purpose of determining what would be an appropriate strength for the signal element of a force waging actual warfare such as was simulated by Exercise Sweetbriar, there are several conflicting, modifying factors which must be considered.

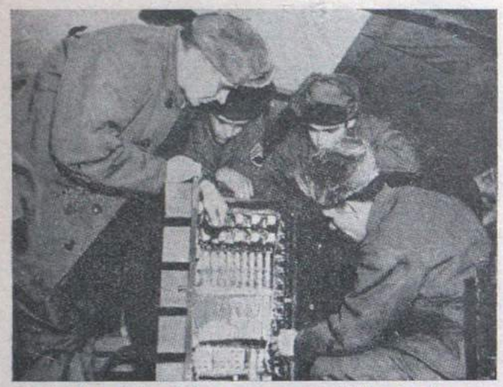
First, in actual combat there would be no need for communications serving umpires and for control of Aggressor by the maneuver commander, such as increased materially the signal communications requirement of the Exercise. This would decrease the need for signal troops, in this case numbering one officer and 30 enlisted men.

Second, in an actual operation it would be necessary to provide for reconstruction and maintenance of the wire lines which would suffer considerably from enemy action. In Exercise Sweetbriar the wire lines of the Alaska and Northwest Communications Systems were available for tactical use above the battalions and were ruled immune from hostile action, so no line construction and maintenance troops were required except for minor field wire installation.

Third, the Signal troops which operated communications for the Allied Force in Exercise Sweetbriar, serving the comparatively numerous ground and air-ground activities scattered over distances totalling up to more than 300 miles, could with little augmentation have provided communications for a larger, similarly organized force. There are certain minimum requirements for personnel and equipment comprising a communications system. Increases in volume of traffic above the minimum need not result in proportionate increases in personnel and equipment. Whether or not a significantly larger force could be supported logistically and operate effectively under the conditions of climate and geography encountered in Exercise Sweetbriar may be determined after an exhaustive study of the results of this exercise.

Joint Procedures

Since forces participating in Exercise Sweetbriar came from air and army forces of two nations, the matter of communications operating procedures presented some problems. Fortunately, the activities of the Joint Communications-Electronics Committee of the United States Joint Chiefs of Staff had already resulted in the establishment of instructions to guide the operation of communications of joint interest to the Air and Army forces of the United States. These same procedures were accepted by the Canadian Forces for use in communications of combined



Exercise Sweetbriar—Yukon territory . . . Soldier signal experts operating portable radio equipment listen for possible word from the C-54 transport which disappeared over the Yukon while en route from Anchorage to Great Falls

U.S.-Canadian interest. In those cases where procedures used by a force for its own internal communications differed from the joint procedures, the individual procedures were not required to be changed for intra-force use, but the joint procedures were applied in all communications of a joint or combined nature.

In the Canadian Army codes and ciphers are responsibilities of the Operations Officer ("G-OPS") rather than of the Signals Officer. This resulted in an additional step necessary in the coordination of cryptographic matters of combined interest. In view of the fine cooperation of the commanders and staffs of all forces involved in the exercise this did not result in any difficulty in solving communications security matters, but is mentioned as an item of interest to communicators.

Central Planning Advantage

The fact that the staffs and forces assembled for Exercise Sweetbriar did not constitute a permanent organization meant that much of the planning and preparation for the exercise must be done by individuals and staffs having other primary responsibilities. Since the commanding general, Fifth Army, was maneuver commander, his staff planned and coordinated the exercise as a whole. Since the U.S. Army forces taking part in the exercise were provided by Fifth Army, the staff of the Fifth Army Headquarters also planned the administrative and logistic support of those forces, as well as non-technical support of U.S. Air Force elements. Except for the cold-weather training, movement to the exercise area, and tactical activities in that area, signal communications and signal supply planning centered in the Fifth Army signal office. The centralization of signal planning had certain advantages in insuring coordination of that planning, but it was sometimes difficult to determine which one of the several signal officers' hats should be donned for the task of the moment. The considerable geographical separation of the several headquarters involved in the planning and preparations for the exercise made coordination more difficult than if all planning had been at one location, but occasional trips by staff officers to cooperating headquarters did result in preparations which made possible a very successful maneuver.

Since the exercise took part for the greater part in Canada, it was necessary that radio frequencies used in the exercise area be coordinated with the Canadian government. The Canadian governmental agency involved is the Department of Transport. All requirements for radio frequencies in the exercise area had to be secured from the various participating forces, coordinated among themselves and then further coordinated with the Canadian Department of Transport. This latter coordination was effected through two different channels; through the Office of the Chief Signal Officer, U.S. Army with regard to particular transmissions likely to have long-distance effects, and through the Command Signals Officer, Western Army Command of the Canadian Army for the frequency plan as a whole.

ACS and NCS Carry Burden

In order to stay within prescribed limitations on personnel to take part it was early realized that primary dependence for long distance communication in the exercise would have to be placed on the wire lines of the Northwest and Alaska Communications Systems. Plans had to be drawn not only for the channels to be established over these facilities for exercise purposes, but also for the provision of equipment to make those channels possible. Additional equipment had to be secured by and for both the Northwest Communications System and the Alaska Communications System, and the technical nature of that equipment coordinated with the equipment of the tactical Signal Corps stations which were to be tied into the common system. In some aspects the differences between the fixed types of equipment used in the commrcial communications systems and the portable field equipments introduced complications which are not ordinarily met in planning a purely fixed plant or purely field system. The three physical pairs of wires of the Northwest and Alaska Communications Systems traversing the exercise area are so fully loaded by normal traffic through carrier equipment that only a limited number of channels could be made available for exercise purposes. Furthermore, because of the limited number of outlets which could be obtained from the carrier channels of the fixed wire system in the exercise area without affecting adversely the channels being used for commercial purposes, it was necessary to place some restrictions on the location of the activities connected to the fixed wire system.

NCS Goes Mobile

In some cases non-military telephone subscribers permanently located in the area were, during the exercise, given telephone service through military switchboards in order that maximum military use might be made of the available channels.

During the exercise, personnel and carrier equipment of the Northwest Communications System were made mobile and moved with certain of the tactical activities served over



Signal Corps stations were tied into the wire line of the Northwest and Alaska Communications Systems for Exercise Sweetbriar

the fixed wire lines, and only NCS personnel were permitted to connect to the fixed wire lines except in major emergency. For such emergencies certain especially instructed personnel were equipped with telephone instruments of a type which could be connected to the wire without disrupting carrier communication.

Sub-Zero Difficulties

Natural factors which introduced problems into signal communications operations in Exercise Sweetbriar are temperature and location—location in both the geographic and geomagnetic senses.

What is meant by "extremely cold weather" referred to in the first paragraph of this article may be gathered from the fact that temperatures of —60° fahrenheit are common in this area during the winter, while —84° has been recorded. The lowest temperature actually encountered during Exercise Sweetbriar was —45°. Temperatures of this order reduce electrical activity of electrical batteries, make difficult the starting of motor vehicles, gas-engine driven power units, and increase friction between equipment parts whose relative movement is normally facilitated by grease or oil.

Dry batteries manufactured especially for operation at low temperatures were provided by the Signal Corps and operated by satisfactorily for limited periods of time. Some dry batteries of types used generally in temperate climates were used with chemical heating pads, but in general the results obtained from the heating pads were not satisfactory. Small dry batteries could be kept warm by being carried inside the clothing of the operating personnel. Radio sets of the walkie-talkie type were operated satisfactorily by this last scheme. Storage batteries having especially concentrated electrolyte were also used successfully, except when discharged too far they would freeze as would a standard battery.

Motor vehicles of the U.S. forces in addition to personnel heaters, were generally provided with heating systems which circulated warm water through the engine block and through a coil under the starting battery which was housed in an insulated case. This made it possible to start the engine even in low temperatures noted above. The same heating system was provided for the gas engines of some of the trailer-mounted 5-10 kw power units used by the Signal Corps, and worked very satisfactorily. These same power units were housed in wooden shelters constructed on the trailers, which enabled mechanics to work on the units comfortably in spite of outside temperatures. Other power units of the same type were sheltered only by the tarpaulins normally supplied. These latter were provided with heaters of the warm-air type, which served very satisfactorily to warm the units sufficiently to enable their starting in the coldest weather. The limited space inside the tarpaulin-covered shelter of this type installation did not permit mechanics to work on the units without exposing them to the surrounding weather.

Power units of smaller size, which are normally operated on the ground, operated satisfactorily during Sweetbriar so long as their oil pans were insulated from the snow-covered ground. When operated directly on the ground, however, the heat of operation was not enough to keep the lubricating oil flowing freely, a fact which was learned through sad experience in at least one case.

Lubricant Use Ruled Out

Signal equipment having parts which are required to move occasionally but not continuously had to have all grease or other lubricant removed to insure satisfactory functioning when the equipment was exposed to the outdoor temperatures. This applied particularly to the tuning controls on radio apparatus and the shutters of both motion and still cameras. In motion picture cameras even with all grease removed some difficulty was experienced from binding of slightly bent shafts which had operated satisfactorily under normal conditions of temperature and lubrication. Photographic laboratory operations of the Signal Corps in the exercise area were less than satisfactory because of the lack of sufficient temperature control and limited supply of chemically pure water. Only a necessary minimum of photographic laboratory work for immediate use was done at Whitehorse, the bulk of the still work being done at the Fifth Army Headquarters Laboratory, the motion picture film processing at the Signal Corps Photographic Center in Long Island City, New York.

Geographic and geomagnetic factors, from the viewpoint of Signals had their principal effects on radio propagation. Mountains in the exercise area limited the availability of suitable sites for transmitting and receiving stations. This was of particular importance at the higher frequencies used in frequency modulated and radio relay systems, where propagation is principally line-of-sight. In one operation shortly prior to the exercise VHF radio relay signals were bounced off the side of one mountain to get them past another which blocked the direct path between transmitter and receiver. During the actual exercise some difficulty was experienced when distances between headquarters linked by the radio relay system exceeded the ranges normally expected of the equipment. Otherwise the Very High Frequencies functioned normally.

On at least two different occasions during the ten day exercise there were definite radio "black-outs" lasting a few hours apiece, during which high frequency communication was greatly curtailed. There was not sufficient experience with low frequencies during the exercise to serve as a basis for comment in this connection. Very high frequency radio relay communication was affected slightly by the radio "blackouts"—the effect being an increased noise level—much the same as on high frequencies. Frequency modulated communication was not affected to a noticeable extent. Auroral affects were apparent several times during the exercise. It became necessary in at least one instance to use radio sets with a normal 100-mile range to cover distances of 15 miles and relay traffic in order to maintain radio communication. Conditions were found where ground wave signals, both FM and AM, were absorbed to the extent that radio communications were impossible when sets were within sight of each other. The problems encountered with radio propagation appeared to fall in three categories:

a. Areas in which mineral deposits absorbed radio signals to the extent that ground wave communications became impossible;

b. The disappearance for short periods of time of the E layer of the ionosphere so that sky wave radio transmission was made difficult if not impossible; and

c. Auroral effects increased noise level on circuits thereby reducing range and readability of signal.

Despite the cold weather and the many difficulties encountered, many of which were expected and others unexpected, the exercise was successful. It had shown that the armed forces of the United States and Canada can work together even down to the smallest units, and that they can carry on combat operations in the Arctic, using equipment and supplies that already exist. It had shown where improvements are desirable in our equipment and supplies to make such equipment and supplies more effective. The armed forces of the United States and Canada had learned some of the things about cold weather that the people of Russia have known for many years, which the German army learned through bitter experience. It had been worth while.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We gratefully acknowledge receipt of the following:—
THE R.A.O.C. GAZETTE, June.
QASID, May.
CATTERICK EXPRESS, 20th July, 3rd August.
R.E.M.E., August.
THE SIGNALMAN, July.

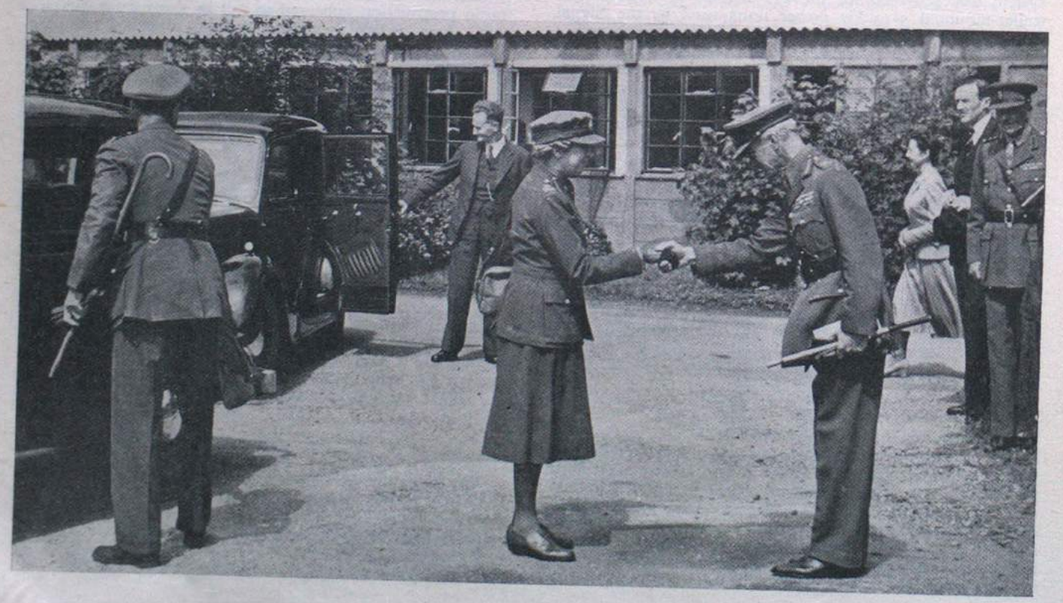


A Royal Visit

TO THE SIGNALS RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ESTABLISHMENT

On Monday, 17th July, the Signals Research and Development Establishment was honoured by a visit from Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal, C.I., G.C.V.O., G.B.E., Colonel-in-Chief of the Royal Corps of Signals, Major-General W. R. C. Penney, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., Representative Colonel Commandant of the Corps, who had arranged the visit, met her at Brockenhurst Station and, with the Chief Superintendent of S.R.D.E., Dr. G. W. Sutton, drove her and her Lady-in-Waiting, Miss Gwynedd Lloyd, first to visit the Research Division. Here she was welcomed by Major-General W. A. Scott, C.B., C.B.E., Director of Signals, Brigadier B. B. Kennett, C.B.E., D.S.O., Chief Signal Officer, Southern Command, Mr. T. R. B. Sanders, C.B., Assistant Controller of Supplies (Munitions), and Dr. D. H. Black, Director of Telecommunications Research and Development (Defence).

S.R.D.E. prides itself in booking good weather in advance. This Monday was no exception. It was the one fine day in a spell of bad weather and the horticultural attention which had been expended at S.R.D.E. in preparation for the Royal visit proved fully justified.



A succession of demonstrations were fitted in before lunch. First came a working illustration of an accurate system of radio transmission of fire-control data. Her Royal Highness spoke out to Hengistbury Head on a microwave beam transmitter, where a detachment of Signallers, kindly loaned by Southern Command (all the Military Experimental Section attached to S.R.D.E. being needed to muster a Guard of Honour for a later item on the programme), set a rotary indicator to a succession of readings as she called for them. These readings were immediately transmitted from Hengistbury Head to a similar indicator on the bench in front of her.

The next item was a working model of the S.R.D.E. system of telemetry. This illustrated the manner in which temperature, acceleration, strains and other data are transmitted from a missile in flight to a recording station on the ground.



An exhibition of land-mine detection followed, and then Her Royal Highness was shown some experiments in the development of new and improved components for radio and radar equipment. Monomolecular layers were prepared and made evident, and a metallic layer was evaporated on to a sheet of glass to form a flawless mirror.

Finally she was shown the various ways in which electric power for communication equipment in the field has been provided in the past, and others in which we hope it will be generated in the future.

Sufficient time remained before lunch to take a glance at the New Forest wild flowers which have invaded the S.R.D.E. grounds.

The Military Experimental Section was drawn up as a Guard of Honour and acquitted itself in a manner which was commended both by General Penney and General Scott. Brigadier Kennett has since written to say that their "turn-out and steadiness on parade was exemplary."

The inspection of the Guard of Honour was followed by a visit to the canteen kitchen, where the cooks and their equipment were in action.

After lunch Her Royal Highness was first shown some of the radio equipment which is under development for tank, artillery and infantry use. She was particularly interested in the way the operation of such sets has been simplified and made more reliable in recent years.

Some time was spent in the main workshop where several of the apprentices had the satisfaction of demonstrating how they are taking advantage of the training they get. It happened, strangely enough, that a plastic moulding of one of the new hand microtelephones was just being released from the press as Her Royal Highness approached the moulding section, and she was shown how although hot from the press, it would withstand the impact even of a soldier's boot.

Some time was then spent in demonstrating the advantages of the "dispenser" method of running out field cable, and of the new C.B. switchboard.

The Acoustic Group happened to be carrying out an articulation test in a room full of tank noise. This not only demonstrated the awful conditions under which tank crews have to communicate to each other, but showed that even these difficulties can be overcome by skilful design of the microphone and head receiver assemblies.

Finally, Her Royal Highness was shown the durability testing laboratories where it is ascertained whether military components and equipment are robust and durable enough to withstand operational hazards, both mechanical and climatic, anywhere from the tropics to the arctic, and from under the sea to 40,000ft. above it.

No visit is complete without a "set-piece" of some sort, and on this occasion it took the form of "talking down" a helicopter on to a predetermined site with the aid of one of the newest tank sets. The instructions to the pilot, and his replies, were broadcast from loudspeakers to the anxiously awaiting party and this served to demonstrate just how good speech can be when transmitted from a 115 phone location, given the right microphone assembly! The anxiety was dispelled from the mind of at least one of the party when the pilot skilfully alighted on the intended spot and handed out a package to the Senior Apprentice of the Establishment. This proved to be an excellently finished model of an infantry patrol set containing a petrol lighter, fashioned entirely by the apprentices. The senior apprentice put the finishing touch to the visit by presenting the lighter and casket to Her Royal Highness.

Rarely has S.R.D.E. had the pleasure and satisfaction of demonstrating their work to one so manifestly interested in everything that was shown her.

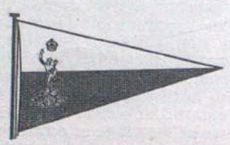
THE SAINT

With particular reference to page 346

She was only a little Switchboard Op
So full of airs and graces,
She talked to people for hours each day
But never saw their faces.
The calls came in, the calls went out,
To get them was her pleasure,
Her mind was always on her work,
At night—then came her leisure.
She always was so neat and prim
And always to perfection.
Her barrack room—it looked a treat
When ready for inspection.
She never moaned, she never wailed,
Whenever things went wrong
She kept her ways, her winning smile
And passed it with a song.
So all you Switchboard Ops take heed,
I know it's sometimes trying,
But Royal Signals are the top,
So keep our banner flying.

Do you know the address of your local branch of the Signals Association? If not, write to the General Secretary, 88 Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1.

Cito's First Race



Members of the Royal Signals Sailing Association may be interested to know that *Cito* was sailed in her first race, "Round the Island," organised by the Island Sailing Club, Cowes, on 8th July. A brief account of the race follows.

Cito's new genoa and mainsail, made by Cranfield and Carter, had been delivered in May. But the weather had given very few opportunities of stretching them, and it was only during the week-end before the race that stretching was completed. The rig is completed by a storm trysail and a spinnaker cut down from an old sail belonging to *Certa;* the latter sail looks a trifle unusual, but does its duty in moderate winds and was all that *Cito* could afford in the way of new sails for this season.

During the evening before the race, Cowes filled up rapidly. Yachts lay three and four deep at the available moorings. Crews were busy at last-minute preparations, or glanced appraisingly at each new arrival. Some went ashore to fetch the sailing instructions, and many no doubt had that slightly sick feeling which seems to precede contests of all kinds.

Cito's crew consisted of General Scott, Colonel Smijth-Windham and Major E. R. Moore, and she was to be skippered by Lieutenant-Colonel Purser, because of his racing experience as co-owner of *Prelude*.

The morning of the race dawned fine with an encouraging S.W. breeze. By 6 a.m. there was considerable bustle, and by 7 a.m. *Cito* left her moorings and slipped down to the area east of the starting line. There, the scene must have been an unforgettable experience, for anyone with time to look. The entry of 131 was a record; thus there may perhaps have been some 900 amateur sailors distributed among say 1,500 tons of sea-going yachts, each jockeying for position. Perhaps one might remind the uninitiated that a yacht has no brakes!

The skipper put *Cito* across the seaward end of the line to a good start at 7.45 a.m. There, she had the full westerly tide under her and a relatively clean wind. It was a beat down the Solent. By the time *Cito* reached Hurst Castle channel, the bigger craft were already bearing away round the Needles, but an encouraging number of yachts were astern. Then the wind fell light, and *Cito* herself did not round the Needles till 11.30 a.m., barely catching the turn of the tide. The wind chose that moment to back to S.E., giving her another beat to fetch St. Catherine's, which was rounded at about 2 p.m. By this time the fleet was spread over many miles, and seemed to have split approximately into two halves, with *Cito* hanging onto the tail of the first half; some 55 yachts were to be seen astern of her.

At this stage, *Cito* was having a hard tussle with *Blue Disa,* a well-known small class boat with a reputation earned in South America last season. She was the only nearby vessel to whom *Cito* was giving time on handicap. On reaching Sandown Bay *Cito* was lying some 300 yards behind and to leeward of *Blue Disa,* when the former's wind suddenly dropped to a flat calm. *Blue Disa,* unaffected by this freak, proceeded to sail on out of sight, leaving *Cito* motionless for an hour with her sails empty and her crew's language unprintable.

Eventually, a very light air came again from the S.E., giving *Cito* just enough way to save her tide at the Bembridge Ledge at 6.30 p.m. Her only company at this time was a large ketch, of the over-25 ton class, which had also been becalmed. Spinnakers were set and *Cito* had slightly the better of a duel with her, and led her round Noman's Fort. From there, the tide rather than the wind carried them to the finishing line at Cowes.

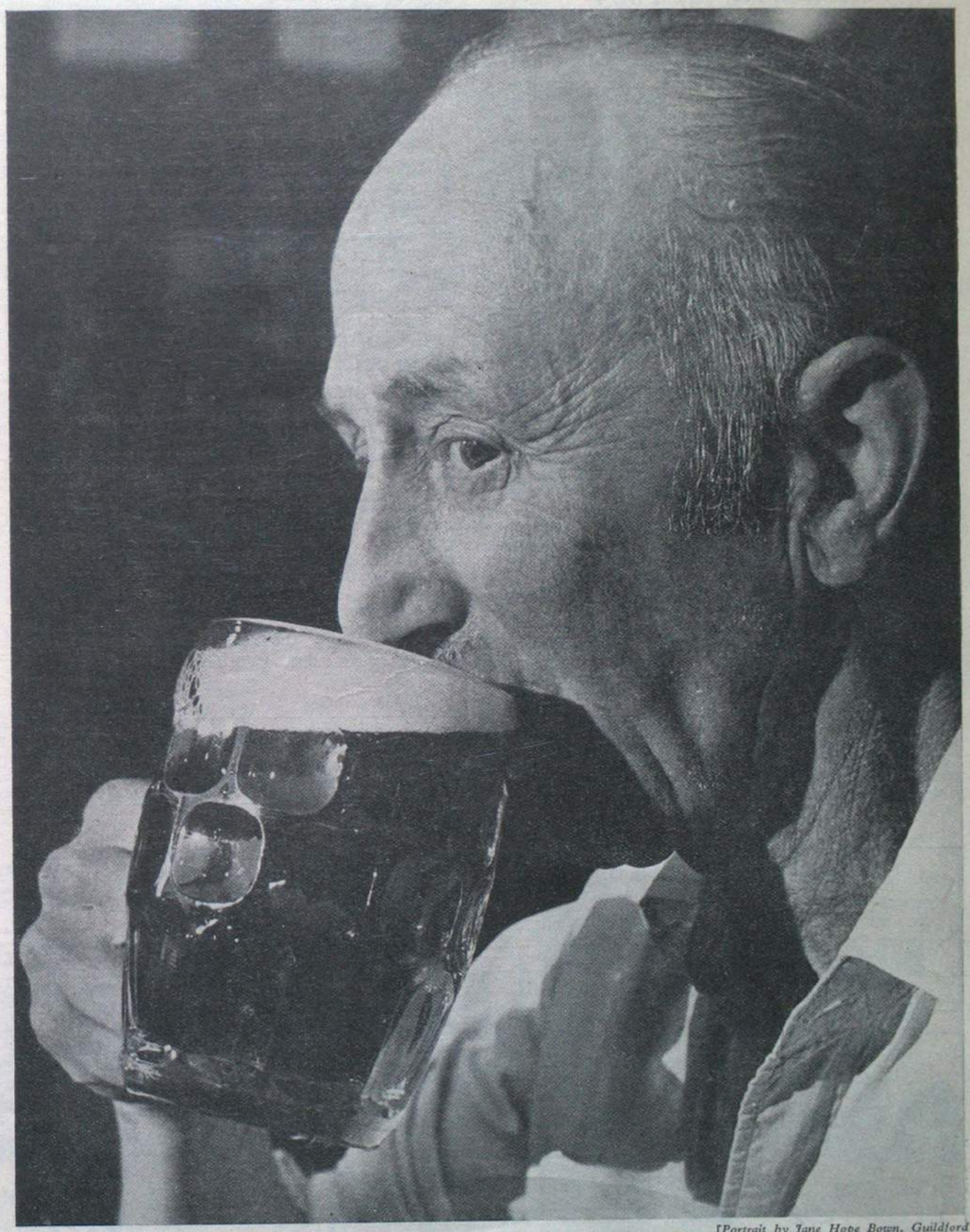
Cito finished at 8 hrs. 25′ 54″ p.m., her corrected time being 8 hrs. 43′ 30″ for the 52 mile course. She had been lucky in saving her tide both at the Needles and at Bembridge, and she had been very unlucky in losing the wind for an hour in Sandown Bay. In the circumstances, the crew felt that her placing of 41st was not unsatisfactory for her first race.

Cito gives her crew a delightful and exhilarating sail. She is probably capable of winning given her share of luck. But to enable her to do so in face of such hot competition, the Corps will have to put behind her as much effort, forethought and care as it customarily devoted to winning such things as the Army Rugby Cup. What seems to be necessary above all else is a reserve of younger skippers and hands, capable of replacing wastage by *anno domini.*



[*Courtesy: "The Times"*

Competitors jockeying for position before the start. The starting line lies from the Island Sailing Club (background, right) through the Prince Consort buoy. Note the strong tide setting across the line



[*Portrait by Jane Hope Bown, Guildford*

A SPECIAL OCCASION

By **BRIAN THOMAS**

ACHMET, our cook, is a faithful soul, and likes it to be known that he keeps himself in touch with all the important events in the household, even though most of the news comes to him secondhand, via Ali, the Sufragi.

When anything special occurs, Achmet invariably marks the occasion by giving free rein to his special gifts in the matter of cake-making. There are various subtle grades of rejoicing, ranging from the production of small rock cakes to celebrate some minor event, to gala days which call for a real masterpiece covered with icing. On occasions such as Christmas and birthdays, the icing is embellished with a suitable inscription in bright pink; the subject matter being provided by Madam, after much tactful questioning.

On the last occasion, however, Achmet decided to act on his own and provide a complete surprise; the circumstances were unique and demanded a special effort. A member of the family had been involved in a motor accident which resulted in a month in hospital. The day on which she returned home was surely a special cake day if ever there was one.

To begin with, Achmet insisted on welcoming the invalid in person—a rare compliment, as he can seldom be induced to leave his lair in the kitchen—and his one serviceable eye and a formidable array of teeth registered pleasure in a way which would have made film directors tremble. Then, still radiating good fellowship, he returned to his sanctum and set himself to produce a cake which should be worthy of the event.

He broached a new pot of apricot jam—the remains of which subsequently found their way into the marmalade pot in mistake for its usual contents—and got down to the foundations. When these had been well and truly laid, he got busy with the icing, and covered the whole thing with a coat of dazzling white.

Now came the great moment. What should be the design of the final crowning glory of pink sugar? The usual spots and squiggles seemed inadequate. A high-sounding phrase in his native Arabic would certainly be decorative, but might not be understood. He looked round his kitchen, seeking inspiration; and then he found it—a fine, bold sample of English lettering, in a cheerful red, such as his soul loved. It stood on a shelf right before his eyes.

A few hours later, Ali brought the tea out on to the verandah. Last of all, he produced Achmet's contribution to the general rejoicing. We saw, marvelled, and applauded, while we prayed that we should not burst anything vital before Ali was out of earshot. The inscription on the cake read as follows:—

"BOURNVILLE COCOA ¼ Lb. NETT."

"THE UMPIRE"

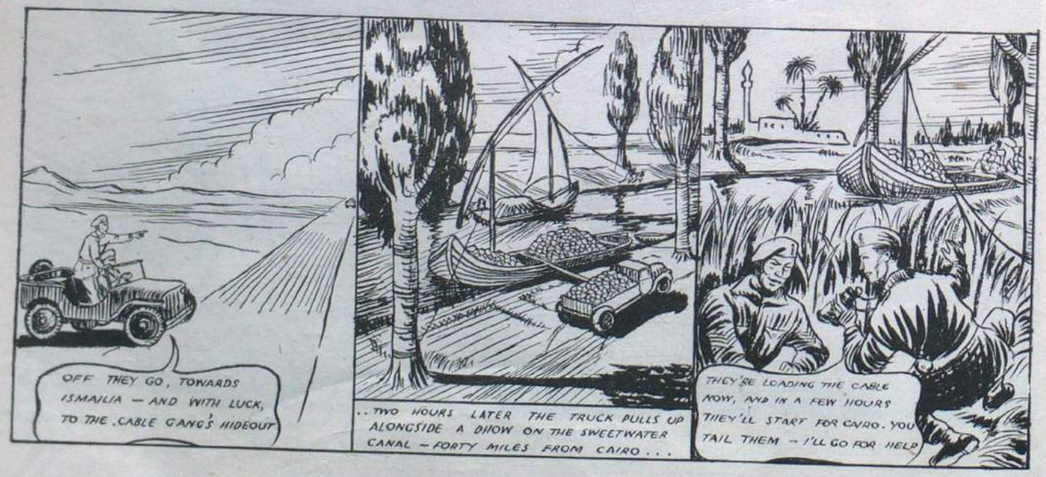
By **GORDON TRASLER**

JOHN was feeling very unhappy. He had worried about this moment ever since the team list had gone up on Tuesday. He had been hoping for a quiet, steady game, picking daisies in the outfield and placidly observing the proceedings at a comfortable distance. But not this—not as Umpire! The very sight of the word had sent a chill along his spine. "There's nothing to do," his friends had told him carelessly, "just count the balls, and give a decision when someone appeals." Give a decision! Any fool could count to six, but to make split-second judgments in front of all those people—it was impossible!

He had never been very good at decisions, he reflected sadly, as he put on his long white coat. He walked dejectedly towards the wicket, mumbling over to himself the Laws of Cricket, which he had learned during patient hours of study the evening before. But the pebbles! He felt anxiously in his pocket. The reassuring chink of them brought a wan smile to his lips; six smooth round pebbles. That was one thing he would get right. He squared his shoulders and marched determinedly to the wicket.

John raised his finger wearily, and sighed with relief as he realised that his ordeal was over. He had not done too badly, really. Some of his decisions had been a little doubtful, but he had held the sweaters and hats, and called the overs loudly and clearly. He collected the bails, and trotted rather breathlessly after the players. "I shan't want these any more," he chuckled gaily, dragging out his little handful of stones. Suddenly he stopped, gazing miserably at the glinting, mocking pebbles. He counted them again, just to make sure. "Oh dear," he sighed, "seven."

Have you ordered your copy of
The Wire?



The English Regalia and Crown Jewels—2

By **Yeoman Warder G. A. E. GAVEY,** *late Captain, Royal Signals*

THE Orb signifies Independent Sovereignty under the Cross of Christianity. It can only be delivered to a King or Queen Regnant. As a result of the double Coronation of William and Mary when both were crowned as reigning sovereigns, the English Regalia has the peculiarity of possessing two Orbs.

The King's Orb was made for Charles II by Sir Robert Vyner. It is of pure gold and about six inches in diameter.

Around the circumference is a gold filet (band) in which are set alternately large rubies, sapphires and emeralds surrounded by diamonds.

From the front of the filet rises an arch going over the top of the Orb and joining the filet at the back. The arch is decorated similarly to the filet. The edges of both filet and arch are outlined with small pearls.

On top of the arch rests a fine amethyst of rare size and quality. From the amethyst rises a beautiful Cross the frame of which is richly decorated with diamonds. In the front is a large sapphire, and at the back an emerald. At the extremities of the arms and at their intersecting points are pearls.

At the Coronation the Orb is delivered immediately after the King has put on the Coronation Robe. It is placed in the King's right hand and the Archbishop of Canterbury recites the appropriate prayer.

The King then delivers the Orb back to the Dean of Westminster to be laid upon the Altar. This is necessary so as to free the King's hands to receive the Ring, the Glove and the two Sceptres. On leaving the Abbey, however, the King again receives the Orb, holding it this time in the left hand.

(e) *The Ampula (Anointing Vessel)*

From the religious point of view the anointing is the most significant act of the whole Coronation ceremony for until he has received the unction the King cannot receive the Royal Ornaments.

Anointing in various forms is a ritual of the greatest antiquity, and the Royal Unction was given to Saul and his successors.

The Ampula takes the form of a golden eagle with outstretched wings standing on a pedestal. The neck unscrews so permitting the vessel to be filled with oil, and there is a hole in the beak through which the oil may be poured. It is about nine inches in height, the spread of the wings being seven inches, and it weighs about ten ounces of gold. Antiquarians are agreed that the existing eagle dates from long before the Restoration although the base was probably added by Vyner.

It is generally believed that it escaped destruction owing to the fact that it was probably in the ecclesiastical and not the secular treasury of the Abbey.

(f) *The Spoon*

This vessel is also of great antiquity dating from the 13th century. It is, however, considered that it did not form part of the Regalia before the Commonwealth, but that it was found by Vyner in the Abbey Treasury, and possessing as it did some sacred character it was brought into use as the Coronation Spoon. The Spoon is of gold, and the handle is set with four pearls, the whole is beautifully chased.

As already stated, the anointing is the most sacred part of the Coronation ceremony, the object being the conferring sacramentally of the Sevenfold Gifts of the Holy Ghost. The anointing takes place after the taking of the Oath. The hymn "Veni Creator Spiritus" is sung kneeling. The Archbishop then speaks the appropriate prayer.

The King is anointed, firstly on the crown of the head, secondly on the breast, thirdly on the palms of both hands, the Archbishop speaking the appropriate prayers during the anointing ceremony.

The Queen consort is also anointed, but on the crown of the head only.

Whilst the ceremony is taking place a rich pall of silk and cloth of gold is held over the King by four knights of the Garter wearing their mantles—the King meanwhile is sitting upon St. Edward's chair before the Altar. In the case of a Queen a rich pall is held over her, as she kneels, by four peeresses.



(g) *The Royal Sceptre with the Cross*

In the Jewel House at present there are no fewer than five sceptres. There is no more ancient emblem of Royalty, and it is evident that the Sceptre has been used as part of the Regalia since earliest times.

They take two distinct forms; the first Sceptre or the Sceptre with the Cross signifies Kingly Power and Justice while the second Sceptre which is known as the Rod with the Dove signifies equity and mercy. The Queen also has two sceptres with a similar symbolism.

The Royal Sceptre is placed in the right hand of the Sovereign at the Coronation, the Archbishop saying: "Receive the Royal Sceptre, the consign of Kingly Power and Justice."

Sir Robert Vyner is also responsible for the design of the sceptre now in use although certain important additions have since been made.

The entire length is nearly three feet and is really divided into three parts, the upper and lower ends being richly enamelled and studded with jewels, while the middle part is of plain gold and forms a grip.

It is the upper end that now attracts the attention of all visitors to the Jewel House. Originally the top was formed by a fleur-de-lys from which sprang a cross. At a later date, probably for the coronation of James II the fleur-de-lys was replaced by a more ornate flower which held an Orb of amethyst surmounted by a cross and thus it remained until the Star of Africa was added by King Edward VII.

The amethyst is now eclipsed by this great diamond, the Great Star of Africa, the largest cut diamond in the world, and weighs 516½ carats; it was cut from the Cullinan diamond which was presented to King Edward VII by the Transvaal Government in 1907.

In 1908 after it had been cut there was considerable difficulty in knowing how to make the best use of this great stone and the King himself suggested that it should be placed in the Royal Sceptre. At the time our Sceptre was not very noteworthy when compared with some of the finer sceptres in Europe, the Czar's Sceptre in particular being remarkable in that it had for its head a diamond known as the Orloff, one of the largest and finest diamonds in the world.

But now there is none to compare with the Sceptre of England carrying as it does a diamond nearly three times the size of the Orloff.

The setting of the stone is most effective and ingenious. The former flower that held the amethyst has been replaced by an elegant clasp which holds this flawless stone in such a way that the light can play upon it from all sides, as any visitor to the Jewel House can see for himself.

The clasps are movable and allow the stone to be taken out, which enables Her Majesty the Queen to wear it as a pendant on occasions of great state.

The only occasions on which the Sceptre is used are at coronations and at the funeral of the King, when it rests with the Crown and Orb on the coffin.

(h) *The Sceptre with the Dove*

This is placed in the left hand of the Sovereign at the Coronation, the Archbishop speaking the appropriate prayer beginning with the words: "Receive the Rod of Equity and Mercy. . . ."

This Sceptre was also made by Vyner for the Coronation of Charles II. It is three feet seven inches in length and is made of gold. At the top is a golden orb with a band and arch studded with diamonds. The orb is surmounted by a cross on which rests a white enamelled dove with outstretched wings, the feet, eyes and beak being of gold.

The Dove is symbolical of the Holy Ghost who was considered especially to control the actions of Kings.

The staff of the Sceptre is beautifully enamelled and bejewelled, the centre section being particularly handsome. The plain gold grip is at the lower end.

The W.R.A.C. Leave London

THE first A.T.S. Signal Companies were recruited in London in 1938, one attached to 1st A.A. Divisional Signals and the other to the London Divisional Signals. On the outbreak of war the London Divisional Signals, which had already formed its second line unit was again divided to provide London District Signals and the bulk of the A.T.S. Company also went to the new unit.

Throughout the 1939-45 war London District was served by two Signal Units, one Royal Signals, one A.T.S. Signals and at peak there were about 400 of the latter on Establishment.

After the war numbers decreased as commitments closed down and eventually they for the first time became "Mixed" according to the A.A. Signals model as London District Mixed Signal Squadron. As such they, the A.T.S., ran the switchboard first at Leconfield House and from 1948 at the old offices in Horseguards.

In 1949 the name was changed to W.R.A.C. The service given on the switchboard remained as good. Several times efforts were made to remove the W.R.A.C. from the Establishment. Several times resistance has been successful. Now at last the blow has fallen.

It is the end of an era.

Sergeant McCue and her girls have indeed served us well, and we shall all be sorry at their going. Civilians recruited in lieu albeit at very low wages include at least two ex-A.T.S. of WHI 4466.

The fact that over 400 W.R.A.C. Signals have been written into the War Establishment of London District (Mixed) Signal Regiment is small consolation. Much as we want them back we do not want to have a war to cause their return. It wouldn't be worth it. Or would it?

IT MUST HAVE BEEN THE WIDGETS



No. 3.—" Funny—that contact should close ! ! "

Signal Training Centre

7 SELECTION REGIMENT

The highlight this month was the recent Old Comrades' Reunion.

It is of especial interest for this Regiment to record that amongst the many Old Comrades we were pleased to house in our Sandhurst Block three Chelsea Pensioners, namely: C.Q.M.S. Cousins, Sergeant King, Lance-Sergeant Roberts.

Since last month's notes we have trained and "passed out" two more intakes; on these occasions salutes were taken, on 5th July, 1950, by our C.O., Lieutenant-Colonel N. M. Hay, M.B.E., and on 19th July, 1950, by Lieutenant-Colonel M. A. Charlton, O.B.E.

The Regiment is expanding to six Squadrons. No. 1 Independent Selection Squadron is now in the process of moving from Victoria Barracks, Beverley, Yorks, and is to be known in future as No. 5 (Regular) Squadron of this Regiment.

At present we have seen only the advance party under the command of Captain N. G. R. Halliday, Royal Signals. The Squadron will be housed in "Somme" Lines, Catterick Camp.

Athletics. The Regiment, together with families had an excellent day out of doors on the occasion of our Regimental Sports, held at the Stadium Ground on 25th July, 1950.

Fortunately, the weather was extremely good, and this, in addition to really good organisation, allowed the whole show to go with a swing from start to finish. The winning Squadron for the Inter-Squadron Cup was No. 3 Squadron, closely followed by No. 1 Squadron which finished only one point behind. The tug-o'-war was very easily won by H.Q. Squadron. The prizes at the end of the sports were presented by Mrs. Duvivier.

The Regiment entered a team for the NORCO Championships but found the competition too strong. We did, however, have Sergeant Cox, who remained individual road-walking champion, Lance-Corporal Peters, also of the Regiment, came third; both are now going forward to compete as individuals in the Army Championships.

Cricket. The Regiment played, during July, with the following results: 7 Selection Regiment 79, 14/20 King's Hussars 65; 7 Selection Regiment 22 and 43, Scorton Cricket Club 53 and 63; 7 Selection Regiment 94, 1 Training Regiment 44.

Although it is public knowledge we wish to place on record that Signalman B. Close has been invited to tour Australia this winter with the visiting team.

2 TRAINING REGIMENT

The highlight of our Regimental activities during the past month was our Sports Day. The Regiment, complete with families, assembled in fine weather on Colburn Sports Ground and had a thoroughly enjoyable "get-together."

The Inter-Squadron Shield, held for the past year by 2 Squadron was this year won by 3 Squadron albeit after a really stern tussle with 1 and 2 Squadrons. The Old Soldiers' race was won again by Corporal Thompson with the C.O. (Lieutenant-Colonel E. L. L. Vulliamy, O.B.E.) a close second.

An extra event was a one mile invitation medley relay race between 3rd Training Regiment and 4th Training Regiment—a very close race won by the latter team by a yard or two.

At the close of the sports Mrs Vulliamy very kindly presented the shield and prizes and complimented the competitors on their fine performances.



The day was brought to a happy close with a Regimental dance held in our gymnasium.

During the last week-end in July the Old Comrades held their annual reunion and the Regiment played its part in entertaining around a hundred of them in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess.

Who enjoyed themselves more—the Old Comrades or the serving members—it would be hard to say, but judging from the many letters of warm appreciation received since by R.S.M. Irvine our guests felt that the present day Army has lost none of its ideas of hospitality.

On the serious side, we have had visits from various Allied Officers and they have expressed themselves favourably on our trainees, their morale and aptitude.

Preoccupied as we all are with world affairs, we are heartened by the current rumours of improvements in the soldier's conditions of living and pay, particularly the latter. May the rumours come true!

5 TRAINING REGIMENT

Harper Barracks, Ripon

On Parade Again. Following last July's parade the Regiment was called upon to take part in the St. Wilfrid's Day ceremonies at Ripon on Sunday, 6th of this month, along with detachments of Royal Engineers and the Queen's Royal Regiment.

Notwithstanding the cloudy sky, crowds of townsfolk gathered outside the stately Ripon Cathedral and along the route to the saluting base on the town square. Luckily, just as the Cathedral doors opened at the end of the service, the clouds dispersed and the parade was bathed in brilliant sunlight. Leading the parade were the Lord Mayor and other civic dignitaries, Brigadier Jones and Lieutenant-Colonel Eraut, our C.O., and an old and quaintly dressed gentleman carrying a small brass horn. This last was the Ripon Wakeman who has blown his horn on the town square every night for more than 50 years. Incidentally, at 87 years of age, he is "The Ripon Character."

The parade marched past the saluting base, at which the Lord Mayor took the salute, to the Band of the Queen's Royal Regiment.

THE DEPOT REGIMENT

Pocklington

Since we last went to Press, the Regiment has taken on the additional commitment of discharging to T.A. Service, all Royal Signals National Service personnel from overseas Units. Apart from a most welcome increase in N.A.A.F.I. rebate, the influx of some 400 bodies every month has done something to put Pocklington back on the map. At one time, we thought ourselves doomed to eternal desolation, but now it is rumoured even that British Railways will find it necessary for trains to call at Pocklington on Sundays!! Seriously, however, having once got over its teething troubles, the National Serviceman's transfer to the Territorial Army is now proceeding quite smoothly, which, in the main, is due to fortnightly bursts of high pressure industry by Q.M. and 2 Squadron office staffs, backed up by the other administrative services. We hope that the National Servicemens' last glimpse of the Regular Army, as viewed at Pocklington, leaves them with an impression that their time has not been completely wasted.

In this issue, too, we have to record the passing of the Airborne Troop, for many years an integral part of the Regiment. The decline in strength of the Troop during the last two years has rendered it uneconomical to maintain an independent Airborne Transitee establishment at Pocklington and, reluctantly, on 1st August, we said good-bye to their distinctive berets and lanyards. We hope that they will be happy in their new home with the Parachute Brigade Signal Squadron at Aldershot.

Recently, we have been very pleased to have with us for a short time the Royal Signals Recruiting Team and the Royal Signals Display Team. The former used our Pocklington Camp as a base for themselves and their enormous and beautiful trailer "Quicksilver," whilst making recruiting tours in the vicinity.

The latter enlivened the camp for a few days with roaring exhausts and then took part in a military display at the Pockington rugby football ground. Despite the poor state of the ground, the performance was of the highest order, and Captain Webb and his team are to be congratulated on a most enjoyable and enterprising show.

A.R.A. Meeting, Bisley, 1950. At the end of June a Royal Signals team from Northern Command consisting of five members of the Depot Regiment, two of Northern Command (M) Signal Regiment, and one of 5 A.A. (M) Signal Regiment, attended the A.R.A. Central meeting at Bisley.

In our only team match—the Britannia Trophy—our result was most gratifying. We were placed 13th out of 44 entries, and were the highest placed team from the Corps.

The team captain (Captain Andrews, Depot Regiment) fired for the Corps in the Methuen Cup and also gained a place in the Army Hundred. Captain Wright of Northern Command Signal Regiment was first reserve for the Corps team. The remainder of the team and the reserves shot extremely well and in view of the fact that only one of the team had previously been to Bisley, are to be congratulated upon their very stout effort in the Britannia Trophy.

1 Squadron, Urebank Camp, Ripon. In continuation of the layout of the Depot Regiment given in the April issue of THE WIRE, it may interest prospective transients to learn that Ripon has much to commend it. It has many beauty spots near at hand, such as Fountains Abbey, Grantley Hall and the Studley Estate, not forgetting of course, Urebank Camp where we are situated!! Harrogate, which needs no further recommendation here, is within easy reach.

The railway station (providing a good service to London and the North) and the bus terminus are less than three minutes' walk from the camp.

We also enjoy the hospitality of a Unit of the Royal Engineers and 5 Training Regiment who occupy the excellent Harper and Deverall Barracks nearby.

In the field of sport, cricket has flourished and, thanks to the hard work and dauntless spirit of the organisers, the sometimes hopeless spate of available players seems to have made little difference. Signalman Close's selection for England has finally dispelled the hopes of local cricket enthusiasts who have been eagerly awaiting his posting into the Draft Pool.

Football is the one game that seems to be popular, and this season we shall have a 3rd XI. We have been second and fourth in the finals of the local Harrogate and Ripon League and intend to win the cup this year. (All football players take note that they will be sure of a game whilst passing through the Squadron).

Cross-country runs are organised and for some quite unaccountable reason were "requested" at the recent sports meeting. The distance is short and covers a stretch of the River Ure, in itself a local beauty spot.

In closing, we take this opportunity of assuring those of you who are "doomed" to pass through our limited but hardworking hands in the future that we do appreciate that the best of Transit Camps and Drafting Units are unpopular places, and in this connection we earnestly try our best to ensure that your stay in 1 Squadron shall be as enjoyable as possible. If we are to judge by the many letters of appreciation received from those who have passed through the Squadron, we do not think that we overrate ourselves when we claim at least a measure of success.

As a "Stop Press" we should like to congratulate R.Q.M.S. Baker on his recent and well deserved award of the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal.

School of Signals

Royal Signals Wing

The weather was most unkind during July and spoilt our Regimental weekend on the 15th and 16th. A S.S.A.F.A. fete was held on Saturday afternoon in conjunction with tabloid sports. Mrs. A. V. Benton and the ladies of the Unit provided a cake stall, fancy stall, jumble stall, vegetable stall and bran tub in addition to which we had side-shows ranging from horse racing to a shooting range. Unfortunately, it rained most of the afternoon but in spite of this, the extremely hard work of the ladies was rewarded by being able to forward the sum of £60 to S.S.A.F.A. Our trip to Redcar on the Sunday had to be cancelled owing to continued rain.

On the 21st we said good-bye to Major Dick Shilton who decided to retire after 33 years' strenuous service. Old timers will remember his cheery personality on the North West Frontier, and at Rawalpindi, Sialkot and Aldershot. He will always be remembered with affection as helpful and full of good advice for the youngster just starting life in the service. We miss him and hope that he will enjoy his retirement as much as he enjoyed his service days.

Officer Training Wing

The last pass-off parade was held on 28th July, 1950, when 251/2 courses were commissioned. The Inspecting Officer, Brigadier J. J. Duvivier, C.B.E., presented the Commandant's cane for the best Cadet of the course to Second-Lieutenant T. A. Sherrin. The parade was the most colourful seen here for some time as the pipes and drums of 51 (H) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment (T.A.) were on parade.

After the parade the band "Beat Retreat," giving a display which was extremely good and greatly appreciated by the spectators.

The most important event of the month was the Northern Command Inter-Unit Athletic Team Championships, with which was combined the District Championship. For so long the honour of winning these events has eluded us and we have had to be content with second place. This year however we defeated all comers and became champions with a creditable points margin of 54. The team was strong in all events, but two individuals in particular deserve mention; they are Second-Lieutenant D. C. Birch, our one and three-miler, and Officer-Cadet A. G. I. Wood, who excelled himself with a magnificent shot putt of 44ft. 7ins., immediately after winning the javelin event.

The annual cricket match, Cadre Officers versus Warrant Officers and Sergeants, took place this month and it is difficult to know whether this should be classified as a sporting or social event. Lunch and tea were taken on the field, the latter being attended by families. It was not until the last man was dismissed to the pavilion with a thrilling catch that the Officers' team was victorious.

On 21st July, 1950, a fete was held, the proceeds of which were donated to S.S.A.F.A. and the Lord Mayor's Thanksgiving Fund. Hoopla, swings, horse racing, pony rides, rifle shooting and raffles were among the entertainments. The highlight, however, was provided by the O.T.W. Display Team, 1951, who in turn provided work for the armourer. The result, a donation to charities of approximately £30, was indeed gratifying.

Thirty members of the Chester Branch of the Old Comrades' Association were entertained in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess during the week-end 23rd/24th July, 1950, on the occasion of the annual general meeting of the Association.

WAR OFFICE SIGNAL REGIMENT

Kingston-on-Thames

July has been a very busy and interesting month for us. After our Regimental Days on 3rd and 4th we looked forward to the visit of Major-General W. R. C. Penney, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., the Representative Colonel Commandant on the 11th.

General Penney was received by a guard of honour at the entrance to the camp.

The whole Regiment of three squadrons was drawn up in line in the centre of our large parade ground. We were very pleased to have the Regimental Band of the East Surrey Regiment with us on parade to play the General Salute during the inspection and the Corps March for the march past. We understand that the "turn out" and drill maintained the Corps standard.

After the parade General Penney met some old comrades in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess and then lunched in the Officers' Mess.

In the afternoon he inspected the Signal Office seeing all departments at work. He showed great interest in all that was going on and was overheard to say to the Commanding Officer how lucky we were to be employed doing an operational job and with these sentiments we heartily concur.

A phone call had been arranged over the radio telephone to Fayid. This was successfully put through and the Colonel Commandant and Major-General Bowen, C.S.O., M.E.L.F., exchanged greetings.

He then went on from the Signal Office to Pirbright and saw our "D" Troop at work.

On 17th July the G.O.C. London District, Major-General J. A. Gascoigne, C.B., D.S.O., with his staff officers, carried out his annual inspection. Much hard work had been done in preparation and we hopefully anticipate a good report.

After the inspection General Gascoigne had lunch in the Officers' Mess.

Sport. In the London District Athletic Championship our team obtained third place. A good effort as two of our star performers dropped out at the last minute through injuries.



Colonel Commandant's inspection of War Office Signal Regiment at Richmond Park Camp on 11th July, 1950



[*Courtesy: W. Abernethy, Belfast*

Her Majesty the Queen presents Colours to the 5th Battalion, The Royal Irish Fusiliers (T.A.). On the right of the saluting dais, and behind Her Majesty's right shoulder, is the Chief Signal Officer, Northern Ireland District, Lieutenant-Colonel H. C. B. Rogers, O.B.E., Royal Signals

Royal Review

The Royal Ulster Agricultural Society's Showground at Balmoral, on the outskirts of Belfast, was the scene of a stirring spectacle on Saturday, 15th July, when Her Majesty the Queen reviewed the Northern Ireland Territorial and Auxiliary Forces. The review made Territorial history in Ulster, being the first time that colours were presented to two Ulster T.A. Regiments—the 5th Battalion the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers (T.A.) and the 5th Battalion the Royal Irish Fusiliers (T.A.) —and the largest parade of Territorial troops ever seen in the Province.

The guns of 270 Independent Maintenance Battery, R.A., fired a Royal Salute of 21 guns when Her Majesty's car crossed the city boundary and moved through cheering crowds into the showground. Lining the route into the arena were members of the British Legion and Old Comrades' Associations, with standard bearers grouped shoulder to shoulder at the entrance to the arena. The massed bands of the King's Dragoon Guards, the Royal Ulster Rifles and the Royal Air Force broke into the National Anthem as Her Majesty arrived at the saluting dais and the combined parade of the North Irish Horse (T.A.), 51st (Ulster) A.A. Brigade, R.A. (T.A.), the 107th (Ulster) Independent Infantry Brigade Group (T.A.), the 328th Battalion, W.R.A.C. (T.A.), the Combined Cadet Force and the Northern Ireland Army Cadet Force presented arms in a Royal Salute. Her Majesty then reviewed the massed parade from a Land Rover, passing down the front ranks of the two long lines of massed troops. Then followed the solemn, impressive ceremony of the Consecration and Presentation of Colours to the 5th Battalion the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers (T.A.) and the 5th Battalion the Royal Irish Fusiliers (T.A.), after which Her Majesty, in a short gracious speech over the public address equipment, praised the bearing and smartness of the troops on parade.

The march past, led by the North Irish Horse (T.A.) then took place, Royal Signals were represented by a combined contingent from 35th (Ulster) A.A. Independent (Mixed) Signal Squadron (T.A.) and 107th (Ulster) Independent Infantry Brigade Group Signal Squadron (T.A.), with the W.R.A.C. element of the Mixed Signal Squadron included in the large W.R.A.C. contingent, which was noticeably very smart. The Royal Signals contingent was commanded by Major C. F. C. Lindsay, for whom it was the last parade before transfer to the Reserve; he has now been succeeded as O.C. 35th (Ulster) A.A. Independent (Mixed) Signal Squadron (T.A.) by Major D. Waite, M.B.E. Second-in-Command of the contingent was Captain J. D. Cole-Baker, of 107th (Ulster) Independent Infantry Brigade Group Signal Squadron (T.A.).

The administrative arrangements for the Royal Review were made by H.Q. Northern Ireland District and the Chief Signal Officer was called upon to provide an internal telephone system in the showgrounds, with extensions to the control rooms, assembly areas, saluting battery and entrance gates. Personnel of Northern Ireland District (Mixed) Signal Squadron, under the supervision of Captain (T.O.M.) E. G. Brice, laid out the complicated system of lines, and manned the exchange and extensions during the review. Everything worked most efficiently. The microphone for the loudspeaker apparatus and the B.B.C. broadcast was placed in front of Her Majesty by the Chief Signal Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel H. C. B. Rogers, O.B.E. The S.O. III Signals, Captain D. A. Bond, from a communication and control centre in the judge's box, was responsible for the timing of the Royal Salute of 21 guns and the timing of the fly-past of 502 (Ulster) Squadron, R.A.A.F., after the march past. A R.A.F. tender provided a V.H.F. link with the Squadron of Spitfires which, in spite of the driving drizzle during the review, was successfully piloted over the arena in perfect formation to add the finishing touch to a brilliant occasion.

R.Q.M.S. Surfleet and S.Q.M.S. Scantlebury of Northern Ireland District (Mixed) Signal Squadron removed the microphones from the front of the Royal dais before the march past.

NORTHERN COMMAND (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT

York

The month of July has been somewhat hectic in more ways than one, culminating in the withdrawal of all W.R.A.C. personnel. This has naturally led to a complete reorganisation of the Unit, while harrassed troop commanders have been rushing from one Labour Exchange to another in an effort to obtain civilians. Fortunately, the response has been better than anticipated and some very promising recruits have been engaged.

At this point we should like to say how sorry we are to say good-bye to all our girls, for whom the last few months, owing to shortages, have been a period of long hours and hard work, which has been undertaken willingly and cheerfully.

We wish them all best of luck in their new units, and hope that some day, when the recruiting rate exceeds the marriage rate, we may welcome them back to the Unit.

The members of this Unit in the Northern Command Signals Bisley team have now returned, perhaps not covered with glory but with the satisfaction of knowing they put up a very good show by coming 13th in the Britannia Trophy in a field of over 40 and being the first amongst the Royal Signals teams.

The highlight of the month was the visit of the Corps Band combined with the Unit Sports on the 19th and 20th. On the 19th the band played in the Officers' Mess at a Regimental guest night, and on the 20th at the sports and in the evening at a highly successful all ranks dance.

The Unit sports in spite of our reduced numbers produced a good crop of entries and some keen competition. The individual champions being Signalman Simm, Royal Signals, and Lance-Corporal Beckwith, W.R.A.C.

The final of the tug-of-war resulted in a win for the Sergeants' Mess over the Officers' Mess (weight will tell).

At the conclusion the prizes were distributed by the wife of the Commanding Officer, Mrs. R. C. B. Stuart.

EASTERN COMMAND SIGNAL REGIMENT

Maresfield

Complete Editorial and Frontispiece of our very own ! !

This proves what a move can do and that Maresfield is still on the map in the hearts of all members of the Corps. It is indeed an honour to be linked with so many famous names, so much so that even the Editor's gentle reminder of our obligation is accepted as a pleasure.

Of course we do not pretend to possess so many great personages, neither do we appear to have occurrences to compare with the old indelible incidents. In fact our old 'uns confess to having very dim boyish memories of Maresfield and its personalities. But we are far from being overawed by our position; we too will write our page in the history of the Corps.

Just review the position to date. We have our complement of "Topper" Browns and "Dusty" Millers. Our check parades are run easily without the aid of alarm clocks, such as the one used by Sammy Hughes, who apparently needed to take his on parade! Liver is just as plentiful among the senior other ranks, although the brand is different, being generally of a Canterbury breed. Canterbury being where most families reside. Then there is our ability to make visitors feel there is no change. In fact one senior Officer was made to feel so much at home at a residence in Maresfield Park that on leaving he requested his host to order the Guard Commander at the gate not to turn out for his departure! When Joe Cotterell visited the Sergeants' Mess it was a job to know who was entertaining whom! He was surprised to find Uckfield so far away, which only goes to show what Joe could do to distance in Ammo's.

We now have another F.S.S. Troop in the Regiment, this time it is East Anglia. The O.C., Captain F. J. Cook, intends they shall not only be on the map but in THE WIRE too! Accommodation is with the Depot The Suffolk Regiment, in Bury St. Edmunds. It is described as a pleasant rural country town, with some fine ancient buildings and monuments, of which many existed in the Middle Ages, when the Abbots of Bury St. Edmunds were powerful prelates. The Abbey was destroyed, and on its site is now a beautifully laid out public garden. (Our correspondent appears to have found a guide book or, has he been on a conducted tour?).

A flourishing affair in the town is the Signals Association, which holds its meetings in an establishment called the "One Ball." The name although meaty does not prevent the "hop juice" flowing during meeting nights.

Troop personnel is mixed Army and civilian. The N.S.M. element contains the "Terrible Twins," a legacy from O.C. Thames Estuary F.S.S. Troop. There are also "Fritz," the O.C.'s Alsatian and a "moggie" called "Tommy." The latter was seen, vetted and ordered to be removed by the R.S.M. of the Depot who has a large selection of female "pussies." Apparently the R.S.M. has an objection to the production of "Owls"!!

The rest of the Regiment have been so busy that they have little to say. Training Cadre continue their good work with a record attendance of 2,500 cadets in one day at a demonstration column.

SOUTHERN COMMAND (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT

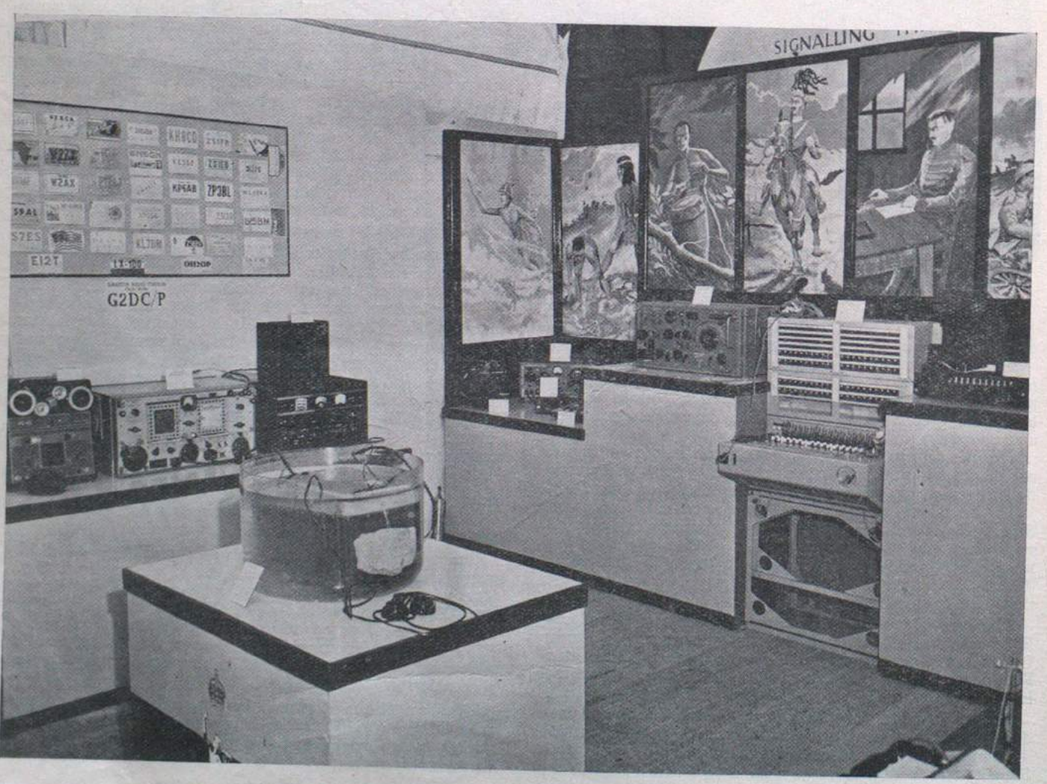
Salisbury

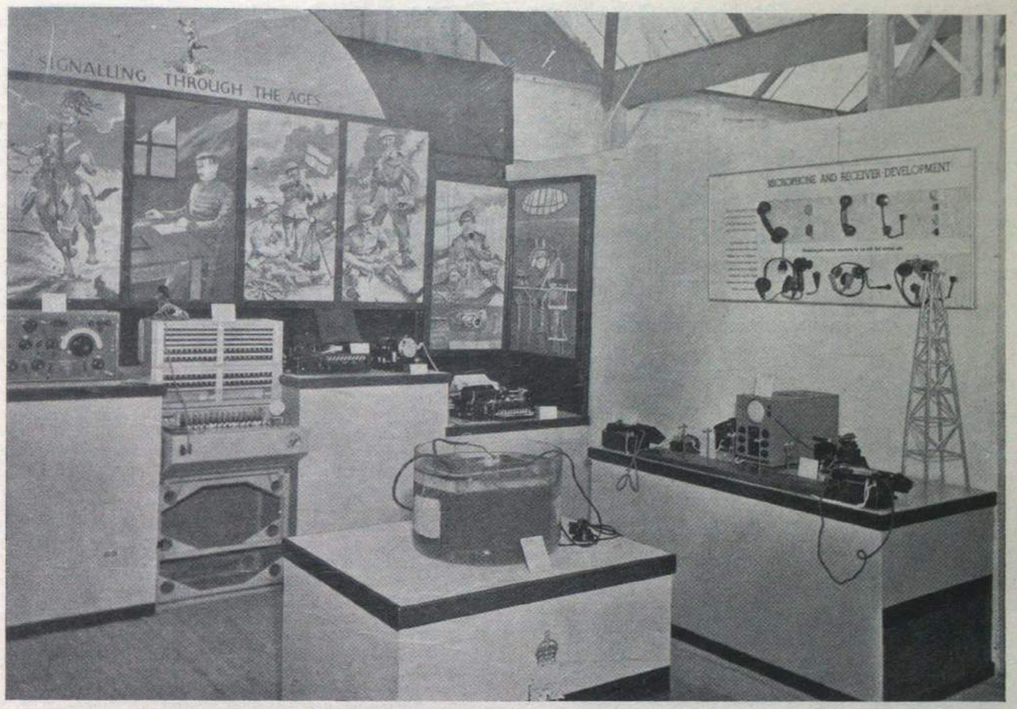
"Hello, all Units Signals. This is Southern Command (M) Signal Regiment calling you once more through the medium of THE WIRE."

For some time now the Regiment has been working at considerable pressure and I can tell you that this business of putting you in the picture is by no means easy. Our commitments have been heavy, and apart from normal training and upgrading courses run under the able direction of Major Drudge-Coates (from behind a veritable Iron Curtain), the provision of neutral signals for "Exercise Epsom Down," shooting and a number of other outside commitments, these by no means cover our full range of activities. We DON'T want to bore you with a day to day diary of our life covering the field of sport and signals, but we DO want you to read on if you will and we can at least promise you an amusing tit-bit or two!

The Royal Agricultural Show found our Regiment holding the Signals flag well aloft and unfurled in the shape of a large and very elaborate exhibition stand. Conceived and designed by Major A. R. Glanvill and an enthusiastic team of which Sergeant Prime and Signalman Cluff were members. The latter being responsible for the tableau, almost legendary by now we imagine, of "Signalling through the ages." The photographs accompanying these notes will give some idea of the stand in general and the tableau in particular. Amongst the exhibits was displayed the new 40-line exchange at present under development at S.R.D.E., whom we have to thank for several of the exhibits. I wonder if the B.B.C. soprano, Gwen Catley, has any idea at all that a large and expensive glass tank loaned to us by the Zoology Department of Oxford University into which we had deposited some water, the R209 receiver and some goldfish, was shattered on the second day through the medium of an operator who tuned a nearby R107 receiver on to the B.B.C. band at a critical moment? The critical moment in this case being the reception of one of Gwen Catley's liquid notes somewhere up in double top C!!! As a result the lovely glass tank was shattered by the high frequency waves thus induced and in a moment an orderly exhibition stand became a disorderly mass of glass, water and goldfish struggling for a breath of H_2O. in the middle of which could be seen Major Glanville—and team, salvaging what could be salvaged and rapidly life-saving the aforesaid goldfish by depositing same in a further glass container!! After this incident B.B.C. broadcasts were carefully vetted PRIOR to reception!!!

It is estimated that in spite of the very inclement weather at least 15,000 people visited the stand, and we hope for great results in the field of Signals recruiting. On the Thursday the stand was greatly honoured by a visit from our Colonel-in-Chief, H.R.H. the Princess Royal who displayed admiration and her usual keen professional interest in the exhibits. Among other notable visitors was General Sir Ouvry Roberts, K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O., G.O.C.-in-C., Southern Command.





Whilst on the subject we must tell you of the venerable old gentleman (not a day under 90), who visited the stand and with back still as straight as a ramrod stood gazing with a far away look in his eye at the tableau depicting "Signalling Through The Ages." After some thought he addressed himself to Major Glanvill who realising himself to be in the venerable presence of a very fine old soldier, stood smartly to attention and listened. "Me boy, I was serving way back in '94 as a trooper and in those days we didn't have all this new fangled equipment like lamps and flags!" He then cast a look of greatest suspicion on the rest of the tableau and exhibits, and departed. And *we* take off our hats to a fine old soldier who never died. Long may he live with the memory of the D.R. on his white charger and the eccentricities of the first field telegraph faintly tapping out a new fangled code invented by one, Mr. Morse.

Yes, the stand, for both young and old, was, we believe, a great success.

Major F. G. Dowie, our P.R.I., has left us for Northern Command. Major Glanvill who has taken over this very promising field hopes very shortly that he too may emulate his predecessor in the rapid ownership of one brand new Standard Vanguard!!!—P.R.I.s in general, take note!!!

Our last dinner night saw the farewell speech by our Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel H. Worrall, to Captain ("Mike") Willway, who leaves us after long service here as Adjutant for a War Office appointment with A.G.11. One and all we wish him luck.

Shooting. We are glad to relate that a member of our shooting team, Lieutenant G. A. S. Exell, got into the Army Hundred at Bisley, and one other member, Corporal Burgess, just "pipped" it by two points. "Hard luck, Burgess!"

The Regiment supplied five members of the team of six which competed in the Southern Command Royal Signals team for the Britannia Trophy, and acquitted themselves nobly. The following also took part in the A.R.A. Central Meeting at Bisley: S.S.M. Dixon, Sergeant Cairns, Lance-Corporal Foster, Signalmen Milward, Stone and Willis.

Lieutenant Exell was also selected to shoot in the Corps team for the Methuen Cup.

Cricket. Captain Walton has been inculcating an excellent spirit into the cricket team. Captain Pearce contributed some excellent batting and bowling. We also have to thank Sergeant Allison for some good averages. The Commanding Officer too, has been knocking up some useful boundaries.

Matches Played

Played 12. Won 8. Drawn Nil. Lost 4.

Batting	Played	Not out	Total
Captain Pearce	8	1	160
Captain Walton	10	1	119
Signalman Cross	11	1	94
Sergeant Allison	3	–	44

Bowling	Wickets	Runs
Captain Pearce	33	169
Captain Walton	23	181
S.Q.M.S. Relph	12	68

☆

NOTICE

A small supply of hand woven woollen ties in Corps colours are available from this Headquarters at a cost of 8s. 6d. each.

Remittances should be forwarded with orders.

Anti-Aircraft Command



2 A.A. (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT
Aldershot

This year the camp was held once again by the sea, at Gilkicker, Alverstoke, near Gosport, a lovely spot—scenically at least—and made a little more pleasant by the Quartermaster and advance party.

An instructional visit to Fort Gomer and the Amphibian Squadron there, was much appreciated. The visit had as its highlight trips in "Buffaloes," "D.U.K.W.," and D.D. tanks to watch an interesting demonstration by the Squadron at sea.

The Chief Signal Officer, Anti-Aircraft Command, paid us a visit during the second week of camp and saw us in the midst of training.

In spite of the training programme we managed to partake of an excellent dance. Local sailors, W.R.N.S. and V.A.D.s were invited and added the naval touch. The N.A.A.F.I. manager (who should have known better) needed to revise his estimates for the Senior Service in respect of lubricants anyway. He is to be congratulated on the quick recovery he made with the assistance of the "local."

A very enjoyable social evening was held by the Warrant Officers and Sergeants who also arranged the families' outing from Aldershot which must have been appreciated by the families concerned.

Since our last notes there have been a few changes. We say good-bye and good luck to our old Chief Signal Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel W. D. McGregor, O.B.E., and extend a welcome to his successor, Lieutenant-Colonel L. W. J. Dryland.

Sergeant Dixon and his detachment continue to march round the D8 network at Bude daily and are, we trust, enjoying it.

Exercise "Bukhara" kept us all fairly busy during the latter part of July. This was a L.A.A. exercise in co-operation between guns and searchlights. The gunners were very pleased with the communication assistance we gave them.

Congratulations to Squadron Sergeant-Major E. H. W. Keay and Sergeant H. Grainger, on obtaining their Army First Class Certificate of Education.

Cricket. The Unit cricket team has done very well this season. So far it has played five matches and has yet to be defeated. The first three games were played at camp and resulted in two good wins and a draw. Two games have been played since our return from camp. The first was an easy victory, but the result of the second one was in doubt all through the match. When our last man, Signalman McDonagh, went in to bat the scores were level. We feared the worst as McDonagh, although a good bowler, is not in the Hutton class when it comes to batting. However, amid great excitement, he collected two easy runs from the first ball he received and so won the match.

2 A.A. (M) Signal Regiment 113 for 8 (declared), 10 A.A. Brigade 4 for 1 (rain).
2 A.A. (M) Signal Regiment 149 all out, 7 Royal Tank Regiment 84 all out.
2 A.A. (M) Signal Regiment 100 for 8, 10 A.A. Brigade 40 all out.
2 A.A. (M) Signal Regiment 114 for 5, 23 P.F. AMB, 32 all out.
2 A.A. (M) Signal Regiment 79 for 9, 6 Squadron, 16 Parachute Brigade, 77 all out.

W.R.A.C.. Annual camp, 1950, will long remain in the minds of most W.R.A.C. members of this Unit. One fine, warm morning in June we set off at 07.00 hours to march to the station, and entrained for Alton where we met the remainder of the male contingent. We continued our journey together, and so ultimately marched into camp at Gilkicker. The weather, though doubtful on occasions, was very kind to us, and we managed to fit in occasional swimming parties amid our normal routine.

On the first Wednesday afternoon, the Commanding Officer kindly gave permission for all the girls to be allowed off duty, and to the accompaniment of a few rude (but, doubtless, jealous) remarks from the male members of the Unit, we set off for the Isle of Wight. The skies were vaguely threatening when we started, but we pressed on and caught the boat from Portsmouth to Ryde Harbour, by which time the skies had produced results far exceeding their promise, and we ended our trip completely soaked to the skin, but triumphantly happy nevertheless. We had an excellent tea, followed by large ice-creams, and then commenced our journey home, accompanied by numerous spoils won at darts in the local amusement park.

During camp we received visits from Lieutenant-Colonel J. Berry, A.D.W.R.A.C., 2 A.A. Group, and Major B. Crawford, W.R.A.C., 10 A.A. Brigade. We were very loath to leave, as Gilkicker is a very pleasant spot, but we cannot help but wonder whether the desire to remain had anything to do with the regular contingent of the Senior Service that turned up daily about 17.30 hours.

Since our return from camp we have moved into beautiful new quarters. Two of the old Barrack Blocks have been converted into small rooms, holding three or four per room, and we are now engaged in putting our new house in order!

From the sports point of view, we are still having an occasional netball match, but the emphasis is on swimming. Any possible hopes for the Group Sports are being coaxed and bullied into practising on all free occasions—most of the coaxing and bullying being done from a nice dry spot at the side of the baths.

4 A.A. (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT
Peninsula Barracks, Warrington, Lancs

The highlight of the month's activities was the fortnight which the Regiment spent camping at Languard, near Felixstowe.

The men were accommodated in tents, whereas their more fortunate sisters in the W.R.A.C. lived in brick built huts.

The training programme was intensive and we were furiously rushed from drill to map reading, P.T. and rifle shooting. 28th June proved hot, when the Regiment showed its stamina by marching four miles in 60 minutes, finishing off the good work by cooking its own lunch. This certainly showed that the proof of the mess tin was in the eating.

The good work of previous exercises was shown in the day and night Signal communication scheme which we held named Aliph. We were rather unfortunate with our lines, but any technical shortcomings were far outweighed by the tremendous enthusiasm which all ranks, T.A. and Regular exhibited.

Although working hard we still had time to play and were able to take advantage of the glorious weather by organising many sailing and bathing parades. This was specially appreciated by the Regular personnel who are stationed at Warrington. We also held a rifle shooting competition in which W.R.A.C. and military personnel competed. The Squadron prize was won by 40 A.A. (M) Squadron, T.A. Well done, 40 Squadron!!

It was with many regrets that we departed from Languard Camp and our many new found friends.

British Troops in Austria

KLAGENFURT SIGNAL SQUADRON



In the B.T.A. Cricket League the Squadron tops the bill with a clear lead of three points, having won 13 out of 16 matches so far played. It remains to be seen whether they will keep this position. The knock-out series begins at the end of August; Royal Signals Austria have a very good chance of winning it. Two of our team played for B.T.A. in the B.T.A. Cricket Week just concluded, in which rain forced a draw with B.E.T.F.O.R., and B.A.O.R. vanquished both the latter and ourselves. These two were Captain E. P. Bullard, whose 451 runs in 15 innings (four not outs), average 41.0, is the real strength of the Squadron XI; and Driver Mahoney, who has taken 44 wickets for 264 runs, average 6.0, during the season, and who is also a strong bat. Corporal Jorgensen has played well in every match with his 276 in 16 innings. Individual play is not otherwise outstanding, but as a whole the team hangs very well together.

The event of the year took place at the end of July. This was the Squadron Sports—and dance. The standard was not high, but surprising revelations of talent were made. Lance-Corporal Page's long jump and 100 metres, Corporal Hill's outstanding lead in the 200 metres, Mahoney's cricket ball and javelin throwing, Lance-Corporal Addison's hurdling and pole vault (until the pole broke!), and Captain S. W. Millen's triumph over Captain (Q.M.) T. L. Harries in the old soldiers' race—all these promise well for the Squadron in the B.T.A. Sports at the end of August. The most memorable feature of the meeting was the tremendous tussle between "C" Troop and "M" and "D" Troops in the heats, and "C" and "A" Troops in the final of the tug-o'-war. The Linemen carried the day—but Wireless almost had them beat at their own game! The prizes were presented by Mrs. Hadfield, daughter of the O.C., Major G. R. Edwards, who with her husband was visiting Austria. The dance in the evening was a grand success.

Ever sport-minded, the Squadron entered a team for the B.T.A. Swimming Sports held in the Ossiachersee the following week-end. Our only successes against the cream of the Battalions and numerous other "minor units" like ourselves was Sergeant Hopkins' 2nd in the 400 metres, and Second-Lieutenant D. E. C. Jardine's 3rd in the 800 metres. The latter competed, incidentally, as the only Englishman, indeed the only non-Austrian, in the trans-Wörthersee swim of 1,400 metres held a few days later as part of the great International Sports Festival that takes place here each August; and came 2nd in the Gästeklasse. It cannot be doubted that the team, in spite of their lack of success, enjoyed themselves at the B.T.A. Sports. Who would not, with three days beside one of Carinthia's beautiful lakes?

Other things that have distinguished the Squadron in recent weeks . . . The paintings collected by Corporal Lightowler in the canteen, which will give many in the Squadron forever-fresh memories of their months in Austria; Second-Lieutenant E. J. R. Naylor's black Lloyd and Lieutenant G. L. Davies' crimson M.G., rivalling each other in their sorties all over the country and in their capacity for seating—or hanging on; several interesting lectures by outside speakers; the visit of the Bishop of Croydon, memorable for his vibrant address on Inspired Leadership, and the Confirmation Service in the Garrison Church; the increased tempo of Squadron activities in view of the international situation; and the general high standard of morale in spite of our short-handedness.

7 ARMOURED DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT



R.H.Q., H.Q. and 1 Squadrons. The major sporting event this month was the Inter-Troop athletics match held at the Highbury Stadium, Celle, on the 15th.

In very hot sunshine we saw a good display of keenness and healthy competitive spirit. The events were well enjoyed by both spectators and competitors.

We welcomed the teams from "H" and "J" Troops, who came over to take part in the match.

The match was won by R.H.Q. with 22 points, with "A" and "B" Troops tieing for second place with 17 points.

The Regiment won the first round of the B.A.O.R. Inter-Unit Royal Signals Tennis Championship versus Hamburg District Signals by 5 matches to 4.

The result of the triangular .22 rifle shooting competition between Royal Signals, Royal Engineers and H.Q. Squadron of Divisional H.Q. was a draw between Royal Signals and H.Q. Squadron.

Exercise Nordic has been like an ominous rain-cloud on the horizon all the month, but as is usual with these exercises, when they arrive they are usually good fun. Nordic is no exception. Everyone is enjoying it thoroughly and experiencing a pleasant break from the routine of barracks.

2 *Squadron.* The Gunners have kept us very busy at the R.A. Ranges during the past month.

We regret to announce the death of Signalman Goodchild, of "F" Troop. All ranks of the Squadron wish to convey their deepest sympathy to his parents.

3 *Squadron.* The month of July was one of intense activity by the whole Squadron. Most of the time was spent on military and technical training and preparation for Brigade Exercises in August.

During the month a recreational map reading competition was held in the Harz Mountains. The first prize, an engraved bronze medal was won by Lance-Corporal E. Cope, who put up an outstanding performance.

Swimming instruction was given to the majority of the Squadron at the Bad Harzburg Leave Centre swimming pool. So far about half those attending have managed to cover the 60 yards required by the Army Test without foundering.

Signalman C. E. Reddall and Driver N. Proctor did very well at the Regimental Athletic Meeting. Reddall came second in both the 100 and 200 metres, while Proctor was third in the 1,500 metres.

4 *Squadron.* The entire month of July has been spent either under canvas at Soltau training camp, or absent from there on five-day exercises, of which there were three, Long Arm Two, Goring Two, and Nordic. The first week was spent quietly enough in preparations, and ended with 7 Armoured Brigade sports day, and also a drumhead service which the entire Brigade attended.

Afterwards life was more hectic, scheme following scheme, with a week-end break between for re-furbishing, baths, etc.

Signals acquitted themselves well, and many of our N.S. men had their first glimpse of what a Brigade in action looks like. On the whole, the weather was kind to us, apart from occasional thunderstorms and a sudden whirlwind which flattened the Officers' and the Sergeants' Mess tents at the training camp.

Our enemy in Nordic was represented by the Norwegian Brigade, and it seems we did so well that the umpires had to call a two-hour truce, or the exercise would have been over a day too early.

2 INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT

Hilden

For the past four weeks most of our efforts have been directed towards preparing for the B.A.O.R. Signals Inter-Regimental athletics.

When asked by the C.S.O. B.A.O.R. to be host unit for this year's meeting, we accepted gladly, and the Dusseldorf Stadium was booked for 2nd of August. Major M. S. Hancock undertook the gargantuan task of co-ordinating and organising the varied programme and administrative details for those competing. The problem of raising and training our own team fell to the capable hands of Second-Lieutenant R. D. Whitehead, fresh back from the Army athletics, and R.S.M. Barrett.

The weather on the day threatened to be unco-operative, but luck held and the rain stayed away for the duration. From the very first event it was obvious that competition was going to be very keen, as teams were so evenly matched. It would be very difficult to single out individuals for special mention from a team of such consistently good athletes, but a description of those meeting would not be complete without congratulations to one or two outstanding performers. As usual the R.S.M. showed us that a few years need be no handicap in sprints, pulling us from 3rd to 2nd place in the 100 metres relay by gaining a good 10 yards. Perhaps our proudest moment came in the 4 x 800 metres relay race when, thanks especially to the efforts of Signalman Gould and Lance-Corporal McGill, we romped home about 100 metres ahead. Signalman North, of "J" Troop, also showed us some beautiful running when he won the 1,500 metres. In the field events our outstanding success was gained by our Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel G. B. Bell, C.B.E., and Sergeant Warren, who threw the discus the combined distance of over 170ft. to take first place. Towards the end of the day the atmosphere was becoming tense for although B.A.O.R. Signal Regiment were safely in the lead, we were running neck and neck with Air Formation Signals for second place.

The 120 metres hurdles had every spectator on his feet for a near photo-finish in each heat, when Second-Lieutenant R. D. Whitehead and Signalman Nutbrown were both relegated to 2nd place by a very short head. The battle for 2nd place was only decided by the last event when Air Formation Signals beat us in the 400 metres relay, giving the final placings of:—

1st—B.A.O.R. Signal Regiment.
2nd—Air Formation Signals.
3rd—2 Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment.

Times over the day were fast, but perhaps our tug-of-war team came nearest to beating any record. Under the leadership of Lieutenant E. C. Lonton we had a pull against the ultimate winners, 1 Wireless Regiment, lasting the phenomenal time of 4 mins. 58 secs.!

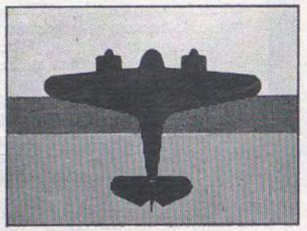
Apart from sport, the Regiment has continued its extensive training and upgrading programme which is now nearing its close in preparation to the Divisional exercises. The effort has proved well worth while, providing us with many better qualified and slightly better paid tradesmen.

Other sporting activities during the month included the Divisional golf competition in which we took 2nd place, and the Inter-Signals tennis, where we regret we came a very gallant last. Sailing continues with great enthusiasm, several members of the Regiment travelling all over B.A.O.R. as representatives of the local club; and the yachtsmen are keenly looking forward to the Inter-Signals Regatta in the near future.

We announce, with deep regret, the death on duty of Signalman Hyde, and extend our sincere condolences to his parents. The funeral took place at Cologne on 4th August, at which the Regiment provided a firing party for the farewell salute.

11 AIR FORMATION SIGNAL REGIMENT

Bückeburg



British Air Force of Occupation Command Athletic Championship, 1950. At the B.A.F.O. Command athletic championships held at R.A.F. Station Uetersen on 29th July, 1950, the following members of the Regiment were successful:—

Sergeant Stone, 1st in the hammer with a throw of 78ft. 4ins. In the eliminations he threw a distance of 91ft.

Sergeant Gardiner, 2nd in the 110 metres hurdles, losing the 1st position by only a foot with a time of 18.4 secs.

Driver Greaves, 2nd in the 400 metres with a time of 53.3 secs.

Lance-Corporal Henderson, 6th in the 5,000 metres.

The Regiment was well represented in the Inter-Station relay having two representatives in the winning team (Sergeant Gardiner and Lance-Corporal Richardson, R.A.F. Station, Ueterson) and three representatives in the second team (Lance-Corporal Sinclair, Signalman May and Driver Greaves, H.Q. Unit B.A.F.O.).

Regimental Women's Institute. Mrs. R. M. Adams, wife of the Commanding Officer, is President and organiser of the Regimental Women's Institute. The W.I. has met fortnightly for coffee and discussion of family affairs since its inception last March, and on all such occasions a "bring and buy" is held, originally organised by Mrs. Cosstick. The proceeds, together with the proceeds of a W.I. piano recital, given by a well-known German broadcaster and professor of music, and the profit from a W.I. whist drive, were used to hire a charabanc for an outing for the W.I. to Lemgo. A picnic was held on the way back near Langenholzhausen.



Air Marshal Sir Thomas M. Williams, K.C.B., O.B.E., M.C., D.F.C., C.-in-C. British Air Force of Occupation, inspecting the "Brown Jobs" on a recent R.A.F. parade

HAMBURG DISTRICT INDEPENDENT SIGNAL SQUADRON

Hamburg

On 8th June we took part in the King's Birthday Parade in Hamburg along with other Units of the District. It was said that we upheld the tradition of the Corps in the march past.

Two weeks after this big occasion we had two others, firstly a visit by Major-General Scott, G.O.C. Hamburg District, followed by a visit from the G.O.C.-in-C., B.A.O.R., Lieutenant-General Sir Charles F. Keightley, K.C.B., K.B.E., D.S.O. Both inspected Signal Office, line installations and men's quarters.

Nos. 220 and 221 Medium Wireless Troops have taken an active part in two of the Rhine Army Exercises. On Exercise "Concord," held during May, the Squadron supplied umpire sets for H.Q. Rhine Army, and on Exercise "Nordic" in July supplied umpire sets for 7th Armoured Brigade and Norwegian Brigade Group. The two troops are to be congratulated on quite a good performance. During this coming month half of the Squadron will be out in the field performing field exercises around Schleswig-Holstein.

It is with deep regret that we must inform our readers of the death of the late Corporal O'Connor, who sustained fatal injuries in a traffic accident. Corporal O'Connor was a popular and well respected N.C.O. of the Cipher Troop.

In the world of sport we have taken part in the Royal Signals Inter Div./District Cricket Cup, but regret to say that we were eliminated by 11 Air Formation Signal Regiment who beat us by six wickets.

Our Unit motor-cycle team was entered last month in the Hamburg District Motor-Cycle Reliability Trial held at Neümünster in which there were 150 individuals taking part. S.Q.M.S. Carter must be congratulated in finishing 8th and the Squadron team in being the second British team home.

In the Royal Signals Inter Div/District Tennis Competition we were defeated by 7th Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment by 6 games to 5.

At the time of writing these notes, our athletics team are away at Dusseldorf competing against other Signal units for the Royal Signals Athletics Championships.

H.Q. B.A.O.R. SIGNAL REGIMENT

Herford

Annual Athletics Meeting. On Thursday, 27th July, 1950, a day of glorious sunshine, H.Q. B.A.O.R. Signal Regiment held its annual inter-Squadron sports meeting.

The Athletics Cup—held by 3 Squadron for the last 12 months—was won by 2 Squadron, who proudly carried it away.

1 Squadron and 3 Squadron contested each event vigorously, but 2 Squadron were undoubtedly superior and emerged worthy victors.

Novelty items were, of course, a great attraction and they provided much amusement among the spectators. The novelties included an old soldiers' race, a toddlers' race, and a husbands' and wives' three-legged race.

The old soldiers' race was won by Sergeant P. Stead, with our Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel J. E. S. Sanders, O.B.E., second. Lieutenant-Colonel (T.O.M.) A. Trapmore, who was in the lead for most of the race, was beaten into fourth place by Captain R. A. Crerar. The toddlers' race was won by Kathleen Homer, a daughter of S.S.M. G. Homer. Kym Haxell, the son of Captain R. Haxell, 2 i/c 3 Squadron, was second. In the three-legged event Captain and Mrs. J. H. Pearce, 3 Squadron, beat Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. J. E. S. Sanders and Captain and Mrs. R. Haxell into second and third places respectively.

Among the main events, the 5,000 metres race was won by 2 Squadron.

The Band of the Rifle Brigade played music appropriate to the occasion throughout the meeting.

The presentation of the prizes by Mrs. J. E. S. Sanders completed a most enjoyable afternoon's sport.

Swimming. The Minden Sub-Area individual swimming championships were held at Bad Oeynhausen on Thursday, 13th July, and the Regiment were able to win three events, take second place in one race, and third place in four other events.

Captain J. Pearce, who for weeks past had been training the swimmers—most of whom had had no previous racing experience—won the one metre and three metres diving events. Lance-Corporal Chalk was placed third in the latter. The 200 metres free-style was won by Signalman Wright, with Lance-Corporal Williams second and Signalman Holloway third. Signalman Wright also gained third place in the 100 metres race of the same type. Signalman Phillips of 3 A.S.S.U. raced into third place in the 100 metres breaststroke event.

In the final water polo match, 1st Royal Tank Regiment beat us 6—4 after a hard fight. We avenged this defeat by winning the 6 x 100 metres free-style race from 1st Royal Tank Regiment making us eligible to compete in the 7 Armoured Division Swimming Championships which were held on 20th and 21st July at Hanover. Here the Unit again were runners-up to their old rivals the 1st Royal Tank Regiment. The final score being 1 Royal Tank Regiment 74 points, H.Q. B.A.O.R. Signal Regiment 66 points.

Successes gained in the Individual Championships were as follows: 400 metres free style, Signalman Wright 1st, Signalman Holloway 3rd; 200 metres freestyle, Signalman Wright again 1st and Lance-Corporal Williams 3rd. Second place was won by Captain Pearce in the one metre and three metres diving. Signalman Wright was placed second in the 100 metres free-style and Signalman Taylor fourth in the 100 metres breaststroke. The Unit team won convincingly by over 25 metres the 6 x 100 metres Unit free-style relay with the 1st Battalion York and Lancaster Regiment second, 15 Medium Regiment, R.A., third, and the Royal Horse Guards fourth.

Preliminary rounds of the water polo resulted in wins for the Regiment, but we were beaten in the final by 1st Royal Tank Regiment. Results were:—1st round: H.Q. B.A.O.R. Signal Regiment 14, Royal Horse Guards 0; semi-final: H.Q. B.A.O.R. Signal Regiment 8, 15 Medium Regiment 2, and the final: H.Q. B.A.O.R. Signal Regiment 1, 1st Royal Tank Regiment 5.

BERLIN SIGNAL SQUADRON

On looking back it seems as if July was a month of sport and rumours. Sport covered all the recognised summer games—and many that we usually associate with winter too. Rumours were concerned with whether we would move from our present very pleasant quarters in the Olympic Stadium. Rumours have in fact already moved us to most parts of Berlin, but rumours have left us unmoved—we are still in the Olympic Stadium.

