THE WIRE

The Corps Magazine of the
ROYAL SIGNALS
The Official Organ of the
SIGNALS ASSOCIATION

Editor:
BRIGADIER H. R. FIRTH

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Editorial

1953

IN 1952 much happened to England. THE WIRE chronicled the death of a noble King and the accession of our Queen. For those serving it was a year of unrest. Too much of our Army was in movement.

1953 will mean much to Royal Signals. Those of us who are still young enough to serve will be represented actively at the Coronation of our beloved Queen Elizabeth II in June. Those who are old in Her Service will pay their duty at the Review in July.

To all who read THE WIRE we send our good wishes for the coming year.

THE WORLD VETERANS' FEDERATION

THE 3rd General Assembly of the Federation was held in London from the 4th to 12th December, 1952, and elsewhere in this number will be found a brief account of it.

Great Britain had a strong delegation and received an initial compliment on the opening of the Assembly in that Group Captain R. C. Vaughan, O.B.E., M.C., Q.C., was unanimously voted into the position of vice-president for the period of the Conference only. He is, incidentally, the British member of the Council of the World Veterans' Federation. When the Assembly was broken down into three committees, Brigadier W. E. Duncan, C.V.O., D.S.O., M.C., was selected as chairman of the committee which discussed the rehabilitation of those wounded in war.

During the working of the committees, a resolution was adopted to amend the constitution of the Federation so as to increase the size of the board by the addition of two permanent vice-presidents.

To the great satisfaction of the British Delegation, the French Delegation proposed the name of Major-General C. W. Fladgate, C.B.E., for one of these positions, and it will be a source of pride to all in Royal Signals that in the resulting voting he, General Fladgate, was voted a vice-president of the World Veterans' Federation by a very great margin of votes.

THE ROYAL SIGNALS INSTITUTION

The Institution hopes to hold two meetings during 1953 in London, the object of the first meeting being to explain to all Signal Officers, serving and retired, the object of the Institution, and later in the year to hold the First Annual General Meeting of the Institution, open to all members, at which officers would be elected. As a temporary measure, Major-General O. P. Edgecumbe, C.B., C.B.E., M.C., and Major-General V. J. E. Westropp, C.B., C.B.E., have taken over the duties of chairman and vice-chairman respectively.

* * *

On the 6th December the Corps Committee held its 51st Meeting, and it was announced that the Colonel-in-Chief, H.R.H. The Princess Royal, had graciously approved an alliance between the Indian Corps of Signals and Royal Signals.

The Indian Corps of Signals also announced that they would drink the V.J. Day Toast on the 16th August each year, as the normal date coincides with the Independence Day of the Union of India.

* * *

It is seasonable at this time of the year for THE WIRE to reiterate its thanks and good wishes to the Staff of F. J. Parsons, Ltd., of Hastings, who print it, and also go to great trouble in the despatching of it to all subscribers. Without the expert advice of the staff of the printer THE WIRE could not be produced in the professional form in which it now appears. Nothing is too much trouble. It is their desire, as it is that of the amateur editorial staff in London, to make THE WIRE a publication outstanding in Service journals.

Obituary

It is regretted that a photograph cannot be obtained, Editor.

COLONEL SIR HARRY LLEWELLYN MACKWORTH, BART, C.M.G., D.S.O., 1978—1952

THE death of Sir Harry Mackworth leaves a gap in the thinning ranks of the Old Guard, for he was a senior officer when the Corps was formed in 1920 and he retired in 1927. He was a paladin of his day and generation—a day when there were giants in the land, or if that is smiled at as an old soldier's fancy, a day that gave scope to the play of character and personality, unhampered by the repressions of two world wars. Hal Mackworth came of a distinguished Monmouthshire family with a tradition of service to the country. He was born in 1878, received his commission in the Royal Engineers in 1898, went to the South African War in the following year with the Telegraph Battalion, and won the D.S.O. by conspicuous gallantry while still a junior subaltern. In 1902 he came home, but was off again in three months to East Africa for the Somali campaign. This was followed by six months at home in 1904 before he was seconded for service with the Egyptian Army in January 1905. There he was lent to the Sudan Civil Service as Assistant Director of Posts and Telegraphs. He became an Arabic interpreter and his experience included telegraph construction in unmapped equatorial Africa—a savage land of swamp, scrub and forest in which nothing heavier than a pack load could be carried, and his chief technical troubles were elephants, who pulled up his poles for fun, and giraffes, who caught their necks in his wires.

*

In 1909 he was home again, this time for as long as three years, in which he spent a long leave with a brother officer on a visit to the Argentine. An officer was then wanted by the Australian Government to help in training and organising their new signal service, and no choice could have been happier than that of Captain Mackworth. There he met and married Léonie Peterson, and in the true sense of the old words he lived happily ever after—but much adventure lay before him.

The Australians found him a man after their own heart. With their 1st Division he fought at Gallipoli in 1915 and 1916, and afterwards held senior signal appointments in Egypt and was C.S.O. 21st Corps (or A.D. Army Signals in the nomenclature of that day) in the Palestine campaign. In this period he was awarded brevet promotion to Lieutenant-Colonel and the C.M.G.

After that war he served for the most part at the Signal Training Centre at Maresfield until 1923, with an interval as a War Office representative at the Washington Conference in 1920. In 1924 he became C.S.O. Egypt, where he served until his retirement.

So much for his career, of which he made so little that few realised its scope. He was a figure to take the eye, with striking, aquiline good looks, six feet three inches tall, broad shouldered, lean and powerful. His passion was yachting, and an owner of Thames barges, himself a yachtsman, once said to the writer: "When Colonel Mackworth and Colonel 'X' (a friend little smaller than himself) tally on to a fall something has got to move."

He did his own thinking and had little—some thought too little—regard for tradition as such. In the early years of the century, the first, few, tentative motor cars were the butt of every comedian and the steam traction engines of the Royal Engineers were the Army's only mechanical transport. Young officers of that Corps at Aldershot, if they did not themselves ride to hounds, were expected at least to treat the horse with proper respect. Young Mackworth scoffed openly, "What is a horse after all? It is just a hay motor."

He had in those days a light-hearted attitude towards ceremonial and all spit and polish, though his friends noted that this suffered a radical change when he came himself to command a battalion of recruits and young officers at Maresfield. He had that form of humility, perhaps the best of all, that lay in refusing to take himself too seriously; and while he avoided the error of excessive earnestness on his own part, he contemplated it in others with his usual tolerance. Any task to which he gave his mind he carried through with easy mastery—perhaps too easy, for he did not always realise how hard other people had to try. Where his interest was aroused he was capable of intense application, but no authority could make him simulate interest in a matter that bored him.

As a young man he was, in the language of the day, game for anything; his high spirits got him into constant trouble and his charm and resource generally got him out again; but not always. When they failed he would remark with mild surprise, "The old boy seemed a little stuffy," and would charitably dismiss the painful incident. As a young officer on leave in the Argentine there is a story of his inspecting, in bowler hat and lounge suit, a unit of that army, as a distinguished visitor from the army of a friendly power.

As a senior officer he made his subordinates trustworthy by trusting them, and he would support them against all comers, though what he might say to them himself was another matter. He was, perhaps more than anything, a superb craftsman: he could make a machine do anything, he built clocks to his own design, his work as a cabinet maker reached high professional standards, as a shipwright he could lay out the lines of a sailing dinghy—needless to say, on a new principle of his own, and build her without a flaw. A Victorian poet wrote that in art "one does whate'er one likes. The thing is to be sure that one does like it." In the art of life Hal Mackworth knew with enviable sureness what he liked: it was to sail a yacht, which he did with consummate ability until the Second World War put an end to it and peace found him too old to take it up again.

After that it was to exercise his skill of brain, hand and eye in his workshop, a skill that, despite the loss of an eye in an accident, remained little abated until near the end of his life. He was unfailingly kind, putting his skill at the disposal of any whom it might help. Although not well off in his retirement he was serenely contented and would declare himself the most fortunate of men, doing what he best liked in the quiet beauty of the Dorset coast and countryside. In 1948, he inherited the title from an elder brother, and he is succeeded by a nephew, Commander David Mackworth, R.N. The head of the family is thus still to be found in his country's service.

R.C.T.

* * *

THE CORPS MARCHES

Not infrequently requests are made for gramophone records of the March. If sufficient interest is shown it will be possible to have a double-sided record made of the Two Marches.

Begone Dull Care ... ... Quick March.
H.R.H. The Princess Royal ... Slow March.

These will sell at 10s.

Will Regiments please inform the Band President H.Q., Signal Training Centre, of their probable requirements.

Will Branches and Individuals please inform the Association likewise.

An assessment will be made during February 1953, and if a sufficient interest is shown the Band will make the recording.

It may be said that the firm making the record require an initial order of 500.

PERSONAL COLUMN

Obituary

It is with regret that we announce the death of Colonel G. R. Halliday on 15th November, 1952, at Valetta, Malta G.C. After having served in Malta as O.C. Malta Signal Section for several years before the war he returned after retirement as secretary to U.S.S. Club and also took a secretaryship of the Union Club. He will be greatly missed by all those in Malta who appreciated his untiring work in furthering social welfare on the island.

London Gazette

31st October. Brigadier R. H. R. Steward, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., A.D.C., to R.A.R.O., and is granted honorary rank of Major-General.

Colonel H. V. Ewbank to R.A.R.O.

4th November. Major (T.O.T.) B. T. Sherman to be Lieutenant-Colonel (T.O.T.).

Major J. C. Brady, M.B.E., T.A., to be Acting Lieutenant-Colonel.

Major G. S. Grey, M.B.E., retired with honorary rank of Lieutenant-Colonel.

Colonel Stewart Alexander Woods, T.D., to be Honorary Colonel.

Movements—Officers

Colonel F. W. P. Bradford from War Office to E.M.C.C.C.

Major A. J. Deane-Drummond from R.M.A. to Staff College.

Major N. C. Cleverley from M.E.L.F. to 1 War Office Signal Regiment.

Major A. J. Blower from 1 War Office Signal Regiment to B.A.O.R.

Major G. W. Powell from Depot Regiment to FARELF.

Colonel C. D. Gardiner from H.Q. Aldershot District to War Office.

Major G. Coatsworth from Depot to School of Signals.

Major G. B. Donald from School of Signals to B.A.O.R.

Major G. A. Fleming from Depot to H.Q. Aldershot District.

Major J. E. L. Adams from H.Q. Aldershot District to B.A.O.R.

Major (Q.M.) A. E. Dunn from Northern Command (M) Signal Regiment to M.E.L.F.

Captain G. W. Penn from 23 Corps Signal Regiment to T.A.R.O.

19 Air Formation Signal Regiment

Arrivals

Lieutenant J. E. R. Brunner from O.T.W.

Births

MOGRIDGE.—On the 17th November, 1952, to Captain and Mrs. K. F. J. Mogridge, Royal Signals, Vienna Signal Troop, a son, David Thomas.

CATTERMULL—To Captain and Mrs. D. G. Cattermull, at Catterick, on 21st November, 1952, a daughter, Jane Alison.

Marriages

WARREN—MIDGLEY.—On 22nd November, 1952, at St. Bartholomew Hyde, Winchester, Major Nicholas T. Warren, M.B.E., T.D., Royal Signals (T.A.), 10 Air Support Signal Unit (T.A.), Southampton, to Rosemary Midgley.

BOWDEN—DAY.—S.Q.M.S. (F. of S.) D. Bowden, 11 Signal Park Squadron, Donnington, to Betty Eileen Day, at St. Mary's Church, Bridgwater, Somerset.

Deaths

SKELLY.—14827951 Corporal F. R. Skelly, presumed killed in action, previously reported missing India, 10th June, 1946.

FLATT.—22493049 Signalman E. W. Flatt, on 7th November, 1952, in FARELF.

HEPWORTH.—22618129 Signalman W. Hepworth, on 21st November, 1952, in Korea.

BRITTON.—22454803 Signalman F. Britton, on 20th November, 1952, at Donnington.

Injured

THRONTON.—22265246 Signalman P. Thronton, on 12th November, 1952, in Korea.

EDGINGTON.—22493043 Signalman A. S. Edgington, on 7th November, 1952, in FARELF.

PHILLIPS.—22615703 Signalman W. E. Phillips, on 7th November, 1952, in FARELF.

Major-General Francis L. Ankenbrandt

An error has crept into the *Newsletter* from which an extract was made in the December WIRE. General Ankenbrandt is Chief Signal Officer at S.H.A.P.E., and Brigadier General Ivan L. Farman is the Deputy Chief of Staff-Communications of Headquarters, Allied Air Forces, Central Europe.

* * *

BRIGADIER J. B. ADAMS, who retired in May 1952, is now in the Iraq Petroleum Company, Oxford Circus, W.1.

THE HISTORY
of
BRITISH ARMY SIGNALS
in the
SECOND WORLD WAR

by

Major General R. F. H. NALDER, C.B., O.B.E.

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Forthcoming Events

March. Branch Honorary Secretaries' Meeting, London, 28th March.
May. Annual General Meeting and Comrades' Reunion, Catterick, 16th/17th May.

Dinner and " At Home," 1953

The dates for the Dinner and Regular Officers' " At Home " are 20th and 21st May respectively.
June. For Coronation Period Diary see Press.
July. Review of ex-Servicemen, Hyde Park, London, Sunday, 5th July.
Royal Signals Rally and Reunion, York, Saturday, 25th July.

Royal Signals Rugby Football Club—Fixtures

Jan. 17	...	Otley	Catterick.
Jan. 21	...	Royal Engineers ...	Chatham.
Jan. 24	...	Middlesbrough ...	Middlesbrough.
Jan. 28	...	Rossall	Rossall.
Jan. 31	...	West Hartlepool ...	Catterick.
Feb. 7	...	Otley	Otley.
Feb. 11	...	Leeds University ...	Catterick.
Feb. 14	...	Oxford University Greyhounds ...	Oxford.

Royal Signals Hockey Club—Fixtures

Jan. 31	...	Royal Engineers ...	Chatham.

Royal Signals Band Programme, 1953

April 3-10	...	Southport.
May 3	...	Victory Sunday—York.
„ 16-17	...	O.C.A. Reunion—Catterick Camp.
„ 20-22	...	Eastern Command.
„ 20	...	Corps Dinner.
June 2	...	Coronation " From " Procession.
„ 7	...	Regents Park—London.
„ 8-13	...	Hyde Park—London.
„ 14-20	...	Victoria Embankment Gardens—London.
„ 21-27	...	Folkestone.
July 2-5	...	Southern Command.
„ 7-9	...	A.A. Command.
„ 11-18	...	Tunbridge Wells.
„ 25	...	Scottish Command Signal Regiment.
„ 26	...	Paisley.
July 27-Aug. 2		Aberdeen.
Aug. 3-9	...	Edinburgh.
„ 10-15	...	Dunfermline.
„ 16-22	...	Glasgow.
„ 23-30	...	Edinburgh Festival.
Sept. 1-5	...	Southend.
„ 6-19	...	Worthing.
„ 20-Oct. 3		Eastbourne.

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ASSOCIATION OF HARROGATE APPRENTICES

The Inaugural General Meeting of the above Association will take place at 8 p.m. on 20th February, 1953, at the Army Apprentices' School, Uniacke Barracks, Harrogate, Yorks.

All ex-Apprentices who are members are cordially invited to attend, or, if they wish, to put forward any suggestions or queries, to send them to the Hon. Secretary, c/o above address, so as to reach him before the date of the meeting.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Everest

Colonel W. R. Smijth-Windham, C.B.E., D.S.O., F.R.G.S., A.M.I.E.E., *writes* :—

" I think THE WIRE may be interested to know that the Corps is keeping up its connection with Everest.

Colonel Hunt, who will lead the British Mount Everest Expedition, 1953, has selected Lieutenant George C. Band as one of the climbing members of his party, and has put him in charge of communications and messing.

Band, who is now at Queen's College, Cambridge, holds a National Service Commission in Royal Signals. He first became interested in mountaineering whilst serving in the Officers' Training Wing, School of Signals, under Colonel " Jonocks " Gardiner, who used to organise climbing week-ends in the Lake District for the Cadets.

I am sure THE WIRE will want to wish Band good luck and make him promise to write an account afterwards!"

Brigadier B. B. Kennett, C.B.E.

Brigadier C. G. Moore, O.B.E., *writes* :—

" While in hearty agreement with the general tone of the 'Vale' to Brigadier Kennett in the November issue of THE WIRE, I must take exception to the paragraph which reads as follows:—

'The Second Great War did not come to him early, for his promotion to Lieutenant-Colonel in 1942 found him still in England on the staff of Headquarters, Northern Command. He had been an Acting Colonel since March of that year.'

The outbreak of the war found Kennett in the Western Desert as Second-in-Command Egypt Armoured Divisional Signals, later to become 7th Armoured Divisional Signals. In December 1939 he was sent home to become Second-in-Command 2nd Armoured Divisional Signals (Middlesex Yeomanry) in training in the Midlands. He was temporarily withdrawn from this appointment to take part in operations in Norway (April-May 1940) as C.S.O. Sickleforce under General Paget and, after a quick run in and out of Aandlesnes, took over command of his former Unit, which was serving in the Middle East by the end of the year. Early in 1941 they took part in the withdrawal from Agedabia to Mechili, where Headquarters, 2nd Armoured Division and its Signals met with disaster on 8th April that year. Kennett, however, escaped to Tobruk whence he managed to depart by sea to take over 4 L. of C. Signals, later part of 8th Army Signals. Early in 1942 he returned home and was appointed C.S.O. 3rd Armoured Group with the temporary rank of Colonel. The Headquarters of this group was in the Northern Command.

Thus, the only accurate statement in the paragraph I have quoted is that which gives the date of his Acting Colonelcy.

It is interesting to note that such is the love of the Middlesex Yeomanry for Bill Kennett that they not only invited him to wear their Regimental badge while serving with them during the war, but were also instrumental in getting him appointed as the present Honorary Colonel of 16th Airborne Divisional Signal Regiment (Middlesex Yeomanry), T.A."

The Editor apologises for the inaccuracies and omissions mentioned in this letter.

BOUND VOLUMES OF " THE WIRE "

We have available material to bind in book form 20 copies of the 1952 WIRE. Messes and individuals who require bound volumes should please let the Editor know as soon as possible. Price is 35s.

The January 1953 " Wire "

It is regretted that this, the January issue of THE WIRE, is late as a result of the Christmas holidays.

A Signalman's View of The Coronation

IT was cold and rather dark on the morning of the 12th May, 1937, when some thirty Signalmen of the Territorial Army of London emerged at 5.15 a.m. from a rather dubious night spent at the Drill Hall of the Middlesex Yeomanry. Dubious not because of the lack of comfort, which was as well as could be organised in the circumstances, but because of the prodigious hospitality bestowed on them during the preceding night. Amongst them were the Captain, the sergeant and the corporal, the two latter burdened with much equipment, the former equipped with a sword, carrying a heavy pack. In a few moments they located the police car which was to take them to their station, and were on their way. Whoever chose that method of transportation was wise, because already the streets were flowing with people and nothing less than a vehicle of the Metropolitan Police could have made its way through the crowd. As it was, before reaching the Victoria Memorial outside Buckingham Palace, the driver drove twice on the pavement, and once over a traffic island.

Reconnoitred beforehand, the pitch on the Victoria Memorial consisted of a crows nest, high up above the heads of the crowds already massed, with a view of the whole of the outer courtyard of the Palace, and to the east over the length of The Mall to Admiralty Arch. Equipment was set up and communications proved: for it was the task of this party and others to ensure that the marching column of troops which were to precede His Majesty King George VI to Westminster Abbey started on time and that the thousands composing it all moved off at the same time. The method was, and may still be, of some interest.

The head of the column was well down Whitehall about level with the Cenotaph; the tail of the column within the courtyard at Buckingham Palace. The signalling stations were placed on the Victoria Memorial, on the top of Admiralty Arch, with a short leg thence to the statue of King Charles in Trafalgar Square, whence a view could be obtained to the fourth party at the head of the column. These were inter-connected by telephone, and to make assurance doubly sure a system of visual signalling has been devised, using in this particular instance over-sized marking discs as used on the range, the signal to start the column being the same as that to mark an " outer " on a target.

By 6.15 a.m. the communications had been proved, and the Captain, the sergeant and the corporal settled themselves for some four hours of waiting. Unlike most periods of waiting so well known to Signalmen, this one did not lack for interest. The troops composing the column were passing to take up their position, the troops to line the route, and here they came from the Brigade of Guards, were forming their lines, and all about and around the people of London and from many other parts of the country were moving quickly and silently to their chosen viewpoints. The crowd on and around the Victoria Memorial thickened rapidly and a small roped space was soon filled by some representatives of the Indian Army.

As the morning wore on the Regiment of Household Cavalry who were to provide the immediate escort came down Constitution Hill and the forecourt gradually filled with a mass of mounted officers all in full dress and all, even at that short distance, looking remarkably alike.

It was at this time that the Captain began to realise the full difficulty of his task. The procedure for starting the column had been rehearsed. The signal to start the column was to be given at the moment that Their Majesties were seated in the State Coach, but this took place in the inner courtyard, and it was not possible to see this from the Victoria Memorial. Arrangements had been made for a mounted officer of the War Office Staff to position himself, so that he could see through the archway into the inner courtyard, and at the same time be seen by the signal party on the Memorial. In rehearsal, that was easy: he was well known, as always in those days senior officers attending such rehearsals did so in plain clothes. In rehearsal, at the appropriate moment, he had made a large gesture with his umbrella, which was now to be repeated with the short baton, which was the distinguishing emblem of all those officers whose duty it was that day to marshal the various columns. Rehearsals were attended by very few, only those with an active part to play. The courtyard was now filled, as has been said, with a great number of mounted officers. The Captain had wisely taken field glasses and had also been provided with two rated watches, his orders being to start the column on the signal, but that if by mischance he had not received the signal, to start it on time. Some twenty minutes of anxious looking eventually identified the Lieutenant-Colonel, and a preliminary wave or two established mutual understanding. The Captain returned to his half-eaten breakfast.

The time approached, the field glasses again revealed the Lieutenant-Colonel, who was manoeuvring himself to ensure that he could see the inner courtyard. The communications by telephone were proved again, and as always in such moments there was a temporary failure. The time approached, the minute hand of the watches moved remorselessly on, the Battalions of the Brigade of Guards lining the route removed their capes; in a quiet voice the sergeant reported " telephone communication re-established." There was perhaps three minutes to go. In rehearsal, the gesture with the umbrella had been a large one, in the event the Lieutenant-Colonel raised his baton perhaps six inches, and brought it down again to the reins. Was this the signal? The watches said thirty-five seconds to go. The Captain gave his order "PROCESSION MARCH." The sergeant repeated it into the telephone; heavy breathing by the corporal indicated that he was signalling an " outer " with considerable vigour. Perhaps five seconds elapsed, or it may have been five hours, the sergeant reported unemotionally, " HEAD OF PROCESSION HAS MARCHED, SIR." With that enormous relaxation of tension which only Signalmen know, the Captain reached for the whisky and all in turn drank their thankfulness and their good wishes to their new King. The stationary column in view over the length of The Mall had now become a river of men flowing steadily and purposely forward. The Cavalry were in motion, the mounted officers falling into place as the State Coach emerged from the gates of the Palace, and the first roar of London's cheering broke out. Their Majesties passed and the cheering moved with them, and all

about the people were relaxing and settling, the smoke of tobacco rose again and the waiting recommenced.

There was to be a gap of about ninety minutes before the majority of the troops who were to form the much longer column to lead Their Majesties from Westminster Abbey back to Buckingham Palace moved into position, and a majority of these were to pass the Victoria Memorial on the way to take their places on the route.

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The Captain, whose wife happily had window space in Pall Mall, decided to attempt to visit her. He had no knowledge whether she had arrived. She, like many others, had left their home in Surrey before dawn and the route card supplied to the friend who was driving her had taken their car right round the North Circular Road and brought them into Central London via Hampstead. The Captain accordingly made his way down to the processional route, and along it to Marlborough Gate, in an attempt to enter Pall Mall. A glance told him that to try to penetrate the crowd would be to attempt the impossible. Hesitating, a friendly Inspector of Police asked if he could help. Having identified himself and explained his purpose, all was made miraculously easy. The Superintendent of Police led him into the cellars of St. James's Palace and then through an underground labyrinth, a longish journey, which brought them to the surface just behind "Prunier" in St. James's Street. Here, the Police had kept a lane through the crowd for themselves and for the evacuation of minor casualties, and opposite again a similar lane led into King Street. Thence through the kitchens of a Pall Mall Club to find that his wife had indeed arrived, had had breakfast, and was just about to take her place in the window as the troops were even then beginning to pass.

The way back was as easy, and the Victoria Memorial was reached just in time to salute Field Marshal Lord Birdwood as he led his Australian contingent along The Mall. From then on all was full of interest. Some ten thousand troops were to form the procession to lead our newly-crowned King from the Abbey back to the Palace, and nearly all of them passed the Victoria Memorial twice, once to form the procession, and then again in the procession.

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Except for the Household troops, all were in the newly-issued "blue," and it was difficult to distinguish one contingent from another. The Royal Navy was led, if memory serves, by a strong figure with a "Captain Kettle" beard. The Royal Marines and their band marched with that precision which they share with so few. Contingents from Australia, Canada and New Zealand, in khaki, were easily identified. The Indian Army, contingent by contingent, was again readily identified. Lack of experience made contingents from the Colonies more difficult, but it was indeed a pageant of Empire.

At last, above the playing of the marching bands, London's roar heralded the arrival of Their Majesties. At this last moment, rain, which had threatened all day, began to fall very heavily. The State Coach turned into the Palace, the troops dispersed, and all was over.

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Forewarned of what would happen, the Captain, the sergeant and the corporal hurried to place their equipment, as had been arranged, into the guardroom at Buckingham Palace. Indeed, they were only just in time, being only a fraction in front of that great concourse of people who surged up The Mall and formed that unforgettable gathering of very many thousands, with the leaders pressed against the Palace railings, the laggards as far back as the Admiralty, who cheered and sang, and cheered and sang again, until Their Majesties appeared on the balcony. This tremendous demonstration of loyalty and affection was rendered the more impressive in that it took place in steady and drenching rain.

In those days, and perhaps until now, there is a canteen by the guardroom at Buckingham Palace open to those on guard and to those members of the Police on duty in the immediate vicinity of the Palace. Honorary members for an hour, the Signal party drank what was possibly the strongest beer they had ever tasted and then, with duty done, and a memory which will be with them for all their lives, they set off for their homes.

The streets were still full, and passage through the crowds was difficult. The Captain was lucky, he fell in with a column of London policemen marching stolidly towards Chelsea, slipped into a blank file and was carried along with them until near his destination.

As a matter of historical interest, the Signal parties this day were provided as under:—

For the procession from Buckingham Palace to Westminster Abbey—
by CITY OF LONDON SIGNALS, T.A.

For the procession from the Abbey back to Buckingham Palace,
by THE MIDDLESEX YEOMANRY.

47/2 LONDON DIVISIONAL SIGNALS, T.A., provided a number of miscellaneous detachments, and the Officers who preceded the marching column from the Abbey in a Police car to regulate the pace.

In those days the ordinary Service wireless equipment was not reliable, working in the congestion of central London with the screening effect afforded by high buildings. Accordingly, Service wireless was not used. Some reliance was placed on a number of wireless cars of the Metropolitan Police which were stationed at strategic points, usually with a mixed crew of policemen and Signalmen. In the main, however, all signals were passed by telephone or visual.

Apart from the signal business of starting the columns described above, many other detachments were employed to synchronise the firing of the guns in Hyde Park and at the Tower, and for a variety of other tasks, many of which are still performed for all State occasions at the present time.

OBITUARY

With the death of John (Aubrey) Harrison the Corps has lost a well-known character.

Aubrey, as he was affectionately known throughout his 27 years' service, joined the Corps at Maresfield in 1922. On joining the ranks he was posted to Egypt, where he served for five years. His return to England was short-lived as he was then posted to India. On his return he was sent to Palestine during the 1938 troubles. Returning from Palestine, he was posted to Bere Island until its evacuation. It was while at Bere Island that he met his wife and was married in 1938, being posted almost immediately again to India.

He spent the whole of the war years in India and Burma in Air Formation Signals. For his services on the Burma Front he was awarded the M.B.E., but contacted the illness from which he died.

On returning from Burma he went as R.S.M. to the Depot in Catterick, and was finally commissioned as a Cypher Officer early in 1949 before being posted to Germany.

It was while in Germany that he had a stroke and he was invalided back to England, and finally from the Army to live at Dover.

His retirement was short-lived and he died on the 16th December, 1952, in hospital at Dover.

He is survived by his wife and two sons. The funeral was at Gillingham Cemetery in the family grave on 23rd December, 1952.

World Veterans Federation

THIRD General Assembly

LONDON, 4th to 12th December 1952

THE delegates of twenty member nations and also individual observers from many others assembled in London between the 3rd and 6th. Their arrival was handicapped by a real pea soup fog which completely blanketed London on Saturday, Sunday and Monday. There was great disappointment that the carefully arranged ceremony at the Cenotaph on Sunday, when all the national delegations were going to march from Wellington Barracks, was impossible; the fog prevented all movement.

The work of the assembly commenced on Monday, the 8th, when, as a pleasant compliment to Great Britain, Group Captain R. C. Vaughan, O.B.E., M.C., Q.C., was elected by acclamation to the post of vice-chairman of the assembly. At 11 a.m. came for Great Britain a great moment, and amid a storm of cheering Field-Marshal The Right Honorable Earl Alexander of Tunis, K.G., G.C.B., G.C.M.G., G.S.O., D.S.O., M.C., entered the assembly room at Church House to give the welcome and aprobation of Her Majesty's Government to the W.V.F. Prior to this a most gracious message had been received from Her Majesty The Queen.

Lord Alexander's speech is on page 6.

Soon after this came the election to office in the three committees which were to deal with the very long long agenda. Substituting for Lieutenant-General Sir Otto Lund, who was sick, Brigadier W. E. Duncan, C.V.O., D.S.O., M.C. (late R.A.), became chairman of the 1st Committee—Rehabilitation. Conducted with great skill and patience, this committee dealt with the healing in body and mind of those injured in war and with their readmission into society as useful citizens.

Working in this committee were several delegates themselves blind or maimed, including Harold Russell, who played the lead in the film "The Best Years of Our Lives."

Committee II dealt with policy, and here Great Britain was represented by Air Marshal Sir Robert Saundby, K.B.E., C.B., M.C., D.F.C., A.F.C., Mr. A. Legge, of the Royal Naval Association, and Lieutenant-Colonel F. Turner.

This committee provided perhaps the most important resolution that was passed by the assembly.

"The main object of the World Veterans' Federation is to represent the interests and promote the welfare of ex-Service disabled personnel and the dependents of those who were killed or died in the service of their country."

General Fladgate worked for Great Britain in the III Committee—Internal Affairs, which was responsible for certain significant changes in the organisation of the Federation. The most important of these was the substitution of an Executive Board, composed of the President, Secretary-General, Secretary-Treasurer and two Vice-Presidents for the previous Administration Committee. The importance of this to Great Britain will be seen hereafter.

Another important change was the provision of an Auditing Committee.

(Courtesy: London Press Photos

Left to right: Mr. Elliott H. Newcomb, Secretary General, W.V.F., Field-Marshal The Right Honorable Earl Alexander of Tunis, K.G., G.C.B., G.C.M.G., C.S.I., D.S.O., M.C., Mr. Albert Morel, President, W.V.F., Colonel A. Katzin, representing the Secretary General of the United Nations

(Courtesy: London Press Photos.

Left to right: Brigadier W. E. Duncan, C.V.O., D.S.O., M.C., General C. W. Fladgate, C.B.E., delegate from the Gold Coast

The work of these committees, which occupied the whole of Tuesday and Wednesday, was exceedingly arduous.

The main Assembly Room at Church House, Westminster, is equipped with electronic apparatus which enables one to receive a simultaneous translation when the speaker is not using English. The use of headphones for some eight hours a day is not, however, conducive to concentration and intelligent thought. Committees II and III took place in rooms not so equipped and the length of committee deliberations was thus quadrupled, every sentence being translated.

The work of the interpreters was beyond all praise, an unemotional, factual intervention in English became a Gallic oration in French, but the time lag often caused one to forget what one had just said.

Discussions were carried out with great earnestness and, indeed, often at some tension. There were, however, few, if any, lapses of good manners such as are all too frequent in our own Parliament, and these were promptly put down by the Chairman and the offender at once apologised.

The French and Americans appeared the most skilled in debate, frequently opposing each other throughout a number of agenda items. One noticed, however, the two delegations constantly "ganging up" during every short recess.

We of Great Britain had one luncheon and one dinner session with the Americans to discuss a means of combating the occasional friction and frequent very bad Press reports of the infrequent misdemeanors of American Servicemen stationed in this country. As a result of this an arrangement has been made to continue to exchange information and to co-ordinate action to accomplish this.

Arrangements were also concluded to continue an exchange of information on topics of mutual interest with the French.

Thursday was a great day for England, for in the voting for the two new vice-presidents, members of the Executive Board, General Fladgate received a majority which exceeded the combined votes cast for the two others nominated. This was a compliment to Great Britain but also a personal one occasioned by the great reputation he had gained during the deliberations of the Committee of Internal Affairs.

To sum up, it can be stated definitely that the World Veterans' Federation in its aims and objects and the conduct of its business is sound. It has only been in existence for three years, but already is forging bonds of mutual understanding between the fighting men of many nations. It has already done great work in the field of rehabilitation and work here will increase. Courses have already been held in England and in other progressive countries. The Federation is, *inter alia*, promoting successfully the supply of prosthetic appliances of aids to the blind and of instruction to those countries who are backward.

There has been, for five days, a continuous interchange of ideas and information on the affairs of ex-Servicemen and from such interchange nothing but good can come.

Attempts by one or two delegations to stage an incursion with the political field were at once rejected, completely, by an overwhelming majority, and all subjects were discussed solely in their connection with the ex-Servicemen. In fine, as someone said, it was a hard week, but well worth it.

Speech by the British Minister of Defence

THE British Minister of Defence (Field-Marshal the Right Honorable Earl Alexander of Tunis, K.G., G.C.B., G.C.M.G., C.S.I., D.S.O., M.C.): Mr. President, ladies and gentlemen, on rising to address you I should like to take the earliest opportunity of extending to the World Veterans' Federation and to all the delegates and observers who are here today a warm welcome to this Assembly in London. Your Federation represents a very large number of ex-Servicemen's organisations from all parts of the free world. It includes today 89 associations with over 16,000,000 members from 16 different countries. As I look down the list of affiliated bodies I may perhaps be permitted to say how especially pleased I am to welcome the representatives of certain ex-Servicemen's organisations of Canada—Canada, which I can now proudly claim as my second home. There are, too, many other old friends here represented, drawn from a great range of countries. All of you come from those nations who in the bitter years between 1939 and 1945 defended civilisation against aggression and terror.

The unity which was forged then has been subjected to great stresses and strains in the last seven years. Your homes are far apart. Your languages, your customs and your Governments are different. But your presence here today is proof that now, as then, you are united in your determination to strive for peace and freedom.

The aims of your Federation are based, of course, on the principles of the United Nations' Charter, and indeed they must be—for it is only through supporting such principles that we can seek to establish real peace on earth and goodwill to all men. But your aims amount to something more than the mere re-statement of verbal principles. That is what is so encouraging about the steady growth of your Federation. In these difficult days, when so much is unsettled and unstable, the ordinary man often feels himself powerless to do anything effective to achieve the aims to which the United Nations are dedicated. You are in a happier position. By your participation at this conference, by your united work to solve the problems of the ex-Serviceman, you can make a practical contribution to international understanding. If I may for the moment speak as a veteran and not as a Minister, it is not an opportunity which is granted to everyone whose duty it is to make speeches or attend conferences. Your conference has much to do and, what is more, it has a real opportunity of doing it.

There is one thing that especially interests me in this practical work of yours, and that is the problem of rehabilitating the disabled ex-Serviceman. That is a field in which I am glad to say this country has a long and fine tradition. For instance, the British Legion, Lord Roberts' Workshops, and many other excellent organisations have done great work on this before 1939. Now you, too, are bending your energies to the task, and if you pool the experience of your many member nations your chances of success are great.

I am also interested in the course which was held during the autumn at the Roehampton Limb Centre to which experts from eight countries came to study British methods of artificial limb manufacture and limb fitting, and to exchange views. I am glad to say that our Ministry of Pensions played a leading part in that.

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You can always be sure that our Government will do what it can to help you in this sort of work. But more than governmental action is needed, and more than charity. The disabled ex-Serviceman needs expert psychological assistance if he is to re-establish himself in his own eyes as a useful human being. Uprooted from his home and without a peacetime occupation he too often felt himself in the past to be little more than a social reject, depending for his future on the charity of others—and the disabled man does not want charity. But he does ask for opportunity.

All of us can remember how in the past thirty years in certain countries the activities of ex-Servicemen, who have been thus neglected, led to national and international disaster. And that is why I am particularly glad to see that you give so much attention to the psychological side of rehabilitation, and that you are about to establish a social department to study the social needs of ex-Servicemen. That is great work, and I congratulate you on it, and I wish you every success.

This is your Third General Assembly since the Federation was formed. In these two years your organisation has done much to establish itself and to build up an international reputation. The presence of so many observers from associations as yet unaffiliated to yours must be a source of great encouragement to you for the future.

I am sure that, if at this conference you apply yourselves with energy and enthusiasm to the practical tasks before you, you will find that at the end you will be able to count on an even greater number of friends and supporters in the free world.

Ladies and gentlemen, M. le President, I appreciate the honour that you have done me in inviting me to this Assembly. I extend the warm personal greetings of one veteran to another, and I wish you every success in the deliberation on which you are now going to embark. *(Applause.)*

Catterick Jottings

by nacerby

So Long, '52—and Welcome '53

WELL! There goes another year—slipping by like a recruit with buttons undone snaking past a military policeman—and as I begin to think about it perhaps it's just as well—not that it makes any personal difference to me—I still retain that youthful air of debonair charm, and even if I am thinning a little at least "grass doesn't grow in a busy street," etc., etc.

The years come and go every so often, and since I discovered that Barleux arranges the date on which Christmas Day will fall, coupled with the fact he has friends in the War Office and the Association, I'm not at all certain it is 1953.

But being a simple soul I'll accept that fact, and so—a very happy New Year to everyone, and by the time February comes I shall have sufficiently recovered to tell you about the Christmas festivities. What happened? Dunno! I was O.K. until—Oh! Where *did* I put those aspirins and those New Year resolutions?

You know me—when I make up my mind I'm full of indecision and I had some perfectly divine resolutions since I discovered in 1952 that I always had too much month left at the end of my money!

But even if I make 'em I shan't have time to keep 'em, and as long as I remember that even moderation ought not to be practised to excess I guess I'll get by.

My Driving Serial . . .

You probably know that the turn of the century was made by a woman driver and that they would have less trouble parking if the kerb wasn't so far away! You do? Well, you male drivers, don't be so complacent because:—

Driver Forsyth Faunceworth-Ffitch
Possessed an overpowering itch
For doing things beyond his scope,
Since he believed—a pious hope—
That his own toolkit could replace
The R.E.M.E. workshop at the base.
He thought perhaps he could derive
More value from task number five,
And do the job a little better
By taking down the carburettor.
And very soon he was all set
To clean out every petrol jet;
For this as all good drivers know
You just apply your mouth and blow.
A carburettor jet thus cleaned,
Is quite O.K., but it's machined
Down to a thousandth of an inch,
And engineering pundits flinch
At thoughts of using things like wires
Which pulled through by a pair of pliers,
Enlarge the jet and mess up so
The air and petrol ratio.
But Faunceworth-Ffitch—perhaps it's needless
To state—was absolutely heedless,
And put himself beyond the pale—
He tried to use a four inch nail;
And somewhat to his consternation
Completely spoiled his carburation.

Visits—Goodwill

Have always associated whirlwind tours with our American friends, but the itinerary for Brigadier H. Firth's visit left me gasping and I can't for the life of me figure out just when he slept and ate.

He visited and talked to all the Signal Regiments, the School of Signals, Harrogate Branch and Darlington, besides renewing acquaintance with a whole host of friends—both serving and retired.

That the Signal Training Centre is Association-conscious he can be in no doubt, and we all hope such visits will be made as often as his duties permit in the future.

Hiking Holiday . . .

After Christmas and New Year leave one's thoughts naturally turn to leave, and next to motoring, dancing, reading in bed, volunteering for guard and imbibing alcohol, hiking is one of our most popular national sports.

To encourage those who like walking tours, I have planned the following trip into the quiet country lanes that cling like a P.T. vest to the back of Richmond.

Take a 3d. bus ride from the Camp Centre. Now take a 3d. bus ride back again, as this tour really begins from Sandes Home on the north side of the train lines and the bus ride is only included in this itinerary to satisfy the people who feel they can't enjoy any experience without paying for it.

After leaving Sandes Home, walk as straight as possible up the road for half a mile and turn right at the opening marked "Private Road." Pass through the gate which indicates "Members Only," and carry on to the field bearing the sign "Out of Bounds." This brings you to another field marked "W.D. Property." When you have crossed this, take the lane where you see the notice "No Public Thoroughfare," and cut across the pretty meadow on your right, past the signboard "Trespassers will be Prosecuted." To return, hold this article to a mirror and you will get the route reversed. If anyone stops you on the journey tell them they can't do a thing to you. If they don't, you're right.

Ex C.M.S. G. C. Murphy, D.C.M.

A host of serving and retired Corps members will learn with regret of the death of ex C.S.M. George Cornelius Murphy, D.C.M., late Irish Guards, and one of the best known Chelsea Pensioners, with his nine-inch moustache and chest of medals. For many years the "Signals" tailor, an Alderman on the Richmond Council and chairman of the Roads Committee, his interest in Corps matters was always manifest and he never lost the opportunity of attending the annual reunion.

A grand old soldier indeed.

Gardening . . .

Confessions aren't easy to make, but I must say I was somewhat shaken out of my normal lethargic approach to gardening—and as you *are* regular readers you will remember my wisecrack in the September issue that "There's one thing about gardening, if you leave it long enough eventually it's too late"—when I attended the first general meeting of the Catterick Garrison Horticultural Society at the beginning of the month.

I'm not quite certain just what it was that stirred me—perhaps it was the various displays, maybe it was the real "down to earth" atmosphere or maybe it was seeing the G.O.C. Northumbrian District (Major-General H. Murray), Officers and other ranks from the Staff and Regiments in Catterick mixing together in a common love for flowers, shrubs and vegetables, and all things pertaining to gardening. Oh! Maybe so many things, but I came away after a memorable evening secure in the knowledge that this society will be a force in both local and country horticultural circles and that its permeating enthusiasm will ensure colour and beauty and practical utility in the Catterick gardens.

A happy thought indeed for Coronation year.

Should mention that a Brains Trust introduced by the President (Deputy Commander, Brigadier Grant), and comprising Lieutenant-Colonel G. H. Starr and Major Ernie Nash, of 3 Training Regiment, and Messrs. Downs and Brown was a terrific success.

And now! Where's my fork and spade . . .

Combined Operations

IT is well known that a factor which played an important part in the success of the Allies in the last war was the excellent combination of all three Services in "Combined Operations" throughout the campaign. Perhaps the best example of this was shown in the Normandy Invasion, but it was none the less essential during the evacuation from Dunkirk, the Sicily landings and during Commando raids.

In Torquay, South Devon, a peacetime combined operation is being carried out with equal success—with the full co-operation of ex-Servicemen and women from many different Units of the three Services. Eleven ex-Service Organisations, as listed below, have formed the Torquay Combined Ex-Service Club. They have established their headquarters in a large club with a full-time steward and facilities for holding meetings. The premises are licensed, with facilities for darts and billiards, and there is a live social committee which arranges regular social activities for all the members. The annual membership fee for anyone who is also a member of their Regimental Association is only 2s. 6d., while an ex-Serviceman who does not support his own association and is unable to show a membership card has to pay 7s. 6d. per annum to become a member.

But let me start at the beginning. The idea of such a club was born in 1943 when Mr. F. W. Brain, chairman of the local branch of the British Legion and County Welfare Officer, suggested to the public that such a club would be of very great value when Servicemen returned home after the war. The response to this suggestion was good and a fund was started which finally reached the total of £3,000 but, in addition, the town collected several thousands of pounds for the "Homecoming Fund," which was used to provide each returning ex-Service man or woman with either a wallet, with the borough crest, or a wall plaque to commemorate the victory. After this was done there remained a balance of a little over £1,400. After many suggestions had been advanced, it was finally decided that this should go in the Combined Ex-Service Club Fund.

Mr. Brain then found and purchased a suitable building that had been a fire service dormitory during the war—but was now vacant. An administrative committee was formed consisting of two representatives from each ex-Service organisation in the town, with Mr. Brain as chairman. This committee succeeded in disposing of all the initial difficulties, with one exception. It had been originally planned to provide each organisation with a room of its own where their branch notices could be posted. Unfortunately, the necessary building permit could not be obtained and it was found necessary to compromise and provide each association with its own notice board in the main clubroom.

On 14th March, 1952, a large gathering, including all the Mayors throughout the war, was present when the town's Mayor officially opened the club premises. By the end of the week the club had a hundred and fifty members. Since then the club has grown and a recent statement revealed that there were now over three hundred members.

Many and varied have been the activities prepared by the social committee. These have included old time and modern dancing every Wednesday and Saturday evenings, coach trips, "music hall" turns, public dances at the local "Spa" Ballroom, and, most ambitious to date, the first annual dinner and dance of the club was held at a local hotel on 24th November, 1952. Some months ago a rule was passed that Servicemen of all nationalities should be honorary members and the club would provide somewhere for them to visit while in Torquay. This will be of particular value to the sailors of many nationalities whose ships regularly "drop anchor" in Torbay.

Torquay is a famous holiday resort, and the population is more than doubled by holidaymakers in summer. This makes the notice which is on display outside the club of particular interest to the thousands who visit Torquay from all over the world each summer. This states that "this club welcomes all ex-Service personnel and their wives, also visitors to Torquay and district and serving members of the Armed Forces." This invitation is perfectly sincere and any visitors to Torquay, particularly if they are ex-Service, and visitors of any nationality should make a point of visiting the club where they are sure to be made welcome and enjoy the congenial atmosphere.

One question often asked is: How has the club affected those organisations already affiliated and what effect has it had on other ex-Service clubs in the town? I am secretary of the local branch of the Royal Signals Association, and we were at once provided with a permanent place of our own where we could hold our monthly meetings. We had previously been reliant on the generosity of the Royal Naval Association and later on the hospitality of the Royal Engineers O.C.A., at whose clubs we held our meetings. While this was good, we noticed an immediate increase in the size of our meetings and attendance became more regular when we moved to premises we could call our own. This branch recently increased its importance when the Depot Regiment of the Royal Signals moved into barracks not far from the town; the personnel of this Regiment are constantly changing as men of the Royal Signals pass through before and after postings abroad. These men, who spend most of their spare time in Torquay, are able to spend it at the club, where they may take a friend during their off-duty periods.

When the club was opened there were already several ex-Service clubs in the town owned by the larger and more prosperous organisations. These included the Royal Naval Association, the Royal Engineers O.C.A., and the Royal Air Force Association, and, as might be expected, these clubs lost a little business when the bigger club opened—but the provision of a home for all the smaller organisations, such as my own, far outweighed this trifling disadvantage.

Organisations Affiliated

The Navy and Army Veterans, Old Contemptibles, British Legion, Royal Naval Association and Association of W.R.N.S., Royal Artillery Association, Royal Engineers O.C.A., Royal Signals Association, Royal Air Force Association, British Limbless Ex-Service Association, and Devonshire Regiment O.C.A.

THE BLUE BOOK

Seniority Roll of Warrant Officers and Non-Commissioned Officers of Royal Signals is now on sale

PRICE 2/-

from Royal Signals Association.

Commencing February with Corps Promotion Order No. 2, amendments will be published monthly in THE WIRE.

These will be printed in the same type as the book to facilitate alterations.

The Secretary, Mr. Les Hazelwood, shares a joke with the Chairman, Mr. F. W. Brain, while the steward is shown a copy of "New Era" by the author

Signal Training Centre

3 TRAINING REGIMENT

Happy New Year everyone, and we enter 1953 with a feeling of pride and with that "halo" firmly fixed. So many things contributed to that "chest out" feeling—firstly, the visit of the Director of Signals, who toured the Regiment at "Signal" speed but paradoxically enough found time to talk to both old 'uns and young 'uns and to be obviously impressed with the cheerful working atmosphere. It also transpired that the Director is the only senior Signals Officer who hasn't served under our T.O.T. (Major E. Nash)!

And happy indeed we were to welcome Brigadier H. Firth, the General-Secretary of the Royal Signals Association, who gave a warming talk to a large gathering of trainees and Cadre personnel. I needn't add that the membership figures for the S.T.C. North Branch took a bound upwards. Come again, please.

Add to these the highly successful visit of the G.O.C. Northumbrian District and you'll now understand our proud feeling. The General visited "everywhere" and saw "everything" in Bourlon and Aisne Lines and at Gallowgate. Here he was particularly interested in the recently installed other ranks' television projector room.

The basketball team, under the enthusiastic leadership of Second-Lieutenant P. Blacklaws, has progressed to the third round of the Army Cup, and outstanding performers have been S.S.M.I. J. Wootton and Signalman E. Fackrell (of Olympic trials fame). The indoor rifle shooting team, under Lieutenant N. Grayson, move steadily to the top league places, and confounded O.C. H.Q. Squadron (Major J. Matthewson) in beating the Royal Northumbrian Fusiliers team!

More about hockey, squash, Rugby and football teams next month—but I should state we continue to upset the critics with that odd win or two.

We end on a very sad note, recording the death of a highly popular ex-member of the Regiment, Captain D. Sullivan. A keen training officer and all-round sportsman, his loss is a tragic one and the sympathy of everyone in the Regiment goes out to his widow.

6 (Boys) Training Regiment

(Courtesy: Hull Daily Echo

ON the 27th October, 1952, the Regiment was honoured by the visit of the Representative Colonel Commandant, Major-General R. F. B. Naylor, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C.

Unfortunately, owing to a steady deluge of rain, the customary ceremonial parade could not be held.

On the 25th November, 1952, the Regiment was honoured by the visit of the Director of Signals. On that occasion, in place of the customary ceremonial parade it was decided to hold a Trooping of the Regimental Standard. This Standard is an adaptation of the one presented at the Royal Signals Association reunion at Catterick in June 1952.

It was a bold step to move from a parade without arms to a full Trooping ceremony, but the response of the Boys to this more complex ceremonial was such as to justify these ambitions, and earn for themselves the congratulations of the Director. No training staff had any part in the parade, Officer appointments being taken by Boy W.O.s and N.C.O.s. It is believed that this is the first time a Boys Regiment has attempted such a ceremony.

One constant difficulty in the past has been to provide a training programme which could accommodate boys of all ages who would stay with the Regiment for varying periods of time and leave at any stage of a term's training in which they became seventeen and a half. Considerable satisfaction is therefore felt with a new arrangement which takes effect from next term, whereby output to man's service is limited to one at the end of each term and each Boy must stay for a minimum period of one year with the Regiment, regardless of his age.

Such an arrangement will facilitate all training and particularly the educational studies which cannot conveniently be planned on less than a one-term cycle. It is particularly fortunate too that this arrangement shall come at this stage when Boys are beginning to sit for external examinations. This term, for the first time in the history of the Regiment, four Boys sat for the General Certificate Examination of London University, and it is hoped that a General Certificate class will now become a permanent feature in the training programme.

With the approach of the end of term it is possible to review our progress in the winter sports competitions. The reputation of the Regimental boxing team, which is already considerable, appears likely to rise to greater heights this year. Training began early and contests within the Regiment were followed by a meeting with the Hull Boys' Clubs. These clubs provide the strongest local opposition, and our success in winning by a narrow margin was felt to augur well for our chances in the Boys Northern Command Championships. These championships were held on the 9th December, 1952. It was a triangular contest between the Army Apprentices School, Harrogate, The Boys Infantry Battalion, Tuxford, and ourselves. Of 10 contestants from this Regiment, nine reached the finals, the evenual result being Beverley 51 points, Harrogate 42 points, Tuxford 27 points. Thus the Championship Shield, on its first presentation, comes to this Regiment.

The Cadre Rugby team has provided the other most notable success of the winter. Two seasons ago it was almost impossible to raise a team. Last year saw a modicum of success. This year the team is so far unbeaten. Against the Officers' Training Wing, 5 and 3 Training Regiments, and a Training Regiment, R.A.C., apart from matches with various R.A.F. teams, an impressive list of wins has been recorded, and each by a wide margin of points. In the quarter finals of the Army Cup, and the third round of the Northern Command Cup, we are drawn against 1 Training Regiment or a Medium Regiment, R.A.

It is unfortunate that lack of funds for travelling limits the scope of the Boys' Rugby team. Against local boys' teams they have met with considerable success, and it is felt they should now have the opportunity of meeting the stiffer opposition such as public schools will provide.

Evening activities, which play so large a part in the winter programme, have followed the usual course. The only new development is in the Radio Club which has now received its amateur licence and been allotted the call sign G310G. Contact has so far been made with only a few Corps members, but improved equipment is expected early in the New Year, when it is hoped our field of contacts will be widened.

On the 6th December, 1952, a canteen for the use of the Boys of the Regiment was opened in Beverley. This is run by the W.V.S. in a hall loaned for the purpose by the local branch of the Toc H, and is open at the week-ends only. The need for such a facility has been felt for some time, and we are deeply indebted to the generosity of those people who have now made it possible.

Our continuing good relations with the people of Beverley is cause for considerable satisfaction. It is perhaps inevitable that the odd individual should not live up to the repuation of his fellows, but the behaviour and bearing of the Boys when off duty really received the most favourable comments in the local Press. Such comment not only enhances the reputation of the Regiment now, but also sets a standard for the future.

(Courtesy: Hull Daily Echo

Royal Signals and Light Aircraft

THE Director of Signals' exhortations to members of the Corps to train as pilots for light liaison flights produced a number of Officer and N.C.O. volunteers during 1951. By the end of 1951 the Corps had produced as many Officers as it felt able to spare and some names were placed on a waiting list pending the return of some pilots to Regimental duty.

A short report on the activities of those who are flying, up to November, may be of interest.

All Officers and N.C.O.s, after acceptance, carry out a flying training course at the Light Aircraft School, a part of the R.A.F. Station, Middle Wallop. This course takes about nine months, during which time approximately 150 hours are flown in Tiger Moths and Austers. At the same time a comprehensive range of ground subjects are taught on both the R.A.F. and Army side, to produce the graduate liaison pilot. On completion of the course, pilots are seconded or attached to the Glider Pilot Regiment. Hence the fact that no liaison pilots are seen wearing Corps badges.

The ex-Signals members of the Glider Pilot Regiment are Major G. H. Wotton, B.A.O.R., Captain V. K. Metcalf, Malaya, Lieutenant F. S. Lister, Malaya, Lieutenant R. C. Roberts, U.K., Sergeant S. Mousley, Malaya.

All light liaison flights are at present equipped with Auster Mk. VIs, which are not entirely suitable for the role. It is hoped that in due course better fixed wing aircraft and possibly helicopters will be introduced into the service.

Liaison flights carry out all forms of light aircraft missions except Air O.P., although in Korea even that is included in their repertoire. The principle forms of activity are communication flying, casualty evacuations, reconnaissance and, when the Corps remembers it, A.D.L.S.

THE HISTORY OF *British Army Signals* IN *The Second World War*

By **Major-General R. F. H. NALDER**, *C.B., O.B.E.*

THIS book is not only the best of good reading, it is the very first full-scale book on the history of Royal Signals ever published. The 1939-46 War was indeed the first major war in which Royal Signals (as such) has fought.

General Nalder's object has been to review the progress of Royal Signals both in organisation and in technical progress rather than to attempt in one volume a detailed chronological history of the several separate campaigns.

The first four chapters are devoted to the years before 1939 and to an outline of the main campaign in various theatres of war, giving in outline only the organisational and technical developments which were necessitated by the considerable variation in terrain and type of warfare.

Chapters V to XVII each deal with a specific aspect of the problem, progressive in its intensity, which was faced and conquered by Royal Signals during the war.

A chapter on Anglo-American co-operation leads neatly to one dealing with direction and control.

Organisation and manpower introduces that indispensable adjunct, the Auxiliary Territorial Service and the Women's Royal Army Corps.

The hub of the whole volume at Chapter IX traces the very great development in signal systems and traffic handling and this is followed by chapters analysing the development in each method of intercommunication.

There is a chapter on anti-aircraft communications and on combined operations.

The vexed question of provision and distribution of equipment is discussed and the development of training establishments to meet the varying and growing needs of the more skilful tradesmen also has its chapter.

General Nalder's book reads easily; is the complete guide to knowledge, and will be part of the essential equipment of every Officer and Senior N.C.O.

Space does not permit THE WIRE to do justice to it in the few pages allowed in any one month. Further and more detailed reviews of this historic volume will appear in successive months.

Those who are old will remember "The Signal Service in the European War of 1914 to 1918 (France)," by Major R. E. Priestley, M.C., B.A., but that was written when we were Royal Engineers.

It is repeated that General Nalder's is the first of what we hope will be a series of volumes giving the real history of Royal Signals.

Royal Signals Institution, c/o Gale and Polden, Ltd., post free, 17s. 6d.

7 TRAINING REGIMENT

The Director of Signals visited the Regiment on 26th November, 1952. He took the Pass-Off Parade of Five Troops of the Regular Squadron before inspecting the National Service Squadrons.

On the following day, the G.O.C.-in-C. Northern Command came to present the British Empire Medal to Sergeant J. Christie. The presentation took place in front of a parade, four hundred strong, composed of recruits and trained soldiers, both Regular and National Service. The Regiment felt extremely proud of Sergeant Christie on this day; he won his award overseas for great gallantry in retrieving the body of a British Officer under very heavy fire.

With the posting of Captain P. A. Higgins, K.O.Y.L.I., the Regiment has lost a very great friend. He joined 7 Selection Regiment (as it was then called) upon its formation in 1948, and the Corps owes him a debt of gratitude for his loyalty and hard work. He has gone to M.E.F. for E.R.E. employment. Two S.S.M.s have also left. S.S.M. S. Parker has gone to Cyrenaica and S.S.M. A. Parish to Korea. The Regiment wishes these three the very best of luck. S.S.M. Parker was presented with the L.S. and G.C. medal before he left.

The Regiment congratulates R.S.M. H. Carr upon his elevation to Lieutenant Quartermaster. He is shortly to go to M.E.F. His work in this Regiment has been of the very highest order and his departure is a great loss.

Major P. A. Toombs and Major R. White have joined the Regiment and have assumed command of Nos. 1 and 4 Squadrons respectively. Two new W.O.s have arrived,

(Courtesy: S.T.C. Studio

The Director of Signals shaking hands with R.S.M. H. Carr, of 7 Training Regiment, during his visit in November

(Courtesy: S.T.C. Studio

The G.O.C.-in-C. Northern Command presenting the B.E.M. to Sergeant J. Christie, of 7 Training Regiment. On the left is the C.O., Lieut.-Colonel J. P. North, M.B.E.

W.O.II W. Lloyd, Chief Clerk, and W.O.II G. Rockall, S.S.M. 5 (Regular) Squadron.

The Regimental soccer and hockey teams are doing extremely well this season. The soccer team has reached the last sixteen in the Army Cup and is still in the Command and District Competition.

The hockey team, who are holders of the District Cup, have again reached the final of this competition and are to play 65 Training Regiment, R.A.C., on 17th December, 1952. With 15 points out of a possible 18 and 22 goals against 4, the hockey team also hopes to win the District League championship. The rugger team has won nine out of twelve matches. They are due to play in the semi-final of the District Cup as soon as the grounds thaw a little, and hope to reach the final.

EASTERN COMMAND SIGNAL REGIMENT

The Christmas season is nearly on us, and in the next week we entertain the children of the Regiment to tea, hold an advance dinner for the men, and an all ranks' Christmas dance. Blotting paper collars are being issued to all Officers and Sergeants for the 17th, when an inter-Mess games tournament is fixed. S.S.M. Finch regards this occasion as a final run through before he goes on his pre-release course in beer drinking.

A noteworthy addition to the amenities of Warren Camp is the recently opened Quiet Room in the NAAFI. Perhaps the word "quiet" is a misnomer, for one of the principal features is a large television set which dominates one half of the room. Lolling back in the depths of an easy chair, Signalman Dogsbody now waves his cigarette holder airily, presses the bell for the R.S.M. (Duty Wine Waiter) and gazes earnestly at "Renfrew of the Mounties." Entrusted with the task of keeping the NAAFI in gleaming trim, Signalman Moore can be seen most mornings trailing horizontally from the handle of a monster floor polishing machine which in common with most other things in the camp seems to be constantly chasing the NAAFI staff.

Despairing of any outside action to create a soccer pitch in the camp, we have fallen back on local resources. Messrs. Smitherman, Smith and Brockman, well-known Warren Camp contractors, have been called in. Using a succession of weird instruments, one of which bears a startling resemblance to a cable plough, they have levelled hills, mole, clipped tussocks, grass and captured our imagination by the daring erection of sets of goal posts. When the soccer team has recovered from its present pulverised condition it is hoped to lead it gently by the hand to our new creation and there start lessons from scratch.

PLAIN TALES

With Greetings from Barleux

For Your Diary

I SUPPOSE there will always be people who never really grow up. People who like to create a sensation, perform some extraordinary feat or be first with the news, good or bad, real or false. Without such people it might perhaps be an uninteresting sort of world. That is a question for another time. Right now, I am a little annoyed with one or two dismal souls who are going about telling anyone likely to be impressed that Mercury House, Colwyn Bay, has been closed. This is false news. Mercury House, Colwyn Bay, was occupied by guests throughout November and December, including Christmas week. There will be guests in January. Several reservations for the summer of 1953 have already been confirmed. As I write, you probably have fog, snow or ice or even all three. Colwyn Bay has none of them. If more people could visit Mercury House, Colwyn Bay, in May, June and October, the rumour that it is to close will perish. July, August and September will take care of themselves. Every nook and cranny will be filled, not to mention every room. You would be surprised at the number of people who demand crannies.

It is your house! Why not use it?

Catching-Up Plan

Many of us who have left the Service eventually become very much behind with our knowledge of what makes the wheels go round. We do not see A.C.I.s or Command Orders and are likely to miss such interesting items as a change in the number of buttons on the cuffs of cooks' jackets or the introduction of a Service pattern TV set.

Occasionally we find that the National Press goes to town on some little Army matter, but as these mostly concern soldiers who play football for foreign teams or wives who refuse to vacate their quarters they have only a passing interest. What we want is a regular article by a serving member of the Royal Signals to keep us in the picture. For all we know, there may have been an order about saluting. Does a soldier passing between two Officers have to salute with both hands? Could it be that Army Forms B.108 have been abolished and that Quartermasters and their customers rely on a gentleman's agreement in the matter of returning stores? Nothing would surprise us. Some of the old R.E. Signals still talk about forming fours. They must be brought up to date. One even thought that a modern Orderly Officer was interested when he called "Any complaints?" He should know that 1953 complaints go through Members of Parliament. So many soldiers can write now. I rather like the American idea of giving every soldier a day off on his birthday. The Regiment should gather round him and sing "Happy boithday to yew." That should cure him of birthdays.

Those Flying Years

Talking of writing, which we weren't, but who cares, I have always wanted to say how much many of us enjoy the all too infrequent articles by Bee Wickerson. They are particularly useful to people likely to be posted to West Africa, but that is only a part of the interest. The sort of column that Bee writes would have been extremely useful in the days when we had families going to India. How many times have we heard them say: "If only we'd known." They used to bring all the wrong things and leave behind articles costing double the price in the bazaar. But there, we shall be delving into the past again if we are not careful. After all, what pleasanter occupation than remembering the highlights of other days? How can one forget kissing the Adjutant's wife on New Year's Eve at the Narbudda Club? Who wants to forget, anyway?

Uncle Alf: "The lady might."

Me: "Oh, I don't know. I had front teeth in those days."

Our Book Corner

"Algiers to Austria," by Cyril Ray. The history of the 78th Division. A fascinating story which you must read if you ever wore the battleaxe sign. On page 133 you will find a reference to Signallers. They appear to have done some good work, but at this stage (the breaking of the Gustav Line) have not attained capital letter status. I will read on. Perhaps before the Division reaches Udine the author will discover that 78th Division boasted some Royal Signals who actually started from Stirling and Bannockburn. When I say "boasted" I mean just that. This grand book must go in your library if you were serving in the 78th Division. THE Division.

Great Tram Line Mystery

Ukann Larfe sat at his table in the Cafe Chaud Chein and toyed with a pint glass of rum. He was worried. Lord Elpas had walked out on him in a most exasperating manner. Go fry an egg indeed. What did he know of frying eggs? His foot bumped into a heavy obstruction under the table. He looked down. Yes, there they were. Tram lines, shimmering in the glare of the cafe lights. Lord Elpas must have forgotten them in his hurry to get away with the message.

Uncle Alf: "What message?"

Me: "Shut up. You should be a regular reader."

Ukann Larfe whipped out his magnifying glass and inspected the tram lines closely. "H'm," he muttered, "no trams. That's significant." Suddenly he stiffened. The blood receded from his face. Nobody knows where it went. He clapped a hand to his forehead. The accordionist misunderstood and did an encore. Ukann Larfe cursed quietly in English. "Forgeries," he moaned, "spurious tramlines."

A dark haired girl came and sat at the detective's table. He looked at her miserably. He looked at her again. She was exquisitely lovely in spite of the tears in her eyes. Her magnificent evening dress was a racing model. It clung round the bends. Ukann Larfe looked at her again. "*Garçon*," he roared, "*encore deux rhum* and step on it." He thought it was a good thing that he spoke French. He thought he didn't mind about Lord Elpas and his phoney tramlines.

He stopped thinking, but not before he had wished himself a happy New Year.

BARLEUX.

Anti - Aircraft Command

APOLOGIA

The extraordinary lapse due entirely to the pre-Christmas rush (spirit) by which on page 299 of the December WIRE *three lines of print were removed from the notes of 1 A.A. (M) Signal Regiment and inserted quite ungrammatically in the notes of 2 A.A. (M) Signal Regiment is deeply regretted.*

*

1 A.A. (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT

At the end of last month the Unit held a Regimental Week-end. It started with some earnest sport in an inter-Troop six-a-side hockey and soccer competition with all the necessary dash and vigour. This we attribute to keenness and discount the cynic who suggests it was merely an effort to keep warm in the bitterly cold weather which persisted during the week-end. In the hockey, 1 Line Maintenance Troop met R.H.Q. Troop in the final. Both sides had made comfortable progress in the earlier rounds, but R.H.Q. Troop won this match convincingly and deservedly by 7—0.

3/4 Line Maintenance won all their soccer games without much difficulty, and finally won the competition by beating 1 Squadron H.Q. Troop 9—0. R.H.Q. Troop gained another success in winning the W.R.A.C. Squadron's rounder tournament.

The Orsett Branch of the Royal Signals Association introduced the "Exceldas Concert Party," who gave their talents willingly in the evening to produce a lively show, which seemed to put everyone in the mood for the successful Regimental dance which followed. Not to be outdone in this sphere, at the Association's tea-dance the next day an impromptu concert was raised. While the performers might have appreciated a little more warning, some rehearsal and the withdrawal of the Association Committee's Press-gang, the audience enjoyed their efforts and, more probably, their discomfort!

*

Captain S. W. Millen has left the Regiment for the Depot, and we wish him very good luck and hope that his health will improve. Captain Hall has dumbfounded us after the pleasant things we said about him in the issue before last, by staying with us, temporarily, at least. Those things now are no less true; we hope that he will not be lost to us or the Corps yet.

The soccer team has had some success, while the hockey team still has difficulty in finding a reliable forward line. Lieutenant W. S. Dawson is again playing hockey regularly for the Corps team this season, and was chosen for an Essex XI on 3rd December, 1952. It is said he has taken to saving goals with his head—a novel departure possibly, but interesting and a testimony to so many things. We suspect that W.R.A.C. Squadron will soon produce a hockey XI; applaud them more and wish it every success.

Congratulations to Signalman Logan on being chosen to play for England in the Youth' International Soccer Match v. Wales at Portsmouth on 20th December. Signalman Logan's boyhood dream will be fulfilled on that day of playing at Fratton Park and gaining a full England Cap.

We wish him a successful game and, indeed, his Troop, Squadron and Unit are proud that such an honour should come his way.

5 A.A. (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT

Since last writing, the Regiment has been settling down for winter training and consolidation courses for linemen, switchboard operators and drivers are in full swing. The first Potential N.C.O.s' Course for all Signal Regiments in A.A. Command has been successfully completed, and we hope that these students have returned to their Units budding sergeant-majors.

During our Regimental Week-end in November a very successful evening's entertainment was put on in the form of a variety inter-Troop concert competition. The standard of turns and presentation was extremely high and great credit goes to all concerned. This most successful venture has moved us to greater heights, and on 15th, 16th and 17th December the Theatre Club PRESENTS! "The Monkey's Paw" and "Five Birds in a Cage," including appropriate bill posters and booking arrangements.

*

We were very pleased indeed to receive a visit from Brigadier H. R. Firth, General Secretary of the Association. He put across very clearly to members of the local branch the extremely good work being done, and it is hoped his keenness is infectious.

On 3rd December, the Officers' Mess are having their annual cocktail party, when there will be a distinguished gathering.

We take this opportunity in wishing Sergeant Dee *au revoir* on his discharge from the Regular Army. He is taking up his duties again on a "T" Type Engagement with our sister Regiment, 15 A.A. (M) Signal Regiment.

B.A.O.R.

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

One of the joys of Army life is variety. The latest brand to cheer us on our way is the sight of numerous Officers carrying tomes of varying shapes and sizes, and burbling incoherently as they move from store to store diving into "dead sacks." The fun started when the President of the Stocktaking Board decided to make a physical check of Troop Stores without adequate warning. It reached a climax when one Troop Commander was heard to remark: "What's all this? I can't hold that number in my Troop. What are they, anyway?"

The Wireless Carrier Troops have disappeared into the snow for a week's exercise. They left barracks looking like baseball players in their new-type caps with huge peaks and ear-flaps. We hope that the hot tea prescribed by the M.O. was as effective as the rum we requested, otherwise there will be cases of frost-bite.

*

The Squadron teams are holding their own in the local soccer leagues and cups. The Unit rugger team, in spite of casualties, went down fighting in the Army Cup and in the Inter-Signals Cup. The Unit hockey team has struck form at the right moment and has disposed of a Royal Tank Regiment in the Army Cup and 2 L. of C. Signal Regiment in the Inter-Signals Cup. On current form they should go far in both competitions.

Have you ever heard of Army Signals? If not, now is your chance to learn. Buy THE WIRE regularly and see what each of our Squadrons say about themselves. As from next month they will take it in turn to provide our WIRE notes. My Biro is burned out!

11 ARMOURED DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT

This month our Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel T. G. V. Stephenson, O.B.E., has left us to take up a Staff Appointment at Headquarters Rhine Army. Colonel Stephenson came to the Regiment from 2nd Infantry Division two years ago when it was re-formed after a lapse of five years. To start from scratch and build an Armoured Divisional Signals which can play its role in the Division, both in its static location and in the field, is "quite something."

To Colonel and Mrs. Stephenson and family we say "Thank you," and our best wishes go with them to their new job.

The atmosphere at present is filled with the spirit of Christmas, and in addition to the usual parties—there seems to be one almost each night—members of the Regiment are helping or taking part in a Nativity Play and a pantomime as well as assisting the Padres with their arrangements for Christmas services.

*

As far as training is concerned we have the biggest drill and duties course ever and most tradesmen are either taking refresher courses or upgrading courses. Life on the square has come to a standstill, the snow having stopped work on our fine new parade ground. "Puffing Billy" makes quite a sorry sight standing out there covered with snow, and you can almost sense that he is chuckling with delight when he sees the R.S.M. standing on the edge of the parade ground wondering how much longer he must play second fiddle.

Sport, too, has suffered from the weather, but we have arranged a few games of rugger, at which we were not very good, and soccer, at which we managed to win a few games.

Equitation is becoming popular and there are twelve students doing a four months' course in the Riding School.

11 AIR FORMATION SIGNAL REGIMENT

December and, as you can imagine, we are busy tidying our "stores." We will finish the year with a clean sheet and face the new with confidence.

Speaking of "stores," we regret we have to say goodbye to Robbie (Captain (Q.M.) Robertson), who is returning to U.K. this month. The hockey team loses a first-class half-back, but we have been very lucky in having posted in Captain (Q.M.) Don Banham—remember him on the frontier?—he tells us he made the roads so that the rest of us could move up in comfort.

In the sporting world we are keeping our end up nicely.

The boxing team were in the final of the Lubbecke District Challenge Cup and were just beaten by 37 Army Engineer Regiment. A first-class final and R.S.M. Irvine and the team are now looking forward with confidence to the Royal Signals (B.A.O.R.) and the 2 T.A.F. championships.

In all other sports we are "well up," as the following tables show:—

Hockey: Played 9, Won 8. 41 against 16.
Soccer: Played 9, Won 6. 23 against 16.
Cross Country Run: 3 Won 2.
.22: Unbeaten.

Thanks to the efforts of our Second-in-Command, Major W. Hammond, M.B.E., who has produced a stage which meets all the requirements of the C.S.E. for their "Top Shows," we are now "on circuit" and looking forward to first-class entertainment from the artistes touring B.A.O.R.

Congratulations go to our T.O.T., Lieutenant F. Gray, and Mrs. Gray on the birth of their son, Robert Alan, and to Sergeant and Mrs. Webb on the birth of their second child, Michael.

1 WIRELESS REGIMENT

The many activities within the Regiment have made yet another month pass rapidly.

The P.R.I., aided by a willing band of helpers, provided a very enjoyable evening's entertainment on Guy Fawkes day. Fireworks and bonfire "went down well": a very low temperature made the latter an even greater attraction than usual. It was obvious that the traditional "Fifth" celebrations, though primarily intended for the children, have staunch supporters among many adults—including some of the German population. A Remembrance Day Service, held in the Regimental Chapel, was packed to capacity—more than capacity, in fact, because a number of would-be congregation had to be turned away.

Among the many activities referred to above sport forms a large part. Soccer, Rugby, hockey and basketball announcements take up much of the notices space in Daily Orders. Inter-Troop games continue to be keenly contested, with the "Yolland" Cup as the ultimate prize.

Preliminary arrangements for an inter-Troop boxing competition have been made and the participants now eagerly (anxiously?) await the date of the contests.

Cross-country running (the "poor selection" among winter sports) began with an inter-Troop run in which Second-Lieutenant A. S. Robertson confounded all the critics—and even some who were not critics!—by coming in first of a field of 48. The pleasure that his immediate "promotion" to team captain gave him has since been damped by gratuitous and restrictive advice on training and diet—liquid as well as solid!

The Regiment's recruiting drive has met with a fairly promising initial response from Regulars wishing to extend their service; but unfortunately the same cannot be said of the results obtained with National Servicemen so far. However, it is early to judge yet, and we have registered a few National Service "possibles." The "competition" from civilian life seems to be strong, for there still appears to be a large number of vacant very lucrative jobs just waiting to be filled!

These notes would not be complete without reference to the recent departure of our T.O.T.—Major "Tom" Craggs—for U.K., after a long tour in B.A.O.R. and with the Regiment. He took with him every good wish from all ranks for the future of himself and Mrs. Craggs.

1 AIR SUPPORT SIGNAL UNIT

Since our last notes appeared the exercise season has really finished. Most of the Unit are now back in the classroom, hard at work on upgrading courses. Some sixty wireless operators are wrestling with the intricacies of wireless theory, drivers are delving even more deeply into the mysteries of the I.C. engine. All are in pursuit of knowledge and (of course) a little extra pay and possibly promotion.

We have had two very enjoyable exercises working through to 10 A.S.S.U. (T.A.) in Southampton. Working from Germany to tentacles, which are roaming the lanes of Hampshire, is rather fun.

*

We have also assisted at an R.A.F. "open day," which included a blood-chilling flying display. We are all for "close support" but a Meteor batting along a few feet in front of our faces at two to three feet height is a bit too "close" for our liking. You should have seen our aerials twitch.

The Unit Ham Club is now "radio-active" again. Our call sign, DL 2 PA, has been heard and answered from many parts of the world. They work most nights on the 20, 30 and 80 metre bands.

Our football and hockey teams have achieved few noteworthy successes, but this is not for want of trying. Their training runs at 7 a.m. in the snow are truly spartan.

2 L. OF C. REGIMENT

It is now nearly six months since R.H.Q. moved from Hamburg to Hilden, and the Regiment generally is beginning to settle down in its several very distant locations. 1 Squadron is spread out round Dusseldorf, 2 Squadron is north at Lubbecke, and 3 Squadron at Herenthals in Belgium, with one Troop at the Hook of Holland.

All this makes Regimental sport very difficult, but 2 Squadron has been doing fairly well in the Zeco Football League in the Bad Oeynhausen area. 3 Squadron is making arrangements for the move of S.H.Q. to a new building by the end of December, to mark the end of their first year in Belgium. With the move to new living accommodation expected in a month or two, all ranks are looking forward to the day when the Depot will be just a memory. Last month, the tour of the Representative Colonel Commandant, Major-General R. F. B. Naylor, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., began with a visit to 5 Training Operational Troop at the Hook, and he travelled with our C.O. to H.Q., B.A.O.R. Later on, we sent a contingent which, with one from 4 L. of C. Regiment, formed one of the Squadrons inspected by the Colonel Commandant on the Ceremonial Parade at Lemgo. We also had a contingent on the Remembrance Sunday Parade at the Rhine Centre, Dusseldorf, and Signals led the march past. The salute was taken by G.O.C. Rhine District.

SHAPE SIGNAL SQUADRON

Our photograph shows Sergeant Derham, Corporal Gracey, Corporal McBain and Corporal Shaw, of the Cipher Troop, who were flown to Oslo for Exercise Mainbrace. They spent, so they tell us, ten hectic days working with the Navy, doing Naval watches and trying to understand Naval terms. No other information is available other than that quoted in the Press, for they left it in Oslo behind the usual locked door

Middle East Land Forces

2 WIRELESS REGIMENT

The Unit rifle team once again gave the W.T.O. a chance to further his case for more and better weapon training by sweeping the board at the recent District Rifle Meeting. We won the District Challenge Cup, the Young Soldiers' Cup and the magnificent Lushington Trophy, in addition to 28 half and one pint pots—quite an effort in two days' shooting.

During the summer the "B" team (2 Squadron) won the Garrison Cricket Knockout Competition, whilst the "A" team (1 and 3 Squadrons) was beaten after a close struggle in the final of the Garrison League Competition. On a lower plane, "A" Troop (2 Squadron), with an unbeaten record, won the Inter-Troop League after a neck and neck race with 3 Squadron.

A novices' boxing competition was held on 29th November, when some very good bouts were witnessed by an enthusiastic crowd. Prizes were presented by Brigadier R. H. L. Oulton, O.B.E., Chairman of the Army Boxing Association, who had honoured the competition with his presence.

With the recent arrival of rain, Rugby is now flourishing, and in addition, is keeping the Medical Officer busy. There was at first a dearth of opponents, but of late matches have been played against Navy teams and against the R.A.F., who include a team of New Zealanders, all of whom appear (and feel!) at least 15 stone each.

Cycle racing, as represented by the Mercury Club, has come to stay, and we have now a branch of keen enthusiasts. Meetings have been held against the R.A.F., a Field Regiment Royal Artillery, and also a visiting team from the Canal Zone.

"Mercury Garden" was opened in September, one concert and one social being held before the closure for winter. Situated in H.Q. Camp, the garden will be used as an open-air cinema and as a dance hall. It will prove a boon to the Unit, which previously has lacked a satisfactory site for summer entertainment. It is already equipped with a stage and a projection box.

1 INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT

After a period of nearly one year we again appear in print. A lot of Divisional history has been made since the day when we were roughly dragged from our beds in Tripoli, one early winter morning, pushed on to aircraft and plonked down beside the DITCH. Subsequent happenings would take up more than our allotted space in these notes and must be subject matter for a separate article. Suffice it to say that the transition to the sandy wastes from the fleshpots has not been without incident. It was hard, but we now consider that we are fully qualified *jerboas*.

Those who knew the Regiment in Palestine days will be interested to know that some of the old guard are still with us—Captain K. A. Smith, Captain (T.O.T.) Locke, R.Q.M.S. Moore and S.Q.M.S. Allen. Join the Army and see the world!

Life, up to last February, was operational—the real stuff. Since the situation was restored we have been involved in a series of exercises. It is said that practice makes perfect.

Our last exercise before settling down to a spot of refurbishing and individual training, was Exercise "Triangles," an account of which appeared in *The Times* of 10th November, 1952. The Regiment, as an integral part of Ganoub (south, you Arabic scholars!) Force, acquitted itself very well indeed. "C" Cable Troop astonished the critics by producing clear bell-like speech over 26 miles of D8. Reeling-in was a bit difficult after a Centurian had travelled along a mile and a half of line leaving a stretch of pieces 8 inches long. All ranks worked with great enthusiasm, upholding the Corps motto. One umpire reported that "there was a lot of dust about."

Courses and indoor training are now the order of the day. OWLS, under the able guidance of Sergeant James, are "key bashing" daily. Many real enthusiasts burn midnight oil. Drivers are finding out "what makes it go." Linemen, having run through 100 miles of scheme cable, are now receiving treatment for calloused hands. They are also coping with a Division and Command rifle meeting. R.S.M. Butler is teaching a new batch of N.C.O.s the tricks of the trade.

In the realms of sport we are making up for lost time and hope to have some successes to report in our next issue. So it is darkly hinted from the hockey fraternity.

Sergeants' Mess. We must apologise to all ex-members of the Mess for failing to keep them in touch. Since our last submission we have many changes in the faces around us. We have lost most of our ex-Tripoli members, including R.S.M. Gay, R.Q.M.S. Willoughby and S.S.M. Jones, who left us early on in the year and are now installed in what we hope are "cushy" numbers. Norman (Sergeant Whitehead) bid us farewell recently and is now in U.K., keeping his fingers crossed and singing to himself the old theme song, "Me and My Shadow" (Rank).

We welcome to the fold our new R.S.M., W.O.I Butler, from 2 Agra Signal Squadron, and congratulate him on his promotion, also on his recent award of the "Rooty Gong." S.S.M. Hendry has also joined us from U.K., and we wish him luck with 1 Squadron. (Having only a short time left to serve, he appears to be taking full advantage of an unofficial pre-release course as a draughtsman.)

Congratulations to all our newly promoted, W.O.IIs McKay and Rose, also to "Ken" Allen on his promotion to S.Q.M.S.

Owing to having a tented Mess, our social activities are sadly curtailed, but we are watching a new Mess being erected and everyone is wondering what our capable entertainments commitee are going to pull out of the bag to start us off with. "Hendry's Follies" will, we understand, be present on the opening night with bellringers in attendance—Messrs. MacKay, Moore, James and White.

We have managed to scrape up a Mess hockey team and our initial effort is to be made, we understand, against the W.R.E.N.S. in the near future. After living as a male community for such a long period, some of our members can be heard practising such phrases as "I'm terribly sorry" and "Pardon me," "It didn't really hurt one little bit." It is also very surprising to note how many "Dicky Bows" have been dug up for the occasion.

Our Pay Sergeant, Sergeant Beattie, since his transfer to the R.A.P.C., seems to flourish his wallet a lot. We suspect it to contain stage money. Having now broken the ice as it were, we hope to be able to contribute regularly.

3 G.H.Q. SIGNAL REGIMENT

The swimming team rounded off the summer season by making a clean sweep of all team swimming and water polo events in the Canal Zone. This was a notable achievement and says much for the captaincy of Lance-Corporal Hill and the spirit of the team, since we have no outstanding water polo player, and Signalman Ashworth was our only outstanding swimmer.

The cricket season ended with many a pleasant friendly played in end of season mood. In one such game the Corporals dealt severely with the combined team of Officers and Sergeants. In spite of this some of them have now succeeded in gaining their third stripes.

And so, the sight of Signalman Clifford's left arm appearing like the sword from under the water to shoot goals; or of Corporal Cubbitt hitting a succession of sixes off the Officers' bowling, became memories, and we pass on to a strenuous and disjointed period with sadly depleted numbers. Some were away on exercises and schemes, while others of us were lucky enough to be on leave in Cyprus. We are not likely to forget such a pleasant leave for which the Army footed most of the bill. Nevertheless, we had little in our pockets when we returned. We gather, however, that those with family ties whose leave took them to U.K. returned with still less to their names.

Winter activities are now well under way. Without Sergeant Rees or Captain Prince, who are now in Catterick, and with only four who played last year, our Rugby team has had to be built afresh. We have no outstanding players,

3 G.H.Q. Signal Regiment Water Polo Team: S.Q.M.S. (F. of S.) Foakes, Lance-Corporal Hill, Captain G. Klosser (Royal Signals), Signalman Mitchell, Signalman Clifford, Corporal Urquhart, Signalman Ashworth

but a good and solid team, of which we have high hopes, is now formed round Lieutenant (T.O.T.) Marsh, the captain. The forwards are better than last year and potentially second to none in the Zone. Moreover, there is enthusiastic support from the touchline led by Sergeant Clements and the stentorian voice of S.S.M. French.

Meanwhile, a promising football team is forming round our capable skipper, Corporal "Jock" Hemphill, and under guidance of Major (Q.M.) Clarke.

Troop football and hockey leagues are keenly supported and provide an opportunity for the less expert to play, and a new football pitch seems to have grown overnight between 2 Squadron lines and the cookhouse. Talking of hockey, how did the Sergeants' Mess lose to a team of W.R.E.N.S. the other day?

Life in the Regiment is not all leave and games, however. Three shifts comprising the major part of the Regiment are between them hard at work, continuously keeping the wheels turning. We have said farewell to W.O.I (F. of S.) Thomas, whose work on the technical side was recognised by the well-earned award of B.E.M. this summer. We welcome R.S.M. Ulrich, who has joined us recently.

Cups and medals won by 3 G.H.Q. Signal Regiment, Swimming and Water Polo Team, Summer, 1952 (including Army Egypt Cups for both).

3 Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment

Back row: Sergeants Cast, Foreman, Staff-Sergeant Chandler, S.S.M.s Clarke, Stickells, Sergeants Dunn, Leech, Young, Waltham, Giles. Third row: Sergeants West (A.C.C.), Wood, Pottinger (R.E.M.E.), Scott (R.E.M.E.), S.Q.M.S. (F.o.S.) Wall, Sergeant Johnson, S.S.M.s Welsh, Whitbread, S.Q.M.S. Conlon, Sergeants Munden, Kilby, S.S.M. Dyer, Sergeant Staite. Second row: Second-Lieutenant Handley, Captain Holdway, Captain Seers (R.E.M.E.), R.S.M. Parry, Captain Prescott, Captain Stonham, Second-Lieutenant Young, Second-Lieutenant Auton. Front row: Captain Mallin, Captain Smith (A.D.C.), Captain (Q.M.) Rolls, Major Simmonds, Lieut.-Colonel Whistler (Commanding Officer), Major-General Sir Hugh Stockwell, K.B.E., D.S.O. (G.O.C.), Majors Jelf, Sheepshanks, Captain Willmott, Captain (T.O.T.) Bush, Captain Clapp

"AT last!" we can hear some of the old-timers say. We offer no excuse, but if anyone wants to prove the truth of "Join the Army and see the world" they are welcome to join us. Only the other day our C.O., Lieutenant-Colonel A. M. W. Whistler, was heard to say that if "J" Troop were not found soon it would mean another Court of Inquiry. It turned out afterwards that they had gone on the summer cruise with the Mediterranean Fleet!

However, to begin at the beginning. The Regiment started to form in the last days of November 1950 in Harwich Transit Camp under Major W. E. Jelf, as acting C.O., Captain Maclean, as Adjutant, and R.S.M. Ogden. The Brigade and Gunner Troops were scattered in Colchester, Dover, Maidstone, and even Troon in Scotland, but by March 1951, when the C.O. first arrived, the Regiment was almost complete. We had started to do Squadron training and were beginning to know our respective jobs when, in April, we were called upon to play a major part in the formation of the Commonwealth Divisional Signal Regiment. Personnel for the new Unit were posted into Harwich Transit Camp from all over Europe, and a large proportion of our own personnel were cross-posted. Our vehicles and equipment were lent them for training and we fed and administered them for their month's stay in Harwich. We were delighted to have them with us, but when they left in May, after a big parade and guest night, we had to start re-forming ourselves. The next few months were so crowded that it is only possible to give a tabular summary of our activities:—

1951

May—Our newly-joined personnel were plunged straight into spring manoeuvres—Exercise "Try-back"—Norfolk to Aldershot and return.

June—Assistance to T.A., from Norfolk to Kent, and Brigade exercises.

July—Exercise "Red Spider" in Chester and Wales, carried out three times in succession with 50, 51 and 53 (T.A.) Divisions and their "Z" Reservists. In Harwich we had 23 (S) Corps Signal Regiment and in Felixstowe 61 Army Signal Regiment (T.A.) and their "Z" Reservists.

August—Move to the Stamford P.T.A. for the Division concentration lasting six weeks. Joined there by "Z" Reservists (our own this time) for Exercise "Hammer and Tongs" in Essex, Suffolk and Norfolk.

September—The great trek south to the Autumn Manoeuvres, U.K., 1951. Exercise "Merry Widow," when we forced a crossing over the Thames.

October—From the Reading area to Crookham, and thence to Exercise "Surprise Packet," which finished up on Salisbury Plain. A surprise packet it certainly turned out to be, for at the last Divisional Commander's conference "J" Troop and "E" Troop were given 10 days' notice to move to the Middle East and the rest of the Regiment were warned a few days later. Incidentally, at the final conference the Regiment was also given a thoroughly good chit for its performance on manoeuvres.

November—First "J" and "E" Troops left for Tripoli by air, and then the rest of the Regiment began leaving for Cyprus in aircraft carriers, M.T. ships, stores ships and by air. Only the S.S. *Porlock Hill* actually sank—and had she got a lot in her.

December—"L" Troop went almost directly into the Canal Zone and "J" and "E" Troops were lost somewhere between Tobruk, Homs, Derna and Tripoli. The rest of us wintered under canvas in Cyprus, where we suffered from hurricanes and floods (who said it was a sunny island?).

1952

After that we began moving by bits and pieces to join "L" Troop in the Canal Zone, and your scribe's mind becomes confused with sand, so we will leave the diary form and start again.

We loaded and unloaded, got into and out of ships and aircraft, and Troops moved hither and thither. Sometimes the planes or vessels moved, and sometimes they stayed put and we got out again. By March we had "K" Troop at El Ballah, "L" Troop in Tek, "J" Troop in Derna and Tobruk, "G" Troop in Cyprus, "E" and "X" Troops in the U.K., and R.H.Q. and 1 Squadron in Moascar (ever heard of North Camp?). One Signalman told our G.O.C. that it was not as bad as Harwich Transit Camp—true-bill). Later in the summer, when we had learned to find our way about by compass, we started looking for "J" Troop, who had got lost again. They turned up in Malta, from whence they found themselves sailing to various parts of the Mediterranean with the Royal Navy. We understand they became sensitively responsive to such eloquent orders as "away barge," "face outboard and salute" and "up spirits," especially the latter.

Now, believe it or not, our peregrinations have started again in reverse. H.Q. 2 Squadron and "H" Troop left for the U.K. in July and were followed by "L" Troop in September.

Lieut.-Colonel Whistler and Captain Unwin at El Mekili

To offset that, "J" Troop have rejoined the Unit and are in Tek. Shortly after they arrived we were plunged once more into the vortex of autumn manoeuvres and spent three weeks in the Gebel country (mountains to the uninitiated) between Suez and Cairo. We were locked in confused battle with 1 Division and, although no one dared to give a decision as to who won, everyone agreed that Signals worked very well.

Now, after two years of life, we reckon to be pretty adaptable chaps. We have painted barbed wire blue and white (for one inspecting officer), have moved dumps of rusty tins from one part of the desert to another (Operation "Vim" to clean up Egypt!) and are experts, through long practice, at striking tents of all shapes and sizes and putting them up in straight lines somewhere else. In fact, all we can't claim to have achieved is much distinction in the sporting world (though perhaps 3 L. of C. Signals might disagree!), but you can hardly blame us for that. Next time you hear from us we may have a different story to tell. No moves and lots of games results. But we are still hoping for just one more big move first.

It has been almost a fantastic two years, in which we have formed, trained, re-formed, re-trained and trained others, and been almost continuously on the move. One thing has been outstanding throughout, and that is the co-operation and help of all ranks with whom we have worked and been "lodgers," and of those senior Officers, ex-members of 3 Infantry Divisional Signals of the old days, who have helped us re-form this famous old "Div. Sigs." As a measure of our debt, when we came to thank all C.S.O.s and their staffs under whom we had worked, the list worked out as follows: Eastern, Western, Southern and Scottish Commands at home, and M.E.L.F., B.T.E., Cyprus, Cyrenaica, Tripolitania and Malta. What a pain in the neck this lusty youngster must sometimes have been to them, and to the War Office, Records and S.T.C., but we hope they feel their work has been worth while: it has certainly been appreciated.

2 AGRA SIGNAL SQUADRON

By the time this edition is published the New Year will be well and truly "in," so first of all, it is only fitting for us here at 2 Agra Signal Squadron to wish all members of the Corps a very happy and perhaps even prosperous New Year. The grim and sordid details of our Christmas orgies cannot be released yet due to our time of writing, but watch out in the February edition for the real juicy scandal of "Christmas Abroad." The main point of interest during the last month has been the visit of the Director Royal Artillery who, on his tour of all Gunners in the Middle East, honoured us with a brief but businesslike inspection. As we were the only Signal Unit he was to visit we tried to uphold the tradition of the Corps by "having a previsit clean-up," and on the day all that could be seen was the yellow of the sand, white from the whitewash and the red from the appropriate retinue of "brass hats."

*

On the sporting side our liaison (after much duress) with the Gunners, to form a Unit hockey side, has proved highly successful, and we now find ourselves in the semi-final of the Knock-Out Cup Competition. Football, too, under the masterly guidance of Corporal Avenall, has been making great progress, and our scores at the moment stand as: Won 7, lost 1 (ruefully, we must admit, to the Gunners).

Before closing, we must bid farewell to S.Q.M.S. Hesketh and family who has, at long last, departed for a post in more temperate climates—Southern Command, he hopes.

TRIPOLITANIA SIGNAL SQUADRON

A comparatively young Unit, formed after the departure of 1 Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment from Tripoli in October 1951, we have made steady progress in all fields. We grumble about our small numbers and large commitments, but there is time to field a very promising football eleven which is pulling its weight well against much larger Units in the District League. We are also well represented in the Headquarters hockey and basketball teams. (The latter team won the District Cup.) Recently we formed a local branch of the Royal Signals Association, and our P.R.I. has sponsored several local dances.

Old soldiers will doubtless recognise some of our senior N.C.O.s' names—S.Q.M.S. Nock and S.Q.M.S. Otley, W.O.II Wagstaff, Sergeant Douce.

Although we are no longer administering the families left in Tripoli by the Divisional Signal Regiment, we still maintain a close association with them, and with the Regiment itself through the people we see here on leave from Egypt. This Christmas we held a children's party for all Royal Signals children in Tripoli.

These, we regret, are our first lines in THE WIRE, but we hope to be able to write more regularly in future, with greater details of our activities.

CYPRUS SIGNAL SQUADRON

Motor cycle trials have predominated in the island this last month. Our O.C., Major J. A. Waite, has been "head man" in all the organisation and planning of the Cyprus district and the more important Cyprus v. Malta motor cycle trials.

The Squadron again took first honours in the Cyprus District Trial, entering only one team of three riders. The team, led by Sergeant Young and consisting of Corporal Burford and Signalman Ripley, came first. Individual prizes: 1st, Signalman Ripley; 2nd, Corporal Burford; which is, I think, a very fine achievement.

The team of 12 chosen to represent Cyprus against Malta consisted of four riders from this Unit and Lieutenant R. Hirst, who also captained the team, Sergeant Young, Corporal Burford, Signalman Ripley and Signalman Humphrey. An additional rider from 2 Wireless Regiment, Lance-Corporal Cross, made up six Royal Signals riders, which shows the high standard of trials riding by Corps personnel. Although well beaten by the Malta team all riders gave a very creditable performance, even when dogged by the ill-luck of having three machines bursting into flames. During training Lieutenant Hirst's machine burst into flames five miles from any road capable of normal traffic. No doubt R.E.M.E. will be envious of the excellent phase II recovery by donkey, hired for the price of 5s. Unfortunately, no photographs were possible owing to strong security measures of this type of rescue work. The motor cycle riders have brought to the Unit 11 cups and a shield. Well done indeed.

Owing to our strength the Unit has combined with District Headquarters for most sports. The hockey team is sitting at the top of the league and boasts it will retain that position. Footballers are not doing so well but keep on plodding. We hope to be able to field our own teams for all games in the New Year. Signalman Bentley has played for Cyprus Combined Services soccer team, and Corporal Nuttall has had a trial for this side.

A great deal of work has been put into the "Swiss Cottage" (canteen) in preparation for the Christmas festivities. A carpet, curtains, some new chairs and occasional tables combined with the newly-painted walls makes the "Swiss Cottage" the envy of all visitors.

FARELF

H.Q., SINGAPORE BASE DISTRICT

November seems to be the month when most of one's spare time is spent in preparing well in advance for the festivities of Christmastide and the New Year.

Rehearsals for the Unit pantomime, "The Babes in the Wood," are also now at an advanced stage, and although most of the cast are beginners, we can look forward to a first-class show.

The main sporting event during November has been the Inter-Troop Boxing Championships. The whole affair had been in the capable hands of Major R. H. Farlow, M.B.E., and on the night of the finals we saw the results of his labours, some really worthwhile boxing.

R.H.Q. Troop won the Championship Cup with M.T. Troop a close second. Individual results were as follows:—

Flyweight: Lance-Corporal Cashim.
Featherweight: Lance-Corporal Allen.
Light Welterweight: Corporal Clarke.
Light Middleweight: Signalman Tait.
Light Heavyweight: Signalman Pole.
Bantamweight: Signalman Mamat.
Lightweight: Signalman Winnin.
Welterweight: R.S.M. Murray.
Middleweight: Signalman Wilkinson.

The Unit had the honour of entertaining the Signals Officers and N.C.O.s on H.M.T. *Hallidale* who were proceeding to Korea to join the Commonwealth Divisional Signals. It had been intended that having first suitably filled them with the "local waters" that they should all be shown something of the City of Singapore. The later part of the plan was somewhat spoilt by the fact that we had a torrential downpour during the afternoon so that movement in comfort outside either the Officers' or Sergeants' Messes was difficult; even so, the entertainment inside the Messes went on and the Unit has now had messages from Lieutenant-Colonel E. C. R. Blaker and the W.O.s and sergeants to say they enjoyed their few hours in Singapore with us. We, on the other hand, would like, through THE WIRE, to say how grateful we were for the opportunity of entertaining them.

19 AIR FORMATION SIGNAL REGIMENT

It is some time since we produced any news of Ceylon Squadron. Considering the Squadron is now the largest element of the British Army in that part of the world, we think it worthy of a little space.

For eighteen months now, Ceylon Squadron, no longer a "Private Army," has been under the wing of 19 Air Formation Signal Regiment. A preliminary period wherein stores could be obtained neither from M.E.L.F. nor FARELF, was followed by a period during which stores converged upon us from all quarters. Our cable-laying project has passed the half-way mark, our transport has been replaced, the switchboard has been rewired, a new battery installation is nearing completion, and our strength has decreased to some 60 per cent. of establishment.

In the field of sport we have been most successful, having won both the Football League and Football Cup, following this up by winning the Hockey League. Major Holliday has completed an unprecedented period as Vice-Commodore of the R.A.F. Sailing Club, while Captain Herbert is still Officer i/c R.A.F. Tennis, and managed to reach the finals of the R.A.F. Ceylon Open Doubles. Both Major Holliday and Lieutenant (T.O.T.) Dore are in continued demand as hockey umpires, and the Squadron has produced some 30 per cent. of every sports team which has represented the Station.

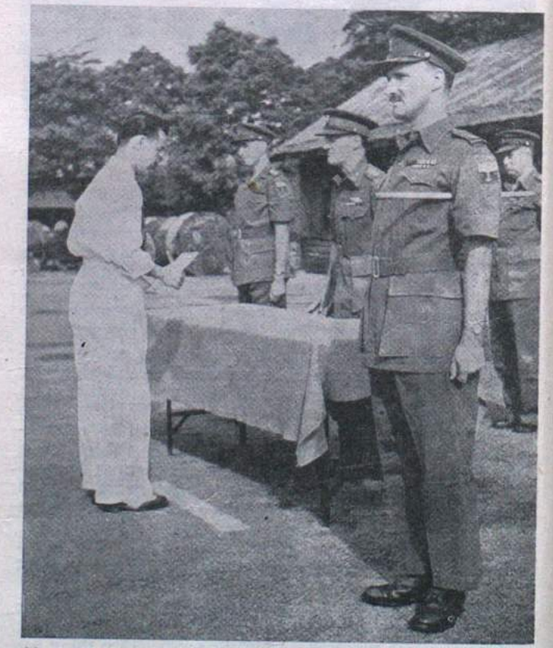
Here in Singapore we are also fielding a very strong hockey team. Statistics, in fact, are staggering. Out of eleven matches played we have won all matches, with a total of 74 goals for and 4 against.

* * *

We congratulate Mr. Heng Kheok Joo, our senior civilian clerk, on being awarded the Commander-in-Chief's Testimonial for good service. Many past members of the Regiment will remember Mr. Heng for his helpfulness, hard work and likeable personality—not to mention his excellent brew of tea!

Upgrading courses and trade testing boards are in full swing, and some very reasonable results are being obtained. 5 Wing Troop is becoming more and more mobile and its members are now venturing into the Ulu of Singapore—camping out and educating themselves in the art of cooking. We understand that Mrs. Beeton had nothing on our Malay Other Ranks!

Soon, a party of linemen will be flying to the remote island of Car Nicobar, to carry out a cable project there. But, who was the Officer visiting that island for the first time on a recce who took a hundred and fifty dollars to "buy presents?"



Mr. Heng Kheok Joo receives his Testimonial from Colonel C. D. Clapp

Australian Notes

SCHOOL OF SIGNALS
BALCOMBE, VICTORIA

THE School of Signals is established at Balcombe, Victoria, approximately 36 miles from the City of Melbourne, and four miles from the township of Mornington.

The Mornington Peninsular is a narrow neck of land, somewhat like a miniature of the South of Italy, which divides Port Phillip Bay and Western Port Bay. The tip of the peninsula faces Bass Strait, which divides Tasmania from the mainland of Australia.

The peninsula contains some of the loveliest country in Australia and is very like the South of England with its rolling green hills, broken by orderly rows of tall trees and orchards. The area is noted for its "gentleman farmers," who do not depend entirely on the productivity of the soil for their income.

Balcombe Camp, containing the School of Survey, the School of Signals and the Army Apprentices' School, is situated on the slopes of Mount Martha, which rises to a height of 520 feet. The top of Mount Martha is a National Park, and this, and the surrounding countryside, is ideal for the types of tactical and technical training given at the three schools. Nearby is Arthur's Seat, a mountain which rises to over 1,000 feet, and is named after the famous prominence overlooking Edinburgh in Scotland.

Within a mile of Balcombe Camp is the W.R.A.A.C. Barrack. This was a large and favoured guest house situated on the shore of Port Phillip Bay, and is used to house the W.R.A.A.C. personnel who perform administrative duties at the three schools, and for W.R.A.A.C. students of the Survey and Signals Schools.

History of the School of Signals

Prior to 1939, Signal training in Australia was organised on a Command basis, mainly because the Signals component of the Regular Army was small and comprised Cadres allocated to each C.M.F. (Territorial) Unit. There were at that time no Regular Signal Units.

In 1939, due to the demands of the war, the Australian Corps of Signals expanded rapidly, and an Army School of Signals was formed. The first Chief Instructor was the present Director of Signals, Colonel L. J. Bruton (then Captain).

As the Corps grew in strength various off-shoots of the School were organised. Some of these were: School of Signals A.I.F. (M.E.); 1 and 2 Signal Training Battalions; 1 and 2 Regimental Signallers Training Units; 1 Signal Training Battalion (A.W.A.S.); Central Signal Training Depot; Line Construction Group; Independent Signal Group; First Army School of Signals; and New Guinea Force School of Signals.

Later expansions provided many problems of accommodation, and the School moved many times to larger camp sites.

Finally, in August 1945, the move to Balcombe was made, and this camp is now being developed as the permanent depot of the Corps in Australia.

Consequent upon the termination of hostilities in 1945, the wartime off-shoots gradually were disbanded and merged back into the parent School, and today the School combines the functions of the Corps Depot Battalion, a Signal Training Battalion and a School of Signals.

Organisation of the School (1952)

A new Lower Establishment was approved for the School of Signals early in 1952, and it provided a strength of 13 Officers and 93 other ranks. The establishment was designed to instruct a total of 120 students, and is organised into three Wings, i.e., Headquarters, Trade Training and Corp Training Wings.

The Trade Training Wing is designed to instruct a total of 90 students.

In addition to undertaking trade training, it performs on a reduced scale the functions of a Depot Battalion. All personnel allocated to the Corps from Recruit Training Battalions undergo aptitude and selection procedure prior to allocation to a specific trade course. Also, after completion of trade training, while awaiting movement to Units, personnel are employed on absorptive or post-graduate training so that this time is not wasted. The Wing, as required, undertakes the training of Regimental Signallers for the Royal Australian Infantry and, in fact, the majority of Australian Regimental Signallers now in Korea have passed through the School of Signals.

Advanced training to Class II and Class I Standards is a new venture of the School, and 1952 saw the beginning of a series of such courses, the first course being for the upgrading of radio mechanics, and to train them in high power wireless equipment which is being installed in Australia at the major communication centres. The second course is for the upgrading of telegraph mechanics, and to train them in automatic telegraphy equipment which is being installed in tape relay centres.

Corps Training Wing. Signal training is given to Officer, Warrant and N.C.O. students of all arms in the Wing. It is designed to instruct 30 students at the one time.

Types of courses conducted are:—

Officer Training (for both Regular and C.M.F. (Territorial) Officers).
Royal Military College Post-Graduate Courses.
Officer Cadet School Post-Graduate Courses.
Signal Officers' Refresher Courses.
Regimental Signal Officers' Courses.
Signal Tactics Courses.
Promotion Courses (Captain to Major).
Senior Officers' Refresher Courses.
C.M.F. Officers' Signal Equipment Courses.
And, in addition:
A.R.A. Officers' Qualifying Courses as required by D.M.T.

Warrant Officer and N.C.O. Training (for both Regulars and C.M.F.).
N.C.O. Promotion Courses.
Signal N.C.O.s' Refresher Courses.
Regimental Signal Instructors' Courses.
C.M.F. N.C.O.s' Signal Equipment Courses.
C.M.F. N.C.O.s' Signal Office and Procedure Courses.
National Service Instructors' Courses.

Some of the above courses are combined to give both Regular and C.M.F. students the opportunity of working side by side. It is felt that this is particularly valuable, not only to the individual, but to the Corps as a whole. The standard of these mixed courses is usually very high, because both the Regular and the part-time soldier or officer feel "on their mettle" and display their best talents.

Standard of Accommodation

The camp at Balcombe was built during wartime as an "emergency" measure, and there are, therefore, no brick buildings. An extensive rebuilding programme has been in progress for some years since the last war and, although the permanent buildings are not yet in evidence, the standard of accommodation is now quite high.

N.C.O. and rank and file quarters are particularly good, there being two men per room with modern furniture and fittings, including a built-in reading lamp over each bed. Each block of twelve rooms has a shower, ablution and latrine block incorporated.

Other ranks' Messes are also modern, airy and clean. Kitchens are spacious and fitted with electric labour-saving devices, and every means for producing meals of a high standard.

There is a Men's Club, a Junior Instructors' Club, and a snack bar for late suppers, in addition to the camp canteen and the Officers' and Sergeants' Messes.

Training accommodation is now in process of being rebuilt to the standard required in an Army School. Modern classrooms, technical laboratories, and workshops are under construction. One equipment laboratory being built will be air-conditioned and dustproof, and will house automatic telegraphy equipment as used in a Tape Relay Centre. Other air-conditioned laboratories house multi-channel carrier equipment.

Much remains to be completed, but the work progresses steadily, and the time is not far distant when the Royal Australian Corps of Signals will have a School which will be the equal of any in the world.

"CERTA CITO."

BRITCOM BASE SIGNAL REGIMENT

Britcom Base Signal Regiment

On 6th October, 1952, the Regiment acted as host for one day to a party of six officers of the Australian Citizen Military Forces. These Officers were visiting the Japan-Korea theatre on a special observation tour. The visitors were shown over the Regiment's technical installations and each was given photographs of the Signal Office and the transmitter section.

The Regiment's 1st XI won the B.C.F.K. "A" Grade Cricket Competition, defeating the R.A.A.F. team in the grand final. Major-General F. Kingsley Norris, C.B.E., D.S.O., E.D., D.G.M.S., A.H.Q., who was visiting the theatre, presented the trophy to the winning team.

On 25th October, 1952, the Regiment conducted its annual Athletic Championship Meeting. Signalman W. L. Freeman again proved his ability as an athlete by winning six events and running second in a seventh, thus scoring the highest individual points and gaining the Championship Cup. Major M. A. Bennett, M.B.E., ran into second place for the aggregate, while Captain C. V. Smeal and Signalman J. D. Sweeney tied for third place.

SIERRA LEONE SIGNAL SQUADRON

The Sierra Leone District Motor Cycle Trials were held on the 5th November, 1952, and the Squadron was placed third, although the first A.O.R. was Driver Lance-Corporal Anaman. Sergeant Petty was unfortunate in being thrown and received slight burns.

The District H.Q. soccer team, for which the Signal Squadron provided one B.O.R. and three A.O.R.s, were beaten in the final of the district championship after a hard fought game.

The Squadron Administrative Inspection took place on 8th September, 1952. The rain miraculously ceased for the period of the District Command's parade. Considerable preparation had taken place and a very good report was received.

We received a visit from the G.O.C.-in-C. West Africa on 31st October, 1952, when he met all B.N.C.O.s and Senior African N.C.O.s, and then did a tour of the Squadron.

An Armistice Parade was held on Sunday, 9th November, 1952, when the Squadron provided the P.A. system and other communications.

SIGNAL WING, EAST AFRICA TRAINING CENTRE

Like every other Unit in East Africa at this time we are very much involved in the Kenya Government's security measures. A large proportion of the African trainee wireless operators are at present attached either to the Command Signal Squadron or the Battalion of the King's African Rifles. In addition, we have produced a platoon of infantry for one of the Internal Security Companies.

In spite of this the Wing manages to continue training.

The latest call forward list shows that Captain Vero, S.Q.M.S. Brown and Corporal Amos will be returning to the U.K. early next year. New arrival since September is Corporal McDonald (now sergeant).

Sergeant Richards is due to leave any day now for U.K., and afterwards, he hopes, Korea. Sergeant McDonald's family is air trooping and will be here in time for Christmas.

Territorial Army

2/20 (EAST ANGLIAN) ARMY SIGNAL REGIMENT (T.A.)

This Regiment held its first motor cycle trials on 23rd November, 1952.

The trials were organised by Captain R. A. Chell and Sergeant D. G. Newton, assisted by the Permanent Staff.

Twenty-one Regular and Territorial Units from London district and Essex took part and all agreed that the course, although difficult, was a very good one.

The silver challenge cup, presented by Brigadier J. L. French, C.B., C.B.E., T.D., D.L., Honorary Colonel of the Regiment, was won by the Guards Training Battalion, with 23 (S) Corps Provost Company second and our own team third.

Colonel A. S. Milner, O.B.E., C.A.G. R. Signals, spent the day with us during the trials, and we hope to see more of him during the next camp, when we will be holding combined Signal exercises with 1/20 Army Signal Regiment from Birmingham.

Our annual dinner took place on 7th November, 1952, and all voted it a complete success. Among our guests were Colonel J. L. Lilley, T.D., D.L. (our late Commanding Officer), and Mr. ("Ginger") Payne, M.B.E. (our late R.S.M.).

EXPLORATION IN THE COLONY OF *Hong Kong*

OR MIRS BAY OR BUST!

PART II

THE third trip, with the same party except that Sergeant Diamond replaced Signalman Boxall, set out to try and trek up the west coast keeping to an old water course and later the coastline. The first day's trek showed that this was going to fail as had the two previous attempts due to the fact that the weather was far too hot and humid. The camp was made on the first night on top of a hill; this gave the party a nice cool sleep. On the following morning, in stifling heat (although the sun had only been up about an hour), the party descended into a large valley. Here the party discovered, as they were crashing their way down through dense underbrush, an old Japanese gun emplacement with a connecting tunnel to the remains of a second emplacement. Further down the valley the party stopped beside a cool hillside pool. At this point a member of the party found two old Lewis gun "ammopans" corroded with rust, hidden in a crevice between some rocks (relics of hectic days in 1941?). As the party were feeling somewhat dehydrated by the effect of the heat and it was also seen that in the time allowed it would have been impossible to reach Mirs Bay, they had to, once more, return to camp unsuccessful.

The fourth attempt came just before Christmas 1951, when a new party made up of Sergeants Garner and Harfield, Corporals Barker and Rowbottom left Sai Kung with the intention of crossing overland to the west coast of the peninsula and striking up from that position to Mirs Bay. The party moved off in good spirits which were soon damped by a sudden and persistent downpour. As the party pushed on it became clear that the storm would not let up, so cursing the malignant luck which seemed to pursue these enterprises the party made a hasty camp. It was constructed out of ponchos and bamboo. A meal was prepared and as it was observed that the camp site was rapidly becoming waterlogged it was decided to move. A vote was made as to whether to return to Sai Kung or to push on to a tin mine situated on the Tide Cove coastline. The Tide Cove party won. Camp was struck and the party moved off, keeping to the coastline as much as possible. It eventually became necessary to leave the coast and strike inland; and in so doing the party stumbled across a Chinese temple. As there are no roads in this area and as the people rarely see a "white" except people out hunting, the party noticed a marked absence of villagers. On rounding a corner a whole party of Chinese villagers took off and hid in the brush, furtively watching the party as they passed through their village area. It was thought most likely by the party that previous visits by Japanese soldiery during the occupation years had held a far more sinister implication for these villagers than just merely passing through. When the temple was reached it was deserted and did not appear to be marked on the map. A number of locals were observed nearby, but when Sergeant Harfield went to try and approach them they made off into the brush. Eventually Sergeant Harfield went out on a recce and found the correct path, so once more the party were on the way. By this time the situation was looking grim, the downpour had not abated and it was almost nightfall. It was imperative that the mine be reached before dark, otherwise the party would be confronted with an extremely wet, unpleasant night.

Entering a village further down the coast they came upon a hunting party of some Chinese and one American. The greeting from the Yank was "Say, where's this place Piccadilly?" They were all equipped with shotguns but did not appear to have had much luck. However, they did confirm that the party were on the right track. Dusk was rapidly

Members of the 4th Party

settling down when the mine was reached and Sergeant Harfield and Corporal Barker carried out "negotiations" with the mine supervisor, who very kindly allowed the party to be conveyed to the main road on the other side of Tide Cove in the mine's small launch . . . and so Mirs Bay still had not been reached.

The next trip was made by Sergeants Barron and Harfield, and while this trip was not to Mirs Bay it was undertaken to keep the "scout" of the party in training and to try out new ideas of man-packing equipment while taking a direct route over the hills instead of keeping to coast lines, etc.

The party set out to climb Tai Mo Shan.

Tai Mo Shan is situated, more or less, in the centre of the New Territories; it is the highest peak, being 3,141 feet high, and is easily accessible on three sides; while the one remaining side presents to the climber a somewhat harder and exciting climb. The party set out to climb up the face by means of a stream bed as far as possible and then strike out for the top from that point. All was not to work out smoothly for the party. At the foot of Tai Mo Shan a new road is being built—a military route called "Route TWSK." The party were trekking through this area when suddenly a large explosion occurred immediately to their front.

They had walked right into a blasting area. This hazardous position was rapidly evacuated, fortunately without injury to either member of the party. After about 15 minutes the blasting ceased and the climb was continued. All went well until almost to the top of the stream, when it became necessary to scale an almost sheer face of rock. Water was cascading down this rock face, which was slippery with moss. The first member of the party reached the top without incident. Unluckily the second member got into difficulties and was virtually holding on by two tufts of grass . . . these started to loosen at the roots, making his situation doubly perilous, but adding a flavour of the ridiculous to the situation, a considerable quantity of the waterfall was finding its way down the neck of his shirt and out of his trouser legs (fortunately he was not wearing gaiters)! This awkward situation was overcome by No. 1 catching hold of a bush with one hand and the belt of the party in distress with the other, and so another near disaster was averted. The remainder of the climb up and the trek back to Sek-kong was uneventful.

Since this trek, Sergeants Garner and Harfield have been rather diverted from Mirs Bay by the discovery of an old fort of possible Dutch or Portuguese origin on Lan Tao Island. This fort is approximately 350 years old and may well feature in the colourful history of the nearby Portuguese colony of Macao founded in 1569 by Alfonso di Albesqueque.

Three expeditions to this fort have been organised and completed successfully, but this must be the subject of another

article. With the final trek to the fort completed and all data collected plans are afoot for a fifth attempt to reach Mirs Bay.

The only member of the original parties left in the colony is Sergeant Harfield, who is now recruiting a new "team" and wonders what setbacks will await the new ventures! However, come what may, it's "Mirs Bay or bust!"

Association Notes

Tuberculosis

The Central Committee of the Association have recently sanctioned expenditure on sending a limited number of ex-Signalmen to Switzerland in search of a cure for this disease.

Honorary secretaries of Association branches have been informed of the rather strict conditions imposed by the Treasury on this scheme.

No. 24 Branch (1 A.A. (M) Signal Regiment)

As 1952 draws to a close we in Orsett Camp look back with pride on the achievement of forming a branch of the Association.

From May 1952, when we first commenced activities, the membership gradually grew to over 100.

Two Regimental Week-ends have been held in the Unit, in which we played a very large part.

The Jimmy Club, now the branch's own property, is a delightful club, and I am certain that all members are grateful to our C.O. and president, Lieutenant-Colonel J. E. S. Sanders, O.B.E., Royal Signals, who has taken such a keen and lively interest in leading us through the difficult period of forming this branch.

On 29th-30th we were very pleased to see two members of the Headquarters from Eccleston Square, Miss Shannon and Miss Creighton. Let us hope we shall have visits from other members of the Association who can possibly spare the time.

I cannot close these notes without expressing our heartfelt thanks to the Exceldas Concert Party, who gave us an excellent show. We hope to see them again soon.

Our thanks go to the committee for the keen interest and hard work they have done during the past seven months.

The next Regimental Week-end and Reunion is being held in February 1953. Is there any branch near to Orsett Camp, Grays, Essex, who would like to pay us a visit or challenge the branch to an indoor games tournament at this next reunion?

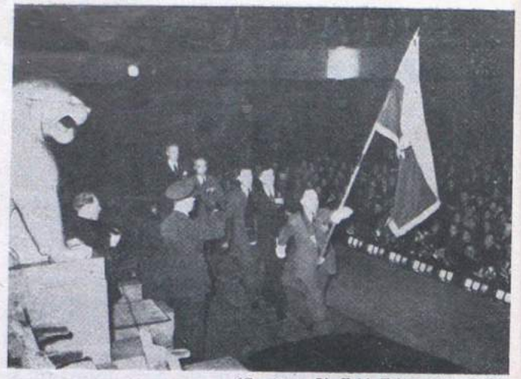
Those interested, please contact Lieutenant W. S. Dawson, the branch secretary.

In conclusion, to all members of the Corps, past and present, we wish a bright and prosperous New Year with success to all branches wherever they may be.

Sheffield

The branch has been passing through a very difficult time—attendance has been very small at meetings. However, with the co-operation of the 60 Army H.Q. Signals, T.A., things are looking up. Two successful dances have been held in conjunction with the T.A. Unit, a good time being had by all.

A very creditable show was made by the association's detachment at the Sheffield Festival of Remembrance. For the record here they are: Standard bearer, Mr. Rotherham, Messrs. Elwood, Hanley, Lieutenant-Colonel V. C. Holland, Mr. Taylor. Our secretary, Mr. Ryalls, and members of our committee played a big part in the success of this festival, which raised over £100 for Christmas benevolence for needy ex-Servicemen.



(Courtesy: Sheffield Telegraph and Star

Sheffield branch standard

Ex-Signals, of whom there must be hundreds in this city, seem to be very slow in coming along to our meetings, and our sincere thanks must go to Lieutenant-Colonel Gardiner and his Officers, R.S.M. King and the W.O.s and sergeants of the permanent staff for their very great assistance. They are doing their bit, so is the committee. So, Sheffield ex-Signals, come along and swell the ranks. Our worthy president, Lieutenant-Colonel V. C. Holland rarely misses a meeting.

We are endeavouring to raise a party for the Yorkshire rally at York in July. We shall be represented if we have to walk it.

Jimmy is on the map again here, and we intend to keep it there, so keep watching.

Annual reunion, Catterick, flashback: Was it not Jock Hamilton, ex "B" Corps, in the centre of the celebrities (October WIRE)?

YORK BRANCH

Royal Signals Association

are organising a

RALLY & REUNION

on

SATURDAY, 25th JULY, 1953

There will be a "Miniature Tattoo" in the afternoon, including the Royal Signals Band and the Motor Cycle Display Team, and in the evening a Dance or Concert

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Further details in THE WIRE and NEWS LETTER, or from Mr. J. Newton, Honorary Secretary, Royal Signals Association, 59 Water Lane, Clifton, York.

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Royal Signals Benevolent Fund

Also on this page is a simple statement of income and expenditure. Below an attempt is made to describe with suitable anonimity six cases taken at random from the files current on 15th December, 1952, in the office of the Welfare Section at 88 Eccleston Square.

Serving Signalman, married, in financial difficulties, his Commanding Officer strongly supported a request for a loan. The committee considered there was no point in transferring the major part of his indebtedness so provided the sum required part grant, part loan.

Ex-Signalman writes: "Very many thanks for the grant I received yesterday. I deeply appreciate it more so because it is now 20 years since I served in Royal Signals. The children now have their shoes and by next week-end everything should be under control."

Ex-Signalman, paralysed from waist downwards, not attributable to his service, living in extreme poverty: case brought to notice by Ministry of Pensions. Grant made for extras and local branch of Association will now watch over him and report when more help is needed.

Ex-Signalman, 1926-45, wrote: "My wife had a nervous breakdown in January and I also went to hospital with T.B. in February. We are now both making slow but steady progress towards recovery. My wife will, I fear, always be a semi-invalid and it will be some little time before I can again work as a bus driver. So far we have managed to exist but now both need some warm clothing." *What courage! But why, oh, why, did he not ask before?*

Ex-Signalman, 1939-42, writes: "I received your letter but do not know how I can thank you. My wife and I are deeply grateful. I knew the Association existed but did not know how to join. I do know now and will join as soon as I am back at work."

Ex-Signalman regrettably left his wife and five young children and is now in prison. Your Association has helped and is now trying to gain a more generous provision from the Assistance Board.

Five of these cases are very typical of what is done 52 weeks in the year; they represent about one-third of the cases dealt with by any given "Thursday Committee." The sixth case is mentioned to show that ANY Signalman or ex-Signalman or his dependents is aided by the fund when they are in need.

ROYAL SIGNALS BENEVOLENT FUND

Subscriptions received during November, 1952:—			
G.H.Q. Signal Regiment	15	0	0
16 Airborne Division, Signal Regiment	10	0	0
2 Infantry Division, Signal Regiment		18	0
6 (Boys) Training Regiment	6	12	9
Donations received during November, 1952:—			
Northants Branch	3	3	0
Scarborough Branch	1	1	0
Mr. J. R. Hallett	2	10	0
Mr. R. J. Barry		17	0
W.O.II W. L. Mayhew		10	0
23 (S) Corps, Signal Regiment (W.O.'s and Sergeants' Mess)	2	2	0
Total Receipts	£42	13	9
Expenditure during November, 1952 (Includes: Beds and Bedding; Rent and Rates; General Assistance; Prams and Cots; Removals; Fares; Hire Purchase.)	£663	14	5
Analysis of cases:—			
Families of soldiers serving in U.K.			5
" " " " " B.A.O.R.			4
" " " " " Carribean			1
" " " " " M.E.L.F.			1
Released and discharged soldiers			57
Total cases assisted			69

Sport

Royal Signals v. R.A.C. on 19th November, 1952

The weather, which had been bad, cleared up and the ground was in good condition when the game commenced. Exchanges were even and both sides set up attacks which faded when they reached the goal area. R.A.C. scored first after 25 minutes' play when Miller, a very persistent centre-forward, who had given Signals' defence plenty of trouble, followed up a long pass through the centre to dispossess Wilson, the Signals' goalkeeper, and flash the ball into the net. Signals attacked immediately and cross after cross from the wingers Barker and Wood were well cleared by the R.A.C. defence. Five minutes later, in an all-out attack, Barker crossed a high ball into the goalmouth and Felton headed hard against the crossbar; from the rebound Howells headed well out of the reach of Middleton to put Signals on level terms. Signals maintained their pressure and Barker was prominent with some lovely runs along the wing. Five minutes before half-time Barker put Signals ahead with a long curving shot from 25 yards which gave the R.A.C. goalkeeper no chance.

In the second half Signals' wing-halves Wood and Rawlins took command and little was seen of the R.A.C. inside men. Freer and Howells went close and Barker put Signals further ahead after 30 minutes to give them a deserved victory by 3 goals to 1.

Royal Signals' team was:—

Signalman Wilson (1 Training Regiment); Signalman Cameron (7 Training Regiment), Corporal Knock (4 Training Regiment); Corporal Rawlings (7 Training Regiment), Lance-Corporal Flockton (1 Training Regiment), Lance-Corporal Wood (7 Training Regiment); Signalman Barker (7 Training Regiment), Lance-Corporal Howells (1 Training Regiment), Lance-Corporal Felton (O.T.W.), Signalman Freer (7 Training Regiment), Lance-Corporal Wood (7 Training Regiment).

Royal Signals v. Durham University on 3rd December, 1952

Although this match was played in rain with about two inches of mud underfoot, some very good football was seen. Royal Signals were unfortunate in losing Driver White, the left-back, after a quarter of an hour. They soon overcame the initial disadvantage, and although Durham scored first, at half-time the Corps had equalised through Lance-Corporal Felton, at centre-forward, and were playing very good football. The second half saw the Corps well on top. Smart work by the inside-forwards and half-backs resulted in Lance-Corporal Felton netting three more times, and Durham University only replied once. Lance-Corporal Sayers, on the left wing, was very unfortunate in not scoring on three or four occasions, the Durham goalkeeper making some miraculous saves. Altogether it was a match of which the Corps can be proud. With six regular players playing for Northern Command, the team played good, clean football and well deserved their win of 4 goals to 2.

Royal Signals' team was:—

Signalman Wilson (1 Training Regiment); Sergeant Womble (5 Training Regiment), Driver White (4 Training Regiment); Lance-Corporal Wilkinson (1 Training Regiment), Corporal Knock (4 Training Regiment, capt.), Signalman Levie (3 Training Regiment); Signalman Jackson (1 Training Regiment), Lance-Corporal J. Wood (7 Training Regiment), Lance-Corporal Felton (O.T.W.), Lance-Corporal Reeson (2 Training Regiment), Lance-Corporal Sayers (3 Training Regiment).

Sports A.R.A.

The Royal Signals Representative on the A.R.A. Committee is now:—Lieutenant-Colonel P. H. Smitherman, O.C. Eastern Command Signal Regiment, Crowborough Warren Camp, Crowborough, Sussex.

THE WIRE

The Corps Magazine of the
ROYAL SIGNALS
The Official Organ of the
SIGNALS ASSOCIATION

Editor:
BRIGADIER 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.*

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☆

FEBRUARY • 1953
Vol. 7 *New Series* No. 2

☆

PRICE ONE SHILLING

Editorial

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION

IT is now, in mid-January, possible to review the affairs of the Association. During 1952, very great efforts were made to make the Association known to those serving in the Active Army, and a great measure of success was achieved. Our warmest thanks are due to Commanding Officers and others who did so much to help in this work.

The cynical suggestion was made that the widespread dissemination of information about the work of the Association would tempt the unscrupulous to appeal for assistance. It says much for the training given to the many thousands who passed through the Corps in 1952 that this has not happened. Appeals to the Benevolent Fund have increased, and are bound to increase, for each year many thousands of "boys" qualify by National Service for the benefits previously available to the older man, the Regular or war soldier. But there has been no significant increase in appeals by the younger men.

New branches formed have more than compensated for the few branches which through lethargy have gone into suspended animation. Great hopes are set on the two new branches formed in the Signal Training Centre at Catterick. Some Regimental branches overseas are doing phenomenal work.

In finance, expenditure has increased, but so has income, and THE WIRE wishes to give grateful thanks to all those Regiments and individuals who support the Benevolent Fund so generously.

THE WIRE itself did well. In every year since the war THE WIRE has been run at a loss—sometimes a very big one. In 1952 a small profit is shown. This has been achieved by economy in production and by a very considerable increase in income from advertisements. Circulation has kept up despite parsimony in production.

THE WIRE is most grateful to its contributors. They are generous in giving time and talent and forebearing when part of their contribution has to be cut for lack of space.

One last word to contributors. They must understand that descriptions of Christmas festivities cannot be put in the March WIRE. Readers are prepared to smile at these descriptions in February but *not* in March. This particularly applies to contributions from, and readers in, distant lands. Description of Christmas in FARELF will not interest home readers in March, still less will it edify readers in FARELF, who do not receive the March WIRE until May.

We still continue an unequal struggle with the War Office to get THE WIRE sent out by air at cost which is not prohibitive. This has been going on for many years.

To all who bought THE WIRE in 1952 we send our grateful thanks, and hope that they will continue in 1953.

* * *

PROGRESS

SOME idea of the progress of the Association may be gained from comparative figures of those who do not belong to a branch but pay their due direct to Headquarters.

	1950	1951	1952
New Annual Members	402	306	1,027
New Life Members	234	219	591
Annual Subscriptions Renewed	1,641	1,526	1,374

The staff at Association Headquarters have very good grounds for believing that the drop in Headquarter renewals is due largely to the fact that they have been absorbed by, and pay their subscription to, some of the many new branches and some more active old branches.

Vale

BRIGADIER R. H. R. STEWARD, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., A.D.C.

THE ranks of "The Old Men of Maresfield" are thinning fast, and the retirement of Reggie (alias "Fanny") Steward has left rather a bigger gap than most. This is NOT a rude reference to physical bulk, though it might be said at once that a certain robustness is characteristic of Fanny's personality and of all that he thinks, says and does.

Fanny was, and is, loyalty itself, both to those he served so well and to those who served with and under him; he is confident and inspires confidence; he has physical and moral courage in high degree and sets an example to all with whom he comes in contact; he possesses rugged common sense which, allied to a bubbling sense of fun, endears him to everyone.

He takes part in everything. We of his generation, or perhaps a trifle older, cannot recall from the start any game or sport in which he did not play a thoroughly useful, determined and effective part, and which he invariably enjoyed despite bumps, buffets and falls. To cull an illustration from one of his favourite games, he always had his head well down in the scrum but he knew where he was going.

When he was Staff Captain in sticky days in Shanghai it was traditional that if Fanny appeared in the morning wearing a serious and bored expression on his face, all must be well; if, however, he came in chuckling and having more than usual difficulty with a reluctant pipe, then something awful had happened! But none knew better than he whom to approach in the matter and how to get out of the mess. Doubtless he will recall occasions when this applied to private as well as to public problems!

Rommel very nearly caught Fanny Steward in the Desert, and if he had it would have been a safe bet that Fanny would have escaped without ado or delay. Anyway, he would have been caught smiling though dishevelled.

We have been thinking of Fanny, the man. Mention of the Desert reminds us of his career, and Steward the Soldier demands attention. Faithful service over 36 years has included just about as much active service as can be packed in, and as Fanny was never on the "Indian circuit" he had to find this active service, apart from the two great wars, elsewhere than on the Frontier. Results, bringing credit to his Corps as well as to himself are to be seen in what comes after his name—and in spite of what some cynics say, the solid soldier does not earn these honours cheaply. To cap all came that special honour, A.D.C. to The King, the coveted and well-deserved reward for service to Sovereign and State and, if it is not *lèse-majesté* to say so, for service to all those human beings from Signalmen upwards with whom and for whom in those 36 years Major-General (he never forgot he was once a Second-Lieutenant) Reginald Herbert Ryrie Steward, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., (and bar), M.C., served and worked. If ever there was one who could be described as truly representative of the backbone of his Corps, or, indeed, of the salt of the earth, it is he.

Fanny will never grow old. We will think of him always with affectionate admiration and smile as we think of him.

We know that he will find both occupation and relaxation and we wish him success, tight lines, and straight shooting in retired life.

We include in our thoughts and good wishes Mrs. Steward and the family, and hope that for many years they will make a point of coming to every possible gathering where we can greet them once more and perhaps exchange a reminiscence or two.

"Vale" it may be to the active list of the Corps, but the Stewards remain very much part of the family. May they flourish as they deserve!

EMPLOYMENT VACANCIES

There are frequently vacancies in B.A.O.R. for appointment as Civilian Telecoms Officers. Pay, accommodation, status, etc., are, generally speaking, as for a Captain in Royal Signals.

Those with experience as lines officers, or in the case of other ranks, with considerable experience in long lines control working with the Reichpost, who wish to be considered, should apply in the first instance to Royal Signals Association.

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Hatfield, Hertfordshire.

EMPLOYMENT STATISTICS

Employment figures for the quarter ending 31st December, 1952:—

Applicants registered	69
Placings confirmed	27

The Blue Book

AMENDMENTS to the book are published in this number. Page 50 contains seven columns of serial numbers of N.C.O.s who have been removed from the particular section of the roster on account of promotion, release or discharge. The names of the N.C.O.s concerned should be deleted from the book.

Pages 50 and 51 contain Corps Promotion Order No. 2 less lance-corporals and certain INSERTIONS. Those in the Trades, O.K.C. and G.D. Rosters are the names of N.C.O.s omitted from the first printing and/or re-enlistments, reversions, etc.

Junior Lance-Corporals

Pages 51 to 109 of the Blue Book as published contain the particulars of about 4,000 lance-corporals, the majority of whom were appointed during their National Service. Of these deletions on page 50 take up about 430 and Corps Promotion Order No. 2 contains the names of 700 to take their places.

These 700 names would occupy over three pages of THE WIRE and reluctantly it has been decided that it is impossible to allot so much space.

The Junior Lance-Corporals will therefore be allowed to waste out of the book and the names will henceforth appear only on promotion to corporal, but the book will continue to contain the senior lance-corporals (approximately the first 300).

This step is regretted but necessary, both because it is essential to economise in the number of pages in each number of THE WIRE and also so that in the next reprint of the Blue Book it will be possible to reduce the size by some 50 pages.

Those appointed to lance-corporals will, we are sure, be the first to endorse this action. Lance-corporal is an appointment, NOT a rank.

National Servicemen who are promoted corporal or sergeant during their period with the Active Army will be shown in the book and in the monthly amendments published thereto.

Arrangements have been made so that in future when a W.O. or N.C.O. is promoted to another rank his OLD serial number will be shown BEFORE his new serial number in the amending pages of THE WIRE. This will facilitate finding the individual promoted.

REUNION
Catterick 1953

The Annual General Meeting and Comrades' Reunion, Royal Signals Association, will be on SATURDAY, 16th, & SUNDAY, 17th MAY, 1953

During the Church Parade Service on SUNDAY, the Colonel-in-Chief, H.R.H. The Princess Royal, hopes to attend the dedication of the War Memorial Chapel in St. Martin's Church

BOOK THESE DATES NOW

The representative Colonel Commandant

EARLY in January, Major-General R. F. B. Naylor, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., handed over the appointment of "representative" to Major-General C. M. F. White, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O.

Except for the very senior and the small circle of those who have the privilege of serving him few in Royal Signals know of the work done for them by the Representative Colonel Commandant.

Selected by his fellow Colonels Commandant, he holds office for one year, and an attempt is made below to summarise some of his many duties.

First and foremost, he is the official channel of communication between Royal Signals and their Colonel-in-Chief. Equally he is concerned should any matter be placed before the Sovereign.

Second, he has the duty of visiting as many Royal Signal Regiments as he can.

As General Phillips himself said the other day, this duty is a most pleasant one. The Representative goes in the capacity of an honoured friend, not as an inspector.

Third, his post bag and very much of his time is occupied by a great volume of correspondence on a variety of topics where his advice or ruling is requested.

He presides during his year over the deliberations of the Corps Committee and exercises considerable discretion in interpreting their wishes between meetings.

The correspondence alone occupies many hours each week, and if considerable journeying on visitation is added he certainly earns our gratitude as, needless to say, the appointment is honorary.

Very many write to him, but only a very few can make a guess at the volume of work entailed thereby. He has no office, no clerk.

General Naylor has just finished his *second* tour in this high office, during which he has been assiduous in our service. THE WIRE has reported his frequent journeys, his tour in B.A.O.R. and Austria, and by inference only the meetings of the Corps Committee over which he presides and of the Committee of the Association in which he is a most influential member. To him we shall all offer our most grateful thanks.

To General White falls the honour of representing Royal Signals in Coronation Year. C.S.O. Eighth Army, 21st Army Group, M.E.L.F., G.O.C. Catterick District, all one after the other. We of Royal Signals and of the Association are proud to be led by General White during this historic year.

ROYAL SIGNALS INSTITUTION

This is now beginning to take shape and an inaugural meeting is to be held in 1953. A good deal of paper has been sent out to Serving Officers and such retired Regular and ex-Officers whose addresses are available.

Here follows the present organisation:—

President: The Representative Colonel Commandant.
Chairman: Major-General O. P. Edgecumbe, C.B., C.B.E., M.C.
Vice-Chairman: Major-General V. J. E. Westropp, C.B., C.B.E.
Secretary and Treasurer: Lieutenant-Colonel N. G. Newell, T.S.O., P.D.T.R.D., Room 702, Shell Mex House, London, W.C.1.
Chairman, Finance Committee: Brigadier C. A. H. Chadwick, C.B.E.
Chairman, Publications Committee: Colonel J. F. Longfield, M.A.
Chairman, Library Committee: Colonel L. A. E. Tozer, B.A.
Chairman, Museum Committee: Lieutenant-Colonel E. J. F. Heap, O.B.E.

All who read this will be doing good service if they tell their friends of the Institution and send their names to the Secretary so that they may receive information of Institution activities.

PERSONAL COLUMN

London Gazette

5th December, 1952.

Brigadier C. A. H. Chadwick, C.B.E., appointed Aide de Camp to Her Majesty the Queen, vice Brigadier R. H. R. Steward, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C.

New Year Honours List

Commander of the Bath.

Major-General M. S. Wheatley, C.B.E.

Brigadier G. H. Walton, C.B.E., T.D., D.L.

Member of the British Empire.

Captain L. G. Wardley.

Movements—Officers

Major R. White from B.T.A. to 7 Training Regiment.

Major (T.O.T.) T. R. Craggs from B.A.O.R. to Southern Command (M) Signal Regiment.

Lieutenant (T.O.T.) W. Ellis from 1st Commission to B.A.O.R.

Lieutenant (Q.M.) H. Carr from 1st Commission to M.E.L.F.

Major G. J. Williams from 7 Training Regiment to Depot. (Remains attached to H.Q. Northumbrian District.)

Major E. Buirski from 16 Airborne Divisional Signal Regiment, Middlesex Yeomanry, T.A., to 7 Training Regiment.

Major F. E. Marshal from M.E.L.F. to U.K.

Major T. R. Cook from B.A.O.R. to U.K.

Major G. J. C. Moss from B.A.O.R. to Staff College.

Major C. N. P. Weatherhead from 1 Training Regiment to School of Signals.

Major T. H. Howat from B.A.O.R. to Staff Appointment in U.K.

Major W. C. Ramsay from Depot to 16 Airborne Divisional Signal Regiment, Middlesex Yeomanry, T.A.

Major (Q.M.) J. F. J. O'Connor from B.A.O.R. to U.K.

Major E. W. Townsend from M.E.L.F. to B.A.O.R.

Major A. J. Hamilton from B.A.O.R. to M.E.L.F.

Major L. B. H. C. Baker from War Office to Gibraltar.

Major H. McD. Chapman from M.E.L.F. to U.K.

Major G. H. Wotton from B.A.O.R. to H.Q. Glider Pilot Regiment.

Lieutenant-Colonel J. R. Beeton from M.E.L.F. to U.K.

Major R. E. D. Matthews from Depot to 5 Corps Signal Regiment.

Major T. A. Hall from 5 Corps Signal Regiment to FARELF.

Major H. B. de M. Hunter from S.H.A.P.E. to M.E.L.F.

Lieutenant-Colonel A. B. McVittie from FARELF to BETFOR.

Lieutenant-Colonel A. L. Atkinson from School of Infantry to Joint Services Staff College.

Lieutenant-Colonel F. B. Johnson from Korea to School of Infantry.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Evan V. Nepean, Bart., M.A. from J.I.B. to FARELF.

Lieutenant-Colonel I. St. Q. Severin from B.J.C.E.B. to J.I.B.

Brigadier R. W. Morgan, O.B.E., from C.S.O. Scottish Command to R.A.R.O.

Brigadier W. M. Ponsonby, O.B.E., from S.H.A.P.E. (U.K. Echelon) to C.S.O. Scottish Command.

Arrivals and Departures

1 Commonwealth Divisional Signal Regiment

Departures to U.K.

Major G. S. Fenton.	Lieutenant A. G. Bohannan.
Major J. E. Denton.	Lieutenant J. L. Donne.
Major (Q.M.) H. Napper.	Lieutenant B. D. Smith.
Captain P. G. Harrison.	Lieutenant T. E. Humpage.
Captain J. Prentice.	S.S.M. M. J. O. Flaherty.

Arrivals.

Major J. M. Sawers from Allied Kommandatura.

Captain J. Richards from 61 H.Q. Army Signal Regiment, T.A.

Captain T. L. Richards from School of Signals.

Captain R. F. C. Gladwyn from R.M.A., Sandhurst.

Captain W. H. Lynch from Scottish Command Signal Regiment.

Captain (Q.M.) E. A. Carn from School of Signals.

Lieutenant M. Thorman from Scottish Command Signal Regiment.

Second-Lieutenant J. F. V. Boorer from 23 Corps Signal Regiment (T.A.).

1 Corps Signal Regiment

Arrivals.

Captain D. L. Pounds from Cyrenaica Command.

Sergeant D. H. Allen from 21 (M) Corps Signal Regiment (T.A.).

Sergeant T. G. S. Russell from H.Q. N.A.G. Signal Regiment.

Corporal R. H. Marchant from 28 Brigade Signal Troop, Korea.

Departures.

Sergeant Winfield—release.

Corporal Phillips—release.

Corporal Johnson—release.

* * *

R.S.M. B. Sellar is, as far as is known, the only member of Royal Signals serving at the Signal Training Centre (India). R.Q.M.S. D. G. Beadle was also stationed there until 31st December, 1952, when he departed for New Zealand on release. His address: c/o N. S. O. Malley, 30 Roslyn Terrace, Auckland, New Zealand.

* * *

Reprinted by courtesy of Newsletter No. 30, Armed Forces Communications Association, U.S.A.:—

Signal Corps Top-Level Shifts

Brigadier-General Harry Reichelderfer, Commanding General of the South-Western Signal Training Centre at San Luis Obispo, California, has been named to head the Army Security Agency in Washington, D.C. He will be succeeded at San Luis Obispo by Colonel R. P. Lyman, the present Commandant at the Signal School at Fort Monmouth, New Jersey. To take the place of Colonel Lyman will be Brigadier-General Wesley T. Guest, now in the Far East Command. And Colonel Frank G. Trew, now deputy to General Guest, has been named his successor.

* * *

Overhaul of Signal Corps Equipment Effective

Through its own research and development programmes and close co-operation with industry in the design and production of new equipment to fulfil military needs, the U.S. Army Signal Corps has almost completely overhauled its list of procurement items since World War II, to keep pace with improved techniques in communications and other phases of Signal Corps activity, and at the same time has effected huge economies in operation. The equipment now being used in Korea is lighter, more rugged, more efficient and more able to withstand weather and temperature ranges than equipment used in World War II. Additional savings have been effected in training costs under new methods, particularly in its co-operation with industrial leaders, whose recommendations for facilitating procurement procedures, expediting production, etc., were found to be of great value.

Births

HATCHER.—To Major and Mrs. R. A. Hatcher, a son, on the 19th December, 1952.

FIRTH.—On 25th December, 1952, to Sergeant and Mrs. E. W. Firth, Berlin Signal Squadron, a son.

NEWMAN.—To Captain and Mrs. D. C. Newman, BETFOR Signals, a daughter, Mariza, on 6th November, 1952.

Marriages

LAWSON—INGHAM.—On 19th December, 1952, Craftsman George Lawson (R.E.M.E.) to Lance-Corporal Patricia Ingham, W.R.A.C., 1 A.A. (M) Signal Regiment, at the District of Thurrock Register Office, Grays, Essex.

Deaths

CLACKETT.—22454808 Signalman B. Clackett on 9th October, 1952, in Korea.

HEPWORTH.—22638129 Signalman B. Hepworth, on 23rd November, 1952, in Korea.

BRACKLEY.—22546289 Corporal W. C. A. Brackley, on 23rd December, 1952, at Colchester.

HEDGES.—22563179 Lance-Corporal H. R. Hedges, on 19th December, 1952, in Korea.

HARRISON.—On 16th December, 1952, at Dover, John Henry, late Royal Signals, and of 59 St. Mary's Road, Gillingham, aged 45 years.

Forthcoming Events ☆

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION

March. Branch Honorary Secretaries' Meeting, London, 28th March.

May. Annual General Meeting and Comrades' Reunion, Catterick, 16th/17th May.

* * *

DINNER AND "AT HOME," 1953

The dates for the Dinner and Regular Officers' "At Home" are 20th and 21st May respectively.

* * *

June. For Coronation Period Diary see Press.

July. Review of ex-Servicemen, Hyde Park, London, Sunday, 5th July.

Royal Signals Rally and Reunion, York, Saturday, 25th July.

West Country Reunion, Depot Regiment, Newton Abbot, Saturday, 4th, and Sunday, 5th July.

* * *

Royal Signals Rugby Football Club—Fixtures

Feb. 21—Waterloo	Blundellsands.
Feb. 25—St. Andrew's University	St. Andrew's.
Feb. 28—Sedbergh School ...	Sedbergh.
Apr. 11—Billingham	Billingham.

* * *

Branch Functions

Feb. 20—Chesterfield Branch Dinner.

Feb. 27—Liverpool Branch Dinner.

Feb. 28—Mhow Reunion (London).

Mar. 9—Northampton Branch Dinner.

Letter

TO THE EDITOR

I do not know how favourably the sale of THE WIRE compares to the strength of the Corps.

I have, however, very strong reasons for believing that the sale to individuals is not particularly good.

I wonder how many copies respective P.R.I.s have left on their hands—resulting in a financial loss to the P.R.I.? One hears only too frequently a lot of blather of what is wrong with the Corps.

Am I wrong to dare suggest that not the least of the faults might rest with those whose moral responsibility it is to further interest in and promote sales of the Corps magazine?

Recent experiences of mine may be enlightening to some of your readers: It was exercise period—the subject of THE WIRE was under discussion. Said a very senior sergeant of a well-known Signal Regiment: "Why should I buy it—we have a copy in the Sergeants' Mess" (bought by Mess Funds). A Senior Officer discussing the magazine: "I pay my twelve bob, can't be bothered to open the thing."

A Regiment that used to buy the minimum number of copies through its P.R.I. without making any real effort to sell them—result, rapid monthly increase in fire lighting material at R.H.Q.

THE WIRE, sir, must not only survive, it must be healthy and expand, as you have so often stressed larger sales beget a better quality magazine.

To my mind, the first object is to increase the sales to individuals, interest will then follow. I offer a few suggestions:—

Every serving Officer—Regular, short service and N.S. owes it to the Corps to do what his parents did for the school magazine. Pay for it—and take an interest in it.

Those W.O.s and Senior N.C.O.s whose life career is in the Corps, who cannot or will not find the cost of a cigarette per week is a W.O. or Senior N.C.O. the Royal Corps of Signals is better without.

Regular Junior N.C.O.s and long-term Regular Signalmen be encouraged to buy a copy monthly. A little effort will soon produce the answers.

N.S. other ranks—1 copy per 4 other ranks, sold on a Troop basis.

The foregoing suggestions have been tried in this Unit with marked success, and what is particularly noticeable is that when the Unit is represented in THE WIRE by a contributor there is invariably a request for a few extra copies.

Am I being naughty in suggesting that the number of copies sold might be taken in the right quarter as the amount of real interest the Commander shows in his Corps and Unit?

"CADUCEOUS."

*

BERTRAND STEWART PRIZE ESSAY COMPETITION, 1953

The subject for this year's competition is:—

"It is sometimes stated that the progress of modern weapons and mechanisation is causing too great a reliance to be placed in their possession and too little on the fighting determination of the soldier himself. Discuss the truth of this opinion, and how such a tendency could best be rectified or prevented."

Do You Know?

A QUIZ FOR THE MORE EXPERIENCED

DO you know about the Jackson Committee which in 1936 recommended the scale of Signal Communications required by the Field Force and how in the light of experience these scales were considerably modified?

Do you know that in the years between the wars the regular portion of Royal Signals provided only one Corps Signal Regiment besides the Divisional Signals? Do you know how the Signal Units for the Anti-Aircraft Divisions were provided and how the reorganisation had the fortunate effect of causing 47 (2 London) Divisional Signals to be converted to a Corps Signals to take the field with II Corps of the B.E.F. in 1939? Do you know how the higher Formation Signals were provided?

Many of us are aware of the inadequacy both in quality and quantity of the equipment we had between the two wars, but do you know the reasons why?

Do you know how the Wireless Telegraphy Board became responsible for the initial planning of the Defence Telecommunications Network (almost entirely land line)?

Do you know why the Wireless Set No. 9 which served many of us so well from 1939-1945 was modified to the Wireless Set No. 19?

Do you know that Ciphers were once neither controlled nor operated by Royal Signals?

Do you know that in September 1938 a small reconnaissance party was sent to France (not in uniform) to liaise and plan the establishment of the British Expeditionary Force. The Senior Signal Officer chosen for this party was the Commandant of the Signals Experimental Establishment. Why? This party found that there would be little difficulty in providing the necessary telephone service, but that telegraphy on the required scale would be almost impossible. Do you know why?

* * *

Did you know that when the Germans attacked through Belgium and the Ardennes in 1940 the B.E.F. was organised with three Corps of 10 Divisions, with three more Divisions without Artillery, all were directly commanded by G.H.Q., B.E.F.? This and other contributory factors made the provision of satisfactory communications well nigh impossible. Do you know that G.H.Q. was at one time split into four echelons?

Do you know how two types of cable, 7 pair V.I.R. and 14 pair 40, so well known during the last war, came to be produced?

Do you know that communication by wireless in the B.E.F. proved very inadequate? And do you know why?

What do you know of the origins of Phantom as used for a system of communication devised in 1940?

Do you know how G.H.Q. Home Forces came into being and how in 1940 and 1941 it was necessary to provide five new Corps Signal Regiments in the United Kingdom alone?

Do you know how the Army Pigeon Service, discontinued at the end of World War I, was reintroduced in 1940?

Do you know why the rather curious title of "Chief Signal Officer attached to the Commander Royal Armoured Corps" came into being?

Do you know that neither in the low countries in 1939/40 nor in the Middle East in the early stages of the war was there a Chief Signal Officer, L. of C.? And do you know of the great handicap that this was?

Do you know that the first major operation in the Middle East, the drive from Egypt to the borders of Tripolitania in 1940 and 1941, formed the foundation of experience on which subsequent signal organisation and methods were largely developed?

Do you know the causes of the inadequacy of communication by wireless in the Middle East in 1941 and how these difficulties were overcome?

Do you remember the "double call sign" system and how the Germans in early 1941 obtained a great deal of valuable information from it, and how much had been done to remedy this in time for the operations in relief of Tobruk?

Do you know how the signal equipment was provided for the garrison under General Moorshead during the first siege of Tobruk?

Do you know that the British tanks in use up to 1942 had only one common battery for all purposes, including wireless, and of the great disadvantage occasioned thereby?

Do you know how Air Formation Signals were developed? And of how the British system differed from the German system?

Do you know of the development in the technique of calling for air support, largely sponsored by the Australians in the Middle East?

* * *

Believe it or not, the answers to all except three of these questions are contained in the first two chapters of General Nalder's "History of British Army Signals," details of which are given on page 51.

SAS Signals

Operation "COPLEY"

SINCE Operation "Helsby," the first paratroop operation of the anti-terrorist operations in Malaya, which was described in an article in THE WIRE for June 1952, 22 S.A.S. Regiment have carried out an operation in the State of Kelantan.

22 S.A.S. Regiment was originally formed in early 1951 as the "Malayan Scouts," and was reorganised as an S.A.S. Regiment of R.H.Q., H.Q. Squadron, and 4 Operational Squadrons in December of the same year. The Signal Troop consists of 29 Royal Signals volunteers attached and 24 S.A.S. Troopers, who share signal duties within the Regiment, and are completely interchangeable. At the time of Operation "Copley," the Troop was commanded by Captain D. D. Ranft, who has since handed over to Captain L. R. D. Wilmott, M.M., B.E.M., on departure to U.K.

Due to Kelantan being more or less cut off by road and rail, the movement of troops into the state with any degree of secrecy was severely restricted. From information it was known that the Communist terrorists had a very definite hold on the people and also being the second largest food producing area in the Federation, the terrorists had no food supply problems. Five D.Z.s were selected, four were cultivated padi areas and the fifth in primary jungle near a "basha" which had been spotted by aerial reconnaissance and which was considered to be a terrorist camp.

"C" (Rhodesia) Squadron supplied the majority of the force and were briefed with the necessary details. 11, 13, 14 and 15 Troops were to drop into padi and 12 Troop into the jungle. The technique of dropping into primary jungle had been developed over the past few months by the Regiment and all members of the force had done at least two drops employing this technique.

The communications were quite simple. On the 13th October, 1952, a liaison officer with a wireless detachment of two operators moved to Kuala Krai and established communication with R.H.Q. With the exception of 12 Troop all the operators would drop with their sets (W.S. 62 modified for dry battery working) in kitbags strapped to their legs. In addition, all Troop Commanders would drop with a W.S. 88 for communication with the aircraft. This measure was adopted so that in case of casualties the aircraft could immediately call up the helicopter which was standing by at Kota Bahru airfield. In the case of 12 Troop the wireless set, plus the Troop rations, would be dropped two hours after the personnel, due to the danger of the paratrooper being suspended in a horizontal position in mid-air with his chute caught up in one tree and his kitbag on another. Again, with the exception of 12 Troop, all the wireless operators were Rhodesian (average speed 20 w.p.m.) and 12 Troop operator was Captain D. D. Ranft, Royal Signals, Signal Troop Commander.

D-day arrived and at 1130 hours on the 15th October, 11 and 15 Troops dropped, followed 10 minutes later by the other three Troops. Communication was established with the aircraft and it was reported that it had been a perfect (although wet for the padi field jumpers) drop with not even a sprained ankle. The force then moved into the jungle towards a suspected terrorist camp. Communication was then established by W.S. 62 with the L.O. Detachment. Unfortunately, the weather became very stormy and the air supply drop for 12 Troop had to be abandoned after all but one package had been dropped. Of course this contained the W.S. 62, and it was not until midday on the 16th that communication was established with 12 Troop. They reported that the "basha" was a terrorist one but that they were six months too late. Further north the other Troops were converging on their objective. The going was fair and they proceeded with caution, searching for any recently used tracks or resting places. The L.O. Detachment was experiencing intense interference from the radios of three other Units who were in very close proximity and also in on the operation, and at times it was A.S. for anything up to forty-five minutes but at no time did communication fail during the operation.

On the 19th October, "A" Company 1/7 Gurkha Rifles, who had been in the area about three weeks and were now ambushing the area surrounding the D.Z.s, contacted and killed two terrorists. 11, 13, 14 and 15 Troops made their final approach on the terrorist camp but again it appeared from the general state that it had not been used for the last six months.

12 Troop were gradually making their way north, finding the going very heavy indeed, cutting practically all the way and getting very little assistance from the map. On the 20th the Squadron took an air supply drop and the four northern Troops re-formed into three, 14 Troop splitting between 11 and 13.

On the 21st October, 11 and 13 Troops moved out on patrol, leaving 15 Troop ambushing the main track. At about 0945 hours the two Troops halted as the leading scout had missed the track. Trooper Heyes, the Bren gunner of 13 Troop, was standing looking down the main track which ran at right angles to his position when he noticed four terrorists dressed in jungle green approaching. He immediately fired from the hip and downed the leading man, but the gun jammed after firing four rounds. The third and fourth men immediately turned and fled, the second terrorist let go with a burst of Sten (which peppered the trees about six feet above Heyes' head) before he too turned and took to his heels, dropping his pack on the way. The rest of the troops immediately took up the chase but lost the tracks in very thick jungle. The dead terrorist was later identified as being the orderly of the Platoon Commander, who had been the second man of the party and had fired the Sten before "getting off his mark." He was the leading terrorist of the area and had a reward of ten thousand dollars on his head. However, his pack was recovered and yielded much valuable information. From then until the 30th October it was mainly a matter of patrolling, searching and ambushing likely areas and tracks, but the quarry refused to be drawn from its lairs.

On the 31st October the Squadron withdrew to Kota Bahru airfield, emplaned and flew back to base. So ended Operation "Copley."

Although only one kill was obtained, the operation was successful if only for the fact that now the terrorists know that wherever they may be hiding they can never be safe from the troops who come dropping out of aircraft on to any sort of terrain to harass, chase and kill them or compel them to surrender from sheer exhaustion or hunger.

SCOTTISH COMMAND (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT

When these notes appear in print we shall already have said goodbye to 1952, with its trials, tribulations and, of course, successes and happy times, and 1953 will be with us and we look forward in particular to the Coronation of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on the 2nd June.

It is now known that our Regiment is to take part in this historic occasion in two roles. A detachment is to march in the procession and we are also to provide a party to help line the route.

To be selected for either of these duties will be a much coveted honour, and already there are signs of increased smartness in bearing and dress throughout the Regiment.

During December we saw a change of faces at Command Headquarters, and we welcome our new C.S.O., Brigadier W. M. Ponsonby, O.B.E. At the same time we wish Brigadier R. W. Morgan, O.B.E., a long and happy retirement.

We have also seen changes in the Regiment, and we welcome Captains Myddleton and C. De Lyle Turner, who have taken over Cipher and Adjutant respectively from Captain W. H. Lynch, departed to FARELF, and Captain D. S. Tomlinson, to War Office.

Our S.W.R.A.C.O., Captain (Molly) Davidson, has also left us for the W.R.A.C. Signals Training School in Catterick, but has to date not been replaced.

In January we are to lose Major E. W. Lewis, who is for B.A.O.R.

Our shooting team returned from the Lowland District Shoot as runners-up in the Britannic Cup and semi-finalists in the falling plates competition, where they lost to H.Q., Lowland Brigade, who were the eventual winners.

We have now entered the small bore rifle field, and to date we have fired one match. The result was close and until the targets are returned from the official check we do not know whether it was win, lose or draw.

On the sports field our football team are having quite a good season, and in the local competition for the Murray Cup brought off a surprise result in the second round, beating a fancied side five goals to two after being two goals down at half-time. The record to date is: Played 7, won 3, drawn 1, lost 3.

The hockey team have yet to win their first match, but they are undeterred by this and insist that they are having an enjoyable season.

On the social side we have been very active, and the weekly programme of events now reads as follows:—

Monday—Scottish Country Dancing Club. This is now very well attended, and we have the services of an instructor on alternate weeks.

Tuesday—Small Bore Shooting and Archery Club. The latter are having to operate indoors, and we feel that it is a credit to their proficiency that to date no damage has been reported.

Wednesday—Whist drive. This was poorly attended until a credit system (pay Thursday) was introduced.

Thursday—Small bore shooting.

In addition, there have been Regimental dances, and our big effort in aid of the Korea Comforts Fund resulted in our handing the sum of £25 19s. 1d. to the fund administrators.

Our wives have not been sitting back and we now have a thriving wives' club meeting on alternate Tuesday afternoons.

That is all for this time.

Happy New Year to all those who read this, and for that matter to those who don't.

Catterick Jottings

By **" NACERBY "**

We're on the Air . . .

COULDN'T help but think as I listened in to the B.B.C.'s " This Camp Called Catterick " presentation on Tuesday, 13th January—about time, too!

Complaining? No, no, but for many years this " Catterick legend " has been bandied about with absolutely no reference to the facts.

It hasn't been " give a dog a bad name—" as much as irresponsible, idle chatter; a Dantes-Inferno—self-fabricated—atmosphere and an almost deliberate closing of one's eyes to the sports, social and other amenities of the Garrison that has caused the average chap to wrinkle up his nose and murmur unmentionables whenever the word Catterick was mentioned.

But there can now be no doubt that this presentation, given in the peak listening hour, has killed for all time this "legend." I could picture in my mind's eye the thousands of listening parents throughout the country settling back comfortably in their armchairs, confident in the knowledge that everything possible is done for their sons. Many parents have visited Catterick, but I only wish it were possible for *all* parents to visit the Signal Training Centre (and, of course, the R.A.C. Training Centre), not for any reassuring visit, but to " live " with their sons the reception procedure and see the training and other facilities of the Training Regiments. As the G.O.C. Northumbrian District (Major-General H. Murray), Commander S.T.C. (Brigadier J. J. Duvivier), O.C. 3 Training Regiment (Lieutenant-Colonel G. H. Starr) and O.C. 7 Training Regiment (Lieutenant-Colonel J. P. North) all pointed out, Catterick had every reason to be proud of its achievements, and although improvements were necessary and would be effected in due course, everyone, be they Officers, N.C.O.s or Signalmen, " got on with the job " with a minimum of fuss and a maximum of effort.

So once again we've been in the news, and right proud we are of it all.

Facing the Footlights . . .

Confessions are not easy to make, especially against oneself, but I was certainly jerked out of my normal lethargy and air of detachment about musical shows as I chuckled, laughed uproariously and followed with rapt intent for nearly three hours the " 1952 Christmas Revue " presented by No. 4 (O.R.I.) Squadron, 4 Training Regiment, in Gaza Lines.

The Regiment is commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel H. Worrall, Royal Signals, and each year this Potential Officer Squadron presents a Christmas revue prior to seasonal leave.

The programme itself was a herald of " things to come ": —

" Costumes by Necessity."
Lighting by Accident.
Cigarettes by Freeman.
Applause by the Audience.
The audience is requested to control as far as possible the strong emotions which this epic production will undoubtedly cause—."

With an almost bewildering galaxy of swiftly changing acts, it was only in retrospect that one could appreciate both real and potential talent, but it was obvious to the crowded audience that production and presentation were the result of sheer team work.

Produced by Tom Gardiner, I couldn't mention all the names, and even if I had the space I don't think it would be fair 'cos didn't I just mention " team work."

But I fancy the whole cast would agree to my naming their Sergeant-Major (S.S.M. J. G. Roberson), who had a big hand in all aspects of the production.

Pity we must wait for another twelve months for another show. Time, please march on!

Driving Serial, 1953 Edition . . .

Began to get frightfully worried in December and January —no chaps up for T.R.A. wanted to become drivers! No one wanted to borrow my car! And, worst of all, no one wanted to buy it.

Had I frightened 'em away with my serial? No!

Isn't it strange how contented everyone is just before seasonal leave. Up for T.R.A.? But, sir, I'm happy in my trade!

See what I mean?

How did I go on? Wonderfully if you ignore small things like punctures, blowing exhausts (twice), sticking valves, busted springs, and—does *anyone* want to buy my Mercedes?

Nevertheless, must continue with my serial (and happy New Year, 5 Training Regiment).

This is the tale of Bertram Brings,
Who never bothered with his springs,
Although he ought, to say the least,
To keep those members fully greased.
That those poor springs might one day bust
Because of friction caused by rust,
Had never entered Bertram's head,
Although, as Sergeant Rotor said,
" Your story, Driver Brings, deceives
No one at all, between the leaves
Of all your springs much rust I see,
And therefore, Brings, it seems to me
—Unless I stand to be corrected—
Your maintenance is much neglected."
All these words of wisdom fell
On stony ground. " Like flaming hell,"
Cried Bertram, " will I lubricate
My springs tonight, I have a date."
And so the springs on Bertram's truck
Day by day all came unstuck.
The leaves began to splay apart,
But even that missed Bertram's heart
(Although the springs no longer acted,
And every pot-hole now impacted
Such horrid jolts on Bertram's seating
He used the mantelpiece for eating).
On January first in fifty-three,
Young Brings was driving by the sea.
The road wound round a tall white cliff,
The steering suddenly felt stiff;
The wheel was wrenched from Bertram's hold,
And truck and driver forthwith bowled
Right smack into the ocean blue
And both were written off by "Q."
What caused this shocking how d'you do?
The front off spring had snapped in two!

No Comment' . . .

A German living in the Soviet Sector of Berlin had lost his parrot. Very upset, he went to the Kommandatura and wrote out a detailed description of the bird. At the end he carefully appended: —

" Any opinions expressed by the parrot are his own and do not necessarily represent those of the parrot's owner."

Very Stop Press . . .

2 Training Regiment defeated a Battalion R.A.O.C., Chilwell, on 14th January, at Chilwell, to win the Northern Command Boxing Championship. And now for the Army Championships. Up the Corps!

3 TRAINING REGIMENT

Yes, indeed, it's February, and in thinking of the festive season can only repeat the words of the song, " The day is ended but the memory lingers on," and it would appear to me that I was *unlucky* to go on Christmas leave.

I hinted in December notes that big things were in store but never before (in *all* my service!) have I heard such unanimity regarding Christmas. The superlatives vary, but the whole thing was summed up by one trainee who, in response to my query, said " Bigger and better Christmases maybe, but I can't see how on earth they can be better."

The children's Christmas party was a magnificent success, and is there anything lovelier than a huge room full of happy children's faces—and who will ever forget the " Ooooh!" when Father Christmas (a magnificent performance by S.S.M. J. Brierley) appeared with the presents. Truly the Entertainments Officers, Major J. Matthewson, Captain J. Brine, and a representative committee, can look back with justifiable pride.

And so to Christmas dinner. Once again Captain M. Burt, W.R.A.C., and her so willing staff provided a repast that will be talked about for many a day. The Commander, S.T.C. (Brigadier J. J. Duvivier), and C.O. (Lieutenant-Colonel G. H. Starr) visited the men's Messes, and I'm told the cheers for them could have been heard at Ripon.

The annual Officers v. N.C.O.s comic football match resulted in a very disputable draw—both sides claimed to have won!

S.S.M. Brierley turned up at the wrong ground, complete with scooter, and says he beat himself by 4—2.

Ah, me! What a pity Christmas only comes once a year. And now a regretful farewell to Captain Burt, who leaves us after a lengthy stay in the Regiment. A brilliant golfer, she will be sadly missed, and our disappointment is only tempered by the posting in of Captain M. Cook, W.R.A.C.

The basketball team reached the final of the Command Basketball Competition, defeating a Training Regiment, R.A.C., by 34—13, and are also in the second round of the Northumbrian District Tourney.

The soccer team seem to have taken on a new lease of life —11—0 victory over 4 Training Regiment, 6—2 over 7 Training Regiment, and 7—3 over 7 Company, R.A.M.C., in the District Cup Competition.

A quiet period for rugger, but the indoor rifle shooting team are still among the leaders.

4 TRAINING REGIMENT

It is many moons since notes were inflicted upon you, gentle reader, from this particular haven of rest, i.e., 4 Training Regiment. So you should be all the more prepared to suffer now.

November saw a spate of distinguished visitors, including Colonel King, U.S. Signal Corps, Brigadier Firth, the Director of Signals, General Bowen, and, in December, the District Commander, General H. Murray. All appeared to be satisfied with what they saw and, as no one was drummed out of the Regiment afterwards, one can reasonably assume that things were roughly under control.

About the middle of December large numbers of trainees could be observed with an especially faraway look in their eyes. In short, Christmas 1952 was almost upon us.

The festive season really commenced for some of us with No. 4 (O.R. 1) Squadron Christmas Revue. This stage show, entirely home-produced by 4 Squadron, was absolutely magnificent. It had polish, imagination and bags of humour. Some 40 trainees and cadre must have worked really hard to organise such a thoroughly enjoyable evening. S.S.M. Robertson, as one of the Ugly Sisters, revealed additional talents, and a certain matronly charm, never before observed in a senior Warrant Officer.

On the 16th December, 1952, the Sergeants were "at home" to the Officers, which was most enjoyable and followed the usual form for a stag party. The 20th saw the Unit children's party, a highly successful affair, with good things for small tummies, and presents for all distributed by a huge Father Christmas (Major Fred Rapsey), who is just perfect for this sort of thing.

Sergeant Burgess (3 Squadron), Sergeant Prior (1/2 Squadron) and Major F. Rapsey (4 Squadron) doing some work for a change!

Then, on the 23rd, the grand exodus began. Hundreds of clean-limbed youths, enthusiastic trainees and keen Empire builders, were out of Catterick like a flash of lightning and a great peace descended on these historic buildings. Those of us who stayed behind enjoyed seeing that everything was locked up and tidy, with no sound to remind us of the normal day to day uproar.

On the 25th the Officers entertained the Sergeants before lunch and then, suitably fortified, all proceeded to the dining hall to serve the chaps' Christmas dinner and do some pretty brisk work. Staff Sergeant Newman, A.C.C., gentle and soft-spoken as usual, and his staff of cooks received rousing cheers for the excellent meal they produced.

★

In the sporting line the Regiment has been extremely active and done moderately well. Towards the end of the year the Inter-Squadron Boxing Competition was held and was won by 1/2 Squadron. The final placings were 1/2 Squadron, 34 points; 3 Squadron, 29 points; 5 Squadron, 25 points; and 4 Squadron, 24 points.

An important event was when we fought against a Battalion R.A.O.C., Chilwell, in the quarter-finals of the Army and Northern Command Inter-Unit Boxing Team Championships, and, although beaten by a better and fitter team by 18 points to 14, we gave a very good account of ourselves. Signalmen Elkins, Barr and Cooper boxed very well to win their fights against very rugged opponents.

We met a combined Yorkshire R.A.F. team in a friendly match which was held at Leeming Bar and, although we lost, the team gave a very good account of themselves and are looking forward to a return match at home in February. The team is being trained by Captain A. Williams (" Basher " to older members of the Corps) and S.S.M. Pyke, both of whom represented the Corps in the 1920's, ably assisted by S.S.I. Smith, A.P.T.C.

★

The Unit Rugby team has had a fair amount of success this season. A well-balanced side defeated a Training Regiment, R.A.C., by a narrow margin. The score, after a hard struggle, read: 4 Training Regiment 9 points, R.A.C. 8 points. Thus we moved up into the Northumbrian district second round.

In the second round we were not so fortunate, being beaten by the School of Signals more experienced and elusive three-quarters, ably supported by a weighty pack.

In December, Constantine College 2nd XV visited the Regiment and were soundly beaten by 28 points to nil. A week later Constantine College sent their 1st XV over, but this team also suffered a convincing defeat.

CHRISTMAS, 1952

Earlier in the season the Unit was fortunate to have as a member of its side, when he was not playing for the Corps, I. Thompson, the Scottish international full-back. He was a great asset to the side and his remarkable kicking played its part in helping the side to victory on several occasions.

Recently, T. J. Brewer, the Welsh international wing three-quarter, has joined the Unit to bring added sparkle.

4 Training Regiment entered the Catterick Inter-Unit Squash League this winter for the first time. 7 Training Regiment, O.T.W. "B" and a Training Regiment, R.A.C., were defeated and, at the moment, the team stands half-way up the league table.

The C.O., Lieutenant-Colonel Worrall, a keen player, has very successfully come to the aid of the team on numerous occasions, when a member of the team has been suddenly posted.

The Regimental cycling team distinguished itself in the recent Catterick Wheelers Cycle Cross-Country Race—14 miles of rough snow-covered moor tracks.

There were 12 entries. The team as a whole came second in the race, only 40 seconds behind the winners. Signalman Brewster finished third, and W.O.II Upton came fifth.

S.S.M. Bain, who had practically become part of the fittings, has been posted to Europe. Major Hewitt, the C.I., after many weeks in hospital, has emerged with smiling face once again but is not yet back to duty. Captain "Gillie" Potter has departed from the cultured atmosphere of 4 (O.R. 1) Squadron to become O.C. Royal Signals Display Team.

A happy New Year to you.

7 TRAINING REGIMENT, ROYAL SIGNALS

The past month has been filled with the normal Christmas and New Year festivities, and there is little to report of especial interest. However, it is a fact that a month cannot pass in this Regiment without an important inspection or a bigger-than-ever parade or something similar occurring to keep everyone on his toes.

This time it was a part in the preparation of the B.B.C. programme, "A Camp Called Catterick," which was broadcast in the North Region Home Service on 13th January. Recordings of many members of the Regiment were made. It is hoped that the Army and the Corps will have benefited from the sympathetic and sensible treatment the subject received from the B.B.C., and that the gloomy reputation which Catterick Camp has been given by some sections of the national Press has now brightened a little.

New arrivals this month include Major E. J. Buirski, who is commanding H.Q. Squadron, W.O.I D. C. Royall, the new R.S.M., and W.O.II H. Hill, who is now S.S.M. of 3 Squadron.

Sport continues to flourish. The soccer team has reached the quarter-finals of the Army Cup by beating the Green Howards 4—3 at Barnard Castle. They also still have an interest in the Command and District Cups. The hockey side drew with a Training Regiment, R.A.C., in the final of the District Cup, and is to replay; they also still have an interest in the Army Cup. The rugger team has been unable to play any games this month due to seasonal leave and to the state of the grounds.

THE DEPOT REGIMENT, ROYAL SIGNALS

We have been "off the air" for the past three months, so here are the highlights that have occurred since then. The hurdle of the Annual Administrative Inspection has been successfully taken. We now start preparation for this year's. Colonel D. R. Patterson, A.A.G., visited the Regiment on 1st December, 1952, and the W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess held a successful dance during the middle of November.

On the 15th December, 1952, the Regiment was honoured to receive a visit from the past Representative Colonel Commandant, Major-General R. F. B. Naylor, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C. The General inspected the Regiment and took the salute at a ceremonial parade at which a move to pre-war custom was made by the Officers carrying swords. After the parade the General visited the Squadrons to see the various and manifold aspects of the Regiment's functions.

Christmas is now safely behind us and but a pleasant though hectic memory. The Regiment is busily engaged in working off a surfeit of the customary excess in both solid and liquid sustenance which, combined with the rare occasion of a five-day holiday, has left us all a trifle lethargic.

The festive cycle was started with the Regimental Draw in the gymnasium, at which the fortunate holders produced winning tickets and became proud possessors of a multitude of prizes ranging from an outsize in turkeys to some very interesting bottles. The suspense as the winning tickets were drawn was well nigh unbearable until amidst much bewailing and tearing up of unsuccessful tickets the last prize was distributed.

The children of the Regiment were entertained on the 23rd December, 1952. Donald Duck and the Three Stooges on the screen brought forth much childish laughter and whetted many young appetites for the enormous tea that followed, eating ceasing only on the arrival of Father "Bill Grundy" Christmas, mounted very precariously on the back of a most hilarious "horse." This "horse" ably represented the "A" and "Q" Departments in the form of Sergeant Bain and S.Q.M.S. Knight. Amidst great excitement, presents, admirably suited to each kiddie, were distributed by Father Christmas, and so many tired but happy ones went off to bed.

On Christmas Day the unfortunate men were roused by the W.O.s and Sergeants with kindly words and "char" suitably strengthened. This caused one or two minor palpitations but the shock had receded by the time the comic football match arrived!

The mens' Mess was a picture of overladen and groaning tables, and with the assistance of the Officers, W.O.s and Sergeants in their traditional role of waiters, these were cleared in record time, leaving a sated party with a promise of acute indigestion. The day was rounded off with a rousing smoking concert.

The W.O.s and Sergeants are to be congratulated on a very full and capably organised programme comprising a dance, a families' dinner on Boxing Day, and a New Year's Eve party all of which left both guests and members limp but happy.

The ladies of the Regiment have decided by vote on the disposal of the funds of the late "Anxious Hen" Club at Pocklington—the balance to be donated to the Royal Signals Benevolent Fund. A cheque for £10 6s. 7d. has been despatched *(and received with great gratitude.—General Secretary)*.

Sporting activities have continued throughout the festive season, and Regimental teams are doing well in the district hockey and Rugby competitions.

A few hardy ones are keeping the Regimental "Redwing" boats aired on the River Teign—their winter home—working up to what is hoped will be a successful season in the Torbay Races.

The Regiment has said *bon voyage* to S.S.M. Greenstreet, Sergeants Irvine and Caines, and Corporal Nickson, off to far-flung places, and welcomes to the fold S.S.M. Yard, Sergeant Leeson and Sergeant Symes.

1 WAR OFFICE SIGNAL REGIMENT
(Traffic)

Phew! Another festive occasion has passed on, leaving behind memories of a jolly good time had by all.

The W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess commenced the festivities on the 11th December, 1952, with their Christmas Draw—and what a draw! Prizes in plenty and lots of "the spirit that cheers!"

Moneybags (Captain B. D. Gough, Imprest Holder) won the first prize and the £5 note for the seller of the winning ticket—all the remaining prizes being fairly evenly distributed among the members of the Regiment.

The proceeds of the draw were used for the children's Christmas party.

The Mess was gaily decorated for the occasion and praise is due to our R.S.M. and his band of helpers.

The tickets were drawn by our old friend Sergeant G. King (Chelsea Pensioner), who certainly lent colour and dignity to the proceedings.

The Officers followed up with a Mess party on the 19th. This, indeed, was a grand show and was enjoyed by all present. The Mess decorations were just wonderful—and great credit goes to Captain (Q.M.) Shaw and his gang.

The main Christmas dinner for the men's Mess was held on the evening of 23rd December, 1952, and certainly went down well. "Never was so much eaten by so few in so short a time." As nothing was left over the cooks can feel well satisfied with the hard work put in and that real appreciation prevailed. Well done, A.C.C. under Sergeants Spencer and Davies.

The Commanding Officer and other Officers of the Regiment visited the dining room during the dinner.

Dinner for Christmas Day for duty personnel was held at noon on the 25th.

This was also a success and the ample fare provided was greatly appreciated by those present.

Next came the W.O.s' and Sergeants' "Tramps Get-Together!" And they did—what a collection of untidy, unkempt and, in some cases, unknown objects in the attire of these "ladies and gentlemen of the road."

From reports received everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves, and W.O.II Cochrane and Mr. McColgan were, for once, thoroughly at home!

The children's Christmas party followed on 6th January, and can be described as a howling success whichever way one likes to look at it. Everything had been arranged for the comfort of our small guests, and auld mum and dad were remembered too!

Some 120 children sat down to a bumper tea, with all the nice things the kiddies like. The Messing Officer states that about half a ton of food was consumed!

Entertainment was provided by a party from the A.P.T. School and a visiting entertainer, and this got the children nicely worked up for the arrival of Father Christmas, performed by Sergeant King (Chelsea Pensioner)—and very well done, too, Sergeant."

The expression of delight on the faces of the children was ample reward for all the hard work put in by the members of the Mess. Mum and dad had their "day" late in the evening! And so much for festivities.

The Regiment is now back to normal and with a New Year resolution to carry on with the good work of 1952.

5 CORPS SIGNAL REGIMENT

We are now the demonstration and exhibition Regiment for the Corps. We received our baptism in this difficult task at the Radio Society of Great Britain Exhibition in November. We demonstrated old and new equipment and the methods by which the Army have miniaturised their equipment. From the S.R.D.E. we borrowed various ingenious gadgets including two B70s, and from the Military College of Science we obtained a machine of great cunning that plotted polar diagrams on a C.R.O. screen for various types of aerials.

One big idea of Royal Signals exhibiting at this exhibition was to encourage "hams," and especially ex-Royal Signals ones, to join the new Army Emergency Reserve Wireless Squadron and Pool. We have received no firm figures of the response to our appeal, but it is known that this excellent scheme is under way. Our smart W.R.A.C. personnel, in their new bottle-green uniforms, attracted much attention and, we hope, some recruits.

We gave away much literature on the Army. Copies of THE WIRE went very quickly and there were many and varied enquiries regarding the Royal Signals Association. All ranks on the stand enjoyed their stay in London, and we like to think we helped to put the Corps "on the map" a bit.

We were pleased to see the *Sunday Observer* article, "Soldier for a Fortnight," appear in the Christmas edition of THE WIRE. This reservist, a famous columnist, and married to the daughter of an even more famous one, gained his experience with our Regiment. Though he makes some sly digs at us we are glad to think he didn't find the training we gave him a complete waste of time.

Being what is known as a "closed Regiment," we can only go on leave at certain times of the year. Thus the Regiment virtually closed down on 12th December, 1952, and will not re-open until 5th January. Before departing homewards we fulfilled our seasonal obligations by a children's party in the Sergeants' Mess for all Royal Signals children in Colchester Garrison, by a troops' lunch of enormous size, and by a get-together of all the Sergeants in the Officers' Mess at midday and all the Officers in the Sergeants' Mess in the evening.

In the world of sport we battled our way heroically into the fourth round of the Army Rugger Cup, but were then beaten by the Grenadier Guards 20—3. We produced, with a certain

Captain C. Robinson and Corporal Sacree awaiting the arrival of the first visitor

amount of difficulty, a boxing team, but on being rash enough to challenge the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, were soundly beaten.

Very little real first-class sporting talent has so far been received by this Regiment, but the keenness and spirit of the Regimental teams make up for any shortcomings in skill.

EASTERN COMMAND SIGNAL REGIMENT

Christmas! Yes, Christmas comes even to Crowborough and brings in its train a hectic series of festivities. The short season began on 17th December, 1952, with a very successful children's party. The biggest attraction (in every way) was undoubtedly Santa Bishop, who confounded the pessimists by negotiating T.M. Troop's special chimney. A conjuror, Punch and Judy, and lashings of jelly and cake completed the good work.

That same evening, in the Sergeants' Mess, the games were renewed and the Officers trounced the Sergeants in a "Boat Race" and carried off a large (five feet!) wooden spoon as a trophy. The night finished with the now almost customary session of the Court of Cardinal Puff. The proceedings on this occasion were marked by the defrocking of Cardinal Morrison, who subsequently, at great expense, succeeded in regaining his previous rank from that of acolyte.

The following day all work stopped at noon and the other ranks settled down to an advance Christmas dinner, served by the Officers, W.O.s and Sergeants. After the initial surge by the Officers towards the point from which the beer was being served, the servers managed to distribute themselves fairly evenly about the room, and the dinner was soon under way and some of the O.R.s nearly under the table.

At the end, the C.S.O., who was present, wished the Regiment a very happy Christmas and his toast was replied to by the Commanding Officer. The party was then adjourned until 8 p.m., when the all ranks' dance began. So keen were the organisers of this dance that no less than two bands turned up. We hear that one was a private one ordered by one of the Officers for dancing lessons beforehand. He wasn't dancing that night, however, so it was placated with beer and sent away. Most of the Orderly Room staff were soon observed to be in their normal position—flat out. A welcome extension was granted until 1 a.m. and the dance was a great success in every respect.

Over Christmas, a small body of about 30 men were manfully fighting a rearguard action against large quantities of food and drink. Subsequent state of the messing and inspection of the bars in the camp show them to have been completely successful.

New Year's Eve remains shrouded in the mists of uncertainty. It was noticeable, however, that when the New Year festivities had died down the Regiment had lost about 11 operators. The "office" assured us that they had gone on release, but we wonder . . .

1 A.A. (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT

We are continually upset by forgetting that these notes will not appear until February and that last month was the time to send New Year greetings through these columns.

Orsett Camp put on a brave show of decoration during Christmas. Lieutenant Dawson produced a fine Christmas dinner from what we had always thought—an empty larder. The Officers, W.O.s and Sergeants served the meal with a dexterity we had hitherto only seen in the transport cafes along the Southend Road.

It is with very much regret we announce the death on 23rd December of Corporal William Brackley in Colchester Military Hospital after a sudden illness. Corporal Brackley had recently won further promotion and shown himself a most promising N.C.O. He will be missed by everyone who knew him as an excellent comrade and a man of quality. We extend every sympathy to his widow and four children. A contingent from his Troop attended the funeral at Feltham Cemetery on 31st December, 1952.

Soccer—Regimental Team

3rd December	v. Depot, Essex Regiment	Won 3—0.
10th ,,	v. R.A.F., Hornchurch	Lost 5—3.
31st ,,	v. London Transport	Lost 5—4.

Inter-Troop Soccer

2 AA Line Maintenance Troop 2, v. 3/4 AA Line Maintenance Troop 3.
2 Squadron, H.Q., 1, v. 1 Squadron, H.Q., 3.
3/4 AA Line Maintenance Troop 4, v. 2 Squadron, H.Q., 1.

Inter-Troop Hockey League

2 Squadron, H.Q., 3, v. R.H.Q., 1.

Hockey Regimental Team

3rd December	v. Depot, Essex Regiment	Lost 5—1.

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

The demands of civilian life and training have weighed us down heavily of late, and now that the social whirl has left us alone for a moment 'tis time that we drew breath and reported progress.

1952 brought us an exciting round of activity. We have had our fingers in many pies—and had them bitten on occasion, too—but somehow it seemed to be a satisfying year and will spur us on to an even better 1953.

Training has seen us activated by our "Z" Reservist comrades and through many week-end exercises, and the resultant soul-searching has brought home the knowledge that in our job there is never room for complacency and we must always "crack on."

The Officers were delighted to welcome the G.O.C. 1 A.A. Group to their cocktail party in November last, and also that the Corps Committee should have honoured the Regiment by holding the Royal Signals Officers' Buffet Supper and Reunion in its Kensington Centre. We believe it to have been a good party for all, and it certainly was for us. We also report successful dance ventures and pre-Christmas carol

11 A.A. (M.) Signal Regiment, T.A., Children's Christmas Party

singing evenings—the latter followed by a gargantuan Sergeants' Mess dinner and a party in the Officers' Mess.

The children of the Regiment have been remembered at Christmas parties given by both the outlying Squadrons and those who sojourn with R.H.Q. 21 A.A. (M) Signal Squadron report delighted squeals from Brentford in mid-December and Kensington is still recovering from the excited depredations of 81 potential recruits of the 0—10 age groups on the 3rd January. The day following our joyfulness was dimmed when, after a four-year record as runners-up and then winners for three successive years, we surrendered the 1 A.A. Group, W.R.A.C., Netball Cup to a (M) H.A.A. Regiment, T.A. We heartily congratulate the victors, who, in the last five minutes of the game, gained four goals in quick succession so to achieve a 13—9 win.

We do not let the year go by without mentioning the sterling work done for us by our ladies of the Kensington W.V.S. —without them our cups would not be full, let alone brimming over.

2 A.A. (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT

On 28th November, 1952, the General Officer Commanding 2 A.A. Group formally opened the new Group Exchange. Previously, the C.S.O., Lieutenant-Colonel L. W. J. Dryland, had explained the necessity for such an exchange in a most interesting speech. In it, too, he paid tribute to the G.P.O. staff who installed it, and also to our indefatigable supervisor, Staff Sergeant Hoar, B.E.M., W.R.A.C., and the exchange operators. Mr. Downes, of the G.P.O. staff, was presented with a pair of cuff links with "Jimmy" engraved, as a memento.

The traditional Christmas dinner was held on 17th December, in order that those going on Christmas leave could enjoy it, and from all accounts they did. The G.O.C. kindly paid us a visit and wished us the compliments of the season.

Nearer Christmas, Santa Claus arrived in a heavily loaded sleigh and distributed presents to the children of the Regiment. Added to the spectacle of a huge tree and a thrilling film show this was more than some of them could stand—or was it that Santa Claus's voice was familiar to them?

Owing to Christmas leave and bad weather, it has been almost impossible to raise a side or play a game of any kind just recently.

Some old friends are leaving us on discharge, and to them especially we wish a very happy and prosperous New Year.

Major J. J. Pearson departs this month for an attachment to the French Army. Whether he is to teach them anything or they him is not quite clear, but there is no doubt that a good time will be had by all.

5 A.A. (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT

December saw the showing of the first two plays produced by the Unit Theatre Club, namely, "The Monkey's Paw" and "Five Birds in a Cage." These two plays went extremely well, and the audience on each of the three nights was very appreciative. At the conclusion of the first night the two leading ladies were beautifully presented with bouquets by Miss Elizabeth Mitchell on behalf of Mrs. A. T. Sladen, the Commanding Officer's wife. We are now in the midst of rehearsals for this month's productions.

Over the festive season the usual parties were in full swing, which included a Sergeants' Mess dance at which the Commanding Officer won three prizes in the Christmas Draw, much to the hilarity of those present. The Children's Party was also a great success, and Punch and Judy is still as popular with the grown-ups.

Regimental training has been going along quietly, and the only point of general interest was our win in the 5 A.A. Group Motor Cycle Trials League over 59 H.A.A. Regiment, R.A.

MONKEY'S PAW

Left to right: Captain McCannin, S.S.M. Ormande, Corporal Prior, Sergeant Lamb, Captain McKellar

EUROPE

HEADQUARTERS, NORTHERN ARMY GROUP SIGNAL REGIMENT

(Previously H.Q., B.A.O.R. Signal Regiment)

On the 18th December, 1952, the title of the Unit changed to the more imposing one of H.Q. Northern Army Group Signal Regiment. This recognises, in name, our particular task of providing communications for the integrated headquarters of Northern Army Group down to the Allied Armies of Britain, Belgium and Holland.

At the turn of the year it is appropriate to recall the strenuous efforts of the Unit during 1952. By a succession of major exercises—"Team Spirit," "Grande Alliance," "Holdfast"—the late C.-in-C., General Sir John Harding, rapidly built up the Allies into a purposeful force. It has been recalled that the composition of the Northern Force has not been paralleled since Waterloo. In this feat the Unit assisted fully, and appreciable elements were detached to Belgian and Netherlands Corps to produce all rear link detachments.

Headquarters, Northern Army Group Signal Regiment, Harewood Barracks, Hereford

We are now receiving a wealth of equipment purchased from the German industry—radio relays, 14 pair "Stecke" cable, central battery exchanges and system controls—so 1953 promises to be interesting.

December has been spent in individual training and upgrading courses. For Christmas, an attractive, if formidable, programme of entertainment was followed through to the letter. The efforts of the W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess, under R.S.M. Dixon, were quite excellent, both in their own entertainment and in the traditional enterprises on Christmas Day.

In our sporting activities we have passed on to the next round of the Royal Signals Inter-Unit Boxing Competition by defeating 4 L. of C. Signal Regiment at Hamburg by 19 points to 12. At hockey, we defeated the Royal Tank Regiment in the Army Cup, 2 L. of C. Signal Regiment in the Royal Signals Inter-Unit Competition, and a Plant (Training) Squadron, R.E., in the Lubbecke District Cup. The snow and frost during the month caused several attractive fixtures to be postponed.

Majors Lloyd and Brindley have joined us from "SX" Branch—a move of fifteen kilometres! R.Q.M.S. Bell sits in the Quartermaster's Stores after a spell at Catterick, and we wish good luck to one of the oldest members of the Unit, S.Q.M.S. Giles, on his reversion to the Home Establishment.

1 CORPS SIGNAL REGIMENT

The Regiment has pleasure in wishing a happy, prosperous and peaceful New Year to all ranks of the Corps and their families. Our own Unit Christmas festivities were a great success. For the greater part of the Unit it must have been the first Christmas spent away from their homes. However, it appeared that a great many found excellent remedies for any home-sickness they might have experienced.

Individual training is still in full swing. Instructors and students alike are making great efforts to make their courses a success. We wish them well; great things will be expected of them in the very near future.

Our first exercise this year begins on the 19th January, and to some extent we are entering the field with a younger and less experienced team. Nevertheless, we hope to prove that youth and vigour cannot be denied the success that those qualities deserve.

Unfortunately, weather conditions have seriously hampered and curtailed our activities, especially with regard to hockey and football fixtures. The following matches have been played since our last notes: —

HOCKEY

Major Units (B.A.O.R.) Army Cup
1 Corps Signal Regiment 1—K.R.R.C. 2.

Royal Signals (B.A.O.R.) Knockout Competition
1 Corps Signal Regiment 5—11 Armoured Division Signal Regiment 1.

FOOTBALL

"Zeco" League
1 Corps Signal Regiment 2—H.Q. 11 Armoured Division 7.

7 ARMOURED DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT

We were just emerging from the alcoholic haze of Christmas when our New Year's Eve festivities put us right back where we started. However, a thoroughly good Christmas was enjoyed by all ranks, and the troops fairly made the welkin ring when the G.O.C. visited dinner—a sumptuous affair extremely well laid on by Sergeant Flannery and his merry men of the A.C.C.

The Officers and their wives were twice most hospitably entertained by R.S.M. and Mrs. Carter and members and wives of the W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess.

The Officers v. Sergeants fancy dress football match on Boxing Day was greatly enlivened by the use of fire hydrants. The drenched and drowning participants were quickly revived in the Officers' Mess afterwards.

This month brings a great change in Officers. We lose Major Mervyn-Smith, our Second-in-Command, Major Piddington, O.C. 4 Squadron, Major Hinton, O.C. 1 Squadron, and Lieutenant Bill Stagg, our Cipher Officer. Our thanks are due to them for all they have done for the Regiment, and in no small measure too, to their wives for the enthusiastic support not only of the Wives' Club but also of all the social and welfare activities of the Regiment. The ladies will be a sad loss to all our parties.

Lieutenant Thompkins has already arrived as our new Cipher Officer, and we shall soon be welcoming Major Peter Costen (Second-in-Command), Major John Adams (O.C. 1 Squadron) and Major Michael Philp (O.C. 4 Squadron), together with the families of all these Officers.

No. 5 Unit Branch, Royal Signals Association

Very largely due to the great generosity of members and their wives, of the W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess, the raffle of a doll, presented by Mrs. Nettleship, the Commanding Officer's wife, and dressed by herself, with the assistance of Mrs. Hinton, the magnificent sum of £11 5s. 6d. was raised as a first effort in aid of the Benevolent Fund.

Warrant Officers and Sergeants, 7th Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment

11 ARMOURED DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT

Last month at this time we were preparing for our Signal exercise and for Christmas. This month the exercise and Christmas are over, but not forgotten.

The atmosphere of this holy and festive season was created on the afternoon of 10th December, 1952, when the school children performed a Nativity Play in which members of the Regiment took part and assisted behind the scenes.

This was followed on the 15th December, 1952, by the Exercise, so rightly named, "Mince Pie." Apart from getting out of barracks for three days and providing excellent communications in really wintry conditions—it both rained and snowed—the members of the Regiment all had the Christmas spirit, and considerable quantities of Christmas fare were bought in the country villages.

I can say here and now that the two calves, one pig and twenty chickens reported missing from farms in the area did not finish up on the Sergeants' Mess dinner table but were, in fact, safely back in their own farms before the Regiment left the harbour area.

Immediately after the exercise we had three nights of "Aladdin," a pantomime in which several members of the Regiment took part. This show was up to professional standard, was much talked about and well supported.

On 22nd December, 1952, the Regiment held one of the most popular annual events—the Christmas All Ranks' Dance, where we all got together and danced well into the early hours.

On the next day the children's party was held in the barracks, and the youngsters were delighted with the film show, tea and Father Christmas, who came down the most enormous chimney, built by "M" Troop. All the children took home a present off the Christmas tree.

In the evening the Sergeants held their Christmas dance and grand Christmas draw. This draw was one of the finest I have ever had a ticket for. There were well over one hundred prizes of turkeys, geese, chickens, wines, spirits, cigarettes, chocolates and many other gifts. Over thirteen hundred shilling tickets were sold.

On Christmas Eve the Officers and their wives and guests held their Christmas party, surely one of the finest parties ever, which finished up with eggs and bacon at four in the morning! In spite of this jollification on Christmas Eve, the real meaning of Christmas was not forgotten, and shortly before midnight a large number of Protestants and Catholics left for their respective churches. The Protestants for Midnight Communion and the Catholics for Solemn High Mass. There is no Roman Catholic Chaplain in the Garrison, and the entire arrangements for this ambitious service were carried out by members of the Regiment. One Squadron Commander was the organist and another was the Master of Ceremonies. Later in the day the Regiment was well represented at the Church of England Christmas service.

After the service the Sergeants were invited to the Officers' Mess for a drink, and when the company was complete all were summoned by the junior sergeant to parade outside the Mess. The Officers, W.O.s and Sergeants then marched to the Regimental dining hall, where they were welcomed with a tremendous cheer.

During the Christmas dinner the G.O.C. arrived to wish all ranks a happy Christmas and have a drink with his Signal Regiment.

Now Christmas is over once more and we are all back at work and working hard. Everyone is quite determined that the chit we get after the annual administrative inspection in two weeks shall be first class.

BERLIN SIGNAL SQUADRON

After nearly thirty days of continuous snow the approach of Christmas was heralded by an unusually mild spell which has lasted throughout the holiday period. The Squadron has had an extremely good Christmas.

The day started with the usual early morning awakening by the S.S.M. and Sergeants armed with tea and rum. The highspot of the morning was an Officers v. Sergeants fancy dress football match. The game became rather confusing at times when at least three balls were in play at once and the referee could not decide which part of the game he was responsible for. Shortly afterwards an extremely good dinner was served by the Officers and Sergeants. It is considered that this meal surpassed those of previous years.

The Berlin Branch of the Signals Association has been holding regular meetings, at which Tombola has been played. On Boxing night an "open to all" smoking concert was held.

In the field of sport we are gradually finding our feet. In football we have only played three matches, winning one, losing one and the third resulting in a draw. In hockey, although we have a young and rather inexperienced team, it is taking shape quickly.

In closing we would like to wish all old members of the Squadron a very happy and successful New Year. We need not add that we are always delighted to hear from them at any time.

11 AIR FORMATION SIGNAL REGIMENT

Christmas Day started under the light of the moon for the W.O.s and Sergeants when they paraded under R.S.M. Irvine, who issued bottles of rum to all. These were poured into the hot tea ably prepared by Sergeant Johnson. The parade then dispersed to the various barrack rooms to awaken the occupants with true Christmas spirit.

Around midday the Officers, W.O.s and Sergeants of the Regiment, under the gallant leadership of the Commanding Officer, were seen proceeding in a most military-like fashion (*à la* Christmas) towards the Men's Mess. Congratulations are due to Major J. Woodrow, 1 A.S.S.U., for being the only "waiter" who could carry eight dinners in one go. All ranks appreciated the excellent effort of the cookhouse staff.

Boxing Day was set aside for the sporting element of the Regiment. In the morning the Officers and Sergeants, suitably dressed, did battle in a game of soccer-cum-rugger. Everyone is still wondering how Captain ("Curly") Thompson managed to secure his patent set of hair curlers—perhaps the nightdress had something to do with it. For the record the result was 1—1.

In the afternoon, the married Officers and Sergeants (Garrison Geraniums) were challenged by their wives (Lemgo Lilies) to a hockey match. The ladies, very neatly and efficiently dressed for the occasion, were the antithesis of their male counterparts, who appeared in all manner of dress varying between the soiled old tramp (Major McConnell-Wood) and the village beauty (Sergeant Webb). As expected, the ladies sailed to victory by 4—0.

Christmas Queries

Why did Signalman Dean choose Christmas Day to dance a jig on the spring diving board of the Unit Open Air Pool? Did he know that the W.O.s and Sergeants wasted valuable time waiting for the inevitable, which didn't materialise due to the timely intervention of the C.O.?

We bid regretful farewell to Captain and Mrs. Dunkley, who are bound for Blighty, and to Captain (Q.M.) and Mrs. Robertson, bound for 16 Airborne Divisional Signal Regiment.

They have been in our family for a long time and the place won't seem the same without them.

Due to the inclement weather conditions, there has been a general curtailment of sporting fixtures, only cross-country running being little affected. The name of the Regiment has been well to the fore in the 2 T.A.F. Southern League. During the past month several races have been run, not without success. On 26th November, 1952, we defeated R.A.F. Gütersloh by a wide margin over our home course of seven miles. On Saturday, 6th December, 1952, we had two representatives in the Southern T.A.F. team in the match against Northern T.A.F.—Second-Lieutenant Hill and Driver Gunton. Southern T.A.F. won convincingly. The Regimental team went to Wahn on 13th December, 1952, to run against their league team. Although we lost by 34—46, almost all the scoring runners finished within two minutes.

We can now report also that our boxing team fought the R.A.F. Station Gütersloh and came away convincing winners by eight matches to two. We have great hopes for our team this year.

Finally, on 20th December, 1952, we ran a friendly race against The King's Own Hussars, and managed to draw —a most creditable performance achieved in icy conditions.

3 SQUADRON, 4 L. OF C. SIGNAL REGIMENT

A welcome to all the recent arrivals—particularly those who, straight from Training Regiments, have been thrown into the arena of Detached Signal Offices. The departure recently of a number of "stalwarts" to civilian life has been a very sad blow and our very grateful thanks for all they have done in keeping the name of Signals so high goes with them. To them and all others who have served in the Squadron we send our very best wishes for 1953.

As with other Units, we observed the usual traditions over Christmas (including the odd Jeep!). Sighs of relief from Wilson and Dykes! We are now looking forward (?) to the Annual Administrative Inspection, C.I.V. Inspection, Individual Training and meeting the optimists who persist in sending us reams and reams of new Signal Procedure to be adopted almost forthwith. Oh to live in the clouds! We are rather proud of the fact that every Regular soldier is now in possession of at least his 3rd Class Certificate, that we have now completed the Annual P.T. Tests, and extend our sympathies to those who are anxiously awaiting the results of the last examination for the First-Class Certificate of Education.

The football team—in spite of their odd goal defeat on Boxing morning—still take the field on frozen and snow-covered grounds, and manage to give a very good account of themselves. Thanks are due to the supporters who stamp the touchlines trying hard to avoid frost bite.

Auf wiedersehen to "Two Ton Willie" on his departure to a job that won't help him to lose any weight.

5 AGRA (A.A.) SIGNAL SQUADRON

After a rather long absence from these pages our news has somewhat accumulated.

With winter upon us we withdrew from the outside world of exercises and manoeuvres to our indoor training rooms for individual training for two months, which culminated in a Unit Trade Board.

Then followed eight days of hard preparation for our Annual Administrative Inspection on 4th December, 1952. This entailed much paint, spit and polish, which was justly rewarded by a long week-end.

The next item on our agenda was, of course, the Christmas arrangements, the highlight of which was our Annual All Ranks' Dance. We were fortunate in being able to hold this in one of the oldest and handsomest buildings in the town, the Elizabeth Anna Palace, one time seat of the Duke of Oldenburg. The evening was a great success and was thoroughly enjoyed by the 150 people present.

Christmas morning commenced with "Gunfire," served by the Orderly Officer and W.O.s and Sergeants, and this was followed by a first-rate Christmas dinner provided in the Regimental cookhouse where, as is customary, the Officers, W.O.s and Sergeants acted as waiters.

The holiday is over and the New Year is upon us. May we of this Squadron take this opportunity of wishing all Units of the Corps a very prosperous year in 1953.

83 GROUP AIR FORMATION SIGNAL SQUADRON

Christmas is over and we have settled down again to troop training. The weather has not been kind, it alternates at present between snow and freezing rain. This is not as bad as one line N.C.O. suggested in list of stores required for a cable route. He headed the list:

Snowshoes—pairs, 20; Sleigh Drum—1.

The following conversation was overheard in the Malcolm Club between an airman and a soldier:—

S.: "What are you going to Winterbery for?"

A.: "Winter sports, you know! Ski-ing and skating."

S.: "Don't waste your money. Come out with me tomorrow. The cable party gets more winter sports than it wants. You can have my share and it won't cost a penny."

The Squadron enjoyed a traditional Christmas at Royal Air Force, Wahn. A very good programme of entertainment had been arranged by the Station Committee. This included a show by the Station Concert Party entitled "Ladies Beware." Hidden talent was discovered amongst the men of the Wing Signal Troop; three of them appeared in the show. Signalman Howe's impersonation of a W.R.A.F. sergeant was one of the most popular turns in the show. There is no truth in the rumour that Howe is repeating his performance on TV during his next leave.

Visits to Cologne during the grant period were very popular. Cologne celebrated the Christmas feast in the old style for the first time since before the war. The whole city was festooned with gaily coloured light, and was better lit up than pre-war Piccadilly. There were tall Christmas trees along the river bank, evergreen chains hung across the streets with illuminated figures suspended from them. Approaching the city across the Deutz Bridge the lights—together with the reflection in the river and the outline of the cathedral in the background—combined to make a grand picture.

At sport we have started the New Year with a swing. The Squadron football team has now entered the Combined Allied League in the Cologne area, and was successful in its first fixture against H.Q. 20 Liaison by four goals to one. A well-fought friendly match against the rest of the station at Wahn resulted in a win by three goals to two. Signalman Telling is the star of the team, he has scored 18 goals in the last five matches.

An inter-Troop soccer league is being played with great enthusiasm, and discussed with even greater enthusiasm at the "replay" in the Malcolm Club afterwards.

S.S.M. Farquharson is busy teaching the men hockey. We have had four inter-Troop games since the start of the year. These were noisy, and the energy put into the games amply made up for the lack of skill. An inter-Troop hockey league will be starting soon as all Troops have played one game.

BETFOR SIGNALS

The Trieste Branch of the Signals Association is thriving. We now have 14 life members and 98 annual members and look forward to the holding of the first function. It is a pity that R.Q.M.S. Truscott, our branch secretary and treasurer, will not be here to organise it and to see his hard work bear fruit. The R.Q.M.S. is due to return to U.K. very soon on promotion to W.O.I—congratulations.

Most of the surface of the one rugger pitch in Trieste was removed by our team when they played an excellent game against the North Staffordshire Regiment in the first round of the Army Cup. Although we were beaten, the game will long be remembered, and as a result of their performance, Signalman Flaherty, our fly-half, was selected to play in the Command team, and another regular player, Sergeant Haigh, was selected to travel to Venice as a reserve.

The festive season brought much work for some, excellent food for all, and headaches for a few. The happiness resulting from a party held for 57 Triestine orphans well repaid all those who spent so much time and effort arranging it. Our own Unit children also enjoyed their party, but either too much jelly and too many cakes or the excitement of the occasion led to their subsequent silence throughout a number of cartoon films. The adults seemed to be more vocal in their enjoyment of the exploits of Supermouse.

Since our last notes appeared we have negotiated our annual administrative inspection and, much to the consternation of most, the S.W.B. 8 station was winkled out of its garage for the first time in living memory. Although there was much creaking and groaning the station was set up "in the field" and worked to U.K. The effort proved too much, however, and we were off the air for a few days on return while the equipment relaxed!

Congratulations, too, to our Adjutant, Captain D. C. Newman, and to Mrs. Newman, on the birth of their daughter, Mariza, on 6th November, 1952.

And finally, as we start the New Year, we are very pleased to see that congratulations are in order to Captain L. G. Wardley, our Cipher Officer and O.C. Operating Troop, who has been awarded the M.B.E. in the New Year's Honours List.

VIENNA SIGNAL TROOP, BRITISH TROOPS IN AUSTRIA

Since our last appearance in these columns we have had our Annual Administrative Inspection, the result of which was quite complimentary, although there were minor points needing attention!

Another highlight was the visit of the Lord Bishop of Fulham, George Ingle, M.A., who gave a short address to the members of the Troop.

The festive season weather was rather mild, but this did not dampen the lad's spirits and Christmas was well spent.

As these notes go to press, snow is falling heavily, and everybody is becoming "ski conscious." There are also one or two lads who have learned that snowballing is rather an expensive pastime! Even in Austria windows cost money.

KLAGENFURT SIGNAL SQUADRON

Our preparations for the G.O.C.-in-C's annual inspection were upset a little by early snow in December, and both ice and paint had to be scraped before a new coat could be added. The inspection is over now and many favourable comments were passed though the report is yet to come. The G.O.C.-in-C. inspected Klagenfurt Signal Troop and the Brigade Signal Squadron on parade. After this he toured the Unit lines and barrack rooms.

We have said farewell to Captain and Mrs. F. Grant and Sergeant P. Stewart this month, and welcomed in their place Captain and Mrs. K. Mogridge and Sergeant F. G. D. Mills. We also offer best wishes to Sergeant E. Arnold, who has recently married.

Last month started with a large Trade Testing Board and then our inspection preparations were put on one side for Christmas. Since then many of the Unit have put on skis, and several people went on the first ski course. Two are now enjoying a short rest in the B.M.H.—Signalmen R. J. Ede and H. Wilkes, we wish them a speedy recovery from their ski-ing experiences.

MELF

3 G.H.Q. SIGNAL REGIMENT

Christmas is over once again and the Regiment is back to normal after a hectic but most enjoyable four days' holiday.

The Christmas activities culminated in the annual football game between the Officers and Sergeants—football is somewhat of a misnomer—at one point a water polo ball, a Rugby ball and a soccer ball were all being kicked about with great vigour. The referee, having finally lost his whistle, declared the game a draw.

Immediately after the game the annual donkey race, again between the Officers and Sergeants, took place. The Sergeants appeared unable to decide in which direction to ride, and Major Nolan was leading the practically deserted field at a fast walk when the C.O., Lieutenant-Colonel L. E. Thorpe, appeared from nowhere at a fast trot and finished a worthy winner amid thunderous applause.

Incidentally, there is no truth in the rumour that S.S.M. French is going into partnership with "Busty."

Congratulations to S.S.M. Smith (H.Q. Squadron) and Mrs. Smith on the birth of a son.

The week ending 3rd January was a black one for the Regiment. We were beaten 11—8 in the semi-final replay of the Rugby Cup by a H.A.A. Regiment, R.A., in spite of the vocal support of Sergeant Clements on the touchline and the sterling work of Lieutenant Marsh and Sergeant Staniford on the field.

The Regiment is now in fourth position in the Canal South Soccer Major League, but unfortunately we lost our first game for nearly two months on 1st January—being beaten 5—4 by a H.A.A. Regiment, R.A., after a rousing game in which Corporal Hemphill played his usual sturdy game. Lance-Corporal Daniels, Signalmen Horrocks and Healey, and the goalkeeper, Lance-Corporal Hill, all put up a very fine exhibition of football.

On the hockey field we suffered our first defeat after eight consecutive wins when we lost 0—1 to a Field Regiment, R.E., after a vigorous game in which the veteran Sergeant Melville, Sergeant Audley, Corporal Frost and Signalman Collins were outstanding.

The Regiment gained third place in the Royal Signals (Egypt) Sports Meeting held on 30th and 31st December, 1952. Well done, Signalman Riley, winner of the half-mile and mile medley, and Signalman Mitchell, winner of the high jump.

4 AIR FORMATION SIGNAL REGIMENT

October and November have been busy months for the Regiment as the majority of the Unit has been involved in exercises with the R.A.F., both in Jordan and in the Canal Zone.

The winter sports programme is in full swing, with football and hockey teams entered in the leagues and knock-out competitions. It is too early to forecast results, but we gather from 1 Squadron that they intend to win the District "B" Football League, due no doubt to the efforts of their "trainer," Craftsman McKenna. Boxing and rifle shooting are also in full swing.

The Regiment was represented in the first Corps (Egypt) hockey match against the R.A. by Captain C. E. Kilminster, Captain E. L. Rogers, and R.S.M. E. Griffiths as a stalwart goalkeeper. It was a close match lost by three goals to two.

To prevent boredom and stagnation our days are enlivened by thefts of U.G. cable from airfields overnight. The locals have not always won and we occasionally catch them "lead handed."

2 AGRA SIGNAL SQUADRON

All is now quiet here at Ferry Point as we lay back and survey the wreckage of bodies and souls—the result of yet another rowdy Christmas. Our activities were many and varied, but from the accounts rendered by those who were sober enough to remember, everyone had a very good time. The Mess dinner on Christmas Day, served by the Officers, W.O.s and Sergeants, was really excellent, and a credit to the hard-working cooks.

Boxing Day saw the annual "soccer" match between Officers and Sergeants, which was so ferocious in intensity that a halt was called after twenty minutes and a victory magnanimously conceded to the W.O.s and Sergeants. The win was celebrated in the accepted fashion at the Officers' Mess, and so passed another day of our holidays. Mess dinners, concerts and table tennis provided the rest of the entertainment and now we are back again saying "thank goodness that's over."

MALTA SIGNAL SQUADRON

We have come safely through our Christmas celebrations with no casualties. Unfortunately, the Squadron Children's Party had to be cancelled as there had been a few cases of polio reported. The children, however, still got their Christmas presents—made most ably by the T.O.T.'s department.

The Squadron is still doing well in the field of sport, particularly in soccer and hockey. The soccer team has played six games in the minor league, won four, drawn one, lost one and is second in the league table. The hockey team has had bad luck in their league games, all "lost" games having been lost by one goal only. They have played seven, won two, drawn two, lost three. There is a move afoot to produce a combined Sapper/Signals team to challenge the rest of the Army in Malta, and we are confident that we can more than hold our own. The recent six-a-side hockey knock-out competition produced some good sport. The Officers/W.O.s' team scraped through to win.

We have not been able to produce a full Rugby XV from the Squadron, but have combined with the other minor Units to produce a XV. We normally have six Royal Signals in the side. Unfortunately, there has been little rugger so far as all the pitches have been too hard to use. Oh, for some rain!

We recently had a grandstand view of H.R.H. the Duke of Edinburgh presenting colours to 40, 42 and 45 Commando, Royal Marines. The presentation took place on Floriana parade ground, which lies below our barrack block. The ceremony was most colourful and impressive.

We have recently had a change of O.C. and would like to say farewell to Major and Mrs. Chapman and to wish Major and Mrs. Yule a pleasant stay in Malta.

2 AIR SUPPORT SIGNAL UNIT

It has been a long time since we last appeared in THE WIRE, but we are still going strong. In the last few months we have had detachments nearly everywhere in the triangle formed by Port Said, Khartoum and Habbaniya. Talking of triangles—on that exercise we split in two—Shamal A.S.S.U. and Ganoub A.S.S.U. Who won? We still don't know. Our tentacles may be seen on anything from an A.A. Shoot to an Army Exercise, whilst the number of people who think that "A.S.S.U." is something vaguely indecent diminishes daily. In the Unit, Second-Lieutenant Nathan is now Second-in-Command, and S.S.M. Parker, from 7 Training Regiment, has replaced S.S.M. Haydon, who has gone to 2 Agra.

Commonwealth

1 COMMONWEALTH DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT

With the end of 1952 in sight we see the last of the original members of the Regiment leaving us for the U.K., having served their allotted span in this fair land. The services of several have received official recognition in the recent Honours and Awards List for this theatre. Major (Q.M.) Napper was awarded the M.B.E., whilst S.S.M. Flaherty, who came to Korea with 29 Infantry Brigade Signal Troop, and Sergeant Simpson received the B.E.M. Major Denton, Captain (T.O.T) Ransome, Sergeant Merryweather and Sergeant Hutton were all mentioned in despatches. Of our Canadian members, Captain Wheeler was awarded an M.B.E. whilst Captain Harris, Lieutenant Sorensen, Sergeant Guy, Lance-Corporal Rodney and Signalman Mann were mentioned in despatches.

The beginning of December heralds the arrival of winter as the minimum temperatures of November become the maximum ones for December. Cold early morning mists, with temperatures 20 degrees below freezing point and severe snow have been our lot in the last month. The welcome issue of winter equipment is now complete and we are resplendent in combat smocks, boots C.W.W., hoods and parkas, whilst diesel fuelled stoves in the tents endeavour to stop them turning into ice houses.

The Peace Talks seem to make little headway, and we have now completed a year in one location. The arrival of an Australian line detachment from the Base Signal Regiment now gives us a complement of British, Canadian, Australian and New Zealand Signalmen, so that we are truly integrated. A number of attached South Koreans complete the picture.

A plentiful supply of pheasants in the nearby hills has enabled the Officers of Command Group to exhibit their prowess with a gun and enrich their platters to a small extent. Incidents have been few but the complete miss of an owl and the near miss of the Commanding Officer by O.C. 3 Squadron is worthy of note.

On the entertainment side we have had visits from such well known stars as Ted Ray, Carol Carr, Frankie Howerd and Eve Boswell, as well as Canadian and Australian concert parties. All these artistes stayed with the Regiment for a few days during their tours.

Two football leagues have been started in the Division and we have a team in each. Both teams are doing well. The New Zealand troops have played several games of Rugby and the Canadians are now looking forward to ice hockey on the frozen River Imjin.

Far East Land Forces ★

18 INFANTRY BRIGADE SIGNAL SQUADRON

Midst the constant changing scenes of life, we of the semi-new contemptibles are doing our best to keep the flag flying. The communications during the visit to Malaya of H.R.H. Duchess of Kent and her son were made our responsibility, which were discharged in our best manner and with super-efficiency, including leading (unofficially, of course) her entourage in one of our most unworthy wrecks—a three-ton Dodge G.S.

In the sports line we are still battling on, adding one more activity to those already undertaken with zest and vigour, that being boxing, under the watchful eye of Corporal Hobbs. Already we have had one "beaut," which even the proverbial steak could not cure. That should teach you a lesson ("The Thing"). Instead of doing his usual, towards the end of last season in the athletics, Corporal Richardson, the Selangor and Malayan A.A.A. 3-mile champion, did his unusual, chased, instead of being chased by three very worthy Africans who have recently commenced operations in more senses than one in Malaya.

Congratulations to: Signalman Muldown, on proving to us that he can jungle bash and carry a 62 set in the bargain; Signalman and Mrs. Ramm on the addition of a daughter (Jenette Avis) to their family at British Military Hospital, Kinrara, on 7th October, 1952; Lance-Corporal Falcon on joining the Corporals' Basha; S.S.M. Bates on the award of the L.S. and G.C. (Cripes! Eighteen years for that piece of ribbon.)

Territorial Army

16 AIRBORNE DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT (T.A.)

Since our last WIRE notes, the Regiment has made great progress, particularly in the field of training. We have said *au revoir* to our Adjutant, Captain G. Proudman, who, after Trojan service with the Regiment, has returned to old stamping grounds in Pakistan to attend the Staff College course there. Our good wishes go also with Major E. J. Buirski, Lieutenants Appleton and the Lord May, who have left us, with R.S.M. Marjoram, who has gone overseas, and to all other members who have left the Regiment.

We welcome Captain D. D. Ranft, our new Adjutant, late of 22 Special Air Service Regiment, Captain S. R. Beazley and R.S.M. R. Hood, who have recently joined us.

Congratulations to Major E. C. Palmer, Major B. A. Milner, Captain J. D. Angus, S.S.M. Judd and Sergeants Sherlock, Skitt and Carr on their promotions.

The Regiment, minus "J," "K" and "L" Troops, attended a very successful camp at Castlemartin in South Wales during September 1952. Much benefit was derived by all, and 37 National Service volunteers were enlisted during camp. All ranks took part in a night scheme, and slept out on the sand dunes. Rumour has it that ever since S.S.M. Smith has been touchy on the sight of "rabbits"!

The Brigade Troops took part in Exercises "Spearhead" and "Holdfast" with their respective Brigades, and had the honour of dropping in B.A.O.R.

The Regiment was visited at camp by the G.O.C. and by the Honorary Colonel, Brigadier B. B. Kennett, C.B.E., who expressed great satisfaction with all that they saw.

The Regimental all ranks' ball was held at Chenil Galleries on 21st November, 1952, at which we welcomed the Honorary Colonel and many former members of the Regiment. The children's Christmas party on 3rd January went with its usual swing.

Our training programme is going well, and we face 1953 with the determination to make it an even better year than the old, in the field of both signal training and parachuting.

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

There is every promise that 1953 will be a memorable year for the Kensingtons with an earliest-ever camp in mid-May and after that, we hope, opportunities for practical application of our post-war training. Come what may, however, we are starting well with an infusion of fresh blood in the person of Major G. R. Price, M.B.E., who has come to us from Signals Directorate at the War Office to take over the appointment of Quartermaster. We welcome him to our permanent staff. We are also glad to announce the arrival of Lieutenant D. Campbell, who, until recently, was a Brigade Signal Officer in the Middle East with 3 Division, and of Second-Lieutenant P. D. Persson, who has just joined us from 4 Training Regiment. From across the border we welcome Captain Wardrop, who is attached to us from the 4/5 Cameron Highlanders during his stay in the south.

In conclusion, we congratulate Sergeant McGowan, our Orderly Room Sergeant, on the achievement of that rare qualification—Class I Trade Rating.

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

It is over a year now since we were last in print, and we can look back on a most successful year which has brought great changes to the Regiment.

Lieutenant-Colonel K. B. Baldwin, M.B.E., T.D., is now our Commanding Officer, and as he has been with the Regiment since he was gazetted as a Second-Lieutenant the traditions of the Regiment are in good hands.

The highlight of the training year was on annual camp in June at Bellerby Camp, near Catterick Camp, and we were kept hard at it, out on exercises for most of the time. The weather could have treated us better, but one doesn't expect too much that near to Catterick. The journey to and from Bellerby was done in one day by Unit transport in three convoys from Brighton, Chatham and Stamford Brook. Invaluable help was provided by an old friend of the Regiment, Major T. A. Hall, Royal Signals, who brought up a Squadron of 5 Corps Signal Regiment for Regular Army Assistance.

Mention must be made of our successful motor cycle trials team of Sergeant Beadle, Corporal Blackford and Signalman Pynn, who won the 44 Division and Home Counties District Challenge Cup, and a special congratulations to Corporal Blackford who was chosen to ride in the Army Trials, and but for being disqualified for taking too long on the course would have been the best T.A. rider. On the social side, one of the highlights was the W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess annual

dinner, held in the Mercury Club on the 11th October, 1952, which was a great success, and the Mess took the opportunity of presenting R.S.M. and Mrs. Meese with a travelling clock as a memento of their time with the Unit. The El Alamein Ball was held at the Stamford Brook T.A. Centre on the 25th November, 1952, and a ball for affiliated Cadet Squadron on the 8th November. On Sunday, 9th November, 1952, the Regiment took part in the Remembrance Parade of our Borough, Brentford and Chiswick.

The Officers' Mess annual dinner was held in the Drill Hall this year, as we have outgrown our Mess for such functions, and we were honoured with a distinguished gathering of guests including the Representative Colonel Commandant, the Chief Signal Officer, Eastern Command, Sir Thomas Spencer, of Standard Telephones, the Mayor of Brentford and Chiswick, the Secretary of the Signals Association, and many other friends of the Regiment. During the dinner the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel K. B. Baldwin, M.B.E., T.D., on behalf of the Officers' Mess, presented Captain Skelly with a silver salver to mark his two years as Adjutant.

Our forthcoming "attractions" are a children's party on the 10th January, the Officers' Mess Annual Ball on the 24th January, the W.O.s' and Sergeants' Ball on the 7th February, the All Ranks' Dinner at Stamford Brook on 21st February, and a fairly busy training programme for the New Year. We hope to tell you more about these in future issues of THE WIRE.

51 (H) INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

R.H.Q. and 1 Squadron. The festive season has once again proved to be both hectic and enjoyable. The children's party, which was held on Saturday, 20th December, 1952, was particularly successful. The Honorary Colonel, Colonel E. Birnie Reid, O.B.E., T.D., obviously enjoyed his role of Santa Claus. The raffle, too, went off very well, with the Commanding Officer drawing the lucky tickets.

The Sergeants' Mess celebrated with a Christmas party on the 27th December, 1952, and a dinner in the Gloucester Hotel on the 29th. A grand time was had by all.

The Officers held a technical week-end exercise on the 13th-14th December, 1952, in Aberdeen. The exercise proved to be most instructive, thanks to the kindness of Lieutenant-Colonel R. Linton, Royal Signals, Commanding Scottish Command (M) Signal Regiment, who made available his two Foremen of Signals as instructors.

No. 2 Squadron. The children of the Squadron were entertained to a bumper Christmas party by the Royal Signals (Stirling Branch) Association, which was a great success. Many thanks are due to Colonel Cochran, Captain Louden and our old friend ex-R.S.M. "Bert" Arnott, who really helped to put the show over. We find that we now have a surplus to establishment in "Santas" this year as Sergeant J. Sharp played the part for our party, and the P.S.I. Sergeant Boynton was detailed to fill the role for the 317 (Scottish Battalion) W.R.A.C. party given to a number of orphans from a local home. One little boy was found short of a toy so "Santa" Boynton, mixing business with pleasure, put him down for a couple of drills.

No. 3 Squadron. Since last in print, the Squadron has welcomed a new O.C., Major A. Gould, whom many members and ex-members of the Corps will remember from the war years, both at home and overseas. We hope his stay with us will be a long and happy one. Our former O.C., Major D. Love, has now transferred to T.A.R.O. owing to ill-health and pressure of work. He was a true pioneer of the Squadron, having commanded it from the days of its formation at Dundee in 1946. The heartiest wishes of all ranks go with him for the future.

The long awaited Drill Hall at Rodd Road has at last been started. As the line of masonry mounts higher so our hopes rise with it.

61 H.Q. ARMY SIGNAL REGIMENT (T.A.)

Christmas was celebrated by a number of dinners, socials and children's parties at the Regiment's seven T.A.C.s. Notable amongst these functions were the Brigade Signal Squadron's dinner-dance, and R.H.Q. and the Agra Signal Squadron's children's party, at which 35 youngsters assembled to see Father Christmas Prescott descend the Sergeants' Mess chimney.

Concentration at present is mainly on individual training for the March trade board. A number of formation T.E.W.T.s have been attended by Officers of the Regiment.

As last year, Squadrons and Troops of the Regiment will camp with their formations and Regiments in 1953. We are looking forward to a pretty strenuous training season.

Association Notes

Exeter

Christmas and New Year Festivities

Co-operating with the Exeter Squadron (T.A. Signals), our members, their wives and children have had two very enjoyable gatherings. The children's party on 3rd January brought together over 70 youngsters of all ages up to 14 years, and, judging by the look in their eyes as well as the noise they made, they did themselves quite well. A lot was done for them, especially by those kind ladies who provided the tea and did all the "clearing up." Brigadier Ralph Rayner, M.B.E., M.P. (Honorary Colonel), kindly supplied the massive Christmas tree, and the "troops" decorated it. The Old Comrades' Association Chairman (Lieutenant-Colonel J. W. Western) once again donned the red hood and robes, and decorated with a large snow-white beard, handed out presents from the tree to the eager boys and girls. It was pleasing to see the Commanding Office, Lieutenant-Colonel W. G. Daubeny, with Mrs. Daubeny and their young son, sitting with the party at teatime. We were also glad to see our President, Major-General W. G. Michelmore, with Mrs. Michelmore, there.

The "grown-ups" had their "do" on the following Saturday, and a good show it was, too—over 100 singing, dancing and playing games right up to a few moments to midnight. It was really Freddy Cole who kept 'em at it. My word, how he worked as M.C.—it was a fortunate thing Mrs. Cole brought a supply of collars for him to change during the evening! Our parties could not be quite the same without "our Freddy," and we do thank him for his untiring efforts. Mr. R. Burden (for the Squadron) and Mr. Stanley Back (Old Comrades' Association Honorary Secretary) both worked tremendously hard to make these events the great success they were.

Northampton

The month of December was marked by a party. It was a great pity that the weather decided to be against us, for a blizzard prevailed all day and into the evening. All the same, a hardy twenty or so members and ladies braved the elements and turned up to make the evening a great success. Our ladies—bless 'em—provided a "goodly spread." The New Year has brought sadness to our branch. Our secretary, Geoffrey Lewis, has been forced to relinquish his office as he is moving from the area. Secretaries are hard to find, but those of the calibre of Geoffrey are as rare as swallows in winter-time. He re-formed the branch when he first came to the town and has been its backbone ever since. Our grateful thanks to you, and may fair winds ever blow along your future path. Preparations are now in full swing for the Annual Dinner in March, when we hope to have Brigadier Firth with us. This event is always looked forward to most eagerly, and we hope to make it as great a success as in previous years.

Sheffield

We are very disappointed with the change of date for the Yorkshire Rally as it falls on Sheffield holiday week. However, we shall raise as many as possible to attend.

Numbers are still small at the meetings, one reason we believe is the contrary gas fire which does anything but provide heat for the meeting room.

Thanks to Lieutenant-Colonel Gardiner we shall be holding a social evening at Crabtree Lodge T.A. Headquarters the first Friday in February. A report on this will appear next month. The local Press are doing us pretty well as regards publicity for our meetings. It makes me wonder if ex-Signals read their papers with blinkers on!

The T.A. Unit are holding regular dances now, and we are doing our best to get rid of as many tickets as possible as a small measure of appreciation for their help in keeping the Association branch alive.

Prescot

The Prescot Branch held a children's party on 27th December, 1952, for members' and honorary members' children—158 children, ages ranging from six weeks to fifteen years. We kicked off at 2.30 p.m. with a cinema show of Charlie Chaplin, followed by a tea and crackers, then plenty of games under ex-Sergeant Hodgson and ex-Corporal Roach.

The highlight of the show came at 5 p.m. when Father Christmas, assisted by Mr. F. Greenall, chairman Prescot Urban District Council, gave out a toy to each child.

On leaving, each child was given a bag containing nuts and fruit.

The duties of Father Christmas were ably carried out by our 16-stone sick visitor, Mr. W. Hayes.

At about 6.30 p.m. 158 happy but tired children left the Drill Hall, Prescot, after a grand afternoon.

From left to right: Mr. R. Greenall (chairman, P.U.D.C.), Ex-Sergeant T. Henry, Mr. W. Hayes (Father Christmas)

Royal Signals Benevolent Fund

Also on this page is a simple statement of income and expenditure. Below an attempt is made to describe with suitable anonymity seven typical cases.

Ex-Signalman, enlisted 1945, discharged 1951, tuberculosis, and who has been in hospital ever since, writes: "I wish to thank you for your generosity and the consideration which has been shown me. I was to have left hospital early this year but was recommended surgical treatment, which meant another six or eight months. I would like to become a member of the Association."

Ex-Signalman, 1940 to 1946. Far East P.O.W. Married in 1938, two children. Was doing well, good salary, good home. Stricken with rheumatoid arthritis in May; kept going until November, when he had to ask for help. The Association helped to pay off his balance of hire purchase.

Widow of Signalman whose service was 1937 to 1943. On recommendation of a branch of the Association, she and two children have had a week's holiday at one of the Mercury Homes. The branch also helped her.

Ex-Signalman, 1929-46, to hospital with tuberculosis in August 1951. In January 1952, SSAFA brought case to notice and the fund paid off the debts caused by sudden cessation of wages. His wife and children had a tough time during 1952, but a free holiday at Mercury House in October set them up in health to face the winter.

Serving Signalman, married and setting up a home, could not manage the cost of the first baby. Commanding Officer recommended, Benevolent Fund gave substantial help.

Ex-Signalman, 1938 to 1945. Is out of work owing to ill-health, has five children and only a small income. The fund paid for some clothing for one of the children, who is in hospital.

Ex-Signalman, 1938-51. Served B.E.F., East Africa, N.W. Europe, FARELF, married, one child, invalided out with T.B. Has a Service pension and wife works to help out. Had to furnish on H.P. which he can just keep going. The almoner at the Chest Clinic writes: "At present cost of bedding we should be able to get both sheets and blankets with this generous gift."

ROYAL SIGNALS BENEVOLENT FUND

	£	s.	d.
Subscriptions received during December, 1952.—			
11 Armoured Division Signal Regiment	15	0	0
1 Training Regiment	10	0	0
5 Training Regiment	11	18	6
Depot Regiment	3	13	10
Eastern Command Signal Regiment	6	0	
Donations received during December, 1952:—			
"The Barrel Club"	4	0	0
East Africa Branch	5	0	0
Orsett Branch	1	1	0
Mr. C. Bartlett	3	0	0
Mr. F. J. Wheeler	1	1	0
Mr. D. H. McEwan	14	8	0
Mr. E. C. Partridge	10	0	
Mr. H. E. Prater	6	0	
Mr. T. C. Daniel	5	0	
Total Receipts	£70	9	4
Expenditure	£444	11	6

(Includes: Beds and Bedding; Rent and Rates; Hire Purchase; General Assistance; Prams and Cots; Fares; Removals.)

Analysis of cases:

Families of Soldiers serving in U.K.	1
" " " " FARELF	2
Widows and Dependants	3
Released and Discharged soldiers	44
Total cases assisted	50

Amendments to Blue Book No. 1 of 1953

TRADES ROSTER—DELETIONS

13	5191	5963	10697	11565	11991	12805
15	5192	5970	10717	11566	11999	12902
21	5206	5981	10726	11571	12011	12904
217	5221	5982	10728	11572	12025	12905
229	5230	5995	10754	11579	12034	12914
234	5234	6003	10762	11580	12045	12931
315	5237	6010	10778	11582	12054	12938
325	5239	6012	10791	11583	12078	12949
329	5240	6019	10793	11584	12088	12954
331	5242	6025	10798	11585	12089	12958
333	5249	6045	10831	11587	12127	12959
339	5260	6067	10844	11591	12134	12960
359	5262	6073	10855	11592	12135	12961
394	5266	6077	10863	11593	12136	12979
408	5270	6101	10869	11598	12140	12984
716	5272	6106	10881	11599	12142	12992
718	5273	6111	10883	11600	12172	12996
749	5274	6114	10900	11601	12196	12997
769	5291	6131A	10901	11604	12197	12998
845	5293	6132	10906	11605	12214	13014
900	5295	6135	10915	11610	12215	13027
1309	5302	6145	10916	11611	12216	13034
1310	5303	6157	10922	11619	12225	13037
1374	5305	6192	10925	11620	12238	13038
1438	5313	6198	10933	11621	12246	13039
1489	5316	6205	10942	11623	12250	13066
1542	5320	6255	10951	11631	12251	13092
1543	5322	6274	10964	11638	12281	13066
1575	5338	6291	10968	11640	12289	13097
1577	5340	6329	10970	11641	12291	13098
1607	5342	6340	10979	11644	12299	13119
1635	5346	10008	10981	11647	12300	13121
1646	5351	10013	10988	11648	12312	13140
1654	5352	10017	10989	11654	12314	13141
1655	5353	10018	10991	11657	12316	13143
1734	5354	10028	11006	11662	12329	13144
1747	5357	10035	11007	11664	12331	13145
1770	5364	10039	11028A	11665	12333	13147
1809	5365	10045	11034	11666	12339	13148
1841	5377	10049	11039	11667	12353	13158
1860	5392	10051	11071	11668	12377	13184
1872	5393	10053	11080	11669	12383	13204
1922	5395	10054	11111	11677	12394	13210
1925	5410	10062	11118	11678	12398	13218
1947	5416	10068	11132	11679	12416	13246
1978	5417	10074	11133	11685	12423	13273
2027	5418	10090	11189	11690	12426	13282
2035	5430	10094	11190	11691	12427	13297
2043	5433	10100	11248	11697	12437	13326
2045	5436	10108	11250	11701	12441	13328
2070	5438	10114	11251	11704	12468	13354
2080	5440	10118	11253	11705	12472	13369
2101	5445	10119	11254	11713	12484	13391
2102	5446	10141	11269	11714	12486	13397
2103	5451	10142	11288	11715	12500	13398
2107	5455	10143	11290	11717	12505	13410
2108	5456	10144	11295	11718	12506	13411
2140	5463	10145	11298	11719	12507	13436
2155	5470	10153	11309	11721	12514	13472
2167	5481	10158	11321	11728	12517	13473
2179	5483	10178	11325	11731	12537	13535
2190	5489	10194	11333	11733	12538	13581
2195	5492	10197	11338	11735	12539	13589
2204	5501	10205	11350	11736	12540	13607
2205	5502	10208	11396	11746	12578	13617
2210	5513	10213	11407	11752	12580	13620
2248	5520	10230	11423	11757	12587	13621
2255	5539	10233	11443	11761	12593	13632
2267	5541	10234	11456	11763	12595	13659
2278	5557	10235	11477	11764	12596	13660
2281	5560	10251	11486	11769	12597	13667
2282	5562	10267	11499	11770	12598	13675
2285	5569	10275	11500	11772	12628	13682
2292	5588	10280	11502	11777	12639	13734
2298	5602	10287	11503	11779	12645	13761
2313	5603	10291	11505	11783	12646	13772
2335	5611	10292	11506	11790	12650	13775
2337	5613	10293	11508	11791	12651	13776
2344	5617	10329	11509	11792	12664	13793
2375	5646	10354	11510	11794	12665	13794
2432	5648	10358	11511	11825	12667	13795
2436	5651	10360	11515	11835	12701	13817
5006	5663	10376	11516	11847	12723	13841
5011	5673	10395	11517	11854A	12743	13843
5012	5675	10397	11518	11857	12754	13844
5016	5701	10428	11519	11858	12755	13877
5019	5706	10433	11520	11867	12759	13885
5036	5710	10437	11521	11884	12763	13894
5037	5715	10449	11522	11886	12767	13909
5041	5732	10455	11523	11894	12781	13940
5058	5736	10456	11524	11899	12786	13941
5065	5755	10462	11525	11900	12787	13956
5066	5757	10477	11530	11910	12794	13967
5069	5777	10486	11531	11922	12803	13971
5081	5793	10521	11534	11926	12807	13977
5084	5821	10533	11535	11939	12811	13990
5085	5825	10534	11539	11943	12815	13997
5088	5826	10549	11545	11944	12816	14019
5094	5841	10598	11548	11952	12817	14034
5098	5850	10650	11549	11953	12819	14035
5106	5852	10657	11551	11954	12820	14051
5118	5856	10670	11552	11975	12821	14058
5124	5860	10671	11554	11976	12840	14061
5128	5919	10677	11561	11982	12862	14062
5144	5942	10680	11562	11983	12880	14086
5187	5955	10686	11564	11990	12883	14122

CIPHER ROSTER—DELETIONS

207 209 215 228 234 236 239 5079A 5275-5283 (inclusive)

GENERAL DUTIES ROSTER DELETIONS

SERJEANTS	CORPORALS			LANCE-CORPORALS		
1309	5006	5022	5026	10017	10023	10126

Corps Promotion Order No. 2

PROMOTIONS

W.O. CLASS 1 — TRADES ROSTER

Aston	L. H.	00046178	61
Boon	W. E.	02323133	62
Thirkell	R. F.	02321015	63
Cox	F. W.	02321162	64
Sorfleet	H.	02322040	65
Dickens	D. C.	02322165	66
Morrison	A.	02322463	67
Roake	J. H. W.	02318399	68
Knight	A. H.	02321421	69
Sweeney	T. R. T.	02321257	70
Royall	D. C. M.	02323824	71
Murray	D. A. L.	02323216	72
Holmes	H. R. C.	02320523	73
King	V. W. G.	02321023	74

W.O. CLASS 1 — CIPHER ROSTER

MacIntyre	K. G.	05182971	3
Brooks	E. J.	00146295	4

W.O. CLASS 1 — FOREMAN OF SIGNALS ROSTER

Davies	P. E. C.	02547258	5
Pattison	K.	02548671	6
Pickering	J.	21005049	7
Wolfenden	J.	21005576	8
Pinder	G. E.	14455248	9

S.Q.M.S. — TRADES ROSTER

Waller	C. T.	02571598	793A

SERJEANT — TRADES ROSTER

Harriott	G. D.	06401737	2266A

APPOINTED L/CORPORAL — TRADES ROSTER

Daines	E. E.	22265296	10179A

PROMOTIONS

SUBSTANTIVE CORPORAL — CIPHER ROSTER

Manson	H. K.	22526605	5196A
Robinson	A.	22550996	5220A
Dunbar	L. P. S.	22412001	5227A
Cann	E. W.	22539165	5276
Titmuss	B. A.	22504040	5277
Kemp	P. J. H.	22579364	5278
North	P. D.	22600549	5279
Phillips	F. R.	22597127	5280
Lees	K. M.	22620948	5281
Henderson	R. T.	22616589	5282
Gardiner	R.	22515160	5283
Thornton	J. A.	22515870	5284
Bennett	M. R.	22575334	5285
Dunn	A.	02549642	5286
Davis	P. D.	21052583	5287
Cooper	F.	22248984	5288
Rose	M. J.	22519415	5289
Evans	J.	22312337	5290
Gore	J. G.	22242622	5291
Stockham	G. F.	22238199	5292
Hunt	D. H.	22547290	5293
Wall	M. B.	22562682	5294
Rees	K.	22563677	5295

Hensby	D. L.	22584347	5296
Jackson	B. B.	22593124	5297
Crump	D. E.	22772530	5298
Saffin	W. G. M.	22579709	5299
Bell	C.	22771991	5300
Massey	J. P.	22286266	5301
Wyse	H.	22286297	5302
John	G.	22515787	5303
Thornton	P. N.	22590540	5304
Davenport	J. H.	22603971	5305
Knighton	J. H.	22788665	5306
Bicknell	K. J.	22540222	5307
Ambler	P. G.	22603982	5308
Parr	E. F.	22287916	5309
Roberts	J. F.	22515492	5310
Clark	L. F.	22616564	5312

APPOINTED L/CORPORAL — CORPS ROSTER GENERAL DUTIES ROSTER

Bliss	R. J. A.	22480200	10093A
O'Connor	M. W.	14103384	10130
Clark	J.	22448014	10131
Goode	A. E.	22454830	10132
Lightning	S. H.	22509405	10133
Stevenson	J.	22797837	10134
Smith	R.	22265039	10135
Mack	W.	22619183	10136
Lewis	D. R.	22454502	10137
Baker	R.	22485527	10138
Gardner	H. C.	22452622	10139
Curry	S.	22490334	10140
Wright	E.	22465175	10141
Gosden	J. H.	22504190	10142
Betts	S.	22571596	10143
Kewley	W. D.	22468518	10144
Palmer	E. A.	22575212	10145
Brown	D. H.	22470716	10146
Powell	R. H.	22560042	10147
McCormick	W.	22604657	10148

TRADES ROSTER—INSERTIONS

S.Q.M.S.

Chilcott	G. A.	02323648	706C
Davy	A. E.	00743840	708A
Woolgar	F. P.	02324291	709A
Solley	C. E.	02311205	710A
Grace	D. J.	06083406	710C
Mason	F. T.	02321797	710D

SERJEANTS

Simons	H. A.	22569710	1439A
Roberts	L. M.	15002507	1594A
Riley	N. A.	22569663	1888B
Bowling	E. C.	14467158	2192A

CORPORALS

Crosse	W. R.	00809992	5030A
Delpinto	F. H.	22242835	5522A
Sweeney	P. G.	02701223	5622A
Simpson	A. R.	22212583	5861A
Scott	E. F.	22538556	6317A

LANCE-CORPORALS

North	G.	22204968	10019A

CIPHER ROSTER—INSERTIONS

SERJEANTS

Powell	J. S.	04012429	1302A
Stanford	J.	14458266	1303A
Ball	J.	14472729	1304A
Cameron	W.	22540221	1304C
Reynolds	J.	14858769	1311A
Redstone	V. L.	05505979	1312A
Brandreth	F.	22265461	1320A

CORPORALS

Sugg	R.	22280727	5209 A
Dignan	T. T.	22612600	5266 A

GENERAL DUTIES ROSTER INSERTIONS

LANCE-CORPORALS

Raby	K.	22247052	10141A

UNCLAIMED BALANCES

The undermentioned died leaving the sum of money shown against their names, unclaimed:—

ROBERTS, C. F., S.Q.M.S., Royal Signals £18 17s. 3d.
SCOTT, R. S., Signalman, Royal Signals ... £18 11s. 3d.

Applications from anyone supposing themselves entitled as next-of-kin should be addressed, by letter, to:—The Under-Secretary of State, War Office, Whitehall, London, S.W.1, and marked on the outside, "Effects."

WEST COUNTRY REUNION

At the Depot Regiment, Newton Abbot.
Saturday, 4th, and Sunday, 5th July, 1953.

Details will be issued later, but West Country Branches should note that Comrades arrive on Saturday afternoon and remain for Church Parade on Sunday morning and sports on Sunday afternoon.

THE HISTORY of BRITISH ARMY SIGNALS in the SECOND WORLD WAR

by

Major General R. F. H. NALDER, C.B., O.B.E.

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THE BLUE BOOK

Seniority Roll of Warrant Officers and Non-Commissioned Officers of Royal Signals is now on sale

PRICE 2/-

from Royal Signals Association.

Commencing February with Corps Promotion Order No. 2, amendments will be published monthly in THE WIRE.

