THE WIRE

THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE

The Official Organ of the Signals Association

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All correspondence and matter for publication for THE WIRE, *should be addressed to The Editor,* THE WIRE, *88 Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1.*

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Editorial

INSTEAD of speculating about what is to happen in 1958 it is perhaps better to count the blessings. During 1957 the Corps and the Association have both done exceedingly well and, be it said with due humility, THE WIRE has continued at a reasonable standard.

The year began with the recording in THE WIRE of the experiences of many in the operations in Suez. Opinions differ as to the political wisdom of these operations, but there can be no possible doubt of the excellence of the work of the soldiers who were engaged and, in particular, of the most remarkable performance by Royal Signals. Few of the participating units were at proper establishment, mostly they were woefully undermanned, but as one record puts it "The usual solid communications were provided throughout."

After Suez, Christmas Island, where the Corps continues to provide "solid" communications for nuclear experiments. This for Royal Signals is a new station. For how long will it continue?

Catterick was honoured by Her Majesty. Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, with his customary thoroughness visited the School of Signals and portions of the Training Brigade.

The Band has continued to bring credit to Royal Signals, to itself and to its Director of Music.

In the Spring we won the Army Rugby Football Championship yet again, this time beating The Welsh Regiment.

THE WIRE has had the sorrow of recording an unusual number of deaths. During 1957 Royal Signals lost a number of its most distinguished alumni.

The welfare work of the Association has been most generously supported by all who served in Royal Signals during the year. At the time this is written the total for the year is not known but it is clear that 1957 will nearly equal the record year of 1956.

Grave decisions have been forced upon the Association. The government, it is said, delayed over-long before taking measures to curb inflation. The Association delayed as long as was possible before increasing sbscriptions and the price of THE WIRE.

1958

Late in 1957 a completely new chapter in the history of Royal Signals was begun. As many know, since 1920 all those in the highest positions in the Corps started their careers in other arms of the service. On the 1st September Major-General R. J. Moberly, C.B., C.B.E., assumed appointment as Signal Officer-in-Chief, the first officer so to do who had been commissioned directly into Royal Signals. After 38 years Royal Signals has "come of age"; youthful in comparison with some of the older arms, but with a tremendous reputation in work and play. May we continue during 1958 at this standard—it cannot be bettered.

After the Investiture

Through the initiative of the Commanding Officers concerned, THE WIRE has been privileged to arrange for two recipients of decorations and medals at the hand of Her Majesty The Queen to have their photographs taken immediately after the investiture. These photographs have been reproduced in the appropriate number of THE WIRE and the original photograph, with information as to how to obtain additional copies has been made available to the officer, or non-commissioned officer, concerned.

This is considered to be a good thing both for the individual and for the Corps. It can only be continued if individual officers or other ranks who are to be honoured by their Sovereign at an investiture inform the Editor of THE WIRE in good time of the date of the investiture so that arrangements can be made.

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL E. BEVERLEY

In January of 1921 a very young man walked into the Depot of a very young Corps at Maresfield, Sussex. Thus began the service of Edmund Beverley to the Royal Corps of Signals, extending over 37 years across half the world, in every rank from Driver (HT) to Lieutenant-Colonel. He enlisted at a time of boot and saddle and Empire, when a column trotting down the Khyber was commonplace to the British soldier. He leaves as technicians and the petrol engine have taken over in shrunken frontiers.

As to how he feels about it — well, it is no denigration of the present to say that those who knew the British Army of long ago are certain that going for a soldier can never be the same again. It was another world, and it has had its day, but it was a good world in which to be a British soldier.

Having been trained as a Driver (HT), he became a Lance-Corporal in May, 1921. As a drill instructor he stayed with the Depot Battalion in its moves from Maresfield to Crowborough and from Crowborough to Catterick Camp. There he became a Sergeant in February, 1927, having obtained that rank in the shortest time then known to the Corps. After service in Northern Ireland and Aden, he returned to Catterick and was promoted S.Q.M.S. in April, 1936. In those days, this represented fast promotion—and if it was rather slow in fact, the keeness and all-round ability over a long period called for before promotion was possible are in striking contrast to present-day methods.

From April, 1936, to September, 1936, he was with 2 Divisional Signals and "A" Corps Signals at Aldershot. In the latter month he left for Palestine and returned to Aldershot. There, in August, 1937, he was promoted C.S.M., having reached the rank in the shortest time known to the Corps, and being the first soldier of Royal Signals to reach the rank from Driver or Signalman.

In July, 1939, he was posted to "A" Corps Signals, Rawalpindi. In September, 1940, he was commissioned Lieutenant (Q.M.) in the Indian Army and was promoted Captain (Q.M.) in 1943. During this period he served with the Northern Force Signals, 2 Divisional Signals, Rawalpindi District Signals, 206 H.Q. Signals, 15 Indian Corps Signals (both in Calcutta and Burma), and in G.H.Q., Delhi.

On Partition, he transferred to the British Service and returned to the U.K. There he served with the T.A. at Leeds from 1947 to 1951, being promoted Major (Q.M.) in August, 1949. After service with 6 Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment in Bulford and Germany from January, 1951, to January, 1953, he was posted to 2 Training Regiment at Catterick in February, 1953. There he was promoted Lieutenant-Colonel in February, 1954, and there he finished his service on 7th January, 1958.



Many young men are impatient of middle-aged experience and forget that before middle-age and the rank which it brings, comes good service of the kind giving sinew and tradition to a Corps. Let us hope that many young men hold on course as steadily as did young Edmund Beverley. Good-bye to you, Colonel. Do not forget us. We cannot afford to forget you.

COLONEL C. H. LYDDON

On leaving his appointment as Chief Signal Officer, British Joint Services Mission in Washington, Colonel Lyddon was accorded honours which may well be unique in the history of the Corps. The United States Army Signal School at Fort Monmouth staged a Garrison Review in his honour at Greely Field on Saturday, 16th November. The order for the parade included an account of his career in Royal Signals. During the review Colonel Lyddon was accompanied by Major-General J. D. O'Connell, Chief Signal Officer of the United States Army. Major-General W. P. Cordeman, the Post Commander, was the "Reviewing" Officer.

Amongst those who attended the review were Lieutenant-Colonel G. B. Donald, Royal Signals, Mr. E. Forster, of S.R.D.E., Colonel C. A. Peck and Major R. J. Corry, Royal Canadian Corps of Signals.

MAJOR W. T. (WALLY) WAGG

He will be well remembered in Kohat District Signals and S.T.C.'s, Jubbulpore and Mhow, later G.H.Q., India, and G.H.Q., Home Forces, Hounslow. He was Adjutant S.T.C. (British) at Mhow for a good number of years.

He writes from The Manse, 20, Fourth Street, Slatington, Pennsylvania, U.S.A., where he is taking a three-year theological course and at the same time serving the Salem Welsh Presbyterian Church at Slatington.

He writes that at age 55 he is still in very good health, despite many years of rugger playing, cross-country running, athletics and much "flattening" of the mountains around Kohat.

He does hope that any of his old friends whose eye this may catch will begin well the year 1958 by writing to him.

WHENCE "JIMMY"

It is accepted that the figure of Mercury as the crest of Royal Signals dates from the Telegraph Battalion, Royal Engineers, between 1884, when it was first suggested, and 1891, when Mercury surmounted the Drum-Majors Staff (of the Telegraph Battalion), which is now in the Headquarters' Mess.

But since when has he been called "Jimmy"?

As cap and collar badge the Figure of Mercury was officially adopted in 1920 and those who are older remember that until comparatively recently the figure was surrounded by a scroll bearing the title Royal Corps of Signals.

In the memory of the elderly "he" has always been called "Jimmy," but does the nickname come from the Signal Service, Royal Engineers, or is it purely Royal Signals?

Correspondence is invited.



Courtesy: Associated Press Ltd., London, E.C.4.

Sergeant C. F. Le Feuvre outside Buckingham Palace immediately after the investiture where he had received the Polar Medal at the hand of Her Majesty The Queen.

It will be recalled that Sergeant Le Feuvre accompanied the Advanced Party of the Royal Society Antarctic Expedition for the International Geophysical Year in the *M.V. Tottan* from Southampton on 22nd November, 1955, and THE WIRE, in its August, 1957, number, was privileged to publish a short account of his experiences.

He is currently serving in Brecon in South Wales and we hope that despite this distance from his native Guernsey he will not again revert to the rather rugged appearance of a Sergeant Royal Signals when "far from home" with which he previously graced the pages of this magazine.

CORPS PICTURES

Photographic reproductions of the three Corps Pictures, "*THROUGH*," "*MENIN GATE*," and "*THE CABLE WAGON*," 18" x 24" with 3" white margin, may be obtained from Captain L. N. Lloyd, 36, Hampton Road, Worcester Park, Surrey, price £2/15/- each. The increased price is due to the new postage rates.

Captain Lloyd can also supply similar-sized reproductions of "*BURIED CABLE*," but as this was copied from the original oil-painting, it requires a large amount of retouching by hand, the extra cost of which has brought the price up to £3/10/-.

Specimen copies of all four pictures may be seen at Association Headquarters, 88, Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1.

In order to economise in postal charges, it has been decided not to acknowledge routine copy sent to the Editor unless comment is necessary or other reasons make it desirable to do so.

Obituary

SERGEANT E. LOMAX

All who have served in Hong Kong during the last 20 years will learn with regret of his death on 24th October, 1957.

At the end of his colour service he took his discharge in Hong Kong in about 1938 and remained there as a civilian on the staff of the C.S.O.

He rejoined on the outbreak of war and was taken prisoner by the Japanese on Christmas Day, 1941. One of the few survivors from the Japanese ship *Lisbon Maru* when she was torpedoed, he was eventually released from captivity and returned to Hong Kong to become one of the most important witnesses at the trial of war criminals.

Mrs. Lomax was consistent in her task of helping her husband and other prisoners while he was in Shamshuipo Camp and took many risks to bring aid and comfort to them.

MR. J. R. CADWELL, D.C.M.

Mr. J. R. Cadwell, D.C.M., died suddenly at Batheaston, in Somerset, on the 23rd November, 1957, at the advanced age of 72 years.

He enlisted in the Royal Engineers Signal Service in 1904 and served in the Royal Engineers until transferred to the Royal Corps of Signals on its formation in 1920. He retired in the rank of C.Q.M.S. in January, 1926, after 22 years' service. He served in South Africa and in France and Flanders during the 1914-18 War, where he was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal. He was a Lineman.

He was a member of the Royal Engineers' Association, the Old Contemptibles' Association and a Life Member of the Royal Signals' Association. He was an original member of the Aldershot Branch and was a keen and active member, taking part in all its functions almost until his death. As recently as the 28th September he acted as escort to the Aldershot Branch Standard when it was paraded at the West Country Reunion in Newton Abbot.

The funeral service was held at the Royal Garrison Church in Aldershot on Saturday, 30th November, and he was interred at the Aldershot Town Cemetery with semi-military honours, arranged by the Old Contemptibles' Association. Amongst the many friends who attended the funeral were strong contingents from the Aldershot Branch Royal Signals Association with Standard, the Old Contemptibles' Association with Standard, and the Royal Engineers' Association. Amongst many other wreaths was one from All Ranks of Royal Signals.

The sympathy of all is extended to his widow, Mrs. Cadwell, 2, Tongham Road, off Lower Farnham Road, Aldershot.

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THE RANGOON MEMORIAL

Built by the Imperial War Graves Commission in the Taukkyan War Cemetery about twenty miles North of Rangoon, the Memorial will be unveiled by General Sir Francis Festing, G.C.B., K.B.E., D.S.O., on Sunday, the 9th February, 1958.

The Memorial commemorates 27,000 men of the Land Forces of the Commonwealth who perished during the war in Burma and Assam and have no known grave.

If the number of relatives and others wishing to travel to the Ceremony is sufficient to justify it, the British Legion will be willing to run a small pilgrimage at the inclusive cost of £165 per person from London and back to London, covering all transport, accommodation and meals en route.

The list closed on the 31st December, but it is probable that if application is made to the General Secretary, British Legion, 49, Pall Mall, London, S.W.1, immediately this is read that a seat may be obtained.

A Burmese visa would be required by persons travelling from outside Burma, and an International Certificate proving vaccination against smallpox within not less than eight days and not more than three years previously and against cholera within not less than six days and not more than six months previously would have to be carried.

There is insufficient time for orders for poppy wreaths before the Ceremony. The Commission have, however, arranged with "Interflora" for the provision in Rangoon of wreaths, chaplets or crosses of fresh flowers on the day of the Ceremony. Orders should be sent to The Secretary, Interflora (Florists Telegraph Delivery Service), 3-15, Norland Road, London, W.11.

LETTER

Brigadier R. Chenevix Trench, C.B., O.B.E., M.C., writes to the Editor:

"I have read with much interest the article "Looking Backward" by J. L. Judd, in your November issue. May I make two comments?

"(a) *Lady Sale's Journal.* News "telegraphed" from the Upper Citadel in Cabul. This, I have little doubt, refers to semaphore signalling. That method used to be called the telegraph in my great-grandfather's (your great-great-grandfather's) time. In the Napoleonic wars there was a chain of semaphore stations connecting Portsmouth with the Admiralty, to give instant information of the French invasion fleet at sea. They can be identified on the map today under the name 'Telegraph Hill.' The use of wires when it came was distinguished by the name 'Electric Telegraph.'

"(b) *The Crimea.* This was the first use of the electric telegraph in the field. In the early Spring of 1855 21 miles of cable were laid and eight stations opened. The cable was buried 18 inches. A special plough was sent out to cut the trench and feed in the cable through the share, which was made hollow. This failed to make any impression on the ground, and Sappers had to dig the trench. We have heard of similar instances in later wars. The 'single needle' instrument was used.'"

BUFFET SUPPER AND REUNION

The Annual Buffet Supper and Reunion was held on 7th December at the Territorial Army Centre, 190, Hammersmith Road. One hundred and forty-two serving and retired Royal Signals' Officers from the Regular Army, Territorial Army and Army Emergency Reserve attended the function. Loyal toasts were drunk to H.M. The Queen and H.R.H. The Princess Royal, after which the Colonel Commandant read out messages of greeting both from H.M. The Queen and H.R.H. The Princess Royal.

All present appreciated the excellent administrative arrangements made by Lieutenant-Colonel B. R. Wood and Officers and Other Ranks of Army Phantom Signal Regiment (Princess Louise's Kensington Regiment), T.A., which contributed so much to the success of the Reunion.

T.A./A.E.R. "AT HOME"

The Annual T.A./A.E.R. "At Home" was held at the Hyde Park Hotel on Saturday, 7th December, 1957. Seventy-six Officers and their ladies attended the function. Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal received all the guests as they arrived and after tea had conversations with many of the guests.

PERSONAL COLUMN

New Year Honours List

C.M.G. Major-General W. A. Dimoline, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C.
K.B.E. Major-General W. R. C. Penney, C.B., D.S.O., M.C.
Brigadier G. H. Walton, C.B., T.D., D.L.
C.B. Major-General L. de M. Thuiller, O.B.E., F.R.G.S.
C.B.E. Brigadier J. C. Hardy.
O.B.E. Lieutenant-Colonel R. G. Baker.
Lieutenant-Colonel A. J. Leahy.
M.B.E. Major A. T. Burrows; Major A. C. Sugden; W.O.II R. J. Cook: Major J. R. West; Major J. O. Hunter (T.A.).
B.E.M. Sergeant M. E. Hickson-Brown; Sergeant L. A. Crane; Staff Sergeant D. Convery; Sergeant P. E. Hollywood (T.A.); Staff Sergeant D. M. McPhail; Staff Sergeant W. E. M. Tilyard, Royal Australian Corps of Signals; Miss Elsie Roome, W.V.S., attended to the Junior Leaders' Regiment, Royal Signals.

London Gazette

15th November, 1957
The undermentioned Temporary Colonels to be Colonels:
D. E. Harrison, O.B.E., 29th January, 1957.
E. I. E. Mozley, B.A., 1st March, 1957.
D. A. Pringle, O.B.E., 13th March, 1957.
E. C. R. Blaker, 10th May, 1957.
A. FitzG. McGill, O.B.E., 29th June, 1957.
E. J. C. Harrison, O.B.E., 10th August, 1957.

19th November, 1957
Major G. A. Fleming, T.D., retires on 22nd November, 1957. *T.A.*
Major (Hon. Lieutenant-Colonel) N. C. Butler, T.D., from R.A., to be Major, acting Lieutenant-Colonel, 27th June, 1957.

22nd November, 1957
Major B. J. Stevens retires 26th November, 1957.

29th November, 1957
Major (Q.M.) W. J. Champion relinquishes his commission on completion of service, 28th November, 1957.

6th December, 1957
Lieutenant (Q.M.) H. G. R. Bond to be Captain (Q.M.), 4th December, 1957.

10th December, 1957
The undermentioned Majors to be Lieutenant-Colonels on the dates shown:—
B. R. M. Hayles, 24th January, 1957.
D. R. Horsfield, M.A., A.M.I.E.E., 12th February, 1957.
J. de D. Yule, 1st April, 1957.
J. B. Birkett, 1st April, 1957.
R. E. Stoney, M.B.E., 7th May, 1957.
T. G. Chambers, M.C., 25th July, 1957.
A. H. D. Llewellyn, 25th July, 1957.
H. R. Jordan, M.B.E., T.D., 25th July, 1957.
A. N. Griffiths, O.B.E., B.A., 25th July, 1957.
J. Sheepshanks, 25th July, 1957.
A. J. Deane-Drummond, M.C., 25th July, 1957.
T. H. C. Grigg, 25th July, 1957.
T. R. Warburg, B.A., 25th July, 1957.
R. S. King, T.D., 25th July, 1957.
G. M. L. Claridge, 4th October, 1957.

24th December, 1957
Major-General M. S. Wheatley, C.B., C.B.E., M.I.E.E., is appointed Colonel Commandant, vice Major-General Sir William R. C. Penney, K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O., M.C.

Movements — Officers

Major E. H. M. Rayner, Ministry of Supply to M.E.L.F.
Lieutenant (T.O.T.) C. P. Bolton, Signal Troop U.K. to B.A.O.R.
Major R. A. H. Chapman, Malaya to retirement.
Major C. G. Gallyer, Cyprus to Ministry of Defence.
Major (T.O.T.) J. T. Rogers, FARELF to B.A.O.R.
Major R. Thomas, AGRA Signal Squadron to B.A.O.R.
Major F. E. Boon, Signal Park Squadron to Depot (HS) pending retirement.
Major H. C. Daniel, War Office to Signal Park Squadron.
Major J. P. Hewitt, Signals 7, War Office to Depot (HS) pending retirement.
Major M. D. Scott, Signals 4, War Office to FARELF.
Lieutenant-Colonel F. P. Johnson, B.A.O.R. to Malta.
Major T. P. Furlonge, H.Q., Aldershot District to FARELF.
Major R. C. Pringle, School of Military Engineering to B.A.O.R.
Major N. C. Porter, Ministry of Supply to M.E.L.F.
Major J. Shaw, Ministry of Supply to FARELF.
Major N. Pidsley, H.Q., London District to AGRA (Field) Signal Squadron.
Major F. G. G. Rapsey, Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A., to B.A.O.R.
Major R. J. Barlow, Air Ministry Signals Directorate to Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A.

Arrivals and Departures

Cyprus District Signal Regiment
Arrivals: Captain Mellor, R.Q.M.S. O'Malley, Staff Sergeants Garland and Fisher, A.P.T.C., and Sergeant Stover.
Departures: Captain Cooper, R.E.M.E., Captain Roake, W.O.s II Griffin, Bicknell, Elsey, Staff Sergeant Turley, Sergeants Kerr, R.E.M.E., Holland, Gray, O'Brien and Martin.

Officer Training Wing, School of Signals
Arrivals: Major J. W. Elston, Sergeants J. T. O'Brien and F. O'Brien.
Departures: Captain W. J. Clapp.

1st Training Regiment
Departures: Sergeant T. Ballantyne.

Berlin Signal Squadron
Arrivals: Major J. H. Collins, W.O.II W. A. Lea, B.E.M.
Departures: Major R. J. Tyrrell-Grey, M.B.E., W.O.II H. J. Sinclaire.

19 Army Group Signal Regiment
Arrivals: Captain Lewis-Barclay, Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Mainwaring, Staff Sergeant Close, Sergeants Mercer and Jarvis.
Departures: Captains N. R. F. Mackinnon and F. N. Spencer, Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Smith, Sergeants J. Ball, Platt, Cooney, Platts, Rudkin and Newton.

1 U.K. COMCAN Signal Regiment
Arrivals: Sergeant D. B. Jones.
Departures: Sergeant J. N. Wilkinson.

Births

STYLES.—To Corporal and Mrs. B. J. Styles, a son, Mario Barrie, at B.M.H., Berlin, on 7th November, 1957.

ARROW-SMITH.—To Sergeant and Mrs. L. Arrow-Smith, a daughter, Wendy Jean, on 8th September, 1957, at B.M.H., Berlin.

WILLIAMS.—To Corporal and Mrs. F. Williams, a son, Peter Allan, on 15th July, 1957, at B.M.H., Berlin.

KINGDON.—To Corporal and Mrs. D. A. Kingdon, a daughter, Marlene Gill, at B.M.H., Hostert, on 24th September, 1957.

NEWTON.—To Sergeant and Mrs. R. Newton, a son, Robert Leslie, at B.M.H., Hostert, on 23rd August, 1957.

Marriages

All the following of 19 Army Group Signal Regiment.

KINDRED—COLIN.—Lance-Corporal F. C. Kindred to Miss Frances Colin, at Haverwell, Suffolk, on 26th October, 1957.

McMANUS—RITLEWSKI.—Signalman M. C. McManus to Frln. Karin Klare Ritlewski, at Essen-Steele, on 21st September, 1957.

MOORE—BURKE.—Signalman H. D. Moore to Miss Annie Mary Ellen Burke, at Bally-Natty, Northern Ireland, on 20th February, 1957.

MEAKINS—COOKE.—Lance-Corporal D. Meakins to Miss Barbara Cooke, at Newport, South Wales, on 21st September, 1957.

MILNE—FRASER SMITH.—Signalman W. Milne to Miss Moira Jane Fraser Smith, at Aberdeen, on 17th September, 1957.

CASEY—GIBBONS.—Signalman A. B. T. Casey to Miss Margaret Gibbons, at Liverpool, on 30th August, 1957.

PENDOCK—CUNNING.—W.O.II J. C. Pendock to Miss Beryl Rachel Cunning, at Hillingdon, on 13th November, 1957.

Deaths

SMITH.—Ex-Lance-Sergeant T. Smith, of 90, Fosse Road, Farndon, Newark, Notts, on 22nd October, 1957. He was a Life Member of the Association.

EWERS.—Ex-Corporal A. E. Ewers, of 16, Lower Cathedral Road, Cardiff, on 10th November, 1957, at his home. He was a Life Member of the Association.

LEGGOE.—23133261 Signalman J. S. Leggoe, on 1st November, 1957, at Stretford.

McMULLEN.—Ex-Signalman J. McMullen, killed in a road accident at Gorleston-on-Sea, on 19th June, 1957, aged 37. His wife's address is: 18, Underwood Road, Ulverston, Lancs.

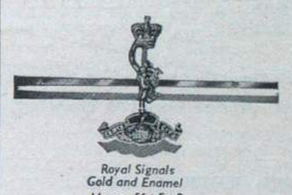
DUFFY.—23234657 Signalman J. Duffy, 11 Air Formation Signal Regiment, accidentally killed on duty at Gutersloh, 2nd December, 1957.

CANN.—On 18th December, 1957, Major H. J. Cann at his home, Corner Close, Kilve, Bridgwater, Somerset. Loyal North Lancashire Regiment, 1914, Signal Service Royal Engineers 1916, Royal Corps of Signals 1920 to 1950.

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Forthcoming Events

Aberdeen Branch

1st February, 1958.—Annual Meeting and Reunion Supper, Bon-Accord Hotel, Aberdeen, 6.45 p.m.

Croydon Branch

1st February, 1958.—Annual Dinner at the Shirley Park Hotel, easily accessible for members and offering every comfort. Tickets will be 17/6d. each.

North London Branch

Saturday, 8th February, 1958.—Third Annual Dinner and Dance at the Cambridge, Palmers Green, N.13. Tickets, £1/1/- each, are obtainable from the Branch Secretary, Mr. L. S. Kennett, 201, Lonsdale Drive, Enfield, Middlesex.

Annual Meeting of Branch Secretaries of the Association

Saturday, 29th March, 1958.

Corps Dinner
and
Regular Officers' "At Home"
at the Hyde Park Hotel. — 28th May, 1958. / 29th May, 1958.

Royal Signals Association

CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING — 29th May, 1958.

Midlands Reunion

Beaumanor Park and Garats Hay Camp, Loughborough, 24th May, 1958.

Catterick Reunion and Annual General Meeting

28th/29th June, 1958.

ROYAL SIGNALS HOCKEY, 1958

14th February, 1958	R.A.O.C.	Blackdown
15th February, 1958	R.A.	Woolwich
16th February, 1958	Aldershot Services	Aldershot
7th March, 1958	R.A.E.C.	Catterick Camp
8th March, 1958	Durham University	Durham
19th March, 1958	Welbeck College	Welbeck

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL CLUB, 1958

12th February, 1958	Durham University	(H) ...	Catterick
26th February, 1958	Bede College	(A) ...	Durham

ROYAL SIGNALS RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB, 1958

18th January, 1958	West Hartlepools	West Hartlepool
25th January, 1958	Halifax	Catterick
29th January, 1958	King's College	Newcastle
1st February, 1958	Wakefield	Wakefield
15th February, 1958	Old Novos	Catterick
22nd February, 1958	Durham City	Durham

1 TRAINING REGIMENT

Remembrance Day was commemorated on Sunday, 10th November and Parade Services were held in all the Garrison Churches.

Sporting fortunes have fluctuated. R.S.W. put paid to our account in the Command stage of the Army Hockey Cup, 4 C.I.C. in the first round of the Command Soccer Cup, 11 Hussars in the Command semi-final of the Army Boxing Cup, and 7 Training Regiment in the semi-final of the Northern Command Basket Ball Cup.

However, on the profit side of the account our Rugby XV has reached the 6th Round of the Army Cup in which we are likely to entertain the "Dukes" from Holywood in N. Ireland, the Soccer XI has entered the 3rd Round of the Army Cup, and Cross-Country Runners head the District League, the winners of which go forward to the Command stage of the Army competition.





3 TRAINING REGIMENT

The photographs are intended to be a reminder of the regiment to those who have left in recent months and a preview for those who are to come either for training or upgrading. We will, with the Editor's blessing, include more in the next month's number.

We hope, too, that R.Q.M.S. Bell (Dinger) of VV Group fame, well known to all operators in pre-war days in India, will also find them of interest. Our latest Old Soldier to go, he had little opportunity to see the regiment when he was here, immersed as he was in his duties in that rest room, warm, quiet, well lit, carpeted and comfortable, normally closed or closing, known to regiments as the "Q.M.'s Office." He has now joined a cable firm and we send him our best wishes.

4 TRAINING REGIMENT

In 4 Training Regiment we are regarding the Redundancy statements quite calmly. Application to be considered for premature discharge are so very, very few that we feel that Royal Signals can regard the future with comparative equanimity. On the other end of the scale we are very pleased to report a most

gratifying increase in the numbers of National Servicemen who are enlisting as Regulars.

The Regimental Wives' Club has started functioning again. Attendance figures seem to indicate that it is very popular; we hear rumours of instruction in the making of Christmas cakes and trust there is no connection with the remark dropped by one husband to the effect that it was a good thing to have a few days break! In the sporting world things are not so much looking up but looking about in all directions. We have no devastating wins in Army Cup Competitions to report, but we seem to win more often than we lose in leagues and friendly matches. Lance-Corporal Skirrow got into the Northern Command Rugby XV in their match against Western Command, and regularly represents Royal Signals, Catterick. Several of our Rugby XV have turned out for Catterick Services; and for the first time today we field two XVs. There are no less than seven of our Regimental Soccer players in the Corps side, so we feel we can claim to be doing our share.

At our recent Inter-Squadron Novices Boxing Competition, the Brigade Commander, Brigadier E. D. Good, C.B.E., was good enough to come along and present the prizes to Headquarter Squadron (Major C. C. Tucker) who were the winners. The Brigadier made the point that he was delighted to see such a competition on a Squadron level. On hearing of the success of this evening 1 Training Regiment, Royal Signals, promptly challenged us to a Novices Match.

We finished a highly successful year in the world of Golf by holding our own Regimental meeting on a morning which luckily turned out fine and mild. Particular care was taken to encourage all players—no matter what degree of skill they had, handicaps were adjusted up to 36 so as to give everyone a chance. The eventual winner was Sergeant Williamson, R.A.E.C., who had a handicap of 30, so that interest was maintained for all 17 entrants who appeared thoroughly to enjoy themselves. A Challenge Cup has been produced—a replica of which was given to the winner —and we hope that this is to be an annual event.

*

JUNIOR LEADERS REGIMENT



[Photo: H. R. Rivers, Chudleigh, S. Devon

J/R.S.M. Wootten, Commander S.T.B. Trophy Winner



Output Troop No. 1 Squadron

One of the sporting highlights of the month was the Boxing match when we were "at home" to the boys of H.M.S. Fishguard from Plymouth. The evening's programme provided some vigorous if not always skilful bouts, yet displayed a high standard of fitness and determination by the boxers. At the halfway stage the Navy led by four bouts to two, our winners being J/Signalman Williams and J/Sergeant Meredith. Splendid boxing by J/Signalmen Carey, Lofthouse and Cooper in the second half earned them the judges' verdict, and the final result of five bouts each was warmly applauded by the supporters of both units.

Reversing usual form, practices for the pass-off parade for 35 boys leaving this term were held in fine weather, but the actual day was wild and wet, with torrential rain sweeping down from Dartmoor. This was disappointing for the boys, who had spent much effort in preparation, and to the company of guests who were unable to witness the pomp and ceremony connected with the parade, which has been enjoyed by so many.

A much modified programme was staged in the gymnasium. Brigadier F. W. P. Bradford, M.B.E., Chief Signal Officer, Southern Command, inspected the "Output" from both Squadrons and complimented them on their steadiness and bearing. After presenting trophies and prizes, the C.S.O. gave an inspiring address which struck just the right note for these boys who are leaving us for the wider sphere of man's service.

We have, for some years, been fortunate in having in the Regiment an S.Q.M.S. with his own personal brand of "Magic." S.Q.M.S. Browne, member of the "Magic Circle," has now returned to civilian life after 25 years' service. He will be remembered for his tolerant good humour and the repertoire of "magic" with which he has bemused and bewildered his audiences. Our best wishes go with him.

Captain Simms-Reeve has left us on posting to Far East. We shall miss his advice in the athletics field, where his enthusiasm and ability have led to the success of many of our athletics meetings—and we are desolate to think we must now consult Bradshaw to learn the timings for any train journey in the British Isles!

OFFICER TRAINING WING, SCHOOL OF SIGNALS

November weather has done nothing to deter the Unit Rugger team from further success as the season progresses. We have lost only two out of the ten matches played, and as more stalwarts arrive from Mons O.C.S. we hope to continue this performance.

Considerable success has also been achieved by the Basketball team under Second-Lieutenant Gerry Smith and Capt. Mike Allen. Their enthusiasm and the expert instruction of C.S.M.I. Cameron resulted in our reaching the final of the District League, and beating 24 Independent Infantry Brigade, Barnard Castle, by 23 points to 17.

There has been no commissioning parade this month, but on December 6th we welcome Brigadier R. G. Yolland, O.B.E.,

Commandant, School of Signals, who will take the salute at the Commissioning Parade of 359 Course. We trust that the weather, which has been bright and invigorating lat ly, though cold, will last until then.

This month we say good-bye to Major Tom Richards and Captain Paddy Evans. Major Richards, who has commanded O.T. Squadron for two years, is leaving us to join the staff of W.O.S.B., and we hope the experience he has gained in the Wing will be of value to him there. Captain Evans, who has been an instructor and course officer in O.T. Squadron, and for the past year Adjutant of the Wing, is leaving for the Staff College, Camberley; we wish them and their wives the very best of good fortune and every success. We welcome Major and Mrs. J. W. Elston, who have joined us from Germany, and trust their stay in Officer Training Wing will be a pleasant one.

SIGNAL TRAINING WING, ARMY APPRENTICES SCHOOL

There is very little of general interest to report this month. A festive feeling is in the air and the A/Ts are beginning to get "leave-happy"; quite an effort is required on the instructors' part in order to keep the boys' minds on work. Even our usual bi-weekly visits from Headmasters, Y.E.O.s and so on seem to have come to a temporary halt. Everyone, I suppose, has his mind on Christmas.

Preliminary examinations for City and Guilds Certificates are being held and we anticipate a fairly large number of entries for the examinations to be held early next year. Evening classes are in full swing and it is to be hoped that leave will not interfere overmuch with the boys' studies.

Due to the time lag between the writing and the publishing of WIRE notes one is apt to overlook the various arrivals and departures, so may I say here that during the past few months we have been joined by Sergeants' Earley, Bennett and Agatsiotis from Eastern Command, Loughborough and B.A.O.R. respectively. Also by Sergeant Lee from B.A.O.R and Sergeant Hawkes from O.T.W., Catterick. Signalman Reilly as Draughtsman from Catterick joined us at the same time. We trust that their stay here will be a happy one.

Sergeant Murray returned to the fold this month after a successful upgrading course at Catterick when he classified as Class I. Sgt. Hawkes leaves with the same object in view just prior to leave.

Mr. Eastwood has deserted the Tg. Ops. and joined the "Boffins" after being accepted by a board held here recently. We offer our congratulations.

Staff Sergeant Strange wishes it to be known that he has now completed 22 years with the colours and is open to consider any lucrative directorship which may be offered.

U.K. COMCAN SIGNAL REGIMENT

R.H.Q. and 1 Squadron. Both Robinswood Barracks and No. 1 Signal Centre have been hives of industry during the past month, and much polishing of boots and floors, and cutting of hair and grass, has eventually seen the Unit through the Annual Administrative Inspection with, we hope, credit.

In the sporting sphere, the Squadron Boxing team met Headquarters Company, 5th Training Battalion, Royal Army Service Corps, in the finals of the South Western District Inter Unit Novices Boxing Championships, at Taunton, on the 7th of November. Although the Service Corps team proved to be the stronger, we feel that our team are to be congratulated on putting up a very fine spirited performance.

We would like to congratulate Sergeant Mackay on promotion to his present rank, and also Corporal Coventry and Signalman Stainer on their recent marriages.

The highlight of entertainment in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess during the month, was a "come as you like" dance. It was perhaps fortunate, for a number of Mess members, that a coach was provided to bring in members from the outlying districts of Gloucester, otherwise it is certain that some of the more disreputably dressed characters would never have reached the Mess. The majority of the costumes were very good indeed, prizes for the best costumes being awarded to Mrs. J. Farley, the R.S.M.'s wife, and W.O.I F. Iveson, the Foreman of Signals. The property member had many an anxious moment during the course of the evening, due to a very convincing portrayal of a Cave-man by W.O.II J. N. Clark, nevertheless the evening proved to be a great success.



Presentation of L.S. and G.C. Medal by Major-General L. de M. Thuillier, O.B.E., A.D.C., to W.O.II M. A. Knowles

3 Squadron. Variety, they say, is the spice of life, and we certainly get our share in this Squadron.

During recent "Aerial Tower" erection a certain amount of deep digging was entailed for the bases. As the spades flashed in and out so did a few odd items of bric-a-brac. To our Radio Mechanic, Staff Sergeant Evans by name, this was another outlet for his always inquisitive nature. He was convinced they were Roman relics. Mustering the assistance of F. of S. Wilkinson, Signalman Gray and Davis, the COMCAN Archeological Society was born. Sports afternoon for them meant more digging and, of course, more finds. A Lineman was persuaded to climb one of the 105ft. masts and take aerial photographs. This, apparently, is the approved method, the only snag being we have no one experienced in reading aerial photographs. A trip was arranged to nearby Oxford and the finds were shown to Mr. Case, the Curator of the famous "Ashmoleum." It was definitely established as a result of the visit that Julius Caesar had a Line detachment at Bampton. Before leaving the "Ashmoleum," the Society members were talked into purchasing a booklet (1/9) entitled "Archaeology"—Digging Technique. This has been read by the T.O. and some useful digging tips have been passed on to the Line Troop. There is no truth in the statement made by one of our G.D. types that the boots he was recently issued with were dug up by the Archaeologists. S.S.M. O'Connor is convinced that his back garden is loaded with "specimens" and the Society have been invited to dig it over next week.

Our newly formed Saddle Club had its first outing this month and should prove a popular Squadron amenity. What with canoes and horses this place gets more like an Indian settlement every day.

The "Bonfire" organised for families and local children, etc., proved a huge success and will no doubt be an annual affair. Cocoa and hot potatoes were served at the fireside—most enjoyable. The Guy Fawkes closely resembled a well-known member of the Squadron.

A contingent from the Squadron paraded on Armistice Sunday and a wreath was laid by the O.C., Major R. H. Petty, T.D. The Last Post was sounded by Buglers of the Ox and Bucks Light Infantry, by permission of the Officer Commanding.

All in all, November has been quite a month in sleepy old Bampton.

4 Squadron. Now that winter has descended upon us we have settled down to a fairly quiet life at Cobbett Hill.

The Armistice Day Parade, when 4 Squadron joined with The British Legion and representatives of the local Scouts and Guides, was very impressive. The parade was headed by Pipers of the Scots Guards, the service being held at Wyke Parish Church.

Another duty which we were called upon to perform during the past month was to provide Bearer and Firing Party at the funeral at Bordon of Signalman Miller, of 1 Training Regiment, Royal Signals.

We welcome Sergeant Bulman to the Squadron.

3 INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT

It is with sighs of relief that we submit this month's notes, having just finished with our Annual Administrative Inspection. The hard work and long hours spent in preparation were suitably rewarded with a 72-hour pass for the whole Regiment.

Following on the gale disasters of last month, we lost a sizeable portion of the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Club when a fire broke out in the bar one night. The incident had a disastrous effect on the senior ranks' morale, no doubt their long faces were the result of "Hot beer and burnt tobacco." However, within 24 hours a fresh supply of stimulants, etc., had everything back to normal. As a precautionary measure the designs for the redecoration include many hooks on the rafters to hold fancy looking fire buckets; the bar itself to be a large aquarium of plate glass.

Hockey, Rugby and football is flourishing, as usual, with an equal number of wins and defeats—the hockey players often being called on to play for the Colchester Old Boys and Garrison teams. The highlight of this month's sports was a football match between the Sergeants and "Oscar" Troop. On this occasion the Sergeants blame old age and extra weight for their crushing defeat of 9-0.

Much to the Messing Officers' delight the Cookhouse has just had a face lift. All the floors have been tiled and many wondrous gadgets installed. Of late the Cook Sergeant has done nothing but purr with pleasure and gloat over his modern machinery. Apparently the new hot water dispenser is large enough to boil even his big head and it is possible to cut and toast 40 slices of bread in three minutes.

The classical element in the town have had two successes of recent date, namely the Operatic Society's performance of the "White Horse Inn" and the Choral Group's rendering of Handel's "Messiah," both performances were up to the normal high standard and very well received by the critics and general public.

At a recent meeting of the Town Council a closely guarded secret was made public when an official of the museum disclosed that a large number of the exhibits in the museum were in actual fact fakes, the originals being stored in a place of safety. It is interesting to note that the 12th century castle museum, where the fakes are on display, has walls over 20ft. thick.

The civil police now have a team of frog men to assist in their eternal struggle against crime. They mainly dive in the local rivers and estuaries in search of safes and other items normally discarded after a robbery has taken place. Another useful project the police have in mind is a mobile police station for use at race meetings and carnivals and perhaps scenes of crimes or disasters, etc. The mobile station would probably be on the same lines as our Mobile Signal Centre, complete with teleprinters.

EASTERN COMMAND SIGNAL SQUADRON

In our country seat out here in Crowborough the greens of summer have turned to the browns and gold of autumn. The camp area is carpeted with its film of fallen leaves. This presents the usual seasonal problem of having to sweep them up.

The advent of autumn has also seen the last of a series of Exercises in which Wireless Troop have been involved. The last was up in Norfolk, giving assistance to our old friends the Middlesex Yeomanry, who were involved with 44th Independent Parachute Brigade, in an Exercise called "Footslog." This Exercise proved to be most interesting from the Army point of view, particularly as it was an aircrew survival Exercise covering the whole of Norfolk. Some 300 aircrew were distributed at points throughout Norfolk and in approximately 36 hours had to travel, penniless and on foot, dressed in distinctive aircrew clothing, a distance of some 30 miles to rendezvous from which they would be collected. 44th Independent Parachute Brigade, whom we were helping, was the enemy, to these aircrew and it was most instructive to see the plans and ruses adopted by the Brigade Commander, Brigadier Young, and no less interesting to see those of the aircrew to avoid capture. The Brigade succeeded in capturing about half of the aircrew involved. Apart from this, the visit to Norfolk enabled many in the Troop to see some things which they had all heard about, but never seen—the Royal Family's house at Sandringham, Norwich Cathedral and in the case of O.C. Troop and the Troop Sergeant, Sergeant Topen, the station sick quarters at R.A.F., Horsham St. Faith.

Soccer is well under way in the Squadron now. A league game played against a Field Survey Engineer Squadron from Fenhurst resulted in a 6-4 win for us. Played in revolting weather, the standard of play was good and a most entertaining afternoon was enjoyed by the spectators. Special mention must be made of Signalman White, in goal, and Signalman Coburn, from the forward line.

Hockey has started too. Your scribe, at middle-age 31 years, finds himself one of the babies on the field. Both the games, which have been played up to now, have revealed talent in unexpected places and this season's team should prove very useful.

Congratulations to Signalman Spencer and Lance-Corporal Potter on their recent marriages and to Corporal and Mrs. Boothroyd on the birth of a son.

Careers and Opportunity

(*IMPORTANT: Anyone obtaining employment through answering advertisements in* THE WIRE *MUST notify the Employment Section, Royal Signals Association, 88, Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1. This is essential.*

Members are reminded that they can ensure prompt notification of any vacancies likely to suit them by registering with the Employment Section. Jobs advertised in THE WIRE *are only a small proportion of those received*).

HOLLERITH — leading British company in the field of electro-mechanical accounting machines and electronic computers, requires Assistant Engineers, Prototype Wiremen and Technical Assistants. Good electrical craft background essential; specialised training given at the Company's Training Schools. Vacancies in Letchworth and Stevenage, Herts, and at Castlereagh, Northern Ireland. Excellent working conditions, well-paid pensionable posts, promotion on merit. The work provides wide experience in up-to-date technical developments and offers an interesting and rewarding career in an expanding industry. Applications invited from ex-Foremen of Signals and Technicians. For further details write, stating experience and interests, to Lieutenant-Colonel L. S. Stirling, Royal Signals (Retired), Training and Personnel Division, The British Tabulating Machine Co., Ltd., 17, Park Lane, London, W.1.

LONDON OFFICE MACHINES LTD., a company with branches in London, Southampton, Bristol, Norwich, Birmingham, Nottingham, Manchester, Leeds, Newcastle, Glasgow, Belfast and Dublin, is introducing a new type of inter-communication equipment for offices, factories, etc., called the CENTRUM and the CELAFON. Vacancies for Technical Representatives, aged not more than 39, to negotiate at Director level for installations, plan the required system and supervise installation of equipment. Salary normally starts at £500 per annum, increasing to £750 or £1,000 within the first year, according to abilities. Commission at the rate of 10% on the value of the installation. Pension scheme after one year's service. Apply by letter or telephone to Managing Director, London Office Machines Ltd., Terminal House, Grosvenor Gardens, London, S.W.1. (SLOane 1061; ask for Colonel Hopkinson).

Other advertisements about employment are on page 31 and on the front and back covers.

Terrace House Private Hotel

RICHMOND, YORKS. Tel. 2342

A very well-known hotel, established for twenty years, caters especially for military families awaiting quarters at Catterick Camp.

Excellent position, standing in 4½ acres of grounds, friendly atmosphere, excellent food, every comfort, facilities for washing and ironing, etc. At moderate terms.

Garages and parking spaces.

Proprietress: Mrs. A. Broadley.





[Photos: Public Relations, H.Q. B.A.O.R.

(Left) The Berlin Cable Bear. (Right) The Commanding Officer reads from the "Instrument of Transfer." On his right is Direktor Mühl

THE BERLIN CABLE BEAR

18 Army Group Signal Regiment give up their Mascot

A STONE figure of the Berlin Bear, man-high and weighing about a ton, has become well known as the regimental mascot of 18 Army Group Signal Regiment. On Thursday, 28th November, 1957, at a simple but impressive ceremony in their barracks at Essen, the regiment handed over "Bruno," as he is affectionately known to all ranks, to the German firm that originally owned him.

For centuries, the mascot of the city of Berlin has been a bear, and the Berlin Bear is famous throughout Germany. In 1935, the Deutsche Fernkabel Gesellschaft, a sister firm of the well-known cable manufacturing firm of Siemens Schuckertwerke AG, adopted as their mascot a figure of the Berlin Bear rolling a drum of heavy cable. This figure became known as the Berlin Cable Bear, and stood at the door of the firm's headquarters in the Rognitzstrasse, Berlin-Charlottenburg.

Although the building was in ruins, Bruno had fortunately escaped serious damage at the time, in 1945, when Brigadier H. R. Firth discovered him. Here was a trophy which should grace the Headquarters Mess at Catterick; and had it not been for a watchful embarkation staff officer at The Hook, whose suspicions were aroused by an enormous and weighty case of "security equipment," it probably would have done. However, if he could not go to Catterick he could at least join a regiment of the Corps in Germany, and so it was that Bruno was presented to H.Q. B.A.O.R. Signal Regiment, which was then stationed at Herford.

In the barracks at Herford was a large stone column, and the Berlin Cable Bear was set on top of it in place of the German Eagle which originally adorned it. From this vantage point it kept a steady and benevolent eye on the affairs of the regiment of which it was to become the oldest member. During her visit to the regiment in 1954, H.R.H. The Princess Margaret, in the company of the officers of the regiment, was photographed at the foot of the column, and since that time Bruno has lent his presence for similar purposes to more varied if less distinguished company.

In November, 1954, the regiment, now renamed 18 Army Group Signal Regiment, moved to Essen. Despite the pessimists who said that Bruno could not be moved, the regiment refused to abandon him, and after prodigious efforts he was triumphantly hoisted onto his column (also moved from Herford) in Meenee Barracks, Essen-Kray. It was here that he was one day seen by an engineer of Siemens who was visiting the regiment for some quite different purpose. Although it was not realised at the time, this was the beginning of the end; but almost two years were to pass before the regiment said "good-bye" to Bruno.

One cannot be with a regiment for many years without becoming a part of it, and Bruno had done just this. His figure is emblazoned on the sporting colours presented to members of regimental teams, and can be found on the regimental writing paper and Christmas cards. From the proceeds of a fund subscribed to by serving and past officers of the regiment, a replica in silver of Bruno on his column was commissioned from Garrards and is the centre-piece of the table at all Regimental Guest Nights. More recently, "L" Medium Radio Relay Troop, in recognition of the high standard of its services to the regiment, was awarded the privilege of exhibiting a small figure of a Bear in profile on its vehicles, and one frequently hears it referred to as the "Baby Bear Troop." In view of all this it is not surprising that the regiment, with the strong support of the then Chief Signal Officer, Major-General R. J. Moberly, fought hard to keep Bruno. But it was not to be.

All was not lost, however. With a typically German gesture, the Deutsche Fernkabel Gesellschaft promised to have an exact copy made of Bruno, which they would present to the regiment in exchange for the original. And it is fitting that the regiment should here record its gratitude both to General Moberly and to Dr. H. Borchardt of Siemens Schuckert-Werke AG for the agreement they reached which enabled the subsequent return of Bruno to be made with a grace and simple dignity which might otherwise have been lacking.

Herr Friedrich Mühl, Director of the Deutsche Fernkabel Gesellschaft, accompanied by the Chief Engineer and the Secretary of the firm, came to Essen to receive the Berlin Cable Bear.

Before the ceremony began, however, Bruno had to be transferred from his column to the platform of an open vehicle. Watched by groups of soldiers, families, workmen and a battery of Press photographers, this pre-requisite was accomplished with the aid of a large mobile crane. It was the only part of the proceedings that lacked dignity. What followed went with a precision which was the more remarkable in view of its novelty.

As Bruno was being lowered on to his vehicle, about fifty men from each of Nos. 1 and 2 Squadrons, under command of Captain R. K. Nice and Captain B. M. Ashcroft respectively, marched on with bayonets fixed and lined the hundred odd yards of roadway between the column and the main gate. These in place, the Escort to the Bear, in No. 1 Dress, took up position. The escort, commanded by Lieutenant H. G. Mackinlay, O.C. "L" (Baby Bear) Medium Radio Relay Troop, was composed of the following members of the regiment: W.O.I (R.S.M.) Boyton, A. C., W.O.II (S.S.M.) May, F. A., Staff Sergeant Walker, J. T., Sergeant Gwynne, J. L., Corporal Wright, L. H., Lance-Corporal Groom, M. J. and Signalman Wright, E. J. At this point the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel A. H. D. Llewellyn, accompanied by the Second-in-Command, Major D. M. Humphries, and the Assistant Adjutant, Second-Lieutenant B. I. Weston (Captain E. J. Hellier, the Adjutant, being in hospital) escorted his three German guests to the foot of the now empty column. After referring briefly to the purpose of the ceremony, the Commanding Officer read out the following text inscribed on a scroll:—

WHEREAS in the year nineteen hundred and forty-five it was deemed expedient to take the Berlin Cable Bear into military protection

AND WHEREAS by order of the Chief Signal Officer in BERLIN the Bear was given into the care of the Headquarters British Army of the Rhine Signal Regiment

BE IT KNOWN that the Berlin Cable Bear by his steadfast qualities and singleness of purpose has become a part of the tradition of the regiment in whose name these presents are subscribed

AND WHEREAS it is now deemed proper that the Cable Bear be returned to his city of BERLIN

BE IT NOW KNOWN by these presents that as a signification of the new spirit existing between the nations of Western Europe the Berlin Cable Bar is hereby given back into the care of the DEUTSCHE FERNKABEL GESELLSCHAFT,

AND BE IT FURTHER KNOWN that an exact replica of the Bear has been promised and will in due course be received by the Eighteenth Army Group Signal Regiment from the Deutsche Fernkabel Gesellschaft as a permanent trophy in appreciation of the honour in which the Berlin Cable Bear has been held.

GIVEN UNDER OUR HAND this twenty-eighth day of November in the year ninteen hundred and fifty-seven.

(Signed) A. H. D. LLEWELLYN, Lieutenant-Colonel, Officer Commanding.

(Signed) E. J. HELLIER, Captain, Adjutant.

Lieutenant-Colonel Llewellyn then handed the scroll to Herr Mühl to signify the giving up of possession of the Bear. After Herr Mühl had replied, the German and British national anthems were played. To the music of the Corps slow march, the Berlin Cable Bear and his escort moved to the main gate while the troops lining the route presented arms. After a brief halt, the escort turned inwards, and as they presented arms, two regimental trumpeters, Corporal Roberts and Driver Tungate, sounded Retreat. The vehicle carrying Bruno then moved slowly from between the escort out of the barracks to the music of "Alte Kameraden"; the escort sloped arms, turned outwards and marched off to the music of the Corps quick march. The ceremony was over.

The visitors were then entertained in the Officers' Mess. The silver model of the Bear was examined with much interest, and more pictures—both still and moving—were taken. Herr Mühl also gave an interview to the representative of the Westdeutsche Rundfunk, who had previously recorded the ceremony. It was quite apparent that both he and his colleagues were somewhat taken aback at the manner in which the regiment had taken farewell of Bruno, and they are very anxious to present the replica in due course with equal honours. In the early summer of 1958 the Deutsche Fernkabel Gesellschaft will return to Berlin from its temporary headquarters in Southern Germany, and it is certain that the regiment will then be given the opportunity of escorting Bruno to his final home.

Interest in the ceremony was surprising. The Ruhr Press carried full accounts and several photographs in its various papers, while the German radio broadcast comment and a recorded extract in its main news programmes during the evening. Later still an ITV broadcast during the following week included a film version of the proceedings.

(Left) Bruno and his Escort. (I/C Escort: Lieutenant H. G. Mackinley) [Photo: Public Relations, H.Q., B.A.O.R.

(Right) Bruno approaches the main gate. Escort: *Left*—W.O.II May, Sergeant Gwynne, Lance Corporal Groom. *Right*—Staff Sergeant Walker, Corporal Wright, Signalman Wright. *Front*—R,S.M. Boyton. *I.C.*—Lieutenant H. G. Mackinlay [Photo: Werner Schmidt

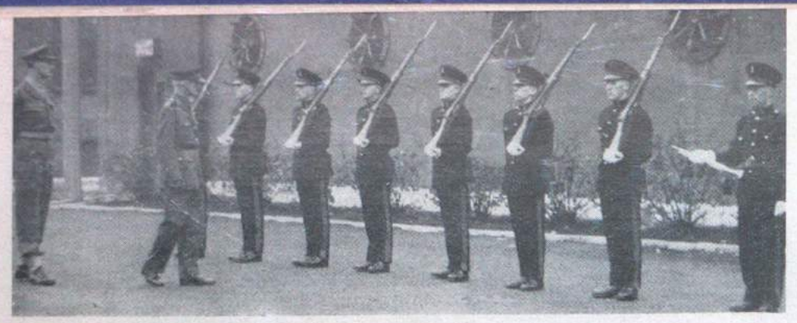






[Photo by: W.O.II Conlon

Left to right: Staff Sergeant Hodgekins, Major-General Scott, R.S.M. Boyton, Staff Sergeant Darke, Staff Sergeant McGahan, Staff Sergeant Underwood, Staff Sergeant Paton



18 Army Group Signal Regiment

THE QUARTER GUARD

Left to right : The Commanding Officer, Major-General Scott, (Corporal Wright behind), Signalmen Wright, Adams, Bunn, Kelly, Holban and Knight. Trumpeter, Driver Tungate

[All photographs by : W.O.II Conlon

Winter has started a little earlier this year: not that it is really cold yet, despite a drop in temperature of about twenty degrees in as many hours and, of course, the central heating in Germany does work. (Perhaps some day the writer will find out how it is that German radiators don't seem to need the small bleeder valves, to let the air out of the system, which are such essential components of their British counterparts). It is not the sort of cold, either, that one gets in Catterick, but mostly dry and bright; however, definitely not the weather to stand about in on the parade ground. Despite its sudden onset it did not catch us out, and we were able to complete two important events in reasonable comfort.

The visit of the Representative Colonel Commandant on Wednesday, 27th November, was a notable event, and if it pleased him as much as it did us, we shall be well content. General Scott, who was accompanied by the Chief Signal Officer, B.A.O.R., and an aide-de-camp, was met just outside the city boundary by Second-Lieutenant B. I. Weston in charge of a vehicle escort of two stripped Champs. The three military vehicles, preceded by two Essen traffic policemen in a fast open car, and a police motor-cycle outrider, then followed a route to the barracks which took them through the heart of the city. (During a rehearsal of this run, a time of twenty-five minutes was agreed with the police as reasonable. On the day, assisted by a flashing violet light and a destroyer-like siren, the distance was covered in fifteen minutes!)

On his arrival at the barracks the Colonel Commandant was welcomed by the Commanding Officer and then inspected the Quarter Guard. The "General Salute" was sounded by Driver Tungate. Meanwhile, on the parade ground, with the Band of the 1st Battalion The Queen's Regiment in attendance, three parade squadrons formed from 1 and 2 Squadrons of the Regiment, were waiting under the command of Major D. M. Humphries to receive General Scott. The "General Salute" was again sounded, but this time with the grandeur of a full military band, and after the parade had been reported to him, the General was pleased to inspect it. Staff Sergeants Paton and McGahan acted as guides, and escorted General Scott on his inspection. They are to be congratulated on their fine bearing and steadiness throughout the parade.

The parade next marched past by Squadrons, and after returning to the inspection line, advanced in review order. This simple, effective, yet so often raggedly executed manoeuvre, was carried out with creditable precision. After taking leave of the Representative Colonel Commandant with a final "General Salute," the parade marched past in column of route. It was a joy to see the Band march past, and the Regiment is greatly indebted to Lieutenant-Colonel D. L. Lloyd-Owen, D.S.O., O.B.E., M.C., Queens Regiment, for their presence

After signing the visitors' book at Regimental Headquarters, and taking coffee, General Scott, accompanied by General Bastyan, visited the Regimental Chapel where he met the Padre. Visits were then made to detachments representing the major aspects of the regiment's role. We have some very fine equipment and are always pleased to demonstrate it to those who come to visit us. We took a particular pride, therefore, in showing it to someone who has, without doubt, a wider knowledge of military equipment in all its aspects than any other officer of the Corps.

The social side of the Representative Colonel Commandant's visit came to the fore when he met members of the Sergeants' Mess. During a very pleasant half-hour, R.S.M. Boyton introduced all the members present to General Scott, and there were the searchings of memory and recalling of past associations which always characterise such events.

Before lunching with the officers of the regiment, General Scott allowed himself to be photographed with them. Thanks to good staff work the ordeal was very rapidly over, and the General remarked that it was the most painless photographing he had ever experienced. As a change from the usual trickle of small groups of officers through the dining room, it was pleasant to take a more formal and leisurely lunch. This really marked the end of the Colonel Commandant's visit. The same escort that met him was drawn up outside the Officers' Mess, and it accompanied him to the Autobahn where it took leave of him. The return route followed the River Ruhr for part of its length and was, we understand, covered at a comparatively sedate speed.





19 ARMY GROUP SIGNAL REGIMENT

By the time these notes are published, the Christmas season will be in full swing (if not already a thing of the past, but unforgettable memories), being appreciated if not in the "spirit metaphorical" at least in the "spirit(s) literal" by all those either in Barracks or in Quarters. As a prelude, harassed Committees are daily meeting to organise all those celebrations which are synonomous with this festive period. Sergeant Collett, our worthy cook, has already "laid on" Christmas cakes and puddings, although we understand that we have some light-fingered gentlemen who are particularly partial to the former.

Passing to mention of some of our sporting activities, first and foremost come our heartiest congratulations to Sergeant Martin (R.A.E.C.) who followed up his successes in the B.A.O.R. Swimming Championships by winning the 100 yards Butterfly and 100 yards breaststroke in the Army Championships, the 100 yards Butterfly in the Inter Services Championships, and chosen to swim for the Combined Services team against the Amateur Swimming Association, came 2nd in the 200 yards Butterfly. In his short stay with our Regiment, he has in no small way helped to put our name high on the list of honours.

At Soccer we were defeated by 7 goals to 3 in the 1st Round of the Army Cup by the Coldstream Guards. It was a hard struggle, with 19 Army Group Signal Regiment opening the scoring and the Guards Battalion leading by the odd goal at half-time. However, their undoubtedly superior fitness, or was it the really audible presence of their R.S.M., proved too great an obstacle and the last 25 minutes of the second half saw them net three goals without reply by our team. On an ideal day for football with a strong, though wintry sun, and turf in first class condition, we were disappointingly defeated by 2 Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment by the only goal of the match. Our team never appeared to get going to show the promise revealed in previous games where, in the League, we tie third, having played eight, won six, drawn one, lost one. Goals for 46, goals against 24. Our most prolific scorer to date is Signalman Quinn, who is far away in the lead with 22 of the goals scored.

Drawn at home in the 1st round of the B.A.O.R. Rugger Cup, we had a marathon game against 1 Wireless Regiment. Leading 11 points to nil at half-time, we looked set for victory, but our opponents kept up unrelentless pressure to score the necessary points to draw level. Extra time produced no further scoring and our hopes were high for success in the replay on 1 Wireless Regiment's ground. Unfortunately, these were dashed when we were beaten 12 points to 3, although our line was never crossed. We are happy to relate that, after victory over 2 L. of C. Signal Regiment, we are still in the Signals Cup. Among players who deserve special mention are Sergeant Martin (R.A.E.C.), Lance-Corporals Baker and Horsepool and Signalman Healey.

On the brighter sides to our prowess in sport, our interests in the Signals Hockey Cup were kept very much alive when we defeated 12 Air Formation Signal Regiment by 3 goals to 1 in the 1st round of the series. It was a hard won victory, despite thick fog which often threatened to obscure the pitch and was very disconcerting to the supporters of the Regiment as well as the players. In the first round of the Army Cup we started well by beating 18 Army Group Signal Regiment by 2 goals to 1.

On 22nd November we fought 2 L. of C. Signals Regiment in the semi-final of the District Boxing Championships. After some very hard and strongly contested bouts, of which the best fight of the night was undoubtedly that in which Signalman Matthews narrowly out-pointed the 2 L. of C. southpaw, Sergeant Stanger we ran out winners by seven fights to four. Well supported by all ranks from the Regiment, the evening undoubtedly provided much topic for discussion whether it be in Mess or NAAFI Club.

In closing our notes, our best wishes go to all those old members of the Regiment who have departed for other climes, and to their replacements may we extend a hearty and cordial welcome.

W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess. After a quiet two months of saving we have again resumed activities, which might be termed a general warm up for Christmas. Here, knowing these notes will be read in January, may we hope that all members of the Corps who have served in the Regiment had a merry and joyful Christmas and are now set for a prosperous New Year.

On Thursday, 7th November, 1957, a Regimental Mess Dinner was held at Rheindahlen for both Rheindahlen and St. Tonis Messes. This was our first joint Mess Dinner, and although the R.S.M. was called upon at times to referee between the sharp and blunt ends of the Regiment, both ends had an enjoyable evening.



[Photo: Public Relations H.Q. Northern Army Group

CEREMONIAL STIRRING OF THE CHRISTMAS PUDDING

The Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel P. W. Lonnon, M.B.E., declares the Christmas Pudding well and truly launched, assisted by Major C. M. Mitchell, Captain D. C. Hibberd, R.S.M. J. Holdsworth, S.S.M. Ingham, S.S.M. Richards, Sergeant Little, W.R.A.C., Staff Sergeant Donovan and Sergeant Collett, A.C.C.

We were hosts to the Warrant Officers and Sergeants of 2 L. of C. Signal Regiment on the evening of Friday, 22nd November, 1957, when our respective Regimental Boxing teams met in the District Championships. As the winners we were jovial hosts and as a strong party from 1 Wireless Regiment had also come over to watch the boxing the conversation quickly turned to "Now, when did I meet you before?"

S.S.M. Alexander and Sergeant Crosse have left our strength in the past month, both very shortly to enjoy the leisurely life of civilian street. We held an informal dance on Wednesday, 27th November, 1957, partly, as previously mentioned to warm up for Christmas, and partly to say farewell to S.S.M. Alexander who, having served three years to the day with the Regiment, was quite an authority on its old traditions and customs.

Over the festive period we have again invited two members of the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, to join us. They are Colour Sergeant G. H. King, D.C.M., and Corporal T. Lannigan, both ex-members of the Corps. The Corps must be aging to have ex Members as pensioners at Chelsea!

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STEEPLE BUMSTEAD SIGNAL SQUADRON

Feverish activity accompanies the preparations for Christmas —our GD man has 'flu. Actually it will be the usual quiet holiday within the Squadron with most of the Unit on block leave. The O.C. can be seen most nights with a wet towel round his forehead trying to decide whether Saturday, 28th December, is to be a "normal working day." We await the result with interest.

Our appalling education results have prompted District to send us another Education Sergeant Instructor. All potential Mess Caterers were seen buying drinks for the new arrival on his first night in the Mess. However, from the Education point of view we are most fortunate—his qualifications are G.C.E. (Woodwork) (Ordinary Level) and Duke of York's Royal Military School Entrance Examination.

There have been no sporting fixtures this month.

Our Cook N.C.O., not to be outdone by Woolwich, produced a week's menu second to none—unfortunately the Imprest Account is now in debt to the tune of £14/10/7, which means "compo" for three weeks!

We offer our congratulations to W.O.II and Mrs. Peabody on the birth of their son. Their loyalty in christening him James Mercury is much to be admired.

We have finally obtained War Office sanction to redesignate our Barracks and an official ceremony took place on 4th December. The Watch Committee and all the villagers were invited and helped to make it all a huge success. The clicking of cameras almost drowned the address given by our guest of honour as she described the history of the Squadron and urged us to live up to our past traditions. Then, with a somewhat unusual and attractive flourish our new title was revealed—*Sabrina Barracks.*

11 Air Formation Signal Regiment



Front Row (left to right) :—Staff Sergeant J. Culmer, W.O. II (F. of S.) R. Casson, B.E.M., W.O. II (S.S.M.) A. Shreeve, W.O. I (R.S.M.) B. McDonald, Lieutenant Colonel K. A. Nash, W.O. II (R.Q.M.S.) J. McKenna, W.O. II (S.S.M.) A. Dodsworth, W.O. II (A.S.M.) P. Eldridge (R.E.M.E.), Staff Sergeant P. Ahern.
Second Row :—Staff Sergeant J. Smith, Staff Sergeant C. Williams, Staff Sergeant G. Hall, Staff Sergeant A. Mead, Staff Sergeant J. Blain, Staff Sergeant J. Conlon, Staff Sergeant N. Dingle, Staff Sergeant P. Gale, Staff Sergeant J. Allison.
Third Row :—Sergeant J. Tait, Sergeant P. De-la-Haye, Sergeant P. Jackson, Sergeant C. Baglietto, Sergeant H. Shevlin, Sergeant R. Ashurst, Sergeant L. Price, Sergeant T. Dolan, Sergeant H. Dodsworth, Sergeant C. Harding, Sergeant L. Stoneham.
Rear Row :—Sergeant R. Haden (R.E.M.E.), Sergeant W. Reeves, Sergeant G. Rosson, Sergeant A. Thomas, Sergeant W. Bailey (R.A.E.C.), Sergeant F. Holmonroyd, Sergeant B. Karran (R.A.P.C.), Sergeant R. Hammond, Sergeant V. Haywood, Sergeant M. Bryant (R.A.E.C.), Sergeant A. Riley, Sergeant G. Pressagh, Sergeant G. Christie.

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"Oh, Hugh," said our cartoonist the other day, "my fund of funny faces has temporarily run dry, so be a good chap and knock up some WIRE notes." Having scratched my head for a couple of days I found myself still looking at a blank sheet of paper this morning. There is no use beating about the bush, this writer has no literary ability, and is quite incapable of describing such an unlikely event as himself leading an expedition to "Hermann's Denkmal" or any other similar land mark.