The cricket league programme has been completed and we are now awaiting the final placings. An estimate puts us at rather above half-way up the league. By far the best performance of the cricket team this season, however, was put up in a friendly match against R.A.F. (Gatow)—a senior league side. In this match the Squadron only lost by 25 runs in a high scoring match. Corporal Reece bowled exceedingly well.

A cricket match which caused a considerable amount of interest was H.Q. B.T.B. Officers against the combined H.Q. B.T.B. and Signals Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess. The Officers batting first scored 189 all out. In reply the Sergeants were at one time 146 for 7. However, Sergeant

Richardson and Sergeant Clegg came together and with knocks of 104 not out and 45 respectively achieved a win by one wicket.

The summer hockey season is in full swing. The Squadron six-a-side team won their first league game by 7—2 over a combined R.E.-R.A.S.C. team. In friendly games they have even more resounding victories. In the full side league two matches have been played and two won. The Manchester Regiment were beaten by 5—1 and the Black Watch by 5—2. The matches most keenly anticipated by both the six-a-side team and the full team are those with the Royal Fusiliers.

The badminton team inaugurated their programme with a fine, if somewhat narrow victory over the Black Watch. An exceedingly well balanced and carefully judged performance by Lance-Corporal Cushnaghan set the keynote to this 7 sets to 6 victory. A stop press report also informs me that the Black Watch suffered a 9—3 sets defeat at the hands of our table tennis team this week too. Well done.

Freddie Mills, the well-known and popular ex-light heavyweight champion of the world, paid a visit to Berlin recently, and included the Olympic Stadium in his tour. He proved a very popular visitor—he talked and joked with members of the Squadron, and posed for photographs with several of them. We are all standing by and waiting to be "gripped" when these photos are printed.

Other Overseas Stations

1 INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT
Tripoli

The weather in Tripoli has been hotter than usual for the time of year which has had a somewhat enervating effect on all and sundry.

However, in spite of it all our cricket team has managed to hold its position at the top of the minor league and just to show that it is not all a matter of luck took on the 1st Battalion Coldstream Guards, probably the strongest team in Tripoli and beat them by 18 runs. The scores were: Signals 115, Coldstream Guards 97. This was a very good effort and all are to be congratulated.

It is hoped to hold our Regimental Sports on 19th August and the early morning sees our budding athletes training on Seaview. Except for Sergeant Fisher, our "stars" from last year have all gone and we have the business of building an entirely new team for the Divisional Championships. Our last draft included Signalman Hockley, who has some good half-mile times to his name in England, and he will be a great asset.

S.Q.M.S. Chadwick and Corporal Fox represented the Unit with the Royal Navy on the Mediterranean summer cruise and have now got back looking very fit and well. The speedway team will be glad to see that Sergeant Burgess "missed the boat." Even without Staff-Sergeant Cook and Lance-Corporal Tillson the speedway team managed to beat the R.A.S.C. in a league match by 11 points.

This sport has gained rapidly in popularity and meetings are now held twice a week and although only fourth in the championship ladder we are equal first in the league with two other teams.



3 G.H.Q. SIGNAL REGIMENT
Fayid, M.E.L.F.

Under the supervision of Major Nash, the Unit Theatre Club produced a variety show for our Corps weekend. The show—"Round the Town"—was a great success, and two repeat performances were given on later dates. The audience, and the cast too, enjoyed every minute of it. Songs by Reg Thornton, who has since left us for the Far East, Barbara Nash, Heather Wilson and Chris Watkins, proved popular items, but probably the most popular (particularly with the cast!) was a visit to the "Old Bull and Bush," which turned out a rousing finale!

After the show, the C.S.O., M.E.L.F., Major-General W. O. Bowen, C.B., C.B.E., went "back stage," and congratulated the cast and the "back room boys," on the work they had put in, and the results they had obtained.

The strength of 1 Squadron has been increased by the transfer from 2 Squadron of Line Troop. It is hard to say whether this has had any moral effect on 1 Squadron, but they have certainly blossomed forth in the field of sport, by winning the Inter-Squadron Shooting Shield and the Colvin Meik Cricket Cup. The Squadron was also successful in the drill competition.

In the cricket competition, 1 Squadron defeated 2 Squadron heavily in the preliminary round, and the Royal Navy XI was beaten by H.Q. Squadron, so that 1 and H.Q. Squadrons met in the final.

The donor of the cup decided that the first over of each innings in competition games would be bowled "underarm," or as he would say "lob-bowling"! Despite the unnerving effect of this type of bowling upon the opening batsmen, the finalists settled down to play some exciting cricket which resulted in 1 Squadron getting the cup.

The Inter-Squadron Swimming Gala was held at Moascar, and helped by Sergeant Beale winning all his events, 2 Squadron gained a sound win, leading 1 Squadron by 18 points at the finish.

As a result of an accident on the cricket field, the Unit's redoubtable sportsman Lieutenant Prince is now *hors-de-combat* for a few months.

An awkward fall while fielding resulted in Lieutenant Prince fracturing both arms. An unfortunate mishap from which we hope he will have recovered by the start of the rugby season!

4 AIR FORMATION SIGNAL REGIMENT
Abyad

4 Air Formation Signal Regiment came into being in March of this year, having existed previously as No. 1 Squadron 4 Air Formation Signal Regiment only. A "R.H.Q." was superimposed upon us with a C.O., Adjutant, Q.M., T.O.M., an R.S.M., R.Q.M.S., F. of S., and a T.M. Troop. Of course changes in the existing order of things were made and a number of new procedures appeared. The position, however, has now been stabilised, and the Regiment has settled down and is working smoothly, and the R.A.F. appear to appreciate the services we give them which is pleasant. Our H.Q. are at Abyad, and our Wing Signal Troops are deployed over a vast area—Nos. 36, 39 and 50 in the Canal Zone, No. 64 at Habbaniyah in Iraq and No. 65 at Aden "where the best is like the worst and the sun and sand give a man a hell of the thirst" to parody Kipling.

It is virtually impossible to raise representative teams for any of the major games because of the wide dispersal of the Troops. However, individuals give more than good accounts of themselves. R.H.Q. provides at least one member who has represented the Corps (Egypt) at tennis and plays for the Station water polo team. 36 Wing Troop with its H.Q. at R.A.F. Ismalia, managed to turn out a team in the Station inter-section league and reached the semi-final of the cup competition, two of its members played hockey for the Station XI, two played for the Station rugger team and one represented the Corps (Egypt) at rugger. After a shaky start they have a cricket team which is giving a good account of itself and provides one player for the Corps (Egypt) cricket team.

H.Q. 39 Wing Signal Troop at R.A.F. Station Fayid are rather more fortunate in being able to combine with H.Q. 2 A.S.S.U., also situated on the Station, to turn out both soccer and cricket teams. The soccer team were unfortunate enough to come up against a very strong side put out by the Station Admin. Wing in the inter-section cup competition in the first round and so became knocked out. They hope to take their revenge on the cricket field as they did last year by carrying off the Station cricket shield much to the annoyance of the Group Captain Commanding the Station. One member is a stalwart of the Station water polo team who hold second place in the Canal Zone Water Polo League at present.

H.Q. 50 Wing Signal Troop is situated at R.A.F. Kasfareet on the shores of the Great Bitter Lake. They have an excellent Lido and Sailing Club at their disposal right on the doorstep as it were. Several of the Troop members avail themselves of these facilities throughout the summer months. Soccer is a strong point of the Troop and they gave a good account of themselves during the past season.

71 Construction Troop are heavily engaged on major projects and get very little time for recreation. The Troop never stays long in any one place and is constantly moving to where it has a project to do. For the last few months it has been situated at Geneifa and has been very hard worked indeed. Another move is anticipated for them in the near future. There has been an air of mourning about the Troop since March when a shady character in a Galabiah borrowed the O.C.'s motor-cycle without signing a 108 for it. Any aspirant Sherlock Holmes who could detect its whereabouts would be welcomed with open arms.

64 *Wing Signal Troop*. In spite of the fact that this Troop is very dispersed with detachments in Transjordan, Iraq and down to Stations in the Persian Gulf, its Headquarters at R.A.F. Habbaniyah manage to put out a soccer team and field quite a strong cricket team in the Station leagues. One member of the Troop played rugger for the Station and played for Iraq Command XV when it toured the Canal Zone in March.

The R.A.F. Telecommunications at Aden are maintained by 65 Wing Signal Troop, the sister Troop of 64 Wing. Aden is regarded by many to be one of the black spots of the world to serve in but that would seem to be a fallacy from the number of applications for the extensions of tour there. The reasons remain a closed secret and are only revealed to people who are serving there. The recreational facilities for swimming and sailing are excellent but hardly enough to entice persons to remain.

Congratulations to the Foreman of Signals, W.O.II Jenkinson, on being commissioned as Lieutenant (T.O.M.). God speed on his posting to F.A.R.E.L.F.

CHIEF AIR FORMATION SIGNAL OFFICER'S BRANCH
MIDDLE EAST AIR FORCE
Ismailia

This being our first contribution to THE WIRE, it will be best if we explain what we consist of:—

1. C.A.F.S.O. Branch, established to co-ordinate and arrange provision of landlines for the R.A.F. in the Middle East theatre, is based upon H.Q. Middle East Air Forces at Ismailia with representation of an Officer (Staff Officer Air Formation Signals) and three O.R.s at each of the major R.A.F. H.Qs., i.e. H.Q. 205 Group Canal Zone at Fayid, A.H.Q.s Malta, Iraq (Habbaniya) and Aden. The responsibilities of S.O. A.F. Signals Malta extend to all airfields on the North African littoral, those of S.O. A.F. Signals Iraq to Transjordan and the Persian Gulf stations, whilst those of S.O. A.F. Signals Aden include East Africa, Somaliland, and the outposts along the inhospitable South Arabian shore. So we cover a vast territory and there is a lot of travelling to be done.

Like most departments in the Service these days we are suffering from the acute shortage of manpower, and it seems we have just finished welcoming a newcomer to the branch when it is time to say "good-bye" and off he goes to Civvy Street. Our officer situation was in a bad way during the first four months of the year. It seemed that nearly all our officers were due for repatriation to U.K. at the same time. First we lost Captain D. Galbraith, S.O. A.F. Signals Iraq, invalided to U.K., he was eventually replaced by Captain D. W. Gladstone from 4 Air Formation Signal Regiment. Major E. W. Lewis from 205 Group was next, tour expired. He was replaced by Major F. T. C. Williams, ex-U.K. Our third and biggest loss was Colonel C. C. Danby, O.B.E., who left for U.K. on 15th April, 1950, tour expired plus three months. In addition to the loss to the branch, Colonel Danby will be missed from the local sporting circles; he was Chairman of the B.T.E. Polo and Riding Club and also Chairman of the Royal Signals (Egypt) Rugby Committee. In addition to these two spare time occupations, he played for the R.A.F. Ismalia tennis team all during the 1949 season. Our fourth and last loss was Major B. J. Stevens, S.O. A.F. Signals Malta, tour expired plus six months. Major Stevens was the last of the original M.E.L.F. Air Formation Signals and his knowledge of things in general has been a loss to the branch. He has been replaced by Major N. C. B. Cleveley, recently arrived from U.K. Colonel D. St. J. Hoysted arrived on 10th April, 1950, and took over the reins from Colonel Danby.

2. Whilst attached to the R.A.F. we naturally take part in their sporting activities and there are very few games played on this Station in which there is not at least one Army representative. During the two years S.S.M. Collie, Chief Clerk, has been on the Station, he has won six cups from the R.A.F. for tennis. For reasons best known to the R.A.F. he is not allowed to take part in All Egypt R.A.F. tournaments but, as four of the prizes won are beer tankards, there is no bad feeling towards the R.A.F. As regards Corps activities, this season is seeing Major Williams and S.S.M. Collie representing C.A.F.S.O. Branch in the Corps (Egypt) tennis team.

3. Our one yachting enthusiast is Major F. E. Berry (S.O. Lines), he represents A.F. Signals in the U.S.Y.C., and is a Class "A" helmsman and skippers his own boat. When he has finished preparing projects for the next 10 years (or so it seems) he had agreed to write an article on the joys of sailing Lake Timsah, with or without wind.

2 GUARDS BRIGADE SIGNAL SQUADRON
Kuala Lumpur

These will be the last notes of the 2nd Guards Brigade Signal Squadron as such. Over the 2½ years since its formation at Canterbury, Kent, in April, 1948, it has added

a small paragraph to the history of the Royal Corps of Signals.

After four months at Canterbury, during which a steady stream of men and material flowed into the mould, it was taking part in "Exercise Southdown," which was designed to assist successive waves of Eastern Command T.A. Signal Regiments in their annual training. It was on the last of these exercises at 02.00 hours on 19th August, 1948, that our Commanding Officer received a Signal instructing him to report to the War Office. At 11.00 hours the Cabinet met, at 12.00 hours orders were issued to mobilise. On 5th September the Squadron was afloat for Malaya.

On arrival at Singapore, after a short period of reorganisation, the Squadron entrained for Kuala Lumpur. Surprise at finding that 2nd Guards Brigade was the only mobile formation in Malaya was only equalled by that evoked by the subsequent use the Higher Command made of its Signal Squadron! The deployment in the states of Selangor, Perak, Pahang and Negri Sembilan, with a maximum of three battalions under command, taxed its endurance. However, the burden began to ease in November, 1949, by the formation of the first of many new Brigade Headquarters.

Last week there was a Brigade sports meeting in which honours were earned by the following:—

Corporal Ellis, 1st 220 yards, 3rd 100 yards; Lance-Corporal Senior, 3rd 120 yards hurdles; Signalman Lowe, 2nd javelin.

The Squadron held the 2nd Battalion Coldstream Guards in the tug-o'-war for five minutes, but a nine stone difference made the outcome eventually apparent.

The following members of the Squadron have stayed its nominal course: Major P. G. Curry, Sergeant Jones, Corporals Longworth, Illett, O'Neill, Walmsley, Dunn, Ellis, Cook, Gillyat, Lance-Corporals Batchelor, Senior, Signalmen Cresswell, Johnston, Jones, Cox, Gilks, Robson, R. C. Smith, Drivers Kennedy, Lovell.

MALAYA DISTRICT SIGNAL REGIMENT

Kuala Lumpur



No. 1 Squadron, Kuala Lumpur. We have been smartening up our area lately and quite a number of men are getting their chance to show off their ability as gardeners and painters.

We are still firing our Classification Course regularly on the Batu Caves Ranges. It is interesting to note that these caves are the well known resort of bandits and we therefore have to provide picquets every time we fire there.

Unfortunately, we lost our match against the 2 Scots Guards in the Army Cup by one goal to nil. Some say we were put off by the pipes. However, we did well to get as far as we did.

No. 2 Squadron, Taiping. During the last month, there has been no further increase in our present Signal commitments, although there have been considerable troop movements in the area.

The newly arrived Commando Brigade which is under Sub District Command has had another move, and we have lent them a Command vehicle and operators to assist. Wireless is coming more into its own, as the bandits are occupying much of their time cutting our telephone lines.

We were visited for the first time by Colonel E. C. Thompson, O.B.E., the new Chief Signal Officer, Malaya District, at the end of last month. We undertook "Operation Spring Clean" in his honour, during which members of 2 Squadron under the expert foremanship of Lance-Corporal Fox could one morning be seen painting the Signal Office (and in many cases the wireless sets as well) at the early hour of 03.00.

Our soccer team has now put its name on the map, which it could not have done without the experience and energy of Sergeant Medford. He has been with this Squadron for 16 months. Recently promoted, he is leaving us for 2 Guards Brigade. The team has profited by his management, and though still in its embryo stage has many individuals who show considerable promise.

This is an opportune moment to say good-bye to our former Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel E. J. F. Heap, O.B.E., who has recently finished his tour in Malaya, and to welcome Lieutenant-Colonel D. J. Goldsmith, who is taking over from him.

No. 3 Squadron, Seremban. The Squadron is now growing in numbers and becoming more like the real thing. With the new arrivals the various sports teams will improve and we anticipate that some of our local rivals are in for a long overdue pasting. We hope that other Squadrons will venture to debate matters with us on our own or their ground. It is fully expected that the Regimental teams for long almost a 1 Squadron monopoly, will benefit as well.

No. 4 Squadron, Kuala Lipis. We feel very much cut off from the rest of the world as the only method of going out of Kuala Lipis, or coming in, is either by convoy or by Auster. Quite a few members of this Squadron have had their first trips by air in this way. The airstrip is 13 miles away and to bring and fetch the mail the Squadron has two armoured scout cars to act as "D.R.s." The bandits, although present, have not been worrying us very much. Nature, however, tried to interfere, as the Signal Office was struck by lightning during one of the frequent thunderstorms. It burned out part of the telephone exchange but luckily owing to fuses very little damage was done.

The Malays Celebrate Hari Raya Puasa

By **BEE WICKERSON**

HIGH on the top of a Singapore mosque a lone Moslem watches the night sky. The dark rain clouds sail majestically above and visibility is poor. The watcher waits patiently for the first sight of the new moon.

Slowly, gracefully, surely, out of the nimbus creeps the slender, early crescent. Soon the glad tidings are speeding throughout Singapore. Ramadan, the month of fasting, is over; and Hari Raya Puasa has dawned.

During the month of Ramadan, which this year commenced on 16th June and ended on 17th July, Muslims may not eat, nor allow liquids to pass their lips, nor smoke, while the sun shines in the sky; although they may break their fast during the hours of night. Yet their daily tasks must be done. Many of them are manual workers, many more are serving with the Army or the Royal Air Force. The test of fasting from sunrise to sunset is no light one, and is an ordeal of the conscience and will-power.

On holiday the Malays spend their day visiting the beauty spots of Singapore, resting beneath the shady trees of the parks and the gardens. Or they sit by the sea shore, watching the gentle waves lapping the hot sands of the beaches. Or they stride proudly along the highways and the byways, displaying their fine, new clothes.

The women wear gay flowered cotton sarongs topped with exquisitely embroidered kebayas. They wrap a colourful, clinging scarf around their faces and over their heads. The little girls are smaller replicas of their mothers. But the men and the young boys prefer the European dress, except that their trousers are more likely to be a bright blue, a dazzling white or a cheerful green. Checked shirts of many hues hang loosely outside the trousers and a new hat in purple velvet completes their ensemble.

Then fasting gives way to feasting. A chicken curry is the traditional evening meal of the Malay Muslims. Steaming dishes of rice, and chicken curried to a nicety, garnished with the delicious side dishes and sambals of the country, are cooked and served.

As Islamic teaching forbids a Muslim to take intoxicating liquors the meal is accompanied by a pink sherbert drink which is a delight to the eye, delicately perfumed in true Oriental fashion and guaranteed to quench one's thirst . . . if you drink enough of it.

After the feasting come the dancing and the singing. High up on a raised platform sit the musicians and the taxi-dancers. Malay wives are not permitted to dance with their husbands and usually sit around to watch, with the children. The Ronggen, the dancing girls, are never without partners and the vogue is "Joget Modern."

Joget Modern is a dance. If you try it you soon realise that jazz, hep and jive are but slow, sedate prancings after the excitement of Joget Modern. It is a high-powered affair during which couples dance as close as possible without touching each other . . . a system that promotes great agility and much speed of movement.

The tunes the band plays may be modern dance music to which Malay words have been set—or they may be the ancient folk songs of the Malays "hotted" up to dancing tempo. These people sing as they dance. Quite often the songs are impromptu rhymes, improvised on the spot. Sometimes two dancers will indulge in a tuneful polemic, each in turn making up a verse, while the theme of the music is played and replayed until the improvising powers of the singers are exhausted.

The scene seems a conglomeration of an English Christmas, a Scottish New Year and a Roman Easter. Lights, coloured streamers, gay sarongs, the happy harmonies of laughter, song and dancing, the lilt of the fiddles and the throb of the drum and the brittle gaiety of the maracas, all mean but one thing when the moon is new in the sky and fasting finished for another year. It is Hari Raya Puasa.

GURKHA SIGNAL TRAINING AND HOLDING WING

Kuala Lumpur

Possibly the most important sporting event in the Brigade of Gurkhas is the Nepal Cup football competition. This has at last started—and finished as far as we are concerned. We met the holders, 1/6 Gurkha Rifles, on 15th July, 1950, and we were knocked out—that includes the team and the Unit—we lost 7-0. The Unit team, all Gurkha except for the captain who had to be a British Officer, played very well, but the long shots at goal from all angles left our defence bewildered. Still, there is always next year.

The first Independent Brigade Squadron forms in two weeks. No officers have arrived, but we do know of one who awaits transportation. The tradesmen to form this Squadron have finished their trade tests and the results have been very good.

A percentage proceed on leave to Nepal next month, which means that they will be away for approximately nine months. We wonder how much they will remember.

Now that the pace of training has eased somewhat, British instructors are casting their eyes on various leave centres. Changi appears to be top favourite—maybe wearing swimming trunks all day is the attraction—maybe Singapore. Day trips to Port Dickson at the week-end are still appreciated. P.D. is where one gets the "tropical shore" a-la-Lamour (but NO Lamour). Anyway, *we* go there for swimming.

G.H.Q. SIGNAL REGIMENT, FARELF

Singapore

The Regiment's main recreational activities have again been centred around athletics during the past month. Achieving second place in Singapore Base District's meeting team event to powerful G.H.Q. F.A.R.E.L.F. was a very creditable effort and much praise must go to the Regiment's athletics team and Captain Uttley, the athletics officer. Signalman Slade won the pole vault with 10ft. 4ins., and high jump, breaking the District record in the former event; Corporal Goodings, of A.W.C. Squadron, won the half-mile, and the Regiment again carried off the Inter-Unit medley relay trophy, this for the second year in succession.

The soccer season is now well into its second half and the Regiment is struggling valiantly to retain the Army Major League championship, although things are not going so well as we hoped. Our excursion into local civilian football has also undergone some setbacks, but our hopes of finishing at the top of the league are still high. The fight for the G.H.Q. F.A.R.E.L.F. Branch League is still going on and 1 Squadron's defeat of A.W.C. Squadron strengthened their position at the top of the league, but the race for honours is very close and at the moment any one of four or five teams is liable to carry off the honours.

The Regiment has had three of its members in the Corps cricket team in their last two matches against R.E. and R.A. Even the Regiment's team has been in winning vein and a very thrilling draw, 106 each, was played against 19 Air Formation Signal Regiment.

Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess. In addition to the usual weekly Mess functions which have taken place with great success during the month, I cannot close these notes without first referring to the excellent dinner and social evening given in honour of our departed members.

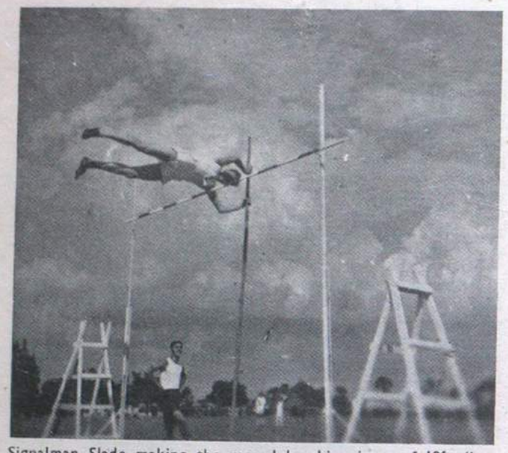
Seventy-five members and wives sat down to dinner; with dancing and impromptu turns to fill in the evening's entertainment.

Our Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel N. I. Bower and Mrs. Bower, and many Officers arrived after dinner and stayed to enjoy the fun and bid our members farewell.

Another highlight of the month was the finals of the annual indoor games tournament. The winners of the various games played were: Snooker, Sergeant R. Drake;



Corporal Coxon, second in throwing the discus at Singapore District Athletics Meeting



Signalman Slade making the record breaking jump of 10ft. 4ins. at Singapore District Athletics Meeting

Darts, Sergeant L. Crane; Billiards, S.Q.M.S. A. Gilhooly; Table Tennis, Sergeant R. Taylor; Cribbage, Sergeant R. Taylor; Dominoes, R.S.M. P. Johnstone.

19 AIR FORMATION SIGNAL REGIMENT
Changi, Singapore

The month opened with the Regiment being the hosts for the Corps cricket match against the Royal Artillery. The Station Commander, Group Captain J. L. F. Fuller-Good, kindly placed the station cricket field at our disposal. The weather was perfect and the Corps, batting first, scored 147. The Gunners, however, after a very fine start suddenly collapsed and were all out for 131.

The following have represented the Corps at soccer: Corporal Gillespie, Corporal Ormond and Signalman Thomas. The latter unfortunately received a very bad kick in the back whilst playing against the R.E., which resulted in his having a serious operation. All ranks wish him a speedy recovery.

Our Malayan Other Ranks after battling their way to the semi-final of the Army Cup were knocked out by 21 (Provost) Guard Unit 5—0. They put up an excellent show, but lost their goalkeeper in the first five minutes of the game and their centre-forward at half-time. To Singapore District Signal Regiment, who are in the final, we wish the best of luck.

It is no joke to push a three-tonner around or perform with a hammer and jumper when one's inner man is craving for food. But all that was over when Hari Raya Puasa dawned. Ramadan, the month of fasting for those who follow Islam, ended on 16th July this year and our Malayan Other Ranks, all of whom are Muslims, celebrated in traditional fashion. First the men and their families regaled themselves on curry—and all the trimmings; but for a Muslim there is no going to town on anything more exciting than a double orange squash or a coke minus the rum and they drank the New Year in with pink sherbert. Dancing the Joget Modern, followed the feasting. The Joget Modern is a very streamlined dance in which partners may get as close as they can without touching each other! High up on the borrowed station boxing ring, which we erected in the open air, a hired band and dancing girls kept the party merry. Impromptu singing by the dancers, composing their verses on the spot, was applauded by the gaily dressed wives and children of the M.O.R.s. Men and women all wore new clothes and the Malay man-about-town when he is in festive mood, wears coloured trousers, very narrow at the ankles, to enable him to dance that tricky thing, the Joget Modern. Many coloured lights, gay paper streamers, the shouts of high spirited laughter and the fun of the children and the unflagging energy of the band and dancers made "and a good time was had by all" almost an inadequate comment.

SINGAPORE DISTRICT SIGNAL REGIMENT



The major item of news this month was the return visit of our ship H.T. *Lancashire*. This time she turned round here and so we were able to arrange a more comprehensive programme of entertainment.

On Friday we played the football match which had a more satisfactory finish, to our way of thinking, this time. This was followed by a buffet supper.

On Saturday the Officers, accompanied by their wives, entertained the ship's officers to dinner in the Mess and then all proceeded to the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess, where the rest of the crew were being entertained to a social and dance. The ship's crew were once again lucky in winning a number of prizes.

Various members of the Regiment were entertained aboard the *Lancashire* as she lay out in the roads on Sunday. In the cricket match we recorded a win in a game played in truly sporting spirit.

The bond of friendship between the "Old Lady" and ourselves is a very definite and concrete fact and her visits are looked forward to eagerly. She is due to go into dock in a few months' time so she will probably not be visiting us again until the New Year.

Another milestone in Signal go-aheadness has just been passed. At last we have installed a military auto-exchange in Selerang Barracks as an experiment. If this proves a success, it may be the forerunner of several others.

The installation and the conversion of slung D-8 cable to underground cable was done by B.O.R.s and M.O.R.s working together and they have done a very good job of work.

We were very glad to get a "boat" load of British reinforcements, some of whom came from Catterick and others from Mid-East. They are all equally welcomed to the Regiment.

Sport. In the soccer field we had the return match with the *Lancashire* and this time in fine weather we ran out well deserved winners of a hard fought out game. We are now eager for the "rubber" match.

In the Major Unit League we suffered our first defeat of the season and this was to our neighbourly rivals, G.H.Q. Signals. However, we are still top of this league.

"Cheerful Lads" lowered our colours for the first time in the civilian league. We still stand a chance of winning this league.

The M.O.R. team played a hard-fought game in the semi-final of the M.O.R. Cup against T and T.C. with the result that the game has to be replayed. We are hoping to win the replay and to get into the final in the inaugural year of this competition.

Sergeant Tripp played cricket for the Army and was involved in a record last wicket stand. He then proceeded to distinguish himself in the field by taking two very hard catches and running out a dangerous batsman by a good throw in from the deep field. He has again been selected to play for the Army in August.

The Inter-Squadron Badminton Competition is now in full swing. More about that next month.

Whilst writing these notes, there was a sudden "pssht" and we thought that the Army Wireless Chain must have received a direct hit; not a bit of it. Our own fire alarm sounded and the Regiment turned out to put out a grass fire that had been caused by the lightning striking a D-8 pair leading out from the camp.

HONG KONG SIGNAL SQUADRON

The Squadron's spirit has refused to be damped by the weather which at this time of the year is rather too showery for everyone's comfort. However, every advantage is taken of the fine days, and whenever possible, Wednesday and Sunday afternoons see the entire Squadron moving off to Sheko Beach, all available transport mustered into one impressive convoy. New Squadron arrivals have every opportunity to "get their knees brown" and play mock water polo at the same time in extremely pleasant surroundings. Everyone looks forward to the more settled weather when Sunday beach picnics will become a regular feature of Squadron routine, rather than being "weather permitting" occasions.

40 INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT
Hong Kong



There was a time when the arrival of a new troopship in the Colony would signify that even Units had come to build up the Garrison, but now we just sigh as we realise they have come to take away the chap who has just learnt the office routine or maybe, after a superhuman effort, reached 18 w.p.m. on the key; however, to those who are leaving in this month of July on H.M.T. *Empire Fowey*, on her maiden Far East voyage—the best of luck.

Each month has its main topic and one, which occupied a considerable amount of our time, was the Annual (Administrative) Inspection by the C.S.O. H.Q. Land Forces, Colonel D. W. R. Burridge, C.B.E. This took place on 6th July commencing with an inspection and march past, after which the C.S.O., accompanied by the G.S.O. II Signals, Major T. R. Cook, visited the various departments of the Unit.

A few weeks ago a delightful evening was spent in the dining hall where we were entertained by the Aces Concert Party from Kowloon, a group of civilians who presented a first-class show designed to suit the tastes of everyone. We hope they will visit us again in the near future.

Phase II, the change from tent age to Nissen huts, is near completion, and with the power lines going in and the contractor's employees moving their beds out we hope to occupy the new huts sometime this month.

Considerable interest has been caused by A.S.M. Trattles's new toy—a motor boat whose speed trials took place last week. No records were beaten but there was plenty of fun in the process. Corporal McMahon prefers sailing, and having bought himself a small dinghy, is now busy working out the various "tacks" required to reach Hong Kong Island, after which he will no doubt start a ferry service.

It is often said that the one parade a soldier never misses is Pay Parade. We have found another—Swimming Parade. We start off with the non-swimmers receiving instruction from those who can, and the afternoon is usually concluded by a rather hectic and perhaps a little chaotic game of water polo. A swimming gala held recently proved a great success, Sergeant Upton, Driver Bayliss and Driver Humphreys taking the prizes for the main events, No. 1 Squadron winning the inter-squadron relay.

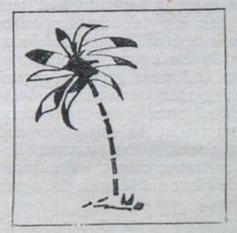
Amateur Radio Club—VS6BT. The month of May found club members arising at 05.30 hours to work the DX and through May into June many contacts were made with G-land. Our most regular contacts were G3BUU in Wolverhampton and DL1FK in Germany. During this period nearly all parts of G-land and many other European countries were contacted, most contacts have been confirmed.

Conditions on 20 metres deteriorate about the middle of June and activity on the air gave way to constructional activities. We hope to be on the air again soon with a new rig, running about 70 watts.

73's CU on 20th June.

SIGNAL TROOP, 58 MED. REGIMENT, R.A.
Hong Kong

July has been a rather leisurely, if sticky, month, the only real activity being on the Regimental Signallers' Course which was on a wireless exercise near the Chinese border on the 27th of this month. The O.C., in company with Lance-Corporal Askew, while trying to locate one of the outstations, met a Chinese Sub-Inspector of Police who was "flapping" somewhat and mumbling something about "I told them not to do it, they'll be H—— to pay now." At this stage in the proceedings the police officer armed Lieutenant Abercromby with a 1917 rifle and 50 rounds and the party then set off, at a rate of knots, for the border in search of one Sergeant and four Privates of the Royal Leicestershire Regiment who had last been seen walking along the border path, having left their vehicle at the border village of Sha Tau Kok. After riding along the road and walking along the path a mile or so the "rescue party" was met by an informer who stated that the soldiers had been seen in the custody of Chinese Communist soldiers in a village just inside the Communist lines. Hot-footing it back to the Police Station the police officer called up his District Superintendent by telephone while the O.C. called up the A.P.M. by wireless and line.



West Africa Command

GOLD COAST SIGNAL SQUADRON
Accra

Now that the cool season has arrived, European days have once again been instituted and for the benefit of those less wise the term "European Day" is applied to a day devoted to training exercises carried out entirely by the British Officers and N.C.O.s of the Squadron, leaving the African ranks to carry on by themselves.

The first European Day was held on 5th June, 1950, and consisted of a Signal and Tactical Exercise designated "Black Magic" and took place in the surrounding bush country. Though the usual snags arose as indeed they always do, the exercise was a success. These European days serve to dig out devotees to white magic in the workshops and give them a day in the open. They start with a grumble and end with a swim and beer. European days are

a break from dealing with our African troops. We attempt to be soldiers ourselves instead of instructors which is our normal role.

On the sports field the Squadron is active as always. The hockey team succeeded in reaching the semi-final of the Command Cup when they lost to the West African School of Infantry and Education 1—3. At soccer out of seven matches played five have been won and two lost against various units here. In addition we have played the local Syrian team four times, beating them on three occasions.

NIGERIA SIGNAL SQUADRON
Lagos

As a comparatively new boy some might say that I am not qualified to write these notes for the Squadron, but I beg to excuse myself for I thought that perhaps a few notes on first impressions in Nigeria would be of interest to readers.

I first learnt that I was bound for West Africa whilst I was on leave. A series of telegrams and letters poured out from good friends in the Depot Regiment in Pocklington giving me instructions and advice on how to get here with the least trouble—and it is no trouble.

The journey starts at the Air Assembly Centre in London where a 'bus picks one up at an early hour of the morning and whisks one away to Blackbushe airfield where one is quickly through the Customs and on to the charter aircraft. All trooping to this part of the world is done by charter aircraft and it is a very quick and comfortable means of travel. The journey takes three days and although all the passengers are military, or their families, all the arrangements and the journey itself are in the hands of civilian firms and very capable air hostesses.

Lagos airport is some few miles outside Lagos itself, and Apapa, which is the H.Q. of the Squadron, is also a few miles out in another direction. The drive between the two is the first part of Nigeria one sees. It is always difficult to try and explain one's reactions on first seeing a country because they are so mixed, but I think the first thing which struck me was the greenness of the vegetation despite the heat. It was not jungle as I had somehow expected but palms of various types with the space in between filled with bushes and scrub. However, this is a false impression of the vegetation, for the country is divided into several belts. The coastal belt consists of fresh and salt water swamp forest where the vegetation is plants and trees growing in soil which is either continually submerged or alternately submerged and exposed by the tides. Among the trees found in this belt are the red mangrove in the salt water and "Ekki," the red ironwood in the fresh water swamps. Behind this belt is found the rain forest, then the deciduous forest, then the savannah and last but not least in the north the thorn forest.

On arrival at the Squadron one first meets the African himself and the first impression is that he is a cheerful individual. This time the first impression is correct and the longer one knows him and the more one understands his sense of humour the truer this is.

The Squadron consists mainly of African personnel with a few British N.C.O.s. All trades except cipher are represented by the African and the standard required is of the same order as his European equivalent. All the operating and line work is done by him under the direction of his own N.C.O.s, the British N.C.O.s only being used in a supervisory capacity. There is no language difficulty because all African ranks have to speak English.

There is very much more which could be written about the African as a soldier—and a very good soldier he is—by a better pen than mine, but unfortunately I am not the type who can express these things clearly on paper. I can only say that I like him and am perfectly happy working with him.

To pass to more chatty news the Squadron soccer team has just won the H.Q. Nigeria District League, after a number of tough battles, for the second year running. We have no doubt that they will keep it up and win again next year.

Personnel are constantly changing due to the 18 months tour, but now that the 3½ years tour has been introduced (with three months U.K. leave in the middle) perhaps we shall have a more stable population.

If these notes are to reach THE WIRE in time for publication these random jottings must cease, therefore I will finish by wishing the reinforcements, who will shortly be leaving the U.K. to join us, a speedy journey and a happy stay in Nigeria.

SIERRA LEONE SIGNAL SQUADRON
Freetown

York Village

By **Sergeant TAYLOR**

AT about 20 miles from Freetown on the south there is a village called York. Eight years ago, visitors and the inhabitants travelled overland and by means of a boat. There is one important point to be noted. There are about four other villages on the way, namely Tokeh, No. 2 River, Susex, etc.; there are many hills around this village and provides very good bush for hunters. Hunters in this village always go out in groups for fear of cannibals. Travelling to York overland just after Tokeh there is a quicksand bank covering a wide space of land. Travellers have still to cross this place in order to proceed to Freetown for the purpose of purchasing stores; after this quicksand bank there are about three rivers on the way which are each allotted with one boatman and a boat, with the aid of this the people crossed to the other end and continue their journey.

Apart from this route there is another shorter course but requires a short trip on board a train for about two hours on a 25 miles journey to Waterloo. From Waterloo to York is about nine miles. On this road there is a big bush called "Montin," this bush is about one mile distance; there are monkeys, baboons and some other wild beasts.

This village is worth visiting as it has four good harbours which are Before Water, Boy's Wharf, Girl's Wharf and Phori Water.

On the shores of each of these wharfs the fishermen make beds with sticks to rest their canoes. Early in the morning they go out in groups fishing and return at night bringing fish which are sold to the inhabitants of the village. There are special days on which they go out fishing, these days the bell-ringer rings the bell and gives the announcement.

The inhabitants are industrious as they have enough land to farm and grow their crops, i.e. casava, from which they produce starch, farrina (garri), tapeoka and foofoo.

Tapeoka is produced out of the dried casava and is mostly used for feeding their babies.

They are all religious people and have three churches. On Sundays no work is done by anyone as they have the belief that if anyone works on Sundays he has robbed a day from God. They all go to church and after service they returned home; everyone interested goes to the Girl's Wharf to watch the waves as they rise.

There is a very important water from which all the inhabitants drink, this is called Phori water, which is in the western part and is running from a cave. In the cave there are very good and fresh green leaves which they fear to touch as they believe that there is a devil in the cave and that these green leaves were sown by him.

Visiting this village on a holiday leaves one with many fresh memories.



[*Courtesy: Charles Woolf, Newquay*

Some more of 56 Squadron, W.R.A.C., T.A., during the 1950 camp

Territorial Army

44 (H.C.) INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.
Stamford Brook, W.6

The weather was reasonably kind to us while in camp and from a military and Territorial Army point of view camp was a great success. We spent two or three days on the range firing the weapons used by Divisional Signals. There was plenty of wireless training and linemen had enough equipment to train their new recruits.

During the second week all the usual annual competitions took place and a good standard was reached by the troops. Next month we will give the names of the winners of the various cups.

There were three really good exercises and on the final exercise there was a "real thing" atmosphere about the various headquarters. It was unfortunate that this last exercise should have so tragic an end. An armoured troop carrier and a 15 cwt. truck crashed at an unmarked crossroad. Both vehicles were carrying Officers and men of other units in the Division who had been representing various formations. An Officer and four other ranks were taken to hospital, the Officer and our own Lance-Corporal Campbell being in a serious condition.

It is with the greatest regret that we have to tell you that Lance-Corporal Campbell died two days later Naturally this rather spoilt the end of camp, and we returned to our various T.A. centres feeling rather sad.

Lance-Corporal Campbell was a member of the Chatham Squadron. He leaves a wife and two children, one aged three and the other born a week or two before camp. To Mrs. Campbell and the children we sent our deepest sympathy.

John Campbell died whilst operating his wireless set and his sacrifice was the greater because he would have been back at his civilian occupation had he not spent his summer holiday training with the Territorial Army. We are proud that he was a member of this Regiment.

He was buried with military honours at Chatham in the presence of Major-General B. C. H. Kimmins, C.B., C.B.E., the Divisional Commander, and members of the staff as well at Lieutenant-Colonel D. N. Deakin, our Commanding Officer and other Officers and men of the Regiment.

As a Territorial member of the Regiment I would like to say here, at the end of the training year, how much we appreciate the work of the regular members of the Regiment It is not easy, being with the T.A. staff shortages and difficult conditions as well as the small number of volunteers means extra work for those permanently engaged at the T.A. centres.

51 (H) INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.
Aberdeen

The Commanding Officer has just returned from an attachment to the Berlin Signal Squadron. He was much impressed, not only by the very specialised Signal layout, the excellence of the office, garage, workshop, store accommodation and recreational facilities but also by the bearing and smartness of all ranks in the Squadron. By courtesy of the Squadron Commander, Major Gordon, he was given the opportunity of addressing some of the National Servicemen who were shortly due to join their T.A. Units. He sincerely hopes that his appeal for them to become T.A. volunteers did not fall on deaf ears. His thanks are due to the Squadron Commander and his officers for the warmth of their welcome and the trouble that they all went to, to make his attachment interesting and enjoyable both from a Signal and a social aspect.

Our Regimental Officers' Weekend Exercise this year was held at St. Andrew's on 5th/6th May. On the Saturday, training took the form of a wireless exercise to brush up our R/T and so on before camp. During the evening in spite of rain, two foursomes successfully completed the course. This was followed by a very excellent dinner at which we entertained Group-Captain M. W. S. Robinson, C.B.E., who commands the R.A.F. Station at Leuchars and Dr. Lawson of the Royal and Ancient, a very old friend of the Regiment. As usual our Honorary Colonel also attended, giving us his wholehearted support, without which we should be at a tremendous disadvantage.

We were honoured by a visit from the Representative Colonel Commandant, Major-General W. R. C. Penney, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., during the last week of June accompanied by the C.S.O. Scottish Command, Brigadier R. W. Morgan, O.B.E. Major-General Penney visited all the Squadrons of the Regiment and R.H.Q. at their respective Training Centres. We hope he enjoyed his visit to the Highlands as much as we enjoyed having him.

In camp at Marske, 1950

The Regiment, under command of Lieutenant-Colonel T. P. E. Murray, O.B.E., T.D., has just returned from a very good and successful camp at Marske-by-the-Sea, Yorks.

Though a long way from our homes we had the advantage of being close to Catterick, the training of long convoy drives to and from camp and the chance to see new country. Our stay was made even more enjoyable by the help we received from the Camp Commandant, Captain M. Grubb, the Border Regiment, and his entire staff.

We were pleased to welcome to our camp, Major-General R. K. Arbuthnott, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., G.O.C. 51 (H.) Infantry Division, and Brigadier R. W. Morgan, O.B.E., C.S.O. Scottish Command, who stayed four days with us and Brigadier R. H. R. Steward, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., A.D.C., Deputy Commander, Northumbrian Area.

The main training was based on setting up a Brigade Signal Troop, to provide communications for 153 (H) In-

fantry Brigade. This Troop was under the command of Captain J. M. Wotherspoon. Also Major T. B. S. McMain ran a Signal School for the untrained men of the Unit. Finally we were very lucky to have a visit from the "Method of Instruction" team from Catterick.

The Pipes and Drums were honoured by being asked to play at Catterick on the occasion of the Royal Signals Old Comrades' Reunion. This they duly did after some difficulty with the weather which was not very kind. Towards the end of camp, they played for a passing off parade at the Officer Training Wing, School of Signals. Immediately after this parade they played Retreat to complete another most enjoyable occasion.

We held our annual guest night on Friday, 21st July, 1950. We were glad to number amongst our guests Brigadier R. W. Morgan, O.B.E., Colonel R. J. Moberley, O.B.E., School of Signals, and three Commanding Officers—Lieutenant-Colonel W. A. Purser, 52 (L) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A., Lieutenant-Colonel W. A. Lee, O.B.E., 50 (N) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A., and Lieutenant-Colonel C. H. Barker, Scottish Command (M) Signal Regiment.

Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess. A smoker was held on Thursday, 27th July, 1950. Members of the Mess were very pleased to renew the acquaintance of R.S.M. J. H. Higgins, M.B.E., who was at one time the R.S.M. of this Regiment.

An all ranks dance was held on Wednesday, 26th July, 1950, under the capable management of Major D. Love and Captain K. M. Lamb. This dance proved to be one of the most enjoyable that the Unit has ever run.

No Sports Day as such was held this year but the inter-squadron football was won by No. 1 Squadron; the tug-of-war by No. 1 Squadron, and the communication race by No. 2 Squadron.

In the Squadron Lines Competition, No. 2 Squadron was adjudged the best while in the Drill Competition, No. 1 Squadron, under Lieutenant R. C. B. Reid, took the honours.

Thus ended a memorable camp, the second that the Regiment has ever had out of Scotland, marred only by two wet days.

43 (WESSEX) INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

Taunton

The Regiment has spent a quiet month after camp taking a well earned breather.

National Servicemen continue to arrive in fortnightly batches a good percentage of whom are taking the most sensible course by becoming volunteers. It may be of interest to those still to come to set out the layout of the Regiment since the reorganisation of the T.A. took place.

Reading from N.E. to S.W. we have at: Bristol—No. 3 Squadron; Bridgwater — No. 2 Squadron; Taunton — R.H.Q., H.Q. Squadron, L.A.D. (R.E.M.E. Attached); Exeter—No. 1 Squadron less detachment; Torquay—Detachment No. 1 Squadron.

We achieved a highspot last week by reaching the 200 mark in the total strength of O.R.s. How many other T.A. Units in Royal Signals can say the same?

Future events on the social side comprise a visit by the Display Team at the end of September and the Regimental dance on 6th October, 1950, for which we are fortunate in having the dance section of the Corps Band.



Brigadier Ralph Rayner, O.B.E., M.P. (Hon. Colonel), who was accompanied by Brigadier B. B. Kennett, C.B.E. (C.S.O. Southern Command), inspecting No. 1 Squadron Church Parade Sunday, 25th June, 1950, Annual Camp, Penhale

1/20 (SM) ARMY SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

Birmingham

As predicted with our usual uncanny accuracy we are writing to you from a T.A. camp at Castle Martin, Pembrokeshire. By 13th August it will be another memory and a happy one at that. In spite of drenching rain to greet the main body everyone got settled in adequately if not in luxury. Since then we have had a fair share of sunshine and a good dry wind. We expect visits from a number of distinguished people who will we hope, be agreeably impressed with what they find at this first post-war camp on our own. The Honorary Colonel of the Regiment, Brigadier E. A. James, O.B.E., T.D., will be staying a couple of nights under canvas with us during our second week. It will be very much like old times for him though alas, there are not many of the old 48th Divisional Signals left in this Unit.

Major-General E. E. Down, C.B., C.B.E., G.O.C. Mid-West District, and Brigadier E. Brickman, D.S.O., Commander 126 Infantry Brigade, T.A., visited us on 4th August. We hope to see Major-General W. R. C. Penney, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., and Brigadier E. V. McCormack, C.B.E., during the last week of camp.

Captain R. H. Ironmonger, well-known as the Honorary Secretary, Birmingham Branch Signals Association, has now joined the Regiment and is managing to do the second week in camp with us. He has promised not to interrupt me during the writing of these notes.

Uncle Ralph: I didn't say . . .

Me: Shut up.

On Sunday, 6th August, we were very pleased to have Major and Mrs. P. R. Hoskins and John, Mrs. L. Suggars (Major Suggars being already in camp) and Major "Max" Keeling to lunch after the big open air church service. Major Hoskins has been on the sick list but happened to be recuperating at a nearby village.

Photographs of this camp cannot be prepared in time for this copy of THE WIRE, but if we find anything of interest in the numerous cameras later on, we will let you see. There might even be one of the Commanding Officer and Adjutant doing their good turn for the day by helping a farmer to persuade a self-willed pony up a narrow lane, only to be told that the man had been trying with most of his farm hands for an hour to get the animal to go the other way. Which just shows.

It is worth recording that the M.T. convoy made the 180 mile journey with only one minor breakdown to one vehicle. Some of the local gradients proved a stiff test for man and machine.

Uncle Ralph: Surely not a test for the men.

Me: Yes indeed. It was a nervous strain. They wondered if the driver had any more gears.

The Regimental potted sports are on now, so as I am being given a start in the Garrison half-inch relay, I shall have to leave you.

One last word. R.Q.M.S. "Pedlar" Palmer would like to hear from Captains N. P. Pearce and L. J. Parker, ex-India. This Regiment by the way is located at Cateswell House, Stratford Road, Hall Green, Birmingham, when not careering over the Welsh hills.

BARLEUX

ARMY PHANTOM SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A. (The Princess Louise's Kensington Regiment)

Hammersmith

The Regiment, commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel R. Wasey, M.B.E., T.D., spent a fortnight at annual camp at Felixstowe, during the last week in July and the first week in August, during which a great deal of valuable training was carried out, despite rather disappointing weather.

The emphasis on training this year at camp has been on producing instructors for the National Service intakes already joining the T.A. Two very enjoyable 48-hour exercises were carried out in the Aylsham district of Norfolk, and Colchester. The co-operation of Southern Command Signal Regiment and Eastern Command Signal Regiment during these exercises was most useful, and very much appreciated.

Our Honorary Colonel, General Sir H. Colville B. Wemyss, K.C.B., K.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., paid us a visit on Tuesday of the first week, and expressed his interest in the activities of the Regiment. We are most grateful to him for making the long journey from London to see us in camp.

Tuesday of the second week was marked by the visits of the Representative Colonel Commandant, Major-General W. R. C. Penney, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., and Colonel J. W. Gordon. We also had the pleasure of a visit from two other friends of the Regiment, Brigadier G. M. B. Portman, T.D., D.L., A.D.C., and Lieutenant-Colonel L. R. Oake, C.B.E. (Chairman and Secretary respectively of the County of London Territorial and Auxiliary Forces Association), who expressed their pleasure at their visit.

Other visitors included Lieutenant-Colonel A. Montieth, M.B.E., of the T.A.R.O., who spent the first week with us, and a party of the Kensington Regiment Old Comrades' Association on their first visit to camp since 1939. The occasion of their visit was marked by an all ranks "Smoker" at the Ordnance Hotel, Felixstowe.

Association Notes

Headquarters

Annual General Meeting and Old Comrades' Reunion, 1950

Events come and go and we have just concluded our last big function for 1950. This took place at Catterick on 22nd and 23rd July, and as usual, it was a wonderful show, in spite of the weather, which was not at all kind to us. The full programme was carried through, however, and we all left Catterick on Sunday evening, feeling that we had had a right good time.

On this occasion there were five Regiments involved in the entertainment and hospitality. Some 350 of us were allotted between the following Regiments: 1st and 2nd Training Regiments, 7 Selection Regiment, Royal Signals Wing, and Officer Training Wing.

On the Saturday evening each Regiment ran a party for us and many of us visited the lot and met many old friends.

The Corps Band beat Retreat on Saturday, but unfortunately the weather prevented them from turning out in their full dress uniform, but for all that they put up a grand show, proving themselves to be as aptly described elsewhere, grand musicians and smart soldiers.

On Sunday morning we held the usual church parade and after a slow start we managed to get all, or nearly all, of the "Old and Bold" on parade and we stepped off smartly in the direction of the church. After church we did a march past at which the salute was taken by Major-General C. W. Fladgate, C.B.E., our Chairman. This was followed immediately by the annual general meeting in the Gymnasium, which is reported in detail elsewhere, and everything passed off well.

After lunch we proceeded to the sports ground, where the Display Team put on one of the best performances I have seen them do, in spite of the ground being so treacherous.

The 51 (Highland) Divisional Signal Regiment's Pipers regaled us with some stirring pipe music which was very

much appreciated. The Corps Band played throughout the afternoon.

Unfortunately, the rain did not allow Major R. B. Brown to display his museum pieces to the best advantage, but for all that it was a very creditable and well thought out exhibition and much appreciated.

Most Branch members returned home about 6 p.m., after one of the best ever reunion week-ends. We do appreciate everything that the S.T.C. and School of Signals do for us on these occasions. It must be a tremendous task and the organisation and hospitality is of the best. Long may these reunions continue.

We missed several well-known faces from Birmingham and hope that they will be with us next year.

Birmingham

I am afraid you will have to look elsewhere for remarks on the Signals reunion and general meeting at Catterick in July. A pressing engagement in South Wales had to take priority and I grieved about it all the way there. I thought how dreadful it was to be driving to South Wales in brilliant sunshine when I might have been travelling to Catterick in pouring rain. At this moment I am so far from Birmingham that I wonder what I can say about the Signals Branch there except to hope that their clothes are dryer than mine. What a pity that the grand weather for the advance party of the T.A. camp petered out. All went well until Sunday morning, 30th July. Then came the shower. Sorry. I didn't mean it that way.

Maybe you would like a little essay on Mud? No? The Hon. Secretary of the Branch, Captain R. H. Ironmonger, having joined 1/20 Army Signal Regiment, T.A., is present in camp and is as busy as ever. The Branch President, Brigadier E. A. James, O.B.E., T.D., who is also the Honorary Colonel of the Regiment, spent a couple of what I hope were comfortable days and nights under canvas.

But we do not seem to be talking about the affairs of the Birmingham Branch at all. I wonder why?

Uncle Ralph: You don't know what is going on.

Me: You can say that again. I will tell you something next time.

BARLEUX

THE SIGNALS ASSOCIATION OF THE ROYAL CORPS OF SIGNALS

Headquarters: 88 *Eccleston Square, London, S.W.*1
(*Tel.*: *Victoria* 9194)

OLD COMRADES' ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Report on the annual general meeting held at Catterick Camp on 23rd July, 1950.

1. *Present.* Major-General C. W. Fladgate, C.B.E., Colonel Commandant, Chairman and Hon. Treasurer; Brigadier G. S. O'N. Power, C.B.E., Commandant, School of Signals; Brigadier J. J. Duvivier, C.B.E., Commandant, Signal Training Centre; Brigadier G. H. Walton, C.B.E., T.D., D.L., Representative Non-Regular Officer and President, Newcastle Branch; Colonel R. J. Moberley, O.B.E., School of Signals; Colonel A. W. Roberts, M.C., General Secretary.

2. The meeting was opened by Brigadier Power, who extended a warm welcome to all who were present. He spoke briefly about the reception and training of both the Regular and National Service soldiers, and explained how the Regular recruit is first sent to No. 1 Independent Selection Squadron at Beverley for six weeks, before he is finally posted to one of the five Training Regiments, according to his trade; and that the National Service recruit first goes to No. 7 Selection Regiment for four weeks and then into a Training Regiment in the same way as the Regular.

He further stated that it was hoped to shortly increase the Boys Squadron to a Regiment, which meant an increase from the present strength of 350 to about 600. He explained the importance of this increase, pointing out how we depended upon the Boys to supply our future Warrant Officer needs.

3. In an address to the meeting, the Chairman reported on the activities of the Association throughout the year 1949 and explained our hopes and aims for the future.

4. The Chairman as Hon. Treasurer of the Association, then presented the balance sheets of the undermentioned accounts for the year ending 31st December, 1949, which had been examined and passed by the Central Committee, at their annual meeting in London on 31st May, 1950. After discussion, the balance sheets were approved and passed by the meeting.

(a) Royal Signals Benevolent Fund.
(b) Royal Signals Association General Fund.

5. Brigadier Power then proposed the following for re-election to the Central Committee: Chairman and Hon. Treasurer, Major-General C. W. Fladgate, C.B.E.; Vice-Chairman, Major-General R. E. Vyvyan, C.B.E., M.C.; Non-Regular Officer, Brigadier G. H. Walton, C.B.E., T.D., D.L.; Other Ranks, Sergeant F. E. Best, Sergeant R. Banham. Recommended that the two Other Ranks serving or otherwise, who serve on the Sub-Committee which assembles weekly in London to adjudicate Benevolent Fund cases, should automatically be members of the Committee.

The nominations were put to the meeting and carried unanimously.

Major-General Fladgate thanked the meeting on behalf of the Committee for re-electing them.

6. *Royal Signals War Memorial Fund.* The Chairman explained to the meeting that the Association had been asked by the Corps Committee to take over the War Memorial Fund, and had agreed. To regularise the situation legally with the Friendly Societies Authorities, the following resolution of acceptance was put to the meeting.

WHEREAS the Royal Signals War Memorial Fund is vested in General Sir Henry Colville Barclay Wemyss, K.C.B., K.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., Major-General Courtenay William Fladgate, C.B.E., and Major-General Victor John Eric Westropp, C.B., C.B.E., upon the trusts declared in a Declaration of Trust under their hands and seals dated the 31st May, 1950.

AND WHEREAS the Royal Signals War Memorial Fund now comprises the houses investments and property described in the first and second parts of the Schedule to the said Declaration of Trust.

AND WHEREAS the before-named Trustees of the Royal Signals War Memorial Fund have proposed that the said Fund should be transferred to the Signals Association of the Royal Corps of Signals subject to the trusts of the said Declaration of Trust.

AND WHEREAS the said General Sir Henry Colville Barclay Wemyss, Major-General Courtenay William Fladgate and Major-General Victor John Eric Westropp are the present Trustees of the said Signals Association of the Royal Corps of Signals.

NOW IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the Royal Signals War Memorial Fund be and is hereby accepted for and on behalf of the said Signals Association of the Royal Corps of Signals in accordance with Rule 13 of the Rules of the Association.

The said General Sir Henry Colville Barclay Wemyss, Major-General Courtenay William Fladgate and Major-General Victor John Eric Westropp are therefore and hereby directed to hold the houses investments and property comprising the Royal Signals War Memorial Fund hence-

forth as trustees of the Signals Association of the Royal Corps of Signals upon and subject to the trusts declared in the said Declaration of Trusts of the 31st May, 1950.

This resolution was put to the meeting and passed unanimously.

7. *Royal Signals Association Trustees.* The Chairman then explained to the meeting that it had been recommended to the Central Committee by the Association's legal representative that the Association should have one set of four trustees to control all funds of the Association, instead of, as at present six, split up between two funds.

Legal advice had been taken and to regularise the recommendation the following resolution was put to the meeting:

(1) It is hereby resolved that Brigadier Robert Hugh Willan, D.S.O., M.C., of Bridges, Teffont, near Salisbury, Wiltshire, Major-General William Ronald Campbell Penney, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., of Brook House, Stanford Dingley, Berkshire, and Brigadier Alfred Cedric Cowan Willway, C.B.E., T.D., D.L., of Priors Gate, Near Godalming, Surrey, be and are with their consent appointed to be Trustees of the Signals Association of the Royal Corps of Signals, jointly with General Sir Henry Colville Barclay Wemyss, K.C.B., K.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., in place of Major-General Courtenay William Fladgate, C.B.E., and Major-General Victor John Eric Westropp, C.B., C.B.E. (who at their own request are hereby discharged from the Trusteeship of this Association) and of all previous trustees.

(2) WHEREAS the Royal Signals Benevolent Fund (which comprises the funds of the Benevolent Branch of this Association and in which are now combined the Signals Association Benevolent Fund constituted by a Trust Deed dated the 28th January, 1931, and the Royal Signals War Benevolent Prisoners of War and Comforts Fund constituted by a Declaration of Trust dated the 16th September, 1943) is at present vested in Brigadier Robert Hugh Willan, D.S.O., M.C., Brigadier George Cradock Wickins, Brigadier Edward Antrobus James, O.B.E., T.D., D.L., and Major-General William Ronald Campbell Penney, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C. Upon the trusts declared in the said Trust Deed of the 28th January, 1931.

AND WHEREAS the power of appointing new trustees of the Royal Signals Benevolent Fund is by virtue of the said Trust Deed vested in the Central Committee of the Association.

NOW it is hereby resolved that henceforth the Trustees of this Association shall be the Trustees of the Royal Signals Benevolent Fund and the Central Committee are accordingly hereby directed to take all necessary steps by passing resolutions making appointments or otherwise to ensure that the Royal Signals Benevolent Fund is always hereafter vested in the Trustees of this Association and in no other persons.

The resolution was considered by the meeting, approved and the proposal carried unanimously.

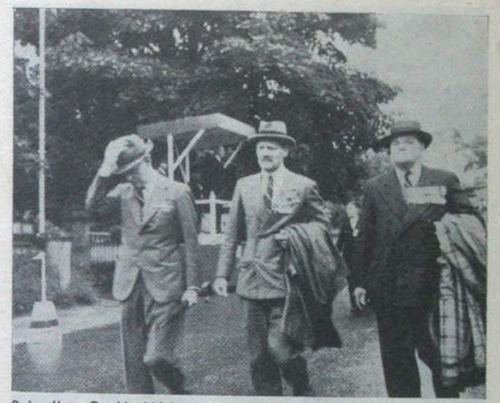
8. The Chairman then asked for approval to the partial amendment of Rule 8 (Membership) of the Rules of the Association, as follows: "*Rule* 8 *Membership, after 'rules' in line* 13, *add new paragraph.*"

Regular Officers serving or retired who subscribe voluntarily to Corps Funds are automatically granted annual membership, whilst they continue to so subscribe.

The partial amendment was put to the meeting, approved and carried unanimously.

9. It was suggested by Leeds Branch, that the annual reunion should be held so as not to clash with the annual T.A. camps.

The Chairman explained that this was invariably taken into consideration when fixing the date for the reunion, but that there are many factors governing the selection of a suitable date, such as when the Signal Training Centre can accommodate the gathering, fixtures of the Corps Band, Display Team, etc. He promised, however, to examine the situation thoroughly before the next reunion.



Brigadier G. H. Walton with Colonel L. R. Hall, M.C., and Colonel A. W. Roberts, M.C.

10. A suggestion was made that the Managers of the two Mercury Houses were underpaid and that the accommodation provided for them was inadequate.

The Chairman promised to refer the suggestion to the Corps Committee.

11. It was proposed by Chester Branch that a hearty vote of thanks should be recorded and passed to all voluntary workers of the Association, both at Headquarters and in branches.

This was passed unanimously.

12. London (City) Branch proposed that ex-Corps in-pensioners at the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, should receive a free copy of THE WIRE monthly.

This was considered and decided that two copies should be provided monthly for the use of our three in-pensioners.

13. Chester Branch propose that a special effort should be made by branches to organise special functions to coincide with the 1951 Festival of Britain.

The suggestion was agreed and the Chairman promised that Headquarters would assist in any way possible.

14. A hearty vote of thanks was recorded to the Chairman and to Commandants, School of Signals and Signal Training Centre and all their staffs, for their hospitality and efforts on behalf of the reunion.

This was carried unanimously.

15. A telegram had been received by the Chairman from the Tunbridge Wells Branch conveying their felicitations and greetings on the occasion of the reunion.

16. There being no further business, the Chairman expressed his thanks to all present for attending and closed the meeting.

Address by Major-General C. W. Fladgate, O.B.E., Chairman

First of all I must thank Brigadiers Power and Duvivier and their staffs for again making it possible for us to hold our annual general meeting and Old Comrades Reunion at Catterick. I expect a considerable number of you served at Catterick, Aldershot or Bulford before the war, in which case you will remember, as well as I do, how much work has to be put into the arrangements for one of these reunions.

I hope therefore that Brigadiers Power and Duvivier will realise that we do appreciate their efforts very much indeed and will convey to their staffs and C.O.s our very deep gratitude.

I am delighted to see such a good attendance and we extend a hearty welcome to you all.



The Chairman, Major-General C. W. Fladgate, C.B.E., with Brigadier G. S. O'N. Power, C.B.E., and Brigadier J. J. Duvivier, C.B.E.

Since last year, we have many new branches and many new members, so it would be a good idea if I told you briefly how the Association is organised and what we aim to do.

At 88 Eccleston Square, the Headquarters are organised into five sections or branches. They are: Welfare, Publications, Employment, Records, Accounts.

We have 70 Old Comrades' Branches scattered over the British Isles, B.A.O.R. and East Africa. We have formed over 20 new branches since our last meeting, including one in Jersey.

Life membership is now 6,650 and annual membership over 30,000, and although that sounds a lot, it might be bigger considering the strength of the Corps during the war. We prefer new members to join branches where possible, as opposed to Headquarters, as we only deal with the business and welfare side of the Association and leave the social and entertainment side in the very able hands of branches.

Good liaison exists between the T.A. and branches, and we are very appreciative. Most branches find difficulty with accommodation and amenities for meetings, and in this, T.A. Regiments can be, and are, very helpful. May I here say how much I appreciate the good work done by the Hon. Secretaries and committees of branches.

We have also revived Unit branches in the Regular Army. A start has been made in B.A.O.R., and all Regiments there have branches, as a result of the General Secretary's recent visit to Germany. I should like to emphasise the value of branches in the Regular Army. I feel that if we can get a man to take even a lukewarm interest in the Association while he is serving, there is much more chance of his joining his local branch when he goes on the reserve. I should like to see all Signalmen members of the Association while they are still serving, but our particular aim is to get the National Service soldier interested *before* he leaves the service. We can then do much to assist and advise him, especially on the question of employment. I hope that other Commands will now consider restarting Unit branches of the Association. I have written to Chief Signal Officers F.A.R.E.L.F. and M.E.L.F., and branches have already been opened in Singapore, Kuala Lumpur and Hong Kong.

Already our Employment Branch is beginning to feel the effects, and the number of applicants for jobs is steadily on the increase. Our increasing difficulty now lies in finding sufficient employers willing to inform us of their vacancies.

We have a very close liaison with the Regular Forces Employment Association.

As regards the Welfare Branch we do not only give financial assistance to families in temporary trouble, but we also give advice on a vast number of subjects, which come to us by way of callers, post and through other associations. We do not profess to be able to answer immediately every problem that comes before us, but what we can and do do, is that we know the right people to contact to get the right answers.

The Adjudicating Committee which meets at Headquarters every Thursday, consists of a Chairman, an Officer from London District, a serving Officer of field rank from the War Office and two other ranks selected from serving Signal Regiments within the London area. The chair is invariably taken by myself or your Vice-Chairman (Major-General Vyvyan). This Committee has proved very valuable, as it does ensure a careful and impartial assessment of each appeal for assistance. Every case is considered on its individual merits and the Committee decides the extent of the financial aid to be given. We deal with about 25 appeals weekly and since speed of assessment is essential, the more straightforward cases are dealt with each Tuesday by the Vice-Chairman.

Appeals are received from numerous sources. Many come to us direct from the applicant, and many are put by S.S.A.F.A. and the Forces Help Society or the British Legion. When a man writes to us direct, we acknowledge his letter and tell him that one of our representatives will call and see him and talk over his difficulties with him. We then approach S.S.A.F.A. or the Forces Help Society or any other appropriate society and ask them to visit the man and let us have a full report on the financial situation and the family circumstances and a recommendation as to what help is required. I should like to say how grateful we are



Some of the Old Comrades marching past

and how much we appreciate the work which is done for us by S.S.A.F.A. and the Forces Help Society in this respect.

We get many appeals from families of the National Service soldier and T.A. These are, of course, given full consideration and each case is judged on its merits; and dealt with in exactly the same manner as the others.

During 1949, Headquarters alone has given assistance in 897 cases and expended £5,569. To date this year, assistance has been given in 318 cases and £2,307 spent on financial assistance.

The Emergency Help and After Care Scheme of the British Red Cross provides much assistance to disabled men of the last world war. They co-operate closely with the British Legion and although you may find their investigations are rather slow, they do give very generously in deserving cases. For widows and orphans the Royal Patriotic Fund is very good at giving temporary help. It also controls vacancies in certain schools. The Liverpool Roll of Honour Fund again are also very helpful in the case of widows. S.S.A.F.A. and the Forces Help Society are of course well known throughout the country and these two societies give us considerable help with the investigation of appeals and frequently co-operate with us in giving financial help or other assistance. The British Legion afford us help in a variety of ways; they take a great interest in disability pension cases and always give full consideration to any matter referred to them.

We are guided by a few more or less obvious rules in considering appeals, these are more or less the same as all the other organisations of this kind and are known to your Hon. Secretary so I will not go into any more details now.

I would like to remind you that the Association is always glad to do what it can to procure nominations for boys and girls for schools where there are vacancies. We have recently got a boy into the Duke of York's Military School and still another boy into the Gordon School where he is equipped, maintained and educated free of charge.

Appeals for financial aid are not getting any less, in fact if anything, they are I think increasing. Our daily mail bag still continues to be a heavy one and we get a great many letters asking advice and direction on matters of domestic welfare and many other problems. The queries are very varied; from how to obtain a special marriage licence to advice on making a will.

Not all acknowledge the help given by the Association, in fact the percentage is very small, but we do occasionally get very appreciative letters of thanks telling us how much the help has restored the family morale. Again we find that very few of those we assist are members of the Association.

With regard to Publications, this department deals with THE WIRE and the *Officers' Quarterly Gazette*. THE WIRE has given us a lot of financial concern since it was restarted after the war, but at last we think we have the matter well in hand and by next year, the gap between costs and sales should be much improved.

You will be glad to know that we have now acquired a second Mercury House, which is situated in Colwyn Bay. Full details have been published in THE WIRE and circulated to Units and Branches. The new House has not yet been running long but I understand that bookings have been good and that there are no vacancies until September. Captain and Mrs. Watson, the Manager and Manageress, are very enthusiastic, and we are sure that they will make the place as popular as Mercury House I in Bournemouth. As you know, the responsibility for the Mercury House is with the Corps Committee, but the Association operates the accounts and is represented on that Committee.

Later on this morning I have to ask you to pass two resolutions, so think it would be best to explain the situation now. As regards the first: Up till now there have been two sets of Trustees, one for the Headquarters Funds, i.e. everything except the Benevolent Fund, one set for the Benevolent Fund. Now the Association is registered with the Friendly Societies and through them gets back income tax on the investments of the Benevolent Fund. In accordance with the Charities Act the Registrar of Friendly Societies has to have a list of the Trustees of the Funds of Organisations affiliated to them and until now had had the names of the Trustees of the Headquarters Funds. This is somewhat of an anomaly, as he has not the names of the Trustees of the Fund for which we get our Income Tax refunds, i.e. Benevolent Fund.

Your Executive Committee have therefore agreed that there should be one set of Trustees for both Funds and according to our rules, the nomination of Trustees has to be made at General Meeting. I am asking you to pass a resolution to give effect to this later on.

The second resolution deals with the War Memorial Fund.

The administration of this Fund has been handed over by the Corps Committee to the Association. I have therefore to ask you to pass a resolution to put this matter in order. The remainder of the Fund and the two Mercury Houses are now held by the Trustees on a Deed of Trust which has now been executed.

Finally, I have a proposition that I would like you to consider. For some time, there has been in some quarters, a desire that we should hold a really big reunion at the Albert Hall.

I recently put this forward as a purely tentative suggestion to the Honorary Secretaries of our Association Branches and we are asking them to what extent they are prepared to assist, both financially and otherwise. The Albert Hall is a big place and we could not make a success of it without the support of all serving and ex-service members of the Corps. When I say tentative, I really mean it, as to undertake one of these re-unions one has to be prepared to risk a large sum of money and though General Penney, our Representative Colonel Commandant and Chairman of the Corps Committee has agreed that we should reconnoitre the possibilities, it would have to be agreed and approved by the Corps Committee as a whole.

It is grand to see such a large gathering here today and as I said before we are truly grateful to all in the School of Signals and Signal Training Centre for all they are doing to ensure a successful meeting and re-union. I hope that you will enjoy yourselves, as indeed, I'm sure you will.

ROYAL SIGNALS BENEVOLENT FUND

	£	s.	d.
Subscriptions received during July, 1950			
Royal Signals Corps Fund	71	8	3
Royal Signals Wing, School of Signals ...	4	0	0
2 Training Regiment	10	0	0
1 Squadron, Eastern Command Signal Regiment	1	17	7
Donations received during July, 1950			
Royal Signals and Officer Training Wings, School of Signals	22	0	3
Officers' Mess, All Arms Wing, School of Signals	10	8	1
Captain A. F. H. Herdon	1	0	0
Mr. F. Dyson		12	0
Total receipts ...	£121	6	2

Expenditure during July, 1950, £759 8s. 5d. (includes: General assistance; rent, rates and insurance; cots and prams; beds and bedding; furniture; clothing; hospital and doctors' fees; funerals; removals; fares; rehabilitation; convalescence).

Analysis of cases: Families of soldiers serving in U.K., 5; families of soldiers serving in B.A.O.R., 1; families of soldiers serving in M.E.L.F., 1; widows and dependents, 9; released and discharged soldiers, 55; total cases assisted, 71.

Royal Signals Association

GENERAL FUND

Balance Sheet as at 31st December, 1949

1948 £	£		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
		SUNDRY CREDITORS:		
	151	Expenses Accrued	205 9 6	
	120	Subscriptions paid in advance—*The Wire* and Quarterly Journal	547 6 2	
	—	Printing Charges on *The Wire* and Officers' *Gazette*	720 16 4	
	37	Income Tax P.A.Y.E.	82 7 0	
	—	Corporation Duty, 1942/49	59 6 2	
	213	Diaries and Christmas Cards	108 0 5	
521				1,723 5 7
		OLD COMRADES' ASSOCIATION:		
		Life Membership Account		
	7,931	Accumulated, 1928/48	8,623 5 9	
	692	Add amount received during year	297 5 0	
8,623				8,920 10 9
		(Note: The proportion received prior to 1st January, 1928, has been incorporated in the Capital Account.)		
		CAPITAL ACCOUNT:		
	3,701	Balance, 1st January, 1949	2,960 13 6	
	740	*Less* Excess of Expenditure over Income for the year	1,307 16 4	
			1,652 17 2	
2,961		*Less* Corporation Duty payable for the years 1942/48	49 2 11	
				1,603 14 3
£12,105				£12,247 10 7

1948 £	£		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
		CASH:		
	2,628	Lloyds Bank Ltd.	3,299 8 10	
	4	Cash in Hand	7 18 5	
2,632				3,307 7 3
		SUNDRY DEBTORS AND PAYMENTS IN ADVANCE:		
	120	Subscriptions to *The Wire* and *Quarterly Journal*	278 0 0	
	146	Advertisements, *Wire* and *Journal*	140 7 6	
	1,196	Benevolent Fund	2,283 18 3	
	38	Officers' Central Fund	75 0 0	
	6	Sundry Loans	5 17 9	
	53	Diaries and Christmas Cards	45 3 2	
	70	Superannuation Contributions	118 3 0	
1,629				2,946 9 8
150		LOANS TO BRANCH ASSOCIATIONS		141 0 6
		INVESTMENTS—at Cost		
	1,290	£1,287 3½% War Loan	1,289 14 10	
	200	£226/8/1 4% Consolidated Stock	200 0 0	
	500	£682/9/3 3½% Conversion Stock	500 0 0	
	400	5 National Savings Certificates of 100 Units	400 0 0	
	391	£400 3% Funding Stock	391 1 0	
	4,463	£2,500 2½% Funding Stock	2,439 17 0	
	197	£194/7/7 3% Commonwealth of Australia, 1963/65	197 1 8	
7,441				5,417 14 6
		(Market valuation of the above at 31st December, 1949, amounted to £5,732/10/7.)		
		STOCKS ON HAND—at Cost:		
	2	Sports Clothing, etc.	44 19 9	
	21	Car Badges	18 1 3	
	10	New Signals History	61 5 5	
	121	Association Badges	39 5 0	
154				163 11 5
		OFFICE FURNITURE—at Cost:		
		Less Depreciation		
	75	Balance, 1st January, 1949	75 7 6	
	35	Additions to date	34 19 0	
	110		110 6 6	
	11	*Less* Aggregate Depreciation to date	20 19 3	
99				89 7 3
		LEASEHOLD PROPERTY—at Cost:		
		88 Eccleston Square, S.W.1	2,000 0 0	
		Less Proportion borne by Benevolent Fund	1,800 0 0	
			200 0 0	
		Less Proportion written off	18 0 0	
				182 0 0
£12,105				£12,247 10 7

NOTE.—No reserve has been made in the above Balance Sheet in respect of the liability for unexpired subscriptions to the Old Comrades' Association, nor has any debit been included for subscriptions outstanding.

I have examined the above Balance Sheet and accompanying Income and Expenditure Account with the books of the Fund and certify same to be in accordance therewith. I have ascertained that the Inscribed Stocks stood in the names of the Trustees and Lloyds Bank Ltd. have certified as to the correctness of the Bank Balance, and that they hold for safe custody the other Securities representing the Investments.

1/5 BROAD STREET PLACE,
LONDON, E.C.2.
4th May, 1950.

H. S. BAKER, F.C.A.
Auditor.

THE WIRE, SEPTEMBER 1950

Royal Signals Association

GENERAL FUND

Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31st December, 1949

EXPENDITURE

1948 £	£		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
		To *Administration Expenses:*		
	283	Secretary's Salary	500 0 0	
	2,284	Salaries, Wages and National Insurance	2,164 10 8	
	57	Pension—W. Butler	58 6 0	
	579	Rent, Rates, Heating and Lighting	575 7 10	
	9	Insurance	9 7 0	
	45	Telephone	91 8 1	
	244	Printing and Stationery	244 3 9	
	282	Postages and Sundry Expenses	550 5 5	
	328	Travelling Expenses	485 7 10	
	42	Audit, Accountancy and Legal Charges	118 12 0	
	92	Repairs and Renewals	325 1 5	
		Income Tax:		
	96	Deducted at source on Income from Investments	82 9 8	
	—	Provision for Corporation Duty for current year	10 3 3	
4,341				5,215 2 11
		„ *Loss on Publications:*		
		The Wire		
	2,858	Cost of Printing	4,489 9 11	
	479	*Less* Advertising Charges	558 0 0	
	2,379		3,931 9 11	
	1,247	*Less* Subscriptions	2,318 2 4	
1,132				1,613 7 7
		Officers' Gazette		
	316	Cost of Printing	311 5 11	
	181	*Less* Subscriptions	269 5 0	
135				42 0 11
		Quarterly Journal		
	501	Cost of Printing	98 5 2	
	64	*Less* Advertising Charges	15 0 0	
	437		83 5 2	
	410	*Less* Subscriptions	82 14 0	
27				11 2
		Signals History		
	—	Cost of Sales	117 12 4	
	—	*Less* Sales	100 18 0	
				16 14 4
		„ *Depreciation*		
11		Office Furniture		9 18 7
—		Amount written off on Leasehold Property		18 0 0
24		Superannuation Contributions		85 2 10
				£7,000 18 4
£5,670				

INCOME

1948 £	£		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
732		By Subscriptions and Donations to Old Comrades' Association:		764 17 3
		„ *Income from Investments*—Gross:		
	45	3½% War Stock	45 1 4	
	8	5½% New South Wales Stock	— — —	
	9	4% Consolidated Stock	9 1 0	
	24	3½% Conversion Stock	23 17 8	
	12	3% Funding Loan	12 0 0	
	112	2½% Funding Stock	87 10 0	
	3	3% Commonwealth of Australia Stock	5 16 8	
213				183 6 8
6		„ *Income from Publications:* *Signals History*		— — —
		„ *Sundry Income:*		
	77	Sale of Corps Clothing, etc.	102 12 6	
	62	*Less* Cost of Clothing	85 4 0	
15				17 8 6
	43	Sale of Car Badges	113 11 0	
	39	*Less* Cost of Badges sold	91 9 11	
4				22 1 1
	216	Sale of Association Badges	111 18 0	
	147	*Less* Cost of Badges sold	81 15 0	
69				30 3 0
56		Profit on Sale of Diaries		2 13 4
5		Profit on Sale of Christmas Cards		1 1 2
9		Profit on Sale of Paint Transfers		12 3 3
		„ Proportionate amounts on account of Administration Expenses received from:		
	13	Royal Pioneer Corps	— — —	
	3,658	Benevolent Fund	4,504 7 9	
	150	Officers' Central Fund	150 0 0	
3,821				4,654 7 9
740		Balance being Excess of Expenditure over Income for year		1,307 16 4
				£7,000 18 4
£5,670				

Royal Signals Association—Benevolent Fund

Balance Sheet as at 31st December, 1949

1948								
£	£				£	s. d.	£	s. d.
4,635		CASH AT BANK					2,039	2 8
		INVESTMENTS—at Cost:						
	2,500	£2,500 3% Defence Bonds	..	..	2,500	0 0		
	1,945	£1,945 3% Savings Bonds, 1960/70	..	..	1,945	0 0		
	9,200	£9,200 2½% National War Bonds, 1949/51	..	..	9,200	0 0		
	12,650	£12,650 2½% National War Bonds, 1951/53	..	..	12,650	0 0		
11	31,600	£31,600 2½% National War Bonds, 1953/54	..	..	31,600	0 0		
	250	£250 2½% National War Bonds, 1952/54	..	..	250	0 0		
	—	Post Office Issue:						
	840	£9,094/4/6 2½% Funding Loan, 1956/61	..	..	9,168	16 3		
		£850 3% Funding Loan, 1959/69	..	..	839	18 11		
		£941/15/1 3½% War Loan (including £291/15/1 Nominal Value relating to the Emigrant Loan Fund)			941	4 0		
0	941							
		£300 3½% Commonwealth of Australia Stock, 1954/59			313	1 0		
	313							
		£6,000 3½% Commonwealth of Australia Stock, 1956/61			6,098	6 0		
	6,098							
	97	£30 15s. Units National Savings Certificates	..	..	97	10 0		
	39,545	£39,050 2½% Funding Loan, 1956/61	..	..				
		£450 3% London County Consolidated Stock, 1954/59			—	—		
th	—	£5,000 3½% London County Consolidated Stock, 1958/68			5,122	12 1		
ed		£9,036/6/8 London County Consolidated Stock, 1952/62			5,085	2 6		
he	—	£10,000 3½% South African Union Stock, 1965/67 (Market Valuation of the above at 31st December, 1949, amounted to £105,028/17/3.)			9,854	3 6		
	—						104,852	19 3
	743	INCOME TAX RECOVERABLE	..	..				
		LEASEHOLD PROPERTY—88 Eccleston Square, S.W.1			2,000	0 0	659	15 0
		Less Proportion borne by General Fund ..	..	..	200	0 0		
	—				1,800	0 0		
	—	*Less* Proportion written off ..	..	..	136	0 0		
							1,664	0 0
	£111,357						£109,215	16 11

I have examined the above Balance Sheet and accompanying Income and Expenditure Account with the books of the Fund and certify same to be in accordance therewith. I have ascertained that the Investments and Stocks stood in the names of the Trustees, and Lloyds Bank Ltd. have certified as to the correctness of the Bank Balance, and that they hold for safe custody the other Securities representing the Investments.

H. S. BAKER, F.C.A.,
Auditor.

1/5 BROAD STREET PLACE,
LONDON, E.C.2.
4th May, 1950.

Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31st December, 1949

1948		INCOME					
£	£			£	s. d.	£	s. d.
		By Donations:					
		Corps Units	.. .. ..	555	6 4		
		Sundries	.. .. ..	1,741	17 0		
8,779		Army Benevolent Fund	.. .. ..	3,000	0 0		
		Gross.: from Investments—Gross:				5,297	3 4
		" Interest on					
	80	3% Defence Bonds	.. ..	75	0 0		
	26	3% Funding Loan	.. ..	25	10 0		
	776	2½% Funding Loan	.. ..	976	5 0		
	1,342	2½% National War Bonds	.. ..	1,342	10 0		
	54	3% Savings Bonds	.. ..	38	7 0		
	33	3½% War Stock	.. ..	33	19 2		
	10	3½% Commonwealth of Australia, 1954/59		10	10 0		
2,516	195	3½% Commonwealth of Australia, 1956/61	..	195	0 0		
—		" Deposit Account Interest	.. ..			2,716	1 2
—		" Balance being Excess of Expenditure over Income for year	.. ..			1	3 8
						2,108	9 9
	£11,295					£10,122	17 11

1948		EXPENDITURE					
£	£			£	s. d.	£	s. d.
6,469		To Benevolent Grants	.. .. ..			5,166	19 6
		" Donations:					
	2	Royal Cambridge Home for Soldiers' Widows	..	2	2 0		
	5	Corps of Commissionaires	..	5	0 0		
	35	Royal Soldiers' Daughters School	..	—	—		
	10	Regular Forces Employment Association		10	0 0		
		Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Families Association					
	100	The Gordon Boys' School	.. ..	100	0 0		
	20	Royal Alexander and Albert School	..	20	0 0		
	20	National Association for the Employment of Regular Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen		20	0 0		
	140	Union Jack Club	.. ..	140	0 0		
	10	Netley Charitable Fund	.. ..	10	0 0		
	2			2	0 0		
334						309	2 0
		" Amount written off Leasehold Property	..			136	0 0
		" ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES:					
		Rent, Heating and Lighting	.. ..	517	17 0		
		Salaries	.. ..	2,337	17 7		
		Superannuation	.. ..	76	12 7		
		Telephone	.. ..	82	5 3		
		Printing and Stationery	.. ..	232	16 9		
		Repairs and Renewals	.. ..	292	11 4		
		Travelling	.. ..	436	17 0		
		Insurance	.. ..	8	8 4		
		National Insurance	.. ..	116	14 0		
		Legal Charges	.. ..	57	10 0		
		Audit and Accountancy Charges	..	42	0 0		
		Bank Charges	.. ..	11	10 6		
3,729		Postage and Sundry Expenses	.. ..	363	16 8		
763						4,570	16 5
£11,295		" Balance being Excess of Income over Expenditure				£10,122	17 11

London (City)

We are pleased and honoured to have General Sir H. Colville B. Wemyss, K.C.B., K.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., as our first President. We hope that his association with us will be a long and happy one. It should be, seeing that we are the Best Branch (Barleux, please note).

By the time these notes appear in print, our Treasurer, Ron Fentimore, will have taken the fatal step, and will have completed his honeymoon, at Mercury House, Colwyn Bay. We all wish him and his wife every happiness for the future.

Our annual dinner (the first) will be held at the Star Hotel, opposite Old Street Underground Station, on 28th October. We are all looking forward to having one of our Real Social Evenings, so you will be hearing all about it at a later date.

East Africa

At a recent meeting it was decided to have periodical outings for members and friends to visit farms and other places of interest with the twofold object of members getting to know one another better and to improve our knowledge of the Country's production. Tommy Dodds volunteered to get in touch with various friends of his and 9th July (a Sunday) was fixed for the first outing.

As far as numbers were concerned, the outing was a disappointment. Apart from Tommy Dodds only Bill Savage and "Tashy" Hamilton each with two members of their families left the R.V. at 10.55 hrs. (East African time). Apart from the scarcity of numbers, the outing was a great success.

We went some twenty odd miles out of Nairobi to Theta Estates. This is a coffee farm of about 200 acres run by an Australian and his son who are both well known in Kenya Tennis Championships.

We learnt that coffee will only grow in red soil and the roots must have plenty of room to grow downwards. Grass must not be allowed round the bushes otherwise they become stunted and give a poor yield. "Thrips" must also be fought. This is done by spraying and "marking" the bushes by putting an adhesive strip round about two feet from the ground. Dead wood, leaves, and gass (known as "Mulch") is strewn between the bushes which are some 7 to 9 feet apart. This "mulch" helps to keep the soil in good condition. Manure is also used.

The berries, when ripe, are red and must be picked within a short time, otherwise they shrivel—go a dark brown and are called "Bune" (pronounced Boo-nee).

After picking, the berries pass through a number of processes before being sacked and sold. They are washed, passed through a "pulper" (a machine which opens up the berries), sieved, washed again when the "lights" (shells, husks and any other foreign matter) are removed, allowed to ferment overnight, washed again followed by another fermentation, washed yet again, taken away on grids where "totos" (native children from about 4 years old upwards) grade them into 1st, 2nd, 3rd grades and Buni. All this time the berries are gradually drying. After being graded the berries are laid on long strips of hessian to dry off. If it looks like rain this hessian is folded over them so that the drying process may be impeded as little as possible. When dry they are sacked and stored according to their grades. The first grade is a pale grey green in colour. The second grade is not such a good colour. The third grade is rather a mixture of white, green and brown.

The owner of this particular estate only took over about two years ago after it had been left derelict for a number of years. The bushes had been allowed to overgrow and there were any number of weeds. Now the bushes look neat and the ground in between has been cleared and mulched. Normally a newly planted estate takes up to five years before a yield can be expected. Thereafter, provided they are looked after, the same bushes will give a good yield for very many years. Another provision, of course, is that nature also plays its part in giving rain and sun at the proper times. This year the crop is expected to be about half a ton per acre. At £700 a ton for 1st grade ranging to about £360 a ton for Buni (which used to be the price of 1st grade)—well I leave you to estimate the income. The income tax man will take about 14 out of every 20 shillings. Out of the remainder from 200 to 900 pickers have to be paid at the rate of ten cents (1/10 shilling) for every debi he brings. A debi is about the size of a 4-gallon kerosene tin. The totos are paid 7/- a month on top of which they are fed on posho, sugar, rice (if available) and salt. This costs a further 15/- a month per head. The number of totos varies, so also does the number of debis a "boy" will pick, so that part of the outlay cannot be estimated.

The paying out of the pickers is done as each brings his debi to be emptied. This means that a sum of about 4,000 shillings in ten cent pieces (i.e. 40,000 coins) has to be brought from the Bank each week, a matter of several hundredweight. At one time a picker was given a "tally" (a small specially made metal disc) each time he brought his debi and then paid out at the end of the day. However, the "Smart Alecs" found out how to counterfeit these tallies and duly cashed in on them—till they were found out. It would, of course, be impracticable just to pay out at the end of the day because too many of them would come up for payment without having earned it.

On this particular estate steam has been replaced by electricity which works the machinery and pumps the coffee and water to where they are required. New innovations are a concrete extension to the original bath in which the coffee gets its first washing prior to going through the machine, concrete terraced waterways in which the coffee gets subsequent washings and a concrete water storage tank. In the terraced waterways "boys" were using squeegees to prevent any silt or other dirt getting into and damaging the machinery. All this processing takes place in a very small area.

There is a faintly sour smell from the beans if they are held to the nose, nothing like the smell you get from coffee roasting machines.

If you think that coffee growing is an easy way of making a fortune just bear in mind as an example that this estate over the last fifteen years has only yielded about 160 tons, though this year, provided nothing goes wrong in the next few weeks, the yield is likely to be about 100 tons. It will probably be much smaller for the next few years.

After we had been shown round, the explanations being mainly by Tommy Dodds, the ladies expressed a desire to see the inside of one of the native huts which have circular mud and wattle walls and a conical thatched roof. They expressed their astonisment at the way a number of them eat, live, sleep and cook in such a dark, stuffy, smoky atmosphere together with a goat or two. Our host explained that attempts had been made to improve matters in the past by building them well-ventilated and lighted stone buildings with concrete floors. The experiment was not successful because the natives plugged up every exit for stale air and lit their fires on the concrete floor so that the general state of affairs was as before.

We had all taken picnic lunches with us, intending to have that meal outside, but our host and hostess very kindly invited us to have our picnic in the house with them. After a very pleasant chat the party reluctantly decided that it was time to go home.

Your scribe would like to record his thanks to our host and hostess for allowing us to visit their estate and the very pleasant way they treated us. Also to Tommy Dodds for suggesting and organising the outing. He hopes that there will be many more of these and that many more of the Old Comrades will join in. Those who have not got cars can usually be afforded a lift by those who have. (With the cars at our disposal there was room for a further five or six).

Your scribe takes this opportunity of apologising for any erroneous data and any lack thereof.

TASHY

Bristol

Our July meeting was held as usual at the "Old Duke" on the 14th July. A darts tournament was arranged and the Chairman's prize, presented by Major A. M. Keeling, was won by Mr. A. Rogers.

The skittles team is going strong under the watchful eye of skipper A. V. Savigar and his vice, Mr. R. M. Rogers. We have to date played three games with local clubs, and have won two of them. These games are well attended, even when we crossed the border into Pill, locals will know how perilous that can be with the extra 30 minutes drinking time.

In closing I would like to remind readers that we are still at the "Old Duke," Charlotte Street, every second Friday, so roll up you Signal types when you are near.

Manchester

Because no notes have been seen for so long it should not be thought this Branch is not still alive, or is standoffish, as we are always glad to see Association members who may be in Manchester. Our members' night is each Tuesday, at the Royal Signals, T.A. Centre, Norton Street, Brook's Bar, when some of our Committee are always present, and would welcome any visitor.

We made up a party from Manchester to the Catterick reunion; hoping for the best but fully expecting the worst. But what a shock! We had hardly arrived before it was shown we were not only guests of the Corps, but very welcome guests. Before we had quite recovered from this, it was made clear that we were expected to have a good time and thoroughly enjoy ourselves, and it was fully intended we should do so. But I am trying to describe something which cannot be described; one must see for oneself before a proper idea can be formed; it was simply one huge happy family, each being pleased to see one another, and there was no possibility of anyone feeling of being a stranger. We caught one or two brief glimpses of those behind the scenes, and noticed how anxious they were to avoid any possible cause for complaint. I can assure them this was greatly appreciated; after all, it is nice to feel one's good opinion is valued, even if only for a day. Perhaps it is hardly fair to mention any section of our entertainers, as all helped equally but, as the first motor-cyclist in the Army, I hope I may be forgiven. Most of us thought the motor-cycle display would have to be abandoned or considerably curtailed, but to give the full display, when ground conditions could hardly be worse, well, we salute the team, one and all. A word of warning. If you meet anyone from Manchester, who was at Catterick, do not mention Manchester weather.