These will be printed in the same type as the book to facilitate alterations.

The Signal is—
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(Not claiming to be the only butchers, but nevertheless—one of the best)
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YORK BRANCH
Royal Signals Association

are organising a

RALLY & REUNION

on

SATURDAY, 25th JULY, 1953

There will be a "Miniature Tattoo" in the afternoon, including the Royal Signals Band and the Motor Cycle Display Team, and in the evening a Dance or Concert

BOOK THIS DATE

Further details in THE WIRE and NEWS LETTER, or from Mr. J. Newton, Honorary Secretary, Royal Signals Association, 59 Water Lane, Clifton, York.

THE WIRE

The Corps Magazine of the
ROYAL SIGNALS
The Official Organ of the
SIGNALS ASSOCIATION

Editor:
BRIGADIER 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, 12/-; single month, 1/-.

☆

MARCH • 1953
Vol. 7 *New Series* **No. 3**

☆

PRICE ONE SHILLING

Editorial

ALL will have read in the newspapers of the disastrous floods on the East Coast of England. The Signal Regiments of Eastern Command are, as can well be imagined, all too busy to give at this stage any news of the work they are doing. THE WIRE has, however, been able to obtain the following information. Set out as it is, almost in the form of the information paragraph of a Signal Instruction. It may convey something of the urgency and drive which has been such a great factor of the military assistance given to the civil authorities during this national catastrophe. All three Services are combined to give of their best in men and material. The part played by Royal Signals is, as always, unspectacular but essential.

Here is an incomplete list:—

NORTH OF THE THAMES

5 Corps Signal Regiment

14 Wireless detachments providing communications for the River Catchment Boards of East Anglia, Norfolk, Suffolk and Essex.

Control Stations at Ipswich and Norwich.

Line detachments to serve a temporary Royal Air Force Headquarters at Purfleet.

Two Officers and 100 men every day filling sandbags at Jaywick, near Clacton-on-Sea.

2 Squadron, 3 Divisional Signal Regiment, and 49 Independent Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron

Wireless detachments with the River Catchment Board of Essex.

Signal Training Centre

A total of eight Wireless Detachments, three in trucks, three in land-rovers, and two in D.U.K.W.s, deployed between Mablethorpe and Skegness.

There are also 200 men with vehicles standing by in Catterick to be moved quickly in case of need, as a labour force.

5 Training Regiment

40 vehicles transporting R.E. stores in the flood area.

SOUTH OF THE THAMES

Eastern Command Signal Regiment

Signal Office at Chatham. Headquarters Flood Control Home Counties District.

Six Wireless Detachments with the Anglo Iranian Oil Company on the Isle of Grain.

* * *

These are the bare bones of it. We in Signals can imagine the long hours of tough riding in abominable weather of the despatch riders. We in Signals can realise that the full damage to the fixed communications in Foulness, Sheerness and Shoeburyness are as yet undiscovered. We shall read about it, we hope, in April in the notes from the Regiments concerned.

Suffice to say that as always Royal Signals has met every call for its help.

1 A.A. (M) Signal Regiment

Details of the work of this Regiment were lacking when this page was written. They are included in the Regiment's own notes on pages 66 and 67.

It has been difficult to squeeze all that had to go into this the March number of THE WIRE *into 28 pages and this shall be the Editor's excuse for the somewhat unorthodox layout of the pages devoted to the notes and news of those serving at home. It must also be our apology to Southern Command (M) Signal Regiment for whose notes it was impossible to find room at all.*

The Study of Military History

by **Major E. W. Sheppard, O.B.E., M.C.**

Those of us now old who were studying our profession in the 1930s welcomed with gratitude the first edition of Major Sheppard's admirable work. It was then titled "Military History for the Staff College." It provided the serious student with three essential aids. A first introduction to the selected campaign written with such admirable clarity and adorned with an excellent map that, one's interest aroused, a grasp could be obtained of the essential happenings and the whole story in a few pages. A list of suitable books facilitated one's choice for further reading all with constant attention to Major Sheppard's pages. The first edition also included certain test questions on each campaign. The third and equally valuable asset was, of course, as an aid to revision. A quick re-reading of Major Sheppard's pages brought back to mind all, or nearly all, that one had read in other volumes perhaps some months previously.

The present volume is merely the old one brought up to date by the addition of chapters dealing with the campaigns of the recent war which are laid down for study. These naturally are not quite as closely written as the old stagers. It is difficult to write history soon after the event before indeed the official history has been written. Suffice to say that the three chapters on World War II, if studied carefully, with perhaps two readings of the recommended books, will provide the answer to any likely question.

For those now working for the Staff Colleges, Major Sheppard's book provides 75 to 80 per cent. in the military history papers and as such is cheap at the price of 15s.

The book goes deeper than that. Few Officers in this modern Army have either the time or the inclination to read enough. Major Sheppard's book provides the perfect introduction to the fascinating reading of military history. An Officers' Mess Library which does not have a copy is a mark of neglect of those responsible. The Officer who aspires to attain advancement in his profession who does not read it frequently is, it might well be said, lacking in basic intelligence.

Gale and Polden—15s.

"Appointment in London"

"The Wire" Goes to a Film Premiere

Kindly invited by the Royal Air Force Association, THE WIRE was privileged to attend a premiere of this film at the Leicester Square Theatre.

As always with the Royal Air Force, the affair was exceptionally well staged. Arriving in good time and locating its seat, THE WIRE then returned to the foyer to see Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Gloucester received by a Guard of Honour and pass through to the Royal Box.

The curtain went up with an orchestra of the Central Band of the Royal Air Force in the orchestra pit; the Band of the Women's Royal Air Force, with the Trumpeters of the Central Band on the stage. In the stage boxes a mixed choir of the Royal Air Force Association sang "Long Live Elizabeth" from the opera "Merrie England."

The film show opened with "Royal Heritage," a most admirable colour film of our Queen in Canada, at the Trooping of the Colour, of the Coronation Regalia, and of the Kings and Queens of England who have worn it.

Then a newsreel, then "Appointment in London," a true, entertaining and, at times, most moving picture of the work of Bomber Command. The choir of the Royal Air Force then sang "Lords of the Air," and the whole audience joined in "God Save the Queen."

The enormous Leicester Square Theatre was completely filled and we presume and hope that the Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund benefited accordingly.

3 DIVISIONAL SIGNALS REUNION CLUB

Once again sixty-five ex-members of the Unit met at the Central Mess, Duke of York's H.Q., Chelsea, on the 10th January, coming from all parts of the country.

The occasion was a very memorable one, as for the first time it was a get-together of pre-war, wartime and post-war members of the Unit, and as a result many thunderous greetings must have been heard by the Unit now serving in M.E.L.F., with whom telegraphic messages of goodwill had been exchanged.

The club was indeed honoured to have Major-General W. O. Bowen, C.B., C.B.E., the present Director of Signals, The War Office, as our guest of honour. In his speech he spoke of the goodwill that existed between all members of the Unit and those with whom they served. He also stated that he had read the book by Norman Scalf, "The Assault Division," and from this he had learnt much of the greatness of the Division.

Our chairman on this occasion was Major-General W. C. Penney, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., and among those of our distinguished members present were Major-General Fladgate and Major-General Naylor. Colonels Pearce and Bury could be seen surrounded by Joe Cotterell, Glyn, Fawl, Hooker and the Jordans.

During dinner toasts were drunk to the Queen, the Colonel-in-Chief and absent friends.

It is regretted that due to thick fog our photographers failed to turn up and thus we were unable to capture the delighted faces of all those present on this joyful evening.

At the next dinner, when the club come together again in March 1954, it is hoped that there will be many more members to our steadily growing family. Those interested should write for details to the Secretary, 8 Waldemar Mansions, London, S.W.6.

WORLD VETERANS' FEDERATION

Major-General C. W. Fladgate, C.B.E., Royal Signals Association, has received the following letter from the Deputy Secretary General, World Veterans' Federation:—

"We want to let you know that in the past few days we have received many expressions of sympathy for the suffering undergone by British veterans during the terrible storms which hit Great Britain, Belgium and Holland.

While the World Veterans' Federation has had to apply the limited sums it could solicit from its members to the aid of Dutch veterans, because of the much greater physical destruction in Holland, the Federation wishes, nevertheless, to make clear its feeling of sorrow for those in Great Britain who have been hurt in this catastrophe.

★

The Secretary General is visiting member associations in Greece and Italy and will return to Paris early next week. He and the President of the World Veterans' Federation join me in sending their personal sympathy."

Copies of

"THE 43rd WESSEX DIVISION AT WAR"

may be obtained from

WILLIAM CLOWES AND SONS, LIMITED,
Little New Street, London, E.C.4.

The cost varies with the category of the applicant.

PERSONAL COLUMN

Births

DODS.—To S.Q.M.S. (F.O.S.) and Mrs. J. Dods, 2 War Office Signal Regiment (Engineering), on 30th October, 1952, a daughter, Lynne.

ALLISON.—To Sergeant and Mrs. J. H. Allison, 2 War Office Signal Regiment (Engineering), on 1st January, 1953, a son, David George.

WARDLE.—To Captain and Mrs. C. C. Wardle, on the 21st January, 1953, at the Kandang Kerbau Hospital, Singapore, a son, David John Clayton.

OGLANBY.—To S.S.M. and Mrs. J. L. Oglanby, 49 Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment, on 24th December, 1952, a son, Richard Keith Noel.

ORAM.—To Major and Mrs. R. D. Oram, 4 Air Formation Signal Regiment, on 17th December, 1952, at R.A.F. Hospital, Abyad, a daughter, Penelope Ann.

BALBRAITH.—To S.S.M. and Mrs. D. Balbraith, 2 Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, on 22nd December, 1952, a daughter, Janet.

BELL.—To Sergeant and Mrs. J. Bell, 2 Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, on 8th December, 1952, a son, Michael Charles.

KAY.—To Sergeant and Mrs. G. V. Kay, 2 Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, on 8th December, 1952, a son, Michael Denniss.

LEATHERLAND.—To Captain and Mrs. F. W. Leatherland, No. 1 Wireless Regiment, Royal Signals, on 30th December, 1952, a daughter.

WOOLGAR.—To Sergeant and Mrs. Woolgar, 4 L. of C. Signal Regiment, on 8th January, 1953, at Hamburg, a son, Michael John.

Marriages

COMPLIN—SIMPSON.—Captain B. C. Complin, Royal Signals, H.Q. 2 A.A. Group, to Margaret Constance Simpson, at St. Paul's Church, Winchester, on 12th February, 1953.

Deaths

COLLIER.—22548900 Signalman R. Collier, on 10th January, 1953, in M.E.L.F.

BAMBER.—22451433 Signalman D. Bamber, on 11th January, 1953, at Royal Victoria Hospital, Boscombe.

OWEN.—22265754 Signalman G. Owen, on 20th January, 1953, at the Connaught Military Hospital, Hindhead.

POPLE.—22695653 Driver L. Pople, on 28th January, 1953, in M.E.L.F.

"London Gazette," 9th January, 1953

Major R. W. Atkinson, O.B.E., to be Lieutenant-Colonel.

Colonel (Temporary Brigadier) R. H. O. Coryton, C.B.E., to be Brigadier.

Colonel (Temporary Brigadier) S. P. L. Gray, D.S.O., O.B.E., to be Brigadier.

23rd January, 1953

Brigadier C. Knowles, C.B.E., to R.A.R.O.

Brigadier E. V. McCormack, C.B.E., to R.A.R.O.

Major R. Lyall to R.A.R.O.

Lieutenant-Colonel C. H. Lyddon to be Colonel.

Lieutenant-Colonel K. E. Holmes to be Colonel.

Lieutenant-Colonel J. C. Hardy to be Colonel.

Lieutenant-Colonel G. S. Knox, O.B.E. to be Colonel.

Movements—Officers

Captain (Cipher) T. J. Winder from FARELF to U.K.

Captain (T.O.T.) W. P. J. Rumsey from Pakistan to War Office.

Captain (T.O.T.) F. V. Mancy from War Office to R.A.R.O.

Major (Q.M.) H. Napper from Korea to B.A.O.R.

Captain (Q.M.) A. E. Lunn from M.E.L.F. to 1 A.A. (M) Signal Regiment.

Captain E. J. Bardell from Princess Louise's Kensington Regiment, T.A., to FARELF.

Major K. J. Hinton from B.A.O.R. to Southern Command (M) Signal Regiment.

Major G. D. K. Woolrych from M.E.L.F. to 1 War Office Signal Regiment.

Major R. H. B. Evans remains Southern Command (M) Signal Regiment.

Major (Q.M.) G. R. Price, M.B.E., from War Office to Princess Louise's Kensington Regiment (T.A.).

Major P. F. Yeatman from School of Signals to U.S.A.

Major B. J. Stevens from 5 Training Regiment to B.A.O.R.

Major D. C. Lyall from H.Q. Eastern Command to Nairobi.

Major E. V. Mervyn-Smith from B.A.O.R. to Ministry of Supply.

Major J. F. MacSwiney from Ministry of Supply to M.E.L.F.

Major M. R. Hewitt, from Southern Command (M) Signal Regiment to B.A.O.R.

Captain (Cipher) F. Grant from British Troops in Austria to M.E.L.F.

Major J. R. Piddington from B.A.O.R. to Pakistan.

Lieutenant-Colonel A. T. Sladen from 5 A.A. (M) Signal Regiment to 63 H.Q. L. of C. Signal Regiment, T.A.

Major M. Stonestreet from B.T.A. to 5 Training Regiment.

Lieutenant-Colonel R. B. S. Eraut from 5 Training Regiment to 5 A.A. (M) Signal Regiment.

Major G. S. Fenton from Korea to 16 Airborne Divisional Signal Regiment, Middlesex Yeomanry, T.A.

Major W. C. Ramsay from 16 Airborne Divisional Signal Regiment, Middlesex Yeomanry, T.A., to Depot.

Major P. H. Brown from H.Q. Signal Training Centre to School of Land/Air Warfare for course, thence to M.E.L.F.

Lieutenant-Colonel D. A. Pringle from R.M.A. Sandhurst to East Africa.

Major A. D. Inglis from School of Signals to H.Q. ALFCE.

Captain (Q.M.) W. J. Robertson from B.A.O.R. to 16 Airborne Divisional Signal Regiment, Middlesex Yeomanry, T.A.

Lieutenant (Q.M.) M. Deegan from M.E.L.F. to 15 A.A. (M) Signal Regiment, T.A.

Lieutenant (Cipher) E. C. W. Stagg from B.A.O.R. to M.E.L.F.

Major H. Prince from 1 War Office Signal Regiment to 61 H.Q. Army Signal Regiment, T.A.

Major J. D. Norfolk from School of Signals to FARELF.

Major G. G. L. Hinde from H.Q. 1 A.A. Group to Senior Officers School for course, thence to School of Signals.

Lieutenant-Colonel N. M. Hay from 61 H.Q. Army Signal Regiment, T.A., to 51 (H) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A.

Major (Cipher) D. A. Ellison from FARELF to U.K.

Major L. B. H. Custance Baker from War Office to Gibraltar.

Major J. R. G. Walker from Gibraltar to U.K. on retirement.

1 Commonwealth Divisional Signal Regiment

Departures to U.K.: Lieutenant-Colonel F. P. Johnson.
Major J. Dodd.
Captain A. C. Birtwistle.
Captain D. O. Fairlie.
Captain H. Ransome.
R.Q.M.S. N. Lane.
S.S.M. L. Parry.

Departure to Hong Kong: Lieutenant P. E. Osborne.

Departure to Japan: Captain P. J. Evans.

Arrivals: Lieutenant-Colonel E. C. R. Blaker.
Major F. A. Felton.
Captain T. G. H. Jackson.
Captain H. D. V. Chappel.
Lieutenant (T.O.T.) P. C. Moores.
Lieutenant J. L. Botterill.
Lieutenant A. W. M. Mackinnon.
Lieutenant R. King.
Second-Lieutenant J. H. H. Hild.
Second-Lieutenant D. B. Carnie.
R.Q.M.S. A. Parish.
S.S.M. G. A. Wood.
S.S.M. R. J. Robinson.

Deaths: Lance-Corporal H. R. Hedges.
Signalman D. Ngatai (R.N.Z. Signals).

Mentioned in Despatches: Sergeant R. Wallace (R.N.Z. Signals).
Sergeant R. A. Struthers (R.N.Z. Signals).

* * *

Major (T.O.T.) P. S. Harris, Scottish Command (M) Signal Regiment, Glencorse Barracks, Milton Bridge, Midlothian, is now on the air and his call sign is GM3IUH. He is anxious to contact Royal Signals amateur stations overseas.

* * *

Young ex Royal Signals Corporal is seeking unfurnished or furnished flat in London, central preferred. If anyone has knowledge of any vacancies please inform: D. J. Pettit, 137 Pembroke Street, London, N.1.

The Queen Victoria School, Dunblane

We are asked to bring to notice that the age of entry to this school is that a boy must have passed his ninth birthday and not yet reached his eleventh birthday to be eligible.

A boy may be registered at the age of seven for entry at nine years, but this does not in any way commit the parents. For further information write to the Commandant.

EMPLOYMENT VACANCIES

Southern Rhodesia Staff Corps has an urgent requirement for young ex Royal Signals. Two operators wireless, and line. Two radio mechanics.

Age limits are not rigid but under 30 years old preferred. Single men are preferred but married may be accepted. Initial engagement is for three years. Apply in first instance through Royal Signals Association, from whence full details can be furnished.

* * *

"Radio mechanics, preferably with a knowledge of the 53 set, are required for employment with Messrs. Savage and Parsons, Ltd., Watford, Herts. (Telephone Watford 6071.) Candidates may apply by letter, by telephone or through the Labour Exchange."

Forthcoming Events

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION

March. Branch Honorary Secretaries' Meeting, London, 28th March.

May. Annual General Meeting and Comrades' Reunion, Catterick, 16th/17th May.

* * *

DINNER AND "AT HOME," 1953

The dates for the Dinner and Regular Officers' "At Home" are 20th and 21st May respectively.

* * *

June. For Coronation Period Diary see Press.

July. Review of ex-Servicemen, Hyde Park, London, Sunday, 5th July.
Royal Signals Rally and Reunion, York, Saturday, 25th July.

WEST COUNTRY REUNION

Rawlinson Barracks, Newton Abbot, Devon

Saturday, 4th July.
Afternoon—Arrival and reception of Old Comrades.
Evening—All Ranks' Dance.

Sunday, 5th July.
1030 hours—Church Parade.
1130 hours—Band Concert by Royal Signals Band.
1400 hours—Potted Sports.
1800 hours onwards—Disperse.

The Depot Regiment require to know approximate numbers attending by 15th May, and full details of times of arrival by 21st June. Arrangements will be made to accommodate coach drivers if required.

ROYAL SIGNALS RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB —FIXTURES

April 11 ... v. Billingham ... At Billingham.

Royal Signals Band Programme, 1953

April 3-10 ... ... Southport.
May 3 ... ... Victory Sunday—York.
May 16-17 ... ... O.C.A. Reunion—Catterick Camp.

CENTRAL COMMITTEE ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION

Friday, 24th April, 1953, 10.30 a.m., 88 Eccleston Square, S.W.1.

THE BLUE BOOK

Seniority Roll of Warrant Officers and Non-Commissioned Officers of Royal Signals is now on sale

PRICE 2/-

from Royal Signals Association.

Amendments printed in the same type as the book to facilitate alterations, are on page 80.

'The Camp Called Catterick'

By ARTHUR SWINSON, Producer B.B.C. North Region

On 13th January, 1953, the B.B.C. North Region broadcast a feature programme about the National Servicemen who join Royal Signals in Catterick Camp. Most of the material was recorded in 3 Training Regiment and 7 Training Regiment.

I ORIGINALLY submitted the idea for this programme to my programme head more than a year ago, but about this time I went off on a long attachment to television and the project had to be postponed. One of the things that prompted my suggestion was the constant mention of Catterick in the news. Harsh words were being said about it by a certain newspaper and there were vague hints that all was not well, that the Army was not treating National Servicemen properly. Having served with the Army throughout the war, I suspected that the picture as presented in the Press was, to say the least, distorted. But I realised at the same time that there was anxiety in the public mind about Catterick; especially among the parents whose sons were serving there. I felt, therefore, that if the Army would give me the facilities, I could produce a radio feature which would present an accurate portrait of the camp. This, I believed, could do nothing but good.

Whatever suspicions the Army may have held as to my motives, I managed to discipline them. Soon I found myself invited to Catterick to spend a few days looking round, meeting people, and trying to understand what was going on. That, I might say, is the great problem of a radio features producer; to understand a subject quickly, to get down the facts and assimilate them, and also to keep a sharp eye on the people he is dealing with, observing how they talk, how they react to various situations—in fact, what sort of people they really are. The producer must do this quickly or he will find the programme date overhauling him, and the one after that, too. And so I started watching the people at Catterick. Also, I talked to the General, to the Brigadier, to some of the Regimental Commanders, Troop Officers, Sergeants, and the National Servicemen themselves. About 4 o'clock in the afternoon of the first day I found a line of National Servicemen forming up between the huts, having their names taken down by a sergeant.

(Courtesy: B.B.C.

B.B.C. Mobile Recording Unit

This was one of the first pictures to impress itself on my mind. The men standing there, awkward, apprehensive, and wondering just what was to happen to them; the Troop Officer and sergeant anxious to get them through all the various processes of documentation and examination before nightfall. I talked to the men and tried to find out how they felt. I talked to soldiers who had been in three or six months. I met a Scotsman who thought the porridge was terrible, a Southerner who thought he should be in the Royal Engineers, a Northerner who thought he should be a military policeman. From an Officer I learned the peculiar problems of Catterick, its size and the wide area from which it draws its men. I also learned something of the training policy, the detailed training programmes, and the personnel selection system. I walked round the barrack rooms, the wash-houses and latrines, and saw just how good or bad they were. I watched carefully the relations between those commanding and those commanded, and gradually a series of impressions began to form in my mind. Each evening I retired to my room and wrote up my notes; by the third evening I was quite exhausted, but did feel that I had mastered the subject.

At this stage the decision had to be made as to which form the programme should take. I think it is obvious that it is one thing to master the subject matter of a programme but it is quite another to transmute this matter into a programme. Broadly speaking, there were two courses open to me. I could produce a dramatised programme using actors in the studio, backed by effects and music recorded at Catterick. or I could produce what is called an "actuality feature." This "actuality feature" would consist solely of speech, effects and music, recorded at Catterick, dubbed and edited in the studio, and linked by a narrator. This second course was the one I chose.

*

The "actuality feature" had great merits but grave drawbacks, too. The chief merit is that a sense of realism can be obtained; the drawback, that unless "actualities" (i.e., the people being recorded) sound completely natural, the whole thing falls to pieces. To prevent this disaster a technique has been evolved which is usually manipulated thus: the producer talks to the person he hopes to record until the real hard core of what he has to say has been reached. (It may take six hours' talk for one minute's recording, but at Catterick I was lucky.) The producer then goes away and writes down what the "actuality" has said *in the words that he said it*, condensing and transposing but leaving the phraseology intact. The producer then goes back to the "actuality" and says: "This is what you said when we last met. Is it all right?" The "actuality" then reads the script and says he does not remember *saying* it at all, but it's certainly what he feels about things. The producer then rehearses the "actuality" until he can read the piece, sounding as if he is speaking spontaneously. This is vital; if there is any hint

that he is reading, the listener ceases to believe in him as an "actuality," but regards him as a bad actor, and the programme loses all its realism.

This is the technique which with minor variations I employed in dealing with the thirty odd "actualities" at Catterick. I should explain that in between my first visit in November and my second in January, I wrote a draft script containing these actualities complete with narration, music and effects. The script was thrashed out on my second visit and the way was now clear to bring up the recording car.

It might be as well to break off here to explain some of the administrative work involved. As soon as possible after the programme had been decided on (that is, long before the script was written) the fact was communicated to the newspapers at a Press conference, and I was therefore called upon to provide a few paragraphs as to the form the programme would take and what exactly were my intentions. Soon the day arrived for sending the billing to "Radio Times," and further publicity material. The result of this was that a photograph was asked for; this had to be found. Meantime, I had to book my narrator, book the recording car and technicians, book the studio for editing and dubbing the disks, book the studio, recording channels and technicians for edit-

[Courtesy: B.B.C.

The control room, showing record players and, through the window, the studio

ing the disks (i.e., taking out parts not wanted or joining passages together), and finally, book the studio staff and facilities for the day of the actual broadcast.

Though the training schedule at Catterick was crowded things went smoothly, and by the morning of Friday, 9th January, the job was completed and I set off for Manchester. Incidentally, the disks are made of aluminium covered by a thick coating of shellac. The disks are cut by a sapphire, not pressed by a matrix like gramophone records. They are of a very high quality but naturally can only be played a limited number of times. On Sunday the 11th I worked with a Recorded Programmes Assistant, listening carefully to the disks and marking them for the editing session. I could not touch them on the 12th as I was helping a colleague with another programme. This was the day my narrator chose to go down with 'flu, and a frantic telephone search went on all over London to find a substitute. Luckily an experienced actor was available.

In the final production, the main problem was to condense the material for the allotted forty-five minutes. After the first run-through, eighteen minutes still had to come out. Good disks and carefully prepared narration had to be scrapped. A second run-through and the time was correct, but a few passages were ragged. These were rehearsed again and again until the programme was as good as we could make it. By now there was only half an hour to snatch a quick meal and then we were back to our posts and the continuity announcer's voice came through the loudspeaker saying: "We present 'The Camp Called Catterick.'" Forty-five minutes of strain and stress and it was over. I thanked the narrator, I thanked the technicians and made my way back home. Five weeks' work had been consumed in forty-five minutes. The only thing to do was sleep and wait to see what the newspapers would say in the morning.

The Royal Maundy

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

THE distribution of the Royal Maundy, which takes place annually on Maundy Thursday in Westminster Abbey,* is one of the most interesting of the ancient ceremonies retained in the Church of England.

Much of the quaintness in the ceremonial has disappeared, but even in its present form it is an interesting survival of an ancient custom.

Some controversy has arisen over the derivation of the word "Maundy." It is generally agreed that it is derived from "command," and that it has reference to the commands which our Lord delivered to his disciples on the day before his Crucifixion. It is from the Latin "Madatum"—the new commandment—and the fact that the washing of the feet of the poor was an important feature in the religious observance of Maundy Thursday tends to give support to this view. One sees from this that it is also an act of "Humility."

In some accounts of the ceremony it is stated that the Sovereign kissed the feet of the poor people and gave them the gowns they were wearing.

Queen Mary I carried out this fatiguing rite and took special trouble to find the most worthy recipient for her gown of the finest purple cloth, lined with Martins fur, with sleeves "so long and wide they reached the ground."

Regarding the presentation of the royal gown, it is interesting to note that on 19th March, 1572, Elizabeth is recorded by William Lambarde as substituting a money gift in a red purse for Her Majesty's gown, "which (so men say) by ancient order she ought to give to some of them at her pleasure." This alteration, the writer states, was caused "to avoid the trouble of suite, which accustomablie was made for that preferment." She had, therefore, "changed that rewarde into money to be equablly divided amongst them all—namely 20s. apiece." In ransoming her gown, Elizabeth, who did not wish to part with her bejewelled raiments, was but reverting to the custom of her little brother, Edward, who childish robes were redeemed at 20s. to each of the twelve men to whom he also presented in his first regnal year. This 20 shillings continues to be given as redemption money and forms part of the Maundy given to each recipient.

A detailed account of the 1572 ceremony states that the Queen (Elizabeth) took part in a grand Maundy ceremonial in the Hall at Greenwich, where the recipients were duly brought together. A cushion was placed in front of each poor person for the Queen to kneel upon and her Chaplain conducted the service. First the Laundress, who was provided with a silver basin containing warm water and sweet flowers, washed the feet of the poor people and then, after the singing of a hymn, the sub-Almoner and the Lord High Almoner in turn repeated the process. The Chaplain read the lesson describing the washing of the Disciples' feet, and then the Queen entered the Hall, attended by Thirty-nine Ladies and Gentlemen—the number corresponding to the years of Her Majesty's age. The "gentlefolk" put on aprons and, bearing towels and basins of water and sweet flowers, waited on the Queen, who washed and crossed and kissed the feet of the poor women, as the Laundress, the sub-Almoner and the Lord High Almoner had done before her. She then distributed the presents: Broadcloth with which to make gowns, a pair of sleeves, a wooden platter on which was half a side of salmon, the same amount of ling, six red herrings, and six loaves of "cheat-bread," together with a white wooden dish of claret wine. She also bestowed on the poor women the towels she had used and the aprons worn by the attendants. The long ceremonial was then at an end, and the Queen then took her departure "by the time the sun was setting," pithily remarks the old chronicler (William Lambarde) in 1749. It was in 1685 that the washing of the feet was last performed by the Sovereign. In a book kept at the office of the Register-General and entitled "Chapels Royal Register," this instance is recorded: "On Maundy Thursday, April 16th, 1685, our gracious King James ye 2nd was'd wip'd and kissed the feet of 52 poor men with wonderful humility. And all the service of the Church of England usuall on that occasion was perform'd, His Majesty being present all the time."

The Royal Maundy Today

Although shorn of some of the original features, the office of the Royal Maundy still bears a resemblance to the service used in Queen Elizabeth I's time. It is one of the few occasions when the public sees the Queen's Bodyguard of the Yeomen of the Guard in their full uniform.

The washing of the feet was discontinued in the seventeenth century, but the Almonry officials continue to be girt with towels and carry the traditional nosegays.

The Royal full Maundy as it now exists is made up as follows, the amounts quoted being for male recipients:—

In a red leather purse with white thongs:

1. For the redemption of the Sovereign's gown worn on the day of distribution, £1.
2. Allowance in lieu of provisions, £1 10s. (in a white leather purse with red thongs).

The number of pence according to the age of the reigning Sovereign in silver coins, specially struck for the occasion by the Royal Mint, and consisting of penny, twopenny, threepenny and fourpenny pieces amounting in this year (1953) to twenty-six pence (2s. 2d.).

In a white leather purse:—

Allowance in lieu of clothing, £2 5s. Total, £4 17s. 2d.

Women receive the same amount except that their clothing allowance is 10s. less, and this is given in a green purse. The number of recipients is also the same.

Recipients are chosen from those applying to the Royal Almonry for assistance, preference being given to those who have formerly been householders paying rates and taxes and who have been the means of employment of others. As may be imagined, the gifts are prized far above their actual worth and monetary value and to be included among the recipients is naturally considered an honour.

This service of the Royal Maundy Distribution, even in its present shortened form, remains one of the most interesting and colourful of the ancient ceremonies.

It is symbolical of the whole of the charitable gifts distributed by the Sovereign. In the procession of the Royal Almonry at Westminster Abbey there are "clerymen in academical Robes representing the recipients of the Royal Alms."

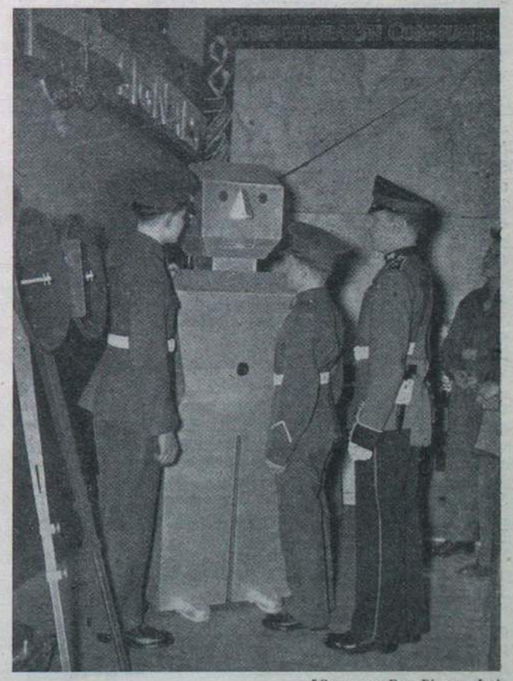
Recipients of these Royal Alms, of which the Maundy is but one, live in all parts of the British Isles, and the alms consist of monetary gifts of various amounts which have a long history and tradition behind them. The gifts consist of pensions, discretinary bounty, common bounty, gate alms and education allowances.

** This year it is being held in St. Paul's Cathedral, since Westminster Abbey will not be open to the public until after the Coronation.*

5 CORPS SIGNAL REGIMENT

Immediately after Christmas certain personnel manned a Royal Signals' stand at the Army Cadet Force Exhibition in London. Our photograph shows "Mr. Magnetron." Designed by Captain Maxfield, this robot thrilled the children by answering their questions. The young visitors were also allowed to handle teleprinters, a field switchboard and telephones, a voice recorder and a radio relay set. The telephones proved by far the most popular exhibit.

In the world of sport we were heavily defeated at rugger by the Devonshire Regiment. We have a football programme



[Courtesy: Fox Photos, Ltd.

"Mr. Magnetron" answering questions by young cadets at the Army Cadet Force Exhibition in January

against local civilian as well as military teams. Our successes have been few but we are enthusiastic and have hopes for the future. At hockey we have had three titanic struggles with a local R.A.S.C. side. The first two engagements resulted in a goal-less draw but the third occasion we emerged victorious by two well-earned goals.

On 17th January, the Officers' Mess held a dinner and dance. On this occasion we said goodbye to Major "Tommy" Hall who has departed to the warmth and seclusion of an independent command in Ceylon, and welcomed our new second-in-command, Major Red Matthews, who has come to us from the B.B.C.

THE DEPOT REGIMENT, ROYAL SIGNALS

The first anniversary of the Regiment's move to Devon from that playground of nature's elements, The Airfield Pocklington, is 16th February. It occurs that this is an ideal opportunity to take stock and review the past year, with particular emphasis on our achievements.

For those whose destiny it will be to pass through our portals in the year to come, a word or two about the organisation that exists to ensure your despatch either for distant shores or to home Units and civilian life with the minimum of time.

If you are going overseas, then to 1 Squadron, commanded by Major W. Grundy. This Squadron knows all the answers and with an efficiency that rivals Thos. Cook and Sons will arrange your itinerary in a most able manner. For those who will shortly be homeward bound, with dreams of the ideal home posting or a happy return to civilian life, then 2 Squadron, commanded by Major R. Petty, will be your billet for a few days. Their watchword is "speed," and if at all possible the realisation of that posting you desire.

Lastly there are the "backroom boys," namely H.Q. Squadron, commanded by Major M. E. Golding, who provide all necessities of life during your stay—transport, catering, "Q" Staff, medical, etc.

Apart from the *in situ* amenities of the surrounding district—Torquay, Paignton and Newton Abbot—amenities in the camp have received attention. The A.K.C. have installed twin 35 mm. projectors in the camp cinema, and are thus able to show the latest films together with current newsreels. A popular feature is a request week. An all ranks dance is held once a month in the gymnasium, and a Corporals' Club thrives, having recently held a very successful dance. For those more seriously inclined, there is the Unit library and quiet room, and a delightful pianoforte recital was held at the end of January.

Sporting activities—there are plenty—rugger, two soccer elevens, playing in the local league. Unfortunately we have been knocked out of the District Rugger Cup Competition in the second round by the Devon and Wessex Brigade.

The Unit hockey team are rapidly gaining a reputation throughout the district and recently beat a C.R.A.S.C. side to go through to the second round of the District Cup.

In the District Cross-Country Running Championship held at Yeovil on 13th February, the Regimental team was placed seventh. Individual placings were:—

Signalman Garrity ...	20th	Lance-Corporal Allen	51st
Lance-Corporal France	21st	Lance-Corporal Earless	52nd
Lance-Corporal Jones .	41st	Captain Joyner	57th
Driver Eagles	50th	Sergeant Chesterman .	58th

One notable achievement is the formation of a Regimental Sailing Club now equipped with six West of England Class "Redwings," the joys and thrills of small craft racing are open to all for a nominal fee per month. Well on the way to becoming an actuality is a Regimental Saddle Club, negotiations being in hand at the moment with the Army Saddle Club.

So it can be seen that whatever your tastes there is something for everybody at the Depot.

A word or two about domestic things. As at Pocklington, there are no married quarters, but we are able to take full advantage of the hirings scheme, and to date have 32 Cadre personnel thus accommodated. This is a figure of which we are justifiably proud, although it must be confessed that R.H.Q. on occasion resembles Messrs. Furn, Ished and Howmuch, Estate Agents, and it is even rumoured that Regimental Part One Orders are going to run a "To Let" column.

Most fortunately we have not been affected by the terrible weather that has stricken other parts of the country. In fact, hard as it may be to believe, the sun is blazing down at this very moment. So with thoughts of spring and summer in our minds we are preparing for the onslaught to be made on the vast areas of grass that abound in the camp and from the Armourers' Shop comes the steady grinding as scythes, sickles, etc., are made ready for the task in hand. "Oh, to be in England . . ."

OFFICER TRAINING WING—SCHOOL OF SIGNALS

The Officer Training Wing wishes the Officers of No. 9 Subalterns Part I Course good luck after a successful course. Six of the course are now in Norway on the British Officers Ski/Telecommunications Course, and the remainder have gone to field Units overseas. The Wing welcomes, on behalf of Royal Signals, No. 10 Subalterns Part I Course from the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst.

After the Christmas activities the Wing has spent a quiet period and the emphasis has been on training and sport.

The Officer Training Squadron Inter-Course and the Wing Inter-Squadron Boxing Competition have been held. The G.O.C. Catterick District presented the prizes at the Officer Training Squadron Competition, and congratulated the competitors. After many close contests M.T. Squadron won, for the second successive year, the Inter-Squadron Boxing Trophy.

The Unit still maintains its position at the top of the Northumbrian District Association Football League Division II. The standard of play is extremely high, and particularly worthy of mention are Captain B. W. A. Collins, Signalman G. Ashcroft and Lance-Corporal H. J. Felton. The last-named has played regularly for the Corps side. Inter-Squadron rivalry continues. Technical Training Squadron won by six goals to three against Officer Training Squadron, in spite of the great efforts of Second-Lieutenant J. S. Evans, the Officer Training Squadron goalkeeper. The hard work of Colour-Sergeant H. Rigby, Sergeant G. H. Berry and Sergeant E. J. Ford was a great help to the winning team. H.Q. Squadron achieved their ambition and won against M.T. Squadron, but modestly say that it may never happen again.

★

The Unit rugger team has played well this season and lost only two games. In spite of an almost complete change in the side because of postings we have reached the semi-final of the Northumbrian Cup, when we play Royal Signals Wing.

In the Garrison Inter-Unit Squash League, 13 out of its 17 matches have been won and two remain to be played. We hope to get a place.

In the Junior N.C.O.s' Indoor Games Competition, the individual events—snooker, table tennis and darts—were won by Corporal J. A. Ellis, Lance-Corporal R. H. Ruffles and H. Cross respectively.

Major P. F. Yeatman, after his phase-by-phase reorganisation of the Wing training, goes to America to join the Army Field Forces Board, and Major B. A. Gomm goes to the R.M.A. Sandhurst. The hockey eleven will miss the *elan* of its captain, Major Yeatman, this season, and at cricket the loss of Major Gomm, who captained the Army Cricket Team that toured B.A.O.R. last year, will be felt.

University Training Corps Course, 1953, School of Signals

Catterick Jottings

by nacerby

What's Switzerland Got . . .?

NO one would believe me, but I knew all along we'd have plenty of weather in February.

This all came from BARLEUX messing about with the calendar and fixing Christmas Day for 25th December—ergo the snow we should have had then almost "flaked" us out during February.

So much so, that for the first time on record all Commanding Officers in the Garrison were delighted with the cleanliness of their lines. Pity it can't stay—look at the training time we'd save if all the scrap paper was under snow for a few months—but there, we can't have everything, and what's Switzerland got that Catterick hasn't—except, perhaps, eidelweiss, mountain hotels, St. Bernard dogs, left-hand drive cars (except for my Mercedes—still on the "For Sale" list—Advt.), a different language and tourists (if one forgets our trainees).

However, it is a well-known fact that I'm overworked, and I admit it, but for the benefit of my universal reading public here's a unique NACERBY action picture (W.R.A.C. Part I Orders please copy).

Certa Cito . . . (Sports Edition) . . .

The Northern Command inter-Unit and individual cross-country championships held at Catterick on 4th February really gave me a thrill and left me fingering my Corps tie with justifiable pride.

With Signalman Norris, of 4 Training Regiment, a courageous individual winner, 2 Training Regiment the team winners with 92 points, and with 3 Training Regiment and 4 Training Regiment fourth and fifth respectively, who couldn't feel proud of this "Joe Cotterell day." Catterick was in one of her coldest and slushiest moods, but the running standards of all teams was a tribute to both training and fitness. Yes, indeed, there's something in this Catterick air!

The organising arrangements under the chairmanship of Lieutenant-Colonel F. Knibbs, R.A.E.C., were first-class, and the prize-giving ceremony by the G.O.C. (Major-General H. Murray, C.B., D.S.O.) was indeed a "Signal" affair. The Army Championships are also being held at Catterick on 11th March—so, *Certa Cito*, 2 Training Regiment, and good luck.

For the second year in succession 3 Training Regiment won the Northern Command Basketball Competition on 13th February, defeating 1 Training Regiment by 41—16, and this after losing the semi-final of the Northumbrian District Competition to an R.A.C. Regiment two days previously (see 3 Training Regiment notes!).

And to round off a splendid month, 1 Training Regiment progress steadily to the final of the Army Rugby Championship and 7 Training Regiment have reached the semi-finals (U.K. section) of the Army Football Competition.

In fact, ever so *Certa Cito*.

Mustn't forget the ladies. The W.R.A.C. Signal Training Wing reached the final of Northern Command Army (Women's) Netball Association Tournament final but were beaten by Independent Company, W.R.A.C., Chilwell, 35—17.

Shop . . . with Apologies . . .

All you chaps with sinecure jobs who work like the dickens from 9 till 4, including the recognised tea breaks, have no idea how fascinating a job training operators really is.

It is the variety of the thing that grips one—ceremonial parades, drill competitions, fire practices, inspections, C.O.'s orders, visits—and, of course, one somewhat odd item—morse.

It so happened that a practice message was sent to a section and one trainee, writing on a scrap of paper, left it lying on the floor. Later on in the day the instructor picked it up, and thinking it was a National Health prescription, had it dispensed and then placed the scrap of paper in his battledress pocket. He exchanged his battledress. The paper was found by the R.Q.M.S. who, not recognising what it was, used it as a season ticket on the Darlington bus route for a year;

obtained admittance to the F.A. Cup Final at Wembley; twice secured an entry to a B.B.C. broadcast; and, finally, taking it to the Pay Sergeant obtained a pay increment before passing it to his daughter, who played it on the piano and won a schoiarship to the local college of music!

You don't believe me? "Morse" the pity!

You're Driving Me . . .

I have it on no less authority than Major (T.O.T.) E. Nash that accidents on Thursdays in this area are now negligible and I can only put it down to the terrific impact my driving serial is having on all drivers. I might add in passing that the fact that Thursdays are petrol-less days and that no transport is used is purely coincidental.

Shall now have to do something about Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays, and for working Regiments like 3 Training Regiment Saturdays and Sundays as well.

Not that there is really anything wrong with the driving in the Garrison—take hand signals for example—think of the fun one gets in seeing a dirty big arm stuck out of the driver's window and trying to determine whether he's knocking the ash off his cigarette, giving the V for Victory sign to his pals, yawning, or merely finding out if its raining.

There *are* instances on record of well trained chaps putting out the right hand and turning right—but you probably won't believe me—so:—

This is the tale of Kenneth Keen,
Who always left out task fourteen;
Although in every other way
His maintenance was quite O.K.
He washed his vehicle every night,
And polished every portion bright.
It shone so much it caught the eye
Of Sergeant-Major Clarence Spry,
Who muttered to himself "Aha,
We'll use that for the General's car."
And so next day young Keen was found
Driving General Golcar round;
And all went well till they made tracks
From Huddersfield (near Halifax).
Round there the roads are very bad,
And that was where the General had
His biggest shock for twenty years,
For just as Kenneth changed his gears
He hit a most outrageous bump,
And with a clang and dreadful thump
The body from the chassis parted,
And Kenneth Keen, quite broken-hearted,
Saw General Golcar in the road
Swearing horribly in code.
And o'er the rest I'll draw a veil,
For Kenneth's fate would turn you pale.

Nuts . . . Emanating from . . .

Like winning the football pools week after week, nothing gives me greater pleasure than again seeing Brandon Thomas' famous comedy, "Charley's Aunt."

Fancy I could by now understudy any of the principals without rehearsal, but strangely enough each visit seems "a first time"—and so in company with a crowded audience I again had a real laughter night and could naturally give "that little extra" applause for some clever acting and producing.

Yet the visit was tinged with a little sadness in that this will be the last production by Captain Don Huntley, of 2 Training Regiment, before he proceeds overseas.

I just can't tell you how long Don has been in Catterick (in case any of you want the secret!), but he can be sure his name will always be synonymous with the Cary Theatre. The cast of Service personnel were obviously determined that this production should be a memorable one for Don, and as Bill Shakespeare said: "Nobly they played their parts."

[*Courtesy: Northern Echo, Darlington*

Nacerby crossing Bourlon Square

Tailpiece . . .

Gone for a sloe gin—back next month.

Look out for NACERBY'S "Catching Up Plan" for BARLEUX and other Pensioners.

THE HISTORY OF *British Army Signals* IN *The Second World War*

by **Major-General R. F. H. Nalder, C.B., O.B.E.**

THE WIRE *made some slight comment on this most admirable book under the "Do You Know?" title in February. This month a more conventional attempt is made to mention some of the good things in Chapters III and IV.*

Chapter III is perhaps the finest in the book, dealing with the crucial campaigns in North Africa and the Central Mediterranean and in North-West Europe. It marks the beginning of the American influence on Signals which, far-reaching as it was then, continues, sometimes to our personal cost, even until now.

In North Africa we experienced for the first time the problems and advantages of integrated staffs though not initially of a supreme headquarters of all Services. There was, as always in Signals, some measure of improvisation. When General Alexander formed Headquarters 18th Army Group to command all Allied Land Forces in North Africa his British Signal Regiment was an *ad hoc* Unit.

The varying systems of command for Sicily and then for Italy are described. As is well known the composition of this new renamed 15th Army Group varied considerably and was as varied in national composition as any force in history, with consequent obvious difficulty in Signal procedure, ciphers and codes. There were two armies in the Group, the Seventh (American) and the Eighth (British); differences in procedure, etc., could not be tolerated as they made flank

communication precarious and obviously increased the difficulty of transferring Divisions and Corps between the two Armies. This, and the training of British and American Armies in the United Kingdom brought about the Goodwin-Austin Committee which carried out investigations in North Africa and Sicily in 1943 on whose recommendations many of our establishments and much of our doctrine is still based.

Again the modern technique of combined operations was first tested in battle with the first operational use of special headquarter ships, ships signal troops and permanent beach signal troops with specialist training.

The chapter continues with the establishment of a "theatre" system of line communications, wireless, frequency allotment, S.D.S. signal traffic, armoured regiment communications, airborne operations, air support, and supply and maintenance are all dealt with.

Turning to North-West Europe, the chapter continues in similar form: system of command, signal planning, the launching of the assault, the build-up of a "theatre" system, restoration of existing cables, monitoring the work of air formation signals and supply of stores, all have their allotted space. It is truly a monumental chapter.

Chapter IV deals in a similarly thorough manner with the war in South-East Asia from 1943 to 1945. The inadequacy and gradual improvement of the line and wireless systems are described with some detail; the system of command with the signal problems inherent in dispersion over great distances; the influence of jungle both on physical performance and on technical equipment; a description of the operations and the effect on signals, air supply and, perhaps the most crucial of all problems in that theatre, the vexed question of the supply of signal stores. Those who did not serve in that theatre cannot ever realise the enormous difficulties experienced by Signals at all levels in this matter. Not only was supply of equipments from outside India almost negligible until 1943, when they did arrive they lay for months and years in ordnance depots awaiting the arrival of some Signalman who could identify them. There was never an efficient Signal Park organisation outside of those established mainly by nefarious means in the more progressive Corps and Divisional Signals.

It will be seen from this brief summary that two volumes might be written on the matter so remarkably condensed into two chapters of General Nalder's book, which should be obtained by very large numbers of those serving and retired, from the Royal Signals Institution, c/o Gale and Polden, Limited, Ideal House, Argyll Street, Oxford Circus, London, W.1, price 17s. 6d.

3 TRAINING REGIMENT

The creaking you can hear is merely the Northern Command Basketball Inter-Unit Championship returning to the sideboard for the second year in succession, and this victory over 1 Training Regiment by 41—16 on 13th February was the highlight of a very successful month's sport.

Oddly enough, the team lost to a Training Regiment, R.A.C., in the semi-final of the Northumbrian District Competition but remain on top of the District League. The enthusiasm of Second-Lieutenant Peter Blacklaws and the spirit of the whole team, with S.S.M. J. Wootton, A.P.T.C., Corporal Carter and Lance-Corporal Fackrell as outstanding performers, seems to have had a salutory effect on all other Unit sports.

The soccer eleven (Captain F. H. Wragg) are in the semi-finals of both Northern Command and Northumbrian District competitions and are steadily climbing to the leading league positions.

Two highly popular stalwarts departed the Regiment during the month—Captain G. Blackburn *en route* to Canada, and Captain P. Clague-Quine to Customs. Good luck, and keep in touch with the Regiment.

We are a little proud of the fact that the Regiment played their part in "Operation Flood." Under Lieutenant N. Grayson wireless detachments journeyed to the stricken areas and were quickly at work establishing communications.

5 TRAINING REGIMENT

The main happening in the Regiment recently has been the change-over in Command from Lieutenant-Colonel R. B. S. Eraut to Lieutenant-Colonel M. Stonestreet. Colonel Stonestreet joined us from Austria and Colonel Eraut departed to command No. 5 A.A. (M) Signal Regiment. To the one we say welcome and to the other we say farewell. Colonel Eraut will be especially missed by the Rugby team, but I gather he is continuing to hold the reins of Rugby within Northern Command.

Another happening in the Regiment has been the visit of the Yorkshire Public Safety Committee on 4th February. There has been a lot of talk recently about the amount of accidents in which Army drivers were concerned (we point out that there are very few from this Regiment), and it was considered that it would be a good thing were we to show the Yorkshire Accident Prevention Committee our training and the steps we do take to prevent accidents occurring. From conversation with every member of this committee it would appear that they were more than impressed and went away fully convinced that if a driver from this Regiment was ever concerned in an accident it *must* be the other fellow's fault (and we trust that this will always remain so).

We have already said hail and farewell to our new and old Commanders, and we also bid farewell to Major Stevens, posted to 6 Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment in N.A.G. At the time of writing I understand that Major Mactavish has also received his posting orders for N.A.G. in the near future and that our worthy Q.M., Major Clarke, has been earmarked for posting to 1 Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment.

Boxing. With the Northern Command semi-final match against 6 Battalion R.A.O.C. being lost, all our hopes of the Army Team Boxing Championship disappeared until next year. The final result was 18 points to 15 points. Sergeant White, Corporal Beattie and Lance-Corporal Snell have continued to represent the Regiment and the Command this season. Sergeant White fought for the Army as light-heavyweight against Wales.

Motor Cycling. With the arrival of Staff-Sergeant Nicholson and his extra experience we hope to retain all the cups and shields we won last season.

Rugby. The Rugby team has had a most successful season, and of the 17 matches played so far we have won 11, lost five and drawn 1. At the moment we are in the finals of the Northern Command Rugby Cup and we play 1 Training Regiment, Royal Signals, on the 18th February at Catterick. On our way to the final we defeated:—

A Training Regiment, R.A.C. ...	12 points to 6.
R.A.V.C. and Remount Depot ...	9 points to 8.
Army Apprentices School	11 points to 0.
An A.A. Regiment, R.A.	12 points to 0.

Soccer. Although we started off the season by being knocked out of the Army Challenge Cup by the holders, we later won the Hulme Cup and we are at the moment playing some very good football. In the first division of the Ripon and District League our Regimental first eleven holds second place and stands a very good chance of winning the championship. Our second eleven, although not doing quite so well, is more than holding its own.

Small Bore Shooting. The Unit team is practising very well indeed and promises to do even better. It has participated in the Catterick District Small Bore League and the Yorkshire Small Bore Rifle Association Winter League. Very creditable performances in each league have been put up, and at present we hold a position above half-way up the league table. In the Catterick District Small Bore Competition the team won the prize of £4 for the highest team aggregate for the month of December. We have hopes that the January prize will be coming our way as well.

7 Training Regiment Royal Signals

The National Service Pass-Off Parade on 28th January brought the total of families visiting the Regiment since May 1952, for those parades, beyond the 1,000 mark. Despite the heavy snow, forty-five arrived on 11th February when, unfortunately, the parade had to be cancelled.

The B.B.C. broadcast of "The Camp Called Catterick" was very successful. The voices of a full cross-section of the ranks of Royal Signals in Catterick from the Commander to the latest joined recruit was included. Mr. Arthur Swinson, the producer, has contributed an article on the programme—this appears on another page.

★

On 12th February, the C.I.G.S., General Sir John Harding, G.C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., A.D.C., honoured the Regiment with a visit. He saw as much training as eighteen inches of fresh snow would allow. The Director-General of Military Training, Lieutenant-General Sir Colin Callender, K.B.E., C.B., M.C., inspected the Regiment on 27th January.

Captain W. A. Sykes has now taken over as Adjutant, and Captain D. I. Atkins, Royal Norfolk Regiment, has arrived and assumed the duties of Assistant Chief Instructor.

★

The soccer team, having beaten 55 Training Regiment, R.A., by two goals to nil in the quarter-final, are to play 3rd Training Battalion, R.A.O.C., in the semi-final of the Army Cup at Aldershot on 18th March. It is hoped that all past and present members of Royal Signals in the Aldershot area will make an effort to be present as their vocal support will be required to offset that of the R.A.O.C. who will be present in strength since they only have to travel from Portsmouth.

The hockey team has not yet been able to play the final of the District Cup but has recently beaten 68 Training Regiment, R.A.C. (after two replays), to reach the semi-final of the Northern Section of the Army Cup.

★

The cross-country team came in fifth out of twelve in the Northern Command race on 4th February and finished fifth out of eleven in the District League. These results are good considering the fact that the team had a high percentage of recruits who stay with the Regiment for only four weeks, and thus constant changes had to be made.

The D.G.M.T. chatting to Sergeant Johnson and N.C.O.s of a Cadre Course, 7 Training Regiment

D.G.M.T.'s visit to 7 Training Regiment. Left to right: G.O.C., Northumbrian District; Commander, S.T.C.; C.O.; D.G.M.T.; a Troop Commander; Chief Instructor; O.C., 3 Squadron

EASTERN COMMAND SIGNAL REGIMENT

The Regiment recovered from the effects of the Christmas and New Year festivities just in time to prepare for a visit from the G.O.C.-in-C. The Army Commander was interested to see the progress that had been made since his last visit in improving the camp amenities. He inspected the soccer pitch, the Quiet Room in the NAAFI buildings, and the radio mechanics' workshop, besides paying almost embarrassing attention to certain items of kit in the Wireless Troop M.T. Luckily Signalman Taylor had all the answers ready, but it will be some time before O.C. 2 Squadron is allowed to forget this visit.

Following hard upon this visit came the news that the Annual Administrative Inspection would take place in the middle of February. The imaginative might visualise preparations for such an event in terms of clouds of dust and monster rockets. Such dreams have been happily disappointed. Arrangements are going forward in a businesslike and orderly fashion. There is, however, no foundation to the rumour that for the occasion 2 Squadron will dispose of as much M.T. and wireless equipment as possible either to the flood areas or to workshops, which are already full of T.M. Troop vehicles anyway.

This picture of feverish activity may be misleading. In spite of the fantastic amount of work that we get through, there is still time to enjoy the lighter side of life and the monthly Sergeants' Mess dance is always welcome. We missed, however, a few well-known faces, S.Q.M.S. Brown among them. "Q" Brown has been one of the chief landmarks in the Regiment for as long as most people can remember. His unmistakable figure will certainly be missed.

Departures subsequent to this date include that of the Adjutant, Captain P. J. C. Lloyd, who needs no introduction nor, for that matter, any farewell, for he has assured us that we have by no means seen the last of him nor of his well-known car, Red Fred. The departure of Red Fred does not mean, however, that the living-in Officers are permanently immobilised. We have recently received two additions to our M.T. Section of that rather battered yet respectable kind of car, roughly classed for the Quartermaster's purposes as "officer-type." These come to us by the courtesy of the new Adjutant, Captain J. L. Donne, and Second-Lieutenant J. F. Smith. I use the term "officer-type" advisedly in opposition to the slightly more select and definitely more expensive "W.O. and sergeant-type" or the dizzy heights achieved in the motoring line by the majority of the Reservists that we train here during the summer.

Meanwhile, we are daily receiving stirring tales of the deeds performed by our Wireless Detachment which is aiding the

flood relief on the Isle of Grain. This gallant band are striving to achieve the impossible such as working 31 sets to 62 sets. Their experiences after collation and editing will be presented in some future edition.

Plain Tales

★ *With Greetings from Barleux*

True Story Department

WHEN I found that there were no " Plain Tales " in the February WIRE I went as red as anything. Almost as red as the faces of the H.A.C. whose guns refused to go bang the other day.

Uncle Alf: " You didn't send any ' Plain Tales,' fathead."

Me: " So I didn't neither, come to think of it."

However, barge on chaps. Don't stop to apologise. This gun business will inevitably remind me of something in a minute. No, not that other gun in the big barrage on Longstop. There were about 400 that day and they all popped off very nicely at 0400 hours in spite of a dismal prediction by Charles Field about what he called " Donald's other gun." I wonder if the Divisional Commander ever received my note of protest at being disturbed so early.

Now I remember. It was during my tour of Central Africa in the early part of the century. We, that is to say, my four girl secretaries and I, were hunting lions, tigers, polar bears, kangaroos and bison. We were doubtful about meeting up with some of these since we discovered that one of the girls had stayed on in school until she was fourteen and claimed to know some geography, or something. Early one morning we spread out and marched line abreast into real lion country. I lost sight of my companions as we pushed our way with some difficulty through the impenetrable scrub. This will give you some idea of our determination. The early morning mist drifted lazily upwards in the rays of the early morning sun and the early birds continued to forge ahead line abreast.

I stepped silently into a small clearing and gazed about me. My rifle was held loosely in the crook of my left arm so that I could bring it up smartly after depositing camera, cooking pots, sandwich box, etc., carefully on the ground. I had been told that every second counts and I meant to take no foolish chances. Suddenly, with a shuddering roar and a crash of foliage, an enormous lion made a good four point landing in the clearing about ten feet away from me. I stood rooted to the ground. My one great desire was to bag a lion. Could I get my rifle up in time? Would he be on me before I could pull the trigger? So far he hadn't noticed me. Some fool once told me that lions only see things that move. He might have been right. I kept still. The sweat rolled down into my eyes. Not a blink. It trickled down my stone-cold back. Not a wriggle from me. The lion turned his massive head slowly from side to side. He seemed to be listening. Perhaps he could hear my heart. I thought people must have heard it in Capetown. At last I decided to take a chance. I would throw the rifle up in a flash letting the pots and pans fall where they would. One lucky shot and people would hail me as a big game hunter. Then it happened. The lion made a mighty spring and disappeared into the bushes, the noise of his passage growing fainter in the distance. Just then one of the girls caught up with me. She seemed out of breath. Silly fool, running in this heat. " Here you are, boss, your cartridge belt."

Cold horror started at my ankles and worked its way up slowly. With palsied fingers I examined my rifle. IT WASN'T LOADED!

Next month: How I cut my initials on the North Pole.

What's All This?

It is a little difficult to spread oneself in these pages when one is more or less divorced from the Army. Politics are barred, the NAAFI is taboo and generals may only be fictitious. What about the radio? Television? It has all been done in the national Press. Not, mark you, that I couldn't have done it better. A pat on the back for one producer who had the courage to leave out those two clever foreign pianists from a Light Programme show. How surprised they must have been up in their attic suite at the B.B.C., for, of course, they must live on the premises. The same producer lost his medal when he ballyhooed a " star " American singer, a girl who packed 'em in back home in New York but who was just another tear-drenched crooner over here. One feels terribly sorry for the procession of alleged comedians who plod their dismal paths to the microphone so frequently; though perhaps one need not feel too sorry. They are paid for it. How very curious.

Perhaps I had better revive my Hints to Musicians, Gardening Notes and The Academic Barleux, with an occasional delve into the past. Musicians and Hep-Cats should not miss my notes on famous night clubs starting with The Ace of Spades, Kingston By-pass, and How to Trumpet.

Rire En France

The Cafe Chaud Chein in the Rue de Poste Carte lay bathed in moonlight. Inside the cafe only a tiny light glowed. The proprietor had forgotten to turn it off. He would be *furieux* in the *matin*.

Note: To save time I have neglected to translate some of the words into English, but you will get by.

Ukann Larfe, the celebrated investigator working for the Durrington County Council in the matter of the tram lines, was nowhere to be seen. Now this is going to be *tres difficile*. Lord Elpas vanished some weeks ago and left Ukann Larfe sitting at a table (Fr. Table) with a smart piece of *comment ca va* and a bottle of rum. The bottle was still on the table but of the detective and his *piece de resistance* there was no trace. After all, who cares? Let us pop into the *Moulin Rouge* and forget about it. Cheer up. Remember your quarter of margarine this year. The grocers can't THROW it away.

Holidays

Only a very few vacancies left for the month of August at Mercury House, Colwyn Bay.

Anti-Aircraft Command

1 A.A. (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT

Our notes this month must of necessity be brief for the Unit is engaged on the flood relief now so aptly named " Operation Canute."

It was at 0415 hours on Sunday, the 1st February, that the local Superintendent of Police requested our aid in evacuating civilians from the flooded Tilbury and Canvey Island areas. Within half an hour six vehicles and thirty men, under command of the Orderly Officer, were ready to move off.

More assistance was given as the day went on, and gradually a large-scale operation came into being when the magnitude of the disaster became obvious.

Our Commanding Officer, who lives on Canvey Island, was appointed O.C. Troops of that area and a joint Army and R.A.F. Headquarters was set up to control the vast numbers of men and amounts of material despatched to the island for rescue work.

It is too early, with the operation still at its height, to give a full record of all the tasks thrown upon the Unit. Some of our men have been out providing wireless and line communications and lighting plant since Monday morning and the situation has, to say the least of it, been extremely fluid.

The disaster has not left the Unit unscathed, two of our Officers and their families were evacuated, together with our long serving civilian typist, Mrs. Brown. Their many friends will like to know that our Quartermaster's (Lieutenant G. R. Thornton) family and the family of Lieutenant W. A. Rowbory are safe and rehoused.

The men who suffered from frozen feet through prolonged wading are now out of hospital and fit again.

The W.R.A.C. members of the Unit rallied to the call for volunteers to feed and clothe and generally help the hundreds of evacuees who were and still are given emergency accommodation in the camp.

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

Immediately prior to Christmas, R.H.Q. and 37 A.A. (M) Signal Squadron, T.A., at Leeds, had their annual inspection. The Inspecting Officer was Commander 69 A.A. Brigade, R.A.

5 A.A. Group (M) Signal Office Squadron, T.A., early in January bade farewell to Sergeant " Jock " Grant, who leaves us for FARELF. His departure was celebrated at the Squadron Christmas party and also gave us the opportunity to welcome his successor, Sergeant Dee, who joined us from 5 A.A. (M) Signal Regiment.

This year the Regiment spends annual camp at Plasterdown Camp, near Tavistock, our dates being 17th to 31st May.

We all very much regret that before then our Quartermaster, Major H. F. Hall, will have left us. Major Hall joined the Regiment in March 1947 and we wish him a very happy and long retirement.

In conclusion, we offer our very belated congratulations to Signalman Oldham and Private Spooner, who were married at Beeston on 20th September, 1952.

EUROPE

H.Q. NORTHERN ARMY GROUP SIGNAL REGIMENT

The last month has been one of furious activity both at work and play. Exercise " Grande Alliance II " has kept a percentage of all Squadrons on their toes, and as usual we fulfilled our role to the satisfaction of the staff—as a result of this exercise we shall in future insist that our switchboard operators are tri-lingual.

In addition to exercises we have loaned personnel on " long lease " to help out static formations. This has proved popular since it has given a welcome change of scenery.

At sport the Regiment is at present achieving success. In the first round of the Royal Signals Northern Army Group Boxing Competition our team defeated 11 Air Formation Signal Regiment by a narrow margin. The bouts were so close that the contest hinged on the last bout, in which Corporal Galloway took the honours to " our corner." The Regimental hockey team is still in the Army Cup, having defeated an Army Engineer Regiment 5—1. On present form, providing the weather does not prevent practice, our team should have a fair measure of success. In the Royal Signals Knockout Cup, however, we lost in the second round to 11 Air Formation Signal Regiment by four goals to three.

Sergeant Gilbert, the oldest member of the W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess, departed for U.K. during the month. Many members of the Corps who came to B.A.O.R. when this Regiment was the dispersal Unit will remember Sergeant Gilbert as I.C. Drafting Wing.

The notes this month were the responsibility of No. 2 Squadron to produce. It is fitting, therefore, that readers should know the function of that Squadron.

No. 2 Squadron is the operating Squadron of the Regiment and is responsible for manning the Northern Army Group Signal Office, Cipher Office, Teleprinters and Exchange. We provide also couriers and D.R. runs, apart from the normal terminal equipment with which most members of the Corps are familiar. The Squadron possesses numerous large exchanges which can provide almost any type of facility from magneto to automatic. The Squadron is flexible and can function equally as well in vehicles or buildings. Like all men, we like our comforts, so obviously we prefer buildings!

1 WIRELESS REGIMENT

An ill wind ushering in the New Year has shattered an unconscionable number of window panes as it passed through. At least, this is the only charitable explanation for the extraordinary lack of glass after the revelries of Hogmanay. The Regiment is still sleeping in conditions usually associated with a sanatorium for consumptives.

It is probably, then, the endeavour to keep warm that has ensured a greater success in our sporting activities this month (although the weekly parties, led by Major Leahy, to the frozen wastes of Winterberg, seem to confound this theory). But the football team have moved into the second round of both the Lubbecke District Cup, by beating Camp H.Q., N.A.G., by six goals to two, and the B.A.O.R. Signals Cup by beating 1 Corps Signal Regiment by five goals to four. The team were ably supported in the latter match by the 47 people, specially chosen for their strength of voice, who hired a German bus to Herford. (Signalman Welch was supported by the other 46 on the way back.)

Another method of avoiding the cold was discovered by the basketball team. They decided to accept a challenge from R.A.F. Utersen, who gave them such a warm welcome that, from all reports, it is surprising that the game was played at all. However, we managed to win by 36 points to 23. One can only assume that it was the noble effort of Captain J. Franco in sacrificing his health to keeping part of the R.A.F. team up all night that won us through.

The Rugby team defied the frozen grounds sufficiently to beat 7 Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment by 15 points to nil. Earlier they had travelled to Berlin to play the Welsh Guards in the first round of the Army Cup. The game had already been postponed several times, and as the Berlin ground was unfit our team conceded the game to the Welsh Guards.

At Hilden, in a close game, the hockey XI was knocked out of the B.A.O.R. Signals Cup by 2 Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment.

January 1953 will be remembered by this Regiment as the month of " The Great Hat and Coat Robbery," in which Second-Lieutenant A. S. Robertson, modelling himself on Dick Tracy (of whom he is an assiduous student) showed up so well. (Mr. Robertson hotly denies that the "S" stands for " Sexton.") A daring robber entered the Officers' Mess one Thursday and absconded with a hat and coat. It was learned, by devious means, on the Friday that the thief intended to display his haul at 8 p.m. that evening in a notorious local underworld haunt with a view to sale. Assisted by three

members of the local constabulary a daring raid was made on the robber's den. The hat and coat, now being worn rather incongruously by an Indo-Chinese, was soon recognised, and as the villain went outside our Mr. A. "Sexton" Robertson wrested the coat from his back, while the three policemen held back an angry crowd. It is still denied in official circles, however, that Mr. Robertson is now an honorary detective-inspector of the *Kriminal Polizei*.

We welcome a new T.O. (T), Lieutenant W. Ellis, whom we hope will spend an enjoyable tour with this Regiment. We are told he has already made the Officers' Mess wireless work!

2 INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT

A full individual training programme swung relentlessly into gear all too soon after the Christmas festivities. The course personnel now find themselves on a four-day scheme this week-end which should prove to be a foretaste of the summer to come.

In the field of sport the Regiment has been well represented. The ski-ing team which travelled to Bad Gastein for the annual B.A.O.R. championships was not placed. They are at present engaged in the 2 Infantry Division Competition at Winterberg and should benefit from their previous experiences. The hockey team has had a full season and will play the winner of the 1 A.S.S.U. v. 7 Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment tie in the semi-final of the B.A.O.R. Signals Cup. The basketball team was very narrowly beaten by 18 points to 15 in the semi-final of the 2 Division championship by an Infantry Battalion. Owing to the poor condition of the pitches this season the Rugby teams have played intermittently. They have been drawn against 1 Corps Signal Regiment in the B.A.O.R. Signals Cup and hope to register a victory. The soccer team were beaten 3—2 in round one of the B.A.O.R. Signals Cup against 7 Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment in a very exciting game. The result was in doubt up to the final whistle. The boxing team were beaten decisively by an Infantry Battalion in round one of the Division championship, with Driver Wallington being the only one of the team to score a victory. The team are at present training hard, in anticipation of the B.A.O.R. Signals Cup, in which they have drawn against H.Q., N.A.G. Signal Regiment.

Major E. W. Townsend arrives on the 2nd February to take over the duties of Second-in-Command in place of Major P. C. Williams.

1 AIR SUPPORT SIGNAL UNIT

The New Year has started with a swing as far as we are concerned with the accent on exercises. After six weeks in the classroom some twenty O.W.L.s completed an upgrading course and successfully passed a trade test at Class II standard. They then tackled a strenuous Junior Leaders' Course, which included a night march of 18 miles through the snow to round up "Fantasian Parachutists," and a dozen of them are now junior N.C.O.s. They are now in charge of tentacle and tender detachments and are limbering up for Exercise "Octopus I." It is quite a relief to be out on the roads again, although they are well covered with snow at the present moment.

In view of recent newspaper headlines such as "Red Hand Terror Strikes in Tunis," we should like to make it clear that this has absolutely no connection with our much-prized Unit sign. We hope 2 A.S.S.U. in M.E.L.F., who carry the same sign, are likewise in the clear.

We welcome Sergeant Johnson, ex Korea, who joined us just before Christmas.

4 L. OF C. SIGNAL REGIMENT

R.H.Q. and 1 Squadron. One thing emerges from the talk and the planning, and that is that this New Year is to be busy for the Regiment, and that besides our L. of C. commitments we will be taking our part in exercises. We hope the weather is kind to us, even if the staff abuse us.

Our Regimental sporting life has suffered in some respects from the dispersal of the Squadrons, but we have had some success as the following will show.

Hockey. Some of the old 'uns, like Lieutenants Hastings and Johns, S.S.M.s Mayhew and Hall, and Sergeant Byrne, formed the backbone of the team who beat an Armoured Regiment away, and lost after extra time to the Royal Home Artillery in the B.A.O.R. Cup Competition.

Rugby. No. 1 Wireless Regiment entertained us well, and knocked us out in the third round of the B.A.O.R. Signals Units Cup Competition—12 points to six. A good game and a fair result.

Soccer. At soccer, in the Inter-Unit Signals Cup Competition, we played away to Berlin Signal Squadron and won by four goals to nil. We go into the next round with our tails up.

3 Squadron. Life proceeds apace and rumour has it that considerable changes are about to occur. We hope that in the near future the Squadron will be a little more concentrated instead of as at present being spread over such a vast distance. This will, we are confident, increase not only the individual efficiency of the tradesmen, but also the stature of the Squadron in the field of sport, and not by far the least of the prospects is that of producing funds for the O.C.A.

We wonder how many Units can beat our WIRE sales record? Including those who subscribe directly, sales of THE WIRE to individuals amount to 47 per cent. of the posted strength. Two teams have been entered for the District Small Bore Competition, and providing our very "stout" and rotund member can continue to "lay flat" without persistently throwing "one way," a very successful season lies ahead.

Departures for civilian life this month include Lance-Corporal Collins, our leading goal scorer. We wish him and his contemporaries good shooting in civilian life.

Agony for NACERBY. Any hopes of jottings from the Far and Middle East?

11 AIR FORMATION SIGNAL REGIMENT

The first month of the New Year has been full of activity with upgrading courses proceeding smoothly at R.H.Q. and preparations for the coming Regimental exercise continuing at Wing Troops. The Chief Air Formation Signal Officer, Colonel Scott, began a tour of Wing Signal Troops by visiting Guetersloh and Sundern, and found 2 T.E. Troop newly established at the latter.

The hockey eleven has continued on its winning way and now holds second position in the 2nd T.A.F. League. One of the most exciting matches for some time was that played against H.Q. Northern Army Group Signals in the B.A.O.R. Signals Hockey Competition. Losing by three goals to two five minutes from time, the game appeared lost, when suddenly Sergeant Webb broke through to equalise, and two minutes later sent home a cracking shot to win the game.

The Rugby 1st XV have found a new lease of life under its new captain, Lieutenant J. H. S. Weston, and did extremely well by defeating last year's winners of the B.A.O.R. Signals Cup by six points to three in the current competition.

Other sporting activities have been carried on successfully, especially boxing and cross-country running, though the soccer eleven have still to find their shooting boots. The newly-formed Badminton Club is finding plenty of support in the Regiment and now prepares a full fixture list for the remainder of the year.

6 ARMOURED DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT

We regret that there has been no news of the Regiment in THE WIRE for some little time.

R.H.Q. and No. 1 Squadron are now installed in a new camp. When the north-east wind doesn't blow and the heating works it has its advantages. We share the camp with Divisional H.Q. and Divisional H.Q. Squadron.

Throughout the summer we have all been very hard at work on exercises, culminating with manoeuvres ("Hold-fast"). Without making a fuss it is sufficient to say that we produced the goods and can be very satisfied.

Since the summer training season we have regeared the machine to individual training—refresher and upgrading.

We have started to get down to sport in all forms and are looking forward to a successful winter season.

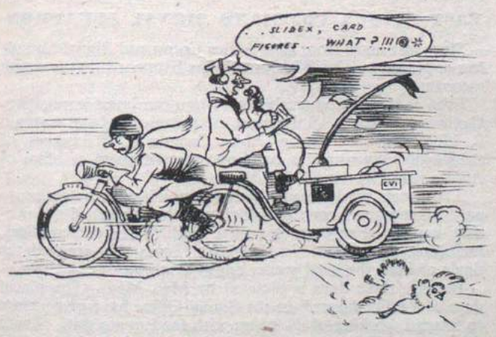
★

We were very glad to have the Representative Colonel-Commandant, Major-General R. F. B. Naylor, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., visit the Regiment in October. The guard and guard of honour which was mounted were well worthy of the occasion.

We are having a big turnover in personnel this autumn. If we receive as good chaps as we are losing we will indeed be lucky.

Among those excellent men who have left are Major P. S. Banbury, M.B.E., and Major T. H. Howat.

As is always the case after training, the "silly" season starts—new ideas! The cry now is to cut down transport and the size of vehicles. The Commanding Officer has for some time been experimenting with the use of a light trailer pulled behind a motor cycle—a common sight in Germany—for carriage of batteries, radio mechanics' kit and wireless sets (62/19). It is strange, but after a good bumping about the wireless does in fact work, and our artist has produced a sketch of possible things to come. We might yet have a new trade—D.R./operator.



VIENNA SIGNAL TROOP, BRITISH TROOPS IN AUSTRIA

Nothing eventful has taken place since our last appearance in print. Ski-ing became exceedingly popular for a few days, but with the advent of a most effective thaw, thoughts turned to football. The Troop turned out a team to meet the R.A.F. Schwechat in a friendly game, alas! We suffered ignominous defeat, 5—0. However, in spite of this, we are going ahead and have entered teams in the Vienna Garrison football, hockey and basketball leagues, and we hope that success will crown our efforts in the forthcoming season.

Entertainment has been improved by the effort of Corporal Brown, who has taken it upon himself to run additional Saturday night dances. They are a great success and the lads appreciate them.

The Sergeants' Mess held a "Tramps' Ball" recently and the ante-room was transformed into a true replica of a doss-house. Sergeant Faraday seemed so at home in this disguise as a "knight of the road" that it seemed a pity that he should be brought back to reality by being detailed for Orderly Sergeant the following day. The O.C., as supervising Officer of the Mess, attended for the last three hours to see that the "troops" were behaving themselves. We wonder why the Garrison Duty Officer complained of so much noise between 2 and 4 a.m. SIGNALS SERGEANTS AND OFFICERS *ALWAYS* SING IN HARMONY!

A.L.F.C.E. SIGNAL SQUADRON

The Squadron continues to undergo changes of personnel. Our latest loss has been S.Q.M.S. Carnell, who had been with the Squadron for four years. He was undoubtedly one of the most active members of the Unit and played a large part in all our social activities from children's parties to tombola. We would like to wish S.Q.M.S. Carnell the best of luck in his new posting—2 Training Regiment, Catterick.

The weather has prevented all sporting activities with the exception of Grande Alliance II. This exercise was enjoyed by most participants, who were, nevertheless, somewhat disconcerted to read in a well-known national daily paper that "no troops had been employed."

M E L F

2 WIRELESS REGIMENT, ROYAL SIGNALS

The early weeks of January saw a number of gay and lively occasions. On the 1st and 2nd, the fruits of six weeks' struggle and one week's intensive rehearsal were brought to light when the pantomime "Aladdin Khaki" was produced. The "full house" signs which were displayed on each night amply rewarded the efforts of a dozen never-say-die artistes. Doubtless, too, the magic spells of a bewitching Fairy Fanny more than annulled the evil designs of "Q" Droopy Drawers. (Rumours that the former was offered a contract by a well-known ballet company were later proved to be without foundation.) On 9th January a most enjoyable dance was held with excellent music supplied by the Royal Artillery (Portsmouth) Dance Band. On the following evening a C.S.E. Show, starring Ronnie Ronalde, proved a good finish to a rather hectic spell of entertainment.

Sport. The area football and hockey leagues are reaching their final stages and, while we are not too favourably placed for major honours in the former, it does appear that either the "A" or "B" team can emerge at the top of the hockey table. The activities of the Rugby XV have been curtailed somewhat by flooded pitches, although on 9th January a match was played against a visiting team from the Kuwait Oil Company. A fast, open game resulted in a win for the tourists by 14—0. The Unit basketball team had great success in the Island Final when they beat C.R.E. Cyprus by 21—19. The game was as keen as the score suggests. Word has just been received that the rifle shooting team was equal third in the Middle East Shooting Trophy. Not content, however, the team is now training for a number of forthcoming cup competitions.

With all this behind us, it is obviously apparent that another glad-when-it-is-over event is foreshadowed. The R.S.M. may be a little "greyer," but those arms ARE beginning to swing correctly; he may be a little hoarse, but more

life IS emerging from the troops on drill parades. Paint brushes grow thin and the pile of empty drums grows higher each day—all of which can mean but one thing, the Annual Administrative Inspection. Enough said!

2 AGRA SIGNAL SQUADRON

Our main topic of note last month was the visit of Lieutenant-Colonel A. M. W. Whistler, Royal Signals, accompanied by various T.O.T.s, etc., on the Annual Technical Inspection. All went well, but praise must be given to Lance-Corporal Carrington and his team of D.R.s who received special mention in the report on the excellent condition of their machines. On the sporting side our football team continues to make great progress, our scores now reading won 17, lost 3; Newton (35), Mallett (10), Charlton (10) being our most prolific goal scorers. The Officers' and Sergeants' Messes recently had a grand social on the occasion of one of the R.A. sergeants departing for the U.K., and with many noisy and varied songs, plenty of good food and drink (much credit to the Messing Member), the party continued until the early hours of the morning.

AIR FORMATION SIGNALS, MIDDLE EAST AIR FORCE

4 Air Formation Signal Regiment sponsored the Corps (Egypt) Athletics Meeting, which took place in brilliant sunshine on the 30th and 31st December. The Regiment came fourth out of an entry of six teams, which was a fair effort for a Unit so small and widely scattered.

Sailing is still very popular although it has now become a decidedly cold sport. A popular skipper is the one who brings his crew back dry. Colonel Gordon and Major Burrows sailed for the Army against the Royal Air Force in a Boxing Day contest held on Lake Timsah. The Army won by one coat of "anti-foul."

The sun is still warm enough at mid-day to allow one to sit out, provided there is no wind, which many did on Boxing Day at the United Service Club, Ismailia, to listen to the Royal Artillery (Portsmouth) Band. The nights are sufficiently cold to warrant wearing an overcoat out of doors, or even indoors if there is no fire, and they are very few.

16 INDEPENDANT PARATROOP BRIGADE GROUP SIGNAL SQUADRON

Christmas was very much of a family affair, and whilst it revolved itself round the bottle in more senses than one it made provision for the usual church services, serving gun fire, and meals and the customary soccer matches. The annual event called "Officers v. Sergeants" was as dangerous as usual, and whilst some say it was soccer, some rugger, the more thoughtful just nod their heads—er, gently, but knowingly. Our concert was a tremendous success and we are indebted to "Goldthorpe and Trotter," those well-known London comics, for giving up a valuable engagement at the London Casino to entertain us. Also to Nicolaides for his excellent performance on the flute.

Congratulations to Lieutenant McGillivray on playing rugger for the Army and United Services. To Sergeant Eldridge on playing hockey for the Royal Signals. To Corporal Douglas on playing soccer for the Brigade and Canal North District. To the basketball team on defeating 2 Agra 40—15. And lastly to Sergeant Laing on his well-earned promotion to S.Q.M.S. We look forward now to a number of airborne exercises and generally to more active training than the last couple of months.

GIBRALTAR SIGNAL SQUADRON

It was with very genuine regret that the Unit learned of Major J. R. G. Walker's decision to retire from the Service. Major Walker had been our Officer Commanding for only a comparatively short time but had quickly made himself popular with all. His interest in welfare and all forms of sport were ever evident, and perhaps for that reason our various teams had been putting in that little bit of extra with what results we know. It is, therefore, the very sincere wish of us all that civvy street will suit Major Walker and that it will hold something good in store for him.

And having said goodbye to Major Walker, we welcome in his place Major L. B. H. Custance Baker and hope that his stay here in Gibraltar will be a happy one for himself, his wife and his family.

Just recently the weather completely broke down when abnormally heavy rain caused much extra work for our linemen. The bad weather coincided with the arrival in Gibraltar of units of the Home Fleet to take part in a mock aerial and surface bombardment of "The Rock." Despite the rain, a series of exercises were conducted when Signals once again maintained very successful communications.

At sport we are more than keeping our end up. The soccer eleven is lying second from top in their league. At hockey we are also second in the league. As our numbers are small we feel reasonably pleased with ourselves. At indoor games we are at the top of the league—comfortably so. In one other form of sport we haven't been quite so successful. We refer to small bore shooting. The enthusiasm and keenness are very obvious, and with a little more practice we shall "make our mark." And just wait until our rifles are fitted with the posh sights.

About now several of our regular members in the Unit are due home on completion of their overseas tour. In a small Unit like ours their influence and general "know how" will be sorely missed. To them all we wish good luck in their new stations.

EAST AFRICA COMMAND SIGNAL SQUADRON

Since last notes from East Africa Command Signal Squadron appeared in THE WIRE much has happened that is worth recording.

Even as these notes are being written our latest acquisition, Captain (Q.M.) T. Williamson, is taking over from Captain R. Hodgson, our retiring Q.M. Captain R. P. Hughes, of the illegible signature, is handing over the wand of office of Adjutant to Captain G. M. Allan.

The sports world hasn't been too much with us owing to an "Emergency," news of which may have reached the outside world. However, we have had two representatives, including the captain, in the Army Team that reached the finals of both the local soccer cups—winning one of them.

But life these days is dictated by Mau Mau. The placid days of "office hours" in the Signal Office have given place to fevered working of 24 hours with inadequate staff. Every African and European that could be coerced into it has had to do some sort of Signal Office job, and even Mobile Wireless Troop have had to mobilise themselves and send out detachments here and there, notably to trouble spots at Fort Hall, Nyeri and Thomson's Falls.

Odd Africans part way through their training have been put straight on to sets—with mixed results. Army Wireless Chain Squadron have had to stop their cable pulling (where cable still existed; the locals having a playful habit of digging it up) and provide additional people for Rtty. and S.D.S. Even the Kenya Regiment has disgorged Signals "old timers" and produced sound material for cipher training. We've even had the Navy on the tail-end of one of our links.

We don't get any of the excitement here in Naorobi, and even our detachments play a static role. Just hard graft and rarely any thanks. However, we've managed nicely so far.

FARELF

1 MALAY INFANTRY BRIGADE SIGNAL SQUADRON

Here we are still in Kuala Lipis making the best of it and keeping our sense of humour.

Since our last notes the Brigade has been made responsible for security of the states of Trengganu and Kelantan in addition to Pahang, and so now the Signal Squadron is responsible for communications in an area almost half the size of Malaya itself.

We welcome S.Q.M.S. D. H. Young, B.E.M., to the Squadron and also Sergeant G. T. Harrow. We also congratulate S.S.M. W. Sawyer on his recent promotion.

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Our new Brigade Commander has introduced mobile signal exercises into the Brigade, and we are now busy borrowing the vehicles we are short of and fitting the necessary sets into them in preparation.

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At the moment we have twelve operators at the FARELF Signal Training School, and slowly but surely we are filling our vacancies with trained men.

Still no bandits to our credit yet, but we haven't given up hope.

Broadcasting to Gurkhas

Adapted from an article by Mr. VICTOR STAINES in "The Straits Times Radio Weekly"

UNKNOWN to many radio listeners in this part of the world but intensely popular with the tough, lion-hearted Gurkhas fighting in the Federation of Malaya against the bandits, is a tiny Forces' Broadcasting Unit.

This small station—just a sound-proof room with a control desk and turntable—not much bigger than an average-sized room in an average-sized house, broadcasts an hour's entertainment each night in Gurkhali from Tanglin Barracks, Singapore.

At the beginning of this year Captain W. J. O. Ettridge, Royal Signals, who was commissioned to start the station, began collecting an infinite variety of bits and pieces (in the tradition of the Army) and soon had a turntable that worked and a compact studio in Tanglin Barracks, Singapore.

The Unit possessed little else, except a burning enthusiasm to get the station on the air.

Captain Ettridge haunted the corridors and studios of Radio Malaya. He watched productions, listened to techniques and garnered information as fast as he could.

During March last year, aided by Gurkha Captain Padam Lal Rai and two Gurkha sergeants on the programme side, and British Sergeant Tucker and Lance-Corporal Gobles, Royal Signals, on the technical side, Captain Ettridge put out test programmes.

On April 1, 1952, this tiny broadcasting station started life in earnest. It produced an hour's programme each night from 8.30 to 9.30 p.m. The programmes consisted of recordings of bands, concerts, stories, poetry, songs and plays—all in Gurkhali.

Since April the Forces' Broadcasting Unit has progressed steadily. Although still confined to one hour's broadcast a night to Gurkha troops, through a complexity of reasons, Captain Ettridge has been constantly improving the standard of broadcasting.

He now has a tape-recorder with which he takes recordings of all Gurkha activities such as passing-out parades, sports meetings, bandit hunting campaigns, and the many other Regimental activities.

A recent arrival at the station is Mrs. Leena Devaraj, who is probably the only Gurkha girl-announcer in South-East Asia. Leena previously was a schoolmistress at Slim Barracks, Singapore, teaching Army children.

Mrs. Leena Devaraj

do you remember?

THAT in 1923 the Benevolent Fund began a practice of paying a small annual subscription to selected schools so that in cases of need the children of Signalmen who died in the Service could be sure of getting a place.

THE WIRE for January of that year recorded the transfer to Royal Signals of such well-known names as Captain (Brevet Major) C. W. Fladgate and Captain R. T. O. Cary. Also that J. C. Garroni became acting corporal and C. B. Grace acting sergeant.

Royal Signals in that year were serving in Malta, Cairo, Constantinople, Kilia (Turkey), Peshawar, Tank, Meerut, Jubbulpore, Kohat (India), Spike Island, Cologne, Maresfield, Crowborough, Aldershot, Bulford, Colchester, Singapore, Gibraltar, Ceylon and, of course, in many other places, and the first Indian branch of the Association was formed at Jubbulpore.

February 1923 was marked as the THIRD birthday of THE WIRE. Mr. Butler took over Editorship from Mr. G. E. Paling.

1923 was remarkable in Royal Signals for success in sport. The Royal Engineers were beaten at boxing by a handsome margin, and later we won the Army Boxing Championships. The Corps won the Army Athletics Team Championship, and as this was Cotterell's year (one of many), he won his Amateur Athletic Association Four-Mile Championship.

L. H. Drake, whose illustrations appeared in THE WIRE for so many years, made his debut in August 1923. Unfortunately, today he has not the time or, indeed, the local knowledge, which made his cartoons so admirable, but he did, out of his kindness, design the cover for the Christmas number.

THE WIRE of 1952 and 1953 often contains a versicle commentary on motoring by NACERBY. It was in November 1923 that BARLEUX published "Hints on Cars," an erudite article which is as true today as it was 30 years ago.

So much for 1923. Let us now turn to more recent memory of 1933, famous to us not for sport so much as for the work of various display teams. Opening THE WIRE of January, the first photograph of 1933 takes us right back to the 1st Telegraph Battalion, R.E., Stanhope Lines, Aldershot, 1907. Do you remember? Few will, but many whose names are underneath that photograph brought Royal Signals some fame: E. A. Osbourne, R. C. Trench, H. Clementi Smith, C. J. Aston, Band Sergeant J. Struddart, C.S.M. J. Bray, C.Q.M.S. Bernicotte, Sergeant W. Dockerell, to mention but a few.

Major R. A. Bagnold was in that year engaged in exploration of the Libyan Desert, the results of which were put to good use in 1941 and 1942. Do you remember the interesting article in the February 1933 number about the New Zealand Corps of Signals?

Rehearsals early in that year started in Catterick for the First Royal Signals Horse and Motor Cycle Display, so soon to amaze large audiences at the Royal Tournament and elsewhere. You remember that, do you? But what of the Tidworth Display of the same year, and of "F" Company doing a turn as toy soldiers at the York Tattoo?

The Royal Signals Quarterly Journal was first published in 1933. Do you remember? In 1953 we hear much of the Royal Signals Institution, pledged to restart the Quarterly Journal. Is it too much to hope that they make it 20 years after, or must we wait for the 21st birthday?

Mons Barracks, Aldershot, in 1933 was a "jewel in Mercury's crown." A Corps Signals, 1st and 2nd Divisional Signals, lived there. With much toil and sweat, and considerable expenditure of money, they made those barracks something of which we were all very proud. Do you remember? And now what we made so good is inherited, without compensation, by the Officer Cadet School.

Perhaps only A.G.11 at the War Office could tell how many honours and awards were earned by Royal Signals during World War II, but it was significant to those of us with a memory and imagination that a picture appeared in 1933 of Lieutenant L. C. C. Harrison and Lance-Corporal G. Barnett being presented with the Military Cross and Military Medal respectively. 1933, not '43!

Our C.O., Major A. H. A. Empson, who has been with the Unit for 4½ years, suddenly left us and was relieved by Major C. J. S. Le Cornu, who came from "G" Signals. Do you remember where? When? You do? Well you're much older than I.

Farewell to ERITREA SIGNAL TROOP

Eritrea Signal Troop ready to move off from Asmara Airport

In October last year Eritrea Signal Troop disbanded. Formed during the reign of the British Military Administration, it was originally a Squadron which took over from 5 Indian Divisional Signals. In a photo of their soccer eleven taken at Asmara in June, 1941, I can see one Lance-Corporal Hewitt, who appears again in a photo taken in 1950 as Troop Sergeant. He it is who should be writing this abreviated history.

In early 1948 the Signal Squadron reorganised itself into the Posts, Telegraph and Telephone Department B.M.A., Eritrea. As a result, Major Farmer (N.D.) held the post of Chief Inspector Telegraphs and Telephones, and he had a deputy, Captain W. J. Howard. The signal master, Captain L. M. Hobley, signed all the letters.

Major "Paddy" Dunn, M.B.E., who succeeded Major Farmer, stayed on as Chief Engineer, P. and T. Department; his deputy is Mr. J. A. Stretton, also ex-Royal Signals, who was one of the brains at the War Office until the Post Office reclaimed his services.

This "semi-civil" Unit left the British Administration, Eritrea, in August 1949, and set itself up in Headquarters as Eritrea District Signal Troop.

Captain Benson and Lieutenant Findlater, now with the display team, were officers commanding at certain periods. Then came Captain Roger Nott-Bower, who always had a good excuse for exercise to test either the communications or the shifta. He is now a Bimbashi in the Sudan Defence Force and a steady married man.

I fancy that it was just before his time that a request was made to War Office for two brace of "Pigeons Carrier Reliable." It was turned down due to the non-availability of that peculiar fellow, "Handler Pigeons," and his mate, "Loft Pigeons Tender" (Tender being a trade and not a quality of the pigeons). In addition, the War Office questioned the integrity of the local inhabitants who, it was felt, might not be adverse to pigeon pie.

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Gradually the members of the Troop left and no reinforcement arrived. In March, 1952, Lieutenant Derek Poole arrived to organise a suitable death rattle, which was not so very effective as only five of us remained to perform this historic feat as we crossed the border into the Sudan with a jeep and a borrowed 15cwt. correction truck, one ton and two three-tonners with five pigs.

Many of you, like myself, have probably given a knowing smile at the mention of Eritrea, knowing absolutely nothing about the place. So perhaps I should have given you a jog at the beginning by mentioning Keren, the site of that fantastic assault by the 4th and 5th Indian Division during our conquest of Ethiopia and Eritrea from the Italians in 1941. Eritrea lies just north of Abyssinia, within 16 degrees of the Equator. Temperatures of 103 degrees are common on the plains, but it has a central plateau where the climate is just like that rare phenomenom, the English summer's day. Gazelle, wild pig and quail abound, and members of the Troop have seen ostrich and elephant and heard rumours of leopard and lion.

The Army's time has been taken up with a perpetual war against the shifta bands of robbers who used politics and their hatred of the Italians as an excuse for lawlessness. Royal Signals have been as active as any, not only maintaining wireless communications with the Sudan, but also using 19 sets over the most arduous and trying country, both physical and from the point of view of wireless communications. Line can suffer just as easily from the torrential rainfall during the big rains, when trees crash across cables and when a 10ft. wall of water sweeps away concrete pylons.

Now the territory is part of the Ethiopian Empire and the British Army has left. Incidentally, contrary to notices in the Press and certain journals, it was not the Infantry who were last in Eritrea but, yes, you are right, Royal Signals.

1 COMMONWEALTH DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT

View of frozen Imjin from Divisional Headquarters.

The Commonwealth Division has now been in the same spot in Korea for over a year, and has settled down to a routine which varies little from day to day. To us a dull routine perhaps, but to those whose war experience ended in 1945 or to the even greater number who have joined the Corps since then, we feel it would be of interest.

We propose to stop sending to THE WIRE the rather stereotyped form of notes, and to publish instead a few short articles dealing with various aspects of our activities.

We open with an article on living conditions which is a subject believed to be of general interest and is certainly of special interest to those who have volunteered to come out or who may otherwise be posted here. It is written with special reference to the winter conditions which we are experiencing at the moment, and we apologise if by chance we repeat what has been written in these notes or elsewhere before.

First of all the much publicised climate. Everyone living in Britain is interested in the weather, and that national trend has followed us to Korea. The problem is simplified because the seasons are more rigid and the day to day variations are comparatively small. For instance, it is reasonable to say that winter starts on 1st December and ends on 31st March. During that period the maximum day temperature will average about 25 degrees F. and the minimum night temperature about zero, though the extremes in both cases can be greater, and at the time of writing (mid-January) we have already had temperatures of -11 degrees F. at night and much lower temperatures have been recorded. Towards the end of January the westerly winds start and although these do not affect the temperature much they make life much more unpleasant. In general, the days are brilliantly sunny, interspersed with occasional snow showers, but these rarely last more than a few hours, and usually fall in the early morning. Snow is not a problem and never seems to get deep.

In April the weather rapidly becomes warmer, and by June it is unpleasantly hot, with dust and flies. During July and the early part of August it rains heavily for sometimes as long as two whole days, and consequently all small streams turn into roaring rivers in the space of a few hours. The rest of August and September are again hot, while the remaining months till winter are pleasantly warm autumn weather.

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In this part of Korea the country is very broken—steep rocky hills rising out of narrow valleys and interspersed with many wadis. The hillsides are covered in chestnut and oak bushes rarely more than two or three feet high. Except in the area of a village there is scarcely a tree to be seen higher than that. Every available inch of the narrow valleys is covered in paddy fields and a little higher up the slopes there are maize or millet fields. It is difficult to find places where you can get vehicles off the road: this has its advantages so far as linemen are concerned. There are many dried-up stream beds which flood rapidly during the rainy season. The River Imjin which, here, is comparable in size to, say, the Thames

at Maidenhead, and its tributary, the Samichon, pass through our area and are frozen over during the winter and will take the weight of a loaded vehicle. During July the water level rises 40 feet and the current becomes very fast and a constant worry to the Sappers and their bridges. Houses or barns in the normally accepted sense of the words are not to be seen anywhere outside the big towns. Before describing how we live in these surroundings it must be realised that at present this is a campaign quite unlike anything we experienced in the last war. We have been in this position for over a year; we never see an enemy aircraft but the forward localities are shelled and mortared at all times of the day or night. Behind the forward localities we are for the most part left in peace and do not have to worry too much about concealing ourselves, though much digging has been done. At the present time digging is almost impossible as the ground is frozen hard to a depth of a foot or more. In these circumstances we have made ourselves relatively comfortable. Everyone lives in dugouts or tents, and behind the forward infantry positions the immediate landscape is dotted with American squad tents holding about a dozen soldiers, other smaller tents and dugouts, or "hoochies" as they are called locally.

The American squad tents have one serious disadvantage: they are made of thick black canvas and have no windows. The entrances have to be closed to keep the cold out and so artificial light has to be available whenever the tent is occupied, by day or night. The T.O.T. struggles to provide electric light throughout the day and night with scrounged equipment. There are no W.R.A.C.s here so it can't be a hair drier, but we are certain there is a certain Signalman who at exactly the same time every morning plugs in an electric kettle and 2 kw. fire and plunges us all into darkness just as we are going to apply a razor to our face.

At Division H.Q. dugouts are not so popular and have only been constructed by two Majors, who have to tolerate the rats who moved in with them. Heating is of prime importance and the most commonly used heating devise is the American Tent Stove. Briefly, this consists of dripping diesel oil into a steel barrel via a carburettor with a knob on it marked 1 to 10 to control the flow. Out of the barrel comes a chimney which goes through a hole in the roof of the tent. Diesel oil is short and petrol is frequently used instead. This has the effect of making the stove very efficient, and the whole contraption gets red hot when the carburettor knob is on 7.

We have been very lucky recently as a tent hasn't burnt down for a few days, though last Sunday afternoon the Security Officer was seen sitting on the ridge pole of the Command Group tent trying to beat out the flaming canvas with his hands. These sort of incidents brighten our day and the only people who worry are the Adjutant and the members of the Court of Inquiry and the inhabitants of the tent who have to find somewhere else to live.

At night all tent stoves in tents in which men are sleeping have to be extinguished as otherwise the fire risk is much too great. Tied into a sleeping bag one would have a poor chance if the tent went up during the night. On the other hand, the sleeping bags are very efficient, and even though the temperature may be well below zero in the tent they will keep you very warm. Nevertheless, it is as well to know how to sleep with your head well covered up and yet avoid being suffocated; this is where the balaclavas which have so kindly been sent to us by various people come in useful. As yet there have been no cases of frost-bitten noses!

The rations are excellent and would turn the British housewife green with envy. The basis item is 14 oz. of meat a day, and by that we don't mean the Ministry of Food's stewing steak or fatty mutton, but prime cuts of beef, frying steak and occasionally pork and veal. Once a week we get an equal quantity of turkey or chicken instead.

The clothing which has been mentioned in earlier WIRE notes really keeps us warm. Normal daylight wear is string vest, woollen shirt and thick sweater; while at night or for riding in jeeps this is supplemented by a combat smock (like a ski jacket) and a Parka, which when it is completely done

"A" Troop Lines, showing squad tents, a CV. high power used for a voice link to Kure, in Japan, and the transmitter vehicle. The latter contains three WS No. 53 and two WS No. 52. These sets were remote controlled from the Signal Office about 500 yards away in the next valley

up makes one look like Scott of the Antarctic or the original Michelin man. The lower half consists of combat trousers and two types of long woolly pants, the second type being of extreme thickness, and intended only for people who have to be out in the cold and cannot be near a fire. The boots have thick rubber soles and are large so that two pairs of socks can be worn with them. We are issued with mitts, a three compartment woollen glove, and an outer leather ski glove. We have recently been issued with a number of combat caps and ski caps for trial. The former at any rate are well made and comfortable, though both types reminded us of someone we had seen before and we suddenly realised that if we had been dropped in Germany during the war we would have passed for members of the Wehrmacht without any bother.

Our old friends the Mobile Laundry and Bath Unit has been in full swing washing out clothes. Regretably the place was reduced to ashes last week—the usual red hot petrol fed space heater one imagines—and now for the time being we are reduced to doing our own. No easy task in this weather when the first job is to melt ice in the water cans, ending up with the actual drying process. If a wet string vest is hanging in the open for an hour it will freeze hard and resemble a piece of chain mail.

We get five days' leave (excluding travelling time) in Japan after four or five months, and the U.S. Air Force fly us to Tokyo and back. In Tokyo there is an excellent leave camp where every human comfort is provided for. Leave can be very cheap; on the other hand it is usually very expensive! The Japanese are back to their old occupation of imitating expensive western goods such as Leica cameras and Ronson lighters, at sometimes less than a third of the price in England, while locally produced silks and pearls are equally cheap. Temptation to buy is consequently great, and before you know where you are much money has changed hands. Most of us come back feeling that we've enjoyed ourselves, even if we haven't had much of a rest.

During most of the year we attempt to play most of the usual games, but winter is a difficult time because the ground is permanently frozen, and running around getting too hot means that the sweat is apt to freeze on us: this is frowned upon by the doctors. So we are dependent for entertainment upon the wireless and films and the books and periodicals sent us by kind friends. Our new cinema, a magnificent edifice of sand bags, built by Korean labour, is now nearly completed and replaces the old draughty tent. From time to time we are lucky enough to get a C.S.E. show and we greatly appreciate the efforts of both actors and actresses who entertain us under the most trying circumstances.

Australian Notes

BRITCOM BASE SIGNAL REGIMENT

On 18th and 19th November, 1952, the members of the Regiment, assisted by personnel of some of the "lodger" Units quartered in Signal Barracks, presented a comedy revue, "Follies Berserk." The second revue produced by the Regiment, it received very good comments from *Japan News*, the local English language daily.

British Commonwealth Units in the Kure-Hiro area of Japan participated in an 18-mile 18-man relay race on 20th November, 1952. The Regiment's team won decisively by covering the 18 miles in 1 hour 34 minutes 35.9 seconds. The previous best time, made by R.A.A.S.C. in 1949, was 1 hour 38 minutes 14.2 seconds. The Regiment's team was trained and led by Captain Claude Smeal, one of Australia's marathon representatives at the 1952 Olympic Games.

Central Command

Signals again high-lighted our annual Army Tattoo, and a display by members of "L" Troop, 3 Divisional Signal Regiment, before a crowd of 45,000 was much appreciated. The flying saucer mystery has at last been solved, thanks to effective counter-measures taken by us when a fleet of these appeared over the arena.

"Radio communications" were established with one of these space ships floating overhead caught in the searchlights.

The saucer landed on the arena and next thing the men from Mars "attacked" with ray guns. Finally our boys knocked out the space ship with their own secret weapon.

The "bully beef stakes," a trotting event, featuring comical Trojan horses looking like prehistoric monsters, was arranged by Major Aldridge. Motor cyclists concealed inside provided the "horse power."

Eastern Command

On 11th October, 1952, Royal Australian Signal Units in Eastern Command successfully conducted their second annual inter-Unit Signal Competition and Ceremonial Parade.

The activity was the first of its kind in which National Servicemen participated, and in order to accommodate the larger numbers, the parade was held on the Royal Agricultural Society's Sydney Showground. The showground provided an excellent setting for the day's activities, both from the participants' and spectators' point of view.

The Signal Competition was in the same general form as for last year but included a new Unit. This Unit, 1 Divisional Signal Regiment, which was raised in February 1952, received their first C.M.F. members in May. The Unit managed to field a team of National Servicemen which caused some consternation among the older Units by winning the first two events, i.e. the Despatch Rider and M.T. Driving Tests. However, the older Units came to the fore as the competition progressed, and after a race to erect field wireless stations the competition was in favour of 2 Divisional Signal Regiment, with 1 Divisional Signal Regiment second and 1 A.S.S.U. a close third. The tables were completely turned after the message handling and traffic passing test and 1 A.S.S.U. came to the fore and "took home the bacon" for the second year in succession. 2 Divisional Signal Regiment ran second and 1 Armoured Brigade Signal Squadron third.

After the Signal Competition was completed the Eastern Command Motor Cycle Display Team added entertainment with a series of spectacular rides. The antics of four members on a motor cycle and sidecar fitted with an eccentric wheel were particularly appreciated by all present. Eastern Command Motor Cycle Team consists of members of Royal Australian Signals and Royal Australian Army Service Corps. This team has been established for several years and provides one of the highlights in the Annual Eastern Command Army Tattoo.

During the afternoon Major-General W. J. V. Windeyer, C.B.E., D.S.O., E.D., the Citizen Military Force Member of the Military Board, reviewed a Ceremonial Parade of 31 Officers and 435 other ranks, Royal Australian Signals. Present at the saluting base were Brigadier D. MacArthur-Onslow, D.S.O., E.D., 1 Armoured Brigade, Colonel L. J. Bruton, Director of Signals, Army Headquarters, and Major K. Bolton, who represented Headquarters Eastern Command. Following the Ceremonial Parade, Major-General Windeyer presented the Signal Competition Trophy to the O.C. of 1 A.S.S.U. (Major J. Herrick).

Afternoon tea was served in the Royal Agricultural Society's dining rooms, where a display of signal equipment attracted a large audience of official guests as well as relatives and friends of members.

Territorial Army

35 (U) A.A. INDEPENDENT (M) SIGNAL SQUADRON, T.A.

The Squadron ended its training for 1952 by holding a Trade Board, and the results were very good, which is a grand omen for the future as recruiting of military has gone up in leaps and bounds.

The shooting team, under the able guidance of Captain J. F. H. Pearcey and Sergeant S. Oliver, have been keeping up the good work in the Small Bore Leagues of both N.I.D. and 3 A.A. Group, and with good shooting and luck we may produce one or more members of the T.A. Small Bore Team. Anyhow, we wish the team the best of luck in all future shoots.

The W.R.A.C. were well represented in the 51 (U) A.A. Brigade Netball Team, when four of our Unit travelled to Glasgow and played in the semi-final and final of 3 A.A. Group Competition. The first match was won in fine style, but the final, which was played half-an-hour afterwards, was lost to a team who were much superior and who, once they had netted, never looked back. Never mind, next year we will supply the whole team and bring the cup over to Northern Ireland.

Well, annual camp will soon be with us once more, and this year we are going down to the sunny (we hope) south, and one wonders which of our G.D. men may be left behind to tend the S.S.M.'s flower garden which has been made outside the huts.

50 (N) INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

Our Special Correspondent, Major N. D. Farmer, being away on a two-months' Senior Officers' Course, the responsibility for compiling THE WIRE notes has been delegated elsewhere.

Good progress is being made in the formation of our band, and provided this progress is maintained they should be able to play as a band at our Annual Camp in July. There are still vacancies for certain instrumentalists, and if there are any readers in the Darlington area who are able to play a brass instrument we would be pleased to see them on Tuesday evenings or Sunday mornings at the Drill Hall at band practice.

During January Field-Marshal Viscount Montgomery paid a visit to the North-East during which he received the Freedom of the City of Durham. He took the opportunity of meeting members of the 50th Division and a representative

detachment of this Regiment paraded at Durham for his inspection.

We are busy with our Regimental Squadron training preparatory to Annual Camp, which this year will be held on Salisbury Plain.

A very successful Officers' and Sergeants' Week-end Exercise was held on the 24th-25th January. This took the form of a S.E.W.T., a Saturday afternoon being spent at Darlington on a cloth model exercise and the Sunday morning in the Downholme area discussing our problems on the ground. During the next two months we are due to take part in Exercises "Trent," "Tees" and "Tyne," which are Brigade Group exercises. Finally, before we go to camp, we are due to take part in a complete Divisional Signal Exercise.

With Trade Boards and Junior N.C.O.s' Drill and Duties Course, also to be held during the next month or two, we look like having a busy time.

Since we last appeared in print various changes in our Permanent Staff have taken place. Our Quartermaster, Major "Ted" Wheeler, decided that he was too old to stand the pace of the present day Territorial Army and retired to civil life. We wish him the best of luck. We welcome as his successor Lieutenant (Q.M.) R. H. Couch and hope that his stay with us will be a happy one. Our Adjutant, Captain E. J. Winn, is due to leave us for the School of Signals during the next few days. He has been a most popular and efficient Adjutant and well up to the standard of previous Adjutants of this Regiment who have since found fame. His successor is Captain M. A. Petheram, who appears to be making a successful recovery after his move from the delights of Jamaica to the bleak North-East of England.

REUNION
Catterick 1953

The Annual General Meeting and Comrades' Reunion, Royal Signals Association, will be on SATURDAY, 16th, & SUNDAY, 17th MAY, 1953

During the Church Parade Service on SUNDAY, the Colonel-in-Chief, H.R.H. The Princess Royal, hopes to attend the dedication of the War Memorial Chapel in St. Martin's Church

BOOK THESE DATES NOW

10 AIR SUPPORT SIGNAL UNIT (T.A.)

Although we have not featured in the columns of THE WIRE for some time we have not been idle in 10 A.S.S.U. After Exercise "Broadside" in Germany in 1951 and Exercise "Surprise Packet" on Salisbury Plain in 1951, we had a more normal camp in 1952 at Chickerell Camp, near Weymouth, with 63 H.Q. L. of C. Signal Regiment (T.A.).

None the less, camp near "this pleasant resort" was no rest cure and the weather god was particularly unkind. We worked through a formidable programme of wireless exercises and had little opportunity for basking in the sun on the beach except at 0700 hours (in lieu of P.T.).

Under Corporal Bunday our keen soccer team won the camp soccer competition and two casks of beer from the O.C.

Apart from camp, Sergeant Worsdale, of the permanent staff, has taken tentacles to sea with the Royal Navy and Royal Marines and has been up with the R.A.F. During the autumn we have established an *entente* on the air with our friends of 1 A.S.S.U.

The Officer Commanding, Major N. T. Warren, M.B.E., T.D., was married in November and we wish him our sincerest congratulations; and also Lieutenant N. L. Thomas, Officer Commanding "A" Troop, on his recent engagement.

53 (W) INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT (T.A.)

The Commanding Officer held his Officers' training week-end on Saturday and Sunday, the 31st January and 1st February. Altogether 19 Officers attended, including full representation from 2 Squadron, Newport, and 3 Squadron, Wolverhampton.

An exceedingly fast pace was set by the Directing Staff and in the afternoon we got through lectures on the new voice procedure, the mob scheme, responsibilities to the Q.M., Squadron Office Administration, Regimental Accounts—not to mention an Officers' Shoot on the .22 range.

As soon as we finished, we adjourned to the anti-room, where our guests for dinner were assembled. Forty-one sat down to dinner which was excellently prepared and served by a local catering firm. Speeches were short and dancing was to follow.

The Commanding Officer paid tribute to our Second-in-Command, Major David, who transferred to T.A.R.O. after the last camp. He also took the opportunity of wishing our Adjutant, Captain Hesketh, farewell and introducing our new Adjutant, Major P. A. M. Tighe, who was also present, though he will not take over until the middle of March.

The Unit Dance Band provided the music and dancing went on until the early hours for our excellent gathering of guests, as our photograph shows.

Nine a.m. Sunday morning saw us waiting apprehensively for the first ordeal of the day to commence—of all things, a morse test, followed by a procedure test. After this, with our aching heads reminding us of the previous night's excesses, we had to suffer the Commanding Officer's rehash of some fearful knowledge he acquired from his recent visit to Catterick. Major Drake, a recognised expert in such black box magic, put it over at dizzy speed and extraordinarily clearly. It was, I understand, called circuit utilisation. The *piece de resistance* of the week-end, Exercise "Mustard," took us the rest of the day up till tea-time. After tea we had a quiz on the week-end's work and to the astonishment of some, but not to those who guessed where the Commanding Officer's missing answer paper had gone, the Medical Officer, Major Mullen, cleared the board and finished with 100 per cent. marks.

Association Notes

Sheffield

Instead of our monthly meeting for February, a very enjoyable social evening was held at the Crabtree Lodge T.A. Centre, through the good offices of Lieutenant-Colonel Gardiner. About thirty attended, more ladies than we have seen for some time. Ladies we were pleased to have the pleasure of meeting for the first but not, we hope, the last time, were Mrs. Gardiner and Mrs. King.

Thanks to the Sergeants' Mess, the room was warm and cosy. What a change from the last two meetings, no gas fire to go all coy on us and refuse even R.S.M. King's coaxing. In other words, it was ideal for a get-together, the officials and committee did a good job, a pity more didn't turn up to enjoy it.

Our branch president, Lieutenant-Colonel Holland, was also present. He is, incidentally, a member of the Sheffield War Pensions Committee and a welfare visitor, taking a keen interest in the work.

The guest of the evening was the Chairman of the Sheffield Joint Council of Ex-Service Associations, Lieutenant-Colonel Barker, who showed more than a passing interest in a copy of THE WIRE. The standard of our magazine seemed to create a good impression. Should that cause surprise? We take the quality of THE WIRE for granted, it is only when we see other Regimental journals that the difference is noticed.

Dare we hope for a full house at our next meeting, which will be the Annual General Meeting to be held at Crabtree Lodge T.A. Centre on 6th March. All members have been informed through "The Griff," a news-letter giving all the details.

Northampton Branch

Our monthly meetings of late seem to have fallen foul of the Clerk of the Weather—in December a blizzard attempted to wreck the Christmas party and last month a thick fog kept our numbers to a low level. Nevertheless, the old faces—truly the Old Comrades—came along to say farewell to Geoffrey Lewis, who has left us for the south. Before he left us, however, he passed on to us some of his sound knowledge in showing us how an efficient branch should be run. We wish you luck, Geoff—we will try to do our best.

Our new secretary, Mr. Frank Bell, of 18 Woodside Green, is taking up his duties this month. A happy omen for the future we hope is the arrival of a baby girl at the above address.

Our thoughts are now turned to the big event of the year, for us, and that is the annual dinner. This is a social occasion which is looked forward to with eagerness by all, tinged with perhaps a little apprehension by the committee. By the time this is in print our committee will have changed, for a week after the dinner there is the annual general meeting. Then perhaps we shall see a new chairman to guide our work—a new Shylock (apologies to the treasurer) to guard our money bags and, ah, yes, a new branch correspondent.

WEST COUNTRY REUNION

At the Depot Regiment, Newton Abbot.
Saturday, 4th, and Sunday, 5th July, 1953.

For details see page 56.

Royal Signals Benevolent Fund

Below is a statement of income and expenditure. Here described with anonymity are six typical cases current on 13th February, 1953. As it happens, all are widows or ex-Signalmen, but the Fund often helps those still serving.

Ex-Signalman, 1938-51. Served B.E.F., East Africa, N.W. Europe, FARELF, married, one child, invalided out with T.B. Has a Service pension and wife works to help out. Had to furnish on H.P. which he can just keep going. The almoner at the chest clinic writes: "At present cost of bedding we should be able to get both sheets and blankets with this generous gift."

Widow of Signalman. Service in Royal Engineers and Royal Signals, 1924 to 1944. Help requested to purchase tools for her son starting apprenticeship. Correspondence secured assistance from the King's Fund and the future employer. The Benevolent Fund paid the balance and received a most grateful letter of thanks.

Ex-Signalman, 1947-52. Tuberculosis, living in one room with wife and three children. After negotiations it was found they could get good accommodation with relatives in Eire. The Benevolent Fund paid their fares and the British Legion is guiding an application for pension.

Ex-Corporal, aged 82, very long service with R.E. Signals, a more or less permanent invalid with cancer. The Benevolent Fund paid for a period at a seaside convalescent home.

Ex-Sergeant, 1939-46, who has become blind. His wife wrote a most grateful letter of thanks for the help given by the Benevolent Fund and the British Legion.

Widow of Signalman killed in action in 1942, herself had to have an operation and her small earnings ceased. The Fund paid arrears of rent.

ROYAL SIGNALS BENEVOLENT FUND

Subscriptions received during January, 1953:—

	£	s.	d.
1 Corps Signal Regiment	25	0	0
2/3 (S) Corps Signal Regiment (Sergeants' Mess)	2	0	0
2 Squadron, 1 War Office Signal Regiment	4	13	0
2 Training Regiment	20	0	0
3 Training Regiment	21	0	9
7 Training Regiment	10	0	0
Depot Regiment	15	0	0
Depot Regiment (Ladies)	10	6	7
Officers' Training Wing, School of Signals	4	17	0
5 A.A. (M) Signal Regiment	2	12	0
Kent Coast Troop	4	0	0
Corps Fund, Catterick	39	9	9
East Africa Command Signal Squadron	49	14	6
BETFOR Signals	10	0	0
Donations received during January, 1953:—			
5 Unit Branch	11	5	6
23 Unit Branch	10	0	0
Bath Branch	1	14	6
Uckfield Branch	5	5	0
Anonymous	1	0	0
Mr. E. Cook		8	3
Mr. N. Swan		5	6
Mr. M. Snow		10	0
Mr. T. W. Forse		9	0
Total Receipts	£249	11	1
Expenditure	£563	11	2

(Includes: General Assistance; Beds and Bedding; Rent and Rates; Tools; Removals; Clothing; Fares; Convalescence.)

Analysis of cases:

Families of soldiers serving in U.K.	4
" " " " " B.A.O.R.	1
" " " " " M.E.L.F.	1
" " " " " FARELF	1
" " " " " Carribean	1
Widows and Dependants	5
Released and Discharged soldiers	55
Total cases assisted	68

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THE ROYAL SIGNALS OFFICERS' GOLFING SOCIETY SPRING MEETING, 1953

The spring meeting of the Royal Signals Officers' Golfing Society is to be held this year at Pannal on 23rd and 24th April. To the golfer who knows the north of England this is extremely good news, for others a small note of explanation is required.

Pannal lies on the Leeds side of Harrogate and undoubtedly is in the highest class of inland courses. It has been used for a variety of competitions, but perhaps the best known of these is the North British-Harrogate (Professional) Tournament, which has been played there several times. The course is only just over an hour's run from Catterick by car, and it is hoped that there will be sufficient players with cars going over each day of the meeting to take all those without transport and also to convey those from further afield who may wish to stay with Units in Catterick.

Finally, a few administrative details. The Pannal Golf Club have kindly agreed to reduce the Green fees to 6s. per day of the meeting, and the inclusive catering charge for lunch and tea is 7s. to 7s. 6d. per day. There will be, in addition, an optional sweepstake for each event. For the information of those who have not taken part in the meeting before, the events are:—

The Royal Signals Individual Handicap Challenge Cup (Spring Meetting).—18 holes, Stapleford, open to all Officers.
Junior Officers Individual Handicap Challenge Cup (Spring Meeting).—18 holes, Stapleford, open to all Officers with less than 6 years commissioned service on 1st May, 1953.
The Royal Signals Foursomes Challenge Cup (Spring Meeting).—18 holes, Stapleford, open to all Officers, partners will be drawn.
The Royal Signals Championship Challenge Cup (Spring Meeting).—36 holes Medal play from scratch, open to Regular serving Officers.
The Royal Signals Handicap Challenge Cup (Spring Meeting).—36 holes Medal play on handicap, open to all Officers.
The Royal Signals Open Championship Cup (Spring Meeting).—36 holes Medal play from scratch, open to all Officers.

Events 1 and 2 will be played on the morning of the first day, and event 3 in the afternoon. Events 4, 5 and 6 will be played on the second day.

Entry forms will be sent out to all members whose addresses are known early in March. Any Officer who does not receive a form and who wishes to play should write to the Honorary Secretary, Captain O. J. Peck, 26 Robertson Road, Catterick Camp, Yorkshire.

The following fixtures have so far been arranged for 1953:—

Date	Opponents	Course
April 23-24 ...	Spring Meeting ...	Pannal.
May 9-15 ...	Army Meeting ...	Hunstanton.
May 29	R.E.G.S.	Worplesdon.
June 10	R.A.O.C.	North Hants.
July 1	R.M.A. Sandhurst	Camberley Heath.
July 24	R.A.G.S.	Sunningdale.
September 2-4	Autumn Meeting .	Camberley Heath.
October 7 ...	R.M.A. Sandhurst	Camberley Heath.

It is hoped to arrange further fixtures against A.A. Command, Beaconsfield G.C., York G.C. and a Golf Club in Scottish Command.

Sport Results

HOME COMMANDS RUGGER CUP FINAL
4th February, 1953

1 Training Regiment, Royal Signals ... 28 points.
6 Training Regiment, R.A.S.C. ... ... 6 points.

Rugby Football

Royal Signals ... ... 11 points.
St. Andrew's University ... ... 6 points.

Basketball Results

Army Championships (Inter-Command).
3 Training Regiment, Royal Signals ... 33 points.
Depot, The Cameronians ... ... 24 points.

FINALS ARMY BOXING TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS (UNITED KINGDOM)
2 Training Regiment Lose by 1 Point

Leading by 10 points to 8 at the interval, the issue of the United Kingdom Boxing Team Championship was in doubt until the last fight, when Corporal Jeff, Royal Signals, was unlucky to be beaten on points by Private Cherry, R.A.O.C. It was a thoroughly satisfactory evening's boxing, from which 2 Training Regiment emerged with great credit, having been so narrowly defeated by the holders of the Army Team Championships.

	2 Training Regiment, Royal Signals		4 Training Battalion, R.A.O.C.	
Bantamweight ...	Sgn. Heans	*v.*	Pte. Glanville	Lost
Featherweight ...	Sgn. Dry	*v.*	Pte. Newton	Won
Lightweight	Sgn. Atwell (Atwell commended as plucky boxer)	*v.*	Pte. Hinson	Lost
Light-welterweight (1st string)	L/Cpl. Gould	*v.*	L/Cpl. Brown	Won
Light-welterweight (2nd string)	Sgn. Martin	*v.*	Cpl. Murphy	Won
Welterweight ... (2nd string)	Sgn. Waters	*v.*	Pte. Barton	Won

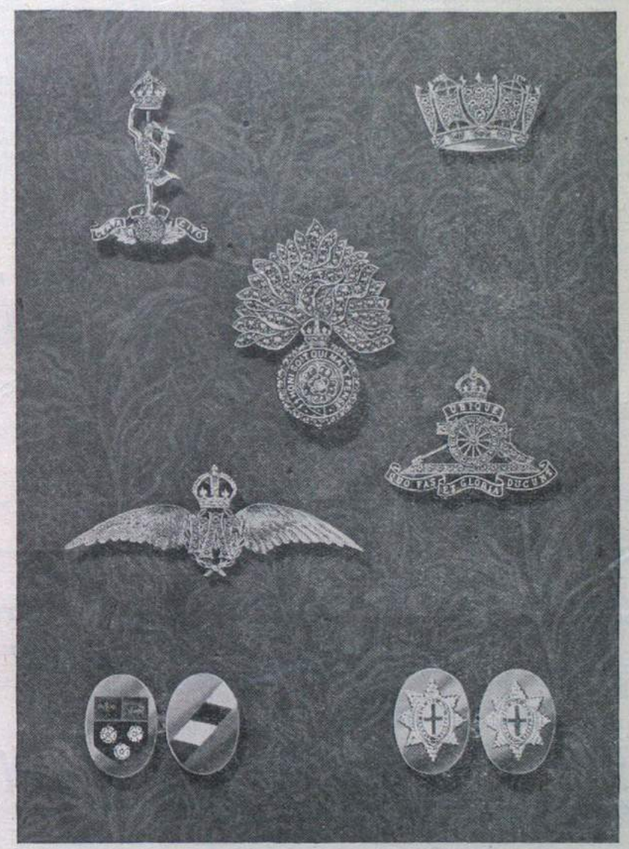
Half-time: Score—2 Training Regiment ... 10 points.
4 Battalion, R.A.O.C. ... 8 points.

Light-middleweight	Sgn. Clowes	*v.*	Pte. Booty	Won
	(N.B.—2 T.R. now lead by 12—9)			
Middleweight ...	Sgn. Corcoran	*v.*	Pte. Wilson	Lost
	(Score 13—11)			
Light-heavyweight .	Cpl. Curtis	*v.*	Pte. Cooper	Lost
	(Score now 14—13)			
Heavyweight ...	Sgn. Cuthell	*v.*	L/Cpl. Wollard	Lost
	(Score now 15—15)			
Welterweight ... (1st string)	Cpl. Jeff	*v.*	Pte. Cherry	Lost

Result: 4 Training Battalion, R.A.O.C. ... ... 17 points.
2 Training Regiment, Royal Signals ... 16 points.

A further account from 2 Training Regiment will no doubt appear in the April WIRE.

BADGE JEWELLERY AT "112"



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Deletions to the Blue Book No. 2 of 1953

TRADES ROSTER—DELETIONS

0019	5341	10047	11232	11955	12783	13569
0032	5345	10048	11268	11961	12784	13623
0033	5347	10052	11279	11962	12797	13637
0035	5348	10066	11294	11973	12822	13690
0037	5394	10070	11341	11985	12823	13693
0040	5406	10081	11364	11996	12824	13703
0043	5432	10087	11369	11997	12826	13705
0202	5457	10089	11391	11998	12827	13716
0338	5467	10097	11426	12046	12828	13733
0363	5503	10116	11438	12069	12829	13763
0704	5508	10125	11442	12087	12873	13764
1426	5518	10127	11461	12100	12874	13780
1585	5529	10135	11498	12104	12875	13781
1618	5538	10136	11513	12144	12882	13783
1753	5566	10159	11514	12161	12906	13797
1760	5610	10162	11527	12162	12907	13798
1762	5619	10171	11528	12173	12908	13837
1783	5620	10183	11532	12198	12911	13845
1807	5625	10207	11533	12202	12913	13846
1821	5626	10221	11541	12211	12915	13847
1873	5628	10225	11543	12249	12920	13850
1994	5632	10231	11544	12282	12934	13886
1997	5636	10252	11546	12292	12947	13887
2059	5638	10258	11553	12302A	12964	13905
2078	5641	10270	11555	12311	12975	13907A
2183	5664	10284	11556	12313	12999	13928
2189	5677	10288	11558	12315	13010	13942
2192	5678	10300	11563	12321	13029	13957
2238	5688	10328	11568	12336	13055	13965
2254	5705	10330	11570	12337	13077	13968
2256	5714	10377	11573	12354	13080	13969
2262	5725	10380	11574	12374	13081	13971
2270	5747	10434	11581	12378	13131	13978
2312A	5765	10439	11586	12392	13133	14006
2336	5806	10457	11588	12395	13149	14036
2347	5828	10458	11594	12399	13150	14055
2352A	5829	10463	11614	12414	13151	14060
2360	5833	10466	11616	12449	13152	14087
2361	5861	10468	11629	12452	13189	14088
2400	5866	10573	11632	12462	13190	14123
2419	5872	10580	11649	12469	13191	14124
2420	5880	10583	11652	12485	13192	14156
5015	5885	10599	11663	12490	13193	14186
5024	5894	10715	11670	12492	13205	14198
5035A	5903	10718	11672	12498	13212	14234
5046	5921	10727	11675	12503	13219	14263
5050	5924	10733	11676	12508	13220	14267
5063	5929	10738	11680	12519	13264	14306
5083	5930	10739	11693	12521	13284	14309
5085	5964	10768	11698	12535	13291	14375
5099	5968	10785	11699	12541	13294	14383
5121	5971	10824	11716	12544	13296	14408
5125	6001	10847	11722	12576	13333	14411
5140	6024	10848	11732	12579	13339	14424
5149A	6028	10919	11737	12588	13357	14462
5158	6030	10957	11771	12589	13365	14610
5158A	6041	10963	11778	12599	13370	14611
5196	6097	10984	11799	12600	13371	14612
5203	6137	11010	11800	12601	13382	14619
5211	6139	11033	11806	12607	13399	14641
5214	6161	11041	11813	12620	13437	14651
5220	6225	11056	11828	12647	13438	14681
5241	6240	11064	11836	12652	13469	14690
5242A	6245	11079	11859	12675	13474	14692
5258	6256	11091	11869	12702	13475	14709
5269	6262	11101	11870	12740	13476	14722
5278	6290	11166	11890	12750	13479	14741
5292	6317	11175	11902	12759	13525	14770
5326	6357	11211	11911	12761	13533	
5335	10010	11231	11927	12782	13539	

CIPHER ROSTER—DELETIONS

00208	01311A	01378	05060	05157	05171	05220
00224	01353	05009	05149	05160	05204	05263
00231	01356	05038	05156	05162	05211	05301
01303A	01371	05042				

GD ROSTER—DELETIONS

01304	10015	10069	10076	10095	10106	10118
05014	10049	10073	10078	10101	10114	10119
05021	10059	10074	10083	10104	10117	10128
05200	10066					

The Blue Book

This page carries many columns of deletions. Corps Promotion Order No. 3 has not been issued by OI/C Records up to the time of going to Press and will no doubt be available for the April issue.

THE HISTORY
of
BRITISH ARMY SIGNALS
in the
SECOND WORLD WAR

by

Major General R. F. H. NALDER, C.B., O.B.E.

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SATURDAY, 25th JULY, 1953

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BOOK THIS DATE

Further details in THE WIRE and NEWS LETTER, or from Mr. J. Newton, Honorary Secretary, Royal Signals Association, 59 Water Lane, Clifton, York.

THE WIRE

The Corps Magazine of the
ROYAL SIGNALS
The Official Organ of the
SIGNALS ASSOCIATION

Editor:
BRIGADIER 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.*

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☆

APRIL • 1953

Vol. 7 *New Series* **No. 4**

☆

PRICE ONE SHILLING

Editorial

LIFE MEMBERSHIP OF THE ASSOCIATION

A NEW scheme of which much is expected is now being introduced in a majority of Signal Regiments. By this a man may join the Association by an initial payment of 2s. and then by subsequent payments of 1s. a week or 2s. a month to his P.R.I. or to the Treasurer of the branch of the Association within his Regiment may qualify for Life Membership, i.e., having paid 30s.

The rate of payment must, of course, be calculated to complete the 30s. during the man's colour service.

If he is posted to another Regiment before he has completed his payments his credit is transferred with him.

It is confidently hoped that a great majority of Signal Regiments will operate this scheme and that in consequence an ever-increasing number of men will become Life Members while they are still serving.

SPORT

In the United Kingdom Royal Signals teams and individuals are adding lustre to our name.

RUGBY FOOTBALL—Army Cup Final
1st Training Regiment ... ... 35 points.
1st Battalion Welsh Guards ... ... 0 points.

ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL — Army Cup Semi-Final (Home Command)
Winners ... ... 7 Training Regiment.

HOCKEY—Northern Command Team Championships
Winners ... ... 7 Training Regiment.

BOXING—Army Team Championships
Runners-up ... ... 2 Training Regiment.

BOXING—Northern Command Individual Championships
Royal Signals provided Six Winners and Six Runners-up out of eight weights.

CROSS-COUNTRY RUNNING—Army Championships
Individual Winner ... Signalman Norris, 2 Training Regiment.
Team Championship . 2 Training Regiment, placed 6th.

BASKETBALL—Army Championships (Home Commands)
Winners ... ... 2 Training Regiment.

All Royal Signals will wish to congratulate 1st Training Regiment on winning the Army Rugger Final for the fourth time in five years. On a dry ground they are, indeed, an incomparable side.

It was noticed that the full back, Captain J. M. H. Roberts, presumably captain of the Welsh Guards team, was the same as he who in 1951 gave us such a fright while leading the Guards Independent Company of the Parachute Regiment. It will be remembered that this game was fought out in drenching rain on a soddened ground and the issue was in doubt until the 78th minute. The tactics of our opponents then, so nearly successful, were to kick ahead and rush, and it was only when the 1st Training Regiment stopped playing orthodox football, or trying to, that they showed that they were going to win. It will also be remembered that in 1952 the R.A.M.C. Training Centre and Depot fought us on wet ground and comment was made at the time that they had probably taken note of the Guards' tactics in 1951.

Anyway, a magnificent effort. Congratulations to the 1st Training Regiment. A report taken from the *Daily Telegraph* of 12th March appears on page 113.

All in Royal Signals will join in wishing their Colonel-in-Chief their duty and very deep sympathy on the death of Her Majesty, Queen Mary.

PERSONAL COLUMN

OBITUARY

Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Victor Dunn Warren, M.B.E., T.D., The Lord Provost of Glasgow, died on the 3rd March, 1953. The funeral service was held in Glasgow Cathedral on 7th March. He had a long connection with Royal Signals. He joined 1 Scottish Corps Signals, T.A., in 1921, and transferred to 52 (L) Divisional Signals the following year. He remained with this Regiment until 1939, when he was promoted Lieutenant-Colonel to command 15 (Scottish) Divisional Signals. From 1942 until the end of the war he served as a Chief Signal Officer in England and West Africa.

All ranks Royal Signals will join us in expressing great sympathy to his family.

THE LATE LIEUTENANT-COLONEL (TOT) A. H. BEATTIE

His many friends in Royal Signals will learn with regret that Lieutenant-Colonel "Jock" Beattie died at Aldershot on 17th March, 1953, after a brief illness. Although well past the normal retiring age he was reluctant to leave the Service in which he had spent nearly 44 years and he died "in harness" as he would have wished.

"Jock" enlisted into R.E. as a boy on 20th April, 1909, and joined the ranks as a telegraphist in 1911. He served in France from August, 1914 to September, 1918 and later in various parts of the World as an other rank.

He was one of the first Foremen of Signals, having qualified in 1922 and on 1st April, 1936, was commissioned as Inspector of Permanent Communications, the forerunner of the present Technical Officer Telecommunications. The majority of his service as an officer was spent in Aldershot.

Those members of the Corps who had the privilege of long acquaintance with "Jock" Beattie knew him as a staunch friend, enthusiastic in his duties and intensely loyal to his Corps. They would have wished him a long and happy retirement.

"Jock's" wife had pre-deceased him, but our sympathies are extended to his family, especially to his son, now serving as a Captain, Royal Signals.

London Gazette

6th February, 1953—Lieutenant-Colonel P. B. G. Gambier, O.B.E., to R.A.R.O., 9th January, 1953.

24th February, 1953—Major J. R. G. Walker to R.A.R.O.

27th February, 1953—Lieutenant-Colonel J. R. Beeton to R.A.R.O.

Majors to be Lieutenant-Colonels:—
P. H. Smitherman.
C. H. Stoneley, O.B.E.
E. J. C. Harrison, O.B.E.
T. J. Goldsmith.

Movement—Officers

Major J. H. Collins from M.E.L.F. to School of Signals.

Major J. Dodd from Depot to Amphibious Warfare Signal School.

Major G. B. Meiklejohn from Amphibious Warfare Signal School to 3 A.A. (M) Signal Squadron.

Major G. R. Edwards from 3 A.A. (M) Signal Squadron to Northern Ireland District Signal Squadron.

Major W. C. Ramsay from 16 Airborne Divisional Signal Regiment, Middlesex Yeomanry, T.A., to Army Air Transport Training and Development Centre.

Major R. C. Pringle from Army Air Transport Training and Development Centre to West Africa.

Major (T.O.T.) W. H. Pagett from Western Command Signal Regiment to Northern Command Signal Regiment.

Major C. N. P. Weatherhead from School of Signals to A.E.R. Depot and Training Centre.

Captain (Q.M.) M. Cullen from 53 (W) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A., to B.A.O.R.

Major P. C. Williams from 2 Divisional Signal Regiment to School of Artillery.

Lieutenant-Colonel G. Mellor from School of Artillery to BETFOR.

Major J. McK. Lamb from Korea to Staff College.

Captain J. E. Taylor from Berlin Signal Squadron to H.Q. Eastern Command.

Arrivals and Departures

19 Air Formation Signal Regiment

Arrivals from U.K.
Major A. P. Johnson and family.
Major J. C. Robertson and family.
2373338 Sergeant O'Meara.
7018765 Sergeant Gunn.
22807645 Sergeant Ahern.

Departures to U.K.
Major J. Potts and family.
R.S.M. McDiarmid.

* * *

Mr. E. F. Murphy—War Office Messenger

The many Officers and other ranks who have served on the staff of A.G.11, The War Office, will learn with regret that Mr. Murphy, who served the Branch loyally for nine or ten years, died suddenly on 6th March, 1953, when within a week of retirement. He left no dependants.

* * *

Births

RAWSON.—To Captain and Mrs. Aubrey Rawson, 1 Corps Signal Regiment, B.A.O.R., a son, David Graham.

TAYLOR.—At Berlin on 18th January, 1953, to Captain and Mrs. J. Everard Taylor, a daughter, Caroline Claire.

BRADBURY.—To S.S.M. and Mrs. Bradbury, 1 War Office Signal Regiment (Traffic), on 20th January, 1953, a daughter, Janet.

PRINCE.—To Major and Mrs. H. Prince, 1 War Office Signal Regiment (Traffic), on 31st January, 1953, a daughter, Patricia Maude.

ATTWATER.—To Sergeant and Mrs. Attwater, 1 War Office Signal Regiment (Traffic), on 6th February, 1953, a son, Peter Anthony.

LEYSON.—On 26th February, 1953, to Major and Mrs. W. M. S. Leyson, SHAPE Signal Squadron, a daughter.

WILLIAMS.—On 13th February, 1953, to Sergeant and Mrs. K. J. Williams, SHAPE Signal Squadron, a daughter, Vivienne Ruth.

AITKEN.—To Sergeant and Mrs. R. G. Aitken, on 16th March, 1953, in Moascar B.F. Hospital, a son.

Marriages

COOPER—MARRIOT.—Sergeant F. Cooper, 4 L. of C. Signal Regiment, to Corporal P. C. Marriot, W.R.A.C., in the U.K. on 21st February, 1953.

CAMPBELL—KEEGAN.—Lieutenant G. G. Campbell, SHAPE Signal Squadron, to Miss Ray Keegan, at Liverpool on 14th February, 1953.

Deaths

CANNELL.—Mr. J. T. Cannell, ex-Royal Signals, of 38 St. Paul's Road, Salisbury, on 13th February, 1953.

BERRY.—22446541 Lance-Corporal C. R. Berry, on 8th February, 1953, at Withington Hospital, West Didsbury, Manchester.

Forthcoming Events

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION

May. Annual General Meeting and Comrades' Reunion, Catterick, 16th/17th May.

* * *

DINNER AND "AT HOME," 1953

The dates for the Dinner and Regular Officers' "At Home" are 20th and 21st May respectively.

* * *

June. For Coronation Period Diary see Press.

July. Review of ex-Servicemen, Hyde Park, London, Sunday, 5th July.

Royal Signals Rally and Reunion, York, Saturday, 25th July.

WEST COUNTRY REUNION

Rawlinson Barracks, Newton Abbot, Devon

Saturday, 4th July.
Afternoon—Arrival and reception of Old Comrades.
Evening—All Ranks' Dance.

Sunday, 5th July.
1030 hours—Church Parade.
1130 hours—Band Concert by Royal Signals Band.
1400 hours—Potted Sports.
1800 hours onwards—Disperse.

The Depot Regiment require to know approximate numbers attending by 15th May, and full details of times of arrival by 21st June. Arrangements will be made to accommodate coach drivers if required.

Royal Signals Officers' Golfing Society—1953 Fixtures

Date	Opponents	Course
April 23-24 ...	Spring Meeting ...	Pannal
May 9-15 ...	Army Meeting ...	Hunstanton
May 29	R.E.F.S.	Worplesdon
June 10	R.A.O.C.	North Hants.
July 1	R.M.A. Sandhurst .	Camberley Heath
July 24	R.A.G.S.	Sunningdale
Sept. 2-4 ...	Autumn Meeting ...	Camberley Heath
October 7 ...	R.M.A. Sandhurst .	Camberley Heath

Royal Signals Band Programme, 1953

May 3	Victory Sunday—York.
May 16-17 ...	O.C.A. Reunion—Catterick Camp.
May 20-22 ...	Eastern Command.
May 20	Corps Dinner.
June 2	Coronation "From" Procession.
June 7	Regents Park—London.
June 8-13 ...	Hyde Park—London.

Central Committee Royal Signals Association

Friday, 24th April, 10.30 a.m., 88 Eccleston Square, S.W.1.

* * *

A.L.F. Signals, S.E.A.C.—All Sections.

Reunion, London, 9th May. Details: Harry Wardall, 14 Highfield Road, London, N.W.11.

CORRIGENDA

In the February WIRE we reported that R.S.M. B. Sellar was the only member of Royal Signals serving at the S.T.C. India.

Mr. Sellar hastens to correct that impression, and mentions that Captain W. E. Holloway and Captain (T.O.T.) N. P. Shepherd are both also serving in S.T.C. India.

The History of British Army Signals in the Second World War

by **Major-General R. F. H. NALDER, C.B., O.B.E.**

Chapters V and VI

Chapter V is devoted to Anglo-American co-operation and reading it one is reminded of the magnificent speech made by General F. H. ("Duke") Lanahan at the first post-war Royal Signals Dinner. After spending some minutes in the manner of an after dinner speech he suddenly became serious and spoke with great feeling and eloquence of the long years of friendship and co-operation between the United States Army Signal Corps and Royal Signals, and of the determination of all in both Corps that the friendship would never die.

To quote General Nalder, "In the field of Signal Communications it is probable that a closer degree of mutual comradeship and understanding was achieved than in any other activity."

General Nalder traces this understanding from the days before America entered the war, through the early period of military missions, through separate Communication Boards in London and Washington, to the setting up of the all-powerful Combined Communication Board with its permanent secretariat and over thirty committees and sub-committees. The C.C.B. was subservient only to the Chief of Staffs Committee.

The existing national communication boards to co-ordinate the affairs of the three Services became B.J.C.B. and U.S.J.C.B. respectively.

General Nalder then goes on to describe the system of procurement of equipment, particularly in the effects on it of "Lease-Lend."

The remainder of the chapter deals with the problems of integrated staffs and of British and American Signal Units working together. In this there were considerable initial difficulties, both of organisation, administration and, not least, in technique. The first two difficulties were insurmountable, but by the end of the war Signalmen of both nations had got so used to each others methods that individuals of almost any trade were practically interchangeable.

"War brings few blessings to anyone, but Signals must count themselves fortunate in the many opportunities afforded for mutual understanding and friendship between the two sister Corps."

In Chapter VI General Nalder traces the genesis of the Directorate of Signals from its small but competent beginnings in S.D.6 at the War Office and shows the final (1945) organisation of the Directorate. He does not state the total number employed in the Directorate at its peak. (It is within the knowledge of some that the establishment of C.S.O. 21st Army Group exceeded 100 Officers.)

Four fruitful pages are devoted to the difficulties of the Signals Directorate in the procurement of equipment through the Ministry of Supply.

The function and power of the various inter-service Signal Boards are described, and also the work of Chief Signal Officers in various theatres of war.

The chapter ends with pages on the work of the Signal Officer in Chief in India.

The subject matter of these two chapters may appear dull. As dealt with in this history they are, for those of us with a memory, a wonderful reminder of our own experience. Analysis provides the clue to many an organisation that did not go as well as expected.

The lesson to be learnt and, indeed, what is history but teaching for posterity in that never again must we let our direction and control be like "Topsy and just grow.". The organisation of command and control must be planned from the beginning and General Nalder shows in the happiest way exactly what was good and bad last time.

Catterick Jottings

by nacerby

Coronation Plans . . .

THAT the celebrations in the Garrison in honour of Her Majesty's Coronation will be memorable there cannot be the slightest doubt. Under the chairmanship of the Deputy Commander (Brigadier E. H. Grant, C.B.E., D.S.O.) representatives of the military units in the Garrison and of civilian and business interests in both the Camp and surrounding parishes have planned that the opening of the Coronation Park at Camp Centre on 13th May will inaugurate the celebrations, and it is especially fitting that the Corps Band will be in attendance.

Coronation Week itself will commence on Monday, 1st June, with six-a-side football tournaments for both civilian and military teams, and Coronation Day is Children's Day with sports and tea throughout the Garrison. Every effort is being made to ensure that no child is left out of this most important part of the programme.

Wednesday heralds a gymkhana, with all the fun of the fair, and on Thursday and Friday a Corps cricket match (R.A.C. v. Royal Signals) with the two Corps meeting again on Friday evening in a boxing contest.

Don't run away with the idea this is all—I've only given a few of the highlights—and it looks as though I shall have to go into strict training after all—and just as I'd decided to win the pools and take things easy.

Wedding Bells . . .

In brilliant sunshine weather which Catterick always seems to reserve for special occasions, Captain Peter Ashworth, Staff Captain H.Q., Signal Training Centre, and Miss Eileen Anderson, were married in St. Martin's Church on 7th March, and in traditional manner the happy couple left the church under an archway of swords formed by the bridegroom's brother officers.

Can now understand why "P" always looked so content even when badgering him with "Q" problems.

Copyright Driving Serial—Still Continued . . .

A car that's bust
Shouldn't be cussed,
'Cos lurid lingo
Won't make the thingo.

And I doubt if even the old-fashioned sergeant-major could have done any better! My only regret was—I couldn't take the last intake of O.W.L.s (only 97 per cent. wanted to be drivers this time—I gathered the other 3 per cent. had already been disqualified in civil life) to "hear" the joys of motoring.

As everyone knows, Darlington is within spitting distance unless one uses the bus, when it's a 40s. fine. I should have said, if one is *able* to get a bus!

However, I now hold the motoring record from Camp centre to Darlington, and by maintaining an average speed of 4 m.p.h. found I was absent from my week-end before I'd gone half way. 'Twas a lovely day—the sky was blue and so was the air, the local police forbade the use of matches and naked lights within a radius of three miles, and I discovered I could swear in four languages without an English accent.

Notice: Mercedes for sale: fires perfectly on 2 cylinders; more brand new air in the tyres; non-sensitive, responds to pushing; spare tyre (slight puncture); taxed until December 1952. Dead (very dead) snip for quick sale or will exchange for Second-Class Education Certificate—owner sweating on promotion to R.S.M.

Which reminds me:—

A driver once called Mathew Myers
Paid no attention to his tyres,
And greatly to his Corporal's rage,
He went and lost his pressure gauge;
Allowed his tyres to stand in oil,
Which caused his Sergeant's blood to boil.
Then scraped them hard against the kerb,
At this the Sergeant used a verb
I can't repeat, it was so rude,
Alas, it did young Mat no good.
The S.S.M. was most irate,
For Mathew would accelerate,
And brake so hard that he bestowed
Great lumps of rubber on the road.
And when he came back from a run,
There was one task he'd always shun,
He'd never check his tyres for tacks,
Embedded nails or stones or cracks.
Now finally the climax came,
In Orders Mathew saw his name,
And plunged into the deepest gloom
Was marched into the C.O.'s room.
The C.O. heard the N.C.O.s,
And all the time his anger rose.
Said he, "This is an awful case;
Myers, you're a real disgrace.
And heed this warning very solemn,
You're nothing better than fifth column.
And just to help to mend your ways,
You'll go to jail for sixty days."

Just the Very Thing . . .

Was just a little apprehensive when Charlie Childs rang up with an invitation to the Catterick and District Branch Old Comrades' Association annual dinner on 4th March at the Garrison W.O.s' and Sergeants' Club, 'cos I remember the last occasion I visited them I'd forgotten my slide rule and logarithms and had the utmost difficulty in working out the combined service. Not that I was uncomfortable as regards service (why, I can still hazily remember BARLEUX as a lance-corporal), 'cos *everyone* then attended to my comfort and refreshment (*sic*).

In the higher hierarchy that's called "hospitality," but to me it's just plain comradeship—and I can only stress again and again the "spirit and atmosphere" that pervades all such gatherings. There's a hidden "something" that is so hard

[*Courtesy: Northern Despatch Darlington*

More happy faces at the Catterick branch Old Comrades' annual dinner. Do you know them?

to define—one is just conscious of it and this dinner was so characteristic.

Presided over by the Chairman (Colonel L. R. Hall), with the Commander S.T.C. (Brigadier J. J. Duvivier), O.C. 3 Training Regiment (Lieutenant-Colonel G. H. Starr), R.S.M. Teale (Royal Engineers), R.S.M. Mellor (2 Training Regiment), R.S.M. Royal (7 Training Regiment), R.Q.M.S. Charlton (1 Training Regiment), R.S.M. Knight (3 Training Regiment), R.S.M. Roake (Royal Signals Wing), S.S.M. Pyke (4 Training Regiment), Garrison Sergeant-Major R. B. Nix and NACERBY as guests, the success of the evening was assured long before the first aperitif was drunk.

Pre-war Divisions were re-formed quicker than a Q.M. drawing his pension, stables and riding schools were allocated to all Units by Alf Button and Harry Hill, with Jim Adcock indulgently smiling approval; and there were Messrs. Graddon, Hunt, Ransome, Pike, Close, Allen, Bailey, Temple, Rogers, Lightbody, McLaven, Frank Stockton, Perkins, Jim Stainer, Metcalfe, Jim Widgery, Corps, Jim Wright, Harrison, Cass and Rigden, all with one hand fully occupied, again reliving those "stations" we no longer have but where the Royal Signals have left indelible and happy memories.

But I still can't find out who murmured "I've sand in my shoes."

The cigar stage was reached "without difficulty," and here the Chairman paid tribute to the sustained hospitality of the R.E.'s Club, Royal Signals W.O.s' and Sergeants' Messes in placing their premises at the disposal of the Branch for monthly meetings, and expressed delight that the Branch was at last able to return the hospitality to the Unit representatives.

But it was for the President (Brigadier J. J. Duvivier) he gave the toast of the evening.

In a remarkable, eulogistic tribute, Colonel Hall told of the ready advice available at all times, where problems beyond the normal scope of the Chairman were expeditiously resolved; said the Branch would ever remember the last "Service of Remembrance" where they were for the first time accorded a leading place, and finished with these words: "One day you will be an Old Comrade yourself, and it is the fervent wish of the whole Branch that you will receive the kindness and friendship from serving personnel that we have received from you."

I don't think I have ever heard "For He's a Jolly Good Fellow" sung with such fervour and enthusiasm before.

In a characteristic and racy reply, Brigadier Duvivier said he had always regarded the old soldier members as ambassadors of the Corps. In these times the success of the Army depended upon the attitude of the public, and by their example the public judged the Army, and by what the old soldier could tell them were reassured that everything possible was done for their sons when they entered the Service.

He touched on last year's "Best ever reunion" and wanting to know the reaction of the young soldier towards the old soldier he had brought the National Servicemen into close contact with the Old Comrades.

It had had a profound, permeating effect, and in the S.T.C. two local branches had been successfully established.

He humorously referred to his coming retirement, and amid laughter said he would be asking advice as to the correct angle his bowler hat and umbrella should be carried on Old Comrades' events.

He revealed that the annual reunion would in future be known as the "Royal Signals Regimental Day," and that it was hoped the Colonel-in-Chief (H.R.H. The Princess Royal) would be with them to attend a dedication ceremony at St. Martin's Church, the annual general meeting, and to join in the festivities and fun of *The Day*.

The Royal Signals Light Orchestra, under Sergeant W. Davies, played delightfully throughout the evening, and once again I came away proud of being a serving member and proud that when my turn comes I can take my place with the "Old Comrades."

More Certa Cito . . .

Am a little breathless this month with so many Corps sports successes, and can only give a brief *résumé* of all that's happened.

Pride of place (literally, I might add) goes to Signalman K. L. Norris, 4 Training Regiment, who ran a magnificent race to win the Army individual cross-country championship

Signals Association dinner at Catterick

The top table at the annual dinner of Catterick and district branch of the Royal Signals Association at Catterick Camp, Yorkshire. Left to right: Lieut.-Colonel G. H. Starr (Officer Commanding 3rd Training Regiment Royal Signals), Brigadier J. J. Duvivier (Commandant, Signals Training Centre), Colonel L. R. Hall (chairman), Mr. L. Teal (representing the Royal Engineers' Association), and Mr. C. Child (secretary)

[*Courtesy: Northern Echo Darlington*

on 11th March at Catterick, and this despite the fact he twice ran off course!

Reminiscent in many ways of Joe Cotterell, the winner's style and fitness was indeed a pattern and much will be heard of him in the future.

Despite the reverse in the Yorkshire Cup versus Goole O.B., 1 Training Regiment won the final of the Army Rugby Challenge Cup Competition by the convincing margin of 35 points to nil against 1 Battalion Welsh Guards (B.A.O.R.) and, of course, have regularly supplied Army and Command XVs with players.

2 Training Regiment were narrowly defeated in the Army Boxing Team championship finals by 4 Battalion, R.A.O.C., but in company with the other Training Regiments almost swept the board in the Northern Command Boxing Championships.

And with 7 Training Regiment almost within sight of the Army Football Cup . . . Yes, indeed, what a month! Up the Corps.

Support Unqualified . . .

Haven't a clue just who Caduceous is, but I respectfully suggest that all C.O.s should cut out his article on page 33 of the February WIRE and send it to the P.R.I. with that time honoured cliche—"Passed to you for IMMEDIATE action."

There *is* a complacency as regards sales and how many times have my feelings really been hurt when asking "have you read BARLEUX or NACERBY this month?" to have the reply: "Never heard of 'em."

But I seriously feel that this is a case of working from the top downwards. Got any more suggestions?

PUBLICITY
An Open Letter

Where Officers of any Corps or Regiment meet and talk there is often tendency to criticise those in authority, but in a recent conversation what may well be a constructive criticism emerged, and that is what Royal Signals lacks is a P.R.O.

As a Corps we do not get the publicity our worth and achievements entitle us to. Others do very much better. Every Staff Officer in Royal Signals works extremely hard, BUT would it not be possible to place within the Signals Directorate one specially selected Officer whose major task would be to see that Royal Signals receive in the national and local Press as much as possible of the best form of publicity and as little as possible of publicity which is derogatory to the good name of the Corps; indeed, lack of publicity is felt by many to be derogatory.

Dealing with the Press is a highly skilful task; many people in civil life receive very high salaries for their work as P.R.O.s with, it may be said, not altogether unmixed success in their endeavours. The Officer selected must have exceptional qualifications and must, of course, be one well known to, and trusted by, Royal Signals.

It's an idea; a good one; it may not be feasible.

"RAYMOND."

Signal Training Centre

3 TRAINING REGIMENT

Maybe it's the perfect spring weather, but whatever it is it has been a good month from every point of view.

Visits from the D.D.M.T. and Inspector of P.T. gave us a feeling of pride.

Both were obviously impressed with all they saw and we all somehow feel we are "on the ball." Especially so in our after-work activities—the basketball team, under Second-Lieutenant P. Blacklaws, defeated the Depot Cameronians, Scottish Command champions, in the zone finals and now travel to Aldershot for the Army finals. Again C.S.M. I. Wootton, A.P.T.C., and Lance-Corporal Fackrell were match-winning stars.

★

The badminton team (Major N. A. C. Clubb, S.S.I. Treacey, A.P.T.C., Sergeant E. McLoughlin, Corporal Cole, Lance-Corporal Fettiplace and Signalman Isles) have reached the semi-final of the Northumbrian District Championships, and the soccer eleven, under Captain Bob Wragg, are in the semi-final of the Northern Command Competition. They lost in the semi-final of the Northumbrian District Competition to 67 Training Regiment, R.A.C., by five goals to two, but had the misfortune to lose S.S.I. Spence, the centre-half captain, after 15 minutes.

We remain among the leaders of both the hockey and indoor rifle shooting leagues.

We wish a speedy recovery and happy return to O.C. H.Q. Squadron (Major J. Matthewson), who has been seriously ill, and good luck to Lieutenant N. Grayson, who has left for B.A.O.R. A first-class rifle shot, he did much to place the Regiment always among the leading positions in the league.

And finally, good luck to our popular Adjutant, Captain John Francis, and Mrs. Francis, who leave to take up a T.A. appointment at the end of the month.

5 TRAINING REGIMENT

The Regiment has been very busy lately owing to the assistance we have given on flood relief, which consisted of convoys of lorries lifting Smithfield Tracking and sandbags and, in addition, some driver trainees under Captain Hayes, of 1 Squadron, building a sea wall at Brough, near Hull. In addition, the number of trainees in the Regiment is the highest on record; this, as anyone who has worked in a Training Regiment will know, throws a great strain on all concerned. We are also preparing for our Annual Administrative Inspection.

Rugby. Hard work plus enthusiasm has assisted the Regimental team in the Northern Command Cup. On the 18th March we tackle 1 Training Regiment at Catterick, this making it an all-Signals final. 2 Training Regiment gave us a good fight but were beaten by 6—0, two tries, the latter of which was scored by Lance-Corporal Snell.

Small Bore Shooting. Lieutenant G. W. Tacey, who has taken over the leadership from Major J. S. Macarthur, Royal Australian Signals, is keeping things in their right perspective and is out to regain our honoured place in the Catterick District League. Seven members are entered for the N.S.R.A. Coronation Competition, and although there are over a 1,000 entries, I am sure a pair of seats for the Coronation Procession or a medal will be our reward. Our Bisley Team is in the making and if we do as well as our last attempt our pleasure shall be great.

Boxing. In January, Sergeant White, selected for the Army v. Wales, was beaten by a two-one points verdict, whilst in February, Lance-Corporal Snell was chosen as the Welsh heavyweight representative for the Wales v. Royal Navy fight. Again it was a points verdict against our boxer.

Motor Cycling. With the approach of spring our thoughts turn again to road rallies and cross-country trials. Our first public appearance this year will be in the Lands End Road Trial on the 4th-5th April, where we are represented by two teams.

6 (Boys) Training Regiment

The Director's inspection during the Trooping of the Regimental Standard on 25th November, 1952 [*Courtesy: "Hull Daily Mail"*

When this Regiment was first formed it was intended that the average boy should leave with a second-class Army certificate of education and a background of military knowledge which would provide the means of rapid promotion to N.C.O. rank. Although it must have been appreciated that some would not achieve these requirements, it is doubtful if it were thought likely that a steady proportion of ex-boys would qualify as potential Officers. Yet at the present time a number of the former boys of this Regiment are under training as Officer Cadets, and an increasing number are being selected as potential Officers.

The lack of educational background which previously debarred many otherwise potential Officer candidates is now being overcome. The number of boys under instruction for the Army Certificate of Education, first class, increases with each term, and since it has been possible to acquire and maintain an all-graduate staff for the training of these particular boys, many go forward to sit for their General Certificate of Education. Of four such boys who sat for the London University General Certificate of Education in November last, three passed in various subjects. For the July examination for the G.C.E. there are twelve candidates.

In the Boys Army Boxing Championships which were held at Chepstow in February this year, the Regiment gained four titles and one runner-up out of eight boys entered. Boy Gibson retained the title he won last year as light-heavyweight; B/Lance-Corporal Pengilly became lightweight champion, B/Corporal Hamilton featherweight champion, and Boy Metcalf flyweight champion. Boy Saltiel met McCairn, of the Apprentices School, Harrogate, who was last year's I.S.B.A. champion, in the finals of the bantamweight and lost a very well fought contest on points.

Back Row: Boy Saltiel, Sergeant Richmond, Q.M.S.I. Jameson, Boy/Corporal Hamilton. Front Row: Boy/Lance-Corporal Pengilly, Boy Metcalf, Lieutenant-Colonel A. J. Keddie, Boy Gibson

Since the Regiment was formed in 1950, no year has passed without gaining some Army or I.S.B.A. championships, and the number of these successes is increasing with the years. In the 1953 Army Championships no other boys establishment gained more than two titles, which reflects considerable credit on those training these boys when the disparity in the sizes of the various institutions is considered.

Perhaps it is, however, that the tradition of Harry Spencer, who drove and cajoled the Training Battalion team to successes in the nineteen-twenties, lives on so strongly in the Regiment. The Commanding Officer was a member of that team, and Sergeant Richmond, who won the Army Featherweight Title in 1925, now trains the Regimental boxers. Provided this training and enthusiasm can be maintained in man service, those early traditions are in no jeopardy.

THE HISTORY
of
BRITISH ARMY SIGNALS
in the
SECOND WORLD WAR

by

Major General R. F. H. NALDER, C.B., O.B.E.

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7 TRAINING REGIMENT, ROYAL SIGNALS

The highlights during the last month have been on the sports side of the Regiment. The hockey team retained the District Challenge Cup by beating 65 Training Regiment, R.A.C., one goal to nil, on 9th March. Four days later they won the Northern Command Series, which takes them to the quarter-final of the Army Hockey Cup. In this they will play the winners of the Scottish Command Series on 27th March at Catterick Camp.

The soccer team has reached the final of the District Challenge Cup, but all attention is at present focussed on the Army Cup Semi-Final which is to be played on 18th March. It is hoped that the result will be accepted by the Editor as "Stop Press" news.

The annual games tournament between Officers and Sergeants took place on 21st February. It commenced in the afternoon with a soccer match which the Officers won by four goals to two. It ended at about 11.30 p.m. with a very narrow overall victory for the Officers. This was a most successful and enjoyable day.

Great efforts have been made during recent months to interest new recruits to the Corps in the Royal Signals Association. Since 1st December last this Regiment has secured over 1,000 Annual Members and 20 Life Members.

7 Training Regiment, Royal Signals
Winners of the Northumbrian District and Northern Command Hockey Challenge Cups
Standing: Sergeant W. J. Harrison, Corporal R. A. Crampton, Sergeant F. C. Williams, Second-Lieutenant J. A. Penny, S.S.M. G. D. Rockall, Sergeant J. C. Boswell, S.Q.M.S. L. J. Taylor. Seated: Second-Lieutenant D. A. K. Gibson, Second-Lieutenant J. G. Smith, Second-Lieutenant J. C. Eversfield (captain), Lieut.-Colonel J. P. North, M.B.E., Captain D. C. Sidney, Captain J. W. Ingledow

FLOODS

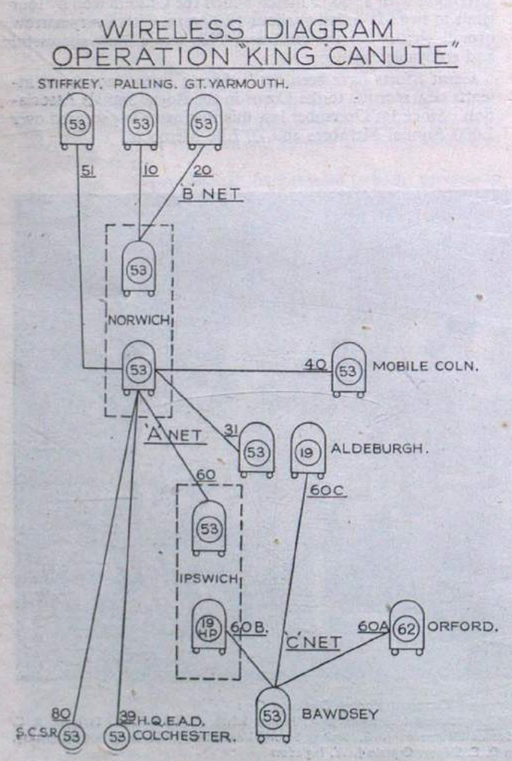
Nearly all Regimental activities came to a sudden and unexpected halt at the beginning of February, when the first flood warnings were issued. During the ensuing two weeks a greater part of the Regiment were employed either on sea wall repairs or on the provision of emergency communications.

Our wireless crews were sent first to the assistance of the Essex River Board in the Tilbury and Canvey Island area and then, almost without a break, to the assistance of the Norfolk and Suffolk River Boards to key positions around the coast.

Wireless communications were supplied from Felixstowe in the south to Stiffkey in the north on the Wash. In all nine high-power C.V.s were used as well as a number of low-power ones. The diagram of the net is shown below. The nets were all voice links and in the main were through loud and clear for the whole time, night and day.

A combined force of three hundred all ranks and made up of Signals, Gunners and Infantry worked on repairing the sea

Personnel of 5 Corps Signal Regiment sandbagging the sea wall at Jaywick during the East Coast flood emergency



wall at Leewick and Jaywick, south of Brightlingsea, under the command of our O.C. 1 Squadron, Major Frank Berry, who, contrary to reports, is NOT trying to transfer to R.E. They laid around 200,000 sandbags. Working always in mud and often in water during a two-day blizzard and always in a cold North Sea wind, the troops, a large proportion of whom were National Servicemen, showed a high standard of cheerfulness and morale in appalling conditions.

Owing to the flood emergency we had a mere week to prepare for our Administrative Inspection, which took place on 26th February. To the playing of the band of the Devonshire Regiment, we marched past the Inspecting Officer, who afterwards inspected our camp thoroughly and tested our defences by starting a fire in one of the accommodation spiders.

* * *

HOLIDAY?

Everyone's welcome to come and stay
At Mercury House in Colwyn Bay.
The genial host, Bob Barlow by name,
Of Catterick "Barleux" and Birmingham fame,
Will tend to all your needs and wishes,
Ably assisted by loving Mrs.

From October to May it's as cheap as can be
—£4 10s. is the rate—and a view of the sea;
It's fifteen bob more from June to September,
But this is the summer—or don't you remember?
Children are welcome—so please come and stay
At Mercury House in Colwyn Bay.

The house is delightful—2 mins. from the shore;
While theatres and cinemas add even more
To all the attractions that here do abound
(Yes, even a fun fair with merry-go-round).
So don't for a second put off your stay
At Mercury House in Colwyn Bay.

1 WAR OFFICE SIGNAL REGIMENT (TRAFFIC)

The appearance of notes in the February WIRE from us brought a few telephone calls from ex-members of the Regiment with remarks such as "Well, well, so the Regiment is still functioning" and "Well done, we thought you had all gone to seed." Now you all know we are very much alive and doing a job, too.

A few ex-members wanted to know who were with the Regiment, and as a promise was made we will try and make the nominal roll as interesting as possible.

We did, however, send in some names with our December contribution, but for some unknown reason they never appeared in print—postmaster or Editor?

The Regiment is commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel H. Winterbotham, O.B.E., with Captain J. G. Curl as Adjutant. Majors H. McD. Chapman and W. H. Bowler are the Squadron Commanders of 1 and 2 Squadrons respectively, ably assisted by Captains D. A. J. Clarke and F. G. Hardy as Seconds-in-Command.

R.E. fixtures of Richmond Park days still with us are Major Bert Hamilton, O.C. Cipher, Captain (Q.M.) "Jock" Shaw, Captain (M.T.O.) "Paddy" Connaughton, and "Berny"—Captain J. Bernasconi. The "mothering" of the Regiment is in the very capable hands of our R.S.M., W.O.I A. Medlycott. And that's all the names for this month.

'Flu has arrived and it has hit us pretty hard, but we have been able to carry on with all our commitments, including the Regimental Church Parade held on Sunday, 1st February.

*

The Unit, in common with the rest of the country, were profoundly shocked at the news of the flood disaster.

Apart from official assistance provided many ranks volunteered for work over the week-ends. A bottle of whisky presented by the Officers' Mess was raffled and realised the sum of £27 12s. for the Relief Fund.

Social activities, following the Christmas period, are down to zero—or almost. The Officers' Mess held a very successful cocktail party and many old friends came along.

The men's Mess held a successful dance on 14th February. The Unit Dance Band, under S.S.M. Page, provided the music.

Welcome to W.O.II Cheshire and Sergeants Seymour and Anthony on joining the Unit.

Lieutenant M. M. Goodwin has left us for new adventure in Canada, and our best wishes go with him for all success. And goodbye and good luck to the following: W.O.II King, W.O.II Angel, Sergeant Hatt and Corporal Watkins, who have left us during the past month.

SOUTHERN COMMAND (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT

Major J. Adams and Major M. R. Hewitt have left us to face the rigors of B.A.O.R.! We wish them every success and at the same time extend a welcome to their successors in the Regiment—Major G. A. Flemming and Major K. Hinton.

Inter-Troop soccer is now in full swing in R.H.Q., H.Q. and 1 Squadron, with the F.S.S. Troop leading. The Regimental team isn't doing quite so well but is improving.

Congratulations to Second-Lieutenant ("Patsy") Castles on obtaining a "B" on her course at Catterick.

Christmas parties and festivities were all a great success.

No. 2 Squadron at Aldershot made their's a farewell party to Major Adams. The success of the party was, we are assured, due mainly to the efforts of the girls of the Squadron who undertook most of the catering.

S.Q.M.S. (F. of S.) Stevenson and S.Q.M.S. Relph have been posted to Royal Signals Wing, School of Signals and Eastern Command Signal Regiment respectively. We wish them good fortune in their new Units, and welcome S.Q.M.S. (F. of S.) Frost on posting to the Regiment.

EASTERN COMMAND SIGNAL REGIMENT

Eastern Command Signal Regiment had its representatives in the flood area almost immediately after the initial disaster occurred. A detachment of the Command Wireless Troop were despatched to the aid of Messrs. Wimpey, contractors, on the Isle of Grain, and by all accounts did an efficient job of work. They will long be remembered by television viewers in that area who were kept well informed during this period of the latest football results. Yet even if this story had a damp ending for one operator, they all enjoyed this break in the usual routine, and returned muddy yet defiant to Warren Camp one evening just in time to clean up their vehicles for the Annual Administrative Inspection.

Spring is with us once again, and once again the thoughts of all Area Catering Advisers, Education Advisers, Visiting Paymasters—in fact, anyone who has the slightest claim or pretext to inspect anything or give advice as to the correct way to cook potatoes *parmentière*—the thoughts of all these people turn once more to the beauties of the countryside, of the Sussex countryside in springtime, of the healthy atmosphere pervading Crowborough, and to the pleasures of an outing at the expense of the Army. Sometimes three or four of these people will club together and come in the guise of this Annual Administrative Inspection—or a C.I.V. Inspection. However that may be, our Annual Administrative Inspection took place on 24th February, with Brigadier L. F. E. Wieler, C.B., C.B.E., heading the inspecting Officers. In the course of it a fire alarm was sounded, and after a dignified pause, a fire brigade of sorts, looking like something out of an early Charlie Chaplin film, tumbled out of the Orderly Room armed with buckets and a stirrup pump. The fire alarm was not on the whole an unqualified success. The official "brigade" followed shortly—the telephone message had miscarried.

At present we are immersed in a further inspection (a C.I.V. one this time). But when this present wave of inspections has receded from Warren Camp we hope to get out and see the country a bit ourselves.

SCOTTISH COMMAND (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT

As these notes go to Press the sun is shining and the winter would appear to have left us. In point of fact, the winter has been very kind to us here at Glencorse, and our only "ticks" regarding the vagaries of the climate were a spot of serious freezing during December, and the loss of a few chimney pots during the hurricane in early February. The north of Scotland, however, suffered badly in the hurricane and the linemen of East and West Troops spent a hard two weeks in Aberdeenshire assisting the G.P.O. to repair extensive damage to overhead routes in that area.

With the approach of spring we are turning our thoughts forward, and the first job would appear to be the Administrative Inspection which is scheduled to take place on the 16th March. The Q.M. reports serious inroads on his stocks of paints, polishes, and whitewash, but estimates that he can supply all demands (this last was not approved of by the large majority of the men).

During February we welcomed Major D. D. W. Brousson, W.R.A.C.

A visit to the Unit by a party of Norwegian Officers was enjoyed by the hosts and guests alike. The culmination was a very successful cocktail party in the Officers' Mess.

But who put a CUPFUL of ANGOSTURA BITTERS in the punchbowl?

Our football team are still producing results and, although no cups appear to be coming our way, have had a fairly successful season.

The hockey team has faded out due to the loss of a large part of the team on posting. We are still hoping to get a few practice games going with a view to next season.

The small bore rifle club have just fired off a four-cornered

contest as follows: Officers v. W.O.s and Sergeants v. Corporals v. the rest.

Result was a win for the W.O.s and Sergeants.

Highest individual score: Cfn. Kelly, R.E.M.E. 196 points

Best individual target: R.S.M. Ferguson ... 100 points

The archery club are hibernating pending better weather.

The Wives' Club have been very active and are now raising money for a children's sports day to be held on or about the Coronation date. A jumble sale raised just under £5 towards this.

On the first meeting in March a bulb competition was held. This was judged by the local market gardener, who also gave a very interesting talk on general gardening techniques. We are expecting to see some fine gardens this summer.

Mrs. Cornish had a great day and took both the first and second prizes with two very fine bowls of hyacinths.

Last, but not the least, these are the last set of notes from this reporter from this Unit, S.Q.M.S. Robertshaw.

Anti-Aircraft Command

4 A.A. (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT

It is about time that we got on the map again. For the last few months we have been very preoccupied moving our regular Squadron and the Quartermaster into an even more unsalubrious spot than Warrington. They are now literally miles from anywhere although well within the smoke belt between Widnes and Warrington, whose chimneys concentrate their attentions in that direction. To the black pall of smoke are added the pleasures of fog signals detonnating at all hours of the day and night on one of the main lines from Liverpool to the south that runs right alongside the camp.

Before we moved in the camp was occupied by the Ministry of Agriculture. It is an extraordinary thing that nothing can have worked properly whilst they were there, and it is a very weary G.E. who is doing his best to get the place habitable now.

Right on top of the move we had our Annual Administrative Inspection, and to make matters doubly difficult the Army ran out of whitewash! However, we are keeping our fingers crossed, and if man-hours count for anything we reckon that we ought to get a reasonable report.

On the credit side we have escaped from the responsibilities of running Peninsula Barracks in Warrington, having handed these over to an expanding South Lancashire Depot and the Camp Commandant of 4 A.A. Group, and in many ways we are better off.

By the way, in our new camp, the corner of the Sergeants' Mess that contains the bar looks out on the railway embankment, and as the supply of curtains has gone the same way as the whitewash the unfortunate members (who are rather shy!) have to put down their mugs of beer every time a train goes by.

Bill Quinn, the Squadron Commander, has had many problems, not the smallest being to provide staff for Plasterdown, the A.A. Signals Camp this year. Still not least is the provision of the usual private army for the Q.M. Perhaps when he has got rid of all his men he will be able to sit back and enjoy himself!

Len Harries, our noble Q.M., in spite of the "army," still has much work to do, mostly this is due to repercussions from the running of Aberporth Camp throughout last year's "season," when all the other A.A. Units and many other rogues put their heads together to conspire against the Camp Staff. This is an inheritance which is at last coming under control.

Our exposition perhaps gives rather a cheerless impression, but we hope and even expect that when we write to you next it will be found that the difficulties were not nearly as great as everybody else thought and that we have settled down to enjoy ourselves and are even winning local glory in the sporting world.

5 A.A. (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT

Annual Inspection of the Regiment took place on Friday, 13th February, by the Deputy Commander of 5 A.A. Group. In spite of the date and the weather everything went well. Our thanks are due to 6 (Boys) Training Regiment for the use of their Band, which helped to make the March Past a success.

We said farewell to Lieutenant-Colonel A. T. Sladen, O.B.E., on his departure, and wish him and Mrs. Sladen the best of luck in his new appointment. His successor, Lieutenant-Colonel R. B. S. Eraut, is in the process of settling in and already we have visions of our goalposts changing shape. We hope he and Mrs. Eraut will have a happy time in sunny (?) Scarborough.

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

Since last appearing in print the command of the Unit has changed hands, Lieutenant-Colonel J. C. Brady, M.B.E., succeeding Lieutenant-Colonel H. Scarborough, T.D. Lieutenant-Colonel Scarborough was presented with a quaich by Lance-Corporal Alex Baxter on behalf of the other ranks of the Unit, Lance-Corporal Baxter being selected owing to his long and faithful service in the Regiment—1924 to 1952 continuous. We are all very sorry to see an active man like Lieutenant-Colonel Scarborough retire and, at the same time, we welcome Lieutenant-Colonel Brady, our former Second-in-Command.

About this time, November 1952, Captain R. Prendergast, M.C., Royal Signals, was re-animated and joined the Regiment as Adjutant vice Captain J. R. Sutton, who had to leave suddenly owing to illness. The Unit takes this opportunity of wishing Captain Sutton a speedy recovery.

The Sergeants' Mess held a presentation party on 18th October at which the outgoing C.O. was presented with a silver cigarette lighter in the shape of a miniature ale pot with lid.

As one of the social activities of the Unit, a Badminton Club was formed on 4th December, 1952, and though successful it would improve if more members of the Unit would take an active interest.

The Annual Administrative Inspection of the Unit took place on 11th December, 1952, and, due to the efforts of all ranks, it was a great success. The turn-out, both in numbers and appearance, was excellent.

It is with regret that we have to record the death of S.Q.M.S. Oliver, late of this Unit, on 5th January. The deepest sympathy of this Regiment is extended to his wife and family.

Sport—Netball. 29 A.A. (M) Signal Squadron, of Glasgow, was drawn against 471 (M) H.A.A. Regiment, Dunfermline. Played at Brandon Terrace, it was an exciting game and 29 Squadron were narrowly defeated at the end by 13—11. Well done the winners! Hard luck the losers!

We are at present in the throes of a W.R.A.C. recruiting campaign, and we shall have more to say about this when the results are known.

EMPLOYMENT VACANCIES

Good jobs are available to members of the Corps of Commissionaires. All ex-Regulars can apply for membership, provided they bear an exemplary character and fulfil certain standards of health, physique and education.

Details from Royal Signals Association.

Signal communication for the CORONATION

THE PROBLEM

FOUR main, and unusual, problems face Royal Signals in connection with the Coronation.

THE PROCESSIONS

The first of these is that which escorts Her Majesty The Queen from Buckingham Palace to Westminster Abbey. In this procession will be more than 1,000 men of the Household Brigade, including the King's Troop Royal Horse Artillery. There will also be a great number of Senior Officers of the Three Services, most of them mounted; the Yeoman of the Guard, the Sovereign's Escort of the Household Cavalry, the State Coach with its eight Windsor Greys, the Standard carried by the Queen's Champion, the personal Aides de Camp and other carriages conveying Her Majesty's suite. This procession will occupy the whole of The Mall from Buckingham Palace to Admiralty Arch before it starts.

There is then the much longer procession which escorts Her Majesty from Westminster Abbey back to Buckingham Palace. Added to those already in the first procession will be up to 10,000 marching men and women representing the three Services, including contingents from Canada and the other nations of the Commonwealth, and some 1,500 troops from the armed forces of the Colonies.

This second procession will be some three miles long when stationary. At the start the head of this procession will be somewhere north of Hyde Park Corner.

Signal Communications for the Procession

It is necessary to ensure that the component parts of these processions move smoothly from widely separated assembly areas to their actual positions on the route of the procession. Their passage has to be safeguarded through the many hundred thousand spectators all moving towards the processional route at the same time.

These long processions have to be started AS ONE MAN; for example, at the commencement of the journey to the Abbey every man in the procession has to "march" at the exact moment the wheels of the State Coach start turning. This problem is even greater with the longer procession from the Abbey.

The processions have to be controlled as to pace throughout their journey, and throughout their length. There are many hazards—a carriage horse may get a leg over the trace, pressure from behind may cause the spectators to encroach on the route.

This actually took place in two places during the funeral of His Majesty King George V.

There is the common tendency of all marching columns of any length. It remains one of the unsolved mysteries of life that in any body of marching men, while the front files proceed sedately the rear files are practically running. This can be overcome by careful control. In calculating the logistics, as our American cousins call it, every single factor has to be considered. For instance, it is now well known that the great weight of the State Coach causes a definite slow-up in pace while ascending the slight slope of St. James's Street. The converse may well occur while descending Lower Regent Street.

THE GUN SALUTES

At the exact moment of the crowning, royal salutes are fired at Her Majesty's Tower of London, in Hyde Park and in Windsor Great Park.

The firing of the first gun of each of these salutes must be controlled from within the Abbey itself but with a minimum of visible equipment and without noise.

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS

The very great number of troops taking part are to be housed in a vast tented camp in Hyde Park and in the great Exhibition Halls of Earls Court and Olympia. Each of them require their own telecommunication system. Such installation is a matter of normal Signal practice except for the undue degree of haste necessitated by the fact that rented buildings are not taken over until immediately before they are required for use; and to avoid inconvenience to the public the tented camps also go up at the last possible moment.

THE SIGNAL PROBLEM

Communications must be simple, remember that there is no one Signal Regiment in or near London capable of tackling the problem as a whole and detachments of many Signal Regiments must be used.

There must be alternative means. The Coronation is set in the heart of London (which for use of normal field wireless equipment is as formidable a screen as could be devised). It is staged before a vast and closely packed audience, the members of which will have little or nothing to do for many hours (this constitutes a menace to a temporary line system similar to that of a herd of bison coming up against a brest route). Apart from the processional route many miles of temporary cable must be installed in Hyde Park. The Keepers of the Royal Parks are a proud, privileged race with strong objections to their trees being used for suspended cable or their grass and flower beds being scarred by cable trenches.

The camps in Hyde Park will be an irresistible attraction to a crowd of small boys. There is nothing in war which equals the capacity for destruction of even a few of them.

The erection of decorative arches along the streets of the procession effectively prevents the use of visual signalling.

* * *

Today, 2nd March, the Chief Signal Officer, Headquarters London District, has still three months in which to solve his problem. We hope to be able to forecast his solution in a future article.

HEADQUARTERS LONDON DISTRICT

The General Officer Commanding is, by historic precedent, responsible for the organisation of the military portion of all such State occasions. He and his staff are much practised in the art; in the personal memory of the present writer they have handled successfully similar great processions in 1937 and 1952. They work in the closest co-operation with the Earl Marshal's office and with the Traffic Branch of the Metropolitan Police. Nothing is ever left to chance: the organisation of and the reports on the military ceremonial of the past are studied with great care and we may be sure that every foreseeable hazard will be guarded against.

THE FLY PAST

After the return to Buckingham Palace Her Majesty and the Duke of Edinburgh are to appear on the balcony and witness the salute of the Royal Air Force. The exceedingly intricate telecommunication arrangements for this are in the hands of the Royal Air Force.

EUROPE

Ski Heil!-

FROM ROYAL SIGNALS (AUSTRIA)

AN excellent winter season in B.T.A. is drawing to a close. Snow has been plentiful and tanned healthy faces show that there has been no lack of that glorious sunshine which is such a pleasant feature of winter in these parts. Here in Klagenfurt we have had an enthusiastic and very successful ski-ing season. Lieutenant-Colonel Hobson (C.S.O.), Majors Burke and Knowles, Captains Irwin and Mogridge, Lieutenants Wood, Young and Llewellyn, have all (except Captain Irwin) started from scratch and are now confirmed addicts on the ski slopes. An excellent programme of beginners' courses has been run locally and we are delighted to state that over 50 of our other ranks have learnt to ski this winter. When you add to these the others who have learnt in previous years it is not surprising that the demand on Unit skis is heavy at week-ends. Good beginners' slopes exist only 10 minutes by truck from our barracks. For those who wish to taste the real thrill of long downhill runs there is the Kanzel, 6,000 feet high and only an hour's journey by road from here.

At Graz the snow is not so easily accessible, but Captain Barry and Lieutenant Hart generally take out a band of enthusiasts from 12 Wireless Squadron to the Schöckl at week-ends. Major Webber, the O.C., is also a competent performer who learnt his ski-ing in B.T.A.

Vienna does not enjoy the same heavy falls of snow as we do in the British Zone, nor does a big city lend itself conveniently as a ski-ing centre. However, crowded and somewhat hectic ski-ing is available on slopes in the outskirts of Vienna and various members of the Vienna Signal Troop disport themselves there. This year we took part in the B.T.A. ski championships and entered teams for the patrol, downhill and slalom events. For a first venture we did creditably—our best performance being in the downhill, where we came in fifth out of nine teams, beating such doughty opponents as the Royal Warwicks and the R.A.S.C. We were unfortunate in the patrol race when Captain Irwin broke a binding and a ski slid off into the middle distance causing much heat (mental and physical) in the process of searching for it in

The Royal Signals (Austria) patrol team at the start of the patrol race

Captain Irwin and Captain Barry ready for action!

soft, deep snow—a process which took over 30 minutes, thereby putting us somewhat behind other teams in this event. Captain Irwin organised the team training with great enthusiasm and much credit is due to him for the keenness shown by all competitors. Captain Barry, S.S.M. Godfrey, Corporal Munson, Lance-Corporal Forbes and Signalman Wilson helped to make up our teams in various events. A word about Corporal Munson. This is only his second year on skis and he is showing great promise. His performances in the downhill and slalom show that he has nerve, judgment and style, and it is a pity he won't be with us next season when he should be at his best. Take Signalman Wilson also—a National Serviceman from Newcastle. He is a beginner this year and we are pleased to report that he came second in the B.T.A. Novices' Championship. He is now saving up to buy his own skis and boots for next season. If anyone looks the picture of cheerful health and fitness, Wilson is the man. Our ski-ing linemen are also looking thoroughly bronzed and full of vigour after laying control lines all over the Kanzel for the competition.

Incidentally, they caught the eye of the G.O.C.-in-C., who was kind enough to commend them on their work.

Well, so ends a glorious winter, and we look forward to another good season next year, when we hope to have even more out ski-ing than this year. We are also going to have a serious crack at the B.T.A. Championship.

You may say what does all this cost? For other ranks—nothing! Skis, boots and instruction are provided free as part of Army training. Recreational transport is available on Wednesdays and week-ends to take skiers to the slopes. The only expense is for those who go to the Kanzel, where the cable car and ski lifts have to be paid for. Millionaires pay large sums to enjoy sport like this in expensive winter resorts. The sun is just as bright and the snow equally good fun here—and one draws pay for being in B.T.A.

So any skiers or would-be skiers see if you can't get a posting to B.T.A., and we'll look after the rest for you.

11 ARMOURED DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT

There is an air of quiet activity about the place. After a hard winter the sun has at last broken through and everyone seems happy. What a change since our last notes were written in January.

We were very pleased to welcome to the Regiment our new Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Houghton, O.B.E., in the early part of February. We hope Colonel Houghton and his wife and family will have a very enjoyable tour with the Regiment.

The Administrative Inspection has taken place and the report, a good one, has gone to the files. The whole Regiment is training hard. Operators, linemen, radio mechanics and drivers, all are working to earn those few extra shillings a week and qualify for a stripe or an extra stripe.

Others are away on Education Courses and still more making up for the leave they were unable to take last year owing to the many exercises.

The coming weeks before the Easter break will be busy ones with education examinations and Trade Boards, the usual sporting events and a short exercise.

1 CORPS SIGNAL REGIMENT

The first exercise of the year took place in January, the next is in March. No one can accuse us of being fair-weather soldiers.

We feel that the following extract from District Routine Orders will be of interest to all ranks of the Corps.

Commendation

"On the 19th January a three-ton W.D. vehicle caught fire in the village of Nord-Hemmern due to the camouflage net slipping between the cab and body of the vehicle and becoming ignited by the exhaust pipe. By the time the fire was discovered the net had been burning for some time and had become wedged near the petrol tank and wrapped round the propeller shaft. The driver and co-driver of the vehicle attempted to put out the fire with an extinguisher, but without success.

22637413 Signalman A. Bennett, 1 Corps Signal Regiment, who had been travelling in another vehicle, on his own initiative then climbed between the cab and the body of the vehicle and commenced to remove the burning net. For a period of five minutes he remained close to the petrol tank, in which the petrol was boiling, cutting away the net.

Throughout, Signalman Bennett showed complete disregard for his own personal safety and his action undoubtedly saved the vehicle from serious damage."

* * *

Our confidence grows, with our gleaming lance we have struck the shield of our formidable higher formation, H.Q. In fact, we've challenged them to join with us in the popular modern jousting known to all as an Annual Administrative Inspection. This is indeed a mysterious and dangerous sport and, it would seem, must be taken extremely seriously. Many finer points are being relearned, a glimpse of the past can be seen in our standards. Our house will indeed be well ordered before the thoughts of our young men are turned by beautiful spring.

★

Sport. One of the major sporting events held recently was the District Inter-Unit and Individual Cross-Country Championship, which was held in our barracks. Across snow-covered ground, and against a bitterly cold wind, 14 teams of 10 runners each competed in this 6-mile race, and they had a large crowd to see them start and cheer them home. No fewer than five Royal Signals Regiments took part.

Lance-Corporal Aston and Second-Lieutenant Hill, of 11 Air Formation Signal Regiment, were leading for most of the way, but a man from another Corps managed to break away to win in the fast time of 32 mins. 36 secs. Still, this was a team championship as well, in which the last four were just as important to final placings as the first. We were glad to see a Royal Signals team win.

The final team placings of Royal Signals Regiments were:—

1st	11 Air Formation Signal Regiment	95 pts.
2nd	H.Q. N.A.G. Signal Regiment	283 pts.
4th	1 Corps Signal Regiment	300 pts.
6th	1 Wireless Regiment	448 pts.
9th	4 L. of C. Signal Regiment	590 pts.

BERLIN SIGNAL SQUADRON

The New Year has brought us a new home. The Squadron now occupies completely rebuilt accommodation. For those old members of the Squadron who remember the Olympic Stadium the new accommodation is on the third floor of the Friesenhaus above the badminton courts.

The move has involved a considerable "spring clean," and those members of M.T. Troop who formerly reclined in double or even single rooms now find themselves in a huge "state" room which accommodates twenty people. Owing to the floor being so slippery we have more fellows taking up ice skating as a pastime than join Second-Lieutenant "Mo" Birt on the ski-ing expedition into the Grunewald.

The Squadron is now providing wireless operators for the patrols on the border of the Russian Zone. Individual training proceeds apace, and last year's results in all trades and education gave gratifying results—approximately fifty per cent. upgrading.

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In the field of sport few fixtures have taken place due to the incessant snowfall which has kept us away from the sports fields.

A match against 4 L. of C. Signals Regiment in the B.A.O.R. Signals Inter-Unit Knock-Out Soccer Shield was played at Berlin on 31st January.

After a keenly fought first half, in which the Squadron tried extremely hard but was just unable to score, they fell away in the second half and were finally beaten 4—0.

Signalman Tainsh and Signalman Apps were the outstanding players for the Squadron team.

Corporal Lambert, an old Berliner, proved to be the key man in the 4 L. of C. team.

The Berlin Motor Club held another reliability trial for motor cycles and cars on 15th February. Although this event is given such a polite name it is nothing less than one big "free for all" with everyone doing their utmost to keep their machine upright.

The Squadron entered a team of four B.S.A. 500 c.c., which were mounted by S.S.M. Cartledge, Sergeant "Ginger" Firth, Corporal "Jim" Hale, and Signalman "Frosty" Ennals.

Owing to illness, S.S.M. "Albert" Cartledge was unable to ride but the rest of the skid kids brought back bronze, silver and gold medals respectively.

At the end of February the Squadron will be saying goodbye to Captain "Jet" Taylor, and everyone wishes him the best of luck at his new home at H.Q. Eastern Command.

On the 18th February the Squadron had its Annual Administrative Inspection, when they were visited by Brigadier F. Stephens, D.S.O., who presented Sergeant Scaife with his Long Service and Good Conduct Medal during the ceremonial parade. Everyone had been working hard and things were "bulled" to the limit, so now we are waiting for the "ticket" to let us know how much impression all the hard work has made.

Back row: Lance-Corporal Atkins, Signalman Kellett, Signalman Parker, Corporal Thornton, Signalman Ray, Signalman Febery, Lance-Corporal White, Driver Gunton, Lance-Corporal Gough, Signalman Rendall, Signalman Campbell. Front row: Signalman Priddle, Lance-Corporal White, 2nd Lieutenant L. H. Hill, Lieut.-Colonel A. C. Galbraith (Royal Signals), Lance-Corporal Aston, Signalman Lock, Signalman Ravenscroft

11 Air Formation Signal Regiment

We are having a very successful hockey season, being top of the R.A.F. League and in the semi-finals of the Signals Cup, R.A.F. Cup and still battling in the B.A.O.R. and Army Cup.

Two stalwart defenders, Captain (Q.M.) Robertson and R.Q.M.S. Boyd, have left us for U.K., and our Commanding Officer, who is not yet "fighting" fit, although he promises that it won't be long now. S.Q.M.S. Turner and Sergeant Webb continue to do the scoring, the old Guard, Captains Banham and Brewin, A.S.M. Todd and S.S.M. Mason defend, with Lance-Corporal Brinkworth in goal.

Lance-Corporal Roud and Signalman Febery improve with each game.

The comings and goings continue, and this month we welcome Captain I. C. Gibson and S.S.M. Walker. May their stay be a happy and healthy one.

R.Q.M.S. and Mrs. Boyd leave us after a long stay; we wish them the very best of luck in their future battle with nature and the Ministry of Agriculture. (Paddy, it's still wishful thinking, you'll still be up to the eyes in FORMS, thas'ands of 'em.)

The Regimental cross-country team has had a most intensive and successful climax to a long and arduous season. The team carried off the Lubbecke District Championships on 4th February; out of 140 starters we had four in the first six.

After an R.A.F. League at Sundern, which we won comfortably, we then had the B.A.O.R. Signals Inter-Unit Championship race, where running 20 and scoring 12 we managed to have seven men in the first eight positions. Lance-Corporal Aston was the individual winner, followed by Second-Lieutenant Hill and Lance-Corporal White, who took second and third places. Two days after this we ran the B.A.O.R. Army Championships proper at Minden over a long and difficult course. We finished ninth only, but the team as a whole ran well up to standard. The very next day the team was taking part in the 2 T.A.F. Inter-Unit Championships at Bad Eilsen. Here we came only sixth, largely due to the exertion of the past three days, although Lance-Corporal Aston came fifth and Second-Lieutenant Hill ninth.

The season now being closed we look forward to the Summer Trade events.

"RUDOLPH"

No, not the Red Nosed Reindeer but an exercise intended to test men on survival under extreme winter conditions, therefore quite appropriately named. Rather a gloomy prospect one might say, but to the surprise of all concerned it turned out just the opposite.

At approximately 0830 hours Monday, the 16th February, nine members of 2 Wing Signal Troop took a longing look at their warm, cosy beds and—dressed akin to "Scott of the Antarctic"—loaded their provisions and tentage on to vehicles and set forth prepared to meet the full fury of the elements.

On arrival at the camp site, a spot situated in Sauerland, approximately 2,800 feet up in the Rothaar Hills, first impressions were ones of dismay as the area was covered by 5 feet 6 inches of snow. However, after vigorous digging had taken place *terra firma* was reached and the camp successfully struck. The "Ski Commandos," as the troops now began to call themselves, settled in and after a hot meal prepared to spend their first night under canvas.

Cold! As one man was heard to remark: "It's cold enough to freeze the Officer Commanding."

The next morning, avowed determinations to arise with the lark did not materialise. Maybe because there are no larks around that area or, just remotely possible, personnel did not fancy washing and shaving in cold water in a temperature of about 10 degrees below zero. However, after a hurried breakfast the proposed schedule was adhered to and the Troop departed to make their first attempts at mastery of the skis. Disastrous is not an adequate word to describe the scene—bodies hurtling all over, legs entangled with trees (or, as one member said: "It was the tree's fault, not mine"). After a while the Troop gave up trying to run before it could walk and retired momentarily beaten. A group of hitherto cold men returned to camp sweating and tired.

A party of Norwegian Troops on the same type of exercise gave valuable information regarding warmth. Straw and the branches of fir trees were strewn on the floor of the tents and beds made on top. From then onwards no one complained of the cold.

The following day the snow showed signs of melting, but undeterred, the Officer Commanding—being a somewhat proficient amateur ski enthusiast—attempted to introduce the Troop to the technicalities of ski-ing such as the "Plough" and the "Stop." This did not meet with much success as, whilst practising these somewhat boring exercises, the men were casting envious glances at the German holiday-makers ski-ing down the steeper slopes with such grace. The rest of the day was spent allowing the men to profit by their mistakes. The rest of the week's activities were confined to walking and climbing plus a little ski-ing due to snow conditions.

The time for departure arrived and the nine happy and certainly hardened men took a last look at their "winter home" and returned to base.

Much valuable information was gained from this short exercise, and the Troop as a whole could now face almost any conditions with a very good chance of survival. Morale was of the highest quality.

No, they did not meet the "Abominable Snowman," but had he crossed their path he would have met nine very tough "Brown Jobs" intent on proving themselves as "Ski Commandos."

* * *

In the boxing world we were runners-up in the Lubbecke District Knock-Out Tournament, losing by 15 points to 18 points.

However, Lance-Corporal Shearen and Signalman Castle won in the individual championships, and along with Signalman Conway (who, fighting above his weight, just got beaten) are now qualified for the H.Q., N.A.G. semi-finals.

Our next important date is the 2nd T.A.F. semi-final, which takes place in March. All are training hard.

1 WIRELESS REGIMENT

If winter comes, asked Shelley and the Football Officer, can spring be far behind? This vernal lagging remained a topic of interested discussion throughout the Regiment as pitches froze, thawed and re-froze with bewildering rapidity. Staunch trooper that she is, however, spring needed no prompting for Wednesday, 25th February, when we met an Army Engineer Regiment in friendlies at rugger, hockey and soccer. The rugger fifteens were evenly matched and the game ended in a draw, 3—3. The hockey pitch was also the scene of a lively struggle, neither side managing to score. The soccer eleven, however, had no difficulty in winning easily, 7—2. Our forward line, frisky as lambs in the spring sunshine, had been specially fitted with their shooting boots. Signalman Chadwick of the nimble feet took three of these goals, Sergeant Brough and Lance-Corporal Douglas sharing the others. Sergeant Brough has now perfected his double-stumble.

On the following Saturday, in the semi-final of the Royal Signals B.A.O.R. Challenge Cup, we played 6 Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment, winning 2—1. Signalman Bushby took both goals in what was probably his best game this season.

It was a hard fought match resulting in a well deserved win. We congratulate the team on both their plucky fight and their entry to the finals for the fourth consecutive year.

The basketball team finished their season as runners-up in the Lubbecke District Inter-Unit Basketball Championship, and were thus enabled to go forward to the finals of the 6th Armoured Divisional Championship on the 27th and 28th February. In this competition we met rather strong opposition, but we were able to secure fourth place.

S.H.A.P.E. SIGNAL SQUADRON

The absence of any notes from us for the last two issues of THE WIRE has been largely due to the fact that in January we lost our Commanding Officer and "Paris Correspondent," Major H. B. de M. Hunter, on posting to 1 Divisional Signal Regiment in the Middle East. We take this opportunity of again wishing him every happiness and success. At the same time we congratulate Major Leyson on taking over command, having been our Second-in-Command since the arrival of the Unit in France. We welcome, too, Captain Fairlie, who has practically flown direct from the battles of Korea into our midst, breathing fire and sudden death. We hope he will like the change and that we shall not prove too dull!

We have not been immune from the serious outbreak of influenza which swept France in January and February. Quite a number of us fell victims, either through our French contacts or the central heating of our new quarters (see below). Also in early January we moved from our antiquated, cold and very muddy quarters near St. Germain to a brand new International Camp just five minutes' walk from S.H.A.P.E. itself. Our new quarters and the camp incorporate several international ideas and outlook, among which are sockets for electric razors beside every wash basin, showers AND baths, bedside lamps (we are told that this has nothing to do with the fact that Field-Marshal Montgomery is deputy to the Supreme Commander), linoleum floors which, although very much appreciated after cold concrete, were not exactly intended to stand up to the good old British ammunition boots and their studs, especially when worn by drill enthusiasts aspiring to the rank of lance-corporal, etc. We do not think these floors were a British idea, or could it be that at the crucial moment our representative forgot the good old rule that only "Drivers do not have studs in their boots, sir"! Finally, central heating which is maintained at about 80 degrees all day. (This we are sure is nothing to do with the British!)

In February, General and Mrs. Ridgway officially opened the large International Club in the Camp. This magnificent club caters for most off duty and relaxing requirements and serves a real need for all members of the N.A.T.O. Powers to have a place to go and mix freely during off duty hours. No better way could have been provided for getting us together and to know each other. The club runs cabaret shows and dances every week, it also provides first-class meals in its restaurant. Please note: the old-fashioned and rather "honky tonk" word "canteen" is not used any more. Our photograph shows General Ridgway shaking hands with Signalman Reeve, the Signals Representative of the International Club Committee, on the occasion of the opening ceremony.

Just as we send this off, Sergeant Coleman rejoins the Squadron from six months' temporary duty in Turkey, and Lance-Corporal Dyer and Signalman Dixon from Athens. We will write them up in our next notes.

General Ridgway shaking hands with Signalman Reeve on the occasion of the opening ceremony of the SHAPE International Club

Cannot **You** persuade
ONE OTHER
to Buy a copy of
the **WIRE?**

M E L F

16 INDEPENDENT PARATROOP BRIGADE GROUP SIGNAL SQUADRON

It was with a certain sorrow that we said *au revoir* to S.S.M. "Paddy" Sweeny during February. He is such an old friend of Airborne Signals that we know he will always feel he has a home with us. Certainly his memory will be held in our hearts with respect and admiration. We congratulate him most sincerely on his promotion to W.O.I and look forward to seeing him often now he is "just down the road" with 3 Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment.

In his place we are fortunate enough to be able to call upon S.Q.M.S. Laing to fill the vacancy and we congratulate him on his promotion to S.S.M. S.S.M. Laing has been nurtured in Airborne Signals and we could wish for no finer soldier. We also congratulate Corporal Shepheard on his promotion to sergeant.

We had the pleasure of a visit during the month from Chief Signal Officer, M.E.L.F., Major-General M. S. Wheatley, C.B.E. The General took a keen interest in our Airborne Equipment and in our local "modifications."

The operative word now for the next three months is "exercises."

TRIPOLITANIA SIGNAL SQUADRON

Since our last notes were published we have said goodbye to S.Q.M.S. Otley and his family, who have returned to the U.K. after a stay in Tripoli of nearly six years. S.Q.M.S. Otley came to Tripoli in 1947 to join the original Tripolitania Signal Squadron before it became incorporated within the 1 Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, and when he left he was one of the oldest military inhabitants in the district. We are also shortly to lose S.Q.M.S. Nock and his wife, who have been with us nearly as long. Our good wishes go to them both in their new stations. In their place we welcome S.Q.M.S. Smillie, from the Signal Training Centre, and Sergeant North, from 25 Armoured Brigade Signal Squadron.

The training of operators in the new Tape Relay and Voice Procedures, the change over to S.W.S. accounting, and the taking over of 1 F.B.S., keep our hands full, but the standard of efficiency in the Squadron remains high, and the versatility of our tradesmen has been very valuable in our lighter moments. Corporal Strange's Radio Mechanics can turn their hands to almost anything. Lance-Corporal Haseltine, by arrangement with R.E.M.E., has had all our eleven vehicles and motor cycles on the road at the same time, for the first time, we believe, in our history.

In off duty hours the football team plays well, and has been unfortunate not to win more matches in the league. Lance-Corporal Hackett is to be congratulated for being selected for and shining in the District XI. A Squadron basketball team is being formed in readiness for the league competition which starts in the summer, and we have hopes of success.

We are fortunate in that Tripoli is well served in the entertainments line. C.S.E. shows come frequently, the A.K.C. provides a good selection of films, and there are facilities for all kinds of sports the whole year round.

Some of us in the Mediterranean for the first time have been somewhat surprised at the bleak and stormy weather we experienced during the winter, and we would like to correct the impression anyone may have acquired at school that the Mediterranean has "warm, wet winters." Wet, yes; but warm? Well, hardly!

4 L. OF C. SIGNAL REGIMENT

R.H.Q. and 1 Squadron. We have the misfortune to live and work in requisitioned houses and buildings, so that it requires enterprise to organise any functions. The formation of a Signals Association Branch was therefore something of a hazard and a number of people have questioned its usefulness outside the Regiment. So as to demonstrate the effectiveness of its organisation, concerts and the like are sometimes held, and it is always available as the nearest place to spend an evening without "going out" as it were.

This month R.S.M. Turner, M.M., S.S.M. Hall and Sergeant Anderson, who run the Association Branch here, organised a social evening, from which the profits were devoted to the Lord Mayor of London's "Flood Relief Fund." The evening was very successful and the large donation made by the Branch swelled an already extensive contribution made voluntarily by Troops and individuals. The total amount of money forwarded by the Regiment to the fund was very considerable indeed and extremely gratifying.

Captain E. Roe, W.R.A.C., has commanded the W.R.A.C. Squadron from whom we draw our cipher and telephone operators, besides being P.A. to the C.S.O. H.Q. Northern Army Group. In her former role we have considered her to be part of the Regiment (the attractive part), now she has left us, and we wish her the very best of luck in her new job with Eastern Command Signal Regiment. We welcome Captain P. Nelson in her place and hope she will enjoy her stay with us.

S.Q.M.S. Hose has left us on promotion and is now S.S.M. of 2 Squadron, whilst S.Q.M.S. Berry has joined us from 2 Squadron. Congratulations to both N.C.O.s and very best wishes in their new appointments.

S.Q.M.S. Bradley, our F. of S., has returned to U.K., and S.Q.M.S. Buckley replaces him. We hope both will like their new locations and wish them well.

3 Squadron. The Annual Administrative and C.I.V. Inspections are now things of the past, for a few months at least. As the Sergeants are still wearing three stripes and the Squadron Commander (miracles do happen) gave us a "buckshee" 48 hours, we assume the results were up to the usual high standard associated with the Squadron.

The past month has seen the departure of seven more stalwarts, including our athletic sartorial expert, Lance-Corporal Atkins, who, rumour has it, is going to wait at table on all future drafts, accommodated on the "Queen Mary." We wish him luck. Apart from teleprinter operating, message routing, switchboard operating, drill, musketry, loading tables, S.D.R.s, individual training, educational training, A.B.C.A. and loaning our almost non-existent working numbers to other Regiments for exercises, we as a Squadron have little to worry about and nothing to fear. Certainly not, we are confident, in the way of competition. Rumour has it that our Second-in-Command, Captain Cross, is due for the

Highlands of Bonnie Scotland—their gain (if true) will be our loss. Congratulations to Captain Barber and Sergeant Yendall on passing the Colloquial Test for German speaking English nationals. How do they do it? Ssh—your guess is probably right!

3 L. OF C. SIGNAL REGIMENT

In December we bade farewell to our late Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel J. R. Beeton. He was dined (and wined) out in traditional manner, even to the extent of getting cold—sorry—wet feet. The best wishes of the Regiment went with him with the hope that he enjoyed his sojourn with us.

Our new Commanding Officer is Lieutenant-Colonel E. G. Day, O.B.E., T.D., to whom we extend a sincere welcome. He is no stranger to this part of the world, having served a term out here prior to going to the Corps "Health Resort" (Catterick), from which he has just returned.

Being conversant with the problems of the day, he has quickly settled in and "got down to it."

We accord our welcome also to Major Daniel, who has joined us as Second-in-Command.

In the realms of sport, although no records have been broken, at least the Corps' fair name is being upheld. The results in one of the Regiment's better games—hockey—have been a trifle disappointing as we were eliminated in the first round of each of the tournaments. However, the old-timers have to go home sometimes, and the material available augurs well for next season. The Rugby side did well to reach the quarter-final of the Army (E) Cup, having to submit to the Airborne Boys by 9 points to 3 after losing Captain "Dai" Bayliss with a broken collarbone with the score at 3—3.

A surprise result in the field of athletics was the Regiment's second place in the Royal Signals, Egypt, Inter-Unit meeting. A creditable performance indeed in view of the fact that a variety of circumstances prevented the holding of the Regimental meeting until a matter of days prior to the big event. The boxing team, too, confounded the critics—in the Royal Signals (E) Inter-Unit Tourney—by obtaining the verdict in ten of the eleven contests against 3 Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment—a "smashing" victory. Our opponents in the semi-final will be 1 Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment.

A new drive for members for Royal Signals Association is about to commence.

Since the birth of the Unit Branch on 1st September, 1951, 235 life members have been recruited, of which some 75 per cent. are National Servicemen. The Honorary Secretary says the target is now 500 by 1st July, when he will be "on the boat"—he hopes! The Branch sends its greetings to all ranks of the Commonwealth Divisional Signals, who are making so vital a contribution to the fair name the Division has won.

3 G.H.Q. SIGNAL REGIMENT

This has been a quiet month for the Regiment except for work which, like the brook, goes on forever.

The Corporals' Mess emerged full of life from their winter hibernation and held a most successful dance on the 14th February, ably organised by Corporals Roden and Hawkes.

Talking of dances, the Regimental Dance Band, under the enthusiastic leadership of Lance-Corporal Delaney and with the aid of some high-powered advertising over the Forces' Broadcasting System, is now an established feature of the local entertainment world.

The Regiment is now in a fever of boxing excitement, and this is not surprising since our team, captained by Captain L. Rogers and managed by our own Jack Solomons, cigar and all—yes, you're right, Major (Q.M.) W. H. Clark—is going

Shepherd, 3 G.H.Q. Signal Regiment, in action

from success to success. We are now in the final of the Royal Signals (Egypt) Cup Competition and the semi-final round of the Canal South District Competition: it is invidious to single out individuals from such a fine team, but Sergeant Herns and Signalman Charlton, masters of the "old one-two," and Lance-Corporal McSweeney, our imperturbable heavyweight, have to be seen to be believed.

Congratulations to Captain Rogers, Corporal Frost and Signalman Collins on being picked to play hockey for the Corps.

The Regimental Branch of the Signals Association has now reached the record figure of 614 members. Sorry if we appear somewhat smug, but can any other Regiment produce a better record?

ARMY WIRELESS CHAIN SIGNAL SQUADRON, NAIROBI

As these are the first notes to be written by this Unit, a brief biographical note is appropriate.

The Unit formed in February 1951, under command of Captain (T.O.T.) L. U. de B. Wilmot. Captain G. M. Allan assumed command in April 1952, and with Captain Wilmot formed the total officer strength for many months. The Squadron assumed at once a heavy load of administrative and project work.

Major T. V. H. Mulliss assumed command of the Unit on 2nd November, 1952, after what he insists was the most gruelling experience of his career to date, namely, an S.S.B. Course at the School of Signals. He brought with him the nucleus of trained radio, line and telegraph mechanics which will shortly be responsible for the operation and maintenance of the principal relay station of the Commonwealth Communications Army Network.

The Unit continues to grow in order to keep pace with the speed with which our good friends and guests, the Army Wireless Chain Installation Team, build E10s and R212s.

Included in the Unit's activities at the moment are the completion of a major underground cable scheme, the building of 105ft. lattice steel towers, and the rigging of aerials, assistance to A.W.C.I.T. in the installation of equipment, and assistance to East Africa Command Signals in their extra tasks engendered by the anti-Mau Mau operations.

The 105ft. high lattice steel towers which form the basis of the aerial project were an interesting problem. We are proud of having mastered the knack of building them without outside assistance and are becoming inured to inquiries as to why we are dissatisfied with the existing altitude (5,500 feet) of Nairobi.

The Unit is now accommodated on the R.A.F. aerodrome at Eastleigh. Friendly relations have already been established with our R.A.F. hosts and an active sports programme is under way. We shall hope to have successes to report in our next notes.

[*This picture was reproduced from an old photograph*

Twenty-three Years Ago in Canada

TWENTY-THREE years ago five Royal Signals Officers went to Canada on loan to the Royal Canadian Corps of Signals. One of them, who is still serving in Royal Signals, on looking through some papers turned up an article written at that time but never published:—

Central Camp Schools.

Depot Royal Canadian Corps of Signals,
Camp Borden,
Ontario.
June 1930.

At the beginning of May the preliminaries for Royal Schools (Signals) annual summer camps had to be considered. Militia Orders published details about the assembling of various courses, but the pending basket feeling was prevalent and not much was done to prepare for the courses to be held in Camp Borden. We were reminded when an unshaven, tired, scruffy man, an Englishman, strolled casually into the Orderly Room to say that he wanted to enlist but otherwise would consider summer schools civilian staff work. Owing to the financial drought enlistment was out of question. A telephone message was not infrequent to say that next pay day must be postponed because cash would not be available in time. The man produced his papers—good education, had done farming, saw milling and lumbering but had not been able to get a steady job; he was only too pleased to work for his keep until he could be taken on the summer schools civil labour staff. About forty civilians are engaged annually as storemen, batmen, waiters and cooks for the three months the camp lasts.

Then the civilian influx began and our army of camp followers increased. The camp ceased to be a purely military show. There were men and boys of all sorts and types about the place, some in blazers and shorts, some wearing the remains of what had once been good suits, and others in thick highly checked shirts—the kind worn by lumbermen. All of them, the boys, the rough-necks and those on their beam ends were glad to get plenty of food. One man who had served in Royal Signals for five years in England and India had not the price of a sandwich on him and had not eaten for several days when he arrived.

Meanwhile, in the Orderly Room work had speeded up—lists and details were continually arriving from the various District Headquarters in Canada. These Non-Permanent Militiamen (equivalent to the British T.A.) come not just a few miles or hundreds, but in some cases over a thousand miles. Consequently a great deal of careful staff work was required to arrange that they should all arrive about the same time to the nearest station, Angus, five miles away, and be met by the Unit transport. There was bustle about the place and all the usual problems, fatigues, much typing, some mistakes and a few frayed tempers. However, on the 30th May lines of tents sprang up, and a Mess was miraculously provided complete with kitchen, dining portion and ante-room fully lit and even provided with a radio. The weather turned warm and confidence was restored.

One 1st June, at 1.30 p.m., between fifty and sixty temporary Lieutenants, Second-Lieutenants and Royal Military College Cadets were deposited into a rare place in Canada—a military camp. One young fellow had arrived two days previously from Halifax having driven a car (made up by himself two weeks before out of old parts and a 1927 Ford engine) the 1,600 odd miles in five days. They were of all types, some the sons of wealthy people, but the majority depending on the pay they earned to see them through another year of college life. But as was soon evident, on the whole they were a fine bunch, keen, eager to learn and good sportsmen. The odd one here and there tried to scrape along, but even these soon knuckled down with the others to work. There were ten smart R.M.C. (Kingston) Cadets. They wore a very picturesque uniform, a blue patrol jacket, black belt, blue baggy trousers with black boots and short gaiters (naval pattern) and a small red and gold pillbox hat; the whole outfit as originally authorised by Queen Victoria.

After a meal military life began for the courses wing as they were named. They all had to register their names and particulars, have a medical inspection and draw bedding; two to a tent and no sheets was a shock to the comfort-loving but a few nights of mosquitoes and fresh air hardened them all. The next day was spent by the Wing in drawing clothing (drill jacket and breeches, puttees, G.S. boots and a special straw hat), getting acquainted and settled down. A great help was that a few had been to summer schools before and put the first year men up to all the wrinkles.

The following day was a Thursday. After a morning spent by the Wing at drill and introductory lectures the whole Depot turned out for the C.O.'s weekly parade. This gave the new arrivals a chance to see regular troops on parade at close quarters. The next day, at 8.15 a.m., they were all out on the square under the R.S.M., and they are much the same everywhere, so the half-hour was the cause of some back and leg aches.

Soon normal daily working routine was the rule. Sports were organised and each evening games of soft ball, i.e., baseball with a soft ball, golf and tennis were played.

Then some more new arrivals came, in the shape of cars mostly due for pension but now having five or six masters and with a stiff three months ahead of them. The cars cost possibly 30 or 40 dollars, i.e., about £7 to £10 each. The evening transport column to Barrie, 16 miles away and the nearest approach to high life, thundered off with a roar (bursting engines and no exhaust pipes), each car groaning under just its normal complement, ten men determined to get full value for 75 cents between them. One incident stands out. A severe accident was reported from Wassega Beach, a lake-side resort and place for feminine company. We were anxious, had visions of funerals and relatives, but all was well. We collected seven shaken but undamaged youths whose car had turned over and dropped with its load seventy feet down an embankment.

In a short time we had some reasonable soldier-officers. When it is remembered that not long before these men had turned up on a Commanding Officer's parade, some in shorts and puttees, some in long trousers drooping at the heel, some in coloured ties and all patterns of khaki shirts, some without Sam Brownes, some with badges and all manners and ways of wearing uniform, it was quite creditable. Canada has fine young men to draw upon.

The photograph was taken at the end of summer schools. The names cannot all be traced but it includes Colonel Ford, Director of Signals in Canada, 1930, Colonel Earnshaw, who was O.C. the Depot, and, sitting on the ground, Officers now serving in Royal Canadian Signals including the present Director of Signals, Canada.

PLAIN TALES

With Greetings from Barleux

Facetious

IS that the word I want? If it isn't, it is the word used by a man who told me that he didn't buy THE WIRE any more. He left the Corps in 1946, he said, and now finds that he cannot work up any enthusiasm for the magazine. According to this guy nearly all the Unit notes are facetious and the impression is that there are too many comedians. I thought this was a little hard and attempted to disagree. "What do you write about?" he asked.

I twisted my cap a little and turned a shade redder than usual. I had to think quickly. "You mean me? Well, you know the front page, I write that bit where it says 'Volume 7 (New Series) No. 3.' Somebody else writes the month and year, but they are thinking of letting me . . ."

"I don't believe you."

"Now look here," I said, justly incensed (if that means what I think it does). "Are you suggesting that I am a liar?"

"I am not suggesting anything. I simply say that you are."

When things had quietened down we resumed the discussion. He had the fantastic idea that there were still many hundreds of men serving and demobbed who would be very interested in true stories of Signals on active service, especially during the period 1939 to 1945. After all, he points out, histories of this Regiment and that Division are still coming off the Press. His idea seems to be that we should invite the personal adventures of readers complete with the names and places. The little histories that do not appear in the big histories. I have heard worse ideas. What do you think?

Yesterday in the Garden

What a grand month April is. Green buds coming along, blossom on the way, lawns sprouting daisies and dandelions, daffodils being snapped off short by the dog and primroses peeping shyly through the weeds. Yesterday was the time to bed out your night scented amnesias. Use a good soil with a light sprinkling of something or other. Sulphate of Plutonium might be a good thing worked carefully into the surrounding soil especially if you know what it is. I don't. A word of warning here. Do not overdo things. If you have anything better to do you may safely skip the above until

September, by which time it will be too late. That goes for most of the things you have in mind.

Turn over your compost heap, check and tot up the counterfoils of the postal orders you have used on football pools, sit quietly until you feel better, then try reasoning patiently with the cat, who has his own ideas on gardening. Do you experience a shuddering sensation when you see a spade? Do you have a fainting fit at the sight of a fork? Or wobble at the mention of a wheelbarrow? Then try Slosho, the wonder preparation. Kills weeds, rots hedges, shoes and front steps. Removes stains from carpets and carpets from floors. Stops falling hair, acne, leaking radiators and breathing. Slosho comes in three sizes—small, tiny and where's me perishing glasses. Remember the name—Scrobbo.

Uncle Alf: "You said Slosho."

Me: "All right then, Slosho. Who cares?"

Day Must Break

Ukann Larfe poured two large rums and handed one to Inspector Faceache. Lord Elpas quietly cut the leg off an armchair and tried to ignore the other two.

"Now then, Larfe," said the Inspector, pushing his empty glass towards the celebrated investigator, "tell us how you managed to solve this very interesting crime." Ukann Larfe poured himself another rum and pretended not to notice the Inspector's glass. "I don't want to boast," he said, "but as soon as I realised that Lord Elpas here was collecting tramlines, my mind went back to the day . . ." He stopped speaking and listened at the door for a moment. "Come here both of you," he said. He took them to a corner of the office and sat on the floor. "Now this is how it went." His two companions listened enraptured as the great detective's voice droned on. "And how do you like that?" he ended after two hours. He poured himself a large rum and rose to his feet with a cynical grin and a mocking smile. The Inspector, not to be outdone, poured himself two large rums and rose to his feet with a sardonic laugh. Lord Elpas could only manage an inscrutable look so he remained seated on the floor. He had, however, a snub-nosed automatic which he was pointing in the general direction of all stomachs in the vicinity.

Downstairs a door slammed and a brigadier cursed in Eccleston Square.

New readers start here and see where it gets them.

Advertisement

Have you fixed your holiday for 1953?

What a pity. You might still be able to get a reservation at Mercury House, Colwyn Bay, in June or early July, or even September. (Thinks) Little do they know that there are still a couple left for August, but what a hope if they do not write today.

Adults 5 guineas a week. Children, 1 to 3 years, £2, and 4 to 12 years, £3. Where can you do better than that and be happy as well? A particularly generous issue of sunshine for Colwyn Bay has been secured from the Meteorological Office for June. Do not miss this. Write today for free sample and state whether preferred with or without low cloud.

YORK BRANCH

Royal Signals Association

are organising a

RALLY & REUNION

on

SATURDAY, 25th JULY, 1953

There will be a "Miniature Tattoo" in the afternoon, including the Royal Signals Band and the Motor Cycle Display Team, and in the evening a Dance or Concert

BOOK THIS DATE

Further details in THE WIRE and NEWS LETTER, or from Mr. J. Newton, Honorary Secretary, Royal Signals Association, 59 Water Lane, Clifton, York.

WORLD VETERANS FEDERATION

Veterans Association members of the World Veterans Federation in Yugoslavia have sent the magnificent sum of 200,000 Dinars, about £200, for the relief of ex-Servicemen who suffered in the East Coast flood disaster last February. After consultation with British Associations who are members of the W.V.F. this has been given to the Lord Mayor's Fund (on the principle that doubled by the Government, at least 50 per cent. of the total sum thus gained must, by the law of averages, go to ex-Servicemen).

FARELF

HONG KONG SIGNAL REGIMENT

In memory of the late Corporal Herbert Edward Prince and Signalman Edward Walter Flatt, who died while serving with the Regiment, a cheque is forwarded to the Benevolent Fund.

£150,000 NAAFI CLUB FOR FAR EAST

A £150,000 air-conditioned club on Singapore's exclusive Beach Road has been built by NAAFI for the use of the non-commissioned members of the three Services stationed in Singapore.

The new club, named the Britannia Club, is opposite the famous Raffles Hotel. It is an impressive three-storey building sited so as to overlook the Garrison Swimming Pool, built from Nuffield Trust funds earlier last year. There is direct access from the ground floor terrace to the swimming pool, with an alfresco service counter providing light refreshments to swimmers and spectators using the pool. Beyond the grass surround of the swimming pool stretches the open sea.

Although eight permanent NAAFI Clubs have been built in the United Kingdom since World War II and two more are in course of construction at Chippenham and Glasgow, the Britannia Club is only the second permanent NAAFI Club to be built outside Great Britain. The other is at Khartoum.

19 AIR FORMATION SIGNAL REGIMENT

The monotony of digging up roads for U.G. cable can have its compensations, and this was the case when, a few days ago, we struck a metallic object at the back of our office block. Hopes were raised and rumours abounded. Had Air Formation Signals struck gold? Digging progressed rapidly, and our excavations finally revealed the barrel of a six-inch gun, which had apparently been buried by the British prior to the Japanese occupation. Having unearthed it, the next problem was how to raise it. The L.A.D., complete with recovery waggon, produced a most elaborate system of winches, and after much heaving and hauling, the barrel, in remarkably good condition, was disinterred.

The problem then was what to do with it. There were several bright suggestions, but at length we decided to pass it as salvage to the R.A.O.C. However, at the time of writing, the barrel still sits outside our offices, so if anyone wants to buy a 6-inch gun barrel . . .!

In this Regiment we specialise in making sensational discoveries. In the course of their expeditions into the Singapore Ulu, the members of 5 Wing Troop found a 17-feet long python. This is no mere "angler's story," since the dead creature was measured with the Orderly Room ruler! It had been brought back to camp, supposedly dead, by Lieutenant Ashcroft in a Landrover, but having been unloaded, it proceeded to wend its way into the Pay Office, much to the consternation of the Pay Officer, who was doing pay queries at the time. The monster was at length killed by Sergeant Moffatt—an expert in these matters, we hear—and we gather that the members of 5 Wing Troop will not now be short of watch straps and handbags for their lady friends.

We have now completed a very successful hockey season. Most of our matches were played in the R.A.F. Station League, and we are proud to say that we finished the season first in the league, having won every match. Our goal figures were 98 for and 9 against. The cricket and soccer season is about to commence, and we look forward to some good matches.

We recently had a visit from the Officer Commanding of our Ceylon Squadron, Major Holliday. We were very glad to see him, especially since these occasional visits between Ceylon and Singapore are the only personal contacts between our Squadron in Ceylon and ourselves in Singapore. By the time this is printed we hope that our Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel J. D. Haigh, O.B.E., will have been able to visit Ceylon once more.

Major-General A. G. O'Carroll-Scott, C.B., C.B.E., G.O.C. Singapore Base District, presenting the Singapore Base District Motor-Cycle Team Championship Shield to Corporal Brown, team captain

Corporal R. C. Smith, Singapore District Signal Regiment, Miss K. Hodges, Beverley, East Yorks. (ex-A.T.S. Signals). St. Andrew's Cathedral, 20th December, 1952

SINGAPORE DISTRICT SIGNAL REGIMENT

At long last we have managed to obtain a photograph of our triumph in the motor cycling world showing Corporal Brown receiving the coveted Singapore Base District Team Championship Shield. We congratulate him and his team of Corporal Cox and Lance-Corporal Pilus, and wish the two former well on their recent return to U.K.

Safely installed in our new barracks, we recently and literally had the roofs taken from our heads when a whirlwind removed part of the roof from our M.O.R. block, the *dhobi* tent, and several tents in Signal Training Squadron lines.

The Court of Inquiry sat for a week and found that it was an "act of God."

With the recent rains has come an increased pressure on our line parties. Corporals Gibbs and Maynard still revel in their nocturnal habits of fault clearing, a task made easier by the technical skill of our recently arrived Foremen of Signals, Adcock and Knight.

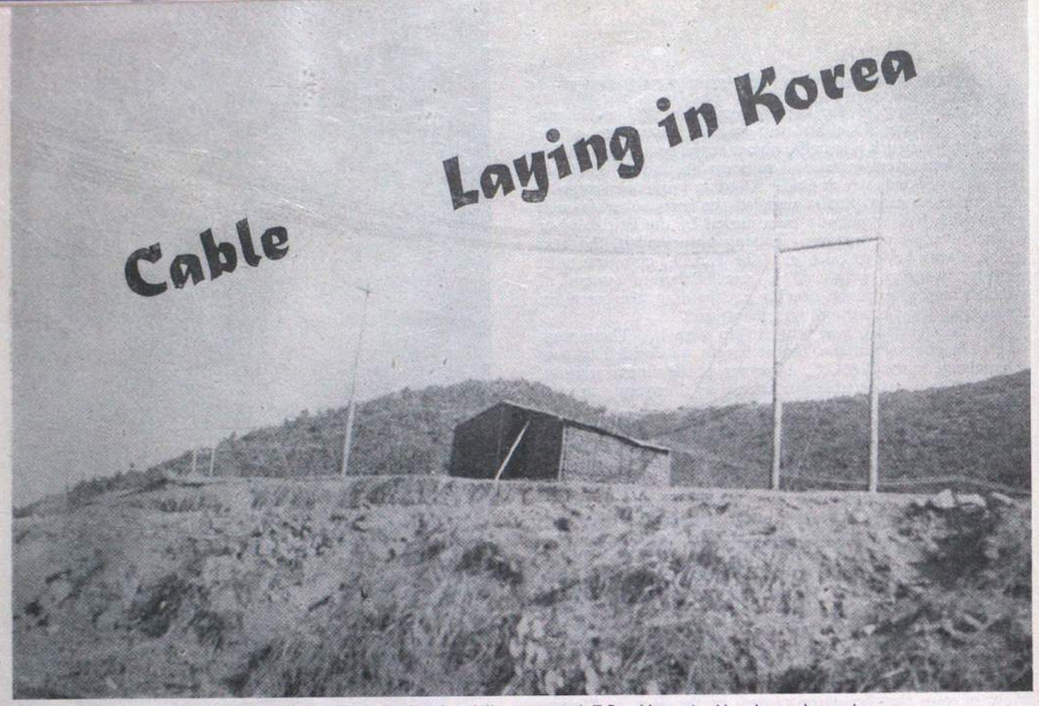
★

Our wireless sets were given a good airing also on Exercise "Ram," an I.S. scheme, and proved that we can still maintain communications despite bitter odds. Sergeant Newton, recently back from his "U.K. rest," did sterling work on the control set.

We have sorrowfully had to say farewell to Captain W. R. Church, who has moved to G.H.Q. FARELF, and welcome in his place Captain L. G. W. D. Nutting, who has changed his formation signs from G.H.Q. Signal Regiment.

We face the coming soccer and cricket seasons hopefully and wonder how much we shall miss the support of last year, given us by Sergeant Kefford, Corporal Cox and Lance-Corporals Bailey, Smith and Gretton, and others who have returned to U.K.

Cable Laying in Korea



Test Point. This is an example of a fully protected T.P. Note the H pole road crossing

THE WIRE *is extremely grateful to those responsible for providing these most excellent photographs:—No. 2 Public Relations Service, Public Relations H.Q., B.C.O.F., New Zealand Kayforce, Public Relations Section.*

Introduction

ONCE the Division had settled down on the truce line in 1951, everybody of course wanted telephones to everybody else, and everyone who could beg, borrow or scrounge some cable laid it in his own haphazard fashion. In no time at all the divisional area began to look like a field of gossamer on a summer morning. When lines became faulty new ones were laid as tracing the faulty line was too difficult. This, of course, could not go on and in the spring of 1952 a comprehensive divisional trunk route was started.

Organisation of "C" Troop

Charlie Troop consists of five Detachments; four of them are composed of New Zealand personnel and the fifth is British. The Kiwis, being individualists to a man, make first-class, if at times somewhat unconventional, linemen. The control of Charlie Troop has been varied and at times contested. At first it was in 1 Squadron, its proper place, but owing to the magnitude of its task it was formed into a separate squadron under the Second-in-Command. It then passed to 3 Squadron, whose Commander was supposed to have more time than anyone else, where it remained until very recently, when it reverted to 1 Squadron.

Present Line System

The present line system within the Division is based on the five pair snake-built on half telegraph poles with test points every 1 or 1½ miles. The routing of the main circuits is a rough circle with the Brigades on the northern and western perimeters, and Main and Rear Divisional H.Q. on the south-eastern and southern perimeter. This route is laddered in two places to provide alternative routing. Spurs run forward off the main route to serve Battalions in the line and rearward for the administrative units. The main route is about 21 miles long and averages 35 pairs throughout. The forward spurs contain 10 to 20 pairs and are from two to three miles long. The standard snake which we have adopted consists of four different coloured twisted D3 cables and one twisted WD190 (the American's equivalent of D10). The WD190 is dispenser wound and by simply pulling the four D3 cables through the centre of the dispenser the WD190 wraps itself around them in a wide spiral, thus binding them together in a very satisfactory "snake." All routes are constructed of a series of these standard snakes spaced 6 inches apart on the telegraph poles. One such route now carries 50 pairs.

This system has many advantages. It is easy to maintain for even the shortest of linemen can reach the top snake without a ladder. Identifying pairs on a large route is greatly simplified by the use of different colours. For instance, pairs 1 to 4 are the coloured D3 cables in the top snake and pair 5 is always the wrapping dispenser. Thus pair 15 is always the wrapping dispenser in the third snake from the top of the pole.

Where minefields permit, our routes are built about 50 to 100 yards off the road, and indeed often march straight across precipitous country in order to save line mileage. Although construction is comparatively slow by mobile warfare standards (one detachment of 10 men can lay and build about two miles of 10 pair route per day in good weather), we have found that the method pays dividends in the small number of faults which occur.

Snakes are attached to the poles by a long weave tie, and at every eighth pole they are brought down the pole and coiled to serve as a lineman's test point and to provide slack. In the winter construction is very slow due both to the hardness of the ground and to the fact that one can only work with bare hands for a few minutes at a time. Jumpering a hole and erecting a pole with two stays can take up to half an hour. A small hole is made, petrol poured in and ignited, and then when the ground has thawed a little you hammer a little bit more, and so on.

Provisions of Circuits

We have now reached the stage where all telephone circuits behind Battalion H.Q. are provided from divisional trunk routes, and nobody, on pain of death, is allowed to lay cables without Signals' authority, and this is rarely given. We provide nearly all gunner circuits including in some cases O.P. lines, circuits to Infantry Battalion "A" and "B" Echelons, and to the Services, and to dozens of small Units that collect in a divisional area. In one case we have carried our snakes up to the forward Companies of a Battalion in the line. When anyone requires an additional circuit it is allotted, after Staff approval, by the Lines Operation Officer, who issues the necessary jumpering instructions to Charlie Troop with a copy to the subscriber. Charlie Troop put the line through to the test point nearest the subscriber, who lays a tail to it and connects up to his allotted pair. At the moment we are providing 262 different circuits and have about 1,500 miles of twisted cable in current use.

Test Points

There are 59 test points in use at present, sited at convenient places on the routes. At each of these the snakes are spread on two telegraph poles (each route having a separate pair of poles), and are led on to terminal strips. Sufficient slack is left between the spreader poles and the terminal strips so that jumpering can be carried out. Important test points and those most frequently used are protected from the weather and the enemy by a sandbag "hootchie."

Faulting

Our faulting system is based on a central fault control consisting of a 10 line switchboard situated with the main 120 line frame in the back of a stripped T.E.V., the divisional exchange occupying the front compartment. Any faulty line is put on the 10 line switchboard by the duty lineman, where it remains until the fault is cleared. Also on the fault control board is an omnibus engineering circuit known as the "Red Line," which circumnavigates the entire trunk system. Linemen can thus be directed from test point to test point by the fault controller. Units, other than those on divisional and brigade boards, are responsible for faulting their own lines on trunk routes, but are only allowed to test through at recognised test points. If a fault is located between test points the matter is reported to Signals, who repair it. On the rare occasions when we have had major breakdowns the test points became meeting places for berets, slouch hats, Balmorals, and caps combat. The great majority of all faults, 70 to 80 per cent., occur on "tails" after circuits have left our trunk routes. Even so, it is a bad day when there are more than three faults on the whole system. Major breakdowns, which usually occur in the middle of the night, are often caused at road crossings by Sapper cranes and American dump trucks, who delight in travelling at 20 m.p.h. with their body tipped!

No road crossing can be pronounced safe unless it is 30 feet high. Other unusual faults have been caused by Korean houses burning under the route, and by Senior Officers shooting pheasants in the vicinity!

River Crossings

Our American friends, with their mechanical equipment, weasels, power augers and winches, have helped us in building our river crossings over the River Imjin. These consist of up to 45 pairs snaked and suspended from a ⅜ inch stranded steel wire. The poles are 50-footers and the average span is 300 yards.

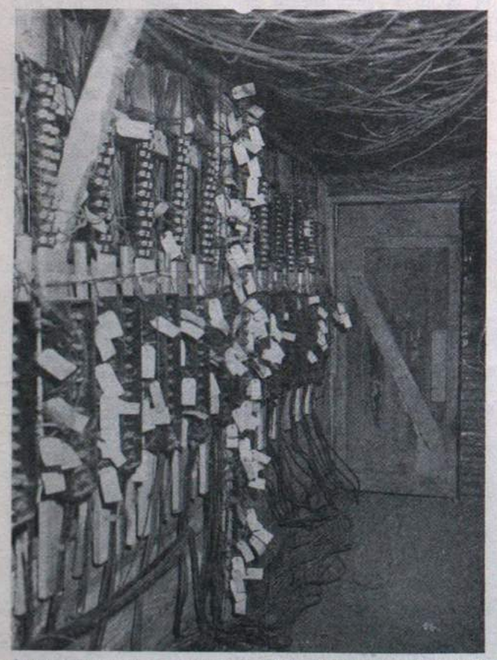
We enlisted the help of the Sappers in our most recent crossing, when they fired a rocket projected holdfast over the river to get the "messenger wire" over. This was a most

Method of feeding four twisted D3 cables through a dispenser coil to produce a five pair snake

An exchange and fault control vehicle on left, and dug-out test point on right. (Untidy cables in foreground are power lines!)

☆

Cable Laying in Korea



Interior view of a major test point, showing terminal strips and Signal Office terminal boxes

Twenty-five pairs, three spiral fours (American quad) and a ¼in. steel messenger wire are being fed through two dispenser coils during construction of a river crossing

useful exercise as we had been unable to get a vehicle on to the far bank of the crossing.

Whilst on the subject of Americans there are a number of terms one has to get used to here. We do not patrol our lines, we "police our wire." When you have a fault you send out a "trouble shooting team"; and five cables made up into a snake are five wires made up into a cable. However, the Americans have been so impressed with our system that the C.S.O. at Corps has ordered its adoption by all other Divisions in the Corps.

Whenever we do a major shuffle within the Division, for instance, brigade reliefs in the line, most of the work is now paper work. The Squadron Commander and Line Operations Officer sit down with an ice pack and produce a jumper schedule, often involving 60 to 100 circuit alterations in 24 hours. Once this has been done, however, its execution is quite simply achieved by having linemen at the test points concerned switching the lines at the chosen moment. Major moves can thus be made without laying a yard of cable.

This article is not intended to teach any new lessons, in fact, it merely revives old ones. It might, however, be of some interest to a Divisional Signal Regiment having to lay lines in a defensive position.

Close-up of a lineman's test point. The snakes are brought down the pole and neatly coiled

Interior view of fault control. 120 pair frame is out of the picture on the extreme left. Special five pair cables fitted with plug-in joints connect the frame with local test point

Footnote

The employment of tanks in a static role is beyond the scope of any article which will be written in THE WIRE. However, it is interesting to note that the wireless layout in the control tanks belonging to a famous Battalion of the Royal Tank Regiment in Korea becomes more elaborate every day. One particular tank has a WS 19 HP, WS 19 LP, WS 31 and WS 88, and anyone can re-broadcast over any of the others. The number of control boxes and pieces of wire have to be seen to be believed. Unfortunately the system has developed a fault which no one can at present trace. Speaking into the microphone of the 31 when switched to re-broadcast on the 19 HP starts up the tank engine; will Royal Signals representatives at Bovington please diagnose?

Do you know about the

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION?

If you don't, find out and then tell somebody else.

Clue on page 81

Leading Telegraphist F. Oakes, who is attached to the Squadron, receives his pay the Navy way from Captain H. Scott. S.S.M. Hornby looks on

Britcom Communication Zone Signal Squadron

At the time of writing there are signs that the Korean winter is drawing to a close. Each day the sun seems to become a little stronger. Apart from anything else we shall be glad to get rid of our tent stoves and the soot that goes with them.

For those who do not know us, our Squadron is split between Seoul and Pusan, with a small detachment at the Britcom Forward Maintenance Area Railhead. Our task is to provide a communication link between 1 Commonwealth Division and the Britcom Base in Japan as well as serving the Units in the Base and Maintenance Areas in Korea. Nothing of any great note has happened to us during the winter, although there has been some excitement in putting out fires. A line party earned high praise for their work when the Comwel Division Laundry was burnt down, and so did others when a Korean Army Hospital was gutted. Perhaps the biggest fire of all was the one which swept across a large area of Pusan rendering thousands of Koreans homeless in the bitter cold.

A little while ago the Seoul part of the Squadron had a move to a new location in the city. We are now in the process of settling down after a busy time coping with circuit rearrangements with the assistance of U.S. Army Signals and the Korean P. and T. Department.

With the rise in temperature during the last few days the linemen and despatch riders are particularly pleased because having to thaw frozen ground to build pole routes and undertake long S.D.S. runs over bad roads with tedious waits for Courier Aircraft were not altogether ideal conditions.

The Commander of a Signal Troop of this Squadron writes of his first impressions.

The Troop consists of Signalmen from Great Britain, Australia and New Zealand, with Korean linemen, electricians and storemen. Despite great difference in pay and conditions of service, such an unorthodox organisation works exceedingly well. But the whole of the Korean War is unorthodox: automatic telephones, a crack train service from Pusan to Seoul, with sleeping cars, dining cars, all beautifully heated, light aircraft readily available for business trips, food practically up to Christmas dinner standard daily.

The biggest surprise is the amount of line in the Commonwealth Division. Each Infantry Company has a 10 line switchboard, whilst Platoons have an American 6 line board. In consequence wireless has slipped into the background. (Shades of 1939/40.—Editor.)

On the debit side I would name the weather as being the worst thing to cope with. The British clothing is absolutely first-class, but even so, a temperature of -11 degrees F. as we had last night was a bit trying for those who had to be out in it. I have slept perfectly comfortably in a tent at this temperature, but you have got to be careful. Journeys by road can be most disagreeable unless you have the luxury of a heated jeep. The landscape is not inviting; except for a few valleys running from south to north, it is made up of eroded hills with jagged rocks, a difficult place for armour and heartbreaking for infantry. Anyway, it is a great experience, especially for me. I work closely with Americans, who provide all the trunk circuits and equipment. I recently visited 8th Army H.Q. Comcentre, where I found facilities provided for one Army far exceed S.H.A.E.F. In fact, the monthly traffic is double the S.H.A.E.F. peak. Somebody is going to get a shock if communications are ever brought down to the proper scale.

And in a later letter:—

Life continues more or less on the same lines from day to day here. However, the weather has worsened with the arrival of bitter winds which, according to the pundits, are a herald of spring. Today I have had experience of building a route across frozen ground. Without gunpowder we resorted to the use of petrol. It took ten gallons to enable us to dig one four foot hole in sandy soil. It is a fortunate thing there is no petrol shortage here. I'm glad to say the Americans do most of our construction work. The above is an example of fire being useful. Generally it is the opposite. Since I have been here many serious fires have been caused by tent stoves and space heaters.

Guard of Honour, comprising Britcom F.M.A. representatives, being inspected by C. in C. British Commonwealth Forces, Korea, at end of his farewell visit. Sergeant Brogdale, Royal Signals, on right as Sergeant of the Guard

THE WIRE *is indebted to the B.B.C. for permission to publish this photograph.*

THE idea that the B.B.C. are a first-class advertising medium has always been recognised, but their policy in maintaining their integrity as a Corporation precludes the use of this medium for the Territorial Army, however worthy. Nevertheless, in the interests of recruiting and popularising one's T.A. Centre, every avenue should be explored and utilised as opportunity presents itself. Television is a relatively recent addition to family life and its prospects considerable when applied to popularity. When, therefore, the telephone rang and C.R.A.O.C. of the Division enquired if a television show at the Headquarters, 44th Divisional Signal Regiment, was of any interest the answer was a spontaneous and unguarded affirmative.

The show was to be "What's My Line" on Sunday, 15th February, at 8 p.m., and it was, of course, envisaged that candidates for interview would be drawn from the Regiment and that some 200 seats would be available to watch the show. Subsequent conversations with Leslie Jackson, the producer, however, dispelled these ideas, including the use of the Regimental Honours Board as a background.

Apart from the appearance of the G.P.O. to instal a couple of extra telephone pairs, little interest happened at the T.A. Centre until about a week before the due date, when many of the anomalies were cleared up by a B.B.C. inspecting party. We soon found that such advertisement as might be obtained would largely depend on what Eamon Andrews were to say during the performance and the undoubted attraction of being able to put on such a show at the T.A. Centre for the benefit of the members of the Regiment. The Regiment was finally allotted two vacancies for interview if suitable trades could be found. Luckily one of the brighter and keen members of the Regiment, Corporal Whyman, is by trade a dustman, and this fitted the bill admirably on both sides and he was selected and eventually appeared.

Apart from Regimental preparations for the comfort and hospitality for all concerned little activity occurred until the day concerned. The B.B.C. technicians then arrived in force and started in earnest. By 5 p.m. a generator, mobile control van, three cameras, microphone and control, stage, back curtains and stage furnishings were all in position, tested and ready for service. Dressing rooms, make-up rooms, retiring rooms, etc., now became populated and anxious people were trying to get the artistes to make themselves up and ready for the show.

Gilbert Harding arrived by 6.30 p.m. and wanted hot lemon and water for his laryngitis. There then arrived in quick succession Barbara Kelly, Ghislaine Alexander, Jerry Desmond, and Eamon Andrews. They were all immediately under the orders of the make-up department. Jackson and Pat Mathews, the co-ordinator and technical director. At 7 p.m. the panel were in position and light and focus tests complete. Nerves now began to show in the artistes, and the Officers' Mess, by now full to capacity with members, guests and friends, did their best to dispel this period of waiting in the usual manner.

Downstairs, almost under lock and key, were the members for interview, also probably more nervous at their first appearance before the camera.

*

At 7.55 p.m. the stage was set and the audience in hopeful anticipation. Jackson gave a pep talk and told the audience to laugh or cry as inclination took them, but to make sure it was co-ordinated. Then Pat Mathews took over earphones on his head by informing the audience that the first of the chimes was now coming through; Gilbert Harding wanted to know how many there were, but as Pat shouted 6, 7, and waved his arm, Eamon Andrews was announcing the programme as coming to his audience from 44 Division, Royal Corps of Signals Drill Hall, and the show was on.