"Try not to make it too parochial." Well, that's as may be, but the fact remains that two stalwarts of our Corporals' Mess braved the Lion's Den to ask for more news of the parish. (A baby parochial). So here goes on the "Sports Round Up."

Although cricket may seem a little out of season at this time of the year we have just been told that we finished equal top of the Bielefeld Cricket League, thanks in no small way to our opening bats, W.O.I Stocking (L.A.D.), and Corporal Huffer. As for bowlers—well, the C.O. kept on tweaking a few out every game, assisted by Lance-Corporal Smallwood and sundry others.

This same Lance-Corporal Smallwood is now leading goal-scorer in our combined 1 Squadron and R.H.Q. football team, which is well placed in the Bielefeld Minor Unit League.

After a freezing jeep ride two members of the Sergeants' Mess helped the Regimental Hockey team to win 2-0 our 1st round Morrison Cup-tie versus 4 Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment. R.S.M. McDonald put many a younger man to shame in this game by his display on the right wing, whereas his partner in crime, the Adjutant, was heard feebly to cry "Pax" at half-time. Unfortunately in the 2nd round versus 1 Corps Signal Regiment we came unstuck to the tune of 7-0 against a very fine team.

Our Boxing team was beaten 19-13 by 1 R.H.A. at Munster, but the team fought very well, and our novices gained a lot of useful experience. Especial mention should be made of Lance-Corporal Melhuish and Signalman Smith for the business-like way in which they disposed of their opponents, and also of the team captain, Sergeant Holland, who rounded off the evening by knocking out the 1 R.H.A. first string Light Welterweight in the second round.

We are now training for our match versus 7 Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment which is due to take place shortly.

This year we have managed to re-start the Rugby team, or perhaps revive would better describe the event. We started the season off with a "Friendly" versus 12 A.F. Signal Regiment in which, after a good game, we were beaten 12-3. Since then we have beaten R.A.F., Buckeburg, and in turn been beaten 27-3 by the T.T.S. R.E.M.E. in the 1st round of B.A.O.R. Rugby Cup.

We were also beaten in the Morrison Cup by 2 Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment after a most exciting game. The score at half-time was 6-3 in our favour, but in the second half the home team made two breakaways to make the final score 14-6.

To round off sport we must warn the other Air Formation Signal Regiments in B.A.O.R. that our marksmen are preparing a weighty document which they hope will prove once and for all who are the best "Line Shooters" in B.A.O.R. Rumour has it that a challenge is to be issued.

In a more serious view it must be reported that the Q.M. had the whole Regiment on tenterhooks the other week when he thought that the elusive Pools 24 points were his. However, through bad luck this was not so and we are still waiting for an opportunity to christen his winnings.

His redoubtable helper, R.Q.M.S. McKenna, celebrated the birth of his fifth child, a girl, by a win on TOTO, the local version of the pools.

Let us finish with what we think is the perfect squelch; reported by that doyen of storytellers, Major E. Jordan, to be true.

The R.S.M. of a certain unit was instructed by his C.O. to put a stop to Wednesday afternoon idling, and so accordingly went round every barrack room in an endeavour to catch these skulkers. He found nobody until he came to the last barrack room, where he found one man busy cleaning a rifle.

"What are you doing that for?" roared the R.S.M.

"A bob—it is not mine," replied the soldier. It is said that the R.S.M. retired in as good order as he could muster!

"Positively the last"; heard on a D. and D. course.

Question: What duties does the Line Carrier Troop perform?
Answer: It carries the line, Sir, to the Equipment Troop.
— Curtain.

1 WIRELESS REGIMENT



R.S.M. J. Wilderspin, B.E.M., introducing Major-General Scott to the Warrant Officers of the Regiment

The Regiment has settled down to its winter games in good style and we have managed to weld together our Soccer, Rugby, Hockey and Cross Country Running teams in spite of some unexpected setbacks earlier in the season. The Rugby XV reached the final of the Rhine District Competition by beating 19 Army Group Signal Regiment, 12 Air Formation Signal Regiment and Army Troops Coln, R.A.S.C.; we lost in the final against H.Q., B.A.O.R. The Rugby team also won in the first round of the Royal Signals Competition against 12 Air Formation Signal Regiment. The Soccer team has reached the third round of the Army Cup Competition having beaten 1 Essex, 12 Air Formation Signal Regiment and 17 Vehicle Battalion in the preliminary, first and second rounds, a commentary on the latter game being broadcast on BFN. The .22 Shooting team has been getting down to a fair amount of practice and had fired off several competition shoots in the Rhine District League. .22 Shooting is also now an activity of the Wives' Club and we hope to produce a competition side in the future.

The Theatre Club has re-opened with an excellent performance of "The White Sheep of the Family." The outstanding feature of this new look is the stage and its fittings. Built entirely in their spare time by the members of the club, it is a very creditable effort and will help more than anything else to maintain interest in this enjoyable pastime. The next performance will be a pantomime based on "Aladdin."

On the 28th November we were visited by the Representative Colonel Commandant, Royal Signals, and the C.S.O., B.A.O.R. The latter half of the morning was spent in a tour of the barracks.

BERLIN SIGNAL SQUADRON

Berlin Signal Squadron flourishes in its somewhat unique position. Looking east, we are told, the nearest non-Communist territory is South Korea, 4,500 miles away. The Helmstedt Check Point is 110 miles to the west of us. The centre forwards seems to have left the rest of the forward line rather far behind.

Following the example of Berlin Independent Brigade—whose Battalions are changing over as we write—the Squadron has had many recent changes, which may be seen in the Arrivals—Departures column. In particular, we wish to mention S.S.M. Sinclair, who has decided that soldiering is only a preliminary to his active life and has retired after 26 years' service. The Corps has been well served by him.

Readers who know Mr. Betts, the head of Telecommunications Liaison Group, our good friends and allies in Berlin, may not know that he has been seriously ill. We, of the Squadron—and no doubt his many other friends—wish him a complete and speedy recovery.

There is always something going on in Berlin outside military activities. An international building exhibition, Manchester United on tour, a conference of the World Veterans' Federation. A leading figure in the last-named turned out to be a certain Brigadier Firth—whom we were very glad to welcome. Most recently, we have had a fleeting visit (some 43 minutes) from our Representative Colonel Commandant, Major-General Scott, which was much appreciated within his very compressed programme in Berlin.

Within the Squadron we are busy on our winter training, with one eye firmly fixed on the Administrative Inspection (do other Units have them too?) in January. We have not recently excelled in sport, but we have definite ambitions in several spheres, including the Brigade Marching and Shooting Competition; we hope to be boasting about it in the April or May issue of THE WIRE.

W.O.II Pendock is reliably reported to have got married on his U.K. leave; Corporal and Mrs. Styles have loyally met a Squadron manpower deficiency with the birth of a son.

We welcome visitors from "the Zone" (or from South Korea for that matter). Small parties from Royal Signals Units can normally be looked after and be given an interesting time at small expense.

CORPS PAINT TRANSFERS

	20" x 15"	10" x 7½"	7½" x 5¾"	3 1/10" x 2 2/5"
"Jimmy" on background of Corps Colours (each)	4/–	3/–	2/8	1/6
Ditto Mounted on black plastic (each)	8/6	4/9	4/–	–

Available from Association Headquarters



Aerial view of the South Parking Area adjacent to the Pentagon (Department of Defense) Washington, D.C.

SHAPE SIGNAL SQUADRON

Temporary Duty to Washington, by Staff Sergeant L. E. Trevithick

"Tape Relay working is sometimes described as a message handling system which reduces manual effort to the minimum. We, in the Royal Signals and indeed, in all British Fighting Services, adopted tape transmissions and the tape relay methods at a later date than the U.S. Services. The following description of a liaison visit of a member of the SHAPE Communication Centre to U.S. Communication Centres will be of interest to those members of the Corps who are versed in tape lore."

After Brigadier Cole's (D.C.S.O., SHAPE) endorsement and Captain Rooney's staff work I left Paris en route for Washington on the "Blue Special" (U.S. Army and Air Force MATS Constellation) to visit the primary relay stations in Washington and Andrews Air Force Base. After a brief halt at Larges Air Force Base, Azores, I arrived in Washington at 0930 hours on the 20th October. Customs and emigration formalities were virtually pushed aside, and I found myself on my way in a V.I.P. car to Fort Myer, escorted by Master Sergeant Hogan, U.S. Army Signal Corps, who was my assigned companion for the five days of my stay in Washington.

Having been shown my quarters I was whisked off to the Pentagon, the largest building in the world and housing some 32,000 workers. Within its labyrinth of corridors, thousands of visitors and occupants have lost themselves. The story is still told of the Second-Lieutenant who got lost in the Pentagon in 1949, who, when he eventually found his way out in 1955, walked out as a two star general. This vast five-sided, five-storied building has a complete shopping centre on the basement floor which together with the Post Office, Banks, Ticket Agencies and Information Desk is called the Concourse.

My itinerary commenced at 1100 hours on my first day, and to put it briefly, I visited such places as the Washington, Jefferson and Lincoln Memorials, Lee's House, Supreme High Court, White House, Senate House and other numerous places of interest, the most impressive of which was the changing of the guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington Cemetery. On returning to Fort Myer I was greeted with an invitation to "5 cent night" in the Top Three Graders' Club (Sergeants' Mess). Here I found I could have as much beer as I wished for 5 cents (7d.), and on top of this first pleasant surprise, I was further surprised and pleased to meet quite a few friends whom I had served with in SHAPE. Suffice it is to say that a good night was had by all.

My second day started with a visit to the U.S. Airforce primary relay station at Andrews Air Force Base some 20 miles out of Washington. This station employs fully automatic equipment, and is the answer to a Signalman's prayer, for aside from automatically routing tapes and feeding them into the correct outgoing circuits using elecontronic reader units, it also indicates visually the channel number of the next message, electronically rejects incorrectly processed message tapes, gives automatic bell signals for major garbles in tapes, and a bell singal when no traffic has been received for 20 minutes. It requires a supervisor and one operator to manage a bank of 20 circuits. After dinner

I was taken on a visit over New York by helicopter, then back to Washington and a visit to the WRC-TV studios in the Hotel Sheraton, which lasted all evening.

Wednesday, Thursday and Friday I spent in going through every phase of work in the U.S. Army primary relay station, including the terminal, maintenance and fascimile sections, system control, methods and results, framing school, conference facilities and the file section. The entire Comcentre is under the control of one duty officer, who together with his section N.C.O.s I.C. has 157 home and world wide circuits to maintain. Here, tape relay can be seen at its very best, where every operator knows not only his own job, but that of the next man. In this semi-automatic station there is a minimum of logging and a maximum endeavour to give the outstation a good tape. Requests for re-runs are handled immediately. "Send" tapes are destroyed every eight hours. Hard-copies are first photographed on micro-film and destroyed after seven days, thereby cutting filing space to a minimum.

As space for this article is limited, I have only been able to give the barest outline of my visit to Washington. However, I did gain valuable knowledge and experience from this visit, and I take this opportunity to thank all those who advised, assisted and conducted me on this enjoyable visit to Washington, D.C.

M E L F

H.M.S. MEON

No. 1 Headquarters Ship Signal Troop

One Officer, a Sergeant and a handful of Signalmen have the proud and unique distinction of belonging to the one such Unit in the world to serve at sea with the Royal Navy. Based in Malta, they are members of the ship's crew of *H.M.S. Meon* —Headquarters Ship to the Amphibious Warfare Squadron, R.N.

This small group of soldier-tradesmen, under command of Captain P. W. Hewitson, is responsible for ship-to-shore communications during landing operations. In recent months they have supported Units of 3rd Commando Brigade Royal Marines and elements of the Queen's Bays, 6th R.T.R. and 22nd Field Engineer Regiment, R.E., on amphibious exercises. Combined Service training has taken them to Libya, Italy, Sicily and Sardinia.

Tunisian Floods

In November *H.M.S. Meon* wore the Flag of Rear-Admiral Sir Charles E. Madden, Bart., C.B., when the Flag Officer, Malta, visited Tunisia for the unveiling of the Medjez-el-Bab Memorial.

Sergeant Gordon Douglas and five Signalmen accompanied Captain Hewitson on this memorable assignment, when heavy rain and floods brought about the postponement of this dedication ceremony.



[*Photo : Army Public Relations*

Sergeant Gordon Douglas has been a stalwart of the Troop for almost two years. He served as a submariner in the Royal Navy during the War and re-enlisted in the Royal Corps of Signals in 1950, to serve in Egypt and Cyprus, prior to his present appointment.

He served in *H.M.S. Meon* during the Port Said operations last winter and was on the N.A.T.O. Exercise "Combine I," held in the Mediterranean during the summer months.

2 WIRELESS REGIMENT

The month of October has centred round the Regiment's anniversary celebrations, Friday, 18th October, 1957, being the 34th birthday of the Regiment. We are proud of our long unbroken history which few other Units of the Corps can surpass and of our record as the Unit with the longest service in the Middle East.

The birthday began with a brief parade, at which the Commanding Officer read telegrams of congratulations from the Signal Officer-in-Chief, several of our previous Commanding Officers, and other Officers with past or present connections with the Regiment. At midday there was a special dinner in the cookhouses at which the Loyal Toast and a toast to all past members of 2 Wireless Regiment were drunk. The day finished with a cocktail party in the Officers' Mess, which was attended by the Chief Signal Officer, M.E.L.F., the Deputy District Commander and by many Signal Officers from all over Cyprus, as well as a large gathering from Famagusta Garrison.

Besides the actual birthday itself, the whole week was devoted to activities of all varieties.

The week started with a Sunday afternoon cricket match and tea party for the Officers and the members of the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess and their families. The Officers won by 21 runs, largely due to the lusty hitting by Major P. Harris and Captain J. Trotter and the accurate bowling of Mr. E. Procter.

On Tuesday the Smoking Concert in the NAAFI was a great success due to the efforts of Sergeant Cross as M.C. and to the contributions of Signalmen Grant and Cowley. The evening was rounded off by a rendering of "Blaydon Races" by R.S.M. Holmes. Rumour has it that he found his singing was the quickest method of clearing the NAAFI.

One of the highlights of the week was the Regimental Athletics Meeting on the Wednesday on our old ground by St. George's Camp. The times and distances obtained were very creditable for the rough track, with a brisk wind blowing. The Victor Ludorum was Corporal O'Hara, who won the 100 yards, 220 yards, 440 yards and was fourth in the long jump. Runner-up was Sergeant Stokes, who also set up a new Regimental record for the hammer throwing. Corporal Underwood, as has become his habit, won the three miles without difficulty. The veterans' race, which was notable for runners tumbling over



Major P. Harris winning the Veterans' Race with Mr. J. R. Simpson, ex-R. Signals R.S.M. lying second. Also visible Major J. Myddleton before his fall

in their enthusiasm, was won by Major P. Harris in fine style, with his length of service he had a good handicap.

After Mrs. Collyer had presented the prizes everyone watched the Beating the Retreat by the Drums and Band of the 1st Battalion Royal Leicestershire Regiment, a moving and impressive display as the sun set behind the distant mountains.

On Saturday, after a hard fought morning, in the six-a-side football competition on one of our self-help grounds on the aerial field, the team of Troop, 2 Squadron caked with dust and nearly unrecognisable after their exertions, lined up for their winners' prizes.

On Sunday the celebrations were wound up with a Church Parade at our Garrison Church (conveniently next to the Parade Ground), after which most of the Officers were soon found on the verandah of the Commanding Officer's house overlooking the sea at Famagusta beach, where there was an open invitation to relax with a tankard of beer and to review a notable week.

The month was wound up with celebrations of a different sort. On the last Saturday a small contingent from the Unit joined the Garrison farewell parade for Field-Marshal Sir John Harding, G.C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., on the gun park in Karaolos Camp. Shortly after the parade was drawn up the familiar sound of the Governor's helicopter could be heard; soon it circled over us and landed in a nearby space between the huts, raising a dust cloud that somewhat dulled the resplendent Guard of Honour. His Excellency made a short, moving speech at the end of the little ceremony, thanking all Units for the part they had played in the suppression of terrorism and emphasising the importance of co-operation between all arms and with the police and civil administration. Then three cheers and that was the last we were to see of him.

Two days later, on "Ochi Day," the EOKA organisation attempted a nation-wide demonstration. Steel helmets were the order of dress for some of us and dawn saw the "snakepit," our private detention camp for rioters, ready once more. However, we only got 11 customers, compared with the record of 602, which was convenient for football, and they departed by Army lorry that evening, when affairs were quiet again in high good humour, promising to be "back next year."

☆

A Knotty Problem

By Strep

A Brigade Signal Troop has always been regarded as a versatile sort of unit, and ours was no exception. We had the usual complement of linemen, operators, technicians and drivers, and the general range of equipment that is lavished upon such a Troop when it goes to war.

However, the versatility of the Troop did not lie entirely within its War Establishment, nor within its accepted and expected text-book duties. Oh yes, we rigged and operated the usual home-made lighting set, until there almost came a time when the Brigadier's caravan light was more important than the line to the left assault battalion. We also provided a news broadcast service, and that little bit of quad so essential to marking the route to the Commander's toilet. But all this is of nothing when compared with the fact that we had amongst our members, two fully-trained barbers. It may not be unusual to find one hairdresser in a Troop of 40 men, but to find two is extraordinary luck. So I thought at first!

Now, one of these barbers was an N.C.O. and the other was a driver. The N.C.O. was a very good N.C.O. and the driver was a very good driver but, alas, the latter was often in trouble through an excess of high spirits and a dislike of discipline. He was, however, the better barber.

The Brigade had been leading the advance and was about to spend 24 hours in reserve. The Brigade Headquarters was sited in a field adjoining a derelict schoolhouse on the left of the Brigade main axis. It was a fine day, the air was fresh and crisp, the sun was rising quickly and a general feeling of well-being prevailed; and who will deny that such a collection of circumstances would not naturally bring one to rub the back of the neck and say, "I think I'll have a haircut." Being a very normal and rational Highlander, such were the reactions of the Brigade Major, who looked at me as he said it, for, as Second-in-Command of the Signal Troop, I was obviously responsible for Brigade Majors' haircuts!

My memory has never been equal to the harassed life of a Signalman, and I am accustomed to carrying a mill-board on which to record the odd points which need to be remembered, but not necessarily committed to the permanent memory (such as the loop resistance of a mile of D8, and other fascinating pieces of information). Unfortunately, I made an error of judgement in thinking it wrong for Royal Signals to be seen carrying a mill-board during the war, and therefore had temporarily developed a habit, which my wife had taught me, of tying a knot in my handkerchief whenever there was some special point to remember. This I did regarding the Brigade Major's haircut.

As I finished my breakfast and left the Mess Tent, the O.C. rushed up to me and said that he would like me to go along with the line party, that was just leaving, to recce and rehabilitate a civil PL route. We had seen so little PL in the theatre that I leapt at the opportunity, and my enthusiasm carried me away without a thought for the knot in my handkerchief. That is, of course, one of the shortcomings of this method of memorising—it does depend on your having a cold (or your hands in your pockets)!

Off we jogged down the road, absorbed and contented in our work. So often, as I worked with the line parties, did I realise that they thought little of the esteem in which they were held by all who passed them on the road, they were far too busy enjoying the feeling of independence and satisfaction of working alone at a vital job.

Back at Brigade Headquarters the routine of a day in reserve proceeded apace. The "G" Staff enjoying their well-deserved rest, the "Q" Staff taking up their pens and looking up their load tables, whilst Signals battled to cope with the flood of traffic and demands for additional telephones that invariably appear whenever the Command Vehicles (and the Padre) remain stationary for more than a few hours. In addition, the routine of unit administration was being carried out.

We "linemen" had lunch well in mind as we hurried back after a most successful, but exhausting, morning's work. Driving into the Signals M.T. park, I jumped from the jeep and took out my handkerchief to mop my brow. Ah—the knot! "The B.M.'s haircut," I gasped, "whew, what luck, here comes Donaldson." Coming towards me from the "Operations" area was Donaldson, the driver/barber.

"Donaldson," I called, looking at my watch, "the Brigade Major wants a haircut, and you've just time to give him one before lunch."

"Very good, sir," he grinned, and changed his direction to pick up his equipment.

I made my way back to the Signal Centre to report to the O.C. on the morning's work and found him walking from the "Operations" area. He saw me unravelling my knot and said: "Something else successfully remembered?"

"Yes," I replied, "it really is infallible you know, I was wiping my brow, felt the knot, remembered the B.M.'s haircut, saw Donaldson and sent him off to complete the job."

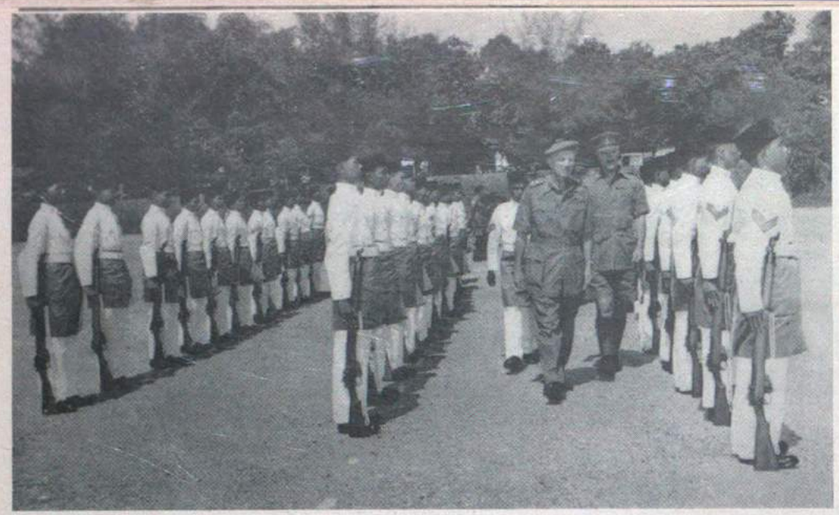
"He's gone to cut the B.M.'s hair now?" asked the O.C.

"Yes," I said proudly.

"That should be interesting," added the O.C., but before I could get more from him, he was called to the telephone by a distant lineman.

Ten minutes or so later, a rather closely-cropped Brigade Major appeared "steaming" towards my tent. Though not recorded in full, the gist of the subsequent conversation was:—

"Whilst I appreciate the rarity, and indeed the luxury, of a choice of barbers when on active service, the next time your O.C. brings up one of them to be punished by me, I would prefer that it is the other one who cuts my hair immediately afterwards!"



19 Air Formation Signal Regiment

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ANNUAL ADMINISTRATIVE INSPECTION

G.O.C. inspecting the Saluting Troop

We are aware that the Annual Administrative Inspection as an item of news is looked upon with disfavour by the majority of readers (and in this we personally agree because who wants to read of other people's woes?), but we thought that ex-members of the Regiment might like to know we underwent the annual ordeal on 8th November. We were inspected by Major-General R. G. Collingwood, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., and from the tenor of a note received by the Commanding Officer later we are in the clear for another year without having to hang our heads in shame. Come to think of it, it was not such an ordeal after all —in fact we quite enjoyed the holiday after the Inspection, a just reward for all the hard work by all concerned. Perhaps you would like to look at the photographs. We think them rather nice.

Financially, the Jumble Sale put on by the Ladies of the Regiment in aid of Wives' Club Funds was not quite as good as last year, a mere £118/8/4 being realised! The sale was held in Trinity Church Hall and the rush at the opening time was reminiscent of Christmas sales. We wonder just what happens to all the books, bundles of magazines and what not; as we have a strong suspicion that the same well thumbed and dog-eared items find their way through sale after sale—but what matters so long as the object, i.e. the getting of cash and lots of it, is achieved. The members of the Wives' Club merit congratulating on a very good effort because the actual jumble staff was a small part of the show—the new and manufactured items proving the industry and enthusiasm of the ladies responsible. One of our wives has felt the urge to express on this subject too, so here we are:

"Our annual sale of work was a great success, even if we do say so ourselves.

"It has been the result of months of hard work on the part of the ladies of the Regiment, under the very kind supervision of Mrs. Williams, our C.O.'s wife.

"Jumble had to be collected and polite but very firm requests to friends and neighbours produced an astonishing variety of objects. They ranged from discarded shoes and evening dresses to a parrot-perch and a dressmaking dummy aptly nick-named Lollobrigida.

"Expeditions were made to the local markets in search of glamorous material at low cost. This was made up into attractive children's clothes, ladies' skirts, aprons, etc. The toy department did a roaring trade in felt and knitted animals and sets of doll's clothes which were eagerly snatched as prospective Christmas presents.

"We also had a bran tub and a stall of secondhand magazines and books, where two small boys worked so hard they almost forgot to do their own shopping. The weight of the cake was successfully guessed and the lucky winners of the draw walked out in triumph, carrying a hair dryer, a bedside lamp with clock, a gilt compact, a bottle of whisky and a camera.

"A special word is deserved by the ladies who ran the refreshments stall. They provided a non-stop stream of cups of tea, soft drinks, cakes, etc. In spite of the crowd and tropical heat, they did it cheerfully and perfectly.

"We were sold out at the end, the local people proving very valuable customers. The ladies in charge of the jumble were heard persuading a kind looking Malay gentleman to buy 'in bundles'—the little that was left.

"The best word to be said in favour of the whole operation came from the ladies themselves while sitting down afterwards, sipping drinks to recuperate from their ordeal, they were already saying 'Do you know, I think for next year's sale . . .'"

Under the able direction of Major Bob Fisk we continue to make a not undistinguished showing on the hockey pitch, as at date we are top of the Station League and are in the semi-finals of the Major Units' District Championships. We have our misfortunes by the occasional injury, duty or leave interfering with the first team men but we cope quite well notwithstanding. As to rugger, we cannot claim any great victories on behalf of the Regimental fifteen, but what we lack in skill we make up for in enthusiasm, as since the arrival of Captain Tyson we have at least got a side, of which half the players until recently had not a clue about the game. It is merely to remark what a little enthusiasm and drive will achieve.

Doubtless we could have included the following item in the hatched, matched and despatched column, but we prefer to put it in our general notes when we report that Corporal D. V.

"The Cake Stall"



"The Rush"





ANNUAL ADMINISTRATIVE INSPECTION

G.O.C. Singapore Base District being greeted by the Station Commander and C.A.F.S.O.

Austin and L.A.C.W. Marjorie Lewis, W.R.A.F., were married at St. George's Church, Changi, on 21st September, 1957. The reception was later held at the Malcolm Club. Not to be outdone, Signalman Stoddart and Corporal Sheila Strickland, W.R.A.F., were married at the Cathedral of the Good Shepherd in Singapore on 16th November, 1957, their reception being held at the Britannia Club. We extend felicitations for their long life and all happiness from all members of the Regiment. Whilst on the subject of marriage, we reported that of Corporal Hawes and Miss Mavis Crabtree in the July copy of THE WIRE. We regret to say that due to a quite serious motor cycle accident Corporal Hawes was recently evacuated to U.K.; Mrs. Hawes also returned. It was a sad commencement to their married life, but we all hope Corporal Hawes will make a quick recovery and that our previously tendered good wishes become effective as quickly as possible.

On matters ecclesiastic it may be of interest to ex-Changietes to know we have a new C. of E. Church. What was the parachute store right next to the old St. George's Church was recently converted into quite an imposing building, perhaps not changed very much from the exterior point of view, but very well appointed inside. The dedication service of the new St. George the Martyr with St. Michael was held at 6.30 p.m. on 29th November, the Bishop of Singapore performing the actual dedication.

The Regiment added its quota to the occasion by a goodly attendance, in particular the Commanding Officer acting as a Churchwarden—so we can go down on record as having a distinct representation in the opening ceremony. A little sentimental, perhaps, but we felt proud to see the Corps badge, in plaque form, included amongst the R.A.F. Squadrons' crests on display on the walls.

It would be churlish not to wish everyone a Happy New Year for 1958, and as these notes will not really be seen until January we hope you have had a very merry Christmas.

MALAYA

Although these are first notes to appear from Malaya since the visit of Major-General W. A. Scott, C.B., C.B.E., in early April this year, Signals have been far from idle, for big changes, both political and military have occurred since then. As readers are aware, Malaya became a fully independent country on the 31st August, 1957, when the Instrument of Independence was handed over by H.R.H. The Duke of Gloucester. H.R.H. was accompanied by the Duchess and Prince William, and during the period of his visit to Malaya stayed with Sir David Wotherston, Chief Secretary to the Government of the Federation. Captain J. D. Cathcart, Royal Signals, was selected for appointment as A.D.C. to Sir David Wotherston during this busy period and was given a pair of gold cuff-links by the Duke before leaving, as a mark of appreciation for services rendered to their Royal Highnesses.

Communications for the Duke of Gloucester were handled by the office of the U.K. High Commissioner Designate, and did not concern us. Several other distinguished high-ranking officers also visited Malaya to attend the Independence celebrations. In particular, the Chief of the Imperial General Staff, Field-Marshal Sir Gerald Templer, G.C.B., G.C.M.G., K.B.E., D.S.O., who was High Commissioner to the Federation from 1951 to 1954, flew out from England as a Guest of Honour, and stayed at Flagstaff House with the G.O.C. To cope with the additional telephone calls, a small exchange was installed in Flagstaff House and operated by Corporal C. Nurse and Corporal J. Jardine, both of Malaya Command Signal Squadron, and Signalman G. N. Williams, Royal Australian Signals, from 28 Independent Commonwealth Brigade Signal Squadron. A letter was subsequently received from the C.I.G.S. expressing his thanks for the efficient and tactful way they carried out their difficult task. C.-in-C., M.E.L.F., General Sir Geoffrey Bourne, K.B.E., C.B., C.M.G., late G.O.C., Malaya Command, also attended the celebrations.

A teleprinter was installed in the C.S.O.'s Branch, which was one of the few offices in Kuala Lumpur not being moved at the time.

This worked direct to G.H.Q., FARELF, operated by Cipher N.C.O.s, Corporal N. Fisher and Corporal N. White, who also operated the necessary ciphers to clear traffic addressed to and orgiinated by the C.I.G.S. and General Bourne. This link opened on the 24th August and operated until the 2nd September, and during this period cleared a considerable amount of traffic.

Prior to "Merdeka" (as Independence is known out here), considerable military moves took place. H.Q. Malaya Command ceased to exist on the 31st of August, but on the 18th August, the greater part of the old H.Q. moved to Seremban, 45 miles from Kuala Lumpur, in the State of Negri Sembilan, to form a new combined H.Q. with 17 Gurkha Division, the new title being "H.Q. 17 Gurkha Division/Overseas Commonwealth Land Forces." As a result of these changes Malaya Command Signal Squadron has now been reorganised and redesignated O.C.L.F., Signal Squadron with the Air Support Signal Troop, a troop in Seremban, serving the new combined H.Q., a troop at Taping to serve North Malaya Sub District, and another troop serving a new Central Malaya Sub District at Batu, five miles from Kuala Lumpur. The actual move of the old H.Q. from Kuala Lumpur to Seremban took ten days to complete. This made signalling quite difficult. The old Signal Centre at Kuala Lumpur was occupied exclusively by Federation Army Signal Squadron before Merdeka, thus ending a period of close co-operation between Malaya Command and Federation Army Signal Squadrons. We wish Federation Army Signals every success now that they are on their own and hope their stay in the new H.Q. Federation Armed Forces site will be a long and happy one. Kuala Lumpur Garrison moved to Batu a few days before Merdeka, there to set up as H.Q. Central Malaya Sub District. A new Signal Centre to serve the H.Q. was formally opened on the 21st August. The photograph overleaf shows the Squadron Commander, Major R. M. Matthews, handing in the first message. Corporal Nicholls and Signalman Green are also shown receiving the signal.

The Seremban Troop of O.C.L.F. Signal Squadron, moved into the H.Q. 17 Gurkha Division Signal Centre and has now assumed full responsibility for it, although many of the men employed there are from 17 Gurkha Divisional Signal Regiment. Needless to say the signal volume increased overnight to a marked degree and the new combined H.Q. Signal Centre has been a hive of industry ever since the move was completed. Captain T. E. D. Baxter, of 17 Gurkha Divisional Signal Regiment has borne the brunt of this Signal Centre for a long time and is now off on a well earned U.K. leave.

The other major move that took place in Malaya just before Merdeka was the move of H.Q. 28 Independent Commonwealth Brigade Group from Butterworth to Taiping where it has become H.Q. 28 Independent Commonwealth Infantry Brigade Group/ North Malaya Sub District.

The C.S.O.'s Branch is just about to concentrate in Seremban after a schizophrenic three months. The C.S.O. moved his office and family to Seremban in October and left the remainder of the Branch in Kuala Lumpur.

The final stage of all these moves was that of the H.Q. of the new O.C.L.F. Signal Squadron from the old Malaya Command site to Batu Cantonment. The accommodation was handed over to the Federation Army Signal Squadron who had been their



The O.C., Major R. M. Matthews, originating the first message from Batu Signal Centre. Corporal Nicholls and Signalman Green on duty

neighbours for the past six months. Former members of Malaya Command Signal Regiment, which later became a Squadron in name if not in size, will regret that the ten years occupation of this camp has come to an end. To celebrate the move of the Squadron H.Q., Major R. M. Matthews, the Squadron Commander, ordered that all the old files be burned. This ceremony had nothing to do with "Guy Fawkes Night" although it took place on and around the 5th of November.

Notes from Units

O.C.L.F. Signal Squadron. Prior to the move, the W.O. and Sergeants' Mess of the old Malaya Command Signal Squadron gave a grand farewell dance to their Kuala Lumpur Mess which was literally packed to the walls, despite a torrential rain storm which lasted for two to three hours just about the time the dance was due to start. The dance was attended by the C.S.O., Colonel J. M. S. Tulloch, O.B.E., and the majority of the officers of the old H.Q., none of whom left till the early hours, so successful did the evening prove.

The Squadron recently invited a party from *H.M.S. Newcastle* to stay with them. Their visitors were all from the Signal Branch of the ship and showed a keen interest in all the things shown to them. A return visit to the ship has been arranged and we hope to report on this in our next notes, if there are any survivors.

Captain Freddie Williams left the Squadron in October after three years sojourn. In his place we welcomed Captain Ralph Plant, who is getting to grips with the Communications side of the Seremban Signal Centre. The Ham station has been taken over by Air Support Signal Troop, who will shortly be on the air again, so listen out for station VS2DF.

The ASST has recently completed retraining and is back again in its rôle of helping end the Emergency as soon as possible, which, according to recent newspaper reports, may be in the very near future. As no previous accounts of its activities have appeared, it is time that they were brought a little into the limelight as one of the "fighting" forces of the Malayan Jungle. The Troop Officer, Lieutenant C. H. Hirst, is nobly assisted by Sergeant Brown, who solves any of the matrimonial—pay—leave or lovelorn problems of the Troop with a fatherly (?) touch. The Troop is a mixture of B.O.R.s and M.O.R.s, the latter being a further mixture of Malays, Chinese and Indians. All in all, they do a first-class job of work under the most trying conditions, except in Barracks, where they live with the R.A.F.!



H.M.S. NEWCASTLE
Visit of Telegraphy and Communications Ratings to O.C.L.F. Signal Squadron. Members of Royal Signals in the picture: (*back row*): W.O.II MohdDon, W.O.II Miller. (*Front row*): Major R. M. Matthews, Lieutenant Gornley, R.N., Captain R. T. Martin

22 Special Air Service Regiment Signal Troop. 22 S.A.S. Regiment has recently welcomed the arrival of a new Commanding Officer in the person of Lieutenant-Colonel A. J. Deane-Drummond, M.C., Royal Signals. There has been some speculation within the Troops as to whether or not he is allergic to cupboards. The O.C., Captain Gordon Walker, will be leaving the Troop in December and it is understood that his replacement will be Captain C. G. A. Ridley. The keen members of the Troop, who have found out that he was in charge of the Display Team until recently, are already repainting the Troop motor cycle and one hairy individual was seen lurking behind the Signals Troop basha with a crash helmet and a pot of white paint in his hand. Corporals Smith and Morgan have just found their way back to the Troop, having apparently found life in the U.K. too expensive and their application forms for another tour with the S.A.S. were feverishly completed within a few weeks of R.H.E.

48 Field Regiment, R.A., Signal Troop. September saw the arrival of the Gunners, who are due to take over the signal commitments with the Regiment. A certain amount of apprehension was noticed amongst certain members of the Troop on seeing their jobs being performed by a different cap badge. However, the Wireless Operators took refuge in the mysteries of the Morse Code and persistently refused to divulge its secrets to the interlopers. The take-over has now been completed and the members of the Troop have been re-posted to other Units within Malaya. The O.C. Troop, Lieutenant Senior, has moved to Seremban to help in the smooth running of the major Signal Centre in the country.

28 Independent Commonwealth Brigade Group Signal Squadron. On the 26th October the Squadron had the pleasure of a visit from Colonel D. Vincent, Director of Signals, Australia, who was accompanied by Brigadier H. Lewis, C.B.E., C.S.O., FARELF, and Colonel J. M. S. Tulloch, O.B.E., C.S.O., 17 Gurkha Division/OCLF. During his stay he was able to address the 24 new arrivals from "Down Under." These newcomers, who arrived on the 13th of the month, are filling U.K. vacancies, so bringing the percentage of Australians/British to approximately fifty-fifty. The only member of the Squadron who seemed a little apprehensive about their arrival was the S.Q.M.S. However, they were all smartly turned out in O.G. by the time Colonel Vincent arrived and we trust the last minute rush was not too evident.

During the past month (October) a small line section under Sergeant Moran, have been largely pre-occupied with the job of providing telephone communications for 11 Independent Field Squadron, R.E., who are building new roads in North Kedah. The task has been completed by providing a "poled Don 8 circuit" over the 12 miles to Alor Star from Naka, which sounds easier than it is in fact! At last our linemen have been kept busy. The local inhabitants are now cutting bits out of the line!! During the cricket season now completed, the Squadron won 16 of the 20 games played, including sound victories against Penang Garrison and what was the old Malaya Command Signal Squadron. The Squadron also provided six of the "eleven" which represented Royal Signals, Malaya, against R.E., Malaya, which resulted in a resounding victory for the Corps by seven wickets, and also against Royal Signals, Singapore. Although the latter ended in defeat, the Royal Signals, Malaya, team acquitted themselves without disgrace.

On 2nd October the Squadron celebrated the second birthday anniversary of the formation of the H.Q. by winning all but six of the medals in the Brigade H.Q. Swimming Gala. The most successful member of the Squadron swimming team was Lance-Corporal Watts, Royal Australian Signals, who swam away with four medals.

HONG KONG SIGNAL REGIMENT

H.Q. Squadron. We are extremely busy at the moment preparing for the sporting season and the period when most Exercises occur. Judging by the number of good games players who have recently arrived in the Colony this season promises to be a successful one. Cricket, hockey, soccer and Rugby have all started and scarcely any able-bodied men remain to make up the Adjutant's cross-country team.

Typhoon Gloria, which was given a certain amount of prominence in the English papers, was indeed an experience for many of us. There was a great deal of damage caused to buildings, trees and roads, and it is amazing how quickly the local authorities restored the situation to normal. The Regiment, as a whole, worked long hours and Line Squadron did wonders in clearing the many cable faults.

The celebrations by the Chinese Communists on the 1st October and by the Chinese Nationalists on the 10th October (double tenth), the anniversary of the founding of the Chinese Republic, went off quietly, apart from firecrackers. Some of the decorations put up for these occasions were most impressive, particularly the illuminations and vast red emblems—some over 200 feet in height—on the China Bank Skyscraper.

The Corporals have just held a dance in the Union Jack Club, which was extremely well run and certainly enjoyed by everyone.

As I write, the sun is shining and the weather is dry and fresh, like a crisp Spring day in England. The hot and humid season is over and it is getting distinctly cooler. We will soon be using blankets and at the end of November we shall be changing back into battle dress.

From now until January Hong Kong is at its best, with cool nights and bright, warm, sunny days. In fact, winter is here.

Air Support Signal Troop. November in Hong Kong is a month of indecision. The temperature bobs crazily between the low sixties and middle eighties, the occasional, provacatively-named typhoon hovers uncertainly on the horizon; neither seems to know whether summer has finally deported or winter come to stay. Autumn was last seen in England amongst the swirling yellow leaves of an overcast day in October. Christmas has just come within our grasp. Colony exercises are either long past or a remote prospect in the New Year.

Bathing has given way to more likely British sports. Instead of moving to the beaches the inscrutable Chinese storm off to watch soccer in numbers and with enthusiasm equal to any British crowd.

Almost every member of our small troop represents the Regiment at some sport or other, Soccer, Cricket, Rugger, Hockey, even Badminton, and, we hope, Boxing. We are proudest of our Soccer players, McDowell and Poole, who play for the Combined Services and the Army, and Corporals Grierson, Sprott and Gullon who also play first division football for the Hong Kong Football Club.



HONG KONG SIGNAL REGIMENT MAJOR UNITS SOCCER TEAM
Signalman Davis, Signalman Poole, Lance-Corporal Shelton, Lance-Corporal Sprott, Lance-Corporal Cawley, Signalman Viel, Lance-Corporal Gullon, Signalman Wagstaff, Corporal Grierson, Signalman McDowell, Signalman Mahonney

Regimentally life remains peaceful and at present unharried. We have been visited by the Commander British Forces, Hong Kong, an occasion made pleasant by its informality. The W.R.A.C. have held a Tramps' Ball, and we believe that neither the Regiment nor the tramps were disgraced. Telephone services soon returned to normal, though certain numbers appeared to be permanently engaged. In a hotly fought contest the W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess defeated the Officers' Mess on the annual games evening. Though outclassed at darts and crib, the Officers showed hitherto unsuspected skill at shove ha'penny and draughts, and were generally impressive in the "Kipper Flap." The Christmas season has been officially opened by the Messing Officer, who today stirred the Christmas puddings. He always was so good at stirring . . . . .



OFFICIAL

MOTOR CYCLE

BADGE

Price

17s. 6d.

This is the actual size of the Badge which is obtainable from the Headquarters of the Association, 88, Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1

The following goods are available from Association Headquarters. **Cash should be sent with order.**

BADGES, Motor Car	35/-	each
" Motor Cycle or Cycle ...	17/6	"
" Lapel or Brooch	3/-	"
" Blazer (Jimmy in Silver Wire)	25/-	"
(The last two for Association members only)		
BUTTONS, Blazer — Large 2/3 each; Small 1/8 each.		
CORPS TIES, Reppe	5/6	each
" " Heavy Weave ...	7/6	"
" " Woollen	8/6	"
" " Terylene	12/11	"
CRAVATS, Reppe	21/-	each
CUFF LINKS	7/-	per pair
CORPS SCARVES, Reppe	25/-	each
" " Woollen	21/-	"
TIE and SCARF SETS, Woollen ...	30/-	per set

THE QUEEN'S BODYGUARD OF THE YEOMEN OF THE GUARD

In the course of conversation, individuals have occasionally regretted that they did not know in time of the conditions under which application for appointment may be made.

The following is taken from the Calendar and Guide published by the Union Jack Services' Clubs, 1957:—

1. Candidates must be discharged Warrant or Non-Commissioned Officers not under the rank of Sergeant.
   (a) Of Exemplary Character.
   (b) Under 50 years of age.
   (c) Five feet ten inches in height (without boots).
   (d) Not less than thirty-six inches round chest.
   (e) In possession of at least one medal for War Service.
   (f) Have completed 21 years' service in the Regular Army, Royal Marines, or/and in the Royal Air Force.
2. Applications for appointment forwarded through former Unit must be accompanied by:—
   (a) Record of Service.
   (b) Copies of Conduct Sheet.
   (c) A Certificate by an Officer of the R.A.M.C. showing exact height and chest measurement.
3. Candidates are re-measured at St. James's Palace before they are finally accepted for appointment. (Vacancies only occur on the death of Yeomen and selections are NOT made by the War Office).
4. Recommendations should be transmitted by C.O.s (or by Record Offices) direct to the War Office (M.S.3.).

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R.S.M.s of the CORPS

R.S.M. J. T. HOLMES
2 Wireless Regiment, M.E.L.F.

Commenced his career in 50 (Northumbrian) Division Signals, T.A., in 1933, and later transferred to the Regular Army, reporting to Catterick early in a cold February in 1935. Easter, 1936, saw him as an Operator with 2nd Divisional Signals, but in less than a year, he sailed for India, and was not to see England again for eight years. In India, he was appointed Lance-Corporal in May, 1939, and by 1940 was Acting Sergeant. In late 1942, he was posted to "S" Indian L. of C. Signals in the Arakan, where he had various adventures, and was promoted to S.Q.M.S. in March, 1943. Leaving his unit in April, 1944, he had two months at home and then went to join 8th Indian Divisional Signals in Italy. He took part in various river-crossing operations, ending with the crossing of the River Po, and remained with the Indian Division until they disbanded at Jhansi, in June, 1946. During this time he was promoted Warrant Officer Class II, in August, 1945, and appointed R.Q.M.S. in December.

Then back to England and to Liverpool University Training Corps, from June, 1947, to June, 1951, when he went as R.Q.M.S. to 7 Training Regiment. Promoted Warrant Officer Class I in August, 1954, he was R.S.M. of the Army Phantom Signal Regiment (Princess Louise's Own) until leaving for 2 Wireless Regiment in M.E.L.F., in May, 1957.

Always interested in sport, R.S.M. Holmes has played hockey for the Corps, as well as for various districts. He is married and has two sons.





R.S.M. D. F. H. CROSBY,
Hong Kong Signal Regiment, Far East Land Forces

"Join the Army and see the World," often seen on the Army Recruiting Posters of the time, has certainly been true in the career of R.S.M. Crosby, who joined the Corps in 1937 at Derby. After serving with F. Section, 4 Divisional Signals in Canterbury, he was posted to India in 1938.

His first appointment as Lance-Corporal was in 1940, while serving with a mule pack detachment on the North West Frontier. After serving a period at the S.T.C. (B) Mhow 1940/41, he served with an Indian Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment in the Middle East 1942-44. By this time he had been successively promoted to Corporal and Sergeant. After a spell as an instructor as S.Q.M.S. and C.S.M. at the R.A.C. School, Bovington in 1945/46, as W.O.1 he helped to form the Norwegian Army S.T.C., where he stayed until 1949, becoming W.S./W.O.I in February, 1948. While serving in Norway he was successful in obtaining the Norwegian Army "Marsj Maerke"—a feat involving a march of 30 km. carrying a pack of 15 kg. in 4½ hours, as well as a bronze badge for ski-ing 10 km. in 65 minutes.

Between 1949/54 he served with the T.A., first with 20 Corps Signal Regiment, T.A., and later with 2/20 Army Signal Regiment, T.A. R.S.M. Crosby then served with 7 Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment in B.A.O.R. between 1954/56, where he became sub./W.O.I (R.S.M.) in November 1954.

He is a keen photographer, interested in small bore rifle shooting, and recently astronomy. As a young soldier he was a keen all-rounder in sport.

He married in 1945, and has two young daughters.

R.S.M. H. R. DUNLOP

R.S.M. Dunlop started his career in "F" Boys' Company at the S.T.C. in December, 1931. He joined the ranks in March, 1935, and after a brief spell with 5th Divisional Signals at Scarborough he left England in September, 1936, with the Composite Air Defence Signal Company for the Middle East. In August, 1937, this Unit returned to U.K. and was disbanded at Scarborough. After a Course at the Central Telegraph Office in London he was drafted to India, arriving at D-I-K on 30th March, 1938. Most of his "Frontier" days were spent with Wana Brigade Signal Section but, on the outbreak of war he was "shangai-ed" into the Orderly Room at H.Q. in Razmak. In August, 1940, came promotion to Corporal and a posting to S.T.C. (I), Jubbulpore. After a year with the S.T.C. (I), he was promoted Sergeant and posted in September, 1941, to 31 Independent Armoured Division Signals, Sialkot. The Division left India in February, 1942, and settled down at Kermanshah in Persia. After a six months' attachment with 4 G.H.Q. Signals at Baghdad and two Courses at the Signal School at Maadi, he returned to India in March, 1944, and was employed in the Central Telegraph Office, New Delhi, on the Indian Telecommunications Development Scheme. In January, 1945, he was promoted W.O.II and posted to G.H.Q. (I), becoming W.O.I (Superintending Clerk) of Signals 1 in June, 1945. Owing to the reorganisation of the Signals Directorate at the end of hostilities, he had to revert to W.O.II in March, 1946, missing War Substantive W.O.I by 90 days. Returning to U.K. in November, 1947, he became Chief Clerk to Royal Signals Wing, School of Signals. In June, 1951, he went to West Africa as Chief Clerk to the C.S.O., returning to U.K. in November, 1954, on promotion to R.S.M. and posting to 2nd/20th Army Signal Regiment (T.A.). R.S.M. Dunlop is still serving with this Regiment under its new title of 1st (Essex) Signal Regiment, T.A.





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!

REGIMENTAL SILVER TRUMPETS

The London Corps Signals, T.A., Fulham House

Until 1939 the 47th (2nd London) Divisional Signals, which became the London Corps Signals, was in possession of a number of Silver Trumpets. These had been presented over the years, one of them as recently as 1938.

In 1939 the Regiment was split and became
2nd London Corps Signals (B.E.F.)
5th London Corps Signals.

It is possible that during 1939, while the rest of the Regimental Silver was stored, these Trumpets were withheld in possession of one or both the Corps Signals.

Until the move of the present Regiment from Fulham House to Lytton Grove it was not possible to have a permanent display of Regimental Silver and so the loss of these Trumpets has only recently become apparent.

Any available information on the subject should be sent to the Officer Commanding, 2 London Signal Regiment, T.A., Lytton Grove, Putney, London, S.W.15, *and NOT, please, to the Editor of "The Wire."*

No. 1 INDEPENDENT U.K.L.F. RESERVE SIGNAL SQUADRON, T.A.

Although we have rejoiced in our present title for almost a year this is our first attempt to burst into print in THE WIRE. As new boys we had best, perhaps, put ourselves on the map.

First formed as No. 1 Squadron H.Q. 61 Army Signal Regiment, T.A., and housed at the Duke of York's H.Q. and then as lodgers with 56th Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A., we moved to our present location at City House, Hackbridge, Surrey, about two years ago as No. 2 Squadron Eastern Command (M) Signal Regiment, T.A., and about a year later received our present title. That answers the questions we are always asked.

Unlike the T.A. unit in the December issue, we took the Administrative Inspection quite seriously—so seriously, in fact, that everyone from the Squadron Commander downwards spent a full week-end in denims cleaning and polishing transport and generally refurbishing everything.

We celebrated the successful outcome of the inspection by having a week-end at Crowborough on 7th-8th December. Our first real try-out with AN/TRC and line carrier equipment, it proved most successful but would have proved even more successful if O.C. 16 Wireless Carrier Troop would learn to take down AN/TRC aerials as well as put them up. The odd assortment of non-specialist officers and N.C.O.s at the other end seemed to have mastered the art in both directions.

The evening of 7th December saw a very creditable party at a local hostelry where our line technician, Staff Sergeant Cox, performed on what, on closer inspection, proved to be a banjolele. This went down well with members of the squadron but not with one young local couple who left without even having a drink.

On 14th December, our parent unit, Eastern Command (M) Signal Regiment, T.A., held the usual Christmas concert which was followed by a party in the Sergeants' Mess for Sergeants and below, and one in the Officers' Mess for all officers. The officers of the squadron provided considerable support but the other ranks were rather thin on the ground.

A change in the Permanent Staff has come with the departure of W.O.II N. Lane to seek fresh glory in Cyprus, his place being eventually filled by Sergeant G. Scott from the Junior Leaders Regiment. We shall certainly miss "Shady" Lane, who was a tower of strength in both the running of the squadron and at a party, but Sergeant Scott has already shown great promise at a party and looks as if he will fill the bill nicely.

We also owe a vote of thanks to Sergeant R. Templeton who was loaned to us by Eastern Command (M) Signal Regiment, T.A., to tide us over the period between S.S.M. Lane's departure and Sergeant Scott's arrival, and proved a tremendous asset in all the preparations for the annual visitation.

54 (EA) INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT (T.A.)

This month it is the turn of "K" Troop to produce the Unit WIRE Notes.

"K" Troop are stationed in Luton and it is really a streamlined version of its former self. It was then known as 162 Independent Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron and when in the field resembled very much a miniature Divisional Signal Regiment.

Looking back over the years we can remember that in 1949 six volunteers attended the first annual camp at Roman Way, Colchester. We can even remember the names: Sergeant "Ossie" Osgood, Corporals Hinton and Harding and Signalmen Hinton, Sieling and Driver Horrocks. The following year, 1950, saw the Troop in camp at Bodney, with Major Cooke commanding, Captain Hopley Second-in-Command, and S.Q.M.S. Lenton looking after the stores. At that camp the Squadron amalgamated with the other Units of 61 Army Signal Regiment and formed a composite body with Major Dicker (our present Commanding Officer) as C.R. Signals.

So much for the past, what about the future?

The National Service Men, as such, are no longer with us, but let us not decry them; most gave yeoman service and were very good types. In fact, we hope that in the near future they will come back to the ranks as volunteers. The old adage is still very true, "1 Vol. . . ."

At present we depend on volunteers and our Troop has a reputation locally for doing well in Inter-Unit competitions. Famous is our small bore rifle team, who have twice won the Regimental Rifle Competition and once the Brigade Competition. At the moment we are contributing largely to the Regimental team in the District Competition and we are glad to learn that we have managed to beat a Field Regiment of the R.A. in the first round.

The accent during the coming year will be on recruiting, publicity and more recruiting. We hope to double our numbers before camp. You know it is a very human feeling to sit back and leave the business of recruiting and publicity to the "higher formation" and that is where we fall down. It is up to every volunteer to sell the T.A. to his friends. You alone know of the good times that can be had and how infectious enthusiasm can be. There is always some highlight of an Exercise or meeting which remains a happy memory.

Happy memories will indeed be retained of the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' week-end in November which, under the disguise of a Training Major's study period, was the formal opening of the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess. The evening was a huge success, thanks to the hard work of R.S.M. Halford and Staff Sergeant Hetherington.

"K" Troop wish all readers a happy and prosperous New Year and, incidentally, if you are not a member of the T.A. why not resolve to pay a visit to the local T.A. Centre and have a "look see" for yourself.

Stop Press

We have received news of the Officers' Regimental Ball. This annual occasion is now becoming well-known amongst the T.A. of South-East England and on Saturday, 7th December, Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. G. S. H. Dicker received a large number of guests at the Hyde Park Hotel for this year's event. Prominent amongst the distinguished assembly were Brigadier and Mrs. Burridge, C.S.O., Eastern Command, and large Regimental parties from the Middlesex Yeomanry Signal Regiment and 51 L. of C. Signal Regiment.

Dancing was to the excellent music of the Corps Dance Orchestra, who worked very hard to make the evening such a success. An excellent supper was served under candlelight during the interval and everyone has voted the party "the best yet."

No. 1 SPECIAL COMMUNICATION REGIMENT, T.A.

The last weeks of 1957 have proved to be very active, both in the training and social spheres. On a Friday in November a very successful dance was held, at which a record number of guests were present. Two visits have been paid to places of interest in the past few weeks, namely the Atom Exhibition, and more recently to the European and International Telephone Exchange in London. These were both stimulating and instructive and it is planned to include other instructional visits to similar organisations in the New Year.

The Cadet Squadron, under Lieutenant S. A. Hopper and W.O.II Andrews, continues to thrive. They show every promise of being a very active Unit.

W.O.II Norris and Staff Sergeant Watson have been appointed and promoted R.Q.M.S. and S.S.M. respectively. Congratulations to them both.

The 1958 programme is already in production and it promises to be full of scope and entertainment; the early highlights being another Regimental dance on Saturday, 11th January, 1958, and an Officers' Reunion on Saturday, 25th January, 1958.

HISTORY OF 1st (ESSEX) SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

1908 — **East Anglian Divisional Telegraph Company R.E.**
Captain R. Wilson 1908-09
Lieutenant B. Turner 1909-11

1911 — **East Anglian Divisional Signal Company T.F.**
Major H. J. Randall 1911-15

1915 — **54 (T.A.) Divisional Signal Company**
Major C. G. Hawkes, M.C. 1915-17
Major C. A. Bailey, O.B.E. 1917-19

1919 — Disbanded

1920 — **54 (E.A.) Divisional Signals T.A.**
Major/Lieutenant Colonel Edwards 1923-29
Lieutenant-Colonel P. S. Bowling 1929-31
Lieutenant-Colonel W. E. Raynor, T.D. 1932-35
Lieutenant-Colonel F. A. Manley, T.D. 1935-39

1939 — **4th Divisional Signals**
Lieutenant Colonel F. A. Manley, T.D. 1939-40
Lieutenant-Colonel H. E. Rance 1940-41
Lieutenant-Colonel F. E. Jones 1941-42
Lieutenant-Colonel F. W. P. Bradford 1942-43
Lieutenant-Colonel P. A. Duke 1943-45
Lieutenant-Colonel N. E. Pearson 1945-46
Lieutenant-Colonel A. R. Marshall 1946-

54th Divisional Signals
Lieutenant-Colonel J. L. Lilley, T.D. 1939-41

18th Divisional Signals
Lieutenant-Colonel B. G. Rowley 1941-42
Lieutenant-Colonel F. I. N. Mac Ostrich 1942-44

54th Divisional Signals
Lieutenant-Colonel J. L. Lilley, T.D. 1941-44

1947 — **2/20 (E.A.) Army Signal Regiment T.A.**
Lieutenant-Colonel J. L. Lilley, T.D. 1947-51
Lieutenant-Colonel L. H. Gentry, T.D. 1951-56
Lieutenant-Colonel W. H. Lamb, T.D. 1956-57

1957 — **1st (Essex) Signal Regiment, T.A.**
Signal House, Wanstead, E.11.
Lieutenant-Colonel W. H. Lamb, T.D. 1957-

In 1908 with the creation of the Territorial Forces, the East Anglian Divisional Telegraph Company Royal Engineers was raised in East London from previously existing Engineer Volunteers.

In 1911 it was renamed the East Anglian Divisional Signal Company Territorial Force and in 1914 it was allocated to the 54th Division. It accompanied the Division to Gallipoli in 1915 and provided Signals for the Division throughout the First World War, being finally disbanded in 1919.

In 1920 the Unit was re-formed as the 54th (East Anglian) Divisional Signals, T.A. During 1938 the Unit was earmarked in the event of hostilities to replace the Regular 4th Divisional Signals, which had had to be disbanded owing to the acute shortage of manpower.

On the outbreak of hostilities in 1939 the Unit was doubled, its first line becoming the 4th Divisional Signals and its second line remaining as the 54th Divisional Signals.

The first line Unit was duly allocated to the 4th Division, which it served throughout the War, being disbanded in 1946.

The second line Unit remained as the 54th Divisional Signals but did not serve overseas.

At the end of 1941 18th Divisional Signals was formed from the 54th Divisional Signals and was ordered to the Middle East. It was diverted en route to Singapore in an attempt to stem the Japanese invasion of Malaya.

On arrival it was engulfed in the disaster which overtook the Commonwealth Forces in February, 1942.

When the Territorial Army was re-formed in 1947 the 54th Division was not immediately re-formed and the old 54th Divisional Signals was re-formed as the 2nd/20th (East Anglian) Army Signal Regiment, T.A., and remained in this rôle until 1957.

Consequent on the general reorganisation of the Army in 1957 the Regiment was then reorganised and allocated the title of 1st (Essex) Signal Regiment to conceal its rôle.

When the 54th Division was re-formed in 1957 the 61 H.Q. Army Signal Regiment (T.A.) was reorganised to form the new 54th Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A.

A CAREER IN MINK

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51 (HIGHLAND) INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT (T.A.)

The Regiment, now that it is on a voluntary basis, has been busily engaged during the past few weeks on recruiting activities. Considerable success has been achieved by 1 Squadron, in Aberdeen, and 2 Squadron, in Stirling.

We have recently bid farewell to our Adjutant, Captain W. J. Pritchard, who has now returned to the School of Signals. No successor having been appointed the onerous task of carrying out the duties of Adjutant and Training Officer devolves on Major D. H. Freeland.

Aberdeen: R.H.Q., "H.Q." Squadron, No. 1 Squadron. Members of the Regiment in Aberdeen combined with members of the local Branch of Royal Signals Association in an impressive Armistice Day Service on Sunday, 10th November.

On the training side an extensive scheme of driver training has been carried out every week-end and so far accident reports have been conspicuous by their absence, even after an ambitious night convoy.

We are happy to record that Major J. H. Moonie, M.M., T.D., addressed the Aberdeen Branch of the G.P.O. Institute of Electrical Engineers, and in fact Engineers all over the North of Scotland through the medium of the G.P.O. traffic link up. His subject was the "History of Army Communications" and the interest shown by these "high powered" chaps in our problems was enlightening.

The festive season celebrations included the Children's Christmas Party, an All Ranks' Dance and a W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess Dinner. In addition a Regimental Cocktail Party was held on Saturday, 14th December. Guests included Major-General E. C. Colville, C.B., D.S.O. (our Divisional Commander), Brigadier J. C. Hardy (C.S.O., Scottish Command), and Colonel T. P. E. Murray, O.B.E., T.D., A.D.C. (our Hon. Colonel).

Stirling: No. 2 Squadron. The Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess, under the convenorship of Sergeant T. Parker, held a very successful Ball on 22nd November. The party was enlivened with reels and country dances played upon the pipes of Pipe Major Coffield and Pipe Sergeant McLeod. In addition to Major and Mrs. G. Louden, Lieutenant-Colonel James Cochran, O.B.E., T.D., and Mrs. Cochran attended.

Dundee: No. 3 Squadron. Despite a considerable effort made by the Squadron during Dundee's Own Exhibition, the recruiting has been disappointing.

The Squadron held a very successful Annual Smoker to which there was an excellent turnout.

Everything is well organised for the usual Children's Christmas Party.

The members of the Squadron learned with deep regret of the death in January, 1957, of one of their former P.S.I.s, S.S.M. P. Hickey.

After the run of Christmas and New Year activities the Regiment will be pursuing an extensive programme of training and preparing for a Regimental Trade Board in April and for our Annual Camp Training, which will be held from 28th June to 12th July in Guisborough, Yorkshire. We hope to renew old acquaintances and contacts at Catterick when we are there.

2 NORTHERN COMMAND (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A. & 2 INDEPENDENT U.K.L.F. RESERVE SIGNAL SQUADRON, T.A.

The winter training season is now in full swing and since October, when week-end training commenced in earnest again, we have been holding two or more training week-ends a month. 5th and 6th October saw both units assembled at 89 W.E.T.C. at Leek, in Staffordshire. The officers had a training programme consisting of Signal Centre duties and Radio Relay Security training. The other ranks, both Military and W.R.A.C. were sent off into the country for map reading training. 26th and 27th October saw the regiment again manning the Signal Centres at Nottingham and Harrogate, and in addition setting up a Radio Relay terminal at Harrogate, while the U.K.L.F. Squadron were responsible for three Radio Relay terminals at York, together with all the associated Line equipment. A number of visitors from the War Office saw us working and one V.S.O. (Very Senior Officer) spoke over the AN/TRC link from Harrogate to York and asked the other terminal whether the "Signal to Noise ratio on the circuit was better or worse than before": after much consideration the officer who was manning the other terminal replied simply "Yes."

During November the U.K.L.F. Squadron were asked at very short notice to provide a Radio Relay link for a Divisional Exercise, from Woodhall Spa in Lincolnshire to York. This was successfully accomplished, after a number of alarms and excursions, and credit is due to all those who took part. In November also all the W.R.A.C. in the regiment got together at Sheffield and had a very successful week-end of general military training. 1 and 2 Squadrons of the regiment held a combined training week-end at Beeston, in addition to providing wireless operators to assist Northern Command Signal Squadron on a C.S.O.'s wireless exercise. At Sheffield in November we also started a number of new recruits on a D.R. course, organised by the R.S.M., W.O.I Jones.

Under the leadership of Captain Russell we have now formed the nucleus of a Motor Cycle Trials team and they have been busy practising most week-ends recently. The Sheffield and Hallamshire Motor Club (Motor Cycle Section) are very kindly giving us some tuition in the art of Motor Cycle Trials riding.

On 1st October De La Salle College Independent A.C.F. Unit became officially affiliated to the Regiment and a Royal Signals A.C.F. Squadron. We welcome Captain Archer, the O.C. of the unit, and all his cadets and we are sure that the affiliation is going to prove to be a fruitful one. Already we have three ex-A.C.F. cadets who have joined the T.A.

We welcome to the Regiment Second-Lieutenant B. P. Williams, who has joined the Beeston Squadron, seven military recruits and eight W.R.A.C. recruits, and to the permanent staff we welcome W.O.II M. McCue, W.R.A.C., who has recently arrived from Germany and Sergeant Cawood from Comcan Signal Regiment.

Congratulations to Staff Sergeant McConnell on becoming a BI tradesman, Sergeant Stockdale on the birth of a daughter, Corporal Robinson and Lance-Corporal Styring of the W.R.A.C. on their promotion.

Finally, any ex-members of Royal Signals or W.R.A.C. who may read these notes, and who are in our area are very welcome to come along and see us. We have T.A. Centres at the following addresses:—

R.H.Q. and H.Q. Squadron and No. 1 Independent U.K.L.F. Reserve Signal Squadron, T.A. — Crabtree T.A. Centre, Sheffield 5. Tel. No. 386720.

No. 1 Squadron — Drill Hall, Derby Road, Nottingham. Tel. No. 71488.

No. 2 Squadron—Drill Hall, Beeston, Notts. Tel. No. 254263.

W.R.A.C. Det. No. 1 Squadron—T.A. Centre, Kingsway, Derby. Tel. No. 48531.

York Branch

Highlights of the past few weeks has been the visit to the Royal Signals Club of Harrogate Branch members and their wives on 8th December. We were also pleased to welcome members of the Army Apprentices' School, Harrogate. About 100 members and guests enjoyed dancing to Mr. McCabe's radiogram and the ladies, as usual, provided and served an excellent buffet.

Work continues to improve the amenities of the Club and the projected roof improvement scheme is now almost completed. The Branch has entered the York and District Council of Service Associations' Games League and so far two matches have been played against the Burma Star Association. Result: Won one, lost one. Members are taking this darts business very seriously and the number of those who have recently gone to the lengths of purchasing their own darts is nobody's business.

Preparations for the Christmas festivities are now in full swing and the Club already looks very gay. There will be dances at the Club on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve and the children's party is on 11th January.