ELSIG

Tunbridge Wells and District

To my mind, there is nothing in life so satisfying as to watch something worthwhile growing and taking shape under one's own hand; and it is with a feeling of pardonable pride that I have seen Tunbridge Wells Branch expand from two lone pioneers to a healthy, flourishing embodiment of more than 60 members inside a period of six short months. New members are continuing to enrol and we have reasonable prospects of achieving our century before the end of this year.

At a Branch meeting held on 2nd August, 1950, we had the pleasurable privilege of entertaining the Corps Band at our Club Headquarters. Captain John L. Judd turned up with the whole of the Band and the jovial evening spent may well be left to the imagination. They are grand lads, from the Musical Director down.

There is a rumour in the air that we may expect a visit from London (City) Branch for a "games evening" on the occasion of our September Branch meeting. The polite preliminaries have been passed but nothing definite has, as yet, been arranged. They are indeed brave lads who venture into Kent to "throw down the gauntlet."

That reminds me! I note from the July issue of THE WIRE that the Archduke Barleux of Brum has been "playing on our doorstep" without even a "by-your-leave"; but there, he might not have been aware of our address. (Just another reminder on the usefulness of a pocket branch directory).

I would like to take this opportunity to appeal to our sister branches to press on with the sale of tickets for our Branch draw for the forthcoming Cesarewitch Stakes and, where it is considered that more books can be sold, would the Hon. Secretaries send a postcard to me, Mr. G. E. Paling, Vale Towers, Tunbridge Wells, when more books will be forwarded immediately.

G.E.P.

SPORTS NOTES

CORPS CRICKET—FARELF

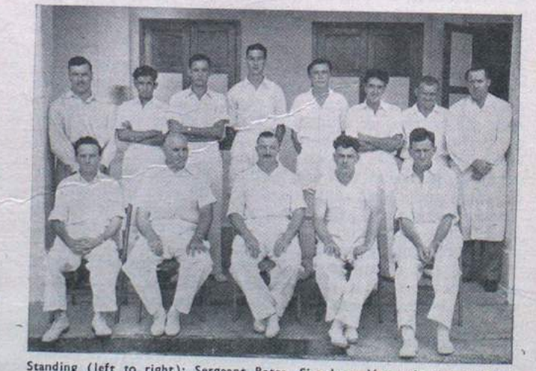
The season for cricket in Singapore, from April to September inclusive, is a season which also favours golf, soccer, athletics, tennis and shooting. The seven Corps cricket matches during the season have had to be carefully selected so no clash was made with the Navy, Army, R.A.F., G.H.Q. and District fixtures for all these sports.

The fixture list for the current season is given below:—

April 22nd *v.* R.A. Rain cancelled play.
May 6th *v.* R.E.M.E. Lost by 97 runs.
June 24th/25th *v.* R.E. Lost by one wicket.
July 8th *v.* R.A. Won by 16 runs.
August 12th *v.* R.E.
August 26th *v.* R.A.S.C.
September 10th *v.* R.A.O.C.

The Corps cricket team improves, as the results of the matches show. With the recent arrival in the theatre of some cricketers who used to play for the Corps at home, the team may be further strengthened for the future matches.

Unfortunately the illness of the team captain, Lieutenant-Colonel P. G. Goodeve-Docker, has prevented him from playing in the matches against the R.E. and R.A.; it is hoped he will be well enough to play on 12th August.



Standing (left to right): Sergeant Bates, Signalman Venasathamby, Sergeant Tripp, Corporal Cross, Signalman Simpson, Corporal Miller, Signalman Smith, Sergeant Giles. Sitting (left to right): Captain G. B. Andrews, Major R. A. H. Chapman, S.S.M. Charlton, Sergeant Drake, Captain R. J. Tyrrell-Grey

RIFLE SHOOTING

Bisley Meeting 1950

The Army Rifle Association Central Rifle Meeting was held at Bisley from 2nd—8th July and was immediately preceded by the A.R.A. Practice Week.

Representation by the Corps at this meeting was exceptionally good. Following a broadening of the A.R.A. rules enabling Signal units to be grouped in each Home Command and Overseas Districts, together with substantial financial concessions by the War Office in the matter of travel, messing and accommodation, ten unit teams representing the following "units" attended the meeting:

Northern Command Grouped Signal units, Southern Command Grouped Signal units, Eastern Command Grouped Signal units, Western Command Grouped Signal units, School of Signals, 1 Training Regiment, S.T.C., 2 Training Regiment, S.T.C., 3 Training Regiment, S.T.C., 4 Training Regiment, S.T.C., 7 Selection Regiment, S.T.C.

In addition, representatives from B.A.O.R. and the War Office were present. The total number of Royal Signals personnel attending the meeting was about 100. It was most encouraging to see this excellent attendance and there is every indication that keenness for rifle shooting is deeply rooted throughout all ranks in the Corps. Results showed that we are well able to compete on equal terms with other arms of the Service and to hold our own.

The meeting was thoroughly enjoyed by all ranks, despite bad weather on occasions and tricky conditions of wind and light.

In the team events, Northern Command Signals finished 13th in the Britannia Trophy out of a total entry of 44 teams with 2 Training Regiment, Southern Command Signals and 7 Selection Regiment all above the half-way mark. 4 Training Regiment finished fifth in the Brooke Bond Cup match with School of Signals 8th. In the Royal Ulster Rifles Cup (a plate dropping match run on a "knock-out" basis) the School of Signals were runners-up and were only beaten in an exciting final by the Small Arms School, Hythe. The team was awarded the A.R.A. Large Bronze Medal. 7 Selection Regiment reached the semi-finals.

In individual competitions, Major Thompson, School of Signals, won the Roupell Cup. The match was fired in appalling conditions of torrential rain. Possibly long periods of practice on Bellerby Moor under similar conditions may have contributed to this win! R.S.M. Howley, also of the School of Signals, finished 4th in the Bisley Cup match, a very fine performance in view of the high standard attained in this match.

In the Army Championship, which comprised two stages, eight members of Royal Signals units qualified for the Army Hundred and finished as follows:—

Major Jordan, B.A.O.R., 10th; Lance-Corporal Elford, 4 Training Regiment, 34th; Captain Barlow, School of Signals, 52nd; Sergeant Mark (R.E.M.E.), School of Signals, 56th; Corporal Gillam (South Lancashire Regiment), 7 Selection Regiment, 67th; Lieutenant Exell, Southern Command, 71st; R.S.M. Howley, School of Signals, 78th; Captain Andrews, Northern Command, 91st.

Lance-Corporal Elford is to be warmly congratulated on winning the Rifle Brigade Cup, awarded to the best Young Soldier in the Regular Army.

In the competitions comprising the first stage of the Army Championship, for which a total of 800 competitors entered, the following results are noteworthy:—



[*Courtesy: Gale and Polden, Ltd.*

HENRY WHITEHEAD CUP

Class A.—Major Thompson, School of Signals, 33rd; Major Dutton, War Office, 46th.

Class B.—Corporal Gillam, 7 Selection Regiment, 1st; Corporal Sharples, 7 Selection Regiment, 18th.

Class C.—Lance-Corporal Elford, 4 Training Regiment, 1st; Lance-Corporal Nicholas, Northern Command, 6th; Signalman McDiarmid, 1 Training Regiment, 18th.

ROBERTS' CUP

Class A.—Sergeant Mark, School of Signals, 4th; Major Jordan, B.A.O.R., 7th; Captain Andrews, Northern Command, 21st.

Class B.—Corporal Burgess, Southern Command, 26th.

Class C.—Lance-Corporal Elford, 4 Training Regiment, 1st; Signalman Sandiford, 1 Training Regiment, 8th; Lance-Corporal Handymore, 3 Training Regiment, 15th.

The Methuen Cup match, for which the Corps had entered a team, was fired on the afternoon of Friday, 7th July, in good conditions. A total of 34 teams representing all arms of the service, Royal Naval Establishments and R.A.F. Commands took part in this match. The Corps team is to be warmly congratulated on achieving 13th place with a score of 1,215, 49 points higher than last year. The team and reserves were as follows:—

Major Thompson, School of Signals (Team Captain), Major Jordan, B.A.O.R., R.S.M. Howley, School of Signals, Lieutenant Exell, Southern Command, Lance-Corporal Elford, 4 Training Regiment, Captain Andrews, Northern Command, Major Dutton, War Office, Captain Barlow, School of Signals. *Reserves:* Captain Wright, Northern Command, Lance-Corporal Povey, 1 Training Regiment.

We very much appreciated the visit of Major-General W. A. Scott, C.B., C.B.E., Director of Signals, on the occasion of the Methuen Cup match and Major-General W. R. C. Penney, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., Representative Colonel Commandant and Mrs. Penney, on the occasion of the Army Hundred Cup match.

As a result of his performance during the A.R.A. Meeting, Lance-Corporal Elford, 4 Training Regiment, was selected for the Army VIII "short list" and remained for the National Rifle Association Meeting which followed the A.R.A. Meeting. He shot well but not quite well enough to get into the final VIII, for which the standard is very high.

In the other competitions and matches comprising the N.R.A. Meeting, Major Thompson and R.S.M. Howley represented the Corps. Both were selected to shoot for the Regular Army in the Inter-Services XX match which was won by the Regular Army. Major Thompson fired for Yorkshire in the Inter-County short range match, and R.S.M. Howley for the same county in the long range match.

In the individual competitions both of these shot well, Major Thompson winning the "Association Long Range" competition, and finishing first in Class M in the Southern Railway competition.

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CORPS LAWN TENNIS

Three Corps matches were played during July with the following results:—

8th July v. R.M.A., Sandhurst

Lieutenant-Colonel E. L. L. Vulliamy and Captain J. H. Donaldson	Won 3	Lost 0
Major P. A. Watts and Major E. N. L. Brown	Won 3	Lost 0
Captain G. F. Lowe and Captain J. St.C. Robinson	Won 3	Lost 0

Royal Signals won by 9 matches to 0.

9th July v. Staff College

Lieutenant-Colonel E. L. L. Vulliamy and Captain J. H. Donaldson	Won 2	Lost 1
Major P. A. Watts and Major E. N. L. Brown	Won 1	Lost 2
Major G. S. K. Maydon and Captain G. F. Lowe	Won 2	Lost 1

Royal Signals won by 5 matches to 4.

17th July v. Ironsides

Lieutenant-Colonel E. L. L. Vulliamy and Lieutenant-Colonel W. G. Tucker	Won 1	Lost 2
Major P. O. J. Nicholson and Captain J. St.C. Robinson	Won 1	Lost 2
Second-Lieutenant Thomas and Officer-Cadet Hamilton	Won 0	Lost 3

Ironsides won by 7 matches to 2.

* * *

The Corps Championships were held at Catterick from 10th to 16th July, the results of the finals being as follows:—

Open Singles (The Newbigging Bowl)
Lieutenant-Colonel E. L. L. Vulliamy, 2nd Training Regiment, beat Major P. A. Watts, H.Q. School of Signals, 6—4, 8—6, 4—6, 6—3.

Open Doubles
Lieutenant-Colonel E. L. L. Vulliamy and Captain J. H. Donaldson beat Major P. A. Watts and Major E. N. L. Brown, 6—4, 6—4, 6—3.

Inter-Unit Doubles
Royal Signals Wing (Major Watts and Major Brown) beat 2nd Training Regiment (Lieutenant-Colonel Vulliamy and Captain R. C. F. Wood), 4—6, 6—4, 6—3.

Other Ranks Singles
Lance-Corporal H. Minshall (1st Training Regiment) beat R.S.M. Buchanan (Scottish Command Signal Regiment), 6—3, 6—3.

Other Ranks Doubles
R.S.M. Buchanan and S.S.M. Thompson beat Lance-Corporal Minshall and Lance-Corporal Smart, 9—7, 6—2.

Royal Signals Diary, 1951

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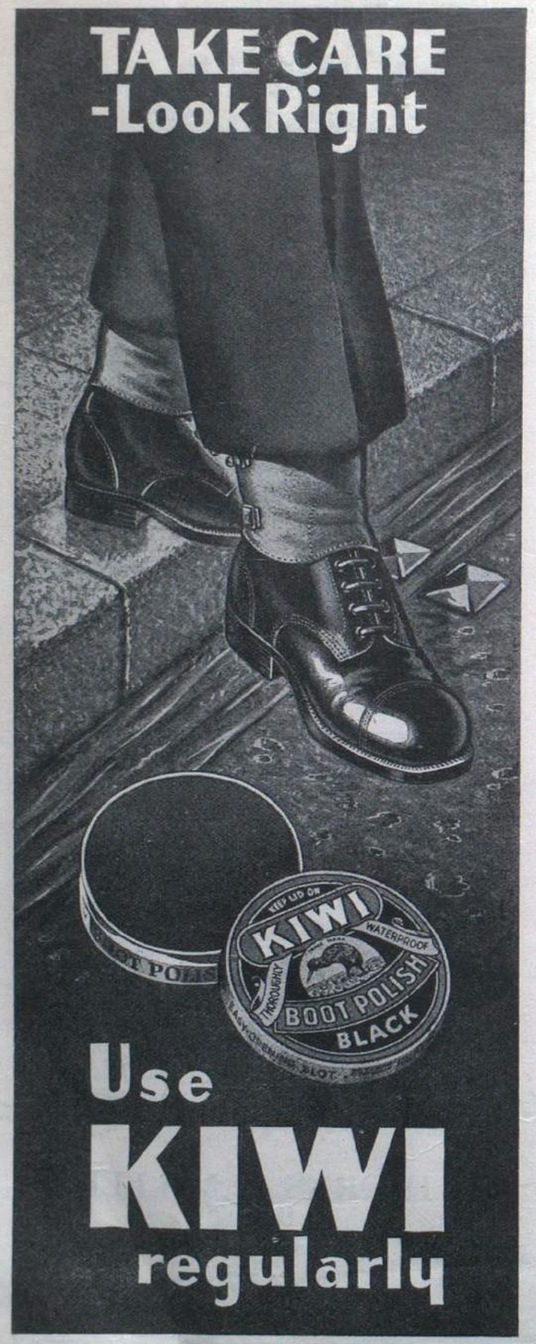
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THE WIRE

The Corps Magazine of the
ROYAL SIGNALS

The Official Organ of the
SIGNALS ASSOCIATION

All correspondence and matter for publication for "The Wire" should be addressed to The Editor, "The Wire," 88 Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1. Matter for publication must be received by the 15th of the month preceding publication.

Remittances should be made payable to: Royal Signals Association. Subscription rates (post free, except air mail): Twelve months, 10s.; single month, 1s.

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OCTOBER • 1950

Vol. 4 *New Series* **No. 10**

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PRICE: ONE SHILLING

Editorial

AS forecast in the Editorial of the September issue, we have in this month's issue made an effort to start a personal column. The information in it has been largely extracted from notes sent in by Regiments and from official sources. It will be realised that both sources are rather ineffective in that a good deal is left out that should be put in, and a good deal is put in that really might well be left out. Again as forecast the column consists too much of news of Officers and too little of news of senior Warrant Officers and Non-Commissioned Officers. All those who are responsible for contributions from Regiments are asked most earnestly to do their utmost to assist in the compilation of this column and also in the births, marriages and deaths, which again appear in this number, and again have had to be compiled from insufficient data extracted from notes sent in by Regiments.

EMPIRE FIELD OF REMEMBRANCE, 1950

The Headquarters of the Royal Signals Association has been advised that, with the kind permission of the Rector of St. Margaret's and with the support of the Dean and Chapter of Westminster, the Empire Field of Remembrance will again be held at Westminster from 8th to 16th November (both days inclusive). It will be opened at 12 noon on Wednesday, 8th November, by a religious service to be conducted by Canon Smyth, assisted by the Dean.

The Headquarters of the Royal Signals Association will arrange for the planting of Remembrance Crosses and also for the Corps Badge Cross.

Branches may like to have a Wreath Cross, size 12ins. x 6ins., planted on behalf of its members to their fallen comrades. If so, will they please order direct from the Poppy Factory. The cost is 5/- per wreath cross, and the factory organisation will have them available on the site for planting.

Branches may of course, if they so wish, have a badge cross at 21/-.

For obvious reasons Branches should send a copy of their order to the Poppy Factory to the Headquarter offices.

Under the heading "Bring Back the Motor Cycles," the "Evening Standard" of Thursday, 7th September, prints the following letter from Mr. Keith Thompson, of Berkhamsted:

"I attended the Royal Tournament this year, and was extremely disappointed to find the regular motor cycle display omitted for the first time, I think, since the war. I, and I am sure many others, find it the 'high spot' of the Tournament programme. Let us see it back next year."

DINNER CLUB FIXTURES, 1950

T.A. Officers' Tea Party, 9th December. Buffet Supper and Reunion, 9th December. Both at Hyde Park Hotel. Information from Secretary, Royal Signals Dinner Club, Room 97, Horseguards, S.W.1.

ROYAL SIGNALS BROADCAST

It is expected that the B.B.C. Midland Region will broadcast a programme devoted to Royal Signals on Thursday, 7th December.

Obituary

Brigadier F. A. Heymann, O.B.E.

FRANK Heymann was one of a large family and was brought up at West Bridgford Hall, near Nottingham. At that time West Bridgford was well in the country, and his early days were passed in an atmosphere of sport and games. His keenness and proficiency at all forms of outdoor recreation became one of the ruling factors throughout his life. As a young man he was given the Hunt Button by Lord Harrington in recognition of the fearless way he rode over the country.



He was educated at Haileybury and Coopers Hill, where he showed himself to be very good at games. Every year two selected students at Coopers Hill were offered commissions in the Royal Engineers, and in 1904 Frank Heymann was one of those chosen. He joined at Chatham on 1st October, 1904.

After 18 months at Chatham he was posted to the Bridging Battalion at Aldershot, and when this Unit was disbanded he joined "B" Telegraph Company and moved with it to Limerick. Here he spent what were to him four very happy years. He was thoroughly at home in that land of hunting and shooting, and became very popular with all the residents of every type. However great the opportunities for sport and games Frank never let them interfere with his work. He always considered the well-being and efficiency of those who served with and under him to be first priority. To achieve this he knew that officers must be of a high standard, and that *esprit de corps* was of first importance for all ranks. He was sure that for officers in particular interest in every form of sport and games was a good foundation of efficiency. In all this he looked on the horse as his great ally.

His next move was to Canada, where he spent about three years as Instructor in Survey at Kingston College. He always said that he had the most pleasant recollections of his time in that great Dominion.

During the first world war he served with a great variety of Signal Units in France, and towards the end in Italy. His war service was recognised with an O.B.E., a Brevet Majority, and a mention in despatches. After a period of service on the Rhine he returned to the Signal Training Centre at Maresfield, where for most of the time he was Second in Command, School of Signals.

In September, 1924, he embarked for India and commenced a period of four years as Chief Signal Officer, Northern Command at Rawalpindi. This was the first of Frank Heymann's two most important periods of creative work. He found the Signal Units to be in a poor way both as regard efficiency and administration. Officers' and Sergeants' Messes left much to be desired.

He set to work with his usual energy to remedy this. For officers he insisted on a high sense of duty, and encouraged every form of sport and game, in particular polo. Horsemastership in every form became very important, and each year at the annual Horse Show at Rawalpindi "Signals" entries were invariably prominent in the prize lists. Success was also achieved in football, hockey and boxing. Officers' and Sergeants' Messes became comfortable, and with all this the efficiency of the Units in the field improved at a fast rate. It was a great work. At the same time Colonel and Mrs. Heymann became a very popular pair in the garrison.

On his return home a period of half pay was followed by two and a half years as Chief Signal Officer, Southern Command, Salisbury, after which on 11th February, 1934, Frank Heymann assumed the duties of Commandant, Signal Training Centre at Catterick with the rank of Brigadier. The ensuing four years constituted his second period of important creative work. Again he could enjoy the hunting and shooting that he loved and could help junior officers to take up these forms of recreation. His position enabled him to foster *esprit de corps* throughout the Royal Signals and he never neglected the opportunity of doing so.

In February, 1938, he retired and settled at Newton-le-Willows Hall near Catterick. He was recalled on 1st September, 1939, to his old job as Commandant, Signal Training Centre, and in July, 1940, retired. From then on until its disbandment he commanded a Battalion of the Home Guard with conspicuous success.

Though retired he showed unfailing interest in all matters affecting the Corps and the Old Comrades Association.

Shortly before his 68th birthday while out grouse shooting he suddenly collapsed and died. For him no better way of passing could be imagined.

In 1916 Frank married Elsie Oliver. He could have had no better partner in life. As companion and helper she was grand, and wherever they went she was most deservedly popular. To her, his daughter and brothers go our deepest sympathy.

Frank Heymann always rode straight through life. He thought and acted as straight as he rode. Everything he did was actuated by a zest and enthusiasm that was infectious and inspiring. This made him a great leader.

He leaves many friends who will always be glad that he came into their lives; they will not forget him. He was in every way a loyal brother officer and comrade.

OF INTEREST IN THIS NUMBER

The front cover depicts the Association of the Royal Signals Band with 13 A.A. (M) Signal Regiment in Edinburgh, a further photograph and some account of this is at page 401.

The article on Frequency Modulation by Mr. E. Husbands, B.Sc., which was begun in August is concluded in this number on page 386.

Some notes on the 17th National Radio Show from the inimitable pen of Barleux are at page 391.

At page 404, Berlin Signal Squadron provides an ingenious—albeit in this country a rather expensive way—of overcoming the difficulty of amplifying orders given on big parades.

Mr. L. G. Pinkney, of Tunbridge Wells and District Branch of the Association, contributes at page 390 an account of a recent visit to Normandy. All who fought in the early days up to and including the Battle of Caen will find his notes of great interest.

Through the kindness of *The Times* we are privileged to reprint a letter from the Colonel Commandant of the Corps of Signals in the Dominion of India, page 392.

BIRTHS

DEAKIN.—At Epsom on 26th August, 1950, to Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. D. N. Deakin, 44th (H.C.) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment (T.A.), a son—David Norman.

WHELDON.—At the British Hospital, Berlin, on 30th August, 1950, to Sergeant and Mrs. Wheldon, a daughter—Patricia Anne.

FORTHCOMING MARRIAGE

GARLAND—WOLLASTON.—The engagement is announced between Sergeant F. B. Garland, 2 Wireless Regiment, M.E.L.F. 3, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Garland, of 10 Maes-y-hendre, Garnant, Ammanford, Carmarthenshire, South Wales, and Sheila, eldest daughter of Captain and Mrs. F. J. C. Wollaston, 2 Wireless Regiment, M.E.L.F. 3.

MARRIAGES

BRADLEY—CLARKE.—At Castle Bromwich Church on 2nd September, Sergeant F. A. Bradley, 1/20 (S.M.) Army Signal Regiment, T.A., to Miss Betty Eileen Clarke.

KNIGHT—MUIRDEN.—On 7th September, Captain Knight to Marjorie Muirden, W.R.A.C., both of 1 A.A. (M) Signal Regiment.

HALLETT—DAY.—At All Saints Church, Fayid, Captain J. N. Hallett to Captain Terry Day, W.R.A.C., both of 3 G.H.Q., Signal Regiment.

O'CONNOR—PRESCOTT.—W.O.II F. J. S. O'Connor, C.S.O.'s Branch, 4 A.A. Group, to Staff Sergeant Prescott, W.R.A.C., of 4 A.A. (M) Signal Regiment.

DEATH

WILSON.—No. 2232707 Signalman J. Wilson, 7 Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment, accidentally killed during exercises.

Obituary

Major F. V. MERCHANT, M.C., D.C.M.

WITH the passing of Major F. V. Merchant, M.C., D.C.M., the Corps has lost one of its outstanding links with its parent Corps—The Royal Engineers.

Born in 1885 he joined his father's Regiment, the (Royal) Lincolnshire Regiment as a boy in 1899, and was transferred to the Royal Engineers in 1901. In 1903 he was posted to the ranks, and spent the first eight years of his man's service with various Telegraph and Air Line Units.

In 1911 he joined the 5th Divisional Signal Company, Royal Engineers, as a Corporal with which Unit he served at Limerick and Carlow. On the outbreak of war in 1914 he went to France with the same Unit as Sergeant with the H.Q. Section.

In February, 1915, he was awarded the D.C.M., and in April of that year was granted a commission as a combatant officer. His first appointment as an officer was to command the Gunner Signal Section with the H.Q. R.A. 5th Division, and for his service in this capacity he was awarded the M.C. in 1916 and mentioned in despatches. In May, 1918, he was specially applied for to command the Signal Company with H.Q. X Corps by the writer of this appreciation who had just been appointed C.S.O. of that Corps, had served with Merchant in 5 Divisional Signal Company and knew his work.

In the autumn of 1918 he was recalled to 5 Divisional Signals to take command of the Unit he had joined seven years before as a Corporal. He remained in command until 1922 when he went on retired pay. Shortly afterwards he joined the firm of Frank Mason Ltd., with whom he served until the outbreak of the last war, when at the age of 53 he again volunteered to serve. His first appointment was as a Staff Officer to his first Commanding Officer of 5 Divisional Signal Company, Colonel P. R. Bald, who was now C.S.O., Aldershot. He remained in this capacity until November, 1940, when he served successively with the Pioneer Corps and Royal Engineers Records.

In May, 1942, at the age of 57 he was reverted to retired pay on account of his age, but he was at once snapped up by the Home Guard who reluctantly released him in 1943 to join up once more, but this time with the Royal Navy.

It shows much of his initiative and versatility that at the age of 58 he was able to embark on a new career as a Lieutenant (Special Branch) R.N.V.R., and to hold successively the jobs of Watch Keeper, Port Amenities Officer, Boarding Officer and Port Harbour Master.

In December, 1945, at the age of 60, Frank Merchant retired finally from active service taking with him the thanks of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty for the services he had rendered to the Royal Navy.

On retirement he took up his old job with Frank Mason, Ltd., with whom he continued until October, 1948, when at the age of 63 he retired to enjoy what should have been a richly deserved period of leisure. However, as a very active Mason, and member of the Old Comrades Associations of the Royal Engineers and Royal Signals and of the British Legion his spare time was fully occupied.

For a number of years he had been a regular correspondent of *The Sapper*, THE WIRE and *The Old Contemptible*, and his witty and instructive articles, based on his Army life, were always much appreciated.

And so a fine character possessing all those qualities which go to the making of an outstanding soldier has gone to his rest and his passing will be mourned by all his old comrades who knew him. They will, I know, wish to extend their heartfelt sympathy to his widow and daughter to whom he was a devoted husband and parent.

* * *

A more complete obituary notice of Major F. V. Merchant, M.C., D.C.M., will appear next month.

VJ Anniversary

ON the anniversary of V.J. Day (15th August) the usual ceremonies of commemoration were held by the U.S. Army Signal Corps and the Royal Corps of Signals at Fort Monmouth and Catterick respectively.

The following messages were exchanged on the fifth anniversary:—

From: Major-General W. A. Scott, Director of Signals, War Office.

To: Major-General S. B. Akin, Chief Signal Officer, U.S. Army.

"During the past year the ties of friendship and co-operation between the U.S. Signal Corps and the Royal Corps of Signals have continued and strengthened. Our contacts with the increased number of U.S. Signal Corps Officers sent on assignments to the U.K. and above all your own visit to this country have not only given us the greatest pleasure but also shown that we still share common aims and ideals. In the near future Signals of our two nations will once again be working together in the field and whilst we deeply regret the circumstances that have led to its necessity we look forward with confidence to the opportunity of working once again alongside the U.S. Signal Corps in active operations. I wish to extend to you and the U.S. Signal Corps the greetings and good wishes of the Royal Corps of Signals on this 15th day of August 1950 and particularly to wish God speed to the U.S. Signal Corps in Korea."

* * *

From: Major-General S. B. Akin, Chief Signal Officer, U.S. Army.

To: Major-General W. A. Scott, Director of Signals, War Office.

"Dear General Scott, Your cordial VJ Day anniversary message has been warmly received here. On behalf of the U.S. Army Signal Corps, please accept my sincere greetings and good wishes to you and to all the officers and men of the British Royal Corps of Signals. The bonds of comradeship between us, which have been increased with the years, will give added strength to the traditional heroism and skills of our Corps as we take the field together. Let us join in pledging that the contributions of our Signals to victory shall be even greater than in the past; and let us hope and pray that this victory will be swift and sure."

* * *

From: War Office.

To: U.S. War Dept., Washington.

For Major-General Spencer B. Akin, Chief Signal Officer, U.S. Signal Corps.

From: Her Royal Highness the Princess Royal.

"On V.J. Day 1950 when United States forces are again in action in the cause of freedom I, Colonel in Chief The Royal Corps of Signals send my greetings to you General Akin and all ranks of the United States Signal Corps in wishing you well now and in the future. I associate myself wholeheartedly with the celebration at this time by you and my Corps of the links of comradeship mutual loyalty and service which starting in the war years has since grown and matured. They must and will be maintained.—MARY."

* * *

Overseas the anniversary was observed as follows:

(a) *Tripoli*

Regimental Guest Night held by 1 Divisional Signal Regiment for American Officers.

(b) *Accra*

Dinner attended by American Consul and his Staff.

PERSONAL COLUMN

Brigadier A. C. C. Willway, C.B.E., T.D., J.P., has been appointed a Deputy Lieutenant for Surrey.

* * *

Awarded Long Service and Good Conduct Medal

S.Q.M.S. C. J. Scantlebury, Northern Ireland District Signal Squadron.

Sergeant R. A. Brown, Northern Ireland District Signal Squadron.

* * *

Squadron Sergeant-Major F. Barker, ex-School of Signals to pension.

Sergeant A. L. Simkin, ex-School of Signals to pension.

* * *

Movements of Officers

Captain P. W. Fountain to School of Signals ex M.E.L.F.
Captain W. T. Macfarlane to Army Apprentices School ex M.E.L.F.
Major T. R. Cook to U.K. ex F.A.R.E.L.F.
Major K. E. Rees to U.K. ex F.A.R.E.L.F.
Captain R. M. Matthews to Military College of Science.
Captain H. D. V. Chappell to B.A.O.R. ex School of Signals.
Captain F. L. Clarkson to F.A.R.E.L.F. ex School of Signals.
Captain J. E. Carroll to West Africa ex School of Signals.
Captain R. T. Hone to Gurkha Brigade Signal Squadron ex A.S.S.U., T.A.
Captain R. I. Osbourne from Military College of Science to 29 Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron.
Lieutenant-Colonel E. J. F. Heap to U.K. ex F.A.R.E.L.F.
Lieutenant-Colonel D. White to School of Signals ex F.A.R.E.L.F.
Lieutenant (T.O.M.) A. Eeckelaers from B.A.O.R. to London District Signal Squadron.
Lieutenant-Colonel F. H. Pellew from Burma to 7 Selection Regiment.
Major D. R. Horsfield from War Office to R.M.A., Sandhurst.
Captain G. W. A. Stephenson from B.A.O.R. to Indian Corps Depot.
Captain M. C. McDevitt from M.E.L.F. to Depot.
Captain H. A. Leece from 22 Corps Signal Regiment, T.A., to West Africa.
Major E. N. L. Brown from Depot to 1 Training Regiment.
Major C. L. Wikner from War Office Signal Regiment to War Office.
Captain J. Mc K. Lamb from School of Signals to Signal Training Centre.
Major J. G. Geary from 1 Training Regiment to School of Signals.
Major R. H. E. Robinson from War Office to B.J.S.M., Washington.
Major S. G. Hodgson from C.A.F.S.O. Branch, B.A.F.O. to 5 A.A. (M) Signal Regiment.
Major G. B. Newman from B.M.M. to Greece to C.A.F.S.O. Branch, B.A.F.O.
Captain J. W. Hennessey from C.A.F.S.O. Branch, B.A.F.O. to an appointment as P.S.O.
Captain F. Hill from H.Q., Combined Operations to C.A.F.S.O. Branch, B.A.F.O.
Captain R. S. D. Maunsell from War Office A.G.11 to 7 Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment.

* * *

No. 3 Long Telecommunications Course is finished, and the Officers from it are being disposed of as shown below:—
Major D. A. Dickson to B.A.O.R.
Major L. E. Thorpe to M.E.L.F.
Major E. N. L. Brown to Depot.
Major A. F. Freeman to Fontainebleau.
Major E. F. Mervyn-Smith to Depot.
Major A. H. D. Llewellyn to War Office.
Major A. B. Wheeler to War Office Signal Regiment.
Captain J. L. Purdon to School of Signals.
Captain S. H. McKay to War Office.
Captain G. H. Allan to M.E.L.F.
Captain D. L. Swallow to I.E.M.E.

* * *

Captain C. W. South has recently taken over the Plough and Sail Inn, Tollesbury, near Maldon, Essex, and would be pleased to welcome any Royal Signals who may be in the district.

* * *

Sergeant Medford (with wife and family) from Malaya District Signal Regiment to 18 Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron to relieve S.Q.M.S. Burton. Mrs. Reed and family have also joined Sergeant Reed at Kuala Lumpur.

Major Galloway who is to command 18 Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron vice Major P. G. Curry (to Beverley for duty with Boys Squadron) is due to arrive in Kuala Lumpur about mid-September and until his arrival Captain D. K. P. Hannigan is commanding.

* * *

Captain P. A. Robins has moved to the Kings Arms Hotel, Puddletown, Dorchester, Dorset, and will be pleased to see any ex-2 Divites 1922/29 or Kohdist Sigites 1929/30 visiting Weymouth or that district. In fact a hearty welcome to all Royal Signals personnel.

* * *

The arrival of R.S.M. Keating, late of Malaya District Signal Regiment should improve the chances of the Gurkha Signal Training and Holding Wing in the local football world, for he is well known as a soccer referee and coach.

The Corps Roll of Honour

The existence of the Corps' two Memorial Homes, the Mercury Houses at Bournemouth and Colwyn Bay has been very well publicised both through the medium of THE WIRE and by other means. We have also read of the Memorial Plaque in St. Martin's Church, Catterick Camp, the Memorial Window in St. George's, Moascar and the Choir Stalls presented to St. John's, Ma'adi, but still, at the back of one's mind there remains the question "Has the Corps prepared a Roll of Honour like other Regiments, and if so, where is it?"

* * *

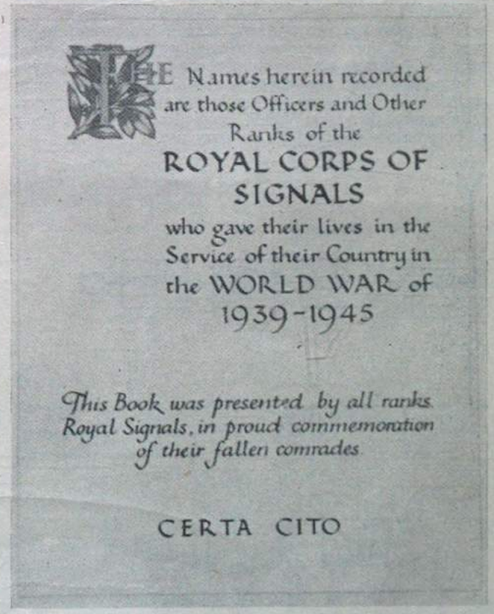
The names of the 4,630 members of the Corps who made the Supreme Sacrifice are inscribed on vellum in two identical books in strict alphabetical order irrespective of rank, eighty on a page.

One of these books is kept at each of the Mercury Houses in a glass showcase, normally kept locked, but with each is a mimeographed copy which can be referred to by any who are interested. The reason for this is obvious—to prevent the vellum pages becoming soiled or fingermarked.

Major Dunningham states that the Bournemouth copy has been inspected by a large number of callers, relatives of the Fallen, who are not themselves eligible to stay at the Mercury Houses.

Our photographs show the title page and dedication of the copy at Mercury House, Bournemouth.





PART TWO

Frequency Modulation

By **E. HUSBANDS, B.Sc.**

Signals Research and Development Establishment, Ministry of Supply

F.M. and V.H.F.

IN the last section it was shown that in order to fully exploit the possibilities of F.M., a large deviation should be used. In practice, a modulation index of 3, giving a deviation of 15 kc/s, is usually employed for speech communication while for broadcast purposes, where a much better signal-to-noise ratio is desirable, a deviation of 75 kc/s is used to transmit music frequencies up to 15 kc/s. For these two applications the receiver bandwidths must be at least 30 kc/s and 150 kc/s respectively. For this reason communication channels cannot be spaced 10 kc/s apart as for A.M. and a spacing of 100 kc/s has been standardised. Now it is quite out of the question to squander "ether space" in this way at frequencies below 30 Mc/s, where there has long been competition among various radio users for available channel allocations, so that although it is technically possible, F.M. has not been put to practical use at frequencies below about 30 Mc/s and F.M. is normally associated with the V.H.F. band, 30 Mc/s to 300 Mc/s.

It has been found that frequency modulation is not suitable for sky-wave working, because selective fading causes much more severe distortion than with A.M., and this is a secondary reason for confining F.M. to the higher frequencies.

Apart from the use of F.M., V.H.F. has proved to be very suitable for short range ground wave communication because of the absence of atmospheric noise and sky-wave interference which play havoc with H.F. reception at night, so that V.H.F. is becoming popular for this kind of service. It is natural then, that V.H.F. coupled with F.M. is likely to become the standard for military use.

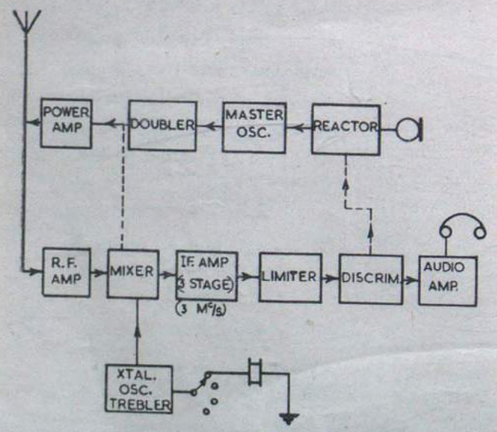


FIG. 10. 88 SET BLOCK DIAGRAM

The 88 Set

In order to illustrate the practical application of the general principles which have so far been dealt with it is proposed to describe the 88 Set in some detail. This is an infantry pack set employing frequency modulation and working on four fixed channels in the V.H.F. band. It is

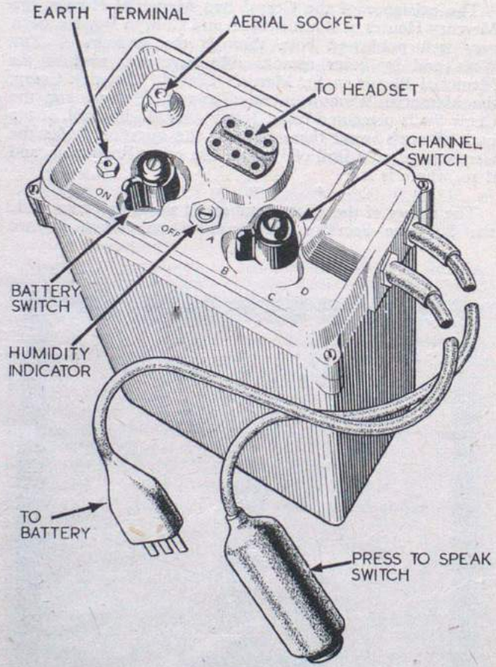


FIG. 11. 88 SET

notable for its very simple operation, which is probably one of its most valuable features from the operator's point of view. A block diagram of the set is shown in Figure 10, and it is useful to compare this diagram with the basic transmitter and receiver shown in Figures 1 and 4. The upper part of Figure 10 represents the transmitter, consisting of master oscillator, doubler and power amplifier, with a conventional reactor fed direct from the carbon microphone. The receiver, shown in the lower part of the diagram, consists of one R.F. amplifier stage, mixer, three I.F. stages, limiter, discriminator and audio stage. The local oscillator supply for the mixer is obtained from the crystal oscillator-trebler, the frequency depending on which of the four crystals is selected by the four-position channel selector switch. This frequency is doubled by the mixer itself, giving a total multiplication of six times. Each tuned circuit of the sender and receiver is provided with four

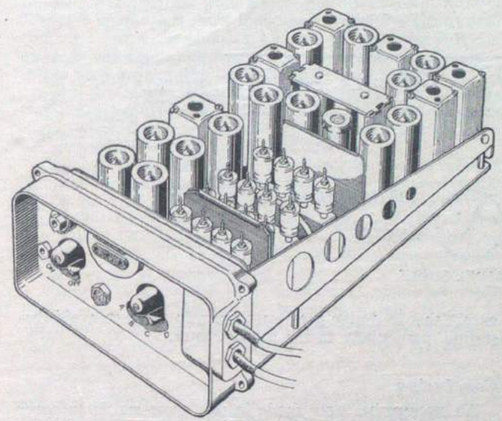


FIG. 12. 88 SET WITH CASE REMOVED

preset trimmers which are selected by contacts on the channel selector switch, so that all the circuits are immediately tuned to correspond with the selected crystal without any adjustment by the operator.

Although it is required to modulate the master oscillator frequency in accordance with the microphone output, it is important that the mean frequency, or carrier, should not drift, and to obviate this automatic frequency control (A.F.C.) is used while transmitting. When the pressel switch is operated to send, the transmitter is switched on, but the receiver is left on as well and part of the doubler output is fed into the mixer. A reproduction of the transmitted speech therefore appears at the discriminator output, providing sidetone in the headphones, but, in addition, should the transmitter frequency drift, a D.C. output will also be obtained. This D.C. voltage, after separation from the speech by a resistance-capacity filter, is applied to the reactor, which then automatically retunes the master oscillator by the correct amount.

Because of the employment of F.M. it was found unnecessary to incorporate either a modulation control or a receiver volume control, so the operator has only an on-off switch, channel selector switch and pressel switch to worry about, and no netting procedure is required. Such simplicity is, of course, largely due to the use of only four preset channels. This in turn is acceptable only because of the use of V.H.F. and F.M. The well defined range of V.H.F. and absence of sky-wave interference, coupled with F.M. capture effect enables several nets to work on the same channel provided they are separated by a mile or two. A general view of the set, showing the simplicity of the controls, is given in Figure 11 and an internal view is shown in Figure 12.

Multi-Channel Radio Links

As a contrast to the miniature infantry pack set, let us see how V.H.F. frequency modulation can be employed as an adjunct to a telephone system, and can be made to carry a number of two-way telephone conversations simultaneously. An explanation has been given in a previous article in this series* of the method, known as carrier telephony, of transmitting a number of conversations over one cable. For example, 12 circuits can be provided using the frequency band 12-60 kc/s. Instead of using a cable, it is quite possible to use a radio link. Such an arrangement is shown in the diagram, Figure 13 which shows the carrier equipment at each terminal connected to its radio sender and receiver. The performance required from the radio equipment is more stringent than the performance of the normal R/T set, for the following reasons:

(a) The upper modulation frequency to be transmitted is 60 kc/s, or say twelve times the limit of an R.T. set.
(b) Non-linear, or harmonic distortion must be low, say not worse than 1% of second harmonic at full modulation, compared with 10% or more in the case of a single channel set. This is essential to avoid cross-talk between the channels.
(c) To provide a full duplex telephone service it is necessary to operate the sender and receiver at the same time without mutual interference.
(d) The signal-to-noise ratio must be much better than for R/T working.
(e) The overall gain, from sender input to receiver output must remain stable once the equipment is adjusted, otherwise there is a danger of the whole system singing, or oscillating, at an audio frequency.

Careful consideration of these conditions will show that the required performance can be much more readily realised with F.M. than with A.M., and F.M. is now used extensively for this job.

* The Principles of Carrier Telephony. THE WIRE. July, 1950.

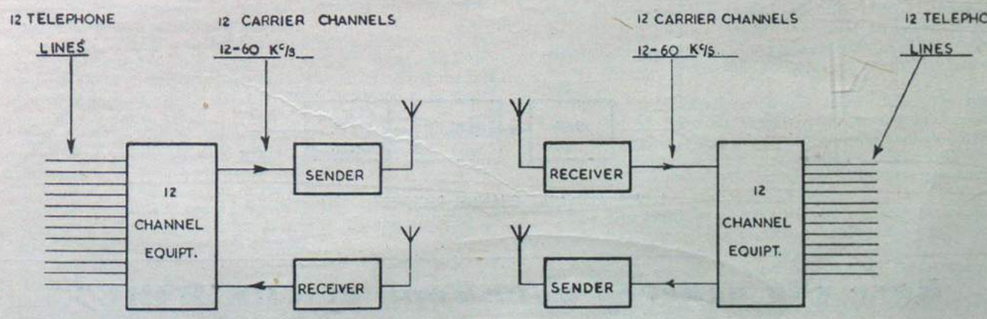


FIG. 13. MULTI-CHANNEL F.M. LINK

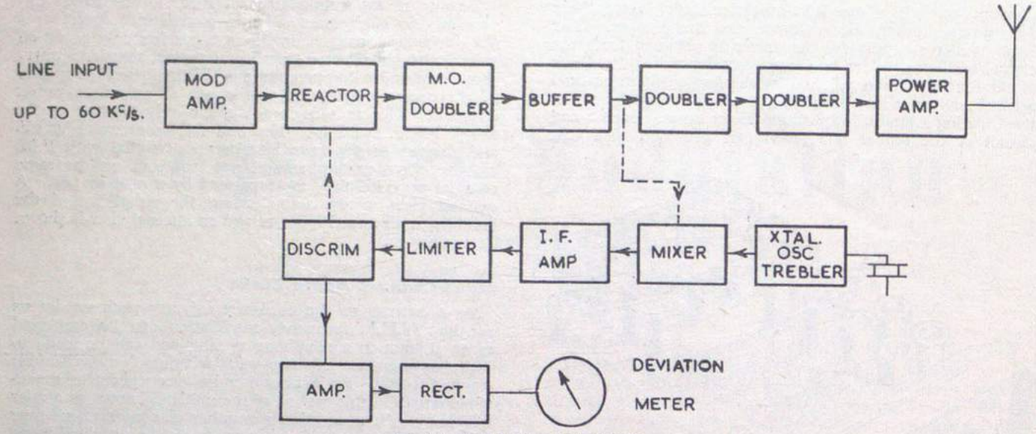


FIG. 14. MULTI-CHANNEL SENDER

In order to provide duplex working the sender and receiver are normally separate, a typical sender being shown diagrammatically in Figure 14. It will be seen that the master oscillator is doubled three times, giving a frequency multiplication of eight times. In order to transmit 60 kc/s a large maximum deviation is necessary, and in order to obtain this without serious distortion, it is desirable to start with a fairly low deviation and multiply up.

It is not possible to use the receiver for frequency control, so the elements of a simple receiver are built in for this purpose. These are shown in the block diagram as crystal oscillator trebler, mixer, I.F. amplifier, limiter and discriminator. The D.C. output from the discriminator is used for frequency control, while the A.C. output, which is, of course, proportional to the deviation, is amplified, rectified and applied to a meter for deviation monitoring.

The block diagram of the receiver is given in Figure 15, and this calls for little comment as it is quite conventional, except that in design great care must be taken to avoid distortion, particularly in the discriminator.

Conclusion

An attempt has been made in this short article to cover the whole field of frequency modulation and consequently it has not been possible to deal in great detail with any particular aspect of the subject. It is hoped, however, that a useful introduction has been given to this new method of modulation which is playing a big part in improving radio communication.

Acknowledgment

Acknowledgment is made to the Chief Scientist, Ministry of Supply, for permission to publish the above article.

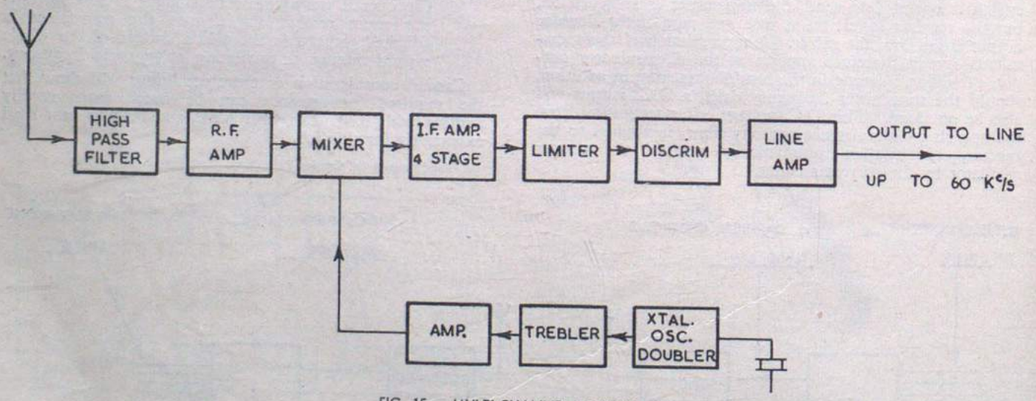


FIG. 15. MULTI-CHANNEL RECEIVER

***Have you ordered your copy of* THE WIRE?**

Letters to the Editor

Lieutenant-Colonel Alex Monteith, M.B.E., writes to the Editor:

Readers' letters suggesting how THE WIRE can be given wider appeal and circulation prompts me to air the views of a former Territorial.

THE WIRE at present leaves me lukewarm, because, firstly, it seems disjointed; individual issues lack a record of contents, and it is difficult to find out quickly what is inside. The absence of an index makes it hard to refer back to previous articles and features and defeats continuity.

Secondly, many photographs carry neither a caption nor indentification of depicted persons, and quite often illustrations are printed too far from the relevant context for a simple soul like me to put the two together.

Thirdly, no magazine is complete without a proper Editorial, which should express both the personality of the editor and represent the feeling of the Corps; it is a mouthpiece through which we, as the Corps, can express our thoughts. The Editorial should also be a leader, but so long as it remains encumbered with parochial notices it cannot assume it proper stature.

Many of us know the effort the present editor has made to improve THE WIRE, and surely he ought not to be asked to conduct a free classified advertisement bureau in the only column free to him for news of the Corps as a body, as opposed to the notes from units and factions.

Fourthly, the balance of technical and general matters appears uneven. Because the Regular Army to-day is so pitifully small, and the Territorials, until recently, have been so actively discouraged, I do not believe the number of those who understand the long articles on complicated pieces of telecommunication equipment exceeds the fingers on my hand. The average National Serviceman cannot be expected to reach such heights of knowledge, the released man has forgotten most of what he knew, and members of the Old Comrades Associations are now much more interested in the social news to see if old "Nobby" Clarke was taken home on a gate again from the last Re-Union smoker.

To increase circulation and save THE WIRE from an ignominious death, it must be sold to the majority market, and in my belief is that this is not to be found just amongst the serving members. I am sure there is a large following to be had amongst those of us now in civilian life, who look chiefly for articles of general Signals interest. Without reasonable doubt, the main body of readers and potential readers need more such articles, especially ones with a distinct Corps domestic flavour; we must not forget, for instance, that Royal Signals has attracted within itself a number of Yeomanry and Territorial Formations from other arms of the Service, whose interest is primarily in Army life, and only secondly in technical equipment.

May I therefore suggest, for consideration, one or two possible improvements aimed at gathering in the reader potential I have mentioned above:

Is it not feasible to duplicate circulars for most of the heavy technical features sent in to THE WIRE, and distribute these to serving personnel, plus a compiled mailing list of interested parties, so that the information goes where it will do most good. I feel technical articles to THE WIRE itself should be confined to items which will interest the Corps personnel as a whole, because subjects which please an operator do not usually appeal to say, a D.R., and in many cases the reaction in the officer class is similar.

Could we not see more readers' letters—short, sharp and pithy—on all matters relating to the Corps and covering as wide a range of subjects as possible.

Then again, to keep memories fresh and preserve old friendships, why not a page of "People in the News"; for instance, Signalman Close is, I believe, the first Corps member to be chosen for an M.C.C. Touring Team. I refuse to believe that, considering the size of the Corps—past and present—it would prove impossible to produce a highly interesting page every month on these lines.

Although a shilling does not seem excessive, the physical quality of the publication appears unnecessarily high at present price levels; would it be possible to reduce the grade of paper slightly to give additional pages? Photographs could still be printed on glossy material and inserted in the centre as was done in the Middle East version of the magazine during the war; and when photographs are obtained from sources other than news agencies or official releases, could not good ones be had through competitions organised either within units, or direct by the already overworked WIRE staff.

On the broad issue of general articles, surely we need more from outside sources, such as that by Colonel Tully on the U.S. Signal Corps in Alaska. The more we can learn of the other fellow's job the better it is for us all, and I personally would like to see articles on the French and Benelux Signals as well, especially as we may have to work closely with them at some future time.

And finally, Sir, the advertising. Oh! . . . . . the advertising!

To sum up, the real requirement is to raise THE WIRE from parochial level to a standard in keeping with the traditions of an important Arm of the Services, and make it an instrument of interest and value for everyone connected with Royal Signals—in and out of the Corps, serving and retired—rather than primarily a scrapbook of unit social activities and a disjointed record of technical development.

I expect these suggestions will bring a howl of rage from a small vociferous section, but it is no use for those of us who wish THE WIRE well, to emulate the ostrich. To live, THE WIRE must, repeat "must," have turnover, and to get turnover personal feelings must be set aside to cater for that majority market. I hope, Sir, sufficient readers will take the trouble to write to you, as I have done, on this important matter, because from them, it seems to me, it should be possible to get a clear line on future composition.

RECENT MILITARY PUBLICATIONS REVIEW

The Keeping of Regimental Accounts

By **Major J. A. D. RITCHEY**

(late the Parachute Regiment)

Published by Gale & Polden, Aldershot, price 3/10 (inclusive postage U.K.)

ALL Formations, Units and Establishments of every Arm at Home and Overseas are compelled by King's Regulations to maintain Regimental accounts. In fact, there are at least 21 A.C.I.s, one Army Order and 24 paras. of King's Regulations to define and explain the nature of this responsibility, which affects all officers, especially commanding officers.

Taking into consideration the many duties the average officer has to carry out, especially in an Arm of the Service such as ours, it is not perhaps surprising that on occasions when an officer is detailed to administer a Regimental account an atmosphere of mystery and gloom descends upon the lined pages of AB. 397 and AF. N.1514.

The War Office have organised courses through the School of Military Administration and a doctrine has been preached throughout the Army in the pamphlet entitled "Notes and Instructions on the Method of Keeping the Accounts of Regimental Funds, 1939." Admirable as all this is, there are still several points which require further explanation. Major

Ritchey makes a worthy attempt to complete the picture for us in his recent booklet and which is recommended should occupy without delay a place on all military bookshelves, and when read in conjunction with the official War Office pamphlet, it is predicted any officer could face any Regimental account either as the Officer i/c the Account or as a member of an Audit Board. The book—36 pages and fitting into B.D. pocket—is divided into six parts:

1. The Orthodox Books.
2. Positive Checks.
3. Control.
4. Pre-Audit Preparations.
5. Preparing the Balance Sheets.
6. Audit Boards—showing suggested "Programme of Audit."

It would, however, be even more invaluable and perhaps more widely popular if the author could in any subsequent editions incorporate two appendices:

(a) List of all current authorities affecting Regimental accounts as at the 1st January of the year of reprinting.
(b) 100 questions on Regimental accounts for the Regimental Officer to consider, as much can be learned, it is believed, from searching for the answers.

Nevertheless, this booklet in its present form is well worth 3s. 6d. of anybody's money. Make sure you cannot afford to be without it.

The Orderly Room

By **Major E. J. SMITH, M.B.E.**

(formerly Officer i/c R.A. Clerks School and D.A.A.G. H.Q. East Anglian District U.K.)

"It is full of useful information with excellent examples of the application of Regulations to everyday administrative problems.

"It is safe to say that a study of this book or its use as a reference by those responsible for the administration of the Army would eliminate many of the vexatious inaccuracies which are all too common in the clerical duties of the Army.

"In my opinion it is a book which should be in the hands of every officer, N.C.O. and clerk, and should most certainly be on every Orderly Room table."

Such is the advice and the recommendation given by Major-General J. A. Griffin, D.S.O., who was at one time G.O.C. Norfolk and Cambridge District.

The booklet was first published in April, 1947, and already a large number of copies have been sold, but it is believed there are still several Units who have not yet heard of this helpful booklet which has been so outstandingly prepared.

There are certain sections which inevitably are now out of date, but the basic principles have not changed.

FOOTNOTE. *For a cheque (or postal order) for 9s. to Messrs. Gale & Polden, Aldershot, you can receive the following post free in the U.K.:*

1. *"The Orderly Room" by Major E. J. Smith.*
2. *"The Keeping of Regimental Accounts" by Major J. A. D. Ritchey.*
3. *"The Administrative Aide Memoire" by Major R. C. W. Thomas.*

For Units abroad add proper amount for postage by sea and air mail.

REUNIONS

The Malayan Campaign Officers' Reunion will take place on Friday, 8th December, at the Hyde Park Hotel, S.W.1. Tickets, price 17/6, and particulars obtainable from Colonel P. S. Cannon, 6 St. John's Wood Court, N.W.8.

* * *

The fourth annual reunion dinner for Officers of 4th Indian Air Formation Signals will be held at the Café Royal, Regent Street, London, on Saturday, 28th October, 1950. Further information can be obtained from R. W. Rogers, "Sevenoaks," 4 Curzon Park South, Chester.

A Visit to Normandy

2nd-22nd August, 1950

By **L. G. PINKNEY,** *late Royal Signals*

UPON my arrival at Dieppe, I was particularly anxious to see the condition of the country between Dieppe and Caen.

Arriving Dieppe at 3 p.m., I was able to see the countryside *en route*. The first thing noticeable to me was the condition of the land and properties. There had been a definite plan of rebuilding all along the route.

The railway station at Rouen was newly decorated and looked very smart. Proceeding to Caen via Serquigy, I was able to see the new cathedral at Liseux which is nearly completed.

Caen. The station, which in 1944 was a heap of wreckage and battered locomotives, is now rebuilt and refashioned on modern lines. Train services are good, fast and reliable and punctuality seems to be a strong point.

It has now, definitely, reassumed its old pre-war importance and even the most inexperienced traveller should find no difficulty in making his way therefrom to any part of France.

Caen is still in a very bad state taking the city generally, but many new buildings have been erected and a number of hotels have been rebuilt and are ready to receive guests. The market and other shopping centres are mostly prefabricated, temporary premises. It seems that the city will remain in this condition for some considerable time, but all essential industrial concerns have resumed normal working.

The military cemetery at Caen is beautifully kept and many friends of Britain have adopted a number of graves of British troops (Royal Signals among them). These graves seem, to the stranger, to be better kept than many civilian graves hereabouts. The site of the University of Caen (totally destroyed during the battles of Caen) is now a car and bus park. A large stack of stones on the outer edge of the car park serves as a grim reminder of the once prosperous University. Caen is also rebuilding her famous Cathedral.

Creully. The erstwhile site of 2nd British Army H.Q., is once again its old peacetime self. I saw many remaining evidences of British occupation, particularly in the Chateau de Creully where I observed an inscription on a door of one of the outbuildings—on a blue background with white letters were the words "The man who lends tools is out"—evidently a souvenir of some M/T "bod." On another door within the Chateau were the words "KEEP OUT—EXPLOSIVES—THIS MEANS YOU." Many examples of carved initials are extant in the Chateau from German gothic lettering to the plain initials of "J.R.F. of Sheffield."

Tierceville. The home of 2nd Army Signals during July, 1944, is still the same peaceful place. I went in search of eggs to the farm belonging to the same farmer who reluctantly gave up his orchard for Signals 2 Company H.Q.

He seemed still to be the type who sees ruin and destruction in every strange face, and one is met by a barrage of barking dogs on approaching his farm. Odd bits of Don 8 cable still adorn the trees and outbuildings, and one can still see traces of our sojourn in the orchard.

Close by the farm, beside the church of Tierceville, is a double gate supported by square stone pillars. On the pillars can still be seen the painted sign "Hatter's Castle."

Villers Bocage. No trace of the carnage of war now remains in this town. In place of the rubble and corpses a new modern town built in solid stone has arisen. Newly planned and very well sited, the town's interior is a striking example of modern Norman architecture.

Thury-Harcourt. Also rebuilt similar in style to Villers Bocage but a little differently planned.

Aunay-sur-Odon. Here is the same story as in the two previous places mentioned. The original roundabout and stretch of new macadam road built by our Engineers in 1944 still exists unaltered. Here, beyond the roundabout, lies the new town of Aunay, built in solid stone and even more striking than Villers and Thury.

Wherever one goes in this area one sees ample evidence of the temporary sojourn of the British soldier.

For instance, the two bridges built by the Royal Engineers are still in use in Caen and take all heavy transport crossing the river. Outside Creully, on the road island known as Piccadilly Circus, still stands the statue (in cement) of Eros. This was constructed by 172 Company Royal Engineers. The locals still refer to the place as Piccadilly Circus and the little god of love is carefully tended in grateful memory both to the lads who made and erected it, and to the "Tommies" who passed by on their mission of liberation.

The 17th National Radio Show

FROM 6th to 16th September about 127,000 square feet of the B.I.F. Building at Castle Bromwich were occupied by 90 exhibitors of television and radio sets in bewildering variety. The B.B.C., G.P.O. and R.A.F. were also represented, as were firms specialising in nuts, bolts, aerials, valves and gadgets for getting comedians out of "Workers' Playtime." You will surely have read all about this exhibition weeks ago, but as soldiers generally and Signals in particular, let us take a non-technical look round. Uppermost in our minds will be the thought "How will this or that suit the Army?" Jingling our three half-crowns (all we had left after parking the car) we gazed unbelievingly at a magnificent television-radiogram-sideboard priced at £595. Stripped of its fine polished woods and housed in something more military it might go well in G.H.Q. where the General Staff could have pictures of the front line laid on. This will come in time, make no mistake. Rid your mind of hundreds of tons of transmitting equipment and Sutton Coldfield masts and know that pictures can be transmitted from a three-ton lorry. Answering a telephone call from the Corps Commander with your feet on the table will be a thing of the past. When you go to the TV phone you will put your mug of tea in the OUT tray and stand to attention. Well, it may not come in my time, or yours, but think about it. At the other end of the scale and rather more our cup of tea was an extremely neat portable dry battery set weighing 4½lb. and looking very much like a pair of binoculars. Just under 15 guineas, all in.

One of these in each platoon or other small blob of men and what couldn't you do in a noisy action. No back answers either. For another £4 odd, you may buy an A.C. mains converter unit for this set. You leave this at home, and when you come in simply jam your portable on to the plugs on the converter unit.

I am afraid that the introduction of television into the Army in a big way is going to provide a most imperial headache for Q.M.s. I have in mind those beautiful transmitting valves which handle 20 k.w and need a blast of air to keep their operating temperature within reasonable limits. Or those simply devastating little valves no larger than a thumbnail. Isn't science a perfect scream?

I managed to have a word with Mr. Andrew Reid, Press Officer to the Radio Industry Council. He is an old Signals Officer of both world wars and on the strength of our Corps ties offered me a whisky. Hesitating politely for about 3/5th second I accepted and we fell to comparing the "C" set with present day Army wireless. There seemed to be no future in this so I left him grumbling about the drop in attendance while I forced my way through most of the 21,620 people who visited the show on Saturday, 9th September.

It is no secret that the whole of Western Europe's defence measures are bound up with radio and radar equipment being produced in British factories. The R.A.F. exhibits stressed the great debt the service owes to the scientists and technicians who have perfected the modern control of military and civil aviation. I tip-toed respectfully past this stand.

The importance of good aerial installation was demonstrated by the G.P.O. Presumably everyone will agree about aerials.

Quite a lot of people will, however, continue to make do with D8 cable or a few yards of co-axial. When it comes to suppressors you have quite another kettle of—I mean the boot is on the—well, look at it this way. You have a television set. You also have a car. Other people's cars make "snow" on your TV set so why the—I mean why should you care what YOUR car does to THEIR TV sets? It is as simple as that. Human nature being what it is, things will stay that way until suppressors for motors become compulsory.

Like all such exhibitions this one was very interesting but what it did to the poor old feet was just nobody's business. One fact stood out with blinding clarity. Competition and rivalry between all the firms making television and radio sets is the real reason for the excellence of their products. You have to do a better job than the people over the way. Then you say so. Loudly.

Now I will give you a few brief technical characteristics of a new aerial with an input impedance of 70 ohms and a front/back ratio of 22 db. Also a diagram showing the elimination of the signal pick-up at an angle below the horizontal.

Editor: You will do nothing of the sort.
Me: Oh! A pity.

BARLEUX

CROSS-CHANNEL CABLE CENTENARY

On 29th August at the Science Musuem, South Kensington in the presence of a gathering which included the Chairman of the Association, Major-General C. W. Fladgate, C.B.E., the Postmaster-General, opened an interesting exhibition.

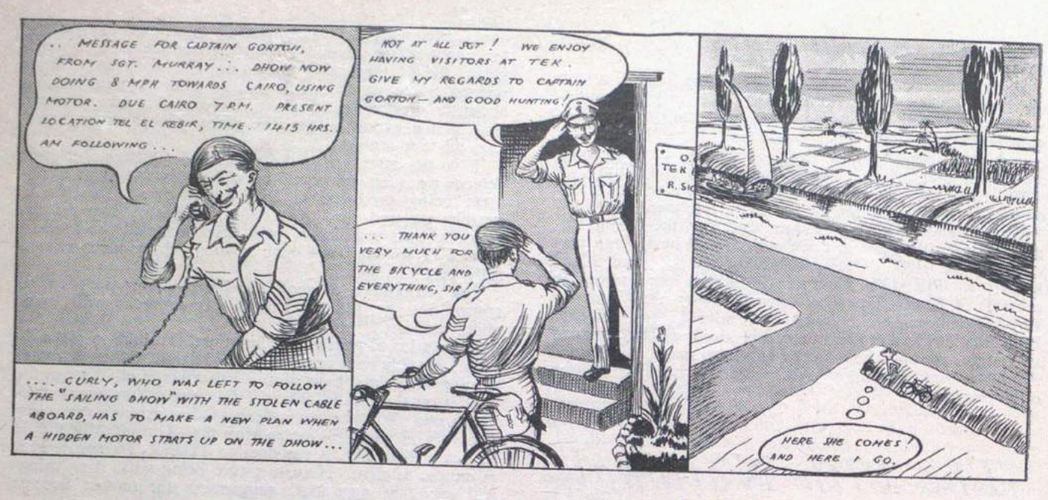
Ranged round the hall are several of the early telegraph instruments, notably the various ramifications of the galvanometer, double-, quadruple- and five-needle instruments and the mirror-galvanometer. Interesting precursors of the modern teleprinter are there in the form of the "Type-Printer" of 1850 and the A.B.C. dial instrument.

Sections of submarine cable from the original to the most modern are to be seen together with a model of a cable-making machine. The development of gutta-percha and polythene insulation is shown by a diarama.

The history of submarine cables is illustrated by a comprehensive collection of photographs and prints of the laying of the Atlantic Cable by the "Great Eastern" and a series of models of notable cable-laying ships. Grapnels of various types are on display and are explained by a member of a cable ship's company, together with an echo-sounding machine.

Modern practice is demonstrated by a pair of teleprinter terminals working through an 18-channel V.F. equipment and telephones coupled to a speech frequency changing equipment.

Very few of us may have worked with the instruments displayed here, but there is something of interest for all of us.



Indian Army Thanks to Commonwealth

Tribute to Officers who "Laid Foundations"

The following appeared in "The Times" on 24th August, 1950. General K. M. Cariappa is, of course, Colonel Commandant of the Corps of Signals of the Dominion of India.

FIELD-MARSHAL Lord Birdwood has received a letter from General K. M. Cariappa, Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Army, paying tribute to those officers and other ranks who were responsible for the building up of the Indian Army. General Cariappa says in his letter:—

I write this to you, as the seniormost serving officer of the Indian Army, on behalf of myself and all Indian officers of our army, to thank you and all officers of the Commonwealth who were responsible for building our army in the manner it has been built, and also for all the help, advice and guidance you gave us, which trained our officers so well that we were able to replace British officers in our army after our country gained her freedom on August 15th, 1947. We know that the foundations of our army were truly and well laid by the blood and sweat of you all and of all those gallant officers who have gone before you. You left behind for us such efficient machinery that, under our command and control, it stood up to the "buffetings" of the many military problems which came after partition. We thank also all the British other ranks, both males and females, who worked in our army from time to time in various capacities for their contribution in this respect.

Traditions and Customs

I assure you every one of us in this army is just as anxious as you all were to insist on keeping up the traditions and customs of the service, no matter how small, always. We are indeed equally, if not more, determined to see that the past traditions of the Indian Army and the good name that was built by your hard work are maintained and enhanced so that our army will continue to be regarded in the world as being second to none and, possibly, become the best army in the world. We have learnt a very great deal from you, our past teachers. I write this to request you to accept and to convey to all the officers in the Commonwealth, who have either physically served in or with the Indian Army or have been indirectly responsible for our training, &c., our most grateful thanks for all you have done for us. We earnestly hope you will take continued interest in our army as you are still members of it, as indeed you are in spirit.

I hope we will have the pleasure of seeing as many of you as possible here to visit your old units and formations. I am sure I am voicing the wish of not only the officers, but also of all the V.C.O.s, now called junior commissioned officers, other ranks, and non-combatants in this army, when I say that we want you to come and see us and "hunt and shoot and fish" with us as of old.

I am glad to say that the standard of mess life is to-day just as high as it ever was. All young officers are more than anxious to see that this standard is not lowered. Our jawans have been and are magnificent. In all my 29 years of service I have never seen their morale higher. The Gurkhas are just as grand as ever before—under our young lads commanding them—serving splendidly both in duties in aid to the civil power and on active service in the field.

CONVOY

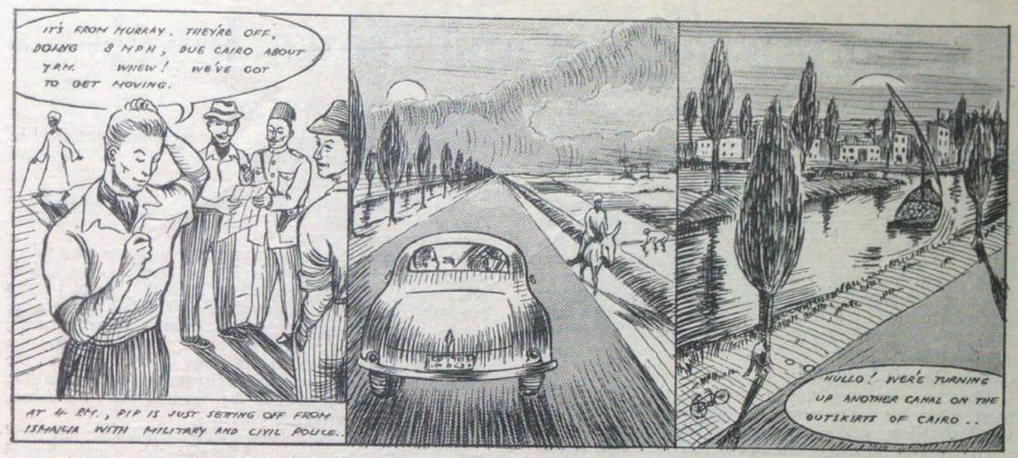
By **OTTO-CYCLE**

PART ONE

THINKING back your service days, I think you can honestly say that a large part of the time was spent in travelling, either under your own steam, or, more than likely, by convoy. This method of travel can be boring in the extreme, amusing, interesting, exciting, or a period of great anxiety, depending upon your character, and the part you are playing in the job of controlling or otherwise assisting in getting the convoy from its point of origin to its destination.

Signalman Joe's first experience of convoys was way back in 1937, when, as a member of the old A.F.V. Signals, he found himself attached to the then newly formed 1st Tank Brigade H.Q., under canvas at Tilshead.

He took his manoeuvres very seriously that year, under the leadership of a famous General, who had the happy knack of making everyone under his command extremely enthusiastic on matters concerning the tank, its uses and finer qualities. Its other qualities, of course, were never mentioned in the hearing of the Tank Corps, for obvious reasons.



Signals were tolerated in those days because it very often happened that tanks got out of R/T range and a bit of key bashing had to be resorted to to save the situation. Hence the need for Signals.

As part of the crew of Tank No. 1 (the Brigadier's), (A.C.V.s weren't fashionable at that time), Joe, with most of the crew had to ride outside on the turret, engine or anywhere he could get a grip. There were so many Brigade Majors, Staff Captains and other impedimenta riding inside that the driver was the only member of the crew whose seat was reserved.

Everyone was very happy about this situation, particularly Joe, who disliked sitting on the floor of the tank just staring at nothing in particular and getting walked on every few seconds.

One day a large convoy of tanks was passing through a small town, making the inevitable hell of a clatter, when a horse, harnessed to a baker's van took fright. Being the only Signals representative on the tank, and to the Tank Corps lads a "horsey" man, Joe, was unceremoniously pushed off his perch on the turret, and ordered to stand by the frightened animal until the convoy had passed through. Admittedly he wore breeches and spurs on all ceremonial occasions, but his knowledge of horses was confined to the elementary fact that one end bites and the other end kicks.

With a lot of luck he managed to do the right things and calmed the horse, but later admitted that he wasn't sure whether the horse was more frightened of the tanks than he of the horse.

As the driver of the van didn't show up till the last tank had thundered away in the distance Joe said there might be some truth in the old story of the bread man collecting his debts.

On another occasion, lorries were being used instead of tanks (economy and all that) and Joe was sitting comfortably in the cab with never a care in the world. The Brigadier with his aforementioned impedimenta, including O.C. Signals, was in the back directing operations.

O.C. Signals was a great lad for keeping out of the Brigadier's way, but on this occasion he hadn't been smart enough.

The convoy had been swanning around the countryside for some hours with many stops and starts, issuing of instructions to the driver who, like Joe, hadn't a clue as to where they were or where they were going, when a resounding rap-rap-rap on the roof of the cab brought them to a halt. O.C. Signals shouted for Joe, and as Joe appeared, the Brigadier presented him with a $\frac{1}{4}$" scale map, stuck his finger on square 4, said "that's where we are, take us to point somewhere or other."

This was Joe's first effort at map reading since leaving Catterick (and everyone knew Druggon Hill anyway) and Joe wasn't very happy about it. Terrible thoughts passed through his mind. What if he lost the Brigadier! The impedimenta didn't matter, but the Brigadier, that was another matter. Of course O.C. Signals would have to be on board on this occasion.

Finally the panic subsided and the convoy proceeded, though on which of the four roads in the square indicated, and in which direction, poor Joe didn't know. It wasn't long before a friendly signpost loomed up, which cleared the air somewhat, and Joe felt he was getting somewhere. Many thanks were offered up to St. Christopher for favours granted, and a mental resolution to be a keener young soldier in the future, was hastily made.

After proceeding for half-an-hour or so, there was another spasm of roof thumping, and again the convoy halted. The Brigadier demanded of Joe his exact position, Joe gulped and gave it him (a few hundred yards from a cross-road as it happened).

O.C. Signals for some reason didn't agree with Joe's reported position and said so in a very scathing manner, of which Joe took an extremely dim view and was very nearly guilty of "conduct to the prejudice," etc.; but discipline took a hand and Joe was ordered to climb in the back whilst O.C. Signals smartly slid into the cab with the map. Joe was under the impression at the time that O.C. Signals wanted to get out of the Brigadier's way.

In due course the cross-roads were reached, and O.C. Signals, in spite of the signpost, took the wrong turning. Joe noticed and so did the Brigadier and perhaps it would be best to draw a veil over the ensuing five minutes. Joe said afterwards that O.C. Signals thought he had made an unwise move when he slipped into the cab so smartly, but that wasn't Joe's headache.

(To be continued)

Do you know the address of your local branch of the Signals Association? If not, write to the General Secretary, 88 Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1.

The English Regalia and Crown Jewels—3

By **Yeoman Warder G. A. E. GAVEY,** *late Captain, Royal Signals*

(i) *The Queen's Sceptre with the Cross*

THIS emblem is placed in the Queen's right hand after she has been crowned. It was made for Mary of Modena (Consort of James II), the older Queen's Sceptres having apparently been destroyed. It is of gold and is two feet ten inches in length. At the top a double fleur-de-lys, thickly set with diamonds holds a gold orb, with a diamond band and arch on which is set a cross, the four arms of which are decorated with large diamonds. On the lower part of the staff is a plain gold grip, above which is a decoration of golden sprays, the leaves and flowers being composed of diamonds.

(j) *The Queen's Ivory Rod*

After her coronation this is placed in the Queen's left hand, when she has received the Sceptre with the Cross, the Archbishop speaking the appropriate prayer.

The Rod is three feet one and a half inches in length and is made of three pieces of ivory joined together by gold bands. At the top is a golden Orb with enamelled designs of the double rose, thistle, harp and fleur-de-lys. On the top of the Cross surmounting the Orb sits a Dove with closed wings. The Dove is enamelled white, the feathered wings being picked out with blue and purple lines. The beak, eyes and feet are of gold. The cross at the bottom of the Sceptre is enamelled with a similar design to the Orb.

It is generally believed that this Rod was made for Mary of Modena, and it is thought that James's goldsmith copied some of Vyner's work for the decoration. Neither of the Queen's Sceptres is used at any other ceremony except at the Coronation.

(k) *St. Edward's Staff*

This is a long Rod, four feet seven inches and a half in length, and tipped with a steel shaft. Except for the shaft it is made of gold with an Orb surmounted by a cross on top and ornamented with a leaf design, but no precious stones have been used for its decoration. It was made by Vyner for Charles II and has in no way been altered since. The original staff which was destroyed at the time of the Commonwealth was said to have had a piece of the true Cross in the Orb.

From very early times it has figured at our Coronations and was said to be a staff to guide the King's footsteps.

At one time it was placed in the King's hand on his arrival at the door of the Abbey, but in recent times it has only appeared in the procession when it is carried by a nobleman.

(l) *The Sword of State*

As with the Sceptres, the English Regalia is rich in swords, for there are five swords displayed in the Jewel House. This sword is a two-handed one, the length of the blade being thirty-two inches. The handle of the sword is of gilt metal, the cross-piece representing a lion on the one hand and the unicorn on the other. The scabbard is covered with red velvet, on which are gilt representations of the portcullis, fleur-de-lys, harp, thistle and rose with the Royal Coat of Arms in the centre. At the opening of Parliament and on other occasions when it is used, it is carried before the King, with the point upwords, by a peer. At the Coronation it is carried in the procession but is replaced by the Jewelled Sword with which the King is invested.

At the Coronation of George III, the Sword of State had somehow been forgotten. The King called for the Deputy Earl Marshal, to whom he complained of the neglect. "It is true, Sir," replied the Lord, then added in confusion:

"But I have taken care that the next Coronation shall be regulated in the exactest manner possible."

(m) *The Jewelled State Sword*

This beautiful sword was made for the Coronation of George IV at a cost of £6,000 and is now probably worth several times that sum.

The scabbard is richly decorated with diamonds, rubies and emeralds in designs of the Rose of England, the Thistle of Scotland and the Shamrock of Ireland. At the bottom is a lovely turquoise set in diamonds. The hilt and grip are thickly set with diamonds and some large coloured stones, while at the top is a large diamond. At Coronations the peer who carries the Sword of State delivers it up to the Lord Chamberlain, who in exchange gives to him the Jewelled Sword. It is then delivered to the Archbishop, who recites an appropriate prayer.

The Sword is then delivered into the King's right hand and the Archbishop says: "Receive this Kingly Sword brought now from the Altar of God and delivered to you by the hands of us the Bishops and servants of God though unworthy." The King then stands and the Lord Chamberlain girds the Sword about him, the Archbishop reciting the appropriate prayer.

The King then ungirds the Sword and goes to the Altar and offers it there in its scabbard. The peer who had previously carried the Sword then redeems it for one hundred shillings, and "shall receive it back, draw it from its scabbard and carry it naked before the King during the rest of the ceremony."

(n) *The Second Sword*

This Sword, together with the other two described hereunder, are copies of those sent by Pope Clement to Henry VIII when he bestowed upon him the title of Defender of the Faith and were made for the Coronation of Charles II. The Second Sword is known as the Sword of Justice to the Spirituality, and has an obtuse end symbolical of the non-capital nature of the sentences delivered by the Ecclesiastical Courts. It is carried behind the King sheathed but point upwards throughout the Coronation ceremony.

(o) *The Third Sword*

Known as the Sword of Justice to the Temporality, the Third Sword is similar in design to the Second Sword. It is also carried behind the King throughout the Coronation ceremony.

(p) *Curtana*

This Sword, sometimes known as the Middle Sword or the Sword of Mercy, is a short Sword with a blunt end to the blade. It is carried between the other two Swords by a peer at the Coronation.

(q) *St. George's Spurs*

These are of solid gold, richly chased, and each has a sharp point instead of a rowel. The straps are of crimson velvet embroidered with gold. They were made for Charles II's Coronation. At one time the spurs were buckled on but immediately removed so as not to encumber the Sovereign, but since the Coronation of Queen Anne the Sovereign's heels have merely been touched with them.

There are always many claimants for the right to carry the spurs at the Coronation.

(r) *The Royal Maces*

The Mace is an Emblem of Authority, and when surmounted by a Crown, of Royal Authority; both Houses of Parliament possess Maces which symbolise the King's Authority and thus when the King is present in person the Parliamentary Maces are covered up with a cloth.

The Royal Maces are carried by Sergeants-at-Arms at the Coronation and on such occasions as when Royal Proclamations are read announcing the accession of a new Sovereign, of the declaration of war, or the Signature of Peace Treaties. They are also carried in the procession at the State opening of Parliament, and two are used on this occasion. Of those on view in the Jewel House, two were made for Charles II, two for James II, three for William and Mary, and one for George I.

The reader will understand that with eight Royal Maces available for use there has been no necessity for further new Maces for subsequent reigns.

(s) *The Coronation Ring*

At the Coronation the Ring is placed upon the King's finger after the delivery of the Orb. Sometimes it has been called the Wedding Ring of England.

A new Ring is made for each Sovereign and there are three Rings in the Jewel House. These are the Rings of Queen Victoria and King George V, both of which are set with a sapphire in a circle of diamonds and surmounted by St. George's Cross in rubies, and Queen Mary's Ring which has a ruby surrounded with diamonds.

There is a tradition that the closer the Ring fits the Sovereign's finger the more will he or she be beloved and the longer shall be the reign. This was certainly so in the case of Queen Victoria, for the Archbishop of Canterbury at her Coronation had to force the ring on her finger, causing great pain. This pain continued throughout the ceremony and also during the drive to Buckingham Palace and the celebrations afterwards. When all was over the ring could not be immediately removed because the finger was much swollen and had to be reduced by immersion in iced water.

A Day with the Fleet Air Arm

By **Captain L. F. WHITE,** *Royal Signals*

IT has been my good fortune since arriving in Malta last April to get in a number of flying hours with the Air/Sea Rescue Flight of the R.N.A.S. Hal Far.

My experience on Wednesday, 9th August, 1950, was something more than just a "half-crown hop." To the pilot it was all in the day's work.

We were flying a "Sea Otter," the normal type of aircraft used for air/sea rescue. It is an amphibious aircraft with accommodation for pilot, crew of two and a couple of stretchers for casualties.

Our first assignment was photographing the lifting of the wreck of the *Breconshire*, a fourteen thousand ton supply ship sunk by German bombing in Marsaxlokk during the war. For several weeks divers and welders had been patching up the hulk to make it airtight. This completed, salvage and submarine lifting vessels were moored alongside. Numerous cables and pipelines were connected to the sunken vessel and pumping operations started. It was estimated that the vessel would start to lift soon after nine on Wednesday morning and aerial photographs of the operation were required.

We first became airborne at 9 a.m. and made straight for the scene of the wreck. For the next hour we flew over and round the wreck at the direction of the cameraman at heights ranging from 30 to 1,300 feet. At the end of this hour the "lift" of the *Breconshire* was quite perceptible. There was fortunately a strong wind off-shore and the oil from the ship was being carried out to sea in an ever widening stream.

Returning to base we again became airborne about 10.20. More photographs were taken, this time from a higher level. The wreck was getting well clear of the water now and was rising starboard side up.

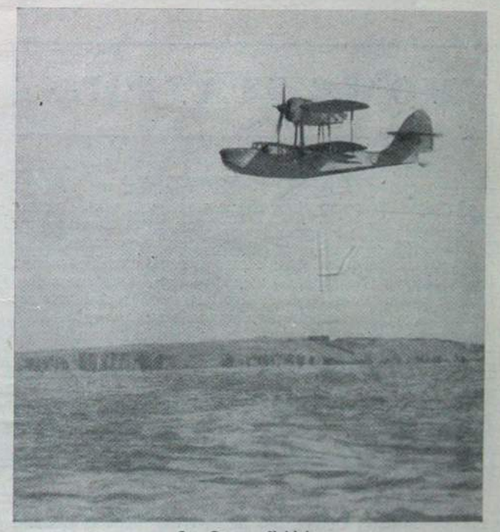
The salvage skipper asked us by helio to return again about 1 p.m., when it was hoped the wreck would be sufficiently clear of the bottom to turn her "keel up" ready for removing to the breakers. We touched down again at Hal Far a few minutes before noon.

During the whole of the time we had been in the air we had had the counter attraction of rocket firing on the Delimara range by fighter aircraft.

With an hour to spare before we were due in the air again, together with the prospect of being kept there for another hour or more, we decided to have lunch whilst the plane was being refuelled and given a quick "safety check."

At 12.05, just as we got out of our flying kit, the crash alarm sounded. The pilot scrambled back into his kit whilst asking me if I wanted to go with him. In a moment we were on our way back to the "Otter" with the information that a "Sea Fury" had crashed in the vicinity of Salina Bay on the North Coast of the island. We were told to locate the crash and then to direct, by R/T, the ambulance and crash wagon to the spot. After about ten minutes flying at a thousand feet we spotted the "Fury" in the middle of a field. The pilot had climbed out and waved to let us know that he was O.K.

We gathered from him later that his power had cut, forcing him to make a crash landing. This he had managed to do very successfully. Had he come down perhaps two hundred yards farther on he would have hit the salt pans with very little chance of survival. As it was, there was a long row of palm trees immediately in front of the aircraft



Sea Otter off Malta



Sea Otter 902

and not much more than a hundred yards away. The visible damage to the aircraft was slight, except that the propeller had wrapped itself very lovingly round the nose.

Having located the crash we climbed again to about 1,500 feet and made our way back towards Hal Far, keeping a look-out for the ambulance and crash wagon. We picked them up after about two minutes and proceeded to direct them to the scene of the crash. This took some time, as the majority of roads in Malta twist a great deal and we had to keep circling to remain in visual as well as R/T contact.

Having brought them safely to the scene of the crash we then "stoodged" around to pass radio messages back to the control tower at Hal Far.

We finally returned to base just after 1 p.m. The last message we received from the control tower being "Many thanks 903 for your help and co-operation."

Due to our "Scramble" I did not see the final lifting of the *Breconshire* from the air, as the photographing was carried out from another plane.

Our final "lift" for the day was "elbow-wise" in the wardroom.

HOME STATIONS

2 TRAINING REGIMENT

Judging by the weather of the past few weeks, summer is over, in Catterick at least, and ere these notes appear in print we shall be huddling over fires once more.

Bats and balls and tennis racquets go into hibernation and footballs, hockey sticks and boxing gloves come into action again. A number of our last season's stalwarts are still with us, plus several promising lads among new arrivals, so maybe we shall do even better than last year.

Another Catterick Fair Week has come and gone. This year it seemed bigger and better than ever. Although bad weather marred the attendance on some days, there will no doubt be another very handsome contribution to worthy funds.

News of the pay increase caused much rejoicing among the Regulars, and many of our National Servicemen are now seriously considering Regular engagements.

Lieutenant G. M. A. Goldie, until a few days ago our A.C.C. Catering Officer, has transferred to the Corps and remains with us until proceeding on a Conversion Course. With him will go our best wishes and grateful thanks for all he has done for the Regiment at work and sport. Majors Chaudri, Quresha and Talati, of Pakistan Signal Corps, stayed with us for a week, studying our training methods. They kindly turned out for us at hockey and we hear they also found time to give some of our Officers a lesson or two in snooker. Short as was their stay, they made themselves very popular and we wish them "Good Signalling" wherever they go.

EASTERN COMMAND SIGNAL REGIMENT
Maresfield

As a direct result of the Editor allowing the Regiment to advertise for copy from our own Troops, there is this month a report from the Eastern Command R.A. Signal Troop and some further news of the Regiment's baby at Bury St. Edmunds.

The R.A. Signal Troop have very little to say, this is probably due to having done so much. It is difficult to choose from the personnel any for special mention, but it would be unfair not to report that Wireless detachments under Corporal Studley, and Line work under Lance-Corporal Goddard have all functioned satisfactorily, and that this has been acknowledged by all the R.A. Regiments to whom the Troop has given Signal Service.

Any other Troop within the Unit who think they can match the R.A. Signal Troop for work should note the necessary qualifications and forward their own parallel. During this season, still unfinished, the R.A. Troop have travelled some 1,500 miles, on their own transport, between camps. Eight units have been supplied with communications for their annual training, in places as far apart and varied as the deserts of Blackdown, the plains of Salisbury, the forests of Thetford and the mountains of Wales. Of course, there are still the necessary skills of sleeping dry and "drumming up" under all conditions.

In East Anglia a considerable amount of work has been done to ensure the ranges and camps have good communication. Much activity has been seen in the area, and among the many units which visited Landguard Camp were two from Royal Signals T.A. The personnel on detachment at Stanford P.T.A. really can say they have been fully employed. Two men have played for the Depot of the Suffolk Regiment football team, the rest of the Troop take full advantage of the first-class recreation ground. During the oncoming darker evenings it is hoped that marksmanship will improve on the miniature range.

At Maresfield things are very quiet, due mainly to the fact that most departments have been reduced to bare working numbers in order to bolster other Troops with priority commitments. We have started football and our team has provided some interesting combination. Our chief opponents, the Intelligence Corps Depot, have so far failed to realise that we are a match for their 1st XI, consequently we have two victories to our credit. At weekends, those who are here on duty spend their spare time thinking up other names for Maresfield than the home of Royal Signals. Up to Press and apart from the superlative adjectives used since the beginning of time by troops, the camp has been called the "Nut Farm," "Sing Sing" and the "Monastery." The choice of names is obviously due to the present Army ruling which allows 48 and 36 hour passes. These empty the camps at week-ends and make hardened old sweats from Razmak and Bannu dash out to accost passers-by with unnecessary requests for a match or the time.

ADVENTURES OF THE

Signal Training Centre Demonstration Troop, 1950

THE party which answers to this imposing title is still rather a "new toy," although this is now its third season of existence, and it is beginning to assume a fairly standard form. For the benefit of those who have managed or had the luck, good or evil, not ot be in Catterick for this time there follows a short history of how the team came into being.

In 1948, when Cadet Camps were re-starting on a large scale, it was decided that the Signal Training Centre should run one at Gandale, and with this decision came large quantities of rather vague instructions upon what had to be shown to the Cadets. Among others the Signal Training Centre was told to produce a demonstration of Royal Signals' work in the field.

There were no Field Formations who could be pressed into service, so the job had to be done by the Signal Training Centre, using trainees and such equipment as could be provided from its own resources. After much discussion and running to and fro, a simple but effective demonstration was organised.

A similar one was organised in 1949, with much the same "turns" but with considerably improved technique, and in forecasting for 1950 the demonstration was included as a matter of course—no longer a risky experiment. As usual, a standard form was beginning to appear, and as these turns were the basis on which the show was built, they are described in a certain amount of detail.

The senior event is a race between two teams erecting and dismantling 72-foot masts. This has been done on each demonstration, with improvements in technique every year. The trouble has been that although we could find old soldiers who knew how to get a 72-foot mast erected and how to tell the most awful lies about the speed in which they had seen it done, we could not find one who actually had the technique at his fingertips. In consequence we have had to "earn while we learn." A comparison of time taken to erect will show that we have done so:—

1948: 10 minutes 15 seconds.
1949: 8 minutes.
May, 1950: 7 minutes 15 seconds.
July, 1950: 5 minutes 15 seconds.

This event is done by 4 Training Regiment, who train OsKW in mast erection among other things.

Next part of our programme is a demonstration of P.L. construction, using a mechanical earth auger. We build a section of 3 bays of 4 wire route on tight poles stayed at either end, and tensioned, not terminated, in 11 minutes. The main feature is the auger itself, which punches the holes to hold the poles which carry the wires to finish the route that Parks built....

The auger is an American device; it is simply a very expensive mechanical corkscrew with its own engine and its own levelling gears. It can, when everything is going well, punch a hole 12 inches in diameter and 4 feet deep in under three minutes, and in action it delights children of all ages. Its biggest disadvantage is that as soon as its presence is rumoured, everyone thinks up ingenious reasons



[Courtesy: S. Davey, Richmond

S.T.C. Demonstration Troop, D.R. Team
In front: Sergeant Billington, Corporal Munson



[*Courtesy: S. Davey, Richmond*

S.T.C. Demonstration Troop, Mast Teams

Corporal King (i/c Blue team), Lance-Corporal Andrews (i/c White team)

for requiring a large number of holes to be punched at once and then persuades someone in authority that life in Catterick (which has got on very well without them for 1900 years) will be quite unendurable unless they are punched in a time which precludes digging them by hand.