Pat was now everywhere crawling about the floor in front of the cameras, and continued so throughout the performance. The artistes appeared and their trades were made known to the audience by his holding up a large card bearing the name. The fan dancer was followed by the fan maker and the Security Officer and various successes were made by artistes and Gilbert Harding.

Then came the surprise artiste—none other than Frankie Howerd—but you've seen the programme or should have.

Special mention should be made of Corporal Whyman, who put up a very creditable performance indeed and was a fitting sole representative of the Regiment. Hard lines he didn't win his certificate, but he gave the panel a run for their money.

Thereafter the Regiment was "at home" to the B.B.C. and everywhere there were autograph hunters. There is no doubt the Panel, B.B.C. staff and Regiment thoroughly enjoyed their evening, and from the C.O.'s point of view the T.A. Centre was certainly popular that night and free entertainment of a high order enjoyed by those who help to keep the Regiment running.

16 AIRBORNE DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT (MIDDLESEX YEOMANRY), T.A.

Our seasonal training programme is going well, in spite of the somewhat adverse winter weather. Courses are in progress for all trades, and also P.T. classes under Sergeant Gideon, designed primarily for those about to go on their two weeks' initial parachute course.

Already we have 13 vacancies up to the end of March, and even now some of our members are hurling themselves out of planes for the first time. We still have some 50 men waiting for a chance to earn their "wings."

On bidding goodbye to Major W. C. Ramsay, we heartily welcome Major G. S. Fenton, M.B.E., late of the Commonwealth Divisional Signals Regiment, as our new Second-in-Command. Major Fenton had the honour of receiving his M.B.E. from the Queen at Buckingham Palace last month.

The Coronation is the important event of the year, and the Regiment, as the senior Signal Regiment in this area, with a history dating back to 1797, has been given full representation at this great ceremony. Twenty-two men will man six 52 set jeep stations along the Coronation route, with the object both of starting the procession from the Abbey and providing any necessary communications during its movement. Also we have one representative marching in the procession and three men lining the route. All these men will wear the No. 1 dress with red beret.

Our D.R. team, under Lance-Corporal Milner, came in fourth in the East Anglian District trials, and we entered two teams in the recent Langmaid Trials but as yet have not heard the results.

We congratulate three members of the permanent staff on their recent promotions, namely S.S.M. A. G. W. Weatherley (M.M.), Sergeant Taylor and Lance-Corporal Watts. Among other promotions in the T.A. we congratulate Sergeants Harris and Gideon.

Our congratulations and very best wishes to Lieutenant P. H. C. Walker on his recent marriage.

The strength of the Regiment is now some 450, and with an average increase of 12 a month we shall soon be a large Unit.

THE BLUE BOOK

Seniority Roll of Warrant Officers and Non-Commissioned Officers of Royal Signals is now on sale

PRICE 2/-

from Royal Signals Association.

Amendments printed in the same type as the book to facilitate alterations, are on pages 116, 117 & 119.

REUNION

Catterick 1953

The Annual General Meeting and Comrades' Reunion, Royal Signals Association, will be on SATURDAY, 16th, & SUNDAY, 17th MAY, 1953

During the Church Parade Service on SUNDAY, the Colonel-in-Chief, H.R.H. The Princess Royal, hopes to attend the dedication of the War Memorial Chapel in St. Martin's Church

BOOK THESE DATES NOW

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

After many deferments, Captain E. J. Bardell, our Adjutant for the past three years, has left for Singapore to take up an appointment on the C.S.O.'s staff. May we again express here our thanks for the service he has rendered the Regiment and also our best wishes to Eric and his charming wife for their future happiness. Our new Adjutant is Captain P. J. C. Lloyd, who we are glad to welcome from Eastern Command Signal Regiment.

Although little may be said at present of our Coronation role, it can be revealed that we have been given the honour of providing eight wireless detachments as well as men to line the route. Our annual camp at Walton-on-Naze ends only a week before Coronation Week, so there is no need to go into details about our training tasks at camp.

Since the beginning of this year we have staged several interesting week-end exercises, the object of one being to recce several alternative routes to our camp location. An important part of week night training is group working with Signal Units up and down the country. These wireless nets work on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings, and there is room on them for more stations. We will be glad to supply particulars to any Units interested in joining these nets.

51 (H) INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

R.H.Q. R.S.M. J. Buchanan leaves us this month for Northern Army Group Signal Regiment. We wish him and Mrs. Buchanan good luck in their new surroundings. We welcome R.S.M. D. Craig, who joined us for an N.C.O.s' Week-end in Aberdeen whilst he was still on leave from M.E.L.F.

No. 1 Squadron. The individual training season is progressing favourably and the attendance is generally very encouraging. We hope that this will be maintained when the Unit changes over to Troop training.

One or two members of the Regiment have been giving lectures to Units in the north on Signal Equipment.

We welcome to our midst S.S.M. E. C. Jones, who has taken over as S.S.M. 1 Squadron from S.S.M. A. Roberts. S.S.M. E. C. Jones has come from Officer Training Wing at Catterick and we hope his stay at Aberdeen will be as successful as his predecessor's.

S.S.M. A. Roberts is going to the Middle East, after some leave, and we take this opportunity of wishing him the best of luck.

2 Squadron. 2 Squadron feel proud of themselves.

The Reunion Ball held in Goosecroft Drill Hall, Stirling, was a great success. It was pleasant to see old members of the Corps and to renew auld acquaintances. The ball was supervised by P.S.I., Sergeant A. L. Boynton, and was the grand finale to his service to the Squadron as he is shortly due for posting.

Our O.C., Captain G. Louden, welcomed the following guests: Provost H. Watters, of the Royal Burgh of Stirling, the Honorary Colonel, Colonel E. Birnie Reid, O.B.E., T.D., the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel T. P. E. Murray, O.B.E., T.D., also our old friend ex-R.S.M. "Bert Arnot," "the old soldier."

The result of this venture was a cheque for £21 for the Royal Signals Benevolent Fund.

We can now devote our attention to trade training and annual camp.

3 Squadron. Individual training is now well under way, with many new faces crowding our limited Drill Hall space on drill nights. Preparations for the coming spring and summer activities are keeping all ranks very busy.

The recent severe gale tried hard enough to blow us into the Tay, but the old T.A. Centre survived with the loss of a few chimney pots only. The following week saw a great deal of clearing up in the area.

The Squadron football team, which has been quite active throughout the winter, boasts a number of victories against local sides.

The canteen is being overhauled and it is hoped to see a record number of social functions within the Squadron during the summer months.

61 H.Q. ARMY SIGNAL REGIMENT (T.A.)

Over a period of nearly three weeks 161 Independent Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron gave continued assistance in the badly affected area of Great Yarmouth.

The types of assistance rendered included evacuation of personnel and animals, provision of wireless and line communications, the distribution of meals and clothing and sandbagging.

Mrs. Churchill talking to flood relief workers. Included in the photo are Major Dicker, S.Q.M.S. Clarke, Sergeant Peel and Corporal Mills (R.E.M.E.), of 161 Independent Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron

No. 2 Squadron spent a week-end helping to close the breach at Aldeburgh, and for several days assisted with the sorting and distribution of clothing and stores.

An Officers' refresher week-end was held at Bedford on 17th-18th January. Two out of the three line detachments reached bogey of 4 m.i.h., not, however, without a certain amount of grief and picturesque language.

On the Saturday evening 27 Officers sat down to dinner in the Officers' Mess. This is the highest number we have yet had at a week-end exercise.

A number of Squadron week-ends have been held and a telephone battle organised by 89 A.G.R.A.

The Administrative Inspection of the Regiment was carried out by Brigadier Leach on 28th January. Result not yet available.

During the last two months the C.S.O. Eastern Command has inspected R.H.Q. and 1 Squadron and C.A.G.R. Signals has visited the three East Coast Detachments.

56 SIGNALS SQUADRON W.R.A.C./T.A.

We seem to have been very quiet in the Squadron the last few months, and now suddenly we are full of changes. In January we said goodbye to Lieutenant P. Congreve, who has transferred to T.A.R.O., and Lieutenant M. Gregory, who has transferred to the permanent staff of 70 Independent Company W.R.A.C./T.A. As both had been with the Squadron for some years we will miss them a lot. Second-Lieutenant A. Simons is now Officer-in-Command 478 T.S.B.O. Troop, Salisbury, and she is busy learning Signal Procedure.

In March we lose Captain K. W. Samuels, our Officer Commanding, who goes on promotion to 72 Independent Company W.R.A.C./T.A., and in her place we welcome Captain M. D. Youngman, who is coming back to the W.R.A.C. from civilian life.

It is hoped that with the better weather coming we will be able to do some week-end training "in the field" with some of our Signal Units.

At the moment the emphasis is on Trade Tests; everyone is training for the Trade Test Boards in March.

Lance-Corporal Stride, of 478 T.S.B.O. Troop, is our representative in the Coronation Parade. She is already taking long walks to get in training for the great day.

Association Notes

Middlesbrough

After a few years in the doldrums we think our branch is again on the up and up, and think now that it's time we made ourselves known.

There are men returning to civvy street after doing their term of service, probably members of the Association, who perhaps do not know there is a branch in Middlesbrough. Let us now make it known that there is, and what we want now is a big rush of new members to our branch, old hands and new bloods, let 'em all come. If you are about to leave the old Corps come and have a look at our H.Q. anytime—The United Services Club, Grange Road. You'll find all types in the club rooms—ex-Grenadiers, matelots and merchant Navy, all of them. But with the Signals' button showing YOU are welcome. The President of this club, Major Telfer, is a member of our branch. Through him we have been offered financial aid if we should need it. We have a private room for meetings any time we require one. There's

a miniature rifle range, billiards, darts, etc. An indoor sports league. We are top at dominoes, with a shield as prize, if we can hold our own. We are only third at darts—another shield as prize for top—and there's also a shield for the best aggregate, for which we have a chance.

Through the council we can get legal aid, etc., when required. They have recently fought two pension cases for ex-Signals.

The T.A. Drill Hall is also open to us whenever we feel inclined. In fact, we propose holding a small whist drive there in the near future.

At our general meeting in January we had fourteen members present—three new members. At our monthly meeting in February we had another two new members. So I think we are justified in our optimism. Rally round the Boro'.

Northamptonshire

The big event of this Branch year has come and gone once again. On Monday evening, 9th March, 40 members and their ladies, along with invited guests, sat down to dinner and to listen to the speeches. Our guest of honour was Brigadier Firth, who gave us all the "griff" on the Association and of the serving members of the Corps. We were very pleased to see him and his wish to come again will be brought into reality ere long. "The Association" was entrusted to "Jack" Angell—always a great favourite with us and an honoured friend—and who better to propose such a toast. Ron Deacon and Jimmy Watson, along with their wives, swelled the top table, and also our immediate past secretary, Geoffrey Lewis. The President handed to Geoffrey an engraved cigarette lighter bearing the Corps crest and thanked him for his work for the Branch—even so we can never fully express our thanks for what he has done. Among the personal guests of the members was Corporal Ferris, of the U.S.A.A.F.—we hope the impression of the stodgy Englishman has no longer a place in his mind after this evening. As always, "Snowy" Burr, glistening with "honest sweat," kept the party going. This year he had a helping hand, but the "Shoe Shine Boy" was still rubbing up someone else's shoes. Yes, a very good evening once again, and now for the new Branch year which will have been in full swing for a month when these notes are published. Already we have four new members and two of these are ex-A.T.S. Signals, but I am ending here, you see, one of them is my wife!

Sheffield

The Annual General Meeting of the Sheffield Branch was held at Crabtree T.A. Centre on 6th February. For this most important meeting of the year the attendance was very poor; had it not been for the T.A. members of the Association it would have been a waste of time having a meeting.

The Secretary in his yearly report stressed that if the few stalwarts who have stuck to the Branch since its formation had not pulled their weight there would have been no branch left in Sheffield. All praise was due to the officials and committee, who have carried out their duties under very difficult conditions, and when the T.A. came to our rescue with an offer to hold meetings in the T.A. Centre again it saved the day. Our most sincere thanks go to Lieutenant-Colonel D. E. L. Gardiner, his Officers and his staff of 60 H.Q. Army Signals, T.A., for their support. The financial report was a jolt for everybody, our worthy treasurer had done a good job and just kept our heads above water. The balance, however, had been raised to its present level largely by donations from proceeds of the T.A. dances, for which we have R.S.M. King to thank.

In the elections for officials for the current year, all last year's officials were asked to stand again and accepted as follows: Lieutenant-Colonel V. C. Holland, president; H. Rotherham, chairman; E. Ryalls, hon. secretary; E. Taylor, treasurer. Owing to the uncertainty of the secretary's stay in Sheffield, it was unanimously agreed that Mr. G. Dickson be assistant secretary and should take over if we are unfortunate enough to lose Mr. Ryalls. R.S.M. King was unanimously elected as T.A. representative on the Entertainments Committee, and Miss M. Kirkwood to be members' representative.

Policy for the current year is that business is to be cut to a minimum and the social side expanded, so that monthly meetings can be social occasions. A Coronation Party has been suggested for June. The meeting closed after quite a good discussion with a vote of thanks to all officials and a fervent hope that this year will be better for attendances than the last.

Mhow Mhow in London

NO, this is not a mis-spelling of the subversive society within the Kikuyu Tribe in Kenya, but a unique branch of the Royal Signals Association.

It is unique in that its membership is confined to those who served S.T.C. (British) at Mhow in India. It is also unique in that its members come from all over the British Isles and no doubt many are eligible who live outside the United Kingdom.

This, the Mhow Branch, held its Annual Reunion Dinner at Veeraswamy's in Swallow Street, London, W.1, on 28th February.

There were about 40 present, including men from Scotland, Belfast and other far places.

It was interesting to recall something of the history of this remarkable establishment through which passed a great majority of those of Royal Signals who served in India and South-East Asia during the war.

It was formed, hurriedly, in September 1940, the advanced party of some eight Officers and 40 other ranks, forming a small regular nucleus, was led by Lieutenant-Colonel H. R. Firth, deputising for the first Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel J. A. I. Watts.

If memory serves this small party laboured unceasingly to take over and render habitable the good but long deserted Wellesley Baracks, having only about ten days before the arrival of the first draft of some 350 men "straight off the boat."

Having carried the necessary furniture to provide for these numbers in double-decker barracks (think of the labour involved), AND made the beds for every man of the draft, this small party retired to a lesser home adjacent. They emerged next morning, unrested, ill-tempered and badly bitten by fleas.

The draft duly arrived. There was at first no equipment, either for technical or other training, but all were happily occupied, acclimatised, perfected in their trade and shortly posted as much needed reinforcements, or to form new Signal Units.

The S.T.C. (British) expanded. A Signal Officer Training School was added, and at peak the establishment was handling about 2,500 officers and men at any one time.

About halfway through its life Lieutenant-Colonel F. R. B. Moore took over from Lieutenant-Colonel Watts.

The S.T.C. from being a training and reinforcing establishment gradually became a depot and repatriation centre. The work of the Signal Officer Training Unit continued, dealing largely with Cadets from what are now the Signal Corps of India and Pakistan.

Wellesley Barracks, Mhow, continues today as the Signal School of the Dominion of India.

The name Mhow, as has been said previously, continues in this country as a unique and valued branch of the Association.

Royal Signals Benevolent Fund

Also on this page is a simple statement of income and expenditure. Below an attempt is made to describe with suitable anonymity seven typical cases.

Ex-Sergeant, 1942-46. North-West Europe. Married, lives in Channel Islands. Fund paid part expenses of serious illness of one of his five children.

Ex-Signalman, 1939-46. Tuberculosis. One child, wife died recently, also in a sanatorium. The fund helped him towards some much needed clothes. He has been ill a long time.

Driver. Prisoner of war in Korea after service since 1939. As a prisoner he cannot contribute to the support of his family. The fund, which has been helping his wife since September 1951, continues to do so.

Ex-Corporal, 1939-45. Wife contracted T.B. and he had to put his three children out with relatives. The fund helped him to cover the heavy expense involved.

Ex-Corporal, 1939-50. Since contracted T.B. Wife ex-A.T.S. They were sharing a crowded flat with friends but suddenly given a council house. Both A.T.S. and Royal Signals Benevolent Fund helped with removal expenses.

Ex-Signalman, 1942-47. Since contracted T.B. Wife and two young children are helped alternatively by British Legion and Royal Signals to a small weekly allowance.

Ex-Signalman, 1940-43. Has since contracted T.B. The fund helped his wife to buy some much needed linoleum.

ROYAL SIGNALS BENEVOLENT FUND

Subscriptions received during February, 1953:—

	£	s.	d.
1 Commonwealth Divisional Signal Regiment (British Element)	40	0	0
4 Training Regiment	10	0	0
6 Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment	3	12	6
13 A.A. (M) Signal Regiment T.A.	12	0	0
Donations received during February, 1953:—			
21 Unit Branch (2 Wireless Regiment)	100	0	0
Lieut.-Colonel J. W. Hawke	5	0	
Total Receipts	£165	17	6
Expenditure:—	£602	14	2

(Includes: General Assistance; Beds and Bedding; Rent and Rates; Tools; Removals; Clothing; Fares; Convalescence.)

Analysis of Cases:—

Families of soldiers serving in U.K.	8
,, ,, ,, ,, ,, B.A.O.R.	1
,, ,, ,, ,, ,, FARELF	2
Widows and Dependants	5
Released and Discharged soldiers	50
Total cases assisted	66

WEST COUNTRY

REUNION

At the Depot Regiment, Newton Abbot.
Saturday, 4th, and Sunday, 5th July, 1953.

For details see page 83.

ROYAL SIGNALS' CENTRE SCORES 6 TRIES
Army Cup Final Win

By J. P. Jordan

1st Training Regiment, Royal Signals, 35 Pts. —1st Welsh Guards 0 Pts.

PLAYING delightfully open Rugby and asserting an immense superiority behind the scrum, the 1st Training Regiment, Royal Signals, overran the 1st Battalion Welsh Guards in the final of the Army Challenge Cup at Aldershot.

Their margin, four goals, a penalty goal and four tries, is the biggest I remember in a final. It was their fourth victory in five years, the Welsh Guards having wrested the trophy from them last season.

Never can a better team have won the cup. Instead of the usual kick-and-rush affair, with grim tackling, the Signals kept the play open. Splendidly fit, they maintained a fast pace throughout and in the last quarter of an hour they had their opponents completely beaten.

While the team work of the Signals, the excellent play of Robins, Black, Lewis and the other forwards, and the combination of their outsides were the foundations of their triumph, they owed much to the individual brilliance of their centres, Boston and Rees.

Boston, a 19-year-old coloured player who made his mark with the Cardiff Youth team and appeared once for Neath three years ago, is a centre of the greatest promise. With a good pair of hands, a capital kick, he has all the attributes—not yet fully developed—of a typical Welsh centre.

Allowing for the weakness of the defence, the fact that he scored six of his side's eight tries bears full testimony to his potentialities.

Rees's Fine Openings

Rees's abilities have already been recognised by the Army selectors. He made several clever openings and, like Boston, did not neglect his wing. Mention must also be made of Dakers's accurate service from the scrum.

The Guards relied entirely on their forwards, who came away together well but showed little skill. Their three-quarters were rarely allowed to handle the ball, Dando, at stand-off half, invariably closing up the game.

Keen tackling and spoiling by the Guards in the first half kept the score down to eight points, although the Signals had the wind behind them. But two minutes after the interval Dunn kicked a fine penalty goal from 40 yards and then the Signals began to wear down their opponents.

Tries, beautifully made, followed in rapid succession against a disheartened defence, Boston once running from his own "25" to score. Griffiths and Lyall gained the Signals' other tries, Dunn converting four. Teams:—

1st Training Regiment, Royal Signals: J. Dunn; J. Lyall, D. F. Rees, W. Boston, B. Griffiths; J. A. D. Lazenby, D. S. Dakers; D. R. H. Owens, N. Mackie, D. R. Holdsworth, I. W. Black, R. J. Robins, M. R. H. Lewis, J. A. Turner, A. K. McCrae.

1st Battalion Welsh Guards: J. M. H. Roberts; F. Simon, G. Tout, I. Jones, K. Hough; A. Dando, F. Jones; K. Thomas, W. Williams, D. Reynolds, R. Anderson, H. Hopkins, M. Warwick, R. Evans, J. Brown.

This article is published through the courtesy of "The Daily Telegraph and Morning Post," 12th March.

YORKSHIRE CHALLENGE CUP—7TH ROUND RESULT

Goole Old Boys	14 points.
Royal Signals	9 points.

BOXING

Northern Command Individual Boxing Championships

As the following results show, Royal Signals secured six wins and six runners-up out of eight weights, which augurs well for success in the Army Individual Boxing Championships—Preliminaries and Semi-finals, at Aldershot, 24th-25th March. Finals at the Royal Albert Hall on 27th March.

The individual successes in the Northern Command Individual Boxing Championships were:—

Bantamweight.
Signalman G. Heaynes, 2 Training Regiment — Winner.

Light-Middleweight.
Sergeant E. White, 5 Training Regiment ... — Winner.
Signalman H. Clowes, 2 Training Regiment — Runner-up.

Middleweight.
Signalman A. Marshall, 2 Training Regiment — Winner.
Signalman G. E. C. Corcoran, 2 Training Regiment ... ... — Runner-up.

Light-Welterweight.
Signalman G. Martin, 2 Training Regiment — Winner.
Corporal W. Edwards, 7 Training Regiment — Runner-up.

Welterweight.
Signalman B. C. Waters, 2 Training Regiment ... ... — Winner.

Lightweight.
Signalman K. D. Dry, 2 Training Regiment — Runner-up.

Light-Heavyweight.
Corporal D. Beattie, 5 Training Regiment ... — Runner-up.

Heavyweight.
Lance-Corporal T. Snell, 5 Training Regiment ... ... — Winner.
Lance-Corporal S. C. Happe, 3 Training Regiment ... ... — Runner-up.

Of these, the following have been selected to represent Northern Command in the Army Championships:—

Bantam ...	Signalman G. Heaynes	2 Training Regiment
Light-Welter	Signalman G. Martin	2 Training Regiment
Welter	Signalman B. C. Waters	2 Training Regiment
Light-Middle	Sergeant E. F. L. White	5 Training Regiment
Middle ...	Signalman A. Marshall	2 Training Regiment
Heavy	Lance-Corporal T. J. Snell	5 Training Regiment

Second strings who may be called upon to enter:—

Light-Middle	Signalman H. Clowes	2 Training Regiment
Light-Heavy	Corporal D. Beattie	5 Training Regiment

HOCKEY

Royal Signals v. R.A.E.C.: Lost 0—1

The game was played in the beautiful surroundings of Beaconsfield on 12th November, 1952. The Corps side had a number of young players and the pace was hard and fast for the first half, with both goalkeepers being well tested, but producing no goals.

The pace didn't slacken in the second half, and good shots by Gordon-Smith were saved. About five minutes from the end the R.A.E.C. managed to get the ball into the net after a scrimmage in the goal. This gave the R.A.E.C. victory in a hard and well fought game. Players were: Lieutenant Dawson, Signalman Nickerson, S.Q.M.S. Smythe, Captain Garnons Williams, Signalman Douglas, Corporal Brewer, Second-Lieutenant M. Williams, Corporal Matthews-Lane, Captain Gordon-Smith (captain), Sergeant Stevens, Captain Sidney (hon. secretary).

Royal Signals (Catterick) v. R.A.C. (Catterick): Won 4—2

This game was played at Catterick on 22nd November, 1952. The Corps side ran out easy winners by 4—2. The R.A.C. were the first to attack and scored in the first five minutes, but their lead was short-lived as goals by Matthews-Lane and Sidney gave the Signals a 2—1 lead at half-time.

In the second half, due to excellent support of a strong half-back line, it was all Signals, and the lead was increased by Gordon-Smith, who unfortunately had to leave the field later due to injury. The R.A.C. took advantage of this and scored. But a good run by Douglas ended with Stevens netting. Players were: Major Gomm, Signalman Nickerson, S.Q.M.S. Smythe, Captain Garnons Williams, Signalman Douglas, Lieutenant Hayes, Second-Lieutenant M. Williams, Corporal Matthews-Lane, Captain Gordon-Smith, Sergeant Stevens and Captain Sidney.

Southern Tour

At the beginning of December the Corps side went to Aldershot to play games v. R.M.A., R.A.O.C., R.A.S.C., and Military College of Science. The side were well looked after by 2 A.A. (M) Signal Regiment, to whom we send our thanks. Unfortunately, due to bad weather, the game with the Military College of Science had to be cancelled.

The first game of the tour was played against the R.M.A. Sandhurst on 3rd December, 1952. The Corps side was strengthened by the inclusion of Captain Griffiths (the Welsh International and Army captain). The first half was a ding-dong battle with the Corps having a slight territorial advantage, and came near to scoring on many occasions. On the other hand, Dawson was called to make some brilliant saves. In the second half the R.M.A. had the better of the early exchanges, and after a defensive error opened the scoring. However, the Corps fought back, and following a well-controlled run down the left wing Sidney cut in and scored the equaliser. Players were: Lieutenant Dawson, Signalman Nickerson, Captain Griffiths, Captain Garnons Williams, Lieutenant Hayes, Corporal Brewer, Second-Lieutenant M. Williams, Corporal Matthews-Lane, Captain Gordon-Smith, Sergeant Stevens, Captain Sidney.

Royal Signals v. R.A.O.C.

The game was played at Blackdown on 4th December, 1952. Unfortunately, the R.A.O.C. side was not strong and the Corps had little difficulty in winning 5—0. Scorers were Gordon-Smith, Sidney, Williams, Matthews-Lane (2). Players were: Lieutenant Dawson, Signalman Nickerson, Captain Griffiths, Captain Garnons Williams, Lieutenant Hayes, Major Line, Second-Lieutenant M. Williams, Corporal Matthews-Lane, Captain Gordon-Smith, Sergeant Stevens, Captain Sidney.

Royal Signals v. R.A.S.C.

The game was played on Buller Ground on 5th December, 1952. The weather was not good and the ground was frozen. In spite of this the game took place. The Corps pressed strongly and opened the scoring through Major Line, after Sidney and Matthews-Lane had near misses. The R.A.S.C. then settled down and levelled the score before half-time. In the second half the Corps had more of the game and kept their opponents in their own half. Once again Hayes and Sidney had near misses, while Gordon-Smith and Matthews-Lane had numerous shots saved. Near the end the R.A.S.C. broke away and scored. Players were: Lieutenant Dawson, Signalman Nickerson, S.Q.M.S. Smythe, Captain Garnons Williams, Lieutenant Hayes, Lieutenant Clayton, Second-Lieutenant M. Williams, Corporal Matthews-Lane, Major Line, Captain Gordon-Smith, Captain Sidney.

SPORT

We are indebted to the Chief Signal Officer, H.Q. Scottish Command, for a note of the achievements of two non-commissioned officers who serve on his staff.

Cross-Country Running

Lance-Corporal R. Mitchell.

Ran for H.Q. Scottish Command in the Scottish Command Cross-Country Championships held at Glasgow on 25th February, 1953. Position: 1st. Time: 37 mins. 10 secs.

The team was composed of clerks, etc., of H.Q. Scottish Command, trained by Lance-Corporal Mitchell, and was placed 2nd.

Lance-Corporal Mitchell, running as an individual entry, was placed 6th in the Army Cross-Country Championships held at Catterick on 11th March, and he has been picked to represent the Army in the Inter-Services Cross-Country Championships to be held at Henlow on 1st April, 1953.

Lance-Corporal Mitchell was placed 3rd in the 1952 Command Championships.

Cycling

Lance-Corporal D. Houghton.

Scottish Command Championship, May 1952. 10 miles. Position: 1st. Time: 24 mins. 15 secs.

Scottish Command Championship, June 1952. 25 miles. Position: 1st. Time: 1 hr. 5 mins. 27 secs.

This N.C.O. is holder of East of Scotland 12 hr. cycling record (August 1952). Distance covered: 243.68 miles.

Also took part as a member of the Scottish team in the "Daily Express" Tour of Britain cycle race held in 1952. Finished the course and was placed 27th.

POINTS ABOUT
LIFE ASSURANCE

War and Flying Risks CAN normally be covered at **ordinary civilian premiums.** Existing policies restricting cover or charging extra premiums can usually be converted to advantage.

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TRADING THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

Amendments to Blue Book No. 3 of 1953

DELETIONS—TRADES ROSTER

211	6236	11179	11774	12428	12950	13852
231	6257	11194	11782	12438	12965	13853
248	6344	11230	11789	12454	12967	13912
295	10007	11234	11807	12471	12971	13929
395	10069	11286	11820	12494	13011	13939
714	10088	11300	11832	12536	13016	13962A
764	10093	11315	11860	12590	13030	13966
857	10106	11412	11933	12614	13085	14010
1310	10112	11418	11941	12630	13115	14052
1364	10124	11457	11946	12632	13127	14054A
1414	10133	11472	11956	12656	13155	14063
1423	10150	11478	11957	12668	13156	14089
1589	10180	11479	12000	12669	13157	14090
1726	10198	11501	12039	12677	13162	14097A
1764	10217	11526	12055	12678	13194	14125
1769	10232	11536	12070	12679	13222	14139
1833	10249A	11537	12071	12680	13234	14146
1967	10255	11542	12093	12681	13255	14177
2023	10301	11547	12094	12689	13270	14187
2055	10302	11559	12095	12697	13275	14188
2136	10322	11560	12111	12704	13295	14189
2192A	10337	11569	12119	12711	13320	14235
2338	10340	11575	12125	12715	13321	14236
2366	10362	11576	12143	12756	13327	14237
2425	10396	11589	12150	12768	13340	14238
5010	10398	11595	12175	12769	13341	14239
5020	10500	11602	12177	12771	13358	14240
5025	10515	11607	12199	12775	13372	14255
5032	10532	11612	12200	12806	13400	14286
5045	10550	11613	12203	12830	13408	14311
5059	10575	11617	12217	12831	13413	14322
5265	10617	11622	12264	12832A	13429	14351
5328	10618	11633	12268	12832	13443	14384
5506A	10662	11634	12293	12833	13444	14433
5522	10675	11650	12301	12834	13480	14471
5639	10688	11653	12302	12837	13481	14476
5644	10763	11655	12303	12866	13483	14485
5656	10807	11658	12304	12867	13562	14503
5658	10864	11659	12318	12868	13608	14524
5659	10960	11660	12319	12869	13661	14535
5695	10971	11673	12340	12876	13671	14536
5751	11001	11684	12341	12885	13672	14539
5752	11030	11706	12342	12886	13673	14543
5792	11057	11707	12350	12887	13706	14545
5834	11100	11720	12368	12888	13707	14582
5912	11114	11729	12372	12889	13717	14591
5957	11120	11730	12379	12897	13735	14676
5988	11143	11739	12380	12898	13766	14698
6095	11145	11748	12385	12912	13767	14700
6138	11150	11749	12401	12946	13782	14710
6191	11176	11773	12402			

DELETIONS
CIPHER ROSTER F. of S. ROSTER

1313	5167	5011	1
5163	5170	5019	
5165	5173	5119	
5166	5175		

DELETIONS
GENERAL DUTIES ROSTER

5013	10068	10081	10088	10102	10115	10131
10064	10080	10084	10098	10112	10120	

TRADES ROSTER—ADD "Q" TO THE FOLLOWING SERIAL NUMBERS

263	1850	5208	5817	10161	10836	11162
393	1853	5213	5822	10165	10845	11164
712	1869	5215	5848	10203	10853	11165
1303	1878	5281	5899	10209	10857	11167
1314	1880	5289	5937	10211	10862	11169
1322	1897	5315	5941	10212	10867	11172
1354	1904	5329	5948	10219	10873	11177
1362	1916	5390	5953	10244	10875	11183
1367	1931	5402	5958	10256	10882	11192
1379	1942	5404	5966	10264	10890	11203
1383	1944	5405	5993	10271	10902	11212
1455	1957	5411	5998	10276	10904	11220
1470	1974	5439	6011	10294	10911	11221
1472	1975	5442	6027	10351	10913	11238
1501	1981	5458	6035	10368	10928	11242
1502	1983	5475	6050	10385	10934	11260
1514	1987	5476	6062	10409	10938	11262
1515	2062	5486	6080	10415	10939	11265
1519	2063	5493	6109	10432	10941	11283
1532	2081	5495	6146	10445	10961	11285
1553	2085	5507	6149	10446	10973	11302
1583	2090	5521	6150	10450	10975	11314
1604	2115	5525	6175	10465	10997	11318
1609	2161	5531	6180	10480	11009	11323
1610	2172	5554	6182	10482	11027	11352
1625	2274	5568	6184	10483	11031	11355
1630	2309	5570	6195	10487	11053	11363
1633	2343	5594	6266	10495	11062	11367
1639	2354	5595	6307	10497	11077	11376
1644	2377	5598	6324	10509	11081	11380
1650	2380	5649	6355	10522	11087	11385
1661	5003	5654	6366	10552	11090	11387
1666	5017	5655	6370	10559	11092	11388
1667	5026	5669	10006	10585	11095	11389
1682	5029	5682	10012	10586	11096	11404
1683	5029A	5689	10029	10625	11097	11421
1702	5030	5693	10030	10627	11108	11434
1723	5034	5696	10033	10659	11113	11441
1733	5038	5708	10041	10663	11117	11452
1793	5072	5719	10056	10705	11122	11468
1795	5107	5754	10079	10732	11125	11469
1800	5114	5759	10083	10742	11130	11471
1805	5148	5776	10091	10750	11137	11476
1812	5164	5779	10095	10761	11138	11489
1815	5167	5804	10099	10783	11144	11493
1819	5183	5812	10102	10820	11147	11497

TRADES ROSTER—DELETE "Q" FROM THE FOLLOWING SERIAL NUMBERS

218	366	736	809	862	899	940
233	370	745	813	864	903	1411
250	384	746	814	865	904	1451
267	386	751	815	866	905	1509
272	396	754	817	867	906	1822
274	398	755	819	868	907	1992
284	407	759	820	869	910	2392
285	409	767	821	871	912	5151
286	701	772	824	873	914	5279
287	705	777	828	876	917	5298
299	715	778	830	878	923	6312
304	720	779	831	881	924	6321
310	721	780	832	882	925	6347
336	722	782	835	884	926	6350
337	724	786	841	891	927	6359
342	725	787	843	894	931	6371
346	726	789	847	895	934	10043
348	730	792	855	896	935	10129
349	732	796	856	897	936	10148
356	734	802	859	898	937	10746
360						

AMENDMENT TO EXPLANATORY NOTES

Para. 5. Add : "No 'Q' is shown against the name of any W.O. 2 who is over 40 years of age and is thus ineligible for promotion although he may be qualified by trade and education."

Corps Promotions Order No. 3 dated 12th March, 1953

It will be noted that TWO serial numbers are given, new and old. The old serial number in the last column is given to aid the deletion of the name from the list of previous rank held.

It will be noticed that all Blue Book Amendments are printed backing on to other matter so as to enable those who amend their books to cut out.

PROMOTIONS

W.O, CLASS II — TRADES ROSTER

With effect from 31st December, 1952

Cartledge	A.	02318889	Q	410	708
Davy	A. E.	00743840	Q	411	708A
Cochrane	J.	02319318	Q	412	712
Wilson	A. E.	00031606	Q	413	713
Garrad	W. W. H.	02567681	Q	414	728
Sanford	A. F.	05105624	Q	415	741
Wilde	J. W.	02321211	Q	416	756
Parks	A. G.	00820944	Q	417	757
Graham	G. H.	02325222	Q	418	760
Halford	R.	02323545	Q	419	761
Erridge	R. A.	02320221	Q	420	763
Watters	W. M.	02323461	Q	421	765
Etherington	R. S.	00852281	Q	422	768
Bergelin	F.	02323567	Q	423	771
Sims	J.	06584775	Q	424	773
Pearson	J. P.	02323746	Q	425	774
Brownley	R. A.	02322322	Q	426	775
Millar	J.	02571964	Q	427	783
Lathbury	F.	02320624	Q	428	784
MacKay	J. J.	02318572	Q	429	785
Radcliffe	M.	00833031	Q	430	790
Mayhew	W. L.	02322417	Q	431	791
Hipperson	T. A.	02322499	Q	432	793
Charlton	J. T.	04268109	Q	433	794
Needham	J. V.	02328660	Q	434	797
McClenaghan	G. A. T.	02323101	Q	435	798
Smith	A.	02325504	Q	436	799
Farquharson	J.	02323105	Q	437	800
Arnold	R.	06596128	Q	438	801
Dunlop	H. R. H.	02321847	Q	439	803

Campion	B.	02321608	Q	440	804
Blackman	R. E.	02321816	Q	441	805
Appleton	O. G.	02338623	Q	442	806
Symonds	G. B.	02598114	Q	443	807
Phillips	J.	02323993	Q	444	812
Pavey	F. J.	02324130	Q	445	816
Barnes	S. G.	00870175	Q	446	818
Hicks	R. E.	00767699	Q	447	823
Townsend	A. F.	02026412	Q	448	825
Nutt	H.	02323785	Q	449	825A
Vincent	G. A.	02324178	Q	450	826
Hall	P. E. A.	02034838	Q	451	827
Timbrell	W. A.	02323373	Q	452	829
Pratt	R. W.	00869510	Q	453	833

S.Q.M.S. — TRADES ROSTER

With effect from 28th May, 1952

Parish	A.	06845001	Q	913A	1375
Wall	E. R. C.	04128458	Q	913B	1715

With effect from 31st December, 1952

Swadling	S. D.	05249392		945	1301
Fitzpatrick	B.	02318993		946	1305
Duly	F. G.	02319836		947	1308
Swan	N.	04537493		948	1314
Matthews	H.	02319642		949	1322
Carter	E. W.	02567135		950	1330
Thompson	L.	02323610	Q	951	1340
Turner	P. W.	06084969		952	1350
Platt	V. H. G.	06085382		953	1358
Sheerstone	E.	04120530	Q	954	1362
Shields	D. M.	02568731	Q	955	1363
Laidlaw	H.	02323693	Q	956	1365
Nicholls	E. J. G.	02347693		957	1366
Noble	J. P. B.	05495233		958	1367
Fry	J. T. S.	02321471		959	1370
Pitt	A. W.	02026318		960	1371
McFeeters	W.	01467330	Q	961	1372
Craddock	S. F.	02321357		962	1373
Crompton	S.	05249596		963	1376
Carter	G.	05535912		964	1379
Stratton	L. V.	02317764	Q	965	1381
Mullin	A. J.	02319732		966	1382
Thomson	F.	00844040	Q	967	1384
Hulme	H. R.	02320566	Q	968	1385
Finch	W. G.	02325767		969	1387
Butterfield	T. T.	06142170		970	1388
Fears	W. A. J.	02320183		971	1389

Note.—The promotions authorised above at Serial Nos. 913A and 913B are accelerated promotions as agreed by the Regimental Board of Officers which assembled at Royal Signals Records on 28th May, 1952.

SERJEANT — TRADES ROSTER

With effect from 31st December, 1952

Weston	A. E.	05496431	Q	2450	5001
Jeffs	J. R.	02325201	Q	2451	5002
Clarke	G. N.	02575551	Q	2452	5003
Harding	A. B.	02336623	Q	2453	5005
Brightwell	A. T.	02318903	Q	2454	5014
Gregg	T. H.	14461252	Q	2455	5017
Steenson	J.	02321406	Q	2456	5021
Cantle	T. J.	14447564	Q	2457	5026
White	H. E.	02594228	Q	2458	5029
Jefferys	J. C.	02547294	Q	2459	5029A
Beadle	W. E.	14439837	Q	2460	5030
Crosse	W. R.	00809092	Q	2461	5030A
Grant	E.	07043432	Q	2462	5031
White	A. H.	05104208	Q	2463	5033
Spours	J.	04975400	Q	2464	5034
Henderson	T.	04343499	Q	2465	5038
Pinkney	C.	14328780	Q	2466	5043
Lee	H.	02329564	Q	2467	5047
Ahern	P. G.	14443459	Q	2468	5048
Paton	R.	14484465	Q	2469	5052
Ellis	J. A.	14187447	Q	2470	5053
Hales	A. V.	04913351	Q	2471	5061
Creedon	J. P.	14426865	Q	2472	5063
Whelan	H.	04529892	Q	2473	5071
Martin	A. B.	06353825	Q	2474	5072
Turley	S. D.	21005026	Q	2475	5079
Douglas	G. V.	14804913	Q	2476	5082
Harris	R. J.	21005676	Q	2477	5097
Tully	P. A.	03128105	Q	2478	5107
Oliver	W. E.	04268592	Q	2479	5109
Barr	G.	02328760	Q	2480	5110
Burgoyne	D.	14187737	Q	2481	5129
Jardine	L.	19031947	Q	2482	5130
Johnson	L. A.	05883367	Q	2483	5149
				2484	
Constantine	H. G.	14187754	Q	2485	5162
Clare	L.	02698676	Q	2486	5164
Greenwood	J. A.	02547252	Q	2487	5181
Taylor	R. N.	02547740	Q	2488	5182
Wood	C.	02549028	Q	2489	5183
Busby	G. T.	02326081	Q	2490	5185
Shotton	J. W.	14476069	Q	2491	5193
				2492	
Robinson	F. E.	14473613	Q	2493	5213
Capon	D. W.	02548923	Q	2494	5215
Matthews	C. A. S.	05722868	Q	2495	5228
Castle	G. J.	19041120	Q	2496	5231
Laycock	T. H.	02549266	Q	2497	5232
Lytngoe	R. G.	02599740	Q	2498	5236
Tym	M. W.	02547768	Q	2499	5246
Robinson	S. R.	14185077	Q	2500	5251A
				2501	
Salter	C. E.	14471169	Q	2502	5261
Walker	J. T.	19045945	Q	2503	5264
Finch	J. J. C.	14087126	Q	2504	5277
Henry	F. B.	02549333	Q	2505	5281
				2506	
McQuire	J.	21005080	Q	2507	5289
Norbury	A. J.	02549275	Q	2508	5297
Watling	A. R.	02548948	Q	2509	5299
				2510	
Crossley	A.	21005007	Q	2511	5307
Nicholls	T. P.	21005277	Q	2512	5315
Brown	C. A.	19047170	Q	2513	5329
				2514	
Turvey	R. G.	19031891	Q	2515	5331
Denby	E. E.	02549306	Q	2516	5332
Hobson	L.	14407880	Q	2517	5337
				2518	
Jones	R.	02574520	Q	2519	5358
Watson	W. B.	02571496	Q	2520	5361
				2521	
Holtum	J. T.	02548686	Q	2522	5366
Isaac	A. I.	02341693	Q	2523	5367
Gale	F. R. W.	21005129	Q	2524	5374
Fairman	M. A.	02549009	Q	2525	5375
Jackson	D.	21005409	Q	2526	5378
King	D. R.	02547744	Q	2527	5379
Cumlon	N. W.	19038018	Q	2528	5382
Reed	D.	02547295	Q	2529	5388
Cockrill	G. J.	21005525	Q	2530	5390
Rotherham	R. G.	22212767	Q	2531	5402
Pearce	A. J.	15002587	Q	2532	5404
Romney	E.	22212274	Q	2533	5405
				2534	
Harvey	R.	19109594	Q	2535	5413
Jackson	G. L.	22212558	Q	2536	5421
Langham	T. W.	02568416	Q	2537	5442
Yendall	J. J.	14587506	Q	2538	5449
Shipcott	N. J.	22230098	Q	2539	5452
Webster	W. A.	06457696	Q	2540	5474
Maxwell	W.	21022060	Q	2541	5478
				2542	
Carlin	W. J.	19038317	Q	2543	5486
Douglas	F. J.	21022082	Q	2544	5488
Yeomans	C. P.	22242790	Q	2545	5493
Cardinal	J. M.	19030194	Q	2546	5494
Ashworth	E. R.	02382985	Q	2547	5495
Bone	A.	21182155	Q	2548	5505
Laing	J. D.	21128237	Q	2549	5506
Lawry	R. A.	02548933	Q	2550	5511
Bews	J. H.	14364917	Q	2551	5515
Hamilton	F.	02316675	Q	2552	5516
Gubler	G. I. D.	19056979	Q	2553	5521
Merralls	L. J.	21125412	Q	2554	5525
Amphlett	F. G.	21127627	Q	2555	5535
Green	R. A.	02549292	Q	2556	5540
Farmer	H. C.	02346605	Q	2557	5544
Marshall	D. W.	14483785	Q	2558	5554
Jepson	J. W.	22271152	Q	2559	5567
Rawson	A. N.	22212247	Q	2560	5568
Martin	D. S.	21005139	Q	2561	5570
				2562	
Davis	J.	22242509	Q	2563	5584
Smith	M. L.	22212125	Q	2564	5585
Mitchell	A.	22242049	Q	2565	5590
Oakley	B. F.	22242717	Q	2566	5593
Richards	R. J.	06286292	Q	2567	5594
Savage	D.	02549711	Q	2569	5596
Spinner	J. C.	22253735	Q	2570	5598
Redhead	R.	02548929	Q	2571	5612
Windebank	I. P.	22265112	Q	2572	5621
Fisher	G. J.	19146187	Q	2573	5622
Fenner	J. D.	02549280	Q	2574	5637
Coleman	J. H.	02548934	Q	2575	5653
				2576	
Hollistar	D. L.	14187732	Q	2577	5655
Talbott	R. H. J.	22242164	Q	2578	5657
McConnell	G.	02328224	Q	2579	5662
Raymond	J. A.	21127910	Q	2580	5669
Cross	P. J.	21124700	Q	2581	5685
Lerigo	E. W.	02549408	Q	2582	5689
Cole	B. C.	02549472	Q	2583	5696
Dunn	A. B.	19087031	Q	2584	5704
Bale	E.	22212726	Q	2585	5707
Smith	R. P.	21005172	Q	2586	5708
				2587	
				2588	
				2589	
				2590	
Conlon	J.	21005441	Q	2591	5742
Wilde	F. J.	04857375	Q	2592	5745
Hudson	A. A.	22212484	Q	2593	5756
Hamilton	R. P.	22242987	Q	2594	5759
Paterson	J. H.	21182806	Q	2595	5767
				2596	
Williams	G. P.	02329187	Q	2597	5774
				2598	
Rutter	K. A.	22242523	Q	2599	5776
Harwood	T. E.	21182472	Q	2600	5778
Leppington	L. W.	21027031	Q	2601	5779
Harris	F. A.	22265336	Q	2602	5780
Bell	E.	02549540	Q	2603	5789
Singleton	D. W.	02549268	Q	2604	5795
Hodges	D.	22036963	Q	2605	5797
				2606	
Serginson	J. P.	21128589	Q	2607	5808
Williams	O. T.	22229713	Q	2608	5809

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Anderson	H.	02328717	Q	2609	5810
Burgess	A. E.	22265209	Q	2610	5812
Crabb	R. S.	02549605	Q	2611	5813
Rose	J. A.	22242688	Q	2612	5817
Howie	A.	22265407	Q	2613	5822
Campbell	J. R.	22248044	Q	2614	5845
Wood	F. E.	22265447	Q	2615	5847
Folkard	B. C.	02549474	Q	2616	5848
Easterbrook	R.	03052267	Q	2617	5858
				2618	
				2619	
Bailey	L. G.	22212009	Q	2620	5890
Crane	J.	22212025	Q	2621	5891
				2622	
Burgess	G. A.	04192508	Q	2623	5897
Tucker	L. L.	22248614	Q	2624	5898
Holmes	A.	02549476	Q	2625	5899
Hunt	S. C.	22265892	Q	2626	5900
Batchelor	D. G.	03782541	Q	2627	5901
Boyle	H. K.	22018308	Q	2628	5907
Packham	B. W.	22206712	Q	2629	5916
Melvin	G.	22265710	Q	2630	5917
Gilbert	J. R.	02548853	Q	2631	5918
Barnaby	G. A.	22522842	Q	2632	5922A
Willis	W. F.	19068827	Q	2633	5931
Campbell	R.	02334840	Q	2634	5933
Bett	T. J.	21128106	Q	2635	5934
Braid	J. G.	02548950	Q	2636	5935
Thompson	D. O.	22212501	Q	2637	5937
Standen	A. R.	02549503	Q	2638	5940
Barnes	E.	02573188	Q	2639	5941
Weir	W.	02549570	Q	2640	5953
				2641	
Rudd	J. D.	22242896	Q	2642	5966
McCormack	M. B.	02547255	Q	2643	5974
Youngman	H.	02979614	Q	2644	5976
Lloyd	K. J.	02548987	Q	2645	5979
Jones	J. A.	19038500	Q	2646	5992
McGovern	J. H.	03055027	Q	2647	5996
				2648	
Quinn	T.	02549310	Q	2649	6005
				2650	
Oliver	R. E.	14259947	Q	2651	6009
				2652	
Thornborough	R. W. F.	21187634	Q	2653	6029
Goddard	F. A. D.	00865413	Q	2654	6033
Davies	L.	22212598	Q	2655	6043
Gray	L. A.	02237820	Q	2656	6048
Thomas	W. D.	22265508	Q	2657	6050
Armstrong	D. C.	22206051	Q	2658	6063
Williams	R.	22288156	Q	2659	6065
Gibbs	F. A.	15002573	Q	2660	6066
Rigby	D. C.	22204014	Q	2661	6075
Stephenson	T.	22246831	Q	2662	6080
				2663	
Thorpe	A.	2573261	Q	2664	6085
Mawston	W. R.	22206915	Q	2665	6086
				2666	
				2667	
				2668	
Anthony	F. C.	22242568	Q	2669	6094
Brady	J. M.	02035173	Q	2670	6096
Brodie	G.	22203009	Q	2671	6096
Bristow	J. H.	22265885	Q	2672	6100
Francis	J. D.	22247168	Q	2673	6104
Butt	K. W.	02329139	Q	2674	6105
Matthews	J. H.	22249453	Q	2675	6107
Conroy	M.	22296389	Q	2676	6108
Grainger	A.	19036721	Q	2677	6109
Tombs	D. I.	02549599	Q	2678	6115
Gunstone	D. W.	02549527	Q	2679	6120
Moran	L. W.	02549636	Q	2680	6123
Child	S. H.	22307262	Q	2681	6128
Morgan	D. L.	04698865	Q	2682	6129
Hehir	H.	22242789	Q	2683	6133
Bennet	G. A.	22285173	Q	2684	6146
				2685	
				2686	
Galbraith	J.	22286978	Q	2687	6150
McAllister	T. D.	02549624	Q	2688	6151
Dathan	L.	21005680	Q	2689	6155
Charlton	A.	22293909	Q	2690	6180
Whelan	T. W.	22247240	Q	2691	6182
Boynton	A. L.	22515131	Q	2692	6185
Murray	S. J.	22296243	Q	2693	6187
				2694	
McLoughlin	I.	22203213	Q	2695	6195
Izod	E. D.	02549477	Q	2696	6169
George	E. D.	07888926	Q	2697	6197
Cripps	R. C. F.	22299299	Q	2698	6201
Earnshaw	D. K.	22523175		2699	6204
Lock	F. S.	02549604	Q	2700	6209
Dillon	N. B.	22110857	Q	2701	6215
Blyth	C. A.	22204548	Q	2702	6216
Mears	A. D.	22230911	Q	2703	6220

INSERTIONS

WARRANT OFFICERS CLASS II

Sorfleet	H.	02322040	237	From W.O.1 Serial No. 65

SERJEANTS

Roberts	L. M.	15002507	1594A	Rejoined from Section "B" R.A.R.
Mewett	A. P. S.	22212921 Q	2298A	Promoted w.e.f. 1st April, 1952.
Randall	K. H.	14187225 Q	2419A	Promoted w.e.f. 31st July, 1952.
Goldberg	R. M.	14453097 Q	2499A	Adjustment to seniority from Serjeant 2399.

CORPORALS

Crosse	W. R.	00809092 Q	5030A	Transferred from R.E.M.E.
Horsfall	C. E. V.	22569884	5098A	Re-enlistment.
Rutherford	R. C.	14965565	5421A	Adjustment of seniority from Serjeant 2410.
Lovely	C.	14457815	6373A	Reversion from Serjeant 2035.

LANCE-CORPORALS

Hayes	G.	02548939 Q	10035A	Reversion from Corporal 5947.
Evans	K.	22212775	10048A	Re-enlistment.
Henson	R. W.	22212877 Q	11215A	Adjustment of seniority from L/Cpl. 14233.
Joslin	P. D.	22635308	14739A	Omitted from Corps Promotion Order No. 2.

SEMI-FINAL OF THE ARMY FOOTBALL CHALLENGE CUP

7 Training Regiment Royal Signals 6—3rd Battalion R.A.O.C. 4

After winning the toss, 7 Training Regiment quickly attacked, and before the first minute was up, Brown put Signals ahead. During the following fifteen minutes Finney, Barker and Brown each scored and 7 Training Regiment found themselves in a formidable position, leading by four goals to nil. This was mainly due to the Signals right-wing trio of Finney, Barker and Quixall—the latter playing in an unusual position of right-half. At half-time the score was five goals to one and the crowd undoubtedly thought that the game was as good as over. A stunned silence covered the ground during the half, broken only by the thin, but enthusiastic cheering of the small Signals contingent.

The second half, however, provided the most exciting football played at the Stadium since before the war. Within a minute of the kick-off, the R.A.O.C. scored and before 10 minutes were up they succeeded in making it five goals to four. With the large crowd now on its feet, and the Signals supporters' voices unheard amid the R.A.O.C. uproar, it looked as though 7 Training Regiment would be defeated. Later the R.A.O.C. missed two open goals. They failed to score again. In the closing minutes, Brown clinched the issue in favour of 7 Training Regiment with a further delightful goal.

SCOTTISH SIX DAY MOTOR CYCLE TRIAL

Two teams are being entered by the Army for this trial, which takes place in the Edinburgh-Fort William area from 4th to 9th May, 1953.

To select these two teams, a number of riders nominated by Commands underwent a selection trial on 19th-20th February.

Two Royal Signals riders were included in the selection trial :—

Staff-Sergeant A. Nicholson (5 Training Regiment), who won the Norton Trophy for the best individual performance in the Army Motor Cycling Championship, 1951.

Lance-Corporal D. C. Johnson (5 Training Regiment).

As a result of the selection trial, Staff-Sergeant Nicholson was chosen as a member of one of the Army teams.

Lance-Corporal D. C. Johnson put up a very good performance on the Observed Sections of the Riding Test, but failed to complete the Timed Run within the allotted period, and did not gain a place in the Army teams.

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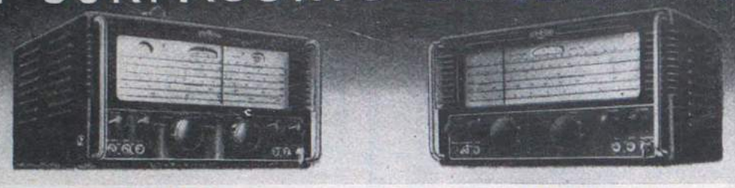

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CORONATION OF HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN

June 2nd, 1953

As every day's news shows, preparations are already in hand for this memorable event, both the actual ceremony at Westminster and the attendant celebrations in all parts of the country; and we would suggest that the matter of suitable dress should now be gone into as soon as possible. If left till much later, some difficulty may be met with, for the demand for correct attire is bound to increase as the Coronation gets nearer.

On formal and semi-formal dress the advice of tailors of traditional experience may well be of value, and we shall be glad to be consulted. Amongst the necessary articles of dress for such occasions, we particularly mention Morning Coats, Cashmere Trousers and Grey Waistcoats. Careful attention is assured in our Bespoke Department; or advantage may be taken of the wide range offered in our Department for Immediate Wear, which maintains the Savile Row standard at notably moderate prices.

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for the FIRST TIME

and also

THE ARMY CUP RUGBY FOOTBALL

in the same year

•

Full report on pages 152 *and* 153

THE WIRE

The Corps Magazine of the
ROYAL SIGNALS
The Official Organ of the
SIGNALS ASSOCIATION

Editor :
BRIGADIER 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.*

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☆

MAY • **1953**
Vol. 7 *New Series* **No. 5**

☆

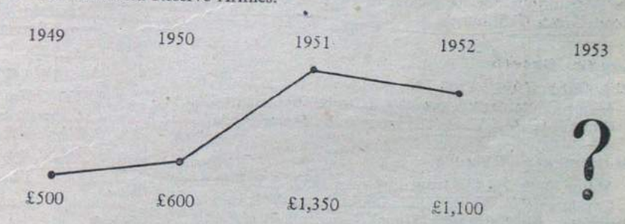
PRICE ONE SHILLING

THE BENEVOLENT FUND

THIS is frankly an appeal. It is written immediately after assessing the work of the fund during March.

Always a heavy month, March 1953 outstripped all previous records since 1948. A total of £839 14s. 10d. was distributed to 95 separate cases.

At the same time, the prospects of income from various sources is being assessed. This graph shows the income from Regiments of Royal Signals both in the Active and Reserve Armies.



As will be seen, this source of income produced less in 1952 than in 1951.

To particularise would be invidious, BUT this income comes from a comparatively small number of Regiments, who contribute regularly and most generously.

It is shaming to admit that many Regiments contribute nothing at all or very little to the support of Signalmen who are in difficulty.

By far the greatest asset of the Benevolent Fund is the large capital sum raised during the war, and the men who served Royal Signals during the war have in a sense more right to receive from the fund than those whose service is only post-war.

Yet amongst those assisted by the fund the ratio of those with post-war service is rising steadily in comparison with the numbers who had war service. There is therefore some obligation on the Signal Regiments. Before the war the income of the Benevolent Fund was derived almost entirely from the Signal Units, both Regular and Territorial Army, AND it sufficed for those in need.

The problem today is not entirely comparable to that of the 1920s and 1930s, but the solution today is as simple as it was then.

If the majority of Regiments who now contribute little or nothing helped as much as the minority who are constant in generosity the income from this source would be £3,000 in 1953. And this sum represents just about the expected cost of our assistance to those in need whose service commenced after 1945.

WILL YOU SEE WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP?

Her Majesty Queen Mary

On 25th March, Major-General C. M. F. White, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., Representative Colonel Commandant Royal Signals, wrote the Colonel-in-Chief expressing the very deep sympathy felt by all of Royal Signals on the sad death of Her Majesty Queen Mary.

* * *

A similar letter of condolence was also sent on the 25th March by General Fladgate on behalf of the Association.

* * *

On 28th March, Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal, C.I., G.C.V.O., G.B.E., R.R.C., T.D., D.C.L., LL.D., wrote the following most gracious reply:—

"*I am deeply touched by your most kind sympathy in my great sorrow and send my warmest thanks to you and all ranks of my Corps. It helps me to know that I am in your thoughts at this sad time.*

MARY.
Colonel-in-Chief."

PERSONAL COLUMN

Ex-C.S.M. R. M. T. Smith (2312225), who was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal in 1952, is living at 5 Terry Road Grove, Edinburgh, 4.

* * *

London Gazette

20th March, 1953.

Major C. Nettleship, O.B.E., T.D., to be Lieutenant-Colonel.
Captain (Q.M.) V. C. T. Honor to be Major (Q.M.).

Movements—Officers

Major D. A. Ellison from Depot to H.Q. A.L.F.C.E.
Captain (T.O.T.) P. F. C. Locke from M.E.L.F. to Independent Air Formation Signal Squadron, A.L.F.C.E.
Major D. MacKenzie from India to Reserve of Officers.
Major G. S. Fenton from 1 Commonwealth Divisional Signal Regiment to 16 Airborne Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A.
Major T. W. Baynes from FARELF to School of Signals.
Major F. A. L. Terrey from M.E.L.F. to Eastern Command Signal Regiment.
Major K. R. Pautlin from 2 Training Regiment to Royal Australian Signals.
Major (Q.M.) E. Beverley from B.A.O.R. to 2 Training Regiment.
Major (Q.M.) A. M. Yorke from A.L.F.C.E. Signal Squadron to B.A.O.R.
Lieutenant (Q.M.) G. R. Thornton from 1 A.A. (M) Signal Regiment to M.E.L.F.
Undermentioned have returned to Regiments shown ex 14 Course, Senior Officers' School:—
Major P. G. Curry to 42 (L) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment.
Major N. D. Farmer to 50 (N) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment.
Major A. G. Paris to Northern Command (M) Signal Regiment.
Major H. Prince to 1 War Office Signal Regiment.
Major D. A. Dickson from B.A.O.R. to War Office.
Major J. W. Eagle from FARELF to R.C.B.
Major B. E. Tebbs from R.C.B. to M.E.L.F.
Major P. Smith from B.A.O.R. to FARELF.
Major G. D. K. Woolwrych from Depot to 2 Training Regiment.
Major R. G. Baker from FARELF to Senior Officers' School to Southern Command (M) Signal Regiment.
Major B. C. Pigg from Eastern Command Signal Regiment to School of Signals.
Major (T.O.T.) H. M. Webster from M.E.L.F. to Eastern Command Signal Regiment.
Major (T.O.T.) G. R. Bishop from Eastern Command Signal Regiment to H.Q., 4 A.A. Group.
Major J. Potts from FARELF to 5 Training Regiment.
Major A. G. McTavish from 5 Training Regiment to B.A.O.R.
Major D. Beatt from War Office to Korea.
Major H. McD. Chapman from Malta to 1 War Office Signal Regiment.
Major A. R. Brooke from M.E.L.F. to H.Q. Signal Training Centre.
Captain (Q.M.) R. L. J. Shove from 42 (L) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment to FARELF.
Major C. Mitchell from M.E.L.F. to Depot.
Major (T.O.T.) C. W. T. Weech from A.L.F.C.E. to M.E.L.F.
Captain (Q.M.) J. P. Cairns from M.E.L.F. to H.Q. 62 L. of C. Signal Regiment, T.A.
Captain (Q.M.) R. J. Hoar from H.Q. 62 L. of C. Signal Regiment, T.A., to Hong Kong.
Major J. R. Sheepshanks from M.E.L.F. to War Office.
Major J. R. West from M.E.L.F. to School of Signals.
Major K. D. Gribbin from School of Signals to Depot.
Major (Q.M.) G. P. Murray from Northern Army Group to Depot.
Major (Cipher) J. S. Martinson from M.E.L.F. to Northern Army Group.
Captain W. L. Ward from M.I.2 (War Office) to Berlin Signal Squadron.

Arrivals and Departures

1 War Office Signal Regiment (Traffic).
Departure: Major Prince to the Depot and promotion.
2 Wireless Regiment.
Departures: 816970 W.O.I A. J. Whitham to U.K.
2548941 S.Q.M.S. D. T. Williams to U.K.
22212768 Sergeant H. Barker to U.K.
22242734 Sergeant E. R. T. Pearse to U.K.

* * *

Mr. A. C. J. Chalmers, Shepherds Cottage, Chorleywood Common, Hertfordshire, has copies of THE WIRE for the last 3½ years or more, available *gratis* to the first who will collect them.

* * *

Major R. C. Wilson, M.B.E., recently released from Royal Signals, has set up in business as URFA SALES AND SERVICE at 23 Walker Street, Hoole, Chester, and will be only too willing to offer advice to any ex-member of the Corps who wishes to start up in business.

* * *

BOUND VOLUMES OF "THE WIRE," 1952, are now available from Association Headquarters. Price 35s.

* * *

WOOLLEN TIES are now available at 8s. 6d. each (reduced from 10s. 6d.).

* * *

London District Signal Regiment, A.E.R., is in most urgent need of experienced Warrant Officers and Senior N.C.O.s. It is commanded by Colonel G. H. T. Shrimpton, late of 11 A.A. (M) Signal Regiment.

Any ex-W.O.s or N.C.O.s available should apply direct to him at 47 Coney Hill Road, West Wickham, Kent.

H.R.H. The Princess Royal, C.I., G.C.V.O., G.B.E., R.R.C., T.D., D.C.L., LL.D., and Major-General Sir Hubert E. Rance, G.C.M.G., G.B.E., C.B., Governor of Trinidad, taken during the Colonel-in-Chief's visit to the West Indies in February and March, 1953

ANNUS MIRABILIS

It is too soon to really assess the wonderful year of success at sport which has closed the tour of Brigadier J. J. Duvivier, C.B.E., as Commander, Signal Training Centre.

When a proper assessment is made in next month's WIRE, it is probable that it will be found that in no previous year of our history has Royal Signals gained so much success in sport.

As "old soldiers" know, a great deal of the effort, and it is only by great effort that such success is achieved, comes from the top, and Brigadier Duvivier's tour ends with the winning for the first time of the Army Association Football Cup.

No doubt some appreciation of his service to the Corps will appear in a subsequent issue of THE WIRE, but it is right that it should be said now at the moment of his retirement that not only does Royal Signals owe much to him in the very great reputation of the Signal Training Centre in work and in sport, but also to the tremendous progress made therein by the Association.

Until 1952, the possibility of establishing thriving branches of the Association and also a means of recruiting for the Association in the S.T.C. had always been deemed impossible. It is not now impossible, it is a functioning fact which will, we are convinced, go from strength to strength.

He has earned the grateful thanks of all of Royal Signals, both serving and of the Association.

*

OBITUARY

Lieutenant-Colonel A. H. Beattie

The following is taken from the ALDERSHOT NEWS AND MILITARY GAZETTE *of 20th March, 1953.*

ONE of the oldest Officers in the Royal Signals, Lieutenant-Colonel Albert Henry Beattie, of Frognal, York Crescent, Aldershot, died in Cambridge Hospital on Tuesday aged 59. Enlisting in the Royal Engineers as a boy in 1909, he served continuously ever since, and had commanded the local Signal Unit at the Queen's Avenue compound since 1936.

Colonel Beattie had become a well-known figure in the Signals since he went over on their formation as a separate Corps in 1921. He enlisted in the Royal Engineers for training as a boy telegraphist at Chatham in April 1909, and served in "K" Telegraph Company at the G.P.O. at Brighton, Manchester and Dublin during the following year. In 1911 he joined the ranks as a sapper telegraphist at Chatham, and the next year he joined "B" Signals at Limerick, becoming a lance-corporal. He attended the first wireless course at the School of Signals at Aldershot in 1913 and later that year joined "E" Wireless Company as a wireless operator, with promotion to second corporal.

At the outbreak of war in 1914 he went to France with "A" Corps Signals, being promoted corporal on 5th August, sergeant in the following April, and temporary C.Q.M.S. in October 1916. He went to the Wireless Signal Training Centre at Fenny Stratford in September 1918, and to "C" Company at Maresfield and Crowborough in 1919, passing No. 1 Foreman of Signals Course at Maresfield three years later. Leaving for Jamaica, he was promoted Q.M.S. Foreman of Signals, and in 1926 joined the Eastern Command Signal Company, serving at Whitehall and Dover. In 1929 he went to 4th Divisional Signals at Colchester as R.S.M. After two years at the Signal Training Centre at Jubbulpore, India, he was gazetted as Lieutenant (inspector, permanent communications), and came to the Aldershot Command Signal Company, in charge of the wireless station. During the last war he was in charge of wireless and line communications, being promoted Captain in 1942, Major in June 1946, and Lieutenant-Colonel a day later.

CAPTAIN PIERRE C. PAMART

HE has given THE WIRE these brief notes of his service during the war in the hope that some of his old colleague's of the British Army will be interested in his present whereabouts.

Signal Officer of the 7th Infantry Division (French) in 1939-40; worked in close conjunction with the British Brigade on the Maginot Line (March-April, 1946), and with 51st Highland Division.

Then transferred to North Africa and belonging to the French Signal Battalion Tunisia (44e Groupe de Transmissions) was assigned on 23rd November, 1952, to First British Army Headquarters, C.S.O.'s Branch, as French Liaison Officer for Signals. Worked under the orders of Brigadier General Thursby Pelham and Colonel Buchanan; "opposite numbers" were Major Stoneman (wire) and Captain Dudley (wireless). Had some friendly business contacts with Major Reginald E. Jones, Eighteenth Army Group, Lieutenant-Colonel Metson (L. of C.), Major Peter Blake, Signal Officer, 78th Infantry Division, Major Brady and Captain Ferris.

From May to October 1943 assigned to Combined Signal Board, Tunis, for the rehabilitation of telephone and telegraph communications, Tunisia.

Transferred to V U.S. Army H.Q. in October and shipped to Italy; some liaisons there with XIII Corps (Brigadier Duvivier), L. of C. Italy (Colonel Buchanan and Major Jones).

Now assigned as a Colonel to French Forces, Germany, in command of the Army Signal Regiment (42e Régiment de Transmissions) in Zweibrücken.

His address is: S.P. 64.987, B.P.M. 415 C, French Forces, Germany.

* * *

Mr. G. H. Readman, Little Manor, Blockley, Moreton-in-Marsh, Glos., who, after service in Royal Signals, has set up business as a stamp dealer, is anxious to get in touch with members of the Corps serving in British Colonies who could supply him with used Colonial stamps on paper, especially the higher values. He would be prepared to pay for the stamps either to the Unit or in the case of currency restrictions to the Association.

* * *

Births

BRADSHAW.—On 7th March, 1953, at Melven, Blackheath, Guildford, to Fokeltje (*née* Mills) and Major Anthony A. Bradshaw, a daughter, Fokeltje Jennifer.

LEWIS.—On 8th December, 1952, at the Barratt Maternity Home, Northampton, to Augusta and Reg Lewis, twin girls, Linda and Regina. (Signalman R. Lewis was in the Malaya Command Signals and 3rd Indian Corps Signals (54 and 34 Tel. Op. Sections)).

SMITH.—To Sergeant and Mrs. P. A. Smith, Gold Coast Signal Squadron, on the 15th January, 1953, a son, Leslie David Rosslyn.

GORDON.—To Sergeant and Mrs. W. N. D. Gordon, Gold Coast Signal Squadron, on the 28th January, 1953, a son, Robert Alexander Drysdale.

WOOD.—To Sergeant and Mrs. K. Wood, Gold Coast Signal Squadron, on the 11th January, 1953, a daughter, Carol.

LEWIS.—To Sergeant and Mrs. A. D. Lewis, Army Wireless Chain Troop, Gold Coast, on 27th September, 1952, a son, Brian Roderick.

BURNETT.—To Sergeant and Mrs. R. D. J. Burnett, Gold Coast Signal Squadron, on 2nd February, 1953, a daughter, Margaret Anne.

WOODHOUSE.—On 7th February, 1953, to Corporal and Mrs. Woodhouse, 2 Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, a daughter, Marion.

BELLIS.—On 18th March, 1953, to Corporal and Mrs. Bellis, 2 Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, a daughter, Kathleen.

EWENS.—On 13th February, 1953, at Watlington, to Mrs. S. M. Ewens, wife of Sergeant R. M. Ewens, 5 A.G.R.A. (A.A.) Signal Squadron, a daughter, Anne Elizabeth.

CAMPBELL.—On 23rd January, 1953, at Oldenburg, to Mrs. K. M. Campbell, wife of Sergeant G. Campbell, 5 A.G.R.A. (A.A.) Signal Squadron, a daughter, Isabella Marjorie.

WHITE.—To Lance-Corporal and Mrs. White, 1 War Office Signal Regiment (Traffic), on 27th February, 1953, a daughter, Beverley Ann Sylvia.

RABBITS.—To Lance-Corporal and Mrs. Rabbits, 1 War Office Signal Regiment (Traffic), on 16th February, 1953, a son, Dereck Ernest.

Marriages

DAVIES—TOURS.—Sergeant H. Davies, Army Wireless Chain Troop, Gold Coast, to Rosemary Helen Tours, of Basingstoke, on the 4th October, 1952.

WADDINGTON—RILEY.—Sergeant Waddington, Army Wireless Chain Troop, Gold Coast, to Peggy Wilson Riley, of Dewsbury, on the 17th January, 1953.

GOULD—HOUGH.—On 28th March, 1953, Signalman "Jim" Gould, Berlin Signal Squadron, to Lance-Corporal "Sylvia" Hough, 14 Battalion "D" Company, W.R.A.C., at St. George's Church, Berlin.

1 A.A. (M) Signal Regiment.

SALMON—DENNISON.—Robin Leonard Salmon to Private Beryl Dennison, W.R.A.C., at the Parish Church, Bushey Heath, on 21st March, 1953.

ACKERMAN—SIZER. — Corporal Alfred Akerman, R.E.M.E., to Private Beryl Sizer, W.R.A.C., at Thurrock, on 6th March, 1953.

WILLIAMS — WISDOM. — Driver Brian Williams, R.A.S.C., to Private Pamela Wisdom, W.R.A.C.

Deaths

McLEAN.—22808494 Driver G. McLean, on 4th March, 1953, in M.E.L.F.

DAVIS.—22718340 Signalman W. P. Davis, on 13th March, 1953, in the Queen Alexandra Military Hospital, Millbank, London, S.W.1.

SHIPTON.—Lieutenant (Q.M.) "Bill" Shipton, on 18th February, 1953, in Brighton Hospital.

WATSON.—22623442 Signalman B. Watson, on 16th March, 1953, in M.E.L.F.

WEBB.—Captain D. W. Webb, on 3rd April, 1953, recently retired after 30 years' service in the Corps.

WILKINS.—Ex-Lance-Corporal H. A. W. Wilkins, a member of Uckfield Branch.

WILSON.—Fred Wilson, at his home, 5 Aviary Place, Armley, Leeds, 12, on 25th March, 1953. Royal Signals 1944-46, Association 1946 until now.

* * *

TORQUAY BRANCH is organising a FREE dance weekly for the benefit of soldiers from the Depot Regiment and their partners, at the Combined Ex-Service Club, Market Street, Torquay, every Thursday evening from 7.30 to 10.30.

All serving and ex-members of the Corps are welcome, and any members of the Corps who are holidaying in Torquay this year. Membership of the Association is not a necessary qualification either for those wishing to attend the dances or wishing to use the club at any other time.

Forthcoming Events

REVIEW

*

On Sunday, 5th July, Her Majesty The Queen is to review Her ex-Servicemen in Hyde Park. Royal Signals are to provide a contingent of 500.

Instructions giving time and place of parade and all other details will be sent to Branches during MAY and will appear in the JUNE "Wire."

Individuals not members of a branch who wish to attend should notify the Royal Signals Association, 88 Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1 immediately.

WEST COUNTRY REUNION

Rawlinson Barracks, Newton Abbot, Devon

Saturday, 4th July.

Afternoon—Arrival and reception of Old Comrades.
Evening—All Ranks' Dance.

Sunday, 5th July.

1030 hours—Church Parade.
1130 hours—Band Concert by Royal Signals Band.
1400 hours—Potted Sports.
1800 hours onwards—Disperse.

The Depot Regiment require to know numbers and full details of times of arrival by 21st June. Arrangements will be made to accommodate coach drivers if required.

YORK RALLY AND REUNION

The York Branch of the Association is organising a rally and reunion on Saturday, 25th July. Tentative programme is as follows:—

Miniature Tattoo

At York Rugby Ground

2.45 p.m.—Assembly of Branch Standards and performers to music by the Corps Band.
3.0 p.m.—Short Opening Ceremony.
3.5 p.m.—Trooping the Colour by 6 (Boys) Training Regiment.
3.30 p.m.—P.T. Display by 6 (Boys) Training Regiment.
4.0 p.m.—Royal Signals Display Team.
4.30 p.m.—Grand Finale.
5.0-6.0 p.m.—Tea Interval.
6.0-8.0 p.m.—Conducted Tour of the City (if desired).

Admission Charges

Ground and Terrace 1s. 0d. • Popular Stand . 1s. 6d.
Side Stand ... ... 2s. 0d. • Centre Stand ... 3s. 0d.
(Children Half Price)

Grand Dance at the Assembly Rooms

8 p.m. to 12 Midnight—Tickets 5s. 0d.

Publicity Material, Programmes, Tickets., etc., available later from: The Honorary Secretary of the York Branch of the Association, Mr. J. E. Newton, 59 Water Lane, York.

Royal Signals Officers' Golfing Society—1953 Fixtures

Date	Opponents	Course
May 29 ...	R.E. Golfing Society	Worplesdon.
June 10 ...	R.A.O.C. Golfing Society ...	North Hants.
June 24 ...	York Golf Club	Strensall.

* * *

Royal Signals Band Programme, 1953

May 20-22 ...	Eastern Command.
May 20 ...	Corps Dinner.
June 2 ...	Coronation "From" Procession.
June 7 ...	Regents Park, London.
June 8-13 ...	Hyde Park, London.
June 14-20 ...	Victoria Embankment Gardens, London.
June 21-27 ...	Folkestone.

EMPLOYMENT VACANCIES

Ex-Senior N.C.O. or W.O. required as caretaker for T.A. Drill Hall in Darlington. £5 8s. per week; free married quarters, fuel and light. No objection to children. 44 hour week. Apply by letter to:—
The Commanding Officer, 50 (N) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment (T.A.), Larchfield Road, Darlington, Co. Durham.

Any applicant who obtains the post through reading this notice is asked to inform the Employment Section, Royal Signals Association, 88 Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1.

* * *

Headquarters employment figures for the quarter ending 31st March, 1953:—

Applicants registered	86
Placings confirmed	31

In addition, a number of members have recently obtained employment through local branches of the Association, including five placed by Leeds Branch.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

R.S.M. B. Sellar, Royal Signals, Signal Training Centre, Jubbulpore, India, writes:—

"It may interest you to know that the secretary of the Signals Association here is Major Harbans-Singh, who is also the Senior Records Officer, and his office is only a few yards from mine, and we often have chats about the respective Associations, as he is very interested in the Royal Signals Association.

"He was very interested in the Blue Book, and is thinking of trying to introduce something similar out here.

"It has not yet been possible to start branches out here, but when I told him about the branches in England, i.e., Old Comrades, etc., he said that this matter was being thought about.

"There is a great drive here to enrol members, and the response is very good, especially in the S.T.C. here.

"Well, sir, I hope I haven't bored you with this haphazard account, but I thought you would like to know that there is still a link with the Indian Signal Corps, as many a time a Jawan or Indian Officer stops me and asks me about some B.O.R. or Officer."

* * *

I think that Lord Pakenham inadvertently produced a complete answer to the letter signed "Raymond" in the April WIRE regarding a P.R.O. for Royal Signals.

In the House of Lords on 16th April, Lord Pakenham is reported as follows:—

"Everyone, he said, honoured the R.A.F., but he wished it could get rid of its inferiority complex. The R.A.F. are doing a wonderful job, and do not hesitate to tell us so. The Royal Navy are doing a wonderful job, and wait for us to tell them so. The Army are doing a wonderful job, and would be astounded if anybody told them so."

THE HISTORY OF

British Army Signals

IN

The Second World War

by **Major-General R. F. H. Nalder, C.B., O.B.E.**

Chapter VII—Organisation and Manpower

AT this stage of the history one is reminded of the senior Royal Signals Officer well-known as a very regimental soldier expressing astonishment, and some color, when he witnessed the arrival of the Signal Office relief at a certain very large military headquarters in Northern India during 1943.

The relief arrived in tongas, the horse-drawn hackney carriage of this country. The situation was such, it was explained, that even the official authorities in India had agreed that the temperature was too hot to enable members of the Women's Auxiliary Corps (India) to walk two miles from their barracks, and as the Royal Signals portion of the relief descended, it was patent that few could walk at all except with crutches or sticks. They were men so medically unfit that employment in a static Signal Office with facilities for transportation was all that was left to them.

As the above instance discloses, Royal Signals manpower remained an acute problem throughout the war. All of us who served between the wars know that by an all-out effort over a period of three or four days we were able with no men in reserve to provide signal communications on manoeuvres which more than satisfied our commanders and staffs. This led to a false impression of our sustained competence, and it is true to say that Royal Signals started the Second World War with totally inadequate establishments. This was particularly apparent behind the Division.

General Nalder explains in this chapter how these difficulties were overcome, particularly the difficulty of the increasing need for specialist technical ability. It must be remembered that a vast majority of Royal Signals Officers and N.C.O.s before the war were very "general purpose," and few had experience to fit them for employment in such as Army or Line of Communication Signals where for efficiency a specialist technical ability equivalent to that of the G.P.O. Engineering Department Officer was required.

In this chapter, the development in organisation of all types of major Signal Regiments is traced, and emphasis is placed on the "brick" system which gave to Royal Signals the very great advantage of flexibility. The disadvantage of the flexibility of the "brick" system is that it causes a tendency to overload Royal Signals commanders and their headquarter staffs. This was particularly apparent in the larger Headquarter and Ls of C. Signal Regiments both as affecting Lieutenant-Colonels commands, and perhaps more so in the case of Squadrons which often grew to an unmanageable size.

In this chapter also is discussed the difficulty of maintaining the balanced system of non-commissioned officer promotions, which in particular mitigated unfairly against workshop tradesmen.

It was only at the very end of the war, and perhaps not even then that it could be said that Royal Signals manpower ceased to give cause for anxiety, and the fact that these great problems were solved at all is due in no small measure to the assistance given by the Auxiliary Territorial Service and other women's services.

Chapter VIII—Women's Services in Signals

Somebody in the War Office had a flash of genius in 1938 and created the Auxiliary Territorial Service. The "flash," however, stopped at that and the women were recruited for clerical and domestic duties only.

Many Signal Regiments, Territorial Army, however, acquired an "attached" Company of the A.T.S., and with a foresightedness which only later percolated to the War Office, forthwith proceeded to train them in Signal duties, at which they showed most remarkable aptitude. At the time of the Munich crisis, S.D.6 requested 150 women to be trained as teleprinter operators, and this was the first official step towards establishing the close association between Royal Signals and the A.T.S. which proved of such inestimable value to us throughout the war. Indeed, a subsequent recruiting of switchboard operators from the Post Office enabled "Signals" to staff the B.E.F. panels in the Trunk Exchange in Paris, and it was these A.T.S. Signals girls who were the last of the British Army to leave Paris before the capitulation.

General Nalder thereafter stresses the development of this association with its ensuing difficulties owing to a certain pardonable rigidity in the commanding of this new service and the difficulties occasioned thereby when the women had to work for two commanders. But he pays a just tribute to those 15,000 of the A.T.S. who not only by their efficiency adorned our Signal Offices.

The chapter ends with a review of other women's organisations which worked with Royal Signals mostly in overseas commands. He stresses the unique character of the Women's Auxiliary Corps (India), raised in 1942 on the A.T.S. model.

The memorable feature, however, of the Indian Corps was the number of races composing it—Europeans, Eurasians, Indians of very different creeds. To say they were a success is an understatement.

A section of them was raised in one of the Indian ports, and within three months had taken over the operating of the Signal Office under Royal Signals supervision, which was withdrawn two months later. There was difficulty at first. One of the wireless links from this office worked to a Royal Signals Unit of high proficiency, and at first the men were impatient at the slower speeds of the newly-trained ladies. This problem was solved comparatively simply by the despatching on well-earned leave of some of the Royal Signals operators to the port in question with all its amenities, and an enthusiastic reception committee from the W.A.C. (I) Signal Office. There were no further difficulties on that circuit.

Gale and Polden, 17s. 6d.

SIGNAL CORPS COMPLETES 90th YEAR

The following was extracted from News Letter No. 32 dated 1st March, 1953, issued by the ARMED FORCES COMMUNICATIONS ASSOCIATION of the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:—

As the United States Army Signal Corps celebrated its 90th birthday anniversary on 3rd March, its outstanding achievements during the past year might appropriately be reviewed.

One of the major developments was the establishment in July of the Signal Corps Aviation Centre at Fort Monmouth, N.J. There the Corps, using its own aircraft, is applying aviation theory and procedure to the needs of military communication and furnishing aviation support to nearby Signal Corps installations such as the Electronic Warfare Centre and the Signal Corps Engineering Laboratories.

Expansion of communication facilities in Alaska was another feature of the Signal Corps' 1952 year. With the completion of the 337-mile landline between Anchorage and Tok Junction in October, both voice and telegraph channels were increased between Anchorage and Fairbanks. The landline, costing $5,650,000 in labour, materials and equipment, services governmental and civilian users as well as the military.

Another development was that of a chain radar system at White Sands, New Mexico, making it possible to trace missiles and rockets from firing point to target, and which helps to make possible the amassing of accurate ballistical data on guided missiles and rockets for all military services.

The year also saw a new Presidential communications car, fitted with radio-teletype-writer, telephone, telegraph and other communication equipment; the opening of the first fully automatic teletype-writer switching centre at Fifth Army Headquarters, Chicago; and the beginning of two new factory developments built for Signal Corps—one by Sonotone Corps, a defence battery plant; the other by G.E. Co., for production of printed circuitry panels.

HISTORY REPEATS ITSELF—1937-1953

ROYAL SIGNALS is taking a great part in the organisation of the Coronation in 1953. Let us see what happened in 1937 in so far as THE WIRE of that year can help us.

In 1937, the Corps was represented in Westminster Abbey by Brigadiers H. Clementi Smith, D.S.O., and R. H. Willan, D.S.O., M.C., A.D.C. In 1953, Major-General C. M. F. White, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., and Major-General W. O. Bowen, C.B., C.B.E., will be in the Abbey. Lieutenant-Colonel C. H. Stoneley, O.B.E., will also be on duty in the Abbey, vide page 128. Royal Signals will also be represented in the person of Brigadier C. A. H. Chadwick, C.B.E., A.D.C., who will be in the Abbey in his capacity as Aide de Camp to Her Majesty The Queen, and will also march in the procession.

Our Colonel-in-Chief, H.R.H. The Princess Royal, C.I., G.C.V.O., G.B.E., R.R.C., T.D., D.C.L., LL.D., visited Aldershot on 21st June, 1937, at the beginning of Signals Week, and met a number of Old Comrades who were present on that day. This year Her Royal Highness hopes to attend the parade service on 17th May and also to attend the Annual General Meeting of Her Association.

Truth is stranger than fiction. Believe it or not, in 1937 Sunday, 27th June, the day of the Old Comrades' Reunion and Church Parade at Aldershot, was selected by His Late Majesty King George VI to review ex-Servicemen in Hyde Park.

In 1953, 5th July was selected for the Reunion at Catterick and also by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II to review ex-Servicemen in Hyde Park.

In 1953 we quickly changed our date; in 1937 they did not. In 1937, only some thirty old comrades attended the review, and about 100 went on parade at Aldershot. This year we hope for 400 at church at Catterick on 17th May, and at least as many in Hyde Park on 5th July.

In 1937, the Motor Cycle Display was given by City of London Signals, T.A. This was the first and to date the only year when this display at the reunion has been given by other than the S.T.C. Display Team.

There will be one difference between 1937 and 1953. Although this year there will doubtless be contingents from both India and Pakistan, we shall not know them individually as well as we knew the representatives of the Indian Signal Corps in 1937, who had their place on the steps of the Victoria Memorial. Subedar Major Panchandan, Subedar Major and Honorary Lieutenant Sowarkhan, I.D.S.M., Subedar Major Jiwan Singh and Subedar Ram Singh, I.S.D.M. Thus were represented four main classes of our comrades Madrassi, Panjabi Massalman, Sikh and Dogra.

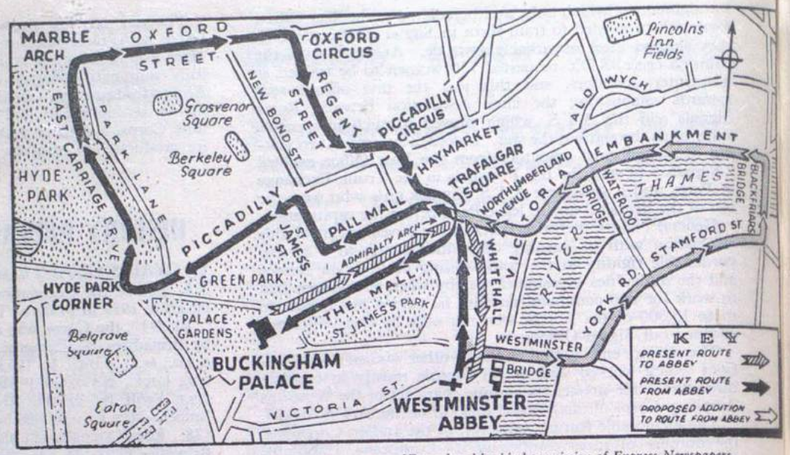
The article on page 128 gives the work to be done by various Regiments during the Coronation of 1953. In 1937 the intercommunications were provided entirely by the Territorial Army Signal Regiments of London:—

1st Cavalry Divisional Signals (Middlesex Yeomanry).
56 (1st London) Divisional Signals (City of London Signals).
London Corps Signals (the old 47th, 2nd London Divisional Signals).

In 1953, as in 1937, reliance is still placed largely on visual signalling and the telephone.

In 1953 these are reinforced by loud hailer and wireless.

SIGNAL COMMUNICATIONS FOR THE CORONATION



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IN an earlier article the main Signal Communication problems which face Royal Signals in connection with the Coronation were explained. The way in which it is planned to meet these requirements will now be described, and details of the Signal Regiments which have been selected to provide the communications will be given.

The Procession to Westminster Abbey

The procession which escorts Her Majesty The Queen from Buckingham Palace to Westminster Abbey will occupy the whole of the Mall from Buckingham Palace to the Admiralty Arch—a distance of approximately one thousand yards—before it starts.

The requirement here is that the whole of the procession shall start simultaneously at the moment when Her Majesty drives from the forecourt of Buckingham Palace, escorted by a Sovereign's Escort of the Household Cavalry.

Signal stations are accordingly being established, by London District Signal Troop, at points adjacent to the gates of Buckingham Palace and near the head of the procession respectively. These Signal Stations will be linked by special G.P.O. land line, and by one-to-one wireless channels (using WS31). A Staff Officer of the Household Brigade, who will be stationed in the forecourt of Buckingham Palace, will indicate to the nearby Signal Station on the Victoria Memorial when the procession is about to start; on this, the Signal Officer will order a "stand by" signal (consisting of a large red and white disc) to be exposed, and will simultaneously transmit instructions for similar action to be taken at the head of the procession.

The procession will then be called to readiness and the marshals who are stationed at intervals throughout the length of the procession will raise their batons. At the moment when Her Majesty The Queen drives from Buckingham Palace the Signal Officer will order a blue and white signal flag to be waved, and will simultaneously transmit instructions for the Signal Station near the head of the procession to do the same.

At this signal the marshals will lower their batons and the Officers commanding the contingents in the procession will give the order to march. The procession will then proceed under the Admiralty Arch, along Northumberland Avenue to the Embankment, and thence via Parliament Square to Westminster Abbey, headed by two bands and two Corps of Drums.

The Procession from Westminster Abbey

The requirement in this case is more complicated, since the procession has firstly to be called forward from its assembly area to its forming-up positions on the route, and has then to be given a simultaneous "start" signal throughout its length, which extends from Parliament Square, through Whitehall, Pall Mall, St. James's Street and Piccadilly into Hyde Park.

The calling forward of the procession from its assembly area, which will be in the vicinity of Wellington Barracks, will be done on instructions issued by the Chief Marshal, based on information regarding the progress of the Coronation Service, which will be passed to him by the Chief Signal Officer, London District, by telephone line from Westminster Abbey to his control point in Birdcage Walk.

The communication system for giving the signal to "march" when Her Majesty The Queen enters the State Coach will consist primarily of a large wireless net (WS52) of which the Control Station will be located in the vicinity of Westminster Abbey, and eleven detachments which will be positioned along the route as follows:—

Parliament Square	Army Phantom Signal Regiment, T.A. (Princess Louise's Kensington Regiment)
Whitehall	
Trafalgar Square	
Cockspur Street	
Pall Mall	
St. James's Street (south end) ...	16 Airborne Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A. (Middlesex Yeomanry)
St. James's Street (north end) ...	
Piccadilly	
Hyde Park Corner	
Hyde Park	
Hyde Park (opposite head of procession)	

The Control Station will be remotely controlled from a Signals Control Point in the stand facing the entrance to Westminster Abbey. This will be manned by Officers of The Army Phantom Signal Regiment, T.A.

The above wireless net will be duplicated by land line communications giving multi-call telephone facilities from the Signals Control Point mentioned above to Signal Detachments at key points on the route.

Signal Detachments on the route will be mounted in specially fitted Jeeps, in which wireless sets, telephones and public address equipment are being installed. Each Detachment will be commanded by an Officer.

Shortly before Her Majesty The Queen enters the State Coach, warning will be given by a Staff Officer that the procession is to "stand by." This instruction will be transmitted simultaneously by wireless and line, from the Signals Control Point to the Detachments stationed round the route, and will be signalled to marshals in the procession by signal discs in a manner similar to that used for starting the procession to Westminster Abbey. Each Signal Detachment will also announce "Procession Stand By" over its loudspeaker system.

At the moment when Her Majesty The Queen enters the State Coach the responsible Staff Officer will indicate to the Signals Control that the procession is to move, and the appropriate instruction will be transmitted to the Signal Detachments round the route and passed to the marshals by means of blue and white signal flags and loudspeaker announcement.

Two mobile Signal Detachments, mounted in Jeeps fitted with wireless sets (WS52) will travel in advance of the head and in rear of the tail of the procession. These are being found by 56 (London) Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A., and will provide a means of communicating any special instructions regarding the regulation of the speed of the procession which a mounted Senior Staff Officer near the State Coach may consider necessary.

The Signal Detachments round the route will include, in addition to those already mentioned, a further three which will be located as follows:—

Marble Arch	2/20 (East Anglian) Army Signal Regiment, T.A.
Oxford Circus	
Piccadilly Circus	

All the Signal Detachments positioned round the route will transmit reports regarding the progress of the procession so that the Senior Staff Officer mentioned above may be kept continually informed.

In the event of a check occurring in the progress of the procession (caused, for example, by a carriage horse getting a leg over a trace or spectators encroaching on to the route), arrangements will be made to restart the procession using a similar procedure to that used in the first instance.

Officer Despatch Riders

Three Royal Signals Officers are being specially selected for duty as despatch riders on Coronation Day. These Officers will be available to deliver any urgent messages which may be necessary in connection with the processional arrangements.

Gun Salutes

At the moment when the Crown is placed upon the head of Her Majesty The Queen by the Archbishop of Canterbury, gun salutes will be fired by specially appointed batteries at The Tower of London, in Hyde Park and in Windsor Great Park.

The signal for these salutes will be passed from the Chief Signal Officer, London District, who will be stationed in the Triforium, Westminster Abbey, to Signal Detachments located near the saluting batteries. Communications between Westminster Abbey and these Signal Detachments will consist of duplicated line and wireless systems, manned by Officers and other ranks of 23 (Southern) Corps Signal Regiment, T.A.

The line system will include a special multi-phone switchboard installed in the Triforium by the G.P.O., with private wires linking it to the saluting battery positions.

A wireless control set (WS53) will be installed in the Horse Guards Building, with remote control facilities from the Triforium, communicating with out-stations at the saluting battery positions.

Coronation Camps

Approximately 20,000 troops, including some 1,500 Officers, will require to be accommodated in London for the Coronation, and three main Camps are to be established for this purpose. These will be located in Olympia and Earls Court, and in a tented camp which is to be specially constructed in Kensington Gardens.

Each camp will be commanded by a Brigadier who, assisted by a small staff, will be responsible for all administrative arrangements in the camp, and for organising the marshalling of the various Detachments into their appointed places on the day of the Coronation.

Each camp will be provided with a Signal Troop, commanded by a Captain, Royal Signals, found by Regiments as follows:—

Olympia	3 Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment
Earls Court ...	5 Corps Signal Regiment
Kensington Gardens	5 Corps Signal Regiment

In the case of Olympia and Earls Court the problem is relatively straightforward since these Exhibition Buildings are well provided with facilities for telephones and public address equipment which can be adapted to meet the particular needs of the Coronation camps. The Signal Troops in these camps will be responsible for the operation of these systems in accordance with the requirements of the Camp Commanders, and will furnish normal Signal Office and despatch rider services.

In the case of Kensington Gardens the problem is more complicated, since the complete signal system has to be installed in two days from the time when the Royal Park is made available for building the camp and before the Administrative Staff arrive.

The systems which are being installed include telephone exchanges serving the Army and Royal Air Force Camps, together with all necessary cabling for extensions and junctions with the the G.P.O. Civil System, and public address facilities covering the camps.

The main Camp Telephone Exchange will be a 60 line Field and Fortress Switchboard, with facilities for dialling on the G.P.O. system which, in addition to the local extensions, will have a private wire to Headquarters, London District, through which access may be obtained to the War Department Private Wire network which will include the other Coronation camps at Olympia and Earls Court.

The Fly Past

After the return to Buckingham Palace, Her Majesty The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh are to appear on the balcony and witness the Salute of the Royal Air Force.

The timing of the Fly Past will require to be closely related to that of the procession, and the signal arrangements of the two Services will be linked in such a way as to enable this to be done.

It is hoped that it will be possible in a later issue to give photographs of some of the Signal Detachments which have been described in this article, and to mention other points of interest in connection with the signal communications for the Coronation.

THE BLUE BOOK

Seniority Roll of Warrant Officers and Non-Commissioned Officers of Royal Signals is now on sale

PRICE 2/-

from Royal Signals Association.

Amendments printed in the same type as the book to facilitate alterations, are on pages 154 and 155.

Signal Training Centre

3 TRAINING REGIMENT

Obviously the Clerk of the Weather didn't want us to go on Easter leave. Yes, indeed, we had snow, but maybe he's saving it all up for the festivities in June—hope so.

But even this cannot dampen our spirits, and proud we are of the "Excellent" report gained by Major (T.O.T.) E. Nash and his band of willing workers following the A.D.M.E.'s vehicle inspection. This assessment is seldom attained by any Unit—can it be they have read my driving notes under Catterick Jottings?

We have contested two sports finals. the soccer eleven gave a magnificent display in the final of the Northern Command Football Competition, losing by five goals to three to the Green Howards, and the badminton team, captained by Major N. A. C. Clubb, lost to 2 Training Regiment in the Northumbrian District final by two matches to one.

The basketball team continue to head the District League. And now for cricket and tennis!

The Regimental Rifle Meeting held in the middle of the month in blustery weather was very successful if the smile of the Second-in-Command (Major F. G. Bolam) counts for anything. Nothing spectacular, mark you, but good team-work throughout, with 3 Squadron carrying off the honours.

W.O.II J. Brierley is our latest addition to the L.S. and G.C. Medal, and a very worthy recipient indeed. Finally, we again experienced that inner glow of satisfaction following the initial visit of the new Commander S.T.C. (Brigadier W. D. J. Harries). And now for the Annual Administrative Inspection—a little apprehensive perhaps, but confident just the same.

7 TRAINING REGIMENT

Brigadier J. J. Duvivier, C.B.E., took his last pass-off parade on the 1st April, when the Regiment said farewell to him. At the same time, the Regiment welcomed his successor, as Commander of the Signal Training Centre, Brigadier W. D. J. Harries.

The married quarters situation for other ranks has improved to such an extent that, provided a new arrival has the required qualifications (and, of course, a wife), he is allocated quarters within a few weeks, points or no points. It is to be hoped that this situation continues.

One of the N.C.O.s was walking through the camp late one evening recently when he saw a Signalman, who appeared to have been celebrating, salute a lamp post. This happy man passed on then suddenly stopped in his tracks, swung round, and said, somewhat aggrieved, "The beggar didn't even bother to return my salute."

Sport in the Regiment has this month reached its end of the winter climax. The hockey team beat the Cameronians Depot in the quarter-final of the Army Hockey Cup (U.K.) by three goals to two. They then travelled to Chatham for the U.K. semi-final, where they lost to 12 S.M.E. by two goals to nil. This team deserves very great credit.

The Regimental Rugby enthusiasts were represented by two teams in the Northern Command Seven-a-Side Tournament on 15th April. The "A" team reached the semi-finals.

15th April was a great day for the Regimental soccer team and, indeed, for the Corps. At Aldershot, before a crowd of over 8,000, they won the Army Cup by beating 28 Battalion R.A.O.C. by three goals to two. This is the first time a Royal Signals team has won this beautiful and very coveted trophy. The team arrived back in Catterick Camp on the evening of 16th April, and were met by an enthusiastic crowd. Lance-Corporal R. Wood, the captain, in a short speech, said he hoped the Regiment would repeat the performance next year. On 10th April, the team won the District Football Cup by beating 67 Training Regiment, R.A.C., by four goals to two.

Two Regimental footballers, already Army caps, have been selected by Army F.A. to tour Austria and Jersey with an Army team. They are Lance-Corporal Quixall and Signalman Finney.

AN INTERESTING "RECRUIT"

Signalman Easter enlisted in the Corps in February this year and passed off with the recruits of No. 5 (Regular) Squadron of 7 Training Regiment on 25th April. That he was no ordinary recruit was obvious from the ribbons he wore and indeed the story of his previous military service is most interesting.

He joined the Royal Marines in 1939 and served continuously until 1946. During the first three years of the war he served in the battleship *King George V*.

He then volunteered for the Royal Marine Commando and eventually went to France on "D" Day, serving in North-West Europe during the whole of the campaign there.

He took his discharge in 1946 but found that he could not settle down to civil life and so in January 1948 he joined the French Foreign Legion. He became a parachutist, and after six months' training in Morocco and three months in Algeria, he went to Indo-China. There he did ten operational jumps and won the Croix de Guere, 3rd Class.

We think Signalman Easter should have little difficulty in appreciating that he is, firstly, a soldier, and secondly, a tradesman.

THE DEPOT REGIMENT

Amidst an "Indian summer," which makes Devon seem far away from the rest of these isles, the Regiment has pursued its cycle of sending 'em off and bringing 'em back.

Easter is now past and thoughts now look ahead, after a very welcome break, to the Coronation, where the Regiment will be represented by a detachment of one Officer and five other ranks in the "from" procession from Westminster Abbey, and one W.O., three Senior N.C.O.s and 14 other ranks for route lining duties. The competition to be included in this detachment is most keen, and the Regimental square echoes with the sounds of voices as the aspirants refresh their minds and muscles with the principles of drill.

On 4th and 5th July, a Regimental Week-End is being organised to which all Old Comrades in the district are cordially invited. The programme for this week-end is included elsewhere in this issue. The Corps Band and Fanfare Trumpeters will be present throughout the week-end, and this combined with a full and varied programme portends for a good time for all. Major-General C. M. F. White, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., the Representative Colonel-Commandant, will be visiting and inspecting the Regiment during this week-end. He is hoping to meet many old friends among the Old Comrades.

The Regiment was called upon to supply some men to assist in the flood recovery work on the East Coast and, according to reports, the men who went, like all those engaged on this task, excelled themselves.

On the 20th March, the Regiment was visited by the G.O.C. South-Western District. He saw the various aspects of the Regiment's functions, fully appreciating the difficulties and problems which are peculiar to this Regiment alone. He was very pleased with the manner in which the camp had been improved and he thought that we were doing a very good job of work.

On the night of 20th March, the Regiment was roused from its rest by the strident clamour of the fire alarm—the NAAFI staff quarters were ablaze! The Unit rapidly mobilised itself and the Fire Picket went into action, against a fire that could well have been very dangerous. The efforts of the picket and the men in camp succeeded in containing the fire until the arrival of the civilian brigade and the conflagration was eventually put down, but not before the building was totally burnt out. The NAAFI staff lost all their personal belongings, and alternative accommodation within the Unit was rapidly organised.

A collection made the next day within the Regiment to assist the NAAFI employees raised £17. It was primarily due to the fine efforts of the men engaged in fighting the fire that the fire was contained and serious damage to the camp buildings averted.

The Regimental hockey team reached the semi-final of the district competition, but were knocked out by 2 A.A. Workshops, R.E.M.E., score 1—3. The team played a rousing game and were by no means badly beaten.

The Regimental Sailing Club now possesses five West of England "Redwing" racing dinghies and one ex-German 15-square metre craft. The racing season opens at Torbay on the 26th April, and the facilities of the club are open to all passing through the Depot.

Negotiations are still in hand for the formation of a Regimental Saddle Club, and we have high hopes of their materialisation.

The cricket nets are now up and talk in the Unit begins to savour of such mystic things as "silly mid-on," "late cuts," etc., instead of "penalties," "bully-off," "foul," etc. The football teams, in the twilight of the season, look back on a record that is satisfactory though not brilliant, nevertheless, they have earned a reputation in the area for giving a good, clean, hard game.

New arrivals to the Regiment included W.O.II Hesketh, W.O.II Cole, W.O.II Lee and Sergeants Trotman, Crummy, Williams. May their stay be a happy one in this delightful camp.

Catterick Jottings

by nacerby

Inventories . . . Messing About With . . .

And so it goes on.

Old friends go and old friends arrive—especially in the Signal Training Centre. In this way perhaps disappointments are tempered—ergo—a regretful farewell to our Commander, Brigadier J. J. Duvivier, and a "Signal" welcome to Brigadier W. J. D. Harries, who arrived to find snow falling at Easter.

Who says we aren't versatile?

Of Brigadier Duvivier's work for the Corps, the Centre and the Royal Signals Association much will be written. His, and Mrs. Duvivier's, kindly interest in all aspects of Catterick's work and play will long be remembered—but he has promised to be present on Royal Signals "Day" in May, when he can with justifiable pride take his place among the Old Comrades.

Not content with this, D.A.A. and Q.M.G. Major P. H. ("Topper") Brown puts away the sun tan cream for the real thing. Good luck and welcome to his successor, Major A. R. Brooke, ex-M.E.L.F.

Certa Cito . . . (Sports Edition continued) . . .

Again this month I find it very difficult to keep pace with Corps sports successes, but I must say I certainly feel more comfortable when in company with the old 'uns who invariably pull my leg about the good old days when we swept the board. But we are doing very nicely, thank you. In the Army Individual Boxing Championships on 27th March, Driver G. Heaynes won the bantamweight, Signalman B. C. Waters the welterweight (oh, shades of Eric Viney), and Signalman G. Martin the trophy for the best runner-up. All are from 2 Training Regiment.

Never seemingly satisfied, 2 Training Regiment won the Northumbrian District Badminton Tournament, defeating 3 Training Regiment by two matches to one in Le Cateau Gymnasium before a large audience, which included the G.O.C. (Major-General H. Murray, C.B., D.S.O.), and 3 Training Regiment were defeated by the Green Howards in the final of the Northern Command Football Competition by five goals to three after a really thrilling ding-dong match.

The Northumbrian District Football Competition was won by 7 Training Regiment in convincing style by four goals to two against an R.A.C. Training Regiment.

Still Driving Me . . .

"Most of my judicial time," said the judge, "is spent investigating collisions of motor cars each on its own side of the road, each sounding the horn and each stationary." So it occurred to me that a course of map reading would interest my driving public. I've been very interested in this aspect of driving ever since I asked a chap in Newcastle the way to Catterick and he told me to go to Hades! I still don't see it—however:—

Here lies the corpse of Terrence Tapps,
Who never bothered much with maps.
Said he: "Get lost? Well, perhaps I may,
But I can always ask the way!
And what's a blinking signpost for?
And will a compass win a war?
Who wants to study contour lines,
And read about conventional signs;
And drive themselves out of their senses
By working out map references?"
And so it came that training ceased,
And Tapps was posted to Far East.
And being as he thought in luck,
Was detailed to a 3-ton truck.
The sergeant said: "You will report
To this location—Shoushou Fort.
Map reference figures four two eight
Three seven six—now don't be late."
Alas for Tapps! The sergeant's eye
Brooked no delay, so with a sigh
And with a very heavy heart,
He joined his truck and made a start.
He had not travelled very long
Before he felt he had gone wrong,
There was no roadway truly planned,
Nought but miles and miles of sand.
No signpost there, no traffic cop,
So Terrence Tapps drew to a stop,
Pulled out his map and studied it,
But understood it not a bit.
Drove on again, heart in his mouth,
Travelling rather vaguely south.
The days went past, the sun and sand
Had now begun to take a hand.
His head was aching fit to burst,
With agonies of dreadful thirst.
His tongue grew black, with pain he cried,
And so most horribly he died.
Now he lies here, a skeleton,
Unhappy Mrs. Tapps' son.

I might add at this stage that these brilliant verses aren't all my own work. Authorship, performing and film rights belong to Captain " Rags " Stokes, late of 6 Trades Training Battalion, who, although never aspiring to the Poet Laureateship, certainly gave us a laugh in the dark years.

Finally, the safest thing to do at a crossroads is to humour it!

How Promotion is Won—a Fallacy!

Every publication should carry a banner and it is my intention to lead the way in disposing of certain fallacies which persist in certain Units. Take the mistaken notion that the path to promotion is tortuous and stony. Sheer nonsense! Providing your character is sufficiently warped and your appearance is neat and tidy—up to slipshod standard—you should quickly gain a lance-corporal's stripe. The statement that even a witless man can become an N.C.O. is only half true.

Assume then that you have been awarded a stripe. This is a life appointment and nobody can deprive you of that stripe, except almost anybody in the Army.

So far so good.

Within a week of gaining one stripe you are so impressed by the many privileges it carries that you vow to acquire another stripe (two more privileges) at the earliest possible convenience.

Within four years you are certain to be considered as a potential corporal—or it is four weeks? Can't quite remember.

When you do obtain the distinction of wearing two stripes the worst part of the journey is over and the step up to sergeant is a matter of months—maybe 24, maybe more. It all depends on what you lack.

Still ambitious? Then, if you wish to become a staff sergeant or warrant officer you must go back six years and join the T.A.

From the opening paragraph you may get the idea I'm going to deal with other fallacies. This is a fallacy and I wish to dispose of it.

Jobs for the Boys . . . Copyright

This article is for all people who find work, in any shape or form, rather distasteful. It should be particularly useful to some people we know!

Employment is NOT guaranteed but certainly a copy should be hung in every class and lecture room.

Answer the following questions and award yourself 10 points for a correct answer—go on, make it 20 points—we don't mind! The points obtained should then be compared with the figures and corresponding careers given below. If you get 205 points out of a possible 200 you should become a housewife. If you get 202 points you should become a civilian instructor. Other assessments are: —

Over 150 points—Teaching (excluding morse).
" 130 " —Journalism.
" 100 " —Architecture (Tent erecting).
" 90 " —Commercial Travelling.
" 60 " —Mining (2-day week).
" 50 " —Engineering.
" 40 " —Medicine.
" 30 " —Anything mechanical.
" 20 " —The Army.
" 10 " —Politics.
" 5 " —Conducting—Music or Bus.

Answer yea or nay to the following questions: —

1. Does foreign travel broaden anything?
2. Ditto horse riding?
3. Does the extraction of the appendix count as operational service?
4. If, under the social security plan, you become unemployed, does this mean you are out of work?
5. Is Scotch Corner in Scotland?
6. Have you got a cigarette?
7. Can we separate the epiteus tissue of the offside membrane whilst writing morse?
8. If your Sweetie met a sweetie would you slosh her?
9. Is Catterick a foreign station?
10. In what terms would you refer to a Red Cap?

Association News . . . (S.T.C. Branches) . . .

Shall really report progress next month but can assure you all in advance that both the North and South Branches have made astonishing bounds in membership, both life and annual—but am sorry to announce the resignation of S.S.M. J. Robertson, 4 Training Regiment, as secretary of the North Branch. The spade work he so willingly put in since the North Branch's inauguration has certainly borne fruit. Fortunately, he is not lost to the branch and we are also happy to find such a worthy successor in S.S.I. L. Strange, also of 4 Training Regiment.

Tailpieces . . .

1. NAAFI Club conversation piece: " My boy friend has a dual personality—sometimes he's lots of fun, sometimes he's broke."
2. NACERBY's " catching-up plan " for BARLEUX and other old so-and-sos still held over—someone's pinched our dictionary.

1 WAR OFFICE SIGNAL REGIMENT (TRAFFIC)

The forthcoming Coronation is the main topic of the day and must be a real headache for R.H.Q. However, we will be there and hope to do a good job—no matter what it is.

The honour of doing duty on this very great occasion has inspired us all, and many smart lads can be seen about the barracks these days.

Continuing our " Who's who," we submit the following: Imprest Holder, Captain B. D. Gough; and the following Troop Officers of No. 1 Squadron: Lieutenants M. J. Connolly, C. W. Gomm, Second-Lieutenants C. P. Renton, R. A. Allman, F. R. Burrows and R. E. Wyatt, and last but not least, the hard worked (?) S.S.M. W. Page.

Tucked away in the Citadel, London, are Major N. C. B. Cleveley, Captain W. Buttle, Captain R. T. R. Cocks, Lieutenant P. W. Green, and Second-Lieutenant R. T. Bryant.

A representative party from the Regiment visited Aldershot on the 18th March, 1953, to see the Army Cup Semi-Final and to cheer 7 Training Regiment on to a 6—4 victory. We were rather amazed at the lack of vocal support. However, here's looking forward to a bumper day for the final. Good show, 7 Training Regiment.

S.S.M. W. Page is at the moment in hospital, and all ranks wish him a speedy recovery and return to duty.

5 CORPS SIGNAL REGIMENT

With the exception of one flood scare we have spent a quiet but active month preparing for the summer training season. One flood party were out for a week repairing an eighty yard breach on the River Crouch near Burnham.

The Commanding Officer holds a weekly drill parade each Wednesday. On this parade each soldier's turnout becomes a matter of great importance to him and of great interest to his C.O. An extra special turnout was required of all ranks on 18th March. On that parade the C.O. personally selected the N.C.O.s and men who will, amongst others, be representing the Corps at the Coronation. Three were chosen for the procession and twelve for street lining. In addition to these we are providing complete Signal Troops for the Coronation Camps at Earls Court and Kensington Gardens. These camps will take up another sixty-six other ranks.

We have formed, from personnel already in the Unit, a new and temporary Troop called the R.M.A. Brigade Signal Troop. This Troop, which has been undergoing intensive training for some weeks, will be used at the end of April for a Royal Signals demonstration to be given at the R.M.A. Sandhurst. We plan to show the cadets a complete Brigade Signal Troop tactically laid out on the ground. We have drawn special half-track vehicles for the Battalion rear link detachments. In addition to the Brigade Signal Troop we are demonstrating the new light poled route. Developed in Catterick, this employs twenty-two feet steel poles and carries four forty-pound cadmium copper conductors, P.V.C. sheathed, and six quads. A quarter of a mile of this route can be constructed in twenty minutes.

We are blessed here in Cherry Tree Camp with wooden centrally-heated accommodation spiders. Though the insides are clean enough, the areas surrounding the three spiders accommodating troops require a lot of keeping up. To overcome this we are now holding an inter-Troop gardening competition. Vegetables as well as flowers are permitted, the P.R.I. being under orders to produce the seeds.

Our hockey team battled through to the final of the Minor Units Knock-Out Competition in East Anglia District, but was beaten in the final of the cup by the Depot of the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment by three goals to two. We are also in the final of the Major Units Knock-Out Competition.

We welcome Captain A. C. Birtwhistle, who has joined us from Korea. He will be our Brigade Signal Officer at the R.M.A. demonstration.

EASTERN COMMAND SIGNAL REGIMENT

During this month the Regiment has established itself in a new military role. We now provide a week-end training centre for T.A. Regiments. Besides providing food and accommodation for these, we have also wired up six huts in a specimen line layout. Here, amid the peace and quiet of Sussex, the Territorials will be able to practice teleprinter operating or exchange working. But besides taking in T.A. Reservists we have also provided a week-end instruction camp for sixty A.C.F. cadets. This proved extremely popular if a little chaotic at times. Cadets were, amongst other things, given a chance to work some of the larger wireless sets and were also armed with S.I. sets and sent out on a treasure hunt round the camp, taking their clues from a central station in the centre. It could not have been called a study in good procedure, but the zest with which they all struggled on towards the prize at the end—a box of chocolates—showed the experiment to have been popular, and worth repeating.

March has also been a month of departures. We regretfully said goodbye to Major Pigg, who commanded 2 Squadron, and Major Bishop, the T.O.M. and jovial wines member of the Officers' Mess. Their places have been taken by Major Terry on the one hand and Major Webster on the other. At the beginning of the month the Army also bid farewell to W.O.II Finch, 2 Squadron Sergeant Major, who caught the imagination of the Regiment by taking a pre-release course in bar-keeping.

With the coming of April, the Regiment has now been in Warren Camp for six months. It would be safe to say that we are now firmly established as a community in this part of the world. To further this end, the Officers' Mess held a cocktail party earlier in the year, to which many of our neighbours in and around Crowborough were invited. Every month we hold an O.R.s' dance in the NAAFI, and for the occasion invitations are extended to the local hospitals and other organisations.

But if we are getting to know the surrounding inhabitants, Warren Camp itself still holds some surprises for us. We found that there was a " gymnasium " in the camp, but on closer inspection it was found to be full of "Q" bedding stores. The discovery of an assault course at the bottom of the hill opens up great possibilities, and has caused some apprehension in the less athletic quarters of the camp. The "Q" Staff have yet to find an effective means of sabotaging this enjoyable form of exercise.

Anti - Aircraft Command

1 A.A. (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT

Our changes in personnel have been so numerous during the past few weeks that it is not possible to detail them all. We must, however, pen our farewell and best wishes to S.S.M. Barnes, our Acting R.S.M., who has left us for Gibraltar, and welcome 2322066 S.S.M. Veitch from Egypt as his relief. We have not seen very much as yet of our newcomer as he has been busy down at Caterham showing the Guards how drill should be done, preparatory, no doubt, to giving us the benefit of his course.

With the smaller exercises that are always part of our routine and the constant demands for work in our territory, we have still been able to run an Inter-Troop Hockey and Soccer League, in which R.H.Q. Troop won the hockey and 3/4 Line Maintenance the soccer.

Our Regimental hockey team goes on from victory to victory, having won the 1 A.A. Group Minor Units Competition and now meeting H.Q. Home Counties District in the semi-final of the Eastern Command Minor Units Cup.

Many fixtures have been arranged for the forthcoming cricket season with both civilian and military teams in the area, and we look forward to a " bumper " season.

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During the past week-end we were fully engaged in a signal traffic exercise with our sister Unit, 11 A.A. (M) Signal Regiment (T.A.). A new type of exercise for us, as normally the emphasis is on A.A. communications.

The office staffs and non-signal office tradesmen and women acted as the staff, and in some cases occupying the office of the actual Staff Officer whom they represented at Headquarters.

The exercise was a great success, and produced unbounded enthusiasm, especially from " the staff." We only hope that if on Monday morning the real staff found some very " scarifying " messages in the " in " trays they didn't act upon them.

3 A.A. INDEPENDENT (M) SIGNAL SQUADRON

During the period leading up to Easter, the Squadron has been hard at work with training, a large number of our personnel having attended upgrading courses. This has left us shorthanded at times and as a result everyone seems to have been working harder than usual.

The weather has been remarkably kind to us, especially for this part of the country, and we are hoping that our usual ration of February and March blasts is not being held over for us until June when we go to camp. This year we are breaking new ground at Plasterdown in Devon from 6th to 20th June, and we do hope that this year the gum boots can be left unused.

During April the Squadron will be seeing the departure of Major G. R. Edwards to a post in his own Northern Ireland, and will be welcoming a new O.C., Major G. D. Meiklejohn, M.B.E., who comes to us from Amphibious Warfare Signal School.

On the off-duty side we have to report that our Small Bore Team is keeping a creditable, if not a distinguished, place in the 3 A.A. Group Shooting Competition, while our soccer clashes with 3 A.A. Group Camp Staff continue. On Wednesday, 25th March, however, these differences were sunk and members of both teams travelled to Glasgow by special bus to watch the Scottish League defeat the English League 1—0 in the international match.

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

This year the Regiment is doing its annual camp at Plasterdown, near Tavistock, where all the A.A. (M) Signal Regiments are going this year, and, in fact, is actually there at the time of writing. The main body of the Regiment was (perhaps happily!) unfamiliar with that part of the country, but our Plymouth Squadron, who live almost at the camp's doorstep, has introduced us to the more interesting places. There were some misgivings about going to camp so early in the year, especially since we are the first Regiment at Plasterdown, but difficulties have been sorting themselves out satisfactorily.

Our Coronation representation is small: only three men of the Regiment have the honour of taking part. They should, however, be a credit to us as the R.S.M. has them for a large portion of their fifteen days at camp to train them for this responsible task.

The W.R.A.C. element in the Regiment do much to keep our name well forward in local activities. Three Bristol girls were in the 2nd Anti-Aircraft Group netball team which was defeated by 1 A.A. Group. The same three girls also formed part of the 14 A.A. Brigade team, who are the 2 A.A. Group champions.

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

OBITUARY

Sergeant H. Hadley, W.R.A.C.

It is with deep regret that we report the tragic death in a road accident at West Melton, Yorks., on Friday, 27th February, of Sergeant Hilda Hadley, P.S.I. (W.R.A.C.), of 38 Squadron, 15 A.A. (M) Signal Regiment (T.A.).

Sergeant Hadley, who was 27, joined the Regiment in September 1951, and was posted to 38 Squadron, Rotherham, on a "T" type engagement. She had settled down as a popular and hard-working member of the Unit, and the news of her death came as a profound shock to all ranks.

The vehicle in which Sergeant Hadley was travelling as passenger on a duty journey to R.H.Q. at Leeds was in collision with another Army lorry. Both drivers, fortunately, were unhurt, but Sergeant Hadley was gravely injured and died before reaching hospital.

A measure of the esteem in which Sergeant Hadley was held by her T.A. comrades was the strong turnout of members of the Regiment at the funeral at City Road Crematorium on Thursday, 5th March. Six sergeants formed the bearer party, and the cortege was escorted by a strong parade of uniformed T.A. volunteers, many of whom had sacrificed an afternoon's work to be present.

Military representatives also included Brigadier G. E. R. Bastin, O.B.E. (Commander, 65 A.A. Brigade), Colonel L. Hayes, T.D. (Commanding 15 A.A. (M) Signal Regiment (T.A.)), Major J. Kilner (O.C. 38 Squadron), Major I. Smith (representing the W.R.A.C.), and Officers of the Regiment.

WEST COUNTRY

REUNION

At the Depot Regiment, Newton Abbot.
Saturday, 4th, and Sunday, 5th July, 1953.

For details see page 125.

EUROPE

1 WIRELESS REGIMENT

March appears to be hurling itself out with a vengeance this year and seems to be doing its best to hurl our tennis courts out with it. We are thinking of holding the Regimental Tennis Tournament in Second-Lieutenant Bostock's office just down wind from the courts. In the meantime, March has taken us with some success through various sporting activities.

The rugger team, outweighted in the pack but playing a fast open game, beat 11 Air Formation Signal Regiment by 13 points to 6, and we enter the final of the Royal Signals B.A.O.R. rugger tournament. It was an exciting match to watch, and though Corporal Pitts unfortunately sustained a fractured collar bone, most of the spectators escaped uninjured.

The soccer eleven this month entered the finals of the Royal Signals in B.A.O.R., and of the Lubbecke District Inter-Unit Knock-Out Competition. In the semi-final of the latter a thrilling match resulted in a win of 4—1 after extra time over an Army Engineer Regiment.

The appearance of Private Rhodes in a battered clerical hat, false nose and dark glasses awakened suspicions of renewed activity in the Theatre Club. The grapevine report the production in early May of the P. G. Wodehouse-Ian Hay comedy "Baa, Baa, Black Sheep." We and the cast await in trepidation.

The Entertainments Officer is now busy with preparations for the Regimental Easter Ball, at which the Regimental Dance Band (*sic*) is to make its debut.

The Regiment was represented in the Lubbecke District Rifle Meeting. The Young Soldiers Team, who were runners-up in their part of the competition, were agreeably surprised that rifles are used for activity other than arms drill.

The basketball team has had a successful month, winning all three games played in the Garrison League. A visiting team from the American Zone gave our side two enjoyable games at the end of the month. They towered, literally and metaphorically, head and shoulders above our team.

5 AGRA (A.A.) SIGNAL SQUADRON

This month we say farewell to our C.O., Major C. W. Ainsworth, who is leaving us for FARELF. We wish him and his wife a pleasant tour in their new station. We welcome in his place Major J. Ray, who joins us from H.Q. Northern Army Group. The C.O. held his farewell parade on Saturday, 7th March, when he presented Corporal Wilde with his Long Service and Good Conduct Medal.

There is a new face, it can just be seen above the desk, in the "Q" chair—that of S.Q.M.S. "Tich" Mulcahy, who has taken over from S.Q.M.S. L'Homme, now Korea Command.

Life is as varied as the weather—one day out on exercise with the thermometer registering 4 degrees below (the "G" staff aptly called this one "Silver Fox")—then it is brilliant sunshine and we are sweating on our battle tests.

Success on the sports field seems to dodge our plucky footballers. They went down to a H.A.A. Regiment in the Agra Cup 1—2 in the replay. Craftsman Bonnetto (R.E.M.E. attached) is to be congratulated on playing for B.A.O.R. and R.E.M.E. at Rugby, and Signalman Buss for the Agra at football against British Troops Berlin. Efforts are now being directed in the struggle for the Inter-Troop Shield (last year won on table tennis and darts) but now they have to run, jump, swim, play football and hockey for it.

11 Air Formation Signal Regiment Boxing Team, 1952/3

II Air Formation Signal Regiment

The exercise season having started, found Command Group roughing it in the Exercise "Location" in Barracks, and Lieutenant J. Weston and his Line Troop taking things easy under canvas, although rumour is rife that snow was to be seen and washing water frozen! A number of Wing Signal Troops were fortunate enough to see the Duke of Edinburgh during his visit to B.A.O.R. Signalman Aston, of 2 Wing Signal Troop, was presented to His Royal Highness and we are pleased to record that he was a credit to the Regiment.

Major Hatcher, O.C. 1 Squadron, was admitted to hospital for a serious operation. He is now making a good recovery and after the usual "perks" of hospitalisation will no doubt join us in time for the exercises.

2 T.E. Troop. The Troop is settling in at Sundern and has been engaged on the last exercises in full strength. We have lost two bachelors this spring—Corporal Ross and Signalman Sutcliffe have waded through the necessary Army forms and marriage procedure to take the plunge. No more romances to date, but we still hope!

Boxing. The Regimental boxing team has rounded off a very successful season by winning for the first time the 2 T.A.F. Inter-Station Championships, eight fights to two—18 points to 11.

Although the number of fights won by the Regiment appears to show a one-sided contest, this was not so. The boxers were very well matched, the standard of boxing was of the highest, and great credit is due to all contestants for the sportsmanship shown and the spirited manner in which they set about their task. When they were not "boxing" they were having a real good "mill."

Some 600 or more spectators thoroughly enjoyed a first-class evening's entertainment, and for the first time to our knowledge in Service boxing spectators were permitted to encourage their favourites during the bouts.

The "Brown Jobs," as we are called by the R.A.F., although outnumbered by the odd hundred, had no Db losses and came out in full strength in the rendering of "We are the Air Formation Signals." It is hoped that Air Vice-Marshal Whitley will forgive us our justifiable, if vociferous, pride in taking the championship this year.

Hockey. The hockey team has continued its run of successes. We met some firm opposition in the third round of the Army Cup, being knocked out by Hanover District 3—0. We are top of the R.A.F. League and cannot be overtaken.

Matches played are:—

11 A.F.S.	v. R.A.F. Guetersloh	Won 8—2
„	v. H.Q. 2 T.A.F.	Won 4—1
„	v. R.A.F. Celle	Won 3—1
„	v. R.A.F. Sundern	Won 5—2
„	v. H.Q. Hanover District	Lost 0—3

Sergeant Webb continues to lead the scoring, with S.Q.M.S. Turner second, and Signalman Febery and S.S.M. Walker following in that order.

The semi-final of the Signals Cup resulted in our winning against 6 Armoured Divisional Signals 4—0. Goal scorers were S.S.M. Walker, S.Q.M.S. Turner and Sergeant Webb (2).

We are pleased to record that the team has been strengthened by the return of Lieutenant-Colonel Galbraith, who has thrown off the ill effects of his recent operation and is back in form.

Further successes in the competition world, this time with our A.C.C. personnel. Sergeant Johnson and his staff carried off the Lubbecke District Messing Competition in fine style after a tie with another Unit in the district and to prove this was no fluke. Corporal Morritt won the District Individual Championship a fortnight later. He has now been chosen to represent the district in the B.A.O.R. Finals.

R.S.M. N. A. Richardson is presented with the L.S.G.C. Medal

2 INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT

The month commenced vigorously with preparations for the Annual Administrative Inspection. The inspection, which took place on Monday, 16th March, was carried out by Major-General B. A. Coad, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., G.O.C. 2 Infantry Division. Whilst the Regiment was drawn up on parade the G.O.C. presented R.S.M. N. A. Richardson with the L.S.G.C. Medal. The inspection carried on smoothly throughout the remainder of the day, and the overall result was "very good." A day's holiday was granted to the personnel of the Unit in recognition of the hard work that had been carried out prior to the inspection.

Over the inspection period the Regiment was engaged in two exercises, Exercise "Counterstroke" with Main Division and Exercise "Long Stop" with Rear Division. Our better informed colleagues assured us that at Rear Division we were situated near one of the most delightful lakes in Germany, but we had to take their word for it because of the fog.

The most memorable event in the field of sport was the form displayed by our representatives in the 2 Division Individual Boxing Championships. Of the four entrants, three became champions and one a runner-up. Driver Wallington captured the light-middleweight championship by defeating Hunt, of the R.A.S.C., in a hard hitting contest. Driver McNamee topped the welter division, and Driver Wilson won the lightweight final. Signalman Foley was runner-up in the featherweight class. Driver Wallington went on to Detmold for the B.A.O.R. Championships, where he was defeated on points in the final by his old friend Hunt, of the R.A.S.C.

4 L. OF C. SIGNAL REGIMENT

R.H.Q. and 1 Squadron. Our recent activities have had the added enjoyment of being performed in splendid spring weather. An exercise completed has given one or two of the Exchange and Signal Office workers a chance to more nearly apply their active trades, and was a refreshing change from the continual job of providing peacetime communications for a large slice of the Northern Army Group.

We entered a shooting team in the Lubbecke District Competition and were placed third, which was an admirable result. Sergeant Copestake, of 1 Squadron, won the individual competition for rifle and sten, which was an excellent achievement.

The soccer team are through to the semi-final of the Signals Cup Competition, and we hope will win honours for us which we can report in the next edition.

3 Squadron. Congratulations to No. 1 Training Regiment on their magnificent victory over the Welsh Guards. We have here a particular interest, as all the important rounds in B.A.O.R. are played within a few minutes' walk of Squadron H.Q. It also gave this scribe an opportunity of making good some of the financial loss he incurred last year when the Corps was defeated in the semi-final.

Because of a sudden demand, at short notice, for a large number of men for Exercise "Counterstroke," our football team had to forego bringing the local Minor Units Knock-Out Championship home to roost. However, with luck and a little more notice we may be more fortunate during the forthcoming cricket season.

To the W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess at R.H.Q., who with the assistance of S.S.M. Mayhew, Sergeant Dady and the sten guns we handed in, our congratulations on their success in the Lubbecke District Championship.

BERLIN SIGNAL SQUADRON

The warm spring weather which we have enjoyed over the last few weeks has brought with it the end of the rather dreary weather which followed the slow disappearance of the snow.

The city has taken on a new look and come back to life. New activity is noticed too in the hordes of small children who abound in the British Sector, now making driving even more formidable for our M.T. Troop by whipping spinning tops up most of the main streets. From the driver's point of view, these and constant road works and traffic diversions, an outcome of the new rebuilding programme, characterise our sector at the moment.

The Squadron acquitted itself well in the Annual Administrative Inspection, and in the realm of sport the football team had the following successes:—

R.A.F. Gatow 3—Berlin Signal Squadron 5.

247 Provost Company 4—Berlin Signal Squadron 4.

The first meeting of the cricket enthusiasts has been held and under the watchful eyes of Major J. W. Elston and Sergeant "Ginger" Firth, it is hoped that we will be able to field a team that will keep our name shining in the field of sport.

The Squadron has said "hello" to its new Second-in-Command, Captain W. L. Ward, from the War Office.

From a member of the Corporals' Mess comes the following "Unsolicited Testimonial" of the amenities of life in the Squadron.

"This Unit has by far the best accommodation in Berlin, and facilities for recreation and entertainment are numerous.

"The Unit lines are situated in several acres of fields near the famous Berlin Olympic Stadium, and many playing fields set out for football, cricket and hockey are available to all ranks. Besides these outdoor sports, facilities also exist for small bore shooting, netball and badminton, and there are several swimming baths within walking distance of the accommodation block.

"Besides opportunities in this Squadron for sport and entertainment, there exists many places of interest in the city of Berlin itself. All tastes are catered for as there are theatres, cinemas, opera houses, and places of historical interest. Also tours of the Allied and Russian Sectors are most interesting.

"Indeed, any member of the Royal Signals who is posted to this Unit may deem himself most fortunate and will be assured of a very pleasant and interesting tour of duty."

S.H.A.P.E. SIGNAL SQUADRON

Having painted a picture of our International Camp at S.H.A.P.E. in the March issue of THE WIRE, we feel we should now tell readers of the work of the Squadron over the last months.

It was decided some months back that the Camp Cinema would be the building in which Command Post Exercise 2 (CPX2) would be held. Thus the whole Squadron had ample opportunity to see such high ranking N.A.T.O. Officers as Field Marshal Lord Montgomery, General Omar Bradley, General Hoyt Vandeburg and Admiral Earl Mountbatten of Burma, and many others. Our "rubber necking" was made all the easier by the fact that our barrack block is only some 30 yards from the cinema. Never again, we feel, will we be subjected to so much "brass" in such concentration and from the comfort of our barrack block! The exercise was directed by Field Marshal Lord Montgomery, and we understand that he really "ran" the show and was the complete tactical and strategical master. Our answer to the question "Did Lord Montgomery really come on dressed as a Russian General?" is firmly "no comment." Several members of the Squadron had the unique experience of taking part in the exercise, providing the communications required. At the conclusion of the five-day exercise, they and their American and French counterparts were personally congratulated by the Director for their part in making CPX2 such a success. The Field Marshal also kindly agreed to be photographed with the Signals personnel. The international co-operation symbolised by S.H.A.P.E. is well demonstrated in this photograph.

To those newly arrived from Catterick, the terms "Signal Office" and "Superintendent" are to us out of this world. These terms are replaced by such terms as "Com-Centre" and "Trick Chief." An operator does not "perf" a message, he "pokes" it; the zebra is superceded by a different animal, the zeebra! Coca cola, abbreviated to coke, is a very popular drink at S.H.A.P.E., consequently a machine resembling the box in which coca cola is housed is called a coke machine. This machine is very popular with the British operators as it is an automatic all tape transmitter and receiver. Another machine of American manufacture is a multi-address one which provides 12 tapes at the same time, a necessity in such an H.Q. as S.H.A.P.E. As may be imagined, most of the equipment used in the Comcenter is of American manufacture bought by the International Budget. However, for communication with the French civilian stations the French Telex machine is used. To reassure our mobile readers, we also have a complete mobile comcenter. These latter machines and vehicles were made in Canada from S.H.A.P.E. blueprints.

A S.H.A.P.E. Signal Squadron hockey team was formed a few months ago and, following in the footsteps of our last year's unbeaten football team, has already defeated a team of the rest of the British element of S.H.A.P.E. (including the Staff). The writer is told that the hockey team is now seeking more competition in the outside world, including games with a ladies' team. We hope we shall be able to report suitable wins against the ladies! (There surely will be more than one fixture.) But be careful, boys, don't let the meetings end up like some hideous St. Trinian's nightmare! For those who remember, a cricket pitch is now being constructed at S.H.A.P.E., between the main and administrative buildings. This will give Captain Pocock and all keen "smiters of the leather" a chance to show incredulous American and Frenchmen what is meant by "lbw," "a googly" and "silly short slips." We do not know yet whether the International Budget will pay for broken windows!

We extend a sincere welcome to Sergeant-Major and Mrs. A. E. Hamblett, who joined us last month having recently come from the Middle East. At the same time we say *au revoir* to Second-Lieutenant M. Altree.

S.H.A.P.E SIGNAL SQUADRON ROYAL SIGNALS PERSONNEL

Field-Marshal Montgomery, Deputy Supreme Allied Commander Europe (centre) with the "CPX-2" Signals personnel

Back row: Second from left, Corporal Shaw, fourth from left, Signalman Susfeleden. Middle row: From left to right, Signalmen Jackson, Coote, Harrison, Battison. Front row: Fourth from left, Lieutenant G. G. Campbell

SHEK SUN FORT

IT was in the early part of the present year that the attention of our Orderly Room Sergeant, Sergeant Harfield, and Sergeant Garner, R.A.D.C., was drawn to a short article in the Hong Kong *China Mail*. The article in question mentioned the presence of the ruins of a very old fort situated on the extreme eastern tip of Lan Tao Island.

A large scale map was procured forthwith, and sure enough, there it was, a tiny square marked cryptically "Fort (Ruins)." The fact that, according to the local Press, a certain mystery pertained as to its origin made the thought of a possible visit to these ruins doubly intriguing. Plans were set afoot for such a visit by the two sergeants, but certain difficulties presented themselves.

Lan Tao is a large mountainous island roughly 17 miles long. It is dominated by a central peak which rises to over 3,000 feet. The westernmost tip of the island upon which the fort is situated is just within British waters and juts out into the mouth of the Pearl River, on the upper reaches of which lies Canton. Directly opposite to this point, on the other side of the estuary, lies the Portuguese Colony of Macau.

The island may be reached from Hong Kong by a small ferry boat which runs two services. One of these services makes its landfall at a large bay on the island called Silver Mine Bay, a little more than a one-hour journey, whilst the other runs to the village of Tai O, situated on the farther side of the island at some distance, which is approximately a four-hour journey. However, these services are run in such a manner as to necessitate the pair spending at least one night on the island. It was decided to land at Silver Mine Bay and trek down the coast to the ruins, a distance of some 12 miles, and having examined the ruins work up the opposite coast and embark at the village of Tai O, taking two days for the whole venture.

Having supplied themselves with food, etc., Sergeants Harfield and Garner departed on the 5th April, 1952. Once ashore on the island it became quickly apparent to the two that the journey was going to be anything but easy, but rather, one calculated, to impress them with a healthy respect for the contour lines on their maps. Following the faintly discernible footpaths of the local inhabitants, they quickly found themselves twisting and turning round the shoulders of hills reminiscent of the milder parts of the Scottish Highlands,

meandering through small villages, plunging across maze-like paddy fields, and breasting their way through dense tropical undergrowth.

By the evening of the first day, in country like this, our two budding archaeologists found that they were considerably behind schedule in distance travelled. Matters were further complicated by the fact that for some time it had been raining with dogged persistence. However, a dry billet was obtained for the night by the pair accidentally stumbling upon a backwoods Government schoolhouse, the door of which was fortunately unlocked.

Next day the weather was not very promising as they "broke camp" and pushed on. All went well until having followed a path for some time it was found to be the wrong track, and rather a steep climb was necessitated in order to regain the right path without wasting time in backtracking. The rain had recommenced and by mid-day they were in the vicinity of the fort, glimpses of which could be seen through the driving rain and sea mist. Owing to having misjudged the nature of the terrain that had to be crossed, coupled with the slowing down effect of the rain, which had turned all pathways into muddy water courses, the pair were obliged to abandon their investigation of the fort and push on as quickly as possible in order to reach Tai O in time to catch the boat. They managed it with barely minutes to spare and returned safely, but wet and disappointed.

After this somewhat disastrous endeavour it was decided that the next party would try for the fort by the shorter route from Tai O. This party, consisting of Sergeant Harfield, Lance-Corporals Hall and Clay, set off on the 31st May, 1952. The weather was fine and the journey uneventful, the fort being reached that day. Several preliminary photographs were taken and the party returned the next day. Some ground work thus accomplished, a third party (and the last to date), consisting of Sergeants Harfield and Garner and Signalman Ficken, set off for a closer investigation of the ruins, lasting three days, 20th, 21st and 22nd June, 1952.

The weather was exceptionally fine on this occasion, maybe a little too fine judging by the burned shoulders and excessive sweating suffered by all concerned. The fort itself proved extremely interesting. Its somewhat isolated site occupies a commanding position on a hill situated on a small spit of land, directly overlooking a passage of water known as the Lan Tao Channel. From this position in the evening the lights of Macau could be seen far away across the Pearl River.

The fort's dimensions are approximately 150 feet by 80 feet and average thickness of walls 10 feet, consisting of heavy unmortared stones. One wall was greatly thicker and furnished with a raised gun platform which would probably have accommodated four large cannons, long since removed. Piercing the east wall was a gateway constructed after the fashion of a Norman arch, but having a peculiar pierced lintel which may once have carried a portcullis type gate. The whole structure is, of course, badly ruined, much detail obliterated by time and the elements. All four walls were closely invested with jungle-like growth as was the inside of the compound, vines having split the walls in some places. The party measured up the dimensions of the structure and took photographs for use in a later reconstruction drawing. Some digging was put in on a buried and badly overgrown altar-like stone structure in the centre of the compound, but its nature was not ascertainable. It was quickly realised that any serious attempt at investigation of the ruins was impossible to anything but a large, well-equipped party with unlimited time.

The origin of the fort, of which no official record apparently exists, was the object of much theorising and conjecture in camp, during the return journey and during the juncture in camp, during the return journey and during the interim period prior to the writing of these notes. The structure was obviously very old and it was generally agreed that it was erected either by the Portuguese as a flank guard and outpost of their colony of Macau—Macau being founded as early as 1569 by Alfonso d'Albesqueque. If this was a flank guard to Macau it is likely to have been brought about by a number of factors of which the following are the most probable. Firstly, it may have been built by the Portuguese during the period 1581 to 1640, this being while Portugal was under Spanish rule and Macau was the only colony to continue to fly the national flag. The Dutch, who had coveted this important colony, attacked it during the years 1603, 1604, 1607 and 1622. They were finally defeated and driven off on St. John's Day, 24th June, 1622. Or, secondly, it may have been built after the first appearance of the English in Chinese waters in 1637, when Captain John Weddell reached the Chinese city of Canton with five ships after brushing aside all Portuguese opposition!

There is, of course, a possibility that it was built by the Dutch themselves as a "stepping-off point" during their numerous attempts to capture the Portuguese colony or by the Chinese themselves. The latter conjecture seems the most likely as for centuries the only port of entry into China allowed to foreign embassies, trading factors (mostly Portuguese) was the Port of Canton. The vast coast of China had always been subject to the depredations of privateers and sea rovers, however, but apparently the general view towards these was one of amused tolerance. It was not until Lord Anson's globe circling "Centurion" appeared in the Canton River in the mid-18th century that they were shaken out of their complacency, and it would not seem too improbable that this now ruined fort may have been constructed after this by the Chinese as an advance outpost-cum-lookout against privateers watering their craft at the numerous small surrounding islands, and other undesirables.

It is possible that in some dusty archive somewhere in Red China is the solution to this minor mystery, but it is hardly likely that our party will be making that journey!

The Gateway (from the outside)

Plain Tales

★ WITH GREETINGS FROM BARLEUX

Bouquets and Brickbats

WE hear so much these days about the indifference of railway porters, the churlishness of bus conductors, and the apathy of shop assistants, that it is a pleasure to record that the visitor to North Wales really feels that he is in another country, which, of course, he is. But make no mistake—they take English money just the same. In North Wales, bus conductors will actually wait until you have both feet on before giving the start signal. All shop assistants are courteous and helpful and the girls are good looking. Mind you, I don't say you wouldn't get better service if your name happened to be Dai Thomas or Evan Rhys Owen-Owen, look you. It is only when you go to buy a postal order or a stamp you discover that not all the inhabitants are Welsh. Some post office clerks are charming people. Others, overcome by the petty authority they are able to exert, excel at rudeness. You cannot deal with another firm for your stamps and pensions, although if it is any advantage you can go to another town and get yourself into a neat queue with the other two customers.

St. George for England and buy your beer on Saturday bach.

Next month: How to get telephone managers out of cement mixers and why.

★

A Phoney Deal

No doubt you heard the private telephone conversation being broadcast with the Palm Court Orchestra on Sunday evening, 15th March. Let that be a lesson to you. Ordinary telephones are not secret, and a good thing too. Shall I tell you how the telephone saved me a lot of money?

Uncle Alf: "Oh, do, do. We can hardly wait."

Me: "Pipe down. This is as true as I am sailing this yacht. See my finger wet?"

I stepped into a telephone kiosk, popped my pennies in the box, and dialled the guy who was going to let me have a very nice car at a very reasonable price. The description was his. Instead of the expected ringing tone I discovered that an animated conversation was in progress. I recognised the voice of the car owner, and as it seemed they were discussing what I was becoming to regard as MY car, I had no scruples about listening. I heard that there was a well disguised crack in the cylinder block and that a new prop wouldn't come amiss. No. Wouldn't sell it to you old man, but I expect some mug to ring me this evening. I'll be seeing you.

I pressed button "B." The sound of those pennies bouncing into the tray was like a symphony in chromium. I sometimes wonder if that guy stuck around all evening waiting for me to ring.

It proves something, if proof were needed, which it probably does.

★

Ye Olde Signals

I am so glad that NACERBY, friend of my long past youth, is going to do something about putting the ex-soldiers in the picture. One of the first jobs I have for him is to tell us where the Royal Signals Museum is to be found, when it was opened and what it contains. Don't anyone say that there is NO museum. You don't have to wait until the Corps is 100 years old before starting a collection. Leave it too late and what happens? You scratch round looking for telephones D.III, Teles 110, Wheatstones, Creeds, "C" sets, Surcingles, Curry combs, "H" Model Triumphs, Fullerphones and a pound of meat, ration for one man. So get your skis on, Nat, and let us have the lowdown on this museum. It is sure to be in Catterick Camp. Perhaps they have that old flute I gave the band when it was first formed. But no, I believe someone used it to poke the fire in Hut 77 at Maresfield. Almost certainly there will be the Commandant's S.D. cap still showing traces of the glue tipped into it by Q.E.M.A. King one guest night. Of course, there will be a box of Turkish cigarettes recovered from a hut in "E" Company lines after that lovely fire in "C" Officers' Mess. Bless me soul, that must have been over thirty years ago. Those fags will be mouldy by now. Like who? Don't you believe it, sonny. Most of us can still smoulder very nicely. Take a look at the reunion parade in May. The museum might lend the band the music of "Boys of the Old Brigade." Let us hear that again.

★

That Man Again

Hartley Fogworthy (whom you won't remember) was chief assistant to Ukann Larfe, the world-famous investigator. Let us look at Fogworthy a moment. He was tall, well proportioned, good looking, and wore his clothes as though they were paid for, which they never were. He was a bachelor but was not particularly lucky at anything else. He, in turn, had an assistant with one leg called Snaky Joe. Nobody ever discovered the name of his other leg. Keep him in mind. He has nothing to do with this story. Fogworthy made his way along the richly furnished stone corridor leading to Ukann Larfe's office. He had a lady with him. He pushed open the office door and bowed the lady in. She was a little slow so he went in first and dragged her with him. Ukann Larfe was seated at his enormous glass topped desk. He was cutting his toe nails. With old-world courtesy he replaced his socks and remained seated. He did, however, raise his hat slightly from the filing cabinet where it was usually parked. Fogworthy made a vague gesture with his hands and announced "Signorina Elvira Tico-Tico." This vocal effort accomplished he poured himself a large rum and sat on a crate of imported clues to watch the effect of the astonishingly beautiful visitor on his boss. Ukann Larfe pushed his eyeballs back with a well-manicured thumb and gave tongue. "How do, how do," he said. "Come this way, signorina." The lady followed him into the inner office. Ukann Larfe slammed the door in Fogworthy's face just as the door of the outer office opened. Hermione Larfe swept in, all ashes of roses and dangerous curves. Now this is a bit of a nuisance. We look like having trouble before the story gets going. Ah, well!

Please replace the stopper.

Royal Signals "Corps Week" Canal Zone

Back row (left to right): Major F. L. Hill, Major A. B. Wheeler, Major J. A. Waite, Major A. E. Wood, Major V. H. Martin, M.C., Major H. J. Waters, T.D., Mr. W. Knight, Captain A. P. L. Anderson. Standing: Major T. De B. Miller, M.B.E., Major R. J. Barlow, Major S. F. Dunkley, Major S. Schofield, Lieut-Colonel E. G. Day, O.B.E., T.D., Lieut.-Colonel L. E. Thorpe, Squadron Leader D. L. Hart, R.A.F., Major W. J. Hotchkiss, Major D. E. Warren, Major F. M. Handsley. Seated: Lieut.-Colonel C. H. Barker, Lieut.-Colonel R. B. Ridley-Martin, Lieut.-Colonel W. A. Purser, Colonel J. W. Gordon, Major-General M. S. Wheatley, C.B., C.B.E., Lieut.-Colonel F. C. Seely, O.B.E., Lieut.-Colonel J. H. L. Crichton, M.B.E., Lieut.-Colonel A. M. W. Whistler, Lieut.-Colonel G. H. K. Hewlett

Royal Signals in Egypt held a Corps Week in early March. The aim of the Corps Week was to bring together members of the Corps in Egypt for a programme of sporting and social events and so to foster the Corps spirit. The aim was achieved. The week was a great success, thanks to the untiring efforts of the many whose aid and co-operation made it possible.

The occasion coincided with the C.S.O. M.E.L.F. Annual Conference, and Royal Signals in Egypt were thus able to welcome visiting Officers from other Commands in M.E.L.F.

On Wednesday, March 4, there was a Rugby match at the Olympia Stadium, Fayid, between a Royal Signals (Canal Zone) team and a representative team of Royal Engineers. The game ended in a 6—6 draw.

The following night the final match of the Royal Signals (Canal Zone) Boxing Tournament took place between 3 G.H.Q. Signal Regiment and 3 L. of C. Signal Regiment. After 11 hard bouts 3 G.H.Q. Signal Regiment won by 18 points to 15. The evening was concluded by a fork supper at 3 G.H.Q. Signal Regiment's Officers' Mess.

The day afterwards, 3 G.H.Q. Signal Regiment were again successful when they won the annual Pimple Race on a course over Gebel Shubra Wit at Fayid. 3 Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment were second, and 4 Air Formation Signal Regiment came third. The individual winner was Driver Thomas, 3 G.H.Q. Signal Regiment, who completed the strenuous course in 28 minutes 15 seconds. After the race, Mrs. M. S. Wheatley, wife of Major-General Wheatley, presented cups to the winner and runners-up.

The same evening was the occasion of the Officers of the Corps Annual Regimental Dinner, when 104 Officers sat down to dine at the Olympia Stadium. Toasts were drunk to Her Majesty The Queen and Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal. The loyal greetings of the Officers present were signalled to our Colonel-in-Chief and later Her Royal Highness graciously replied.

On Saturday the final sporting event took place when a representative team of Royal Signals were beaten on the Moascar ground in a hockey match by four goals to two by a representative team of the Royal Engineers.

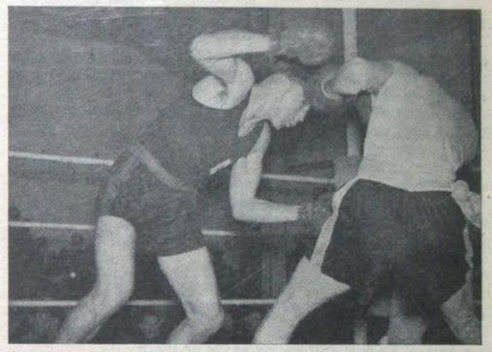
Each night of the week the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Messes were open to the entertainment of guests under Unit arrangements.

On Saturday evening Gala Regimental Dances were held in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Messes of 3 G.H.Q. Signal Regiment and 3 L. of C. Signal Regiment.

The week of celebration was brought to a close with a Church Service on Sunday, 8th March, at the New Garden Cinema, Moascar, conducted by the Rev. K. C. Oliver, O.B.E., M.A., Assistant Chaplain General to the Forces.

After the service, 950 Officers and men, representing all Royal Signals Units in the Canal Zone, marched past a saluting base in the Mall, Moascar, where Major-General M. S. Wheatley, C.B., C.B.E., Chief Signal Officer, M.E.L.F., took the salute. An "At Home" was later held in the Officers' Mess of 3 L. of C. Signal Regiment.

Church Service and Parade, Moascar, Corps Week, 2nd-8th March, 1953



Signalman Booroff, 3 G.H.Q. Signal Regiment versus Signalman Hopgood, 3 L. of C. Signal Regiment, Corps Boxing Finals, 5th March, 1953

3 INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT

Our location remains the same, in spite of all rumours, the current one is "U.K. in July." What a hope!

Since our last notes in the January issue, the Regiment has been carrying out the all too familiar task of exercises. Apart from Troop/Squadron Exercises, we have just completed Exercise "Longbow I." The object of this exercise was to practice the Division in long distance moves over desert country with extending supply lines. The Regiment proved once again that they were able to cope with any situation. Drivers and the L.A.D. did sterling work in keeping vehicle casualties to a minimum. It was noted that our Scammel driver still likes to play trains.

Prior to Exercise "Longbow I," all parts of the Regiment in M.E.L.F. were visited by the C.S.O., Major-General R. S. Wheatley, C.B., C.B.E. The visits were brief, in some cases, but he was able to inspect the Regiment in Mackworth Camp paraded by Troops, the band of 3 Paratroop Battalion playing for the march past, and to give the Brigade Troops in T.E.K. and El Ballah a good run through. It is probable that Captains Clapp and Stonham will in future remember "frayed leads" and hydrometers.

At last, huts for Officers' Mess, W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess and men's NAAFI have been built. These are luxurious compared with our old marquees, which were like a man drinking "Stella" in a rainstorm—wetter inside than out. A house warmer is planned for the W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess on 14th March.

On 21st February, our largest N.S. Group (51-05), a total of 32 men left for U.K. Amongst them were Sergeant Fairhurst, who was our first N.S. sergeant, and Corporal Gardner, who put up a terrific battle royal with Signalman Edwards in our Unit novices' boxing.

On 5th March, we said goodbye to Major J. Sheepshanks, Royal Signals, on his posting to the War Office. He has been with the Regiment from its beginning as Officer Commanding 1 Squadron and Second-in-Command. In particular, his enthusiasm for all sports, and especially boxing, will be missed. W.O.I Parry, who brought the Regiment from Harwich to its trials and tribulations in M.E.L.F., is now on the departure list for Hong Kong Signal Regiment. Our best wishes go with him. We extend a hearty welcome to his successor, R.S.M. J. R. T. Sweeny and family, from 16 Independent Paratroop Brigade Signal Squadron.

The first of our families has arrived, and we welcome the family of Major W. J. Bush, Royal Signals, and of W.O.II Stickels, who are expected this week.

Our time has not been completely taken up with exercises. We have been able to get some sport in. The Regimental soccer team, under the captaincy of our robust but energetic S.Q.M.S. Platt, has done quite well in the Army Egypt Cup against teams of long and tried standing, but fate and fiddling was against them in the third round of the cup, when they lost to 3 Infantry Divisional Column, R.A.S.C., whom they had previously beaten quite easily.

In the Inter-Troop Hockey League, Q/A.C.C. team were top, with three points lead on the runners-up, R.H.Q./S.H.Q. team.

An Inter-Troop Hockey League is being formed, of which we have great hopes. Rumour has it the C.O. and Adjutant will play for R.H.Q. if they are allowed to use polo sticks.

2 WIRELESS REGIMENT

The Unit cross-country team won the Island team race. We shared first place in the Island six-a-side hockey competition, it being too dark to play the final. The Unit boxing team has reached the final of the Inter-Unit Team Competition. We were unfortunate to lose 5—4 after two periods of extra time in the area final of the Company/Squadron Soccer Knock-Out Competition.

The Mercury Road Racing Club is using its new Claude Butler machines to good effect, and Lance-Corporal Brice in particular and the rest of the team in general seem to win all the events on the Island as they occur. The Rugby team beat a visiting Navy side 23—3 recently, but lost in another match against the R.A.F. by a similar margin.

The 21st Branch of the Royal Signals Association continues to flourish. The recent recruiting drive has produced

10 life members and some 120 new annual members. "D" Troop of 2 Squadron and our Cipher Troop have both attained 100 per cent. membership. Well done. Our thanks to Sergeant Stevens, our hard working secretary, who left recently on R.H.E.

With the Annual Administrative Inspection successfully behind us, the R.S.M. is now normal again and the paint brushes have disappeared for another year.

The recent visit of the Navy provided the only social events since our last notes, when some old friendships were renewed.

We record with regret the departure of "Fairy Fanny" for release, despite extensive efforts to retain him (her) on regular terms.

MALTA SIGNAL SQUADRON

Our sporting life is still progressing in top gear, with soccer and hockey still taking pride of place.

The soccer team were runners-up in the Garrison League, and we have reached the final in the Garrison Knockout Competition. The final is to be played in that "Holy of Holies"—the Stadium. This is the main football pitch in Malta, and as the Maltese eat and breathe soccer there will be no doubt of a good gate.

The Unit team beat a local 3rd Division team last week by eight goals to nil, and we hope to keep this up when we visit the dependency, and neighbouring island, of Gozo to play the Gozo XI next Sunday.

The Squadron is well represented in the Island's Army hockey team, having the C.O., Major Yule, Captain Gladstone and Lieutenant Tonnison playing for Malta Garrison XI. In addition, Sergeant Maskell is a trialist. Incidentally, the Army XI retained their title as inter-Service champions in the annual battle between R.N., R.A.F. and Army.

Our Unit hockey team take on the Pakistan destroyer, H.M.P.S. *Tippusultan,* shortly; this should be one of our most energetic and interesting games as their hockey is quite up to that which one would expect from Pakistanis.

Incidentally, the Squadron does work, but the organisation is so smooth that one hardly notices the breaks between games of sport and we have therefore little to say on the subject.

do you remember?

MANY will have read recently of the prowess of Royal Signals in the Northern Command Individual Boxing Finals. If memory serves the score was six winners, six runners-up, out of eight weights. But do you remember the Eastern Command Championships of 1923? Four winners, five runners-up in nine weights. Not quite as good, but remember that the proportion of Royal Signals to other arms in Eastern Command was much smaller then than it now is in Northern Command. Who fought for us then? Lieutenant Harry Spencer, for all time famous, Signalman Richmond (now Sergeant in 6 Boys Training Regiment and responsible for the production of four Army Boys champions this year), Driver Emblem, who was most surprisingly beaten on this occasion. In 1953, 2 Training Regiment were runners-up in the Team Boxing; in 1923 the Corps Team won the shield.

At that time, 1923, THE WIRE was publicising a "History of the Signal Service (France)," by Major R. E. Priestley, now in 1953 it is the "History of British Army Signals in the Second World War," by Major-General R. F. H. Nalder, C.B., O.B.E.

Royal Signals had a successful football season in 1923, but they were knocked out in the second round of the Army Cup. In 1953, 7 Training Regiment won their semi-final, and the result of the final, played on 15th April, will appear in the sports column of this number. Mind you, in 1923 they got to the semi-final of the Sussex Senior Cup.

Let us now turn to 1933 for reminiscences.

C.Q.M.S. E. Nash was promoted W.O.II C.S.M., and Catterick Camp had the heaviest fall of snow of the century. A certain Signalman J. Stevens wrote an account of a month's ski-ing in Norway. In 1953, this is mostly done by way of duty for those lucky enough to be stationed in Austria or in certain parts of B.A.O.R. Many of our younger Officers also go to Norway for a short signal course (ski-ing).

Talking of sport, does anyone remember what has happened to the Mackworth Trophy, which used to be competed for in athletics, cricket, shooting, cross-country running, hockey, Rugby, association football and tug-of-war? It used to be open for competitions between Companies of the S.T.C. and the School. It is never mentioned now.

Do you remember the reunions at Aldershot in Mons Barracks which we made so good in 1933? It is recorded that 75 marched to church; we shall do better in 1953 in the matter of numbers, but reading through the old names and looking at some of the remembered faces in the photograph, it is clear that some of us who are younger have much to learn of loyalty and *esprit de corps* from the old originals.

In 1933 there were reunions held at Aldershot and Salisbury, and perhaps at other places too. This year we have full scale reunions at Catterick, and by the kindness of the Depot Regiment in Devon. Clearly more of these are necessary.

During this time, late March in 1953, there is a good deal of news of the arrival in India of the British expedition to climb Mount Everest. The party includes one Royal Signals Officer, George C. Band, who has finished his National Service and is in the Reserve Army.

In 1933 our representation was stronger.

The late Lieutenant-Colonel E. C. Thompson and Brigadier W. R. Smijth-Windham, C.B.E., D.S.O., then Lieutenants, were members of the climbing party, and Lance-Sergeant N. Watt and Corporal W. J. Frawley operated at base camp, keeping touch both with the climbers and also with the outside world via India.

In 1953, we read much of the interest taken by both the United States and Canadian Armed Forces in the lands bordering the Arctic Circle. It is interesting therefore to read in THE WIRE, 1933, of an expedition by the Royal Canadian Corps of Signals to Aklavik and Herschel Islands in 1924 and 1925. Herschel was in those days a centre of the whaling industry, having an excellent natural harbour where boats drawing up to 20 feet are protected.

In 1953 there is much in THE WIRE of the work of Royal Signals in connection with the Coronation. In 1933 "R.G.M." was providing a succession of articles, "Reminiscence of an R.E. Telegraphist," and mentions his experience of putting up a signal office in Spital Barracks, Windsor, to serve the Royal Horse Guards during the week of celebration of Queen Victoria's Jubilee.

"The stay at Windsor gave me the chance of seeing a good deal of the various displays provided for the entertainment of the numerous visitors, official and otherwise, who had come to Windsor for the Jubilee week. I saw Queen Victoria unveil a statue of herself on the Castle Hill immediately on her arrival from London, where the thanksgiving service had taken place at St. Paul's on the previous day. I had a near view of Her Majesty, for the R.S.M. of the Grenadier Guards called me out from where I was standing to help in holding back the crowd, which was very dense and, owing to the pressure, threatening to break through the cordon of troops and upset the arrangements.

"Windsor didn't sleep much that night. Half London seemed to be there, and I think the licensing restrictions were largely relaxed, if not altogether ignored, on that occasion.

There were open houses everywhere, and everybody was very jolly.

"The spectacle that made the greatest impression on my mind was the torchlight display in the great quadrangle of the Castle. The scene as the torch bearers marched and counter-marched, with flickering light of the torches reflected from the walls of the Tudor buildings surrounding the quadrangle—walls that had seen so many historic events in the past—made an unforgettable picture. The Queen and other members of the Royal Family were spectators from the windows overlooking the quadrangle, and when the display ended the Duke of Edinburgh spoke from one of the windows, saying how much Her Majesty had enjoyed it."

Do you remember? You do? I don't believe you!

FARELF

G.H.Q. SIGNAL REGIMENT

The major point of interest during the month of March has been the success of three of our Unit in the Singapore Base District Individual Boxing Championships. Signalman Wilkinson (middleweight), Signalman Winning (lightweight) and Signalman Kamil Bin Hj Mokhtar (flyweight) all produced championship form in their respective weights. They were not the only ones representing the Units on the night of the finals, there were five altogether, a larger representation than we have had for some years, mainly due to the enthusiasm of Major R. H. Farlow, M.B.E. It is now hoped that our "lads" will meet with the same success in the FARELF championships.

Major W. A. Woods, T.D., who had been Second-in-Command of the Unit for over a year, and at the same time "King of the Signal Office" at G.H.Q. FARELF, left for home in March. He is going to be much missed. Although an Officer with varied interests, he will probably be remembered for some time to come for his forceful direction of the Unit pantomime, "Babes in the Wood," last December.

SINGAPORE DISTRICT SIGNAL REGIMENT

The price of lead and copper being what it is explains our periodic flaps over cable thefts. The Johore submarine cable was recently cut and about 100 yards stolen. This provided something out of the ordinary in laying in the new piece and having to battle with sea and mud, and judging from their faces and backs, the sun was not favourable to the linemen either. On another theft, T. Muthu, one of our civilian linemen, actually caught the "poacher" red-handed. Congratulations to him.

Also we congratulate Sergeant Buesnel, late Orderly Room Sergeant, on promotion to S.Q.M.S.

Our soccer first eleven isn't doing too well at present, having lost the first three games, but our M.O.R. eleven has won both its matches in the M.O.R. League. Sergeant Chater, Lance-Corporal Wainwright and Signalman Thompson are regular mainstays of the Corps team.

★

SIGNAL TRAINING SQUADRON (FAR EAST)

Neither rain nor shine can dampen our spirits right now as, in a few days time, we shall be well settled in our new accommodation in Calcutta Camp, and within a week from now our Malayan other ranks will have bid a fond farewell to life under canvas and will be enjoying comparative luxury in brightly decorated barrack rooms—complete with fans and large verandahs! Congratulations are due to S.Q.M.S. Abd Samad b Hj Jabar on his recent promotion to W.O.II.

Preparations for the Coronation Parade in Singapore are going ahead rapidly. The Squadron's contingent will be led by Captain A. R. McCreadie, supported by Sergeant De Silva and Sergeant Xavier—both also recently promoted.

As forecast in our last notes, Sergeant Newton has returned to the fold on a second tour.

In the field of sport the Squadron's soccer team has acquitted itself quite well, winning its first two games by three goals to nil. We expect great things of them this season!

1 COMMONWEALTH DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT

SINCE the publication of the first two articles, the Commonwealth Division has been in reserve, with the exception of the Divisional Artillery, who have stayed in the line. This has been our first move for 15 months. It was carried out during the coldest part of the winter and could have been most unpleasant. Fortunately, "Q" were generous with their supply of extra tents and heaters, and we even managed to borrow a bulldozer for a few hours to do the worst of the manual labour. The ground was frozen hard, and the hammering of tent pegs into the ground was exceedingly difficult. Wooden pegs were useless and we finally had to use steel pickets. (This versatile piece of ironmongery has an immense number of uses, and the photograph shows how two have been used to convert a jeep for cable laying.) The digging of slit trenches, etc., took several days, as we could not persuade the Sappers to give us any explosives. The move took three days and bore a striking resemblance to Bertram Mills on tour, except that there appeared to be more clowns about than usual. However, in the end we settled in quite quickly.

Winter is now nearly over, though the countryside is as barren as ever, and the chestnut bushes are still covered in last year's dead leaves. There have been odd days when it has rained heavily for as much as 18 hours on end, and each time the stream that runs through out camp has become a torrent overnight, and we have had to wade through it to get our breakfast. Two home-made bridges have recently appeared so we hope that problem is over. After each downpour the roads have become quagmires and there have been long periods when the C.O. had to sign the works tickets before a vehicle could leave the camp.

The article this month deals with the employment of a Brigade Signal Troop.

Background

The type of warfare which has developed in Korea consists of vigorous patrolling with raids by parties of up to a reinforced company in strength, supported by the fire power of artillery normally available in a Corps, and augmented by that of the Division's armour. An elaborate deep trench system has been dug along the entire length of the front, complete with bunkers, dugouts, fire steps and observation posts, strongly reminiscent of stories of the First World War. The protection afforded by the system is proof against anything but the heaviest calibre shells and, in fact, one commanding

officer was heard to remark that his men were often more comfortable when in the line than when in reserve.

In the Divisional sector the front lines of each side are separated by a valley about 1,000 yards wide. The flanking hills rise in places to as much as a thousand feet or more, many having the characteristic Korean razor-edged ridges. Behind the battalion areas the country is similar, hills and valleys being laced with the terraced pattern of old paddy fields. A road system serves the area and in many cases extends up to forward companies, camouflage screens and the prohibition of day-time traffic making their use possible.

28 British Commonwealth Brigade

The Brigade is an integral part of the Commonwealth Division but differs from normal British Brigades in two important respects. Firstly, it has four battalions, and secondly, two of these battalions are of the Royal Australian Regiment.

As Brigade Signal Troop Commander, I propose to write of its activities referring as necessary to differences in practice or organisation between my Brigade and others of the Division. The subjects covered will be by no means exhaustive and much detail has necessarily been omitted for the sake of brevity and security, and in order to prevent the article from reading like an extract from "Signal Training, Volume I."

Organisation of Brigade Headquarters

Some reference to the organisation of Brigade H.Q. is essential as communications required are directly related to it. The H.Q. consists of two parts. The first and by far the largest contains all the Brigade staff, less the Ordnance Officer, together with all operational vehicles. There is no "A" Echelon, the men and vehicles normally found there being located with the main body of the headquarters. It is decidedly advantageous to have the troop stores, charging shop and radio mechanics' workshop here, thus obviating the need for constant ferrying of men and equipment.

A normal staff for Brigade H.Q. exists and is predominantly Australian, except that an additional staff captain is included. The latter is responsible for administration as it affects the Australian element of the Brigade. An assistant counter-bombardment officer is permanently attached, his function being the collation of counter-bombardment information and retaliatory fire on the Brigade front.

A post office, camp stores, cash office, and wireless detachment form "B" Echelon. The detachment operates a sub-station on the Brigade administration net and with the assistance of Regimental signallers mans a ten-line switchboard. The "B" Echelons of the Battalions are normally located within a quarter of a mile of the Brigade "B" Echelon, which itself may be up to five or six miles behind Brigade H.Q.

The Brigade Signal Troop

The establishment is the current one for a Brigade Troop. This fact is by no means unimportant in relation to certain trades, as will be seen later when the problems of maintenance and the quality and quantity of signal equipment held by the Brigade is discussed. Manpower and reinforcements are questions ever in the mind of Troop Commanders, who are faced with the continual rotation of both Regulars and National Servicemen. Sixty per cent. of all men in this Troop alone have been replaced during the last five months. Replacements have not always arrived before their predecessors have left, this time lag being felt most acutely in relation to operators, although in this respect the situation seems to be improving. Difficulties of selecting a Signal Office superintendent or a switchboard operator for a busy 40 line F. and F. board from men whose sole experience of the Army is confined to their training regiment and who in many cases have never seen an exchange of any description, can easily be imagined. Very few of the men at present serving with the Troop had the slightest conception of what a Brigade Headquarters in the field looked like, how it was made up or how it functioned, before they came to Korea and, in fact, for most of them it is their first posting to a Regiment after their basic training. The speed with which they settle in and quickly produce results says much for their adaptability and more for the soundness of their earlier training.

Signal equipment held by the Troop is virtually normal with certain additions which will be discussed later, and it could safely be said that the standard scale of equipment and vehicles requires few modifications for the war as it has been fought for the past year or more. Our Battalion rear links are housed, for want of a more suitable vehicle, in that hardy perennial the Gin Palace, and all our D.R.s have jeeps and not motor cycles.

Line Communication

It is certain that few Divisions of our Army have ever been served by a line system so extensive, so lavish, or so well planned and efficient as that provided for the Commonwealth Division. It has been described in detail in a previous article to which reference should be made for information about its construction, types of route used and its capabilities.

Winching up "snake" cable to complete river crossing of Imjin

Typical Line Party Jeep

It is sufficient to say here that its flexibility has been proved by its ability to provide uninterrupted communication during relief of Brigades in the line, and more recently for the move of the Division into reserve. The soundness of its original conception has enabled it to be expanded readily with the passage of time.

Due to the existence of this system it has been by means of the telephone that most of the intricate daily details of the Division's life have been conducted, operationally and administratively, from the level of Divisional H.Q. down to Platoons. In fact, it is by no means uncommon for patrols to remain in contact with their firm base by means of a telephone connected to the standing end of a coil of dispenser cable carried on a man's back.

This dependence on line raises several important issues. The greatest danger has been the neglect of wireless by the staff. There is a vast difference between an operator thoroughly familiar with the mechanical technique of tuning and netting a set and speaking on the air, and a commander at any level who has not used the set for some time, trying to exercise control over an action which has suddenly developed and which requires personal wireless contact with subordinates who are to be given a series of orders requiring immediate action. And no line system, however good, can give such a commander the means of control, mobility, independence of terrain, and flexibility of communications provided by wireless.

The Divisional trunk routes come to your door and disappear far beyond it up to Battalion command posts, and in one case within twenty yards of a Company Headquarters. Now although Brigade linemen may possibly have helped to build sections of this route, it is an additive process and one lacking in the sense of pride and achievement which comes from having laid and built one's own routes to battalions, supporting arms, and services. Brigade linemen are consequently far from being overworked Cinderellas which is their normal fate, and the usual round-up of drivers to assist them in their labours is seldom necessary.

Fault liability is not high on the trunk route itself, the great majority of faults occurring in the "tails" off it, normally laid by users themselves. Maintenance is a problem, however, and constant line patrolling is necessary to keep the route in good shape and particularly to keep "pirate" lines off it.

Cable recovery is an aspect of a lineman's life that occupies much of his day and most of his patience. It might be thought that the eulogy of the Divisional trunk routes given above would make it appear that little other cable would be required, but the system cannot cover every inch of the Divisional area and still be considered a practical proposition; and so down go lines from battalions to their "F" echelons, to the C.C.P.s, to their supporting guns and mortars and their affiliated R.E. troops. Now whenever any of these move or are relieved, the newcomers invariably display a marked reluctance to use existing lines or else they want more in an entirely different direction. It takes very little time and an equally small effort before an area becomes a veritable morass of cable, much of which is not even in use except where by its sheer profusion it serves as an admirable support for crumbling roadsides, ditches and cuttings. It rapidly becomes impossible to fault and the whole spider's web is increased by new lines being laid to replace the faulty ones. For this reason and because cable is an expensive item and its supply is by no means limitless, recovery is essential and a comprehensive programme covering the whole of the Divisional area exists. The whole process is looked upon by those sturdy independents, the Brigade linemen, with severe mistrust, and they tend to regard it as "all right for the chaps at Corps" but somewhat outside their own terms of reference. However, all American cable which is recovered is returned to source for running through, jointing, and general rehabilitation, and up to now we have been largely dependent upon American cable.

The Brigade switchboard warrants considerable attention. Nominally a 40 line F. and F. mounted in a T.E.V., the total number of exchange lines and subscribers is generally closer to 50. If the appropriate A.J. unit is not forthcoming one resorts to the expedient of attaching a 10 line board to the main board.

A typical list of subscribers might not be without interest. Only the more important exchange connections and the more distant subscribers are included, and to these must be added all the locals normally located at Brigade H.Q.

2	circuits	to each Battalion.
2	,,	,, Main Div. H.Q.
1	,,	,, Rear Div. H.Q.
1	,,	,, each of the other Brigades.
1	,,	,, the flanking Brigade of the next Division.
1	,,	,, the supporting Field Regiment.
1	,,	,, Brigade B Echelon.
1	,,	,, the supporting Field Squadron.
1	,,	,, the supporting Squadron of Armour.
1	,,	,, the advanced dressing station.
1	,,	,, the casualty collection post.
2	,,	,, a Searchlight Detachment.
1	,,	,, the Brigade L.A.D.

In accordance with American custom subscribers are responsible for routing their own call, i.e., the Brigade operator makes the connection to an exchange to which he has a line and the subscriber then asks for the person or the next exchange he wants. Alternative routings are plentiful and leave considerable scope for ingenuity when baffled by the fiendish phrase, "I'm sorry, sir, the line's engaged."

As described earlier the bulk of the Brigade's operational and administrative work is effected by telephone. The switchboard operator is therefore, as indeed always, a key man in the Troop, and his training and selection require great care, for it is important to remember that they are wireless and not switchboard operators, none of whom are held by a Brigade Signal Troop. But despite this, after a few weeks' experience, I would unhesitatingly recommend any of my operators to fill a similar post on a normal Divisional board. The Regiment owes a lot to the imperturbable efficiency and good humour of its exchange operators—those often maligned and seldom praised men who are usually blamed, at least subconsciously, because a subscriber fails to answer a call or is out.

Fullerphone circuits are provided from the level of rear Divisional H.Q. down to Battalion H.Q.s.

Wireless

The number of nets and links provided and manned by the Troop is again virtually standard, but it is to be regretted that the volume of traffic passed over them is very small, particularly on the voice nets. Formal messages are cleared via the Divisional Command telegraph net, but even this shares its load with the fullerphone reducing even further the use of wireless.

The chief source of activity for the Brigade Command voice net comes from the rover sets used by the commander, liaison officers and signal officers. Operational traffic seldom appears and conversations between staff at any level are a rarity indeed. But in fairness it must be said that the current

type of operations do not lend themselves to or even require minute to minute control.

This restricted use of wireless and the semi-permanent siting of Brigade H.Q.s entails a number of disadvantages in the training of operators. Firstly and most important, the essential personal contact between staff and operators tends to be lacking, and it is this contact and team work which is so important during normal mobile warfare. Secondly, the operator tends to be regarded as someone who merely reports to his set at a fixed hour each day, calls his sub-stations at stated intervals, performs his routine maintenance, and goes away. He does not get the experience of working as one of a crew of a command vehicle in constant and intimate contact with the staff and with operations, moving frequently and taking part in the thousand-and-one small but very necessary tasks that fall to their lot, the laying of remote control and staff telephone lines, the quick erection of penthouses and 32-feet aerial masts, camouflage of their vehicle and the operations area, the digging of slit trenches and the necessity for track discipline and local defence.

The sets in use are all ones with which operators of the last war would be familiar, the W.S. 19 providing the backbone, supplemented by a number of W.S. 62, while the Canadian W.S. 52 works to Divisional H.Q. on the command voice and administrative nets.

The W.S. 31, although not part of the Troop's equipment, has been used at Brigade H.Q. for a special purpose. A set is established on the highest available hill within approximately half a mile of the H.Q., overlooking the front. The ends of a single pair of field cable are inserted into the centre sockets of the handset and the line is run back to the operations tent. Here the ends are connected to another hand- or headset which is manned by the Intelligence Officer. For an operation of particular interest or difficulty the set is tuned either to the Battalion command net channel or if desired to the company net. Satisfactory remote reception, but not remote control, has proved possible for distances of up to half a mile. In this way information is obtained as fast as is humanly possible and in a number of instances intelligent anticipation by the staff has enabled action to be taken before the Battalion has requested it. Battalion commanders are not, however, likely to be over-enthusiastic about an arrangement which may appear to take control of their battle out of their hands, especially if when passing back information they are told "Yes, we know."

As already mentioned, Battalion rear links are provided with Gin Palaces and not the usual armoured "B" vehicle. In most cases they operate from a dugout or bunker and not from their vehicle. In addition to its W.S. 19 each detachment has a W.S. 62 which serves both as a reserve set and could also be used as a manpack station should a Battalion command post be sited well away from a road.

Operating conditions are generally good with the usual night-time deterioration. Interference from French, Siamese, Dutch, Norwegian, American and Ethiopian stations is more of a symbolic reminder that the Eighth Army is a United Nations force than a source of annoyance to our operators. Deliberate enemy jamming on Battalion W.S. 31 and 88 nets is quite common, taking many forms ranging from a monotonous unintelligible Chinese chant to selections from operettas played on a mouthorgan.

Wireless security in Korea is often alleged to be bad, sweeping generalisations being made by those who return from the country. Besides the normal breaches which occur in any theatre and which are usually easily remedied, this is in fact not so. Possibly the greatest danger lies in the fact that as headquarters at all levels move so rarely, then the use of D.F. apparatus by the enemy will have enabled him to locate them with a fair degree of accuracy.

Signal Office and S.D.S.

The signal office and switchboard are housed in a T.E.V. with the fullerphone terminals to Battalions and Division and, as an experiment, the set operating on the Divisional command telegraph net. All message clearing agencies are therefore concentrated in one vehicle and are under the immediate control and surveillance of the superintendent. Furthermore, a considerable degree of flexibility is added to communications as the vehicle normally housing the command telegraph sub-station is made available for other uses. It can, if required, be converted to a reserve or step-up signal office complete with 10 line switchboards, the wireless set remaining *in situ;* or it can be used purely as a wireless vehicle for a special operation.

Message handling is light, averaging between fifty and a hundred messages daily. S.D.S. traffic is never heavy enough to present a problem, and demands for S.D.R.s are rare.

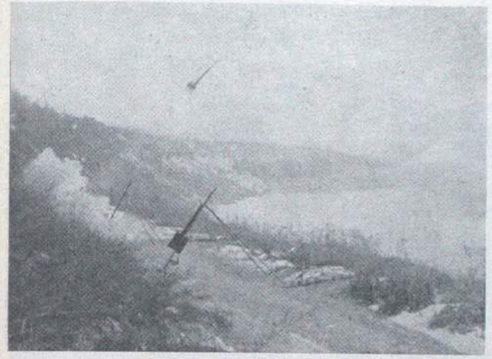
D.R. runs are made over reasonable roads, and unit locations which rarely change are more than adequately signposted. There is no immediate necessity for a high standard of map reading by D.R.s. In fact, in normal day-to-day work, the use of grid references is virtually abandoned. One is told to go to "the place where the Black Watch had their 'A' Echelon when they were in reserve in October" or "three hundred yards beyond the turning off route 11 to 'B' Squadron."

Maintenance

The Commonwealth Division is by no means a formation that sprang up suddenly overnight, nor does the same type of Unit within the Division necessarily have the same scale of equipment or transport. An Australian Infantry Battalion does not, for example, have the same number or types of wireless sets as those held by a British Battalion. Many Units forming part of the Division had already been in the theatre for some time before the actual date of formation, and during that time they had acquired equipment considerably in excess of their normal entitlement, and in some cases were holding American stores.

It soon became obvious that the normal authorised scale of signal equipment was inadequate to meet the needs of Battalions in the type of war which developed after November 1951. This applied particularly to telephones and switchboards. This problem will be discussed in detail in the next article, which will deal with battalion communications in Korea, but some indication of the trend may be given when it is realised that whereas a normal battalion is equipped with 20 telephones plus 16 for mortars and three 10 line switchboards, in Korea the usual number of phones held varies between 80 and 100, or even more in some cases, and each Battalion H.Q. has in use four 10 line boards with a similar board at each Rifle Company H.Q.

Now as the justification arises it is comparatively simple to obtain and issue extra equipment, but the problems which arise when its maintenance is considered are manifold. For one thing, a new scaling for spares is required, and the maintenance and repair system itself has either to be radically changed or considerably augmented with men and equipment. Even the various involuntary but numerous acts of incendiarism committed by some during the season of space-heaters and improvised petrol burners have made little difference. Taking the Division as a whole the problem of the maintenance of signal stores is great as well as complex and must be left for a later article.



Courtesy: "Public Relations Service"

Rocket projected holdfast being fired over River Imjin to provide hauling and messenger wire for cable crossing

Administration and Welfare

Administration follows the proved and tested path with success. Minor variations occur to comply with local conditions. Thus P.O.L. is drawn from supply points rather than from Brigade H.Q. by the Troop itself owing to the very high rate of consumption in winter when every vehicle, tent, living or working place requires constant heating.

There can even be a choice of accommodation. A man can live either in a "squad tent" or can build himself a "hoochie" out of canvas and ammunition boxes and live there with a small circle of his friends. Disharmony occurs only over the vexed questions of choosing pin-ups, a most distracting selection of which appears on most walls.

Entertainment is on a comparatively lavish scale. Few months pass by without a stage show of some description and films can be seen at least twice a week. Providing one is prepared to put a little hard work in improvising grounds and pitches, facilities for a number of sports are available—football, rugger, hockey, cricket, athletics and basketball being the most common.

The efficiency and speed with which mail from the United Kingdom is received is a greatly appreciated and much used boon.

Another very pleasant feature of life in the Troop is the canteen. NAAFI supplies are received regularly. A delightfully refreshing Japanese beer is available, and the bottles containing it appear to have fascination for Koreans, who are willing to hand over large quantities of their own currency in exchange. Roads in the Corps area are bespattered with numerous roughly painted notices reading "For to buy up as many of the empty bottle as one want—600 WON." One must deduce that for the Korean, the vagaries of English grammar are as difficult to acquire as his own language is for us.

The Future

What lies ahead of the Regiment in Korea is completely unpredictable, but it can be said without question that no one who has served with it can fail to be imbued with a genuine spirit of great pride and the realisation that each of us, in our small way, have endeavoured to contribute something towards the unparalleled success which has in every way attended the formation of the First Commonwealth Division. We can but hope that after Korea there will still be a need for the Division.

Territorial Army

1/20 (S.M.) ARMY SIGNAL REGIMENT (T.A.)

On 10th April, W.O.I Henry Griffin retired from the Regular Army after 24 years' service. His military career followed the familiar pattern. After service at Catterick in 1929 he served with 1 Divisional Signals at Aldershot until 1936, then with "A" Corps Signals in India until 1939.

During World War II he served with 5 Divisional Signals later to join 2 Divisional Signal Regiment in B.A.O.R. as R.S.M.

Since 1949 he has been R.S.M. in 1/20 (S.M.) Army Signal Regiment (T.A.).

His prowess in sport as a young soldier is well known, for he had a distinguished career in running the longer distances, and particularly as a flyweight boxer both in Aldershot and in India.

Presentations were made to R.S.M. and Mrs. Griffin by Lieutenant-Colonel E. R. Price, T.D., on behalf of the Regiment and by W.O.II A. Campkin for the W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess.

In his retirement, R.S.M. Griffin will be living very near R.H.Q. at 175 Cateswell Road, Hall Green, Birmingham.

It is gratifying to know that his services and experience will still be available to this Regiment, for on the day after his retirement he signed on as a T.A. volunteer.

The Regiment has again done well in the T.A.R.A. Small Bore Championship. W.O.II H. King (17th), Sergeant D. F. Lyons (23rd), Captain R. C. Reid-Jones (33rd), and Sergeant R. R. Ratcliffe (38th), being the only members of the Corps to finish in the first forty.

Annual camp this year will be held at Shorncliffe from 5th to 19th July, when this Regiment and 2/20 Army Signal Regiment will be working Main and Rear Army H.Q.

W.O.I H. Griffin

Courtesy: "Matthews' News and Photo Agency"

Eamonn Andrews, Jack Solomons, Gilbert Harding, Jerry Desmond with Lieutenant-Colonel D. Cocks

Army Phantom Signal Regiment, T.A.

(Princess Louise's Kensington Regiment)

"IF 44 Divisional Signals can have 'What's My Line?' in their drill hall then I'm sure that the Kensington's can do the same." Thus spake the C.O. in the Mess during February. The rest of us dutifully echoed his sentiments and felt that there the matter would rest. And so it did—apparently.

On Thursday, 26th March, the Adjutant and the Quartermaster, dozing repletely in the office after lunch, were rudely awakened by a commotion in the corridor outside. The Orderly Room Sergeant, valiantly trying to preserve their peace, or at least to preserve the illusion that they were hard at work, was finally overborne, and a torrent of B.B.C. characters poured into the office.

From the babble of voices, one more piercing than the other proved to be that of Leslie Jackson, who introduced himself as the producer of "What's My Line?" Apparently, with everything set for a broadcast on Easter Sunday from the Stoll Theatre, he had suddenly been told of a previous booking there for a religious revival and in consequence had turned up his list of alternative locations. "Of course, old boy, in the normal way we'd never have got round to you—you're so far down the list," he tactfully explained.

Details were discussed: G.P.O. men descended on the Drill Hall; electricity men trailed unwieldy cable over the roof tops; permanent staff humped chairs by the hundred from neighbouring Units; members of the Regiment were hurriedly circularised and tickets distributed. Finally, Easter Sunday was upon us.

The TV Panel—Gilbert Harding, Elizabeth Allan, Jerry Desmonde, Ghislaine Alexander—and the Master of Ceremonies, Eamonn Andrews, arrived by 7 p.m. and were suitably revived in the Officers' Mess. At this stage a mysterious event occurred—Gilbert Harding, either gripping or being gripped by the C.O. in a corner, was suddenly seen to be on the floor—burning question: "Did he fall or was he pushed?" However, no damage was done and a whisky soon restored his equanimity.

The programme was a great success, in spite of the Editor of THE WIRE, who would insist on applauding at all the wrong places. The Regiment was allotted one vacancy for a challenger on the programme and, after a lot of head scratching, Sergeant Ceazar was nominated. As a civil servant he was bound to give Gilbert Harding an opening, and when, in addition, he proved to work for the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, his choice was obvious. Resplendent in Kensington tie and T.A. badge, he faced the battery of questions—but sorry to say lasted only four "noes." Needless to say, the luckless Adjutant was assailed on all sides *AFTER* the programme with "Why didn't you put old so-and-so on, he's a rib-tickler in a cat's meat factory," and so forth. These people were, of course, the ones who said "Just can't think of anyone, old boy," before the programme.

The programme over, work for the visitors was finished and they should have been able to relax. But no! First autograph hunters and then visits to be photographed in the Officers' and W.O.s' and Sergeants' Messes. The visiting celebrity, Jack Solomons, with retinue of pugilistic looking types and his own tame photographer, also joined in.

Now the fun waxed fast and furious, with flash bulbs popping and glasses chinking. Ghislaine Alexander found the carpet on the Mess stairs to her liking and settled herself there with her entourage. Elizabeth Allan, after nobly withstanding the buffeting of Sergeants' Mess hospitality, pleaded the cause of her husband alone at home and departed shortly after ten o'clock—an amusing variation on the T.A. soldier's usual theme. Eamonn Andrews and Jerry Desmonde, too, made

61 H.Q. ARMY SIGNAL REGIMENT (T.A.)

The annual Trade Board was held in Bedford on 21st and 22nd March, when a large number of men succeeded in defeating the examiners and so the Adjutant now has to draw even more money from the Bank.

The Trade Board necessitated the presence of 23 Officers, who sat down to dinner in the Officers' Mess to say farewell to Lieutenant-Colonel Hay, who has departed to the far north of the U.K., and welcome Lieutenant-Colonel H. Prince. During the evening the departing C.O. was ably supported on the backs of all his Officers in order to inscribe his name on the ceiling and, as is the custom in the Corps, was not let down by his juniors!

Life is now very hectic getting ready for the various camps, during which Detachments will be spread out over all Commands in the U.K., except Western. Maybe another year we shall give all the benefit of our presence.

The Cambridge Drill Hall has for some time been full of W.V.S. sorting flood relief clothing, the dust from which reminded the old stagers of the desert campaigns. However, all has now been despatched and we are back in our own accommodation again.

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

The winter has been marked by four important events and also two very sad ones. The first of the important events was the opening of the new extensions to the T.A. Centre of No. 2 (Bridgwater) Squadron of the Regiment by the Mayor of Bridgwater (Councillor Percy Wills, J.P.). The opening took place in November last. January saw the opening of the new T.A. Centre at Walls Hill Quarry, Torquay, by the Mayor of Torquay (Alderman Reeves-Taylor). This centre is shared by Detachment 1 Squadron of the Regiment with "B" Company of 4 Devon Regiment, and has been long awaited. A boost in recruiting in this area has already taken place. At the latter end of February the Officers held their annual dinner at the Castle Hotel, Taunton. The dinner was presided over by our Honorary Colonel, Brigadier Ralph Rayner, O.B.E., M.P., and the distinguished gathering included Major-General C. L. Firbank, C.B.E., D.S.O., G.O.C. of the Division, Major-General W. G. Michelmore, C.B., D.S.O., M.C., T.D., D.L., J.P., chairman Devon T. and A.F. Association, Major-General W. A. Scott, C.B.E., Major-General R. H. R. Steward, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., and the C.S.O. Southern Command, Brigadier E. S. Cole, C.B.E. The Officers took to the pistol range on Sunday to fire their annual classification, and with one or two rather notable exceptions a successful shoot was completed. Early March saw the second annual W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess dinner. This year the dinner was held at Bristol, and a visit to "The Sleeping Beauty" at the Hippodrome was included. The dinner was voted an outstanding success.

It is with regret that Majors Max Keeling and Gordon Dalton have transferred to the reserve on account of business reasons. Their departure from the scene will be most keenly felt. They have served with the Regiment throughout the long difficult period of building the post-war foundations of the Unit.

We look forward to the opening of the new T.A. Centre at Bishops Hull, Taunton, in late April. This spacious building will be the latest addition to our buildings and the Regiment will then be housed in accommodation almost second to none in the country.

WHAT'S MY LINE?—*continued from page 148*

their *adieux*. Sergeant Ceazar and Gilbert Harding had a *tête-à-tête* in the Sergeants' Mess, and then Gilbert Harding returned to the Officers' Mess, where he fought his way into the heart of a bunch of subalterns. Judging by the waves of laughter from his corner that section of the party was a great success.

Towards midnight the party dispersed (reluctantly, it must be admitted) and a memorable evening came to a close. The work of clearing up remained, and the Editor of THE WIRE, a cannibal who had already threatened to "drink the C.O.'s blood" because he heard belatedly of the show, now has to be placated with this account of the occasion, which seems a little hard when you realise that he was there all the time!

Courtesy: "Matthews' News and Photo Agency"

Ghislaine Alexander, Gilbert Harding, Mrs. Cocks, Eamonn Andrews, Jack Solomons, Lieutenant-Colonel D. Cocks, Elizabeth Allan, Jerry Desmond

50 (N) INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

On the 31st March, Brigadier T. T. J. Sheffield, O.B.E., T.D., A.D.C., our Honorary Colonel since 1947, retired. Brigadier Sheffield has been associated with the Territorial Army since 1914, and joined 50 (N) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment in 1926. He was commanding the Regiment at the outbreak of war in 1939 and took it to France with the B.E.F. After Dunkirk he left us and subsequently became C.S.O. A.A. Command.

On Saturday, 11th April, Brigadier Sheffield was "dined out" in the Officers' Mess after taking leave of the Sergeants' Mess earlier in the evening. He was presented with a silver rose bowl by the Officers and an inscribed table lighter by the W.O.s and sergeants.

Among our guests when Brigadier Sheffield was "dined out" were Major-General Murray, our Divisional Commander, and Lieutenant-Colonels Stevenson-Wight and Percival —former Commanding Officers of the Regiment.

We hope that Brigadier Sheffield will soon recover from "the Subalterns' farewell" and that he will enjoy many years of happy retirement during which we hope we will see him often.

Captain D. A. Smith, who served with the Regiment in the war, being taken prisoner in the East, and who rejoined us in 1947, has transferred to T.A.R.O. Major N. D. Farmer has returned from the Senior Officers' Course which he has been on for the last two months. As yet the fruits of his learning have not been passed on but there is an "air" about him and a gleam in his eye which makes his brother Officers avoid being cornered in the Mess.

S.S.M. Gilchrist, P.S.I. of No. 1 Squadron, has left us, and we welcome S.S.M. Sanford to this appointment.

Mr. Holmes, our bandmaster, has resigned due to pressure of work. We have been fortunate in obtaining the services of Councillor Woodall. Councillor Woodall is well known in the Richmond, Yorks, area, and is bandmaster of the Richmond Prize Silver Band.

MIDDLE EAST SPECIAL WIRELESS ASSOCIATION

President: F. C. G. Greening.

Hon. Auditor: A. F. L. Beeston — *Committee:* R. A. Dean, J. A. Leaver, F. A. Pritchard, C. E. K. Scouller, G. R. Sinclair

Joint Hon. Secretaries: D. J. Oswald, E. I. Smedley-Aston

Hon. Treasurer: H. J. Stratton

FIXTURES—SUMMER, 1953

Sat., 18th April—Northern Reunion, Mitre Hotel, Cathedral Gates, Manchester, 3.

Fri., 22nd May—Local Meeting, Black Boy, Long Row, Nottingham.

Fri., 12th June—Local Meeting, Keppel's Head, The Hard, Portsmouth.

Fri., 19th June—Local Meeting, St. Stephen's Tavern, Westminster Bridge, London, S.W.1.

Fri., 26th June—Southern Reunion, The Doves Inn, 19 Upper Mall, Hammersmith, W.6.

Fri., 17th July—Local Meeting, Royal Hotel, St. Mary Street, Cardiff.

The Association's NINTH REUNION DINNER will be held in London in October or November.

Date and fuller details will appear in the July issue of THE WIRE.

The M.E.S.W.A. mailing list has now reached the 500 mark, but anyone not receiving fixture lists and other circulars regularly is asked to get in touch with the Joint Hon. Secretaries, c/o Creek Cottage, Old Bosham, near Chichester, West Sussex.

Are you attending the review of ex-Servicemen by Her Majesty The Queen on the 5th JULY?

See page 125

Association Notes

Northamptonshire

After the hectic period over Christmas and the New Year, ending with the annual dinner and the annual general meeting, this last month of March has been very subdued. I have no doubt, however, that ere long our new committee will be putting things into full swing.

Though I have little to report on our social activities, the visit of our Honorary Secretary to the Meeting of Secretaries has given us much food for thought. There we met some of our contemporaries from other Midland Branches and we discussed, though only superficially, the possibility of a Midland Region Reunion—at some time "in the future." If York and Tunbridge Wells can be the centres of reunion—why not Birmingham or Leicester or Bedford. Think it over, you Midlanders, and let us see what we can do to keep alive the spirit of the Corps and the comradeship of days gone by and to help foster new friendships in the present days of "retirement."

Sheffield

The April meeting was held on the evening of the 10th at Crabtree T.A. Centre, and as was agreed at the annual general meeting it was mainly a social evening. Above the buzz of general conversation could be heard cryptic remarks regarding dealers in general and people going "a bundle" with fourteen cards! The dartboard took more than its usual hammering—the T.A. must be getting its eye in for the annual musketry course. Musical accompaniment provided by the Adjutant helped to brighten the evening.

The branch chairman, Mr. Rotherham, attended the Secretaries Conference owing to the indisposition of the Secretary. He must have been the first arrival, 4.30 a.m. and the only sign of life a Guards' Major riding in Hyde Park! Don't some people ever sleep? Mr. Rotherham would like to thank Mr. J. T. Hall, the vice-chairman of Doncaster Branch, for his generous help in finding him accommodation for Saturday night.

It is regretted that we were unable to see Colonel Firth when he visited Chesterfield, we would have liked very much to have met him and hope this pleasure will not be long deferred.

For our Coronation Social Evening we are hoping to have the pleasure of meeting representatives from Glossop and Doncaster Branches. They will be made very welcome.

It is expected that at least four of the Branch will be at the annual reunion in Catterick, and we are looking forward to the great day, but keeping our fingers crossed as so many unexpected things crop up these days.

R.S.M. King can sometimes be seen with an agonised look on his face, the beauties of Sheffield City Centre don't appear to be making a very good impression. Never mind, it could be worse. "Now when I was at Keren . . ." Sorry, meeting now closed. Next one 1st May, and I am not to be Queen of the May.

Uckfield

All friends, serving and discharged, will read this sad news of Lieutenant (Q.M.) Shipton (Bill) who, after a short illness, passed away in Brighton Hospital on the 18th February. He leaves a wife and four children, the oldest being 14 years.

At the outbreak of war he was with the 5th Division, served with the B.E.F. France until June 1940 (Dunkirk), then "Y" Division until he was discharged in 1948 after 23 years' service.

Lance-Corporal H. A. W. Wilkins, a member of this Branch, has recently passed away. He served with the 11th A.A. Signal Company, then with the Maintenance Line Section on Coastal Defence, until he was discharged unfit in 1941.

Guernsey, Channel Islands

On 27th February, the first reunion in Guernsey of all ranks who served in Royal Signals, R.E. Signals and Indian Signal Corps was held at the Galleon Restaurant.

After an excellent dinner, Brigadier C. E. Sketch, late Royal Signals, extended a warm welcome to the fourteen ex-members present. He thanked Captain R. H. Videlo for his efforts in organising the reunion and obtaining an almost 100 per cent. attendance of ex-Signals known to be living on the island.

Personnel of Royal Signals were found in every theatre of war, and at a reunion, ex-members could find pleasure in recalling experiences and mutual acquaintances. Brigadier Sketch hoped this first reunion would develop into at least an annual event.

Guernsey's Recruiting Officer, S.S.M. E. A. Strutt, who is a serving member of Royal Signals, related with justifiable pride that voluntary enlistment into H.M. Forces from Guernsey during the past three years has been almost double the average throughout the United Kingdom. Since 1950, no less than 80 men and boys have left Guernsey to join the Royal Signals.

During a discussion on future meetings, it was decided to hold, at a later date, a ladies' night, when ex-members of the A.T.S. or W.R.A.C. who served with the Corps would be invited to attend.

Royal Signals Benevolent Fund

Also on this page is a simple statement of income and expenditure. Below an attempt is made to describe with suitable anonymity nine cases taken at random from the office of the Welfare Section at 88 Eccleston Square.

Ex-Signalman, 1939-45. M.E. and North Africa. Married, four children; off work for six months through sickness. Fund made small grant to help with clothes for the children.

Wife of Corporal, service in Korea. The Fund helped to pay for her stay at a convalescent home after a severe illness.

Ex-Signalman, 1942-47. N.W. Europe, later married A.T.S. Signalwoman, now very ill indeed. His wife wrote a most grateful letter for the help given by the Benevolent Fund.

Widow of Driver, 1920-24, who died recently. The Fund helped, she wrote in gratitude, "It has enabled me to start afresh. My little boy, I am pleased to say, is getting on very well."

Ex-Sergeant, 1903-21. D.C.M., twice mentioned in despatches. Had a good appointment in County Council offices until retired at 66. He has tried unavailingly for work to augment his small income, on which he and his wife can exist but no more. Rates and mortgage repayment pressed heavily upon him until the Fund came to his help. This was easy. To find him a job is more difficult and yet he is a first-class, well educated man with full mental capacity.

Ex-Staff Sergeant, 1895 to 1919 (R.E. Signals). Admitted as an in-patient in Royal Hospital, Chelsea, and required some clothes to make himself respectable on entrance. The Fund provided.

Parents of Signalman who died as F.E. P. of W. Father bedridden and mother appealed for help, as too old to work and their son is dead. The Fund makes a very small weekly allowance.

Ex-Signalman, 1947-52. Has not worked for some time owing to blindness. He has a brother also blind and another who also served in Royal Signals. The Fund paid for some clothes for him.

Mother of Serving Signalman, who is in hospital; help given to pay high cost of her fare to visit him.

ROYAL SIGNALS BENEVOLENT FUND

Subscriptions received during March, 1953:—

	£	s.	d.
Officer Training Wing, School of Signals	4	19	0
1 Training Regiment	10	0	0
3 Training Regiment	18	18	5
5 Training Regiment	5	0	0
7 Training Regiment	10	0	0
Kent Coast Troop	3	0	0
51 Air Formation Signal Regiment	2	0	0
Donations received during March, 1953:—			
Hong Kong Signal Regiment	7	0	0
Army Benevolent Fund	1,500	0	0
Birmingham Branch	16	13	6
Glossop and District Branch	10	10	0
Major J. H. Dirs	10	0	
W.O.II R. W. D. Kirk	6	0	
Total Receipts	£1,588	16	11
Expenditure (Includes: General Assistance; Beds and Bedding; Rent and Rates; Removals; Fares; Convalescence; Hire Purchase.)	£839	14	10

Analysis of cases

Families of soldiers serving in U.K.	5
" " " " " B.A.O.R.	2
" " " " " M.E.L.F.	1
" " " " " FARELF	3
" " " " " E. AFRICA	1
Widows and Dependants	13
Released and Discharged soldiers	70
Total cases assisted	95

Courtesy: "Gale and Polden Ltd."

Signalman R. Wood, captain of 7 Training Regiment Football Team, receiving the Army Cup

The present Challenge Cup was purchased out of subscriptions from most Units serving in Great Britain and Ireland in 1889, when the competition started.

It is a beautiful trophy, made in 1838, and was the work of a celebrated silversmith named Paul Storr. It is a small replica of the Warwick Vase. The original was found in 1770 in a lake at Hadrian's Villa near Tivoli by Sir William Hamilton, Ambassador to the King of Sicily.

ARMY F.A. CHALLENGE CUP

Aldershot Military Stadium, 15th April, 1953
7 Training Regiment, Royal Signals, 3
—28 Battalion R.A.O.C. 2

*

This match is an annual event of great importance, and the game on 15th April was a splendid one which delighted the very large crowd.

7 Training Regiment went quickly into the attack and it was soon apparent that they had a slight edge on the Ordnance side. The first Signals' goal came after eighteen minutes when Lance-Corporal Quixall cleverly placed a free kick just out of reach of the goalkeeper. A similar situation in reverse arose shortly afterwards, but Lance-Corporal Spiers, the Signals' goalkeeper, cleared easily. 7 Training Regiment went further ahead after twenty-five minutes when Brown, the centre-forward, eluded Gunter, the opposing centre-half, and gave Lance-Corpral Barker a beautiful pass from which he scored with a terrific shot. Keeble scored for Ordnance in the thirty-fifth minute.

Shortly before half-time, during a melee in the Signals' goalmouth, the linesman's flag went up and the referee blew his whistle. After some confusion, a bounce-up was given on the goal line and mercifully the ball was scrambled away. Immediately afterwards, Brown's terrific header rebounded off the Ordnance crossbar.

After the interval, both sides went near to scoring, then a long pass to the Signals' left wing was collected by the opposing right-back, but Lance-Corporal Wood's persistence was rewarded; he robbed the back and centred beautifully for Barker to add the third goal for 7 Training Regiment. Following a free kick, Keeble scored Ordnance's second goal two minutes from time.

*

7 Training Regiment were worth this victory; they played better football and as a team their performance was in all respects beyond reproach.

The Cup was presented by the Adjutant-General, General Sir John T. Crocker, G.C.B., K.B.E., D.S.O., M.C.

Courtesy: "A. J. Glover, Richmond, Yorks."

7 Training Regiment, Royal Signals, Football Team, 1952-53. Winners of Army Football Challenge Cup and Northumbrian District Football Cup

Standing: Signalman R. Johnson (sports storeman), Sergeant S. McCartney (trainer), Lance-Corporal A. Quixall, Lance-Corporal J. Cameron, Lance-Corporal J. Spiers, Signalman R. Brown, Lance-Corporal T. Rutter, Corporal J. Greenhalgh, Signalman E. Taylor (assistant trainer). Seated: Signalman A. Finney, Lance-Corporal G. Barker, Signalman R. Wood (captain), Lieut.-Colonel J. P. North, M.B.E., Second-Lieutenant K. G. White (O. i/c football), Signalman B. Frear, Corporal J. Wood

THE HISTORY
of
BRITISH ARMY SIGNALS
in the
SECOND WORLD WAR

by

Major General R. F. H. NALDER, C.B., O.B.E.

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SAILING

Royal Signals Sailing Association have arranged the following racing programme for 1953:—

Fireflies.
N.W. Team Race Meeting at W. Kirby, Cheshire ... ... May 16-17.

Seaview Mermaids.
A.S.Y.C. Gold Cup at Seaview, I.O.W. July 4-5.

Handicap.
"Cito" has been entered for:—
I.S.C. "Round the Island Race" ... July 4.
West Solent Week (Racing each day) Aug. 17-22.
Princess Elizabeth Challenge Cup ... July 19.

Would members wishing to take part in any of these events please contact the Racing Secretary, Major L. D. Line, Inspectorate of Armaments, Red Barracks, Woolwich, S.E.18. (Telephone No.: Office—Woolwich 2070, Ext. 214. Home—Woolwich 1029.)

Soccer

The result of the final of the Northumbrian District Soccer Cup played at Catterick Camp on 10th April, was as follows:—

7 Training Regiment, Royal Signals ... 4 goals
67 Training Regiment, R.A.C. ... ... 2 goals

Final of the Northern Command Inter-Unit Association Football Cup, played at Catterick Camp on 26th March:—

Result: 2 Green Howards ... ... 5 goals
3 Training Regiment, Royal Signals 3 goals

Rugger

Final of Northern Command Rugger Cup, played at Catterick on 18th March:—

Result: 1 Training Regiment, Royal Signals 49 pts.
5 Training Regiment, Royal Signals 6 pts.

Hockey

Quarter final match in the Army Hockey Championships, played at Catterick Camp on 30th March:—

Result: 7 Training Regiment, Royal Signals 3 goals
Depot Cameronians ... ... 2 goals

The result of the semi-final of the Army Hockey Championships played at Chatham on 10th April was as follows:—

12 S.M.E. (Chatham) ... ... 2 goals
7 Training Regiment, Royal Signals ... Nil

Basketball

Semi-final of Army Basketball Cup, played at Aldershot on 18th March:—

Result: 3 Training Regiment, Royal Signals 18 pts.
88 Field Regiment, Royal Canadian Artillery ... ... 32 pts.

Badminton

Final of the Northumbrian District Badminton Championships:—

Result: 2 Training Regiment, Royal Signals 2 sets
3 Training Regiment, Royal Signals 1 set

ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL

The C.R.M.P. team travelled from Woking to oppose Royal Signals at Catterick. The sun was shining brightly and a slight breeze blew straight down the pitch. Signals won the toss and elected to take advantage of breeze and sun. Both teams started very slowly, although the Police combined better and looked the faster team. Finlay went close with a header for the C.R.M.P. and minutes later Howells struck the crossbar at the other end. Cherry, the Police centre-forward, scored a really grand goal after 25 minutes. Barker got away almost from the kick-off and flashed his shot just past the upright. A few seconds later Cameron, the Signals right-back, made a bad pass back which Cherry whipped into the back of the net. Half-time came with no further score. In the second half Signals improved and Howells made a run for 45 yards, beating man after man, and stumbled as he was about to shoot. Howells was again prominent and accepting a through pass from Wilkinson made no mistake.

*

Henderson, the Police goalkeeper, was playing really well and twice saved from Howells. Cameron and Nock, the Signals backs, were doing well, and Howells was giving the Police defence plenty of trouble. Cameron headed the ball off the line with Wilson well beaten, and in the closing minutes Cherry made Wilson extend himself to tip the ball over the bar.

Result: Royal Signals 1, C.R.M.P. 2.

Amendments No. 4 to the Blue Book 1953

APPENDIX "A"

TRADES ROSTER—DELETIONS

50	5932	11299	12106	12976	13588	14365
59	5947	11346	12137	12981	13590	14382
65	6004	11367	12151	13004	13593	14385
269	6036	11395	12209	13017	13610	14418
404	6103	11406	12267	13020A	13640	14426
852	6112	11507	12283	13040	13650	14428
1378	6117	11538	12284	13108	13651	14430
1467	6175	11590	12285	13109	13663	14434
1504	6190	11596	12288	13110	13668	14435
1768	6252	11603	12294	13118	13674	14449
1923	6310	11608	12330	13142	13692	14450
1969	6332	11609	12360	13161	13712	14451
2011	6335	11624	12381	13163	13718	14454
2035	10003	11625	12391	13164	13741	14471
2044	10077	11626	12410	13165	13760	14477
2072	10082	11630	12425	13196	13769	14495
2164	10086	11635	12443	13197	13771	14504
2227	10122	11636	12444	13221	13796	14512
2320	10174	11639	12455	13227	13855	14525
2352	10200	11643	12501	13228	13856	14526
2374	10202	11645	12522	13243A	13857	14528
2399	10218	11646	12525	13254	13858	14530
2410	10238	11686	12526	13267	13888	14541
2600	10269	11687	12545	13272	13911	14544
2696	10295	11692	12569	13281	13913	14578
5073	10309	11694	12581	13290	13924	14581
5078	10387	11724	12602	13293	13943	14583
5090	10405	11790	12631	13311	13958	14584
5093	10438	11842	12653	13316	13979	14613B
5100	10447	11848	12739	13342	14009	14613A
5123	10496	11861	12770	13359	14033	14621
5176	10511	11882	12792	13360	14037	14620
5227	10588	11883	12796	13368A	14046A	14622
5257	10590	11892	12836	13373	14050	14633
5400	10794	11929	12839	13374	14064	14634
5415	10832	11932	12845	13375	14065	14635
5441	10834	11947	12865	13405	14085	14636
5472	10959	11971	12878	13414	14091	14662
5480	10982	11992	12879	13485	14092	14674
5497	11073	11995	12881	13486	14110	14699
5548	11123	12010	12883	13487	14111	14706
5572	11124	12025	12021	13488	14158	14707A
5595	11151	12027	12023	13490	14233	14723
5687	11155	12035	12924	13540	14294	14724
5718	11205	12036	12925	13545	14298	14743
5807	11207	12096	12926	13566	14323	14751
5839	11247	12097	12968	13570	14349	14766
5902	11296	12105	12975	13571		

APPENDIX "B"

CIPHER ROSTER—DELETIONS

1346	5081	5142	5148	

APPENDIX "C"

GENERAL DUTIES—DELETIONS

5002	5016	10038	10058	10075	10111	10132
5008	5018	10044	10065	10086	10113	10137
5010	10019A	10056	10070	10096	10121	10139

APPENDIX "D"

BAND DELETIONS

5003

APPENDIX "E"

TRADES ROSTER—ADD "Q"

286	11924	12236	12626	13064	13412	13786
779	11930	12241	12627	13065	13416	13787
1302A	11931	12241A	12633	13067	13424	13789
1319	11934	12242	12634	13068	13431	13799
1329	11935	12243	12638	13072	13432	13801
1509	11936	12247	12640	13073	13434	13809
1740	11938	12248	12643	13074	13435	13810
1744	11942	12260	12649	13075	13441	13818
1864	11948	12262	12654	13075A	13446	13819
1981	11958	12263	12655	13076	13447	13821
1992	11960	12265	12658	13078	13449	13822
2017	11966	12269	12660	13079	13450	13823
2083	11967	12272	12661	13082	13451	13824
2386	11968	12273	12666	13083	13452	13825
5050A	11972	12275	12673	13084	13453	13826
5086	11974	12276	12684	13088	13456	13827
5415A	11977	12277	12685	13089	13467	13830
5443	11978	12278	12686	13089A	13470	13831
5449	11979	12290	12691	13091	13471	13835
5553	11980	12296	12695	13093	13477	13838
5874	11981	12307	12696	13094	13478	13839
6130	11986	12308	12698	13095	13482	13840

6216	11987	12322	12690	13100	13492	13849
6286	11988	12323	12707	13105	13494	13854
10025	11989	12325	12708	13112	13496	13861
10229	11994	12327	12710	13117	13498	13863
10415	12001	12328	12712	13120	13500	13864
10519	12003	12334	12713	13124	13501	13865
10800	12004	12335	12714	13125	13503	13867
10813	12005	12338	12716	13128	13505	13868
11028	12006	12347	12717	13130	13506	13869
11178	12007	12351	12720	13132	13511	13870
11188	12012	12351	12721	13135	13518	13871
11354	12013	12352	12722	13137	13527	13873
11526A	12016	12356	12725	13146	13528	13874
11529	12024	12358	12726	13175	13529	13875
11550	12030	12359	12727	13177	13531	13876
11557	12031	12360	12728	13180	13538	13876A
11578	12033	12361	12730	13182	13541	13882
11586A	12037	12382	12733	13186	13544	13883
11597	12038	12366	12734	13195	13546	13884
11615	12041	12367	12738	13199	13551	13893
11618	12042	12373	12746	13200	13555	13896
11627	12043	12382	12740	13202	13556	13900
11637	12044	12382A	12751	13203	13557	13901
11661	12048	12386	12752	13206	13558	13903
11683	12050	12387	12758	13211	13559	13904
11702	12052	12389	12766	13214	13560	13907
11709	12053	12396	12774	13216	13563	13914
11712	12056	12397	12776	13223	13567	13916
11723	12057	12404	12777	13233	13568	13918
11740	12059	12406	12780	13236	13573	13923
11743	12060	12411	12788	13237	13577	13926
11745	12061	12412	12791	13238	13580	13927
11747	12062	12414	12798	13242	13582	13931
11751	12064	12417	12800	13244	13583	13932
11753	12065	12419	12801	13245	13584	13933
11756	12066	12420	12804	13249	13585	13934
11758	12068	12421	12805	13251	13586	13936
11759	12073	12424	12808	13253A	13603	13947
11760	12074	12431	12810	13257	13605	13950
11765	12075	12434	12812	13258	13606	13952
11766	12076	12436	12813	13262	13611	13953
11767	12079	12439	12814	13266	13613A	13966
11768	12080	12439A	12838	13268	13616	13972
11775	12081	12447	12847	13269	13618	13980
11780	12084	12448	12848	13274	13625	13983
11781	12085	12450	12849	13276	13628	13985
11784	12091	12456	12851	13277	13633	13986
11785	12093	12459	12853	13280	13634	13987
11788	12102	12460	12855	13283	13635	13993
11793A	12103	12461	12856	13286	13641	13995A
11795	12107	12466	12863	13287	13642	13996
11796	12108	12467	12864A	13288	13643	13999A
11798	12115	12470	12870	13288A	13644	14001
11809	12116	12476	12892	13292	13646	14002
11811	12118	12479	12893	13302	13647	14003
11812	12121	12481	12894	13304	13649	14008
11814	12122	12487	12896	13306	13655	14011
11822	12123	12488	12909	13308	13656	14023
11824	12126	12495	12916	13309	13658	14025
11826	12130	12497	12917	13310	13664	14024A
11829	12131	12499	12922	13312	13665	14026
11830	12132	12504	12928	13315	13666	14027
11833	12138	12509	12932	13317	13677	14028
11837	12147	12510	12933	13318	13678	14029
11840	12148	12511	12941	13319	13679	14031
11843	12149	12513	12943	13322	13683	14032
11845	12156	12515	12948	13323	13684	14041
11849	12157	12516	12951	13324	13685	14043
11852	12159	12520	12952	13328	13686	14048
11853	12164	12527	12963	13330	13688	14053
11855	12165	12528	12970	13332	13689	14057
11862	12167	12530	12987	13335	13694	14059
11864	12168	12530A	12989	13336A	13698	14067
11865	12169	12532	12991	13337	13699	14068
11868	12170	12534	12993	13344	13702	14069
11871	12171	12546	12995	13345	13709	14070
11875	12174	12549	13005	13347	13714	14072
11876	12176	12558	13006	13348	13719	14078
11877	12182	12560	13009	13349	13721	14080
11878	12184	12564	13015	13350	13723	14083
11879	12186	12565	13018	13352	13728	14096
11880	12187	12506	13019	13353	13730	14098
11881	12190	12567	13023	13356	13731	14099
11887	12193	12570	13024	13362	13732	14099A
11891	12193A	12571	13026	13364	13739	14100
11893	12194	12575	13028	13367	13740	14103
11895	12195	12577	13036	13376	13743	14104
11897	12205	12582	13041	13379	13745	14107
11903	12206	12583	13043	13381	13746	14108
11904	12207	12585	13046	13383	13747	14109
11905	12213	12591	13047	13384	13751	14114
11906	12218	12592	13048	13385	13753	14114A
11907	12224	12603	13049	13386	13754	14115
11909	12226	12605	13050	13390	13755	14117
11912	12227	12606	13053	13394	13765	14118
11913	12228	12616	13054	13395	13777	14119
11918	12229	12617	13058	13396	13778	14120
11919	12232	12618	13060	13403	13779	14127
11920	12233	12623	13063	13409	13785	14128
11923	12234					

APPENDIX "F"

TRADES ROSTER—DELETE "Q"

849 5761

APPENDIX "G"

CIPHER ROSTER—"ADD Q"

219	5116	5148	5158	5205	5264	5290
227	5120	5150	5190	5209	5288	5307
5052	5143	5153	5203	5236	5289	5309
5068						

APPENDIX "H"

CIPHER ROSTER—DELETE "Q"

203	1318	1333	1348	1362	1375	1386
213	1320	1334	1350	1365	1376	5006A
214	1322	1337	1355	1366	1379	5035A
1304	1325	1339	1357	1368	1380	5039
1305	1328	1342	1359	1369	1382	5097
1306	1331	1343	1361	1370	1383	5113
1311						

APPENDIX "J"

FOREMEN OF SIGNALS ROSTER—ADD "Q"

200	217	226	703	714	728	747
206	218	227	704	715	730	749
207	219	228	705	717	732	750
209	220	229	706	719	733	751
210	221	230	707	720	740	751A
211	222	231	708	722	741	753
212	222A	232	710	724	742	754
214	223	233	711	725	743	755
215	224	700	713	726	744	756
216	225	701				

APPENDIX "K"

AMENDMENTS—TRADES ROSTER

1. Serial No. 312 Amend to read 313.
2. Serial No. 313 Amend to read 312.
3. Serial No. 12003 Amend name to read Smale.
4. Serial No. 1892 Amend name to read Linton.
5. Serial No. 12149 Amend name to read Huxley-Duggan, B.M.
6. Serial No. 12676 Amend Army No. to read 22542478.
7. Serial No. 2431 Amend Army No. to read 2549786.

GOLF

For our first match this season we had a most enjoyable friendly game with A.A. Command. After a pleasant lunch at Headquarters, A.A. Command, we moved on to the Panters Park Golf Club at Radlett. The course was in good condition with not too much rough, a good thing this for some of us found it difficult to keep straight. There are many interesting holes, the outstanding feature being deep ditches guarding many of the greens.

The singles in the afternoon were hard fought for the most part, with the advantage slightly in favour of Royal Signals. The score at tea time was five games to three in our favour.

The foursomes, played over nine holes, after tea was clearly in our favour and the final score for the match was eight games to four.

The one renegade Signal Officer who played for A.A. Command, Brigadier Morrison, just won his game in the afternoon, but happily was soundly defeated in the foursomes.

The individual results, with Royal Signals names first, are given below.

Second-Lieutenant M. V. Keeling beat Brigadier H. A. Borradaile, 2 and 1.

Captain L. J. Stiles beat Lieutenant-Colonel J. F. Lindner, 6 and 5.

Major Rhys Few lost to Lieutenant-Colonel W. P. L. Lawson, 4 and 3.

Brigadier C. A. H. Chadwick lost to Brigadier A. E. Morrison by 1 hole.

Captain C. Robinson beat Major C. T. Vesey, 5 and 4.

Captain O. J. Peck beat Major L. D. Littleworth, 7 and 5.

Colonel K. E. Holmes beat Lieutenant-Colonel P. B. Gillett, 2 and 1.

Major G. R. Price lost to Captain J. L. Lothian, 3 and 2.

Brigadier Chadwick and Major Rhys Few beat Brigadier Morrison and Lieutenant-Colonel Lawson, 4 and 2.

Colonel Holmes and Captain Stiles lost to Lieutenant-Colonel Lindner and Lieutenant-Colonel Gillett, 2 and 1.

Captain Robinson and Second-Lieutenant Keeling beat Brigadier Borradaile and Major Vesey, 3 and 2.

Major Price and Captain Peck beat Major Littleworth and Captain Lothian, 3 and 2.

BOXING

The Finals of the Army Individual Open Amateur Boxing Championships, 1953

AT THE ROYAL ALBERT HALL

FRIDAY, 27th MARCH, 1953

Royal Signals had three representatives in the Finals.

In the **Bantamweight Final,** Signalman J. Heayns, of 2 Training Regiment, gave us a good start by beating, fairly comfortably, an older and more experienced opponent, S.S.I. D. Browning, A.P.T.C.

Heayns went off with a bang in the first round and so hustled his opponent that he had a very clear and decisive margin. This round was fought at a furious pace, with Heayns beating his opponent to the punch nine times out of ten.

In the second round S.S.I. Browning managed to slow the fight up a little, which suited him, and Heayns was unable to score so frequently or so freely, but again he finished the round with a clear lead.

Whether Heayns was tiring after his great pace in the first two rounds, or whether again the more experienced boxer was getting the measure of him, is known perhaps only to Signalman Heayns. From the spectators' point of view it was Heayns trying to cut loose and force the pace, but a more cunning opponent smothering and preventing him. Clearly again Heayns won this round but by a decreasing margin of points.

It was an admirably interesting fight, Heayns showing pugnacity and great speed of punch. A very great credit to his Regiment.

Signalman Heayns went on to win his Imperial Services Boxing Association Championship in the bantamweight class, and thence into the Amateur Boxing Association Championship, where he was beaten in the final by a small margin of points.

* * *

In the **Welterweight Final,** which we also won, Signalman B. Waters, also of 2 Training Regiment, again won by a clear margin against a tough opponent, Private R. Kelly, of the R.A.O.C. It was not as good a fight to watch as the bantamweight final, and Waters might have done better with better advice from his seconds. He had the edge of all three rounds, but he allowed himself to be coaxed in close by his opponent and too much time was spent in mauling and infighting. Waters would, it is thought, have won more decisively had he been able to keep the fight at long range.

* * *

Special Light-Welterweight Contest. Signalman G. Martin, of 2 Training Regiment, who was awarded a special prize for the best loser in the whole competition, was also given a special contest against Corporal T. L. Molloy, of the Royal Engineers. This was a splendid fight in the best traditions of Army boxing.

Although Martin won the first two rounds by a narrow margin, it was only in the third round that he showed his definite superiority. He fought a well thought out fight. His opponent was experienced and an older man, but Martin fought so well that the semi-final at which he was beaten must have been an epic. No wonder he was given the best loser prize.

RUGBY

The Northern Command Rugby Seven-a-side Tournament played at Catterick on 15th April.

Winners—1 Training Regiment, Royal Signals, "B" Team.

Runners-up—1 Training Regiment, Royal Signals, "A" Team.

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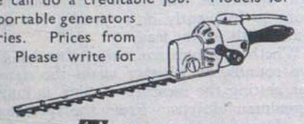

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THE WIRE

The Corps Magazine of the
ROYAL SIGNALS
The Official Organ of the
SIGNALS ASSOCIATION

Editor:
BRIGADIER 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.*

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☆

JUNE • 1953
Vol. 7 *New Series* **No. 6**

☆

PRICE ONE SHILLING

The Coronation

FOR THE WIRE this really started on 1st June, when a visit was made to Kensington Gardens Camp to obtain photographs of the Camp Signal Office and of the Royal Signals Detachments which were to run the "communications" of the various processions, and of the firing of the Salutes the next day.

The Camp is large and it was only later we heard that our Colonel-in-Chief, Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal, C.I., G.C.V.O., G.B.E., R.R.C., T.D., D.C.L., LL.D., was also in camp that day visiting the representative detachments of the Signal Corps of the Commonwealth and of Gurkha Royal Signals. The day was cold and mostly sunny, though with an occasional shower. This presaged ill-weather for Coronation Day. Returning from this visit THE WIRE moved along East Carriage Drive, where already the first squatters had staked their claim and were camping on the kerbside.

2nd June

All will have read of the torrential rain, the brief moments of brilliant sunshine, the extraordinary beauty of the Coronation Service in the Abbey, all eclipsed by the radiant beauty of Her Majesty The Queen. THE WIRE saw it all on television. Perhaps after "the Abbey" the most wonderful part of the day was the clamorous enthusiasm of the drenched, packed crowds along the route. Only the British could have so acclaimed their love and loyalty after such a soaking. Only the British could have remained, 50,000 of them, to cheer and cheer again as Her Majesty made her last balcony appearance at 11.30 p.m.

* * *

The marching of the 300 of Royal Signals in the "From" Procession was as good as any and better than most. The Signal Communications caused the saluting batteries to fire at the moment of the Crowning; they effectively controlled the movement of troops and the processions throughout the day.

* * *

We all of us remembered those of us who did not see the processions, the parades, the fireworks, or Her Majesty, but who, all the world over, were AT NORMAL SIGNAL DUTY.

Some of us perhaps heard and saw Richard Dimbleby's most moving epilogue in the empty Abbey. Empty? No, there was one "Signalman," Yeoman Warder G. A. Gavey, who with some of his comrades remained throughout the night in the deserted Abbey, guarding the Crown Jewels.

PERSONAL COLUMN

COLONEL-IN-CHIEF

The following telegram was sent to H.R.H. The Princess Royal, C.I., G.C.V.O., G.B.E., R.R.C., T.D., D.C.L., LL.D., by Major-General C. M. F. White, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., on behalf of the Corps:—

"All ranks your Corps send you loyal and affectionate birthday greetings.

Representative Colonel Commandant, Royal Signals."

And the following letter was received:—

"Dear General White,

Your telegram of greetings for my birthday has given me great pleasure.

Please express my warmest thanks to all ranks of my Corps for their good wishes, and tell them how much I value their thought of me today.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) MARY,
Colonel-in-Chief."

London Gazette

27th March.

Brigadier G. H. Walton, C.B., C.B.E., T.D., D.L., appointed Honorary Colonel 50 (Northumbrian) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment (T.A.) vice Brigadier T. T. J. Sheffield, O.B.E., T.D., A.D.C., D.L.

17th April.

Colonel R. Barron, T.D., D.L., appointed Honorary Colonel 22 Army Group Signal Regiment, A.E.R.

24th April.

Major R. Scrase to R.A.R.O.

1st Commonwealth Divisional Signal Regiment

Honours and Awards.

O.B.E.—Lieutenant-Colonel F. P. Johnson, Royal Signals.
M.B.E.—Captain P. H. F. Webb, Royal Signals.

Mentions in Despatches.

Captain P. J. Evans, Royal Signals.
Captain A. C. Birtwistle, Royal Signals.
W.O.II D. W. Swenson.
W.O.II N. Lane.
Sergeant G. A. Aven.
Corporal E. A. Buckner, Royal Canadian Signals.

We are indebted to the "Northumbrian Wire," the Regimental Magazine of 50th (Northumbrian) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment (T.A.), for the following:—

OUR HONORARY COLONEL

Last month we promised to tell you a little more about our new Honorary Colonel. Brigadier G. H. Walton, C.B., C.B.E., T.D., D.L., J.P., was first commissioned in the West Yorkshire Regiment way back in November, 1914, but within a year he had been seconded to the Signal Service Royal Engineers. He was wounded in 1918 and discharged on account of wounds in 1919. Brigadier Walton joined his Regiment as a Captain in 1926 and was Commanding Officer from 1930 to 1936. From then until the outbreak of war in 1939 he served as Deputy Chief Signal Officer, Northern Command—no mean honour for a Territorial. During the war he was successively Chief Signal Officer, Northern Command, 10 Corps, 13 Corps and British Troops in Egypt. In 1943, at the request of the Minister of State, he was seconded as Director of the United Kingdom Commercial Corporation in the Middle East.

Since 1948 he has been Chairman of the Durham Territorial and Air Forces Territorial Association and also represents the Territorial Army on the Corps Committee and Royal Signals Association. He was awarded the C.B. in the last New Year's Honours List. We are indeed honoured to have as our Honorary Colonel an ex-officer of the Regiment with such a distinguished record.

OBITUARY—Captain J. F. Maxwell, A.I.R.O.

Colonel E. D. Good writes:—

I recently received a letter from India telling me that Captain J. F. Maxwell, A.I.R.O., died last summer in Udaipur Hospital.

As I have seen no mention of it in THE WIRE I thought perhaps that the passing of this old friend of the Indian Signal Corps is not generally known.

Those of us who served in Jubbulpore in the late 'twenties and early 'thirties will well remember Jimmy Maxwell for his gift of handling Indian soldiers and helping others to learn how to do so, also his enthusiasm for pig-striking, and for the moment on every great night in the Officers' Mess when he sang his song "The Mighty Boar."

He was, I believe, still Commandant of the Mewar Bhil Corps in Rajputana when he died.

COMRADESHIP

Should anyone be in the vicinity of STOKE MANDEVILLE, BUCKS., MR. C. G. MILLS, in 3D WARD, MINISTRY OF PENSIONS HOSPITAL, who has undergone two operations, would be very pleased to see any serving or ex-serving member of the Corps.

The Chairman of London Branch of the Association visits him monthly, and reports that he is very cheerful. He has great courage and a keen sense of humour, together with a great pride in the Corps and all its activities. This is an inspiration from one who was only given a short time to live.

Movements—Officers

Major (Q.M.) G. P. Murray from Northern Army Group to 53 (W) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A.

Captain (Q.M.) R. Hodgson from East Africa to Depot.

Major R. F. C. Ashford from FARELF to Depot.

Major A. F. McGill from FARELF to Depot.

Major E. H. M. Rayner from H.Q. Southern Command to School of Signals.

Major C. E. Booth-Jones from Royal Signals Wing to Korea.

Major W. A. Woods from FARELF to Depot.

Major (Q.M.) J. G. Brandon from Northern Army Group to 6 (Boys) Training Regiment.

Major (Cipher) R. A. W. Buckridge from Eastern Command Signal Regiment to Cyprus.

Captain (Q.M.) R. Pearson from 6 (Boys) Training Regiment to M.E.L.F.

Captain (T.O.T.) Pollard from West Africa to FARELF.

Lieutenant-Colonel J. S. Wise from BETFOR to H.Q. 5 A.A. Group.

Lieutenant-Colonel N. de la P. Tate from Western Command Signal Regiment to H.Q. 2 A.A. Group.

Lieutenant-Colonel L. W. J. Dryland from H.Q. 2 A.A. Group to Western Command Signal Regiment.

Major J. N. Boyland from Northern Army Group to FARELF.

Major C. L. Wickner from War Office to Northern Army Group.

Arrivals and Departures

Departures.

S.Q.M.S. A. Williams from 2 A.S.S.U. to U.K. to take up his pension.

Second-Lieutenant R. A. Allman from 1 War Office Signal Regiment (Traffic) to take up a civilian post in Gloucester.

Births

PARTINGTON.—To Captain and Mrs. F. M. Partington, 1/20 Army Signal Regiment (T.A.), Birmingham, on 26th March, 1953, a daughter, Rosalind Jean.

JENKINS.—To Sergeant and Mrs. J. I. Jenkins, 6 (Boys) Training Regiment, Royal Signals, on 10th February, 1953, a daughter, Sian Nicola Mary.

GEORGES.—To Corporal and Mrs. R. T. Georges, The War Office (A.G.11), on 1st May, 1953, a daughter.

CARROLL.—To Captain and Mrs. J. E. Carroll, on 10th April, 1953, at Accra, Gold Coast, a daughter, Barbara Elizabeth.

WATERS.—To Sergeant and Mrs. Waters, 1 War Office Signal Regiment (Traffic), on 9th March, 1953, a daughter, Caroline Clair Louise.

MILLS.—To Signalman and Mrs. Mills, 1 War Office Signal Regiment (Traffic), on 16th January, 1953, a daughter, Denise Anne.

ROWLAND.—On 7th April, 1953, at Aldershot, to Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. G. Rowland, a son.

AKASS.—To Captain and Mrs. Akass, on 30th April, 1953, at Louise Margaret Hospital, Aldershot, a daughter.

EVIS.—On 11th May, 1953, at Weymouth, to Dorothy, wife of Sergeant C. D. Evis, of the Depot Regiment, a daughter, Christina Dorothy Ann.

East Africa Command Signal Squadron, Nairobi, Kenya.

SAUL.—To Captain and Mrs. F. Saul, on 15th February, 1953, a daughter, Judith Mary Anne.

HUGHES.—To Sergeant and Mrs. Hughes, on 10th March, 1953, a son, Kevin John.

ROBERTS.—To Sergeant and Mrs. Roberts, on 28th March, 1953, a daughter, Sheila Patricia.

NUTT.—To S.S.M. and Mrs. Nutt, on 29th January, 1953, a daughter, Carolyn Elizabeth Calvert.

Marriages

BEVAN—NELSON.—R.S.M. G. J. Bevan, M.M., 6 (Boys) Training Regiment, Royal Signals, to Patricia Nelson, S.R.N., S.C.M., at the Minster, Beverley, on 28th March, 1953.

Deaths

RICHARDS.—22821519 Driver J. G. Richards on 28th March, 1953.

BINLEY.—22661561 Signalman D. H. Binley on 19th April, 1953, in B.A.O.R.

GUNTON.—22588580 Driver B. C. Gunton on 20th April, 1953, at Old Church Hospital, Romford, Essex.

CLARKE.—19142691 ex-Signalman R. J. Clarke on 16th September, 1952.

Wounded in Action

WAGSTAFF.—22610883 Signalman A. W. Wagstaff, in Korea.

19 Air Formation Signal Regiment

Arrivals from U.K.

Major T. A. Hall and family.
Major P. Smith.
2323092 R.S.M. A. C. Corringe.
14615414 Sergeant F. Wainer.
2754372 Sergeant T. Melvin.
2568506 Sergeant A. Kinnear.
21181398 Sergeant T. Flanagan.

Departures to U.K.

Major R. F. C. Ashford and family—R.H.E.
Major M. F. Holliday and family—R.H.E.
Captain J. M. N. Lyons—Part II Subalterns' Course.
Lieutenant B. M. Ashcroft—Part II Subalterns' Course.

* * *

The Cavalry Corps Signals Silver Jubilee Reunion was held in London on Saturday, 8th November, 1952, which may well remind us of the work of the Cavalry Corps Signals during the 1914-18 War, which is epitomised by a message sent to the 1930 reunion by Lieutenant-General Sir Charles McMurrough Kavanagh, K.C.B., K.C.M.G., D.S.O., C.V.O., who said: "I remember well what an example the Cavalry Corps Signals were to the others and how much I owed to them."

ROYAL SIGNALS DIARY, 1954

The following details have been notified by the Army Sport Control Board regarding Royal Signals Diaries, 1954.

	Published Price	Purchase Tax	Total
Refillable Wallet in silk-grain Persian Leather, complete with refill and pencil, improved model with additional pockets	12/0	4/0	16/0
Leather (Fast-bound)	3/6	7d.	4/1
Plexide (Fast-bound)	2/8	5d.	3/1
Refills	1/9	3d.	2/0

Postage extra. Cash with order.

Order forms will be available from August 1953.

CORPS CLOTHING

The following goods in Corps Colours are available from this Headquarters at prices stated:—

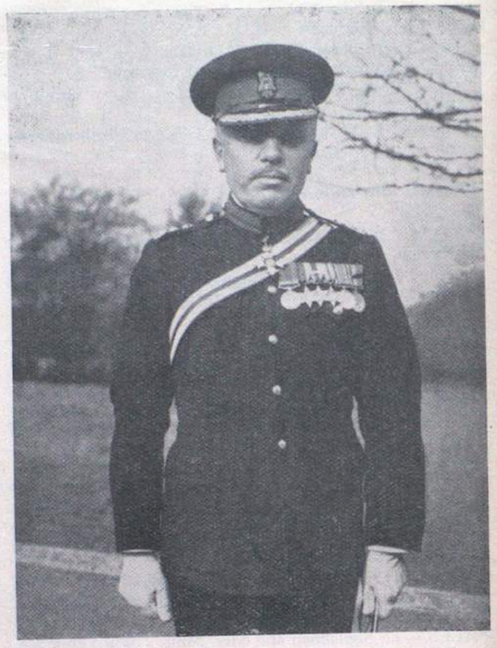
	£	s.	d.
Scarves	1	2	6
Ties, Reppe		5	6
Ties, Heavy Weave		7	6
Ties, Woollen		8	6
Cuff Links		7	0
Blazer Badges	1	5	0
Car Badges	1	15	0
Association Badges (for members) ...		3	0
Blazer Buttons: Large		2	3 each
Small		1	8 „

CORPS MARCHES

A new recording of the Corps' Quick and Slow March is being made by the H.M.V. Gramophone Company, and records will be available in July, price 10s. each, from:—The Honorary Treasurer, Royal Signals Band, H.Q. Officers' Mess, Catterick Camp, Yorkshire.

Vale

BRIGADIER J. J. DUVIVIER, C.B.E.



IT is not easy to summarise a career in a sentence, though a surfing enthusiast's analogy of Brigadier Duvivier's progress through the Army might be that he mistimed his first jump badly, but on his next effort, after rather a rough ride, he came in on the crest of the wave.

Jean Joseph Duvivier (christian names for information, as in the Army he has always answered to "Bo," "D.V." or "John") just got his eyes open in time to see the close of the 19th century. It was intended that after education at Forest Hill he should be a civil engineer, but the 1914-18 war changed that plan and he took the Army Entrance Examination instead.

He was halfway through his course at the R.M.A. when the war ended—and he had missed it! His deep disgust can only be appreciated by other regular soldiers who shared his bad luck and also, perhaps, by those slightly older who had just earned, by the narrowest of margins, the right to wear "Mutt and Jeff."

He decided to soldier on, and in July 1919 he was commissioned into the R.G.A.—a soldier by accident rather than design in every sense, no medals and small likelihood of getting any for a very long time. His assets were a gay disposition, a sympathy of heart for his associates, and a firm refusal to be discouraged. He soon acquired another—a love and understanding of horses that was to give him a good standing with his contemporaries wherever he went.

After thoroughly enjoying command of a troop of horse-drawn howitzers for over a year, he applied to be seconded to the newly-formed Royal Corps of Signals. In October 1920 he joined No. 2 Borstal, as his "Q" Course at Maresfield was (deservedly) called, together with over thirty other renegades from various arms, less than half of whom eventually survived their lighthearted exploratory tour of the technical jungle.

Sixteen months later, with a rather dubious A.M.I.E.E. in his knapsack, "Bo" Duvivier joined Constantinople Signal Company. There, in company with a few fellow graduates, he gained an entirely false impression of what foreign service meant, and quickly earned a reputation as an enthusiastic follower of the Mashlak hounds, an expert guide to the Pera night clubs, and the last home from any party. In October 1923 he returned to the U.K., but very soon re-embarked—this time on what was to be his real career as a Junior Officer, twelve years in India without a break.

His tour was spent with three Units, the first being "B" Divisional Signals at Quetta, where his chief interests were Unit games, anything to do with horses, and social life. He played for the Unit at Rugby football, cricket, hockey, and more than once at soccer; he hunted whenever he could, and was recognisable as the smallest Officer on the largest charger—and he played the banjulele in Lady Harrington's band! At S.T.C. India, Jubbulpore, he took up polo and pig-sticking with enthusiasm, and during his last four years, with 1st Cavalry Brigade, he raced, rode in point-to-point and show-jumped with many successes.

Towards the end of his tour he married Penelope Merriman and began to settle down; and here it is high time to record that by now he had learned a lot about handling Signals, and that he had acquired a knowledge of training signalmen that was to pay a dividend in later years. He returned to England in 1936, a seasoned soldier, now answering readily to his second nickname, "D.V."

Next, while with 4th Divisional Signals, he had an almost unique experience, when he was attached for a month in 1937 to the German Army and given a Captain's job in the 50th Abteilung Nachrichten, or 50th Corps Signals. His chief memory of this time, apart from its general intense interest, is of a series of incidents in which he arrived suitably clad for the occasion in plain clothes, at bathing parties and at a regatta, to be greeted with ceremony by senior German Officers—once by his C.O.—wearing full dress with swords.

When war started he was a very popular Adjutant in 56th (City of London) Divisional Signals. For a long time he was held at home on training duties, but he got down to it without any belly-aching. He formed and trained 8th Armoured Divisional Signals, and in May 1942 he embarked with them for M.E.L.F. Hardly had they arrived than there was a General Post, and "D.V." found himself posted to Basra; so that it was a pretty desperate Officer who at last got his chance when he was flown back to take over as C.S.O. 10th Corps in North Africa in March 1943.

He held the appointment under three successive commanders, and had his full share of active service. He took part in "Monty's" left hooks from Tripoli to Tunis, the Salerno landing, and the advance through Italy via Monte Cassino to Rome, then on to Bologna. His work as C.S.O. of a fighting Corps fully earned him his C.B.E.

The war over, his next chance was to go to the United States on the Joint Services' Staff. His liaison qualities were used to the full in the work of standardisation, and he was a success. It was in Washington, too, that bread cast many years before into the social whirlpool returned to him again, when he renewed his acquaintance with three Officers whom he had last met in the American Embassy at Constantinople.

From U.S.A. to his last appointment, as Commander S.T.C., Catterick. His arrival in March 1950 was not at the time regarded as a matter of very great significance for the Corps, but in the event it proved to be nothing less. He appeared to do nothing spectacular at first, but results in the long run speak for themselves. Administratively there has been a steady levelling up of Units, and in the world of Army sport a long run of successes, culminating in 1952-53 in what may prove to be the best-ever year in Corps history.

Best of all, the Royal Signals Association has had from him unprecedented support; the annual reunion has yearly become a bigger and better function, and the S.T.C., formerly regarded as rather barren ground, has launched two new branches, which have enrolled young soldiers not just in their hundreds, but in their thousands. For this last achievement, "John" Duvivier, as his friends now call him, has provided the initiative and the drive; confronted by the difficulties his reaction was: "Absolute balderdash (or words to that effect). Let's do it!" and it has been done. Here it is perhaps not out of place to repeat one of his maxims that he himself has followed so well. It is never to start a thing unless you mean to see it through.

The S.T.C. will miss his distinctive personality, short, cherubic and cheerful, though able to assume whenever occasion demands the most effective self-possession, dignity and firmness. His C.O.s will remember a superior who gave them clear orders that they could get on with; and his contemporaries will remember a warm-hearted "Bo," with his habit of gazing at them wide-eyed and making the most outrageous remarks with an air of perfect gravity.

His wife, too, will be remembered for her work both for SSAFA and for the Catterick branch of the N.S.P.C.C.; and wherever they go and whatever he does in civil life, they both take with them the thanks and good wishes of the Corps.

Forthcoming Events

Royal Engineers and Royal Signals Annual Guest Night

The Corps Committee, at their 52nd meeting, decided that, subject to agreement of the Royal Engineers, 1st July, 1953, was the selected date on which the Annual Guest Night in the Headquarter Mess at Catterick would be held.

WEST COUNTRY REUNION

Rawlinson Barracks, Newton Abbot, Devon

Saturday, 4th July.

Afternoon—Arrival and reception of Old Comrades.
Evening—All Ranks' Dance.

Sunday, 5th July.

1030 hours—Church Parade.
1130 hours—Band Concert by Royal Signals Band.
1400 hours—Potted Sports.
1800 hours onwards—Disperse.

The Depot Regiment require to know numbers and full details of times of arrival by 21st June. Arrangements will be made to accommodate coach drivers if required.