To turn to Branch matters, the Standard and Escort took part in the Remembrance Day Service at the City War Memorial and the last monthly business meeting was well attended. The Annual General Meeting will be held on Monday, 27th January, 1958.

York Branch would like to take this opportunity of sending the season's greetings to Units and Branches everywhere.

Loughborough Branch



Back Row (left to right): J. Peddie, J. Kenneally, E. Newmarch, H. Hutchinson, F. Dodd. *3rd Row (left to right)*: H. Dix, E. Dobson, B. Braithwaite, L. Dowsett, F. Cameron. *2nd Row (left to right)*: C. Elliott, C. Collins, G. Nicol, R. Ford, F. Cooke, E. Warwick. *Front Row (left to right)*: E. Tarry, J. Bowman, J. J. Duvivier, S. Wort, E. Reedman, G. Billingsley

Members of the Branch recently had the good fortune to meet the newly-installed Signal Officer-in-Chief, Major-General Moberly, accompanied by Brigadier Good, Commander, Signal Training Brigade. The occasion was their visit to nearby 10 W.T.S. and the War Office Establishment, which houses our Headquarters and employs the bulk of the Branch membership.

A largish change in our nominal roll takes places with the imminent departure of many members for service in Cyprus—prominent among them being Major Musgrave, Eric Dobson, Jim Hamilton and Alf Forman. Whilst bidding them *au revoir*, we prepare to welcome back in exchange Messrs. Albert Fielding, Alec Keenlyside, Bill Gairns and a host of other old Branch stalwarts.

Apart from preparations for seasonal activities, we at Loughborough are looking forward very much to our third Annual Dinner and Dance on 14th January, concerning which I hope to have a full report in the next issue of this magazine. Brigadier Firth has promised to be there, as has a prominent local celebrity, and we also hope to be honoured with the company of a most distinguished servant of the Corps whose name cannot be published pending acceptance.

The accompanying photograph may serve to refresh memories of faces at one time familiar to many readers. It is a group of our members taken with the Standard outside Headquarters a few Sundays ago, when we met to repair an omission of Standard Dedication Day.

Harrogate Branch

Remembrance Sunday, on 10th November, was observed in Harrogate by a short service at the town memorial, followed by a full service at one of the local churches. This Branch was well represented at the parade in the town and was, in fact, the largest contingent of the various associations on the parade.

After a couple of disappointments we finally managed to visit York Branch's new club rooms. It was not difficult to find—the "route card" produced by Mr. Leavesley was bang-on. Thirty-seven, including wives, made the trip and the R.S.M. of the A.A.S., R.S.M. D. King, Welsh Guards, and Mrs. King very kindly joined our party.

All had a jolly good time, wining, dining and dancing with a raffle thrown in, in which two of our members won prizes. The bar was kept busy, at one time there were five going full out to quench thirst. Branch Standards were paraded with acclaim.

Ted Perry, ex-London Branch, on the G.P.O. staff here, with Mrs. Perry, was picked up at Knaresborough, the first time we had seen him; his work and the lack of late transport after meetings are "agin" him. "Pop" Hughes—L.M. Number 224—and he had a good old "grip" of the times they had together 35 years ago.

Eric Sladdin—ex-Singapore, and Sergeant Dixon—ex-19 A.F.S., of York Branch, really got down to work and had the music going almost continuously.

At last it was time to get going. Our President, Major N. J. Coslett, proposed a vote of thanks for a very enjoyable evening and the hope that we would be seeing all again early in the New Year.

After our visit to York the previous evening, our children's Christmas party on the 7th December, at the Somerset Hotel, was an equally happy affair.

The fun started with a Western film, managed by Jack Cowen, until tea was served at 4.15 p.m., where 38 children soon polished off everything put before them. During tea Jim Norfolk, our official photographer, ex-R.A.F. instructor in Signal Wing and local honorary member, was busy snapping the children.

After, another short colour cartoon so that Father Christmas could be talked down in his Sputnik Mk. V with his toys. "Bluey" Dutton, ex-Royal Navy and wireless instructor in the Wing, played his part admirably. The lights went up, there he was, ready and waiting, with the President calling "We want Father Christmas," and Bill Bevan, Jock Tyrie and Les Strange calling out the names.

One of the children presented Father Christmas with a small gift on behalf of all the children, then with three cheers he was on his way to the next party.

By 6 p.m. the children were feeling tired and as they went on their way a bag of fruit and sweets was given to each youngster at the door.

Half-a-dozen of the Boys' Branch turned up with mums and dads, who enjoyed the party equally well and voted it a great success. For the second year running we had W.O.II Webster's boy and girl with mum all the way from Cleveleys, in Lancashire.

Many thanks are due to all the members who assisted in this the fourth Christmas party.



Royal Signals Association, Harrogate Branch, Children's Christmas Party, 1957

WELFARE SECTION

Below an attempt is made to describe with suitable anonymity, eight cases taken from the Welfare Section files concluded during the first week in December, 1957. Also on this page is a simple statement of income and expenditure.

Driver, 1943-46. Previous service from 1939 in the Infantry and Royal Armoured Corps. His two sons live with his sister as he has long been tuberculous. The Royal Armoured Corps and Royal Signals Association shared in a grant to pay his rates.

Signalman, 1944-48. Previous service Royal Fusiliers. Married, three children, income halved by illness. Grant made to pay outstanding bills and to provide much needed shoes, and later the Royal Fusiliers Association refunded some of it.

Signalman, 1946-48. Married, three school age children. An accident puts him to face a long period of unemployment and a grant from the Welfare Section saved the family from being evicted from their home.

Signalman, 1934-46. Married, two children. His wife has worked to keep him for eight years of illness. In conjunction with the British Legion a grant was made to help them to some much needed furniture and attempts are being made to find him work as he is now substantially better.

Widow of Warrant Officer. She is elderly and her children have gone away. She has been ill and on advice of the hospital the fund helped her to a convalescence by the sea.

Signalman, N.S., serving. In a most involved case, and on the strong recommendation of the Commanding Officer the fund helped his mother to whose keep the Signalman son makes a substantial contribution.

Driver, 1940-46. Married, two children, one in hospital with T.B. He himself has been in hospital for a year with the same disease—his income is only two-thirds of what it was while he worked. The Fund made a grant to help with clothes.

Widow. Since the death of her husband in 1953 and, indeed, for two years before that while he was ill, she has brought up three chilldren on a tiny income from the State. Only one child remains at home, still at school, and after paying rent the mother and child share £3 a week for all purposes. Needless to say the fund helped her.

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION AND BENEVOLENT FUND

The following subscriptions were most gratefully received during November, 1957 :

	£	s.	d.
3 Training Regiment	14	1	6
12 Command (M) Signal Regiment, T.A.	4	0	0
53 (W) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A.		8	6
2 Port Task Force Signal Squadron, T.A.		15	0
1 Squadron, Sierra Leone Signals	3	12	0
SHAPE Signal Squadron	3	9	0
SX Branch, H.Q., B.A.O.R.	3	7	0
18 Army Group Signal Regiment	50	7	6
Cyprus District Signal Regiment	8	13	0
No. 18 Unit Branch, Royal Signals Association (Cyprus) ...	8	0	0
Army Signal Park, Cyprus	10	0	0
51 Independent Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron	1	10	0
Total receipts	£108	3	6

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION WELFARE SECTION

The following donations were most gratefully received during November, 1957 :

	£	s.	d.
Brigadier Sir Ralph Rayner, M.B.E.	25	0	0
Captain G. Evelyn		10	0
Solicitors to late Blanche Marion Curtis (distribution of Estate)	387	16	5
H.T. Nevasa, Ship's Games Fund	2	3	0
Total receipts ...	£415	9	5

EXPENDITURE DURING NOVEMBER, 1957 ... ... £369 5 10
(Includes: Rent and Rates; Beds and Bedding; Furniture; Cots and Prams; General Assistance).

Analysis of Cases :

Families of soldiers serving in U.K.	3	
,, ,, ,, ,, ,, B.A.O.R.	2	
,, ,, ,, ,, ,, FARELF	1	
Widows and Dependants	5	
Released and Discharged soldiers	36	
Total cases assisted	47	

31 cases of soldiers who served in the 1939/45 War	£257	1	0
16 cases of soldiers who did not serve in the War	£112	4	10

Lighter Fuel Packs

The following amounts were most gratefully received during November, 1957 : ...

		£	s.	d.
Box No. 34	2 Squadron, U.K. COMCAN Signal Regiment		7	0
44	42 AGRA A.A. Signal Squadron, T.A. ...		2	11
45	42 AGRA A.A. Signal Squadron, T.A. ...		7	0
46	A. L. Bentzen, Esq.		10	0
	Total receipts	£1	6	11

ROYAL SIGNALS HOCKEY

The first Corps match of the 1957/58 season was played against the Thistles at Catterick Camp on 21st September, 1957. Our opponents brought a very strong forward line from Scotland on their North of England tour; it included A. H. Innis and M. Gregory, both Scottish internationals, and D. Hopkins, an Irish international. As well as having these three very good forwards, they were a well-balanced side. The Corps did well to hold the Thistles to a score of two-all up to soon after half-time, but superior ability enabled the Thistles to score two more goals shortly before the end of the game to make the final result 4-2 in their favour. It was a fast and enjoyable game, which the better side won.

The second Corps fixture was against the Royal Engineers and was played at Aldershot on 27th October, 1957. During the first three-quarters of the game the Corps' team played very good hockey and goals were scored by means of which Royal Signals led 1-0, 2-0, 2-1 and 3-1; in the last 15 minutes, however, the Sappers produced a sudden burst of energy which enabled them to score two goals, making the final score three-all. This was a most enjoyable game, played under excellent conditions and a draw was a fair result.

The Southern tour during the period 3rd/5th December, 1957, was partly spoilt by bad weather. R.A.S.C. were played at Aldershot on 3rd December and they recorded their first win against the Corps' side since 1952. Our team played well during the first third of the game and at that stage led 1-0; from then onwards, however, nearly every player gave a very indifferent display and the final score of 4-1 in favour of R.A.S.C. was a fair reflection of the play. R.A.S.C. played well together as a team. They were quicker on the ball and played with determination, which appeared to be lacking in the Corps' team.

The game against the R.M.A. at Sandhurst started in misty sunshine on 4th December, 1957, but after 12 minutes of fast, open hockey, in which the Corps played well, a blanket of fog descended upon the ground and no further play was possible. There was no score. Even in this short period of 12 minutes it was apparent that our team was playing better than it had played on the previous day against the R.A.S.C.

R.E.M.E. unfortunately cancelled their game due to be played on 5th December, 1957, on the previous day because of bad ground conditions. They were, however, persuaded to turn out a scratch team when it became apparent on the morning of 5th December that grounds in Aldershot were playable. An enjoyable game was had against this scratch team, which was not a fully representative R.E.M.E. Corps side. Royal Signals played well and won, the score being 4-1.

Captain K. Kirkby has played for Yorkshire this season in inter-county championship matches and the following have played for Commands.

Northern Command: Major P. S. Westmacott, Captain S. C. Finch, Captain M. A. T. Hartnett, Captain E. L. Rogers, Lieutenant K. H. Olds, Second-Lieutenant J. Cook, Signalman Conolly.

Eastern Command: Captain P. C. Tripp, Captain A. J. Welch.

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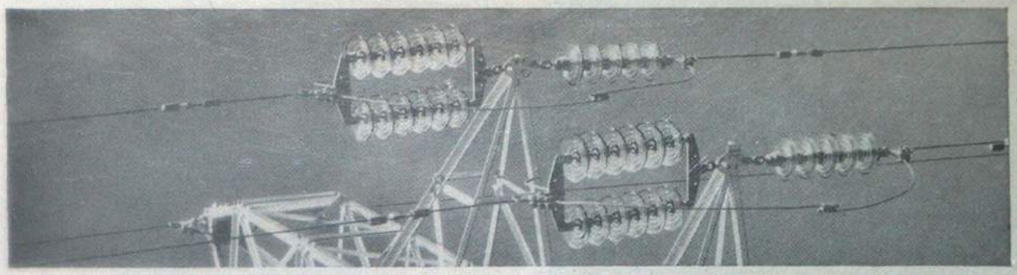
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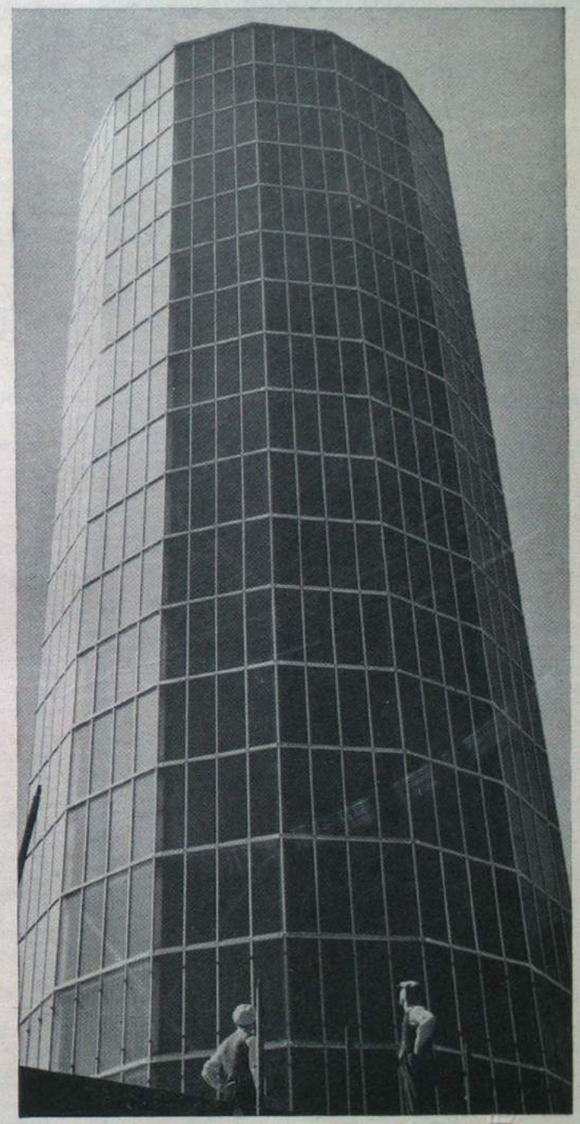
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To : Foremen of Signals and Senior Technical N.C.O's.

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THE WIRE

THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE

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.*

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☆

FEBRUARY • 1958

Vol. 12 *(New Series)* **No. 2**

Editorial

RELEASE FROM THE REGISTER OF FRIENDLY SOCIETIES

WHEN the Royal Signals Association was formed, for reasons which no longer apply, it was decided to register it under the Friendly Societies Act, 1896.

One big disadvantage is that this Act imposes limitations on the power of the Trustees to invest the capital of the Association to the best advantage under modern conditions. In brief the Trustees are limited to Government and certain other "fixed interest" securities, where the interest is assured, but where there is little if any scope for increase of capital value. This is a very big disadvantage at a time like that through which we have just been passing and in which we still are, where the real value of our money is falling.

Where Trustees are free from restriction they can often off-set the fall in the value of money by investing some of their capital in the ordinary shares of large industrial and commercial undertakings, the dividends and capital of which, in the absence of special adverse factors affecting a particular company, tend to increase in times of inflation.

The Central Committee, therefore, in 1957 set up a Sub-Committee to consider the matter and recommend. The recommendations of the Sub-Committee are on pages 54 and 55 of this number of THE WIRE. Briefly the Sub-Committee recommend that the Association seek release from the Register of Friendly Societies. As you will see from para. 7, in the paper, they made recommendations as to how the financial affairs of the Association should be carried on afterwards.

Method

The matter is to be considered first at the Branch Secretaries' meeting on 29th March, 1958.

It is hoped that Branch Secretaries will have opportunity between now and then to consult their Branches and be able to express the views of Branches at that meeting. Thereafter the procedure will be as follows:

Provided that on 29th March the representatives of the Branches of the Association are in agreement with the proposal, it will then come before the Annual General Meeting. Concurrently a simplified paper has to be sent out to all members of the Association asking for a postal vote.

Provided that the proposal is approved by the Annual General Meeting, and a majority of those who reply to the request for a postal vote are in favour of release from the Register, it will be granted.

* * *

EMPLOYMENT

On page 47 will be found an article about the Regular Forces' Employment Association. There are always a number of vacancies on offer through the Employment Section of the Royal Signals Association, which can also recommend useful sources of information regarding certain types of employment. (See, for example, the article on page 50 about farming opportunities in Kenya; intending settlers would be well advised to consult the European Agricultural Settlement Board of Kenya before making arrangements through any private agency).

Obviously those who are to leave Royal Signals for civilian life during 1958 will make every effort to obtain suitable employment before their date of release. Many consult the Association and thereby obtain notification of vacancies that may suit them.

Even if an individual is sure that by his own effort he can secure employment which he considers suitable, he will be well advised to consult some approved agency. Consultation may well confirm that his own choice is the right one, in which case no harm is done. It may, however, reveal opportunity for a better career than had been contemplated.

In this matter of employment all Branches of the Association are urged to emulate Sheffield Branch, who, as stated in their notes on page 57 are effecting liaison with the Ministry of Labour and other organisations set up to help men to employment.



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VALE

BRIGADIER D. W. R. BURRIDGE, C.B.E.

D. W. R. Burridge joined Royal Signals at Maresfield in 1925 and passed out with No. 10 "Q" course. He was a keen and energetic young Officer, who was particularly noticeable for his all-round participation in games. He commanded one of the first mechanised Artillery Brigade Signal Sections as far back as 1926 in 2 Divisional Signals. In 1929 he joined that fine training ground, Waziristan District Signals, where he had the Bannu Brigade Section. His determined, though quiet, personality and somewhat shy nature, which has remained unchanged, was already noticeable. After three years of mountain warfare with TOCOL and WANACOL, he became a Company Commander in Signal Training Battalion, Jubbulpore, and joined the married ranks.

He was already interested in and sympathetic towards the Indian Signalman and his years in Jubbulpore enlarged his knowledge in this direction. He was a very keen hockey player and while he never indulged in hippolatry he used a horse a lot at this time.

After a short spell in Catterick, he found himself in 1936 again in Jubbulpore as Adjutant to Lieutenant-Colonel Pollard (later Brigadier), one of the fathers of the Indian Signal Corps. Donald's work as Adjutant won him a place



at the Quetta Staff College in 1940. His ability was such that he then became Commandant of the Army Signal School at Poona. Experience followed as first, a Commanding Officer, then a G.S.O.1, then D.C.S.O. and in 1943 he became a Brigadier as C.S.O., 15 Indian Corps in Burma. Signals Staff work in England was followed by appointment as Chief Instructor, School of Signals.

In 1949 Burridge again went East, this time as C.S.O., Hong Kong, where he was faced with renewing the communications of the Colony. His appointment as the C.S.O. of 1st British Corps in B.A.O.R. showed the esteem in which he was held, and during his three years in that capacity great strides were made by the Signal Regiments in that formation. His last appointment was as C.S.O., Eastern Command, where he has been able to impart his very considerable knowledge of a generation of signalling throughout the world to Units of the Reserve Army.

His services in XIV Army were recognised by the award of the C.B.E.

The name of Burridge will not fade out of the White List, since Donald's eldest son has joined us, we hope for another full generation. To Donald and his wife, who occupy an exceptional place in our hearts, we wish a long and happy retirement.

*

LETTER

Brigadier H. Clementi Smith, D.S.O., writes to the Editor:

'JIMMY'

"Reference enquiry in the January number; on my return from South Africa at the end of 1904, I had the honour to be posted to the Signal Service, Royal Engineers, at Aldershot. This Unit had a very good voluntary Band which used to lead it when marching on suitable occasions. The acting Drum-Major carried the drum stick so well known with the figure of Mercury on top. This figure was known as 'JIMMY' and had obviously been known as such for sometime. I never heard the origin discussed but it must have been used as soon as the drum stick was made.

"I fancy that like 'TOPSY,' it 'growed.'"

PERSONAL COLUMN

Inadvertently omitted from the extracts from the New Year Honours List published in January :
M.B.E. W.O.I G. Baylis, 1 Signal Squadron, W.R.A.C.

London Gazette

13th December, 1957
Captain (Q.M.) R. L. J. Shove to be Major (Q.M.), 13th December, 1957.

17th December, 1957
Captain E. M. T. Crump, to be Major, 16th December, 1957.
Major (Q.M.) W. H. Thorp, relinquishes his commission, 14th December, 1957.

20th December, 1957

Honours and Awards for Distinguished Service in Malaya, during the period ended 30th August, 1957

O.B.E.—Lieutenant-Colonel P. C. Williams.
M.B.E.—W.O.II G. J. L. Powell

Mentioned in Despatches :
Major D. C. Newman.
Lieutenant T. E. D. Baxter.
Sergeant W. J. Hough

24th December, 1957
The undermentioned Colonels (Temporary Brigadiers) to be Brigadiers on the dates shown :—
J. D. Haig, O.B.E.
F. W. P. Bradford, M.B.E.
R. G. Yolland, O.B.E., B.A.
Lieutenant-Colonel P. E. M. Bradley, D.S.O., O.B.E., to be Colonel, 10th October, 1957.
Captain (T.O.T.) A. Long to be Major (T.O.T.), 21st December, 1957.
Captain E. C. Collins to be Major, 24th December, 1957.

3rd January, 1958
Major (T.O.T.) G. V. McDowall relinquishes his commission on completion of service, 1st January, 1958, and is granted honorary rank of Major (T.O.T.).

7th January, 1958
Lieutenant-Colonel (Q.M.) E. Beverley retires, 7th January, 1958.

10th January, 1958
Awarded First Clasp to the Army Emergency Reserve Decoration :—
Captain (Hon. Major) C. P. Ingram.
Awarded Army Emergency Reserve Decoration :—
Major (Hon. Lieutenant-Colonel) G. ff. Bellairs, B.Sc.
Captain (Hon. Major) C. P. Ingram.
Major W. N. Lang.
Captain R. G. Smith.
Awarded Second Clasp to the Territorial Efficiency Decoration :—
Colonel E. R. Price, C.B.E., T.D.
Awarded First Clasp to the Territorial Efficiency Decoration :—
Lieutenant-Colonel G. R. Thompson, T.D.
Major G. Horsfall, T.D.
Major J. H. Mansfield, T.D.
Awarded the Territorial Efficiency Decoration :—
Captain J. B. Morgan.
Lieutenant (T.O.T.) E. J. Larner to be Captain (T.O.T.), 9th January, 1958.

Movements—Officers

Captain (Q.M.) E. E. T. Bennet, from Ghana to B.A.O.R.
Captain (Q.M.) J. H. W. Roake, M.E.L.F. to Signal Regiment, U.K.
Major J. A. Cleland, Staff College to Depot (HS).
Major F. M. Handsley, H.Q., Eastern Command, to B.A.O.R.
Major A. M. R. Mallock, Ministry of Supply to Depot (HS).
Major N. D. Shaw, Depot (HS) to 1 Training Regiment.
Major G. W. Vero, H.Q., Western Command to Depot (HS).
Major G. H. Peirson, 2 Training Regiment to 7 Training Regiment.
Major (Q.M.) N. J. Coslett, Army Apprentices School, Harrogate, to B.A.O.R.
Captain (Q.M.) H. Marjoram, Signal Park Squadron to Indep. Para Brigade Signal Squadron.
Captain (T.O.T.) D. F. D. Barry, B.A.O.R. to 5 Training Regiment.
Major R. Strevens, B.A.O.R. to A.F.N.E.
Major D. Pegg, B.A.O.R. to R.S.W., School of Signals.
Captain (T.O.T.) T. H. Amott, M.E.L.F. to Signal Regiment, U.K.
Captain (Q.M.) J. P. Cairns, N.W. District Signal Regt., T.A., to B.A.O.R.
Major (Tfc. Offr.) A. Hamilton, Depot (HS) to 4 Training Regiment.
Captain (Q.M.) A. Morrison, M.E.L.F. to N.W. District Signal Regiment, T.A.
Lieutenant-Colonel J. B. Birkett, Depot (HS) to U.K. Comcan Signal Regiment.
Major J. W. Elston, B.A.O.R. to O.T.W., School of Signals.
Major A. J. Hamilton, H.Q., North West District to Signal Park Squadron.
Major D. P. K. Rennick, The War Office to Depot (HS).
Major J. D. B. Thornton, B.A.O.R. to FARELF.
Major C. C. Wardle, 4 Training Regiment to 7 Training Regiment.
Major (T.O.T.) J. Pollard, Western Command S.W.S. Troop to Cyprus.
Lieutenant (Q.M.) K. B. Ulrich, Southern Command (Mobile) Signal Squadron to Infantry Divisional Signal Regt.
Major A. B. Dryland, Indep. Para Brigade Signal Squadron to Depot (HS).
Major I. McAnsh, M.E.L.F. to B.A.O.R.
Major N. McIntyre, FARELF to B.A.O.R.
Major S. H. McKay, FARELF to Depot (HS).
Major A. S. P. Salter, M.E.L.F. to Depot (HS).
Major S. B. Coyne, H.Q., East Anglian District, to 3 Training Regiment.
Major G. S. Fenton, School of A.A. Artillery to Aden.
Major P. E. S. Mansergh, B.A.O.R. to Hong Kong.
Major R. F. B. Power, E. Africa to Intelligence Corps.
Major J. E. P. Sampson, B.A.O.R. to Depot (HS).
Major (Tfc. Offr.) N. J. Cowley, FARELF to B.A.O.R.
Lieutenant (T.O.T.) A. C. Earl, Signal Regiment, U.K., to H.Q., Scottish Command.
Lieutenant (T.O.T.) W. R. Hefferon, M.E.L.F. to User Trials Squadron.
Major H. D. V. Chappell, Inf. Div. Sig. Regt., T.A., to Depot (HS).
Major D. K. P. Hannigan, 5 Training Regiment to 4 Training Regiment.
Major G. H. Hulme, Canada to Depot (HS).
Major G. J. C. Moss FARELF to Depot (HS).
Major D. T. W. Gibson, School of Signals to Wireless Training Squadron and thence to M.E.L.F.
Major G. D. M. Pocock, 4 Training Regiment to A.A.S., Harrogate.
Major J. H. Walmesley-Cotham, School of Signals to FARELF.
Major E. C. W. West-Watson, Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment to Gibraltar.
Major A. G. Paris, 4 Training Regiment to H.Q., East Anglian District.
Major L. H. M. Gregory, School of Infantry to B.A.O.R.

Births

DOE.—To Staff Sergeant and Mrs. E. Doe, a son, Adrian Philip, at Colchester Military Hospital, on 18th December, 1957.

BERESFORD.—To Sergeant and Mrs. B. C. Beresford, a daughter, Marion Jean, at B.M.H., Hostert, on 28th November, 1957.

OSMAND.—To Sergeant and Mrs. V. Osmand, a son, Nicholas Bernard, at B.M.H., Hostert, on 12th November, 1957.

THOMAS.—To Captain and Mrs. E. G. Thomas, a daughter, Caroline Jayne, at Stroud Nursing Home, on 28th December, 1957.

All the following of 10 Wireless Training Squadron :

FINCH.—To Staff Sergant and Mrs. Finch, a daughter, Stephanie Suzanne.

HAYES.—To Sergeant and Mrs. Hayes, a daughter, Jennifer.

ALEXANDER.—To Sergeant and Mrs. Alexander, a son, David Neil.

HAMILTON.—To Corporal and Mrs. E. Hamilton, a son, Robert Neil.

Marriages

HUNT—MOLLISON.—Sergeant Barry Hunt to Miss Pat Mollison, at All Saints' Garrison Church, Benghazi, on 23rd November, 1957.

WYNNE—WOOLNER.—Signalman S. G. Wynne to Miss Barbara Woolner, at Stratford, on 16th November, 1957.

BRYANT—KITCHING.—Lance-Corporal G. D. Bryant to Miss Ann Kitching, at Durham, on 16th November, 1957.

Deaths

BRADLEY.—2328041 Corporal J. Bradley, of Mill End Cottage, Wickhambreaux, near Canterbury, Kent, on 9th December, 1957, aged 43.

GARBETT.—Mr. G. Garbett, M.M., ex-R.E. Signals, died on 30th December, 1957, aged 60 years. Lineman, R.E. Signals, 1915-18. Member of Royal Signals Association Staff from 1955 until his death.

MILNE.—R.Q.M.S. G. A. Milne, 51 (H) Infantry Divisional Signal Regt., T.A., suddenly, on 7th January, 1958, at Aberdeen.

MOTTRAM.—Ex-Sergeant H. Mottram, Court Keeper, County Police Court, Strangeways, Manchester 3, on 29th November, 1957. Member of Manchester Branch, Royal Signals Association.

COSENS.—On 5th January, 1958, at his home, 3 Hawthorn Avenue, Biggin Hill, Kent, Major G. A. Cosens, Royal Signals, 1920-1947.

BOWLEY.—22000838 Signalman J. Bowley, of 2 Squadron, 2 Northern Command (M) Signal Regiment (T.A.), as a result of a fatal accident in a colliery.

Arrivals and Departures

1 Squadron, King's African Rifles
Arrivals : Major H. H. C. Henning, Staff Sergeant Gilder.
Departures : Captain N. C. Moody, Captain N. J. Cowley and S.Q.M.S. Friel.

12 Air Formation Signal Regiment
Departures : Lieutenant-Colonel H. E. H. Clements, M.B.E.

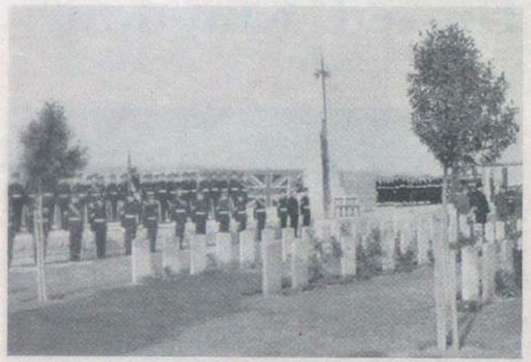
52 (L) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A.
Arrivals : Captain Roscoe and family, W.O.I Ward, W.O.II Gordon, Sergeant Ballantyne.
Departures : Captain (Q.M.) R. Guest and family.

Singapore District Signal Regiment
Arrivals : Major Weedon, Sergeants Sharif, Webster, Page and Lawton.
Departures : Major Moss, Staff Sergeant Hulse and Sergeant Billington.

U.K. Comcan Signal Regiment
Arrivals : Captain H. Illingworth, Sergeant R. Perry.
Departures : Sergeants A. N. Brookes, D.S.C., and J. A. Cawood.

19 Army Group Signal Regiment
Arrivals : Captain J. O. Fisher, Sergeant R. G. Mills.
Departures : W.O.II Alexander, S.Q.M.S. J. McGrath, Sergeants Branthwaite and Crosse.

THE ROYAL SIGNALS PLOT IN THE MEDJEZ-EL-BAB CEMETERY, NEAR TUNIS



The Officer Commanding 1 Ship Signal Troop, *H.M.S. Meon,* who attended the dedication of the Memorial in this Cemetery, also took photographs of a few of the Royal Signals' graves.

If the relatives of the undermentioned will apply to the Royal Signals Association, the photograph can be sent.

2390335 Lance-Corporal D. J. Blake, died 11th September, 1943.
2328291 Lance-Corporal G. P. Copeman, died 25th December, 1942.
2330806 Lance-Corporal R. T. Gillespie, died 22nd April, 1943.
2356982 Signalman B. Ledwith, died 21st June, 1943.
2361230 Corporal D. C. Mason, died 21st April, 1943.

Royal Signals Dinner
at the
Royal Military College of Science

Royal Signals Officers at Shrivenham, together with their Commonwealth Signals colleagues, had the great pleasure on the 28th November, 1957, of dining the Signal Officer-in-Chief, the Commandant School of Signals and the C.S.O., Southern Command, at the first Royal Signals Dinner ever held at Shrivenham.

The occasion marked the presentation to the College of a fine silver "Jimmy" by the Colonels Commandant and Officers of the Corps to mark the close relationship between the College and the Corps.

The statuette was ready for presentation much earlier in the year and all arrangements for obtaining it had been made by the last Signals member of the D.S. at Shrivenham with General Wheatley. Suitable dates were hard to find and unfortunately Major-General W. A. Scott, our Representative Colonel Commandant, was unable to attend due to absence abroad; Major-General C. M. F. White, who had stepped into the breach, was prevented by last minute illness from coming, and all of us at Shrivenham wish him a speedy recovery and return to full health.

The connection between Shrivenham and the Corps goes back a long way. The first Officer with Royal Signals connections who can be traced in the College archives attended an Advanced Class at Woolwich before the 1914-18 War. A few Signal Officers attended Advanced Classes between the Wars, and the late Lieutenant-Colonel J. S. Yule was an instructor at Woolwich after he retired from the active list. Since the last War there have been many Signal Officers, both from the parent Corps and from nearly all our sister Corps in the Commonwealth, on various courses at Shrivenham. At the time of the Dinner there were 32 Signal Officers at the College on various courses; these included two Pakistani Officers, three Australian Officers and three Canadian Officers.

We were very fortunate in having the light orchestra of the Band of the Corps and the Fanfare Trumpeters at the Dinner, and your scribe has received many compliments from both Military and Academic staff of the College on the excellence of their performance. He would like to place on record his gratitude to the Band President and to the Director of Music for making them available at no cost to the College.

In making the presentation, the Signal Officer-in-Chief referred to the long history of association between communicators and scientists. He also referred to the pleasure he gained from seeing so many Officers from Commonwealth Signal Corps at the Dinner; finally, as a compliment to the Commandant of the College, Major-General C. L. Richardson, late Royal Engineers, he dealt with the close association between our parent Corps and ourselves.

In his reply, General Richardson elaborated most wittily on this theme and all Signal Officers at the College are grateful to him and to all the College staff who helped make the occasion possible.

As the Corps representative on the D.S., your scribe would like to take the opportunity of thanking the Corps Committee who, as the representatives of the Colonels Commandant and Officers, approved the presentation. "Jimmy" is unquestionably one of the most decorative pieces of silver the College owns and will long grace our formal Dinners and Guest Nights in Beckett Hall.

LETTER

Lieutenant-Colonel L. S. Stirling, B.A., A.M.I.E.E., (Retired), of Mill Farm, Steeple Bumpstead, near Haverhill, Suffolk, writes to the Editor :

"I have just seen the notes about the activities of the Steeple Bumpstead Signal Squadron in your October issue, and am writing to correct the information given in them.

"I am sorry to have to tell you that your correspondent's report is completely out of date. The actual strength of the Squadron for the past six years has been one officer (retired). It is clear, therefore, that his report must have taken a very long time to reach you.

"Unfortunately, your correspondent is also inaccurate on the subject of the unit's participation in the Cotswold District Boxing Championships. North Essex is a far cry from the cotswolds. Perhaps your correspondent has been trying the cure he suggests for Asian 'flu, or perhaps he failed in the geography paper in the Army Certificate of Education (3rd Class) Examination. Alternatively it may have been 'operator's writing.'

"May I refer your correspondent to the Corps motto—if he is still serving.

"For the record, the activities of the Squadron (sic) are mainly agricultural, most of the work being done at weekends. Leave is remembered as something that we had when we were in the Army!"

Forthcoming Events

Liverpool Branch

Annual General Meeting on 21st February. Hot-Pot Supper on 7th March. Apply Mr. T. Black, 29, Bligh Street, Wavertree, Liverpool 16.

Annual Meeting of Branch Secretaries of the Association

Saturday, 29th March, 1958.

ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS' EXHIBITION

Earls Court, London, March 25th to 29th, 1958.

RADIO COMPONENT SHOW, 1958

Grosvenor House and Park Lane House, London, W.1., from April 14th to 17th, 1958.

Corps Dinner
and
Regular Officers' "At Home"
at the Hyde Park Hotel.

28th May, 1958.

29th May, 1958.

Royal Signals Association

CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING — 29th May, 1958.

Midlands Reunion — 24th/25th May, 1958

This is being organised by 10 Wireless Training Squadron and the Loughborough Branch of the Association, Garats Hay Camp, near Loughborough.

Provisional programme:

Saturday, 24th May—	Afternoon	Garden Fete Retreat (Royal Signals Band)
	Evening	Grand Dance (Royal Signals Band Dance Orchestra
	,,	Social
Sunday, 25th May —	Morning	Church Parade Service
	Afternoon	Band Concert

Catterick Reunion and Annual General Meeting

28th/29th June, 1958.

INDIAN SIGNAL CORPS

Officers of all Corps and Regiments of the old "Indian Army" are invited to the Punjab Regiment's Garden Party at the Hurlingham Club, London, S.W., on Friday, 27th June, 1958. Tickets, at 7/- each, can be obtained through the Royal Signals Association, 88, Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1., if application is made BEFORE 1st June, 1958.

CORPS BAND SUMMER TOUR, 1958

Touring Band

4th April — 13th April	Eastbourne (Easter).
14th April — 19th April	Eastern Com. Signal Squadron, Crowborough
6th May — 9th May	3 Infantry Divisional Signal Regt., Colchester
11th May — 17th May	Eastbourne
19th May — 22nd May	Southern Command
25th May — 7th June	Eastbourne (Whitsun).
8th June — 14th June	Victoria Embankment Gardens, London
15th June — 21st June	Plymouth
28th June — 29th June	O.C.A. Reunion, Catterick
6th July — 12th July	Hastings
15th July — 20th July	Edinburgh
21st July — 2nd August	Dunfermline
3rd August — 17th August	Glasgow
21st August — 23rd August	Scottish Command Signal Sqn.
24th August — 31st August	Edinburgh Festival
7th September — 20th September ...	Eastbourne
21st September —	Worthing
27th September — 28th September ...	Folkestone
1st October — 5th October	B.B.C. Recordings
6th October	Return to Catterick

ROYAL SIGNALS HOCKEY, 1958

16th February, 1958	Aldershot Services	Aldershot
7th March, 1958	R.A.E.C.	Catterick Camp
8th March, 1958	Durham University	Durham
19th March, 1958	Welbeck College	Welbeck
4th-7th April (Easter)	Scarborough Hockey Festival	Scarborough

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL CLUB, 1958

26th February, 1958	Bede College	(A) ...	Durham

ROYAL SIGNALS RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB, 1958

22nd February	Durham City	Durham
5th March	King's College	Catterick
12th March	Leeds University	Catterick
19th March	Northern Command Cup	Catterick
22nd March	Morley	Morley
26th March	Northern Command Sevens ...	Catterick

☆

United Kingdom



1st TRAINING REGIMENT ROYAL SIGNALS ARMY WATER POLO CUP WINNERS, 1957

Top Row (left to right) :—Signalman Wardrope, Signalman Young, Signalman Overton, Corporal Stockdale, Signalman Heatley, Lance Corporal McGrail
Bottom Row :—Lance Corporal Jackson, Lieutenant-Colonel J. J. Lamb, O.B.E. W.O.I (F. of S.) Foakes, Major A. Lamb, M.B.E., Signalman Porter

2 TRAINING REGIMENT

Although we did not have a "White Christmas," we had nevertheless a very enjoyable and pleasant one, and we do hope all our sister Regiments had their hours of delight. New Year is now with us and all of us here in Catterick are off to a "good white and clean start," snow is thick and not so even. To all who may glance at this awhile—a "Very happy New Year from 2 Training Regiment." This Christmas was the first time the Regiment has had block leave and as a result the hundred or so who remained were well and truly catered for. Our "Scots" are at present "awa'," but by the time this has appeared in print "Scotch and Haggis" will be pleasant memories. We rather go for block leave.

Two very distinguished visitors came to see us within the last two months. Namely, our Signal Officer-in-Chief and the Q.M.G., Sir Neville Brownjohn, and we like to think that 2 Training Regiment more than came up to their expectations—as almost three months have passed and no "billets doux," then we think our assumption may be right.

A most successful and delightful children's Christmas party was organised and run by the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess and the Ladies' Club, and it must be put on record that this was of a super nature and that the Ladies' Club were wonderful. Contrary to some schools of thought, our Ladies' Club is a boon to the P.R.I. and we would like to say "Thank you, Ladies, for your help in 1957 and continued success in 1958."

The boxing team is still much in the news and at present is in the U.K. semi-finals of the Inter-Unit Team Boxing Championships. It is very tempting to expand on their achievements but as the team are due to compete against the winners of Southern Command v. Western Command very shortly, all we can say to the boxers—keep your gloves closed—and we will keep our fingers crossed.

Retirements, postings (in and out) and hopes of redundancy are very much with us at the present. Lieutenant-Colonel (Q.M.) E. Beverley, after 37 years' service, said goodbye to us early in December, we send our very warmest greetings to him and his wife, and best wishes for the New Year. Major Peirson has gone to 7 Training Regiment, Captain Luker, Captain Hartnett and Lieutenant Blackwood depart early in the New Year, Captain French hopes to go when his team has won the Army Boxing Trophy, and our late Adjutant, Major Beaumont, is en route for Tripoli. Captain Fill, ex-Cyprus, is our new Adjutant. Lieutenant D. P. Watson, ex-Singapore, is the new Assistant Adjutant, and Captain C. Webb our new Q.M., and we wish them a happy stay—no DCMs or a glut of 998s.

GLEANINGS

"You cannot please all the soldiers on Christmas Day."

Q. Are you enjoying your Christmas dinner?

A. Yes, Sir, but a bit of a mix up, isn't it? They have put the apple pudding over the pork.

The Commanding Officer was rescued by a noble Signalman, who confirmed that it was apple sauce. It is funny, but true, we do have our fun.

4 TRAINING REGIMENT

4th Training Regiment is sharing Catterick Camp with others who report in these pages—we therefore take it that our readers will have noticed the passage of Christmas and New Year. It may be assumed that we enjoyed ourselves; I never knew a Signalman who couldn't cope with such problems, and we were no exception.

Apart from the seasonal celebrations the highlight of our month has been the award of the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal to Sergeant McLeod of No. 1 Squadron. The presentation was made by the Brigade Commander, Brigadier E. D. Good, C.B.E., at a Regimental Parade. During the ceremony a commentary on the purpose and history of the Medal was given over the public-address system for the benefit of trainees. Sergeant McLeod is to be congratulated on his achievement; to those who say, "Not me" it might be pertinent to ask, "Could you do it?"

From Brighton, where our No. 4 Squadron is stationed, we hear of seasonal festivities that included firework displays, barbecues and children's parties. The Squadron has combined with Garrison Headquarters, the local Branch of the Signals Association and the T.A. Signal Squadron. They are to be congratulated not only on providing entertainment for those who would not otherwise have had it, but on contributing greatly to the local reputation of our Corps. This was further enhanced on 15th September when a contingent was provided for the Battle of Britain Parade at which the Mayor took the Salute. As a result of their performance the Squadron was asked to organise the first post-war Civil and Military Remembrance Day Parade at Brighton. In his letter of thanks the Mayor stated that next year he would feel justified in approving an even bigger ceremony.

OFFICER TRAINING WING, SCHOOL OF SIGNALS

Brigadier R. G. Yolland O.B.E., Commandant, School of Signals, took the salute at the Commissioning Parade of No. 359 Course on 6th December, 1957. The Commanding Officer's prize was awarded to Second-Lieutenant G. A. Tindale.

December has seen a grand resurgance of basketball in the Wing. An inter-Squadron knockout competition produced many players who were keen and showed promise of greater things. After the competition, a Regimental team was hurriedly formed and entered into the first rounds of the Northern Command Minor Units Basketball Competition. The team excelled itself, and by Christmas we were the winners of the Northumbrian District competition. We eventually reached the semi-final of the Northern Command stage, where we were well beaten by the Depot, Royal Leicesters, on their court at Leicester. In pace and tactics we were their equal, but their skill at shooting was superlative and far excelled our own.

The Ruby season continues well in the Wing, and Second-Lieutenant Godson is congratulated on playing for the Combined Services XV against the Australian Touring team.

Snow arrived in Catterick on New Year's Eve, causing great consternation to Officer Training Squadron. Consultations were held and plans made for clearing the square for a Commissioning Parade practice. Six valiant soldiers from 4 Squadron, wielding a fire hose, made gallant efforts to wash the snow off the square. Meanwhile three 3-tonners mounting snow ploughs pirouetted around the square shovelling snow everywhere except off the square. The whole operation was carefully supervised by a small staff of three Majors, five Captains, one Second-Lieutenant, the R.S.M. and a Sergeant Major. However, all worked out well in the end, as the thaw started the following day.

Christmas was as hectic as ever, with parties given by all Messes in turn. Many thanks must be given to Major Martin for organising a first-class children's party, which was enjoyed by kiddies young and old.

JUNIOR LEADERS REGIMENT

Our main news this month are the awards of the O.B.E. to our Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel R. G. Baker, and the B.E.M. to Miss Elsie Roome, W.V.S., in the New Year's Honours List. These, together with the M.B.E., bestowed on R.S.M. Thompson recently, make an enviable trio of awards, and the Regiment feels very proud of the Honours and the recipients.

It would be inappropriate here to comment on the award to Colonel Baker, other than to say that those who work under him are delighted that his tireless work in connection with the wellbeing and training of Junior Leaders for Royal Signals has been recognised in this way.

Miss Roome has been attached to this Regiment as a W.V.S. member for over two years. In this time she has encouraged, comforted, reassured and advised many boys. Without her help, the task of the Regimental Officers and Instructors would have been much more difficult, and the boys and staff appreciate the tremendous and selfless efforts she makes on their behalf. The award of the B.E.M. to Miss Roome will give great satisfaction to all those who know and admire her.

The introduction of trade courses has meant certain reorganisation, and those who follow the fortunes of this Regiment will be interested to know that both Squadrons now consist of one "trade" troop and three "basic" troops. Having completed his preliminary training with recruit troop, a boy is now posted to a "basic" troop for one year. In that year he completes three courses with a "Regimental" bias—Shooting, Fieldcraft, Weapon Training and Drill and Duties, while on the technical side he does an Elementary Trades Course, a Wireless and a Lines Course.

Towards the end of this time with the "basic" troop, it is decided what trade training the boy is likely to be selected for when he leaves the Regiment, and he commences training in this trade when he passes on to the "trade" troop at the end of his year with the "basic" troop. Those boys who are earmarked for a trade which is not covered by the "trade" troops, are put on the course most likely to be of use to them; thus a potential cipher operator would attend the teleprinter operator's course.

At present, "trade" troop courses are held for "X" tradesmen, telegraph, teleprinter and wireless operators and linemen. Most boys are posted to one of these trades on leaving the Regiment.

Boys will spend a varying time with "trade" troops, depending on their age and date of joining the Regiment. Whilst it would be wrong to suppose that a boy will pass out as an A III operator at the end of one or two terms—bearing in mind that learning the preliminaries of his trade forms only one part of his overall training in the Regiment, and takes its place with no less important aspects such as education, character-building and leadership training — nevertheless, the trade training he receives here should at least place him ahead of his contemporaries joining Training Regiments from civil life.

To those involved in the preliminaries, it is a cheering thought (if they have time to think of it) that the next public engagement in which the Regiment takes part will be over before this appears in print. The "Young Soldiers" Exhibition takes place in Salisbury the third week in January. It is an exhibition of handicrafts and training of all Junior Leaders' units and

Apprentices' Schools in Southern Command. The Regiment are producing a stand and six Junior Leaders to represent the Corps, and hope to get a fair share of the Press, B.B.C. and I.T.V. coverage expected. We would like to record here our appreciation of the assistance given to us in the preparation of the exhibition stand by U.K. COMCAN Signal Regiment and the Southern Command Mobile Signal Squadron.

SIGNAL TRAINING WING, ARMY APPRENTICES SCHOOL, HARROGATE

We arrived back from leave today, and these notes must be in the post tomorrow, so there is very little that can be written, other than to wish everyone a very happy New Year.

The usual "get-together" of the staff took place on the day that we broke up and everything was very convivial. The Commandant and the Chief Instructor favoured us with a visit, and there were a couple of very nice speeches, as always on occasions like this. After helping to serve the A/Ts' dinner, we rounded off the afternoon in the W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess.

Major Coslett has left us for a few weeks on a course at Catterick, prior to his departure for Germany. W.O.II Webster and Sergeant Thorpe are counting the days; they leave for FARELF and Malta, respectively, on or about 5th February. Arrived in the Wing, during the leave period, is W.O.II F. J. Griffin, from Cyprus, to whom we extend a hearty welcome. Mr. Eastwood has deserted the Operators on appointment as Grade III instructor. We wish him well in his new job.

There is, obviously, no association news this month, but we hope to be able to contribute something of interest in the next issue.

U.K. COMCAN SIGNAL REGIMENT

R.H.Q. and 1 Squadron. The month of December has been a most festive one, during the course of which, several functions were held, all of which were thoroughly enjoyed by all concerned. A grand dance was held on 5th December, which was organised and run by the Unit Wives' Club, and started off the month in good style. This was followed by the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess Christmas Draw, which was held on 18th December. On 20th December, the Unit held the All Ranks' Christmas Dance, which included a buffet, spot and novelty prizes. The Other Ranks' Christmas Dinner was held on the same day, and was served by the Officers, Warrant Officers and Sergeants of the Unit, who, incidentally, gave a fine display of drill when they were marched down to the Cookhouse by Lance-Corporal Hulbert of the Regimental Police. This, in turn, was followed, on 21st December, by the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess Christmas Dinner and Dance, which proved to be a great success. The Children's Christmas Party was held in the Sergeants' Mess on 24th December, Sergeant Willoughby portraying a most genial Santa Claus. The month was rounded off by a New Year's Social, held in the Sergeants' Mess, which was attended by the Officers of the Unit, and the New Year was greeted in a good alcoholic manner.

During the month, No. 9 Junior N.C.O.s' Regimental Drill and Duties Course was held. A high standard was attained by those attending the course and, as a result, No. 1. Squadron benefitted by the appointment of Signalmen Currie, Penny, Kerr, Ferrett, Davies, Thomas, Vaughan, Quelch, Syme, Holland and Mallard to Lance-Corporal.

We would like to extend our congratulations to Sergeant Woolnough, on his recent promotion to Warrant Officer Second Class.

There has been very little of interest in the realm of sport, but we are looking forward to the first round of the South Western District Rugby Football Competition, in which the Regimental XV will meet 15th Training Battalion, Royal Army Service Corps, at Blandford, on 8th January, and also a boxing match against R.A.F., Innsworth, which will take place on 16th January. We wish both of our teams every success in these fixtures.

2 Squadron. We're in the money! Congratulations to Sergeant Wagstaff on taking joint second prize in the Amateur Section of the Photographic Competition in the "Sunday Graphic," and to Lance-Corporal Coldrick on winning a third dividend on the football pools. Unfortunately, however, he broke his leg before he even had an opportunity to celebrate.

The pre-"Admin." visit of the S.O.-in-C. and the Director of Telecommunications made the annual Administrative Inspection a matter of routine.

The "Admin." weighed little on the minds of the organisers of the seasonal functions. A full programme was enjoyed by the members of the Squadron, who will probably welcome the New Year as a time to recover.

The W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess held a very successful dinner and dance on 14th December. The 19th was the Squadron's Christmas Day, and customary procedure was enlivened by Staff Sergeant Graham's performance on the bugle, but the "Q" put an abrupt end to the recital by placing his hand over the blunt end of the instrument in the middle of Reveille.

On the following afternoon, the Squadron was host to the children of the married families and of the nearby children's home. One of the more amusing sights was that of Assistant Engineer Stan Whines playing a suitably rotund Santa Claus for the children, some of whom, having just eaten an ample tea, were beginning to look equally rotund.

There was no organised dance on New Year's Eve, everyone celebrated the occasion in his own fashion—and judging from appearances "the morning after," the fashion was in the best Scottish tradition.

4 Squadron. Now that Christmas and New Year celebrations are concluded, we are settling down to a normal existence once again.

We had a very successful children's party on 16th December, children from the Normandy Orphanage were our guests. On 17th December, we had our Squadron Christmas Dinner, followed by an all ranks' dance in the evening. A good time was had by all. A dance was held in our new canteen, which has been completely redecorated and modernised.

The Administrative Officer tells us that Cobbett Hill resembles the trenches of the 1914-18 War at the moment. We have more than our share of the mud, and a vast amount of water encircling the camp at the moment.

24 INDEPENDENT INFANTRY BRIGADE SIGNAL SQUADRON

As with the New Year in and the Old Year out, we welcome and say goodbye to members of the Squadron. Firstly there is the new O.C., Major L. S. McCarthy, who takes over from Captain J. O. Fisher, now in Germany, in a place he assures us is difficult to pronounce. We wish them both the very best of luck in their new posts.

Then there is Captain W. D. A. Poole, whom many will remember from the M. of I. course at Catterick, now with us as "i/c and valuable hockey officer to the Brigade," so he tells us anyway. Staff Godbeer is now in Cyprus, and we hope it will not be long before he is joined by his wife and family. In his place we have Sergeant-Major Bolton, joining us from 2 T.R. His main hobby is cycling, and he hopes to start a club for the sports afternoon. The countryside here in County Durham is certainly worth looking at, though a certain driver was known to have thrown away his glasses as he could not stand the sight any longer.

Our winter training programme will be starting again very soon, so the cards and the remains of the Christmas fare (blondes and brunettes too) will have to be put aside. The two and nine mile "bash" will be under way again, and also the doubling from period to period—we think the S.S.M. is right about the bicycle.

The wireless side of the Squadron, under the watchful eyes of Sergeants Owen and Leech is now well advanced in the use of the B201 set for communication with the Pioneer aircraft, and the crazy mixed-up voice procedure has in no way baffled the operators.

We should like to end with the news that everyone came back off leave, even down to the last man. The last man, as always, is of course FRED. He is a little unhappy at the moment and says that if the Russians wish for a volunteer to go up in the next Sputnik, he knows of one person he would like to put in it.

FRED'S follies go even further than that, we are sorry to say. On Thursday he asked the camp barber for a three-quarter wave, thinking it was a Tommy Steele perm.

There was a kit check the other day too, and when told to get a refill for his housewife, asked the "Q." for a "port and lemon." Finally, he had a go at the switchboard the other night and washed it down with OMO to add a little brightness. (It worked fine — the O.C. was practically incandescent). Poor lad, he'll have to go.

EASTERN COMMAND SIGNAL SQUADRON

The high proportion of events, the memories of which are obscured by alcohol, makes the writing of December WIRE Notes a perennial problem, but to continue the Squadron story for December, 1957, without first wishing all WIRE readers a happy New Year would be a mistake—so from us to you go best wishes for the season.

Two events took place recently in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess which cemented, very firmly, good relations between the Eastbourne Police and ourselves. The first occasion was a games' night, during which our new Sergeant-Major, S.S.M. Eley, excelled himself by producing some most unusual party games. The second occasion was that of the Sergeants' Mess Draw. It was good to see our guests collect so many of the prizes and also to see the way they enjoyed what was an extremely well run affair.

Other social events were the Corporals' Mess Dance, voted by all a great success, and the All Ranks' Dance, at which the organising abilities of Corporal Driver and Corporal Bowsher were much appreciated.

Not to be outdone, the Officers' Mess held their Christmas dinner on the 17th December. After an excellent meal, the evening was made most enjoyable by Major Freddie Ashford producing a party games programme which went with a swing.

The All Ranks' dinner was held on the 20th December. The high standard of service on the part of the Officers and N.C.O.s of the Squadron produced some ribald remarks from some of the diners, whilst songs by Major Spence and Signalman Major went a long way to rounding off a most successful event.

At this time our thoughts go out to Sergeant Orchard and his wife, who suffered a motor cycle crash just after Christmas. He has broken several bones. Also to Signalman Stewart, who was badly burned when a generator, which he was filling with petrol, caught fire. He is, however, recovering well.

Congratulations to Signalman Glanfield on his recent marriage and to Sergeant and Mrs. Tearse on the birth of a son.

10 WIRELESS TRAINING SQUADRON

As we recover from the annual dislocation of activities at Christmas, there is time to reconsider the considerable happenings of the last few months in the Squadron. Firstly, in September, we said goodbye to Major R. J. Harvey, who commanded the UNIT for three successful years, and has since left for service in FARELF. We wish him every success in his new appointment. Major B. C. Bovey has assumed command.

November saw the visit of Major-General R. J. Moberly, C.B., O.B.E., Signal Officer-in-Chief, accompanied by Brigadier E. D. Good, C.B.E., Commander, Training Brigade, and of Major-General R. Younger, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., G.O.C. North Midland District, who was paying a farewell visit on the occasion of his retirement from active service.

In the sporting field, hockey continues unbeaten, and is now entering the period of open competitions, with every hope of repeating their success of last season. The Rugby side, winners of North Midland District Minor Units, lost 6—5 to the Depot, Duke of Wellington's Regiment, in the final of the Northern Command Minor Units, but continues to have a fairly successful season. Association football, with fewer playing members than other sports, still battles bravely on. The basketball side newly-formed this season, were runners-up to the Depot, Royal Leicesters, in a keenly contested district final. In all fields, many matches have been successfully won, as a result of teamwork and keenness, and long may this approach continue.

18 Army Group Signal Regiment

patiently) "18 Army Group Signal Regiment, of course" . . . . "Yes, that's what I said: *the* Adjutant."

Among the more noticeable of his contributions to the life of the Regiment were the Regimental Trumpeters, and it was a happy thought of Lieutenant Mackinlay's that resulted in the presence of two of them at the station. The train was nearly an hour late arriving from Hannover, and when all the farewells had been said for the last time, and Captain Hellier was standing on the carriage steps, Corporal Roberts and Driver Tungate suddenly appeared, smart in their number one dress, and blew "Retreat." The train was then allowed to go, encouraged by the "Charge."

We hope the subsequent mishap to the military boat was purely coincidental. Ex-naval officers *don't* run their ships aground!

BAOR

18 ARMY GROUP SIGNAL REGIMENT

Christmas 1957 is already only a memory, and were we not writing for THE WIRE, we would hesitate to mention it in an introductory paragraph, still less to enlarge upon it.

Hopes of a white Christmas looked like being realised when a couple of days' snow in the first half of December froze solid in the icy spell that followed; but as suddenly as the snow had come, it went, and a damp spell with only occasional frost has lasted up to the time of writing these notes.

Within the Regiment, the Christmas programme followed the traditional pattern. The Sergeants' Mess started the ball rolling with their Christmas Draw, and with the assistance of the Regimental Dance Band, a very enjoyable evening was passed. About 140 children attended the Christmas Party in the gynasium, and after a tea, which to at least one observer, was unbelievably quiet, Father Christmas (in the shape of Staff Sergeant Underwood) made a realistic entrance through a fireplace of a homely and seasonable-looking set which had been built on the stage. Several mailbags descended after him, and the subsequent distribution of gifts caused the usual excitement and gave a lot of pleasure.

The Sergeants' Mess dinner was followed by a dance, to which the officers and their ladies were invited, and this turned out to be one of the most successful functions of the year. There followed the Corporals' Club dinner and dance and—after Christmas—an All Ranks' dance.

The exchange of hospitality between the members of the Officers' and Sergeants' Messes took their traditional form, and on Christmas Day a formidable collection of warriors fell in (in sixes, for some odd reason) outside the Sergeants' Mess and were marched by the Padre to the Dining Hall, where the men's Christmas dinner was served. On Boxing Day, during the comic football match between the Officers' and Sergeants' Messes, one officer was carried from the field just before half-time and handcuffed to the steering wheel of a colleague's car. His captors failed to notice that the ignition key was there, and there was some confusion amongst the players when, while sitting in a bunch taking suitable refreshment, they were charged by a small green car. In the evening of Boxing Day, and with the financial assistance of the P.R.I., Miss Stedman, whose work at the Y.M.C.A. in the barracks is much appreciated by the men, ran a most enjoyable Christmas party.

The religious significance of Christmas was observed by a considerable proportion of the Regiment. On the Sunday before Christmas, the Chapel was quite full for the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, which took the place of Morning Prayer. A choir of about 18, formed from members of the Regiment and their families, specially for the service, led the singing, and on the two following evenings sang carols in the messes, the Y.M.C.A. and around the married quarters. On Christmas Eve, two midnight services were held. Padre Greenaway conducted a Methodist order of Communion Service in the Chapel, and on the opposite side of the stairway a Roman Catholic Mass was celebrated in the model room, which had been furnished as a chapel for the occasion. In this way, some 130 people celebrated the coming of Christmas, 1957.

The Adjutant's Departure

The recent rapid turn-over of officers was continued in December by the departure of The Adjutant, Captain E. J. ("life-should-be-lived-like-a-cavalry-charge") Hellier. (The capital "T" is deliberately used to emphasise the definite article, as will be explained shortly). Captain Hellier served in the Regiment for about three and-a-half years, and was Adjutant for the last two of them. On the hockey pitch, the running track, in the office and elsewhere, he lived up to the motto which the writer saw hanging beside his desk when he first met him. He took a great pride in the Regiment, and when telephoning anybody would always introduce himself with: "This is the Adjutant." Only once did the recipient of a call appear to be in any doubt as to the caller's identity, and the home side of the conversation went something like this: "This is the Adjutant" . . . . "*the* Adjutant" . . . . (somewhat im-

◀ *Continued at foot of previous column.*

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19 ARMY GROUP SIGNAL REGIMENT

Once again a New Year dawns and all that remains of Christmas, 1957, are those nostalgic memories which, associated with the festive season, provide reminiscences for the future years. Piece by piece the decorations vanish until 12th Night sees the last grand celebration when those brilliantly lit Christmas trees that have added to the colour of the kaleidoscope of neon-lighting in the vast confines of this garrison, are extinguished for yet another year. Gone are those lengthy and complicated Christmas greeting tapes from fellow relay stations in the Comcan network, and life returns to a comparative norm when those connected with work in our Signal Centre ponder with rueful countenance on the formidable list of exercises scheduled for the forthcoming year.

With a full week set aside for the Christmas break, news this month is obviously centred around the 25th and such functions connected with this date, though the 11th December saw the finals of the Rhine District Inter Unit Boxing Championships against 15 ABOD. To our worthy opponents, who beat us by 9 bouts to 2, go our best wishes for a successful future. This success was all the more outstanding as this was the first time they had entered this contest. All the bouts were well contested and it remained to Signalman Mathews and Driver Ellinor to save us from an ignominous "whitewash."

The culmination of weeks of hard work and organisation bore fruit on the afternoon of the 23rd when the children of the Regiment attended a Christmas party in the Royal Air Force gymnasium. After a mystifying conjuring show by Signalman Preston, which had many of the parents wondering, Father Christmas appeared through the traditional chimney, and to the accompaniment of excited shouts bestowed gifts to all the children present. On the evening of the 21st, a successful draw and dance was held in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess. It is confidentially reported that some members of the Mess were remarkably fortunate in respect of the former—maybe there is something to be said for the law of averages after all!

The fruits of the stirring of the Christmas pudding was seen on the great day when dinner was served in traditional style. After working their way through a vast amount of turkey, ham, pork and all the associated components of a Christmas dinner, there were few takers for the pudding—a case of many who had eaten unwisely and too well? The dining hall was visited by the Commander-in-Chief and Chief of Staff of H.Q., B.A.O.R., who congratulated Sergeant Collett and his staff on their valiant efforts and wished the Regiment good fortune in the coming year.

Mention must be made of an unusual experience in the year's Christmas festivities. This was the visit by German television technicians to make a short film of the W.O.s and Senior N.C.O.s taking round "gunfire" on Christmas morning. Accordingly, at 0715 hours, a motley crew of potential TV stars, led by R.S.M. Holdsworth, met to mix ceremoniously the rum with the coffee—or coffee with the rum, whichever you prefer. The film included shots of some of the boys toasting their pin-up girls—it is not revealed how much of this was cut out by the censor—and a much rehearsed incident when Signalman Evans was tipped out of bed, with his consent, of course. The event closed at 0815 hours when the R.S.M. finally convinced the German staff that it was **not** the usual custom to also provide the Regiment with breakfast in bed. Due to Records looking, perhaps, rather kindly on the transit of personnel around this period of the year, we have had far fewer than usual of our customary arrivals and departures. More notable amongst the latter are W.O.II Alexander, to Northern Command, York, and S.Q.M.S. McGrath, who has decided the life of a publican can hold many joys. To them both go our best wishes for a successful future.

Colour Sergeant G. H. King, D.C.M., and Sergeant T. Lannigan, of the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, visit 19 Army Group Signal Regiment.

Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Messes. The festive season may be said to have opened when our two guests from the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, arrived at Dusseldorf Airport on 17th December. Before writing of their, and consequently our, activities, it may be appropriate to say a word or two about their history.

Colour Sergeant G. H. King, D.C.M., joined R.E. Signals on 3rd April, 1900, which date was his 17th birthday. He served first as a telegraphist and later became Orderly Room Sergeant. He was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal for his actions on the Somme in the 1914-18 War.

Sergeant T. Lannigan was 19 when he enlisted in R.E. Signals in 1915. His original trade was Operator Line and he eventually became an operator Signals. He served the Colours until January, 1935, and, in fact, was on the Reserve at the outbreak of the Second World War. He was again embodied and spent nine months at Catterick before being discharged—this period of service naturally earning him the 1939/45 war medal.

George King and Tom Lannigan became Royal Signals at the birth of the Corps. Although they are proud to be ex-members of the Royal Engineers, they are very proud to be Royal Signals.

The staff of Dusseldorf Airport recognised both as V.I.P.s, and consequently the welcoming party led by the Rheindahlen Mess Supervising Officer and the R.S.M. were able to proceed out on the tarmac and actually meet them coming down the steps of the plane. Both had flown before and, in fact, George King was in possession of an honorary flying licence. He had not, however, been able to take over the Viscount on the trip as the product of the Double Diamond brewery and his interest in the children coming to B.A.O.R. for Christmas kept him well occupied.

That evening a social was held in Rheindahlen Mess to welcome the two old soldiers. How well their scarlet coats stood out.

First parade on the 18th was Commanding Officer's Interview, a pleasant one for all concerned. The pensioners were heard to remark of the informality of this occasion.

For the rest of that day the R.S.M.'s office gradually came to resemble a newspaper agency. Public Relations Rhine Army wanted a story; Public Relations at the British Embassy, Bonn, wanted news for Reuters; statements from the Pensioners at various stages of their visit were requested. But this year there was a lack of photographic requests.

The Pensioners attended all Mess and Regimental functions, and coincidently both won a German beer mug in the Rheindahlen Mess draw on the 21st and an electric cigarette lighter in the St. Tonis Mess draw on the 23rd. They attended the Other Ranks' dinner at both St. Tonis and Rheindahlen, accompanying the Commanding Officer in his car. At the Rheindahlen dinner they were introduced to General Sir Dudley Ward, K.B.E., K.C.B., D.S.O., Commander in Chief British Forces of the Rhine.