The Signal Training Centre were told, last year, to collect it and produce it in demonstration to the R.M.A. The job was passed to 2 Training Regiment, who produced a drill and trained the team, but unfortunately the R.M.A. demonstration did not materialise. The auger was, however, incorporated in the Gandale demonstration for 1949.

Last, but not least, a ride by a section of D.R.'s in training over a series of hazards, obstacles, or disorganised pieces of ground such as (we say) a D.R. may meet in the field. Gandale moors abound in such country, and a very nice imposing little course has been found, round which spectators are led. This item is produced, of course, by 5 Training Regiment.

Early in 1950 it was decided that there WAS GOING to be a Royal Signals demonstration to the R.M.A. and the Signal Training Centre were told to produce something towards it. 2 Training Regiment dug the auger out of its winter grease, found a team, and training started under Sergeant Parks, who had been the Sergeant-in-Charge in 1949. 4 Training Regiment also produced their mast teams, who started training in April. In due course these two sections were formed into a "mock-up" Troop and sent to Aldershot to practise the complete demonstration with 16 Parachute Brigade Signal Squadron, who were producing the major part of it. On the day after their arrival the Squadron was being visited by General Penney, and the auger team was asked to show off, which it did very successfully. About a fortnight was available for combined rehearsals. The Troop settled down to work very quickly and the Signal Squadron—and through their aid, the Brigade—were always very helpful, and the Troop thoroughly enjoyed itself. Its work improved with practice and the Squadron was outspokenly envious of the turn-out of our vehicles.

During rehearsals it became obvious that someone would have to look after the marking of seating accommodation. This was undertaken by the Troop.

There were, of course, plenty of snags to be overcome; pickets split, hammer shafts broke, the auger blade wore out, all the mast sections got bent, and we always seemed to need the spares five minutes after the breakdown. However, R.E.M.E. and Ordnance, and every Signal Unit we could find within a day's journey of Aldershot responded magnificently, and the Show went on. Our thanks go out to them.

There were finally two performances, which went excellently, though the second was spoilt by pouring rain, and the Troop returned to Catterick.

Training for the Gandale demonstration re-started in July. New mast teams had to be trained from scratch.

The senior N.C.O.'s, with exception of Corporal King, had fallen by the wayside, and as usual the promised replacement of gear hadn't arrived. However, training started, and thanks to previous experience we were much quicker to reach standard speeds. No. 100 D.R. Squad were taken in hand by Sergeant Billington, who had taken part in the 1949 demonstration, and chased into, out of, and through, all the mud in Gandale and over all the hills, to an accompaniment of hoarse roars of encouragement, admonition about brakes, or reproof on "that ... civilian way of riding."

The auger team remained practically unchanged and had spent part of their rest period inventing a new race for the demonstration, based on the idea of suspending a length of quad over one bay. The idea was approved and the race added to the programme. As a cynical sideline, the poles were too big to fit into the auger hole and had to be put in by hand.

Otherwise the auger team would retire to a moorland

fastness of their own and rehearse their demonstration in the midst of the usual lineman's orgy of tea drinking.

The next stage—combined rehearsals—was proceeding fairly quietly and steadily, until we had a sudden rush request to dig 500 holes for the fencing around Catterick Fair. The auger itself took a gloomy view, and after half a dozen holes it just didn't work any more .... Everything becomes a drill in time, and panic repairs to the auger are by now a drill to No. 1 Command Workshops. The trouble was a broken clutch-shaft, and the Shops made up a new one and fitted it inside 72 hours.

After this slight contretemps, everything went smoothly. We had undertaken all staging and provost arrangements, which we made the "spares" from the mast teams do, and which they did very effectively. Rehearsals by now were great fun as the cadets had arrived in Gandale and were being turned loose on the training area; we were likely to be used as cover for patrolling parties and the D.R.'s had to watch out perpetually that a party were not taking cover in one of their obstacles. We managed to avoid squashing anyone and the D.R.'s on their round were always sure of an audience; as friend and foe would invariably abandon the battle and cluster enthusiastically round the obstacles, cheering, clapping, and doing their best to get run over.

To add to the general fun, the area was plentifully bestrewn with other rehearsals, including tanks and a lot of bangs. The bangs were controlled by an outsize in Royal Engineer Staff Sergeants, who spent the hours just before our D.R. rehearsal spinning a web of stolen cable all round our two worst obstacles. By dint of observation, a pair of pliers, and a good deal of liaison, no-one was cut in half or blown up.

The dress rehearsal was a far more serious occasion than we had allowed for, and we had quite a large crowd of spectators from the Signal Training Centre.

The stage was set, the spectators were all duly impressed by the Signals flag and the white tapes, the Brigadier had arrived and the sun was shining; the mast teams and D.R.'s were in readiness, and the teams were waiting and fidgeting just off-stage before belting in for the suspended cable race. But the P.A. hadn't turned up!!! The rival force, who had been using it just before, and who had promised to have it over well before our show started, just didn't do so; and only after Sergeant Billington, riding at hair-raising speed, had dashed to and fro a couple of times, did it amble over, to let us start about 10 minutes late. After that, the show ran excellently and with no more hitches. The Brigadier was very pleased and said so. The only protest heard came from the springs of officers' private cars, whose owners thought poorly of the road over which they had to travel to get there and back.

After that, a period of comparative peace and tea drinking until the main show. We had an awful run-through two days before, when everyone's watch had stopped, boots were on the wrong feet, and hands all thumbs. However, on the Big Day, the Show went through with its proper degree of polish, and again spectators were pleased and impressed.

So ended our official career, but not our work. A film unit has arrived to make a film of army activities, whose director went wild when he saw our show. At this point the weather prophet of Catterick took a hand, and with cynical delight has provided nothing but wet or "looks-like rain" days, or a normal Catterick summer. So our chances of making a public appearance on the silver screen are receding. However, in order not to disappoint readers who have got this far, we enclose "stills" of the various parts of the team.

T.R.U.C.



[*Courtesy: S. Davey, Richmond*

S.T.C. Demonstration Troop, Auger Team

Seated: Lance-Corporal Jackman (Dvr.), Lance-Corporal Kearney (L/m), Sergeant Parkes (i/c), Major Lloyd, Lance-Corporal Blakemore (L/m), Lance-Corporal Shelton (V.M.), Lance-Corporal Lilley (L/m)



[*Courtesy: S. Davey, Richmond*

S.T.C. Demonstration Troop, Headquarter Team

Centre row: Corporal King (i/c Mast team), Sergeant Parkes (i/c Auger team), Major M. A. Lloyd (i/c Troop), Sergeant Billington (i/c D.R. team), Sergeant Marks (i/c Provost team)

School of Signals

Officer Training Wing

The last Pass Off Parade was held on 24th August, 1950, when 253/4 Courses were Commissioned. The Commandant's Cane was presented to Second Lieutenant S. N. F. Winn by the Inspecting Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel J. H. L. Crichton, M.B.E.

During the month a great deal of re-organisation has taken place in order to arrange courses for some two hundred Officers and Cadets of the Combined Cadet Force who come to us from all parts of the United Kingdom for a week's course. The work entailed was, it is felt, well repaid by the enthusiastic approach of all the students.

The Wing athletic team visit Aldershot on 2nd August, 1950, to represent Northern Command in the Army athletic team championships and although we managed to obtain fifth place only we more than held our own in a keenly contested competition, which was of a very high standard. Two competitors deserve special mention, Second Lieutenants Wood and Nice, who won the javelin and high jump events respectively.

In closing we offer our good wishes to Squadron Sergeant Major F. Barker and Sergeant A. L. Simpkin, who have departed to civilian life after an aggregate of forty-six years' service.

NORTHERN IRELAND DISTRICT (M) SIGNAL SQUADRON

Lisburn

The opening of the football season has been extremely popular; as soon as the goal-posts were up, the playing fields were crammed to capacity with enthusiasts. As usual, the Squadron is combining with Camp Staff to produce an XI to enter the league, and we have already had several combined practices.

The annual Rifle Classification Course was completed on the 8th August with some good and some indifferent results, but, as usual, the weather was cold, wet and blustery, and under the prevailing conditions, those with over 80 per cent did extremely well.

Another Smallbore League competition is being put into operation, including the whole of N.I.D., so we are putting in regular practice in the miniature range, with a view to selecting three teams.

We take this opportunity of officially congratulating S.Q.M.S. C. J. Scantlebury and Sergeant R. A. Brown on their being awarded the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal.

BOYS' TRAINING SQUADRON

Beverley

We have all been away on summer leave; during the holidays the Men's Wing returned to Somme Lines in Catterick, and it was quite a surprise on our return to find that we were the sole occupants of this camp, adjoining Victoria Barracks.

In the line of sport, the Garrison cricket team which comprised half Royal Signals players had a favourable season by winning nine, drawing three and losing six matches. The boys are now building up three football teams for entry in the Boys' Army Cup. The Garrison team is entered in the Beverley Amateur League and has opened the season with two good wins. Within a very short time, it is hoped that a rugby team will be showing their capabilities.

The Boys' Club, with amenities, is now in full swing and the latest addition is a Camera Club.

We have recently had a visit of "Quicksilver," which proved of great interest to all in the Unit.

NOTES FOR YOUNG OFFICERS

This pamphlet is produced by the School of Signals. Anonymity disguises the fact that the author is one of our most distinguished senior officers. In 23 closely written pages the pamphlet provides a complete guide to conduct and manners.

It will be read by all young officers of Royal Signals. It demands a much wider public; all who have to do with the training of the young entries into any of the armed services of the United Kingdom, and many other professions will do well to read it.

As the pamphlet, misquoting the Duke of Wellington, says: "There are no bad soldiers only bad officers." If all officers read this pamphlet there would be fewer bad soldiers and much less crime in the army.

The greatest influence in a Regiment comes from its officers, but to wield this influence properly they have to be outstanding individually and collectively.

Learn the "Know How," price 7½d. From the Signals Press at Catterick Camp.

Anti-Aircraft Command

1 A.A. (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT

Laindon

The Regiment returned from camp at Farnley Park, Otley, on 13th August, 1950, after a very pleasant and successful stay.

It is the first camp that this Unit has attended, but we hope that it will not be the last.

The surrounding countryside with its hills and dales was a distinct change after the flatness of the Thames estuary.

The main object of the camp was to get the normally scattered Unit together for as much training as possible, and the benefit has been shown in a large percentage of upgradings on the recent trade board.

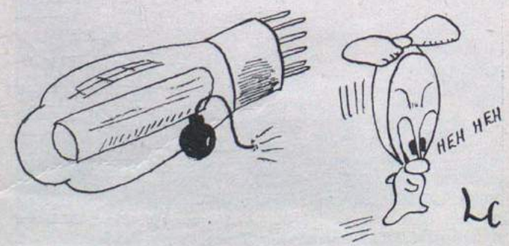
The W.R.A.C. element of the Unit had a good time square bashing and listening to lectures on many and varied subjects, they also paid a visit to a factory on the area.

2 A.A. (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT

Aldershot

By the time these notes appear in print our formation Headquarters, 2 A.A. Group, will have joined us at Aldershot. This move of Group Headquarters has necessitated the shuffling round of various unit offices and accommodation. Previous occupants of Barrosa Barracks would be amazed at the changes that have been wrought during the past few months. Central heating in all barrack rooms, but the bedside lamps have not yet arrived!

We welcome Captain G. W. Carpenter and his merry men of the Wireless Trials Troop which has just been formed and wish them success in their interesting and important work.



No. 4—It Must Have Been The Widgets

We would also like to say "Thank you" to Captain W. T. M. Gaskell for the extremely good work he did with the unit whilst attached for the period 8th August to 3rd September, 1950.

The erection of a new billiard table in the N.A.A.F.I. has been enthusiastically received judging by the queues awaiting a game.

The generous and welcome increases in pay for all ranks have been received with grateful thanks, but none envy the pay staff when the Army Council Instruction is received.

We are now busily engaged in preparing for our usual autumnal air defence exercise, with ever decreasing numbers in personnel. We have high hopes of holding an upgrading course later on in the year, provided no unforeseen "crisis" arises meantime.

H.Q., 3 A.A. GROUP

Garden Party, 30th August, 1950.

A very successful Garden Party was given by Major-General Hounsell and the Officers of H.Q., 3 A.A. Group in the lovely gardens of Riccarton House, their Headquarters outside Edinburgh, on 30th August, 1950. Our Signals hosts were the C.S.O., Lieutenant-Colonel Danby, and his Staff Officer, Captain Blackman.

It was a great occasion from our point of view, as the Corps Band played throughout the afternoon and eight W.R.A.C. members of 13 A.A. (M.) Signal Regiment, T.A., danced Scottish country dances to music specially orchestrated by Captain Judd for the Band to play.

The picture on the cover shows the girls preparing to dance and the Corps Band about to play. The site is the Sunken Garden.

The picture printed on this page shows the girls in action with some of the guests in the background. Amongst a distinguished company of guests visible in the picture were C.S.O.'s A.A. and Scottish Commands, Brigadier Rogers and Brigadier Morgan respectively, also Lieutenant Colonel Scarborough, who commands 13 A.A. (M.) Signal Regiment, T.A., and Major Tanner, Officer Commanding 3 A.A. Independent (M.) Signal Squadron.

The weather was not so sunny as we had hoped, but it was rated as a warm sunny day for Scotland.

Owing to the fact that the Band were heavily committed playing in Princes Street Gardens, Edinburgh, during the Festival, it was not possible to get the new Corps Reel orchestrated or for the girls to practise it with the Corps Band. However, we are very much looking forward to the next visit up here of the Band, and an opportunity of seeing the 13 A.A. (M.) Signal Regiment Scottish country dancing team "signing off" with the Corps Reel.



[*Courtesy: Scott Brothers, Edinburgh*

4 A.A. (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT

Peninsula Barracks, Warrington, Lancs

Peace reigns again here at Warrington after a hectic fortnight spent at this year's annual camp.

The D.R.s have had a busy time "hotting up" their machines for the Group motor-cycle trials. We congratulate them on a very good show, one of their teams being placed second.

Meanwhile the W.R.A.C. have been following a far more placid existence. "Needlework and Embroidery" being to the fore.

Their winter season sports have commenced. Badminton and netball are being played in a very "genteel and ladylike" fashion.

A detachment of linemen from this Unit at Hull has earned the appreciation of the G.P.O. and C.S.O. 5 A.A. Group to whom they were attached.

It is extraordinary how often business and pleasure can be lawfully combined. Our L.A.A. friends in the Isle of Man organise their long-range wireless exercises to coincide with the T.T. races. Our help was requested and gladly given. At the moment Sergeant Hesselden, Signalman Moyden and Signalman Beetham are over there, and it will be most surprising if they fail to see most of the racing.

14 A.A. (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

Speke, Liverpool

The Regiment is now busily settling down to the winter training programme after the post-camp "rest" period. The aim is to concentrate on team work wherever practicable now that a reasonable standard of efficiency in individual trade training has been reached.

The annual weapon training course will be held at Altcar during October. All ranks are looking forward to this and silent prayers are already being offered for some fine weather

96 *A.G.R.A. A.A. Signal Squadron, T.A.* Representations to our Territorial Associations have resulted in a firm promise in regard to redecoration and several improvements to the amenities. A television set has been acquired and is already in operation, an official opening will be held in the near future coinciding with a suitable sporting event being televised.

Our canteen beer, always renowned to be of excellent quality, has been considerably improved in taste by the addition of a beer pump together with the requisite professional lever on the counter.

Sergeant A. Ashton is attending the T.T. races in the Isle of Man at the time of writing operating 22 sets in company with a detachment from 4 A.A. (M) Signal Regiment.

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THE WIRE

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BAOR

H.Q. B.A.O.R. SIGNAL REGIMENT
Herford

Swimming. Undoubtedly the swimming team must head the list. First of all, there was the well-deserved visit to Berlin for the B.A.O.R. Inter-Unit and Individual Swimming Championships. In the freestyle and backstroke our team were always in the first three thanks to Captain Crerar, Second-Lieutenant Swindale, Corporal Cave, Lance-Corporal Chalk, Signalmen Wright, Wentworth and Bradshaw. Our final position was fourth, the winning team being 10th Royal Hussars. A very fine performance was put up by Signalman Wright in the individual events and he is now representing B.A.O.R. in the Army Championships in the U.K. In the water polo we drew a bye to the semi-finals but were beaten by the Royal Fusiliers in a very close game. We would like to take this opportunity of thanking the Berlin Signal Squadron for their fine hospitality.

After returning from Berlin, the team was split so that each member might represent his respective Squadron in the Inter-Squadron Swimming Championships. It was a very close fight between 1 and 3 Squadrons and eventually the last event, the three metres diving, decided the result —a win for 1 Squadron with 3 Squadron 2nd, and 2 Squadron 3rd. 3 A.S.S.U. must be complimented on providing a team for all events although they had very few men in camp.

In the Inter-Signals Championships, the team won a very decisive victory by 60 points over the other units in B.A.O.R. and so the shield remains in our possession for yet another year.

We sent teams to other galas and usually the results were very favourable.

Throughout the summer Captain Pearce has shown unflagging enthusiasm both in coaching and organising the team.

Cricket. On the cricket field the Regimental side has had many exciting games— the result often depending on the final overs. Lieutenant-Colonel Sanders has captained the side with great enthusiasm and has made many fine scores. Corporal Collett—a really first-class wicketkeeper, and Lance-Corporal Groves, who bowls fast and bats attractively, have been the mainstays of the side.

Throughout the season, inter-troop league games have been played and now at last they are coming to an end as the football season approaches. Everyone, whether they were cricket experts or had never played before, entered into the spirit of the game and there were some really great struggles.

Hockey. On the drill square where a hockey pitch has been marked out, matches have continued all summer. If one is to judge from the great keenness and standard of play in all the Troop games, the Regiment is going to have a good side again this season.

Tennis. The tennis team has played a number of matches with good results. Very few Signalmen have been on the courts and the side comes mainly from the Officers' and Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Messes.

Quiz. Early this month it was learned that a quiz had been arranged between C.C.G. and H.Q. B.A.O.R. Signal Regiment, which was to be broadcast over B.F.N. A trial contest was held in the library to pick the side. So difficult was the final selection that a further evening's quizzing was arranged. If anything this complicated the issue still further but the final rehearsal next week will definitely be the last. The result of the quiz will be announced in next month's notes.

Old Comrades' Reunion, 1950. Too late for our last bulletin was the report by the Regiment's representative to this reunion. Sergeant Morey spent a very enjoyable couple of days at Catterick and on his return wrote us a letter which unfortunately is too long for inclusion. He spoke very highly of the smooth organisation and lavish hospitality of all at Catterick and picked out for special mention from the programme of events, the Royal Signals Band, the motor-cycle display and the combined church parade.

Lecture. On the 30th August the Unit was privileged enough to hear a distinguished American, Professor Newell, speaking on Anglo-American relations. He fairly "gripped" his audience with his excellent lecturing style. In conclusion he complimented the Regiment on the good reception it had given him.



Mrs. Sanders presenting the Swimming Shield to Captain A. Scaife, 1 Squadron

2 INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT
Hilden

The month of August has been a busy and varied one for the sporting members of the Regiment. All tastes were catered for, and though we may not head the list of winners in all these sports, we don't by any means disgrace ourselves and we *do* have fun.

For the sailors there has been a full programme with both the Divisional Inter-Unit Regatta and our own domestic "Inter-Squadron Regatta." For both events the winds were very definitely light and tested the skill of our skippers in catching every wind there was. In the first regatta our Regimental "A" team came second to 52 Field Regiment, thanks to the efforts of the Commanding Officer and Lieutenant C. B. Ward in Olympics and Major M. S. Hancock in the 15 square metres. It was Major Hancock, too, who led 2 Squadron to victory in our own regatta, beating 3 Squadron by a fairly comfortable margin. We are now looking forward eagerly to the Signals Inter-Regimental fixture early next month.

Golf. Representative team of the Regiment played in the Royal Signals B.A.O.R. Inter-Unit Competition at Hamburg on the 2nd/3rd September, 1950.

The team consisted of Major T. G. V. Stephenson, Major T. R. Warren, Captain R. J. Harvey, Captain J. Y. Ferguson. The team reached the final round and were defeated by a narrow margin by C.A.F.S.O. Group after a most interesting and hard tussle. The meeting proved to be most agreeable from all aspects.

This event was the fourth occasion in which our Regimental teams have finished runners-up in inter-unit competitions.

We were gratified to see a large number of Signals Officers and ranks in the H.Q. 2 Division Tennis Tournament. Our Quartermaster, Lieutenant E. C. Lonton, rose to the dizzy heights of the semi-finals, where he was knocked out by the eventual winner.

Football has started with a new vigour this season, due to the provision of two first-class pitches of our own. Already the team is under training and from the look of them we are in for a very successful season. The same promise is shown by our hockey team, so now results are eagerly awaited.

Cricket. Some very good cricket is still being played in our area. The Regimental team has acquitted itself nobly in the many social inter-unit fixtures, having won well over half of the games played so far.

The Regimental team reached the final of the Royal Signals B.A.O.R. competition. This was played off against SX Branch and 1 Wireless Regiment at Munster on 23rd August, 1950. We batted first and were all out for 126. Best innings were played by Lieutenant-Colonel G. B. Bell and Corporal Wilson, the latter a comparative newcomer to the Regiment. Our opponents' innings opened disastrously for them when Major Wittaker was injured very early and two quick wickets fell with only 11 runs on the board. We then missed some chances and 1 Wireless Regiment settled down confidently to pass our score with five wickets intact. We are grateful to 1 Wireless Regiment for their hospitality—it was delightful and provided the finishing touches to a most enjoyable day's sport.

We saw the last of this year's swimming season on Wednesday, 19th, when the Royal Signals Swimming Championships (B.A.O.R.) were held at Bad Oeynhausen. Having failed rather miserably in the 4th Guards Brigade championships earlier this year we were very pleased to gain second place to H.Q. B.A.O.R. Signal Regiment. Our team was captained by Captain G. H. Hoerder, who together with Signalman Bunn, of "A" Troop, came first in one of the diving events.

Many of our readers in B.A.O.R. will have heard over the British Forces Network the voice of Corporal Tweedie, one of our Signal Office supervisors. He was lucky enough to be chosen as one of the crew on "Exercise Kielrow," when a number of soldiers from B.A.O.R. paddled through the Kiel Canal in canoes, broadcasting at several points along the route. He is now back with the Regiment looking very pleased with himself, no doubt expecting to be called on for an audition by the B.B.C. at any time.

Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess. Mess notes for the past two months have been held up due to the release of Sergeant Robertson, who joyfully had the headache of composing them. Albeit, there I was, standing at the bar enjoying a frothy pint when "Tara" (bless his bald head) slapped me on the shoulder and said "'Knocker'! Produce some notes." Well, here they are:

Mess life is again brightening up with the return of many of our members from leave, plus the welcome addition to our numbers of Sergeants Deuchar, McNamara and Rankin. We offer our hearty congratulations to them upon their recent promotion to that rank, and welcome Mrs. Tiffin and Mrs. Newnham who have joined us from U.K.

On the 8th July a most successful "Tramps' Night" was held, the titles of King and Queen of Tramps going to Sergeant Tyler and Mrs. Davies, the former dressed as no self-respecting tramp could ever lower himself. August Bank Holiday saw the single members turn god-fathers, in a children's party given for the children of our married members. A trip to Nuremburg motor racing on the 20th of this month was thoroughly enjoyed by all. Our male voice choir, ably led by Sergeant Berry, entertained us on the journey (we all made too much noise to worry about the discords).

11 AIR FORMATION SIGNAL REGIMENT
Lemgo

The main body of the Regiment left Bückeburg for Stornoway Barracks, Lemgo, B.A.O.R. 15, on 7th September. No. 2 Squadron left R.A.F. Station Uetersen on 4th September also for Lemgo.

The Bückeburg Barracks R.A.F. Sergeants' Mess has had a busy month with a "Corporals' Night," dinner night, dance and farewell party to our Regiment. Both Services were able to exchange good wishes for the future and to express sincerely, appreciation of the spirit in which we have lived together for so long.

It would be ideal for an Air Formation Signal Regiment to have its own barracks adjacent to the R.A.F. Barracks. Unfortunately, barracks are not built as Siamese twins and the nearest separate barracks with room enough for training is 25 miles from H.Q. B.A.F.O. at Lemgo.

On 31st August the Officers were dined out by the R.A.F. Officers who made a handsome gift to the Officers' Mess of the Air Formation Signal Regiment.

At Düsseldorf on 2nd August the Regiment came second to the combined H.Q. B.A.O.R. Regiment and A.S.S.U. team in the Royal Signals Inter-Regimental athletics. The best performers throughout the season have been Sergeant Gardiner, Sergeant Stone, Driver Greaves, Craftsman Kerrigan and Lance-Corporal Sinclair.

In swimming we have only succeeded in doing well in plunging in which Colonel Thuillier and S.S.M. Lee are our star performers.

The cricket XI have had a busy season in which they have won half their matches. Having defeated Hamburg/Berlin we lost to 2 Divisional Signals in the semi-final of the Royal Signals competition. Our captain, Second-

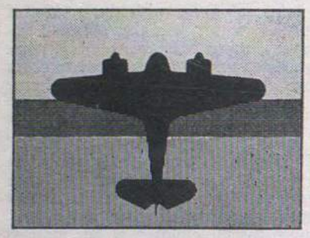
Lieutenant Brooke has been a regular member of the Royal Signals Command side.

Few things can happen without the "Brown Jobs" having a hand in them somewhere. The Western Union Air Defence Exercise "Cupola" caused 141 Line Troop to spend a month at Eindhoven where they have been most hospitably treated by the Dutch Army D. and M. School.

A letter of appreciation was received from C-in-C., B.A.F.O., for the work of the Regiment at Schalfoldendorf, which did so much to make the gliding championships such a success.

C.A.F.S.O. BRANCH, H.Q., B.A.F.O.

Since the submission of our last notes, quite a number of changes have taken place on the staff.



The staff have once again come to the fore of sport. Our C.A.F.S.O., Colonel L. de M. Thuillier, O.B.E., taking third prize in the 7 Armoured Division Swimming Gala, for the plunge. Corporal J. P. Skinner was chosen to represent Air Formation Signals in the Royal Signals (B. A. O. R.) Inter-Unit Sports, and he recently won two first prizes (*Concours d'elegance*) in the first R.A.F. Command Aeromodelling Championships, also flying the winning planes in two classes of the control-line speed events.

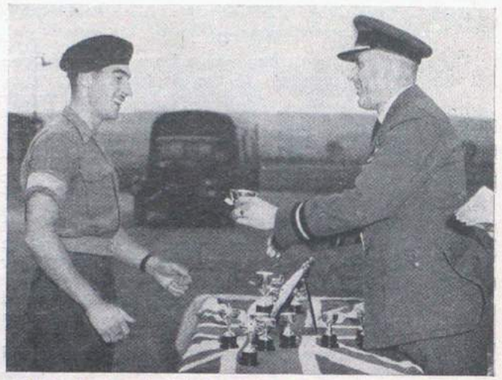
The game shooting season has just opened, and quite a number of our staff are anticipating plenty of sport this year.

Air Formation Signals won the Royal Signals Inter-Unit Golf Shield at Hamburg on 2nd/3rd September, beating in turn Hamburg District, 7 Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment and the 2 Divisional Signal Regiment in the final.



B.A.F.O. Command Model Aircraft Association's First Annual Flying Competition, Buckeburg Airfield, Saturday, 26th August, 1950

A keen interest is shown in Corporal Skinner's Focke-Wulf 190 by (left to right) Air Commodore L. R. S. Freestone, Wing Commander S. G. Pritchard, Officer Commanding R.A.F. Station, Buckeburg, Squadron Leader Archer and Squadron Leader E. G. Couch, the Chairman of the B.A.F.O. Command Model Aircraft Association



B.A.F.O. Command Model Aeroplane Association's First Annual Flying Competition, Buckeburg Airfield, Saturday, 26th August, 1950

Corporal Skinner, of C.A.F.S.O., Staff Headquarters (Unit) B.A.F.O., being presented with one of the two cups he received for his entries in the Concours d'Elegance

The branch was represented by Colonel L. de M. Thuillier and Major G. B. Newman, the other members of the team being Major Collinson and Second-Lieutenant Brooke.

P.A. Problems affecting Ceremonial Parades in Berlin

THE most interesting article on the P.A. equipment provided for the Coldstream Guards Tercentary Celebrations prompts me to produce an account of the equipment used during the King's Birthday in Berlin, where a rather different P.A. problem on ceremonial parades has been solved in an equally interesting way.

These parades are closely observed by a very large audience of British, Americans, French, Germans and a small, but observant, party of Russians. It is therefore essential that an extremely high standard is reached. The troops engaged usually comprise one Armoured Car Squadron, three Battalions, and units and detachments of ancillary troops, in fact a brigade. The parade ground, adjacent to the Olympic Stadium, is just over a quarter of a mile long and approximately 80 yards wide.

Most of the evolutions of the troops take place in review order. A Brigade in review order is a pretty lengthy streak of humanity and unassisted words of command given from the centre arrive at the wings "too little and too late," with a very sad effect on ceremonial drill. In previous years a rather erratic system of drum beats was employed, but in 1949 the Squadron compiled a P.A. system which solved all problems.

The requirement was a system which would

(a) provide three fixed microphone positions, would permit the troops to advance in review order, to march past in column and column of route preceded by armoured cars,

and

(b) which would reproduce the words of command over the whole of a very extended line of troops without time lag.

The obvious answer to (a) was to put the microphone below ground and to (b) to place the speakers behind the main body of spectators and direct them at the troops.

Using the microphones below ground level, i.e. about 10ft. from the Commander's voice, required pre-amplification and this was solved with a mixture of German civil equipment and P.A. equipment No. 1.

The layout of microphones, speakers and control equipment is shown is figure 1.

Microphone 1 is used by the Commander, Area Troops (Brigadier) during the early stages of the parade, microphone 2 after the advance in review order (a most impressive movement), and microphone 3 when the parade is handed over to the G.O.C.

The microphones are Siemens Condenser (£8/15/- per) and each is contained in a hole 10ins. x 10ins. x 6ins. The holes are covered by gratings strong enough to carry armoured cars. The cables are carried underground to the control point in a 3in. steel duct.

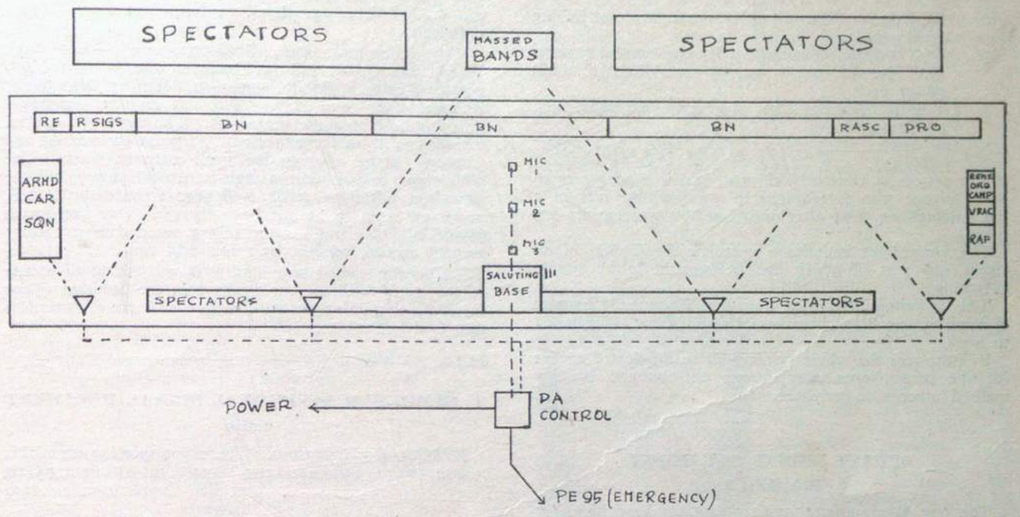


Fig. 1

The four speakers, W.D. pattern as issued with No. 1 apparatus, are mounted on 20ft. poles above a disc 20ins. in diameter and are difficult to see. They are directed straight at the troops but carefully avoid the microphones. The result of this concealment of speakers and microphones is to fox completely all but the most astute spectators.

Only one microphone is in circuit at a time owing to the troubles of pick up and feed back. The control officer sits on a 12ft. stand well behind the spectators, but with the whole parade ground under view and by means of a three-way switch brings in each microphone as required. Power is supplied by normal mains, but a PE 95 is kept running about 100 yards to the rear and can be switched in at once if there is a power failure.

The block diagram of the control equipment is shown in Fig. 2, the details are:—

1. *Microphones.* Siemens Condenser type, pre-tension voltage supplied from pre-amp.

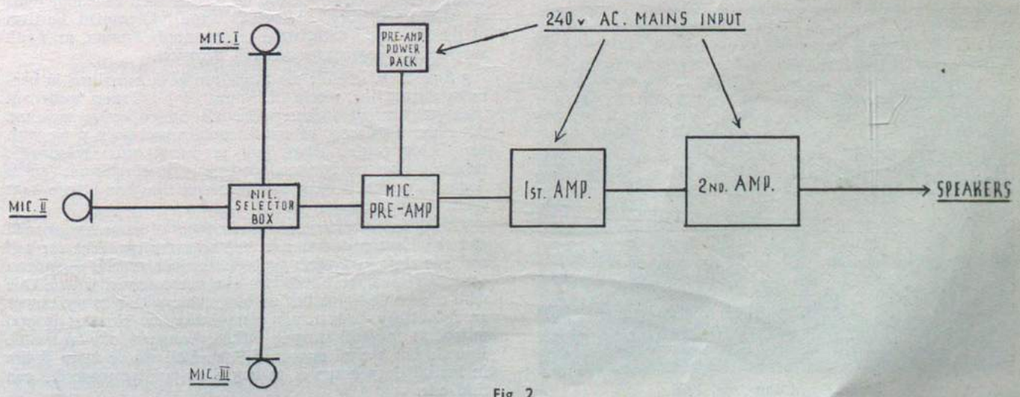


Fig. 2

2. *Mic. Selector Box.* Simple Signals made switching arrangement.
3. *Mic. Pre-amp.* Siemens single stage amplifier, 200v. D.C. 4v. A.C. power supply from R.E.M.E. built power pack.
4. *1st Amp.* Siemens three stage amplifier, 240v. A.C. power supply.
5. *2nd Amp.* W.D. No. 1 P.A., 240v. A.C. power supply.

The system is extremely efficient, and it is necessary to warn anyone who is required to stand within 10ft. of a live microphone, that after breakfast tummy rumbles are barred.

The control set includes a complete duplication of all stages, any part of which can be brought in by simple switching.

This is primarily for the Squadron Commander's peace of mind as appalling chaos would result if the thing failed to work.

By next year the whole system will be duplicated except for the microphones they cannot be obtained by any method other than purchase.

BERLIN SIGNAL SQUADRON
B.A.O.R. 2

The few days summer weather that we have had now seem to be well behind us and we are now subject to continuous dull weather with plenty of brisk wind and rain.

Not too good a Met. report to permit us to tackle the many exercises that we are having, with a certain amount of enjoyment. However, our many National Servicemen have enjoyed the past month with the Battalions on battle training, and although the areas are somewhat limited, cover is good, and the many patrols have had a trying time. Communications have been established and maintained on a high level, and "roughing it" with bully and biscuits has been a good change, and we have not yet finished; next month's notes should have plenty more to report.

The recent reports on the improvements in the Servicemen's pay has given our chief clerk a certain amount of overtime, the hue and cry seems to be "If we sign on can we stay in Berlin." Well, who knows. Others who are not too keen about a further six months have been looking a little gloomy at times, whilst the few lucky bods who are due to leave us before the 1st of October have been heard to pass remarks that are not permitted to be published in these notes.

In the field of sport the six-a-side hockey team is unbeaten with a record that is something to be very proud of. With four games played we have won them all very decisively.



Berlin Signal Squadron, 1950

Our victims are: Royal Engineers, won 7—2; 1 Black Watch, won 4—2; 1 Royal Fusiliers, won 3—1; 1 Manchester Regiment "A," won 3—0. With 1 Manchester Regiment "B" and H.Q. B.T.B. left to play, our hopes of being unbeaten are very high. The team has played extraordinarily well together with Sergeant Richardson and Corporal Briggs sharing the goals between them. The cricket gear is now on the shelf until next season and the Squadron has done really well; our friends the R.A.F. at Gatow seem to be our bogy though. Our last match played at Gatow was a most exciting one and when victory seemed certain, we lost by a few odd runs.

The soccer team is now hard at it, and taking advantage of the many facilities that we have in the Stadium to get in plenty of training; we wish them even more success than they had last season.

7 ARMOURED DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT
Celle

R.H.Q. and 1 Squadrons. The major sporting event this month was the B.A.O.R. Inter-Signal Unit Swimming Gala at Bad Oeynhausen on 16th August.



Great keenness and enthusiasm was shown by those taking part, and the event was enjoyed by both competitors and spectators alike. We offer our congratulations to the team for their gallant efforts.

We would at the same time like to tender our thanks to H.Q. B.A.O.R. Signal Regiment for their hospitality to our team.

It is with great regret that we announce the death of No. 22320707 Signalman J. Wilson, who was accidentally killed on Exercise Dauntless.

The sympathy of the Commanding Officer and all ranks is extended to Mr. and Mrs. Wilson.

2 Squadron. All the Os.W.L. from out-troops are visiting us here for a few days in the middle of next month. A programme of work and social events is being prepared, and we hope that this will be of value and enjoyment to all.

A weekly cinema show has been started in the Squadron cinema room and so far we have seen such excellent films as "Desert Victory," "Pegasus" and "Olympiad Festival of the Nations" with, what is commonly known, as a full supporting programme on each occasion.

3 Squadron. While the Squadron H.Q. remained in barracks during the whole of August, "J" Troop went out with 31 Lorried Infantry Brigade on collective training. After the usual crop of small troubles had been dealt with the Troop settled down and produced quite reasonable results. The weather was kind and the cloudburst which flooded out the Brigade last year and the year before kept away.

The shooting season for certain types of game has opened and the Harz Mountains in this area are excellent for red and roe deer and wild pig. A member of the Squadron went out to shoot a red deer one night armed with a rifle with telescopic sights but nothing came within range except an inquisitive badger. In desperation he fired at it and missed at 20 yards range. S.S.M. Vaughan, of C.A.F.S.O. Branch, has a rival now in S.S.M. Hall whose main desire in his off duty hours is to bag a 12-pointer when he can find one.

4 Squadron. During the past month we have all been subjected to the rigours of camp life; July being our Brigade training month.

We based ourselves under canvas at Reinsehlen Training Camp, one notable incident there being the small tornado which removed our Squadron office, Officers' and Sergeants' messes.

We were almost continuously engaged on exercises throughout which, we're proud to say "we maintained our reputation of keeping through."

We arrived back in barracks sunburnt and weary, and have now settled down to the less arduous duties of personal training.

During the last few weeks we have had a spate of cricket matches, one very memorable one being a match between the Officers and Sergeants and the Men. We combined with H.Q. Squadron for the match which resulted in a win for the Officers and Sergeants by 20 runs. We regret to announce that the one Signal Officer's contribution to the winning total was a glorious "duck."

Football has restarted and we have opened the season with a 5—4 win over H.Q. Squadron.

HAMBURG DISTRICT INDEPENDENT SIGNAL SQUADRON
Hamburg

During the first two weeks of August the major part of the Squadron were out on Unit field training in and around Schleswig-Holstein. This exercise was known as Exercise "Eno." Undoubtedly the best part of this exercise was the second week when the Squadron found itself located close to No. 2 B.A.O.R. Leave Centre at the seaside resort of Scharbeutz. During this weekend the Unit bus brought out the wives and families of the married personnel taking part in the exercise. Tents were pitched and the families remained for the complete weekend. The weather was grand and the weekend was enjoyed by all.

At present the Squadron are working very hard in preparation for taking part in Exercise "Broadside." This exercise is the annual Rhine Army autumn manoeuvres. The Squadron's role will be that of supplying umpire communication. The larger part of the Squadron will be away for some two or three weeks. More about this in our next notes.

In the world of sports, we were defeated by H.Q. B.A.O.R. Signal Regiment at Dusseldorf in the Royal Signals Inter-Signal Unit Athletic Championship. This year our football team will be combining with Headquarters Hamburg District and we hope to field two very strong sides.

WESTERN EUROPE SIGNAL TROOP
Fontainebleau

Here we are again with a few notes from sunny France, only it isn't so sunny. Shirt sleeve order has just been abandoned and we are looking around for the snow which we should be getting any day now after the "glorious" summer.

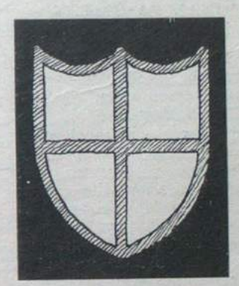
At the end of last month we had a helping hand in the Combined Air Forces of Western Europe's Exercise "Cupola" and for three days we were working full shifts, 24 hours a day. The exercise was quite a success and we all enjoyed having a small part in it. We hope there will be a few more coming along soon.

The football league does not start until next week but we have had quite a number of practice matches and we have a good team which should do well in the league. Sergeant Frings, a Belgian, who works in the S.D.O., is one of the best forwards and very keen; he has been getting us out in the evenings at practice so we shall be playing continental style before we know where we are. Anyway, I hope to be able to tell you next month that we have won our first games.

British Troops in Austria

KLAGENFURT SIGNAL SQUADRON

Jubilant success has rewarded our cricketers. They have renewed our glory of last year, they have filled our cup to the brim. Last year the Squadron won the B.T.A. Minor Units Cricket League and Royal Signals Austria lost the final of the B.T.A. knock-out by only 14 runs to R.A.S.C. Austria. Now they have carried off both trophies.



For this Captain Bullard is primarily responsible. He has batted and kept wicket with persistent excellence, but above all he has led his constantly-changing team as a captain should. Driver Mahoney was the principal bowler as well as the third highest scorer of the season, and his departure on release in August was a dangerous loss. But even without him the Squadron defeated 49 Supply Depot R.A.S.C. in the final match of the league by 64 runs, which assured us of the championship; and Signals Austria vanquished Klagenfurt Garrison in the final of the knock-out by 211 runs. In this match much honour goes to S.S.M. Godfrey, of 12 Wireless Squadron (Graz) for his 118 runs and five wickets for 69, and to Lance-Corporal Barrat of Vienna Signal Squadron for his four wickets for 48.

A lesser triumph was in the 6th B.T.A. motor-cycle trials held on 20th August. Signalman Brown came first in the 350 c.c. class (Individual), losing only 14 points in the two laps of eight hazards each, and Signalman Elliott tied for 2nd place in the 500 c.c. class—these being our only entries in the trial.

Our team in the B.T.A. Athletics Championship at the end of August was game but unsuccessful. Next year we must put much more training into this activity. Meanwhile the soccer season has begun with a narrow victory in the first match, and the few rugger players the Squadron can muster are soon to combine with Klagenfurt Garrison in a trial. A boxing team has been training for some weeks to work with Vienna Signal Squadron in a series of matches with other units and French and American teams. But in spite of all these natural signs of impending winter the weather remains as hot as ever.

The West Schule, Squadron H.Q., has been half renovated; that is, half of the outside surface now dazzles the borough of Klagenfurt with its creaminess and fresh grey paint. The clock can at last be read from a distance, although, perhaps conveniently, the chimes of the hour are still three minutes early. The other half of the building is blanketed with scaffolding upon which hosts of civilian builders swarm while daylight lasts. Inside, too, tremendous activity is evident. Beside long-due repairs to windows, doors and walls, plumbing is being installed for new baths, showers and latrines, so that the Schule will soon be a first-class barrack building. It is possible that before long our gymnasium may be converted into the Garrison Church, the present Austrian Evangelical Church being too big to fill.

M E L F

EGYPT COMMAND SIGNAL REGIMENT

Monsear

V.J. Day Corps Week-End. Since our last contribution, the highlight of our lives here has been the extremely successful Corps Week-End held in August, when we were hosts to all other units of the Corps in Egypt.

We started this off on a Friday night with an all ranks dance for which, largely owing to the efforts (and no doubt charm) of Lieutenant Dick Trelawny, no less than 100 ladies were produced from all over the Canal Zone. Our own dance band provided excellent music. On the departure of the W.R.A.F.'s and W.R.A.C.'s in entirely legitimate transport for their various stations, the armed escort for each vehicle appeared mysteriously to have increased. However, all the girls were seen safely home.

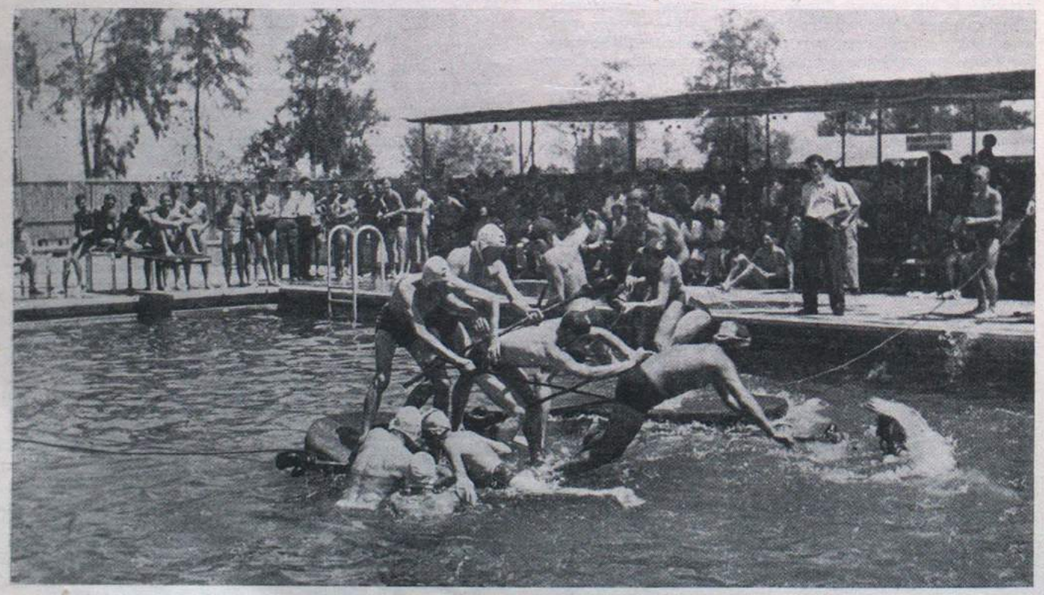
On Saturday morning we held a light-hearted swimming gala in which all Signal Units in the Canal Zone took part. Some idea of this may be gained from the accompanying photo. The patent for the rafts used is held by this Regiment, but with some matting, a condemned UG cable drum and some empty oil drums, a fair copy is possible. Major-General and Mrs. Bowen and Brigadier and Mrs. Chadwick were with us, and Mrs. Bowen graciously presented the prizes. A friendly water polo match against 3 G.H.Q. Signal Regiment rounded off an enjoyable morning.

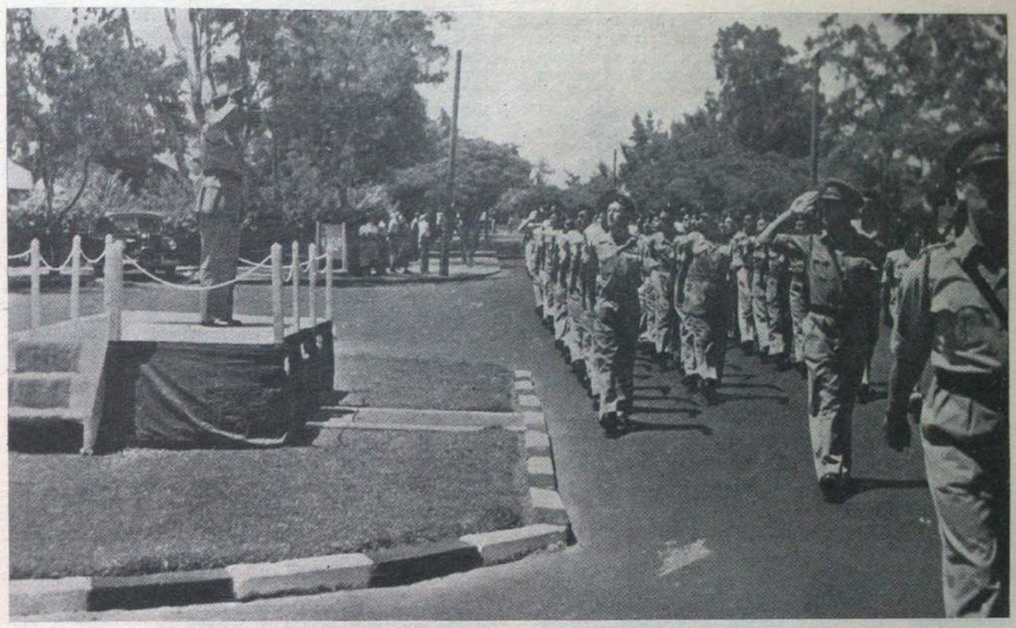
After a hurried lunch by those who managed it, the stage was set for a Pagal Gymkhana in the afternoon. Again the events were not serious, though sometimes keenly contested. So much so that some of the better linesmen who had to pass 20 Group cipher messages by phone, did so in only twenty minutes and with a minimum of rather lurid "Operators' Chat." However, no matter how keen the competitors, the pace was, in most events, set by the local donkeys. Mrs. Bowen and Mrs. Finney kindly shared the pleasant task of giving away the prizes.

At night, in the lantern lit mess gardens, the Officers' and W.O.s' and Sergeants' Messes each held dances and were glad to welcome General, Mrs. Bowen and Brigadier and Mrs. Chadwick at both. Horse racing at the Officers' dance was an excuse for shameless bookies to extract appreciable sums of money from members and our not unwilling guests, to help pay for the all ranks dance of the night before.

Church Parade was held the next morning. (Actually the same morning, and apparently to the Officers, W.O.'s and Sergeants involved only five minutes after the dance). The Commanding Officer led the parade in the march past, which was taken by Brigadier Chadwick, C.S.O. of British Troops, Egypt, after service in the beautiful garrison church of St. George's, Moascar. Lieutenant-Colonel Finney and R.S.M. Webb were a little too fast for the P.R. photographer but, as is apparent from the accompanying picture, strong support is obviously coming along in the shape of our Adjutant, Captain Hencher, and Captain Gordon Smith leading No. 1 Squadron contingent.

This enjoyable week-end terminated in a successful guest night on V.J. day itself when, chief amongst a distinguished party of guests, Lieutenant-General Sir George Erskine, G.O.C. British Troops Egypt, Major-General Bowen, Brigadier Chadwick and Colonel Hoysted responded to the appropriate American and Empire Signals toasts in addition to the loyal and Regimental ones. By a happy coincidence we were able also able to offer a very topical toast to





the new Princess on this her birthday. Afterwards our own capacity for devising new and impromptu rules to the game of billiards cricket, was only equalled by the flagrant and entirely shameless cheating of our guests.

The normal pleasant degeneration set in, and soon the efforts of the more senior of the company, led by the Colonel at the piano, in their choruses of a past decade (the 1920—1930's—we may be old but are not yet smelly) were being strongly rivalled by the noise of "Jump Jimmy Knacker" proceeding in another corner of the ante-room.

So ended our first Corps Week-End. Modestly we think it was not unsuccessful, though the P.R.I., in spite of generous assistance from C.S.O., M.E.L.F.'s fund, is still looking slightly worried.

Sport. This contribution will be confined to the field (or pool) of water polo and swimming. We are certain the Editor has no room, and we have little desire to record some of our failures in other fields, but our lustre in aquatic sports is quite undimmed.

Largely owing to the strenuous efforts of Captain Webb, supported by an excellent team; members, Corporal Stewart (captain), Sergeant Kirk, Corporal Harris, Lance-Corporal Richards, Signalman Castello, Signalman Bates. We have played 17 games and won them all, and have scored 118 goals for, 9 against us. The Regimental team has won the Garrison, District and Royal Signals Corps championships, and we await with confidence the match with R.A.P.C. shortly for the championship of Egypt.

Corporal Stewart and Signalman Bates were also selected as members of Army and Inter-Services teams.

In Garrison, District and Corps championships, Captain Webb, Lance-Corporal Richards and Signalman Freeman have gained first places in many swimming and diving events.

Shooting. Congratulations to Sergeant Flatley and Corporal Ellibaccus, of this Regiment, who respectively won the individual rifle championship and the Mauritians individual championship at the Corps (Egypt) Rifle Meeting held last month.

Tail Piece. So for this issue we leave you. The cable saboteurs (see comic strip) still manage to keep life interesting, though as more cable is buried deeply their depredations are correspondingly restricted. The extension of National Service has brought smiles to the faces of the Adjutant and harassed Squadron Commanders, and to those of *some* of the Non-Commissioned Officers and men. Others say X X X X X!

SUDAN SIGNAL SQUADRON (BRITISH)

This will be the first contribution from the Sudan Signal Squadron (British) since its inception early in 1949. The history of this Anglo-Egyptian Condominium is comparatively recent. After the defeat of Hicks Pasha and his Egyptian Force in 1883 by the Mahdi, General Gordon, that first-class soldier and practical administrator, was again despatched to the Sudan. So, in 1884, General Gordon arrived in Khartoum as his country's envoy. The following year, General Gordon met his death on the steps of Government House, at the hands of the fanatical Dervishes, after the Mahdi had taken the town by assault. For the time being British connection with the Sudan was at an end. In 1898—just 52 years ago—after a brilliant campaign, the Sudan was reconquered by General Kitchener, commanding an Anglo-Egyptian force.

From past to present. In this land of constant sunshine, it has been a welcome change to have a relief from the great heat, caused by the cooling effect of the recent rains. However, the consequences of the unusually heavy rains were dire. Railway tracks were washed away, with the result that supplies were not forthcoming and existing stocks became very low. "Austerity" has been the Order of the Day, not only at the dinner table but with regard

to the number of vehicles on the road. In the later stages, even air transportation became a doubtful factor, as the available stocks of petrol were insufficient to enable refuelling. However, "all's well that ends well." The rains are now over.

During August the Unit was honoured by a visit from Michael Stewart, M.P., Under Secretary of State for War and, incidentally, Vice-President of the Army Council.

The cricket season has been a very successful one. More than one match could have been decided by just one more over. Against a very strong small units' XI we were indeed unlucky to lose in a 22 over match, the small units making 107 all out and Signals 97 for 7, a typically exciting finish. The team is fortunate in having a good opening attack in speed merchants, Lance-Corporals McGough and Thompson, and a useful change bowler in the leg breaks of Corporal Moore, their captain. In the batting there has been some big hitting by Signalman Craig and Corporal Shepard, attached A.C.C. representative. Considering the size of the Unit, the team, not forgetting the conscientious scoring of Corporal Tully and umpiring of Signalman Hand, must be congratulated on a fine season's cricket.

Swimming continues to be a most popular afternoon pastime, as judged by the aquatic throng which patronises the swimming pool.

3 G.H.Q. SIGNAL REGIMENT
Fayid

During the month the Corps shooting championships were held at Fayid. Although we did not do as well as we hoped, there were several commendable efforts, notably H.Q. Squadron's victory in the Light Machine Gun class, and Lance-Corporal Hamilton (2 Squadron) was third in the individual rifle championship.

1 Squadron just beat 2 Squadron in the final of the falling plates competition, and Corporal Wilson and Private Jean Louis were placed second and third in the Mauritian individual match.

The fun and games at Egypt Command's Corps week-end at Moascar were enjoyed by many of this Unit who paid a visit. We entered several teams for the field sports and for the "aquatic" events, and gained our fair measure of success. We were particularly pleased at our winning of the "Certo Cito" race.

"3 G.H.Q. Signals" has always had a formidable ring to it when mentioned in the sporting world of the Canal Zone. We have not been inactive during the past month, and have maintained our reputation. This has been especially true as regards swimming.

Sergeant C. D. Beale (2 Squadron) has added two more "hat tricks" and substantially added to, his already impressive collection of trophies. He won the 220, 440 and 880 yards championships in both the Army swimming championships, and the Inter-Services championships, both of which were held in the new pool at "Olympia."

In the Army championships, Sergeant Beale smashed the existing Army records for the 220 and 880 events, but unfortunately the times will not stand as new records because they were not swum at the Aldershot Baths. Hard luck! But we expect to hear of Sergeant Beale repeating his feats at Aldershot next year, and we look forward to seeing his name entered as an Army championship winner—and record breaker.

Signalman Gould, of 1 Squadron, gained second place in the 100 yards breast stroke races in both championships, and Lieutenant Ingledow did the same in the 100 yards back stroke events.

To round off a shining swimming record, the Unit relay team carried off the Inter-Unit relay after a thrilling fight with Egypt Command Signals.

Preparations for soccer and Rugby are now well under way, while our summer sportsmen are taking a well earned breather before plunging back into the fray in the "uniform" of their own particular winter sport.

The hockey enthusiasts have already been seen swinging their sticks in a practice game, and a match was also played between the Sergeants' and Officers' Messes. No quarter was asked or given, and the result was an honourable draw!

1 INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT
Tripoli

The big event of the past month has been our Corps week-end, held from 31st August—2nd September.

The last parade before the week-end started was a pay parade at 9 o'clock on Thursday. Once that very essential parade was over every one was free to enjoy himself.

The programme started with a triangular rifle match between an Officers' team, a Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' team, and an Other Ranks' team. The match was closely contested by the Officers and Sergeants, there was never more than about 15 points difference between the two teams, and the Sergeants eventually beat the Officers by 10 points, with the Other Ranks' team rather a poor third. The final scores were: Sergeants 501, Officers 491, Other Ranks 285.

That same afternoon there was a friendly cricket match against R.E.M.E. The result was in suspense right up to the end when Driver Donnelly made the winning stroke off the fifth ball of the last over, and we won by two wickets with 30 seconds in hand.

Despite the excitement of the cricket match the attention of the spectators tended to wander to the edge of the ground where a really magnificent children's party was in progress, organised by a team of helpers from the Sergeants' Mess.

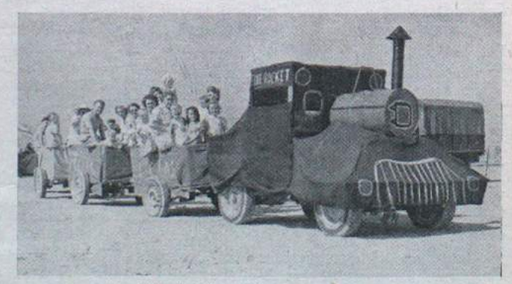
That strange locomotive "The Rocket" (modern version) was seen trundling round the cricket ground pulling coach-loads of young passengers on their way to embark for a trip around the harbour; and strange cries in the distance turned out to be a costermonger advertising "Free donkey rides for all."

The tea itself exceeded the highest hopes of every youthful optimist; and a treasure hunt and a sing-song of old nursery favourites rounded off the party.

The parents had just time to get the children into bed before they were back again in Marina Barracks, this time for the all ranks dance. The dance was held on our open air floor at the "Pigeon Club" in a perfect setting; fairy lights in the garden and around the dance floor, and the lights of Tripoli Harbour forming a romantic background.

The compère kept the party going with a swing, and there was a general reluctance to go home.

The following day there was another cricket match, this time between the Officers and Sergeants and the rest



The "Rocket" and its young passengers



Costermonger (Sergeant) Brierley helps to keep the party going

of the Regiment. This was not so closely contested, the Other Ranks won comfortably by five wickets, Signalman Hill carrying his bat for 59. During the cricket match the Officers and their wives entertained the married Warrant Officers, Sergeants and Other Ranks and their wives in a large marquee on the ground.

That night the Officers gave a cocktail party to the Garrison in the Officers' Mess, and then went straight on to the Sergeants' Mess where a very successful families' social for all our married families was in full swing. Meanwhile the Other Ranks were enjoying a cinema show, followed by an excellent buffet supper and tombola.

Saturday was a day of recuperation; and on Sunday the whole Regiment together with Tripolitania Signal Squadron attended a drumhead service in the courtyard of the Officers' Mess, and then marched past the G.O.C., Major-General H. Murray, C.B., D.S.O.

Altogether it was a very successful week-end, and all seemed to enjoy themselves.

Our other big item of news concerns cricket. We have won the Minor Cricket League. There were 19 teams in the league and we came an easy first having played 18 matches and only lost two and drawn two. Our nearest competitors, Command Workshops, won 13 of their matches and lost the remaining five.

It has been a successful cricket season, and the team has been the strongest Unit team the Regiment has had since the war. R.Q.M.S. Willoughby has headed the batting averages with an average score of 31.3, with Signalman Westeney fairly close with an average of 26.5.

Lance-Corporal Hudson has been our star bowler with an average of 5.7 runs scored off him per wicket, and Signalman Morgan has been a close second with an average of 6.2.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We gratefully acknowledge receipt of the following:—
CA IRA: September.
R.E.M.E. MAGAZINE: September.
CATTERICK EXPRESS: 7th September.

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FARELF

G.H.Q. SIGNAL REGIMENT, FARELF
Singapore

This month appears to have been an extremely busy one taking things all round. Apart from the normal functions of the Unit, we have organised up-grading education classes, annual rifle classification, training new intakes on Signal Office counter-clerk duties. Newly arrived W/T. operators have been allotted a lecture room, and every day sees them punching up their knowledge of W/T. procedure, and getting their hands in with the training set and 8 amp keys.

The camp area is beginning to take on a new face. Somehow or other, the R.S.M. has found time, and men, to do those little clearing up jobs which always precede the visit of a V.I.P.

The finals of G.H.Q. F.A.R.E.L.F. swimming gala took place on the 9th August, and we did well in achieving second place to "G" Branch. Special mention must be awarded to Corporal Thom and Signalman Christie for attaining second places in the backstroke and breaststroke events respectively. The "old man" of the team, S.S.M. "Badgy" Hicks, took third honours in the diving event.

A motor-cycle reliability trial, organised by our T.O.M., Major J. M. Laing, for D.R.s of the Unit was held over the R.A.S.C. training ground on Saturday, 28th July. The course was one of nine observed sections and the distance about five miles. A heavy downpour of rain prior to the start made the course very slippery and difficult. Signalman Haigh completed the course with the loss of only four points—a magnificent effort under the most trying conditions. Signalman Gates came second with the loss of 15 points.

The Malay Other Rank to receive special praise was Lance-Corporal Yeow, who, in spite of a broken exhaust lift and front brake cable, completed the course. The Commanding Officer complimented Signalman Haigh on his very fine riding, and Mrs. Bower presented the prizes at the close of the meeting.

I think the following is worthy of passing on, to raise a smile or two in these dreary days.

Major-General Dunlop, G.O.C. Singapore District, was to have been present at a ceremony at which the audience included Chinese children the majority of whom did not speak English. They were told that when the General paused in his speech they were to cheer and wave flags. General Dunlop was ill and unable to attend. Brigadier Sparks deputised for him. Confronting his juvenile audience, Brigadier Sparks began: "I am very sorry to tell you that the General is sick." Here the speaker paused.

The children immediately shouted "Hurray" and waved their flags. Brigadier Sparks continued: "As a matter of fact, General Dunlop is very sick today." Another pause. "Hurray" shouted the children and waved their flags again.

At a later date, General Dunlop termed it "a classic example of misunderstanding."

Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess. The most notable achievement of the month was our victory over the Officers' Mess in the annual games tournament, which took place

on the 22nd July. Without going into details, the final scores were 69 points for and 58 against.

It is with great pleasure that we *STILL* gaze upon the silver cup, the wooden spoon *STILL* being in the reluctant hands of the Officers' Mess.

Sunday, 6th August, found a combined Officers, Warrant Officers, and Sergeants cricket team matching their prowess against the British Other Ranks on Tanglin Sports Ground. At the conclusion of a very enjoyable afternoon's play, the juniors were the worthy winners by a small margin of eight runs. I do feel that if Sergeant (No Danger) Drake had bowled overarm instead of "unders" he would have been a greater asset to our team. As it was, he only took 10 wickets. Since our last contribution of WIRE notes we have bid *bon voyage* to two more of our old members—namely S.Q.M.S.s Ashworth and Gilhooly. To them both, and their spouses, we send our best wishes for the future.

SINGAPORE DISTRICT SIGNAL REGIMENT

On 18th July, a Troop of Royal Signals personnel from the three Regiments on the island, proceeded to the jungle training camp at Mersing. There, approximately 90 miles up the east coast of Malaya, they practised the art of jungle patrols, ambushes and swimming!



Reveille was at 06.15 hours and the first parade was physical training. After breakfast, the Troop went through the swamps and "ulu" on patrols. Most of the afternoons were spent in preparing defensive positions, in readiness for attack on the camp from the famous (infamous) banditry. In the latter part of the training period, a few afternoons were spent swimming in the sea, which was only 50 yards from the camp perimeter. The beach is said to be the finest in Malaya.

On Tuesday, 25th July, the Troop was on a training patrol on the edge of a shoulder high swamp. The leading section with the Troop Commander, had penetrated 100 yards of the thick jungle when they encountered a stockade. A halt was made and a small recce group went forward to investigate. The stockade appeared to have been used in the past for wood cuttings, but the jungle inside was just as thick as it was outside. A well beaten track was worn along the inside of the fence, and recent scratches and barbed wire indicated that the area within the stockade had been occupied by someone recently. This was later confirmed when voices and a distinct beating of a drum were heard. Nobody could be seen, and so the Troop returned to camp and reported the matter to the local authorities, who stated that the enclosure had not been used for a few years, and that they knew of no one who should have been in the area. The Police, however, knew that four bandits were somewhere in that location, and were able to give their names and the types of arms they carried!!

On Wednesday, 26th July, two patrols left the camp and made a long and arduous search. Voices were heard by one of the patrols but nothing was seen except for the tracks of a tiger. A very large area was covered but without success. Only a few new tracks were found. It was a very wet and weary band of men that returned to the camp that night.

The Troop returned to the civilisation of Singapore on 30th July, having really enjoyed themselves.

Football. We are still at the top of the Military League, but our position is a little insecure, because we have now lost two matches.

We have reached the final of the Malayan Other Ranks knock-out competition. The semi-final was played early in the month and resulted in a draw. Judging from the form displayed, we were due for a beating in the replay. Fortunately, our team do not study form, and with 20 minutes to go had gained a lead of four goals to nil. Our opponents, however, had not given up hope, and really started to overrun our team. They scored two quick goals, and we were thankful when the last whistle sounded. The final will be played against the Singapore Guard Unit at a later date.

Cricket. We have played two matches recently. The first against the Commissioner General's Office was won by four wickets. The second match, which was against the Diplomatic Wireless, was lost by 27 runs.

We have had four representatives in the Corps team—Sergeant Tripp, Corporal Cross, Lance-Corporal Thomas and Signalman Smith. We congratulate Sergeant Tripp on being selected to play in the Singapore District team.

☆

Installation of PAX

SATURDAY, 22nd July, 1950, saw an innovation in part of Singapore District's telephone network when a small private automatic exchange was brought into service at Selerang Garrison.

The new equipment is a 50 line PAX made by the General Electric Company and purchased locally. The telephones are type C.B. modified for auto working by the addition of dials Auto No. 10F.

It had originally been planned that the magneto installation (switchboard F and F and telephones type F) would be replaced by a central battery board 332 C.B. However, the C.B. switchboard, forecast for April, did not arrive and naturally the service was not improved.

Selerang is a focal point of a number of trunk cables and, in conjunction with the exchange project, it was necessary that a new M.D.F. should replace the pre-war one. While this was being completed, every subscriber was rewired internally.

The auto telephones and telephones "F" were used in parallel for a few days prior to the change-over, and each subscriber was tested in true G.P.O. style. It was as well that this precaution was taken, because a number of earths were found on the new arresters.

The actual change-over took about 20 seconds and, within a few hours, all the magneto telephones had been recovered.

Uni-directional junctions were provided to Far East Air Force and Singapore Base District, both of which are type "N" central battery exchanges.

The auto equipment itself is contained in a glass fronted, dust proof, wooden cabinet about 5ft. tall, 2ft. 3ins. wide and 18ins. wide. It is not "fully tropicalised" as we understand the term, but is nevertheless "for tropical use." A 16 watt carbon filament lamp has been mounted in the base of the cabinet.

The power supply is from four "6 volt 170 ampere hour" batteries floated from a battery charger No. 1 10 ampere. The installation is surprisingly light on current, and a trickle charge rate of a little over one ampere has been found satisfactory.

Mains hum and ripple due to the floating battery are negligible and no additional filter circuits are required.

The "fuse alarm" has been extended to the main fault control at Fort Canning (a "little stranger" in the midst of the island-wide cable alarms).

This type of PAX has been well tried and found to be practically trouble-free. Uniselectors are used and so no maintenance problems of two motion selectors are present.

MALAYA DISTRICT SIGNAL REGIMENT
Kuala Lumpur



No. 1 Squadron, Kuala Lumpur. Included in our activities this month have been the Regimental Sports Meeting and Opening of a Corporals' Bar.

As far as the Sports Meeting is concerned, we started in a very modest way and did not attempt anything beyond our powers. The object which we believe we achieved was to get everyone, whether good or bad, to take part.

It was on the whole a great success, although most of the events were won by a few athletic experts.

The Corporals have fitted out their own mess. They made an extremely good job of this, and when it was formally opened on 18th August it was in all ways a Mess fit for Royal Signal Corporals. The Chief Signal Officer and the Commanding Officer attended the opening ceremony, after which much beer was consumed. It only goes to show what can be done if people get together.

2 Squadron, Taiping. This Sub district has been fairly quiet during the month. The one bright spot in which some of our men were engaged was Operation Mata, involving troops of 2 Malay Regiment and the 4th Hussars.

We had two detachments out, one with 2 Malay and one with the 1 K.O.Y.L.I., who were engaged on a similar operation about 30 miles away. Two of our men had their baptism of fire one night while they were guarding their truck which had overturned off the track.

Apparently a party of thirty bandits crossed the road quite near them with a Platoon of the Malay Regiment in hot pursuit, and consequently a lot of shooting took place with our men in the middle of it.

A great many lessons can be learnt by junior Non-Commissioned Officers i/c detachments on small operations like this one. So many unexpected things happen and so little happens as per the book, that imagination, initiative, and self-reliance are very necessary.

We are expecting a large number of reinforcements in the near future. This is very welcome news indeed as we have been existing for a long time on about the minimum number we could work with. We shall now be able to send out rear links to some of our Battalions, which while being a great help to Battalions who are very short of CW Operators, is good experience for our men.

Our football team, which always seems to get a small paragraph to itself, continues to be inspired to great heights by its equally lofty Captain, Signalman Harrison. We are unlucky to be too late to enter for the local knock-out competition, but we manage to get in at least one game a week, and sometimes three, against other units, and we have a long string of wins to our credit.

3 Squadron, Seremban. The road to Port Dickson on Wednesday afternoons and over the week-ends resembles something like the Isle of Man Tourist Trophy course with Signals personnel on their high powered private machines trying to beat all records.

On the sporting side things have not been going too well although three members of the Squadron have been selected to play for the Garrison football team and have been quite successful.

4 Squadron, Kuala Lipis. There has been little excitement in Pahang during the last month. Anti-bandit activities go on seven days a week and there is little rest for Royal Signals. A heavy burden falls on the operators and Signal Office personnel, but they stand up to it extremely well. We hear we have some very welcome reinforcements due in the near future.

It should not be imagined that only the operators are working hard, all ranks pull their weight and make up a very happy team.

We continue to hold our own in the soccer world, having won three games, drawn one and lost one during the month. Two of our players were chosen to travel with the State side to Penang for a Malaya Cup game. Corporal Hayes, our popular captain, was chosen to play and although on the losing side, did well.

18th INFANTRY BRIGADE SIGNAL SQUADRON
Kuala Lumpur

Perhaps the best way to introduce the new Squadron is by reproducing the following Special Order of the Day by Brigadier C. I. H. Dunbar, D.S.O., Commander 2nd Guards Brigade, dated 10th August, 1950. "On the departure of 2nd Battalion Coldstream Guards on August 11th, 2nd Guards Brigade will, after nearly two years in being, cease to exist.

During that time the Brigade has had many successes, both against the Communists and in other fields. That these successes have been achieved has been due to the great and wholehearted efforts and determination of every individual one of you. Added to these efforts has been the desire of every unit to produce its best to help the Brigade and to help each other. We have worked as a team, that has been the secret of success.

Now the Brigade is breaking up, and in thanking each one of you for the notable part you have played, I wish you every good fortune wherever you may go, but in particular I wish those who remain out here, both in and outside 18th Infantry Brigade, every success in the fight against Communism and that you will bring it to a speedy finish followed by a safe return home."

Major P. G. Curry departed also on 11th August, 1950, to take up an appointment with Boys' Squadron at Beverley. It is fitting indeed that Major P. G. Curry who formed the 2nd Guards Brigade Signal Squadron in Canterbury on 1st April, 1948, should have commanded it until it ceased to exist. On behalf of all ranks remaining behind, many of whom started off from Canterbury with the Squadron, I would like to wish him and Mrs. Curry a very pleasant voyage home and assure them of our very sincere wishes for their future happiness.

At present we are in the throes of weapon training and field firing on the open ranges at Batu Caves. The Officer i/c weapon training can be heard to murmur "Sergeant Major, they ARE improving, are they not." At the same time we are training for the forthcoming Rifle Meeting.

Our Camp in Coronation Park (No relation to the "type of Amusement Park" mentioned by Malaya District Signal Regiment in the June issue of these Notes under Taiping) has not yet been rebuilt but we have hopes that soon the Royal Engineers will commence work and we will be comfortably accommodated.

During July we competed in the 2nd Guards Brigade Individual Athletics and out of six competitors five prizes were collected. Corporal Ellis came 1st in the 220 yards and 2nd in the 100 yards; Lance Corporal Senior 3rd in 120 yards Hurdles and Signalman Lowe 2nd in the Javelin. Lance Corporal Senior who won his heat in the 100 yards had to retire from the finals with muscle trouble. Unfortunately, Captain Hannigan who would have given a good account of himself in the Pole Vault, Hop, Step and Jump, and Hurdles, was in Hospital with a torn cartilage. However, he is almost fit again and (B.A.O.R. Signal Regiment

please note) hopes to put the Squadron Hockey XI on the map in the near future when the season commences.

Calling H.Q. B.A.O.R. Signal Regiment. Reference July's issue of THE WIRE. Surely there is more happening in Hereford and B.O. than just a parade and unit garden activities. May and June Notes made good reading so let's have more of it. We are proud of our past association with the Regiment in B.A.O.R.

GURKHA SIGNAL TRAINING AND HOLDING WING

Kuala Lumpur

The Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess staged a "Do" on Saturday, 12th August, 1950, and in a most convivial atmosphere entertained a number of guests, including the Garrison Commander, Colonel C. C. Graham, O.B.E., and the officers and their wives. Musical and vocal entertainment was provided by talented guests including an old "trouper" who might well be remembered by pre-war members of the Corps who served in China. Do the names of "Harry Sugg" and "Viv Page" mean anything to you old stagers? As a double act with a piano they were well-known in the Far East in 1932. The latter is now Captain (Quartermaster) V. W. Page of this Unit, his repertoire is still considerable and his vocal range surprising. He displayed a professional knack of making everyone sing with him, to their further enjoyment of his act and the detriment of the aged timbers of the Mess.

The Junior N.C.O.'s Club also continues with its social programme with success and solid enjoyment by all concerned. On the evening of the 4th August the Club entertained some 20 junior N.C.O. members of Malaya District Signal Regiment and some pretty smart "Tombola" was played. That Regiment now has its own Corporals' Club run on similar lines to ours. Certain members from this Unit were guests at the housewarming of this Club on Friday, 18th August, and enjoyed a very cheerful evening. Liaison between the two clubs is to continue and although we foresee a little healthy competition creeping in, we are looking forward to the entertainment which will result.

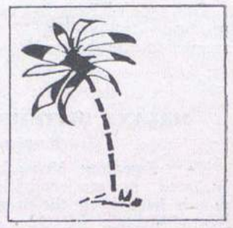
Last month a greeting telegram was received from the W.R.A.C. element of 41 A.A. Signal Squadron. T.A, on the occasion of the Colonial Exhibition at Cardiff. As the June WIRE, which arrived almost on the heels of this telegram, included some photographs and information about this W.R.A.C. Unit, there was a general rush to get a copy by young and old alike. Perhaps W.R.A.C. 41 A.A. Signals, T.A., will be interested to know that their kind thought was quite a morale raiser, particularly to certain individuals who hail from that part of South Wales.

Not much news in the way of sport this month, except that the whole Unit turned out to watch the Nepal Cup Final on Friday, 18th August, primarily to support the team which knocked us out of the competition so conclusively last month. Our erstwhile opponents, 1/6 Gurkha Rifles, fought their way to the final only to be beaten 2—1 by 1/7 Gurkha Rifles after a gruelling but most exciting match. The standard of play was very high and has given us a very good idea of what we have got to achieve by next year.

Our P.T.I., Sergeant Fisher, has been working exceedingly hard to train a basket ball team this past month. After innumerable games with H.Q. Malaya (mostly P.T. staff) the standard exhibited by our mixed British/Gurkha team improved sufficiently to win a decisive victory, score 42 goals to 6.

The game of "Soft ball" is gaining popularity, particularly with the G.O.R.'s who after a slow start are displaying surprising ability to slosh the ball almost anywhere they choose. A match with the U.S. Consulate staff of Kuala Lumpur is in the offing.

Mattru-Jong



By **Sergeant S. TAYLOR**

AT approximately 180 miles from Freetown there is a village called Mattru - Jong. About the 19th century there lived in one of the towns that empty themselves into the Shebro rivers a wealthy trader known as Gaye.

It was believed that he is a descendant from one of the regions called Darkaar. He traded principally in the commodities of his day—namely ivory, rice, cotton goods, etc.; he was really a wealthy man. He was so generous that he won the confidence of the people and chiefs and became very influential. He boycotted all the trade which flowed to the sea coasts of York Island, Bonth and Jamaica.

With varied experience at his disposal, the most prominent men sought his advice and aid in many difficulties; as a result he has a river, and people who are travelling up his river were always questioned, they reply that they were going up his river.

Gradually the sections on the lower reaches of the (Teya) river and that stretch of country, became widely known as "Gboli" (Mende Gaye or Teya) and Jaen (native name of the Jong chiefdom). It is clear that Jaen is a native name in Mende language in corruparation of Jean, being a French name which is translated in English as John.

At the closing year of the century when influence began to creep into Sierra Leone this Gaye was the only man who was intelligent enough to face the pioneering officials, furnishing them with the necessary information required of the country and showing them the usual hospitality of Africans to strangers.

His wife Bessy Gaye, being Queen, was unanimously re-elected Queen on the establishment of the British rule (in 1881-2) as she was a direct descendant of the ruling house.

Just before her accession, which marked a new epoch in the annals of her country, Jong had been chosen to be the main seat on account of its position on a little eminence overlooking the Teya river to be the seat of Government.

Gaye now being an alien naturalised, was principal adviser of this area called the Jong Chiefdom. In those days there was a dance called Jange, this dance was introduced by the Joloff dependents of Gaye who was a member of that tribe.

Almost all animals are named after their colours and appearance, also their habits.

Sir Samuel Rowe (Governor of Sierra Leone 1877-1885), known as "Bombogbue" (native name for Governor). Capt. Wallis was known as "Jembendima," a name which portrays his stature and corpulence.

This led the natives of Jong Chiefdom to call the river Jong "Teya," which is Teliya in Mende and means "Blackwater" in English.

The praise goes to Queen Bessy Gaye who, though a lady ruler, was able to keep her domain from war, like Chief Kanagboue, Red Money, and so many other chiefs whose devastating forays washed over the whole country of Mende tribe from 1875 to 1889.

The Poro Society

Up in the Protectorate of Sierra Leone, in the District of Kenema, approximately 198 miles from Freetown to Komende and 18 miles to Bendue-Wayai there is a mountain called Kpavanja which was once inhabited by some cruel devils as was believed by the inhabitants of the town. At the bottom of this mountain there is a special sport which has been reserved for the Poro Society.

Approximately 20 years ago, the President or Headman of the Society after three years in the bush wished to graduate the members in the Society in order to open a new college for the young stars. In doing so as was believed by the inhabitants of the village he failed to inform the devil of his proposal. When it was time, information was passed to all the inhabitants and old members of the Society in the town. People from all parts of the Protectorate congregated bringing all sorts of Poro dancers.

It happens, that when all the men, women and children were fully engaged, a most tragical incident occurred; a loud voice was heard from the bush saying that the people have violated some of his laws. She evidently without hypothesis changed every one of the spectators, musicians, singers and dancers into block or rocks, which stood up to date marked as memory to the present followers of the Poro Society.

THE TERRITORIAL ARMY

1/20 (SM) ARMY SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

Birmingham

Reading through the sheaf of notes supplied by R.S.M. H. Griffin on the Regimental outing to Wicksteed Park on Sunday, 27th August, I begin to feel very sorry for the people who do not belong to the Territorial Army. They do not realise that they are missing so much. Unfortunately, I was not able to go with the party on the trip so I must spare a little sorrow for myself. Leaving the Drill Hall at 09.30 hours in three coaches supplied by Allenways (including two of their super-pullmans, the only ones of the type in the country) the party reached Wicksteed Park at 12.15 hours. A splendid lunch at 12.30 (chicken complete with spares) and the company proceeded to sample the miniature railway, children's swimming pool, lake with boats, golf course, ponies, cycle track, an excellent band and their own organised games. There were several unmarried individualists of course. The R.S.M. was blamed for a short burst of rain lasting 20 minutes, otherwise the climatic arrangements were approved. Angela Docker became so engrossed in the many diversions that she was lost thus causing Sergeant and Mrs. Docker several anxious moments until the child was discovered with a matchstick busily engaged pursuading worms to return to their holes in the ground.

A break in the homeward journey was made at the "Dun Cow." This may account for the community singing during the remainder of the trip home. Those men who asked the R.S.M. if he used his voice for breaking coke will parade at the Orderly Room at the first opportunity.

So there you are, organisers. If you want to go places with your Regimental party you will do a lot worse than choose Wicksteed Park, Northants, especially if there are children to be amused.

Now I see more notes from R.S.M. Griffin in which he invites me to look at Regimental Orders for information about shooting. He should know that I never read orders. The caretaker tells me all I want to know, or someone comes along and says "You should have done so-and-so the day before yesterday." Whereat we all laugh heartily and peruse the "Situations Vacant" just in case. However, it seems that the Unit team entered for the Rowland Keen (.22) competition and were narrowly beaten in the first round by 594 (Mobile) H.A.A. Regiment, R.A., T.A. I don't know why I mention this. In the .303 rifle competition at Kingsbury the team put up some useful scores. Sergeant H. King secured a second prize. The South Birmingham Rifle Club (very keen types) won the team prize at the same meeting with a total score of 312. Our men made 232, which gives you a rough idea of something. It is all valuable experience which the team will do well to follow up.

Continuing with our policy of giving the public what it wants on Saturday evenings, we have engaged Cyril Stapleton and his Orchestra for 30th September. Cateswell House is now well established as one of the best rendezvous for dancing in the Midlands. I suppose I couldn't say rendezvouses could I? O.K. Skip it. In October we shall put on a Regimental smoking concert and if we can persuade the recently released National Servicemen to attend they will have an excellent opportunity of meeting their colleagues in the Unit.

A good programme is arranged by Captain R. H. Ironmonger, and apart from a threat by the Quartermaster to blow his saxophone, this concert should be most enjoyable. The last time he blew it a handful of Army Forms B.108 marked "3 Div. Sigs. Bulford 1936" shot all over the place. Which proves something, if proof were needed.

A gratifying number of National Servicemen are signing on as T.A. volunteers and as you might expect from volunteers they are very much the right types. May I say right here (and just over there as well) that if more of the National Servicemen would keep closer contact with us they would soon be signing on as real T.A. men.

Contractors are very active at this Headquarters and before long or perhaps even sooner, we shall have useful additions to our garages. By the time they have demolished the old cookhouse I may have some useful additions to MY garage. As they said at Finklebaums tea party, "There is enough for everyone but you haf to be quick."

BARLEUX

ARMY PHANTOM SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A. (The Princess Louise's Kensington Regiment)

Hammersmith

The Regiment fired the annual classification whilst in camp at Felixstowe, showing an all-round improvement. Some of us fired the Bisley practices, finding the "Double-tap Snap" particularly difficult. The London and Middlesex Rifle meeting, being held at Bisley, is our chance to improve on last year's performance, when the Regiment was placed second out of six good shooting units taking part.

Basket ball has continued on Monday evenings, the standard of play having improved in recent weeks. Whilst in camp, our Regimental team won a most enjoyable game against a representative Cadet Force team, drawn from the cadet units in camp with us.

Three cricket matches played at camp, Officers versus Other Ranks, resulted in two wins for the former and one

for the latter, the Other Ranks having Lieutenant Allen mainly to blame for their defeats. However, Sergeant Pearson and Lance-Corporal Keene both proved to be very dangerous bowlers, as several of the Officers know only too well.

Our congratulations to S.S.M. Thomson on his tennis success in the Corps tennis championships. He was winner of the Other Ranks' doubles.

62 H.Q. L. OF C. SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

Chester

Peace again reigns at H.Q. as the last items are sorted out following the return from annual camp at Castlemartin.

Once again, as last year, the Regiment and 16 Wireless Signal Squadron, T.A. shared camp with 22 Corps Signal Regiment, T.A., and once again it was a pronounced success. Our heartiest thanks are extended to Lieutenant-Colonel A. Ellison, M.B.E., T.D., the Officers, Warrant Officers and men of 22 Corps Signal Regiment, T.A., for their co-operation.

Despite the rather large amount of rain which fell during the fortnight, training, including a two-day exercise, was very successful. On the morning of the 9th August prior to our move out on the exercise, the Regiment was inspected by Major-General W. R. C. Penney, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., and the C.S.O. Western Command.

We also appreciated the visit of Major-General V. Evelegh, C.B., D.S.O., O.B.E., G.O.C. North West District, who toured our exercise locations.

Our other affiliated Squadrons, 87 and 88 A.G.R.A. (F.D.) Signal Squadron, T.A. combined to form a composite Signal Squadron, and attended a camp at Tilshead, Wiltshire, with 88 A.G.R.A. (G.F.).

23 (Independent) Armoured Brigade Signal Squadron, T.A., also attended annual camp with their formation and took the long journey down to Castlemartin. Despite the usual "damp" weather, both these camps were successful, and good training was enjoyed by all.

2/20 ARMY SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

Wanstead

The Regiment has settled down again after camp, and the winter training programme is is full swing.

We have now welcomed six parties of National Service men into the Unit and find them to be very keen young fellows who are rapidly absorbing the T.A. spirit. So far, over 12% of them have volunteered for the T.A., and many more are expected to do so when they realise what an excellent hobby is this part-time soldiering.

The Social Committee has shown a burst of activity and a couple of dances are planned for the near future. Arrangements for the annual children's party are in hand. To entertain the children the Dramatic Club are producing a pantomime about a person called Jack who is rather adept at growing beans! Other events in the offing are the annual Regimental dinner (24th November) and to end the year a carnival dance on 30th December.

Captain "Tommy" Tucker has left us and is to be congratulated on having obtained a Short Service Regular Commission. R.S.M. "Ginger" Payne has just bidden us farewell on leaving the service. We shall miss him very much. He has been a tower of strength since the Regiment was formed and takes with him our best wishes for a happy retirement.

The Chief Signal Officer, London District, Lieutenant-Colonel H. R. Firth, with members of his staff, descended upon us recently for the annual Administrative Inspection. The Adjutant is still convalescing after being asked some 500 questions in salvos of 20 a minute. Altogether, we found the visit most helpful and hope to cover the other 499 points by next year!

Captain C. B. Masser arrived this morning to take over from Captain Bob Matthews as Adjutant. We would stress that this was planned *before* the Administrative Inspection and has nothing to do with the result of it! Captain Matthews hopes to go to the Military College of Science on a Technical Staff Officers' Course. We wish him luck in his future career.

Association Notes

Sheffield

Now that autumn is with us again, the social and other activities of the Branch are resumed after a summer recess. On September 3rd we had a most enjoyable trip to Bridlington, attended by upwards of 50 members, with friends and relatives. On the journey, a stop was made at Great Driffield, where "Quicksilver" was sojourning, and full opportunity was taken to exploit its resources. Tea was taken at "The Lounge," an establishment which is fortunate in having an ex-Royal Signals A.T.S. manageress. Altogether, a wonderful day, with glorious weather.

The Branch now meets at the Handy Cafe, Burton Road, Sheffield 3, on the FOURTH Wednesday of the month, at 7.30 p.m. Our President is Lieutenant-Colonel V. C. Holland; Chairman, Captain E. Dickenson, whilst the irrepressible Major Warburton is Branch Hon. Treasurer.

Dances have been arranged at Nether Edge Hall, Sheffield, for October 26th, November 30th and January 25th, at 7.30 p.m., it being hoped to arrange for the attendance of the Corps Dance Band for one of them.

The Hon. Secretary, Mr. E. Ryalls, will be glad to hear from prospective members at 15b, Holgate Road, Sheffield 5, and from present members who may, for some reason or another, have lost touch with the Branch. "JONAH"

London (City)

Two things are uppermost in my mind at the present time. The first is our annual dinner to be held at the Star Hotel, opposite Old Street Underground Station, on 28th October, when we shall be pleased to welcome our President, General Sir H. Colville B. Wemyss, K.C.B., K.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., and Lady Wemyss. The second is the return of our Treasurer from his honeymoon at Mercury House, Colwyn Bay, so that he can tell us all about it . . . Mercury House, I mean. What minds you people have.

Everybody on the committee is doing his best to make the dinner a success from the eating and social side. Our singer, who has graduated at the London School of Music, along with a crooner who is under contract to me, and, of course, our resident comedian with a bit of persuasion and a couple of fivers, will no doubt, entertain us. Who is our comedian? Come and find out. By the way, "Harvey" told me that he insists upon sitting among the ladies. Well, really, I can't allow that, as much as I love Harvey. Who is Harvey? Come and see. Even if you haven't paid up your subscriptions, you can still come to the dinner, the price is 12/6 double, and 7/6 single; and remember, it is your show. Even if you haven't been able to put in a regular appearance at the meetings, we welcome you. Our best will be done to help you have a really good time. Don't say afterwards, "I think it is a pity I didn't join the London (City)." If you are a young soldier, you are always an Old Comrade.

Well, I'm moving to a new address, so from now, it is 38 Stanhope Gardens, Harringay, N.4, to write to. Cheerio for now. Watch for the notes in future publications.

Birmingham

On the last Thursday in the month there is a meeting in the Crown Hotel, Broad Street, of this Branch. I like to be there because (a) I am on the Committee, and (b) meeting the members old and new is good fun. There is a (c) but I can't remember what it is right now. It has been my misfortune to miss the last few meetings including the one at the end of August when I was at Bournemouth. Although not staying at Mercury House I was a frequent visitor and managed to persuade Major Stan Dunningham, the manager, to leave his cares behind for an hour in the "Chine." Did you ever know a Driver Hawthorne who played the drums rather well in 3 Divisional Signals, Bulford? Ex-Sergeant and Mrs. Hawthorne assure me that they have a son aged 19 and a daughter of 18, a statement which floored me because I mistook Mrs. Hawthorne for the daughter. And how do you like that?

The number of old friends who leave Bournemouth the week before I arrive is positively, well I don't think they actually KNOW, but when people tell you "You remember old so-and-so. He went yesterday," you begin to wonder. Sometimes Mercury House shelters a T.A. Quartermaster on consolidated rates. You can always tell them. They look worried. Not so much worried about the difficulty of living on their salaries, though with the expenses inseparable from Messes and social functions they might well feel anxiety. No. The mental unrest comes from trying to do their work unaided. Their reputations are at stake so they bash on regardless. They will be relieved to know that clerical assistance for Quartermasters of expanding T.A. Units is now forthcoming.

I shall be glad to meet the Birmingham Branch again at the end of September. Maybe I shall find out what goes on and whether any new members have rolled up. The Hon. Secretary is considering re-introducing a little music into the gatherings during the winter. Nothing very ambitious because people do not listen anyway. They like a background of melody. It gives them a good excuse to raise their voices. Did I say voices?

Uncle Alf: You are being a misery this month.

Me: Well, what do you expect after a week's holiday spent in a mackintosh?

Do I detect a flicker of life in the Coventry Branch. They are throwing a dance at the end of September. We must go and have a "shufti." Whatever that means. How I hate sand and canals.

Now I think I will take a look at the National Radio Exhibition at Castle Bromwich. If I tell you anything about it at all, I will do so in simple language. Only after strong pressure have I agreed not to write a highly technical article which I am convinced would have staggered everyone, myself included. BARLEUX

Bristol

Friday, 1st September, saw some of our skittle members at the Midland Hotel, Bath, once more being the guests of the Bath Branch. A very pleasant evening was had and we had a keen game winning by only one pin.

These visits are much appreciated by all concerned, and it is hoped to reciprocate in the near future.

Skittles are still our major pastime, and we are now ready for the league matches, the first being on 21st September against the W.A.A.F. Aren't we lucky!

The monthly meeting was held at the "Old Duke" on Friday, 8th September; a few stalwarts turned up and made a very pleasant evening of it.

Our Social Secretary, Mr. K. V. Brown, informs me that the dinner will be at Dunlops, Baldwin Street, on Saturday, 28th October, so keep the date in mind.