YORK RALLY AND REUNION

The York Branch of the Association is organising a rally and reunion on Saturday, 25th July. Tentative programme is as follows:—

Miniature Tattoo

At York Rugby Ground

2.45 p.m.—Assembly of Branch Standards and performers to music by the Corps Band.
3.0 p.m.—Short Opening Ceremony.
3.5 p.m.—Trooping of the Colour by 6 (Boys) Training Regiment.
3.30 p.m.—P.T. Display by 6 (Boys) Training Regiment.
4.0 p.m.—Royal Signals Display Team.
4.30 p.m.—Grand Finale.
5.0-6.0 p.m.—Tea Interval.
6.0-8.0 p.m.—Conducted Tour of the City (if desired).

Admission Charges

Ground and Terrace 1s. 0d. • Popular Stand . 1s. 6d.
Side Stand ... ... 2s. 0d. • Centre Stand ... 3s. 0d.
(Children Half Price)

Grand Dance at the Assembly Rooms

8 p.m. to 12 Midnight—Tickets 5s. 0d.

Publicity Material, Programmes, Tickets, etc., available later from: The Honorary Secretary of the York Branch of the Association, Mr. J. E. Newton, 59 Water Lane, York.

ROYAL SIGNALS BAND PROGRAMME, 1953

June	14-20	... Victoria Embankment Gardens, London.
„	21-27	... Folkestone.
July	2-5	... Southern Command.
„	7-9	... A.A. Command.
„	11-18	... Tunbridge Wells.
„	25	... Scottish Command Signal Regiment.
„	26	... Paisley.

ROYAL SIGNALS OFFICERS' GOLFING SOCIETY

1953 Fixtures

Date		Opponents	Course
June 24	...	York Golf Club	Strensall
July 1	...	R.M.A. Sandhurst ...	Camberley Heath
July 24	...	R.A. Golfing Society ...	Sunningdale

ROYAL SIGNALS DISPLAY TEAM

Engagements, 1953

June	10-27	... Royal Tournament ...	Earls Court
July	3-4	... North - East Cheshire Show	Stockport
„	7	... Royal Military Academy	Sandhurst
„	11	... Fairford Carnival	Fairford
„	15	... R.A. Regimental Day ...	Larkhill
„	18	... Matlock and District Agricultural Show ...	Matlock
„	22-23	... Staffordshire Agricultural Society	Burton-on-Trent
„	25	... Old Comrades' Reunion	York
„	27	... Trinity United A.F.C. ...	Bridlington
„	30	... Oswestry and District Agricultural Society ...	Oswestry
Aug.	1	... Durham County Agricultural Society	Durham
„	4-7	... South Shields Tattoo ...	South Shields
„	8	... Northumberland Agricultural Society	Alnwick
„	19-20	... Royal Jersey Agricultural and Horticultural Society	Jersey
„	22	... Westgate - in - Weardale Floral and Horticultural Society	Weardale
„	27-29	... Worcester Tattoo	Worcester
Sept.	3-5	... Chester Tattoo	Chester
„	7	... The Royal Air Forces Association	Dawlish
„	8	... The Royal Air Forces Association	Teignmouth
„	10	... The Yeovil Agricultural Society	Yeovil
„	17	... Wembley Stadium ...	Wembley

Review

Full details of the parade of the Royal Signals' Contingent for the Review of ex-Servicemen by Her Majesty The Queen on 5th July are on page 180.

For the sake of historical accuracy an effort has been made to record the identity of a majority of the Signal Units and Royal Signal Officers who are taking part in, and in most cases whose identity is referred to in the orders for the:—

Coronation of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

2nd June, 1953

The Staff of Field Marshal the Viscount Alanbrooke, K.G., G.C.B., O.M., D.S.O.

Chief Signal Officer: Lieutenant-Colonel C. H. Stoneley, O.B.E.
G.S.O. II Signals: Major C. H. Golden.
S.O. in Telecommunications: Captain A. Begg.
Chief Clerk: S.S.M. D. Grace.

The Camp Signal Troops

Olympia: Captain L. W. Prescot and fifteen other ranks, 3 Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment.
Earls Court: Captain C. Robinson and seventeen other ranks, 5 Corps Signal Regiment.
Kensington Gardens: Captain P. Tainsh and twenty other ranks, 5 Corps Signal Regiment.

Lining the Route

533 all ranks Royal Signals, under command of Colonel F. W. P. Bradford, M.B.E., from junction Down Street and Piccadilly to opposite No. 106 Piccadilly (nearly Hyde Park Corner).

Marching in the " From " Procession

304 all ranks Royal Signals, under command of Colonel C. D. Gardiner, who are followed immediately by
The Royal Signals Band under Director of Music, Captain J. L. Judd, M.B.E., MUS.BAC., F.T.C.M., L.R.A.M., A.R.C.M.
Also marching in the " From Procession " are representatives of:—
East Africa Signals,
Southern Rhodesia Signals,
No. 1 Squadron, Ceylon Signal Corps,
No. 2 (Volunteer) Squadron, Ceylon Signal Corps,
Pakistan Signals,
1 New Zealand Divisional Signals,
Royal Australian Signals,
Royal Canadian Signals,
Gurkha Royal Corps of Signals.
Each of these small detachments marches with their own national contingents.

Aides-de-Camp

who march in both processions and are present in Westminster Abbey:—
Brigadier C. A. H. Chadwick, C.B.E.,
Brigadier T. T. J. Sheffield, O.B.E., T.D., D.L.,
Lieutenant-Colonel C. E. Calveley, O.B.E.

In Westminster Abbey

Among the many Royal Signals Officers present were General Sir H. Colville B. Wemyss, Major-Generals C. W. Fladgate, W. A. Scott, W. O. Bowen, Brigadier A. C. C. Willway, Colonels G. J. Underwood, T. W. Vigers and T. M. Niven.

The aforementioned Aides-de-Camp,
Lieutenant-Colonel C. H. Stoneley, Captain A. Begg: on " Signal " Duty.

The Salutes

The firing of salutes by the saluting batteries at Hyde Park, The Tower and Windsor is synchronised by Lieutenant-Colonel C. H. Stoneley and Captain A. Begg from within Westminster Abbey.
Signal communications provided by:—
23 (Southern) Corps Signal Regiment (T.A.) (Lieutenant-Colonel R. C. Newcombe, O.B.E.).

The " To " Procession

from Buckingham Palace to Westminster Abbey.
The Signal to " start " this procession is given by Major C. H. Golden from the Queen Victoria Memorial.
Signal communications provided by:—
London District Signal Troop (Captain F. C. H. Walker).

The " From " Procession

from Westminster Abbey to Buckingham Palace.
Is " started " and controlled throughout its march through eighteen Signal Stations. Signals Control is staffed by Lieutenant-Colonel D. C. Cocks and Officers and other ranks, Army Phantom Signal Regiment.
Signal Stations are provided by:—
16 Airborne Divisional Signal Regiment (T.A.), Middlesex Yeomanry (Lieutenant-Colonel R. E. Pease, M.B.E., T.D.).
Army Phantom Signal Regiment (T.A.), Princess Louise's Kensington Regiment (Lieutenant-Colonel D. C. Cocks).
2/20 (East Anglian Army Signal Regiment (T.A.) (Lieutenant-Colonel L. H. Gentry).
56th (London) Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment (T.A.) (Lieutenant-Colonel F. R. Hue Williams, O.B.E.).

Officer Despatch Riders

Royal Signals is providing to the Earl Marshal three Officer Despatch Riders on the 2nd June:—
Captain M. Seys-Phillips,
11 A.A. (M) Signal Regiment (T.A.),
Lieutenant J. O'Hara,
13 A.A. (M) Signal Regiment (T.A.),
Lieutenant M. J. Connolly,
1 War Office Signal Regiment (Traffic).

This formal record would be incomplete without mention of the two most important adjuncts to the Signal system of any military operation.

THE SWITCHBOARD—the famous WHI 4466 which has been, is, and will be working just a little faster than its normal very high and skilful speed. Sergeant F. G. Edwards is the supervisor and the team, mostly civilian girls, many of whom are ex-A.T.S. or W.R.A.C. switchboard operators, and a number of Royal Signals S.B.O.S. of London District Signal Troop.

THE DESPATCH RIDERS who always do a good job mostly in London's heaviest traffic with an occasional run out to Windsor, Pirbright or Caterham; they are provided by London District Signal Troop and 1 War Office Signal Regiment.

It may be added that a number of them will, during the Coronation, be stationed along the processional route with a role as unusual as is in keeping with the day.

In brief: they carry the drums of television and newsreel film from the camera teams to the waiting Canberras.

A succession of these aircraft will then fly the films across the Atlantic.

The march past of members of the Royal Signals Old Comrades' Association at Catterick Camp. The Princess Royal, Colonel-in-Chief of the Royal Signals, is taking the salute

Regimental Day

by nacerby

THE WIRE *wishes to express its very great appreciation of the kindness of the Editor,* NORTHERN ECHO, *who at very short notice provided the pictures illustrating this article.*

AS the last bus load of Old Comrades moved off from Baghdad Square in the late evening of Sunday, 17th May, to return to their homes and several occupations, I shared both their spoken and unspoken thoughts that through all the vicissitudes of peace and war, through all the thrills and memories in all parts of the world, their Regimental Day of 1953 would forever take pride of place—and would remain indelibly stamped in their minds as the " best-ever " reunion.

Strangely enough, one doesn't have to be an Old Comrade to feel the comradeship, the atmosphere, the *esprit de corps,* on these occasions. One is just conscious of it and somehow conscious of its permeating effect on all—Old Comrades, serving members, and recruits alike—and certainly one realises that the loyalties and comradeships born and fostered in the Service and nurtured by the Branches play their vital parts in moulding worthy citizens of the realm.

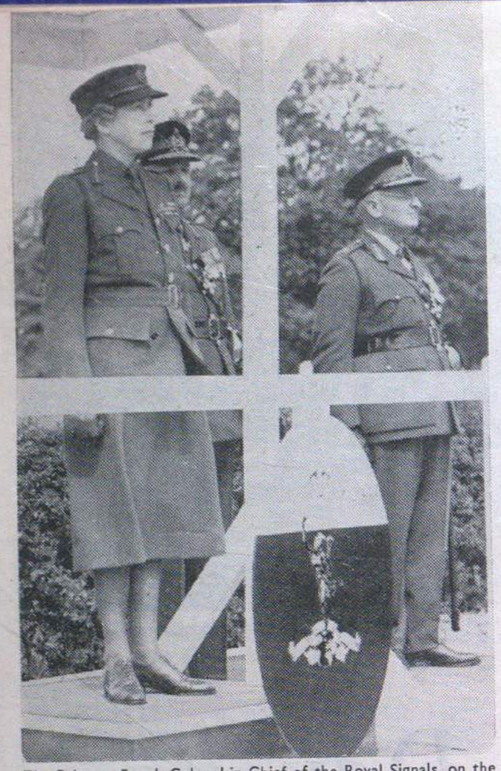
Its effect on the younger serving element of the Signal Training Centre is immense. " I can't explain it," said one recruit of five weeks' standing, " but it has done something inside to me. I'll never forget it." And there, perhaps, in these simple words, you have it.

It just " does " something to one—and being associated with one of the S.T.C. Branches I know the tremendous effect last year's reunion had on the young recruits, how this membership progress has been maintained, and how after these days in 1953 we shall consolidate our strength to an even greater degree.

But it is the Old Comrades who exemplify this *esprit de corps*—age, service, dialect and even rank are either swept away or become merged in a common knowledge and understanding that this comradeship has a deep, inner and lasting significance. And yet in a way the words " Old Comrades " are misnomers—old familiar Corps names and faces are always present yet each year brings a deeper fusing by the younger element proud of their Corps, their Branch and that they can play an *equal* part in " all for one and one for all " —just comrades.

On Saturday, 16th May, delegates converged on the Centre from all parts of the country—from Chester, London, Manchester, Oldham, York, Leeds, Middlesbrough, Beverley, Sheffield, Liverpool, Fylde, Orsett, Birmingham, Newcastle, Tunbridge Wells, Bournemouth, Scarborough, Edinburgh, Chesterfield, the local Catterick Branch, S.T.C. North and South Branches, all Commands, and a small contingent (including Major Bill Savage, G. Ansell and " Tanky " Taylor) from far-away Kenya.

As always, the whole of the Signal Training Centre had, with co-ordinated effort, prepared everything to the nth degree—the magnificent administrative arrangements under



The Princess Royal, Colonel-in-Chief of the Royal Signals, on the saluting base at the march past of members of the Royal Signals Old Comrades' Association at Catterick Camp. It was the occasion of their annual reunion

the chairmanship of the Commander S.T.C. (Brigadier W. D. J. Harries) and his predecessor (Brigadier J. J. Duvivier, C.B.E.), the perfect host, accommodation, and the Saturday evening smoking concerts and dances in W.O.s' and Sergeants' Messes, dovetailed into a programme—exciting, memorable and touching.

RETREAT

All afternoon Catterick had been in her most fickle mood—rain fell as only it can in the Centre, yet such was the optimism prevailing that just an hour before "Retreat" the downpour ceased as by magic (I can authoritatively deny the rumour that the duty officer at S.T.C. was told: "It's raining. Stop it!"

And in the cool of early evening, with overcast skies accentuating in colourful relief the impressive uniforms of the Corps Band, the multi-coloured flag of the Corps and the School of Signals, H.Q., S.T.C., and Regimental standards, the playing "Retreat" on Baghdad Square provided a most inspiring spectacle.

And who among the huge crowd that assembled will ever forget the wondering faces of the young recruits from 7 Training Regiment and other Training Regiments as they mingled with Old Comrades and senior serving members and watched with growing pride and comprehension as the Corps Band, under the direction of Captain J. L. Judd, M.B.E., marched and counter-marched and rendered the Corps' march, "Begone Dull Care," and other famous and well-loved selections.

Who will ever forget the pervading and reverent stillness during the playing of the hymn "Abide With Me," the lowering of the flag and standards by senior N.C.O.s, and the salute taken by the Representative Colonel-Commandant (Major-General C. M. F. White, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O.).

How easy to understand the words of that young recruit—"It does something to me."

W.O.s' AND SERGEANTS' MESS ENTERTAINMENT

Well, there! I asked for it I suppose. Had planned a quiet finish to this day in merely popping into the W.O.s' and Sergeants' Messes of Officer Training Wing, Royal Signals Wing, 1, 2 and 7 Training Regiments, greeting old and new friends and to have a final nightcap with BARLEUX.

It wasn't that I didn't know of the traditional hospitality of these Messes—I remember leaving very reluctantly last year in the wee sma' hours—but to me it seemed as though these Messes had subconsciously entered in friendly competition to produce an indefinable "something" in entertainment and hospitality. Even in the darkness one could find one's way to them all—gaiety, jollity and laughter filled the air as beacons and the wonderful atmosphere inside defies my power of description.

With all serving members the perfect hosts; the "lubrication" of various hues and sizes; the inevitable stories, true, tall and unbelievable; and the snatches of conversation—"When I was in 'Pindi," "Just watch us marching tomorrow," "He gave me my first seven days' C.B., but what a man!" "I could send faster with my left hand," "Before your time old man," "No argument, old chap, but 3rd Division *was* the best." You can understand how my plans were awry. Don't know what time I finally departed—someone did mention breakfast but was told "the night was still young."

Didn't find BARLEUX after all—but even Ukann Larfe would have found the "empty evidence" that he *had* visited them all. I gather I was made an honorary member of the Brewers' Society, discovered "export" in my petrol tank does not increase the miles per gallon, and that my car will comfortably hold 24—or was it 25—Old Comrades. Ah, me!

THE DAY

Graced by the presence of H.R.H. The Princess Royal, C.I., G.C.V.O., G.B.E., R.R.C., T.D., the Colonel-in-Chief Royal Signals, and with Catterick producing its best sunshine weather, this Regimental Day heralded a stage in both Corps and Association history that will live for ever.

Outriders from the Corps motor cycle display team met and escorted the car of Her Royal Highness from Catterick village to Scotton Hall, where her arrival was heralded by a fanfare by the Corps Fanfare Trumpeters and a Royal Salute by the 58 Medium Regiment, R.A.

Here Her Royal Highness was met by the Representative Colonel Commandant, Major-General C. M. F. White, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., and Mrs. White, Major-General Fladgate, C.B.E. (chairman, Royal Signals Association), Major-General W. O. Bowen, C.B., C.B.E. (Director of Signals), Major-General H. Murray, C.B., D.S.O. (G.O.C. Northumbrian District), before proceeding to St. Martin's Garrison Church where, in the presence of Old Comrades, Senior Officers and serving members of Signal Regiments in the Centre, the Royal Signals Memorial Chapel was dedicated by the Dean of Ripon, the Very Rev. F. Ll. Hughes, C.B., C.B.E., M.C., T.D., M.A., a former Chaplain General to the Forces, assisted by the Rev. C. G. Gregory, C.F. (Assistant Chaplain General, Northern Command), and the Rev. R. E. Munro, C.F. (vicar).

As the large congregation took their seats, nine standard-bearers bearing the standards of their branches, marched in solemn procession behind the mixed choir, placed them as silent sentinels by the altar and the hymn "He who would

valiant be," with accompanying music by the Corps Orchestra, heralded the impressive dignified service.

Following the dedication of the standard of the Newcastle Branch, the Dean then dedicated the Memorial Chapel, "As a memorial to all members of the Royal Corps of Signals who gave their lives in the cause of peace and justice, 1939-1945."

In his address, the Dean said this day completed a long-cherished purpose. The Memorial Chapel would provide within the Corps a memory of those who gave their lives and maintained the high standard of the Corps in the stern ordeal of war.

The Royal Corps of Signals is still young, but the service rendered is as old as warfare. At first the Command was personal and a few runners were enough, but as the mode of battle grew the need for great communications increased.

When the Boer War began there was only 12 Officers and 250 other ranks doing Signal's work. In 1914, the R.E. Signals numbered some 75 Officers and 2,300 men. Then came the entry of the sciences and machines into war, and in 1920 the Royal Corps of Signals came into being with the control of vast and widely scattered armies wholly dependent upon the quality and devotion of its men.

The scale of their qualities and the measure of that devotion was shown in the beautifully written Book of Remembrance and the spirit of their passing wonderfully expressed in the famous Signal picture, "Through." He hoped a place would be found in the Chapel for that picture.

Finally, he said the Royal Signals could be summed up as "The message, the need and the man." The message stood supreme—at all costs it must go through. These men were more than messengers of men—they were messengers of God. The Memorial Chapel was a witness that these men had died that the message of God might go through.

THE MARCH PAST

From the saluting base, where two former Colonels-Commandant, Major-General R. F. B. Naylor, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., and Major-General W. R. C. Penney, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., the Commander S.T.C., Brigadier W. D. J. Harries, C.B.E., and Mrs. Harries, and Commander School of Signals, Brigadier C. G. Moore, O.B.E., and Mrs. Moore, were presented to Her Royal Highness, the road was lined with serving members and thronged with civilians.

The March Past followed, headed by the Old Comrades, followed in turn by the young recruits of the Training Regiments.

And with banners flying, medals proudly displayed, and marching in perfect unison to the Corps Band, Her Royal Highness took the salute of a parade awe-inspiring and fraught with significance to all.

Even as a spectator one somehow sensed the perfect example set by the Old Comrades with their military bearing and pride of occasion had inspired the young recruits to produce that "little something extra" for this great day.

The annual general meeting followed and will be reported elsewhere, but I must mention the inspiring speech of Her Royal Highness and the terrific—yes, indeed—"signal" and spontaneous ovation accorded her by all those present.

To see these old soldiers—many with 1914-18 war medals displayed—and their younger colleagues spring to their feet as one man and to hear those cheers is something I shall never forget.

Misty eyes there certainly were.

THE MILITARY DISPLAYS

And so to the exciting climax—where Messines Lines Sports Field, gaily decorated to befit the occasion, was the venue of military displays, spectacular and thrilling. Again graced by the presence of Her Royal Highness, and in warm, sunny weather, the Princess Royal and the huge crowd saw exhibitions worthy of Olympia, and 'twas indeed a Royal tournament.

The Princess Royal, Colonel-in-Chief of the Royal Signals, arriving at St. Martin's Church, Catterick Camp, with Major-General C. M. F. White, a Colonel Commandant, to open the Royal Signals memorial chapel on the occasion of the Royal Signals Old Comrades' Association annual reunion service

The trooping of their Regimental Colours by the 6 (Boys) Training Regiment, and their impeccable smartness in turn-out and movement gave all a reassuring pride that the Corps had in these Boys splendid and keen material for the future. I sat with ex-Boys of "K" Company, "C" Company and "P" Company, and their eulogistic remarks warmed my heart.

The display of Swedish drill by National Servicemen of 3 Training Regiment and 3 Battalion, W.R.A.C., trained by Captain K. Witt, of 3 Training Regiment, was remarkable for its precision, intricate counter-marching and co-ordinated movement.

The Corps Motor Cycle Display Team, led by Captain M. Potter, again provided the thrills and breathtaking incidents, and following tea the Boys Training Regiment gave a unique exhibition of P.T. and 4 Training Regiment a mast erection race remarkable for its speed and timing.

And so in this wonderful Coronation Year, and with their Patron, H.R.H. The Princess Royal, with them to the end, the 1953 Regimental Day came to a close.

Frankly, I was exhausted—the excitement, the tension, the dignity and the impressiveness of this day had perhaps been a little overpowering, but I was conscious of an even deeper pride in being both a serving member and an Association member, and again the words of that recruit echoed in my heart—"It just does something to me."

Postscript

I did find BARLEUX, but by that time the bar was shut—it now means a wait of 12 months but, oh, it has been worth it.

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Coronation Communications

BY the time that these notes appear in THE WIRE the Coronation will have taken place, and it will only remain to describe events of Signal interest which occurred on 2nd June.

Since the publication of the last article in this series, in which the system of communications to be used at the Coronation was described in detail, a number of points have occurred which will be of interest, and it is with these that the following paragraphs deal.

As may be known, the B.B.C. is to make television films of the Coronation which will be processed and flown to Canada by R.A.F. Canberra aircraft so that they can be shown on the other side of the Atlantic on the same day. One of the problems was to get the films from the cameramen to the B.B.C. studios for processing, and an approach was therefore made to the War Office for assistance in this. As a result, it has been arranged for twelve despatch riders of 1 War Office Signal Regiment (Traffic) to be standing by at points adjacent to the TV camera positions, who will rush each film to the studio as it comes off the camera. This has necessitated close co-operation with the Metropolitan Police over the route to be taken by each D.R., since the closure of roads in the procession area and the large crowds of spectators will make it difficult for even the most experienced D.R. to get through with his important "despatch."

The B.B.C. is helping us at the Victoria Memorial, where the Signal Station for starting the Queen's procession from Buckingham Palace is located. Here the Officer in Charge of the Signal Station, Major C. H. Golden, is being provided with headphones carrying the B.B.C. commentary from inside the Palace Quadrangle, and this will provide a valuable source of information which will assist in getting the "stand-by" signal to the procession given at exactly the right moment.

The "Form and Order of the Coronation of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II," now published, describes the "Putting on of the Crown," and states that "the trumpets shall sound, and by a signal given, the great guns at the Tower shall be shot off." The exact position in Westminster Abbey from which the Chief Signal Officer, London District, is to give this signal was decided by the Earl Marshal himself at a meeting held in the Abbey, to which the Chief Signal Officer was summoned. It is of interest to record the meticulous care with which the Earl Marshal found time personally to arrange matters of such detail, which on this occasion also included the allocation of positions to the newsreel and television cameras which are being permitted to record the Coronation service. The heat generated by the floodlights which have been specially installed in the Abbey will be so great that a system of forced ventilation has had to be provided to extract this and ensure a constant supply of cool air.

The Chief Signal Officer is charged with the responsibility for informing the Chief Marshal at Storeys Gate when a certain point in the service has been reached, so that the processional troops may be ordered to move and take up their forming-up positions on the route. As soon as this information has been passed to the Chief Marshal, the Chief Signal Officer is required to move from the Abbey Triforium to the Signal Control Point opposite the Abbey entrance in readiness for the start of the procession. This move, which sounds quite simple, is, in fact, extremely difficult, since the great number of guests in the Abbey are to be seated in specially built tiers of stands which completely seal off the

[Photo: By courtesy of H.M. Postmaster-General

normal ways of entry and exit. This problem has been solved by a reconnaissance, in company with the Senior Architect of the Ministry of Works, who knows every nook and cranny of the Abbey structure, and as a result a way has been found by devious intricate passages and circular stone staircases to the Dean's House, and thence into Deans Yard, where the State Coach will await its summons to the Abbey entrance.

It is of interest that the Signal Detachments positioned round the processional route to give the starting signal, and for subsequently reporting the timed progress of the procession, are being mounted in the new British version of the Jeep—known popularly as the "Champ"—which provides a very handsome and effective means of accommodating the not inconsiderable bulk of Signal equipment and its operating personnel.

The first of these Signal Detachments was to have been positioned in the south-east corner of Parliament Square, around which the Sovereign's Escort and Mounted Band of the Household Cavalry will be formed up. It has now been decided that the Officer Commanding the Household Cavalry will take his time from the Crown Equerry who ushers the Queen into the State Coach, and there is therefore no need for a Signal Detachment in this position. Instead, this Signal Detachment is to be located in the lower part of Whitehall, in the entrance to King Charles Street, where it will, in fact, be better placed to give the starting signal than in the position originally planned.

A rehearsal of the processions to and from Westminster Abbey took place in the very early hours of Sunday, 10th May, with the necessary Signal Detachments performing their allotted tasks, and these went exactly according to plan. It was remarkable how the operation of the wireless communications was facilitated by the absence of interference from passing vehicles, since the route was, of course, closed to normal traffic; the presence of the almost continuous mesh of tubular steel scaffolding supporting spectators' stands round the route gave no significant screening effects.

For this rehearsal, the Army Phantom Signal Regiment (Princess Louise's Kensington Regiment (T.A.)) provided a number of Signal Detachments and a Control Station under Lieutenant-Colonel C. D. Cocks, the Commanding Officer.

The Regiment was moving to Walton-on-the-Naze for its annual camp on the same day, and its early morning Coronation duties were carried out *en route*—just another job for a Signal Regiment to take in its stride!

★

In Kensington Gardens Camp the spring weather has caused the many trees to burst forth into their abundant green foliage, and this has brought with it a degree of "blanketing" of sound which has caused the Signal Officer, Captain Tainsh, to revise drastically the preconceived plan for the public address system in the camp. As a result of trials which have been carried out since the trees gained their summer greenery, it has been found necessary to double the number of amplifiers and loudspeakers which hitherto had been found quite adequate.

The photographs will give an indication of the layout of the signal equipment carried by the Detachments on the route; it is hoped to supplement these, and to give a final account covering the operation of the Coronation Signal System on 2nd June in the next issue.

★

The photographs show the new British Jeep known as "Champ," or more officially as "¼ Ton Truck 4 x 4 Combat," which is powered by a Rolls Royce engine. For use in its Coronation Signal role, the "Champ" has been stripped of its canopy and side screens and specially fitted to hold a Wireless Set No. 52 and Public Address Equipment.

[Photo: By courtesy of H.M. Postmaster-General

Making Friends ☆

WHY bother with the treble chance? It's a mathematical improbability. If you want to go to Paris and saunter round the Cote d'Azur you'll find the Army has a word for it. "Echange au Paire" is the Open Sesame to the golden glories of France and vacancies are notified through Command channels. Even coke-hatted white-collar workers from Whitehall can apply. I was one of the lucky ones and, on a raw February morning, I handed over my files and got on the train for Dover and three weeks as a guest of the French Corps des Transmissions. At the same time, a French officer was leaving for England to be attached to Royal Signals Units.

The idea, quite simply, is to make friends. You never know who is going to be beside you in a war, and especially in Signals it's useful to know who is on the other end of the line or radio link. Not making friends when you stay with the French is very nearly impossible.

The tour is carefully arranged to be the French equivalent of your own job. I was taken round the French fixed radio network and the French equivalent of S.R.D.E., War Office Signals and the Directorate of Signals. Paris for a week was a welcome I will never forget, combining the adventure of strangeness with the warmth of a homecoming. I spent my days in an erudite atmosphere of slide rules and circuits at the French Army's S.R.D.E. The evenings also were not without interest. A comfortable "couchette" took me to Sete, a little oil and wine port west of Marseilles, to see the new Signals School for call-up Officers where Colonel Allaux has built up a fine organisation from scratch. School and town are proud of each other and a civic welcome by the Mayor produced me a box at the deliciously rococo opera house (Covent Garden through the wrong end of a telescope) to see Carmen Amaya and her visiting troupe of dancers.

Marseilles (for the 9 Region Signals) was curled up in unexpected snow, but the sun shone, and the "moules" were as delicious as only the Marseillais can make them. The C.S.O. has a flat in the new Le Corbusier building which has so surprisingly and satisfyingly appeared out of the future.

We drove over the icy hills, and swung round the breath-taking corners of the coast to Nice for the last day of a civil defence exercise. Then by jeep to see one of the best-dressed armies in the world in the Republic of Monaco (where the cannon-balls are cemented into peaceful pyramids besides the guns), through Monte Carlo just ahead of the winners of the Rally, and up the frontier to beyond Sospel to see the fortified strongpoints where three Italian Army Corps were decimated by night by three French battalions. The Italians used the radio in clear, and the French laid their guns by following the instructions they overheard.

Back in Paris I talked my way round the Directorate and saw the equivalents of the War Office Signal Regiments. Soldiers and civilians are roughly half and half in the French fixed networks. The civilians are engaged by the Army and not part of the P.T.T. The standard generally is very high, though the scale of communications is smaller than our own. The radio links are used all the time in preference to land-lines, which cost money to rent from P.T.T. The morse operating is a pleasure to see. Pre-war quality and no nonsense—straight-from-the-shoulder expertise. When I was there, Saigon was working 20 hours a day on 15-kw., partly R.T.T. C.F.S. and part-time manual C.W.

I was given an opportunity to thank General Marty (Divisional Signals) before leaving Paris to return to my commuters train and the piles of files with new ideas and a freshened outlook.

Catterick Revisited, May 1953

THE WIRE has chronicled the very great achievements of Royal Signals during 1952-53, particularly in sport, but the week ending Sunday, 17th May, deserves some special mention. Wednesday, 13th May, had three events of importance.

The Royal Signals Display Team gave a performance to which the Press were invited. This is an annual event about this time. Suffice to say that it was held in the stadium and in the highest tradition of Royal Signals. Besides the Press there was an enormous audience in which all arms of the Service were included, although naturally Royal Signals predominated.

The Coronation Park was officially opened by the G.O.C. Northumbrian District. This is a garrison affair but in conception and execution largely Royal Signals in the person of Major (T.O.T.) E. Nash. A small but delightful entrance filling the gap between the post office and Sandes Home opens out to about five acres of park land, with borders of ornamental shrubs, seats in plenty, a bandstand, and a children's playground. Sensibly by far the greater part is grassed. Soon the park will be extended to the NAAFI Club on one side and Hipswill on the other. A very fine conception, filling a considerable need and all made in an area which in July 1952 was rough scrub.

The Director of Signals Conference assembled in the evening. This year all the C.S.O.s, both home and from overseas, attended, save only those from M.E.L.F. who were prevented by their duties. Arriving rather coyly in a luxury motor coach from Darlington Station they soon made their presence felt in the Headquarter Mess. The next day (Thursday) was, in the main, spent by the C.S.O.s in visiting Regiments, and they will, I am sure, have been as pleased as the writer by the demeanour of all the young soldiers at the S.T.C.

The Old Comrades, members of the Association, began to arrive on Saturday, 16th May, and by 7.30 p.m. perhaps 200 had joined the many more hundreds of Royal Signals with their wives and the bulk of the young soldiers of 7 Training Regiment to watch the band.

Playing of "Retreat" by the Royal Signals Band on a blustery but fortunately sunny evening, Captain Judd led out his men for what is now a famous occasion. Suffice that all was as tradition has led us to expect. For many of the C.S.O.s long absent from Catterick it was their first view and they were full of praise for the marching and the playing.

Saturday evening, 16th May. The traditional "party" for the Old Comrades in the W.O.s' and Sergeants' Messes began immediately afterwards and continued well into Sunday (17th). The Headquarter Mess also entertained a large number of official guests.

Signal Training Centre Regimental Day

This was an epic and is worthy of detailed chronology.

9.15 a.m.—The Old Comrades began to assemble.

9.30 a.m.—The Squadrons, two of Old Comrades, two of young soldiers, "marched on" on Baghdad Square, and thence to St. Martin's Church.

10.0 a.m.—Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal, C.I., G.C.V.O., G.B.E., R.R.C., T.D., D.C.L., LL.D., Colonel-in-Chief, Royal Signals, arrived and was received by a Guard of Honour at Scotton Hall, thence with the Representative Colonel Commandant, the Chairman of the Association and the District Commander, to St. Martin's Church for the traditional service.
Newcastle Branch standard was dedicated and then two small processions of the officiating clergy and escorting Her Royal Highness moved to the dedication of the Royal Signals War Memorial Chapel.

11.20 a.m.—Out again in the sunshine to march past Her Royal Highness. The standards of the Association, a group of seniors, the first and second squadrons of Old Comrades, each more than a hundred strong. The route back to Baghdad Gymnasium lined with young soldiers of the S.T.C. As always, the old men marched just a little better than the young ones, except perhaps the Squadron representing 6 Boys Training Regiment.

12.0 noon.—To Baghdad Gymnasium for the Annual General Meeting of the Royal Signals Association. Her Royal Highness, our Patron, attended the first part of the meeting and addressed the members present.
A full report of the A.G.M. will appear in the July WIRE.

12.30 p.m.—To luncheon.

2.30 p.m.—To Scotton Ground for a wonderful afternoon of displays by the Signal Training Centre.

5.0 p.m.—The 1953 Reunion was over. It had been a memorable one.

Signal Training Centre

3 TRAINING REGIMENT

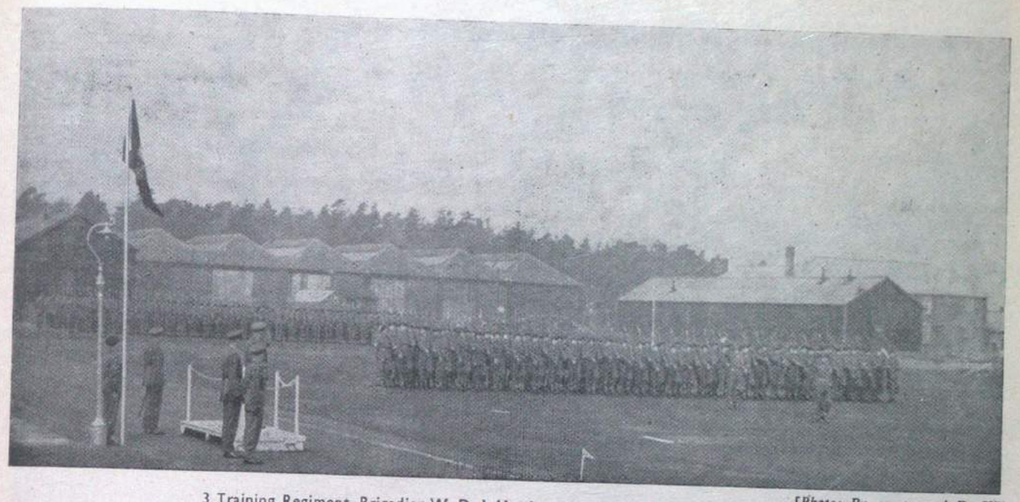
Can't resist it, and I'm sure my Commanding Officer will remember Bill Shakespeare's words about "The quality of mercy . . . . " when he reads it, but the fruits of "hitching our wagon to a *Starr*" was certainly exemplified on the occasion of the Annual Administrative Inspection by the Commander S.T.C., Brigadier W. D. J. Harries.

Team work was again the predominant note and its an extraordinary psychological thing that however much one exercises the soldiers' prerogative of having a quiet grumble with all the extra work involved, one always rises to the occasion, and it was certainly so in this case.

Didn't want to mention that "halo" again, but there it is—and at a jaunty angle!

You'll have gathered that the inspection was a great success and, as an old soldier (why *do* I lead with my chin!), must add that in a privileged spectator's role I had a feeling of intense pride in watching the precision-like march past of the Regiment—but why do I labour so when you can see from the photograph just how good it was!

Gallowgate Camp really deserves special mention—almost overnight terraces were built, shrubs and flowers appeared à la Maskelyne and Devant, and Major E. Sinnock tells me he's seriously thinking of renaming it Gallowgate Garden



3 Training Regiment, Brigadier W. D. J. Harries, Commander, S.T.C., takes the salute [*Photo: By courtesy of D. Hill*

City and is convinced the Corps should introduce the trade of bricklayer/operator—after all, *it is* possible operators may have to build their own Signal Offices! Touché.

The basketball team again concluded a very successful season in the Northumbrian District League, tying for first place with a Training Regiment, R.A.C., but with slightly inferior points average. Record:—

Played	Won	Lost	Points for	Points against
11	10	1	296	182

The Cricket XI, under Major K. Brown, has commenced the season with a fine victory over 1 Training Regiment, and the hockey team reached the semi-final of the District six-a-side tournament to augment a consistently good season's play.

Not to be left out of things in this memorable month, the Regimental Ladies' Club had a highly successful day's outing to Newcastle on 9th May, with a shopping spree and a visit to a theatre. I understand that there's no truth in the rumour the husbands are hoping to place Newcastle out of bounds as a shopping centre, but it is significant the word "credits" has been heard so often!

Dropped a frightful clanger last month with details of the Regimental Rifle Shoot—2 Squadron were the winners 'tis true, but the results were so close I had the utmost difficulty in working out the decimal point advantage.

Three more important and, to us, self-satisfying visits concluded a hectic month.

The G.O.C. Northern Command (Lieutenant-General G. C. Evans, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O.), accompanied by Brigadier W. D. J. Harries (Commander S.T.C.), toured barrack and messing accommodation and saw the regular O.W.L. Squadron and W.R.A.C. switchboard trainees at work. Impressed? Yes, indeed, and his keen personal interest in everything he saw gave tremendous pleasure to all ranks.

Very glad we were too for the visit of the General Secretary, Brigadier H. Firth, who again gave a characteristic racy address on the work, function and aims of the Association to Cadre and Trainees—please come again, our branch membership always takes an upward surge after your visits.

And finally all C.S.O.s attending the Director of Signals Conference found time to tour training and to note with what effort all ranks endeavour to interpret the Regiment's motto—"the difficult can be done at once; the impossible takes a little longer."

Stop Press. Yet another old 'un is awarded the L.S. and G.C. medal, and even after three weeks I gather the celebrations are still going on. Yes, it's none other than S.Q.M.S. G. Lunn.

7 TRAINING REGIMENT

The annual Regimental Rifle Meeting took place in late April and was a great success. 3 Squadron won the Inter-Squadron Cup and 5 (Regular) Squadron the falling plate competition. Sergeant G. Johnson was the individual winner. The weather was kind and the organisation excellent.

The Training Regiment, Royal Signals, acknowledged in *The Times* as having contributed £150 to the Lord Mayor's Flood Relief and District Fund was 7 Training Regiment.

The Coronation contingent consists, in addition to the Commanding Officer and the R.S.M., of Lieutenant J. R. Reeves and Second-Lieutenant K. G. White and fourteen junior N.C.O.s. They are at present undergoing strenuous training in preparation for their arduous duties on 2nd June.

Lieutenant-General G. C. Evans, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., the new G.O.C.-in-C. Northern Command, took a quick look at the Regiment on 12th May. As he stepped out of his car in Vimy Lines he was able to see 600 recruits, in various stages of their training, doing P.T., weapon training and drill.

Cricket has started and the Regiment is looking forward to a good season. Several players have taken part in district trials and Lance-Corporal Padgett is, at the time of writing, playing for the Army against Hampshire at Southampton. He made 55 runs in the first innings. The Army Tug-of-War Championship takes place soon and the Regimental team is in training. Lance-Corporal Brittain, of 2 Squadron, was second out of 120 starters in the Army Individual 25 Miles Road Time Trial Cycling Championship held on 6th May.

CORPS PICTURES

In response to numerous enquiries, the Association has arranged for photographic reproduction to be made of:—

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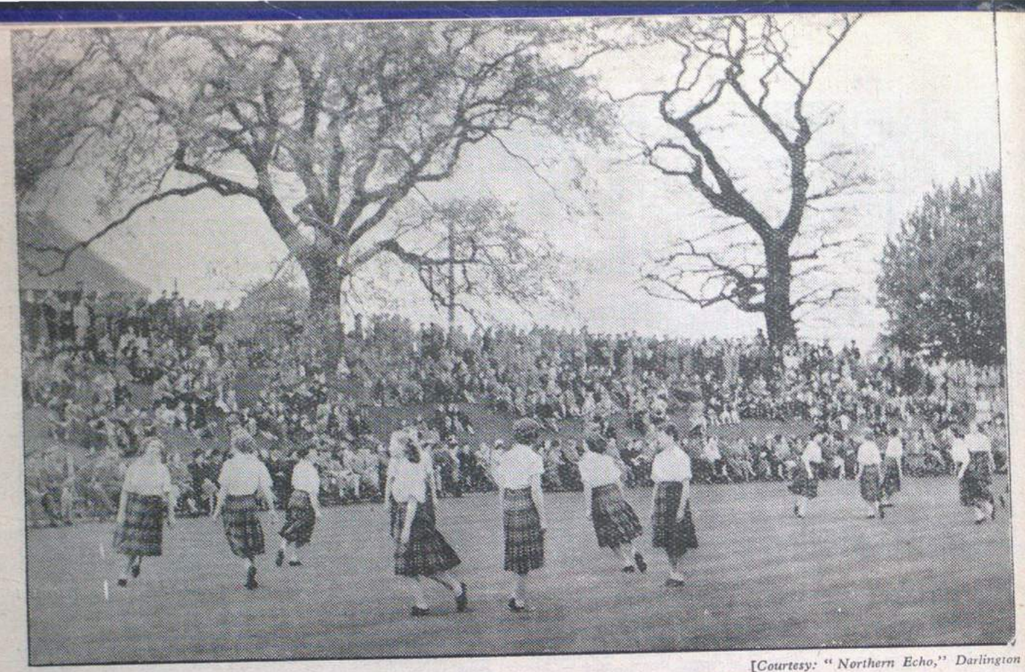


[*Courtesy: "Northern Echo," Darlington*

Scottish Country Club dancing by Catterick Camp Youth Club

Catterick Jottings

by nacerby

Coronation Park

CAN'T think of anything that has so stirred me—and, of course, the whole of the Garrison—as the opening of the Coronation Park at Camp Centre by the G.O.C. Northumbrian District (Major-General H. Murray, C.B., D.S.O.) on 13th May. As the General emphasised in his speech, sheer enthusiasm and a love of things beautiful by a representative committee had made this long felt need in Catterick Camp a reality. Not only would this park serve to perpetuate for all time the crowning of our young Queen, but its opening at this time would enable everyone in the Garrison to enjoy its beauty and tranquillity on Coronation Day.

I saw the park from its very inception when in company with Major E. Nash I wandered over the 3½ acres of scrubland, stone and rubble. The transformation has been Aladdin-like and even now unbelievable. Here, now, is something for everyone—well-kept lawns, shrubberies and colourful flower beds and borders, oak seats set perfectly in a vista of beauty and quiet, a stone and rustic bandstand flanked with flowers so arranged to form the Coronation symbol "E II R," a children's playground with every type of amenity to please and thrill, and standing as friendly sentinels at the end of the entrance two huge, magnificent oak trees.

The opening ceremony, in the midst of a large and representative crowd, both military and civil, was performed in brilliant sunshine weather (how Catterick loves to save her good weather for all important occasions) and a fanfare of trumpets by the Corps fanfare trumpeters resplendent in their impressive uniforms heralded the ceremony.

Over a thousand spectators then entered the park and from the grassy slopes watched a delightful performance of Scottish country dancing by the Catterick Camp Youth Club and listened to selections of music by the Corps Band, under the direction of Captain J. L. Judd, M.B.E.

In the evening the whole park was floodlit, and I only wish it was possible to bring back to Catterick—just for a day—all those who have served here to see this magnificent tribute to Her Majesty and the addition of yet another permanent amenity—and what an amenity—to the area.

The committee composed Colonel A. C. Man, Northumbrian District (president), Major E. M. P. Nash, 3 Training Regiment (chairman), Mr. W. Mellors (D.C.R.E.), Major King (School of Signals), Major Mathias (R.A.E.C.), Major Ward (R.A.C.) and Captain Deighton (Pioneer Corps) (secretary), and they certainly deserve the heartfelt thanks of all and everyone in seeing to fruition a project that is exemplified in the words "the difficult can be done at once—the impossible takes a little longer."

Oh, This Driving Business!

It's an extraordinary thing, but I can't for the life of me understand why some enterprising chap doesn't run trips to the beautiful areas and dales surrounding the camp. So many times have I heard "This so-and-so place, this Catterick, this wilderness set in a septic isle," yet within a few miles lie one of the loveliest dales in all England, and since there doesn't appear to be anyone smart enough to want to buy my Mercedes off I drove to explore.

Borrowed some air for the tyres and cruised along beautifully downhill in second gear at 10 m.p.h. completely oblivious to the admiring glances of pedestrians and fellow motorists alike. But I have a suspicion the air I borrowed wasn't fresh—there was a sudden "plop," and although the brakes worked perfectly and I pulled up almost to a stop in 900 yards—there to my horror was a dirty big inner tube poking its skin out in about five different places.

There's a moral to all this business, so . . .

Now Hilary Bellows was one of those fellows
Who always neglected advice,
Though one way to enrage a rather tough sergeant-major
Is to leave things undone once or twice.

There are some silly fools who neglect all their tools,
If you look in their tool kits you'll find
That their tool kits are dusty—in some cases rusty,
And Driver Bellows was one of this kind.

Now one hot summer's day, feeling cheerful and gay,
Driver Bellows was out on a job,
With wide open throttle, one tyre hit a bottle,
And the pressure went down with a sob.

You'd assume at this juncture, that he'd had a puncture,
You'd be right that was just what occurred;
He used language quite frightful for a day so delightful,
It was well he was not overheard.

But he got out his jack and he lay on his back,
And inserted it under his truck;
It was gummed up with grit and he couldn't move it,
In fact, it was ruddy well stuck.

So with attitude dour he worked for an hour,
And at length got it moving again;
But his jack handle bust and Hilary cussed,
As he lay on his back in the lane.

So trying some more with a grimly set jaw,
He at last got the wheel off the ground;
And to thwart his jack's tricks he built round some bricks
Which were luckily lying around.

Then with great lack of grace he extracted his brace
And applied it to nuts on the wheel;
But the brace split in two and his language was blue
As he danced an enraged highland reel.

Then he took out a spanner and forthwith began a
Great attack on the wheel once again;
With maniacal chuckles he barked all his knuckles,
Which caused him a great deal of pain.

At about four o'clock he
had one final shock
(The wheel had by now
been withdrawn),
He tore out his hair, his
tyre levers weren't
there,
He was wishing he'd
never been born.

They found him next
day, he was gibbering
away,
He was certified soon as
insane;
Now quite crackers he
deals with unreal
wheels,
And he does it again and
again.

Catching Up Plan for Barleux

Was scared stiff in January when reading BARLEUX'S "catching-up plan" appeal—had no idea A.C.I.s or Command Orders were meant to be read, probably because there's always a little chit attached marked "Circulate quickly," put there by an enterprising Orderly Room Sergeant who retired on his demerits and was the inventor of the present day "rocket-resisting umbrella."

Associated with this umbrella are the magic words "Passed to you, old chap" (which really means "It's too hot for me to handle, you have a bash" or "It's nothing to do with me"). The only persons exempt from this are Quartermasters, who never have anything anyway and who spend all their time clearing up the mess of the previous Quartermasters. This is *all* they spend. Also Generals, who are men with little red tabs who can make troops tremble simply by getting four Adjutants to lift their little fingers.

But nothing matters any more—at little or no cost I have secured an overall picture of the Army of the future. Any resemblance to any living person is purely intentional—now what?

Getting Into the Timber Business

Perhaps I should have said "Parlour games for profit"—but I've always been curious just what Brigadiers do on retirement and on special get-together functions after the port has circulated.

It appears they have invented a parlour game called "Little Old Man," with any number of Officers taking part (not necessarily all those who have p.s.c.). These victims—sorry, Officers—commence the game with a box of matches and forfeit a certain number of these if they do not immediately react to certain patter rules.

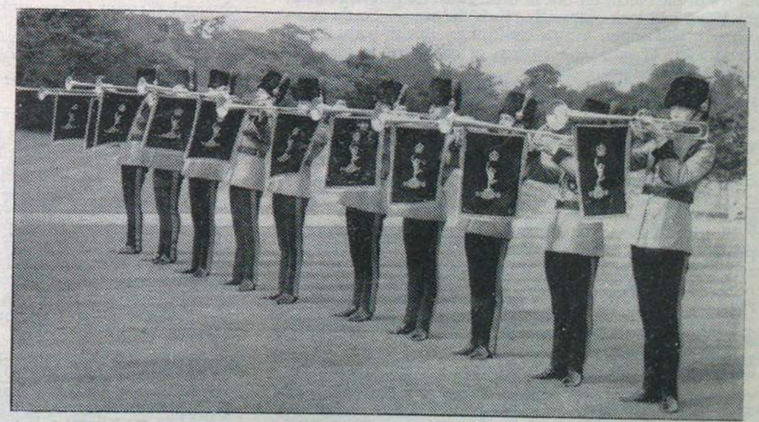
These rules are so designed that it's a case of "Heads I win, tails you lose." In consequence, the Brigadier amasses a huge stock-pile of matches—these are melted down and turned into planks and used for bridging the gap between the War Office and Squadron Offices (copy to FLOAT).

All this happened at a 3 Training Regiment Guest Night, and (here's me leading with my chin again) amid laughter we were "Harriesed" to the slaughter.

Anyone got a secondhand lighter for sale? Haven't had a cigarette for days.

Tripping the Light Fantastic

Once again that intangible something about an Association "do" left me wondering and tingling inside—'cos such was the success of the first dance of the S.T.C. North Branch at Hipswell Gymnasium on 1st May that it looks as though



[*Courtesy: "Northern Echo," Darlington*

The Corps Fanfare Trumpeters

we'll have to introduce dancing during training hours if we are to fit in all the dates that have been requested—we could call them physical training periods, of course!

I think it was the happy air of informality that contributed most to the success of the evening—one was conscious of "it" on arrival and subconsciously each and everyone added their quota from the young recruit members to the Commander, Brigadier W. D. J. Harries, and Mrs. Harries, Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. H. Worrall (4 Training Regiment), Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. G. H. Starr (3 Training Regiment), Major D. L. Sylvester-Bradley, Captain and Mrs. Childs (Catterick Branch) and a host of others.

Majors Gerry Gourlay and Ken Jordan, with their hard-working committee, can justifiably be proud of the organisation—add to this the delightful music of the Corps Dance Orchestra, a laughter-infectious M.C. in S.S.M. J. Robertson, and you can all understand the "must" for more. I had a whale of a time except I hope the bloke who pinched my gin and orange—well, perhaps I don't!

★

Thrills Unlimited

Don't know how many of you will have the opportunity of seeing the Corps motor cycle display team this year, but if it comes your way drop everything and have the thrill of your life.

Where the new ideas spring from I just don't know, and even hardened Press reporters at the Press Show on 13th May on the Central Ground gave audible gasps of astonishment at the abounding thrills and perfect formation riding of the team under Captain M. ("Gillie") Potter.

No, I mustn't go into details—but can't refrain from mentioning Sergeant Howard's flying jump with his head masked.

Oh, yes, he did it alright, but I still don't believe it.

[Courtesy: "Northern Echo," Darlington

Sgt. Howards flying jump with head masked

Very Stop Press

First, as always, with the news—congratulations to Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. J. P. North on the arrival of a son—just in time for the Coronation.

ROYAL SIGNALS WING

IF there is one characteristic of Royal Signals Wing more pronounced than any other it is its current air of industry. For Royal Signals Wing today echoes with the scratching sound of student pens in a hotted-up post-war tempo of instruction. To the casual spectator, the five o'clock rush hour of homeward bound brief case carrying students is the end of another working day. To the student, and indeed to the instructor, it is just an interlude, for work may be said in all fairness to recommence at 6.30.

To the old hand, who contemplates a return to this Signals Mecca of the North for one or other of its numerous courses, the Wing will look outwardly much the same. To the newcomer it will appear a little confusing. But to both, it will reveal itself in time as a pattern of co-ordinated planning beneath its patchwork exterior.

Royal Signals Wing, Catterick Camp, may be said to exist for the further technical education of members of the Corps. It consists of a H.Q., five instructional Squadrons and one administrative Squadron, which together with a sister Wing —the O.T.W.—form the School of Signals. Within this framework, current instruction is spread over a wide range of courses varying from the level of N.C.O. instructors to engineering degree standard.

In its collection of instructional buildings, the Wing is, perhaps, not too happily placed. Geographically divided by a row of Sandhurst Blocks, the lecture rooms cover the area of Vimy "Ridge"—with its Wireless Equipment and Basics Squadrons—and Messines Lines in which are Wing H.Q., the administrative Squadron, and the two instructional line Squadrons. Tactics, last but not least of the instructional Squadrons, occupies part of a Sandhurst Block.

Of the accommodation, talk has centred over the possibility of obtaining bigger and better buildings ever since the passing of the cable waggon. Hitherto, visions of a new school free from that Nordic nightmare, the Catterick draught, have been largely confined to pipe dreams. Now it can be confidently stated that a new school *will* arise, sometime in the future, somewhere in the south of England.

If "scattered abandon" be the keywords of the Wing's topographical layout, there is nothing haphazard about its instruction. Present policy aims at running thirty-eight courses. Most of these are designed as intermediate stepping stones to the higher technical appointments. For example, a junior N.C.O., on completion of one of the numerous instructor courses, may if suitably qualified, apply for entry to a Foreman of Signals Part I Course. If successful, and after a suitable period in the field, he may sit the entry test for Foreman of Signals Part II Course. If by now he has not obtained Warrant Officer rank, successful completion of the course will assuredly bring it to him. If he obtains a commission, he may return to the Wing to take a Technical Officers' Telecommunications Course. For the junior Officers the Subaltern's Part II Course is run for those who have had two years' field experience. In the past, likely candidates were posted to Pre-University Courses leading to a degree at Cambridge or London, but it is now probable that university training will precede the Part II Course. Later, the Subaltern may qualify for the post-graduate long telecommunications course run every two years at the Wing. Other courses, too numerous to specify, include Senior Officers' Equipment, Majors' Signal Staff, Army Wireless Chain, W.R.A.C. Signal Officers' Qualifying, and the course for civilian officers of the Signals Research and Development Establishment. Students range in rank from Signalman to Lieutenant-Colonel. Formed in minimum numbers of twelve, they receive instruction varying from one week to eighteen months' duration.

To cater for such a large instructional commitment, a staff of 28 Officers and 22 N.C.O. instructors is required. Let it not be thought that these instructors live a narrow, sheltered life within the confines of their own specialised field. As in any other Unit, life for them is not all beer and skittles. They are in varying degrees, accountants, clerks, engineers, schoolmasters, lawyers and soldiers. The instructor is at once a specialist and a jack-of-all-trades. On his sense of responsibility largely depends the efficiency of instruction. To his sense of voluntary obligation is due the compilation of a mass of precis, written in his own time and involving the burning of much midnight oil. But such paragons of virtue don't stay forever, and imminent postings indicate a world-wide scattering of a third of the instructional staff. Lieutenant-Colonel D. White, O.B.E., has already left on promotion and appointment to A.G.5 (Mob); the Chief Instructor, Major K. D. Gribbin, has also just left for an overseas appointment. Arriving from the Middle East in the middle of a Catterick winter—but now acclimatised to the U.K.—Lieutenant-Colonel P. A. Duke, O.B.E., becomes the new Commanding Officer.

It would be futile to attempt to pay tribute to all the people coming and going, but in later editions of THE WIRE it is hoped, through the courtesy of the Editor, to present a review of their work and of the activities of the individual Squadrons. In the meantime, current events at the School point to the imminent arrival of that inveterate harbinger of spring—the annual administrative inspection—to whose brief and successful visitation these notes are cheerfully dedicated.

Photograph of Royal Signals Wing is on page 184

THE DEPOT REGIMENT

The summer season is now well on us here in sunny Devon. To the tune of blue skies, the pleasant pastimes of summer are getting under way. The Regimental cricket team, inspired by a very attractive pavilion (converted from a morgue by the Sappers during the winter), has got off to quite a fair start. To date four matches have been played out of the forty-two match fixture list, resulting in one win, one loss and two draws.

The Coronation party from the Regiment are now rapidly hardening up under the tutelage of R.S.M. P. H. Johnstone, and on Sunday, 3rd May, had their first experience of marching in public when they represented the Regiment at a dedication service of the R.A. Association. The salute at the march past after the service was taken by Lieutenant-General Sir E. Schrieber, K.C.B., D.S.O., Colonel Commandant, Royal Artillery, who later inspected the Detachment and expressed his admiration of their turnout and bearing. The two parties "route lining" and "from" procession leave on 26th May for their concentration areas at Bulford and Crowborough respectively.

The members of the Regiment will have the opportunity to view the complete Coronation ceremonies through the medium of a forward projection television receiver, showing a picture 4 ft. x 3 ft., which has recently been installed in the gymnasium.

Plans are now in hand for the forthcoming Regimental Week-end on 4th and 5th July. The full Corps Band, including fanfare trumpeters, will be with us over the period, and roughly the programme will be: Saturday morning, ceremonial parade; Saturday afternoon, reception of Old Comrades; Saturday evening, "Retreat" on the Regimental Square, followed by a supper and then entertainment in the Sergeants' Mess. Sunday morning, drum head church service; Sunday afternoon, potted sports. The knowledge that the Representative Colonel Commandant, Major-General C. M. F. White, C.B.E., D.S.O., will be with the Regiment during the week-end gives us all a great deal of pleasure. So, Old Comrades, take note of what promises to be a very enjoyable and full week-end.

S.Q.M.S. Wilford has now left the Cadre strength and will shortly be wending his way to FARELF after sterling work in the "Q" Branch. Congratulations to Sergeant Leeson on his promotion to fill the vacancy created by S.Q.M.S. Wilford's departure. New arrivals to the Regiment include Sergeant Williams and Sergeant Stevens.

1 WAR OFFICE SIGNAL REGIMENT (TRAFFIC)

Congratulations to 7 Training Regiment upon winning the Army Association Football Cup and for a fine display of good, clean football. The Regiment made a field day of the event, through the kindness of our Commanding Officer, and we arrived in force at Aldershot, complete with a new Corps flag, and the inevitable rattles!

Apart from an excellent game, the occasion turned out to be a grand meeting of old friends and many happy times of Maresfield/Crowborough days were relived again.

A small party of W.O.s and sergeants attended an "educational visit" to a local brewery. A very interesting afternoon it was, too, and all returned with a better knowledge of how beer is made—or brewed.

It was a change for many of the visitors to see beer "going into the barrel!" It was good to see Mr. McColgan's eyes popping out at so many "rustics" lying about waiting to be consumed.

Finding material for notes gets more difficult every month. However, it is hoped that a small committee will be formed to "gather this material" and prepare it for publication. We hope to publish items of interest from "troops" supported by a series of photographs of "Regimental personalities."

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Troop News

Implemented into military training days for the "pit" workers of 1 Squadron, by the Troop Officers, have been visits of educational interest.

The most recent of these visits was by "A" Troop to the Ford motor works at Dagenham, and by "B" Troop to Guinness' Brewery.

It is the earnest and heartfelt hope of that Troop that visits of, shall we say, so stimulating a nature should continue to be made in the future.

For some unknown reason, despatch riders seem to get themselves associated with speeding or accidents. We are happy to report that the number of accidents for the first four months of this year shows a drop on last year's figures—but the O.C. Despatch Riders Troop has recently seen the inside of far too many local magistrates' courts when attempting to convince the learned magistrates that no W.D. B.S.A. motor cycle could even do more than 30 m.p.h.!

On the other hand, despatch riders in London are doing a superb job of work, in spite of many difficulties and exceptionally heavy demands, all of which are met with an outward show of unruffled patience.

In common with many sections of Her Majesty's Forces throughout the world, we in London, especially, are very busy preparing for the Coronation. Many extra commitments are anticipated, and 12 despatch riders have been specially nominated to deal with the delivery of Coronation mail within London district.

EASTERN COMMAND SIGNAL REGIMENT

Preparation for the Coronation has, perhaps, been the keynote to activity in the camp during the past month. From different quarters of the globe small detachments of men have been converging on Warren Camp to be licked into shape prior either to taking part in the Coronation procession or to lining the route. For these people rounds of P.T. and drill have been following each other in healthy succession, broken only by the pleasant relief of a standing-still parade. From time to time the Coronation contingent will disappear into the clothing store, to reappear clothed in half-completed No. 1 Dress and looking very self-conscious.

Situated as we are on the edge of Ashdown Forest, we get more than our share of heath fires, and it is a safe forecast that the fire picquet will be extremely busy during the summer months. Sometimes these fires will spring up within the

camp, at other times they will be farther away, but one may rest assured that as soon as the fire alarm goes everyone enthusiastically drops work and runs out to fight the fire. Not quite so much enthusiasm is evident, however, when the alarm goes at night. Fortunately we have not yet had a serious heath fire on our hands.

The Late Captain D. W. Webb, Royal Signals

All those who knew Captain Dennis William Webb will learn with deep regret of his sudden death on Good Friday at his home at the age of 51.

Dennis Webb transferred from the Buffs to the Corps in 1921 whilst serving in Gibraltar. During his subsequent years in Royal Signals he served at many stations, home and overseas.

He was commissioned in 1941, after which there followed a period in Jubbulpore, finally returning to the U.K. He retired in September 1952 after serving for a year in Eastern Command Signal Regiment, first as a troop commander and later as Adjutant.

He had given in all some 32 years to the service, a career which we know he was loathe to give up.

In his death we have lost a close and intimate friend, whose never-failing cheerfulness and keen sense of humour were always evident.

Our deepest sympathy is offered to his widow and to his three children in their loss.

SCOTTISH COMMAND (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT

In the last month we have been visited by the C.I.V. and Administration Inspection Teams, and the shock of these now having left the Regiment, we now change into top gear for the summer.

All football kit has been thrown into cold storage, and cricket comes once again into its own. Many of the Regiment are making the most of a most welcome spell of warm weather to prepare themselves for the oncoming season. Two of our team members have already been picked for the Command team, Corporal Hampson and Signalman Tyrell. We wish them a very successful season. All of us, however, are not devoting ourselves to cricket, and much time is being spent on athletic practice, with a view to the Command Sports.

However, the Regiment is not becoming totally sports-minded. Pride of place on the square these days is given to our Coronation party, which is costing the Unit much in boot repairs, to say nothing of the local council in road repairs—route marches take up quite a large proportion of the party's training. The rumour that Second-Lieutenant Blake, who heads the party, is to be posted to one of the local parks for a week in order to gain experience with his newly-arrived sword is hotly denied.

From swords we turn to rifles as the annual classification of the Regiment takes place. Much enthusiasm has been shown, and our team to visit Bisley this year is well in the making. Competition runs high, and some people have even been known to have boiled out their rifles without having been checked for it first.

Looking ahead, the Regiment has been honoured by being asked to provide a guard for Hollyrood Palace during the State Visit of Her Majesty The Queen to Edinburgh, and also to provide 50 men to line the route.

We say farewell to Captain Stewart, who has left us for FARELF. We wish him every success in his new Unit and welcome his successor, Captain Cross. We also welcome Second-Lieutenant Traynor (W.R.A.C.) and Sergeants Thom, MacGrath and Thompson.

Condolences to Major Cornish on being presented with a large elephant of the canine variety whom, we gather, is helping him out with his garden! Likewise, hearty congratulations to Major and Mrs. W. J. Cornish on the celebration of their silver wedding anniversary on the 26th April.

Anti-Aircraft Command

2 A.A. (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT

We hope other Anti-Aircraft Signal Regiments will enjoy Plasterdown Camp as much as we did. It was generally agreed that it is a big improvement in all respects on Aberporth, though a few of our fire-eating types never ceased to regret the absence of rocket firing and guided missiles which were such a feature of last year's camp. Other things lacking this year included four hundred odd "Z" Reservists, and everybody missed them.

Our T.A. Squadron, commanded by Major H. G. Shorter, and including such old stalwarts as Captain Horton, Lieutenant Forty, Sergeant Merry, Staff-Sergeant Osborne, W.R.A.C., and Corporal Court, W.R.A.C., made a welcome appearance, and we were sorry that Lieutenant Jefferson and Sergeant Hart could only stay with us for a week.

Opinions differed on glorious Devon and Cornwall, but those not in favour were very, very few. They could be heard from time to time lamenting the distance from London. London, mark you, when one of them is a very well-known traveller who at the flick of an eyelid will talk for hours on his experiences in India, South Africa or Spain, to mention only a few. Everyone, of course, had a go at the local dialect at some time or the other. We hope and pray that we never go to camp in the north of England—life would be too awful with our amateur comedians having a go at, say, the Tyneside dialect.

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Sporting events included two soccer matches, Officers v. Other Ranks and Officers v. W.O.s and Sergeants, with the scores 2—2 and 1—4 respectively. Vigorous displays by Lieutenant E. Cooper, who plays anywhere from full back to centre-forward, saved the day for the Officers time and time again. A Unit representative team played Horrabridge in a Coronation Charity Cup match and easily won 4—1; on a village ground this is no mean feat.

Perhaps the highlight of our social activities were the two very successful dances at which it was ably demonstrated that P.T. is no longer necessary provided a dance band can be found to supply suitable music for jitterbugging. The amount of leg and arm flinging that went on would have astonished and defeated any old-time P.T. instructor. The dances were very ably organised by Captain Potter, W.R.A.C., Lieutenant Cooper and Second-Lieutenant Jones, and Lieutenant Cooper, as M.C., devised some highly original and amusing dances.

Another enjoyable occasion was the Sunday coach trip to Torquay, which gave those who went on it a most delightful day in the country and at the seaside. Captain Potter, W.R.A.C., and Second-Lieutenant Jones organised the trip.

At work the main effort was on individual training, and as a result of trade boards some 40 per cent. of the candidates have obtained higher ratings in their trade.

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The winter sports season was quite a successful one and congratulations are due to our Rugby team on getting into the final of the Aldershot District Minor Units Cup, in which they were beaten by 3 Training Regiment, Royal Engineers.

Captain G. Davies and Lance-Corporal Freeman deserve special mention for their unflagging efforts throughout the season, but all members of the team played well and thoroughly earned their success. The soccer team, under Lieutenant Cooper, also had a successful season.

Summer sports have not started yet owing to pressure of work. At the time of going to press our Coronation contingent is busily preparing for their thrilling ordeal. Second-Lieutenant J. Ford is in charge of the party and he is ably supported at drill by S.Q.M.S. Pitt, a new arrival to whom we offer a warm welcome.

Lieutenant D. Roberts joined us at camp and will stay with us until September, when he goes up to Cambridge. We wish him a pleasant stay. Second-Lieutenant Bayliss leaves us this month and we wish him good luck in his civil career. He has been a highly popular Messing Officer and as he is to be a doctor it is easy to understand his enthusiasm for slicing up sides of beef!

35 (U) A.A. INDEPENDENT (M) SIGNAL SQUADRON

The Unit is not affected very much with departures, but last month saw the departure of the W.R.A.C. P.S.I., Sergeant J. D. Smith, and we wish her the very best when she reaches the sunny climes. Oh, those brown knees!

During the month of April a recruiting drive was held and a stall was erected at a business premises in Belfast, comprised of workable wireless sets, telephones and a teleprinter. It proved very popular, especially the teleprinter, which was usually in great demand each day. The Prime Minister of Northern Ireland visited the building with other dignitaries and showed his interest by trying the teleprinter under the guidance of W.O.II Lawrence, W.R.A.C. The photo shows him at work. The Unit did very well out of the drive, and will now go to annual camp with a very good number, especially with the new W.R.A.C. (T.A.).

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The Unit once more attended week-end camp at Ballymacormick, and although the weather was not so kind this time the attendance was excellent and the spirits were even better.

The shooting team have practically finished their programme; having finished up at the top of both the leagues they are now awaiting the final shoot.

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

This month we have been unfortunate in losing our Adjutant, Captain B. C. Skelly, on posting to the Army Apprentices School at Harrogate. For the past two years he has been a well-known and well-liked member of the Unit. We all send our best wishes to Captain Skelly and his family, and hope that their stay in Harrogate is a happy one. To replace Captain Skelly we have welcomed Captain R. Plant, who joins us after a stay on Salisbury Plain.

Preparations for camp are proceeding apace and everyone is looking forward to a fortnight's good weather at Plasterdown, Tavistock, during late June and early July.

The History of British Army Signals in the Second World War

by **Major-General R. F. H. NALDER, C.B., O.B.E.**

FOR a majority of Royal Signals officers the Second World War caused an evolution in their knowledge of their profession which, prior to 1939, they would have deemed either unnecessary or impossible. Most of us were adept at tactical Signal communications; some few had thought into the wider field of strategy; it is doubtful if any had considered the planning and operation of all means of intercommunication in a country or a continent. There was no literature on the subject. It had never happened before.

The First World War and subsequent experience and theory had taught us the basic requirements in Signal communications of the Army or Army Group and its L. of C. We realised that considerable line construction might be necessary in undeveloped countries but with the qualification that undeveloped countries could not sustain any large forces. In civilised countries where large land forces might reasonably be deployed, it was expected that the civil system would provide the backbone of the telecommunication requirement in rear of Corps.

It is certainly true that a great majority of those of us of Field rank and above in 1939 never in our wildest dreams imagined that it would fall to Royal Signals to take over the intricate, existing, albeit, heavily-damaged telecommunication system of a whole country, repair it, make use of it to the exclusion of the civil population, recreate from chaos the equivalent of the Post Office Engineering Department, from Engineer-in-Chief to unskilled workmen, and then continue in complete executive control of the civil-cum-military system thus created.

We learned by experience; how lucky is the generation of Royal Signals officers now growing up, for they have a complete and factual account.

Chapter IX of General Nalder's book is a prodigious one in 33 clearly written pages; he analyses the whole business of providing a Signal system and the handling of the traffic that passes over it. He deals in broad terms with the characteristics and limitations of the main agencies for handling Signal traffic, wireless, line and message carrying. These are treated separately and in greater detail in subsequent chapters. But if only we had had the reading of the book or even only of these few pages in 1939!

It is true that to follow precedent to the exclusion of new factors is dangerous, but in 1939 we had only the few basic principles. If, unhappily, the future does bring a major war, the current generation of Royal Signals officers will be well advised to re-read this Chapter IX several times before taking part in it.

Gale and Polden, Ltd., price 17s. 6d.

"Whitehall Whiteshod"

by "Takang"

IN the War Office we roam—on paper—from the deserts of Egypt to the mountains of Austria and from the Caribbean to the jungles of Malaya, but seldom do we escape from the "jungle" of Whitehall! Once in a while, however, an opportunity offers itself and those that can, cast aside the fetters of brolly and bowler and seize it with both hands (the opportunity—not the bowler!).

Such an opportunity offered itself to me through a chance encounter in the Cairngorms during the Easter holiday last year. There I met an officer who had but recently returned from a Winter Warfare Course in Norway. By the Grace of Allah (and by G.I., who is a keen ski-er), I managed to secure a vacancy on the 1953 course at the Norwegian School of Infantry (S.V.I.).

My Cairngorm acquaintance left no doubts in my mind as to the nature of the course. It was not intended to be a ski-ing holiday—and it wasn't!

Ordnance very kindly lent me some cold weather clothing and, suitably kitted, I set sail from Newcastle with fourteen other British students. We all had one point in common—extreme reticence about our ski-ing ability and extreme interest in the experience and skill of the other chap.

After three pleasant days in Oslo—cigarettes and whisky at N.A.A.F.I. rates again—we moved up country to Elverum and the S.V.I. By this time six more students had joined us from Germany, bringing the total British strength up to twenty-one.

Parading in the dark next morning was an unpleasant reminder of O.C.T.U. days, but we hadn't much time to think about it. From then onwards for six weeks Sunday was our only day of rest and even on Sundays the enthusiasts ski-ed for pleasure.

The course syllabus was very comprehensive; ski-ing, weapon training, ski-ing, vehicle recovery, tactics, ski-ing, evacuation of casualties, etc., etc., winding up with P.T., which, in Norway, is just—plain ski-ing!

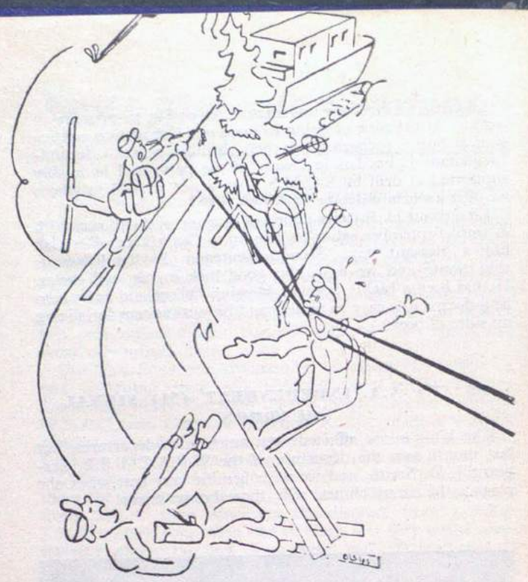
Fortunately for you, space will not allow me to give a long, detailed and boring description of the course, but here are some of the highlights.

One of the many forms of ski-ing which we learnt was the art of moving "on tow" behind Weasels. The accompanying picture shows what frequently happened when a student failed to lean outwards on a bend.

At the end of the third week we took the Norwegian Ski-ing Association third class test—ten kilometres in sixty-five minutes. The course started and finished at the same point, so every bit of downhill running had to be paid for in sweat either before or afterwards. The language was picturesque throughout the test but it was rather good fun. My time? Very economical as a matter of fact: sixty-four minutes, fifty-nine seconds!

Then there was our second night patrol. We bivouacked in the hills twelve miles from Elverum and the Norwegian students also camped out some three miles away from us. On arrival at our bivouac area we were told that we were to raid the Norwegians that night. Off went a recce patrol and the rest of us fell to making camp for the night. After a hasty meal and ten minutes' briefing, it was "up rifles and on skis" and we slid off into the night, moving through the forest like silent wraiths—save for the odd four-letter word from those that sat down unintentionally from time to time.

The Norwegian students anticipated the raid but their appreciation of the situation was rather faulty. Having decided that we couldn't possibly arrive before 2300 hours they took their time making camp and settling in. The confusion was complete and chaos reigned supreme in their camp when we arrived an hour and a half earlier than expected!



[Courtesy: Reproduced by kind permission of the Editor of "Infanteri"

Another highlight was the "dreaded 30-kilometre Bash," as we affectionately termed the annual military competition in which we were to take part. This was the most gruelling event of the course. Thirty kilometres with rucksack and rifle, in competition with some of the finest ski-ers in the Norwegian Army. The qualifying time for the race is the average of the first five home plus twenty-five per cent. This year it was two hours and forty-six minutes. The race was two laps round a fifteen kilometre course with a ten-round range practice at the end of the first lap. The targets were head-and-shoulder figure targets and each hit meant a deduction of two minutes from one's running time. After fifteen kilometres "flat out" some competitors found the targets most elusive!

All the British students completed the course and two qualified for the Norwegian silver medallion, having finished within the qualifying time. My time? Never mind!

The thirty-kilometre run was postponed for four days due to the very low temperature on the scheduled day. It was 25 degrees C. below zero and the Commandant considered it so cold as to be dangerous to race. We did a fifteen-kilometre practice run instead and it was during the practice that the funniest incident of the course occurred. One very keen student took heed of his instructor's teaching and, when he started to sweat excessively, ventilated his clothing in the approved fashion. Unfortunately, after cooling off, he did not button up quickly enough and there he stood beside the track with first degree frostbite, chafing the afflicted part to restore the circulation! What was the afflicted part? Well, he was a very, very worried man.

The Grand Finale was a five-day exercise in mountainous country during which we covered about one hundred and eighty kilometres, partly ski-ing under our own power and partly on tow behind Weasels. For five per cent. of the time it was most unpleasant, but the rest of the time—though hard work—was really enjoyable. We slept in tents equipped with useful little stoves which, if kept red hot all night, defied the cold outside very satisfactorily.

What did we learn? We learnt that there are two fundamentals in snow warfare. Survival and Movement. Both

Continued on page 181

KUFRA

An account of 25 Armoured Brigade Signal Squadron's expedition to the Oasis of Kufra in February, 1953

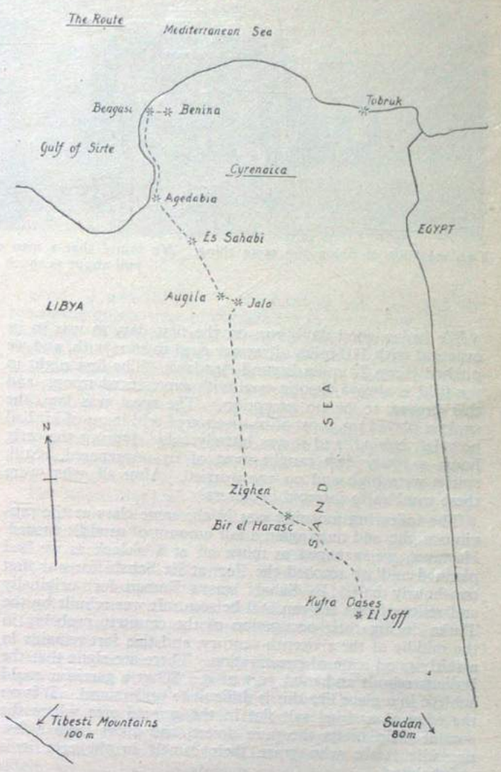
I SUPPOSE few schoolboys have read "King Solomon's Mines" without wishing that they too could take part in some such expedition into the heart of that vast continent, Africa. Few have their wish fulfilled in any way and as each generation passes the number becomes smaller. Consequently, when I received the opportunity to take a party down into the comparatively unexplored South Libyan Desert to the oasis of Kufra, I was delighted. This is the area in which the Long Range Desert Group used to hide out between their raids, and since their time it has had few European visitors.

At the beginning of this year we were at Benina, outside Bengazi, where we had been since our formation in the middle of last year. The Brigade Headquarters at this time was even younger and less mature than we were and so we were left very much to our own devices provided we carried out a very small communication commitment for the Headquarters. I had occasion to discuss future training plans with my Commander, Brigadier J. D'A. Anderson, and asked permission to take out the Squadron to Kufra on a long training exercise. Somewhat to my surprise he gave his agreement. Having received the "go ahead signal," I had to get down to a detailed plan of the scheme I had had in mind for some months, and to start the preparations.

We now began a session of intense activity. We were finishing off a period of individual training and Exercise "Sunflower," as the trip to Kufra was called, was to be got under way at the same time. The expedition as planned was no light undertaking: fifteen hundred miles, about one hundred men, twenty-five vehicles, the whole to be self-contained for twenty-eight days, which was what we thought would be the maximum period of the trip. Besides which we had to deal with as much routine work as possible in advance and make provisions for a skeleton detachment to carry on essential work in our absence. Our date of departure was to be the fourth of February, and for the next three weeks we overhauled vehicles, ordered and collected rations, petrol and oil, spare parts, water cans, cookers and so on. We worked out load tables, we looked at maps, we arranged for extra load carriers from the R.A.S.C., a breakdown Scammell and crew from R.E.M.E., and a doctor from the hospital. And as the day drew nearer the harder we worked.

At last Tuesday, the 3rd February, arrived, and the convoy assembled on the square at Benina. We loaded up and a briefing conference was held to let everybody know the form. Of the 103 Officers and men who made up the column, 50 per cent. had never been into the desert before and the remainder had but a limited experience of it. Consequently, the briefing was in some detail, although since none of us had been to Kufra and as we had been unable to get hold of anyone who had, the details concerning the route were sketchy to say the least.

It might be of interest to say a word about Kufra itself at this stage. Kufra lies some 700 miles to the south of Bengazi in the Libyan Desert, and consists of four or five oases, the most important being El Joff. It was originally the headquarters of the Senussi, from which tribe the present King of Libya comes and, indeed, the King's father is buried there. Its importance lies in the fact that it is a caravan staging point and caravan routes from Lake Chad and the Tibesti Mountains to the south, from Khartoum and the Sudan to the south-east, and from Cairo and Egypt to the north-east all meet there. It is here that North Africa meets Central Africa; where the pale faces of the Mediterranean meet the black negroid types from the south. And despite modern methods of transport the caravans appear to be as important and flourishing as they ever were. The route from Bengazi consists of main road for 110 miles as far as Agedabia, a mixture of track and desert as far as Jalo, a further 170 miles, and for the rest of the way the route is across the desert. There



is a beaconed route with iron posts every kilometre put up by the Italians, but unfortunately the going along this route is now very soft due to traffic through the ages and we were advised to avoid it if we could. We had decided to do so in our planning and to pick our own route by normal map reading and navigational methods. The only regular users of this route from Bengazi are the civil convoys on Government Charter who go down about every two months with the mail and essential supplies. Unfortunately, they were away at this time and so we were not able to consult with their experts before we started.

Kufra is governed by a Kaimakam who is responsible to the Government in Bengazi for the running of his territory, which stretches down to the frontier some 300 miles further south. Under such circumstances I imagine he enjoys considerable scope in his administration and freedom from interference. He is assisted by a small staff which includes as his right-hand man a sergeant-major of the Cyrenaican Defence Force as Chief of Police. The present incumbent is a veteran of the Eighth Army who looks like a typical British sergeant-major.

And so on the morning of the 4th February 103 Officers and men, with 28 vehicles, set off down the road towards Bengazi, a brave sight on a rather dull morning, and our adventure into the interior had begun. Apart from the members of my own unit, who formed the bulk of the party, we had representatives from Headquarters Squadron, including S.S.M. Eaton, of the Royal Tank Regiment, who acted as Squadron Sergeant-Major for the trip, from the R.A.S.C., R.E.M.E., and a doctor from the R.A.M.C.

Two methods of doing the same thing. We found that a man can pull nearly twice as much as he can push and that forty men can pull about as much as a Scammell can winch

We had a good day's run on the first day, as was to be expected with 110 miles of tarmac road to start with, and we pitched camp 30 miles beyond Agedabia. The first night in the field is always chaotic even with experienced troops, and this proved to be no exception. The meal was late, the cookers played up, most of us discovered odd items of kit had been left behind, and it was bitterly cold. During the early hours a heavy dew caught most of us unprepared. Still, spirits were high and no one worried. After all, what were these troubles to intrepid explorers?

The following morning was in the same class as the previous night, and once again a fair amount of muddle ensued. However, we managed to move off at 8 o'clock as we had planned and we reached the Fort at Es Sahabi for our first two-hourly halt. Es Sahabi was a Roman fort originally and relics of this era can still be seen. It was rebuilt by the Turks during their occupation of the country, probably in the middle of the sixteenth century, and this fort remains in a fairly good state of preservation. There are signs that the Italians rebuilt and used part of it. What a garrison could achieve in a place like this is difficult to understand. It is on the edge of a dried salt flat in the general area where the coastal plain meets the pure desert, and apart from a few nomadic Arabs who graze their camels in the area it is uninhabited.

That same night was our first in the desert proper—the map called it featureless serir and it certainly was. Even one empty tin is a prominent landmark on this interminable stretch of fine gravel. At night there is no question of pulling off the road or even looking for a good spot to park: the convoy leader just stops in his tracks and the convoy closes up to him.

It was on the third day that we started to run into soft sand and we found it heavy going indeed at this stage. Few vehicles managed to get through without much digging and pushing. It was later that we realised the importance of reducing tyre pressures and of used sand channels. In the area of Augila the going was really bad and the convoy became split up, and although the majority of us reached Jalo that night, a few vehicles were unable to make it until the next day.

Augila, which is some 30 miles from Jalo, is of interest in that two thousand years ago it was the Berber capital of the whole country. Now it is an oasis of some 2,000 inhabitants that is famous for its basket work and boasts of an old Turkish fort. The main track skirts the oasis to the north and the village itself is three miles to the south on the eastern side.

At Jalo we spent a day and a half on maintenance and sorting things out generally. It was here that we were establishing a base camp with 27 men under the command of S.Q.M.S. Burton to act as a communication relay centre and a supply point for the return journey. Jalo is the administrative centre for this group of oases and has a hospital and a school. While we were here we had our first film show of the trip. We had brought a sixteen millimeter projector and several films along with us. The power came from the 10 kw. battery charging generator. The locals enjoyed the show and turned out in force to see it. On the way back to the camp the battery charging vehicle stuck in the soft sand and we had to turn out the recovery vehicle to pull it out.

At midday on the Sunday, our fifth day out, we headed out into the desert once more, in a south-westerly direction. After 10 miles we turned south. From then on, apart from a few soft patches, the going was excellent for 230 miles until we reached the uninhabited oases in the Zighen area. Hard, featureless serir, so smooth that it was difficult at 25 miles an hour to realise that you were moving at all, with the vehicles all around moving like a wartime convoy of merchant ships.

By now the leaguering drill at night had improved considerably, as had all the other routine drills. We were beginning to know the form.

On the third day out of Jalo we arrived at the sand sea beyond Bir el Harasc. This is the type of desert one normally sees in films: rolling dunes. It is not too difficult to find a reasonably hard route, although now and again we hit some extremely soft patches which were almost like quicksand. These involved much pushing and the use of sand channels. Navigation was difficult through this area. The requirement of maintaining a certain direction in a countryside devoid of landmarks and at the same time finding a way round steep dunes and through soft patches requires considerable concentration and accuracy. Lieutenant Malcolm Beaver, who was the navigator for the expedition, did well to take us through as he did, particularly as this was his first attempt at navigating.

Halfway through the sand sea we came across the body of an Arab youth. The doctor estimated his age to be about eighteen years. He must have been there for some years because the portions of his body above the surface were bleached white by the sun and the wind; below the level of the sand the body was mummified. He had probably wandered away from some caravan and lost himself in the dunes. We buried him and moved on.

After 80 miles the sand sea finished and the terrain changed for the last part of the journey to various combinations of sand and rock. It was volcanic and gave the impression of having been transplanted from the moon. Long deserted valleys fringed by stratified hills looking as though they had been decapitated by some gargantuan headsman in their uniformity, with here and there on the valley floor the solidified core of some extinct volcano standing up like a huge wart where it had been eroded away by years of wind.

Most of us arrived at El Joff on the Friday evening, 10 days after we started and up to schedule: the one or two lame ducks arrived the next day. We made camp on the edge of the Italian-built airstrip and settled down to a few days well earned rest and maintenance. The vehicles were unloaded and the stores checked; grease guns and spanners were unearthed and drivers and fitters got to work. For the first time since we started we felt warm. On the journey down

the weather had been bitterly cold and travelling in open vehicles we seldom discarded our greatcoats, leather jerkins and scarves. It was an absolute joy to be able to walk about lightly clad absorbing the sun. In the afternoons we had forty winks and a swim in one of the bitter lakes where the water is saltier than that in the Dead Sea.

While this was going on I went on the Saturday morning to pay my respects to the Kaimakam. While we sat sipping an excellent glass of tea we conversed through the medium of the Chief Clerk who fortunately knew a fair amount of English. I was invited to bring the Officers and the Senior N.C.O.s to take dinner with the Kaimakam on the Sunday evening.

Sunday afternoon was market time and the troops turned out in force. I think that most of them felt an urge to spend something having been denied this civilised habit for nearly two weeks, but apart from eggs and a few items of local manufacture there was not very much to satisfy this craving. It was interesting to see the impact of this sudden increase in the spending power of the purchasing public on the market: eggs which started at three for a piastre ended up at one piastre each, and they were soon all sold. I fear many of the locals must have had an eggless week.

In the evening, the three Officers and the six Senior N.C.O.s duly assembled at the Kaimakam's house and there sat down to dinner with an august gathering of local civilians. Besides the Kaimakam himself, there was also the Chief of Police, the Sheriff, the Headmaster, the head of the meteorological office, and eight or so other local dignitaries. In our honour the meal was to be European style, and we sat down to a long table covered with a white tablecloth. They had obviously gone to great trouble to gather together the necessary table furnishings. The seating plan was somewhat

One of the R.A.S.C. lorries hits a soft patch in the sand sea

Part of the convoy in the Valley of the Moon

strange. I was ushered to the head of the table and the remaining guests were put beside me in descending order of seniority. Then half way down the table came the hosts, headed by the Kaimakam and the Sheriff. After the two weeks of compo and tinned equivalent the meal was superb indeed: soup, *hors d'oeuvres*, mutton and chipped potatoes, sweet, and to end up with, glasses of tea. One of the meteorological wireless operators was brought in to cook the meal as he had had previous experience of European cooking, and well he acquitted himself. Being a strictly Mohammedan community, only water was served throughout the meal.

The Kaimakam conversed fluently on both his own country and ours, and he displayed a profound knowledge of both, even though he has never visited England. It was he who told us of the source of the water at Kufra, which, incidentally, is excellent and unlimited. Apparently, in biblical times one of the Pharaohs diverted the River Nile to its present course, but there continued to this day a considerable flow below the surface along the original bed through Kufra up to the Gulf of Sirte.

After dinner, we went out to chairs arranged on the Town Square, where we were entertained to dances by members of the Tabu tribe. The Tabu are a tribe who live in the Tibesti mountains some 350 miles to the south in French territory. They come on the caravans to Kufra, where they maintain a small changing community. Their dancing is held in high esteem by the local inhabitants of Kufra. It is similar in character to the dances of many of the Central African tribes: rhythm from one drum and an endless shuffle interspersed with stamping. Unfortunately, as they use a language of their own for the commentary we were not able to discover what the story behind each of the dances was. While waiting for the dance to begin, Sergeant Tester, our R.A.S.C. sergeant, kept the crowd enthralled by apparently swallowing a lighted cigarette and after much drinking of water and conversation, reproduced it still alight. I am sure many of them regarded the feat as slightly supernatural. Sergeant Hembury, the educational representative, was nearly drawn into the dance itself after his enthusiastic appreciation of a particularly hot number but his courage deserted him at the last moment. We took our leave soon after midnight but the dance went on into the early hours.

On the following day we entertained the Kaimakam, the Chief of Police, and the Chief Clerk to lunch in the camp. When they arrived we showed them around the camp and the various vehicles, and they talked to each other from moving Jeeps using No. 19 sets. I think that the cookhouse lorry, with its sink and water tap, stole the show, although they were very interested in all they saw. Lunch was served in the back of one of the three-tonners suitably decorated for the occasion.

In the afternoon we adjourned to the market place, where the Squadron was playing the town at football, an event attended by most of the local population and played with great enthusiasm if slightly lacking in skill. Six inches of soft sand for the arena makes the game difficult for even the most experienced player. The result was a 6—2 victory for the visitors, but we had the advantage in that the Kufra team

Just before our return to Benina. Part of the management: Back row: Capt. Shuker, R.E.M.E., Major Warren, Sgt. Ling, Sgt. Stout, Capt. MacDonald, R.A.M.C. Front row: S.S.M. Eaton, Royal Tanks, S.Q.M.S. Burton, Sgt. Hembury, R.A.E.C., Sgt. Hebden, Sgt. Tester, R.A.S.C.

had been in retirement for two years having had no football to play with.

The day was brought to a suitable close by a film show held in the Town Square, the first ever held in Kufra. A large crowd enjoyed two apparently most unsuitable films: "Lavender Hill Mob" was the more popular, although "One Wild Oat," with Robertson Hare, was also well acclaimed.

We left for home on the Wednesday and started our return journey through the volcanic wilderness. If anything it was more desolate after the green of Kufra. We had to tow one vehicle with the Scammell because it had run all its bearings and the Fordson battery charging vehicle was also a doubtful starter. This had had the dynamo ballrace seize and we had no spare dynamo. In the process it had thrown and broken both fan belts: A neat job of improvisation by S.S.M. Eaton and Sergeant Ling put it back into the ranks of the runners. The ballrace from a wrecked aeroplane by the side of the airstrip was used as a replacement with pieces of biscuit tin and solder as packing. Spliced tent rope painted with rubber solution provided the fan belt, and in this manner the vehicle came the whole way back under its own power. At the same time, it needed quite a lot of nursing and because it was running hot it had a much longer day than the other vehicles. Consequently, the crew of radio mechanics had a rough time of it and they did well to keep up with the convoy.

The return journey was easier and we made better timings with the lighter loads and by-passing the worst spots. At Jalo we were joined by a party from our Brigade Light Aid Detachment who came out to help us with the crocks, delighted at having an excuse to get out into the desert. They were of great assistance and carried out a sterling job, including the changing of an engine.

From Jalo the convoy was quite impressive—35 vehicles in all including two Scammells which brought up at the rear like elephants at the end of a circus procession. The night move we carried out on Wednesday brought back memories of the wartime bomber raids: the noise of all these engines in the stillness of the night. It was almost as dangerous as if you stopped in the main stream in a small vehicle!

And so at three o'clock on Friday afternoon, 24 days after we set out, our venture into the interior was over, our boyhood dream was now history. A most successful trip, and I think enjoyed by all who took part. Since our return there has been much competition in the Brigade to follow in our footsteps, but so far the Commander has not given the "go ahead signal" for a second time.

Royal Review

by HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN of ex-Servicemen and Women

HYDE PARK — 5th July, 1953

ROYAL SIGNALS is to provide a contingent of 500 with as many Association STANDARDS as possible.

PARADE 1200 hours in Assembly Area "C."

DISMISS 1700 hours near Assembly Area "C."

DRESS—ALL should wear their MEDALS and if members of the Association their badges.

Assembly Area "C" lies between THE SERPENTINE and ROTTEN ROW and is best approached from the south through ALEXANDRA GATE (opposite Exhibition Road, close to the Albert Memorial), PRINCE OF WALES GATE (opposite Ennismore Gardens), and ALBERT GATE (opposite William Street).

THERE WILL BE A VEHICLE with MAST and Royal Signals' FLAG at the point where Royal Signals are to assemble.

APPROACH to Assembly Area "C."

By Coach via KNIGHTSBRIDGE and KENSINGTON ROAD.

By Bus—Nos. 9, 27, 28, 31, 46, 49, 52, 73.

By Tube via KNIGHTSBRIDGE or HIGH STREET, KENSINGTON; the former is the better.

ALL who wish to attend should write AT ONCE to:—
Royal Signals Association,
88 Eccleston Square,
S.W.1.
from whence tickets are obtained. Without tickets great difficulty will be experienced in getting to the Assembly Area.

THE STORY OF ALDERSHOT

Lieutenant-Colonel H. N. Cole, O.B.E., T.D., is a military historian of eminence, has long been resident in Aldershot, and who more worthy than he to write "The Story of Aldershot" as it was in ancient times, through the establishment of the camp in the 1850's, carrying on to the present day.

The book is profusely illustrated with pictures of the life and of the people, both civilian and military, and has a foreword by Major-General W. A. Dimoline, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., and is obtainable from Gale and Polden, Ltd., price 30s.

Continued from page 176

call for a high standard of training and physical fitness. Not only must you have the right sort of clothes—you must know how to wear them. Movement on skis requires a special technique which must be learnt thoroughly.

We learnt a lot of other things, too. Arms must be kept bright, clean and not oiled at all. The slightest trace of oil will render a rifle more useless than a pike! The working parts just freeze solid. A man can lie in soft snow half-a-dozen feet from an exploding mortar bomb and remain unhurt. One wounded man is worth ten dead ones to the enemy because of the difficulties of casualty evacuation.

All this and much more we learnt, but the greatest lesson of all is that well-trained troops must respect snow and cold but need never fear them.

And so the picture fades, but, as I peer at Whitehall through the grimy window panes, I realise that I have been lucky—many "Whitehall Warriors" never get the chance.

Plain Tales

★ *With Greetings from Barleux*

Ridge of High Feeling

"LLWEET, llweet," said the Sparrow, pushing a worm back into her shopping basket.

Uncle Alf: "Hey, wait a minute. What sort of sparrows are these?"

Me: "Welsh ones, of course."

"Try him again you should, man," suggested a Blackbird. "I expect it is busy he is this morning." There was a chorus of approval from the assembled feathered company. A Thrush started a small eisteddfod, but getting no support faded out on a split B flat blushing furiously. The Sparrow glanced warily left and right, and having established that Joe, the Furred Menace, was not amongst those present, hopped on to the scullery steps.

"Llweet, llweet," he said again.

I opened the door and scattered the morning crumbs with an apology. I was still feeling vaguely resentful at the 7.55 weather forecast. Snow in North Wales the announcer said. What must people think? Of course there was snow in Wales, and very attractive it looked too on the peaks of the distant mountains as one strolled in the glittering sunshine. At Llandudno and Colwyn Bay they had over nine hours' sunshine on Good Friday. One wonders why the B.B.C. regards snow as having greater news value than sunshine. Hoteliers are up in arms about it. The seagulls don't care either way. "Llweet," called the Sparrow and flew off in the pouring rain.

Academie Barleux

Intelligence tests seem to be all the rage these days. Some of these tests include recognising and naming tunes. I listened to some on the Home Service a few weeks ago and when one child failed to recognise the song always associated with Popeye the Sailorman I decided there and then that right here was proof of something or other. Time must be slipping past quicker than we realise. How long since you heard Popeye the Sailorman?

Now for this month's homework. Write on one side of the paper at a time. If three eggs cost 4½d. each for two, which would you rather do or go overseas? Answer yes or no. Do not scribble in column 4.

If a foreign pilot reads the pamphlet offering 100,000 dollars for his plane will he really think that the United Nations are taking the M.I.G.?

Perchance to Dream

Then there was the feather-brained woman who was roused from a deep sleep by her sister. She stared uncomprehendingly (what a lovely word) for a moment, then grasped her sister's hand excitedly. "Darling," she said, "I'm so glad you called me. I was dreaming that I was buying a really lovely handbag fitted with everything you could think of, and honestly, dear, I simply can't afford it."

Gastronomical Moment

One of my ancestors (Sir Gifford Barleux, 1547—1621) was supposed to have said: "One should always rise from the dining table feeling that one could eat a little more." As any reliable history book will tell you, this old reprobate was invariably lifted out from under the table and carried to his chamber. One therefore concludes that his excellent advice must have been given in the morning.

With high hopes of the derationing of meat we naturally begin to think of large, juicy, tender steaks covered with tiny mushrooms. Dinner plates will eventually have to be made larger, though there is no immediate hurry because the medical profession are of the opinion that we have lost the ability to consume enormous meals. This may be due to a gradual shrinking of the stomach, a sort of revolt against the curious things with which it has to contend these days. Or maybe we do not work so hard as our forefathers.

One of the most repulsive sights in the morning is a quarter-inch thick slice of grilled ham with two awful fried new laid eggs on top. Do try and avoid this sort of thing. Stick to a small glass of tomato juice and a peeled walnut. Then go right out and build that bridge, tote that bale or push that pen. Who cares what my ancestor said, anyway?

The Story So Far

Signorina Elvira Tico-Tico has called on Ukann Larfe, the famous detective, to enlist his aid in the recovery of an abandoned tin mine said to contain vast deposits of gold or some such nonsense. Hartley Fogworthy, Ukann's assistant, is trying to convince Hermione Larfe that the signorina is only talking business with the detective. He, Fogworthy, is not having any success. As this chapter opens Fogworthy is lying in the corner of the outer office with the upturned desk on his chest. Mrs. Larfe is an immensely powerful woman. She has just pulled her racing car to pieces with her bare hands and has brought the back axle with her just to have something to fiddle with. Other parts are being taken by Lord Elpas, Sir Vim Wright and a rather unlikely character called Snaky Joe. Lord Elpas has just walked off with the steering column. Inspector Faceache is watching them very carefully through a letter box on the other side of the road. Now you know where you are.

Episode I: The Clue of the Green Paper.

The lovely Elvira rummaged in the depths of her beautiful calf skin handbag (Martell and Snellgrove, 25s. 6d., plus P.T. 30s.) and produced a delicately perfumed letter written on pale green paper. She passed it to Ukann Larfe. Her face was the hue of ashes. The detective read it with growing horror and a small magnifying glass. He had nerves of steel but this was sheer dynamite. His face turned the hue of some more ashes. Do not miss our next staggering instalment.

EUROPE

H.Q. NORTHERN ARMY GROUP SIGNAL REGIMENT

Spring and even summer are upon us. We really noticed it on the first big exercise of the season in March, although it did snow on one morning.

In February, the Regiment suffered a mild influenza epidemic which necessitated each Squadron opening sick bays—this, however, didn't affect our sporting activities.

In sport there is much to tell. H.Q. and 1 Squadron were put out in the semi-final of the John Rice Trophy. 3 Squadron, who now boast a galaxy of stars, are lying well up in the Zeco League. At cross-country our team finished second in the Northern Army Group Inter-Signals Competition behind our doughty boxing rivals, 11 Air Formation Signal Regiment. We came third in the Lubbecke District Meeting. The Inter-Squadron Competition was won by 3 Squadron.

At boxing we scored a convincing win over 6 Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment by 20 points to 12 points in the final of the Royal Signals Regimental Competition in Germany. Our team scored several good individual successes in the Lubbecke District Boxing.

Competition in the Inter-Squadron Hockey was exceptionally fierce this year, and the results were as close as could be. 2 Squadron triumphed, with 3 Squadron a spirited second. The results were:—

	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	For	Against
2 Squadron	2	1	1	1	4	3
3 Squadron	2	1	–	1	3	3
1 Squadron	2	–	1	1	3	4

3 Squadron won the Inter-Squadron Badminton. With Inter-Squadron .22 shooting and basketball to play, the position in the Saunders Inter-Squadron Cup stands at:—

3 Squadron 33 pts.
1 Squadron 29 pts.
2 Squadron 28 pts.

Major P. Smith has left us for 19 Air Formation Signals, where his P. G. H. Fender sweater will undoubtedly influence the cricket field. We wish him every success in Singapore. He is replaced by Major Holifield, to whom we extend a hearty welcome. Mr. Dixon, the R.S.M., has left after much faithful service in the Regiment. We welcome Mr. Buchanan, his successor, who is already a familiar figure in our midst.

11 AIR FORMATION SIGNAL REGIMENT

We have just completed our yearly Regimental Exercise. This may sound somewhat odd but, owing to the role of our Regiment, it is extremely difficult to prise the Wing Signal Troops away from their operational airfields. It is the only time in the year that the whole Regiment is concentrated and can get down to a full-scale test of technical equipment in the field. The weather was extremely kind and all thoroughly enjoyed working under such pleasant conditions.

The tactical side of our training was far from neglected; what with camouflage and defence posts it was dangerous for strangers to tread.

The R.A.F. from Wunstorf were asked if they would send a plane to look at our efforts in camouflage. This they promptly accepted, and for two days we were the target for screaming Vamps and the odd Meteors.

Wing Signal Troops put in attacks on each other at varying times during the night and these proved to personnel on guard how wide awake they have to be. 17 Wing Signal Troop are not on speaking terms with 2 Wing Signal Troop, owing to the loss of their meat ration, and Sergeant Jacobs, their Troop Sergeant, during such forays.

The cable head camp site was attacked at 0410 hours on the last day of the exercise by Major Woodrow and 30 men of his Squadron (1 A.S.S.U.). The firework display made our wait from dusk the previous evening almost worth while, if it had not been for the wild life (deer and wild boar, etc.) that absolutely filled our Defence Headquarters map with little flags, denoting (as we thought) the fact that we were surrounded with crawling bodies intent upon "doing us" in no uncertain manner.

★

Hockey. We played R.A.F. Station, Sundern, in the final of the 2nd Tactical Air Force Cup and, after a hard-fought game, won 2—0, both goals being scored by Sergeant Webb. Sundern were unlucky not to score in the first half because both teams seemed to be afflicted with "Final nerves."

The cup was kindly presented by Mrs. Scott, wife of Colonel T. A. R. Scott, Chief Air Formation Signal Officer.

We have also won the R.A.F. Station Hockey League. Captain Brewin and the team are to be congratulated on what can be described only as a most excellent season with one more final to play, namely the B.A.O.R. Signals Cup, the result of which we will include in our next notes.

★

Soccer. The season came to an end with the carrying off of the John Rice Trophy, in the final of which we beat Headquarters Squadron, 11 Armoured Division, by five goals to three. This was just reward for our Soccer Officer, Lieutenant Grey, who has done so much for the team. He is, unfortunately, leaving us and will be a great loss.

The game provided much excitement for the large crowd watching. The goals were scored respectively by Signalmen Williams, Marlowe, Barrett, Foy and Coulson. Special mention for the captain, Signalman Coulson, must be made; he seemed to be everywhere just at the right moment.

★

Table Tennis. The team reached the semi-finals of the men's doubles in the R.A.F. Championship but were defeated in a three-match struggle. However, Second-Lieutenant Wernick has been selected to play for the Command against the Army—a question of divided loyalties.

In a friendly match against the German county champions (Land Lippe League) we succeeded in obtaining victory.

In our March notes we mentioned our success in the Lubbecke District Messing Competition.

Cpl. P. Morritt, A.C.C., Sgt. R. Johnson, Brigadier E. C. J. Woodford

1 TRAINING REGIMENT, ROYAL SIGNALS RUGBY FOOTBALL TEAM, 1952-53

Standing: Lance-Corporal D. R. Holdsworth, Signalmen N. Mackie, J. A. Turner, W. Boston, G. W. Spillane, Lance-Corporal D. W. Hinchley, Lance-Corporal J. Dunn, Second-Lieutenant R. L. May, Signalman A. K. McRae. Seated: Corporal J. Gittins, Signalman I. W. Black, S.Q.M.S. D. F. Rees, Second-Lieutenant J. A. D. Lazenby, Lieut.-Colonel R. W. Atkinson, O.B.E., Major G. M. Fraser, Lance-Corporal R. J. Robins, Corporal J. Lyall, Corporal M. R. H. Lewis. Front row: Second-Lieutenant D. S. Dakers, Second-Lieutenant R. B. W. Oliver, Corporal D. G. Bowen, Signalman B. Griffiths

See article Rugby Notes from Catterick on page 193

1 CORPS SIGNAL REGIMENT

Our Annual Administrative Inspection is now a thing of the past. Just another pleasant memory if one cares to look at life that way. We think we did quite well. The ceremonial parade in particular was good. To celebrate our survival we staggered off down the autobahn, and almost without delay, went to earth and signalled for ten days just to show them we really are an operational force as well.

On return from the exercise, and with a firm belief in the old maxim that "change is as good as a rest," we looked to our weapons and stormed the local ranges, the object being to complete our annual weapon training courses. We thought little of the range and even less of the weather. However, our hats are off to 2 Squadron for winning the Unit shooting cup. Now troop and squadron training are under way.

Appropriate to the season or not, our thoughts have been directed to gardening. Horticultural experience is at a premium. Squadron honour is at stake; confidence regarding the result of the gardening competition has been expressed by all. We must labour and wait until August for the judging of our humble efforts.

Our heartiest congratulations to our late Second-in-Command, Lieutenant-Colonel R. G. Miller, on his promotion to that rank. Lieutenant-Colonel Miller's hard work and ceaseless energetic efforts for the Regiment have been appreciated by all ranks. Good luck to you, sir, and your family; we wish you every success in your new appointment.

We are also very sorry to say goodbye to another old friend who will be much missed, S.S.M. G. E. Fox.

We have to report the following recent results of our sporting activities:—

Royal Signals B.A.O.R. Inter-Unit Hockey Competition
1 Corps Signal Regiment 1, 6th Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment 4.

Royal Signals B.A.O.R. Inter-Unit Rugby Competition
Semi-final. 1 Corps Signal Regiment 3, 11th Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment 8.

Obituary

It is with regret that we announce the death of Signalman D. H. Binley, who was fatally injured in an accident on the night 18th-19th April, 1953. Signalman Binley was a very promising young soldier, extremely popular and respected by all ranks. The Regiment expresses deep sympathy with Signalman Binley's parents in the tragic loss of their son.

7th ARMOURED DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT

Our representatives for the Coronation Parade in London are now busily preparing for that event. The party is W.O.I Carter, who will act as R.S.M. of the B.A.O.R. Signals contingents, Lance-Corporal J. D. Jenkins, Lance-Corporal D. Lewis, Lance-Corporal F. G. Woodley, Signalman T. Farrer, Signalman N. C. Dollery and Signalman C. A. Unwin.

We impatiently await the arrival of their uniforms, and we are sure they will represent the Regiment worthily on this auspicious occasion.

Sport. We had hard luck in losing the B.A.O.R. Royal Signals' Soccer Championship to 1 Wireless Regiment recently. It was a pity that the winning goal, in a score of 2—1, should have been off a penalty. Signalman Reynolds, our goalkeeper, played an excellent game, but all the efforts of Signalman Harris, Corporal Blair and the rest of the stalwart team could not pull it off. Signalman Laird, who has done so much for the team at full-back throughout the season, was not present "on the day" due to a broken arm sustained in another match just previously. Captain Gillett, who has worked so hard to build the team, is now solacing himself with a few days' leave during which he will see the Cup Final at Wembley.

We hold our second trade board this year for operators next week and all the class are now feverishly punching up their morse on a last mad minute. The subalterns are equally frantically working up for their promotion examination next week—it will show who really has used up a lot of midnight oil.

After a successful Part II Inspection, we are now preparing for future exercises and a welcome return to much more open-air life. This, with preparations for the mechanised Coronation March Past in Hamburg on the great day, keeps life from getting in any way dull.

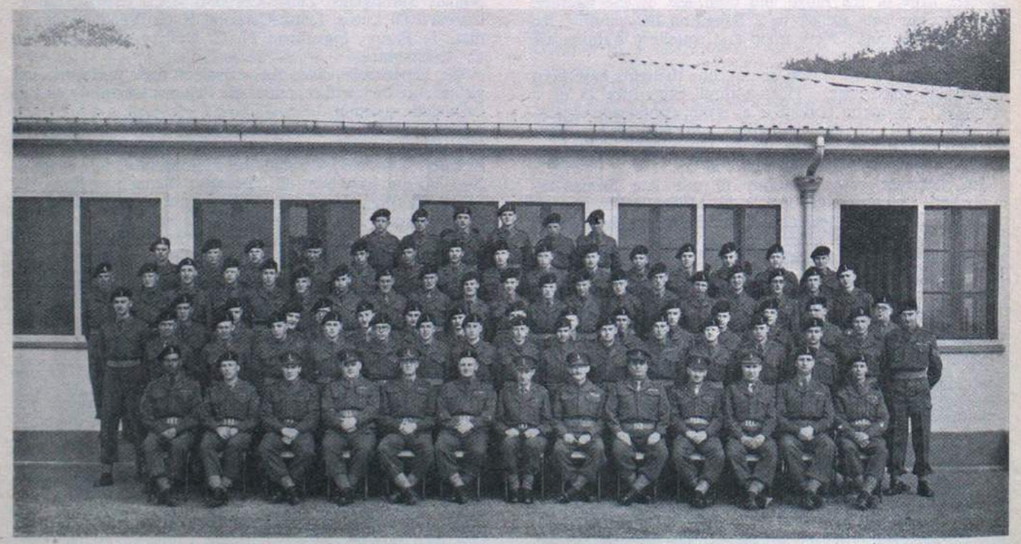
Royal Signals Wing School of Signals 1953, see page 172

S.H.A.P.E. Signal Squadron

As we have just celebrated our second anniversary, we have all been looking back on the events that have taken place since we were formed. Even in such a short time we have much to remember, and be proud of, and already we are establishing a little distinctive tradition of our own.

General Eisenhower's European tour in the early months of 1951 laid the foundations for the Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers in Europe, and by May of that year, when the Chief of Staff, General Gruenther, had his advance party working in Paris, we already had our own advance party staying with the American Signal Battalion in Versailles, laying the foundations for some of the closest Anglo-American co-operation ever seen. At the same time, the remainder of the Squadron was being formed in Pocklington, in a welter of indents, packing cases, 1157s and inoculations.

On 25th June, 1951, the main body of the Squadron arrived in Paris, and Paris has not been the same place since. From then until January 1953, the Squadron occupied billets in a French summer camp which, though cursed as a mudhole in winter, and a dust bowl in summer, had swimming pools outside the front door of the billet, and a football pitch thirty seconds away through the back windows.



S.H.A.P.E. Signal Squadron on the second anniversary of their formation in 1951

Now we lack these amenities, but our new quarters are tops as far as living accommodation goes. Our camp cinema is the next building but one, and the luxury International Club is behind the cinema. All we lack is a parade ground—no further comments!

We must be the most travelled peacetime Unit in Signals. At one time or another our wireless vehicles have ranged from Brussels to Germany, along the Riviera and into Italy. Among other places, personnel have worked in Oslo, Rome, Lisbon, Naples, Izmir in Turkey, and Athens. This has developed that part of our tradition that requires a man to be wearing best B.D. and a bored expression with his kit packed and his pay in his pocket thirty minutes after his Troop Commander had said: "You're flying to Rome this afternoon, your documents will be ready in an hour's time."

We have Inter-Troop Leagues in all sports, and although our five Troops are small in numbers all matches are very keenly contested. As a result, on the sports field we are something of a local legend. It was nearly a season and a half before we were defeated at soccer, and we have wiped the floor with upstart characters who thought they could jump further or higher, or run faster, than us.

All this has been accomplished with a Squadron of about 100, all ranks, and now Signals are really "on the map" in this area. In our local work at S.H.A.P.E. we are considered to be the best in the international field, and Royal Signals personnel have collared a number of key jobs out of all proportion to our strength, particularly in the Crypto and Communication Centre activities. When you consider that a keyboard operator has not only to be able to operate, but also to tear down a wall, build a partition and paint the whole office during an expansion, you can see that normal working conditions do not apply.

We have done a lot in two years, learned a lot and taught our various allies even more. The National Servicemen who came out in June 1951 have now all been demobbed, and half of the original Officers have gone into civilian life or other stations. But the N.A.T.O. Treaty has another fifteen years at least to run and some of you who are reading this will serve here. If the future is anything like the past two years it will be a lot of fun and a lot of work.

A National Serviceman in Turkey and Greece

WHEN Turkey and Greece joined the North Atlantic Alliance in 1952, four National Servicemen were not to know that this would mean that in a matter of weeks they would be on their way to these countries by land, sea and air, as part of the team provided by S.H.A.P.E. to give aid in setting up their military communications with other members of N.A.T.O. The party provided by S.H.A.P.E. Signal Squadron was one Regular N.C.O. and we four National Servicemen wireless operators.

For the journey we were divided into a road party travelling in international wireless vehicles of American manufacture, and an air party travelling to Naples. Through the heart of France by road to the famous Cote d'Azur, in the loveliest weather, along the French and Italian Rivieras to Rome, the picturesque and colourful scenery and the different types of people seen on the way proved one of the highlights of the outward journey. From Rome to Naples we travelled on one of Italy's fine auto-routes, which though fast and comfortable, was less interesting. We arrived in Naples on the 2nd September, 1952, after six days on the road. In Naples we found it hot and humid, added to which we did not have any K.D. handy. Meanwhile, Corporal Coleman, travelling with the air party, had arrived in Naples four days previously, and so had had the opportunity to do some sight-seeing. He visited such places as the ancient ruins of Pompeii, Mount Vesuvius and the Island of Capri, hot but nevertheless instructive and unforgetable. Incidentally, while on the Island of Capri he bathed in Gracie Fields' swimming pool!

The arrival of the road party, however, meant serious business again and an end to sight-seeing. We were inoculated against the dread diseases of the Middle East and ordered aboard an American sea transport in preparation for the voyage to Athens and Istanbul. We docked just long enough on reaching Athens to set ashore a radio section in the famous port of Piraeus. This party soon settled down in quarters provided by the British Naval Mission to Greece. They were made very welcome by the Senior Service, who took the "new boys" under their wing.

A communication centre in the Parliament Building and a radio site were prepared for traffic with Ismir in Turkey, which was to be the H.Q. of South-East Asia Command, and through them to S.H.A.P.E. and all the other N.A.T.O. countries. Difficulty was at first experienced in teaching the Greeks N.A.T.O. procedure and a necessary amount of the language, the object being for them eventually to take over the communications themselves with only American supervision of the repair of the equipment and supply of spares.

Meanwhile, the remainder of the party continued on to Istanbul, and from there to Ismir, the final destination, by air. The remaining wireless vehicle and its operators followed by road, finally reaching Ismir on the 8th September, a journey of eight days from S.H.A.P.E. On the way they saw the narrow sea channel of the Dardanelles dividing Europe with Asia. They also travelled over roads which in England would be classified as cart tracks!

Land Forces South East Europe, the H.Q. for which we were to set up communications, was situated in a modern Turkish girls' school. We had been so quick off the mark that several Turkish girls had not evacuated the school when we arrived.

Now came a period of intense and prolonged activity. A H.Q. Signal Office had to be set up and links provided for a restless staff, already installed. Until the manufactured furniture was shipped or bought locally we had to manage as best as we could. Benches and tables were necessary to receive the equipment we had brought from Naples, so we set to and made them. The Radio Link of 400 watt output was, of course, self-contained in its vehicle, and after seven days we opened a R.T.T. circuit to Athens. Another wireless link supplied by the Americans from Ankara provided our link with Naples. This gave great satisfaction to the Staff, and from then on messages began to "hum." We were now at our busiest as the Signal Office (or Comcentre to us) was open, especially as the Turkish Signallers insisted on their *siestas* in the hot sunny afternoons. We had for our part learnt the essential Turkish words. Help had also arrived in the form of U.S. Navy Communication personnel direct from the United States.

On our arrival in Ismir we were put into a Turkish hotel, but finding this too much for our pockets, taking the long view, the British members of the party soon moved out into a Pension run by a French family. This eased the language and budget problems as we were able to use what French we had learnt in Paris. Our accommodation was paid for by the British Military Mission to Turkey, who also looked after our pay and allowances. The cost of living in Turkey was, if anything, higher than in Paris.

By the beginning of December we had trained our Turkish Allies to take up their duties in the Comcentre. We naturally required interpreters and these were provided from some very good female Turkish switchboard operators who could speak, in most cases, more than two languages and seemed highly educated and intelligent. Circuits had now been established from Ismir to Athens, Salonica and Ankara. The pride and joy of the team was a Rhombic Aerial set up in the school playground. We were thus seeing plenty of results from our earlier labours and since the assignment was only a temporary one until a permanent

American Signal Unit arrived, our minds turned again to Paris in the spring. A month before we were due for release, orders came through from S.H.A.P.E. that we were to turn over our responsibilities to the Turks and the American personnel who were staying behind.

Early in December, Corporal Coleman was flown to Athens to take over the organisation and running of the Signal Office there. He had under his direct control American, British and Greek troops. It is indeed extraordinary how the British soldier can overcome the language difficulty wherever he goes. The two National Servicemen now had more opportunity to visit such places as the Acropolis, the Marethon and Mount Olympus. "Jimmy" thus paid a temporary visit to his native land and place of birth.

Here in Greece the mirage of wealth was strong and clear on the first pay day with Drachmae in hundreds of thousands. But this was not to be one of our "perks," a box of matches cost 600 Drachmae and a bottle of beer 5,000. So it was the old story all over again.

Eventually Greek and Turkish Signals had been trained sufficiently to do without the S.H.A.P.E. teams and anyway for the National Serviceman "demob" was fast approaching. Could it be that S.H.A.P.E. thought that we were going to sign on and so had not recalled us for processing? No. In due course orders came through over the communication channels we had ourselves set up.

We all travelled back by air, which was very uninteresting in comparison with the outward trip. In the excitement of getting ready to see our families again and being able to tell them personally of all we had done and seen in the period of our National Service, we almost forgot to take a last glimpse of lovely Paris in glorious spring weather.

Now safely on our way to England, we four look back on our two years of service and ponder awhile to venture a guess that we are perhaps the most fortunate National Servicemen called up to the Colours since the war! We, Signalmen Dutton, Dyer, Dixon and Cardew, class ourselves among the chosen few who have had the opportunity of a lifetime at Her Majesty's Government's expense. We trust the Government will consider the sending of mere National Servicemen so far afield worth while and will therefore give the same opportunity to others coming after.

Middle East Land Forces

3 L. OF C. SIGNAL REGIMENT

Since the last contribution from the Regiment we have undergone a thorough inspection by the Chief Signal Officer, M.E.L.F. In the north, the gods did not smile particularly favourably, but in spite of torrential rains, which ceased some four hours prior to the inspection, it is understood that the luckless formation made a useful contribution to the general good standard attained by the Regiment.

Bands of Infantry Regiments in the north and at Regimental H.Q. contributed in no small way to the success of the ceremonial parades.

"Corps Week" was a success in all its aspects, it is understood, and it can at least be confirmed that the social side was appreciated by all who were able to attend the many functions. Many battles were re-fought at the Officers' Dinner —so it is said—and the general concensus of opinion was that "A good time, etc." It is known that there were a couple of rather brittle looking pale faces in the Regimental lines the morning after.

We note—with satisfaction—that the Corps was represented in the finals of the Army Egypt Individual Boxing Championship and produced a winner.

In the Royal Signals (Egypt) Inter-Unit Team Boxing Finals—fought during Corps Week—the Regiment had to give best to 3 G.H.Q. Signal Regiment after an enjoyable evening's boxing of clean and close competition. We congratulate our opponents on their success.

There has not been as much sporting activity within the Regiment as normally, due to the heavy demands on the grounds for Army and Formation tournaments. The highlight of our Regimental sport was the winning of the Inter-Squadron Hockey Competition by 3 Squadron, who came up from the outsider's position to defeat 2 Squadron 3—1 in the semi-final and 1 Squadron by 4—2 in the final. The Inter-Troop Six-a-Side Soccer Competition held on Easter Saturday was a resounding success and left a number wondering how they managed to live through. The eventual winners were 3 U.G. Troop, whose stamina told in the long run.

The Regiment congratulates—on the field and behind the scenes—those who have so ably and successfully kept the fair name of the Corps at the top of the tree in the realms of Army sport. Well done, indeed!

16 INDEPENDENT PARATROOP BRIGADE GROUP SIGNAL SQUADRON, M.E.L.F. 28

The Squadron has done so many exercises in the last three months that we must omit Company Group, Battalion Group exercises, and even "Jerome Square," the Headquarter Airborne Exercise, plus "Crossbow," the Brigade Group Ground exercise in Sinai.

We confine ourselves to the latest and most important—"Snow Drop," the Brigade Group airborne exercise in the Morphou area of Cyprus. With an airlift of 25 Valetta and 15 Hastings aircraft the Brigade was able to put on the ground in two lifts 1,500 men and 30 pieces of heavy equipment. The Squadron were fortunate to be able to drop 60 men, five jeeps and three trailers, each containing a WS 62. It speaks well of the standard of packing achieved by the Detachments and of crating by Corporal Doonan and Lance-Corporal Rutland that none of our heavy equipment was damaged. We unfortunately lost a charging set and three batteries from our rear link with 3 Paratroop.

The first lift dropped beneath a perfect moon and light breeze. The RV procedure presented no difficulties and the Command Net was operative within an hour of dropping, as was the rear link to Egypt operated by Corporal Huckstep on a WS 76/209. Certain individuals even found time to sleep!

The second lift, on the following afternoon, was a spectacle which all Cyprus turned out to watch, 750 men and 30 pieces of heavy equipment dropping in under the hour.

We marched 30 miles during the exercise, both by day and night across difficult country. The exercise lasted 48 hours and would have presented an acute battery charging problem had it lasted a further 12 hours.

A sight to remember, the Brigadier's Operator, Lance-Corporal Paxton, riding around in a jeep; the Brigadier's driver, McCall, marching.

Needless to say, Nicosia welcomed us after the exercise. Some turned over old ground, others new. Incidentally, we were greeted on arrival by the "King of Cyprus," S.Q.M.S. Blow, at present in residence on the island.

Congratulations to Lance-Corporal Trotter on winning the "best loser" medal in the Brigade Boxing Competition. To Corporal Donkin on passing his Part I Foreman of Signals examination, and to S.S.M. Laing on passing his General Certificate of Education.

3 G.H.Q. SIGNAL REGIMENT BOXING TEAM, 1953
(WINNERS, ROYAL SIGNALS (E) BOXING CUP)
Back row (left to right): Lance-Corporal Little, Signalmen Cherrett, Lance-Corporal Hughes, Second-Lieutenant C. Spencer, Corporal McSweeny, Signalmen Randall, Booroff, Jennings, Sergeant Roden. Front row: Craftsman Shepherd, Signalman Charlton, Lieut.-Colonel L. E. Thorpe, Captain L. Rogers, Major (Q.M.) W. H. Clark, Sergeant Hearns, Signalman Machon

3 G.H.Q. SIGNAL REGIMENT

The Regiment has made its mark, in more senses than one, on the Canal Zone boxing world; we are now the proud possessors of the Royal Signals (E) Boxing Cup, beating 3 L. of C. Signal Regiment in the final and were only beaten by one point in the final of the Garrison Cup by our old rivals, 10 Battalion R.A.O.C. after a contest which sent the writer's blood pressure to an all-time high with sheer excitement. But this is not all. Signalman Jones won the Army (E) individual featherweight championship, a very fine effort indeed, and he and Sergeant Hearns have been picked as members of the Army (E) team to fight the M.E.A.F. team during May.

Now that Regimental boxing is over for the season, we must express our appreciation of the work of Sergeant Roden, the trainer and second, whose sage advice in the corner has had a lot to do with our success.

Now to athletics. Second-Lieutenant Hawes, Signalmen Stewart, Reilly, Cooper and Corporal Blohm are all taking part this month in the Inter-Services Championships, and we wish them every success.

Descending to more lowly but no less important sporting matter, Transmitter Troop, aided by some bearded wonders, beat the much-vaunted 9 Medium Wireless Troop by two goals to one in the final of the Troop Football Competition. A large crowd saw some really excellent football, with Corporal Higgins and Signalman Honess outstanding for Transmitters, and the 9 Medium stalwarts, Corporals Hemphill and Daniels and Signalmen Horrocks and Healey, were, as usual, well to the fore.

★

Very close secrecy surrounds our water polo team, but such experts as S.Q.M.S. (F. of S.) Foakes and Lance-Corporal Clifford are still with us and, with newcomers of the calibre of Driver Lane and Signalman Northam, the skipper, Lieutenant Marsh, expects to do even better than last season.

CYPRUS SIGNAL SQUADRON

This is the time of year in Cyprus when you begin to remember how fortunate you are in being posted to this "Island of Love," where everyone else pays to go for a holiday. With the end of the winter rain still with us and yet the sun just beginning to brown, or redden, our backs, Cyprus looks like a garden of flowers and greenery in the most magnificent profusion. All the new things are growing and the old ones regaining their lost momentum. Whether it is because of this, "spring feeling," or the new popular "hire purchase" terms of the Association that we can't deal out the membership cards fast enough we are not quite sure—but the addition of 12 new members leaves only two people in the camp yet to join, and when last seen they were looking so worried and miserable about it as to be almost begging to join.

That this "spring feeling" to the Army means "exercises," is a well-known fact, and 40 Commando and 16 Paratroop Brigade both attacked Cyprus with all the gusto and fire they are famous for. The "drop" of 16 Paratroop Brigade was enjoyed by many spectators on the neighbouring hills and will probably be enjoyed by many more as the "Mayflower Film Unit" were busy taking shots of the assault beaches and paratroop drop as background for the new Dirk Bogarde, Akim Tamiroff film. We have not heard as yet that any Commando had stage fright and should doubt the veracity of any such story anyway.

Being such a small Unit and all kept very strictly to shift and duty rosters in consequence, we do not get much time for schemes on such a scale, but the amount of good practice and enjoyment one gets out of a couple of 19 sets and trucks in the Kyrenia hills is very considerable. The D.R.s have the Coronation trials to keep them even busier than usual. Under Mr. Hirst's rigorous but patient training the new members of the team look to be very well able to carry on the high standards set by their predecessors.

It is unfortunate that through his moving Mr. Hirst will not be able to lead the team in the actual trials, but he seems determined to train them to such a pitch that even that will be unnecessary. Throughout his stay in Cyprus Mr. Hirst has been noted for his interest in all Squadron and island activities. He captained the winning Cyprus Signal Squadron Trials Team and last season he managed the very successful Cyprus Combined Services Football Team. These are among the more public of his interests, but in all types of sport and entertainment he has always been there to help, morally or physically, whenever needed, and in this way has done much to raise and boost the "Squadron spirit." We all wish him the very best in the R.E.M.E., to which he is moving, and are sure he'll keep up his circuit with his Signal friends.

★

Another person in the Squadron making a change is S.S.M. Bell, this time one from bachelorhood to the pleasant state of matrimony. Congratulations and our best wishes for a long and happy married life.

The Coronation trials are, of course, only part of the Cyprus preparations to honour and celebrate this glorious occasion. The public occasions are many, including all kinds of ceremonial and merrymaking. For our own more private contributions we are planning a "barbecue" party, with a film show in the Unit's own open-air canteen and, something more for the children, a day trip to Troodos, Cyprus' own Switzerland. As you see, Cyprus has pretty nearly everything.

Everyone on the island is anxious to win something this Coronation year—really lather the lily with gold paint sort of thing—and though handicapped a little by our size, that does nothing to prevent our desires or hinder our efforts to bring a few giants down. The football and hockey, though perhaps never outstanding, were creditable, and in the island boxing, although Lance-Corporal Bentley and Signalman Berry did hard things to one another in the novices' competition, we had to be content to sit back and bask in the reflected glory of 2 Wireless Regiment hammering their way through the opposition. The athletics, cricket and trials are still to come and at least in the latter two we have a few rosy castles which it will be better to keep for ourselves just in case they come tumbling down. While in the meantime, practice, practice and more practice.

We get our time off, though, and the majority of Sundays see us lazily basking in the sun or swimming at the Kyrenia beaches, the Riviera of Cyprus. On this then we close in the right sort of mood from the "Holiday Island" in the opening of the summer of this momentous year, with glorious weather. Having a wonderful time! Wish you were here!

Air Formation Signals. Middle East C.A.F.S.O.

Spring would seem to have struck C.A.F.S.O. Branch with a resounding smack. Having successfully weathered the big air exercise of the year, "Session," all members of the branch have decided there is other worthwhile employment than sitting at the office desk.

First the branch went on the air for three-quarters of an hour and told the world in general and the Canal Zone in particular, by means of the F.B.S., how hard and usefully we worked. This coincided with the departure of Major Green to holiday in Greece. "Q" Vaughan followed the next day by trooper for annual leave in the U.K. Sergeant Howie, not to be outdone, applied for service with the Trucial Oman Levies. The remainder could think of nothing more original than a week or two on leave in Cyprus.

If we ever assemble again in one whole piece we will let you know.

4 Air Formation Signal Regiment

Corps Week in the Canal Zone was held early in March, and it was attended by a great galaxy of Signal Officers from all over the Middle East. After the morning conferences, various sporting events were laid on for the occasion, and we had to organise the "Pimple" Race. This was run over about three miles of desert, including a climb of 600 feet. It was rough going but the sixty-four competitors all completed the course without mishap. Our team just managed to achieve third place, which was particularly gratifying to our trainer, R.Q.M.S. Walker, who used to run with the famous Sergeant Cotterell in the old days.

Signalman Barnicote was again selected to play for the Corps (Egypt) rugger team against the Sappers.

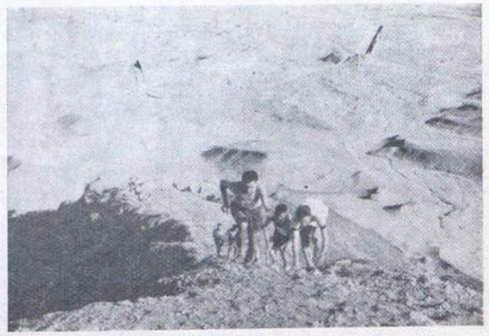
Stop Press: Congratulations to Captain Handisyde for winning the Kabrit Cup and two other prizes at the R.A.F. Car Rally held on Easter Monday, driving his Ford Taunus, with Major Bogle as co-driver.

We have had two R.A.F. exercises so far this year—"Fast Train" and "Session." The first of these was notable for an M.A.L. route contructed with D.8 cable. The poles were erected in loose sand, and practically all of them had to be stayed. What a job!

We bid farewell and best wishes to Major "Tom" Webster, Captain (Q.M.) Phillips, and their families, together with a large number of National Servicemen returning to the U.K. "Adieu, kind friends, adieu, adieu, adieu."

At the same time we welcome Major Hamilton and

Major S. W. B. Lee (S.O.A.F., 205 Group) inspecting the M.A.L. (D8) route, which was built for Ex "Fast Train"



L/Cpl. Buckley nearing the top of the "Pimple"

Lieutenant Anthonisz to 18 Air Formation Signals, and Lieutenant (Q.M.) Carr as our new Q.M.

SIERRA LEONE SIGNAL SQUADRON

Since our last notes the Squadron commitments have been both numerous and varied from starring in a film to the ordinary annual range classification.

There has been, we might say, never a dull moment.

Part of the film, "The Heart of the Matter," has been "shot" on location in Sierra Leone, and members of this Squadron, British and African, complete with trucks, Wireless House Mk. III 1-ton, appear in various scenes along with Trevor Howard.

We are all looking forward to it eventually arriving here, although it is doubtful if it will appear during the time of any of the Europeans here as the films we receive are a little aged.

After the glamour of film starring was over, Exercise "Mercury" took place. This, as its name implies, was a signals exercise for the staff of District Headquarters and Commanding Officers of Units. The Squadron Commander, aided by Sergeant Scott and an Infantry Officer, gave lectures on the new "voice" procedure using a method new to the district which caused quite some amusement. A "wrong" version over the P.A. would be followed by a green light, and then "dead" Regimental "procedure," correct in every detail. The staff took to this in a big way and on the day, they used the "voice net" like seasoned Signalmen.

One bright spot during the exercise was when a Battalion Commander, worried about the location of his forward Company, asked, "what is your location?" Back came the reply, "My location is by the African cookhouse." Battalion Commander, "Where is the African cookhouse?" Reply, "Where the Africans get their 'chop' (food)."

H.M.S. *Bermuda* paid its final official visit to Freetown in December. An extensive programme of sporting and social events was laid on by District, and once again *Bermuda* won the Gerrard Cup.

This Squadron supplied the 62 set and operators on shore to work the ship-to-shore "voice" link.

During January a new idea in air trooping was tried, using Aquilla flying boats. As the local air port hold no small wireless equipment the Squadron provided three W.S. 62, working from launch to aircraft and Met. Station.

The first time the plane arrived the civilian launch broke down at the critical moment, but the wireless stayed through. The next two times the craft came we had no trouble. On one occasion we communicated with the aircraft Q.S.A. 5/5 "voice," using 12 ft. rod when she was more than 100 miles distant.

"Looking for something to shoot"

62 SET SAFARI

"Safari" is something of a misnomer, since we never shot anything, though we did give a toucan a few anxious moments. It would be more exact to call it a "swan."

It all started when two of us, out on a week-end trip, were told of a "lost" village on a mountain that was supposed to be a relic of a long-dead civilisation. This sounded like real Rider Hagard stuff, and too good to miss, so ways and means were canvassed to get transport and leave and follow up the story.

One of the Officers was brought into the partnership, and he persuaded the Squadron Commander that here was an ideal chance to test the W.S. 62, newly introduced to West Africa, in our own home-made installation for a Landrover.

So the trip was made. We were driven by the stalwart Corporal (now Sergeant) Haruna, who was a pillar of strength, and followed, dust notwithstanding, by the Foreman of Signals on his own motor bike.

The road engineer who had first reported the "lost" village told us, when we found him again, that it was only a pile of stones and we would have to walk all day to find it, so we gave up that idea and set out to tour Togoland instead. To the reader the word "tour" may sound restful, but just you try sitting in a Landrover all day while it is driven at maximum speed in the centre of a dust cloud over a glorified dirt track while the trailer, roaring behind like an angry dinghy, tries to swing the truck off the road. It's not restful.

We saw some wonderful country—high forest, scrub, hills and plains. It rained hard, and we nearly hit a cow, driving like mad through the storm to reach our night stop before dark, our shirts off (to keep them dry in the open truck) and the windscreen down. We slept in a haunted rest house, in the African Police Quarters at Kpandu (fortified by the District Commissioner's beer) and in the road engineer's dining room. We got through on the wireless in spite of that nameless Officer's hand at the key, at ranges up to 200 miles. The aerial was just a bit of wire 100 feet long slung on a tree, of mean height about 6 feet, which would have made the School of Signals gnash its teeth and throw away the pamphlet. We entertained the locals at our two-hourly halts to call on the wireless, with music from Radio Lagos, which gave us the prestige of "big fu-fu." We climbed a hill too steep for comfort, and were rewarded with a view of the River Volta a thousand feet below, with a sweeping plain beyond and forested hills behind that took our breath away, and exhausted our film. We had some first-class beer in a thoroughly low bar at the Senchi Ferry. In short, we had a hell of a time.

EAST AFRICA COMMAND SIGNAL SQUADRON

Since last writing, the Unit has been packing up to move to their new camp and unpacking again because the move has been postponed.

Both Officers' and Sergeants' Messes have re-opened in a small way, but rather with the thoughts that as soon as they are comfortable again the order to move will be given.

Our Commanding Officer, Major H. G. Brett, M.B.E., will be leaving us in the near future, and his place will be taken by Major J. J. H. Swallow, B.SC., A.M.I.E.E., at present with C.S.O. Branch.

New arrivals to the Unit include Sergeant Porter and Sergeant McLeod, Corporal Davies and, we hear, our old friend Sergeant Dodsworth is likely to reach here again. Sergeant Pearson has joined the Mess on promotion.

We have said farewell, or are about to say it, to Sergeant Hughes, Sergeant Pugh, S.Q.M.S. Turner, Sergeant Jacques, Sergeant Gilmour, and Corporal Turner. We hope to get replacements.

SIGNAL WING, EAST AFRICA TRAINING CENTRE

We were all very sorry to see Captain Vero, S.Q.M.S. Brown and Lance-Corporal Jeffrey return to England in March. Hockey in the East Africa Training Centre will seem strange without Captain Vero's lanky figure chasing the ball. S.Q.M.S. Brown was seen studying the map of the world just before he left. He said that he had been abroad so long that the cold of England would kill him. Sergeant G. R. Booley finishes his service shortly. He is taking local release in Uganda. Signalman Lile is taking leave on a farm in the danger area. The farmers look after our boys well and are most grateful to have an armed man about the place to help counter the ever-present threat of Mau Mau.

The Long Rains have started. It is always surprising how quickly they transform the dusty barren scrub into lovely green meadows so reminiscent of home. The dust vanishes, the temperature drops and everyone feels much more happy and cheerful.

Because of the Mau Mau emergency, the K.A.R. Battalions have their signal resources stretched to the limit. As a stop-gap measure we are running signallers' mates courses. The idea is to teach Africans, in a few weeks, how to handle the WS 88, WS 31 and WS 22, morse at slow speeds and the rudiments of voice and W.T. procedure. We were all a bit shattered when we discovered that some of our first customers could not read nor write and, in some cases, did not know the alphabet in any language let alone English! However, we are not dismayed and eventually hope to hear that somewhere in the wilds of the Aberdare Forest the "mate" took over in the middle of receiving a long Op. Immediate so that the regular wireless operator could go and clear traffic on the jungle drums.

We have been inspected twice recently. Firstly, by the Governor of Kenya, Sir Evelyn Baring, and then by Major-General Hull, Chief of Staff, M.E.L.F.

Far East Land Forces

H.Q. SINGAPORE BASE DISTRICT

This month we have had returned to us from the "Far West," Corporals Lee Kim Ann and Abdul Bin Shabram and Lance-Corporals Nachimondor Fatnavelu and Ibrahim Bin Arsalah, who have been to U.K. on an O.W.L. Instructors' Course. They are all very full of the wonderful sights they saw in England and Germany. They are on leave now probably trying to explain to an interested audience what a London "tube" is! We are hoping to get them to write a combined article next month about their trip.

Old members of the Regiment will remember Mr. Abel, our civilian pay clerk, who was always so efficient in that capacity. After many years with us he has now been promoted to a Grade I appointment in G.H.Q. FARELF. We are sorry to see him go. His going has, however, provided us with Sergeant Grist, R.A.P.C., in the post of Pay Sergeant, whom we welcome to our ranks.

Congratulations to Lance-Corporal Wainwright on obtaining his Corps Colours (F.E.) for rugger.

The cricket season has now begun and we are still under the handicap of not having our own ground. We have, however, managed to have some very interesting Squadron games, and 2 Squadron again seem to have the batting strength.

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19 AIR FORMATION SIGNAL REGIMENT

The chief item of interest this month has been the closing down of the Officers' Mess, A.H.Q., Malaya, and the move of the Regiment's Officers to the Station Mess. The old Mess is now a transit camp, and goes by the official name "Changi Creek," which has given rise to a certain amount of vulgar comment.

Cable laying is still proceeding in fine form, in spite of the shortage of money for S.W.S. projects. We have also succeeded in locating a couple of pre-war cables, which have been put to new use, and it has become necessary to add another position to the M.D.F.

One result of all this activity was that we dug up two six-inch guns that had been buried before the Japanese occupation. There was some talk of mounting them outside the C.O.'s office, where they would have made a very impressive show, and would have put us above those people who only have Crimea War cannon or Japanese field guns. However, we found them quite impossible to lift, even after borrowing a crane from the R.A.F., and we regretfully had to report them to a higher authority who insisted on a Quartermaster taking them on charge.

One of our major projects is now nearing completion, and Lieutenant Earl and his merry men are now working 24 hours a day to complete the wiring in time. Mr. Reeves, the G.P.O. engineer, whose fine beard is one of the Changi tourist attractions, is beginning to look somewhat happier than he has for the past several months.

Non-signalling activities are taking up most of our time at present. Rehearsals for the Coronation parade have brought out a blossoming of No. 3 Dress on loan from Ordnance, swords are being dug out of retirement and polished.

The District Rifle Meeting is in full swing, and the Regiment has made a promising start, aided by such stalwarts as S.S.M. Dickson and Sergeant Langham.

Australian Notes

Britcom Base Signal Regiment

This month's report on the activities of Britcom Base Signal Regiment is a slight departure from the usual form. Included are two photographs which may arouse nostalgic thoughts in the minds of many who have been associated with the Regiment, both Royal Signals and Royal Australian Signals.

On 13th March, Lieutenant-Colonel E. C. R. Blaker, Command Royal Signals 1 Commonwealth Division, visited the Regiment and was very interested in the installations at Kure and Hiro.

Basketball and Rugby continue to dominate the sporting stage, but the tennis players and cricketers have been limbering up in preparation for their coming activities, and the Regiment is preparing a new cricket pitch. March was a month of varied fortunes for the footballers and basketball players, both teams suffering one defeat during the period. One very interesting feature was the International Basketball Knockout Competition played between representatives from the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, U.S.A. and Japan. All players were drawn from Units in the Kure area and some exciting matches were played. Signals were well represented in the Australian team but went down to a good team of local Japanese boys in the first round. The U.S.A. team finally ran out as the winners by defeating the Canadian team in the final match.

Some Royal Signals members will recall:—

Captain John Donaldson, who served with Royal Signals from September 1942 to November 1951, and is now a member of the Australian Regular Army and Chief Cipher Officer, B.C.F.K.

Lieutenant John O'Donnell, with Royal Signals from January 1941 to January 1947 and now also a member of the Australian Regular Army and serving with Britcom Base Signal Regiment.

Signalman D. S. G. Cadle, a member of Royal Signals from June 1945 to June 1948, who is also serving with this Regiment.

N.T. Command

Members of N.T. Command Signal Squadron and Detachment 101 Wireless Regiment have been to the fore in the sporting life of the Command, as will be seen from the following notes.

R.H.Q. Building

Hockey

Sergeant Fearne and Signalman Thompson represented the Army in the local hockey competition, and Signalman Thompson played a big part in the 3—0 win of Combined Services (N.T.) against the N.T. Hockey Association team.

Football

Corporal Gracey, Signalman Casey, Signalman Swansborough, Signalman Jenner and Signalman Hammond have played in the Army Rugby team on various occasions during the season. Signalman Casey received many congratulations on his recent effort of scoring his first try in ten years!

Softball

While not winning the local Wednesday afternoon competition, Signals performed creditably to run third to the strong Artillery team.

C.M.F. Camp

Annual C.M.F. Camp for N.T. Command Signal Squadron was held from 13th to 26th April at Berry Springs—38 miles south of Darwin. Berry Springs will be remembered by troops who served in this area during the 1939-45 War as a rest camp.

Training

The first combined exercise between Artillery and Signals in this area since the late war was successfully carried out in March when N.T. Command Signal Squadron and 26 Medium Coast Battery combined in a night searchlight and signal exercise. Experience in the operation of sets in small-craft at night was obtained by Squadron members.

Central Command

Many Australians and U.K. readers (particularly the speedway fans) will be interested to learn that Signalman John Oram, of 1 Troop, 3 Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment (Citizen Military Forces), Keswick, has been selected to ride at St. Austell track in Cornwall, England, this year.

Two of his recent successes have been third in the South Australian championships at Rowley Park, and third in Victorian championships at Maribynong.

We wish John the best of luck and hope that any readers who happen to be in the vicinity of Cornwall will contact him and make him feel at home.

Sergeant Reg Polling, who joined us last year, has now obtained his discharge and is employed as Security Officer at General Motors Holdens at Birkenhead, near Port Adelaide.

Reg, an ex-U.K. Signals Officer, served in IV Corps (Burma) and later with S.L. of C., Arakan Coast, during the 1939-45 War. He would like to hear from any old acquaintances who can contact him at above address.

Sergeant Polling's posting has been taken over by Sergeant O'Reilly, recently returned from service with 1 Australian Observer Unit in Malaya and Singapore.

We wish to record our congratulations and best wishes to Signalman Ross McAlister, who was married recently.

"T" Command

In this, the first contribution to THE WIRE from Tasmania, we should perhaps give you an insight into the C.M.F. Signal Units in this State. Firstly, we should like to advise that, despite all the wisecracks about the size of Tasmania from our friends on the mainland of Australia, we do not think that it is necessary to mention the fact that our geographical position is approximately 160 miles south of Victoria. One of the earlier jokes about "Tassie"—there not being enough

The Signal Office and some of the 25 teletype equipment

room on the island to form fours—has been superceded, and the latest seems to be that the telephone cable under Bass Strait to Victoria is the only thing that prevents us from floating away.

There are two C.M.F. Signal Units in Tasmania, namely, Tasmania Command Signal Squadron in Hobart, and in Launceston we have 6 Field Regiment Signal Troop. Both of these Units are commanded by Officers who were in the C.M.F. prior to the last war.

We have recently completed a very successful 14-day camp at Mona Vale, and were honoured by a visit from the Director of Signals, Colonel L. J. Bruton, while we were doing a 3-day exercise in the field.

Officers of the Signal Units had formal mess at Campbelltown during the camp. This was the first formal mess held by Signals in Tasmania since the formation of the C.M.F. in 1949.

We would like to mention here that in Tasmania we have a very active Signals Association, regular meetings and socials are well attended. A reunion is held on Anzac Day at "Beaumaris," Training Depot of "T" Command Signal Squadron. Ex-members of the Corps look forward to this day, 25th April, when they gather to have lunch and exchange anecdotes and reminiscences after paying homage to the comrades who fell in the world wars.

In saying *au revoir*, we hope that enough information is available for us to become regular contributors to THE WIRE.

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BRITCOM COMMUNICATION ZONE SIGNAL SQUADRON

The exchange of sick and wounded prisoners of war in Korea gave the Squadron the task of handling the official news of the release of the Commonwealth prisoners by the Communists. During the period of the exchange, despatch riders with Advance Field Records carried the particulars of each man released to the Signal Office, where simultaneous transmissions were made over an exclusive wireless link and by teletype to the War Office and Dominion Governments. The unusual duplication of identical messages was ordered by an over-anxious staff for reasons of beating the Press rather than a manifestation of no confidence in our accuracy. We have learned we beat the Press by many hours and that in most cases the next-of-kin received the glad tidings within four hours of handover at Panmunjom. An all night chase involving our D.R.s and those of Commonwealth Divisional Signal Regiment to procure a piece of D.C.M. ribbon enabled Major-General West to make the presentation to Fusilier Hodkinson as he was about to board the aircraft at Seoul for

L/Cpl. R. B. Edwards

Japan. The Commander-in-Chief, British Commonwealth Forces, has awarded his Certificate of Service to Lance-Corporal R. B. Edwards for his fine example and leadership in fighting the fire which destroyed the Commonwealth Ordnance laundry in Seoul. Five other members of the Squadron were also commended. Plans are advanced to participate in the Forward Maintenance Area athletic sports on Coronation Day. A church parade will also take place.

Release of Sick and Wounded Prisoners of War in Korea

The following details which are of some interest have been extracted from two letters from an Officer of Britcom Communication Zone Signal Squadron, who were responsible for the signal communications concerned in the announcement of the names of the British released prisoners of war.

IN "Freedom Village," number, rank, name, Unit, and a brief diagnosis of each was released by A.G. Branch, 8th Army, to a representative of the Field Record Office, who put the particulars into message form. A waiting despatch rider took the message to Advanced Headquarters, British Commonwealth Forces, for authorisation and thence to the Signal Office for onward transmission.

Apart from some Australian press traffic the historic prisoner of war exchange has caused no real upset to the normal signal system.

The cable and wireless clearances to U.K. were something less than thirty minutes. We beat the press easily.

As far as the ex-prisoners themselves were concerned, most were in much better shape than was expected. The British were noteworthy in that they were happy and smiling and ready to laugh and joke. Although all released prisoners wore the same sort of uniform it was easy to pick out the British by their rosy cheeks and easy manner. I could get no news of our five Royal Signals prisoners.

T.A. and A.E.R.

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

At the time of writing the Phantoms are enjoying the blessing of fair weather for the first week of annual camp at Walton-on-the-Naze. With a full muster of all ranks we are looking forward to a continuation of the present fine spell to include our two long exercises, Regal Prelude I and II. Apart from exercises in our tactical role, intensive training is being done by those members of the Regiment who are taking part in the Coronation route communications.

Our role in the Coronation will be to co-ordinate the start of the procession and we will have the honour of providing the control station and six of the sub-stations over which the vital messages will pass. Control will be by remote working from the peers' stand outside the Abbey, where the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel D. C. Cocks, will transmit the starting signal. Along the route this will be relayed by Detachment Commanders by visual signals and amplifier to the waiting troops.

At the end of Coronation Week we will be holding a dinner and ball at the Park Lane Hotel to commemorate this great event in the life of the nation and the Regiment.

61 H.Q. ARMY SIGNAL REGIMENT (T.A.)

A Radio Club has been formed and is active on the 80-metre band on Tuesdays and Fridays from 2000 to 2200 hours. It is supervised by the Signal Officer of the local Cadets, ably assisted by Sergeant Dodds. Although the club is not restricted to Service personnel, we are keen to have as many Signal members as possible and we hope that anyone in the Bedford area will come along to see us.

Later in the year we hope to operate on speech, but in the meantime listen for our call sign G3HLE on CW.

The presence in Bedford of many members of the R.A. Signal Troops from other Centres enabled a successful social evening to be held when we were pleased to see many members of the R.A. in our Social Club. The inter-Regimental co-operation was excellent and continued during the next day's exercise.

A.E.R. DEPOT AND TRAINING CENTRE, ROYAL SIGNALS

National Service officers and men now on full-time service will be well advised to keep a close eye on these notes in future, especially those who know that their part-time service will be served in an A.E.R. Unit. Sooner or later they will find themselves in Blacon Camp for their annual fortnight's training.

From 28th March to 11th April, I Signal Construction Regiment, A.E.R., spent a busy period with us. They were lucky in that they had fine weather for their fortnight except the first day of their two-day exercise. That day the linemen, who worked very well indeed in spite of the weather, and the cooks, who turned out excellent meals cooked in the open, had everybody's admiration.

52 L. of C. Signal Regiment, A.E.R., were even luckier in their period from 18th April to 2nd May. They had fine weather during the whole of their stay here. A large contingent went to the Hereford area to take part in a large-scale exercise with 53 (W) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A. The A.E.R. Unit supplied the communications for Control and Neutral Signals and reports are that they put up a very fine show.

Those left at Blacon Camp mounted their own exercise, which was later amplified on the return of the contingent from Hereford. Altogether, they had a busy and instructive fortnight.

Lest anyone should form the impression that it was a fortnight of all work and no play, we hasten to point out that 52 L. of C. Signal Regiment enjoyed one concert and one All Ranks' Dance during their stay, both very successful functions which reflect great credit on the organisers. The general atmosphere throughout was one of happy reunion, which in many cases it was.

Just to mention a few whose names may still be known to those serving, Lance-Corporal Jamieson (once of Villach Signal Troop, B.T.A.) turned up with 1 Signal Construction Regiment, A.E.R. In 52 L. of C. Signal Regiment, A.E.R., Sergeant Wragg, of 3 Training Regiment football fame (Captain "Bob Wragg," please note), and Signalman Povey, once of Klagenfurt Signals, turned up.

So far, the Depot and Training Centre has not been mentioned. As is usual, the Depot personnel work flat out preparing for Regiments coming in, assisting them while here and then start all over again preparing for the next Regiment. Modesty forbids that we say any more. Perhaps more news of the permanent staff's activities may be forthcoming in our next notes.

Association Notes

Sheffield

Owing to a last-minute hitch in arrangements the May meeting was held at the New Inn, Wadsley Bridge, our usual meeting place not being available. A shuttle service was run from Crabtree T.A. Centre to the New Inn by the members with cars. So with a lot of co-operation and good-humoured chaff everyone was safely conveyed, but Mr. Dixon and the treasurer, Mr. Taylor, had the misfortune to run out of petrol and arrived an hour late.

However, a pleasant evening was had by all, the ladies giving the men a trouncing in a drawing game. Some of the drawings had the "unknown political prisoner" beat to a frazzle. I wonder how much we could raise on Lieutenant-Colonel Gardiner's "Caesar"?

Final arrangements were made by the contingent going to Catterick for the reunion, and the committee are getting down to the details of the Coronation Party. We would still like to see more members turning up for these meetings with their wives or girl friends. They are sure of a welcome.

Sports

RUGBY NOTES FROM CATTERICK—1953

Rugby has flourished at Catterick since Christmas although a break occurred in early February owing to a heavy fall of snow and severe frost.

On 11th January the Corps side visited Aldershot and stayed with 2 A.A. (M) Signal Regiment for a game versus R.E.M.E. at Arborfield on Monday, 12th January, followed by a game against R.M.A. (Sandhurst) on Wednesday, 14th January. Both were very enjoyable and close matches, where the play was of a high standard. R.E.M.E. were defeated by 14 points to 8, whereas the Sandhurst game resulted in a defeat by 3 points to 9.

The Army selectors were present at the R.E.M.E. match and were so impressed by the play of Second-Lieutenant Lazenby and Second-Lieutenant Dakers that both were picked as the halves for the Army v. Oxford University game on 24th January.

However, with the return to fitness of that splendid half-back, Lieutenant Dennis Shuttleworth (D.W.R.) later in the season, Second-Lieutenant Dakers lost his place in the Army side, as did Second-Lieutenant Lazenby after an indifferent game against the Civil Service.

We had, however, four Army Caps in the Army v. Navy, Army v. R.A.F., and Army v. French Army matches, viz.: Second-Lieutenant Ian Thompson (Scotland), Corporal R. J. Robins (Wales), Signalman T. Brewer (Wales) and S.Q.M.S. Rees. Others who played for the Army XV were Second-Litutenant Oliver, Signalman N. Mackie and Signalman J. A. Turner. Signalman T. Higgins—the Lancashire blind side wing forward—was unlucky not to gain an Army Cap as he broke his thumb a fortnight after joining. He and Signalman W. Boston look certain to stake strong claims for Army Caps next year.

Those of us who knew him were shocked to hear of the sudden death of J. K. Williams, the Lancashire and England Trial and International reserve forward. Second-Lieutenant J. K. Williams captained the first Signal XV to win the Army Cup in 1947-48, and he was an excellent captain, a first-class player, and was very popular with all members of the team and a wide circle of Rugby players.

As a preparation for the R.E. Corps match which, this year, was an "officers only" affair, a fixture against Otley was arranged on the Central Ground, Catterick Camp, on 17th January. The officers' side were leading throughout, but Otley scored twice in the last five minutes and won by 18 points to 15. On 21st January, a re-arranged officers' side, captained by Major Fred Rapsey, gave an excellent display and defeated the Royal Engineers on the United Service Ground at Chatham by 14 points to 3. The Director of Signals, Major-General W. O. Bowen, C.B., C.B.E., attended the match, and the official guest night after the game, given in honour of the teams, was attended by Major-General W. A. Scott, C.B., C.B.E., Major-General C. M. F. White, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., Brigadier R. J. Moberley, O.B.E., and Senior R.E., R.N. and R.A. officers. It is proposed that these officers' fixtures, followed by a guest night, shall be an annual affair, taking place alternately at Chatham and Catterick. For the information of Senior Royal Signals officers, the next Royal Signals (officers' XV) v. Royal Engineers (officers' XV) has been arranged for Wednesday, 11th November, 1953, at Catterick.

On 14th February, the Corps side visited Oxford to play the University Greyhounds. Unfortunately, the ground was covered by a sprinkling of overnight snow, but a good game in the miserable conditions was won by the Corps side by 5 points to nil.

St. Andrew's University were defeated on 25th February by 11 points to 6. The Corps team were very hospitably accommodated and entertained after the match by the University.

On 11th March, 1 Training Regiment, Royal Signals, regained the Army Challenge Cup by defeating the Welsh Guards (the holders and winners of the B.A.O.R. competition) by 35 points to nil before a large crowd at the Military Stadium, Aldershot.

Playing with the wind in the first half, a score of 3 points to nil after 35 minutes' play seemed hardly enough, and a further try converted only left a margin of 8 points in Signals' favour at half-time.

On the resumption, a beautifully kicked penalty, against the wind, by Lance-Corporal Dunn seemed to encourage 1 Training Regiment to give a delightful exhibition of football, and the Welsh Guards were completely outplayed. For Signals, Lance-Corporal Boston scored six tries and Corporal Lyall and Lance-Corporal Griffiths one each, and

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PROMOTIONS

CORPORAL — TRADES ROSTER

Seniority 1st April, 1952

Colbert	J. D.	19142692	Q	5521A	10044

Seniority 31st December, 1952

Sims	B.	14186743		6374	10005
Leggett	C. W. J.	02549278	Q	6375	10006
Nallon	W.	14681194	Q	6376	10012
Alexander	A. E.	22212209		6377	10016
Bayliss	J. H.	21005761	Q	6378	10019
Levins	M. J.	22242105	Q	6379	10030
Green	J.	22265021	Q	6380	10033
Hayes	G.	02548939	Q	6381	10035A
Lavis	J.	21053588		6382	10041
Harvey	S. D.	22203258		6383	10046
Stowe	P. D.	22229248		6384	10054
Armstrong	R. W.	19191386		6385	10056
Sopp	I.	02549328	Q	6386	10079
Walrond	G.	21005653		6387	10080
Eggleton	W. G.	22242570	Q	6389	10083
Hastie	E. W.	5961669	Q	6390	10091
Morris	R. O.	14069002		6391	10095
Anderson	J. W.	22248260		6392	10099
Skinner	G.	22242109		6393	10101
Davies	L. L.	22242508		6394	10120
Riley	L.	21182431	Q	6395	10126
Semple	A.	14185065		6396	10151
Townend	L.	21188367		6397	10164
Eaton	D. A.	22204284		6398	10165
Morris	D.	22265104		6400	10181
Seddon	H.	22243174		6401	10185
Embury	D. L.	22248491	Q	6403	10195
Guest	J. H.	22255082	Q	6404	10199
Georges	R. T.	22288248		6405	10211
Bennett	H. R.	22003746		6406	10212
Doe	E.	14478331	Q	6407	10215
Hadfield	K.	21181758		6408	10216
Hughes	D.	22212772		6409	10220
Coulton	K. R.	22200813		6410	10240
Lawson	C.	22275285		6411	10244
Riley	A.	22288425		6412	10248
Short	J. E.	22265084		6414	10259
Basey	R. B.	22255067		6415	10264
Mason	G. H.	22287749		6416	10268
Pedder	J. C.	22265448	Q	6417	10276
Burnett	R. D. J.	19040137		6419	10286
Coupland	F.	22200939		6420	10304
Jays	R. H.	22202516		6421	10305
Petrie	A. W.	22212873	Q	6422	10306
Palman	M. E. J.	22276087	Q	6423	10310
Seare	L. G. H.	21182250	Q	6424	10312
Ferris	J. S.	22285410		6425	10336
Ayres	R. A.	22230293		6426	10343
Drage	J. C.	21182580		6427	10344
McNamee	K. T.	22231046		6428	10345
Murray	N.	22076349		6429	10347
Sacree	B. R.	22200464	Q	6431	10366
Fugill	A. B.	22249576		6432	10367
McKell	W. B.	22265959		6433	10368
Norris	J. O. H.	02339518		6434	10373
Ward	R. G.	22285272		6435	10375
Buckroyd	C. P.	04279007	Q	6436	10379
Golding	P. B.	21127981	Q	6437	10381
Donovan	G.	22515193	Q	6438	10385
Westrep	M. L.	22232345		6439	10388
Filder	E. S.	21187056	Q	6442	10406
Cox	D. G.	22248857		6443	10408
Goddard	S.	22265093		6444	10409
Mercer	L.	22265905	Q	6445	10410
Jones	R. M.	22265571		6446	10412
Magee	D.	22515130	Q	6447	10416
Stevenson	R.	22265624	Q	6448	10421
Layton	D. G.	14449060		6449	10432
Williams	D. H.	14965507		6451	10446
Geere	D. J.	22212233		6452	10453
Hill	A.	22242440	Q	6453	10464
Morris	J. A.	22305818		6454	10471
Trigg	K. A.	21128436		6455	10474
Barnfield	A. G.	14186567		6456	10478
Oakley	H. F.	22272385		6457	10480
Griffiths	R. S.	22288707		6458	10482
Gilks	F. L.	15002523		6459	10483
Billing	D. J.	22232787		6460	10484
Constable	F. C.	22191886		6461	10485
Cummings	H. M.	22305247		6463	10490
Quirey	A. J.	21127650	Q	6464	10494
Preece	D. A.	21022092		6465	10495
Thompson	T. H.	22276363		6467	10502
Shaw	J.	22265470		6468	10509
Mannion	P.	22286089		6469	10510
Ruffels	R. H.	22242675		6470	10513
Savins	D. R.	02547269		6471	10522
Hearns	H. E.	22248169		6472	10525
Cowdroy	P. R.	22306978		6473	10526
Law	A. W.	22286559		6474	10527
Bates	S. J.	21128889		6475	10529
Scott	V.	21005450	Q	6476	10536
Williams	J. A.	22246599		6477	10537
Horwood	W. H.	22265323		6478	10539
Bowles	W. E.	02328257		6479	10541
Henry	L.	22242956		6481	10543
Wilson	D.	22515539	Q	6482	10544
Tarbath	G. B.	22096434	Q	6484	10556
Wakefield	W. C.	22296721		6485	10559
Howard	K. C.	22242083		6487	10562
Taylor	R. L.	22212956	Q	6488	10564
Landymore	W. D.	21130060		6489	10570
Turner	K.	23025079		6490	10582
Hudson	G. L. P.	02549029	Q	6491	10584
Wilson	D. C.	22203149		6492	10585
Biddell	G.	22212874		6493	10586
Bennett	R. E.	21182576		6495	10604
Wilde	J. B.	02549651	Q	6496	10606
Kent	K. D.	22242107		6497	10608
Burns	A.	22272339	Q	6498	10611
Studholme	H.	22249081		6500	10616
Walton	D. C.	22525110	Q	6501	10619
Humphreys	K. R.	22515413		6502	10622
Latham	E. S.	22239160	Q	6504	10626
Sadler	P.	22306273		6505	10627
Hunt	A. A. E.	02549532	Q	6507	10631
Wilson	A.	22242459		6509	10634
Crocker	M.	21187878		6510	10639
Pilkington	T. C.	21024343		6511	10642
Moynan	D. M.	02549617		6512	10653
Pettit	J. A.	22515719		6513	10655
Tipton	G. J.	21182184		6514	10659
Hibberd	R. W.	21128777		6515	10660
Duffey	K. F.	22308737		6516	10666
Blacklock	J.	22288102		6518	10667
Seaman	P. D.	22539682	Q	6519	10672
Simmons	J. W. G.	22288636		6520	10674
Knowles	K.	22203445		6521	10679
Harding	S.	02326889	Q	6522	10682
Newsham	D.	14475645		6523	10690
Laidlaw	D.	22288669		6524	10691
Fletcher	P. R.	22272275	Q	6526	10695
Langthorpe	S.	22273948	Q	6527	10696
Beddingfield	W. J.	22515111	Q	6528	10701
Hatcher	A. P. G.	22539892	Q	6529	10705
Waterworth	K. A.	22296242		6531	10708
Forster	R. H.	22242841		6532	10713
Coyne	A.	19034163	Q	6533	10720
Butler	A. F.	22247165		6534	10724
Taylor	H. E.	22307945		6535	10730
White	D. G. O.	02549621	Q	6536	10737
Peat	A. W.	22155176		6537	10742
Berry	J.	22539162	Q	6539	10750
Morgan	T.	22229043		6541	10761
Brunsdon	P.	02549622		6542	10764
O'Connor	M.	22111551	Q	6543	10781
MacDonald	G. S.	02549584	Q	6544	10784
Goodridge	R.	22308061	Q	6546	10788
Holden	R. W.	22249575	Q	6546	10795
Collen	D. J.	22273463		6547	10799
Williams	F.	22212358		6548	10801
Inglefield	M. S. C.	02549021		6549	10805
Pitters	K. B.	22242842		6550	10810
Nichol	S. B.	22540144		6551	10811
Waring	G. H.	22250606	Q	6552	10814
McFaul	D. P.	22264375		6553	10820
Sellars	A.	22525170	Q	6555	10822
Nock	R. A. G.	22265076		6557	10835
Grinnell	J. L. S.	22265129		6558	10836
Beadle	K.	02549669	Q	6559	10838
Parker	D.	22288399	Q	6560	10840
Merryweather	G. E.	22522716		6561	10841
Meehan	J.	22539459	Q	6562	10842
Lander	R.	22242807		6563	10845
Metcalfe	P. F.	22523422	Q	6564	10849
Hall	L. C.	22097195		6566	10853
Rowed	W. G. F.	22200872	Q	6567	10856
Benstead	T. J.	22229106	Q	6568	10859
Shepherd	J.	22250603	Q	6569	10861
Renouf	A. J.	22538632	Q	6571	10865
Dodgson	T. K.	02549670	Q	6573	10871
Worsdale	W. F.	22296577		6574	10873
Windle	J.	22547431	Q	6575	10876
Goldthorpe	R.	22547595	Q	6576	10877
Hylands	R. L.	22212693		6577	10878

Morris	J. E.	22248099	Q	6579	10884
Brown	K.	22538558		6580	10885
Crook	J.	22540795		6581	10890
Almond	J.	22515774	Q	6582	10892
Slade	P. A.	21005831		6584	10902
Moss	W. W.	22546999		6585	10904
Watson	C. T.	22249950		6586	10905
Nicholson	A.	21128585		6587	10908
Dignan	F. P.	22272569		6588	10909
Hall	D. R.	22275752		6589	10910
Kerr	J.	22524054		6590	10911
Harvey	L. H.	22523172	Q	6591	10913
Corr	F. C.	02549702		6592	10917
Gill	P.	22242357	Q	6593	10918
Gwynne	W. G.	14191893	Q	6595	10924
Bunston	K.	22307882	Q	6596	10926
Hale	J.	22538498	Q	6597	10928
Parkin	D.	22060028	Q	6598	10929
Gentry	C. R.	02549644		6599	10934
MacDonald	M. A.	22273730		6600	10935
Short	E. M.	02549567	Q	6601	10936
Alderson	W. T.	22524863		6602	10938
Paul	G. M.	22309417		6604	10948
Fox-Roberts	P.	02549712		6606	10953
Raynor	S. J.	22524990		6607	10954
Wright	H. E.	22242577		6608	10955
Gladden	P. C.	22156529		6609	10966
Tabb	C. O.	22515063		6610	10973
May	E. J. B.	22548293	Q	6613	10980
Fernie	P. J.	22296705		6614	10987
Cross	A. E.	21181543		6617	10998
Reed	M. J.	21013391	Q	6618	10999
Geer	R. L. G.	22306202	Q	6619	11005
Whitehead	N.	22231410		6620	11008
Armitage	J.	22099189		6621	11009
Proudfoot	J. R.	22539893		6622	11012
Camwell	C. V.	22522360		6623	11013
Fisher	B.	02549749		6624	11015
Curtis	G. E.	02549330	Q	6625	11017
Proud	W.	22287549		6627	11019
Cooper	W.	22538502	Q	6628	11021
Irons	A. J. E.	22296021		6629	11025
Middleton	S.	02549544		6630	11027
Sherman	P. B.	02549634		6631	11031
Ross	A. M.	02327911		6632	11032
Prince	N. J.	22541388		6633	11035
Stagg	W. C.	02549703		6635	11038
McCartney	S. W.	22546286	Q	6636	11042
Townshend	K. J.	14190822		6637	11043
Carnley	W.	22540633	Q	6638	11046
Gummet	T. W.	22547227	Q	6639	11047
McKay	A. Y.	22239628	Q	6640	11049
Davis	F.	22307881		6641	11050
Birmingham	J. G.	22548567		6642	11053
Clarke	V. J.	22242186	Q	6643	11054
Thomson	J.	22537500	Q	6644	11055
Gemmell	R.	22548633		6645	11058
Baldock	J. F.	22308765		6646	11059
Stow	A. J.	22525810		6648	11062
Beresford	B. C.	22522182		6650	11065
Jones	P.	22522511	Q	6651	11066
Mowat	G. K.	22287584		6652	11070A
Hardy	B. C.	02549572		6653	11072
Cowan	W.	22515772		6654	11075
Hurn	A. L.	22546770		6655	11076
Osborne	R. G.	22547164		6656	11077
Murphy	J. T.	22522279		6657	11078
Wilkinson	B.	22223944		6658	11081
Duke	W.	22538224		6660	11086
Allen	R. D.	22550959	Q	6661	11087
Mackness	W. H.	04976111		6662	11088
Parry	S. C.	02549539		6663	11094
Sloane	K.	21074023		6664	11096
Greaves	G.	22285640		6666	11102
Maynard	R. A.	22242456		6667	11106
Howard	A. G.	21182726	Q	6668	11112
Pay	E. W.	22546144		6669	11115
Halliday	J.	22049998		6670	11117
Lambert	K. J.	22048483		6671	11125
Crosbie	K. J.	22192571		6673	11130
Doyle	M. V.	22265388		6674	11131
Smith	T. C.	22515547		6675	11136
Culmer	J. H.	22536888		6676	11137
Barnard	W. E.	22202116		6677	11139
Bailey	E.	22265720		6678	11140
Cropp	E. C.	21181971		6680	11144
Haley	T.	22280627		6682	11147
Meyer	R. C.	22265014		6684	11149
Tregurtha	J. E.	22288332		6686	11158
Miller	J. A.	22515904	Q	6687	11160
Page	R. A.	22018250	Q	6688	11161
Franklin	J. E.	22537198		6689	11164
Gregory	R. T. G.	15002556		6690	11165
Cunningham	J.	22539273		6692	11168
Chappell	J. A.	02327523		6693	11169
Jones	C. J.	02549020		6694	11170
Birnie	J. D.	22276986		6695	11172
Jacques	F.	02325476		6696	11174
Wellington	W. J. H.	22296295	Q	6697	11177
Brown	R.	22247728		6698	11181
Freeman	D. J.	02549772		6699	11182
Murray	R.	02549765		6700	11183
Rodger	R.	22161588		6701	11184
Scambler	R.	22542314	Q	6702	11187
Gowman	A. H.	22255004	Q	6703	11188
Parrott	E. J.	02549590	Q	6705	11197
Hendry	J.	22525333		6706	11203
Hook	K. B.	22389785	Q	6707	11204
Brock	F. A. W.	22212357		6708	11206
Stacey	H. T.	22526718		6709	11209
Donovan	F.	22542249		6710	11210
Wilson	D. M.	22242869		6711	11212
Knox	A.	22306708		6712	11213
Benson	R. W.	22212877		6713	11215A
Spear	D. G.	22262882	Q	6714	11219
Walker	C.	22242142		6715	11220
Robinson	J. W.	22515527		6716	11221
Mitchell	S.	22549741		6717	11222
Dudderidge	M. F.	22272064		6718	11225
Spoors	D.	21187875	Q	6720	11233
Whitford	A. R.	22540010		6721	11237
Bolling	J.	21005089		6722	11240
Burrows	R.D.	02549320		6723	11241
Dix	W. E.	22285606		6724	11242
Bower	D.	02549640	Q	6726	11240
Bourgoise	M. J.	22296064		6727	11255
Tooth	J. T.	22036980	Q	6728	11256
Rowson	E. L. L.	22242757	Q	6729	11260
Millar	S. T.	02548665		6731	11267
Smith	R.	22242455		6732	11272
Audley	W. D.	22242573		6734	11275
Morris	J.	02549759		6735	11277
Clark	F. J.	22309517	Q	6736	11281
Buxton	H. A. L.	22248098		6738	11283
Insch	A. M.	22305972	Q	6739	11284
Hilder	M. A.	22308102		6742	11292
Melksham	J. E. F.	22265082		6744	11301
Brill	S. G.	22281905	Q	6745	11302
Postlethwaite	R. G.	22542375		6746	11303
Ross	G. W.	22546442		6747	11304
Flint	B. J.	02549520		6750	11316
Watkins	P. J. M.	22537099	Q	6751	11319
Heacock	J. E.	22548216		6752	11320
Robinson	E.	22190317		6753	11322
Kerton	H. A.	22548789	Q	6754	11323
Aldous	R. W.	22296157		6755	11329
Maple	J.	22357256		6756	11332
Lawson	T.	22548345		6757	11335
Twelves	G. G.	21005169		6758	11339
Wilson	F.	22275585		6759	11340
Spurgin	A. H.	22242353	Q	6760	11342
Devanney	P.	22242460	Q	6762	11345
Rose	J. B.	22242140		6763	11351
Tonks	J.	22542121	Q	6764	11351A
Oates	J.	02328141		6767	11355
Calvert	E.	22204312		6768	11356
Adams	D.	22212034	Q	6770	11361
Southgate	T. H.	14441343	Q	6772	11371
Gibbs	G. J.	22287507		6773	11373
Downs	T.	22540458		6775	11376
Cochrane	C. C.	22540226	Q	6776	11380
Emery	D. F.	22305881		6777	11382
Ellis	A. J.	22242738		6778	11383
Nichols	K.	22541828	Q	6779	11384
Harvey	H. W.	22296966		6780	11385
Barnfather	J.	21187753		6781	11387
Carrington	J.	22547760	Q	6786	11404
Dadswell	J. D. M.	02326589	Q	6787	11404A
Willis	J. C.	22246031	Q	6790	11414
Bird	A. W.	22539465	Q	6791	11417
Dack	B. V.	22522463		6792	11420
McGarry	J. E.	22287969	Q	6793	11424
Tweedie	K. W.	22308767		6794	11430
Hughes	M. J.	22522324		6795	11431
Burke	T.	22540013		6797	11434
Tookey	H. J.	22265911		6798	11436
Harrison	G. E.	22306009	Q	6801	11449
Saunders	S.	22265236		6802	11451
Collins	H. A.	22515934		6803	11452
Brown	R. E. G.	22158084		6804	11453
Mead	J. C.	22560174		6805	11459
Heeley	R. A.	22515291		6806	11467
Brough	B.	22306977		6807	11468

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Lance-Corporal Dunn converted five tries and kicked a penalty goal.

The exhibition of open Rugby given by 1 Training Regiment was perhaps the best ever seen in the final and, although the Welsh Guards played a vigorous game throughout and their forwards were good in the line-out and loose, Signals were better in every phrase of the game and ran up the record score in a final of 35 points to nil.

On the Saturday prior to the Army Cup Final, Signals were knocked out of the Yorkshire Cup by Goole Grammar School Old Boys, who ultimately reached the final. With four players away playing for the Army v. Navy, and others being rested in view of the Army Cup Final, a number of reserves had to be brought in and these proved inadequate, with the result that Goole Grammar School Old Boys won a surprise victory by 14 points to 11.

The season concluded with a victory over Billingham on 11th April by 10 points to 3 and a defeat by Percy Park 8 points to nil. In the Percy Park match, Signals were not at full strength and some indifferent tackling and a weakness at stand-off half, due to the absence of Second-Lieutenant Lazenby (playing in the Middlesex Sevens), led to our downfall.

An enjoyable seven-a-side competition at Huddersfield was won by Heriot's F.P., who beat Royal Signals in the final 12—6 after an exciting game. Royal Signals defeated Rochdale, Headingley and Huddersfield on their way to the final.

The season was finally wound up at Huddersfield on 27th April by the visit of Nim Hall's International XV v. Huddersfield, strengthened by the inclusion of several guest players. Lance-Corporal Boston scored two fine tries for Huddersfield, who had Ray Cross (Yorkshire) and Dickie Durrans—two ex-Signals—playing for them, while Corporal R. J. Robins (Wales) figured in the International side. Lieutenant-Colonel R. W. Atkinson, O.B.E., and Major G. M. Fraser were present at the dinner to the two teams, attended by the Mayor of Huddersfield, the Yorkshire County Committee, and other well-known sportsmen, after the match, and Colonel Atkinson responded to the complimentary remarks made about the Royal Signals Rugby Football Club.

The record of Royal Signals (Catterick) Rugby Football Club, including Corps matches, reads:—

Played 24. Won 16. Lost 6. Drawn 2.
Points for 311. Points against 191.

The above includes a defeat by Otley, 8—50, when, owing to the fact that the majority of Rugby players were in Edinburgh watching Scotland v. Wales, a very weak side was sent to Otley. The best wins 1952-53 were those against Melrose, Oxford University Greyhounds, St. Andrew's University, R.E. and R.E.M.E.

The following shows the progress of 1 Training Regiment, Royal Signals, in the Army Challenge Cup:—

1st Round	Beat 68th Training Regiment, R.A.C.	49—0
2nd ,,	Beat 2 Training Regiment, Royal Signals	76—3
3rd ,,	Bye.	
4th ,,	Beat 58 Medium Regiment, R.A.	46—0
5th ,,	Beat No. 6 (Boys) Training Regiment, Royal Signals ...	26—3
6th ,,	Beat 10 (Trades) Training Regiment, R.E.	56—0
Semi-final	Beat 1 Training Battalion, R.A.S.C.	28—6
Final	Beat Welsh Guards	35—0

Played 7. Won 7. Lost 0.
Points for 316. Points against 12.

CORPS HOCKEY

Royal Signals v. Royal Engineers

The game was played at Gillingham on 31st January. It was cold and a strong wind blew all the time. The Sappers attacked from the whistle and kept up steady pressure on our goal. Dawson made good saves but the Sappers netted two. We attacked and forced three short corners, but were unable to score. The Sappers went further ahead with a good movement, but just before half-time Sidney was unlucky when he ran through and netted but it was not allowed. In the second half we had more of the game and both Smith and Driskol had near misses, but the Sappers added another goal after a good movement down the right wing. Before the final whistle Sidney dashed through to score our only goal.

Players were: Lientenant Dawson, Signalman Nickerson, S.Q.M.S. Smythe, Lieutenant Heyes, Officer/Cadet Douglas, Corporal Brewer, Second-Lieutenant M. Williams, Sergeant Matthews-Lane, Second-Lieutenant Driskol, Second-Lieutenant Smith, Captain Sidney (captain).

Season's Report

Corps Matches: Won 1; drawn 1, lost 3.
Catterick Signals v. R.A.C. Catterick: Won 4—2.

This year we have not been so successful as last, and the hockey trials held at Catterick last October were disappointing due to the small numbers nominated. It is hoped that next year more nominations will be put forward.

We were fortunate to find some good young players in Lieutenant Heyes, Officer/Cadet Douglas and Lance-Corporal Nickerson, who supported Lieutenant Dawson, Captain Griffiths and Captain Garnons Williams in the defence. The forward line had good wings and Captain Gordon Smith to lead them, but we never found an inside, in spite of individual successes.

Two of the fixtures had to be cancelled due to weather conditions.

Major C. B. Minns has umpired most of the games and has been ably supported by Captain Howard and Captain Jordan.

H.Q. 2 AIR SUPPORT SIGNAL UNIT

Since our last notes in February, the accent has been on exercises, which included numerous Unit training exercises and five major Staff exercises. Our tentacles travelled far and wide in the desert, where they won fresh laurels for maintaining round-the-clock communications, although some tentacles were deployed in other than their normal role.

Since the Unit reassembled the recently joined O.W.L.S. have got down to a concentrated course of individual training.

In reply to 1 A.S.S.U. (B.A.O.R.) query on the "Red Hand Terror Strikes in Tunis" (March WIRE Notes), may we say we are definitely in the clear. Such "peacetime" stations are not our luck.

Our sporting activities have been very few, but we hope to do well in the South Canal Water Polo League commencing this month.

ROYAL SIGNALS (SINGAPORE) RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

Report on the Season 1952-53

The Club once again suffered from the lack of Regimental playing fields with the result that Regimental and Corps training was severely hampered. The Units and Sub-Units on Singapore Island are widely separated and the opening of the season found only G.H.Q. Signal Regiment with the nucleus of a team.

Consequently it was decided to forego all attempts at producing Regimental teams and instead to field a Corps "A" XV, thus giving all potential players more chances of learning the game and thence graduating into the Corps XV.

This policy produced a reasonably successful Corps XV and a not-so-successful but, nevertheless, highly enjoyable "A" XV. Figures never tell the full story, but the results of the season are reproduced below for the record.

	Played	Won	Lost	For	Against
Corps XV ...	12	6	6	106	72
"A" Corps XV	8	1	7	40	75

The results of the Corps matches would undoubtedly have been better had we not lost the services of some of our "star" players selected for senior representative matches on the same days and, due to that bugbear of Services Sport, posted and detached. However, a large number of Corps representatives will be with us next season and we hope for more successful results.

The annual fixture with Royal Signals Malaya was played in Singapore on 3rd January. After a hard-fought but very enjoyable game our visitors won by 9 points to nil. We shall do our utmost to avenge this defeat next season at Kuala Lumpur.

At no time was there ever a firm Corps XV so, in fairness to all, those who played for the Corps XV during the season are listed below:—

Forward
Lieutenant Seymour, Singapore District Signal Regiment.
Lieutenant Mercer, Singapore District Signal Regiment.
S.Q.M.S. Randall, Singapore District Signal Regiment.
Lance-Corporal Farrer, Singapore District Signal Regiment.
W.O.II Kemp, G.H.Q., Signal Regiment.
Signalman Potts, G.H.Q., Signal Regiment.
Signalman Butler, G.H.Q., Signal Regiment.
Corporal Allen, 19 Air Formation Signal Regiment.
Signalman Thomas, 19 Air Formation Signal Regiment.
Signalman Bowden, 19 Air Formation Signal Regiment.
Signalman Wilson, 19 Air Formation Signal Regiment.
Corporal Slather, A.W.C. Signal Squadron.
Signalman Edwards, A.W.C. Signal Squadron.
Signalman Killick, Royal Australian Signals.
Signalman Casey, Royal Australian Signals.
Lance-Corporal West, Royal Australian Signals.

Backs
Major Fairman, Signal Branch, G.H.Q. (capt.).
Lieutenant Smith, G.H.Q., Signal Regiment.
Lieutenant Luker, G.H.Q., Signal Regiment.
Sergeant Clarke, G.H.Q., Signal Regiment.
Corporal Steeple, G.H.Q., Signal Regiment.
Signalman Thomas, G.H.Q., Signal Regiment.
Signalman Anderson, G.H.Q., Signal Regiment.
Lieutenant Sumner, Singapore District Signal Regiment.
Signalman Wainwright, Singapore District Signal Regiment.
Signalman Wilde, Singapore District Signal Regiment.
Signalman Harris, Royal Australian Signals.
Corps Colours (F.E.) for this season have been awarded to:—
Major D. D. Fairman.
Lieutenant V. S. Smith.
Signalman Killick.
Signalman Wainwright.
Signalman Harris.

Major A. J. Clarke and Captain L. P. Clayton, as president and secretary of the Rugby Football Sub-Committee respectively, have by their energy and keenness organised Royal Signals rugger in Singapore very successfully for the last two years. In addition, Captain Clayton, who is also the secretary of the Singapore Society of Rugby Union Referees, was selected to referee some of the most important matches played in Singapore and the Federation of Malaya, namely, the final of the Malaya Cup, Fijians v. H.M.N.Z.S. *Bellona,* and Fijians v. Singapore.

THE ROYAL SIGNALS OFFICERS' GOLFING SOCIETY SPRING MEETING, 1953
Held at Pannal, Harrogate, on 23rd and 24th April, 1953

THE weather in Harrogate on 23rd and 24th April was perfect for golf, and the 24 Officers of the Society who met at Pannal to do battle took full advantage of it—the good condition of the course and the excellent eating in the Clubhouse. When the first couple drove off from the first tee a moderate breeze was only fluttering the Corps Flag on the flagstaff, and the general opinion was that good scores should be returned.

The Autumn Meeting, 1952, was dubbed Keeling's Meeting because he won all the events except the Foursomes Challenge Cup. At Pannal, Second-Lieutenant R. B. Carroll almost equalled this effort by winning all the events except the Individual and Foursomes Challenge Cups on the first day, and this is in a field which included Keeling. Carroll is in the latest intake from the R.M.A. (Sandhurst), and judging by his performance at the Spring Meeting his name is likely to appear on the golfing trophies for years to come with great regularity.

The first day's play gave little indication of the clean sweep to come. Carroll, with 36 points in the morning round, won the Junior Officers' Individual Challenge Cup, but was only third equal in the Open Individual Challenge Cup. Major J. W. Wardman won this event with 40 points and Captain O. J. Peck was runner-up with 38. It is interesting to note that last year this event was won at Catterick with a score of 31 points. This year such a score was only worth a placing of eleventh equal.

If the play in the morning had been good, the afternoon produced even better scores. The Foursomes Challenge Cup was won by Brigadier W. C. V. Galwey, O.B.E., M.C., and Second-Lieutenant J. Copestake with a score of 40 points. This combination of experience and youth, long handicap and short, put up an excellent performance. Receiving eleven strokes and achieving only one birdie, Copestake's length, welded to the accuracy of the Brigadier, produced an extremely steady round and a popular win. Runners-up were Lieutenant-Colonel H. B. Somerville and Captain C. Robinson with 38 points. So high was the scoring in this event that a total of 36 points only achieved fifth place.

The second day of the meeting dawned bright and clear, but although the weather remained kind it was less friendly than the day before and there was more wind. The golf, too, was more austere; that it was less lighthearted was obvious from the drop in takings at the halfway house which, conveniently placed between the 7th and 10th greens, had done a brisk trade on the first day; one distinguished Officer had, in fact, called in twice in one round with a resultant marked improvement in his golf. The fact that most of us were taking our game more seriously was probably responsible for the poorer scores returned by most of the longer handicapped players, but at the end of the morning's round, although Carroll had a clear lead in the scratch events, in the handicap his score of 71 had been equalled by Lieutenant-Colonel H. B. Somerville and Major E. J. Buirski, and there were seven more within four strokes. The afternoon was the real test, however, and it was now that skill began to count. Carroll was off early after lunch to reach the turn in two under fours. Coming home he continued to play excellent golf, not dropping a stroke till the short fifteenth where he missed the green with his tee shot. He finished with two birdies in the last three holes to be home in 35 for a total of 69 on a course of which the standard scratch score is 72. An extremely fine performance. His score for the 36 holes was 143 gross and 137 net. He was clearly a worthy winner and it was obvious that no one could catch him. His partner for the day, Lieutenant-Colonel G. S. K. Maydon, had the interesting experience of going round in four over par without having the honour of a single hole. His total of 157 gross and 145 net placed him second in both scratch and open events, and Second-Lieutenant M. V. Keeling also produced a 145 net. The rest of the field struggled on, not knowing that all was over bar the shouting, and some idea of the general fairly high standard of performance is given by the fact that in all sixteen players had net scores of 157 or better.

All that remained was for us to thank Pannal Golf Club for their excellent course and the first-class hospitality afforded us in their clubhouse—as the captain said, we were given a better welcome than most clubs give more important meetings—and to decide to return again to Pannal for next year's spring meeting. Brigadier F. B. L. Gray, D.S.O., O.B.E., presented the prizes.

The Royal Signals Individual Challenge Cup, Spring Meeting: Major J. W. Wardman.

The Royal Signals Junior Officers Individual Challenge Cup, Spring Meeting: Second-Lieutenant R. B. Carroll.

The Royal Signals Foursomes Challenge Cup, Spring Meeting: Brigadier W. C. V. Galwey, O.B.E., M.C., and Second-Lieutenant C. J. Copestake.

The Royal Signals Championship Challenge Cup, Spring Meeting: Second-Lieutenant R. B. Carroll.

The Royal Signals Open Championship Cup, Spring Meeting: Second-Lieutenant R. B. Carroll.

The Royal Signals Handicap Challenge Cup, Spring Meeting: Second-Lieutenant R. B. Carroll.

Cornish	A. J.	21005077		6808	11470
Hall	E.	22039334	Q	6809	11471
McDonald	W.	22296382	Q	6810	11475
Freeman	D.	22550743		6811	11476
Reading	E. W.	22296364		6812	11481
Cullum	N. D.	22212861		6813	11482
Jones	T. C.	22242685		6814	11483
Preece	J. M.	22246079	Q	6815	11484
Wright	G. H.	22246035	Q	6816	11485
Cassling	R. N. L.	22246064		6817	11487
Lee	J.	02549764		6818	11488
Nevison	J.	22296489	Q	6819	11491

INSERTIONS

Robinson	S. R.	14185077	Q		5251A
McKay	H.	22569866			5262A
Cunion	N. W.	19038018	Q		5382
Harwood	T. E.	21182472	Q		5778
Burgess	A.	21005162	Q		6100A
Parker	N.	14158417	Q		5402A
Waller	J.	22569920			6225A
Roberts	D. R.	22212334			6240A
Powell	J. P.	22569834			10031A
Inch	M. A.	21005249			10110A
Price	L. H.	22242531			12621A
Howe	B.	22246047	Q		13741
Mullen	W. J.	22522557			10586A

PROMOTIONS

S.Q.M.S — FOREMAN OF SIGNALS

Seniority 31st July, 1952

Webb	J. A.	02549336	Q	754A	5532
Sharp	G. A.	02548652	Q	755A	10459

Seniority 31st December, 1952.

Stiles	R. C.	02572732		757	1361
Hooper	C. G.	02599785		758	1721
Bowden	D. A.	02547264		759	1901
Thompson	R.	02323699		760	2004
Ribchester	N.	02548945		761	2279
Shelley	R. L.	22212742		762	2296
Morrison	H.	22212313		763	5592
Davis	W. G.	02549473		764	5614

PROMOTIONS

SERJEANT — CIPHER ROSTER

Seniority 31st December, 1952

Greenwood	P. L.	19031373	Q	1387	5013
Saunders	J. B.	02547770		1388	5017
Garvey	F. P. R.	02548683		1389	5018
Young	A. J.	02603389		1390	5024
Arnold	E.	14957327		1391	5033
Hesketh	C. E.	22201927	Q	1392	5041
Palmer	C. W.	21126462	Q	1393	5046
Tuley	G. J.	22247988		1394	5051
Longhurst	S. C.	22249756		1395	5056
Mitchell	R.	22272447		1396	5058
Haines	T. E.	02549713	Q	1397	5062
Davies	C.	22204550		1398	5063
Connor	A. G.	22265661		1399	5066
Kelly	J. A.	02549568	Q	1400	5070
Rodger	K.	22287671		1401	5079
Sugg	C. D.	22290426		1402	5082
Hill	E. W. G.	22294791	Q	1403	5083
Pilkington	J. S. P.	22314875	Q	1404	5084
Murray	J. R.	22307840		1405	5100
Seymour	B. T.	02549490	Q	1406	5109
Massie	A. D.	22538128		1407	5115
Clark	D. M.	22537084		1408	5120
Chambers	D.	22306665		1409	5130

INSERTIONS

Ewing	A. C.	02339505		1304C
O'Connor	F. J.	02326668		1300A
Pollard	L.	14460793		1357A

PROMOTION

CORPORAL

Seniority 31st July, 1952

Curtis	A. G.	22204313		5186A
Duffy	O.	22308697		5187A
Ambler	N.	22546616		5199B
Frost	P. G. F.	27005210		5199C
Pursell	D. G.	22979357		5202A
Raynes	E. G.	22032145	Q	5227B
Rendell	S. D. A.	02258855		5245A
Friend	T.	02060858		5255A
Pepper	G. F.	22590537		5261A
Whittome	R. J.	22509348		5265A

Seniority 8th August, 1952

Dean	R. C.	22628346	5285A
Graham	C. S. J.	22629052	5285B

Seniority 26th August, 1952

Moore	T. A.	02622238	5302A

Seniority 19th September, 1952

Robinson	E. J.	22605856	5308A

Seniority 17th October, 1952

Robins	R.	22605415	5311

Seniority 31st October, 1952

Irving	R.	22660156	5312A
Peters	T. J.	22660121	5312B

Seniority 31st December, 1952

Gracey	K. W.	22390309	5313
Snape	D.	22541110	5314
Daley	J. W.	22542002	5315
Brimble	K. C.	22478795	5316
Church	L.	22575652	5317
Coe	R. W.	22584424	5318
Keighley	D.	22590508	5319
Thompson	P. W.	22579108	5320
Maiden	R. L.	22607432	5321
Page	R. E.	22605410	5322
Mellin	G. D.	22773214	5323
MacKenzie	J. C.	22627139	5324
Brain	M. W.	22588359	5325
Ient	J. E.	22296837	5326

INSERTIONS

Barnes	G. G.	19043890	5020A
Bosomworth	G.	21005371	5075A
Sugg	R.	22289727	5209A
Dignan	T. T.	22612609	5266A

GENERAL DUTIES ROSTER
PROMOTIONS

CORPORAL

Seniority 31 December, 1952

Moffat	D. F.	21005109	5029	10011
Last	P. E.	22097252	5030	10019
Davis	A. J.	22526850	5031	10025
Taylor	J. W.	22525328	5032	10026
Jeffries	F. W. G.	19041355	5033	10045

LANCE-CORPORAL

Seniority 31st December, 1952

Bailey	M.	22265213		10151
Edwards	D. W.	22479388		10152
Harris	P. J. T.	22629088		10153
Seymour	J. W.	22497884		10154
Luffman	H. T. W.	22212463		10155
Russell	L.	22541095		10156
Trueman	D.	22494424		10157
Hill	G. W.	22639595		10158
Berry	T.	22665296		10159
Brennan	T.	22606122		10160
Newman	L. J.	22495922		10161
Gibson	J. M.	22525655		10162
Jones	G. H.	22635627		10164
Cork	T. F.	22674678		10165
Jolly	D. C.	22641476		10166
Solomons	E. M.	06215491	Q	10167
Bone	H. C.	22212005		10168
Wilton	G.	22684696		10169
Braithwaite	D. A.	22662479		10171
Gibson	A. W.	22648298	Q	10172
Evans	C.	22645926		10173
McCulloch	J. A.	22796482		10174
Hill	G.	22670700		10175
Olive	M. J.	22472744		10176
Gallop	E. A.	22504298		10177
Larmer	K.	22498117		10178
Ringer	J. A.	22221073		10179
Rogers	N. W.	22691244		10180
Gardiner	A. R.	22542250		10181
Mahon	J.	22681151		10182
McCabe	J. J.	22231847	Q	10183
Mills	V. A.	22587765		10184
Shire	H. C.	22612277		10185
Hill	S.	22650055		10187
Felton	H. J.	22498636		10190
Tompkins	J.	22486366		10191
Wootton	A.	22659519		10192
Dracup	R.	22212644	Q	10193
Wallace	G.	22604684		10194
Sutton	R. L.	22587131		10195
Froggatt	J.	22657417		10196
Bray	J. G.	22479385		10197
Turner	F. W. A.	22597130		10198
Cook	W. C.	22582344		10199
Heaver	G.	22591588		10200

Bird	R. W.	22649716		10201
Whitaker	D.	22645390		10202
Milsom	V. L.	22698214		10203
Hassall	C.	22704732		10204
Boxall	D.	22306620		10205
Maxwell	J. P.	22265427		10206
Taylor	H. J.	22616638		10207
Perrett	F. J.	22682986		10208
Cameron	J.	22693223		10209
Bellwood	D.	22638657		10210
Gibson	R.	22624106		10211
Whitehead	D.	22683584		10212
Goodwin	W. A.	22691233		10213
Sowerby	A.	22634805		10214
Thomas	D.	22695427		10215
Evans	R.	22486213		10216
Thornton	K. G.	22620323		10217
Bushnell	M. D.	21022101	Q	10218
Rutter	F.	22688737		10219
Langton	C.	22542187		10220

DELETIONS

0328	5842	10703	11851	12552	13446	14161
0817	5869	10721	11862	12553	13447	14190
0830	5875	10729	11908	12573	13464	14200
1321	5882	10734	11917	12586	13489	14201
1521	5904	10751	11934	12604	13493	14203
1615	5920	10806	11948	12608	13494	14205
1750	5944	10829	11949	12624	13495	14241
1835	5949	10867	11959	12657	13496	14242
1888A	5954	10893	12003	12670	13499	14243
1986	5958	10907	12004	12685	13526	14244
2038	5960	10912	12005	12705	13527	14245
2046	5969	10919	12008	12706	13530	14246
2173	5994	10946	12028	12707	13534	14247
2201	5997	10969	12029	12741	13542	14248
2236	6006	10976	12057	12742	13548	14251
2250	6038	10983	12060	12773	13563	14277A
2252	6076	10996	12067	12777	13572	14304
2287	6082	11026	12072	12778	13591	14307
2290	6089	11064A	12109	12785	13592	14312
2299	6098	11122	12114	12793	13691	14320
2301	6148	11127	12120	12841	13709	14328
2312	6163	11185	12124	12842	13721	14330
2351	6206	11198	12129	12843	13722	14331
2376	6210	11327	12138A	12848	13728	14332
2493	6217	11353	12146	12877	13736	14333A
2517	6248	11379	12152	12955	13737	14367
2523	6273	11381	12153	12982	13784	14379
2548	6280	11460	12160	12989	13792	14386
2565	6347	11504	12163	13019	13800	14387
2581	6437	11577	12178	13031	13801	14402
2641	10004	11578	12180	13032	13803	14407
5018	10021	11597	11208	13041	13804A	14441
5028A	10055	11606	12222	13069	13859	14452
5127	10085	11615	12231	13070	13860	14469
5137	10110	11628	12253	13071	13861	14478
5157	10132	11637	12261	13086	13862	14489
5188	10188	11642	12264A	13104	13898	14517
5199	10201	11651	12265	13105	13899	14547
5212	10228	11671	12270	13106	13923	14559
5317	10247	11681	12271	13113	13944	14585
5318	10250	11682	12274	13166	13945	14586
5344	10271	11683	12305	13167	13959	14587
5363	10296	11688	12306	13186	13964	14589
5398	10326	11708	12309	13224	13980	14592
5447	10331	11708A	12320	13226	13986	14613C
5498	10363	11709	12344	13230	13991	14614
5499	10365	11710	12370	13253	14000	14637
5500	10370	11711	12382	13256	14001	14663
5517	10374	11712	12403	13285	14002	14669
5536	10380	11725	12413	13289	14002A	14676A
5542	10390	11734	12422	13299	14038	14677
5555	10391	11735A	12432	13343	14046A	14702
5556	10392	11740	12445	13344	14056	14711
5559	10448	11741	12457	13345	14099	14712
5630	10465	11765	12465	13351	14112	14725
5660	10487	11788	12485	13355	14113	14726
5686	10520	11808	12496	13385	14131	14727
5722	10555	11809	12512	13386	14140	14756
5750	10646	11812	12532	13406	14147	14772
5762	10698	11814	12550	13415	14159	14781
5835	10699	11850	12551	13428	14160	15074

CIPHER ROSTER

225C	1314	1347	1354	5072	5177	5180
240	1338	1349	5043	5174	5178	

F. of S. ROSTER

212

GENERAL DUTIES ROSTER

5005	10004	10033	10082	10122	10144	10146
5019	10013	10057	10091	10141		

ADDITIONS

TRADES ROSTER — ADD "Q"

286	6055	10341	11259	12326	13051	13629
386	6178	10440	11261	12480	13160	13631
959	6278	10553	11754	12561	13260	13631A
2100	0318	10644	11818	12610	13366	13948
5122	6342	11020	11945	12613	13448	13975
5301	6354	11110	12020	12692	13459	14013
5304	6534	11239	12181	12940	13574	14020
5878	6734	11258	12221	13012	13604	

GENERAL DUTIES ROSTER—ADD "Q"

10008	10020	10209

CIPHER ROSTER—ADD "Q"

1309	1358	1407	5059	5064	

F. of S. ROSTER—ADD "Q"

718	736	738

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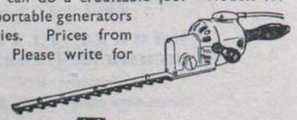

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THE WIRE

The Corps Magazine of the
ROYAL SIGNALS
The Official Organ of the
SIGNALS ASSOCIATION

Editor:
BRIGADIER 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.*

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☆

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☆

PRICE ONE SHILLING

Editorial

BIRTHDAY

ON the 28th June, 1920, Sir Winston Churchill, then Secretary of State for War, published "by His Majesty's Command the Royal Warrant authorising the formation of the Corps of Signals."

We are now 33 years old. By human standards we are in the prime of life; experienced, proved in battle; successful as never before in sport and with the highest of reputations for our work.

Thus for Royal Signals still in uniform they do well and all are proud of them. The Association, too, has reached maturity; there are over 20,000 life and fully-paid annual members and the numbers in both categories are growing steadily. While THE WIRE is being printed, a great number of Royal Signals not now in uniform will demonstrate their loyalty to their Corps and their Queen at a review of ex-Service men and women in Hyde Park.

* * *

There is another side to the picture. Great numbers, over 100,000, served Royal Signals during the last great war, and many more thousands have passed through our ranks since then. It is understandable that some few of all of these have since failed, usually through little fault of their own. A majority of appeals to the Benevolent Fund are caused by ill-health, causing sudden loss of wages. The fund, where it hears of such cases, is often able to help by making good some part of the loss and by giving the ex-Signalman and his family an opportunity to make a fresh start.

* * *

The money in the main comes from a fund set up as a result of the generosity of those who served during the war, and such a large sum was provided that in all probability provision has been made for the needs of those who served before the end of 1946.

There remains the problem of the post-war soldier. Numerically, the greater part of the problem is the National Service man. Most of them are very young, unmarried, and with the major problems of life before them. As has been said, those who served during the war have made proper provision for those of their generation.

There is no real evidence, as yet, that the post-war generation are doing likewise. In May, THE WIRE posed a question. How much would the present generation subscribe to the Benevolent Fund in 1953?

In 1952, 30 Regiments and independent Squadrons gave £1,100, or about one-third of the requirement. The unpleasant truth is that this sum was subscribed by only about one-third of those now serving. The remainder gave nothing at all.

The figure asked for in 1953 is £3,000, and if ALL Signal Regiments subscribed even 50 per cent. of what is now given by the generous few we should be well on our way to getting it. The amount subscribed during the first half of 1953 is only £800. Will YOU see what you can do to raise the balance—£2,200?

* * *

The Balance Sheet and Income and Expenditure Account and a Report of the Annual General Meeting of the Association are on pages 220-226

Signal Communications on the occasion of The Coronation of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

[*Courtesy: Fox Photos, Ltd.*

The Royal Signals detachments which provided the communications for the control of the processions and the firing of the salutes for the Coronation of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on June 2nd, 1953

THE article which appeared in the June issue of THE WIRE explained some of the preparations which were being made for putting into operation the intricate Signal Communication plan which had been drawn up to cover the requirements of Coronation Day.

This great event has now passed into history, but it will still be of contemporary interest to readers to hear something of the way in which Royal Signals entered the final phase of what was, in effect, a magnificent joint operation; that they acquitted themselves in a manner in keeping with the majesty of the occasion must be a source of great satisfaction to all concerned.

On Friday, 29th May, the concentration took place in Kensington Gardens Camp of the major part of the Royal Signals force which was to provide communications for the processions, and for firing the gun salutes. Exceptions were, of course, the "out-station" Detachments of 23 (S) Corps Signal Regiment (T.A.) for duty at H.M. Tower of London and Windsor Great Park Saluting Batteries, which moved direct to quarters at those locations. The Detachments for Kensington Gardens Camp, including those drawn from the London District Signal Troop, 16 Airborne Divisional Signal Regiment (T.A.) (Middlesex Yeomanry), Army Phantom Signal Regiment (T.A.) (The Kensingtons), 2/20 (E.A.) Army Signal Regiment (T.A.), and 23 (S) Corps Signal Regiment (T.A.), provided an impressive sight as they moved into camp in succession with their specially fitted vehicles (mostly British jeeps, or "Champs," as they are frequently called).

Saturday, 30th May, was a day of considerable activity so far as the Signal Detachments were concerned. A briefing conference for all Officers and Warrant Officers, conducted by the Chief Signal Officer, London District, occupied most of the morning; this briefing dealt with every aspect of the communication plan, down to the precise time and route by which every vehicle should move into its position, in order to ensure that every individual taking part should know exactly what was required of him. The remainder of the day was at the disposal of Detachment Commanders, for briefing vehicle crews and preparing for the final Signals rehearsals which were to take place early on the following day.

At 0415 hours on Sunday, 31st May, with the sun just rising, the long stream of seventeen "Champs" moved out from the camp to take up their action stations, with the Command vehicle of The Kensingtons moving rather more sedately to its allotted place in the enclosure at the rear of the stand opposite Westminster Abbey. Even at this early hour the traffic round Parliament Square was quite considerable, and it was evident that many sightseers had decided to forego a night's sleep in favour of having a look at the Coronation route and anything of interest which they could find.

The Command Vehicle was in due course moved into its appointed place and the remote controls and telephone instruments at the Signals Control Point in the front of Stand 70 (opposite the Royal Entrance to Westminster Abbey) were connected. This Signal Control Point consisted of a cabinet built by the Ministry of Works into the fabric of the stand, which could conveniently house the various instruments: Remote control for the WS 52 in the Command Vehicle, telephones to the Army "procession" switchboard and to the C.S.O.'s control point in the Abbey (Triforium), telephone to the roof of Buckingham Palace (R.A.F. control point for the Fly Past).

By 0600 hours the traffic past Westminster Abbey resembled that in Piccadilly Circus during the rush hour; reports received from Signal Detachments at points such as Hyde Park Corner and Marble Arch indicated that it was just as bad there, since the parties of marching troops who were practising over the procession route had brought normal traffic to a walking pace. In at least one instance, the Metropolitan Police asked for permission to use the Public Address Set on the Signals vehicle in an attempt to control the crowds of sightseers.

After the large wireless group had been sufficiently exercised in netting, group working and changing over to a standby frequency, the start of the procession from Westminster Abbey was practised. As has been described in a previous article, orders from the Signals Control Point, by wireless and line, gave the Signal Detachments their "cues" to display the signs for "Stand by" (red and white disc) and "March" (blue and white signal flag); these were accompanied by appropriate orders transmitted by the vehicle P.A. set.

The start was correctly signalled during this rehearsal, and the two vehicles of 56 (L) Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment (T.A.)—representing the "head" and "tail" of the procession—moved away from their forming-up places. An imaginary mishap to a carriage in St. James's Street was duly reported by Detachment No. 7, and after a short pause the route was reported all clear and the two mobile vehicles continued on their way. By this time the traffic density was so great that it was decided to end the rehearsal when the "procession" was only half-way round the route, and Detachments closed down and returned to Kensington Gardens Camp feeling that they had earned a hearty breakfast.

At 1145 hours all those concerned with the signal communications for firing gun salutes were in their respective positions and ready to rehearse the procedure for passing the signal on which the salutes would be fired. The C.S.O. London District, assisted by Captain A. Begg, was in the soundproof cubicle which had been specially built in the Triforium of Westminster Abbey, overlooking the Coronation Theatre; the No. 53 wireless set installed at the Horse Guards was remotely controlled from the Triforium, and gave group working to the distant sets at H.M. Tower of London, Hyde Park and Windsor Great Park.

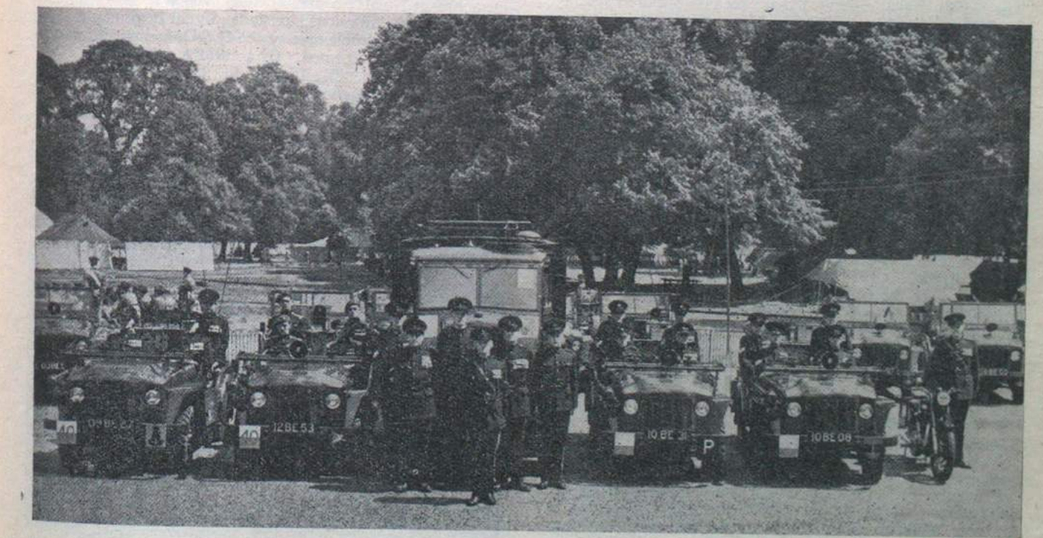
A G.P.O. Multiphone switchboard in the Triforium position gave direct connection to the same points, with facilities for multi-call working, and also included facilities for speaking to the Chief Marshal through Detachment No. 18 at Storey's Gate, and to the Signal Control Point in Stand 70. The C.S.O. London District had attended the dress rehearsal of the Coronation Service in Westminster Abbey on 29th May in order to check the timing of the actual crowning: he was therefore able to use this timing as a basis for the signals rehearsal, which followed it as closely as possible.

The morning of Monday, 1st June, was devoted to final checking of equipment and polishing of vehicles, after which the C.S.O. London District made a short inspection which was followed by photographs taken by THE WIRE photographer (in practically the last sunny weather before the end of the Coronation!).

In order to ensure that the signals vehicles were in their operational sites on the procession route before the police barriers were placed in position and the crowds became too dense, the plan provided for these to move into position at 2300 hours on 1st June. All Detachments therefore moved out from camp at 2200 hours, taking with them Guards drawn from the Kensington Gardens Signal Troop (5 Corps Signal Regiment), who were to be responsible for safeguarding the vehicles during the night. In the event all went well except in the case of Detachment No. 4 in Trafalgar Square. Here the crowds were already so dense that the vehicle could not be driven into its proper position, and had to be lifted bodily with the aid of the police.

At 0700 hours on 2nd June all the Signal Detachments for the processions were transported in R.A.S.C. vehicles to their "action stations" on the route, including those for the "To" Procession, which it will be remembered were situated on the Victoria Memorial (outside Buckingham Palace) and in The Mall near the Admiralty Arch respectively. A special platform had been constructed for the latter by the Ministry of Works in order to ensure a position free from interference and from which the visual signals could be readily seen.

At 0900 hours the first of the processions to Westminster Abbey—that of the Colonial rulers—gave the dense crowds their first impression of the glittering pageantry which was to follow, and in succession went the procession of the Prime Ministers, the Princes and Princesses of the Royal Blood, and of Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother. By 1015 hours the Queen's Procession—consisting almost entirely of Household Troops—was drawn up throughout the long length of The Mall, and the stage was set. At 1023 hours Major C. H. Golden, at his position on the Victoria Memorial, received



[*Courtesy: Fox Photos, Ltd.*

Representative detachments of the Regiments who provided the communications for the Coronation procession and the firing of the salutes. From left to right: 56 (London) Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment (T.A.), 16 Airborne Divisional Signal Regiment (T.A.) (Middlesex Yeomanry), 23 (Southern) Corps Signal Regiment (T.A.), Army Phantom Signal Regiment (T.A.) (Princess Louise's Kensington Regiment), 2/20 (East Anglian) Army Signal Regiment (T.A.)

the sign for "Stand by" from the Household Brigade Staff Officer in the Palace forecourt. This was immediately transmitted to the head of the procession, and the red and white signal discs were simultaneously hoisted. Exactly on time, the State Coach, drawn by its eight Windsor Greys, drew out from the Quadrangle at 1026 hours, and the signal "Procession march" was given. The entire procession moved forward to the accompaniment of the bands positioned throughout its length, and the first task of Royal Signals had been successfully accomplished.

While this was taking place, the "From" procession wireless group had been established, and mobile Signal Detachment No. 16 (head of procession) had reported to the C.R.A.S.C. to provide a means by which the movement of R.A.S.C. lorries delivering haversack rations to the troops lining the route could be co-ordinated. As soon as the "To" procession had cleared Trafalgar Square on its way to Westminster Abbey, an R.A.S.C. Liaison Officer with Signal Detachment No. 4 reported by wireless to the C.R.A.S.C., and the convoys of ration lorries were despatched to their various parts of the route. The signal system provided facilities covering breakdown emergencies during this phase, but happily the need did not arise for these to be used.

Meanwhile, the C.S.O. London District in the Triforium had been receiving reports which indicated that all Signal Detachments on the route were in good communication and experiencing no difficulties, with the exception of No. 4 at Trafalgar Square, where the pressure of the crowd was becoming so great that the operators could work only with difficulty, and the vehicle was bending under the strain! A call was therefore put through to Scotland Yard, who promised to call upon Police and Army Reserves in order to restore the situation. These arrived with commendable speed, but had considerable difficulty in moving several thousand spectators, all of whom displayed a reluctance to being moved, which was quite understandable. A space was eventually cleared round the vehicle by a ring of police officers shoulder to shoulder, who placed their feet against the vehicle and levered themselves backwards. During the course of the day the Officer-in-Charge of the Detachment, Major J. Rawlinson (The Kensingtons), estimated that over one hundred spectators became casualties by sheer pressure of the crowd at this point, and had to be handed out over the vehicle to the waiting St. John Ambulance men nearby.

In the Abbey, the Coronation Service, with all its solemn and majestic ritual, was keeping almost exactly to its planned timing, and at 1224 hours the C.S.O. transmitted to H.M. Tower of London the "Ten minutes" warning that they should stand by; a similar message was passed to Hyde Park and Windsor Great Park at 1229 hours, at which time the Archbishop of Canterbury was placing the Ring upon Her Majesty's finger. At 1233 hours, by which time the Sceptre and Rod and been delivered to Her Majesty, the signal "Flag up" was transmitted, and all Saluting Battery Signal Detachments raised their blue and white flags and waited for the critical signal. At 1234 hours the word "Fire" came simultaneously over the wireless and line channels from the Triforium, the flags were dropped, and the first guns boomed out their message that Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II was crowned; a Yeoman Warder at the Tower of London who was watching the television broadcast of the Coronation Service was heard to say, "I told you so—the Royal Signals are on this job," as he saw the Crowning and heard the nearby guns of the Honourable Artillery Company simultaneously speak their message.

So was the second task of the Corps fulfilled on Coronation Day.

From the Triforium, the next signal awaited was that for the processional troops, assembled from Knightsbridge to Birdcage Walk, to move out to their forming-up positions round the route. According to a pre-arranged plan, this was to be given to the Chief Marshal at Storey's Gate as the procession within the Abbey started to move slowly from the Nave to the West Door. The signal was duly given, and the task in the Triforium was over; all lines and wireless were given the order to close down, with the knowledge that they had done royal service.

The scene now moves to the final and perhaps the most vital and exacting task, that of starting the procession from Westminster Abbey throughout its length at the moment when the wheels of the State Coach bearing the Queen rolled forward. At the Signal Control Point opposite the Abbey Annexe from which Her Majesty would appear, Lieutenant-Colonel D. C. Cocks and Captain P. Bennett (both of The Kensingtons) were on the telephone and wireless controls, with Lieutenant-Colonel C. H. Stoneley, C.S.O. London District, watching for the signs from the G.S.O. I London District (Lieutenant-Colonel E. J. B. Nelson, Grenadier Guards), which would indicate the "Stand by" and "March" orders.

By this time the rain was falling in a steady downpour, but this had no effect whatever on the spirits of the great crowds; presently the last of the carriages—that of Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother—had moved with its escort to take its place in the procession, and it only remained for the State Coach to be called forward from Deans Yard to await the Queen. Slowly the great, glittering State Coach drew into view, and as it came to a standstill in front of the Abbey the "Stand by" sign was given and immediately transmitted to all Signal Detachments, which raised the red and white discs and transmitted the order over their loudspeakers.

The Kneller Hall Trumpeters almost immediately sounded the fanfare which signified that the Queen had come from the Abbey, and as she made her way radiantly down the steps to enter Her State Coach the roar of the crowd was deafening in its response. To those waiting at the Signals Control the seconds seemed to drag interminably; but the Salute of the G.S.O. I to the Queen soon gave the awaited sign, and almost simultaneously the Signal Detachments ranged round the route were giving their flag signals to the marshals and broadcasting "Procession march," and the entire two miles of procession moved off to a first-class start.

Once under way, a continual succession of timed reports regarding the progress of the procession was received by Detachment No. 17, commanded by Major R. E. Dennison-Pender, 56 (L) Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment (T.A.); the latter was thus able to keep the G.S.O. I, now riding near his vehicle, fully informed. By a curious coincidence, a carriage did get into difficulties in St. James's Street, as had occurred in imagination during the Signals' rehearsal; the situation was very quickly reported under control, and the procession moved forward without any appreciable delay.

When the head of the procession had reached Constitution Hill at almost the end of its journey, the slippery state of the road down the Haymarket led to "double-banking" on the part of a few carriages. Detachment No. 5 in Cockspur Street was accordingly ordered by one of the Marshals to signal the head of the procession to increase speed, and this was duly done.

So ended the final phase of the main Signals task for the Coronation. Unspectacular, perhaps, and little known except to a few, but nevertheless vital to the success of Her Majesty's Coronation Processions. A wonderful success they undoubtedly were, despite weather which was quite unable to dampen the unbounded enthusiasm of Her Majesty's loyal subjects.

For the rest, the Signal Troops which played their part in the Coronation Camps in Kensington Gardens, Olympia, and Earls Court provided communications without which the assembly, administration and marshalling of some 22,000 troops could not have been accomplished. Despatch riders, including three Officers on the Coronation route, rendered their usual invaluable service, including the carriage of B.B.C. television films from cameramen on the Coronation route to the B.B.C. laboratories before being flown to Canada by Canberra aircraft.

In fact, members of the Corps, drawn from many units of both Territorial and Regular Army, provided once again, and on the most royal of occasions, a fine example of our Corps motto: CERTA CITO.

[*Courtesy: Fox Photos, Ltd.*

Signal Office (5 Corps, Signal Regiment), Kensington Gardens Camp, Coronation Day, 1953

PERSONAL COLUMN

Coronation Honours List

Brigadier A. C. C. Willway, C.B.E., T.D., D.L., J.P., is appointed a Companion of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath.

London Gazette

28th April, 1953—Lieutenant-Colonel T. P. E. Murray, O.B.E., T.D., to be Brevet Colonel, 1st May, 1953, and is appointed A.D.C.

12th May, 1953—Lieutenant-Colonel F. R. B. Moore, to R.A.R.O.

22nd May, 1953—A.E.R. Major R. R. C. Rankin, O.B.E., Lieutenant-Colonel.

19th May, 1953—A.E.R. Lieutenant-Colonel N. E. Pease, M.B.E., T.D., to T.A.R.O.

OBITUARIES

During the first week in June, at his home at Parkview, Hawley, Camberley, Surrey, Brigadier J. B. Hickman, C.B.E., M.C., died very suddenly.

* * *

Lieutenant-Colonel S. F. Pipe-Wolferstan died on the 10th April, 1953. He contracted a glandular disease in 1952 that compelled him to retire from the Army at the beginning of 1953.

Movements—Officers

Major M. F. Holliday from FARELF to 5 A.A. (M) Signal Regiment.

Major S. G. Hodgson from 5 A.A. (M) Signal Regiment to School of Signals.

Major E. S. Colman from Northern Army Group to M.E.L.F.

Major (Q.M.) W. G. Cooke from Western Command Signal Regiment to 60 H.Q. Army Signal Regiment.

Captain (Q.M.) A. Dale from 60 H.Q. Army Signal Regiment to FARELF.

Major (Cipher) W. J. Cuffe from South Africa to Northern Army Group.

Major D. Pegg from Pakistan to B.A.O.R.

Major R. R. Morrison from West Africa to Northern Army Group.

Major A. F. McGill to Joint Services Staff College.

Major P. H. Brown from Depot to M.E.L.F.

Major P. M. C. Spence from M.E.L.F. to U.K.

Major L. M. Rutherford from A.L.F.C.E. Signal Squadron to Royal Military College of Science.

Major V. C. Valle from FARELF to A.L.F.C.E. Signal Squadron.

Major D. Beatt to 5 Corps Signal Regiment.

Major R. S. King from School of Signals to Northern Army Group.

Lieutenant-Colonel F. S. P. H. Lang from FARELF to 2 Training Regiment.

Lieutenant-Colonel R. T. H. Gelston from East Africa to R.A.R.O.

Captain (Cipher) L. F. White from M.E.L.F. to FARELF.

Captain (Cipher) D. H. Purcell from M.E.L.F. to U.K.

Major (Cipher) F. Lettin from Northern Army Group to 1 War Office Signal Regiment.

Captain (T.O.T.) C. G. Holland from Eastern Command Signal Regiment to Nairobi.

Births

CANN.—On 3rd June, 1953, at Neuilly-sur-Seine, France, to Christina and Lieutenant Leslie Cann, a daughter, Denise Elizabeth.

SAWYER.—On 25th May, 1953, at Neuilly-sur-Seine, France, to Meta and Lieutenant Albert Sawyer, a daughter, Pamela Ann.

WEIR.—On 18th April, 1953, at Neuilly-sur-Seine, France, to Doris and Sergeant W. Weir, a son, Andrew William.

NICHOLLS.—To Sergeant and Mrs. T. P. Nicholls, at Fontainbleau, on 19th September, 1952, a son, Thomas Patrick.

HOSE.—To S.S.M. and Mrs. J. L. Hose, 4 L. of C. Signal Regiment, B.A.O.R., a daughter, Penelope Jane, on 18th April, 1953.

TONNISON.—On 26th March, 1953, in Malta, to Lieutenant and Mrs. J. A. Tonnison, a son, Alistair Charles.

BUSUTTIL.—On 24th May, 1953, in Malta, to Sergeant and Mrs. Busuttil, a son, Charles Joseph Lewis.

BRANDLE.—A son was born to Aileen, the wife of Major A. V. Brandle, on the 6th March, 1953.

NEWTON.—To Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Newton, at 15 Water Lane, Clifton, York, on 31st May, a son, Richard George. (York Branch, Royal Signals Association.)

Engagements

JOHNSTONE — BURNETT. — The engagement is announced between Second-Lieutenant H. A. Johnstone, A.L.F.C.E. Signal Squadron, and Mlle Danielle Alzingre-Burnett, daughter of Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. D. I. Burnett, of H.Q., A.L.F.C.E.

CANHAM—SPRING.—The engagement is announced between Lieutenant B. A. Canham, Sudan Signal Troop (Britcom), and Miss Pamela Spring, daughter of Major and Mrs. W. Spring, Richmond, Yorks.

Marriages

RICHARDSON—QUIRK.—At Abu Sueir, on 14th February, 1953, Driver George Richardson, of Manchester, serving in M.E.A.F. with 2 Squadron, 4 Air Formation Signal Regiment, to L.A.C.W. Rita Quirk, of Liverpool.

DARLING—CROSBY.—At Moascar, on 7th March, 1953, Lance-Corporal Bryan Darling, of Jarrow, serving in M.E.A.F. with 2 Squadron, 4 Air Formation Signal Regiment, to L.A.C.W. Doreen Crosby, of Sevenoaks, Kent.

BROWNLEY—MORRISON.—R.Q.M.S. Brownley, of 5 A.A. (M) Signal Regiment, to C.S.M. Mary Morrison, W.R.A.C., The Depot Regiment.

Deaths

GILBERT.—22296339 Corporal F. Gilbert died as a result of an accident in 3 Training Regiment, Catterick Camp, on 16th June, 1953.

STANGER.—22758718 Signalman T. Stanger, on 5th May, 1953, at the Military Hospital, Catterick Camp, Yorks.

TRIGG.—22804492 Signalman A. Trigg, on 6th May, 1953, in M.E.L.F.

CLARKE.—22540273 Signalman F. T. Clarke, on 7th May, 1953, in M.E.L.F.

MacANDREW.—22621558 Lance-Corporal J. M. MacAndrew, on 25th May, 1953, in M.E.L.F.

ASKEW.—Peter Askew died, following a motor cycle accident, on 5th June, 1953.

* * *

A trumpeter is urgently needed by 51 L. of C. Signal Regiment, A.E.R., which is due to go to Chester for annual training from the 26th September to the 10th October. This fifteen days is the only obligation for members of the A.E.R.

Prospective volunteers can obtain further details from the Adjutant, Captain A. D. Wilson, 1 Melcombe Court, Dorset Square, London, N.W.1.

Forthcoming Events ☆

ROYAL SIGNALS DISPLAY TEAM

Engagements, 1953

July	18	... Matlock and District Agricultural Show ...	Matlock
„	22-23	... Staffordshire Agricultural Society	Burton-on-Trent
„	25	... Old Comrades' Reunion	York
„	27	... Trinity United A.F.C. ...	Bridlington
„	30	... Oswestry and District Agricultural Society ...	Oswestry
Aug.	1	... Durham County Agricultural Society	Durham
„	4-7	... South Shields Tattoo ...	South Shields
„	8	... Northumberland Agricultural Society	Alnwick
„	19-20	... Royal Jersey Agricultural and Horticultural Society	Jersey
„	22	... Westgate - in - Weardale Floral and Horticultural Society	Weardale
„	27-29	... Worcester Tattoo	Worcester

YORK RALLY AND REUNION

The York Branch of the Association is organising a rally and reunion on Saturday, 25th July. Tentative programme is as follows:—

Miniature Tattoo

At York Rugby Ground

2.45 p.m.—Assembly of Branch Standards and performers to music by the Corps Band.
3.0 p.m.—Short Opening Ceremony.
3.5 p.m.—Trooping of the Colour by 6 (Boys) Training Regiment.
3.30 p.m.—P.T. Display by 6 (Boys) Training Regiment.
4.0 p.m.—Royal Signals Display Team.
4.30 p.m.—Grand Finale.
5.0-6.0 p.m.—Tea Interval.
6.0-8.0 p.m.—Conducted Tour of the City (if desired).

Admission Charges

Ground and Terrace 1s. 0d. • Popular Stand . 1s. 6d.
Side Stand ... ... 2s. 0d. • Centre Stand ... 3s. 0d.
(Children Half Price)

Grand Dance at the Assembly Rooms

8 p.m. to 12 Midnight—Tickets 5s. 0d.

Publicity Material, Programmes, Tickets., etc., available later from: The Honorary Secretary of the York Branch of the Association, Mr. J. E. Newton, 59 Water Lane, York.

ROYAL SIGNALS BAND PROGRAMME, 1953

July 11-18 ... Tunbridge Wells.
„ 25 ... Scottish Command Signal Regiment.
„ 26 ... Paisley.
„ 27-
Aug. 2 ... Aberdeen.
Aug. 3-9 ... Edinburgh.
„ 10-15 ... Dunfermline.
„ 16-22 ... Glasgow.
„ 23-30 ... Edinburgh Festival.

ROYAL SIGNALS OFFICERS' GOLFING SOCIETY

1953 Fixtures

July 24 ... R.A. Golfing Society ... Sunningdale
Aug. 8 ... Beaconsfield Golf Club ... Beaconsfield

TOBRUK 41

The seventh annual Officers' Dinner will be held at The Connaught Rooms, London, on Friday, 20th November, 1953.

Details from: Major-General C. E. N. Lomax, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., 7 Pittville Crescent, Cheltenham, Glos.

MIDDLE EAST SPECIAL WIRELESS ASSOCIATION

Fri., 21st Aug.—Local Meeting, Queen's Hotel, Hertford Street, Coventry.

Fri., 28th Aug.—Local Meeting, St. Stephen's Tavern, Westminster Bridge, London, S.W.1.

Fri., ??th Sept.—Local Meeting, North British Station Hotel, Princes Street, Edinburgh.

EMPLOYMENT VACANCIES

A. C. Cossor, Ltd., Highbury Grove, N.5,

Offer the Following Opportunities for:—

Wiremen. For all types of electronic equipment. Basic requirements: the ability to read a circuit diagram and to solder. A limited number of suitable applicants who do not come up to the required standard would be trained for the above skilled trade.

Testers/Inspectors. Men capable of functional testing. Calibrating and/or electronic inspection required.

Instrument Makers. Men with workshop experience and including sheet metal work are required for prototype work and development.

Test Equipment Engineers. Men used to the care and maintenance of test gear required for interesting work in this field.

Draughtsmen. Mechanical or electrical. Men who have received some training as draughtsmen would be accepted as trainees depending upon the amount of experience already acquired.

Please mention THE WIRE *when applying to Personnel Department, A. C. Cossor, Ltd.*

* * *

Reliable ex-N.C.O. and wife, without young children, required as Caretakers by T.A. Regiment in Yorkshire. Man also to be employed as Mess Steward, wife to cook on one evening per week. Accommodation available with very limited furniture. Full details from the Adjutant, 49 Armoured Division Signal Regiment, T.A., Gibraltar Barracks, Leeds 2.

Royal Signals Dinner Club

Annual Dinner

20 May, 1953

at the Hyde Park Hotel, Knightsbridge, London, S.W.

Covers were laid for 182 members of the Club and a detachment of the band and trumpeters played appropriately during and after dinner.

Major-General C. M. F. White, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., Representative Colonel - Commandant, rising to propose the Toast of Absent Friends, read first of all the telegram of loyal greetings he had sent to Her Majesty The Queen in this the year of her Coronation.

The following reply was received:—

"*Please convey to all Officers of the Royal Signals assembled this evening for their Annual Dinner the sincere thanks of the Queen for their kind and loyal message of good wishes.*

Private Secretary."

Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal had also been pleased to reply:—

"*My warmest thanks to the Colonel-Commandant and Officers of my Corps assembled at their Annual Dinner tonight for their message of loyal greetings. I send my best wishes for a most successful and enjoyable evening.*

MARY."

General White then read telegrams which had been received from the Chief Signal Officer and Officers M.E.L.F., and from Colonel Bruton and Officers, Royal Australian Signals.

General White then spoke of all that had taken place at Catterick on Sunday, 17th May; of how Her Royal Highness had arrived at 10 a.m. and had remained with her Corps until nearly 6 p.m.; of the dedication of the War Memorial Chapel in St. Martin's Church; of how over 300 old comrades had marched past Her Royal Highness, and of the few who, because of age, infirmity or other causes, were unable to do so.

He commended to the Officers the inaugural meeting of the Royal Signals Institution and hoped that very many of them would attend on Friday afternoon, 22nd May, despite the proximity of the Whitsun week-end.

He recounted the very great success in sport of the Corps during the last year.

He commended the toast "Absent Friends."

* * *

Major-General W. O. Bowen, C.B., C.B.E., Director of Signals, spoke of the work of Royal Signals in raising the Signal Regiments for additional Divisions, and of the extra work put into the signal system by such as Malayan bandits and the Mau Mau in East Africa.

He stated further that the last twelve months had, for Royal Signals, been a period of consolidation. Of this we had taken full advantage. It could truly be said that Royal Signals is more sensitive to any organisational change in the Army than any other Corps. In part that also refers to changes in the Royal Air Force, for we are also involved there.

"Because of changing techniques in the air and the introduction of radio relay, considerable changes are possible in the inter-communication requirements of the Royal Air Force. An exercise is going to be held in Germany in July; the theme of this will be 'The Air.' At this exercise we shall examine the effects these changes will have on our ground communications for the Royal Air Force, with particular reference to the organisation of Air Formation Signal Regiments in the Tactical Air Force and in the Tactical Groups.

"We shall also deal with air support through the agency of Air Support Signal Units and examine their structure in order to reconcile the differences which are apparent as between ourselves and our American allies."

He spoke also of the family atmosphere of the recent Reunion at Catterick with Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal, the C.S.O.s from all over the world, and the old comrades.

He spoke of the projected move of the School of Signals to new barracks which were to be built especially for them in the south of England, near Bisley. This site has been accepted by the War Office but, of course, the very large financial expenditure involved could not be too lightly undertaken. He hoped, however, that at least the survey would be started during this year.

History had been made by moving an Air Formation Signal Regiment of the Army Emergency Reserve to Germany for its training this year.

"For some time it has been said that the Directorate has concentrated on the production of wireless sets for other arms at the expense of those for Royal Signals. That I consider fair criticism, but if it is a fault it is a good one. We are now switching our main efforts to re-equip Royal Signals. The fact that the Corps still has equipment of last war vintage is well known at the War Office, and as a result the Treasury is more conciliatory than otherwise would be the case.

"Those of you who saw the electronics display and the Army equipment shown last week will be convinced of our ability to compete in this field. It was a breathtaking display in which even our own D.70 was an exhibit. The object was to induce other nations to buy our equipment."

He paid a glowing tribute to the work of the Commonwealth Division in Korea, and of his personal pleasure at the presence in England of representatives of Gurkha Royal Signals for the Coronation.

He then mentioned by name and spoke in praise of some of our guests that evening:—

General Sir John Harding, G.C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., A.D.C. (Chief of the Imperial General Staff).
Lieutenant-General Sir Dudley Ward, K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O. (Deputy Chief of the Imperial General Staff).
Colonel W. W. Lockhart, C.B. (Director of Signals—Canadian Army).
Brigadier B. D. Kapur (Director of Weapons and Electronics—Indian Army).
Rear-Admiral G. E. Burghard, D.S.O. (Deputy Controller Electronics and Guided Weapons, Ministry of Supply).
Air Vice-Marshal L. Dalton Morris, C.B., C.B.E. (Assistant Chief of Staff—Air Ministry).
H. A. Sargeaunt, Esq. (Scientific Advisor to Army Council).

* * *

General Sir John Harding, G.C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., A.D.C., Chief of the Imperial General Staff, spoke of the great pleasure he felt in being the guest of Royal Signals on this happy, enjoyable occasion, and was very glad indeed that the Representative Colonel-Commandant had asked him to reply to the toast of the guests, on behalf of representatives not only of the three fighting services but also of the armed forces of the Commonwealth.

He was convinced that our future lay in the unity of the Commonwealth.

In various Commands he had held since the war he had been told by no less authorities than Colonel Good, General Scott, Brigadier Coryton and now General Bowen, that the signal service was overstrained and must break down because undue expansion had caused a shortage of Officers and experienced N.C.O.s. But the signal system never had broken down, from which he deduced either that his advisors were alarmists or that all in Royal Signals had been working too hard.

The various Chief Signal Officers and others he knew did not look overworked, and the fact that the machine had not broken down in the last eight years reflected the greatest credit on all ranks of the Corps. He did consider there was a tendency on the part of all in Signals to be "too kind to the customer."

Illustrating his theme with the anecdote of the pigeon, long awaited at an important headquarters anxious for news of an attack, which returned to its loft bearing the classic message "I've carried this —— bird long enough," he exhorted Royal Signals to ensure that the Signal Service was used only for messages which were really necessary. He accused them of reverting rather to the outlook of the Light Brigade at Balaclava: "Their's not to reason why . . ." This was the cause of the overstrain referred to.

He doubted if the pay of certain tradesmen was commensurate with their responsibilities.

"Signal communications," he went on, "are to the Army what nerves are to the sensitive organs, eyes, ears and nose, and to the brain that which activates the whole body.

"That is what Signals do, carry information to the Commander and pass out his decisions and orders.

"If the nerves fail, or function with limited capacity, the whole machine of the body collapses into inertia or death.

"Without good 'signals' the Army is no good, and any detachment thereof deprived of effective 'signals' must fail.

"That is a measure of the importance with which I and, I can assure you, the other members of the Army Council, regard your Corps."

Sir John Harding continued with his congratulations to all on the success of Royal Signals in sport and stated that his experience as a Commander assured him that this had not been gained at the expense of duty. These successes had not been gained only in the last twelve months but consistently over a number of years.

He assured Royal Signals of the good wishes for the future of both himself and of the Army Council.

* * *

Major-General C. W. Fladgate, C.B.E., Chairman, and 300 members of the Association paraded for the Review of ex-Servicemen by Her Majesty the Queen, in Hyde Park on Sunday, 5th July.

Letters to the Editor

Yeoman Warder G. A. E. Gavey, late Captain, Royal Signals, writes:—

I enclose an article which I have called "Coronation Night in the Abbey." You might find some use for it.

It was very pleasing on Coronation day to view from my room in the Tower the ceremony on television and at the moment of crowning to actually hear the first gun of the Tower Salute fire right on the second.

A few moments later I was speaking to the Signal Officer who received the signal from the Abbey and to the Officer in charge of the saluting battery here (H.A.C.). Both of them were extremely pleased to get confirmation of the perfect timing so soon after the salute.

As the Archbishop was raising the crown to place on Her Majesty's head, I said to my wife and other friends viewing: "Listen for the first gun of the Tower Salute." I felt confident the signal would be given and received at the exact moment, and, of course, it was.

Coronation Night in the Abbey

by **Yeoman Warder G. A. E. Gavey, Late Captain, Royal Signals**

BIG BEN has just struck 3 a.m., and around me here in the Jerusalem Chamber a fellow warder is playing a game of Patience whilst five other warders and the Curator of the Crown Jewels lie asleep.

At the other end of a long table at which I am writing these notes rest some priceless jewels, for they are some of the Crown Jewels, including St. Edward's Crown with which Her Majesty was crowned a few hours ago.

Not all the Crown Jewels are here on this table before me as the Imperial State Crown, the Orb, the Royal Sceptre with the Cross, the Armills and the Ring were taken with Her Majesty on the drive to Buckingham Palace.

There is no glittering array of jewels to be seen now as there was a few hours ago, as they are all packed in their respective boxes ready to be taken away later in the day to the Tower, when our period of guard duty here will end.

Nor can be seen any glittering scarlet and gold uniforms as were worn by many of my fellow warders on duty in the Annexe a few hours ago and by our friends of Her Majesty's Bodyguard of the Yeoman of the Guard inside the Abbey and in the procession.

The Crown Jewels guard, of which I am a member today, is a security guard, so we are dressed in our blue undress uniform, and whilst actually on guard, armed with loaded .38 pistols. We relieved the previous guard at 2.30 p.m. as they had been on duty since early the previous day (1st June), when the Regalia was brought to the Abbey.

The door of this chamber is locked from the inside and admittance can only be obtained by giving a pre-arranged signal.

Before starting this period of duty at 2.30 a.m., I strolled through the Abbey once again to get myself thoroughly awake. Many writers during the past few days have described the wonderful beauty of the Coronation setting, with all the Abbey plate gleaming on the High Altar and on the table below the Royal Box, but to see this same setting in a diffused light and alone at this time of night (or rather morning) is a scene of wonderful peaceful beauty almost beyond description.

I thought I was the only person awake in the Abbey itself and my footsteps on the gold carpet made no noise

—but I then saw I was not alone in this beautiful Coronation theatre, for sitting quietly in chairs near St. Edward's Chair, were two other men. Yes, no doubt you've guessed right, they were police detective officers guarding the Stone of Scone.

They, too (or reliefs), will also be on guard there whilst the chair and stone are on view.

Although five items of Regalia are away temporarily, three other items have been added to our charge during the afternoon—these are the beautiful gold and ivory pen with which Her Majesty signed the Oath and which was presented to her by the Worshipful Company of Scriveners of London, the Oath itself signed and now in a frame, and the gold inkstand block on which rested the Oath which Her Majesty signed and which block was used by both King George V and King George VI at their respective coronations.

The gold and ivory pen was in the form of the Sword of State. At the end nearest the nib are two little gold figures representing the two royal children, Prince Charles and Princess Anne. These three items will no doubt be collected from this room later this morning as they do not form part of the Crown Jewels.

Now a few words about this chamber, which is lined on three sides with some beautiful tapestries.

ON THE SOUTH SIDE the inscription "This Chamber Recepticle of the Regalia in the Reign of Queen Victoria—God Save the Queen."

ON THE EAST SIDE the inscription "The Queen of King Edward IV, with her son Richard the Duke of York, taking sanctuary in these chambers, 1483."

ON THE WEST SIDE the inscription "Reception of the Book of Common Prayer in Convocation, February 22nd, 1662," and inscription "Reception of the French Ambassadors by Dean Williams on occasion of the Marriage of Charles I, 1624."

Some of the tapestries were made for the Coronation of James II, 1685.

A very large fireplace is cut into the south wall with a beautifully carved cedar wooden screen fixed above the fireplace.

The ceiling is curved and decorated with gold leaf stars. In between wooden beams the cipher "M.R." and the portcullis is repeated many times.

As I continue to write these notes (it helps to keep me awake at any rate) my thoughts continually go back to the wonderful pageantry that was enacted some few hours ago—then back to the many other guard duties I did when I was in the Service—but now I'm helping to guard priceless jewels and plate some many centuries old—the Golden Ampula and Spoon used for the Anointing, the oldest piece of the Regalia and pre-Restoration period—is also in a box at the other end of this table.

Even our dress and arms seem a little mixed on this guard—Tudor hat and Tudor coat frock worn, but ordinary modern Service web belt and a loaded .38 pistol is at my waist.

My fellow warders on duty in the Annexe during the Coronation were wearing full State dress and carried partizans (15th Century). The Gentlemen of Arms carried their halberts. The Pikemen of the H.A.C. in the Lord Mayor of London's procession, of course, had their pikes, and I wouldn't even hazard a guess as to the many types of swords that were seen among the many distinguished guests in the Abbey. What a blending of the old and modern in this lovely old building.

If the Editor thinks these random thoughts of interest to my fellow readers and he cares to risk publication, I ask for your indulgence, for perhaps when next you are on your 24-hour guard or similar all night watch you too may feel inclined to jot down some notes even if it is only as an aid to keeping yourself awake.

At any rate, Big Ben has chimed a number of times since I started—it is already 4.15 a.m. and I wake the next relief at 5.30 a.m.—they're both snoring loudly at the moment.

Signal Training Centre

1 TRAINING REGIMENT

The outstanding event in Catterick last month was the visit of H.R.H. The Princess Royal and the Regimental week-end.

There was much activity in the Regiment during the weeks preceding this event, and some very hard work was cheerfully carried out by a number of the members. The results were very gratifying, the weather was good, and at the end of the day we all felt that it had been well worth while.

The presence of H.R.H. The Princess Royal at the dedication of the Royal Signals Memorial Chapel on Sunday, 17th May, and afterwards at the afternoon displays, gave us all the greatest possible pleasure.

It was nice also to see so many of the Senior Officers, both serving and retired, present for the week-end. Among them were the three previous Commanders of 1 Training Regiment, i.e. Lieutenant-Colonel P. M. P. Hobson, D.S.O., now C.S.O. B.T.A.; Brigadier R. J. Moberly, O.B.E., now Deputy Director Signals; and Colonel M. G. A. Hepper, now C.S.O. West Africa. It must surely be unusual for a Commanding Officer to meet his three immediate predecessors at the same time.

Congratulations are offered to Major F. P. Stewart, the Chief Instructor, on being appointed a Member of the Order of the British Empire in the Coronation Honours.

He also had the honour of taking part in the Coronation proceedings as one of the Royal Signals contingent lining the route.

The Regimental Athletic Meeting was held on 27th May, and some excellent competition was seen. 2 Squadron won the Unit Championship by a small margin from 3 Squadron, with H.Q. Squadron a close third.

The afternoon was most enjoyable and a credit to the organiser.

It is high time that Signals came back into the athletics limelight, so let's hope that this was a pointer.

3 TRAINING REGIMENT

Of the many thousand children's parties held throughout the country in honour of Her Majesty's Coronation, none could have been happier than that held on the afternoon of THE DAY in Bourlon Gymnasium. It left me spellbound and conscious that this memorable day would live forever in the memory of the youngsters.

Age somehow didn't matter—parents and children alike reflected that inner consciousness of infectious happiness and gaiety. Who present will ever forget the children's laughter and their pride at receiving a special Coronation mug, and the three cheers that literally shook the rafters?