On Boxing Day the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel P. W. Lonnon, M.B.E., and his wife were hosts to both the Pensioners for drinks before lunch, and they had their photographs taken in the garden.

They visited many members and their wives in married quarters and their final evening out on 2nd January was at the house of R.S.M. and Mrs. Holdsworth. Their host that evening was heard to remark, "Pity we can't keep the pair permanently; what an example they set in their bearing, turnout and saluting."

Saturday, 4th January, was a sad day when a party of well-wishers again made the journey to the airport, this time to bid our guests farewell, having handed them over to B.E.A.'s charming hostesses.

So did their visit and the two Messes festive function period end. Members are now hoping for leave in which to recuperate. Who said, "What's on next Saturday?" Shoot him!

1st Signal Squadron, W.R.A.C. It is with great pride that we learnt of the award of the M.B.E. to W.O.I Baylis, W.R.A.C., of the Squadron. She joined the A.T.S. in 1942 and since then she appears to have had a mania for collecting trades. From our records we can say she has qualified as operator fire control, driver i/c, despatch rider, switchboard operator, teleprinter operator, signal centre clerk, cipher operator and signal centre supervisor. In addition she has qualified on the D.S.O.'s course, the W.R.A.C. drill and duties course and an unusual course called a N.A.T.O. Reorientation Course. What a fund of knowledge she must have! During her service, W.O.I Baylis has been an instructor at the Signals School and, no doubt, will be remembered by both the men and women who had the good fortune to pass through the School at that time. I am sure all past and present members of the W.R.A.C. with Royal Signals will join us in saying, "Well done, Miss Baylis."

From that excitement the Squadron is now settling down after an excellent Christmas. A lot of changes are due to take place shortly. The O.C. is going back to Catterick and Captain Potter is coming to take her place. We hope she will like Germany and be happy with us. Congratulations to Captain Schofield on her recent promotion. Who is the boss in the family now, ma'am? We also would like to welcome Lieutenant Chadwick who is joining us soon. W.O.II McCue left us for Sheffield—we hope she is happy there.

Romance is still playing havoc with the Squadron and since our last notes we have the following matches to report. Our Squadron Clerk, Private Fleming, is to marry ex-Cpl. Moore of the Regiment. Sergeant Price left the Service to await the return of Sergeant Sillence, also of the Regiment. At the moment we hear that Sergeant Price is helping her brother in his shop by selling all articles at pre-war prices! Business should be good! Sergeant Little, Corporal Berriman, Privates Tomlinson and Mathias have all left to become housewives.

To end our notes, we reckon we have the catch of the season. One of the Royal Signals most eligible bachelors has been netted. We refer to Staff Sergeant Tucker of the Maintenance Section here. Well done, Corporal Jeffries and congratulations to you both; we all know you will be very happy.



S.S.M. L. W. Austen is presented with the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal by the Commander, 5 AGRA (A.A.). S.S.M. Austen is now serving with 1 Wireless Regiment

4 INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT

The "Winter Log Book" of our Regiment is a record of sport, Christmas festivities and wintry exercises. Starting with exercises, we took part in Exercise Crossed Swords One along with most field force signal units in B.A.O.R.

As regards sport, never before can so (comparatively) small a Regiment have produced so many teams in so many sports. The highlight has been the re-emergence of our own Rugby team, instead of sharing one with 4 Infantry Divisional H.Q. as in the past. Under the personal coaching of the Commanding Officer, the Rugby XV has matured like veterans. It beat 18 Army Group Signal Regiment, last year's winners, in the first round of the B.A.O.R. Royal Signals Rugby Competition by 11—6. We play 1 East Yorks. in the final of the Divisional Knock-out in the near future and wish the team every success.

Our Soccer team has been no less triumphant, and as we go to press we are happy to record that on 4th January we have reached the semi-final of the Divisional Soccer Knock-out Competition by beating 3 D.G. 2—1 in what can only be described as "Hillary-Fuchs" conditions. Our Cross-Country team has also been out in all weathers. In a very full season of matches

they have invariably beaten sister Royal Signals Regiments, whilst competitions against neighbouring Infantry battalions have usually been fairly evenly fought out. Hockey and Basketball are still well patronised. The making of a tough Boxing team has been revealed through the efforts of Capt. Lynam, our energetic Q.M. Even Squash deserves a mention, where the C.O., 2 i/c and Adjutant form half of a strong Divisional H.Q. team which recently beat 1 D.C.L.I. by 15 games to nil in a Divisional Competition.

Finally, the social side. THE WIRE must be full of identical reports regarding Regimental Christmases, but we can safely say that 1957 has been one of the most intimate and family affairs in the history of the Regiment. Most Troops organised their own private parties in addition to the large functions, and throughout the scattered garrisons which 4 Infantry Division occupies the feeling of a Regimental family stirred every heart. Accordingly, we are confident that 1958 will usher in another year of success, both on the exercise battlefield and in the field of sport.

7 ARMOURED DIVISION SIGNAL REGIMENT



The Wives' Club Entertainments Committee: Mrs. Mann, Mrs. Geddes, Mrs. Baker, Mrs. White, Mrs. Truscott

Like an old soldier, 1957 has faded away to wherever Old Years go, but so hectic was its passing that it will not be quickly forgotten.

The training season finished with two large-scale exercises with the Army Hunter Trials sandwiched between. Then followed a month's hectic preparation of transport, plant and equipment for the numerous inspections which are precursors of the Annual Administrative Inspection. Being at the "sharp end" we are so involved in Divisional and higher formation exercises from March to November that the annual "Spring" cleaning and inspections are limited to the winter months; this increases the difficulties of preparation, especially for drivers and despatch riders who frequently have to contend with ice and snow when getting their vehicles up to standard after a busy training season. However, in spite of the weather, good team work resulted in a very high standard all round and we are confidently awaiting the final report of the Inspecting Officer, Brigadier G. H. Baker, C.B., C.M.G., C.B.E., M.C., Commander Royal Artillery. Some idea of the weather conditions may be gathered from the accompanying photograph of the Officers, which was taken the day before the Brigadier's inspection—that is NOT sand on our boots!

The end of the Administrative Inspection heralded the start of the festive season, and the last two weeks of December passed in a succession of Regimental, Sergeants' Mess and Officers' Mess functions, liberally interspersed with Troop and private parties. We can safely say that a good time was had by all and that Christmas, 1957, was a memorable one.

Our Wives' Club, not to be outdone, embarked on an ambitious formal dinner to wind up a successful year, and from all reports had a most enjoyable evening. The photograph shows the hard working members of the committee who planned, cooked, and served the meal to 30 members of the club—and then did the washing up. By the looks on their faces they obviously thought it all worthwhile.

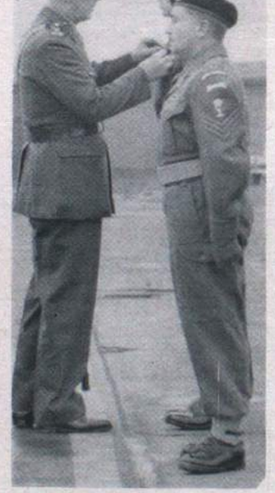


Back Row :—Lieutenant Castle-Smith, Captain Baker, Lieutenant Hales, Lieutenant (T.O.T.) Martin, Lieutenant Wheeler. *Middle Row* :—Lieutenant (Q.M.) Truscott, Major (Q.M.) Walters, Captain Clarke, Captain Jackson, Lieutenant Lycett-Gregson. *Seated* :—Major White, Major Blackburne, Lieutenant-Colonel Anderson, Captain Williams, Major Lowe

Major G. W. Blackburne, who came to us as second-in-command in September last left very suddenly in mid-December on posting, with promotion, to FARELF. To him and Mrs. Blackburne go our congratulations and best wishes. Major R. White has taken over as second-in-command and his place as O.C. 1 Squadron has been taken by Major J. C. Lucas, who has newly joined the Regiment; to him and to Lieutenant Lycett-Gregson and their families we extend a warm welcome.

In conclusion we send greetings and sincere wishes for a Happy and Prosperous New Year to all members of the Corps and particularly to all Desert Rats.

10 AIR FORMATION SIGNAL REGIMENT



Brigadier Cowan pinning the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal on W.O.II (F. of S.) Stiles. Staff Sergeant Tribe awaiting his turn

December has been a busy month for all. Brigadier H. W. L. Cowan, Commander Base Troops, Rhine District, visited the Regiment on 6th December, 1957, to have lunch and a look round. During his visit he presented the Long Service and Good Conduct Medals to W.O.II (F. of S.) Stiles of the Regiment and to Staff Sergeant Tribe of CAFSO Stores Pool at a Regimental Parade.

The hockey team was knocked out of the Royal Signals Cup by 1 Wireless Regiment by 1 goal after a replay and we hope to meet them soon in the Rhine District Cup. The Football team did not seize their chance against 18 Army Group Signal Regiment and were knocked out of the Royal Signals Football Cup.

A detachment from 16 TE Troop at H.Q. 2 T.A.F. won the competition for the best barrack room at H.Q. 2 T.A.F. Our L.A.D. won the competition on this station.

The men's Christmas meal, superb in itself, was eaten to the soft accompaniment of the Officers, mainly Royal Air Force, Skiffle Group.

Lance-Corporal Rosa, of 17 TE Troop spent Christmas in Vienna and we hope that we will hear from him next month.

12 AIR FORMATION SIGNAL REGIMENT

December has been a full month due to the exercises and winter training. Fortunately, the weather has helped and no major snags have occurred. Preparation for Christmas started early and culminated in a wonderful Christmas dinner provided by the R.A.F.

The Regimental Christmas draw was won by Signalman Mancrief on the 20th December, and he left the next day for U.K. His first prize was a B.E.A. return ticket to London, plus £5.

The Drill and Duties Course finished with a very good pass-off parade, and the course was complimented by the Commanding Officer.

The Regimental M.T. School opened its doors for the first intake, and the course have now sat their Trade Board. We understand the results are good.

The Lineman Upgrading Course is now under way, and the Chief Instructor, Major Berry, is busy trying to meet the commitments of Regimental duties as against the need for instructors on the course.

The Officers of the Regiment have been coming and going at great frequency on M.T. Courses in U.K. and B.A.O.R. They are very good courses and eagerly sought after.

The Christmas programme was a very full one. R.H.Q. Squadron won a prize in the R.A.F. Station Wahn Bar competition. It was a cash prize and was used to improve the Christmas amenities for the Squadron.

Presents were distributed to the children of all German employees on the last day before breaking up for the holidays.

Snow has just arrived at Winterberg, so the Ski enthusiasts are waxing their skis. The Commanding Officer has gone there for a few days, and we all hope he enjoys the break.

This month we have said goodbye to Lieutenant-Colonel H. E. H. Clements, the Regimental Lines Officer, and his place has been taken by Major J. T. Rogers.

Lieutenant-Colonel Clements was one of the founder members of the Regiment. As a personality he was delightful, and was well known for his readiness to help all and sundry. He goes to the War Office for his next appointment. We wish him and Mrs. Clements God speed and good luck and say thank you to him for the hard work he accomplished on behalf of the Regiment.

Our welcome goes out to Major Rogers, whose family are coming out shortly to join him. We hope they enjoy their stay with us.

Happy New Year to you all.

M E L F

CYRENAICA SIGNAL TROOP

Let us start our notes by congratulating Sergeant Barry Hunt and Miss Pat Mollison who were married at All Saints Garrison Church, Benghazi, on 23rd November. Here's wishing them many years of happy married life. There were some misgivings as to the weather for the big day, but the "Libyan Sun" held out and all went well. At the reception the guests all enjoyed an excellent "help yourself" wedding breakfast, and inspected a most impressive array of presents, which contained everything from a dinner service to a toaster, in fact, everything for the home except a tin opener.

The life of the troop continues in the usual way with little of interest to report. Work becomes even harder for our "slaving" linemen when winter turns the scorched Libyan desert into a vast expanse of mud and puddles, which is very heavy to turn over when they are looking for "lost" cables. However, we are looking forward to the Christmas break and the celebrations and functions that always go with it. The children's Christmas party will take place on the 20th, but this year, instead of Santa and his reindeer we must be satisfied with Sergeant Giles on a donkey (Arab style). To finish, we welcome our new Chief Clerk, Sergeant Brian O'Neill, and say farewell to Sergeant Pat Morris who has gone home for a welcome leave and posting. Congratulations also to Steeple Bumpstead Signal Squadron on a most enjoyable set of WIRE notes. Best of luck to their to their M.T. Corporal and here's looking forward to the next issue.

The following was received later :

As '57 goes and '58 comes, with its Audit Boards and P.E. Tests, etc., we can look back on 12 months that haven't been too bad. After all, any year that brings a pay rise and no corresponding rise in the price of a pint of good beer, as well as a good summer, no admin., and a merry Christmas, is worthy of favourable comment.

As for Christmas, even though it poured with rain at the kiddies Christmas party, and Santa Claus's donkey collapsed, and part of the roof fell in during the Sergeants' Mess dinner, I think everyone enjoyed the festivities as much as ever.

Keeping our notes short and sweet, let us finish by saying our farewells: firstly, to Sergeant Don Marsh and his family, to whom we wish the best of luck in B.A.O.R., where they have been trying to get for years; and secondly to Corporal Tolloday and his hardy bunch of linemen, from 4 A.F. Signal Regiment, who have been attached to us for some months now, and have really done a good job of work while they have been here. All the best to them in Cyprus.



51 (INDEP.) INFANTRY BRIGADE SIGNAL SQUADRON, ROYAL SIGNALS (CYPRUS) SHOOTING COMPETITION, NOVEMBER 1957

Front Row :—Lance Corporal Roberts, Corporal Pashley, Sergeant Cooper, Major J. M. W. Badcock, Lance Corporal French, Signalman Jones. *Back Row* :—Signalman Middleton, Corporal Payne, Sergeant Bishop, 2nd/Lieutenant H. S. Wilson, Corporal Brock

51 (INDEPENDENT) INFANTRY BRIGADE SIGNAL SQUADRON

The notable events during the period since we last wrote have been the Brigade Assault at Arms, the Royal Signals (Cyprus) Shooting Competition, the departure of our Brigade Commander and the onset of winter.

The Brigade Assault at Arms involved the Squadron in a week of really hard and varied work. The five major units in the Brigade had to compete against each other in every aspect of their functions in war. Brigade H.Q., being impartial, had to organise, umpire and run all the competition. Thus the Squadron ran the tests for all the Battalion Signal Platoons, provided communications between the various ranges in use, laid lines for battle simulutors, and did range duties on the 2-inch mortar, grenade, 3.5 rocket launcher and rifle ranges! The Assault at Arms ended in a spectacular competition where all five Signal Platoons raced against each other in sending a message by WS 31, line and D.R., over a course of 1½ miles. Each team was cheered on their respective C.O.s and supporters.

This was quickly followed by the Royal Signals Cyprus Shooting Competition. The Squadron competed against the four Signal Regiments and two Brigade Signal Troops in the Island. Many wintry sunrises were seen from Karalaos ranges. However, this was well rewarded when we won the Unit Challenge Cup by being first in the Rifle practices, second in the Sten gun and third in the Bren gun practices. We also won the Unit Falling Plate Competition and so many of the Squadron now drink their beer from tankards! Here's to next year.

Brigadier J. A. R. Robertson, C.B.E., D.S.O., took the salute at Brigade H.Q. Farewell Parade on 28th November and we wish him all good fortune on promotion to the Command of the Gurkha Division. We shall miss him, for whilst he insisted on the best communications, he appreciated the difficulties that these sometimes involved. Brigadier H. C. Baker-Baker, D.S.O., M.B.E., was welcomed when he inspected the Squadron on the next day.

Winter has come in with fierce winds and heavy rain which has necessitated a good many tents being replaced. Many of them now contain various ingenious draught excluders capable of quick removal for the O.C.'s inspection.

☆

AFRICA

COMCAN SIGNAL TROOP, ACCRA

Daylight hours in Accra have been strangely quiet during December. We believe this must be due to the enervating heat and damp, but perhaps it is not entirely unconnected with a continuous round of festivities in the evening. Almost every unit in the area ran a Christmas social which everyone else attended. Our own Christmas social, held on the 21st, was successful in spite of the number of "hangovers" before the event. By the end of the Christmas holiday, most of us had a "Monday morning feeling" that lasted all week.

On Christmas Eve the "Coms" also did battle with the "Cans" on the football field. The "Cans" also did battle with the cans (beer) at half time, which nearly extended to full time. Dress varied from sombrero, poncho and mosquito boots, to swimsuit and sunglasses, with one or two throwbacks to the dark ages and a fugitive from the silent film era. One person claims to have kicked the ball. The referee, who previously thought football was a complaint caused by wearing someone elses boots, now appreciates that it is a game in which the referee strikes the ball with a frying pan whenever it comes within reach. The game was enjoyed by all, and many still bear honourable scars. We are not sure which side won. After an interval for recovery, the Sergeants' Mess held a Christmas dinner which went down very well.

On Christmas Day the families of the Unit rallied round and saw to it that nobody who was "living in" was left out—a very nice gesture that was much appreciated by all concerned.

Boxing Day evening found us once more glass in hand. This time with Major and Mrs. Armstrong as hosts "at home." After a successful evening, many of us felt that the Christmas period had been well rounded off.

1 SIGNAL SQUADRON, KING'S AFRICAN RIFLES

The main social event of the past couple of months has been the wedding of Lieutenant Roy Burfitt and Captain Anne Applebee, W.R.A.C. Lieutenant Burfitt is now in Catterick toiling on his Subaltern's Part II Course and Mrs. Burfitt remaining here in Nairobi for a few more days until she obtains her release from the W.R.A.C. We trust that by the time these notes are printed the newly-weds will be comfortably settled down together in Catterick.

In the Command Rifle Meeting our teams coped well against strong opposition but our chances were blighted by bad luck when a sudden dust whirlwind completely engulfed the S.S.M. in the middle of the snap-shooting! However, fate smiled on our African team, who were runners up in the "Falling Plate," having successfully reached the finals as a result of a bye, a short notice scratching and a disqualification!

In the past months we have been concentrating on our P.E. tests. Owing to duties, the tests have had to be conducted about half-a-dozen times and as a result S.S.M. Chilvers—pacemaker and pathfinder—is now remarkably fit and a shadow of his former self.

Despite the heavy rains of the past few weeks, we have been playing a lot of Inter-Troop football. Lance-Corporal Clegg has distinguished himself as a very good goalkeeper and has saved many a goal—and delighted the spectators—by diving fearlessly into a sea of mud.

A fortnight ago our African ranks were issued with King's African Rifles' embellishments and they are now dressed in accordance with King's African Rifles' regulations. The British ranks are still dressed as Royal Signals but on 1st January, 1958, our turn will come and as from that date we also will adopt King's African Rifles' dress. We shall be sorry to lose our Royal Signals badge and our Corps embellishments, but we are proud to be part of the King's African Rifles and we look forward to a long and happy association with our new Regiment.

Looking Backward

By Major J. L. Judd

This month's historic note is from "The Soldier's Pocket-book for Field Service" by Major-General Sir G. Wolseley. Published 1874.

ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH

We were the first nation that used it in the theatre of war, a wire having been run down to our trenches before Sebastopol.

During the Indian Mutiny the wires uniting us with Calcutta followed close upon our heels, so close that I have seen the workmen when laying it actually under a fire of canister. A careful study of the late wars in America and Bohemia will give the student an idea of its immense value in military operations. In future, a Regular Signal Corps, under an Engineer Officer, will take the field with an English Army, to act under the orders of the Q.M.G., or chief of the staff, the care of the instruments and the working of the line being under the superintendence of the C.R.E. No attempt will therefore be made here to describe the various processes for laying or fixing a line of wires.

All Cavalry raids made upon the enemy's communications or into his territory should be accompanied by a skilled operator who should be provided with a pocket instrument, and a small supply of copper wire, and when the enemy's language is different from yours, by a supply of ribbon paper and the instrument for recording the messages upon it.

Thus provided an Officer commanding a Cavalry detachment that has got into the enemy's rear can, by tapping the wires at any place, learn the messages that are going over them, and perhaps in that way the plans that are being made to capture his party. In many instances the Southern Commanders, having seized some telegraph station in the enemy's rear, sent orders in the names of the Northern Generals to various posts, directing them to move so as to fall into the net prepared for them; trains of supplies of which they were in great need were thus secured. To prevent such tricks being played upon you, a secret signal, to be frequently changed should be determined upon without which no orders are to be obeyed. It is necessary that the operators should not even know that such existed. For instance, for the month of June it may be arranged that each message should begin or end, or both, with a word of five letters, for the next month with a word of six letters, or that the third word in the message should be of so many letters, etc., etc. The secret to be communicated only to the Officers commanding posts.

(To be continued)

Employment Figures for the Quarter Ending 31st December, 1957

		Total in 1957
Applications registered	17	146
Placings *confirmed*	27	100
Other queries answered	88	376

THE BUSINESS MACHINE INDUSTRY NEEDS "SIGNALS" SKILL

Opportunities for Technically-Trained N.C.O.s and Foremen

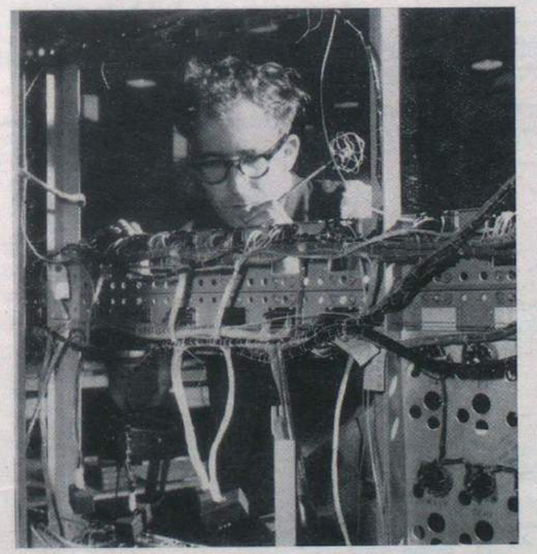
One of the problems which used all too frequently to beset technical Signals personnel on returning to civilian life, was to find an industry in which their particular skill would be appreciated and rewarded. Today, the situation is different. The astonishing growth of the Electronics industry has enormously widened the field—but has widened the choice to a point when it becomes almost bewildering. The problem of the technically-trained N.C.O. or Foreman of Signals has become one of finding, from a wide range of possibilities, those comparatively few industries in which his type of knowledge will have the greatest scope.

One of these few is, without doubt, the business machine industry. In the past few years, the manufacture of calculating machines and office machinery in this country has multiplied itself many times—and its growth still goes on. Many of the larger and more specialised machines are not standard types, but have to be designed and produced for the type of work which the individual customers will require of it—a machine for the requirements of a Local Government office, for instance, may be very different from that for an Insurance Company, whilst that for calculating the weekly pay-roll of a big industrial concern will again be different from either of the others.

The great majority of all calculating machines are "electro mechanical" in character. Since 1950, increasing use has been made of electronics, in their design and operation; and the most recent development is, of course, the introduction of the electronic computer—worth £30,000 and upwards, and able to carry out from 250,000 to one million calculations a minute.

The larger manufacturers are always on the look-out for skilled men, with really sound basic technical knowledge of the kind which is acquired through service in Royal Signals. Specialised knowledge comes later—for the manufacture, testing and servicing of business machines is an art on its own, which can only be developed from actually working on the equipment itself. The manufacturers therefore expect to impart this as part of their normal training routine. Everyone enters with an equal opportunity, but experience shows that personnel from the technical branches of the Services usually make rapid and successful progress.

The actual work is interesting and varied—because of the variety in the individual machines themselves, and the opportunities, in a steadily expanding industry, are considerable.



An engineer testing circuit wiring of the Hec General-Purpose Electronic Computer in the Electronics Factory of The British Tabulating Machine Co. Ltd.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR EMPLOYMENT OF REGULAR SAILORS, SOLDIERS AND AIRMEN

(Regular Forces Employment Association)

No doubt you are aware that the Ministry of Labour has established a "Regular Forces Resettlement Service," whose policy will be formulated from the advice of a Resettlement Advisory Board, under Sir Frederick Hooper, a prominent man in the business world.

Perhaps you may have wondered how this Association fits into this new picture. First, we would mention that a representative of this Association attends all meetings of the Advisory Board and is thus able to relate the work which we do to the proposals which are discussed for the future of the resettlement service. Secondly, we hope that this Association will benefit from the improvements which may result from the work of the Board.

We do not doubt our ability to handle the number of Regulars to be discharged in the course of the next few years. The figure of 68,000 quoted for the three Services, due for discharge in 1958, including those declared redundant, is below the figure (80,000 upwards) released each year up to 1957. We have no reason to doubt that the same sort of numbers of men will come to this Association during the run-down as in the past, i.e. some 30,000 seeking our assistance each year. We are quite confident of handling this number with our existing Branch organisation.

We are aware, however, that more men of the higher age group, late 30s and early 40s, may come to us during the next few years. We are confident of our ability to place these men, provided the present employment situation in this country does not collapse.

We have always acknowledged a special responsibility towards the long service man, and in past years our pensioner placing rate has been between 90 per cent and 100 per cent. We hope to maintain this rate in future years, but much will depend on the national situation.

To summarise, this Association is confident of its ability to tackle the number of Regulars becoming redundant due to the policy outlined in the Defence White Paper, and is fully alive to the challenge which lies ahead to find satisfactory employment for the higher age group which may be involved.

We think you would be interested to know that during 1957 the Association registered 11,523 soldiers and placed 9,057. This gives a percentage of placings to registrations of 78.5. Of the number placed, 669 belonged to the Royal Corps of Signals.

(An introduction to your nearest Branch of the Regular Forces' Employment Association may be obtained from the Employment Section, Royal Signals Association, 88 Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1).

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RISING SUN MAGNETRON
600 OHMS
QUIESCENT POINT
SATURATION POINT
ALE
LOOKING IN
LEAK
LOW CAPACITANCE
DRIFT SPACE
PARAMETER
ANGLE OF FLO
COLLISION OR MOTOR EFFECT
POTENTIAL DROP
DC AC OR OMEGA SEA
SINE WAVE
OHM SWEET OHM
SCREEN
MULTIPLIERS
SUPPRESSOR
LATTICE SPACE
SINE POST
CONTROL
GRID
BATTERY BANK
COX & KING
HALF POWER POINT
HUM
TUNED LOAD
VOLTAIC CELL
BASICS JAIL
MHO
GERMANIUMS
BFO
GATE
MAGNETIC FIELD
ELECTRON FIELD
UHF SHF
PULSE TRAIN
LOOSE COUPLING
INPUT SIGNAL
JUNCTION
BUFFERS
SHUNT
SKIN EFFECT
WHEATSTONE BRIDGE
BEAT'ER
MISS MATCH
NEGATIVE HOLE
POSITIVE HOLE
A-TOM
LARGE M
DAMPING
SELF ALIGNING DUCTS
ENRY
PUSH PULL
LOGS
ASTABLE
SYNCH
CONVENTIONAL CURRENT
ELECTRON STREAM
Lt. J.T. Macdangle is relegated from 16 to 17 Subalterns Part II Course.
R Muller Lt-Col.
MILLER EFFECT
WHISKER
VARIABLE M
MUTUAL COUPLING
DAISY BELL
ELECTRON FLOW
WAVEGUIDES
EDDY CURRENTS
DELTA T
CROOKES DARK SPACE
BUS STOP
SEMI CONDUCTOR
POST OFFICE BOX
YING TONG LAUNDRY
ION
CAFE
CYCLE
SMOOTHING CIRCUIT
TEA SECTION
TT SECTION
DOC DARTSON

KENYA FARMING OPPORTUNITIES

Any retiring Officer who is interested in farming in Kenya should in the first place consult THE EUROPEAN AGRICULTURAL SETTLEMENT BOARD OF KENYA, 216, Grand Buildings, Trafalgar Square, London, W.C.2 (TRA 4288). This Board is the accredited agricultural agency for Kenya and is sponsored by the Kenya Government.

The Board has in operation schemes to assist new settlers to acquire their own farms, and those wishing to participate require a minimum capital of £6,000 for investment.

For those with little or no agricultural experience, training can be obtained through Egerton Agricultural College in Kenya. This College has a nine months' course commencing each September, the fees for board, accommodation and tuition being £210. Or, training in some cases can be gained by prospective settlers being taken on as pupils on Kenya farms.

Mr. Charles Fernandes, a very well-known Kenya farmer, is now in London at the above address as the Board's representative, and he will be pleased to interview any interested persons by appointment.

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Christmas Reminiscences

BY A. DUNLOP, ROYAL SIGNALS, FROM 1940 TO 1946

As I read in THE WIRE of how Christmas is celebrated, and very well celebrated, in Signal Units at home and abroad, my memory goes back to three wartime Christmases when the life of an instrument mechanic, looking after teleprinters, was not always funny—except in retrospect.

Christmas Day, 1941, and I had recently qualified from the first teleprinter course held in the Middle East, and was stationed at Moascar. In the evening we had the usual type of Unit concert in the "Jimmy" Club, and I had just settled down to enjoy it in peace, when a call came from the Signal Office that the T/P to Cairo was out of order. In those days it worked over an O/H pair, and we were always having trouble with moisture in the late evenings. A certain amount could be done by adjusting the electro-magnet, or putting a bias on the relay on the terminal unit, so the mechanic was always called out first, even when, as not infrequently happened, it was an actual line fault. After all, it was always easier to turn out one mechanic late at night than a line party! This time it was a line fault, but I did not see any more of the concert.

Christmas Day, 1942—Port Said, where among other things, I was responsible for two T/Ps at Navy House. We were just having a pleasant "appetiser" before our Christmas dinner, when word came that one of the Navy T/Ps was out of order. Swiftly, if not surely, I made my way round there on a bike to find that the operator—under the influence—had managed to get the roll of paper wound round all the clutch and carriage unit except the roller. Christmas dinner never tastes so good eaten half-cold on your own.

Christmas Day, 1943, and back to Moascar again. I was doing Duty Mechanic in the Signal Office on Christmas evening and the Sergeant in charge of the shift sent all the operators off to the concert, while he and I dealt with the small amount of traffic that was going through. I well remember taking over an hour to send a long cipher message to Middle East—all two finger typing, of course!

That sort of thing should not arise in these days of peace, of course, but —

Christmas Day, 1957, farming now, and things still go wrong. Dinner time again, with the pleasant thought of an hour by the fire with the children before I would have to go and feed the cattle, when the message came that seven of our young cattle are enjoying themselves in some neighbours' gardens. Some criminal—probably with too much Christmas "spirit"—had left a gate open. By the time we had chased those blasted cattle from one garden to another I had little "goodwill" left and no sit down with the children. *Plus ça change, plus ça reste le même.*

FARELF

SINGAPORE DISTRICT SIGNAL REGIMENT

As Christmas comes but once a year, so does Admin, but that is as far as the similarity goes and somewhere is an unsubtle difference. However, we dealt with the pre-admins, the pre-admin, the Admin and the post-admin and in spite of the colossal clear up, the pace was not fatal! Unfortunately we cannot say the same for Christmas and quite a number of pallid faces still bear witness to the strain. In the closing stages of the Admin, the complaint was "We started too late" in the closing stages of Christmas, the complaint was "We started too early!"

In general Christmas dances tend to be successful and the three held by the Regiment proved to be very popular. One of the most exacting features of Signals work is the undertaking of the children's Christmas party; this is an annual competition and this year the Regiment and children broke even and the party went very well. It would break up the happy picture and would be unrewarding to hazard a guess to what Santa Claus really thought, or at the thoughts of the driver who had to reconvert Santa's railway engine back into a Land Rover.

Our news from the world of sport is somewhat limited because in this month in Singapore it rains. In spite of this disadvantage, the Rugby team is fighting its way through its fixture list; the hockey team, although a little scratchy, confounded current opinion in beating a side from the Gurkhas and so getting into the quarter final of the area competition of the Far East Cup.

In spite of the Sergeants' Mess, Sergeant Spooner was married on 28th December and the Warrant Officers and Sergeants extend their congratulations and best wishes for the future.

T. A. and A.E.R.

1 NORTHERN COMMAND (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT (T.A.)

Since our last notes to THE WIRE the Regiment has been gainfully occupied both at work and play. We have during the period lost two of our P.S.I.s, S.S.M. Hodgekins and S.S.M. Giles to B.A.O.R. and Malaya respectively. We were sorry to see them go and we wish them the very best of luck for the future. S.S.M. Evans and Sergeant Coppen have arrived and we are pleased to see them and trust that they will enjoy their stay with us.

On the training side we took part in Exercise Overlay in October. For the first time the Regiment worked ANTRAC equipment and although not called upon to provide more than one station put up a good show. The remainder of the Regiment once again took over the Command Communications. Our W.R.A.C. are now so used to manning the Signal Centres, Exchanges and Teleprinters that they regard them as their own property, which they are only prepared to allow the Regulars to use during the week.

A Command Wireless Exercise in November went well, although this Unit was not called upon to provide many personnel.

Probably the two high spots of the period were the Officers' Cocktail Party held in November and the Regimental Week-end held in December.

The Cocktail Party gave the Unit an opportunity to return the hospitality it has received in the past. The Mess was gaily decorated including a waterfall designed by the Training Major and the R.S.M. We are glad to report that despite predictions to the contrary there was no flooding and mopping up operations were completely unnecessary.



[Courtesy: Hull Daily Mail

1 Northern Command (M) Signal Regiment, T.A., Hull Detachment, at the War Memorial, Hull. *Left to right :* Lance Corporal J. Smith, Sergeant L. Wood, Private J. Bordas

The Regimental week-end in December was attended by about 97% of the Regiment and an All Ranks' Regimental Dance was held on the Saturday evening. On the Sunday morning the Training Major organised a four-mile walk which included a climb to 1,000 feet for the W.O.s and Sergeants. Although the day was cold and snowy it was afterwards agreed that it was a far better cure for a 'hangover' than Alka Seltzer, and no-one dropped out!

The Squadrons and Detachments of the Regiment took part in their own areas parades for Remembrance Sunday.

The big Regimental problem at the moment is Civil Defence Training and the Adjutant (Capt. F. Mansfield, M.B.E.) has been sent on a course at Easingwold. We understand that extra strong ropes are being provided in order to ensure that he can be lowered safely from the top of the demonstration building.

It is said that one should always keep the best news until last and here it is. The Regiment received the best New Year present possible when the New Establishment was at long last approved and published. Now we are flat out for more recruits.

We enter 1958 with a good year behind us, and we hope an even better one to come, and this year it's "Bonny Scotland" for Camp so watch out you barbarians North of the Border.

21st (NM) CORPS SIGNAL REGIMENT (T.A.)

Last month we spoke of many things,
Of shortages, deficiencies and other nasty stings.
This month we have a darker spot,
Incredible, coincidence, we really think it's not.
We boasted of our Antrac skill,
Such foolishness, alas alack, we do NOT own it still.

What is all this about? Well, it is an object lesson (in verse?) to be heeded by all those detailed to write WIRE notes!

Last month we bemoaned our shortage of equipment. We did, however, let fall that we had a little ANTRC equipment left and could still do useful training on radio relay work. WOOSH —crash—bang—wallop—what a brick that was! And how swift the vultures worked!!

One week later fifty per cent of our ANTRC was whipped away and 10 days after that our training officer was declared redundant!

Coincidence? Yes, we think it must have been, but how cruel can fate become?

"Oh, well," we thought "We still have G3LTL." Then we read Brigadier Kennet's article on pigeons. We got to thinking and wondering. "One amateur station which they cannot take away, and ten pigeons—we might manage somehow." We are now most interested and feel that the old pigeon still has much to offer. After all, we doubt whether even the Command Secretary has a ready made answer for damping the sex instincts of a pigeon.

We had our annual ball on Friday, 13th December, and despite the scepticisms of our more susceptible members about the ominous date, it was a great success. We were honoured by the presence of our Honorary Colonel, Colonel G. J. Underwood, T.D., D.L., the C.S.O. Northern Command, and many other distinguished guests. We all had a very pleasant evening and trust our visitors enjoyed it as much as we did.

Oh, we nearly forgot, we have had our administrative inspection—at least that's what we think happened the day before our hang-overs. Therefrom stems this month's jack-pot question: "Who is the officer who tried to impress the inspecting officer by giving him water out of a gin bottle"? (The cad, sir!).

We wish all you readers a "Very Happy and Prosperous New Year" and if you know anybody who lives in, or near, Derby, Nottingham or Chesterfield, then please tell them there's a free glass of beer for them on a Tuesday evening. (Leave the rest to us!).

52 (LOWLAND) INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT (T.A.)

Another Annual Camp has been held since we last appeared in THE WIRE and it was voted most successful. Our accommodation at the Week-end Training Centre at Bridge of Don, Aberdeen, was absolutely first class and we were extremely comfortable, which was a change from the rigours of the past few years spent at Barry and on the Salisbury Plain.

The highlight of the Camp was our assault on the Lairig

Ghru Pass, which is one of the most famous of all Scottish Mountain Passes.

The G.O.C. (Major-General Delacombe), the C.S.O. (Brigadier Hardy) and the Honorary Colonel (Colonel Niven) paid their usual visits to the camp. The Honorary Colonel spent a few days with us, but we were unable to persuade him to join us for the Lairig Ghru expedition.

We saw quite a lot of our colleagues in 51st (Highland) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment (T.A.) and we would like to express our warmest thanks for the excellent help they gave us at Aberdeen. In a stirring golf match played over the lovely Royal Aberdeen Golf Club course at Balgownie, the officers of 52nd Divisional Signals narrowly beat the officers of the 51st Divisional Signals. As their Honorary Colonel put it after the match, we had defeated them on their own "Midden." The 51st Divisional Signals side included their Honorary Colonel, Colonel Murray (who is also Secretary of the Royal Aberdeen), Colonel Birnie Reid (Captain of the Royal Aberdeen) and the C.R. Signals, Lieutenant-Colonel MacKinnon.

The Pipe Band has now firmly established itself and we are hoping to get permission for its members to wear the Royal Stuart Tartan in No. 1 Dress.

The Lairig Ghru

By Lieutenant E. T. Shaw, Royal Signals (T.A.)

The 1957 Annual Camp of 52nd (Lowland) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment was held at Bridge of Don Barracks, Aberdeen, and the relative proximity of the Cairngorm Mountains allowed O.C. 2 Squadron to realise a life-long ambition.

The Commanding Officer had agreed with Major Carmichael's plan for the crossing of the Lairig Ghru, whilst at camp, and the Unit was committed to the project.

The Lairig Ghru is a pass which runs from Aviemore to the Braemar area by way of the Cairngorms, and the walking distance can be reduced to 18 miles by judicious use of transport.

Camp life followed the normal pattern during the first week, but the "Larry Groo" held a virtual monopoly of conversation. One man's memory of the bodies of 40 Commandos, who had perished in the Lairig, lying in rows at Aviemore Station, in the autumn of 1941, did little to reassure the timid.

The Regiment left Aberdeen early on Monday morning. A skeleton staff and the Pipe Band remained in camp. The band attended our departure, but many considered that their rendering of "Will Ye No' Come Back Again?" savoured too much of sacharrine sentiment.

Several hours of driving found the convoy approaching Aviemore and, although the day was dull, visibility was good, and the Cairngorms presented a forbidding picture. In spite of it being mid-summer snow lay on the summits.

Camp was established at the edge of the Rothiemurchus forest, and when the evening sun lent a kinder aspect to the vista, morale began to soar. Supper was eaten and, in view of the early start to be made the next morning, everyone turned in early.



Descending the Pass



The Bivouac Area

Reveille was at 0500 hrs., and after breakfasting, we were conveyed to the starting point in 3-tonners. We left in parties of eight at 10-minute intervals, and each section was equipped with a 31 or 88 set, which allowed it to keep in communication with the base stations at both ends of the Pass.

We climbed through the forest for an hour, and before 0900 hrs., we were in the Lairig—a long chasm between towering peaks, inhabited by no living thing. We made exceptionally good time and reached the summit, 2,733 feet, well ahead of schedule. The worst obstacle had been surmounted and we strode on for Dee-side. The Bullying bulk of Ben Macdui on our left seemed to cast a malignant shadow over our little party for an unconscionable time, but eventually we left the mountains behind, and after some miles of featureless slogging we reached Derry Lodge.

Four miles of roughly-metalled road brought us to Linn of Dee and our destination. We found, to our delight, that we had lopped several hours off the most optimistic estimates.

Blisters were bathed in the river, and when the Commanding Officer, who had started last, strode in with batman, medical orderly and dog, all had arrived safely.

We are not given to boasting, but as the only Regiment in the Corps to have crossed the Lairig Ghru, our one regret is that Everest has been climbed.

54 (E.A.) INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT (T.A.)

Cambridge is the home of what are now "B" and "N" Troops of 54 (E.A.) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A. It was in mid-1948 that the late Major C. R. Blyth undertook the formation at Cambridge of No. 2 Squadron, 61 H.Q. Army Signal Regiment, T.A., and, of the personnel who enrolled as volunteers in the first weeks, it is gratifying that three are still serving with the unit: the present O.C., Captain D. G. S. Williams, S.S.M. B. P. Hurst and Corporal R. F. Bishop (who, incidentally, was the first volunteer of all to be sworn in). While looking back, it must also be recorded that the present P.S.I., S.S.M. R. D. Angus was (as Sergeant Angus) the first P.S.I. of the original Squadron. Though most of the old members have now left the T.A., some still put in an appearance at the T.A. Centre from time to time, and before these notes appear in print, the serving members will have had the pleasure of welcoming the "old boys" to a social evening in the unit canteen, when it is hoped that many old friendships will be renewed.

From its inception, the Cambridge Squadron enjoyed the major advantage of a spacious and modern T.A. Centre, with ample room for both indoor and outdoor training, and for vehicle parking. There are two well-equipped miniature ranges and a roomy garage for the unit transport. An all-electric kitchen it available when catering is to be done; there are ample stores and armoury facilities. As a final touch of luxury, there is a large lake in the grounds.

For some years now the Cambridge detachment has had strong associations with the Royal Engineers, arising from the fact that one of the earliest roles of its personnel was to provide Signal Troops for the former H.Q. 25 Engineer Group and for 122 Corps Engineer Regiment, T.A. In addition, there was close co-operation with 134 Corps Engineer Regiment, T.A., and before the recent reorganisation of the T.A., Royal Signals personnel from Cambridge enjoyed a number of Annual Camps serving these units. Though there is now no official contact with 134 Regiment, the R.E. connection is continued by "N" Troop and by the fact that 122 Field Engineer Regiment, T.A., shares the Cambridge T.A. Centre, where a spirit of happy co-operation exists between the two Units.

The Cambridgeshire countryside, being largely agricultural in character, is not ideal for all kinds of signal training. Nevertheless, the fact that Cambridge is at the approximate geographical centre of the area in which the Regiment is situated, together with the excellence of the facilities available at the T.A. Centre, makes it very suitable for Regimental weekend training, and the local personnel are always glad to welcome their comrades from other Centres when such training takes place. It is hoped that the fact that beer on tap is now numbered among the amenities offered may prove an encouragement to their more frequent attendance in the future.

*

50 AIR FORMATION SIGNAL REGIMENT, A.E.R.

1957 gave us our first experience of training without the National Service element—an excellent opportunity to concentrate upon the volunteer cadre. Old techniques were relegated to history while we looked forward to the new.

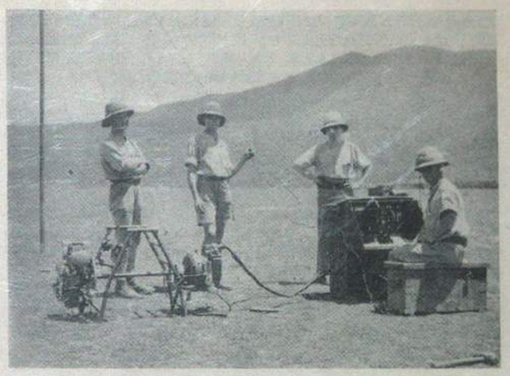
H.Q. A.E.R. organised an excellent training plan for the first week involving lectures on Civil Defence and allied subjects, demonstrations of new equipment and a fair crack at musketry. The culmination was a small but sobering Civil Defence exercise in which the casualties were quite fearful in their simulated reality. During the second week we were able to fulfil a long-cherished ambition to get to grips with the technique of handling Radio Relay equipment in the field. The finale was set in the Welsh hills where we took the equipment for Exercise Macbeth—a designation which immediately sprang to mind on our first sight of the desolate heathland allocated as the centre of operations. The weather did not fail to conform to that memorable tragedy.

Captain (Q.M.) A. V. Storey, E.R.D., who had been retired earlier in the year on reaching the age limit, came as a very welcome visitor. He was as hale and hearty as ever and we felt it a pity that his services should now be lost to the Corps. Presentations were made by the Commanding Officer on behalf of the Officers and by R.S.M. Cridland on behalf of the Regiment as a whole.

Vic Storey had served with the Regiment since its formation and will be well known to many past and present members of the Corps, his personal history over the last 37 years having been intimately connected with Royal Signals. He joined R.E. (Signals) in 1920 at the declared age of 17, having abruptly aged a year on the advice of the Recruiting Sergeant so as to qualify for the proud title of "Sapper."

Vic soldiered as a regular between the wars and grew up with the Corps, serving successively in Southern Ireland (1921), India (1922-8) and Palestine (1931-6). In 1938 his first association with Air Formation Signals—and the Supplementary Reserve—came an appointment as P.S.I. of 1st Air Formation Signals in Leeds. He remained with 1st throughout its operational roles in France, North Africa, Sicily and Italy until 1943 when he was posted out on being commissioned as Quartermaster. He was finally demobilised in 1949 with 29½ years' regular service to his credit. He did not long remain without an active association with Royal Signals, however, and in 1951 he joined 50 Air Formation Signal Regiment as Q.M. on its formation.

With such long and varied service Vic has a vast fund of reminiscences. Occasionally he could be made to overcome his natural modesty and expound on the mystery of soldiering in the old days. The Chitral Relief (1922) ranks as a classic and many times have we listened agape to this saga. "We drew our rations on the 'oof, sir"). He served as a Wireless Operator in the early days and was possibly among the last to operate the old spark set, with 7 Brigade Mobile Column in 1925. His Long Service and Good Conduct Medal and Emergency Reserve Decoration pay ample tribute to his long and faithful service and we wonder if this double award is unique in the Corps.



A pack set in India about 1924 (from one of Vic Storey's snaps)

To us part-time soldiers endeavouring during our annual training to emulate the military efficiency of the Regular, such a well tried and experienced veteran was indeed a tower of strength, well versed as he was in all aspects of the military art. Imperturbable in the face of all the slings and arrows which assail all Quartermasters from time to time, he served us well and was never found wanting. His unfailing good humour and acute sense of the rightness of things will long be missed, yet never forgotten. Surely we shall be joined by all his old comrades in the Corps in wishing him "God speed" and many years of health and happiness in his retirement.



PRESENTATION TO CAPTAIN (Q.M.) A. V. STOREY, E.R.D. ON HIS RETIREMENT

Left to right :—Lieutenant-Colonel D. J. Braine, E.R.D. (Commanding Officer), Major F. A. W. Braine, E.R.D. (Commanding Officer's father), Colonel F. S. Morgan, C.B.E., E.R.D., D.L., J.P. (Honorary Colonel), Captain A. V. Storey, E.R.D.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE ROYAL CORPS OF SIGNALS ON RELEASE FROM THE REGISTER OF FRIENDLY SOCIETIES

1. Future of the Association

You are, I am sure, aware that the Central Committee and Trustees are constantly considering how best to deploy the resources of the Association for the benefit of its members. Among the principal problems which face them is how, in these days of inflation, to make the best possible use of the funds at their disposal. This involves securing a satisfactory rate of interest on the money invested and also good management of the capital. You will have in mind that the investments in our various funds amount to about £100,000, so a difference in the rate of interest of one per cent means a difference in income of £1,000 per annum.

2. How Should We Invest

(i) *In Gilt Edged?*

It used to be generally accepted that the proper investment policy for an organisation like ours was to put the money into gilt edged securities. The rate of interest was, of course, comparatively low, but the capital was secure. At the present time the rate of interest obtainable is higher because of the depreciation in capital values, but it is still considerably lower than can be obtained in other types of investment. As for the capital, while a Government stock with a fixed repayment date can be relied upon to be worth its nominal value when repaid, it is problematical what the money will then be worth. For instance, if the Association bought £100 worth of stock and the date of repayment was ten years ahead, £100 would be repaid, but if, in the meantime, inflation had reduced the purchasing power of money, the £100 might be worth very much less than it was when it was invested. Thus, if the purchasing power of the £ sterling in 1947 was 100, in 1957 it was down to 65. Even when, as now, Government stocks with fixed dates of repayment can be bought for much less than their nominal value, there is a definite limit to the amount the capital can appreciate before the redemption date and, in an inflationary time like that through which we have been passing, the appreciation often is very much less than the fall in the value of money. By playing safe therefore, one may still be a loser.

(ii) *In Ordinary Shares?*

Quite different considerations apply to an investment in ordinary shares of commercial and industrial enterprises. Here the dividends depend on how profitable the business is. On the one hand, there is a chance of a higher rate of dividend than in gilt edged stocks, and capital appreciation which may be very considerable over a period of years. On the other hand, there is the risk that the business may fail and there be no dividend and a possibly severe loss of capital. Investing in ordinary shares requires sound advice and careful management, but the following two instances are useful in showing what can be done.

The Economist Intelligence Unit gives the following facts:

"If £1,000 had been invested in Consols 2½% on 1st January, 1919, and the income not invested each year, the value of the investment at 31st December, 1956, would have been £886 and the income would have been constant at £42 per annum. Between 1919 and 1957 the value of the investment would have fluctuated between £767 and £1,668.

"Suppose £1,000 had been invested in a selection of high-grade equities under the same conditions on 1st January, 1919. On 1st January, 1957, the investment would have been worth £4,134, the value having fluctuated between £847 and £4,804 over the intervening period. The income would have risen from £65 per annum in 1919 to £237 per annum in 1956."

In between gilt edged and ordinary stocks come fixed interest Debentures and Preference issues. On them, according to the estimated risk, the income return is usually better than on gilt edged stocks, but they do not provide the hedge against inflation which ordinary shares do because of the capital appreciation which can be hoped for from a wise selection of the latter.

3. Present Position of the Royal Signals Association

The Association is not free to invest as it thinks wise. It is a Friendly Society registered under the Friendly Societies Act, 1896. This involves complying with many statutory provisions, one of which limits its powers of investment to trustee securities, which means generally gilt edged stocks and some debentures. The advantages resulting from registration under the Act are listed in Appendix I. In the opinion of the Central Committee, the only one of practical value is the provision by which securities can pass to succeeding Trustees without expensive formalities. Before we can be in a position to carry out our own investment policy, we should have to be deregistered.

4. Arguments in Favour of Deregistration

With continuing inflation more and more large public institutions are adopting a policy of splitting their investments between sound equities, industrial fixed interest stocks and gilt edged. Among them are the Church Commissioners, who have recently obtained powers to increase the scope of their investments and have done so with very great benefit to their funds. The Central Committee consider that it would be an advantage to the Association to be able to do the same. It is not suggested for a moment that all our present investments should be changed, but that, subject to the general control of the Committee, the Trustees should be empowered to take advantage of suitable opportunities of investing, having regard to the importance both of income and capital appreciation. In doing so, they would have the best professional advice available.

5. Disadvantages of Deregistration

The disadvantages are that freedom to invest in any class of securities increases the responsibilities of the Trustees and the amount of work which they have to do. It also entails the risk that they may from time to time make a bad investment. Against this, it can be shown that even Government securities are not safe from the risk of loss. Those Trustees who took up Treasury 2½% stock at par in 1947 now find that each £100 nominal is worth only £47. Secondly, to deregister involves formalities which are expensive.

6. Release from the Register of Friendly Societies

The Registrar of Friendly Societies has laid down the following procedure:

(a) Approval by the branches at the meeting of their representatives on 29th March, 1958.

(b) Endorsement of the branches' decision by the Annual General Meeting on 29th June, 1958.

(c) The sending of a letter to all members of the Association whose addresses are known, both life members and annual members, explaining the matter and asking for a postal vote. (If a majority of those who reply are in favour of release from the Register, the Registrar will agree).

(d) The Registrar must be satisfied that satisfactory arrangements will be made for managing the financial affairs of the Association after deregistration. It is anticipated that the cost of deregistration will amount to £500. The Central Committee is of opinion that expensive as this is, it is well worth incurring because of the prospect of saving a much larger sum over a period of years as a result of freedom in investment policy.

7. Conduct of the Association's Financial Affairs After Deregistration

If individual Trustees continue, it will be necessary for all the Association's securities to be transferred every time a new Trustee is appointed and it is estimated that this would cost about £75 a time. This could be avoided by forming a small private company as custodian Trustee. The shares would be held by the Association, who would appoint the Directors and the Directors would be in effect the Trustees. They would be subject to the general directions of the Association through the Central Committee in just the same way the present Trustees are. The advantages of this are that once the initial expense of forming the company has been met, there would be no subsequent expenses when a new Director (Trustee) is appointed. It is estimated that the cost of forming such a private company would be £85. This is the course which the Central Committee recommends for your consideration.

APPENDIX I.

FRIENDLY SOCIETIES ACT, 1896

Advantages of Registration

The advantages given to registered friendly societies by registration under the Friendly Societies Acts include the following, most of which are extended to other classes of registered societies:

1. The right to hold land (in the case of a registered benevolent society not more than one acre) and other property in the name of trustees, such property passing to succeeding trustees (except in the case of stocks and securities transferable in the books of the Bank of England or Bank of Ireland) without assignment or transfer.
2. The right to bring and defend actions in the names of trustees.
3. Summary criminal procedure for the protection of property.
4. Priority of payment in the administration of estates of officers who die or become bankrupt, or on the levy of execution against their goods.
5. Direction for the transfer of stock in the public funds if the trustees are dead, or unsound mind, bankrupt, or go abroad or cannot be found, or have been removed from their office.
6. Exemption from stamp duties on certain documents.
7. Admission of members from birth and valid discharges on the receipts of parents or guardians of members under sixteen years, and the receipt of members themselves between sixteen and twenty-one years.
8. Cheap death certificates for the purpose of the Acts.
9. Simplified procedure for requiring officers to account and deliver up property.
10. Legal settlement of disputes according to their own rules.
11. Nomination by members, under sixteen years of age, of sums payable on their deaths not exceeding £200.
12. Distribution of sums not exceeding £100 on a member's intestacy and without a nomination subsisting at his death, without letters of administration being taken out.
13. Services of approved auditors and valuers at fixed rates.

WELFARE SECTION

Below an attempt is made to describe with suitable anonymity eight cases taken from the Welfare Section files concluded during the first week in January, 1958. Also on this page is a simple statement of income and expenditure.

Orphan Daughter of Signalman, 1942-44 (then two years Army Catering Corps). The Association and the British Legion shared in providing some much needed clothing for her and the Association later sent her a small Christmas present.

Widow of Corporal who died in December, 1957, received a grant to pay her rent.

Signalman, 1946-47. Married, four children. Has been out of work for four months due to injury. The Association paid arrears of rent and electricity and the West Yorkshire Regiment, with which he had served, gave a most generous grant for other debts.

Signalman, 1917-49. Married, two children. He has been ill for three months and the fund helped to pay arrears of H.P.

Signalman, 1939-47. Married, three children. The husband has been too ill to work since April, 1956. The British Legion help with food vouchers and the Association made a grant to purchase much needed bedding and later made it possible for each child to receive a Christmas present.

Widow of Signalman, 1939-46. He last worked April, 1956, and died March, 1957. The W.V.S. gave clothing and the Association gave money. She wrote "So on behalf of the children and myself I wish to thank you."

Signalman, 1957, still serving, was helped a little to support his widowed mother.

Signalman, 1936-46. Married, three children, unemployed since November, was helped to pay for some coal.

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION AND BENEVOLENT FUND

The following subscriptions were most gratefully received during December, 1957:

	£	s.	d.
H.Q. Training Brigade	5	0	7
Royal Signals Wing, School of Signals	14	0	7
1 Northern Command ((M) Signal Regiment, T.A.	4	0	0
2 Northern Command (M) Signal Regiment, T.A.	7	2	10
21 (NM) Corps Signal Regiment, T.A.	13	0	
49 (WR) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A.	1	11	6
17 Wireless Squadron, T.A.	1	2	0
Junior Leaders' Regiment	30	0	0
Eastern Command Signal Squadron	6	15	8
3 Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment	46	18	4
44 (HC) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A.	2	10	0
No. 1 Special Communication Signal Regiment, T.A.	1	10	0
52 (L) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A.	12	6	
12 Air Formation Signal Regiment	29	0	0
7 Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment	72	9	0
2 Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment	20	13	6
C.S.O., G.H.Q., M.E.L.F.	2	12	6
4 Air Formation Signal Regiment	7	9	0
51 Independent Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron	1	10	0
15 Signal Park Troop	1	10	0
Hong Kong Signal Regiment	25	2	0
Total receipts	£282	2	5

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION WELFARE SECTION

The following donations were most gratefully received during December, 1957:

	£	s.	d.
Port Talbot Branch (proceeds Christmas Draw)	57	1	0
H. McD. Webster, Esq.	1	3	0
E. F. Morey, Esq.	1	0	0
Major M. Simmonds	13	7	
H. J. Wall, Esq.	10	0	
F. E. Foulds, Esq.	9	0	
H. E. Prater, Esq.	5	0	
Total receipts	£61	1	7

EXPENDITURE DURING DECEMBER, 1957 ... ... £397 2 11
(Includes: Rent and Rates; Beds and Bedding; Furniture; Cots and Prams; General Assistance).

Analysis of cases:

Families of Soldiers serving in U.K.	2
" " " " FARELF	1
Widows and Dependants	10
Released and Discharged Soldiers	70
Total cases assisted	83*

**Students of this column will notice that the "number of cases" 83 is unusually high, whereas the total money given in grants is about normal. There were, in fact, fewer cases than usual in December, but 33 small money gifts were sent for Christmas. The recipients were Signalmen permanently bedridden or more usually the families of those so afflicted.*

53 cases of Soldiers who served in the 1939/45 War	£265	6 11
30 cases of Soldiers who did not serve in the War	£131	16 0

Lighter Fuel Packs

*The following amounts were most gratefully received during December, 1957:**

	£	s.	d.
Box 33 ... Chislehurst Branch	6	0	
39 ... Cyrenaica Signal Troop	1	15	0
67 ... 43 (Wx) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A.	6	12	3
116 ... Oldham Branch	1	11	4
Total receipts	£10	4	7



look at it any way

To ride like this you must have implicit faith in your own judgement and skill—and in your machine. The Royal Signals Display Team chose Triumph. They knew they could trust Triumph for ease of handling and absolute reliability.

it's the motorcycle you can trust

TRIUMPH

THE BEST MOTORCYCLE IN THE WORLD

TRIUMPH ENGINEERING CO. LTD.
MERIDEN WORKS, ALLESLEY, COVENTRY

TORBAY NEWS

by Adsum

This is the first time we have attempted to break the sound barrier, so here's keeping our fingers crossed and, if it works out well, we may, at a later date, weather and other circumstances permitting, have another go.

Down here, in the deep South West, we are like the ants, "a people not strong." Oh no, we belong to the other gang, "we few, we happy few, we band of brothers."

On 9th January, we held our Annual General Meeting in the Canteen, T.A. Centre, Wall's Hill Barracks, Babbacombe. Our President, Lieutenant-Colonel J. Paton and Vice-President, Captain S. Hawkins were re-elected unanimously, and all looks well set for a good year.

For the first time since our formation, in 1948, we are clear of debt and have, in fact, a small credit balance in the General Fund, and the Standard Fund is creeping up too, all due to the good and hard work of the Social Committee. Here's bottoms-up to them, and long may it continue.

In April we hope to revisit the Prison Officers' Club at Dartmoor. Keep in your saddles, we won't get through "The Main," that place is harder to get in to than out of, we should know, we haven't tried.

The annual dinner seems all set for October: but of that more anon.

If any of you people from the outside world are in Torquay on the second Thursday of the month, around 20.00 hrs., give us a look-in at the Barrack canteen. No, don't trouble to bring your own glasses, we provide them, but be wary, you are still liable for barrack damages. Shelves are not provided, so be careful where you put it, it can't fall, there is nothing to stop it.

Old Jock gave us a shock the other evening; came in, called for two, drank one and left the other to settle.—Goodbye.

The following goods are available from Association Headquarters:

Corps Paint Transfers:
"Jimmy"—on background of Corps Colours (each)
20" x 15" 4/– | 10" x 7 1/2" 3/– | 7 1/2" x 5 5/8" 2/8 | 3 1/10" x 2 2/5" 1/6
Mounted on black plastic (each)
8/6 | 4/9 | 4/– | —

Corps Ties—Reppe	5/6	
Heavy Weave	7/6	
Woollen	8/6	
Terylene	12/11	
Corps Scarves—Reppe, Tubular	25/–	
Woollen	21/–	
Woollen Scarf and Tie Set	30/–	
Cravats—Reppe	21/–	
Corps Cuff Links	7/–	
Association Buttonhole Badges or Brooches	3/–	Members only
Association Blazer Badges (Silver "Jimmy" on a shield of Corps Colours, as approved by the Corps Committee)	25/–	Members only
Blazer Buttons—Large (each)	2/3	
Small (each)	1/8	
Motor Car Badges (enamelled in Corps Colours)	35/–	
Motor Cycle Badges (enamelled in Corps Colours)	17/6	
Corps Plaques	26/6 Plus postage	

Corps Diaries (available each year between November and February. Apply to Headquarters for Order Form).

PLEASE SEND CASH WITH ORDER for all the above articles *except* Corps Paint Transfers, for which an account will be forwarded.

BOUND VOLUMES of "THE WIRE"

we have available material to bind in book form 20 copies of the 1957 "WIRE" Messes and individuals who require bound volumes should please let the Editor know as soon as possible.

PRICE IS 35 SHILLINGS



Loughborough Branch Annual Dinner and Dance

Some members of the Committee gathered round top table, celebrities seated (*left to right*) Mrs. Duvivier, Superintendent Freestone, Mrs. Freestone, Brigadier Duvivier, our President, and Chief guest Brigadier Firth

Photo: K. P. Lynch

The members of this Branch—and particularly those on the Committee—appear to have emerged unscathed from a rather hectic fortnight in our social season.

The attendance at our New Year's Eve dance (a traditional "must" around here) approached the 180 mark, and the old place was fairly bursting at the seams. And even in its heyday, I'm sure Beaumanor Hall never experienced a "Conga" of a hundred-odd people snaking their way up the massive stairway and round the balconies, led by the band.

A few days later there was an invasion by members' children on the occasion of our Christmas party. Over 120 kiddies enjoyed the Punch and Judy man, a ventriloquist act, a film show put on by Sergeant Woodcock of Garats Hey, a tea, some fun and games, and a distribution of sweets, etc.

This being the season for records, we can chalk another one up for 14th January, when the Branch held the third annual dinner and dance in the ballroom of a local cinema. No less than 155 people dined, and they were joined later for the dancing by some 40-odd, easily the best-ever attendance. Our chief guest was the General Secretary, making his inimitable contribution to both the serious and lighter sides of the evening. Another guest was Superintendent Freestone of Loughborough Police, and he, with Mrs. Freestone, is rapidly becoming a "fan" of ours. The accompanying photograph shows some of the Committee assembled with the guests of honour, just prior to the meal.

Preparatory work goes on in connection with the Midland Area Reunion, to be held here in May, but once we have the Annual General Meeting behind us, it will be full steam ahead. More of that anon.

Sheffield Branch

Hello again to our friends everywhere. Although our monthly report has been missing for a considerable time, we are still alive and kicking. Your scribe found himself unable to keep pace with his galloping calendar; it's amazing how quickly the 15th of the month comes around again; must get a bigger marker in my diary.

The stalwart supporters were all back to the fold for the first meeting of the New Year, and we are pleased to report that Margaret Kirkwood is fully recovered and looked more like her old self again. Harry Rotherham, who has had a very rough time lately, is slowly getting back on his feet again, and although he had to take it very steady, managed to come along. Our President, Lieutenant-Colonel Boyland dropped in, having snatched an hour to be with us, after having a look at the new Royal Signals Army Cadet Force Unit that was recently formed here.

We had a grand evening. George Dixon brought along his tape recorder; it's amazing what an awful row is made by a couple of dozen people all "nattering" at once. R.S.M. Jones was elected, or should be say bludgeoned, into becoming course bookmaker for the "Crabtree Stakes." The noise of enthusiastic fans shouting their favourite home, would not have disgraced Epsom on Derby Day. After the excitement of the minature racecourse, it was quite nice to indulge in a speedy game of "Housey" to finish the evening. Mrs. Jones arranged the very tasty refreshments, and also became champion balloon blower-upper, although from the many bangs heard, it must have been a labour of love.

It was good to see all the regular attenders and their wives had managed to attend, but there was still plenty of room for the not-so-regular. Any member can be assured of a welcome the first Friday of the month at Crabtree T.A. Centre. For the interest of regulars, due to be released under the economy cuts, we are obtaining Liaison with the Ministry of Labour, and local organisations set up to find employment for these men. So any of you who may come to live in Sheffield, we will be pleased to put you in touch.

SPORT

ROYAL SIGNALS (CYPRUS) RIFLE MEETING, 1957

The first of a series of annual rifle meetings for Royal Signals Units was held at Karaolos Ranges on 12th and 13th November, 1957, and all Units of the Corps on the island entered teams.

The Chief Signal Officer, Cyprus District, Colonel H. Prince, was Chairman of the Committee, for which Lieutenant-Colonel A. J. Leahy, M.B.E., O.C., 2 Wireless Regiment, did much of the preliminary work. Very unfortunately, the President, Brigadier C. D. Gardiner, Chief Signal Officer, M.E.L.F., was away from the island and was very disappointed he could not attend.

Subsequent to the programme being arranged a heavy downpour turned the range area, which normally resembles a sandy desert, into a lake, and a boat in the vicinity of the Range Warden's hut caused much speculation. In order to avoid the competitors having to conduct an amphibious operation, the fire and movement practices had to be modified. However, to retain the character of the Falling Plate Match, competitors had to flounder across mud before firing in the traditional manner. The mirey conditions persisted but fortunately the sun shone on both days of the meeting.