Tunbridge Wells and District

On Sunday, 27th August, 1950, the Branch paraded with Standard and Escort on the occasion of the dedication of the new Standard of Tunbridge Wells Branch of the Royal Army Service Corps Association. The weather was fine and the setting for the parade service in the beautiful Calverley Grounds provided all that one could wish on such an occasion. After the ceremony, all participating units and friends were provided with refreshments in the grounds of Dunorlan Park.

The Branch is again parading on Sunday, 17th September, 1950, this time on the invitation of the local branch of the Royal Air Forces Association to participate in the final event of Battle of Britain Week—the Festival of Remembrance. This will also take place in Calverley Grounds and will take the form of a drumhead service. Provision has been made to "scotch up" the weather, and, if wet, the service will be held in the Parish Church.

An Ex-Service Associations Darts League has been formed in Tunbridge Wells embracing all local branches of Regimental and Corps Associations, the British Legion and Home Guard. The end-of-season prize is a magnificent cup, and matches will be alternate homes and aways on Thursday evenings commencing in early October. Needless to say, "Signals" are "having a go."

On Wednesday, 20th September, 1950, a coachload of members are paying a social visit to Eastern Command Signal Regiment at Maresfield Camp for an hour or so; from whence they are proceeding to the Bridge Hotel at Uckfield to "chew the cud" with the indomitable "Sammy" Hughes until he "slings them out." Curiously enough, everybody concerned seems to be looking forward to this trip with avidity, yet when I try to arrange a sale of work in the Parish Hall for the benefit of Branch funds, they all say "Gertya!!" Anyway, if I manage to survive the submerging of my back teeth, I will tell you all about it next month.

Footnote.—I don't know what the young soldier has to grouse about these days. Seven bob a day for "potting the reds"? Seems like a profitable Korea to me.

ROYAL SIGNALS BENEVOLENT FUND

Subscriptions received during August, 1950:

	£	s.	d.
Combined Units, Catterick	250	7	10
School of Signals (Royal Signals Wing)	4	0	0
5 Training Regiment	5	0	0
1 Independent Selection Squadron	3	13	9
Corps Funds (six Officers)	5	15	4
Donations received during August, 1950:			
5 A.A. (M) Signal Regiment (Officers Mess)	7	10	0
St. Martin's Church, Catterick (collection)	8	0	0
Mr. R. A. C. Ching		18	0
Mr. P. G. Ashcroft		8	0
Royal Signals Benevolent and Comforts Fund, Catterick (balance)	1	8	4
Total Receipts—August, 1950	£287	1	3

Expenditure during August, 1950 ..... £390 6 0
(includes: General assistance; rates and insurance; cots and prams; bed and bedding; furniture; clothing; removal; rehabilitation; fares; convalescence).

Analysis of cases:—

Families of soldiers serving in U.K.	5
Families of soldiers serving in B.A.O.R.	1
Families of soldiers serving in M.E.L.F.	1
Families of soldiers serving in F.A.R.E.L.F.	3
Widows and dependents	3
Released and discharged soldiers	54
Total cases assisted	67

SPORTS NOTES

Royal Signals (Egypt)

RIFLE MEETING

For the first time since the war a Royal Signals (Egypt) Rifle Meeting was held in Fayid on 23rd, 24th and 25th August this year. Considering that the meeting was an initial venture after a long lapse of time, it was a pronounced success.

The meeting was held on the Fayid ranges, under the lee of Gebel Shabruit, a hill otherwise known as the "Pimple," and was organised on a squadron basis. Altogether nine squadrons or equivalents entered for the various competitions. The administrative arrangements were made by 3 G.H.Q. Signal Regiment.

Although the standard of shooting was not very high, enthusiasm was excellent, and there is no doubt that this meeting marked the beginning of the return to pre-war standards.

The fact that the honours were fairly evenly divided between 3 G.H.Q. Signal Regiment, Egypt Command Signal Regiment and 4 Air Formation Signal Regiment ensured a happy spirit of rivalry over the three days' shooting.

Congratulations must go to Sergeant Flatley, of Egypt Command Signal Regiment, for winning the Individual Cup, and to Driver Hardie, the runner-up, who finished with the same number of points but lost the decision because of a smaller number of "bulls" at 500 yards than the winner.

The individual cup for Mauritians was won by Lance-Corporal Ellahee Baccus, of Egypt Command Signal Regiment.

There was very keen competition in the "falling plates" match, several heats being won by one or two rounds. The 17 Brigade Signal Squadron and 2 A.S.S.U. team, who fired one heat more than other teams, were unlucky to be beaten in the semi-final, having won easily their previous heats. In the final 1 Squadron, 3 G.H.Q. Signal Regiment beat 2 Squadron of the same regiment by five rounds, both teams having knocked down all but two plates.

In presenting the prizes Brigadier C. A. H. Chadwick, C.B.E., Chairman of the B.T.E. Rifle Shooting Committee, said that no-one could call himself a soldier unless he could shoot straight, and that the last war had clearly shown that a Signalman in Division or Brigade H.Q. was as much a front-line soldier as anybody; he therefore welcomed the meeting as a much needed step in the right direction.

Brigadier Chadwick thanked Lieutenant-Colonel J. P. North, M.B.E., Royal Signals, of X Branch, G.H.Q., for organising the meeting and congratulated all concerned on the smooth running of it.

The following is the list of prizewinners:

Match 1. Individual. British All Ranks.
1st Sergeant Flatley, Egypt Command Signal Regiment 139 points.
2nd Driver Hardie, Egypt Command Signal Regiment 139 ,,
3rd Lance-Corporal Hamilton, 3 G.H.Q., Signal Regiment 133 ,,

Match 2. Individual. Mauritian All Ranks.
1st Lance-Corporal Ellahee Baccus, Egypt Command Signal Regiment 94 points.
2nd Corporal Wilson, 3 G.H.Q., Signal Regiment 83 ,,
3rd Private Jean-Louis, 3 G.H.Q., Signal Regiment 83 ,,

Match 4 Inter-Squadron Team
1st 4 Air Formation Signal Regiment 276 points.

Match 5 Young Soldiers Team Match
1st 4 Air Formation Signal Regiment 212 points.

Match 6 L.M.G. Pairs
1st Signalman Burgess, 3 G.H.Q., Signal Regiment
Signalman Lobley, 3 G.H.Q., Signal Regiment 27 points.
2nd Corporal Dungworth, 4 Air Formation Signal Regiment
Driver Sutcliffe, 4 Air Formation Signal Regiment 24 points.

Match 7 Falling Plates
1st 1 Squadron, 3 G.H.Q., Signal Regiment

AQUATIC SPORTS MEETING, 1950

On 10th and 11th August, 1950, the first post-war meeting was held at the Moascar Garrison Swimming Pool. The first day was devoted to heats and the 880 yards final and the second day to the remaining finals.

Although it was an individual meeting there was keen rivalry between 3 G.H.Q. Signal Regiment and Egypt Command Signal Regiment. It was regretted that 4 Air Formation Signal Regiment had to withdraw all their swimmers at the last moment.

Sergeant Beale, of 3 G.H.Q. Signal Regiment, completed the treble by winning the 220 yards, 440 yards and 880 yards freestyle. In spite of the score Egypt Command Signal Regiment had their hardest game of the season in the water polo game.

The prizes were presented by Mrs. C. A. H. Chadwick, wife of the C.S.O.

880 yds. free style.—1, Sergeant Beale, 3 G.H.Q., Signal Regiment; 2, Signalman Bates, Egypt Command Signal Regiment. Time: 12min. 31sec.

Plunging.—1, Captain Webb, Egypt Command Signal Regiment; 2, Major Fayerman, 3 G.H.Q., Signal Regiment. 47ft. 5ins.

100 yds. free style.—1, Signalman Richards, Egypt Command Signal Regiment; 2, Captain Webb, Egypt Command Signal Regiment. Time: 1min. 7sec.

100 yds. back stroke.—1, Lieutenant Ingledow, 3 G.H.Q., Signal Regiment; 2, Signalman Algar, 2 AGRA Signal Squadron. Time: 1min. 22sec.

100 yds. breast stroke.—1, Signalman Gould, 3 G.H.Q., Signal Regiment; 2, Corporal Stewart, Egypt Command Signal Regiment. Time: 1min. 23.2sec.

220 yds. free style.—1, Sergeant Beale, 3 G.H.Q., Signal Regiment; 2, Signalman Bates, Egypt Command Signal Regiment. Time: 2min. 37sec.

Diving.—1, Signalman Freeman, Egypt Command Signal Regiment; 2, Signalman Smith, Egypt Command Signal Regiment.

440 yds. free style.—1, Sergeant Beale, 3 G.H.Q., Signal Regiment; 2, Signalman Bates, Egypt Command Signal Regiment. Time: 6min. 9.9sec.

Medley Relay.—1, 3 G.H.Q., Signal Regiment; 2, Egypt Command Signal Regiment. Time: 1min. 21sec.

Water polo.—Egypt Command Signal Regiment beat 3 G.H.Q., Signal Regiment 6 goals to 2.

ROYAL SIGNALS CATTERICK RUGBY FOOTBALL FIXTURE LIST

1950			
†October	18	R.M.A. (Sandhurst)	Camberley
† ,,	28	Oxford University Greyhounds	Oxford
†November	1	Royal Artillery	Catterick
,,	4	Huddersfield	Catterick
,,	18	Middlesbrough	Catterick
† ,,	25	Cambridge University LX Club	Cambridge
† ,,	29	Royal Engineers	Chatham
December	2	West Hartlepool	Catterick
† ,,	9	R.A.S.C.	Catterick
,,	13	Stonyhurst College	Stonyhurst
1951			
January	6	Kendal	Kendal
† ,,	10	R.E.M.E.	Arborfield
,,	13	Middlesbrough	Middlesbrough
† ,,	17	R.A.O.C.	Catterick
,,	20	Durham City	Catterick
,,	27	Billingham	Catterick
February	3	Northern	Newcastle
,,	24	Percy Park	Catterick
March	3	Sedbergh School	Sedbergh
,,	24	Old Leodiensians	Leeds
,,	26	Pontypridd	Pontypridd } Easter
,,	28	Ebbw Vale	Ebbw Vale } Tour
April	7	Percy Park	N. Shields
,,	7	Northern	Catterick

† *Corps Representative Matches.*

GOLF

The Royal Signals Golfing Society held their autumn meeting at West Hill Golf Club, Brookwood, Surrey, on 7th and 8th September, 1950.

Prizes were presented by Major-General W. R. C. Penney, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., as follows:—

Open Championship Cup—Major G. S. K. Maydon.
Championship Challenge Cup—Major G. S. K. Maydon.
Handicap Challenge Cup—Lieutenant P. D. Vulliamy.
Bogey Challenge Cup—Colonel J. F. Longfield.
Foursome Challenge Cup—Tie between Major-General C. H. H. Vulliamy, C.B., D.S.O., and Lieutenant-Colonel H. D. Orr and Major A. A. Bradshaw and Major K. B. Baldwin.

AMATEUR RADIO CLUBS

We have repeatedly been asked to start a Ham Radio Column so that members of the Corps may know whom, when and what frequency they may contact. We have appealed for information with the usual response.

Therefore, after considerable research in THE WIRE of the last twelve months we have extracted the following information given by amateur radio enthusiasts, and as will be seen in most cases the information is too sketchy to be of the slightest value. However we publish it in the hope that at least those infuriated owners of the stations will have the common sense to write to us and give us more information.

We repeat that obviously the minimum information is call sign, frequency, times of working (G.M.T.), whether speech or morse. The owner or the name of the operator would be of value because obviously no one will be really interested in getting in touch with a known enemy of his; or perhaps he will, people are very silly.

DL2LP	2 Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment Amateur Radio Club. Bands 3.3, 7 and 14 Mc/s, evenings, weekends.
DL2OY	Lieutenant M. F. U. N. Seddon, Royal Signals (frequencies and times not stated).
DL2PA	3 Air Support Signal Unit Amateur Radio Club. 40 Metres CW, and 20 metres, phone "most nights."
DL2PT	R.S.M. R. Barrett, Royal Signals, Bands 7 and 14 Mc/s 1900-2200 hours, weekends.
G3FGS	Royal Signals (Manchester) Amateur Radio Club. 3.5, 7, 14 Mc/s. (Times not stated.)
MD7DC	2 Wireless Regiment Amateur Radio Club. 14040 and 14080 kc/s, 1600-2300 hours nightly.
VP5HQ	Caribbean Area Signal Squadron Amateur Radio Club. 20 Metres. (Times not stated.)
VS6BI	Sergeant McTurk. 14 and 28 Mc/s from 1100 GMT onwards.
VS6BS	Hong Kong Signal Squadron. 14 and 28 Mc/s from 1100 GMT onwards.
VS6BT	40 Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment (Frequencies and times not stated.)



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THE WIRE

The Corps Magazine of the

ROYAL SIGNALS

The Official Organ of the

SIGNALS ASSOCIATION

All correspondence and matter for publication for "The Wire" should be addressed to The Editor, "The Wire," 88 Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1. Matter for publication must be received by the 15th of the month preceding publication.

Remittances should be made payable to: Royal Signals Association. Subscription rates (post free, except air mail): Twelve months, 10s.; single month, 1s.

☆

NOVEMBER • 1950

Vol. 4 *New Series* **No. 11**

☆

PRICE: ONE SHILLING

Editorial

DATING from the 1914/18 war, November, or the early part of it, has been set aside for consideration of the memory of those who died in our defence. At least once THE WIRE has carried a reproduction of the famous painting "Through." In 1950, although memories are not less lively with our dead of two great wars to think of, it is perhaps more cogent to ponder on the present.

Royal Signals are very much on active service in Korea, and in Malaya. By the same token the first WIRE notes from Korea mark this number as an historic one. In Germany, particularly, the Corps is at full stretch. In Vienna, in the early part of October, our representatives felt for a few days something of what was for weeks an uneasy lot for those in Berlin. In M.E.L.F. continues the demand reiterated month by month for more Signals. Here, in Great Britain, the Signal Training Centre is turning out the men to fill our depleted ranks. The wise and necessary decision has been made to keep the Signal Training Centre output at the present pace so that the National Service men spend longer in their permanent Regiments. Soon we are to form the Signal Regiments for three new Divisions, at home and in Rhine Army. At the same time more and more Royal Signals seem to go overseas. The most admirable mural depicted on the front cover reminds us of some of our yesterdays, and while thinking of some of the older methods of signalling, ought we not to ask ourselves whether today we are as efficient and well equipped as our predecessors. Certainly in theory modern equipment should make the solving of the inter-communication problem easier. There are two provisos. First, has the production of equipment kept pace with modern requirements? Secondly—and here we are responsible—are we of Royal Signals sufficiently proficient to operate and maintain the equipment provided?

We are much younger than our predecessors, and in many cases we lack that leaven of "old soldiers" that causes endeavour to rise to the heights of success. A testing time lies ahead; are we in Royal Signals to prove our worth?

* * *

Commencing in January THE WIRE hopes to publish monthly an account with an artist's impression of some of the more outstanding acts of gallantry performed by Royal Signals in both wars. The artist is already in possession of two or three stories but more will be required.

Will readers please write in their own words the account of some gallant act they have witnessed or have knowledge of, and send it in to the Editor.

The limits of the matter should be that the episode includes actual fighting while at Signal duty, or of continuing a Signal duty in the presence of considerable personal danger, e.g. the situation of the W.A.A.F. switchboard operator in one of the fighter stations when during the Battle of Britain her switchboard room was hit, her companion killed and she wounded. Surrounded by debris she continued to operate the switchboard until her predicament was discovered by her relief next morning.

It is thought that almost all of us have heard of or taken part in some instance worthy of record. Please do not hesitate to send the account into the Editor who can be relied upon to prevent duplication.

OBITUARY

It was with a sense of shock that his many friends will have read of the death of Colonel E. C. Thompson. Details are lacking, but he was killed in an accident in Malaya on 11th October. It is hoped to publish a more complete notice in December, and in the meantime Royal Signals will wish to express their deep sympathy with his family.

ARMY SKI CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Army Ski Championships are being held at Bad Gastein from 3rd to 20th February, 1951. Royal Signals are entering a team and individuals

All officers and other ranks who are experienced skiers should get in touch with Major D. R. Horsfield, R.M.A., Sandhurst, Camberley, Surrey

" THROUGH "

"THROUGH," the story of the Royal Corps of Signals, will be broadcast in the Midland Home Service on 7th December at 7.45 p.m. The script will be by David Scott Daniell, and many officers past and present have helped by providing material and in commenting on a draft script which was sent to them. Great care is being taken to obtain a true picture of the activities, past and present, of the Corps.

To give an accurate and lively presentation of such a diverse subject in a 45 minute broadcast is not easy, and severe selection of material is necessary. There is a two-fold object: to interest and inform the general public and to tell them something of the function of Signals and to remind past and present members of the Corps of their history.

The story covers army signals from the early days of R.E. Signals and primitive apparatus to the present day. The technical development which has taken place will be reflected in the broadcast, but only, of course, in the simplest terms. There will be stories of wartime exploits and incidents, grave and gay, and even the pigeons have been given their place.

This broadcast should give the public an accurate idea of what Signals have done and are doing and how vital the service is to warfare; it should stir the memory of old members of the Corps and it should remind new ones of the tradition to which they are the heirs. The text of the broadcast could well be the words attributed to Field Marshal Viscount Montgomery—"Signals? They're all mad—but we can't do without them!"

Do not forget the time and date—7.45 p.m., 7th December

RE-EMPLOYMENT OF RETIRED OFFICERS IN B.A.O.R.

Applications are invited from retired officers for Signals Staff appointments (captains and majors) in B.A.O.R.

The duties include:

(a) Ordering all telecommunications services and equipment.
(b) Compiling records.
(c) Financial accounting.
(d) Direct liaison with the Posts and Telegraphs Branch C.C.G.

Officers selected will be appointed under the provisions of Art. 498(b) Pay Warrant, i.e. briefly, they will receive full pay and allowances appropriate to the rank they hold, but while so remunerated, retired pay will be suspended.

Further details can be obtained from the War Office, A.G.11, Stanmore, Middlesex.

ERRATA

In the review of "Notes for Young Officers," published in the October number, it was stated that supplies of this pamphlet were available from the Signals Press. This is wrong; they are available from the Headquarters of the School of Signals.

This error is profoundly regretted.

BERTRAND STEWART PRIZE ESSAY COMPETITION, 1951

The subject for next year's competition is as follows:

"The increased complexity of design of modern equipment creates a demand for more skilled personnel to maintain it. It has been suggested that, as a result of this, the Army is becoming top heavy in second and third line maintenance units and that the fighting unit is being shorn of its ability to fight and maintain its own equipment. Discuss this and give your views as to the most suitable division of responsibility for maintenance in war between combatant units and the maintenance service."

Any queries should be addressed to the War Office (MT2).

59th DIVISIONAL SIGNALS OLD COMRADES' DINNER

Saturday, 2nd December, 1950, at Manchester

The dinner will take place at the Grosvenor Hotel, Deansgate, Manchester, 3, at 7.15 p.m. Tickets 13s. each are obtainable from Mr. F. J. Nance, 49 Castle Street, Liverpool, 2. A cheque or postal order should accompany all applications. If you know any addresses of ex-members please send them to Mr. Nance, who will send particulars.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Renewals and New Subscriptions

In this issue and for the next two months you will find a subscription form included. Please complete the appropriate section, deleting the other two, and let us have it with your remittance as soon as possible.

With regard to the forms you don't need to use, the idea is for *you* to help us to get the new subscribers we so urgently need. If all your chums are already subscribers —which we doubt—please hand the unwanted forms to your Squadron Office or Branch Secretary. In any case don't throw them away.

And what about you "old 'uns" in Civvy Street? Surely there are some old pals of yours who ought to take THE WIRE but don't? Quite a number, incredible though it may seem, have not yet heard that the magazine has resumed publication since the war.

Think how convenient it would be to receive your copy through the post on the day of publication—and for 10/- a year instead of 12/- —without having to wait for the next Branch meeting.

It is only by increased circulation that we can give you the value we should like in the matter of articles, stories and pictures.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We gratefully acknowledge receipt of the following:—

CATTERICK EXPRESS, 21st September, 5th October.
WISH STREAM, August.
R.E.M.E., October.
R.A.O.C. GAZETTE, October.
SIGNAL (A.F.C.A.—U.S.A.), July/August.

Do you know the address of your local branch of the Signals Association? If not, write to the General Secretary, 88 Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1.

OBITUARY

Major F. V. MERCHANT, M.C., D.C.M.

In October we published a statement of the services of the late Major F. V. Merchant, M.C., D.C.M., and with this photograph we add some further appreciations of him as a man.

Those who knew Frank Merchant will remember him as a fine figure of a soldier, a walking encyclopaedia of military and technical matters and a witty and charming companion.



I first knew him in 1912 when I joined 5th Divisional Signal Company as a seconded Infantry Subaltern, and I greatly appreciated his value, not only as a non-commissioned officer, but also as a guide, philosopher and friend.

In the early days of the 1914 war I saw much of Merchant and his knowledge and energy were put to full use. No matter how novel and hazardous a task he was set he never failed to carry it out successfully and the company to a man was delighted when after only six months his good services were rewarded by the double honour of a D.C.M. and Commission. The granting of a Commission from the ranks in those days was still a rare event, and Merchant's must have been the first awarded in the field in the 1914 war.

Of his services with 5 Divisional Signals from August, 1915, when I left the Unit until May, 1918, when he rejoined me at X Corps I cannot do better than quote from a letter I received recently from one of his brother subalterns during that period:

"If anyone could be called a Stalwart I think it was Frank Merchant, and from my earliest memory of him I always felt absolute confidence in his presence, whether in a personal meeting or in a 'job of work.' In this last I never knew anyone with the same efficient knowledge; he knew every answer and gave it clearly and so promptly that my poor brain appeared to me to be woolly in the extreme. I was always sure of the right advice with Merchant and he gave it with complete unselfishness.

"In my humble opinion I should say that he was a first class soldier, the most considerate of men, always cheerful and 'on his toes,' always informative and witty. He was what I should call an expert craftsman in his job."

* * * R.F.B.N.

A further letter has been received from Major J. A. Cooper, of the British Broadcasting Corporation:—

"In case you should not know already, this letter is to inform you that Major F. V. Merchant, M.C., D.C.M., died on 22nd August last. Major Merchant was a well-known and popular retired regular officer who saw service in World War I and who came back from civil life in 1939 to join the staff of the Chief Signal Officer, Aldershot Command. He acted as his deputy until approximately October, 1940, when he went to R.E. Records and some time later went back to civil life. He immediately became a Staff Officer, Home Guard, and became active also in Civil Defence. After a time he was invited by the Admiralty to accept a naval commission and subsequently commanded Instow Barracks (Devon) as a Lieutenant, R.N.V.R. He was demobilised in 1945.

"I was also on the staff of Chief Signal Officer, Aldershot Command, for the same period as Frank Merchant, and we literally worked side by side. I learned to admire him and gained much by his friendship, which continued until the time of his death."

THE EDITOR REPLIES TO COLONEL MONTEITH

IN the October WIRE was published a letter filled with most excellent and constructive criticisms, and while welcoming a majority of the suggestions made, the Editor feels that he cannot entirely agree with all of them.

The first criticism is in the matter of the absence of an index. Let us see to what extent an index should be provided. Surely it is not suggested that a certain communication squadron stationed in North Borneo, shall have the fact that they have sent in a rather indifferent description of a football match played and lost commemorated in an index. But efforts have been made for some months to draw attention under the heading "Of interest in this number" to some of the more interesting articles.

In the matter of the Editorial, Colonel Monteith is, of course, perfectly right, and an approach will be made to higher authority to see what can be done to remedy this. Certainly the Editor, whether as at present a serving officer or possibly even less if he is a retired officer, cannot—probably dare not—express his ideas of the feeling of the Corps. It is a good point.

In the matter of balance that, of course, is the greatest difficulty which faces those responsible for the Editorial policy. It is, however, policy as laid down that THE WIRE should attempt to combine within itself both the *Royal Signals Journal*, and the old pre-war WIRE. As Colonel Monteith says, the present publication probably accomplishes neither, but in the present state of financial stringency it is not possible to publish both. Further constructive suggestions on this subject will be most welcome. It is thought that Colonel Monteith is a little pessimistic as to the number of readers of THE WIRE who can understand the technical articles now being published. The Editor's post bag, and other sources of information indicate that these articles, technical though they be, are of great interest to a surprisingly large number. Colonel Monteith, a most valuable and valued contributor, is perhaps alone in his position of being the one man who may criticise in the matter of articles of general interest. He mentions one by Colonel Tully on the United States Signal Corps in Alaska. That article is one of a series of several which through the great kindness of our contemporary *Signal* we are privileged to reprint. The Signal Corps of the United States of America seems to have an inexhaustible supply of public spirited officers willing and able to write these most admirable and interesting articles; Royal Signals seems to contain very few such officers. Certainly any articles of this nature provided by officers will be extremely welcome.

The lack of such public spirited officers as would write these articles is the cause of the *Journal* having had to cease publication.

Far from bringing a howl of rage, Colonel Monteith's article is received with great joy and thanks by the small staff responsible for editing THE WIRE. We commend it to everyone to read.

The advertising, which is the subject of a brief but pithy comment, is not under our control.

Personal Column

Honours and Awards

Awarded Commander-in-Chief's Certificate for Good Conduct (Operational Awards): W.O.I. F. V. Collins, Corporal J. R. Reckett, both of Malaya District Signal Regiment.

* * *

Awarded Long Service and Good Conduct Medal

R.S.M. Keating, Gurkha Signal Training and Holding Wing.

R.Q.M.S. V. King, 19 Air Formation Signal Regiment.

* * *

Lieutenant Wilfred Jasper Backhouse (91989) was appointed to be a member of the Military Division of the Order of the British Empire on the 30th December, 1941, but the Order has not yet been presented, his present whereabouts being unknown. Correspondence directed to his last known address, Camp House, Gerrards Cross, Bucks, has been returned by the postal authorities marked "Unknown."

Any reader of THE WIRE who is acquainted with Mr. Backhouse and knows his present address is requested to draw his attention to this announcement, and to write to the Central Chancery of the Orders of Knighthood, St. James's Palace, London, S.W.1, giving his address.

* * *

Births

WHITTLE.—On 27th August, 1950, to Signalman and Mrs. Whittle, Royal Signals Wing, School of Signals, a son, Lawrence John Joseph.

JORDAN.—At Cyprus, to Lieutenant (Q.M.) and Mrs. E. Jordan, 2 Wireless Regiment, twin daughters.

MACDONALD.—At Cyprus, to Captain and Mrs. Peter Macdonald, 2 Wireless Regiment, a daughter.

WILLIS.—At Cyprus, to Captain and Mrs. F. A. L. Willis, 2 Wireless Regiment, a son.

TYLER.—At Cyprus, on 4th September, 1950, to Sergeant and Mrs. Tyler, 2 Wireless Regiment, a daughter, Veronica.

POTTER.—At Singapore, on 26th August, 1950, to Corporal and Mrs. Potter, 19 Air Formation Signal Regiment, a daughter.

FRASER.—At Singapore, on 18th September, 1950, to Sergeant and Mrs. B. Fraser, 19 Air Formation Signal Regiment, a second son.

YOUNG.—To Sergeant and Mrs. Young, 7 Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment, a son, Thomas.

STUBBS.—To Sergeant and Mrs. Stubbs, 7 Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment, a son.

FERGUSON.—On 31st August, 1950, to Captain and Mrs. Y. H. Ferguson, 2 Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, a son.

TRIBE.—On 16th September, 1950, to Sergeant and Mrs. Tribe, 2 Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, a son.

EVANS.—To Captain and Mrs. J. E. Evans, 7 Selection Regiment, on 23rd September, 1950, a son.

RICHARDSON.—To Captain and Mrs. N. Richardson, 7 Selection Regiment, on 12th August, 1950, a daughter.

STEADMAN.—To Sergeant and Mrs. Steadman, 7 Selection Regiment, on 9th September, 1950, a daughter.

HEWARD.—To Captain and Mrs. W. L. Heward, Royal Signals Records, on 8th October, 1950, a brother (Leslie Ian) for Patricia.

Marriages

LEA—BROWN.—At Richmond, on 5th August, 1950, R.S.M. J. Lea, Royal Signals Wing, School of Signals, to Sergeant Mary Brown, W.R.A.C.

CATTERMULL—ELLIS.—Captain D. G. Cattermull, 7 Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment to Lieutenant L. G. Ellis, 1 Signal Squadron, W.R.A.C.

* * *

Forthcoming Marriage

SEYS-PHILLIPS—DAVIS.—A marriage has been arranged between Lieutenant Michael Seys-Phillips, 1 A.A. (M) Signal Regiment, son of Mr. H. Seys-Phillips, 1 The Grange, Wimbledon Common, S.W.18, and Lieutenant Joyce Davis, W.R.A.C., daughter of Sir Godfrey and Lady Davis, of 26 Hillway, Hally Lodge Estate, N.6.

* * *

Deaths

14445448 Corporal Donald Desmond Poole, at Baldersby, Yorks, on 9th September, 1950, as the result of an accident.

22389451 Signalman Peter Edward Keyte, at County Hospital, Huntingdon, on 7th September, 1950, as the result of an accident.

21005521 Corporal Richard Francis John Summers, at Isolation Hospital, Abingdon, Berks, on 14th September, 1950, from natural causes.

22325871 Signalman Albert Edward Fisher, in Middle East, on 18th September, 1950, from natural causes.

2549547 Corporal Cyril Wilfred Frank Bearne, on operations in Korea, on 23rd September, 1950, killed in action.

Colonel E. C. Thompson, in Malaya, on 11th October, 1950, as the result of an accident.

* * *

Movements of Officers

Major P. E. M. Bradley from R.M.A., Sandhurst, to B.A.O.R.

Captain C. McDevitt from M.E.L.F. to Western Command Signal Regiment.

Captain (T.O.M.) L. H. F. Dowing from B.A.O.R. to M.E.L.F.

Major A. W. Stewart from Boys' Training Squadron to M.E.L.F.

Major T. L. Richards from B.A.O.R. to Officer Training Wing, School of Signals.

Major M. A. Lloyd from 2 Training Regiment to Senior Officers' School.

Captain T. G. Simpson from 5 A.A. Signal Regiment to 7 Selection Regiment.

Lieutenant (T.O.M.) T. F. Jenkinson has arrived in 19 Air Formation Signal Regiment from M.E.L.F. on being commissioned. Mrs. Jenkinson and family have accompanied him.

Major G. G. L. Hinde from Singapore District Signal Regiment to U.K. on Python.

Captain R. Laws from Singapore District Signal Regiment to U.K. on Python.

Major H. J. Thompson from School of Signals to Signal Training Centre.

Major J. H. Partridge from H.Q., B.T.E., to U.K. P.W.O.T.

Major P. M. C. Spence from H.Q. A.A. Command to H.Q., B.T.E., as S.O.2 (Lines).

Major D. Haynes, M.B.E., from H.Q., B.T.E., to U.K. on transfer to R.A.P.C.

Major Blackburne from 7 Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment to War Office.

Major (T.O.M.) E. D. Shilton retires on retired pay on 18th August.

* * *

The following to Military College of Science:—

Captain C. E. H. Mawson.
Captain E. P. D. Painter.
Captain C. F. Rayner.
Captain J. E. Trotter.
Captain N. R. F. MacKinnon.
Captain J. M. Westwood.
Captain F. D. Williams.
Captain W. E. Lyske.

* * *

The following returned to the United Kingdom during September:—

Major T. M. Moon from Australia.

Major R. S. King from East Africa, posted to School of Signals.

Major E. A. Hollingshead from East Africa to Signal Training Centre.

Major J. D. Elliott from U.S.A. (after short leave) to F.A.R.E.L.F.

* * *

Promotion, Officers

Lieutenant (Q.M.) W. Potesta to be Captain.

* * *

Captain W. Gillett, from The Duke of Wellington's Regiment, has arrived at 7 Selection Regiment on transfer to Royal Signals.

* * *

Movements of Other Ranks

S.Q.M.S.s Ewer and Hobday from Singapore District Signal Regiment to G.H.Q. Signal Regiment, F.A.R.E.L.F., on promotion to that rank.

S.Q.M.S. Sales from G.H.Q. Signal Regiment, F.A.R.E.L.F., to Singapore District Signal Regiment.

R.Q.M.S. A. Tant from 19 Air Formation Signal Regiment to U.K.

S.Q.M.S. Burton from 18 Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron to U.K. on Python.

R.Q.M.S. Bennett from Gurkha Signal Training and Holding Wing to U.K.

S.S.M. M. R. Townsend from Malaya District Signal Regiment to U.K.

Sergeants A. H. Pooley, B.E.M., and T. R. Morse from 2 Wireless Regiment to U.K.

* * *

Promotions and Appointments

Sergeants Ward and Brakenberry, Singapore District Signal Regiment, to be S.Q.M.S.

* * *

Lance-Corporal Foster, 7 Selection Regiment, has been chosen to represent the Army at soccer.

* * *

Signalman Brian Close, of 4 Training Regiment, Royal Signals and Yorkshire, who is a member of the M.C.C. team at present touring Australia, has justified his selection, if one can judge by the reports of his share in the results of the matches played in Western Australia.

In the match against the Western Australia Colts, his brilliant fielding contributed largely towards the victory of the M.C.C.

In the second match against the Western Australia XI his score of 108 not out was the highest of the M.C.C. side, and in addition to that, when put on to bowl in place of Wright, he took one wicket. Not too bad for the team's youngest player.

The Corps and his county are hoping to hear of his continued success.

OF INTEREST IN THIS NUMBER

The front cover is of a tableau "Signalling Through the Ages," created by Signalman Cluff of Southern Command (M) Signal Regiment. The tableau was exhibited at the Royal Agricultural Show this year and was duly reported with pictures in the September WIRE. At that time the complete picture now given was not available.

The Royal Signals exhibit at the "Royal" is almost in the same tradition as that of the Signal Corps at Fort Monmouth, N.J., where the 1950 Convention of the Armed Forces Communications Association was credited with a wonderful array of murals and exhibits, occupying apparently an acre of building.

The May/June number of *Signal* as far as this convention is concerned makes us very envious.

At page 452 will be found the first notes received from 27th British Infantry Brigade Signal Troop in Korea. This is extremely welcome, we have long waited to hear of and from them. It is understood that the nomenclature is now 27th Commonwealth Infantry Brigade.

In the past Royal Signals have produced many outstanding champions in such things as athletics, boxing, etc. It has taken us till 1950 to produce an outstanding swimmer. Some account of the achievements of Sergeant Beale is at page 429.

The attention of all is drawn to "Operation Miki," the account of which we are privileged to reprint from *Signal*, the Journal of the Armed Forces Communications Association of the United States of America, page 426.

Also reprinted from the same magazine is an article entitled "Tradition Center," page 434, inherent in this account of what takes place at Fort Monmouth is an idea which we commend to our readers.

The four-page coloured illustrated supplement showing what the N.A.A.F.I. can do for us is commended to everyone. Those happily stationed in England will get a second copy of this with their December WIRE. So will those stationed abroad, but it will not perhaps have quite the same value.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

"Military Telegraphist" (late "T" Company) writes to the Editor:

As one who has read THE WIRE consistently since about 1925, I feel that one matter in Colonel Monteith's letter, published in the October number, deserves support amongst a great deal of constructive criticism. He speaks strongly about the Editorial, which he describes as a mouthpiece through which we as a Corps can express our thoughts.

Now, Mr. Editor, surely this is a suggestion of real merit.

Perhaps it does not lie in your hands, but surely 12 times a year the Signals Directorate at the War Office must have some item of information or some matter of interest which they want to put over.

It is not a great matter, and perhaps even 12 times a year is too much. Surely, however, in alternate numbers six times a year there should be something of real interest, some matter of which Royal Signals wish to inform all members of the Corps, some matter of pride to be recorded.

Whose job it is to produce this I do not know, but let somebody comply with Colonel Monteith's most excellent suggestion.

THE WIRE is privileged to republish the following article from SIGNAL, the Journal of the Armed Forces Communications Association of the United States of America.

Communications during "MIKI"

By **Colonel F. C. BOWEN**
Signal Communications Officer, Invasion Force, Exercise Miki

Hawaii Invasion

On the morning of 25 October, 1949, troops of the Invasion Force landed on the shores of Oahu in joint maneuver exercise MIKI *to retake the Islands from a mythical enemy, the Aggressor, who had theoretically captured the Islands.*

EXERCISE MIKI was the major joint service maneuver in the Pacific for the fiscal year 1950. The code name MIKI was significant. It is a Hawaiian word which means "Diligence; readiness."

The maneuver was designed to provide training to all units and personnel involved in the conduct or support of the amphibious exercise, to provide training to the commanders and staffs of higher echelons in the planning and execution of joint amphibious operations, to test current procedures for such operations, and to train defense forces in the Hawaiian area.

The maneuver was under the command of the commanding general, Sixth Army, who established a joint headquarters at Ft. Winfield Scott, San Francisco, California, to exercise control over the operations. The staff was truly a joint staff and was composed of personnel of the Army, the Navy, and the Marine Corps.

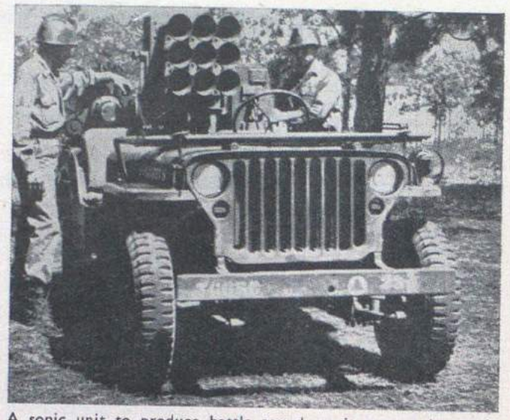
The maneuver commander, General Mark Clark, exercised control over both the invasion force and the defense force. The invasion force, commanded by Vice Admiral Bogan, commander First Task Fleet, was composed of the naval force, commanded by Rear Admiral B. J. Rodgers, of 22,000 bluejackets and about 100 ships of all types, and the Army force of 15,000 troops of the 2nd (Indianhead) Infantry Division and attached troops commanded by Major General Harry J. Collins.

Realism Stressed

The naval force was organized in accordance with normal Naval operation and included a number of tactical commanders and their forces among whom Rear Admiral Fischler, who acted both as commander, Amphibious Forces and commander, Amphibious Group One, exercised particularly important command during the maneuver.

Much realism was added to the maneuver by the use of the Aggressor Forces as the defense forces. The Aggressor Force has been created as a maneuver training aid and has been built around a mythical enemy nation which has made a series of attacks on this nation since World War II in California, Florida, Tennessee, Kentucky, the Caribbean, and North Carolina.

The Fifth Regiment, stationed at Schofield Barracks, Oahu, and attached forces acted as the Aggressor Forces.



A sonic unit to produce battle sounds as it appears in use in field. Completely portable, it is powered by a PE-75 generator

They wore the special green uniforms and insignia of the mythical Aggressor Forces. Modern training aids were at their disposal.

Battle experienced veterans of the invasion force instinctively "hit the dirt" when sudden very realistic sounds of rifle, machine gun, mortar, and artillery fire burst out near them and the air reverberated with the shriek of ricocheting shells, and smoke appeared all around them.

Smoke shells, sound recorders and powerful loudspeakers under the control of umpires have made possible such touches of realism and do much to add interest to modern maneuvers. Electronic technicians are thus becoming a very important part of present umpire teams.

Communications always play a very vital part in an amphibious operation or exercise, particularly radio and visual communications. Amphibious operations against a strongly held beach are highly complex and require a very high degree of advance detail planning, coordination, and control. Invading troops are usually concentrated into relatively small areas in the initial beachheads. Close coordination of land, sea, and air forces is urgent. All the tremendous fire power of naval gunfire, artillery and aircraft must be carefully integrated and rigidly controlled. Lanes must be cleared of artillery and naval gunfire before support aircraft can make their strikes. It is not a pretty sight to see your own planes unknowingly fly into high trajectory artillery fire and be shot down by your own fire.

Men, equipment, and supplies must be pushed ashore as rapidly as possible and the continually changing needs of battle constantly require the delivery on the beach of certain units, equipment, or supplies. Men unloading boats on the beaches are working under tremendous pressure and, to protect them from unnecessary congestion and loss along the beaches, boats with their men and cargo are held at sea until called for at the beach.

An enormous amount of operational communications are required for this control. Wire communications are not available between all of these units afloat and to the beaches and radio and visual means must be employed. Because of the great mass of operational and logistics traffic, which requires immediate action when security is of secondary importance, a vast number of voice radio equipments are used.

Staff Planning

The use of such a vast amount of communication equipment, particularly radio equipment, requires an unusual amount of careful and detailed staff planning. Rarely are there enough frequencies available to meet requirements. Also there are the usual problems of assigning frequencies of suitable propagation characteristics which are within the range of unit radio equipment. Where necessary, special teams and equipment must be provided and trained to meet the requirements which are abnormal to usual operations.

Since men, equipment and supplies in an amphibious operation normally move ashore from ships in relatively small boats, amphibious vehicles, and vessels, all units must carefully plan in detail the organization of their men and equipment to fulfill their mission on the beach, and to so schedule their assignment to boats and amphibious vehicles, that they will arrive at the beach completely equipped at the time they are required. Men and their equipment must be kept together wherever possible so that they will not be separated on the beaches. The loading of supplies and equipment at the port must be so planned that those supplies and equipment that will be needed first will be immediately available in the upper holds of the ships when unloading at the objective starts.

Teletype Circuit

The basic communication plans were issued by the headquarters of the maneuver commander who established the basic policies and allocated available frequencies to the invasion force and defense force in accordance with the needs of each. Within the invasion force, the communication annexes of both the operation order and maneuver control order of each of the major commanders included those directives and detailed plans necessary for the coordination and control of immediate subordinate commanders and responsibility for other communications plans was delegated to the appropriate subordinate commander.

In order to overcome the handicap of great distance that separated the participating forces during the planning phases of the maneuver, the chief signal officer provided a direct conference tele-typewriter circuit between the headquarters landing force located at Ft. Lewis, Washington, the headquarters, maneuver commander, Ft. Winfield Scott, San Francisco, California, and the staffs of the major naval commanders who were located at San Diego, California.

Pre-exercise Training

This direct circuit carried a heavy volume of traffic and enabled many important decisions to be reached immediately as a result of the teletype conferences. When ships of any of the naval commanders were at sea on training cruises, traffic for the direct tele-typewriter circuit was relayed between ship and shore by the communication office of the Eleventh Naval District at San Diego, California.

Specialized training in amphibious communications for the 2nd Infantry Division and attached troops was provided, first, by the training of a few key officers at the amphibious training command, Coronado, California, and second, by the U.S. Marine troop training unit that went to Ft. Lewis and conducted intensive training exercises between the period of 15 August—15 September, 1949. Much of the success of the landing force communications during the actual landing exercise is due to the excellent and thorough training given the troops by the communications section of this troop training unit. The training included both instruction and practical field exercises. Both officers and men were capable and enthusiastic and conducted effective training. Upon completion of the training period, they were assigned to the landing force as operational personnel until the termination of the maneuver.

The internal organization and training of ships communication personnel was carried out by each ship individually. Where necessary, ships communication divisions were augmented and trained in preparation for special missions to be performed during the maneuver.

Final combined and joint training was effected during rehearsal landing exercises along the coast of California near San Diego just prior to sailing for Hawaii. These rehearsals lasted for several days and gave all forces realistic training under actual conditions. Troops, boat crews, and control vessels were given experience in the ship to shore movement by landings on the Silver Strand at Coronado, California, in which personnel and light portable equipment only were landed. This training plus the training of naval gunfire and air support units and their control units was continued by exercises at San Clemente Island off the coast of Southern California.

Live Ammo Used

Live ammunition was used in the exercises at San Clemente. Training was completed by full scale landing exercises at Oceanside, California. Naval vessels established and operated communications circuits normal to such operations and troops carried tactical communication equipment ashore and established their communication circuits. Such training was of great value to all units but particularly to personnel of the landing force since it gave them actual experience in landing across the beaches and establishing communications along beaches.

Convoy Training En Route

The main body of the invasion force sailed from San Diego, California, on 15 October and was at sea for ten days enroute to the objective. The route and speed of advance had been planned so as to provide all elements of the naval forces the maximum amount of training. Ships received training in convoy maneuvers and screening, in anti-submarine warfare and air defense, and both submarines and air elements received the maximum amount of training. Short range radio and visual communications both played an important part in these operations. In order to maintain radio silence, maximum use was made of visual communications both signal lights and flag hoist.

The use of communication relay planes was one item of particular interest during the overseas movement. Since the carrier forces were normally out of VHF range of the transport group, some means was needed for relaying traffic. This was provided by aircraft which were maintained on station in the air between forces to act as communication intercept and relay stations. Considerable traffic was relayed in this manner.

Radio Teletype Stressed

Exercise MIKI emphasized the increasing use of radio teletypewriter. Three nontactical administrative radio teletype circuits between the forces afloat and radio San Francisco were maintained throughout the operation. These radio circuits carried all administrative traffic and press copy. A radio teletype was also maintained during the overseas movement between the headquarters chief umpire and the senior naval umpire afloat. These radio teletype circuits enabled forces to handle the maximum amount of traffic without the need for high speed code operators.

As the invasion force approached the Hawaiian Islands, air and air control and communication personnel were engaged in air defense training and activities as the invasion force was subjected to air attacks of the Hawaiian National Guard who were acting as the Aggressor Air Force. Normal naval and air communications were used for this purpose.

The troops of the landing force landed on the Waianai beaches on the west coast of Hawaii on the morning of 25 October. Careful plans had been made to land on three beaches known as Blue Beach, Green Beach, and Yellow Beach with the main effort and logistic support to be made across Yellow Beach. Unfortunately, "Old Man Neptune" had not given his approval to the plans and kicked up a high surf with waves of eight to ten feet high on Blue and Yellow Beaches.

Landings across these beaches were discontinued across both Blue and Yellow Beaches after the first few waves had landed. That required a complete rescheduling of remaining waves and unloading of men and equipment during



Communications center on beach after landing during exercse "Miki"

the critical ship-shore movement with many men and their equipment already in boats in the water. This change threw a sudden and heavy load on all communications channels. The rapidity with which these changes were effected, and the reorganization made, is in itself a tribute to the effectiveness of communications and the efficient hard work of communication personnel.

Myriad Equipments

Headquarters command ships are important control centers during amphibious assaults and use vast numbers of communication equipments, particularly radio equipments. A modern headquarters ship employs approximately 140 radio receivers and approximately 70 transmitters in addition to radar and electronic navigation equipment. One can readily realize the numerous difficult and complex technical problems involved in operating so much equipment in so restricted an area. Excellent technicians are required.

Shore party communications between beaches, from beach to combat units, and from beach to ship, are particularly important in an amphibious operation. These communications were provided by the 432nd Engineer Boat and Shore Regiment and by the naval beach battalion which was assigned to it. Advance teams established radio and visual communications with the ships and battalions and between beaches with lightweight portable equipment. As rapidly as possible wire lines were established between beaches. Wire lines to the battalions, and later to the regimental combat team headquarters, were also maintained at all times.

Vehicular Radio Ashore

As the beachhead expanded and conditions permitted, vehicular radio equipment was brought ashore to replace the lightweight hand-operated portable radio equipment. Shore party communication teams were well trained and communications between beaches were maintained throughout the exercise in spite of the change in landing plans. Excellent teamwork was maintained throughout by the personnel of the 532nd Engineer Boat and Shore Regiment and the naval beach battalion.

After the troops had landed and established themselves ashore, their communications were normal except for the shore party communications and for the air and naval gunfire control communications which are required for coordinating and controlling air support and naval gunfire. Communications for air support and naval gunfire were supplied by the marine air and naval gunfire liaison company. This company is composed of sufficient teams of Marine personnel and equipment to provide all necessary communications required of an infantry division for the coordination and control of air support and naval gunfire support.

Waterproofing Need

In order that radio communications could be rapidly established when required between the headquarters ship and the landing force headquarters, radio relay equipment for the shore terminal was installed in an amphibious truck (DUWK) and carried in an LST where it could be launched whenever called for. As a further safety measure, duplicate equipment was installed in a 2½-ton truck which was also available on call.

An amphibious exercise always presents to inexperienced troops strange problems in waterproofing communication equipment to protect it from water damage during the ship to shore movement. Spray and water splashed aboard is normally encountered on the way to the beach. Sometimes boats encounter underwater reefs and men and equipment have to move the rest of the way ashore across the reef.

In some cases, boats hit shallow shoals but deeper water is encountered between the shoal and the beach. In other cases, high surf engulfs equipment while being unloaded from landing craft. Men carrying portable equipment may slip and fall while moving ashore or be wet by heavy spray. In all such cases electronic equipment may be damaged and be inoperative at the time it is critically needed unless it is carefully protected against water. The troop training unit stressed waterproofing techniques throughout the training period and equipment was prepared for the landing.

A considerable number of the Army's famous 51st Signal Battalion participated in the maneuver. Although they were divided, and, in several cases, assigned to missions abnormal to their usual mission, personnel of the battalion turned in a very creditable performance. The major portion were assigned to provide communications for the defense force, another portion were assigned to the 532nd Boat and Shore Regiment to handle shore party communications, and the rest to the chief umpire.

Press Arrangements

Adequate provision is made for the press in either war or peace. In Exercise MIKI, press copy was transmitted from ship to Navy Radio San Fransico by radio teletype while enroute to Hawaii. Prior to the landing, the signal officer, U.S. Army Forces Pacific, in cooperation with the public information officer, established in a suitable building at the Wainai Rest Camp on the Wainai beach a teletypewriter station which was connected by cable wire lines to commercial facilities in Honolulu. Newsmen were therefore able to transmit their news copy direct from the beach. Naval forces also provided special landing craft as press boats which were available to newsmen to carry them between ships or between ship and shore as was required.

Umpire System Adds Load

Maneuver exercises require that a large system of umpire communications be superimposed on already loaded tactical communications. In Exercise MIKI, an efficient network of umpire communications was provided with an umpire communications center established in a suitable location not far from the Waianai Beach. A radio teletype circuit was maintained between Oahu and the senior naval umpire afloat from the time the invasion force left San Diego until the exercise was completed. Umpire communications between Naval elements was provided by the ships.

When landing force units and their umpires landed at Hawaii, vehicular mounted VHF equipments and drivers were waiting for each umpire. Preplanned VHF radio nets for umpire control of all units were maintained throughout the landing exercise. The rapidity with which readjustments were made after landing plans were changed and umpires and equipment were brought together is in itself evidence of the successful operation of the communication system. This VHF radio net was further backed up by a combination field wire and underground cable system that was installed prior to the landing, using existing underground cables where available.

Novel System for Umpires

A novel but efficient system of communications was provided for umpire marking of naval gunfire. Two VHF radio nets were provided and assigned to the firing ships so that half of them would be on a frequency. The maneuver area was divided into small sectors with an umpire team assigned to that sector to mark naval gunfires in that sector. Each umpire team guarded both circuits and acknowledged transmissions for fires in his assigned territory and marked them regardless of what ship they originated from. That system proved far superior to having one team assigned to a particular ship since it eliminated the necessity for the umpires to move rapidly about over a large area as naval gunfires shifted and each umpire could be better familiar with his sector and the troops in it.

The joint amphibious force communication umpire and chief naval communication umpire in addition to directing the activities of communications observers for the maneuver, observed tactical communications and watched for any misuse or lack of proper utilization of communication facilities in order that the matter could be brought to the attention of responsible commanders, if necessary, so that maximum benefits could be obtained from the maneuver.

The astonishingly successful landing at Inchon during the war in Korea may well have been in some part due to the lessons learned and practice obtained in these exercises. Certainly there is much to remind us in Royal Signals of the technique of the assault landing, which we in our limited scope are unable to practise with such realism in peace-time.

SERGEANT C. D. BEALE

Army (Egypt) and Inter-Services (Egypt) Swimming Champion, 1950

WITH the news of his outstanding achievements still fresh in our minds, we feel that this is an appropriate moment to introduce readers to one of the most promising swimming personalities the Corps has yet produced—22-year-old Sergeant C. D. Beale, of 3 G.H.Q. Signal Regiment, Fayid, in the Canal Zone.

Competing in the 1950 Inter-Services (Egypt) Championships, which were held in the recently constructed swimming pool at Fayid at the beginning of September, Sergeant Beale gained the triple crown by winning the 880, 440 and 220 yards freestyle races without any apparent effort. This in itself was a notable achievement, but his times for the first two races were even more significant. In the 880 yards freestyle he broke the Army record of 12 minutes 35 seconds by 48 seconds, and in the 440 yards freestyle his time of 5 minutes 34 seconds broke the Army record by 12 seconds. Both these times are unofficial since records are recognised only when the event takes place in the United Kingdom.

A brief summary of events in his swimming career will have to suffice. His first experience of competitive swimming was in 1946, when at the age of 19 he won the 220 yards and came in second in the 100 yards freestyle at the London District Aquatic Sports at Chelsea Baths. Next year he was posted to Fayid, where he continued to improve on style and stamina by competing successfully in both the Army and Inter-Services (Egypt) Swimming Championships. His best times in 1948 were 6 minutes 7 seconds for the 440 yards and 13 minutes 10 seconds for the 880 yards. In 1949 he broke the 880 yards Army record for the first time at the Inter-Services meeting, when he "crawled" the distance in 12 minutes 30 seconds—five seconds under the record. Incidentally, at the same meeting he foreshadowed his 1950 successes by taking first place in all three of "his races"—the 880, 440 and 220 yards freestyle. This year he has capped a record-breaking tour by gaining first place in all three of his races, not only in the Army Swimming Championships but also at the Inter-Services meeting. A double triple crown, in fact!

Without attempting a detailed analysis of his swimming style, it may be stated in general that the most significant feature of his long distance "crawl" action is the amazing power and steadiness of his leg movement, combined with the forceful underwater sweep of his arms. The whole movement of arms and legs is perfectly co-ordinated, and throughout the 12 odd minutes of his 880 yards swimming time the propeller-like thresh of his leg beats never appears to flag for an instant, except while turning. Much has been said in preceding paragraphs of his prowess in the sphere of medium distance swimming. To correct the obvious inference, we should record that quite recently he accomplished the 100 yards freestyle in 58 seconds—a timing which, though not quite up to record-breaking standard, is nevertheless quite fast enough for us to hope that one day, when he is not too busy, he might give it a little of his attention . . . ? It should also be noted in passing that he has played consistently for the Regimental water polo team, and that his speed and "fire power" contributed largely to the Regiment's success in winning the Canal South Water Polo Shield in 1949.

In June this year Sergeant Beale set the fashion by swimming the Great Bitter Lake at its widest point (a distance of approximately seven miles) for the first time on record. He regarded his attempt more as an experiment in long distance swimming than a determined effort to establish a new record, but the event achieved such prominence in the Egyptian Press that hopeful aspirants to fame were toiling across the lake for weeks afterwards, trying to break his "record" of five hours eight minutes. In point of fact he was considerably hampered by the inefficiency of his goggles and consequent "salt-sore" eyes. This factor forced him to abandon his normal "crawl" for the slower back and breast strokes, which undoubtedly reduced his speed.

So much then for his achievements; now a brief word about the man himself. Not from his conversation or his physique would the casual observer discern that this quiet-mannered, reserved and almost slenderly-built soldier was, in fact, the graceful swimmer who had dominated Middle East aquatic meetings for the last two years. He is extremely sensitive about the publicity of his achievements and it is probable this modesty, even more than his swimming ability, that assures for him a popularity in his own Mess only equalled among the widening circle of his swimming fans of all three Services, in the Canal Zone.



Sergeant Beale being congratulated by Major-General W. O. Bowen, C.B., C.B.E., Chief Signal Officer, M.E.L.F., on completion of his swim across the Great Bitter Lake



RADIO DEVELOPMENT FOR THE IDLE...

By **PETER FREEMAN**

WE were in the Adriatic—What? I *know;* all the best war stories begin so. It is a device meant to capture roving attentions with the intriguing questions: "why?" and "when?" Old enough to be treated with more respect—I agree; but at any rate it has caught you, hasn't it? So let it rest.

The Commandos were given the job, in the winter months of the year, of keeping the Germans in Yugoslavia on tenterhooks. We landed on the only island in southern Dalmatia which they hadn't occupied and spent there six or seven months which were full of interest; until, that is, it became too organised. . . . And that organising! How like the Army it was in its timing and quantity! When, at the beginning, there was a German Jaeger Division running spare near Split on the coast just opposite and there were 250 of us and a thousand badly equipped Partisans on the 140 square miles of Vis, it was only the winter storms and a couple of Mosquitos which kept us the island.

It is true that some of the good landing beaches had been mined by the Partisans, and in fact we used to avoid them from sheer habit; but when somebody stepped on one by mistake we realised that they could scarcely be considered as of more than morale value. The mine did not go off because it lacked a detonator. . . . It was nobody's fault; they were captured Italian booty of the early days—and very unluckily the truck had not contained that essential part of the works. Still, they looked nice so they were laid anyway. Together with the high seas, the periodical moon and the current rumours of our vast strength, they were at that time our only defence. Fortunately, the other three needed no ally.

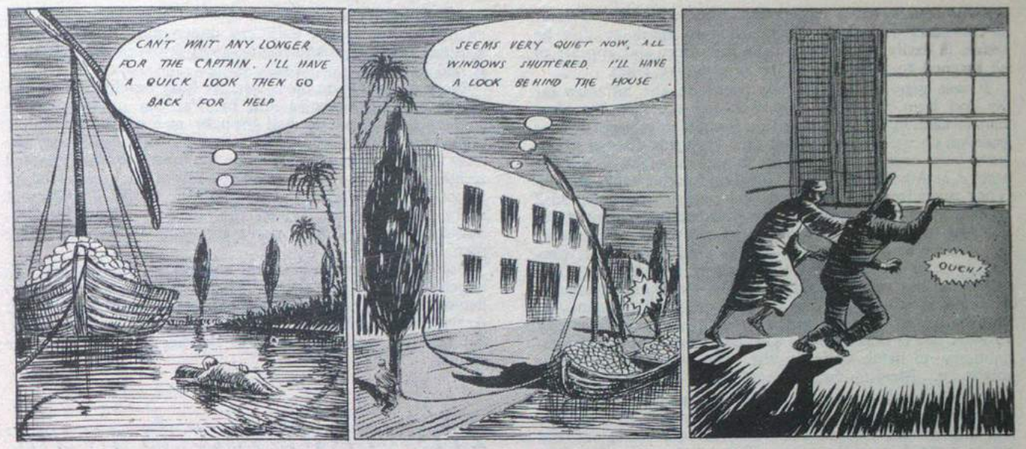
Later on, a good bit later on, when for one reason and another Jerry needed all his lads—and more—inland, we were showered with garrison troops and A.A. and 25-pounders and—and yes, we were given a headquarters. There was even the odd destroyer just over the horizon. Luckily, I was wounded in the last decent operation we did from there and so was spared the final futile months.

There's lots to tell of course—we all have stories by the score if anyone would listen to us—but with only half an hour and a train to catch I'll leave the rest till later and tell you simply how Frequency Modulation found its sea-legs among us and became a respected weapon of war.

There were some Americans of the Office Strategic Services with us: great chaps, mostly of Slav extraction—I still write to two of them—put there so that we could learn something of each other, and to give the whole affair a sort of international aspect. We took our communication problems to their very imaginative supply people back in Bari, Italy. Yes, we had problems too!

You see, we had our cloak and dagger sets of various types for the long distances—Yugoslavia to Italy and to Cairo—but the inter-island gaps, which ranged from 15 miles up to 90 or 100 to some parts of the coastline, were mainly in the skip dead-space—particularly at night, when our chaps on the occupied island wanted to send back their information. What was worse, the German D/F thereabouts was frighteningly good. Almost any time, out on one of "their" islands, about an hour after sending a message you could hear the soldiers beating the hillside for you. It was embarrassing sometimes. . . . It seemed that about two square miles was the smallest area they could confine the search in and that gave plenty of time to get away—providing they didn't start with your particular nesting ground. Still, it took some of the joy out of life and it meant that the messages had to be scrappy and brief—sent in complicated code that always went wrong. It goes without saying too that supplementary questions from either end were impossible. The maximum transmission time I could allow was two minutes and the same crystal frequency was never used twice. Plainly we wanted something a lot better, and to think of that something would need imagination.

Our friends in Bari slept on it, and made a few signals back to Washington. Finally they told us of a set, the SCR 200, which was hot from the factories. So far it had only been lab-tested; it was so wide and so high and it weighed such and such—and it was designed to be pack-carried. Back home in the States they wanted some good field reports on it anyway, and though nobody seemed to know what it would do on a dark night 40 miles from home, we could have half a dozen flown over if we wanted them.



Well, you know what the answer to that was: I have never seen a Signaller yet who didn't crave some new equipment to play with.

The sets came. They were about as big as a No. 18, but very *chic*. Naturally, being American, they were waterproof and rubber-mounted and expensively sealed away in a nice looking case. Perhaps you have the same reaction: whenever I unpack their equipment I half expect to find a carton of "Lucky's" and some candy tucked away, or at least a cellophane wrapper with a blue ribbon tied around it. Everything is so nice! It is almost as though they wanted to sell you the stuff.

But stop! This is digression. What I should indulge in now is a précis of the expensively bound handbook which came with each radio. Luckily I know that you are about as anxious to read a description of the SCR 200 as I am to write it. Suffice it to say that it was frequency modulated and therein, at that time, unique.

Well, we fitted the batteries in that leisurely way people adopt who are really excited and in a great hurry and I sent a man trotting up the mountain side from the fishing village to act as an outstation. It was beautiful: no atmospherics, no fading—for two miles. Then he crossed the skyline—and straightaway a deathly 'ush smote our sensitive ears.

Nothing much had been proved so far, we knew—except that the sets would'nt be any good for beach assaults or ordinary ground work—and we had no right to be dismayed. After all, the frequency they worked on was very high and the theory is quite clear on such things: the radiation travels out in straight lines and just can't be tempted to go round corners no matter how gentle they are. But still, it was disappointing; we had hoped, illogically, for such great things.

At any rate the next test, the real one for our purpose, had to be over good wide open spaces and, of course, there is nothing wider or more open than the sea. You must know that a normal part of our activities on dull nights was to go in parties of two or three aboard one of the half-dozen naval gun-boats (based on the island) which was going out.

This was the authentic Drake touch: three was just right for a boarding party and our nights without sleep up in the northern archipelago or skulking off Sibenik for coastal convoys were well rewarded.

The obvious way to put our new toy to the test was to place a roving set on a gunboat and map distances back to base from the chart. Sea conservatism hampered us a little. It is a well established principle in any navy that wireless silence is made to be kept. On land, offending operators often don't see the results of their carelessness; even if the odd enemy plane does come over it is difficult to see what it has to do with that short message about the spare batteries. . . . And in any case there is usually a ditch to fall into. In a ship it is different. There, there is no trouble in appreciating the full flavour of cause and effect. Your "Sparks"—and every man with him aboard—knows the naked feeling which a Messerschmidt off the port bow creates. In closed waters this danger is especially acute and consequently faces which dropped for nothing else (so far as I know) lengthened pathetically when I first made my request. However, after some patient explanations of the properties of Frequency Modulation and in particular a shamelessly flat statement that an FM set was impossible to intercept (for necessity has no conscience) we won permission to transmit—"broadcast" was the word the Lieutenant Commander used—from a lone gunboat. It cut my soul to see his resigned face—which showed plainly that inwardly he was regretting sending so many lads to their death—but what would you? It would be time enough for scruples when the test was safely over.

As we slipped out of the bay I found that I was hoping for 30 miles, but not too optimistically! After all, with a set the size of that useless No. 18, having an aerial power, according to the Americans, no greater, five miles over open seas was more likely to be the limit. Five miles with a shout—and lucky to get it. . . . Only my faith in naval infallibility, then, kept my credulity alive as 35, 40, 50 miles slipped past and that friendly Irish voice on the distant mountainside still broke through the quiet hiss of the phone. The SCR 200 uses an ordinary G.P.O.-type handset and you may believe me or not, but at 45 miles we could easily have been making a good toll call! It was the signaller's dream; to taste the full joy of it, as we did, you must remember what conditions are ordinarily like on the air at midnight or two in the morning. How a thousand rival stations, squabbling in their common blanket of atmospherics like querulous children, assault the ears—so that reasonable men in the lonely silence of their Command vehicle or gin-palace sometimes begin to fear for their sanity after two hours of straining watch on an impossible wavelength.

Of this, on a frequency modulated set, there is none. Stations, crackle, "sea noises," background—all vanish, and are replaced by a subdued, comforting hiss—which seems to be there simply to prove that the apparatus is alive. Even

this disappears, like a tactful chaperone, when the operator at the other end presses his switch to speak so that he comes in easily, unjostled, so say his piece; and appears to be listened to, courteously, by an attentive ether.

It was good to tell the two chaps on the hill how far we had been, when we landed at five the next morning. Native caution had restrained us from even whispering our position on the air and for all they knew the D-boat might have been cruising just off the island all night. Distance tests *à la* Adriatic are never any fun for the home station. They must freeze on an exposed mountain top from dusk to dawn, with no movement or incidental excitement for compensation; nothing but the brief call which might come in 15 minutes or 40—or not at all. And then, what wireless operator doesn't know the strain of listening, after the outstation has passed out of range, to —nothing; the agony of deciding whether or not to go slightly off frequency in case he has drifted; the hurried search, and the dash back to what one is never sure is the right spot—despite all precautions—to listen again for the voice that isn't there but might be. Mercury himself could find no fun in that!

Fifty-five miles was our outside limit that night: 45 miles with "no trouble at all." But even so it was only the beginning. We had worked from sea level at one end up to 1,500 feet at the other. Later it became clear that the golden rule was "the higher the further." The Dalmatian islands and coastal area were specially laid out by a benevolent god for us with our SCR 200s. The islands all run parallel to the coast and to the mountain range which runs down it; they are indeed merely the partially sunken outside ridges of the series. Looking in to land from our, the outside island, one sees a magnificent vista: each line of mountains is higher than the one before it, so that from Vis, the lowest part, it is possible to see every mountain ridge as far inland as the snow-capped peaks of Bosnia. Naturally then, no matter what island or part of the mainland he was "observing," an observer had only to wait until the early hours of the morning—worst communication time of all for less fortunate men—climb the highest point in his vicinity, and find there clear air and good speech between himself and base. Under these conditions of greater height and complete freedom from screening the results became astonishing. The record when I left was 75 miles—and "strength four, interference nil"!

By virtue of its very directional character—which it shares with all ultra-high frequency transmitters whether frequency modulated or not—the SCR 200 is generally quite safe from interception or D/F-ing, even by an enemy who knows you are using it; providing you take the simple precaution of having a good chunk of mountain—or at least a house—between yourself and the nearest loop aerial you are unlikely to be disturbed. In point of fact it is certain that the Germans had no apparatus capable of picking us up. Certainly, for one reason or the other, or both, we enjoyed complete privacy in our nocturnal conversations from then on. How much more convenient it was too, to use everyday speech, free from all the bother of codes or R/T procedure; liberated above all from the tyrannical restriction of the morse key. I have not the gift of swinging out a graceful 30 words per minute; nor, what is more, had my very miscellaneous signallers. We could all say very much more in two minutes than we could tap! Besides, after a thousand yards of climbing in the complete darkness, with the odd cliff to scale, one was rarely in the mood to achieve that easy rhythm so essential to good W/T. So we thought the SCR 200 all the better for being Morseless.

"Laying on" an operation from then on lost its sting of uncertainty. Instead of cryptic messages about codes and tides and patrol strengths, which had been virtually one-way (for it took some time to encode a question and meantime the fellows who were on the "other man's territory" wanted badly to up sticks and away)—in place of this unsatisfying half-information we could, and did thereafter, have the free-est interchange of intelligence and mutual interrogation between advance parties and the main body, so that sliding into a dark bay under starlit cliffs became a much less sinister and frighteningly irrevocable affair than it had once seemed—at least to me.

No wonder that on those stealthy busy beaches, where the officer and his signaller and his Partisan guide met the soldiers their messages had brought, and where discomfort reaped its compensation in the fruition of a plan, that the sleek olive-drab cases came to be the most carefully handled freight; prized by the signallers—whom they absolved of most of the anxieties and discomforts which signallers of every sort are prone to; by the Colonel—whom they relieved of anxieties of a graver sort—and by all discerning men in between.

For by really solving a field communication problem (in which success it must surely be almost unique) the SCR 200 demonstrated conclusively that Signals are the nerves of the Army; for here, where for once they were in a state of health, morale—that subtle pulse—was steadier than I have ever seen it.

Historical Jewels in the Coronation Regalia

By **Yeoman Warder G. A. E. GAVEY,**
late Captain, Royal Signals

BOTH romance and history are attached to some of the more important stones that adorn three of the Royal treasures of the Regalia.

As already explained in the Imperial State Crown a visitor to the Jewel House can see the following historical gems: the Black Prince's Ruby, St. Edward's Sapphire, the Stuart Sapphire, Queen Elizabeth's Earrings, the Second Star of Africa.

Then in H.M. Queen Elizabeth's Crown we can see the famous Koh-i-noor diamond.

The Great Star of Africa will be found in the Royal Sceptre.

This article is written so that readers can have more detail of the above-mentioned historical stones.

(a) *The Black Prince's Ruby*

This stone is not really a ruby at all, but a spinel. It is a stone of great antiquity. In 1367 Don Pedro the Cruel King of Castille, murdered the King of Granada for the sake of his jewels which included this stone. At the battle of Najera in the year 1367, an English army under the Black Prince gave valuable assistance to Don Pedro who gave the stone to the Black Prince on the battlefield. In this manner it became part of the English Crown Jewels.

At Agincourt in 1415 Henry V wore this ruby in his helmet, and in single combat with the Duc d'Alençon, a shrewd blow narrowly missed it.

The stone disappeared with the rest of the Crown Jewels at the time of the Commonwealth, but on the Restoration was recovered and placed in the front of the King's State Crown. It was stolen by one of Colonel Blood's accomplices in 1671, but was found in his pocket after his arrest.

Since then it has been given the place of honour in the front of the State Crown of each successive Sovereign. The stone is polished but uncut as was customary in the Middle Ages. It is pierced in front in Oriental fashion and the hole has been filled with a small ruby.

The Black Prince's Ruby was once valued at £110,000, but the ordinary rules of valuation break down when applied to great stones of rare size with a long history attached to them, whereby values are greatly enhanced.

What is the value of our Crown Jewels? This is a question that is asked every day by visitors to the Jewel House. It is a question which is impossible to answer, but it is safe to say that our Regalia and Crown Jewels are priceless. Experts have given their opinion on the value of certain stones but the reader is asked to remember that many precious stones have increased in value since they were introduced into the Regalia while others, such as amethysts and rose-cut diamonds have lost much of their former value.

(b) *St. Edward's Sapphire*

In the centre of the cross surmounting the State Crown is a beautiful rose-cut sapphire. According to tradition it is the very same sapphire that was set in St. Edward's Ring, and has the traditional virtue of curing cramp. The ring was found in the Confessor's tomb. How it escaped during the ravages of the Commonwealth is unknown but it was evidently recut at the time of Charles II.

Edward the Confessor wore the ring at his coronation in 1042. It was buried with that King and was exhumed in 1101.

(c) *The Stuart Sapphire*

At the back of the circlet of the Imperial Crown of State is a large sapphire which was formerly in the position now occupied by the second Star of Africa. This stone was probably in the possession of Charles II, and was taken with the other Royal Jewels to France by James II when he fled the country. It became a Stuart heirloom, and was eventually inherited by Cardinal York who left it to George III. The sapphire is of good colour though slightly flawed. It is oval and about 1½ inches by 1 inch. Although it does not find a place among the first rank of sapphires in the world, it is undoubtedly a fine stone.

(d) *Queen Elizabeth's Earrings*

Hanging from the arches of the Imperial Crown of State are four large pear-shaped pearls which by tradition were considered to be the earrings of Queen Elizabeth. They were said to have been given to her by Mary Queen of Scots who received them from Catherine de Medici.

These precious pearls were placed in the Imperial Crown of State by the orders of King Edward VII.

(e) *The Second Star of Africa*

Beneath the Black Prince's Ruby in the circlet of the Imperial Crown of State will be seen a very beautiful stone cut from the Cullinan diamond. It is oblong in shape and weighs 309 3/16 carats and is the second largest cut diamond in existence.

(f) *The Koh-i-Noor Diamond*

This is probably the greatest historical stone in existence and there are many legends attached to this stone. One legend gives it an obscure history going back some 5,000 years, but there is nothing definite on record relating to the stone before the year 1526.

This precious stone is said to have caused numerous casualties among male owners in ancient days and traditionally this jewel is supposed to bring misfortune to any man who wears it. For this reason it is now worn only by the Queen Regnant or Queen Consort. It was found in the diamond fields of Golconda in Southern India.

By trickery the Persian Conqueror Nadir Shah gained possession of it from the defeated Mogul Emperor Mohammed.

About to return to his own country Nadir Shah held a great ceremony at which he reinstated the Emperor Mohammed.

Nadir Shah had the secret hiding place of this famous jewel betrayed to him—this was that the vanquished Emperor kept it hidden in his turban.

As a token of reconciliation and in order to cement the friendship they had sworn for each other, Nadir asked the Emperor to exchange turbans and immediately followed this by removing his own headdress. With no time to remove the hidden stone and knowing that a refusal would mean death, the Emperor complied and the exchange was made.

The Emperor so controlled his feelings and responded to the invitation with such apparent indifference, that Nadir thought he had been misled.

When the latter had an opportunity of withdrawing to his tent he greedily unfolded the turban and the long coveted stone was revealed.

"Koh-i-noor!" he exclaimed with rapture, and to this day this name, which means "Mountain of Light," has been attached to the stone.

Although Nadir's feeble son was blinded by his enemies who coveted the stone he never revealed its hiding place until he concluded an alliance just before he died with Ahmed Shah, the founder of the Durani Afghan Dynasty, and in exchange gave up the stone.

It then passed to Taimur, Ahmed's son and on to Zaman, the former's son. Zaman also was blinded and deposed by his brother Shuja. It came Shuja's turn to be deposed and blinded and he was sent into exile with his brother Zaman. The great diamond, however, was still in his possession, it then fell into the hands of Runjit Singh, the Lion of the Punjab, who had extorted all the brothers' possessions, including the Koh-i-noor.

In 1849 following the mutiny of two Sikh Regiments the East India Company took possession of the Treasury at Lahore and the great stone was handed to Sir John Lawrence who became responsible for its safe keeping.

The East India Company decided to present it to Queen Victoria, and in 1850 it arrived in England.

The decision was taken to cut the stone as a brilliant, which considerably altered its shape and size.

There was much controversy as to the wisdom of this step for it was argued that in its original state it was the historical Koh-i-noor, and that now it has been reduced in size from 186 to 106 carats.

As already explained the Koh-i-noor now rests in front of the circlet of Queen Elizabeth's Crown and on great occasions it can be taken from the crown and worn by the Queen, or if necessary the arches can be removed and the circlet including the Koh-i-noor can be worn as a tiara as was done quite recently.

(g) *The Cullinan Diamond*

This great stone was named after Sir T. M. Cullinan, Chairman of the Premier Diamond Company, as it was in this mine that the stone was discovered by Captain M. F. Wells on 26th January, 1905.

It weighed 621.2 grammes or 3,025 carats, which is about 1½ pounds. The enormous size of the stone caused considerable stir for it was unique in that it was more than twice the size of any stone yet discovered.

The discovery coincided with the healing of the wounds of the South African War and at this time two famous leaders—Generals Botha and Smuts, were in power. Both leaders were at the time working hard to obtain the co-operation of all and to work with the British in building up the Union of South Africa.

With a magnificent gesture they persuaded the Transvaal Government to purchase the stone and to present it to King Edward VII on his birthday, 9th November, 1907, with a message that they hoped that this great stone, representing a greater South Africa, would become one of the Brightest Jewels in the British Crown. The price paid was £150,000.

In order to fool any would-be attempts to steal the great diamond during the journey to England, it was decided to despatch it by ordinary parcels' post while as a blind a dummy stone, carefully sealed, was placed in the captain's safe on the steamer and was assiduously guarded by detectives.

The stone arrived safely in England and was duly presented to the King on his birthday.

By the King's command the stone was placed beside the Imperial Crown and photographed. After careful deliberation King Edward decided to entrust the cutting of the stone to Messrs. I. J. Assher, of Amsterdam.

(*Continued on page 435*)

Signal Corps Tradition Center

At Fort Monmouth memorials are being erected to Signal Corps personnel who lost their lives in their country's service

THE WIRE is privileged to reprint the following extract from an article in "Signal," the Journal of the Armed Forces Communications Association of the United States of America, and does so because it is possible that it may contain an idea for our own use. Catterick has been the home of Royal Signals for many years now, but there are few, if any, marks by which it may be known as such. With the commencement of the Royal Signals Institution it is possible that something on the lines of the Tradition Committee of the Signal Corps may well form part of our peacetime organisation with gradually the renaming of barracks, roads, etc., to accord with our own private traditions.

THE Signal Corps Training Committee has inaugurated an intensive program which by the fall of 1950 will result in the dedication of individual permanent memorials along tree-lined Memorial Drive at Signal Corps Center, Fort Monmouth, N.J., for approximately 150 Signal Corps war dead of World War II.

Approximately 70 of these individual memorials have been installed and dedicated to officers and men of the Signal Corps in the first year's operation of the tradition committee. In addition, several bronze plaques and markers have been installed in parks, buildings, etc., to formally memorialize other officers and men of the Signal Corps who lost their lives in the service of their country.

For Better Appreciation

As its major aim, the tradition committee, headed by Colonel Terence J. Tully, President of the Signal Corps Board at Fort Monmouth, plans to develop Fort Monmouth, home of the Signal Corps, as the center of Signal Corps tradition. This tradition to be based upon a better appreciation by all signalmen—especially those at Fort Monmouth—of the achievements and accomplishments of Signal Corps units and individuals in the interest of national defense over the years.

The park at the main entrance to Fort Monmouth has been dedicated Myer Park in memory of Brigadier General Albert Myer, first Chief Signal Officer of the United States Army; the main parade ground is now Greely Field, named for Major General Adolphus W. Greely; the Officers' Club was renamed Gibbs Hall for Major General George S. Gibbs; and the BOQ Mess, Building 270, renamed Scriven Hall for Brigadier General George P. Scriven, all former chief Signal officers.

The tradition committee is presently developing a list of names of enlisted men to be used in connection with naming the permanent barracks on the post. Eventually each permanent building at Fort Monmouth will be named in honor of a Signal Corps unit or individual.

Funds for the markers, plaques, etc., to date have come primarily from voluntary contributions by military and civilian personnel of the post. Other memorials have been sponsored by military and civilian personnel stationed elsewhere.

Project Lauded

When the permanent marker for Myer Park, where flags of the 59 United Nations fly on special occasions and holidays, was dedicated, representatives of the United Veterans Signal Corps Association of the Spanish War Division participated. Later, this organization will sponsor a marble memorial monument to be installed at Fort Monmouth during early 1950 in a park site to be dedicated to the Signalmen of the Spanish American War era. The park site will be directly opposite Squier Signal Laboratory. Funds for the monument are being donated by the Spanish-American War Veterans.

Next of kin of many of the fallen signalmen commemorated in the dedications have attended the ceremonies,



Temporary marker in park at Fort Monmouth

as guests of the tradition committee, and have been high in their praise of the memorial project.

Major General Francis H. Lanahan, commanding general of Fort Monmouth, has participated in many of the ceremonies and has given his full support to the program. Lt. Colonel Helmer is directly in charge of the procurement and installation of memorials.

Contributions from individual officers, enlisted men, and civilians of Signal Corps installations around the world have helped to make the memorial markers possible.

An example of off-post organizations sponsoring memorials, was the 82nd Airborne Division, which sent a contingent of men by plane to Fort Monmouth to take part in the dedication of seven individual plaques in memory of former signalmen of the 82nd Signal Company who were killed in action.

Another activity of the tradition committee included distribution of a four-page pamphlet containing highlights of the history of the Signal Corps to all officers and enlisted men at Fort Monmouth on the 86th anniversary of the Corps, March 3, 1949.

The Time it Takes To Get News into "The Wire"

WE are so accustomed to reading in our newspapers events which are repeated immediately on their happening that we are apt to become impatient of the apparent laxity and delay in publishing items of news in THE WIRE.

As is known to a majority of contributors, THE WIRE closes for copy on the 16th of the month previous to publication. Thereafter the following is the time-table. Prior to the 16th a certain amount of material which has been sent off earlier returns to the Editor in the form of galley proofs. The last galley proofs, i.e. those of the copy sent in on 16th or 17th of the month, are sent in to the Editor usually about the 26th or 27th. On the day that the last galley proofs are received the magazine is "pasted up," and this process, which occupies five or six hours of concentrated effort, takes place as has been said on or about the 27th of the month previous to publication.

Page proofs are completed by the printer in seven working days after he receives the "paste up" book. This date is usually between the 5th and 7th of the month of publication. The final checking of the page proofs takes half a day at the end of which the final corrections, and there are usually 50 or 60 of these, are telephoned to the printer. Prior to this, of course, the cover has been printed; as it is in colour it is required to go through the machine four times, so there is no delay under this heading. Printing, binding and despatch then take seven to eight working days. To take the October number as an example an advance copy of the paper was posted to the Editor on the 13th; during the remainder of which day, the remaining 5,000 copies are being wrapped and despatched. Most urgent steps are taken by the printer to complete the wrapping and despatch within the 24 hours, and we are assured that in nearly all cases this is done. Subscribers to THE WIRE in the United Kingdom, therefore, receive or should receive the October number of the paper at the latest by post on the 16th October; exactly one month after the final date on which the last copy is put in.

Bulk orders are sent by rail which may entail a little delay, though generally speaking no more than is caused in the post.

In the case of subscribers overseas the delay, of course, is measured only by the time taken to send individual copies and bulk orders by sea.

It is clear, therefore, that where an event, albeit of considerable interest, takes place after the 16th of a month, there may, in fact, be as much as 60 days' delay before it is published, and it is with regret that we say that nothing can be done to expedite this.

Contributors can assist the Editor to help them by reporting the major events as speedily as possible, and if an event happens around the middle of the month which they are probably anxious to have reported quickly, consultation with the Editor sometimes enables him to reserve space for late copy. By contrast, the earlier the copy is sent in the earlier the paper is printed. For example 50 per cent of the copy for the November number of THE WIRE is being posted to the printer on the 16th October. Quite half of it could have been sent in a week earlier without loss of news, and by doing this the time taken to print the magazine would be shortened.

Sword and Pen

By **Major-General A. C. DUFF,** *C.B., O.B.E., M.C.*

IN ten most entertaining essays General Duff describes some problems of the post-war army. He writes mainly from the point of view of an administrator. The fortune of war decided that he should spend the bulk of the time in higher administration.

All the ten essays are of great interest, not only to the professional soldier, but also to all of us who are interested in getting value for our money. We pay an army and wish for a good one; amongst a multitude of constructive suggestions is one which will appeal to all, that a commanding officer be given a grant of say one per cent of the estimated cost of his unit to be spent at his discretion. The writer of this review has often wondered with General Duff why of all professions that of arms is considered most untrustworthy in financial matters.

Particularly cogent to our present problems is a clearly written essay "The Teeth and the Tail." In this, by one who is an expert and who was chief administrative officer to General Alexander, there is a solemn warning that the manpower required to keep even one division in the field has reached an uneconomic figure.

Our potential enemies in 1950 are outstandingly lacking in "tail," although in many places, French Indo-China, Korea, Malaya, and ? where next, they are apparently well supplied with "teeth." Is it not time that both the British and American armies gave very serious consideration to this problem?

Relative too, to our present situation is the chapter "The Commonwealth at War," in which the author discusses, with first-hand knowledge of the difficulties, the much more extensive skilled use of African troops.

General Duff, who is the author of some good fiction and much serious military writing produces perhaps his finest work in an essay entitled "The Partnership," dealing with the relations between Britain and the United States of America.

At 7/6 from Gale and Polden, Ltd., the book is a good buy if only for the pleasure of sending it to one's Member of Parliament, who may thus easily and pleasantly acquaint himself with some of the problems of the post-war army.

Historical Jewels

(*Continued from page 433*)

With the utmost precaution it was taken to Amsterdam and submitted to the most careful study as to how it could best be cut.

It was apparent that it was impossible to shape and polish this irregular mass into one great brilliant. It was, therefore, decided to cleave it; this was a bold decision to make as a bad blow might smash the stone into a thousand fragments. The blow struck, however, was a true one—executed by Mr. J. Assher—and the Cullinan fell apart into two fragments as had been intended. The process of cleaving was repeated to obtain nine parts, but only four parts are included in the English Regalia.

We have seen that the largest brilliant, a perfect and flawless one of the purest water weighing 516½ carats—known as the Star of Africa—is in the Royal Sceptre, while the second one, weighing 309½ carats, is set in the brow of the King's State Crown.

These two are easily the largest cut diamonds in existence. The third and fourth are also great stones and rank among the finest diamonds of the world, weighing 92 and 62 carats respectively. They are known as the lesser Stars of Africa and are in Queen Elizabeth's Crown.

It is quite impossible to say what the value of these stones is, but suffice it to say that the two largest are the most valuable diamonds known.

CONVOY

By **OTTO-CYCLE**

PART TWO

SERGEANT Joe, N.C.O. in charge of a Command vehicle was seated in the cab with his driver, somewhere in Scotland on a wet, pitch-black night, proceeding in convoy to somewhere else in Scotland. The only lights allowed were the well-known "diff" light (to the uninitiated, a small patch of light illuminating the vehicle's differential housing), and after following that light up hill and down for many hours Sergeant Joe and his driver were suffering from a common wartime complaint, "Chapel-hatpeg-eyes." Without warning, the white light disappeared but it was replaced eventually by a red tail lamp. This mystified Sergeant Joe for a while, but he came to the conclusion that the driver of the vehicle ahead had some good reason for his actions.

On went the red light faithfully followed by the Sergeant at what he judged to be the correct distance, jogging along at a steady 15 m.p.h. with never a care in the world. Eventually the red light slowed down, so did Joe, the red light turned right into thickly wooded country, followed very conscientiously by Sergeant Joe and his C.V. The going was rough, but the red light ahead kept up its 15 m.p.h. and Sergeant Joe was beginning to get worried.

The contents of a C.V. demand some respect, and Sergeant Joe was torn between keeping up with the red light, and possibly damaging his charge, or losing station and messing up the convoy. He decided to press on!

The red light went on and on, the going got rougher and Sergeant Joe got very worried indeed. After what seemed an eternity the light ahead came to a halt; Sergeant Joe baled out to view the situation, and almost threw a fit.

The red light was attached to a two-wheeled trailer of the type used for transporting long tree trunks.

To cut a long story short, Sergeant Joe spent the night in that wood. It was impossible to turn the C.V. in the dark without damaging aerial gear and the vehicle fittings on the overhanging boughs.

It was quite a job in daylight, next morning!

* * *

Captain Snarler hated convoys, in fact Captain Snarler hated everything and everybody, but he hated convoys with a hatred so intense that his moustache used to bristle and emit little flashes of lightning whenever a convoy was mentioned in his hearing. The thought of having to take a convoy used to make him ill for hours, just thinking of all the things that could go wrong, the slightest thing would cause him to panic, and his bitterest enemies insisted that he had only gained his commission through good attendance on church parades over a long period of years.

Captain Snarler evolved a technique in convoy leading which was almost foolproof. As soon as he received a route card his map would be marked up for him, and he would be seen riding pillion on his M/T Sergeant's motor-cycle, reconnoitring the route. The Sergeant soon received the title of "O.C.'s jockey and navigator." If the journey was to be a long one, the jockey wasn't necessary, and Snarler would take up position at the rear of the column, to pick up the stragglers, you know.

Eventually, Snarler arrived on the Continent, the jockey technique had to be discontinued, but for some months there wasn't any chance to get lost. To start with there wasn't room to move, later the moves were in daylight on routes so well marked that no one could go wrong. Later things got strung out a bit and night moves came into their own again.

Snarler then acquired another technique, that of closing up on the last vehicle of the preceding column, and hanging on like grim death. The preceding column consisted of light vehicles, Snarler had a very snappy station wagon, but Snarler's column were all heavy types. Needless to say, the leader was miles ahead.

On the one and only occasion that leader and convoy became a complete entity, he took them along a very important road through a very important forest. Snarler didn't know it, but the road was closed to all traffic except a certain Canadian Armoured Division which was due to pass that way at any moment to open up an attack.

Snarler very nearly distinguished himself by leading the attack in a station wagon supported by eight three-tonners, a Piat and a Bren. Fortunately, a very angry Canadian Sergeant M.P. stopped the Captain from getting his V.C., and the words which were bandied between them were enough to blast the trees. By the time the eight three-tonners had been turned round, the leader was well on his way out of it and so avoided the tanks. The three-tonners weren't so fortunate, but they arrived in harbour before Snarler.

* * *

Major Getclosedup, a rotund little man was something of a martinet, particularly when on convoy. He was a first-rate map reader and stuck rigidly to 15 m.p.h., the speed laid down by the higher authority concerned with convoys and their behaviour. That same higher authority also laid down that a distance of 80 yards should be maintained between vehicles. The Major insisted on both these regulations being observed, and it was hard going for the N.C.O. of a vehicle that failed to observe these regulations. It often happened that on a long run the heavies would cause the convoy to be somewhat strung out, chiefly because 15 m.p.h. down hill isn't sufficient speed to assist in getting up the next one, and that means getting into bottom gear and a consequent speed of 15 mp.h.

Just as things would be getting out of control, and drivers would be wringing the last ounce out of the engine, the Major would be observed standing on the verge of the road shouting "Is that your idea of 80 yards." On arrival at the destination a lecture would be given on convoy drill, only to have the same thing happen again and again.

He didn't stay long, and rumour had it that he had returned to Civvy Street, a nervous wreck.

Forces sweetheart, Vera Lynn, at Northolt Aerodrome, delivering Copy No. 1 of the new Forces Edition of Overseas Mail to B.E.A. for delivery to the Commander-in-Chief, B.A.O.R., Lieutenant-General Sir Charles Keightley, K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O.

(Courtesy: "Overseas Mail")



Signal Training Centre

5 TRAINING REGIMENT

Harper Barracks, Ripon

The Northern Command Motor-cycle Reliability Trial, held on Saturday, 14th October, 1950

The trial started and finished at Ripon, altogether there were 110 entries from the Regular and T.A. units. The weather on the whole was reasonably kind to both competitors and spectators although a fairly heavy rainfall during the night added to the sporting nature of the course, which was a very gruelling test of rider and machine, consisting of some 65 miles of very hard going.

5 Training Regiment surpassed their previous successes of winning the Challenge Cup for the last three years by winning for the fourth year with the "A" team, while the "B" team came second. The Regiment also gained the three individual plaques.

Great credit is due to the fine efforts of the 1st Battalion the Duke of Wellington's Regiment, who only missed second place by two points.

The C.S.O. Northern Command, Brigadier C. Childs, C.B.E., expressed his appreciation of the determination of all ranks who took part, and said that trials of this nature brought out the spirit of competition that is desired in the Army of today. In conclusion, he asked Mrs. Childs to give away the prizes.

Northern Command Challenge Cup:—
Awarded to the team with the best 3 riders:—
5 Training Regiment Royal Signals—74 points lost.
Team:—Corporal Munson, 17 points lost; Lance-Corporal Parker, 28 points lost; Sergeant Freeman, 29 points lost.

Cup for Second Best Performance:—
5 Training Regiment, Royal Signals, 124 points lost.
Team:—Sergeant Rowthorne, 36 points lost; Signalman Deans, 38 points lost, S.S.I. Timothy, 50 points lost.

Regular Army: Individual:—
1, Corporal Munson, 5 Training Regiment, Royal Signals, 17 points lost; 2, Lance-Corporal Parker, 5 Training Regiment, Royal Signals, 28 points lost; 3, Sergeant Freeman, 5 Training Regiment, Royal Signals, 29 points lost.

Territorial Army:—
1, Lance-Corporal Sanders, 905 Company, R.A.S.C., 21 points lost; 2, Lance-Corporal Beecroft, 49 (W.R. and N.) Armoured Division Column, R.A.S.C., 38 points lost; 3, A.Q.M.S. McComb, 150 Infantry Workshops, R.E.M.E., 39 points lost.

The Regiment had the honour of providing a guard for Her Royal Highness the Princess Royal on the occasion of H.R.H.'s visit to the Ripon Teachers' Training College on 25th September, to lay the foundation stone of a new wing now under construction.

The guard included Second-Lieutenant R. H. Proctor, Second-Lieutenant P. J. N. Roberts, S.S.M. A. E. Lumber and 99 N.C.O.s and Signalmen under the command of Captain A. G. MacTavish.

Although the weather was not very favourable it was fine during the inspection and the smart turnout, bearing and drill of the guard was most favourably commented upon by Her Royal Highness.

The Principal, staff and students of the college very kindly invited members of the Regiment to a dance held that evening. Needless to say it was well attended and a good time was had by all.