Tears there certainly were—but tears of sheer joy and happiness.

The Television Room had been crowded with troops throughout the ceremony.

Festivities—culminating in a magnificent Coronation Other Ranks' Ball at the NAAFI Club, where Private Isa Warren, W.R.A.C. (of the cooking staff in Aisne Lines), was the "Coronation Ball Queen"—continued into the wee sma' hours.

Yes, indeed, none of us will ever forget that DAY.

A welcome visitor to the Regiment on a training tour was S.S.M. James Ogloo, of the Gold Coast Signal Squadron, who had previously taken part with his colleagues in the Coronation march in London. Over a cup of tea he told me that nothing that could happen in the future could ever surpass his pride at being present on this march.

A little late for football perhaps, but the final of the D'Arcy Hillyard Cup Tournament 'twixt 3 and 4 Squadrons revived memories of the ding-dong inter-Company struggles at 3rd Division—oh, so many years ago. A huge crowd, vociferous and acclaiming, witnessed a thrilling game with 3 Squadron worthy winners. The cup and medals were presented by the wife of the Commanding Officer (Mrs. G. H. Starr).

In the Northern Command Athletic Championships on 10th May, Signalman R. C. Johnson won the 880 yards and was second in the 440 yards; Lance-Corporal J. Philemon easily won the high jump, and Corporal Cole was second in the pole vault. Lance-Corporal Williams (2 Squadron) ran a magnificent 100 yards heat and qualified for the final, but had the misfortune to pull a muscle.

That's not all. In the District Rifle Meeting Sergeant Dillon, Sergeant Jones, Corporal Cone and Signalman Easter added lustre to the Regiment, and Major Ernie Nash again took a couple of firsts and a second at the Catterick Garrison Horticultural Society's Spring Flower Show (see Catterick Jottings).

Now where's that flippin' halo?

Finally, a regretful farewell to Captain Tommy Ball, who returned to civilian life at the end of the month after over 30 years' service. Old 'uns will remember Tommy's prowess as a Corps footballer in the "good old days," and his ever-ready advice and help to all. Jolly good luck, T.B., and don't lose touch with us.

Stop Press—The annual Regimental Week-end and Parents' Day on 15th-16th August—we've already indented for good weather, thank you.

7 TRAINING REGIMENT, ROYAL SIGNALS

Apart from the Regimental Day effort, this month has been comparatively quiet. The Children's Party on Coronation Day had to be transferred to the Baghdad Gymnasium owing to bad weather, but this did not seem to affect the entertainment. In this respect special credit is due to C.S.M.I. Pettit and his A.I.s P.T. for their amusing demonstrations.

The weather during the last month has been worse than ever it was over any similar period last winter. The interference caused by bad weather to training in this Regiment was fully demonstrated to the Director of Signal's Conference delegates when they came to the Unit on 15th May.

W.O. II Farley took his discharge recently after 22 years' service in the Corps. We wish him and his family the very best of luck in the future, and tender him the gratitude of the Corps.

The Regimental cricket team won its first round games in both the Command and District Cups. 1 Training Regiment were beaten by seven wickets and 4 Training Regiment by nine wickets. Unfortunately, the best all-rounder in the side, Corporal Wood, who is already an Army Cap (he also holds an Army Soccer Cup winners' medal), fractured his ankle and will be out of the game for some time. The tug-of-war team reached the semi-final of the district competition.

WEST COUNTRY REUNION

First reports of the Depot Regiments entertainment of 50 members of the Association on the 4th and 5th July indicate that the Regimental Day was an outstanding success which will long be remembered by all who took part.

Catterick Jottings

by nacerby

Coronation Day . . .

It's no' in books, it's no' in leaf,
To make her truly blest;
If happiness has not her seat
And centre in the breast.
We may be wise, or rich, or great,
But never can be blest.

And those words of Robbie Burns just symbolise it all. Catterick was in her most festive mood—flags, multi-coloured bunting and other symbols of the artists and draughtsmen's art there were in profusion—and not even the inclement weather (black mark, Jupiter Pluvius!) could mar the infectious gaiety and happiness and colourful display of this great occasion.

It was obvious to me that this day had become something *personal* to each and everyone—it was my day, your day, their day, our day!

But especially heart-warming was the manner in which the younger element had grasped with adult-like understanding and comprehension the significance of the dawn of this youthful era.

Frankly, I can't explain the "atmosphere" I encountered in my wanderings through the Garrison—it was something that will *live* in me for ever.

The whole week was devoted to celebrations—six-a-side football, children's parties, a mock gymkhana, representative cricket match (R.A.C. v. Royal Signals), and culminating in a magnificent boxing tournament at Hipswell Gymnasium 'twixt R.A.C. and Royal Signals, with the G.O.C. Northumbrian District (Major-General H. Murray, C.B., D.S.O.) presenting the winners' prizes to the S.T.C. representatives.

And as I told you last month, the lovely Coronation Park, now ablaze with colour and charm, stands as a permanent memorial to Her Majesty's crowning.

Yes, indeed, "Here's a health unto Her Majesty."

Come Into the Garden . . .

Have seen many things literally coaxed out of the hard, unresponsive earth of Catterick, but was jerked out of my normal sceptic air of detachment when I saw the magnificent show of flowers on display at the Spring Flower Show of the Catterick Garrison Horticultural Society at Hipswell Lodge on 27th May.

To me (and a host of others) it was almost unbelieveable. Can't for the life of me remember the names—even those flowers I did recognise seemed double the normal size—and I certainly can't describe the colour scheme. I searched for Major Ernie Nash for some information, but once again he was busy collecting prizes—two firsts and a second and an extremely happy smile as Major-General H. Murray presented the prizes. I did find him in the end, and asked him how such beautiful flowers could be grown in the earth of Catterick. His significant reply: "Easy, old chap. Treat your flowers as you would treat your girl."

I think he has got something there!

Repairs While You Wait . . .

This TV business looks like ruining my Mercedes. You will remember seeing that lovely dame who bent dirty big iron bars in all sorts of fantastic shapes? Well, I'm certain the mechanics who "did" my car saw her as well.

It happened this way. I'd found a mug—I mean gentleman—who almost placed his cheque in me 'ot sticky 'and—when the door handle fell off.

"Fix it in narf-a-jiff," says this bullet-headed mechanic. Ha, ha! By skilful manipulation of a crowbar, hammer and cold chisel he fixed the handle O.K., but then the flippin' door wouldn't shut. This happened three weeks ago, and when I popped in yesterday—"Fix it in narf-a-jiff," he says.

Oh, he did hurt me dirty rotten feelings.
He certainly reminded me of—
Driver Rupert Roger Russell,
Proud of every bulging muscle
That gave his frame such strength immense,
Unfortunately lacked the sense
To help him use such brawn with tact,
A gentle touch was what he lacked—
So strong that with a single hand
This lad could bend an iron band
To any curious shape required,
And work for hours and not be tired.
But when he had to deal with plugs,
He was just one of nature's mugs.
For tightening them he burred the thread
Of every one he touched. Instead
Of treating them with gentle touch,
He went and pulled them far too much,
And cracked the insulating portions
(And this despite repeated cautions
From Quartermaster Sergeant Stentor,
Young Rupert's N.C.O. and mentor).
He worked ferociously and fast
Upon his daily tasks. At last
He started on task number eight
(To keep his steering up to date),
And cleaned the whole assembly bright,
And tightened it. So very tight
That when he started out to drive
He found he could no way contrive
To steer his truck which forthwith crashed,
And so poor Rupert Russell smashed
His skull. No man, however strong,
Outlives a fractured skull for long.
Though Rupert had a solid dome,
A wooden box is now his home.

Ye Olde Signals—Catching-up Plan

Can't understand just how BARLEUX and all the other old 'uns missed seeing the Royal Signals Museum when they were in Catterick for the Regimental Day.

Even without the prominent signposts Jim Adcock would have found it, 'cos there it is, just behind his old office in Baghdad Lines. Under the chairmanship of Lieutenant-Colonel E. J. Heap, and with Major G. H. R. Flynn and Charlie Childs as curators, here we are with the Corps a little over 30 years old with as fine a collection of things interesting, incredible and unbelievable to delight and amaze the most blasé Q.M.

There is the telegraph board ordered by Gordon in 1878 and found in use by an Arab at Omdurman; a heliograph used in the Jameson Raid; the first field telephone used in battle (at the siege of Ladysmith); a terrific collection of early wireless and telegraph sets; and a small wireless receiver made from scrounged parts by a Signal Officer who was a P.O.W. working on the notorious Burma-Siam railway in the last war.

It was operated by flash lamp batteries bought from local traders and kept the prisoners informed of the course of the war. The set was dismantled and smuggled in parts when the prisoners were moved, and once travelled in the kit of the Japanese Commandant, a fact which lost him much "face" when he was told about it after V.J. Day. This set has personal memories for Major Flynn, who was one of the prisoners and sometimes operated the set.

There's also—but it isn't fair to list the items. Come and

[Courtesy: The Soldier Magazine

Major G. H. R. Flynn with the secret wireless set used in a Japanese P.O.W. camp

spend a week-end here, and if you have any pre-war mounted uniforms and bandoliers bring 'em along—in fact, anything that is of interest. If you can't come address them to Major Flynn, 1 Training Regiment, and receive a brand new A.F. B.108 in exchange.

Agony Column

The eloquence of the letter printed below speaks for itself. Don't say I didn't warn you about signing on! Why not join my Promotion Correspondence Course—full details next month of my "Pay-as-you-put-'em-up Scheme."

Dere Readers in the Forces,

I was liberated from the Army in Group 3, and I have been bequested to re-count my experiences of Civvy Street. I didn't wait to have no leave as I had enough of doing nothing in the Army with my capacity as a sergeant-major.

I told the Ministery of Labour straight that I was going back on the job as a plumber's mate, what I had a steady before the war. They said, well, whose argueing?

Once I got back on my old job and into my old routine and my old pubs I thought I was going to be happy. I don't go for anything fancy. I haven't got the right temperature, I suppose.

Anyway, we should never count our chickens before they are etched, and I've come down proper off my high horse. I was daze getting into my old stride. I was going on jobs without forgetting my tools and working my fingers to a boan. It was labouring under a missappresion allright.

Then I got orginised. You know, a bit of work starting about nine thirty. Then knock off for a pint. You know. Then after tea telling the missis I had to go and do some overtime and reelly going for more pints. And whipping a bob or two out of my pay packet at week-end before the missis could get her grasping hands on it—real avorous, she is.

I thought there hadn't been a blooming war on. Just back in my old ways I was and all those terrible years at Catterick melted away like a millstone dropping off my back. I said to myself—pardon me for solitarising—"You organised the blooming war and now you've organised the peace." I looked into my inner soul like the philologists do and I said, "You

can't be so daft as you look." You know, just like what you lads used to tell me when I was feeling mell and collie.

But one day my missis give me a piece of her tongue—which is one piece of meat that aint rationed, I'm telling you. She says she's been doing my plumbing job herself these last six years, getting more money and no need for no overtime after tea.

And, she says, she's never heard that beer was the recognised antedoat for lead poisoning and if she has any more impermanence from me she'll solder my joints.

You've had your freedom, she says, and don't imagine that youre still in the Sergeants' Mess. As if I could. But I wish I was. Take my tip, sign on for as long as you can, and don't let your head be guided by your emulsion.

Yours obedient,

(We regret that the signature was undecipherable.)

Certa Cito (Sports Edition)

Army Boxing Colours to Signalmen G. Heayns and B. C. Waters, both of 2 Training Regiment. Hurrah! And that's only the beginning, says Major B. A. Elsmore.

You should, of course, have been present at the Northern Command Individual Athletic Championships at the Catterick Stadium on 10th June. No question of fingering one's Corps tie with pride—it stuck out by itself. Just look at this little lot:—

100 yards: 1, Signalman Ludlow, 1 Training Regiment; 3, Lieutenant T. Robinson, Royal Signals Wing.
220 yards: 1, Lieutenant Craig, Royal Signals Wing; 2, Lance-Corporal Syms, 5 Training Regiment.
440 yards: 2, Signalman Johnson, 3 Training Regiment.
880 yards: 1, Signalman B. Johnson, 3 Training Regiment.
1 mile: 1, Signalman K. Norris, 2 Training Regiment; 2, Lance-Corporal Gowan, Officers' Training Wing.
3 miles: 1, Lance-Corporal Gowan, Officers' Training Wing.
Long jump: 1, Lieutenant T. Robinson, Royal Signals Wing; 2, Second-Lieutenant B. Veale, 6 Training Regiment.
High jump: 1, Lance-Corporal J. Philemon, 3 Training Regiment; 2, Lieutenant R. Nice, Royal Signals Wing.
Pole vault: 1, Lieutenant R. Whitehead, Royal Signals Wing; 2, Corporal L. Cole, 3 Training Regiment.
Long jump (boys): 1, Boy D. Miller, 6 Training Regiment.
880 yards (boys): 3, Boy P. Barrett, 6 Training Regiment.
120 yards hurdles: 2, Captain D. Embley, Royal Signals Wing.
Javelin: 2, Lieutenant C. James, Royal Signals Wing; 3, Corporal G. Rose, 2 Training Regiment.
Hop, step and jump: 2, Lieutenant T. Robinson, Royal Signals Wing; 3, Lieutenant R. Whitehead, Royal Signals Wing.

And so on *ad infinitum*. Not much wrong in the athletic field, I can assure you. Oh, get in there, Corps!

ROYAL SIGNALS WING, SCHOOL OF SIGNALS LINE EQUIPMENT SQUADRON

From telephones to switchboards, from teleprinters to tape relay, from repeaters to multi-channel carrier apparatus—this is the province of Line Equipment Squadron of the Royal Signals Wing. Within the corrugated iron and plaster hutments of the Squadron area a formidable array of complicated apparatus lies inter-connected by underground cable for use by the large number of students who come to the School each year. And for each class of student a different standard of instruction and a new technique of presentation is required.

For the students whose syllabus inevitably leads them to many hours in the Squadron's lecture rooms it is an encouragement to find a prevalence of training aids. Tape recorders, strip projectors and diagrams are used with telling effect; theatre stage and cable chamber join forces with lecture room and laboratory as venues of instruction. Hidden lights, trap-doors and even legerdemain play their part in the laudable task of making work easier for the student. Arch-aid of them all is that elaborate contrivance—much famed in School of Signals circles—known as "Bessie"—from certain points of resemblance to a well-known Member of Parliament.

From the lecturer's point of view, simplification of instruction is attained only at the expense of much hard work. Any given subject must be treated in as many as a dozen different ways to suit the level of the courses. An overall picture can be conveyed to Senior Officers by means of simplified diagrams alone; the vast amount of circuit detail required by the Long Telecommunications Course involves the use of all the training aids; but these in turn may be too advanced for the Subaltern's Part II Course. Again, Territorial courses are required to pack into one week training which would normally be spread over a month; the N.C.O. instructors require explanations in terms of simple arithmetic and electrical theory, but Foremen of Signals can absorb more advanced matter.

These differences provide a formidable problem for the instructors. The Foremen of Signals Parts I and II Courses have a total of 674 instructional periods in Line Equipment Squadron, the Long Telecommunications Course 516, and the Subaltern's Part II Course 421. For these three courses alone over 1,600 lectures must be prepared and delivered. It follows that the lecturer must know his subject—and, indeed, this recognised minimum qualification is an engineering degree.

Coping with the instructional commitments are five Officer instructors and a Foreman of Signals, under the direction of the O.C., Major C. E. Booth-Jones. The Squadron is organised as an H.Q. and three Troops—a carrier, an audio telephony, and a telegraphy Troop. Each of these is additionally staffed with line or telegraph mechanics, who set up and maintain the instructional equipment.

Within the courses themselves a diversity of types makes standardisation of instruction difficult. Courses may be "fast" or "slow." Some may contain a number of overseas students—Australian, Canadian, Pakistani, Indian, Burmese, Israeli, and Jordanian are frequently seen—with resultant language difficulties. Individual student idiosyncracies—diverting in themselves—may be highly disconcerting to the instructor. One former student regularly placed a bottle of milk on the lecture room stove to heat. When everybody, including the instructor, expected it to explode, the student removed it and gulped down the contents. The same student carried his own portable electric fire with him for use in the classroom—and had a habit of asking a large number of questions—usually irrelevant. His fame lingers on behind him. "Awkward" students occur in many courses, and although they can be usually peremptorily dealt with, most instructors are concerned to help them as much as possible. But this all makes for planning difficulties.

In all it may be said that most students look back with pleasure on their tour through Line Equipment Squadron. If this is largely due to the ability of the Officer instructors in no small measure is it not also due to the excellence of the administrative arrangements under S.Q.M.S. Page. Recognition of his work has recently been made in the award of the L.S. and G.C. medal.

Current events in the Wing since the successful passage of the Annual Administrative Inspection have been the Regimental Week, with the visit of H.R.H. Prince Mary, and the Old Comrades' Reunion. These will be treated in detail in a subsequent article. The introduction by Mrs. Duke, wife of the Commanding Officer, of whist drives for the wives of those in the Unit is a successful feature of Regimental social life. In the realm of sport, Royal Signals Wing continues to aim high, providing this month both finalists in the Northumbrian District Six-a-Side Hockey Competition, won by the "A" team, and being top of the Catterick District Winter Hockey League, with an unbroken record of wins since Christmas. Captain D. P. Garnons Williams, Lieutenant J. K. Heyes, Sergeant Stevens R.C.C.S., and Corporal Brewer, of the "A" team, have also represented the Corps.

THE DEPOT REGIMENT, ROYAL SIGNALS

With the Coronation and its attendant festivities now over, planning for the next big function—the Regimental Week-end—has now taken pride of place. The details of the programme have already been reported, but briefly they are: On Saturday, 4th July, the Corps Band will play Retreat, then, in the evening, the W.O.s and Sergeants will entertain in their Mess. Sunday, 5th July, church parade in the morning, followed by light music by the Corps Band, and then in the afternoon the finals of the Regimental Sports. The Representative Colonel Commandant, Major-General C. M. F. White, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., will be with the Regiment over the week-end and will take the salute at a Ceremonial Parade on Saturday, 4th July.

The personnel who represented the Regiment at the Coronation on processional and route lining duties have returned. They unanimously record their enjoyment of a unique experience which was only slightly marred by the weather. Rumour hath it that while Hillary was conquering Everest, a certain Junior N.C.O. made a similar assault on Eros (is this a Corps record?).

A large proportion of the Regiment viewed the Coronation ceremony on the forward projection T.V. recently installed in the gymnasium. Reception was exceptionally good apart from one instance, that being when the Signals contingent were passing; a disaster greeted with loud groans.

At the local celebrations, the Regiment entered a tableau in the carnival procession. The tableau depicted the Royal Signals soldier in the dress worn in various theatres of the world, and was received very well by the local populace.

The Regiment provided a detachment, under the command of Lieutenant W. H. Brookes, at a Coronation church service held at Exeter on 31st May. The detachment headed the march past, and were a great credit to the Regiment and the Corps.

On 3rd June a Coronation party was held for the children of the Regiment. Young minds were entranced with Walt Disney's "Cinderella," and young appetites appeased by a gargantuan tea. All the kiddies have been presented with a Coronation 5s. piece as a permanent souvenir. In the evening an All Ranks' Dance was held at which the Regiment celebrated the occasion in a manner befitting the occasion.

On 11th June, a ceremonial parade to celebrate H.M. The Queen's Birthday was held. The Coronation detachment paraded together as a party for the last time, forming up on the right of the Regiment, looking most resplendent in their No. 1 Dress. The salute was taken by the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel P. G. Goodeve-Docker.

The Regimental Cricket Team is having a very reasonable season so far; in the last month we have won five matches and drawn one, our opponents including H.Q., South-Western District and Dartmouth Cricket Clubs.

At the moment the Unit Tug-of-war Championship is being fought between the various departments. It rather looks that the present holders, 1 Squadron Cadre, will retain the honour.

In the field of Athletics we are getting ready for the Unit inter-departmental contest, due to take place on 1st and 5th July. From the results we shall pick our team for the forthcoming district championships. It has been rumoured that we have one or two "dark horses" in our midst. The South-Western District Championships are to be competed for on 8th July at Taunton.

On 24th June we do battle with 47 Coast Regiment, R.A., in the first round of the South-Western District Tug-of-war; next month we shall have a few results to record.

The Sailing Club started the 1953 season with five redwings and the German 15 square metre. The hardier types, having sailed a good deal during the winter months on the River Teign, were pleased to get back to the more pleasant Torbay area.

To date we have not done much racing as the winter months have seen a change in personnel. Nearly all this year's members are almost in the beginners' class.

We are now getting down to sailing practice and hope to give a good account of ourselves in the racing during the next few months.

Membership is now about 25 and a good deal more interest is being shown each week.

[*Courtesy: Fox Photos, Ltd.*

The busy switchboard (5 Corps Signal Regiment), Kensington Gardens Camp, June 2nd, 1953

5 CORPS SIGNAL REGIMENT

The May issue of THE WIRE included an introduction to the signal problems produced by the Coronation. Our responsibility was shown to be the two Coronation camps at Earls Court and Kensington Gardens.

The problem at Earls Court was comparatively straightforward as the building is well provided with telephones and public address equipment. Certain alterations had to be made and these were done either by the G.P.O. or the firm operating the P.A. system. A Signal Office was manned and comprehensive location and appointments list made out. Immediately the Coronation troops started arriving, the Signal Office became a centre of activity. As a Signal Office we handled little traffic, but as an information centre we proved invaluable. During the four days the troops were in the camp the switchboard was very overloaded. Incoming calls for Colonial troops from wellwishers predominated and three extra exchange auto lines had to be supplied. On occasions such as this it would be better not to broadcast the camp's telephone number! We estimated that during the four days referred to we received 1,200 queries for soldiers, sailors and airmen in the camp.

Of Earls Court Stadium itself little need be said. It is a vast place and one can walk for miles and get lost very easily. It contained 8,000 troops during the Coronation period and there appeared to be plenty of spare space.

In Kensington Gardens complete construction of all lines for telephones and public address, both for the Army and R.A.F. areas, and the installation of telephone exchanges in both areas had to be carried out by us within 48 hours. Operation of the exchange and public address system in the R.A.F. area was carried out by R.A.F. personnel after installation work had been completed. A Signal Office, S.D.S. Office and Exchange were established in the Army area and the operation of these was by the detachment of 5 Corps Signal Regiment.

Twelve amplifiers No. 1 and 30 speakers re-entrant were used to cover all areas in Kensington Gardens and these were put to excellent use in marshalling the Street Lining troops, the Colonial and Commonwealth Processional troops and the Army Reserve troops on rehearsals and Coronation

Day. The Greenwich Time signal was also re-broadcast over this system and the O.C. Signals had to deal with several complaints from residents near Hyde Park Corner made through the Police (who, incidentally, had just as noisy a P.A. system in Hyde Park) that they had been prematurely awakened from their beauty sleep at 0700 hours, the time of the first B.B.C. time signals. We found that very little traffic passed through the Signal Office and S.D.S. Office, but the Exchange (on 60-line F. & F.) was extremely busy the whole time.

A jeep mounted with two speakers and containing one amplifier No. 1 was used by the camp staff to good advantage during the reception and dispersal of Coronation troops.

Our five exchange lines 2 P.W.s to London District and Regent's Park, three tie lines to R.A.F. and two tie lines to the Police were found to be inadequate to deal with traffic and, after two days, five more exchange lines were added. Even then there were many times when all of these lines were engaged.

The planning of the Signal Communications for Kensington Gardens was started in February and March by the O.C. Signals who, in conjunction with the Lines Sergeant, prepared the line project.

The camp opened at 0800 hours on 18th May and operated until 8th June. During the Coronation period, 17,000 troops were accommodated in the Gardens. The Signal Office Area was visited at various times during the camp by many V.I.P.s, some known to all ranks and some who appeared in the disguise of civilian clothes.

Royal Signals Demonstration to the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, 28th April, 1953

IN August of last year, 5 Corps Signal Regiment were appointed Royal Signals Demonstration Unit, and we were informed that the first really big demonstration was to be a demonstration of the functions of Royal Signals to the Cadets at the R.M.A. (S).

After a lot of thinking and conferring it was decided to show an Infantry Brigade Signal Troop deployed in typical layout, more or less on the lines of a wireless diagram, as the main item. It was also decided to show the construction of a section of a new type of light mild steel poled telephone/telegraph route, a Golden Arrow working to H.Q. N.A.G. in Germany, and last, but by no means least, an Auster aircraft to be flown in and around by Major G. H. Wotton, Royal Signals, Officer Commanding Glider Pilot Regiment.

When once the programme had been agreed, the task of selecting personnel and vehicles started, Royal Signals Records "froze" all the personnel required, and 6 Command Workshops worked wonders on the vehicles, repainting and overhauling, the familiar 17 was removed and 81 painted on, much to the amazement of 49 Brigade Signal Troop, who thought they were getting a lot of new vehicles.

5 Corps Signal Regiment

5 Corps Signal Regiment

After the sort out of vehicles, equipment and personnel, a detailed recce was made of the grounds of the R.M.A. (S) and a natural arena located in the "fire break" approximately two miles north of the new building. A detailed plan of the arena was made and reproduced exactly on the Unit Sports Ground.

Training started in earnest in the new year and was well under way when it was rudely interrupted by the floods.

Captain A. C. Birtwistle, arriving from Korea, was appointed O.C. Brigade Signal Troop, and Second-Lieutenant R. J. Lupini was appointed O.C. Line Troop.

The User Trials Squadron at Catterick were the only people who had any knowledge of the new poled route, so a party was despatched to collect the stores and be shown the intricacies of how it "worked." Unfortunately, the party arrived at the same time as the snow blizzard, and consequently were not able to see very much. However, by a series of trials and errors a very efficient drill was evolved for erecting five bays. The first time the route went up it took a morning, but by the time they had finished it took only nine minutes to erect from scratch, with the exception of "punching" five of the six holes for the poles.

Meanwhile, the Brigade Signal Troop were getting cracking, and from being lined up in a row, personnel in front of their vehicles, etc., to being completely deployed with aerials up, wireless through and lines laid, it took only 4½ minutes.

The Golden Arrow Detachment of 1 Wireless Group arrived in March and some very successful tests were carried out with Germany.

For the demonstration the Troops moved to Waterloo Barracks, Aldershot, a week prior to the demonstration, and carried out last rehearsals on the actual ground. A full dress rehearsal was given to the Officers of Southern Command the day before the real show.

Six Y.O.s who had just completed their part one course at Catterick, and a ski course in Norway were attached to the Regiment from 8th to 30th April. They were invaluable, and were trained to lead syndicates of Cadets round the demonstration explaining each item and answering questions put by Cadets.

To enable all the Cadets to see it on the actual day, there were three showings of the demonstration. Each demonstration was followed by tea and buns for the Cadets.

Major Wotton's flying was a great success. He ended up by diving straight at the spectators, causing more than one to duck rapidly.

Lieutenant-Colonel Bradley very kindly operated the teleprinter at the N.A.G. terminal of the Golden Arrow, even so some of the Cadets were sceptical as to whether they were actually working to Germany.

The Director of Signals, Deputy Director of Signals, C.S.O. Eastern Command and C.S.O. Southern Command all attended the demonstration.

Though we say it ourselves, we think the day was a success, and made a good start for bigger and better demonstrations in the future.

1 WAR OFFICE SIGNAL REGIMENT (TRAFFIC)

The Regiment, in common with the Forces generally, has been kept pretty busy with Coronation business, and now that "it's all over" we feel, and hope, that we have done a good job.

Representatives of the Regiment took part in the processional march and street lining, in addition to the provision of D.R.s for duty with the B.B.C., etc.

Off-duty personnel saw the whole ceremony from the latest type of TV in their various messes and all voted it a grand show.

We were also represented in the local celebrations in Woolwich.

Signalman Coleman and Signalman Knowles were on board the British Railways steamer *Duke of York* which was involved in a collision with the U.S. Navy ship *Haiti Victory*. Both escaped injury and returned to barracks none the worse for their experience.

Troop news is very scanty this month, and I feel that "pressure of Coronation duties" will be the excuse! However, "C" Troop did manage an outing to Brighton and in spite of changeable weather most members had a great deal of fun. The party ended up in high spirits, although some (?), owing to excess of "spirits," appeared to be in low spirits!

Trip to Italy

The Troop lost the services of one of its routers for a fortnight when Signalman Jupp went on 14 days' leave to Italy. Going via Folkestone and Calais, his train took him down the eastern side of France into Switzerland, where he stayed for two days at Lucerne. From there he went by lake steamer and train to Milan, for one night. The following day saw him travelling to Firenze, the City of Art, where he spent a full week touring the town and its vicinity, admiring sculptures, paintings and many historic churches and other buildings, including an excavated Roman amphitheatre at nearby Fiesole. After a brief trip to Pisa he had to return homewards, stopping again at Milan for a day before setting off on the 24-hour long journey to London.

* * *

Congratulations to W.O.II D. W. Swenson on being awarded Mentioned in Despatches for gallant and distinguished services in Korea during the period 1st July, 1952, to 31st December, 1952.

EASTERN COMMAND SIGNAL REGIMENT

The remnants of the Coronation are still to be seen occasionally in the form of blue figures dashing hurriedly around to return their blue uniforms before having money demanded in payment of them. The Coronation hit us hard with many of the more manly intelligent figures picked out as a suitable contribution for the street liners, led by Captain J. A. King.

We enjoyed the company of a large contingent from the Corps from B.A.O.R. and other stations abroad, who remained with us for periods of between a week and a month for final training. The air seems still and quiet now that the hoarse screams of command followed by the crashes of feet have left us and returned to their mother Units.

While training, the contingent took a march into the countryside. They made an imposing sight swinging along, led as they were by an Officer with a drawn sword. Their progress was like that of a conquering army. The inhabitants of Crowborough would turn pale at the sound of tramping feet, and would pull their children in from the street out of danger and lock their doors. However, bit by bit they became accustomed to these martial displays.

Some difficulty seemed to be experienced with uniforms and equipment, so that while the equipment arrived piece by piece, the uniforms which arrived did not fit at all well and it became necessary by means of a varied training programme to shrink those men who were too large and expand those who were too small. This course of action was completely successful, and by the necessary day we had a smart contingent ready.

From reports received we gather that the "lucky ones" chosen must have experienced similar climatic conditions to Mr. Hillary and Sherpa Tensing a few days earlier. In some cases a small dark ribbon has imparted a warming sensation and in others a 72-hour pass as a reward for their efforts. For our part, Captain King has brought home a wealth of interesting stories for the Mess.

Last week we held our sports day, enhanced by the Corps Band, who played lustily in another direction. From the results we have now picked a small contingent who are busy in the evenings making the area round R.H.Q. dangerous from flying javelins, discus and hammers.

On this occasion, Mrs. P. H. Smitherman kindly consented to give away the prizes. Captain J. A. King, who had already distinguished himself by organising the start of the children's race, assisted, and when all the medals had been presented called for three impressive cheers for Mrs. Smitherman. It was not until the echo had died away that he noticed that the most important trophy, the inter-Squadron athletics cup, had still to be given away.

To finish, we should not let this month pass without some word concerning our own Coronation celebrations. On Sunday, 31st May, Royal Signals headed a procession to the village green where the Vicar was holding an open-air service. To the stirring music of the British Legion Band, we had behind us a motley assortment of Scouts, Guides, Brownies (right marker, Sergeant Howard), and other organisations. The salute at the march past afterwards was taken by Lieutenant-General Sir W. G. S. Dobbie, K.C.M.G., G.C.B., D.S.O.

Anti-Aircraft Command

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

We live in a constant whirl of Regimental activity and it is difficult to realise that camp is upon us.

Brigadier B. P. Hughes, C.B.E., A.D.C., Deputy Commander H.Q. 1 A.A. Group, has completed his administrative inspection of the Unit, and we like to think that all was reasonably satisfactory, even if that fire extinguisher didn't go off until the following morning!

Winter training periods are complete, the Regimental Trade Board is over and the results—and the extra pay at camp—are awaited. The Officers underwent their annual rigorous week-end at Cliftonville in May, and they say they learnt a lot. The B.F. period, which is an open hour for asking those things one ought to know but doesn't, was an idea of the C.O.'s which was voted a great success—and useful, too.

A coach trip to the Army Soccer Final was organised—well done, 7 Training Regiment—and as a Coronation treat the P.R.I. hired a boat on the Thames for the Regiment to see the floodlighting. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed this party, even though the evening turned a little chilly after dark, except, of course, for those wedged in the saloon who were very rightly celebrating Jim Kirby's return from hospital.

Our small contingent in the Coronation parade acquitted themselves extremely well, and the Regiment shared the distinction with an R.A.M.C. ambulance of having the only mechanical transport in the procession—a motor cycle (very clean) ridden by Captain Michael Seys-Phillips, who was Officer Despatch Rider to the Chief of Staff.

The Honorary Colonel, Sir John Dalton, presided over the Regimental Annual Dinner, Brigadier Morrison, Brigadier Hughes and Lieutenant-Colonel E. H. Clarke, C.S.O. H.Q. 1 A.A. Group, being chief guests. About 170 members of the Regiment attended and after dinner relatives and friends came along to an All Ranks' Dance.

97 Agra Signal Squadron have now moved from 206 Brompton Road to Clapham, where they share premises with the Surrey Yeomanry. We shall not see so much of them on Thursday evenings in future, and Major Bryan's ready wit, his contributions to Mess funds (it's the tonic I like), and references to his high ranking ecclesiastical acquaintances will be sorely missed.

At the time of going to Press we are on a Regimental week-end M.T. exercise, and the C.S.O. has just very sportingly offered to compete. Will he be successful in discovering the name of the licensee of the King William IV at Leadon Rodding or the time of the Children's Service at Willingdale-with-Swallow? We hope so.

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

On our last appearance in print the Unit was in the midst of an intensive recruiting drive with particular emphasis on W.R.A.C. The drive was in the form of newspaper advertisements, equipment demonstrations in cinemas, shop window displays and visits to factories. The team for this latter was made up of the Commanding Officer, Adjutant and W.R.A.C. Adviser, and this proved the most productive effort, so much in fact that we were able to relax about the end of April with a net result of approximately 50 recruits attested, clothed and equipped. Most of them will be with us at camp.

This was followed by an "At Home" at Brandon Terrace, where there was a demonstration of Signal equipment, country dancing and a showing of the film "Greensleeves." We then had tea and cakes in the canteen and a very enjoyable evening was had by all. The show was attended among others by Lieutenant-Colonel Danby, O.B.E., C.S.O. 3 A.A. Group, and Colonel Gardiner, C.B.E., Regional Director of the G.P.O., Scotland.

The Unit also held a training week-end at Hall Hill Camp, Glasgow, on 28th-29th March, which was well attended by both W.R.A.C. and military personnel. The weather was not too kind to us, but we accomplished that which we set out to do, i.e., hold trade boards for up to and including Class III. Results are not out yet, but no doubt the training was most valuable.

Friday, 10th April, was the day of the Officers' Annual Dinner and Dance, at which no less than 54 members and guests attended. The principal guest was General Goodman, G.O.C. 3 A.A. Group, who gave a most interesting and informative after-dinner speech which was ably replied to by the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel J. C. Brady, M.B.E.

C.S.M. Mary Morrison, W.R.A.C., left the Regiment on being married to R.Q.M.S. Brownley, late of this Regiment, and now with 5 A.A. (M) Signal Regiment. Our loss, his gain, etc., and we take this opportunity of wishing them both the very best wishes for their future and extend a hearty welcome to them any time they care to pay us a visit.

W.O.II S.S.M. Hepworth left for civilian life on 24th April, 1953, after 22 years' service. At a presentation party in the Sergeants' Mess he said he might join the T.A. If he does he will be welcome in the Unit.

Camp. The Unit is just about to move to camp at Tavistock, in Devon, so you can imagine how busy we are just now, but we shall be appearing again very soon after camp.

The History of British Army Signals in the Second World War, by Major-General R. F. H. Nalder, C.B., O.B.E., as published for the Royal Signals Institution by Gale and Polden, Ltd., Aldershot. 17s. 6d. Only a very few copies are left.

HISTORY OF BRITISH ARMY SIGNALS IN THE SECOND WORLD WAR

by **Major-General R. F. H. Nalder, C.B., O.B.E.**

IN chapters X, XI and XII, which, together, cover 58 closely written pages, the author covers the whole field of the various methods of intercommunication—wireless, line, signal despatch and pigeons.

As General Nalder says, "Neither ships nor aircraft could function in peace time without a scale of wireless equipment which was comparable in both the strategical and tactical fields with that required for war. The Army could claim no such necessity . . ."

As a result, the Army in general and Royal Signals in particular, started the 1939 war very badly equipped.

The chapter includes a remarkable table enumerating as far as can be judged every single British wireless set used by the Army from then until 1952. The list contains some shockers, and well may those of us who are older remember the weird contrivances used to "make 'em work," and the "borrowing" from our Allies which was necessary before the full tide of British production reached the more distant theatres of war.

A notable omission from the list is the Wireless Set "C," which dates from about 1918 and, completely obsolete in 1939, was still present in sufficient quantities to provide a large number of the components from which were "botched up" the home-made wireless sets on which much of the wireless networks in India and adjacent countries depended.

General Nalder correctly refuses to be sidetracked into such romanticisms and deals straightly with the development of admirable range of wireless sets with which the Army finished the war in 1945-46.

Looking into the future as at 1946 and to the theoretical present in 1952, he writes of the advantage to be gained at large headquarters by remote control by short range wireless equipment.

It is a solemn thought that as stated in the Director's speech the other day the Army is only now, in 1953, beginning to undertake the replacement in Royal Signals of the wireless sets so admirable in 1945 which are today as old-fashioned as those with which we started in 1939.

Much the same story is told of the means of intercommunication by line. Many of us went to war in 1939 with the Buzzer Telephone D3 which our forebears had used in 1916-1918. The cables used were just the same and the means of "laying cables" far inferior to that available in 1918.

Despite these handicaps, Royal Signals was sufficient and efficient within the Division and perhaps within the Corps if this formation was fairly concentrated.

Behind Corps, at Army or General Headquarters, and at the L. of C., we had nothing; relying on the existing civil system and to a great extent on G.P.O. engineers in khaki to put us on to it.

Again the development both in technique and equipment is faithfully traced until the culminating period when Royal Signals could take over, rehabilitate, and operate the line telecommunications of a country or a continent without any particular difficulty. The penultimate paragraph of this chapter is quoted verbatim. There is a sting in the tail.

"Though the scale of line communications had steadily increased throughout the war, the facilities provided were never more than what was strategically and tactically necessary. The cost in manpower in providing them was reasonable, but on the other hand the high technical standard required imposed a very heavy strain. This may well be one of the most difficult factors to contend with in face of future technical developments."

In chapter XII, General Nalder traces the development of signal despatch from the small beginnings of our incomparable motor cycle despatch riders through all the ramifications of the various vehicles employed. It is noteworthy that even at the very end of the war the requirements of load carrying and security had to be met by improvisation. The use of aircraft is advocated and recommendation made that in future signal despatch aircraft should be owned and piloted by Royal Signals. We read elsewhere of the admirable service provided in Korea by the United States Army Signal Corps.

The whole vexed subject of signals despatch offices and control and registration of traffic is analysed.

The chapter concludes with an account of the reintroduction of the pigeon service so useful in underdeveloped countries and in air sea rescue. Perhaps the main use of pigeons in the European Theatre was for underground movements in enemy occupied territories.

The Night Patrol

by **John Whitney**

IT had been a beastly day. Since five that morning the long, straggling column had been on the move. During a brief ten-minute break we had heard the faint stutter of a light machine gun—but that had been far away on our right flank. Otherwise it had been uneventful; a long, slogging, monotonous day. We could not have advanced more than six or seven miles, although we had probably marched nearer thirty.

In an attempt to keep our column hidden from the air we had kept huddled close to a broad river, squelching through the slushy, muddy ground of the bank, and following all the windings of the river for the sake of the fragile green camouflage of the belt of trees which fringed it.

The mule drivers must have had a particularly bad time. They were without experience of those difficult beasts. And especially so at mid-day when we were ordered to cross the river and follow the other bank.

"It's a loving good thing there's no current," remarked Fred as he dubiously eyed the slimy brown water. We agreed with that. The water was unexpectedly deep. Halfway across the bottom steeply shelved; water suddenly swirled right up to our necks. In the wash, little Charlie went right under for a pace or two—or seemed to—and we might have been amused if we hadn't been so bothered with keeping our rifles and packs and ammunition out of the "drink."

And now, when it had grown really dark, and when we had become resigned to plodding on all night, we had been suddenly halted. Just as we were we slumped down, too tired to bother to unhitch our packs.

And when our half Platoon did not get the expected order to dig in, were we surprised? It seemed ominous in a vague way we did not try to analyse or understand.

"I don't like it, you chaps. I don't like it," Fred began, and that had started a spiritless barren argument, until a soft but penetrating "Ring off, you fellows, ring off" had come out of the darkness and the talk died away to silence.

We lay just where we had dropped, in a stupor of physical fatigue.

From this near collapse we were brought back to life by a sensation as unpleasantly sharp as the jab of a hypodermic needle. There was a rustling in the undergrowth, the faint shadow of a crouching figure; a few whispered words—". . . patrol . . . contact . . . report . . ." We caught enough to catch the drift.

Silently our half-Platoon left the squelching mud and the dark belt of trees and struck out at a right-angle for the high, bare, stony hills.

"Too many men in this bally patrol. It's positively dangerous!" Fred whispered in my ear. I was too busy picking my way in the dark past boulders and stumbling over loose stones to answer then. And after we had breathlessly climbed to the top of a steep ridge, and painfully slithered down the far side, it seemed pointless and fatuous to make any reply at all.

How long it all went on, just what information we obtained, just when and where we realised (with a stab of alarm) we were hopelessly lost, I don't recall.

But I know we spent a long and painful time crawling on our stomachs. I remember we stood silently in the shadow of a great stone wall. The sudden appearance of a brilliantly beaming moon had made us scuttle quickly for cover, when the ghostly brittle moonlight had suddenly peopled the bare field with phantom figures. It had been a good thing no one was credulous or windy enough to loosen off a round or two, though I admit it was tempting.

But beyond those unpleasant moments nothing is clear—until we came to the *nulla.** The *nulla* was only a few yards broad, but centuries of rainy seasons had dug and channelled the river down into the hard rock at least fifteen feet, leaving precipitous sides.

"Strewth," said Fred. We found out a lot by the simple act of sliding, jumping, falling into that narrow deep *nulla.* There was a lot of water at the bottom. It had a good depth, too. And we found many large, smooth, rounded boulders, sticking up out of the water like stepping stones, and offering us our only footway.

By keeping to single file we found it possible to hop and jump and move. But were we travelling in the right direction? Would the *nulla* lead us out of the hills in the direction of our river? We could only pray that it would. It wasn't up to us.

As always, the head of the file steadily drew further away from the tail. We were in the middle and, like a beheaded centipede, there was nothing we could do about it. Our eyes hurt with the effort of straining through the dark to catch a glimpse of the next foothold. Our rifles bruised our backs as we jumped. Our breath came in short jerks. We just didn't dare think of sprained ankles or broken legs.

Several miles were travelled in this tricky way before trouble hit us. I sensed someone on the rock ahead, hesitated, jumped, made it, and was seized by brawny arms. A short Lee Enfield clattered on the rock and splashed into the water. I couldn't help feeling glad it wasn't mine.

All this took only a second of time. Another fractional moment and I was aware there were three of us grouped on a large flattish rock, lapped all round by dark water. One fellow had his hands bunched to his eyes. It was Fred who was holding us all on, and it was Fred who spoke in an urgent whisper: "He's blinded!"

"What?"

"Get a move on there," came a surly voice behind us.

We turned round to face the six chaps in the tail of the patrol who had now caught up with us.

"Fellow here can't see. He's blind. He caught a shower of grit and dirt in his eyes."

"Leave him here."

"We can't leave him *here* in this no-man's land."

"Cut the jabber!"

"Anyone got a torch?"

"I've got a match!"

"You can't shine a light *here.*"

"Pass over the box of matches."

"Do you know a candle can be seen for five miles on a clear, dark night?"

We're not on a blasted heath, we're in a blasted *nulla!*"

"Risk it?"

"What else?"

The effect of a suddenly lighted match held close to the eyes is unexpected. That is an understatement, but it'll do. It was only a second before the match was dropped. We had seen nothing. Great tears welled up from our eye ducts and ran down our cheeks.

At least we stopped the headlong rush of the patrol. A muffled yell came floating down the *nulla* from far ahead. It was an angry yell.

* For those who have never seen a nulla by day or stumbled on one at night, I should perhaps explain that a nulla (spelled nala in all the best grammars) is an Urdu and (I suppose) an Indo-European word which is rather inadequately translated as a "dried up river bed."

We were so concerned with our own distressing symptoms that we quite forgot our patient. We were so busy cursing our own stupidity that we did not realise for some time that we had done the trick. Still in excruciating pain (our patient told us) he could now manage; his tears had washed away all the dirt and grit.

"Found his rifle yet?"

"Yes."

"Hang on to it then, eh?"

We might run into nasty trouble at any moment. And if we did get back safely there was certainly going to be the devil of a row when we reported in. That was obvious.

"Cheer up!" said Fred. "You've forgotten something." There was a lot we had all forgotten. We were due to attack at first light.

Our three-day exercise was nearly over.

Gilding the Gold Coast

by **Bee Wickerson**

(Mrs. B. L. Baldwin, c/o G.C.S.S., Giffard Camp, Accra, Gold Coast, West Africa)

BACK in Accra once again after a recuperative leave that was very well spent—by me at the January sales, by the children at play, and by my husband at the kitchen sink (or so he affirms!)—we found ourselves enmeshed in all the ramifications of a Coronation Ball, as organised by the Signal Squadron.

Giffard Hall, large, much-timbered and, *au naturel*, a trifle on the dreary side, was to be transformed by paint, paper, plywood and perspicacity into a panorama of two Elizabethan eras.

A huge crown, constructed from the aforementioned materials, was suspended in a central position and, being ingeniously hinged, was caused to collapse at a crucial moment to shed innumerable balloons upon dancers treading the light fantastic below. Practice performances of this manoeuvre were given twice nightly—with matinees on Wednesdays and Saturdays—until the whole action functioned with well-oiled precision to the satisfaction of all concerned. On the night everything was hunky-dory and a resounding success.

Upon one wall a mock mural of Buckingham Palace was painted, and so well was it done that many a Londoner was assailed with a smoky nostalgia when viewing it.

The poop deck of a sailing ship in full rig was made to do duty as a bar. Although I noticed little evidence of the *traditional* splicing of the main brace, the overall result turned out to be the same, whatever the spirit in which the joint was made!

The ball reception committee were kept busily employed during the evening, performing their tasks with great despatch in the atmosphere of a modern airport. Airways posters adorned the walls, model aircraft decorated the reception desk, and strip lighting and comfortable seating completed the picture.

The band was ensconced within the plywood superstructure of a traditional bandstand, where they made music for the cash customers until 2 a.m. Beefeaters, Horseguards, and the like, all cleverly simulated in paper and paint, a little larger than life, guarded strategic points, gazing stolidly to the front in the approved manner.

On the afternoon before the show, wives, of whose quality and quantity it behoves a better bard than I to eulogise, arrived to prepare the "small chop" for the interval refreshment. To the somewhat hectic and certainly heterogeneous accompaniments of last minute adjustments to semi-permanent structures, and the rise and fall of the central crown, canapés were spread, bread was thinly cut and garnished, and various savoury whatnots arranged decoratively upon plates.

Success was assured when the hall began to fill just after nine o'clock. A rather tardy arrival of the band did nothing to mar the proceedings (nor yet the proceeds) and things were under way. Hot dogs, *certa cito*, were grilled and served on the spot by volunteer wives, and they (the hot dogs), passing rapidly from pan to mouth, were exhausted in a very short space of time.

With this social occasion a past achievement, our thoughts then turned to the Coronation festivities, from which, as I write, most of us are beginning to recover. Events, many and varied, included race meetings, a firework display, concerts, balls, children's parties, parades—in fact, the lot. And on the morning of 3rd June a special Coronation edition of the London *Evening News*, flown out by B.O.A.C., greeted us at belated breakfast tables.

Yes, but yes, since we have been back in Accra there has never been a dull moment. Now things are quietening down a little and one is able to attempt the herculean task of catching up with the daily round. The rains are right around the corner and it is time to tackle the gardens; and write to the Camp Commandant to tell him that the roof is leaking all over the newly-issued carpets. Social visits are made each evening by armies of winged termites. Their calling hour is 2000 hours G.M.T. and we have, perforce, to extinguish all lights and allow them their last merry fling. Short of retiring beneath the beneficence of the mosquito net, there is no other avoiding action or delaying tactic that is efficacious. The morning after the night before finds toads, sated and somnolent, in the garden; and a plentitude of guazy wings littering the floor in the house. One can only wait until 2000 hours again for the next invasion.

Not to worry, as the happy-go-lucky ones have it . . . the first tour is the worst. And, of course, I forget, we are now within the exalted ranks of those who have returned from leave, and in the doubtfully enviable position of being able to preface odd remarks with "Last tour, we . . ."

Well, as I was saying, last tour I rushed around trying to make the place seem like home. Now, having attuned my system to local lethargy, I am quite content to enjoy idleness without shame. I might almost qualify for the adjective "Old Coaster." Which reminds me of an unintentional brick I let fall in a personal letter home. I had cause to remark, "Give my regards to the Vicar, I believe he is an old coaster." My caligraphy does not normally create difficulties, but on this occasion my correspondent read this as "Give my regards to the Vicar, I believe he is an old *waster*." I am still living it down, and using the typewriter for all my correspondence.

After the nice things BARLEUX wrote about me, I feel that I must, at least, offer a little advice to those about to sojourn in the Gold Coast for the first time. Those who have been before will probably disagree with everything I say. Most things now are cheaper at home. The housing problem is much the same here, there and everywhere else; but no one problem is insuperable, given time. The sort of things to bring in the heavy baggage are floor covering, linen, cutlery and silver, a sewing machine, shoes and your particular household goods—and a cow if you must have fresh milk! All of these, excluding the livestock, are obtainable here, but are highly priced. Above all else, a sense of humour is essential.

If you can laugh with true abandon when your "boy" pours a bottle of iced bleach in lieu of table wine when you are entertaining the boss, if you can chuckle with genuine amusement when certain nylon nether garments are starched to a board, and should you become positively hilarious when the iron fuses the whole electrical system for the seventh time before noon, then you, my dear, are going to *enjoy* life in Accra. There are days when Africa tends to annihilate ego; but given a strong will and inside information about when it is most expedient to beat a diplomatic retreat, you will survive—with the aid of paludrine pills—to become an old waster, like the Vicar!

Plain Tales

★ *With Greetings from Barleux*

The More We Are Together

A LOT of people writing about the 1953 Reunion at Catterick Camp last May might be expected to say, "I don't know where to begin." There is nothing like that about me. I know exactly what I want to say first. I shall remember 17th May, which was a Sunday, for many years, because that was the day I didn't get any tea. It was there somewhere—tea, fancy cakes, sandwiches, and thousands of people, mostly in uniform. After shuffling in a queue for twenty minutes I reached the counter. Hooray. My turn next. That's what you think. No cups, no saucers, no plates. I said to myself ——— ———, and for good measure added ——— ——— as I tripped over a guy-rope. What a grand occasion it all was. Such a tremendous muster of Old Comrades on the church parade. You would have heard the hundreds of medals clanking but for the noise of creaking joints. You must read NACERBY if you want a comprehensive account of the 1953 Reunion. He could write when he was 18. In the meantime, you can wander round with me. The Chester Branch very kindly allotted me a seat in their coach for the trip, thanking them. I was grateful to Major T. W. Baynes, who looked after me during the week-end. The Officer Training Wing has one of the most attractive Sergeants' Messes I have seen. It was there that I ran into a large portion of joviality in the person of Major W. C. ("Bill") Savage, on leave from Nairobi. He tells me that he weighs 17 stone 6 lbs. I didn't argue. One member of his party gave me a stony stare and said: "I don't speak to you." I had no idea who he was but I am a patient guy. I got it eventually. It appears that I opposed a suggestion of his at a certain meeting. My reasoning must have been good for his motion was defeated. I should add that the meeting was at Maresfield Park in 1922 and my long lost friend was "Smudger" Smith, who used to train the boxers of those days. Or so he said. We made a flying visit to the Sergeants' Mess, 2 Training Regiment, and arrived there just as the last crumb was swept from the buffet. Everywhere is a long way at Catterick Camp, but we sped back to Officer Training Wing Sergeants' Mess in time to see the very last cheese straw disappearing down the attractive gullet of a lady in red. Not one of our best week-ends for eating. I was able to have a jet-propelled chat with Captain and Mrs. Adcock. Jim and I soldiered together when the War Office was a Tent G.S. Mark I. Captain and Mrs. Adcock not only have sons in the Corps, but a grandson as well. A very fair contribution. The Birmingham Branch seemed to be well represented this year. Sorry I didn't find time to get some of their local news. I bumped into our very busy General Secretary after the Church Parade. He slapped me on the back and said "Good show." I don't know why. He didn't know me from a crow. That's a point about these reunions. Everyone is so friendly. If you can't remember a chap's name you never let on. Even Jim Adcock was talking to one of our Major-Generals for some minutes before the penny dropped. What a pleasure it is to meet one's old Company Commanders again. What a jolt to one's sense of time to realise that they are now Major-Generals and Brigadiers, mostly retired.

We hear many conflicting opinions about National Servicemen, so if you haven't seen any lately I can tell you that on parade their faces are just as blank as ours used to be, but there is nothing wrong with their smartness and precision.

Mercury House

Recent guests at Colwyn Bay include Captain and Mrs. J. Pollard, from the Gold Coast. "Snub" is off to Singapore at the end of his leave. What gadabouts some people are.

Major and Mrs. W. Savage, on leave from Nairobi, returning in September. In spite of everything you read in the papers, Kenya is "just the job." The number of ex-Signals resident in those parts is surprising.

There is still an alarming ignorance in the Corps on the subject of the two Mercury Houses. Major "Stan" Dunningham, at Boscombe, is just as mystified as we here at Colwyn Bay. The latest rumour is that we have a fortnight for Officers and ex-Officers and then a fortnight for other ranks. This is pure nonsense. A plan like that would be an economical fiasco. The houses are open to serving and ex-members of the Corps and their families. Ranks, present or past, carry no weight. It makes a nice change.

Clue of the Green Paper

Ukann Larfe held the sheet of pale green notepaper in his shaking hand. Signorina Elvira looked at him anxiously. "You ARE a famous detective, aren't you?" She asked. Ukann Larfe straightened his tie and glanced at his ashen face in the mirror. "The MOST famous," he answered with his accustomed modesty.

"Well, get weaving. Here are five hundred one pound notes for your immediate expenses. Let me know if you want any more. Arrivederci!" This unusual woman smacked a bulky packet on the table, stepped on to the fire escape, and was gone in two shakes of a . . . well, pretty rapidly. The celebrated investigator poured himself a pint of rum, lit a cigarette and lay on the floor to consider the problem. In a few moments his mind was made up. Once again he became the man of action, the terror of criminals, the despair of Scotland Yard, and the scourge of Eccleston Square. He went to sleep.

Hermione Larfe stood in a B.B.C. studio and eyed the microphone uneasily and the interviewer with loathing. She thought this one was too full of confidence, complacency, spurious good humour, conceit and pickled onions. Apart from that, she thought, not a bad sort.

"Good evening, Mrs. Larfe," he said with a charming smile as the red light came on. "You were born in Lancashire, weren't you?"

Hermione crushed her script in a powerful hand and reduced it to pulp.

"No," she answered firmly, "I was born on a ship in the Caspian Sea."

Uncle Alf: "What a minute. Is this anything to do with the story?"

Me: "No, not really, but Hermione always wanted to mess up a B.B.C. programme and I promised to help her."

Uncle Alf: "The customers do not like these digressions."

Me: "These what?"

Uncle Alf: "You 'eard. Just get on without the interview."

"O.K." Interval of ten minutes. Lovely choc ices, razor blades, programmes. Sit down in front. She's back again. Hermione was becoming a little bored with the whole thing. She dumped a square yard of turf on the man's head, tied a reef knot in the microphone stand, and went home on a No. 11 bus.

Uncle Alf: "The No. 11 doesn't go that way."

Me: "You are quite right. She will be jolly late home tonight."

Ukann Larfe moved slightly in his sleep. A twig snapped in the New Forest and a dinghy subsided into the mud at Weston-super-Mare.

Note: All the characters are fictitious, if that is the word I want, and any person attempting to identify himself with the characters in this stupendous serial may go fry an egg.

Royal Signals Association

GENERAL FUND

Balance Sheet as at 31st December, 1952

1951 £		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
	Sundry Creditors:		
169	Expenses Accrued	93 2 8	
122	Subscriptions paid in advance on Publications	199 16 0	
418	Subscriptions to *Quarterly Journal* unclaimed	418 6 2	
357	Printing Charges on Publications	830 12 10	
9	Corporation Duty	17 10 0	
1,075			1,559 7 8
	Capital Account:		
1,450	Balance, 31st December, 1951	1,258 18 5	
191 Dr	*Add* Excess of Income over Expenditure for year	1,010 8 0	
1,259		2,269 6 5	
9,645	*Add* Life Membership Account (including £850 7s. 1d. received during year)	10,495 2 9	
10,904			12,764 9 2
£11,979			£14,323 16 10

1951 £	£		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
		Cash:		
2,871		Lloyds Bank Ltd.	1,366 1 10	
12		Cash in Hand	7 18 1	
2,883				1,373 19 11
		Sundry Debtors and Payments in Advance:		
202		Subscriptions to Publications	352 10 0	
227		Advertisements in Publications	290 0 0	
2,128		Benevolent Fund	5,280 1 2	
122		Officers' Benevolent Fund	265 1 8	
106		Sundry Loans	16 14 0	
87		Diaries and Christmas Cards	40 17 5	
97		Superannuation Contributions	106 15 1	
2,969				6,351 19 4
164		**Loans to Branch Associations**		203 0 0
		Investments—At Cost:		
1,290		£1,287 12s. 8d. 3½% War Loan	1,289 14 10	
200		£226 8s. 1d. 4% Consolidated Stock	200 0 0	
500		£682 9s. 3d. 3½% Conversion Stock	500 0 0	
400		5 National Savings Certificates of 100 Units	400 0 0	
391		£400 3% Funding Loan, 1951-69	391 1 0	
2,440		£2,500 2½% Funding Loan, 1956-61	2,439 17 0	
197		£194 7s. 7d. 3% Commonwealth of Australia, 1963-65	197 1 8	
5,418				5,417 14 6
		(Market Value of the above Investments as at 31st December, 1952, was taken at Middle Market Prices and amounted to £5,262 14s. 4d.)		
		Stocks on Hand—At Cost:		
75		Corps Clothing, etc.	437 14 3	
—		Car Badges	53 1 3	
91		Small Signals History	16 2 8	
46		Association Badges	32 6 8	
212				539 4 10
—		Blue Books—at estimated Selling Price		129 7 10
		Office Furniture—At Cost:		
		Less Depreciation		
75		Balance, 1st January, 1948	75 7 6	
166		Additions to date	173 19 1	
241			249 6 7	
62		*Less* Aggregate Depreciation to date	80 16 2	
179				168 10 5
		Leasehold Property—At Cost:		
2,000		88 Eccleston Square, S.W.1	2,000 0 0	
1,800		*Less* Proportion borne by Benevolent Fund	1,800 0 0	
200			200 0 0	
46		*Less* Amount written off to date	60 0 0	
154				140 0 0
£11,979				£14,323 16 10

C. W. FLAGDATE, Major-General, *Chairman.*
H. R. FIRTH, Brigadier, *Secretary.*

I have examined the above Balance Sheet and accompanying Income and Expenditure Account with the Books and Vouchers of the Fund and certify the same to be in accordance therewith. I have ascertained that the Inscribed Stocks stood in the names of the Trustees and Lloyds Bank Ltd. has 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.,
Chartered Accountant,
Auditor.

Gresham House,
24 Old Broad Street,
London, E.C.2.
12th March, 1953.

Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31st December, 1952

EXPENDITURE

1951 £	£		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
		To *Administration Expenses:*		
13		Secretary's Salary	62 10 0	
298		Salaries, Wages and National Insurance	303 4 3	
14		Superannuation Contributions	11 1 1	
61		Rent, Rates, Heating and Lighting	60 15 0	
1		Insurance	2 5 5	
8		Telephone	5 14 0	
30		Printing and Stationery	70 5 8	
29		Postages and Sundry Expenses	38 11 9	
20		Office Cleaning	24 4 0	
27		Travelling Expenses	42 9 0	
63		Audit and Accountancy Charges	52 10 0	
4		Legal Charges	15 15 0	
2		Bank Charges	1 17 10	
5		Repairs and Renewals	5 13 11	
575			696 16 11	
25		*Less* Proportionate Amount of Administration Expenses received from Officers' Benevolent Fund	25 0 0	
550				671 16 11
		,, *Loss on Publications:*		
550		*The Wire*		— — —
		Officers' Gazette:		
		Cost of Printing	530 14 0	
		Less Subscriptions	458 16 11	
—				71 17 1
2		*Signals History*		— — —
2		,, Loss on Christmas Cards and Calendars		
		,, Cost of Distribution of Blue Books:		
		Printing	440 9 2	
		Less Sales to date	161 1 4	
			279 7 10	
		Less Stock on Hand at estimated Selling Price	129 7 10	
—				150 0 0
20		,, *Depreciation*—Office Furniture		18 14 6
14		,, Amount written off on Leasehold Property		14 0 0
40		,, Cost of Association Reunion		— — —
		,, *Taxation:*		
74		Income Tax deducted from Income from Investments	75 3 8	
18		Corporation Duty	8 15 0	
				83 18 8
—		,, Balance, being Excess of Income over Expenditure for year		1,010 8 0
£1,281				£2,020 15 2

INCOME

1951 £	£		£ s. d.	£ s. d
778		By Subscriptions and Donations		846 11 3
		,, *Income from Investments (gross):*		
45		3½% War Stock	45 1 4	
9		4% Consolidated Loan	9 1 0	
24		3½% Conversion Loan	23 17 8	
12		3% Funding Loan	12 0 0	
62		2½% Funding Loan	62 10 0	
6		3% Commonwealth of Australia Stock	5 16 8	
158				158 6 8
		,, *Income from Publications:*		
		The Wire:		
		Subscriptions	3,219 4 8	
		Advertising Charges	1,084 10 7	
			4,303 15 3	
		Less Cost of Printing	3,859 18 1	
—				443 17 2
—		Grant from Corps Funds in respect of loss incurred in 1951		329 14 6
2		*Officers' Gazette:*	— — —	
		Small Signals History:		
		Sales	100 15 9	
—		*Less* Cost of Sales	74 12 4	
				26 3 5
		,, *Sundry Income:*		
75		Sale of Corps Clothing, etc.	444 2 1	
42		*Less* Cost of Clothing	365 16 6	
33				78 5 7
140		Sale of Car Badges	170 1 11	
117		*Less* Cost of Badges sold	155 4 0	
23				14 17 11
131		Sale of Association Badges	177 11 6	
78		*Less* Cost of Badges sold	97 7 7	
53				80 3 11
32		Profit on Sale of Diaries		32 1 1
11		Profit on Sale of Paint Transfers		10 13 8
191		,, Balance being Excess of Expenditure over Income for year		— — —
£1,281				£2,020 15 2

Royal Signals Association

BENEVOLENT FUND

Balance Sheet as at 31st December, 1952

1951 £		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
	ACCUMULATED FUND:						
104,825	Balance, 31st December, 1951	102,796	1	6			
468	*Less* Loss on Investments sold during year	1,390	8	10			
104,357		101,405	12	8			
1,561	*Less* Excess of Expenditure over Income for year	3,870	3	10			
102,796					97,535	8	10
49	OVERDRAFT—Lloyds Bank Ltd.						
	SUNDRY CREDITORS:						
—	Expenses Accrued	174	10	0			
2,128	General Fund	5,280	1	2			
20	Memorial Fund	20	1	9			
52	Accountancy Charges	52	10	0			
30	Deposit: Guards Divisional Signals	24	0	0			
2,230					5,551	2	11
£105,075					£103,086	11	9

C. W. FLADGATE, Major-General, *Chairman.*
H. R. FIRTH, Brigadier, *Secretary.*

1951 £		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
	CASH AT BANK				1,642	13	11
	INVESTMENTS—At Cost:						
98	130 15s. Units National Savings Certificates	97	10	0			
941	£941 15s. 1d. 3½% War Loan (including £291 15s. 1d. Nominal Value relating to Emigrant Loan Fund)	941	4	0			
13,841	£13,813 17s. 3d. 4% Consolidated Stock	13,841	3	3			
12,650	£10,663 14s. 3d. 2½% National War Bonds, 1951-53 Exchanged on 1st October, 1952, to £10,663 14s. 3d.						
—	3% Serial Funding Stock, 1955	10,663	14	3			
9,187	£9,036 6s. 8d. 3½% London County Consolidated Stock, 1952-62	9,187	5	0			
2,500	£2,500 3% Defence Bonds	2,500	0	0			
313	£300 3½% Commonwealth of Australia Stock, 1954-59	313	1	0			
5,123	£5,000 3½% London County Consolidated Stock, 1954-59	5,122	12	1			
4,200	£4,200 2½% Funding Loan, 1956-61	4,200	0	0			
6,098	£6,000 3½% Commonwealth of Australia Stock, 1956-61	6,098	6	0			
840	£850 3% Funding Loan, 1959-69	839	18	11			
1,945	£1,945 3% Savings Bonds, 1960-70	1,945	0	0			
978	£1,000 3½% Stoke-on-Trent Corporation Stock, 1960-70	977	14	0			
1,955	£2,000 3½% Hull Corporation Stock, 1960-70	1955	8	0			
978	£1,000 3½% Liverpool Corporation Stock, 1960-70	977	14	0			
978	£1,000 3½% Bristol Corporation Stock, 1960-70	977	14	0			
4,910	£5,000 3½% Commonwealth of Australia Stock, 1961-66	4,910	0	9			
10,171	£10,289 7s. 2d. 3½% South Africa Union Stock, 1965-67	4,889	16	0			
4,890	£5,000 3½% British Guiana Stock, 1966-68	5,033	12	0			
5,034	£5,113 5s. 11d. 3½% Southern Rhodesia Stock, 1967-69	4,910	0	9			
4,910	£5,000 3½% British Gas Stock, 1969-71	4,922	9	6			
4,922	£5,000 3½% Northern Rhodesia Stock, 1970-72	5,037	3	3			
5,037	£5,000 3½% Kenya Stock, 1973-78	8,767	0	7			
—	£10,079 3½% Treasury Stock, 1977-80				99,108	7	1
102,499	(Market Value of the above Investments as at 31st December, 1952, was taken at Middle Market Prices and amounted to £95,315 11s. 4d.)						
1,168	INCOME TAX RECOVERABLE				1,055	5	6
	LEASEHOLD PROPERTY:						
	88 Eccleston Square, S.W.1	2,000	0	0			
	Less Proportion borne by General Fund	200	0	0			
		1,800	0	0			
1,408	*Less* Amount written off to date	520	0	0	1,280	0	0
£105,075					£103,086	11	9

I have examined the above Balance Sheet and accompanying Income and Expenditure Account with the Books and Vouchers of the Fund and certify the same to be in accordance therewith. I have ascertained that the Inscribed Stocks stood in the names of the Trustees and Lloyds Bank Ltd. has 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.,
Chartered Accountant,
Auditor.

GRESHAM HOUSE,
24 OLD BROAD STREET,
LONDON, E.C.2.
12th March, 1953.

Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31st December, 1952

EXPENDITURE

1951 £		£	s.	d.	£	s	d.
6,044	To Benevolent Grants (£7,328 3s. 6d. *less* £1,317 15s. 0d. refunded)				6,010	8	6
	,, Donations:						
2	Royal Cambridge Home for Soldiers' Widows	2	2	0			
5	Corps of Commissionaires	5	0	0			
100	Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Families' Association	100	0	0			
20	The Gordon Boys' School	20	0	0			
20	Royal Alexander and Albert School	20	0	0			
474	National Association for the Employment of Regular Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen	324	10	0			
10	Union Jack Club	—	—	—			
100	Forces Help Society and Lord Roberts Workshops	100	0	0			
20	Victory Club	20	0	0			
25	Royal Soldiers' Daughters' School	25	0	0			
—	Star and Garter Home	15	0	0			
776					631	12	0
128	,, Amount written off Leasehold Property				128	0	0
	,, Administration Expenses:						
113	Secretary's Salary	562	10	0			
2,682	Salaries, Wages and National Insurance	2,728	17	4			
127	Superannuation Contribution	99	9	11			
57	Pension	57	4	0			
553	Rent, Rates, Heating and Lighting	546	15	5			
9	Insurance	20	8	11			
75	Telephone	51	5	5			
287	Printing and Stationery	566	13	3			
275	Postages and Sundry Expenses	312	5	4			
184	Office Cleaning	217	16	0			
243	Travelling Expenses	382	1	6			
63	Audit and Accountancy Charges	52	10	0			
20	Legal Charges	—	—	—			
14	Bank Charges	17	0	8			
41	Repairs and Renewals	51	5	7			
4,743		5,666	3	4			
225	*Less* Proportionate amount of Administration Expenses received from Officers' Benevolent Fund	225	0	0			
4,518					5,441	3	4
£11,466					£12,211	3	10

INCOME

1951 £		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
	By Donations:						
1,354	Corps Units	1,046	11	1			
797	Sundries	682	17	11			
4,500	Army Benevolent Fund	3,000	0	0			
6,651					4,729	9	0
	,, Interest from Investments (gross):						
75	3% Defence Bonds	75	0	0			
25	3% Funding Loan	25	10	0			
168	2½% Funding Loan	105	0	0			
427	2½% National War Bonds exchanged for	266	11	10			
—	3% Serial Funding Stock, 1955	54	4	1			
58	3% Savings Bonds	58	7	0			
33	3½% War Stock	32	19	2			
10	3½% Commonwealth of Australia, 1954-59	10	10	0			
—	3½% Commonwealth of Australia, 1961-66	175	0	0			
195	3½% Commonwealth of Australia, 1956-61	195	0	0			
1,161	3½% South African Stock, 1956-67	360	2	6			
179	3½% Southern Rhodesia, 1967-69	178	19	2			
491	3½% London County Consolidated Stock	491	5	4			
88	3½% Kenya, 1973-78	175	0	0			
67	3½% Northern Rhodesia, 1970-72	175	0	0			
276	4% Consolidated Stock	552	11	0			
—	3½% British Guiana, 1966-68	154	3	4			
—	3½% British Gas, 1969-71	175	0	0			
—	3½% Stoke-on-Trent Corporation Stock, 1960-70	35	0	0			
—	3½% Hull Corporation Stock, 1960-70	70	0	0			
—	3½% Liverpool Corporation Stock, 1960-70	35	0	0			
—	3½% Bristol Corporation Stock, 1960-70	35	0	0			
—	3½% Treasury Stock, 1960-70	176	7	7			
3,253					3,611	11	0
1,562	,, Balance being Excess of Expenditure over Income for year				3,870	3	10
£11,466					£12,211	3	10

Note: Sales and Purchases of Investments during the year ended 31st December, 1952, were as follows:—

Sales:

Nominal Value	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
£1,986 5s. 9d. 2½% National War Bonds, 1951-52	2,000	0	0			
£10,289 7s. 2d. 3½% East Africa Union, 1965-67	8,767	0	7			
				10,767	0	7

Less Purchases:

Nominal Value						
£10,079 3½% Treasury Stock, 1977-80				8,767	0	7
Balance being Cash paid to Lloyds Bank Ltd.				£2,000	0	0

Annual General Meeting

HELD AT CATTERICK CAMP

ON 17th MAY, 1953

Approximately 500 Serving and Ex-Service Members of the Association were Present at this Meeting

The meeting commenced with an address of welcome to Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal by *Major-General C. W. Fladgate*, C.B.E.

"Your Royal Highness, on behalf of all members of the Association of your Corps, I would like to say how very much we appreciate the honour which you have paid us by attending our Parade Service and our Annual General Meeting to-day.

I may say that for some years now I have been asked by many members whether there was a chance of their Patron and Colonel-in-Chief being present at one of these gatherings, and I can only assure Your Royal Highness that this day will long be remembered by the members of the Association, not only by those who are present now, but also by the much greater number who, in this Coronation Year, are prevented by family or business ties from making the journey to Catterick."

Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal most graciously replied:—

"Mr. Chairman, Gentlemen,

It is a very great pleasure to be amongst you once more, and I would like to congratulate you on all the hard work which has kept the Royal Signals Association so healthy through yet another year.

I know that this well-being is the result of sustained effort. Brigadier Duvivier, for example, has done wonderful work for the Association at Catterick in starting the two branches of the S.T.C. North and the S.T.C. South, which are both producing a very great number of both annual and life members.

Since the last annual general meeting I learn that 20 new branches have been opened, seven local branches, and 13 Regimental branches, the latter embracing most parts of the world where Royal Signals are serving.

It is splendid to know that membership has gone up considerably: and to-day stands at 8,000 life members and, in round figures, 11,000 annual members. This represents an actual increase of 590 life members and some 2,000 annual members.

Employment should be a constant care of the Association, and it is good to know that the placings made by this section have steadily increased.

Talking of 'placings' is like a signpost that leads to your Chairman and Treasurer, General Fladgate. None has done more in every field to help the Association which is indeed well-endowed with such a supporter.

In a minute or two I must leave this meeting, but before doing so I would like to thank the Commander, Signal Training Centre, the Commandant, School of Signals, and all Officers and other ranks who have done so much to welcome us here. May your meeting be successful, and may the Association prosper."

Her Royal Highness then left the meeting to fulfil other engagements.

* * *

The meeting then APPROVED the minutes of the annual general meeting held on 20th July, 1952, as sent out to Branch Secretaries and published in THE WIRE.

Major-General C. W. Fladgate, C.B.E., the chairman, then presented his report:—

"First and foremost I would like to offer once again our very sincere thanks to the Commander, Signal Training Centre, Commandant, School of Signals, and all Officers and other ranks who have once more done such splendid work in preparing a welcome for us.

Her Royal Highness has already said much of what I had intended to say about Brigadier Duvivier, but I would like to emphasise how grateful we all are to him for what he has done for the Association at Catterick, and to welcome him here to-day as the most recently joined 'Old Comrade.'

Now it is customary for me to give you an account of the doings of the Association during the year. I am going to cut this rather short as we have some business which we want to transact, and I propose therefore to spend a little time on explaining that.

Of the normal work of the Association I have to report that we have had a good year.

Her Royal Highness has already spoken of the number of branches which have been formed since the last annual general meeting and on the increase of membership, so I will only mention that between the 8th April and the 8th

ROYAL SIGNALS REGIMENTAL DAY AT CATTERICK CAMP

Mr. Stockton, Captain Childs and Mr. Hunt in the March Past of Old Comrades after Church Parade

May a further 1,133 annual members have been registered at Headquarters.

The amount expended in benevolence increased slightly —£7,328 in 1952 as against £6,975 in 1951.

I regret to say there was a slight falling off in subscriptions and donations both from branches and from Regiments, so I do ask you once again to let us have all you can. We need the money, and remember that the cost of living is still very high so that assistance in really needy cases has to be relatively high too.

I would like to tell you about a windfall received this week. A lady, with no connections with the Corps, has left in her will to us and five other Service Associations the sum of £525 each.

Placings made by the Employment Section have steadily increased since the section was reintroduced into the Headquarters organisation in 1950.

You will see from the accounts that for the first time since the war THE WIRE has made a welcome profit and has still, I think, kept up its standard. For this we all owe a debt of gratitude to Brigadier Firth, who has put in an immense amount of work in bringing about this very satisfactory result.

Your Association was represented at the General Assembly of the World Veterans' Federation in London last December, and the Report of the British Delegation was considered by your Central Committee at their meeting in April. Your Central Committee, while considering that the work of the Federation in the field of rehabilitation was admirable, viewed with considerable alarm the political implications which appeared in many of their resolutions, and instructed me to concert with the chairmen of other British Member Associations, so that the matter could be represented strongly to the Headquarters of the World Veterans' Federation. For the benefit of those members of the Central Committee who are present and for the rest of you, a letter is now being forwarded by the British Member of the Council of the World Veterans' Federation on this subject and it is couched in very strong terms.

With regard to the resolutions to be passed at item 5 of the agenda. I will try and explain the situation now and hope that by that means we can take the resolutions and subsequent amendments to the Rules quickly later on.

The present Benevolent Fund was a fund formed by the amalgamation of the pre-war Benevolent Fund and the war-time Royal Signals Prisoner-of-War and Comforts Fund. This was registered with the London County Council and with the Charity Commissioners as a War Charity. The London County Council have now requested us to apply for the removal of the fund from their books as it is no longer a War Charity, and the Charity Commissioners have made certain stipulations about the employment of the balance of the wartime fund.

In order to comply with the above it has been necessary to more or less create a new fund composed of the two, draw up a new Deed of Trust, and make some consequential amendments to the Rules of the Association.

The other important alterations to the Rules concern those dealing with subscriptions. Your representatives at the Branch Secretaries' Meeting in March recommended, and the Central Committee in April approved, and you are asked to agree that the proportion of life membership subscription retained by local branches shall be increased by 33⅓ per cent. to 50 per cent. You will also note the Rules provide increased facilities for men to obtain life membership as well as annual membership during the Colour Service. Of the very large number of men passing through the Corps to civil life far too few are being attracted to local branches. It is hoped that an increasing proportion of men who become life members during their Colour Service will become active enthusiastic members of branches when they leave the Service.

I must say that the whole of this business has been gone into very carefully by your Central Committee. This careful and lengthy consideration must be my excuse for the short time that the revised Rules have been in possession of your branches, for which I apologise. I do not think, therefore, you need have any fears that your interests have not been properly looked after.

It does, however, necessitate passing two resolutions later on, one to establish the new fund under the new Trust Deed, and the other to amend the Rules in accordance with the drafts which have been sent to all branches and are now before you.

One last word before I go on to the next item of the agenda. I have been asked to explain that owing to the presence of the Colonel-in-Chief and most of the Chief Signal Officers, the Headquarters Mess cannot manage lunch for all the Officers who are here as guests. Will all Officers except those specifically invited to the Headquarters Mess please take luncheon in the Helles Line Mess."

Major-General C. W. Fladgate, C.B.E., as honorary treasurer of the Royal Signals Association, then presented the Balance Sheets of the Royal Signals Other Ranks' Benevolent Fund and the Royal Signals General Fund. Both Balance Sheets, as at 31st December, 1952, were APPROVED by the meeting.

The Chairman then introduced the following resolutions which were APPROVED by the meeting:—

(a) The London County Council having requested the Association to apply for removal of the Royal Signals War Benevolent Prisoners-of-War and Comforts Fund from the Register of War Charities as it is no longer principally a War Charity and the Charity Commissioners having made certain stipulations with regard to the application of the balance of that fund, it is accordingly hereby resolved:—

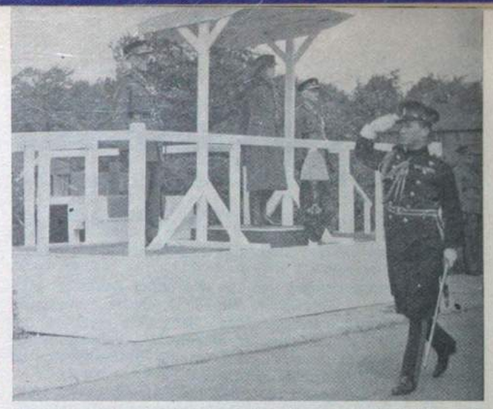
(i) That the establishment by the Central Committee of a Welfare Section of this Association (the funds of which are to be held by the Trustees of this Association on Trust for the legally charitable purposes contained in a Trust Deed dated the 15th May, 1953, and now laid before this meeting) be APPROVED and CONFIRMED.

(ii) That the Royal Signals War Benevolent Prisoners-of-War and Comforts Fund be discontinued and application be made for the removal of the fund from the Register of War Charities.

(iii) That the Royal Signals Benevolent Fund be discontinued.

(b) That the Rules of this Association submitted to this meeting and for the purpose of identification subscribed by the Chairman of this meeting be APPROVED and substituted for the existing Rules of the Association which are hereby rescinded.

(Continued on page 226)



The above photograph shows Captain J. L. Judd, M.B.E., the Director of Music, Royal Signals, saluting H.R.H. The Princess Royal, Colonel-in-Chief, Royal Signals

Lieutenant-Colonel J. P. North, M.B.E., proposed the re-election to the Central Committee of the Association of the following, whose nomination was approved by the Central Committee on the 24th April, 1953:—

Chairman and Honorary Treasurer: Major-General C. W. Fladgate, C.B.E.

Vice-Chairman: Major-General R. F. H. Nalder, C.B., O.B.E.

Non-Regular Officer: Brigadier G. H. Walton, C.B., C.B.E., T.D., D.L.

He then recommended that the two Other Ranks (at present R.S.M. R. J. Buscall and S.S.M. D. Grace), nominated by C.S.O. Headquarters, London District, to serve on the Sub-Committee which assembles weekly in London to adjudicate in Welfare Section cases, should automatically be members of the Central Committee.

These proposals were seconded by Colonel L. R. Hall, M.C., chairman of the Catterick Branch, and were unanimously approved by the meeting.

Brigadier G. H. Walton, C.B., C.B.E., T.D., D.L., proposed a vote of thanks to Major-General C. W. Fladgate on behalf of the members. He said that the work seemed to get more onerous, but that the General did not show it. He asked the meeting to support him in this vote of thanks in the real Corps' spirit.

Major-General Fladgate closed the meeting by thanking the members for entrusting the care of their Association into his hands for another year.

* * *

Messages of good wishes and regret for absence were received from General Sir H. Colville B. Wemyss, K.C.B., K.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., 49 Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment (T.A.), and from Mr. D. Gray (London Branch).

The President of the World Veterans' Federation telegraphed his good wishes and grateful thanks for the help given to the Federation by Royal Signals.

H.Q. NORTHERN ARMY GROUP SIGNAL REGIMENT

At the time of writing these notes the tension and fever of Coronation is rising to unknown limits. Our Line Troops are busy exercising in the art of erecting bunting, and the Quartermaster's department is endeavouring to find a method of "writing off" decorations due to fair wear and tear. We have no doubt that they will eventually all succeed and that the date itself will be one to be remembered by all.

In the sporting world we have been making use of a spell of fine weather to finish off the inter-Squadron championships. 3 Squadron have come out of the ordeal winners of the Sanders Cup, with 1 Squadron very close runners-up. The scene is now all set for a very fierce battle for this year's championships, and 3 Squadron combined with H.Q. Squadron have already got off to a good start by winning the cricket.

Officers of H.Q. Northern Army Group Signal Regiment, April, 1953

During the past month we have lost the services of Captain J. B. S. Brabham to the Ministry of Supply, and obtained the services of Lieutenant T. B. Woods on promotion to Lieutenant. We sincerely hope that they will both be happy in their new tasks.

As a closing note, we should like to issue a challenge to all other Units on the subject of Officer recruiting. During the last twelve months two Short Service Officers have become Regulars, two National Service Officers have taken on as Short Service Officers prior to becoming Regulars, two National Service R.E.M.E. Officers attached to us have taken on as Regulars, and finally, one more Short Service Officer is awaiting the result of his application for a Regular Commission. Any offers?

11 ARMOURED DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT

This month we give you our news of the last three months, during which time we have discarded our greatcoats and battledress blouses; the winter and its period of individual training is behind us; and now in shirt sleeve order we are limbering up for the summer exercises.

We have already had a series of "short, sharp exercises." The Army Signal Exercise "Counterstroke," in which detachments from H.Q. Squadron and 1 Squadron took part, was followed by a Divisional Exercise "Easter Egg." These exercises took place in fine spring weather and we saw the countryside in its spring glory. The exercises were enjoyed by all concerned, until the canteen lorry brewed up on the way home. It is said that the tears running down the cheeks of those trying to put the fire out were not caused by smoke but due to the fact that the unsold bottles were exploding in the inferno. "April Shower" was a movement and harbouring exercise, during which we had another look at the countryside and had little sleep. Last week "B" Troop went out with Rear Division for Exercise "May Fly"—aided and abetted by detachments from "C" Troop and H.Q. Squadron.

Besides these various exercises, the Regiment has been busy at the All Arms Training Centre. This was the climax of the Weapon Training Course which had been run during the previous three months. Everyone fired their rifles, brens and stens. While some shot, others were performing their Physical Efficiency Tests, climbing over walls or route marching in full kit—or bathing their feet!

We suppose that shooting is one of the most important jobs of a soldier, and we in Signals don't do half enough of it—maybe there isn't time. We are therefore proud of our Regimental Small Bore Shooting Team, which won the Divisional Competition, and then went forward to the B.A.O.R. Competition. In this they were beaten only by two Infantry Battalions. To their feats must be added those of the 1 Squadron Team who entered for Army Rifle Association Company Match and obtained fifth place out of the whole of the Army, being only 10 points behind the winners with 1,535 points out of a possible 1,600. To Major John Anderson, O.C. 1 Squadron, and Lieutenant "Bill" Caiger, the Weapon Training Officer, much credit is due, and to all those of the team who patiently practised to reach such a high standard.

Lieutenant Caiger gets his name into the news twice this month as he went home to get married recently and will be back to the Regiment soon with his wife. Congratulations to him.

On the football field last month, our Rugby team beat 1 Wireless Regiment and thereby won the B.A.O.R. Royal Signals Inter-Unit Rugby Shield. The shield was presented to the team by the C.O.'s wife, Mrs. Houghton, and each player received an inscribed silver cup.

Last month the Signal Regiment took part in a farewell parade with the Divisional H.Q. to say goodbye to our G.O.C. A fine parade it was, with a general salute, inspection, march past and, finally, a farewell speech by the General. We send our good wishes to the General and Mrs. Foote and wish him every success in his new appointment.

To our new G.O.C., Major-General H. E. Pyman, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., and his wife, we send our greetings and hope that their tour in B.A.O.R. will be a happy and memorable one.

We say goodbye for a short time to Captain and Mrs. E. P. Hughes, who have gone to the Signals School at Hamburg for a six months' attachment. H.Q. Squadron, on the 26th May, the last day Captain Hughes commanded the Squadron, succeeded in beating No. 2 Squadron 4—1 in the final of the Inter-Squadron Football Cup.

We are all preparing at the moment for the Coronation celebrations. Today the rain kept away and we had a full scale Garrison Church Parade. We are hoping the weather will be good to us all both here and at home during the next few days. We have a Coronation parade planned for Tuesday, 2nd June, and sports on the Wednesday. In our next notes we will be able to report whether the sun has shone for everyone and allowed us to do what we want to do.

11 AIR FORMATION SIGNAL REGIMENT

This month has been an extremely full one and the special point of interest was the visit of 50 Air Formation Signal Regiment (A.E.R.). The Regiment literally formed up on Liverpool Street Station and proceeded *en masse* to B.A.O.R. under command of Lieutenant-Colonel Woodland (A.E.R.), arriving on 10th May.

The Wing Signal Troops proceeded direct to airfields, where they took over M.T. and stores from the permanent (?) residents. A full training programme kept everyone very busy, and provided ample opportunity for A.E.R. personnel to develop their skill.

One hundred and twenty A.E.R. Officers and men from R.H.Q. and 1 Squadron paid a visit to R.A.F. Wunstorf, where they saw the R.A.F. at work.

Flight-Sergeant Dixon, of the R.A.F. Communication Squadron, and his Anson, did yeoman work in taking up a total of 75 A.E.R. personnel between 0900 hours and 1200 hours. All this took place in the midst of an air exercise in which Vampires and Venoms were skudding about the sky.

One of the highlights of the A.E.R. training programme consisted of a Regimental exercise based on our own yearly exercise on which we reported last month, and culminated in a night attack by 11 A.F.S. R.H.Q. personnel on the A.E.R. cable head. The number of thunder flashes had to be heard to be believed.

The visit was a great success and we look forward to the return next year of one of the other two A.E.R. Air Formation Signal Regiments.

Royal Signal Coronation Contingent. All Signal personnel in B.A.O.R. taking part in the Coronation Parade assembled in Stornoway Barracks (H.Q., 11 Air Formation Signals) and carried out some strenuous "square bashing" and route marches.

Everyone looked very smart and fit. We wished them good luck in everything down to the weather.

Hockey. The season closed with the winning of the B.A.O.R. Signals Competition, the final being played against 7 Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment (4—0).

The season's results are as follows:—

Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Goals For	Goals Against
26	23	3	0	113	34

Swimming. This year great endeavour is to be made to produce a sturdy team, and we hope to make our presence known in this sport too.

Major and Mrs. A. G. McTavish have recently joined the Regiment, and we hope they will enjoy their stay with us.

Major and Mrs. R. A. Hatcher and family departed for 2

11 Air Formation Signal Regiment Hockey Team
Back row: R.Q.M.S. F. T. Mason, L/Cpl. E. Roud, Sigmn. Febery, Cpl. P. Brinkworth, S.Q.M.S. D. Turner, Cpl. T. Atkins, W.O.II T. Walker. Front row: Sgt. E. Webb, Capt. W. Brewin, Lt.-Colonel Galbraith, Capt. D. Banham, A.S.M. D. Todd

L. of C. We wish him the very best of fortune in his new appointment.

Captain Callum, at Celle, won a most practical prize when the R.A.F. Celle Golf Tankard was presented to him by the President of the Golf Club.

Wanted. Anyone keen on seeing the Royal Signals as a mounted Regiment once more. Applications to O.C. 3 Wing Signal Troop (O.C. Riding), R.A.F. Wunstorf.

4 L. OF C. SIGNAL REGIMENT

R.H.Q. and 1 Squadron. The Army has a great number of compensations and one of the pleasantest is that of giving one an opportunity to see something of the world. During last month a good many of us visited Belgium on exercise and found that our Belgian opposite numbers were (a) very hospitable; (b) did not follow our procedure methods in many respects; and (c) had pretty sisters. We appreciated both (a) and (c) and came to a workable arrangement about (b). In all these facets of our experience we acquired knowledge which we hope may prove useful in the future on these liaison exercises.

2 Squadron. On 3rd May, 1953, Sergeant Chambers, Sergeant Wilson and Signalman Huggonson were entered by 2 Squadron in a trial for the Regimental small bore team. Signalman Huggonson qualified for the Regimental team and fired very well in the first round of the Inter-Unit Small Bore Championship, scoring 89 Snap and 89 Application.

The 4th and 5th of May saw the whole Squadron taking part in the annual range practice on Rahlstedt Ranges, Hamburg. The weather was excellent and everyone enjoyed the shooting.

A cricket trial was held in Hamburg on 20th May to pick a team to enter in the Hamburg District Cricket League. For the purpose of this trial, a team consisting entirely of personnel from 2 Squadron, 4 L. of C. Signal Regiment, played against a team from H.Q., Hamburg District. The Squadron team won by 21 runs, the highest scorer being Corporal Barnes, who made 25 runs before being run out.

3 Squadron. The highlight of the month has been the successful launching of a new branch of the Signals Association. Sixty per cent. of the posted strength are now enrolled; next month we hope to attain 100 per cent.

The small bore team have added further laurels to the Squadron's reputation by winning the District "B" League and are now due to meet the winners of the "A" League to decide the District Championship. Needless to say, confidence is not lacking as to the outcome. The cricket team, ably led by "Bill" Fawley (late Captain, Royal Signals, now our Liaison Officer Telecommunications) has got off to a flying start and promises great things for the coming season (exercises permitting!). Judging by the applications to change U.K. leave for a Continental holiday, the holding of many more exercises similar to the last will result in sweethearts getting worried—or was the interest only technical?

Not unlike most Units in the Corps, we are "deeply involved" in preparations for the Coronation. Rumour that the Squadron Commander has a helicopter and walkie-talkie in order to keep pace with conferences are entirely unfounded.

A.L.F.C.E. SIGNAL SQUADRON

Although the Squadron has not yet reached the dizzy heights of our neighbours at S.H.A.P.E. in the field of far-flung outposts we can claim in recent weeks to have sent parties to almost all points of the compass in France on various exercises. The result is that there is great competition to be included in the party for any new locations.

In the field of sport we have not fared too well, losing the cross-country cup to the Royal Air Force at A.L.F.C.E. It was unfortunate that the day chosen clashed with a Detachment leaving on exercise which deprived us of nearly half of our normal team.

Since our last edition we have said goodbye to our O.C., Major Rutherford, who has returned to the U.K. for a course at the Royal Military College of Science. In his place we welcomed Major Vallé, who had come from FARELF. We also welcomed Captain Rolls, our new Q.M., who has replaced Major Yorke, who has left us for Germany.

A stir was caused in the Squadron when 12 rifles appeared in the "Q" stores. Anything more lethal than a 53 set being unknown here. However, they were only D.P.s to be used by a squad which included our two representatives for the Coronation Parade—Lance-Corporals Morton and Morris. Unfortunately, we were unable to see them in the parade, as our TV set chose the moment of the appearance of the Royal Signals Detachment to break down. Apart from that though, TV proved very popular, and a large proportion of the Squadron spent most of the day looking in—that is, excluding the time spent eating and drinking the cold buffet lunch provided in the "Q" stores.

On Friday, 5th June, the British and Canadian Officers of A.L.F.C.E., F.O.C.E. and A.A.F.C.E. gave a Coronation Garden Party in the Chateau Gardens for about 1,200 Allied Officers and their wives. The day was perfect, and it can safely be said that the party was a great success.

In conclusion, we would like to congratulate Corporal Page on being awarded the L.S. and G.C. Medal.

S.H.A.P.E. SIGNAL SQUADRON

No doubt all Units who sent representatives to the Coronation will be making a mention of this fact in their WIRE notes; we are no exception to this rule and are equally proud of our contribution. The Squadron represented the British element of S.H.A.P.E. in the procession and sent Lieutenant Cann, Lance-Corporal Stretch and Lance-Corporal Deering to perform this honoured duty. For those of us who were not lucky enough to get over to London for the Coronation there were batteries of television sets loaned to the British troops at S.H.A.P.E. by a well-known French radio firm. We saw the whole ceremony perfectly and one could not help thinking what a grand achievement had been performed by the two countries' television technicians in producing such excellent vision reproduction.

The Squadron has once again been oiling its "willows" and strapping on its pads in an effort to keep up the good standard which its cricket team achieved last year. Only Captain Pocock and S.Q.M.S. Irving remain from last year, but they are both well-known Corps players and excellent material upon which to build up a new team. Due to bad weather we have only played once each the S.H.A.P.E. R.M.P. and the S.H.A.P.E. Support Battalion teams, and drew both games because of time. Captain Pocock, S.Q.M.S. Irving, Signalman Cooper and Signalman Wolfe showed themselves to be keen and useful all-rounders. Meanwhile, our S.S.M., W.O.II Hamblett, has been given "Squatter's Rights" to his new "Duck Farm," having recently "acquired" four ducks.

Our "Hatchings" contributions are as healthy as ever this month, Lieutenants Sawyer and Cann and Sergeant Weir being our providers this time. It was with great regret that we sent that faithful overseer of the Pay Office on his way to the R.A.P.C. Depot with a view to becoming a "professional" pay clerk. We wish him the very best of luck in his course. Sergeant Gilbert comes to us this month to put new life into our wireless maintenance, and we make him very welcome.

MIDDLE EAST LAND FORCES

1 L. OF C. SIGNAL REGIMENT

Yes, we have made it and not before time, for the absence of our notes we can make no excuse and of the future we can make no promises.

Much water has flowed under the bridge since we last wrote and we feel in this edition we should make ourselves known, so without any more ado, we shall introduce the Unit to you. We are commanded by Major R. J. Barlow, with Lieutenant G. W. Bew as Adjutant, while Sergeant Henry keeps the Orderly Room staff on their toes. The A./R.S.M. and S.S.M. of H.Q. Squadron is S.S.M. Swann (congratulations on your recent promotion), our G1098 is watched over by Captain (Q.M.) A. J. Fraser with R.Q.M.S. McKenna; in the Technical Stores we have S.Q.M.S. May (congratulations on your recent promotion), and our barrack interest is in the hands of S.Q.M.S. Fears. The M.T. of the Regiment is in the hands of Sergeant Clarke as we have no M.T.O.

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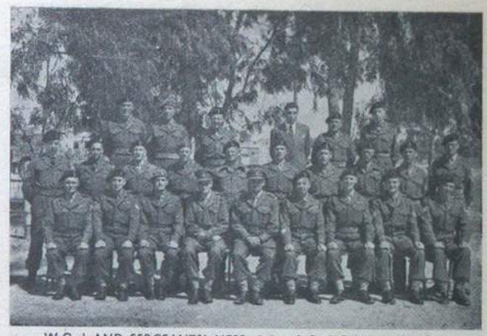
H.Q. Squadron is commanded by Captain J. S. Routledge, with Captain I. F. G. Warner as second in command and P.R.I.; also in H.Q. Squadron we have 3 Wireless Carrier with Lieutenant P. A. Davison and Troop Sergeants Hatt, Thornborough and Gregg. Our T.M. side is in the able hands of Major Homan, M.B.E., with Lieutenant W. D. Croft and S.Q.M.S. Rooke (F. of S.), while Training Wing with Second Lieutenant P. J. S. Ireson and S.S.M. O'Keefe, who keep turning out the tradesmen that we need, and Sergeant Duffy has the J.L. course to contend with.

1 Squadron is commanded by Captain E. T. Crosley, with S.S.M. Vallor as the Squadron S.S.M. 8 Medium Wireless Troop is looked after by Second Lieutenant J. B. Verwey and Sergeant Stevens, while 12 Medium Wireless has Second Lieutenant W. Quinn and Sergeant Aitken. 10 Con. Troop is in the hands of Second Lieutenant Wiener and Sergeants Bearne and Hammerton, while 26 Tele. Ops. Troop has Second Lieutenant P. H. Spence-Thomas with



W.O.s' AND SERGEANTS' MESS, 1 L. of C. SIGNAL REGIMENT
Rear row (left to right): Sergeants Gregg, Duffy, Clarke, Mr. Fox (A.K.C.), Sergeants Billingham, Henry. Centre: Sergeants Wright (R.A.E.C.), Finlay (A.C.C.), Thornborough, Freeman, Bearne, May, Hatt, Stevens, Biles, Bumpherey (att. from 2 Wireless Regiment, Cyprus). Front row: S.Q.M.S. Fears, S.Q.M.S. Swann, S.S.M. Vallor, Captain E. T. Crosley, Major R. J. Barlow, R.Q.M.S. McKenna, S.S.M. O'Keefe, S.Q.M.S. (F. of S.) Rooke, Sergeant Aitken

Sergeant Young; also incorporated in this we have 9 D.R. with Sergeant Freeman.

* * *

The Regiment has had a rather full Coronation week, starting with the parade on Tuesday morning. For this we were joined by H.Q. 32 Guards Brigade and "K" Troop, Royal Signals. In the evening our Unit Fair was opened and all the fun of the fair was yours for the asking. Congratulations go to 12 Medium Wireless on their fine effort in raising the most money. It is now said with some authority that as certain N.C.O.s are walking round the camp they are met with cries of "Swindle." I wonder?

On Wednesday night we had a large gathering in the NAAFI for horse racing, the highlight of the evening being Coronation Selling Plate. On Thursday we had the Regimental Sports, congratulations going to Major F. G. Homan, M.B.E., for the well-organised afternoon. The climax of the afternoon was the ladies' egg and spoon race, which was a really hard-fought battle between Mrs. Gardner and Mrs. McKenna, the judge having to call for a photo finish. Mrs. Routledge kindly consented to present the prizes, the winning team being 3 Wireless Carrier Troop.

Friday night there was an impromptu smoker and concert held in the NAAFI and run by Corporal Robinson. This helped to round off a very eventful week.

On the previous Saturday, the W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess held its monthly dinner, only instead of the usual Regimental dinner this was a Mess dinner to which the wives were invited, and was followed by a social evening.

Now that the cricket season is well under way, the Regiment, led by Lieutenant P. A. Davison, is more than holding its own. So far they have played six games, losing only one to a Paratroop Field Regiment, R.A., who we were due to play again but the game had to be cancelled. One of the most exciting games was against 3 L. of C. Signal Regiment, which we won by one run. We also have a very good table tennis team who, in their last game, beat Guards Brigade H.Q. by 5—1.

During the month of June we were pleased to welcome Captain C. E. B. White from G.H.Q., Captain (Q.M.) R. Pearson from 6 Boys' Training Regiment, and Captain K. R. Gill from 4 A.A. Mixed Signal Regiment, and we take this opportunity to wish them all a pleasant stay with the Regiment. Leaving us to return to the U.K. we have Captain (Q.M.) A. J. Fraser, whose strong bowling support in the cricket team will be missed, but we wish him all the best and hope to meet him on the Ham Band.

MALTA SIGNAL SQUADRON

Since our last notes the final of the Garrison soccer knock-out has been played off. We met and beat the R.A.M.C. 4—0. A very fitting climax to a successful season.

We have recently completed the Garrison Inter-Unit Motor Cycle Trials and our team of three—Sergeant Maskell, Corporal Beresford and Corporal Hubbard (R.E.M.E.)—acquitted itself well, finishing a very good third, being only 7½ points behind the winners. Sergeant Maskell has now been chosen as one of the Malta team competing in the Coronation Trials in Cyprus next month.

Our Squadron Athletic Meeting was held recently. It was organised as usual on an inter-Troop basis (H.Q., F.S.S. and Operating Troops). F.S.S. Troop won the meeting for the second consecutive year, but by a close margin. The result was in doubt until the very last event, the Chain of Command half-mile medley relay. There was great consternation amongst the Officers concerned when it was discovered that they had to run a 440 yards and not 110 yards as had been hoped. The old soldiers' race was won by the T.O.T., Captain Spefford, by a nose from the C.S.O., Lieutenant-Colonel Seely. Defaulters, beware! Our S.S.M. won the hammer and discus with a show of previously unsuspected strength. The C.O.'s wife, Mrs. Yule, presented the prizes to conclude a very enjoyable meeting.

As may be expected, we are doing our share in providing communications for Coronation parades, garden parties and searchlight displays, and we can only hope that local enthusiasts control their predatory instincts and leave our cables alone.

SUDAN SIGNAL TROOP (BRITCOM)

Since our last notes much has happened at Khartoum. The Staff have introduced a comprehensive military training programme, including P.T. for all under 35, much to the horror of the borderline cases. During recent rifle classification tests some of the older members of the Troop were heard to remark that it was the first time for twelve years that they handled a rifle.

The cricket season has recommenced, and Corporals Fox, Gibson, and Signalman Hornsby represent Signals in the H.Q. Britcom Troops team. Matches played on Khartoum Cricket Club ground are a pleasure to watch; every effort has been made by members to create the English village atmosphere, with some effect, and this in the middle of a barren waste. Tea and cakes are always provided free, spectators included.

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The sailing season has come to an end and Sergeant Allison has been busy removing the *Firefly* from her moorings on the Blue Nile. Much work will be put in on her before she is again ready to take honours in next season's racing.

As the Troop is mainly composed of National Servicemen there are constant comings and goings. We welcome recent new arrivals and wish *bon voyage* to recent releases. We also bid farewell this month to our Officer Commanding, Captain Holton, and family, on posting to the Canal Zone, wishing him every success in his new appointment. We extend a hearty welcome to our new Officer Commanding, Lieutenant B. A. Canham, and hope he will soon become acclimatized to our Sudan weather after the comparative coolness of the Canal Zone.

Although out total strength is sixteen, we have had in the last few months 100 per cent. sale of THE WIRE, and will endeavour to keep this up. We are hoping to start a branch here in Khartoum of the Signals Association—there are many ex-Signals employed by the Sudan Government, and many serving Signals attached to the Sudan Defence Force.

25 ARMOURED BRIGADE SIGNAL SQUADRON

The time is now long overdue for us to inform the rest of the Corps of our existence. Drafts of soldiers had been arriving in Bengasi almost daily from early May, 1952, and had been the "guests" of Cyrenaica Signal Squadron. In early June it was obvious that the numbers were becoming an embarrassment to our hosts and it was decided that we should move to Benina, 16 miles from Bengasi.

We formed in June under a cloud of security. These early days were very hectic. Our energetic O.C., Major Warren, together with S.S.M. Hourigan, had arrived in Cyrenaica in the beginning of June. Many difficulties beset us in the early weeks, not the least of which were the cook-house stoves which did not behave as they should have done. W.O.II Harrison, of the A.C.C., was loaned to us during this difficult period and but for his magnificent assistance the messing would not have reached the high standard which it attained during the early weeks.

Having settled in, during the first few days phase two began: "The cleaning period." All our buildings, though finished, were not decorated, and the Signal Squadron became more or less a squadron of sappers. Much painting, decorating and stone breaking was done during the next two months. Hard standings were constructed, and at one point a new road was laid. We started our own canteen, with Lance-Corporal Stone in charge, and an excellent job he did. We renovated the cinema, a relic from the R.A.F. days, repaired its seats, erected a home-made screen, and managed to lay our hands on two rather old 16 mm. projectors. The opening night was a great event, and our cinema soon became the social event of Benina.

After we had been in residence for about six weeks the long-awaited senior N.C.O.s arrived from the Canal. S.Q.M.S. Burton, Sergeants Hebden and Stout soon realised that the days of idleness in transit were over. The S.Q.M.S. deserves special praise for his work since he arrived. Apart from his own job, no easy one in a new unit, he was responsible for the barrack stores for the Brigade H.Q., which had been drawn before he arrived. A Quartermaster's nightmare.

About this time we began to draw our first vehicles and soon we had a fleet of seven wireless trucks complete with 19 sets LP. We all welcomed the chance to begin training after the months of fatigues. Small wireless exercises were organised and as more vehicles were released to us, bigger and better the exercises became. On one, the Second in Command managed to lose half the Squadron for about a day and later during the same exercise we were stranded in the desert by floods. This resulted in some very tired and filthy soldiers returning to camp nearly a day late.

During this period we were left very much to our own devices, and perhaps we could claim to be the only completely independent Signal Squadron in the British Army.

Being stationed on an airfield, we soon adapted ourselves to innumerable transient generals and other senior officers walking round and looking at us. Perhaps our most hectic day was 31st October when General Wheatley, the C.S.O., visited us in the morning, and in the afternoon we had no less than four V.I.P.s, the Q.M.G., the M.G.A., M.E.L.F., the District Commander, and our own Brigade Commander, Brigadier Anderson. The Brigadier had been away for several months and was so pleased with our effort that he allowed us as a "battle honour" to be the first unit to put up the "White Rhino" (the formation flash).

1st November was the great day when the security ban was lifted and we became 25 Armoured Brigade Signal Squadron; at the same time the Brigade Commander raised his pennant at Benina.

In the realms of sport our efforts have not been entirely unsuccessful. We formed too late to enter for the cricket competition but managed to play two friendlies, one against the champions, R.E. Establishment, who beat us by the narrow margin of two runs in a most exciting game. Our bowlers acquitted themselves well. In the second game we beat our rival Signal Squadron in a local derby, Corporal Cramp (now Sergeant) scoring a good half century.

Our football team was at times brilliant and we had some very fine wins, though, unfortunately, they were not consistent. We finished third in the league. During the season, Lance-Corporal Edwards and Corporal Joyce proved the mainstays of the team; both were unlucky not to represent the Garrison. Undoubtedly the best performance of the season was that of the combined team of Cyrenaica Signals and ourselves reaching the finals of the Major Units Knock-out Competition, the first time ever that the Royal Signals have been represented at this stage. Our opponents were the Royal Scots Greys. Up to half-time we did well, being only one goal behind, but the greater experience of the cavalry side told in the second half and we eventually lost 5—0. However, our team was by no means disgraced and but for the brilliance of the Greys' goalkeeper the score might well have been different. Corporal Joyce, Lance-Corporal Edwards, Signalmen Madeley, Sharracks, Thomson and Lance-Corporal Demsey represented the Squadron.

In the individual swimming, Signalman Halsall won the diving and we were well represented in all events. We were unfortunate in the inter-Unit competition with two disqualifications, but even so we came fifth.

We finished third in the Hockey League. Our boxing team show promise and in the novices' competition we had four finalists out of six entrants. Lance-Corporal Wall won the heavyweight class with a masterly display of the good old English straight left. His opponent shuddered each time he connected with it. The welterweight final was a unit affair and ended with Signalman Brogan winning on points from Signalman Evans. In the featherweight, Signalman "Tich" Bellchambers lost in a closely contested fight after a plucky performance against a much bigger opponent.

5 SIGNAL EQUIPMENT TROOP

As these are the first notes from the Troop for some considerable time, I feel you should know some of those now in the Troop. The Officer Commanding is Captain (Q.M.) Bosher, and Sergeant Weston is Troop N.C.O.

Lieutenant (Q.M.) White has just vacated the position of O.C. and is now Q.M. 3 Divisional Signal Regiment.

We are attached to No. 5 B.O.D. at Tel-el-Kebir, and I do believe 5 B.O.D. are attached to us!

In the field of sport we are doing quite well, as Captain Bosher represents 5 B.O.D. at cricket, Lance-Corporal Burns at football, and Signalman Bernstien at boxing.

Australian Notes

Britcom Base Signal Regiment

The Regiment's strength received a welcome boost with the arrival from Australia of three Officers, Captain Seager, Lieutenant Mapson and Second-Lieutenant Nugent. In addition, Captain Dixon, having completed his term in Korea, is attached.

With the exchange of prisoners in Operation "Little Switch" in Korea, the Regiment is providing a P.W. administrative link and this has greatly facilitated the smooth running of the prisoner evacuation procedure.

The Regiment completed its chain of "A" grade victories by winning the B.C.F.K. basketball and Rugby Union grand finals this month. Added to the cricket, Australian Rules football and marathon victories, Britcom Base Signal Regiment set an all-time record in this theatre by winning five of the seven "A" grade competitions in twelve months.

101 Wireless Regiment

Since our last notes the Regiment has been humming with activity. The stamping of feet, the clanking of arms and the roaring of commands have been filling the air for some weeks past, and will do so until after the Coronation celebrations. Training for the Anzac Day parades started the whole thing off, then the weapon training for the annual practices, followed by the intricacies of *feu de joie-ing* to perfect that "ripple of fire" so aptly described in the local papers. (Why is there always some trigger-happy clot in the rear rank?) Still, we seem to more than hold our own at ceremonial, which is the main thing.

We welcome back from Malaya another batch of jungle hardened (or is it softened?) warriors and send away some unseasoned members to take their places. The former tell us that Captain Williamson over there is not losing any weight!

Sport has been in the doldrums mainly owing to the military activity, but the tennis court is now in full swing, having been relaid with ant-bed. Incidentally, for those readers who have never heard of such a thing, the ants are apparently quite the most numerous inhabitants of this vast continent. They live in large mounds of regurgitated earth which they build to very large edifices indeed. These, when broken down with a pick, transported to the tennis court, crushed, watered and rolled, make a surface even Frank Sedgman would be very pleased to play on.

Should you be thinking of trying this out, beware the brown Joe Blake (Cockney), who may also be using the ants' home—he is apt to object to being disturbed.

T.A. and A.E.R.

2/20 (EAST ANGLIAN) ARMY SIGNAL REGIMENT (T.A.)

H.M. Queen Elizabeth II Coronation

In addition to providing three O.R.s for lining the processional route and one O.R. to represent the Unit in the procession, this Regiment also had the honour to provide three Communication Detachments in the network provided by Royal Signals to start and control the "From" procession.

These Detachments were positioned at Marble Arch, Oxford Circus and Piccadilly.

The Detachment at Oxford Circus was called on to broadcast the progress of the procession to the public, there being no other public address equipment at this point. This function was ably carried out by Captain G. Wright, who also broadcast a number of police messages for lost children.

An amusing incident occurred early in the day when assistance was requested by the Detachment at Oxford Circus for tools to repair damage to the 52 set caused by the crush of spectators. In answer to this call, Sergeant Bailey left the Detachment at Marble Arch and marched smartly along the processional route to Oxford Circus with his haversack of tools slung over his shoulder, to the accompaniment of loud and prolonged cheers from the crowds of spectators.

[Courtesy: Fox Photos, Ltd.

Middlesex Yeomanry Team for control of the procession from Westminster Abbey to Buckingham Palace (northern half) on Coronation Day, 1953

16th AIRBORNE DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT (T.A.) (MIDDLESEX YEOMANRY)

Once again the Regiment has been represented at a Coronation. Signalman Duncan marched in the procession from Westminster Abbey, while a small detachment, under S.S.M. Wilson, assisted in lining the route. Although forming part of the Corps contingents, our Regimental privileges were retained and all wore Household Cavalry badges of rank, the Regimental cap badge and shoulder chains on their No. 1 dress uniform. But our main task on 2nd June was helping London District Signals with the communications required for starting the procession. These communications were manned almost entirely by T.A. Units, thus giving an excellent opportunity for co-operation between Units and an insight into the work and training of other T.A. Signal Units. The Regiment provided six detachments sited along the route. Each detachment was equipped with an Austin "Champ," fitted with P.A. equipment, and linked to the control station near Westminster Abbey by means of a WS No. 52. Duplicate communications from the control station, a wise precaution as it proved, were provided by G.P.O. telephones. On instructions from control, the Officer in charge of each detachment gave the order "Procession march." This announcement was greeted by thunderous cheers from the crowd, many of whom had cheerfully waited 24 hours in the rain to see the procession.

Coronation duties have not been allowed to interfere with normal training, and our summer programme is now in full swing. The number of trained parachutists grows steadily as more and more National Service volunteers complete their basic parachute course. We still have room for more volunteers. National Servicemen, both Officers and men, who live in the London area, can volunteer at any time during their whole-time service. If accepted, they will then be posted to the Regiment for their part-time T.A. service.

During the last two months we have lost Lieutenant-Colonel N. E. Pease, M.B.E., T.D., and Major E. C. Palmer. Lieutenant-Colonel N. E. Pease commanded the Regiment for the last three years and his loss will be felt by all ranks. His successor is Lieutenant-Colonel J. J. Collins, M.C., T.D., who joined us at the beginning of 1951 after serving with 6 Airborne Divisional Signal Regiment during the war. Major E. C. Palmer first joined the Regiment in 1929, and his wide knowledge and experience will be sadly missed. On the credit side we have indeed been lucky. Captain W. J. Robertson, M.B.E., joined us in January 1953 as Q.M., and Major G. S. Fenton, M.B.E., in March as Second-in-Command. They soon learned that the job is not the sinecure that some might think, while we, for our part, are rapidly realising how much we have still to learn. We congratulate Captain W. J. Robertson on having been appointed a Member of the British Empire for services rendered previous to joining us.

[Courtesy: Fox Photos, Ltd.

Middlesex Yeomanry team who relayed the order "Procession March" to the head of the procession

H.Q. 61 Army Signal Regiment (T.A.)

H.Q. 61 ARMY SIGNAL REGIMENT (T.A.)

The tempo of work increases with the approach of camp, but time was found to make and enter an exhibit in the Bedford Corporation carnival procession. A 53 set mounted on a stripped T.C.V. made an impressive sight—lighting red, white and blue bulbs on the top of an aerial array. A teleprinter and two exchanges completed the tableau which, escorted by four D.R.s, gained third prize and made Bedford fully aware of the presence of the Corps. Birds from the local pigeon club were released from the vehicle at intervals and added to the spirit of gaiety which invaded Bedford that evening. The exhibit was also very popular in Luton's procession the following day.

One permanent staff sergeant, however, found that dressed in "blues" standing on a moving vehicle, holding a rifle, for 1½ hours was more tiring than he had anticipated!

We are most grateful to the assistance we had from 5 Corps Signals, Major Flynn at Catterick, and Cambridge University C.C.F., for the loan of exhibits without which we could not have staged an entry worthy of the Corps.

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56 (LONDON) ARMOURED DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

The Unit had the great honour of being invited to undertake three different roles at Her Majesty's Coronation. We had representatives in the Communications Party, in the Corps Processional Detachment, and on route lining duties.

For communications, we manned the two mobile wireless detachments operating on the net provided to assist the marshals in their difficult task of controlling the movement of the long return procession; one detachment (Major J. C. Alcock, Royal Signals, W.O.II A. W. Lambert, Corporal F. J. Smith) travelled at the front of the procession, and the other (Major the Hon. R. E. Denison-Pender, T.D., Royal Signals, T.A., Sergeant F. J. Betts, Lance-Corporal L. R. G. Mills) at the rear.

Major D. J. Macbeth, T.D., Royal Signals, T.A., marched in the procession with the Corps detachment, and on route lining duties were R.S.M. C. C. Cross, M.B.E., Corporal L. L. Butler and Signalman S. K. Hale.

Further honours to the Unit came by way of the Coronation Honours List. Our Honorary Colonel, Brigadier A. C. C. Willway, C.B., C.B.E., was awarded the C.B., and R.S.M. C. C. Cross, M.B.E., the M.B.E.

Our Motor Cycle Display Team has achieved a very high standard and is in great demand for fetes, shows, etc., where its performances are enthusiastically applauded.

Annual training this year will take the main body of the Unit to the Salisbury Plain area for the first two weeks in September.

50 AIR FORMATION SIGNAL REGIMENT, A.E.R.

We appear for the first time under our own name in THE WIRE. In May we completed our third annual training period and feel therefore that we have at last "come of age" and can speak up among our elders. We are the direct successors of the original 1st Air Formation Signal Regiment of the pre-war S.R. and, naturally, we have a number of members of that Regiment with us, including Vic Storey, who is our "Q," and the C.O. 2nd have also contributed a quota, not the least of whom is our second in command, Major D. J. Braine. Also in the van are erstwhile members of 4th, 8th, 10th, 19th, and indeed almost all of the wartime Air Formation Regiments, but we are now very much one and, in spite of the little training time we can get in the A.E.R., we are quietly confident that we can do our task.

This year we have been guinea pigs in that we did our training in B.A.O.R. with 11 Air Formation Signal Regiment. Guinea pigs though we were, the welcome which we had from them was terrific from the moment we arrived to the last glance of the barracks when we left. We have each put over our personal thanks but once again "Thank you, 11th, and we hope that we shall be able to do as well for you at some time."

B.A.O.R. training was a welcome change from the A.E.R. Depot. To most of us, too, Germany was new country—visits to Hanover, Hamlin and elsewhere were made and we found quite a few new customs to interest us. (The Sunday morning visit of the Pied Piper to Hamlin followed by his "rats" and crowds in local costume will probably never be forgotten.) Restrictions on training were almost non-existent and we had new and experimental equipment to handle, saw aircraft in the air and on the ground, watched them being stripped and rebuilt, investigated their wireless sets and found out how the jets work. We went into airfield control towers and saw radar screens producing their "blips" as aircraft passed scores of miles away. Many of us flew from one airfield to another or away into the upper regions, and quite a number went gliding.

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The R.A.F., too, gave us a thoroughly good welcome with first-class food and billets. (Incidentally, we also know how 11th managed to win the cookery competition now that we have sampled their cooks' efforts, and our own cooks were not far behind, being spurred on by us!)

The A.O.C.-in-C., Air Vice-Marshal Sir Robert Foster, K.C.B., C.B.E., D.F.C., visited us during our first exercise and met a number of us, including our R.S.M. Taylor, who had served with Desert Air Force under him. The visit was immediately after a night in which we had defended ourselves against a "commando" of 11th, who did their best to rout our Cable Head camp. The final issue of the attack may, perhaps, not be altogether clear since each side claimed a complete victory, but the tea provided for victors and vanquished at 0300 hours covered that problem very nicely. The attack produced some valuable experience: There are three men who won't wear luminous wristwatches again and one officer who will remember for a long time how firmly rooted a tree is when it is tackled smartly in the mistaken idea that it is one of the enemy!

Frankly, this year we have worked harder and played harder than we have ever been able to do before in the A.E.R., and we are hoping that we can go again to B.A.O.R. and our friends. (War Office and Treasury please note that you get better value for the taxpayers' money from the sort of training we have had this year!)

Finally, Major Gray and Captain Gilham are leaving us, the former for a post in the States and the latter in Canada. We would wish them and theirs every success in their new lives. They are grand fellows to have about the place and we shall miss them.

[Courtesy: Fox Photos, Ltd.

The Kensington Regiment Team for control of the procession from the Abbey to Buckingham Palace (southern half) on Coronation Day, 1953. Included in the centre are the staff of the Signals Control point outside Westminster Abbey

The Regiment played a considerable part in the various roles allotted to Royal Signals during the Coronation. In fact, it is probably true to say that a higher proportion of personnel of the Kensingtons were actively engaged in Coronation duties than the numbers so engaged from any other Regiment of Royal Signals, whether Regular or Territorial. Kensingtons were employed in three separate parties, namely, Royal Signals Marching Contingent, Royal Signals Route Lining Contingent, and Coronation Communications Contingent.

The connection of the Regiment with Coronation Communications was begun as long ago as November 1952 when Phantom produced a number of wireless detachments to "pioneer" the proposed communications along the route to be taken by Her Majesty The Queen. As a result of this the Regiment was accorded the place of honour among the T.A. Regiments nominated to provide wireless communications on "C" Day. The Control Station and seven sub-stations were produced and personnel employed totalled nine Officers and 18 other ranks.

The Q.M. and his staff had drawn up for the occasion a variety of items, ranging from five brand new "Champions" (British Jeeps) to No. 1 Dress, Public Address equipments, and visual signalling discs and flags. In spite of the intrusion of annual camp during the final preparation period, work on vehicles and sets was pushed forward and numerous rehearsals were held (mostly at very uncivilised early morning hours).

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All this culminated in the move of the party into Coronation Camp in Kensington Gardens on the evening of 29th May. The 30th was passed in tying up any loose ends and a final rehearsal was held at 0445 hours on the morning of Sunday, 31st May. It was incredible to see the traffic congestion at this early hour—a sign of what to expect from crowds on the great day.

During Monday, final wireless practices were held and photographs of both personnel and vehicles were taken. At 2200 hours the vehicles of Detachments 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 moved out to take up their positions, and carried with them sentries who were to guard them until the Detachments took over at 0730 hours on Coronation Day.

Some difficulty because of surging crowds was experienced in the positioning of Detachments 4 and 5, but eventually all Officers and drivers returned safely to camp shortly after midnight to snatch three or four hours sleep before an early reveille (0430 hours), breakfast, and moving out along the route (0700 hours).

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Communications were established by 0800 hours according to schedule and worked well throughout, despite the attacks of crowds on Detachment 4 in Trafalgar Square and several heavy downpours of rain. The function of the Detachments was threefold. Firstly, to marshal the "From" procession into the positions from which it would move off when Her Majesty The Queen drove from the Abbey after the Coronation Service. Secondly, to pass the executive order for the procession to march and thus to ensure that it moved off simultaneously along its length. Thirdly, to provide communications in the event of an emergency arising and thus to relay information or instructions as required.

The procession was marshalled smoothly into position by No. 18 Detachment after the "To" procession had reached the Abbey, and the R.A.S.C. vehicles were called forward by wireless to feed the troops. Phase I was complete.

At 1508 hours the wireless and telephone systems carried from Control the order given by the C.O., "Procession stand by." At once the red and white striped discs on the jeeps were displayed to the procession marshals, and the order "Procession stand by" boomed forth over the loudspeakers. The procession came up to attention and sloped arms.

At 1515 hours, the red and white discs dropped, blue and white flags waved, and loudspeakers crashed out "Procession march." The Queen, in her State Coach, moved off from Westminster Abbey and the entire procession moved forward at the very same moment.

Thereafter, the stations recorded the progress of the procession (including the dropping out of the Prime Minister's coach) until at length, at 1700 hours, Her Majesty re-entered Buckingham Palace gates and a tired but successful communication network could stand down and return to camp.

THE BLUE BOOK

Seniority Roll of Warrant Officers and Non-Commissioned Officers of Royal Signals is now on sale

PRICE 2/-

from Royal Signals Association.

Amendments printed in the same type as the book to facilitate alterations, are on page 239.

51 (H) INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

Brevet Colonel T. P. E. Murray, O.B.E., T.D., A.D.C.

We have said goodbye to Brevet Colonel T. P. E. Murray, O.B.E., T.D., A.D.C., whose tours in command of the Regiment span 14 years. Our best wishes accompany him and we shall look forward to seeing him frequently at Fonthill Barracks. We are very proud of his Brevet and appointment as A.D.C.

We welcome Lieutenant-Colonel N. M. Hay, M.B.E., our new Commanding Officer. He is the first Regular Officer to command the Regiment under peace conditions. Lieutenant-Colonel Hay, however, is no stranger to our highland ways, as he commanded the Regiment in Germany in 1945-46.

Major MacKinnon, formerly O.C. 1 Squadron, has returned to the Regiment as Second-in-Command.

Captain Timmons has joined 3 Squadron from the A.C.F., and Lieutenant Callander from N.S.

An Officers' week-end was held at Banchory, at which 20 Officers renewed their skill as working numbers of line and wireless detachments. At dinner on the Saturday night the opportunity was taken of presenting Colonel Murray with a silver salver inscribed with the names of the Officers.

Regimental and 2 Squadron signal exercises have been held in preparation for the full-scale Divisional exercise in camp this year. A feature of the former was the inclusion of Cadets from our affiliated A.C.F. Company.

Trade boards have been held at each of our T.A.C.s in the past month. The 23 candidates who were upgraded are to be congratulated on this result to their hard work during the individual training period.

Coronation. In addition to providing Lance-Corporal McLaren to march in the London procession and a small quota of personnel for street lining, this Regiment has taken a large part in local celebrations.

The Regimental Pipes and Drums, under our new Pipe Major K. Campbell, have been in great demand and have played every night of the week.

Parades in vehicles have been held in Aberdeen and Dundee and communications have been provided for various pageants.

All this after our advance party has left for annual camp has meant a very great deal of hard work on the part of the volunteer element of the Regiment.

T.A. Officers' Ball, Aberdeen. A party of 28, including the Divisional Commander and Mrs. Scott-Elliot, dined in the Officers' Mess before this enjoyable and successful function.

Sergeants' Mess Social. A very successful W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess social was held at Aberdeen, at which an inscribed tobacco jar was presented to Colonel Murray.

21 ARMY SIGNAL REGIMENT, A.E.R.

At camp from 9th-23rd May this year, the Regiment, a newcomer only one camp old, was given a really sticky wicket to bat on for its second visit to the Depot and Training Centre at Chester, but the stickiness was not the result of rain, unless the "brassy" glint in the sky could be called rain.

Upon the Regiment had fallen the rather unenviable, and even frighening, task of providing neutral signals for the staff of a major exercise.

It was nerve-wracking for two reasons. The Regiment went to camp with some 15 officers less than last year, and the senior N.C.O. quota was reduced to one R.Q.M.S., one attached line sergeant and one orderly room sergeant. Some hasty promotions and the kindly loan by Depot of several P.S.I.s helped to fill the gap, but the situation was never a happy one. The lack of experienced senior N.C.O.s was one very hard felt by all the officers—both of them (a poetic diminution)!

Even so, the officer situation was pretty desperate. None of the three Z Reserve Squadron commanders of last year returned to camp this year, which did not make the organisation any easier and, in every Squadron, Troops with an establishment of two officers for each were lucky to have one, and were often sharing their one with another Troop.

In those circumstances it would not have been surprising if the sticky wicket had sent the batting haywire. That it did not—at least, not too badly—and that the Regiment received a letter of congratulation afterwards from the B.G.S., Western Command, have become a source of some pride for 21 Army Signal Regiment, which came through the ordeal without serious losses and with the gain of only a little more white to the hair of the C.O., Lieutenant-Colonel W. F. B. Nott, O.B.E., T.D.

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Association Notes

Sheffield

The last meeting of the season and Coronation party was held on Friday, 29th May, at the New Inn, Wadsley Bridge. About 25 members and wives attended and were entertained by artistes of the Fellowship of the Services. Being on licensed premises we had, unfortunately, to finish by 10 p.m., which was a pity as we were all set to make a good night of it.

Our President, Lieutenant-Colonel Holland, gave an appreciative resumé of the last year's work and hopes for the coming year, expressing on behalf of all members our thanks to the ladies and the T.A. members for their great support throughout the year. We now close down until September.

May we thank all concerned at the S.T.C., Catterick, for the very good programme laid on for the Old Comrades' Reunion. It was the first time our party had been to a reunion and all hope it won't be the last. What memories came crowding back—1935 seemed very near—and it was with a sigh that we took our leave, more than ever filled with determination that the contact with the Corps must never be broken and that the Old Comrades must keep alive the spirit of the Royal Signal Units which we learned to cherish in our serving days.

On behalf of all members of the branch, *bon voyage* to Captain (Q.M.) A. Dale and family, sailing to Singapore on 16th June. Good luck, sir, we shall miss you.

Birmingham and District

For the past months any news from this Branch has been noticeable by its absence, but this month we have got something really good to write about as we want many more of our members to know about the Old Comrades' Annual Reunion which was held at Catterick Camp on Saturday and Sunday, 16th and 17th May.

This year the party was much larger than last time. we were 36 strong, and we left Birmingham on the Saturday morning about 9.30 in a most luxurious motor coach. For this coach we must acknowledge the good efforts of George Shale and Joe Carnall, who personally selected it several months before and made the necessary arrangements which resulted in a most comfortable journey for us all.

The route was via Nottingham and the Great North Road, which, of course, took us through the delightful Nottinghamshire and Yorkshire countryside, which at the time was looking really beautiful.

Arriving at Catterick at the scheduled time—4.30 p.m.—our hosts, No. 2 Training Regiment, were waiting for us—and what a reception with a magnificent tea and/or beer, as required. Then we were shown to our living quarters and we soon began to feel soldiers again.

The first real event after tea was at 7.30, when we assembled on the Baghdad Main Square to witness the Band of the Royal Corps of Signals playing Retreat. This was a truly magnificent spectacle and was staged with full ceremonial—the Band in their dress uniforms and accompanied by the trumpeters. The ceremony started with the Royal Signals Fanfare, at the completion of which the Corps Flag and the Standards of Headquarters, Signal Training Centre, the School of Signals and the seven Regiments of the Signal Training Centre were broken at the mast-head. The Band then marched and counter-marched in slow and quick time, and during the playing of Retreat the Flag and Standards were lowered. At the conclusion, the salute was taken by Major-General C. M. F. White, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., and the whole ceremony was most inspiring.

About 9 o'clock, there was a general drift towards the W.O.s' and Sergeants' Messes, where a variety of entertainment had been arranged. In the case of No. 2 Training Regiment, this consisted of a dance, smoking concert and other musical events and, let me not forget to add, there were two bars and literally masses of food.

As the evening wore on, the Regular soldiers and the Old Comrades had become firm friends and reminiscences were being exchanged on every side. Some members of the party, however, had found other interests in the dance and were thoroughly enjoying themselves with the Catterick ladies.

The party broke up soon after midnight after a most enjoyable day.

Sunday morning dawned bright and cheerful—but I doubt whether all members of the party were feeling in the same form. However, it is creditable to state that no one refused breakfast—and who could refuse such a breakfast as Catterick Camp gave the Old Comrades—bacon, two eggs, kidney, sausage and tomato.

0925 hours Church Parade, and all members of the party present complete with our Standard, ably carried by Mr. W. Richards, and supported by his two escorts. It was an inspiring parade, comprising some 300 Old Comrades and detachments from each of the Training Regiments. The service was in St. Martin's Garrison Church, and every seat was filled, many by distinguished senior Signal Officers from both home and overseas commands, by the Regular Units in Catterick Camp, and by the Old Comrades. We were very honoured by the presence of our Colonel-in-Chief, Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal, C.I., G.C.V.O., G.B.E., R.R.C., T.D., who, during the service took part in the dedication of the Royal Signals Memorial Chapel. It was all very impressive.

The service over, we marched past, the salute being taken by Her Royal Highness. It was a great thrill for us old soldiers to be marching again on such an occasion—and you know we can still march very well and show the young soldiers how to do it.

Following the parade came the Royal Signals Association Annual Meeting, and again we were honoured by the presence of Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal, who also addressed the meeting. On her departure, three rousing cheers were given for her in real Old Comrade style.

After an enormous lunch (and lots to drink), the rendezvous was the Messines Sports Field, which was gaily decorated. The Band of the Royal Corps of Signals played throughout the afternoon and there were a number of Regimental displays. Trooping the Colour by the Regimental Boys was really first class, the P.T. display, Swedish drill and mast erection race were also most spectacular. And then the Motor Cycle Display Team, which is looked forward to so much by everyone—as usual they were marvellous. It is really astounding what these young soldiers can do with their motor cycles, and they justly deserved the terrific applause they received.

Unfortunately, the time was now getting on, and after a quick cup of tea we had to say goodbye and to thank our hosts for the truly marvellous time we had had. We left Catterick about 4.30 p.m. and after a very good run reached Birmingham around 11 o'clock.

No doubt those of you who did not accompany the party will realise that you missed something really good—so make a special date to come next time; you'll enjoy it and will kick yourself for not coming previously.

Royal Signals Benevolent Fund

Also on this page is a simple statement of income and expenditure. Below an attempt is made to describe with suitable anonymity nine typical cases.

Ex-Warrant Officer, 42 years' service in Signals, D.C.M. and Home Guard from 1942 to 1945. Life membership of Association. Continuous ill-health and financial worry over removals, mortgage and rates. Has nothing beyond his pension. The fund relieved his present financial anxiety and will watch over his last years.

Ex-Signalman, 1941-46, Mentioned in Despatches, North Africa, now has T.B. and so had to ask help to further his daughter's education. This was most willingly given.

Ex-Signalman, 1942-46, has been very ill with consequent loss of income. The fund paid part cost of his convalescence and shared with the British Legion in paying his debts.

Ex-Signalman, 1941-42, has been ill off and on since then and now has cancer too far gone to operate. The British Legion and the Benevolent Fund are helping him and his wife.

Widow of Corporal, 1913-37 and 1939-45. He died recently after a long illness. The fund enabled her to make a new start—clear of debt.

Ex-Signalman, 1920-32, writes: "I cannot express in words the feelings of my family and myself for such generosity which I am sure will enable me to regain my normal health and confidence, and to realise what a wonderful thing the Association is."

Ex-Signalman, 1947-50. He also had war service in Royal Signals. He has a long history of illness and unemployment. This fund helped him to better times.

Ex-Signalman, 1940-46. Association member, with a long history of illness. British Legion are fighting his case for a pension. The Ministry of Labour have him in a Rehabilitation Centre and the Benevolent Fund has enabled his wife and family to make a fresh start.

A Signalman met with a very serious accident after leaving the Army, as a result of which he was completely paralysed below the neck. His chances of recovery were nil and, when we first heard of him he was in an infirmary ward, full of old men, many of whom were senile. He was extremely unhappy there, and ultimately insisted on being taken home against the advice of his doctor, who said that, without hospital care, he would not live more than a year.

Having tried unsuccessfully all over the country to get him into a suitable home, we ultimately contacted the Star and Garter Home at Richmond. Owing to the long waiting list there our chances were very remote. However, after six months he was accepted and was taken there from the north of England by ambulance. Since going there he has been very happy, and a most appreciative letter has just been received from him and his parents, saying that, after one year, there is a vast improvement in his condition. He is delighted with the treatment he is receiving which, he says, but for the Association he would never have had.

ROYAL SIGNALS BENEVOLENT FUND

Subscriptions received during April, 1953:—

	£	s.	d.
3 Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment	1	3	2
Depot Regiment	15	0	0
Royal Signals Headquarters Officers' Mess	1	10	6
Royal Signals Corps Funds	233	18	8
Donations received during April, 1953:			
Sudan Signal Squadron	5	2	8
Mr. G. F. V. Smith		5	0
S.T.C. (Mhow) Branch		10	0
No. 28 Unit Branch	26	0	0
No. 14 Unit Branch	20	0	0
3 L. of C. Signal Regiment (W.O.s and Sergeants' Mess)	2	0	0
1 Commonwealth Divisional Signal Regiment (British Element)	12	0	0
Total Receipts	£317	10	0

	£	s.	d.
Expenditure during April, 1953 (Includes General Assistance; Rent and Rates; Hire Purchase; Prams and Cots; Removals; Fares, Convalescence.)	£555	9	2
Analysis of Cases:			
Families of Soldier serving in U.K.			5
" " " " " FARELF			1
" " " " " B.A.O.R.			Nil
Widows and Dependants			3
Released and Discharged Soldiers			52
Total cases assisted			61

	£	s.	d.
Subscriptions received during May, 1953:—			
4 Training Regiment	10	0	0
3 Squadron, 4 L. of C. Signal Regiment	3	16	4
5 A.A. (M) Signal Regiment (Officers' Mess)	9	0	0
12 A.A. (M) Signal Regiment	3	3	3
Donations received during May, 1953:—			
No. 5 Unit Branch	15	0	0
Southampton Branch	2	2	0
Mr. J. W. McKenna		6	0
W.O.I P. E. Davies		5	0
St. Martin's Church, Catterick	32	0	3
Bequest from Estate of late Blanche Marion Curtis	525	0	0
Total receipts	£600	12	10

	£	s.	d.
Expenditure during May, 1953 (Includes: General Assistance; Rent and Rates; Hire Purchase; Removals; Fares; Convalescence; Prams and Cots.)	£457	18	8
Analysis of cases:			
Families of soldiers serving in U.K.			4
" " " " " B.A.O.R.			2
" " " " " M.E.L.F.			1
" " " " " FARELF			1
Widows and Dependants			5
Released and Discharged soldiers			41
Total cases assisted			54

GOLF

THE Army Golf Meeting was held this year at Hunstanton, in Norfolk, from 9th to 15th May. Royal Signals sent down two teams to enter for both the individual and inter-Unit events.

Our two teams, the No. 1 (from Catterick) consisting of Second-Lieutenant R. B. Carroll, Lieutenant-Colonel G. S. K. Maydon, Captain J. B. Prince, and Captain O. J. Peck, and the No. 2 (from elsewhere) consisting of Lieutenant-Colonel R. Linton, Second-Lieutenant C. J. Copestake, Second-Lieutenant M. V. Keeling, and Lieutenant-Colonel G. D. T. Harris, foregathered at Hunstanton during the week-end. All players arrived in time for at least one practice round before the Army Championship started on Monday.

In practice both Carroll and Keeling had produced good scores, so we were hopeful of having a representative among the leading scores. None struck their best form, however, and our only successes were Keeling and Copestake, who were runners-up in two of the handicap events run simultaneously with the Army Championship.

The Army Championship took up the first two days, and it was not until the Wednesday that the serious inter-Unit matches of the Army Challenge Cup began. Our two teams were placed in different halves of the draw so there was no fear of our meeting until the final. In the first round the No. 1 team were drawn against the R.A.M.C., while the No. 2 team had a bye. On paper the R.A.M.C. were slightly the better team, but at least one of their number had not had the advantage of playing in the Army Championship, and we won quite comfortably, 19—3. In the afternoon the second round was played, and the No. 1 team were drawn against the Royal Engineers and the No. 2 team against the R.A.S.C. The Sappers had the new Army Champion, Lieutenant-Colonel K. H. Stevens, playing for them, their remaining players having handicaps of 1, 7 and 8 against our handicaps of 3, 6, 8 and 16, so we were clearly in for a hard fight. In the event, Carroll had a ding-dong battle with Colonel Stevens, found himself all square on the 16th tee, and won the last three holes to finish 3 up; a very fine effort indeed. Colonel Maydon played very well against the Sapper No. 2 and finished only 1 down; another good effort. Captain Prince in his game had the unnerving experience of losing the first five holes, but recovered so well that he was within an ace of squaring the match at the 15th. He finished 3 down. Any hopes we had, however, were dashed in the last match, where Captain Peck, who was at last hitting his tee shots, held his own for a bit but eventually cracked, finished 8 down, and the Sappers had won by 12—3.

Meanwhile, the No. 2 team were battling with the holders, R.A.S.C. One problem that had to be decided before the game was the batting order, for our top three players were of very much the same standard. Eventually Colonel Linton played the captain's role and sacrificed himself by playing first against Colonel Gardiner, a former Army champion, and finished 8 down. Copestake, as No. 2, finished 1 up on his opponent, and Colonel Harris, at No. 4, was all square. With the situation looking fairly hopeless, Keeling, who with his opponent had been left rather behind, calmly but efficiently slaughtered his man to finish 9 up. A Signals win by 10—8.

In the semi-final the No. 2 team played the R.A.O.C., again a far better side on paper than us. This time only Keeling could produce a victory; he finished 3 up against an extremely steady and experienced opponent whose short game was quite miraculous—a very good effort. A win for R.A.O.C. by 22—3.

That was the end of our effort to win the Army Challenge Cup in 1953.

The fact that both teams got through one round proves that this was the most successful Army meeting for the Corps for some years, and the fact that two of the best players, Carroll and Keeling, are Regular young Officers bodes well for the future.

The Loyal Toast

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Amendments No. 6 to the Blue Book 1953

DELETIONS—TRADES ROSTER

6	5476	10092	12040	12872	13573	14412
201	5504	10098	12073	12969	13594	14436
217	5652	10109	12110	12988	13600	14442
235	5712	10134	12154	13063	13611	14467
254	5728	10138	12156	13007	13624	14479
348	5743	10189	12164	13008	13625	14480
355	5758	10218	12165	13013	13635	14492
738	5768	10355	12181	13018	13639	14501
767	5773	10414	12170	13033	13652	14533
780	5778	10460	12183	13048	13654	14546
870	5843	10467	12193A	13107	13676	14561
880	5884	10552	12210	13117	13750	14588
937	5893	10592	12213	13120	13772	14590
946	5895	10602	12230	13168	13773	14593
1304	5911	10605	12232	13169	13787	14623
1315A	5978	10642	12233	13170	13802	14624
1416	5985	10706	12234	13172	13804	14638
1461	5987	10804	12239	13173	13805	14676B
1528	5991	10811	12256	13175	13807	14682
1539	5998	10886	12298	13181	13808	14707B
1616	6049	10997	12307	13200	13811	14745
1665	6134	11052	12347	13231	13812	14773
1750	6183	11090	12365	13232	13839	14822
1784	6225	11113	12376	13233	13864	14830
1825	6266	11152	12433	13260A	13897A	14844
1958	6284	11219	12509	13276	13925	14915
2060	6299	11229	12527	13298	13955	14928
2134	6382	11312	12556	13300	13971B	14940
2159	6394	11359	12557	13301	13976	14956
2163	6396	11389	12558	13314	13988	14968
2194	6397	11429	12559	13321A	14013	14987
2334	6415	11439	12585	13324	14039	14990
2373	6424	11489	12658	13350	14040	15003
2415	6427	11661	12659	13352A	14047	15010
2448	6455	11689	12666	13361	14114	15012
2491	6465	11703	12671	13387	14129	15034
2545	6475	11726	12682	13388	14133	15098
2563	6481	11742	12696	13393	14141	15101
2584	6490	11780	12713	13409A	14150	15122
2607	6495	11795	12714	13416	14162	15128
2635	6514	11815	12744	13417	14207	15147
2669	6515	11816	12745	13418	14218	15151
2683	6543	11818	12757	13426A	14249	15152
5008	6563	11863	12762	13430	14250	15221
5039	6587	11864	12772	13439	14252	15371
5111A	6617	11872	12780	13448	14253	15375
5251A	6668	11873	12789	13457	14254	15386
5343	6680	11874	12795A	13471	14256	15423
5381	6716	11877	12802	13498	14257	15429
5408	10022	11906	12846	13500	14280	15459
5435	10042	11919	12847	13502	14284	15467
5444	10060	11958	12849	13504	14335	15496
5454	10078	11986	12850	13536	14396	

CIPHER ROSTER—DELETIONS

1302A	5026	5061	5113	5170	5183	5283
1319	5054	5094	5176	5182	5229	5316
1396						

GD ROSTER—DELETIONS

5031	10050	10093A	10156	10179	10183	10213
10016	10051	10110	10172	10180	10197	10216
10027	10087	10152				

TRADES ROSTER—DELETE "Q"

2637

TRADES ROSTER—ADD "Q"

1634	5369	6261	10191	11201	12393	13307
1724A	5414	6433	10206	11412A	12732	13561
5096	5766	6473	10303	11425	12809	13600
5196	5989	6518	10652	11950	13002	13829
5262A	6165	6609	10945	12014	13154	13880
5310	6168	6684	11109	12092	13215	13974
5314	6233A	6695	11195	12387		

CIPHER ROSTER—"ADD Q"

1309	1407	5044	5064	5209A	5227A	5248
1358	5006A	5059	5146			

FOREMEN OF SIGNALS ROSTER—ADD "Q"

718 736 738

GENERAL DUTIES ROSTER—ADD "Q"

10001	10020	10138	10158	10175	10196	10209
10008	10047					

AMENDMENTS—TRADES ROSTER

Serial 5993—Amend name to read: Hawey, J.

ROYAL SIGNALS SPORTS IN B.A.O.R.

The following finals in the B.A.O.R. Signals Inter-Unit Competitions have been played this spring.

Soccer. A closely contested match which was anybody's game almost to the final whistle. In the second half, 1 Wireless Regiment broke through and Signalman Wheeldon scored off a corner. This put 7 Armoured Division on their mettle and they soon equalised with a goal by Signalman Saunders. During the second half of extra time the decision went to 1 Wireless Regiment when Lance-Corporal Douglas scored a fine goal.

Rugby. Result: 11 Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment 5—1 Wireless Regiment 3.

A very even game until 1 Wireless went ahead with a magnificent penalty goal kicked by Sergeant Gomm from just over the halfway line. Just after half-time 11 Armoured Division pressed hard and Sergeant Burgess scored a try which he also converted. After that there was a ding-dong struggle with no score on either side.

Hockey. Result: 11 Air Formation Signal Regiment 4—7 Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment 0.

This was a good game to watch and was not nearly as one-sided as the score suggests. However, 11 Air Formation Signal Regiment showed themselves superior when attacking and thus managed to win handsomely. Goals were scored by Sergeant Webb (2), Captain Brewin and Signalman Fairey. 11 Air Formation Signal Regiment thus won the shield for the second year running.

Morrison Cup. The Morrison Cup is awarded to the Unit which gets most points in the finals of the eight annual competitions, viz., Association, Rugby, boxing, hockey, cricket, cross-country, .303 rifle shooting, and .22 rifle shooting. As these notes go to Press, 11 Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment tie with 11 Air Formation Signal Regiment with four points each. The only competition still to be decided is the .22 rifle shooting, and 11 Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment are hot favourites.

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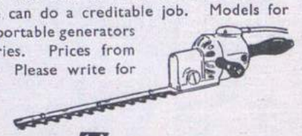

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THE WIRE

The Corps Magazine of the
ROYAL SIGNALS
The Official Organ of the
SIGNALS ASSOCIATION

Editor:
BRIGADIER 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.*

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☆

AUGUST • **1953**

Vol. 7 *New Series* **No. 8**

☆

PRICE ONE SHILLING

Editorial

MERCURY

THE origin and meaning of the Cap badge.

The Greeks are descendants of a race called the Aryans. Before they knew of the true God they never tired of looking at the sky, and a number of legends have been handed down which are known as Greek myths.

According to these, Jupiter was the king and father of gods and men. Neptune (who ruled the sea) and Pluto (the king of the underworld) were brothers of Jupiter. Juno was Jupiter's queen. Minerva was the goddess of wisdom; Apollo the god of prophecy, music and poetry; Venus the goddess of love and beauty, Mars the god of war; and Pan, the god of shepherds and country folk.

Mercury was the herald and swift-footed messenger of the gods. He was the patron of herdsmen, travellers and rogues. He wore a winged cap and winged sandals, and carried as the sign of his office a golden wand or staff, which had two wings at the top and two golden snakes twined round it. The staff was called the caduceus.

The Association of Mercury with 'Signals' is an obvious one and, indeed, in times long ago the figure of Mercury adorned the Drum-Major's Staff of the 1st Telegraph Battalion, R.E. The original is in the Headquarter Officers' Mess.

Those who know their history are aware that the title ROYAL was granted by His Majesty after the formation of the Corps of Signals and the Crown above the figure denotes that we are a Royal Corps.

A statute of Mercury (without the Crown) adorns the roof of the Institute of Electrical Engineers in the Savoy in London.

The Signal Corps of the countries of the Commonwealth use the same badge, but in the case of India and Pakistan the Crown is replaced by other insignia.

* * *

The first three paragraphs of the above brief account are extracted from a much longer article by Captain G. Courtenay Price, 48 South Midland Divisional Signals, which appeared in the "Wire."

* * *

We notice that besides being the "Messenger of the Gods" Mercury is described as 'the patron of herdsmen, travellers and rogues,' but how does this description fit in with the reputation his disciples have won in sport? On pages 269 to 274 is as full a description as can be compiled of the almost fantastic success achieved during the last year, and as the 'stop press' shows even now, the tale is incomplete.

This account of our achievements has been compiled by an anonymous officer in the Signal Training Centre.

To those who have won us so much honour and to he who has written of them so well, the thanks of all in Royal Signals are due.

WORK

So much for history and sport, but as the C.I.G.S. was kind enough to say, we also work well. The Commonwealth Division is now back a mile or more from its battle positions and is at rest, all save Royal Signals; by any estimation it will be some days before the linemen finish, if they ever do. The work of the Signal Offices goes on. Britcom Communication Zone Signal Squadron will be preparing for the expected increase in traffic as soon as the exchange of prisoners of war commences.

In Malaya, too, the work goes on, and in M.E.L.F. we hear that the men of 3 G.H.Q. and 3 L. of C. Signal Regiments are working a 70-hour week. The C.I.G.S. also said we work too hard; but after all Mercury was as far as history reveals capable of almost anything.

PERSONAL COLUMN

LEGACY

Those who knew the late Lieutenant-Colonel P. Jennings, O.B.E., M.C., a notice of whose death appeared in the July, 1952, number of THE WIRE, will be edified, if not surprised, by the information that the Benevolent Fund (other ranks) has benefited by the sum of £460 (£500, less estate duty) left to the Association in his will. Perhaps Royal Signals has had no more loyal officer than Percy Jennings, and it is typical of him that his feeling of interest and affection for those who served with him should extend in this manner until the very end.

KIRIAN DONGO TROPHY

Captain J. F. Maxwell, a note of whose death appeared in the June WIRE, was a noted big game hunter and this trophy is the foot of an elephant which he shot in Kirian Dongo, East Africa and is lined with silver, suitably mounted and inscribed.

He presented it to the Officers, Royal Signals serving in India in 1930 for competition in show jumping. The trophy is still in existence and is in possession of H.Q., Northern Army Group Signal Regiment.

He has been remembered for his singing of "The Mighty Boar," but was equally famous for his rendering of "Where be that Blackbird, Joe?"

* * *

London Gazette

29th May, 1953.

Major A. Beattie—R.A.R.O.

9th June, 1953.

Major J. J. Collins, M.B.E., T.D., to be Lieutenant-Colonel on command of the Middlesex Yeomanry.

Lieutenant-Colonel R. C. Seel, O.B.E., M.C., to be restored to the rank of Brevet Colonel. on ceasing to be employed and is appointed Honorary Colonel of the 53 (W) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment (T.A.).

July, 1953.

Colonel Raymond William Dale, O.B.E., D.L., appointed Honorary Colonel 2/20 Army Signal Regiment (T.A.).

Major R. C. Newcomb, O.B.E., to be Lieutenant-Colonel (23 Southern Corps Signal Regiment (T.A.)).

Royal Signals will wish to congratulate Major-General W. G. Michelmore, C.B., D.S.O., M.C., T.D., D.L., J.P., on being appointed a Knight Commander of the Order of the British Empire in the Coronation Honours List. He commanded the 56th (London) Divisional Signals in the first World War and then 43rd (Wessex) Divisional Signals for a number of years.

CORRIGENDA

In the June number of THE WIRE, Colonel R. Baron, O.B.E., T.D., D.L., was mentioned as being appointed an Honorary Colonel. Unfortunately, through an error in printing and proof reading, his decorations omitted the Order of the British Empire, and his name was incorrectly spelt.

Movements—Officers

Major B. D. Elsmore, 2 Training Regiment to Ministry of Supply.

Major A. W. Mead, Northern Army Group, to FARELF.

Major R. G. Baker, Senior Officers' School to Southern Command Signal Regiment.

Major G. H. Axson, Western Command Signal Regiment to 2 Training Regiment.

Major E. Turner, Southern Command Signal Regiment to Western Command Signal Regiment.

Captain (TOT) J. F. Everard, Northern Army Group to FARELF.

Major D. N. Deakin, Records to H.Q. 3 A.A. Group.

Lieutenant-Colonel C. C. Danby, H.Q. 3 A.A. Group to R.A.R.O.

Major G. A. Fleming, H.Q. Aldershot District to Southern Command (M) Signal Regiment.

Major A. S. P. Salter, Royal Military College of Science to War Office (Signals 3).

Major P. A. Worsnop, Royal Military College of Science to MELF.

Major A. R. Glanvill, Northern Army Group to FARELF.

Major R. W. Brader, MELF to U.K.

Major W. C. Morgan, France to U.K.

Major H. C. Howell, Ministry of Supply to MELF.

Arrivals and Departures

7th Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment.

Departures.

Captain A. T. Scott to Korea.

Captain A. R. Wythe to Korea.

Arrivals.

Captain R. Nott Bower from Sudan.

Lieutenant J. Booth from 7 Training Regiment.

1 Training Regiment

Arrivals.

Captain A. C. Bates from School of Signals, and assumes the appointment of Adjutant.

Captain K. A. Smith from MELF.

S.Q.M.S. (F. of S.) Allen, W. R., from Royal Signals Wing, School of Signals.

S.Q.M.S. Bowman, T. R., from FARELF.

Sergeant Gill, P., from FARELF.

Departures.

Captain N. J. Coslett to Army Apprentice School, Harrogate, and relinquishes the appointment of Adjutant.

Captain G. E. Lee to MELF.

Captain N. J. Richardson to MELF.

CORPS MARCHES

A new recording of the Corps QUICK and SLOW March has been made, and records are now available, price 10/- each, from: The Honorary Treasurer, Royal Signals Band, H.Q. Officers' Mess, Catterick Camp, Yorks.

On the 8th May, 1953, H.R.H. the Duchess of Gloucester attended the opening ceremony of the ninth N.A.A.F.I. Club at Chippenham, and in her speech likened the luxurious amenities to those of the liner *Queen Mary*. A tenth Club is in course of construction at Glasgow, and an eleventh is planned for Salisbury. All these Clubs are built, equipped and maintained from N.A.A.F.I. funds.

The following was extracted from *News Letter* No. 35 dated 1st June, 1953, issued by the ARMED FORCES COMMUNICATIONS ASSOCIATION of the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

AUSTRALIAN MIDGET RADIO. A new midget radio receiver-transmitter has been developed for the Australian Army and is being put into service after a year's testing. It is an extremely reliable set and is easily operated and maintained; it is half the weight of the sets now in use and is a superior performer; it can be carried in two ammunition pouches on a man's belt or can be used as a ground station. According to the Ministry for Supply, "No set so light, compact and powerful has been developed anywhere else in the free world."

United States Signal Corps

Colonel Reginald P. Lyman, former chief of staff at Fort Monmouth, has succeeded Brigadier - General Harry Reichelderfer as commanding officer of Camp San Luis Obispo, California. General Reichelderfer left the Signal Corps Replacement Training Center and the South-Western Signal School to assume his new position as Chief of the Army Security Agency in Washington.

Colonel Lyman is the second commander at the west coast Signal Corps installation since its activation in December, 1951. General Reichelderfer was appointed the first commander of San Luis Obispo, after serving as commanding general at Fort Monmouth from April to December, 1951.

*

Births

WALL.—On 18th June, 1953, at Plymouth to Bettina ("Tina"), wife of W.O. 2 E. R. Wall, a daughter, Erica Jane.

MACLEAN.—On June 26th at 1 Tithe Farm Close, South Harrow, to Captain and Mrs. Iain MacLean (née Hunt), a second son, Alastair Fitzroy.

GILBERT.—On 5th July, 1953, at Purley, to Betty, wife of Lieutenant C. J. Gilbert, Royal Signals Wing, a daughter.

FERGUSON.—To Captain and Mrs. J. Y. Ferguson, on 8th July, 1953, at Louise Margaret Hospital, Aldershot, a daughter.

MORRIS.—To S.Q.M.S. and Mrs. P. H. Morris, 3 Training Regiment, on 2nd June, 1953, a son, Gregory Francis.

Marriages

MAYDON-RAWLINS.—On June 18th, 1953, at St. Lawrence's Church, Sidcup, Lieutenant-Colonel George Stuart Keith Maydon to Anne (Nancy) Rawlins.

COX-REED.—Captain J. Cox, 2 Wireless Regiment, MELF, to Brenda Marian Reed of Taunton, at Famagusta, Cyprus, on 30th May, 1953.

Deaths

GILBERT.—22296339 Lance-Corporal F. S. Gilbert, on 16th June, 1953, at Newcastle.

ASHWORTH.—2324313 Sergeant T. H. Ashworth on 16th June, 1953, in Far East.

HUGHES.—22621556 Signalman J. O. Hughes, on 16th June, at Birmingham.

Injured on Active Service

WILD.—22307553 Signalman H. Wild, on 23rd June, 1953, in Korea.

Forthcoming Events ☆

ROYAL SIGNALS BAND PROGRAMME, 1953

Aug.	10-15	...	Dunfermline.
„	16-22	...	Glasgow.
„	23-30	...	Edinburgh Festival.
Sept.	1-5	...	Southend.
„	6-19	...	Worthing.
Sept.	20-Oct. 3.		Eastbourne.

ROYAL SIGNALS DISPLAY TEAM, 1953

Aug.	19-20	...	Royal Jersey Agricultural & Horticultural Society Jersey
„	22	...	Westgate in Weardale Floral & Horticultural Society ... ... Weardale
„	27-29	...	Worcester Tattoo ... ... Worcester
Sept.	3-5	...	Chester Tattoo ... ... Chester
„	7	...	The Royal Air Forces' Association ... ... Dawlish
„	8	...	The Royal Air Forces' Association ... ... Teignmouth
„	10	...	The Yeovil Agricultural Society ... ... Yeovil
„	17	...	Wembley Stadium ... Wembley

Standards, Guidons and Colours of the Commonwealth Forces

by **MAJOR T. J. EDWARDS, M.B.E., F.R.Inst.S.**

MAJOR EDWARDS is an author of enormous erudition in matters military and a very good deal of historical research has gone into the writing of this fascinating book.

Unhappily, with one exception, the Signal Regiments do not carry colours and many will, on reading this book, agree that it is a pity. We gain much by being a Corps with all members interchangeable amongst the various Regiments, but we are getting old enough now to have built up a Regimental tradition within the great traditions of our Corps.

Those of us who have worked with and admire the Infantry and Cavalry and the Household Troops can read in this book of that which enforces the loyalty and devotion to duty that in their long history has made them famous.

Of great interest to those of us who realise the worth of "Colours" is the gradual extension of the idea to other arms of the Service and to the other Services.

The Royal Navy were authorised to carry Colours in 1925 and the Royal Air Force in 1947.

Much nearer home is the fact that in 1947 His Majesty King George VI approved a Standard for Regiments of Royal Artillery.

The time may well come when a Standard is authorised for Signal Regiments.

Much of Major Edwards's book is taken up with a very complete description of the Colours of the Regiments of the Household Brigade. The long history of these is more accurately preserved than is that of Regiments of Cavalry and Infantry.

The book is profusely illustrated, partly in colour and is of absorbing interest.—Gale and Polden, Ltd., 30s.

Royal Signals Institution

An inaugural meeting of the Royal Signals Institution was held in London on 22nd May and was well attended by some 80 officers of various categories (Regular, T.A., A.E.A. and retired). Major-General C. M. F. White, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., Representative Colonel Commandant, presided, and Major-General O. P. Edgcumbe, C.B., C.B.E., M.C., chairman of the Institution, made a statement on the progress to date. He said that four committees had been started, for publications, museum, library and finance.

The Publications Committee had sponsored the History of Signals in the late War, by Major-General Nalder, and was investigating the production of a comprehensive history of Signals up to 1939. It was hoped soon to start a new Royal Signals Journal. THE WIRE would remain the responsibility of the Signals Association, but the Officers' List might in due course be taken over by the Institution.

A Museum had been opened at the S.T.C., Catterick, in temporary accommodation, and the question of a Corps Library was being considered. The council of the Institution had in mind other activities, such as prize essays, special lectures, etc.

General Edgcumbe stressed that the Institution is a long-term project, and that it is essential to build up the financial position. The income at present consisted of a War Office grant of £250 a year, and a proportion of the subscriptions paid by Regular serving officers to Corps funds (whereby such officers are automatically members of the Institution). For members other than serving Regular officers, the annual subscription had been fixed at only 15s., and all who are serving or have served as officers with Royal Signals, T.A., A.E.R., temporary commissions, etc., including W.R.A.C. and A.T.S., or with Signals of the Dominions, Colonies, etc., are eligible to join.

The support of those eligible is earnestly sought, and bankers' orders and particulars can be obtained from the Honorary Secretary, Lieutenant-Colonel N. G. Newell, Ministry of Supply, Room 419, Castlewood House, 77-91 New Oxford Street, London, W.C.1.

It is proposed to hold the first annual general meeting of the Institution in London towards the end of this year, when there will be an election of members to the council.

A NOTE ON THE OFFICERS' PENSIONS SOCIETY

The Officers' Pensions Society is an association of retired officers, widows, and the relatives of serving and retired officers. It was formed in 1946 with the objects of procuring improvement in retired pay and pensions of officers and their dependants, and promoting the interests of its members.

The Society is the only body comprising officer members of the three Armed Services, whose policy is controlled solely by its members. It is non-party, and the members of its Council are unpaid. General The Lord Jeffreys is its President, and it has the active support of many distinguished officers of the three Services.

The recent increases in officers' widows' pensions, which had remained basically unaltered for over 100 years, and the abolition of the widows' means test were achieved by the efforts of the Society, the support of other Service associations, and the representations by Members of Parliament.

Officers have now realised the necessity of having an organisation to represent their interests in these matters, and the Society's membership of over 6,700 is rapidly increasing.

Full particulars and membership application forms can be obtained from The General Secretary, Officers' Pensions Society, Ltd., 79 Petty France, Westminster, London, S.W.1.

"JIMMY"

One of the Signal Regiments at Catterick wishes to obtain a more or less life size statue of Mercury (or Hermes), and will greatly appreciate it if Officers and others will keep their eye open for such a statue which is available either for purchase or by "liberation."

Letters TO THE EDITOR

Mr. Andrew C. Bogle writes: —

May I be permitted, through the pages of THE WIRE, to express my gratitude to "The Royal Signals Association."

I had better first explain the difficult task I set the Association. My hands and feet were severely mutilated in an accident I had while serving in Germany, necessitating my using "hooks" supplied by the Ministry of Pensions. My rehabilitation, through the normal channels, would have been long and I probably would have finished, as I started, being described as "Unemployable." I asked the Association to find me work—a very tall order considering the Disablement Resettlement Officer of the Ministry of Labour, who is a specialist in this type of work, had recently described me as "Unemployable."

A few weeks ago I had an interview at the War Office arranged by the Association. The result is I commence work in the very near future.

Words cannot express my gratitude.

* * *

You were kind enough to publish a letter in the February issue of THE WIRE, suggesting methods by which sales might be increased. I have since, by practising a certain amount of low animal cunning (a relic of more horsey days) and assuming an air of innocence, conducted a Gallup Poll in an effort to establish what percentage of Officers might reasonably be supposed to have read the letter and the proportion of Officers who might have found time to consider the suggestion.

The result of my amateur research is interesting. Two out of three Commanding Officers, five out of seven Squadron Commanders and three out of four Adjutants who were asked their views, were, up to a month ago, not aware of the existence of the letter. Nor, I suggest, the nature of any of the material between the covers of THE WIRE.

As for Junior Officers! ! Least said the better. One Officer who was directed by his Commanding Officer to improve the sale of the Magazine to individuals within his Unit was eventually directed to the February issue of THE WIRE.

Even more incredible, and I must stress that this is NOT an exaggeration, of 23 Officers and innumerable W.O.s and Senior N.C.O.s questioned, NOT *ONE* appreciated the relationship of the *Nom-de-Plume* to the Corps.

This state of affairs is, Sir, disgusting. Lack of personal interest in the Corps Magazine is bad enough, but ignorance of the cap badge is inexcusable. It is, Sir, high time for really determined steps to be taken by someone in authority to insist that Commanding Officers give this matter their personal attention. Polite letters requesting Commanding Officers to do so are obviously not enough.

It is my considered opinion that personal attention on the part of all Officers and particularly Commanding Officers to "Corps Tradition" pays terrific dividends.

It is by this method that loyalty to and pride in his Corps is developed in each individual, the surest foundation upon which to build a really efficient Signal Unit.

THE WIRE is an essential part of the build-up, the cap badge of the Corps is an even more important part.

Finally, Sir, my sincere congratulations on the really high standard of the May and June issues.

CADUCEOUS.

Courtesy: "The Daily Mail"

CORONATION RETROSPECT

The "Wire" has published a great many pictures about the work of the Corps on Coronation Day, but it is noticed with regret that it has never published a picture of Her Majesty The Queen. This one is included for obvious reasons, and also because the rather shadowy figure of the Yeoman Warder in the background is Allan Griffin (late Captain (Q.M.) of 2 G.H.Q. Signals)

VISIT OF H.R.H. THE PRINCESS ROYAL TO COMMONWEALTH SIGNALS CORONATION CONTINGENTS

On 1st June, 1953, the Coronation Contingents from Commonwealth Signals were privileged by a visit from H.R.H. The Princess Royal.

A parade of the contingents was held near the Albert Memorial in Kensington Gardens under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel J. P. North, M.B.E., Royal Signals. Those present included Lance-Corporal Birkett, representing Malta Signals; Gurkha Major Parsuran Gurung, M.B.E., Commanding the Gurkha Royal Signals Contingent; Captain M. L. C. Webber, Commanding Royal Canadian Signals; Lieutenant J. A. McGreevy, Commanding the Royal Australian Signals Detachment; W.O.I. N. M. Barratt, in charge of the Royal New Zealand Signals party; Captain Mufti Wajahat Hussan with the Pakistan Signals Contingent; Lance-Corporal Thavarasa in charge of the Ceylon Signal Corps Detachment, and Sergeant C. J. Stewart-Steer in charge of the Southern Rhodesia Signal Corps Detachment.

On the arrival of H.R.H., accompanied by her Lady-in-Waiting and the Director of Signals, Major-General W. O. Bowen, C.B., C.B.E., the appropriate compliments were paid. The Parade Commander, having reported to H.R.H., conducted her on an inspection and presented to her the senior member of each contingent. In turn, the senior member introduced all ranks of his contingent. In spite of some language difficulties with the junior members of Gurkha Royal Signals, H.R.H. spoke with every individual on the parade.

At the conclusion of the inspection, the parade was called to attention and the appropriate compliments again paid to H.R.H., as she left.

After the departure of H.R.H., The Director of Signals remained behind to chat to the various individuals and had the opportunity of exercising his great knowledge of Gurkhali and Urdu.

It was fortunate for this special occasion that the weather was kind. Just prior to the parade it had been raining heavily and soon after the Director of Signals left, down came the rain again.

It was unfortunate that the Representative Colonel Commandant, Major-General C. M. F. White, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., was unable to be present, but the parade was put on at very short notice and he was already engaged in other duties in connection with the Coronation.

*

Corrigenda

In the list of those marching in the "From Procession" on Coronation Day, published on page 162 of the June WIRE, the presence of a detachment of West African Signals was unfortunately omitted.

Prints of the picture of the Royal Signals contingent marching past the saluting base at **Her Majesty The Queen's Review of Ex-Servicemen in Hyde Park** *on page 265 are available from:* United Photographers, 268 Clapham Road, London, S.W.9. Price 4s.

Signal Training Centre

1 TRAINING REGIMENT

Athletics

The Unit athletes put in some enthusiastic and intensive training under the able guidance of Major Fordyce and succeeded in winning both the Northumbrian District and Northern Command inter-Unit Team Championships. Both competitions developed into an all "Signals" affair, with 1 Training Regiment O.T.W., Royal Signals and Royal Signals Wing well to the fore. At the District Meeting a very exciting afternoon, during which the lead changed hands several times, concluded with 1 Training Regiment the winners, with 164½ points; Royal Signals Wing runners-up, with 153 points; and O.T.W. a good third, with 144½ points.

At the Northern Command Meeting 1 Training Regiment very quickly took the lead, which they retained throughout the rest of the day. An improved performance by the Hurdles team was mainly responsible for 1 Training Regiment winning the Championship with an increased lead over Royal Signals Wing. The final points of the three leading teams were: Winners, 1 Training Regiment, 215 points; Runners-up, Royal Signals Wing, 185 points; third, O.T.W. Royal Signals, 158 points.

1st Training Regiment now go forward to the Army Athletic Meeting at Aldershot on 29th July, 1953.

Will this undoubted revival in athletics bring "Signals" once again into the premier place? Time alone will tell.

We wish our team "Good Luck" and 'Good Weather." We know they will do their best.

Cricket

In both the Northumbrian District and Northern Command inter-Unit Cricket Competition we were drawn against 7 Training Regiment, a much better side, who deservedly beat us on both occasions.

We all hope the two cups, which are at present held by us, will pass to their keeping.

In a "needle" match played at Scotton on Saturday, 11th July, the Officers defeated the W.O.s and Sergeants by a narrow margin.

Scores.

Officers, 116 (Lieutenant-Colonel Atkinson 60).
W.O.s and Sergeants, 101.

Shooting

The Unit sent a team to the A.R.A. Central Meeting at Bisley and although they did not bring back any cups, they gave a very good account of themselves and gained considerably in experience. The team, under Second-Lieutenant J. F. A. Rankin, was placed 8th in the Britannia Trophy.

Signalman Levick obtained 5th place in the Henry Whitehead Cup. Well done!

3 TRAINING REGIMENT

Dunno what happened, but this past month has slipped away quicker than a 48 hour pass—and, as always with a busy month, it is only in retrospect we realise it's a "poor do" that we aren't on overtime pay.

But maybe it wouldn't be fair, 'cos then the C.I.'s department would surely be paying surtax!

My! My! Have I offended anyone?

However, pride of place and occasion to S.Q.M.S. and Mrs. P. H. Morris—nothing less than a boy (Gregory Francis), born on Coronation Day.

Visitors have again been many, and very glad we were to welcome Major J. Ayto of the New Zealand Army Staff and Captain Mabille du Chesnes of the 38 Regiment des Transmissions, who toured OWL and Operator Switchboard training and certainly left with contented and impressed expressions.

The Command Education Officer, Colonel A. Nicholls, T.D., M.A., also left us with a feeling of pride after inspecting our education layout and work. Add to this liaison visits from Lieutenant-Colonel R. W. Atkinson, O.B.E. (1 Training Regiment), Lieutenant-Colonel H. Worrall (4 Training Regiment) and Lieutenant-Colonel M. Stonestreet (5 Training Regiment), and you can understand us getting out that halo again.

The social side has been well catered for in the visit of the Strand Repertory Company, who presented A. P. Dearsley's delightful comedy, "It Won't be a Stylish Marriage," which means, of course, more trade test papers mentioning "blonde coils"!

In the sporting world we reached the semi-final of the Northumbrian District water polo competition, but lost to a Training Regiment, R.A.C., by 7 goals to 1, but we are still there as semi-finalists of the District cricket competition.

Old inhabitants of Gallowgate will be interested to learn that a greenhouse is being erected, and not, I understand, to keep the bricklayer operators warm!

With deep regret we record the accidental death of a 2 Squadron stalwart in Corporal F. Gilbert. A host of trainees will remember his somewhat "teak lined" face, always countenancing a quizzical smile, and also his efficiency as an operator. Indeed, a good old 'un who will be sadly missed.

Finally, the pundits now claim our popular second-in-command, Major F. G. Bolam, who will have left us by the time this is in print—the only consolation being he is satisfied with his posting. And, strangely enough, so is Captain Peter Robson, Training Officer of the Regular OWL Squadron and the hockey team stalwart.

Both were always in the forefront in the Unit activities and that old saying about "Our loss . . ." is all too true in these instances. Good luck indeed.

4 TRAINING REGIMENT, ROYAL SIGNALS

4 Training Regiment has been "out of the news" for rather too long, and we hope that ex-members of the Regiment will, by now, be frantically searching each succeeding issue of THE WIRE for news!—I said, "we hope!"

We have had our share of visits and inspections. What unit in Catterick hasn't? By its very nature, the Administrative Inspection must take prior place. Brigadier W. D. J. Harries, C.B.E., Commander, S.T.C., took the salute and presented Coronation Medals. We believe the turn-out was up to our usual high standard, and we await, we trust without too much trepidation, the annual report.

Our quota of Operators, Keyboard and Wireless, has stepped up considerably of late, and we believe that an all-in record of only some 14 relegations and nine T.R.A.s for some 650 Operators Keyboard, Operators Keyboard and Wireless and Operators Keyboard and Cipher trainees passed out over a period of six months, is not a record to be hid under the proverbial bushel. We hope that the field units who read this will agree that the standard has been well maintained.

Minor reshuffles in our domestic structure have included the taking over of the reins of Chief Instructor last December by Major J. L. Waller, ex 3 Squadron, and the relinquishment of same by Major J. P. Hewitt, after a serious illness. We are glad to say that he is now quite recovered, and after holding the chair most worthily for some considerable period has taken over 3 Squadron. Captain E. F. Prockter, our Adjutant, has left us for sunnier climes and Lieutenant Kirkby (recently returned from Korea) has taken over.

The bulk of Coronation Day was spent before the TV screen. The Sergeant's Mess had at one time as many as 130 seated before their set. The inaction of TV viewing was followed by the stimulant of the children's gymkhana and tea party. The wet weather programme so assiduously mapped out by Major G. Gourlay, our P.R.I., stood us in good stead, and the tea, ginger pop and novelty races were run under a roof of canvas carrying almost its maximum load of June rain. In spite of the weather, attendance was heavy and praise must be meted out to parents, especially mothers who brought their families, notwithstanding, through a sea of rain and mud! Coronation mugs having been distributed, a closing address by our Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel H. Worrall, brought Coronation Day activities to a close.

The Sergeants' Mess followed this up on the Saturday by a Coronation Dance and party, the organisation of which owed much to our R.S.M. Gay. I, personally, liked the attractive and novel (in these days) dance programme, complete with pencil, distributed with the invitations. The Commandant, S.T.C., joined the party during the course of the evening and, we hope and believe, enjoyed himself greatly.

Annual sports took place under a pall of rain clouds, but in spite of this, the programme ran smoothly and to time. 1 Training Regiment won the Invitation Relay, 4 Squadron totalled the highest aggregate number of points gained and 3 Squadron came a close second.

Although the Hockey season was not as successful for the Regiment as we had hoped, the Regimental team acquitted itself well by finishing fourth in the Northumbrian District League. After making a hesitant start to the season, considerable changes were made to the team which resulted in a remarkable recovery and at one period during February and March the team played off nine fixtures without losing a match. This bodes well for next season, and although there is no summer league (shades of Egypt), fixtures will be arranged and the build-up of the team carried on.

We are not at the moment producing results in the league cricket. We hope for better things, but results since April are, six games lost, one game won. Individual scores have been quite fair, but batting averages rather below par.

5 TRAINING REGIMENT

The Regiment say farewell and good luck to Captain K. Watts, bound for Africa. Welcome to our new arrivals, Major Anslow, Captain S. L. Kemp, Lieutenants Wilkinson, Petrie and Simpson.

The Coronation Festival in "Ye Olde Ripon" gave the Corps prominence since it displayed its art in the decoration of vehicles, by collecting 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes. The Driver Electricians, under Lieutenant A. Tant, were well to the fore with the illuminations of vehicles which lead the Torchlight Procession.

Cricket. Again we overbalance with our wins, having played 16 games and won 13, lost 3, the heaviest defeat being to 1 Training Regiment Royal Signals, our score being a mere 36. Never mind, 'tis only a loan 1 Training Regiment, to be paid back with interest when next we meet.

Water Polo. Lance-Corporal Trindle and Signalman Archer have been selected for the Army Water Polo Trials during the month of July.

Motor-cycle Trials. Proudly we enter in the A.C.U. Rally, which finishes up at Weston Super Mare. We have a very strong team, we always do, so again we'll blow our trumpet loudly. The famous Royal Signals Display Team is also performing after the trials.

7 TRAINING REGIMENT, ROYAL SIGNALS

The output of recruits continues as usual. The sudden loss of many of the drill sergeants who have been the backbone of the Regiment, almost since its inception five years ago, is not making the training any easier. Many were infantry N.C.O.s who transferred to the Corps, and they have done excellent work. The Regiment is now running Drill and Weapon Training Courses for junior N.C.O.s of the Signal Training Centre, which, it is hoped, will be of great value.

Captain (Q.M.) G. J. Gillings, M.B.E., of 7 Training Regiment, Royal Signals

There was a record attendance of parents and relatives at the National Service Pass-Off Parade on 8th July; 128 turned up. The added strain on the Messing Officer and his staff was met with the usual cheerfulness and efficiency.

The following changes have taken place amongst the W.O.s and Senior N.C.O.s of the Regiment during the past month:

W.O. II G. A. Robinson	...	Posted to H.Q., N.A.G. on promotion.
S.Q.M.S. V. Shreeve	...	Promoted to W.O. II within the Regiment.
S.Q.M.S. B. J. Davis	...	Promoted to W.O. II within the Regiment.
W.O. II W. J. Holland	...	Posted in from O.T.W., School of Signals.
S.Q.M.S. J. H. Otley	...	Posted in from Depot Regiment, Ex Tripolitania Signal Troop.

Captain (Q.M.) G. J. Gillings was awarded the M.B.E. in the Coronation Honours List. He has held his appointment as Quartermaster of this Regiment since its formation and has, during that time, with his industry, his help and advice and his dislike for the Q.M.'s traditional "ain't got it," given invaluable service. Unfortunately, he is to retire in December this year.

The efforts of the Regiment on behalf of the Royal Signals Association since September, 1952, have resulted in the enrolment of over 2,000 annual members and 160 life members.

The annual Officers versus Sergeants Cricket Match was held on 27th June. Although the weather was not ideal, the afternoon was most enjoyable and many families attended. The match resulted in a win for the Officers.

The Regimental cricket team has reached the semi-finals of both the District and the Command Challenge Cups. In the second round ties they beat 4 C.I.C. by six wickets and 1 Training Regiment by nine wickets.

The swimming enthusiasts are getting plenty of training. They were narrowly beaten by 1 Training Regiment in the semi-final of the District Water Polo Championships, but are hoping for greater success in the District Swimming Championships, which take place shortly.

The Regimental cycling team is lying second in the Army Cycling Union Inter-Unit Shield, but there are still three events to take place.

The Wooden Spoon

AWAY back in 1936, a Sergeant Anderson of the Royal Canadian Signals was attached to a Royal Signals Regiment in Catterick Camp. Before returning to Canada, he was presented with a souvenir of his visit, which took the form of a large and decorative wooden spoon. As far as can be ascertained, the chapter closed with the departure of Sergeant Anderson.

The "Wooden Spoon," the "Mock Ceremony" and the hilarity which accompanied the presentation became an event of the past in Catterick. Not so, however, with our friends in Canada.

The fact that the trophy originated in a British Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess gave it great significance and a place of honour in their Mess.

In March of this year a new chapter opened and, in a letter from Montreal, we learned that in a combined Mess of the 4th and 10th Regiments of the Royal Canadian Signals in Montreal, the "Wooden Spoon" had continued to be a treasured possession and a very real token of their association with Royal Signals.

It was with great pleasure that we learned that the Warrant Officers and Sergeants of the 4th and 10th Signal Regiments wished, in turn, to reverse the "Operation Wooden Spoon" and present a souvenir to the Warrant Officers and Sergeants of the Signal Training Centre. It was to fulfil this mission that R.S.M. P. Berlinguette of the 4th Signal Regiment visited Catterick Camp.

Thus on Monday evening, 8th June, the W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess, 4 Training Regiment, Royal Signals, Signal Training Centre, resounded to laughing voices and clinking glasses, having had hardly time to settle down from a successful Coronation Ball on the previous Saturday.

Among those present were the Commandant of the Signal Training Centre, Brigadier W. D. J. Harries, C.B.E., the Commanding Officers, Adjutants, W.O.s and Sergeants of the five Training Regiments of the Signal Training Centre in Catterick. Many wives were also present.

The guest of honour was R.S.M. Berlinguette, 4th Regiment of the Reserve Force, Royal Canadian Signals. He came over to take part in the Coronation Parade and took the opportunity to pay a special visit to Catterick to compare notes and to make a presentation to the W.O.s and Sergeants of the Signal Training Centre on behalf of the W.O.s and Sergeants, 4th and 10th Regiments, Royal Canadian Signals.

Front row (left to right): Lieut.-Colonel H. Worrall, 4 Training Regiment, R.S.M. Berlinguette, Brigadier W. D. J. Harries, C.B.E., Commandant S.T.C., Lieut.-Colonel R. W. Atkinson, O.B.E., 1 Training Regiment. Back row (left to right): Lieut.-Colonel G. H. Starr, 3 Training Regiment, Lieut.-Colonel E. J. F. Heap, O.B.E., 2 Training Regiment, Lieut.-Colonel J. P. North, M.B.E., 7 Training Regiment

R.S.M. Berlinguette is thanked by R.S.M. Gay on behalf of W.O.s and Sergeants, Signal Training Centre

After a short time spent in getting to know each other and a few drinks, we moved into the room where the presentation was to be made. Brigadier Harries opened the proceedings by welcoming R.S.M. Berlinguette to the S.T.C. R.S.M. Berlinguette thanked the Commandant and in his speech reaffirmed the bonds of loyalty and real affection that exist between the Royal Canadian Signals and their parent Corps. He ended by unveiling a photograph of the members of the W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess, 4th and 10th Regiments Reserve Force, Royal Canadian Signals and formally presented it to R.S.M. Gay as the representative of the W.O.s and Sergeants of the S.T.C.

In reply, R.S.M. Gay thanked R.S.M. Berlinguette. He struck a serious note when he referred to the fact that it usually takes a world war to bring the various Commonwealth members of the Royal Signals together, simply because personal contact is allowed to lapse. He stressed the need for close liaison between the members, indicating that liaison visits such as the one paid by R.S.M. Berlinguette are an essential ingredient in successful co-operation.

The presentation was followed by a short, but excellent cabaret given by members of 4 Squadron, Training Regiment. After this the programme proceeded along the usual lines.

In conclusion, it is hoped that the visit by R.S.M. Berlinguette will NOT be the last by members of the Royal Canadian Signals, and that he has returned to Canada with happy memories and a firm intention to keep alive the liaison between the members of the Royal Signals.

Catterick Jottings

by nacerby

Intermission—Catterick Weather to Date

Dirty days hath September,
April, June and November,
February's days are quite all right—
(It only rains from morn till night).
All the rest have thirty-one
Without a blessed gleam of sun;
And if any of them had two and thirty,
They'd be just as wet and just as dirty.

And I should add we aren't on speaking terms with the blokes in the meteorological office—in fact, the only chap with a smile is Jim Adcock of the Garrison Cinema who, with a delightful sense of humour, exhibited "The Cruel Sea."

Still, after so much rain, we've had a little peace in the Mess—since we can argue 'bout monsoons at Catterick in June with all those "pukka wallahs."

Driving Continued

This Mercedes of mine looks like getting me into trouble. First I'm told "it's a creation that will never go out of style—it will just look ridiculous year after year"—and then "Why not sell it and become a wealthy pedestrian?"

People just can't make up their minds, and neither could Clarence, 'cos:

This is the tale of Clarence Coke,
Who always fiddled with his choke.
He said, "It makes the carburettor
Function really so much better."
He quite ignored the maker's label
Which states "As soon as you are able
Push the choke control right in."
But merely gave a fatuous grin
And drove for miles with it right out.
And that's what caused without a doubt
The flow of petrol to the sump
Which brought down with an awful bump
The standard of the oil inside
Which so to speak, no longer tried
To lubricate. The Petrol in
The sump had made the oil so thin
The engine first became quite hot
And then began to knock a spot.
But Clarence Coke, that fool so rash,
Ignored it all until a crash
And grinding, shrieking, hideous roar
Proclaimed the engine was no more.

Now Clarence had to pay, I fear,
For one new engine. In one year
He may perhaps be free from debt
But not for quite a long while yet.

Certa Cito, Athletics Edition

No superlatives needed to garnish this report. Just get out that Corps tie and set that hat at a jaunty angle—Winners of the Northumbrian District and Northern Command inter-Unit team athletic championships—1 Training Regiment, Royal Signals.

Can do no better than list the main results—and oh! the joy it gives me.

Northumbrian District.
1 Training Regiment, winners of:
Three miles, putting the weight, 880 yds. relay, 110 yds. relay and javelin.
Royal Signals Wing, School of Signals, winners of:
Pole vault, 220 yds. relay, high jump, 120 yds. hurdles.
Officer Training Wing, School of Signals, winners of:
Discus and one mile (tie with 2 Training Regiment).
1st. 1 Training Regiment ... ... 164½ points
2nd. Royal Signals Wing, School of Signals ... ... 153 points
3rd. Officer Training Wing, School of Signals ... ... 144½ points
And with District records broken in the pole vault, hammer, 880 yds. relay and 110 yds. relay—oh, ever so Certa Cito.

Northern Command.
1 Training Regiment, winners of:
Hammer, 220 yds. relay, 880 yds. relay, javelin and 110 yds. relay.
Runners-up of:
Pole vault, three miles, discus, high jump (tie with Royal Signals Wing), weight and one mile.
Royal Signals Wing, School of Signals, winners of:
Pole vault, 120 yds. hurdles, 440 yds. relay.
Runners-up of:
High jump, long jump, 220 yds. relay, 880 yds. relay, 110 yds. relay.
1st. 1 Training Regiment ... ... 215 points
2nd. Royal Signals Wing, School of Signals ... ... 185 points
3rd. Officer Training Wing, School of Signals ... ... 158 points

Think I'll leave the details to the Regimental notes.
But proud! Yes, inordinately so.

ROYAL SIGNALS WING, TACTICS SQUADRON

"Watching one's aim," as opposed to taking it, may reasonably be held to be the watchword of Tactics Squadron—Nursery of student planners in Royal Signals Wing. For here staff duties are taught in their varied forms with great emphasis placed on the writing of correct Tactical and Signals appreciations.

To use a term much in vogue in Staff circles, the "aim" of this squadron is to teach the organisation and employment of all Signal units and equipment, and the various signal staff duties and procedures. A small staff of Officers, headed by Major L. V. McNaught-Davis, the O.C., provides the instruction—which varies from highly secret cipher work to special lectures for French Signal Officers on *échange au pair* visits.

As might be expected from the nature of the subjects taught, meticulous care is paid to correct methods of instruction. Training aids are used lavishly in demonstration and playlet, whilst the Squadron wardrobe is both extensive and effective.

Resources and resourcefulness march hand-in-glove in all the Tactics lecture rooms. Should the occasion demand a Brigadier for galvanising and imparting confusion to a traffic-handling exercise; a major-general for disapproving a student syndicate's staff-problem solution, or an R.A. major to explain the characteristics of his arm, Tactics Squadron can supply the requisite insignia and an officer of the right shape and dimensions to play the part.

Other equally fascinating characters frequent the green room, which also serves as Major McNaught-Davis's office. There is the clergyman who, by virtue of his cloth, may sometimes gain access to secret information, and who is, in consequence, much used to test security arrangements. There is the B.B.C. reporter, to whom everything must be explained, and who is amusingly—if somewhat libellously portrayed. There is, too, the high-ranking Ruritanian officer—a multi-purpose individual—who may complicate duties in aid of the civil power; provide a security problem, or with the *volte-face* characteristic of Ruritanians, explain his own Army organisation. The snow on his boots is of no political significance.

Floor models, table models and sand models are used to illustrate standard tactical and communication layouts, and to assist discussion of tactical problems. A metal mould of a soldier in full marching order has been obtained and lead soldiers are now cast in the Wing foundry. A meagre supply of lead can sometimes be extracted from Line Construction Squadron for this purpose. Completed in immaculate detail, the soldiers are used to give a quick picture of the composition and capabilities of Signal troops—the colours of their steel helmets being used to indicate their trades. This simple training aid is much appreciated by those who find a welter of printed establishments difficult to assimilate.

Landscapes, panoramas and Signal office models owe much to the artistry of Captain M. E. Davison, W.R.A.C., and her assistant, C.S.M. Buckle. These two working in hessian and coloured wools—and sometimes sack-cloth and ashes—produce works which if not as artistic as the Bayeaux tapestry, are just as arresting and perhaps rather more useful.

In conjunction with these many artifices, remotely controlled model jeeps, men and detonators are used. These serve admirably to arrest or attract the attention according to their employment. The timing of the use of these various devices is of the greatest importance since there is a danger, which Tactics Squadron have skilfully avoided, of creating such whimsical and bizarre effects that they entirely divert the attention from the lesson which is being taught.

All this shows quite clearly that the modern instructor must, in addition to his obvious attributes, be at least an N.F.Q. actor-manager. In Tactics Squadron the minimum standard has been considerably surpassed.

Of the courses passing through the Squadron, the most important from a Tactical point of view are the Majors' and

The Sergeants' Mess Entertains !

This harmonious sextet hold at least one spectator spellbound at the O.R.s smoking concert, Royal Signals Wing Coronation celebrations on June 4th, 1953. From left to right: S.Q.M.S. Spragg, Q.M.S. Crookes, Sgt. Rawson, Sgt. Burrows, S.Q.M.S. Curd, and hiding behind the microphone S.S.M. Symonds

Captains' Signal staff, subalterns' Part II and the pre-Staff College courses—the latter designed expressly for embryo staff officers who have passed the Camberley entrance test. In return for the hospitality shown to Royal Signals Officers attending ski-ing courses in Norway, Tactics Squadron runs an annual Norwegian Signals Officers course. The popular Norwegians lend additional colour to the welcome gathering of overseas students in residence at the Wing.

With such a variety of subjects and courses the tempo of instruction absorbs a good deal of the spare time of the staff in preparation of lectures. Nevertheless, Major D. Coatesworth, when not lecturing or demonstrating staff duties or holding post-mortems on complicated exercises, plays cricket of Corps 1st XI standard. O.C. of the operating troop—Major T. P. Furlonge, Royal Marines, plays squash of a similar high standard—whilst Captain H. R. Woodger, the cipher instructor, can still find time to maintain a garden rivalling any in the Catterick area.

Activity in the rest of the Wing this month has centred around the Coronation. The unit provided a contingent for the Coronation parade in London—closely watched by Catterick viewers on TV. Sport provided additional substance to the Catterick Coronation week with boxing and cricket as the main attractions. Bad weather caused the postponement and cancellation of some events, but spirits were far from damped in Royal Signals Wing as may be seen from the accompanying photograph of the O.R.s' smoking concert.

OFFICER TRAINING WING, SCHOOL OF SIGNALS

The Wing wishes the officers of number 11 Subalterns Part I Course good luck on their posting overseas.

The Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel G. S. K. Maydon is congratulated on the occasion of his marriage.

Major T. W. Baynes, R.S.M. J. Leonard, Lance-Corporal P. Bates, Signalman R. S. Smith and Signalman B. F. Glasscoe formed part of the Catterick Contingent which marched in the Coronation procession. It was very hard work and the day was very wet, but it was a wonderful experience and all concerned were very happy to have taken part.

The 1952/53 Soccer Season finished with the Officer Training Wing team first in Division II of the Northumbrian District League.

A most successful start to the cricket season has been made. The cricket team, with Major J. H. Collins as captain, has reached the semi-finals of the Northumbrian District Knock-out Competition and the second round of the Northern Command Inter-Unit competition. Major J. H. Collins, Captain D. J. Strong and Second-Lieutenant J. B. Phillips have played for the Corps. Technical Training Squadron have a promising cricket team, which includes Sergeants J. A. Gatward, G. Simmonds, A. B. Donnelly and R. B. Wright, Lance-Corporal E. J. Swann, Signalman B. Mitchell and, as wicketkeeper, Corporal P. J. Catton.

The Wing Athletics team finished third in the Northumbrian District Team Championships after a very exciting day. The Wing won the 1 Mile Team Race and the Discus. In the latter event the two competitors—Second-Lieutenant C. R. Douglas and Officer Cadet C. J. Skinner—established a new District Record with an aggregate throw of 208 ft. 8 inches.

M.T. Squadron won the Inter-Squadron Athletic Cup, which they had lost to Technical Training Squadron in 1952. The outstanding athletes were Corporal E. Steward, Lance-Corporals C. Baines and P. S. Lucas and Signalmen L. Smith and D. Sullivan. Sergeant Ford trained the team. It has been said that little Signalman P. T. Beech lost a couple of inches or so off his legs after competing in the 1 Mile and 3 Mile races. Corporal E. Steward, attached to the Squadron, has shown himself to be a good shot. In the recent R.E.M.E. Northern Command meeting he was 2nd in the Tuxford and Clark Cups, 4th in the Sten match and 12th in the Howard Cup. In addition, he was a member of the School of Signals team that were runners-up in the District Meeting Corporals' Competition.

Courses 304 and 306 have produced two highly successful plays, the first "See How They Run," and the second, "The Happiest Days of Your Life." Acting was of a very high standard and the plays were greatly enjoyed.

Technical Tailpiece.

Captain M. F. U. N. Seddon, on a recent exercise, restored 88 set communication with an inverted No. 4 rifle, which, "although, naturally, not a resonant length, acted as a conductor and, therefore, radiated electro-magnetic waves for transmission and provided signal pick-up for reception." All ex-students to note please.

THE DEPOT REGIMENT

The month that has just passed has been one more than worthy of note, the social calendar being more than full.

The anniversary of the formation of the Corps was marked by a Regimental Guest Night in the Officers' Mess, which seven 'Sapper' Officers attended. The traditional toast was drunk and the evening then progressed into a contest with our guests in various indoor sports, in which honours eventually came out even. On Sunday, 28th June, a Regimental Church Parade was held, followed in the afternoon by the annual battle between the Officers and the Warrant Officers and Sergeants on the cricket green. After some very hilarious and bold play, the Officers carried the day. Score: Officers 134, Warrant Officers and Sergeants 57.

The main event of the season—the Regimental Week-end—has passed successfully, leaving in its wake a confusion of memories and a feeling that this sort of show should be done more often.

The seal of success was set by two facts, firstly, that the Representative Colonel Commandant, Major-General C. M. F. White, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.C., and Brigadier E. S. Cole, C.B.E., C.S.O. Southern Command, accompanied by Mrs. Cole, were the guests of the Regiment; and, secondly, the presence of the Corps Band led by the inimitable Captain John Judd, M.B.E.

Friday, June 3rd, saw the week-end go off to an excellent start in the form of the annual Officers' Mess Cocktail Party, followed by an All Ranks' Dance.

Saturday morning General White took the salute at a Regimental Ceremonial Parade and presented Captain J. K. Rogerson and S.S.M. H. Hesketh with the T.D. and L.S.G.C. respectively.

During the afternoon Old Comrades from Royal Signals' Association Branches in the West Country started to arrive in the Regiment to share the week-end jollities. Whilst their reception was being attended to, certain finals of the Regimental Sports were run off. In the evening the Old Comrades, Officers, Warrant Officers and Sergeants, "got together" in the Sergeants' Mess. What hoary tales were told, the air being heavy with tales of "Bannu," "Razmak" and other points east! (Young soldiers to the back, please!)

Prior to this "jamboree," the Corps Band delighted the Regiment and a strong gathering of the local populace with their very accomplished performance of "Playing The Retreat." In their brave full dress, with a fine evening sun against a background of green trees, they stirred the soul, the measure of their success being judged by the volume of applause that followed the Band off the square.

Sunday morning, the aftermath of the previous evening were wafted away by a Church Parade, the service being conducted by Lieutenant-Colonel J. Roberts, D.A.C.G. South Western District, at which the Standard of the East Africa Branch of the Royal Signals' Association was dedicated. Major W. E. Savage (Retd.), home on leave from East Africa, carried the Standard, escorted by two N.C.O.s awaiting draft to that station. The Corps Band played the Regiment past the saluting base. The salute was taken by Major-General White. The Old Comrades, commanded by Brigadier Hoblyn, led the Regiment past.

Light refreshment now being the order, an adjournment to the lawn of the Sergeants' Mess was made, and, to the accompaniment of Light Music, appetites were duly sated. In the afternoon the finals of the Regimental Sports were run off. 1 Squadron retained the Athletics Cup with a resounding victory. Other highlights of the afternoon were the victory of Major "Tim" Fegan in the Old Comrades' Race, proving beyond dispute the saying "the older they are, the better"! Brigadier Cole repeated his success of last year in the Old Soldiers' Race with a narrow win from Lieutenant W. H. Brooks, and, finally, but by no means least, the Officers defeated the Warrant Officers and Sergeants in two straight pulls in a Tug of War (the latter complained that they started at a disadvantage owing to the convivialness of the Mess the night before!). The trophy and prizes were distributed by Major-General White, who, in the minimum number of words, said some very nice things about us all, and so the week-end ended—everything, including the weather, having worked out very well indeed.

An event which is gaining support in the Regiment is the monthly piano recital given by Mr. Durstan, F.R.C.O., L.R.A.M., M.R.S.T., a very accomplished performer.

The cricket team has had some very attractive fixtures and on the whole has come out quite well. The weather hasn't been kind to the team, but nevertheless some keen matches were played. Some results:

Linden Park Touring Team	122 for 4 wickets		
Depot Regiment	120 for 6 wickets	declared	
Manaton Cricket Club	... 74	All Out	
Depot Regiment	... 105	All Out	
British Railways, Newton Abbot	70 for 8 wickets		
Depot Regiment	102 for 2 wickets	declared	
Torquay Corinthians	... 44	All Out	
Depot Regiment	48 for 6 wickets	declared	

The Regiment entered a team in the South Western District Athletics meeting, but unfortunately did not achieve the results hoped for, nevertheless, some useful experience was gained by the team.

The combined Depot Regiment and Southern Command Signal Regiment rifle team which attended the A.R.A. Bisley Meeting have returned, without trophies, alas, but with their ardour sharpened, having gained a lot of very useful practical experience and are now with an eye to the future getting down to applying the knowledge.

Major R. F. C. Ashford has now taken over the onerous duties of O.C. 1 Squadron (drafting) and other new arrivals to the Cadre are S.S.M. E. Wall (late M.E.L.F.) and Sergeants C. Bradshaw, G. Smith and A. J. Ellis.

EASTERN COMMAND SIGNAL REGIMENT

It was during June that we said "goodbye" to Captain Walton, Captain Holland and Lieutenant-Colonel (TOT) Spindler. Captain Walton had been in the Regiment as long as anyone could remember, but if we miss him we shall also miss the dignified and impressive figure of Colonel Spindler pedalling round Warren Camp on the well-known bicycle. Both Captain Walton and Captain Holland have gone overseas, while Colonel Spindler has retired to take up an R.O. III's post in York.

As if in answer to our prayers, winter seems to be loosening at long last her icy grip on Warren Camp. The exercise season has opened after a delayed start due to the Coronation and the Command Wireless Troop has spent most of its time in or around the Stamford P.T.A. This involves frequent journeys in convoy through the Blackwall Tunnel, always a rather hazardous adventure. Indeed, one is sometimes tempted to believe that some ill-wisher posts special gremlins with the trade rating of vehicle mech. at the entrance to await the arrival of our convoy. So far we have always won through successfully, but one can never be quite sure until the last truck has emerged into daylight, particularly between five and six o'clock on a Friday evening, our normal time of arrival at the tunnel on the return journey from Stamford.

Two further events must be recalled. We entered a team for the District Sports held at Chatham in mid-June. Nine teams were competing and our final placing was 6th. While not a very impressive result, it was, from our point of view, satisfactory, when considering our number and extremely scattered constitution. All the competitors enjoyed themselves, although it would be stupid to pretend that our meeting was not marred by those unfortunate incidents which are bound to occur when people's nerves are on edge. Congratulations should go to Lieutenant Sutton-Pratt and Second-Lieutenant Taylor on winning the High Jump.

The Queen's review of Ex-Servicemen in Hyde Park has occupied the line detachment for the past weeks. They were responsible for all the line communications required for this review—15 miles of them. All these lines were slung from tree to tree and made off with yarn and tape, as poles were forbidden; likewise the defacement of the trees by nails or bobbins. On the actual day one person at least, Signalman Cullis, had a front line view of proceedings. He was seen completely surrounded by Royalty standing stiffly to attention by his telephone at the Royal dais, nervously wondering what the correct movement would be if the telephone rang. (You will note the omission from the Drill Manual.) The telephone did not ring and he was fortunately rescued before the Queen arrived. The Review has obviously left a lasting impression on all those who were fortunate enough to be present.

To end up on a lighter note, The Royal Signals Old Comrades' Association ran an extremely good dance at the Assembly Rooms, Tunbridge Wells, to which most of Warren Camp went. It was preceded by a visit to Kelseys Brewery, where, so the story goes, 20 men were given 40 pints of beer to get rid of.

* * *

CORPS PICTURES

In response to numerous enquiries the Association has arranged for photographic reproduction to be made of:—

THROUGH
MENIN GATE (The Despatch Rider)
THE CABLE WAGGON

These, 24in. by 18in. with 3in. white border, are obtainable from:

Captain L. N. Lloyd,
36 Hampton Road,
Worcester Park, Surrey.

Price £2 10s. 0d. each.

Anti - Aircraft Command

1 A.A. (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT

Since our last contribution two of our stalwarts, Captains S. Vernon and J. Hall, have departed for new appointments in Manchester and Catterick respectively. In their places we welcome Captain R. P. Hughes (ex East Africa) as Adjutant, and Lieutenant I. G. Cameron-Webb (ex Korea). S.Q.M.S. E. Sheerstone has come to us from B.A.O.R. and we regret to report the departure of Sergeants A. Dodsworth and H. Hamilton for Overseas tours.

The Regiment held a very successful " Weekend " on 30th/31st May, which encompassed various social and sporting activities. An athletics meeting on the Saturday afternoon saw H.Q. Squadron triumph in the Signals Competition and Orsett " A " in the W.R.A.C. competition. The Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel J. E. S. Sanders, again beat the field in the " Old Soldiers " dash. The O.R.s gained a narrow victory over the Officers, W.O.s and Sergeants in a cricket match on the Sunday, but the result may well have been reversed had it been possible to curb the gay and reckless abandon of certain of our Subalterns. However, this is a hardy bi-annual and revenge is reputed to be sweet.

Cricket continues to thrive in the Regiment and inter-Troop matches sometimes produce the most astounding spectacles. The Regimental XI is a better side than it was last season and of the five matches played against local XIs in June, it has won four and drawn one.

The Regimental Tug-of-War team, coached by Lieutenant W. S. Dawson, reached the final of the 1 A.A. Group competition but was then beaten by a H.A.A. Regiment, R.A. on 19th June, 1953.

The W.R.A.C. Athletic team from the Regiment won the 1 A.A. Group trophy in the Inter-Unit competition on 22nd May, 1953 and are now in training for the A.A. Command Championships to be held on 17th July, 1953.

The Regiment is meeting with praiseworthy success in motor cycle trials and after an acceptable performance in a H.A.A. Regiment trials at Bedford on 14th June, 1953, when placed 4th, the team took first place in another Regiment's trials on 5th July, 1953. Individual placings in the latter trials were as follows: Second, Signalman Ody; fourth, Lieutenant I. G. Cameron-Webb and sixth, Sergeant Westen. The trials, sponsored by this Regiment in co-operation with 6 Company, R.A.S.C., take place at Orsett on Sunday, 12th July, 1953, and we hope to maintain the high standard we have set.

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

Since the issue of the last " Wire " notes the Unit has been through the hustle of preparation always necessary immediately before camp, and has successfully completed its period of training at Plasterdown in Devon.

One factor particularly has made this camp memorable, and that was the presence of the Royal Signals Band during the first few days. We feel ourselves greatly honoured in being the first Unit ever to have the full band at camp with it and extend to Captain Judd and his " boys " our most heartfelt thanks for the magnificent way in which they carried out their tasks.

An evening concert, fanfares in full dress, a dance, entertaining the officers and playing at the Unit sports were all part of their full programme.

The fanfares deserve special mention and were blown on silver trumpets, the trumpeters being in scarlet tunics and bearskins, considerably brightening the dull evening on which the concert was given.

The next day the entire band was in full dress for the Commanding Officers' Parade, turning a good parade into a ceremonial occasion. Our Honorary Colonel, Colonel Sir John Dalton, BT., F.C.I.S., A.M.I.E.E., inspected the parade and in a Special Order of the Day commended the Regiment on the parade. The praise helped also to make up for the damping which our spirits received during the heavy showers immediately following the parade, when the male Inter-Squadron Drill Competition was won by 21 A.A. (M) Signal Squadron. However, the standard of drill was high throughout and all teams deserve congratulations on the closeness of the final marks.

Enthusiasm was evident throughout the Regimental Sports, and the standard set by the winners, 23 A.A. (M) Signal Squadron, was very high. There again the band played, making their last appearance, and again they were responsible for making our sports this year something to remember.

The highlight of the afternoon was when the tug of war was won by Group Squadron. For this contest, our Honorary Colonel had presented the Unit with a magnificent silver cup, and the Commanding Officer took great pleasure in presenting it for the first time to the Captain of the team.

Unfortunately it is impossible to include every item of camp news in this article, but we feel that we cannot close without again thanking the Director of Music and the entire band for their part in making this camp a successful one.

2 A.A. (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT

The Regiment's Coronation Contingent was inspected by the Commanding Officer and later they departed under the command of Second-Lieutenant J. Ford, some to take part in the procession, some to line the route. Whichever their role we know they carried it out well and in keeping with their appearance, which was as near perfection as it could be.

Coronation Derby Day saw some sixty all ranks en route for Epsom, where a very good time was had by all. The trip was organised by our local Hot Horse Herbie, who maintained his reputation of keeping his winners to himself—at least he did not tip the party any. Second-Lieutenant Jones, our new Messing Officer, provided a first class lunch and the day really went with a swing. So did the money, and we have heard that in some cases it went rather faster than ten swings put together. Ah, well!

We are very thin on the ground at home and our thoughts are ever straying to those fortunate ones who are spending their summer holidays at the well-known seaside resorts of Bristol, Bude and Fareham. Some people get all the luck! Others, too, are still away from the fold, but they prefer the country and have chosen Devon! 'Nuff said.

Lieutenant E. Cooper is beginning to take on that handsome suntanned appearance which we knew so well last year when we spent days on the Ranges preparing a team for Bisley. No Bisley team this year, but firing goes on. Of course, the weather will have to improve more than somewhat before he reaches the final or beetroot stage.

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

For months we have been looking forward to annual camp. This month we are lamenting its departure. Our fortnight's stay at Tavistock, though it went too quickly, was most successful from a training point of view and most enjoyable for all socially. High spots in our work were visits by the G.O.C.-in-C. A.A. Command and the G.O.C. 4 A.A. Group. The girls had their own inspection by the D.D.W.R.A.C. A.A. Command. At play the most enjoyable occasion was the All Ranks Dance at the Town Hall in Tavistock. Our Entertainments Officer excelled himself by his organisation, and a " good time was had by all."

Our two-day scheme, Exercise QUINTUS, offered great scope for improvisation and it would be fair to say that everyone met the challenge more than adequately. The linemen are perhaps to be congratulated on this account, for, on Friday morning, having reeled in the last lines, they followed up the regimental route march and in fact caught everyone up in time for lunch. And they had left their trucks in camp!

The train party left Tavistock on Saturday, 4th July, and travelled overnight, arriving in Liverpool on Sunday at midday. The final road party travelled up on Monday, 6th July, everyone arriving safely.

5 A.A. (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT

June saw the departure of Major S. G. Hodgson and family and the arrival of our new Second-in-Command, Major M. F. Holliday. We wish the former all good wishes in the future and hope they won't forget the happy times they had at Scarborough.

It is with some pride that we report Lance-Corporal Day, W.R.A.C., coming second in the 80 metres hurdles at the Army Athletic Championships. Lance-Corporal Day trained very hard and gave up much of her spare time to make this effort.

A very successful Regimental week-end has just passed at which 8 A.A. (M) Signal Squadron, T.A. (Newcastle) joined us. This Squadron is coming under our wing in the near future and will be responsible for communications in the Tyne area.

Captain Haggard and members of the W.R.A.C. produced a very profitable Fun Fair in the Barracks in aid of the W.R.A.C. Benevolent Fund. Among the sideshows was the usual " Roll your penny " act, and from the total receipts it was clear that the participants were not expected to win. The croupier only paying out fourpence during the evening! !

Table Tennis

The Regiment entered a team for the first time in the local Townsman's League and walked away with the Championship Cup—Games played 13, won 12—a league record.

* * *

"Mascots and Pets of the Services"

by **MAJOR T. J. EDWARDS, M.B.E., F.R.Hist.S.**

MAJOR EDWARDS is well known as having the History of the British Army at his finger tips and this book is a collection of stories which will interest all animal lovers.

A majority of the animals mentioned are not authorised Mascots, but pets of a great variety of species which for some years acquired fame as Regimental property.

It is unexpected that Regiments of the Household Brigade feature in the list of pet owners and even more unusual that one of the Guards Battalions for some years owned and cherished a goose. The pets mentioned were acquired in a great variety of ways, mainly, perhaps, by the well-known method of liberation. At least one, the pony of a Battalion of the XX Lancashire Fusiliers, was born out of wedlock in the middle of a battle in Burma.

Most were animals of character, which is perhaps why they acquired public ownership, and it is certainly true that dogs definitely acquire a loyalty to their own regiment.

To illustrate this may be mentioned a dog, the property of an officer serving in a Signal Unit in India. Accompanying his master on Training and manœuvres, he was often 'lost' for hours or even days without anxiety. He would invariably attach himself to a detachment of his own unit, either British or Indian. He had a passion for cable waggons and would join a cable detachment if at all possible. Obtaining a seat on the box, he would exercise knowledgeable supervision both of the six-horse team in front and the working linemen behind. He was equally at home with Indian and British Signalmen, but was never seen to 'speak' to a man in another Regiment and had an intense dislike of civilians of any race. If 'lost' in barracks, as he frequently was, he would invariably effect an entry into his master's office and go to sleep in the 'IN' tray, thus ensuring that his master, who was a reasonably conscientious officer, would find him. It is curious that he never went home by himself, and on the rare occasions when his master went home without calling at the office, the absence of the dog necessitated a return and at least a perfunctory glance at the waiting paper.

Major Edwards' account also includes the long history of a succession of Mascots in the few Regiments which have them on establishment.

Obviously it is a slight work and somewhat disjointed, but it makes very pleasant occasional reading.

If one is to be pernicketty, the book contains one or two irritating repetitions of the same story, which will perhaps be eradicated in a second edition.

It is profusely illustrated, which explains the price.

Gale and Polden, Ltd., 15/-.

KING EDWARD VII HOSPITAL FOR OFFICERS SISTER AGNES FOUNDER

SINCE its foundation in 1899 the Hospital founded by Sister Agnes has served the needs of serving and retired officers of Her Majesty's Forces.

The Hospital which has both single and small wards is open to all commissioned officers serving, retired or extemporary. Patients who were subscribers before the necessity to enter hospital became apparent, naturally pay less than non-subscribers and serving officers are entitled to free nursing and maintenance in the ward beds.

The Hospital has been disclaimed by the Ministry of Health and is therefore entirely dependant upon voluntary support to enable it to keep its charges especially for retired officers down to a minimum. This voluntary support comes from donations from certain charitable trusts and from the many officers of all three services who become subscribers.

The Corps Committee approves annually a small donation to the hospital from Corps Funds towards the cost of upkeep of the hospital but this does not entitle officers, serving or retired, to the cheaper charges when in the hospital, and, therefore, all officers are advised to become subscribers in addition.

The subscription is small, being a minimum of £1 yearly by bankers orders, which are available from the Honorary Appeal Secretary, Commander Sir Jameson Adams, K.C.V.O., C.B.E., D.S.O., R.N.R., 15 Ormond Yard, Duke of York Street, London, S.W.1.

Applications for admission should be made to The Matron, (Miss A. Saxby), WELbeck 0233.

20th NATIONAL RADIO SHOW 2nd-12th SEPTEMBER, 1953

In the specially built TV studio at Earls Court, an audience of nearly 1,000 will see camera and lighting rehearsals, dress rehearsals and actual performances which are going on the air. They will see the TV pictures on a screen measuring 21 feet by 16 feet.

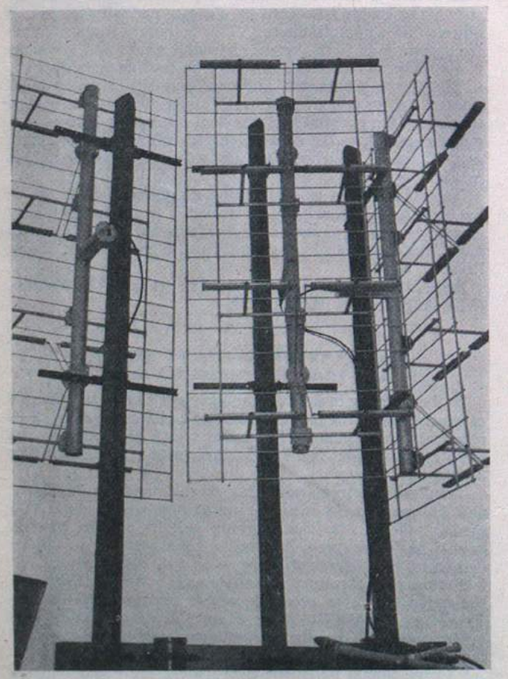
Television receivers, now made to any standard for export, will be seen on 36 manufacturers' stands and about 200 models will also be seen working side by side in what is known as " Television Avenue." Underwater TV will be demonstrated. There will be over 100 exhibitors in all, including manufacturers of components, valves and batteries. Projection television receivers will be seen in the making. The Army and the Royal Air Force will stage large exhibits to show some of their latest equipment, and the Ministry of Supply will show components of a guided missile.

5 Corps Signal Regiment is providing the Royal Signals' exhibit on the Army Stand.

Coronation Television with British Army of the Rhine

IT is now a well-known fact that the television programme of the Coronation ceremonial in London was relayed by an intricate radio network to France, Holland and Germany.

In most areas of the British Zone of Germany where troops are stationed, reception from the local television transmitters was adequate. One important exception, however, was the Bad Oeynhausen Area where Headquarters, Northern Army Group is situated. Due to this locality being low-lying and outside the accepted service area of any German television transmitter, reception of the programme from England was virtually impossible. Ironically enough, the radio link carrying the programme from England to Cologne, and via Minden to Hamburg passed overhead.



Close up of the three TV aerials on roof of Jacobsberg tower

Jacobsberg tower with specially erected dipole arrays for the 60 watt TV transmitter on roof of tower. Large parapoloids carry 24 tele-radio channels and also relay German TV programme

The nearest station to Bad Oeynhausen in this radio relay chain was situated at the Jacobsberg Radio Tower, Porta Westfalica, seven miles from Bad Oeynhausen. The Chief Signal Officer, Northern Army Group, ordered that the possibility of providing television coverage from this relay station should be thoroughly investigated.

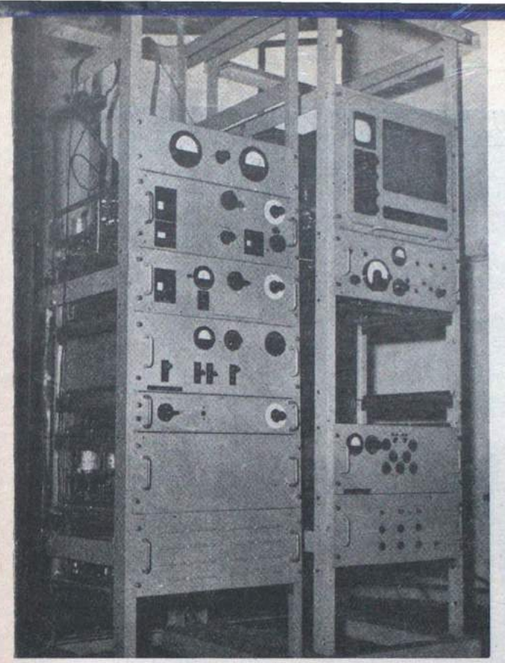
After studying this matter in consultation with German Post Office technicians, it was decided that a small television transmitter could be installed in the Jacobsberg Tower. This transmitter would then be fed by the video at the monitoring screen of the German relay equipment. As this tower is situated at a height of 240 metres above the level of the River Weser, it was anticipated that a wide area would be served.

Immediately, negotiations started for a loan of a television transmitter from German industry. This equipment, having a peak power of 60 watts for both sound and vision, was erected in the tower and beamed by three multi-dipole arrays in the direction of Bad Oeynhausen, Minden and Bad Eilsen; the latter being the Headquarters of the Second Allied Tactical Air Force. The effective power in each beam was of the order of 700 watts over an angle of 27 degrees beam width. It was decided to transmit in the channel 174-181 mc/s.

The sound commentary transmitted with the vision from the German installations was obtained by immediate translation into German of the television sound commentary carried from England by line to the Nordwestdeutsche Rundfunk studios at Cologne. The opportunity to bring this English language transmission from Cologne to the Jacobsberg Radio Tower Station obviously could not be missed. This was, indeed effected by utilising one of the 24 radio circuits from Cologne passing through the Jacobsberg Tower.

Thus troops in the Bad Oeynhausen area were enabled to enjoy the same television facilities as if they had been at home in the United Kingdom.

This event, it is believed, is the first occasion upon which Royal Signals has been responsible for the installation and running of a television transmitter.



60 watt Siemens TV transmitter

C.S.O., N.A.G. (Brigadier R. H. O. Coryton, C.B.E., O.B.E.), D.C.S.O. (Colonel R. M. Adams), and Captain R. O. Dunmore at the Jacobsberg tower

★

BERLIN SIGNAL SQUADRON

Seldom can there have been a more varied and eventful month in the peacetime annals of a Signal unit than that of June, 1953, for Berlin Signal Squadron.

The month started with an impressive Coronation Parade held on June 2nd on the Maifeld. The Maifeld is a huge grass arena built behind the 1936 Olympic Stadium, capable of holding a rally of some 400,000 strong, and with large banked-up stands built to seat 10,000. The Squadron was represented by a foot-borne contingent on the Parade and by most of our technicians behind the scenes. The back-room people provided a rather complicated P.A. set-up, with microphones sunk into the ground, whereby various commands were relayed to the long line of troops on parade. The Parade was attended by officers and men from the three Western Sectors, representatives from the Civil Heads of Berlin, and a delegation of high-ranking and much bemedalled officers from the Russian side of the City. The majority of the spectators were the ordinary people of Berlin, who came in tens of thousands to watch and compare, the earliest arrivals taking up positions of vantage more than eight hours before the Parade was due to start. The Parade was held at 1700 hrs. so as to give all the opportunity of listening to the sound broadcast of the ceremonies in London or of seeing them on television. This T.V. broadcast was in itself a history-making achievement, since the pictures reached us through a chain of continental repeater stations, followed by a final "hop" of about 115 miles over the Russian Zone.

* * *

Midway through the month, on the 17th of June, the Unit was pitchforked into a state of operational alert by the revolt of the East Berliners against their Communist regime. As the Russians brought their armoured troops into the City tension mounted, and the Squadron was fully stretched with its various commitments, right down to the proverbial "man and a boy." However, by the following day, it became apparent that the situation on the Sector border was under control again. Eventually the stand-down order was received, and the Squadron picked up the threads of its routine activities once more. The West Berliners have renamed the stretch of road leading to the Brandenburg Gate "17 June Street." It is a date of great political significance to all Germans and also will not readily be forgotten by those of us living in Berlin at the time.

The month ended with "Corps-Day" on the 27th. Our celebrations were centred around our Minor Unit's Test Match against a combined Ordnance- and R.E.M.E. Team. The Band of the 8th King's Royal Irish Hussars provided incidental music, and N.A.A.F.I. rose to the occasion with a salad meal served for the whole of the Squadron and their families in a marquee on the cricket ground. The cricket match, by the way, was brought to a sudden end by a thunderstorm and cloudburst with our score standing at 29 for 1 in reply to a total of 131 by the other side.

Left to right: R.S.M. Carter, R.S.M. Barrett, Lieut.-Colonel Nettleship, Sergeant Perry, R.Q.M.S. Douthwaite

THE ALLIANCE BETWEEN 1st NEW ZEALAND DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT AND 7th ARMOURED DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT

THIS Alliance finally received Her Majesty the Queen's gracious approval and was promulgated in Army Orders in late 1952.

The Alliance was initiated by Lieutenant-Colonel G. L. Agar, D.S.O., O.B.E., Commanding 1st New Zealand Divisional Signal Regiment, in January, 1951, by a direct request on behalf of his Regiment to Lieutenant-Colonel L. J. D. Read, M.B.E., then Commanding 7 Armoured Division Signal Regiment.

There were very sound reasons for the request. The nucleus of 1st N.Z. Divisional Signal Regiment was formed from ex officers, W.O.s and N.C.O.s of the wartime 2nd and 3rd N.Z. Divisional Signals. The association between Royal New Zealand Signals and 7 Armoured Divisional Signals started in the Western Desert when many New Zealanders were attached to 7 Armoured Divisional Signals to gain experience of desert warfare on first arrival in the Middle East, in the early days of World War II. From this beginning, the association continued throughout the war, during which the two Divisional Signals were alongside each other in many a famous fight in North Africa and later in Italy.

7 Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment were greatly honoured by this request of their "Kiwi" brothers, for the alliance. The proposal was put through the Corps Committee to our Colonel-in-Chief, and Her Royal Highness the Princess Royal, graciously approved the Alliance which had had the complete support of the Corps Committee. The approval of Her Majesty, as stated above, having been obtained, the Alliance was formally, and happily, entered into by both Regiments.

Again at the instigation of Colonel Agar, ably abetted this time by Lieutenant-Colonel C. Nettleship, O.B.E., T.D., now commanding 7 Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment, physical contact between the two Regiments has recently been established.

The New Zealand contingent marching in the Coronation procession, included two representatives from 1st N.Z. Divisional Signal Regiment, R.S.M. Barrett and Lance-Corporal Perry. With the connivance of the N.Z. Liaison Staff in London, and Brigadier Firth, our Association General Secretary, R.S.M. Barrett and Lance-Corporal (local Sergeant) Perry were brought across to Germany by R.S.M. A. E. Carter, of 7 Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment, who had also been in the Coronation Parade.

So on 8th, June, 1953, physical contact was, for the first time since the alliance, established in a very happy way, between the two Regiments. The two "Kiwis" were thoroughly entertained, they assisted in serving the other ranks Coronation Dinner, and afterwards, after the loyal tribute, in response to the toast "The 1st New Zealand Divisional Signal Regiment," R.S.M. Barrett made an excellent speech, the recruiting value of which should be tremendous.

After four days almost continuous celebration of the alliance the Regiment bade a sad farewell to these most worthy representatives of their New Zealand brothers in arms. If the impressions taken away by R.S.M. Barrett and Sergeant Perry were nearly as favourable as those they left, then the alliance can not have been cemented more closely and with such splendid goodwill, and it is hoped that these will be the impressions carried back to Colonel Agar and all ranks of 1st New Zealand Divisional Signal Regiment.

7 ARMOURED DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT

The tumult and the shouting have died—but what a memorable occasion it has been. Everyone of our Coronation functions was an enormous success. The mechanised parade past the G.O.C.-in-C. at Hamburg, the Sergeants' Mess Ball, the All Ranks Ball, the other Ranks Coronation Dinner, the Children's Sports and Tea Party, the Officers' Club Ball—for all of these, there was nothing but praise in high places, and no one present will forget these very worthy tributes from the Regiment in honour of Her Majesty's Coronation.

In the absence of R.S.M. A. E. Carter, who was R.S.M. of the Royal Signals contingent at the London Parade, R.Q.M.S. Douthwaite did sterling work and all ranks are indebted to him for the extremely hard work he put in as the basis of success for all our functions.

Our celebrations were prolonged by a visit from representatives of our allied Regiment, the 1st N.Z. Divisional Signal Regiment, which is dealt with elsewhere in this issue. We were all delighted to welcome them.

As a fitting climax we then proceeded to "scoop the pool" at the Divisional Motor Cycle trials. Our "A" team of three, Sergeant Slaughter, Sergeant Edwards and Corporal Haire won, from 251 competitors from all over Germany:—

Divisional Team Championships.

Open Team Championships.

1st (Sergeant Edwards), 2nd (Sergeant Slaughter) and 3rd (Corporal Haire) in the Divisional Individual Championships. 1st (Sergeant Edwards), Open Individual Champion.

A picture of the team, with their almost indecent display of silver won in one day, is included. All luck to the team for the future B.A.O.R. and (we hope) Army Trials.

As we go to press our spies tell us of yet another triumph. It still has to be announced officially, but we have won the Royal Signals B.A.O.R. Inter-Unit Small Bore Competition. The team, who have trained hard and consistently improved, included Major Mead, Captain Warren, W.O.I. MacIntyre, Sergeant Mawston, Sergeant Pemberton, Corporal Wilkinson, Corporal Hancox, Corporal Martyn, Lance-Corporal Jennings, Lance-Corporal Warren, Lance-Corporal Jenkins, Signalman Shipley, Signalman Johnson, Signalman Homer, Signalman Houlton, Signalman Chapman, at various times during the competition.

Standing Lieut.-Colonel C. Nettleship. Seated: Cpl. Haire, Sgt. Slaughter, Sgt. Edwards

1 Corps Signal Regiment Coronation Fete. Best decorated Jeep "O" Troop

1 CORPS SIGNAL REGIMENT

The Regiment has worked and played hard during the last few weeks. Our Coronation Week plans were ambitious and successful. They included the following big occasions, a full ceremonial parade, a Coronation Fair, a Unit Athletics Meeting and an Inter-Squadron Drill Competition.

The parade was well performed, attended and photographed. We were pleased with the results. The Coronation Fair was novel, enterprising and, although slightly marred by the storm, successful. Each Troop produced and ran a sideshow and they did it with professional ability. We really did have all the fun of the fair from the Fortune Teller to the Merry Go Round and Coconut Shy. The first prize for the best sideshow went to H/N Troop's "Hell's Kitchen," the second to the wives' "The Grand Roulette Stall" and a special prize to the LAD who provided some really high-class pieces of engineering in the way of swings, see-saws and merry-go-rounds for the children.

The entries for the Inter-Troop decorated jeep were quite remarkable in their excellence. The judges had an impossible task in selecting the winners, but eventually decided on "O" Troop's "Coronation Scot." Real smoke came out of its funnel.

A raffle for a return air trip to the U.K. with ten days' leave was popularly supported. This was won by R.S.M. Judd who considered that R.S.M.s should never court fortune and attempted to waive the award. However, after a little bullying we managed to convince him that the Regiment did not share his views.

The Drill Competition was deservedly won by No. 1 Squadron. They are to be complimented for their excellent bearing, drill and turnout. We were grateful to Brigadier D. W. R. Burridge, C.B.E., Major G. H. Hulme and R.S.M. Tyers, who judged the competition for us. There is no doubt that they know soldiers when they see them.

To conclude the Coronation celebrations we gathered on the Unit Ground and had an excellent afternoon's sport with our young athletes. The day proved many things, we have talent, we like this sort of thing and we can do it well. Many thanks are due to Captain Pounds and his assistants for organising this splendid afternoon's entertainment.

A few short days after the celebrations to rest and we were off again on a nice little exercise. This exercise appeared to be planned with the deliberate intention of proving that it is impossible to overwork linemen. Records show that 184 miles of quad were laid in three days. For further exercises we aim to withdraw the linemen's blankets and issue them with another pair of boots.

The Unit had the pleasure of playing the part of host to two officers and 48 men of the United States Signal Corps during the exercise. They joined us a few days before the exercise at Maresfield Barracks and remained with us for one week. They most ably demonstrated to us the full value of Radio Relay. We were immensely impressed by their technical proficiency and willingness to help on any occasion. Relationship was first class at all levels. We liked those chaps and we'll be glad to have them with us at any time.

11 AIR FORMATION SIGNAL REGIMENT

The Coronation has come and passed majestically into history. Lemgo did not allow it to pass without some show of celebration. With a parade in the morning and suitable liquid refreshment later, the day was a memorable one. An All Ranks' Ball and a C.S.E.U. show added appropriate lustre to the great occasion.

The show—"Top of the Bill"—was outstanding and the garrison sat back to enjoy it. In spite of unfair competition from the 1 A.S.S.U. scheme, we achieved quite a full house; we were soon appreciating the spring-heeled antics of two Frenchmen, Les Trampo-Tempo. In the Sergeants' Mess afterwards we learnt that neither spoke any language except French (and the language of the eyes which they used in true Parisian manner). The very hot pace set by these two —on the stage that is—was fully maintained by Grasso's great trick-cycling act (since the show there have been several smashes on P.R.I. bicycles—any connection?); dancing and juggling followed; but perhaps most popular of all was Grondsma—an impersonator, whose versatility of voice and make-up box embraced with equal skill Josephine Baker—whose banana skirt tickled everyone's fancy — and the empty-minded, full-voiced Bing Crosby, and a round half-dozen other stars. This was excellent stuff. Everyone lapped it up and asked for more.

After it had been shown that there was no business like show business, we accompanied the cast to the Sergeants' Mess and learnt why this was so. It was also proved that there is no bar like the Sergeants' Mess bar and everyone was happy. At a suitable point during this artiste-soldier liaison, one of the German band took it on himself to introduce the only national flavour which the party lacked, by bidding us "Come back to Sorrento" (in Italian, we think). More is in the offing in the shape of the "Donald Peers" show.

The cricket season has changed, and men are glad to cover up soccer knees with snow white cricket flannels and smite a small ball with willow bat instead of a large ball with leather boots. But the pitch is stubborn. No amount of coaxing can turn our soccer pitch into a good wicket. That Hitler was no cricket-lover is obvious from his sports field here.

However, 11 Air Formation Signal batsmen, undaunted, have played good quality cricket, and if Chinese cuts and snicks through the slips for four have been common, every credit to the bowlers.

So far, 2 Squadron has beaten 1 A.S.S.U. twice, but has fallen victim to 1 Squadron mainly through the fine medium-pace bowling of Corporal Brinkworth. But the season is not nearly over and the near future should see more fixtures.

A Garrison Tennis Tournament was held during the month of June for all ranks. Months before this, one could see that our neighbouring unit (Field Survey, R.E.) who filled the courts day and night with white-clad tennis players were going to make a bold bid to win at least one of the events. There were 24 entries for the singles and 22 entries for the doubles. Unfortunately no players were seeded and it was found that most of the outstanding players met each other in the earlier rounds. The Finals were admirably umpired by the Adjutant, Captain Thompson (11 A.F.S.R.) and the prizes were given out by Mrs. Hammond, the wife of our Second-in-Command, Major Hammond. Excellent Tennis was witnessed in the finals in which Lance-Corporal Smith (Field Survey, R.E.) beat Sergeant Brown of the same Unit. In the doubles, C.S.M.I. Bartell (A.P.T.C.) and R.Q.M.S. Mason beat Lance-Corporal Chappell and Sapper Stagg after a very hard game.

The Garrison All Ranks and Married Families Badminton Club is carrying on throughout the summer months and now possesses almost 40 members. We have, during the last month witnessed two new members who will no doubt increase the strength of our teams for the winter months in which we hope to play local teams. The new arrivals are C.S.M.I. Bartell (A.P.T.C., late of Catterick fame) and his wife. It is hoped in the near future to have the fourth court erected now that more rackets are available for play. It is also proposed in the near future to run a small Whist Drive and Dance, where it is hoped to enrol new members.

Sensational News

One of our signalmen under the benevolent care of 1 A.S.S.U. and using one of their wireless sets, has established communication with Mars. This is a feat which, we feel, bears comparison with that of the recent Everest expedition. The fact is mentioned here so as to forestall any foreign claim to this great honour. As true patriots, we feel proud to reveal that the Martians do speak quite good English.

2 L. OF C. SIGNAL REGIMENT

It seems a number of old faces have left us in the last few months. R.Q.M.S. G. Hayter, S.S.M. K. Smith and S.Q.M.S. C. Scantlebury have all tried on their bowler hats and departed for civilian life after 22 years. Good luck to all of them.

Someone heard Captain (T.O.T.) Everard had passed a German interpreters' exam and posted him to Far East—complete with Ben, who speaks canine German too.

Captain Sharp has left us for A.A. Command, which should keep him even busier.

Congratulation to R.Q.M.S. Dunaway, S.S.M. Fisk and S.Q.M.S. Barnes-Murphy on their promotion.

The athletes from Squadrons descended upon R.H.Q. in the middle of June and it seems that 2 Squadron went home laden with most of the prizes. Lance-Corporal Mould carried away the Victor Ludorum Trophy, which was most appropriate as he is the moving spirit of the team in training. He also gained third place in the B.A.O.R. inter-Unit javelin event. We hope that this year we can get away from our customary position near the bottom.

More changes, this time in accommodation. 3 Squadron have moved to new and comfortable billets in Grobbendonck camp, and it seems that the Sergeants' Mess was opened in proper style.

It seems that the pessimists who labelled the new barracks for R.H.Q. and 1 Squadron "Eldorado Barracks" are justified. The date for the move is rather like the soap in the bath, you can't get hold of it, and if you do it slips away again.

4 L. OF C. SIGNAL REGIMENT

R.H.Q. and 1 Squadron. There was no parade for the Coronation and birthday of Her Majesty The Queen in this part of the world, and the occasions were celebrated as very homely festive affairs. Both Officers and W.O.s and Sergeants' Messes entertained their families and joined with millions of others in the rich feeling of pride and happiness at the Coronation Service by means of T.V.

It was the first time that T.V. had been to this part of Germany and the reception masts had been erected for test purposes by a combined Signals & P. & T. Staff effort. As far as our own reception was concerned on hired German T.V. sets, the average reception was very good. The children were, of course, not forgotten by the ladies under the guidance of the Colonel's wife, Mrs. Read, and what with sticky buns and souvenir beakers the occasion was marked by a general state of happy bedlam.

2 Squadron. Congratulations to Sergeant Schofield and Corporal Daniels on being chosen to represent this Squadron on the Coronation Parade in London.

Talking of the Coronation, thanks to the arrangements of our various messes and institutes, all members of the Squadron were able to view the wonderful display by means of local T.V.

The children of married personnel were entertained in the Sergeants' Mess on Saturday, 30th May. A great time was had by all, thanks mainly to the single members of the mess, who did most of the decorating and organising.

The Sergeants' dance was held on Saturday, 30th May, and, judging by the faces on church parade on the following morning, I think I can safely say again a good time was had by all.

The single members of the Squadron went on a boat trip down the River Elbe.

3 Squadron. Our usual scribe is so heavily engaged with "Exercise" work!! (and those are his words) that the job of compiling these notes has been handed over to one of much lesser experience. However, here goes, then. Wish me luck.

The Coronation Celebrations were enjoyed by all and the Squadron Detachment at the Drumhead Service kept the "Corps" colours flying with their smartness and excellent turnout. A Children's Fête was held on 6th June, which was a great success. Most people are still trying to find out how "Fortunes" are told with no one controlling the printer. (This doesn't apply to OUR learned members.)

The Small Bore Team, S.S.M. Mayhew, Sergeant Holden, Sergeant Dady, Sergeant Butler, Signalman Coleman and Signalman Young are now champions of the District, having beaten the "Engineers" in the final by the very handsome margin of Sixty-eight Points.

The Cricket Team have played four Matches and won two, losing the other two by small margins, in one match by one run only. If our Captain hadn't had "Duck" egg for breakfast we might have been able to record three wins; and for the benefit of one of our Team Members, "The ball when thrown to the wicket-keeper should be thrown overhand and not under."

Progress in recruiting Life Members for the Royal Signals Association goes on apace, including those subscribing on a Weekly Contribution Basis—35% of the Squadron are Life Members.

ALLIED LAND FORCES, CENTRAL EUROPE

The Royal Corps of Signals Squadron, of Allied Land Forces, Central Europe, were on parade at their headquarters in Avon, France, on the 18th June, 1953, to say goodbye to their Commanding Officer, Major Rutherford and to welcome his successor, Major V. C. Valle.

Colonel H. L. Lewis, C.B.E., Royal Signals, Staff Officer at A.L.F.C.E., took the salute at a march past.

During the ceremony Corporal S. Page received the Regular Army Long Service and Good Conduct Medal from Colonel Lewis.

Lance-Corporal A. F. Norton was presented with a Coronation Crown as a souvenir to commemorate his attendance at the Coronation in London with the contingent of the Royal Corps of Signals.

In a short address to the Squadron, Major Rutherford said that his tour of duty with the squadron, some two years, had been made all the more enjoyable because of the great co-operation that he had received from all ranks. In handing over to his successor, he told the squadron that he knew that he could rely on them to carry on with the excellent work that had been a feature of the Squadron during the time that he had commanded them.

Corporal S. Page, of the Royal Corps of Signals, being congratulated by Colonel H. L. Lewis, C.B.E., after being decorated with the Regular Army Long Service and Good Conduct Medal

BETFOR SIGNALS

We were very sorry to lose in April our Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel J. S. Wise, at the end of his tour in BETFOR. We were at the same time very glad to welcome Lieutenant-Colonel G. Mellor as his successor, and we wish him a successful and enjoyable stay with us.

We in BETFOR were able, for a moment, to capture some of the glories of the Coronation on our parade here when we assembled on the local pony racing track to pay tribute to our newly crowned Queen, led by our G.O.C., Major-General Sir John Winterton. Our Squadron, in keeping with the tradition of our Corps, was applauded by many as one of the best companies on parade.

Earlier this year we said goodbye to an old soldier, Sergeant Kennedy, who has been our line sergeant for the past two years. We in Trieste, including our fellow "winemen," hold pleasant memories of him and we all send him our best wishes now that he has left the service.

On the 23rd June the officers spent a most enjoyable evening when they entertained our parents, the "Sappers," in the Mess, in commemoration of our foundation as an independent corps.

We have lost recently one of our subalterns, Charles Hudd, who went to Aldershot for a parachute course, on which we wish him the best of luck. We welcome in his place Second-Lieutenant W. H. Thompson from Catterick. We have also lost recently our Foreman of Signals, S.Q.M.S. Herring, who has left us for his Part II Course, and we welcome in his place S.Q.M.S. (F. of S.) Harden.

We congratulate our soccer players who, under the guidance of W. O. II Chapman, in a combined "Sapper-Signals" team, finished at the top of the BETFOR League. We have been very fortunate in squeezing a basket ball court into our barracks, which, although not very level, has provided at least one form of recreation which we so lack, being situated in the town.

Finally, we must congratulate our cricket team, who, under the capable direction of Lieutenant A. G. Pritchard, are keeping themselves up near the top of the BETFOR League.

APOLOGY

This has been a difficult WIRE. Economy directed 36 pages only. The well worth-while account of the Sporting achievements of Royal Signals, Catterick occupies six pages and when putting the pages together FARELF suffered. We had already reached 40 pages and could afford no more. Singapore District Signal Regiment's notes are on page 275. A photograph of Royal Signals Singapore Rugger Team on page 276 and the Federation Army is regretfully held over until September issue. Also held over is the customary review of General Nalder's "History of British Army Signals in the Second World War."

MIDDLE EAST LAND FORCES

3 G.H.Q. SIGNAL REGIMENT

Summer is well and truly here again, with blazing sun, long cold drinks, if there is any ice, which is seldom, and the ubiquitous Egyptian fly. But to a pleasanter prospect—summer sports.

The Regiment again has a first-class Water Polo team. Old stalwarts, such as S.Q.M.S. (F of S) Foakes and Lance-Corporal Clifford, of our all-conquering team of last year, are still with us, and with other swimmers of the calibre of Signalman Gibbon, Driver Lane and Sergeant Murray, not to mention the acrobatic Signalman Northam in goal, it is going to take a good team to beat us—so far no one has succeeded.

We are well into the Basket Ball season under the enthusiastic captaincy of Captain L. E. Rogers, ably backed up by Sergeants Greenbrook and Norbury; we are as yet unbeaten in Regimental matches. A thriving basket ball league within the Regiment is giving a new impetus to this sport

We have not shone at Cricket and are now out of the knock-out competition, but Second-Lieutenants Linney and Fisher and Signalmen Dransfield and Hutton have put up some good performances in the Inter-Troop League.

On 28th June the W.O.s and Sergeants challenged the Officers to a cricket match. The fact that both messes had entertained the Royal Engineers the previous evening may account for the somewhat worn appearance of the teams, still, it was great fun, with the Sergeants coming out well on top. Who had the best guest night? No comments. But who had to leave the field?

3 L. OF C. SIGNAL REGIMENT

The highlights of Regimental life during the past month have been the preparation for parades and social activities in connection with the Coronation celebrations and, of course, the parades and functions themselves. Drumhead Services and Coronation Day parades were held throughout the Zone, at all of which the Regiment was represented. The major parades, both Combined Services parades, were at Kasfareet, where 2 Squadron provided personnel for the Royal Signals contingent, and at Moascar, where the Regiment was well represented by one hundred and fifty All Ranks from H.Q., 1 and 3 Squadrons.

The Regimental contingent was one of the few non-Airborne Units in the "Red Beret" division of the parade and it is with satisfaction that we record that "para-boys" measured up to *our* standards at turnout and drill! The rapidity with which the C.S.O. BTE appeared at the Officers' Mess at conclusion of the parade spelt "rockets" or "well earned congratulations" and, when we saw the beaming smile of our Commanding Officer after the departure of the C.S.O., we knew that the visit was not connected with "rockets."

Coronation social activities in the Regiment took the form of a Cocktail Party at the Officers' Mess, a Dance at the W.O.s and Sergeants' Mess, and an All Ranks Dance at the Stadium Club, Moascar, all of which were well attended. From comment and appearance on the mornings following these events, it appeared that each was a decided success.

Sports grounds being at a premium these days, there has been little opportunity for cricket. However, we have played four matches to date and they have resulted in two defeats, one moral victory and a moral loss. Nevertheless, as soon as the side is welded into a team and the new blood settles down to playing conditions, it is felt that the opposition will soon appreciate that we are back to our customary formidable standard.

The Officers of the Regiment engaged the Officers of 3 Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment in annual combat on the cricket field recently in an all day affair. Socially, the day was enjoyed by all, and we certainly gained great satisfaction in wiping out last year's bitter memory by gaining a handsome win by an innings. The Mess Secretary surpassed himself with the bat with a neat 34 runs—and how that ball stuck in his hand—three times, in fact. Well done, Bill.

18 AIR FORMATION SIGNAL REGIMENT

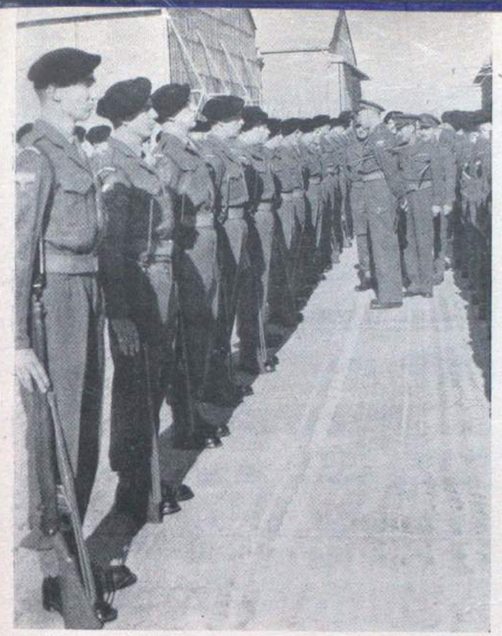
Our one and only Squadron in the Regiment now numbers 100 officers and men, although at this time a year ago we had only a third of this number. Over the last 12 months no fewer than eleven officers have been posted to us, of which six still remain.

We welcome our new Squadron Commander, Major A. J. Hamilton, who has taken over from Captain E. C. Collett (now serving with 4 Air Formation Signal Regiment in Egypt).

Since the beginning of the year we have been visited by Colonel E. D. Good, C.B.E., the D.D. of Signals (Air Ministry) and Colonel J. W. Gordon (C.A.F.S.O.). At the parade held for Colonel Gordon, S.Q.M.S. C. Nicholson was presented with the L.S. and G.C. Medal, and shortly afterwards we said goodbye to him and his family on their return to the U.K.

The majority of the Squadron is situated at Habbaniya, which is an oasis in the midst of the Iraqi desert. Our only distraction outside the camp is Baghdad which is about 50 miles to the East over one of the worst roads in the world. One visit to this city is usually enough. Leave during the hot weather can be enjoyed in the mountains of Northern Iraq, where snow still lies thick in April.

Presentation of L.S. and G.C. medal to S.Q.M.S. C. Nicholson. from left to right: Major A. J. Hamilton, O.C., 18 Air Formation Signal Regiment, Colonel J. W. Gordon, C.A.F.S.O.