The Champion Unit Cup was won by 51 Independent Infantry Brigade Group Signal Squadron, whose team was captained by their Squadron Commander, Major John Badcock. Close runners-up were 4 Air Formation Signal Regiment, one match point behind the winners.

In Match One, the Unit rifle team, 3 G.H.Q. Signal Regiment, gained first place with a score of 522. Second place went to 51 Independent Infantry Brigade Group Signal Squadron. Lance-Corporal Forsdyke, of 50 Infantry Brigade Signal Troop, achieved the double distinction of winning both the individual championship and the Best Young Soldier with a score of 112 from a possible score of 150. Lance-Corporal Forsdyke is a National Serviceman who has previously shot at Bisley.

The highest score in Match Two, the Unit L.M.G. pairs, was gained by Sergeants Weaver and Walrond, of 4 Air Formation Signal Regiment. They scored 202 out of a possible of 224.

Match Three, the Unit Team Sten Match, was also won by 4 Air Formation Signal Regiment with a team score of 545 from a possible of 600. The individual winner was Lance-Corporal Sutton, of the same Regiment, with a score of 147 from a possible of 150.

The individual pistol competition was won by Captain G. A. S. Exell, who commands 50 Infantry Brigade Signal Troop, with a score of 79 from a possible 90. The runner-up was Major Glover, of 2 Wireless Regiment.

The usual excitement of a falling plate competition provided a suitable climax to the meeting, the winning team beat that of the already champion Unit, 51 Independent Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron.

Keen appreciation for the efforts of the organisers and range staff, especially 2 Wireless Regiment, who made the excellent administrative arrangements and for the enthusiasm displayed by the competitors, was expressed by Brigadier G. S. Knox, O.B.E., when he presented the prizes at the end of the meeting.

GOLF

The season's fixtures were concluded with matches against the R.A.M.C., R.A.O.C. and R.M.A.S. We were able to field the strongest team of the season against the R.A.M.C. and won by a convincing margin. In this match Major-General Morrison, substituting for an absent doctor, struck his best form much to the discomforture of the Hon. Secretary.

We were rather hard hit by 'flu in the last two matches. Against R.A.O.C. we held our own during the morning foursomes but quite inexplicably collapsed in the afternoon singles and were only saved from a " whitewash " by Colonel Winckley.

The results of the season's matches were:—

In the last match of the season, against the R.M.A.S., we registered a convincing win against a side which was, on paper, much stronger than we were.

Played 8 Won 3 Lost 3 Drawn 2.

ROYAL SIGNALS v. R.A.M.C.

Played at Fleet on 13th September.

SINGLES

R.A.M.C.		*Royal Signals*	
Lt.-Col. Clinton Reed	0	Lt. R. Carroll	6/5 1
Brig. R. Phillipson	0	Maj. N. MacDonald ...	3/1 1
Maj.-Gen. E. B. Marsh ...	0	Capt. M. Keeling	4/2 1
Lt.-Col. R. S. Hunt	0	Maj.-Gen. Vulliamy ...	2/1 1
Maj.-Gen. A. E. Morrison	6/5 1	Maj. D. Fairman	0
Brig. B. J. Daunt	2/1 1	Capt. D. Bayliss	0
Brig. C. D. K. Seaver	½	Col. G. Winckley	½
Major D. W. Pailthorpe ...	0	Maj. Rhys Few	3/2 1
	2½		5½

FOURSOMES

Clinton Reed and Phillipson ...	0	MacDonald and Keeling	1 up 1
Hunt and Daunt	0	Carroll and Bayliss ...	3/1 1
Marsh and Morrison	½	Vulliamy and Fairman	½
Seaver and Pailthorpe	0	Rhys Few and Winckley	6/4 1
	3		9

Royal Signals won by 9 matches to 3.

ROYAL SIGNALS v. R.A.O.C.

Played at Swinley Forest on 10th October.

SINGLES

Royal Signals		*R.A.O.C.*	
2/Lt. Turnbull	0	Brig. Mitchell	1
Lt.-Col. Hayles	0	Capt. Knowles	1
Maj. Fairman	0	Maj. Thomson	1
Lt.-Col. Clarke	0	Col. Sellars	1
Col. Winckley	1	Brig. Jones	0
Maj. Padwick	0	Maj. Atherton	1
Maj.-Gen. Sir Leslie Phillips	0	Major Chapman	1
Maj.-Gen. Morrison	0	Brig. Innes Hopkins	1
	1		7

FOURSOMES

Turnbull and Hyles	1	Mitchell and Jones	0
Fairman and Winckley	1	Sellars and Knowles ...	0
Clarke and Padwick	0	Atherton and Innes Hopkins ...	1
Phillips and Morrison	0	Thomson and Chapman ...	1
	2		2

R.A.O.C. won by 9 matches to 3.

ROYAL SIGNALS v. R.M.A.S.

Played at Camberley Heath on 20th October, 1957.

SINGLES

Royal Signals		*R.M.A.S.*	
P. G. Shillington	½	Capt. Keeling	½
R. D. S. Marston	0	Lt.-Col. Hayles	2/1 1
J. D. Drummond	2/1 1	Maj.-Gen. Vulliamy	0
A. F. Bell	½	Maj. Fairman	½
P. G. Hatch	2/1 1	D. M. Oborne (substituting) ...	0
R. H. Whitty	0	Col. Winckley	2/1 1
B. J. Cox	0	Maj. Robinson	1 up 1
E. J. P. Herdman	½	Major-Gen. Morrison	½
	3½		4½

FOURSOMES

Shillington and Marston	0	Keeling and Hayles ...	4/3 1
Hatch and Drummond ...	2 up 1	Robinson and Oborne	0
Bell and Herdman	0	Fairman and Morrison ...	5/4 1
Cox and Whitty	0	Thursby Pelham and Winckley	2 up 1
	1		3

Result: Royal Signals won by 7½ matches to 4½.

Autumn Meeting

The Autumn Meeting was held this year at the North Hants Club at Fleet on 30th September, 1st and 2nd of October. We were very fortunate with the weather and had a very successful meeting with a good attendance. Despite good scoring conditions however, the standard of golf was very low, Major-General Vulliamy being the only one to have a gross score below 80 for any round. Most of us are still wondering why we did not score better, but this is nothing out of the ordinary. The Senior Officers just managed to outstay the Junior Officers, and the Junior Officers are now of the opinion that we must find a more hilly course for next year's meeting. Results of the Senior Officers v. Junior Officers match and the various competition winners are given below.

Open Challenge Cup

Winner: Brigadier E. S. Cole — Runners-up: Lieutenant-Colonel B. R. M. Hayles, Major D. D. Fairman, Major N. E. Padwick

Regular Officers' Cup

Winner: Brigadier E. S. Cole — Runners-up: Lieutenant-Colonel B. R. M. Hayles, Major D. D. Fairman

Handicap Challenge Cup

Winner: Major-General A. E. Morrison — Runner-up: Brigadier E. S. Cole

Foresomes Challenge Cup

Winners: Colonel C. P. S. Denholm-Young and Lieutenant-Colonel B. R. M. Hayles — Runners-up: Major-General A. E. Morrison and Major J. L. McKellar.

Individual Challenge Cup

Winner: Major Rhys Few — Runners-up: Major J. C. H. Shaw, Major D. D. Fairman

Other sweep winners were: Major-General C. H. H. Vulliamy, Majors Caulfield, Roderick and Norfolk.

SINGLES

Senior Officers v. Junior Officers

Brig. E. S. Cole	1	Major D. D. Fairman	0
Maj.-Gen. C. H. H. Vulliamy	1	Major Roderick	0
Lt.-Col. B. R. M. Hayles ...	0	Major J. L. McKellar	1
Maj.-Gen. A. E. Morrison ...	1	Major B. A. Beattie	0
Maj.-Gen. R. F. H. Nalder ...	0	Major J. B. D. Lane	1
Major A. M. Keeling	0	Lt. G. B. Crook	1
	3		3

FOURSOMES

Senior Officers		*Junior Officers*	
Cole and Hayles	½	Fairman and McKellar	½
Morrison and Walton	1	Roderick and Lane	0
Rowley and Nalder	1	Beattie and Crook	0
	2½		½

Senior Officers won by 5½ matches to 3½.

In order to economise in postal charges, it has been decided not to acknowledge routine copy sent to the Editor unless comment is necessary or other reasons make it desirable to do so.

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THE WIRE

THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE

The Official Organ of the Signals Association

Editor:
BRIGADIER H. R. FIRTH

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MARCH • **1958**

Vol. 12 *(New Series)* **No. 3**

Editorial

ON the 11th February one of most distinguished officers who have served the Royal Corps of Signals was honoured by Her Majesty at an investiture and is now Major-General Sir W. Ronald C. Penney, K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O., M.C.

He was honoured for his work as head of an organisation which deals with the co-ordination of systems of intercommunication, and the year 1957 was also for him the last in which he was to serve the Corps in an active and executive capacity as Colonel Commandant.

The Corps Committee will miss his counsel and his almost fantastic memory of decisions given and words spoken many years before. The Royal Signals Association, however, is blessed in that as a Trustee of the Association funds he remains a member of the Central Committee of the Association, in which he has always taken a leading part, and in which capacity we hope he will continue for many years to come.

It is a very great grief to his innumerable friends that on the advice of his doctors he has now had to retire permanently from the very great services he has given to his country. His last appointment was one of the very greatest importance.

It is through this copy of THE WIRE that his many comrades in arms of the Corps send their affectionate congratulations and wishes for his future health and happiness.

* * *

Honoured also at the same investiture was Brigadier Sir George H. Walton, K.B.E., C.B., T.D., D.L., for his service in the Territorial Army and specifically as the Chairman of the Territorial and Auxilliary Forces Association in County Durham. He is better known to the great majority of Royal Signals as a Chief Signal Officer, and the senior of a long line of most distinguished commanders of the 50th (Northumbrian) Divisional Signals, T.A., and currently as the Chairman of the Finance Sub-Committee of the Royal Signals Corps Committee. His very wise counsel, particularly in financial matters, is equally available to the Association.

* * *

THE WIRE is privileged on the opposite page to publish a photograph of these two most distinguished officers, one a member of the Regular Army, the other a member of the Territorial Army, who have both in their respective spheres added so much to the stature of Royal Signals.

☆

EXTRACT FROM FORMATION ROUTINE ORDERS

By MAJOR-GENERAL R. N. ANDERSON, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O.,

Commanding H.Q. 17 Gurkha Division/H.Q., Overseas Commonwealth Land Forces.

Serial No. 15 — MILITARY SECRETARY BRANCH — 6 Dec.57

114. ACT OF COURAGE

1. It has been brought to the notice of the GOC that on 17 Nov 1957 at Port Dickson 23239884 Signalman K. Locock 28 COMWEL BRIGADE SIGNAL SQUADRON, under unfavourable and dangerous conditions, with personal risk to himself, especially since he had only recently learned to swim, rescued Signalman Cannan from drowning.
2. The GOC directs that an entry be made in Signalman LOCOCK'S documents to this effect.



[Courtesy: Associated Press, Ltd., London

Major-General Sir W. Ronald C. Penney, K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O., M.C.

Brigadier Sir George H. Walton, K.B.E., C.B., T.D. D.L.

****

HER ROYAL HIGHNESS

The Princess Royal

Colonel-in-Chief

visits

THE NIGERIAN SIGNAL SQUADRON

****



● Her Royal Highness inspects the Parade. Major-General K. G. Exham, C.B., D.S.O., G.O.C., Nigerian Military Forces, in white uniform

FOR me the visit started just before 10 o'clock on the morning of Wednesday, 13th November. Threading my way down to the Pay Office from the Squadron the sound of the Argonaut's engines caught my ear. Instinctively I looked up into the glare and saw the plane away to the North, its wheels ready for touch-down.

Back in the office the final preparations assumed a tenser air as we realised that our Colonel-in-Chief was already here in Nigeria with us. In the African soldiers' New Married Quarters, where the parade was to be held the following day, everyone responded to the quickened tempo. The rehearsals were over and the last minute touches were being put to the Royal dais. Those soldiers' families who were lucky enough to have been selected for a visit by Her Royal Highness to their quarters were inspired to further efforts. Throughout the day the preparations continued until everyone was satisfied that we could accord a really Royal welcome to the Princess.

Next day the emphasis had changed from collective to personal preparations. Early that morning, soldiers were everywhere in those casual states of semi-dress which the African soldier effects so easily. Here one caught the scarlet flash of a zouave jacket being pressed, there the royal blue of a cummerbund or the sparkle of a medal in the sun. Gradually as the hour for parade approached, pattern and symmetry emerged from the dazzle as Sergeant-Major Nwosu assembled his Squadron. On the road outside the barracks a bumbling crowd was being marshalled by the patient police. Inside, the soldiers' families assembled in a more disciplined fashion to watch the parade.

Towards midday, the Band of The Queen's Own Nigeria Regiment resplendent in their uniforms, assembled whilst the Press and Newsreel men fussed round taking notes and adjusting their cameras. Having satisfied himself that the Squadron was well and truly dressed and magnificently turned out as befitted a Royal parade, S.S.M. Nwosu handed over, reluctantly it seemed, to the Officer Commanding the Squadron, Major L. J. Brunnen. Then, the Officers having fallen in, the parade relaxed temporarily to await the arrival of Her Royal Highness. In this moment whilst we on the parade had time, we looked quickly at the results of our work. The soldiers in review order stood gleaming and proud in long ranks of scarlet and blue, which was broken only by the startling white of BNCOs No. 3 Dress. We had done our best and determined now to carry the parade through in a manner befitting the occasion.

Before I knew it, we were crashing to the slope arms. And then we saw her in cool white walking with the General and the Brigadier towards the dais. We all felt such pride at that moment that our Colonel-in-Chief had spared time from so full a programme to honour us with a visit. "Royal Salute—Present Arms" and then the inspection and the opportunity for some lucky ones to see the Princess at close quarters whilst she spoke to them. The inspection over, Her Royal Highness returned to the dais and the Squadron marched away to the flank for the march past. The Band really did justice to the Corps March and the Princess complimented the Bandmaster after the parade. "Eyes Right—Eyes Front" and we swung away out of the barracks to form up on the road outside. The parade was over and the less formal side of the visit was about to begin.

Because Her Royal Highness could only be with us for such a short time it was decided not to show her our "Signalling" activities but to show rather our soldiers and their families.

The wives of the Officers and BNCOs of the Squadron were presented and Her Royal Highness asked several questions about local conditions and was evidently most

● Her Royal Highness inspecting the Parade. Accompanying her are Major L. S. Brunnen, Squadron Commander, the G.O.C. (in white uniform), Brigadier M. R. Lonsdale, D.S.O., O.B.E., Sub-District Commander



● Her Royal Highness meeting Officers and B.N.C.O.s Wives





● Her Royal Highness meeting the wife of Sergeant Sali Ibiefo

interested in the well-being of the families. We like to think that Her Royal Highness enjoyed most her visit to the quarters of two of our soldiers where the wives of Corporal Monday Nwaorisa and Corporal (now Sergeant) Sali Ibiefo were presented.

The "piccans" were wide-eyed with delight at having a visit from a real Princess and the wives of the soldiers, although thrilled, were discreetly shy. Her Royal Highness expressed her pleasure at what she saw and indeed we were proud and pleased to show her these quarters because they are among the best in Nigeria.

Then reluctantly we saw the Princess getting into her car and outside on the road we prepared to cheer her as she left. Slowly the big car rolled out of the gates and we could see the Princess with the General inside. As the car pulled away the three Royal cheers rang out from the soldiers lining the route and the Princess waved back. She was smiling and obviously pleased with what she had seen of her Corps in this colourful land of Nigeria. We, for our part, were very conscious not only of the honour which she had done us but also of how tiring it must have been for her to be with us in the heat of the day so soon after arrival from U.K., and were were, therefore, doubly grateful.

It had been a great day in the history of the Nigerian Signal Squadron.

[*The photographs in this article are printed by courtesy of the Federal Information Service, The Federation of Nigeria.*]

WHENCE "JIMMY"

Comparatively few members of the Corps (R.E. or Royal Signals) will have had a sight of "Mercury" on the Drum-major's Staff of the Training Battalion, Royal Engineers.

I think it is therefore safe to say the nickname "Jimmy" was not used until after the first Royal Signals cap badges were issued.

My own recollections (1914 and still 'with' the Corps) are that in the 1920s, in the various units and messes of the Corps a mild profanity was perpetrated by alluding to "Jimmy-the-one," an expression vulgarly but irreverently meaning the Almighty.

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Ladders without Snakes

BY A RECORDS OFFICER.

(Any resemblance that any character may appear to bear to you, dear reader, is purely co-incidental).

Scene: W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess, 999 Divisional Signal Regiment.

Time: Drinking time.

PERSONNA DRAMATIS

R.S.M. V. Longservice, B.E.M.: Shortly due to be put out to grass but a fine upstanding figure.

Sergeant D. I. M. Witt: Honest, sober, willing, trustworthy but slightly deficient in grey matter.

Staff Sergeant A. Ll. There: A young and keen orderly room Staff Sergeant who has just returned from a "Records" Senior N.C.O.s' Course.

Sergeant O. B. Joyfull: The mess steward for the month.

Enter: Sergeant Witt and Staff Sergeant There who gravitate towards the Bar.

There: "Im just about parched after that journey from Reading and ready for a pint. How above it Dave? Shop! Oswald."

Sergeant Joyfull emerges from his private "till."

Witt: "Two pints, Oswald, please. Look here Lloyd, now that you have got back from Records you might be able to tell me what these blighters are up to, mucking about with the promotion system. I have seen that letter that the War box dreamed up and also some rolls from Records which have really put an end to the old Blue Book, but I am still as clear as mud as to what in the dickens it all leads to."

Enter the R.S.M.

R.S.M.: "Good evening."

All: "Good evening, sir."

Joyfull: "Your usual, sir? Dave was just asking Lloyd if he had got any griff on the new promotion system at Reading, and so we should get the latest gen."

R.S.M.: "Good. There are one or two points that I would like to get clear, too."

There: "What is the trouble? It seemed pretty clear to me before, but I must say I did get a better idea when we covered Promotions on the Course."

Witt: "Well, for a start, why was it necessary to change a system which has worked successfully for years and years? Why suddenly should the trade of a senior N.C.O. and Warrant Officer become so important?"

R.S.M.: "That is right. When I was made a Lance Sergeant in 1939 it did not really matter if I was an Operator Signals, Operator Visual or even Driver HT. I just became a Section Sergeant and from that day to this I have not really touched my old trade. Practically the only people who did were the Foremen of Signals."

There: "With all respect, sir, I think you will agree that the Army and Corps have changed a lot since the pre-war days. Everything has become more technical and specialised. You hit the nail on the head when you said that about the Foremen of Signals. I understand that they have always been held on a separate roster and the same thing happened to Cipher when Signals took it over from the 'Schoolies' in the war."

R.S.M.: "What you mean is that since the war more and more senior N.C.O.s and Warrant Officers have continued to be employed at their trade after promotion. That is so, though it never effected me as I was a company sergeant-major at the end of it. Incidentally, I seem to remember having to fill up a questionnaire about senior ranks and their trades for some old committee about five years ago. I thought it was a waste of time as these committees never seem to come to anything."

There: "Well, this one did. It was called the McLeod Committee and recommended that in Signals the senior ranks should be continued to be employed at their trade where possible and also suggested a lot of higher and extra ranks for that to be done. Do you remember in 1956 people suddenly seemed to be promoted all over the place? I know I made Staff Sergeant years before I expected to—that was as a result of the recommendation of that Committee."

Witt: "Well, what is all the fuss about now. Everyone has got his promotion and we could go merrily on in the old way."

There: "Yes, but that is only half the story. We are reasonably O.K. in numbers of ranks in this Regiment but we are a pretty odd collection of trades. All the Brigade Troops are supposed to have Staff Sergeant Technicians. What have they got? One has a Staff Sergeant Wireless Operator, another a Technical Storeman and the other a Driver, but Ted Sparks and Alf Relay who tell us in no uncertain terms, that the old man recommended them are still Sergeants. What has happened was this; when that bunch of promotions took place in 1956 the senior recommended chaps were promoted irrespective of their trade, but when the establishments were changed the new posts were tied to trade. In fact, Records told us that now most of the Sergeants' posts have a trade requirement and quite a lot of the more senior posts as well."

Witt: "Well, it seems to be a bit crazy to my mind. Why, if they wanted a special type of Sergeant or Staff Sergeant, did they not just go down the list until they found the most senior one they wanted?"

There: "And who, may I ask would be the first in the Squadron Office next morning when Alf Relay had been promoted by Records? No, I think life would be impossible if it had been done that way. What was done was to do the same as before when trade requirements came into the reckoning and separate rosters have been made."

R.S.M.: "Well, why on earth didn't they produce this system in 1956 when the new vacancies arose?"

There: "There were apparently two reasons. Firstly, it was not certain until after trial that the old system would not, in fact, produce sufficient of each trade and, secondly, block promotion vacancies by ranks were authorised before the details of the requirement for trades were firm."

Witt: "Well, that has cleared up why trade is now important and why the rosters have been split; but that is not all yet. Why do the Technicians and Clerks Rosters go on up to W.O.I but all the others, except the Operating Roster which I will ask about in a moment, stop suddenly in a stunted growth at Sergeant giving place to an old banyan tree with its roots in the air called the Regimental Duties Roster?"

There: "The answer is really quite simple in the case of both Technicians and Clerks, sufficient vacancies exist or are planned which are tied to trade for there to be satisfactory promotion prospects. In the other trades, however, up to and including Sergeant, vacancies are tied to trade but from Staff Sergeant onwards although there are a number of posts tied to trade there are a great many 'any trade' vacancies in the shape of S.Q.M.s, S.S.M.s and R.Q.M.S.s. It was considered fairer to bring all on to one roster for the purpose of allotting Staff Sergeant rank; it does not mean, however, that a person will not be employed at his trade ever again."

Witt: "Does that mean that the characters who are Staff Sergeant and above on the Technicians and Clerks Roster won't compete for Regimental vacancies?"

There: "Yes, that is correct, but they will be given a chance before being promoted Staff Sergeant on their own roster to ask to go to Regimental Duties if their bent is that way and they are budding R.S.M.s. If they do go this way, then they will not normally be employed at their trades."

Witt: "Incidentally, why lump the Technical Storemen and Draughtsmen in with the Clerks when they have to get a Clerk B I rating to go to Staff Sergeant and above, on that Roster?"

There: "Well, they are more the R.H.Q., Q.M., Orderly Room types than Signal Office, Driving, Line or Technical types I think you will agree. At any rate they go on to the Regimental Duty Roster on promotion to Staff Sergeant if they do not want to become clerks."

Witt: "Now the Operating Roster. You made a great play a moment ago about the Cipher Operators being on a separate roster—look what has happened, they have been bunged into the Operating Roster.

There: "The reason is that all Operators are traffic handling types in one form or another and it is from the whole of this group that the new Signal Centre Supervisors Roster flows. At the rank of Sergeant the Operator has a choice of qualifying as a Signal Centre Supervisor and staying at his trade to W.O.I or going to the Regimental Duties Roster for R.S.M., although both as a Staff Sergeant and W.O.II he will probably be employed at his trade as well as Regimental Duties."

Witt: "They really seemed to have brain-washed you at Reading! Now just answer me these two questions if you can.

There: "I'll have a go."

R.S.M.: "You're not Wilfred Pickles, my lad!"

Witt: "Well firstly, it seems to me that promotion may be quick on one roster and slow on another which is not quite fair and, secondly, how are they going to get over the surplus and deficiencies which already exist in substantive ranks?"

There: "We were told that these are both points which have caused considerable thought and the answer is really this. Below Staff Sergeant each roster will in the end have a basic establishment or quota which will be the sum of the posts which are tied to trade and there can be no question of a N.C.O. on one roster being promoted to fill a vacancy which exists on another roster due to there being not enough qualified and recommended candidates. There are, however, a number of 'any trade' vacancies and it is the intention to allot these between rosters in addition to the basic vacancies in such a way that promotion is as even as possible, and the allotment will be changed and adjusted to this end as the situation varies. Of course, above the rank of Sergeant these 'any trade' vacancies are all allotted to the Regimental Duties Roster but the other rosters already give a fair prospect of promotion."

Witt: "So far so good, but what about the immediate future?"

There: "It is true that the numbers on rosters at present are not what is required but so that promotion can continue on all rosters although more slowly, the roster quotas will be changed gradually as promotions and discharges occur. The present vacancies where they exist will not all be filled overnight. It must be true that where there are shortages promotion will be quicker and if anyone wants to have a shot at changing his trade to a short one, I am sure he will be given every encouragement. That merely underlines the fact that a N.C.O. may change his roster if he changes his primary trade subject to Records approval, which will normally be given unless it is against the interests of the Corps."

Witt: "Well, having cleared my mind on all that I think you deserve another pint."

Joyfull: "Coming up!"

There: "Cheerio! Well, one thing I do know is that I must get out a list of chaps who want the new Blue Book which Records say will be in print and out in the next two or three months and for which orders are being taken very soon."

PROMOTIONS

The following substantive promotions were authorised in the Corps during the month of January, 1958:—

Clerical Roster

To W.O.I:	879047	A/W.O.I	(100)	MacGillivray, D.
To Sergeant:	21074027	A/Sgt.	(100)	Sloane, K.
	22548447	Cpl.	(160)	Hughes, F. S.
	22546286	A/Sgt.	(360)	McCartney, S. W.

Regimental Duty Roster

To W.O.I:	2570262	A/W.O.I	(720)	Davies, L.
To W.O.II:	837517	A/W.O.II	(150)	Axam, L. J.

Technical Roster

To Sergeant:	2549777	Cpl.	(240)	Currie, L. C. G.
	22295836	Cpl.	(400)	Coleman, R. B.
	22265996	Cpl.	(440)	Johnson, E. H.
	22212053	A/Sgt.	(610)	Callow, J. A.
	22309332	Cpl.	(640)	Reilly, T. J.

General Trades and Duties Roster

To Sergeant:	5110895	A/Sgt.	(10)	Waller, T. H.
	22212064	A/Sgt.	(230)	Holland, G. J.
	14201948	A/Sgt.	(360)	Newton, R.
	2328443	Cpl.	(470)	Walker, W.
	22546101	Cpl.	(590)	Bromley, W. H.
	22547532	A/Sgt.	(610)	Cummins, J.
	22830436	Cpl.	(650)	Rollings, K.
	22232301	Cpl.	(730)	Wood, W.
	22546132	A/Sgt.	(750)	Drake, P.
	22539794	Cpl.	(810)	Woollaston, W. R.
	22276425	Cpl.	(830)	Skimming, W.
	22295057	Cpl.	(850)	Delargy, E.

Lineman Roster

To Sergeant:	22515291	A/Sgt.	(190)	Heeley, R. A.
	22272176	A/Sgt.	(220)	Atkins, T. H.
	21005388	Cpl.	(280)	Jones, W. D.
	22773774	Cpl.	(340)	Bagwell, A. W. A.
	14185456	A/Sgt.	(430)	Flowers, W. H.
	22561678	Cpl.	(440)	Sutton, J. L.
	22515913	A/Sgt.	(500)	Duffy, W.
	22559096	Cpl.	(660)	Horne, J. W.
	22201282	Cpl.	(790)	Brennan, E. J.

Operating Roster

To Sergeant:	22537376	Cpl.	(490)	Le-Quesne, E. H.
	22547486	Cpl.	(520)	Brown, H.
	22309311	Cpl.	(610)	Harries, J. B.
	22542055	Cpl.	(830)	Seddon, K.
	22309279	Cpl.	(840)	Noble, P. A.
	22309317	A/Sgt.	(850)	Fell, R.
	22537050	A/Sgt.	(860)	Bermingham, A. D.
	22797307	Cpl.	(870)	Holland, E.
	22540634	A/Sgt.	(1000)	Thompson, R. T.
	22515172	A/Sgt.	(1020)	Williams, D. R.
	22823877	A/Sgt.	(1040)	Brown, P.
	22547224	Cpl.	(1090)	Coxon, W.
	22296093	Cpl.	(1160)	Forth, C. V.
	22515997	Cpl.	(1170)	Jones, D. G.
	22515316	Cpl.	(1180)	Myers, J. B.
	22289418	Cpl.	(1240)	Graham, C. C.
	22537389	A/Sgt.	(1260)	Collins, D. H.
	22547596	Cpl.	(1300)	Carr, A. S.
	22212172	A/Sgt.	(1380)	Gardner, R. L.
	22844583	A/Sgt.	(1470)	Will, J. C.
	22242878	Cpl.	(1500)	Williams, R. I.
	22844152	Cpl.	(1570)	Cox, D. E. P.
	22296065	A/Sgt.	(1620)	Anderson, J. C.
	22307881	A/Sgt.	(1640)	Davis, F.

DELETIONS

Regimental Duty Roster

W.O.I:	120, 30.
W.O.II:	530, 900, 1660, 1070
Staff Sergeant:	350, 3210, 630.

Technical Roster

W.O.II:	170.
Sergeant:	1090, 1940, 1560, 920, 2090

Clerical Roster

Staff Sergeant:	360.
Sergeant:	1710, 1340, 550, 1690

Operating Roster

Sergeant: 5780, 5820, 5430, 6010, 6780, 1790, 5790, 6940, 2140.

General Trades and Duties Roster

Sergeant: 150, 1640.

PERSONAL COLUMN

London Gazette

17th January, 1958

Major J. G. Geary, B.SC., A.M.I.E.E., retires on retired pay, 17th January, 1958.

Captain K. L. Utley to be Major, 12th January, 1958.

31st January, 1958

Captain W. E. Sherratt, B.SC., to be Major, 30th January, 1958.

7th February, 1958

Awards for distinguished services in Cyprus for the period 1st July to 31st December, 1957:—

O.B.E. Major P. W. Fountain.

Mentioned in recognition of gallant and distinguished service in Cyprus for the period 1st July to 31st December, 1957:—

Lieutenant P. E. C. Davies.
W.O.I D. M. B. Shields.

Movements — Officers

Lieutenant-Colonel G. W. Blackburne, B.A.O.R. to FARELF.
Major A. R. Brooke, B.A.O.R. to Depot (HS).
Major W. G. Mitchell, H.Q. Lowland District to Corps Signal Regiment, T.A.
Major S. R. Rickman, Malta to Depot (HS).
Lieutenant-Colonel (T.O.T.) H. E. H. Clements, M.B.E., B.A.O.R. to War Office.
Lieutenant (Q.M.) W. Cloughley, First Commission, Signal Park Squadron.
Major W. F. D. Hawkins, Ministry of Supply to SHAPE.
Major J. B. Stewart, Eastern Command Signal Squadron to M.E.L.F.
Lieutenant-Colonel G. D. T. Harris, M.E.L.F. to J.C.E.C., Washington.
Captain (Q.M.) P. D. Legge, D.C.M., Northern Command (M) Signal Squadron to Essex Signal Regiment, T.A.
Major S. Schofield, B.A.O.R. to Depot (HS).
Major M. R. Hewitt, FARELF to U.K. Comcan Signal Regiment.
Lieutenant-Colonel F. P. Johnson, B.A.O.R. to Depot (HS).
Major J. A. Cleland, Staff College to R.M.C.S. (Course).
Lieutenant-Colonel T. G. V. Stephenson, Norway to Depot (HS).
Captain (T.O.T.) A. Eeckelaers, Signal Regiment U.K. to FARELF.
Major (Q.M.) W. B. Edwards, Essex Signal Regiment, T.A. to 7 Training Regiment.
Major T. Howat, H.Q. Southern Command to B.A.O.R.

Births

BOND.—To Major and Mrs. D. A. Bond, a son, at the Military Hospital, Catterick Camp, on 28th January, 1858.

HEARD.—To Staff Sergeant and Mrs. J. Heard, at the Military Families Hospital, Woolwich, on 21st January, 1958, a son, Michael Charles.

DOMINY.—To Captain and Mrs. A. R. Dominy, a son, Richard Patton, at Edinburgh, on 7th January, 1958.

SPURGIN.—To Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) and Mrs. A. Spurgin, a son, Stephen John, at the Military Hospital, Nairobi, on 18th January, 1958.

RAINE.—To Sergeant and Mrs. J. R. Raine, a son on 14th January, 1958, at Sunderland General Hospital.

CARMICHAEL.—To Sergeant and Mrs. J. A. W. Carmichael, a daughter, on 5th January, 1958, at Catterick Military Hospital.

Deaths

FURGE.—Major W. G. Furge, of 25, Brookfield Road, Haversham, Wolverton, Bucks, on 30th January, 1958. Served in Royal Signals from 1920-1939, and was a member of the Royal Signals Association from 1946 until his death.

HOWE.—2321850 W.O.II C. H. Howe, of 1 Squadron, U.K. COMCAN Signal Regiment, died on 27th January, 1958. He was a Life Member of the Association. Royal Signals 1932 until his death.

BLACKHAM.—Ex-Signalman R. L. Blackham, of 41, Station Road, Bilston, Staffs, on 4th January, 1958, aged 30 years.

KETTERINGHAM.—Ex-Sergeant F. J. Ketteringham, of 16, Edmond Road, Sedbury, Chepstow, Mon., on 5th October, 1957, aged 69 years. Service (R.E. Signals) 1906-1929.

SPENCER.—Ex-Signalman J. H. Spencer, of 49, Purley Way, Croydon, Surrey, on 14th December, 1957. He was a member of the Croydon Branch of the Association.

KING.—W.O.II W. E. King, B.E.M., of Scottish Command (M) Signal Squadron, on 10th February, 1958.

Air Accident, Munich, 7th February, 1958. Those who were killed included two who had served in Royal Signals:—
Mr. E. THOMPSON, of the *Daily Mail*.
Mr. E. COLMAN, of Manchester United.

Arrivals and Departures

C.S.O.'s Branch, Scottish Command
Departures: Brigadier J. C. Hardy, C.B.E. (Retirement), W.O.II T. A. Vaughan, Sergeant K. Godden.
Arrivals: Brigadier J. N. Barker, O.B.E., W.O.II J. Crocker, B.E.M.

COMCAN Signal Squadron
Departures: Major R. F. B. Power, Sergeants Hopwood and Kerton.
Arrivals: Major W. E. Lyske, Captain B. Cooper (R.E.M.E.), Sergeants Surch and Catton.

Hong Kong Signal Regiment
Dperatures: Staff Sergeant Hawke and Sergeant Gilyeat.

1 Training Regiment
Arrivals: Major N. D. Shaw, Captain W. Sawyer, Sergeants B. C. Walling, D. Parker and R. Orme.
Departures: Captains W. S. Dawson and P. Fox.

Officer Training Wing, School of Signals
Departures: Captains M. A. F. Hiles and P. J. Evans, W.O.II Woodlands and Sergeant Cassling.

U.K. COMCAN Signal Regiment
Arrivals: Captain H. Illingworth, Sergeant R. P. Edgar.
Departures: Staff Sergeant J. H. Day (R.E.M.E.), Sergeants R. Martin, T. Keany and F.G.A. Irvine (A.C.C.).

WHITSUN

A novel way of spending Whitsun is offered by the Midlands Reunion at Loughborough on Saturday, 24th, and Sunday, 25th. For details see Page 73. It is hoped that all Branches within reach will send strong contingents.

Members of the Association are accommodated free and the enterprising Loughborough Branch have offered to arrange accommodation for wives and children in neighbouring hotels.

* * *

THE DEPOT REGIMENT ROYAL SIGNALS

is to hold its Annual Regimental Week-end at Saighton Camp, Chester, on the 7th/8th June this year. The programme is to be as follows:—

Sat., 7th June, '58—1400 hrs.—Finals of the Regimental Athletic Competition.
Sat., 7th June, '58—2100 hrs.—Regimental Dance.
Sun., 8th June, '58—1030 hrs.—Church Parade.

The Corps (Non Touring Band) is to play at the above functions.

A cordial invitation is extended to members of the Association to attend any, or all, of the functions shown. The invitation is extended to families also.

It is hoped that Branches will manage to send parties, complete with Standards.

Please inform the Depot Regiment, Royal Signals, *by early* May, of members attending giving the following information: Rank in the Service; Name of Branch; Time of arrival; Rail or Road; If accommodation is needed. It is regretted that accommodation cannot be arranged for families.

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The 5th EDITION OF THE BLUE BOOK containing the rosters on the re-organisation of the Corps Promotion system will be published in MAY, 1958, price 2/-. ORDER A COPY THROUGH Regimental and Squadron offices during March, 1958.
(See pages 70 and 71)

Obituary

22265768 R.Q.M.S. G. A. MILNE

To those who have served in 51st (H) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A. since 1949 and to his many friends and associates in the Aberdeen area, the news of R.Q.M.S. Milne's unexpected passing must have come as a profound shock.

"Doddie" Milne as he was affectionately known, died in the "traces" at Fonthill Barracks, Aberdeen, on Tuesday, 7th January last and those of us who knew him well feel that that form of passing would have been his wish.

His service with the Territorial Army spanned over a period of some 35 years, starting with the Gordon Highlanders in 1923. He transferred to 51 (H) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment (T.A.) in 1949 and became R.Q.M.S. in April, 1953. In addition, he acted in a civilian capacity as storeman with the Regiment.

His cremation service in Aberdeen was attended by almost all the Officers, Warrant Officers and Sergeants in Aberdeen, including Colonel T. P. E. Murray, O.B.E., T.D., A.D.C.—our Honorary Colonel and Lieutenant-Colonel G. D. G. Mackinnon, T.D.—the Commanding Officer. His Pall Bearers were members of the W.O's and Sergeants' Mess, and his remains were lowered to the mournful strains of "The Flowers o' the Forest," played by a piper of the Regiment.

We extend our sympathy to his widow and family in their loss of a husband and father and we acknowledge our loss of a true pillar and friend of the Regiment.

W.O.II (S.S.M.) C. H. HOWE

Many of the old timers and those not quite so old will remember Warrant Officer Charles Howe, or as he was more affectionately known "Tich." All will learn with regret of his sudden death early on 27th January, 1958, at Gloucester, at the early age of 44 years. He commenced his terminal leave only five days previously.

Since enlisting in the Royal Signals in January, 1932, he saw an active and varied career, many will know him from the frontier days when he served with the 1st Indian Divisional Signals at Razmak and Bannu and later with 19th Indian Divisional Signals. On his return to England in 1945, after approximately 10 years overseas, he served at Catterick Camp, followed by a spell in B.A.O.R. From Germany he travelled to Malaya. On return to the United Kingdom he joined 1 A.A. (M) Signal Regiment at Grays, Essex. In 1935 he was posted to 1 War Office Signal Regiment which subsequently amalgamated with 2 War Office Signal Regiment to become United Kingdom COMCAN Signal Regiment of which he was S.S.M. of 1 Squadron, at Gloucester.

During his service "Tich" saw our Corps making many rapid technical advances, leaving in its wake a multitude of administrative detail for those of his calling. This befell the lot of such men as he, a job at which he excelled. Often undertaking more than his share of these tasks, he would cheerfully and unsparingly strive to see that all was in good order. In his dealings with his troops he was firm but fatherly, and was respected by all.

In addition to his military duties at Gloucester, he was a keen sportsman and, although not actively participating was always on hand to give advice. He spent much time with the Unit Boxing Team, assisting with both training and organisations. He was as much a part of the team as the contestants themselves. He gave unsparingly of his leisure hours to further the interests of the Corporals' Club at Robinswood Barracks, a joint interest of Royal Signals and the Gloucesters' Depot.

We all extend our sympathy to his widow, Mrs. Howe, 7, Carne Place Gloucester, and his son Charlie.

Forthcoming Events

Annual Meeting of Branch Secretaries of the Association

Saturday, 29th March, 1958.

Eastern Command (M) Signal Regiment (T.A.)

206, Brompton Road, London, S.W.6, are holding a Dance at their T.A. Centre on Saturday, 29th March, after their annual Regimental Dinner. They have kindly invited any Honorary Secretary or Branch Representatives attending the Honorary Secretaries' Meeting in London on that date, to attend the Dance, which will be free and begin at approximately 9 p.m.

The 3rd Divisional Signals Reunion Club

Are holding their next annual reunion at The Victory Club, 73/79 Seymour Street, London, on Saturday, 29th March, 1958. The Hon. Secretary, W.O.II E. Bayley, will be pleased to send details to ex-3 Divisional Signals Past and Present members. Enquiries to AG 11, The War Office, Stanmore, Middlesex.

ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS' EXHIBITION

Earls Court, London, March 25th to 29th, 1958.

RADIO COMPONENT SHOW, 1958

Grosvenor House and Park Lane House, London, W.1., from April 14th to 17th, 1958.

The London Branch

Of the Association are holding a Dance at the T.A. Centre, 206, Brompton Road, London, S.W.6, on 19th April. Tickets 2/6 each, which includes light refreshments. Apply to: Miss M. Archer, 163, Westbourne Grove, London, W.11.

Corps Dinner
and
Regular Officers' "At Home"
at the Hyde Park Hotel.

28th May, 1958.
29th May, 1958.

Royal Signals Association

CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING 29th May, 1958.

Midlands Reunion — 24th/25th May, 1958

This is being organised by 10 Wireless Training Squadron and the Loughborough Branch of the Association, Garats Hay Camp, near Loughborough.

Provisional programme:

Saturday, 24th May—Afternoon		Garden Fete Retreat (Royal Signals Band)
	Evening	Grand Dance (Royal Signals Band Dance Orchestra)
	"	Social
Sunday, 25th May — Morning		Church Parade Service
	Afternoon	Band Concert

The Depot Regiment, Royal Signals

7th/8th June, 1958. Annual Regimental Week-end at Saighton Camp, Chester. (For details see Page 72).

Catterick Reunion and Annual General Meeting

28th/29th June, 1958.

INDIAN SIGNAL CORPS

Officers of all Corps and Regiments of the old "Indian Army" are invited to the Punjab Regiment's Garden Party at the Hurlingham Club, London, S.W., on Friday, 27th June, 1958. Tickets, at 7/- each, can be obtained through the Royal Signals Association, 88, Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1., if application is made BEFORE 1st June, 1958.

ROYAL SIGNALS HOCKEY, 1958

19th March, 1958	Welbeck College	Welbeck
4th-7th April (Easter)	Scarborough Hockey Festival	Scarborough

ROYAL SIGNALS RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB, 1958

19th March	Northern Command Cup	Catterick
22nd March	Morley	Morley
26th March	Northern Command Sevens ...	Catterick

CORPS BAND SUMMER TOUR, 1958

Touring Band

4th April — 13th April	... ...	Eastbourne (Easter).
14th April — 19th April	... ...	Eastern Command Signal Squadron, Crowborough
6th May — 9th May	... ...	3 Infantry Divisional Signal Regt., Colchester
11th May — 17th May	... ...	Eastbourne
19th May — 22nd May	... ...	Southern Command
25th May — 7th June	... ...	Eastbourne (Whitsun).
8th June — 14th June	... ...	Victoria Embankment Gardens, London
15th June — 21st June	... ...	Plymouth
28th June — 29th June	... ...	O.C.A. Reunion, Catterick

United Kingdom

1 TRAINING REGIMENT

After a fairly hectic December, during which all the usual festivities took place, and a longer than usual Christmas break, we have settled down to the New Year.

Thursday, 9th January, saw us do battle with the Duke of Wellington's Regiment in the 6th Round of the Army Rugby Cup. It was a stormy, blustery day and playing with the wind in the first half, our opponents chalked up an eight point lead. Try as we would after the interval we were unable to penetrate their defence and so we passed out and they on. Since then, they have also disposed of the Welsh Guards to reach the U.K. final. Good luck. Better fortune attended our efforts in the Northern Command competition in which we advanced to the semi-final at the expense of 14 Field Regiment, R.A. Gratifying to see that Phil Horrocks-Taylor, a member of our Cup winning XV of three years ago and this year's Cambridge stand off half, has received his first English Cap.

Cross Country runners, too, have covered themselves with glory, winning the District and Command Competitions; a happy augury for the Army Championships in Aldershot at the end of February.

3 TRAINING REGIMENT

Our second winter in the Cathedral City of Lincoln finds us well established in the local district sports. Thanks to the drive of Captain F. A. Stork we are putting up a creditable show in cross country running, and at present are third in the Lincolnshire Services League. This consists of 13 R.A.F. as well as Army teams.

In our district meeting we won by 36 points from 6 Battalion R.A.O.C., but owing to casualties incurred in this race we were unable to field a full team in the Northern Command Competition. We did, however, finish fourth. Signalman Green has shown consistently good form and is invariably our first runner home.

A very quick resumê of our activities in other sports is:—

Rugger. We are in the finals of the North Midland District Challenge Cup and the semi-finals of Northern Command Challenge Cup. We beat the Yorks and Lancs by 21 points to 3. We will miss Signalman Jackson who has just finished his National Service and wish him well when he plays for Keighley.

Boxing. We have just won seven first and four second prizes in the North Midland District Individual Novices and Open Championships.

Soccer. We are in the final of the Lincoln Wednesday Hospital Cup and the semi-finals of Northern Command, North Midland District League, and North Midland District Open. We hope to hold on to the Northern Command Trophy which we won last year, but if we are unable to do so then we trust it will at least stay in the Brigade since 2 R.T.R. and 7 T.R. are also still in the Competition. A few of the older and more experienced players have left us for civilian life, but thanks to the vigilance of Major E. C. Collett, the general team standard has not deteriorated.

We recently had a visit from the new District Commander, Major-General R. E. Goodwin, C.B.E., D.S.O. During his short visit he sat down at the instructor's table in an intermediate morse class and shattered the assembled company by sending extremely good morse to the trainees. Before he left he was presented with an Army Form 171 classifying him as a Telegraph Operator. The General promised that this would be kept with pride among his papers. Training Operators who had to pass a longer trade test should note that the General will not be eligible for trade pay.

By the time these notes appear in print we will have taken over another camp in Newark, Notts. This camp will contain a third Squadron of the Regiment formed to train Wireless Operators from 4 T.R. The Squadron Commander will be Captain D. O. Fairlie, who has just joined us.

During January a cookery competition was held in the Unit. The District Catering Advisor (DCA for short) came to organise and judge it.

4 TRAINING REGIMENT

Your scribe has been reproached for neglecting Association Football in favour of other games in our notes of recent months. The author is a Rugger man but has been forced to admit that the "other" is also a game. Accordingly the Officer in charge of Soccer was fixed with one of those looks gimlet piercing, and instructed to produce the dope or else. We remarked that the Manager had not been sacked lately, no transfer deals have been reported, in fact, the tabloid press would find us dull. We have nothing spectacular to report but we do provide five players for the Corps XI from our own side. We do not seem to be in a winning mood for Cup matches, which is one of those odd things that happen to the best regulated schemes of mice and men. We make this statement because out of 14 league games played we have won 11, drawn two and lost but one. No small contributors to our results are Signalman Bambridge, a clerk in Headquarter Squadron who, in civilian life plays for Rotherham United, and Lance-Corporal Dyer, his partner, who is a teleprinted operator Instructor and Stockport player. Our third professional is Lance-Corporal Collins, a Luton player, who instructs Wireless Operators—he captains the side. The two amateurs who made the Royal Signals team are Lance-Corporal Gardner, a Physical Training Instructor, who plays for Crook Town, and Lance-Corporal Hodgson from Evenwood, a Wireless Operator. It must not be thought that we are not proud of the performance of the rest of the team but we cannot name them all—so to the veteran Sergeant Burke and the rest we say "Thank you."

SIGNAL TRAINING TROOP, W.R.A.C.

At the Teleprinter School there are now three squads under instruction. These are fondly referred to by their instructors as "The Seniors," "The Juniors" and "The Babes." (How the instructors are referred to by their squads is not yet known).

The senior squad, 61P, enters Trade Testing week on 6th February, 1958, and all are expected to pass with flying colours. Private J. Simpson in this squad passed her practical teleprinting trade test at the beginning of the ninth week of training, with the wonderful result of 19-0-0.

In the most junior squad, 63R, is Private J. Cosens who joined the School on the 20th January, 1958, having previously been a member of Eastern Command (M) Signal Regiment (T.A.).

In the School entrance hall are two notice boards, on which are pinned views, flashes and items of news relating to the various Commands to which operators may be posted on completion of their training. As 50% of our instructors are ex-Scottish Command, this area is well publicised. B.A.O.R, N.I.D. and Aldershot are just blank spots on the boards, and we would be grateful for views and Command flashes from these areas.

One ex-Trainee presented the School with a beautifully embroidered souvenir of the Coronation. Will anyone who knows the name of this operator please inform the School in order that the picture may be suitably labelled?

The Exchange School has only one squad under instruction at present. At this School, too, 50% of the instructors are ex-Scottish Command.

CORPS MARCHES

A new recording of the Corps QUICK and SLOW March has been made, and records are now available, price 10/- each, plus cost of postage and packing, from: The Honorary Treasurer, Royal Signals Band, H.Q. Officers' Mess, Catterick Camp, Yorks.



The Commonwealth comes to Catterick

By Alec Donaldson

Extract from the Yorkshire Evening Post, Leader Page, 13th January, 1958.

Catterick Camp has its own assembly of the Commonwealth nations.

To it come men from Nigeria, Ghana, Malta, Sierra Leone, Malaya, Burma, India, Pakistan and Nepal. Africans and Gurkhas are the principal groups.

They come mainly to learn the advanced technical trades required to operate and maintain Army communications.

Lance Naik Lalbahadur, from a Nepalese signal unit may differ considerably in physique, colour and temperament from Lance-Corporal Sandy, of the Royal West African Frontier Force, but they share an aptitude for the complexities of radio, line or telegraph communications.

Many come to the Signal Training Brigade for 35 weeks to qualify as technicians in operating, maintaining and repairing light radio sets, but some take an even longer course on heavier sets.

Others find a place at the nearby School of Signals, which produces Officers with a wide knowledge of Army communications.

The soldiers of some lands find mixing easier than those of others. The long association between British and Gurkha troops, for instance, makes for quick friendships; Catterick may be bleak, but little Johnny Gurkha will smile broadly and assure the inquirer that he is enjoying himself.

There may not yet be the same common ground between British and West African troops, and there may be some sensitivity among men from countries which have only recently become independent, but in general military mateyness finds expression and they settle down easily.

Certainly the authorities have shown themselves anxious to make their Commonwealth guests at home. Instructors take particular care to ensure that their charges fully understand the lectures and demonstrations.



these units. The general public showed such interest and turned up in numbers that warranted the Exhibition being kept open an extra day.

It is unfortunate that we rarely get to know how many youngsters are attracted to the Corps by these Exhibitions. It is particularly frustrating for those concerned with preparing the exhibits and equipment, and for those who actually man the stand and represent the Regiment and the Corps to the public. For them there is no "end product" at the end of an exhausting day, and the best that can be said is the certainty that after it is all over, they will know their equipment much better having answered all the questions that could possibly be asked about it.

The steadily approaching date of our Annual Adminstrative Inspection has been seized upon by our worthy R.S.M. Thompson as an excuse to herd the permanent staff instructors on to the square regularly each week for mutual-drill (I nearly wrote recrimination). The burning question is, will he relent when the inspection is over?

Junior/Sergeant Lofthouse was unfortunate in meeting the winner of last year's contest, in the first round of the Southern Command Junior Boxing Championships held recently. He was narrowly outpointed in an extremely hard bout in which both boxers fought to a standstill.

The psychological handicap was too great for Junior/Signalman Waller when matched against an opponent who has now recorded three wins against him, and it was a disappointment to all when the self-confident and attractive style of Junior/Signalman Austin had to give way before a much stronger boxer.

Lest it be thought that the Corps were not worthily represented in these Championships, it is recorded that both Waller and Austin fought to, and were only eliminated in the Finals, and Lofthouse boxed one of the best bouts of the evening. Well done, all three!

JUNIOR LEADERS REGIMENT

With establishments such as ours, each term falls into a routine, highlighted here and there with things unusual and exciting, but with the steady tempo of our way of life and training throbbing on largely undisturbed. Such has been the last month.

The snow, which made two brief appearances around Denbury, provided opportunity for "Outward Bound training" on the Dr. Fuchs pattern.

National newspapers carried the story of two Servicemen from a nearby military establishment being overdue for 18 hours during an exercise on Dartmoor, which was later called off due to the severity of the weather. Of less news value, but more worthy of comment, is the fact that several parties of boys were moving considerable distances across the snow covered high moors *by night* and by day, in the same area at the same time. The news story gave an additional fillip to the boys whose morale was already high with a fine sense of achievement and self-confidence from 24 hours on Dartmoor under arduous conditions, and in weather which can only be described as wretched.

Of lesser importance has been the discovery that the car-driving R.A.E.C. staff, whilst perfectly at home tramping with boys on the moors, and extremely efficient as instructors in the classrooms, seem quite incapable of negotiating the gentle snow-clad rise of Canada Hill without completely blocking the road to following traffic.

The Regiment notched another TV appearance recently with a brief 30 second shot of Junior/Corporal Puffett demonstrating signal equipment at the "Young Soldier" exhibition held at Salisbury in January.

The Exhibition, opened by Sir John Hunt, amply demonstrated the wide variety of activities of the Junior Leader and Apprentices units and gave some idea of the trade training, educational standards, sports, the Regimental and social life in

OFFICER TRAINING WING, SCHOOL OF SIGNALS

On the 30th December, 1957, the last course of Officer Cadets to be trained by this Wing for National Service Commissions arrived from Mons O.C.S. On 10th January we welcomed Brigadier D. J. O'Flynn, Commander of the Royal Armoured Corps Training Brigade, to the Commissioning Parade of 360 Course, and on the 7th February we say "Good-bye" to the Young Officers of 359 Course and wish them all that they wish for themselves during their remaining National Service.

In spite of the condition of the grounds and pitches due to weather we did manage to hold some sporting fixtures. Sergeant Peberdy represented the Corps against the Royal Engineers and Thistles, and he has been selected to play against the R.A.O.C., R.A. and Aldershot Services. We are due to replay 5 R.T.R. with whom we drew 4-4 in the 1st Round of the Major Units Knock-out Competition.

The Cross-Country team took part in the District League which held the last match of the current season on 15th January, 1958. As no placings have yet been published we can only estimate that the position of the Wing is about 5th or 6th. The Wing has entered for the Royal Signals Squash Championships on 1st February.

We have had a first class .22 rifle team capable of scoring 790 out of a possible 800. They were placed third in the league after two defeats—by only one point in each case. Amongst the strongest supporters of the team have been Captain J. R. Cross (captain), Captain K. E. P. Andrews, Second-Lieutenant Newell, Officer/Cadet Brain and Signalman Bucks. No Rugby was played during the bad weather in January.

We hope to give you a more full report about sporting activities in our next issue.

U.K. COMCAN SIGNAL REGIMENT

R.H.Q. and 1 Squadron. January has been a very sad month for the Unit due to the sudden deaths of W.O.II (S.S.M.) C. H. Howe, who actually died just after commencing his Terminal Leave, and Mrs. Gater, the young wife of Sergeant G. Gater. Our most sincere condolences go to Mrs. Howe and Sergeant Gater on their tragic losses.

During the month the Squadron Boxing team met the R.A.F., Innsworth, in a boxing competition, but in spite of the usual spirited performance which we have now come to expect from our boxers, the R.A.F. proved to be the victors.

We offer our congratulations to Staff Sergeant A. J. D. Davies on his promotion to Acting W.O.II.

The latest news from No. 1 Signal Centre will no doubt come as a surprise to members of the Corps who have served there in the past, and it is that this most desirable location is apparently ideal for "Bird Ringing"—a Pastime, Hobby or whatever it may be called, that I personally hardly knew existed. Anyway, the latest addition to Sergeant Beadle's Clerical Staff at the Signal Centre, one Signalman Langford, is a very keen student of the art of bird ringing. After first being viewed with suspicion he was granted permission by the Chief Duty Signal Officer, Major T. A. Hall, to carry out his activities within No. 1 Signal Centre Compound—*NOT* during working hours.

Members of COMCAN, throughout the world, will be interested to learn that W.O.II "Jeeves" Jenkins (Retired), now filling a highly Technical Civilian Appointment with the 1 Training Regiment's Detachment here at Gloucester, has at last parted with *THE* Car!

Stop Press. At the South Western District Individual Boxing Championships, which finished as we go to press, the Squadron had three finalists, Lance-Corporal Brimble won his bout in the middleweight division with a scientific display which proved him a worthy champion. Of the other two finalists, Signalman Powell had to take second place to the Welsh champion at 8 st. 7 lb., and Lance-Corporal Gately (light-heavyweight) lost a bout which received a mixed ovation from the audience.

3 Squadron. The first month of 1958 arrived and departed without a lot of incident at dear old Bampton.

The highlight was a flying visit from the Director of Signals, Major-General R. J. Moberly, O.B.E., accompanied by Major-General L. de Thuillier, O.B.E., Director of Telecommunications. All was bright and shiny for the occasion and the Director seemed pleased with all he saw.

Our newly formed Archery Club is going from success to success and now competes regularly with teams in the district. The next competition was against a team of crippled and handicapped patients from the famous hospital at Stoke Manderville. The skill of these unfortunate people was really amazing. We are looking for a name for the club and suggested titles included "Bampton Bowmen" and "The Foresters." A wag in the canteen suggested that we should settle for "The Archers." Seems I have heard that name before!

This month we are putting on a display of our hobbies and recreational activities in the village. We hope to attract the locals to participate with us. Don't know—but could be a long term motive here. Might even get a couple of recruits eventually.

Look out for two of our canoes in the Devizes-London race in March. The boys are busy training and getting fighting fit.

BIRD RINGING AT BODDINGTON: JANUARY, 1958

By SIGNALMAN J. LANGFORD, Control Group

During the latter half of 1957, there was a very noticeable influx of paridae, the Titmouse family, into this country. These birds, mostly of French origin, were first noticed in numbers in the Eastern Counties of England, but were, a very short time later, to sweep from the Eastern Counties to cover the greater part of England. Owing to lack of their natural food in their own country they had been forced to wander in search of food. So, inevitably they crossed the Channel to England.

Having caught a good percentage of the local population of Titmice in the surrounding district of my home, I decided to look further afield. On noticing the great density of Titmice inside the Boddington W.D. Compound, I decided to ask the permissions of Major Hall . . . this was very kindly given, so the same day I commenced catching and ringing birds at Boddington.

The first day's catch consisted of 12 Blue Tits and one Great Tit, whilst the following morning produced six Blue Tits and three Great Tits, in all, a total of 22 birds. These birds were caught in a time of approximately two and a half hours. In one small net measuring 18 inches by 12 inches, on a bait of margarine and bread, which, it seems, judging from experience, will catch nothing but the Titmice. On several occasions Pied Wagtails, Robins, House-Sparrows and Chaffinches approached the net, but showed little or no interest in the net, owing to the fact that they are more insect and grain eaters than fat.

In my home district, the birds have learnt to recognise what a net is, but at Boddington it is a very different story. On four occasions I managed to catch two birds at once in the same net, and on one occasion caught five birds in as many minutes. The birds once they are released from the nets, are ringed and then released, unharmed. The rings consist of small strips of Aluminium stamped with a serial number and an address to which the ring should be sent if a bird with a ring on its leg is found dead.

Birds are ringed for a variety of reasons, first and foremost to find out more about a bird's movements, whether they are migratory or sedentary . . .to learn about routes which our various migratory birds take when leaving us in the Autumn, or joining us in the Winter . . . the longevity of the various species . . . causes of death—whether caused by man, disease or animals . . . the approximate density of certain species per square mile in Britain, and so on.

16 INDEPENDENT PARACHUTE BRIGADE GROUP SIGNAL SQUADRON

By the Grace of God and extensive recruiting, we are now almost at full strength after a long period of frustration as volunteers came and went. Some were unsuitable, others voluntarily resigned after a quick look at the "tank tracks." There is no doubt, however, that those who eventually win their wings appreciate the necessity for the tough initial training.

"Up to strength" is in numerical sense only, for we still lack some wireless and telegraph operators and a signal central supervisor, vital trades in an airborne unit. The new establishment has now been approved by the War Office. Indeed it is a pleasure, long awaited, to have the attentions of five officers directed to Squadron activities.

We were aided in our quest for Wireless Operators when five regular soldiers, formerly drivers, volunteered in an effort to improve their trade position, to remuster as Wireless Operators. They were sent to Catterick Camp to learn their new trade and are to be commended on their good reports.

The past year has indicated the ever-present problem of equipment dropping. Whereas the human body, fit and properly trained, is capable of absorbing the physical shock of landing, delicate signal equipment is a different matter. When swinging below a parachutist on the end of a nylon rope or in a vehicle suspended on a heavy drop platform, the equipment receives the same amount of shock as a man, without having the ability to absorb it, and it has to be most carefully packed with protective material before dropping. Consequently signal equipment in this unit suffers many hard knocks but still it manages to come through unscathed and workable.

Last year's training season ended with a flourish as an ACT station was shown on television, albeit a momentary flash amid a welter of floating parachutes and attacking tanks. The programme "Your Army—Now" devoted but a few minutes to the Parachute Brigade and therefore stifled at birth the ideas of certain smiling soldiers who considered themselves cut out for present day TV.

During the present individual training season things have been a little complicated by our recent move from Waterloo Barracks, built we understand to harbour the Duke of Wellington's horses on the *Quarante Chevaux Huit Hommes* basis. The present luxuries of central heating and constant H & C are a pleasant change from the leaky, windswept quarters at Waterloo.

Despite our move, trade training and route marches find their way into the programme. Bulford was visited on foot last

November and Colchester is to be stormed in a similar manner in early March.

Amidst all this bustle, we aim to parachute 20% of the Squadron each week. This can be a frustrating business, for when the elements are kind to the parachutist he often finds that the aeroplanes are not available for some mysterious reason.

Rumours are often heard that the Brigade is off to Cyprus or Timbuctoo; although many thirsty gentlemen will remember Cyprus with much smacking of lips, little doubt exists in their minds that England is the most likely server of beer. Nevertheless, the attitude of being ready for anywhere at no notice is uppermost.

In the sporting world we have been restricted to Minor Unit leagues in which we have fared very reasonably considering our small numbers. Cpl. R. Taylor was invited to box for England against Austria on 1st February when he outpointed his opponent over three rounds. He was narrowly beaten on points by his R.A.F. opponent only three days after his international. We pursue a vigorous life, and our vigour, coupled with a small degree of skill, has taken us to the Brigade Hockey Final this year, just as it took us to the Water Polo final last year. So far, we are contented in the sporting sense, whether it be with the thrills of scything down a hockey opponent, crawling merrily along dusty roads or casting a friendly boot in the direction of some soccer rival.



Corporal R. Taylor, feather-weight boxer (16 Parachute Brigade Signal Squadron) beat his man in the ENGLAND v. AUSTRIA International on 1st February and hopes to reach the Empire Games

Looking forward, we have a very full exercise programme this year and very soon we are to entertain our T.A. counterparts in the shape of 44 Parachute Brigade Signals. There is a distinct possibility of camp in Dorset, planned for two weeks in May, which should prove to be a period of enjoyable hard work and equally enjoyable relaxation.

3 INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT

This month we say good-bye to Captain Cemm for a couple of weeks on his departure for Paris and temporary attachment to the French Army. We wish him luck and "good hunting."

Recently "C" troop have attempted to turn the barracks into something like a P.O.W. cage. They have surrounded us all with a high fence in which the only outlet is past the guard room. Now those late night tender farewells are often refereed by the guard commander.

The high rate of pay is reflected these days in the number of private cars parked in the lines. It is a sign of the times that the officers no longer have a monopoly of this more expensive form of transport. However, none of the plutocratic signalmen can compete with the Adjutant's magnificent car which is decorated in the modern two tone style. The essential difference being that the two tones are from front to rear, and not from top to bottom.

Of late we have become quite a cosmopolitan regiment, having a Norwegian officer (Captain Sandvik) as O.C. "O" Troop, a Malayan officer (Lieutenant Schubert) as 2 i/c "A" Troop, and the expected arrival in the near future of a sergeant from the Federation of Nigeria. We also have with us Sergeant Reid from Scotland.

Following a heavy downfall of snow, our ski enthusiasts went to work and enjoyed a happy couple of days gliding over the Colchester mountains. The Adjutant and his ski's became quite inseperable, even to the extent of appearing on "Staff" parade in them one day. (N.B.—both ski's are identical in colour, unlike his car).

Congratulations are offered to Lieutenant Murray on his magnificent achievement in pushing his Champ up the hill outside Folkestone during the recent "Blizzard." (Note: Lieutenant M's description of aforesaid heavy snowfall), which cut the town off from the rest of the country. Lieutenant Murray's vehicle was the first to climb this dangerous 1 in 50 gradient and no doubt saved the town from disaster. His presence is eagerly awaited in this Regiment's Officers' Mess, so that he may be suitably fêted and perhaps decorated for his greatness.

At the moment we are without our C.O. who, we are unhappy to report, is in hospital undergoing a dental operation. We all wish him well and a speedy recovery.

Major Wheeler addressed the regiment recently and gave us all the griff on the new promotion rosters. Now Driver Plug and Signalment Pencil are household words throughout the regiment. Hectic verbal battles are being fought in all Messes and dining rooms on the merits and advantages of Plug over Pencil. An official statement was issued from the Sergeants' Mess just before closing time, which stated categorically that only the best National Servicemen should be allowed to sign on when the rush started to become potential W.O.I Plugs, etc.

The Regimental Basket Ball team have played eight matches this season of which they have won seven. The heights of the players range from 6' 4" to 4' 4". Which, considering the team's successes, disproves the theory that Basket Ball is a tall man's game. The Squadron Basket Ball matches have been an entertaining relief during the winter evenings, and both "One" and "Three" Squadrons are participating in the Garrison League. Both Squadrons have enjoyed some excellent matches and, at the time of writing, "One" Squadron are placed very happily within striking distance of the league leaders.

It is with regret that we bid farewell to "Tich" Morrissey, who passes on to civil life in the Birmingham "Smoke." As scrum half in our Rugby team he was invaluable and is going to be a difficult man to replace. Ever since his advent into the Rugby team, it has been a continual source of amazement how so much guts could possibly be contained in such a diminutive form. In the face of some extremely keen competition, the Rugby XV have battled their way to seventeen victories out of 20 matches played. Some of the games entailed long and arduous journeys in open vehicles taking anything from four to eight hours. So there can be no doubt as to the keenness of all concerned.