H.R.H. the Princess Royal inspecting the Guard of Honour at the Ripon Teachers' Training College

On the evening of 26th September the Catterick District Inter-Unit Novices Team Boxing Championship took place in the theatre.

The Regiment fought a hard battle against the XII Royal Lancers, who produced a formidable team and managed to win by 19 to 14 points. We hope that the Catterick District Unit Championship will produce a different result.

The Unit held a Regimental week-end on Saturday, 14th October. Commencing with the Northern Command Motor-Cycle Trials about which you have already read. This was followed by a Unit dance at which the motor-cycle trials prizes were presented.

On Sunday a Harvest Festival Service was held in the Garrison Chapel. This was attended by the Regiment in full strength.

7 SELECTION REGIMENT

Since our last contribution we, in common with most other units, have been affected by such revolutionary changes as "increases in pay," and extended service for National Service soldiers. Judging by the increased intakes into No. 5 (Regular) Squadron, the pay change does appear to have benefited our recruiting.

Two of our recent "outputs" were honoured by having, in one instance, the Colonel Commandant, and on another occasion, the Director of Signals to take the salutes at their march pasts.

It is of interest to note that the Regiment, against excellent competition, at the recent Catterick Fair, took second prize for the best dressed truck in the "Historical" class. Our subject was "Signals thro' the Ages."

The Regiment is proud to record an act of bravery by Signalman B. Rabaiotti of No. 3 Squadron, who was

awarded a Carnegie Hero's certificate. The following is an extract from the *South Wales Evening Post* of 25th September, 1950:—

"Bruno Rabaiotti, a young soldier in the Royal Signals, whose home is at 104 Clare Road, Morriston, attended the Swansea Watch Committee yesterday while on leave to receive the framed certificate of the 'Carnegie Hero Trust Fund,' for his services in the Caswell Bay incident of Sunday, 14th May, when he assisted in the rescue of a girl who was in danger of drowning."

When the film "On National Service" arrives on general release, many members of the Corps will be seen at various tasks. Royal Signals were chosen to show the life of a National Serviceman on arriving at Catterick. This Regiment in particular, figures a great deal in the different stages of the production, being a man's first contact with the Army.

Major H. M. F. Langley, The Middlesex Regiment, is commanding the Regiment pending the arrival of Lieutenant-Colonel F. H. Pellew, Royal Signals.

Soccer. An excellent beginning has been made by our 1st XI with the following results:

ARMY CUP

Victory over the East Surrey Regiment, 7—0

CATTERICK LEAGUE, DIVISION I

Against 3 Training Regiment	Won	5—2
,, 2 Training Regiment	Drew	4—4
,, 1 Training Regiment	Won	2—1
,, 8 Royal Tank Regiment	Lost	8—3
,, 14/20 King's Hussars	Won	4—2
,, 17/21 Lancers	Won	5—0

The 2nd XI is not doing so well but still hopes to be league champions for the third year in succession.

Lance-Corporal Foster has again been chosen to play for the Army. Lance-Corporals Cromar, Tannahill, Stewart and Liddle, have been chosen to play for the Corps.

Rugby. Rugger has again begun in the Regiment. There is a nucleus of Cadre to form a solid base and others should appear from our regular and National Service intakes.

Hockey. The summer league is over and we hope to do better in this winter season. In our opening game we were beaten by Officer Training Wing by 3—2.

Cross-Country. A sad story. We finished sixth in the Royal Signals (Catterick) League's first meeting this season.

THE DEPOT REGIMENT

Pocklington

Not everyone is aware that this Regiment has a Squadron detached at Ripon, which is entirely devoted to the good work of sending officers and other ranks overseas. At Pocklington the task of the remainder of the Regiment is to receive the wanderer, (and how some of them have wandered! ! !), to brush him down and pack him off to a new Home Unit.

You may wonder why we open our notes with the foregoing, and the reason is that everyone in the Corps has to pass through one or other of our portals at some stage in his career, and an occasional note about the working of the Depot may be of interest.

Passing on rapidly and to show that we can play as well as work, we would like to record some details of our recent Regimental Week-End. We had laboured long on the preliminaries, and during this time the rain fell monotonously to our great dismay, but when, at last, Saturday, 9th September, 1950 dawned, glorious sunshine appeared and we had a truly lovely day.

Prior to this the week-end started off with a dinner-dance given by the Officers of the Regiment, the feature of which was excellent floral decoration, for which Mrs. Webb was responsible. The Ante-Room and Dining Room were both transformed and it is a pity they cannot always be so arranged, but the Mess Committee have been given lots of ideas, and maybe something will happen.

Whilst the officers were dining and dancing, the troops were drinking and singing. A very successful "Smoker" was run by our irrepressible R.Q.M.S. Etherington. The Unit Barber, Signalman Preston, proved a "find" in the world of entertainment, and we look forward to hearing him sing again.

Our sports events went off with a bang (kindly provided by the Quartermaster) and, although no records were broken, we saw some good team running and one or two good efforts by individuals in the field events.

The wife of the Commanding Officer presented the prizes with some very apt comments to the winners, who included quite a number of children, amongst whom was her own small son.

N.A.A.F.I. provided the tea, which was a great success. At the end the tea tents looked as though a horde of locusts had swept through them, which made clearing up a lot easier.

On Saturday evening we had an Other Ranks dance, with a section of the Corps Band providing the music; this was well attended. To overcome the problem of partners, the committee had invited the ladies of a local agricultural camp who all proved to be French!

The Unit Padre conducted a service on Sunday morning which was well attended, and again the Corps Band was represented by a small string orchestra.

The Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess had the honour of winding up the week-end, which they did excellently. The Corps Band provided the dance music and the members provided that social atmosphere, which made the evening a great success.

Some of us were sorry the week-end was over, but those who organised the different events were pleased to be able to relax again, and even more pleased that their efforts had been so well worth while.

It is a pity we cannot have something like this a little more often, if only to provide your scribe with material for THE WIRE notes.

School of Signals

Royal Signals Wing

It was with regret that we said goodbye to our Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel E. I. E. Mozley, Royal Signals, who left us on the 8th September, 1950 preparatory to taking up an appointment in the British Chiefs of Staff Secretariat in the United States of America. A farewell Cocktail Party was held in Helles Officers' Mess on the 1st September, 1950.

Lieutenant-Colonel D. White, O.B.E., Royal Signals, assumed command of Royal Signals Wing on 9th September, 1950. We extend to him a hearty welcome and we hope that his stay with the unit will be a happy one.

We also said goodbye to No. 7 Short Telecommunications Course which consisted of officers of 14 nationalities. Some have returned to their own countries, others are continuing their studies elsewhere in England. We greatly miss their cheerful presence.

It is with sincere regret that we report the death of Captain F. D. MacNamara, Republic of Eire Army, who met with a fatal accident at Scarborough on 5th September, 1950, whilst a student on No. 7 Short Telecommunications Course. We convey our deepest sympathies to his relatives. The burial took place at Cork on Sunday, 10th September, with

full military honours. The Director of Military Training, the Director of Signals, the General Officer Commanding, Catterick District, the Commandant, School of Signals and the Commanding Officer, Royal Signals Wing, were represented at the funeral by Major J. T. H. Higgins, Royal Signals, and Captain D. Binks, Royal Signals.

Officer Training Wing

The last pass-off parade was held on 29th September, 1950, when 255/6 Courses were commissioned. The Commandant's cane was presented to Second-Lieutenant P. J. Marshall by the Inspecting Officer, Colonel C. T. Edwards, C.B.E., Colonel A/Q of Catterick District.

The cross-country season is now upon us and during October we are to compete in the first meetings of the Royal Signals Catterick) League and the Catterick District League.

The Catterick District Winter Hockey League opened at the beginning of September. After trial matches a Unit team captained by Captain Jimmy Webber was selected which beat 7 Selection Regiment in the opening match by 4 goals to 3. With minor changes, the team beat 5 Training Regiment by 7 to 1 and 4 Training Regiment by 4 to 1. We are looking forward to a successful season with particular reference to 8 Royal Tank Regiment.

The Unit Soccer Team played its first match of the season early in September, beating 2 Training Regiment by 6-0. The next two games were lost, 2-6 and 3-5 against 1 Training Regiment and 8 Royal Tank Regiment respectively. The best game so far was with 1 Command Workshops which we won by 3-1, after being 1 goal down at half-time. The latest game was a very close fight with 12th Royal Lancers ending with our victory by 6 goals to 5.

The Unit was represented by a team of 6 in the Modern Pentathlon Championships of Great Britain and although the team place was twelfth, some good individual scores were obtained, notably by Second-Lieutenant R. A. King and Second-Lieutenant J. Dixie.

WAR OFFICE SIGNAL REGIMENT

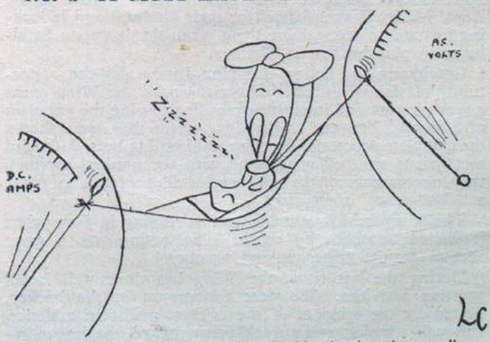
Our New Home: Cambridge Barracks, Woolwich

Telephone: Woolwich 2876

We have left the sylvan surroundings of Richmond Park Camp and are now established in the garrison town of Woolwich.

After many alarms and excursions the move of the Unit was finally settled, and the general exodus commenced on 24th September and was completed on 7th October. With the usual Signals style, the move was carried out smoothly. We consider that we have left the prettiest camp in England and gallantly cede it to the W.R.A.C.

No. 5—IT MUST HAVE BEEN THE WIDGETS



"Funny. I'm sure those needles should point the other way"

We are already committed to a heavy football programme with the Royal Artillery as well as with London District, the Army Cup competitions and the Army League competition. The whole of our football programme means one match per day.

Four of our hockey players have been selected to represent Woolwich Garrison. We hope that our progress will be as good as the start.

From a military point of view our present situation is ideal. The central motif is a large barrack square surrounded by barracks, Sergeants' Mess and offices with ancillary buildings behind. The whole is surrounded by a high wall, of this enough said.

The Officers have not yet moved into their new Mess in nearby Connaught Barracks, meanwhile they are living in the R.A. H.Q. Mess.

EASTERN COMMAND SIGNAL REGIMENT

Maresfield

Exercise follows exercise with the names of ancestors and food concoctions to distinguish the operations. At present there are so many running together or consecutively that there is almost a complete lack of detail for this edition, therefore these notes must be confined to be very brief and abstract notes of operations Left, Right and Centre. Readers will realise without being very "wide awake" that Left, Right and Centre are not Texan expressions or the real names of the many and various operations to which the Regiment is committed. The expression is "Old Army," meaning overall or, to use an up-to-date example, a situation in which all Officers try to utilise personnel and equipment to their fullest capacity. Firstly, without cutting individuals and equipment in two. Secondly in trying to animate figures on establishments by breathing on them, wishing and generally adding lots of noughts or even multiplying by two.

From the preceding paragraph it is obvious that everyone in the Regiment is concerned in some way with training exercises apart from the normal routine. It is quite fair to say it is still in the balance as to who do the most, those who have been uprooted from their jobs at base or those still left behind doing two or three persons' work. We are fast approaching the stage where the Exchange operator who says "Eastern Command Signal Regiment" is speaking literally. So much for work.

The Regiment entertained the Tunbridge Wells Branch of the Signals Association. Although the humble affair was hampered by ages of dust and builders' materials in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess the Regiment hopes that the visitors enjoyed themselves sufficiently to want to come back again. Now the ice has been broken and the Honorary Secretary knows both the Commanding Officer and the R.S.M., further get-togethers can be arranged, this is the sincere wish of those whose pleasure it was to entertain the many notables.

At Bury St. Edmunds the Troop turned out in force at the Branch outing to the Reserve Fleet at Harwich. Although the day was not very colourful, many rosy cheeks were seen when the party arrived at the pier for the boat trip, due to the copious drinks of "hop juice."

To celebrate the purchase of new boots for the football team we lost very heavily to the nearby Transport Company. Hockey is to the fore again but it is difficult to find a ground in the Maresfield area. We have quite a number of players with experience gained in India who are sure to make good once conditions are favourable.

London District Motor Cycle Trials

The London District Motor Cycle Trials were held in the most shocking weather in the rough country of Pirbright on Sunday, 24th September, and are recorded chiefly because again Royal Signals of the Territorial Army were well represented in the prize list.

The 23rd (S) Corps Signal Regiment, T.A., and 2/20 Army Signal Regiment, T.A., were fourth and fifth in the team championships, and two members of the former, and one of the latter Regiment figured in those receiving individual awards.

Also of interest to us is the fact that the "management" had a strong Royal Signals flavour, but in a Signals-run affair it was perhaps surprising to find that the telecommunications on which the success of such a trial depends, were provided, and be it said with the greatest possible efficiency by the Life Guards.

NORTHERN IRELAND DISTRICT (M) SIGNAL SQUADRON

Lisburn

The climax of this month's activities was the D.R.s' annual "big day"—the motor-cycle trials. As the weather became wetter, so their faces grew longer, and their chins dropped lower at the thought of the amazing amount of mud that might stretch before them at various parts of the course on the 30th September. The day arrived and, as expected the mud was very deep, and some of the water splashes had to be cancelled because it looked at times as if bicycle and rider and all were going to disappear completely.

However, despite the conditions, our team of three and our two individual entrants pulled through very creditably, and finished in fifth place. The event was won by 35 (Ulster) A.A. Independent (Mixed) Signal Squadron, T.A.

Open air sports have been very limited due to the weather, and we have had to resort to the gymnasium, where we have seen many rousing games of netball. We have combined with the W.R.A.C. to have knock-out competitions, and we have played several representative games against the W.R.A.C., from whom, of course, we learnt the game. After many defeats we eventually acquired the knack and the required skill to beat the women's team 25—14. The W.R.A.C., however, have beaten the W.R.A.F. at Aldergrove, by 42 points to 11, and played Wallace High School at hockey, the result of which was a draw, one all.

There have been one or two soccer practices, in preparation for the District League, but in this sphere we must bow to the superiority of the Camp Staff. In the combined team, Signals and Camp, which is entering the league, we hope to have about four representatives.

Further improvements have been made to our miniature range, including the installation of new target frames and, with the N.I.D. Small Bore League in view, further improvements have also been made in our shooting; we have four members of the Squadron who can score 96 or more on the N.S.R.A. match target, and the C.S.O., Lieutenant-Colonel H. C. B. Rogers, O.B.E., has achieved the "impossible" by scoring maximum points. So we may safely hope to do well.

SIGNAL COMMUNICATIONS WING

The Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst

There are always a great number of important and well known British and foreign visitors to Sandhurst. Many of these pay a short visit to the Wing. The most important during the last six months, amongst many visitors to the Wing, was General de Lattre de Tassigny, C. in C., West European Land Forces.

The exact time of the General's arrival at the Academy was not known, and it was necessary to report his progress towards Sandhurst to ensure that the guard of honour was ready to receive him. The Wing's communications enabled the Adjutant on Old Building parade ground to follow the General's progress minute by minute. The Tricolour was broken on the flagstaff of the Old Building for the first time in the history of Sandhurst.

We were pleased to be visited twice during the last term by our own Colonel Commandant, Major-General W. R. C. Penney, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C.

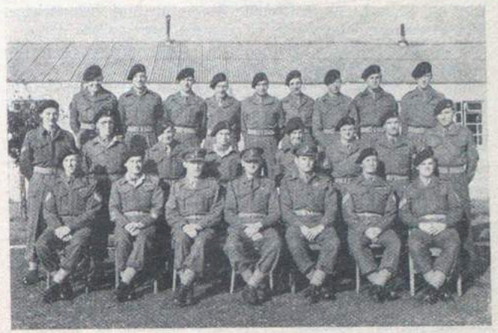
The Wing takes particular pride in its responsibilities on the Sovereign's Parade, which takes place twice yearly. On this parade the Senior Division pass out of Sandhurst. In July the parade was taken by His Royal Highness the Duke of Gloucester, K.G. This is a very great occasion and is attended by many notable persons, not only in the three services, but in the country as a whole, including Dominion and foreign representatives. The Summer Parade in particular, which is normally taken by a member of the Royal Family, is a fascinating and colourful spectacle rivalling many great State occasions.

During the summer recess the Royal Signals Warrant Officers and Senior N.C.O.s had a most interesting and enjoyable attachment to the Royal Marine Signal School, Eastney. There, they had the opportunity to increase their knowledge of life in the Royal Navy and Royal Marines, and to learn something of the organisation of combined operations. Their many interesting visits included those to H.M.S. *Implacable*, Flagship of the Home Fleet, several ships of the Reserve Fleet, and the Royal Naval Aviation Establishment at Lee-on-Solent. In addition they had practical demonstrations of sailing small craft, frogmen and other kindred pursuits. The Wing is most grateful to the Royal Marine Signal School for their kindness and is looking forward to entertaining them when they come to Sandhurst to play hockey, in October.

Continuing the policy of giving Instructors the opportunity of visiting outside industrial works, the Wing spent a very pleasant and interesting morning touring the premises of Simonds' Brewery at Reading, where they were shown the complete process of brewing and bottling beer. Although most of us are well acquainted with the finished product, they never realised the care and skill required to make a "dead man" come alive.

The Wing held its annual families' outing in June when it visited Southsea by coach. The outing was a great success despite rather unkind weather.

During the last term, the Wing has done well in all sporting activities. We were runners-up in the hockey, beaten by the winners of the cricket, whilst in athletics, although winning every track event, lacked the brawn required in the field events.



ARMY WING, COMBINED SIGNAL SCHOOL

Fremington, Barnstaple

This month the Royal Signals team left for the Middle East tour under the command of Captain J. Maclennan. They were described by the popular Press as the "Cloak and Dagger Boys"—which may have something to do with their appearance at a bullfight last month.

Sergeant Hammond took a detachment, with our C.V., to Bulford for the autumn training with Southern Command; by all reports they did very well and had a good time.

This week we had our monthly "D-Day" landing in Exercise "Turtle." This time we had the full co-operation of the R.A.F., and the aircraft certainly did their stuff. The exercise was made even more enjoyable by the hottest day in the year—by the way, the only hot one this year.

The landing was not as wet as usual, but the whole show went well and even the Royal Navy enjoyed themselves—even if they didn't know where they were!

Above is a photograph of the Army Wing.

Anti-Aircraft Command

1 A.A. (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT

Laindon

The highlights of this month have been the visit of G.O.C. A.A. Command, Lieutenant-General C. F. Loewen, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., and preparation for Exercise "Emperor."

The G.O.C. paid this Unit a visit on 26th September. Owing to the fact that preparation for the exercise had started the number of people available were fewer than usual and no parade was held. The G.O.C. had coffee in the Officers' Mess on arrival, after which he went round the Unit lines, where he met members of the Unit, both male and female, at work.

Exercise "Emperor" is at the moment engaging the thoughts and energy of most of the Unit. From our meagre resources we have provided three skeleton Brigade Signal Office Troops which are now occupying their battle stations. Our part in this exercise is small when one considers the thing as a whole, but shortage of manpower makes that small part see quite large at times.

11 A.A. (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

Brompton Road, S.W.2

On Sunday, 10th September, 1950, the Regiment took part in the 1 A.A. Group Motor-Cycle Trial at Orsett, held under the direction of the C.S.O., Lieutenant-Colonel J. H. Ellis; an event we hope will be repeated annually.

Captain H. Ll. Daniels, i/c D.R.s, mustering every available machine, managed to enter as many as five teams of three riders each, and though none of this Regiment's entrants secured any of the magnificent prizes awarded for team or individual events, all riders put up an excellent show, Corporal Hall meriting special mention.

Certain members of 22 Squadron, from Brompton Road, recently invaded Norwich where they were met with the welcome and hospitality that one has come to associate with the local detachment there. A weekend's intensive training left few openings for recreation though time was found for a most enjoyable dance which included a talented entertainment presented by the "Corn Cobs."

Our joy at the return of Sergeant Harwood, who only recently left us on transfer to another Unit which closed down on his arrival, is only marred by the departure of Sergeant Elms, who is to be married shortly. We wish her all the best of luck. Our good wishes and congratulations go also to Lieutenants Joyce Davis and Michael Seys-Phillips.

Whether it was by accident or design that the announcement of their engagement should coincide with the first of this season's Regimental dances (held at Brompton Road on Friday, 15th September) and whether or not these celebrations had anything to do with it the evening was certainly a great success. We were glad to use this opportunity to welcome into the Regiment many of the National Service men who have recently joined us.



[Courtesy: R. L. Knight, Ltd., Barnstaple.

12 A.A. (M) Signal Regiment. Brigadier Sykes with Lieutenant-Colonel Ridley Martin and Captain Scott, snapped after the Camp Church Parade at Braunton

12 A.A. (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

Bristol

Since we last appeared in these columns the appointment of Erigadier A. C. Sykes, C.B.E., D.S.O., as our Honorary Colonel was announced. We are all extremely honoured in having such a distinguished Royal Signals officer at our head. His presence at our annual camp added immensely to its outstanding success.

As the years go by the camps get better and better. This year at Braunton, N. Devon, was indeed a very happy one. The weather was very kind to us and hardly any activities had to be curtailed on its account. The training was conducted on a larger scale than has been possible in the past which resulted in a large number of new trade ratings being gained. Such things as the laying of lines across the estuary of the river Taw by means of a D.U.K.W. loaned by the Combined Signal School provided the linemen with a wealth of experience. The O.W.L.s, too, gained useful experience by operating a wireless net to distant outstations. The W.R.A.C. switchboard operators worked with their usual enthusiasm and great credit is due to them for their efficiency. One cannot leave out a word for the cooks for it is on them that the success of a camp depends and all agree that they did an unbelievably good job. Our G.O.C. said after he has cross-examined several members regarding the standard of their meals, that he had not seen a unit with such praise for its cooks.

As a scattered unit we are not well versed in parade ground routine but after a few rehearsals before breakfast we were confident when parading before our Honorary Colonel, whom many of us knew to be a keen inspecting officer.

Since June we have had a steady flow of National Servicemen pass through R.H.Q. on their way to the Squadrons at Bristol, Southampton, Plymouth and Edenbridge. These young soldiers will be a great asset to the Unit.

The departure into civilian life of a respected member of the permanent staff must be recorded. S.Q.M.S. R. H. Salmon, a warrior of some 35 years' service left us with a deep feeling of the loss to the Army of such a cheerful and self-sacrificing type of soldier. All wish Dick Salmon good luck.

2 A.A. (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT

Aldershot

Since our last notes, our formation H.Q., 2 A.A. Group, have joined us in the "Shot." We trust their stay will be as happy as ours has been to date.

As is usual at this time of the year, we are extremely busy on air defence exercises, with detachments at Fareham, Odiham, Bristol and Thorney Island. As is also usual, our manpower and womanpower is stretched to its maximum and we are exceedingly grateful to Southern Command (M) Signal Regiment and 3 A.A. Signal Squadron for the way in which they have assisted us.

The enclosed photograph shows Major-General W. A. Dimoline, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., G.O.C. Aldershot District, taking the salute at a march past of the Old Contemptibles. The markers at the saluting dais were Sergeant W. Dooley, Corporals Devine-Jones and Dale from this Regiment.

The Wireless Trials Troop have recently returned from the frozen North, complete with F.M.T. 3's, and are now busy testing at Chatham.

Congratulations to Captain (Q.M.) W. Potesta on his recent promotion to that rank.



[*Courtesy: Gale and Polden, Ltd.*

Major-General W. A. Dimoline taking taking the salute at a march past of the Old Contemptibles

3 A.A. INDEPENDENT (M) SIGNAL SQUADRON

Edinburgh

Since our last appearance in print the Unit has moved from Craigiehall, South Queensferry, and is now accommodated with Scottish Command (M) Signal Regiment in Redford Barracks, Edinburgh.

The Unit attended annual camp at Burrowhead from 9th July to 23rd July with 13 A.A. (M) Signal Regiment (T.A.) and although the weather was typically Scottish the fortnight was an enjoyable one.

Our first soccer match of the season against H.Q. 3 A.A. Group ended in a victory. In Driver Osmond we seem to have discovered a budding Stanley Matthews. He went through the field and scored two very good goals.

The Squadron extends a hearty welcome to all new arrivals and hopes that their stay with the Unit will be long and enjoyable.



H.Q. B.A.O.R. SIGNAL REGIMENT

Herford

All normal routine activity was put in the background this month because of the large scale manoeuvres, known as Exercise "Broadside," which involved the whole of the Rhine Army.

Broadside I. Although Construction Troops had left barracks a couple of weeks before, the majority of the Regiment moved out of Harewood Barracks very early on the morning of the 14th September. During this preliminary part of the manoeuvres, involving the assembling of the troops, main H.Q., to which the Regiment was attached, was situated in a dense wood. Despite the wood, it speaks highly of the general camouflage of vehicles and tents that the R.A.F. never located the position throughout the time we were there.

Broadside II. When the battle really started and our forces withdrew to the Weser, main H.Q. moved north-east to another wood. Here conditions were much better and the rumours of unconquerable mud proved false. Throughout the exercise the weather was very bad and comparisons with "Agility" and "Concord" were often heard. Schemes previously have usually been enlivened with a fire or some other distraction. This one was singularly without incident. Worth mentioning, however, is an occurrence which took place in one of the cypher trucks. The driver actually managed to start a fire with a fire extinguisher by letting it fall on the battery while moving it across the seat of the truck. On his cry of "FIRE," helpers immediately sought the extinguisher which was nowhere to be found! Fortunately the fire was quickly put out by other means.

We were very glad to have a group of Territorial Army Sergeants and O.R.s with us for the duration of the scheme. Most of them were from the Southampton area and their visit was considered to be their annual camp. The disagreeable change from comfortable homes to muddy bivouacs was well borne by all.

The Regiment moved back to barracks on the 1st of October and immediately the work of cleaning up and repairing the damage of three weeks hard going has started.

Two other events which took place at the beginning of the month were:—

Quiz. A quiz, broadcast over B.F.N., between the Regiment and the local C.C.G. contingent, was held at the Wentworth Club in Herford. The result was a win for C.C.G. by 29 points to 22½ points, and indeed they produced a cracking good team. Our selected quartette of Major Walton, Captain McKenna, S.S.M. Homer and Sergeant Hindley, had been picked after three strenuous trial matches in the library and we had great hopes of their success. Unfortunately, they were not able to produce their pre-match form on the actual night.

Golf. The Inter-Signals Championships were held at Hamburg over the week-end, 3rd—4th September. The Regiment, who had won the trophy last year, were beaten by 2 Divisional Signals in the first round. Major MacArthur won his match by 4 holes, R.Q.M.S. Robertson lost his by 7, Sergeant Duff (R.A.E.C.) was 2 down, and Corporal Hamilton ended up 15 holes down to Captain Ferguson, who has not long since left this Regiment. Though beaten early, the team continued playing golf in the various competitions organised. All were unanimous in their praise of the course and the excellent arrangements at the club house.

Cricket. The Regiment has had a very full season's cricket. Although, on the whole, it was a poor summer for weather, and rain fell in many matches, the games were seldom interrupted for long because play could be resumed on the matting wickets as soon as the rain stopped—a great advantage which these wickets possess over the normal turf pitch.

Considering the Regimental team first, the results showed that wins and defeats were evenly balanced. Our opponents were very mixed, including an R.A.F. station, C.C.G. teams, Command Pay Office, Zone Postal Depot, R.E., the 1st R.B. at Minden and, of course, other Signal formations in the Command. We easily beat 7th Armoured Division and 2 Divisional Signals teams, but fell to 1 Wireless Regiment at Munster in a cup match. Outstanding players for the side were the captain, Lieutenant-Colonel Sanders, O.B.E., who topped the batting averages with 38.1; S.Q.M.S. Pritchard who, besides playing some valuable defensive innings, was the spearhead of the attack until his hands gave him trouble in the middle of the season; Corporal Collett, a very fine wicket-keeper and sound opening bat; Lance-Corporal Groves, who batted attractively and opened the attack with some really fast bowling. Late in the season Signalman Preshaw took wickets regularly and, in the end, had the largest bag with 47 at 10.31.

In the Inter-Squadron games 2 Squadron, led by Captain Melmore, with the last three players mentioned above included in the team, won easily, with 1 Squadron, led by Lieutenant-Colonel Sanders, second.

Throughout the season, inter-troop games were played in the evenings after duty. Each team had 25 overs batting and the resulting matches often proved extremely exciting, sometimes going right to the last few balls. There were two leagues running together and the top teams in each played a deciding match at the end of the season in which 31 T.M. beat 71 Wireless Troop.

Finally, to round off cricket for the season came the match between the Officers' Mess and the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess. This was played on the new sports ground. Everyone bowled 18 balls and faced 18 balls and the result depended on the average—aggregate runs per aggregate wickets. After their average had slumped to almost 7, the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess eventually made a recovery through the staunch batting of Sergeants Stead, Harrison and Graveling and won a good victory.

Next season we can look forward to much better facilities now that the new ground is in operation. Nearer to Barracks and with a longer boundary, it should be an improvement on the Garrison ground.

2 INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT

Hilden

This month's notes will obviously be filled with news and views on Exercises "Broadside" I and II, which we have just concluded. We have been told that it was successful as far as the Regiment was concerned. It certainly did a thorough job of testing all ranks involved.



The weather clerk was well briefed beforehand, and rain was arranged at all the important times. What moon there was, was well camouflaged for night moves, thus giving our newly-fitted convoy lights a chance to "Let their light so shine *behind* them."

While on the subject of night driving, our Commanding Officer had a special word of commendation for our drivers, who started the exercise with an 18 hour non-stop drive. Our convoy, towards the end of that drive, sounded rather like a travelling pig farm—or was it vehicle crews snoring? Nor was the snoring restricted to crews and as a result, one or two trucks took rather devious courses through hedges and up trees. Bouquets were also thrown to the operators and linemen who left the staff chatting happily to each other over near perfect lines of communication.

Though nobody got a full complement of sleep, perhaps our Post and Telecommunications Officers hold the record with a 42 hour spell without a wink, thus ensuring that "C" Troop did get some.

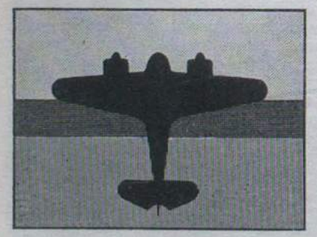
Although sports have been rather forced into the background this month, quite a lot of preparations have been made for the future. People are quaking at the knees with thoughts of our Regimental Boxing Championship, the preliminary rounds of which will be under way when this article goes into print. Rugby, soccer and hockey fixtures are also filling the calendar and the odd few games have already been played off.

Our Dramatic Society which occasionally appears in our column is again active, and a production of "A Quiet Week-end" is under way.

11 AIR FORMATION SIGNAL REGIMENT

Lemgo

Friends should take note that our Regimental and Squadron headquarters are now at Lemgo and that our postal address is B.A.O.R. 15.



During the month the majority of the Regiment have been engaged in settling into the new barracks. This is a bigger task than one might think, because there were no soldiers here before and every stick of furniture, curtains, cutlery and crockery has had to be provided *ab initio*. Buildings had to be converted for messing and N.A.A.F.I.

We were glad to meet an old friend in Lemgo, Colonel Giblin, who is now in the I.R.O.

80 Wing Troop at Wunsdorf has had a change of command. Captain Swan has relieved Lieutenant Finch so that the latter can join in the pursuit of the North Koreans. We are glad to welcome Second-Lieutenant Behn, whose father commanded 15 Air Formation Signal Regiment during the war. 15 A.F.S. was one of the Regiments absorbed into our Regiment.

31 Construction Troop and 141 Line took part in Exercise Broadside. The weather was horrid, but the experience has done everybody good.

Technical individual training courses begin in early October and last throughout the winter. Sergeant Joseph has taken boxing in hand and the volunteers who hope to get positions in the team are hard at it night and day.

The Regimental footballers began the season in good style by defeating the R.A.F. Officers of H.Q. B.A.F.O. in their first game. Hockey has also started.

The Regiment has had the pleasure of a visit from Lieutenant-Colonel E. L. L. Vulliamy, O.B.E., who as Commanding Officer of 2 Training Regiment, has had the basic training of so many of our soldiers in his hands.

7 ARMOURED DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT

Celle

R.H.Q., H.Q. and 1 Squadron. The first sporting event of the month was the Inter-Signals Unit Golf Tournament at Hamburg. After a most enjoyable morning's game which went to the 19th green we managed to beat the 1 Wireless Regiment team. We were then beaten in the afternoon by 11 Air Formation Signal Regiment Group.



The following week-end we competed in the sailing at Mohne See in which we finished third.

The Mohne See Club very kindly gave us the full use of their club for the week and there was a great gathering of Signals sailing enthusiasts. We competed in "Stars" and "Sharpies," in which Lieutenant-Colonel Bell led his team to victory. As usual there were some protests, one of which gave the protest committee much food for thought.

Exercise "Broadside" occupied our time and interests for the last two weeks of the month. Nearly everyone enjoyed the change from the routine of life in barracks and certainly everyone benefitted a great deal by it.

2 Squadron. Squadron H.Q. and all three troops have spent most of this month preparing in every way for the annual Army manoeuvres.

We held a four-day refresher course at Squadron H.Q. for all wireless operators. This is the nearest we have been, so far, to having the whole Squadron under one roof. The exercises on the course all took the form of competitions, with prizes ranging from a bottle of beer to a pound note given by the C.R.A. The course concluded with a most enjoyable dance, with "H" Troop as the hosts.

Football has started in earnest with about even honours so far, with the exception of "E" Troop, who had the audacity to challenge a Battery of 3 R.H.A. and lost 12—nil.

3 Squadron. So that was September. The first half was spent in settling down after brigade training and then Exercise "Broadside" I and II was upon us. There was much bustle and some burning of the midnight oil but everything was ready in time. After the first couple of days we had settled down and from then on although we say it ourselves there was no stopping us. We found that rain and mud didn't damp our spirits—with the help of a few rum rations. We certainly learned a lot and we aim to spend the next few months putting all this valuable experience to good use. Also during the winter we hope to upgrade all trades and especially our N.F.Q.s.

The Squadron has discovered that it has quite a useful football team. Against a battalion team we could not hold

our own but we have won every match we have played against units our own size. The team is very keen and has even got down to track work before breakfast.

At rugger five members of the Squadron have been played in the Brigade H.Q. team.

4 Squadron. The first part of the month was passed quietly enough with many of us just completing a well earned leave either at home or at one of B.A.O.R.'s continental leave centres, but things gradually hotted up till we started off on B.A.O.R. Exercise "Broadside" I and II.

We moved right down to the Squadron's old stamping ground near Sennelager on Broadside I, but as all movement was executed with convoy lights only, during the hours of darkness, all we saw whilst on the move was the convoy light ahead. Civilian traffic going the other way with blinding headlights earned many bitter curses.

We did manage to move by day during the second phase of Broadside, but earned more than one thorough strafing from the opposing R.A.F. In harbour, we were so well camouflaged that D.R.s would never have found us without the Unit sign prominently displayed.

BERLIN SIGNAL SQUADRON

B.A.O.R. 2

The dull, windy, rainy month of September effectively put a stop to all hopes we had entertained of an Indian summer this year. We are forced therefore to write off 1950's summer as being well below standard. The falling leaves, the emptying of the outdoor swimming pool and the resumption of central heating remind us that winter is coming.

September has seen many changes in and around the Squadron. Firstly the internal composition of the Unit was radically altered by splitting it up into four troops. This has had many effects on the personnel in the Unit and a keen rivalry has developed between the various troops. Inter-Troop games of hockey and football are flourishing and Inter-Troop basketball and shooting matches have shown signs of creating much interest. By keeping a careful watch on the talent which displays itself in these matches the task of selecting Squadron teams should be made easier.

We have new neighbours. The buildings which have been occupied during the last five months successively by the Gordon Highlanders and by Camp H.Q., B.T.B., are now the home of our parent corps, the Royal Engineers. We welcome the Sappers and express the hope that the two units will be able to work and co-operate happily side by side.

The Sergeants' Mess has been strengthened by the not inconsiderable number of Warrant Officers and Sergeants in the Royal Engineers. Here the spirit of co-operation has already got to work and manifested itself in a "free" night and combined Units darts team.

Early results do not seem to indicate that our soccer team will be the force it was last season. So far, of the two games played one has been won and one lost. Unfortunately, the defeat was rather a heavy one, so that we are anxiously awaiting the next result in order to discover whether it was a freak result or not!

The Squadron hockey players are once again combining with H.Q., B.T.B., to form a joint team. So far no league matches have been played, but a friendly match was played and won recently when we fielded an all Signals team. Once again we intend to take part in the B.A.O.R. Minor Units hockey tournament this year.

A new development is the getting together of a basketball team. This we hope to enter in the B.T.B. league. Our new neighbours should be able to teach us something about this game. They are the reigning champions.

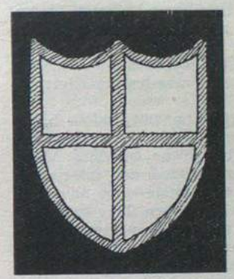
Although no great comment was made about the increased pay rates, when they were revealed to us at the beginning of the month, and there was no sign of a queue outside the Orderly Room clamouring to sign on, nevertheless there was a smug satisfied look on most faces, and a general atmosphere of "well being."

A Corporals' Mess is in the offing. Both the Corporals and the Other Ranks seem to think this is a good thing. Only furniture I gather is now holding up further progress in the matter.

The big attraction in Berlin at the moment is the German Industrial Exhibition, which is being held at the Funkturm in Berlin. There is a British Hall in this exhibition with television—transmitted from the nearby A.K.C. cinema—the original Whittle jet engine, and other British products and last, but by no means least, there are two London buses running over routes in Berlin. Our London district friends might not understand this, but there is definitely something exciting about the sight of these fine red buses!

KLAGENFURT SIGNAL SQUADRON

The cricket teams maintained the form described in the last issue of THE WIRE; Signals Austria won the Knock-Out Cricket League, and Klagenfurt Signal Squadron won the Minor Unit League. In the "B" Soccer League, the Squadron have so far only been beaten by the combined forces of R.M.P. and S.I.B.—but both the Squadron and the police are a little too strong for this league. Lack of numbers daunted us from entering the "A" League. Although it is early in the season yet to pick out personalities, Sergeant Dean and Private Sproules have been a powerful combination in defence, and Sergeant Ashworth has been dangerous on the wing. Rugby and hockey will be starting soon.



Social life has been fast and furious. Among the highlights were Corporal J. Lightowler's wedding, followed closely by the speeding of Sergeant Foreman on his way to the U.K. We are very sorry to lose him; Sergeant Foreman had finished his tour.

Our motor-cycle trials riders have been enthusiastic in their training and appearances at various meetings, but are unfortunate in being prevented from entering a team (which must consist of three riders on machines of the same make), the Squadron in fact possesses no more than two of any make. Signalman P. Brown rides with terrific dash, and Signalman Elliott with great experience. Lance-Corporal Redfern can always be relied on for a steady performance and Signalman Brimble is a keen beginner. Elliott was unluckily prevented from entering the R.E.M.E. birthday trials at the last minute by a mechanical defect on his machine. Brimble, who had been riding well, bounced on a loose boulder and wrapped himself around a tree. He is happily none the worse.

Finally, many of the Squadron have been engaged on exercises recently in which they acquitted themselves well. Tents were dispensed with, and from the oldest campaigner to the newest National Service man we made ourselves comfortable in the opea with varying degrees of success. The camouflage of a cipher truck was seen to resemble that of a lady of the Folies Bergères—leaves around the edges. And the C.O. discussed the parentage of an F. and F. switchboard some time after midnight while delving in its dimly lit entrails. Later a line detachment learnt that a jeep trailer can be self-willed when it turned them over; yet the general result of our efforts has been to whet our appetite for more, and the cipher truck will not be a Lady Godiva next time.

M E L F

X BRANCH, H.Q., BRITISH TROOPS IN EGYPT

Moascar

Although it is some months since we appeared in these pages, we have not been as idle as the silence might suggest. The foremost event to report was the Command exercise known as "Ground Nuts." It took place in the desert south of Suez early in the year and lasted ten days. We were responsible for organising Umpire and Neutral Signals and the bottom of our pot was truly scraped before all the necessary detachments could be found. We even provided our one Captain, Captain T. I. G. Gray, to run the Infantry Brigade Signal Troop involved, as it was temporarily without an officer.

"Ground Nuts" was followed by our own indoor Signal exercise which this year was based on the communications of a mobile desert force. Although no budding Montgomerys came to light, some very original and unorthodox theories of the conduct of desert warfare were advanced. Much argument was enjoyed by all. Then there have been the periodical training gallops to exercise a tactical command H.Q. in the field, or rather, desert. Captain D. W. Callaghan, O.C. Mobile Wireless Troop, should know the rudiments of desert navigation by now. We have also been involved in one or two extraneous commitments, for our C.S.O., Brigadier C. A. H. Chadwick, C.B.E., has recently acted as President of a Board for the Officers' Promotion Examination and has been responsible for the organisation of the first Command Rifle Meeting held in Egypt since the war. During the year our Fixed Signal Service—or as it now is, our Signals Works Service—problems have moved considerably nearer to a satisfactory solution, but the theft of our underground cables continues at a steady rate. The followers of "Pip" Gorton and "Curly" Murray will know all about the latter. Our policy of the complete rehabilitation of trunk cables in the Canal Zone continues to be pursued. We are now busy with preparations for the annual tattoo and first reports indicate that this year's motor-cycle display team will be well up to standard.

In the sporting sphere, we combined with a Troop of Egypt Command Signal Regiment to enter an XI in that unit's cricket league, but did not manage to win a game; this despite the efforts of the C.S.O. who proved to be both our star batsman and bowler. On the subject of cricket, we might add that the C.S.O. kindly allowed his name to be used as the *nom de plume* of the Corps representative side which played at Gezira and Alexandria, apart from umpiring the former game.

EGYPT COMMAND SIGNAL REGIMENT

Moascar

Successful inspections have been carried out since our last contribution, of our detachments at Port Said and Suez by Major-General W. O. Bowen, C.B., C.B.E., C.S.O., M.E.L.F., accompanied by Brigadier C. A. H. Chadwick, C.B.E., C.S.O. British Troops in Egypt. Judging by the colour schemes carried out at both places, it is obvious that excellent liaison exists between the O.C.s at both ends of the Canal (Captain Bowser at Port Said and Lieutenant Hellier at Suez) and the Senior Service. In fact it is surprising that their depredations in the paint line have so far had no obvious effect on H.M. Ships seen passing through the Canal.

Sport. The confidence with which we awaited the result of the Final of the Army (Egypt) Water Polo Championship against the R.A.P.C. (see September issue) was not misplaced. The championship is ours and was gained by decisively beating our sporting opponents to the tune of 6-1.

Shooting. Apart from a miniature postal match against Malta Signal Squadron still to be shot off (No, we haven't forgotten, but we've been all out on the open range) the competition season is now over. Frankly we haven't done so well, largely due to the meagre allocation of the few ranges here for which, very rightly, the infantry get priority. Still we've been represented at most meetings, got into the final four for the Command "Corps" match, and pulled off two individual championships in the Royal Signals meeting. A shaky start but we have the form now and guarantee better things next season.

2 *Squadron, Fayid.* Corporal Dodds, with the help of his committee provided an excellent social evening in the "Nag's Head," when quite a lot of vocal talent was discovered amongst our numbers.

We have put in steady work in the numerous shooting matches in which we have taken part recently. The "Young Soldiers" team acquitted themselves well, Driver Hardie has been a really reliable performer and Captain Brader, although only well placed in competitions, has made his fortune on "Pool Bull" shoots.

Old members of the Squadron will be interested to hear that our "Walrus" Hull has been removed from the stocks and, fitted with engine, is now safely moored in the Great Bitter Lake. We don't say it will be necessary when the O.C. starts sailing *Janet "B,"* but it might come in handy at that.

Tailpiece. Follow "Pip" Gorton and enjoy our thrills at your own fireside.

3 G.H.Q. SIGNAL REGIMENT

Fayid

The approach of the winter season in Egypt is being heralded by the customary, and unmistakable, signs. Battledress tunics and trousers and their accessories are being pulled from the depths of innumerable kit bags and boxes (the Unit tailor's shop and the cleaners have become noticeably cluttered with them); nights are getting longer—and colder; guards are mounting earlier; and, of course, our winter sportsmen are emerging rather drowsily from their summer "siesta."

The various Squadrons have been hard at work for more than a month in preparation for the drill competition which was to have taken place on 30th September. They were, however, granted 14 days "grace," the competition being postponed until 14th October.

By the time these notes appear in print, the last batch of National Servicemen from this Unit to leave for about six months will have reached "Blighty." The resultant stabilisation of the Unit manpower will be of great value in many ways. Both at work and play there will be fewer changes in the personnel and a big all round improvement should result.

During the recent rifle meeting of the 17th Infantry Brigade at Fayid, the Regiment's sharpshooters showed their prowess with rifle and Bren and produced results which compare very favourably with the competing infantrymen's shooting.

The Officers' team, which consisted of Captain R. D. Oram, Captain J. Hallett, Lieutenant A. Sawyer and

Second-Lieutenant M. D. Howe of the Regiment, together with Lieutenant G. Tacey and Captain Brader, qualified for the B.T.E. Command shoot, which is being held during October.

The Unit team gained second place in the Corps team match. The Corps team (which was captained by Lieutenant Sawyer) was: Corporal Bradley (3 G.H.Q. Signal Regiment), Lance-Corporal Peterson (3 G.H.Q. Signal Regiment), Lance-Corporal Lales-Allen (E.C.S.R.), Lance-Corporal Morgan (2 A.S.S.U.), Driver Hardie (E.C.S.R.), Corporal Ingram (3 G.H.Q. Signal Regiment), and Lance-Corporal Hamilton (3 G.H.Q. Signal Regiment).

We also had some success in the individual match. Lance-Corporal Hamilton, Lance-Corporal Peterson and Corporal Bradley all shot very well against strong opposition.

The prizes at this, the first full scale meeting held in the Canal Zone since the war, were presented by the G.O.C. in C., General Sir Brian H. Robertson, Bt., G.B.E., K.C.M.G., K.C.V.O., C.B., D.S.O., M.C., A.D.C.

Our Rugby men, led by Lieutenant Prince, have started practising. Practice games have been arranged with several neighbouring teams, and at the time of writing, two have been played—against R.A.F. (Abayad) and G.H.Q.

Two pitches are available this year, one at Olympia and the other at the Old Vic Lido, and with the last season's stalwarts, Lieutenant Prince, Sergeant Rees, Corporal O'Brien and Lance-Corporal Steele to build around, we hope to have a side worthy to carry on the fine Rugby traditions of the Unit and the Corps.

Turning to the other football code, the Unit team won its first league match, a fine away victory at the expense of the 1st Battalion Royal Sussex Regiment. It was a commendable win and one promising a deal for the season ahead. The team played good football and thoroughly deserved their win. Scorers were Quinton (2), Stones and Franklin.

In hockey also we are getting down to serious training under Major G. S. Grey. We have entered two teams in the District competitions and both of these are beginning to take shape. Four practice games have been played, two against our local rivals, Egypt Command Signal Regiment. Although both of these were lost, the form shown was most promising and we are confident of having a good season before us.

The cross-country enthusiasts, and the not-so-enthusiastic have been catered for; two trial runs having been staged. It is intended to run two teams in the cross-country league this winter, and judging by the results of the trials we should be able to put useful teams into the fray.

We have had our quota of cross-country "walkers," of course, and they have trailed home with leaden feet and aching lungs. There is no truth, however, in the rumour that the strength of the Regiment was found to have decreased after these runs, and that bleached bones were later found in the desert behind B.M.H. Fayid! No! Everyone who started out finished—eventually!

1 INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT

Tripoli

During September, the Minor League Cricket Cup found a resting place in the Sergeants' Mess. Final figures were:

Played	*Won*	*Drawn*	*Lost*	*Points*
18	14	2	2	30

Friendly games have also been played against senior sides in the station and I think it is fair to assume we are as good as the best this season.

At the Divisional Athletic and Rifle meetings, Unit teams acquitted themselves very creditably but failed to gain places in the team awards.

Representatives, however, finished second in the long jump and hurdles and were among the winners in the pool bull shoot.

Soccer has started and in our first game of the season we secured two points at the expense of the Divisional Workshops.

The Tripolitania tennis tournaments concluded recently with the Commanding Officer and Adjutant contesting the final of the men's doubles, which they narrowly lost.

Yachting too, has officially ended. Our sole success in *Mary* was a handicap win but we have a lot of fun notwithstanding.

The Summer Speedway League has ended and "Meteors," our shooting stars, share second place with the "Hellcats," our Grenadier Guards opponents, each team having won five of the seven races ridden.

Life in Tripoli, however, is not one constant round of social and sporting activity. Training is now in full swing and we have taken part in a number of Brigade, Divisional and Combined Ops exercises, not to mention annual training camps.

At the moment, H.M.S. *Forth* and the 1st Submarine Flotilla lie at anchor in the harbour and we are in the process of exchanging a number of social and sporting visits.

We are always delighted to meet our very good friends of the senior service.

In conclusion, we have to report that the most violent storm in years visited Tripoli recently. Wind reached gale force, lightning flashed incessantly and rain lashed down for some three hours. Doors and windows were blown out and flooding occurred everywhere. To add to the difficulties, electricity and water were cut off and communications disrupted. However, by dint of hard work, the situation returned to normal in a matter of hours. There were lots of justifiable grouses but I have a sneaking suspicion this extraordinary visitation was thoroughly enjoyed by all and sundry.

CHIEF AIR FORMATION SIGNAL OFFICER'S BRANCH MIDDLE EAST AIR FORCE

Ismailia

This month has been fairly quiet, probably due to the rush for leave. Cyprus seems to be the favourite this year and it is amusing to see the depressed faces return to work, knowing that my leave has yet to come. Everyone agrees that there is something about Cyprus; it is most refreshing after a summer in Egypt. One of our Branch enjoyed it so much he was six days late in returning for duty.

A certain amount of disapproval was shown by our N.S.M. regarding the extra six months announced by the P.M., but as the majority are on the first lap of their National Service another six months does not seem to matter much at the moment. The disapproval was counteracted by the announcement of the new rates of pay and discreet enquiries are being made with regard to careers in the Regular Army. The regulars are looking very prosperous but keeping eagle eyes on the new income tax tables so conveniently published just before the news of pay increases.

We still manage to keep ourselves "in the picture" in sporting activities. Driver Millis (now on his way to U.K.) won a cup in the R.A.F. Station Ismailia Swimming Gala.

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In addition to this he tore his bathing trunks but was successfully screened and removed from the scene before we were obliged to be "fully framed." Other sports are not yet in full swing but with the approach of cooler weather we hope to find some new talent to retain the good name of Army Signals serving with the R.A.F.

Colonel Hoysted (C.A.F.S.O.) is at present on tour in Iraq, and typewriters are being serviced in preparation for the tour report.

4 AIR FORMATION SIGNAL REGIMENT
Abyad

The Regiment, like all other Signal Units in the Canal Zone, suddenly found itself plunged into a feverish activity of weapon training during July and August, the reason: A Royal Signals (Egypt) rifle meeting on the 23rd, 24th and 25th August, 1950.

After much coming and going of personnel to and from Wing Signal Troops and Fayid Ranges, the various teams required to represent the Regiment, were selected and as can be seen from the final results of the Corps meeting, fully justified the early rising, hurried breakfasts, long journeys and dusty hours on the range.

Deprived of 71 Construction Troop's manpower busily employed on an important cable project and with 64 and 65 Wing Signal Troops too far away to be included, the Regiment was reduced to what could easily be called a very weak Squadron strength, and the offer of adding C.A.F.S.O.s Branch M.E.A.F. personnel to our depleted resources was gratefully accepted, proving itself in that two of those Headquarters types got their places in the team.

Out of four team matches, the Regiment collected two first and one second.

Match iv: Inter Squadron Eight—first.
Match v: Young Soldiers Eight—first.
Match vi: Young Soldiers L.M.G. Pair—second.

The meeting was thoroughly enjoyed by all; and the Regiment takes this opportunity of thanking the organising committee and officials for three excellent days' sport.

By the time this appears in print, the District and Command shoots will have been and gone, and against competition offered by those arms of the Service whose main task is shooting, laurels may or may not be won, but standards most certainly raised.

2 WIRELESS REGIMENT
Cyprus

Officers' Mess. The highlight of our social activity since our last appearance in THE WIRE was a cocktail party given in June for the officers of H.M.S. *Chequers* at which we were honoured with the presence of H.R.H. the Duke of Edinburgh.

We were again invited to entertain officers of U.S.S. *Midway* in August. After our previous invasion by the carrier in February we were well prepared for a large number of guests. Unfortunately, our allies left without warning in the middle of the previous night for an unknown destination, so we contented ourselves with an enjoyable "At Home," attended by officers of the destroyer *Cone*, the rearguard of the American Task Force.

A small party was held in July for the officers of H.M.S. *Gambia*, flying the flag of the C.-in-C. Mediterranean; *Gambia* reciprocated the invitation later at Kyrenia, another Cyprus port, attended by a small party of officers from the Regiment, who provided a private boarding party, and brought back a valuable trophy for the Mess in the form of a replica of the cruiser's crest.

Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess. Since our last notes were published the Mess has been the scene of great activity and artistic conflict, and has been completely redecorated to suit the tastes of all members. Particularly noteworthy are the efforts of our "schoolie," Sergeant Jackson, whose pink elephants, snakes and other demons adorn the front panels of the bar and seem to deter members from the cult of Bacchus on many social occasions!

Among our many and varied activities can now be numbered outings with families to many local beauty spots, both by bus and boat. Our Friday evening socials are a great success and we have been fortunate in acquiring an outdoor garden whose lawn, the R.S.M.'s pride, is the envy and despair of the rest of the Unit.

Our bi-annual sports battle with the Sergeants' Mess, 17 Company, R.A.S.C., Famagusta, resulted in our gaining the wooden cup for our efforts; this cup, described as the hardest fought for trophy on the island, has a cash value of about twopence-halfpenny, but its association with Signals has made its intrinsic value inestimable.

Shooting. On 16th—18th May an all-Island Rifle Meeting was held on the Athalassa Range, near Nicosia, in which the local infantry battalion, the 1st Battalion the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry and "Battalions" of the services competed.

We entered for the Britannia Trophy and the George Cup, as well as having 10 individuals in the Roberts Cup and the Roupell Cup.

In his address before the presentation of the prizes, the District Commander, Brigadier A. A. Crook, D.S.O., said he was very pleased with the enthusiasm shown by the services, especially 2 Wireless Regiment.

Afterwards the Brigadier told the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel H. Winterbotham, O.B.E., that the spirit shown by the Regiment was excellent, both on the open range and in building our own .22 range.

Major H. K. Milward, Royal Signals, won the Roberts Cup, was second in the Roupell Cup, and was Champion Shot of the island. We have five in the first 20 (out of 100 competitors) for the Champion Shot; Lieutenant-Colonel H. Winterbotham, O.B.E. (seventh), Captain F. J. C. Wollaston, R.S.M. D. Herberts, and S.S.M. A. J. Whitham. In the Britannia Trophy we were placed third, and second by five points in the George Cup.

Our photograph of the George Cup team shows, left to right: Captain F. J. C. Wollaston, Major H. K. Milward, Lieutenant-Colonel H. Winterbotham, O.B.E., Lieutenant T. W. Dwyer.

Sport. Among our notable achievements during the cricket season were the following:—

Famagusta Area League—Winners, H.Q. Camp 2 Wireless Regiment.
All Island League Final—Runners-up, H.Q. Camp 2 Wireless Regiment.
All Island Knock-out Final—Winners, 2 Wireless Regiment.

Runners-up were R.A.F. Nicosia, who beat us last year. Again tribute must be paid to the magnificent batting and bowling of our mainstay, Lieutenant (Q.M.) E. Jordan.



George Cup team

FARELF

18th INFANTRY BRIGADE SIGNAL SQUADRON
Malaya

The 8th of September, 1950, saw the arrival of our new Commanding Officer, Major A. L. Galloway, and we hope his stay with the Squadron will be a happy one. During the past few weeks all our efforts have been devoted to putting the Squadron on a mobile footing once again.

The Squadron was visited recently by the District Commander, Major-General R. E. Urquhart, C.B., D.S.O. He spent about 30 minutes with the Squadron and chatted to every man he met.

Since the last issue of these notes we have been concentrating on Rugby and shooting under the able direction of Second-Lieutenant Garratt and S.S.M. Fox. On Sunday, 1st October, the shooting team will leave for Port Dickson where it will compete in the minor units competitions. We wish them luck and will be anxiously awaiting the results.

SINGAPORE DISTRICT SIGNAL REGIMENT

On the 5th September, 1950, the soccer ground at Tanglin took on a truly pre-war look. The pitch was ringed with eager and excited spectators from the Singapore Guard Unit and this Regiment. The occasion was the final of the Malayan Other Ranks Soccer Cup.

The result of the match was in no small way attributable to the early morning and late evening training under the able supervision of S.Q.M.S. Brakenberry. Add to this training the vim and vigour, the keenness and the desire to win shown on the field and it is not surprising that we were proud and pleased to win the cup in the first year of the competition by 2 goals to nil.

The game was closer than the score would appear to indicate and the losers were just as keen and intent on winning as we were. It was a good game to watch and there were very few dull moments. Once again we were thankful for the skill of Sergeant Bligh. (That man thrives on mud. The misprint of his name in the June issue is what he puts on the opposing forwards, i.e. BLIGHT).

The Inter-Squadron Morris Cup Competition has been concluded for 1949/50. The last three events were all won by "C" Squadron and the runners-up were: Badminton, "B" Squadron; swimming, "A" Squadron; cricket, "H.Q." Squadron.

The final placing for the cup was: Winner, "C" Squadron runner-up, "H.Q." Squadron.

Well done, "C" Squadron, but a word of warning—at least three other Squadrons are determined to capture the laurels in 1950/51.

The Regiment finished as runners-up in the S.A.F.A. Junior League to the "Cheerful Lads" who went through the season without a defeat. We lost one game and played a draw in another.

The Malayan Other Ranks received an invitation to play the Police at badminton. The invitation was issued partly, but not completely, as part of a move to show to the troops that the Police of Malaya are just as human as we. In fact, they are jolly good chaps.

This was our first venture to the outside world in this realm and may be we have yet to acquire the big match complex. We suffered a trouncing but we shall sally forth again.

We have completed our annual "spring clean." The hurry and bustle of tent lines cleaning, the early morning drill parades, clothing inspection and the inevitable whitewash bucket culminated with the visit of Brigadier C. G. Robins, the District Commander, for his annual inspection.

On this occasion the weather was not on its best behaviour and we were able to show our camp in one of its muddy moods. The parade, originally to be held on the sports field-cum-parade ground at Ayer Raja Camp, had to be held on the main road of Calcutta Camp. A tropical rainstorm lasting the greater portion of the night began to peter out around 07.00 hrs. For a short period prior to R.S.M. Thompson calling for markers the Squadrons were alternately sheltering from or braving the tail end of the storm. The clouds remained after the rain stopped and the parade was held in a pleasantly cool atmosphere.

The District Commander accompanied by the C.S.O., Colonel H. D. Mountford, arrived at the saluting base at 09.00 hours. The parade was inspected and to the strains of "Colonel Bogey" from the P.A. system, the march past was held.

The inspection of the camp and the Regiment's working and play places was carried out and the result was such that District Commander agreed to the Regiment having the rest of the day as a holiday.

A very successful event took place in the Royal Signals Officers' Mess at Tyersall on Friday, 22nd September, when the annual dance was held. In the early stages there was a certain amount of competition from the military band which was playing in the District H.Q. Mess adjoining, but as it could not be heard on the dance floor the only effect was, one might get up to dance a polka only to find one was expected to samba. It really was a good night. Everyone was in the right spirit and the buffet was enough to make those in the U.K. apply for posting. Sucking pigs are so very nice.

This Unit's notes included a number of movements of Officers, Warrant Officers and senior N.C.O.s, which have been transferred to their proper place in the Personal Column.

G.H.Q. SIGNAL REGIMENT, FARELF
Singapore

We should like to welcome the drafts who have arrived during the last month, especially Second-Lieutenants Morris and Robinson. Also by the same drafts came Lieutenant Smith, W.R.A.C., and 12 W.R.A.C. personnel for the Signal Office. Their arrival has long been awaited and we feel sure they will like their stay here.

The annual inspection is approaching and the G.D. Squad under R.S.M. Johnstone are working wonders in the lines and the Q.M. it is rumoured has submitted an extra indent for whitewash. Let us hope it won't rain.

The Officers and Sergeants played the rest at cricket and were defeated. However, much to the Sergeants' surprise, the Officers later managed to defeat the Sergeants by an innings—Captain Gant scoring 59.

The football season is ending, No. 1 Squadron won the G.H.Q. Branch League and the A.W.C. Squadron the Branch League knock-out competition.

19 AIR FORMATION SIGNAL REGIMENT

Changi, Singapore

Since our last notes were written two further parties of 12 men have attended the Service Jungle Training School at Mersing, but although they went on several patrols they did not meet any bandits. They returned, however, with a much better idea of what life in the infantry is like up-country, and in a more appreciative frame of mind towards life in a static unit in Singapore.

Hockey and rugger have started again and we hope to repeat our last year's record of being unbeaten in the league throughout the season. Our rugger side is quite promising. We have produced a fifteen and have played five matches, winning two, drawing two and losing one. The soccer team eventually ended about midway up the league.

Invitations have been received from a number of civilians on the island inviting servicemen to their homes for dinner and an evening's entertainment. Several men have been able to go from this Regiment and as a result have spent some enjoyable hours in the comfort of a home.

On 1st September, the Commander, Singapore Base District, Brigadier C. G. Robins, visited the Regiment and carried out an inspection. During the parade he presented R.Q.M.S. V. King with his long service and good conduct medal. The following week the Commander visited and inspected 2 Squadron at R.A.F. Station, Seletar.

A number of references to moves of Officers and Warrant Officers, births and other personal matters have been transferred to the appropriate column.



Presentation of long-service and good conduct medal to R.Q.M.S. V. King by Commander, Singapore Base District

MALAYA DISTRICT SIGNAL REGIMENT

Kuala Lumpur

No. 1 Squadron. With much regret we have said good-bye to our O.C., Major C. Worrin, who returns to the U.K. this month.



September has seen the foundation of a very flourishing branch of the Signals Association in Kuala Lumpur. All meetings have been keenly supported by the Squadron. We have been very pleasantly surprised by the number of Old Comrades who have joined.

Rugby. The Regiment has a very full and rather ambitious fixture list this season. We hope to have some cheerful match reports in the very near future.

The Regiment is very strongly represented in the Kuala Lumpur Services XV. The following members have gained places so far: Second-Lieutenant Thomas, Sergeant Gill, Corporal Lloyd, Signalman Maxwell, Signalman Huitson.

Soccer. The Unit team was very closely beaten in the semi-finals of the State Junior Knock-out Cup. The success of the team has been very largely due to the efforts of its player/manager, S.Q.M.S. Cloke.

Shooting. R.H.Q. combined with X Branch to represent Royal Signals in the H.Q. Malaya Shooting Championships. The rifle team consisting of Captain A. R. Wythe, Captain C. V. Walsh, Sergeant Grivoel, Corporal Cooper, and Signalman Bowley won the team championship, and Captain Walsh was champion shot of the meeting. He also won the revolver shooting, the Chief Signal Officer, Colonel E. C. Thompson, being second.

R.S.M. A. Parish was second in the Sten competition. It was altogether a Signal occasion, and we are now hoping to win the Malayan Championship to be held at Port Dickson on October.

No. 2 Squadron, Taiping. 2 Squadron, having had a fairly quiet period, is now finding more to do from an operational point of view.

1 Worcester Regiment, who have been under command of North Malaya Sub District, have just completed Operation Rose and "bagged" no less than 30 bandit suspects and food suppliers, etc. One of them a real "bad hat," was involved in four murders!

2 Squadron produced two rear links and technical assistance on this operation and communications went well.

Numerous visits of V.I.P.s are making much work for our mobile detachments, and we are now stretched over an area of some 200 miles.

A spate of gardening is taking place and several men are nearly qualified to work in Kew Gardens.

The Squadron wit was heard to say that he had heard of "bull" but this was the first time he had used "mule" (manure for the gardens is coming from the mule lines of the local R.A.S.C. Company).

No. 3 Squadron, Seremban. The Squadron are about to benefit from the reallocation of accommodation in the camp to the extent of acquiring a new "basha." This move is popular because we shall all be concentrated nearer to the job.

The expected exodus of National Service personnel mentioned in our last notes has failed to take place. It is understood that feelings were relieved by those concerned, at the N.A.A.F.I. bar. This rumour is, it is hoped, unfounded but bears the mark of authenticity. The OLD hands with three Malayan years under their blue berets have, however, been allowed to move on. They take our best wishes with them.

In the sporting line we still endeavour to keep the flag flying. Unfortunately we have found lately that success is eluding us. It is not too much to say that our present teams are disappointing. The spirit is there but, as yet, teamwork and individual skill are lacking. However, with some more practice and training there should be a great improvement.

No. 4 Squadron, Kuala Lipis. The extension of National Service was a blow to our National Service element but they have got over it now. For our part we cannot help but be pleased.

GURKHA SIGNAL TRAINING AND HOLDING WING

Kuala Lumpur

The past month has been a quiet one in most respects and consequently, unless we descend to domestic chatter we have little to report. Snippets of news which are worth recording however are as follows.

The local Branch of the O.C.A. has at last been launched, and most fittingly too. Undoubtedly the Secretary will forward some notes in due course. Meanwhile let us record the fact that we serving members of this Unit thoroughly enjoyed our inaugural monthly "get-together" with civilian members of the Branch and we are looking forward to future meetings and activities with pleasure. The R.S.M., who is our representative, is not a little pleased with the almost 100% Unit membership we have achieved.

Captain Parkinson (O.C. Training) is very busy these days; being O i/c rifle team training in addition to his other training duties he is to be found on the range most days of the week. The team, comprising eight mixed British and Gurkha ranks, I hear is showing some considerable improvement after practice under his determined hand. It is rumoured that we have one G.O.R. who will insist on putting all his shots through the same hole. We hope he keeps his eye in for the Malaya Competition at Port Dickson next month. Malaya District Signal Regiment are also training their team in anticipation of the same event, and there will obviously be some stiff competition from other units more actively engaged in practising their personal arms against the brand of bandit we are apt to encounter in Malaya. More about this next month.

The only sporting event of note, outside the normal daily inter-troop sports programme, this past month, was a boxing tournament staged at Malaya District Signal Regiment. Asked at short notice to provide a few entrants to swell the bill, one B.O.R. and three G.O.R.s of this Unit took part, supported by a large number of British and Gurkha friends at the ringside. Sergeant Wood and Corporal Sherbahadur Gurung, both pitted against really experienced opponents, are to be congratulated on winning their fights. We all thoroughly enjoyed the evening's entertainment and our congratulations are offered to Malaya District Signal Regiment for running an excellent show.

The members of our B.O.R.s Club have only one piece of news to offer this month. That is, that on Sunday, 12th September, the Navy descended upon them in the form of a dozen thirsty "matelots" from H.M.S. *Cardigan Bay*, docked some 28 miles away at Port Swettenham. This little party of "salts" found the trail to the Club with the aid of three members of the Unit who had been taking advantage of an official arrangement between the Army and the Navy, to give B.O.R.s change of air leave aboard H.M. ships, and who had been having a high old time on the high seas on this particular man o' war for the previous week or so. The net result of this visit was a very cheerful party for all concerned, and the cementing of an extremely close liaison between the lower deck of the *Cardigan Bay* and the rank and file of Gurkha Signal Training Wing. With regard to the latter remark about liaison, for a week afterwards, the Supervising Officer of the Club was a little anxious as to whether or not his property book should now show the acquisition of a steel clad warship. In fact he studiously avoided visiting the stream which runs through our camp, in case he'd find it floating there one fine morning.

Those members of the Unit who continued with their cruise after this event must have reaped a generous reward for the hospitality given, because they appeared very loth to leave the sea and return to their Unit. The seafaring roll is still evident among them.

SIGNAL TROOP, 58 MED. REGIMENT, R.A.

Hong Kong

Notwithstanding the broiling sun, September has seen the beginning of the winter sports season. The Regimental basketball, soccer, rugger and hockey teams are all well in their stride now, with the Signal Troop well represented in each. Since the last draft, which almost brought the Troop up to establishment, interest has developed in volley-ball and softball, both new games to the Troop.

The Sappers have almost completed a new L.A.D. workshop at one end of the Regimental soccer pitch and we have been allotted a workshop which, with its high ceiling, abundant cupboard space, long benches with three inch tops and ample shelving, must surely be the answer to every radio mechanic's prayer.

40 INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT

Hong Kong

From a domestic point of view this has been a very busy month for the Regiment. The first "flap" was the despatch of 27 Infantry Brigade Signal Troop to Korea at the end of August. They left here in full strength having reached that exalted state at the expense of all other troops in the Regiment. Suffice it to say that all Squadron Commanders were deluged with applications for postings to Korea before even they had been told officially that 27 Brigade was to go there. One N.C.O. even tried to complain to the G.O.C.-in-C. because his application was turned down. Our best wishes go with 27 Brigade. We are proud that Royal Signals should be represented in Korea by a troop of this Regiment.



After a short period of comparative peace (!) we are now in the throes of preparing to move into the big city where, next week, we shall amalgamate with Hong Kong Signal Squadron to form a new unit to be known as Hong Kong Signal Regiment. Into the throes of reorganisation have been pitchforked our latest batch of reinforcements, who arrived in the Regiment a bare six hours before the Regimental farewell supper party. This affair was a most excellent show with a touch of "December in September" in that the meal—a sumptuous spread—was served Christmas fashion by the Officers, Warrant Officers and Sergeants. After supper our cinema expert, Corporal A. E. Scott, produced an enjoyable selection of Mickey Mouse and Donald Duck, etc., which was in turn followed by a short, but very sweet, sing-song. Corporal Scott, incidentally, was recently presented with a silver cigarette case on the occasion of the 150th cinema show produced in the camp for the Regiment, by the Regiment.

In the field of sport we have been, during the summer months, involved in very little owing to the heat which virtually means a close season, but are now spreading our wings once more. S.S.M. Pavey, Sergeant Teyen, Corporal Partridge and Lance-Corporal Gardiner are all working their way steadily through the Army hockey trials, and it looks as though the Corps will be well represented in this year's Army team.

Whilst we have done no competition swimming, as yet,

the beach is still well populated every day at 4 p.m. We shall miss our beach when we move into town.

Next week we say goodbye to three of the original members of the Regiment who helped to form it in Canterbury last summer. Lieutenant A. B. Roderick, our Cipher Officer, who now finds himself surplus to establishment and is off to Malaya to baffle the bandits, and S.Q.M.S. Martin and Sergeant Causer, who are both budding Foremen of Signals and are on their way home to prove it.

One star who is swiftly rising to fame is Lance-Corporal Cowdroy of M Troop, who is now well known to thousands of listeners on Hong Kong Radio Rediffusion as "Dave Conway," baritone.

One other party worthy of note is the occasion of the farewell party in the Officers' Mess when the Officers entertained the Sergeants' Mess—a very pleasant and successful function.

These are the last notes that will appear from us as 40 Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment. We first came to life in Canterbury in June, 1949. By August we were on the high seas. We arrived in Hong Kong on 13th September. During the period 14th—18th September we received and unpacked our G1098 stores. On the 20th September we were operating a full scale signal office and line and wireless communications to formations and units under command. In early November we were on the first of many exercises which went on throughout the cold weather. Never a dull moment!

March saw us taking part in a grand parade of the whole Division, which marched past H.E. the Governor. From then on the Unit began to wither away. Each ship saw large contingents of our N.S. men, particularly O.W.L.s, disappear. Replacements were few and far between especially for the O.W.L.s we lost. The provision of communications month by month became increasingly difficult. We even had to find a small number of reinforcements for Malaya and finally for 27 Brigade Signals who left for Korea. However, in spite of this very difficult period we have managed to keep communications going and—goodness knows how—take part in several schemes. Now, at last, we are amalgamating with our good friends the Hong Kong Signal Squadron to form a new Regiment and, believe it or not, it looks as if we shall be practically up to strength! So the clouds have lifted and harassed looks—we hope—will disappear.

Le Regiment est mort—vive le Regiment!

CARIBBEAN AREA SIGNAL SQUADRON
Kingston, Jamaica

Trade training seems to be the theme for WIRE notes, as it now draws to its conclusion.



Operating Troop. The Troop, like others, has been busily engaged with trade training. Lance-Corporal Phillips is temporarily on detachment in British Honduras, and Lance-Corporal Hood has just rejoined us after a long stay in New Orleans with the R.A.S.C.V. Copinsay.

Congratulations to Corporal Perrin, Lance-Corporal Gayle, and L/Cpl. Harvey on their recent promotions.

F.S.S. Troop. In addition to trade training we have been very busy with a multitude of line faults which came with the seasonal rains. The rains have been the heaviest for 10 years. We are somewhat depleted at present by the loss of Lieutenant Dacre in U.K., and Sergeant Wallace with our U.K. linemen who are now engaged at Newcastle with an aerial cable project.

S.H.Q. Signalmen Jones and Limon are away in British Honduras. We offer a slightly premature welcome to S.Q.M.S. (F. of S.) Ashman, who is now on the high seas to join us.

27 Commonwealth Infantry Brigade Signal Troop
Korea

If we travelled any further East we should be on our way home, but at present we believe we hold the honour of being the first representatives of the Corps to serve in Korea; we might even be the first British troops, but our history is not so good.

Our first achievement lies not in Korea but in Hong Kong; we were despatched here in a hurry and had five days in which to prepare all stores and personnel—we've got all the personnel, but the stores, although they took some time to catch up with us, are almost complete now.

We arrived by H.M.S. *Unicorn* at Pusan a fortnight ago and moved into the line after a week's preparation just behind Taegu. During this week we studied the art of making a bivouac and not being able to rely on the Chinese laundry some of us are becoming quite competent "dhobi amahs." Perhaps a word about our arrival would be of interest.

The aircraft-carrier, looking as impressive as only a carrier can, moved into Pusan harbour on the morning of 29th August and our reception party consisted of an American negro military band, a South Korean military band and a choir of Korean schoolchildren whose rendering of our National Anthem was somewhat marred by the clanking of cranes, but was nevertheless impressive and appreciated.

Many highranking American officers were on the quayside which in time should be renamed Fleet Street judging by the masses of correspondents and photographers who were there.

However, in remembering our arrival in Korea, perhaps our departure from Hong Kong was more heartfelt to many of us who had to leave families and friends behind.

Now that we are in the line all our communications are installed and to date, working. We have had little trouble with the equipment and as usual the W/S. No. 19 has proved as reliable as ever.

Sergeant McIntyre is revelling in Active Service accounting and we are sure he dreams of the Financial Adviser as he sleeps in the back of his stores 3-ton vehicle; though we find it advisable just to show him an A.F.G. 1033 now and again.

Captain Pidsley and Sergeant Nesbitt have had their first injuries, though thankfully slight, when they had to bale out of a jeep on receipt of L.M.G. fire from the "Gooks" (i.e. North Koreans) whilst on a recce of a P.L. route—moral, one eye on the map, the other on the route.

Liaison with the U.S. Signal Corps could almost take up a volume in recounting. The C.I. at the School would shudder to hear Signalman Hunt answering a "voice" call of "How do you read me" with the reply "Five by Five Roger and Out"; however, on the Brigade Forward Net we are strictly as per Signal Training Pamphlet No. 7.

Our rations are good and to those who didn't like American cigarettes it's Hobson's choice. On that subject we would like to mention how happy we are to have Sergeant John Keeney of the U.S. Signal Corps who is helping us with our procedure and authentication and who strangely enough dislikes his own cigarettes and exchanges them for Sergeant Mac's "Senior Service." In time we might even persuade him to join the Royal Corps.

The weather has not been too kind and we seem to alternate between a rainy day and a sunny one which admittedly is a variety but confusing for blanket drying.

Our Battalions are well dug in and so far have had only patrol activity, but we know they are only waiting for the word "Go" and will prove themselves in good time.

Someone has just mentioned that the beer ration has arrived and, working on the principle that it will go bad if left to stand too long, we send best wishes to our friends in Hong Kong, and to the Editor, a promise to write again later.

Territorial Army

43 (WESSEX) INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.
Taunton

Highlight of the month has been the annual Regimental Ball, held on Friday, 6th October, 1950, at the T.A. Centre, Bridgwater. All ranks, who turned up in force from as far afield as Torquay, voted it a great success—thanks largely to the hard work of No. 2 Squadron, with not a little assistance from the W.R.A.C. Sergeant L. A. James of No. 2 Squadron is to be particularly congratulated on his Piccadilly Circus effects with flashing coloured lights and an illuminated Jimmy. We were fortunate in having a six-piece dance orchestra from the Corps Band.

Earlier last month No. 2 Squadron put in some good work, in a more military sense, when they joined with No. 3 Squadron at Fremington (by kind permission of the Combined Operations Signal School) to carry out a week-end exercise working as a Field Regiment Signal Troop. The weather to say the least of it was appalling, but all communications were duly "established."

Two teams went over to Bulford on Sunday, 17th September, 1950, to compete in the Southern Command Motor-Cycle Trials (T.A.). It was a competition too!—the going very tricky and everyone trying very hard. However, we achieved second place with our "A" team, and Major G. S. Dalton was unfortunate not to repeat his last year's success by winning the individual competition. He was two marks behind the winner. The teams from the Regiment competing were: "A" team: Major G. S. Dalton, Sergeant G. A. Mellors, Lance-Corporal P. L. Wright. "B" team: Corporal D. S. Masters, Signalman G. A. Badge, Signalman E. G. French.

2/20 ARMY SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.
Wanstead

On Battle of Britain Sunday the Regiment provided a detachment to represent the Territorial Army in Woodford and Wanstead. After a service in St. Mary's Parish Church the parade, in which all services were represented, was reformed and marched past under command of Major E. T. Bilham. It was a very satisfying turn-out and much to the credit of the men and women concerned.

On Sunday, 24th September, 1950, our D.R.s took part in the London District Motor-cycle Trials. Two teams were entered consisting of:

"A" team: Sergeant Newton, Sergeant Ginn and Signalman Ives.

"B" team: Captain R. A. Chell, Lance-Corporal Birch and Signalman Foulds.

The "A" team brought back a bronze medal each for a team award and Sergeant Newton another as an individual award, a creditable performance by all concerned. The rest of the party thoroughly enjoyed themselves despite the bad weather and, though they gained no awards they gained considerably in experience.

The month has been one of arrivals and departures, the former fortunately outnumbering the latter. Our Adjutant, Captain "Bob" Matthews, has left us for a Technical Staff Officers' Course at the Military College of Science.

We welcome in his place Captain C. B. Masser, who joins us from Officer Training Wing, School of Signals.

ARMY PHANTOM SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.
(The Princess Louise's Kensington Regiment)
Hammersmith

Congratulations to Major A. E. B. Foxwell and Captain F. F. Kendell on their recent promotion, perhaps better timed than they expected in view of the rates of pay! Both are members of the Kensington Regiment of long standing, who have taken whole-heartedly to the modified role the Unit was selected for in 1947.

We are now forming an association football team, and after reporting our progress in the next notes, will be pleased to hear from units in the London area with a view to arranging matches. Miniature range shooting and basketball continue to hold their places as attractive additional opportunities to meet each other "off parade" at our Drill Hall in Hammersmith Road.

44 (H.C.) INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.
Stamford Brook, W.6

I must apologise to those readers who look forward to hearing our news for the absence of a contribution last month.

We have all returned now from holidays and everyone is working hard.

Those readers who know Colonel Deakin will be sorry to hear that he is in Millbank Hospital and we know you join us in wishing him a speedy recovery. We hope his hard work at camp this year is not the reason for his indisposition.

Major Baldwin and Captain Bradshaw entered for the Royal Signals autumn meeting of the Golf Club at West Hill Golf Club near Woking. There they met Captain Sandys who was Captain Philip's predecessor as Adjutant.

A team from the Regiment took part in a return shoot against the 44 Divisional Ordnance Field Park under Colonel Rossiter. After winning the original shoot on the miniature range, we lost to the Field Park boys on the open range. During the same weekend our No. 1 shooting team was firing for the Mhow Cup which we hoped we should win for the second year. This was not to be but we congratulate the team consisting of Major Williams, Captain Williams, R.S.M. Turner and Sergeant Holden for the effort they made.

The following is a list of the cups and trophies competed for during the year and at camp with the names of the winners:—

Wheeler Musketry Challenge Cup, R.S.M. C. A. Turner, M.M. (Best all round shot in the Regiment.)

Sussex Musketry Cup, Sergeant Holden. (R.S.M. Turner stood down and allowed Sergeant Holden, the runner-up, to hold the cup.) (Best performance at Annual Classification.)

Reid Trophy (best 1st year T.A. soldier).—Lance-Corporal Pullman, Brighton.

Colonel Kittoe Musketry Cup (highest squadron score).—Chatham Squadron.

Efficiency Trophy.—Stamford Brook Squadron.

Hosbach Cup for Wireless Competition.—Corporal Matthews' Crew.

Cable Challenge Cup.—Sergeant Fiddes and Stamford Brook Det.

D.R. Shield.—Lance-Corporal L. J. Tomey.

Individual Efficiency Trophy (for the most efficient individual performance during the year).—Lance-Corporal McGrath, Brighton.

Dearlove Trophy for Vehicle Competition.—Lance-Corporal Tomey and Lance-Corporal Best.

1/20 (SM) ARMY SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

Birmingham

Although the T.A. personnel have been given a month's break which expires on 9th October, work behind the scenes has still gone on. Additional civilian clerical assistance has been obtained. This is without a doubt, a great help. Fears that the Quartermaster would have a nervous breakdown have been allayed. The rumour that he fell down and twisted himself is without foundation.

Corporal A. Walton has left us after a short stay. He has been replaced by Corporal R. Bradley, thus making two Bradleys on the permanent staff. We are very sorry to be losing Captain J. E. Denton, Adjutant, in the near future when he goes to take up another job, probably with a new unit. T.A. Adjutants often find that it is necessary to work 25 hours a day. Captain Denton did this quite cheerfully. We wish him, Mrs. Denton and the two chota wallahs the best of good fortune in their next location. Captain M. M. Barker will be taking up the reins from Captain Denton this month and to him we extend a hearty welcome. He will find that he has a good permanent staff who will give him every support. These are still difficult days in the T.A. despite the passage of over three years since it was reconstituted. Recruits continue to arrive though to be sure, not with such a rush as to prevent our dealing with the afternoon cupper.

Congratulations to Geoffrey Duke, late member of the Signals motor-cycle display team on his success in the Isle of Man with a Norton motor-cycle (advert.).

You will remember that I said we were to have a smoking concert for all ranks in October. Forget it. Maybe we shall have one some other time. If the Q.M. hasn't sold his saxophone to pay the rates by the time the show is organised he will endeavour to blow it out straight for the amusement of an astonished and credulous audience—or not, as the case may be. Captain H. S. Nokes dropped in from Crediton during September. One of his rare visits to his home town. We are glad that he can find time to look in at Cateswell House on these occasions. We would like to see a few more of the old brigade; make it during opening time.

Cyril Stapleton and his Band more than filled the Drill Hall on 30th September. Six hundred people stood and listened to some rhythmic noise with evident enjoyment; another 150 went through some curious body movements on the few square yards left otherwise vacant. A young man with long hair, a dead pan and a yellow and green shirt worn outside his trousers assured me that this was dancing. O.K. So it was dancing. I'd like to have seen it in the Y.M.C.A. hut at Maresfield in 1922. Later in the year we are to have Harry Gold and his Pieces of Eight. I see no reason why we shouldn't have Bob Barlow and his Lumps of Lead. Personally, I'd settle for Les Williams and his resident band at Cateswell House. This combination takes a lot of beating for rhythm and melody in the Midlands. As it is now 2 a.m., the only time I can allot to writing notes, I shall have to conclude without my technical article. This is a pity because I feel sure you would like to know how a decibel can be wired to a short piece of heterodyne and used to stop up holes in flutes. Heterodyne and gone tomorrow as Sergeant Flugelpip said. He would have been 28 in December.

BARLEUX



The Quartermaster can still show them how

52 (L) INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

Glasgow

The decision of the War Office to re-form 52nd (Lowland) Divisional Signal Regiment (T.A.) was an occasion for much rejoicing among the "Lowland" ranks of 50 L. of C. Signal Regiment (T.A.). The new unit was virtually re-born on 1st June, when 155 (Indep.) Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron (T.A.), 85 A.G.R.A. Signal Squadron (T.A.) and 30 (L) Armoured Brigade Signal Squadron (T.A.) amalgamated with the personnel of 50 L. of C. Signal Regiment (T.A.). The H.Q., and the bulk of the unit are in the original centre at 21 Jardine Street, Glasgow, with No. 3. Squadron at present divided between two centres in Edinburgh, 28 York Place and 8 Wemyss Place.

We are very fortunate in having Lt.-Col. T. M. Niven, T.D., D.L., as our first Honorary Colonel, for not only did he serve with 52 Divisional Signals, for the whole period between the wars, eventually commanding and mobilising the Unit, but he has constantly maintained close contact and given us every help since the T.A. was re-formed. We are also fortunate in having other pre-war members of the Unit, who are prominent men in Glasgow, and who still keep up their interest in our fortunes. Amongst these are the Rt. Hon. The Lord Provost of Glasgow, Lieutenant-Colonel Victor D. Warren, M.B.E., T.D., who commanded the second line unit when it was formed, 15 (S) Divisional Signals, Brigadier W. Buchanan, C.B.E., who became widely known to the Corps in North Africa and Italy, where he was C.S.O., L. of C., and Brigadier J. Spencer Muirhead, D.S.O., M.C., T.D., D.L., a former commanding officer, and who is now Vice-Chairman of the Glasgow Territorial Association.

To mark the re-birth of the Unit, an "At Home" was organised by the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess, and an invitation was extended to the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel W. A. Purser, and the Officers to take part. The opening ceremony was performed by the C.O., who cut a length of cable with a pair of lineman's pliers. After a typically Signals struggle, the pair of pliers won by a couple of "chews." In declaring the Mess open, the C.O. welcomed the re-forming of the old 52nd Lowland Divisional Signals, and said that he hoped that their traditions would be perpetuated. There followed a very enjoyable (and traditional) Smoker.

This year a successful camp was held during the customary period of the Glasgow "Fair Fortnight," the latter half of July. We were allotted the best camp in Northern Command, at Hutton Gate near Guisborough, and we were able to renew old friendships with 51 (H) Divisional Signal Regiment (T.A.), who were nearby at Marske-on-Sea. We were most fortunate in having the Corps Band over one evening, and we were given a really most excellent concert. A policy of hard work and play, with a good share of both resulted in a very enjoyable camp. It was unfortunate that the reorganisation of the T.A. came too late to enable the whole unit to be together, but 3 Squadron (late 155 (Indep.) Brigade Signal Squadron (T.A.) had an equally good location with their Brigade at Dallachy Camp, near Fochabers, on the Moray Firth, and 4 Squadron went with 30 Armoured Brigade to Stanford, Norfolk.

With the winter drill season approaching, a varied training programme has been arranged, and with the present enthusiasm and urge to become proficient on the part of all, there are high hopes that we, the new "Lowlanders" of old fashioned vintage still produce a Regiment second to none.

These notes are by way of putting our Unit on the map and it is hoped that in future notes we shall have space to mention some names of present members, that will strike a chord in the memories of ex-52 Divisional Signals veterans.

Association Notes

ROYAL SIGNALS BENEVOLENT FUND

Subscriptions received during September, 1950

	£	s.	d.
7 Selection Regiment	15	18	3
3 Training Regiment	13	10	3
4 Training Regiment	10	0	0
Donations received during September, 1950			
Mr. C. B. Hall	2	0	0
Total receipts—September, 1950	£41	8	6

Expenditure during September, 1950, £478 19s. 9d. (includes: General assistance; rent; rates and insurance; cots and prams; bed and bedding; furniture; clothing; funerals; rehabilitation; fares; convalescence).

Analysis of cases: Families of soldiers serving in U.K., 7; families of soldiers serving in B.A.O.R., 1; families of soldiers serving in M.E.L.F., 1; widows and dependants, 5; released and discharged soldiers, 48; total cases assisted, 62.

Tunbridge Wells and District

Since we last appeared on the pages of this delectable magazine, the Branch has again paraded in public with Standard and Escort—this time with the R.A.F. Association at the culminating event of Battle of Britain Week—the Festival of Remembrance. The parade was commanded by Lord de Lisle and Dudley and took the form of a drumhead service in the perfect setting of the lovely Calverley Grounds, on Sunday, 17th September, 1950.

The weather was brilliant and the event was an outstanding success.

The Ex-Service Associations Darts League, mentioned in my notes last month, has "kicked off." Matches were commenced on Thursday, 5th October, 1950. Royal Signals met Royal Navy, resulting in a win for Signals, three games to one. The Branch is meeting Tunbridge Wells Veterans' Club on Thursday, 12th October, and Royal Marines on Thursday, 19th October. Results will be published in due course.

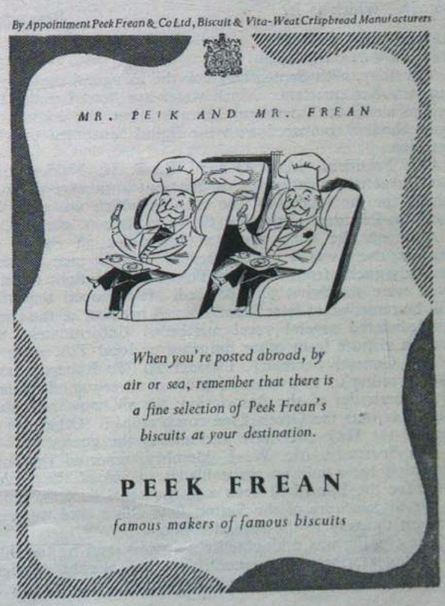
On 20th September, 1950, a representative party of members visited Eastern Command Signal Regiment at Maresfield Camp. We were very graciously received by Lieutenant-Colonel J. N. Barker and his Officers, also by R.S.M. "Pat" Berwick and members of the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess. They all had certainly set themselves out to give us a very happy and convivial welcome. Old memories were awakened and old friendships renewed with many of us and the visit will, I am sure, prove to be the outstanding highlight of the year for those of us who made the trip. We left the camp about 9 p.m. and made our way to visit "Sammy" Hughes at the Bridge Hotel, Uckfield. What with Sammy's "regulars" and our party, the four walls of the pub took a severe strain, but stood the test. Sammy appeared pleased to see us, and any doubts about it were speedily dispersed when he stood a pint all round. Old chums were soon discussing Balaclava, Inkerman and Spion Kop, while we younger fry stood by open-mouthed and spellbound at the simplicity of soldiering in ye olden tyme. Joking apart, we all enjoyed ourselves exceptionally well and, with one accord, wish Sammy all the best and "more power to his elbow."

By the time these notes are published, branches who have so magnificently assisted us in our Cesarewitch draw will have received the results sheet. May I take this opportunity to congratulate the prizewinners and to thank home branches and Unit branches abroad, who have so very kindly helped to make the project a success.

Birmingham

I didn't count the members attending the monthly meeting in September because I knew them all. They always come. At a rough guess I should say that the attendance fell far short of 838, which I understand is about the total genuine membership of this Branch. The 48th Divisional Signals were represented by Messrs. Bromhall, Powell, Arnott, Osman and others. The past was dug up, dissected, laughed over and eventually buried under a heap of glasses.

Congratulations to Miss Jean Hopkins, one of our steadiest supporters and a member of the committee. She



is now a Second-Lieutenant in the W.R.A.C. (T.A.), and so she should be. One of these days I shall salute her—without my hat.

On 30th November we intend to hold a smoking concert after the monthly meeting. Bring your wife and/or girl friend. Try to recapture some of the old spirit of comradeship. Didn't you like being a member of the Royal Signals? Did you have any friends in the Corps? Come and find out where they are these days.

We were glad to make the acquaintance of Captain M. M. Barker, who has arrived at Cateswell House to take over Adjutant from Captain J. E. Denton. It will please us if we see him regularly so that we may keep contact with 1/20 Army Signal Regiment, T.A.

We have made no special arrangements for entertaining this winter apart from the concert mentioned above, but if members want anything "laid on" they are assured of the sympathetic ear of the Hon. Secretary.

We regret that we were unable to attend the Coventry Branch dance in September, but hope that it was a success.

Birmingham doesn't change much. Occasionally a blitzed house is demolished and cleared up but the process is so slow that nobody notices the change. We once saw a man start to lay a row of bricks but when he noticed us watching he went very red, wiped his trowel on the weeds and went away. There was even a case of a private citizen getting a telephone installed but the matter was hushed up, so we don't know if anything came of it. Nevertheless, Birmingham is a good place to be if that is where your friends are. There is money here if you can find it; if you have somewhere to stay while you look for it—if!