C.A.F.S.O. inspecting the Squadron

Our contribution to the Coronation Carnival Procession was a tableau mounted on a 3-ton lorry showing changes in the Army over the last hundred years. We think it is as well to show our hosts, the Royal Air Force, what happened before they existed.

H.Q. MIDDLE EAST AIR FORCE

The big event of the month was, of course, the Queen's Coronation. A heavy programme of social and Service events was arranged. It began with a Combined Services Drumhead Service at Moascar on 31st May, and was followed by the Coronation Parade on 2nd June. Other Coronation celebrations included a first class Air Display at R.A.F., Deversoir, a Massed Band Display at Moascar, Firework Displays, Coronation Dinners, Fetes, Dances and Children's Parties. A special Regatta took place on Lake Timsah, and Ox Roastings at Moascar and Fayid.

Our Chief Clerk, S.Q.M.S. T. A. Vaughan, has just returned from six weeks leave with his family in the U.K., and so we can now pin him to his desk until April next year. While we weren't looking, Sergeant A. Howie slipped away on an indulgence passage in a trooper for his year's entitlement of leave in the U.K., too.

Sport

Sailing: One of the most popular sports for those lucky enough to be stationed near Lake Timsah or the Bitter Lakes, is sailing. No less than three members of C.A.F.S.O. Branch hold offices in two local Sailing Clubs. Colonel J. W. Gordon won the U.S.O.S.C. Monthly Cup for Snipes and Lance-Corporal D. Finnie won a gold medal for the Firefly Open and a silver medal for the Medley race in the Coronation Regatta. He also won two cups in the Whitsun Regatta (if this continues we shall need a special display cabinet added to our G1098). Two other members have recently learnt to swim so that they can sail.

Tennis: Royal Signals (Egypt) Tennis Association which died at the abrogation in the Autumn of 1951 has been restarted. In spite of difficulties of transport and escort vehicles, four matches have been played this season. The results so far are:—

13 May	v. Royal Engineers "A"	LOST
27 May	v. Royal Air Force, Ismailia "A"	WON
10 June	v. Royal Army Education Corps "B"	WON
24 June	v. Royal Artillery "A"	LOST

The following have played for the Royal Signals (Egypt) "A" Team:—

Lieutenant-Colonel A. M. W. Whistler (A/C.S.O., B.T.E.).
Major J. B. Birkett (1 Divisional Signals).
Major E. N. L. Brown (H.Q., B.T.E.).
Major J. K. Brown (2 Assu).
Major T. de B. Miller (H.Q., G.H.Q., M.E.L.F.).
Captain F. St. C. Robinson (3 G.H.Q., Signal Regiment).
Second-Lieutenant F. N. Spencer (3 G.H.Q., Signal Regiment).
Second-Lieutenant H. U. M. Adler (3 L. of C., Signal Regiment).
Corporal D. J. Cook (16 Parachute Brigade, Signal Squadron).
Signalman A. Horswill (C.A.F.S.O. Branch).

and for "B" Team:—

Major B. A. H. Bogle (4 Air Formation, Signal Regiment).
Major K. N. Smartt (4 Air Formation, Signal Regiment).
Captain F. St. C. Robinson (3 G.H.Q., Signal Regiment).
Second-Lieutenant F. N. Spencer (3 G.H.Q., Signal Regiment).
S.Q.M.S. J. Mason (4 Air Formation, Signal Regiment).

Shooting: A Royal Signals (Middle East) Central Rifle Meeting is being planned for the early autumn. It is expected that teams from all over the Command will come to the Meeting, making it a great Royal Signals occasion (hon. secretary, Major J. C. Green, C.A.F.S.O. Branch).

TRIPOLITANIA SIGNAL SQUADRON

At this time the Coronation is, of course, in our minds. The Royal Signals detachment on the Coronation Parade in Tripoli acquitted itself particularly well, and drew many favourable comments from those who watched the parade. A monster children's fete was organised by the British community and the sideshows provided by Signals were certainly some of the most popular there. A "Record Your Voice" stand, set up in conjunction with F.B.S., was a special attraction. The Coronation Ball was very successful and was well attended by all ranks from the Squadron. People were afterwards heard bemoaning the fact that such dances were only held during Coronation celebrations. Our thanks and congratulations go to those who put in all the work necessary to make the Coronation a success in Tripoli.

There have been several changes in our numbers since our last notes appeared in THE WIRE. Sergeant North was with us only for a short time, and in his place we welcome Sergeant Wilson, who has rejoined his wife here after a spell of 18 months with 1 Infantry Division Signal Regiment in Egypt. Other new arrivals are Sergeant Coxon and Sergeant Kitson; the latter in place of Sergeant Douce, who has returned to U.K. on completion of his tour abroad. We wish them and their wives an enjoyable stay in Tripoli, and Sergeant and Mrs. Douce all the best for the future in their new station.

The annual Administrative inspection is over and with no adverse comments.

In the line of Sport, the newly-formed Squadron Cricket team is unbeaten so far, and shows real promise of doing well. One of the mainstays is the C.S.O., Major Waters. Basketball is not under way yet, but our hopes are high for the inter-unit competition to come off shortly.

We ended our last notes on the subject of Tripoli's freakish weather. We would like to do so again, and report to those who know Tripoli, that the Coronation parade only just escaped being rained off. There were rain storms two days before and two days after June 2. Tripoli having rain in June? Well!

SIGNAL WING, EAST AFRICA TRAINING CENTRE

Since our last notes we have lost Sergeant G. R. Booley and S.Q.M.S. J. C. Rork. Booley is now married and was very cunning about it. He slipped away to Nairobi and was wed the day after his release from the Army. Nobody knew about it until it was all over. "Q" Rork was released on 17th June, 1953. He was seen a few days after his release and even in that short time had already acquired the air of a long-established settler.

We entered a mixed European and African team in the East Africa Training Centre football cup. We went out in the Semi-Final by four goals to two to the eventual winners. Now the Wing is tuning up for the Cross-Country Championships and the Athletic Meetings.

There have been three big inspections recently; by the C.S.O., by Lieutenant-General Cameron, Deputy C.-in-C., and by General Erskine, the newly-arrived C.-in-C. General Erskine was very pleased with what he saw and sent a personal congratulatory message to the African wireless operators who were, at the time of his visit, working back to Camp from the tops of nearby mountains. They had mirrors with them and by flashing these were able to convince the C.-in-C. that they really were at the top of the mountains and were not hidden away in a barrack room using reduced radiation!

Plain Tales

★ *With Greetings from Barleux*

Step Back In Time

ONE day last week I found time to read a newspaper. Part of it, anyway. Having no ideas of my own, as usual, I pounced on a paragraph tucked away on page 5. The writer wanted to know what experiences his readers had had in 1952 that they would care to have again in 1953. Let us extend this and find out what YOU would like to do again if you could relive the past. Go back as far as you like. Don't push. Me first. Just four things.

Something I did in 1908. Sail in a paddle steamer from the Sun Pier, Chatham to Southend and gaze with fascination at the "ginger pop" created by the paddles.

Relive that lovely summer of 1933 when I wandered, at my own speed, from Brighton to Edinburgh in a six pot 18 h.p. Isis two-seater and no nonsense, except to fritter away six months leave doing a shade less than nothing.

Third one. Have my wedding day all over again. (Never mind when). The honeymoon to be twice as long. 3rd Division Signals only gave me 10 days leave for that.

Do the trip to Algiers in the *Sobieski*, same convoy, and with the same companions as in November, 1942.

What would YOU like to do? Tell me at Mercury House, Brackley Avenue, Colwyn Bay, and I will select some of the most interesting. Postcards only, please.

★

Show Business

Those two Chinese pianists are still occupying their flat at the top of the B.B.C. I notice. Rabtong and Lantu. I wonder if the B.B.C. ever look around for a couple of English boys to do a good musical turn. I heard of the heart-breaking experience of an excellent team recently. Two lads from St. Giles-in-the-Wood, unspoilt, unknown, unkempt and unless. Smart boys, full of ideas. One of them had an aunt in Houghton-le-Spring, if there is such a place. They were lucky enough to secure an audition. One rode a horse along a tightrope, playing a saxophone with one hand and an accordion with the other, which was probably a bad choice of instrument. The second boy did a solo on the triangle, STANDING ON ONE FOOT. Did they get a date? No sir. All because the whole lot crashed to the ground just before they joined forces to sing their finale. One official, kinder than the others suggested the finale without the other business, but with one eye on TV they wouldn't change the act. I am not quite sure why I mention this unless it is because I am allergic to two pianos being played at once. Perhaps I wouldn't mind two Winifred Attwells on their other piano. I shall never know.

★

Musicians Corner

Harmonica players may read this if accompanied by an adult. Dear Sir, You said you were going to revive Musicians Corner. I am waiting to ask you about my clarinet. After three months' hard practice all I can get on it is dust. Can you advise me, please?—Tubby Davenport. Dear Tubby, If it is anything like the clarinet that George Mitchell used to play in Jubbulpore, you are strongly advised to take it to a respectable pawnbroker. You may get five bob on it.—Scats Bulow.

★

Next Instalment

For previous instalments see back numbers. Chapter 3, Episode 2, Lot 7, Scene 4 (Paris, France). Not to be cut out and sung forward of Brigade H.Q. Translated from the French, in places. Ukann Larfe, the famous detective, jumped from his bicyclette (bicycle), dashed into the Cafe Aulait in the Rue de Gesture and subsided into the nearest chair, gasping. "Garcon," he said in flawless French, "Bring moi deux eggs, pronto." He pointed to himself to emphasise that the eggs were for no one else. The waiter understood perfectly, which you will agree was a jolly good show. "And garcon," roared the detective at the retreating man, "un bottle of vin blanc. A la trot," he added with a smirk. The great investigator cut little pieces from the dingy tablecloth to pass le temps. "Good thing I went to Harrow," he muttered. "Jolly useful to be able to talk to these chaps." The waiter returned with the order and Ukann Larfe caught him by the sleeve. "Garcon," he whispered, "regardez this papier." He produced the sheet of pale green paper and as the waiter read the few words written on it his face was drained of all couleur. He bared his teeth and was about to draw a wicked-looking knife from his breast pocket when he changed his mind, called a taxi and left for Avesnes-le-Comte on the 2235 express. Ukann Larfe looked a little bewildered. He examined the paper himself, but was unable to make head or tail of the words. At that moment an astonishingly beautiful woman walked into the cafe. The detective decided at once that he would ask her advice. He watched her carefully. She carried on a rapid conversation with the manager, all in whispers. "Probably a Frenchwoman," decided the astute Ukann. There was no doubt that he was back to his old form again.

The lady seated herself at a table and the maitre himself, none other, brought her a selection of hors d'oeuvre. Ukann Larfe rose to his feet. He would ask her now. Go right up to her and bow. Perhaps kiss her hand and show her some snapshots taken at Bognor in 1938. How the devil did one make progress in France? Then out with the pale green notepaper and voila! the solution. See where this gets him. Skip next months instalment if you like. You'll be sorry.

T.A. and A.E.R.

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

Despite the counter attractions of this somewhat fickle summer, our weekly attendances and week-end activities have been well maintained. Since camp there has been quite an outbreak of volunteering among our national service element, which indicates, perhaps, that things could have been worse down at Walton.

Following close on our Coronation duties, we were honoured to provide a party of two officers and fourteen men to assist in lining the Royal route to the Guildhall on June 12th. More recently in Hyde Park, on July 5th, the Regiment past and present was well represented when Her Majesty reviewed her ex-Servicemen.

Back to the fold after enforced absences on business we gladly welcome Corporals S. Barlow and G. Andrews; the former from Moscow, the latter from not quite so far. Unfortunately, for similar reasons, we must say goodbye to Captains M. Catling, J. Downes and F. Kendall. We hope that they, too, will return before long.

50 (N) INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

Our Coronation Detachment has returned from London and we have had some very interesting accounts of their experiences.

Corporal Hindmarsh has written a very full and interesting account, which has been published in our monthly Regimental News sheet—"The Northumbrian Wire." This monthly news sheet is sent out to all ranks and is proving invaluable in giving National Servicemen news of the Regiment as regards items of topical interest and forthcoming exercises and duties.

On Sunday the 7th of June the Regiment provided a detachment to march in the Mayor's Procession on Mayor's Sunday. Major G. F. H. Walker, O.B.E., T.D., the second-in-command, was Parade Commander and our Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel W. A. Lee, O.B.E., T.D., attended the Mayor on the Saluting Base in company with the Senior Officers of the Royal Navy and the Royal Air Force. We hope that, next year, our Regimental Band, which is coming along well, will be leading the Parade.

We are now busy preparing for Annual Camp on Salisbury Plain on July the 5th, which we are looking forward to.

THE ARMY WIRELESS RESERVE SQUADRON, ROYAL SIGNALS, A.E.R.

We held our first camp at the H.Q. A.E.R. Depot and Training Centre, Royal Signals, Blacon, Chester, from 14th to 28th June, 1953. Since the note on our formation appeared in THE WIRE last September, we have been pleased to welcome a number of enthusiastic volunteers from the world of amateur radio. Special mention should be made of those who worked so hard to make our training period a success. They are Lieutenant J. A. Bladon (Second-in-Command), G3FDU; Sergeant Hodgkins, G3EJF; Sergeant McLean, G3DNQ; Corporal Houghton, G3AMO; and Corporal Willmott, G3ICR. The National Service Reservists who have recently joined us are all very keen, and several of them are changing to A.E.R. volunteer status, and are taking part in our out of camp activities. We were also fortunate in having with us as administration officer, Lieutenant D. A. Neish, attached from 2/20 Army Signals, T.A.

Following a period of individual wireless and general training, we enjoyed a three-day exercise in Cheshire and North Wales. By this time the weather had improved, although this did not bother us so much now that good hutted accommodation has been provided at Blacon Camp.

Of special interest were the series of official tests with a station of the MARS network in Washington. Good communications were established, and this activity, coupled with the use of an amateur station from camp, did much to hold the interest of the younger members of the squadron.

The final Saturday was a day to be remembered. Having been invited by 2 Signal Construction Regiment, A.E.R., to enter a team for their inter-troop football competition, we succeeded in winning this contest against our friends in the Line unit, and carried away for safe keeping, a miniature plaque presented by their officers. In the afternoon, a party of us visited the Mersey Port Radar Station and had a fine welcome from our kindly hosts.

Throughout training we were given most friendly hospitality by members of the Chester and District Radio Society.

Our immediate aim for the future is to reach our full strength with the minimum of delay. We make a special appeal to ex Royal Signals, O.W.L. and Radio Mechanics having a genuine interest in radio communication. Please write to the O.C., Major D. W. J. Haylock, at 230 Devonshire Avenue, Southsea, for further details.

90 A.G.R.A. (FIELD) SIGNAL SQUADRON, T.A.

The Squadron has of necessity had to split for camp this year owing to the fact that our Regiments in the A.G.R.A. decided to camp at different places at different times.

H.Q. Troop and 255 Signal Troop therefore combined to form one large troop and camped at R.A. Practice Camp, Sennybridge, South Wales, from 14th to 28th June. 345 Signal Troop will be camping at Westdown in July.

We found out quite a bit about Sennybridge last year and our first hope after experiencing the weather was that we should leave the guns, and camp somewhere civilised where it didn't rain more than 75 per cent. of the time.

However, from a purely Signals point of view the Brecon area is ideal for Signal Training, being difficult in every respect. Wireless is plain hell unless every station sits on top of a mountain—and there are only two classes of roads—major roads and goat tracks. (Some of the drivers will support this, I'm sure). Lines laid vertically are also possible here.

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Our N.S. element proved much better under bad conditions than anyone expected and together with T.A. pulled their full weight—in fact, it can be said in everyone's favour that C.A.G.R.A. handed us a pretty big rosette at the end of camp. For the benefit of N.S. men I would say that all T.A. men have at least three trades, whether they like it or not, so when operators find themselves laying field cable it is reckoned to be part of the game.

All in all we did very well at camp and the weather, with the exception of the middle week-end, was fairly kind to us. If training improves as it is improving at present then we can expect to be a first class unit by 1954 Camp.

All that remains to be said is that we all hope that 345 Signal Troop have as good a camp as we had—and we sincerely hope we shall all be together again next year.

63 H.Q. L. OF C. SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

The first Regimental D.R. Trials were held on Sunday, 7th June, 1953, at Lee Moor, near Plympton, Devon, under arrangements made by 15 Wireless Squadron.

Teams from the following units were entered: —

15 Wireless Squadron, T.A.
41 Engineer Group, Signal Troop, T.A.
10 Air Support Signal Unit, T.A.

The team event was won by 15 Wireless Squadron, whose team consisted of: —

Lieutenant J. A. Brunyee. S.S.M. W. R. King.
Sergeant R. Burns. Lance-Corporal A. E. Prout.

The individual prize was awarded to Signalman J. R. Felstead, of 10 Air Support Signal Unit, who only lost six points throughout the trials.

The weather was excellent and with the efficient arrangements made by 15 Wireless Squadron, a very pleasant day was spent by both competitors and spectators.

At the conclusion of the day the prizes were presented by Lieutenant-Colonel A. T. Sladen, O.B.E.

Retirement of Staff-Sergeant Mechanist F. G. Goldstone, M.B.E.

IN "Do You Remember" for March, 1953, a reference was made to the 1st Telegraph Battalion, R.E., Stanhope Lines, Aldershot, 1907, and the well-known people in the certain photograph. It may be of interest to know that on 30th April, 1953, Mr. F. G. Goldstone, M.B.E., who was a member of that Battalion, retired from the Signals Research and Development Establishment, Christchurch, after continuous service, both military and civil, since he joined the 1st Telegraph Battalion at Aldershot in 1908.

It is difficult to record his early history as so few are available to tell it. No doubt Captain S. Johnson, M.B.E., who is living in retirement at Bognor, could help to expand this period since he started in the very first experiments with wireless telegraphy at Chatham (School of Military Engineering) in 1897 and retired from the Signals Experimental Establishment during the early '30s. However, we seem to have established the following facts about Mr. Goldstone. He was born on 8th April, 1889, and after serving five years' apprenticeship at the old Marconi Company, he joined the Sappers on 13.2.08; he soon joined the 1st Telegraph Company, whose activities were controlled by the R.E. Committee. He stayed here as a Sapper until 9.2.11 and then as a civilian employee until the outbreak of the First World War. With a few 3in. treadle lathes, a 5in. treadle screw-cutting lathe and a forge, all the early wireless equipment was produced. Some of these models were held for many years at the C.I.E.S.S. pattern room and, when this was closed down, they were sent to the museum at Catterick. Samples can also be seen in either the British Museum or the South Kensington Museum. The transmitters were spark transmitters and the receivers crystals, but sets were made for ground-air operation in man-carrying kites and later in the airship Beta and Colonel Cody's aeroplanes.

On the outbreak of war in 1914, Goldstone was recalled to the colours and went to France as a Staff Sergeant Mechanist with the 1st Signal Squadron, 1st Cavalry Division, and during the retreat from Mons, had the mixed pleasure of relying on two of the wireless sets which he had helped to build at Aldershot. Captain Lefroy started a field experimental section at base in France and soon after this Staff-Sergeant Goldstone was called from the front to join this section. Early in 1915 the valve—as a practical proposition—came into being and Staff-Sergeant Goldstone returned to England to join the W.T. Experimental Section at I.R.E.S. in Woolwich Dockyard. Colonel H. S. Bagnold, C.B., transferred this section to Woolwich Common in July, 1916, where the Signals Experimental Establishment was formed. By this time, Staff-Sergeant Goldstone had become Assistant Foreman in a workshop supporting an Establishment about 250 strong. During this period it should be remembered that, although wireless sets were much simpler, every part had to be made and there were very few manufacturers. Many Government factories sprang up for the purpose of producing the designs made at S.E.E. It was about this time that Mr. Goldstone began to exert his influence on the mechanical design of Signal equipment, which was to be his characteristic for the rest of his career. Always possessing rather strong hands, he was always willing to demonstrate to the scientist or circuit designer that his model would not stand up to the treatment of the "ham-fisted soldier." In fact, his famous test of throwing an article on to a concrete floor he still carries out to this day.

At this time, it should be remembered that S.E.E. dealt with aircraft wireless installations and it was not until some time later that R.A.E., Farnborough, dealt with this work.

In 1919, Mr. Goldstone left the Sappers and took up a civilian post as Assistant Workshop Manager at S.E.E. He held this position, which incorporated control of the Drawing Office, through the period after the First World War, when the "A" and "C" Sets and the No. 1, No. 2 and No. 3 Sets were made, until 1937, when a Development Section was formed in the Establishment to take charge of the development for production after experimental models had been made by the Design Section and approved. Mr. Goldstone was in charge of this when sets like the Wireless Set No. 11 were developed with industry. A fairly full description of the operation of the S.E.E. at this time was given by Lieutenant-Colonel, now Major-General, Arcedeckne Butler in the Signals Quarterly Review for April, 1938.

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On the outbreak of the Second World War, Mr. Goldstone's special knowledge was called upon to assist in the development of Army radar equipment and for some time he was loaned to the Air Defence Experimental Establishment at Christchurch, where he stayed until St. Patrick's Day, 1941, when he returned to the Signals Experimental Establishment, which by this time had moved to Horsham. For his work on radar, he was awarded the M.B.E. It is about this time that his career becomes almost impossible to unravel. He seems to have been at Ministry of Supply headquarters, Iron Trades House, dealing with production purchasing queries, with problems of installation of British wireless equipment in American tanks. At Woolwich Common and Directorate of Tank Design, dealing with installations in British tanks and soft vehicles, with Airborne Forces Equipment, with Combined Operations equipment, with practically everything to do with Army Signals—no one seems to know where he lived or whether he slept, although he was known to find time for a game of solo during an air raid at Woolwich Common on one or two occasions. As a result, the inevitable happened and by the end of the war, he was a very sick man. He returned to Christchurch and thanks to the help of the Chief Superintendent—Colonel Raby—and the Superintendent Engineer—Major Hepburn—he gradually recovered and set up a Mechanical Design Section, where he was able to help other people to use the experience he had gained during his remarkable career.

It is not surprising that what started to be the story of his career has become the story of the Signals Research and Development Establishment, for to many he is the Father of the Establishment! All that remains is to give him our very best wishes for a long and happy retirement.

[Courtesy: United Photographers, London, S.W.9

MAJOR-GENERAL C. W. FLADGATE, C.B.E., Chairman of the Association, took command of 300 of us with 10 Standards at 1 p.m. and we walked rather than marched to our position on the main parade. We were lucky being in the front very close to the Royal Dais located between the Cavalry contingent and the massed ranks of the Royal Air Force. We therefore saw, and heard, all that there was to see and hear.

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Her Majesty and the other members of the Royal Family, including our own Colonel-in-Chief, The Princess Royal, were greeted with a Royal Salute (Standards "veiled" and hats off) and then mounting a specially-bodied Land Rover, she motored around the immense parade.

Everywhere while the front ranks stayed steady, the rear pressed forward to see and cheer and cheer again. Again as the little motor passed in front of the "Division" immediately behind us the majority of the men faced about to join their cheers to those of the Division being inspected.

After the religious service Her Majesty addressed the parade, computed by the newspapers at over 70,000.

Her words have been fully reported in the Press.

We then awaited orders to move to East Carriage Drive for the march past. This time was enlivened by a "stand easy" and much speculation as to whether Mr. Richard Dimbleby, busy with microphone immediately to our front, would, in fact, record the presence of Royal Signals on parade. It was about this time that we were joined by a 19th Lancer who, having lost his own Regiment, sought sanctuary in our ranks: he was made very welcome.

Movement to Speaker's Corner was by tedious "shuffle and halt" enlivened only by the singing of "Hurrah for the C.R.E." by the Royal Engineer contingent. Then suddenly we were on the road, we picked up the music of a band and we were off.

We had managed to get our own standards immediately in front of us and a decent interval between us and the Cavalry, and our marching gained continuous applause over the length of East Carriage Drive and much of Serpentine Road. "Eyes Right" to Her Majesty and those who had eyes for any but Her, noticed our Colonel-in-Chief quickly pointing out Her own Corps to those beside her.

We lost the band music in Serpentine Road and only the whistled harmony of "Begone Dull Care" carried the older ones along in an interminable dusty march to our dispersal point.

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As General Fladgate said while dismissing us, "Thank you, very much" to all who so worthily represented Royal Signals on this great occasion.

A telegram from Marshal of the Royal Air Force, The Lord Tedder, G.C.B., D.C.L., LL.D., who commanded the parade, is reproduced on next page.

[*Courtesy: P. A. Reuter Photos Ltd.*

All on parade for their Queen

"I have received the following signal from Her Majesty: 'I was much impressed by the splendid review of Ex-Service Men and Ex-Service Women in Hyde Park yesterday and by their bearing both during my inspection and as they marched past. I should be very grateful if you, as Commander of the parade, would convey my warm congratulations and best wishes to all the organisations that took part.—Signed, Elizabeth R.' I am extremely proud to have had the honour of commanding you on such an occasion.—Tedder."

*

A vehicle kindly provided by 44 H.C. Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment (T.A.) and manned by S.S.M.s R. Forsythe and S. Fiddles acted as "tender" to the Royal Signals contingent. Its services were invaluable, first with Corps Flag on mast as a rendezvous, and also to convey the standard cases and much other material from our assembly point to dispersal—a considerable distance away.

THREE OTHER MAJOR EVENTS OCCURRED IN JULY

5th July. West Country Reunion and Depot Regiment At Home

First accounts of the Representative Colonel Commandant (Major-General C. M. F. White), some 50 members of the Association and the Band to Newton Abbott are wholly favourable.' The weekend was described by one visitor as, "as good or better than Catterick," and that, as so many of us know, is high praise indeed. To Lieutenant-Colonel P. G. Goodeve-Docker and all at the Depot Regiment our most grateful thanks.

Had some three hundred of us not been otherwise engaged your visitors would have been more numerous. Try it again next year and you will be astonished at the response.

Anyway, it was a grand effort and accounts so far to hand agree that the serving soldiers at the Depot Regiment also enjoyed it.

Major W. C. Savage will be on his way back to East Africa with the newly-consecrated standard of that Branch.

10th July. I.T.B.A. Yes! Again At Tunbridge Wells

Exactly how it was arranged that Captain J. L. Judd and the Band should have a paid engagement in Tunbridge Wells from 11-18th July is not known, but it fitted in very well with the plans of the Sussex and East Kent Branches. They arranged a first-class dance at the Assembly Rooms, which was well attended by ex-Signalmen from Uckfield, Tonbridge and elsewhere and by large contingents of Eastern Command Signal Regiment and the mostly uniformed branch at Sevenoaks.

The dance orchestra of the Band gave of their best from 8 p.m. until midnight and gave the greatest possible pleasure to the gathering of something well over 200. Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. P. H. Smitherman and other officers of Eastern Command Signal Regiment were well in evidence and Mrs. Smitherman very kindly did the drawing of the raffles, securing the best prize for the R.S.M. of her husband's Regiment. A highly successful evening and great credit to Mr. G. E. Paling and his hard working committee.

25th July. York Rally and Reunion

Mention must be made of this astonishingly successful affair run by York Branch of the Association and under the guidance of Brigadier F. P. L. Gray, D.S.O., O.B.E., C.S.O. Northern Command.

In the afternoon a series of displays were presented on the Rugby Football Ground. 6 (Boys) Training Regiment performed the ceremony of Trooping the Standard. The Royal Signals Display Team gave a most finished exhibition of motor cycling, and the Boys Regiment, by now in drenching rain, provided an extremely skilful and entertaining gymnastic display.

In the evening a dance at the Assembly Rooms attracted a capacity crowd, about fifty per cent. of which were Royal Signals.

Exeter Branch

We had a very fair attendance of members at the West Country Reunion at the Depot Regiment, Rawlinson Barracks, Newton Abbot, on the 4th-5th July. Several spent the whole week-end there, but a larger number with their wives travelled to Newton Abbot on the Sunday and were fetched by the regimental bus from the station. Everything went well, thanks to the excellent arrangements made for them by Lieutenant-Colonel P. G. Goodeve-Docker, Officer Commanding, The Depot Regiment, and we are all deeply grateful to him and his staff for all they did for our well-being. In many respects these are "sticky" times for some Branches and a "get together" like this will, we feel, do no end of good. It is a "stir-up" which we need now and then, and it really was refreshing to see Old Comrades from other branches, some of whom we had not seen for years.

We hope this sort of reunion will be an annual affair.

Scarborough

It has been quite some time since notes have been forthcoming from this Branch, nevertheless meetings continue to be held each month and a happy get-together ensues.

Last winter we entered for the first time the Scarborough Miniature Rifle League and much to our surprise were awarded a cup for the most improved team in the League. A photograph of the successful team is produced.

Monthly meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month in Burniston Barracks (of old 5 Divisional Signals fame) and we will be pleased to see any members who happen to be in the district.

Major F. Mansfield is still fulfilling the office of Secretary and there is excellent liaison between the Branch and 5 A.A. (M) Signal Regiment in the Barracks. As can be imagined, the majority of members are old 5 Division chaps who were captured during their more virile days. Two new members just out of the Service are W.O.II George Farley and W.O.II George Hayes.

Photograph of Scarborough Branch Miniature Rifle League Team, 1952-1953. Standing: Sgt. Ryder, Sgt. Gill, S.S.M. Ormond. Seated: Mr. Hayward, Mr. Thornton, Captain Pummell, Mr. Lindale. Cup is for most improved team in the league

THE ASSOCIATION OF R.E. DESPATCH RIDERS

DO you remember them? In 1914, Corporals all, mounted at first on every pattern of motor cycles then known, they provided an essential, and sometimes the only, means of intercommunication during the first days of 1914. The originals had received no military training whatsoever, and in the hectic days of retreat from Mons and advance to the Aisne they acted more as personal 'aide' to their Commanders than does the modern D.R. working on scheduled runs between Signal Offices.

It is, perhaps, from these early "independents" that the tradition of rugged individualism persists and rightly persists in the Depatch Riders even until now.

Well over 200 of the originals of 1914-18 all, or nearly all, in the 55-70 age group assembled for their 1953 dinner at Earls Court on 27th June. This was unexpectedly appropriate as the last run of the Royal Signals Display Team in the 1953 Tournament was taking place during the Dinner.

Lord Sandhurst, O.B.E., was, as is usual, the Chairman, and General Sir H. Colville B. Wemyss proposed the Toast of the Association, recalling how, in the mobilisation scheme of his Signal Company in July, 1914, which detailed by number and name every reservist who was to join, there was a significant phrase—"Despatch Riders will be provided on mobilisation."

He spoke of the magnificent performance of the Despatch Riders of those days and of his wonder that so very long after, so many were still strong enough and loyal enough to come to the Dinner.

Brigadier H. R. Firth had the honour of replying for "The Visitors," but as General Wemyss had confessed to riding a motor cycle in 1910, was at some loss to discover who, besides himself, was a visitor.

Amongst the list of very distinguished men present, Air Chief Marshal Sir Hugh Lloyd was, like Lord Portal of Hungerford, himself an ex-D.R. and a suggestion that Mr. Graham Walker, twice winner of the T.T., accounted that feat more honourable than the rank of Corporal D.R. in R.E. Signals, was greeted with the contempt it deserved.

It was at Graham Walker's behest that an emissary was sent up to bring in some of the 1953 D.R.s to have their healths drunk after dinner, but alas, the D.R. of today is no different from his forebears. The 1953 Tournament was not yet ended, but all save three were already out and away, no doubt with somebody else's sister.

To the enormous satisfaction of all, Mr. Ernest R. Gilbert agreed under pressure, to organise at least one more dinner in 1954.

A detachment of the Royal Engineers band played during dinner.

Royal Signals Benevolent Fund

Also on this page is a simple statement of income and expenditure. Below an attempt is made to describe with suitable anonymity eight cases taken at random from the office of the Welfare Section at 88 Eccleston Square.

Widow of ex-Corporal who died earlier this year after a considerable period of illness. The fund, which had helped a little prior to her husband's death, gave Mrs. X a sum sufficient to enable her to restart her life clear of all debt.

Ex-Signalman, 1941-46, N.W. Europe and Middle East has been ill in hospital. The fund paid the debts incurred while his wife and children were readjusting expenditure to new income and also helped by paying fares for some of her journeys to visit him.

Ex-Signalman, 1922/31 and 1933/46, met with an accident causing extensive damage to the vehicle he was driving. He writes: "I cannot find words great enough to express my appreciation for all the help you have given me."

Ex-Driver, 1942/46, discharged "ceasing to fulfil." Married, two children, the Benevolent Fund and the British Legion alternately send him 10s. a week to supplement the small weekly sum allowed by the State.

Ex-Signalman, 1939/51, discharged with 100 per cent. disability pension. This does him very well for day to day expenses of his family, but does not suffice when suddenly they get an offer of a house of their own. The fund helped to some of the furnishing of their home.

Ex-Signalman, 1941-45, P.O.W. Italy and Germany. Has a large family and a small pension. Before the war he was a skilled tradesman, now he can only work a little as a driver. The fund continues to help him and his family.

Ex-Driver, 1941/46, Middle East and India. The fund co-operated with the British Legion in paying much of the expense of a costly removal necessitated by the health of one of his children.

Ex-Signalman, Long Service Regular, 1932/46. Has been unable to work for some time owing to illness. His wife's earnings plus what he receives by National Assistance kept the family going. The fund helped a little.

There were also several cases during the month where serving soldiers and their dependants benefited, but the Welfare Section assures the Editor that even a very cautious precis of any of these would still be unsuitable for publication.

ROYAL SIGNALS BENEVOLENT FUND

	£	s.	d.
Subscriptions received during June, 1953:—			
1 Training Regiment	10	0	0
3 Training Regiment	18	7	4
5 Training Regiment	5	0	0
7 Training Regiment	10	0	0
Depot Regiment	27	5	8
1 Corps Signal Regiment	27	8	8
11 Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment	5	0	0
Northern Command (M) Signal Regiment	6	0	0
Kent Coast Troop	3	0	0
12 A.A. (M) Signal Regiment	10	0	
Donations received during June, 1953:—			
The Late Colonel P. R. Bald	2	0	0
F. E. Secret	3	0	
H. E. Prater	2	0	
R. G. Aitken	7	0	
W. Connelly	8	0	
A. Sunderland	2	6	
P. H. James	5	0	
D. G. Whitney	2	6	
E. A. Smith	11	2	
D. A. Hogben	10	6	
B. J. Savage	1	0	0
Milton Bridge Coronation Committee	1	0	0
Royal Signals H.Q. Officers' Mess	1	9	0
The Late Lieutenant-Colonel P. Jennings, O.B.E., M.C. (legacy)	460	0	0
Total Receipts	£580	12	4

	£	s.	d.
Expenditure during June, 1953 (Includes:—General Assistance; Hire Purchase; Rents and Rates; Fares; Convalescence; Removals.)	£475	11	10
Analysis of cases:			
Families of Soldiers serving in U.K.	4		
,, ,, ,, ,, ,, B.A.O.R.	1		
,, ,, ,, ,, ,, M.E.L.F.	1		
,, ,, ,, ,, ,, FARELF	2		
Widows and Dependants	1		
Released and discharged soldiers	44		
Total cases assisted	53		

Indian Signal Corps, 1911-1926 DINNER CLUB

SIXTY-SEVEN members of the Club dined on 30th May, 1953, and amongst the guests was Jemadar Ajaib Khan, representing Captain Mufti Wajahat Hussein, Commanding Pakistan Signals Coronation Contingent, who was on guard at Buckingham Palace.

This apparently youthful Officer, albeit with 17 years service, two rows of medal ribbons, including the Military Medal earned in Italy, joined us with a natural grace and dignity which charmed us all.

You know what it is like when old comrades from India get together, memories begin to glow afresh, forgotten incidents come to life. Jemadar Ajaib Khan, whose home is in the Rawal Pindi District, just kindled these memories into a blaze and there was never a dull moment as members chatted to him and familiar names and places were recalled.

He can scarcely have guessed who he was to meet at this gathering and perhaps what surprised him most was the fact that practically all his hosts had served in his country, and left it before even he was born in Rawal Pindi. So perhaps we don't quite look our age!

As you will read later in this bulletin, Jemadar Ajaib Khan made an excellent speech after dinner. He was the highlight of the evening and gave us just what we needed, that magic link between past and present.

Another hoped-for guest who, unfortunately, could not attend, was Captain Vyvyan Holt, C.M.G., M.V.O., who as the world knows has recently returned from captivity in Korea.

He had served in 36th D.S.C., Peshawar, 1918, and it so happened that Bill Dowley was his C.Q.M.S. at that time.

Brigadier W. E. Kidner proposed the toast "Our Indian Comrades." He invited Jemadar Ajaib Khan to carry back to Pakistan Signals the sincere greetings of all present.

On rising to reply, Jemadar Ajaib Khan was given a rousing reception.

For several minutes he held our undivided attention. He told us of the geography of Pakistan and that when the division of India took place there were no Signal Training Centres in Pakistan. Now they had a Basic Training Centre, a Technical Training Centre and a School of Signals, Corps Signals with Line Construction Companies and several Divisional Signals. As regards equipment he spoke of mechanisation, R/T sets, Fullerphones and Teleprinters. Visual Signalling is a thing of the past, and to the amused dismay of his listeners, he told us that the mule is no longer to be found in Signals.

The march of progress has clearly changed the face of Signals as we knew it, but we all felt that the spirit we helped to create is evidently well alive. He told us of two British Officers who serve today with Pakistan Signals, the name of one is Vulliamy, so the family connection continues!

Jemadar Ajaib Khan concluded his speech with words which were moving in their sincerity. In thanking us for our hospitality he told us that this reunion which he had been privileged to attend, would remain in his memory for ever.

Full particulars of the Dinner Club may be obtained from Captain W. A. Dowley, 153 Mytchett Road, Mytchett, near Aldershot, Hants.

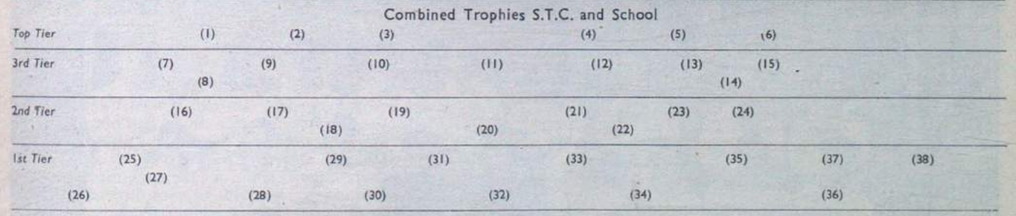
Royal Signals in Sport 1952-3

ROYAL SIGNALS victories this year in both the Army Rugby Union and the Association Football Challenge Cups came as a brilliant climax to a year of noteworthy achievement in the whole field of sport.

The winning of both these cups in the same season is a feat which has never before been performed by any Regiment or Corps, and indeed, only four—The Royal Army Medical Corps, The Royal Leicestershire Regiment, The King's Own Royal Regiment and the Royal Tank Corps—have at any time won the two Cups. The Royal Tank Corps, units of which won the Soccer Cup in 1934-35 and the Rugger Cup in 1935-36, come nearest to equalling our feat.

The Rugby Cup has been in Catterick several times in the past few years, but no unit of the Corps has ever before won the Soccer Cup. In the 1930-31 season, 4th Divisional Signals reached the final but were beaten two goals to one by the

Combined Trophies S.T.C. and School



KEY TO PHOTOGRAPH OF TROPHIES WON BY ROYAL SIGNALS, CATTERICK CAMP, 1952/53.

1. Army Cross Country Championship Individual Winner.
2. Northern Command Motor Cycle Trials Unit Challenge Cup.
3. Auto Cycling Union National Rally Whitworth Cup.
4. Northumbrian District Inter Unit Cross Country League Championship.
5. Northern Command Inter Unit Team Boxing Challenge Cup.
6. Catterick Garrison Officers' Club Squash Racquets Challenge Cup.
7. Ripon City Association Football Charity Cup.
8. Northumbrian District Inter Unit Rugby Football Challenge Cup.
9. Ripon and District Association Football Hulme Challenge Cup.
10. Northern Command Inter Unit Rugby Football.
11. Army Association Football Challenge Cup.
12. Catterick Garrison Triangular Athletics Challenge Cup (R.A.F.-R.A.C.-Royal Signals).
13. Catterick Garrison Lawn Tennis Open Mixed Doubles Challenge Cup.
14. Catterick Garrison Lawn Tennis Inter Unit Doubles Challenge Cup.
15. Northumbrian District Cycling Inter Unit Road Race Challenge Cup.
16. Royal Signals Golfing Society Challenge Bowl.
17. Northumbrian District Inter Unit Seven-a-Side Rugby Knockout Competition.
18. Northern Command Inter Unit Hockey Challenge Cup.
19. Army Rugby Football Challenge Cup.
20. The Sparta Trophy (Best Loser in Army Individual Boxing Championships).
21. Northumbrian District Association Football Challenge Cup.
22. Northern Command Inter Unit Water Polo Championship.
23. Hull and E. Riding Seven-a-Side Rugby Tournament.
24. Northern Command Motor Cycle Trials—Team Championship.
25. Northern Command Boys Inter Unit Team Boxing Championship Shield.
26. Northumbrian District Inter Unit Six-a-Side Hockey Tournament.
27. Northumbrian District Lawn Tennis Inter Regiment Doubles Challenge Cup.
28. Northumbrian District Lawn Tennis Open Doubles Championship.
29. Northumbrian District Badminton Inter Unit Championship.
30. Northumbrian District Hockey Inter Unit Championship.
31. Northern Command Basket Ball Inter Unit Championship.
32. Northern Command Cricket Inter Unit Challenge Cup.
33. Royal Signals Golfing Society Challenge Cup.
34. Northumbrian District Lawn Tennis Gentleman's Open Singles Championship.
35. Northumbrian District Lawn Tennis Open Doubles Championship.
36. Northumbrian District Squash Racquets Challenge Cup.
37. Northumbrian District Boxing Inter Unit Championship.
38. Northern Command Cross Country Inter Unit Championship Shield.

Sherwood Foresters, while in the last year's final, 7 Training Regiment suffered a similar defeat.

At the beginning of the 1952-53 soccer season only two of the previous year's team were left in 7 Training Regiment, but enthusiasm, determination and hard training built up this small nucleus into a well-balanced side, whose success reflects great credit on its organisers.

This year's great double victory is an achievement of which we can be justly proud, but nevertheless we must not let it overshadow too much the merits of the successes gained by representatives in many other games. Behind these two outstanding team events lies a solid block of individual and team effort in almost every form of sport.

Captain Andrew's fine performance at Bisley, Signalman Norris's individual win in the Army Cross-Country Championship, and Signalman Heayn's great boxing performances testify to the wide range of individual effort which has contributed so much towards keeping "Signals" in the forefront.

A survey of the year's sport makes inspiring reading.

RUGBY

Corps Matches

The Corps had a good season during which they defeated R.E.M.E., R.E., St. Andrew's University and Oxford University Greyhounds, but lost to R.M.A., Sandhurst and to the Cambridge LX Club.

Four members of the Corps and one attached from R.A.E.C., Second Lieutenant Ian Thompson (Scotland), Corporal R. J. Robins (Wales), Signalman T. Brewer (Wales), S.Q.M.S. Rees and Lieutenant A. B. Edwards (R.A.E.C.), were awarded Army Caps, while seven others of the Corps represented the Army in various matches.

"Signals, Catterick" had a very full programme of matches with many of the best clubs in the North and further enhanced a reputation which already stood very high in Northern Rugby circles. We had hoped to retain the Yorkshire Cup which our team won last year when they were the first Service team ever to reach the final of this 73-year-old competition, but the claims of the Army and the imminence of the Army Rugby Final so weakened us in the seventh round that the team we fielded was just not strong enough to overcome the very fit Goole Old Boys, who won a good game by 14 points to nine.

1 Training Regiment began the season with a good many gaps to be filled, particularly in the back divisions, and in the early days there were many who doubted the ability of the available players to maintain the Rugby reputation of the Regiment. How wrong they were is shown by this extract from J. P. Jordan's account in the *Daily Telegraph* of the Army Rugby Final:

> "Never can a better team have won the Cup . . . Splendidly fit, they maintained a fast pace throughout, and in the last quarter of an hour they had their opponents completely beaten."

Those of us who were privileged to see this match were immensely proud of our team's performance.

A dominant factor in this year's success, as in other years, was the fitness of the team. Many times during the season we saw them completely over-run formidable opponents during the final stages of a game. Tribute must be paid to Major G. M. Fraser, whose great experience in the organising, training and control of Rugby teams is devoted wholeheartedly to the interests of the Regiment and the Corps.

Including their 35—0 win over the 1st Welsh Guards in the Final, the Regiment scored, in the Army Cup Competition, a total of 316 points, while only 12 were scored against them. The summary of competition Rugby Football in Catterick and district is:—

1 Training Regiment
- Winners, Army Rugby Challenge Cup.
- Winners, Northern Command Rugby Tournament.
- Winners, Northumbrian District Rugby Tournament.
- Winners, Northern Command Seven-a-Side Competition ("B" Team).
- Runners-up, Northern Command Seven-a-Side Competition ("A" Team).
- Runners-up, Huddersfield Seven-a-Side Competition.

1 TRAINING REGIMENT, ROYAL SIGNALS RUGBY FOOTBALL TEAM, 1952-53

Standing: Lance-Corporal D. R. Holdsworth, Signalmen N. Mackie, J. A. Turner, W. Boston, G. W. Spillane, Lance-Corporal D. W. Hinchley, Lance-Corporal J. Dunn, Second-Lieutenant R. L. May, Signalman A. K. McRae. Seated: Corporal J. Gittins, Signalman I. W. Black, S.Q.M.S. D. F. Rees, Second-Lieutenant J. A. D. Lazenby, Lieut.-Colonel R. W. Atkinson, O.B.E., Major G. M. Fraser, Lance-Corporal R. J. Robins, Corporal J. Lyall, Corporal M. R. H. Lewis. Front row: Second-Lieutenant D. S. Dakers, Second-Lieutenant R. B. W. Oliver, Corporal D. G. Bowen, Signalman B. Griffiths

Courtesy: A. J. Glover, Richmond, Yorks.

7 Training Regiment, Royal Signals, Football Team, 1952-53. Winners of Army Football Challenge Cup and Northumbrian District Football Cup
Standing: Signalman R. Johnson (sports storeman), Sergeant S. McCartney (trainer), Lance-Corporal A. Quixall, Lance-Corporal J. Cameron, Lance-Corporal J. Spiers, Signalman R. Brown, Lance-Corporal T. Rutter, Corporal J. Greenhalgh, Signalman E. Taylor (assistant trainer). Seated: Signalman A. Finney, Lance-Corporal G. Barker, Signalman R. Wood (captain), Lieut.-Colonel J. P. North, M.B.E., Second-Lieutenant K. G. White (O. i/c football), Signalman B. Frear, Corporal J. Wood

5 Training Regiment
- Runners-up, Northern Command Rugby Tournament.

6 (Boys) Training Regiment (Cadre)
- Winners, Hull and East Riding Seven-a-Side Competition.

Officer Training Wing
- Runners-up, Northumbrian District Rugby Tournament.
- Winners, Northumbrian District Seven-a-Side Competition.

Royal Signals Wing
- Runners-up, Northumbrian District Seven-a-Side Competition.

Many may wonder how these successes are come by. There are two factors that are, perhaps, not well known in the Corps, and that lead to the enthusiasm for and concentration on training which make a winning team. Major Fraser is, of course, the man behind the scenes and a very great deal of credit must go to him. The rugger club is the other factor. The club room is cosy and well furnished and is bedecked with rugger trophies gained by past teams. Bedecked as well with an interesting variety of trophies obtained at other events that are better left to the imagination. These indicate high spirits after successful matches. In this Club, rugby players assemble to talk rugby "shop" over a glass of beer, and to listen to lectures on rugby.

This is where men relax among their own kind and get to know each other well; leading to that perfect co-ordination on the field which has produced such excellent results.

SOCCER

On the 15th April at the Aldershot Military Stadium, 7 Training Regiment beat 28 Battalion R.A.O.C., by three goals to two and so, for the first time a unit of the Corps became the holder of the Army F.A. Challenge Cup.

7 Training Regiment's win was generally acknowledged to be well deserved since they played better football than their opponents. Great credit is due not only to the players, but to the organisers and trainer who built up this excellent team from such small beginnings.

In the Army Cup Competition the team scored 27 goals and had 15 scored against them.

Three players, Quixall, Finney and Wood, represented the Army.

5 Training Regiment also had a good season, winning two of the Ripon and District Civilian Competitions.

3 Training Regiment
- Runners-up, Northern Command F.A. Cup.

5 Training Regiment
- Winners, Ripon and District Challenge Cup.
- Winners, Hulme Cup (Ripon and District).

7 Training Regiment
- Winners, Army F.A. Challenge Cup.
- Winners, Northumbrian District Cup.

HOCKEY

7 Training Regiment, without having any "star" players other than Captain Sidney, had a very well-balanced and keen side which enjoyed a remarkably good season. On several occasions the team *en bloc* represented Catterick Services, and in the Army Hockey Cup Competition they reached the semi-final of the U.K. Series, but were beaten 2—0 by the S.M.E., Chatham, in that round.

3 Training Regiment
- Runners-up, Garrison Summer League.

7 Training Regiment
- Semi-finalists, Army (U.K.) Hockey Cup.
- Winners, Northern Command Cup.
- Winners, Northumbrian District Cup.

Royal Signals Wing
- Winners, Northumbrian District League.
- Winners, Northumbrian District Six-a-Side Competition ("A" Team).
- Runners-up, Northumbrian District Six-a-Side Competition ("B" Team).

7 Training Regiment, Royal Signals
Winners of the Northumbrian District and Northern Command Hockey Challenge Cups
Standing : Sergeant W. J. Harrison, Corporal R. A. Crampton, Sergeant F. C. Williams, Second-Lieutenant J. A. Penny, S.S.M. G. D. Rockall, Sergeant J. C. Boswell, S.Q.M.S. L. J. Taylor. Seated : Second-Lieutenant D. A. K. Gibson, Second-Lieutenant J. G. Smith, Second-Lieutenant J. C. Eversfield (captain), Lieut.-Colonel J. P. North, M.B.E., Captain D. C. Sidney, Captain J. W. Ingledow

BOXING

Once again 2 Training Regiment featured prominently in North of England and Army Boxing Competitions and for the third successive year reached the final of the Army Inter-Unit Team Championships only to be beaten again by their old rivals, 4 Training Battalion, R.A.O.C.—this time by a single point. For the third successive year also they won the Northern Command and Northumbrian District Championships, while they were undefeated in a number of matches against North of England Civilian Clubs. They were successful recently in a match against a team chosen from among the best amateur boxers in the North of England. Four of the team—Signalmen Heayns, Martin, Walters and Marshall—won their weights in the Northern Command Championships, while three others—Signalman Dry, Clowes and Corcoran—were runners-up.

Back row : Boy Saltiel, Sergeant Richmond, Q.M.S.I. Jameson, Boy/Corporal Hamilton. Front row : Boy/Lance-Corporal Pengilly, Boy Metcalf, Lieutenant-Colonel A. J. Keddie, Boy Gibson

Heayns went on to become I.S.B.A. Champion, was awarded his Army and I.S.B.A. Colours and selected for International Honours while Walters became Army Champion and was awarded his Army Colours.

Martin, although beaten in the semi-final of the Army Individual Open Amateur Boxing Championships, was awarded the Sparta Trophy for 1952/53 as the best loser in the Championships.

5 Training Regiment were represented in the Northern Command Individual Boxing Championships by Sergeant E. White, who won the Light Middleweight title, by Lance-Corporal Snell, who won the Heavyweight, and by Corporal Beattie, who was runner-up in the Light Heavyweights.

The two former N.C.O.s were picked to represent Northern Command in the Army Championships and later Sergeant White boxed for the Army, while Snell represented Wales.

3 Training Regiment and **7 Training Regiment** each provided a runner-up in the Northern Command Championships in Lance-Corporal Haffe and Corporal Edwards respectively, thus in a total of eight weights in the Competition, members of the Corps won six and were runners-up in six—a very creditable performance.

6 (Boys) Training Regiment besides winning the Northern Command Shield (Boys), had four title winners and one runner-up in the Army Boys' Individual Championships. Boy Gibson (the holder) retained his title as Light Heavyweight Champion, while Boy Lance-Corporal Pengilly, won the Lightweight, Boy Corporal Hamilton the Featherweight and Boy Metcalf the Flyweight titles. Boy Saltiel was runner-up in the Bantam weight.

This result out of an entry of eight is a very fine achievement and is no doubt due in great measure to encouragement, advice and training given by those two old Corps boxers now with the Regiment, i.e., The Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel A. J. Keddie and Sergeant Richmond.

The record of the Boxing season is:—

2 Training Regiment
- Runners-up, Army Inter-Unit Team Championship.
- Winners, Northern Command Team Championship.
- Winners, Northumbrian District Team Championship

Individuals
- Signalman Heayns (Bantamweight winner), Northern Command, Army and I.S.B.A., A.B.A. Finalist, English International. Awarded Army and I.S.B.A. Colours.
- Signalman Walters (Welterweight winner), Northern Command and Army - I.S.B.A. Semi - finalist. Awarded Army Colours.
- Signalman Martin (Light-Welterweight), winner Northern Command. Awarded Sparta Trophy for best loser in Army Open Amateur Championships.

5 Training Regiment
- Sergeant White (Light-Middleweight), winner, Northern Command. Represented Army.
- Lance-Corporal Snell (heavyweight), winner, Northern Command. Represented Wales.

6 (Boys) Training Regiment
- Winners, Northern Command Shield (Boys).

Individuals
- Boy Gibson (Light-Heavyweight), winner, Army Boys' Individual Championship. Runner-up I.S.B.A. Boys' Individual Championship.
- Boy (Lance-Corporal) Pengilly (Lightweight), winner, Army Boys' Individual Championship. Runner-up, I.S.B.A. Boys' Individual Championship.
- Boy Metcalf (Flyweight), winner, Army Boys' Individual Championship. Runner-up, I.S.B.A. Boys' Individual Championship.
- Boy Corporal Hamilton (Featherweight), winner, Army Boys' Individual Championship.
- Boy Saltiel (Bantam), runner-up, Army Boys' Individual Championship.

CROSS COUNTRY

2 Training Regiment won the Northern Command and Northumbrian District Championships in very good style and by a considerable margin in points, but were only able to secure sixth place in the Army Championship, where the standard this year was extremely high. 3 Training Regiment secured fourth place in the Northern Command Championship followed by 4 Training Regiment in fifth place. 4 Training Regiment, however, supplied the individual winner in all three of the District, Command and Army Championships.

2 Training Regiment
- Winners, Northumbrian District Cross-Country Championship.
- Winners, Northern Command Cross-Country Championship.

Individual

4 Training Regiment
- Signalman Norris, winner, Northumbrian District, Northern Command, and Army Cross-Country Championship.

RIFLE SHOOTING

Captain K. E. P. Andrews, of Royal Signals Wing, brought the name of the Corps well to the fore at Bisley last year and many of us will recall how exciting the broadcast of the final stages became. We wish him even greater success this year.

Captain Andrew's results were:—

A.R.A. Central Meeting, Bisley, 1952

Winner	Henry Whitehead Cup	Score 182/200
	(There were 1,000 entries for this shoot)	
Third	Army Hundred Cup	Score 167/200
Fifth	Army Championship	Score 454/550

[*Courtesy: Gale and Polden, Ltd.*
Presentation by Field-Marshal The Lord Wilson of Libya of Henry Whitehead Cup to Captain K. E. P. Andrews

N.R.A. National Meeting, Bisley, 1952

Third Queen's Prize Score 274/300
(There were 1,300 entries for the Queen's Prize)
Third St. George's Vase.
Fourth Duke of Gloucester's Prize.

Captain Andrew's also fired in the Army VIII and in the Army XX.

Although we cannot claim him as a member of either the School of Signals or S.T.C., mention must be made of the splendid performance of Second Lieutenant T. Elford, Royal Signals, A.E.R., and lately of 1 Training Regiment, who made the highest score for the T.A. in the "Regular Army and T.A." Cup Competition at Bisley, and who also fired in the T.A. VIII.

CRICKET

1 Training Regiment did well last season, winning both the Northumbrian District and Northern Command Championships. The former competition produced an All Signals final with O.T.W. as the other finalists. Signalman Mortimer of the Royal Signals Wing, represented the Army, as did Major B. A. Gomm, of O.T.W. Major Gomm had the honour of captaining an Army team touring B.A.O.R.

Results

1 Training Regiment
Winners, Northern Command Cricket Cup.
Winners, Northumbrian District Cricket Cup.
O.T.W.
Runners-up, Northumbrian District Cricket Cup.

Successes gained in other sports were:—

BASKET BALL

3 Training Regiment
Winners (second year), Northern Command Basket Ball Competition.
Runners-up, Northumbrian District Basket Ball Competition.
Runners-up, Northumbrian District Basket Ball League.
1 Training Regiment
Runners-up, Northern Command Basket Ball League.

BADMINTON

2 Training Regiment
Winners, Northumbrian District Championship.
3 Training Regiment
Runners-up, Northumbrian District Championship.

SWIMMING

5 Training Regiment
Runners-up, Northern Command Swimming Championships.

WATER POLO

2 Training Regiment
Winners, Northern Command Championship. Signalman Nutter represented the Army.

CYCLING

1 Training Regiment
Winners, Northumbrian District Inter-Unit Massed Start Challenge Cup.
Winners, Northumbrian District 15-miles Time Trial.
7 Training Regiment
Runners-up, Army 25-mile Road Time Trial.
Individual
Signalman Brittain, runner-up.

MOTOR CYCLING

5 Training Regiment
Winners, Northern Command Motor Cycle Trials.
Runners-up, Northern Command Motor Cycle Trials.
Winners, Witworth Cup in A.C.V. Rally.
Sergeant Rowthorn represented the Army in the International 6-day motor cycle trials.
Staff-Sergeant Nicholson represented the Army in the 6-day Scottish motor cycle trials.

ATHLETICS

6 (Boys) Training Regiment
Boy Miller, winner 100 yards Northern Command and Army and second Long Jump, Northern Command.
Boy Corporal Cork, winner, Long Jump, Northern Command.
Boy Sergeant Meekings, winner, Discus, Northern Command.

In the Northern Command Athletic Championship the Boys secured the first three places in the Long Jump and Discus, second and third in the High Jump and first in 100 yards.

In the Milocarian Trophy, open to all the Schools of England, the Regiment was placed 13th.

SQUASH

R.S.W.
Winners, Garrison Squash Challenge Cup.
Winners, Catterick Garrison Officers' Club Championship.

TENNIS

1 Training Regiment
Winners, Northumbrian District Inter-Regimental Doubles Championship.
Winners, Northumbrian District Inter-Unit Doubles Championship.
Winners, Royal Signals Inter-Unit Doubles Championship.
Individuals
Winners, Northumbrian District Open Doubles: Major E. N. L. Brown, Royal Signals; Major P. A. Watts, Royal Signals.
Winner, Northumbrian District Gentlemen's Open Singles: Major E. N. L. Brown, Royal Signals.
Winners, Northumbrian District Open Mixed Doubles: Major E. N. L. Brown, Mrs. E. L. L. Vulliamy.

FENCING

Lieutenant R. A. King, O.T.W., represented England in the Epee.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

It may be of interest to know that 2 Training Regiment, in addition to their fine record of sport, have won the District Guard Mounting Competition on three occasions, have tied for first place in the District Drill Competition on several occasions; were awarded the Garrison Trophy for the best Regimental Lines in the Garrison, were runners-up for the best Guard Room and secured the prize for the best display of table flowers.

The foregoing record of "sporting and other activity" achievements built up against keen, strong opposition, proves that ability and talent exist, even if latent, and that it only requires leadership and encouragement to bring them to fruition. Wherever there is an enthusiastic officer, W.O., or senior N.C.O. experienced in a sport or game, who is prepared to devote his time and efforts to organisation and training there also will be found a team which excels at that sport. An outstanding example of this occurred a few years ago when Lieutenant-Colonel Maurice Shardlow built up from scratch in 1 Training Regiment, a cross-country team which became so imbued with his own enthusiasm that they carried everything before them, including the winning of the Army Championship.

It is notable in the above record that, except for 6 (Boys) Training Regiment, we have been eclipsed in athletics, in which we once excelled.

This sad fact has already been remarked and it is hoped that the attention now being devoted to preparations for this season's athletics will put "Signals" once again on the map.

Sport—Stop Press

Since this article was written and printed, the following results have come in:—

Northern Command Inter-Unit Athletics Championships—Results

1st ... ... 1 Training Regiment.
2nd ... ... Royal Signals Wing.
3rd ... ... Officer Training Wing.

In the *Army Athletics Championships* at Aldershot on the 29th July:—1 Training Regiment came 6th.

SINGAPORE DISTRICT SIGNAL REGIMENT

Amalgamating the notes for June and this month, we begin these as we began the period, with a few words about the Coronation and Queen's Birthday Parades here in Singapore.

We provided a detachment on both, those partaking in the Coronation Parade looking resplendent in No. 3 Dress, thereby adding to the glorious colour of the occasion. Captain A. R. McCreadie represented the Regiment on Parade, ably assisted by our R.Q.M.S. W.O.II Hipperson, who did a grand job in preparing the detachment for the Parade.

Following closely in the same week, Saturday 6th June, 1953, found us being awakened at the unearthly hour of 0330 hours, in preparation for the Birthday Parade at 0730 hours, in the "Cool of the day." The Royal Signals Detachment was commended by Major C. H. Howarth, M.B.E., T.D., and our unit detachment by Captain S. A. Frost with S.Q.M.S. Petit lending a strong right arm and voice.

The beginning of the month was the occasion for the Malay Other Ranks, of their Puasa, a month fasting. Hari Raya Puasa was celebrated on Sunday, 14th June, 1953, in the M.O.R. Cookhouse. All Officers and Senior N.C.O.s were invited and were well looked after.

Losses to the Regiment on R.H.E., have included a lot of the well-known and well-established faces. We were all very sorry to say farewell to Captain (T.O.T.) F. A. Davidson and family, Sergeants Surch and McAlpine, Corporals Maynard and Gibbs. Line communications certainly improved on Singapore Island, with their concentrated efforts.

Major C. H. Howarth, M.B.E., T.D., Royal Signals, leaves us on the 14th July, 1953, to take up a Staff appointment and promotion in H.Q. Malaya District.

We welcome to swell our depleted ranks, both Captain L. P. Clayton from G.H.Q., FARELF, who goes to 1 Squadron and I.U.G. Troop, and Captain (T.O.T.) F. V. Mancy who also goes to 1 Squadron in the post vacated by Captain Davidson.

This year we are playing a lot of cricket with mixed results, and we have five representatives in the Corps XI, Captain S. A. Frost, Second-Lieutenant M. J. H. Williams, Sergeant Green, Sergeant Hill and Signalman Washbrook.

do you remember?

AUGUST and September, 1933, and an account of what went on occupies 96 pages of THE WIRE of those months.

All about the Old Comrades' Reunion of that year at Aldershot. They always entertained the Old Comrades and any serving members of the Corps who could come to sports on the Mons Barracks Cricket Ground. The fantastic thing about those sports, and we were as good at athletics then as now, was that not one single visitor ever had time to even glance at them. They were all too busy swopping old friends and old yarns. Published also was a list of officers who dined with the dinner club that year. There were nothing like as many as nowadays, but the names, if read slowly, are 30 years of authentic history. Take only one from each rank: Sir John Fowler, E. V. Turner, R. H. Willan, C. W. Fladgate, R. H. Rayner, R. H. R. Steward, G. B. Bell.

Bulford, too, had thirty members of the Association to Church under Lieutenant-Colonel R. F. B. Naylor and there was a band concert in the British Legion Hall, Salisbury.

The D.R.s of Southern Command based on Tidworth were taking part in the Tidworth Tattoo and the Catterick Display was in the grand manner, with 12 horses and 12 motorcycles being ridden round, through and over each other.

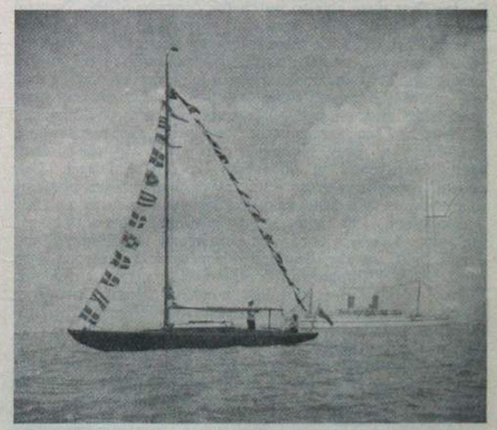
Talking of displays, consider the White City Tattoo of 1953. The Royal Air Force Regiment imitating the Royal Marines' Drill Display, the Metropolitan Police doing a Musical Ride dressed in the pre-war full dress uniforms of famous Cavalry Regiments, and the Army Mechanical Transport School giving an admirable slow motion parody of the Royal Signals' Motorcycle Display. There were no doubt other displays, but these three sufficed to show that nowadays nothing is sacred.

The first number of the Royal Signals Quarterly Journal had appeared in July 1933 and THE WIRE was publicising it to the best of its ability.

Cito at the Royal Review

WE met at the Royal Lymington Yacht Club at noon on the Saturday, General Scott, Sylvia Scott, Robert Holbrook and Roy Phippard. The four of us and all our food and gear were packed into the coffin, a very good buy which I have never yet seen overloaded, and with one pull of the starter cord we were off down river to *Cito*. An easy run up the Solent took us as far as the Beaulieu River, where we stayed the night anchored just south of Ginns Farm.

On the Sunday we got away at about ten and were at Spithead, at the head of the line of warships, by eleven. There was a moderate westerly breeze, under which we ran down the whole length of the seven mile line. In bright sunshine it was a glorious sight, with hundreds of small craft under sail and power, their crews in holiday



spirit, crossing and weaving like our D.R.s at the Royal Tournament. Their helmsmen dare not do much sight-seeing.

On our right were all the foreign warships. We had unwisely come without a programme, but combined memories of stamp collecting days enabled us to identify most of the national flags. All the ships were smart as paint, but for sheer beauty the Italian sailing ship, the *Amerigo Vespucci*, stood out from all the others. The Russian ship was wearing a name which looked very different from our Anglicised version of it. She was impressive, with a mass of equipment all carefully covered up, but we agreed we would not like to be in her in the North Atlantic.

On our left were our own ships, first the frigates, then destroyers, cruisers, aircraft carriers and finally the great bulk of the *Vanguard*. We saw several turrets in plastic coverings. There was much landing and taking off of helicopters. At the end of the line we turned and beat back through the ships in the most northerly line, the D. class destroyers, the submarines, depot ships and many we were not sure about. The *Devonshire* gave us a front row of the stalls view of a rehearsal of lining ship and cheering the Queen. The way the men threw their caps out at the cheer reminded me of the alleged Dartmouth cadet drill for consulting the wrist watch.

At about two o'clock the wind freshened and the weather looked like breaking up, so we made for Cowes. We sailed *Cito* through Cowes and up the Medina river to Folly Inn in a fresh wind blowing dead down the river. She is wonderfully certain to handle in narrow waters. Dozens of boats followed us up, but I saw none come up under sail.

It was a filthy night and the forecast was so grim that we had doubts about going out in the morning to see the Review. The landlord at the Folly Inn said that they would be " open all day " in case we were driven back. The morning forecast was better and we sailed at 9.30. The wind fell light for a few minutes as we entered the narrows through Cowes and we used the outboard for a few hundred yards. We dare not be late. We reached our anchorage on Peel Bank at eleven, where we were joined during the next half hour by a host of small yachts, including most of the Service boats, *Torch, Right Royal, Overlord, Starbright* and many Gunner boats. At noon we dressed ship. She looked very gay. There was a fresh wind and quite an uncomfortable sea. One of the crew, staunch under way, but frail at anchor, decided that he would prefer to risk rowing the pram to the shore under Osborne House. It was three-quarters of a mile and we watched with some anxiety. He got there, but with his ankles under water.

We were rather far south of the line to see much of the Review, but were able to watch the progress of the *Surprise* and her escort. What struck us most at the time was the towering height of the three following liners, which dwarfed all the warships, and the curious appearance of a submarine crew lining ship and looking like a long row of posts standing out of the water. The crew of one big Gunner boat lined ship and cheered. We were too busy holding on.

There had been intermittent sunshine all day, but at about four-thirty a nasty looking storm came up the Solent. Many boats crept in under the lee of the Island. Our intrepid pram navigator returned at five and we prepared to get away. We beat the pistol by a few minutes and left at five to six. Off Egypt Point the wind hit us, with blinding rain. It was a hard, wet beat across the Brambles and a real fight up the Beaulieu River against a strong west wind. Roy Phippard did not smoke a cigarette for two hours. We chose a spot just north of Needs Oar, from which we could look straight down the Spithead when the tide rose and, by standing on the coach roof, had a grand view of the fireworks.

Next morning it was wet again. It took us four hours to beat down to the Lymington River against wind and tide, but it is a joy to sail *Cito* in any weather, provided you have good oilskins.

ROYAL SIGNALS SINGAPORE

Royal Signals (Singapore) v. R.E. (Singapore). Result : Won 18 points to nil. Played October 25th, 1952

Sport

CRICKET.

Royal Signals v. R.M.A., Sandhurst, at Sandhurst, on 17th June, 1953. Won by Royal Signals.

Scores.

R.M.A.	153 for 7 wickets
Royal Signals	154 for 2 wickets

Royal Signals v. R.E.M.E., at Arborfield, on 18/19th June, 1953.
Royal Signals won by 10 wickets.

Scores.

1st Innings.

R.E.M.E.	116 all out
Royal Signals	208 for 9 wickets

2nd Innings.

R.E.M.E	104 all out
Royal Signals	13 for no wickets

Royal Signals (Corps Match) v. Royal Engineers, at Catterick on 3/4th July, 1953.
Royal Signals won by 107 runs.

Scores.

1st Innings.

Royal Engineers	165
Royal Signals	53

2nd Innings.

Royal Signals	301 for 6 declared
(Captain C. L. Lewis-Barclay—149 not out)	
Royal Engineers	74

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Amendments No. 7 to Blue Book 1953

DELETIONS—TRADES ROSTER

9	6224A	10317	11876	12854	14191	15558
237	6253	10332	11878	12942	14192	15563
354	6264	10338	11879	12970	14308	15711
804A	6374	10352	11880	13087	14321	15721
837	6395	10417	11921	13174	14352	15738
1306	6414	10505	11960	13198	14513	15744
2269	6417	10518	11967	13211	14573	15748
2379	6430	10596	11989	13257	14696	15763
2417	6431	10603	11984	13265	14742	15860
2544	6441	10661	12012	13287	14762	15908
2594	6442	10736	12030	13376	14861	15969
5049	6456	10846	12038	13427	14872	15972
5223	6510	10870	12042	13442	14902	15979
5244	6567	10927	12121	13503	14916	15981
5576	6618	11084	12138	13524A	14934	16044
5635	6690	11218	12155	13549	15024	16060
5697	6697	11249	12166	13634	15043	16334
5713	6748	11331	12182	13640	15071	16338
5741	6770	11354	12193	13708	15111	16380
5748	6781	11696	12236	13738	15196	16465A
5764	10123	11737	12254	13785	15230A	16527
5796	10214	11760	12310	13819	15398	16582
5915	10234	11802	12475	13866	15434	16604
5990	10239	11819	12510	13878	15510	16624
6046	10254	11831	12684	13901	15533	16634
6052	10282	11866	12738	13981	15550	16671
6218	10307	11875	12776	14126A	15553	16877

F. OF S.

752

CIPHER

250	5191	5139	5184	5185

GENERAL DUTIES ROSTER

10043	10127	10138	10164	10202

APPENDIX E

6679

APPENDIX F

873	5434	6574	10372	10692	11214	12985
957	5479	6612	10378	10786	11458	13636
5042	5888	6673	10543	10874	12548	13922
5198	6250	10031	10601	11154	12555	14079
5385	6277	10128				

APPENDIX G

1304	5001	5097	5228	5234	5238	5239
1327	5048	5218	5232	5237		

APPENDIX H

737

APPENDIX I

10141A 10174

Corps Promotion Order No. 5 Dated 19th June, 1953

WARRANT OFFICER, CLASS II

Stillyards, J. H.	2323754	Q	426A	779	31 Dec., 52
McDonald, B.	2326913	Q	454	758	31 Mar., 53
Hose, J. L.	2323370	Q	455	770	,,
Cook, L. R.	2566995	Q	456	781	,,
Ormond, S.	2329387	Q	457	834	,,
Hufton, J. R.	2319164	Q	458	836	,,

S.Q.M.S.

Hall, D.	5825800		985A	1368	31 Dec., 52
Willoughby, D. H.	2323321	Q	972	1319	31 Mar., 53
Weatherly, A. W. G.	2325880	Q	973	1390	,,
Cartwright, R. L.	2323175	Q	974	1391	,,
Day, G. R.	2328853		975	1392	,,
Colley, W. L.	2321771		976	1394	,,
Smith, A. P. G.	2316535	Q	977	1395	,,
Boddington, R. A.	2323473	Q	978	1396	,,
Hecquet, D. W.	2325990	Q	979	1397	,,
Weaver, E.	2325391		980	1398	,,
Stockdale, F.	4802017	Q	981	1399	,,
Digweed, F. C.	819687	Q	982	1400	,,

SERJEANT

Faulkes, E. D.	22211225	Q	2477A	5104	31 Dec., 52
Dopson, E. J.	2325022	Q	2492	5208	,,
Lightfoot, J.	2325394	Q	2501	5259	,,
Hill, H.	893496	Q	2510	5300	,,
Friel, F.	3316914	Q	2511A	5314	,,
Goodenough, P. G.	2549297	Q	2518	5356	,,
Trevethick, A. D.	19163172	Q	2534	5411	,,
Moorman, D. A.	2548953	Q	2576	5654	,,
Brittain, P. W.	21013367	Q	2589	5729	,,
Reynolds, A.	2549284	Q	2590	5739	,,
McGlone, J. J.	2328566	Q	2596	5770	,,
Stonehouse, C. R.	2320577	Q	2602A	5787	,,
Green, J. J.	22212894	Q	2618	5862	,,
Bennett, T. N.	19079976	Q	2628A	5907A	,,
Bushnell, D. O.	21022102	Q	2648	6002	,,
Menzies, R.	2575940	Q	2650	6008	,,
Shearan, I.	22233826	Q	2668	6093	,,
Jupe, J. B.	22111588	Q	2689A	6165	,,

CORPORAL

Jennings, A.	22265540	Q	6399	10170	31 Dec., 52
Handley, D. R.	14452127		6402	10192	,,
Penney, R. W.	14183542	Q	6413	10253	,,
Hayward, F. C.	22286022		6418	10283	,,
Lander, F. A.	14185574	Q	6441	10403	,,
Moon, A. F.	22248075	Q	6449A	10440	,,
Fulston, J. L.	22287285	Q	6450	10445	,,
Sykes, R. E.	22287751		6462	10489	,,
Livermore, D.	22242388		6466	10497	,,
Howie, G. A.	21022117		6486	10560	,,
Hacquoil, R. C.	22265391		6499	10613	,,
Cook, G. W.	22538565	Q	6503	10625	,,
Perry, R.	22288482	Q	6508	10632	,,
Noakes, L. J.	2549603		6511A	10652	,,
Kay, A.	22247053		6525	10693	,,
Whybrow, H. V.	22230059		6556	10830	,,
Liggins, F. J.	2549738		6570	10862	,,
McDonnell, B. A.	2549553	Q	6578	10880	,,
Slater, M. W.	21005113		6583	10894	,,
Caven, J. T.	22541309		6603	10939	,,
Cooper, H.	22142775	Q	6611	10977	,,
Fisher, A. N.	19031920		6612	10978	,,
Cox, J.	14475828	Q	6616	10995	,,
Downer, W. J. A.	22247796	Q	6626	11018	,,
Anderson, G. E.	5891088	Q	6634	11037	,,
Davis, R.	22308298		6647	11060	,,
Burt, B. A. C.	2549537		6659	11085	,,
Taylor, J.	22265367		6665	11097	,,
Alvey, W. H.	22272446	Q	6670	11141	,,
Green, J. N.	22546334		6683	11148	,,
Collins, J.	22148370		6691	11167	,,
Anderson, J. D.	22539675	Q	6704	11192	,,
Shields, W. P.	22274651		6725	11246	,,
England, D.	22547858		6730	11264	,,
Snowden, C. W.	22212454		6737	11282	,,
Buttell, K.	22549519	Q	6743	11293	,,
Copping, G.	22201169	Q	6748	11305	,,
Bunyan, R.	22550534		6749	11314	,,
Steeples, J. P.	22178699		6765	11352	,,
Lelievre, P. F.	21187906		6766	11354	,,
Haskey, D. W.	22524080	Q	6769	11357	,,
Julian, P. H.	22296466		6771	11370	,,
Elcock, A. E.	22273822		6782	11388	,,
Leonard, H. W.	22212669		6783	11390	,,
Langley, E. E.	22289766		6784	11399	,,
Soward, P. F.	22212052	Q	6785	11400	,,
Long, J. W.	22273918		6788	11408	,,
Apperley, O. B.	22307813	Q	6789	11410	,,
Mahony, L.	22204757		6800	11445	,,
Coulter, R. N.	22204603		6819A	11495	,,

CIPHER ROSTER

WARRANT OFFICER, CLASS II

Cotter, P. D. P.	14409636	Q	241	1303	31 Mar., 53
Chapman, G.	14444491	Q	242	1304B	,,
Barrett, E. G.	5336715	Q	243	1309	,,
Cowsill, G. H.	7596728	Q	244	1312	,,
Pendock, J. C.	14932446	Q	245	1317	,,
Davidge, R.	21023704	Q	246	1322	,,
Buchanan, R. I.	15002540	Q	247	1324	,,
Lombard, W. C.	14888593	Q	248	1329	,,
Batram, A. W.	22515791	Q	249	1330	,,
Slater, E.	14106999	Q	250	1331	,,
Duncan, D.	2549317	Q	251	1336	,,
Matheson, D.	21188032	Q	252	1337	,,
Gill, J. E.	22265320	Q	253	1340	,,
Grant, P. H.	22292632	Q	254	1342	,,
Ilott, A. C.	2547741	Q	255	1351	,,
Bell, R. N.	22219914	Q	256	1358	,,
Archer, W. B.	2548938	Q	257	1360	,,
Ashton, H. B.	2549322	Q	258	1363	,,

CORPORAL

Seniority Date 31 July, 1952

Baxter, E. J. S.	22265226	5263A	

Promotions: *Corporal—Cipher Roster continued*

Seniority Date 31 March, 1953

Cook, B.	22515817	5327	Withall, E. H. T.	22396480	5342
Constantine, R.	22490346	5328	Cullum, C. D.	22772682	5343
Shaw, N. T.	22639679	5329	Keelty, P. J.	22550786	5344
Coaker, R. G.	22537234	5330	Browne, J.	22792364	5345
Fox, J.	22246023	5331	Currey, C.	22697728	5346
Brackston, P. F.	21005322 Q	5331A	Brennan, J.	22657400	5347
Adfield, B. M.	22633424	5332	Barnett, G. E.	21044920	5348
Bowden, D. A.	22795438	5333	Barrett, L. R.	22560564	5349
Clark, M. S.	22795243	5334	Brown, H.	22547486 Q	5350
Sim, A.	22537252	5335	Simpson, D.	22256294	5351
Hassall, J.	22609138	5336	Milnes, A.	22572161	5352
Wilkinson, D. A.	22504214 Q	5337	Slater, G.	22799121	5353
Le Quesne, E. H.	22537376	5338	Atherton, W.	22657396	5354
Kreckeler, K. R.	22563782	5339	Hurst, J.	22657437	5355
Axford, S. F.	22775792 Q	5340	Turner, L. C.	22792803	5356
Hutcheon, G. I.	22698198	5341			

FOREMAN OF SIGNALS ROSTER PROMOTIONS

WARRANT OFFICER, CLASS II

Render, A.	2325299	Q	234	700	31 Mar., 53
Merrifield, N. W.	2579725	Q	235	703	,,
Iveson, F.	2547267	Q	236	704	,,
Jackson, J. A.	14455158	Q	237	711	,,
Addington, E. R.	14109766	Q	238	713	,,
Wood, T. H.	14465397	Q	239	714	,,
Mitchell, P. J.	14466340	Q	240	715	,,
Robertshaw, T. R.	14465367	Q	241	716	,,
Sayers, P. J.	19034692	Q	242	718	,,
Parker, N. A.	19034515	Q	243	719	,,
Miles, G. B.	14826076	Q	244	722	,,

S.Q.M.S.

Rye, D. E.	2548647	Q	762A	31 Dec., 52

GENERAL DUTIES ROSTER PROMOTIONS

LANCE-CORPORAL

McCue, J.	22487376		10159A	31 Dec., 52
Jones, P. K.	22247677	Q	10196A	,,
Dewsbury, K. T. G.	22574886		10221	31 Mar., 53
Heron, P. N.	21005255		10222	,,
Mears, A.	22688344		10223	,,

AMENDMENTS TRADES ROSTER—PROMOTIONS

Corps Promotion Order No. 4, dated 17 April, 1953

LANCE-CORPORAL

Appleton, T. A. 22524729. For 15070, 31 Dec., 1952, read 14740A, 24 Oct., 1952.

Corps Promotion Order No. 3, dated 12 March, 1953

SERJEANT

Izod, E. D. 2549477. For 2696, 31 Dec., 1952, read 2689B, 31 Dec., 1952.

ERRATA TRADES ROSTER—PROMOTIONS

Corps Promotion Order No. 3, dated 12 March, 1953

SERJEANT

Delete Isaac, A. I. 2341693 2523

Corps Promotion Order No. 4, dated 17 April, 1953

CORPORAL

Delete Henry, L. 22242956 6481

LANCE-CORPORAL

Delete Hatcher, C. D. 22274251 14950

CIPHER ROSTER—INSERTIONS

CORPORAL

Delete Bosomworth, G. 21005371 5075A

CANCELLATIONS

The following appointments and promotions are cancelled :—

Corps Promotion Order No. 3, dated 12 March, 1953

TRADES ROSTER—PROMOTIONS

SERJEANT

Bone, A. 21182155 2548

Corps Promotion Order No. 4, dated 17 April, 1953

CORPORAL

Pilkington, T. C.	21024343	6511	Spear, D. G.	22262882	6714
Nichol, S. B.	22540144	6551	Bower, D.	2549640	6726
Franklin, J. E.	22537198	6689			

LANCE-CORPORAL

Kilshaw, E. H.	19048086	15101	Brown, R.	22796540	15375
Kennard, A. G. L.	22522990	15128	Walker, S. C.	22274496	15423
Orme, J. H.	22580138	15152	Normington, K.	22542795	15467
Lowrie, E.	22607431	15371			

GENERAL DUTIES ROSTER PROMOTIONS

LANCE-CORPORAL

Russell, L.	22541095	10156	Goodwin, W. A.	22391233	10213
Gibson, A. W.	22648298	10172			

Appendix to Royal Signals Promotion Order No. 5 Dated 19th June, 1953

TRADES ROSTER—INSERTIONS

SERJEANT

Fitzpatrick, B.	2318993 Q	1305	Chidley, R.	14452079 Q	2078A
Brown, B.	2324002	1412A	Robinson, R. G.	19043262 Q	2267A
Kinsella, P. J.	3771280	1904A	Currie, J. H.	22212176 Q	2291A

CORPORAL

Smith, H.	22776033	5462A	Mills, R. F.	2328644 Q	6820
Phyall, F. T.	22212520	5798A	Galloway, W. T.	22296815	6820A
Wade, D.	19034767	6190A	Gardiner, R.	22515160	6820B
Burman, D. W.	14193728 Q	6233A	Gonsalves, V. A.	2378120 Q	6820C
Davis, A. J.	22526850	6486A			

LANCE-CORPORAL

Smith, M.	22212300	10178A	Gilson, S.	22286021	11370A
Reid, D.	22560874	10429A	Wynn, J. P.	22202372	14421A
Moss, J. C.	22515788	10572A			

CIPHER ROSTER

WARRANT OFFICER, CLASS II

Powell, J. S. 4912429 Q 207

SERJEANT

King, B. J. 22537208 1301A

CORPORAL

Goodridge, R.	22307061 Q	5186B	Brock, F.	22212357	5234A
Crooks, C. H.	22212357	5226A	Beddingfield, W. J.	22515111	5324A

GENERAL DUTIES ROSTER

CORPORAL

Rowe, A. E. 5328550 5001A

LANCE-CORPORAL

Collins, T.	21127427 Q	10033A	Bassett, A.	316203	1007A

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Applicants registered	49
Placings confirmed	27

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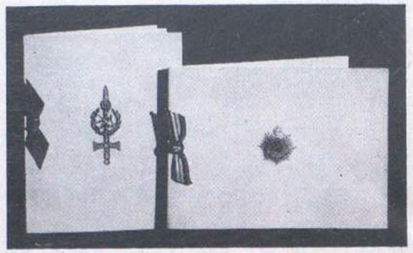

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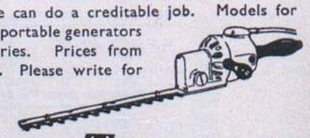

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THE WIRE

The Corps Magazine of the
ROYAL SIGNALS
The Official Organ of the
SIGNALS ASSOCIATION

Editor:
BRIGADIER 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, 12/-; single month, 1/-.

☆

SEPTEMBER • 1953
Vol. 7 *New Series* **No. 9**

☆

PRICE ONE SHILLING

Editorial

MANY who are experienced, consider sales of the Corps or Regimental Magazine one of many yardsticks by which pride in our Corps is judged. Sport is another, professional efficiency is a third. Appearance and demeanour off duty is a fourth. There are doubtless others. Let us deal with each in turn.

Those of us who regularly visit London's main line railway stations are in a position to see the British Army at its best and its worst. By and large, we of Royal Signals come out very well. To see a Signalman who is not a credit to his Corps is rare.

If the opinion of our superiors is of any value, our professional efficiency is all that can be desired. Indeed, we read that an important portion of the above-average communications required for the R.A.F. Review were provided by Royal Signals.

Comparisons are odious, but even we have not previously had such a successful season in sport as that so ably described in the August WIRE.

As in Boxing, the sales of THE WIRE are exceeded by only one Corps monthly magazine, that of the Royal Army Ordnance Corps. Our sales have been going up steadily all this year. So have theirs.

By rule, the exact circulation figures may not be published, but revenue from advertising goes up for every additional 500 copies sold.

We have made another step of 500 during this the third quarter. The Editor was taking a little pride in this in conversation with Mr. W. Butler, for many years Editor of THE WIRE and Secretary of the Association.

He was much cast down to be told by Mr. Butler that the net sales of THE WIRE between the two wars were 2,000 higher than they are now. The strength of the Corps then was about one-third of what it is today. In September, 1951, there was some account of our magnificent Band. To-day, both the bands are of a quality that makes us very proud. Whether broadcast by the B.B.C., giving a Concert to a Reunion, as a dance orchestra, or a marching band, they equal to the best in the Army.

In September, 1951, also, THE WIRE was under discussion and it was pointed out then, and is equally true to-day, that the performance of many Regiments in this matter was unequal.

First in work, first in sport, second in sales of the Corps Magazine—a pity! Or don't you think so?

Ex-KOREA PRISONERS OF WAR

Officer Commanding 1 Commonwealth Divisional Signal Regiment, signalled as follows about the first two of the five Royal Signals to be released: "X returned to-day, very fit and weighs 12½ stone. Cheerful and pleased to get back." "Y returned to-day, very fit and cheerful. Weight 10½ stone."

The pleasure of X's parents, and Y's wife on receiving these messages on the day after the official notification may be imagined. It was, indeed, a kindly act, and the Association is honoured to be a participant in it.

A

Obituary

BRIGADIER JOHN BURFIELD HICKMAN, C.B.E., M.C., M.A.

THE death of Brigadier Hickman, from coronary thrombosis, on the night of 3rd June, 1953, came as a sudden shock to his friends; some of them had seen him at his club the previous day, watching the Coronation procession, and with others he had worked at the office as usual on the morning of his death.

In him the Corps lost one of its most gifted and influential technicians, and it is not too much to say that his death was a loss to the nation, for he was only 54, still in harness, at the peak of his mental powers and rapidly becoming a leader in industry.

Hickman's early life was similar to that of many of his generation. From Southall County School he passed into Woolwich in 1917, taking the quickest way open to him of getting to the war as an officer, and joined 35 Heavy Battery, R.G.A., in France early the following year. He was awarded his M.C. for action in which communications were very closely concerned; the citation records that on 17th October, 1918, as F.O.O., he went over the top with the leading infantry and throughout the day, regardless of his own safety, he sent back by field telephone valuable information which had a considerable effect on operations.

After the war he went to Maresfield for a course at the S.T.C. and then after two years in Ireland he went to Caius College, Cambridge, where he obtained an honours degree in Natural Sciences. Transferring to the Corps in 1923, he served with No. 2 W/T Company in Baghdad and Sarafand until 1928, where he consolidated his technical knowledge with practical experience and started to study Arabic. After returning to England he did a tour at the S.T.C. as an instructor.

After commanding the Aldershot Signal Section, whose wireless station was the forerunner of the Army Wireless Chain, he was posted for a second tour to Sarafand. It is typical of his mental capacity that he continued there the study of Arabic, becoming, in 1935, one of the few soldiers ever to qualify as a first-class interpreter in that language.

In 1938 his outstanding ability became evident when he was appointed to raise and command the first Army Radar School, and it was in a large measure due to the sound foundations laid by him, almost in secret, that trained personnel were available in the vital early days of the war. His facility for grasping new techniques and his flair for design more than once enabled him to assist the scientists in solving problems that were holding up the new art.

In 1941 he handed over a fully-formed establishment to the Gunners, and moved on to the Ministry of Supply where, as Inspector of Signal and Radar equipment, he held the balance for three important years between the users, the designers, and the manufacturers—a "back room boy" job for which the Corps owes him a heavy debt of gratitude.

In 1944, on promotion to Brigadier, he went to the War Office as Deputy Director of Signals (Weapons); whilst there he gave great assistance to French Army Signals, then reforming after the war, and was made an Officer of the Legion of Honour.

For his last Service appointment he returned to the Ministry of Supply, where he took charge of the Signals and Radar development and research for the Army at a time when retrenchment was the order of the day. It was, indeed, fortunate for the Army that a man of his vision and standing, especially among industrialists, was then at the helm. In 1949 his work over many years was recognised by the award of the C.B.E.

In 1949 he retired voluntarily, to become the managing director of British Telecommunications Research, Ltd.

To this relatively new firm he was a tower of strength and his friends saw with interest how well he fared in commerce. Under his guidance the firm made rapid strides and, had he lived, it is certain he would have achieved a leadership in the industrial world no less important than that already accorded to him amongst the scientists.

As an individual, "Hickie" never in the least resembled a cold-blooded technician, and was first and foremost a family man. He married in 1927 and we hope that his wife, two sons and daughter will find consolation in the admiration which was universally felt for him. He was entirely without conceit; always diffident about his own doings and achievements, whilst showing the warmest interest in the affairs and problems of his friends. They will remember him best by his own fireside, surrounded by his family and any who cared to share the peace and happiness that radiated from his home.

As a soldier, he had a firm upright character and never spared himself where the interests of others were concerned. He was always friendly approachable, and willing to pass on his knowledge to all. In the technical world he was an authority, and could give an opinion, based on complete mastery of his subject, that carried rare weight in civilian, no less than Service, circles.

To Signals his worth was immense, and his record places him in the top rank of that small number in the Corps whose knowledge, energy and influence have made it possible for the larger percentage of officers to concentrate on the best way of using their equipment, in the sure and certain knowledge that the material they are given is of the highest possible standard.

In a letter, Sir Edward Appleton has said of him: "Efficient in every detail, and yet unhurried, he did great work for Army Signals and at the same time made countless friends among the scientists. It has been one of life's great privileges to me to have known him and worked with him. I once said, in a lecture, that you can achieve almost anything in this world if you are prepared not to want the credit for it. I had such as Brigadier Hickman in mind when I said this. There just wasn't one atom of self-seeking in his make-up."

A truly deserved tribute that gives most of us food for thought.

PERSONAL COLUMN

OBITUARY

Captain Richard Wilson Whitford died at his home, 5 Herrick Road, Woodhouse Eaves, Loughborough, on 15th October, 1952. After service as an Officer in the Merchant Navy, he enlisted in Royal Signals at Canterbury in April 1921. He served in Turkey, Egypt, Iraq and Palestine before transferring to the Reserve in 1926. While at Sarafand he was a member of a successful Royal Signals Concert Party and was foremost in starting a Unit Library and Magazine Club.

He served in the Palestine Police and then in 1935 joined the War Office Wireless Service at Beaumanor Park. Let his chief there now take up the tale.

"During the last war he was a Captain in my Home Guard Company, and immediately the war ended he started and ran the local Signals Cadet Platoon. He held the rank of Captain on his death.

We were very shocked when he was stricken with T.B. early in 1952 and died on 15th October of that year.

Whitford was essentially a soldier, and never happier than when engaged in military pursuits. He was a tower of strength in many an emergency in the early days of the war, and when on defence or P.A.D. duties, scarcely ever slept. He loved training the young idea, and there must be many who have served, or are serving, in the Corps who remember him with gratitude."

He leaves a widow and four children, the eldest of whom is already in 6 (Boys) Training Regiment.

A proud record.

London Gazette

17th July, 1953.—Lieutenant-Colonel (T.O.T.) E. H. Spindler to R.A.R.O.

Lieutenant-Colonel A. Hemsley, M.B.E., T.D., to T.A.R.O.

Major G. P. J. Pegg, T.D., T.A.R.O., is granted Honorary Rank, Lieutenant-Colonel.

24th July, 1953.—Lieutenant-Colonel E. J. S. Heap, O.B.E., to R.A.R.O.

Movements—Officers

Captain (Q.M.) A. A. J. Fraser, Disembarkation to 23 (S) Corps Signal Regiment.

Major (Q.M.) J. W. T. Snell, 23 (S) Corps Signal Regiment, to Depot Regiment (cadre).

Lieutenant-Colonel A. C. R. Stead, 52 (L) Divisional Signal Regiment, to FARELF.

Major A. F. Freeman, H.Q., ALFCE, to Korea.

Major R. J. Western, H.Q. SHAPE to 7 Training Regiment.

Major A. B. Dryland, 7 Training Regiment to Northern Army Group.

Major B. R. M. Hayles, U.S.A. to 4 Training Regiment.

Major F. G. G. Rapsey, 4 Training Regiment to H.Q., London District.

Major R. L. Downs, FARELF to Senior Officers School, thence to Western Command Signal Regiment.

Major C. H. Golden, H.Q. London District to FARELF.

Major A. E. Hollingshead, 4 Training Regiment to Southern Command (M) Signal Regiment.

Major P. M. C. Spence, U.K. to 3 Training Regiment.

Major R. Oram, M.E.L.F. to U.K.

Major J. C. Garlick, M.E.L.F. to U.K.

Major P. E. S. Mansergh, Northern Army Group to Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst.

Major D. R. Horsfield, R.M.A. Sandhurst to Korea.

Major E. J. Beale, M.E.L.F. to U.K.

Major S. F. Dunkley, M.E.L.F. to U.K.

Arrivals and Departures

2321819 W.O.II L. Purvis from Cyprus to B.A.O.R.

19 Air Formation Signal Regiment

Arrivals

Lieutenant-Colonel J. J. Lamb from 18 Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron.

Captain E. R. Haxell from H.Q. N.A.G., Signal Regiment.

S.Q.M.S. (A W.O.II) Bibby from Singapore District Signal Regiment.

Departures

Lieutenant-Colonel J. D. Haigh, O.B.E., to U.K.

Major J. C. Garlick to B.A.O.R.

Major R. F. Minion to U.K.

Captain J. M. N. Lyons to Subaltern Part II Course.

Lieutenant B. Ashcroft to Subaltern Part II Course.

Sergeant Balnis to Singapore District Signal Regiment.

Sergeant Harrison to 3 Wireless Equipment Troop.

Sergeant Drummond to U.K.

3 Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment

Arrivals

Major H. B. de M. Hunter.

Lieutenant W. D. A. Poole.

Lieutenant (Q.M.) R. White.

Second-Lieutenant P. A. Thompson.

Departures

Major E. J. Beale.

Lieutenant (Q.M.) J. Stokeo.

S.S.M. W. Conlon.

Births

SELL.—On 13th July, 1953, at Fontainbleau, France (H.Q. A.A.F.C.E.) to Edith, wife of Major B. G. Sell, M.B.E., a daughter, Jennifer.

BELL.—To Lance-Corporal and Mrs. Bell, at Vienna, on 18th April, 1953, a daughter, Susan Carol.

BLAKE.—To Sergeant and Mrs. Blake, at Vienna on 11th June, 1953, a daughter, Barbara Helen.

BRAID.—To Sergeant and Mrs. Braid, at Vienna, on 20th June, 1953, a daughter, Joanne Margarete.

LAMB.—To Major and Mrs. J. J. Lamb, at B.M.H. Kinrara, on 21st February, 1953, a daughter, Rosemary Juliet.

JONES.—To Corporal and Mrs. Jones, at B.M.H. Kinrara, on 14th July, 1953, a daughter.

MILLIGAN.—To Captain (Q.M.) and Mrs. A. Milligan, Singapore District Signal Regiment, a daughter.

FORTESCUE-HITCHINS.—To Lieutenant and Mrs. T. W. E. Fortescue-Hitchins, Singapore District Signal Regiment, a daughter.

HEWLETT.—On August 7th, 1953, at Dunloe, Hersham, Surrey, to Jean, wife of Lieutenant-Colonel G. H. K. Hewlett, M.E.A.F., a son and a daughter.

Marriages

WALE—BAKER. — At Birmingham, on 30th May, 1953, Lance-Corporal Ronald Wale, of Birmingham, serving in B.A.O.R. with 2 Squadron 4 L. of C. Signal Regiment, to Miss Margaret Joyce Baker, of Birmingham.

DALE—PROUD. — At Newcastle-on-Tyne, on 6th June, 1953, Lance-Corporal Colin Dale, of Newcastle-on-Tyne, serving in B.A.O.R. with 2 Squadron 4 L. of C. Signal Regiment, to Miss Edith May Proud, of Newcastle-on-Tyne.

LEONARD—ALLISON.—On 20th June, 1953, Signalman D. Leonard of No. 2 Squadron 50 (N) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment (T.A.), to Miss Freda Olive Allison, at Billingham-on-Tees.

METCALFE—SHORT. — On 20th June, 1953, Driver J. Metcalfe, of No. 2 Squadron 50 (N) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment (T.A.), to Miss Mary Elizabeth Short, at Eston, Middlesbrough.

McKEGNEY—WHARRIOR.—On 26th July, 1953, Driver J. G. McKegney, of No. 3 Squadron 50 (N) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment (T.A.) to Miss Sarah Wharrior, at Gateshead.

Engagements

TAYLOR—BYRNE. — The engagement is announced between Lieutenant R. V. Taylor, Royal Signals, and Captain K. W. Byrne, W.R.A.C.

Deaths

FORD.—22573602 Lance-Corporal R. Ford, on 3rd July, 1953, at B.M.H. Fayid, M.E.L.F.

WAITE.—22606148 Signalman S. Waite, on 4th July, 1953, at B.M.H. Fayid, M.E.L.F.

TAYLOR.—22615053 Signalman R. Taylor, on 7th July, 1953, at B.M.H. Fayid, M.E.L.F.

HOLDAWAY.—22559254 Driver H. B. Holdaway, on 8th July, 1953, at B.M.H. Fayid, M.E.L.F.

ANDERSON.—22515689 Signalman C. N. Anderson, on 11th July, 1953, in B.A.O.R.

HARRIS.—22799585 Signalman T. P. Harris, on 15th July, 1953, in U.K.

WILLIAMSON.—Alan Williamson, ex-R.H.Q., 1 Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, M.E.L.F., 1949/50, at his home in Edinburgh, on 26th July, 1953.

WOUNDED IN ACTION

22694214 Signalman E. Dutton in Korea on 17th July, 1953.

* * *

Mr. J. L. Wilson, of 33 Lynmouth Avenue, Bush Hill Park, Enfield, Middlesex, has Vols. Nos. 1 and 2 (New Series) (except No. 3 of Vol. No. 2) of THE WIRE for which he has no further use. Would anybody care to either collect or pay the postage for them? The offer closes on the 31st October.

Forthcoming Events ☆

44th Division (1939/1942) Old Comrades Rally, 1953

Will take place at The Courtfield Hotel, Earls Court Road, London, S.W., on Friday 23rd October, 1953, between 5 p.m. and 6.30 p.m. Tickets 4s. each, are obtainable from The Adjutant, 257 (H.C.) Field Regiment, R.A. (T.A.), Drill Hall, Church Street, Brighton.

Royal Signals Band Programme, 1953

Sept. 6-19 ... Worthing.
„ 20-Oct. 3 Eastbourne.

Royal Signals Display Team, 1953

Sept. 17 ... Wembley Stadium.

Royal Signals Officers' Golfing Society, 1953

Oct. 7 ... R.M.A., Camberley Heath.

" At Home " for T.A. and A.E.R. Officers and Their Wives

5th December at The Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane, 4 for 4.30 p.m.

Annual Buffet Supper and Reunion

5th December at the T.A. Centre, 190 Hammersmith Road, W.6. 7 to 11 p.m.

By courtesy of The Army Phantom Signal Regiment, T.A. (Princess Louise's Kensington Regiment).

"INTRODUCTION TO VALVES"

MAJOR H. K. MILWARD was born in 1915 and was commissioned to Royal Signals in 1935. In the short space of 18 years he has fought in a major war, acquired an A.M.I.E.E., and with, perhaps, greater effort, a B.Sc. London. He has also, in partnership with R. W. Hallows, M.A. Cantab., M.I.E.E., written a book.

" Introduction to Valves " describes the principles of operation of the radio valve and its uses in circuits of various types. Following an explanation of the fundamental thermionic valve, the book deals with diodes, as rectifiers and detectors; triodes and their various applications; tetrodes and pentodes; multiple-grid valves for frequency-changing; power-output valves; and valves for V.H.F. and E.H.F. operation. Other chapters discuss special-purpose types and the construction of modern miniature and sub-miniature valves.

The system of letter symbols for valves introduced by the British Standards Institution in 1947 is used throughout and a full explanation of this valuable system is given. The text is supplemented by over 100 diagrams and graphs, including many typical circuits.

While—as the title indicates—this book does not attempt to provide more than a general introduction to this large and complex subject, the reader is given an excellent grounding in a clear and concise form, and the technical level is sufficiently advanced to make the work useful to the more knowledgable radio student as well as to the novice.

Contents: Principles of the Valve — Letter Symbols for Valves — Emission: Space Charge: The Diode — The Diode as Rectifier and Detector — The Triode — Main Uses of the Triode — Tetrodes and Pentodes — Frequency-changers — Power-output Valves — Valves for Very High and Extra High Frequencies — Valves for Special Purposes — Modern Miniature Valve — Appendix: Some Modern Valve Bases — Index.

This first announcement is plagarised. Time does not permit the engagement of an officer of sufficient erudition to do the book justice. A further review will appear in a subsequent issue.

Published on August 20th, 1953, for *Wireless World* by Iliffe and Sons, Ltd. Price 8s. 6d. (postage 6d.). Size D8vo 8¾in. x 5½in. 152 pages. 107 line illustrations and a frontispiece.

EMPLOYMENT VACANCIES

Good opening for ex-Service man or woman wishing to get into business on own account. Applicants must reside near Chester and possess some artistic and mechanical ability.

The business is Letterpress Printing and experience is not necessary as some training can be provided. The applicant will not be required to provide any capital whatsoever, but would have to be self-supporting until capable of taking charge. Apply to:—

Major R. C. Wilson, M.B.E.,
32 Walker Street,
Hoole, Chester.

Anyone successful in obtaining this position is asked to notify the Employment Section, Royal Signals Association, 88 Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1.

The History of British Army Signals in the Second World War

by **Major-General R. F. H. NALDER, C.B., O.B.E.**

Chapter XIV: Air Defence Communications

PROBABLY in no branch of the work of Royal Signals was greater progress made than in Air Defence and, indeed, today A.A. Command are well in advance of the rest of the Army in the business of modernising their intercommunication system.

General Nalder studies the system of command and control from its earliest beginning and is illuminating in his discussion of the tactical methods of defence.

While in the United Kingdom the installation of the considerable land line system was the responsibility of the General Post Office, there were greater difficulties in overseas commands.

It was not until the requirements of Air Defence were represented on the Staff of the C.S.O. at force or Army Group level that due effort was deployed in the work of installation.

Chapter XV: Co-operation with the Royal Navy and Royal Air Force

A whole book could be, and perhaps will be, written on the subject of Air Formation Signals, but the first part of this chapter deals, after the basic considerations, with the story of the part played by the Signal Service in amphibious operations.

The story is continued with the Air Support Signal Units and Airborne operations. As always, difficulty was caused by the faulty theory on which our original wireless sets were designed. It had been specified that the Division was likely to fight, concentrated in Europe. The range, therefore, of all wireless sets designed for use within the Division was too small for extended operations. It will be noticed that despite the desire of the other two Services, particularly the Royal Air Force, to control their own land communications, the British held to the more economical course of charging the Army with the provision of all land line facilities for the other Services. The Germans, by contrast, had an entirely separate Luftwaffe Signal Service which, as said by their own officers, frequently outpaced Army Signals in the construction of new land line routes (on the opposite side of the same road).

Again, the original conception of Air Formation Signals had been based on operations in Europe and the first big lessons were learnt and the first great expansion took place therefore in Middle East.

In conclusion, General Nalder reviews the whole matter of the Signal Service for the Royal Air Force and concludes that the Army commitment should be limited to providing only those services which in England would be met by the Civil Communication authorities, with the addition that Army Signal Officers must be present in the Signal Staff at R.A.F. Headquarters and that the long distance Signal Despatch Services must be most closely co-ordinated.

Chapter XVI: Signal Equipment

It is not for the writer of a review to attempt to better what is set out so clearly in the reviewed book. General Nalder analyses the whole matter from pre-war days until the end of the war. The problem is six-fold, design, production, distribution, operation, maintenance and salvage. Unlike the United States Army Signals, we of the British Army are responsible for only one of these things and suffer accordingly.

Politics and religion included, there is no subject that leads to more embittered discussion.

Experience in different theatres of war was so different: in some places a generality of incompetence was overcome by goodwill, in others it was not.

General Nalder studies the whole problem as exhaustively as can be accomplished in 22 pages and as is known, the subject has been considered by a number of committees inside and outside the War Office. But it is quite clear that the American system by which the Signal Corps, which is largely responsible for procurement, is responsible also for maintenance at all levels, has much to commend it.

Gale and Polden, 17s. 6d.

COMCAN backs the Field Armies

BEFORE the war, most of Signals strategic traffic went by Cable and Wireless and other civilian agencies, though the Army Wireless Chain began about 1935. Since the war, the Army Wireless Chain has been developed into the network of line and radio now known as COMCAN.

The Commonwealth Communications Army Network (COMCAN) is Signals lusty young giant growing out of the old Army Wireless Chain. When complete, COMCAN will cover the British world with a high-speed strategic network. From Ottawa in the West to Waiourou, New Zealand in the Far East, new stations are being made to build a long-distance system second to none.

Major links are six-channel or two-channel SSB and minor links single-channel CFS, all operating tape telegraphy. Radio teleprinter for the staff conferences are built-in too. To cover the important services are the E10 transmitters, 35kw. of smooth SSB sophistication, custom-built for us by Marconi, and the well-known SWB11, major, now dwarfed by the giant newcomers, but built to last by the same makers and mostly made over to SSB. New racks of receivers by Standards and Marconi capture the signals from triple diversity rhombics and pass them on to the six-channel VF bays to be sorted out to the traffic hall positions.

Traffic handling is brought up-to-date with the New Look Tape Relay Centres. Punched tapes feed in the messages off racks of reperforators and the autoheads send them off again at a steady 66 w.p.m. Everything possible is being done to make life easier for the operator, by cutting out reprocessing.

Good relay drill means shorter radio paths because delays can be kept low, and shorter radio paths means solid round-the-clock performance. The tricky Transatlantic and Far Eastern direct routes are on their way out and relay routes will give the staff new standards of reliability and speed.

New air-conditioned buildings have been built for the Royal Signals COMCAN stations on sound lines. Major A. R. Laws heads the mixed Royal Signals/R.E.M.E. Installation Team which is doing a fine job of engineering-in the sets as they come off production. This is building for the future in a big way.

Traffic is not waiting for completion of the buildings. COMCAN U.K. handled 37,000 messages in January, 1953, a big increase on the figure of 27,000 in January, 1951, and the load is still going up.

If you are interested, pay a visit to your nearest COMCAN station next time you go by, and come away with something to be proud of. Oh! and by the way, COMCAN has room for *good* technicians and *good* traffic men. There'll be some civilian posts, too, but later. Conditions of service are being discussed.

Future issues of THE WIRE will carry news items from the more important COMCAN stations, including Commonwealth Terminals.

Forces Help Society and Lord Roberts Workshops

A Work of Great Achievement

IT was the South African War which made clear the need for an organisation which would make itself responsible for the welfare of our soldiers and sailors—both during their service and after leaving the Colours. With this object in view, The Soldiers and Sailors Help Society came into being at the end of 1899 with Her Royal Highness Princess Christian as its first president.

At a later date, after the formation of a separate and independent Air Force, the name of the society was altered to The Soldiers, Sailors and Airmens Help Society. The society operated under this title until 1948, the year in which Service women previously dealt with by the society as auxiliaries became part of the Regular Forces. To cover this new situation in its designation, and also to incorporate one of the main features of the organisation's work, the society became, as it is known today, The Forces Help Society and Lord Roberts Workshops.

The headquarters of the society are situated at 122 Brompton Road, London, S.W.3, but there are branches all over the British Isles and abroad.

During last year alone some 85,000 serving and ex-Service men and women were assisted in a variety of ways—e.g., when on leave while out of touch with their Units, in obtaining compassionate leave to settle business affairs, in training problems, in obtaining grants to meet civil commitments and general help in domestic problems. The work on behalf of ex-Service men and women comes mainly within the category of rehabilitation and settlement, but there are many other things that are done to make the transitional period from Service to civilian life a little easier for the men and women who have served with the Colours. The society might purchase trade tools to start a man in a business, help him towards the cost of fitting up his home, during sickness and convalescence, and even help him towards the cost of dependants' funerals. Indeed, the work that is done at the London headquarters of the society, in every city and town and in many of our smallest villages, covers the widest possible field and can only be summarised by the expression " welfare plus" —for this is welfare work at its highest level. More than three million individual cases have now been investigated by this voluntary society in a little over 50 years—a wonderful record.

The society also runs a number of centres which cater in the main for the medical needs of men and women suffering from injuries to the spine, where, apart from receiving remedial treatment, they are trained in clock assembly, invisible mending, etc., with a view to becoming home-workers in these occupations.

Throughout the year the society's overseas service works to capacity and from every theatre abroad a steady flow of cases are dealt with. This work might involve tracing missing relatives and reuniting them with Service men and women serving abroad, investigating business releases, and dealing with housing, domestic, legal and resettlement problems—and places as far afield as Jamaica, India, Australia, Malaya and Korea have been covered by the society's representatives.

Conforming to the wishes of the Services, the society concentrates on tours and lectures to encourage members of all the Services not to conceal their problems, but rather to bring them to the society, which is well equipped to solve them, and in such a way minimise the deterioration which anxieties must have on their efficiency as Service men and women.

One of the main features of the society's work, however, has been to train and provide permanent employment for ex-Service men who have a 50 per cent. or higher rate of disability. In order to carry out this work, three workrooms were established at the end of the South African War. Here

men were taught the making of toys and small articles of furniture. When Lord Roberts died in 1914, it was felt by the committee of the society that the great Field-Marshal could not have a more fitting memorial than the extension, on a large scale, of the workshops in which he had always taken so great an interest. As a result, the workshops as known today are named after him.

There are now nine fully-equipped factories—at Fulham, Liverpool, Bristol, Colchester, Brookwood, Edinburgh, Inverness, Dundee and Belfast—where disabled men are trained and employed on productive work suited to their particular disabilities. They are enabled to earn good wages, and what is more important, to retain their independence and self-respect.

The days when toys were made have been left far behind, and at the present time these factories are energetically engaged on the drive for essential goods. Cabinet-making, joinery, mattress and brush-making, basket-making, and decorative lacquer work, etc., are all undertaken. The men trained and employed at these factories are all ex-Service men and the average rate of disability is about 65 per cent.

As distinct from the great financial and moral benefit to men employed in the workshops, the physical benefit derived is very striking. Many men can now be seen at work who have actually recovered the use of their limbs and hands. Orthopaedic experts say that this is because the right kind of exercise has been given to the injured limbs, but perhaps the improvement is more due to the employment of the mind on definite and interesting work, and the often quite unconscious use of the disabled limb to assist the sound one which carries out the main part of the work.

This, then, is the work of one of the oldest of our voluntary societies working on behalf of men and women of the Services, and the remarkable achievements obtained in these difficult times reflect the greatest credit on all concerned.

" A SHORT HISTORY OF SIGNALS "

Copies of the above are available from Association Headquarters as follows: —

Part I (from earliest times to outbreak of war in 1939)	2s. 6d. each
Part II (British Expeditionary Force, 1939-40)	3s. 6d. each
(SET OF TWO BOOKS—6s. 0d.)	

A PRACTICAL GUIDE TO THE APPLICATION OF MILITARY LAW TO THE TERRITORIAL ARMY

by **MAJOR P. G. CLARK**

WHY in the days between the wars did Adjutants of Territorial Army Signal Regiments have to do their work and give their advice depending only on a reasonable knowledge of administration and the standing luck of the British Army.

The Adjutant of to-day is so much better served. 2s. 6d. is the small sum required to purchase this 25-page pamphlet which is a positive mine of information.

Most officers of the rank of Captain have the perfunctory knowledge of the Manual of Military Law and the Queen's Regulations, which suffices for their day-to-day needs in the Regular Army. BUT how and when does this knowledge apply to the Territorial Army officer and soldier.

What do you do to a T.A. soldier who commits a military offence? The writer, who was once a T.A. Adjutant, has never known. In his day it was arranged that they did not.

Admittedly to-day the situation is quite different and this is where 2s. 6d. spent on " Major Clark " is such a good investment.

Gale and Polden, Limited, Aldershot (postage paid 2s. 9d.) or 20 cheap cigarettes and half a box of matches. It's well worth it.

" Who are the—— ——Beefeaters?"

by **YEOMAN WARDER G. A. E. GAVEY,**

H.M. Tower of London, late Captain, Royal Signals

THE question asked of Yeoman Warders, more than any other, by the many thousands of visitors to H.M. Tower of London is: " Why are you called Beefeaters?"

This question and the usual answer given in reply strangely enough, has nothing to do with the Tower.

Readers may like to know how this soubriquet originated, and you will see that there is more than one answer to the above question.

Generally, we do not acknowledge the name 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 was possibly derived, as these Yeomen were sometimes called " Buffeteers," soon to be corrupted to " Beefeaters."

Having mentioned other Yeomen I had better first explain who these were.

In August, 1485, Henry Earl of Richmond (afterwards Henry VII), defeated Richard III at the battle of Bosworth. The retainers who had accompanied him into battle, were afterwards made into his personal bodyguard and this bodyguard exists today as H.M. Bodyguard of the Yeomen of the Guard.

When the Tower was used as a Royal Palace and the King frequently lived there, the Yeomen Warders were in constant evidence as his bodyguard, but as these visits and residences became less frequent there was some danger of the Yeomen Warders losing their ancient privileges and rights.

The story which has been passed down is that when the Duke of Somerset, the Lord Protector to the young King Edward VI was first a prisoner in the Tower, he received humane and considerate treatment from his warders who made a petition to him asking that their ancient dress and privileges might be restored to them. This was in 1551. The Duke of Somerset promised to see to the matter on his liberation and was as good as his word. " And caused the Warders of the Tower to be sworn extraordinary of the guarde, and to wear the same livery they do, which had the beginning by this meanes."

The Yeomen of the Guard wear State Dress only, and the difference between it and that worn by the Yeoman Warders is that the former wear a red and gold crossbelt from left shoulder to right hip, on which they used in olden days to carry the arquebus. The Yeomen Warders were not armed with this weapon.

When not in State Dress we wear the Blue Undress uniform bearing the Royal Cipher surmounted by a crown on the front of the frock. This is the dress the visitors to the Tower see the Warders wearing on normal duties except on Royal Salute days.

This blue undress uniform was introduced in 1858 after approval by H.M. Queen Victoria.

Readers may now appreciate the reason we are so often confused with the Yeomen of the Guard.

There is friendly rivalry between the two bodies and some of the State duties performed are similar.

Another possible reason for the name " Beefeater " is that in Tudor days some of the Yeoman Warders were employed as Yeoman Waiters at the Royal table. Meat was then plentiful and the Yeomen Warders made a reputation for themselves by their consumption of beef.

A Warder's Tower Warrant includes the words " Yeoman Warder or Waiter." The daily list of duties is referred to as " The Days Wait " and the book itself as the " Wait Book."

The story I like best is the following: —

" Henry VIII was fond of disguising himself, and in the manner of going about among his subject. Any escapade of this kind is said by Fuller to have given to the Yeomen of the Guard the soubriquet of " Beefeaters." Once while on a hunting expedition at Reading Abbey, he dressed himself in the uniform of his Yeomen of the Guard and so disguised, paid a visit to the Abbot about dinner time. Being apparently one of the King's retinue, he received a welcome from the Abbot and was invited to dine at his own table. The principal dish was a large joint of beef, and the King, being as " hungry as a hunter " ate heartily, and voraciously of the meat. The Abbot, observing his evident enjoyment, addressed him saying, " Well fare they heart, and his is a cup of sack, I remember the health of His Grace your master. I would give a hundred pounds if I could eat as heartily of beef as you, alas my weak and squeamish stomach will hearly digest a piece of a small rabbit or chicken." After courteous thanks the guest departed. In a few weeks after the Abbot was committed, he knew not why, a close prisoner to the Tower, and his food limited to the usual prison fare, bread and water, and with this he had to be content for some time. At last, to his surprise and delight, a joint of beef was put before him and he attacked it with gusto. While so employed the Abbot was astonished to see the King enter the room and demand a hundred pounds of him for having restored to him his lost appetite for roast beef.

The money was ultimately paid and the prisoner released and thereafter, whenever the Abbot saw a Yeoman of the Guard he thought of the " beefeater " and the King in disguise as a Yeoman of the Guard. The tale is told by some other historian with some slight variations and it is just possible that the jocular name of the " Beefeater " was given to the guard when this bit of waggery came to be told and repeated, as it would be, with great glee.

Perhaps the reader will understand now why a Warder answers the question with the shorter story, i.e., " Beefeater from the word Buffeteer."

If we don't then we become involved in giving an explana-

tion of the difference between the Yeomen of the Guard and ourselves! Very often there is not time to give this explanation.

Gilbert and Sullivan's opera, "The Yeoman of the Guard," which readers know is a story about the Tower of London, made the confusion even worse.

The Yeomen of the Guard never come to the Tower, but Yeomen Warders do have occasional State duties outside the Tower, i.e., at the Coronation and in the City of London.

Next time, dear reader, you see a picture of such an occasion with Beefeaters on duty, see if you can tell a Yeoman Warder from a Yeoman of the Guard.

"Jimmy"

Mercury . . . . . Hermes

Brigadier R. J. Moberly writes:—

"Your editorial for August prompts me to write to you in case the exact origin of our Corps badge is not widely known.

"The figure of Mercury was first suggested for the insignia of the R.E. Telegraph Battalion in 1884. It appeared in the form of a drawing by the Editor in the *Military Telegraph Bulletin* of 15th September in that year. This was a small magazine of limited circulation edited by Captain (later Colonel) Charles F. C. Beresford, R.E. Colonel Beresford was intimately connected with the development of the electric telegraph for military use in the latter half of the 19th century. With the drawing the following paragraph appeared:—

'On a loose sheet will be seen a sketch of a design for a device for the Telegraph Battalion. It is taken from the well-known figure of 'Mercury,' the 'Winged Messenger of the Gods,' and I think appropriate in every way. I believe the original figure was found among the ruins of Pompeii and is now in Naples. I should like to receive any other suggestions or remarks on the subject.'

"There is no record of any other suggestions, and the figure of 'Mercury' was evidently adopted shortly afterwards. It was in 1891 that Beresford, and a Lieutenant Elkington, presented to the Telegraph Battalion the drum major's staff, surmounted by the figure of "Mercury," which is carefully preserved in a place of honour at Catterick in the Headquarters Mess."

* * *

Major D. Coatesworth writes:—

"I do not remember having seen Captain Courtenay Price's article, but may I join issue with him on the basis of your August Editorial?

"Of the ten gods named in the extract, only three were Greek, the rest being Roman. Admittedly the Roman dieties had their Greek counterparts, but names cannot be switched. (It would be as fallacious to call Jupiter the chief Greek god as it would be to argue that since Hitler and Mussolini were counterparts, Mussolini was Chancellor of the Third Reich!)

"More particularly, Mercury (Roman) and Hermes (Greek) had few characteristics in common. Mercury was the Roman God of Commerce (merx-merchandise) and Gain, while Hermes was primarily Zeus' herald.

"In time, however, the Romans attributed so many of Hermes' gifts to their own Mercury that an attempt was made to acclaim the two as the same god. This move was, however, resisted by the Fetiales (a forerunner of U.N.O.!).

"Apart from differences in origin and attributes, there is a pictorial difference, for while Hermes is depicted as carrying the Caduceous, Mercury carries a sacred branch—a sign of peace.

"It seems clear to me, therefore, that if by some unfortunate error 'Jimmy's' birth was registered in the surname of 'Mercury' it should be changed at once to 'Hermes.'

"If any of your readers still need convincing, I would add just this—*Hermes* was the patron of all gymnastic games. Now do you see why the Corps does so well at sport?"

OFFICIAL CAR BADGE

The badge illustrated above is the only official car badge for Royal Signals, and is obtained from the headquarters of the Association, 88 Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1. Price **£1 : 15 : 0**

We understand an unauthorised copy is on sale at some retail shops at £2 : 10 : 0

Verb Sap!

The Editor writes:—

"A picture of the statue of 'Jimmy' in the garden of Kilmore House, Camberley, appeared in THE WIRE of June 1951. This house was built in about 1911 by Colonel C. F. C. Beresford, one-time Commanding Officer of the Telegraph Battalion. The statue was originally purchased at the 1851 Exhibition. So far for fact.

"It is too much to suppose that this statue was the inspiration of the 'design for the device for the Telegraph Battalion?'"

Guest Night and the Morning After

by **JANICE PORTER**

ALL guest nights start in the morning in our house! Just as my husband is going through the door he says: "Oh, I forgot to say it's guest night tonight, ask Brown to see to my uniform."

Of course, I almost always forget, and there is then a rapid rush around polishing buttons and pressing trousers which seem to slip off the ironing board every second, and worse still is the moment when a critical eye is passed over the completed effort, and I hear whether "Brown" has done the job well or not!

Yesterday was no exception, apart from the fact that I did remember to ask the batman to clean and press the uniform. Round about seven in the evening the flurry began. Everybody wanted the bathroom together, the children decided to linger in the bath with a soap bubbling outfit given to them at a party, and all father's thudding on the door seemed to fall on deaf ears. Having successfully got them out of the bathroom myself and into bed I then heard frantic calls from upstairs. "Where are my cuff links, and why is there never a handkerchief in my drawer when I want one?" Restraining myself from the bitter retort that they are usually lying in the shed covered with oil, I find one from the pile I keep for these occasions, and peace is restored.

Then I listen patiently to how no-one really wants to go to these guest nights, but of course it's "Old Tubby's farewell, and I feel I must go." This, of course, is a monstrous lie, not the bit about feeling he must go, but the bit about not wanting to. Experience has shown that all Officers (or at least those with wives) tell this story. Really they are bursting to get away and have a rip-roaring time.

Strangely enough this is what my husband imagines I have while he is away, he says comforting things like "Now you will be able to listen to that play," or, worse still, he says, "I told Ginger and Ted that their wives could come round and keep you company if they liked," and away goes my dream of a good soak in the bath and a nice long read in bed. But yesterday I was alone.

With a final "I'll be home as soon as I can," he went through the door, and I went off for my good long read. In the early hours of the morning I heard plaintive calls from down below, of course he had forgotten his key, but once through the door and away from the fear that the milkman might find him on the front doorstep later in the morning, my husband revived and began to tell me stories of how he met so and so, and wouldn't it be a good idea if we had a good cup of tea. What, right now? Yes, right now.

But this morning has rivalled all other mornings. After being asleep for what seemed like an hour I woke to find my husband with a beautiful smile on his face and his arms gently flaying around. To my horror I realised that there was a soldier standing outside our house, making a horrible noise on a whistle. At the same moment my husband flung himself out of bed and muttering something about "It's a stand-to," dived into the bathroom shouting hoarsely, "Get me a good cup of coffee." Over the coffee he said, "And I was dreaming I was swimming in Singapore," and grabbing his cap he again made for the front door.

"Don't you want your mackintosh?" I yelled after him. "It's pouring." Groaning, he came back for it, and mournfully said, "I don't know when I will be back, it might be tonight, it might be tomorrow."

The children yelled down the stairs, "What's daddy doing with that man with the whistle?" Having visions of the poor man being strangled, I rushed to the window, but he was just talking to him. "What's the matter?" again yelled the children, and not knowing quite what it was all about I called back, "It's a game."

"What a silly game to play at this time in the morning," said Mary, "and without your breakfast as well."

Should I go back to bed or stay up? One look at the cold boiler told me the answer. If there was a stand-to there would be no Brown. Sadly I went outside to the coke shed, only to find that the fatigue party had put this week's coal on top of last week's coke. While I was sorting this out the radio was noisily playing "Oh, what a beautiful morning" and "I'm just a girl who can't say no."

I was beginning to wish I had said "no" to a soldier, so I thought I would go and relieve my feelings by banging away on the typewriter. Just as I began this a cheerful voice from the doorway called "It's over, I'm back."

"I was in the middle of a literary effort," I said crossly, and the reply came, "Sorry, old girl, but just come and try a culinary one, remember I had no breakfast."

Sorry, WIRE, I must go.

Catterick Jottings

by nacerby

ITMA . . . Horticultural Version

YOU will probably have guessed to whom I'm referring and, of course, you're right . . . for the third year in succession, Major Ernie Nash, 3 Training Regiment, was a clear winner in the Annual Officers' Pre-War Gardens Competition, and it's amazing to me (and the rest of the Garrison) just how he does it. But there it is, and with Captain W. Thorp, 4 Training Regiment, the third prize winner, and Captain E. A. McLoughlin, 3 Training Regiment, and Captain A. Williams, 4 Training Regiment, first and second in the Officers' Post-War Gardens Competition, and 1 Squadron, 2 Training Regiment, the Unit shield winners, "Signals" again showed that a "thing of beauty can be a joy for ever"—if one works for it.

Sports

Just can't keep 7 Training Regiment out of the news—winners of the Northumbrian District Inter-Unit Golf Tournament and now finalists versus 6 Battalion, R.A.O.C. in the Northern Command Cricket Competition. These successes and the fact that Lance-Corporal D. Padgett and Signalman J. Mortimore are in the Army Cricket XI explains that happy look on Lieutenant-Colonel J. P. North's face.

1 Training Regiment occupied 6th place in the Army

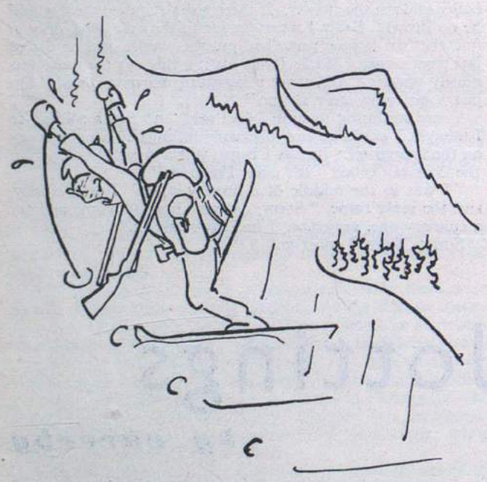
Inter-Unit Team Athletics Championship, and our new "Cotterell"—Signalman K. Norris, 2 Training Regiment, won the Army 3-mile individual in record time.

To this I gladly add . . . Certa Cito.

Driving . . . R.I.P.

The Mercedes is no more! Alas! But I was puzzled at the low price I was offered until the buyer gave me a long lecture on "maintenance." So to round off my driving series . . .

Driver Abie Abrahams
Was always found in awful jams.
His run of luck was really rank,
He started with a Churchill tank
Which he bumped into in reverse;
His truck, of course, came off the worse.
His explanation, lacking tact,
Was that his brakes had failed to act.
And next, when carrying Company coke,
His radiator hone pipe broke.
Once, in the dark, the silly ass
Ran absolutely out of gas,
And spent a wet and dismal night
Out on the moors—and serve him right,
Because you see his fuel supply
Had sprung a leak—his tank was dry.
And once, when on an exercise,
He had a really big surprise;
In manner most profoundly weird,
His gear box simply disappeared.
And finally, his chassis bust
And this caused Abie to bite the dust.
Why this bad luck? the reader asks,
He didn't do his "daily tasks."



Royal Signals Ski Club

My friend "Takang" (who is, of course, none other than Captain A. W. (Dickie) Richards) has sent me the amusing cartoon by Kaptein Olstad, of the Ski and Winter School, Norway, depicting, as he calls it, "A reminder of the joys in store for the coming winter—" ! !

He's just kidding, of course, and next month it is hoped to publish all details of the functions and aims of the Royal Signals Ski Club.

The present secretary is Major N. A. C. Clubb, of 3 Training Regiment.

Signal Training Centre

3 TRAINING REGIMENT

The Regimental Weekend on 15th/16th August was such a tremendous success I'm honestly hard put to find superlatives enough to describe it all—and it was particularly gratifying and heartening that the large gathering of parents and sweethearts from all parts of the country should depart on the Sunday with such happy lasting memories of their sons and future husbands at work and play.

Certainly even the old 'uns of the Regiment had never seen anything like it and this now permanent annual feature of the Regiment's activities is certainly an occasion for that "get together" whereby all parents can "wander at will" and see at first hand all that is being done to mould their sons to play their part—both at work and play—as soldier-citizens of "This Land of Ours—This ENGLAND."

The Regimental Sports on Saturday heralded the festivities—and with the weather in "support" in glorious fashion—'twas an afternoon of athletic fun and festivity. Performances and times were excellent and the result: —

1st	2 Squadron	(Major K. Brown)
2nd	4 Squadron	(Major G. Stretch)
3rd	3 Squadron	(Major E. Sinnock)
4th	H.Q. and 1 Squadrons	(Major J. Matthewson and Captain J. Brine).

Major G. Bolam (our erstwhile Second-in-Command) was a popular winner of the Old Soldiers' race—can't tell you the combined service of the competitors, I almost had a headache trying to work it out with a slide rule. But all were glad Major Ernie Nash didn't compete . . . no less than 37 yards start. Phew ! !

Add to all this, delightful music by the Corps Band and finally the presentation of the prizes by the wife of the Commanding Officer (Mrs. G. H. Starr) and 'twas easy to understand the happy looks of the Commander S.T.C. (Brigadier W. D. J. Harries, C.B.E.) and Mrs. Harries and everyone present.

A Film Show and All Ranks Dance in the evening in Bourlon Gymnasium really was remarkable for its infectious gaiety and happy atmosphere. Church services on the Sunday, followed by a Corps Band concert and the final of the Inter-Squadron Cricket Competition won by 4 Squadron, brought a memorable weekend to a close.

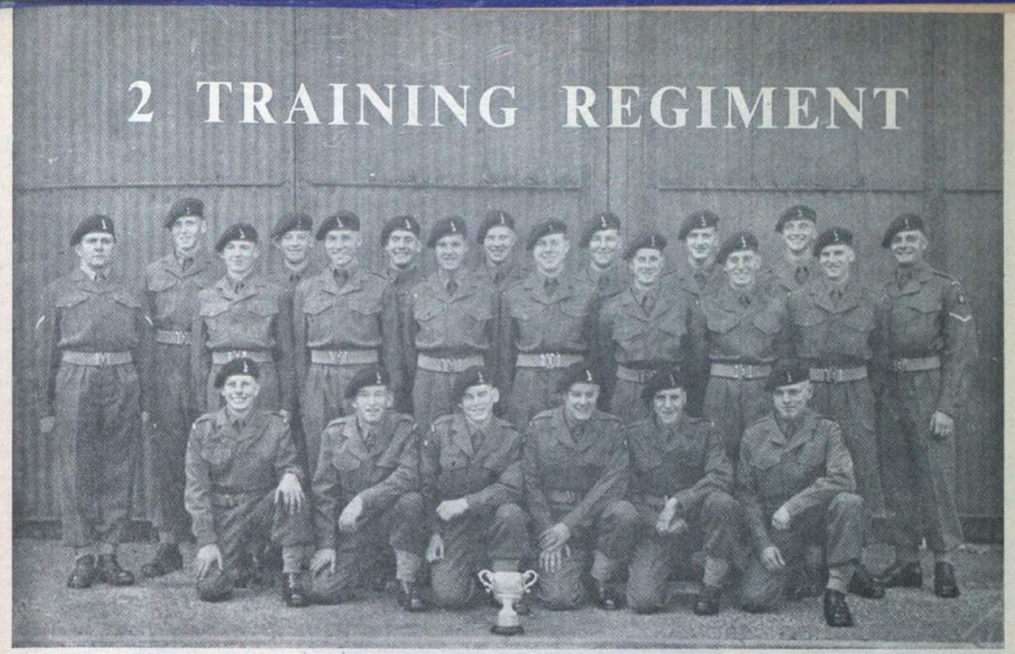
Can't single any particular individual out for special mention, sufficient to say the Regiment—ALL RANKS—combined to make it the outstanding success. Tired? Yes, indeed, but what a real labour of love.

Welcome to Major P. M. C. Spence as Second-in-Command, and to Captain J. Heard as Adjutant.

Visitors—and impressed visitors at that—have been Lieutenant-Colonel S. C. Graham, M.C., Royal Australian Armoured Corps and Lieutenant-Colonel J. P. North, 7 Training Regiment—and we are particularly proud of the excellent reports received by our trainees who assisted 50 (N) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, 51 (HD) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, and 53 Welsh Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment at their annual camps. Oh yes, we can always do it with just that little bit of encouragement.

Congratulations to Lance-Corporal James (3 Squadron) on the Life-Saving Swimming Award of Merit; Signalman Tarsley on winning the Northern Command Spring Board Diving Championship and second place in the Firm Board Diving Competition; Signalman Johnson (880 yards) and Lance-Corporal Philemon (high jump) on standard awards in the Army Individual Athletic Championships, and finally, the Water Polo Team, under Major E. Sinnock, on reaching the semi-final of the Northern Command Championships. They were beaten by 1 Training Regiment by 12 goals to 4.

2 TRAINING REGIMENT



[*Courtesy: Todd & Berwick, Bedale, Yorks.*

No. 18 Squadron 2 Training Regiment, winners inter-unit Drill Competition, Northumbrian District July 1953

After a considerable lapse of time the writer feels that it may be of general interest to show the changes which have taken place recently in the Regiment. We have said goodbye to Lieutenant-Colonel E. F. J. Heap, O.B.E., who has forsaken service with the Forces for service with the Church Militant. We wish him every success in his new sphere of life. Mrs. Heap will be sorely missed by all those who have had the benefit of her advice and help and also the families of the Regiment, who always looked forward to her visits and tea parties. We are fortunate in welcoming Lieutenant-Colonel F. S. P. H. Lang as a worthy successor, and trust that his stay with us will be a "lang and happy one." Mrs. Lang has already proved her popularity with the families and has taken on families welfare from the moment of her arrival. Other recent arrivals are Major G. D. Woolrych, who has joined the Regiment as second-in-command from Middle East, and Major E. Beverley who has taken over the large (Wride/King) Quartermaster's Staff. Many serving members in the Corps will remember Ted Beverley from his whispered words of encouragement on the Drill Square many, many years ago.

Following, it is rumoured, a high level Cabinet decision, Captain Don Hutley has left for the Middle East and Captain E. H. Rose is getting his tropical wear for the same destination. Major B. D. Elsmore is letting his hair grow with a view to taking up an appointment in Chislehurst. Major G. A. Axson has arrived and is taking over the Chief Instructor's reins of office. We have also said farewell to S.S.M.s Hutchins, Mathews, Beardmore, Burton and Parkes, and their places have been taken by S.S.M.s Ratcliffe, McRoberts, Howard and Williams. For the rest, the Regiment continues as the brook and they "come and go" but, like the P.R.I. Major R. C. Bird, still goes on forever. The W.O.s and Sergeants' Mess still continues to be the hub of entertainments in Catterick Garrison.

We have been basking in reflected glory by the prowess of our brilliant long distance runner, Signalman Norris, who has reached his climax by winning the Cotterell Cup for the 3-mile race. We feel that it is very fitting that the cup, which was presented by one of the Corps Champions, should be won by a present member of the Corps. In spite of many losses we still have a boxing team and we are hoping to retain some of the titles we have previously held. With the Army Championships being held in Catterick this year, we hope that the new venue will prove favourable.

The Corporals Messes visited Blackpool and found that the red flash of 2 Training Regiment formed quite an attraction for the local lovelies to the disgust of some of our more sartorial members in Gent.'s Natty Suiting, who were left in the cold light of the Blackpool sun by the red flashes stalwarts of the Regiment. The Corporals who missed the bus later returned wiser, but not sadder, men.

Finally, as I gaze through my lonely window, I see the long line of little flowers still in their pristine glory, fed and watered not "alas, by Clemantine," but by the one and only, who, although he prefers to remain anonymous, is known to so many of the Corps as Joe. However, his efforts have not been in vain and for the fourth successive year the gardens have obtained for the Regiment, the trophy for the best lines in Catterick Garrison.

THE BLUE BOOK

Seniority Roll of Warrant Officers and Non-Commissioned Officers of Royal Signals is now on sale

PRICE 2/-

from Royal Signals Association.

Amendments printed in the same type as the book to facilitate alterations, are on page 315.

4 TRAINING REGIMENT

Parents' Day

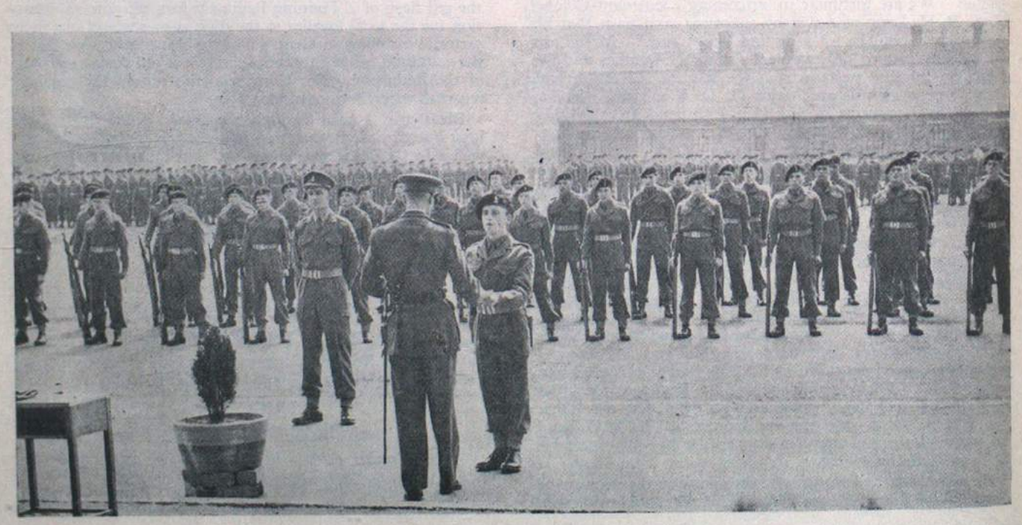
THE inauguration of the first of a series of Parents' Days that may prove a regular feature of the larger training establishments in the United Kingdom, was initiated on Saturday, 8th August, 1953, by 4 Training Regiment, Royal Signals, Catterick Camp. The weekend might well be described as a blue print of the finished product, and popular opinion has it that the experiment was an unqualified success.

The Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel H. Worrall, took the March Past of the Regiment and presented the best trainees of the senior troop their certificates of proficiency. The conduct and bearing of all ranks on parade was first-class, and in spite of intense heat, not a man fell out. In fact, seldom had these men moved and acted so smartly, as if anxious to give a good account of themselves in front of relatives and friends.

The day was a recipe of perfect midsummer sunshine, slick organisation and pleasant non-formality between the large numbers of parents attending from all parts of the country who witnessed the Parade and March Past to the strains of the Corps band. A luncheon in the main dining hall, where a cross-section of Army cooking was apparently not found wanting, and a tour of the facilities of the Regiment, together with a demonstration of a normal day's training. The parents being conducted around the area and training rooms, witnessed a cross-section of their sons' working day. Further, as no visit would have been complete without a tour of the main camp area, this was made through the medium of a number of coach trips during which, parties were shown camp facilities and points of interest. Tea in the unit N.A.A.F.I. followed by a concert and closing address by the Commanding Officer, completed the programme.

It is intended that these Parents' Days shall become a regular part of the Regimental programme. The opportunity offered the parent of discussion with the Officer and N.C.O. is invaluable.

Signals have undoubtedly got off to a good start in what is likely to prove a very popular feature.



5 TRAINING REGIMENT, ROYAL SIGNALS

We welcome to the Regiment, Captain D. Hall, Captain C. B. Ward, Lieutenant J. T. Treglown, and the return of S.S.I. Turner, wishing them a happy stay with us.

The Regiment was well represented at the Northern Command Athletics Meeting held at Catterick on 18th July. Sergeant Cuthbert and Lance-Corporal Anderton gave a worthy display in the javelin throwing, gaining second place. Despite the overall lack of success the whole team had a most wonderful outing and we promise to do better at the next meeting.

During July we continued our successful Cricket season by winning all eight matches played. For the match against 36 A.E.R. we fielded our strongest team with the hopes of revenging a previous defeat and this time we were victorious. Our return game with 1 Training Regiment, which had been eagerly awaited was, unfortunately, not held, due to the nasty old rain.

The water polo season started off with a fairly strong team. After a few practices with the local Ripon club we were fit to take part in the Command Championships. The first round was won against 68 R.A.C., Catterick, by a very narrow margin. The second round gave us another win, this was against 3 Training Regiment. 12 goals to 4 with Signalman Archer and Lance-Corporals Trindle and Pettigrew as scorers. Now we go to the finals to be played at Darlington on 12th August, against 7 Training Regiment. For the Northern Command Water Polo Trials, Lance-Corporal Trindle and Signalman Archer are selected to take part in the Army Polo Trials at Aldershot in the Command Team. They won't let the Regiment down—you see!

After a tremendous success with Agatha Christie's "Ten Little Niggers" and a short play named "High Tea" we wish to prove our acting capabilities in Ben Travers' "Rookery Nook" shortly to be staged in the Garrison Theatre. We'd love to have all within visiting distance to come and free themselves with laughter. I'll give the date in the next issue. We are rather proud of our defeat to the Cary Theatre Group for their "Harlequinade," which was laid on well and swell. Proud, too, are we of our Bronze Medals in recognition of getting so close.

7 TRAINING REGIMENT

The work in connection with the military training of the Regular and National Service recruit goes on without respite. That the acute shortage of trained Drill and Weapon Training Instructors is not reflected to any great degree in a lower standard of drill and turnout on passing-off parades bears tribute to the hard work of the few instructors we have.

On 5th August, more than 200 parents and relatives attended the National Service pass-off parade on Baghdad Parade Ground. The entertainment of such a large number, which includes a tour of the Regiment and lunch with their sons (provided by the cookhouse), strained the machine, but the day was a great success. If these visits were an annual event, there would be no problem, instead, they come twice a month. A few words with a delighted parent is sufficient to repay one for the trouble.

The Regiment has added this month to its sporting successes as shown below:—

Swimming
16th July Winners—District Inter-Unit Championships.
12th Aug. Winners—Command Inter-Unit Championship.
12th Aug. Winners—Command Water Polo Cup.

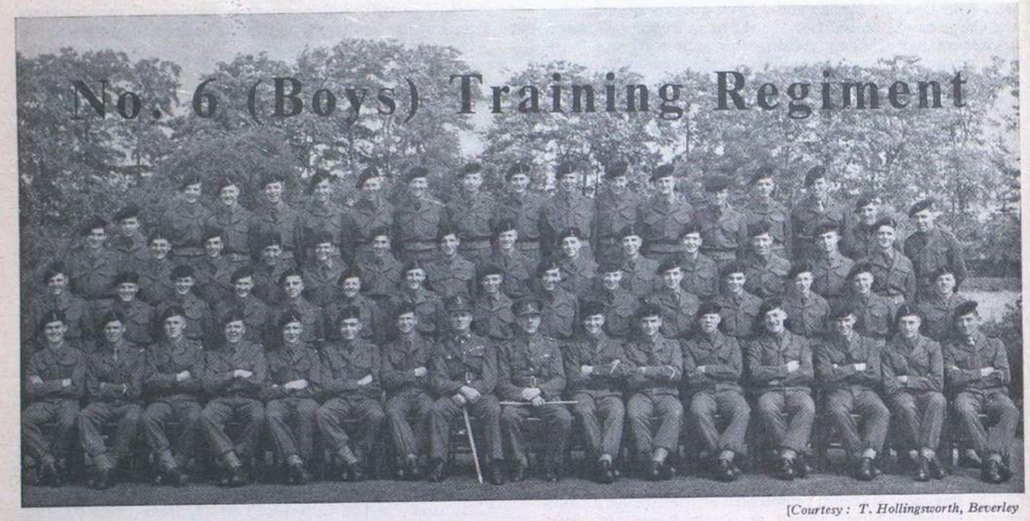
Golf
24th July Winners—District Inter-Regimental Golf Championships.

Cricket
22nd July Winners—District Inter-Unit Cricket Challenge Cup.

Cycling
22nd July Army Sprint Championship won by Lance-Corporal MacKenzie of this Regiment.
29th July Inter Service Sprint Championship, second, Lance-Corporal MacKenzie of this Regiment.
12th Aug. Winners—Army Massed Start Championships.

The Regiment is now hoping to win the Army Swimming Championships which take place in Aldershot on 26th-28th August, the Army Water Polo Cup, and also the Northern Command Cricket Cup Final which takes place on 19th August.

L/Cpls. D. E. V. Padgett and G. Barker open the innings for 7 Training Regiment in the Northumbrian District Cricket Cup Final at Catterick. L/Cpl. Padgett scored a fine 130



[Courtesy: T. Hollingsworth, Beverley

SENIOR SECTIONS 1953] SUMMER TERM

The summer term has been a very full and varied one, including many engagements outside the normal activities of the Regiment.

On Saturday, 2nd May, the Regiment was honoured by the attendance of Brigadier and Mrs. Harries at the Annual Parents' Day. Over 250 parents came from all parts of the country, many of them having made the long journey from the Channel Islands. The weather throughout was perfect and the bright sunshine, gay dresses of the ladies, and marquees erected round the sports field gave a festive air to the occasion.

★

The programme opened with the Trooping of the Regimental Standard, and the high quality of drill and bearing of the boys taking part was greatly appreciated by the visitors. This was followed by an individual athletics meeting and a thrilling spectacular performance by the Royal Signals Display Team.

Throughout the afternoon the Royal Signals Boys' Radio Club (G310G) operated from a marquee and, in spite of some local interferences, made several contacts with ex-Signals personnel, both at home and abroad. The marquee drew many interested spectators and our thanks are due to Major MacDonnel and Mr. Frarey, who came down from Catterick to help.

During the tea interval the Corps Band played a selection of light music, and then the Regimental P.T. Display Team gave an exhibition of club swinging and gymnastics. Mrs. Harries presented the prizes to the winners of the athletics meeting, and the afternoon's programme was brought to a close with the Beating of Retreat by the Boys Band.

This year the Athletic Team succeeded in gaining two firsts, one second and two thirds at the Northern Command Championships. In the Army Championships, Boy Miller became the first boy to win the boys' one hundred yards two years running. In the discus event, Boy Cave-Brown-Cave achieved the distinction of breaking the previous Army record, although he failed to gain a place.

It has been difficult to arrange athletics meetings with other schools, owing to our many other activities, but in spite of this handicap, the Athletics Team have trained rigorously for the Milocarian Trophy, which is open for competition between all the schools in the United Kingdom, and in which it is hoped that the Regiment will hold the high position gained in the previous two years.

The favourable impression made by the Boys who took part in the Regimental Day at Catterick has already been ably expressed by NACERBY in the June edition of THE WIRE.

The second part of the term was taken up by the summer camp, at which each Squadron spent sixteen days under canvas. This year the camp was held at Marske-by-the-Sea, near Redcar. The training area near the camp, on the North Yorkshire moors, was ideal for the many schemes designed to give practical experience in camp-craft, leadership and map reading. One of the longer two-day exercises involved a night's bivouac in Fryup Dales, during which the Boys did their own cooking.

The weather throughout the camp period was generally poor, but this did not deter the Boys from bathing in the sea on every possible occasion. Many interesting visits were made to places of historical interest in the locality and also to Dorman Long's iron and steel works in Middlesbrough. At the request of the local authorities the Boys Band Beat the Retreat on the promenade at Redcar before a very large and appreciative audience.

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With the end of term came the Educational Examinations. It was pleasing to note that the recent improvement in educational standard has been maintained. Of the term's output of 64 Boys, 13 had secured their "Army Firsts" or above, and nearly half of the remainder their "Seconds." As a result of this distinct improvement the number of Boys leaving us as potential Officer Cadets and "A" Class Tradesmen has risen sharply.

The Regiment's many engagements were brought to a close when nearly 250 Boys took part in the Coronation Rally of the York Old Comrades' Association on Saturday, 25th July. The Boys did not allow the handicap of a wet ground to mar their performances and once again deservedly won the applause of the large crowd of spectators.

THE DEPOT REGIMENT, ROYAL SIGNALS

Events during the past month have taken a quieter turn, and we have had the opportunity to savour some glorious weather as one only finds in South Devon.

The Annual Inspection season is looming up on the horizon and thoughts are beginning to turn to the preparations for it. On the 26th August the Chief of Staff, Southern Command is paying a brief visit to the Regiment.

With the weather having been so friendly, emphasis has been on sport and the cricketers have had some very entertaining games. A match with the Torquay Willows was lost by 5 runs after a devastating last-wicket stand by Major Golding and Driver Eagles that put on 33 runs. The Iraq-Petroleum Company's touring team visited the Regiment again, and this time turned the tables by a win of 12 runs.

The Inter-Troop Knock-out Cricket Competition has been retained by 1 Squadron Cadre beating R.H.Q. and H.Q. Troop in the final by 9 wickets.

The Unit football team have commenced training and have been viewing the new pitch with glistening eyes, obviously eager for the day when the cricketers will quit their domain.

An All Ranks Dance was held on Friday, 7th August, a most pleasant time was enjoyed by all that attended.

This has been a month of changes within the permanent staff. Captain T. U. Marshall has left for 1 A.A. (M) Signal Regiment, Lieutenant T. Hutton to 1 Training Regiment, and Captain N. C. Gordon will shortly be moving north. Captain J. Randall, Captain D. MacKenzie, Lieutenant J. Craigan, M.B.E., and W.O.II Wall have joined us to keep the wheels of drafting and releasing turning.

EASTERN COMMAND SIGNAL REGIMENT

With the Wireless Troop away on exercises, those left in R.H.Q. at Warren Camp seem to have devoted a great deal of their time to a general brightening up of the place. S.Q.M.S. Vittery, in particular, with the aid of a bucket of whitewash and a few men lustily wielding spades has transformed a hitherto rather dreary little "unpleasance" behind the cookhouse into a miniature paradise. Flowers, which some sceptics maintained to have been planted in order to provide labour for fatigue parties, are at last blossoming into colour, and justifying their existence. A liberal application of red and white paint in appropriate places—flagstaffs, fire points and so on—completes the picture. Finally, no doubt to combat the entrance of unauthorised persons into this delectable spot, the Adjutant has very wisely caused to be erected a barrier at each entrance to the camp in the form of a steel bar stretched across the road at a height calculated to shatter the windscreen of oncoming vehicles.

From the seclusion of this spot, one may calmly survey the outside events of the past month. The Wireless Troop has welcomed Sergeant Bagent from Singapore District Signals as its new Troop Sergeant. Out on exercises, things seldom turn out exactly as one would have wished. Driver Miller, in particular, was soon to discover the perversity of trees on a dark night. He was found by Sergeant Bagent to be backing his L.C.V. into a tree, the lower branches of which were systematically stripping the various bits of gear off the roof. On being politely informed by the Sergeant of what had happened, he exclaimed in injured tones and with an expression of genuine surprise that it wasn't his fault, but the tree got in the way. On the whole, the various "Old Brocks" and "Bulldogs" have turned out successfully, and the vehicles, if temperamental, have withstood both the strenuous work and the drivers. There has been only one case where we had to pick things out of a gear box.

A new fire alarm system has been set up in Warren Camp. This is unfortunate on fire practices. It is no longer possible anywhere in the camp truthfully to say that one "didn't hear the alarm."

5 CORPS SIGNAL REGIMENT

We held our annual Regimental Week-end on 3rd, 4th and 5th July. This year is our second in existence. Last year's week-end was held in September owing to our enormous summer commitments, and proved too late in the season for warm enough weather. This year we could look for better weather in July and our three days were fine and warm.

Friday was devoted to inter-Troop competitions. The linemen laid lines with speed and accuracy; the Light Wireless Troop set up and "netted" their low power sets; "A" Troop did the same thing with their heavier equipment. The afternoon was devoted to peg-driving and technical hazards. The drivers either had to thread their way round difficult series of curves—easy enough going forward but the very devil in reverse—or they had to negotiate a series of technical hazards, from removing a spark plug to changing the spare wheel. The D.R.s had technical hazards on motor cycles. A great deal of interest was shown by the onlookers. The prizes for each event were books of NAAFI vouchers. The day ended happily with tombola.

Saturday, the big day of the week-end, dawned fine and warm. Troop stalls, gaily apparelled with bunting, appeared, and the Regimental garden fete opened at 1130 hours. The stalls were judged for appearance and ingenuity by Mrs. Swainson and Mrs. Blaker. "O" Troop won the appearance prize with a "hoop-la" stall, while L.A.D. won the ingenuity prize with, fittingly, a car-garaging stall of great subtlety. During the course of the afternoon, whilst the children and the many visitors were enjoying the fete and the pony rides, the finals of the Unit athletics were run off. Some good running was seen, especially in the open races. Signalman Etherington, a National Serviceman, won the Victor Ludorum—a fine effort. Brigadier Taylor, D.S.O., the Commander of Colchester Garrison, presented the prizes in the absence of Mrs. Taylor.

An all ranks' dance ended the day. For the first time civilian clothes were allowed and the attendance was excellent. From the dance and raffle £30 was made for the Royal Signals Benevolent Fund. Raffle prizes included, amongst other things, a camera, spirits, and food hampers.

On Sunday morning the whole Regiment paraded for a service in the Garrison Church, and afterwards marched past the District Commander, Major-General R. H. Bower, C.B., C.B.E. In the afternoon inter-Troop six-a-side knockout football was held. This was won by Special Wireless Troop by a clear margin. And so ended another annual Regimental Week-end.

We have supplied neutral signals for two exercises recently, i.e. "Scamper Down" and "Water Scorpion." The routine on both occasions has been the same: a long drive from Colchester to Larkhill, one and a half days preparing for the exercise, and then three days actually on the exercise, followed by the convoy trip back to Colchester.

In the sporting world we have reached the finals of the Garrison cricket and are entered for the Garrison swimming. Our team in Colchester Garrison Athletics Meeting tried hard but could not compete with the trained athletes they came up against.

SOUTHERN COMMAND (MIXED) SIGNAL REGIMENT

At the time of writing these notes a change of command of the Regiment is imminent. Lieutenant-Colonel A. J. M. Atthill, O.B.E., is to leave us to take up his new appointment as Commandant S.T.C. Pakistan on promotion to Colonel. Our very best wishes are extended to him and his family for a very successful and happy tour there. At the same time may we congratulate Major R. G. Baker, who is to assume command of the Regiment, on promotion, on 7th August.

Owing to the extended deployment of the Regiment, sport

has always had to be organised on a Squadron rather than a Regimental basis. Nevertheless, the name of the Corps is being upheld in all the usual spheres of sport and preparations are well in hand for the oncoming football and hockey season.

It is hoped to hold at least two Regimental week-ends annually. The first of these was held on 30th-31st May, and was an unqualified success from a six-a-side football match to the Regimental Dance and Children's Coronation Party.

The summer training season has kept the Regiment fully committed. The "FSS" Troop in particular have found overtime quite the normal thing in making provision for the many T.A. exercises held within the Command. Aldershot "FSS" Troop provided the majority of line communications required for Exercise "Odiham," the great parade and flypast staged by the R.A.F. for H.M. The Queen. The Troop is to be congratulated on a job well done.

No. 2 Squadron at Aldershot has already overcome the annual hurdle of the Administrative Inspection and succeeded in obtaining a report which will be difficult to better. The W.R.A.C. were particularly congratulated on their turnout on parade. It is hoped that this is a happy augury for the remainder of the Unit who have this ordeal yet to come.

SCOTTISH COMMAND (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT

June saw the State Visit of Her Majesty The Queen to Edinburgh, an occasion which will be long and warmly remembered by the Regiment. Under the command of Captain De Lyle-Turner and Second-Lieutenant Scott, fifty men of the Regiment lined the royal route on the Tuesday of Her Majesty's arrival, on the Wednesday for Her Majesty's visit to St. Giles Cathedral, and on the Saturday for Her Majesty's visit to Edinburgh Castle for the Ceremony of the Keys. The Regiment also had the honour of providing a guard at Edinburgh Castle on the Wednesday. It consisted of one sergeant, one corporal and nine men, the sergeant being Sergeant Kendrick, and all praise is due to them for the excellent show they made. In July we had the Scottish Command Sports Meeting, and as is usual on these occasions the rain threatened all day but managed to hold off until the last event. The Regiment took third place amongst the five male Units competing. The W.R.A.C. did very well in coming first out of the four W.R.A.C. Units—remarks about the "weaker sex" are taboo here at the moment. The day was thoroughly enjoyed by all, watchers and competitors alike, and our congratulations go to all competitors. Since the last issue we have said goodbye to Sergeant "Bill" Price, who has left us for civvy street. We wish him all success and welcome Sergeant Hartford, who comes to us from Trieste.

Lastly, our heartiest congratulations to Lieutenant-Colonel (T.O.T.) A. H. Britton for the award of the O.B.E. in the Coronation Honours List.

Also in July the Regiment was visited by the Corps Band who were with us for a weekend.

Taking advantage of the Band's presence, a Regimental Day was held on the Saturday. In the afternoon there was a sports meeting, in the evening a Cocktail Party was held in the Officers' Mess, and later in the evening we had a Grand Dance, the Corps Band being in attendance at all three functions. The day was a great success and was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Earlier in the month the Married Families got together for a day's outing at North Berwick. The weekend, as is usual for these occasions, kept fine, the children were in their element and thereby proceeded to dig up half of Scotland's east sea shore. However, a good day was had by all and the next day found the parents wondering whether the saying, "A change is as good as a rest" is quite true.

Sport in the Unit is still flourishing with the Cricket Team now in the Third Round of the Command Challenge Cup. A touch of Wimbledon has reached us in Lance-Corporal Harris and Signalman Cooper. Our very sincere congratulations go to them in winning the Command Doubles and to Lance-Corporal Harris in reaching the finals of the Command Singles and the Third Round of the Army Singles. To this mean scribe who has tried his hand at the game several times this season with horrible effect, the efforts of Lance-Corporal Harris and Signalman Cooper rate high.

The Sergeants' Mess has been active with a farewell party to Sergeant "Harry" Whelan, who will be remembered by many members of the Corps. The C.O., Lieutenant-Colonel Linton, and several other Officers of the Unit attended with their ladies and the event was celebrated in true fashion. After an excellent dinner, Sergeant Whelan was presented with a handsome barometer by Mrs. Linton. We of the Regiment wish him every success in Civvy Street, knowing that he will always be with us in spirit, if not in the flesh.

This month we also said goodbye to W.O.II J. Wilde, who has left us for 5 A.A. at Scarborough. Our every wish also goes with him for success in his new Unit.

Last, but not least, the month saw the first "all Signals" marriage in the Barrack Chapel. Lance-Corporal Keith Walker and Private "Billie" Billingsley, of our W.R.A.C. Squadron are the happy couple, and our Padre, Captain Bruntskill, officiated. Lance-Corporal Kelly was best man, and the charming bride was given away by Sergeant Turvey. We wish the couple a very happy and successful future.

Anti-Aircraft Command

15 A.A. (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT (T.A.)

The Regiment was in camp at Plasterdown, Tavistock, during May, and for the first time since its formation was minus 36 Squadron (Newcastle), who joined our Regular counterparts, 5 A.A. (M) Signal Regiment, at the same camp during the preceding fortnight. Despite atrocious weather during the first week, a useful training programme was adhered to, until Whitsun week-end, when all ranks "relaxed." Motor coaches were readily available in the Tavistock area, offering opportunity for holiday excursions to Plymouth and Torquay and, in the case of the Sergeants' Mess, a day's outing to Land's End. Regimental traditions spring up in odd ways, and the 15 Signal Regiment's Officers' Mess clock, which appears in a place of honour in front of the Commanding Officer on dinner nights, intrigued a number of Senior Officers who were our guests. The clock, a handsome piece, bears the inscription "From the Reserve Officers, With Gratitude, 1951," and was presented to the Officers of the Regiment by the "Z" Reserve Officers. The relationship which prompted the gift is a source of pride to the Regiment, and the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel L. Hayes, T.D., ruled that as long as the Regiment remains the clock will take a place of honour on the table. Thus are traditions made. Lieutenant-Colonel Hayes was in camp with the Regiment for the last time (he retires from the T.A. in October after 24 years' service).

Good luck, sir! We welcomed to their first camp with the Regiment, Lieutenant (Q.M.) "Paddy" Deegan, who took over this year from our tried and trusty friend, Major (Q.M.) Harry Hall.

We welcome also our new R.S.M., W.O.I R. A. B. Dixon.

1 A.A. (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT

Captain T. U. Marshall has recently joined us from the Depot vice Captain B. H. Townson who has moved to 5 Regiment at Scarborough. We also welcome Second-Lieutenants J. M. Lester and A. Senior, W.R.A.C., who have joined us from the W.R.A.C. School of Instruction.

[*Courtesy: J. Beaver, Plymouth*

Warrant Officers and Sergeants 15 A.A. (M.) Signal Regiment, 1953

A very successful and enjoyable Guest Night was held in the Officers' Mess on Monday, 20th July, 1953. Our guests of the evening were Major-General G. D. Fanshawe, D.S.O., O.B.E., Commanding No. 1 A.A. Group and Brigadier A. E. Morrison, O.B.E., C.S.O., A.A. Command.

The W.R.A.C. Athletics team from the Regiment duly competed in the A.A. Command Athletic Meeting on 17th July, 1953 and were placed second out of five teams, being beaten by only two points.

Hockey and Soccer now begin to figure in our plans but the Cricket XI nonetheless, continues to thrive, and in August we won three out of the four matches played.

A Ceremonial Parade was held on 22nd June, 1953, when Brigadier B. P. Hughes, C.B.E., A.D.C., Deputy Commander 1 A.A. Group, presented Coronation Medals to Lieutenant-Colonel J. E. S. Sanders, O.B.E., Lieutenant H. L. George, R.Q.M.S. A. Harris, S.S.M. J. Veitch, C.S.M. J. McDonald, W.R.A.C., and S.Q.M.S. J. Raymond.

The near future seems to be crammed with Exercises, Annual Camp and more Exercises. Hence the oft-expressed wish "Roll on Christmas."

5 A.A. (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT

Our month started with the Regiment assisting the local police in a search of the nearby cliffs for a man who had disappeared whilst on a cliff-top walk. After two days of exhaustive effort the Regiment stood down and it is regretted, without success.

On July 20 we entertained officers and ratings of H.M.S. *Swiftsure* which was on a courtesy call to Scarborough. A very exciting all day cricket match ended in a win for us by 1 run.

On July 26th we played the Guards Detachment from Pickering and again won the day (Signalman Kent 57).

Local ties have been further strengthened by our Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Eraut, acting as official starter at the first Scarborough Highland Games.

We say farewell to S.S.M. Ormond on his very pleasant posting to H.Q. SHAPE and wish him all good fortune.

We welcome to the Regiment, Captain B. H. Townson, Second-Lieutenant L. P. Dakin, W.R.A.C., and W.O.II J. W. Wilde and hope their stay will be a happy one.

Sunday, 9th August saw us assisting the local Home Guard in one of their exercises. It was very heartening to see how really keen these chaps were.

51 (U) A.A. INDEPENDENT (M) SIGNAL SQUADRON (T.A.)

The Unit attended annual camp at Tavistock, Devon, during the month of June, and it proved again that annual camps are the essence of good training. A motor cycle trial was arranged and although we did not come out on the winning side, our chaps put up a good show on the motor cycles provided. The Line Scheme again proved a great success, and although the Lines Officer was worried as to how to write off cable eaten by a cow and the weather was rather rough, nevertheless it went off well.

The shooting team proved that they can hit the bull, having won the 3 A.A. Group Small Bore Cup and finished as runners-up in the N.I.D. Competition. Next season we hope to see our name among the winners of some of the T.A. competitions which we have entered.

The Royal Visit to Northern Ireland gave the Unit a chance to show once more that both the military and the W.R.A.C. can soldier as well as train for technical efficiency, and two detachments were supplied, the military ably commanded by Captain H. W. Neill, Royal Signals (T.A.), and the W.R.A.C. by Captain C. M. Gillespie, W.R.A.C. (T.A.).

The Unit is at present on its summer recess, but local courses for the N.C.O.s are being run, so that when the harness is put on again we can get down to some useful training during the winter months.

EUROPE

H.Q. ROYAL SIGNALS (AUSTRIA)

In Klagenfurt, where H.Q. B.T.A. is located (not Vienna as is generally supposed), Royal Signals are represented by H.Q. Royal Signals, 37 Independent Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron and the Klagenfurt Signal Troop. It is proposed to combine notes from these Units in future under the heading of H.Q. Royal Signals (Austria).

Work. Exercise "Blossom" in May opened the campaigning season and for five days we wrestled with communications over soaring mountain ranges and deep, narrow valleys. The G.O.C.-in-C., in his final summing up, said: "Signals once again put up a good show." We intend to keep it that way. Our much-practised C.W. skywave working paid big dividends when things became difficult. Even the U.S.

Corporal Forster doing the long jump

Signals (who were working parallel to us) asked us to clear an urgent live message as they were unable to make radio contact. We did and 20 minutes later a U.S. soldier was being prepared for a rapid return to the States on compassionate grounds.

We have now become very P.T. conscious and much is due to the enthusiasm and energy of Captain Ronnie Walker, who, with his four subaltern instructors, is turning us into a race of supermen and tree-top Tarzans (much of his P.T. involves rope work in trees).

Cricket is our main theme and we now head the local league and hope to win the inter-Unit championship. We were runners-up to the Royal Warwicks last year. Star players are Lance-Corporal Harrison (P.C.49), who has shattered the hopes of no less than 61 batsmen for only five runs per wicket; Lance-Corporal Whitehead (who is to Harrison as Hope is to Crosby), S.S.M. Godfrey, Sergeant Jorgensen, Signalman Turner, Captain Mogridge and Major Knowles.

Athletics are also in the limelight. Last year we won the team championships, and took more than half the prizes at the individual sports. While not so strong this year we still hope to do well.

Vienna Signal Troop

The cricket season opened by us losing to the R.A.F. at Schwechat, but we attribute our defeat to the star bowler of the R.A.F. team, Signalman Perkins, who was attached to them. Needless to say, Signalman Perkins has been recalled from detachment and is now playing on our side! Since this ignoble defeat we have played Vienna Garrison and R.M.P., winning the first and losing the latter.

We are extremely sorry to lose Sergeant Miall, Sergeant Rooke, Corporal Crook and Corporal Fawcett to Klagenfurt. Our only hope is that they settle down quickly in their new Units.

The "Signal" population in Vienna seems to be increasing by leaps and bounds. *(Page 283, column 2.)*

4 L. OF C. SIGNAL REGIMENT

R.H.Q. and 1 Squadron. During July the continuous dispersal of staff and Units to exercise locations for the big Exercise "Coronet" had kept us all busy and left no time for recreational pursuits. Some might think that a spell of "dodgems" between W.D. vehicles added excitement to the proceedings—it certainly added headaches.

Thankfully our overhead lines are negligible or communications would doubtlessly suffer during the cold winter months which lie ahead. How pleasant to think about football and Rugby and to hear an end to this continual question "What's the latest score?"

2 Squadron. Hamburg continues to have more than its share of rain, but rain or fine the Squadron continues to cope with its commitments in addition to supplying a number of Troops for Exercises.

This month has seen a revival of the Old Comrades' Association's activities, and two most enjoyable evenings have been organised by W.O.II Hose, ably assisted by a small band of volunteers.

The Squadron is well represented in the district cricket and tennis teams.

3 Squadron. Our local branch of the Association held an outing for the Squadron and families to an artificial lake, which was enjoyed by all; unfortunately, most of the Squadron departed on the same day for an exercise (there's that word again) and the attendance wasn't up to our usual standard. However, the only comment was that "one is supposed to get wet outside on swimming expeditions and not inside!"

Our cricket team is still making headway, and we are at present second in the Garrison League, having played seven, won five and lost two.

SHAPE SIGNAL SQUADRON

July's most noteworthy occurrences have been an eight-day exercise, and a thorough clean out of all our older Squadron members by the Officer-in-Charge Records. As is usual on most exercises, the Corps took a prominent part. The operational personnel worked 12-hour shifts and acquitted themselves well. Colonel Fettig of the American Signal Corps, who is in charge of all communications at SHAPE, was very pleased with the efforts achieved by the NATO communications personnel in general and the British element in particular. He requested that we all be given a three-day pass, but whether or not this will ever be fitted in is another matter. However, it is a gratifying thought that our work merited recognition.

Practically all the personnel who helped to form the Squadron in the spring of 1951 have left during the last month. These include Captain Pocock, W.O.II Thompson, S.Q.M.S. Irving, Sergeants Weir, Trevithick, Finlayson and Corporal Bradley. In the Cipher Troop alone only three out of ten faces belong to old stagers. Some of the postings are back to England, whilst others would appear to be booked for a Mediterranean cruise to MELF. After the miserable summer weather we have had here I can't understand why people are not looking forward to this latter posting!

We welcome to the Squadron, Captain Vero from Darkest Africa, who is to be our wireless fiend, and Sergeants Telford, Clements and Kelly. Captain Fairlie and Sergeant Kelly are to be seen on occasions in "Grippers Corner" having heated "I was there" discussions about Korea, and all that. We hope that our newcomers will enjoy their stay with us and settle down to working with this vast International Organisation.

On 11th July an impressive ceremony took place outside SHAPE Headquarters when General Gruenther took over from General Ridgeway as Supreme Allied Commander. The Signal Squadron formed the nucleus of the British Element which participated in the parade, and once more demonstrated the fact that we are soldiers as well as tradesmen.

Our sporting activity last month was curbed somewhat through our participation in the aforementioned exercise, and that International bogey—Rain, of which we have lately had more than our fair share. We did, however, play the SHAPE detachment of the R.M.P. at cricket and thoroughly trounced them. Our opponents batted first and scored 63. We promptly replied with 64 for no wickets. The two stars of this particular game were Captain Pocock who scored 53 not out, and S.S.M. Hamblett who had the remarkable bowling figures of six wickets for eight runs. "Carry on, Sergeant-Major"!

MIDDLE EAST LAND FORCES

1 INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT

The last few months have been busy ones for the Regiment. We started by finishing off the Divisional training period with Exercise "Longbow II" and then we got down to individual training. In addition, the Regiment and all its detached Troops have been inspected by the C.S.O., M.E.L.F.

Exercise "Longbow II" took place in the Sinai Desert, and it was interesting to see new country. Several of the Command vehicles were shipped across the Great Bitter Lake together with the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel W. A. Purser, and Major J. T. Lloyd, who is O.C. 1 Squadron. The remainder of the Regiment had a long approach march first, going about 30 miles north from Fayid, crossing the canal by bridge, and then moving south for about 40 miles to the concentration area. By skilful driving and good maintenance (at least, so says our L.A.D. Officer, Captain A. E. W. Dring) all arrived in good shape.

The exercise itself was five days of movement and little rest. It was very cold at night. Communications were stretched to the limit and the lower establishment of wireless sets did not allow for relay stations. The Regiment laid well over 90 miles of cable, including one 20-mile line between Main and Rear Divisional H.Q. The O.C. "C" Troop (then Second-Lieutenant I. C. Spear) had some amusing stories to tell of his skirmishes with Infantry Units, supporting tanks and Egyptian linemen. All good things have to end, however, and we then had the long approach march in reverse. The Command vehicles, with the scent of home in their radiators, galloped back in fine style. To all of you who have not been fortunate enough to travel the sand in Sinai it is just as thirst-making and even the same colour as our own local, well-loved and well-trodden sand in Fayid.

Just about to move off—Exercise Longbow II

The C.O., Lieut.-Colonel W. A. Purser

In April we commenced individual training, chiefly for operators, linemen drivers and D.R.s, though our T.O.T., Lieutenant J. A. Pyper, has had several radio mechanics under his wing. Courses were run by 1 Squadron and the detached Troops of 2 and 3 Squadrons. "J" Troop, for example, trained drivers and D.R.s, and besides their own men had five or six each from both "L" and "K" Troops; "K" Troop trained linemen, and "L" Troop operators. The ups and downs of the political situation interrupted this training, and though a number of men have been upgraded there are others who have not managed to satisfy our strict trade boards—for them we hope to run further training. Troop wireless exercises have started again and the whole Regiment is looking forward to the next Divisional exercise in October.

We have actually achieved huts for the Officers' and Sergeants' Messes and the other ranks' canteen. This is a great step forward and has encouraged the painters, house members and gardeners to put their best foot forward.

There have been many changes since these notes last appeared. We welcome Major J. B. Birkett, Captains G. Klosser and J. B. Stewart, Lieutenants (T.O.T.) J. A. Pyper and B. H. Adams, also Second-Lieutenants D. Pitkin and J. L. B. Percival. We are sorry to lose Captains W. G. Neilson, K. A. Smith, and (T.O.T.) P. F. C. R. Locke, Lieutenants J. P. Arcedeckne-Butler, R. G. Jones, and W. J. Pritchard, also Second-Lieutenant B. C. Kinsley, and we wish them all the best of luck.

We congratulate Major J. T. Lloyd, Captain (Q.M.) E. Launders, R.Q.M.S. R. Rose, S.S.M.s K. Allen and M. Wenman, and S.Q.M.S.s R. H. Jackson and G. Summers on

"J" Troop, attached H.Q. 1st Guards Brigade, commanded by Capt. W. G. Neilson, June, 1953

their well-earned promotion. We are also very pleased to learn that Captain F. G. Bonnart has qualified for the Staff College.

In the sporting sphere we have had some success. During the winter months the Regiment was beaten in the quarter-final of the Army (Egypt) Hockey Cup, our soccer team fared reasonably well, and the Sergeants' Mess darts team worthily upheld the traditions of the Regiment. A very successful seven-a-side soccer tournament was held over the Easter period. Sixteen teams took part and to the amazement of all concerned the "old mans" team of H.Q. 1 Squadron carried off the trophy.

The cricket team is playing extremely well and the water polo team, in its first season, has won half of the games played, which is a very creditable effort. The Regimental swimming gala, organised by Captain G. Klosser and S.S.M. M. Hendry, was enjoyed by all. In the Divisional swimming gala, Signalman Swann, of "M" Troop, won the open 440 yards race and was second in the 220 yards race. We have had three players in the Corps cricket team, one of whom is Lance-Corporal D. D. Fields, our fast bowler.

The Commander-in-Chief, General Sir Cameron Nicholson, K.C.B., K.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., recently paid a visit to H.Q. R.A. A lot of hard work was put in to make things ship-shape. After he had inspected the vehicles, which included those of "H" Troop, he called the drivers together and said, "Well done, if the vehicles go as well as they look they must go very well."

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2 AIR SUPPORT SIGNAL UNIT

During April and May we took part in Operation "Snowdrop" and maintained our reputation for being "always through." (N.B.—In the British sense of the term, not the American!)

Recent events in the Canal Zone have resulted in our visits to the desert being curtailed, and we are becoming quite expert on Internal Security measures. Although we are doing more guards than we like (I'm told that it is quite fatuous to associate the word "like" with "guards") we are finding time for much-needed technical maintenance.

Leave at Golden Sands, Cyprus, is the main attraction at the moment, and every week sees the departure of a party for seven days Riviera luxury—at a price!

We extend a warm welcome to Major P. H. Brown from the S.T.C. as our new O.C. To Major S. F. Dunkley, now on leave in the U.K. pending his new appointment with No. 1 War Office Signal Regiment (T), we say "Good luck, sir, and we hope that you will enjoy your new appointment. Should you miss the desert we are quite willing to send you a box of sand."

To Sergeant Bilverstone and his bride our best wishes for the future. They were married on 6th June and then followed two weeks' honeymoon in Cyprus.

We welcome to Fayid the wife and family of our S.S.M. (W.O.II Parker), and another batch of new arrivals from Catterick. They haven't *seen* the desert yet but they are *hearing* plenty about it!

GIBRALTAR SIGNAL SQUADRON

Like many other Units, we were fully employed during the Coronation Celebrations, and to us fell the task of providing loudspeakers for the Garrison parade on Coronation Day and the Coronation Tattoo. Although we did not have a Unit contingent on the parade, the hard work and excellent results were fully appreciated by O.C. Troops, who personally visited the Squadron to thank all those who contributed to the success of both events.

During June we held our first annual athletics meeting for three years and some very hidden talent came to the fore, which enabled us to enter a complete team for the Garrison Team Championships the following week, where we gave a good account of ourselves against some strong opposition. The championships were organised on a team basis and no individual prizes were awarded, but our 4 x 440 relay team just managed to get home in the last event of the day and are justly proud of the cups they received. During July a welfare outing was made to Malaga in Spain for members of the Unit and their families, and a very enjoyable day was spent far from the worries of line faults. These notes would not be complete without reference to two members of the Unit who have left us for the U.K., Lieutenant-Colonel R. A. Mackintosh, O.B.E. (retired), who has been filling the appointment of T.O.T. since his retirement, has left us for medical treatment at Millbank Hospital, London, and we feel sure that his many friends in the Corps will join with us in wishing him a speedy recovery.

He has since returned to Gibraltar.—Editor.

3 INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT

Since our last WIRE notes—all too long ago—we have been sweating out an unusually hot summer. Temperatures have already reached 112 degrees in our tents. Nevertheless, we have been busy with I.S. duties, exercises (including the much-publicised airborne Exercise "Snowdrop" held in Cyprus) and range firing. We are now at panic stations in preparation for the Annual Administrative Inspection.

The Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel A. M. W. Whistler, has been away from us since the beginning of April acting as C.S.O., B.T.E., during the absence of Brigadier Thuillier. Major A. V. Brandle, the Second-in-Command, is commanding the Regiment in the meantime.

It is refreshing in this modern mechanised Army to find that the horse is not entirely forgotten. Lieutenant-Colonel A. M. W. Whistler organised, skippered and played No. 3 for the Moascar team which won the Subaltern's Cup this year. The cup was presented in 1907 by the 3rd Battalion, The Coldstream Guards, to be competed for by Regimental teams of Subalterns and was played for yearly at the Gezira Club. Polo players, both learners and experts, should write to C.R. Signals, 3 Infantry Division (copy to A.G. 11 (o)).

"C" (Cable) Troop won the Coronation Cup for inter-Troop hockey by beating the old gentlemen of R.H.Q./Q. Troop.

The Inter-Troop Cricket League is now being played out at the risk of life and limb on the Mackworth Oval Ground.

We are gratified to achieve third place to 3 G.H.Q. Signal Regiment and 4 Air Formation Signal Regiment in the Royal Signals (Egypt) Swimming Gala. Congratulations go to Signalman Todd and Corporal Courtney for a notable achievement (first and second respectively) in the 200 yards breast stroke.

FROM SIERRA LEONE TO THE CORONATION

by **Sergeant L. M. BAMEH, West African Signals, Sierra Leone Signal Squadron**

THE Sierra Leone contingent flew from Freetown to Accra, and left Accra by Air Transport Command at midnight on the 27th May. We travelled all night, and landed at London Airport at eight o'clock in the evening of 28th May. Military lorries took us to the R.A. Depot at Woolwich where, on the same night, we were issued with mattress, five blankets, two sheets, a pillow and case. On the following day we were issued with our ceremonial dress. We moved to Kensington Gardens for five days on 30th May. We found it very cold there, even though we had our five blankets. On the morning of the Coronation we left the Gardens at 0730 hours and arrived at Westminster Abbey at 1035 hours. While there we heard the 41-gun salute when the Queen was crowned. We marched from Westminster Abbey at one o'clock, but the streets were so crowded we did not get back to Kensington Gardens until 1700 hours. While in Kensington Gardens before and after the Coronation, we had many opportunities to see round London. The streets in London —and we noticed how clean they were and how large and clean the glass windows in the shops were—seemed always to have many crowds. We used to go by tube train from Kensington Gardens. To get to the train you could travel on a staircase which moved, and you had to jump quickly to get on to it, or else in a lift which moved up and down in a sort of box. Not only did the train run underground, but there was more than one train, and we had to change to get from Kensington Gardens to the centre of London.

The cooks in Kensington took a great interest in us, and although we did not have West African food we were well looked after. The only time we could get rice it was sweet. We used to have our food every day at 10 o'clock so that we would have time to go out in the buses which came to take us sight-seeing. Some days Officers or British N.C.O.s who had been before in the West African Frontier Force would come and help Major Springfield, who commanded our contingent, to take us round.

After the Coronation Day itself, our most important day was 3rd June, when we paraded at Buckingham Palace to be inspected by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh. After the inspection Her Majesty presented the contingent commanders with Coronation Medals, which they then gave to the Officers, N.C.O.s and men. On the 4th June we saw the Trooping the Colour at Whitehall. We all admired the Guards at this and could see what well-trained soldiers in their drill they were.

We went back to Woolwich on 4th June, and while there I had a letter from Corporal Lahai, of Sierra Leone Signal Squadron, who is attending a course at Catterick, to say he had seen us on the television. I noticed many times when we visited various places, even men of big importance would tell us they had not been at the Coronation Procession but had seen us on the television. We used to see it every evening in the Recreation Room at Woolwich.

We paraded in Birmingham and marched past the head man of the city, and the C.I.G.S., whom I had seen in Freetown in March. There we also saw women Officers. We went to London Harbour, Tower Bridge, Larkhill for a demonstration, British Oil Cakes Mill, and the Royal Military College at Sandhurst, where a Royal Signals Lieutenant-Colonel spoke to me for some time.

I think the most exciting visit was to the Royal Tournament, where I was very glad to see the Royal Signals Motor Cycle Team, which was very thrilling and the best part of the show, not only for me but for the other Africans as well.

At Portsmouth we saw all the ships in the Review the day Her Majesty The Queen visited them, and also 300 aeroplanes. At Portsmouth we stayed on a ship, and it was strange to find there that, although in Sierra Leone we use hammocks up-country to rest in, we could not use the hammocks they had on board, and had to have a mattress issued, which we put on tables, and then we were comfortable to sleep.

On 22nd June we left London for West Africa as fit and smart as when we started the Coronation Procession in London. I cannot ever forget the interesting things I saw in London and the other places we visited, and I am very glad to have had this chance with the Sierra Leone contingent.

FAR EAST LAND FORCES

19 AIR FORMATION SIGNAL REGIMENT

The Muslim feast "Hari Raya," marking the end of the Muslim fasting month was celebrated in the traditional manner and, in spite of rain during "Makan Besar," the weather became kind and, to the tune of a Malay band, the dancing girls certainly brightened up the party and put the officers and Senior N.C.O.s through their paces. The evening was a great success. To all those people who worked so hard in the preparations—thank you very much.

In the world of sport, if not meeting with great success, we are at least playing very regularly and have produced one Army soccer representative, Lieutenant A. C. Earl, and three members for the Corps Cricket XI. We are still improving and hope to be better represented in the very near future—yes, we still have last year's Hockey team with us, reinforced by our newest arrival, Captain E. R. Haxell.

In the district rifle meeting we were well represented and, although our "marksman" did not bring home any trophies,

it was a valuable experience and with more practice we hope to do better next year.

Next month sees the implementation of a new troop in Hong Kong; after all, we have got to justify trips to the "Cooler climes" and at the moment Officer Commanding 1 Squadron, Major A. P. Johnson and Officer Commanding 2 Squadron, Major J. C. Robertson, are actually clamouring for added responsibility. Lieutenant Dore has left Ceylon to take over the new troop. At the moment, our new Commanding Officer is inspecting his "Estates" in Ceylon. He intends to return within a few days, but somehow, the R.A.F. pilots like Ceylon, so it may be a couple of weeks—Officer Commanding Ceylon Squadron ought to tell the Colonel that although he officially paid us a visit last month for 48 hours only, his stay was a long and pleasant one.

The major project reported in last months "News" is completed, and the T.O.T. Lieutenant A. C. Earl is looking forward to settling in Hong Kong in August to carry out a similar project. He has a habit of always going on night duty in his best attire. Strange! In January, 1954, the Regiment will be sending two M.O.R. Sergeants to Catterick for a "Line Instructors" Course, Sergeant Bunyamin and Sergeant Khalid, so to all ex 19 Air Formation Signal Regiment personnel in Catterick in 1954, please look them up.

18 INFANTRY BRIGADE SIGNAL SQUADRON

We're crowing, folks, we're crowing for, after our overwhelming defeat of 11—1 (oh, how wonderful was that fluke —1) by the Queen's Royal Lancers in the Calbeck Cup match, we have redeemed ourselves by being the first team to beat R.A.F. Kuala Lumpur in this season's Garrison League football. I keep on saying it to myself just to convince me I haven't been dreaming again.

To get down to more serious business, however—as if soccer isn't a serious business these days.

The kind gentlemen from District Headquarters appear to remember us when little jobs need doing, a typical example being the recent case where our old friends Corporal Twelves, Lance-Corporal (now Corporal) Wade and Lance-Corporal Walker went on that super experiment and found that a piece of wire in lieu of a measured aerial made communication "fives" each way, that was to our own GIII net. I must add, but I'll not tell you what happened when they tried working our co-partners for honours lest they should hang their heads in meek submission. As for performing the duties of a "User Trials Squadron," well, you only want to ask our Wireless Troop sergeant what happened when we were testing those portable sets! Not only can we compete with the best technically, but we even get called upon to help the foot-sloggers when villages need screening. A typical example being our aid to the civil powers in the screening of Ampang and Subang villages when, despite the fact that we, as it were, were lookers-on, the results of the day's labours when read about in the next day's *Malay Mail* made us quite proud of ourselves. Who said Corporal Jones looks like a Dancing Dervish when he goes outside of Coronation Park. Oh, yes, and talking about Coronation Park, do you know they've fenced us in at last, and now everyone hoping for an unofficial nocturnal outing can be seen practising pole vaulting on the sports ground.

Corporal Richardson gave us great help at the Garrison Sports Meeting held on the sports ground at H.Q. Malaya during April.

We have said cheerio, at our Coronation Party on 7th June, to Major J. J. Lamb, who has left us on promotion to Command 19 Air Formation Signal Regiment. Congratulations again, sir, and we wish you the very best in your new command.

Let us not, in our haste, forget to welcome to the Squadron our new Squadron Commander and family, Captain (now Major) K. S. and Mrs. Newell, not forgetting, of course, the happy family.

1 MALAY INFANTRY BRIGADE SIGNAL SQUADRON

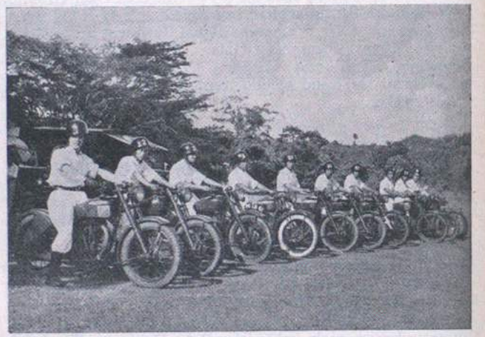
The Squadron has been involved in many Brigade operations in Pahang, and most of the British N.C.O.s have by now had a trip in a helicopter.

Since our last notes we have had some changes in the British personnel of the Squadron. Lieutenant H. E. Luker has been loaned to the Squadron from Malaya Signal Regiment pending the arrival of the new Second-in-Command from U.K.

Sergeant Harrow has left us to command the Signal Troop of the Federation Armoured Car Regiment, and Sergeant Williams and Sergeant Renouf have recently arrived from U.K. to fill our British N.C.O. establishment. We wish them luck and good hunting whilst they are with us. In addition, Sergeant Manson has been seconded to us from the British Army, and has assumed control of the Cipher Office.

We are now practically complete in personnel and transport and feel we are ready for anything. During the Coronation celebrations in Kuala Lipis, the Squadron organised a motor cycle display for the local population.

S.S.M. Sawyer and Lieutenant Luker put in some very hard work in training the Malay soldiers for the display, and the result was first-class.



1 Malay Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron. Motor Cycle Display Team

(1) Lieut. H. E. Luker, (2) Pte. Jamaludin, (3) L/Cpl. Syed Aziz, (4) Pte. Mond Noor, (5) Pte. Abdul Ghani, (6) Pte. Abdul Majid, (7) Cpl. Abu Bakar, (8) Pte. Osman, (9) Pte. Abdullah, (10) W.O.II W. Sawyer — Kuala Lipis, Malaya, June 3rd, 1953

SINGAPORE DISTRICT SIGNAL REGIMENT

The month started with the accent on sport. Major C. A. Clarke, Sports Officer, and Sergeant Chater eventually produced a team which did very well in the field events but lacked the necessary staying powers in the track events, so that we were credited with a "brave try" in the Singapore Base District Athletic Championships.

S.Q.M.S. Randle and Sergeant Green, in the hammer and shot, and Sergeant Chater, in the long jump, deserve special mention for their fine efforts.

Cable laying and maintenance is still our main diversion from sport. Major Emsley and 1 Squadron linemen have had the watery task of repairing the Singapore-Pulau Brani submarine cable, which was fouled and faulted by a ship's anchor, but with the help of Singapore Harbour Board divers and some "overtime," communications were soon restored.

Under the guidance of Staff-Sergeant Perry, R.E.M.E. (Entertainments Member), the Sergeants' Mess bar has developed in character, with a well-designed bar and first-class murals. Some people, however, still need a lot of persuading that the pink elephants are really there and not figments of the "imagination."

The Regiment is sorry to lose Sergeant Green, our all-round sportsman. The cricket team particularly has suffered, since he played for the Corps and Regiment. With him on R.H.E. have gone Sergeant Salter and family and Corporal Ault.

We welcome in return S.Q.M.S. Humphries and Sergeants R. Edwards and Humphries, all of whom have gone to Signal Training Squadron (F.E.).

Congratulations also to Sergeants Haley and Sharp on their recent promotions to the Sergeants' Mess.

MALAYA SIGNAL REGIMENT

H.Q. and 1 Squadron—Kuala Lumpur. The main event of the month comes from the W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess, who gave a tea party to the 50 children of the Selangor State Orphanage on Saturday, 18th July. A private bus was hired for the occasion, and from 3 to 6 p.m. the children were entertained by W.O.s and Sergeants and married families of the Regiment. Children's races, Indian conjuror and a film show helped to give the orphans a happy afternoon.

There were so many items on the tea table that even the children's pockets would not hold the surplus. This problem was solved, however, as W.O.II Hewitt and S.Q.M.S. Evans gallantly volunteered to accompany them back to their home with all the food packed in boxes. As the children consisted of Indians, Malays and Chinese, some of them children of bandit parents in prison, or cripples and abandoned children, it was a great credit to the matrons of the home to see the children (ages two to ten years) so clean, well dressed and well-mannered.

The above event was made possible just by having made a small profit on our Coronation fun fair in June.

Soccer. With 17 games played the Unit is now third in the Garrison League, with the R.A.F. and R.A.M.C. first and second, two points ahead.

On 25th July, Signals Malaya played Signals Singapore in the annual challenge match. Unfortunately, after a very good season we slipped up badly and lost 5—0. Perhaps the team can put part of the blame on that tedious journey by Malayan Railways, or should they blame the attractions of "Treasure Island"?

Obituary. It is with regret that we have to announce the death of 18104150 Signalman Napoleon de Costa, who died in B.M.H. Kinrara on 10th July, 1953, after a short illness. Signalman Napoleon de Costa had been with the Regiment since the first troop of Malays joined the Regiment in August 1952. Signalman de Costa's cheerfulness and loyalty will be sadly missed in the Regiment.

No. 2 Squadron—Taiping. During the month, owing to operational commitments, the signal resources of the Squadron, both in manpower and equipment, are being strained to the limit, the W.E. of the Squadron not being designed to do the work of a Brigade Squadron also. But as usual, by switching over to 24-hour shift working, we have been able to supply all that has been asked of us.

In spite of all the extra work, a Model Aero Club has been formed under the able guidance of the R.A.E.C., and now in the evenings we run the gauntlet of being "buzzed" by model "Spitfires" and "Comets."

No. 3 Squadron—Seremban. Our Officer Commanding, Major J. N. Boyland, is, at present, having a very busy time, performing the practically impossible task of being in two places at once, being both O.C. Signals at Main 17 Gurkha Division and O.C. this Squadron, which is situated at Rear Division. The result of this arrangement is that we have an O.C. for Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of each week, whilst Sergeant Hayward acts as a stand-in for the remainder of the week.

The Signal Office building is at present being redecorated and the Signal Office has somehow managed to squeeze itself into the O.C.'s office while still managing to perform as efficiently as ever.

Federation Army Signals—

The following article first printed in the Federation Army Magazine has been slightly altered as to its first paragraphs to make it suitable for inclusion in THE WIRE.

BEFORE the war the Malay Regiment had its own Regimental Signallers. But the growth of this Regiment into the Federation Army (at present six Battalions) has necessitated considerable expansion.

More and more Unit Signallers were required and a few of these were trade trained by Royal Signals in Singapore in the years 1947 onwards. In 1948, the Establishments of Signal Instructors began to be filled: and by 1949, 1, 2 and 3 Malay had their own S.Q.M.S. Royal Signals Instructors, two of whom are still serving now as W.O.s II—W.O.II I. J. Robertson, B.E.M., with Federation Signal Squadron, and W.O.II W. Sawyer, with 1 M.I.B. Signal Squadron. Their work with 1 and 3 Malay respectively, during the difficult days at the beginning of the Emergency is deserving of high praise.

With the further expansion in those days, the Malay Regiment's own "Unit Signallers Training Troop" was formed under S.Q.M.S. Gardiner, Royal Signals, and some hundreds of Malay soldiers passed through his hands in the three years 1949-1952. It was because of the splendid work Gardiner did during this period that he was awarded the B.E.M.

In 1949, Captain S. P. Irwin, Royal Signals, joined the Malay Regiment as Signal Officer, and when it was decided to form a Malay Infantry Brigade in 1950, he became the Brigade Signal Officer in May of that year. The first H.Q. was at Kota Bharu and that is where Peter Irwin formed and operated 1 M.I.B. Signal Squadron.

Brigade moved to Pahang after a period of reorganisation in Port Dickson, and with H.Q. 1 M.I.B. at Temerloh and 2 and 4 Malay under command the Signal commitments began to increase.

In June, 1951, Major R. A. H. Chapman joined the Malay as Senior Signal Officer and Officer Commanding 1 M.I.B. Signal Squadron. Owing to still further commitments and expansion, it was decided to form another Squadron for H.Q. commitments and expand Brigade Signals. This was finally accomplished and the two Squadrons found themselves with responsibilities and personnel covering the whole of the Federation. Quite how it was done with two officers and a mere handful of N.C.O.s and even less equipment, will never really be known—but that's another story.

In July, 1952, Captain Irwin was relieved by Major F. F. Ellis, M.B.E., T.D., Royal Signals, by which time the Brigade had moved to Kuala Lipis and its two Battalions had increased until at the time of writing these notes, the total is six and its area covers Pahang, Kelantan and Trengganu.

Major Ellis still commands the Squadron with W.O.II W. Sawyer as his S.S.M., S.Q.M.S. Young, B.E.M., Sergeants Gordon, Williams, Manson and Wallis and approximately 90 Malay N.C.O.s and O.R.s, with attachments to help out from Federation Signals. Even the short space of a year ago is looked upon as the "Good old days."

With the integration of Headquarters, and therefore the closing down of R.H.Q., The Malay Regiment, R.H.Q. Signal Squadron found itself with a new title—Federation Signals—and because of lack of accommodation, etc., remained with its H.Q. at Port Dickson. It is commanded by Major R. A. H. Chapman, its S.S.M. is W.O.II Robertson, B.E.M., with S.Q.M.S. Feegan as its "Q" and Sergeants

Barratt, Parker, Renouf, Howells and Hall, all Royal Signals, and Colour-Sergeant Abbas bin Molan and approximately 90 M.O.R.s.

Its commitments are wide and varied at the present time. It has to provide a Signal commitment for Port Dickson Garrison, Brigade Links for Battalions serving as far apart as 1 Malay in Johore and 5 Malay in Kedah, and helping out with 1 M.I.B. Signals in Pahang. Attached out are personnel at H.Q. Malaya and the Armoured Car Squadron at Kluang. Sergeant Parker, the British radio mechanic, finds himself one day in Kedah and then catching the south-bound mail for Johore. Join the Royal Signals and see Malay is very applicable these days. Major Chapman, has, since January, 1952, travelled 76,000 miles by road, rail, and in the air in the course of his duties. In reward, he anticipates being asked to take a road test for an English driving licence when his present tour expires in 1954.

The whole of the training of Signallers, not only for the Federation Army, but even some for the Police and for Malay Units of the British Army is carried out in Port Dickson under the technical supervision of O.C. Federation Signals, and the N.C.O. in command The Training Troop is Colour-Sergeant Thompson, Devons. At the time of writing there is a course of 55 students ex-Battalions on a 14 weeks' course, 15 students from all Federation Units, 12 of whom are going to the U.K. to take the R.S.I. Course at Hythe, and training commitments for driver-operators of Battalions and the Engineer Squadrons about to become a part of the Federation Armed Forces.

It is rumoured that two British N.C.O.s applied for short leave and O.C. Federation Signal Squadron's reply was that the application used too many words, and that in any case he did not know the meaning of the last word.

Joking apart, however, the spirit, co-operation, and loyalty, in and between the two Squadrons is first class amongst all ranks. We feel in our small way that we have been in at the beginning and that our reward has been a feeling of something done—and done well. The Malay personnel and, more recently, members of the Federation Regiment, have all proved first-class. All Units of the Federation Forces now have Signal Officers or Signal Instructors—or both. The two Squadrons of Signals themselves are up to strength with almost their proper quota of tradesmen: and whatever the future, we can now take it in our stride.

We feel honoured that our efforts have not been overlooked officially. B.E.M.s are held by W.O.II Robertson, S.Q.M.S.s Gardiner, Young and Beale, and recently Mentions in Despatches were awarded to Robertson and Sergeant Parker of Federation Signals.

Colour-Sergeant Abbas represented us at the Coronation Parade and although at the time of writing, it is not known whether he has been awarded the Coronation Medal or not—we all hope so.

By the time the next notes appear, we hope to be wearing our new badge. We are already wearing Signal flashes and blue hose tops, but the badge is essential.

The job of work, however, is Signalling, and after all, without Signals—what would the Federation Army do?

TRIALS AND TRIBULATIONS OF A T.O.T. IN KOREA

MUCH of the work done by "M" Troop in this Regiment is the same as that carried out in other Units. Much, on the other hand, is peculiar to Korea, and it is about the problems arising from this work which will be discussed here.

Firstly, those connected with the tactical situation.

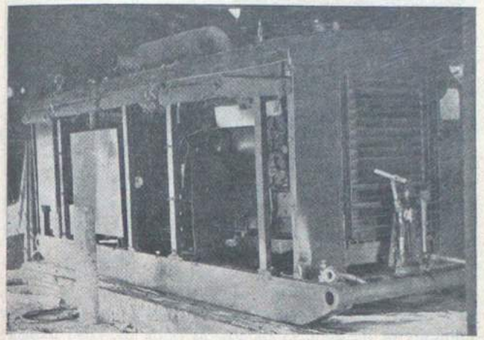
V.H.F.

As explained in an earlier article, we are engaged in a highly static form of warfare. Platoon, Company and Battalion command posts are invariably dug deep into the ground in bunkers and tunnels, and the infantry expect their 88 and 31 sets to work from them to patrols which are sent out every night. The problem is further aggravated by C.P.s frequently being on reverse slopes. To solve it we were asked to produce remote aerials at distances varying between 30 and 200 feet from the set.

In the case of the 88 set the feeder provided is only 8 feet 6 inches long. The problem was tackled by making a rough form of field strength meter using a vertical doublet which fed a crystal rectifier arranged in a bridge circuit. The output was fed to a micro-ammeter. A graph of field strength for each channel was plotted, using the existing 8 feet 6 inches lead and aerial. An additional length of co-axial cable as required was then added and the length shortened three inches at a time until the general shape of the original graph was obtained. A co-axial joint was then made. Several feeders were made, the shortest being 39 feet 6 inches and the longest about 120 feet. Those who view with horror the loss in such lengths of cable when used with the 88 set should remember that they were produced for a specific location. The gain resulting from elevating the aerial into the clear probably compensated for the loss resulting from trying to fire through half a mountain.

The 31 set remote aerial was rather more difficult since the frequency range was greater and the method already described could not be used. The aerial matching unit of the 88 set was used at the remote aerial to match the base of the 11 feet aerial to the co-axial lead and a set matching unit was made and housed in a 31 set dummy aerial case. The preliminary adjustments to the set matching unit were made by using a "Q" max dip grid oscillator. When finished the 31 set was tested on the rough field strength indicator in the same way as the 88 set. The maximum length of co-axial used was 200 feet. A fortnight after completion the first of the official 31 set remote aerials arrived. Having successfully removed the 88 set and 31 set to the top of the hills, and other prominent features, we were then asked by the infantry to do exactly the

Lieut.-Colonel A. L. Smith, Signal Officer, 2nd United States Division, presenting certificates to members of the New Zealand line detachment which worked with the Division for two months



One of a pair of 27.5 kva Meadows diesel engines used for supplying power for lighting for the Signal Regiment at Main Divisional H.Q.

reverse and work a 31 set, aerial and all, from a tunnel. This was accomplished by making a T aerial of P13 wire, with the length of the inverted L 11 feet long. The aerial was suspended from the roof of the tunnel and moved about until the distant station reported suitable signal strength.

Another idea which gave reasonable results in a larger tunnel was to place another 11 feet aerial inserted in an 88 set matching unit approximately 5 feet 6 inches behind the driven element and adjust the spacing. Encouraged by the relative success of these simple things, we embarked on the construction of a vertical beam consisting of three dipoles fed in phase with a reflector. However, authority ordered that this was beyond the scope of "M" Troop in the field, and it never got beyond the experimental stage.

Power

Even today the Army expects its soldiers to work at night by candle and hurricane butty. In favour of the candle it can be said that its fault liability is low and there is no bother over spares. Neither of these forms of lighting are acceptable during long periods of static warfare, and "M" Troop provided power during the winter for the Regiment and part of Main Divisional H.Q. The maximum load was 22 kva., and considerable effort and time was spent in acquiring suitable cable, building routes, making distribution boards, and generally fusing and engineering circuits as far as possible in accordance with civilian practice. The power commitment has now been spread by giving "A" Troop the purely operational part, covering the lighting and power for the Signal and Cipher Offices, and the float charging of batteries in C.V.s, and one or two equally important commitments such as the General's caravan. Even so, "M" Troop have been left with a load which sometimes rises to 12 kva., and we find that a P.E.95 under these conditions is inclined to object.

The difficulty in running a power set-up like this is that there is no official establishment for a power team, and the commitment is a bit too much for a driver-electrician without previous experience. The present team is run by Signalman Lycett, a telegraph mechanic, a G.D. man, Signalman Jubb, and a Korean, Sung Byong Sung. The installation was made by Lycett, who is an electrician in civil life. The Korean has been with the Division since it formed and takes his job so seriously that should a connection or joint be made by anyone other than the team, he feels honour bound to inspect it. He invariably condemns it and he is usually right.

Maintenance and Repair

The second class of problems arises out of the system of maintenance and repair in use. The maintenance policy is governed by a pool system of repair. Equipment for repair is sent into a central pool, where it is exchanged on a one for one basis. The degree to which unit repair is exceeded by "M" Troop is governed by the amount of equipment being back-loaded for repair by Units. Field repairs are the rule and not the exception. The most important result is that the W.S. 31 is repaired and realigned in "M" Troop workshops. When the repair is outside our scope the equipment is passed to the Divisional Telecommunications Workshops—Div. Tels. for short.

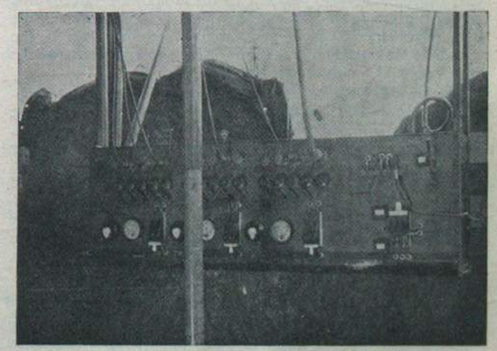
This organisation is peculiar to the Division. It consists of the telecommunication sections of the three Brigade workshops assembled in one place, living and working within 100 yards of "M" Troop. In an effort to prove that phase II would be workable in the field, R.E.M.E. have gone to town and provided two offices. Divisional Telecommunications work in complete harmony and co-operation with "M" Troop, and by having it on our doorstep it can be given a prod and when necessary be stopped from working trade union hours.

The tendency is to get spares from Divisional Telecommunications rather than send the equipment to them, and this is done only when there is more work on hand than we can cope with, or when repairs will take more than 72 hours. The main disadvantage of the pool system arises from the difficulty in persuading Units to carry out a proper system of maintenance, since they have no pride of ownership. They know that if a fault develops all they have to do is to exchange the equipment in the pool. To be successful, preventative maintenance requires some degree of continuity of treatment and this simply does not exist.

Test Equipment and Stores

Another result of the pool system has been the necessity of acquiring test equipment which is not normally on G 1098. At present we hold the following major items: two valve voltimeters, one BFO, one Marconi signal generator, two crystal calibrators, two S.C.R.s 211, three magic eye alignment testers for 31 sets, one T.M.S., one A.V.O. oscillator, and two valve testers.

We also have to hold a large number of stores in order that the policy can be implemented. Lack of a technical storeman or a bin lorry does not help. Divisional Telecommunications can often provide us with what we want, but even they have difficulty in holding enough spares to compete with the age and rough handling of our equipment. Most of the equipment is old and battered and was probably brought to Korea when the war began; a new wireless set is hard to find. One of our charging lorries was manufactured in 1934, and the workshop lorries used by Divisional



The power distribution board made by "M" Troop for use with the Meadows engine

"M" Troop lines showing battery charging lorry

Battery charging shop

Telecommunications are 1932 Leylands. We are not complaining about this aged equipment—not unduly, anyway; but it does make the repair system more difficult to run.

Personnel

The problem is whether to send men to Brigade Troops or to retain them in "M" Troop. It takes about eight weeks to train the average National Serviceman and even then he can only be expected to repair one type of set. By the end of four to six months he has a reasonable all-round knowledge of the main sets, and is really useful. Policy at the moment is to keep "M" Troop up in experienced men and post a proportion of each new intake to Brigade Troops. The principle of training the new intake first in "M" Troop is attractive but with the present volume of work is not practical. The National Serviceman and the newly-joined Regular have only a limited basic theoretical knowledge, and do most useful work when employed on sets such as the 62 and 19, working on an assembly line basis. They have not the necessary ability to tackle unfamiliar sets such as the 53 and 52 which come in now and again. These sets, by reason of their comparative scarcity, need to be repaired quickly, and it is in this respect that the older type of experienced mechanic is missed. These sets are nearly always passed direct to Divisional Telecommunications.

The best of each intake, both Regular and National Servicemen, is taken and trained to work on 31 sets. Strangely, this set is easy to fault and the knowledge required is really in use of the necessary instruments. Time required to train men to fault this set is about 14 days. At present the 31 set team consists of three men. The reason why emphasis is placed on the 31 set is that it is one of the most used sets in the Division. The faults in the main are stereotyped and consist mainly of valve faults. The result of a check showed that approximately 50 per cent. of the faults were valve faults, 20 per cent. were by-pass condensers, and the remainder were of a miscellaneous nature. Changing certain valves in the 31 set necessitates realigning, and it is in this respect that the training of 31 set mechanics is concerned.

Personnel for the battery charging shop is a constant headache. The lack of experienced men for charging and care and maintenance of batteries creates a very big problem. Battery charging in Korea requires an infinite capacity for taking pains allied to a sound knowledge of such things as the relationship between temperature and specific gravity, and freezing point and specific gravity, and the ability to recognise faulty cells. At one period 120 batteries per day were being charged. Charging this number under field conditions during a Korean winter requires ability of quite a high order.

Problems of the Climate

There is no evidence to show that the winter had any marked effect on the fault liability of wireless equipment. The faults observed were of the type which occur in any climate and their occurrence did not appear to be any greater than usual. What evidence there was seemed to point to the humidity of the summer months as being the chief danger. During December 1952, quite a number of 31 sets had corroded I.F. cans, resulting in a loss of sensitivity. This was attributed by Divisional Telecommunications to the humidity of the preceding summer. There is, however, quite a lot of evidence to show that switchboards such as the F and F 40 line do not like Korean conditions. The damp summer months, combined with dust and the following cold winter, gives rise to irritating intermittent faults which are impossible to trace whilst the exchange is in use. In fact, all such efforts have now been abandoned and a system is under way whereby such exchanges are thoroughly overhauled in Base Workshops, Kure.

The problem in maintaining batteries during the winter was simply that of ensuring that the necessary information regarding the effect of extreme cold on batteries was understood by everyone. The main effects were loss of capacity, danger of freezing and difficulty in allowing for the variation of specific gravity with temperature since no temperature compensated hydrometers were available. The only point of importance as far as Units were concerned was the freezing point, and this was solved by issuing everyone with a chart showing freezing points for various specific gravities. As a further precaution the specific gravity of all batteries was raised to 1320 when fully charged.

All forms of generating plant suffered from the cold. The only way to ensure that they started in the morning was to run them hourly throughout the night. The Coventry Climax 3½ kva. had a tendency for its carburettor to freeze, and this necessitated feeding its own exhaust on to the carburettor. The best method of ensuring that power plant kept running was to build a shelter and keep it heated.

The most annoying factor of the cold was the effect it had on the soldering irons. The extra light 60 watts instrument iron became completely useless.

Mobile Workshops

To augment the facilities of "M" Troop a 15 cwt. has been equipped as a mobile workshop. It tours the Division, inspecting and doing minor repairs on the spot. It carries a crew of one sergeant, one radio mechanic and one telegraph mechanic. Its most valuable work has been done not on the repair side, but in the provision of information about equipment; for instance, giving Units part numbers of spares and explaining maintenance systems. There appears to be a lack of information in the form of E.M.E.R.s and instructional pamphlets, and for this reason alone it is extremely invaluable.

Quantity of Equipment Repaired

From March 1952 to April 1953, 3,925 equipments were repaired. Of this number, 927 were W.S. No. 31 or S.C.R. 300, 505 W.S. No. 19, 596 W.S. No. 62, and 502 W.S. No. 19 power supply units. In other words, we are fairly busy, but we like it that way.

Australian Notes

CENTRAL COMMAND

Foremost in our activities this month has been the Coronation March through Adelaide. Signal Units of Central Command marched as a composite body under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel L. H. Ferrar. Representation in the mechanised section was 2 wireless vans and 4 motor cycles. Communications (Wireless set 122) between control posts were provided by C Command Signal Squadron with two SCR 536s on the same frequency manned by Provost personnel acting as a roving patrol in the event of breakdown of man or machine.

Since our last notes the Squadron has attended its first annual camp at Port Wakefield, having been raised just six months. There was a full attendance of C.M.F. personnel and a comprehensive programme of training was carried out. The weather was in our favour at all times and the camp was voted a complete success. Some N.C.O. material was brought to light and Signalmen Wagener, Richardson and Newman have now been appointed Lance-Corporals.

Our most recent task was to supply communications by wireless and line for the co-ordination of the Royal Salute by the guard and the commencement of the 21-gun salute provided by the gunners on the occasion of the Queen's Birthday levee at Government House. The timing was perfect and the sound of the first round of gunfire reached Government House as the third movement of the present arms was completed.

BRITCOM BASE SIGNAL REGIMENT

The month of May saw a change in command in the Regiment and a further influx of new officers. Lieutenant-Colonel J. D. Honeysett assumed command from Lieutenant-Colonel B. S. Croft on 18th May and Major E. J. L. Godfrey and Captain K. B. L. Swifte marched in to take appointments in H.Q. Squadron.

Technical assistance has been given to H.Q. B.C.F.K. for Crown Radio Station and for the provision of an amplifying system for sports meetings and parades held to celebrate the Coronation of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

B.C.F.K. annual field and track events were held on 22nd/23rd May and once again, Signals "old faithfuls" provided the backbone of East Zone's winning team. Sergeant Doherty and Signalman Freeman were prominent in the sprints and W.O.I Johnson surprised himself and the Regiment by rising to the occasion in unprecedented fashion in the pole vault. Major Bennet, Sergeant Belcher and Corporal Smith helped to secure points in their events.

AUSTRALIAN CORPS OF SIGNALS

Australia has the unique distinction of having the first regularly-formed signal unit in the whole of the British Empire. In the year 1869 there existed in New South Wales and Victoria a small "Torpedo and Signal Corps" until 1882 when they were disbanded. In 1895 a "Signalling Corps," composed of one officer and 12 other ranks existed in South Australia and remained active until 1901.

Before the organisation of self-contained Signal Units the complement of Signallers was on a Regimental basis and each unit had its establishment of Regimental Signallers. Great attention was paid to the training of Regimental Signallers, prizes and badges being awarded to those qualifying at what was known as a Signalling School, at which instruction was imparted by a Staff Officer designated "Inspector of Signalling." These signallers were, as far as possible, treated as a separate part of the unit.

There also existed what were known as Telegraph Companies with the Engineers; these were employed on purely telegraph work and were provided with portable telegraph material of all kinds. As such they existed in the British Army as well as in Australia.

After the inception of the Commonwealth Forces an "Australian Corps of Signallers" was formed in 1906. The Corps consisted of nine Companies, two were located at Sydney and Newcastle; two in Melbourne; two in Brisbane; one in Adelaide; one at Perth and Fremantle; and one at Hobart and Launceston. The Corps remained as a self-contained unit until the introduction of Universal training in 1911, when it merged with the Australian Engineers.

From 1912, Signal Troops and Companies formed part of the Corps of Australian Engineers and were known as "15th Engineers (Signal Troop)," or "23rd Engineers (Signal Company)." In this year the nomenclature was reversed and signal units were designated "15th Signal Troop (Engineers)" or "23rd Signal Company (Engineers)." Under these designations they were known until 1916 when the term "(A.E.)" was substituted for "(Engineers)" in the title. This continued until the Divisional organisation of 1921 when the terms "Cavalry Divisional Signals" and "Divisional Signals" were introduced, and all signal units separated from the Engineer Arm, and have evolved into the "Australian Corps of Signals" which are to be found in all States of the Commonwealth.

"Certa Cito" (Swift and Sure) is their Regimental motto. Their colour patch is purple, shaped to meet each Divisional formation, and superimposed with a white and blue rectangle. Their badge is an image of "Mercury" within an oval belt bearing the Corps title, in base, on a scroll, the motto, the whole ensigned with an Imperial Crown.

The Australian Corps of Signals have the proud distinction of having for their Colonel-in-Chief, Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal, G.B.E. They are also allied to the Royal Corps of Signals formed under Royal Warrant of 5th August, 1920.

Short Chronology

Dec. 23, 1905	The establishments for the "Corps of Australian Signallers" were approved. (Military Order 82/1906).
Jan. 1, 1906	Formation of Australian Corps of Signallers authorised.
Jul. 1, 1912	Designation changed to Australian Engineers (Signal Companies).
1914-18	During World War I, units of AE (Signals) served overseas with Australian Forces in Gallipoli, Palestine, Mesopotamia, France and Belgium.
Jan. 1, 1925	Designation changed to Australian Corps of Signals.
Feb. 20, 1926	H.M. The King approved of the affiliation of Australian Signals to Royal Signals.
Oct. 1, 1936	The Army School of Signals was established on a permanent basis.
June, 1937 ...	H.M. The King approved of H.R.H. The Princess Royal accepting the Colonelcy-in-Chief of the Australian Corps of Signals.
Apr. 6, 1940	The Princess Royal Trophy was presented to the Corps by H.E. The Governor-General on behalf of H.R.H. The Princess Royal.
1939-46	During World War II, units of Australian Signals served at home and abroad in practically every major theatre of operations, including Middle East, U.K., Greece, Syria, Malaya, S.W. Pacific.
Nov. 10, 1948	H.M. The King conferred title Royal on Australian Signals.
1950	Units of Royal Australian Signals are serving in Japan, and Royal Australian Signals personnel in Korea with U.N. Forces.

T.A. and A.E.R.

16 AIRBORNE DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT (T.A.) (MIDDLESEX YEOMANRY)

"Parachuting galore" might be our motto over the past weeks, for there seems to have been one continual succession of interesting Airborne exercises, and all parachutists have had many opportunities to increase their score.

To those members of other Signal units who glance down this column, may we mention that our role is similar to an Infantry Divisional Signals, except that we usually use parachutes to reach our objective and to bring in our equipment and vehicles.

Some notable happenings of the past month are as follows: Lieutenant-Colonel J. J. Collins, M.C., T.D., Lance-Corporal C. E. J. Baines and Lance-Corporal R. J. Gornall won for the unit the trophy at the London District Royal Signals Rifle Meeting.

Congratulations to Sergeant D. W. Hunter of the Permanent Staff on his recent promotion. He wishes to be remembered to his friends in 16 Independent Parachute Brigade Group Signal Squadron.

Next month we are off to our annual camp in Norfolk, this year a Divisional camp. We are looking forward to the Brigade Group Airborne exercises that will take place then, and we hope to have an interesting and enjoyable 15 days.

Old members of this Regiment will be interested to hear that Major B. A. Milne is forming a Regimental Dance Band. Whether they will play their instruments while descending by parachute to scare the enemy, or merely play on the ground and terrify those in the air, is a matter for future policy.

H.Q. 61 ARMY SIGNAL REGIMENT (T.A.)

These notes are written in the middle of the camp period. No. 1 Squadron has returned from Folkestone where a lot was learned and a great deal of equipment worked better than many anticipated which only goes to show—(we are not quite sure) however it will be better still next year.

The Officers much appreciated the hospitality of 1/20 Army Signal Regiment Officers in allowing them to share their mess for the combined guest night which the Representative Colonel Commandant attended. A great evening was enjoyed by all, but it is apparent that the art of firing cannon is dying out in some quarters.

We are sorry our camera was not present to record the emerging from a tent the next morning of one officer in grey topper and tails. We found later he was on his way to Lords, but it was a fine sight in the early morning mist.

The Sergeants accepted their defeat by the Officers at cricket in good heart, but were somewhat disturbed at being beaten in their own mess that night at darts, dice and other games of their choosing.

89 AGRA Signal Squadron has returned from Otterburn, where the weather could have been better, but we are comforted by the fact that it might have been worse. A successful fortnight was held and the ease with which communication was established with 1 Squadron in Folkestone helped to raise our standing with the gunners.

At the time of going to Press we have just heard sad news of the sudden death of 22373803 Craftsman R. B. Horn, R.E.M.E., in a motor cycle accident when returning from a dance.

He was a keen member of the T.A. attached to 89 AGRA Signal Squadron for whom he drove a line truck at camp. We shall miss his company and offer our deepest sympathy to his parents.

43 (WX) INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT (T.A.)

The third new building for this Regiment to be completed within a year was officially opened by the Lord Lieutenant of Somerset at Taunton on 23rd April. For those who are interested in the west of England, Sub-Units of the Regiment are now located in T.A. Centres as follows: R.H.Q. and H.Q. at Taunton, 1 Squadron at Exeter and Torquay, 2 Squadron at Bridgwater, and 3 Squadron at Bristol.

For the first time our annual Unit camp this year took place at Stanford in Norfolk. The Brigade Troops and Field Regiment Troops all went to camps at varying dates from April onwards.

We are happy to have the Depot Regiment, now firmly established at Newton Abbot, so close to us, and thoroughly enjoyed their Regimental Week-end on the occasion of the West Country Old Comrades' Reunion.

The Unit Motor Cycle Trials team is running into form again as they emerged as winners of the "Wessex 100" on Sunday, 26th July. This trial event, held annually for Units of the 43 Division and South-West District, took place all over Exmoor, and our success is said to be due to the fact that some of our competitors managed to arrive at the observed sections before the judges.

50 (N) INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT (T.A.)

As Annual Camp and its Exercise is the hub of the Territorial cycle of events it is natural that it should be the main item of comment in the notes of any T.A. Unit. Annual Camp, 1953, is past and the full cycle is complete.

It often appears to us that the main natural failing in this country is over-modesty, we quote the reticence of the climbers of Everest as an example. It might be better for all of us if we blew our own trumpets a little louder and a little longer, and as far as our Annual Camp Exercise is concerned we have come to a big "blow." Last year we had "Z" Reservists, who, as we said a year ago, after 24 hours, might never have been out of the Army; war-time veterans, all of them. This year we had our own volunteer nucleus, a large National Service element and assistance from National Service Trainees from the Signal Training Centre, Catterick. Yet the results were comparable with last year's, if not better. When you take into account the fact that this year's Exercise was a "live exercise" with the Division, in fact, on the ground, the results were at the least considerably better than might have been expected. Those of you who read the "Times" or "Telegraph" as well as THE WIRE, will have read that N.A.T.O. observers found it hard to believe that the Division was, in fact, composed of such a homogeneous collection. That the efforts of all ranks in the Division were appreciated is proved by the following message received by G.O.C. 50 (N) Infantry Division from the Chief of the Imperial General Staff:—

> "Personal for General Murray from C.I.G.S.
> Please convey to all ranks of 50th Northumbrian Division my heartiest congratulations on the standard of training they have reached as shown by the divisional exercise you completed yesterday. I was most impressed by the energy and enthusiasm shown by all ranks, and particularly by the fine soldierly team spirit that pervades the whole division which promises well for the future. Well done indeed."

For the first times in the history of this Regiment we had our own Regimental Band in the Camp. They performed valiantly in the face of great opposition from an R.A.S.C. drum and bugle band in the same camp and really made great strides as a result of their fortnights training. They played excellently for Mess nights, concerts in the Sergeants' Mess, and in the canteen. Most stirring of all in our humble estimation, they marched the troops from Camp to the station and played on the platform before the train took the men away.

So another training year over, another cycle is completed, and we in the 50th Northumbrian Infantry Division Signal Regiment claim our share in the credit due.

We now lay aside the trumpet and return to more factual reporting.

The programme for camp was work, work and more work, although on Saturday and Sunday afternoon of the middle weekend, a number of irresponsible soldiery did go in coaches to Bournemouth to see the sea or whatever else they could see. But generally speaking, concentrated effort was demanded of all ranks.

It might at this stage be right to express our appreciation of the hard work put in by the National Service and Regular Trainees from the Signal Training Centre attached to us for Annual Camp. They fitted in well; they almost became "old soldiers" in the best sense of the word, and generally rose to heights not expected of tradesmen still under training. One can't get away from facts, Regular or National Service, they are still the same basic stock which rose to the occasion in 1914-18 and 1939-45—and isn't it a good thing.

The Regiment is free wheeling at the moment with a slight gearing-up for our Annual Regimental Rifle Meeting, this year to be held at Whitburn, Co. Durham, on the 12th/13th September. It is understood that the local corporation are illuminating the whole of the sea front that weekend, although whether or not that is for our especial benefit is not known.

Our 3 Squadron at Gateshead under Major (Pat) Watson have now moved into new and spacious accommodation in Elmgrove Terrace, and a bumper training programme is on the way for the new season.

Mr. A. W. Raynor, the Caretaker of the T.A. Centre, since about 1929, is on final retirement and left us for a less exhausting job with the Darlington Corporation. We wish him the best of luck.

A.E.R. DEPOT AND TRAINING CENTRE

The weather having decided to show us that summer is still possible, we can take a more cheerful view of camps. The three units which shared our accommodation and efforts over the last two weeks have reported a very considerable increase in sun tan and a general tendency to work, and in the open in preference to indoors.

Two of our outdoor men in the permanent staff have certainly made the most of it. One, Signalman Coltman, has to be congratulated on finishing seventh in a field of 130 starters in the R.A.F. Stafford 25-mile Time Trial. He is now on sick leave, having come a cropper off his bicycle during Army Track Championships at Herne Hill. We wish him a speedy recovery.

Lance-Corporal Duce entered the N.W.D. Motor Cycle Trials on 19th July, 1953, and had an exciting day. He was unplaced, but the enthusiasm for motor cycle trials, thanks to his efforts, is growing very rapidly. We hope to be more conspicuous in this sphere in the near future.

One of the units in camp from 26th July to 9th August, 1953, was 23 Army Troop Signal Squadron, commanded by Major L. R. James (A.E.R.). This unit is most interesting in that it was formed in May of this year with a small nucleus of volunteer officers and N.C.Os. By the time they came to camp, one National Service Officer and eight Other Ranks had volunteered, and when they left camp after a busy two weeks, their figures had risen to four National Service Officers and 21 National Service Other Ranks volunteered. This is as good an indication as any of the high individual and unit *esprit de corps*. Perhaps it would be well to explain at this point that they volunteered for service in the A.E.R. and that their action carried with it benefits as well as liabilities.

During a recce for their scheme, a short halt for tea was made at Mercury House, Colwyn Bay. Mine host "Barleux" and mine hostess, Mrs. Barlow, dealt with the invasion very nobly and efficiently. It was no part of the recce, but information was obtained which decided the family men of the party that here was the answer to the holiday problem and one which must commend itself to the lady of the house. One bachelor of the party was heard to express the opinion that married men have all the luck. Colwyn Bay itself was most attractive.

If these notes have disregarded the claims of other A.E.R. units to attention, apologies are hereby tendered. However, many units like to write their own notes and it is hoped that certainly the larger units will.

21 (NM) CORPS SIGNAL REGIMENT (T.A.)

These notes are being compiled at Chickerell, near Weymouth, where we are holding our Annual Camp.

Unlike our two previous Camps, we are at the seaside, and we are not committed for any large scale staff exercises; our training is being arranged so that the Regiment will be able to operate as under Active Service conditions, with Main and Rear H.Q. and links to Army and Divisions. The Post Office Engineers have provided the equivalent of a forward Artery in order that the limited number of linemen available can be used for "locals" and short links.

At this moment of writing, the present scribe is Standing-by in Camp with the "milk round" for batteries, mail, forgotten haversack rations, and similar trifles. Meantime the remainder of the Regiment is engaged in fighting that very quarrelsome and aggressive people, the Fantasians, who appear to have occupied the Isle of Wight. (It is high time that a firm line was adopted with this recalcitrant nation). One exercise will last for 36 hours; whilst a more ambitious one is planned for the second week of our stay.

The Coronation Medals awarded to members of the Unit will be presented, it is hoped, by the Hon. Colonel (Colonel "Jerry" Underwood, T.D., D.L.), who, though an extremely busy man, has arranged to spend a few days with the Regiment before we leave for home.

So far, the weather has been kind, an essential for a canvas camp; sports and other amenities are plentiful and in short, this camp promises to be most successful.

"R" FORCE (T.A.)

Strange, but nevertheless true. There IS such a Unit.

The War Office has issued instructions for its formation and it is now in being and located in Parkstone, Dorset.

The Unit is a composite one of Royal Engineers and Royal Signals.

The permanent staff on the Royal Signals side consists of Captain A. Mowatt, R.Q.M.S. McGraw and Sergeant Louden.

The function of the Unit (as anyone who served in "R" Force during the 1939-45 war will remember) is extremely interesting and technical. In fact, every member is a tradesman.

We are open to accept recruits on normal T.A. engagements from within a 15-mile radius of the drill hall.

Being a new Unit there are vacancies in all ranks up to and including S.S.M.

The following Signals trades are required: Owls, clerks, draughtsmen, drivers I.C., driver electricians, radio mechanics and storemen technical. Ex-members of the Corps are particularly welcome.

23 (S) CORPS SIGNAL REGIMENT (T.A.) OFFICERS' MESS, CHICKERELL CAMP, JUNE, 1953

Reading from left to right: Lieutenant R. J. H. Weller, Lieutenant J. H. S. Kingston, Lieutenant J. H. E. Mendl, Lieutenant N. J. Spearing, Lieutenant J. S. Harwood, Lieutenant J. M. Bozman, Lieutenant G. H. J. Isted, Lieutenant M. J. E. Gammage, Lieutenant F. A. Moles, Lieutenant J. P. Cuffley, Captain W. V. D. Maguire, Captain J. A. Lawrence, Captain W. B. Davis, Captain R. C. R. Oliver, T.D., Captain D. J. G. Frank, Captain E. Barker, Captain G. F. Comfort, Captain R. K. Evans, Captain L. J. Burrows, Captain R. Thorne, Major J. D. F. Stow, T.D., Major J. W. G. Cocke, T.D., Major J. W. Smith-Ainsley, Lieutenant-Colonel R. C. Newcombe, O.B.E., Captain G. B. Andrews, Major C. Vincent-Smith, T.D., Major J. W. T. Snell, Captain J. F. Boyle

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

Despite the cloak of silence which has covered the activities of this Regiment for some time, it has, in fact, been going from strength to strength. It must be admitted that there are still too few volunteers joining, but we have now had three years' intake of National Servicemen.

Colonel J. G. Christopher, T.D., has completed three strenuous years in command and is to be congratulated on achieving promotion at the end. We trust he will maintain close touch with us. His "dining out" was quite a memorable occasion, starting with our revered ex-C.O., Lieutenant-Colonel Hugh Lloyd Howard, M.C., T.D., receiving a trayful of plates of soup down his back. Then, following the presentation of a memento in the shape of a leather despatch case, a number of Officers, besides the Hon. Colonel T. W. Vigers, O.B.E., M.C., T.D., felt called upon to speak. Colonel Christopher did not remain at the receiving end, but very generously presented the Mess with a handsome gavel, to save the P.M.C. knocking the skin off his knuckles.

This dinner also served as the introduction of our new Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel R. C. Newcombe, O.B.E., whom we are all delighted to welcome. He is at least the third inhabitant of Fulham House with an antipodean flavour. He has had the inestimable advantage of having commanded a Corps Signal Regiment in war, that of 12th Corps in N.W. Europe, the only memorable theatre of war, if some are to be believed.

Other major changes, all of which took place just before annual training in camp, were of Adjutant and R.S.M. Captain G. B. Andrews has come from Records Office to replace Captain N. G. Gallyer, who has migrated up north. Our very best wishes go with him and Mrs. Gallyer, for, in the all too short time they were with us, they became extremely popular. We wish R.S.M. Lowe the very best of luck in his retirement, and welcome R.S.M. Richardson, who has joined us from 2 Divisional Signal Regiment, B.A.O.R.

Annual training this year was at Chickerell, near Weymouth, the first post-war camp to be under canvas. This reversion to pre-war practice got off to a bad start for it turned out to be the wettest camp anyone could remember, and that's saying something with all the grippers we've got. However, though the usual "At Home" on the middle Sunday had to be cancelled, we didn't let it interfere with training.

We arrived in the rain, but the weather improved until our long-suffering second-in-command, Major J. W. Smith-Ainsley, took us on a movement exercise which should have included some remarkable view points. "Rain stopped play" to such an extent that it is doubtful whether anyone got to any of the points and the extent of the view was the splashes from the vehicle in front.

We were helped on this, and our main exercise in the second week, by our Corps Provost Company who, for the first time, were in camp with us. We were naturally somewhat anxious as to what they would practice on us, but it turned out to be nothing worse than traffic control. We had been excited to hear they included lady provosts as well, but only one driving instructor (and George Bladen assures us it was limited to driving) and two red-headed Officers had much to do with them.

The second week of camp was mostly taken up with an exercise which included day and night moves of main and rear, one up on the main exercise of the year, that of the reconstituted 51st Division, where we understand rear never moved at all! We'll have to see that those lent by this Regiment get some real soldiering next year. The recovery lorry had a busy time with all our amateur drivers, including rescuing itself, but perhaps that was only practice, though it looked very realistic! One disappointed man must have been the doctor, for accidents happened, but the victims had always been whipped off to hospital before he could get to the scene. But at least it saved disarranging his mobile bedroom.

The "Q" side is to be congratulated on the success of all the arrangements, laid on in inadequate time, with only a skeleton advance party. The issue and return of technical stores is a major undertaking by itself, not forgetting well over a hundred vehicles, of which we somehow managed not to lose one, though they weren't all quite the same shape at the end as when issued. Despite a chronic shortage of cooks, the messing went well, thanks to our rapidly greying Officer Commanding H.Q. Squadron, Captain R. Thorne, otherwise known as El San the Cereal Man.

51 (H) INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT (T.A.)

Camp this year was spent on The Plain with the whole Division. The Regiment was made up to almost full strength in order to take part in a full-scale divisional exercise. Due to the short time available the preparation for this involved immensely hard work. However, all went remarkably well on the exercise, and certain gloomy forecasts, although made with some considerable justification, proved to be false. The Divisional Commander particularly commended the Regiment at the end of the exercise, as did the C.R.A. 2 Squadron.

Our oldest members tell us this was the hardest peacetime Camp the Regiment has ever undergone. However, time was found to include most of the annual events, as the following list of winners shows:—

Squadron Football Tournament	2 Squadron
Squadron Drill Competition	1 Squadron
Intercommunication Race	1 Squadron

The Regimental Pipes and Drums were well to the fore at Camp, playing the Regiment to and from the station, leading the Divisional Headquarter Church Parade, beating retreat, and playing on the square and in the Officers' Mess on certain evenings. They also took part in the parade of the Massed Pipes and Drums of the Division.

Since Camp they have played in Union Terrace Gardens, Aberdeen and in Stonehaven.

After the summer break, evening training starts again on 1st September, chiefly directed to preparation for the Regimental Rifle Meeting on 12th/13th September, 1953.

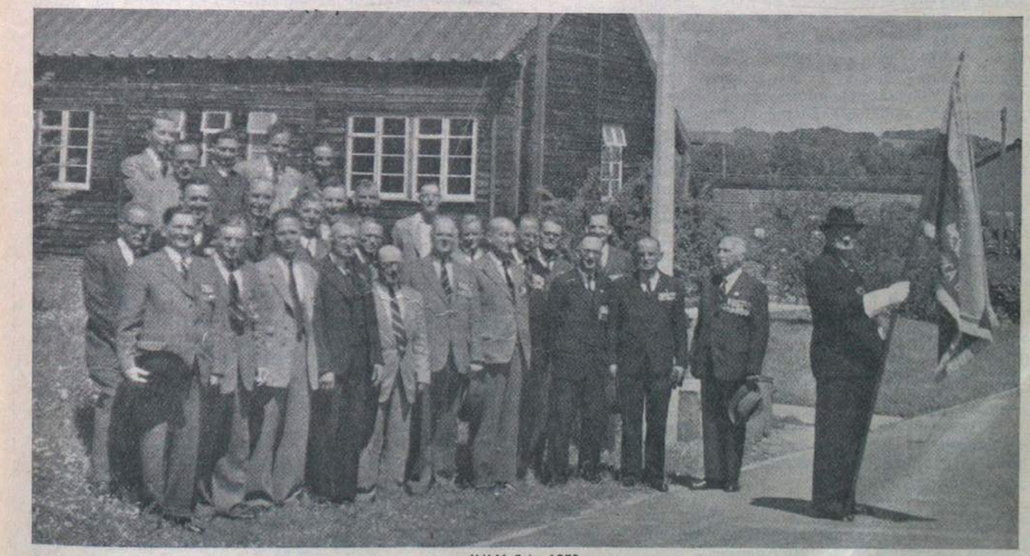
In the meantime our Motor Cycle Teams are practising hard for the District Trials.

QUEEN'S (BELFAST) UNIVERSITY TRAINING CORPS (T.A.)

Annual training at Ballykinlar, County Down, was favoured by the best of weather. Much of our training time was occupied in preparations for Her Majesty's visit to Northern Ireland. Although we found two wireless detachments to work with 107 Independent Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron on 1st and 2nd July on communications for the Royal Visit, our main commitment was street-lining in Belfast on 2nd July. Other than cable-laying, patrolling and maintenance, in which last, thanks to some industrious saboteur, we got a lot of practice, our only out-of-camp work consisted of assisting in an infantry exercise at Ballywillwill and doing a brigade headquarters layout at Mount Panther.

Camp ended on 4th July. On Sunday, 5th July, three of our officers and 43 other ranks (including a few non-signalmen for exercise-control duties) left Ballykinlar in 10 vehicles on Exercise "Pyjamas." (For those who don't know how these things are arranged we may say that the officers with our party were named Patton, Jackson, Montgomery and Scarfe—P-J-M-S; put vowels in the gaps, and what do you get? Don't turn carnaptious—that's a good Ulster word—and ask where the fourth officer came in: Captain Scarfe is our liaison officer from the School of Signals, who joined us in exploring the wilds of Ulster.) "Pyjamas" took us right across the provice from the Irish Sea to within five miles of the Atlantic, at Belleek, beyond which place we could not go without risk of causing an International incident. On Saturday, 11th July, we set off on our 100-mile journey to Belfast. Headquarters reached, we switched off the sets, handed in stores and dispersed in time to reach our homes during the afternoon and evening.

ASSOCIATION NOTES



JULY 5th, 1953

West Country Reunion. Photograph taken immediately the Old Comrades were dismissed from Church Parade. Major W. C. Savage holds the newly-dedicated East African Branch Standard. Copies of this photograph, obtainable from 88 Eccleston Square, S.W.1, price 4s. 6d. (8in. x 6in.) or less for smaller size

York

I am trying, without much success, to marshal my thoughts in order to give you some idea as to what has been happening in the Capital of the North during the last few years. I will not weary you with an "Who's Who in York" as space in THE WIRE is precious and I have much material I would like to be included.

All the money and energy we have been able to muster has been devoted to one end, namely, to hold a rally and reunion of branches here at York. The germ of this idea was born at Catterick when I saw the Catterick Reunion, 1949. All these long years we have pursued our aim, and after many setbacks we saw a dream come true on 25th July here at York. I personally received the only thanks I want when I received a batch of letters written by orphans in the city to thank me for brightening their lives a little.

It would have been impossible to stage the rally had it not been for the support we received from the branches and headquarters. We had a full review of our recourses and matched it against a minimum estimate of the costs. Alas, we had not enough money, but the branches, headquarters, and others came up to scratch and guaranteed us the remaining £80 odd we needed to bring our total available capital to the required £160 which we considered an absolute minimum. We then launched the rally, and with a spirit of neck-or-nothing found ourselves floundering in an unbelievable shoal of letters, etc., which mounted up toward the end like the proverbial snowball. Luckily I have an understanding chief in my office, and with the help of my committee, especially the two Tonys, Anderson and Leavesley, we ploughed through.

Nothing would have been possible without the Commandant, S.T.C., C.S.O. Northern, the C.O. 6 (Boys) Training Regiment, the Band President, and last but by no means least the Officer i/c Signals Display Team. With such aides as these gentlemen it would have been impossible to go wrong, and I should like to give everyone concerned a thank you from York. Colonel Keddie proved the master-mind behind the actual presentation of the display, which was brilliantly presented and ably commentated by Major Mycroft.

We received support from the following branches: Catterick, Chesterfield, Harrogate, Leeds, Manchester, Middlesbrough, Scarborough and Hull. Yes, gentlemen, Hull, a new branch which I claim as the first dividend to be derived from the rally. Many other branches sent us good wishes but were unable to attend due to holidays and other attractions.

Northern newspapers helped us very much with articles and pictures both before and after the rally, and the B.B.C. kindly mentioned the rally in "The Week Ahead."

We are hoping soon to get out a balance sheet, and I have a sneaking idea that there may be a little something for the Welfare Funds.

What I would like to emphasise most to you is that you can also put on a reunion in your town, with very little risk to the Association funds. Give the public a good show, more than worth their money, and in return you have the pleasure of a Reunion of Signals, and what is more important, the Corps and Association receive a full measure of well deserved publicity.

What York has done you can do, and I am willing to loan any branch my bulky files of correspondence if it would help them to stage another rally.

We are now determined to sustain the interest aroused in and around York and are busy thinking of other ideas to make the public Signals conscious.

Good luck, Jim Newton.

* * *

The following telegram was received from the Rhodesian Signals Association on the 12th August:—

"Rhodesian Signals Association send greetings and reciprocate toast at Reunion Dinner, Salisbury, 14th August.—(Signed) PRESIDENT."

Royal Signals Benevolent Fund

Also on this page is a simple statement of income and expenditure. Below an attempt is made to describe with suitable anonymity nine cases taken at random from the office of the Welfare Section at 88 Eccleston Square.

Ex-Signalman (N.S. 1950-52), wife died in childbirth and he himself has been ill for four months with consequential loss of earnings, heavy expense and debt. A member of the Association, he received a substantial grant to enable him to start again.

Ex-Signalman (1939-46 M.E. and N.W.E.): Wife has cancer and daughter killed in accident, there is one other child of school age. Funeral expenses, cost of home help, etc., put him into a financial muddle. The local branch of the Association, the Benevolent Fund and S.S.A.F.A. all helped solve his difficulty.

Ex-Signalman (1939-40) has been ill ever since and eventually died. The Benevolent Fund has been helping him for seven years and recently paid part cost of the funeral.

Ex-Signalman and R.E. Signals (1916-1923): Wife, two grown-up children away from home and two old parents. The ex-Signalman has been gravely ill and the rent, which is a high one, was not paid. R.E. and Royal Signals Benevolent Funds combined to pay off the arrears.

Wife of Signalman in Korea got herself into a financial tangle from which the Association extricated her.

Ex-Signalman (1939-46, B.E.F., M.E., N.W.E.), married, one child, broke both legs in an accident. Forces Help Society and the Benevolent Fund are seeing to it that he remains reasonably solvent.

Ex-Signalman (1941-46, North Africa and M.E.). Wife and young baby. He has been seriously ill in hospital and will not be fit for work for a long time. The Association cleared their small debts for them.

Widowed mother of Signalman in Korea was helped a little by the fund.

Wife of Ex-Sergeant who is very ill in hospital. The fund pays her fare to visit him. The distance is great and quite beyond her means.

ROYAL SIGNALS BENEVOLENT FUND

Subscriptions received during July, 1953:—

	£	s.	d.
2 Squadron, 4 L. of C. Signal Regiment	6	9	10
5 Corps Signal Regiment	30	0	0
Chef Signal Officer, British Troops in Austria	2	0	0
2 Infantry Division, Signal Regiment	15	0	0
5 Training Regiment	3	0	0
Officer Training Wing, School of Signals	7	15	0
Eastern Command Signal Regiment	1	9	6
Northern Ireland District (M) Signal Squadron	2	0	0
BETFOR Signals	10	0	0
2 Air Support Signal Unit	2	16	6
12 Wireless Squadron	2	0	0
54 L. of C. Signal Regiment, A.E.R.	3	10	0
21 (NM) Corps Signal Regiment, T.A.	1	0	0
Royal Signals Corps Fund	51	10	7
1 Commonwealth Division Signal Regiment (B.E.)	12	0	0
83 Group Air Formation Signal Regiment	5	0	0
23 (S) Corps Signal Regiment (Sergeants' Mess)	2	0	0
Donations received during July, 1953:—			
Army Benevolent Fund	1,500	0	0
32 Independent L. of C. Signal Squadron	9	10	6
Southampton Branch	1	10	0
Major J. H. A. Patton	2	2	0
Captain W. F. H. Herdon	1	0	0
Mr. S. Archer		7	6
Total Receipts	£1,672	1	5

Expenditure during July, 1953 £642 5 5
(Includes: Rent and Rates; Rehabilitation, Beds and Bedding; Prams; Cots; Hire Purchase; General Assistance.)