After a bad start to the Garrison League programme, the Regimental Soccer team has reshaped into a cohesive unit. We were unfortunate in losing four of our star players early in the season but, having settled down again, we have lost only one game in the last nine. In these games we have scored 42 goals and conceded only 17. The present position is 4th (out of 13) in the league, and though we have many tough fixtures ahead, we look forward to completing a successful season. The inter-Troop League is reaching a very exciting stage. The leaders, "H" Troop and "M. and Q." Troop have still to play each other in what promises to be a thrilling climax to a keenly fought competition. The Sergeants' Mess, making a late entry into the league, have surprised everyone by producing some excellent football—so far their only casualty is Sergeant Taylor, who had his leg broken when playing against his own troop!

SIGNAL TRAINING WING, A.A.S., HARROGATE

The past month has been devoted mainly to settling down again after leave, Passing-Out parade and preparing to start the new term of 10th February. In fact, trade training has been a bit chaotic.

However, as usual, we have started the new term full of hope and trust that there will be few interruptions during the next 22 weeks.

The Passing-Out Parade on 5th February lived up to its usual high standards and another bevy of Technicians and Telegraph Operators was launched into the ranks of Royal Signals. The parade was inspected by the Director of Boys Training, Brigadier A. J. D. Turner, D.S.O., M.C., who seemed quite impressed. A keen wind whipped across the square, thinning out the ranks of spectators but it is ever thus at this time of the year and we appreciate very much the support of the parents who brave the elements to visit this outpost of the empire in order to see their sons officially attain men's status.

Mention should be made of some of the A/T who won prizes this term, namely:—

A/T Nickson—Commandant's Prize for Best Outward Bound performance; Best Radio Technician; Best Sten-gun shot.

A/T Webster—Best Line Technician.
A/T Adams—Best Telegraph Operator.
A/T Hird—Best progress.

Noteworthy also is the fact that this time we passed out the first three Electronic Technicians to be trained in this wing.

Information has reached us of an impending re-organisation of Boys Training. In this connection it is proposed to introduce a three-term year next January. In the absence of other official information, Dame Rumour, quite naturally, has had her head and any tit-bits of gossip are greedily gobbled up. Revolutionary changes are forecast by those who profess to have contacts but as far as can be gathered things are still pretty much in the initial planning stage.

W.O.II Webster and Sergeant Thorpe left us for the Depot on 5th February and by the time you read these notes will undoubtedly be settled in their new stations. How I envy them when I look out at the snow rapidly turning to slush and listen to the rain beating lustily on the roof. We welcome Sergeants Carrington and Boddington from Tidworth and Malta respectively and trust that their stay with us will be a happy one.

This brings us up-to-date I think—more anon.

C.S.O.'s BRANCH HEADQUARTERS, SCOTTISH COMMAND

Once in a while we appear in print, perhaps on occasions when we have some great success, some distinguished visitor or the achievement or otherwise of our units in the Command.

This time though is not one of those occasions. True we have some success to report but first and foremost we should like to offer our sincerest wishes to our Chief Signal Officer, Brigadier J. C. Hardy, C.B.E., on his retirement on 5th February after 32 years' service. He has been C.S.O. Scottish Command for the last three years and has taken a very active interest in the staff of the Branch. Mrs. Hardy, too, has graced us with many visits to our families and been most helpful and we are indeed sorry to see them leave. We wish them and their family the best of luck in the future.



Rifle shooting has been well to the fore during 1957 and a photograph shows the Command H.Q. team winners of the Lowland District Arms and Services Competition, 1957, in which there were three members of our military staff of five, Major Gladstone, W.O.II Vaughan (Captain and Team Coach) and Lance-Corporal Wolfendale.

W.O.II Vaughan was the only representative of Scottish Command at the Corps Rifle Meeting, and was placed 6th in the championship Royal Signals.

At Hockey, Major Gladstone has represented the Command and both he and Captain Dominy have played for Command H.Q.

At Soccer, Major Gladstone and Lance-Corporal Wolfendale play regularly for Command H.Q. At Squash, Captain Dominy and Major Gladstone have played for Command H.Q. and we all play cricket. Last year we even had a Command Boxing Champion on our Staff, so any challenges for a Pentathlon?



C.S.O's BRANCH, HEADQUARTERS SCOTTISH COMMAND

Standing: Corporal Studd, Sergeant Godden, W.O.II Vaughan, Captain A. R. Dominy, Lance Corporal Wolfendale. *Seated:* Mrs. Munro, Major D. W. Gladstone, Brigadier J. C. Hardy, C.B.E., Lieutenant-Colonel D. Todd, M.B.E. (Retd.)

SCOTTISH COMMAND (M) SIGNAL SQUADRON

Having just recovered from a hectic Christmas and New Year we thought a line or two to show we survived might be appropriate.

As a warmer the Commanding Officer, Major W. J. Hotchkiss, entertained the civilian staff to drinks. This was the last time we saw any of them for a couple of days, that is, except for Sergeant Harley (Provost), who considered their members and his cells as they tottered by the Guard Room (Time 2.52 ?).

Heartiest congratulations to Capt. (T.O.T.) Larner on his recent promotion.

We are to say *au revoir* to our C.S.O., Brigadier J. C. Hardy, C.B.E., under whose command we have worked so happily, and welcome to the Command Brigadier J. N. Barker, O.B.E., who has already visited us and who we hope will find his new Command a pleasant one.

We also bid farewell to Sergeant "Freddie" Wilde, who has left the Service.

It is with the greatest regret that we report the death of W.O.II W. E. King, B.E.M., who lost his life in an accident in the Unit Armoury on Monday, 10th February, 1958. All in the Corps with whom he came into contact will remember him for his cheerful, ungrudging service and for the help which he was always willing to give. At the time of his death he was in charge of the stores department, in which capacity he had served the Unit so well for the past 18 months. He was awarded his B.E.M. in 1954 and recently the L.S. and G.C. Medal. All in this Unit and his many friends will wish to join with us in offering our great sympathy to his widow and son, of whom he was so proud.

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A very well-known hotel, established for twenty years, caters especially for military families awaiting quarters at Catterick Camp.

Excellent position, standing in 4½ acres of grounds, friendly atmosphere, excellent food, every comfort, facilities for washing and ironing, etc. At moderate terms.

Garages and parking spaces.

Proprietress: Mrs. A. Broadley.



I CORPS SIGNAL REGIMENT—WARRANT OFFICERS, STAFF SERGEANTS AND SERGEANTS

Back Row : Sergeant Morris, Sergeant Paddon, Sergeant Mawson, Sergeant Gunn, R.A.E.C., Sergeant Williams, Sergeant Flowers, Sergeant Mortlook Sergeant Stagg, Sergeant Newman, Sergeant Slade, Sergeant Wise, Sergeant Markham, Sergeant Armstrong, Sergeant Grant, Sergeant Barnett, Sergeant Britton, R.A.E.C. Sergeant Hillier, Sergeant Gardner, Sergeant Reid, Sergeant Hood

Centre Row : Sergeant Barnes, R.E.M.E., Sergeant Edwards, R.E.M.E., Sergeant Samways, Sergeant Finch, R.A.P.C., Sergeant Smith, R.E.M.E., Sergeant Warren, Sergeant Twigg, Sergeant Welch, Staff Sergeant Hughes, Staff Sergeant Laycock, Staff Sergeant Owen, Staff Sergeant McPhail, Staff Sergeant Kirk, Staff Sergeant Windebank, Sergeant Donnelly, Sergeant Thompson, Sergeant Forrest, Sergeant Howie, Staff Sergeant Ormond, Sergeant Burns, Sergeant Hunt

Front Row : Staff Sergeant Carr, S.Q.M.S. Ashworth, Staff Sergeant Whatmough, W.O.II Edmonds, W.O.II Day, W.O.II Cook, M.B.E., W.O.II F.O.S. Whittington, R.Q.M.S. McKay, W.O.I R.S.M. Page, R.Q.M.S. Cook, A.Q.M.S. Warner, R.E.M.E., W.O.II Lord, M.M., W.O.II Cloke, W.O.II Redstone, Staff Sergeant Nock, Staff Sergeant Platt, Staff Sergeant Wilson

I CORPS SIGNAL REGIMENT

The first month of the New Year seems to be an appropriate time for the Regiment to come up on the air again (in a literary way) with a contribution to THE WIRE. One of the major reasons for our long silence is that in 1957 we have been spending a very large proportion of our time in an endless succession of bigger and better exercises which continued right up to the beginning of November. These were followed by PE tests, annual range classification, the administrative inspection, etc., all of which ensured that nobody could complain of time hanging heavily on their hands. However, having now made a start we hope to become more regular contributors in the future.

On the 19th January we said farewell to Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. Johnson. The whole Regiment was sorry to see them leave and we wish them well in their new station, Malta. In their place we welcome Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. Barnes and hope their stay will be a long and happy one.

We were very pleased and proud to hear on New Year's Day that S.S.M. R. J. Cook had been awarded the M.B.E., and Staff Sergeant D. M. McPhail the B.E.M. in the New Year honours list. Two well deserved and very popular awards.

Sports

On the whole it can be said that the Regiment is having a fairly successful season in the field of sport.

Soccer. At present we are top of the Herford Garrison League and we are through to the final of the Royal Signals B.A.O.R. Cup, having defeated 4 Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment 4-3, in the quarter finals, and 6 Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment 2-0 in the semi-finals. Corporal Graham, Signalman Nevin and Signalman Summers have played consistenly well throughout the season.

Rugby. Unfortunately the weather has interfered with the Rugby season but we hope it will soon be getting into full swing again. We have won two resounding victories in friendly games and defeated 2 Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment in the first round of the Royal Signals B.A.O.R. Cup. We are now hoping to be able to get some serious training in time for the next round.

Hockey. Despite the loss through injuries early in the season of two of our stalwarts, Captain Moseley (broken fingers) and Sergeant Howie (broken arm) we are still in the Army Cup and the Royal Signals B.A.O.R. Cup. In the former we recently defeated 3 R.T.R. by 2 goals to 1 in a re-play of the first round. In the latter we have defeated 18 Army Group Signal Regiment and 11 Air Formation Signal Regiment. Our next opponents in the semi-finals are 19 Army Group Signal Regiment.

Boxing. The Regiment has reached the final of the B.A.O.R. Signals Inter Regimental Boxing Cup. In the first round we defeated 4 Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment and in the semi-final we were successful against 11 Air Formation Signal Regiment by eight bouts to three. In this last contest we got off to a good start when our Bantam, Driver Keating, won on points after a contest full of good boxing in which he hit that little bit harder and quicker than his opponent.

In the featherweight Signalman Gray, who had joined the team only a week before, gave a very plucky display and only just lost on points. With a little coaching and experience he should do well, his enthusiasm and behaviour were a joy to watch.

It was in the Lightweight that we saw the best contest of the evening. In this Signalman O'Connor boxed brilliantly to hold a bigger, stronger and more experienced opponent for the first two rounds and then he out-boxed and out-punched him in the third round which included putting his opponent down for a count of nine. He thoroughly deserved the ovation he received when awarded the verdict.

In the Light Welter class Signalman Feast gained a points decision after a very hard fight. Within the team this was a popular win as Feast boxes the hard way and this was his first success. Lance-Corporal Tramaseur met an opponent who had boxed in the highest class of amateur boxing. He fought very well and very pluckily, and did well to keep going till the end.

Driver Orme, our Second String Welter, won a very close fight on points, the opponent had an awkward style and Orme had not the experience to deal properly with it.

At Light Middle and Middle the brothers Thorpe were our representatives and could earn the title of the terrible twins. P. Thorpe won in the first round with a very good clean knock-out; and A. Thorpe won on points after his opponent had been saved by the bell at the end of the first round.

At Light-Heavyweight Driver McCormack was too strong for his very gallant opponent and won in the first round when the fight was stopped.

Driver Moore had a close first round in the Heavyweight, but an injured hand caused his opponent to retire.

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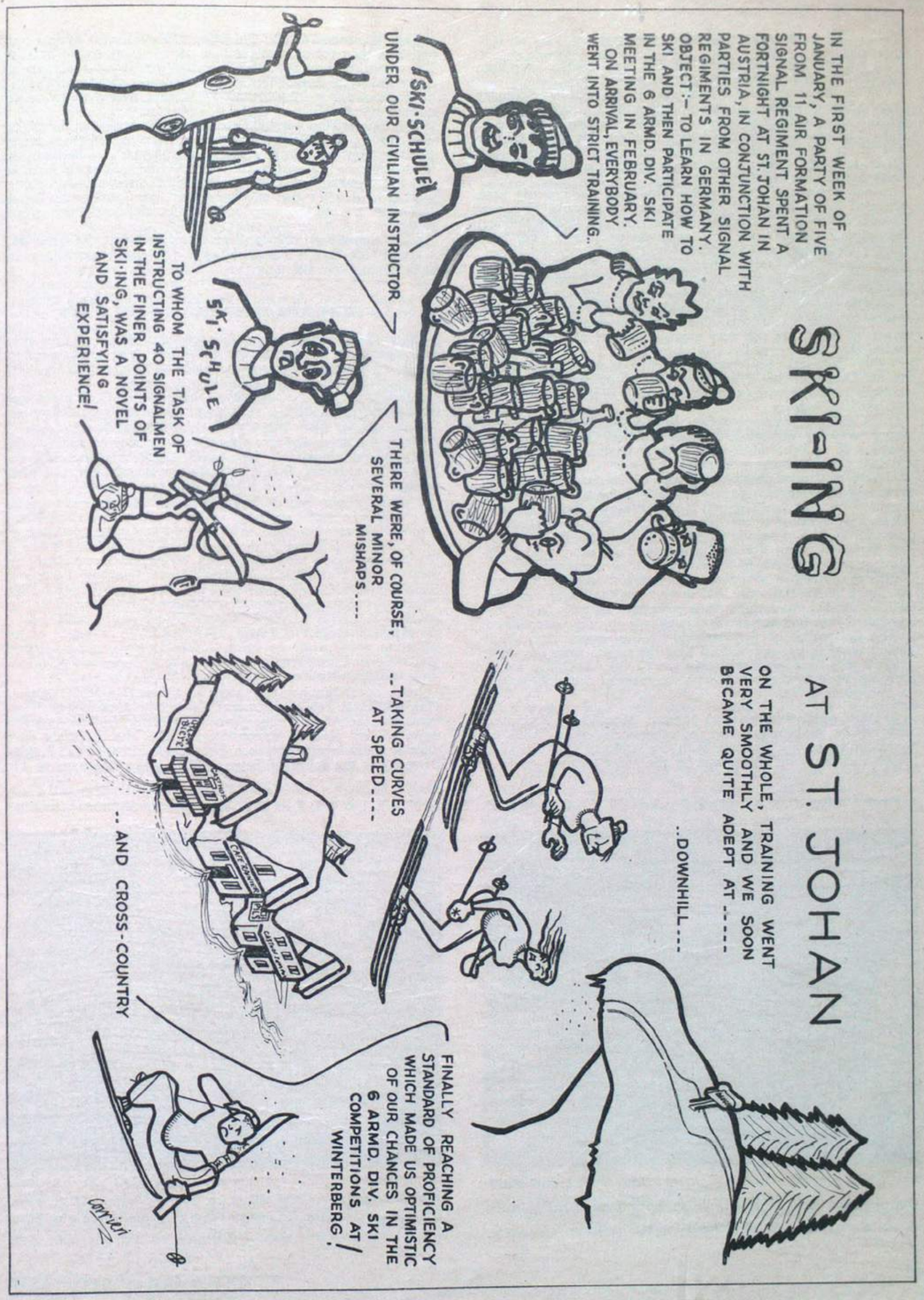
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12 WIRELESS SQUADRON

In keeping with the season the last two months have been very hectic—in fact, a Note-writer's heaven!!

One of the outstanding events was the Remembrance Sunday Parade Service held at a near-by British War Graves Cemetery where 3,000 British and Commonwealth Servicemen are laid to rest. The salute at the march-past after the Drumhead Service was taken by H.E. the British Ambassador, Sir Christopher Steele, K.C.M.G., M.V.O.; it was a great honour to have H.E. and Lady Steele with us on this occasion.

A new Branch of the Signals Association has recently been activated in the Unit with an enthusiastic nucleus of both new and old members. It is surprising how much a young National Serviceman will put into the Association once he is away from the "press gangs" at Catterick.

The useful sum of £12 was raised for the funds on our first attempt at entertainment. It was billed as a "Crazy Night"—and so it turned out, though it was voted a very successful and enjoyable evening and we are looking forward to many more. There was also a Christmas Dinner for Association members—details of which are still very vague, although it has been confirmed that eating actually took place!!

Other Christmas festivities included a highly successful All Ranks' Dance in the Gymnasium—the bareness of which was skillfully hidden by the excellent decorating of the R.Q.M.S. and his band of helpers.

The Children's Party was held in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess with children from the local Orphanage as our guests. It is debateable who enjoyed themselves more—the children or the grown-up helpers!

Owing to the weather in this part of the world our Soccer season consists of two parts—before the snow, and after the snow. The first half consisted of a 7-a-side Troop League, which proved rather breath-taking—both to play and watch. A feat well worthy of mention here is that the combined Officers' and Sergeants' team won two games, and are now looking forward to more victories in the second half of the season.

Ski-ing, our other winter sport, is just getting under way and no doubt by the time you read these notes the list of casualties will be steadily mounting. It is rumoured that the P.R.I. has purchased new skis but as yet this ghastly story is unconfirmed.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer's big squeeze has finally caught up with us—you should hear the moans from the single element who have lost seven bob a week LOA. Still, that should stop the flood of requests from all corners of the globe asking to be posted to us.

W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess. Mess life is flourishing with regular tombola evenings and other social events, including a triangular games evenings with the Officers and Corporals which was, quite naturally, won by the home team.

£180 was raised for the Christmas Draw which is quite a considerable sum for a Mess strength of 27—can anyone beât it? The range of prizes was superb and they were fairly evenly distributed—the Lance-Corporal who won a radio still doesn't believe it and is kicking himself for wasting money on two other tickets!

Our biggest blow—in both senses of the word—was the dining out recently of an old stalwart of the Corps, Sergeant Harry Grattan, who has left the service after 33 years. The highlight of the evening was a Conker Fight between Sergeant Grattan and the Commanding Officer, although the result is still somewhat obscure. We were all very sorry to see Sgt. Grattan depart and wish him all the very best of luck and prosperity in the future.

Our ex-members will be pleased to know that the Aeur bird is flourishing and that its habits are still studied well into the early hours of the morning.

1 (BR) AIR SUPPORT SIGNAL UNIT

New concepts, changes of face and the march of time have prevented news of the Unit for some time. The Unit resembles a military amoeba at times and though unable to reproduce itself, it is now becoming more definite in its being.

The learned and overqualified should discord all notes and precis concerning ASSU. Communications are provided nevertheless and the Unit has proved its worth in various rôles.

To move hurriedly over the subject so dear to some. The Unit has taken part in all major B.A.O.R. exercises, some N.A.T.O. exercises, R.A.F. exercises and a number of Unit scampers.

Due to present size we have not been able to provide teams to compete in many sporting events. Prior to 1957, 14 Army Signal Regiment benefited from our aid in Cricket and Soccer. 18 Army Group Signal Regiment athletics were aided and during the Rugger season the 6 Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment team boasted many ASSU members. Lance-Corporal Tramaseur journeyed to 1 Corps Signal Regiment and won his fight in that Regiment's boxing contest with 4 Infantry Signal Regiment. Our attached R.A.P.C., Corporal Munnerly, represented his Corps in their match against R.E.M.E., B.A.O.R.. As a result of an affiliation order made by courts above us it is now confirmed that 1 Corps Signal Regiment is going to be lucky in having our undivided participation in the future.

June, 1957, brought bad news to the purely Royal Signals Garrison in the beautiful town of Lemgo, 14 Army Signal Regiment and the ASSU. The former to disband and the latter to move to less pleasant surroundings. The last desperate days were spent in loading to much into too little space, and the day dawned for the move to Essen. With a few hours to go the

19 ARMY GROUP SIGNAL REGIMENT



[Photo: P.R., H.Q., B.O.A.R.

Our film star, Staff Sergeant Donovan, being filmed for ITV in the H.Q. B.A.O.R. NAAFI Self-service Shop



[Photo: P.R., H.Q., B.A.O.R.

The Commander-in-Chief talking to Colour Sergeant G. H. King, D.C.M., and Sergeant T. Lannigan, both of whom served with Royal Signals

destination was changed and the convoy set forth for Birdwood Barracks, near Bunde. On arrival the camp was likened to Catterick Camp due to the bleakness and distance from civilisation. However, 6 Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment who share the Barracks, provided for us and the Unit soon settled down.

In August, Captain D. A. L. Charles handed over the reins of office to Captain R. C. Roberts and departed in high spirits for Italy. He made a brief bronzed appearance some weeks later and armed with Chianti set off for the land of television in an overladen Wyvern aptly named "The Cardinal."

After some weeks of sweltering heat the Unit changed into shirtsleeve order. The following day the weather broke and winter set in.

In quick succession Second-Lieutenant F. A. M. Smith left the Unit on release, followed by Lieutenant P. Bevan-Williams bound for his Subaltern's Part II Course. Later Lieutenant J. A. Wilbourn arrived from Shrivenham and the normal extra Regiment duties were heaped upon him.

Great losses to the Unit were inflicted by the posting of W.O.II Varley, Sergeant Rutherford and Sergeant Thomas to other fortunate Units.

December heralded the Administrative Inspection by Brigadier C. Nettleship, O.B.E., T.D., C.S.O. 1 (BR) Corps. It was intended to have the band of the Royal Hampshire Regiment in attendance but many feet of snow prevented this. In consequence a space was cleared and the parade took place in as dignified a manner as possible. The Commanding Officer and Officers of 6 Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment came to our aid and provided an excellent entertainment at lunch. R.S.M. Davies and the members of the W.O.s and Sergeants' Mess provided heart warming preprandial nogs.

At the end of this difficult year for the Unit we must thank so many other Royal Signals Units for their help and understanding.

Points of Interest

Lieutenant-Colonel Cox and the Officers of 14 Army Signal Regiment entrusted to ASSU the care of that Regiment's portraits of the Queen and Duke of Edinburgh pending better days.

The Unit was visited during the year by:—

The S.O.-in-C., Major-General R. J. Moberly, C.B., O.B.E.
The G.I. Air, Northag, Lieutenant-Colonel D. A. K. Legge, M.B.E., R.F.
2 In Command Iraq ASSAU, Captain F. J. G. Sterkens.
G.L.O. R.A.F. Sundern, Major R. F. H. Pughe, D.F.C., E.R.D., 16/5L.

Captain Quassim Mohammed of the Iraq ASSU was attached for six weeks and was a popular temporary addition to the Unit.

ADVICE TO WARRANT OFFICERS AND NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS WHO ARE CONTEMPLATING RETIREMENT FROM THE SERVICE

You may be coming out under the redundancy scheme or retiring on termination of engagement. If you are entitled to a gratuity, remember that in no circumstances can this be paid to you until after the end of your terminal leave, and you should set aside enough to cover your requirements meanwhile.

Consult the Resetttlement Officer about possible courses of training for civil life. Pre-release courses and the Vocational Training Courses run by the Ministry of Labour cover a wide variety of subjects. If you are a tradesman, your Army experience may qualify you for membership of the appropriate Trade Union *provided* you apply while you are still serving—preferably at least six months before your date of discharge. (For details see A.C.I. 311/54 and Services Resettlement Bulletin No. 9 of 1956).

On release you should register immediately at your local office of the Ministry of Labour. Other organisations which can help you to find suitable employment are:

The Royal Signals Association.
The Regular Forces Employment Association.
The British Legion.

The Employment Section of the Royal Signals Association, 88, Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1, can supply local Branch addresses of the other two organisations. The Association itself is particularly well informed about vacancies in the Greater London area and would welcome more enquiries from men seeking employment there.

Many employers value the good qualities of the Regular Soldier and are anxious to obtain his services. Remember, however, that you will be adapting yourself to a new way of life, and do not expect to start at the top. Very often the job with a comparatively low starting wage offers the best prospects once you have proved your ability. If you can offer energy, goodwill and enthusiasm there is plenty of scope for you, whatever your age.

Housing is nearly always a more difficult problem than employment. A.C.I. 387/55 gives useful advice and details of special facilities of which Regular Soldiers may avail themselves while still serving.

Whatever your problem, do not wait until you leave the Army—start making enquiries *now.*

* * *

We are indebted to the Sheffield Branch of the Association for the following information.

The East and West Riding Resettlement Committee has been set up in Sheffield to assist in obtaining employment. The scope of the Committee's work includes the City of Sheffield and a large area around it. Access to this Committee is obtained through the Ministry of Labour office, West Street, Sheffield 1, or through the Honorary Secretary of the Sheffield Branch of the Association.

* * *

All Branches of the Association in large Towns or Cities are asked to make similar enquiries and notify Headquarters, Royal Signals Association.

Different Standards

By STREP

I was visiting the Brigade Headquarter's telephone exchange one morning before breakfast, when I overheard a conversation coming from the Signal Centre:

"Good morning, Mr. Attwell."

"Good morning, Mr. Pembury."

"Anything unusual to report, Mr. A.?"

"No, nothing, Mr. P., all is quiet, and everything recorded in the Diary."

"Right, I'm on then, Mr. Attwell."

"Thank you, I'm off then, Mr. Pembury."

How strange, I thought; what a way for two Signal Centre Superintendents to behave. Admittedly it sounded reasonably efficient (I must check what was recorded in the Diary), but why this behaviour, as though they were a couple of floor-walkers from Selfridges? I didn't like it at all; it was most non-regimental, and my impression was that they preferred a civilian routine to a military one.

As I strolled back to the Mess, I thought about Attwell and Pembury, both were National Servicemen, young, but keen, in fact they were both doing extremely well.

I wondered if they were unhappy in the Army. I did not think so. Although they both had about a year to serve, I had often heard Pembury say that if he hadn't a job waiting for him he would certainly think about "staying in." (I wondered if they all said this as a way of ending an awkward conversation). Attwell's father had been in the Corps during the war, and I knew that his son was keen to prove a success.

All through breakfast I pondered upon the attitude of my two Lance-Corporals; I would not be hasty, I told myself, I must wait; after all, it might have been just a little joke they were having with one another. Nevertheless, there were certain military standards to be maintained, I righteously comforted myself.

After a somewhat distracting Muster Parade, a negligible "IN" tray, and a Release Interview, I left my office tent and made my way to the "Operations" area (for we were on active service). A few words exchanged with the Brigade Major assured me that we would be in reserve for at least another 24 hours. A cheery but brisk "good morning" from the Brigadier made me reflect what a fine soldier he was—then came the awful thought, suppose he should discover that my (and his) two Signal Centre Superintendents were doing their best to run a branch office of Cable and Wireless or even Marshall and Snelgrove?

With this in mind, I moved quickly to the Signal Centre command vehicle, which had its penthouse erected at the

side. I listened from outside, the telephone was ringing. With the efficiency I appreciated, it rang only once before I heard:

"BrigadesignalcentreSuperintendentspeakingSir."

A pause, then:

"But of course, sir. I will send an orderly over immediately and I can assure you, sir, that your message will be with Division within 15 minutes . . . . not at all, sir . . . . thank you, sir."

The 'phone was replaced, but was immediately ringing again. When it stopped, the caller received the same introduction, followed by: " . . . no,no,sir, it must be the telephone that is faulty . . . . oh no,sir, I'm sure you are pressing the pressel switch. The indoor lineman will be over immediately sir, ... not at allsir, certainly sir, thank you, sir."

Again the 'phone was replaced. I thought as I stood there that I must casually mention that Pembury should be just as helpful and polite, but not quite so servile and ingratiating. I knew that it would be difficult to explain, but I just couldn't get out of my mind the fact that Pembury, in his present attitude, would look more at home in a morning suit, straightening his tie at regular intervals, clicking his fingers as menials moved to his commands, whilst he directed dowagers to the Lingerie and Lifts.

However, I was determined to handle the matter tactfully, and, having thus resolved, I pulled aside the penthouse flap and stepped inside. Pembury beamed, stood up, and came towards me, saying, "Ah, good morning, Sir."

If he had rubbed his hands together, I'm sure that I should have Court Martialled him; as it was, the "ah," in a high-pitched voice was sufficient to make me forget the tact I had been determined to show. I gave Pembury a severe dressing-down, telling him that I wanted his office run as a military establishment and not as some perfume-smelling ladies' hairdressers.

I felt very guilty as I strode away; Pembury had looked most upset, and I knew that he would take my admonition to heart. Be that as it may, I consoled myself, discipline must be preserved.

As I passed the Brigade Commander's caravan, he came out on to the steps and called me over. He motioned me to sit down on the steps, which I did, whilst trying to show the right amount of respect in performing a tricky operation. I could never tell if he was pleased or angry, but always, on principle, prepared for the worst.

My heart fell as he began:

"Now John, I don't normally interfere with the running of your show, nor the personalities involved."

The mention of personalities was enough to send my heart thumping to the depths.

"But," continued the Brigadier, "with regard to that Signal Centre N.C.O. fellow you have on this morning. Isn't it time he went up to full-corporal? I've never known a more pleasant, keen, and 'finger on the pulse' junior N.C.O.—he creates just the right atmosphere in that Signal Centre of yours."

I am now regarded as one of the strangest Signal Officers in the Corps. I am known to tear a fellow to pieces one day and to promote him the next.

Nation Shall Speak Unto Nation

A majority of delegates to international conferences, although they may not have the gift of tongues, can usually make themselves understood by each other. Hotels, restaurants, taxis are most frequently multi lingual. Certainly in Berlin English seems to be a second language. The Colonel, recently a member of the British Delegation to the 7th Convention of the World Veterans' Federation in Berlin, belonged to the school of thought which considers that nearly all disagreement international or personal is due to lack of understanding. Logically, therefore, there should be one language and one only, and to the Colonel, essentially an Englishman, there is only one language albeit that it may be spoken with American or "Oxford" accent as desired.

Always at such conventions the social engagements are more than any man can accomplish and delegations, therefore, detail one or more men to attend the various entertainments on offer.

The British in their turn "threw" a cocktail party and invited representatives of all the other national delegations during which the Colonel found himself "taking wine" with nearly every one of the guests and even lemonade with the Moslems.

Many of the guests in making their adieux said that they were booked for a party given by one of the German Veterans' Associations later in the evening. Hurried consultation failed to find a British delegate who had been "detailed" indeed, all were vague and evasive.

A friendly New Zealander volunteered to accompany, though he admitted also had no invitation. "Who cares?" said the New Zealander. "I'm with you," said the Colonel. A summoned taxi was driven by a man of the Afrika Corps who said he knew where the party was and regaled a lengthy drive by "swapping battles" with the New Zealander (8th Army).

Rather out of the conversation, the Colonel remembered he had left a case of important papers at the cocktail party. Thus they were separated: New Zealand was delivered, only about half an hour late, to the destination. The Colonel took about 70 minutes retrieving his papers, lodging them in his hotel and rejoining, as he hoped, at the German Party.

After an enormous number of marks had passed into the hand of the Afrika Corps, the taxi departed with expressions of goodwill on both sides and the Colonel, his "courage" having slightly evaporated, ascended a vast curving stairway to a roof garden and restaurant. "Halte," said one of the largest commissionaires the Colonel had ever seen. No mean man himself, he was dwarfed by 6ft. 6ins. and about 22 stone of sky-blue and gold braid. "Where is the party?" said the Colonel in basic English.

It soon became clear that the commissionaire was sure the Colonel was a gate crasher. The Colonel had no means of identification with him, but recognised a worthy foeman. It took time, but one or other suddenly bethought that all soldiers shoot, and a gesture of firing a shot gun and a "poof" noise from the mouth got two old soldiers on terms of real friendship. A spate of German and a bone crushing handshake showed our Colonel that yet another Berliner thought well of the "Englischer Puffers."

His German friend prepared to arrange a Ceremonial Entrance. "My Lords, Ladies and Gentlemen, pray rise in silence for the entry of the Englischer Puffer," was what he had in mind. But, remember the hour was late, commonsense indicated caution as a measure of politeness. The Colonel, in fact, wished to look cautiously through a partially opened door to see what was going on within. The audience was increasing. In civilised countries like America they call them "Hat Check Girls," they are pulchritudinous young ladies with long legs amply displayed. In Germany they are called "Garde Robes"; they are elderly, clothed to excess, grim of visage but with ample sense of the ridiculous. By the time the two "Puffers" had got this far the audience had grown and was becoming hysterical. After a second round of 15 minutes, the Colonel "fixed" a look through the keyhole into the restaurant and saw to his horror that the "reception" had become a banquet and vast numbers of Germans were sitting and eating. A strategic withdrawal was indicated.

The German commissionaire was by now depressed. He felt indeed that it was all his fault. Arm in arm the two "Puffers" descended the great curving staircase to seek a taxi.

Suddenly coming up the staircase, they met a distinguished Dutchman and his charming wife, he was about to be elected President of the International gathering, also they were old friends of the Colonel who joined them. The three ascended, followed by the mystified commissionaire, but who gladened when indeed he was able to arrange a superb entrance for them.

The ensuing hospitality was immense and it was many hours later that the Colonel gathered to himself the original New Zealander and a couple of German colleagues and again sought a taxi. The Germans were resigned to going by tram, taxis they said were unlikely at that time and place. As they went out the Colonel espied his friend. "Ho, you silly old Puffer, you ——— off and get a ——— taxi," he cried. "To hear is to obey," replied the commissionaire in his own language and hurled his immense bulk down the curved staircase.

Amazing, said the Germans, as the commissionaire handed them into a large vehicle and accepted a large tip.

He was last seen and heard in the attitude of one firing at a high flying pheasant uttering loud "puffs" with a look of ecstatic admiration on his face.



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"Jimmy"—on background of Corps Colours (each)

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Cyprus Revisited

or the Greeks have a Name for it

"BUT I tell you, Major, you can afford eet," he said convincingly, as we careered wildly along a maze of unadopted roads in some unsavoury quarter to the east of the town. "'Ere on the right I got two captain who pay forty-two pound a month, so I think you can afford eet, eh!", followed by an irritating cackle which did nothing to reasure my peace of mind and only served to annoy me all the more. Guards, obviously, I decided.

"Now, Meester . . . Please, I forgit your name."

"Adams," I replied for the fourth time in as many minutes. I settled back in the old rogue's new motor and prepared myself for another torrent of express sales talk. I supposed that after adding me to his list of gullible characters he would launch out in a new Jaguar next year. But I musn't be too hard, I thought magnanimously, and let him talk himself hoarse. "Ah, yais, excuse me. I muss remember. Now, Meester Enans, we go to see the backsides of thees places. Eets vairy nice. You see. I got one house you like vairy much an' I think the present tenant want to get out." Why, I wondered darkly, as we charged yet again over the craters and broken verges like Saracens attacking the ramparts of the Crac de Chevalier. Monsieur appeared to drive on both sides of the road at once with equal facility and without the slightest concern. He scraped past dogs, cars and pedestrians with a casual disregard for the highway code only surpassed by Genghis Khan. No highway—no code, I was forced to the conclusion.

I bade him farewell with all the panache I could muster after an hour and a half of this sort of treatment and returned to the Mess feeling slightly unserviceable. But I was still hopeful that something would soon turn up to suit my modest requirements if only I could cover enough ground in the time available. There was no point in rushing it and being rooked. We had visited a confusing variety of villas, bungalows and flats all sprawling in a thoroughly unregimental manner over an undeveloped area strangely reminiscent of a battle field. Goats and chickens-in-the-backyard-type-of-thing abounded, and inquisitive, unattractive looking neighbours tried desperately not to notice me while consumed with native curiosity. It presented a dreary picture for the future. Not a building we saw was a penny less than forty pounds a month and all without so much as a stick in them. As we clanked about on the freshly varnished boards and tiled floors I tried to visualise just what the place would look like modestly filled with the locally made orange-box type furniture.

"Forty pounds!" may friend exclaimed with a superior all-knowing kind of chuckle. "But, my dear chap, it's monstrous," he added. "Last year Freddy Whatnot got a super place for twenty-eight pounds, didn't he Johnny?" turning to his accomplice. Johnny nodded as though he was bidding at Sotherby's. "Of course, it depends what you want," he went on, eyeing me suspiciously.

"Oh, something quite simple. We're not going to entertain much this time," I volunteered, rapidly tiring of this sort of conversation. I was heartily sick of all the numerous Freddies and Tommies who had managed to pick up "nice little places" for a song. He probably hadn't noticed that Freddy Whatnot wasn't too fussy about baths. Freddy probably had one of those peculiar wood burning contraptions in the bathroom which deposited large pyramids of fine grey ash all over the floor as it roared and gurgled like a steam laundry on Mondays. Personally, I prefer my plumbing to be a little more gracious. A gentle yet ample flow of hot water out of the hot water tap rather than a cascade of boiling spray descending uncontrolled from somewhere in the upper regions, like a boisterous, temperamental traction engine at harvesting time. But my friends were out of date. Nowadays the rent automatically rose like a flying bedstead every time a lease was renewed. A fruitless fortnight of searching went on with one agent or another and it was surprising how monotonously they all told the same tale. My heart bled for them. Poor chaps.

I was just rushing to take evasive action from an approaching motor in Edward VII Avenue one afternoon when I recognised an old friend at the wheel. He screeched to a standstill in a flurry of brakes and dust and helped me out of the ditch.

"Hullo, sir. When did you arrive?" he asked jovially, as I hastily brushed the mud and leaves off my cavalry twill trousers.

"Hully, Tommy," I replied with all the humour I could summon, but glad to see an old friend. "Last week," I added painfully. "You look a bit hot and dusty. Where are you off to?" he enquired casually.

"Looking for a house," I replied lugubriously.

"Any luck yet?"

"Not a sausage. Got any ideas," I pleaded hopefully.

"Well, there are any amount of houses about, you know. It's just a matter of finding them. But you ought to live in Constantia, where I used to live. It's just the job. Never had any nonsense when the trouble was on. Well, as a matter of fact we did have two bombs and one of them was tossed into my drawing-room," he confessed with a nervous little laugh. "It's a first class area though," he rushed on, "mostly British families, and as a matter of fact when my quarter came up I was sorry to leave. I'll tell you what," he added finally, "I know a sergeant who has got his finger on the housing situation. A bit of a character, you know. He's been able to fix up quite a number of our chaps. I'll have a word with him and give you a ring. I'm sure you'll like Constantia. Better than the place I'm in at the moment. I'm the only Englishman in the whole street. Feel I want to walk backwards down the road to see what's behind me. It gets you that way." I thanked him, and with his promise to telephone me still ringing in my ears I went to my motor agents to see if my car was in sight of land. It must have been shipped in a Spanish galleon.

I remembered very little of Nicosia as I had seen it fifteen years ealier. The new Governor and I were in the same boat from that point of view and I drew comfort from the thought. I didn't envy him his task one little bit. A fine new hotel with prohibitive prices had sprung up since the war. It was one of the few imposing looking buildings in the whole town, although all around new buildings were being slapped together like ice cream wafers during a heat wave. Even the colours were similar. But there's no accounting for taste and they seemed to merge into the general technicolor scheme of things well enough. Bright yellow or vivid green shutters, pale blue verandahs, mustard coloured walls and vermilion pantiles all blended in with the constantly changing hues of the Kyrenia Range, which formed a gigantic backdrop in the distance. Away to the south-west a touch of snow heightened the top of Mount Olympus.

Forty thousand pound villas jostled vulgarly with shabby bungalows of a bygone age, and dotted all around were huts and shanties with their inescapable complement of goats and py-dogs. Grubby, ragged-tailed children of the Lord only knows what nationality were always busily engaged in stoning one another as hard as they could. Sharpening their aim for their occasional battles with the Security Forces perhaps. Here and there one caught the delicate tintinabulations gently wafted over on the afternoon breeze as a weary shepherd trailed his softly tinkling flock through side streets and over rubbish heaps full of empty bottles and rusty tins. Oranges and tangerines drooped lazily on their dusty trees as they drank in the thin winter sunshine. They looked strangely out of place among the streets. Evidently Sir Patrick Abercrombie had not passed this way.

Some weeks later at a Mess party I was talking to an Army wife. "I'm sorry to hear you're having such rotten luck over a house," she chirruped. "Is there anything I can do to help?" "Oh, but wait," she went on hurriedly while her face lit up like Piccadilly Circus. "I was talking to someone at coffee the other morning who said that they were just about to move into a quarter. It's a large house, partly furnished, and I think she said the rent was forty pounds a month. It's in a nice area, too," she finished off.

"Splendid," I murmured, trying to spur my flagging enthusiasm and not wishing to offend the poor soul. "Absolutely anything will do. I'm not fussy."

I visited the place a few days later and introduced myself to the vacating wife. "Yes, she said in a rather bored way, "as you can see, we have moved into the hall to be near the fire. It's the only fireplace in the house." The walls were cracked and stained and peeling off like an over-ripe sunburn. They looked just as painful. The doors were also badly marked and the uncovered floors gave the place a hollow ring. "Of course," she continued, lighting another cigarette, "the glass enclosed verandah is ideal for the children to play in. They can play there all the time." Happy children, I thought. At least they will be satisfied. I began to calculate the cost of plate glass per foot super.

"Well, now," I started, "what goes with the house and what is yours?" A good question! My disillusionment increased sharply as the dear lady continued to add to the unending list of items she would be taking away until in the end I got the feeling I was watching an oddly indelicate striptease. I was finally left with bare floors, bare walls, broken light fittings—and not so much as a charpoy to lie on! Rallying slightly, I passed on to the next phase in this architectural inquisition.

"What about wild life in the surrounding area," I enquired apprehensively. "Do you have any boisterous cockerels in the garden next door that bellow at some unearthly hour?" Surely the place must have some redeeming features. "Oh, yes," she trilled with an amused smile, "we did have one when we first arrived, but I complained bitterly to the landlord and he said he would fix it. He climbed over the fence one night and cut its throat." What an obliging chap. I felt a little more kindly towards the place but I still wasn't quite convinced. I couldn't bear the thought of clanking about on bare boards all the time and conservatively estimated that about two hundred pounds worth of indifferent carpeting would be required to soften my tread. A sobering thought. I suddenly picture my bank manager, poor fellow, toiling away in London frantically fanning my overdraft. I quickly dismissed the thought from my mind. It won't do, I finally decided, as I conjured up the ghastly vision of my family eking out a miserable existence in this expensive squalor. It simply wouldn't do.

"I can't think why the authorities don't do something about controlling the rents instead of letting prices rise sky high," someone suggested after dinner one evening. "All perfectly simple," he burbled. "Form an inter-services board, decide on a fair price and that's that. No trouble, no fuss! On the other hand," he rambled on, intoxicated by his own rhetoric, "married men shouldn't be allowed to bring their families out. Make 'em put up with it. And there's no point in pandering to the locals either. The whole place isn't worth a row of kibbled carobs." I wondered what the recruiting nabobs would think about that one.

"Oh, absolutely," I said, almost dumbfounded. "And the families?" I enquired searchingly.

"Oh, well," he started vaguely and mumbled on with some other absurdity. I moved out on to the terrace towards my car. "By the way," he called after me. "What did you pay in the end?" "Fifty pounds a month," I shouted back as I quickly started up and drove away. J.E.L.A.

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Photo taken near a Government Guard fort in the foothills near Dhala. Lieutenant Lee (centre), W.O.II Robertson (left) and Flight Sergeant Starr, the radio N.C.O. with a C12 mounted in Land Rover beside them

ADEN PROTECTORATE LEVIES SIGNAL SQUADRON

This being our first contribution to THE WIRE notes, we hope to give you a little of our background.

The APL has been in existence in one form or another since 1918, when two companies were formed by Colonel Lake as the 1st Yemeni Infantry. Since the war and until recently the force, now three infantry battalions and an armoured car squadron strong was the responsibility of the R.A.F. Regiment. A decision was made in 1956 to make the APL an Army formation, ACI 544/56 was published asking for volunteers to join the Levies for periods of 18 months, and since 1st April, 1957, it has been taken over by the Army. Consequently, a signal squadron was established consisting of British and Arab officers and other ranks, the Royal Signals contribution being approximately three officers and fifty O.R.s.

Initially, Captain D. S. Hopkins, M.B.E., with a Royal Signals Troop, and Flight/Lieutenant H. Sowerby with a hard core of R.A.F. technicians and Arab operators, had the unenviable task of working "in parallel," till the formation of the APL Signal Squadron was approved. The new O.C., Major L. M. Rutherford, arrived in May to begin the re-organisation and the Squadron now consists of Royal Signals and R.A.F., British ranks as well as Arab officers and O.R.s.

As will be appreciated, the Aden Protectorate is not quite like Piccadilly, the old "Koi Hais" from India would recognise a close affinity with the North West Frontier Province. Our communications are entirely by wireless to the "up-country" garrisons and indeed the only means of access to some of these is by air. What roads there are consist of boulder strewn tracks up wadi beds and across sandy inhospitable desert.

The backbone of the communications network when we arrived was a number of very old and tired 19 sets operated on CW by Arab operators and maintained by a devoted team of R.A.F. technicians. Communications on the move was a very hit and miss affair, being provided by the 19 sets lashed to the tops of boxes bumping in the back of Land Rovers. The problem was simple to see but a little more difficult to solve. New equipment was to be obtained, personnel trained, vehicles properly adapted for wireless fittings—all this without interrupting the existing communications and the maintenance of operations "up-country." Slowly, however, as the weeks went by, and the arrival of newer equipment which was mounted in the Land Rovers, using a newly designed and built mounting, the signal squadron began to fulfil its task, more confidence gained, and with the arrival of Staff Sergeant Tait things began to look up, the loose ends were gradually being gathered together, not without the odd headache or two, and whilst the Arab signalmen, exceedingly good W/T operators, but untrained in the use of R/T, worked the C/W links, the British lads took on the R/T net to the garrisons up-country and to the surprise of the R.A.F. types still remaining in the squadron maintained and still are maintaining, fairly solid communications day and night, with the occasional failure owing to noisy conditions, but the garrisons now equipped with the C12, are usually able to contact, even if with a change to C.W. is called for sometimes. The forward links from Battalion to Company use the 62 set, with few complaints there.

The Squadron have had a good representation in Command sports, especially swimming and hockey, and considering our numbers in relation to the remainder of this mainly R.A.F. command, we have reason to feel quite pleased.

The latest arrivals we have welcomed include Captain Watson and Captain Shaw, Lieutenant Lee and the new S.S.M., W.O.II Robertson.

Now that the Christmas and New Year festivities are over a hot but nontheless joyful time was had by all, fortunately not called out for any operations—could that have been the will of Allah? We are now getting ready for a move of our squadron headquarters and workshops which, we hope, can be completed before the really hot weather can make life too uncomfortable for that sort of operation.

AFRICA

COMCAN SIGNAL SQUADRON

This Unit's WIRE notes must have been very conspicuous by their absence of late, however, a New Year resolution has been made, and notes will be submitted each month in future.

In November, we had a change in command when we lost the O.C. Squadron, Major R. F. B. Power, who had been with the Squadron for the past three years, and welcomed Major and Mrs. W. E. Lyske and family.

A great deal of attention has been paid to welfare and social activities during recent weeks. Major Snell, with the help of several volunteers, has converted a corner of a hangar into an attractive room where many social events have been held.

Mrs. Lyske decided that it was time the better halves of the families met and, on 17th December, the good ladies held their first meeting. It was decided that a Wives' Club should be formed and, after the meeting, a very successful evening was had by everyone. Since that date, another meeting and social evening have been held and, judging by the support given, the Club appears to be gaining greater strength.

The Squadron Smoker took place on 19th December and was most successful. A great deal of work was put in by the S.S.M. and his volunteers (?). During the evening, a draw was held and the many prizes seemed to be evenly distributed throughout the various ranks (no further comment!).

An excellent Christmas was had by all of us, and most of the entertainments for all ranks were provided by our hosts, the Royal Air Force, with whom we have been living for a few years.

On Christmas Eve, our friends at 1 Signal Centre pumped in numerous tapes, so Christmas Day was not free from work. The W.O.s and Sergeants took over the shift for three hours on Christmas Day, headed by W.O.II Budden as D.S.O., and W.O.II Rees as fatigue man in System Control. Much to the amazement of the normal shift workers, not a tape was lost.

The not-forgotten transmitter and receiver sites boys had an excellent Christmas. The receiver site held a barbecue on 21st December, at which it is believed many a lady put on an extra pound or so.

The Unit branch of the Association has been breathed upon and is now functioning under a newly-elected committee. At the meeting held on 3rd January, it was decided to invite the East Africa branch to hold their meetings in the "Hangar Club" and after meetings to have a get-together. The branch is proud to have as one of its Life Members a lady, Mrs. Cross (ex W.O.II, W.R.A.C.), the wife of Staff Sergeant Cross.

The East Africa branch held its meeting in the Club on 8th January. A few of the ex-members of the Corps who attended were Lee Eustace (Chairman), "Tanky" Taylor (Secretary) and Major Savage. Space does not allow mention of all those who attended, but we were very pleased to see them all, and hope to see much more of them in the future.

The last function held before going to press this month was the Squadron Games Evening on 9th January, in which, after much fiddling, H.Q. Troop took the honour. The event was well supported, and it was good to see all the fellows from the beyonds (Transmitter and Receiver sites), who had just recovered from their Christmas orgies.

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FARELF

19 AIR FORMATION SIGNAL REGIMENT

Of course we had a Merry Christmas and celebrated the advent of 1958 in the usual manner.

We did all the usual things; childrens party, visited the Station Messes, went to church, sang carols, had lots to eat and ditto to drink and in short, a good time was had by all.

Naturally and inevitably we had our little unforeseen happenings such as when one of L.A.D. attached had the misfortune to have some of those vicious little Chinese crackers in his trouser's pocket to which a friend added a lighted match! We are happy to state that after a two-day stay in hospital he was back on the road. Strange how year after year the gamut of regimental happenings during the festive season takes the same course—but how much are these enjoyed—and always have the same air of being original.

We don't believe in hiding our light under a bushel, nor contrariwise do we like to shoot a line, but we think we are justified in giving ourselves just a 'Leetle" pat on the back on the success both from the entertainment and financial point of view of our All Ranks' Dance on 14th December.

Repeating our venture of 1956, and being good soldiers, putting into practice the lessons learned, we elaborated somewhat for 1957, although the pattern of the dance, with its attendant games of skill and chance-sideshows and raffle, remained the same.

We were honoured by the attendance of Brigadier H. L. Lewis, C.B.E.; Colonel J. P. North, M.B.E.; Colonel G. S. K. Maydon; Group Captain I. C. K. Swales, D.S.O., D.F.C., D.F.M.; the Station Commander; and numerous other senior officers and their ladies, too numerous to mention. Since the object of the exercise was to get cash and lots of it, we considered the object more or less satisfactorily achieved when on final reckoning the clear profit stood at $2,726.00 or near enough £318.

As a result of this we have forwarded £275 to Royal Signals Association and Benevolent Fund; £10 to R.E.M.E Benevolent Fund in recognition of our L.A.D.'s assistance; with the small balance to P.R.I.

We hasten to add that a further £25 has been donated to Royal Signals Association and Benevolent Fund from our Regimental Wives' Club from the proceeds of the Jumble Sale held on 1st November, 1957.

So we think that a donation of £300 isn't too bad.

Add to this the common opinion that the function was a great success as an entertainment and we feel that we have added our little quota of cheer to this dreary world of summits and Sputniks.

We are grateful to the Station Commander for making the dance possible by generously allowing us the use of the hangar in which the function was held, and to the R.A.F. personnel concerned in organising the lighting and generally clearing the hangar. Of our Regimental personnel, although the numbers involved were legion, we think that Major C. Allen, as the organiser, deserves a mention for a very well organised show.

Thank you, sir!

We are not quite sure what sort of record the following event implies but this is what happened to a very young N.S. Officer on arrival in Singapore on the evening of 31st December, 1957 :

(a) 2000 hrs. Deplanes Paya Lebar Airport—ex U.K.
(b) 2045 hrs. Arrives Changi—is introduced to a rather large New Year Eve Party comprised of members of his Regiment.
(c) 2100 hrs. Is given light refreshment; stripped of U.K. clothing, adorned (!) in a bath towel to represent a napkin, fitted with an outside baby's bonnet, powdered and primped, and whisked off to the local Officers' Club.
(d) 2200 hrs. Takes part in a tableau by being wheeled around the ballroom in an outsized push-chair (by courtesy of L.A.D.) as the Duchess's baby in a tableau representing Alice in Wonderland.
(e) 2230 hrs. Wins a not inexpensive prize as the person with least inexpensive costume.
(f) 2300 hrs. And so to bed.

Not that it has anything to do with the foregoing but very shortly afterwards this same officer found himself en route to Ceylon, and we now understand he is pioneering on GAN. Well, well, there must be something in this cliche about joining the army and seeing the world.

From Kuala Lumpur to Butterworth by Jet Fighter

by Major R. M. Matthews, O.C.L.F., Signal Squadron

The other day, I had to go up North in a hurry to investigate some difficulty over wireless communications. Fortunately, a T.11 jet fighter had just touched down at Kuala Lumpur for re-fuelling, and the pilot, Squadron Leader Cooper, kindly agreed to take me with him to Butterworth. I was taken to a small 'plane which seemed to consist of a Jet engine with a couple of seats in front of it! A space was found for my small kit in the nose of the fighter, on top of the battery, and while the re-fuelling was in progress, I was dressed for the part. I had to put on a helmet, with earphones, and an oxygen mask with a built-in microphone. On top of this went a "Bone Dome" which was a large silver painted crash helmet, rather like something out of Science Fiction. I then clambered into the 'plane with difficulty and took the spare seat on the right of the pilot. I was already wearing a Mae West inflatable life jacket and was shown how to release the CO_2 bottle to inflate it. I was then strapped up to a dinghy, a parachute and finally the seat. The seat securing pins were removed and I was given instructions on how to get the seat to eject in case of emergency. The drill is to grasp a flexible handle behind one's head and to pull it, with elbows tucked in, so that a canvas screen comes over one's face. I was told that the seat would eject, fall away and then the parachute open at 10,000 feet—all automatically! In case the parachute didn't open there was the normal type of rip-cord. The pilot then closed the cockpit cover and started the engine. I was amazed at the lack of noise—but probably the helmet and the "Bone Dome" insulated the jet whistle. After a very brief warm up period—much less, it seemed to me, than with the normal piston engined planes—we took off. The thrust in my back as the aircraft accelerated steadily was remarkable but I also noted the lack of vibration. We were airborne in a moment and climbed rapidly through the clouds and up to 20,000 feet. Once airborne, there was no great sensation of speed, and we glided along comfortably above the clouds. The pilot and I spoke on the intercom and I noticed how clear it was. Whether this was due to improved design or to the absence of normal engine noise, I do not know. I had a look at the dials and saw that the engine was running at 560° C. Another dial which interested me was a radar device which gave the distance from Kuala Lumpur. At first, he had this on the 0-20 mile range but, after two or three minutes, the pilot switched over to the 0-200 mile range. The steady movement of the needle gave some idea of the speed we were going. At the half-way point, he threw a switch and told me he was now tuned in to Butterworth and that the dial was now indicating the distance to that airfield. By this time, he had turned the oxygen on and demonstrated to me how he could heat or cool the cockpit at will. We then went into a dive and, through a break in the clouds, I saw the Butterworth airfield. After a circuit of the field we went further north to where my sets were, or should have been working. I was relieved to hear the voice of Major Bob Ramsey, one of the G.L.O.'s, talking on the VHF net to a flight of Vampires which was below us. The world then did some startling things and turned sideways and almost upside down as my pilot decided to do a few manouevres before heading back to Butterworth. There was a "bonk" as the undercarriage came down and then we whistled along the runway and a most enjoyable flight came to an end. I returned after a day or so to Kuala Lumpur in a much more sedate aircraft—a Bristol Freighter—but that is another story!

NOTES FROM MALAYA

The C.S.O.'s Branch has now moved from Kuala Lumpur to Seremban with the exception of Major "Freddie" Cox, S.O.(II) Telecoms, who will remain in Kuala Lumpur for the present.

We are very proud of Signalman K. Locock, of 28 COMWEL Infantry Brigade Group Signal Squadron, who, at the risk of his own life, saved Signalman Cannon, of the same unit, from drowning when bathing at Port Dickson. A full account of his exploit is given earlier in THE WIRE. The G.O.C., 17 Gurkha Division/Overseas Commonwealth Land Forces, Major-General R. N. Anderson, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., has directed that an entry be made in Signalman Locock's documents to record his Act of Courage.

Heartiest congratulations to W.O.II (F. of S.) G. J. Powell, of OCLF Signal Squadron, on his award of the M.B.E., also to Major D. C. Newman, G.S.O. II, C.S.O.'s Branch, Lieutenant T. E. D. Baxter, 17 Gurkha Divisional Signal Regiment, and Sergeant W. J. Hough, Asst.(M) on being Mentioned in Despatches.



The party which visited *H.M.S. Newcastle* returned in fairly good order and all ranks have given an enthusiastic account of their activities. The operational practice included a night bombardment. The photograph shows the Corps flag flying on *H.M.S. Newcastle*. The flag was presented with full honours to the Captain as a gift from the Squadron.

We took over control of the main Signal Centre in Malaya at Seremban from 17 Gurkha Divisional Signal Regiment on 1st December. We consider ourselves lucky to take over such a well organised and well-found Signal Centre and are glad that the Gurkha operators will continue to assist us in manning it.

Staff Sergeant Richmond (of Corps Boxing fame) has just left us for U.K. and to a well-earned retirement. We all wish Staff and Mrs. Richmond a happy future.

Members of the Squadron took a leading part, both before and behind the scenes in the Garrison Players' Pantomime "Robin Hood and the Babes in the Wood," which they presented in Kuala Lumpur Town Hall from the 26th to 28th December. The theatre was packed to capacity during its run and the audience, particularly the children, were obviously delighted with all they saw and heard. Captain R. Martin not only assisted with the production and direction but also took a prominent (Very!! How many pillows were used to produce that vast paunch?) part as Friar Tuck, The total number taking part was over 60, including over 20 children, who evidently enjoyed their appearance behind the footlights.

The Squadron's Children's Party was a great success and thanks go once more to the Army Air Corps for transporting Father Christmas safely. The children admired his courage in jumping from the plane by parachute, and one small boy was heard to exclaim "Oh, dear, he'll hurt his head." In fact, he landed on the roof of one of the married quarters, but, in the miraculous way expected of him, he appeared promptly on the stage of the hall where the party was being held and started to distribute presents.

The men's Christmas Dinner was up to the usual high standard. Signalman Smith is to be congratulated on managing to eat two helpings of every course.

The 5th EDITION OF THE BLUE BOOK containing the rosters on the re-organisation of the Corps Promotion system will be published in MAY, 1958, price 2/-. ORDER A COPY THROUGH Regimental and Squadron Offices during March, 1958.

(See pages 70 and 71)

28 Commonwealth Independent Infantry Brigade Group Signal Squadron



Australian Diggers and U.K. members of the Signal Squadron at 28 Commonwealth Independent Infantry Brigade Group, Taiping, Malaya, march past the Director of Signals, Colonel D. Vincent, Army Headquarters, Melbourne, Victoria, during his recent tour inspecting Signal units and installations in FARELF

Remembrance Day Parade. At the Remembrance Parade held at theGarrison sports ground, Taiping, the Squadron was represented by a detachment of twenty-one men on parade. In command were Captain (now Major) Carruthers (Royal Australian Signals) and Sergeant-Major Essay. It was a case of quality rather than quantity that marked the Signal Squadron on parade and in the best tradition of the Corps, they held their own inturn-out and drill against the representative Commonwealth contingents from within the Garrison. The only complaint about the impressive, though simple, ceremony conducted by the Garrison Padres was the fact that the "weather merchant" gave us too much sun. During the service more than one man "hit the dust" but none of these unfortunate casualties was from the Squadron. Brigadier P. N. M. Moore, D.S.O., M.C., Brigade Commander, took the salute at the march-past to the band of the 1st Bn. Royal Lincolnshire Regiment.

Jungle Trek. The Squadron carried out a novel undertaking in November. It took the form of a "jungle bash" covering approximately eight miles. For many, both British and Australian, it was their first introduction to the jungle, and for many it will not be their last. The new arrivals from "Down Under" were among those who struggled up the jungle covered own in turn-out and drill against the representative Commonwealth Camp. The Squadron was divided into three platoons, and though they may not have shown the skill of an infantry unit, they could match any patrol in determination.

The most enjoyable part for many was towards the end of the trek, where the platoons had to wade across a river. Following the example of one unfortunate officer who took a ducking, and looked the cooler for it, many decided to cool off by getting as wet as possible while the opportunity presented itself.

The trek apart from proving how many different types of blisters one can show, helped to improve the physical stamina of the Squadron.

Having duly completed our annual PE Tests, with about 90% success, we got down to the more serious business of Christmas. Our programme started with the Squadron Children's Party on Friday, the 20th. After the normal games and a splendid tea, the children were treated to something unusual in the arrival of Santa Claus, who was dropped by parachute by our neighbours, 7 Recce LL Flt. A.A.C. The genuine article (Sergeant Preece, Royal Signals) was then hauled to the party by members of the Squadron, in a gaily decorated trailer.

The children's party was followed in the evening by the Squadron "smoke." This event was unanimously voted a great success, largely due to the spontaneous entertainment given by certain members of the Squadron (prominent among whom was Signalman Still, Royal Australian Signals) and the vast quantities of beer consumed.

Having been given the week-end to recover, we were happy to be able to entertain the children, mainly Chinese and Tamil, of the St. Louis Orphanage, Taiping, at a Christmas party held in the Squadron lines on the Monday. The first part of the afternoon was taken up with rides in Scout cars and Landrovers, and the children were given the opportunity of talking to each other over the various bits of Signal equipment prepared for them. This was followed by tea, and the arrival, of Santa Claus, who presented various pieces of sports equipment to the Orphanage on behalf of the Squadron. This most enjoyable afternoon closed with an hour's film show of Mickey Mouse cartoons, etc.

We maintained Christmas Day in traditional fashion, "Gunfire" being served at Reveille and the officers and sergeants serving a splendid Christmas dinner, for which our sincere thanks go out to Corporal Townsend and his cook staff.



[*Photo: Public Relations, FARELF*

The Director of Signals, Colonel D. Vincent, Army Headquarters, Melbourne, Victoria, on a recent tour of Malaya inspecting Signal units and installations, is shown here inspecting 28 Commonwealth Independent Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron at Taiping

SINGAPORE DISTRICT SIGNAL REGIMENT

The Regiment is in the midst of many changes, firstly we have said good-bye regretfully to Lieutenant-Colonel G. Mellor who has been our Commanding Officer for the last three years. We wish him many years of happy retirement. Our new C.O. is Lieutenant-Colonel A. J. Blower, who has stepped into a difficult job as the regiment is just starting a major re-

* * *

Some Early Impressions of Singapore

by Major G. A. Weedon

After twenty-four days in the restricted space of a troopship it was good to think that very shortly we should be going ashore. It had been a pleasant voyage on the *Empire Orwell*, with trips ashore at Gibraltar and Aden, and a full and varied programme of entertainment for all passengers. But still, how nice the prospect of some real exercise, and sound sleep on a bed that didn't heave.

For more than nine months—since receiving our Draft Warning—we had looked forward to our first sight of Singapore. We had heard so much, from those who had returned, of the interesting work, the friendly social life, the splendid sporting facilities, the wonderful shops and so on . . . . and now here it all was, at the foot of the gangway, on a very hot sunny morning in early November.

The landing formalities were swiftly completed and we were most pleasantly surprised to see the Commanding Officer of Singapore District Signal Regiment and several other Officers and Senior N.C.O.s come aboard to greet the new arrivals. In a few minutes our light luggage was loaded into trucks and we were in a car on our way out of the docks, so very clean and orderly with none of the babel and confusion so usual of Eastern ports.

Our way lay through the City of Singapore itself and we were struck with the magnificence of the civic buildings and the skyscraper commercial houses—contrasting oddly with the numerous temples and poorer types of Malay dwelling. The traffic through the busier streets was bewildering (and not a little alarming) until one grasped the local rules.

Plush modern cars of all the leading makers with their opulent Chinese owners purr alongside every conceivable contraption on wheels, including the "trishaw"—the bicycle-drawn version of the old picturesque coolie-drawn rickshaw.

The people in their various forms of dress were vastly interesting. About one and a quarter million people live on the island of Singapore and, of these, about three-quarters are Chinese. Malays, Indians, Europeans and other nationalities all help to build the composite life of this increasingly prosperous trading centre.

Suddenly the scene changed as we left the city and came to the residential area. Neat houses with attractive gardens replaced the busy narrow streets. Giant palms were laden with ripening coconuts. Banana fronds, and pineapples, papayas, mangoes and many other tropical fruits were growing in profusion. We were soon settled comfortably in the accommodation arranged for us, and our children were thrilled with the tree lizards and squirrels.

Everyone was most helpful and in the course of the next few days we did some unpacking and found our way around. The chief difficulty we encountered was in keeping clothing and leather work free from mildew. We had been forewarned of this, but didn't really appreciate what a problem this humid atmosphere presents to the housewife, especially during the heavy rains of December.

There are many buildings and places of great interest in Singapore, but far more interesting to the mind of the writer is the harmony in which so many races with their widely varying creeds and customs live together in so small an area.

It is indeed a great tribute to the British way of life, tolerance and powers of development when one realises that a little time ago, the Island of Singapore was mostly an area of swamp and jungle with a native population of a few hundred. Today it is a thriving community with a rapidly increasing native population estimated to reach two million in 1972.

Sir Stamford Raffles would be proud of the work he started.

HONG KONG SIGNAL REGIMENT

"B" Squadron. Even those who celebrated Christmas to the full have recovered sufficiently to gaze back—be it with bloodshot eyes—and produce some coherent account of the events of the last month.

In order to dispel the impression that we live in primitive surroundings, noisily chewing bamboo shoots, eating rice with chopsticks, wearing enormous coolie hats and dragging around 19 sets mounted in rickshaws—I will say that Christmas is celebrated here almost exactly as anywhere else. Even the Chinese enter into the spirit of it uttering proudly with a wide smile "Melly Chlistmas." Only the weather is slightly warmer. Some sang carols, some attended midnight services, most dined on traditional dishes and then slept, ate and drank their way through the rest of the day. And at 11 p.m. there was the Queen's broadcast. So Christmas Day passed. It was preceded and succeeded by an enormous number of parties. Everyone held dances: the Warrant Officers and Sergeants, the Corporals, All Ranks, and there was heard, on one evening, too, floating from the Officers' Mess, the sound of some stately minuet played Presley-wise. It was impossible to survive a day without being sold a draw ticket—being sold as opposed to buying—indeed, transactions usually took place by exchange of tickets. Captain Mitchell organised a grand Regimental draw, which everyone enjoyed, with the possible exception of the person who had to look after 40 live chickens and ducks, not to mention four geese.