By the way, most of us decided that the portrait by Jane Hope Bown of a pint of beer was a nice change from glamour girls. The girls in the pictures were always remote and unattainable. Just photographs. A pint, however, is quite something else. A couple of sharp raps on the wet table and hey presto, or hey nonny nonny for that matter, A PINT.

It is likely that before this copy reaches you another Armistice Sunday will have passed by. Perhaps you will be glad that you went to one of the Remembrance Parades. Or maybe you are feeling just a little sorry that you didn't bother. Which is it?

BARLEUX

Sutton and District

(Incorporating East Surrey Branch)

Thursday, 28th September, saw the inaugural meeting at our new headquarters. Much water has flowed under the bridge since our members last met, but the amount is quite modest compared with the liquid consumed on this occasion.

Our President, Major-General R. F. H. Nalder, C.B., O.B.E., was unavoidably absent, but sent a message of good wishes for the success of the evening which was read by the Vice-President, Brigadier C. V. L. Lycett, O.B.E.

Although the band provided music for all classes of dancers, there was a notable lack of dancing men, so that our lady guests from the local Telecommunications department were somewhat disappointed. It is hoped that this will be remedied at later functions. A member of the band also rendered several vocal numbers. Unfortunately, we had no visitors from other branches or local T.A. units.

The General Secretary, Colonel A. W. Roberts, M.C., after greeting us as a branch, gave us a very good resumé of the activities of the Association; we all know now that No. 88 is near the Green Line coach stop!! Other members of the H.Q. staff were also among the guests.

The Secretary, Mr. W. J. Membry, reported that our campaign for a million razor blades in aid of the Guide Dogs for the Blind had been a phenomenal success, much to the discomfiture of the Sutton Post Office, and we were well on the way to the second million.

The evening was undoubtedly a success, and by the time these notes appear, our second function, the El Alamein dance on the 26th October, will have already taken place.

You will always be welcome at the T.A. Centre, Lenham Road, Sutton, Surrey, on the last Thursday of each month—except December, when the G.P.O. turn it into a sorting office for Christmas mail for a month.

SPORTS NOTES

CORPS CRICKET—FARELF

Results of matches played during the season, together with batting and bowling analyses are as follows:

Match Results

Date	Opponents	Results
22nd April	Royal Artillery	Cancelled. Rain.
6th May	R.E.M.E.	Lost by 97 runs.
24th-25th June	Royal Engineers	Lost by 1 wkt.
8th July	Royal Artillery	Won by 16 runs.
12th August	Royal Engineers	Won by 29 runs.
26th August	R.A.S.C.	Won by 5 wkts. and 123 runs.
10th September	R.A.O.C.	Cancelled.

Batting

Name	No. of innings	Runs scored	Times not out	Highest score	Average runs
Captain G. B. Andrews	6	256	–	85	42.6
Lieutenant-Colonel G. S. Knox	2	38	1	24*	38
S.S.M. Charlton	6	104	1	25	20.8
Major R. Tyrrell-Gray	6	99	1	49	19.8
Sergeant Tripp	6	99	1	41	19.8
Corporal Miller	4	52	–	39	13

* Denotes not out.

Bowling

Name	Overs	Maiden overs	Runs	Wickets	Balls bowled	Av. runs per wkt.
Sergeant Drake ...	44	8	125	19	264	6.6
Signalman Foxall ...	22	11	17	2	132	8.5
Corporal Cross ...	42	10	97	11	254	8.8
Signalman Burfitt ...	48	8	130	12	288	10.8
Sergeant Tripp ...	63	9	194	13	380	14.9
Signalman B. Smith	13	2	52	3	78	17.3

CORPS LAWN TENNIS

Royal Signals v. R.A.O.C. at Aldershot on 21st August.

Lieutenant-Colonel E. L. L. Vulliamy and Captain J. H. Donaldson beat Lieutenant-Colonel Hereford and Major Allen, 6—2, 6—2; lost to Lieutenant-Colonel Constantine and Major Blyth, 0—6, 3—6; beat Major Keith and Major Crockford, 6—3, 6—3.

Major G. S. K. Maydon and Captain G. F. Lowe beat Lieutenant-Colonel Hereford and Major Allen, 6—4, 6—1; beat Lieutenant-Colonel Constantine and Major Blyth, 10—8, 6—3; beat Major Keith and Major Crockford, 6—4, 6—4.

Major E. N. L. Brown and Captain J. W. St. C. Robinson lost to Lieutenant-Colonel Hereford and Major Allen, 2—6, 1—6; lost to Lieutenant-Colonel Constantine and Major Blyth, 4—6, 5—7; lost to Major Keith and Major Crockford, 6—8, 2—6.

Royal Signals won by 5 matches to 4.

Royal Signals v. R.E.M.E. at Hurlingham on 13th September.

Lieutenant-Colonel E. L. L. Vulliamy and Captain J. H. Donaldson beat Lieutenant-Colonel Zweigbergk and Major Jubb, 6—4, 6—2; beat Major Morris and W.O.1 Ninnes, 1—6, 6—1, 7—5; beat Major Mackenzie and Captain Illing, 3—6, 6—1, 6—1.

Major P. A. Watts and Major P. O. J. Nicholson lost to Lieutenant-Colonel Zweigbergk and Major Jubb, 4—6, 1—6; beat Major Morris and W.O.1 Ninnes, 2—6, 6—2, 7—5; lost to Major Mackenzie and Captain Illing, 4—6, 2—6.

Lieutenant-Colonel W. G. Tucker and Captain L. S. Bamber beat Lieutenant-Colonel Zweigbergk and Major Jubb, 7—5, 12—10; lost to Major Morris and W.O.1 Ninnes, 6—4, 3—6, 1—6; beat Major Mackenzie and Captain Illing, 3—6, 6—3, 6—2.

Royal Signals won by 6 matches to 3.

* * *

The 1950 season has on the whole been very successful. Seven Corps matches were arranged, of which four were won, two lost and one cancelled, the R.A.S.C. being unable to raise a team.

The actual results were as follows:—

15th June v. R.E., Lost by 2 matches to 7.
8th July v. R.M.A.S., won by 9 matches to 0.
9th July v. Staff College, won by 5 matches to 4.
17th July v. Ironsides, lost by 2 matches to 7.
21st Aug. v. R.A.O.C., won by 5 matches to 4.
13th Sept. v. R.E.M.E., won by 6 matches to 3.

The Sappers had a good side out, but we also had the best side we could produce at the time and we should have done better, even though it was our first match of the season. In the Ironsides match we were depleted, only one regular member of the team being available. The R.M.A.S. were unfortunate in having two of their team away watching the finals at Wimbledon, and although most enjoyable, the match was rather a walk-over for us.

The Staff College, R.A.O.C. and R.E.M.E. matches were all close and produced some very good games.

The following have represented the Corps during the season:—

Lieutenant-Colonel E. L. L. Vulliamy, O.B.E., 2nd Training Regiment, in six matches.
Major G. S. K. Maydon, H.Q., Home Counties District, in three matches.
Major P. A. Watts, H.Q. School of Signals, in four matches.
Major E. N. L. Brown, Royal Signals Wing, in four matches.
Captain J. H. Donaldson, Signals 6, War Office, in four matches.
Captain G. F. Lowe, Staff College, in four matches.
Captain L. S. Bamber, 62 H.Q., L. of C. Signal Regiment (TA), in two matches.
Lieutenant-Colonel W. G. Tucker, O.B.E., C 4, War Office, in two matches.
Major P. O. J. Nicholson, H.Q., Southern Command, in two matches.
Captain J. St.C. Robinson, H.Q., S.T.C., in three matches.
Second-Lieutenant R. Thomas, O.T.W., in one match.
Officer Cadet (now Second-Lieutenant) A. Hamilton, O.T.W., in one match.

The first seven of the above named have been awarded Corps colours for the 1950 season.

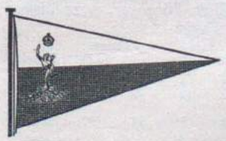
The Royal Signals Championships are now well established and are held at Catterick early in July during the second week before the Army Championships. Entries have not been as representative as one would have liked and all players are asked to make a note of this date for future reference. Five events are played and challenge trophies have been instituted for each, including the original Newbigging Bowl for the Singles Championship.

Present holders are as follows:—

Open Singles, Lieutenant-Colonel E. L. L. Vulliamy.
Open Doubles, Lieutenant-Colonel E. L. L. Vulliamy and Captain J. E. Donaldson.
Inter-Unit Doubles, Royal Signals Wing (Major P. A. Watts and Major E. N. L. Brown).
Other ranks' Singles, Lance-Corporal Minshall.
Other ranks' Doubles, R.S.M. Buchanan and S.S.M. Thompson.

Inter-Services Yacht Racing at Seaview

THIS year, for the first time since the inter-Services yacht racing was instituted, a team representing the Royal Signals Sailing Association was entered for the gold cup. The team consisted of Colonel Longfield, Lieutenant Colonel Harris and Major Gibson (skipper).



Through the kindness of Seaview Yacht Club, on the north-east corner of the Isle of Wight, the races were sailed in their club boats. These boats, called "Mermaids," have a fixed keel, are about 23 feet long, and displace some three tons. The rig is simple, only mainsail and jib, and the boats are very evenly matched so that they are a good class for such a meeting especially as helmsmen and crews can generally get no practice beforehand.

During the first day an army team won the race for the Coningham Cup competing against the Royal Navy and the Royal Air Force. On Saturday, 16th September, there were two heats to eliminate five out of the 13 entries from the three services in the competition for the gold cup. During the morning heat the wind was fresh, the forecast promised that during the afternoon when Royal Signals Sailing Association was competing, the wind would be still stronger.

In the Mermaid the crew of three work as follows: the skipper steers, one crew member handles the mainsheet, and one member the jibsheet. Apart from their normal duties the two crew members work well as an intercepting screen to keep the heavy spray off the skipper. Despite a careful rehearsal we made a poor start in the afternoon heat, but managed to make up a little on the reach for the mark, the Warner light-float two miles off shore. Then came a long and tricky beat to windward against the tide. The freshening wind was just too strong for the full mainsail when going to windward, but all were carrying them to gain speed downwind.

The helmsman had to compromise between driving the boat so much that she wallowed in the short steep seas and losing drive by easing off the mainsail. During the beat we lost two places and finished sixth, close to the main fleet, and a long way ahead of the last boat. The first four went into the final.

Royal Signals may not have appeared among the leaders, at this first attempt, but we were certainly not disgraced, and valuable experience has been gained for the future.

ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL

R.A.O.C. v. Royal Signals

The Corps XI took the field at Nottingham to oppose the R.A.O.C. on 20th September, 1950. The R.A.O.C. won the toss and elected to take advantage of the strong wind.

Exchanges were fairly even in the first quarter of an hour, with the R.A.O.C. playing very well together and being a little faster on the ball than Royal Signals. Royal Signals gradually settled down and both sides were playing really well. Wragg and Warrender, our right wing pair, were prominent hereabouts, the inside men especially initiating some very good moves. Andrews, the captain, was a tower of strength in the defence which stood up well to some very heavy pressure by the Ordnance forward line.

After half an hour the R.A.O.C. took the lead through their centre-forward, Cairns, who received the ball clear of the defence, and made no mistake with his shot which he placed hard into the corner of the net giving Newell no chance at all.

Five minutes later from a pass from Warrender, Cromar, Royal Signals centre-forward, cleverly eluded the attention of the opposing centre-half and from 25 yards rocketed the ball into the top of the net. Just before half-time Warrender very smartly beat the Ordnance 'keeper to the ball and flicked it back to Cromar who again made no mistake. Half-time came with Royal Signals leading 2—1. The teams came out for the second half with the wind still blowing strongly, this time in Signals' favour. Ten minutes from the resumption Royal Signals went further into the lead through Warrender, who received a pass from Cromar and very coolly placed the ball into the corner of the net. Ordnance fought back and reduced the lead through Newcombe, their outside-right, with a very well taken goal. Royal Signals' defence started using the wind very cleverly, and the Corps XI piled on the pressure, the Ordnance defence working very hard to keep their lines clear. Cronin, Royal Signals inside-left, went close with a very good attempt which skimmed the crossbar, and White, the left-half, sent in a pile driver, headed clear by Hall, who was knocked out by the force of the ball. He soon recovered, however, and continued to hold up our left wing very cleverly. Warrender was playing extremely well, and wandering into the inside-left position, received the ball and scored a further goal for Royal Signals.

Wragg, the inside-right, who had worked extremely hard and who had played some really good football, scored the fifth and last goal with a high lob which gave the Ordnance 'keeper no chance at all. The game ended with the Corps XI worthy winners by 5 goals to 2. Signals team was:—

Lance-Corporal Newell (5th Training Regiment); Corporal Finnegan (1st Training Regiment), S.Q.M.S. Andrews (2nd Training Regiment); Lance-Corporal Tannahill (7th Selection Regiment), Lance-Corporal Townend (5th Training Regiment); Signalman White (2nd Training Regiment); Corporal Warrender (1st Training Regiment), Corporal Wragg (3rd Training Regiment, Lance-Corporal Cromar (7th Selection Regiment), Signalman Cronin (1st Training Regiment), Lance-Corporal Stewart (7th Selection Regiment).

F.A. AMATEUR CUP

Royal Signals v. Cockfield

7th October, 1950

Cromar, Signals captain, won the toss and elected to take advantage of the strong breeze which was blowing at the start of the game. Both sides found it difficult to control the ball owing to the high wind. Cronin tested Hewitt, the Cockfield custodian with a strong shot, and play swept to the other end. Harding and Townsend stood out in the Signals defence with some clever interceptions. Signals attacked strongly and Cromar had the misfortune to see a really strong header go inches over the crossbar. Signals forwards were caught offside frequently and many good moves were spoilt in this way.

After 25 minutes Cromar raced through and opened Signals' account with a hard drive. Signals were piling on the pressure and Liddell shot hard to see Hewitt make a great save.

Signals again got the ball in the net after 35 minutes, Cronin very cleverly beat Hewitt, but the whistle had gone for a particularly bad foul on Cromar by the Cockfield centre-half. Half-time came with Signals leading 1—0.

The second half commenced and Cockfield attacked immediately, but the Signals defence was very sound. Laing and Liddell were working well and relieved pressure time and again by keeping the ball on the ground and nullifying the disadvantage of the strong wind. From a combined move by Laing, Liddell and Stewart, the right winger broke through the defence and put Signals two up after ten minutes of the second half had gone.

Cockfield attacked strongly and Harding, Signals left full-back, received a nasty kick on the knee, and had to leave the field. Cromar, the Signals captain, moved back into defence and Cronin took over the centre-forward berth. Harding resumed after ten minutes but was only able to limp along on the left wing.

Despite the wind Signals were still giving the Cockfield defence plenty of trouble, and from a pass by Jones, Cronin beat the centre-half and with a high lob put the issue beyond doubt in the 40th minute of the second half.

Cockfield never gave up trying and just before the end forced two corners both of which proved fruitless. Result:

Royal Signals, Catterick 3, Cockfield F.C. 0.

ROYAL SIGNALS (EGYPT) SUMMER SEASON, 1950

Cricket. Royal Signals (Egypt) cricket XI has this season played matches against representative sides from R.A., R.E., R.A.S.C. and R.E.M.E. In addition games were played against 5 Cs, Gezira S.C. and Alexandria C.C.

So far as the actual cricket is concerned the season has not been a successful one. We have lost every match with the exception of that against 5 Cs (the Catch-as-Catch Can Cricket Club) which ended in a draw. The consistent lack of success has been surprising, however, even to our opponents, since each player on all occasions looked to be worth twice as many runs or wickets as he actually got.

We venture to suggest that our opponents have enjoyed their games against us and that our poor results have not in any way been disgraceful. We have made many good friends. Last year Royal Signals (Egypt) XI could hardly be beaten; this year the team could not win; who knows what may happen next year?

Representative "caps" have been awarded to the following players:—

Major D. Coatesworth, M.B.E. (Captain), A.G., G.H.Q., M.E.L.F.
Major J. H. Collins G(SD), G.H.Q., M.E.L.F.
Major A. B. Dryland, A.G., H.Q., B.T.E.
Major K. A. Nash, 3 G.H.Q., Signal Regiment.
Captain T. I. G. Gray, X H.Q., B.T.E.
Captain N. C. Gordon, 1 L. of C., Signal Regiment.
W.O.II E. Rider, Egypt Command Signal Regiment.
Corporal A. J. Blackburn, 3 G.H.Q., Signal Regiment.
Lance-Corporal A. Baker, 4 A.F., Signal Regiment.



Standing: Sergeant R. A. F. Clemson (scorer), Captain N. C. Gordon, Corporal A. J. Blackburn, Corporal E. Tanner, Lance-Corporal A. Baker, S.S.M. E. Rider, S.S.M. Swinson (umpire). Seated: Major K. A. Nash, Major J. H. Collins, Captain T. I. G. Gray, Brigadier C. A. H. Chadwick, C.B.E. (chairman, Royal Signals (Egypt) Sports Board), Major D. Coatesworth, M.B.E. (captain), Major A. B. Dryland, Captain A. G. Smith

The Committee and team greatly appreciated the services of the following officials:—

Brigadier C. A. H. Chadwick, C.B.E., W.O.II Swinson, umpires.
Sergeant R. A. F. Clemson, scorer.

Tennis. The Royal Signals (Egypt) tennis season, 50/51 was inaugurated at a meeting held on 5th May, 1950, following a Royal Signals (Egypt) Sports Board meeting which appointed Colonel D. St. J. Hoysted as Tennis Chairman. At the meeting on 5th May it was decided to form a tennis team of not less than two Officer pairs and one Other Rank pair to represent the Corps (Egypt) against other Corps, Regiments or Services in the Canal Zone. Matches were to consist of each pair playing each of the opponents' pairs.

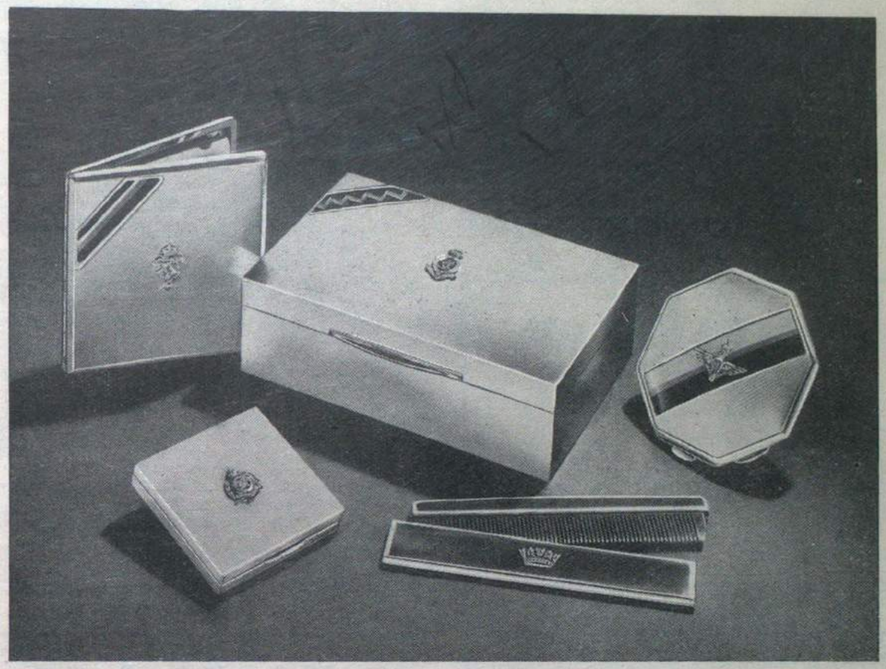
The season opened with a generous allotment of money from the C.S.O. M.E.L.F.'s central funds, which enabled the Secretary (Major F. T. C. Williams) to budget for two trial matches and up to eight Corps "At Home" fixtures. The trial matches disclosed that "new blood" was scarce, and that there had been a complete clear out of those with previous Corps (Egypt) experience. Furthermore, the claims of other summer games were likely to rob Corps tennis of some with tennis reputations; it was therefore decided not to attempt to include these in the Corps tennis team so as to simplify the production of fixture lists.

However, a fixture list of eight matches was soon produced, the results of which are shown below. All matches, except the first at the Officers' Club, Moascar, were played at the Olympia Stadium courts, Fayid.

		Matches		Sets		Games		
Date	Opponents	Won	Lost	Won	Lost	Won	Lost	Result
13th July	R.A.	–	9	1	18	47	116	Lost
15th July	R.A.M.C.	4	5	6	6	47	46	Lost
20th July	R.A.S.C.	1 (2 drawn)	6	4	14	66	99	Lost
29th July	R.E.	2 (2 drawn)	2	9	9	98	97	Won
26th Aug.	R.A.M.C. (Return)	6	2	14	6	113	79	Won
5 Sept.	R.E.M.E.	3 (3 drawn)	3	9	9	88	71	Won
16th Sept.	R.A.P.C.	3 (3 drawn)	3	9	9	79	85	Lost
7th Oct.	R.A.F. (Canal North)							To play

The following players represented the Corps (Egypt) and the number of matches in which each individual played is shown in brackets against his name:—

Major-General W. O. Bowen, C.B., C.B.E., M.I.E.E. (5), X Branch, G.H.Q., M.E.L.F.
Lieutenant-Colonel G. U. Finney (5), Egypt Command, Signal Regiment.
Lieutenant-Colonel J. H. E. Panton (2), 3 G.H.Q., Signal Regiment.
Lieutenant-Colonel P. A. Duke, O.B.E. (3), X Branch, G.H.Q., M.E.L.F.
Major F. T. C. Williams (5), S.O.A.F., H.Q., 105 Group.
Captain N. C. Gordon (6), 1 L. of C. Signal Regiment.
Lieutenant J. Middleton (3), 3 G.H.Q. Signal Regiment.
Lieutenant J. W. Ingledow (1), 3 G.H.Q. Signal Regiment.
Lieutenant E. J. Hellier (1), Egypt Command Signal Regiment.
R.S.M. M. Turner (5), 4 A.F. Signal Regiment.
S.S.M. C. Collie (3), C.A.F.S.O. Branch, H.Q., M.E.A.F.
Sergeant Knott (1), 4 A.F. Signal Regiment.
Sergeant Hahn (1), Egypt Command Signal Regiment.



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THE WIRE
The Corps Magazine of the
ROYAL SIGNALS
The Official Organ of the
SIGNALS ASSOCIATION

Editor:
Lieutenant-Colonel H. R. FIRTH

All correspondence and matter for publication for "The Wire" should be addressed to The Editor, "The Wire," 88 Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1. Matter for publication must be received by the 15th of the month preceding publication.
Remittances should be made payable to: Royal Signals Association. Subscription rates (post free, except air mail): Twelve months, 10s.; single month, 1s.

☆

DECEMBER • 1950
Vol. 4 *New Series* **No. 12**

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PRICE: ONE SHILLING

Editorial

Christmas, 1950

THE WIRE comes to you again under L. H. Drake's admirable cover with every good wish from Association Headquarters to Royal Signals wherever you may be.

This, for many in England, will be an austerity Christmas. The immediate post-war period of spending has gone, and money is very tight; this is a pity because as the advertisement for the N.A.A.F.I. shows there is plenty to buy. The uneasiness of the international situation is very reminiscent of the 1930's at their worst. For many of the Royal Signals in Malaya, in Korea, and by 25th December who knows where else, such Christmas festivities as can be contrived may well be disturbed by the action of the enemy. In both theatres we are having our casualties.

It is customary at this time to think back on the old days and forward to the new. Royal Signals have done well in 1950. Albeit at some cost we have maintained our reputation for the efficiency of our signal communications in all theatres. The initial difficulties in Malaya are being overcome; in Hong Kong the signal system is being consolidated; our formations in Korea are being successful, therefore the work of their "signals" must be good; despite manpower shortage our reputation in B.A.O.R. and in M.E.L.F. remains high; at home we have re-created, not merely the Boys' Squadron, but now the Boys' Training Regiment, a good augury for the future.

In sport as in work we count our successes; by 1 Training Regiment especially, in rugby football and in cross-country running. The first visit of a Corps team to Bisley gives promise of future successes at Army Rifle Association meetings. In Egypt our reputation in shooting, cross-country running and in football, and perhaps especially in swimming is greater than it has been in the past.

One who wears our cap badge, Signalman Brian Close, represents England at cricket.

The visit of Major-General Spencer B. Akin, Chief Signal Officer of the United States Army, to England, and the more recent visit of our own Director, Major-General W. A. Scott, to Signal Corps Units and installations in America, marks the continuance of most cordial relations with the United States Army Signal Corps. This friendship cemented in battle and commemorated annually on V.J. Day, is to us a very precious thing. On conclusion of this visit General Scott went on to Canada and visited Units and installations of the Royal Canadian Corps of Signals. General Scott tells me that he was very much impressed by all he saw of this go-ahead corps.

Our Colonel-in-Chief, Her Royal Highness the Princess Royal, has been blessed with a grandson.

We look forward to 1951 with confidence; we are not afraid of the greatness of our task. We have to provide the Army at home and in B.A.O.R. with a number of new Signal Regiments. To the new Regiments, many of them bearing a name already honoured we give our best wishes, and hope that the years to come may be full of glory for them and of credit to their Corps.

There has also been some reorganisation of the Territorial Army bringing into renewed life some Regiments with hallowed names. 1951 is to mark the rebirth of the Supplementary Reserve; again many Regiments now disbanded as Territorial Army and about to be re-created as Supplementary Reserve have a long history in their present titles.

The Band is to make a tour in Middle East commencing in October.

We none of us can tell what will come to us in 1951. Suffice it to say that every one of us in Royal Signals will do our best wherever we may be and thus we may be worthy of our predecessors.

The fact that the November number was despatched to subscribers three or four days later than usual is very much regretted.

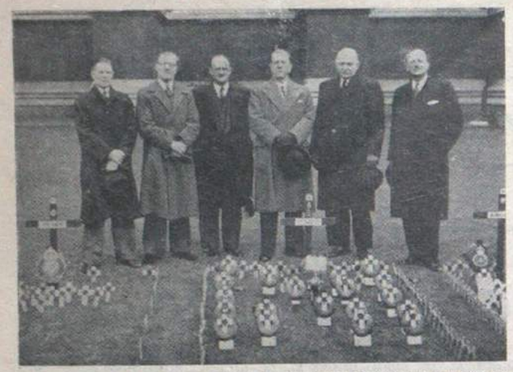


Photo: Captain L. N. Lloyd, Chairman, Sutton Branch

The Royal Signals party, 8th November

Left to right: Mr. W. J. Evenden, Association H.Q., Mr. J. J. Murnane, Chairman, London (City) Branch, Major J. D. Winchester, Lieutenant-Colonel A. Hemsley, M.B.E., T.D., Lieutenant-Colonel G. J. Morley-Peel, M.B.E., T.D., Major J. W. Hyde, T.D. (all of London Branch)

THE EMPIRE FIELD OF REMEMBRANCE

The Dean of Westminster conducted a short service of dedication outside the North Door of the Abbey at noon on Wednesday, 8th November.

After the invocation had been recited crosses were planted on behalf of the Royal Signals Association and the following branches in the Royal Signals plot: Aldershot, Bath, Catterick, Leeds, Liverpool, London, London (City), Manchester, Portsmouth, Prescot, Scarborough, Sheffield, Slough, Sutton, Tunbridge Wells, Wolverhampton, No. 8 Unit Branch (Federation of Malaya), and 13 Corps Signals O.C.A.

The Army Phantom Signal Regiment (Princess Louise's Kensington Regiment) as the 13th Battalion the London Regiment had, as usual, their own plot in which a number of crosses were planted, while the 16th Airborne Divisional Signal Regiment (Middlesex Yeomanry) were represented by a badge cross in the Yeomanry and Special Reserve plot.

During the week large numbers of individual crosses were planted and after Remembrance Sunday the Royal Signals plot appeared very full.

OF INTEREST IN THIS NUMBER

The technical articles written by the Officers of the Signals Research and Development Establishment are resumed in this number with an article on "Sound Recording" by C. Hardy, Esq., which is on page 466.

On page 480 we publish a full description on the delights of small boat sailing in B.A.O.R.

On page 469, through the courtesy of Public Relations at the War Office, we have been able to publish the first photographs of our men in Korea.

At page 470 is an excellent article on the Anniversary Day Service on the Battlefield of El Alamein.

And last but not least our strip cartoon, "Pip Gorton," ends on page 488.

FLASH

Result of Corps soccer match played at Catterick, 15th November:

Royal Signals 2, R.E.M.E. 1.

Result of Corps rugger match played at Chatham, 29th November:

Royal Signals 13 pts., Royal Engineers 5 pts.

ST. PAUL'S CHURCH, CAMBERLEY

Royal Signals, Royal Canadian Corps of Signals and the New Zealand Corps of Signals who were quartered in Camberley during the war will be interested to know that a Memorial Tablet was dedicated in St. Paul's Church "To the memory of British and Dominion troops who worshipped in this Church during the War of 1939/45."

The Tablet was erected to the wishes of those who served in St. Paul's Canteen and Soldiers' Club, by the Aldershot Branch of the Church of England Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Institutes.

NEWS OF CORPS SPORTS FIXTURES

In another capacity the Editor attended a meeting in Catterick to consider the organisation and financing of the Royal Signals fixtures in most sports and games.

He was able to extract a promise that the results would be communicated telegraphically, and that a short "write-up" of each fixture would be provided quickly. There is a possibility, therefore, that our reporting of Corps events will not be as out of date as formerly.

BIRTHS

LICENCE.—At British Military Hospital, Singapore, on 16th October, 1950, to S.Q.M.S. and Mrs. Licence, 19 Air Formation Signal Regiment—a son.

TRAPMORE.—To Lieutenant-Colonel (TOM) and Mrs. A. Trapmore, of H.Q., B.A.O.R. Signal Regiment, on 14th October, 1950, at No. 8 (R.A.F.) General Hospital, Rinteln, Germany, a daughter, Wendy Anne.

BARRETT.—To R.S.M. R. Barrett and Mrs. Barrett, of 2 Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, on 11th October, 1950, at B.M.H. Wuppertal, Germany, a daughter Wendy Anne.

MARRIAGES

HURREN—CARR.—At St. Joan of Arc's Church, Catterick Camp, S.Q.M.S. Donald Hurren, 3 Training Regiment, Royal Signals to Miss Brenda Carr, 77 Menin Lines, Catterick Camp.

WHITAKER—SMITH.—At Leeds on 12th July, Major E. S. Whitaker, 1 Wireless Regiment, to Miss Mary Smith, of Leeds.

MORRIS—CRUICKSHANK.—At Aberdeen on 23rd September, 1950, Sergeant P. Morris, 51 (H) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A., to Doreen McGregor Cruickshank.

NIXON—PARKER.—At Kasfareet, on 2nd September, 1950, Corporal Nixon, 36 Wing Signal Troop, 4 Air Formation Signal Regiment, to A.C.W. D. Parker, of 107 M.U., R.A.F.

DEATHS

HUITSON.—2317715 W/Corporal William Henry Huitson on 26th October, 1950, at Military Hospital, Catterick Camp, Yorks, from natural causes.

LEWIS.—22515771 Signalman William David Lewis on 7th October, 1950, whilst travelling by rail to Stockton on Tees, as the result of an accident.

RUDGE.—22273949 Corporal John Merrick Rudge, on 27th October, 1950, whilst serving in Korea, as a result of multiple injuries received in action.

CHAPMAN.—W/350597 Lance-Corporal C. M. Chapman, W.R.A.C., on 7th October, 1950, at British Military Hospital, Singapore, while serving with W.R.A.C. Signals Operating Troop, F.A.R.E.L.F.

DUBOCK.—Captain R. A. Dubock, late O.C. No. 4 Beach Signal Section, on 31st October, 1950, at London Airport, killed as the result of an accident in the B.E.A. Viking air crash.

OBITUARY

Colonel Edward Chamberlain Thompson, O.B.E.



[Photo: Vandyk

AS briefly reported in the November WIRE, Colonel Thompson was killed in a road accident in Malaya.

He was a late entry into Royal Signals, joining as a University candidate via the Territorial Army in 1929, and thereafter the military side of has career took a normal course, serving at home and abroad up to 1939. Throughout, as was known to his many friends, he had an abiding passion for mountaineering, and this received some solace by his being detailed for the Chitral Relief Column in 1932, and by the then very special honour for a Royal Signals Officer in being selected as Wireless Officer to the Mount Everest Expedition in 1933. A note from Mr. Hugh Ruttledge, F.R.G.S., leader of the expedition is at the end of this article.

The war found Major Thompson, as he was then, serving as Staff Officer to a Chief Signal Officer. Very early in 1940 he was translated to A.H.Q. at New Delhi where first under Brigadier E. N. F. Hitchins, but for the most part under General R. E. Vyvyan, he did what was perhaps his best work. His role was a combination of that of A.G.11 and Signals 5 at home, and in this hard, unspectacular work he cemented previous friendships, and made a host of new ones. It is true to say that no Officer in Royal Signals ever wrote to "Tommy" Thompson at Delhi without receiving the most careful, courteous and capable consideration. For many of us business was transacted by telegraph and telephone, and it is true to say that such was his understanding and sympathy with the problems of those away from headquarters that there was never the slightest possibility of misunderstanding or friction arising.

Throughout this time he often expressed to his many friends his great desire to be permitted to command in the field, and some of us were critical that he was kept so long at desk work, but his personality and skill had made him well nigh indispensable.

After a very hard three years at A.H.Q. which was rewarded by the award in 1944 of the O.B.E., he was at the end of 1943 appointed to the command of 6 Indian Air Formation Signals, the headquarters of which were at Imphal. He retained command for little over a year, being recalled to staff work as a Deputy Chief Signal Officer early in 1945.

His work as Staff Officer and a Commander during the war were rewarded by his appointment as an Instructor at the Canadian Staff College at Kingston which gave him his "p.s.c."

After a period in the Adjutant General's Branch at the War Office in 1948/49 he became due again for foreign service, and he went to F.A.R.E.L.F.

Here let the C.S.O. Far East Land Forces take up the tale:—

"On arrival in Malaya, Colonel E. C. Thompson took over Command of 19 Air Formation Signal Regiment. A man of personality and charm, he quickly impressed on his Regiment his ideals of efficiency, discipline and turn out. His relations with the Royal Air Force were of the happiest. In May, 1950, he was selected as C.S.O. Malaya, a job giving full scope to his powers of organisation. In addition he acted as Signals Adviser and Liaison Officer to Sir Harold Briggs, Director of Operations. During the short time until his death in a road accident on the Kuala Lipis road, he was insistent on going everywhere and seeing everything for himself. He took a vital interest in all Royal Signals activities and expected the highest standards. His stern sense of duty and vigorous outlook have left a lasting impression on all ranks.

"He was doing awfully well in Kuala Lumpur and we shall miss very much his uncompromising tenacity which did so much to sort out the problems in Malaya."

It is true to say that "Tommy" Thompson was one of the most popular Officers in Royal Signals with those senior to him, his contemporaries and his juniors. With all his firmness he had a most delightful sense of humour frequently directed against himself. His home was a charming one in which to stay, and to his wife and children must go our very deep sympathy. He is a very great loss to Royal Signals as well as to his very many friends.

Mr. Hugh Ruttledge, F.R.G.S., leader of the Mount Everest Expedition of 1933, writes:—

"The news of E. C. Thompson's untimely death in Malaya will bring sorrow to his companions on the Mount Everest Expedition of 1933, who will remember the important services rendered by him, in circumstances of extreme hardship and difficulty, in keeping open our wireless communications with India.

"'Tommy' proved to be tough, and a tremendous worker. He did the first march on foot, from Darjeeling down to the Tista river, a descent of 4,000ft., and up to Kalimpong, 3,000ft., and would not admit fatigue. Through the long trek to Everest he took his full share of heart-breaking work on an apparatus which refused to function; the same again at the Base camp in the bitter cold of spring. Here things began to work at last, but 'Tommy,' to his intense indignation was unable to go up the East Rongbuk Glacier to Camp III with the advance parties.

"Later on, 'Tommy' was able to reach Camp III and to visit the Repiu La, but during most of the efforts to climb the mountain he wrestled with loneliness, and hard and responsible work; and he never complained. Never was an expedition better served.

"'Tommy' Thompson was kindly, efficient, and the best of good company. Little did I suppose, when he looked me up at Dartmouth some two years ago, that we should not meet again to yarn about our adventures in Tibet. He will be much missed.

As THE WIRE goes to press we have received news of the death of Lieutenant-Colonel F. R. Cobb, M.C., at Upton, Chester, on 18th November. Major-General R. F. B. Naylor, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., Brigadier E. V. McCormack, C.B.E., Lieutenant-Colonel V. C. Holland, O.B.E., and other officers of the Corps attended the funeral.

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The inclusive charge for living at the Club is five and a half guineas a week. The train and bus services are suitable for resident Officers working in London (as several already do) and the Club is a popular place for single officers to spend a period of leave.

Further particulars may be obtained from the Secretary, The Officers' Club, Aldershot. (Tele.: Aldershot 136).

VJ DAY

In October we published the signals normally exchanged between Royal Signals and the Signal Corps of the United States of America on V.J. Day. To this we must now add the following copy of a message from Major-General Spencer B. Akin, Chief Signal Officer of the Army to Her Royal Highness, the Princess Royal, Colonel in Chief, Royal Signals:—

"Your gracious V.J. Day sentiments are fully shared by the U.S. Army Signal Corps. On behalf of all our ranks, both at home and abroad, I extend to you our best wishes. We join you in affirming the bonds of comradeship and co-operation that have meant so much to your Corps and ours."

Radio Interference in the Army

A BRIEF HISTORICAL ACCOUNT

By **Major E. H. W. BANNER,** *T.D.*
R.E.M.E. (T.A.), M.Sc., M.I.E.E., F.Inst.P. (formerly Royal Signals, T.A.)

AT the time of the commencement of rearmament in 1935 and 1936 radio transmitting and receiving sets had been used on moving vehicles on a small scale. At about this time the No. 1 R.T. set was coming into use, replacing earlier W.T. sets, and operation on vehicles on the move was a necessary tactical requirement. An Experimental Establishment had up to then dealt with the relatively few vehicles involved and suppression of radio interference was carried out, almost on a "one-off" basis. Rearmament called not only for a larger number of radio carrying vehicles but the wider problem of suppressing radio interference from all field army vehicles so that they would not interfere with radio sets in convoy and in passing on the road. At this stage the problem was turned over to an Inspection Department of the War Department and after about a year the writer was appointed as a civilian advisory electrical officer to deal with this and other electrical matters involved in rearmament inspection.

Radio interference is caused by any sudden change of current in a circuit; if temporary such as the infrequent operation of a switch it can be ignored, but if sustained such as vehicle ignition and generator commutators, voltage regulators, etc., then it is serious and requires attention. The sudden starting and stopping of a current causes a high frequency surge which generally has a short range, but the amplitude of which depends on the rate of make and break of the current. Consequently a radio set carried in a vehicle must have the vehicle engine interference reduced to a small value, while a less rigorous degree is needed for all the ordinary run of non-set-carrying vehicles. An alternative to suppression is "screening" and there is frequently some confusion on the difference—they may be combined in a set-carrying vehicle. Suppression means that the amplitude of the h.f. oscillations is reduced or suppressed to a small value, generally by resistance in the spark circuit and capacitance and/or inductance in low voltage circuits.

Set-carrying vehicles, particularly tanks, and aircraft, require complete screening of the electrical circuits. This involves metal conducting screens, such as conduit, braided flexible tubing, etc. enclosing all conductors, the whole of the screening being "bonded" or electrically connected together. Filter circuits of capacitors and inductors are also necessary in the low voltage circuits of such vehicles.

Experimental work commenced early in 1937 on the means to be adopted for suppression and screening. No staff existed at that time but vehicles, sets and operators were borrowed as required from 1 Divisional Signals, Aldershot, and from then it was common to see vehicles on test running around the Long Valley and Laffan's Plain, and also the Farnborough-Cove area. After a short time the need for some experimental staff was apparent and a sergeant of Royal Signals, W. H. S. Jones, was taken on as a civilian examiner.

The requirements formulated by the writer included a simplified schedule of suppression that would be reasonably universal, although it was realised that possibly different degrees of suppression would be needed for different classes of vehicles, particularly heavy lorries and light cars. Vehicles of all types were made available by War Office and tests were commenced. Without going into all the detailed work it may be stated now that one schedule only was found necessary for all vehicles, with a simpler one for motor-cycles. This meant that a vehicle merely had a given value of resistor at its plugs, etc., and it was unnecessary to specify the make in detail—only the number of cylinders.

The simplification introduced was therefore considerable, from the manufacturing, purchasing, stores issue and fitting points of view. As an example of some of the experiences encountered on this work may be mentioned the case of a certain windscreen wiper. At the outset of the trial the weather had been fine and no undue interference noted, and the test was almost concluded when a terrific din appeared in the set used as a comparison. The test was postponed for a time, but the interference persisted. It was traced to a particular vehicle which had previously been satisfactory, and only after some time was it found that due to rain the driver had started his windscreen wiper. The usual suppression was applied to this, but after some days of trials it was given up as hopeless, without involving far too much modification for the Service, and the make of wiper was not approved. A possible use was as a wide-band S.O.S. transmitter!

Suppression to this schedule was adopted and is still in force. Set-carrying vehicles required more treatment and screening was decided upon for tanks and other armoured vehicles. One early experience in the early days of this work deserves mention. The tank was one of the very old post 1914-1918 war type, not the newer ones then coming into service, and the writer laid on a test on Salisbury Plain where the receiving set, on a vehicle, was in the centre of a narrowing circle with the tank running continually to the right. After some time smoke was noticed, and after a further time flames. This was a bit unexpected to the writer and the tank stopped. The crew dismounted and went to work with fire extinguishers without any bother, and only then the driver explained that on those old tanks steering was done by braking one drum. The continued running in one direction had set the brake linings on fire. Immediately after this a car arrived and it was explained that a lecture on suppression, laid on by the writer for that afternoon, had been brought forward and the class of Royal Tank Corps officers was then waiting. It commenced a little late!

A second Royal Signals sergeant, R. Chalmers, was then taken on as a civilian, as more trials on new vehicles and new equipment were required. To obtain information quickly and at first hand it was common for the team to attend army manœuvres and War Office exercises and in this way much useful user information was gained as well as the chance of spreading the gospel about suppression, on the basis that all concerned should know something of the problem and how it was cured so that in the event of trouble officers and others concerned could do something about it for themselves, instead of taking the line that "this is a workshop job." Lectures were given to all regular Divisional Signals officers and N.C.O.s, and also some Royal Tank Corps Units. The School of Signals at Catterick also provided a forum for the present writer who gave a series of lectures there in the Spring of 1939, which were later incorporated in the School's lectures. Other lectures were given at the A.F.V. School at Bovington on ten occasions, six at R.A.O.C. depots and the Military College of Science, then at Lydd; a total of twenty-seven lectures. At the outbreak of war a third Royal Signals sergeant, W. A. C. Dowie, was in process of discharge to join the staff. War stopped that, but on representations being made in the right quarter his discharge was carried through and the three of them were invaluable.

In 1938 the writer required to know how the degree of army suppression affected television, then coming in, partly for the fact that at that time there was discussion on legislation for all civilian vehicles to be suppressed, and it was required to know how the degree of army suppression would serve. A test was laid on at Aldershot, about 30 miles from the transmitter and near what was then the edge of the reception area, by inviting a manufacturer to provide a television receiver. Various army vehicles were tried and were satisfactory up to about 30 feet from the aerial, with the exception of starters and horns, which are not suppressed owing to their infrequent operation. Civilian cars tried out at the time caused visible and audible interference up to nearly one hundred yards, in some cases, proving the efficiency of the suppression schedule produced and adopted. A member of the Radio Manufacturers Association attended the demonstration.

A feature of many of the trials was that commonly Royal Signals units were visited and asked for local assistance. This was readily forthcoming, especially due to the fact that Jones, Chalmers and Dowie, being ex-Royal Signals were well-known and in any Unit it was always possible to find that at least one was well known, thus helping on the "old boy" level. The writer then being Royal Signals R.A.R.O. at that time also found considerable assistance from Units that would not have been forthcoming on an official basis.

Soon after war started the expansion of Departments split up the team as A and B vehicles were separately catered for and the writer left the work to resume other electrical problems unconnected with vehicles.

Guns, Shells and Rockets

By **Major J. C. S. HYMANS,** *M.A., F.F.A., F.S.S., a.c.(a)*

WE have it on the authority of *Signal*, the Journal of the Armed Forces Communications Association of the United States of America, in their September/October number, that the United States Army Signal Corps is already using a new type of cable which is suited to laying by air or by firing from a bazooka or rifle, and that it is proving very effective in the operations in Korea. This provides a reasonable excuse for recommending the reading of this little book which is a guide to ballistics, and describes briefly, yet in easily understood terms, all that the layman requires to know about rifles, guns, mortars and bazookas.

Later in the book, in chapter five, readers are taken into the theory and practice of rockets up to the V.2 of the last war, and a final section of this chapter tells us of the ram jet, which at present can go into use after the aircraft or missile has passed above the speed of sound.

Other chapters of the book give interesting information as to the terminal velocity, fragmentation and in the measurement of penetration of various types of missile. This chapter is perhaps of slightly morbid interest to us in Royal Signals who are concerned with this only when at the receiving end.

In any event it is clear that in the future we shall be expected to deal with various methods by which explosives are adapted to the carrying of cable across an obstacle, and, therefore, it is desirable we should know something of the theory and practice of ballistics as applied to various types of guns and various types of rockets.

The book is obtainable from Gale and Polden, and at 3/6 is certainly a most handy compendium, being written in easy-to-understand language and provides everyone with a beginner's knowledge of how these engines work.

ROYAL SIGNALS BAND

Royal Signals Band "Bright and Early," B.B.C. Home Service, 0630 hours, Saturday, 16th December.

Sound Recording

FOR SERVICE USE

By **C. HARDY**

(Signals Research and Development Establishment, Ministry of Supply)

(1) *Introduction*

ALTHOUGH the science of sound recording was widespread in its public use prior to the late war, little use had been made of it in the Services. During the war, however, its value in several fields of service operations was recognised, and special apparatus was developed.

In the following article a general survey of recording will be attempted, followed by a description of the latest method of magnetic recording which is to be introduced into the Services. No attempt has been made to give full technical details of this system as many of the functions are not yet fully understood.

(2) *Systems used during War*

The two systems most highly developed prior to the war were "sound on disc" and "sound on film." The former was well known by the large commercial sales of "records," whilst the latter became equally well-known through the "films." A third system not so well-known but used, for example, by the B.B.C. was the magnetic steel tape or Blattnerphone System; this system will be dealt with more fully later.

(3) *Sound on Disc*

The process of recording and duplicating on disc had developed to such an extent that before the war it was possible to buy a good quality recording for about 5/-. Nevertheless, there were several disadvantages in adapting this system for Service use. Foremost of these was the comparatively short playing time, i.e. 4—5 minutes on a large disc, whilst another was the signal-to-noise ratio of some 20—30 db. This was later increased to 30—40 db. by the use of lacquer-coated discs, but only at the cost of poor wearing qualities. A third and very important disadvantage was the weight and bulk of discs.

The recent introduction of micro-groove recording has to some extent overcome these disadvantages, but this system is not yet entirely satisfactory for Service applications.

(4) *Sound on Film (Light Sensitive)*

This system developed largely by the film industry had also progressed rapidly both as regards quality and low background noise. However, this system had one very great disadvantage for Service use, namely complexity.

By the use of reels of film long playing time was achieved, but the necessity for processing (developing, etc.) made the complete equipment very bulky; in fact, the processing equipment alone occupied the whole of a 3-ton vehicle. The system was also wasteful in money and material owing to the use of only a small track on one side of the standard 35 m/m. film; the remainder, which is normally used for the picture, being wasted. However, one equipment was developed for a particular purpose.

(5) *Sound on Film (Direct Recording)*

The necessity for a recording system which would give a long playing time and still remain reasonably portable had

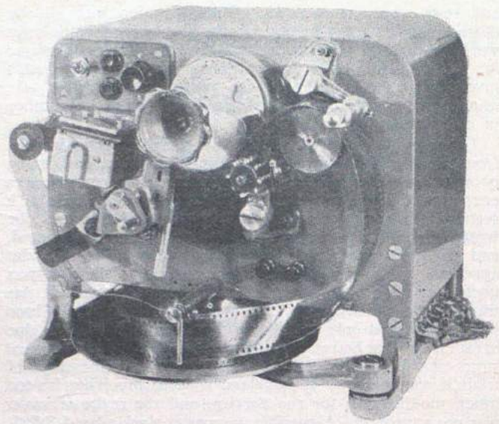


Fig. 1. Recorder Film Wireless No. 1

still to be met, and led to the development in 1941 of a direct recording system on film (direct recording implies readiness for immediate play-back without any processing). At the same time work was being done on a magnetic recording system in which a fine steel wire was used in place of the steel tape previously used in the Blattnerphone system; this tape being of Swedish origin was, of course, difficult to obtain.

The development and use of these two systems of recording during the war is so much related to present day problems that it is worth while considering them in some detail.

The principle of direct recording on film follows very closely that of disc recording in that a groove or track is cut into the surface of the recording medium. The model developed for Service use, designated "Recorder Film Wireless No. 1" (see Fig. 1), used a standard 35 m/m. film base coated with a gelatine substance. This substance being softer than the base material, cut more easily, and at that time, gave a slightly better signal-to-noise ratio. It had, however, one great disadvantage, in that the gelatine coating was highly susceptible to changes in temperature and humidity, which gave rise to varying depths of cut at constant cutting stylus pressures. This, in turn, varied the signal-to-noise ratio and made it desirable for the recording to be carried out at a fairly constant temperature and humidity. This disadvantage was later overcome by the use of a cellulose coating which was much less susceptible to temperature and humidity changes. The playing time of this recorder was 40 minutes, using a film speed of 18ins. per second. Longer playing times of 2—3 hours were obtained by the rather ingenious method of jointing the loops of film in such a manner as to form one twist in the loop. This caused the track to be cut as a continuous groove on both sides of the film. It was possible to cut 80 tracks on a 35 m/m. film, thereby giving long playing times on reasonably short lengths of film. Due to the fact that this equipment was designed primarily for the reception of morse signals, the speed stability was not very good and fell far short of later requirements. It also became apparent as the war progressed that greater frequency ranges, higher signal-to-noise characteristics and greater speed stabilities than could be achieved by this type of recording would be necessary for some important applications.

(6) *Magnetic Recording (Wire)*

The principle of magnetic recording was known as far back as 1900, but little development took place prior to the war. During the war, however, considerable progress was made and at one time it appeared that this system would

become one of the foremost systems in use. There were, however, certain limitations which will be indicated by the following brief survey of its operation.

Magnetic recording is achieved by imparting to a ferrous material, usually in the form of a fine steel wire or a coated tape, a degree of magnetisation which varies in sense and magnitude with the signal current.

In wire recording a fine steel wire is passed through or across a small gap in a magnetic ring shaped core which is excited by a coil wound round the core (see Fig. 2). If a current is now passed through the coil a magnetic field will be produced across the gap which will vary in sympathy with the current in the coil. Now, if a wire is passed at a uniform rate across the gap and, therefore, through the field, the wire will become magnetised relative to the changing flux in the field. A proportion of this magnetism, which is dependent on the retentivity of the wire and other factors, will remain on the wire. We can see, therefore, that a magnetic replica of the original "signal," passed through the coil on the "head," will be imparted to the wire.

In the reproducing process the reverse train of events takes place. It is not possible to discuss fully in this short survey all the factors which influence the quality of the recording, but a list of the major factors will assist in appreciating the problems involved. They are as follows:—

(a) The magnetic properties of the recording medium.
(b) The design of the recording and replay heads.
(c) The use of supersonic bias.
(d) The speed stability of the driving mechanism which pulls the wire across the head.
(e) The magnetic and mechanical stability of the wire.
(f) The degree of method of equalisation.

All these factors are, of course, common to the later method of magnetic recording, i.e. "tape," and will be discussed in para. 7.

It is not proposed to deal with the amplifier apparatus as these follow normal high quality amplifier technique.

(7) *Magnetic Tape Recorder*

In this method of recording the general principle is the same as in wire recording, the main difference lying in the recording medium. Whereas in wire recording a fine steel wire is used as the medium, in this case a thin narrow tape, usually made of paper or plastic and coated with a fine layer of magnetic material, is used.

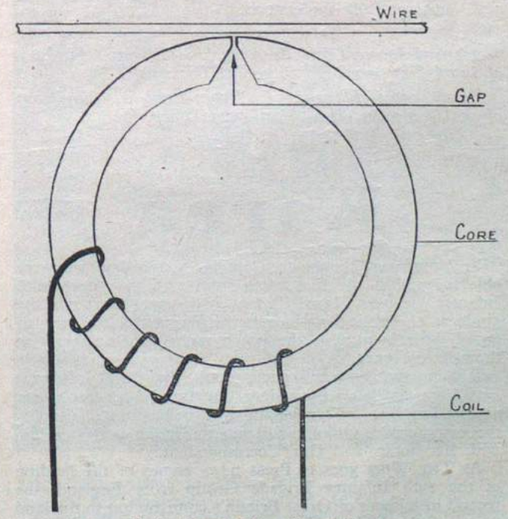


Fig 2. Showing Ring-Shaped Head

A more recent development employs this method in the form of a disc, which has the advantage that it can be folded in the same way as a sheet of paper and placed in an envelope.

The tape system originally developed in Germany during the war showed such high promise that, since the war, considerable effort is being given to its development by many of the well-known recording companies.

It can be stated that by this system higher frequency ranges with greater signal/noise ratios have been made possible. In fact, this system is already equal in these respects to the very latest developments in disc recording. It can be seen, therefore, that with its other advantages of long playing time and simplicity of operation, there is much to commend its adoption for Service use. Its main disadvantage in this respect may well be the durability aspect of the tape under extreme climatic conditions.

We might at this point digress for a moment and state the more important requirements for a recorder as at present envisaged.

In the first place any recording equipment will have to be sufficiently durable to withstand the severe Service conditions of use, at the same time being simple to operate and maintain. It must also be as light and compact as possible. As is well known these conditions are often difficult to meet in normal field equipment and must, therefore, be considerably more so in what is essentially sound-studio equipment of the highest quality.

Secondly, present Service requirements show that a wide audio frequency range is necessary, with a high signal-to-noise ratio.

Thirdly, a high degree of recording and replay frequency stability is necessary over the whole playing time, without excessive short term variation or "flutter."

(8) *Major Factors in Design*

Considering now the major factors outlined at the end of para. 6, what are the factors which limit the high frequency response?

(a) *Recording and Reproducing Characteristics*

In magnetic recording the intensity of the field across the recording gap in the head is very nearly directly proportional to the current through the coil. It is possible so to arrange that this current is constant or very nearly so over a range of frequencies of constant amplitude, thus ensuring that the field intensity is independent of frequency and imparts to the tape a residual magnetism which is also independent of frequency. Now for a given tape speed the wavelength will vary inversely with frequency, and the wavelength pattern (referred to later as λ) imparted to the tape will become shorter as the frequency rises. This causes some self demagnetisation of the minute magnets which make up the pattern and thus, considerable loss of high frequency would result unless a material of high coercive force is used as the recording medium.

It is also desirable that, in order to obtain high output from the head, the remanence of the material be high. High retentivity, however, hinders the erasure of previous recordings, which has a direct influence on the signal/noise ratio. It is usual, therefore, to effect a compromise between these factors.

The E.M.F. in the reproducing head is, of course, proportional to the rate of change of the flux linkage between the tape and coil.

If it is assumed that the flux linking with the coil is proportional to the total flux embraced by the gap, then the E.M.F. in the coil is given by:—

$$E = K \sin \omega t \sin \frac{\pi d}{\lambda}$$

where d = gap width and λ = wavelength.

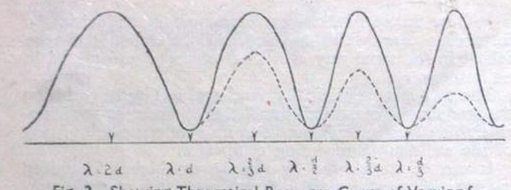


Fig. 3. Showing Theoretical Response Curve of Varying f
Observed Curve Shown Dotted

This expression gives a theoretical frequency characteristic of the form shown in Fig. 3. The response is at a maximum when wavelength $\lambda = 2d$; is zero when the wavelength $\lambda = d$; the first recovery peak occurs when:—

$\lambda = \frac{2}{3}d$ and so on.

It is found that the natural response of a magnetic tape recording system measured as E.M.F. in the replay head with constant recording current is, in fact, a characteristic of similar shape except that additional losses occur at the higher frequencies which produce a cumulative reduction in the recovery peaks as shown dotted.

It would seem that, in order to obtain the maximum response at the highest frequency to be recorded, the gap should be one-half the wavelength.

This simple approach does not, however, cover the results obtained when other variables are introduced, such as the relationship between gap-width and length of contact between the tape and the face of the head.

Let us consider the relative dimensions of the magnetic paths involved. For various reasons, such as the bulk of the tape, safe operating speeds, etc., it is not advisable to employ tape speeds beyond certain limits and the B.S.I. have recently fixed on the following:—

30ins/sec. for the very highest quality.
15ins/sec. for the very good quality.
7½ins/sec. for the medium quality.
3¾ins/sec. for good speech quality.

Let us assume a possibility of recording 1 kc/s per inch per second of tape speed. This gives a wavelength of 0.001ins. and at $\lambda=2d$, the gap should be 0.0005ins. Fig 4 illustrates this point.

Investigations are in hand to derive an extension of the above expression which will cover the experimental results obtained. This would materially assist in achieving the further improvements in frequency response and signal-to-noise ratio necessary to meet the special requirements already mentioned.

It is essential when designing the head that the core should have a high permeability at low flux densities and that eddy current losses should be low. The impedance of the reproducing head is a matter for compromise between high output and low pick-up of stray noises. Where multiple heads are in use efficient magnetic shielding between heads is very important, as is also the azimuth alignment between the recording and reproducing heads.

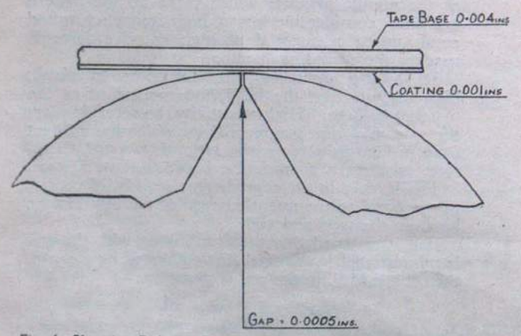


Fig. 4. Showing Relative Dimensions of: Magnetic Coating on Tape; Gap in Core; Head Face

(b) *Drive Mechanism*

The frequency stability requirements demand special care in the design of the driving mechanism, since accuracy of reproduction depends upon the recording and replay driving speeds being identical.

(c) *Supersonic Bias and Erasure*

One of the great advantages of magnetic recording is the ease with which an unwanted recording can be erased, leaving the tape in a condition for re-recording and thereby enabling the tape to be used over and over again.

Early recorders used what is commonly known as the "D.C. method." By this method the tape or wire was magnetised to saturation in one sense by the application of a constant field. This, of course, obliterated the signal, but left the tape saturated.

During recording, a constant field of the opposite sense was applied of such a magnitude as to restore the magnetisation in the tape to a working point on the B.H. curve. This method did not, however, give very good signal-to-noise characteristics and has been discarded in high quality recording in favour of a system which uses a supersonic frequency for both erasure and bias.

It is claimed for this system that after erasure the tape is left in an almost demagnetised state and, therefore, the residual noise is reduced to a minimum. It is also claimed that by its use a greater and more linear part of the B H loop is made available for modulation, thus allowing higher signal levels to be imparted to the tape with less distortion.

Practical results show these claims to be justified, although all the technical details of its operation are not yet fully understood.

* * *

Acknowledgement is made to the Chief Scientist, Ministry of Supply, for permission to publish this article.

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Korea

In November, thanks to Captain N. Pidsley, we were able to publish the first notes from 27th Commonwealth Infantry Brigade Signal Troop in Korea. Through the kindness of Public Relations at the War Office we are this month able to publish the photographs which appear on the opposite page.

It is apparent from newspaper reports that the 27th Brigade have been peculiarly busy since Captain Pidsley last wrote, and we fear that pre-occupation with the business of running the communications of a Brigade in action will interfere with his duties as "Our Correspondent."

As THE WIRE goes to Press news comes of the landing of the 29th Infantry Brigade Group from England, the second instalment of Great Britain's contribution to the land forces of the United Nations.



[*Courtesy: D.P.R., War Office*

Breakfast time with the Headquarters, 27th Infantry Brigade, in Korea



[*Courtesy: D.P.R., War Office*

Left to right: Signalman William Kilburn, of Bradford, Yorks (shirtless), Signalman Cecil Barratt, of Huddersfield, Yorks (beret), and Corporal Eric Murgatroyd, of Bradford, Yorks (jungle hat), talk shop with Private Anthony F. Vindick, from Erie, Pennsylvania, and Private William C. Tootle, from Savannah, Georgia. The Americans are members of an Artillery Battery Signal Line Detachment



Commemorative Ceremony at El Alamein

FOR the last few years on the Sunday nearest to the 23rd of October, a faithful company of civilians has made the 60 mile journey from Alexandria out along the coast road, to the British cemetery at El Alamein. There, they have paid homage in a simple service to those who gave their lives in the several campaigns of the Western Desert and have given thanks for the famous victory known as the Battle of Alamein, recently described by Mr. Churchill as the event that turned the hinge of fate.

This year, for the first time, and by kind permission of the Egyptian authorities, a representation of British units attended the ceremony under arrangements of H.Q. B.T.E. and provided the occasion with appropriate martial dignity. A special train took those taking part direct from Moascar to Alamein station overnight on the 22nd.

An advance party had previously travelled by road and made the necessary local administrative arrangements. Included in this party was a small Corps line party, under Sergeant Bearne of Egypt Command Signal Regiment, who were responsible for providing certain telephone communications required for the control of the ceremony. They carried out their task in an exemplary manner and also undertook several other services not normally required of the Corps.

The parade formed up on the coast road and marched to the cemetery behind the band of the Royal Sussex Regiment, who provided the music for the service. Armed guards were mounted by the Royal Navy, from the destroyer H.M.S. *Cheviot,* by the Army from the Royal Horse Artillery, the Royal Sussex Regiment, and by the R.A.F. Regiment. Opposite the armed guards were drawn up representative parties from all three services and in the case of the Army, each arm and service was represented by a small detachment. The Royal Signals party was selected from the major Signal units in the Canal Zone and was under the command of Captain T. I. G. Gray, Royal Signals.

The ceremony began with the arrival of H.B.M.'s Ambassador to Egypt, Sir Ralph Stevenson, who was followed by the French and Greek Ambassadors together with many other diplomatic representatives of Commonwealth and Allied countries. Behind stood the Middle East service chiefs: Rear-Admiral I. M. Campbell, Senior British Naval Officer, General Sir Brian Robertson, C.-in-C. M.E.L.F., General Sir George Erskine, G.O.C. B.T.E., Air Marshal Sir John Baker, A.O.C.-in-C. M.E.A.F., and Air Vice-Marshal V. E. Groom, A.O.C. 205 Group. The largest pilgrimage of civilians that had so far attended, witnessed the parade and included the leaders and representatives of many different communities.

The drumhead service was conducted by the senior Army and R.A.F. Padres, and after the Right Rev. Geoffrey Allen, Bishop in Egypt, had given the Blessing, the Last Post and Reveille were sounded. The British, French and Greek National Anthems were played and the laying of wreaths began. Wreaths were laid by the diplomatic representatives led by Sir Ralph Stevenson, followed by the service chiefs, the representative parties, and by the civilian organisations. A simple wreath of laurel leaves and poppies inscribed "To the memory of the Officers, N.C.O.s and Men of the Royal Corps of Signals" was laid by Captain Gray on behalf of the Corps.

As the last wreaths were being placed, from the west two R.A.F. Lincoln bombers flew low over the cemetery. As they passed overhead, their bomb doors opened and thousands of Flanders poppies floated down over the cemetery and surrounding desert. It made a fitting climax to the ceremony.

After the parade had been dismissed, the service contingents were taken in buses across the coast road and down to the seashore to the area where Tac. H.Q. 8th Army had been established eight years ago. There in company with many of the civilians they listened to a short lecture on the battle by General Sir George Erskine, who was at the time B.G.S. of 13 Corps. Lunch was then taken and those who wished to bathe were able to do so.

After lunch, the buses conveyed the party to three points of vantage along the coast road where were stationed Officers who had taken part in the battle. The first point was at a large stone which now marks the limit of the British forward minefield. The stone is inscribed to that effect and rusted coils of barbed wire and piles of unarmed mines add ample proof. Some 15 miles further west, past the Italian cemetery at Tel el Eisa, the party stood on the famous Sidi Rahman track and were able to look back and view the British lines from the enemy viewpoint. Many readers will recall that this track, running north to south at right angles to the German defences, was used by the enemy for his main lateral line of communication and as such was the ultimate objective of the British armour at the battle. It was striking to see what excellent observation of the British position the Germans obtained from the track, particularly towards dusk with the sun at their back. The last halt was made further west where a park had been established of derelict armoured vehicles brought there from many parts of the battlefield. Every type of tank and tracked vehicle is represented from the earliest light tanks of both sides to the heavy Sherman which made its first appearance in the desert at Alamein.

After this short tour, opportunities were given for the cemetery to be revisited and many of those who had served in the Western Desert were able to visit the graves of well remembered comrades. There are some 7,000 graves in the cemetery all marked with simple white crosses. Many members of the Corps lie there although it was not possible to discover the total number. The Imperial War Graves Commission have ambitious plans for the cemetery and work has hardly begun. A drawing of the final version is on view and is impressive. Those who lie there include not only those who fell at the battle and in the subsequent final advance but those who gave their lives in the early successes and disappointments, in the retreat to the Alamein line and in the bitter fighting that occurred about that place in the hot summer months of 1942. The cemetery is representative of all ranks, all services and all nationalities who fought on the side of the Allies.





At 19.00 hrs. the special train drew out of Alamein station and the return journey to Moascar began. All who had taken part felt a quiet satisfaction in the day's events and not a little pride. To those who had been too young to take part in the war or who had not seen the Western Desert before, it was an experience long to be remembered. To those who were returning to familiar scenes, it brought back nostalgic memories. It is to be hoped that this year's ceremony has created a precedent and that in the years to come there will always be a similar representation of British units of all three services, as befits the occasion.

* * *

The following party represented the Corps:—

Captain T. I. G. Gray, Royal Signals, X Branch H.Q. B.T.E.
S.Q.M.S. W. Garrard, Egypt Command Signal Regiment.
Sergeant F. Ritchings, 3 G.H.Q. Signal Regiment.
Corporal D. Wingrove, Egypt Command Signal Regiment.
Corporal M. Catesby, 3 G.H.Q. Signal Regiment.
Lance-Corporal W. Archer, 2 A.G.R.A. Signal Squadron.
Lance-Corporal S. Moreland, 3 Infantry Brigade Signal Troop.
Lance-Corporal I. Bevan, 4 A.F. Signal Regiment.
Signalman G. Steele, 3 G.H.Q. Signal Regiment.
Signalman A. Carey, 1 L. of C. Signal Regiment.
Driver G. N. Godfrey, 3 G.H.Q. Signal Regiment.
Driver R. Morris, 4 A.F. Signal Regiment.

THE CROWN JEWELS

Other Royal Regalia

NOT NOW IN USE

By **Yeoman Warder G. A. E. GAVEY,**
late Captain, Royal Signals

This consists of the following pieces:—

(a) The Crown of Queen Mary of Modena.
(b) The Diadem of Queen Mary of Modena.
(c) Queen Victoria's small Diamond Crown.
(d) Queen Mary's Crown.
(e) The Imperial Crown of India.
(f) The Queen's Orb.
(g) The Queen's Sceptre with the Dove.
(h) The Bracelets.
(i) The Prince of Wales's Crown.

(a) *The Crown of Queen Mary of Modena*

VISITORS to the Jewel House will see this crown in the central case between the Imperial State Crown and H.M. Queen Elizabeth's Crown.

Although it was originally made for the consort of James II as her State Crown, only the frame bears any resemblance to the original form. After Queen Mary of Modena's coronation it was dismantled of its precious stones, but was remade as the Coronation Crown of Queen Mary II when she was crowned as co-sovereign with William III.

In order to give special emphasis to the importance of the crown on this occasion the Black Prince's Ruby was set in the frame. The crown was again reset and used as the Coronation Crown of Queen Anne. George I also used this crown as his State Crown, the full-bottomed wig of the time making the other State Crown unsuitable.

The crown was used for the last time for the coronation of Queen Charlotte the consort of George III.

(b) *The Diadem of Queen Mary of Modena*

This beautiful diadem which a visitor can see next to the Imperial Crown of India was worn by Mary of Modena on the way to her coronation. It cost £110,000 to make which at that time would have been regarded as an enormous sum. The cost was probably due to the scarcity of large diamonds and the difficulty in obtaining large and perfectly matched pearls.

(c) *Queen Victoria's Small Diamond Crown*

This beautiful little diamond crown takes the conventional "imperial" form and is well known to the public from many pictures of Queen Victoria wearing it.

The crown was made at the personal expense of Queen Victoria and on her instructions, as she found the Imperial Crown of State too heavy and uncomfortable to wear.

Queen Victoria in her will settled this crown as an heirloom upon Queen Alexandra to devolve upon future Queens Consort for the time being. It was worn by Queen Alexandra but has not been used subsequently.

In 1937 by the orders of King Edward VIII this crown, which was formerly kept in Buckingham Palace, was added to the collection of the Regalia of the Tower of London.

(d) *Queen Mary's Crown*

This crown is the personal property of the present Queen Mother and was made under her direction for her coronation in 1911. Only diamonds are used. Formerly in the cross-patee in front was set the Koh-i-noor.

The crown was also constructed to hold the third and fourth Stars of Africa.

The eight arches which are of the form known as Ogee are detachable, which enables the regal circlet to be worn on State occasions. Queen Mary wore it in this form at the Coronation of George VI in 1937.

(e) *The Imperial Crown of India*

This beautiful crown was made for H.M. King George V by Messrs. Garrard, Court Jewellers in 1911 for the occasion of the Delhi Durbar.

It was discovered that by the laws of the land neither the Crown of England nor the Imperial Crown of State were allowed to be taken out of England and it was then decided to make a new Crown specially for the occasion. It might interest readers to know that history tells us that five Monarchs pawned and later redeemed their crowns—they were Henry III, Edward III, Richard II, Henry V, and Henry VI.

In the very early days of the English Monarchy the regalia which was of no great value and consisted of few articles was usually carried about with the Sovereign and was in constant use. The King wore the crown and rich robes as visible emblems of royalty much as soldiers now wear their uniforms. A law preventing the State Crown and Crown of England being taken out of England was probably a very necessary one in those early days.

Although the features common to all English crowns, namely the cross-patee and fleur-de-lys, were used, several innovations were introduced; the number of arches was increased to four, but instead of being complete arches they are half arches, eight in all. Upon these rests the Orb surmounted with a cross. Each half arch is decorated with the Lotus Flower. No fewer than 6,170 diamonds have been used, and there are also four sapphires, four rubies and six emeralds of unusual quality.

The large emerald in front weighs 34 carats and is a stone of rare size and quality. This beautiful crown cost £70,000 to make.

(f) *The Queen's Orb*

This piece of the Royal Regalia is much less magnificent than the King's Orb. It is smaller, but it has a filet and arch of the same nature outlined with pearls and set with rubies, sapphires, emeralds and diamonds. The cross rises directly from the top of the monde and is set with precious stones with an amethyst in the centre. One must here remind readers that Orbs are only used by Queens Regnant and are never used by Queens Consort, and this one has only been used on the occasion of the Coronation of William and Mary.

(g) *The Queen's Sceptre with the Dove*

This is very similar to the King's Sceptre with the Dove except that it is a little smaller, and there is a preponderance of blue in the enamel decoration.

This Sceptre was made for Mary II who was crowned as a Co-Regnant Sovereign with her husband William III. It is not now used at Coronations.

(h) *The Bracelets*

These were made with the rest of the regalia for Charles II to replace those that had been destroyed, but it appears that these ornaments have not been used at a Coronation since the time of Edward VI.

Bracelets have been regarded as one of the Emblems of Sovereignty since very ancient times particularly in the East.

It will be remembered that in the Old Testament account of the death of Saul it states that the crown was upon his head and that the bracelet was upon his arm.

In England they probably fell into disuse owing to the awkwardness of putting them on when wearing the Royal Robes.

The pair on view in the Jewel House are of solid gold lined with crimson velvet. They are richly enamelled and bear the emblems of the Kingdoms of England, Scotland and Ireland and the Fleur-de-lys of France.

(i) *The Prince of Wales's Crown*

A gold crown with one arch depressed at the centre. It is used when a Prince is created "Prince of Wales," and further it is used if he so wishes, placed before him on a cushion when he takes his seat in the House of Lords at such State occasions at the opening of Parliament.

PERSONAL COLUMN

Honours and Awards

The following awards in connection with the operations in Malaya are announced in the Supplement to the London Gazette dated 24th October, 1950 :

O.B.E.—T/Major K. E. Rees.
B.E.M.—2600501 S.Q.M.S. I. J. Robertson.

Mentioned in Despatches —

T/Colonel D. White, O.B.E.
T/Major M. J. R. Fletcher, M.B.E.
T/Major E. A. Sinnock.
Lieutenant A. G. Bohannan.
3716786 Sergeant R. T. Sales.
905563 Acting-Lance-Corporal A. Senior.

* * *

Promotions, Officers

To be Colonel —T/Colonel R. J. Moberly, O.B.E.
T/Colonel W. R. Smijth-Windham, C.B.E., D.S.O., A.M.I.E.E.
T/Colonel D. St. J. Hoysted.
T/Colonel H. V. Ewbank, M.A., A.M.I.E.E.

* * *

Movements of Officers

Lieutenant (Q.M.) J. G. Bowie to 11 A.A. (M) Signal Regiment, T.A.
Major E. W. Barrett from 5 Training Regiment to War Office.
Major T. M. Moon from Depot Surplus to Northern Command Signal Regiment.
Major H. L. B. Kealy from Depot Surplus to 2 Training Regiment.
Major J. T. H. Higgins from School of Signals to Staff College.
Major G. Rowland from 1 Independent Selection Squadron to 6 Boys' Training Regiment.
Major A. W. Stewart from Boys Training Squadron to 6 Boys Training Regiment.
Major T. R. Warren, Royal Australian Signals, from B.A.O.R. to 3 Training Regiment.
Major M. A. Lloyd from Senior Officers' School to B.A.O.R.
Major P. Smith from Headquarters, Aldershot District to B.A.O.R.
Lieutenant-Colonel M. G. A. Hepper, from 1 Training Regiment to West Africa.
Lieutenant-Colonel E. L. L. Vulliamy from 2 Training Regiment to Pakistan.
Lieutenant-Colonel E. J. F. Heap to command 2 Training Regiment.
Captain D. A. Ellison from Trieste to F.A.R.E.L.F. with a short leave in U.K.
Lieutenant-Colonel P. W. Lonnon from War Office to F.A.R.E.L.F.
Lieutenant-Colonel A. B. Whatman from Ministry of Supply to M.E.L.F.
Lieutenant-Colonel J. L. McNeil, from Pakistan to Depot Surplus.
Major (Q.M.) H. H. Richardson from Austria to Depot Surplus.
Major C. H. Golden from London District Signal Squadron to H.Q. London District.
Major M. P. King from Depot to Eastern Command Signal Regiment.
Major E. J. Tidey from Malaya District Signal Regiment to U.K. with Mrs. Tidey and family.
Major R. L. Downe from U.K. to Malaya District Signal Regiment.
Major K. J. Hinton from Military College of Science to 7 Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment.
Captain (Q.M.) H. G. Stickley from 1 Wireless Regiment to Mombasa.
Captain (Q.M.) J. S. Aitken from the Middle East Signal Park to 1 Wireless Regiment.
Major S. Cox from Northern Command Signal Regiment to B.A.O.R.

* * *

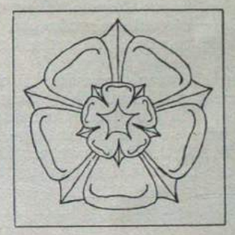
14 A.A. (M) Signal Regiment, T.A., Major (Q.M.) F. W. C. Bennett has relieved Captain (Q.M.) E. S. Trudgett.

* * *

Movements of Other Ranks

S.Q.M.S. Miller from 1 Wireless Regiment to Depot Regiment awaiting demobilisation.
S.Q.M.S. Barron from 19 Air Formation Signal Regiment to Hong Kong on promotion to that rank.
S.Q.M.S. (F. of S.) Hefferon from Hong Kong to 19 Air Formation Signal Regiment.

Signal Training Centre



7 SELECTION REGIMENT

As in previous months, the Regiment has, in the past month, "Passed Off" approximately another 1,000 National Service men. In addition to this figure, is the ever increasing Regular Soldiers' intake and output.

A "Pass Off" of particular note was on 4th October, when Brigadier Duvivier, after having taken the salute at the march past, presented Long Service and Good Conduct Medals to W.O.II Whitwood, W.O.II Ashton, S.Q.M.S. Black, S.Q.M.S. Erridge and Sergeant Woolveridge.

On 24th October, Officers of the Regiment gave a cocktail party in H.Q. Mess to welcome the arrival of Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. Pellew.

Soccer. In the Army Cup we were defeated by the 12th Royal Lancers by four goals to two. In this match, which was watched by many supporters of both teams, there was a very fine display of talent by both sides; Trooper Charles, the Welsh International, being very noteworthy.

In the 1st and 2nd Divisions of the Catterick District Leagues, we have been undefeated during the past month.

The Regiment is proud to record the continued subscriptions in the shape of players to Army and Corps XIs.

Hockey. Despite the fact that, on paper, our team looks most excellent, we are just about holding a halfway position. It is interesting to note that Sergeant Gibbons, of Corps fame, still plays a very powerful game. R.S.M. Dawson, also a Corps player, has become our "Regular" goalkeeper.

5 TRAINING REGIMENT
Harper Barracks, Ripon

Royal Signals Display Team. The Prodigal Son has at last returned home and we hope will stay with us for some considerable time.

Captain P. H. F. Webb who captained the team has now returned to Regimental duty after an exciting and adventurous year; he will be missed by all members of the team, especially for his fairness and firmness.

The nucleus of the new team welcome Captain L. J. Prest and hope that his stay with the team will be long and successful.

Two ex-members of last year's team who have returned to duty (awful thought . . .) have found that four wheels become embarrassing when negotiating corners.

To date—Written off. 1 Land-Rover.

S.I. List. 1 15 cwt.

Fortunately no serious damage to the human frame. (Roughly six stitches).

Catterick District Small Bore League. The Regiment fired off their first match against the 14/20 Hussars on Thursday, 2nd November, 1950 and with the help of Captain Watts our Adjutant, managed to win by 23 points.

We are now looking forward to our next encounter, against the 17/21 Lancers.

Football. The popularity of Soccer has greatly increased this season, chiefly due to the enry of a Regimental 2nd XI in the Catterick District League. This has proved an excellent nursery for the Regimental team. Due to postings and releases we started the season with only two players from the 1949/50 team, Lance-Corporal Townsend our centre half, and Signalman Newall our goalkeeper. Both have this season gained regular selection for the Corps and Royal Signals (Catterick) XIs.

The Regimental XI won the distinction of being the last surviving Regiment of Signal Training Centre in the Army Cup competition. Misfortune came our way on Thursday, 9th November, when we were knocked out in the 2nd round by 6 Battalion R.A.O.C. It was an excellent game, both teams playing cup-tie football and to quote a civilian observer "I've paid to see many professional matches of much lower standard."

6 (BOYS') TRAINING REGIMENT
Beverley

The Regiment came into being on 6th October, 1950, being formed on the existing Boys Training Squadron, Royal Signals, of the 1st Independent Selection Squadron, Royal Signals.

The Commanding Officer is Lieutenant-Colonel A. J. Keddie, and the Squadron Commanders, Major G. Rowland, M.B.E., and Major P. G. Curry.

The Corps Band stayed with us for four days, from 23rd to 26th October, 1950. During this time they Beat "Retreat," which was watched by the whole Regiment, and gave us an excellent concert in the N.A.A.F.I., which was attended by all ranks. The Beating of "Retreat" was held on the East Yorkshire Regiment Depot Drill Square, and we had the pleasure of seeing the Band in full dress.

Finally, on 26th October, they played at a ceremonial parade for Lieutenant-General Sir Phillip M. Balfour, K.B.E., C.B., M.C., the Army Commander, who, at the conclusion of the parade congratulated Boy R.S.M. W. T. Galloway on the standard of turn-out and drill. The parade was commanded solely by boys, and the results well justified the intensive rehearsals that had taken place. In the evening a dance for the boys was held.

On the following evening a boxing tournament of 16 contests took place in the Gymnasium, and Q.M.S.I. R. Jameson, A.P.T.C., and his staff are to be congratulated on the excellent organisation that made the tournament such a success. Earlier in the month the Sergeants' Mess held a dance, and the same night we said farewell to Major



Sir Philip Balfour inspects

[Courtesy: "Hull Daily Mail"

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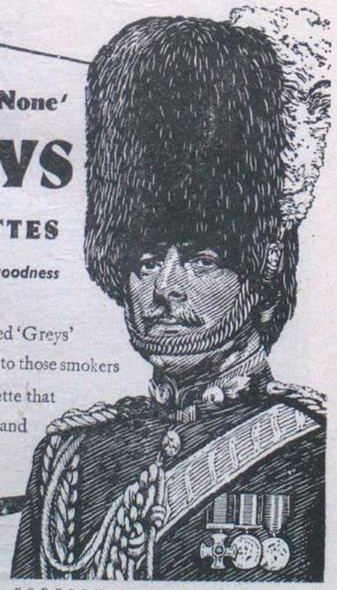
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A. W. Stewart, Royal Signals, on his departure to Cyprus. We should like to wish him and Mrs. Stewart all good luck in their new station. C.S.M. E. Whiteoak, The Royal Scots, and Sergeant D. Crick, the East Lancashire Regiment, have returned to their own Regiments. We send them our best wishes to wherever they go.

Among our many evening activities, intensive rehearsals are in progress for a Christmas "show," to be held before we break up for the holidays.

School of Signals



Royal Signals Wing

October has seen the successful completion of No. 4 W.R.A.C. Officers Q Course and No. 9 Pre Foreman of Signals Course. It also brought to an end No. 3 Long Telecommunications Course which disperses finally on 3rd November, but whose members spent a large part of October in taking final examinations and working fantastically long hours on various projects.

During the month two courses assembled and are now going strong, they were No. 2 N.C.O. Line Equipment (Ops) Course, and No. 39 Crystal Maintenance Course.

A great deal of activity has been going on in preparing for No. 36 Senior Officers (All Arms) Course, which looks like being the largest for some time, and for an R.A.F. Course. Both these courses are due to start early in November.

On the sports side, the Wing has not started its winter programme very well. The hockey team which on paper was a very promising one, was beaten in the first round of the Army Cup by the Duke of Wellington's Regiment by five goals to one.

The rugby team has played two matches and lost both of them. The rugger team is strong in the forwards, but the three-quarters have not yet got together. On the soccer field the Unit team have played four matches and won three of them. The team is shaping nicely and it is hoped that it will be well up in the league this year.

Officer Training Wing

In spite of the approach of winter, enthusiasm abounds throughout the Unit. October has seen much steady progress blended with one notable success at the Army Hunter Trials. 251/2 Course have departed for the rigours of the Middle East, Germany and the S.T.C., leaving behind them happy memories of "Someone at the Door," the comedy-thriller they so ably produced and made a sparkling success, early in the month. They have started a tradition for the O.T.W. Theatre that we are assured will not be allowed to die.

We are settling down to our winter games with considerable zeal and skill. The rugger XV has several notable scalps to its credit, and is, as yet, unbeaten. Our hockey XI has been no less successful, winning five games out of six under the skilful leadership of Captain Webber. We successfully survived the first round of the Army Cup, beating the 17/21 Lancers in a fast and thrilling game by two goals to one. At both rugger and hockey the O.T.W. is well represented in Corps and Royal Signals (Catterick) teams.

At soccer our XI has shown vast improvement on last season's form, winning eight games out of 11, with one drawn.

Cross-country running and small bore rifle shooting are the current occupation for some on sports afternoons, and one must not forget the enthusiasts in the boxing ring. On the 26th we witnessed a boxing match between 3 Training Regiment and ourselves; we lost by 11 bouts to one to a highly trained and efficient team, but our own boxers were noticeable for their pluck and courage.

In the Army Hunter Trials at Aldershot on the 28th we achieved a notable success when our team finished second to that of the Guards Depot over an extremely testing and exacting course. The team consisted of Second-Lieutenants J. W. N. Dixey, R. A. King and P. H. Massie.

Though sport has played an important part in the month's calendar, we have not forgotten how to work, and confidently look forward to a still more successful November, in spite of the gloom and fog that has heralded its arrival.

EASTERN COMMAND SIGNAL REGIMENT
Maresfield



At the time of writing, less than a week since the return of the Regiment's much travelled troops and detachments, the harsh, whimsical, and often original remarks of the "Out" troops and detachments centred on Regimental Headquarters personnel, and *vice versa*, are still very much the main topic of conversation. In this connection, the Army has changed little; yes, even in these days of depleted Regular strength and unfairly disparaged N.S.M., this friendly rivalry between troops proves the good spirit existing in the Regiment. Other Units may regard this self-administered pat on the back with wonder, but we in it are in the position of knowing that a good job has been done.

Of the various exploits and exercises which have recently occurred, you will have more details later. The most recent event, the annual inspection, being most fresh in our minds, in which the whole Regiment had a hand, it is necessary to write a brief account. Within a week of the troops normally based at Maresfield being together again, they had worked to produce a spick and span accommodation, with stores and administration above approach. On an improvised parade ground they were inspected by the Deputy District Commander and earned praise for their excellent turn-out and drill. All this in less than one week, with no opportunity even to get a clean change from the laundry or an exchange from the clothing store, and not even a 24 hour respite from the voice of the R.S.M. Of course there has been praise, and we feel like bragging, but knowing the R.S.M. we wonder what he meant when he said "They marched like veterans." Must be one of his back-handed compliments.

The Divisional Exercise "Hereward," birth-pangs of the new 3rd Infantry Division Signal Regiment, took place at Stanford P.T.A. at the end of October, and this Regiment was well represented. Every O.W.L. and a heavy representation of other trades in the Regiment were loaned for the exercise together with Eastern Command R.A. Signal Troop and Training Cadre complete. The Regiment fought impartially on both sides at once, and also for the Umpire. Some digging was included in the hard work done. The occasion was enlivened by one classic conversation on the air when a certain Signal Major (not of this Regiment) called another Officer to the set. After delivering him an

imperial and very lengthy rocket, he ended his transmission by saying ". . . and furthermore, you are not fit to be a Signal Officer. Over." Unfortunately, a Staff Officer had been called to the far set in error. He replied coldly and correctly, ". . . I am not a Signal Officer. Out." Finally, this Regiment disclaims all knowledge of the attempt to blow up the Army Commander ten minutes after the exercise had finished.

THE DEPOT REGIMENT
Pocklington

With the approach of winter (which seems hardly to have left us since last year) once again the Regiment produces an army of fire lighters and stokers. Hardy though we may try to be, the icy winds sweeping across the Plain of Pocklington have nothing to impede them except ourselves and our winter scale of blankets!

Towards the end of September, the Regiment managed to reorganise itself in order to create a Headquarter Squadron in addition to the Drafting, Discharging and Holding Squadrons. The new Squadron is now functioning and is able to relieve the others at Pocklington of the job of looking after the rather numerous permanent staff. Apart from this, however, life in the Regiment continues to pursue its normal course.

In the way of sport, winter games are now in full swing with rugby, association football and hockey being played by teams representing the Regiment, and association football and basketball in competitions within the Regiment. The Unit association football team has excelled itself so far in losing only the first game of the season.

Organisation for Christmas activities is well under way and we fully expect a bumper Christmas for 1950. Before that, however, the play "Tons of Money" is being produced by the Unit Dramatic Club, and the newly created Families' Centre is producing a cabaret (with supper!) in mid-November in order to raise some funds. The Families' Centre is worthy of special mention: it has been founded by the Commanding Officer's wife, Mrs. R. Webb, and is doing excellent work in the way of entertainment and welfare work for the families of the Regiment. At present it meets fortnightly and is now a regular part of Regimental routine.

On 12th November, the Regiment is providing a detachment to parade with the local civil authorities for Remembrance Day and at the dedication of the Pocklington Garden of Remembrance. In the next issue we expect to give a report of the parade.

NORTHERN COMMAND (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT
York

During the months of September and October considerable reorganisation has taken place in the Regiment and, in consequence of the complete withdrawal of W.R.A.C. personnel a considerable number of civilians have been engaged. Commitments of the Regiment appear to be on the increase rather than the other way round.

It is unfortunate that the month of October commenced with the loss of one of our junior N.C.O.s and it is with regret that we have to report the death of Corporal W. H. Huitson, Royal Signals, who died in Catterick Military Hospital on 2nd October, 1950, after an illness of just over four weeks. The deceased N.C.O. leaves a widow and a daughter to whom the Regiment tenders its sympathy and condolences. There was a prompt and ready response to a subscription fund raised within the Regiment for presentation to Mrs. Huitson, and it is with pleasure that we record that a cheque for £22/13/6 was sent to Mrs. Huitson. Corporal Huitson had served in the Corps for a considerable number of years and there will undoubtedly be many to whom his death will come as a shock and a sense of personal loss.

We are disturbed in writing by stentorian bellows reaching us from the "square" outside where divers bodies of troops are engaged in trying to destroy the remnants of the surfaced part of the parade ground. They are indeed putting so much vigour into their torturous convolutions that the sparks coming from their boots would provide a miniature "Blackpool illumination" effect on a dark night!!

All this and other things too, are in progress in preparation for the Armistice Day Parade being held in York and in which a detachment of the Regiment is taking its part. For the next few days lines will be adorned with best suits of battledress, and flat irons pressed into service as never before! York, with its historical and traditional setting, is an ideal place for a parade of this significance, and the presence of the personnel of the Regiment will undoubtedly bring remembrances and poignant memories to past and present members of the Corps who will be watching the ceremony.

In the social activity for October a concert entitled "Mac's Follies" was presented in aid of S.S.A.F.A. funds. This was organised by W.O.II McClenaghan with no small measure of success. The artistes taking part were of local recruitment from both military and civilian sources. Time honoured jokes and cracks, hoary with age, were, however, received with traditional enjoyment. As usual the R.S.M., Adjutant and newly commissioned Officers with the edges of their buttons not yet worn off, received more than the average volume of satire. The show went down very well and it is to be hoped that W.O.II McClenaghan will be inspired to even greater efforts.

Anti-Aircraft Command

35 (ULSTER) A.A. INDEPENDENT (M) SIGNAL SQUADRON, T.A.
Belfast

We extend a hearty welcome to Colonel H. R. Somerville, C.B.E., T.D., E. ENG. M.I.E.E., whose appointment as Honorary Colonel to the Squadron was announced on 31st August, 1950.

Following our success in the 3 A.A. Group Motor-Cycle Trials, personnel of the Squadron acquitted themselves very well in the Northern Ireland District Trials which were run on Saturday, 30th September, 1950. Unfortunately, we managed to enter only one team for the event, the total number of teams participating being 18.

Our team consisted of Lieutenant J. Jordan, Signalman C. Carter and Signalman J. Johnston, all of whom rode very well.

The weather for the most of the day was bad which rendered the course even more hazardous than usual. For the most part it was a sea of mud and knee-deep in water. There were some very tense moments as the last results were coming through as ourselves, 60 H.A.A. Regiment, R.A., and 247 L.A.A./S.L. Regiment, R.A., were all in the running for the trophy, which was graciously donated by our former O.C., Major C. F. C. Lindsay, who did us the honour of making the presentations. However, we managed to carry it off by a very narrow margin from 247 L.A.A./S.L. Regiment, R.A.

Signalman Carter, as always, rode brilliantly and won the individual 350 c.c. class cup, being four points ahead of the runner-up.

C.S.O., 4 A.A. GROUP

On behalf of all ranks, Royal Signals, in 4 A.A. Group, the C.S.O. wishes all readers of these notes a Happy Christmas and a Peaceful and Successful New Year.

4 A.A. (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT
Peninsula Barracks, Warrington, Lancs

Exercise "Emperor" is behind us and it has left a pleasant feeling of smug satisfaction. We manned three A.A.O.R.s, learned quite a lot of useful lessons, survived visits of C.S.O. A.A. Command and other important people and yet all seem to have enjoyed themselves. Needless to say, our communications gave little trouble!

Our D.R. team scored 218 points for fourth place in the A.A. Command motor-cycle trials. Lance-Corporal Harris was our top scorer with 66 out of the possible 80 points. He was placed 8th amongst the individuals. Well done!

We regret that we have been involved in a serious road accident as a result of which Major R. H. Farlow, M.B.E., Second-Lieutenant J. Buncher, W.R.A.C., Sergeant D. Chalk, W.R.A.C., and Sergeant W. D. Butchers are all seriously injured. We wish them all the speediest possible recovery.