Analysis of Cases:

Families of soldiers serving in U.K.	5
" " " " M.E.L.F.	2
" " " " FARELF	4
Widows and Dependants	4
Released and Discharged soldiers	56
Total cases assisted	71

Sports

PRINCESS ELIZABETH CUP, 1953

IT is quite extraordinary how 24 hours after a wet, windy, and thoroughly uncomfortable time on *Cito* one is always ready to repeat this self-inflicted torture.

The wetness, windiness and humpiness are forgotten, and she assumes angelic looks and the disposition of a saint. It only requires a few strokes of nature's brush and there she is again—as if drawn by Ronald Searle himself.

Cito was next to smallest in a race of fourteen and appeared to cross the start line second. The others ranged from the lovely schooner *Lumberjack* to the baby of the entrants, *Helena of Troy*, and included some first-class racing helmsmen. Wind was S.W. to W.—a fresh breeze gusting occasionally up to force 6 "smacks double reef gaff mainsails" (and small yachts with a sense of humour try to lie down).

On the first leg to East Bramble we went like a train, with the genoa making a beautiful curve against the sky and the whole boat seeming to throb with energy. Well in the field and the big stuff slowly drawing ahead. Then came the long beat. Twelve miles against wind and tide to Solent Bank with *Cito* plunging and hissing into the sea.

This was where the bigger yachts had the advantage. Their hulls were steadier and instead of balancing on one wave at a time they could draw full sail with comparative ease.

The leaders began to get smaller and a little later reappeared, looking like soap bubbles, in the distance as they rounded the windward mark, and their spinnakers broke out. The sea was too much for the smaller entrants, and by the time Solent Bank was reached it was apparent that there was but little chance of a place. We saw three of our larger rivals retire and learned later that a total of five went home for some reason or another.

The run back was exciting and somewhat drier, but the wind had freshened. Seldom has a spinnaker been cursed so forcefully. She would billow out in a beautiful balloon, then as the wind shifted or our stern was pushed to one side by a following sea, she would hide coyly behind the mainsail and collapse. It was eventually decided to dispense with this luxury and run on the genoa. This seemed to pay dividends and raised the old problem. When has a boat reached her maximum speed and when is further sail useless on a run? Undoubtedly a lot of trouble is caused by "having her head pulled down."

We reached the finish at 1745 hours to find the Committee Boat had disappeared. Slightly more damped by this than we were before we made across the Brambles to Cowes, informing those who followed of the sad news. The exact timing of the remainder is not known, but *Cito* finished the course at least eighth, and possible sixth or seventh out of 14. The first three were *Tigris, Evenlode* and *Windstar*. It was interesting to discover later that the reason for having no proper finish was the committee's assumption that everyone else had made for more comfortable surroundings. Mistakes will happen even in the best regulated families. Incidentally, it is a pity there are still so many keen sailing Officers in the Corps who are not members of the R.S.S.A. *Cito* is well worth the wetness—24 hours later!

"CITO" GOES "ROUND THE ISLAND"

CITO finished 7th in her class of 27 in this year's "Round the Island" race. This was in keeping with her good performance of 1952 when she finished 15th out of 69. Cito was skippered on both occasions by Major-General Scott. This year's crew was Lieutenant-Colonel Harris, Major Line and Lieutenant Lott.

The 60-mile race started at 0700 hours on 4th July off Cowes, in a steady 12-knot breeze from just west of north. Cito got a magnificent start. She was up on the line at gunfire on the windward side of the inshore group. The other half of the fleet was away out to sea and Cito thus had a clear wind. This excellent start put her right out in the van in the earlier stages of the race and it was very gratifying to see, all round, so many famous ocean racers, most of whom were much larger than Cito and giving her time.

Cito was still well up in the first half of the race at the Bridge buoy, the most westerly part of the course. No time was lost here for Cito was gybed, close alongside the mark, inside the much larger and faster St. Barbara, the Gunner's yacht, and a whole host of others taking a wider turn. The wind now fell light and Cito was put on an outside course along the back of the Island. This decision meant she would encounter a fouler tide than those inshore, but stood a better chance of a truer wind. It was a correct decision, because thereafter only a few established flyers came through, whereas Cito steadily picked up places on the bulk of the fleet lying inshore. At St. Catherine's she was particularly fortunate and got a private lift past a calm patch. This gave her a lead of best part of a mile on the group astern.

Across Shanklin Bay, notorious for its calms, the outside course paid further dividends. Here Cito found what wind there was and again overtook St. Barbara. She also came up with Griffin, the R.O.R.C. club yacht. Bembridge Ledge was rounded just ahead of Adlard Cole's new yacht, Cohoe II, which had been abeam at St. Catherine's. From Bembridge to Ryde the going was slow to a light offshore breeze and positions changed little. Just past Ryde, however, the wind suddenly freshened from the west and gave the first full sailing breeze of the day. Cito thoroughly enjoyed the last half hour of the race which became a dead beat to windward. She crossed the finishing line a few minutes after 1800 hours.

To finish 7th in a fleet of this character is probably the best that can be expected of Cito. She was not built for this sort of handicap racing and with her long overhang is heavily penalised. All those who beat her were modern designs, built especially to race well under the rules. It is all the more satisfying that she should perform so consistently well in this and in her other races. As our racing programme is expanded, there seems little doubt that the Corps will more than hold its own in Service Yacht Racing.

* * *

Other sailing results:—

N.W. Firefly Team Race Meeting, May 16th-17th.

R.S.S.A. was beaten by Royal St. George Yacht Club.

Round the Island in Dinghies.

R.S.S. entered two Fireflies. Chastity came 2nd, Flamenco 19th out of 30 similar boats in the race.

* * *

Major E. Rayner has handed over the duties of Secretary of the Royal Signals Sailing Association to Captain R. S. D. Maunsell, Room 267, War Office, Whitehall. WHI 9400, Ext. 1077. Letters please to the War Office Officers Mess, Woolwich, London, S.E.18.

* * *

Northern Command Inter-Unit Swimming and Water Polo Championships, which took place at Darlington on 12th August, 1953, were won by 7 Training Regiment, Royal Signals.

Results:—

Swimming

1st	7 Training Regiment,	R. Signals	33½	pts.
2nd	65 "	R.A.C.	23	"
3rd	1 "	R. Signals	17½	"
4th	5 "	R. Signals	13	"

Water Polo

7 Training Regiment ... 10 goals.
5 Training Regiment ... 1 goal.

7 Training Regiment now enter the Army Inter-Unit Swimming Championship which takes place at Aldershot on 26th/28th August, 1953.

GOLF

The Signals Golf Team were away to the Gunners at Sunningdale recently and although they lost, they played very well indeed. In every game they had to give several shots and yet they only lost the singles by the score of 4½ to 3½. Lieutenant-Colonel Hayles who has just returned from America seems to have benefited from his trip and won the top game. Major-General Sir Leslie Phillips was five strokes weaker than his opponent on paper, but brought off a spectacular victory. Major Rhys Few continued his run of defeats in the singles, but as he was dormy 4 down and only lost on the last green, he, at any rate, gave his opponent a run for his money and a fright.

In the afternoon the Gunners got together and with the exception of the top game won the lot. Details of the results:—

Royal Artillery		Royal Signals	
No. 1 Captain Smith		Lieutenant-Colonel Hayles 3/1	1
,, 2 Captain Branton 3/1 ...	1	Second-Lieutenant Copestake	
,, 3 Lieutenant Balfour		Major-General Vulliamy 1 up	1
,, 4 Lieutenant-Colonel Tyler 6/4	1	Lieutenant Vulliamy	
,, 5 Major Clark 6/5	1	Brigadier Chadwick	
,, 6 Lieutenant-Colonel Rampling	½	Colonel Winckley	½
,, 7 Major Wells 2 up	1	Major Rhys Few	
,, 8 Brigadier Tyler		Major-General Sir L. Phillips 2/1	1
Nos. 1 and 3		Nos. 1 and 2 1 up	1
,, 2 ,, 5 6/4	1	,, 3 ,, 4	
,, 4 ,, 8 1 up	1	,, 6 ,, 7	
,, 6 ,, 7 6/5	1	,, 5 ,, 8	
	7½		4½

On 8th August, Brigadier Chadwick took a team to his home course, Beaconsfield, and blessed with fine weather, the team scored a victory of 7 matches to 5.

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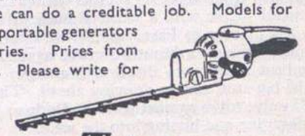

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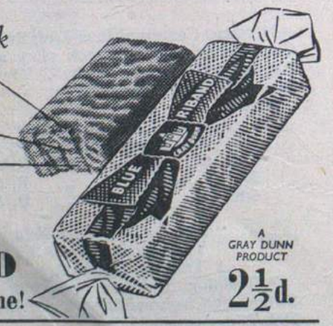

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London District Royal Signals Territorial Army Rifle Meeting

THE Annual Rifle Meeting for Territorial Army Signal Units in London took place on Sunday, 26th July, on the Pirbright Ranges. In spite of an unpromising weather forecast and a downpour of rain just before shooting started conditions were good, and the weather remained fine apart from a few showers.

The meeting started with an egg pool at 300 yards range, which was popular with all competitors, including a good attendance of W.R.A.C., as a means of zeroing rifles and (possibly) of collecting a little ready cash. Two egg bulls were spotted on each target, each slightly larger than last year, but only three competitors succeeded in hitting one; they were:—

Captain S. R. Beazly, 16 AB Divisional Signal Regiment (T.A.).
Sergeant A. C. Snell, Army Phantom Signal Regiment (T.A.).
R.Q.M.S. R. W. V. Blackburn, Army Phantom Signal Regiment (T.A.).

After the egg pool came the Young Soldiers' Individual Competition, open to serving Territorials of any rank under the age of 24 who had not served with the T.A. for more than two years. In this competition, for which there were 15 entries, the winner was Lieutenant D. A. D. Smith, 1 Special Communications Regiment (T.A.), with Corporal A. Wooton and Lance-Corporal R. S. Burton, both of 1 Special Communications Regiment (T.A.) tieing for second place. As the result of a shoot-off, Corporal Wooton was placed second and Lance-Corporal Burton third.

Next came the competition for the Open Individual Challenge Cup, in which over 70 competitors took part. This consisted of two parts, both at 300 yards range.

Part I—5 rounds application with each shot signalled.
Part II—10 rounds fired at a 4ft. target exposed for 45 seconds.

The result of this competition was as follows:—

First: Sergeant R. W. Dennis, 2/20 Army Signal Regiment (T.A.).
Second: Lieutenant T. J. Watts, Army Phantom Signal Regiment (T.A.).
Third: Sergeant W. E. Steels, 44 (H.C.) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment (T.A.).

There was a short break for lunch, and in the afternoon the Unit Challenge Trophy was contested. The holders were 23 (S) Corps Signal Regiment (T.A.) who won it in 1952.

The competition consisted of what might be described as "movement and fire," that is to say, each team of three had to load its rifles with 10 rounds on the 300 yards firing point, apply safety catches, and retire to the 400 yards firing point. The appearance in the butts of three snap targets in front of each team was the signal for them to run forward to the 300 yards firing point and engage these targets. When all three snap targets had been "knocked down," a 4 feet target was raised on which hits to count could be scored. The 4 feet targets were lowered 90 seconds from the time the snap targets were raised.

Nineteen teams took part in this competition, drawn from 16 A.B. Divisional Signal Regiment (T.A.), Army Phantom Signal Regiment (T.A.), 56 (L) Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment (T.A.), 44 (H.C.) Divisional Signal Regiment (T.A.), 23 (S) Corps Signal Regiment (T.A.), 2/20 (E.A.) Army Signal Regiment (T.A.), and 1 Special Communications Regiment (T.A.).

As a result, three teams tied for first place, an indication of the keenness which was shown by all those taking part. These three teams did a further shoot-off, and the final result of the Unit Challenge Trophy Competition was as follows:—

First: 16 AB Divisional Signal Regiment (T.A.) ("B" Team).
Second: 56 (L) Armoured Division, Signal Regiment (T.A.) ("A" Team).
Third: 2/20 (EA) Army Signal Regiment (T.A.) ("B" Team).

Brigadier C. A. H. Chadwick, C.B.E., A.D.C., The Chief Signal Officer, Eastern Command, kindly presented the prizes.

Amendments No. 8 to the Blue Book 1953

DELETIONS—TRADES ROSTER

0225	6358	12013	12864A	14049	14852	15732
0277	6398	12014	12928	14094	14853	15741
0312	6410	12015	12933	14151	14856	15748
0879	6468	12016	12951	14163	14883	15763
0909	6478	12017	13000	14164	14904	15776
0958	6665	12018	13005	14202	14906	15815
0984	6674	12019	13035	14206	14920	15860
1425	6677	12020	13042	14212	14957	15904A
1532	6729	12021	13079	14296A	14959	15915
1596	6801	12022	13080A	14374	14979	15916
1854	10014	12023	13179	14388	15058	15919
2039	10057	12090	13286	14389	15059	15937
2261	10155	12101	13303	14390	15076	16013
2322	10175	12122A	13305	14392	15086	16083
2332	10219	12126	13334	14413	15089	16089
2444	10222	12130	13346	14422	15090	16137
2470	10320	12131	13377	14423	15132	16139
2577	10553	12133	13389	14425	15145	16164
2602	10782	12143	13394	14427	15165	16189
2617	10803	12158	13404	14431	15169	16200
5108	10965	12167	13419	14500	15172	16216
5111	11119	12176	13441	14565	15215	16227
5368	11392	12207	13484	14594	15222	16273
5401	11444	12219	13506	14595	15239	16325
5530	11462	12240	13544	14645	15365	16333
5573	11540	12327	13550	14683	15366	16363
5581	11586A	12345	13595	14696A	15441	16387
5671	11627	12359	13612	14729	15442	16390
5691	11656	12360	13677	14730	15515	16411
5775	11695	12430	13710	14731	15538	16421
5786	11700	12489	13748	14771	15558	16440
5802	11738	12609	13749	14775	15563	16465A
5905	11785	12691	13786	14815	15565	16467
5906	11817	12717	13809	14816	15601	16472
6061	11887	12753	13809A	14819	15624	16479
6083	11895	12844	13868	14831	15673	16631
6087	11913	12855	13882	14843	15689	16654
6172	11925	12856	13926	14847	15721	16677

DELETIONS—CIPHER ROSTER

5049	5127	5192	5193	5194	5256	5337	5053

DELETIONS—GENERAL DUTIES ROSTER

10053	10067	10140	10191

TRADES ROSTER ADD "Q"

709A	1518	5373	5925	6558	11011	12694
722	1571	5514	5950	6608	11068	12966
917	1686	5547	6068	6763	12145	12977
934	2109	5727	6202	10888	12482	13103
1402	5112	5844	6421	10962		

CIPHER ROSTER ADD "Q"

217	1348	5045	5118	5199C	5231	5318	1312A	5035A

DECEASED SOLDIER'S BALANCES

Notice is hereby given to the next-of-kin or other relatives that there is £32 17s. standing to the credit of the late Driver H. Maley, Royal Signals. Applications should be made to the War Office, Whitehall, London, S.W.1, and the envelope marked "Effects."

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Make sure you get the Full Benefits of a Chlorophyll* Toothpaste . . . with this New, Exclusive Colgate Formula !

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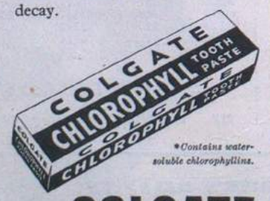
Just one brushing with new Colgate Chlorophyll Toothpaste cleans your mouth of a high percentage of bacteria : and remember, bacteria and acids are chief causes of tooth decay.



*Contains water-soluble chlorophyllins.

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Officers with present intention to pilot aircraft or warned for Far East can get only restricted cover OR pay extra premiums. Such restrictions may grow if international tension increases.

It pays to start policies young, and before becoming involved in policy restrictions ; by delaying you also pay higher premiums and lose Bonuses. (Apropos of which, do NOT take long-term Endowments **Without profits,** advertised at low premiums.)

Income Tax concessions usually represent a subsidy of 22% and make Life Assurance a very good investment. Life Assurance can also help greatly in connection with Estate Duty and House Purchase.

DETAILED RECOMMENDATIONS AND EXPLANATIONS TO MEET YOUR PROBLEM ARE GIVEN FREELY AND WITHOUT OBLIGATION.

A Leaflet, "Notes on Life Assurance for Young Officers," will be sent on request.

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THE WIRE

The Corps Magazine of the
ROYAL SIGNALS
The Official Organ of the
SIGNALS ASSOCIATION

Editor :
BRIGADIER 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.*

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☆

OCTOBER • 1953
Vol. 7 *New Series* **No. 10**

☆

PRICE ONE SHILLING

MERCURY

Apropos the August Editorial and its references to Mercury's "Lineage and Usage," the accompanying photograph might be of interest to the historical section of the Signals Institute. It would appear that Mercury, at some stage during his term of office as S.D.R. to the gods, took to riding a horse. It would be of interest to learn what were the circumstances which brought about this clash with the traditional legend that Mercury's sole method of propulsion was through his winged sandals and winged cap. The answer perhaps could have been provided by Monsieur Coysevox, who was the 17th century sculptor responsible for this equestrian statue of Mercury which stands at the entrance to the Jardin des Tuileries, Paris. It is of interest to note that during the years 1792 to 1794 the spectators to the guillotining of Louis XVI, Marie-Antoinette, Charlotte Corday, Danton, and eight unfortunate nameless Englishmen, scrambled on to Mercury in order to get a better view of the guillotine which operated on the present site of the Luxor Obelisk, seen to the left of the photograph. This lurid information might be of interest to both Signals tourists in Paris and secretaries of Royal Signals Regimental Riding Clubs!

Contributed by Captain D. O. Fairlie, Royal Signals.

Editorial

THIS, the October WIRE, heralds November, the month in which we of Great Britain remember our dead of two Great Wars.

During 1914-18, the Signal Service Royal Engineers formulated traditions of devotion to duty, a style of discipline that enables the Signalman to do his work alone, a realisation that the fate of armies may depend on the individual performance of one man, if he is a Signalman.

Formed in 1920, Royal Signals fostered and embellished these traditions in the British Army of the period between the wars.

During the 1939-45 War, well over 100,000 men served in Royal Signals, of whom some 5,500 died, and the files of the Association bear witness to the very large number of others who are still suffering from injuries received.

This service continues all over the world.

It is the duty of Royal Signals to look after its own and the Royal Signals Association exists for this purpose. The Benevolent Fund derives its income largely from subscriptions and donations from the Signal Regiments in which so many are serving and from the branches of the Association wherein so many continue their service.

* * *

EMPIRE FIELD OF REMEMBRANCE

The Empire Field of Remembrance will be held from 6th to 12th November, between 9.30 a.m. and 6 p.m., at Westminster. It will be opened at 12 noon on Friday, 6th November. The Royal Signals' plot is No. 203, as in previous years.

As in former years, the London and London (City) Branches provide the official representatives of the Association at the opening.

If any other member of the Association is in London on Friday, 6th November, and wishes to attend the opening, he should notify Headquarters.

All correspondence and applications relating to the Field should be addressed to the Secretary, British Legion Poppy Factory, Surrey, and cheques made payable to British Legion Poppy Factory, Ltd.

Congratulations

To Royal Canadian Corps of Signals on their 50th Anniversary ∴ 24th October, 1953

PERSONAL COLUMN

Lieutenant-Colonel T. W. Boileau, O.B.E., to R.A.R.O., and to be County Cadet Commandant for Cheshire.

London Gazette

11th August. Major Cennydd George Trehearne, T.D., J.P., is appointed Honorary Colonel, 53 (Welsh) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A., vice Colonel R. C. Seel, O.B.E., M.C., T.D.

Movements—Officers

Major R. O. Edwards from 3 L. of C. Signal Regiment to H.Q. London District.

Captain A. Begg from H.Q. London District to FARELF.

Major W. C. Barber from U.K. to A.L.F.C.E. Signal Squadron.

Lieutenant-Colonel A. J. M. Atthill from Southern Command Signal Regiment to Pakistan.

Major J. B. W. Freemantle from Northern Army Group to retire 2nd January, 1954.

Major (Q.M.) F. J. Carruthers from 56 London Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment to retire 13th November, 1953.

Major G. H. Clarke from West Africa to U.K.

Major R. D. Oram from M.E.L.F. to 21 Corps Signal Regiment, T.A.

Major K. A. Nash from Western Command Signal Regiment to School of Signals.

Lieutenant-Colonel G. G. L. Hinde from School of Signals to Eastern Command Signal Regiment.

Major R. W. Brader from M.E.L.F. to Western Command Signal Regiment.

Lieutenant-Colonel P. H. Smitherman from Eastern Command Signal Regiment to War Office.

Lieutenant-Colonel J. McNeil from Northern Army Group to 60 H.Q. Army Signal Regiment, T.A.

Lieutenant-Colonel D. E. L. Gardiner from 60 H.Q. Army Signal Regiment, T.A., to Hong Kong.

Major R. A. Hatcher from Northern Army Group to retirement.

Major W. H. Bowler from War Office Signal Regiment on retirement to Army Medals Office, Droitwich.

Major F. E. Berry from 5 Corps Signal Regiment to S.H.A.P.E.

Major A. H. D. Llewellyn from War Office to FARELF.

Lieutenant-Colonel D. M. Rhind from War Office to 52 (L) Divisional Signal Regiment.

Captain (T.O.T.) W. P. J. Rumsey from Pakistan to U.K.

Captain (Cipher) J. F. Scott from M.E.L.F. to U.K.

Lieutenant (T.O.T.) E. Thompson from Northern Army Group to Korea.

Major J. Ray from Northern Army Group to Korea.

Major W. McCready from 1 Independent Air Formation Signal Troop to H.Q. A.L.F.C.E.

Major B. G. Sell from H.Q. A.L.F.C.E. to 1 Independent Air Formation Signal Troop.

Major T. R. Warburg from Staff College to Northern Army Group.

Major J. R. Camp from FARELF to U.K.

Lieutenant T. F. Jenkinson from FARELF to Ministry of Supply, C.I.R.E.S., Chislehurst.

Arrivals and Departures

2 L. of C. Signal Regiment

Arrivals

Major K. E. S. Ellis from 3 Squadron to H.Q., N.A.G. Signal Regiment.

Major P. P. H. Morton from 2 Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment.

Lieutenant G. Homer from 1 Corps Signal Regiment to 1 Squadron.

W.O.I Witham from U.K. to 3 Squadron.

W.O.II Crompton from 11 Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment to 2 Squadron.

Departures

Major R. A. Hatcher to U.K. and civilian life.
Captain P. O'Rourke to U.K. for M.E.L.F.
Captain P. Creedy to U.K. on release.
Lieutenant N. J. Cowley to U.K. for Korea.
Lieutenant W. Newton to U.K. for Korea.

East Africa Command Signal Squadron

Arrivals

Captain J. Smith.
Sergeants Stephens, Bancroft, Macleod and Porter.

Departures

S.Q.M.S. Perrin.

Promotions

S.Q.M.S. Sayers to W.O.II (F. of S.).
Corporal Smith to Sergeant.

19 Air Formation Signal Regiment

Arrivals

Captain (Q.M.) A. Dale and family.
Captain (T.O.T.) J. Pollard.

Departures

Lieutenant M. C. Jones to Sub. Pt. II Course.

Births

WARNER.—On 21st August, 1953, at Calvary Hospital, Adelaide, South Australia, to Betty, wife of Lieutenant-Colonel J. V. Warner, a son (Andrew John).

BAKER.—On 2nd September, 1953, at Queen Charlotte's Hospital, W.6, to Beryl, wife of Captain A. P. Baker, a son.

COCK.—On 26th August, 1953, at the Louise Margaret Hospital, Aldershot, to Hilda, wife of Captain J. W. W. Cock, a daughter.

DADY.—To Mrs. Dady, wife of Sergeant Dady, 4 L. of C. Signal Regiment, a son, at the B.M.H., Hanover, on the 23rd August, 1953.

LAMBERT.—To S.S.M. and Mrs. Lambert, 2 L. of C. Signal Regiment, a daughter, Elizabeth Heather Bridget.

BROUGH.—On 31st August, 1953, to Sergeant and Mrs. J. J. Brough, 1 Wireless Regiment, a daughter.

Marriages

GRANT — VILLENEUVE. — W.O.II P. H. Grant, S.H.A.P.E. Signal Squadron, to Joan Villeneuve, of Bexleyheath, at the Church of St. Martin, Barnehurst, Kent, on 26th August, 1953.

Deaths

ROBINSON.—22863384 Signalman D. P. Robinson, on 1st August, 1953, in U.K.

HOPCROFT.—22647798 Signalman C. V. Hopcroft, on 7th August, 1953, in Queen Alexandra Military Hospital, Millbank.

GARDINER.—6895806 Sergeant R. W. Gardiner, on 20th August, 1953, in Military Hospital, Wheatley, Oxon.

ROBSON.—22879277 Signalman T. B. Robson, on 24th June, 1953, in U.K.

BRICKNELL.—22559336 Signalman A. A. Bricknell, on 23rd August, 1953, in Far East.

HUGHES.—David Hughes, son of 22212488 Signalman Hughes, at B.M.H., Rinteln, on 4th August, 1953. Aged 10 days.

McDERMOTT.—2572263 ex-Sergeant H. McDermott, on 14th August, 1953, at his home, 8 Sulgrave Close, Liverpool, 16. Service 1925-1944. Supplementary Reserve Signals. Member Liverpool Branch Royal Signals Association.

GENEROSITY HAS ITS OWN REWARD

Mr. J. L. Wilson, of 33 Lynmouth Avenue, Bush Hill Park, Enfield, Middlesex, put a notice in the September issue of THE WIRE saying he had Vols. Nos. 1 and 2 (New Series) (except No. 3 of Vol. No. 2) for disposal. He writes again:—

"An ex-member of the Corps at present in the T.B. ward of a hospital in Notts has written me about the same and I have had much pleasure in sending them to him."

CORPS MARCHES

A new recording of the Corps' Quick and Slow March, made by the H.M.V. Gramophone Company, is now available, price 10s. each record, PLUS cost of postage and packing, from: The Honorary Treasurer, Royal Signals Band, H.Q. Officers' Mess, Catterick Camp, Yorkshire.

NOTICE

Found at the M.T. School, Borden, June 1953: one bronze medalion inscribed "S.T.C. Inter-Coy. Rifle Meeting, 1924, Runners-up "F" Coy., Signalman H. Crook."

The owner may claim above from R.S.M. W. Judd, 1 Corps Signal Regiment, B.A.O.R.

Mr. W. G. Ball ("Taff"), of 46 Middle Road, Kingswood, Bristol, having been out of England for over 30 years, would like to contact friends with whom he served in the 2nd Signal Company in the 1914-18 war.

WINTER IS DRAWING NEAR

You can obtain a tubular scarf, in Corps Colours, 48in. long, with fringed ends, from:—

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION,
88 ECCLESTON SQUARE, S.W.1

Price 25s. each (cash with order).

EMPLOYMENT VACANCIES

Ministry of Civil Aviation. Radio technicians required at aerodromes and radio stations in various parts of United Kingdom. Special training courses for keen technicians with basic qualifications. Interesting work in progress providing electronic aids to navigation. Prospect of permanent pensionable posts. Rates of pay (London) from £330 per annum at age of 19, to £445 at 25, rising, subject to qualifying test, to £540. The rates are slightly lower for the provinces. Candidates aged 19 or over with practical experience in maintenance of radio or radar equipment should apply to Ministry of Labour and National Service, Barnsbury Road, London, N.1, quoting Order No. Kings Cross 576.

There is a steady demand for men to fill these vacancies. Ex-Signals personnel who are interested may apply at any office of the Ministry of Labour or write direct to the Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation, Ariel House, Theobalds Road, London, W.C.1, marking letter "For attention, Est. 1a."

Forthcoming Events ☆

ROYAL SIGNALS RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

*Oct.	21	Oxford University Greyhounds	Oxford
„	31	Durham City	Durham
*Nov.	11	Royal Engineers	Catterick
„	14	Roundhay	Leeds
„	28	Leeds University	Catterick
Dec.	5	Huddersfield	Huddersfield
„	12	Durham City	Catterick
* „	16	R.M.A. (Sandhurst)	Camberley
* „	19	Waterloo	Blundellsands
1954			
Jan.	2	Harrogate	Catterick
„	6	R.A.O.C.	Bicester
„	23	Liverpool	Catterick
* „	27	R.E.M.E.	Catterick
Feb.	6	Middlesbrough	Catterick
„	13	Roundhay	Catterick
„	27	Leeds University	Leeds
Mar.	6	Billingham	Catterick
* „	20	Royal Military College of Science	Shrivenham
„	27	Workington	Catterick
Apr.	10	Percy Park	Catterick
„	24	Otley	Otley

* *Corps Representative Matches*

" At Home " for T.A. and A.E.R. Officers and Their Wives

5th December at The Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane, 4 for 4.30 p.m.

Annual Buffet Supper and Reunion

5th December at the T.A. Centre, 190 Hammersmith Road, W.6. 7 to 11 p.m.

By courtesy of The Army Phantom Signal Regiment, T.A. (Princess Louise's Kensington Regiment).

The Malayan Campaign Officers' Reunion will take place on Friday, 4th December, at the Naval and Military Club, Piccadilly, W.1. Tickets, price 20s. each, and particulars obtainable from B. K. Castor, Kennington Oval, S.E.11.

First Army Signals—16 L. of C. Signals, 1942-46

The first reunion dinner for all ranks will be held in London on Saturday, 31st October. Full particulars may be obtained from D. J. HARRIS, 45 PRIOR AVENUE, SUTTON, SURREY.

In this issue of THE WIRE will be found the Order Form for 1954. It is hoped that readers will remit their subscriptions at an early date, prior to 31st December if possible.

ALL ORDERS NOT PAID BY THE 1st FEBRUARY, 1954, WILL BE DELETED FROM THE MAILING LIST.

This does not affect Bankers' Order payments.

A year with the British North Greenland Expedition

by Captain J. S. Agar, Royal Signals

Part I

THE British North Greenland Expedition has now completed one year in the Arctic. The Sunderland flying boats of Coastal Command, R.A.F., have arrived with reliefs and provisions for the second year, and we are able once more to send letters home.

In July 1952, *M.V. Tottan,* the Norwegian sealer chartered by the expedition, departed from Deptford and made for Ivigtut on the west coast of Greenland.

The sea voyage provided a welcome period of relaxation after the somewhat intense and chaotic weeks of preparation. We only had ten weeks in which to select personnel, decide on the best equipment for the task, confirm its availability, modify it for arctic use, test and repack it for the voyage. Due to difficulty in obtaining financial approval, the first equipment did not arrive until the 14th June, barely two weeks before loading commenced on *Tottan.* I should like to thank all who helped us so willingly in our preparations, it was only due to their wholehearted co-operation in so limited a time that we managed to load the last stores as the hatch covers were secured in *Tottan.*

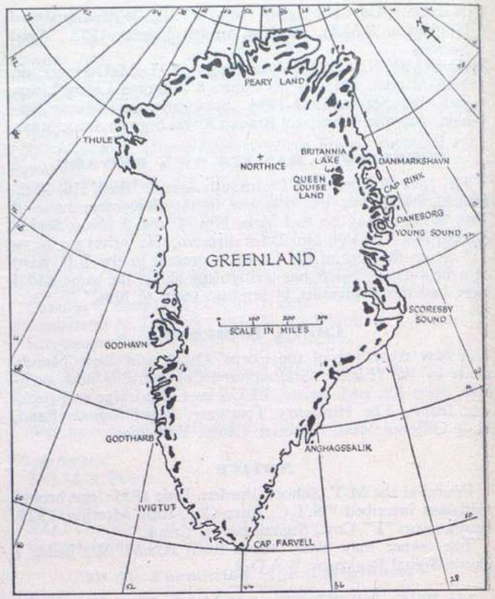
Then, after a heartening visit from Her Majesty The Queen, the expedition patron, and a week-end's "embarkation" leave, we were on our way.

Stormy weather met us when we rounded Cape Farvell and worked our way up the coast, the mountains of which were shrouded in mist as we threaded our way through a few decaying icebergs into Ivigtut fjord.

There we were greeted by heavy rain, but took the opportunity of visiting the Cryolite Mine before taking on board our thirty-six huskies and their fish for the two years. The huskies proved the pleasanter of the two commodities, as the fish, in reality dried halibut, was damp with the rain and highly pungent. Both were housed on deck amongst fuel barrels, "Weasels," and other expedition paraphernalia.

Some husky puppies, born only the day before, were carried on board, and in spite of their sea passage so early in life they are now strapping dogs pulling their full weight in the teams.

Memories of the voyage are of short periods of elation alternating with far longer periods of nausea, a greasy galley in which every four days we had the doubtful privilege of doing our share of the cooking and washing up, and the ever pleasant aroma of fast decomposing fish.



The ship, loaded to capacity with our requirements for two years, seemed capable of every possible contortion in the rough seas—our only consolation was to see some of the seafaring members of the expedition also taking to their bunks.

Our entry into the pack-ice marked the first calm days of the voyage, and as *Tottan* pursued the "leads" of open water between the ice floes we again took an interest in our surroundings. Almost according to tradition the ship was for a time wedged fast in the ice, and the captain, who had been on the bridge continuously for twenty-four hours, turned in, whilst we snatched the opportunity to exercise the puppies and ourselves by going for a walk amongst the ice floes, stepping gingerly around the pools of clear blue water.

At last, after three weeks at sea, we entered Young Sound and called at the Danish weather station. We were the first visitors they had seen for a year and were welcomed with Verey lights and gunfire. On shore we found a copious supply of "John Haig" and were introduced to the Sledge Patrol—a patrol of the Danish Army which polices a large section of the east coast using dog sledges for transport.

The hills surrounding the fjord had little vegetation and only on the summits were there to be seen small patches of snow. We were blessed with continual daylight and the sun was never absent. For all the world we might have been in the tropics, there was a heatwave and we even suffered from a plague of mosquitos—perhaps a little unexpected within 800 miles of the Pole.

Our first task was the unloading of supplies from the ship. We carried four pontoons for this purpose and 280 tons of equipment were unloaded and beached within four days. It was here that the radio and power section first achieved notoriety in that all the heavy and unmanageable boxes seemed to belong to us.

After a few days at Young Sound we were joined by the R.A.F. with five Sunderlands, and the airlift to Britannia Lake in Queen Louise Land, where our base hut was to be established, began.

At Young Sound our first wireless station was set up with a W.S.19 high-power and later with a C.52. We had routines with Angmagssalik, Reykjavik, and on some occasions with Portishead, whilst keeping in touch with Britannia Lake and *M.V. Tottan* on her return journey to Iceland.

The flight to Queen Louise Land, which is 200 miles north of Young Sound and 30 miles from the coast, gave me my first sight of the icecap. It can only be described as a vast desert, a desert with the snow and the blizzard taking the place of the sand and the sandstorm, as it sweeps down to the coastal mountain range, leaving a few scattered "nunataks" encircled by glaciers, Queen Louise Land being perhaps the largest of these islands in the ice.

One gains the impression of a land resenting the interference and noise of humanity, deceptively pleasant at times when there is sun and no wind, but lashed into a raging fury of wind and drift snow at a moment's notice.

After landing on Britannia Lake we unloaded in rubber dinghies, the rafts of which were to be assembled for use in discharging from planes to shore. For the next three weeks there was little time to relax. Four plane loads of stores arrived each day to be unloaded, each plane carrying about five tons. At this time we had no mechanical power, and pontoons were hauled in and out by ropes from the shore using teams of six or more "galley-slaves."

Our work was hampered much by heavy winds, at times making the control of the rafts almost impossible. The airborne lifeboat which was to have provided our power was washed ashore on the far side of the lake, having been badly damaged when parachutes failed to open in its drop. In attempts to salvage the lifeboat one dinghy with our only outboard motor was lost.

The only major mishap during the unloading was occasioned by a squall which overturned the pontoon as it lay alongside the aircraft. It was an unkind trick of fate that on this particular pontoon was one of our two main A.C. 3 kva. Petter diesel generators, the power supply unit to our W.S.53, and all our mast halyards and pulley blocks, which together with some batteries slid gracefully into the water. The loss of the generator particularly proved a great handicap throughout the year. Two Model 8 Avometers in a cardboard box floated the three miles to the far side of the lake and were washed ashore. When picked up a week later, they were in perfect condition, apart from the batteries, and have been in use ever since.

In the tents men lived for months

One of the expedition's Weasels on a frozen lake in part of the Glacier Tongue

The hut, which was made in Canada, was of sectional construction, having double walls with Fibreglass insulation. In all, five layers separated us from the cold outside. We were allotted three rooms in the laboratory portion of the hut—a wireless room, a battery room and a generator room.

It was with mixed feelings that on the 23rd August we saw the last aircraft take off from the lake, leaving us established for the next year. Radio was then our only contact.

During the unloading period we had been busy setting up a temporary radio station. From the first day of landing on the lake we had worked a W.S.62 continuously with Young Sound and within a short time we had a C.52 in a tent working Angmagssalik, Portishead and Thule on the west side of the icecap. A B.E.201 provided us with direct V.H.F. communication with the aircraft landing and taking off.

The next month for us at base was one of intensive activity to establish the radio station and aerial array before the onset of the cold weather and frosts. We erected nine aerial masts ranging up to 72 feet high. Stays were attached to "deadmen" lying on the permafrost layer about three feet below ground and covered with boulders. Many additional "windstays" were attached to take the extra strains imposed by the heavy gusting winds which sweep down off the icecap. I am glad to say that all masts survived the winter, although we lost one halyard.

During the first weeks of September we assembled and installed in the hut our one remaining Petter generator and the W.S.53 which was to be our primary transmitter throughout the expedition. On the 18th September, using this equipment for the first time, we opened our direct link with the Admiralty.

Meanwhile, three dog-sledge teams had set out to establish "Northice"—our station in the centre of the icecap. With them went P.O. K. Taylor, R.N., as operator, who had with him one W.S.62 and an 80 watt charger, also "Eureka" and "Walter" as navigational aids for the aircraft of Transport Command which were to airdrop the hut and all supplies for this station.

Much credit is due to both operator and equipment that not once during the two months of travelling and setting up the station was there any breakdown in communications in spite of the rigorous conditions of operation, covering 200 miles, and reaching a height of nearly 8,000 feet, in temperatures down to fifty below.

Unfortunately, however, we did not have such success with the navigational aids, which were never picked up by the R.A.F.

The crash of the Hastings aircraft during this operation caused a heavy increase in our responsibilities as all traffic to Air Ministry was passed by the W.S.62 at Northice through Main Base to London. Shortly after the rescue operation the C.52 was successfully dropped to Northice, and with the completion of the hut the crew of three were left for the winter, having gained an admirable storehouse in the form of the aircraft fuselage which was still intact.

The end of October saw both stations well established and ready to face the dark winter. We had seen the last of the sun which was not to reappear again until February.

Letters TO THE EDITOR

CORPS PROMOTION ROSTER

"Fairplay's" letter on O.R. promotion within the Corps of Signals which was published in a previous issue of THE WIRE is still being heatedly discussed in Sergeants' Messes in the Canal Zone. Having recently visited many of these Messes, I think a true picture has been obtained why so many senior N.C.O.s of the Corps are leaving the service after seven and twelve years' service. For these N.C.O.s to leave the Corps, especially after twelve years' service, does seem ample proof of discontentment, and it would seem that the present system of promotion within the Corps does lead to this and is given in many cases as the reason for leaving.

In two major Signals field formations over fifty per cent. of the senior ranks were of Acting Rank! This would seem that the number allowed as shown in the Blue Book does NOT cover all establishments within the Corps. It is, of course, quite understandable that with the inauguration of a new Unit the number of Senior N.C.O.s cannot be changed at once but the Units I refer to are old established Units, and the new Units and establishments that have been introduced since 1950 are very few.

The main points thought to be responsible for the discontentment seem to be:—

Acting Rank. This is granted to unqualified personnel, in some cases given to N.C.O.s NOT even qualified to hold their own substantive rank. This is in view of "initial shadow rank" which was qualification free. It is also given in Units where N.C.O.s are qualified and recommended for promotion, simply because the man is senior, or at least it would appear to be that way. For a N.C.O. who is qualified for next rank, also who has been recommended for promotion to see an unqualified N.C.O. being given an Acting Rank higher than himself is surely NO incentive to "soldier on." One must also remember that acting rank carries pay after thirty-five days and counts towards pension.

Unqualified Personnel on Rosters. Although these people get jumped they still hold a vacancy on the roster. These N.C.O.s have now had approximately four years in which to become qualified but they seemingly are content to be on the roster in the initial rank granted, whereas a N.C.O. who has spent nights and his spare time studying his trade and going to school and obtained the necessary qualifications has to remain on his initial rank until a vacancy occurs on the higher rank roster. It would seem FAIR PLAY is required here.

Qualifications. It is felt that the sooner the qualifications as laid down in Corps Memo No. 11 is adopted for rank it would be for the betterment of the Corps; most seniors would welcome this except those, of course, who are either NOT interested in further promotion, and those who will NOT study (both types of N.C.O. are a liability to the Corps).

A suggestion was voiced that the Corps might benefit if there were two branches introduced after promotion to sergeant. The N.C.O. who is good at "Q" work going to S.Q.M.S., R.Q.M.S. (W.O.II), R.Q.M.S. (W.O.I), and thence Q.M. The other Branch Sergeant to S.S.M. (W.O.II), R.S.M. (W.O.I) and thence Administrative and or Cipher commissions. Chief clerks (W.O.I) to be split between Administrative and Cipher Officers. This would eventually ensure that the man most fitted to be a Q.M. would be commissioned as a Q.M. and the discipline side to other commissions. It would also solve the question of personnel having to be R.Q.M.S. before given a commission (except for the Q.M. type).

Only a few seniors gave the reason for leaving the service as unavailability of married quarters, schooling for children, better pay in civilian employment and freedom from petty restrictions. The main reason was most definitely the question of further promotion to make a long career in the Army.

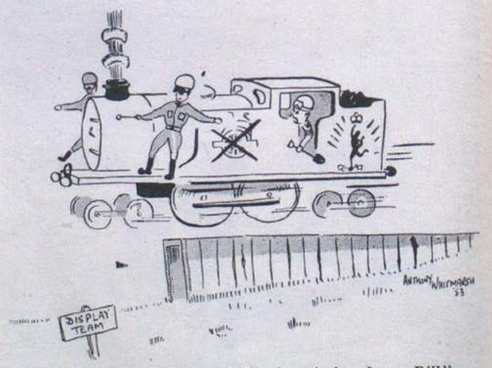
If a scheme could be devised so that an N.C.O. (senior) could be told, say, during his tenth year of service and in his fifteenth in case of the 22 year man, what his chances are of further promotion ONLY if he is fully qualified to become a W.O.I, it is felt that many more N.C.O.s would extend their service. This may, of course, be impracticable, but the question of promotion is indeed felt to be one of the main reasons of discontentment within the Corps and why we are well behind other Corps in our N.C.O.s extending and re-engaging in the service. It may well also have an adverse effect on recruitment into the Corps, because for sure the N.C.O.s leaving the service and Royal Signals are NOT a good advertisement for Royal Signals.

"NON NOBIS SOLUM."

Officer i/c Royal Signals Records replies:—

"I have read with great interest the very thoughtful letter from "NON NOBIS SOLUM." While I thank you for giving me the opportunity to reply, the contents of his letter are closely related to War Office policy on which it would obviously be incorrect for me to comment. I have therefore passed a copy to our Personnel Branch at the War Office (A.G.11), with a request that a reply should be given.

There has not been time for the letter to be studied in detail before your next number goes to press, but I hope that it will be found possible for a full reply to be given in a subsequent issue."



"Bet they won't lose our 'Bikes' again in a hurry Bill"

The Royal Signals Display Team recently had an unfortunate contretemps in which while they arrived in time to give a display, their motor cycles had been conveyed to another destination

National RADIO SHOW 1953

THE Army had two stands at the Radio Show. On the ground floor of Earls Court a representation of an anti-aircraft site, ably presented by the Royal Regiment, and on the top floor the main Army stand which as usual was shared by Royal Signals and R.E.M.E.

This year, 5 Corps Signal Regiment were responsible, and Major R. E. D. Matthews, shown in the photograph listening attentively to Field-Marshal Lord Montgomery, and his team were fully exercised throughout the ten days that the show ran.

The Royal Signals' portion of the stand was no less attractive than in previous years and at the time it was visited by THE WIRE seemed to be attracting an undue proportion of the visitors to the exhibition. THE WIRE, however, was told that this was one of the slackest afternoons they had had.

THE WIRE was assured, and certainly it was clear from observation at that time, that a great majority of the visitors to the stand were interested and intelligent. There was a noticeable absence of the itinerant "small boys," although it is probable that this was exceptional.

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The two main pictorial displays on the stand were, as is shown in the photograph, a diagrammatic representation of Divisional Signals Network in Korea, and secondly a representation of the Army Wireless Chain, now known as COMCAN. This, together with a number of photographs and a display of modern wireless equipment, formed the basis of the Royal Signals' stand at the exhibition.

It was sad to see the one-time popular "wire recorder" which for some years has been the main attraction at displays put on by the Corps almost completely neglected, although two most attractive members of the W.R.A.C. were in attendance on it. It is difficult in print to coin a phrase indicative of "what baffles beauty," but the main crowd was engaged in conversation with, and discussion about, Mr. Magnetron. Far be it for THE WIRE to attempt a scientific explanation of the workings of this exhibit, but undoubtedly being Mr. Magnetron's partner was the most popular task during the attendance on the stand of any member of the Corps.

The R.E.M.E. side of the stand was this year a considerable improvement on previous years, and held a great variety of interests for the more technically-minded visitors.

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There is no question about it. A vast amount of good is done to the Corps which more than compensates for the very considerable labours involved in putting on a show of this nature.

Very considerable interest was shown both by young men on the verge of being called for National Service and by their parents. This was indicated by the very great number of detailed and intelligent enquiries about the prospects of service in Royal Signals. The Army Recruiting Office, a booth in the centre of the stand, was plentifully supplied with the modern excellent type of recruiting pamphlets, and there was a steady and genuine demand for these.

Again, as always, all credit is due to the staff of the Army stand. When visited, the exhibition was on its last lap. The strain of being alert and smiling and intelligent for many hours, of answering much the same sort of question from much the same sort of people, is very great. And again as in previous years the difference between the Army stand and the trade stands was most marked.

A fuller account is hoped for from 5 Corps Signal Regiment in time for the November issue of THE WIRE.

"Chief Warder, H.M. Tower of London"

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

"THE Constable, Field Marshal, The Rt. Hon. Viscount Alanbrooke, K.G., G.C.B., G.C.V.O., O.M., D.S.O., H.M.L., D.C.L., LL.D., has offered the appointment of Chief Warder to Yeoman Warder A. Griffin, who has accepted the honour."

Yeoman Warder A. Griffin will take up the appointment with effect from 1st January, 1954, on the retirement of Chief Warder A. Cook.

The above is an extract from H.M. Tower of London Orders dated 18th August, 1953.

Readers may remember that a picture of Her Majesty The Queen about to enter the Coronation Coach at the door of the Annexe of the Abbey appeared in the August issue of THE WIRE. Yeoman Warder A. Griffin could also be seen in this picture, as he was on duty in the Annexe entrance.

Allan Griffin (late Captain (Q.M.) of 2 G.H.Q. Signals) was sworn in as a Yeoman Warder in July, 1939, recalled to Army Service on the outbreak of the war, and rejoined the active list of Warders in 1945.

If you look back at your January, 1950, issue of THE WIRE, you'll see there is a picture of Allan in normal working dress.

As the position of Chief Warder, H.M. Tower of London, is a very ancient and honourable one, my readers may like to know a little more of this particular office.

At one time the Chief Warder was known as the Gentleman Porter, but more generally the Yeoman Porter, and this title was borne by that individual for some 500 years.

The title "Chief Warder" is only a recent innovation believed to be dated about 1826.

He is in the relative position of a Regimental Sergeant Major to a Squadron Sergeant Major.

His badge of rank is four gold stripes surmounted by a crown with crossed keys over the stripes—all worn on the right arm. It is one of the picturesque duties of the Chief Warder nightly to lock the gates of the fortress and to deliver the keys to the Resident Governor.

This ancient "Ceremony of the Keys" was described in THE WIRE of July, 1950.

Among the Yeoman Porter's perquisites we find it laid down in 1555 that "The Porter shall have of every prisoner condemned by the King and Queen's Majesty to the said Tower for treason, his uppermost garment or he agree with him for it." This, but for the compassion of the Yeoman Porter, would hit impoverished prisoners hard, for before entering a damp, cold dungeon, they would have to part with what might be their only warm garment.

Although Yeoman Warders (our establishment is now 38) have to wear full State Dress on several Royal and State occasions during the course of a year, the Chief Warder must wear full dress on *every* such State occasion, hence the public see many pictures of him from time to time in the National newspapers.

Quicksilver Seven

THE Director of Signals' annual exercise, "Quicksilver," was held this year at the All Arms Training Centre, Sennelager, in Germany, from 6th to 10th July.

The subjects chosen for study were the provision of ground communications by Air Formation Signals for a tactical air force, and the provision of wireless communications by an Air Support Signal Unit required by the Army when calling for direct air support.

Instead of holding the exercise at the School of Signals, Catterick, as hitherto, the Director of Signals decided to hold it in Germany as he felt that in that country there were so many more Army and R.A.F. officers available who had had practical experience with the problems which were to be discussed. Permission to do so was kindly given by the G.O.C.-in-C., Northern Army Group.

As the first subject was so vitally important to the R.A.F., the Director of Signals invited the Assistant Chief of the Air Staff (Signals), Air Vice-Marshal L. Dalton Morris, C.B., C.B.E., to act with him as co-director of the exercise, and formed his directing staff of both Army and R.A.F. officers.

The administrative arrangements were made by C.S.O., Northern Army Group, Brigadier R. H. O. Coryton, C.B.E., and the exercise itself was set and run by the D.D. Signals (G), Group Captain A. D. Messenger, C.B.E., and the D.D. Signals (Air Formation Signals), Colonel E. D. Good, C.B.E., both from the Air Ministry.

Some 25 officers from the United Kingdom attended and moved in two parties, one by air in a Valetta provided by Transport Command and the other by rail and sea via the Hook of Holland.

The exercise was opened by the A.O.C.-in.-C., Second Allied Tactical Air Force, Air Chief Marshal Sir Robert Foster, K.C.B., C.B.E., D.F.C., who welcomed the inspiration of the Director of Signals in the choice of subjects for his annual exercise as he considered they were matters which for some time had needed considerable study and attention.

A guard of honour for the A.O.C.-in.-C. was provided by 11 Air Formation Signal Regiment.

The exercise was divided into three parts. The first part was devoted to developing background and consisted of lectures on "The Tactical Air Force and its Control and Reporting System," by C.S.O., 2 A.T.A.F., Group Captain H. B. Wrigley, R.A.F.; "Air Formation Signals," by Colonel T. A. R. Scott, C.B.E., C.A.F.S.O., 2 A.T.A.F.; and "Radio Relay and its Employment," by Major A. D. Brindley, M.B.E., Royal Signals.

This part was concluded with a visit to the R.A.F. Group Operations Room at Sundern and an exhibition of non-standard signal equipment by Northern Army Group Signal Regiment.

The second part was given to the study and discussion of the problems affecting Air Formation Signals.

The third part, under the direction of D.D. Signals, Brigadier R. J. Moberly, O.B.E., consisted of an exposition on the air support signal unit by Major A. J. Woodrow, M.B.E., Royal Signals, followed by a discussion.

Final addresses were then given by both co-directors.

It was not all work and no play. On one evening a cocktail party was given by C.S.O., Northern Army Group, and his staff, and on the final night there was a guest night. Eighty officers sat down to dinner, during which music was played by the R.A.F. Band from Bad Eilsen. After dinner the fun was fast and furious and not until 4 a.m. did the party end.

Squash, tennis and swimming were kindly arranged by the Officer Commanding the Training Centre.

Whatever may have been the views and differences of opinion on the problems set, it is certain that "Quicksilver Seven" did a lot towards co-operation and promoting a mutual trust and friendship between the Signals of the R.A.F. and the Royal Corps, and it was the hope of many who attended that a similar combined service exercise will again be held in the not-too-distant future.

COMCAN backs the Field Armies

U.K. RECEPTION TERMINAL

2 Squadron, 2 War Office Signal Regiment (Engr.)

YOU will have read in previous articles how the Corps are circling the world with the Commonwealth Communication Army Network. Here in 2 Squadron we are responsible for the reception of communications from overseas theatres and certain Commonwealth countries. After receiving the signal we pass it by land line to the War Office Signal Office for final delivery to the addressee.

Two types of reception are in use, single side-band triple diversity and carrier frequency shift dual diversity. Up-to-date reception equipment manufactured by Marconi and Standards and some Canadian and U.S.A. equipment is installed in the receiver hall. Our aerials are the Army standard Rhombic, erected on 102 feet tubular steel masts.

Before the signal passes down the land line to London it goes through numerous stages of voice frequency manipulation such as the 3- or 6-channel and 2/4-tone telegraph apparatus.

Just now we are in the middle of a programme of conversion from underground coaxial feeders, between aerials and sets, to open wire feeders. To anyone not familiar with the phrase "open wire feeders," they are merely copper wires (100 or 300 lb.) on porcelain insulators spaced 9 inches apart and mounted on poles; in our case 22 feet above ground level. These are designed to reduce overall loss and to be as far as possible non-radiating. We are matching them to coaxial U.G. cable (UR2) at a short distance from the receiver station by use of transformer coupling units.

To commence this programme has been something of a headache. Most of our cable that was to remain was poor in quality and required renewing. On the other hand, the thought of having to draw old cable through long ducts, probably smashed in places, did not give us any pleasure. Help was soon at hand, however, in the shape of Royal Pioneer Corps personnel, now almost members of our own Corps, and certainly an excellent advertisement for their own. They dug, pulled, swore, and dug again in all kinds of conditions. In addition, they dug in 116 28 ft. poles all over the fields—we suspect with sheer abandon. Incidentally, each pole weighs 3 cwt. and all had to be manhandled some distance. Mixed up in all these activities could be seen our all too few linemen. The good work of the Royal Pioneer Corps and our linemen

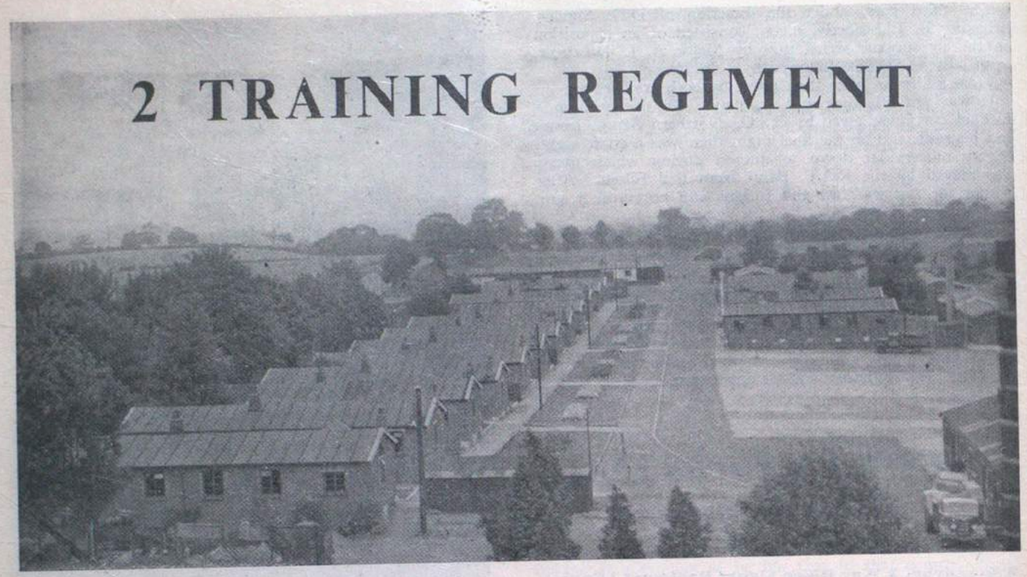
enabled us to complete the majority of duct repair and cable re-lay in two months, so that our first open wire feeder came into use on the 5th July. Furthermore, it works! There is still much to be done and it will be many months before we can complete the programme. When we have done that we have then to start on a rehabilitation of all our aerials. It is only fair to mention here the five Squadron stalwarts who have worked on the aerial feeders: Sergeant Carter, I.C. aerial party—the P.T. expert who juggled with 102 ft. masts as if they were dumb-bells (or blondes did I hear?); Signalmen Adkin, Rigby and Willde, all now shooting lines in civvy street, and Signalman Chapman, the only one left to show us what to do and where to put our aerials.

Our receiver hall and its associated rooms are well stocked with up-to-date equipment of immense interest to those inclined. They are ably looked after by the operators and mechanics managed by the F. of S. Cox, Sergeant Young, and that old operating hand, Sergeant Johnson, whose reputation in the hall equals his prowess on the athletic field. Both the F. of S. and Sergeant Johnson may be seen between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. standing in front of a set, earphones on, staring vacantly at the ceiling, now and again muttering unprintable phrases such as "No x$!/x(?&/! signal." Unfortunately, nobody dare tell them the plugs fell off the end of their earphones long ago!

Our friends the Pioneers, who have provided us with such excellent work, have also added to our laughs. No doubt the private who, after being awarded forfeiture of 3 days' pay under R.W., asked why he had his annual entitlement of railway warrants removed, is still working out how to get them back. Even the gentleman who complained of sore feet and when told he had two left boots on was heard to say, "But my other pair hurt as well," has finally found, if not fallen, on his own feet.

All in all, we work and play hard and offer hospitality to any of you who pay us a visit on your way through.

2 TRAINING REGIMENT



The accompanying photograph shows the prize-winning gardens referred to in last month's notes. On 19th August, the G.O.C. Northumbrian District, Major-General H. Murrey, C.B., D.S.O., accompanied by Mrs. Murrey, visited the Regiment to see the prize-winning gardens and expressed his appreciation of the floral display.

On the 11th August, Mrs. Lang shepherded a goodly number of wives into a coach and proceeded to Redcar for the annual families' outing. The day dawned warm and sunny and everyone who took advantage of the outing thoroughly enjoyed their day by the sea. It would appear that most of the population of Yorkshire had also taken advantage of the fine weather and the beach was almost fully occupied. At five o'clock in the evening all the families gathered at a rendezvous for the return journey with only one plaintive dissentient voice from a small boy who had buried his shoes in the sand and "forgot what I done with them."

A Regimental Week-end and "Parents" Day was held on Saturday and Sunday, 5th and 6th September, for all ranks and families of the Regiment. Prior to this date one hundred and seventy invitations had been accepted by parents, relatives and girl friends of all ranks. It is estimated, however, that upwards of one hundred and eighty-five actually arrived. The programme included inter-Squadron sports, in which No. 1 Squadron proved to be the winners by approximately 6in. after a ding-dong struggle. Up to the last race No. 1 Squadron and H.Q. Squadron were level, but a magnificent run by Signalman Norris in the half-mile race resulted in a close win by No. 1 Squadron—a very worthy finish to an excellent programme of sport. The prizes and Inter-Squadron Shield were presented by Mrs. Lang, wife of the Commanding Officer. In the evening there was an all ranks' dance in the gymnasium, the music for which was provided by the Corps Dance Band, and upwards of four hundred people "tripped the light fantastic" and a large number sought liquid solace in the bar. On Sunday morning there was a special church service conducted by the Rev. R. E. Munro, C.F., at St. Martin's Church, at which there were no empty seats. Following the church service the parents split into two parties and were taken on a tour of Catterick Camp in motor coaches and were then conducted round the Regimental Lines by their sons. An open-air lunch was served on Colburn Sports Ground, followed by a cricket match in the afternoon at which the sons showed their cricketing prowess to be superior to that of their fathers, in spite of considerable outside assistance by the umpire, S.Q.M.S. "Busty" King. Following a very satisfactory tea, the parents dispersed to their homes, one and all having expressed their complete enjoyment and satisfaction of a memorable week-end. The many obstacles and difficulties were very ably surmounted by Major W. H. Philpott, M.B.E., as organising secretary, and his committee of helpers, and it is hoped that in subsequent similar occasions to have an equally successful week-end.

Placing credit where credit is due, mention must be made of the first-class show provided by Sergeant Burton and his staff of A.C.C. and Regimental cooks who provided an excellent selection of "eats" for the open-air meals and the buffet at the dance.

On 3rd September, Brigadier B. S. Bhaghet, Indian Signal Corps, visited the Regiment for an hour and a half and expressed keen interest in the training that he saw.

There are no outstanding achievements in the field of sport worthy of note, but it is hoped that the advent of the boxing season will bring us added laurels. Signalman G. Heayns has been selected to travel to Germany with the A.B.A. for two matches to take place late in September. Four other members of the boxing team have been selected to participate in the Army Boxing Trials at Tidworth in early October.

1 TRAINING REGIMENT, ROYAL SIGNALS

"Our first Regimental Week-end, to which we invited the parents of all members of the Unit, was an undoubted success. About 200 parents came to see where, and how, their sons lived and we were indeed glad to see them. Willing and ingenious assistance from members of the Cadre transformed the two drill sheds into very creditable displays, illustrating the instruction given to the various 1 Training trainees.

A P.T. display and a guard mounting competition by trainees entertained the parents before tea and the Royal Signals Motor Cycle Display afterwards. The greatest credit is due to the Motor Cycle Team for their effort. Rain set in fitfully about mid-day and steadily got worse so that towards the end of the afternoon Scotton Sports Ground, where the display was to take place, was very treacherous. The team, to a man, volunteered to perform, and despite the inevitable reduction in the speed of the events on the slippery ground, gave a splendid show which was warmly applauded by a dripping audience.

The day concluded in the Cary Theatre with a revue devised and produced by members of the Unit; they are to be congratulated on the excellence of the show, which set the seal to an enjoyable day.

The Unit athletic team was only able to secure sixth place in the Army Inter-Unit Team Championship held at Aldershot on 29th July, but as only twelve points separated the third and sixth places there is no need for despondency. We must congratulate 67 Training Regiment, R.A., from Oswestry, on a magnificent win, scoring 131½ points and finishing with a lead of 19 points over 3 Training Regiment, R.E. A very fine performance.

On Wednesday, 2nd September, the Annual Triangular Athletic Meeting between R.A.C., R.A.F. and Royal Signals was contested at the Stadium Ground. 1 Training Regiment supplied several members of the Royal Signals team, which put up a splendid show and won the event with a score of 178½ points to 118 by the R.A.F. and 81½ by R.A.C. Some excellent running, jumping and throwing was seen and the competition records were broken in five field events. No running times were recorded as there was a strong wind blowing, also the watches were thought to be unreliable.

Major B. S. Fordyce, the non-running captain of Royal Signals Athletic Team for 1953-54 and Athletic Officers of the Units of the School of Signals and S.T.C., under the direction of Lieutenant-Colonel M. Stonestreet, the president, have done a splendid job this year in raising the athletics morale of the Corps, and there appears to be every prospect of even greater things in the future.

The Unit Water Polo Team covered itself with glory by defeating 68 Training Regiment, R.A.C., by 10 goals to 9 in the Northumbrian District Championship Final. It was a ding-dong struggle and excitement ran high as first one team and then the other took the lead, and our team are to be congratulated on winning a very strenuous game.

In the swimming championship, which was won by 7 Training Regiment, Royal Signals, we secured third place.

3 TRAINING REGIMENT

We aren't on speaking terms with "them" at the War Office. We have been magnanimous in the past and understood the posting of Major "This" and Captain "That," but when it's the Commanding Officer—well, I ask you?

But there it is, by the time these notes are in print Lieutenant-Colonel G. H. Starr will be Korea bound.

From his arrival in February 1952, his infectious enthusiasm, boundless energy and manifest interest in all things pertaining not only to the Regiment but, indeed, the whole district, has permeated even to "the odd corners" as it were.

His eagle eye, intolerance of anything pertaining to slackness, but above all his understanding to all ranks, that "little something extra," gave and created a team spirit that was exemplified at both work and play.

In the creation of the Regimental Ladies' Club and attending to all welfare and social problems and functions, Mrs. Starr has without ostentation but with great effectiveness played a leading part.

Bon voyage, sir, and truly can we say yet again "our loss . . ."

We can perhaps be a little forgiving with the War Office 'cos to soften the blow we welcome Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. W. C. Burke, ex B.T.A.—and now to continue in our efforts to maintain the Regiment's leading place.

Have a feeling I should have reported the Catterick Garrison Horticultural Society's annual flower show held in Le Cateau Gymnasium on Wednesday, 19th August, under "Jottings," but the outstanding successes of Major (T.O.T.) and Mrs. E. M. P. Nash surely belong to the Regiment. Out of over 400 entries we recorded the following successes:—

Major and Mrs. E. M. P. Nash: 10 firsts, 12 seconds, 5 thirds.
Captain E. A. McLouglin: 1 first, 1 second, 1 third.
Lieutenant-Colonel G. H. Starr: 1 first.

The Regiment also won the Unit Table Challenge Cup for the best display of fruit, vegetables and flowers for the second year in succession, together with a special certificate of merit.

The highlight was the special award by the National Allotment and Gardening Society to Major Nash for outstanding work for the Garrison Horticultural Society and in connection with the planning and construction of Coronation Park and other Garrison gardens.

This award to a serving Officer is unique and a remarkable tribute to "Ernie's" unselfish and untiring efforts.

A little quiet in the sporting world. Corporal Barron and Corporal Cole have already been selected for Northumbrian District soccer trials; Major N. A. C. Clubb and Sergeant L. Thompson reached the quarter-finals of the Northern Command Tennis Championships, and Signalman Tarsey did extremely well in the Army Diving Championships.

Corporal Hulse demonstrating 3 Training Regiment's winning display

[*Courtesy: Northern Echo*

7 TRAINING REGIMENT

[Courtesy: S.T.C. Studios

The General inspecting a Troop of 4 Squadron

Major-General H. Murray, C.B., D.S.O., has recently relinquished command of Northumbrian District. He was a great friend of the Regiment and his help and advice were always readily available. His last visit was on the occasion of the National Service Pass-Off Parade on 19th August.

The Regimental swimming team, led enthusiastically by Second - Lieutenant Jacobs, has won both the Command and District Swimming Championships. In the Army Championship at Aldershot they were fourth. The cricket team were beaten by 6 Battalion, R.A.O.C., in the final of the Command Cricket Cup. This was a farcical affair, the result being decided, because rain stopped play, on the runs scored by east team in the first 20 overs of each innings. The actual scores were: —

7 Training Regiment ...	188 for 3 (in 50 overs)
6 Battalion, R.A.O.C. ...	87 for 5
(rain stopped play)	

[Courtesy: S.T.C. Studio

Major-General H. Murray, C.B., D.S.O., with, on his left, Brigadier W. D. J. Harries, C.B.E., and, on his right, Lieut.-Colonel J. P. North, M.B.E., arriving to take the National Service Pass-Off Parade at 7 Training Regiment, Royal Signals, on August 19, 1953

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The arrival of autumn brings to an end a most successful year of sport on the inter-Regimental level. The Regiment has the following record (which surely must be a record): —

Winners:

Army Football Cup.
Northumbrian District Football Cup.
Northern Command Hockey Cup.
Northumbrian District Hockey Cup.
Northumbrian District Cricket Cup.
Northern Command Swimming Cup.
Northumbrian District Swimming Cup.
Army Massed Start Cycling Championship.
Northumbrian District Cycling Time Trial Championship.
Northumbrian District Inter-Regimental Golf Handicap Challenge Trophy.
Northern Command Water Polo Cup.

★

Major A. B. Dryland has left the Regiment on posting to X Branch Headquarters, N.A.G., and Major R. J. Western has now assumed the duties of Second-in-Command and Chief Instructor.

Coronation Medals

DO you know that the medal to commemorate the Coronation of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II is the fourth such medal?

The first Coronation medal in the style and pattern that is now known was issued for the Coronation of King Edward VII in 1902.

Prior to that date, at any rate from the time of King James I, Coronation medals were distributed to all those attending the service in the Abbey. It is recorded that sometimes the distribution took the form of "scattering" the medals, an act known as "the King's Princely Largesse."

All this and much more besides, the whole history of Coronation and Commemorative medals, has now been published and is well worth the small purchase price.

Incidentally, it is only since 1918 that Coronation and Commemorative medals have been worn after campaign medals, but they have always been worn before efficiency and long service medals.

Coronation and Commemorative Medals, 1887-1953.
Gale and Polden, Limited, 5s., or cloth bound 7s. 6d. It is profusely illustrated.

Catterick Jottings

by nacerby

Corps Tie—Fingering with Pride—All Sports

And thank goodness the S.T.C. has quickly answered the pessimistic wail in the August WIRE 'bout "hoping this season's athletics will put Signals once again on the map." Just pop up to Catterick—or, better still, put in for a posting here—and see for yourselves the material we have.

Those of us lucky enough to be here had plenty to cheer about at the annual triangular athletic meeting on 2nd September between R.A.C., Royal Signals, and R.A.F. (Yorkshire). Result: —

1. Royal Signals	178½ points
2. R.A.F.	118 points
3. R.A.C.	81½ points

And we won the 3 miles team, pole vault, putting the weight, 440 yards team, 440 yards low hurdles, 100 yards team, 880 yards team, throwing the hammer, high jump, 220 yards team, throwing the discus, one mile team and medley relay race, besides sharing first place in the long jump and 120 yards hurdles!

Where's my Corps blazer?

Don't go away —

Northern Command Inter-Unit swimming and water polo championship winners—7 Training Regiment, with 1 Training Regiment occupying third place and 5 Training Regiment fifth place.

Signalman Heayns represents the Army v. Germany at boxing, and even in cycling *Certa Cito* has been showing 'em the way. Lance-Corporal A. S. Brittain, Signalman T. W. Oldfield and Signalman J. Grieves, all of 7 Training Regiment, occupied third, fourth and tenth places in the Army massed start road race—and, representing Northern Command, gained second place in the Inter-Command Championship. Small wonder they have been selected for the Army for the inter-Services massed start road race championships.

And here's some more . . . tennis this time. Northern Command championships: —

Other Ranks' Singles and General Stopford Cup winner	Signalman V. Krikorian, 4 Training Regiment
Regimental Doubles winners	Signalman Krikorian and Signalman Laxton, 4 Training Regiment

And . . . in the final of the Northern Command Inter-Unit Cricket Competition 7 Training Regiment scored 188 for 3 in 50 overs; 6 Battalion, R.A.O.C., scored 87 for 5 in 26 overs when rain stopped play. The R.A.O.C. were declared the winner, having scored the greater number of runs in the first 20 overs.

Ah, well! That's most of the headlines this month. Leaves you out of breath, doesn't it?

Driving—Concluded (for a while)

"Sell your car and be a wealthy pedestrian," they told me.

I did—but still that "thin red line" comes on my bank statements. Persuasive bloke—the buyer—he convinced me I'd been driving around almost without an engine, no steering wheel and some obscure things called king pins and bushes.

And I thought I'd put enough "bull" and camouflage on that old Mercedes to convince anyone—which reminds me . . .

Quoth Driver Ernest Eustace Ellis,
"Tell me, sergeant, what the hell is
The use of all this camouflage.
Although it's true that by and large
A driver's life is not too bad,
A garnished net just makes me mad.
For when you reach the journey's end,
So stiff that you can hardly bend,
You have to wrestle with your net,
And very soon you find you get
Enmeshed in rolls of awful scrim
(And that alone is pretty grim);
And then you stretch your net on stakes
—And one invariably breaks—
And when at last the job is done,
The O.C. section just for fun
Says, 'Driver, move your truck from here.'
Camouflage? No ruddy fear."
So Ernest Ellis, lazy hound,
Just threw his net upon the ground.
But it was not his lucky day,
The sun came out; one shining ray
Reflected from his windscreen bright,
Became apparent to the sight
Of enemy aviator Hoff,
Who dived and bumped poor Ernest off.

4 Squadron Representative: "There's one question I'd like to ask. It's a question that's been put to me to put to you. I don't know whether it is relevant or whether it's a matter for Squadron Commanders, but I said I'd put the question forward and as the question . . ."

1 Squadron Representative: "What IS the ruddy question?"

4 Squadron Representative: "Well, couldn't the tomatoes be skinned before they are served? That might make them more acceptable. I mean, after all, the jam has improved no end since you started removing the pips for us."

Messing Officer: "Very reasonable; very reasonable."

4 Squadron Representative: "And the men in my Squadron feel that the choice of beer or cider with lunch could be extended to include port. A lot of chaps prefer port, you know."

CATTERICK BRANCH ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION

Top row (left to right): Mr. Allen, Mr. Rouse, Mr. Wright, Mr. Harrison, Mr. O'Conner, Mr. Baily, Mr. Pike, Mr. Diball. Second row : Mr. Roake, Major Hill, Mr. Graddon, Mr. Button, Mr. Stockton, Mr. Hunt, Mr. Ransom, Mr. McLaven. Front row: Mr. O'Hehir, Captain Adcock, Colonel L. R. Hall, Brigadier W. D. J. Harries, C.B.E., Captain Child, Mr. Nursaw, Captain Perkins

Messing Officer: "That has already been laid on. Don't you read orders?"

4 Squadron Representative: "Well, I said I'd raise the question and although the question in question . . ."

The Old 'Uns

I told you last year 'bout my visit to the monthly meeting of the Catterick Branch of the Association and how very impressive and permeating was the "atmosphere"—now take a look at that photograph and you'll understand why.

Oh, there's something about a soldier!

They aren't all there, of course, but the monthly attendances are always fully representative—a very live branch indeed, and I'm authorised by Charlie Childs to say he'll give a couple of old B.III ratings (any trade) to anyone who can guess the combined service of that little lot on the photograph.

(There's a chance for BARLEUX to become an operator at last.)

Transfer to the Reserved (Copyright)

When your soldier comes home on release, madam, you may detect slight changes in him. Be tolerant. Remember that the Army has made a MAN of him. Be patient. Remember that for a few days or weeks he will be fretting for the communal life he has grown to love so much.

Some of his little ways, his little Service-acquired habits, may seem strange to you, but there is no need for you to feel painfully surprised, madam, if you study the following Homecoming Guide.

He WILL . . . paste cuttings and photographs of pin-up girls all over the bedroom wall . . . drop his cigarette ash indiscriminately and grind the stub with his heel on your best Indian carpet (sometimes he may let the stub burn itself out—but don't worry) . . . stick his eating utensils into his pocket immediately he has finished eating (this can be taken as a sign that the table may be cleared) . . . insist on you laying out all your darning materials, metal polish, pans and cutlery at least once a month as he has to get his own back on somebody for the kit inspection complex he has developed.

He WON'T . . . wait until he has finished the rest of his meal before helping himself to jam or marmalade (he will grab the bread and butter and scoop a spoonful of preserve, some of which may be allowed to overflow on your finest table linen) . . . stay in bed after 6 a.m., as the early rising habit will have become too deep-rooted to break.

If he wishes to go out alone every night with the excuse "I just can't banish the NAAFI habit, darling," you will be correct in your suspicion, as the glassiness of his eyes and his slightly rolling gait will testify, upon his return from his "stroll." If, however, he has been an operator, due allowance should be made for the glassiness of his eyes as he will wear this expression perhaps for years.

If he insists on shouting orders at you—"Get me this or that—and MOVE"—after a spell of, say, two months at home, you can be sure that he is suffering from lance-corporal's repression. An effective cure for this is to tear a couple of red service stripes off his best blue serge suit. If he insists on peeling potatoes, madam, he is beyond redemption, and you should make discreet enquiries about having him signed on for another 15 years.

Finally, don't worry too much if he gives you ninepence a week for housekeeping allowance—he may still be under the influence of the P.R.I.

THE ARMY WIRELESS RESERVE SQUADRON

Amateur radio enthusiasts who would like to know more about how the HAM can help the country should write to Major D. W. J. Haylock, 230 Devonshire Avenue, Southsea.

THE DEPOT REGIMENT

The past weeks have, for the Depot, been comparatively tranquil. The functions of drafting and releasing have been combined with a general preparation for the Annual Administrative Inspection. This latter having attained the inevitable importance in the daily routine has unfortunately been postponed for approximately a month.

The Chief of Staff Southern Command, Major-General C. B. Churcher, paid a brief visit to the Regiment on 20th August, during which he saw some of the problems that beset us here.

We were delighted to have with us for a period the D.R. Display Team, who gave one of their incomparable performances at the Barracks on 14th September. The local populace turned out in force and the team's incredible handling of their velocipedes received rapturous applause. A collection in aid of the Benevolent Fund raised £10 1s. 8½d.

★

The football season now being upon us, the Regimental team opened their league fixtures with a drawn match against Teignmouth, and from the way the team shaped we are looking for great things from them.

This month will be one of "general post" for the Regiment. Major (Q.M.) F. C. V. Harris retires on 3rd October after completing over 36 years' service, having a record which can inspire us all. He will be sadly missed by all at the Depot, and indeed by the Corps. He will be settling at his home in Jersey, where we all wish him a very happy, well-earned retirement. His place will be taken by Major (Q.M.) J. Snell. Captain J. K. Rogerson, T.D., is also leaving the Regiment on transfer to the R.A.P.C., and takes with him our wishes for success in his new Corps.

Captains J. Randall, D. MacKenzie and D. Turner and Lieutenant J. Craigen, M.B.E., have joined the Regiment and are busily occupied in settling themselves in.

WESTERN COMMAND SIGNAL REGIMENT

Many changes have taken place since our last notes. We bade goodbye to Lieutenant-Colonel N. de la P. Tate and welcomed Lieutenant-Colonel L. W. J. Dryland as our new C.O.

Major C. G. Axson has gone to Catterick and Major E. Turner has arrived from Bulford.

Other recent arrivals include S.S.M. J. B. Matthews from 2 Training Regiment, Catterick, R.Q.M.S. J. Craig from 2 War Office Signal Regiment, Sergeant W. P. Leach from M.E.L.F.

R.Q.M.S. McQuade has been promoted to W.O.I and has gone to 2 War Office Signal Regiment, where we wish him luck. S.S.M. Cloughley is *en route* for M.E.L.F. S.S.M. Jackson has departed from the Army but can be seen around the locality where he is assisting harrassed housewives with their weekly wash by loaning them the latest in washing machines. Sergeant O'Sullivan has obtained a jet-propelled post with De Havillands.

The Blacon Camp garden competition was well supported and some fine blooms and produce were in evidence. Congratulations to R.S.M. Stoner, of A.E.R. Depot, for a fine show and the first prize.

The third prize of 15s. was quickly withdrawn and a smart N.R. substituted when it was discovered that a sergeant had won it with his super "Blaconia Dandelionus."

★

6895806 Sergeant R. W. Gardiner

It is with deep regret we report the death of No. 6895806 Sergeant R. W. Gardiner, of this Regiment, at the Military Hospital, Wheatley, on 20th August, 1953, of meningitis. Sergeant Gardiner arrived in the Western Command Signal Regiment ex the Malaya Regiment on 26th February, 1953.

He was awarded the B.E.M. for his services in Malaya and upon arrival in this Regiment quickly proved himself to be a first-class N.C.O. He started fencing classes and furthered keenness in .303 team shooting. His Troop won both Inter-Troop Drill and Athletics Cups.

The week prior to his death he was attached to the Combined Cadet Force Camp, Castle Martin, teaching signal tactics to the Cadets, where he did a very fine job.

The funeral took place quietly at East Sheen Cemetery, London, on 25th August, 1953.

Representing the Western Command Signal Regiment were the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel L. W. J. Dryland, Captain B. W. Beale, Second-Lieutenant D. H. Fox, Sergeants K. Craker and J. Nicholls.

Three beautiful wreaths were sent from the Regiment.

EASTERN COMMAND SIGNAL REGIMENT

It is with deep regret that we note the impending departure of the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel P. H. Smitherman. He has been in command of this Regiment during many perambulations round the countryside, and at his departure may see us firmly and successfully established at what we hope will be a permanent home here in Crowborough. We shall also miss Mrs. Smitherman, and we wish their whole family the best of luck for the future. The Commanding Officer is to take up a new post at the War Office and his place is to be taken by Lieutenant-Colonel G. G. L. Hinde, from the School of Signals.

The R.S.M., W.O.I Morrison, is also leaving us in the near future. He is posted to H.Q. 62 (L. of C.) Signal Regiment (T.A.), Chester. Mr. Morrison has been in this Regiment for two years, and it is sad to think that his lilting Scots voice will no longer be heard floating down the lines.

★

Exercise "Corncrake" has occupied the Command Wireless Troop during the past month. For one week three detachments were sent out to provide wireless communications for R.A.F. escape and evasion scheme. The detachments got an excellent insight into the hazards of escaping through enemy country, and also of the methods used by interrogation teams for obtaining information. From the Signals' point of view, the scheme was a success. One detachment at least were given a captured "enemy" wireless set to investigate. They successfully got it together and working, and were about to turn their ideas in the opposite direction when the set was hurriedly and unceremoniously removed. It appeared that this was a "secret" set, and as yet in the experimental stage. In fact, we were not meant to know anything about it. Twelve hours later another one was captured and brought in!

From the point of view of everyone (except, possibly, the captured aircrews), Exercise "Cornflake" or "Hayrake" as it came affectionately to be called, was at least a diversion from the normal camp routine. Not that life at Warren Camp has been uneventful during the past month. A newer, cosier cookhouse has been brought into commission. The fact that it is a quarter of a mile from the cooks' billet has not had any noticeable effect on the meals. They still maintain their high standard.

★

ASH TRAYS—7s. each. Suitable for Messes.

Hand-made by disabled ex-Service men. These, in Corps Colours with badge in silver, are available from Royal Signals Association, 88 Eccleston Square, S.W.1.

Anti-Aircraft Command

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

Since last appearing in print, the Unit has held its annual camp at Plasterdown, near Tavistock, Devon.

Except for the weather the camp was an exceptionally good one, particularly from the training angle. We had an almost 100 per cent. attendance for the whole fortnight and everyone gained considerable experience from the full and varied training programme.

The Ceremonial Parade was held on Saturday of the first week and, although we were cramped for space, the Regiment put up a fine show. The turnout was exceptionally good, particularly the W.R.A.C.

The sports day had to be postponed owing to bad weather but was held at Stirling on Saturday, 25th July, 1953.

12 A.A. (M) Signal Squadron, T.A., were worthy winners of the Unit sports trophy. Further presentations were made as follows:—

Squadron Efficiency Cup: 77 A.A. (M) Signal Squadron, T.A.

Military Drill Competition: 3 A.A. Group (M) Signal Office Squadron, T.A.

W.R.A.C. Drill Competition: Shared by 3 A.A. Group (M) Signal Office Squadron, T.A., and 77 A.A. (M) Signal Squadron, T.A.

Drivers' Efficiency Cup: Signalman A. C. Mackay, 3 A.A. Group (M) Signal Office Squadron, T.A.

W.R.A.C. Efficiency Cup: Recruit S. McCabe, 12 A.A. (M) Signal Squadron, T.A.

Military Efficiency Cup: Driver H. McLeod, 12 A.A. (M) Signal Squadron, T.A.

On Saturday, 27th June, the Honorary Colonel and Officers of the Regiment gave a cocktail party in the North British Hotel, Edinburgh, which was very well-attended by members of the staff of 3 A.A. Group, G.P.O. and local dignitaries.

The Unit is sorry to see yet another old servant leave the Corps in the person of R.S.M. G. Kerr who retires "hurt but not out." The very best of luck to him in civil life.

Edinburgh citizens were given a grand display of country dancing by the Unit team in Princes Street Gardens, to the accompaniment of the Corps Band under Captain J. L. Judd, M.B.E., Royal Signals, and Pipe Major Stoddart, of Depot Royal Scots. The girls have shown the way and it is now up to the men to come forward and make the team a mixed one, as it should be. So come along chaps and don't be shy.

The men have not been shy in other spheres, though, as the results in the Group and District motor cycle trials show. The team, consisting of Sergeant Peebles, Signalman McRae, Signalman Cowie and Signalman Ferguson, put up a creditable performance in both trials and are to be congratulated. We shall be looking for new blood next year, so all you budding speedway trialists are welcome to come forward and help to keep up the Unit standard.

Except for the autumn exercise, which was ably carried through by the faithful few, the Unit is now in its close season, but training will be well under way again by the time you hear from us again.

Return Ticket

MAJOR A. J. DEANE-DRUMMOND is by the record 36 years old. He holds the Military Cross and Bar, has passed the Staff College, is married, and is a Major of three-and-a-half years seniority. Employed as an instructor at the Staff College, his superiors obviously think well of him. On form his future as a professional soldier is reasonably secure. He has also a genius for getting himself into and out of difficult situations.

Evading the normal rule that good Royal Signals Officers are too valuable to lose, he took part in one of the first parachute operations. Landing in Italy in January 1941, he engaged himself in the vulgar business of blowing up bridges, and after some days of hard marching towards the coast, where he and his companions had a "meet" with a submarine, they were captured. His tale of life in Italian prisons is revealing. His description of his two escapes is a record of remarkable courage and stoicism. His first escape took him to the very frontier before recapture. It was an experience which would have deterred one less determined.

His second escape was even more audacious and, happily, was successful. Mind you, that only took him to Switzerland and a period of what he calls "leave." Still about two stone under weight, he handed himself over to the care of the French Resistance, and after a journey of no mean hardship he embarked at a secret point on the French coast near Marseilles. Six more days with the Royal Navy at its most unconventional took him to Gibraltar and thence by troopship to Gourock. Ten days' leave and then at last "as Signal Officer to the newly-formed 2nd Parachute Brigade." This was 1943 and his war was by no means over.

The 1st Airborne Division served in North Africa and Italy. True to his unconventional practice he was soon engaged in operations to effect the rescue of British P.O.W.s escaping from the Germans after the Italian Armistice. With some wisdom his commander forbade him to set foot behind the German lines. Back to England for a short spell of training, the 1st Airborne Division landed at Arnheim. In the thick of the heavy fighting Deane-Drummond had taken over command of a company of the 1st Parachute Regiment which was later surrounded, having left the rest of the Battalion far to the rear.

Ammunition ran out so he ordered a break out in small groups. With three men he was caught in a house when it was occupied by the Germans, and for three days they hid in a lavatory. "We were in an extraordinary position; a German machine gun post above us and two more dug into the pavement outside. We would need luck to avoid capture in this predicament."

Escape they did and reached the River Rhine, and swam it! "I was now in the German front line with only a few yards to go and I had arrived in time for the German 'stand to.'"

Captured again he sought ceaselessly how to escape. Escape he did after a feat of endurance that boggles imagination. Linking up with the Dutch Resistance, he later engaged in what was perhaps the most fantastic operation of war ever accomplished. Officers of the 1st Airborne Division in hiding behind the German lines were able to telephone direct to Nijmegan, fifteen miles inside the British lines. As a result, one hundred and twenty Officers and men of the Airborne Division crossed the Rhine from east to west, as a military operation, on 2nd October, 1944.

It is a wonderful story, all told with an infinite capacity for understatement, in a most admirable book published by *Collins, 16 St. James's Place, London, S.W.1, price 10s. 6d.*

THE HISTORY OF *British Army Signals* IN *The Second World War*

by **Major-General R. F. H. Nalder, C.B., O.B.E.**

The first edition of this most excellent book has been sold out. It is being reprinted. During the past months THE WIRE *has attempted to review it chapter by chapter and what follows concludes this most privileged task.*

CHAPTER XVII—SIGNAL TRAINING

Individual training during war is comparatively new in the history of the British Army. In older and better days the soldier fought and either died or "went into winter quarters." World War II provided an almost complete reversal. For the average there was more training than fighting, and "winter quarters" lacked most of the amenities of ancient days.

In Royal Signals, individual training absorbed an ever-increasing amount of energy. Obviously in a war of years and millions, initial training of the individual continued throughout. World War II was notable for the amount of re-training and refresher training that was necessary. Technical and tactical developments described earlier in the book; long periods of comparative idleness during sea voyages; the wide differences in signal practice caused by the great variety of equipment in the various theatres; all mitigated against the once trained signalman retaining his efficiency.

Initial training was given in greatly expanded Signal Training Centres, mainly in the United Kingdom and in India.

In the United Kingdom alone there were a variety of Supplementary Training Establishments, notably in Anti-Aircraft Command and in the Auxiliary Territorial Service. Cipher and special wireless had their own specialised training establishments, while such as Combined Operations had their own organisations for imparting specialised techniques to normal signal practice.

The Signal Training Centres greatly increased their capacity for refresher and advanced technical training for N.C.O.s and Warrant Officers, and later for Officers. Again, here in General Nalder's book is described and analysed all that was done mainly by improvisation as necessity dictated. Thrice blessed are they who may in the future have the benefit of our experience so clearly set out.

This chapter alone is worthy of line by line study by all engaged in future planning.

CHAPTER XVIII

The book concludes with a general survey wherein condensed into eleven pages is all the author's great experience. It is not known whether the book is yet adopted as a textbook in the Officers Training Wing, but any young Officer, or old one for that matter, who can read and memorise what is in these eleven pages will have gone far in basic knowledge of his profession. Ability to rewrite from memory the two sections "Relations with Commanders and Staffs" and "Signal Planning" might well form a simple test of the suitability of an Officer for first commission, and subsequent promotion. Those of us who are older were brought up on these two sections, but which of us today can read them with a clear conscience?

* * *

Well, it's been as said before, a privileged task to attempt to review this greatest and best "History of Royal Signals." It has necessitated reading each chapter several times. Each re-reading has been more provocative of thought and memory. It is emphasised again that this is not only history but also perhaps the finest book of instruction ever written.

Between the two wars, several volumes of "Signal Training" were written, and good they were, and probably still are. But we of the generation whose destiny it was to lead Royal Signals in the first of its Great Wars had nothing to guide us beyond a few basic principles, some knowledge of the command and organisation of basic formations and, as a great majority will admit, very little else.

The signalmen of today and tomorrow have in General Nalder's book ALL that we lacked.

We can only pray that those who are leaders today and tomorrow will read and understand.

The reprinting is being undertaken by Gale and Polden, Ltd. The price remains 17s. 6d.

A Guide for the National Service man in the Army

by **Major T. B. Beveridge, O.B.E.**

THIS otherwise admirable little book suffers from two defects. It sets out to state all the aspects of National Service and indeed fulfils that aim to no small degree. Little understood by the general public are the reasons for National Service, which are succinctly dealt with in the first chapter.

Well emphasised is the great advantage both to the nation and the individual that accrues from the compulsory mingling of boys from all walks of life and all parts of the country. Through National Service the boy learns that goodness is not confirmed to any one class and that Celt and Saxon are not necessarily incompatable.

The whole business from preliminary examination at the Ministry of Labour to the rights of the National Service men to be reinstated in civil life is well described.

The book suffers from the defect or advantage that it is written apparently first for the benefit of parents and boys to undertake the great adventure, second as an *aide-memoire* to instructors at Army Basic Training Units. No less than 25 pages out of 60 are devoted to questions and answers. These are indeed more in amplification of than as a guide to instructors on the remainder of the book. It is, however, an irritating system of conveying information as there is neither continuity nor logical arrangement in the order of the questions.

There is a deal of information in these 25 pages which could be more easily assimilated if they were rewritten as part of and in the same style as the remainder of the book.

This would within the compass of 60 pages have given space for some amplification.

Considerable lack of knowledge exists about part-time service. It is dealt with haphazardly by question and answer at the end of the book. This belated insertion and lack of emphasis is really a key to the main defect of the book.

What should be stressed and is completely ignored by the author is that on entry as a National Service man the individual becomes a member of a Corps or Regiment. To this membership he owes loyalty and pride; from this membership he gains the privilege of belonging to those great, ancient and famous institutions the Corps and Regiments of the British Army.

This membership continues in most cases during part-time service and in many cases through the Corps or Regimental Association to his lasting benefit for the remainder of a man's life.

Published by Phoenix House, Ltd., London, 5s.

Trumpeters of Royal Signals blew a fanfare prior to Lord Provost Sir James Miller opening the Highland Games at Murrayfield on Saturday, August 22. They also performed at the opening of the Edinburgh Festival in St. Giles' Cathedral, Edinburgh, on the following Monday

[*Courtesy: Edinburgh Evening News*

"A Day in Camp with the Army Wireless Reserve Squadron, A.E.R."

The Army Wireless Reserve Squadron, A.E.R., was formed within the last year, and their first camp was held at Blacon this summer. During camp, schedules were arranged and successfully kept with the U.S. Signal Corps Control Station in the Pentagon Building, Washington, D.C., U.S.A. The following is an account of a day's camp life.

SOME sheep in a field in North Wales went scampering off when a lusty cheer rattled the ventilators of an Army truck parked in their midst. It was 19th June. A detachment of the new Army Wireless Reserve Squadron was starting its first Q.S.O. with the H.Q. of its American counterpart, M.A.R.S.

In the vehicle's Command Compartment, G3EJF laid down the can of bully beef he was opening with an earthing spike and sank into the padded seat intended for the posteriors of even higher status than Administrative Sergeant.

The Squadron's Second-in-Command (G3FDU) took over the key and the Operating Compartment next door recovered a little of its dignity. (One imagined that it was just getting used to being called the "Shack.")

The wistful figure fondling a gleaming new SCR.221 was G3DNQ offering up a Technical Sergeant's prayer that a certain P.A. meter would continue its confident flicking at least until the Washington traffic was cleared. It did, thanks to two of his mechanics (G3AMO and G3ICR disguised as corporals), who had spent the afternoon clearing some long service gremlins out of the rig (equipment).

A jeep driver made a triumphant reappearance through a hedge with a struggling rabbit in his hands—and was quickly quartered by the Ham ("Signals") fraternity intent on copying a message of rather fulsome greetings from the upper floors of the Pentagon.

Back at camp the C.O., G3ADZ, was involved in an official function at which a Chief Signal Officer was present. When a D.R. reported the glad tidings the General was somewhat surprised. Under Queen's Regulations the range of the T.X. is only 200 miles—but they've got Hams in the Army now.

When an adequate reply had wended its way Stateside, a weary 3EJF climbed down from the wagon roof. It transpired that he'd popped up there 35 minutes earlier to look for a 7 lb. hammer someone had mislaid, and his descent was barred by 15 amps of R.F. in a rod aerial near the top of the ladder. That was the most welcome A.R. he'd ever hear. (The hammer wasn't there, but he'd not signed for it anyway.)

A Signalman (a B.R.S. man) stopped experimenting with the complicated air conditioning installation to hand round steaming pint mugs of tea. 3FDU sent his mug back with a complaint that the brew was over-modulated. Must have been his first encounter with the art of an "Operator, Wireless and Stove" (12 words and 2 gallons of char per minute).

On the way back to camp in Chester, many stories were recounted of the previous week. Like the one about the Ham in the Midlands who was surprised when his Q.S.O. with G3EJF/P ended with GW3EJF/P. Perhaps he didn't know that a Signal Squadron has to "reccy" transmitter sites—and what better way to do this than with a jeep and a portable rig on the nearest Ham band. It just so happened that the jeep was in Blacon Camp when it called C.Q.—and had passed the border sign round the corner when it stopped for the next over.

And some of the conversations overhead. "Hey, I'm running 10 amps aerial current and I haven't switched on." "I told you we shouldn't have driven under that mains line with the rod up."

"What do they think we are here for, brass pounding or polishing?"

"Excuse me, sir, I've lost my grid drive." "Had you signed for it?"

"This new lot, the amateur mob, seem to get results—but they've just put up an aerial with a feeder on the top, the silly blighters."

"I know, they told me it's a 'folded diphole,' don't remember seeing that in the Signals Manual."

And so ended one of many memorable occasions during a fortnight filled with a real sense of purpose for the six Hams and many B.R.S. members who answered personally G3ADZ's C.Q. for volunteers; and who are now eagerly looking forward to next year's temporary Q.S.Y. to khaki.

Metropolitan Police Office

Police Orders *Monday, 30th September, 1867*

TELEGRAPHIC COMMUNICATION ESTABLISHED.—Telegraphic Communication between the Commissioner's Office and each Division of Metropolitan Police being now completed, the instruments are to be used from 1st prox., for Police purposes, as may be required, and in accordance with the regulations approved by the Commissioner.

The duties at Commissioner's Office will commence from 10 a.m., 1st prox., a Sergeant and Constable being always upon duty in reliefs of eight hours. 3 P.S.s and 3 P.C.s augmented for this purpose.

A report is to be made to the Commissioner by the Superintendent of Executive Branch at the end of three months as to sufficiency or otherwise of numbers employed, and on the general arrangements of the office.

REGULATIONS FOR TELEGRAPHIC OFFICES

1. No person to touch the instruments except those authorised to send messages.

2. No person to enter or remain in the Telegraph Room at Commissioner's Office, except on business connected with the telegraph.

3. No messages to be sent or received by telegraph except on business connected with the Police.

4. Messages required to be forwarded from Commissioner's Office to any other Station are to be plainly written on the proper printed form, and handed to the Telegraph Sergeant, who will send it immediately, and enter the same, as soon as possible afterwards, in the Message Book, with the hour the message was received and the hour sent.

5. Messages received at Commissioner's Office from a Division, to be forwarded to another Division, are to be entered in the Telegraphic Message Book as received, and forwarded to the Division for which intended.

6. Messages sent from a Division to Commissioner's Office are to be entered in the Message Book at Stations previous to being sent off.

7. Messages received at any Station from Commissioner's Office are to be entered in the Message Book as received, and copied from thence on to the proper printed form, and forwarded to the person for whom intended.

8. The metal work of the instruments is to be carefully cleaned every morning with a leather.

9. The alarm bells are to be wound up every morning, and whenever they are run down.

10. The Telegraph Clerks at Commissioner's Office are to test every line at 8 a.m. daily, to ascertain whether they are in proper working order, and send the result at 9 a.m. to the Engineer of the Universal Private Telegraph Company, who will take immediate steps to remedy any defects. An entry is to be made each day of the result of the test, with particulars of all defects, and that the report has been transmitted as above directed to the Engineer.

11. The following directions for working the instruments, receiving and sending messages, etc., as issued by the Private Telegraph Company, are to be strictly followed:—

REGULATIONS FOR WORKING INSTRUMENTS

1. The handle of the instrument which causes the armature of the magnet to rotate must be kept in continuous motion by one hand, while the fingers of the other are employed to manipulate the stops or keys. Care must be taken not to stop the motion until the end of the message.

2. A key need not be continuously pressed down, it will suffice merely to touch it; but another key must not be pressed down until the index or pointer has arrived at the letter previously indicated.

3. The same key cannot be pressed down twice in succession. To repeat a letter touch the preceding key, and without waiting for the arrival of the index to touch again the proper key.

4. Before commencing to send a message the index of all the instruments must point to the cross (X). To bring the telegraph to this position when out, the small pin or button on the face of the telegraph must be turned alternately backwards and forwards between the finger and thumb until the index stands at X.

5. If by inadvertence the index of the communicator has been left at a letter, it must be brought to the cross before the telegraph is adjusted.

6. The pointer of the indicator must always, when the instrument is not in use, be turned to the letter A.

7. To call attention for the purpose of sending a message, turn the point of the indicator from A to T, turn the handle, and let the needle pass from X to X, this will ring the bell at the other end. Wait an interval of time sufficient to allow of reply; if no reply, continue to call in the same manner.

8. Receiver will notify his attention by repeating the signal.

9. If the operator at the other end cannot attend at once, he will send W for "Wait" to show that he has received the call.

10. A short time must be allowed the receiver before sending, to enable him to put his indicator in accord with its transmitter if it be wrong.

11. At the end of each word the needle to be brought to X.

12. If by accident the needle of the indicator becomes misplaced, so as to be unintelligible, the receiver must break in by causing his needle to rotate. The sender will immediately stop sending. Both sender and receiver will then set needles at X, and the receiver will give R for repeat and the last word he understood. Sender will then repeat the message from that word.

13. Every word and every initial letter, or part of a word used for abbreviation, must be followed by the X.

14. At end of message, needle to be turned round from X to X twice.

15. Receiver to repeat this double revolution.

16. To signify figures, use the semi-colon, and then the X before and after them.

Until the Message Books are received, copies of all messages are to be kept on the printed forms.

RICHARD MAYNE.

Published by permission of the Commissioner of Metropolitan Police, to whom THE WIRE *is greatly indebted.*

Plain Tales

★ *With Greetings from Barleux*

Reserved for New Readers

Ukann Larfe felt that he was not making the progress expected of a world-famous detective. For several days now he had studied the sheet of green paper with its mysterious words, but he was just as far from a solution as ever.

The lady pushed her *hors d'oeuvre* round the plate daintily and cast an enquiring eye round the café. The other eye remained fixed on Ukann Larfe. The detective thought she was a pippin. He thought she definitely had something. So much thinking made him thirsty. He ordered a bottle of rum. When it arrived he asked *le garçon* (a different one) for an introduction to the lady. *Le garçon* will repay a brief scrutiny. He was tall, dark and had a villainous cast of feature. He had beetle brows and a broken nose. He spoke French with a Parisian accent. He was a Frenchman from Paris. So much the astute detective gathered from his rapid survey. He glanced round the room which was filling up quickly. There were several sinister looking types sitting at a table near the piano. Some of these were also beetle browed. One or two had brows but no beetles. *Le garçon* put up a grimy finger and raised one of his beetle brows. He spoke: "M'sieur want introduction to madam, *non*?" Ukann Larfe pushed a thousand franc note across the table. It vanished like a spud peeling party at NAAFI break. "M'sieur want introduction to madam, *oui*," he said almost in French. *Le garçon* smiled wickedly and bowed. He walked across the room to the table of madam and spoke a few words (in French) in her *oreille* (lug). She stood up and with a barely perceptible nod to Ukann Larfe swept elegantly through a curtained doorway and was lost to sight.

The celebrated detective clutched the green paper in his hand and rose to follow. He found his way barred by one of the beetle brows. An enormous man with shoulders as broad as a lance-corporal's mind. Ukann Larfe looked carefully into the man's face. He didn't like it much so time being precious he brought his fist up with pile driver force and hit the man on the chin. The obstructionist measured his length on the floor. He was six feet three in his socks. His shoes were being mended. The world-famous sleuth dusted his hands, signed a few autograph books and sauntered through the curtained doorway in pursuit of the mysterious lady.

Open both ends first.

Do Come Again

I would so much love to tell you about some of the dear little children we have had staying at Mercury House, Colwyn Bay, in the past two years. On one occasion, by some sort of weak planning, a round dozen arrived for the same week. Their charming little shrill, piercing, screaming voices must have delighted the ears of those guests who came without children. Their precious little hands and feet destroyed flower borders, rose bushes, cushions, carpets and my faith in the future of Britain. All in a week that seemed as long as eight days C.B. As the parents laughingly said: "We couldn't possibly take them to an hotel." Wasn't that nice? Oh, well. As my famous ancestor, Sir Gifford of Barleux (1558 to 1621) used to say, and, in fact, had carved over the entrance to Little Stench Castle, "Reflection Breeds Wisdom," so perhaps further observation may wisely be left until such time as I am able to produce my acid "Diary of an Hotelier."

Discussion Group

I once knew a judge of the High Court who was permanently worried about his health. Well he might be. Every time he swung upside down from a tram standard his teeth fell out. You might say that there is nothing extraordinary about this. You might even remind me of the general who had spent so many years in M.E.L.F. that even in his London club when he sneezed his boots filled with sand. What you probably do not know is that both these gentlemen were very worried indeed. If only they could be brought together for a long talk over their troubles, who knows what good it might not do. One might suppose that if the general swung upside down from a tram standard the sand from his boots would get in his hair. A thing like that might easily cure him of something.

Uncle Alf: "What is the point of all this?"

Me: "I don't know. I just thought people might like something to talk about after lunch."

Agents Wanted

Bulow Inventions have done it again. This brilliant firm can always be relied on to produce the appropriate gadget at the right time. After many weary months of experimenting, of casting away and starting again, the firm has produced an extremely neat silk lined plastic box, 4in. x 3¾in., with sliding doors. There is a clever fastening for these doors with a quick release attachment for emergencies. The boxes are sold in pairs to fit over the ears of sisters and nurses and are intended primarily to prevent abrasions whilst cycling along hospital corridors. A special model incorporates a small flanged wheel running on a rail fitted to one wall. This ensures positive balance for enraged matrons in a hurry.

The Bulow Lug Protector comes in seven intriguing colours. Write now for illustrated catalogue and see where that gets you.

EUROPE

H.Q. NORTHERN ARMY GROUP SIGNAL REGIMENT

The Regiment returned from Exercise "Coronet" at the end of July and is now busily engaged in preparation for another series of exercises in September. Apart from a few days of tropical deluge, everyone enjoyed "Coronet," and much was achieved.

After a very exciting game our cricket team lost by one wicket to 4 L. of C. Signal Regiment at Hamburg in the first round of the Royal Signals B.A.O.R. Inter-Unit Competition. On the athletic field we came third to 1 Wireless Regiment and 2 L. of C. Signal Regiment in the Inter-Regimental Athletics Championships held at Bielefeld on 22nd August. Our congratulations go to 1 Wireless Regiment for a very fine performance under far from ideal conditions.

Within the Regiment, the Inter-Squadron Swimming Championships has been won by 2 Squadron. The weather was excellent for this event, and apart from the gentleman who fell into the pool fully clothed with a dozen buns and candles whilst performing an obstacle race, the afternoon was very enjoyable.

We offer our congratulations to Lieutenant C. G. A. Ridley on his marriage to Miss Dina Blunden, and wish him every success and happiness for the future.

We welcome into the Regiment Major K. E. S. Ellis, who arrives to take over 3 Squadron from Captain C. N. Le Gassick, who has been caretaking since the departure of Major P. E. S. Mansergh, O.B.E., last June. Major Mansergh left us to try his hand on the staff at Sandhurst, and we wish him success and happiness in his new post.

1 CORPS SIGNAL REGIMENT

The 1st July saw the Regiment firmly, if not comfortably, established in what at first appeared to be a rather unattractive training area. However, after a short time we settled down and accepted all things with indigenous stoicism. Three very wet weeks later we called it a day, took one last loving look at the site and made for barracks. Two more major exercises were chalked up to our credit.

Strange as it may seem, no major exercises had been arranged for us during the month of August. In order to compensate for this small error we planned a short scheme for the sole benefit of No. 3 Squadron. The general idea was to batter No. 3 Squadron to their knees under a ceaseless barrage of signal traffic. Pseudo Staff Officers furiously scribbling their classified and high precedence rhetoric for three days, paused only to exhibit their terseness and newly-found brilliance on those long suffering heroes of switchboard and counter.

The Regiment proudly congratulates its Adjutant, Captain W. P. W. Robertson, in passing his Staff College entrance examination. We hope that his studies at the Australian Staff College will not interfere with his fishing.

Good welcome to our new Second-in-Command, Major R. Carlyon, and Captains Davidson and Dunmore.

Farewell and good fortune to Captain A. S. Rawson, Captain R. M. Wright and Lieutenant (T.O.T.) Thompson, who are now making for points east. Also to Captain T. W. Clayton, who has left us for civilian life. We are grateful to these Officers who have served the Regiment so long and so well.

The Regiment has for the second successive year won the Royal Signals (B.A.O.R.) Inter-Unit Swimming Trophy. Congratulations indeed to all those who swam so hard and gave the spectators such an exciting finish. The trophy was re-won on the last race, the 100 metres, at the start of which the Regiment was two points behind, but due to the combined efforts of Lance-Corporal Clemmett, Second-Lieutenant Stirling, Signalman Thompson and Lance-Corporal Griffiths, the race was won and the trophy retained. Other events won by the Regiment were:—Breast stroke, Signalman Thompson, Signalman Beech, Lance-Corporal Brown, Lance-Corporal Clemmett; the plunge, Captain M. S. Gordon-Jones and Lance-Corporal Brown.

The Royal Signals (B.A.O.R.) Athletic Meeting was held at Bielefeld on Saturday, 22nd August, wherein the Regiment came fourth of nine entrants. The Regiment won the 5,000 metres with really excellent running on the part of Signalmen Escott, Woodcock, Yeoman and Silcock. Signalman Cunningham did well to record the highest jump of the day in the pole vault, the Regiment were second in this event and in the long jump and the 1,500 metres race.

In the annual R.A., R.E., Royal Signals Triangular Sailing Regatta, held this year at Dummersee, the Corps team did well in beating the Sappers for second place and in giving the Gunners a run for their money. From this Regiment, the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel P. E. M. Bradley, and Captain D. L. Pounds sailed for the Corps, whilst Captain R. Trelawny was 13th man. In the ladies' race, Mrs. Bradley was well to the fore and Mrs. Trelawny brought up the rear. Our C.S.O.'s wife, Mrs. Burridge, kindly presented the prizes. The Corps, who were hosts this year, were rightly praised by the captain of the R.A. side for their organisation of the regatta.

Now, as the days grow cooler and the evenings draw in, we look forward to the following games of football, soccer, hockey and other "winter" sports.

2 INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT

This year the Regiment concentration took place during the second week in August. The out-troops were supposed to arrive on Monday, 10th August, but "G" Troop, presumably thinking of accommodation in terms of "first come, first served," arrived on the Sunday. After the dinner on Monday came the C.O.'s address, in which he welcomed the out-troops and gave a rough outline of what they would be doing during the week. After the talk the troops were free once more to re-enter the battle for accommodation. We heard that one S.Q.M.S. had been trying to give his crown away but met with no success.

Tuesday morning saw the drivers bidding fond farewells to their O.W.L., linemen and R/M. friends as they departed, bound for tests in wireless operating, line laying and radio repairing. "A" Troop supplied the winners in the wireless competition, while 1 Squadron were the best Squadron. "L" Troop, attached to 6 Infantry Brigade, were first in the line laying competition, while two R/M.s from "K" Troop, attached to 5 Infantry Brigade, took first place in the R/M.s' skill test.

The afternoon's programme was not of such a technical nature, consisting of a knock-out seven-a-side football competition. A team from "A" Troop were the winners, beating "J" Troop in the final. In the evening there was a tombola session in the dining hall. A certain sergeant, having observed for some time the beer-absorbent qualities of a group of Signalmen, said that they must have had themselves lined with blotting paper in readiness for this evening.

0900 hours on Wednesday saw the start of the Adjutant's Drill Parade, and many were the cracks made about the "P.B.I." During the day the drivers carried out their skill tests with varying results, H.Q., H.Q. Squadron, being the winners. In the afternoon the lucky men who had been chosen to represent their Troops in the assault course test ran, staggered, crawled, plunged and climbed all over it. "Q" Troop surprised most people by winning this event. Some people asked if this was the reason the "Q" stores had been closed for three weeks prior to the Regiment concentration.

At night there was a smoking concert, which included a most diverting scene by the R.P.s, in which they demonstrated how S.S.M. Chilcott had had his appendix removed. Various people sang, some like Frankie Laine, some like Al Jolson, others like nothing on earth. However, enough cigarettes were smoked to obtain the requisite "pea-soup" atmosphere, and a good time was generally had by all.

Thursday morning was well impressed on most feet and memories, as it was then that they trudged or marched, depending on their performance of the previous night, around the five-mile course, after which they proceeded to the rifle range where the team from the L.A.D. surpassed the efforts of the Signals. Some people allege that the Scammel transported this Troop round the course.

After the midday meal came the basketball knock-out competition, in which "A" Troop, ignoring their blisters, beat "G" Troop in the final.

The message competition was held on Friday morning. For some unfathomable reason, Main Division "A" team finished well down the list, while Rear Division team were first. A tiny voice from the wilderness of one of the Gunner Troops was heard to cry, "But we never use this —— morse."

Friday afternoon arrived with the hockey competition, and left behind it a number of bruised anatomies. In a hard game in the final, "B" Troop team managed to score more goals than "L" Troop.

Saturday morning came together with the Regimental Drill Parade, followed by the finals of the football, basketball and hockey competitions. A "Tabloid Sports" Meeting was held in the afternoon. It included an obstacle course, reminiscent in some aspects of the infamous assault course, which provided a great deal of amusement for the spectators, although it was doubtlessly not so for the competitors. "F" Troop team took the first prize, while the R.P.s who had entered a

team for all the sporting events, despite the fact that they only numbered ten men against the fifty strong Brigade Troops, were presented with the "best losers" prize.

After tea the Regiment paraded for the Beating of Retreat, assisted by the Corps of Drums of the 2nd Battalion Coldstream Guards. Sunday morning saw the church parade and farewell dinner, after which the out-troops returned to their Units and the in-troops to their usual occupations.

The whole week was a great success, and all those who on the Monday arrived at R.H.Q. dreading meeting the R.S.M. went away having thoroughly enjoyed themselves. They all thought how nice it was of the R.S.M. to see them to bed each night—strangely enough he did not have to use his specially weighted stick.

Another event of some magnitude was the Divisional Motor Cycle Trial, which was run over an 89 mile course, which included 18 observed sections and hazards. It was made none the easier by the heavy rain that had fallen during the past few days; rain that was falling even as the first competitor left the starting point.

2 Divisional Signal Regiment "A" team took the first prize with a clear margin of points in hand. The first three men were Lance-Corporal Jones, Corporal Bowers and Lance-Corporal Suckling, all, we are glad to report, of 2 Divisional Signal Regiment.

Congratulations then, to the D.R.s of 2 Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment. Neither must we forget to mention Major Brown and his band of course stewards and scrutineers, who stood out in the mud for five or six hours.

Yes, truly we can say that Signals lead the way!

A social event which took place in the Sergeants' Mess should now be recorded. An exchange scheme was recently arranged for 50 poor children from West Ham and Sheffield, together with a number of orphans from a home in Cheltenham. These children came to Germany as the guests of the town of Solingen, while 50 children from Solingen went to England.

The organisers of the scheme appealed to Units and Messes to support the scheme, so it was arranged that they should come to the W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess for tea. The Mess provided the transport, which arrived at the Mess about three o'clock in the afternoon of Saturday, 22nd August.

The first item on the programme was a film show, which included a number of Mickey Mouse and Charlie Chaplin cartoons. The entrance of the "Ice Cream Girl," suitably disguised as a Provost Sergeant, was greeted with howls of delight, and the children happily set about the task of lightening his load. Sergeant Ownsworth is considering taking up the selling of ice cream. He has not yet indicated whether it will be for prisoners only.

After the film show the children played various party games with the sergeants and their wives, and were presented with souvenir albums of photographs. Then, each wearing paper hats or caps, they streamed into the dining room and sat down to a magnificent meal. More films and dancing followed, although it must be admitted that few of the children were as energetic as they had been before tea. Soon, however, it was time to depart, and there was a mad scramble for sergeants' autographs.

A thoroughly pleasant afternoon, it was difficult to say who had enjoyed it the most, children or sergeants.

11 AIR FORMATION SIGNAL REGIMENT

The month of August has been spent reasonably quietly by the Regiment, a welcome breathing space between the frequent exercises over here. In the sporting field, however, in spite of the most inclement weather conditions, we have not been so quiet. In the B.A.O.R. Signals athletic championships the honours of the day were stolen by Corporal Aston by his performances in the 5,000 metres and 1,500 metres events. Although the Regiment finished only fifth, congratulations are due to all competitors for their good efforts in what may almost be described as monsoonal conditions.

The cricket team, under its enthusiastic new captain, Second-Lieutenant K. Evans, has reached the final of the Signals Cup. After a bye in the first round, we defeated 1 Corps Signal Regiment in the second, and 2nd Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment in the semi-final. The latter match was very evenly contested. Set 94 to make for victory on a bowlers' wicket, the score reached 70 for two, with Signalman G. Ravenscroft batting steadily at 39 not out. Then came collapse and 20 minutes later the scoreboard read 80 for seven. However, sterling back-to-the-wall batting by Sergeant Fletcher stopped the rot and we passed out winners by three wickets.

The Regiment were much in evidence at the Royal Signals' swimming gala, held this month. Leading the field with one event to go, we were beaten by a touch, and the place of honour eluded us.

Prospects for the winter sports are again bright and we are all looking forward to the keen competition which was no much in evidence last year.

1 WIRELESS REGIMENT

During the last two months the Regiment has seen many changes in Officers. Major Whitaker and Major Leahy have left, Major Shepherd and Major Bolam have arrived.

There has been a change of F. of S., W.O.II Seymour taking over from S.Q.M.S. Webb. Two further imminent departures are those of S.S.M. Rogers and C.S.M.I. Legge.

Despite these rapid changes, the Regiment has had continued success in its sporting and social life. The outstanding success was that of the athletics team which won the Royal Signals B.A.O.R. Unit Team Championships at Bielefeld with a total of 310 points out of a maximum of 378. A claim has been made for five of the existing records in these championships.

The swimming team, which took part in the swimming championships at Bunde, did not do so well as the athletics team, but none the less an enjoyable time was had by all.

The cricket team has had moderate success against local Units.

The small arms team have fired in the Signals Inter-Unit Competition—the results are awaited.

The month finished with a Corporals' Mess Dance, a most enjoyable social function.

2 L. OF C. SIGNAL REGIMENT

Motor Cycle Trials. After a concentrated period of training under the able guidance of Major (Q.M.) Yorke, four teams of three riders each competed in the 2 Infantry Division Rhine District Motor Cycle trials on 26th August. The course was a gruelling one covering some 80 miles and sixteen hazards.

This was a field day indeed for Royal Signals. Results were as follows:—

Winning team 2 Infantry Division: 2 Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment.

Winning team Rhine District: 2 L. of C. Signal Regiment.

Individuals, Rhine District: 2nd place, Signalman Bailey; 3rd place, Signalman Usher.

Athletics. Having been at the bottom of the Theatre Table for the past two seasons, we were determined to do better this year. Unfortunately, the weather broke on the day, 25th August, and the spectators had to endure frequent showers. The athletes were, however, in high spirits. 2 L. of C. Signal Regiment for a brief period before lunch was on top and throughout the day was in the first three. There was great excitement before the last race when we were equal second with H.Q. N.A.G. Signal Regiment. The final race was the 400 metre relay and our team ran a good race to finish second only to 1 Wireless Regiment, thus beating H.Q. N.A.G. Signal Regiment for second place. A grand performance by all concerned. We offer our congratulations to 1 Wireless Regiment (a very fine sporting team) on their success. It is difficult to single out individuals, but we must thank Captain Smith, Lance-Corporal Mould, Signalman Betts and Lance-Corporal Kaye for their outstanding efforts.

Swimming. The Unit swimmers entered the Royal Signals Inter-Unit Gala and improved on last year's effort by coming up to fifth place. Although all the competitions were team entries, perhaps Craftsman Barratt should be mentioned as the best individual plunge at the meeting by a clear seven feet.

R.H.Q./1 Squadron. A team from Dusseldorf entered the Rhine District Minor Units Aquatic Sports and walked away with the shield by 35 points to 17. The two star performers, Corporal Dunn (diving) and Lance-Corporal Wainwright (free style), left us for civilian life right after that competition and were sadly missed in the swimming world.

Tennis. The weather this summer has been far from favourable for lawn tennis, but advantage was taken of one fine spell during the first week of August to run off a tournament for personnel of R.H.Q. and 1 Squadron.

The tournament was very popular and resulted in some hard fought matches, the singles matches between Captain Beaumont and Captain Smith, and between Captain Smith and Corporal Lusk being particularly tough struggles.

Q.M.S. (F. of S.) Willingale receiving the Rhine District Minor Units Swimming Shield

The results of the finals, played off in St. David's Barracks, Hilden, were:—

Men's Singles. Winner, Major D. Cullum. Runner-up, Corporal Lusk.

Men's Doubles. Winners, Major D. Cullum and Captain L. Beaumont. Runners-up, Lance-Corporal Edge and Craftsman Boulter.

Mixed Doubles. Winners, Captain and Mrs. Beaumont. Runners-up, Major and Mrs. Cullum.

2 Squadron. This has been a month of changes in 2 Squadron. Some old hands are leaving and new ones come on the scene. We welcome Major P. P. H. Morton, who has come to relieve Major E. J. Tidey, and S.S.M. Crompton, who relieves S.S.M. Fisk. We take this opportunity of congratulating S.S.M. Crompton on his promotion. A sad loss to the Squadron is Lance-Corporal Mould, who returns to civil life. He has represented B.A.O.R. at athletics and Lubbecke District and the Regiment at cricket. We wish him every success in the future.

In the early part of the month we fired our annual weapon training course. We found no stars but we did enjoy three lovely days on the Herford Ranges.

3 Squadron. The accent this month is mostly on sport. 5 Telegraph Operating Troop, who look after the communications at the Hook of Holland, won the Garrison Athletics Meeting by a handsome margin. Signalman Salsbury put up a particularly good show by winning the 1,500 metres and coming second in the 5,000 metres and 800 metres—and all in one afternoon (shades of Joe Cotteril). Sergeant Greenhalgh registered second and third in the 100 and 200 metres respectively. Well done, 5 Telephone Operating Troop.

The Belgium based element of the Squadron has been involved in the Adv. Base Coronation Cricket Competition, with motor cycle trials training and small bore shooting.

After a brilliant start we were knocked out of the cricket competition in the last round by 128 Army Fire Company (the eventual winners).

It was an exciting game and the winning hit was made by "last man in" of the Fire Company, who succumbed two balls later. The story that our team was sentenced to "7 days catching" is untrue.

A change of command takes place this month and we bid a reluctant farewell to Major K. E. S. Ellis, who is taking up a new appointment with H.Q. N.A.G. Signal Regiment.

At the same time we extend a hearty welcome to Major E. J. Tidey, who is taking up command.

Finally, we welcome the arrival of W.O.I Witham from 2 Wireless Regiment, and hope he has a long and pleasant stay with us.

4 L. OF C. SIGNAL REGIMENT

R.H.Q. and 1 Squadron. It has been quite a full month of sporting activities for the Corps in Germany, and the Regiment fielded a strong side in the S.A. shooting competition which achieved a good result, although at the time of going to press the final position of teams is not known. The cricket team is through to the final match for that competition, but athletics suffered from the July exercises and the geographical layout of the Squadrons, so that we were not well placed. Our aim has been to win two of the four Corps summer events out here, and in next month's WIRE we'll either type it in capital letters or talk about the weather.

By the time this is in print our designation will have altered after a few changes in composition. This R.H.Q. and Squadron are remaining and will be joined by a Squadron of 2 L. of C. Signal Regiment to form "No. 19 Army Group Signal Regiment." Nos. 2 and 3 Squadrons are leaving the Regiment to become part of 2 L. of C. Signal Regiment. The fact that a considerable number of miles separate us at present has not prevented a keen rivalry between Squadrons, nor prevented the characters in each of the Squadrons from

becoming known about by each other, so that we feel the parting perhaps more than might be imagined and certainly more than we shall admit to each other! We are looking forward to our new liaison with the old 2 L. of C. Squadron, about whom we know a great deal, having been together in the days before forming the present Regiment. Our reunion should be a just cause for a party, and perhaps the forthcoming notes from the new Regiment will report it.

3 Squadron. By the time these notes appear in print we shall once again have changed our title and reverted to our old Regiment.

Posting orders and stocktaking boards are the order of the day. So far nobody is "out of pocket"—cynics have been heard to say 'tis "more luck than judgment." We were interested in the hours of work performed by 3 Squadron, 4 L. of C. Signal Regiment. The operators of this Squadron average (excluding public holidays) a seventy-four hour week throughout the year, and apart from leave periods average not less than two (full working) night periods a week. Being a static Unit we are interested only in major exercises, often being called upon to provide operators and D.R.s for Control and Neutral Signals. This, of course, throws an additional strain on those remaining, nevertheless, the work is performed cheerfully and efficiently. In the meantime, time is found for all games, shooting, etc. The cricket team are now tying for first place in the Garrison League and the Squadron provided five members for the Regimental team, who have to date reached the final of the B.A.O.R. Royal Signal Units Knock-out Competition.

The highlight this month was an association outing to the Volkswagenwerk. The trip was a most interesting experience and our sincere thanks are due to the management for their splendid arrangements. We were conducted throughout the factory and given an excellent film show. Our D.R.s and drivers are now considering applications for distributors and agents in the U.K. Next month it is hoped to arrange a visit to the local State brewery. The rumour that the salt ration will be reduced for a few days prior to the visit is not well founded.

This Month's Celebrity. Sergeant Holden for his 54 not out at a most critical period in the match that may decide the league championship.

S.H.A.P.E. SIGNAL SQUADRON

It may interest readers to learn that the recent widespread strikes in France did not upset our everyday work in S.H.A.P.E. Electricity was supplied from our generators, water supplies were not affected and the S.H.A.P.E. Canteen Services (NAAFI) came to the rescue of families in the place of local markets for fresh food. However, we had to supply Army transport for leave-bound personnel to the U.K. Since the Squadron is the only holder of T.C.V.s among Units of the British elements of S.H.A.P.E., we did all the shuttling of British personnel back and forward to Calais. In this respect we became a most sought after Unit and, in an indirect way, a very popular one overnight.

Every man in the Squadron, from his first interview with the O.C., is impressed with the fact that international co-operation and accord are his prime duties whilst at S.H.A.P.E. All national and personal aspirations must be put aside until his next posting. This principle was recently carried to the extreme by Corporal Dobbs, R.E.M.E. N.C.O., who has been with us for nearly two years. He decided to get married to a Miss Joan Cox, who is an American W.A.V.E., also working in S.H.A.P.E. As far as is known, Corporal Dobbs is the first of S.H.A.P.E.'s "G.I. bridegrooms," surely one of the very few from the U.K. also. We wish him and his bride the very best of luck and happiness in their new life in Canada and the United States.

A Support Units' sports meeting was held in August on the St. Germain Stadium Ground. Having had our own meeting in glorious April weather, we were not our strongest or best for this second meeting, and a certain amount of training had to be done again.

However, we emerged a very good second to the H.Q. Company who, this year, combined their two detachments into one powerful combination of some 280 men from whom to pick.

So the shield won last year had to be handed over. Particularly fine performances were put up by Corporal Pepper (Cipher) in the 220 yards (1st) and the high jump (2nd), Corporal Dobbs in the 3-mile (3rd), Driver Steed in the javelin (2nd), and Signalman Jones, Lance-Corporals Gammer, Ray and Bell for some good team running throughout the afternoon.

Lieutenant Campbell has recently been given the most important and responsible appointment of Officer-in-Charge of Teletype Operations, which includes the control and running of the large S.H.A.P.E. Communication Centre. This is the first time that this job has been held by a British Officer and we would like to congratulate Lieutenant Campbell on the position he has attained. We understand that as this is being written, four National Service men from the Communication Centre have been selected to fly to Oslo for a long and important N.A.T.O. exercise to be held in September. Originally it was four National Service men who were sent to Turkey and Greece (reported in THE WIRE for June), now it is four more for Oslo. There is certainly no lack of confidence in the ability of the N.S. man in this Unit; they get all the breaks and well-deserved they are too.

We feel that information regarding promotions over the last quarter may prove interesting to old members of the Unit.

Corporals Stowe and Pepper promoted to sergeants; Lance-Corporals Deering and Price promoted to corporals.

83 GROUP AIR FORMATION SIGNAL SQUADRON

Looking through recent editions of THE WIRE, we find that our existence has not received the publicity that we think it deserves. No doubt due to the fact that the Squadron has only been in existence a year and is still in the process of forming. Official confirmation has been received that we will shortly be a full Regiment, and it is intended that a regular contribution be given to THE WIRE.

During this summer there has been much activity in all departments, and various elements of the Squadron have wandered as far afield as southern Belgium and, so we hear, even to northern France. Exercise "Coronet" provided tremendous work for the whole Squadron, with in most cases satisfactory results. As this was the first time the various troops had moved into the field, much was learnt in the art of line-laying heavy Stecke cable and in field cooking. The Stecke cable is supposed to be armoured but it was found that a 6-inch nail could be driven through it with a pair of pliers in 2 mins. 20 secs. Canal Zone please note! 18 Wing moved out with everything, including the kitchen sink, and all its members returned with a slight French vocabulary, with a Brussels accent! Squadron H.Q. was located at Aachen, where the fishing prospects were reported to be good. Confirmation of this was, however, not possible—because of rain? Surely not!

Geilenkirchen, Wildenrath and Bruggen are new airfields and hence Signals have been very busy there, but although these troops stayed put, we gather that they saw more of the air battles than anyone else.

With so much Signals work it has been found very difficult to organise sport amongst the outlying troops, but much use has been made of the Wahn cricket field by troops at S.H.Q., and matches have been organised and some won against the R.A.F. sections. The swimming pool has been much in use, and we hope for great things in the swimming sports versus R.A.F. Signalmen Lucas and Martin have participated in the 2 T.A.F. Championships, the former winning the diving by a handsome margin. The athletics team were hampered by the various exercises and lack of training, but nevertheless we had one representative in the 2 T.A.F. Championships in Signalman Cowan, who also distinguished himself in the Station sports by winning both 1,500 and 800 metres.

Training has now commenced for the Rugby, soccer and boxing teams, and a hockey league has been formed under the energetic Sergeant-Major Farquharson. Reports of the successes will be duly recorded. Recent departures include F. of S. Pollard for the Far East, and F. of S. Perry has arrived to take over his duties in the T.E. Troop.

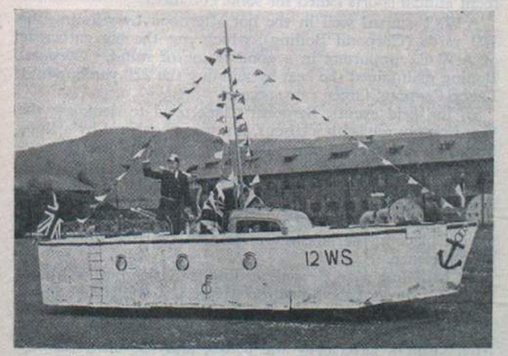
12 WIRELESS SQUADRON

Although it is some months since our last notes appeared in THE WIRE, the Unit is still very much in existence, and has successfully survived the usual Administrative Inspections, R.E.M.E. Inspections, and the most inclement summer Austria has seen for years. (Apparently the local weather man has heard that this is a "Home Station.")

The Squadron has again lived up to its high reputation in the field of sport. Corporal Rannow, Lance-Corporal Hall and Signalman Tomney have represented B.T.A. at soccer, and Second-Lieutenant Burgis and W.O.II Fish have played for the B.T.A. hockey team against a side from Jugoslavia. In the B.T.A. Hockey Competition we reached the final only to lose the vital match to a strong H.Q. B.T.A. team. On 2nd June, 12 Wireless Squadron literally ran away with the Garrison Coronation Sports, taking five first and one second in the six major events, and collecting a few prizes on the side with the novelty events, including an inscribed tankard for the best-dressed Coronation vehicle.

Our Squadron Athletic Meeting was held on the 1st August. It was organised as usual on an inter-Troop basis, with five Troops competing. Although it was obvious that the championship was to be decided between Operations "C" and Communications Troop, the rivalry and keenness of all taking part was apparent to everyone. Communications Troop were unlucky to finish second; their star performer, Second-Lieutenant Donaldson, pulled a thigh muscle early in the afternoon and his absence from further events lost them valuable points. Corporal Melia's fine performance, mostly in the field events, earned him the Victor Ludorum trophy, with a narrow majority over Corporal Whay. The Inter-Troop Soccer and Hockey Cups were presented the same afternoon to Operations "C" and H.Q. and T.M. Troop respectively. At cricket, the Unit team remains undefeated in the Garrison League, having won all five matches played to date.

A successful Coronation Ball was held in the W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess on 6th June, and a Tramps Ball on 4th July. No Sergeants' Mess has been "honoured" with a scruffier set of individuals who put in an appearance that night. Remarks were heard to the effect that at last some of the characters present had found their true vocation!



12 Wireless Squadron, Garrison Coronation Sports

12 Wireless Squadron Sergeants' Mess "Tramps Ball"

MIDDLE EAST LAND FORCES

CYPRUS SIGNAL TROOP

If changes are an indication of progress, then we must surely be one of the most go-ahead Units in the Middle East. For here of late everything of importance has altered and we are now only hoping that the weather will soon follow suit.

New faces are seen daily, and our security is, of course, such that I can only believe that they have gained admission to the camp by that mysterious process known as posting.

Our camp, too, is in process of renewal—this by courtesy of the Sappers. Dirty whitewash gives way to gleaming silver throughout, and I can only feel inadequate and sorry that my predecessor, Corporal Montague, is no longer with us to sing the praises of Nissens, like sugar loaves set in something or other most poetic.

However, Monty, after his excellent radio talk on ballet, has left his life of ease and gone where all good ballet dancers go—back to the bar.

In spite of this state of flux in our little world, life seems strangely quiet after the rush of Coronation Trials, fireworks and our strenuous activities of the early summer.

The Trials certainly provided our big moments of the season. Our O.C., Major J. A. Waite, seems a happier man now that the burdens of their organisation are a thing of the past, although unofficially we think he rather enjoyed it all. After all it is difficult not to enjoy a job well done. Congratulations, too, to Signalman Agness, our representative on the successful Cyprus District team. We may mention also, for we have it on extremely good authority, that it was for the first time in living memory that the wireless communications provided for the Trials worked faultlessly.

But all this is of the past. What of the immediate future? On the sports field we are anticipating great things from

our soccer players this season; some of our new arrivals are definitely "on the ball" and we can hardly wait for the league fixtures to begin. The swimming gala will soon be upon us, and our entrants show promise of bringing back further honours to the Troop.

Indoors, our tombola evenings have been popular during the summer and we anticipate bigger and better ones during the winter months. Table tennis and darts enthusiasts are crying out for more supporters and players which a small Unit can hardly provide.

Oh, by the way, I forgot to mention our biggest change, being, of course, the birth of the Cyprus Signal Troop.

5 SIGNAL EQUIPMENT TROOP

Since our last notes we have had quite a number of changes in the Troop.

Sergeant Weston left us for Benghazi and Sergeant Bell (ex 7 T.R.) has taken his place.

Signalman Hotchkin has already played cricket for 5 B.O.D., making a very good start with 23 runs and some excellent fielding. He is amongst the twelve players who have been selected for the next Royal Signals (Egypt) match. Congratulations, Hotchkin.

We are now awaiting the start of the football season, as we should have at least two players in 5 B.O.D. first team.

TRIPOLITANIA SIGNAL TROOP

It was with regret that the Unit said goodbye to Second-Lieutenant Macloskey who, in his year of office here, has accomplished much, particularly in the realm of Unit sport. He goes with our good wishes for success on leaving the Army for Cambridge.

Although our limited numbers sometimes make difficult the task of producing teams, cricket and basketball fixtures have been played off during the summer against local Units. Success in cricket has been moderate, in basketball encouraging; whilst in swimming a representation from the Troop has been undergoing training for life-saving tests. The results were good—eight entered, all won bronze medallions, two were awarded bronze crosses, and four gained the award of merit. In the subsequent District Swimming Gala, however, the odds proved too great, and stronger Units than we carried the day. Irrepressible football fans, despite the blazing sun, are already looking forward to "the season," and we hope to produce quite a strong team.

A P.R.I. sponsored and subsidised bus outing to Homs and the Roman Ruins at Leptis Magna was a great success, and further diversions of this kind are planned. We intend to "See North Africa or die!"

Two full-scale inspections in the last two months have left us exhausted but triumphant, having been congratulated on the results of both.

FAR EAST LAND FORCES

G.H.Q. SIGNAL REGIMENT

Impending departures from the Unit are Major F. L. Clarkson, M.B.E., our Training Officer, and Captain H. H. C. Henning, Cipher Officer. To both of them we say "We will remember thee," especially appropriate to Major Clarkson, organiser of these tough, memorable and, to some, painful route marches through Singapore Island in the grey dawn of a tropical morning. Many were the caustic remarks thrust upon his sturdy back by the footsore "wits" of the Regiment. To both him and Captain Henning: *Bon voyage* and best wishes in their future appointments.

An event which evoked much interest was the annual cricket match, Officers v. W.O.s and Sergeants, which, despite the blazing sun and thirst of the players, occasionally appeased by bottles of beer, proved to be one of almost Test standard. Some beautiful hitting by W.O.I D. A. L. Murray and Sergeant J. R. Woodlands resulted in a total of one hundred runs between them. Both were finally bowled by Lieutenant (Q.M.) G. R. Thornton, most powerful bowler in the Officers' team.

The win by the W.O.s and Sergeants by 125 runs brought forth many vows of "We will win the footer match" from the Officers. Judging by the many dire threats heard in various quarters, the match should prove to be even more exciting than the cricket.

Latest improvements in the Royal Signals Leave Centre at Changi which, incidentally, is proving popular with men both from the island and up-country, include a small Signals "fleet" composed of small craft, both diesel and sail, finished in Corps colours and flying Corps pennants. Brightening up the Centre brought feverish activity to the drawing boards of our draughtsmen and the benches of the Unit carpenter. They are to be congratulated on doing some fine work.

In Tyersall Camp itself the Corporals' Mess has been demolished due to the U.G. activities of termites eating all wooden supports and beams. All junior ranks now mess in the B.O.R.s' dining room, which has recently been completely redecorated. It is hoped at some future date to have the cement flooring levelled to enable dances and socials to be held. The hiring of halls can be a very expensive business, as our P.R.I. will readily assert.

Two of our M.O.R.s, Sergeants Leong Wah and Lawrence Anthony, set sail a month ago to attend an O.W.L. Instructors' Course at the School of Signals. They are both looking forward to seeing Catterick in all its winter glory. This correspondent, remembering the last winter he spent in that camp, does not, repeat NOT, envy them.

A.W.C. SIGNAL SQUADRON, SINGAPORE

It is a long time since we crashed into print, but we thought that the recent victory in the G.H.Q. Signal Regiment annual sports called for some comment.

A.W.C. started well in the hot afternoon by winning the 100 yards (Corporal Boiling), which put the big gathering of A.W.C. supporters in a good frame of mind. Corporal Boiling maintained the heat by winning the 220 yards, whilst Lance-Corporal Green came second.

In the field events, Sergeant Clark tried to demolish the Garrison church with a discus, but was frustrated by a thick hedge. His next attempt to "get the judges" nearly succeeded and won the event.

Lance-Corporal Angell, recently back from Korea, again made a name for sport in the Regiment by winning the javelin and the hammer, whilst Lance-Corporal Pole did well to get second place in the pole vault, his name making up for lack of experience.

At half-time A.W.C. were leading by 12 points, and more pints; for most of the Squadron were round the NAAFI tent.

Signalman Fear won the three miles easily, and so A.W.C. got the cup again with a lead of 20 points. The O.C.'s wife, Mrs. Gibson, gave away the prizes, and the team captain, W.O.II Millar, M.M., collected the cup.

We are extremely busy just now, having both new and old transmitting and receiving stations, and the teleprinter room to manage. Captain Gilbertson and "B" A.W.C. I.T. are installing and testing our magnificent new equipment (with our help, of course). Captain Camp and F. of S. Jackson have developed heavy frowns (and a sun tan) watching Signalman White and others climb into the sky after erring aerials. Behind all these spectacular and interesting happenings the main task of keeping our communications going still sits on Captain Cooper, Sergeant Gubler and the rest of the gang. Up the chain, it's a fine life if you don't get rusty.

SINGAPORE DISTRICT SIGNAL REGIMENT

Not the least important among recent events in the Regiment has been the inception of our .22 Rifle Club. Under the able chairmanship of R.Q.M.S. Hipperson, the club meets three times a week and, since membership is extended to all families, the social aspect in the Unit is not neglected. Some of the wives certainly know where the target is; at any rate, up to the time of writing, the Q.M. has not had to replace any "Lamps, Electric."

"Hari Raya Haji," which commemorates the end of the Moslem pilgrimage to Mecca, was celebrated recently by our Malayan other ranks. The occasion was accompanied by a day off and a "Makan kechil" (which might well be interpreted as a bun fight!). Olive, green drab was cast off and the traditional Malay dress, complete with songkok and baju, made a very colourful picture in the Unit lines.

With the cricket season behind us we are now replacing the cricket bat with the hockey stick, having acquitted ourselves quite well at this "sport of gentlemen." We are proud to add, too, that no less than six of our players were chosen to represent the Corps against the various other Services in FARELF. Rugger is in season once again, and we have had a good response from the call for "new blood." This season our home games will be played on the Regiment's new sports field for the first time, and we are looking forward to some pleasant matches, with lots of moral support in the form of spectators.

Stop Press. Lighting-up time in Singapore is usually at 1845 hours, but today, at least for R.H.Q., it is at 1030 hours. Is it an eclipse? Is it a thundercloud? No, just Signal Training Squadron at fire practice and R.H.Q. happens to be windward. The C.O. is just groping for the telephone as these notes are despatched.

19 AIR FORMATION SIGNAL REGIMENT

The Unit has now settled down to a period free of outside commitments, and is now hard at work on having a real good sort out of exchanges, frames and preparing more projects. Oh, yes, they are still finding the odd U.G. cable that curiously enough takes the oddest route.

Soccer. The season is now at a close, and on the whole it has been very successful and we have gone from strength to strength. The M.O.R. team finished runners-up in the league, and the Unit team midway in a very formidable R.A.F. league, but the highlight was the success of our Squadron at Seletar which won the Station Cup. Well done, Seletar Squadron—now for the Hockey Cup. In addition, four players have represented the Corps XI and two have represented the Army XI, to name Lieutenant Earl and Signalman Jones.

Hockey. The prospects are bright for this season as most of last year's players are still with us. We have finished our trials and are ready for the bully-off. Captain Haxell, Sergeant Potter, and Sergeant Licence have already been selected for the Station XI—no mean feat.

Ceylon. Although the news from the island has been rather disturbing from a civil aspect, all seems well with the Squadron, and it is functioning as well as ever, although one hears of transport difficulties; they say the roads are extremely bad, except the one to Mount Lavinia. Last month C.A.F.S.O. and his Staff Officer paid the Squadron a visit.

Hong Kong. Another Air Formation Signals flag has been hoisted, namely, that of our small detachment of approximately twenty men, and from all reports it is now firmly established and hard at work. It must be a grand place, our Commanding Officer has already paid a visit to his small domain, and to date Lieutenant Earl is already on a recce prior to his proceeding there in a couple of months hence on a special task.

Car Nicobar. Yes, we have commitments in this little island set midway between Singapore and Ceylon. At present the lines and exchanges serving the R.A.F. are maintained by one B.O.R. and two M.O.R.s, who are relieved every three months. Frequent visits are now made to the island, but the rate of visits has increased since Major A. P. Johnson was there two months ago. Wonder why?

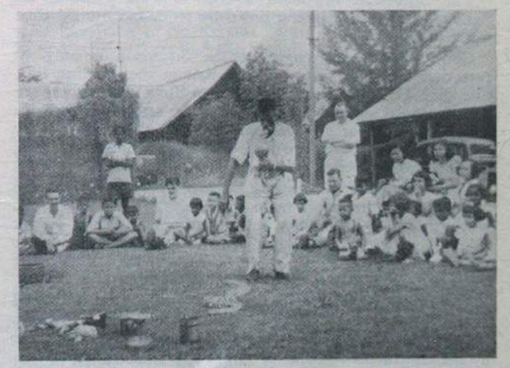
Lieutenant Philp has now returned after a month's attachment with the Royal West Kent Regiment, and after a gruelling experience chasing bandits in the Federation, wishes to thank those R.M.A. Instructors, Royal Signals, who so skilfully steered him into the Corps. He now considers them in addition to his former opinions "extremely wise."

Physical efficiency tests are now in full swing and to date we have had three M.O.R.s who have broken the Singapore Mile Record—in boots, too! On further investigation it was discovered the times were recorded to the nearest minute, the watch did not have second hands. What luck!

MALAYA SIGNAL REGIMENT

In our last notes we wrote about the entertaining of the Selangor State Orphanage in the W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess. The enclosed photograph shows what a happy party the children had.

On Saturday, 22nd August, the Corporals' Mess celebrated their third anniversary of the opening of their mess. For a month prior to this event the Junior N.C.O.s had been repainting and decorating the dining room and lounge for this occasion. Approximately 75 officers and N.C.O.s attended the excellent dinner, and our C.S.O., Colonel Tucker, O.B.E., was the guest of honour. At the conclusion of the dinner a social evening was held, to which all our officers and Senior N.C.O.s, together with their families, were invited. Needless to say this was a very enjoyable evening, which was given an extra fillip when Major Kelly gave a demonstration of Scottish dancing! The extension of bar and lights was enjoyed up to the last minute as the bar sales for the evening showed.



We are fortunate in being situated very close to the garrison sports fields in which area we have the excellent Nuffield swimming pool. Consequently, off-duty hours are far from dull. From the noise coming from the rugby field the other evening one would think most of the Regiment were out practising! Meanwhile, on the adjoining hockey pitch, we were in the process of beating W.D. Civilians 6—0. To date we have won three games and lost one.

Captain (Q.M.) R. L. J. Shove has recently arrived complete with family from the T.A. in England and taken over from Captain (Q.M.) Walters. We extend our best wishes for their success in their new surroundings.

W.O.II Howe (our warrant officer) and family return to U.K. in a few days on medical grounds. Whilst wishing him and has family *bon voyage*, we trust that he will soon be back on the F.E. list.

2 Squadron. This is the last time THE WIRE notes from 2 Squadron, Malaya Signal Regiment, will appear, for with the inevitable handover of commitments in Malaya from British troops to Federation troops, this Squadron is due to hand over to the Federation Signal Squadron in early September. The Squadron will then be disbanded.

This Squadron has been in existence under various titles since 1947 on taking over from 23 (I) Divisional Signals. During this time we have built up a good reputation with the Staff for being on the job. During the emergency many difficulties have had to be overcome in counteracting acts of sabotage by bandit activity to line and rail communications. The A.O.P. Flight attached to this Headquarters have done much to help, being used for A.D.S. at short notice and flying out spares and R/Ms to out-stations on breakdown of communications.

Our final effort was made last week when we were inspected by C.S.O., FARELF (Brigadier K. C. O. Bastyan, C.B.E.) and C.S.O. Malaya (Colonel Tucker, O.B.E.). This was the first visit of Brigadier Bastyan since taking over his appointment as C.S.O. FARELF, and he was pleased to express his pleasure with the working of all departments. The result of our annual administrative inspection has been received and we are pleased to say that it was a good one.

The final result of the Taiping Second Division League is now to hand. We had to take second place to R.E.M.E. on goal average by a very small margin. We consider this to be quite an achievement considering the size of the Squadron and the replacements that had to be made during the season.

3 Squadron. It is with regret that we have had to say goodbye to our O.C. (for so many months now), Lieutenant D. R. Beadon, who has left us this month on his return to England (home and beauties!).

The Squadron organised a trip to Port Dickson on Sunday, 9th August, going down by road, and a good time was had by all.

Considering the strength of the Squadron is only 40 personnel we manage to do very well in the sporting line. Corporal Tharby recently travelled to Singapore to play for Signals Malaya versus Signals Singapore at cricket, while in the absence of our star cricketer we beat the Engineers by five runs. At hockey we have also been doing very well, having recently beaten the L.S.C. (a civilian team) 4—0.

Lance-Corporal (" Paddy ") English has managed to raise himself from the usual radio mechanics' state of lethargic bliss, throw off his senility and organise a Squadron rugger side. Our first game against a combined Police/Volunteer Force side was narrowly lost 8—3, so, with a little more practice, we should make a formidable team.

We continue to play basketball, having recently played " top of the league " 1/7 G.R. and lost 47—33. However, we hope to finish fairly well in the top half of the table by the end of the season.

SIERRA LEONE SIGNAL SQUADRON

Since our last contribution we have had several visits from notabilities. First, the G.O.C.-in.-C., West Africa Command, paid us a visit en route to Daru 250 miles up country and the location of the Sierra Leone Regiment Training Centre.

Communications were established from Lungi Airport, another set provided communications on the launch from Lungi to Freetown in familiar fashion, and a further set (manned by Sergeant Oates) travelled with the G.O.C.-in-C. up to Daru and back.

The Squadron again provided communications on the arrival of the new Governor. This time our sets duplicated the R.A. link for the saluting battery. After inspecting a Guard of Honour formed by 1st Battalion Sierra Leone Regiment, His Excellency travelled through Freetown to the Law Courts for the swearing in ceremony. Timing was excellent. The signal was given by wireless and the saluting battery fired the first shot of the 21-gun salute at the precise moment that His Excellency bent to sign the oath. Incidentally, the signal was given to the set operator in a building opposite the dais by the Lord Chief Justice raising his hand.

Our fortnight's bushcamp took place this year in the York and Kent area. It was during this camp—known as Exercise Bush Fowl—that the C.I.G.S. paid a visit to the district. He moved out to the camp site and saw the Squadron under bush working conditions. The scheme in general was most successful. It was also during this operation that our Sergeant Oates, apparently deciding that life holds nothing further, allowed himself to be overturned in a Land Rover. Happily, apart from stiff joints and a couple of dozen grazes, no damage was done.

We cannot, unfortunately, claim a great deal of success in the sporting field. Our only notable success was Signalman Sandi being first in from the six miles district cross-country run, for which he was presented by the wife of the District Commander with a silver cup. Signalman Sandi, incidentally, also won the three miles race in the District Sports. Communications were supplied along the cross-country route by the Squadron and a running commentary passed over our public address system to the audience. Highly successful.

Despite the small size of station, a joint Royal Engineers'/Royal Signals' celebration was held in June when officers and their families to the number of nine dined in the U.S. Club before proceeding for the remainder of the evening (and early morning) to the less military Cline Town Club.

Very little further news from Sierra Leone Signal Squadron except that Sergeant Scott bade a sorrowful goodbye to the Unit and is now firmly installed (elevated to S.Q.M.S.) in 3 Training Regiment.

SIGNAL WING, EAST AFRICA TRAINING CENTRE

Since the last notes were published, Captain J. Smith has arrived from U.K. to take over duties as Second-in-Command and S.Q.M.S. L. L. Clarke has arrived from M.E.L.F.

The Wing athletic meeting was held in July, followed by the Inter-Wing meeting in August. In the latter our greatest success was in Sergeant MacMillan being the winner in putting the shot.

In mid-July we had the satisfaction of completing the Annual Administrative Inspection, and from all accounts the Inspecting Officer and his staff were very favourably impressed.

During July and August we completed our first British Regimental Signallers' Course. This was enjoyable from every point of view, and we have been asked to run another early in September.

EAST AFRICA COMMAND SIGNAL SQUADRON

There may be some serving soldiers who will remember Killarney Camp, which for twelve years or more has been the home of East African Signals. A rather rambling, even ramshackle, affair up to six years ago, it had been greatly improved during 1948 and 1949 and accommodation was adequate and reasonably comfortable. But this issue sings the swan song of Killarney Camp, which is now empty and in the hands of Disposals.

The Unit has moved to Buller Camp. There may even be some who remember the Camp, although the name is quite new. It is the old Kar Camp near the African Hospital. This has not been modernised and accommodation is more cramped than was originally intended owing to the present " emergency " in Kenya.

So for a while the Officers' and Sergeants' Messes are merged with Garrison H.Q. and a G.T. Company, E.A.A.S.C. No doubt new friendships will be formed and Mess life will soon be at normal, but we regret the passing of our separate entity and look forward to a re-opening of just one separate Signals' institution in the whole one and a quarter million square miles of this Command.

In the operational sphere we made local history the other day with the opening of our own Air Despatch Service. "Our Own " in as far as we provide a courier to travel in an aircraft on a daily round trip of some hundreds of miles. The aircraft is a chartered Bonanza plane flown by a Kenya Police Reserve pilot.

We are doing well in the football world. Two of our players, Corporal Burke and Signalman Taylor, have been selected to represent Kenya. Several of our players have played for the local Army team and one civilian club has seven of our men in its team. We have entered a Royal Signals team in the F.A. Cup of Kenya, combining with the Army Wireless Chain Signal Squadron. Should both Royal Signals and the Army win their first round games they meet in the second round. We're all eager for this to happen and to set up a new record by beating the Army.

In the East Africa Inter-Services Boxing Championships we entered five competitors. Sergeant Porter, flyweight, won a " walk-over." Signalman Newman, featherweight, and Corporal Rowlands, light-middleweight, were beaten in the finals. Lance-Corporal Phillips, light-welterweight, and Signalman Martin, heavyweight, were both beaten in the semi-finals.

Lance-Corporal Robinson has been selected for the trials for the local Combined Services hockey team.

T.A. and A.E.R.

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

Now that the distractions of summer are passing, T.A. engagements are once again crowding the week-end pages of our diaries. Indeed, some week-ends promise to be very overcrowded, the last one in September being a case in point. On the Saturday we are providing wireless communications for the National Association Rowing Championships at Hammersmith during the day and holding a social and dance in the evening; on the Sunday there is a day of training for our N.S. men and in the evening the B.B.C. Television Service are producing their show " Down You Go " in the drill hall. It's a busy life in the T.A.

A glorious day at Bisley on the occasion of the combined Regimental and Old Comrades' Rifle Meeting was enjoyed by large contingents from both the Regiment and the Association on the first Sunday in September. It was a successful day for the Sergeants' Mess, both the Individual Challenge Cup and the Inter-Ranks Cup going into their trophy case.

H.Q. 61 ARMY SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

The Regiment entered a team in the Motor Cycle Turn-out Competition at the District Show, the only entry by a T.A. Regiment, and came an honourable second, being beaten, after extra judging, by our good friends 5 Corps Signal Regiment. We look forward to changing places with them in next year's competition.

In the District Motor Cycle Trials the team from 161 Independent Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron was third in the district placing, a very satisfactory result considering the opposition over a very stiff course. This and 162 Independent Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron are now departing to Salisbury Plain for the end of the long succession of camps at which we have been busy all the summer, and on our return we hope to have many contacts on the amateur radio band, so listen for us, G.3 HLE, on each Tuesday and Friday evening.

★

2 Squadron H.Q., together with 25 Engineer Group Signal Troop (T.A.), and 122 and 134 Corps Engineer Regiment Signal Troops (T.A.), have recently returned from their annual camp training at Halton.

The initial training consisted of individual trade training, culminating during the middle week-end with a three-day exercise organised by 25 Engineer Group H.Q. for 134 Corps Engineer Regiment and the Royal Signals at camp.

The main R.E. task was the erection of a class 40 Bailey bridge over a river, which was completed in the time allowed, and the excitement of the R.E. was soon apparent in the Signals—everyone feeling that he had contributed in some way to the success of the task.

The saying that " Old soldiers never die " was brought home in reality to the line party—on arrival at a certain house, whilst laying lines, they were greeted by someone carrying a tray of cups of tea. " I saw you coming down the road," he said, " and being an old Corps lineman, I knew you would like a cuppa char as we did years ago." Thank you very much, Mr. X.

After the exercise had finished the Squadron assembled at a suitable hotel in Lancaster for its second annual dinner and a very happy evening followed.

It will be a long time before the Sappers forget about a certain Signal's Orderly Officer who, having received his duties for the day, stepped back smartly, saluted, and found that he had stepped into a fire bucket full of water.

Many useful lessons were learned during camp, and it was most gratifying to see the real " team spirit " which existed between the Sappers and the Signals.

24 ENGINEER GROUP SIGNAL TROOP (T.A.)

24 Engineer Group Signal Troop (T.A.) and 125 Engineer Regiment Signal Troop (T.A.) attended the R.E. Bridging Camp, Halton, Lancs., from 26th July to 9th August with 125 Corps Engineer Regiment (T.A.).

The camp was visited on the 29th July by the G.O.C.-in-C. Western Command, who inspected the Command vehicle acting as control station during a " Skywave " exercise. The following day the Unit was inspected by the C.S.O. Western Command, Brigadier D. St. J. Hoysted, who accompanied the Chief Engineer, Western Command, on a visit to the camp.

On Sunday, 2nd August, the Commander of 24 Engineer Group (T.A.) took the salute at a march past following a

church service, and afterwards presented Coronation Medals to recipients in the Engineer Regiment and the Signal Troop.

The Engineer Regiment and the 24 Engineer Group Signal Troop took part in a three-day bridging gallop, Exercise "Acrostyx III," during the second week of camp, and provided the wireless and line communications whilst the Engineer Regiment built a 90-feet Bailey bridge over the River Wyre and a 350-feet F.B.E. over the River Ribble.

53 (W) INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT (T.A.)

The camping season is now over and the Regiment has five camps to look back on. 2 Squadron went in May with the Divisional Artillery to Sennybridge; two Brigade Troops went to Bellerby with their respective Brigades in July, the third to Stamford in August. Our main regimental camp, however, was at Brecon from 26th July to 9th August, where the Unit was accommodated at the W.E.T.C., only the officers being under canvas. Our chief task was preparing for and taking part in Exercise "Crown Jewel," a four-day exercise with Divisional Headquarters, which required the full divisional communications. To form the skeleton Brigade and R.A. Troops, 120 A.E.R. tradesmen and 30 R.A.S.C. drivers were attached for the camp period and were cheerfully absorbed into our activities. The Unit settled down well to a busy two weeks. We were fortunate in both the weather and in the excellent co-operation shown by all members of the Regiment. Two "warming-up" exercises, a night convoy and the setting up of Divisional Headquarters in the first week contributed to the success of "Crown Jewel," the Regiment receiving a good report from both the G.O.C. and the C.S.O., who umpired us.

We were active in other spheres besides our training. A Families' Day was held the first week-end, the arrangements being in the experienced hands of the W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess. Over 100 families and friends made the journey from Cardiff to be entertained to lunch, at which a section of the Corps Orchestra played, and in the evening enjoyed an All Ranks' dance.

The annual Officers v. The Rest cricket match was played in the afternoon before a partisan crowd, the officers winning by a narrow margin. It should be mentioned that Western Command provided two leading members of the officers' team. The C.S.O., Brigadier Hoysted, who opened with our C.O., Lieutenant-Colonel Goldsmith, and Lieutenant Inman, made a much-needed 50.

"C" (Cable) Troop Detachment at Annual Camp

The Commanding Officer, Lieut.-Colonel D. J. Goldsmith, Major V. F. A. Thorpe (T.A.), and the Adjutant, Captain P. A. M. Tighe

A dinner was held in the Officers' Mess to honour our new Honorary Colonel, Major C. G. Traherne, the Lord Lieutenant of Glamorgan. Among the guests were the Lord Lieutenant of Breconshire, the G.O.C., Major-General Bastyan, the C.S.O., the Chairman and Secretary of the Glamorgan T.A. Association, and several of the Divisional Staff. Colonel R. C. Seel, our retiring Honorary Colonel, was unfortunately unable to attend due to ill-health. The Corps Orchestra provided music before and during dinner. In a speech welcoming Major Traherne, the Commanding Officer gave a succinct precis of the Regiment's history from 1908 to the present day, to which the Honorary Colonel made reply.

There is more to tell and much has been omitted. Many of our T.A. stalwarts are still with us; their efforts did much, as always, to make things a success. Some old faces have gone, notably Majors Cox and Husbands, and new ones have arrived, including Major Thorpe and Captain Taylor, our own R.E.M.E. officer. We have said farewell also to the "Doctor," Lieutenant-Colonel Mullen, who has been returned to the R.A.M.C. with much regret. We also have a new Quartermaster and Adjutant, both of whom are by now "broken in," we feel. But the more personal details are not for these columns, we shall keep them to ourselves, and let this be our report on Annual Camp, 1953.

ASSOCIATION NOTES

The following figures are given to show that the Association is making progress.

	1952	1953
New Life Members—August ...	34	132
Period 1st January to 31st August	388	695
New Annual Members enrolled at H.Q.—August	50	60
Period 1st January to 31st August	694	784
Renewals at H.Q.—Period 1st January to 31st August ...	947	1,086

The fact that more and more men are taking a pride in being "a Signalman" is exemplified by the turnover of Association goods, sales "over the counter" at H.Q. alone being £82 in 1952 and £200 during the corresponding period of 1953.

Royal Signals Benevolent Fund

Also on this page is a simple statement of income and expenditure. Below an attempt is made to describe with suitable anonymity eight cases taken at random from the office of the Welfare Section at 88 Eccleston Square.

Ex-Corporal, 1944-46. A small grant was made to help with very heavy and unusual expenditure caused by the serious illness of his wife.

Ex-Driver, 1942-47. Subsequently became blind and has been undergoing a course of training to fit him for employment as a lathe operator. His income prior to this was precarious and to enable him to restart the Fund made a grant to reclothe him.

Ex-Signalman, 1945-48. He is married, one child, he became incurably sick in 1952 and is bedridden. The British Legion and the Benevolent Fund combine to augment the small income he receives from the State.

N.C.O., 1948, still serving. Married, children. He has been put to very heavy expense by reason of the illness of his wife and the death of two children. The Fund helped by grant and loan.

Signalman, 1946, still serving. Married, two children. He is in hospital. The Fund helped his wife with cost of fares to visit him.

Signalman, 1952, died 1953. The Fund helped his parents to visit him before he died.

Driver, 1943-46. Married, four children. Miner, became ill and must have an operation, and then change his employment. Had incurred considerable liabilities to hire purchase all of which were very nearly paid off when his health failed. The fund helped to put this right for him.

Widow of Signalman. Killed in action, 1945. SSAFA look after her and her children and the Benevolent Fund recently helped her again financially.

ROYAL SIGNALS BENEVOLENT FUND

Subscriptions received during August, 1953:—

	£	s.	d.
Singapore District Signal Regiment	20	0	0
Vienna Signal Troop	5	0	0
P.R.I. Funds, Royal Signals, Klagenfurt	5	0	0
68 A.A. Independent (M) Signal Squadron	5	0	0
10 Wireless Training Squadron	4	10	0
12 Wireless Squadron	3	8	0
1 Special Communications Regiment	2	2	0
Western Command Signal Regiment	1	3	0
49 (W.R. & M.) Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment	10	0	0
56 Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment	5	5	0
43 (W) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment	2	0	0
Donations received during August, 1953:—			
Royal Signals M.E.L.F. Benevolent Fund	300	0	0
Bournemouth Branch	2	2	0
Chester Branch		15	0
Mr. C. A. Newton		5	0
Mr. J. Smyth		1	6
Total Receipts	£366	11	6

Expenditure during August, 1953 ... ... £371 9 11
(Includes: Rent and Rates; Beds and Bedding; Cots and Prams; Rehabilitation; Hire Purchase; Removals.)

Analysis of cases:

Families of soldiers serving in U.K.	4
" " " " " B.A.O.R.	1
" " " " " M.E.L.F.	1
" " " " " FARELF	2
" " " " " E. AFRICA	1
Widows and Dependents	2
Released and Discharged soldiers	43
Total cases assisted	54

Sports

ROYAL SIGNALS (SINGAPORE) CRICKET CLUB

Report on the Season 1953

Although no players of exceptional merit have been available, the Royal Signals (Singapore) Cricket Club has had a most successful season. This success has been due to our being able to build up a well-balanced side, which has had the advantage of being able to play as a team throughout almost the whole season. The team finished the season with the excellent record of seven matches played, six won and only one lost, thus worthily upholding the reputation of the Corps in FARELF.

Singapore District Signal Regiment provided the nucleus of the Corps team, being the only Regiment fortunate enough to be able to raise a Regimental side. The Corps team was skippered by Major T. S. Foster, who was well supported in the field by the pace bowling of Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Evan Nepean and Captain S. A. Frost, in addition to his own, whilst the slow spinners, Signalman Cocksedge and Sergeant Hill, were equally successful. The batting was strong throughout, the most successful players being Major F. L. Clarkson (who has represented the Corps regularly for the past three seasons), Second-Lieutenant M. J. H. Williams, Signalman Floyd and Signalman Cocksedge.

All the opposing teams commented on the keenness and high standard of the fielding, and particular mention must be made of the brilliance of Signalman Washbrook in any position on the field.

The annual two-day match against Royal Signals, Malaya, was played in Singapore on 8th and 9th August. The weather was perfect on both days, and although we won rather easily the game was a thoroughly enjoyable one and keenly contested.

ROYAL SIGNALS (SINGAPORE)

Standing: Major F. E. Marshall (umpire), Sigmn. Jackson, Captain S. A. Frost, 2/Lieut. M. J. Williams, Sigmn. Washbrook, Sigmn. Floyd, Sigmn. Cocksedge, W.O.I Fry (scorer). Seated: Major P. Smith, Major F. L. Clarkson, M.B.E., Major T. S. Foster (capt.), Lieut.-Colonel Sir E. Nepean, Bart., Sgt. Hill

Major C. A. Clarke has been president of the Cricket Sub-Committee throughout the season, and Captain S. A. Frost resumed the duties of secretary when Lieutenant V. S. Smith returned to U.K. to attend a regular commissions board.

A photograph of the team and the results of matches played and the batting and bowling averages are as under.

Results

v. R.A.P.C., won by 53 runs.
v. R.A. (Malaya), won by 3 wickets.
v. R.A.E.C., won by 98 runs.
v. Singapore Cricket Club "A," won by 93 runs.
v. Royal Signals, Malaya, won by innings and 86 runs.
v. R.E.M.E., lost by 2 wickets.
v. R.A.M.C., won by 4 wickets.

Batting Averages

	Played	Runs	Not Out	Highest Score	Average
Signalman Floyd	4	113	2	41	56.5
Signalman Cocksedge	7	111	2	36	22.2
Second-Lieutenant Williams	7	148	0	47	21.4
Major Clarkson	7	112	0	39	16.0
Major Foster	7	102	0	21	14.57
Lieutenant V. Smith	3	24	1	19	12.0
Signalman Jackson	4	46	0	28	11.5
Captain Frost	5	45	1	20	11.25
Major P. Smith	7	78	0	43	11.14
Signal Washbrook	7	53	0	16	9.0
Lieutenant-Colonel Nepean	7	40	1	17	6.66
Sergeant Hill	3	8	0	6	2.66

Bowling Averages

	O.	M.	R.	W.	Av.
Signalman Floyd	4	0	7	3	2.33
Sergeant Hill	11	1	40	7	5.7
Signalman Cocksedge	56.5	16	108	18	6
Captain Frost	84.5	22	193	21	9.2
Lieutenant-Colonel Nepean	48.8	7	102	9	11.33
Major Foster	57.5	16	141	10	14.1

Triangular Sailing Regatta

R.A.—R.E.—ROYAL SIGNALS—B.A.O.R., 1953

THE Fourth Annual Triangular Regatta was held at Dummersee, by the courtesy of the Dummersee Yacht Club, on Thursday and Friday, 27th and 28th August, Royal Signals being the hosts this year.

The meeting resulted in the fourth consecutive win for the Royal Atillery, but on this occasion the Royal Signals' team finished in second place, avenging their defeat by the Royal Engineers last year.

A comparison of the points for the last two years is as follows:—

1952

R.A. 1st, 255 pts. R.E. 2nd, 221 pts. R. Signals 3rd, 157 pts.

1953

R.A. 1st, 221 pts. R.E. 3rd, 153 pts. R. Signals 2nd, 165 pts.

The difference in total points is accounted for by the fact that slightly fewer races were sailed, and the "Pirate" Class this year replaced the "Star" Class of last year with a different points-counting system.

The event took place in almost perfect weather, which lasted throughout the regatta. Throughout the morning and early afternoon of the first day the wind was W.S.W., steady and moderately fresh; in the late afternoon it veered W.N.W. and dropped for an hour, but freshened towards evening. On the second day the wind was S.W. and on the whole fresher, but more variable with some strong puffs to test the unwary. In fact, one of our Gunner adversaries capsized in one of these puffs, but the victims made a most creditable recovery, righting and baling their craft and continuing the race to finish fourth!

The Gunners produced a strong and experienced team this year, many of whom were members of the Dummersee Yacht Club with first-hand knowledge of the water and conditions. From the outset it was clear that they were the best team, and the issue was never seriously in doubt. With certain notable exceptions they were, on the whole, a light team, and this might have operated to their disadvantage had the force of the wind been even stronger. But their helmsmanship was of a very high order, particularly in the "Pirate" Class in which they took first place five times and second place three times. In the "Sharpie" Class their team was rather less consistent, but still formidable. Individually, Lieutenant-Colonel Graeme and Major Waller proved our most damaging opponents in the "Pirate" Class, and Major Chilver-Stainer in the "Sharpie" Class.

The Sappers had a younger and less experienced team and lost many points through insufficient knowledge of the rules, with consequent disqualifications. This was to some extent offset by the brilliant sailing of Second-Lieutenant de St. Croix, who gained three firsts in the "Sharpie" Class, and the steady and consistent helming of Captain Wade in the same class, who was always up with the leaders. In the "Pirates," however, the Sappers did not fare so well, though Second-Lieutenant Hay scored a solitary first.

The Royal Signals' team was better co-ordinated this year, and exhibited a better knowledge of the racing rules. There were some good examples of teamwork and covering. The starting technique, however, clearly needed improvement, much distance being lost by poorly judged starts. The rounding of marks, particularly on the gybe, was also below standard. Individually, Major Morton gained second place three times and Major Brindley third place twice in the "Pirate" Class. Captain Pounds scored the only Royal Signals individual win in the "Sharpie" Class, while Lieutenant Goodley took a second and a third place, and Lieutenant-Colonel Rowett and Major Newbold each a second place in the same class.

The meeting finished with two hotly contested ladies' races, in which the crews (in many cases husbands) were clearly being subjected to a variety of forceful directives from their keenly-competing skippers. Fortunately the nature of these exhortations could not be heard from the bridge! Royal Signals were well represented in the outcome, Mrs. Bradley finishing a close third in the "Pirate" Class, closely followed by Mrs. Brindley, and Miss Newbold and Mrs. Bircumshaw taking second and third places respectively in the "Sharpie" Class.

The shield and prizes were presented by Mrs. D. W. R. Burridge, wife of the Chief Signal Officer, 1 (G.B.) Corps.

The work of referee, bridgemaster and chief judge was ably carried out by Brigadier J. S. Starling, C.B.E. (Retired), of H.Q. Rhine District. In a meeting of this type it was inevitable that protests and appeals to the sailing rules were frequent. The difficulties of sailing on a shallow lake on which only half centre-plate could be used, with fan-starts and all the usual imbroglios at close quarters round marks, caused the Protest Committee to be kept very busy. Brigadier Starling remained tireless and unruffled throughout, in delivering his shrewd and absolutely fair judgments. In this difficult work he was assisted by Lieutenant-Colonel G. F. de Gex, R.A., on behalf of the Gunners, by Lieutenant-Colonel K. N. Wylie, D.S.O., M.B.E., R.E., on the first day and by Colonel T. P. Brown, O.B.E., on the second day on behalf of the Sappers, and by Lieutenant-Colonel W. B. Rowett, Royal Signals, on behalf of Royal Signals.

Tabulated results were as follows:—

Royal Signals Team

Lieutenant-Colonel W. B. Rowett.
Lieutenant-Colonel P. E. M. Bradley, D.S.O. (team captain).
Major C. Newbold.
Major R. M. Bircumshaw.
Major A. D. Brindley, M.B.E.
Major P. P. H. Morton.
Captain D. L. Pounds.
Captain D. H. Thursby-Pelham.
Lieutenant F. C. Goodley.
Lieutenant R. Barrett.
Lieutenant T. E. Grice.
Second-Lieutenant J. P. Hindle.

Yacht maintenance throughout the meeting was capably handled by the Royal Signals reserves, Captains R. Trelawny and M. L. Willway.

BISLEY 1953

The Corps was again well represented at this year's A.R.A. Central Meeting at Bisley. Seven Unit teams attended and two more would have done so but for lack of accommodation both in the A.R.A. camp and on the ranges.

Among the Unit teams the standard of shooting, with one or two exceptions, was not high. However, the main purpose of the meeting is to raise the standard of shooting in the Army as a whole and it is certain that the standard of shooting of our teams did go up during the meeting. This brings out once more the necessity for sufficient practice and preparation before the meeting. It is only by sending teams to Bisley that the standard can be raised.

In the inter-Unit match 1 Training Regiment was placed ninth out of a total of 52 teams, a most creditable effort since the conditions of the match are far from easy.

Captain K. E. P. Andrews was the Corps only representative in the Army Hundred and the Army XX. He was placed sixth in the Army Hundred Cup match. Several other members of the Corps drew blood in the way of prizes, and some effort was spent by all in competing in the various sideshows, which are as good a consolation as any after a bad shoot in a match.

Cannot you persuade one other to buy
"THE WIRE"?

A more successful note was struck by the Corps team in the Methuen Cup match. Last year, due to lack of talent and a series of misfortunes, we were placed last in a field of 28. This year, however, we made a much better showing and were placed 24th in a field of 31. Those who shot for the Corps and their scores are as follows:—

	Highest 600	Possible 6-100	Score 200 300 Rapid	300 Snap	Total
Lieutenant-Colonel H. Winterbotham, O.B.E.	43	36	42	46	167
Major H. K. Milward	44	24	37	42	147
Captain K. E. P. Andrews (team captain)	42	45	47	47	181
Sergeant Wright	38	41	28	43	150
Corporal G. T. Nicholas	41	33	38	36	148
Lance-Corporal P. T. Nicholas	41	22	35	32	130
Signalman Simister	34	34	37	44	149
Signalman Levick	40	42	32	17	131

Total 1,203.

Reserves for the Corps team were Captain A. C. Bate and Captain D. W. W. Cooper.

Courtesy: Gale & Polden Ltd.

ROYAL SIGNALS METHUEN CUP TEAM, 1953

Standing (left to right): Sigmn. Levick, Captain A. C. Bate (Reserve), L/Corporal P. T. Nicholas, Sergeant Wright. Sitting: Corporal B. T. Nicholas, Lieut.-Colonel H. Winterbotham, O.B.E., Captain K. E. P. Andrews (Team Captain), Major H. K. Milward, Sigmn. Simister. Reserve absent: Captain D. W. Cooper

MERCURY HOUSE, COLWYN BAY, VISITED

MONDAY, 24th August, the porter called out Colwyn Bay and the writer, accompanied by wife and small children, alighted from the train. A large taxi, of necessity large, was procured and for the princely sum of three shillings deposited us at the steps of a large, homely-looking house flanked by a pleasant garden and overlooking the sea. As the occupants disgorged from the large taxi they were greeted with open arms by Mrs. Barlow (arms akimbo, landladies for the use of not having been issued to Mercury House), and ushered to the various light and sunny rooms where they were to spend the fortnight to come. Having removed the dust of the journey by bathing in the ever-hot water supply, we sat down to an appetising and very welcome supper prepared and beautifully served by the chatelaine Mrs. Barlow, who throughout this period was working at a disadvantage, the demon of sickness having temporarily rendered Major Bob Barlow incommunicado.

Colwyn Bay itself is a delightful spot and is particularly attractive to those who want a restful holiday where the children can always find plenty to do. The swimming, bathing and beach are particularly suitable for young children and grown-ups alike.

Mercury House itself is vastly different from boarding houses and hotels, and although parents still spend a lot of time telling children not to make a noise and don't do this, that and t'other, the genial host does not restrict children's games in any way and, in fact, seems to delight in the "shrill and childish trebles." The bedrooms are light and airy and quite commodious, and the fare is wholesome, appetising and of good variety. Having spent a very pleasant holiday at Mercury House the writer thanks Major and Mrs. Barlow and recommends a similar holiday to anyone wanting a really pleasant holiday at Mercury House, Colwyn Bay.

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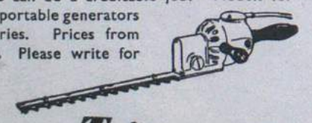

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Cricket

Corps cricket match v. R.A.C. Training Brigade at Catterick on 14th-15th August. Royal Signals won by 10 wickets. Scores:—

1st innings: R.A.C. 204—Royal Signals 273.
2nd innings: R.A.C. 125—Royal Signals 57 for no wkt.

Cycling

The cycling team of 7 Training Regiment, Royal Signals, gained the following successes towards the Army Cycling Union Inter-Unit Challenge Cup:—

Army 25 Miles Time Trial.
1st—3 Battalion R.A.O.C. ... ... 422 points
2nd—7 Training Regiment ... ... 346 points
Army 50 Miles Time Trial.
1st—3 Battalion R.A.O.C. ... ... 420 points
2nd—7 Training Regiment ... ... 389 points
Army Massed Start Championship.
1st—7 Training Regiment ... ... 433 points
2nd—3 Battalion R.A.O.C. ... ... 401 points

In addition, four of the team, Signalmen J. Grieves and T. A. Oldfield, and Lance-Corporals A. S. Brittain and H. Mackensie have represented Northern Command and the Army.

Also, the Army Sprint Championships held at Herne Hill over 440 yards on 22nd July were won by Lance-Corporal H. Mackensie.

Swimming

Result of the Army Inter-Unit Swimming Championships held at Aldershot on 29th August:—

1st ... 4 Battalion R.E.M.E. ... ... 45 points
2nd ... 9 Battalion R.A.O.C. ... ... 43 points
3rd ... Depot R.A.M.C. ... ... 28 points
4th ... 7 Training Regiment, Royal Signals 25 points

Tennis Results

Royal Signals Championships, held at Catterick on 21st and 22nd August.

Open Singles.
Winner ... ... Corporal R. Innes ... 1 War Office Signal Regiment
Runner-up ... Major H. M. C. D. Chapman ... ... 1 War Office Signal Regiment

Open Doubles.
Winners ... ... Major H. M. C. D. Chapman, Corporal R. Innes ... 1 War Office Signal Regiment
Runners-up ... Major E. J. Buirski, Signalman A. Torkington ... ... 7 Training Regiment / 4 Training Regiment

Regimental Doubles.
Winners ... ... Major H. M. C. D. Chapman, Corporal R. Innes ... 1 War Office Signal Regiment
Runners-up ... Major E. J. Buirski, Captain S. Gant 7 Training Regiment

Other Ranks' Doubles.
Winners ... ... Signalman W. Harries, Signalman G. Cooper ... ... Scottish Command (M) Signal Regiment
Runners-up ... Signalman V. Krikorian, Signalman E. Laxton ... ... 4 Training Regiment

Other Ranks' Singles.
Winner ... ... Corporal R. Innes ... 1 War Office Signal Regiment
Runner-up ... Signalman V. Krikorian ... ... 4 Training Regiment

Amendments No. 9 to the Blue Book 1953

DELETIONS—TRADES ROSTER

34	6288	12076	13362	14194	14849	15670
206	6383	12080	13380	14208	14877	15676
228	6426	12113	13390	14213	14905	15691
257	6492	12117	13392	14258	14917	15777
428	6521	12128	13507	14259	14930	15789
706A	6541	12157	13508	14260	14962	15790
715	6558	12168	13509	14261	14984	15797
868	6568	12171	13510	14283	14996	15803
1320	6582	12185	13512	14295	15017	15827
1451	6589	12186	13514	14313	15020	15843
1522	6671	12187	13528	14353	15021	15865
1856	6768	12189	13551	14356	15025	15874
1859	6800	12275	13575	14359	15030	15891
1962	6806	12296	13576	14364A	15042	15905
2106	6819A	12436	13596	14368	15068	15906
2229	6820	12458	13597	14376	15075	15908
2253	6837	12504	13613	14377	15110	15935
2383	10061	12534	13618	14393	15121	15943
2443	10105	12562	13626	14394	15143	15962
2564	10179	12563	13648	14415	15160A	15997
2589	10209	12627	13649	14453	15176	16012
2608	10333	12692	13655	14455	15179A	16018
2657	10339	12693	13656	14459	15199	16029
2671	10361	12712	13666	14466A	15205	16035
5004	10384	12716	13678	14493A	15235	16040
5136	10429	12718	13694	14514	15374	16068
5360	10436	12751	13711	14548	15379	16072
5397	10475	12795	13714	14549	15387	16077
5423	10476	12838	13719	14560	15395	16091
5484	10506	12858	13729	14563	15406	16108
5490	10841	12860	13751	14580A	15411	16115
5537	10850	12983	13768	14596	15418	16152
5698	10858	12986	13791	14597	15419	16155
5720	10903	13015	13810	14598	15436	16167
5730	10923	13058	13820	14599	15446	16171
5788	11063	13059	13829	14600	15451	16184
5791	11095	13088	13835	14603	15457	16197
5803	11285	13089	13869	14626	15511	16263
5815	11448	13090	13883	14640	15535	16280
5854	11496	13135	13889	14657	15539	16284
5868	11550	13199	13900	14684	15564	16315
5892	11618	13213	13951	14739B	15591	16340
5927	11674	13235	13955	14745	15596	16346
6013	11723	13244	13982	14758	15602	16428
6029	11744	13251	14042	14774	15604	16462
6113	11784	13266	14119	14785	15615	16497
6130	11827	13347	14132	14796	15630	16527
6145	11849	13349	14134	14841	15635	16563

DELETIONS—CIPHER ROSTER

250	5055	5145	5155	5169	5199	5236
1300A	5074	5150	5159	5186	5202	5255A
5006	5076	5152	5161	5195	5216	5284
5011A	5101	5153	5164	5196	5217	5303
5035A	5134	5154				

DELETIONS GENERAL DUTIES ROSTER

1303	5033	10047	10129	10162	10177	10190
5020	10010A	10107	10154	10176	10178	10192
5030	10031	10125	10161			

TRADES ROSTER—ADD "Q"

865	5816	6159	6797	10850	11793	13136
882	5827	6531	6833	11358	11888	13497
2712	6014	6537	10843			13669

CIPHER ROSTER—ADD "Q"

1320A 5020A 5027 5110

GENERAL DUTIES ROSTER—ADD "Q"

10162 10195

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THE WIRE

The Corps Magazine of the
ROYAL SIGNALS
The Official Organ of the
SIGNALS ASSOCIATION

Editor:
BRIGADIER 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.*

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☆

NOVEMBER • 1953
Vol. 7 *New Series* **No. 11**

☆

PRICE ONE SHILLING

Editorial

TRIESTE

SO BETFOR SIGNALS is another on our list where Royal Signals arrived, made a home, enhanced our reputation in work and play and then, a task well done, the unit appears no more in our list. To the Infantry who move in complete Battalions Trieste is "just another place—pleasant—but only an incident." To us it was a Royal Signals station a permanency for seven years to which anyone might be posted. Old numbers of THE WIRE contain many such names of nostalgic memory.

ROYAL CANADIAN CORPS OF SIGNALS

There is food for thought in the celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Corps of Signals of Canada. On this side there was little we could do on 24th October except to send them greetings.

Details are lacking except that representative detachments of all Units of Royal Canadian Signals assembled at Vimy Barracks, Kingston, for a two-day celebration.

"THROUGH"

Very many have seen and admired the famous picture which expresses so poignantly the ideals for which we serve. An artist's copy is to be hung in the Royal Signals Chapel in St. Martins Church at Catterick Camp.

Appropriately the cost, some £70, is to be borne by the Royal Signals Association, and Branches thereof all over the world have been asked to help defray the cost.

Monies subscribed over and above the required sum will go to provide much needed silver trumpets to the Band of 6 (Boys) Training Regiment. It is thought that many individuals will wish to add their mite to these two most worthy causes. Cheques and postal orders should be sent to Royal Signals Association, 88 Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1, with a note that the money is to be allocated to "THROUGH."

CHRISTMAS

Traditionally the Christmas number of THE WIRE appears in December but this, the November number, is the one which will reach "Signalmen" stationed East of Suez nearest to December 25th.

THE WIRE sends all good wishes to them for what we hope will be a peaceful Christmas and our hopes that good fortune will attend their endeavour in work and play in 1954.

All of us at home who sleep in our own beds on Christmas night will remember the very many the world over who will be on duty.

In the December issue of THE WIRE will be found the Order Form for 1954. It is hoped that readers will remit their subscriptions at an early date, prior to 31st December if possible.

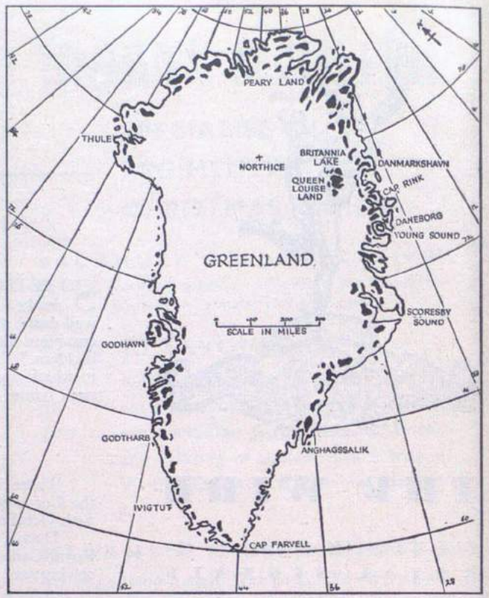
ALL ORDERS NOT PAID BY THE 1st FEBRUARY, 1954, WILL BE DELETED FROM THE MAILING LIST.

This does not affect Bankers' Order payments.

A year with the British North Greenland Expedition

by Captain J. S. Agar, Royal Signals

PART II



BY the end of October both expedition bases were fully established and preparing for the winter routine. Throughout this period the hut at Britannia Lake was to have twenty occupants, and Northice a crew of three including one operator.

The two expedition mechanics—both Staff Sergeants from R.E.M.E.—were to spend the winter at Danmarkshavn, the Danish weather station at which the weasels had arrived after their journey across the sea-ice from Cap Rink, where they "swam" ashore from Tottan in late August.

Before the expedition had left London, a programme of research based on constant monitoring of all radio bands had been planned. We were now in a position to start on this, the brunt of which fell on C.P.O. H. Dean, R.N., who has spent long hours at the receivers. Some interesting results have come to light particularly on the broadcast band.

We found that the Home Services, especially the "West of England Programme," were with us in good strength during the winter evenings, by 1700 G.M.T. the signals usually improved sufficiently for Children's Hour to make itself understood. Throughout the evening the programmes were almost uninterrupted, except during periods when heavy winds, carrying drift-snow off the icecap, charged the aerials and made listening on any band impossible—and the handling of the aerial switchboard a mistake not willingly repeated.

During the winter "Radio Luxemburg" has also made good listening, as have many American stations discussing everything from sex to sox. The "Light" programme on long wave makes its appearance for a short time during the summer months.

The "Home Link" to Whitehall was worked daily throughout the winter using the W.S. 53 or in event of power failure the C. 52. Only when conditions were extremely unfavourable did we fail to establish this link. Usually a dipole aerial has been used for transmission. Unfortunately due to the nature of the terrain and the proximity of the lake, the erection of a rhombic has been out of the question.

A close liaison was kept with the Danish weather stations on the coast, and at Christmas and week-ends gramophone concerts were broadcast on the W.S. 53. Reception and quality were said to be excellent.

In November we were cheered by a series of conversations with *H.M.S. Vanguard* during her winter cruise when she was in northern waters. Admiral Creasey, C.-in-C. Home Fleet, himself spoke to the expedition.

The sending and receipt of private telegrams routed through Angmagssalik, came to a climax in the Christmas period when over three hundred personal telegrams were handled by the radio office.

One of our heaviest tasks during the winter period of total darkness was the provision of lighting for the base, and power for the scientists. Due to the accident with the Petter generator, the use of A.C. had to be strictly controlled, and lighting was done with 24 volt D.C. circuits charged by a 12.60 watt charger, which did excellent service, running for up to sixteen hours per day. In spite of temperatures down to −35°F. in the generator room, comparatively little difficulty was experienced in starting this, or the smaller 300 watt engines. Additional charging facilities were provided by wind generators, which in this part of the world are particularly useful.

The duties of an Expedition Signal Officer are by no means confined solely to communications, and the monotony was broken on occasions by journeys in support of the scientists—perhaps manpacking food and supplies across the glaciers, or a trip with a husky team to lay depots—a pleasant change from base routine.

One such outing entailed a ski trip with a man-hauled sledge, and the building of an igloo for a future party. The putting on of the igloo roof was certainly a pantomime; thrice victory proclaimed by the "inside architect" was emphatically denied by a block of snow landing on his head. Unfortunately we did not have a Primus with which to "seal" the igloo, and when the tenants arrived, sad to relate, only one wall had withstood the battering of the winds. Igloo building needs practice!!

Cooking week was a diversion which turned up all too frequently. By necessity we can all pass as experienced cooks and bread-makers. The standard of cooking was high and one was looked down on for putting "a-few-tins-in-the-oven" and hoping for the best. To such a critical clientelle the presentation of lumpy custard, burnt cakes, or a soggy pie drew forth a series of scathing comments which defied repetition of such a crime.

There were plenty of varieties of recreation, with a large proportion of Scotsmen we had frequent "bouts" of Scottish dancing, the Deccalian gramophone had an ample supply of records—some of which I never want to hear again. We had a good, if predominantly classical library, but perhaps the most entertaining, the huskies and their puppies provided us with many hours of amusement. These dogs have the most lovable characters and to humans they are all smiles and tail-wagging, but the next minute they will be quite happy tearing each other's ears off and sometimes biting each other to death.

Other forms of activity during the winter included lectures on radio and propagation, acting as guinea pigs for the Physiologist with his various forms of minor tortures, and such mundane tasks as water carrying, snow digging and stores humping, not to mention sock mending and clothes repairs, luckily, with the aid of a sewing machine, electrically driven, but with a clutch like an old Ford making its use quite spectacular at times.

All the radio team have now learnt the art of meteorological observation and coding, although it is perhaps lucky that we do not have to cater for low flying aircraft in the vicinity. The observations are transmitted three times daily beginning at 0530. What a time to brave the elements and go out to read thermometers, in one's pyjamas!

The climate here is paradoxical, there is probably less snowfall during the year than during a winter at home—the snow is whipped up by the wind, and joined by the drift blown in from the icecap, is swept down to the coast, leaving the surface bare with snow banks up to eight or nine feet high on the lee-side of objects. Our radio room windows were blacked out by snow, and the generator exhausts formed for themselves a cave under an eight foot drift.

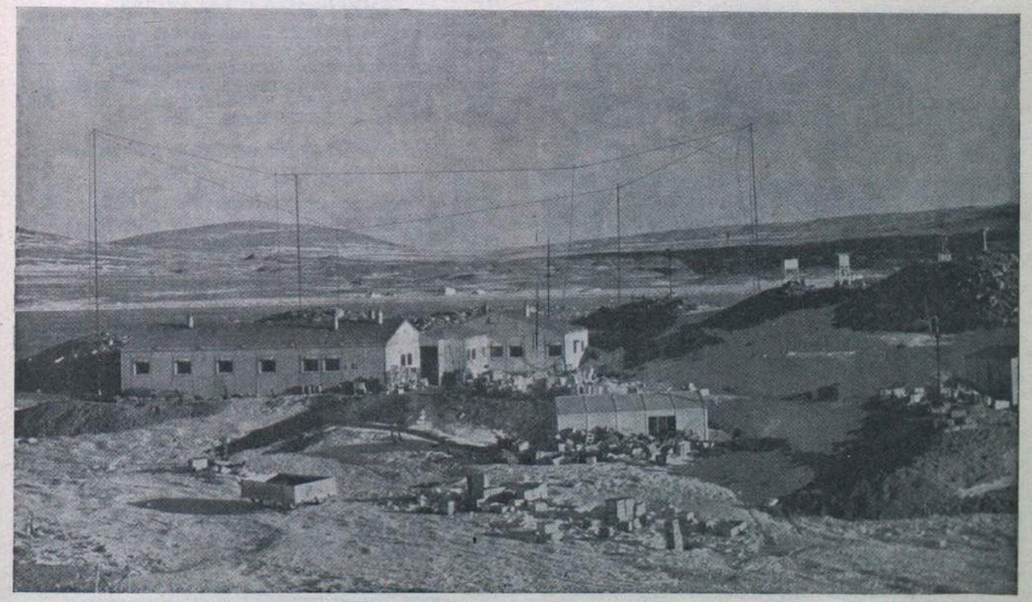
The cold is a dry cold, and at temperatures down to 0°F. one is relatively warmer than on an average wet cold day at home, but try to handle a petrol drum or a wire stay and the temperature soon becomes apparent. Bring a wind with the cold and the picture is very much reversed—one has to put on all one's garments for even a few minutes' exposure.

The darkness during the winter coupled with the cold has the effect that everyday tasks take over twice as long to accomplish, but then "Time," after all, when it is totally dark means little, and there is no division between day and night. Meteorological and radio routines force one to divide the day into twenty-four hours, but the general tendency is to have longer days less often.

At base the lowest temperature which we experienced was −43°F., but Northice, leading their secluded subterranean existence—for by now their hut was completely snow covered, and entry was effected by a hole leading into an ice tunnel—had temperatures down to −82°F.

Then came the spring—the first sight of the sun in February was indeed a great moment and gave one a new lease of life, the temperature began to rise, not much at first, but one was tempted to take an afternoon's ski-ing on the local boulder strewn slopes, or perhaps a trip with the dogs to photograph the first sun on the blue ice-cliffs of the glacier tongue.

In March activities were in full swing. The weasels were driven across the Storstromm glacier, the almost impassable barrier between Queen Louise Land and the coastal range, and were fitted out for their work on the icecap. Two teams



THE BASE HUT AT BRITANNIA LAKE.

The large portion is the living hut separated by a "fireproof" lobby from the laboratory hut in which are the radio and generator rooms. In the foreground is the Weasel garage and on the right, the Store. Note the wind generator near the store.

were formed, a "scismic" and a "gravity" team.

In May, Northice was relieved and the crew, after their eight months isolation, were brought back to base, where the thaw was beginning to add new problems to life. The level of the lake rose eight feet, completely immersing the base and pickets of one 72 ft. mast.

Each weasel team is equipped with W.S. 19 High Power, and whilst in crevassed areas, the teams called base daily. One member of each unit could use morse, but this was seldom necessary as contacts were successful on R.T. using the normal whip aerials, in spite of the varied distances involved being anything up to 300 miles.

The geologists—by coincidence both ex-Royal Signals—had been dog sledging in south Queen Louise Land. They had with a small crystal-controlled Marconi hand-generated set with an output power of two watts, and most weeks we heard them using voice up to ranges of 70 miles. Similarly the glaciologists can always be heard discussing radiation, ablation, sublimation, evaporation, and sometimes irritation with the aid of of the W.S. 62 on their glacier research stations.

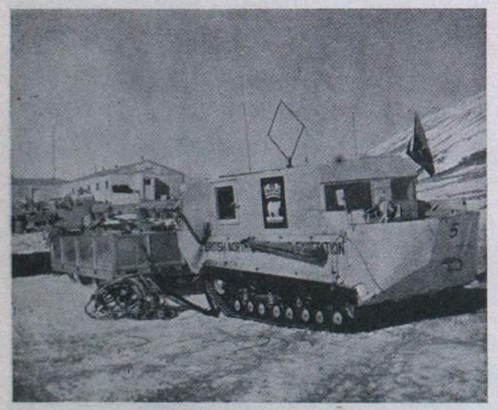
We were unable during the last winter to spend much time on the amateur bands, but Northice had regular, and very much appreciated evening socials with the American and Canadian arctic stations, whilst both phone and CW contacts with "G" stations were enjoyed. G3AAT/OX should however be heard more frequently next year, and will welcome all callers.

* * *

Who was the 'HAM' at Catterick with 27 years' service in The Corps, who said our modulation was 'abominable' but when he heard that we were using a "well-known" army set changed his tune and said it was "perfect"?

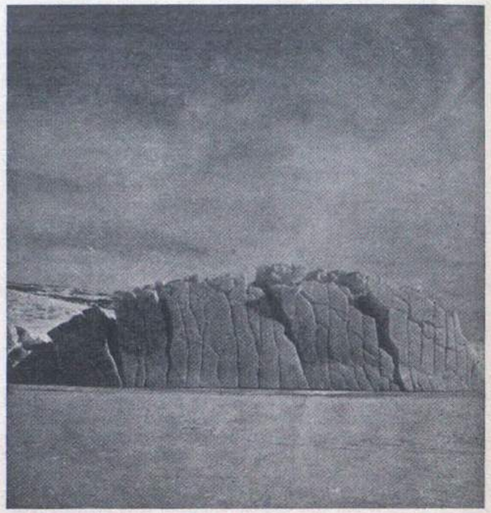
Editor's Note

Visiting THE WIRE, Captain Agar admitted he was a subscriber, and indeed WAS a reader of the magazine. Having left England in July 1952 the expedition received its first mail by Air drop in April 1953. All others received many letters. Captain Agar received no letters BUT a copy of the September WIRE. He never wants to see another; which is a measure of his generosity in writing this article for it.



A WEASEL WITH SLEDGE TRAILER

The vehicle is fitted with a W.S. 19 high power, an R.209 with a D.F. loop and a Pye "Reporter" set for VHF use. Note the Royal Signals flag on the port bow.



Ice pressure ridge rising out of the frozen lake at the glacier front. The advancing glacier has buckled the lake ice into this "dinosaurian" shape.

Taken in spring at the beginning of the thaw. The lake ice is approximately 7 feet thick.

EMPLOYMENT VACANCIES

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EMPLOYMENT FIGURES FOR QUARTER ENDING 30th SEPTEMBER, 1953

Applicants registered	47
Placings confirmed	25

PERSONAL COLUMN

Obituary

Lieutenant-Colonel R. A. Mackintosh, O.B.E. (retired) who was so ill in Millbank Hospital earlier this year died at his home in Tangiers on 25th October, 1953. On behalf of all his friends in Royal Signals THE WIRE offers very great sympathy to his wife and family.

Captain (Quartermaster) N. Mulcahy, Royal Signals

Many will have been very sorry to hear of the death of Captain (Q.M.) "Nick" Mulcahy on 20th September at Penketh near Warrington after 24 years in Royal Signals. He had been Q.M. of 4 A.A. (M) Signal Regiment for about one year until January, 1952, when he was very suddenly and unexpectedly laid low by a painful and distressing illness. Right up until then he had been very active, playing an exceptionally good game of hockey and of tennis, so that it was all the more of a shock to everyone, himself in particular, when we were first told the bad news.

He suffered his long illness with amazing fortitude, and his faith was unfailing, it was remarkable how when anyone visited him he was ever ready to make cheerful conversation.

He retired from the Army in January, 1953, but always continued to take an interest in the Corps. At his funeral tribute was paid to his loyal service by full military honours.

Mrs. Mulcahy is now living in their house at Penketh. The older of the two boys is at the Apprentice School, Harrogate, and we hope that he and perhaps his brother will be joining Royal Signals in due course.

PRESIDENT EISENHOWER MEETS HIS EX-CHIEF SIGNAL OFFICER

President Eisenhower relaxed from is affairs of state for 20 minutes on 5th October to receive his World War II Chief Signals Officer, Major-General Leslie B. Nicholls, now Chairman of Cable and Wireless Ltd.

They discussed war-time experiences and friendships, and the President was interested to hear of General Nicholls's peace-time work as head of the company which operates the British Commonwealth's integrated cable and wireless network—the world's largest.

General Nicholls served under President Eisenhower with the Allied Forces in the North African and Italian campaigns and with S.H.A.E.F. for 2½ years from 1943 to 1945.

President Eisenhower asked General Nicholls to convey his good wishes to Lord Alexander, Minister of Defence, Lieutenant-General Sir Frederick Morgan and Lieutenant-General Sir Humfrey Gale, as well as to others of his ex-associates.

On 6th October, General Nicholls met Major-General George I. Back, now Chief Signals Officer of the United States Army, and his deputy during the North African and Italian campaigns.

London Gazette

9th October, 1953.—Lieutenant-Colonel (Q.M.) J. S. Mitchell to R.A.R.O. on 11th October, 1953.

Movements—Officers

Major M. J. R. Fletcher, War Office, A.G.11 to 23 (S) Corps Signal Regiment, T.A.
Major J. W. Smith-Ainsley, 23 (S) Corps Signal Regiment, T.A. to Senior Officers' School.
Major A. L. Galloway, F.A.R.E.L.F. to U.K.
Major D. A. Nolan, M.E.L.F. to U.K.
Major L. C. P. Jaggard, M.E.L.F. to U.K.
Major A. J. Wildy, Ministry of Supply to F.A.R.E.L.F.
Major A. S. Lashmar, Ministry of Supply to M.E.L.F.
Major (T.O.T.) W. A. West, Ministry of Supply to Eastern Command Signal Regiment.
Lieutenant-Colonel (T.O.T.) A. F. Herbert, Depot Regiment to War Office.
Lieutenant-Colonel E. H. Clarke, H.Q. 1 A.A. Group to 62 H.Q. L. of C. Signal Regiment, T.A.
Lieutenant-Colonal T. W. Boileau, 62 H.Q. L. of C. Signal Regiment T.A. to R.A.R.O.
Major F. W. Stoneman, Ministry of Supply to 1 Special Base Signal Troop.
Major G. M. L. Claridge, A.L.F.C.E. to 2 Wireless Regiment.
Lieutenant-Colonel W. C. Burke, B.T.A. to 3 Training Regiment.
Lieutenant-Colonel G. H. Starr, 3 Training Regiment to Korea.
Lieutenant-Colonel A. L. Atkinson, J.S.S.C., to War Office, J.P.S.
Major F. A. Young, M.E.L.F. to Northern Army Group.
Major M. P. King, A.O.R.G. to M.E.L.F.
Major J. P. D. Mullaly, War Office to M.E.L.F.
Major C. M. Jenkins, School of Signals to M.E.L.F.

Arrivals and Departures

SHAPE Signal Squadron

Arrivals
Mrs. J. Grant, wife of W.O.II Grant.
Mrs. N. Brown, wife of S.Q.M.S. Brown.

Births

MEYER.—On 2nd September, 1953, at the Maternity Home, Middlesbrough, to S.Q.M.S. and Mrs. K. J. Meyer (S.R.N., S.C.M., Q..N.), 3 Training Regiment, a son, Geoffrey.

JAGGARD.—On 3rd October, 1953, to Lillian, wife of Major Philip Jaggard of Knipton, Grantham, a son, John Charles Philip.

CRAMPTON.—On 17th August, 1953, at Woolwich, London, to Jean, wife of Sergeant E. Crampton, SHAPE Signal Squadron, a son, Richard Edward.

STROVER.—On 6th October, 1953, at the R.A.F. Hospital, Rintein, B.A.O.R., to Sonia, wife of Captain M. C. Strover, a second daughter.

BRABHAM.—On 8th October, 1953, at Woolwich, to Captain and Mrs. J. B. S. Brabham, a daughter, Jill.

ELWOOD.—To Ex-Sergeant and Mrs. F. Elwood on 31st August, 1953, a daughter, Susan Elizabeth.

FANCHAMPS.—On 22nd August, 1953, at Catterick Military Hospital, to Driver and Mrs. Fanchamps, a daughter, Lyn Yvonne.

STEWART.—On 27th August, 1953, at Catterick Military Hospital to Sergeant and Mrs. W. Stewart, a daughter, Christine.

STOTT.—On 4th September, 1953, at No. 1 Woodville Place, Meir, to Corporal and Mrs. R. Stott, a son, Reginald.

GRINT.—On 18th August, 1953, at Catterick Military Hospital, to S.Q.M.S. and Mrs. Grint, a daughter, Christine Elaine Alice.

SMITHERMAN.—To Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. Smitherman on 2nd October, 1953, a daughter, at Crowborough.

Marriages

CANHAM—ROBINSON.—On 2nd September, 1953, at St. Donard's Church, Belfast, Captain Terrance Percival Canham to Sarah (Sally) Robinson.

BALDWIN—MACE.—On 3rd October, 1953, at the Church of St. Mary Magdalene, Woodstock, Captain Peter Baldwin, Royal Signals, to Miss Judy Mace of Begbroke, Oxon.

PENNEY-TROLLEN.—At St. Lawrence Church, Alton, Hants, on 26th September, 1953, Sergeant R. W. Penney of Southern Command (M) Signal Regiment, to Miss Daphne Trollen, of Alton, Hants.

YATES—CATHRAE.—On 26th September, 1953, Sergeant Yates, 2 AGRA Signal Squadron, M.E.L.F., to W.R.A.F. Vivienne Cathrae from Abu Sueir.

WILLIAMS—LEGANT.—22050655 Lance-Corporal G. J. Williams of Berlin Signal Squadron to Marianne Christel Legant, at Berlin on 18th September, 1953.

GRANT—VILLENEUVE.—At Bernehurst, Kent, on 26th August, 1953, W.O.II P. H. Grant of SHAPE Signal Squadron, to Miss John Villeneuve.

Engagements

CONNER—HORN.—The engagement is announced between Sergeant (Curly) Connor, ex-F.A.R.E.L.F., and Joyce Holt, of Melbourne, Australia.

ATKINSON—JUDD.—The engagement is announced between Anthony Cedric Atkinson and Flora, only daughter of Captain J. L. Judd, M.B.E., Mus.Bac., Royal Signals, and of Mrs. Judd, of Crowhurst, Sussex.

Deaths

STILLING.—22816528 Signalman M. J. Stilling, on 20th September, 1953, in B.A.O.R.

McEACHRAN.—22204718 Signalman J. H. McEachran on 20th September, 1953, in B.A.O.R.

BOWLES.—H. F. Bowles on 3rd October, 1953, late Major, Royal Corps of Signals, at Henfield, Sussex.

N.A.A.F.I

N.A.A.F.I. announce that on Saturday, 10th October, 1953(their Sports Showroom at Kennings Way, London, S.E.11, was temporarily closed. Re-opening on Monday, 11th January, 1954.

Printing Stereos of "Jimmy" can be supplied to order

for use in Menu Cards, Invitations, Notepaper headings, etc., in sizes ¾", 1", 1¼", 1¾" deep and 3".

Price 7/-
including postage

Sample of 1¼" Block

Cash with order to :

F. J. PARSONS Ltd., Observer Buildings, HASTINGS.

Forthcoming Events ☆

Royal Signals Hockey Club—Fixtures 1953-54

Dec.	2	R.M.A. Sandhurst	Sandhurst
„	3	R.E.	Aldershot
„	4	R.A.S.C.	Aldershot
„	5	Military College of Science	Shrivenham
1954			
Jan.	13	R.E.M.E.	Catterick
Feb.	17	R.A.E.C.	Catterick
Mar.	3	R.A.O.C.	Catterick

Royal Signals Rugby Football Club

Nov.	28	Leeds University	Catterick
Dec.	5	Huddersfield	Huddersfield
Dec.	12	Durham City	Catterick
„	16	*R.M.A. (Sandhurst	Camberley
„	19	*Waterloo	Blundellsands

* Corps Representative Matches.

T.A. and Air Officers' At Home, 1953

The At Home for Royal Signals Officers of the Territorial Army and Army Emergency Reserve and their wives will be held this year at the Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane, W.1 on Saturday, 5th December, 1953, at 4.0 for 4.30 p.m. Dress: Lounge Suits.

The Colonel-in-Chief, H.R.H. The Princess Royal, G.I., G.C.V.O., G.B.E., has graciously accepted an invitation to be present.

Tickets (8s. 6d. per person) may be obtained from the Honorary Secretary, Royal Signals Officers' Dinner Club, Room 102, Horse Guards, Whitehall, S.W.1. Cheques should be made payable to Royal Signals Dinner Club.

Officers' Buffet Supper and Reunion, 1953

The Royal Signals Officers' Buffet Supper and Reunion is to be held this year at the Territorial Army (Army Phantom Signal Regiment, T.A.) Drill Hall, 190 Hammersmith Road, London, W.6., also on Saturday, 5th December, 1953. Time: 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. Dress: Lounge Suits.

A London catering firm is providing the Buffet, and drinks will be obtainable at Officers' Mess prices. This arrangement is similar to that which was tried out last year, and which proved very popular.

All Officers who have served or are serving with Royal Signals (i.e. Regular and Retired, T.A., T.A.R.O., A.E.R. and W.E.C. Officers) will be welcome at this Reunion, which will be quite informal. It is hoped that all who are able will attend and help to make the Reunion a success. All Signal Regiments are asked to help by publicising this Reunion to the numerous officers who are no longer serving.

Tickets (12s. 6d.) per person may be obtained from the Honorary Secretary, Royal Signals Officers' Dinner Club, Room 102, Horse Guards, Whitehall, S.W.1. Cheques should be made payable to Royal Signals Dinner Club.

The Malayan Campaign Officers' Reunion

Will take place on Friday, 4th December, at the Naval and Military Club, Piccadilly, W.1. Tickets, price 20s. each, and particulars obtainable from B. K. Castor, Kennington Oval, S.E.11.

Exercise "Straight Reply"

The Chief Signal Officer Western Command, Brigadier D. St. J. Hoysted, held a week-end indoor exercise on 3rd and 4th October, 1953, at Saighton Study Centre, near Chester, for representatives of all Royal Signals Units in Western Command, including the A.E.R. and 4AA Group. The aim of the Exercise was to study the communication problems involved at Corps, Divisional and Brigade level in the launching of an Infantry Division and attached troops in a counter attack against a critical enemy penetration of a main defensive position; the tactical and administrative setting having been drawn from two Western Command H.Q. Exercises held last winter.

The following Units each provided a syndicate of about ten members:—

Western Command Signal Regiment.
H.Q. A.E.R. Royal Signals and A.E.R. Units.
62 L. of C. Signal Regiment (T.A.).
1/20 Army Signal Regiment (T.A.).
42 (L) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment (T.A.).
53 (W) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment (T.A.).
4 AA Group Signal Regiments.

Brigadier Hoysted was ably assisted on the Directing Staff by the C.S.O.'s Branch (Major Farr, Captains Perry and Bullard, and Lieutenant-Colonel Sherman, T.O.T.); Lieutenant-Colonel Copeland, Commanding A.E.R. Royal Signals, and Lieutenant-Colonel Conway, C.S.O. 4 AA Group, Western Command Signal Regiment, were also involved in the administrative arrangements.

The Exercise programme included three main problems, the first of which was issued at the beginning of September to be solved before the Exercise on a Unit basis. This problem aimed at arriving at a workable scale and system of signal communications to be found in the Corps area under reference. After discussing the solution to this problem, those attending the Exercise were "Scrambled" into fresh syndicates each containing an individual from the various type of signal unit represented. So that the programme should not become too "indigestible," the following special items were included:—

A demonstration of items of new signal equipment (including the new Radio Relay equipment).
A lecture by Major Llewellyn (Signals 3, War Office) on the signal equipment demonstrated.
A talk on the Royal Signals Association by Brigadier H. R. Firth, General Secretary.
A short talk on the pleasures of Mercury House, Colwyn Bay, by "Barleux," the Manager.
A playlet on Communications Security.
A lecture on Signals in Korea by Lieutenant-Colonel A. L. Atkinson, O.B.E.

The lectures and talks were most interesting, in particular the excellent lecture on Korea which wound up the session bringing us back truly to the hard "facts of life" in the field with the difficulties and improvisations that Signals have always coped with so well.

The playlet was intended to show what vital information and inferences can be gleaned by an enemy from common breaches in "Voice" procedure and wireless security such as are perpetrated by staff, and indeed operators, using our wireless sets. The scene was set in an enemy intercept building, and related to the Corps front we had been studying in the Exercise. The caste (Messrs. Brader, Bullard, Lynch, Josephs and Dodd) in their new uniforms were admirable, and very amusing as well as being instructive. Fortunately, "M.I.5" in the guise of a beautiful female spy Tanya (played by a member of the W.R.A.C.) had the business well in hand from our point of view. Major-General K. G. Exham, D.S.O., Chief of Staff, Western Command, who attended the Exercise on Sunday morning (himself a Russian interpreter with experience of a sojourn in the U.S.S.R.) congratulated the caste on a very realistic performance. A request has already been received to re-stage the playlet in the near future. On Saturday evening, a Royal Signals Guest Night was held in the Officers' Mess, Saighton Study Centre, 80 Officers sitting down, including Brigadier T. B. L. Churchill, C.B.E., M.C., and Major H. J. B. Rice, R.A., representing H.Q. Western Command. Silver was very kindly lent by the Royal Signals T.A. Units attending the course, and the Royal Signals String Orchestra and Trumpeters of the Corps Band played during the evening.

At a suitable moment in the ante-room Brigadier Hoysted proposed a valedictory toast to Lieutenant-Colonel T. W. Boileau, O.B.E., O.C. 62 L. of C. Signal Regiment (T.A.), who is retiring shortly, after a distinguished career in the Corps, to take up the appointment of Cheshire County Cadet Commandant. Brigadier Hoysted also welcomed his successor, Lieutenant-Colonel E. H. Clarke, who was attending the Exercise—Lieutenant-Colonel Boileau replied, saying that though he was leaving the Service to his great regret, we would nevertheless probably see a lot of him in the future when he came to request help from Services for his various training requirements!

This was followed by the generous presentation of a Silver Gong by Lieutenant-Col. E. R. Price, T.D., O.C. 1/20 Army Signal Regiment (T.A.), to the A.E.R. Officers' Mess, Blacon Camp, which was gratefully accepted on behalf of the A.E.R. Officers by Lieutenant-Col. C. E. Calverley, O.B.E., A.D.C., Chairman of the A.E.R. Committee. This gift was especially welcomed as the collection of silver at this Officers' Mess is still meagre, and it is our desire to build up this mess in the best traditions of the past.

From now on, the atmosphere became more hilarious, and traditional mess games commenced. Challenged to a "Tug-of-War" by the Regular Officers, the T.A./A.E.R. Officers found part-time training unequal to this particular task, and succumbed to the Regular pulls.

So as to record a memorable week-end, not only flashlight photographs were taken at the guest night, but also a group photograph on the Saighton Square. We hope the latter at least will be published! *It will be in December.—Ed.*

CSO WESTERN COMMAND AND STAFF 3 OCT. 53

Major J. E. D. Farr, Capt. E. P. Bullard, Brig. D. St. J. Hoysted, Capt. W. J. Perry, Lt. Col. B. T. Sherman

Captain A. R. Dale provides this picture of "The Flying Mercury: Giambologna in Barquello, Florence." He writes:

Nobody will dispute the accuracy of Major Coatesworth's argument against the carrying of a caduceous by Mercury, nor, in consequence, fail to draw the depressing inference that our own revered Jimmy is incorrectly dressed.

It must, however, in fairness be stated that few, if any, of the early Greek sculptors depicted Hermes in anything like the attitude or appearance of the Corps "Jimmy" and most failed completely to arm him with the caduceous.

The Hermes of Pericles, for example, wears a beard and tends, like the Hermes Propylaeus of Alcames, to a somewhat heavy-footed middle age. The famous statue by Praxiteles (a reproduction of which is in the Vatican Museum) depicts a hatless young Hermes leaning against a pedestal. The Bronze Hermes in the National Musuem in Naples, is seated.

On the other hand, there can be little doubt that the Corps Emblem owes its basic design to the famous caduceous-carrying statue of Mercury by Giovanni da Bologna (circa 1560), which is in the Bargello at Florence. A fine reproduction of this masterpiece can be seen in Helles Officers' Mess at the School of Signals, Catterick.

The only significant difference between the Corps and Giambologna "Jimmies" is in their respective bases. The Corps Mercury stands on a globe; that of Giambologna on the puffed-out face of some unfortunate. Could this be Hermes?

* * *

A correspondent who on the Editor's advice remains anonymous, continues and possibly confounds the argument.

The recent Hermes-Mercury correspondence has had one unforeseen and incalculable effect. It has revivified the gods of antiquity—and our Corps badge can no longer lightly be set aside as a mere item of dress embellishment; a talisman; keepsake; lucky charm or recognition device.

The peoples of a number of outstanding civilisations have over hundreds of centuries held this particular deity in high regard. Indeed, of all the antique gods our Hermes-Mercury was perhaps the best loved and the longest lived.

It is our Corps which is carrying him on through the twentieth century so it behoves us to look back in time at the historical backcloth to our Corps badge—and here we can stick to the facts and eschew myth for a matter of 4,000 years at the least.

Mercury first appeared under this name 2,447 years ago (in 494 B.C.) in quite matter of fact circumstances. The Romans also had their ups and downs and at that time there had been a succession of bad harvests. Trade was not too brisk either.

They hit upon a solution, however. Across the sea in Greece there was a deity, Hermes, who was reputedly good at fixing bumper crops amongst other things, if approached through the correct channels.

So the Romans put up a temple to him acting on the Try-anything-once principle and, in fact, things did take a distinct turn for the better.

The imported Greek deity took root and the Romans soon gave him a latin name of their own choosing, Mercurius—the Great Mercer, or, if you so wish: "Dealer-Divine."

* * *

We must now take up the quest in Greece in the person of Hermes.

3,953 years ago (in 2,000 B.C.) the Greeks came down through the mountains from the North in a series of invading waves, subjugated an earlier pre-Greek people, the Minoans, who at that time inhabited the regions of Greece and took over the land for keeps.

Now the Minoans had set up here and there in the hill country the customary stone cairns which served both as landmarks for travellers and shepherds and also as shrines to the deity whose special concern it was to guide the wayfarer from A to B without mishap. (Those were most uncertain times with rough country and tough gentry aplenty).

The Greek invaders were grateful for these guiding cairns and they correctly appreciated the potency of the deity immanent in them.

Unfortunately, they could not speak Minoan (except for the usual essential words that all soldiers everyhere always pick up with such uncanny facility), so they never learnt the true name of the cairn-spirit and the Minoans were doubtless disinclined to impart this bit of information to an invading horde in any event.

Now the Greek word for a stone-heap is "Herma."

Therefore they could only refer to the deity as "Hermes" which means "He of the stone-heap," or to be precise: "Old Heapy."

This final point must now be raised. Are we to continue in the toleration of this insipid nickname: "Jimmy" for our Corps badge now that we have the whole matter in true historic perspective?

Or is there perhaps a historically more accurate and down to earth sobriquet ready to mouth. ANON.

* * *

(*Writer's note:* This anecdote must be recorded. The writer chanced upon "Old Heapy" in that excellent book "The Twelve Olympians" by Dr. Seltman. And it happens that the writer's wife is named Erminia, which is a feminine derivative of Hermes. However, the writer contrived to stay silent on the matter for some days until there arose inevitably one of those domestic tiffs where caution was thrown to the winds and "Old Heapy" was thrown at the good lady).

(*Editor's comment:* This article was submitted from the Casualty Ward—Hospital).

Signal Training Centre

2 TRAINING REGIMENT

As promised in THE WIRE notes for September the advent of the Boxing season has brought publicity already. On the 18th September, 1953, Signalman Heayns fought David Bell of Belfast in the Dublin Red Cross Tournament and won by a comfortable margin, the fight being stopped in the first round following an eye injury. On the 23rd September, 1953, Signalman Norris easily won the mile race at the White City Stadium during a floodlit athletic match between London and Stockholm. Those fortunate people who are possessors of TV sets will no doubt have seen this race as the broadcast opened on the second lap when Norris had already attained a comfortable margin over his opponents.

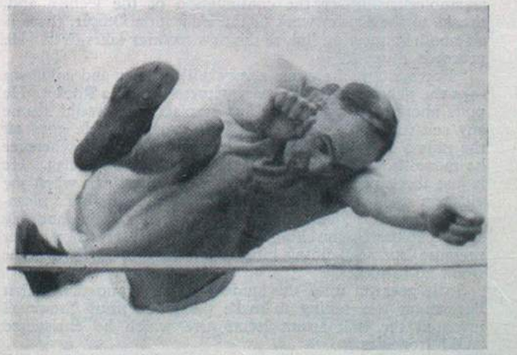
The cool rains which usually proceed the Catterick Winter, which needs no description, have already started and the pleasant appearance of Catterick is becoming somewhat dim. This appearance is not reflected on the faces of Junior N.C.O.s of the Regiment who are still living on the memories of the Blackpool illuminations which they visited during the month. The writer has no outstanding comments to make on the visits but from various remarks it would appear that the Blackpool people only live for the days in the year when 2 Training Regiment honours Blackpool by their company.

On 17th September, 1953, the Sergeants' Mess entertained Mons Corporals' Mess in a Games tournament and judging by the results the early lives of the W.O.s and Sergeants must have been far more mis-spent than those of the Corporals as in practically all cases the former won. However, the excellent Buffet more than compensated for the defeating in games and it is hoped to make these evenings a more frequent occurrence.

We welcome S.Q.M.S. Corfield as an addition to the "big staff," Sergeant Bailey from M.E.L.F. and Sergeant Oxberry who has recently rejoined from civilian life. Sergeants Anderson, Heyworth, Kent, Roper and Driscoll have recently crossed the bar on promotion and will doubtless increase the strength of the indoor sports team.

On a recent demonstration of the latest type of Cable a visitor made the following observation, "I notice that you show 'D10' on the verandah outside the Guard Room in front of which is your parade ground. I regard this as very apt because 'D10' plus shun must equal Detention" (grr).

After that I will maintain a discreet silence until next month.



Capt. Smith, R. Signals, 2 T.R., competing in high jump

3 TRAINING REGIMENT

Remember my telling you last month that we were cruising nicely along and intent on shewing our new Commanding Officer (Lieutenant-Colonel W. C. Burke) just how we acquired that halo? Well, we've done it again—and the first visit of the new G.O.C. Northumbrian District (Major-General C. H. Colquohoun, O.B.E., not only consolidated our feeling of collective regimental pride but gave to all ranks individual pleasure, that "that little extra something" had really been worth while.

We have the largest and most widely dispersed Regiment in the Centre but the General toured everywhere, "even unto the odd corners thereof"—and 'tis rumoured we may now have an issue of helicopters to reach the mountain outpost of Gallowgate Camp!

Kidding? Maybe—but what an idea!

Wild rumours flew around that a ghost had been seen prowling the area at Gallowgate but on investigation 'twas found that one senior N.C.O. had stood still for three minutes and was promptly whitewashed. You don't believe it? Pity—it sounded good when I heard it.

Highlight of the month's sporting events was the Inter-Squadron boxing competition final and won by 3 Squadron by a 21 to 12 points win over H.Q. and 1 Squadrons.

Proud man is Major E. A. Sinnock who not only commands the winning Squadron but by a strange coincidence is also officer in charge of boxing.

You have been warned 2 Training Regiment!!

'Tis a long time since I saw such enthusiasm at an Inter-Squadron Competition and the presentation of the Cup by Lieutenant-Colonel W. C. Burke to the team captain (Second-Lieutenant P. Revill) was the scene of vociferous acclamation.

Mrs. Burke has taken over the presidency of the Regiment's Ladies' Club, and although the husbands are very reticent about it (what *is* this baby sitting racket?). I gather the October social meeting was an extraordinarily happy affair.

But it certainly has the R.S.M. a trifle worried "Can't understand how they do it on tea and cakes," he says. I peeped in and could certainly tell him of the happy get-together atmosphere.

Hockey and rugby teams have got off to a good start, but the Soccer XI are reminiscent of the little girl—"When they are good . . . but when they are bad they are awful."

We end on a very sad note in recording the tragic death in the Middle East of Captain Peter Robson, erstwhile Training Officer with 2 Squadron.

He left us only in August and was an extremely capable and popular officer. A first class hockey player, always of cheerful disposition and good humoured, he will not be forgotten.

All ranks extend heartfelt sympathy to Mrs. Robson and the two girls.

7 TRAINING REGIMENT

The training of recruits, both Regular and National Service, continues with clockwork regularity. Pass Off Parades for one or the other follow in weekly succession and continue to attract large numbers of parents, who from their remarks, seem well satisfied with our efforts towards themselves, and what is more, toward their sons.

On 1st October we were pleased to receive a visit from No. 11 Pre-National Service Course of the Sheffield firm of Newton Chambers and Co. The worthy object of these courses is to give young members some idea of what to expect when their turn comes for National Service. We hope that their insight into basic military training did not exceed their expectations and that we shall see some, at least, of the apprentices back in the near future.

Although time must march on it was with real regret that we said farewell to Captain (Q.M.) Gillings on 8th October

at a cocktail party given in the H.Q. Mess. In his going back to Civvy Street after 28 years' service the Regiment has lost one of its real foundation members, and when one considers the numbers of recruits that have been equipped under his supervision since 3rd November, 1947, when he joined 6 Training Regiment, one has only a slight idea of the magnitude of his labour. His cheerful personality and friendly advice will long be remembered and we take this opportunity of wishing him and Mrs. Gillings the very best of luck for the future. At the same time we extend a very cordial welcome to Major (Q.M.) Minion who has recently joined us from Singapore.

In passing it is perhaps of interest to speculate on the appearance of a large hole in one of our Parade Grounds, and to wonder if one of our enthusiastic Drill Instructors has at last achieved a life long ambition.

The winter games season is now well under way and great keenness is being shown by all concerned. The soccer team in particular are determined to prove that they still merit the title of Army Champions and have also got their eyes on the Northumbrian League titles. So far they have won all matches played, including the preliminary round of the Army Challenge Cup against 1 Training Regiment. This was a hard, keenly contested match for which 1 Training Regiment have every reason to be proud of their performance. The result was a win 2-1 in our favour after extra time, the score at full time being a draw 1-1. Also in the soccer sphere we congratulate Lance-Corporal Quixall, our inside right, in being selected to play for England in the match against Wales. Lance-Corporal Quixall, Signalman Finney and Signalman Wood have also represented the Army this season.

In cycling we were represented in the Grand Prix de Guzra Inter-Service Road Race on the 20th September at Portsmouth by Lance-Corporal Mackenzie and Signalman Grieves who came in 6th and 9th respectively.

Catterick Jottings

by nacerby

Prelude to Christmas

BEEN very subdued these past few months and with the Editor in a "slashing blue-pencil mood," I think I ought to let you know it is all being saved up for the Christmas number . . . .and what a number that's going to be . . . . pages and pages of Nacerby and Barleux . . . . in fact "nothing but the best" for you all.

Could write reams 'bout the splendid start made in the winter games tournaments and competitions, especially the Rugger XV, and I can tell you right away that two dead snips for the coupon are Royal Signals for the Army soccer and rugby cups—among other things of course.

But suffice now to offer congratulations to Lance-Corporal A. Quixall of 7 Training Regiment on his England soccer cap and on being selected together with Signalmen Finney and Wood also of 7 Training Regiment, for Army representative matches.

And make sure of that Christmas number . . . it's no use you writing pathetic letters to the Editor in January saying you couldn't get a copy. Place an order with your P.R.I.—NOW.

REPORT ON EDUCATION (FOR BARLEUX . . .)

Despite the habitual fault-finder who sneered at the Butler Education Act because, as he said "When you've finished training them who is going to employ all these butlers." Despite crude remarks of a like character, the Army Education Scheme is functioning excellently. That is, in our unit.

At first, the scheme of providing education for the Forces was like a jig-saw puzzle, but we have made such progress that we now have more pieces than when we started.

It is difficult to find instructors, as ours are (or were) evening classes. Candidates for this responsible position were both interviewed by the Education Officer. One man was perfectly useless as the Education Officer didn't understand a word he was talking about. Yes, there were, admittedly, early setbacks. But eventually we had instructors for such subjects as History, Geography, Politics, Economics, Art and Plumbing.

We began by asking students if they had any suggestions to offer. These were not all acted upon. But the students were responsive. They pointed out that the last run at the local cinema started at 7.15 and if we happened to be in the middle of the Battle of Hastings around seven o'clock we had better accelerate the cessation of hostilities, Napoleon or no Napoleon. "Or else," they added.

However, interest was aroused and a certain amount of sympathy was forthcoming when the History teacher touched on the unhappy lot of Englishmen during the Middle Ages. How they were unable to buy clothes until many were in a shabby, if not ragged, state of dress; how they had to exist on plain, simple food with no luxuries like juicy steaks, bananas, chocolates and salad dressing; how they had to queue for everything from ox-carts to sturgeon because of the inadequate supplies and the undeveloped transport system; how they had very few cigarettes; how they had to share each other's houses. We think the students realised how lucky they were not to have lived in that Dark Age and to be thankful for the new civilisation that is their birthright.

In order to give unity to the various courses some of the instructors, when well in their stride, have been posted away. Another instructor has had to carry on and it has worked quite smoothly.

Take politics. One instructor would end the lecture (which was destined to be his last) with a remark something like this:—

"And so, in local government, we get the Town Clerk holding a position of the utmost responsibility. In many respects he is the Kin Ping, the Big Shot, the Cat's Whiskers. He can give the councillors invaluable advice unless he is feeling liverish. He is the clerk of the town and therefore does all the typing of letters and the filling up of leave passes."

A week elapses, during which the lecturer has been posted, sent on a long, long course or demobilised. The class assembles again for the continuation of the lecture and, thanks to the liaison work of the Education Officer, there is a smooth connecting link as the new lecturer takes over. He proceeds thus:

"Furthermore, he wears a very tall chimney and is known—as the plate on his side bears witness—as The Rocket. He puffs about, his pistons rattling, at place that would shame any self-respecting snail. But it is progress. He goes off the rails a few times but nobody worries because wherever he moves he is preceded by a man carrying a red flag. He is just about pulling his weight, but only just, and when the villagers see him they scream with terror. He is not a pleasant sight with clouds of smoke issuing from him and big sooty patches besmirching his surface. He gets hot under pressure but keep filling him with plenty of liquid and he won't go to pieces."

So it goes on until the student is left in no doubt that Parliament was failing to make the grade until Cromwell invented the first steam locomotive which he christened "Old Ironsides."

The first Geography class was successful, explaining, as it did, the difficulties of acquiring a blackboard and chalk and the impossibility of proceeding without maps. Since then the Geography instructor has been visiting all the educational colleges of England and Wales in an attempt to discover how to conduct lesson 2.

There has been one genuine hitch in connection with the Maths class. For two hours the instructor explained the meaning of decimal points and how they differed from full stops. It was tough going and afterwards one student was heard to say "What a peculiar way of taking a leatherwork class." How was the instructor to know he had the wrong pupils? Truth is indeed stranger than fiction.

Art has been frankly disappointing. At first the students were intensely enthusiastic but midway through first lesson it was explained to the class that there would be no live models. Hopes were raised when a teapot was produced, hopes were dashed when the students were told it was there for a model, not for a brew. Interest immediately waned and the students are now doing woodwork.

You would think that plumbing had proved troublesome. On the contrary. Here we have the biggest class on the whole course—four men—and there have been no complaints about it. It starts a fortnight on Tuesday.

THE DEPOT REGIMENT

The Regiment during the past month has been working itself up for the Annual Administrative Inspection which, after a month's postponement, now takes place on 16th October. The vast areas of grass within the Barracks have been the graveyard of many a mower lately!

The parade at the Inspection will be ceremonial, and the drill shed has been a scene reminiscent of duelling scenes as the Officers brushed up their sword drill. We are fortunate to have the services of the Band of the 1st Devonshire Regiment for the parade.

Under the direction of the Commanding Officer's wife, Mrs. Goodeve-Docker, a Regimental choir is being trained for a Christmas Carol Service to be held on Sunday, 20th. There has been a very gratifying response both from the Regiment and the ladies, so now we look forward to hearing the finished product.

The end of September sees the last of the summer sailing season in the Torbay area.

Members of the Depot Regiment Sailing Club competed in the Army Sailing Association regatta at Seaview, Isle of Wight, and sailed in Seaview Mermaids and Scows. Although the team were not acquainted with these types of boat they acquitted themselves reasonably well and, what is perhaps as important, had a thoroughly good time amongst other keen sailing men from various Army Clubs in the U.K.

Signalman Peters came home third in the Finals of the Scows, and Signalman Tanner came first in his heat, but was unfortunately unplaced in his final.

The Regimental Soccer team got off to a good start in the South Devon Premier League by drawing away to Teignmouth four goals each. This has been followed by wins against Torquay Colts and Newton Abbot A.F.C.s to the tune of 5-1 and 2-1 respectively. We suffered a reverse at the hands of Galmpton A.F.C. losing by 4-2.

Scorers to date are Drivers Colledge and Brown five goals each, with Corporal Bavestock, Lance-Coroporal Ilett and Driver Eagles making a lone contribution.

The League games are producing a good standard of football which, if maintained, should see us finish in the better half of the League Table. Unfortunately "civvy street" and postings take their toll and during the coming fortnight we shall lose the services of Sergeant Chesterman posted, and Corporal Bavestock and Driver Eagles to demob. Good luck to them in their Soccer careers in other spheres.

In the Preliminary round of the Army Challenge Cup we again triumphed by a win of 4 goals to 1 against 15 Training Battalion R.A.S.C. This game was played on our own ground in rather adverse conditions, rain persisting throughout.

In the Devon Senior Cup we drew a bye in the first round and are scheduled to play Newton Abbot in the 2nd round on 21st November, 1953. More of this game later.

The Regimental Rugger side have opened their season; two matches have been played in September, one against Brixham and the other against Totnes. Although the Depot were beaten very decisively on both occasions the team were not down-hearted, and played hard from the beginning to the end in both matches.

It must be realised that, on the permanent staff, there are only about five or six who play Rugby, and the team is made up each week from Transittees; so, in spite having a different team each week, we do manage to turn out a side and enjoy ourselves.

On Wednesday, 10th October, 1953, the Regimental hockey team played against the Devon and Wessex Brigade at Topsham Barracks, Exeter. After a good hard game the Regiment won 3-1. The team didn't however find their true form in this game, the forwards lying too far back upon their own defence. However, we have the makings of a good team this season and are looking to them for the results.

An All Ranks' Dance was held in the North Gymnasium on Friday, 25th September, 1953. There was a good, jolly crowd present.

5 CORPS SIGNAL REGIMENT

Early this year it became known that we were to be responsible for the Royal Signals part of the Regular Army stand at the National Radio Show. First of all we were asked to submit to the War Office our ideas on what should be shown by us, and after much brain rattling the C.O. and second-in-command prepared a number of suggestions which were adopted almost entirely with only minor modifications. At the same time R.E.M.E. produced their ideas for the part of the stand for which they were responsible and the whole was then thoroughly discussed at a War Office Conference. When all the snags (and there were many) had been ironed out experts from the Central Office of Information planned and designed the layout of the complete stand.

An advance party of twelve under the direction of the second-in-command of the Regiment (Major Matthews) moved down to London a week before the show was due to open and except for those who lived out, took up residence with the Grenadier Guards in Chelsea Barracks. This proved to be most satisfactory since it was reasonably near Earl's Court; and with cash becoming increasingly short towards the end of the pay week the tube fare was reasonably low, although not low enough in several cases.

The various items to be shown on our part of the stand were laid out in the following way.

The Wireless layout of a Divisional Signals shewed the main operational nets only. This consisted of a scale model of a typical Korean landscape and was made by a civilian firm, it portrayed a 6 x 10 mile tract of land on a 12 x 20 ft. model and was complete in relief and colour. The "Wireless Waves" were represented by fluorescent perspex strips interconnecting the associated H.Q.'s; colour coding in relation to banks of telephones was used both in the perspex and the metal cylinders representing each H.Q., the latter being illuminated from inside. The coloured telephones were placed on three sides of the "map" and the public could listen to voice conversations on the same coloured wireless link. This was accomplished by having tape recorders behind the scenes running on continuous looped reels. The Master tapes for these conversations were recorded by actual Staff Officers here in Colchester. (This was good training in voice procedure and forced them into reading the pamphlet).

Stands on either side of the Korean map displayed the current types of wireless set used within Divisional Signals together with their future counterparts. The prototype equipments were provided by the Signals Research and Development Establishment. A wireless diagram behind each set showed where it fitted in within the Divisional network.

The Golden Arrow, Carrier frequency shift working, as a complete station with Lister Generator and Prime Movers was shown and visitors were encouraged to inspect "the innards." The Receiver and Transmitter trailers were kept close together for show purposes. All filaments were alight and blowers working but for local technical reasons no H.T. was applied. Certain metal panels in the R.F. and power pack sections had been replaced by perspex panels to allow the public to see details of construction. It was found that blue-tinted "daylight bulbs" gave more glamour to the internals if suitably placed as hidden flood lights. A very fine world map in bold relief showing the Commonwealth Communications was sited alongside the Golden Arrow station and the main stations were picked out in lights.

A R 209 receiver was immersed in a glass fish tank with live gold fish swimming round it. Their welfare was improved by a model diver with air bubbles issuing from his helmet; water snails and plants completed the underwater picture. The receiver was tuned to the light programme and worked an external speaker. One little boy was watching this during the time when a female was singing. Obviously puzzled he turned to the nearest person and said, "Those fishes are not really singing are they?" I regret that we did not hear the answer.

A tape recorder was provided for the public to play with and hear themselves as others hear them. This was quite popular because not many civil firms will allow strangers to handle their machines. In our case a W.R.A.C. operator was available to advise on the correct method of working the machine, and naturally enough this made the item doubly attractive. We had a little trouble with one young man who insisted on recording "Little Albert at the Zoo" in its entirety and in the Stanley Holloway manner. He earned no prize.

Finally and perhaps the best attraction of all was Mr. Magnetron. A mechanical man, originally designed by Captain R. H. Maxfield, now serving in the Far East, but later rebuilt as a combined effort by Major Matthews, Captain (T.O.T.) Coleman and W.O.II (F. of S.) Reece. Mr. Magnetron was willing to answer any questions put to him by the public and as he answered his arms moved, his head rocked, his mouth opened and his eyes lit up. The crowd was usually ten deep round him and many and varied were the suggestions put forward on how he worked. In fact some of the theories propounded by one or two of the long haired wizards who visited the stand were more suited to the electronic control of a rocket to the moon. It was all really quite simple—but we are keeping the secret.

Earls Court Ltd. were most co-operative but the same could not be said of the workmen belonging to the civilian contractor who was responsible for the woodwork of the stand floor, office blocks and certain display trestles. The electricians were just about to strike when we arrived and most trades were "going slow" in sympathy and the atmosphere was fairly tense all round. In actual fact the electricians did strike before our stand was wired completely but sufficient distribution cables were already put down to enable us to get things going by part use of contractors wiring and part of our own. Soon, however, the electrical foreman took exception to our using any wires they had laid and issued an ultimatum that they would trip the circuit breaker at Fulham Power Station, which fed the whole of Earls Court if we continued to use such wiring. We then ran all our own wiring which was accepted by the L.C.C. as being safe.

[Courtesy: Central Office of Information

"MR. MAGNETRON," the mechanical man of 5 Corps Signal Regiment tries to answer any question put to him. Part of the Regular Army Stand at the National Radio and Television Exhibition, 1953

[Courtesy: Central Office of Information

The Royal Signals half of the Regular Army Stand at the 1953 Radio Exhibition. The Divisional Signals lay-out in the foreground with existing and future wireless equipments at the side. The Golden Arrow Station and "COMCAN" world map in the background

A few days after the show opened the strike was settled and we were asked if we would like the electricians to complete their work—we declined this offer and remained on our own wiring. The stand was well patronised and almost at all times we attracted far larger numbers than any other stands. We had the pleasure of meeting many celebrities and innumerable past and present members of the Corps.

The object of having a stand at the Radio Show is fundamentally to boost recruiting for the technical arms. If the number of enquiries we had on the stand is any guide, an upward curve in the regular recruiting graph for Royal Signals should be clearly noticeable by now.

* * *

In point of fact although this article is mainly taken up with an account of the Radio Show, that was only a very small part of our activities. The bulk of the regiment has been operating backwards and forwards across Salisbury Plain providing Control and neutral signals for most of the T.A. Divisional Exercises ever since the Coronation, and we like to think that our effort has contributed in some small measure towards their undoubted success.

Finally one other item of news of which we are very proud. We recently entered three D.R.s and two three-ton trucks in the "Turnout Competition" in the East Anglian District Summer Show and we won first prize (a very large cup) in each event, and it is interesting to note that this is the first time in the history of the Summer Show that the same unit has won both competitions. Sergeants Barritt, Henderson and McDonough are to be congratulated on putting up such a good show.

EASTERN COMMAND SIGNAL REGIMENT

Slowly as Ashdown forest changes its hue to a deep golden brown we slide into Autumn. This month we bid farewell to Lieutenant-Colonel P. H. Smitherman and welcome Lieutenant-Colonel G. G. L. Hinde as our new Commanding Officer. Another addition to the Regiment is Captain Tom Bennett who now resides in the hinterland of Eastern Command at Bury St. Edmunds.

As farewells die on our lips to Lieutenant-Colonel Smitherman we must congratulate him and Mrs. Smitherman on the birth of a daughter at Crowborough on 2nd October, 1953.

A very nice association was formed when a troop of the Regiment paraded at Uckfield Parish Church for the dedication of a banner of the Uckfield Branch of the Old Comrades' Association. The salute was taken by Major-General C. M. F. White, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O.; a fine sermon by the Uckfield padre linked the work of the Old Comrades' Association and the communications of the present day army and *esprit de corps*.

To conclude we wish R.S.M. Morrison all the best as he leaves us for 62 H.Q. (L. of C.) Signal Regiment (T.A.), (the sick, lame, lazy and unwilling of Warren Camp are disappointed).

WESTERN COMMAND SIGNAL REGIMENT

The most important event of this quarter was the Western Command Motor Cycle Trials. In the preparation, the C.S.O. led a composite team of assorted officials over the very difficult course with such enthusiasm that at least two swore they had walked forty miles in one day! The Mess Staff said they had never seen the young officers eat so much before and that was something;

In the trial itself we did not fare well, and we will say no more! Next time we hope to do much better. However, the communications worked well and the show was a great success. On the debit side Second-Lieutenant P. J. Buisseret sprained his wrist, and Signalman Garrity injured himself after collision with a civilian car on the outward leg of the course.

The Regiment under new management is slowly settling down. Strenuous preparations are being made to get on with individual training, prepare for the Representative Colonel Commandant's visit to the Regiment on 17th November, and get comfortable for the winter. Old friends will be interested to hear that Blacon Point House was nearly condemned and then resurrected, so that "Cinderella Lane," now tarmac, is still in great use.

Social activities have begun to get into their stride again and a successful All Ranks' dance was held in the Gymnasium. It would appear that many of the Officers and W..O.s surprised the lads with the ability to dance; it having been generally thought that they never relaxed!

The Sergeants' Mess ran an outing to Blackpool to see the illuminations, and came back "lit up."

1 A.A. (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT

The Regiment returned from Annual Camp on 27th September, 1953, and is now settling down once again to its normal routine.

Although hampered by bad weather we managed to get through much beneficial training during our fortnight on the edge of Dartmoor and the change of routine environment was a benefit to all.

Major-General C. M. F. White, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., Representative Colonel Commandant 1953, and Brigadier A. E. Morrison, O.B.E., C.S.O., A.A. Command, were our guests for dinner on the evening of 16th September, 1953, and spent the following day inspecting the Regiment in training under camp conditions. They were both pleased with what they saw.

Our other visitors included Brigadier B. H. Hughes, C.B.E., the Deputy Commander of 1 A.A. Group, Lieutenant-Colonel A. G. Goodeve-Docker who came across from the Depot to dine with us, and Lieutenant-Colonel E. H. Clarke, C.S.O., 1 A.A. Group, who visited us from London at the same time.

Our W.R.A.C. personnel were square bashing almost incessantly during the camp period and their effort culminated in the Annual Drill Competition between A.A. Command, 1 A.A. Group, and Orsett Camp, the girls from 1 A.A. Group were adjudged worthy winners in a closely fought competition.

Wings For Wires

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This article is reprinted through the courtesy of the Editor of "Signal," the Journal of the Armed Forces Communications of the United States of America.

THE foresight of a small group of men who were aware of the possibilities of small aircraft has mushroomed into a new important facet of United States Army Signal Corps activity.

The Signal Corps Army Aviation Center, originally housed with offices in a small building at Red Bank Airport, celebrated its first birthday July 1.

Today it is a sprawling center occupying the main hanger and several outlying buildings at Monmouth County Airport on Rt. 34. From an original group of 13 military and civilian personnel it has grown to a staff of 186.

Its basic task force of nine Cessna L-19 liaison planes, three De Haviland six-passenger L-20's one twin Beechcraft, two Hiller H-13 helicopters and one Bell helicopter comprise the aircraft operated by the center.

Extensive property is also leased from the airport for aircraft parking and maintenance facilities.

The center was organized to meet the growing needs of Army aircraft in modern military communications, electronics and photography.

For instance, the corps is finding that the H-25 helicopter known as the Army Mule, can be used for such duties as transporting a complete radio station or control tower to a vantage point on a mountain or skipping over impenetrable terrain to set out telephone poles.

Engineering personnel is active in exploring and developing projects in electronics, photography, navigation, meterology and other subjects closely allied to Army aviation.

Weekly assignments by the Army Aviation Center show students at the Fort Monmouth Signal School problems in air-to-ground communications, wire laying over hilly terrain, missions in aerial supply and message drops and pickups along with photo missions.

Another job performed is flying aerial photography students on missions. In such missions a point of interest is selected to be photographed, its location radioed to an Army Aviation Center plane and the picture taken. The negative is dropped to the ground to the photo laboratory and processed in a matter of minutes.

An L-20 De Haviland Beaver airplane carries television camera equipment and televises to a ground station pictures taken in flight.

Of a more spectacular nature, now undergoing test and evaluation at the Signal Corps Army Aviation Center, is one of the most versatile tools used by the Signal Corps. It is the Piasecki H-25 helicopter, popularly known as the Army Mule. This unique aircraft can perform a variety of duties, many of which would make an old time corpsman wag his head in wonderment.

The future will soon see the end of Signalmen slogging through underbrush and up the precipitous sides of mountains, exposed to long hours of enemy fire to set up radio stations. The back-breaking struggle of packing heavy supporting supplies to difficult locations is being lightened by this use of modern methods.

The saving in time and lives that will be effected by the use of helicopters for this mission alone is immeasurable. At speeds up to 80 miles an hour, complete Signal Corps radio stations will be whisked to operating positions. The miracle of speed of communications provided by radio is not being denied the Army while foot soldiers have to struggle against difficult odds to reach suitable sites for radio stations.