Unimparied by all these festivities sport has continued. The Regimental Hockey team carried off the Ben Line Cup for the second year in succession and now have their eyes on other assorted trophies. The Football team is rising, and the Cricket XI vanished gloriously in a puff of smoke, to re-appear no longer holders of the Major Units Cricket Trophy. Several Army teams still rely on the Hong Kong Signal Regiment to supply them with the "right" men.

Finally, we wish Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. A. L. Atkinson good luck and God speed as *H.M.T. Oxfordshire* carries them further from us; and congratulate him on his new appointment and promotion. And in Lieutenant-Colonel A. L. Atkinson's place we welcome Lieutenant-Colonel P. E. S. Mansergh, O.B.E.

Link with 11th Divisional Signals, Royal Canadian Corps of Signals

Regimental Sergeant-Major D. F. H. Crosbie of Hong Kong Signal Regiment, received in September, 1957, a letter from Mr. G. Mackenzie Clunes, ex-W.O.I of the Australian Instructional Corps (Royal Signals 1920-1930) reminding him of the exchange of gifts, being a shield bearing the badge of their respective Corps between the Sergeants' Mess, Hong Kong Signal Regiment, and the Sergeants' Mess of the 11th Division Signals, Royal Canadian Corps of Signals then stationed at Vancouver, British Columbia.

The shield of the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess at Hong Kong was lost with much else during the Japanese occupation of Hong Kong, which occurred on 25th December, 1941.

After correspondence, Mr. G. Mackenzie Cluness sent a photograph of the shield bearing the badge of the Royal Canadian Corps of Signals which has been framed and now occupies a treasured position in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess of the Hong Kong Signal Regiment.

51 (HIGHLAND) INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT (T.A.)

Our winter training programme continues with unbated enthusiasm despite the Arctic conditions prevailing at present. This training will culminate in a Regimental Trade Board early in March, when we hope that the fruits of instruction will be sweet to the palate!

An Inter-Squadron postal .22 shooting match was held between the Squadron at their respective Training Centres on 3rd December, 1957. No. 1 Squadron won by one point over No. 3 Squadron, scoring 330 out of a possible 360, with No. 2 Squadron gaining 321 and H.Q. Squadron 297. The teams comprised of six men and standard rifles and targets were used.

The Regiment had its annual Administrative Inspection on 21st/22nd January when the inspecting officer was Brigadier B. C. Bradford, D.S.O., M.B.E., M.C. The Brigadier's satisfaction at the "state of things" was a rewarding reflection on the hard work of all concerned.

On 3rd February, the retiring C.S.O., Brigadier J. C. Hardy, C.B.E., introduced his successor, Brigadier J. N. Barker, to the Officers, W.O.s and Sergeants during an informal visit to Aberdeen. Also present were Colonel T. P. E. Murray, O.B.E., T.D., A.D.C. (our Honorary Colonel), and Lieutenant-Colonel G. D. G. Mackinnon, T.D., the Commanding Officer. We wish Brigadier Hardy the very best of luck on his retirement to civilian life, and extend a hearty welcome to Brigadier J. N. Barker, and hope his stay in Scotland will be a pleasant one.

We had a pleasing ceremony at Fonthill Training Centre on 9th February when, in the presence of Colonel J. C. King, C.B.E., J.P., Colonel Commandant Scottish (N.E.) Cadet Force, the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel G. D. G. Mackinnon, T.D., presented Signalman Cruickshank, ex-G.P.O. Signal Squadron, A.C.F., with the Queen's Certificate of Good Service which had been awarded him in the New Year Honours List. A notable achievement—well done!

In conclusion, we are happy to say that recruiting for the Regiment goes steadily ahead. The latest report from No. 1 Squadron shows that they have increased their strength by 34 per cent since Annual Camp.

THE MIDDLESEX YEOMANRY SIGNAL REGIMENT (T.A.)

Though it is at least three years since any of our notes have appeared in THE WIRE we have not died of natural causes, nor have we fallen beneath the axe.

The present rôle of the Regiment is rather varied. 1 Squadron provide communications for 27 Engineer Group and for the Westminster Dragoons, 3 (Para) Squadron for 44 Independent Parachute Brigade; 4 Squadron, now stationed at Uxbridge, are Phantom Signals.

The Regimental Dance and prizegiving which took place in December proved to be equally, if not more successful than in previous years, in spite of the Rum Punch served at the Officers' Mess Cocktail Party preceding the Dance.

The presentation of the Nijmegen Plaque to Major S. J. Williams, M.B.E., T.D., who led the marchers for the second year running, was accomplished in a most fitting Continental manner by Colonel G. Aris of H.Q. 44 Independent Parachute Brigade Group, who congratulated him with a kiss on each cheek.

Another startling sight was that of Sergeant D. S. Bunn leading two fair ladies at the same time, through the intricacies of Rock 'n' Roll.

During December we were unfortunate to lose our Adjutant, Captain C. A. M. Robertson. On his departure he was presented with an engraved shooting stick, whereupon he returned the compliment by presenting the Officers' Mess with an engraved tankard. Our loss was mitigated by the arrival of Captain N. R. F. MacKinnon, who joins 3 (Para) Squadron as P.S.O.

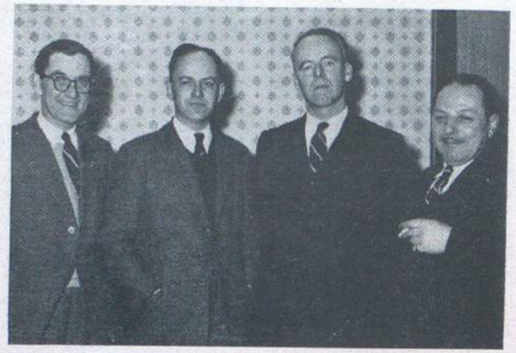
Training for the coming summer has now re-started and some rather blue members of 3 (Para) Squadron were to be seen tramping through the mud, rain, snow and slush of the Aldershot Training Area in late January.

4 Squadron, due to their location at rural Uxbridge, are fostering the Cavalry traditions of the Yeomanry. A large number of the Squadron ride at the week-ends on Ruislip Common. It is hoped that they will provide mounted Yeomen for the Jubilee Celebrations in June.

The Old Comrades' Association continues to meet on the first Wednesday evening of every month in the Sergeants' Mess, Duke of York's H.Q., Chelsea, S.W.3.

Association Notes

Harrogate Branch



Mr. Moore (Hon. Sec.), Major R. J. Armstrong (President), Major N. J. Coslett (Hon. President), Mr. Tyrie (Hon Treasurer)

After a quiet spell due to Christmas leave the Branch sprang to life again on 5th February with a Dance and Social evening in Harrogate. It was in the nature of a farewell to those ex-A/T members who were leaving the next morning for the Depot and everyone was determined to make it a success. The band was hot and the wine was red and everyone appeared to enjoy himself or herself as the case may be.

A nice little ceremony was enacted during the interval when Major N. J. Coslett, the President, was presented with a table-lighter as a token of our esteem. He has spent five years with us and has wrought many changes. We shall miss him when he goes.

The following evening we held the Annual General Meeting which was also well attended. After approving the financial position of the branch the remainder of the business was quickly transacted. A vote of thanks to Messrs. Tyrie and Moore was proposed and carried unanimously in view of the hard work which they have done during the past twelve months.

Major R. J. Armstrong was elected President and Major Coslett accepted the nomination for Honorary President of the Branch—the first, incidentally.

The branch is in a very healthy condition from all points of view and we look forward now to a resumption of considerable social activity with the approach of Spring.



Major and Mrs. Coslett receiving a presentation table lighter from Major Armstrong on behalf of the branch

Loughborough Branch

During the past year, as an experiment, we have had a large Committee which was responsible for both executive business and social promotions. At the Annual General Meeting held in late January, the members—looking back on 1957 and forward to the heavy social commitments of 1958—wisely decided to revert to separate Executive and Entertainments Committees. And so now we have two very strong teams with which to tackle a busy year, with the Midlands Reunion in May looming large in our thoughts.

Frank Cooke, of the Post Office, is again Chairman, with Treasurer Harry Dix and Secretary Jim Peddie re-elected, as also were Messrs. Frank Cameron and George Billingsley, our most capable Bar Stewards. Liaison with Garats Hey, in the persons of Major B. C. Bovey and S.S.M. H. Hiscott, is again very close, whilst behind it all is the experience and wisdom of our President, Brigadier Duvivier, and the invaluable help of Major Wort, Vice-President. Heading an energetic Entertainments Committee is B. (Slim) Braithwaite.

This magazine does get around doesn't it? In the post the other day came a letter from a reader in Moscow (yes, Moscow) who recognised old friends from an article and photograph in our contribution to the January issue. Greetings and best wishes to you too, Teddy Catchpole, and to Edgar Harrison.

Now I would like to wax eloquent a little bit on the subject of the Midlands Reunion, being held here on 24th and 25th May, with this Branch and 10 Wireless Training Squadron, Garats Hey, as joint hosts. This part of Leicestershire, adjacent to several natural beauty spots of considerable renown, is particularly attractive in May. The lawns surrounding the old stately home which house our headquarters are a picture at that time of the year, and it is on these lawns that the Saturday Garden Fete and Retreat will take place. Adding considerably to the colour and attraction of these events will be the non-touring Corps Band and Fanfare Trumpeters.

Saturday evening sees a Grand Dance in the Dining Hall of the new Garats Hey Barracks, which are the answer to an old sweat's push-button dream. Again we shall have music from the Corps Band, Dance Orchestra.

The Church Parade on Sunday morning will also be a colourful affair, several Branches will carry their standards on the march through the picturesque Woodhouse Eaves, headed by the Band once more. Those who took part in our Standard Dedication last year will not readily forget the contribution made by a section of the Band to the Church service itself.

Afterwards there will be another get-together in our Clubrooms for pre-lunch drinks, and in the afternoon the new Barracks Dining Hall is the venue for a Band Concert.

In these events, and in all other respects concerning the week-end, the hosts are bent on achieving success and enjoyment for all who attend. Coming? Your Branch Secretary can supply details, otherwise contact the Association Headquarters.

Croydon Branch

The Dinner of the Croydon Branch was held at Shirley Park Hotel, Croydon, on Saturday, the 1st February, 1958.



Major A. C. Beach (Queen's Royal Regiment) proposing the toast to the Royal Signals Association. *Left to right*: Mr. F. J. Cagby (sideways), Major-General C. M. F. White, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., Captain D. T. Hunneyball (Branch Chairman), Major Beach, and Mrs. D. T. Hunneyball



Right: Sergeant Percy Tarrant and Mrs. Tarrant. *Left*: Mrs. M. Jensen, formerly Signals A.T.S. with her husband

This dinner was our fourth and we moved it from Queen's House in Poplar Walk to the far more luxurious surroundings of the Shirley Park Hotel. Our Guest of Honour was the Chairman of the Association, General White, and very pleased we were to have him. Reception was at 7 p.m., when all members and guests were presented to General White, after that we all sat down to an excellent dinner which was followed by the various toasts, starting with the Loyal Toast, then the toast to H.R.H. The Princess Royal, proposed by Percy Tarrant. I gave Percy the wording for the toast four years ago and he has remained word perfect ever since. That's why we ask him to do it. We also had as guests Major Beach, commanding "C" Company, 6th Battalion Queen's T.A., with Mrs. Beach. He proposed the toast of the Association and told of the reliance that the infantry man places upon the Signals in time of war. He went on to say that if he he could get one officer and six other ranks from the gathering into his Battalion he would have the Battalion Signal Platoon moved to Croydon. Unfortunately, there were no offers from the assembled gathering.

General White replied on behalf of the Association and thanked Major Beach for his kind words. The General went on to tell of the work of the Association and finished by wishing that Brigadier Firth was having as good a dinner up with Aberdeen Branch as he was with us at Croydon. The new Branch Secretary, Mr. Harman, then spoke and remarked on the fact that recently the Branch had been called upon for Welfare aid for the first time and that we had been able to make a grant out of our own Branch funds. He said that this was a great achievement for a Branch which had been so short of funds for such a long period and he gave a great deal of the credit to Major Beach who had done so much to make the Branch comfortable in his unit's headquarters, and had now been able to arrange for us to use those facilities without charge. It is this free use of those facilities which had enabled us to build up some funds. He warned against complacency however, and said that after this dinner had been paid for we might not have any funds.

After the dinner there was dancing and games until midnight; I don't know how it happened but General White managed to win the mixed musical chairs; I wonder who fixed that. It was a good move to hold the dinner at Shirley Park Hotel and will do much to make this annual event even more popular.

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WELFARE SECTION

Below an attempt is made to describe, with suitable anonymity, eight cases taken from the Welfare Section files concluded during the first week in February, 1958. Also on this page is a simple statement of income and expenditure.

Orphan Daughter of Signalman, 1939-41 who died in 1944; his wife died a year afterwards. At the age of two she was adopted by her mother's stepfather who is now elderly, in poor health, unable to work. The child, now aged 15 years, is to train as a Secretary-Bookkeeper and the Royal Signals Association and the British Legion are sharing the cost.

Widow of Sergeant, 1940-46 who died in 1953. She has got the elder son settled in apprenticeship and his small earnings help; the younger son is still at school. Recently she has been too ill to work and at the request of the British Legion the fund paid rates and mortgage arrears.

Signalman, 1946-1948. Married, one child, 40% disability pension. The British Legion and Royal Signals Association, and the Signalman, shared the cost of a necessary removal.

Signalman, 1955, serving. He was badly injured in an accident and the Association helped his parents to the cost of long journeys to visit him in hospital.

Driver, 1943-47, married, four children, in sickness his income is much less than half what it was before his accident a year ago. During his year of illness he has had to ask for help twice, and the total asked for and immediately given is much less than a week's wages when he was fit.

C.S.M., 1902-20 (Signal Service Royal Engineers). His wife died seven years ago and he, now aged 76, lives alone in his small cottage, his income being £2/17/- a week. The British Legion augment this a very little and the Welfare Section on hearing of him made a grant for coal and clothes.

Signalman, 1939-46. Married, one child at school. One of the worst of the current diseases made him chairborne for life in 1951, and the Association made a grant to help his son to much needed clothes, a suit, raincoat, shirts and socks, and as his ex-A.T.S. mother writes, the balance will buy the wool to knit a pullover.

Corporal, 1942-46. Married, four children (one earns and contributes). He has been ill off and on for many months and so has no savings. One of the children requires special and expensive diet and the Royal Signals Association succeeded the Rifleman's Aid Society in helping to provide.

The following donations were most gratefully received during January, 1958:—

	£	s.	d.
2 (LON) Signal Regiment, T.A.	2	0	0
43 (Wx) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A.		15	0
North West District (M) Signal Regiment, T.A.	1	0	0
1 Corps Signal Regiment (Proceeds of Arts and Crafts Exhibition)	10	10	0
Major-General R. F. B. Naylor, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C. (In memory of Major (Q.M.) C. H. (Tony) Manton, M.B.E.)	2	2	0
Lieutenant-Colonel C. D. Hinds	10	0	0
Captain J. O. Fisher		7	10
Lieutenant T. R. A. Cameron		11	8
Robert Hart Trust	5	0	0
Total Receipts	£32	6	6
Expenditure during January, 1958 (Includes: Rent and Rates; Beds and Bedding; Furniture; Cots and Prams; General Assistance).	£936	4	0

Analysis of Cases:

Families of Soldiers serving in U.K.	4
,, ,, ,, ,, B.A.O.R.	2
Widows and Dependants	10
Released and Discharged Soldiers	45
Total cases assisted	61

35 cases of Soldiers who served during the 1939/45 War ... £456 12 10
26 cases of Soldiers who did not serve in the War ... £479 11 2

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION AND BENEVOLENT FUND

The following subscriptions were most gratefully received during January, 1958:—

	£	s.	d.
Officer Training Wing, School of Signals	5	12	0
1 Training Regiment	32	10	0
2 Training Regiment	37	8	6
3 Training Regiment	35	8	9
4 Training Regiment	39	14	3
5 Training Regiment	23	16	0
7 Training Regiment	55	9	2
Signal Communication Wing, R.M.A., Sandhurst	12	6	
C.S.O., Northern Command	10	0	0
Northern Command Signal Squadron	5	0	0
50 (N) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A.	5	0	0
D. & M. School, R.A.C. Centre		4	6
MES/SRDE	1	9	3
Signals Branch, School of Artillery	1	6	3
U.K. COMCAN Signal Regiment (1, 3 and 4 Squadrons)	19	4	8
2 Infantry Brigade Signal Troop	1	17	0
63 Command (M) Signal Regiment, T.A.	1	7	1
4 (Indep.) UKLF Reserve Signal Squadron, T.A.	17	4	
126 Wireless Troop	1	0	
Army Phantom Signal Regiment, T.A.	5	0	
Signal Wing, School of Infantry	13	5	
War Office Signal Squadron	1	18	6
56 (LON) Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A.	1	2	6
Depot Regiment	7	10	0
1 Special Communication Signal Troop	3	15	0
U.K. COMCAN Signal Regiment (2 Squadron)	4	0	0
Western Command Signal Squadron	4	10	0
12 Command (M) Signal Regiment, T.A.	3	0	0
H.Q. A.E.R. Royal Signals	2	0	6
Scottish Command (M) Signal Squadron	8	14	0
3 (Indep.) UKLF Reserve Signal Squadron, T.A.	7	7	
Scottish Command (M) Signal Regiment, T.A.	10	7	
CAFSO, 2 TAF	16	6	
10 Air Formation Signal Regiment	15	0	0
12 Air Formation Signal Regiment	5	0	0
6 Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment	31	0	0
19 Army Group Signal Regiment	40	0	0
Berlin Signal Squadron	6	0	0
1 Corps Signal Regiment	75	16	8
2 L. of C Signal Regiment	16	2	8
1 Wireless Regiment	23	6	7
19 Air Formation Signal Regiment	300	0	0
G.H.Q. Signal Regiment	160	0	0
Cyrenaica Signal Troop	5	0	0
Cyprus District Signal Regiment	14	4	0
3 G.H.Q. Signal Regiment	32	5	0
50 Independent Infantry Brigade Signal Troop	3	16	3
2 Wireless Regiment	72	0	0
Total Receipts	£1106	3	0

Lighter Fuel Packs

The following amounts were most gratefully received during January, 1958:—

		£	s.	d.
Box No. 52	York Branch Club	6	0	
63	43 (Wx) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A.	2	10	0
85	3 G.H.Q. Signal Regiment	1	16	0
	Total Receipts	£4	12	0

CORPS RUGBY

The first Corps representative match was played against Preston Grasshoppers at Preston on 16th November. The Corps won 9-6 after a "mud bath." The wet conditions tended to spoil the game despite the players' efforts to play open Rugby.

In our annual match against the Royal Engineers (Officers) we were beaten by 21-13 in a most exciting match, played at Catterick. It was only in the last 20 minutes that the Corps' side really settled down.

The Cambridge LX Club and Oxford Greyhounds, touring in the North just prior to Christmas, both fell to the Corps side at Catterick. Both matches produced some delightful Rugby and the tries that go with it. The LX Club were beaten 18-11 and the Greyhounds 19-8.

Generally speaking the season has gone very well so far. We fell behind early on owing to calls on our players for senior matches but have now won our last five matches.

As was reported earlier, the Corps took the Border Sevens for the second time in three years.

Results to date: Played 19, Won 12, Lost 7, Points for 231, Points against 176.

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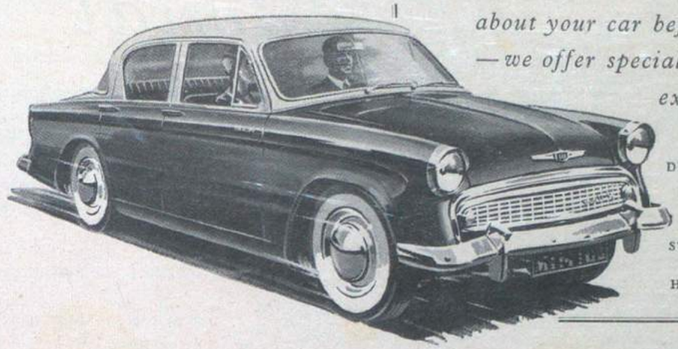


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THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE

The Official Organ of the Signals Association

Editor:
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APRIL • 1958

Vol. 12 *(New Series)* **No. 4**

Editorial

All Ranks Royal Signals and all members of the Royal Signals Association will join in congratulating our Colonel-in-Chief and Patron, 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., on the occasion of her birthday, 25th April.

☆

TEN YEARS AGO

IN March, 1948, Mercury House, Bournemouth, was opened and Major and Mrs. S. Dunningham commenced their longest period of service to the Corps in any one place. During the ten years Mercury House, Bournemouth, has built up an established reputation which is very high, and has become known to an increasing number of those serving or who have served in Royal Signals.



In January, 1958, less than two months before completing a decade, they handed over charge of the House to Major and Mrs. F. E. Boon. It had been decided in the autumn of 1957 that Mrs. Dunningham's health would not stand another season.

The thanks of all of Royal Signals will go to Major Dunningham and his wife, and clearly all will wish prosperity to the House under its new manager.

☆

There is an urgent requirement by the Headquarter Officers' Mess for back numbers of "The Wire," i.e. single copies, or preferably in bound volume form, to make up a complete set.

The years required are: 1921 to 1926, both inclusive, 1930, 1931 and 1941.

If any reader of "The Wire" has these copies and will forward them to The Editor, at 88, Ecclestone Square, London, S.W.1, he will acquire considerable gratitude.

90 Signal Regiment

provides

ROYAL GUARD OF HONOUR



H.M. The Queen Inspects the Guard of Honour

ON Monday, 24th March, Her Majesty the Queen, accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh, visited the ancient garrison town of Colchester en route to Harwich to embark for the State visit to Holland.

For Royal Signals, no less than for the people of Colchester, this was an historic and memorable occasion, in that 90 Signal Regiment was chosen to provide the Royal Guard of Honour. This is the first time, as far as the author is aware, that a Regiment of the Corps has provided a Guard for a reigning sovereign.

As soon as the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel A. R. Marshall, T.D., received the official order, he appointed Major D. Coatesworth, M.B.E., to command the Guard, with Lieutenant J. Dove and Second-Lieutenant W. Wigglesworth as his lieutenants. The Guard consisted of 100 other ranks, including two Warrant Officers—R.Q.M.S. Pavey and S.S.M. Tinto, G.M. — and two Sergeants. Two Supernumerary Sergeants were also on parade as orderlies.

A month of feverish preparation passed all too quickly, whilst rifles and bayonets, uniform and equipment were brought to a state of perfection. Permission was obtained for the Corps Band, under the Director of Music, Major J. L. Judd, M.B.E., to take part in the ceremony, and they joined the Regiment in Colchester for final rehearsals on Thursday, 20th March. The weather, which had been bitterly cold during the previous weeks, relented at the last moment and 24th March dawned fine and sunny and not nearly as cold as was expected.

In the event, the Guard, ably assisted by the Corps Band, acquitted themselves with distinction, setting a standard in bearing, turn-out and drill that earned high praise from all quarters.

The Queen was greeted on arrival at the Town Hall by the Lord Lieutenant of the County, Colonel Sir Francis Whitmore, and the Mayor and Mayoress. After taking the Royal Salute, certain high officials of the Town Council and senior officers of the garrison, including the Commanding Officer, 90 Signal Regiment, had the honour of being presented to Her Majesty, who then inspected the Guard.

After a short ceremony in the Moot Hall, the Queen and the Duke went out on to the balcony of the Town Hall, where they were given a vociferous welcome by the thousands of townsfolk in the High Street. As the Royal party prepared to depart, the Guard gave the Royal Salute and the strains of the National Anthem died away to the roars of the crowd which echoed down the street—a great climax to an occasion which will long be remembered by many members of the Corps now serving with 90 Signal Regiment and the Corps Band.

● **The Commanding Officer being presented to Her Majesty by the Mayor of Colchester. (Right) A section of the Guard of Honour waiting during the Ceremony in the Moot Hall. (The fourth picture of the Royal Guard of Honour is printed at the top of the next page).**



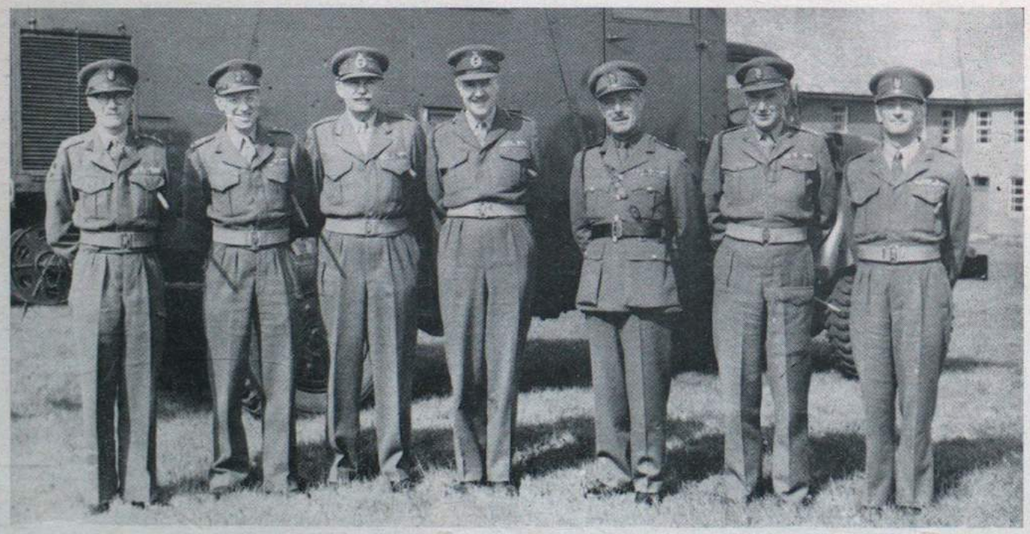




● **The Final Royal Salute** *[Photo: The Colchester Express*

No. 13 QUALIFICATION COURSE, 1926

This was the first "Q" Course to be attended exclusively by officers commissioned directly into Royal Signals from the Royal Military Academy. The picture shews seven of them who were still serving in 1957. Of the remainder three retired in the rank of Colonel, six in the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel and four are dead.



Brigadiers D. St. J. Hoysted, J. C. Hardy, Majors General L. de M. Thuillier, R. J. Moberly, K. C. O. Bastyan, Brigadiers E. D. Good, M. G. A. Hepper. Colonel E. L. L. Vulliamy, not in the picture was serving abroad at the time

VALE

BRIGADIER J. C. HARDY, C.B.E.



Campbell College, Belfast, has amongst its alumni many good soldiers and Jack Hardy went from there to the R.M.A. in 1924. He was a member of the famous No. 13 Qualification Course at the School of Signals which recently produced the current leadership of the Corps entirely by officers commissioned directly to Royal Signals.

Thereafter his career took a normal course marked by an Equitation Course at Saugor in 1931 and, perhaps a mark of future greatness, a posting as an instructor at the Royal Military Academy in 1935 only ten years after he had left there as a student.

He learnt his Rugby football in Campbell College so successfully that he was a regular player for Royal Signals teams, was capped for the Army and also on occasions played for Yorkshire County and also for Ulster.

1940 saw the start of it, a posting to the British Military Mission in Egypt in 1940 was quickly followed by promotion to Major and an appointment in the Sudan Defence Force. This was succeeded by Command of 13 Corps Signals (Lieutenant-Colonel) in 1941.

During 1942 and 1943 he was with 9th Army, first as Staff Officer and later, commanding 9th Army Signals. He was appointed Colonel in April, 1944, as C.S.O. Air Formation Signals.

He got home at the end of 1944, but like others found all appointments in North West Europe filled, and after a little more than a year commanding the 4th Operators Training Battalion on the Yorkshire coast, he went back to Egypt in 1946, and home again as Deputy Director of Signals, Air Formation Signals at the War Office in 1949. Three years afterwards in 1952 he and his family went to the British Joint Staff Mission in Washington in the rank of Colonel. This was a most happy and successful three years and was succeeded in 1955 by his last appointment at H.Q. Scottish Command in Edinburgh.

He was Mentioned in Despatches in the Middle East in 1941 and 1942, but his appointment as a Commander of the Order of the British Empire came on the eve of his retirement in 1958.

Throughout his active career in the Army, Jack Hardy was most deservedly popular with all with whom he came in contact. Though he was always good fun at any party or on the sports ground, he had a serious side to his character which stood him in good stead in all he achieved in his profession throughout the years.

All this, and Mrs. Hardy's charm and ability as a hostess were fully tested in Washington and exercised almost as fully in Edinburgh, where, incidentally, Brigadier Hardy was in no small way responsible for a great deal of good work in aid of the Association.

Obituary

R.S.M. J. CARFRAE

Enlisting in the Royal Garrison Artillery in 1919, he transferred to Royal Signals in 1927 and finally retired in 1945. He served in India, Indian General Service Medal (Waziristan, 1921), and during the Second War he earned the 1939/45 Star, Africa Star, France and Germany Star, Defence Medal, War Medal 1939/45, Long Service and Good Conduct Medal, Meritorious Service Medal.

On leaving the Army he joined the War Department Constabulary at Corsham, in Wiltshire.

He died at the Frenchay Hospital, Bristol, on 5th February, 1958, and leaves a widow and two sons, the elder following in his father's footsteps as a Lance-Corporal in Royal Signals.

Mrs. L. Carfrae's address is 37 W.D.C. Quarters, Park Lane, Corsham, Wilts.

On Friday, 21st March, a day of fitful sunshine and searching wind, Her Majesty the Queen inspected her Bodyguard of the Yeomen of the Guard.

Through the good offices of Mr. J. F. Adkins, 23 years in Royal Signals, who has been a member of the Bodyguard for the last 12 years, I found myself standing on the grass verge below the terrace of Buckingham Palace, looking across the green lawn, now glowing with colour. A burst of sunshine lit the red and gold of the Tudor dress, the blue in the rosettes on caps and shoes, the dazzling white of the ruffs, and the flash of steel, as the Queen's Bodyguard awaited their Sovereign. At a respectful distance, the scarlet tunics of the Band of the Welsh Guards completed the picture.

In spite of the pageantry, it was an informal occasion. The spectators strayed, unrebuked, on to the gravel sweep, the better to point out relatives and friends in the glittering ranks. A proud but short-sighted old lady tried in vain to identify her son. "He promised to waggle his fingers," she said anxiously. We all stared hard at the white gloves of the Bodyguard, but to no avail.

A flash of vivid blue in the sunlight, the Queen descended the steps from the terrace and passed slowly down the line, pausing now and then to chat with one of her men. It was not so much a parade as a family occasion, Her Majesty greeting her own Bodyguard in the shadow of her home. When it was over, they waved their hats and cheered her, and she lifted her hand in salute to them and smiled.

"She sure looked good," was the verdict of an American visitor, as we filed slowly out into Buckingham Palace Road. "I don't see enough of her," he added thoughtfully.

Mr. Adkins looked in at Association Headquarters on his way home. The Queen had stopped and spoken with him personally. No prouder man existed.

PERSONAL COLUMN

London Gazette

18th February, 1958

Lieutenant-Colonel, C. W. M. Young, O.B.E., A.M.I.E.E., retires on retired pay, 29th January, 1958.

Lieutenant (T.O.T.) C. P. Bolton to be Captain (T.O.T.), 16th February, 1958.

Captain L. H. Dutton to be Major, 19th February, 1958.

21st February, 1958

Brigadier (Temp. Major-General) K. C. O. Bastyan, C.B.E., to be Major-General, 18th January, 1958.

Colonel C. H. Lyddon, retires on retired pay, 27th January, 1958.

25th February, 1958

Major M. B. King, B.SC., retires, 8th February, 1958.

Major G. W. Shepherd, M.B.E., relinquishes his commission on completion of service, 19th January, 1958, and is granted the hon. rank of Major.

28th February, 1958

Captain D. S. Clarke to be Major, 1st March, 1958.

4th March, 1958

Lieutenant-Colonel M. Stonestreet, B.SC., retires on retired pay, 3rd March, 1958.

Captain S. Roskrow to be Major, 2nd March, 1958.

Lieutenant (Q.M.) M. E. E. Truscott to be Captain (Q.M.), 1st March, 1958.

7th March, 1958

Brigadier D. W. Burridge, C.B.E., retires on retired pay 14th February, 1958.

11th March, 1958

Captain (Q.M.) E. E. T. Bennet to be Major (Q.M.), 9th March, 1958.

Captain R. T. Hone to be Major, 11th March, 1958.

Movements—Officers

Captain (Tfc. Offr.) H. A. Edwards, M.E.L.F. to Depot Regiment pending retirement.

Lieutenant (Tfc. Offr.) F. W. Natoli. First Commission to B.A.O.R.

Capt. (Tfc. Offr.) A. Sawyer, B.A.O.R. to M.E.L.F.

Major (T.O.T.) C. W. T. Weech, Iraq to Western Command S.W.S. Troop.

Major C. W. Ainsworth, B.A.O.R. to Depot (HS).

Captain (Tfc Offr.) W. Richardson, 4 Training Regiment to SHAPE Signal Squadron.

Lieutenant (T.O.T.) J. A. Bevan, B.A.O.R. to Western Command S.W.S. Troop.

Major (Q.M.) S. G. Bow, M.B.E., O.T.W., School of Signals to Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A.

Lieutenant (T.O.T.) P. W. Dale, Signal Equipment Troop to Aden.

Major (T.O.T.) G. Gibson, Western Command S.W.S. to Depot (HS) pending retirement.

Captain (Q.M.) H. R. C. Holmes, B.A.O.R. to FARELF.

Captain (Q.M.) E. Launders, 7 Training Regiment to 2 Training Regiment.

Lieutenant (T.O.T.) A. V. Render, B.A.O.R. to Air Formation Signal Installation Troop.

Lieutenant-Colonel A. L. Atkinson, FARELF to Depot (HS).

Major D. D. Fairman, Signals 3 War Office to B.A.O.R.

Major R. F. C. Gladwyn, Signal Regiment, U.K. to Norway.

Major T. Howat, Depot (HS) to R.S.W., School of Signals.

Major R. M. Matthews, FARELF to Depot (HS).

Major C. McDevitt, M.E.L.F. to B.A.O.R.

Lieutenant-Colonel T. R. Warburg, FARELF to Depot (HS).

Lieutenant-Colonel G. Mellor, FARELF to Depot (HS) and thence to proceed on terminal leave.

Lieutenant-Colonel H. E. F. Middleton, Signals 4, War Office to Depot (HS) and thence to proceed on terminal leave.

Lieutenant-Colonel R. H. E. Robinson, Malta to Depot (HS).

Lieutenant-Colonel M. Stonestreet, H.Q. Western Command to Depot (HS) and thence to proceed on terminal leave.

Major J. Ray, 1 Training Regiment to R.A.P.C. Training Centre.

Major G. W Vero, H.Q. Western Command to 3 Training Regiment.

Major W. P. W. Robertson, War Office (A.G.11) to FARELF.

Major F. M. S. Winter, 3 Training Regiment to Depot (HS).

Major J. E. Gray, Ministry of Supply to Course, R.M.C.S. and thence to FARELF.

Lieutenant (T.O.T.) M. Hogan, User Trials Squadron to M.E.L.F.

Major R. Carlyon, Eastern Command Signal Squadron to Depot (HS).

Major R. E. Scouller, Signals 4, War Office to Eastern Command Signal Squadron.

Major F. A. Felton, H.Q. School of Signals to B.A.O.R.

Births

CARMICHAEL.—To Sergeant and Mrs. J. A. W. Carmichael, a daughter, at Catterick Military Hospital, on 5th January, 1958.

DAVIES.—To W.O.II and Mrs. A. J. D. Davies, at C.M.H., Gloucester, on 12th February, 1958, a daughter, Julie Ann.

TYZZER.—To Sergeant and Mrs. Tyzzer, a son, on 3rd March, 1958.

Deaths

CARFRAE.—Ex R.S.M. J. Carfrae of 37 W.D.C. Quarters, Park Lane, Corsham, Wilts, on 5th February, 1958, aged 57 years.

MACHON.—Ex-Lance-Corporal J. Machon, of 230, Commonside Hanging Heaton, Batley, Yorkshire, on 17th February, 1958, as the result of a motor accident. He was 22 years old.

CRAWLEY.—Ex-W.O.II G. A. Crawley, of 114, St. James' Road, Southsea, Portsmouth, Hants., on 26th December, 1957, aged 43 years. Served in Royal Signals from 1942 to 1954.

RYAN.—23515000 Signalman T. I. Ryan, on 24th February, 1958, at Catterick.

TURNER.—Lieutenant (T.O.T.) D. O. Turner, of 3 G.H.Q. Signal Regiment, M.E.L.F., on 23rd February, 1958, in Malta, aged 31 years.

WATTS.—On 24th March, 1958, Lieutenant-Colonel J. A. I. Watts, of Flat 3, Hill House, Innox Hill, Frome. First commissioned 1916, Royal Signals 1924-1948.

Arrivals and Departures

4 Air Formation Signal Regiment

Arrivals: Major J. E. L. Adams W.O.I Holt, Sergeants McKay and Douglass, Staff Sergeant Wilson.

Departures: Captains B. D. Gough and J. T. Treglown, Lieutenant (T.O.T.) W. Hefferon, Sergeants Collins and Nevison.

1 Training Regiment

Arrivals: Captain H. Illingworth, Sergeants L. R. Daines, P. Turner and F. Ashton.

Officer Training Wing, School of Signals

Departures: Staff Sergeant R. J. Harris and Sergeant J. Baker.

SHAPE Signal Squadron

Arrivals: Major J. F. Cheeswright, Captain I. C. Spear, W.O.II Bicknell and Sergeant Thomas.

Departures: Majors J. R. Hamer and R. H. Blizard, W.O.II Kitson, Sergeants Donald, Donnelly and Sansom.

U.K. Comcan Signal Regiment

Departures: Staff Sergeant G. E. Lamsden, Sergeants F. G. Bell and R. E. Hoare.

Cyprus District Signal Regiment

Arrivals: Major (T.O.T.) Rumsey, Staff Sergeant Blake, Sergeants Bushby, Thorn, Wilkins and Brown.

Departures: Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Hoe and Sergeant Sparrow.

Corrigenda

Through an error in the Personal Column of the March WIRE, Major P. W. Fountain was noted as being awarded the O.B.E., whereas in fact *The London Gazette* of the 7th February, 1958, announced that he is an Additional Member of the Military Division of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire.

North Western Signal Company, India, 1939-45

Will anyone who served in this Company please get in touch with Mr. W. A. Arnold, 4, West Drive Gardens, Harrow Weald, Middlesex, with a view to arranging a reunion.

The British Legion Journal

This monthly magazine with very wide circulation has offered to publish, briefly, announcements of reunions, dinners, meetings, etc., of Branches of the Royal Signals Association (and, of course, others).

The announcement must reach the Editor, "British Legion Journal," Pall Mall, London, S.W.1, **before the 14th of the month.** The announcement will appear in the Journal of the following month.

*

Ex-Signalman G. Mackenzie Cluness, whose address is c/o "Linton," Yass, New South Wales, Australia, will be grateful if anyone who served in 2nd Indian Division Signals, 1922-1929, will get in touch with him.

*

PROMOTIONS

The following substantive promotions were authorised in the Corps during the month of February, 1958.

REGIMENTAL DUTY ROSTER

To W.O.I: 2329424 A/W.O.I (500) Ward, A. V. K.
4802017 A/W.O.I (570) Stockdale, F.

DELETIONS

Regimental Duty Roster—W.O.I Cloughley, W. (100) Commissioned Lt. (Q.M.) 10th January, 1958.

OTHER DELETIONS

Regimental Duty Roster
W.O.I 50. W.O.II 44, 2340. Staff Sergeant 2880, 100, 30.
Clerical Roster—Staff Sergeant 530. Sergeant 50, 1330, 30, 1690.
Technical Roster—Sergeant 920, 770, 150.
Operating Roster—Sergeant 2160, 4340, 1270, 1900.
Lineman Roster—Sergeant 1670.
General Trades and Duties Roster—Sergeant 870.
Foreman of Signals—Staff Sergeant 540.

The Rangoon Memorial

☆



Photograph by courtesy: Imperial War Graves Commission

IT is dry and dusty in Rangoon in February and the countryside is brown and colourless, conditions in Burma which many of those commemorated on the Rangoon Memorial may never have seen.

On the occasion of my recent brief visit I stayed with Colonel R. E. Jardine and his charming French wife in their lovely house with its green gardens on the edge of a lake outside the city, a stay made the more interesting because my host had been R.E. Signals in the 1914-18 War, commanded a cable troop with Major H. Powell as his C.S.O., and knew many of the great personalities of the Corps. We drove out to Taukkyan together.

About 20 miles from Rangoon the main road to the north of Burma forks into two roads, to Prome and Pegu, and just before this fork on the right of the road, where thousands of passers-by of many races must see it every day, the beautiful white Memorial stands in its garden of carefully tended graves.

In the early morning of Sunday, 9th February, a great concourse was gathered there for the Ceremony of Unveiling. In the hazy light of the early morning sun the guard of honour of the 1st Battalion Royal Lincolnshire Regiment and of the Burma Army, the representative detachments of the Armed Services of the Commonwealth, the combined Bands and the Gurkha buglers took up their positions. Then at eight o'clock precisely the whole concourse of relatives, wreath bearers, official representatives and spectators rose as General Sir Francis Festing, Commander-in-Chief, Far East Land Forces, was received with a general salute. Then once again we rose on our feet to greet the Honourable U Nu, Prime Minister of the Union of Burma, whilst the Bands played the Burmese National Anthem.

The Service of Dedication then began with William Boyd's great hymn, "Fight the good fight." After the singing, the Honourable U Nu and General Sir Francis Festing in turn addressed the gathering; then our future C.I.G.S. unveiled the Memorial, which commemorates by name 27,000 Officers and men of the Land Forces of the British Commonwealth who perished during the campaign of Burma and Assam and whose resting place is known only to God.

The land on which the Memorial stands and the land for the War Cemeteries in Burma has been generously given by the people of Burma. The Memorial has a central rotunda and two wings, on the rectangular pillars of which are inscribed the names of the fallen. The photograph gives an idea of its fine proportions.

After the sounding of the Last Post and the playing of the lament "Lochaber No More," the Assistant Chaplain-General dedicated the Memorial, and "all the trumpets sounded for him on the other side" the Reveille. The service terminated with Sottas from the Buddhist Scriptures recited by the Venerable Sayadaws, Muslim prayers chanted by the Imam, prayers by the Gurkha Bhawan, Psalm 129 read by the Senior Roman Catholic Chaplain and our National Anthem sung as a hymn. The ceremony terminated with the laying of wreaths by General Sir Francis Festing and by the Honourable U Nu and by representatives of the Army Council, the Board of Admiralty, the Air Council and all the Commonwealth Governments, followed by the Corps and Regimental representatives.

When the crowds had departed, the Memorial looked singularly beautiful and impressive as the now bright sun streamed down on the white colonnades standing in the coloured waves of the newly laid wreaths.

Among the relatives present at the ceremony was Major "Paddy" Warren of the Corps, whose mother had come from Britain for the ceremony; his father, General Warren, was lost in an aircraft during the Burma campaign.

There will never again, I suppose, be so great a concourse of Commonwealth Servicemen on parade on the friendly but foreign soil of the Union of Burma, but the words inscribed on the stone freize high inside the central rotunda of the Memorial recall for all time those who fought that Burma might be free.

* *

1939 - 1945
Here are recorded
The names of twenty-seven thousand soldiers of many races
United in Service to the British Crown
Who gave their lives in Burma and Assam
But to whom the fortune of war denied
The customary rites accorded to their comrades in death.
They died for all free men.

* *

Brigadier H. L. Lewis, C.B.E., placed wreaths on the Memorial for: The Royal Corps of Signals and the Signals Association; the Indian Signal Corps (two wreaths); Signal Units, King's African Rifles; Ghana Signal Squadron.

The 5th EDITION OF THE BLUE BOOK containing the rosters on the re-organisation of the Corps Promotion system will be published in MAY, 1958, price 2/-. If you have not secured your copy through regimental channels, apply to Royal Signals Association, 88 Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1. where there may be a few spare copies.

Forthcoming Events

Corps Dinner
and — 28th May, 1958.

Regular Officers' "At Home"
at the Hyde Park Hotel. — 29th May, 1958.

Royal Signals Association
CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING — 29th May, 1958.

Midlands Reunion—24th/25th May, 1958

This is being organised by 10 Wireless Training Squadron and the Loughborough Branch of the Association, Garats Hay Camp, near Loughborough.

Provisional programme:

Saturday, 24th May—Afternoon	...	Garden Fete. Retreat (Royal Signals Band).
Evening	...	Grand Dance (Royal Signals Band Dance Orchestra).
,,	...	Social.
Sunday, 25th May—Morning	...	Church Parade Service.
Afternoon	...	Band Concert.

The Depot Regiment, Royal Signals

7th/8th June, 1958. Annual Regimental Week-end at Saighton Camp, Chester.

Catterick Reunion and Annual General Meeting

28th/29th June, 1958.

INDIAN SIGNAL CORPS

Officers of all Corps and Regiments of the old "Indian Army" are invited to the Punjab Regiment's Garden Party at the Hurlingham Club, London, S.W., on Friday, 27th June, 1958. Tickets, at 7/- each, can be obtained from Lieutenant-Colonel Wiseman, 59, Hyde Park Gate, London, S.W.7, and NOT from the Royal Signals Association, as published in the March WIRE.

CORPS BAND SUMMER TOUR, 1958

Touring Band

6th May— 9th May	... ...	3 Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, Colchester.
11th May—17th May	... ...	Eastbourne.
19th May—22nd May	... ...	Southern Command.
25th May— 7th June	... ...	Eastbourne (Whitsun).
8th June—14th June	... ...	Victoria Embankment Gardens, London.
15th June—21st June	... ...	Plymouth.
28th June—29th June	... ...	O.C.A. Reunion, Catterick.

ROYAL SIGNALS RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB, 1958

19th April	... ...	Percy Park	Newcastle.
23rd April	... ...	Bradford Charity Match ...	Bradford.
26th April	... ...	Huddersfield Sevens	Huddersfield.

ROYAL SIGNALS OFFICERS' GOLFING SOCIETY 1958 FIXTURE LIST

17th April	... ...	Spring Meeting	Pannal.
18th April	... ...	Spring Meeting	Pannal.
27th April	... ...	Royal Military College of Science	Frilford Heath.
5th—8th May	...	Army Golf Meeting	Royal St. George's.
21st May	... ...	R.E.	East Berks.
18th July	... ...	R.A.	Sunningdale.
11th Sept.	... ...	R.A.M.C.	Swinley Forest.
29th Sept.	... ...	Autumn Meeting	Hankley Common.
30th Sept.	... ...	Autumn Meeting	Hankley Common.
1st Oct.	... ...	Autumn Meeting	Hankley Common.
16th Oct.	... ...	R.A.O.C.	Swinley Forest.
19th Oct.	... ...	Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst	Camberley Heath.

16 INDEPENDENT PARACHUTE BRIGADE GROUP SIGNAL SQUADRON

is to hold a Squadron week-end at Aldershot on 7th and 8th June, 1958, to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the formation of the Unit. The programme is as follows:—

Saturday, 7th June, 1958—p.m. Demonstration of Balloon jumping. High tea. A dance.

Sunday, 8th June, 1958—a.m. Church parade.

In addition to the families of serving members of the Squadron, it is hoped that as many Old Comrades as possible will be our guests. Old Comrades of 1st and 6th Airborne Divisional Signals Regiments (from whom the Squadron originated) will also be most welcome, as also will ex-members of the three units who are now serving elsewhere.

For full particulars apply to the Officer Commanding 16 Independent Parachute Brigade Group Signal Squadron, Barrosa Barracks, Aldershot **before 5th May.**

*

1st WIRELESS SIGNAL COMPANY ROYAL ENGINEERS

This Unit was formed in Worcester as the Wireless Signal Depot in 1915 and detachments of the Company served in every theatre during the 1914/1918 War.

The original Adjutant of the Company, Sir Raymond Priestley, M.C., M.A., D.S.C., is expected to take the chair at an Annual Reunion and Dinner of the Royal Engineers' Wireless Signals 1914 Association on the 19th April.

*

EX-BOYS' DINNER, 1958

Saturday, 27th September, 1958, 6.30 for 7.30 p.m., at The Victory Ex-Services' Club, 63/79, Seymour Street, London, W.2 (one minute from Marble Arch station and first left up Edgware Road). Lounge suit or uniform. Remittance to Hon. Secretary, F. W. Jacob, Esq., 54 (EA) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A., 40, Ashburnham Road, Bedford, preferably not later than 1st July. Ex-Boys 16/6; wives or other guests 15/-. Cheques/Postal Orders payable "F. W. Jacob, Ex-Boys' Dinner A/C." Seating limited to 100. Early bookings desirable.

F. G. STRANGE, *Major (Retd.), Chairman, Ex-Boys' Reunions.*

CORPS FLAGS

Royal Signals Corps Flags and Union Jacks are available through H.Q., Royal Signals Association, 88 Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1.

CORPS FLAGS			UNION JACKS	
8′ x 4′	@	68/–	6′ x 3′	@ 36/–
6′ x 3′	@	48/6	4′ 6″ x 2′ 3″	@ 22/6
4′ x 3′	@	42/6	8′ x 4′	@ 55/6
4′ x 2′	@	38/6		
3′ x 2′	@	35/6		
2′ x 18″	@	27/–	PLUS POSTAGE	

Accounts are sent direct to the Unit from the makers if the Unit is situated in the United Kingdom.

To save delay, Association H.Q. pays for the orders of overseas Units and then asks for reimbursement.

As the crest has to be hand painted, orders should be placed as early as possible; delivery date usually 6-8 weeks.

United Kingdom

1 TRAINING REGIMENT

Catterick, in common with the rest of the country, has been enjoying a spell of real wintry weather. Snow ploughs have been much in evidence and one intrepid Subaltern was observed ski-ing to and from work.

High hopes were entertained that cross-country runners would return from Aldershot with the Army Championship. Alas, opposition proved too formidable and we had to be content with fifth place.

Inclement weather has delayed the Command Rugby semi-final against 3rd Training Regiment from Lincoln, but we recently advanced a stage further in the District Rugby Cup at the expense of near neighbours, 5 Royal Tank Regiment.

In the Command individual boxing, Signalman Blair won the featherweight crown from Signal Dennis, also of the Regiment, and Signalmen Griffiths and Moakes reached the semi-finals of the light and welterweight events in which they were defeated by the ultimate winners.

Preparations are already afoot for the Annual Administrative Inspection, which takes place in mid-April.

Leaving us for Malta in the very near future is Sergeant Large, A.C.C., who has been with the Regiment since 1955. Apart from being a master craftsman, he is quite a personality and will be sadly missed, especially in Kemmel, on the hill, which under his auspices has enjoyed such extraordinarily well cooked and varied dishes. Thanks for all you have done and good luck in your new station.

ROYAL SIGNALS WING, SCHOOL OF SIGNALS

Reorganising? How many times have we heard that word before? Perhaps we have been fortunate in the past but now it is our turn. The O.T.W. will soon be joining us in a reduced form and the merging of the two Regiments will produce an improved training establishment which will in future include the training of National Service Y.O.s. A new Regiment will be formed to administer the new Wing. Despite this you will still find our aerials on Vimy Hill.

The Unit hockey team has once again distinguished itself but was unfortunately knocked out in the Command final by the Depot, Royal Warwickshire Regiment.



Brigadier D. St. J. Hoysted, C.B.E., presents the John Agar Memorial prize to Second Lieutenant A. J. Sammes, Left, and Right, presents the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal to W.O.I (R.S.M.) S. G. Barnes

Frequent and sometimes heavy snowfalls have somewhat curtailed our sporting activities. The Ski Club is, however, flourishing. Spurred on by their recent achievements over the golf course (on skis), an expedition to explore the Arctic waste of Norway has been organised.

We welcome Major D. Pegg to the School and wish him as much success in his new appointment as O.C. Field Wireless Section as that achieved by Major K. S. Newell, who now assumes the post of Assistant Chief Instructor. We bid farewell to Major J. Walmesley-Cotham and wish him every success in the warmer climates of the Far East.

We look forward with trepidation to the return of Major D. Binks from his tour in the United States and wonder whether we shall distinguish an American accent from that of our Canadian friends.

OFFICER TRAINING WING, SCHOOL OF SIGNALS

As we go to press, 362 Course are preparing for their Commissioning Parade, the last to be held at the Officer Training Wing.

Brigadier D. St. J. Hoysted, C.B.E., was the Inspecting Officer at the commissioning parade of 361 course, and the Commanding Officer's Prize was awarded to Officer Cadet J. A. Hope.

With pitches deep in snow during most of the month, it is surprising that any sport has been played at all. Indeed, no soccer has taken place and only one hockey match. The latter resulted in a 5-1 win over 7 Training Regiment. Sergeant Peberdy has represented the Corps against the R.A.O.C., R.A., and Aldershot Services. He has also been selected to play for Northern Command against Durham County later this month. Rugby, too, has suffered from the weather but a 52-9 win over 4th Training Regiment in the Northumbrian District Cup augurs well for the future. Second-Lieutenant Alan Godson continues to play for the Army, and we congratulate him on his growing collection of press cuttings.

In the District .22 Shooting League we have done well, being placed third in League I (rifle as issued) and fourth in League II (any rifle). We congratulate Captain K. E. P. Andrews, M.B.E., on being selected for the Regular Army team in the inter-service small-bore match and Second-Lieutenant R. K. M. Newell, selected as first reserve for the same match.

Details of future postings trickle through now the disbandment of the unit approaches. News of further winters to be spent in Catterick, or in the welcome heat of other climates is greeted by dull grimaces or delighted smiles!

We hope to be able to report next month that Captain Alan Seymour has recovered his car last seen up to the windows in snow and fast disappearing under it on the Barnard Castle road!

JUNIOR LEADERS REGIMENT

Nestling in a fold of the hills between the lower slopes of Dartmoor and the seaside town of Torquay, we have continued our training this month at Denbury to the accompaniment of blizzards, gales and wonderful summer sunshine. Typical Devonshire weather in fact.

For their outdoor training, both squadrons have been working up to the final standard required for the Expedition section of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, and have tried to catch the "wonderful summer sunshine" periods for this—with marked lack of success.

Our last sight of the senior troops as dusk was falling on Day 1 of the final expedition was their battle to erect bivouacs in the teeth of gale-driven sleet on the top of Dartmoor. Cold and wet, with 20 miles of wild country under their belts but with 30 more to go, with sets to carry and schedules to keep, they might have been forgiven for the occasional, but non-existent, complaint.

Under these conditions the instructional staff are continually amazed at the endurance and resiliance of these youngsters towards the end of their training. The Duke of Edinburgh's Award standards for expeditions is quite high, and the course set on this exercise was certainly tough; the weather was that of Dartmoor in one of its less kindly moods, yet all finished in excellent good spirits (despite a few blisters).

With the close of the winter term we bid farewell to two stalwarts of the Regiment who have steadfastly given us the benefit of wise counsel and good advice through all the changes of camps, policies and personalities in the last few years.

Several generations of boys past and present have reason to be grateful for the efforts made by Major Bill Fassnidge,

R.A.E.C., to foster in them a proper appreciation of the importance of education. Not unnaturally his task has been a hard one, and the academic record and standard of the Regiment remains as a tribute to his fine work.

It is a truism that most Rugby sides depend for their success not on the efforts of a few brilliant players, but by the capacity for hard work and sheer dogged determination to do a good job just for the love of the game, that characterises the majority.

Those of us who have known Capt. Joe Willis over the years, invariably think of him in connection with Rugby—the game he has played so consistently well for so many years in Regimental and Corps sides in different climates—so it is natural to think of him when drawing a parallel between the good Rugby player and good regimental officer. To both he has brought the same determination, the capacity and willingness for hard work, and the cheerful acceptance of difficulties—and love of the game. For the past year he has been responsible for introducing the young boy entrant to his first experience of army life—the critical weeks. To those who know him it has been no surprise to see his undoubted success with Recruit troop.

To both of these officers and their families we wish God speed, good fortune and happy tours.

After reading our earlier notes about Outward Bound Training, Capt. Mike Hartnett might have been forgiven for feeling a little apprehensive on posting to this Regiment. There cannot be much difference between the snowy wastes of Catterick and the gale-driven rocks of Dartmoor, but we break newcomers in gently and the moor does smile sometimes!

Major Ralph Nye, replacing Major Fasnidge, comes with a big reputation and we have no hesitation in welcoming him with the injunction to pitch in and enjoy himself.

We feel that the 31 boys of the Output Troops this term, leave us better prepared than their predecessors, having completed a term of trade training here prior to joining their Training Regiments.

There have been many difficulties in laying on this training and it is not yet as good as it will eventually become, yet the good results achieved by most of the boys, and the added sense of purpose and direction which is apparent around the Regiment are an incentive to further efforts by the Staff.

It was learned with horror that the more irresponsible members of the Officers' Mess were running a "book" on the number of times the 2 i/c would need to say "as you were" on the annual administrative inspection. In the event, it was a turn up for the book; honour is satisfied and Subalterns confounded—which is just as it should be! The drill was very good, the Regiment and Barracks immaculate, the books were straight and everyone enjoyed a good lunch and half-holiday. We now await the (almost inevitable) "good chit."

(Uncomfortable thought. Would it be akin to sacrilege to wonder if the value has gone out of these annual inspections? It must be a pretty poor unit that cannot defeat the examiners once a year!)

3 INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT

4 Squadron. In these trying times of reorganisation and run down, anything can happen, but who ever heard of 4 Squadron in an Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment? Nevertheless, it is true and has been for a couple of years. Very few of the original members of the Squadron remain, as the majority have either donned their bowler hats or cloth caps and Teddy suits, or else been posted to some mundane employment. Amongst the few originals remaining is that well-known character Corporal Kitchenham—yes, Corporal and terror of the M.T. hangars. Staff Sergeant Rooke is our steady old Foreman of Signals, Signalman Clarke almost looking like a soldier at times, and Driver Kinsman, almost a V.M. and not a bad Saracen driver. Corporal Pauley is the last of the old D.R.s, and that completes the list of the "Old Musketeers."

The new team is quite a good one and will soon have the chance to show its paces in the coming training season. It is a pity that Staff Sergeant Breslo (late Breslofsky) has left us to go to Sandhurst as an Instructor. We shall miss his sartorial elegance and take this opportunity to wish him well in his new appointment. Sergeant Thorn, from W2 Troop, has taken over as Troop Sergeant of W Troop, and we welcome Sergeant Brotherton, who has just arrived to take over Troop Sergeant of W2 Troop from Sergeant Thorne. Sergeant Purdy has W1 Troop and Sergeant Humphies W3 Troop. All things considered the team should do well if they keep their batteries charged and their powder dry.

We are the only Squadron of 3 Divisional Signals on Salisbury Plain. It would have been a fitting sequel to the recent articles on 3 Divisional Signals if they could have been concluded by saying that once again elements of the Regiment are back in the old lines in Bulford, but unfortunately it could not be. However, we are comfortably housed with "H.Q." Squadron of H.Q., R.A.C., 3 Division, who look after us extremely well. We combine with them for all sporting and social events and although we have no gladiators and have not achieved any sporting eminence, we do get our fair share of the game and have an occasional enjoyable social evening at the local British Legion Club. We have quite a reasonable Skiffle Group, which gives Colin Buglass and John Roe a chance to show their rock 'n' roll prowess, with Colin on his banjo and John on the washboard.

So now you know who we are and roughly where we are. If you really want to make the most of your service, if you like camping out, driving and operating, come to 4 Squadron. It is not the cushiest Squadron, but it is the best.

U.K. COMCAN SIGNAL REGIMENT

R.H.Q. and 1 Squadron. February has been a most uneventful month for the unit, heightened only by the progress of the Football team in the District Cup Competition.

Absence of the football news from this unit during the past few months does not mean that we have no football team—we have, in fact, a really good one, and although full honours have as yet been denied us, we can list a very successful series of games:—

Versus	Gloucester Police	Lost	2—0
	3 Sqn. UK COMCAN Signal Regt.	Won	6—1
	R.A.F. Innsworth 2nd XI	Won	10—0
	Depot Glosters	Won	10—1
	R.A.O.C. Ashchurch	Won	6—4
(Quarter Final District Cup)	R.A.O.C. Ashchurch	Won	4—2
(Semi-Final District Cup)	R.A.C. Gunnery School	Won	3—0
(Final District Cup)	Depot Devons and Wessex Bde. ...	Lost	3—1
	Gloucester Police	Lost	3—2

As the above shows, the South Western District Cup was snatched from our grasp in a good, hard fought game, in which, incidentally, ground conditions did not favour our side. Also the Gloucester Police, who have a strong side, completed a very good double over our team. Nevertheless we have every reason to be satisfied with our team's performance so far. Next month our team will meet the Worcester Police in the local Inter-Services Cup Semi-final, in which we wish them every success.

The Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess were guests at the Royal Air Force Station, Innsworth Sergeants' Mess, where they endeavoured to uphold the good name of the Regiment in a challenge games night on 28th February, 1958, by soundly beating the R.A.F. team (to the best of my knowledge anyway!). Great concern was felt by all our members on their return when it was found that they were "deficient" of Sergeant "Jock" Younie—the R.A.F. kindly returned him later the following morning.

Lance-Corporal Brimble (our South Western District Middleweight Champion) and Signalman Powell represented South Western District against a combined R.A.F./Navy Boxing team at Plymouth on 27th and 28th February, 1958. Powell fought twice and Brimble once—both being on the losing end on all occasions after excellent bouts. Lance-Corporal Brimble gave a stone away in order to fill the light heavyweight berth. Lance-Corporal Brimble and Signalman Powell entered the Southern Command Championships where five Army Champions were competing. Powell once again met the redoubtable Private Nancurvis, the Welsh Bantamweight Champion, who won by what must have been the narrowest of margins. Lance-Corporal Brimble went three rounds and lost an excellent bout on points to Walters who is freely tipped for higher honours.

2 Squadron. By the time this goes to press Staff Sergeant Graham will have joined the married families in "Millionaires' Row." The Squadron would like to wish him and his bride every success and many more pay increases.

We have it from the management of a well-known Midland Brewery that Sergeant Storer is on his way back to this country after a short stay in Singapore to take the XI Course (in radio, we hasten to add).

It is with regret that we announce the departure of S.Q.M.S. Creigh, affectionately known throughout the Regiment as "Boss." He started his four-year stay here as Chief Clerk but was pressed into "Q" service; when he goes to Singapore he hopes to return to his less expensive trade. A Tramps' Ball was held in the W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess on 1st March in which a farewell presentation was made to the "Q." The best of luck from us all in your new posting.

We also extend the same wish to Corporal Ringe who will shortly be leaving for Singapore.

A Knock-Out Snooker Tournament, held in the Squadron recently, was won by Signalman Reynolds. The doubles tournament is in the process of being played off.

4 Squadron. We have recently opened a Junior N.C.O.s Club, which is proving a successful venture. It is situated in what was the TV room. The Junior N.C.O.'s are quite proud of their little kingdom, and even a request to trespass in the holy place for a Welfare or Messing Meeting is very much frowned upon.

Our Soccer team are doing quite well by being placed fairly high in the league; we don't have any great hopes of being league champions, but our enthusiasm is keen.

SIGNAL TRAINING WING, A.A.S., HARROGATE

Since we last wrote, this outpost of the Empire, in common with most parts, has been covered with an all-enveloping mantle of snow. Our activities, therefore, have been mainly confined to keeping warm in near Arctic conditions. The sickness rate, fortunately, has been very low amongst both staff and A/T and to everybody's credit let it be stated that there has been negligible interruption of trade training in spite of considerable difficulties.

Our Amateur Radio Club station is inoperative at the moment owing to modifications to the transmitter. While these are being carried out the O.I.C., Captain Rogers, is keeping the boys' interest alive by giving them some construction work. Various set kits are supplied to the boys at nominal cost and they are allowed to keep the completed sets. The scheme is very popular and it is hoped to continue it even when the station is back on the air.

Major N. J. Coslett left us on 7th March en route for Germany. Our best wishes go with him and his family. We extend a hearty welcome to Major G. D. M. Pocock, from Catterick, and trust that his tour with us will be a happy one.

W.O.II Bevan is due for release on 6th April after 22 years with Royal Signals. We are not losing his services, however, as he has been accepted as a Civilian Instructor and commences as such on 21st April.

Easter leave will soon be upon us and already there is a pre-leave feeling in the air. We shall be on leave when the next notes for THE WIRE go to press, so nothing further will be appearing from A.A.S. until June, by which time we shall, I hope, be well into the summer.

There is little Association news to report, as the social side of the Branch has been largely at a standstill for various reasons. I can, however, state that we have this month enrolled a further 48 life members which, I feel, is quite a creditable effort on the part of our Hon. Treasurer. It is expected that there will be further news of the Branch with our next notes.

BRUNEVAL 1942 AND 1958

By Signalman P. W. Walsh,
16 Independent Parachute Brigade Group Signal Squadron

Thursday, 28th February, was the anniversary of the famous raid by "C" Company, 2nd Battalion The Parachute Regiment on the German radar-station at Bruneval on the north-west coast of France in 1942, which was the first successful allied airborne operation of the last war.

The plan was to secure for our scientists as much of the enemy radar equipment as possible, photograph any other relevant components and then finally destroy the station.

The object of this was to compare the enemy radar equipment with our own, and so determine whether or not it was more technically advanced.

So much for the history of the raid, needless to say, it was a complete success, with the minimum casualty rate of two men killed and six missing and six injured.

Commanding "C" Company was Brigadier Frost, D.S.O., M.C. (then Major Frost) who also went with the men of "C" Company 2nd Battalion The Parachute Regiment and a detachment of Sappers from 9 Squadron Royal Engineers last Thursday.

It was planned that "C" Company of the 2nd Battalion, with supporting Arms representatives, should re-enact this operation on the actual spot at Bruneval on 28th February this year parachuting this time, however, from the more modern Beverley aircraft. My job was to precede the force (by sea) and set up a VHF wireless set on the Dropping Zone (DZ) so that the wind conditions and other directions could be transmitted to the pilots.