The Regular element of the Unit turned out to represent Peninsula Barracks at the Remembrance Day church parade. We had a lengthy but potent address from the Canon, in which he admitted that even he felt "browned-off" at times with the sameness of routine work. He went on to prove that, if we give way to such feelings, they are liable to cause unhappiness far beyond our immediate surroundings. How true! After the service we marched past the Deputy Commander 4 A.A. Group and with the help of the South Lancashire Regiment Cadet Band, we acquitted ourselves well. It is worth recording that more than one voice was heard to murmur that similar parades would be quite a good idea!

14 A.A. (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.
Speke, Liverpool

The Regiment is now well under way with both training and social activities. The recent air defence exercise, "Emperor," found the Regiment well to the fore and all ranks have benefited considerably from the experience gained.

Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess. A farewell party to our Q.M., Captain E. S. Trudgett, and C.S.M. "Paddy" Heaps, W.R.A.C., was held in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess, Woolton, on Saturday, 23rd September. Both officers were given mementoes. Captain Trudgett has been with the Regiment since November, 1948, and is now leaving for "fresh fields and pastures new." He was presented with a silver tankard. C.S.M. Heaps left to get married and she was presented with a clock. R.S.M. Crouch made a farewell speech and said that the Unit would be very sorry to lose two popular members. S.Q.M.S. Lewis, with the help of R.Q.M.S. Griffiths and Sergeant Kirk and the Entertainments Committee, put on a show and the invited guests joined in a social evening.

33 A.A. (M) Signal Squadron, Runcorn. The past month can quite safely be called Runcorn's matrimonial month. Not only have two of our W.R.A.C. personnel married outside the Squadron but two marriages have taken place within the Squadron itself. Our heartiest congratulations and good wishes to: Lance-Corporal J. Haddock, W.R.A.C.; Private B. M. Fox, W.R.A.C.; Signalman W. E. Allen and Lance-Corporal Jakeman (W.R.A.C.); Driver L. Ryder and Private I. L. Adams (W.R.A.C.).

At long last the strength of the Squadron has been increased by the arrival of two W.R.A.C. Officers, Lieutenant M. Davenport and Lieutenant J. M. Robertson, from Scottish Command. We hope that they will enjoy their service with the Squadron and we hope that they are as pleased to be with us as we are to welcome them.

Entertainment committee meetings have been held with a view to repeating some of the successful social events which took place last winter. We hope that the National Service men who have joined us will take full advantage of the winter social programme.

It is gratifying to see that some of our National Service men are attending quite regularly. We hope that they will benefit from the comradeship we have to offer, and that we, in turn, can benefit from contact with people so recently in the Regular Service.

96 A.G.R.A. (A.A.) Signal Squadron, T.A., Atherton. Our winter training is following unusual but successful lines. We now have an organised lunch on Sundays and our attendances have gone up considerably. Whether our mineworking members really prefer to attend drills on Sundays, or whether Lance-Corporal Stevenson really is an exceptional cook does not matter. Sunday drills have proved a successful experiment.

Recruiting progresses slowly but surely. With a view to boosting our numbers we are planning a novel publicity campaign. If it succeeds we will publish details later.

Considerable work is being undertaken by the T.A. Association on our canteen. The results promise to be good, but they are unlikely to be completed in time for our Christmas festivities. These include a children's party on 16th December and a coach trip to Belle Vue Circus on 6th January.

5 A.A. (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT
Scarborough

Since our last contribution the Regiment has been very busy. The culmination of the year's training came in October, when Exercise "Emperor" took place. Both the Fire Command and Line Troops were fully employed in setting up the radios and wiring up gunsites for a fortnight before the exercise started.

Their work appears to have been effective as there were few faults throughout the exercise. The Regiment received a letter of thanks for its work from the Commander 17 A.A. Brigade.

During September we saw an ex-member of the Corps, Geoffrey Duke, win the two major events of the Scarborough Road Racing Meeting. In the 500 c.c. event he was nearly half a lap ahead of the second man, and broke all the course records.

Individual training has started once more—upgrading courses from Class III to Class II are in progress for linemen, operators, drivers, and D.R.s. An Officers' and N.C.O.s' winter training programme has been started. A certain member of the Regiment is busily enquiring how one maintains sky hooks in the field.

We have held two Regimental week-ends, both of which were a success. A great amount of latent talent has been

uncovered and is being put to good use by Sergeant Sharpe, the Education Sergeant, who, it is rumoured, is a one man show himself. We hope to entertain our sister regiment, 15 A.A. (M) Signal Regiment, during our next week-end.

The Adjutant is now busily engaged—raising mushrooms, to date few have put in an appearance, but the Officers' Mess has lived on mushroom soup exclusively for the past fortnight.

The inter-troop sports league is again in full swing. Owing to demobilisation since last winter, the teams are more evenly balanced and results to date show that it is going to be a very close fight.

We said farewell recently to Captain T. G. Simpson, who has worked unceasingly as Adjutant for a considerable time. He has now moved to that holy of holies, the S.T.C., there to train brand new recruits. We all wish him the best of luck in his new job.

B A O R

H.Q. B.A.O.R. SIGNAL REGIMENT
Herford

The recent news that a new Division, the 11th Armoured, was to be formed in Germany has resulted in a large increase in the number of troops in Harewood Barracks. New drafts from England continue to arrive regularly and with the additional six months' service, there is no corresponding release. Many of the present surplus troops will doubtless join the new Division, when it is formed on the ground.

This winter Sergeant Stead is hoping to run .22 rifle competitions every week. On Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 18.30—21.00 hrs., any soldier in barracks can go and try his luck. The prizes are 20/- for the highest score, won for the first time by 032 Signalman Taylor with 68, and 15/- for the "Pool Bull" winner.

A new venture, and we hope a successful one, is the Unit Dance Band, organised by Corporal Wright. Nothing if not modest, they call themselves the "Squadronaires." Every week they play with great *éclat*, vim, *joie de vivre*, and what have you, in the N.A.A.F.I., and also give performances at many outside events in the Herford area.

On the 25th of October, the Unit were privileged to hear a lecture by Lieutenant-Colonel Birdwood, who is touring B.A.O.R. at present. He spoke on International Affairs, with particular reference to the problems inherent in the United Nations Organisation.

All the sports normally associated with the winter season are now fully under way. There follows an account of each in turn.

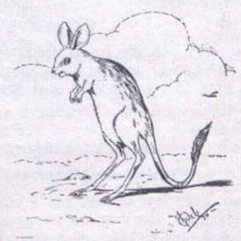
Hockey. Last year the Regiment had a strong XI and there is every prospect of this year's side being just as good, if not better. Unfortunately, up to now, the best side has never been able to take the field at one time. The first match was against H.Q. B.A.F.O., and a thrilling game resulted in a 2—2 draw. This was a good achievement, as Lieutenant-Colonel Sanders was injured in the first five minutes and took no further part in the game. Against Field Records at Bad Oeynhausen, we lost 2—1, but the third match, the first played on the new ground, resulted in a good win for the Regiment again.

Boxing. Only one match has taken place so far, in which 2 Squadron beat 3 Squadron in a series of entertaining bouts.

Rugby Football. This year the rugger XV is sure to have a good season for there is plenty of excellent talent available in the Regiment. After a couple of runaway victories to start the season the team are full of confidence for the 1st round match in the Army Cup against H.Q. B.A.O.R.

7 ARMOURED DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT
Celle

R.H.Q., H.Q. and 1 Squadrons, Celle. The major sporting event this month was the highly successful Regimental Boxing Competition organised by Major Sheepshanks. It was mainly designed to unearth latent talent in the Regiment, from which to form a boxing team. To achieve this, every one in H.Q. and 1 Squadrons, with the exception of those who were sick or disabled, was put in the ring to have a go. Teams were also entered by 2 and 3 Squadrons.



The results were excellent. Any lack of knowledge was well made good by spirit and enthusiasm. The Commanding Officer presented medals to the winners whose names are below:—

Featherweight
Signalman Hall, 1 Squadron.
Lightweight
Signalman Castle, 3 Squadron.
Light Welterweight
Section A: Signalman Dore, 2 Squadron.
Section B: Signalman Murray, 1 Squadron.
Section C: Lance-Corporal Parkinson, 2 Squadron.
Welterweight
Section A: Driver Hackett, H.Q. Squadron.
Section B: Driver Hampson, 2 Squadron.
Light Middleweight
Section A: Signalman Woodham, 1 Squadron.
Section B: Lance-Corporal Orr, H.Q. Squadron.
Heavyweight
Signalman Clark, 3 Squadron.
Lightweight (Special Contest): Driver Barnes, H.Q. Squadron.
Lightweight (Special Contest): Signalman Mahoney, 1 Squadron.

Hockey results to date are very encouraging. Of three matches played against other regiments we have won all three with a total of 13 goals for and only one goal scored against us.

In training maximum time is now being devoted to upgrading courses. A short wireless exercise—Exercise "Choker"—was held during the last week of the month.

The R.E.M.E. Inspectorate concluded their annual inspection at the beginning of this week and now as we write these notes it is snowing hard. Luckily neither stay for very long.

2 Squadron, Luneburg. During this month all the Troops have been busy maintaining equipment after Exercise "Broadside," and M.T. can again be identified as such.

All forms of sport have been flourishing. Squadron H.Q. and "H" Troop did extremely well in the novices boxing against R.H.Q. and 1 Squadron, and are training hard for the H.Q. R.A. competition. They also provided half the H.Q. R.A. basketball team which came second in the H.Q. R.A. competition after a close match against the 7th Hussars, who won by two points.

3 Squadron, Goslar. After our exertions of the past few months we have now settled down into "winter quarters."

Two Signalmen volunteered to represent the Squadron in the Regimental Boxing Tournament and both reached the finals. Signalman H. Clarke won the heavyweight class and Signalman J. Castle narrowly lost on points the lightweight class. Both boxers received medals for their good performances.

S.S.M. P. E. A. Hall has been out shooting again and a fine eight-pointer red stag fell to his marksmanship. He also came home with a hind a few evenings ago. Some of the Squadron married families are now having their meat ration supplemented with so much venison that at this rate they will soon be complaining of the monotony of their diet.

Captain P. E. Mott rode in the Anglo-German Horse Show run by H.Q. 31 Lorried Infantry Brigade and put up a spirited performance although he has not been in the saddle for nearly nine years.

4 Squadron, Soltau. Having come through the "hardship" of Exercise "Broadside I and II" unscathed, the Squadron is settling down to individual training for the winter with bodies disappearing wholesale for up-grading courses.

The social life of the barracks has been enlarged by the completion of our new gymnasium. Most of the nights of the week it is kept busy with games of basketball and badminton. On two consecutive Saturdays it has been gay with bunting and coloured lights for the occasion of an all ranks dance, and a Corporals' Club dance. Both functions were thoroughly enjoyed by all attending.

Our heartiest congratulations and best wishes for the future go to our Brigadier, H. R. B. Foote, V.C., D.S.O., on his appointment as Commander of the new 11 Armoured Division.

2 INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT
Hilden

Sports are well under way again in the Regiment and things look quite promising for the winter season.

Boxing has been the main item on the agenda during the month with a very hard fought inter-squadron competition. Congratulations of all ranks go to the contestants who, even though in the ring for the first time in many cases, put plenty of guts into their fights. Our Commanding Officer confessed that he had great difficulty in choosing the best loser and in fact named three boxers, all of whom deserved the title. Signalman Hawkins, of 2 Squadron was eventually awarded the best loser's medal, after he had fought a terrific bout with Signalman Clapson of 1 Squadron in the final of the lightweight. The other two named were Signalman Pollock, 1 Squadron, who lost a very plucky fight to Signalman Dowling of 2 Squadron in the featherweight contest, and Sergeant Kennedy of 1 Squadron, a welterweight fighting in the light-middleweight class.



We are now in the throes of forming a Unit boxing team for the first round of the Divisional Boxing Championship, in which we are meeting 19 Field Regiment, Royal Artillery on 23rd November, 1950. We are all hoping to be able to report a victory in this bout in the next issue of THE WIRE.

Unit soccer has started off well, with a win in the first round of the Divisional Inter-Unit Contest. In this contest we played 4 Brigade Workshops R.E.M.E. at their home ground and beat them 4—1. We meet the 1st Battalion Welsh Guards in the next round on 8th November, 1950, and we all wish the team the best of luck.

Hockey looks most promising of all this year, the team having so far beaten all-comers in "friendly" matches. The first round of the Divisional contest is being played off on 8th November, 1950, when we meet the 10th Hussars. All of us are expecting great things this year from our hockey team and our best wishes go with them.

1 WIRELESS REGIMENT
Münster

The Regiment, under its new C.O., Lieutenant-Colonel R. G. Yolland, O.B.E., whom we welcome in the place of Lieutenant-Colonel S. F. P. Wolferstan, has enjoyed a most successful summer. We won the Royal Signals (B.A.O.R.) Inter-Unit cricket and tennis competitions. Inside the Unit itself we had a very successful and well organised swimming gala on August Bank Holiday Monday, and Inter-Troop hockey and basketball competitions have been held and keenly contested.

A Regimental Wives' Club has been formed, which organises whist drives with alarming thoroughness. It has also held a number of dances. They hope, with the aid of the Unit, to stage a variety show in December. The Regimental dance is still held weekly, and the attendance has been growing rapidly since the evenings have been drawing in. We look forward to a winter of longer and darker evenings.

The Unit football enthusiasts have got off to a good start, members of the first and second teams can be seen daily going through the training routine laid down by a very hard warrior i/c soccer. Several games were played against quite strong German opposition, including a carnival game against Billerbeck which our team, then unfit and undeveloped, lost after an interesting day's football. The team has now settled down and developed into a good strong side and we are very hopeful that maybe this is our year to make history and put the name of the Corps on the Army Cup for the first time. Up to the time of going to Press we have met and beaten two strong sides in the B.A.O.R. section of the competition, and are looking forward with increased confidence to the next round. The results to date are:—

3rd The King's Own Hussars, 5—3.
1st Battalion Durham Light Infantry, 3—1,

the second game being played without our captain and centre-half, Corporal Collins, who is on a course in England. We now meet the Royal Scots Fusiliers away in the next round.

The rugger games we have played this season have proved that a good team can be formed in the Unit. The extra six months added to the National Serviceman's service cheered the rugger officer immensely, as a large proportion of the team are National Servicemen. Two games have been played this month, both against the 3rd King's Own Hussars, and both resulted in wins for the Regiment. The second game was below the standard of our previous matches with the 3rd The King's Own Hussars, owing to their team being below strength. We are now looking forward to the first round of the Army Cup, due to be played on Wednesday, 15th November, versus the 22nd L.A.A. Regiment, R.A. We are fortunate in having Mr. Jack Friend (C.C.G.) (ex-Australian player) to coach the team and this coaching may be the deciding factor in Wednesday's game. Player of the month is Private Searby, a very valuable asset to the pack.

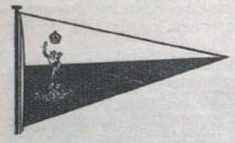
The Unit hockey team have done very well, winning their first three games including the preliminary round of the Army Cup. There are many enthusiastic players in the Unit and a sound team is being developed. We have played two games against the 3rd King's Own Hussars, winning 4—2 and 2—1. In the preliminary round of the Army Cup we beat the 10th Anti-Tank Regiment, R.A., 3—2 after a very good game. Outstanding were Sergeant Vickers, R.S.M. Couch and Sergeant Hales.

It is now four months since the inauguration took place in the Unit of an "Old Comrades Association" Branch. At first the going was slow, until the work and benefits of the Association were revealed, and then business became amazingly brisk. At the moment of writing we are very gratified to have 150 members, excluding "old members" who have returned to civilian life; to them we take this opportunity of extending our very best wishes.

Sailing in B.A.O.R.

By **Major D. A. TOOMBS,** *Royal Signals*

SAILING, particularly dinghy racing, has been a leading sport in Rhine Army since the occupation. Facilities are good and the cost of the sport kept within reach of everybody's pocket.



All sailing in the zone is organised centrally by a body known as the British Zonal Sailing Association and all the sailing clubs are members of this association. Fees for sailing are laid down by the association and may be paid as a seasonal subscription, which varies from £3 to £6 according to rank, or may be paid as daily sailing fees. If fees are paid by the latter method any person whose total daily fees amount to a seasonal subscription gets the rest of his sailing free for the season. This is an excellent idea as a chap who would find £6 as a lump sum hard on the pocket can pay daily fees in the nature of instalments.

The individual clubs, of which there are approximately 20, are provided with suitable boats by the Association, according to the waters they sail and to their membership, who supply all maintenance stores. In return the club, which collects the subscriptions/sailing fees, hands over a percentage of the fees, according to the class of craft, to the Association retaining the rest for use on the boats. Most clubs run their own club houses and charge a small social fee in addition to the sailing subscription.

Ocean sailing is available from the Kiel and Travemunde clubs on the Baltic and from Hamburg club on the Elbe estuary. All other clubs provide inland water sailing and Germany is particularly fortunate in having fairly large inland lakes and meres strategically sited, from a yachtsman's viewpoint, over the zone.

We have deep inland waters at Berlin and at Mohne See, in the 2 Division Area where the famous dam was breached during the war. These clubs provide 6 metre, 45 and 30 sq. metre and Star class keel boats in addition to the various centre board classes.

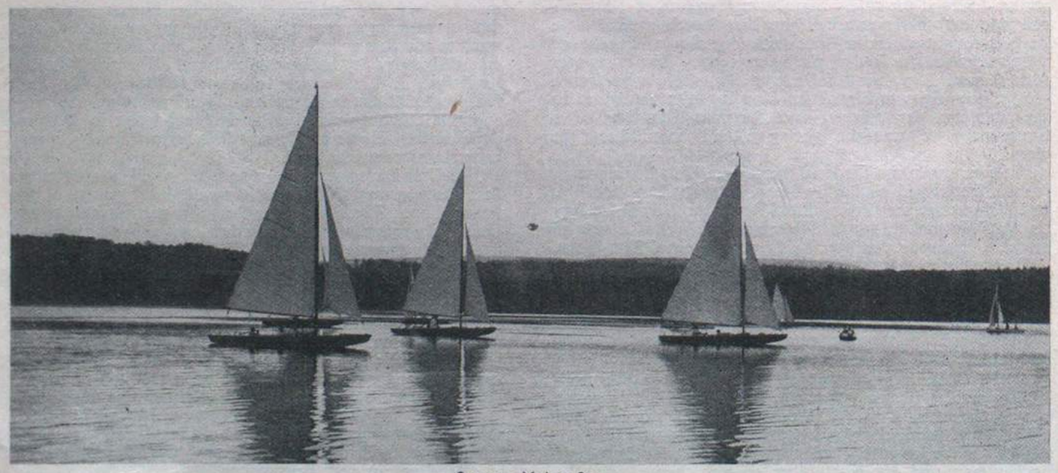
The other inland waters are too shallow for keel boats, but ample types of centre board craft are available to suit all tastes ranging between 20 sq. and 10 sq. metre sail area. The great favourites and the largest numbers are the Sharpie and Olympic classes and in addition there are C, H, J and Z local classes.

Cruising is available on the Baltic and the clubs provide a variety of ocean going craft mostly of the 5 ton sloop rigged class. A very pleasant week-end can be had by sailing up to the island of Burg or with favourable winds to Sonderburg in South Denmark. A more extended cruise, say 10 days, will take one to Copenhagen and further north to the Kattegat or in a 20-day leave one can fit in Stockholm and the Swedish islands.

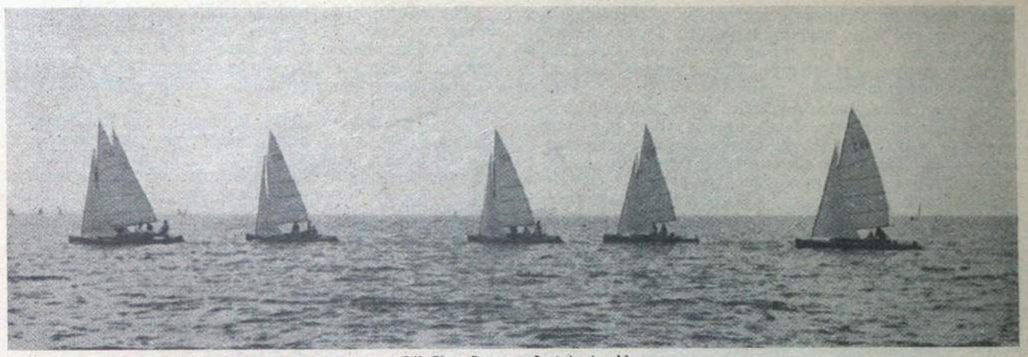
However, by far the chief interest centres around racing and all the clubs put on races every week-end in addition to their annual regattas. One can race 6 metres at Kiel, Dragons at Hamburg and Travemunde, and Stars at Kiel, Berlin and Mohne See in the keel boat classes. In the centre board classes practically every club races Olympics, a 10 sq. metre bermuda-rigged single handed boat carrying a mainsail only, and Sharpies can be raced at Mohne See, Steinhuder Meer and Berlin.

Winds on the inland waters are extremely variable and rarely remain steady, calling for a constant eye on the burgee and wind indicator and a "blow-up" can develop very quickly resulting in frequent involuntary "immersions," particularly when racing Olympics single handed.

At the end of the war we had many enthusiastic sailors



Stars on Mohne See



"C" Class Race on Steinhuder Meer

in the Corps out in Germany who had had considerable sailing experience. It was they who helped to get the sport going on an organised basis in the Zone, sitting on committees and helping in the organisation and running of the clubs and bringing in newcomers to the sport from their Units. The Corps has also been fortunate in the fact that all the Chief Signal Officers we have had in B.A.O.R. have given active support to the sport.

As the older and more experienced members left the theatre enthusiasm did not fall off but rather grew as their places were more than filled by newcomers. A lot of them were complete novices who quickly picked up the art of handling a dinghy and were soon racing them and now every club in the Zone has a good Signals representation.

Last year the Corps held its first regatta in B.A.O.R., perhaps the first Signals regatta that has ever been held? Mohne See was chosen as the venue and six teams entered, representing Signals groups throughout the Zone. Racing was held over two days and consisted of Star and Sharpie matches. The races were, unfortunately, sailed in very light airs, but that merely emphasised the helmsman's skill. A handsome shield was produced, to be sailed for each year, and was won by B.A.O.R. Signal Regiment.

This season for the first time a triangular sailing competition between the Gunners, the Sappers and ourselves was organised. Its origin was due to the C.S.O. Rhine Army, Brigadier Morrison, who sponsored the original suggestion and undertook the organisation for this the first competition. All three Corps were enthusiastic, which provided the right foundation, and it was finally decided to sail the competition from the Rhine Army Officers' Yacht Club at Steinhuder Meer, an expanse of shallow water roughly circular and about five miles in diameter situated 20 miles or so from Hanover.

The competition was sailed off on a Saturday in July and consisted of three Olympics and two J class races, each team sailing four boats in the Olympic races and one boat in the J races. The day was hot and sunny with a clear sky and at the first call over at 09.30 hrs. there was a dead calm. However, a light air came up about 10 o'clock and it was decided to sail the first Olympic races. Most boats took advantage of their paddles up to the five minute gun which proved to be a wise course and after the start gun it was a case of sitting and hoping. However, the course, a short one, was completed in just over three-quarters of an hour by the winner, the last man coming in about half an hour later. Gunners took the first two places, Major Sumner, Royal Signals, being third home. After this a light wind blew up and conditions improved. The second Olympic race was sailed off before lunch, the winner taking just under the hour for a much longer course. In this race Gunners got first and third places, Captain Elliott, Royal Signals, coming in second. The last Olympic race sailed off after lunch again gave the Gunners first and third places, and again Elliott sailed the Signals burgee into second place. It must be mentioned that our team for this competition were presented with most handsome Signals racing burgees, the handicraft of sailing wives at H.Q. B.A.O.R., who worked late into the night on them, our supply ordered from London not having arrived on schedule.

In the two J races, Lieutenant-Colonel Rowett, the Signals helmsman, got a first and a second, both races being sailed in a fresh wind with a full crew of three. The Sappers produced a very fine shield for the event which was norrowly won by the Gunners. Final points results of the



H-s in a calm Steinhuder Meer

match were: first, Gunners, 124 points; second, Signals, 104 points, and third, Sappers, 55 points. There are eight bosses on the shield, and we are hoping for many more of these matches and perhaps "Royal Signals" will be engraved on the next boss.

Our own Corps regatta was sailed off on 9th/10th September and provided two days' excellent sailing in a fresh wind that held throughout the competition and some very keen racing. Five Signals groups were represented, 2 Infantry Division, 7 Armoured Division, 11 Air Formation Signals, Hamburg District, and 1 Wireless Regiment. Each group sailed three Sharpies and one Star in four Sharpie and two Star class races. The venue was the Mohne See Sailing Club as last year, the club very kindly handing over the use of the boats and club house facilities for the whole week-end. Mohne See is a reservoir and thus has as a consequence plenty of water and is situated in beautiful country to the east of the Ruhr. An additional advantage of this venue is that a leave centre is situated there and as our annual regatta is a social as well as a sailing occasion large numbers require accommodation. This year the leave centre gave us one of their hotels complete. This hotel, situated on the lake side, was ideal, just the right size and close to the sailing club.

First call over was at 15.00 hrs., and two Sharpie races were sailed off on the Saturday afternoon. The sky was overcast and rain threatened but that didn't matter as there was lots of wind. The race resulted in a win for Major Petty of 7 Armoured Divisional Group, who finished a good two minutes ahead of second and third who were Major Sumner and Major Toombs, sailing for 1 Wireless Group. The next race was closer and resulted in a win for Major Toombs, second and third places being taken by Lieutenant-Colonel Bell and Major Hancock, of 2 Divisional Group. By the time the last boats crossed the line the Officer on the bridge was having difficulty reading sail numbers as the light was almost gone.

The next item on the agenda was a change into dry clothes and an excellent dinner at our hotel to which 50 sat down. This was followed by dancing culminating in E. and B. at, I'm told, 05.00 hrs.

Sunday morning saw the third and fourth Sharpie races sailed off. Again the wind was good and both races saw very close finishes. The first race resulted in a win for Major Sheepshanks of 7 Armoured Divisional Group, with Major Toombs of 1 Wireless Group second, and Sgt. Noble of 11 Air Formation Group third. The second race was won by Major Sumner of 1 Wireless Group, second and third being Lieutenant-Colonel Bell for 2 Infantry Divisional Group, and Major Blackburne for 7 Armoured Divisional Group.

In the afternoon the Star races were sailed. Five Stars, one for each group, were sailed in each race and competition was keen as the points between the leaders after the conclusion of the Sharpie races were very close. The first race was won by Lieutenant-Colonel Bell of 2 Infantry Divisional Group, second place being taken by Major Petty of 7 Armoured Divisional Group. Points were quickly totalled up and it was found that the last race could still decide the match. This race was sailed very closely throughout, boats being almost line abreast on the runs and all going about in response to the starboard boat on the tacks. In a very close finish, first and second places were taken by Major Toombs and Captain Elliott, sailing for 1 Wireless Group and Hamburg District Group respectively.

Afterwards, Mrs. Morrison, the wife of our C.S.O., presented the shield and medals to 2 Infantry Divisional Signal Group, the winners with 144 points, and medals to 1 Wireless Group, the runners-up with 140 points.

It says a great deal for the seamanship and standard of sailing of the members of the Corps that in two days' hard racing in which every boat of the two classes sailed was utilised in each race, that not one boat was put out of the racing through having sustained damage.

The majority of competitors were due on the Rhine Army manoeuvres the following week which takes us into October by which time keel boats are out of the water, but the hardy ones still carry on with dinghy racing. In fact they sail Olympic competitions until mid-December in Berlin, AND go in the drink.

It is hoped to form a B.A.O.R. branch of the Royal Signals Sailing Association if negotiations at present in hand with the Association come to fruition, and I think we shall be able thereby to bring about a welcome increase in membership of the Association which is the main object of the exercise.

☆

BERLIN SIGNAL SQUADRON
B.A.O.R. 2

The summer having at last departed and the "exercise season" being practically finished, the Squadron is now settling down, amid snow and rain, to its winter training programme.

This includes the annual range classification, and practices have already been held in preparation for it. The bitterly cold weather which descended upon us at that time may or may not be responsible for the scores which were lower than one might expect. We have, however, still some time in which to improve.

Considering our station in the Olympic Stadium, it is not unnatural that the Squadron should take an interest in practically every form of sport.

In this aspect of Unit life, the Squadron has been fairly successful. The combined H.Q. B.T.B./Signals hockey team contains eight Signals. So far this team has played three matches of which it has won two and drawn one. They have scored 30 goals and have given away only two, both those in a hard fought draw, with the Royal Fusiliers, in what was the best game yet seen this season. Well done the hockey side! In the Combined Services XI the Signals again supplied a good number of the team—five being taken from the Squadron to play for C.S. B.T.B. In their only match (v. B.A.F.O.) they unfortunately lost although not as heavily as the score (1—5) suggests.

The actual Squadron team is now training for the B.A.O.R. Minor Units Challenge Cup. We hope to improve last year's position as runners-up and bring the cup to the Squadron.

On the soccer side the team is preparing for its first match against Camp H.Q. B.T.B. in the Minor Units Competition. As we have already beaten Camp twice we expect to pass the first round of the competition successfully. The first leg of the winter soccer series has been completed and the Squadron lies second to the Black Watch who beat us 2—1 in a very good and even game.

This year, for the first time, teams have been entered in the basketball and .22 rifle shooting competitions. The basketball team is still only in training, but the .22 team has shot four times—unfortunately only once successfully—but have done themselves credit on all four occasions.

The Warrant Officers and Sergeants of the Royal Signals and the Royal Engineers who share the Mess have entered a team in the darts league but can only be said to be trying hard. Perhaps they have "double trouble," who knows?

Lastly we have to report that more than half the Squadron have taken 2nd and 3rd class swimming tests and have been awarded B.T.B. swimming certificates.

We hope this will encourage those of the Squadron who still have not got them to have a go.

Mrs. Briggs, wife of Corporal Briggs, and the wife and family of Signalman Leeming, have recently joined their husbands in Berlin under Op. "Union."

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MELF

CHIEF AIR FORMATION SIGNAL OFFICER'S BRANCH
MIDDLE EAST AIR FORCE
Ismailia

For the benefit of young and old regulars who may find themselves on the boat for Egypt, they can be assured that there is at least one extremely well organised thing out here, that is the Free Leave Scheme to Cyprus. The trip is, as it states, FREE, and there are no snags to it. The journey from Port Said to Famagusta, Cyprus, and return, in a converted Corvette, is firstly a novel way of travelling and secondly surprisingly comfortable. Two Corvettes do the return journey twice each week so there is no fear of being stranded. There are two leave camps in Cyprus, one for single personnel at Famagusta and the other for married families at Troodos.

Famagusta Camp is situated right on the sea shore. The sea is crystal clear and ideal for swimming. Canoes, rowing boats and two rafts are available for use and one can spend the whole day in the water enjoying oneself to the full. There are plenty of amenities available in the Camp, and the town of Famagusta is only three miles away for those who like the night life. Trips in comfortable buses at reasonable prices to various parts of the island are arranged by the W.V.S.

Troodos Camp is 6,000 feet up in the mountains where the scenery is magnificent and the air is very bracing after the sticky summer of Egypt. There are ample opportunities to go for long walks in historic and interesting surroundings.

Troodos is the mountain climber's delight and to breathe the clean fresh air makes life really worth living. Facilities are laid on for travelling round the island, but being 6,000 feet up, any trip from Troodos is similar to a long ride on a switch-back railway. Hair-pin bends with sheer drops of thousands of feet are sufficient to turn one's thoughts far from the scenery and to reach frantically for imaginary foot brakes. Being miles from anywhere, the night life is naturally confined to the camp area and the staff of the camp do an excellent job of entertaining the guests.

Just in case N.S. men think they get no privileges in the way of leave out here, I would state that they can also go to Cyprus under the same conditions except that the journey there and back it NOT free, but cost of an indulgence passage amounts to only a few shillings.

One small item of sports news. S.S.M. Collie won another beer tankard by assisting R.A.F. Station Ismailia tennis team to win the Canal North Knock-out League.

4 AIR FORMATION SIGNAL REGIMENT
Abyad

In the last edition of THE WIRE mention was made of the Regiment's successful participation in the Royal Signals (Canal Zone) Rifle and L.M.G. Meeting, also, hopes were aired for Royal Signals chances in the 17 Infantry Brigade District Rifle and L.M.G. Meeting to be held during the last week in September.

The results of this meeting are now known and, though no great individual honours were won by members of the Regiment, all our entrants under control of 3 G.H.Q. Signal Regiment (Royal Signals fire power in the District coming under that Regiment's Command for the purpose of the meeting) have qualified, in one or more events, for promotion to the Command Meeting.

Of the many interesting and, what would appear to be, strenuous events, if the puffs and grunts of certain self styled "In the Prime Types" are to be considered, mention must be made of the falling plate match. For this particular event the Regiment entered its own team of twelve, consisting of one officer, two Warrant Officers, one Sergeant, three Corporals, one Lance-Corporal and four Young Soldiers. The team fought its way to the quarter finals where it succumbed to a team from 3 G.H.Q. Signal Regiment, but only on a count of rounds, both teams having the same number of plates standing after the "cease fire" had been sounded. What magpies, in the ornithological sense, have to do with the victors having 21 rounds left as opposed to the paltry 10 of the vanquished, is rather vague, and in any case was only muttered under the breaths of a certain few immediately after the fierce heat of battle and the gallop over three hundred yards of ankle deep sand. We hope to meet them in the final of the Command Shoot where, of course, competition will be even more fierce with all the Infantry Battalions outvieing each other in a sport which, to them, means more than just a day at the races.

3 G.H.Q. SIGNAL REGIMENT
Fayid

Whilst it could hardly be said that we are looking forward to a "white Christmas," the return of the winter season has turned our thoughts to Christmas, and has of necessity resulted in our thoughts being directed homewards perhaps a little more than usual.

Football, hockey and cross-country running have succeeded cricket, swimming and the other summer sports; we have exchanged the freedom of K.D. shorts for the warmth of battledress; and we are eagerly awaiting the Yuletide festivities that are being planned.

There have been appetising whispers about the pantomime we are to have. If it is as good as the Theatre Club's last production (the variety show "Round The Town"), it should be the highlight of the Unit's Christmas.

So far our sportsmen have acquitted themselves extremely well, and we have high hopes of our chances in the Palestine Commemoration Cup this year—but more of that later.

The Unit's share in the El Alamein memorial services amounted to the sending of a representative party to El Alamein, and the holding of a church parade, at which the salute was taken by the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel J. H. E. Panton.

The Quarterly Drill Competition, judged by Lieutenant-Colonel J. P. North, M.B.E., was won this time by 1 Squadron, who beat 2 Squadron by only one point.

The first match of the Corps Postal Rifle Competition gave 2 Squadron a chance to get their own back, and they beat 1 Squadron—by one point! 2 Squadron's 198 points were obtained by steady all round scoring rather than by outstanding scores by one or two men. Their top scorer was Signalman Hampson with 32 points—lower than 1 Squadron's leading scorer, Corporal Bradley (41 points) and H.Q. Squadron's Corporal Ingram (43 points). 1 Squadron totalled 197 points, and H.Q. 183.

Have you filled in your Order Form for "The Wire" for 1951?

When the final accounting of points for the Palestine Commemoration Cup takes place, we hope to be well in the running. We are well placed at present, and came second to Egypt Command Signal Regiment in the swimming competition.

Our soccer and rugby teams have both got away to flying starts. The soccer XI is unbeaten in five matches in the B.T.E. League, and has been showing great form.

Their outstanding effort so far was their 10—2 win over A.O.D. Lance-Corporal David helped himself to a double hat-trick in this game. A 4—2 win over 58 Coy., R.A.S.C., is also worthy of mention.

Several of the team have been nominated for the District trials, and Lance-Corporal Dartnell has appeared in the District colours already, when he played in the challenge match against the Lancashire Fusiliers.

Not to be outdone by the high scoring feats of the soccer men, the rugby team ran riot in their first match and overwhelmed Suez Garrison by 56 points to nil! A lively pack and smooth handling back division put us well on top, and the score mounted steadily throughout the game.

In the first run of the season in the B.T.E. Cross-Country League saw our runners get second place. Two of our Mauritians, Corporals Harel and Valliante ran particularly well.

The hockey XI won its first match, thus keeping step with the other Unit teams, and the 2nd XI forced a draw in their first fixture.

MALTA SIGNAL SQUADRON

The Unit has been actively engaged in the cricket, tennis, shooting and swimming competitions arranged by Malta Garrison and, for a small Unit, the results have been quite encouraging. In the cricket league we finished halfway up the table, playing fifteen matches, winning seven and drawing one. Sergeant G. Parfitt was selected for the Army team and was awarded his cricket colours.

In the Garrison aquatic sports the Unit team won the 4 x 55 yards back stroke relay race and were second in the 220 yards free style. In the individual performances, Second-Lieutenant Fowke was second in the 55 yards back stroke, and Sergeant Maskell second in the 220 yards free style. The Squadron was placed fourth in the competition as a whole, being beaten for third place by one mark only.

Major Shoubridge was partnered by Lieutenant-Colonel McNair, the C.S.O., in the Garrison Tennis League and finished halfway up the league table. Captain H. McD. Chapman, who arrived recently, has been taking an active interest in the local tennis competitions, and at the present time is doing well in the Marsa Sports Club championships.

The Garrison .22 Rifle League matches have also been completed, the Unit finishing third in the table out of 10 teams. S.S.M. Robinson and S.Q.M.S. Leach were selected for the Army team in the Inter-Services' shoot held in October and both returned good scores. Postal shoots against Egypt Command Signals and Cyrenaica District Signals have also been arranged.

The Malta Garrison small arms meeting was held in September and the Unit was placed sixth in the competition, having taken part in the Regimental match, the Fairfax Cup and small units competitions. Under the direction of S.S.M. Robinson, a team is being built up to compete in the young soldiers' match.

During the winter, the Unit will be taking part in the Garrison soccer and hockey leagues and early indications gathered from the practice matches played is that we can look forward to a successful season in both games. The Unit is unable to field a rugger team but a number of men will be taking part in the matches arranged on a Garrison basis.

FARELF

G.H.Q. SIGNAL REGIMENT, FARELF
Singapore

On the 14th September the Captain and Officers of H.T. *Orduna* (our adopted orphan of the Seven Seas) were invited to the Officers' Mess to dinner. After dinner, the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel N. I. Bower, on behalf of the Regiment, made a presentation to her Commander, Captain T. Williams, of a plaque in the form of a carving depicting the Corps badge surrounded by a wreath of laurels. Captain Williams, in a witty reply, expressed his appreciation and remarked that the plaque would be given a place of honour on his ship.

On the 15th September the Petty Officers were invited to a social evening held in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess, which was enjoyed by hosts and guests alike. On the following day the ship's company challenged the Regiment to a soccer match.

The highlight of October was the annual inspection by the Commander, Singapore Base District, Brigadier C. G. Robins, O.B.E. The programme went off without a hitch and the Brigadier complimented the Unit on its smart turn out and expressed himself highly satisfied with all he had seen.

Sport. Five members of the Unit were chosen to represent the Corps in the Parker Cup Tournament and managed to reach the semi-final, being defeated by the R.A.P.C. by the odd goal in three after a replay.

The Singapore Base District Tennis Championship finals were held on the 7th October. The Commanding Officer and Mrs. Bower reached the final of the mixed doubles, but were beaten after a very close and hard fought match.

SINGAPORE DISTRICT SIGNAL REGIMENT

The annual inspection having been completed, we are now in the throes of getting our M.T. into trim for the half-yearly inspection and we are hoping to retain the Lyden Cup. Most of our vehicles average 2,000 miles per month, so there is not a lot of time left for spit and polish maintenance.



To the great delight of the Medicos we have at last fulfilled our 18 month old promise by installing a 10+50 C.B. Exchange. Rumour has it that a Foreman of Signals was nearly admitted to "P" Division during the change over!

A headache to cure a headache has occurred with the arrival of the long awaited administrative approval for the Pasir Panjang Scheme. Briefly the idea is to build a big 8 position N type exchange and so do away with the numerous satellite exchanges scattered throughout Pasir Panjang Building Estate. We are hoping that the scheme will be completed within six months provided the Sappers can complete, within this time, the new Exchange building and install air conditioning. The switch-over will be a red-letter day in the annals of this Regiment and will, we hope, be the start of better communications and less maintenance. Linemen, look to your laurels and see that your joints are PERFECT!

The construction troop have just completed the installation of the communication system on the new Bukit Timah Range. Judging by the quantity of mud that they brought back, there cannot be much left out there.

Owing to another large batch of Malayan Other Ranks going on release leave, "A" Squadron have had to reorganise their troops much to the chagrin of the Troop Commanders. Maintenance and installations must continue.

Soccer, except for a six-a-side tournament, has finished. We are proud of our sides which have won during the season, the Malayan Other Ranks Cup and were runners-up in the Army Major League and the Civilians' Junior League. Next year we hope to do even better.

In the Parker Cup, an Inter-Corps knock-out competition, Royal Signals beat Ordnance and then lost in a replayed semi-final to the Royal Army Pay Corps. We supplied Sergeant Bligh, Sergeant Shafie, Lance-Corporal Dorman, Lance-Corporal Lewis, Signalmen Hall and Holmes to the Corps side.

Cricket ended up by "B" Squadron defeating "A" Squadron to gain third place in the Morris Cup Competition.

This year's Morris Cup Competition commenced with a seven-a-side rugby competition which was won after a very hard struggle by "A" Squadron. It was a goodly sight to see the Malays playing this strange game.

The Regiment now has its own rugby side due to the enthusiasm and persuasiveness of Major Snell. When knowledge and skill are acquired they will take a lot of stopping. Up-to-date we have played three matches, winning, losing and drawing one each.

Owing to lack of a home ground we've not yet played off the Inter-Squadron Hockey Tournament. The Regimental team, average age 35, have won two and lost one match, and this includes a defeat of G.H.Q. Signal Regiment.

We take the opportunity of wishing all present and past members of the Corps a very happy Christmas and a New Year full of success at both work and play.

19 AIR FORMATION SIGNAL REGIMENT
Changi, Singapore

The main item of interest this month has been the call for a small volunteer line detachment for Korea; this was immediately over-subscribed and the lucky few under Lieutenant S. L. Kemp and Sergeant Burgess were flown off by the R.A.F.

Unit fault parties have been working overtime this month as the R.A.F. are laying a completely fresh set of power cables on the station. The coolie labourers, carrying out this job, go gaily digging away regardless of what they come across and it invariably seems to be one of our cables. This is bad enough in itself but, when the damage is slight and the fault only appears a few days later caused through damp seepage, one is reminded of the "Labours of Hercules" and in particular the affair with the "Hydra." The R.A.F. have a very efficient Public Relations Officer and we have got some very good publicity out of this; even to the names of men in the fault parties have been published in the local papers. Unfortunately, one paper decided to write their own report and stated that the cable cuts were due to sabotage, thus causing some embarrassment to the R.A.F. Station Police and S.I.B. In addition an exclusive article on how the Regiment provides line communication for the R.A.F. was published in one of the Sunday papers. We enjoyed it all, especially the tit-bit about the ants running between the wires.

Our rugger side has, most unfortunately, been weakened by the loss of Sergeant Brittin through having his leg broken; as it refuses to heal in this climate, he is being repatriated with his family this month. We wish him a good voyage and a full and speedy recovery. Our Unit hockey and rugger sides are now well into their stride, and all being well we should win the R.A.F. Hockey Shield for the second year running.

Captain J. R. Ellis is playing wing forward for the Combined Services XV and hopes to get back home in December before the season is completely over there. R.S.M. Bevan has been picked as a reserve forward for the Combined Services XV.

"A Lineman's Life in Car Nicobar"

By **Signalman A. KING**

I HAVE just finished a short but very enjoyable stay on Car Nicobar Island. This island is situated in the Bay of Bengal and the natives are called Nicobrezz. The island was occupied by the Japs during the 1939-45 war, and today one can still see damaged tanks, guns and searchlights and many other weapons. During my stay I visited most of the island and was very interested when I saw, for the first time in my Army career, the cross-bow being used by the natives to hunt wild pigs, birds and many other queer creatures. I watched them so often, that I eventually plucked up courage to speak to one of the natives. I asked him if he would teach me to use this weapon. He taught me and I got very keen on it and even brought one back to Changi with me. The first night I got back my bed space was like a N.A.A.F.I. giving away free pints. All the lads tried out my cross-bow. Just as well for them that our S.S.M. never spotted them, or the barrack room damages would have been raised. However, the lads enjoyed themselves. I don't want the readers of THE WIRE to think that my stay was all play and no work, I was on detachment with a Corporal and it was our job to maintain the communications for the R.A.F. The airstrip was built by the Japs and you can still see bomb-craters where our planes had laid a few eggs. The courier touches down every Wednesday, it brings rations BEER and many other items which are required by the detachment, but the most welcome thing it brings is our mail. The crew of the "Kite" stay overnight and they have a good night in the wet canteen. During my short tour I managed to save a few "bucks" and I must say that although I saved during my stay, I could not have enjoyed myself any better had I been at Changi. Yes, I know what a lot of readers will be saying—"What about the W.R.A.F.s?" Well, give me Car Nicobar any day, and please don't take away my cross-bow.

18th INFANTRY BRIGADE SIGNAL SQUADRON
Malaya

"Does it work?" A great deal has been done in the Squadron this month to give the right answer to this question—and there is only one answer! The majority of our vehicles have now been rigorously vetted, painted and refitted with wireless sets. We were able to put this work to the test recently for the first of a series of Signal exercises for the staff of our "New" brigade.

This month we have said good-bye to 12th Infantry Workshops R.E.M.E., who have been sharing our camp with us since October, 1948.

Very soon we are to welcome "A" Squadron of the 13th/18th Queen Mary's Own Hussars who are coming to take over our lines while we, in the meantime, move over

to the other half of the camp recently vacated by the Workshops.

Under the very able supervision of S.S.M. Fox our new lines are almost complete, though there are still large gangs of Signalmen-cum-builders to be seen staggering around Coronation Park carrying the heavy concrete slabs used to build floors for the tents.

At the beginning of the month we entered a shooting team for the Malaya Rifle Meeting which was held at Port Dickson. Although they did not have the success of the other Signals representatives the meeting was very interesting and a welcome change, being held right on the coast. Second-Lieutenant J. R. Garratt, S.S.M. Fox, Corporal Walmsley and Signalman Roach fired in the rifle team, and Signalman Nightingale and Driver Doyle the Sten team. Our position was 13th out of a total of 17 teams.

Our sporting activities have been somewhat curtailed this month owing to the impending move into our new lines and also the first priority given to the renovation of our wireless vehicles.

Second-Lieutenant J. R. Garratt and Corporal Jeynes have both played rugger for the Brigade H.Q. XV. It is hoped to form our own team when we have "moved in."

The Squadron farm, started recently by S.S.M. Fox, has been flourishing this month and the chickens and ducks have doubled, if not trebled their weight in the last three weeks. The object in having the farm was to help out over Christmas, but the Sergeant-Major appears to be so fond of his poultry now that only a very tactless person would dare to remind him of this!

MALAYA DISTRICT SIGNAL REGIMENT

Kuala Lumpur

Colonel E. C. Thompson, O.B.E. Royal Signals in Malaya suffered a tragic loss on Wednesday, 11th October, 1950, when our Chief Signal Officer, Colonel E. C. Thompson, O.B.E., was killed in a scout car accident in Pahang three miles from Raub on the Kuala Lipis road.



Colonel Thompson will be sadly missed by all ranks of this Regiment. He took a vital interest in all our activities and expected the highest standards. He was insistent on going everywhere and seeing everything for himself, and in Malaya today one does not travel for pleasure.

His stern sense of duty coupled with his gay and vigorous outlook has left a lasting impression on all ranks.

Our deepest sympathy goes out to Mrs. Thompson and his two children, Anthony and Sallyann.

Range Shooting. In June, 1950, Captain C. V. Walsh, our C.C.O., decided to train a rifle team to compete in local and Malayan championships.

Captain Walsh was second in the Army Hundred Cup in 1934, and won the Cambridgeshire (Rack Rifle) in 1935. He was one of the great shots of the Army, and after 15 years absence he came back to the range to teach us how it should be done.

He wisely decided to begin from the beginning, and the team were rather surprised to find themselves doing aiming and bolt drill. The Adjutant, who was a team member, was very surprised indeed. Range practices often began at 07.30 hrs., and as the range is some 15 miles away, this meant getting up at 05.30.

The first competition, the H.Q. Malaya Quarterly Championship, was held in July. The team finished third of nine. Considering the opposition was composed largely of infantry officers and men, this was considered satisfactory. Captain Walsh was champion shot of the meeting.

Practice continued, and there was a very satisfying general shift to the inner ring, as the patient training and advice of Captain Walsh took effect.

The next H.Q. Malayan competition was in September, and Royal Signals swept the board.

The results were as follows:—

Rifle Team Championship
Winners, Malaya District Signal Regiment.
Individual Rifle Championship
Runner-up, Captain C. V. Walsh.
Team.—Captain C. V. Walsh, Captain A. R. Wythe, Sergeant G. E. Grivoel, Corporal S. R. Cooper, Lance-Corporal M. J. Buckland, Signalman D. Bowley.
Team Falling Plate Championship
Winners, Malaya District Signal Regiment. Team as above.
Individual Revolver Championship
Winner, Captain C. V. Walsh. Runner-up, Colonel E. C. Thompson, O.B.E., Chief Signal Officer.
Individual Sten Gun Championship
Runner-up, R.S.M. A. Parish.

Practice now began for the Malayan Minor Unit Rifle Team Championship, to be held at Port Dickson between 2nd—7th October, concurrently with the Major Unit Rifle Team Championships. Ranges were booked tight for a month before the competition, and it was obvious the meeting would be keenly contested.

R.S.M. A. Parish succeeded in training three Sten gun teams (two per team), which although not placed, finished well, and far above many infantry units. The Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel D. J. Goldsmith, fired in this competition.

The Malaya District Signal Regiment rifle team won the Minor Unit Championship, and Captain Walsh and Signalman Baines fired off with the final 40. Our average was higher than that of the winning Major Unit.

Team.—Captain C. V. Walsh, Captain A. R. Wythe, Lance-Corporal M. J. Buckland, Signalman W. Baines.

It is interesting and encouraging to note that Captain Walsh, by knowledge of weapons and patient teaching, raised young soldiers to championship shooting standard within four months.

No. 2 Squadron. The accent has been on firing and gardening this month and the Squadron now appears on parade with a rake in one hand and a Mk. V in the other.

Nevertheless, the Unit lines are looking very nice and when the seedlings now growing are transplanted, we hope to have a blaze of colour.

The majority of the members of the Squadron have fired a week-end course on the classification range.

The nearest range is some 50 miles away, so the party normally camp out for the night doing section cooking and indulging in such nocturnal activities as ambushes, attacks on camps and jungle patrols, all hard work but good training.

We keep in touch with the Headquarters by means of scout cars which also give us armour for defence at night and in convoy.

We have had several V.I.P.s visiting the Sub District and have provided special rear links for each of them.

Our last visitor, General Sir John Harding, Commander in Chief F.A.R.E.L.F., passed compliments back on the efficiency of his rear link.

No. 3 Squadron. The Squadron football and hockey season is now in full swing and the leagues are commencing. Up to Press one hockey league game has been played and the soccer league matches are imminent. The Squadron is producing two soccer XIs and one hockey XI. Other sporting activities include basketball, volleyball and badminton. The purchase of our own kit has proved a sound investment. Nowadays we have many more games than heretofore due entirely to the fact that we no longer have to queue up for the necessary kit at the camp sports store.

Our new accommodation is conveniently placed, forming an enclosed rectangle (one end deficient). Within this space we have erected our own volleyball and badminton arenas so that exercise is not hard to find. The office staff appear to be quite sympathetic regarding the contortions of off-duty reliefs, but it has not yet been gratified by the arrival of a medicine ball on the O.C.'s table during "sessions."



Major-General R. E. Urquhart present Commander-in-Chief's certificates for Good Service to Corporal J. R. Rackett and W.O.I F. V. Collins

A number of our stalwarts are gloomily watching orders regarding postings and courses. For some odd reason even the strong regard visits to H.Q. for the purpose of trades training and D. and D. courses with the utmost concern. Perhaps the R.S.M. has something to do with this, as his adverse comment (even in a whisper!) can reduce the toughest to a shadow of his former self.

No. 4 Squadron. On Monday, 2nd October, 1950, the General Officer Commanding Malaya, Major-General R. E. Urquhart, C.B., D.S.O., visited 48 Gurkha Infantry Brigade Headquarters and inspected personnel of this Squadron together with Headquarter's personnel. Commander in Chief's Certificates of Good Service were presented to W.O.I. F. V. Collins and Corporal R. J. Rackett by the G.O.C. on this parade. All ranks were praised for their smart turn out.

GURKHA SIGNAL TRAINING AND HOLDING WING

Kuala Lumpur

Ill news which overshadowed all other events this month, came with its usual incredible swiftness on the evening of 11th October. Our C.S.O., Colonel E. C. Thompson, O.B.E., lost his life in a road accident whilst on his way back from visiting operational troops in Pahang during the afternoon of that day. We were all shocked and dismayed that the Colonel, who, in the short time since his arrival in Malaya, by his vigour, determination and enthusiasm to put "Signals on the Map," had so completely gained the confidence of all ranks of the Corps here, should be lost to us with such suddenness. Our sincere and deep sympathy is offered to his family.

The funeral took place with full military honours on Friday, 13th October. All Officers and a contingent of B.O.R.s from this Unit attended as mourners, and two troops of G.O.R.s, with a detachment from Malaya District Signal Regiment, lined the route.

As forecast last month the Malaya Rifle Meeting took place at Port Dickson during the week 2nd—7th October. It was a most successful meeting and competition was fierce. Our neighbours, Malaya District Signal Regiment won the Small Units Championship competition in great style. Our hearty congratulations go to them. It is also worth recording that this Unit were runners-up in the same competition among a considerable field which included some 19 other teams.

Between the 17th and 20th October, Gurkha ranks of the Unit once again held their yearly Dasahra Festival. Old members of the Unit will be pleased to note that despite extremely wet weather, a cheerful, successful Dasahra was enjoyed by all. The important phase was the Kalratri Nautch on the night of the 18th followed by the Head-cutting Ceremony on the 19th October. On both of these occasions the G.O.C. Malaya, Major-General R. E. Urquhart, C.B., D.S.O., and a number of military guests attended at the invitation of the Gurkha Officers and men.

Several hours of heavy rain on the night of the 18th followed by complete flooding of the camp in the early hours of the morning of the 19th made things a little difficult, but with characteristic determination not to disappoint their guests and a tot or so of rum to keep the damp out, the Gurkha Nautch dancers and entertainers carried on with the show with zest and enthusiasm.

Friday, 20th October was the occasion for the local branch of the O.C.A. to meet in the B.O.R.s' Club of this Unit. A large number of civilian members and military members from this Unit attended, and after a short meeting under the chairmanship of Major A. C. Cox, M.B.E., a very sociable evening ensued. Highlight of the evening was the first match of the Darts Tournament for a trophy presented by the B.O.R.s of the Wing. Only two teams competed this month, i.e. one from the civilian members and another from the Wing, and the latter team won the trophy on this occasion. For next month's meeting, we hope to persuade O.C.A members of Malaya District Signal Regiment and 18 Brigade Signal Squadron to enter a team.

In the world of sport, the following events concerning members of this Unit are worth noting:—

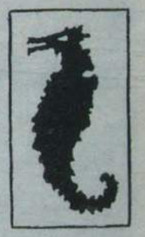
Captain J. I. Parkinson—selected to play for Selangor State at hockey (for the second season).

Second-Lieutenant H. M. Paterson—selected to play for Selangor State at rugby.

W.O.I Keating—presented with "All Malaya" crest for services as soccer referee in State matches.

CARIBBEAN AREA SIGNAL SQUADRON

Kingston, Jamaica



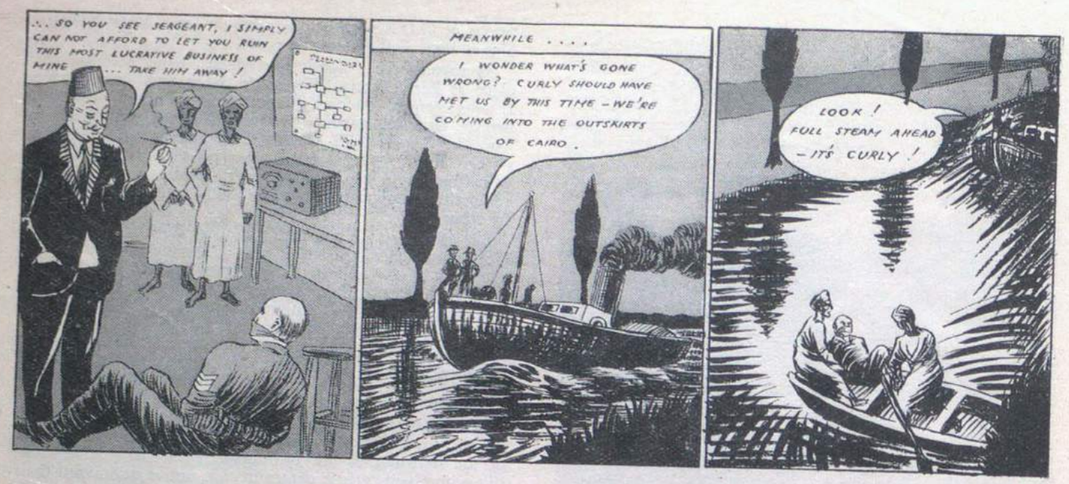
October, 1950, was memorable for rain and the sting in the tail of a hurricane which passed close to Jamaica. The latter waved its ugly head on a Sunday afternoon and quickly but quietly we began to survey the damage and set about the repair.

All services were restored within 36 hours of the rain abating and our temporary wireless links proved effective.

Our hurricane lamp acting as a storm warning burnt well on D.D.T. But who was the technical expert who asked the "Q" for red oil?

We welcome S.Q.M.S. (F. of S.) Ashman and Corporal Lawlor who have recently joined us.

The winter sports programme is well under way and we are putting up a good showing in the soccer and hockey leagues.



Nigeria Signal Squadron Lagos

Since our last WIRE notes the Squadron has become prominent in the Nigerian football world. A combined team of African and British ranks comprising eight African ranks and three British ranks—captained by Sergeant Stockdale, a well known figure in the Corps, has swept all before them. The team won the Southern Nigerian District Football Shield and the Nigerian District Knock-out Competition Shield without a single goal being scored against them. This, mark you, is for the second season running. The final matches received a big write up in the *Daily Times*—the local equivalent of the *Daily Express*—(the Editor of the *Daily Times* categorically states that the fact that he is ex-Signals has nothing to do with the write up).

We have not been so fortunate at hockey, but at the moment the hockey team is a combined one from H.Q. Nigeria District and ourselves. However, we are considering taking up hockey on a Unit basis when we hope to try and emulate our football team.

At present the Unit is busily engaged in re-classifying all Regimental Signallers in Nigeria. For those who have not visited the wide open spaces and think in terms of U.K. this entails a round journey of 2,200 miles.

One of our African N.C.O.s, Sergeant Obi, is at present on an advanced weapons course at Hythe. After his course he is being attached to 3 Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment. We have received a letter from him in which he told us he was living in an underground city (Goodge Street Deep Shelter).

We are signing off now until next month when we hope to produce bigger and better notes.



Major-General C. B. Fairbanks, C.B., C.B.E., General Officer Commanding Nigeria District, shaking hands with Nigeria Signal Squadron football team before the start of the final in the Nigeria District Knockout Competition. Accompanying him are Captain Leatherland, Royal Signals, and Sergeant Stockdale (captain)



Nigeria Signal Squadron Combined Football Team

Rear : Corporal Akpan, Sergeant Hulme, Signalman Charles, Sergeant Barton, Signalman Bartholomew, Signalman Cyril, Lance-Corporal Cairo, Corporal Odili. Front : Lance-Corporal Njocku, Captain Leatherland, Major D. J. Bond, Sergeant Stockdale, Lance-Corporal Benjamin



THE TERRITORIAL ARMY

23 (SOUTHERN) CORPS SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

Fulham House, S.W.6

The absence of our normal contributor who is enjoying a business trip in a sunnier climate, has resulted in some rather belated news.

In early June the Officers dined out Lieutenant-Colonel E. W. G. Knight, T.D., who has commanded the Regiment since the re-formation of the T.A., and dined in our new Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel J. G. Christopher, T.D., who is no stranger to this H.Q., having served with the Regiment pre-war for many years.

We spent the fortnight from 18th June to 2nd July in camp at Crowborough West, which is a mere 38 set range from Crowborough Warren, our hunting ground last year. A busy and strenuous time was had by all, the camp included a 24-hour scheme and a 48-hour mobile exercise, the latter in co-operation with 2/20 Army Signal Regiment, T.A., and 51 L. of C. Signal Regiment, T.A.; both schemes went well but at the end the strain of providing communications for a Corps was beginning to tell since we were well below establishment.

During camp we were pleased to see the Representative Colonel Commandant, Major-General Penney, and also Brigadier Coryton; other welcome visitors were Brigadier Portman, Lieutenant-Colonel Oake, Chairman and Secretary of the County of London T. and A.F.A. respectively, and our Honorary Colonel, Colonel Vigers.

Social activities included a families' day on the middle Sunday during which friends and relations witnessed a performance by the Motor Cycle Display Team, an inter-squadron tug-of-war (won by 4 Squadron) and the finals of the 15 cwt. driving trials (won by Signalman Faulkner).

On 1st September we held an "At Home" to welcome all the National Servicemen who had reported to this Regiment. The men were conducted round the H.Q. in small parties to give them an idea of the equipment and activities of the Unit. Later a short talk by the Honorary Colonel and Commanding Officer. The evening closed with a performance by the Unit concert party.

Our D.R.s have been well to the fore with their Motor Cycle Display Team. During camp they gave a performance which went down well with the citizens of Crowborough, another at Weybridge for Vickers Armstrong, and another which duly impressed the friends and relations who were able to visit us at camp. Members of the D.R. Troops are also to be congratulated on winning a 2nd class team award, one 2nd class and one 3rd class individual award in the London District Motor Cycle Trial at Bagshot on 24th September. We are now in the throes of organising our entertainments for the winter season and hope to have more news for the next edition.

43 (WESSEX) INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

Taunton

Most of our officers attended one or the other of three Brigade autumn T.E.W.T.'s held at various resorts throughout the South-West. A lot of ground was covered, in both senses, and some found the going literally rather heavy. We can now take up a hasty defensive position almost anywhere, even in the drill hall if it is wet!

The rest of the news is concerned mainly with No. 2 Squadron. They sent to Yoxter, a bleak spot in the Mendips, a small team to compete at the Somerset County Rifle Association meeting. Such extreme care and Bisleyan particularity were displayed by some of the entrants that the competition seemed unlikely to end before Christmas. Our team remembered other engagements.

A visit to the Signals Wing, School of Artillery, instigated by the C.R.A., produced valuable information concerning gunner signals, thanks to the assistance given by Lieutenant-Colonel G. Mellor, Royal Signals, but similarly exploded a myth. The myth, a complete mock

up of a regimental signals lay-out, we now intend to reproduce in the drill hall at Bridgwater—we hope. It will be used on a couple of exercises we have arranged with the gunners and will lead up to a combined camp next summer.

51 (H) INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

Aberdeen

A number of changes are taking place in the Regiment about this time. Firstly our Adjutant, Captain D. H. Freeland, has found a nice spot for himself in Malaya. We trust he will appreciate the warmer weather which is noticeably missing from Aberdeen. We wish him and his wife and family a pleasant voyage and all the very best for the future.

In his place we welcome Captain Malcolm Scott, who comes to us from the O.C.T.U. Scotland is, we understand, no strange land to him, and he will, no doubt, soon accustom himself to the "Cave man's" Country.

Training has once again started after a break of about two months since our annual camp.

After the issue of Supplementary bounties, etc., the Regiment has started on concentrated courses for Linemen, Drivers, D.R.s and Operators. Instructors have almost stripped the Unit Library in an effort to keep up with the never ending amendments to procedure, etc.

Plans are going ahead for the Children's Christmas Party. The draw tickets are going slowly but surely and there are great hopes of some profitable dances in aid of the Party.

Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess. We wish first of all to record a change of R.S.M.s R.S.M. E. H. Bennett leaves us for Scottish Command Signal where he relieves R.S.M. J. Buchanan who is taking over the reins here. We wish R.S.M. Bennett the very best on his departure and a welcome is extended to R.S.M. Buchanan. They both started off well in being able to take their wives with them as Married Quarters were available in their new stations.

A notable event took place on 23rd September in the Mess. Sergeant P. Morris was married on this day to Doreen McGregor Cruickshank. This was rather a blow to R.Q.M.S. Grant as he didn't seem too pleased about the attachment of a Sassenach to such a famous clan as the McGregors. The reception was held in the Barracks and it can be seen from the photograph that it was a very happy gathering.

Plans for a New Year's Dance on 1st January, 1951 are in hand and we have great hopes of it being even better than last year's. More of our notable events next month.

ARMY PHANTOM SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A. (The Princess Louise's Kensington Regiment)

Hammersmith

On Sunday, 5th November, at a service held at Headquarters, 190 Hammersmith Road, conducted by the Regimental Chaplain, the Rev. S. Parry-Chivers, C.F., some 200 past and present members of the Regiment and their relatives and friends were able to pay tribute to those members of the Princess Louise's Kensington Regiment who gave their lives in both world wars. Wreaths were laid on behalf of the Regiment by General Sir H. Colville B. Wemyss, K.C.B., K.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., Honorary Colonel; on behalf of the Old Comrades' Association by Brigadier-General F. G. Lewis, C.B., C.M.G., T.D.; and on behalf of the Cadet Battalion by Lieutenant-Colonel E. A. A. Graves. The Lesson was read by the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel R. Wasey, M.B.E., T.D., and the Band of The Welsh Guards, under their Director of Music, Captain F. L. Statham, played throughout the service.

When these notes appear, our Adjutant, Captain J. E. L. Adams will have left us, his tour of duty completed. We tender him very sincere good wishes for the future, and every success in his new appointment with Southern Command.

In his place we have pleasure in welcoming Captain E. J. Bardell, who comes to Phantom from S.R.D.E. We believe he knows something of our role already, having had contact with our regular predecessor. We look forward to his spell with us as Adjutant.

Our next week-end exercise will be held during the last week-end in November, when once more the area of Aldershot and Bisley will be mystified by our activities; incidentally the first time most of us will have seen our new "Land-Rover" in action.

44 (H.C.) INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

Stamford Brook, W.6

Members of the Regiment and about 400 relations and friends gathered in the Drill Hall on Saturday, 21st October, to enjoy the annual El Alamein Ball. Everyone voted the evening a great success and our thanks are due to Major



K. B. Baldwin, M.B.E., T.D., and his helpers for all the work they put in to make this evening so successful.

On Armistice Sunday a detachment from the Stamford Brook location took part in the Chiswick Remembrance Service at the local war memorial. After the service the detachment, under Major Baldwin, marched past the Mayor of Brentford and Chiswick who took the salute. Later the same day the Regiment held an inter-location shooting competition. This event proved most popular and was extremely well supported. It took place in our .22 range under the Drill Hall and teams representing the Officers, Nos. 1, 2 and 3 Squadrons, took part.

Results were as follows: Officers, 474 points; 2 Squadron (Chatham), 465 points; 3 Squadron (Stamford Brook), 396 points; 1 Squadron (Brighton), 383 points.

The highest individual score was attained by R.S.M. Turner, M.M., with 98%. Corporal Matthews was second with 91%, and Captain E. B. Williams third with 90%.

We are all happy to see the Colonel about again. When once Millbank gets hold of you it is hard to shake off its fetters, but we hope Colonel Deakin will keep well away from the hospital henceforth.

Brigadier J. O. E. Vandeleur, D.S.O., Commander 47 Infantry Brigade (T.A.) today carried out the annual administrative inspection. He was met by the Commanding Officer on arrival at the T.A. Centre where the regular members of the Regiment were on parade. After a lengthy discussion with the C.O. the Brigadier inspected the Headquarters and was then entertained to lunch in the Officers' Mess.

10 AIR SUPPORT SIGNAL UNIT, T.A.

Southampton

Without doubt, the major event since our last notes appeared, has been the attachment of a party of four Officers and 13 O.R.s to 3 A.S.S.U. in B.A.O.R. for Exercise "Broadside." Sailing from Harwich on 19th September, our party arrived at Herford the evening before the exercise commenced. The next morning we were kept busy drawing equipment, pay, etc., and being allotted to the detachments with which we should work on the exercise. In the afternoon came the briefing, and the next morning detachments started to move off to join their Brigades.

Space forbids a detailed description of the fortunes of every individual, but devious were the paths they followed. One member was able to inspect the R.E.M.E. organisation at close quarters when he was evacuated with his tentacle through the usual channels to base; while another, who shall be nameless, was able to show H.Q. 4 Guards Brigade a thing or two when it came to organising a bed for the night.

We are most grateful to Major Caldicott and the members of 3 A.S.S.U. for the friendly reception they gave us on our arrival, and for making such excellent arrangements for us to take part in the exercise, and to see all aspects of an A.S.S.U. in action. Everybody learnt a great deal, as well as enjoying themselves and we now feel that our future training will be far more useful, knowing the standards we must reach.

We did not have much time for recreation, as the exercise was very much a full time affair, particularly for the tentacles, who operated by day and moved by night for much of the time. Time was, however, found for some shopping in Herford, and for a hockey match v. 3 A.S.S.U. on the eve of the exercise. We lost 1—2 after a very good game.

We plan to continue the close liaison already established with 3 A.S.S.U. by a number of joint exercises, and preparations for the first are already in hand.

In July, a very successful week-end exercise was held in Dorset. The "preliminary strategic survey" issued by Captain English for the exercise was a masterpiece, and knowing as we do, the results in Korea, we think that his generalship is of a high order.

At the end of August, we underwent our annual administrative inspection, which went off most satisfactorily. We ought to have been most grateful to our good friends, "Q" Battery, The Hampshire Yeomanry, for the pea-soup fog they produced in the garage, just as the inspecting officer arrived, but after the work that had been put in on the vehicles, it was a pity they couldn't be seen.

The annual range course was fired a few days later on the only fine day in September. There were no casualties to the butt party from stones thrown up the bank by certain persons who shall be nameless.

We are all very sorry to say good-bye to Captain R. T. Hone, who left us in September on posting to the Gurkha Brigade Signal Squadron. His final duty in the Unit was to see the party for B.A.O.R. off from Central Station. Salaam Sahib from the P.S.I.s and the best of luck in your new Unit. We also congratulate Major D. B. McNeill on his promotion, on being seconded to command Southampton University U.T.C.

We have started our hockey season, and together with the girls of 436 Tele Operation Troop, W.R.A.C. (T.A.) have quite a full fixture list of Sunday matches with clubs in and around Southampton, Portsmouth, Bournemouth and Andover. Having lost two of our stalwarts in Captain R. T. Hone and Signalman Ludford, we haven't the formidable side of last season, but have welcomed Signalman McArdle back from National Service, who should strengthen the side. However, we hope to record more wins than losses this season.

1/20 (SM) ARMY SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

Birmingham

"The boy stood on the burning deck,
His feet were in the sea." *Longfellow.*

I shall never know why I didn't remember to bring my camera when they moved the Unit motor cruiser from A to B. Oh well. No picture as usual. Let us continue in poetic vein in case we should ever become an amphibious regiment.

The boat stood on the barrack square, a lovely sight it made
The Colonel said "We'll move this thing, let's send for Mr. Hade."
The P.S.I.s all gathered round with many a good idea
But none of these was really sound and most were rude I fear.
With rope and tackle, chains and bars, for better or for worse,
They dragged it almost fourteen feet, with many a hearty curse.
The rowlocks snapped and bits flew off, and holes came in the seams.
If this lot ever floats again, we'll see it in our dreams.

B.L.R.

All this talk about bell-bottomed denims and white-topped berets is just nonsense. Let us get on with our work. Christmas is approaching in that inexorable way that Christmas seems to have when you are past 40. You keep glancing at your pass-book and wishing that it would hold off for another month. Our children's Christmas party will be another great success this year if I read the signs correctly. R.S.M. Griffin and his enthusiastic helpers are raising funds for this excellent project by wonderful and varied schemes into which we need not delve too closely.

No. 1 Squadron under Major L. C. Suggars is coming along nicely at Coventry. Sergeant F. Carter, the P.S.I., has been getting the accommodation into shape at Binley Camp and is now stocking up with technical stores. A party of the new 1 Squadron came over for the October concert which was, after all, held in the Drill Hall. (Consult us for accurate information). Lieutenant-Colonel E. R. Price, T.D., the C.O., took the opportunity at the concert to talk to the Unit about the training programme, which from now on begins to get into stride. We have reason

to believe that several National Servicemen have been converted to the T.A. as a result. We were glad to see quite a gathering of N.S.M. on this occasion, looking clean and smart in B.D. Perhaps they liked putting uniform on again. Why not go all the way boys and sign in the space provided? They certainly have not lost interest yet because they cleared us out of October WIRES. It might be interesting to have a contribution from a released N.S.M. in view of the recent publicity given to the question of National Service, its value to the country and cost to the taxpayer.

Any time now we shall be talking about the location of 1951 annual camp. We shall all be quite wrong in our guesses. Except me, of course. I shall keep it a secret until the end of September, when with a flourish of Army Forms O.1680, the news will be released in this column.

Now you may fall out and think about Christmas. To save time, labour and postage, we wish everyone, or nearly everyone, the Compliments of the Season. If you have won a big football pool you will be able to afford a turkey. In that case, perhaps you will spare a thought for all the poor Quartermasters eating their little sandwiches by a fire of cases wood packing.

Hey! Come back. I forgot to ask you to order your 1951 WIRES by the year. Only ten bob. Less than a week's supply of cigarettes. Next month 1/20 Army Signal Regiment, T.A., will be wishing all readers a Happy New Year. Don't miss this. Order now. Order arms. Turn out the guard. Hats off to Chelsea.

Maybe I'd better go and lie down a little. BARLEUX

Association Notes

ROYAL SIGNALS BENEVOLENT FUND

Subscriptions received during October, 1950:

	£	s.	d.
School of Signals (Royal Signals Wing)	4	0	0
School of Signals (Officer Training Wing)	18	0	9
2 Training Regiment	10	0	0
Kent Coast Troop	1	10	6
Shoeburyness F.S.S.Troop		17	0
Donations received during October, 1950:			
Army Benevolent Fund	1,500	0	0
Royal Signals Middle East Benevolent Fund	100	0	0
Total receipts during October, 1950	£1,634	8	3

Expenditure during October, 1950, £840 3s. 0d. (includes: General assistance; rent; rates; insurance; cots and prams; bed and bedding; furniture; clothing; funerals; removals; rehabilitation; fares; tools; convalescence).

Analysis of cases: Families of soldiers serving in U.K., 7; families of soldiers serving in B.A.O.R., 2; families of soldiers serving in M.E.L.F., 1; families of soldiers serving in F.A.R.E.L.F., 2; widows and dependants, 9; released and discharged soldiers, 52; total cases assisted, 73.

CITY OF LONDON SIGNALS O.C.A.

The annual general meeting was held at Signal House on 27th October.

The following officers of the Association were elected: President, Brigadier A. C. C. Willway, C.B.E., T.D.; Chairman, Lieutenant-Colonel G. M. Welsford, T.D.; Vice-Chairman, Major D. Snape; Secretary, Mr. D. E. Strike; Treasurer, Captain G. Crawshaw; Committee: Messrs. G. H. Coombes, H. Liddicoat, B. Collins and G. Clarke.

Bristol

Once more news from the West. As I informed all and sundry in the last issue the annual dinner was held on Saturday, 29th October last and some 50 members and friends attended. Brigadier G. L. Pollard, C.B.E., was in the chair and our guests included Lieutenant-Colonel R. B. Ridley-Martin, O.C. 12 A.A. (M) Signal Regiment, T.A. It was unfortunate that our General Secretary, Colonel A. W. Roberts, M.C., was unable to attend, but we were cheered by his letter which informed members that the Association was still going strong.

Everyone agreed that this dinner was the best ever, speeches were condensed to about 20 minutes and the rest of the evening was devoted to a happy social event; B.B.C. artistes were there and gave us a very good show, the bar had an extension of one hour, old songs were sung and toasts made it in all a very enjoyable evening.

We still have our meetings every second Friday at the "Old Duke." Attendance at present is small, but we hope that with the winter upon us to see more of our 200 odd members.

T.R.

Torquay

The Branch annual general meeting was held at the Royal Naval Old Comrades Association Club in Castle Circus on 26th October, and the following were elected to the Committee: Lieutenant-Colonel J. E. F. Paton (Chairman), Mr. Brown (Vice-Chairman), Major Evans (Treasurer), Mr. Gray (Hon. Secretary), Messrs. Miller, Zaple, Chapman, O'Donohue, Baker, Bawden and Wilkes.

We are pleased to report that the Branch has been recognised by the Borough of Torquay as worthy of an official place in civic processions.

On Sunday, 12th November, a good gathering of Old Comrades turned out for the Cenotaph parade. Mr. Brown, late C.S.M. of Detachment No. 1 Squadron, 43 (Wessex) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, laying the wreath.

The occasion was a particularly impressive one this year, and the effect was further enhanced when Sergeant Legg, Royal Signals, who acted as bugler for the third successive year, sounded the Reveille and Last Post from the heights of the Rock Walk above the parade. Royal Signals also provided the sentries round the Cenotaph. They were conspicuous by their smart and soldierly appearance. Sergeant Chantry, the P.S.I., was i/c the Cenotaph guard.

It is hoped to make the Branch really active during the coming year. All ex-Signals living within 10 miles of Torquay are asked to rally round and help. They are requested to get into touch with the Chairman, Lieutenant-Colonel J. E. F. Paton, Wrenwood, Palermo Road, Babbacombe (Telephone 88115), or with the Hon. Secretary, Mr. Gray, 2, Cedar Road, Preston ('Phone 82968).

Slough and District

Our first contribution to THE WIRE. Little did I think that on proposing a WIRE correspondent that "Yours Truly" would be the victim!

But anyway, it is only fitting that a contribution should be made, if only to pay tribute to those concerned who have done so much to make this Branch a success.

Major R. O. Edwards was in the chair for our first meeting and I am sure he will be pleased to know that we now have a membership of over 50. We have our usual teething troubles, but we all feel quite sure that once we get to know each other better and not be self-conscious at the meetings —in other words, "Have a go, Joe"—and not leave it to the usual one or two.

My apologies! I had forgotten to mention our lady members, one of whom is on the Entertainments Committee.

At our last meeting we were honoured to meet (for the first time some of us—shades of Pindi and the Khuds), our President, Major-General W. R. C. Penney, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C. It was obvious to all of us how pleased Major-General Penney was to be with us and he spoke of the Corps and its aims, etc.

In our new President, we are fortunate in that he has travelled widely, he is right on top of Corps activities and there can be no one in the Corps, past or present, who is more proud of being a member of the Royal Signals than our President.

We hope to see you at our first annual dinner, sir!

Our thanks to Colonel Roberts for his valuable help at H.Q. Nothing seems too much trouble for him.

And to all ex-Wazirdist wallahs, you will be pleased to know that he is looking well.

We hope Major R. O. Edwards and his wife have settled down in Accra, not forgetting Michael, who, we understand, will one day be a member of our Branch.

In closing, we of the Slough and District Branch wish a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all members of Royal Signals everywhere.

L. RIGBY (ex-D.I.K.)

Scarborough

I must first apologise for the absence of notes in THE WIRE from this Branch since June, but must plead pressure of work during the season and the absence of "gen" from members. Perhaps when they read this it may prompt some of them.

The monthly general meeting of the Branch was held at the Castle Hotel, Scarborough, at 7.30 p.m. on Wednesday, 1st November, 1950. The usual number of staunch supporters turned up to give the meeting their valued support, but I wish that more could find the time to join us, anyway various discussions took place for our mutual benefit.

I would like to place on record our appreciation and grateful thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Fussey, the proprietors, for their help and kindness to us, in allowing the meetings to take place in a room of the Castle Hotel, rent free; they are always most helpful, and I am certain that if any members of the Corps or the Association should visit Scarborough, and want a welcome or a home from home, they will find it at the Castle Hotel. Maurice Fussey, their son, is a member of the Branch and served with the Airborne.

The Branch was represented at the Scarborough War Memorial Service at Olivers Mount on Remembrance Sunday, 12th November, 1950, for the unveiling and dedication of the tablets and commemoration seats. The service of dedication was conducted by the Most Reverend His Grace the Lord Archbishop of York (Dr. C. F. Garbett, P.C.).

Major F. Mansfield laid a wreath on the memorial on behalf of the Scarborough Branch.

A contingent of 5 A.A. (M) Signal Regiment, under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel A. T. Sladen, O.B.E., Royal Signals, was on parade.

The service was very well attended, and the weather was very kind to us, but extremely cold.

The Branch are to hold their annual dinner and social evening at the Castle Hotel in December, and it is hoped that as many members as possible will avail themselves of this opportunity to get together and to talk over old times.

There are somewhere in the region of 80 members in this town and I am perfectly certain that they are not all too busy to get along for such an occasion.

A notification will be sent to all members giving the date and time, before the great day. Mrs. Fussey has promised to stand the dinner and all proceeds from the sale of tickets are to go into the Branch funds, so come along lads and make it a success.

By a coincidence, three of our members, "Andy" Clyne, Johnny Rhodes and Roy Pennison all served with No. 1 Wireless Regiment, B.A.O.R.; they would like to hear from any of the boys still serving and can be contacted through Mr. Clyne at 20 Springhill Lane, Scarborough.



"Andy" has been raking through his collection of snapshots and has found one, which should be of interest to thousands of Signals chaps. It shows Lieutenant-Colonel "Sammy" Barton, formerly C.O. of No. 1 Wireless Regiment, saying farewell to the Unit in 1947, or to use his own words, "Slid out with Group 50 on release." The snap is enclosed and it is hoped that it will reproduce all right. (I'm doubtful). "Sammy" was genuinely respected and beloved by all who knew him and had the pleasure of serving with him. We have heard rumours that he now keeps a "pub" somewhere down south, but we know that he would far sooner be back in khaki.

Golf. I am very pleased to report that Captain J. N. Hunt ("Jock") put up a fine performance with his partner from the North Cliff Golf Club, by winning the Scarborough and District Gold Alliance at Ganton, returning a score of 65.

Well done, "Jock," a very creditable show, and those of us that know you are very pleased to see that you can still "waggle a nifty club." Keep it up "Good Time" it is all to the credit of the Corps.

The Branch wish to take this opportunity of wishing all members and ex-members of the Corps, a Very Happy Christmas, and a Prosperous, Peaceful and Successful New Year.

Tunbridge Wells and District

The Branch Committee and members desire me to express their hearty good wishes to all branches of the Association, at home and abroad, also to each and every member of Headquarters Staff for a very happy Christmas and a liberal share of all the good cheer associated with the festive season.

Darts League. Since the last results were published, Royal Signals has met Tunbridge Wells Veterans' Club on 12th October resulting in a win for the "Vets," four games to nil. On 19th October, Signals opponents were the Royal Marines, which contest was held to a draw (2—2). On 26th October, the match was between Signals and R.A.S.C., and was again held to a draw (2—2). The match on 2nd November was against the Old 22nd (Home Guard) in which Signals went down fighting a good "scrap" three games to nil. Signals have drawn a bye for matches due to be played on 9th November.

The Branch paraded with Standard and Escort on Armistice Sunday 12th November, in company with representative detachments from kindred Regimental Associations, the British Legion and the Mayor and Corporation of the Borough, at Tunbridge Wells War Memorial for the Service of Remembrance, after which the whole parade proceeded

to the Parish Church for Divine Service conducted by the Vicar (Rev. Hedley Thomas). The address was by the Right Rev. Guy Warman (Bishop of Manchester).

Branch strength is rapidly approaching the 100 mark and it is particularly gratifying to note that quite a number are enrolling from the Uckfield district due to the energetic efforts of our member on the spot—ex-R.Q.M.S. "Bill" May—who has put in some very excellent work for the Association.

It looks as if we shall soon have enough members in Crowborough and Uckfield to "hive off" a useful branch under their own steam which I am sure would prove a very satisfactory turn of events in that the locality was the very cradle of the Corps. Let us hope that 1951 has this pleasure in store for us.

Another outstanding forthcoming event I must mention is a further visit of the Branch to Eastern Command Signal Regiment, Maresfield Camp on Wednesday, 29th November, 1950. This time we are taking with us a first class concert party and putting over a free show to the troops, their wives and friends with the permission of the Officer Commanding (Lieutenant-Colonel J. N. Barker). A full report will be submitted for publication in the January, 1951, issue of THE WIRE.

Branch Meetings. A change of procedure has been adopted at Branch monthly meetings. It has been decided to confine Branch business, as far as possible, to the committee at their mid-monthly meetings and to utilise the Branch meetings on the first Wednesday in each month as a social "get-together" for members and their wives. This step, we feel sure, will prove to be in the right direction and tend towards the unification of the family spirit with the team spirit. The first of these meetings was that held on 1st November, when we had a goodly gathering of members and wives. Plenty of refreshments, both liquid and solid, were on hand and the light entertainment provided was well appreciated. A beautiful cake, with the Corps crest in icing, kindly presented by Mrs. (Kay) Packman (the wife of our genial Branch Chairman), was drawn for and won by ex-C.S.M. "Bill" Hibbit. The draw realised £3/5/6 for Branch funds.

Birmingham

A Happy Christmas to you all and many of 'em. May your stockings be filled. If there are any retired workhouse masters reading this, a Merry Christmas to them. What memories they must have. Before we open that last bottle of whisky let us do a bit of considering. It will be appropriate if we submerge our irresponsible ego and consider serious things. Let us do that. What have we done in the past year to keep the Association Branch going? There is a question that may keep some of us occupied for a while. Did I hear a question? Is keeping the Association going worth the trouble? Come now. Why not read your little book again? Do we have to use spare space here to tell you what it is all about? We in Birmingham are fortunate in having a good solid nucleus around which the whole structure of the Branch is built. Make no mistake about the structure. It is pretty strong but inclined to be invisible. What we want is a larger crowd on the last Thursday in the month. Believe it or not we would like to see you for an hour or so. And another thing. The committee would like to feel that they are not flogging dead horses.

What became of all those nice ex-A.T.S. girls who rushed to join the Signals Association after the war? Except for our faithful quartette (and mostly a trio) they have vanished. I know. Don't tell me. Their boy friends belong to the Royal Marines or the City Transport Department, so they fade out. Fair enough. Goodbye, girls. We have crossed you off now but it was nice knowing you.

The Service of Remembrance at the Birmingham Hall of Memory was attended in brilliant sunshine by a vast crowd of people. A very different scene from last year's meagre gathering. A round dozen of our Branch attended and Mr. Tom Liggins once more placed a wreath at the Hall on behalf of the members. 1/20 Army Signal Regiment, T.A., were on parade at Hall Green Church where Lieutenant-Colonel E. R. Price, T.D., took the salute at the parade of the British Legion and other bodies.

One of these days I will tell you something amusing about Birmingham, but it is becoming difficult to find anything to laugh at especially since most of the trams have been scrapped. I wonder what they do with the old tram-drivers and their gloves?

Now there's another serious thought. BARLEUX

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Brief details of the Association's first Reunion in the North appeared in the June issue of THE WIRE, and it has since been decided to establish this as a regular event.

As a preliminary, therefore, to a further Northern Reunion Dinner to be held in Manchester in April, 1951, local gatherings in the north have been arranged as follows:—

Leeds: Friday, 22nd December, 1950, The Queen's Hotel.
Manchester: Friday, 29th December, 1950, "The Fatted Calf."

Members likely to support the Northern Dinner in April, but unable to come to either of these local meetings in December, are asked to get in touch with the Hon. Secretary as soon as possible.

In other parts of the country, forthcoming meetings include:—

Birmingham: Wednesday, 3rd January, 1950, The Midland Hotel.
London: Friday, 9th March, The Shakespeare's Head.

Further details about meetings and about M.E.S.W.A. matters in general can be obtained from the Hon. Secretary.

* * *

ROYAL SIGNALS (CATTERICK) ATHLETICS CLUB CROSS-COUNTRY RUNNING FIXTURES 1950/51

Date	*Meeting*	*Location*	*Distance*
1950			
16th Dec.	NYSD League	Middlesbrough	6 miles
1951			
17th Jan.	Catterick District League	Catterick (Menin)	6 ,,
7th Feb.	N. Command Championships	Catterick	6 ,,
10th Feb.	N.E. Counties Championships	Stockton	6 ,,
17th Feb.	Signals Trophy Road Relay Race	Darlington	Various
21st Feb.	Catterick District Championships	Catterick	6 miles
24th Feb.	N. Counties Championships	Gosforth	6 ,,
2nd Mar.	Army Championships	Litchfield	6 ,,
10th Mar.	English National Championships	Richmond (Yorks)	6 ,,
14th Mar.	Inter-Services Championships	Portsmouth	6 ,,

SPORTS NOTES

F.A. AMATEUR CUP

2nd Qualifying Round

ROYAL SIGNALS v. TOW LAW TOWN F.C.

Tow Law went into the attack immediately, setting a really hot pace, and Newell the Signals 'keeper cleared his lines twice in as many minutes. Tow Law forced a corner which Quinn headed wide. Signals carried the play to the other end where Cromar drove hard over the top from just outside the penalty box.

Play was fast and swung from end to end. Harding was prominent with some good clearances, and Townsend, the Signals centre-half, frequently broke up good moves by the Tow Law inside trio. Cromar again essayed a shot which was well saved by Cook. Signals forced two corners but both were cleared, and then Cromar, after some clever play, sent Cronin, Signals' centre-forward, away clear of Tow Law defence, but from less than 10 yards the centre blazed the ball over the bar. Some good Signals moves were spoiled by the wingers and centre-forward being caught offside.

Just before half-time Cronin was again presented with an opportunity but once more shot weakly over. Half-time came with no goals scored. In the second half Signals continued to press, and Liddell shot hard to see Cook make a really good save. Both defences were playing well and Newell, the Signals' 'keeper, was rarely troubled.

Signals forced two corners, and from the second one Cromar shot hard for the top corner of the net only to see Cook bring off a magnificent save.

Signals were piling on the pressure and did everything except score. Cromar beat the visitors' defence and passed to Cronin who, although well placed, was too slow and lost the opportunity. Cromar and Cronin changed places and Signals strove hard to score, but Cook in the visitors' goal and Routledge, their centre-half, were both playing brilliantly, and they defied every effort. Liddell, after some clever ball play, burst through on the left and crashed the ball into the side netting. The final whistle blew with no goals having been scored.

* * *

The replay took place at Tow Law on Saturday, 28th October, 1950.

From the kick-off the Signals team immediately went into the attack, and for the first 10 minutes the Tow Law team rarely left their own half. During this period Cromar came near to scoring and a goal at this stage would have given Signals the tonic required. But it was not forthcoming and Tow Law gradually took the initiative, with Routledge at centre-half starting many dangerous moves. After 20 minutes' play the Signals defence was completely disorganised by the Tow Law inside trio, and Walker ended the movement by slamming the ball past Newell into the net. This reverse appeared to affect the Signals team and within the 20 minutes before half-time they had another two goals scored against them, and went into the pavilion losing 3—0.

Play restarted with Signals going all out to reduce the deficit. The defence had tightened up and the Tow Law forwards could make no headway against the solid play of Townsend, Harding and Finnegan. In particular Harding at left back was outstanding and the Tow Law right wing was played completely out of the game.

At the other end the forwards were trying desperately hard to score, Johnson being outstanding in this respect, but it wasn't until 15 minutes from the end that Stewart, who had wandered from the left wing, took a pass from Liddell and crashed the ball past the Tow Law 'keeper. After this the game became all Signals, but they could not get the ball into the net again, and the final whistle blew with Tow Law the winners by 3 goals to 1.

* * *

Royal Signals team v. Tow Law Town
Saturday, 28th October, 1950

Newell (5 T.R.)
Finnegan (3 T.R.) Harding (S. of S.)
Laing (3 T.R.) Townsend (5 T.R.) White (2 T.R.)
Johnson (5 T.R.) Cromar (7 S.R.) Liddell (2 T.R.)
Jones (2 T.R.) Stewart (7 S.R.)

GOLF, 1951

The dates for the Army and Royal Signals Golf Meetings are as follows:—

Army Meeting: 5th to 11th May, 1951, at Prestwick, Ayr, Scotland.

Royal Signals (Spring) Meeting: 27th, 28th April, 1951, at Catterick Garrison Golf Club, Yorkshire.

Royal Signals (Autumn) Meeting: 5th, 6th and 7th September, 1951, at West Hill Golf Club, Brookwood, Surrey.

The Royal Signals Meetings are open to all Royal Signals Officers (regulars, S.S.C., N.S., retired, etc.).

Full particulars can be obtained from: The Hon. Secretary, Royal Signals Officers' Golfing Society, H.Q. School of Signals, Catterick Camp.



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