Another mission that the Aviation centers' helicopters have taken into the air is the erection of telephone and telegraph lines. Telephone poles can be lifted from the supply point by cable underneath the helicopter and carried through the air to the point of implacement. They are then lowered to the holes in the ground. Poles can be set out many times faster than the conventional methods, and without the necessity of operating heavy equipment through difficult areas. Particularly pole lines can now traverse ground unsuitable for carrying the weight of heavy trucks. Crews to dig the holes can be flown in by helicopter with portable augers, thus preparing the way for the H-25 to lower the poles.

Entire lines when constructed can be serviced from the air, the slow flying Army Mule permitting close inspection. Crewmen can be lowered to otherwise difficult locations to make repairs.

In order to connect two stations by wire or cable in the shortest possible time without the use of poles the H-25 can make a reconnaissance flight over the proposed path noting road and rail crossings, power-lines or other obstacles that would cause damage to the wire. The flight is then made from point to point, the H-25 dropping the wire at speeds up to 80 miles an hour, connecting the two stations. The use of cable as a means of communication is being developed and advanced even with the known advantages of radio transmission, due to the fact that the directly connected telephones provide a more private and interference free means of communication.

The aviation center is the first to use a new and unique navigational device in a helicopter. If proven successful and accepted by the Army, it will add a sixth sense to the already versatile helicopter. This feature provides the Army Mule with the uncanny ability to know its exact location in space, any time regardless of weather conditions.

With distance measuring equipment the helicopter will be able to locate itself with reference to a ground station. In conjunction with radio range equipment it will then be able to fly to the landing area. With a ground station located at an airport the helicopter can fly unerringly to a safe landing.

However, the Signal Corps use of helicopters is still in its infancy, and as personnel become more accustomed to the varied capabilities of these new aircraft its uses still become manifold. Already helicopters are being put into use. The H-21 Piasecki helicopter, with a 14 to 22 seating capacity, will be used to lift even heavier loads.

As mechanized units replaced cavalries, and jeeps and half tracks surplanted the early auto, helicopters such as the H-25 have now lifted the many missions of the Signal Corps above the earth, away from the delays, hazards, and slow pace of ground transportation. For the Signal Corps, helicopters are a new way to get there firstus with the mostus.

EUROPE

H.Q. NORTHERN ARMY GROUP SIGNAL REGIMENT

The month of September is always a period of great activity in Germany and this year has been no exception. Northern Army Group had two major exercise commitments, Exercise Monte Carlo in the Southern part of the Zone and Exercise Grand Repulse in the North. Most of the Regiment was committed on Monte Carlo and that Exercise was significant for the large number of "Gremlins" that had to be slain before the preliminary, and now traditional, signal Exercise Force Eight could get under way. For the second manoeuvre, in which the Netherlands Corps was heavily committed, we provided substantial assistance to 1 Corps Signal Regiment who had the onerous task of Control Signals. Judging by all accounts the work of our manifold detachments was greatly appreciated.

Instead of breathing a sigh of relief at the end of the Exercise period we are now trimming the wicks of our Valor Stoves preparatory to taking to our tents for a major commitment in November.

Sporting events last month were few and far between, but games officers have been very busy preparing for the winter activities. Judging by form at the moment we look like fielding good sides in all the major sports.

We were all delighted with the announcement of the engagement between Captain Mike Cooper and Miss Sheila Cuffe, the daughter of our Cipher Officer, Major Paddy Cuffe. Our best wishes to them.

From our W.O.s and Sergeants' Mess we have lost W.O.I McLeod to M.E.L.F., S.Q.M.S. Cartwright to 2 L. of C. Signals Regiment (on promotion to W.O.II), Sergeants Pickering and Humphries regrettably to civilian life, Sergeants Stuckey and Stockham to Korea. Good luck to them all.

7 ARMOURED DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT

We have emerged from the last big Exercise of the season, in which we acted in an Umpire capacity, with flying colours, so we are now getting down to barracks house keeping and starting our upgrading courses.

The Regiment took a big part in the Garrison fete, particularly the ladies, and we contributed largely to the £280 we were able to give to S.S.A.F.A. and the Sunshine Homes for Blind Babies.

Once again our motor cycle team wiped the board at 11 Armoured Divisional Motor Cycle Trials. We won the open team race and first and second (Sergeant Edwards, Corporal Haire) open individuals. Sergeant Slaughter put up his usual fine effort for the team, though he was not so lucky in the individuals this time. Good luck to the team which is shortly off to the U.K. to represent B.A.O.R. in the Army Trials.

Signalman Jenkinson was in the Divisional (Desert Rats) team which played to a draw in the now famous match against a team of German veterans from the Afrika Corps the other day. With the rest he was thoroughly entertained at lunch by the Afrika Corps people and fortunately arrived home safely.

Now our exercises are over for a short spell, activity by our No. 5 branch of the Association is increasing and the drive for more life members is on again. We hope to double our present approximate century and the branch now has its own well furnished lounge which will help towards this.

1 AIR SUPPORT SIGNAL UNIT

At last we are nearing the end of the scheme season after the very active Summer months. Our vehicles have covered thousands of miles since the beginning of the year on the dusty roads that seem to abound in the British Sector. Several of the more fortunate members of the Unit have sampled the luxuries of life in Holland, whilst one detachment has been living with our friends the Americans. Providing V.H.F. communication for the control of Canberras on night missions provided a new thrill. The Red Hand, our Unit sign, has added a few more hundred villages to "we were there" list.

Our last scheme was Grand Repulse and every able-bodied man in the Unit took part along with every vehicle we could muster. Things went very smoothly, as everything we had learnt from previous schemes were put into operation. We ended this Exercise on rather a humorous note with real aircraft attacking imaginary submarines, in an imaginary sea, with imaginary troops swimming out to them.

Between schemes we have not been allowed to relax and several route marches have taken place. We are now all ready for the winter training programme, with our several newly constructed lecture rooms. These rooms are at present filled with the latest arrivals who will have to work hard to maintain the high standards set by their predecessors. An Owl B II Course is being held for our more experienced operators and we hear there are some surprises hatching for the drivers.

We now have our own P.T. Instructor, Corporal Brown, whose unbounding energy is greatly admired by the "not-so-athletic." His weekly periods are attacked with doubtful enthusiasm. The football season is now in full swing, and the team, under the watchful eye of the "old timer" Corporal Robinson, is hoping for some successes this year. They have been equipped with entirely new kit and if their play matches their turn out we should be well satisfied.

It is with deep regret that we have to report the death of Signalman Stilling which occurred as a result of a road accident on a night move on Exercise Grand Repulse.

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6 ARMOURED DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT

Since we last appeared in the Journal much experience has been gained from the usual run of summer exercises. On Exercise March Hare, held rather inappropriately in April, we practised movement on the new vehicle establishment. This was followed by the Annual Regimental Camp at Haltern, which proved to be both instructive and enjoyable. The weather, on the whole, was kind to us, and swimming in the lake was quite the most popular event of the day. A guest night was held with the Officers of 2 Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, and a Regimental Concert, at which R.S.M. Derwent revealed hidden talent as an actor, provided a good evening's entertainment. The separate training lessons, which took the form of keenly contested competitions, were pieced together in Exercise Jigsaw, which was quite successful.

Exercise Blue Admiral a few weeks later was a practice for Red Admiral, when the Regiment provided communications for the Divisional Artillery in a Corps Gunner Exercise.

The highlight of Exercise Velvet Glove, which the Regiment took as a compliment, was the time when communications were running so smoothly that the staff ordered several lines to be cut in order to provide Charlie Troop with something to do!

On Javelin six we went very far afield—beyond the Rhine, in fact. One night a certain officer tried conclusions with an electrified fence, but soon gave up the unequal struggle; apart from this incident nothing unusual happened, and communications were quite satisfactory.

The Division practised its famous night-move across other

divisional boundaries on Exercise Mailed Fist. Communications proved slightly tricky the first time, but improved greatly on the second phase. The Security Vehicle, while monitoring the forward battle nets, became inadvertently involved with the battle itself, being surrounded by a smoke-screen and then dive-bombed, and would have been thoroughly "brewed-up" had not the crew smartly pasted white crosses all over it.

By the time this reaches the press, a large proportion of the Regiment will have been out on Exercise Grand Repulse, for which we are sending out detachments to various other formations.

This marks the end of the Exercise season, and the Regiment will begin to prepare for a visit by the Representative Colonel Commandant in October.

During the summer we have not been able to pay as much attention to sports, such as cricket, as we would have liked or the keenness of the team warranted. However, we ran the Royal Signals B.A.O.R. Inter-Unit Swimming Gala again this year. Unfortunately the weather spoilt the proceedings, especially the water-ballet which was given by a charming bevy of German girls. Despite the rain a large crowd saw an exciting close win by 1 Corps Signals by two points from 11 Air Formation Signals. Prizes were presented by Mrs. Tulloch, the wife of our Commanding Officer.

We would like to extend an official welcome to Captain J. Pearce who has joined us from an instructor's job at the O.T.W., also to Lieutenant S. G. de Clive-Lowe, to whom our congratulations on his recent wedding.

We said good-bye and good luck to Major-General Prior-Palmer, C.B., D.S.O., our Divisional Commander, who was given a rousing send-off by the Regiment. Major McNeil, our second-in-command, has left us with promotion—our congratulations to him.

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11 AIR FORMATION SIGNAL REGIMENT

August and September have indeed been busy months, the whole Regiment being involved in Exercises almost continuously.

O.C. 2 Squadron and three Wing Signal Troops were fortunate to be located in Holland and Belgium during Exercise Coronet, and rumour has it that O.C. 2 Squadron has acquired an Auster Aircraft in which to tour his parish in preference to an open Jeep.

1 Squadron, which consisted mainly of 2 Line Troops in the early stages of Coronet, were split between Waldniel and Kleve and spent well over a month in the field.

Sergeant Skudder at Waldniel had his hands full coping with police, line testing and a cable head adjacent to a cafe (who was the bright boy to choose so convenient a spot?).

Captain Weston and Sergeant Earnshaw with the remainder of the Troop hid themselves well and truly at Kleve some fourteen days prior to the Exercise and thoroughly enjoyed the local entertainments.

The R.A.F. upon their arrival took very little time to select a suitable Radio Relay aerial site—slap—bang on top of a Public House better known here as a Wirtshaus, needless to say the supervision given to the Xmitter cable was most assiduous.

On the last day of recovering cable and numerous items of G 1098 which manage to seclude themselves in all manner of places, a local Farmer decided to cut the corn and as a result the troop were able to "recover" 37 rabbits, it might have been more had Signalman Page and Driver Shorey held on until the arrival of Signalman Williams, Chief Executioner.

Exercise wounded—one twisted ankle by O.C. 1 Squadron.

Query—How did the 2 i/c acquire a complete Anson all to himself for a "clear the Line" trip to Brussels? Anson is as ansome does!

1 Line Troop and Ahlhorn Wing Signal Troop took part in a local R.A.F. Defence Exercise which afforded good training and considerable entertainment.

1 Line Troop defended Battle H.Q. with almost unfuriating efficiency according to reports from the Umpires, who were required to show passes and give passwords almost continuously.

Ahlhorn W.S. Troop on the other hand formed two fighting patrols (plus the usual quota of thunder flashes) and ventured forth to attack an enemy vehicle harbour. On reaching the "startline" is was noted that the enemy had a particularly "foreign" look about them, however, undaunted the attack went in and much to our astonishment we were met by loud and long sleepy protests from Netherland Army Drivers all vigorously claiming that the "Exercise Grand Repulse" was definitely over. Fortunately International relations were not strained to any extent.

The hockey season has now started and we are off the mark with a 3:1 victory over 652 A.O.P. Squadron Detmold, after being one down in the first ten minutes. The team is much the same as for the previous season, and we look forward to meeting our worthy R.A.F. and Signal opponents. New players are few and far between and we are keeping our fingers crossed that casualties, etc. in the first team will be reduced to a minimum.

2 SQUADRON 2 L. OF C. SIGNAL REGIMENT

For the third time in eighteen months our title has been changed (previously we were 3 Squadron—4 L. of C. Signal Regiment). As on each occasion of the change of title, the commitments of the Squadron have also been enlarged, we are NOT hoping for any further changes of designation.

The past month was notable for the fact, that although a static Unit, the Squadron was called upon to provide the nucleus of Higher Control Signals for Exercise Coronet, the importance and scope of which have been adequately reported in the Press. This is the first time that the Squadron has operated on a Squadron basis on a major exercise, as previously we had provided only the personnel backing for other Units. The experience gained was invaluable and we are more than proud of having proved the point, that the continuous maintenance of a high standard of discipline and turnout, based on drill, great attention to detail in the every-day job, and a continuous emphasis on the maintenance of equipment, pays terrific dividends. Even more important was the fact that we proved also that EFFICIENT communications can be provided to operate at a very high level of efficiency, without TEV's and other specialist vehicles, shelter Signal Offices and allied luxuries and that in spite of the opinion held by many, the '7'B Teleprinter is 100% reliable. Agreed it is not a teletype, but it *will* travel hundreds of miles on the floor of a three-ton GS lorry or in a Jeep trailer over rough as well as good roads and NOT let you down. (There is a secret behind this—nothing new, but one not sufficiently observed. Queries to SRID, c/o this Squadron).

We here are ardent supporters of THE WIRE and as there has recently been a spot of "What we do" articles, perhaps the editor can find room for us to elaborate a little?

Geographically the Squadron is responsible for the static communication of approximately one-third of the whole of the British Zone of Germany, there are nine major Signal Offices and never a dull moment.

The most forward telephone exchange is one hundred yards from the Russian Check Point on the Autobahn to Berlin. In order to ensure that we are not overstaffed the Squadron is also responsible for the communications of the largest and most elaborate Tank and Artillery Field Firing Ranges in North West Europe, these Ranges extend as far as the Baltic and are in constant use by the N.A.T.O. Forces, British, Canadians, Americans and Danish, here mention must be made of the sterling work performed by Nos. 1 and 2 (G.S.O.) Construction Troops, whose responsibility it is to ensure the efficiency of the communications. Except for a small British Supervisory element, the troops consist entirely of German Service Organisation (all ex-soldiers of the German Army), in addition to the responsibility for that of Range Communications they are always deployed on major exercises and are capable of handling any type of cable or telephone exchange. Their cheerfulness, efficiency, enthusiasm and loyalty is in the best tradition of soldiers the world over, and although methods, equipment and even Armies may change—Linemen are Linemen "Wherever they be." Despite extremely long hours of work often "Round the Clock" for days on end, they never fail to deliver the goods and they have built up a reputation of which they and Royal Signals may well be proud.

Sport

The end of the Cricket season brought the shield for the Local League Championship home to rest in the Squadron Corridor with the championship of the Small Bore League—proving that we can play as well as work.

The Football team have not got off to such a good start as was hoped, but with the example of a very famous First Division team to follow, we no doubt will soon be out of the doldrums, the game and exercise is the main thing—nevertheless we hope for better results later in the season.

Congratulations to the then 4 L. of C. Signal Regiment who with the assistance of five of our members won the Royal Signals Unit B.A.O.R. Cricket Championship.

This Month's Celebrity

Cpl. Jones for his Farewell Knock of 98 runs twenty-four hours before his departure on demobilisation.

4 L. OF C. SIGNAL REGIMENT

R.H.Q. and 1 Squadron. During September, detachments from this Regiment took part in yet another Exercise. We also made our communications contributions to the Hanover Fete and the Rhine Army Horse Show.

In the field of sport there has been much activity.

Early in the month we met and defeated 11 Air Formation Signal Regiment by 10 wickets in the B.A.O.R. Signals Inter Unit Final.

Soccer, Rugby and Hockey are well under way and we hope to give a good account of ourselves in each.

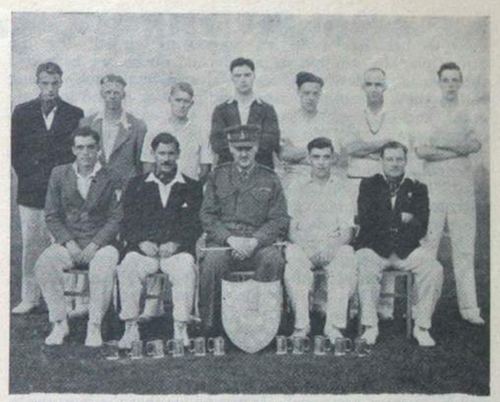
On the 1st October we lose our identity as 4 L. of C. Signal Regiment and become 19 Army Group Signal Regiment. At the same time, we say good-bye to 2 and 3 Squadrons and welcome to the fold 2 Squadron 2 L. of C. Regiment which becomes our new 3 Squadron.

To Majors Dirs and Simmonds and their merry men we say "auf weidersehen" and good hunting, and to Major Morton, his two men and a dog, "enter thou into the joy of thy life."

2 Squadron. We look back on a very enjoyable and interesting Cricket season and are pleased to be members of the Regiment which won the Royal Signals Inter Unit Cricket Championship (B.A.O.R.). This Squadron was represented by Captain Tidey, Corporal Atherton and Signalman Whitty. Corporal Atherton scored 43 out of the first innings total of 255 in the final against 11 Air Formation Signal Regiment.

The Squadron is to be represented in the District Soccer League. The team, under the guidance of Corporal Knox, is undergoing strict training. Results so far are promising. Against a Seaforth team we managed an 8-2 victory (Corporal Bell scored five goals). The second match, against a R.M.P. team resulted in a 5-5 draw (Corporal Bell three goals). If the League Championship could be won for enthusiasm alone we would have won it before the first fixture.

There is a very active branch of the Royal Signals Association functioning in this Squadron under the able guidance of S.S.M. Hose. We have, by a small percentage from Tombola Houses, raffles and collections, managed to make contributions to the Benevolent Fund. Should any member



WINNERS OF BAOR R. SIGNALS CRICKET SHIELD 1953

L. to R.: 2/Lt. Ward, Cpl. Dawson, Sgmn. Whilty, 2/Lt. McNaughton, Sigmn. Cates, W.Oll Mayhew, Cpl. Jones, Cpl. Atherton, Capt. Tidy, Lt. Col. R. J. D. Read, M.B.E., Sgmn. Mackowth, Capt. Fawley

visit Hamburg we are located each Thursday evening in the basement of the Signal Office block Uxbridge Barracks. A very good evening was had in the Association Room on Friday, 28th August, when most members were present to say farewell to Sergeant Rhind who left us for posting on promotion. The rendering of many Scottish songs by Sergeant Rhind was much appreciated.

BERLIN SIGNAL SQUADRON

With the approach of autumn exercises in the Grunewald have provided the main changes from normal Squadron routine during the past months, although our Radio Mechanics and Linemen found the P.A. commitment for the High Commissioner's farewell parade caused irregular hours. They were hard worked also to satisfy Line and P.A. demands for the annual Garrison Rifle Meeting in which the Squadron competed.

The Squadron did well in the "B" League Cricket Competition for Minor Units and would have done better had not Corporal Apps' talents earned him a place (and a century) in the Combined Services Berlin team. Our Soccer team has started the season well under Sergeant Scaife's direction, while Sergeant Budden makes no secret of his hopes for Squadron hockey. Basket ball must suffer by the conversion of the Gymnasium beneath the Squadron into an ultra-modern N.A.A.F.I, but it is hoped to run a team.

Our O.C., Major Elston, is leaving us. While under his command the Squadron changed its location and structure, and the future must always show the results of his work. The unit hopes he will enjoy his return to England and welcomes his successor Major Brunnen from 11 Armoured Division. S.Q.M.S. Thompson has left us to become S.S.M. at 2 Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, and we hope his successor, S.Q.M.S. McVeigh, from 11 Air Formation Signal Regiment enjoys his stay in Berlin. The Squadron also welcomes its first T.O.T., Lieutenant Pattison, who has joined us from Catterick.

The Squadron's "splendid isolation" at the Stadium is now over. We have been joined in our pleasant location by H.Q. Berlin Independent Brigade and everyone is already apprehensive about the future proximity of 247 Pro Company. But we have had the Berlin Festival to please our aesthetes, and the visit of the British athletic team to interest our sportsmen, while the mechanics, and indeed everyone, were delighted at Sergeant Firth's achievement in coming third in the Garrison Motor Cycle Trials.

S.H.A.P.E. SIGNAL SQUADRON

September has been an interesting month for the Squadron. In addition to our normal duties, we have had the annual physical efficiency tests, involving much gasping and panting, climbing of ropes and rushing around in battle order, and—a much more pleasant task—a small group of operators went to Oslo on the 22nd September to assist in handling N.A.T.O. "Exercise Mariner" traffic.

Signalmen Susfeleden (Reg.), Norris (N.S.M.), Hawkes (Reg.) and Harrison (N.S.M.) formed the Squadron's contribution to the large party that went to Oslo. The rest of the party was completely International and Inter Service, with Americans and Frenchmen from SHAPE, and R.A.F. and Army personnel from A.L.F.C.E. They flew there and back by Scandinavian Airlines, and while in Oslo, they stayed at the Viking Hotel, one of the best in the town (just good enough for Signals of course).

Their place of work was an old German bunker, deep in the hillside behind the Holmenkollen ski-jump, used by Olympic winter sportsmen, and shifts retained their International character by being composed mostly of U.K., U.S., and Norwegian personnel. It was notice that the Norwegian sentries took no chances of offending anybody, by saluting everyone that passed regardless of rank or nationality. Each salute was, of course, returned in the same spirit. Having practically climbed a mountain each day in order to get to work, our four operators have returned in fine condition, and are expected to romp through their P.E. tests with ease. The exertion was a fine antidote to the Norwegian beer, which, though expensive, was extremely strong. All in all it was a very interesting assignment. The Squadron has chalked up a success in yet another European capital and the returned operators regret only that the Exercise was not longer (where else does one hear operators asking for an exercise to be prolonged)! so that they could really get to know some of those tall blonde Norwegian girls.

We have not had much success on the football field so far this season, but there is plenty of time yet. In the meantime, the Squadron can now raise its own Hockey team, and with the encouragement from Captain Vero and S.S.M. Hamblett has recruited many new players who make up for lack of skill by dash and enthusiasm.

MIDDLE EAST LAND FORCES

16 INDEPENDENT PARATROOP BRIGADE GROUP SIGNAL SQUADRON

With such events as the Coronation, the conquest of Everest and the regaining of the Ashes so fresh in our minds the winning of the Brigade Minor Units Cricket Competition rather falls into insignificance. Nevertheless to those of us "sweating it out" in the Canal Zone it is such little "touches of gold" that make life bearable. And if one is to be so indiscrete as to individualise shall we just congratulate Lance-Corporal Sharpe for such consistent good cricket.

It is pleasant to see some of our families out with us and to catch the odd glimpse of Corporal Huckstep on parade in between shopping expeditions. If the number of families is small at least we have the satisfaction of knowing we helped to build Pegasus Village.

After many false starts the Corporals' Club is at last flourishing, or should we say "was" until an unfortunate reduction in the N.A.A.F.I. staff.

Christmas 1953. May we take this opportunity of wishing our families at home, and all our friends—in whose numbers we always include ex members of the Squadron—a Very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.

2 AGRA SIGNAL SQUADRON

It is with regret that we have to announce in these pages the departure of our O.C., Major L. C. P. Jaggard, who has completed his time honoured python. The Squadron has benefited greatly from his inspiring leadership over the last eighteen months and we wish him the best of luck in his new command.

His successor is Major D. H. W. Barnes and we extend to him a hearty welcome, hoping his stay will be a long and pleasant one. S.Q.M.S. "Long Span" Blake also left the Squadron at the same time as the O.C. (any comments?), and here we must pause to congratulate Sergeant London on his promotion to fill that exalted vacancy. On the sporting side, our swimming team, under the capable direction of Sergeant Yates, won the Agra Aquatics from under the noses of diverse gangs of Gunners; considering the size of our Squadron this was a highly commendable effort. To add further riches to his success, Sergeant Yates then decided to take to himself a wife, and on the 26th September married W.R.A.F. Vivienne Cathrae from Abu Sueir. The reception was attended by many members of the Squadron and it will suffice to say that as there were thirty W.R.A.F. girls also there —— well!!! We wish Sergeant and Mrs. Yates the best of luck for the future.

MALTA SIGNAL SQUADRON

Another DXM successfully dealt with! During August we were subjected to the fire of battle in Exercise DXM 53 (Defence Exercise Malta) in which the U.S. Marines supported by U.S. ship borne and land based planes put in an attack on Malta. The attack was met by our R.M. Commandos and R.A.F. and eventually repulsed. Royal Signals had no casualties except for one line party which was "Captured" by the defenders of one of our OWN airfields. Most of our personnel were hidden away in the Exercise H.Q. and were thought to be safely buried until a party of saboteurs got in complete with thunderflashes. They did not get into the Signals controlled locations however and were eventually safely rounded up. A lesson in self protection!

It would appear from the Post Mortem on the Exercise that the Corps acquitted itself in the traditional manner.

Our annual Swimming Sports was organised once again on an inter-troop basis. The winner was F.S.S. Troop with Operating and H.Q. Troops in the near distance.

Our Cricket team have acquitted themselves well, being the runners-up in the Minor Units League and reaching the finals of the TABONA Cup Competition, which is a knock-out competition between the two best teams in the major and minor leagues. Both major units were beaten by the minor units and the cup was won by our victors, 32 Company R.A.S.C.

Mention must be made of our O.C.'s prowess in the tennis field as in the recent Garrison competitions Major Yule reached the semi-finals in the Men's Singles and together with Mrs. Yule won the Mixed Doubles. Mrs. Yule also won the Ladies Singles and Ladies Doubles. A most creditable performance.

Hockey and Soccer are once again starting up and it is to be hoped that we will do as well this season as last.

Swimming is just about coming to an end now in Malta, although the hardy types still get in for a brisk invigorating swim, as opposed to the midsummer lounge and float.

A number of boat trips to Comino, a little island between Malta and Gozo, have proved very popular with both troops and families during the summer and no doubt will be much asked for next summer. The families in particular appeared glad to get away from household chores for a day.

Our thoughts are now turning to Christmas and the Children's party. Much thought and energy is being spent on making money for this purpose. It's surprising how much little tummies will hold.

1 Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment

The administrative inspection of the Regiment was held on 1st September and naturally August was devoted to the preparation for this inspection—in between two Regimental and one Divisional H.Q. Exercises. The Camp blossomed out in Signal's Colours and the R.S.M. was heard to mutter "If it stands still I'll paint it." This story has not been verified though it is on record that at a recent fire alarm practice the warning siren was so well painted that it would not twist! The transport glistened on the M.T. park with no camouflage problems. As well as being a red-letter day for the Regiment it was also a sad one as we were saying farewell to our C.O., Lieutenant-Colonel W. A. Purser. The administrative inspection was his last parade with us. We welcome most heartily our new C.O., Lieutenant-Colonel A. C. R. Stead, O.B.E., who arrived towards the end of August.

Regimental training has re-started and the signal office TEVs are soon to be fitted with ACT 1+1, VFT+D and fullerphones. "Watering the earth pins" is now the cry in the desert. Voice procedure pamphlets are in great demand and it is understood that even our Adjutant, Captain B. Roskrow sleeps with one under his pillow.

We were very sorry to lose our second-in-command, Major F. A. Young, in the middle of September. He goes to Germany to command a unit and we wish him "good hunting." Also we will miss Captain J. B. Stewart who has had to go home to have an operation.

Two Divisional H.Q. Exercises have been held recently. Although ostensibly "movement and deployment" exercises it is surprising how quickly they develop into full scale signal exercises. Staff Officers rapidly change their spots and become voice procedure experts, until shaken by the Commanding Officer.

The Regiment has had a satisfactory cricket season, three members playing in the Corps team, and we hope to win at least one trophy next year. The water-polo team too have done well and with more training will no doubt climb higher in the league table next time. Football has now started and first impressions indicate that we should have a good team. Captain David Sumner is organising the Rugger very satisfactorily, though casualties to date are two men in hospital and three hobbling with sticks!

The Gunner troops report various activities. Easy Troop have just had a change of officers—Second-Lieutenant David Pitkin joining them in place of Lieutenant David Wright who has gone home to Catterick on a Part II Course. Fox Troop were runners-up in their field regiments' inter-troop basket ball. Lieutenant Ian Spear has had a successful sailing season and won several events. George Troop have been busy with inspections and exercises and it is summoned that they have actually received a new vehicle—or is it a reconditioned one?

Three Squadron still have no Squadron Commander but this makes no difference to their hard work. Captain Norman Baker is now with Jig Troop, having recently returned from a trip to the U.K. where he took part in the Coronation Procession. In August the troop had an Exercise in the Bir Odeib area during which time was found for some excellent swimming and under-water sight seeing.

The Unit athletic meeting is to take place this week and King and Love Troops are training hard. King Troop recently won the 2 Infantry Brigade H.Q. athletic meeting. Love Troop have been observed route marching from Kabrit to Fayid though they condescended to return in a three-ton lorry. About 350 men will take part in these sports and some of them have entered for up to three events.

We were very pleased to see Brigadier G. B. Bell, C.B.E., the new C.S.O. H.Q. B.T.E., who visited the Unit a few weeks ago.

The Sergeants' Mess still finds new plants to put in its most attractive garden. A lot of hard work has been well rewarded. Another excellent dance was held on 2nd September and enjoyed by all, especially the fortunate guests. Sergeants Stogdale, Morris, Timson, Broad and Thrower have joined the Mess during the last two months, while Sergeants Hall, Catchpole, Lloyd and Brill have gone their various ways. The best of luck to them all.

W.O.s and Sergeants' Mess, 1st Divisional Signals Regiment, 28th August, 1953

☆ Helicopter Airlift ☆

THE withdrawal of the 1st Commonwealth Division from its forward positions consequent upon the truce coming into effect has kept us all extremely busy but most of all the linemen. The move has necessitated the construction of many new cable routes in some pretty rugged country.

Our new O.C. 1 Squadron, Major Wythe, with O.C. "C" Troop, Captain Dyson (R.N.Z. Signals) in close attendance, has spent a considerable time climbing the many hills in the area with a view to determining the best routes for the new lines. One day after struggling through a particularly unpleasant bit of hill country he arrived on a hill crest some 1,000 feet above where he started. Looking back the way he had come and then forward over similar shrub covered hillside down into the valley below, he appreciated that his line detachments would need a great deal of assistance to carry the stores required along the line of the route. Just then he saw a helicopter flying past in the distance and said to himself "if we only had one of those it would be easy."

It appeared that he brooded on this idea all the way back to camp because on his arrival there he proceeded rapidly in the direction of a dug-out which bore a little notice outside saying 2 IC. Finding that august personage at home and having been earlier briefed that when anything difficult had to be done all he had to do was ask the 2 IC, he just asked for a helicopter. Simple requests of this nature do not appear to worry our 2 IC who only wanted to know what the job entailed and when O.C. 1 Squadron wanted it done. Having imparted the necessary information O.C. 1 Squadron departed to his own office and proceeded to make

The rigour of War in Korea (post-armistice). The Author outside his dugout

Steel pickets being loaded inside the Helicopter

other plans which just shows how much faith he had in the abilities of the 2 I.C.

During the year he has been out here the 2 IC has built up quite a comprehensive circle of contacts and he knew the best source to produce a helicopter large enough for the job—the 1st United States Marine Division. A telephone call, a journey to the Marines H.Q., a pleasant chat over lunch and he returned with the promise of a helicopter complete with ground crew and nets for slung loads. It's easy if you know how.

The final requirement was a lift of 6,600 lb. of line stores from a landing strip near the main supply route on to a saddle between two hills some 1,000 feet higher and about two miles away. The stores consisted of 24 miles D3 twisted cable, six miles D10 dispenser, 4 ACL No. 11, 100 poles tele 17 ft. and 200 steel pickets. This was divided up into 600 lb. loads as this was the maximum weight the helicopter could take under the prevailing weather conditions of clear blue sky and warm sun.

The day prior to the lift a small party of "C" Troop climbed on the saddle and cut the foliage down to clear an area some 12 feet by 20 feet which would be adequate for dropping slung loads. This area was marked by fluorescent red and yellow strips held by steel pickets.

On the day in question the helicopter was scheduled to arrive at the pick-up area at 0730 hors. By this time all the stores had been laid out in 600 lb. piles, the pick-up area marked with fluorescent panels and a party stationed at the dropping point in the hills.

The helicopter flew in right on schedule and disembarked its ground crew and the rope carrying nets. It immediately took off with the line Sergeant of "C" Troop to do a trial run to the dropping point. At the first attempt they missed it but on climbing higher the panels were easily seen and a trial run in over the dropping point was made.

In the meantime the ground crew and our own line party had loaded cable drums into the nets and were already for the lift to start. As soon as the helicopter returned O.C. 1 Squadron replaced Sergeant Freeman in the co-pilot's seat. The helicopter then took off and the pilot manoeuvred it over the first load which was quickly attached to the hook slung below the fuselage. Quite a number of spectators had gathered by this time and there was much photography going on.

With its first load safely attached the helicopter took off and was back within ten minutes for the next load. Succeeding loads were attached in their nets without the helicopter landing and very little time was wasted. The helicopter hovered with its wheels about three feet off the ground whilst the loads were attached. The dust is terrific whilst this operation is going on and the ground crew wear special goggles to protect themselves during the attaching process.

Having used up all the nets and by then having obtained a pretty good idea of the flying conditions at the dropping point, the pilot decided that he could land his machine on the pocket handkerchief of a strip we had cleared on the hill crest. He proceeded to do so and picked up the nets. On his return to the take up point he decided to carry the poles, dispensers, pickets and ACL No. 11 as internal loads and to land the machine at the dropping point. This meant that the party at the dropping point could get a lift back to base and have their first trip in a helicopter.

Altogether the helicopter made 11 round trips. It had to return to its base in the middle of the operation for refuelling which took some 40 minutes, but in spite of this the whole operation was over in three hours.

Before closing this account of the first helicopter airlift organised by the Regiment, there is one rather amusing incident which should not go unchronicled. It occurred on the last trip when it had been arranged that the 2 IC who had lost pounds clambering up to the dropping point should travel back in the co-pilot's seat. As soon as the last stores had been unloaded this gallant warrior whose shadow does not appear to grow less, climbed up into the cockpit and strapped himself into his seat. Having confirmed that all was well over the intercom the pilot proceeded to grasp a large lever by his left hand side and gave it a pull whilst manipulating sundry other gadgets with his feet and the other hand. To his amazement what should have happened did not, so he tried again and again there was no joy. There upon the pilot switched off saying something about there being no boost and got out of the helicopter.

And there they were sitting on the saddle between the hills, with a steep drop on either side, in the middle of nowhere in particular and no boost. The pilot looked around and in his best American said "Gee, Goddam" or words to that effect and then asked if there was a telephone handy. Strange to relate we had run a line up to the dropping point and there was a telephone, so he heaved a sigh of relief.

In the meantime that aforesaid gallant warrior, the 2 IC, had proceeded to divert himself of his harness and also disembark. Whilst doing so he noticed that his pistol was hanging down between the side of the machine and another large lever similar to the one that the pilot had been pulling. With the experience of many hours in the air behind him it came to him in a flash that the pistol might have been the cause of all the trouble. By this time the crew chief had opened up the front of the helicopter and was looking hard for the missing boost with little success. The 2 IC thereupon called the attention of the pilot to the activities of his pistol, who didn't think that was the cause but decided to get back in and try again. He did so and lo and behold all was well so everyone, including the 2 IC, clambered back on board and away they went. We still don't believe it was the pistol that caused the trouble but feel it was the helicopter registering a protest at being given an unfair load to carry.

The helicopter hovering with a slung load of dispensers

The helicopter does not need to land in order to pick up or put down its load

☆

Present from N.A.A.F.I.

Naafii is making a free gift of one hundred portable wireless sets and 720 footballs to British troops in Korea.

Distribution of the footballs has already begun from Naafi stores in Japan.

The wireless sets will be sent from Britain. They have been specially developed by a British manufacturer for service in extreme climates, and can be operated from battery or mains. They are equipped with telescopic aerials which extend to a height of five feet, giving a greatly increased range.

The sets are being delivered direct to Southampton Docks, where they will be loaded aboard a troopship leaving shortly for the Far East.

These gifts will augment War Office amenity supplies ordered for Korea.

COMCAN BACKS THE FIELD ARMIES

ANUK TRANSMITTER STATION

2 War Office Signal Regiment (Engineer)

(The) Previous article(s) in this series will probably have given the impression (which is also the official view) that COMCAN stations are static. Following in the steps of Einstein, however, and taking a snail's eye view, we claim that ours is a "mobile" station. Speed (on a good concrete surface) approximately 8fi720h (8 foot/month) when equipped with SWB11 transmitters.

The grounds for this somewhat revolutionary assertion are explained in detail below; broadly, they are that the complete equipment at this transmitter station had to be moved, by the normal station staff, from the existing transmitter halls and reinstalled in two newly-constructed ones whilst carrying on as far as possible existing schedules. Admittedly, the two new halls were only an extension of the old building, but even so, practically every item of equipment had to be moved a fair distance and rewired. Work of this nature would, of course, normally be carried out by a special installation team (Army Wireless Chain Installation Team) but, by the time the two new halls were finally ready they had departed overseas.

Examined in detail, the project was of considerable magnitude. The four existing C.F.S. SWB11 transmitters were to be moved into the new No. 1 hall and a fifth (S.S.B.) was also to be installed. Provision had also to be made for a sixth (C.F.S.) and allowance for a possible seventh. In addition, the Squadron was committed to moving seven WS63 and wiring a new V.F. room.

The installation team, drawn from the Squadron, numbered six (including three N.S. men), under Sergeant Merwood. There were troubles during the installation of the S.S.B. transmitter due mainly to lack of experience of S.S.B. technique and the installation of the first C.F.S. transmitter was not without its own teething troubles. The enthusiastic installation team was, however, quick to learn and often worked eighteen hours a day. There were difficult periods—none more than at the end of January when two transmitters, the control desk and shift check equipment were still in the old hall, three transmitters were in the new hall, and the V.F. room was in another building a hundred yards away. Temporary cables were everywhere. At the same time, the Southern Electricity Board and W.D. Power House were rearranging the mains supplies and putting in new switch gear and the heating engineers were trying, without noticeable success, to encourage a supply of warm air through the trunking.

There were humorous moments too. For example, on the night when the last transmitter was being accepted from R.E.M.E. after inspection. A R.E.M.E. craftsman was leaning against the control unit when the accepting Officer asked for the SWB11 to be keyed on Stud 4. Unfortunately one fault had not been cleared and the resulting flash and bang dispelled any doubts as to the craftsman's ability to move quickly. Again, when a civilian engineer working on the G.P.O. distribution frame in the V.F. room, having observed Corporal Dunlevy's excellent cabling on the line patching panel, was seen to remove furtively the wiring he had already completed preparatory to starting again.

By the end of February, out of the apparent disorder, there emerged a compact new No. 1 transmitter hall. It is true that the control desk was still temporary and the internal aerial switching arrangements improvised. The improvised switching will remain until the arrival of the new polythene-covered conductors. However, a new control desk has since been designed and built on the station. The desk is simple and incorporates only essential facilities. The superintendent has the facility of tripping any transmitter in an emergency. In addition, there is an indication of the R.F. output from any transmitter with an indicator lamp and alarm bell to draw attention to failure. All circuits can be monitored on teleprinter or meter, and parallel meters from the S.S.B. drive equipment are also included.

A separate rack has been built to house the frequency and shift check equipment consisting of an SCR211 with associated coaxial pick-up to each transmitter, and a C.R.O., B.F.O. and AR88 suitably connected so that a reasonably accurate shift check can be made.

By the time the internal wiring was completed the installation team had, in three months, connected about a mile and half of various cables on 600 feet of cable tray, cleated and bonded every two feet. 3,000 lugs had been soldered and 600 Hellerman sleeves used. In addition, 400 holes had been drilled in reinforced concrete for cable tray supports (and to this latter story there is, of course, a moral).

Apologia

The Editor's lack of technical knowledge has for many years been stressed in annual confidential reports and is exemplified by the error in publishing the photograph of one of the transmitters mentioned in the above article with a description of a U.K. Reception Terminal in the October WIRE. *Our thanks are due to the only officer who has drawn our attention to this error. Perhaps the Editor is not alone in lack of knowledge.*

F.A.R.E.L.F.

MALAYA SIGNAL REGIMENT

As we stated in our last issue our No. 2 Squadron was dissolving. This is now completed as the Federation Army has taken over our Taiping commitments. Before long we expect to be existing only as a Squadron which will, of course, mean that not so many of you back in U.K. will be "sweating" on a posting to Malaya. There has not been a lot of social activity this month due to the many moves within the Regiment, including the posting of S.S.M. Nutt (ex 2 Squadron) to 18 Brigade Signals here in "K.L." and S.S.M. Bates from 18 Brigade Signals to our H.Q. to take over Warrant Officer. We trust they find their new surrounding congenial enough until their R.H.E. in April. Sergeant Hill and Sergeant Tucker return to U.K. in a few days' time and we wish them bon voyage.

The W.O.s and Sergeants' Mess had a very successful dance on 26th September to which some 150 people were present, including C.S.O. Malaya, Colonel W. G. Tucker, O.B.E., and our Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel G. Thomson. We hear that S.S.M. ("Freddy") Hewitt had a sleepless night prior to the dance with nightmares on tents E.P.I.P and M.U.G.S. which were in short supply for covering the mess lawn. Nightmares were suffered by others too after they gallantly endeavoured to accomplish the impossible task of consuming the Buffet of lobster, prawns, mushrooms, curry and other delicacies so well provided by our Cooks, under Sergeant Beer. The Signal Office Staff find that being located near to the Mess on such occasions has its obvious advantage of being supplied with a good feed from the left overs around 2 a.m.!

As a matter of interest everything is fairly central here as the sports grounds, tennis, badminton, hockey, rugby, football, the A.K.C. and Nuffield swimming pool are all within five minutes walk of the camp, as also are the married quarters bungalows. However it is not "All beer and skittles" as the infrequent dances, etc. show. The Signal Office Staff and Air Support Signal Troop, with its tentacles all over Malaya, are kept busy enough keeping up communications in the Federation and even as this goes to press a Squad from this Unit is being given details of the patrol they are going out on this evening.

Hockey is our main sporting event at the moment and this season we have won 11 matches, lost 4 and drawn nil. W.O.II Buchanan, our centre half has been selected for a State trial. The Rugby team is getting off to a good start too, having won four, lost nil, drawn nil. To players (Corporal Johnson and Signalman Jones) have also been selected for State trial games.

No. 3 Squadron. The C.S.O. Malaya, Colonel W. G. Tucker, O.B.E., visited us on the 29th September, when he went round both the Signal Office and the transmitter hall; the widgets were having an off day for none of the sets decided to prove troublesome.

This month we welcome to the Squadron Sergeant Attwell from Taiping, who has now taken over the duties of Squadron Sergeant vice Sergeant Hayward (now returned to Kuala Lumpur).

A number of the Gurkha Royal Signals have now arrived and have begun to assist in the running of the Signal Office and S.D.S. Duties. We hope they will not be long in settling down in Seremban.

As far as sports are concerned we still continue to play at every available opportunity. The cricket team recorded an end of the season victory over the Camp 17 Division, while the hockey team continues to flourish. It will be noted that although we challenged the Regiment to a Hockey match in these notes last month, they have not yet decided to take us on. It is nice to know that our superiority has travelled that far afield.

SINGAPORE DISTRICT SIGNAL REGIMENT

Our first year in Princess Mary Barracks has ended and the occasion was duly celebrated by a dance in the Sergeants' Mess where one and all had an excellent time. R.S.M. Marjoram, M.B.E., and P.M.C. W.O.II Appleton are to be congratulated for the excellency of their arrangements. A raffle in aid of the Signals Benevolent Fund realised £15.

We now have an amateur Wireless Club which is running extremely well under the able leadership of Captain C. A. Roake. We are using a modified R.C.A. Transmitter (belonging to P.R.I. not the Q.M.). The power output is restricted to 25 watts but is capable of considerably more. The receiver is an AR 88, and up to date we have worked 150 Stations, representing 45 countries. The aerial is a "Z4" special beamed to cover Europe but a Rotary Beam is in process of construction.

Our call sign is VSIFS and we would be extremely pleased to hear from all "Signals Hams."

We at last have our own Rugby ground and now propose to show the rest of Singapore how the game should be played. From our limited resources of about 90 B.O.R.s we have the makings of a first class team. R.S.M. Marjoram is the hooker and S.Q.M.S. Randle (Pop) a front row forward, is a menace to the opposition. We have hopes that several of the team will play for the Army.

At Hockey also we have the best team for a number of years under the captaincy of Second-Lieutenant Williams. We look forward to a good season.

We welcome into our midst Major B. Butler, M.B.E., and family, Captain J. E. Everard and wife, both of whom go to 1 Squadron on lines work.

ROYAL SIGNALS (SINGAPORE) RUGBY CLUB

The Royal Signals (Singapore) XV got away to a good start this season by beating R.A.O.C. 33 points to nil on the new Princess Mary Barracks ground on 3rd October. After leading eleven-nil at half time, Signals swamped their opponents during the second half. Major D. D. Fairman, the team captain, had his kicking boots on and landed two penalty goals and converted three tries. Wainwright (District Signals) and Pain (G.H.Q. Signals) combined well at half back, the former scoring two tries and the latter one. Other tries were scored by Shanahan, Knight and Anderson who also dropped a goal.

T.A. and A.E.R.

H.Q. 60 ARMY SIGNAL REGIMENT (T.A.)

We extend a hearty welcome to Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. J. L. McNeil who have joined us from 6 Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment, B.A.O.R., and our best wishes go with Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. D. E. L. Gardiner to their new post in Hong Kong.

We held a combined Officers, W.O.s and Sergeants' cocktail party at the Blue Boar Inn on 25th August to serve the double purpose of saying "Good-bye" and "Hullo," and the evening was a tremendous success for which our thanks are due to Major J. R. Long and S.Q.M.S. Greaves, H., for their excellent arrangements.

As we have not appeared in print for some time we thought you might like to know the names of our permanent staff. Here they are:—

Captain R. W. Bosworth
Major W. G. Cooke.
R.S.M. V. W. G. King
S.S.M. V. H. Stephens
Sergeant L. A. Nicholls
Sergeant A. D. Mears
Sergeant D. Convery
Mr. R. N. Dinning (S.S.M.)
Mr. P. J. S. Oates (Sergeant)
Mr. F. C. Radley (S.Q.M.S.)
Mr. R. Chamber (Corporal)
Mr. H. Thrower

Our hearty congratulations and good wishes to Sergeant and Mrs. Mears on the occasion of their marriage.

H.Q. 61 ARMY SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

Salisbury Plain was at its worst during the fortnight's camp of 161 and 162 Independent Infantry Brigades and their two Field Regiments, all of which had their Signals with them.

As usual in our Corps we received friendly help and welcome from other Signal Regiments who gave valuable assistance under trying conditions.

Exercise Golden Flash in which the two Brigades fought each other, provided a real test of Signals Security and the Officer who rang up an N.C.O. in his own Regiment who was on the other side to ask for the location of the H.Q. was indulging in good training even if slightly unrealistic. Honours were even over the episode as the N.C.O. concerned was told by an umpire to give the information as the latter thought the request came from control!

Great initiative was shown by a DR who inadvertently crossed the frontier. He gained valuable information from a famous regular cavalry Regiment who had changed sides during the night and thought the DR had done likewise. Needless to say he did not disillusion them but returned safely instead of joining a P.O.W. Cage.

Except for 161 Brigade there was little opportunity for recreation but a Sunday trip to Bournemouth was enjoyed by some.

On return, and having got rid of our colds, we have the satisfaction of knowing we have done a good job under difficult conditions and learned many valuable lessons.

On the Sunday a 161 Brigade church parade was held, after which the Squadron led the Brigade Units on the march past. Many neutral observers expressed admiration for the smartness and turnout of the Squadron.

50 (N) INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT (T.A.)

Since we last wrote the tempo of Regimental activity has increased after a very welcome period of idleness (relatively speaking) after Annual Camp. We were aroused from our slumbers by the Regimental Musketry Week-end at Whitburn, when Sergeant Bland of 1 Squadron, proved to be the best shot. The Bren was also ably instructed by Sergeant Stephenson from Catterick. The week-end was made particularly pleasant by the weather being fine and sunny—this is unheard of for a week-end at Whitburn. The illumina-

tions at Roker did a great deal to provide entertainment on the evening of Saturday.

3 Squadron at Gateshead was the scene of some festivity on the occasion of the official opening of the new Drill Hall by Lieutenant-Colonel R. M. Percival, T.D., who previously commanded the Regiment. After the opening, all ranks had dinner followed by a social, where everyone was shattered by the heretofore hidden talent which emerged.

The week-end 3rd/4th October, saw the Officers of the Regiment in the capable hands of the School of Signals. The topic was V.H.F. relay equipment. A morning of most competent instruction and demonstration was followed by lunch in the Helles Mess, where we were treated to an old world courtesy which could not have been bettered. This week-end also saw the birth of a playlet entitled "Clott to Pay," dealing with the complications of "write off," etc. Will all those eager to learn tackle Major Farmer, the Training Officer. The week-end will be remembered for a lecture given by Captain Blizeard of 49 Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment on Armoured Divisional Signals. The day was rounded off by a Regimental Guest Night to which the new G.O.C., General Colquhoun, came and also six Officers of 49th Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment including Lieutenant-Colonel N. R. Bigland, T.D. This re-established a long standing association which had lapsed as a result of the war.

The Yearly Regimental Ball took place on the 9th of October and was voted a great success. General Colquhoun took the opportunity to come across from Catterick and meet the Officers and ex-Officers of the Regiment.

Excellent work was then done by scene shifters to prepare the Drill Hall for a Band Concert on the 11th October in aid of the St. Cuthbert's Parish Church, Darlington. The Band, which has been formed only a year, put on an excellent performance and the proceeds of the concert, we hear, will go to repair that part of the church which houses the Regiment War Memorial.

63 H.Q. L. OF C. REGIMENT (T.A.)

The Regiment attended Camp at Chickerell, near Weymouth, Dorset, from 13th to 21st September, 1953. Owing to a violent 48 hours gale during 20th/21st September it was decided that the Camp be vacated and that the Regiment should move to Park Camp, West Lulworth, Dorset.

The move was carried out under the most trying weather conditions on 22nd September, 1953.

The following is an extract from a signal No. 14524/3/Q dated 23rd September, 1953, received from Headquarters, South Western District to mark this memorable occasion:

"All units Chickerell Camp have displayed commendable action in overcoming vicissitudes of Gale Storms and affecting arrangements for move to Lulworth. Reserve training to continue despite Admin tasks."

Despite bad weather conditions during the first week a programme of trade training was carried through and the Exercise set by the Commanding Officer for the second week was also completed with marked enthusiasm.

The C.S.O. Southern Command, Brigadier E. S. Cole, C.B.E., inspected the Regiment at a ceremonial parade held at Park Camp, West Lulworth, on Saturday, 25th September, 1953. Before taking the salute at a march past of the Regiment, he presented No. 6746367 W.O.I (R.S.M.) Truscott, M.E.E., with the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal.

To conclude the camp activities the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel A. T. Sladen, O.B.E., presented the following cups and trophies competed for and won during 1953:—

(a) Inter-Squadron Efficiency Cup—125 Wireless Troop.
(b) Miniature Range Annual Championship Cup—1 Squadron, 63 H.Q. L. of C. Signal Regiment.
(c) Inter-Squadron Football Trophy — 125 Wireless Troop.
(d) Inter-Troop Efficiency Cup, W.R.A.C.—476 Tele. Swbd Troop, W.R.A.C., Bridgwater.

44th (H.C.) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment (T.A.)

The reappearance of this Regiment in the pages of THE WIRE coincides with the end of Annual Camp, and it is this highlight of the year's activities which provides the chief items of Regimental news.

The Regiment arrived at South Bodney Camp, Stanford P.T.A., on 20th September to be greeted by a hard-worked advance party, who had spent the previous four days drawing vehicles and stores from the pool. It is understood that, as a result of these activities, the Quartermaster will shortly be presenting certain members of the advance party with suitably inscribed certificates appointing them "G.D. Wallahs, First Class." Monday and Tuesday were spent in further drawing of vehicles and stores and in the necessary checking and testing of equipment. To the average member of the Regiment, it seemed that things were fast taking on that well-known military state of chaos. However, on Wednesday morning the Divisional Staff were presented with a virtually fully mobilised Signal Regiment in time for the start of the Divisional exercises which formed the main part of this year's in-camp training.

To most members of Signals the term "field exercises" brings forth a vision of exceedingly hard work on their own particular part of the communication system followed by that exasperating moment just after getting into bed, when somebody decides to move that bed (accompanied by the Divisional H.Q. and the communication system) to some new location, when the whole process starts again. Exercise Practice Throw proved true to type, and landed us at the most aptly named Fowlmere Farm at the dismal time of 0300 hours. As this particular move involved much digging in (and digging out of vehicles), and the whole place was perpetually shrouded in a heavy, wet, grey fog, the Regiment was heartily thankful when the Exercise finished at mid-day and allowed us to return to the doubtful comforts of South Bodney in time to clean up for the evening's social activities.

On Saturday the Regiment held a ceremonial parade. The Representative Colonel-Commandant, Major-General C. M. F. White, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., inspected the parade and took the salute at the march-past which followed. Regimental photographs and an orgy of maintenance made up the rest of Saturday's programme, while Sunday was a well-earned day of rest with "in bed or out of barracks" as the order of the day.

On Monday the Division moved out again on the first of the second week's exercises. We were to move in a large circle through East Anglia and some of the bounds were of considerable length. It was at this stage that a certain never-to-be-forgotten "task force" made its appearance. Officially known as a Forward Report Control it was very soon christened "Stobbs' Circus" after the G2 of the Division. The Circus was to cause many a headache for Signals in terms of extreme ranges for 19 sets and scraping the barrel for D.R.'s in the days to come. The R.C.A.F. provided us with a very convincing demonstration of air-power on several occasions during the week. We also had a security "flap" when a citizen of Colchester found a copy of the Divisional Signal Instruction in a place where no signal instruction ought to be.

With such a full field programme, social activities were necessarily curtailed. The Officers' Mess Guest Night on the first Friday in camp was an undoubted success. Sergeant Manual took command of the kitchen and produced an excellent dinner, and although the combination of good food and lack of sleep on previous nights produced some sleepiness over the port on the part of some guests from the Divisional Staff, the proceedings in the ante-room afterwards were very successful. The Regiment were hosts to a number of distinguished officers of the Corps and to many friends of the Regiment, as well as our colleagues of the Divisional Staff.

In the Sergeants' Mess much entertainment was provided by a jovial R.M.P. Sergeant who specialised in lifting people off their feet by their necks. (We shudder to think what his civil occupation might be). The Regiment's liberty waggons provided an outing to the coast on the Sunday and we are told that our members were in demand as escorts in a number of Norfolk towns.

We offer our thanks to those people from other units who were attached to us for camp, both for their help and their company. In particular we appreciate the help given by the Officers and detachments from Eastern Command and 5 Corps Signal Regiments of the Regular Army. The Regiment has now returned to its various centres, and with a passing shudder at the inevitable aftermath of stores accounting we are looking forward to our winter training and social events.

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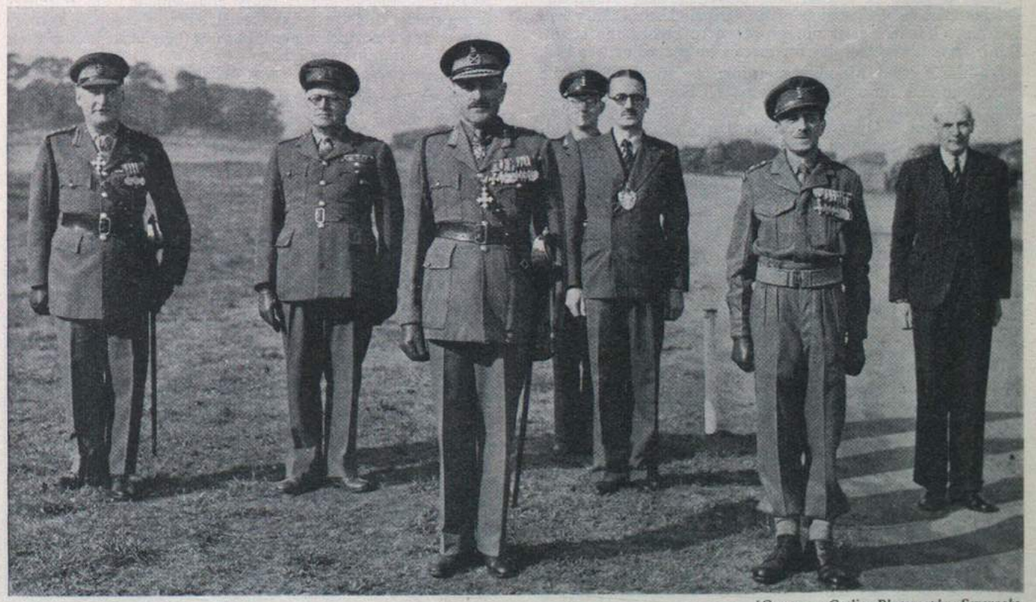

[*Courtesy : Catling Photography, Sevenoaks.*

Major General C. M. F. White, C.B., C.B.O., D.S.O., Representative Colonel Commandant, Brigadier C. A. H. Chadwick, C.B.E., A.D.C., C.S.O. H.Q. Eastern Command, Lieut. Colonel K. B. Baldwin, O.B.E., T.D.

London District Signal Regiment, A.E.R.

London District Signal Regiment A.E.R. came into being in April, 1952, with Lieutenant-Colonel G. H. T. Shrimpton, T.D., as Commanding Officer. This was too late for it to function as an A.E.R. Regiment during last year but readers may remember that it fulfilled its role of serving London District during Exercise "Jupiter" with Colonel Shrimpton supported by one A.E.R. Officer and 150 "Z" Reservists. Since then there has been slow but sure progress in the campaign to recruit volunteers for its H.Q. and 3 A.E.R. Squadrons.

By the time the advance party arrived for Camp at Chester on 4th September, the strengths had grown to 365 all ranks. There was still no Quartermaster or T.O.T., but the C.O.'s mysterious methods had produced R.Q.M.S. Smart and two S.Q.M.S.s, C. R. A. Kite and L. E. Jackman, all ex-regular soldiers. Indeed, small though the W.O.s and Sergeants' Mess was, it contained an unusually high percentage of ex-regulars and it soon became apparent that it made up in quality for its lack in quantity. There was a gloom over the party, however, as on the previous Monday, Col. Shrimpton had been removed to hospital and it was doubtful if he would be able to attend Camp at all.

The main party arrived on the Sunday and seemed to settle in well, and the following day we were hard at it with the training programmes. Many preconceived ideas and carefully prepared programmes had of course to be amended but in spite of this the men were kept fully employed in their trades.

Soccer and hockey games took place on the first Wednesday afternoon, and on Friday evening the Regiment beat Western Command Signal Regiment at hockey 3-1. On Sunday a game of cricket was played against Hawarden Cricket Club in the grounds of Hawarden Castle. They had a County bowler: it is not proposed to record the result. But it was a delightful day for those who played or watched.

On the second Monday morning, we moved into the Hawarden area for a 36-hour Exercise. Four mobile Signal offices, including W/T sets, were set up and manned, lines were laid and "Operation Hawarden" was soon in full swing; we had begun in earnest. A radio mechanic danced the devil dance (and later used his language) on top of a 53 set vehicle; a driver dropped a trailer on his foot and, re-appearing with plaster and crutches, refused to leave the site. There was some consternation about a broken half-shaft but the flap subsided when the M.T.O., slowly puffing his pipe, was heard to utter the well remembered words: "Not to worry. We drew it as a 4 x 4. We'll hand it back as a 4 x 2."

Heavy rain fell on the scene of the "battle" on Tuesday morning and it was particularly unwelcome, as this was the time of inspection by Brigadier D. St. J. Hoysted, C.S.O. Western Command, and by Lieutenant-Colonel C. H. Stoneley, O.B.E., C.S.O. London District. Both were keenly interested in what they saw and asked some particularly difficult questions. Someone must have found the right answers for each gave us a good chit.

We were "operationally" cheerful and to add to our pleasure, shortly after tea, our Honorary Colonel, Colonel P. T. Lovely, C.C., arrived with Colonel Shrimpton, still not fit but much recovered.

Unfortunately rain on the following day cut short the Regimental sports programme but, despite it, there were some good performances. Mrs. Stoneley was good enough to present the prizes and to take tea in the Officers' Mess.

Most of Friday was spent handing back stores, with much trepidation as to what had been lost and on whose signature it would be found to be. However, the losses were very small, and what is even more to the point, apparently the Depot thought so too. That evening, in the final of the Inter-Squadron soccer, 3 Squadron beat 3 Squadron 3-1 and now hold a cup presented by the Honorary Colonel. In the final of a tug-of-war the linemen at last came into their own and 1 Squadron beat 2 Squadron.

Saturday was largely a clearing up day and a-getting ready to go home but for the competition for the Inter-Squadron Drill Cup. The standard was particularly—and rather unexpectedly—high. Colonel Shrimpton addressed the Regiment and summed up our work by saying that we had arrived in Camp from all over the country as individuals and would be leaving as a Regiment, but still with much to do.

Apart from some seven-a-side rugger, that was about all —except for the subaltern who had carelessly arranged to be 21 on the Sunday.

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Royal Signals and the Army Cadet Force

Nearly a year ago I wrote an article which appeared in the November 1952 WIRE giving an outline of a plan for training Army Cadets in a Royal Signals trade and thus give them a flying start in their National Service to the benefit of all concerned.

It may be of interest to those who read the article to know that results are already becoming apparent.

Two of the Cadets who received training have enlisted as Regular Soldiers for a 22 years' engagement. On enquiries being made, their progress was stated to "compare favourably with the normal intake," both in their Basic and in their Technical training periods.

One of these Cadets, who enlisted in November 1952, classified in April 1953 as Operater Keyboard B3 and in June 1953 as OKW A3. He is now serving in the Middle East.

These are only two. The plan is still being carried out and there will be more to come.

[Photo: Meadows & Co., Blackpool

What must have been a highly technical discussion conducted by the T.O.T., Captain C. E. M. Bramham, R. Signals, T.A.

This year, again, R.S.M. Boyton, Sergeant Mears and Sergeant Smith (a T.A. Volunteer) went to Camp at Cark with the Cadets. They took with them Wireless and Line equipment and a Training Set Universal and carried on with the good work. There was great enthusiasm and a great deal of useful training was done.

During the Annual Camp period of 62 H.Q. L. of C. Signal Regiment T.A., the Parent Unit to this Cadet Unit, a Demonstration of Signal Equipment was staged and included a static layout of No. 10 Sets with a full complement of telephones and teleprinters, No. 53 Sets and other equipment. Finally, the fifty Cadets who attended the Demonstration boarded the vehicles of 23 Independent Armoured Brigade Signal Squadron and 88 AGRA Signal Squadron and went for a "Wireless" drive in the country around Kinmel Park.

Such events as these can become a normal and pleasant part of a successful affiliation between a T.A. Unit and a Unit of the Army Cadet Force.

T.W.B.

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Royal Signals Association

Dedication of Branch Standard

on

Sunday 28th September 1953

There was a large and representative congregation at the Uckfield Parish Church on Sunday for the dedication by the Rector, the Rev. C. W. F. Bennett, of the Standard of the Uckfield and District Branch of the Royal Signals Association.

The Parade from The Bridge Hotel to the Church of the Signals Associations from Uckfield and Tunbridge Wells Districts was led by the Fairwarp Silver Band and supported by an Officer and 50 Other Ranks of the Eastern Command Signal Regiment, Uckfield Branches of the British Legion and R.A.F. Association and Sussex/57 Detachment of the British Red Cross Society.

The Parade was met at the Church by the Standard Bearer and Escort of the Uckfield British Legion (Women's and R.A.F. Association and Sussex/57 Detachment of the British Red Cross Society.

The congregation included Major-General White, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., Colonel Commandant R. Signals, and Mrs. White; Lord Rupert Nevill, Brigadier J. A. S. Tillard, O.B.E., M.C., Lieutenant-Colonel Atkinson, Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. Smitherman, Lieutenant-Colonal C. D. Hinde, O.C. Eastern Command Signal Regiment, Major P. Rice, Major W. J. A. Nicks, President Uckfield and District O.C.A., and Mrs. Nicks, Capt. Donne, Adjutant Eastern Command Signal Regiment, Captain E. Denny, Officers and Senior N.C.O.s of the Eastern Command Signal Regiment, Mr. W. A. Clark, J.P., and Mrs. Clark, Mr. J. Clark, 4/7th Dragoon Guards, and Representatives of the Uckfield Parish Council, Rotary Club, Toc H and Chamber of Commerce. The Wives and families of the various Associations were also present.

To add to the beauty of this Service the Church was decorated for Harvest Festival.

The Lesson was read by Major-General C. M. F. White, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O.

In his address, the theme of which was "Communications," the Rector recalled that in the First World War the Signal Corps played a vital part in every battle and established great tradition and noble ideals.

[Courtesy: Sussex Express & County Herald

THE STANDARD

Mr. A. S. Brown, O.B.E., Mr. E. Westrop, Mr. T. R. Edwards

In 1920 the Royal Signals came into being and lived up to those high ideals and principles.

In the Second World War over 100,000 men served in the Royal Signals and some 5,500 gave their lives to see that justice and liberty, freedom and right were maintained.

Besides all those who made the Supreme Sacrifice were many who were wounded and suffered, and still suffered, as a result of the War.

The essential purpose of the Signals was to maintain communications, said the Rector. No Army could exist especially in our far flung Commonwealth, unless Communications were maintained. No victory could be won unless communications were restored soon after they were broken.

The Signals Association existed to maintain contact with those who served and to hold up before the World the ideals and traditions of their great service.

The essence of the Christian's faith was "Communications." They should all pledge themselves to maintain contact with God. What a desperate struggle they were having to try to maintain peace in the World. Men sometimes jeered at the United Nations but they should never do that, they had only to consider the U.N. Forces in Korea.

Thank goodness, said the Rector, the United Nations did still meet in conference even if it was only to snarl: They were at least in contact with one another and there was always the hope that one day sanity might be restored.

It was upholding such ideals as those of the Signals Association that they could help make this earth a little more like God's plan.

The collection was for the Royal Signals Benevolent Fund and amounted to £8.

After the Service the Visitors numbering some 180 were entertained to tea at the Bridge Hotel.

The organising Committee consisted of Major W. J. A. Nicks, Mr. A. Brown, M.B.E., and Mr. W. May, Honorary Secretary.

Royal Signals—O.C.A. Reunion

IT was a memorable moment for members of the Chester Branch of the Royal Signals Old Comrades' Association when, at a reunion on Saturday, their President (Mr. E. Lavis Jones) was presented with a Royal Signals Branch Standard. R.S.M. R. J. Leonard made the presentation on behalf of the Warrant Officers and Sergeants' Mess, Officers' Training Wing, Catterick. R.S.M. Leonard said he was delighted to have this opportunity of coming to Chester and bringing the standard. Thanking him, Mr. Lavis Jones said he was looking forward to visiting Catterick in March to have the colours dedicated in St. Martin's Church.

Thirty-four visitors from Catterick were met by Branch officers at Vicar's Cross, and taken to Blacon Camp for dinner and the evening's entertainment. This was the first occasion on which a serving unit has been entertained outside Catterick by a Branch of the O.C.A.

It was attended by representatives of the C.S.O.'s Branch, Western Command; the Signal Regiment, Officers' and Sergeants' Messes, A.E.R. Depot, Blacon; 62nd L. of C. Signal Regiment, T.A.; 51st L. of C. Signal Regiment, A.E.R., and the Catterick Branch of the Association.

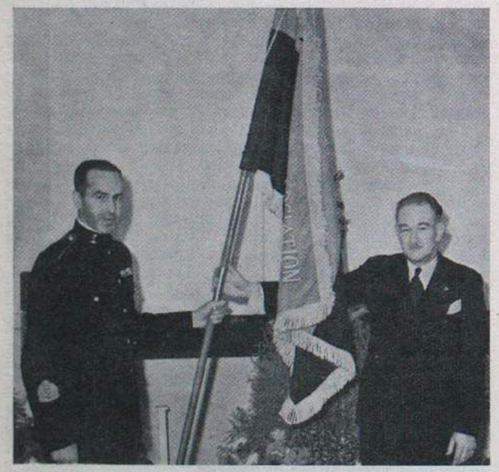
The guests included Brigadier D. St. John Hoystead (C.S.O. Western Command), and Mrs. Hoystead, Colonel and Mrs. W. E. Gill, Colonel T. W. Boileau and the Hon. Mrs. Boileau, Colonel and Mrs. L. W. J. Dryland, and Colonel and Mrs. R. H. Copeland.

After dinner and the ceremony, Mr. S. Pointon (Chairman) welcomed the guests. Their toast was proposed by Mr. Keith R. West, who, with the assistance of Tech. Sergeant-Major J. Matthews, Blacon, organised the week-end's festivities. Sergeant-Major Derrick, Catterick, responded, and also toasted the hosts.

Staff-Sergeant Pilgrim, Blacon, was responsible for the buffet and also for the dinner arrangements.

On Sunday morning the visitors were shown round Chester, and were particularly impressed by the gay flowers in the park, the Rows, and the entrance, on a public highway, to St. Michael's Church, in Bridge Street Row.

Lunch at Blacon Camp followed. Before the Catterick contingent left, a vote of thanks was proposed by the president to Mr. Keith West, who had worked so hard and successfully for their enjoyment.



R.S.M. R. J. Leonard, Officer Training Wing, School of Signals presents the Standard to Mr. Lavis Jones, President, Chester Branch Royal Signals Association

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GLOSSOP AND DISTRICT ROYAL SIGNALS O.C.A.

Colonel G. J. Underwood speaks.

The Rutland Arms Hotel at Bakewell has an admirable dining room which holds 100—no more and this limited the numbers for the Annual Dinner of those of South Midland Corps Signals T.A. who in the main served during the War in 4 Corps Signals in Assam, Burma and South East Asia and 11 Armoured Divisional Signals.

The Regiment was formed in Glossop but its Headquarters moved to Bakewell on the outbreak of War and the Rutland Arms was used as its Officers' Mess: so much for tradition.

Nearly all present had belonged to the original Unit and speakers included Colonel G. J. Underwood, T.D., first Commanding Officer, C.S.O. 4 Corps, President of the O.C.A., Lieutenant-Colonel J. L. Harrison, O.B.E., Chairman, Major Andrew Goodman, an original officer and one of the 11 Armoured Divisional Signals, and Brigadier H. R. Firth, General Secretary, Royal Signals Association.

[Courtesy: Glamorgan Gazette

Included in the picture are Mr. and Mrs. Vivian R. Jones, President, Mr. and Mrs. R. G. Hanford, Chairman, Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Evans, Hon. Secretary, Mr. and Mrs. G. Jones and other members of the Committee. The Guests in the picture include Mr. B. Edward Howe, President of S.S.A.F.A. and Mrs. Howe, J.P. and Brigadier H. R. Firth, General Secretary, Royal Signals Association

Croydon and District

The Branch held its Inaugural Meeting on the 14th October and 25 members were enrolled. The following officers were elected: President, Brigadier A. C. C. Willway; Chairman, Major A. E. Stocker; Vice-Chairman, Mr. Surplice; Hon. Secretary, Mr. T. Hayward; Treasurer, Lieutenant-Colonel Gibbs; Entertainment Committee, Messrs. Easthaugh, Vaux and Sergeant Kirby; Auditors, Messrs. Snowdon and Greenstreet.

Meetings are to be held in Queens House, Poplar Walk, two minutes from West Crooydon Southern Electric Station on the second Wednesday in each month at 7.30 p.m.

Hon. Secretary: Mr. T. Hayward, Congregational Church, Sanderstead Hill, Sanderstead, Surrey.

Port Talbot and District

This newly formed Branch held its first Annual Dinner on 26th September. Founded only on 24th February the Branch has made great progress. They have now 35 enrolled members who, with their ladies, made a company of more than sixty at Dinner. As a result of the Dinner it is proposed to form a Ladies' Section who, although not members of the Association, would do much to aid in the work of the Branch.

A message was sent by the Branch to Signalman K. Richardson, one of the earliest members, now on Service in Korea.

Entertainment was provided by Howard Saunders and Glyn John, soon to be seen and heard at Grosvenor House.

A Suggestion!

Mr. F. Cole whose Regimental numbers IUL/1764 and R.E. Signal Service 625166 cover 25 years, and who was for some years Honorary Secretary of a Branch, writes:—

"I am just an ordinary member belonging to a Branch. I went to their Annual Meeting the other evening but it upsets me to think of what is happening these days in respect of the Old Comrades' Associations.

There is definitely a lack of young fellows coming forward these days and also I think the financial status of some Branches is very low. I cannot help but look back upon the 1929 days when the *esprit de corps* was so much alive when Branches could produce 80 to 150 members, but to-day the majority wonder what they are going to get out of it.

I told the meeting last week that today we have got to make things attractive for the young soldiers. Our dinners must be where they can bring their wife or girl friend.

The old class of dinner where the old boys get together and talk of things that happened in 1908 or 1914 are ending. A lot of the young lads have told me that they are not interested in that kind of talk and if they come they want to meet fellows they know.

Well that is enough of criticism, but I do feel that if they restarted the Reunions at other places like the one at Denbury Camp it might help things."

Here is an opportunity for Signal Regiments at home to help. We all know of the magnificent arrangements made at Catterick for the main Annual Reunion of the Association. The idea has been taken up with major success by the Depot Regiment at Newton Abbot.

An ambitious Reunion was successful at York.

Who will put on the next one?—Ed.

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Patrols	Caps	Sam Brownes
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Royal Signals Benevolent Fund

Also on this page is a simple statement of income and expenditure. Below an attempt is made to describe with suitable anonymity seven cases taken at random from the office of the Welfare Section at 88 Eccleston Square.

Ex-N.C.O. 1939-45 (T.A. from 1926). T.B. both lungs not attributable. Children grown up and gone away. The ex-N.C.O. has not long to live. He and his wife have enough for day to day needs but income does not run to new clothes. The fund helped.

Signalman (Serving). Makes a substantial allotment to his widowed mother who has a very small income. Despite care she has got into debt from which the fund relieved her.

Ex-Sergeant. 1920-1930 and 1939-45. He has been very ill since August and at the end of September the fund paid for a short period of convalescence. Life Member of the Association.

Driver (Serving). Wife lives in a family camp where she has only a few shillings left after paying the Camp charges. Previously she lived with her parents until her mother died. On the recommendation of the Commanding Officer a grant was made.

Ex-Signalman. 1924-46. With a good income, but a very large family. Help given towards cost of necessary removal.

Ex-Driver. 1947-49. Has been sick and off work for five months and the income from the State was only half his normal wages. The fund helped to pay debts and start him again.

Ex-Signalman. 1939-50. Married in Belgium and lived there until early 1953 when he found he could no longer get employment there. After nine months work by Forces Help Society and a grant from the Benevolent Fund the family are now settled in England.

It is emphasised that all cases quoted in this column are taken from one month only.

ROYAL SIGNALS BENEVOLENT FUND

Subscriptions received during September, 1953 :—

	£	s.	d.
3 Training Regiment	16	11	10
4 Training Regiment	10	16	3
5 Training Regiment	5	0	0
7 Training Regiment	10	0	0
Officer Training Wing, School of Signals	60	4	0
Depot Regiment	31	4	11
2 Squadron, 4 L. of C. Signal Regiment	10	10	0
6 Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment	7	0	0
11 Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment	5	0	0
4 AA(M) Signal Regiment	9	9	0
London District Signal Troop	5	0	0
Kent Coast Troop	3	0	0
Western Command Signal Regiment	1	4	9
23rd Independent Armoured Brigade Signal Squadron	1	0	0
16 Wireless Squadron (T.A.)	5	5	0
Gold Coast Signal Squadron	64	10	3
Malaya Signal Regiment	11	4	4
Donations received during September, 1953 :—			
York Branch (Proceeds of Rally and Reunion)	44	14	5
34 Unit Branch	5	0	0
Mr. D. R. Keep	3	0	0
Mr. H. K. Stevens		8	0
	£310	2	9

Expenditure during 1953 ... £363 3 1

(Includes: Rent and Rates; Cots and Prams; Beds and Bedding; Hire Purchase, Rehabilitation; Fares; Removals; General Assistance).

Analysis of Cases :

Families of Soldiers serving in U.K.	1
" " " " " B.A.O.R.	3
" " " " " M.E.L.F.	2
Released and Discharged Soldiers	42
Widows and Dependants	2
	50

AN APPRECIATION

Writing to enclose his Association subscription, a " Signalman " continues :—

" You see I have never forgotten that day, over three years ago, when absolutely devoid of hope, I knocked at the door of Association Headquarters, Eccleston Square, and of the friendly handshake of the gentleman (whose name I still do not know), and the cup of tea given me by a young lady who found me the job I shall have; but I am now at Newport, although still with the Standard Telephones. Thank you so much, and may strength be given you in your marvellous work. The enclosed postal order of ten shillings, after deducting 2/- subscription fee and postage, etc., can be put to the funds. I am sorry it cannot be more."

Sport

Rugby Football

Royal Signals beat Cambridge LX Club by 9 points to 6 in the Corps Rugby match at Catterick on 17th October, 1953.

Royal Signals beat Oxford Unnversity Greyhounds by 42 points to nil in the Corps Rugby Match played at Oxford on 21st October, 1953.

R.S.S.A. at the Irish Dinghy Racing Association Championships

The Corps sent a team to Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin, to race in the Irish Dinghy Racing Association Championships. The racing took place under the burgee of the Royal Irish Yacht Club, whose club house overlooks the Dun Laoghaire harbour in which the races were sailed.

Our team met each other for the first time on the morning of Saturday, 18th September, and paired off into three crews: Major E. McK. Erskine (Team Captain) and Major R. E. D. Mathews, Captain D. W. W. Cooper and Second-Lieutenant G. P. Tottle, Lieutenant J. M. N. Lyons and Major T. W. Baynes, T.D., with Second-Lieutenant R. G. Hudd in reserve. Each race was between two teams each sailing in three Firefly Dinghies. Each race was to be two circuits of a triangular course and each pair of teams were to race twice against each other. However by the time we raced against our first opponents, the Royal North of Ireland Yacht Club, this had been reduced to two races of one circuit of the course.

It was the afternoon before our race came up, as we had a bye in the first round of the championship. It had been pouring with rain all morning, and the wind was gusting up to force 7. There had been capsizes in plenty. The rain stopped for our race, but the wind was there to make things very exciting. The start of our first race was very close. It was a reach and all the boats were bunched together. Erskine was first round the first mark closely followed by his brother sailing for R.N.I.Y.C. Shortly afterwards a gust hit us and Erskine's rudder broke at the head leaving him with a useless tiller. The race went on and was won by Cooper with Lyons third. We asked for a re-sail and this was granted.

The second race started again with all the boats crossing the line in a bunch. This time there were no disasters and Erskine was first round the first and second marks with Lyons and Cooper fighting it out for second and third place.

The third leg of the course was a beat and Cooper took the lead, sailing his boat with practised skill. The fourth leg was a short reach to the finish, which Cooper crossed first, with Erskine and Lyons third and fourth respectively. This was a victory for Signals.

The third race followed the same general pattern except that R.N.I.Y.C. were across the finishing line in first place, a boat's length ahead of Cooper, with Erskine and Lyons close behind. Our total score for the two races being greater than that of R.N.I.Y.C., we went forward to the quarter finals.

The weather got steadily worse and racing was abandoned for the day at about five o'clock, after several more boats had capsized.

On Sunday morning there was bright sunshine but the wind was still there in force. It had veered to the North West giving a beating start. Our race against Lough Ree Yacht Club started at about half past one. By this time each contest had been reduced to a single circuit of a shortened course, and the dinghies had been stripped of their jibs. Almost at once we were in trouble. Lyons was luffed the wrong side of the inner mark of the start line and Erskine was defeated in an attempt to sail across the bows of the opposing team on the starboard tack. We reached the first mark in third, four and fifth places. A great squall hit the boats as they reached the third mark. In gybing Erskine fouled the mark and Lyons having rounded it fouled a boat of the other team. Cooper sailed into second place, but Signals were out of the contest.

The rest of the day was spent in pleasant conversation while watching the other teams racing and capsizing all through the afternoon, until eventually, the final was won by West Kirby Sailing Club against the Royal St. George Yacht Club of Dun Laoghaire.

Our thanks are due to the R.I.Y.C. for their hospitality in the Championship, and to the owners who put their dinghies at our disposal.

REPORT ON TRIANGULAR MATCH

Royal Armoured Corps v. Royal Air Force v. Royal Signals

The Athletic Team representing the Corps, selected from Units in the School of Signals and Signal Training Centre, competed in the Annual Meeting against the Royal Armoured Corps and the Royal Air Force at the Northern Command Stadium on 2nd September, 1953.

The Corps Team looked very smart in the correct Corps Running Kit, and to prove that it was not only a well dressed team, we proceeded to show the other teams the way home.

Lieutenant-Colonel M. Stonestreet, Royal Signals, the President of Corps Athletics, and himself a well known athlete, started things off on the right foot by holding a Committee Meeting and injecting enthusiasm into all the Unit representatives. Major B. S. Fordyce of 1st Training Regiment having made a great success with his Regimental Team, was elected Team Captain, and immediately, with much vigour conducted trials, organised and trained the team.

The athletes turned out in all weathers (mostly rain) and all hours of the day and night for training.

On the great day it was inspiring to the team to see, and hear, from so many supporters from all of the Units. Last year the Corps won this match by 1½ points in the last race. If this meeting was to produce an equally exciting finish we were not going to lose for lack of encouragement from our supporters.

The results are a tribute to the combined effort of all concerned, and if we continue in this vein, next year will see Royal Signals at the top of Army Athletics once again.

The placing of the Royal Signals Team are as follows, unfortunately no times were taken in the races, for many more records would have been broken. There was a strong wind which did not help matters.

3 Miles				
1st	Sigmn. K. Norris	1 Trg. Regt.		
2nd	Cpl. Gowan	OTW		
Pole Vault				
1st	Lt. R. D. Whitehead	RSW	11′	*
2nd	Cpl. Slade	1 Trg. Regt.	10′ 6″	
Hop, Step and Jump				
2nd	Lt. T. Mc I. Robinson	RSW	39′	
5th	Cpl. Gately	4 Trg. Regt.	36′ 6½″	
Putting the Shot				
1st	Sigmn. Drummond	7 Trg. Regt.	40′ 2½″	*
2nd	Cpl. Curtis	2 Trg. Regt.	34′ 10½″	
440 Yards				
1st	2/Lt. Jolliffe	4 Trg. Regt.		
3rd	Lt. K. Watson	RSW		
Throwing the Javelin				
1st	Sigmn. Drummond	7 Trg. Regt.	167′ 8½″	*
	Sigmn. Gordan	- Trg. Regt.	161′ 8″	
440 Yards Hurdles				
1st	Sigmn. Allcock	4 Trg. Regt.		
3rd	Lt. R. D. Whitehead	RSW		
100 Yards				
2nd	Cpl. Ludlow	1 Trg. Regt.		
4th	Lt. T. Mc I. Robinson	RSW		
880 Yards				
1st	Sigmn. Johnson	3 Trg. Regt.		
2nd	L/Cpl. Waring	1 Trg. Regt.		
Throwing the Hammer				
1st	Sigmn. Drummond	7 Trg. Regt.	114′ 8½″	*
2nd	L/Cpl. Hanniford	1 Trg. Regt.	109′ 3″	
2 Miles Steelechase				
2nd	2/Lt. Nearn	7 Trg. Regt.		
4th	Lt. R. M. Mortimer	2 Trg. Regt.		
High Jump				
1st	L/Cpl. Philemon	3 Trg. Regt.	5′ 6″	*
2nd	Lt. K. Nice	RSW	5′ 6″	
Long Jump				
2nd	Lt. T. Mc I. Robinson	RSW	19′ 8½″	
5th	Cpl. Rose	2 Trg. Regt.	18′ 5½″	
120 Yards Hurdles				
2nd	Capt. A. G. Smith	2 Trg. Regt.		
3rd	Capt. D. B. Emley	RSW		
Throwing the Discus				
1st	Sigmn. Drummond	7 Trg. Regt.	119′ 1½″	*
2nd	Sigmn. Boulter	RSW	104′ 10″	
220 Yards				
1st	L/Cpl. Boston	1 Trg. Regt.		
4th	Lt. B. J. Craig	RSW		
1 Mile				
1st	Sigmn. K. Norris	2 Trg. Regt.		
2nd	Sigmn. Cooper	RSW		
Medley Relay				
1st	R. Signals	2/Lt. Brewer	OTW	
		L/Cpl. Ludlow	1 Trg. Regt.	
		L/Cpl. Boston	1 Trg. Regt.	
		2/Lt. Jolliffe	4 Trg. Regt.	
2nd	R.A.F.			
3rd	R.A.C.			

* means Record.

The points were scored 6 for First, down to 1 for Sixth place for all the events except the Relay, which scored 12, 8, and 4.

The Final Team placings were :—

1st	Royal Signals	178½ points
2nd	Royal Air Force	118 "
3rd	Royal Armoured Corps ...	87½ "

Each of the winners was given a very nice tankard as a memento, and Major B. S. Fordyce wound up the proceedings by accepting the Match Trophy from Brigadier C. T. Usher, C.B.E., D.S.O., the C.R.A. of 50 (N) Infantry Division (T.A.).

Much gratitude is due to H.Q. Northumbrian District for organising the meeting and giving it such a well organised and colourful setting.

Next year it is hoped to enter the Corps Team in two other Matches: Royal Signals v. Northumberland and Durham Counties v. Durham University for the Lambert Trophy; and the other which is only proposed at the moment; Royal Signals v. Royal Artillery v. Royal Engineers.

The Royal Signals Officers' Golfing Society

Autumn Meeting 1953

THE Society's Autumn Meeting was held this year at the Camberley Heath Golf Club on 2nd, 3rd and 4th September. The first day was devoted as usual to friendly conflict between the Seniors and Juniors. The juniors with the flush of last year's victory worn rather thin, were hopeful of their chances, but scarcely very confident for they were heavily outgunned. In the event discipline was maintained and the Senior Officers won the singles by five matches to two, and the foursomes by three to two.

On the second day we got down to the more serious business of the Individual Handicap Challenge Cup and the Foursomes Challenge Cup, both played on the Stableford system. There was some good scoring in the singles, and four players tied for first place with 36 points, Brigadier Galway, Colonel Winckley, Major Fuller and Captain Roderick. The last named was declared the winner as he had the best scores over the last nine holes.

The afternoon's foursomes, for which Partners were drawn, were won by the backmarkers, Lieutenant-Colonel Maydon and Major Perry, with a respectable score of 33 points. There was a tie in this event also, and this time Colonel Rowley and Lieutenant-Colonel Shardlow were the unlucky pair to be worsted on the last nine holes.

The final day was devoted to the 36 holes Medal. Scoring was high throughout the day and there were very few who managed to break 80. There was, however, a lot of enjoyment to be had even by those who played rather badly, and the final result was an extremely close finish with uncertainty as to the result lasting until the last pair came in. In the event the three competitions, Open (scratch), Regular Officers (scratch), and Open (handicap) were for a change won by three different Officers. The Open by Lieutenant-Colonel Shardlow with a score of 167, the Regular Officers by Major Hayles with a score of 168, and the Handicap by Major Buirski with a net score of 132! Needless to say the latter's handicap has now been reduced!

So ended a most enjoyable meeting with expressions of gratitude to the Camberley Heath Golf Club for the use of their splendid Club house, and the course which was in such good condition.

Next year we hope to be at Worplesdon and it is to be hoped that more Officers will be able to attend.

* * *

DECEASED SOLDIER'S BALANCES

Notice is hereby given to the next-of-kin or other relatives that there is £56 5s. 5d. standing to the credit of the late Signalman E. T. Atkins. Applications should be made to the War Office, Whitehall, London, S.W.1., and the envelope marked "Effects."

Amendments No. 10 to the Blue Book 1953

DELETIONS—TRADES ROSTER

241	6122	10943	12547	14012	15054	16107
336	6200	11080	12729	14025	15057	16124
809	6250	11105	12798	14106	15084	16215
936	6271	11121	12892	14193	15085	16234
947	6287	11156	12929	14262	15166	16245
1492	6292	11274	12930	14314	15202	16290
1546	6329	11347	12994	14355	15226	16301
1554	6341	11398	13023	14414	15402	16312
1557	6428	11427	13062	14439	15443	16338
1664	6445	11844	13072	14496	15477	16341
1688	6493	11855	13214	14550	15488	16358
1844	6556	11901	13277	14601	15518	16359
2096	10027	11923	13325	14661	15519	16366
2219	10144	11924	13420	14713	15554	16406
2346	10154	11936	13466	14714	15614	16444
2536	10203	12009	13515	14780A	15642	16484
2585	10210	12065	13516	14840	15658	16507
5143	10263	12112	13517	14867	15768	16571
5519	10290	12118	13584	14892	15814	16579
5574	10318	12184	13627	14899	15821	16589
5575	10334	12223	13681	15007	15836	16597
5819	10443	12241	13822	15019	16016	16629
6042	10451	12241A	13870	15023	16078	16667
6044	10591	12278	13895	15031	16106	16678
6057	10841	12460				

DELETIONS—CIPHER ROSTER

258	5002B	5045	5058	5146	5198	5208

DELETIONS—FOREMEN OF SIGNALS ROSTER

751A

DELETIONS—GENERAL DUTIES ROSTER

5027	10142	10171	10201	10203	10212

TRADES ROSTER—ADD "Q"

267	5391	6828	10186	12835	13159	13834
824	6475A	6884	12676	12936	13459	13879
2325	6775	7052				

CIPHER ROSTER—ADD "Q"

1359	5330	5057

GENERAL DUTIES ROSTER ADD "Q"

10206

FOREMAN OF SIGNALS ROSTER ADD "Q"

735

TRADES ROSTER—DELETE "Q"

6473	11994

FOREMAN OF SIGNALS ROSTER DELETE "Q"

701	707	725	730	743	747	750
705	708	726	732	744	749	
706	710	728	742			

THE WIRE

The Corps Magazine of the
ROYAL SIGNALS
The Official Organ of the
SIGNALS ASSOCIATION

Editor:
BRIGADIER 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.*

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DECEMBER • 1953
Vol. 7 *New Series* **No. 12**

☆

PRICE ONE SHILLING

Editorial

"The Wire" wishes all of Royal Signals and the Association at home and abroad a very happy Christmas and good fortune in 1954. Let us not forget those very many all over the world who will be on duty that we may enjoy ourselves on Christmas Day

Vale Benevolent Fund 31st December 1953

Ave Welfare Section 1st January 1954

See article on page 395

* * *

Wanted - A Title

See page 388

* * *

Wanted - A Photograph

See page 388

* * *

The Editor takes this opportunity of thanking the staff of F. J. Parsons Ltd. of Hastings who print this Journal, for their very great help unstintingly given during the past year. Perhaps the Editor alone knows how much the attractive way in which THE WIRE is set out is due to their expert attention and how little to his own amateur endeavour.

* * *

In this issue of THE WIRE will be found the FINAL Order Form for 1954. It is hoped that readers will remit their subscriptions on receipt of this issue.

ALL ORDERS NOT PAID BY THE 1st FEBRUARY, 1954, WILL BE DELETED FROM THE MAILING LIST.

This does not affect Bankers' Order payments.

PERSONAL COLUMN

OBITUARY

MAJOR-GENERAL W. E. G. HEMMING, C.B., C.B.E.

It is with deep regret that we read of the sudden death of Bill Hemming at the early age of 54 while umpiring a Polo Match in Malta, where he was G.O.C. Troops.

Bill Hemming was commissioned in the R.A. in 1917. In 1922 he attended a "Q" Course and was seconded to this Corps from 1922 to 1926. During that time he attended the Equitation Course at Weedon and will be remembered by many as the Equitation Officer in the Mounted Wing first at Maresfield, and later at Catterick.

Having commanded the Mounted Wing at the time Bill was serving in it I would like to pay tribute to a loyal officer and most likeable character. He put his heart and soul into his work and gave of his best to his adopted Corps, a splendid example of the loyalty that was given to us by our seconded officers.

In January 1927 on return to Regimental duty with the R.A. he was posted to the 20th Field Regiment and again served at Catterick among the many friends he had previously made there.

He leaves a widow and two sons to whom the Corps offers their deepest sympathy. C.W.F.

MAJOR W. M. ROBERTS, O.B.E., M.A.

Born 29th January, 1876. Died 16th October, 1953.

All who were Cadets or on the Staff of the Royal Military Academy between the years 1904-1916 and 1919-1939 will learn with much regret of the death of this very gifted teacher and great and valued friend to so many of his students.

London Gazette

London Gazette of 13th October, 1953

The following are promoted Lieutenant-Colonel:—

Major E. I. E. Mozley.
Major G. Thomson.
Major J. P. North, M.B.E.
Major A. C. Galbraith.
Major D. A. Pringle.
Major G. S. K. Maydon.
Major A. C. R. Stead, O.B.E.
Major P. A. Duke, O.B.E.

Lieutenant-Colonel W. H. Lee is promoted Brevet-Colonel on relinquishing Command of 50 (N) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment (T.A.).

Lieutenant-Colonel G. F. H. Walker, O.B.E., T.D., to Command 50 (N) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment (T.A.).

Movements—Officers

Lieutenant-Colonel W. A. Purser, M.E.L.F. to H.Q. 1 A.A. Group.

Colonel F. W. P. Bradford, European Military Communications Co-ordinating Committee to A.L.F.C.E.

Major D. A. Nolan, Depot to Royal Military College of Science.

Major R. C. K. Baron, Northern Army Group to Korea.

Major H. L. H. Tayler, 21 Corps Signal Regiment, (T.A.) to H.Q. Scottish Command.

Major P. W. Lonnon, Korea to Senior Officers' School.

Major C. Danks, 2 Training Regiment to A.A. Command Signal Training Camp.

Major R. T. M. Sharp, 13 A.A. (M) Signal Regiment (T.A.) to 5 A.A. (M) Signal Regiment.

Major M. F. Holliday, 5 A.A. (M) Signal Regiment to A.E.R. Depot and Training Centre.

Major L. G. Warren, A.E.R. Depot and Training Centre to Depot Regiment.

Major R. J. F. Whistler, M.E.L.F. to School of Signals.

Lieutenant-Colonel J. R. Ross, SHAPE to T.A.R.O.

Major R. A. Hatcher, Depot Regiment to H.Q. 3 (A.A.) (Ind) Group.

Major R. S. Cathmoir, 2 War Office Signal Regiment to FARELF.

Major F. Sloan, West Africa to Depot.

Major S. G. Hodgson, School of Signals to 2 War Office Signal Regiment.

Major B. E. Sykes, SHAPE to Northern Army Group.

Major J. G. Geary, School of Signals to M.E.L.F.

Major T. de B. Miller, M.E.L.F. to Royal Military College of Science (Course).

Major A. J. Clarke, FARELF to Depot.

Major F. L. Clarkson, FARELF to Depot.

Major J. E. Anderson, B.A.O.R. to Senior Officers School.

Major (T.O.T.) H. A. Hughes, 4 Signal Equipment Troop, Donnington to retirement.

Major F. Felton, Korea to Depot.

Major J. W. Elston, Northern Army Group to 5 Corps Signal Regiment.

Major G. M. L. Claridge, A.L.F.C.E. to Depot.

Major R. G. Thomas, Depot to H.Q. 5 A.A. Group.

Major (Q.M.) S. G. Bow, FARELF to Depot.

Arrivals and Departures

2 L. of C. Signal Regiment

Departures

Major P. P. H. Morton to 19 Army Group Signal Regiment.
Lieutenant-Colonel A. V. Benton (Commanding Officer) to SHAPE.
W.O.I Crawley to U.K. and release.
Q.M.S. (W.O.II) F. of S. Willingale to U.K. for M.E.L.F.

Arrivals

Lieutenant-Colonel F. A. Young, ex 1 Infantry Divisional Signals as Commanding Officer.
Major J. H. Dirs, M.B.E., ex 4 L. of C. Signal Regiment.
Major M. McG. Simmonds ex 4 L. of C. Signal Regiment.
Major J. A. Leahy ex Senior Officers' School.
W.O.II Cartwright ex 18 Army Group Signals.
Sgt. Hale ex Berlin Signal Squadron.

11 Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment

Departures

Major J. E. Anderson to Senior Officers' Course.
Major L. J. Brunnen to Berlin Signal Squadron.
Captain W. T. A. Collyer to Operations Research Section as Major.
Captain V. Edwards to Staff College.
Lieutenant W. E. Caiger to Subalterns' Part II Course.
S.Q.M.S. S. Crompton to 3 Squadron 19 Army Group Signal Regiment as W.O.II.

Births

MAXFIELD.—To Captain and Mrs. R. H. Maxfield, on 9th October, 1953, at Kowloon Civil Hospital, Hong Kong, a daughter, Sarah Jane.

THORNTON.—On 2nd October, 1953, at York, to Mrs. P. Thornton, wife of Corporal J. Thornton, 5 AGRA (A.A.) Signal Squadron, a son, Grahame James.

All the following of: 11 Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment

LINDLEY.—At Rinteln on 10th September, 1953, to Mary, wife of R.Q.M.S. Lindley, a brother for Roger (Keith).

LUCAS.—At Rinteln on 12th July, 1953, to Gloria, wife of Sergeant R. Lucas, twin girls (Margaret and Kathleen), sisters for Leslie, Janis and Coral.

CARNEY.—At Rinteln on 23rd September, 1953, to Corporal and Mrs. P. J. Carney, a daughter (Yvonne Susan).

JONES.—At Rinteln on 24th July, 1953, to Corporal and Mrs. T. G. Jones, a daughter (Linda).

STOCK.—To Mrs. D. Stock, wife of Corporal Stock, of 2nd Training Regiment, a daughter, Patricia, born on 24th October, 1953.

TWIGG.—To Mrs. Twigg, wife of Driver Twigg, of 2nd Training Regiment, a son, John Henry, born on 25th September, 1953.

Marriages

CLUBLEY—LAU.—Corporal Clubley, attached 1 Corps Trade Training School, to Miss Helga Lau of Hamburg, on 10th October, 1953.

All the following of: 11 Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment.

WOODHOUSE—BUCKLEY.—On 5th September, 1953, 22771521 Signalman B. Woodhouse to Miss Jean Buckley, at the Parish Church, Mexborough, Yorkshire.

ALDRIDGE—PENDLE—On 13th August, 1953, 22523991 Signalman D. A. Aldridge to Miss Jean Pendle, at St. Stephens, Skipton, Yorks.

HARRISON—HOPKINS.—On 12th September, 1953, 22674696 Signalman A. E. Harrison to Miss Dorothy Hopkins at the Register Office, Ealing, Middlesex.

GALLOWAY—HARDISTY.—On 8th August, 1953, 22246018 Corporal P. Galloway to Miss Jean Hardisty, at Parish Church, Bilton, Harrogate.

Engagements

BOUGHTON—ALLERSTON. — The engagement is announced between Sergeant C. Boughton, 1 Corps Signal Regiment, and Margaret Allerston, Women's Royal Naval Service, H.M.S. President, daughter of Group Captain and Mrs. P. Allerston, Lindford, Hants.

Deaths

MILLER.—22569308 Boy D. J. Miller, on 2nd October, 1953, at Pinderfields Hospital, Wakefield, Yorks.

GOUGH.—22840347 Signalman G. C. Gough, on 3rd October, 1953, in Nairobi, East Africa.

* * *

UNION JACK FAMILIES' CLUB, Exton Street, Waterloo Road, S.E.1

Attention is drawn to the facilities offered by this Club to both Serving and ex-Service members of the Armed Forces. Although quite often full up during holiday periods accommodation can readily be obtained at other times. The basic charges for adults are: Serving 7/- a night, ex-Service 8/- a night, with corresponding rates for children. There is a restaurant which provides meals both for residents and non-residents. For those not in uniform proof of qualification must be provided. This is a thoroughly comfortable Club. Full particulars from the Warden. The telephone numbers are: WATerloo 4087 and 3801.

* * *

Mr. Ralph Peacock, (Sergeant, Royal Signals, Association Member), has recently become Proprietor of Ye Olde Bell Inn, Rye, Sussex, and will be glad to hear from any of his old friends.

* * *

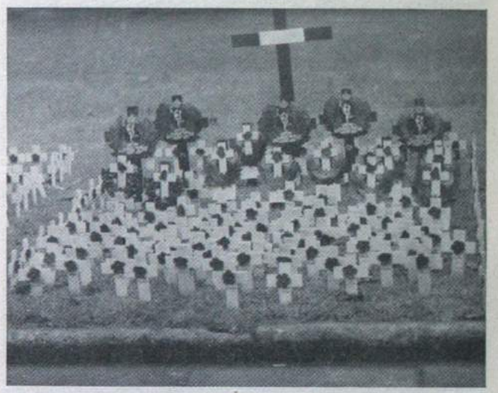
1 and 2 A.A. Divisional Signals held their Annual Dinner at the Eccleston Hotel, Victoria, on Saturday, 10th October. About 150 were present including contingents from as far away as Leeds and Glasgow.

FIELD OF REMEMBRANCE

A small but representative party of Royal Signals, including three uniformed representatives from No. 24 Unit Branch, attended the consecration of the Field of Remembrance on 6th November.

On that day, crosses sent by the following Branches of the Association had been planted: Aldershot, Prescot, Newcastle, London Branch, London (City) Branch, Scarborough, 24 Unit Branch (1 A.A. (M) Signal Regiment), Leeds, Chislehurst, Liverpool, Catterick and Darlington.

Captain Lloyd (Sutton Branch) took the photograph.



Forthcoming Events ☆

Royal Signals Hockey Club

Jan.	13	... ...	R.E.M.E.	...	Catterick.
Feb.	17	... ...	R.A.E.C.	...	Catterick.
Mar.	3	... ...	R.A.O.C.	...	Catterick.

Royal Signals Rugby Football Club

Dec. 1954	19	... ...	Waterloo	...	Blundellsands.
Jan.	2	... ...	Harrogate	...	Catterick.
Jan.	6	... ...	R.A.O.C.	...	Bicester.
Jan.	23	... ...	Liverpool	...	Catterick.
Jan.	27	... ...	R.E.M.E.	...	Catterick.

★

EMPLOYMENT VACANCIES

Civilian Instructors are required to train Royal Signals Mechanics at 1 Training Regiment, Catterick Camp. Applicants must have a sound theoretical and practical knowledge of radio or line transmission equipments, preferably of current military equipments and a good instructional ability and experience. Consideration will be given to good practical men if otherwise not fully qualified. The salary for a Class I Instructor (Tech. Grade III) is £470/520 rising to £620).

Application should be made to the Chief Instructor, 1 Training Regiment, Royal Signals, Catterick Camp.

The following ex-Signals Tradesmen may apply for employment as Mechanic Examiners with the Ministry of Supply: Electricians, Radio Mechanics, Telegraph Mechanics. London rates of pay for a 44 hour, 5 day week: 175s. 10d. rising 187s. 10d. with possibility of advancement to 197s. 10d. on certain specified work. Provincial rates 2s. less. Employees must be prepared to serve in any part of U.K.; Subsistence and Lodging Allowances payable when temporarily detailed for duty away from normal station.

Apply to the following address, mentioning Royal Signals Association and stating in what locality you would normally prefer to serve:—

Ministry of Supply (Inspectorate of Armaments),
Red Barracks,
Frances Street,
Woolwich, London, S.E.18.

Successful applicants are asked to inform the Employment Section, Royal Signals Association, 88 Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1, of their engagement.

Letters TO THE EDITOR

Mr. H. Gordon, Portsmouth Branch, writes:—

"In the August issue of THE WIRE an interesting account of the "Wooden Spoon" was given.

This article brought to mind another such item, that is the miniature set of cricket bats autographed by a "Test Team" passing through India some years ago. These items were enclosed in a glass fronted case and held in the Warrant Officers' and Seargeants' Mess, Rawalpindi. A cricket match was played between the R.A. and the Royal Signals and the winners held the trophy until the results of the following yearly match.

I and other members of the Corps who were stationed in Rawalpindi would like to know where it is now, the history and the names of the Test Players autographed on the bats."

★

L.H.D. and E.S.J.H.

L. H. Drake himself a regular contributor of the most admirable cartoons in all the early issues of THE WIRE *and who has designed the cover for this and previous Christmas numbers, writes to give news of an old friend:*

"His many friends of the old R.E. Signal Service and Royal Signals (1920-1926) will be glad to hear that Mr. Erik C. J. Haines is fit and flourishing.

'E.S.J.H.' was one of our Journal's original band of regular contributors in the Roaring Twenties.

A few weeks ago he was on a business trip to the United Kingdom from New Zealand, the country of his adoption, and we were able to arrange two re-union sessions in which to march back a bit along the Maresfield and Crowborough routes in the Corps history. It was quite a triumphant and enjoyable piece of skirmishing.

Limited time and a multitude of business commitments made it impossible for 'E.S.J.H.' to trace and meet former colleagues as he would have wished.

Mr. Haines, who is in business in Auckland, sends his warmest salaams to THE WIRE and all his old friends, a greeting with which I (also a founder-member of the Corps!) insist on associating myself."

SPORTS

Result of the Rugby Football match Royal Signals v. Oxford University Greyhounds; played at Oxford on 21st October, 1953:—

Royal Signals	...	...	42 points
Oxford University Greyhounds			Nil.

Royal Signals

Film Competition

Past and present members of Royal Signals are invited to enter a competition to choose a suitable title for the Royal Signals film which is to be made in 1954 for showing mainly to Officer Cadets and recruits, to depict the activities of the Corps in peace and war. The film will run for about 30 minutes and will be produced on similar lines to other well-known films such as "The Infantryman," "Pegasus," "Men in Armour," "Greensleaves," etc.

Prizes of £5 (First), £2 (Second) and £1 (Third) are offered for the three best suggestions received by the Film Committee before the closing date on 31st May, 1954. Entries, which will become the property of the Film Committee and will not be returned, should be submitted, in type if possible, direct to The Under Secretary of State (M.T.8.), War Office, Chessington, Surbiton, Surrey, and must show clearly the competitor's name and address. Envelopes should be marked "Competition."

Entries of more than five words are unlikely to be successful but will be considered. The Film Committee does not bind itself to accept any of the suggestions.

Photographic Competition

There is a lack of good photographs illustrating the activities of the Corps. The majority of those available, while technically sound, fail in one or more respects. Some appear posed or unnatural, some are too personal relying on the viewer having acquaintance with the photographed individuals. Few photographs have what might be called impact, that something which conveys a clear message to the viewer of the photograph.

Good photographs are therefore needed which depict life in Royal Signals whether at home or abroad, in barracks or in the field. The Director of Signals has therefore agreed to the organisation of a Photographic Competition in an endeavour to find photographs suitable for subsequent publication.

Details of prizes and rules for this competition are as follows:—

The competition is open to all Regular Army, Territorial Army and Army Emergency Reserve personnel and to ex Officers and Other Ranks.

Black and white prints only will be submitted and must depict some Corps activity or some phase or aspect of Royal Signals work in the field or in static installations.

The competition will run for four months commencing the 1st December, 1953 and ending 31st March, 1954.

Prizes will be awarded to successful entrants as follows:—

For the best photograph of the whole competition:

1st prize	...	£5 5s.
2nd prize	...	£3 3s.
3rd prize	...	£2 2s.

In addition monthly awards of £2 2s. and £1 1s. will be given each month for the best and next best print respectively, received during the month. For the purpose of monthly awards entries received before the 31st December, 1953 will be judged for the first monthly award.

Photographs must have been taken by the entrant personally. Trade processing and enlarging is permitted.

Prints submitted should not be smaller than 5 inches by 7 inches and may be mounted or unmounted. They should be accompanied by details showing:

Full name and address of entrant.

Full description of the subject matter in the photograph.

Details of the approximate date and time the photograph was taken and the camera used.

The negative should accompany the print. Prints despatched without negatives will be considered but such entries must have exceptional merit if they are to qualify for prizes.

Prize winning prints will be retained. Other prints will be returned to the entrant.

The author of the photograph retains the copyright but the Judging Committee reserves the right to reproduce or to allow the reproduction of any print.

The Editor of THE WIRE has agreed to publish winning prints in THE WIRE.

Entries should be addressed to: Photo Contest, C.S.O. Southern Command, Salisbury, Wilts.

The decisions of the Judging Committee will be final.

Catterick Jottings

by nacerby

GIVE us Lord, a bit of sun,
A bit of work and a bit of fun,
Give us all in the struggle and splutter
Our daily bread and a bit of butter.
Give us health our keep to make,
And a bit to spare for poor folks sake,
Give us sense for we're some of us duffers
And a heart to feel for all that suffers.

Give us too a bit of a song,
And a tale and a book to help us along.
And give us our share of sorrow's lessons,
That we may prove how grief's a blessing.
Give us Lord, a chance to be
Our goodly best, brave, wise and free,
Our goodly best for ourselves and others
Till all men learn to live as brothers.

Ring! Christmas bells, Ring!

And to you all—at home and abroad—once again a very "NACERBY" Christmas and a New Year full of hopes fulfilled and ambitions realised—especially those postings and trade ratings.

These past twelve months—this Coronation year—has been wonderful and I might add a "Signal" one in all respects. Both at work and play the Corps has enhanced its name and reputation and OLDTIMERS especially must read with pride the name of the Corps emblazoned up high in the world of sport. There's very little wrong with the youngsters of today believe me!

Frankly, I hope I shan't be in Catterick at Christmas—I've had a preview of the menus and good things in store for those remaining behind and (at my age) don't think this rich repast will agree with me.

But I'll try and tell you all about it in January when I'll list some more New Year resolutions you can break easily.

Ring! Christmas Bells, ring!

(Should tell you that the philosophic verses at the top were told me by an old farming couple up in the Dales. Aren't they grand and how wonderful for now and 1954).

Operation Tanker

It had to come sooner or later and now I've a new Corps tie just for "fingering with pride"—and who wouldn't celebrate after reading this little piece from the Secretary of State for War . . . .

"I should like to express my great appreciation of the way in which the Army assisted in the recent oil transport crisis.

By Kind Permission "Sunday Graphic"
[Courtesy: Planet News, Ltd.

The speed with which troops were brought to the London area and the cheerful and efficient manner in which they delivered oil and petrol was a credit to all concerned. Please convey my appreciation together with that of the Army Council to all ranks who took part."

Of course it doesn't *all* belong to us but the large contingent of drivers and drivers' mates from the Signal Training Centre can justifiably sit back among those "laurel leaves" and reflect that the Corps moto *Certa Cito* had certainly been applied to this Operation.

5 Training Regiment supplied the major portion, but I saw those from Catterick off on the train in the wee sma' hours of the morning. Grumblin? Not on your life!—and the expert way these young soldiers tackled these "monsters of the road" and delivered the goods was eloquent testimony to a wonderful Corps spirit and that our training methods are all right, thank you.

Sensed a big story on their return, grabbed the first Driver and asked him all about the Operation. His reply was a masterpiece. "Bit foggy in my area, that's about all I think. Cheerio, I'm on a 48 hour pass."

See what I mean about spirit?

Rank Ignorance

On the odd occasions I can get my hands on an AFB 173 (and this is the only document in the Army that's not marked *Restricted* but certainly is) and I mix with the civilian fraternity I'm appalled at the colossal ignorance amongst the public concerning the different Army ranks.

A cross section of opinion and a Mess Observation has revealed the following incredible results:—

Brigadier. One per cent knew that a Brigadier is a man with red tabs who can make troops tremble simply by getting four adjutants to lift his little finger.

Five per cent said he was something above a Second-Lieutenant yet not a Lance-Corporal.

27 per cent thought "Brig" was connected with "bridge" and thereby assumed that he was a man who threw bridge parties, bridged the gulf between War Office and Squadron Office and never burnt his bridges until he had got someone's signature for them.

67 per cent said "Never heard of him."

Colonel. Three per cent knew that a Colonel is a retired officer who hasn't been notified of the fact.

10 per cent said he was another of the officers who have the "final say."

52 per cent thought he was another of the Brigadier's relatives.

35 per cent said "Don't know."

Major. Two per cent knew he was a man waiting for promotion to Sergeant-Major.

17 per cent said he was a man with a genius for organising, the genius being known as the Major's clerk.

77 per cent believed he was an officer to whom the other officers referred . . . they were not sure in what terms.

Four per cent said "Don't care."

Captain. 15 per cent said he was some sort of skipper . . . he skipped everything possible as long as it didn't become too obvious.

Three per cent said he didn't care if his skipping did become obvious as he usually had relatives in the War Office.

82 per cent said "He's something to do with ships."

Lieutenant. Ten per cent expressed the opinion that he was a man who had risen in spite of himself.

25 per cent thought he was the man who put "curt" into courtesy.

65 per cent believed he was a man with balance (excluding bank) and culture (of the branch known as haughty-culture).

Second-Lieutenant. Four per cent said he was someone approaching manhood in a secondhand car of limited speed.

Six per cent said he was a youth who had convinced a Selection Board that he possessed a birth certificate.

Ten per cent knew he was a man who had emerged from the waters of oblivion and was now going down for the second time.

18 per cent said he was the officer who returned more salutes than he received.

62 per cent wanted to know if there really was such a rank.

Warrant Officer. 15 per cent said he was always found at the basis of the British Army . . . they spelt it "bases."

23 per cent said remarks which are unprintable.

62 per cent thought he was the man who had everything organised to a Tea.

Sergeant. 13 per cent said they were the heroes for whom the best was never good enough.

Seven per cent said they didn't know what a Sergeant looked like but would leave no stone unturned until they found out.

80 per cent remarked that they were the men who thought Position was nine points of the Law.

Corporal. 16 per cent thought they were men who had got into a rut and were quite happy about it.

29 per cent said they were the men who never cared how much work they had to watch.

55 per cent thought two different types . . . Red Corporals and White Corporals . . . had some connection with the blood stream.

Lance-Corporal. Seven per cent said they were the men who didn't intend to make the Army a career.

36 per cent though they were the men who deputised during the Brigadier's absence.

54 per cent said they were the men who had nothing to do for hours on end, but worked like demons the other 22.

Three per cent said "Don't know."

Only in two instances did we find 100 per cent agreement . . . concerning two ranks which come into a special category.

1. It was unanimously agreed that an *Adjutant* is the officer with the most to do and the least intention of doing it.
2. Also a unanimous verdict that a *Quartermaster* is an individual who spends his time sorting out the mess left by the previous quartermaster. This is *ALL* he spends.

A-Hunting We Will Go

Perhaps I'm asking for it again but there can't be many of us left now who remembers the halycon days of "E" Company and strange printable expressions like "Prepare a'mount" and others not so delicate!—and this latest Corps sports success not only revives those nostalgic memories but gives added evidence of the determination to keep the Corps at the top in all sports.

Here we are then.

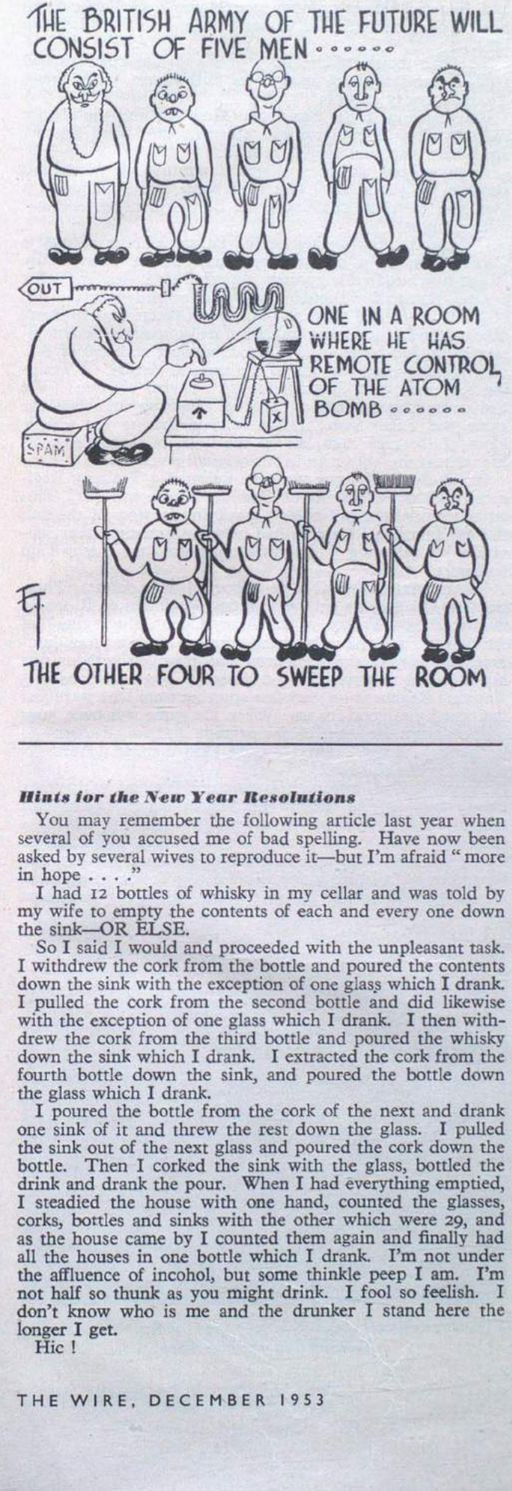
At the Bedale Hunt on 17th October, the Royal Signals Catterick Team, Major D. L. Sylvester-Bradley (riding Rory), Captain Lon, 2 Training Regiment (riding the Saddle Club's Bay Window) and Signalman Meredith, 7 Training Regiment (riding the Saddle Club's Happy Feet) took first place in the Northern Command Inter-Unit Hunter trials; Major Sylvester-Bradley also won the Northern Command Hunter Trials individual event on Rory and repeated this success on 30th October at the Zetland Hunt Hunter trials again on Rory.

Establishments

In conversation with my friend Eric Thompson (Ex 2 Operators Training Battalion) of the *Daily Mail*, the talk turned to . . . "Rember Old So-andSo? He's a Major now. Must have had an Establishment written round him, etc., etc., etc."—and now Eric has sent me his idea of the Army of the future.

But don't you believe it—the bloke pressing the button is sure to be a Lance-Corporal at least.

Resemblance to any living persons is purely intentional. Now what?



Hints for the New Year Resolutions

You may remember the following article last year when several of you accused me of bad spelling. Have now been asked by several wives to reproduce it—but I'm afraid "more in hope . . . ."

I had 12 bottles of whisky in my cellar and was told by my wife to empty the contents of each and every one down the sink—OR ELSE.

So I said I would and proceeded with the unpleasant task. I withdrew the cork from the bottle and poured the contents down the sink with the exception of one glass which I drank. I pulled the cork from the second bottle and did likewise with the exception of one glass which I drank. I then withdrew the cork from the third bottle and poured the whisky down the sink which I drank. I extracted the cork from the fourth bottle down the sink, and poured the bottle down the glass which I drank.

I poured the bottle from the cork of the next and drank one sink of it and threw the rest down the glass. I pulled the sink out of the next glass and poured the cork down the bottle. Then I corked the sink with the glass, bottled the drink and drank the pour. When I had everything emptied, I steadied the house with one hand, counted the glasses, corks, bottles and sinks with the other which were 29, and as the house came by I counted them again and finally had all the houses in one bottle which I drank. I'm not under the affluence of incohol, but some thinkle peep I am. I'm not half so thunk as you might drink. I fool so feelish. I don't know who is me and the drunker I stand here the longer I get.

Hic !

Tailpiece

Another Ukann Larfe Christmas to my friend and fellow scribe, Bob "Barleux" and to the C.S.O. Southern Command (Brigadier E. S. Cole) and Major E. Smith, D.C.M., of the C.S.O.'s branch who kindly gave me facilities to type these notes when in their area. This was an especial treat to me 'cos there after X years I met Major J. B. W. Freemantle—still as rotund and jovial as ever. He tells me he is retiring in January—but that will be another story and really worth telling.

Finally, a very fruity Christmas to *all* at 88 Eccleston Square and with thanks for their never failing guidance, patience and understanding.

See you all in 1954.

Signal Training Centre

2 TRAINING REGIMENT

During the month Signalman K. Norris, the Army three and six mile champion cross country runner, has added to his laurels by winning more events in the North Yorkshire and South Durham Harriers League meeting and other County events in addition to proving to be an easy winner in Inter-Unit matches.

On Wednesday, 28th October, 1953, the boxing team went to Hull as a representative team from Northern Command. A very good display of boxing ensued, and in the words of the Hull Press a really first class evening's entertainment was provided by well matched bouts. The overall result was that we lost by five bouts to three but as our opponents were in the main A.B.A. Champions, it was not by any means a disappointing result. It was rather refreshing at the end for the Boxing Officer to be asked to interview three of the opposing team who have now decided to join the Corps as regular soldiers. We shall look forward to seeing them boxing in Army contests at a later date.

During the month the square has been resounding to marching feet and raucous untoward noises which denote that junior N.C.Os are endeavouring to prove to the satisfaction of the R.S.M. that they were born to be drill instructors. These courses are not yet completed and so it is impossible at this stage to forecast the number of potential R.S.Ms among them. According to rumour the attendance at local dance halls and the NAAFI Club has diminished but whether the saying that "Drill and dancing don't mix" is correct or not the writer would not care to hazard.

Preparations for the Christmas festivities are going apace and already large lists are being displayed denoting that the large scale Christmas draws are being subscribed to. To date Le Cateau Corporals' Mess party has been arranged for 9th December, Mons Corporals' Mess on 16th December, the Unit Children's Party on 18th December, the Sergeants' Mess draw on the 21st and the dinner on 24th December, and of course, the bumper men's Christmas dinner on Christmas Day.

The Officers' Mess held the first cocktail party for a considerable time on 14th October, which was attended by Major-General C. H. Colquhoun, O.B.E., and Mrs. Colquhoun, and a goodly cohort of prominent guests. If the P/W appearance of certain mess members next day was anything to go by, the party was a huge success, and it is hoped that this will be the first of many.

3 TRAINING REGIMENT

To ALL RANKS, at home and abroad, a traditional happy and 'OWLing Christmas and yet another wonderful New Year.

In the Regiment we can, in retrospect, look back with justifiable pride. At work we feel (and since this is the season of good will 'tis rude to cavill) our training standards have risen steadily and maybe this coming year will see us doing a Mount Everest and reaching "tops."

At play we have enhanced our reputation of being sporting losers and generous victors. No "gladiators" here but we always seem to be somewhere among the leaders, sometimes to their (and our) amazement. This was especially so in October in the Northern Command boxing competition when we entered the second round at the expense of The Cameronians from Barnard Castle—an extremely good result reflecting great credit on Major E. A. Sinnock (Boxing Officer) and S.S.I J. Treacey, A.P.T.C. (trainer). We have a stiff task in January in the Army championships versus those redoubtable opponents, 6 Battalion R.A.O.C.—but didn't David once do something to Goliath?

And proud we are of the part played by the Regiment in Operation Tanker. Nearly a hundred drivers and drivers' mates under the command of Major K. Brown journeyed to London and of course acquitted themselves "à la 3 Training Regiment." (See my remarks under Catterick Jottings).

The Regimental firework display on 5th November was a tremendous success. Under the chairmanship of the Commanding Officer (Lieutenant-Colonel W. C. Burke) and with the Entertainments Officer (Captain J. Brine) in a real Guy Fawkes mood, a representative committee provided an "evening" that is now a MUST annual Regimental show. Included among the huge Regimental and Families gathering was the Commandant (Brigadier W. D. J. Harries, C.B.E.) and an amusing feature was the rockets—quickly termed C.O.'s rockets—which almost circled the ground as if looking for suitable recipients. Must be doing me job 'cos they missed me!

The Strand Repertory Company delighted crowded audiences at Bourlon, Aisne and Gallowgate Lines with performances of "It's a Boy," and yet again there were references to "Blonde Coils" in that week's trade test papers.

Welcome to Majors J. R. Camp and A. E. Wood to P.R.I. and Gallowgate respectively, and good luck to Major E. A. Sinnock and Captain K. Witt both of 3 Squadron on posting.

After 18 months as part of the North Branch, Royal Signals Association, the Regiment became a pukka branch on 31st October with the following officials:—

President ... ... Lieutenant-Colonel W. C. Burke.
Chairman ... ... Major N. A. C. Clubb.
Secretary ... ... Captain J. Brine.
Treasurer ... ... Major J. R. Camp.
Entertainments ... R.S.M. H. Knight and S.S.M. J. Brierly.

Nothing but the best to start with, you see. Now for a rapid rise in membership—with emphasis on Life membership if you please.

Visitors during the month were Major W. H. Padgett (hold tight to your seats—I last saw him at 3rd Division in 1928!) and Captain S. Ericson of the Swedish Army.

And finally, to you lucky lot who are staying behind for the festive season—I've had a look at the menu and programme for Christmas . . . . but you won't believe me if I tell you, but oh! boy, are you going to enjoy yourselves.

4 TRAINING REGIMENT

A very special "Hello" to all those ex-members of the Regiment who still remember us—and who in strange and distant places may find some interest in news of what happens here in Catterick.

We welcome Major B. R. M. Hayles who has recently returned from Fort Bragg, North Carolina, U.S.A., to his new appointment as O.C. 4 Squadron, responsible for O.R.1 and potential Officer training, vice Major F. G. Rapsey who has left us with our good wishes to take over G.11 London District.

The first month of the 1953/54 season has been marked with a grand sporting mixture of enthusiasm—sensation—and a degree of success.

Conversation in the Sergeants' Mess bar and the chance remarks along the mysterious channels of "Bush Radio" are a sure sign that morale is high.

A committee which is a strong mixture of youth and wisdom has produced a first class team, which although it may lose matches, challenges the best, and raises enthusiastic support.

On 7th October we set off for Barnard Castle to play 1 Cameronians in a preliminary round of the Army Cup. About five hundred supporters travelled by buses, and what a game resulted! Teesdale rang and echoed with the call of "UP 4." Field Officers—Warrant Officers and so many others who in more sane moments are so stolidly undemonstrative, risked heart failure, blood pressure and loss of dignity as they yelled and waved the team to victory. 4 Training Regiment 3; 1 Cameronians 2 . . . what a battle! We had seven players injured, and on checking up when the game was finally over, it was realised that as the whistle blew, of the nine men left on the field, of these the goalkeeper was the only man in his original position!

In the Senior League we have defeated 3 Training Regiment, 1 Cameronians and 68 Training Regiment R.A.C. This latter victory was particularly gratifying in view of the fact that 68 Training Regiment had previously made soccer sensation by defeating 7 Training Regiment, the Army Cup holders.

Success must inevitably be tempered with defeat. Thus, on 28th October we met 5 Training Regiment at Ripon in the 1st Round Proper of the Army Cup. The "guts" of the players, and the unbounded support of about four hundred and fifty of the spectators who travelled with us was not sufficient to stave off a 4-2 defeat. Congratulations to 5 Training Regiment—a very fine sporting team who were just that much too good for us. When the game was over, your scribe visited the team in the pavilion and found them—as we hope this may find you—in the best of spirits, cheerfully singing in the showers!

Rugger. With a very heavy fixture list and with many Cup games arriving, we are building up a very useful side. Out of eleven games we have lost only one, and this by a narrow margin at the hands of the R.A.F. Regiment at Catterick. Notable victories were over 68 and 66 Training Regiments R.A.C., Royal Signals Wing, 5 Training Regiment Royal Signals, Leeds University, and 7 Training Regiment

4 Training Regiment about to score in the First Round of the Army (Soccer) Cup match at Ripon

Royal Signals. Many of our players have played for Catterick Services, while Second-Lieutenant Jolliffe has constantly turned out for the Corps. Lance-Corporal Kelly had a good game for the Northern Command against Headingly, while for the Regimental side, Signalman Kaiser, Corporal Small and Second-Lieutenant Ramwell have played in nearly all games, rarely failing to distinguish themselves. We are now rolling up our sleeves ready to tackle anything in the Army Cup, Northern Command and Northumbrian District Cup.

Hockey. Our Regimental hockey side skippered by Lieutenant Gully started the season in fine style by winning its first league match 9 goals to 1. Since then we have experienced the usual losses of players through postings, but are nevertheless keeping up the standard. Fortunately seasoned players like S.Q.M.S. Crockett and R.Q.M.S. Hobday are still with us and we have valuable additions in Captain Kirby (our Adjutant), and Corporal Nickerson (both of whom look like playing for the Corps this season). Major Hencher joins us soon and we hope he hasn't put on too much weight for the half-back line! The first round of the Army Cup takes place early in January, so we are busy trying to find the winning combination. Let us hope that we shall be reporting our entry to the second round of the Cup in a future issue!

Wives' Club

Wives' clubs are by no means an innovation. The more vigorous of them, however, do much to boost morale and the "get together" spirit of a unit.

4 Training Regiment, Royal Signals, Catterick Camp, have a Wives' Club that is run on what one might call a co-operative basis, only the Secretaryship being in the hands of Mrs. K. Jordan, wife of O.C. 1 Squadron, and general control of policy and activities with Mrs H. Worrall, the wife of the Commanding Officer. For the rest, a vigorous programme is operating run largely by the wives of all ranks who have really got down to the job of organising and running what is proving to be a most successful season.

The re-formed club started off with a Baby Show and it was indeed difficult to make a choice, so healthy and bonny were all the infants. All mothers naturally consider their child the most wonderful, good looking and intelligent, but even so they showered applause and congratulation on the winners, which good spirit augured well for the success of the club.

Indeed, since re-forming the Club has gone from strength to strength, and a series of Beetle Drives, Competition Afternoons and Sales of Work have been held and well supported by the members.

Our most recent and greatest effort has been a Whist Drive held to raise funds for the Regimental Children's Christmas Party, and over 100 people attended. Members donated raffle prizes and raw materials, which were turned into delicious sandwiches, patties and cakes for the buffet.

Credit must go to the Committee, who sold the tickets, did the catering and worked so hard to make the evening the undoubted success it was, and last but not least, were able to hand over the sum of £10 to the Children's Party Fund.

Perhaps the secret of a the new-found vigour is the realisation by all members that they have a personal stake in its continued success.

"In the unavoidable absence of the C.O.'s wife, Mrs. Partridge presents prizes to the winners of the November Whist Drive, run by the Wives' Club, 4 Training Regiment, to raise funds for the Children's Christmas Party"

7 TRAINING REGIMENT

Weeks come and go, and as each week passes a steady stream of recruits, both Regular and National Service pass out of this Regiment to start their careers in the Corps. Even to those of us closely concerned it is a constant source of amazement to note the high standard of drill, steadiness on parade, and turn-out achieved by the recruits on the Pass-Off Parades. This was particularly remarked upon by Major-General C. H. Colquhoun, O.B.E., the new Commander of Northumbrian District, when he addressed recruits and parents after the Pass-Off Parade on 14th October. He also said that this parade had been of great interest to him as he had seen this intake of recruits on the day they arrived and had now seen the high standard they had reached after only four weeks' training.

In the field of sport also the Regiment has been exerting itself to good advantage. Our soccer team has now reached the second round of the Army Cup by beating the 65th Training Regiment 7-1 at the Central Ground, Catterick, on 28th October. This match proved, as far as our team was concerned, that good team work gives better results than eleven individual players. Anyway it was a good win, with our team nearly approaching their last season's form. This is further demonstrated by the fact that the soccer team were away playing for Northern Command, and that we now hold the top position in the Northumbrian District League.

After rather a bad start the rugby team has also found its form. In the last four matches they have scored 120 points without one being scored against them. It must be admitted however, that we have been fortunate in the number of good players among the recruits, so we look to the cadre to maintain their interest and keenness to keep up the standard.

	P	W	L	D
Results :	7	4	3	0

Points for : 143. Points against : 65.

Congratulations are also due to our cyclists for winning fresh laurels for the Regiment. In the Northern Command 75 Mile Massed Start Road Race on 14th October, the winner was Lance-Corporal S. Brittain, with Lance-Corporal H. MacKensie third, and Signalman J. Grieves sixth. These excellent results made us the winners in Northern Command, as well as winners in Northumbrian District. In the

Major General C. H. Colquhoun, O.B.E., talking with Band Sergeant Major Purvis at the National Service Pass-Off Parade, 14th October

Army Inter Unit Challenge Cup Competition also, we gained second place with 2,041 points, against the winners, 3rd Training Battalion, R.A.O.C., with 2,080 points. Well done the cyclists.

On the hockey field our team shows promise, having won six out of eight matches played, with one lost and one drawn. The most notable success so far was against Scarborough with a win 5-4, Second-Lieutenant Gibson scoring all the goals.

We would like to take this opportunity of wishing all ex-members of 7 Training Regiment, wherever they may be, a very Merry Christmas and all Best Wishes for the New Year.

5 TRAINING REGIMENT, ROYAL SIGNALS

After successes in Summer Sports the Regiment has added to its glory in the recent series of motor-cycle trials.

The D.R.s both cadre and trainees did sterling work in preparing for and partaking in them, the final one being the Army Trials on 18th October at Gandale.

The drivers then came into their own when nearly 400, with trainees as mates, assisted in the delivery of petrol during Operation " Tanker." This was commanded by Major Anslow who lost not a single rifle! but Major Nobby Clarke the Q.M. was faced with Boots minus heel and toe plates and studs! (fire officer please note!).

We are now " driving " on to new horizons after our reorganisation. A M.T. Squadron has been formed with the object of economising in transport and driver overheads. If the increase in petrol consumption from 11,000 gallons per month to 20,000 gallons is any indication, then the trainees must be " concentrating."

Recent successes of our Motor Cycle Trials Team are shown with the picture.

Other successes include winners of Claro (Service Charities) Soccer Cup and Runners-up for Ripon City Visitors' Soccer Cup.

S.Q.M.S. Nicholson is to be congratulated on winning the individual award in the N. Command Motor Cycle Trials, and Corporal Johnstone in being the runner-up in the individual award of the Army Trials. He lost only by one point from Craftsman Martin of the Army M.T. School who is a well known trials rider. In addition, first class certificates of merit were awarded to S.Q.M.S. Nicholson and Sergeant Taylor, and a second class certificate was awarded to Corporal Monaghan.

Hearty congratulations to the teams for their fine performances and we take off our hat to Major Pat Anslow for his work in organising this series of Trials.

The Soccer team is still in the Army Cup having beaten 67 Training Regiment R.A.C. and 4 Training Regiment Royal Signals; and now for the next round.

We have had minor successes in Rugby, Hockey, Basketball and Table Tennis. The Boxing, Cross Country and Shooting teams are busy training and our hopes are high for the forthcoming N. Command championships.

Our best wishes go to R.S.M. Simpson on his departure and we welcome R.S.M. Boyton, although we are fearful of what the Guards Drill Course is doing with him.

Finally, we welcome home the Royal Signals Display Team after their successful tour. Volunteers for next season are already coming forward and our Adjutant and Display Officer, Captain Larry Kemp, is itching to show them what he can do on the Corgi!

5 Training Regiment Motor Cycle Trials Team

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Winners of E. and W. Ridings Area Motor Cycle Trials.

Winners of N. Command Motor Cycle Trials and Challenge Cup.

Runner-up of the British Army Motor Cycle Trials (Mills Cup).

Photo by Courtesy of Gale & Polden, Ltd.

[Courtesy : Photocraft & Co., Chester

C.S.O. WESTERN COMMAND EXERCISE " STRAIGHT REPLY " 3/4 OCTOBER 1953

Back Row : Capt. O. E. Dillon, 2/Lt. F. Lynch, Lt. T. D. Williams, Capt. J. M. Price, Maj. P. R. Hoskins, Capt. G. D. Davies, Maj. I. W. Herbert, Lt. D. J. Morton, Maj. A. H. D. LLewellyn, Capt. P. A. M. Tighe, Capt. R. Plant, Maj. C. N. P. Weatherhead, Maj. G. W. Davies, Capt. J. G. Wood, Maj. R. W. Seabrook, Maj. P. G. Curry. 3rd Row : Capt. H. G. Gifford, Lt. F. C. Russell, Capt. W. E. Newson, Capt. P. M. Vane, Maj. L. F. Rigden, Maj. J. S. Birch, Maj. A. S. Learmont, Lt. D. C. E. West, Capt. P. W. Powley, Capt. F. G. Henretty, Capt. C. E. M. Bramham, Capt. F. M. Partington, Capt. B. M. Mason, Maj. C. I. Mathieson, Maj. C. D. Drake, Lt. R. F. Little, Capt. P. D. Weymont, Capt. J. A. Lawson. 2nd Row : Maj. R. N. Houston, M.B.E., T.D., Maj. B. T. Love, T.D., Maj. L. C. Suggars, M.M., Maj. K. D. Patterson, M.B.E., Maj. I. W. K. Smith, Maj. A. N. H. Bromley, Maj. W. J. Quinn, Maj. R. D. Nash, Maj. D. J. Braine, Capt. W. J. Perry, Maj. J. E. D. Farr, M.B.E., Capt. E. P. Bullard, Maj. V. F. Thorpe, Maj. R. W. Brader, Capt. E. H. Davies, Maj. The Earl Kitchener, Maj. R. N. G. Price, Capt. J. K. Hart, 2/Lt. P. J. Buisseret. Front Row : Maj. G. McKean, Maj. R. L. Downs, Lt. Col. F. J. Behets, Lt. Col. J. C. Ireland, M.B.E., Lt. Col. P. A. Watts, Lt. Col. C. E. Calveley, O.B.E., A.D.C., Lt. Col. E. H. Clarke, O.B.E., Lt. Col. T. A. Bish, Lt. Col. E. R. Price, Lt. Col. M. J. Conway, Brig. D. St. J. Hoysted, Lt. Col. T. W. Boileau, O.B.E., Lt. Col. C. H. H. Lingard, Lt. Col. D. J. Goldsmith, Lt. Col. R. H. Copeland, Lt. Col. A. H. Woodland, Lt. Col. B. T. Sherman, Lt. Col. R. R. C. Rankin, O.B.E., Lt. Col. A. Ellison, M.B.E., T.D., Maj. G. Horsfall.

THE BENEVOLENT FUND

ITS HISTORY and FUTURE

SINCE in 1920 the Royal Signals Association was born of the Signal Service Association R.E. and the Signals Branch R.E. Old Comrades' Association, there has always been a Benevolent Fund. Its objects have remained more or less constant since that time. Until 1939 its income was derived mainly from the generosity of those then serving in Royal Signals and in the branches of the Association. This income sufficed for the then demands on the fund.

In 1941 a second fund was started, registered as a War Charity under the title Royal Signals War Benevolent Prisoners of War and Comforts Fund and in 1943 this latter fund took over the assets of the Benevolent Fund.

The objects of this War-time fund included those of the pre-war fund and in addition the organisation and distribution of parcels for prisoners of war and comforts for those serving. This fund was subscribed to by all of the very great numbers who served in Royal Signals during the War.

Steps were taken this year by the Central Committee and approved by the Annual General Meeting to cease this War-time fund and to transfer the assets to a new fund called the Royal Signals Welfare Section. The objects of the Welfare Section as incorporated in the Rules of the Association are a slightly more liberal version of the objects of the pre-war Benevolent Fund.

We are, therefore, although under another name back to where we started.

There is one great difference. During the War a very large sum of money was raised and in all probability the capital sum and interest will provide all that is necessary for those who served between 1939 and 1946.

There is however the problem of the very great numbers of men who have served in Royal Signals since 1946 and due to the National Service Act these numbers increase by many thousands each year. These men are mostly young and at present unmarried. Therefore calls on the fund from those with post-war service have not yet assumed alarming proportions. As the years pass many of these men will rightly marry and have children and then for the first time each individual may find that a minor setback becomes a major tragedy.

As was said at the beginning, in pre-war days income sufficed to cover expenditure. Today despite a great increase in generosity of those serving in the Active and Reserve Army, income from that source only just balances expenditure on post war applicants. Annually an increase will be necessary.

The change in name is to be made on 31st December, 1953—1st January, 1954, and on these days when we say

Vale — Benevolent Fund

Ave — Welfare Section

let us also remember that the needs of the Welfare Section will be greater than those of the Benevolent Fund.

For those who combine personal generosity with the writing of cheques the new title is *Royal Signals Association Welfare Section*, but of course if inadvertence uses the old title the generosity will be no less welcome and no less gratefully acknowledged.

OFFICER TRAINING WING, SCHOOL OF SIGNALS

Since our notes last appeared in THE WIRE there have been several changes of officers in the Wing. Major T. J. F. Fuller, our 2 i/c, has retired from the Corps. He was sent off with the best wishes of the Unit and hopes that he would appear at various Corps functions in the future. Major Fuller's successor, Major G. G. L. Hinde, had barely taken over before he left us on promotion. Major K. A. Nash now fills this vacancy and Major K. M. Evans, who comes to us from the School of A.A. Artillery, Manorbier, replaces Major C. M. Jenkins as O.C. Technical Training Squadron, whom we wish the best of good fortune in the Middle East. R.S.M. J. Leonard, M.B.E., has left us for the Middle East also. R.S.M. G. J. Bevan, his successor, comes to us from 6 Boys' Training Regiment, Beverley. Captain P. Tainsh and Captain G. A. S. Exell have arrived in the Wing as replacements for Captain J. A. Cleland and Captain W. E. Sherratt, who are leaving due to the demands of career planning. To all these we wish success in their new appointments.

For several years the Wing has held a Garden Fete. This year the 22nd August was the date and through the efforts of all concerned a contribution, more than covering that anticipated, was sent to the Signals Association. As is traditional in England the Fete was terminated by a deluge, but only after most visitors had had tea.

A Regimental Cocktail Party was held on 21st October, 1953. In spite of fog, the party was excellently attended.

Sport

The Wing has had a successful summer season. Another cup was added to our collection when the Royal Signals Golf Team, represented by Lieutenant-Colonel G. S. K. Maydon, Major B. J. Buirski (7 Training Regiment), and Captain J. B. Prince, won the Northern Command Inter Unit Golf Championship. Captain J. B. Prince also won the individual handicap competition. At cricket and tennis we had successes and should do even better next year. Our soccer team, under the able management of Captain W. Bailey and S.Q.M.S. E. J. Ford has so far won all its five matches in the Northumbrian District Junior "A" League. At hockey the Wing is entered in the District League and although it has not enjoyed success to date, the strengthening of our team by Major K. M. Evans and Captain G. A. S. Exell augers well for the future. At miniature range shooting, organised by Captain Fill, the Wing has achieved a high standard and there is stiff competition for a place in either the 1st or 2nd Shooting Teams. We have this Winter branched out into a new game for Wing—basket-ball—and have entered the District Knock-out Competition. So far we have won three matches and lost two. With the Rugger season lying before us Captain J. R. Ellis looks forward to another successful season, though our team does not on paper have the strength it enjoyed last season.

THE DEPOT REGIMENT

The hurdle of the year—the Administration Inspection is safely behind us and we now look forward to Christmas. The Unit Choristers are gradually coming into shape, indeed the most unlikely characters can be seen wandering around with Hymns Ancient and Modern clutched firmly in their gnarled hands. A Regimental Concert Party has also been formed and it is planned to give a show on the night of the Regimental Christmas Draw. Hilarious scenes are being enacted in quiet corners of the Barracks in preparation, and some surprisingly good talent discovered.

Major-General W. O. Bowen, C.B., C.B.E., Director of Signals, visited the Regiment on 12th November. The Director toured the Regiment and saw the rather unusual problems that beset us. Before he left, the Director expressed his satisfaction in all that he had seen.

Concerning Soccer—we have continued to more than hold our own in the South Devon League. To date we have played eight matches, resulting in five wins, two draws and one loss, a total of 12 from a possible 16 points. The "goals" position is 22 for with 13 against. In the immediate future we are due to play Teignmouth A.F.C. in the "Herald Cup" and Newton Abbot in the "Devon Senior" Cup. Results later. The Regiment has entered a team in the Torbay Wednesday League. We are at the moment floundering rather badly in this league, having lost the first two matches by margins of 7-3 and 7-1. However this team is really our "trying ground" for those with ambitions towards the Regimental 1st XI.

In the First Round Proper of the Army Cup we were given a lesson in football by the No. 6 Cookery Instructional Centre to the tune of 6-0. However, our lads put up a good clean fighting show and kept going from the first to last whistle.

Misfortune again befell us in the S.W. District Small Units Knock-out Competition. This time we lost by 3-1 to the Depot of the Devon and Wessex Brigade. Of this game, the least said the better, our lads were completely off their usual form: a poor excuse, but the only plausible one.

Rugger. Three Rugger matches were played in October 1953. Namely, against Plymouth Argaum, away, who gave us a sound beating by 40 points to 3. The Depot team played hard right up to the very end of the final whistle.

On 14th October, 1953, we played at home to University College, Exeter, this resulted in a win for the Depot by three points to nil. On Saturday, 24th October, 1953, we played against Brixham Rugby Football Club. This resulted in a draw, no score.

On Tuesday, 17th November, the Hockey team take themselves off to Tidworth to play the 10th Hussars in the 1st Round of the Army Hockey Cup. May their forbearance of the long journey bring them the fruits of victory.

Congratulations to Major R. F. C. Ashford, on his appointment as Regular Q.M., it is noticed that he is getting into practice early, having been heard muttering "NO" with all possible inflections. What is his gain is our loss, for he leaves us early in the New Year for Eastern Command Signal Regiment.

WESTERN COMMAND SIGNAL REGIMENT

We are now eagerly looking forward to the visit of the Representative Colonel Commandant to Blacon Camp on 17th November, 1953.

The rehearsals which have been taking place indicate that a very smart parade will result.

In the sporting world we are striving for an improvement. After all, even the Arsenal started off badly this season.

In the Chester Wednesday Soccer League we have played eight games to gain three points, whilst in the North West District Minor League we have three points from three games.

We have had some excellent hockey matches. The game against R.A.F. West Kirby was a very good one despite a 5-0 defeat. With more practice we hope for more favourable results. We have great hopes of the Royal Signals Blacon Camp Rugger Team which is now forming.

Basketball was a game which we thought we knew something about, but now the Americans from Sealand Air Base borrow our gym, we have had other thoughts. However, they are wonderful to watch.

The Inter-Troop Competition is going with a swing. Field Troop is leading the soccer league on goal average, and the hockey league by one point from Command Troop.

The main event of the month in so far as the W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess was concerned was the presentation of a new standard to the Chester Branch of the Royal Signals Association. We were very happy to welcome R.S.M. Leonard and the members of the W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess, O.T.W. Catterick Camp, who made the presentation and a very sincere tribute must go to R.S.M. Robinson and mess members for an excellent evening.

[*Photo : P.A. Reuter Photos Ltd.*

Pte. Weir W.R.A.C. taking over packages from L/Cpl. Playfoot before taking off in the Plane

SOUTHERN COMMAND (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT

Now that the T.A. Training Season is over life in the Regiment is gradually returning to normal. The four F. S. S. Troops can look forward to several months work uninterrupted by demands for extensive line communications required for exercises of the type held within the Command during the summer and early autumn. Let us hope that the rigorous winter weather does nothing to increase their labours this year.

Austers of 657 Air OP Squadron have been used for the past two summers to provide an Air Despatch Service within the Command. W.R.A.C. personnel of the Command Signal Troop have provided the couriers for these flights in the majority of cases and have been extremely keen to do so. T panels, Aldis lamps and Verey Pistols operated by D.S.O.s at Command and Districts have provided the simple landing aids for these operations and have in several cases had to rapidly clear offending cattle from the landing strips in use. We are glad to record that no accidents have occurred this year despite the discharge of one Verey cartridge by a W.R.A.C. officer.

The Regimental Football Team has steadily improved its position and even won a mention in despatches in the *Southampton Echo* after winning 15-1 against last year's champions in the Wiltshire Military League. An Inter-Troop League and Six-a-Side Competition are also running at Bulford. At present the S.P.D. F.S.S. Troop are well in the lead, though no forecast for the final position can yet be made.

The Hockey side has had an uphill struggle to date but shows every sign of coming out on top in the near future. Reinforcements in this sport are urgently required and we can but hope that O.I.C. Royal Signals Records will smile upon us in this respect.

No Rugby football has been started as yet owing to lack of support, but golf and small bore shooting appear to be prominent in the sporting horizon.

Our congratulations are extended to Lieutenant G. R. Roll our former Q.M.S. (F. of S.) who was commissioned on 5th October, 1953, and has since been posted to Donnington. We wish him every success in his new appointment. Our best wishes for a successful future are also extended to Second-Lieutenants Eggins and Lavender, S.Q.M.S. Grummett and all the others who have left the Regiment for civilian life during the past two months.

[*Photo : P.A. Reuter Photos Ltd.*

Pte. Weir W.R.A.C. acting as courier on Air Despatch Service

SCOTTISH COMMAND (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT

As the weather draws into its winter programme so does the Regiment, the primary object of which, at the moment, is Individual Training. Harassed class III and IV tradesmen lurk furtively round corners, hoping that their names have not been submitted for class II and III. Certain of the none senior elements of the Regiment now classed generally under the heading "Instructors," blow dust from ancient course notebooks and talk vaguely of "ohms" and "db's." Rooms all over the Barracks take on a "new look" as tables and chairs replace beds and packing cases, and a generally studious atmosphere settles over us in preparation for the 19th October "IT Day."

However the impending study has by no means deterred our rifle experts, who excelled themselves at the Lowland District Rifle Meeting earlier this month. Conditions were ideal with good light and slight wind on a warm week-end. The team headed by R.S.M. Ferguson with Second-Lieutenant Evans, Corporal Fewster, Lance-Corporal Ward, Lance-Corporal Kelly, Lance-Corporal Walker and Signalman Blyth, took full advantage of these conditions and won the Britannia Trophy (District Team Championship Trophy) in the face of strong opposition from eight Units among which the Depot R. Scots and Lowland Brigade were 2nd and H.L.I. 3rd. Great credit goes to Lance-Corporal Kelly who was the winner of the Individual Rifle Championship with a very fine shoot, we thank him for his excellent work and wish him even better shooting in the future. Further honours go to Second-Lieutenant Evans who was second in the Open Individual Championship, and Signalman Blyth who was second in the Young Soldiers Open Individual. The team thoroughly enjoyed the whole week-end, especially the R.S.M. whose birthday was on the Sunday. He considered the result a worthy present, and indeed it is rumoured that he only signed on for a further two years to put the Units shooting abilities in the limelight. It may be of interest to our older readers to know that the range warden at Dechmont Ranges, Glasgow, the scene of our success is none other than Ex-Sergeant John Schofield of the Corps who seems to be settling well into civvy life.

Second-Lieutenant Evans has also been busy in other spheres with the 51 Highland Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment M/C Trials held at Tulles Hill, Aberdeen. Having been beaten by the 6/7 Black Watch who were visitors in the Lowland District Trials, we were invited to these trials and were once again beaten by the 6/7 Black Watch. However, Corporal Tyler of our team won the Individual Trophy, with an excellent ride over a very stiff course, in fact Corporal Tyler was the only man to finish one particular rock climb. Civilian competitors present had better equipped machines but few showed up well against the best Army riders. The prizes were awarded by Mrs. Hay, wife of Lieutenant-Colonel Hay, R. Signals.

The Sergeants' Mess who welcome Sergeant Smethurst on his promotion, are already concerning themselves with the forthcoming Christmas, and various committees which, believe it or not, actually volunteered for the jobs can be seen daily secreting themselves in various corners to plan the festivities.

The Mess has said goodbye to W.O.II Burford, W.R.A.C., and welcomes W.O.II McCue in her place. Good-byes and best wishes also go to R.Q.M.S. Hall, S.Q.M. Miskelly and Sergeant Joyce who will be leaving us for overseas, and our welcome is extended to S.Q.M.S. Hutton and Sergeant Latham, R.A.P.C., who have just joined us. Most of the Sergeants' Mess building at the moment is in a state of chaoes due to a scheme known as "Decorating R.E.," with the Mess Waiters fighting a losing battle. These upsets do not, however, affect the social activities of the Mess, an excellent social evening being held once a fortnight and being thoroughly enjoyed by all.

In the Edinburgh Area Cross Country League race this month the Regimental team ran very well into second place, with a fine individual effort by Signalman Moore, one of

Lowland District Rifle Meeting

our A.E.R. personnel, who took first place. Thus is the team off to a good start this season and we wish them all success in the future. Soccer is still the main sport in the Regiment and our team is improving and winning more matches. The hockey team is playing very steadily, having played four matches and drawn four matches. At least no team has been able to beat them yet. The membership of the Small Bore Rifle Club is steadily increasing and we are now holding meetings twice weekly. Leading scorer to date is the R.S.M. with a score of 100, he has not got things all his own way, however, and is being hotly challenged by Craftsman Grant (99) and Lance-Corporal Wyer (98).

Lastly, we offer our most sincere condolences to Corporal and Mrs. Wingate on the loss of their infant son.

★

"It's time he returned to normal duties corporal"

Anti-Aircraft Command

1 A.A. (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT

We have now settled down to our usual Orsett Camp routine and are currently enjoying a quiet spell. "Exercise Flamingo" is now successfuly behind us and, once again, the Regiment acquitted itself commendably on the communication side.

Of the twelve cricket matches played by the Regiment during the past season we won 7, drew 1 and lost 4. In the Inter-Squadron and Inter-Troop competitions, the winners were H.Q. Squadron and R.H.Q./Q Troops respectively.

Our Hockey season has commenced satisfactorily with a convincing win over Westcliffe Hockey Club by 5 goals to 0. A full fixture card for the remainder of the season pressages some good entertainment. The Soccer team has still to find its feet and, at present, is quite unpredictable to say the least.

The Annual General Administration Inspection is on the near horizon and preparations for it are going ahead by all concerned. Christmas preparations will, thereafter, doubtless eclipse all else.

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5 A.A. (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT

The Unit Theatre Club has again produced two very successful plays this month, and the theatre was filled to capacity each night. "The Bathroom Door" and "The Second Visit" were the plays chosen and both were directed by Captain J. L. McKellar. The proceeds were divided between the Royal Signals and W.R.A.C. Benevolent Funds.

Many changes in personnel are taking place at the moment.

We were very sorry to say farewell to W.O.II McCue, W.R.A.C. We shall miss her and wish her the best of luck in Edinburgh. We welcome W.O.II Burford, W.R.A.C., and hope her time with the Regiment will be happy. Sergeant Witney has also left us and we wish him every success with London District Signal Squadron.

Major M. F. Holliday, Captain R. Daw and Captain A. Haggard, W.R.A.C., are leaving the Regiment shortly.

We shall welcome Major R. T. M. Sharp as our new Second-in-Command.

Signalman Adcock has joined the Regiment. He bears a name well-known in the Corps.

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

Since the publication of our last notes in July, the changes which have taken place in our permanent staff have been many. Our Quartermaster, Major V. Honor, has been replaced by Captain R. Hodgson, newly arrived from East Africa. A straight exchange this, for Major Honor and family, theoretically at least, are now basking in the sunshine in Nairoobi. We all hope that they are enjoying it despite Mau-Mau. Our W.R.A.C. Officer, Captain M. A. Riley, has left us more recently on being appointed to a regular commission and posted to Edinburgh. Though we were all very sorry to lose "Ray" we are very pleased that her replacement, Captain F. A. Healey, seems set fair to maintain the high standard which Captain Riley produced. In the P.S.I. vacancies formerly occupied by Sergeant Kirk and Sergeant O'Malley, we have been fortunate in taking on Sergeants M. Gill and I. Gittins both of the W.R.A.C. We hope that they enjoy their stay with the Regiment and continue to "keep up the good work."

The commencement of our winter training period on 15th September seemed also to be the signal for the autumn to start in earnest. Unfortunately, the pleasant autumn evenings have already disappeared and the journey to Woolton Camp on Mondays and Thursdays is a nightmare of drifting mists and shadowy figures. That, however, we must expect on Merseyside in November and the cold weather—which seems our lot for the next few months—does nothing to detract from the enthusiasm shown; and dampens the spirit rarely indeed.

Socially, with the coming of October, there is much activity. Our very excellent Sergeants' Mess and its inhabitants have re-commenced their Saturday socials which are, as ever, proving to be a great success.

The first "All Ranks" dance of the season on 17th October was well attended and was very much enjoyed by all the participants.

Saturday, 17th October, was the night when the "hat trick" was performed. This is a very difficult feat as any one knows, especially when carried out against the officers. Two of the officers "put-out" so to speak have now recovered their "lids," but the odd man out seems doomed to a winter of head colds or, alternatively, dark and silent nights until he is the proud possessor of a newer, smaller, hat.

On Wednesday, 28th October, the annual administrative inspection was carried out by Brigadier K. R. H. Tailyour, O.B.E. It seemed very satisfactory from all points of view, but we are awaiting the official report before assuming that to be correct. And so forward to more training, bigger and better social events and (only 48 shopping days away) Christmas.

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51 (U) A.A. INDEPENDENT (M) SIGNAL SQUADRON, T.A.

Many changes have taken place since the last notes were produced. Major D. Waite, M.B.E., has transferred to the T.A.R.O. and his place has been taken by Major J. F. H. Pearcey. We wish them both success. Captain C. M. Gillespie, W.R.A.C. (T.A.) has also left us for the T.A.R.O., finding pressure of home life a little too much to carry on with the T.A.

Departures have caught up with us and Lieutenant H. W. Russell, the P.S.O., has received his orders and is being struck off the inventory. Lieutenant B. J. Craig takes over and we trust his stay will be long and happy.

The Squadron has now settled down to its winter programme of training and the S.S.M.'s garden shows that winter has commenced, for no longer do you see men with string tied round the knees of their trousers digging for dear life.

A Dance was held on 9th October, 1953. This proved very successful and produced a useful sum which goes towards the Children's Christmas Party, to be held in December. The list calling for the names of the children of Members of the Unit produced rather a big surprise and if the children follow the footsteps of their parents, the Squadron has little to fear for recruits in the next few years.

The Shooting Team are again being put through their paces. The whine of bullets is heard nearly every week-end and one can hear mutterings about a black bull which should have been hit more often if only it did not move just when the aim is taken. Still we are hoping for more medals and cups this season.

The Motor Cycle Trial Team produced good results and Signalman R. Roulston won the individual prize in the N.I.D. Trials. This resulted in him being picked as an individual for the Army Trials at Catterick. He finished the course with the also rans and stated that it was the stiffest bit of riding he had ever attempted. Better luck next time.

Shooting at Catterick

by **Captain D. S. Clarke**

THE title of this article is misleading, for once Catterick is not the target of any attack. As a station, Catterick has acquired an undeserved notoriety. It has disadvantages without doubt. It is cold, it is windy and it is a long way from London. But cold and wind are not enemies to all, and there are many now whose pockets are too shallow for London. For those whose interests are rural rather than urban, Catterick is an attractive place. For the shooting man, for whom this article is written, and for the follower of hounds it is ideal.

Shooting, like London, has become an expensive business. A hundred pounds a year is nowadays not an unusual sum to pay for a small piece of land which will support finches, magpies and meadow pippits but which holds little attraction for partridge, pheasant or grouse. The War Office, however, has maintained a benevolent attitude towards the lease of sporting rights over training areas. The payment asked for these leases is incredibly small. In any circumstances, even if the land only carries rabbits, it is generous; in places where the areas actually hold game it is open handed. Catterick is one of these places.

The training area consists of three grouse moors, Stainton, Bellerby and Feldom, and a large area of sheep grazing land which holds hare, partridge, pheasants, rabbits and snipe. The shooting rights over these areas are leased from the War Department by the Catterick Gun Club which is directed by H.Q. Northumbrian District. The club maintains one full-time keeper. The shooting areas are divided into two. One area, which consists of the grouse moors, and which is more suitable for driving than for walking, is retained for the Syndicate. The other is allotted to the Potter shoot. In addition the syndicate shoot keeps for its own certain pheasant woods, while the potter shoots has a lien on a part of the grouse area.

Both the syndicate shoot and the potter shoot each hold twenty members. Costs at the moment are £14 for a syndicate gun and £4 for a potter gun. The syndicate is divided into two, each sub-syndicate consisting of ten guns. Each sub-syndicate shoots once a week. Each gun provides his own beaters. A day with the syndicate will normally include six or seven drives. At the beginning of the season the bag is about 25 brace of grouse a day; towards the end it will fall to 10 or 15 brace.

By mid-November it has usually become too cold and the grouse too wild for shooting on the high moors. The syndicate then has a few days after pheasant, and a few walking days over the lower parts of the moor. The walking days produce a mixed bag, amongst which there are always some woodcock, which come into certain parts of the moor in good numbers, and perhaps even a duck or two. The pheasant shooting is less certain than the grouse so that to give an average for a day's shooting would be misleading; in practice each gun can usually take home a brace or so of birds.

A syndicate gun shoots once a fortnight. During the week when he is not shooting with his sub-syndicate he can shoot on the potter on two days. Potter guns can shoot any two days every week. A typical walk over the potter shoot a week or so ago brought to sight one black-cock, two grey-hen, a brace of hare, a multitude of rabbits, one cock and five hen pheasants. That day brought to bag one hare, a brace of rabbits and one cock-pheasant (hen pheasants are protected). Another afternoon produced a pigeon, a brace of partridge and a hare, all very useful for the pot. The professional potter-gun on the other hand, that dim figure who is seen through the mist of dawn or of dusk and who spends the whole day out, will probably show a much bigger bag than either of these.

A shoot on a training area though has its disadvantages as well as its benefits. A tactful divisional staff (and this one is) can do a lot to reduce these, but even so tanks do run wild and Verey light fires occur. Less damaging, but still annoying, are the small parties of troops who stray unnecessarily into the woods at nesting time. A few birds are put down by the club every year, but these do not offset the loss of birds through such carelessness. The area is of course primarily one for training, but training need not be in any way restricted to avoid occurrences which amount in effect to wanton damage. Any officer should know enough of the habits of wild life and of the rapidity with which a moor fire can spread to avoid setting light to the heather or disturbing the hen pheasants when they are sitting, and to control his troops accordingly.

Apart from this excellent little shoot which is open to any officer in the garrison there is other shooting in the area. Many farmers are willing to give permission for the killing of rabbits and pigeon on their land. Local landowners are very generous with their invitations to a day, and within one hundred miles of Scotch Corner lies the magnificent shore shooting of the Solway Firth.

The Solway forms the estuary of several border rivers and lies on the West coast just over the Scottish border. It consists of miles of mud and sand flats bordered by a marsh which lies between the edge of the sand and high water mark. Below high water mark the shooting is free and untrammelled. Into the Solway estuary by the end of September come the geese. The normal goose population is about six thousand birds, and includes Pinkfoot, Greylag, Barnacle and Canada geese. Barnacle are at present protected, but the other birds are all open to the shore shooter. The geese spend the night on the flats six or seven miles out in the estuary, flighting in each morning to feed inland, mostly in a privately controlled sanctuary on the North coast. There are two times then when the geese may be shot, as they fly in in the morning and as they fly out to their sleeping grounds in the evening. The morning flight takes place just after dawn, and the evening flight just before dusk. On both occasions, unless there is a strong wind, the geese will be very high, and almost certainly out of range. When they are high, let it be said here and now that it is useless to fire at them. The proper shot for geese is BB, the killing range of which is 70 yards maximum with the normal 2½ inch chambered twelve bore. To fire at geese over this range is perhaps to cripple them, and certainly to make any later skein which might have been in range climb higher. If the morning flight is high, it can be taken for granted that unless weather conditions have changed for the worse, the geese will be higher still in the evening. But if there is a really strong wind blowing the birds will come in at head height and very fast.

The lines of flight alter with the tide and with the season. It is therefore wise to refer to someone who knows the estuary before making any plan. Sunday shooting is forbidden by law in Scotland, but provided conditions are right with a half gale blowing and advice has been obtained about the lines of flight, a long week-end offers the opportunity of good shooting by driving up by night on Friday, shooting on Saturday, and returning by night on Saturday.

The journey takes about 3½ hours each way. Between flights there are the marshes to shoot over. If the weather is hard there will be snipe and duck in. If it is not, there is usually the odd covey of partridge or a cock pheasant to be picked up below high water mark.

Because this article is confined to shooting at, and around, Catterick, there is no opportunity to deal with the excellent hunting and beagling which may be had. But because this is in a way a vindication of Catterick as a station, mention may be made that the Bedale and the Zetland hunt close to the camp, that there is a saddle club from which horses may be hired and that the garrison has its own beagle pack.

If these notes have served their purpose, then that very short list which AG11 now maintains of those who would like to be posted to Catterick may be lengthened by the addition of the names of one or two who habitally carry a gun-case amongst their luggage.

ACCENT ON ACCRA ABSIT OMEN

by **Bee Wickenson**

SINCE last writing, the heat of the noonday sun has abated a little, and we are passing through that lesser heat which dwellers in the tropics euphemistically nominate the "cool season." It is the time for concentrated effort in the garden, jackets on in the evening; and one's repertoire of topics for small talk is swollen to include diatribes about the African weather. Our sun-tan, carefully nurtured, is less definite than heretofore and week-end jaunts to Labadi Beach prove increasingly abortive as the hours of sunshine decrease. Overall, however, it is a pleasant change—and the nimbus clouds, oddly enough, invariably ensure a better reception from London.

The telephone service—about which carping is as diverse as that about the weather—continues to operate, But it really is most confusing to have such a conversation as this. Captain Snooks rings up his office to make a simple, harmless enquiry about this, that or the other. "Captain Snooks, here," he affirms as he gets through and announces his identity in approved style.

"Sorry, sir. He no be here," is an African-voiced reply.

After a while, having replaced the receiver and rung off, Captain Snooks realises that, naturally, he was not there. So he begins all over again, firmly convinced that the time for recuperation leave has arrived.

Anti-malarial precautions are ever to the fore. Paludrine pills, exchanged for mepracrin when one is stricken; spray guns; the visitation of the Tifa fog; "Bombs," Insecticide, Aerosol; Boots mosquito, pyebald; and grass-cutters, all play their parts. It is the last named that is my particular Bête-Noir.

A dozen or so labourers, bearing vicious-looking lengths of sharpened tin, suddenly descend upon the area of grass and bush surrounding one's immediate vicinity. In attendance is an orchestra—a two-man band. One performer wields a rattle—two hollowed pieces of wood with handles, rather like spoons, containing dried beans or corn, and firmly fastened together. His colleague has a primitive fiddle constructed from a strip of timber bent like a cross-bow and strung with the hair from a horse's tail. The one rattles rhythmically, the other strums incessantly. At a brisk pace —approximating to the six-eight of a metronome—they produce their music. To this beat the labourers swing their "knives" in a short, chopping action, clearing the grass and the bush, leaving it cropped at about three inches high.

As in the African dances, when the participators increasing their fervour as the dance proceeds gradually approach a frenzy, so it would seem these grass-cutters work themselves up to get on with the job. Occasionally a chant is raised, but largely respiration is required for the work in hand rather than expended on the song in the air. The reason for my particular aversion toward operation grass-cut is simply that I am a sufferer from hay fever. All the anti-histamine pills in Accra, plus the entire issue of handkerchiefs, large, husbands, for the use of, do nothing against the onslaught of pollen that assails me at times like these.

We witnessed quite an exciting rescue at Labadi Beach recently. The seas there are huge on occasions and the weather was boiling up a little on this afternoon. There is no swimming, as such, but one can enjoy quite a fine run-in on a surf-board. We suddenly observed an up-turned surf boat a fair distance out beyond the breakers. Upon it five men were standing. Before long we noticed that one of the fishermen had dived in and was fighting his way back to the shore. The current was strong and it took a long time for him to swim in, carried, as he was, obliquely across from boat to beach. Eventually he staggered on to the land and made directly for a headquarters where he collected two or three surf boards. Immediately he flung himself into the sea and began the task of returning to his stranded crew. In the meantime, as we could just see, the boat was sinking lower into the churning water and as we watched, three of the four left on the capsized craft, dived and swum to meet their rescuer halfway. As they joined forces greetings were exchanged and the first man passed over two of the surf boards, with which the other three then made safe progress and regained the beach. On again went the lion-hearted swimmer to effect the rescue of the one man remaining stranded at sea.

From where we were, a slight altercation seemed to take place, their precarious position in nowise detracting from the vehemence of their actions. The fifth man, apparently preferring to remain in comparative security on the boat rather than face the current and the breakers, was eventually persuaded to leave. Assisted by the other man, who had already made the journey twice and was now making it for the third time, the pair finally came ashore. We, the onlookers, had imagined that this last man was a non-swimmer and, in consequence, very nervous about entrusting himself to a surf-board. But no, oh no! When the curious enquired, it transpired that he had refused to attempt the passage to the shore simply because he had caught a large fish and would not risk its loss—or rather the loss of the two and sixpence it represented in the fish market. He was still carrying the fish when he walked along the beach, home.

Children flourish mightily in the warmth of the African sunshine; and although they may regret the absence of television and the exhorbitant charges for comics, they do enjoy the lack of afternoon school and the freedom of movement that the wearing of shorts-and-nothing-else, affords. They are inclined to be a little blasé about air travel; but the sight of a puffing billy locomotive will send them into transports of delight (if you will pardon the pun).

There is a thriving "Army Wives' Association" in Accra, and the Signal Squadron, which has more families resident in Accra, in proportion to the size of the Unit, than any other separate entity, has a Branch of its own which meets once a month to register grievances and natter; and drink coffee and natter some more. At a bi-monthly social meeting, which embraces all Units, we have a "Bring and Buy" stall and operate a pattern service. At these general meetings we contrive to carry out quite a varied programme of activities. We have had gramophone recitals, demonstrations of African drumming and dancing, and have paid a visit to the Achitmota Zoo—a research branch of the University . . . . superimposed upon all this is that delightfully feminine occupation of getting to know and finding out, about every little thing.

Now that the ban on families joining the breadwinner has been lifted, there is but a short interregnum only, before grass widowers are reunited with their dependants. Numbers in mess are greatly reduced, while the queues at the Accra Ice Company—the main source of fresh food in Accra—get longer and longer as more and more wives take over the family catering.

News in brief might include the introduction of the first Sunday newspaper to be published in Accra; a very successful production of "The Master of Arts" by the "Everyman Players" in Giffard Hall; the initial issue of carpets for quarters and the installation of ceiling fans (now that it is cold enough to wear a fur coat in the evening); clothes pegs again in the NAAFI; the rise in price of cigarettes and whisky; and the indisputable fact that the voices of the test

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Representative Colonel Commandant Visits Germany

On 8th October, 1953, Major-General C. M. F. White, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., arrived at Hook of Holland and travelled to Bad Oeynhausen by train. His tour of Regiments began on 9th October. He was accompanied on most of his visits by Brigadier R. H. O. Coryton, C.S.O., Northern Army Group and by Second-Lieutenant Wetherill, A.D.C.

The General's first visit was to Maresfield Barracks, the newly built home of 1 Corps Signal Regiment (Lieutenant-Colonel Bradley). After inspecting the guard of honour (Lieutenant Talbot and Sergeant Rotherham) and touring the barracks he had an opportunity to meet old Eighth Army friends in the Sergeants' Mess, followed by elevenses, with the families during which every aspect of welfare must have been discussed. After visiting the soldiers at dinner he lunched in the Mess with Officers and their Wives.

This was the pattern of the visits paid by the Colonel Commandant to all Regiments, his programme being summarised below:—

Major-General White inspecting the Guard of Honour at 83 Group Air Formation Signal Squadron. Also in the photograph L. to R. Wing Commander Esplin, Acting Station Commander, Major Willner, Colonel Adams, Captain Walton

9th October, 1953—11 Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment (Lieutenant-Colonel Houghton).

10th October, 1953—19 Army Group Signal Regiment (Lieutenant-Colonel Read).

12th October, 1953—4 Squadron 2 L. of C. Signal Regiment (Major Symmonds).
1 Corps Trade Training School (Major Drudge Coates).
7 Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment (Lieutenant-Colonel Nettleship).

14th October, 1953—18 Army Group Signal Regiment (Lieutenant-Colonel Morris).

15th October, 1953—1 Wireless Regiment (Lieutenant-Colonel Dagg).

16th October—1 AGRA (A.A.) Signal Squadron (Major Bircumshaw).

17th October, 1953—6 Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment (Lieutenant-Colonel Tulloch).

19th October, 1953—Berlin Signal Squadron (Major Elston).

21st October, 1953—2 L. of C. Signal Regiment (Lieutenant-Colonel Benton).
2 Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment (Lieutenant-Colonel Harrison).

22nd October, 1953—83 Group Air Formation Signal Squadron (Major Wickner).

It was with much regret that we took leave of General White when the time came for him to catch the train for Austria, when he was due to pay a similar visit to Royal Signals Units in B.T.A.

Royal Signals Parade

On 13th October, 1953, a ceremonial parade was held in Stonoway Barracks Lemgo (11 Air Formation Signal Regiment). The parade consisted of six squadrons, each of 100 All Ranks, representing 18 Army Group Signal Regiment, 19 Army Group Signal Regiment, 1 (G.B.) Corps Signal Regiment, 6 Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment, 11 Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment, 2 L. of C. Signal Regiment and 11 Air Formation Signal Regiment. Other regiments lived too far away to take part, other than as spectators. The parade was commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel A. C. Galbraith and the Band of 1st Battalion South Wales Borderers attended. The ground was kept by 1 Air Support Signal Unit. A guard of honour was provided by 27 Independant Brigade Signal Squadron Royal Canadian Corps of Signals. Spectators were many, including G.O.C. 11 Armoured Division and senior R.A.F. officers. The parade was a great success, the Colonel Commandant congratulating all regiments concerned by Signal. The A.K.C. made a film which we have since seen in the News Reel.

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Royal Signals and Royal Canadian Signals

The Royal Signals and Royal Canadian Signals Corps dinner was held in the Kurhaus at Bad Salzuflen on the evening of 13th October. Among the 200 officers attending were representatives of Royal Netherlands Signal, Troupes de Transmissions de Belgique and many G.P.O. officers of the Civil Telecommunication Group. The guests were Major-General Hatton, M.G.A., Air Vice-Marshal Edwardes-Jones, S.A.S.O., 2 Allied Tactical Air Force, Brigadier Anderson, Chief of Staff 1 (G.B.) Corps and Group Captain Wrigley, C.S.O. 2 Allied Tactical Air Force. The band of 1st Battalion South Wales Borderers provided the music.

After the toasts General White spoke on Corps matters and gave the gathering a highly encouraging report on Corps affairs. Brigadier Coryton welcomed and proposed the health of the guests. Air Vice-Marshal Edwardes-Jones lost the toss and replied.

Approaching the parade at LEMGO on Tuesday, 10th October. Brigadier Coryton, Colonel Adams, Major Hammond, Major-General White

Scotton Barracks

The Colonel Commandant was the first General Officer to visit the new home of 2 L. of C. Signal Regiment at Dusseldorf. Scotton Barracks is so new that it is still under construction. The regiment was in the throes of moving in while the General was visiting them. The barracks is situated close to the Rhine Centre.

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match commentators are better known than the voices of one's own family circle. But, by the time you read this, the first issue of the promised Sunday newspaper will be fire-lighting material, we shall be enjoying another production by the "Everyman Players," carpets will show signs of wear while fans fan overtime; pegs will be out of stock; and the test matches just another case of arson. Cigarettes and whisky remain constant.

Something, now, to add to that list of trials by ordeal, which I annotated on a previous occasion. At great cost to my physical well-being, I removed from the garden, two flowering shrubs. Then I carefully levelled the soil and did my best to ensure that the two oval scars of barren earth remaining should produce grass in the near future. A week or so later, I surveyed the now-uninterrupted expanse of lawn at which I had aimed. The following afternoon, having returned from a shopping expedition in town, I discovered that my garden boy had double-dug a circular portion of the aforementioned expanse, manured it, watered it and planted a flowering shrub in its centre. Adding insult to the obvious injury, this freshly-turned garden bed was sited in an entirely different place from the two I had originally expunged.

Having earlier impaired my physical health, the strain of coping with such ingenuity has now somewhat marred my mental powers and I am almost reduced to a yes-woman of remarkable complacency. In spite of, probably because of, all this, I still say that—if you refuse to accept all the blandishments about life being a serious business, residence in Accra can become very interesting. It certainly has its moments.

18 ARMY GROUP SIGNAL REGIMENT

The Regiment is now anxiously awaiting the signal to commence Exercise "All Aboard" which is to be "sometime in November." In the lull preparations are being made to ensure adequate protection from the elements, and the owners of sheepskin jackets are hastily devoting time to their maintenance.

A Regimental dance band is being formed and expects to be functioning in time for Christmas. It has been suggested that the Regimental trumpeters be excluded from this band for obvious reasons.

Plenty of sport is being played and the record of the Regiment is good. To date, the Hockey team is undefeated and has some forty goals to its credit. The Soccer team is doing well and have entered the second round of the Army Cup, having defeated 11 Air Formation Signal Regiment 3-0 in the first round. The Rugger team too is undefeated and has high hopes of success in this year's competitions.

As a prelude to the formation of this year's Regimental Boxing team Inter Squadron matches have commenced. The first of these, 1 Squadron versus 2 Squadron held on 30th October, was won by the latter after some well contested bouts.

We welcome to the Regiment Second-Lieutenant R. Wotherspoon who has been posted to 2 Squadron. Almost coincidentally, Captain M. Cooper left for Catterick to attend the Subultern Part II Course. We wish him luck and happiness in the future.

19 ARMY GROUP SIGNAL REGIMENT

October has been a month of some excitement, for the Regiment was announced as a clear and decisive winner of the Major Units B.A.O.R. Royal Signals S.A. Meeting of 1953. The results showed that we won the following matches: Officers, W.O.s and Sergeants, and Bren Gun, and were runners-up in the other two matches of Sten, and Rank and File. The prizes were extremely good and well deserved by a hard working team who were well coached by Captain, now Major Walsh, who had the distinction of being the Champion Shot.

Later in the month the Regiment was inspected by and entertained the Representative Colonel Commandant, Major-General C. M. F. White, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O. It was a most pleasant and cheerful visit that did us all a great deal of good and gave us immeasurable pleasure.

At a parade of Signals Units for the Colonel Commandant, a representative body of the Regiment proudly demonstrated that even as far back as Army Group, bearing on parade took some beating.

A very good football team from the 9 Lancers ended our bid for football honours in the Army Cup by six goals to one, and it was in some measure due to some fine goal saving by Signalman McInnes that our defeat was not greater. We are now cocked and waiting for someone to squeeze the trigger on our first Exercise as 19 Army Group Signal Regiment. If conferences are good preparation for this sort of thing, we will win hands down.

19 ARMY GROUP SIGNAL REGIMENT.
WINNERS MAJOR R. SIGNALS S.A. COMPETITION 1953.

Rear: L/Cpl. Stocks, Cpl. Mercer, Sigmn. Hugguson, Sgt. Copestake, Sgt. Holden, Sigmn. Sunnocks, Cpl. Sugg, Sgt. Butler, Cpl. Williams. Front: Sgt. McCormick, Lt. Herberts, Capt. Walsh (Captain), Lt.-Col. Read, M.B.E. (Commanding Officer), Capt. Macfarlane, Lt. Harwood, Sgt. Sneddon. Kneeling: R.S.M. Turner, MM., W.O.I. Brown. Absent Member, L/Cpl. Osborne, demob.

11 ARMOURED DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT

Exercise Grand Repulse brought a successful training season to a close—despite the efforts of certain "pirate" stations who shall be nameless. We would not wish to "cross-keys" with anyone!

The hard work put in by everyone was appreciated by the Divisional Commander who kindly sent us a "well done" chit.

Vehicle engines had hardly cooled off when the "rat-race" started in earnest. As you can see from the Personal Column many officers have gone but the "Arrivals" column is, so far, blank. The few remaining had to be moved around to spread the load. Captain Nodder left "B" Troop and took over 1 Squadron; Captain Oakes from "A" Troop to be Officer Commanding H.Q. Squadron; Lieutenant Holmes from second-in-command "A" Troop to O.C. "A" Troop; Lieutenant Moss from "E" Troop to act as Adjutant during Captain Bell's absence on a course in U.K.; Lieutenant Grayson from Security Troop to "E" Troop. Captain Edwards from "W" Troop to be O.C. 4 Squadron (until he goes any day now!), Sergeant Chapman now looks after "B" and Sergeant Evans does the same for "O" Troop.

Shooting. After holding the B.A.O.R. Inter-Signals .303 Shield for two years we have had to pass it over to 19 Army Group Signal Regiment. However we are not too broken hearted—we were the runners-up; we won the Sten Match and the winning team was captained by an ex-member of this unit—Captain C. V. Walsh.

Rugby. The Rugby season started with a victory over 1 K.R.R.C. by 15-0. A full fixture list has been arranged and we look forward to some good games. Our main task being to retain the B.A.O.R. Signals Rugby Shield which we won at the end of last season.

A spell of good weather coincided with the visit of the Representative Colonel Commandant; the Regimental Church Parade and the parade at Lemgo. Notes on Major-General White's visit are being produced centrally by SX Branch.

Preparations are now in full swing for the Administration Inspection and for Christmas. Somehow we have got twenty more children to cope with this year—so far no explanations have been offered!

In closing we would take the opportunity of wishing all ex-members of the unit a Happy Christmas and Prosperous New Year.

7th ARMOURED DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT

Army Motor Cycle Trials

Although the official results are not yet to hand, we understand that Sergeant Slaughter, Sergeant Edwards and Corporal Haire did extremely well in these trials at home. After tieing on marks for second place with 5 Training Regiment, they were, we gather, allotted third place on the result of hazard three. As our spies tell us, with what accuracy we do not know, that ours was the only placed team consisting entirely of Regular soldiers (i.e. no works riders in civil life) and as we certainly were not on our home ground, the team are to be congratulated on their silver plaques and first class certificates. A very fine culmination to an extremely successful season.

The visit of the Representative Colonel Commandant, Major-General C. M. F. White, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., was thoroughly enjoyed and appreciated by everyone in the Regiment and is covered elsewhere in this issue.

A most successful dance and social was held by our branch of the Association last night. In the interests of the Benevolent Fund great risks were run but, although there were many discreet and forceful "puttings to bed" last night, all were in our own lines and it is hoped to forward a substantial contribution to the right sources shortly.

Just a few notes on recent personnel changes to keep our friends up to date. Major John Adams commands No. 1 Squadron, Major Dick Morrison has recently taken over 2 Squadron, Major Mike Philp commands No. 4 Squadron, and Major George Hulme is now taking over 3 Squadron from Major Peter Strallen who, with his family, we shall be sorry to lose. Other recent acquisitions are Captain Roger Nott-Bower, Captain John Findlater and, most welcome with his family Lieutenant (T.O.T.) Jack Pickering. Second-Lieutenant Brian Haw and Second-Lieutenant Peter Carter have recently arrived from the R.M.A.

NO. 1 WIRELESS REGIMENT

The month of October has been indeed a very hectic month. All winter sports have commenced with fire and vigour. The Regimental Football team have been knocked out of the Army Cup after a brave and prolonged fight against 38 Corps Engineer Regiment. The first game and the first replay both ended in a draw 2-2. The second replay ended in a win for our opponents 2-1. Lance-Corporal Douglas scored all five goals in these three matches.

Hockey and Rugby are in full swing and our teams are heavily engaged in Garrison Tournaments, District Cups and the Army Cup.

The results of the Royal Signals Inter-Unit Shooting Competition have been announced and we have to congratulate our National Servicemen's team for having won their match by 23 points. We also congratulate Signalman Simpson and Lance-Corporal Mitchell for having tied for the highest N.S.M. individual scores. Our Regimental team finished third.

Congratulations to Signalman Martin for having been chosen as Light Welterweight for the Army team which met Wales on 30th October, at Aldershot. We are proud to record a points victory in his bout, and wish him every success in the coming season.

We were also honoured by the visit of our Representative Colonel Commandant, Major-General C. M. F. White, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., on 15th October, 1953.

6th ARMOURED DIVISIONAL SIGNAL

We seem to be rather infrequent contributors to THE WIRE despite the fact that we, as a unit, buy more copies than anyone else in B.A.O.R.—according to a recent census. (Let's hope this remark stimulates some healthy competition).

After six months of virtually non-stop scheming, it would be very pleasant to be able to relax and think of Christmas. Instead—we spent the whole of October on weapon training culminating in our annual Range Course, started on our Individual Trade Training in November and now we are shaping up for our Annual Administration Inspection in December! *And* planning for Christmas of course. I'm not sure this last isn't the hardest of all.

Our inter troop shooting competitions resulted in quite a victory for the chairborne chaps of R.H.Q. and H.Q. Squadron who easily topped the Best All Rounder table—although "B" Troop produced four possibles to win the Sten Team match. Our LAD detachment and the officers' team both distinguished themselves in the Falling Plates Competition.

We are still going strong in most sports—especially Soccer, Hockey and Rugger, although Cross Country running has taken a fillip since the Pay Sergeant started organising it. I must discredit the rumour that the men only turn out to see if it's true he wears corsets.

We started a Branch of the Royal Signals Association in the unit recently and they are celebrating things with an All Ranks Dance this month.

Our social life is rapidly getting into top gear as the nights lengthen and the Christmas programme looks a most formidable affair. Pause to dial TUM!

Like everyone else we are suffering considerably over postings nowadays. We have already lost such stalwarts as Major John McNeil and Captain Alex Lamb—both gone on promotion, and Captain "Mike" Hipkins, who, apart from running our unit football team, seemed to be honorary president of all the civilian teams in Westphalia!

And by the time these notes appear in print we shall be getting ready to say farewell to the Colonel himself. Lieutenant-Colonel J. M. S. Tulloch, O.B.E., who re-formed this regiment three years ago and has seen it through all its ups and downs since.

We all think it's a regiment of which we can be very proud. It must be a wrench leaving.

But—that's the Army.

So in saying "farewell" and "thank you" to all the old members who made the regiment, we also take great pleasure in saying "Welcome" to the new Commander, Lieutenant-Colonel E. I. E. Mozley, R. Signals, and all the new members who will undoubtedly continue the good work and maintain the high tradition of the regiment.

W.O.'S AND SERGEANTS, 6 ARMOURED DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT, SEPTEMBER 1953

Back Row l. to r.: Sgt. Callaby, W.H., Sgt. Pinkney, C., Sgt. Harris, B. I. K., (R.A.P.C.), Sgt. Swain, P. (R.E.M.E.), Sgt. Blundell, I., Sgt. Wilde, F., Sgt. Jackson, D., Sgt. Ostle, L., Sgt. Cave, A., Sgt. Jackson, T., Sgt. Harbord, R. N. W., Centre Row l. to r.: Sgt. Oliver, R., Sgt. Blackwood, A., (R.A.E.C.), Sgt. Tym, M., Sgt. Mobbs, E., Sgt. Burrows, D., Sgt. Houldsworth, D. W., Sgt. Grainger, H., Sgt. Kneebone, A., Sgt. McDougle, F., S.Q.M.S. Archibald, R. Sgt. Saunders, G. (R.E.M.E.), Front Row l. to r.: F. of S. Ireland, J., S.S.M. Glover, S., S.S.M. Casey, M. S.S.M. Robins, J. Maj. Gen. G. E. Prior Palmer, C.B., D.S.O., (G.O.C. 6 Armoured Division), R.S.M. G. Derwent, M.B.E., Lt.-Col. J. M. S. Tulloch, O.B.E., (R. Signals), A.Q.M.S. Pooley, W. (R.E.M.E.), S.S.M. Archer, W., S.Q.M.S. Young, A., B.E.M., S.G.M.S. Griffin, F.J.

11 AIR FORMATION SIGNAL REGIMENT

The highlight of October activities was the visit of the Representative Colonel Commandant, Major-General C. M. F. White, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., who arrived on 13th October, 1953, at Stornoway Barracks, B.A.O.R., where many Royal Signals Units in B.A.O.R. formed a Ceremonial Parade in his honour.

Our Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel A. C. Galbraith was Parade Commander and Major A. G. McTavish, O.C. 1 Squadron, commanded our contingent.

The weather was perfect and I am sure our visitors thoroughly enjoyed the Parade which was carried off with considerable aplomb and smartness.

All other rank families had ample opportunity of meeting Major-General White in the NAAFI.

To conclude the visit, the Officers' Mess were fortunate enough, due to the weather, to be able to have a small Garden Party where the General was also able to meet many old friends.

The A.K.C. very kindly put us "in the news" and now numerous members of the Regiment are awaiting the arrival of Hollywood talent scouts ! !

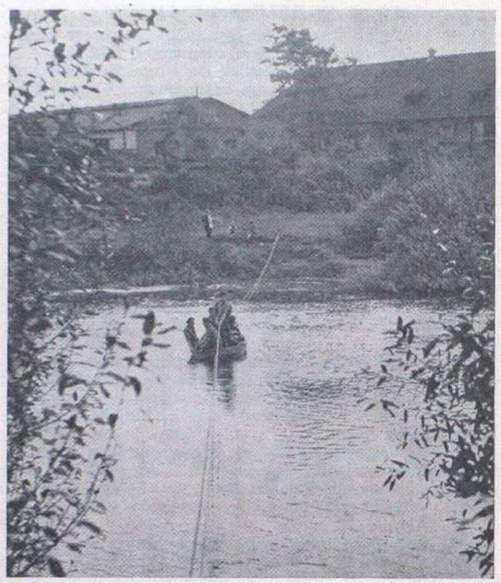
Exercise Repulse, September 1953 B.A.O.R.

2 Line Troop. For this Exercise, our last major one for 1953, we left Stornoway Barracks for Lingen on 3rd September. The weather was fortunately pleasant and being first on the site the place was quiet and the native friendly.

We set up camp in a small fir copse and S.S.M. Gosling had much fun in erecting a marquee with double roof in the somewhat restricted area afforded. The Gods must have been with us that day because they waited until our canvas was up before opening the sky sluices.

Part of our commitment was the laying of 14 pair armoured cable (Stecker) and with the ever improving weather we got on quite well. We eventually came to a river crossing, whilst pondering over the best method to adopt to effect the initial crossing a boat was "found," and the boys had great difficulty in returning it to its enraged owner as they had to go

Driver Ashdown



The ferry scene

up stream past a small rapid. Diplomatic talk convinced the owner that we wanted the boat for the "poor" soldiers to get quickly into town as the way by road was about two miles longer, thus a ferry service was set up on a continuous rope system and used with great effect.

To return to the job in hand, it was decided to cross the river by manpower in the form of Driver Ashdown thus overcoming the first obstacle. A two inch rope was passed across the river and the four Stecker Cables were hauled over in such a way that the head of the cable was kept dry.

During our stay in this location, one day at 1900 hrs all hands were called to a breakdown of the Water Trailer, it had developed a bad "flat" and had to be towed in the following manner. A 3-tonner, plus a 3-ton cable trailer, a jeep in reverse and two tow chains provided the "recovery unit." This assembly limped home with the water trailer full to the brim at 2 m.p.h. It was essential to get the water trailer back to camp as this particular water point was some 50 miles away.

Have you ever tried recovering a ONE wheeled water trailer full to the brim?

The Camp site, apart from the Fir Trees was almost like the "desert" again!!!!—because of the sand everywhere. We had to build up the road entrance with what local material we could find, Sergeant Skudder, now known as "Sapper" Skudder, with the able assistance of Signalmen Beagley, Campbell and McLeod did a very good job.

In order to help our colleagues in No. 4 Con Troop we collected some stores for them from Vechta, in this area we found that some of the bridges were definitely "jerry" built. One bridge lost a hand rail and another just collapsed. However luck was with us and the old Austin K4 tho' up to her differential, pulled out under the control of Driver Cann, 4 Con then became the Engineers.

The river by the camp attracted many sportsmen including the C.O., Lieutenant-Colonel A. C. Galbraith, who cannot resist a good stream.

We all returned safely to base on 28th September having thoroughly enjoyed our last Exercise for this season (we sincerely hope it is "closed" for a few months).

Boxing. The Regiment was given the honour of staging the Lubbecke District novices competition during the period 23rd-26th October, 1953.

On the night of the finals on the 26th we had two men still in and they only just lost—it was a close decision in both cases.

To bolster up the evening some of our more experienced boxers gave exhibitions against members of other Regiments and in these we did very well.

Corporal Disley took on the 1952 B.A.O.R. Champion and only just lost. Signalman Cowban put up a magnificent show and earned a terrific round of applause and the best losers trophy, followed by Lance-Corporal Castle giving a very polished display in winning against a very good opponent and finishing up with Lance-Corporal Marshall once again giving the spectators a treat with his display when beating his experienced opponent also.

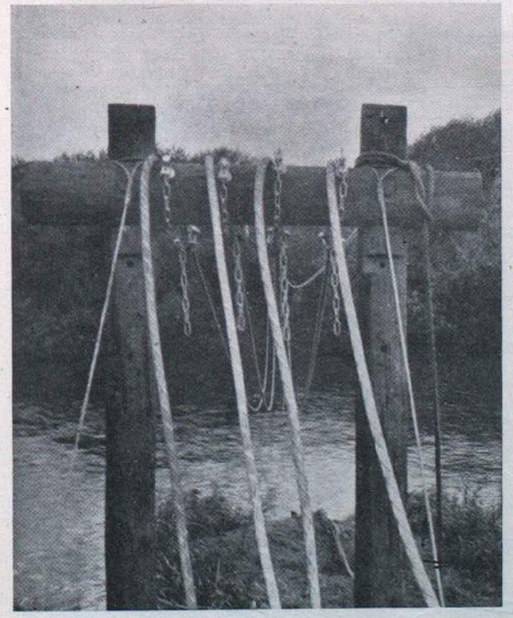
Soccer. Once again 1 Squadron has entered a team in the ZECO League, and up to the time of going to press the results are very encouraging.

The first game of the season was a friendly against 11 A.S.D. which resulted in a win for 1 Squadron 10-0. We sincerely hope this is an indication of things to come.

On Saturday, 24th October, 1953, we played the 1st round of the Army F.A. Challenge Cup against H.Q. Northag Signal Regiment, and after an extremely hard and fast game we lost by 3 goals to nil. We claim to have had a greater percentage of the game, but—well goals count and our worthy opponents had a better idea of what the goal was.

The results to date are as follows:—

Friendly	v. 11 A.S.D.	Away	Won	10—0
ZECO League	v. 119 Company R.A.S.C.	Home	Won	6—2
" "	v. 11 Armoured Division O.F.P.	Away	Won	5—2
" "	v. 1 A.S.S.U.	Home	Won	4—1
" "	v. 108 Company R.A.S.C.	Away	Won	4—2
Army F.A. Cup 1st Round	v. H.Q. NORTHAG Signal Regiment	Home	Lost	0—3



The Finished Job

2 L. OF C. SIGNAL REGIMENT

On 21st October, 1953, R.H.Q. and 1 Squadron were inspected by the Representative Colonel Commandant, Major-General C. M. F. White, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O.

The inspection took place only eight days after we moved into new barracks. Never before had we realised that twenty-four hours in a day was insufficient. It is no exaggeration to say that much "Midnight Oil" was burnt. However, time would not stand still, and the Great Day arrived.

At about 0930 hours Major-General White commenced his tour by visiting the Signal Office, Rhine District. From there, he proceeded to our new barracks, where on arrival he first inspected our Guard of Honour, who are to be congratulated both on their turnout and drill. This was followed by a personal interview with all the officers and warrant officers. From these interviews the General was undoubtedly enlightened about our unit and its many activities. Next came the inspection of the Camp.

After lunch the Representative Colonel Commandant attended a Families Tea party. This party consisted of all wives and children of our Unit and 2 Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment. He was introduced to families by Mrs. Thirkell and Mrs. Galbraith.

This year's inspection by the Representative Colonel Commandant is one which will long be remembered for his personal interest and numerous conversations with ALL Ranks. Our only regret is that his tour was so brief.

During the past month we have found ourselves fully employed in moving R.H.Q. and 1 Squadron into new barracks, which have for so long been awaited.

During September, our annual Range Classification took place with considerable success. In addition we have been able to continue our individual training and many have been successful in trade upgrading.

We were privileged to send a detachment to represent the Unit at the B.A.O.R. Royal Signals parade held on the occasion of the visit of the Representative Colonel Commandant.

We had a marked success with the opening of the football season. Our team winning six out of their first eight matches. We hope to have the same start with our newly formed Rugby team. Even though we are small in number it is also hoped to form a Hockey team in the near future.

We take this opportunity of saying a fond farewell to our Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel A. V. Benton and wish him every success in his new appointment at SHAPE. At the same time a hearty welcome to our new Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel F. A. Young (ex 1 Divisional Signals) is extended.

★

3 Squadron. Rather a slow period in the world of sport. The summer sports have ended and the winter ones have not got really under way. Our soccer team has had its first few games without any startling results either way. They do show considerable promise and once the initial "shaking down" is over we expect to be way up top.

The Annual Range Course has been fired albeit under considerable difficulties. There are, as yet, no ranges of the British type in this area and we are dependent on the very freely given hospitality and help of the Belgian Army. However, the pattern of their ranges differs considerably from our own and the "tailoring" of our practices to fit the various ranges was quite a lesson in improvisation. The scores obtained were not unduly depressing however, and we reckon we could look after ourselves in a pinch.

Quite a number of aches and pains are just becoming apparent amongst those of us still under the witching age of five and thirty. The cause being P.E. Tests. These have been taking place in the past week and one of our more sedentary types has been heard to comment unfavourably on the number of muscles he seems to have acquired. In spite of this, however, the number of failures is nil and the "second tries" remarkably few.

[Photo's P.R.O. Hamburg

Departure of Representative Colonel Commandant showing O.C., 4 Sqn. (Major M.Mc G. Simmonds) and O.C., 1 Corps Trade Training School (Major J. M. J. Drudge-Coates) with 4 Sqn. D.R.s as escort (L/Cpl. Sloan and Sigm. Mills).

4 Squadron 2 L of C Signal Squadron

The great event of the month has been the visit of the Representative Colonel Commandant, General C. M. F. White, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., on the 12th October, 1953. A Guard of Honour commanded by Lieutuenant Hastings turned out in the true R. Signals tradition. The tour of inspection included the Signal Office and 1 Corps Trade Training School.

We have now left 4 L. of C. Signal Regiment to return to 2 L. of C. Signal Regiment. There are still a few of the old faces about who remember the good old days when we were 1 Squadron 2 L. of C. Signal Regiment. We look forward to just as happy a life with 4 Squadron. We have also had to part company with our old formation sign which has accompanied us throughout the Zone for so long.

On 14th October in the R. Signals Association Room the O.C., Major M. Simmonds, presented Signalman Fruen with two medals, one for the best bowler and one for the best batsman in the Squadron Cricket Team. Runners-up Lance-Corporal Watson and Signalman Evans were presented with a fountain pen. The Team Captain, Sergeant Chambers, was presented with a medal for the most "ducks," beautifully engraved with a duck. He is now thinking of starting a poultry farm.

The Squadron Football Team, hit by minor injuries to players, is meeting with mixed fortunes. The early enthusiasm remains however. Three of the players, Signalmen Boulter, Marsh and Wainwright, have been selected to play for Regimental trials.

Inspection of Guard of Honour by the Representative Colonel Commandant with Major M.Mc G. Simmonds, O.C. Squadron and Lt. J. Hastings, O.C. Guard.

1 CORPS SIGNAL REGIMENT

The highlight of the month has been the visit of the Representative Colonel Commandant, Major-General C. M. F. White, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., who spent most of 9th October with us. After inspecting a Guard of Honour the General toured the unit lines, and after having met the families, the Warrant Officers and Senior N.C.Os, he lunched in the Officers' Mess. Before his departure, General White expressed his satisfaction with all he had seen and we, the Regiment, look forward to his next visit.

Personalia

It is with regret that we have to record the forthcoming departure of Captain W. P. W. Robertson, bound for "Down Under" to attend the Australian Staff College. One cannot but help feel that perhaps Mrs. Robertson (a New Zealander) had something to do with the posting. Regardless, astonishing good luck to them both. It is with great pleasure that the Regiment welcomes "Robbies" replacement, our new Adjutant, Captain F. C. Goodley from 6 Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment.

At long last the R.S.M., W.O.I W. E. Judd, has realised his life's ambition which is to ride on the familes' bus. For on 30th October, 1953, the Regiment saw him well and truly married. We wish them both the very best of luck for the future.

In our last notes we said that the winter sporting season was now on us again, indeed it is and for results one can do little better than quote Regimental Daily Orders showing results up to 31st October, 1953.

	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	Points For	Points Against
Rugby	4	2	1	1	36	30
Soccer	14	6	1	7	41	54
Hockey	3	0	0	3	5	9

In addition to these Unit games we have seen some good inter troop hockey matches and of course lots of soccer.

Plain Tales

by Barleux

To Wish You a Very Happy Christmas

Place carefully selected sprig of holly just here.

Will those readers who do not receive from me a large card with a picture of a stage coach stuck in a snowdrift kindly cut round the above greeting, paste on a piece of cardboard and place in a prominent position on the T.V. set.

With Christmas on the brain, I am reminded of winter generally. So many people have only the haziest idea of what sort of weather we have in Colwyn Bay when all the holiday makers have gone home. If people think about it all they probably imagine North Wales shrouded in mist or suffering a biting cold wind with roads blocked by snow and ice. How true this could be if by North Wales you mean the Snowdon range. Colwyn Bay is in North Wales but mist, let alone fog is practically unknown. There may be a high wind at times but it doesn't freeze anything. In October last Colwyn Bay had only ten days on which rain fell. Total sunshine for that month was 125.9 hours. Roses are still blooming and the air is mild. Next time you hear the B.B.C. talking about snow in North Wales don't feel sorry for Colwyn Bay. The locals will probably be enjoying winter sunshine under a blue sky. The snow looks most attractive in the distance. It is well to remember that when walking along the excellent beach at Colwyn Bay one is practically at sea level. This undoubtedly accounts for something especially if you think something needs accounting for.

You Never Know

From the numerous letters I have received lately it would appear that many readers are positively sceptical about the truth of my remarks concerning a judge of the High Court who used to swing upside down from tram standards. To them I can only say that there are far more curious people about than the learned judge. In my travels about the world I have been privileged to meet and talk with some remarkably unusual types. Take Annette Choufleur just for pig iron, which between you and me would be appropriate. She was quite the largest and heaviest girl I ever met. She lived in a little village not far from Oued Zarga. No one had ever been able to do more than guess her weight but it was established beyond all argument that her shadow weighed 250 kilogrammes. The last time I saw her I was selling road rollers in Tunisia. Annette was walking up and down the road through the woods leading to the railway station. Here was a chance to do business I thought, but the workmen said that I probably knew what I could do with my steam rollers all the while they had Annette. In French of course, except one man who was an Arab and only spoke American.

One of these days I will tell you about Ernest Flittergull, a most eccentric character who toured the south-coast in pre-war days knocking holes in the bottoms of upturned boats. "But my dear sir," I asked one day, "why, why?" Ernest looked up with a pitying smile. "Why not?" he answered. I flatter myself that I was able to see his point of view. Another article on psychology some time or other.

Uncle Alf: Shall I explain this to Nacerby?

Me: Oh, thanks. Please do.

Try One Today

Who are you?

I'm Alice á Forthort. This is my young man Ben Tinamiddle.

How do you do I'm sure. Meet Mr. Buss.

Mr. Buss?

Never mind you can get a tram.

Never let your conversations get out of hand. Order a bottle of Slosho today and captivate your companions. Snoggo is on sale everywhere at the most absurd price. Remember the name, Spivvo (or something). Unrivalled for web belts and cap badges or may be used by ambitious lance-corporals for feeding the R.S.M.'s cat. Rub a little behind your ear before the NAAFI dance. Better still, rub the lot in your hair. Who cares? (Advt.).

Our Astonishing Serial

The Manager of the Cafe au Lait knocked discreetly on the door of No. 7. There was no reply. He knocked again. There was still no reply. He opened the door quietly and went in. For a moment he stood still and surveyed the room dispassionately. The bed had not been slept in. This did not surprise him. There was no bed. The balcony window was wide open and the curtains were blowing into the room. He shut the door carefully and went to the window. A rope ladder swung idly from the balcony, the other end almost touching the ground thirty feet below.

The manager commenced a systematic search of the room. He took up the carpet and removed the floor boards. He stripped every inch of paper from the walls. He moved the furniture to the middle of the room. He was about to start on the ceiling when he found it. A single sheet of notepaper pinned to the plaster near the electric light rose.

The message was brief. "Gone home for Christmas taking madam as evidence. Ukann Larfe."

"Passez moi that papier s'il vous plait," said a rich contralto. The manager spun round his face the hue of ashes. Hermione Larfe smiled pleasantly at him but kept a vicious looking .38 pointed more or less vaguely in his direction. "A merry Christmas," she said brightly. The manager swallowed with difficulty. "Not at all madam," he replied gallantly.

"No. Vous etes probably right," she said in faultless French. With incredible speed she threw an enormous square of turf at the unfortunate maitre d'hotel. He never had a chance.

To be continued. Quel malheur.

SHAPE SIGNAL SQUADRON

Creaks and groans have been very much in evidence this month, caused by the Squadron being put through its annual P.E. Tests. In spite of our somewhat sedentary existence no casualties resulted from this sudden strenuous activity and the attitude of the other Nations remains as always—"These mad Englishmen."

This month has also seen the completion of the Squadrons Annual Range Course. There being no International rifle range at SHAPE we had to "borrow" one from a famous Versailles civilian club. The range had a covered-in firing point and a protected road to the deep reinforced concrete butts. When changing over from firing at the 200 yards targets to the 300 yards targets the firing point detail remained where they were and the butt party moved to the next butt. No cries here of "Pick up sandbags and back to 300 yards point." Being one of the most well appointed ranges any of us are ever likely to see in our army service this helped in no mean way to bring to light some latent marksmanship in the Squadron. Driver Claxton obtained the highest score with 50 out of a possible 60. Last year the Sergeants beat the Officers in a Squadron Officers v. Sergeants shooting match, but this year the Officers won by two points in a return match. The two teams of Major Leyson, Captain Fairlie, Captain Bushell, Lieutenant Campbell, Lieutenant Sawyer, Lieutenant Cann; W.O.II Hamblett, W.O.II Wyatt, S.Q.M.S. Brown, Sergeant Williams, Sergeant Stowe, Sergeant Gilbert.

The combined (All Arms) Sergeants' Mess were beaten by 6-2 a few days later in a friendly football match against the Squadron, so morale among the seniors is not too good at the time of going to press. A recent arrival to the Squadron is Corporal Evans from 4 Training Regiment. Being an ex-Cardiff Reserve player he is a most welcome addition to the Squadron football team which has made great improvement since our last notes. Under the training and supervision of Sergeant Telford (cipher), the team has good chances of winning the British Element Soccer League.

A large church parade and a moving and impressive church service was held on Sunday, 8th November, 1953, by the British Element in SHAPE. The salute at the march past was taken by Air Marshal Dawson, R.A.F., the senior British Officer under Lord Montgomery. We understand that the Signal Squadron was singled out by observers for their smart march past, turn-out and bearing.

Betfor Signals

The news that the British Element Trieste Forces are dispersing is old now, but to BETFOR Signals it still means great activity as the withdrawal proceeds, and slight apprehension about our future. Different rumours are heard each day

of JUGOSLAV Forces
of ITALIAN Forces
When we go ?
Whither we go ?

Nobody takes any notice of these now but continue with the strange task of packing a complete Command. Crates and boxes of varied sizes have been manufactured by R.E.M.E. and R.A.O.C. at a phenominal rate, and both British and American lorries have been passing through the town with loads of packing materials.

The sweltering summer was ending and we were looking back over a successful season of cricket, water polo and basket ball. Soccer and rugby had not got into their stride, when the decision to withdraw was thrown amongst us. The immediate frenzied packing was soon organised, and the orderly movement emerged.

The families were the first consideration and by means of a ferry system of trains were taken home. They behaved very well under trying circumstances of complete disruption

ALL RANKS, BETFOR SIGNALS, 1953

W.O.'S AND SERGEANTS' MESS, 1953

from their settled lives here. The young children, of course, looked upon the journey as a big adventure, and clustered to the carriage windows to see the attractive scenery, remembered from their journey into Trieste a few years, or in some cases, only a few months ago.

On considering the size of the operation it will be appreciated that the task of Signals has been much increased. This has meant long and intensive hours of working by all personnel, especially in the Signal Office, which as the hub of communications, has been continuously active at a high pitch from the start of the operation. The date of the withdrawal is still unknown to us, but until the end we will continue functioning technically and in the sports field.

Under the captaincy of Lieutenant (T.O.T.) A. G. Pritchard, the unit cricket team enjoyed a very successful season. In the BETFOR league we finished equal top with H.Q. 24 Infantry Brigade who, incidentally, had call on and played at least four members of the Brigade Signal Troop.

Our record was:—

Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	Points
11	10	0	1	20

The following were the leading averages:—

BATTING

	Innings	Not Out	Runs	Average
Signalman Hewitt	5	2	88	29.2
Major Saunders	10	2	204	25.5
Craftsman Watson	5	0	121	24.2
Lieutenant Pritchard	10	1	193	21.4
Signalman Brown	10	1	147	16.3
Signalman Bowler	6	1	73	14.6
Lance-Corporal Warden	7	0	101	14.4
Lieutenant-Colonel Mellor	5	1	50	12.5

BOWLING

	Overs	Wickets	Runs	Average
Major Saunders	86.2	31	226	7.3
Signalman Brown	114.4	35	298	8.5
Lieutenant Pritchard	99.2	31	276	8.9
Signalman Flaherty	34	5	90	18.0

We were unfortunate to be drawn against 1 Loyals in the Command Knock-Out Competition and were knocked out.

We wound up the season by entertaining B.T.A. Signals on 19th September, 1953, and playing on Rossetti Square because of the weather, were beaten by 6 wickets, largely due to a fine aggressive innings by S.S.M. Godfrey who scored 48.

And so after a long and enjoyable innings, BETFOR Signals is at last "out," but we have no regrets for our time spent here. We wish each other "Good luck" when we part, and look forward to our next match.

MIDDLE EAST LAND FORCES

3 G.H.Q. SIGNAL REGIMENT

Summer is over again and moths are being shaken out of sundry suits of battle dress ready for the winter season. During the hot months, members of the Regiment took full advantage of the Canal Zone leave schemes, 228 went to Cyprus and 57 plutocrats with plenty of credit went home to U.K. From all accounts everyone had a fine time and arrived back considerably lighter in pocket but feeling much better for a change of air and scenery.

We have started off the winter sports season with a bang by winning the Royal Signals (Egypt) Sports Championships. A very fine performance indeed and great credit must go to all members of the sports team: the wonder-boy of the two days of the meeting was Signalman Cooper (594) whose performances in the one and three miles events had spectators standing. It is invidious to single out names from such a fine team but Corporal Bull, Corporal Blohm, Signalmen Lowe, Cooper (957)—the Cooper clan did rather well—and Stewart all gave fine exhibitions of grit and determination. Our one and only Corporal McSweeney won the shot as might have been expected. Out of a possible score of 126 we won 115 points.

Soccer has started with mixed fortunes for our team: of last year's team only Signalmen Ashworth and Healy are still with us but we have some first class newcomers and as luck would have it, one is a goalkeeper and he, Signalman Harries, has already played in the representative Canal South side. Signalmen Shaw, Blackmore, Glavin, Heywood and Corporal Anderson are showing fine form and even the Football Officer, Major (Q.M.) W. H. Clark, looks quite pleased at times: who knows, it may be because Signalman Smailes has arrived in the Regiment—a tower of strength in any team, Smailes is the late Arsenal reserve centre-half. He too has just been selected to play in the Canal South side.

Boxing training has started and the experts can be seen (not by me) at the ghastly hour of 0545 getting fit under Sergeant "Paddy" Hearns: as well as Sergeant Hearns we

still have the team captain, Captain E. L. Rogers, Signalman Charlton of the much renowned old one-two and Corporal McSweeney the heavyweight; Signalman Jones who won the Featherweight Championship last year distinguished himself recently by sitting on his own arm and fracturing it—it's quite obvious he is not a boxer but a contortionist, we might even get him in the "Gully Gully" show at Christmas.

Rugby is in full swing again—Sergeant Walker, Corporals Blohm and Waudby are always in evidence in any game, really hard workers who never let up and we appear to have a good full back in Craftsman Jones.

All in all we look like having a pretty successful sporting season—an urgent indent is being put in for all the extra silver polish we are going to need for all those new cups.

3 DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT

We begin this month's notes with a report from "G" Troop commanded by Lieutenant Handley, who are stationed in Famagusta and were able to help in getting things back to normal in Cyprus after the recent earthquake.

On the morning of 16th September they were rushed to Paphos with part of 49th Field Regiment R.A., of whom they are the Signal Troop, and soon found themselves very busy indeed. Large numbers of tents had arrived from many different countries—one consignment came without poles—and a temporary camp was erected for the homeless and also for the government offices, including the Law Courts. The first task for Signals was the provision of lines from the harbour to the camp and to the civilian exchange at Ktima, in co-operation with Cable and Wireless who run communications in Cyprus. Next a wireless net (19HP) was installed between Paphos, the capital Nicosia, and the garrison town of Famagusta where 49th Field Regiment is stationed, and this proved of great value as the one direct line which exists between Paphos and Famagusta was broken during the subsequent tremors. After this "G" Troop installed electric light in the temporary camp and the government offices; Sergeant White (the Troop Sergeant) took control of the entire electricity supply for this area and the linemen (Fd.) installed the electric light, which naturally did a great deal to restore morale and was a great help to the Cypriot authorities in making order out of chaos. The civilian population were naturally at first too stunned by the disaster to be able to help themselves very much, but once they had tents and the lights went on again they obviously felt encouraged and began to work exceedingly hard to restore things to something approaching normal. They were tremendously grateful to the Troops, and indeed one of the signalmen reported that he no longer needed his haversack rations because in every village where the British soldiers were working the Cypriots laid out huge quantities of food for them to help themselves.

"G" Troop very much enjoyed helping in this work, and found a certain amount of excitement in carrying on through the earth tremors which followed the first big shock; they are the only Field Signal Troop in Cyprus, and as their equipment is light and easily moved they found that they were able to be of far more use than they had anticipated.

* * *

Back in Moascar the Regiment has been taking plenty of exercise; we have no really astonishing successes in the field of sport to report this month, but no doubt as the weather gets colder we shall do better.

We were very glad to welcome back our Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Whistler, and hope it will be a long time before he leaves us again. On the other hand, we have had to say good-bye to our very popular acting C.O., Major Brandle. He has been with the regiment since June 1951. As O.C. 3 Squadron he did much to ease the burden which "J" Troop had to bear when they suddenly left us for their tour of the Mediterranean in October 1951. On return to R.H.Q. his energies were turned in 1 Squadron from seaborne operations to the more familiar landborne exercise in which we seem to have specialised for so long. Now we believe he is off to another part of the world where he will be seeing snow and ice and yet another set of problems. We wish him every success in his new appointment.

We extend a very hearty welcome to Major Peter Hutchins, who has just joined us, and to his wife and family who are lucky enough to be out here already. We had to tell Mrs. Hutchins that we don't always send our officers out on a long exercise on the day of their arrival.

The regiment now has its own newspaper, the "Mackworth Mercury," in which every side of our life out here is immortalised weekly; the Editor, though proud of the success of his production, prefers to remain prudently anonymous.

[*Courtesy : Public Relations HQ BTE*

"Typical of the working conditions after the Cyprus Earthquake"

2 AGRA SIGNAL SQUADRON

We welcome to the fold Sergeant Braine from Scottish Command, and Sergeant Handley from Korea, wishing them a short yet not unpleasant stay with us. Sergeant Yates has at long last left our midst for a short spell of bar caterer with 3 L. of C. before returning home, and whilst talking about arrivals and departures, we must congratulate Sergeant and Mrs. Fenner on the arrival of a now six month old daughter. The activities of the Squadron over the last month have been mostly concerned with preparing and testing equipment for the schemes which take place in December, but we have found enough time to provide six men for the camp football team, which at the moment holds an unbeaten record, chief scorers to date being Signalman Martin 14, Signalman May six, Signalman King six, Lance-Corporal Hamilton four.

CORPORALS' MESS MALAYA SIGNAL REGIMENT.

Back Row, l. to r.: Cpl. Fell, Cpl. Helme, L/Cpl. Halliman, Cpl. Atkins, Cpl. Edwards, L/Cpl. Harris, L/Cpl. Rowlands, L/Cpl. Cattermole, L/Cpl. Dean, L/Cpl. Sherwin, L/Cpl. Rusk, Centre Row, l. to r.: L/Cpl. Eccles, Cpl. Hill, L/Cpl. Nelson, L/Cpl. Hutchins, Cpl. Fox, Cpl. Critchell, Cpl. Heddon, Cpl. Fellowes, Cpl. Main, Cpl. Hanham, Cpl. Johnson, Cpl. Taylor. Seated, l. to r.: L/Cpl. Leask, Cpl. Boucher, Cpl. Brooks, Cpl. Makin, Cpl. Pearce, R.S.M. C. Burman, C.O. Lt.-Col. G. Thompson, Cpl. Taylor, W., Cpl. Newman, Cpl. Pilbeam, Cpl. Riley, Cpl. Hancock, L/Cpl. Chambers. Ground, l. to r.: L/Cpl. Hollis, L/Cpl. Jenkins, L/Cpl. Dorman, L/Cpl. Raja, L/Cpl. V. Fidelis, L/Cpl. Samsudin, L/Cpl. Aziz, L/Cpl. Fidelis, L/Cpl. LLoyd, L/Cpl. Taylor, P.

MALAYA SIGNAL REGIMENT

On 13th October we were visited by the G.O.C. Malaya, Lieutenant-General Sir Hugh C. Stockwell, K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O., and our Chief Signal Officer, Colonel W. G. Tucker, O.B.E. A great deal of work in renovating the Unit lines had been done by all ranks varying from painting and decorating to (the Malayan soldiers' nightmare) grasscutting, the latter job incidentally, although it produces good hockey and football pitches, still cannot prevent the grass from literally growing under one's feet. However, the G.O.C. was apparently pleased with everything he saw and talked with many of the men on a variety of subjects from golf to married life in the Army.

The following week the junior N.C.O.s decided to have their annual mess photograph taken, which we enclose herewith. As there are approximately 50 members including our attached personnel from the A.O.P. Squadron R.A.F. and Operational Research Group it was only with difficulty that the photographer managed to get them all in the picture on the small mess lawn. Even the R.S.M. didn't know there were so many N.C.O.s available for "regimental duties."

As we now have the monsoon weather with us it is becoming more difficult to keep up with the sports fixtures. Invariably it rains just as one is about to commence a match. The Unit however is maintaining its reputation on the sports field particularly at rugby, as we have only lost one match out of 15 played this season. At Hockey too only five matches have been lost out of 15 played.

SINGAPORE DISTRICT SIGNAL REGIMENT

Rugby. The Unit team has shown considerable promise and have played eight games, winning four, drawing one, and losing three. The lost games have been due to lack of a good kicker. S.Q.M.S. Randle who has given sterling service, finds his age and the humidity too much and has had to drop out, this is a very great loss. Nine of the players are playing for the Singapore Corps XV.

Hockey. The team is shaping very well indeed, and against very good opposition has won two, drawn two, and lost four. Corporal Nizah has been chosen for the Army and has had a Combined Services Trial.

Basketball. Under the very able guidance of Captain Frost, an Army player, our team is doing well and has given a very creditable performance in all their matches.

On 27th November the combined Signals Units in Malaya (mainly Malaya Signal Regiment and 17 Gurkha Divisional Signals) send their team to Singapore to play Signals Singapore. Here's hoping we are as lucky as last year.

The disbanding of our out Squadrons (No. 2 at Taiping and No. 3 at Seremban) is now almost completed and by the New Year we will be contained mainly in one large Squadron here in Kualar Lumpur. To mark the disbanding of No. 3 Squadron they gallantly challenged the Regiment to a hockey match, but unfortunately their journey did not meet with success as they lost 3-1. However they made up for it after the match when refreshments were laid on on the Sergeants' Mess lawn.

Australian Notes

101 WIRELESS REGIMENT

We were very sorry indeed to say "good-bye" to Lieutenant-Colonel S. J. Hill, our Commanding Officer, in June. He is now, no doubt, dressed in gent's natty suiting, designing something at the Department of Supply. (Steady on those cable lays, sir, we've had some before!). Major Blackburn, the late Adjutant, and Lieutenant George Mitchell, have also departed—and then there were four! Major J. J. Ballard is holding the fort pending the appointment of a new Commanding Officer, assisted by Captain P. F. W. Gahan, R. Signals, the Adjutant. Captain A. (Hank) Findlay and Lieutenant W. B. Fegan remain as Q.M. and T.M.O.

Now that all the ceremonial is over—which incidentally gave the inhabitants of Toowoomba something to talk about for months, especially the Town Clerk's top hat—physical efficiency tests are all the rage. Every fortnight the assembled Regiment pounds up the Crows Nest—Toowoomba highway to the sounds of stentorian breathing, interrupted only by samples of the best Australian outback language heard for many a moon.

What is nine miles in two hours in battle order anyway —"now that reminds me of the Owen Stanleys"—we're back to the Findlay-Fegan 6-7 Division, desert-islands discussion again.

We ran a very successful Coronation Ball and recently

followed it up by a Spring Ball. (Who started the jam session during the supper interval?) Corporal Burrow and his merry band of helpers are to be congratulated on their hard work that resulted in two most enjoyable functions.

Cricket and tennis are now getting into their stride. We recently defeated, both by narrow margins, Merringandan at the former, and R.A.A.F. Drayton at the latter.

Very pleased to hear that Signalmen Killick and Harris were awarded Royal Signals F.A.R.E.L.F. Rugby Colours. Also that Captain John Williamson won the pole vault, Signalman Owbridge the High Jump, Hop, Step and Jump, 120 yards hurdles and ran second in the 100 yards, and Signalman Harris won the 440 yards, in the G.H.Q. Signal Regiment FARELF Annual Sports. Do Royal Australian Signals get bigger rations over there, or what?

Britcom Base Signal Regiment

The past month has been a busy one for the Signal Office. The release of the prisoners-of-war in Korea caused a considerable jump in traffic figures and much energy was expended in clearing it. If only all traffic passed on our links had the same high purpose!

Gremlins broke loose in the wireless equipment and the Radio Mechanics were kept hard at work keeping the links open. The transmitters, like most of the veterans from the 39/45 conflict, are becoming increasingly long in the tooth, and need careful nursing.

For clearing traffic concerning the released prisoners of war, a special wireless link (Tg) was engineered between Munsan-ni and Kure. A team was set up especially to ensure minimum delay, Captain "Frank" Ryan co-ordinated the work at Kure, Sergeant Belcher handled the operating, and Corporal Collings, with a team of DRs, rushed the messages to Field Records. Signal handling time was thus cut to the minimum and the Corps motto justified.

Many of the returning Australian prisoners were well-known to members of this Regiment, particularly Captain Phil Greville, son of Lieutenant-Colonel Greville, former C.S.O. B.C.F.K.

Like many of our fellowmen in Royal Signals, the question of qualifying for promotion is uppermost in the minds of those officers, W.Os and N.C.Os, senior enough to be thinking of the next step. A course is currently being run to coach W.Os and N.C.Os.

General education receives its fair share of attention. Efforts are made to provide entertainment and education at the same time, examples being concerts of classical music, and talks on various subjects by outside speakers.

A Unit Camera Club has been formed and the camera enthusiasts meet once a week in the club room which has been partially equipped from Regimental Funds. One photographic competition was held this month and was won by Signalman Green.

The Unit Water Polo Team won the BCFK competition. We are undefeated throughout the season.

Preparations are in hand for the provision of Basket Ball, Australian Rules Football and Rugby Union Football teams for the coming season.

Central Command

A visit was made to the Command from 11-16th August by the School of Signals Instructional Team. The syllabus covered was extensive. Methods of instruction applying particularly to Signals subjects were given in a manner which was much appreciated by a good attendance of A.R.A. and C.M.F. Officers and N.C.Os. The last two days and nights were devoted to an exercise in the use of Signals in the field. A good deal of knowledge was gleaned from this, the first insight by a majority of those present into Signal Tactics. Humour was innocently supplied by members of syndicates producing "spare" vehicles and wireless sets which were not available and using them to assist the steps up during the advance. Altogether a very good innovation, which at its conclusion, was agreed should be an annual event.

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

Autumn, always a busy time with the inauguration of training programmes, parades and social reunions, has been no exception this year. An important annual ceremonial occasion in the calendar of the Regiment, the Remembrance Service and Parade, was held on the first Sunday in November. For the second year in succession heavy rain led to the cancellation of the parade but despite the downpour the Service was attended by a large congregation of past and present members of the Regiment and relatives which filled the Drill Hall to capacity. The service was conducted by the Reverend Selwyin Cox, Chaplain of the Royal Hospital, Chelsea. Music was provided by the Band of the Irish Guards.

Certain Sundays and week-ends are now being devoted to the training of N.S. men and, thanks to the support of volunteer instructors, valuable training has taken place at the headquarters and the T.A. Week-End Training Centre, Pirbright. In the light of rumours that the Regiment is to be employed in next year's N.A.T.O. Exercises, training in wireless and intelligence duties is assuming great importance. Already the more optimistic phantoms are reaching for their phrase books. The long range wireless groups continue to flourish on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings and now include two A.E.R. terminals in Cheshire.

Newly arrived from Eastern Command Signal Regiment we have Second-Lieutenant A. H. R. Martindale and from further afield Second-Lieutenant C. H. Young from Klagenfurt Signal Troop, and Second-Lieutenant J. P. Hindle from 4 L. of C. Signal Regiment, B.A.O.R. We welcome these officers into the Kensingtons.

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

The appalling weather at Camp prevented our D.R. Display Team demonstrating their ability to us. Later shows have proved that they are not afraid of rain, but no spectators would have ventured from their tents. Since Camp they have given two first-class Shows, the first for the Hook and District Horticultural Society and the other at the Hythe Military Tattoo in connection with the Centenary of the Small Arms Wing of the School of Infantry.

On both occasions rain made conditions extremely tricky and Hythe meant in addition a tiring journey to get there through week-end traffic, with failing light at the end. It speaks volumes for the trouble the members have taken over their training that they can put on a first-class performance on a strange ground with ordinary "issue" bikes. This latter is not strictly accurate because Army regulations made it necessary to buy a second-hand machine for jumping, which, poor thing, does not take too kindly to the work, despite the encouragement of a coat of red paint.

The Officer-in-charge is now Lieutenant J. S. Harwood, ably seconded by, Sgt. Hussey, who has been a member of the Team since the start five years ago. Naturally most of the members are D.R.s, but the linemen have produced a stalwart in Corporal Canton. Sergeant Hall, Corporals Crawley, Day, Harris, Miller and Vassar must also be singled out for mention because of their special services in their various spheres. Our grandfather, "Pop" Hughes, is unfortunately having to retire this year after being with the team for many years. To them all, we offer our congratulations on achieving such a high standard of performance, especially when it is borne in mind how little time they have in which to practice. We wish them "Good Riding" in 1954 and a full list of engagements.

Changes in membership of the Regiment are much more frequent than pre-war, even apart from the N.S. men. Major (Q.M.) J. W. T. Snell has left us for the Depot Regiment and his place has been taken by Captain (Q.M.) A. A. J. Fraser, who has just returned from M.E.L.F. Major G. P. Pegg, one of our few pre-war links, has deserted us on the plea of pressure of business, though it is doubtful whether his field-glasses are similary affected. Captain E. V. R. Svensson has had to leave now that he has qualified as a Dentist and commenced to practise in Southsea. We take leave of Major J. W. Smith-Ainsley with great regret as he has taught us much, as we have no doubt taught him—about life in the raw. On conclusion of his tour of duty with the T.A. he has handed over, as Second-in-Command, to Major M. J. R. Fletcher, M.B.E., from AG11, The War Office, whom we welcome and we hope he will find he has worked himself a pleasant berth.

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51 (H) INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

Visits and Inspections. On 1st and 2nd September the Regiment (including Stirling and Dundee Squadrons) were honoured by a visit by the Representative Colonel Commandant accompanied by the C.S.O. Scottish Command.

At Aberdeen his visit coincided with the first evening of the individual training period; he inspected training in progress and addressed the very good turn-out at the end of the evening.

Regimental Rifle Meeting. The first of what it is hoped will become an annual event was held at Buddon Camp on 12th/13th September. The entry of over a hundred was most satisfactory but the number of good shots was not high. R.S.M. Craig is to be congratulated on taking most of the money including a pool bull, and S.S.M. Lovie of 1 Squadron on winning the individual rifle competition.

Regimental Motor Cycle Meeting. A crowd of six or seven hundred watched this event, held on a perfect day just outside Aberdeen. Fifty riders from the Command and the local civilian Motor Cycle Club competed.

We were pleased to see teams from Scottish Command and 52 (L) Divisional Signal Regiments, the former obtaining second place in the team event. Signalman Lumsden of this Regiment won the prize for the second best individual military competitor and the Holmes Shield for the best individual in the Regiment.

Exercises. We are just surfacing after 154 Brigade's, C.S.O.'s, District and Command exercises, all in under a month.

Remembrance Sunday was kept in Aberdeen in the traditional manner with a Service in the hall conducted by the Reverend J. McIlwraith, during which the Commanding Officer laid a wreath on the Regimental War Memorial and the lament "The Flowers of the Forest" was played by Corporal Davidson. In Stirling, a Church Parade was held and Pipe Major Campbell piped them to Church and played the Lament in Church.

Stirling Searchlight Tattoo. No. 2 Squadron provided the communications for every performance, no mean effort for a T.A. Squadron.

Badminton is now in full swing, and the three excellent courts are in use most days of the week.

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

Our first week-end Exercise since Annual Camp was held on 17/18th October and was well attended and a great deal of value was had from it by all. We harboured for the night with 5 A.A. (M) Signal Regiment at Scarborough and are grateful for the hospitality which they extended to us.

Major (Q.M.) W. G. Cooke, R.S.M. V. W. G. King and their committee made a good start to our fortnightly social evenings, which we intend to be a regular feature, and everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves in our newly renovated O.Rs Club.

Our Miniature Range Rifle Club and Badminton Club have been newly formed for this winter and have both got off to a good start. Doubtful discussions by umpires, though respected, have caused various opinions to be expressed as to the need for an issue of "Spectacles umpires for the use of"!

No. 17 Wireless Squadron which is commanded by Major W. E. Illsley, M.B.E., Royal Signals (T.A.), and is situated at Loughborough have been in the news for the communications which they provided for a night exercise held by 2nd Battalion Leicestershire Home Guard. The exercise was a great success and terminated with the Squadron acting as hosts the next morning at a breakfast provided by their cooks in their Drill Hall. It is good to see such co-operation with the Home Guard. Full details of the exercise was announced on the B.B.C. Midland news, at the instigation of Signals.

Annual Administration Inspection of the Squadron was carried out on 20th October by Brigadier I. L. White, D.S.O., O.B.E., and the Squadron is to be congratulated on the excellent show which they put up.

During last month a negotiation was completed whereby we ceased to be simply lodgers in the R.E.M.E. Officers' Mess with whom we share this T.A. Centre, and the Mess was re-constituted to be known as "Crabtree Lodge Officers' Mess" with R.E.M.E. and Signals as equal members. A dinner was held to mark the occasion, and such was the enthusiasm for the event that every member was present. Lieutenant-Colonel D. P. Bryce, O.B.E., Secretary West Ridings T. and A.F. Association, was the chief guest and an excellent evening terminated with the general opinion that we must do such things oftener. We will!

We also take this opportunity of wishing all Members of the Corps a Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

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61 H.Q. ARMY SIGNAL REGIMENT (T.A.)

The Regimental "Rifle Shoot" was held at Millbrook Range on Sunday, 25th October in drenching rain in the morning and glorious sunshine in the afternoon. Such being the English climate. Competition, in quite a large field of competitors, was keen, particularly during the Inter-Troop Shooting Match and the individual shoot for the Hawtin Cup. The standard of firing from the 300 yards range being a little above average.

The handsome wrought iron trophy for the Inter-Troop competition which was presented this year to the Regiment by Colonel Helps, O.B.E., our Honorary Colonel, was carried off by the victorious 2 Squadron team, whilst, as a last minute surprise, Signalman Eason of 304 Field Regiment R.A. Signal Troop walked off with the Hawtin Cup for the best individual shot. Of course, Sergeants v. Officers firing Sten gun and pistol ended in the inevitable manner. The Sergeants won the beer and a wooden spoon is held in a very prominent place in the Officers' Mess.

A "Pool Bull" at a penny a shot drew many competitors and a very handsome dividend was shared equally by Sergeant Jenkins (in spite of being i/c Bar most of the day) and Corporal Hinton. Incidentally it was quite amusing to hear the W.O. i/c Firing Point bellow "unload" and immediately hear the continuous bang! bang! of the "Pool Bull" contestants not twenty feet away from where he was standing. Poor fellow, he just about got used to the idea by lunch time. Speaking of lunch time, it recalls to mind the excellence of the "Q" Staff in providing two very creditable tented bars and a lunch which encouraged the asking for more. The fact that a very old (not elderly) member of the T.A. commented very favourably on the eating and drinking arrangements, even going so far as to say that it reminded him of pre-war T.A. days, is certainly a feather in the Regimental cap. Yes, vim and shine, we had a most enjoyable day, and a profitable one too. Some of us now even know how to hold a rifle.

H.Q. A.E.R. ROYAL SIGNALS

Since our last notes, the Unit has settled down to winter activities. These, naturally, are most conspicuous in the sporting side but A.E.R. training is not forgotten.

In breathing spaces between periods of hectic training activities, we have raised a good soccer team, a small-bore (.22) rifle team and, in conjunction with Western Command Signal Regiment, a rugger team which is all out to make its mark in the local leagues.

The soccer team is now taking part in the Chester Wednesday Football League and the North West District Small Units Competition. The record to date in the former is: played 8, won 5, drawn 1, and lost 2. In the N.W.D. Small Units Competition we have only played one game which we won.

Interesting features of the soccer season so far are that the chief goal scorer is A.Q.M.S. Slee, R.E.M.E. (LAD) with 24 goals to his credit, and Signalman Vandal has been approached by Liverpool F.C. with an offer of a contract as a professional player. A strong rumour is that Signalman Everett is also being watched by talent scouts. One of our cooks, Pte. Lewis, A.C.C., shows up well and delights the spectators by his cheeky, but effective, style of playing.

The Unit Small-bore Rifle Team made its debut in the City of Chester Rifle Association League (Division 2) in a match against De Havilands Venoms which we won by 526 points to 467. The individual scores were very consistent, the winning cards being: 90 (Sergeant Alfred), 90 (Lance-Corporal Britton, R.E.M.E. (LAD)), 87 (Lieutenant-Colonel R. H. Copeland), 87 (Captain N. Jones, R.A.P.C.), 87 (Signalman Wheeler), 85 (Signalman Bishop).

The remainder of our activities seem to centre in the unit gardens. Any ideas we may have had that winter is a season in which nothing happens in a garden have now been thrown away with the large collection of weeds and grass cuttings which seem to crop up each week. By next spring our gardens should bloom beautifully if hard work is an criterion.

Of course, the one question now is leave—Christmas, New Year or just plain privilege leave. Trying to squeeze in leave between units in camp is a tricky business so full advantage will be taken of the next three months. One thing is certain, however, team reserves will get their opportunity to show how good they are when they take the place of players on leave.

Just in case we do not appear in print again before the season, we take this opportunity to wish all readers a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

P.S.—The local soccer "Derby" is over. Score: H.Q. A.E.R. Royal Signals 5; Western Command Signal Regiment 2.

"R" FORCE (T.A.)

Our notes in the September issue of THE WIRE have apparently been seen for two letters have reached us from serving members in Glasgow and Chester.

Obviously THE WIRE is still read.

We have very little to report though a certain amount of pride is felt on reading that the Dorset Territorial and Auxiliary Forces Association heads the list in Southern Command for the number of voluntary enlistments into the Territorial Army during the month of September, with a total of 86.

As this unit had five of these we do feel we are justifying our existence.

We are still in very urgent need of a S.Q.M.S. Foreman of Signals and six Radio mechanics; so if any ex member of the Corps is in this area, Parkstone, Dorset, apply through the Editor; now is your chance to "do your bit" and incidentally earn some extra pocket money.

We do not yet know when or where our annual training will take place but a very persistent rumour has us all crossing our fingers as the place appears to be "just the job" and involves a considerable amount of travel.

Royal Signals Benevolent Fund

Also on this page is a simple statement of income and expenditure. Below an attempt is made to describe with suitable anonymity seven cases taken at random from the files in the office of the Welfare Section at 88 Eccleston Square. All these cases have been taken from one month only.

Signalman (1944-48). Killed in an accident, leaving widow and one child, another expected. A small immediate grant was made and S.S.A.F.A. and the concerned branch of the Association will say what more is required later.

Signalman (1938-47). Married, two children, 20 per cent. pension. His pensionable injury got worse recently and he was off work waiting to go into hospital. Efforts are being made to secure increased pension rate, meanwhile the fund gave immediate help.

Corporal (1943-47). Previous service in another Regiment. Malta, India, Egypt, China, Sudan, N.W. Europe. Married, two children. He has been ill and got into debt, his wife is now in hospital and children boarded out. His difficulties were resolved by both concerned associations in co-operation.

Signalman (1939-46). B.E.F., M.E.F., N.W. Europe. Married, one child. He is almost continuously ill with neurosis. He had to have a period of convalescence. The fund helped his wife to accompany him. Without her presence he cannot do anything.

Signalman (1941-53). Previous service in another Regiment. Married, two children. He is still in hospital, but has been discharged permanently unfit. The fund helps his wife to pay him a weekly visit.

Signalman (1939-46). P.O.W. 1941-45. Married, one child. Just before he got a house of his own all his possessions were destroyed in a fire. The fund shared with others in an effort to put things right.

Signalman (1941-46). He has T.B. and cannot work, though he lives at home. His income is just sufficient to keep him, but does not cover clothes. A grant was made to remedy this.

ROYAL SIGNALS BENEVOLENT FUND

Subscriptions received during October, 1953:

	£	s.	d.
2 Training Regiment	20	0	0
Scottish Command Signal Regiment	20	0	0
Southern Command Signal Regiment	5	0	0
10 Wireless Training Squadron	2	2	0
War Office Wireless Station	4	0	0
A.E.R. Depot and Training Centre	3	18	9
1/20 (S.M.) Army Signal Regiment (T.A.)	15	0	0
51 (U.) A.A. Independent (M.) Signal Squadron (T.A.)	2	2	0
H.Q. Royal Signals, Austria	2	5	0
Vienna Signal Troop	5	0	0
4 Squadron, 2 L. of C. Signal Regiment	10	0	0
3 Infantry Division Signal Regiment	36	16	0
18 Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron	5	0	0
83 Group Air Formation Signal Regiment	5	0	0
Total Receipts	£136	3	9
Expenditure during October, 1953 (Includes: Rent and Rates; Cots and Prams; Beds and Bedding; Hire Purchase; Rehabilitation; Fares; Removals; General Assistance).	£528	8	1

Analysis of Cases:

Families of Soldiers serving in U.K.	4
" " " " " B.A.O.R.	1
" " " " " F.A.R.E.L.F.	2
Widows and Dependants	5
Released and Discharged Soldiers	51
Total cases assisted	63

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Association Branch Notes

Sheffield

The first meeting of the season was held on Friday, 9th October, at the Sportsman Inn, Sheffield, when the main item was to obtain a permanent meeting place for the 1953-54 season. We are now very pleased to announce that the meetings will once again be held at the Crabtree T.A. Centre.

On 6th November the Branch met at the T.A. Centre to be warmly welcomed by the new C.O., Lieutenant-Colonel McNeil who has taken over command of 60 H.Q. Army Signal Regiment from Lieutenant-Colonel Gardiner who has left us for Hong Kong, and we offer our best wishes to them both for a happy tour in their new commands.

Lieutenant-Colonel McNeil expressed a hope that now we had the offer of a permanent home in a very comfortable Mess, the regularly attending membership would increase. We hope this will be so, and make the efforts of the committee and our friends of the T.A. worth while.

It was agreed that the Branch would be represented at the Festival of Remembrance at the City Hall, Sheffield, on 12th November, and a party consisting of Messrs. Rotherham, Taylor, Manterfield, Elwood and the Branch President, Lieutenant-Colonel Holland formed the platform party. Thanks to the efforts of Lieutenant-Colonel McNeil and the York Branch we were able to carry an Association Standard. T.A. Permanent Staff members formed the uniformed detachment of 60 H.Q. Army Signals under R.S.M. King.

The next meeting will be held on 4th December and it is hoped that we shall have a few artistes to entertain us. Although small in numbers we are still alive and kicking, and will welcome any ex-Signals who care to come along, they can be sure of a pleasant evening.

Our T.A. friends are holding a dance at their H.Q. on 11th December, which we understand is to be a real ambitious effort; they can depend on any assistance they may require.

Fylde District Branch

We attended two Remembrance Day parades on Sunday, 8th November, one at Preston and one at Garstang, the Signals Standard being carried at both.

At Preston the parade marched to the Cenotaph for an open air service at which many ex-Servicemen's Associations were represented.

At Garstang it was exactly the same but on a smaller scale: a short service was taken by the Vicar of Garstang at the War Memorial after which the parade marched to the Parish Church for a further service, during which the British Legion and Signals standards were placed each side of the altar.

Amendments No. 11 to the Blue Book 1953

DELETIONS TRADES ROSTER

12	6840	12582	13827	14505	15144	16088
18	6858	12583	13831	14515	15155	16103
440	6916	12584	13863	14531	15158	16128
778	6929	12611	13871	14551	15180	16159
786	6955	12612	13872	14552	15200	16163
815	7036	12622	13891	14553	15203	16185
872	7207	12661	13914	14554	15219	16205
960	10073	12694	13915	14575	15230	16212
1610	10169	12708	13927	14602	15238	16213
1879	10196	12719	13946	14604	15342	16221
2071	10256	12720	13983	14605	15345	16233
2221	10266	12721	14003	14628	15351	16238
2412	10272	12724	14011	14664	15360	16242
2430	10316	12728	14041	14665	15377	16256
2473	10356	12781	14043	14685	15391	16264
2477	10427	12735	14093	14686	15411	16265
2487	10542	12791	14095	14687	15425	16272
2540	10609	12825	14115	14688	15435	16274
2614	10656	12859	14116	14689	15439	16283
2668	10666	12861	14117	14694	15444	16294
2684	10681	12893	14135	14704	15445	16298
2691	10722	12916	14136	14715	15455	16305
2693	10759	12917	14148	14716	15461	16306
2770	10772	12945	14165	14717	15473	16307
5197	10857	12972	14166	14718	15480	16308
5204	10866	12987	14167	14732	15485	16362
5248	10874	13046	14168	14733	15498	16365
5308	11000	13060	14170	14734	15522	16382
5312	11092	13061	14171	14757	15525	16401
5419	11128	13073	14178	14799	15530	16403
5443	11134	13093	14195	14806	15545	16423
5587	11432	13102	14196	14807	15556	16435
5624	11473	13223	14214	14817	15585	16449
5665	11474	13304	14215	14828	15626	16454
5676	11810	13337	14225	14835	15636	16463
5694	11841	13348	14264	14858	15639	16481
5734	11852	13403	14265	14860	15640	16483
5811	11964	13421	14266	14868	15645	16487
5999	12061	13449	14268	14873	15657	16488
6000	12108	13513	14270	14874	15710	16491
6018	12190	13520	14272	14907	15722	16523
6021	12212	13521	14281	14918	15757	16543
6053	12255	13522	14316	14925	15783	16548
6078	12262	13531	14324	14927	15787	16552
6171	12324	13552	14325	14937	15788	16568
6233	12346	13553	14354	14939	15804	16578
6240	12362	13554	14357	14947	15805	16583
6247	12373	13556	14358	14951	15808	16585
6254	12386	13577	14360	14952	15820	16587
6265	12387	13579	14373	14991	15826	16602
6270	12388	13613	14377	14995	15833	16608
6322	12389	13619	14395	14998	15848	16610
6422	12405	13629	14397	15013	15855	16619
6439	12418	13657	14398	15029	15899	16630
6460	12419	13664	14421	15044	15925	16635
6477	12446	13680	14437	15048	15942	16640
6497	12459	13695	14464	15064	15960	16652
6525	12477	13696	14463	15067	15966	16657
6612	12479	13698	14470	15073	15975	16696
6620	12480	13720	14473	15114	16037	16720
6691	12481	13759	14481	15120	16042	16815
6698	12489	13811	14491	15138	16048	16845
6728					16074	

DELETIONS CIPHER ROSTER

226	5186B	5207	5224	5238	5265A	5290
1859	5206	5218	5237	5240	5278	5352

DELETIONS FOREMEN OF SIGNALS ROSTER

5	6	7	8

DELETIONS GENERAL DUTIES ROSTER

5012	5017	10037	10071	10123	10141A	10145
5015	10020	10055	10079	10133	10143	10221

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1593	11224	13578	14804	15574	16375	
2018	12478	13930A	14938	15983	16448	
5115	12524	14511	15113	16043	16517	
6401						
7108	13176	14557	15344	16099	16529	
7336	13313	14616	15412	16105	16659	
10746	13460	14754	15447	16250	16707	

CIPHER ROSTER ADD "Q"

1320	1368	5071	5219	5326

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