Unfortunately, the weather was so bad that at the last minute and by means of my VHF set, the parachuting was cancelled.

The alternative arrangement was for the troops to fly to Evreux (a N.A.T.O. air-base, 90 miles from Bruneval) and arrive by coach, but again luck was against them as, due to heavy snow falls the night previously, the roads were blocked.

When the news reached us at Bruneval, it was too late to cancel the arrangements made by the French and so the DZ party, which comprised Lieutenant Flutter, 33rd Para Light Regiment, R.A., Flight Lieutenant Parks, R.A.F., Private Joyce, 2nd Battalion Parachute Regiment and myself should represent the troops at the Memorial service.

This we did, accompanied by the Mayor of Bruneval and his fellow compatriots, Belgian and British Consuls, and representatives of the French Army and Government.

It was a simple but moving service, in memory of the men who gave their lives in 1942. After the service it was decided that we should return home with the troops, and so due to the generosity of a newspaper reporter and the French Air Force we made a dash by road to Evreux, and arrived in time to join the men as they re-emplaned, and so we returned home.

During our short stay, we were most comfortably accommodated by the French Air Force at St. Valery-en-Caux.

It was a bitter disappointment to all concerned, that not only were the troops unable to drop, but that they should miss the wonderful reception provided by the extremely hospitable people of Bruneval.

For we lucky four however, it was a most memorable visit, and we were most impressed by the great generosity of the men of the Air Force station and the people of Bruneval.

STEEPLE BUMPSTEAD SIGNAL SQUADRON

We apologise for missing a couple of issues; unfortunately R.E.M.E. were looking for someone to give a C.I.V. inspection, so we all went on leave for a while.

It was pleasing to read THE WIRE notes from Cyrenaica Signal Troop, though they caused some temporary embarrassment to Sergeant ("Schoolie") Farnsbarns when he said that he did not know that we had Signals in Greece. Sergeant Pickersgill, an Eighth Army veteran (so he says, anyway), lost the value of a round of drinks by swearing that there was no such place in Libya when he passed through it—which, of course, led to a description of the entire campaign!

Congratulations to Lieutenant-Colonel L. S. Stirling (Retd.) on spotting our deliberate mistake in the October issue. It is so true that it is a far cry from here in North Essex to the Cotswolds—the O.C.'s "tilly" has a duty journey there every Sunday night. "Imprest Holder to Bank" or "Collection of Stores" usually appears on the Work Ticket—thank goodness Colonel Stirling did not retire to the Command Secretariat!

In replying to the article by Miss (?) Anno Lucis in the December issue we apologise for the delay but the text has only just been returned from Ciphers, who failed to break it or to recognise it as one in their book—perhaps it is meant to be read as printed? It is, however, refreshing to read of a Squadron in the Corps that does support Signals 7. The O.C. has never been a member of the Directorate but he used to visit them regularly before it required haversack rations for the journey round the corridors.

Many people, in particular the District Commander and the S.S.M., have written to ask about the rôle of the Squadron. Before disclosing this information it was necessary to seek the

permission of higher authority. We wrote in this vein to the same District Commander, who passed it to Command, who, of course, passed it to the War Office. That was three months ago and, on enquiring the other day we learnt that our query had become the subject of a "BM file" and was "going the rounds." They could not estimate when an answer could be expected.

Congratulations to "Dog" Watson on his very amusing drawing; it has saved us quite a lot on Mess pictures!

Now for the Squadron news. Whilst casting through some old A.C.I.s the new O.C. discovered one we must have overlooked. In consequence we have all changed from white pipeclay to Pickering's No. 3.

Reading THE WIRE notes of other Units, we notice a preponderance of "D. and D." courses. Sergeant Farnsbarns has written to the Neapolitan College for details.

We are thinking of an Exercise too—in the better weather, of course. Mind you, the enthusiasm for this has been only since the Second-in-Command discovered that chocolate was issued with "compo" rations

Looking Backward

BY JOHN L. JUDD

Readers will remember the account of General White establishing communication between Malta and Sicily by throwing a cable into the sea, etc., in THE WIRE *dated November,* 1957.

Here is an account of a very early similar experiment by Professor Morse taken from a book entitled "Early Experiments in Electric Telegraphy," published 1848.

"SUB-MARINE AND RIVER TELEGRAPHS"

"The credit of the first practical experiment on the mode of crossing broad rivers or other bodies of water, is due to Professor Morse, who, in 1842, conceived, and in December, 1844, submitted his suggestions to the House of Representatives. In the autumn of the former year, the Professor, at the suggestion of the American Institute, undertook to give the public in New York a demonstration of its practicability, by connecting Governor's Island with Castle Garden, a distance of one mile. For this purpose, he laid his wires, properly insulated, beneath the water.

He had scarcely begun to operate, and had received only two or three characters, when his intentions were frustrated by the accidental destruction of a part of his conductors by a vessel, which drew them up on her anchor, and cut them off. In the moment of mortification, he immediately devised a plan for preventing such an accident in future, by so arranging his wires along the banks of the river as to cause the water itself to conduct the electricity. Morse tested this arrangement across a canal, with success; and then the simple fact was ascertained, that electricity could be made to cross a river without other conductors than the water itself.

A series of experiments was next made to ascertain the law of its passage across the canal (eighty feet), showing that electricity crossed the river, and in quantity in proportion to the size of the plates in the water, the distance of the plates on the same side of the river from each other, affecting the results. They further demonstrated that there might be situations in which the arrangements for passing the electricity across rivers might be useful; although experience could alone decide whether lofty spars, on which the wires may be suspended, erected in the rivers, may not be deemed the most practical.

The principle has since been successfully applied by Professor Vail, one of Morse's assistants, across the Susquehanna river, at Havre de Grace, a distance of one mile, with complete success.

(At New York, there has been laid across the East River, a pipe for conveying the wires of the Electric Telegraph: this pipe is of lead, in one continuous piece, half a mile long, weighs 6,000 pounds, is without a joint, and is perfectly air-tight).

This plan has also been successfully put in practice by the Electric Telegraph Company and Captain Taylor, in the submarine telegraph, laid down across the English Channel, by which an instantaneous communication is made from coast to coast, by the telegraph across the harbour of Portsmouth, from the house of the Admiral in the Dock-yard, to the railway terminus at Gosport. By these means there is direct communication from London to the official residence of the Port-Admiral at Portsmouth."

Cum Grano Salis

BY BEE WICKERSON

AFTER a year's residence in a country, thoughts can be co-ordinated in a small way; and local populations allow a little odious comparison without taking umbrage. At least, I think they do, they are continually asking, "Would you like to go back home?" and when I reply, "No, we like it here. Might go back for a holiday sometime," they go on to enquire about the differences and the similarities. So, to clear the air—it isn't always sun-spots that mess up communications, you know— I'll state a few things catagorically and take the consequences.

In the first instance, I will deal with the inner man. New Zealanders drink more tea, at more frequent intervals, than anyone else . . . they brew it throughout the day and a large part of the night. It appears at bachelor beer parties, in the coffee shops, en route from A to B and at any function that calls for "a plate please." The plate must be laden, not just a clean plate as one well-intentioned "pommie" bore to the party, thinking that there was a shortage of crocks. Food generally, except for dairy products, is dearer here. Fruit, apple and pear kind, costs more, but peaches, apricots, Chinese gooseberries, passion fruit and so on are cheap; and lush. Meat is lower in price, and in quality. All the best lamb sits on *your* Sunday table; and if you swear when you are carving it, you can always come out here and try carving ours.

Eating-type tea (yes, we hear the "Goon Show." Isn't B.B.C. Transcription Service wonderful?) is of three kinds. There is morning tea from 10 a.m. onwards. Afternoon tea which takes place as soon as the luncheon mats are off the table, and Tea. This latter is the counterpart of your evening meal—whether you call it high tea, supper or dinner, according to when you are U; and when you are not U. (But I suppose with all these pay increases you are all U nowadays).

Houses, homes here, are expensive, about two to three times the price of a U.K. equivalent. Most of them are on a quarter acre section (building site) and many nestle into hillsides, which call for two-level architecture. They are wooden buildings for the most part with gaily-painted iron roofs.

Ready-made clothes are highly-priced and those made locally of not very good standard. But much is being done to put this right. The Dominion is very fashion-conscious —the sack dress appeared in the Wellington streets almost before it was off the penitentiary blocks, or where ever it was it came from.

Schools are housed in excellent modern accommodation, and education, like the Health scheme, is free with the exception of articles for which you pay.

Sources of industrial and domestic power, gas and electricity, are adequate and reliable—a little cheaper than, say, in London. We have a family conversational gambit guaranteed as a party-starter. We say that electricity stemming from water cannot be as good as that which is derived from coal. Provided one hasn't been too lavish with the water, this takes quite a time to sink in.

And that, I feel, is enough odious comparison for one short session. Just one more thing—money—it is just as hard to come by here, as there, or anywhere else for that matter. You work for it, and when you've got it, you give it to your wife to spend.

With summer in New Zealand came all the fun of living at the sea-side. Our section is four minutes' stroll from the beach—the honest truth, no landlady's blurb, this. We have a host of fishing tales to tell and a succession of fishy meals to eat. Even my children, with their self-imposed vegetarian diet, have learned to tackle a crayfish tail (not as good as lobster, but good) garnished with gherkin and washed down with small beer. When we pull a shark out of the water the cat has a feast—and deserves it too.

We took over our home after it had been empty for some months and had been over-populated with mice. So we acquired the cat—very black, very hungry and very mischievous. She coped with the mice very well. Yes, I said "she." We soon had several cats, all very black and so on. In due course the kittens were distributed amongst the local families strangely anxious to own a cat of uncertain parentage. By the time the kittens were away, we were back on the mouse problem. White mice, this time. These creatures reproduce in three weeks flat. They sold at a shilling a time on the open market but soon the demand reached saturation point and the shekels failed to keep up with the arrival of mice. With more kittens due at any minute now, I do feel that "something must be done." (Parental quote). To spend my days restraining predatory kittens with a yen for a mousey meal is not my idea of domestic bliss. At the time of going to press the situation is fluid, but fluid.

Not only do we fish, but we also sail; and getting round the right side of the boathouse buoy takes best part of a Saturday afternoon. And hanging in the wardrobe is a disreputable jacket whose pocket sags heavily with ammunition for the gun. But jugged hare, curried hare and roast hare are welcome in the catering department; and sartorial deficiences are ignored. Duck is another matter; they all fly off on the day preceding the opening of the season.

During the past few months we have craned our necks to search the night skies for sputniks and their ilk. We found the bleeps of the dog-lovers resounded more loudly than those from the satellites and found peace in watching a fine display of Aurora Australis. As some culture experts say, the sunsets are as good as a painting, any day.

We have welcomed Sir Anthony Eden and his wife, and later extended greetings to his successor, Mr. Macmillan. Then, with weather to grace the occasion, all New Zealand thronged the highways and byways to wave and cheer a Royal progress as Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother toured the country, charming and captivating all who saw her.

Although Wellington has an automatic telephone service, we who live about twenty miles to the north, have polite conversations with operators before reaching the ear of the required subscriber. Our 'phone failed in its office and I registered a complaint. A succession of engineers, while causing the tea-level in the caddy to fall at astronomical rate, did nothing to rectify the fault. At last, one engineer, a new New Zealander like myself, although his mother tongue was not English, decided to renew the batteries. His command of the language deserted him when he found the box beneath a shelf, ten inches off the floor in a built-in wardrobe. From underneath it, with legs a-wagging vigorously as I watched in suspended animation, he called "She is here but the slipping door won't slip. I shall have to break the place." Bemoaning the lack of central battery did me no good at all; but I assessed a few characters. Our 'phone is still a bit choosey about times for efficient working.

We have taken two motoring holidays since disembarking at Auckland and in spite of the sun being very misleading and my personal bump of direction still persisting in working downside up, we found our way to Opononi, where that enchanting dolphin played with the children. We saw Tane Mahuta, the huge kauri tree with a girth of 43 feet. We liked modern and affluent Hamilton. Rotorua, with all its thermal activity is a fascinating place—we watched mud plop-plop in the "porridge bowl" for a long while. It would take a whole travelogue to tell of all the natural wonders of this country; but I must catalogue a few in passing. There is Mt. Egmont with its perfect cone, snow-capped Mt. Ruapehu with its wonderful ski-ing slopes, and the adjacent Ngauruhoe, a semi-active volcano. There are good surfing beaches on the east coast, the "Glow-worm Grotto," just south of Hamilton. Auckland a fair city and a mixture of ancient timber and modern concrete is the largest city in the Dominion but Wellington, with its magnificent harbour, is the seat of Government and the possessor of the largest desks in the Public Service (Civil Service). All this, and more, and still we haven't crossed to the South Island yet. That, I hope will provide more copy for the Editor, in due course.

Gardening, and while we are trying to tame our bit of New Zealand this is a euphemism for section clearing, takes up a deal of my time. There has been much to un-learn but we have managed to keep the vegetable-rack filled and I can play at being Constance Spry with flowers from the borders. It is quite amazing how blasé one becomes about lemons from the garden and the gherkins grew so large that until I tasted one, I had thought it to be a cucumber. I now regard montbretia, arum lilies and nasturtiums as weeds. Cinerarias don't need coddling but I had to nurse the asters through wilt and the antirrhinums through rust—for the horticulturist, the resistant varieties of these successful in the U.K. simply don't resist in N.Z. Gladioli grow six feet tall and have twenty or so heads on a stem. But the climate isn't cold enough to let paeonies rest and although the frosts may decimate the dahlia bed, it never does the parsnips any good, nor the celery.

New Zealand is a great place for impromptu hospitality; and to praise the "home brew" is the quickest way to gain a friend. Of course, the licensing laws are odd—everything closes sharp at six each night and doesn't open at all on Sundays. Some areas have prohibition, voted for or against at General Elections. It is usual for someone about the house to take three or four half-gallon flagons to collect the week-end ration of draught beer.

The local wines are cheap and cheerfully redolent of alcohol. To date, I know of none that have been allowed to mature over the years. I did suggest we put down some of our last purchase; but it was all drunk before I had manufactured a suitable bin. Spirits are a little cheaper than in U.K. but they are due to disappear under the counter as soon as the Import restrictions imposed by our new Labour Government make themselves felt.

At a party I went to last week I met a man—and that in itself is a talking point. Men and women segregate at parties here. At my first social occasion in Wellington I trotted determinedly towards a gaggle of men-folk. Everyone stared and I was so put out and convinced that I had left undone something which I should have done up, that I returned to the female end of the room before I had said my piece. Where was I—well, I met this man and he said he knew a joker who knew a character who knew a chap in the Royal Corps of Signals. After we had run through a list of Units and locations, covered ten years in time and accounted for promotions (difficult that) I discovered I hadn't a clue, anyway. However, it did serve to remind me of Scarborough and 2 O.T.B., the Cumberland Hotel—and Nacerby. So I came home to write a few words for THE WIRE.

I thought of rather an apt toast at Christmastime, all things considered. If Sir Edmund Hilary and Dr. Fuchs haven't already made it a byword and if Mr. Vice co-operates and if the port still goes the same way round in the Southern Hemisphere (I know the bath-water doesn't and that beans climb the other way, too) we could say, with malice aforethought, "Bottoms Up," couldn't we? After all, even Nacerby's famous dozen scotch must go up in the long run . . . . before they go down, I mean. There, you see! That's what comes of accepting all WIRE notes as authentic. Good job I didn't try that week-end in Paris procedure.

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Telecommunication Economics

BY T. J. MORGAN

The modern engineer in addition to his technical knowledge, today must be able to assess the financial merits of his ideas in order to be able to compete against world competition and to ensure the reasonable profit which is essential to any healthy organisation. In a Public Administration particularly is it necessary to ensure that expenditure is only incurred in the most economic manner and that the service is conducted without loss to the community so that if need be it can stand vigorous public enquiry.

"Telecommunication Economics" written by T. J. Morgan, sets out in some detail and with ability the economic problem which must be faced and understood by all who are engaged in the design, planning, provision and production of telecommunication plant. The book deals primarily with the provision of automatic telephone switching and associated line or interconnecting media. Whilst the telecommunication industry is highly specialised and the economic problems inherent in it are similarly highly specialised, nevertheless the principles enunciated are applicable in many other directions.

The book is written in simple language and the author has been careful to explain the terms which are perhaps special to the industry, thereby increasing its scope and enabling the beginner to understand the subject matter. The telecommunication engineer himself is led carefully through the rudiments of interest, depreciation accounting, annual costs, and statistics in detail sufficient for his appreciation of the broader matters dealt with in the later chapters. In dealing with the life of plant, planning requirements, replacements, area layouts and building costs some valuable mathematical formulae are included, which it is well to have recorded and available in the form expressed. The author is obviously a master of his subject and the present work places on permanent record for the first time, matter which hitherto has been largely unavailable to the student. The book covers a wide range including studies on trunk and local line provision and interesting sections on planning of Multi-exchange and Rural Automatic Areas. In addition the appendices included bring together in excellent reference form those figures essential to telecommunication economics and thereby add greatly to the value of the work.

This authoratative treatise of a subject on which up till now there is no text book emphasises the importance which must be attached to the training of young telecommunication engineers in one of the fundamentals of the art, in knowing before a new idea is applied its economic effectiveness. The advent of this work is significant and valuable to those who today must of necessity include the subject in their studies in order to reach the top line of their profession. In his day the late Sir Frank Gill was an ardent advocate of the importance of economics in the telecommunication industry and it is significant also that he thought fit to found a memorial at the Institute of Electrical Engineers in the Sir Frank Gill Annual Premium to be awarded for papers covering this very subject.

The book runs to 450 pages of well produced readable matter which should find a place on the bookshelves of every Telecommunication Engineer. Additionally it is one which should be read and appreciated by all those concerned in the provision of plant for automatic telephone switching networks. Thereby an appreciation which today is perhaps not altogether in its right perspective in some people's minds, might take its rightful place. In fact, to all those concerned with economics the book should be of considerable value as providing an economic study of an industry not until now so provided. K.B.B.

Published by Macdonald and Co., Ltd. 50/-.

Careers and Opportunity

(IMPORTANT: Anyone obtaining employment through answering advertisements in THE WIRE *must notify the Employment Section, Royal Signals Association, 88, Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1.*

Members are reminded that they can ensure prompt notification of any vacancies likely to interest them by registering with the Employment Section. Jobs advertised in THE WIRE *are only a small proportion of those received).*

Large Paper Manufacturing Company, based in Kent, offers good openings for officers seeking resettlement in civil life. Applicants under 40 preferred, but some opportunities occur for older men. Good administrative experience an advantage, but no special qualifications are needed. Apply to Employment Section, Royal Signals Association (address above).

Vacancies exist in Rhodesia and Nyasaland Signals in each of the following trades: Operator Wireless and Line (should be an Instructor); Storeman Technical (Signals); Driver Electrician. Single applicants preferred. Depending on experience, they will commence as first year Corporals at £525 a year. Trade pay is paid in certain circumstances. For full details apply to Office of the High Commissioner for Rhodesia and Nyasaland, Rhodesia House, Strand, London, W.C.2, quoting reference number 600/54/658.

Other advertisements about employment are on the front inside cover and page 123.

★

"RED JUNGLE," *by John Cross, D.C.M.*, published by Robert Hale, 16/-

John Cross was born in London in 1910 and lived there until he left his job as company secretary to join the Royal Corps of Signals in 1940. Within five months of leaving England he found himself in the thick of the Malayan Campaign and on Christmas Day, 1941, he volunteered for special service.

Just before the fall of Singapore he returned to the mainland as Second-in-Command of a small radio unit and lived with Asians more or less as an Asian until the Unit emerged under his command more than three years later.

★

The following goods are available from Association Headquarters:

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Corps Plaques	26/6	Plus postage

Corps Diaries (available each year between November and February. Apply to Headquarters for Order Form).

PLEASE SEND CASH WITH ORDER for all the above articles *except* Corps Paint Transfers, for which an account will be forwarded.

2 INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT AND THE B.A.O.R. SKI CHAMPIONSHIPS, 1958

A small party of three Officers and nine men went to Austria at the beginning of January to prepare for the B.A.O.R. Ski Championships. It had been decided to enter the langlauf events in the championships and as no-one had much idea what langlauf was all about we arranged to be taught by Herr Noichl, who runs the Ski School at St. Johann.

After some mammoth staff and administrative work by Lieutenant Young, we eventually joined up with parties from 7 Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment, 6 Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment, 11 Air Formation Signal Regiment, 12 Air Formation Signal Regiment and 19 Army Group Signal Regiment.

We spent two wonderful weeks in Austria doing everything but langlauf training and returned all too soon to the Unit.

Three days later a lucky few, Lieutenant Goldney, Corporal Steel-Jessop, Corporal Metcalfe, Signalman Partington and Signalman Biggs, the rest had to go out on Exercise, set off for Willingen, the 2 Division Winter Warfare Camp situated about 10 miles from Winterberg, in the mountains.

The team had one week to get fit and used to their langlauf skis before the Divisional Championships began. During the next week the team took part in three langlauf races and in the novices' downhill, in conditions ranging from pouring rain and rapidly thawing snow to sheet ice.

Results were not good but were encouraging. At each race we improved, as our position on the last one showed. Our technique was sound though fitness was poor, but improved as our training progressed.

From Willingen the team moved up to Winterberg to get used to conditions there. Warm weather and a rapid thaw left the slopes bare and the first langlauf race due to be held on Saturday, 15th January, was cancelled. On Sunday a north facing slope had sufficient snow on it to enable the novices downhill to take place; Corporal Metcalfe was our best performer, coming 25 out of 110. On Monday it started to snow and by Wednesday there was sufficient snow to hold the 4 x 10 km. relay race. Signalman Biggs gave the team a fairly good start, which was improved upon by Lieutenant Goldney. Corporal Metcalfe and Signalman Partington maintained the position and we came 30th out of 53 teams, an encouraging start.

On our next race (the patrol race), held over 19 km., the team carried a weight of 24 kg. between them, including a rifle. The snow conditions were extremely difficult which made it very hard work. Some good shooting on the range by Signalman Biggs and Signalman Partington took 2 minutes 40 seconds off our time and we dragged ourselves up the hill to the Kurhaus to finish 19th. Out of 53 starters, only 36 finished. Of the 17 who dropped out some did so because of broken skis or bones but in most cases out of sheer fatigue.

On Sunday the last race of the meeting, the individual langlauf, was held in perfect conditions. Signalman Hellings was borrowed from 41 Field Regiment, R.A., and he, Lieutenant Goldney, Signalman Partington and Signalman Biggs were entered as the Corps team, the first ever to be entered in langlauf ski-ing for the B.A.O.R. Championships. The result was not as bad as it might have been, as both the Infantry and Royal Engineers' teams were beaten. It is hoped that by showing the way we will be able to have more inter-Signals rivalry next year, which should result in a better Corps team.

Although extremely hard work, the six weeks were the most tremendous fun and we all returned to barracks looking forward to next year.

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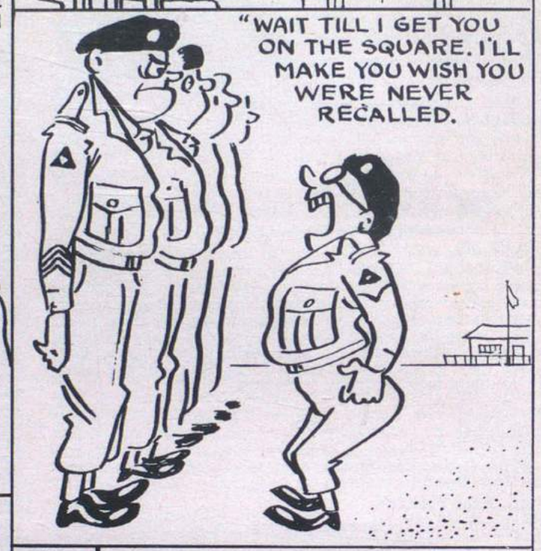
BIM's PAGE

Many will have regretted that when Corporal B. T. Mumby left the Corps about two years ago, his cartoons ceased to appear in the "Wire."

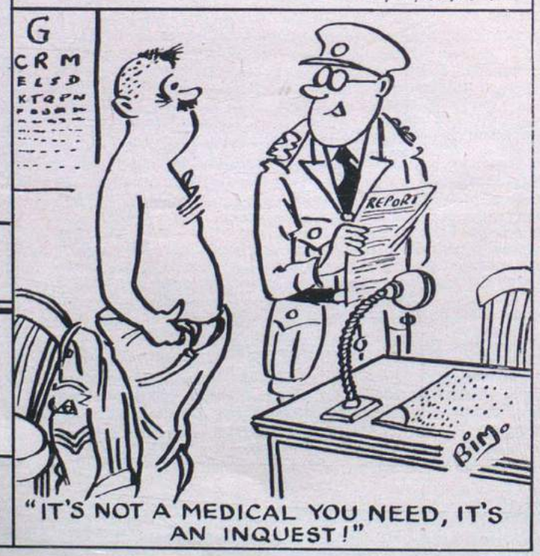
The Editor was delighted to receive a note from him with a number of his latest cartoons, of which these five are a selection. More to follow.













I CORPS SIGNAL REGIMENT
Junior Non Commissioned Officers

Sitting (left to right) : Corporals Howard, Mallinson, Whyles, Help, Farrall, Brown, Fowler, Derby, Scobbie, Jones, R.S.M. Page, Corporals Fallon, McNalus, Taylor, Phillips, Graham, Cambridge, Back, Pears, Turner, Bentley, Bradford, Dyce.

First Row Standing : Lance Corporals Howard, Teal, Davies, Corporals Herbert, Fitzgerald, Selby, Eggo, Ireland, Simmonds, Rumball, Prior. Diment, Jeffreys, Wakeham, Scott, Miller, Zatz, Kynnersley, Lance Corporals Backhurst, Thomas, Backlog, Bland, Lewis, Thomas, Grey, Gould.

Second Row : Corporals Aldern, Huntley, Lance Corporals Gates, Farmer, Clarke, Kilner, Comerford, Hilton, Holmes, Lewis, Jones, Norman, Bircumshaw, Desmond, Egan, Bond, Harper, Cobb, Brownlie, Hills, Ellis, Youster, Shields, Hesp, Wilson.

Third Row : Lance Corporals Redfern, Cruddas, Blanchet, Magee, Corporal Moores, Lance Corporal Laycock, Corporal Johnson, Lance Corporals Anderson, Elliott, Thurston, Deacon, Cameron, Warner, Boyne, Austin, Charters, Charters, Williams, Worthington, Corporal Wilson, Lance Corporals Ash, Wingfield, Baldwin, Baker, Churchyard, O'Connell, Woodruff

In our last contribution, we said we hoped to show a group photograph of our Junior N.C.O.s By some miraculous means we succeeded in getting them all in one place at one time, and here is the result.

The main events of the month have been centred round our sporting activities, interspersed with preparations for the next exercise, "Spring Drill." Although the object of the exercise may be aptly named, in reality the exercise promises to look more like a larger scale Fuch's Antarctic Expedition. If the present icy conditions continue, and by the time we have bumped around the countryside for a few days, we shall probably have renamed the exercise, "Broken Spring Drill." However, the snow has put a sparkle in some people's eyes (and unfortunately splints on some people's legs), and the ski enthusiasts are about the only people to be seen rubbing their hands with glee (and their skis with wax) at every fresh snowfall.

The hockey, soccer and rugby fans, on the other hand, are very doleful, the former particularly so, as having raised morale very considerably by defeating The Royal Hampshire Regiment 3—1 in the semi-final of the 6 Divisional Group of the B.A.O.R. Cup, we were all set to win the semi-final of the Royal Signals B.A.O.R. Cup two days later. However, snow has intervened and the tie has been postponed. The victory over The Royal Hampshire Regiment was all the more unexpected since, with a somewhat weakened team, we had lost to them some weeks previously by 7 goals to 1. It is of interest to note that six of the hockey eleven are ex-boys. They are Corporal Bland (in goal), R.S.M. Page (full-back), Lance-Corporal Gordon (inside-right), Sergeant Slade (outside-right), Lance-Corporal McMahon (centre-forward), and Corporal Graham (outside-left). Major Evans at centre-half, S.S.M. Cloke at full-back, Captain Moseley and Sergeant Prescott at half-back and Corporal Dyce, inside-left, complete the team. A well-balanced mixture of ex-boys and "old boys."

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Boxing

We are pleased to announce that our boxing team won the Royal Signals B.A.O.R. Cup on 28th February, when they defeated 19 Army Group Signal Regiment by 18 points to 12. Congratulations, boys! You trained hard, fought well and can be proud to be the first team to show that the Regiment has re-entered the sporting arena in earnest.

Our congratulations and thanks also to the hosts for the finals evening, 18 Army Group Signal Regiment. The arrangements and hospitality were excellent, and very much appreciated by the team and spectators.

By the time these notes appear in print we shall have said farewell to Major K. M. Evans, who is leaving us for the Far East on promotion. We shall be very sorry to see him go, as our successes in the sporting field have undoubtedly been inspired by his enthusiasm and his own skill as an all-round sportsman. We shall look forward to seeing his new unit carrying off all the sporting trophies in the Far East, and we hope that he and his family will have a very happy time there.

CORPS PICTURES

Photographic reproductions of the three Corps Pictures, "THROUGH," "MENIN GATE" and "THE CABLE WAGON," 18" x 24" with 3" white margin, may be obtained from Captain L. N. Lloyd, 36, Hampton Road, Worcester Park, Surrey, price £2/15/- each. The increase price is due to the new postage rates.

Captain Lloyd can also supply similar-sized reproductions of "BURIED CABLE," but as this was copied from the original oil-painting, it requires a large amount of retouching by hand, the extra cost of which has brought the price up to £3/10/-.

Specimen copies of all four pictures may be seen at Association Headquarters, 88, Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1.

18 ARMY GROUP SIGNAL REGIMENT

The sun is shining so brightly while these notes are being written that the writer has had to draw the curtains to shade his desk. The brightness is intensified by two quite unconnected factors: the white dusting of snow on the roof-tops and the almost virginal aspect of the office walls, which were painted only a couple of days ago. The colour is probably off-white, but interesting variations are produced by the presence of some bright green doors which, naturally, have not been repainted. One door is open and is reflecting the sunlight on to a wall; the result—pale green wall. Letting one's eyes wander from this brightly sunlit green to the rest of the room produces the complementary colour effect—pale pink walls. Whether this effect is the result of a deliberate plan by some unknown but imaginative member of the staff of the Chief Engineer (Works) or not is a matter on which the reader may have his own views. It is, however, interesting.

The snow will probably soon be gone. It is the remnant of the third spell of cold weather in the last month. On each previous occasion the snow has laid long enough to freeze and thaw alternately, forming corrugated road surfaces, only to vanish almost overnight with a sudden rise in temperature. Although the Ruhr has escaped the sub-Arctic conditions which have afflicted most of England, it was obvious that the current spell would last until Exercise "Lion Bleu" had started. There was no known meteorological reason for such an assumption: it was based upon the theory of the natural cussedness of inanimate objects, a wide-ranging theory which includes within its scope such natural phenomena as the elements (fire, earth, air and water, of course; not such modern interlopers as plutonium). An example well-known to drivers, for instance, is the tree which without warning flings itself at the unsuspecting and unhurrying vehicle! However, to return to the point: only yesterday, from the same window now shaded against the sun, the writer watched the exodus of the bulk of the Regiment into the teeth of a baby blizzard en route for the Exercise battle ground. Now, after days of somewhat abnormal activity, an air of comparative peace reigns over the barracks, broken mainly by the rumble of ten-ton diesel trucks humping coke to the married quarters.

One does not instinctively associate the heart of the Ruhr with cross-country running, but some good courses can be found here and it was on one of these that the Regiment had the pleasure of organising the final of the Royal Signals B.A.O.R. Cross-Country Championship the other day. By the courtesy of the Officer Commanding, the run started and finished in the barracks now occupied by a Battalion of the West German *Luftwaffe*. Although the Regiment had beaten the holders in the semi-final, they lost to a better trained team on the day and remained runners-up for another year. The individual winners, however, were Signalman Lydiate and Lieutenant Harries who, after running side by side for the whole course, breasted the tape together a good 200 yards ahead of the field, with arms on each other's shoulders to indicate in accepted fashion that they deemed the race to be shared. These two have represented the Regiment well this season. Signalman Lydiate won the Rhine District/2 Infantry Division Championship and also the B.A.O.R. Championship, in which Lieutenant Harries ran fifth. They both went forward to the Army Championship, in which they ran 11th and 14th respectively.

The soccer team has been maintaining a rather better than average performance. It leads the Rhine District Major Units' League by a comfortable margin of five points, and although it fell in the semi-final of the Royal Signals B.A.O.R. Cup it is still in the running for the Rhine District Major Units' Cup.

A few weeks ago the Regiment had the pleasure of organising and running the final meeting in the Royal Signals B.A.O.R. Boxing Competition. Here in the Ruhr the Regiment is well situated geographically to be a meeting place for Units of the Corps from all over Germany. The finalists were two Regiments with whom we have the friendliest and closest relationships: 19 Army Group Signal Regiment and 1 (Br) Corps Signal Regiment. Major-General Bastyan, Chief Signal Officer, B.A.O.R., presented the prizes, and apart from an evening's interesting and varied boxing, the main point of note was the very large assembly of Officers who afterwards met in the Officers' Mess. These meetings have a value far beyond their immediate social implication, and as is always the case, the fullest possible value was obtained from the various personal exchanges.

The Regiment is always blessed (or perhaps one should say provided) with a full share of visitors. Recently there were accommodated in the Officers' Mess the first official party of German visitors. These, who represented all three of the West German Armed Services, were attending a course at the Royal Signals School B.A.O.R., whom we accommodate in our barracks. Although it is not likely to have appeared in their "Q" Sheet, it is hoped that their extra-curricular activities as members of a Regimental Officers' Mess, were in fact as important a part of their course as their more formal activities. We, at least, were pleased to welcome them and we hope that their initiation into the mysteries of billiard table cricket, high cockalorum, "Bist du dort, Moriarty?" and Cardinal Puff was not too incomprehensible. Brigadier Good, Commander, Training Brigade, Royal Signals, also visited us for a day and had a look at a representative selection of our activities.

It is now nearly four months since the Regimental mascot, Bruno, the Berlin Cable Bear, left the barracks. For the information of any well-wishers, and to dispel rumours, it may be stated with authority that Bruno has now been restored to full soundness of body by means of stone-grafting operations on the ears, snout and paws, and is now in a proper condition to be copied. It is hoped that his replica in stone will be completed in time for his formal handing over to the Regiment during May.

More than a month has passed without the loss of an Officer, which is unusual. Recent arrivals include Captain (Q.M.) J. P. Cairns and Second-Lieutenant P. R. Thomas. To these, and to W.O.II (R.Q.M.S.) Robinson, P. E., who has already been with us a couple of months, we extend a sincere welcome and an assurance that they will enjoy their time with the Regiment.

7 ARMOURED DIVISION SIGNAL REGIMENT

Normally at this time of the year we can write and say what dreadful wintry weather we have endured, but not so this year. Apart from one or two cold snaps (the coldest, of course, in the middle of the Winter Exercise!), and occasional light snowfalls, we have been enjoying also Spring-like conditions since New Year. Luckily our ski team found plenty of good snow in Austria in January, where they put in some valuable training, combined with a pleasant holiday, in preparation for the Divisional and B.A.O.R. Ski Meetings. The training paid handsome dividends at the Divisional Meeting held in the Harz Mountains, and our team of almost complete novices acquitted themselves very well against keen competition from well-known ski-ing Regiments. In the open events we were placed third in Slalom, fifth in Downhill, ninth in the Langlauf and 22nd in Team Patrol; these placings gave us a final position of fourth in the open competition, in which 27 teams entered. Particular mention must be made of our novices, none of whom had ski-ed prior to the training period in Austria. Corporal Sinclair won the Novices Downhill race, and finished 23rd and 32nd respectively in the Open Downhill and Slalom events; Driver Henson was first in the Novices Slalom and fourth in the Downhill, and Signalman Shorrock was second in the Novices Slalom and tenth in the Downhill. Fresh from these triumphs, the team went off to the B.A.O.R. Meeting in Winterberg. Here the conditions were far from good, there being little or no snow and, of course, the standards were much higher and competition keener, however, we managed to gain eighth place in the Downhill and 12th in the Slalom, which gave us a final placing of eighth in the Combined Alpine Event, for which 27 teams entered. Noteworthy individual performances were put up by Lieutenant Hales—20th in the Open Downhill and 26th in the Open Slalom; Signalman Shorrock—fourth in the Novices Downhill/Slalom and 45th in the Open Downhill; Corporal Sinclair—47th in the Open Downhill and 51st in the Open Slalom. We can feel justly proud of our first venture into this highly specialised sport, and take this opportunity of expressing our thanks to Lieutenant-Colonel D. R. Horsfield, C.R. Signals 2 Infantry Division, who organised the Royal Signals Training in Austria, and to our own Unit Ski Officer, Lieutenant J. H. Wheeler.

The eliminating round of the Royal Signals Cross Country Competition was run on 21st February at Herford and our team ran second to 4 Infantry Division Signal Regiment and gained a place in the final which takes places in March. Driver Walker and Signalman Nevard ran particularly well to come in 3rd and 4th. Considering the limited time available for training the results were gratifying and a credit to the enthusiasm of the runners and their trainer, Lieutenant M. E. E. Truscott.

A change of Divisional Commanders resulted in visits to the Regiment from both Generals. Major-General J. W. Hackett on his farewell visit paid high compliments to the ceremonial quarter guard and to the Regiment as a whole for the work done during his tenure of command; the Warrant Officers and Sergeants' Mess earned his special commendation as the "finest in the Division." The new G.O.C., who paid his first official visit within a few days of taking over, also congratulated the quarter guard which was commanded by Sergeant Robinson.

The first of the annual individual training periods has ended and after an all too short gap the "exercise season" will be upon us again. This year, in addition to the normal difficulties caused by shortages of key tradesmen, there will be some special problems in connection with re-organisation and new tactical doctrines being practised in Germany. We look forward, however, to competing with whatever may transpire with that confidence which has always been the hallmark of the "Desert Rats."

Innocents Abroad

By Lieutenant W. R. Deane

A change from the normal routine occurred in January when five members of the Regiment spent a fortnight undergoing ski instruction in Austria followed by three weeks in Winterberg, during which they competed in the 6 Armoured Division Ski Meeting. The party, consisting of Lieutenant Deane, Corporals Casson and Waddoup and Signalmen Scaife and Baxter, was part of a much larger group made up of members of other Signal Units in B.A.O.R., the avowed intention of which was "Learn to ski or bust," between 7th-22nd January.

Excellent arrangements having been made by 2 Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, the party stayed in two guest-houses at St. Johann, about five miles from Kitzbühel, in the Tyrolean Alps. Naturally enough, 40 Signalmen suddenly thrust into the quiet calm of an Austrian village was bound to have some noteworthy effect; the Aga Khan hurriedly left Kitzbühel the day we arrived, and the district had its first decent snowfall for a considerable period the same evening.

Our ski tuition was undertaken by several first-class teachers from the local ski school, who took the transition from wealthy tourists to penurious (? !) soldiers quite well. The first few days were spent on gentle gradients in mastering the intricacies of falling backwards, slight forward movement, and the Snow Plough, a most apt term which describes any lineman over 12-stone making a daring attempt to set up a speed record for a nursery slope, and not quite making it.

Our instructors considering us ripe for slaughter, we then graduated on to the main downhill slopes, much to the alarm of the local population. An interesting feature at this stage was the controlled stop in the first 50 yards of a 300-yard slope; those of us who could not quite get the hang of it were invariably accompanied over the horizon by the sound of voices singing "Now is the hour," "Auf Wiedersehen," "Wide blue yonder," and the musical accompaniment of loud guffaws, raspberries, etc., all gradually fading into the distance.

We also made several cross-country journeys on skis and towards the end of our stay a trip was organised to a downhill route at Kitzbühel. A long steep walk in a snowstorm, carrying skis and rucksacks, was reminiscent of a Siberian death march, and the downhill ski route was of a length that necessitated a stop halfway for lunch.

Came the end of a most enjoyable fortnight and five 11 Air Formation Signal Regiment Ski Instructors made their way to Winterberg, the B.A.O.R. winter training centre, where they joined forces with a party direct from the Regiment, led by the R.S.M. A week's frenzied training, before the start of the ski competition, concentrating on the cross-country events, was, alas, set at nought when our first "leg" in the 4 x 10 km. relay unluckily broke one ski after a mile and the team had to drop out. Nothing loath, we lined up for the patrol race (a 15 km. "bash" with rifle and pack) and set off in high spirits, which were gradually dampened every time we were overtaken. Envying the more fortunate contestants equipped with cross-country skis and heaping silent abuse on the Unit Ski Officer and the sports shop assistant who saw him coming, we stubbornly pushed on, pausing only to shoot at nine balloons waving in a breeze which only blew up the minute *we* fired, and at the finish gloomily received the news that we had come last. However, now that we have settled back into the regimental routine and can view things with a less jaundiced eye, we can chalk this year's effort up to experienced gained and look forward to showing the flag with more effect next year.

12 AIR FORMATION SIGNAL REGIMENT

This month has seen a determined drive to complete the outstanding courses of the winter training season, which have been held up by the delayed winter weather. The M.T. Training School is functioning very well and courses are going through with no difficulties. The last course which finished at the end of February distinguished itself by the high standard of the results, and Staff Sergeant Morris, who conducts our School, is to be congratulated on the results.

Our Education and Drill and Duties courses are still functioning and we are now at the stage where all Lance-Corporals have attended a Drill and Duties course, and soon we hope to be able to say that all Other Ranks of the Regiment have at least their Third Class Certificate of Education. Our First Class Education course is now in the last fortnight before the examination, and we wish them luck and hope they get through.

This month we had a visit from Colonel R. M. Adams (A.A.G. A.G. 11), who answered the queries put to him by those effected in the reorganisation.

We have also been warned of the visit of the new Chief Air Formation Signal Officer, 2 T.A.F., Colonel D. E. Harrison, O.B.E., who comes to visit us on the 7th March. In March also we are being inspected by the Air Officer Commanding 83 Group, Air Vice-Marshal Hogan, C.B., D.F.C.

We are now entering a very busy period of various Exercises, which will keep all hard at it for months to come.

In regard to sport, the weather has severely curtailed our activities, but we have not given up trying. The Regimental Inter-Troop Soccer Competition is now in its last stages and the Inter-Troop Hockey Competition has begun.

At last the C.I.V. Inspection is over and we have been repaid for all our hard work by the grading acquired.

In February we all had an opportunity of seeing the Cologne Carnival Festival "Rosenmontag." This was a most enjoyable experience and those who watched the procession on Monday, the 17th, enjoyed it immensely. The procession took over two hours to pass and was one of the most colourful scenes that one could imagine. It was a holiday for the people of Cologne and from what we saw they took full advantage of it.

SHAPE SIGNAL SQUADRON

Much has been said in these notes on how to drive in France, where to go on leave and how to get there. The writer this month would like to say something about sport in the Squadron.

Due to the small number of men available to the Squadron, to select a team to compete in any particular sport is a major problem. One finds the star player either going on duty or just coming off duty. If he works in the Special Distribution Agency he is likely to be on a duty trip if not on leave. Despite these setbacks the Squadron has done remarkably well in all fields of sport except soccer during the past year. The Inter-Sub-Unit tennis tournament was won by the Squadron for the second year in succession, as was the table tennis. To raise a boxing team in any Unit is a problem, to train and get the team fit (in their own time) is a major operation, and then to go on and win the competition is almost an impossibility. The Squadron did this and in addition produced a cricket team, a soccer team, an athletic team, and forms the major part of the SHAPE International hockey team.

In the latter sport the Squadron can produce a full team, but unfortunately no other Sub-Unit can do the same, consequently hockey is organised on an International basis and the team plays in the Paris League. The usual team consists of one Dutch Colonel, one German Staff Sergeant, one Belgian Captain and eight British players, five of whom come from the Squadron. Though it is known as the Paris League, games are played as far away as Amiens, Rheims, usually on a Sunday,

against French teams. Quite a number of families accompany the team on their games and can combine visits to the local chateau or cathedral with watching the hockey. There are two other British hockey teams in the League, a combined Aircent/Landcent team from Fontainebleau and a team from the Standard Club, a British sports club for residents in and around Paris, which was visited by Her Majesty last year.

From the three British teams eleven players have been selected to play France in the early part of the year, two of the eleven coming from the Squadron. This should be a great game, both for spectators and players alike.

MELF

CYPRUS DISTRICT SIGNAL REGIMENT

First of all, congratulations to Lieutenant P. E. C. Davies on his well deserved Mentioned in Despatches.

All Ranks give heartiest congratulations to Lieutenant Morgan on his recent marriage and wish both he and his bride every happiness for the future.

We must commend Staff Sergeant (Foreman of Signals) Wright for his prompt action when he was on Security Duty in the Cyprus Broadcasting Station. The regular news reader became ill suddenly during the news; Staff Sergeant Wright, having given every assistance to the news reader, stepped in and continued the news to the end.

The D.R., who will remain anonymous, who obtained a signature for an Op Immediate package from the former Governor, Field-Marshal Lord Harding, is to be congratulated for persevering on getting a signature for this package, although it must be understood that the D.R. never realised the man in the dinner jacket, who was the only person he could find in Government House, was H.E., until he turned round and opened the French windows of his study, then it was too late.

The Regiment beat the Royal Berkshire Regiment 4-1 in the Nicosia Area Association football final and is now in the Island-wide semi-finals.

"H.Q." Squadron reached the semi-finals in the Royal Signals Island-wide Inter-Squadron Competition, where they were beaten by 1 Squadron, 2 Wireless Regiment, 4-2.

The Regiment reached the final of the 3 Brigade Rugby Football Cup, but were beaten by the Royal West Kent Regiment.

The Regiment also reached the quarter finals in the Island-wide seven-a-side competition, where it was beaten by the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry.

AFRICA

COMCAN SIGNAL TROOP, ACCRA

The end of February finds us surrounded by evidence of an impending Administrative Inspection; our Ghanaian labourers amble to and fro decorating offices, buildings and each other in a tasteful colour scheme of black, white and yellow. Everywhere one goes there is the atmosphere of spring-cleaning, the smell of fresh paint mingled with the dust of ages!

Since Christmas, we have had several additions to the Troop, namely, Lieutenant Ainsworth and Sergeants Bowman, Callaway and Anderson, who were soon absorbed into the machine and are now up to their ears in work. Sergeants Taylor and Munro left us for colder climes, as did Sergeant (Tackettyboots) McGilvray, who found the living too rich and was "Medevac." Last to leave us was Sergeant Spratt, now serving as a civilian in Little Bookham, Surrey. Good luck to all of them.

The Comcan Car Club has now become a reality and has so far held two quite successful outings. The first trip resulted in almost half the vehicles falling by the wayside—a sure sign that some organised maintenance was needed. This sort of thing is being slowly but surely eliminated, as evidenced by the second trip when only one car defaulted, on the return journey—that will teach the Foreman to check his radiator before a trip! We are thinking of naming our half-dug inspection pit "Fisher's Folly," after Sergeant Fisher, who thought the idea of a pit was a good one, until we discovered solid rock two feet down!

A new interpretation of the term "local leave" was coined by F. of S. Swaby, who, together with Sergeants Vickers and Mann, both of Ghana Signal Squadron, took ten days "local" leave to trek North to Timbuctoo by car. After covering 1,300 of the 1,500 miles between Accra and the back of beyond, they were forced to turn back by a local petrol shortage at Timbucktoo. After 2,600 miles of Africa's roads, they were glad to sit on something that didn't bounce. Better luck next time.

FARELF

13 SIGNAL PARK SQUADRON (FE)

The rainy season with its torrential downpours is once again with us and with it we get those early season thunderstorms. Needless to say this has not handicapped us in the sporting sphere. Football has not been at its strongest and we were unable to win the Mercury Challenge Cup which is played for annually between teams representing 13 Signal Park Squadron and 3 Sub Depot, 3 B.O.D.

With the hope of coming good weather we are turning our minds from Soccer and are thinking in terms of Cricket and Athletics.

Under the careful guidance of our O.C., Captain (Q.M.) B. Sellar (a steady old bat), who has both represented the "Corps" and also represented us in the 30 Battalion R.A.O.C. team, we hope soon to get down to some net practice. Anyway here's wishing ourselves good luck in the coming season.

In the Boxing field two of our boxers, Corporal Hopcroft and Signalman Manser represented 30 Battalion R.A.O.C. (to whom we are attached) in the Singapore District Unit Boxing Championships Semi-final v. R.A.S.C., and both won their fights. Corporal Hopcroft won on a K.O., and Signalman Manser won on points.

It is with great pride that we can record the successful part played by this Unit, in the result of the Annual Administrative Inspection of 30 Battalion R.A.O.C.

We have also attained "Excellent" reports on our "B" and "C" vehicle C.I.V. inspections.

Mrs. Ryder, wife of Staff Sergeant Ryder, is playing a great part in the welfare side of 3 B.O.D. and is now the Secretary of the Wives' Club.

We feel that although a minor Unit, we have a very important role here, and as our O.C. has said it is a "Quartermaster's Dream" (we ask forgiveness of AG II if we have boosted up this posting) to be able to be right inside the Ordnance and to realise the difficulties of both sides, and it is without doubt a great pleasure and honour to be in 3 B.O.D., where we can say we are "a happy lot of chaps."

We welcome R.Q.M.S. Hesketh and family from the U.K., who has gone to take over our Hong Kong detachment, also the families of Sergeant Law and Corporal Hopcroft who have recently arrived to join our happy little community here.

We recently said farewell to Sergeant McDonough and family, Signalmen Brook and Gun and wish them every success.



Mrs. E. V. Ransome presents Medals to the Football Team of 13 Signal Park Squadron.

T.A.

43 (Wx) INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT (T.A.)

It is some time since this unit was "on the map" for which lapse we apologise. We hope from now on to contribute regularly. When last we wrote it was in the days of part-time training for N.S. men. Now after a low period, the spirit of the all volunteer force is returning and recruiting is going ahead. We hope to achieve 50 per cent of establishment by the end of the year. The Commanding Officer has challenged each volunteer to bring in a recruit to reach this target, and an Inter-T.A. Centre competition is in progress. One of the encouraging aspects is the number of youngsters who are now joining. To help in our task of achieving a "working number" we have spread our net more widely and now have a total of eight T.A. Centres stretching from Poole in Dorset up to Bristol and down to Plymouth in Devon. We must be about the most widely spread divisional Signals in the T.A., which sets a very pretty administrative problem. We say welcome to the newcomers— "L" Troop in Plymouth and a Detachment of "J" Troop at Poole.

"J" Troop itself at Salisbury joined us en bloc eighteen months ago from an independant status as an engineer group signal troop. The loss of independent status does not seem to have affected them adversely as they are a very flourishing troop. They have recently lost their O.C. on his promotion to command 2 Squadron. Congratulations to Major Stock and to Capt. Walke who steps into his shoes after some years as 2 i/c. "L" Troop in Plymouth was formed largely from transfers from disbanded units, including R. Aux. A.F., by Captain Brunyee who also recently joined us and has built the troop up as a rival to "J" Troop in strength. The Poole detachment came over also from the disbandment of another unit.

Training last year was very largely in the form of exercises with the various divisional formations and units. This year our big effort is in the field of trade and sub-unit training. We go to camp by ourselves in September near Weymouth, and will not be distracted by outside commitments. This year of "domestic" training is vital because of the influx of volunteers with no previous training.

Christmas brought its usual round of successful children's parties and balls at most T.A. Centres. Considerable interest has been stimulated in shooting by an inter-T.A. Centre Small Bore League which has been won by 2 Squadron, with "H.Q." as a close second. Having come more or less up-to-date we hope to be less verbose and more precise in future notes.

54 (EA) INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT (T.A.)

"J" Troop. Time was when this sub-unit was independent—we were formed in 1949 as an Independent Brigade Signal Squadron. In those days R.H.Q. at Bedford knew little or nothing of our failings, but now we are no longer on our own private limb and we have been renamed "J" Troop of 54 (EA) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment (T.A.). Our role has not been changed much but we must now account to higher authority and this entails a certain amount of time spent in formulating evasive replies to queries which may be too direct to admit of a completely truthful answer. To complicate matters further (we say no more) our one-time O.C., who founded the Squadron, Major G. S. H. Dicker, M.B.E., as he then was, has now been promoted to command the Regiment—to have a friend at Court may be all very well but to have one who knows intimate details of all items of surplus equipment which may have been salted away over the years comes a bit hard.

Of our founder members we still retain a few who attended the first camp at Colchester in the summer of 1949. Promoted now, they form the backbone of the Troop—there is Sergeant Anderson, who also appears during the day as our vehicle mechanic, Sergeant Spurgeon our one and only link with the G.P.O., Sergeant Allen and Corporals Mitchell and Ward to name only a few. We are also still fortunate in retaining the services of Mr. Pearce, our Squadron Clerk, who looks after the office and who attended to all the administrative needs of the multitude of National Servicemen who served with the Unit for a season and then departed.

This year we go to camp in July which is surely a mistake on the part of the planners. Normally camp dates are fixed far in advance but, generally with an eye to the weather, so that the T.A. man can reasonably expect to encounter the worst weather under the most unfavourable conditions—this builds up resilience as well as bloody-mindedness and enables the average T.A. Volunteer to sign on year after year secure in the knowledge that for 50 weeks of the year he can live in super comfort and luxury compared with the remaining two. A camp unmarked by an issue of Rum or Canadian-type rubber boots is no real camp; a tented camp which does not blow down will need a considerable amount of livening up if a good time is be had by anyone at all. For our Troop, Windmill Hill with continuous rain, and with one the Battalions in the throes of an epidemic which reached the front page of the *Daily Mirror*, had its moments and for the writer Dibgate Camp, Folkestone, was slightly above average with the tent attached securely to the Brigadier's Rover on one side and to somebody's tank on the other.

With the ending of compulsory service promised for 1960 we are gradually swelling our numbers and as every T.A. Unit will probably echo ruefully "Not before time." It is a slow process but our intake is now overtaking the annual wastage and we hope that more of our former members who did their National Service with us will come back. As we go to press we welcome Driver Preston who has already weathered two camps with us in his N.S. capacity, and who has now decided after a lapse of two years to become a volunteer. We also welcome Driver Hatt who has now rejoined us, and Signalmen Plummer and De Lacey who are trying Signals for the first time, although the latter served in the Army but in another service during the war.

Social functions play an important part in the life of a T.A. Unit and the troop have had two highly successful social evenings in the last two months. We have entertained 2 Squadron from Ipswich and also those familiarly known as "The Brentwood Crowd." We also invited ex-members of the unit and persuaded Driver Howes to come back after a two-year absence, bringing with him Signalman Platten.

Things appear to be looking up and we are aiming at more and yet more volunteers so that next time the Training Major requires this unit to write THE WIRE *notes* we hope merely to catalogue the newcomers rather like the newspaper reports of the Premium Bond Draw Results.

(Perhaps you will manage them in time, too!!—Training Major).

No. 2 NORTHERN COMMAND (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT (T.A.) and No. 2 INDEPENDENT U.K.L.F. RESERVE SIGNAL SQUADRON (T.A.)

It is difficult to know what to start with for our notes this quarter, as so much seems to have been happening. One might be forgiven for thinking that December, January and February would almost be the "close season" but, as far as we are concerned, the reverse has been the case. We have been as busy, if not busier, as at any other time of the year.

December saw the whole of both Units assembled in Sheffield for a week-end of Civil Defence training, which was admirably run by Major Farnol and the local Civil Defence Rescue Section. A Regimental All Ranks' Dance was also held on the Saturday night, which was voted a great success by all who attended. Children's Christmas parties were held in Sheffield and Beeston, and the teas were very well organised by the W.R.A.C. and our caretakers.

In January and February we took part in two more of the C.S.O.'s series of Exercises, when we manned the Signal Centres at Harrogate and Nottingham, and provided Radio Relay Communications between York and District H.Q.s.

Recruiting is at last showing a definite upward trend, particularly in Sheffield, and as a result of a recruiting campaign held at the Odeon Cinema in Sheffield for a week and local Press advertisements we have had seven recruits in a fortnight and more to come we hope.

Now that spring is in the air the D.R.s, under Captain Russell in Sheffield, and Sergeant Stockdale in Nottingham, are "raring to go," and have started training for the Command Motor Cycle Trials.

The social side has not been neglected and in addition to our normal events a very successful social evening was held by 1 and 2 Squadrons at Beeston.

Finally, congratulations are due to Captain R. Holmes, Royal Signals, T.A., and Major K. Bridgewater, Captains D. L. Henfrey, E. M. Manners, W.R.A.C., T.A., and W.O.II Greaves and Sergeants Tricklebank and Clarke, on their respective promotions.



☆

Staff Sergeant J. Kirby gives some instruction to a party which includes his two sons, Corporals R. Kirby and G. Kirby

☆

By kind permission of the "Croydon Advertiser"

No. 1 INDEPENDENT U.K.L.F. RESERVE SIGNAL SQUADRON (T.A.)

Staff Sergeant Kirby has nearly thirty years' service in the Territorial Army and holds the British Empire Service Medal.

Before joining Royal Signals, Staff Sergeant Kirby served in the Queen's Royal Regiment (West Surrey), the Middlesex Regiment (Duke of Cambridge's Own) and the Grenadier Guards. He has three clasps to the Territorial Efficiency Medal.

His two sons have served only in Royal Signals and, as their medal ribbons show, both served during the 1939-45 War.

Also in the picture is Signalman G. Eveleigh, who is the youngest member of the Squadron.

1/20 (S.M.) ARMY SIGNAL REGIMENT (T.A.)

After the excitement of the Christmas festivities the senior Officers of the Regiment directed their attention to C.S.O. Western Command's winter Exercise, "Penny Packet," held at Saighton Camp, Chester, on 25th/26th January, 1958. The Exercise proved of great interest and the week-end was much enjoyed.

Recruiting is still very much our prime consideration and throughout the winter steady progress has been made. With the advent of spring (a little delayed in the Midlands!) we are endeavouring to turn the young man's fancy to thoughts of the open-air life of the Territorial Army in general, and Royal Signals in particular.

1958 promises to be a full and exciting year—our annual camp is being held in Sherwood Forest and we are busy planning a Radio Relay Exercise, which will take detachments much further afield.

The Regiment will be represented by a detachment at the Territorial Army Golden Jubilee Review to be held in Hyde Park on 22nd June. In company with other Warwickshire Units we shall also be before the public eye with parades through the cities of Birmingham and Coventry, followed by an "At Home" at the Drill Hall.

Our annual Regimental Dinner was held at Hall Green in February. We were honoured by the presence of the Signal Officer-in-Chief, also General Vulliamy and General Nalder, and our C.S.O., Brigadier Hepper. We were also, as always, pleased to see Colonel J. W. Danielson, who commanded the Regiment from 1920-1925 and is our oldest surviving Commanding Officer. The evening was a great success.

The Regiment is now the poorer by the retirement of Captain Norman Barlow, who reluctantly has had to apply to transfer to T.A.R.O. Captain Barlow commanded our Coventry Squadron since 1954 and under his leadership great progress has been made. During this period the Squadron moved to the new T.A.C. at Keresley, Coventry, which was opened by the Lord Lieutenant of Warwickshire in February, 1957. Captain Barlow's contribution to the rebuilding of the volunteer Regiment has been outstanding and his personal example of hard work and loyalty will be greatly missed.

An enjoyable visit was recently made by a party from the Regiment to the B.B.C. at Daventry. O.C., 3 Squadron, is not disheartened—after all, we did expect to see something a little more elaborate than our Radio Training Room.

We welcome Sergeants Dolan and Bateman, who have joined us as P.S.I.s. We feel sure their tour of duty with the T.A. will be a happy one.



[By courtesy of the Birmingham Post and Mail

Left to right : Colonel F. E. B. Jones, O.B.E., T.D., J.P. (Honorary Colonel). Major-General R. F. H. Nalder, C.B., O.B.E., B.Sc., Representative Colonel Commandant. Colonel F. E. Allday, O.B.E., T.D., D.L. (Chairman, Warwickshire T. & A. F. Association). Lieutenant Colonel P. R. Hoskins, T.D., Commanding Officer 1/20 (S.M.) Army Signal Regiment (T.A.). Major-General R. J. Moberly, C.B., O.B.E., S.O. in C. Brigadier M. G. A. Hepper, C.B.E., C.S.O., Western Command.

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No. 1 SPECIAL COMMUNICATION REGIMENT, ROYAL SIGNALS (T.A.) and No. 1 SPECIAL COMMUNICATION SQUADRON, W.R.A.C. (T.A.)

During February the Regiment and the W.R.A.C. Squadron held an exhibition in the Drill Hall. This, our third exhibition, depicted the Regiment at Summer Camp, 1958, and bays were constructed to show H.Q. at Crowborough and out-stations at Brecon, Brighton, Newhaven and Eastbourne.

Each bay was colourfully displayed by posters kindly supplied by the towns and British Railways and each showed a different aspect of Army life.

W/T and teleprinter links were operating between H.Q. and the out-stations, which were connected over an overhead line route.

Our amateur radio station was temporarily transferred to the Drill Hall and members of the Amateur Radio Club worked various countries each evening.

We are indebted to the Museum at Catterick for the loan of vintage wireless sets—this display evoked keen interest from the many "Hams" who visited the exhibition.

Originally scheduled for the five days 24th-28th February, inclement weather affected attendance on the first few days so it was decided to extend into another week and we finally closed to the public on Friday evening, 7th March. Successful social evenings were held each Thursday during the period of the exhibition.

Distinguished visitors included: Major-General W. A. Scott, C.B., C.B.E., Major-General J. N. R. Moore, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., and his Staff, Colonel J. H. E. Panton, O.B.E., Brigadier B. B. Rackham, C.B.E., M.C., D.L., Brigadier A. D. McKechnie, D.S.O., O.B.E., T.D., A.D.C., Lieutenant-Colonel B. R. M. Hayles, Lieutenant-Colonel E. M. Sykes, W.R.A.C., Group Captain R. G. Harman and Mr. John Clarricoats, O.B.E., Secretary of the Radio Society of Great Britain.

Without doubt this was our most successful exhibition, attracting several hundred visitors, many of whom were ex-Servicemen who may be induced to join our ranks.

To date eight recruits have been attested as a direct result of the exhibition and it is hoped more will follow.

We now look forward to the "real" thing—23rd August to 6th September—hoping for increased numbers to "*Work and Play the T.A. Way.*"



Lieutenant Colonel E. W. Milner, T.D., with Mr. John Clarricoats, O.B.E., Secretary of the Radio Society of Great Britain at one of the stands.

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Association Notes

London Branch

Colonel T. W. Vigers, O.B.E., M.C., T.D., D.L., presided over the Annual General Meeting, held at the Brompton Road T.A. Centre, by kind permission of Eastern Command Signal Regiment, T.A.

The Chairman, Mr. A. W. Smith, reported on the work of the Branch during the year.

"I have much pleasure in presenting my 8th Annual Report since I have been Chairman. During the past year the membership of the Branch has increased and new members have been enrolled from this Unit. Every effort has been made by the Committee to attract members to the monthly meetings, but on some occasions this has not been very successful.

It is gratifying, however, that our Dance held in October and the monthly dances held by the Unit, were well attended and I think has helped both the Unit and the Branch, inasmuch as they have advertised the T.A. and brought members in a closer association with the Branch. I should like to take the opportunity of thanking the Committee and all those who have worked so hard to make our own Dance such a success.

During the year an attractive programme of social events were arranged. Very well attended visits were made to Guinness Brewery, International Telephone Exchange and the Headquarters of the Cable and Wireless Division of the General Post Office. As an expression of the General Post Office's action in giving permission for the visits, collections have been made from the members attending and donated to the Post Office Sanatorium Fund. I might add that there is a visit to the Sorting Offices and Post Office Railway at King Edward Building arranged for next Wednesday, and Miss Archer has a "full house." Another party could be arranged if anyone is interested, and would like to give their names to her.

Our income for the past year has been mainly from subscriptions: there was a small profit from the dance held last October, and the total standing in the bank to our credit at the last audit was £49/3/9. A copy of the balance sheet is here for inspection.

Presentation of Trophy to the Junior Leaders Regiment

Those of you who were present at the last A.G.M. will recall Brigadier Firth's challenge to the Branch to provide a trophy to the Junior Leaders Regiment. Thanks to the generous response to the appeal for contributions, together with part of the profit of the Dance, the Branch was able to purchase a Silver Cup and Colonel Vigers and myself journeyed to Newton Abbot for the presentation. It was a beautiful Cup and was much appreciated and admired by all members of the Junior Leaders Regiment. There are photographs of the presentation here for you to see tonight.

I hope, Ladies and Gentlemen, that you will feel it has been a successful year, and that 1958 will be as good—in spite of the increased subscriptions and possible loss of membership."

Brigadier H. R. Firth, the General Secretary, also spoke about the good work and reputation of the branch and of some of the re-organisation now taking place in Royal Signals.

About 50 members were present and were loud in applauding a vote of thanks to Miss M. Archer for the admirable way in which she had performed the work of Honorary Secretary. As one speaker said, "If it was not for Miss Archer, there would be no branch." The Officers and Committee were re-elected.

Shrewsbury Branch

A Branch of the Royal Signals Association has now been formed in the town of Shrewsbury, to cover the whole of the County of Shropshire.

The inaugural meeting was held on the 24th January, 1958, at the Old Crow, Frankwell, Shrewsbury. A shadow committee was formed, consisting of the following members:

President, Major W. Manners (Rtd.); Chairman, Major T. L. Harries (Rtd.); Hon. Secretary, Sergeant J. J. Goggin, Royal Signals; Treasurer, Mr. R. Graham.

The first official meeting was held on Friday, 21st February, 1958, in the same room. We were very pleased to welcome the General Secretary at this meeting, who explained more fully the functions of this Association.

The Shrewsbury Branch would be glad to hear from any serving or ex-serving members of the Royal Signals living in Shropshire. For details of meetings please contact: Sergeant J. J. Goggin, Royal Signals, Army Information Office, Shrewsbury. Telephone No. Shrewsbury 6183.

Loughborough Branch

The weather man played us a rather scurvy trick last month. All was arranged for a party from here to make social contact with the Derby Branch at their Dance, but a heavy snowfall on the day made the 17-mile road trip out of the question. However, contact will be established shortly, when we go over to another Derby promotion, this time a social evening.

The monthly dances here have not been too well patronised lately, and for a change we are putting on a Party Night on April Fool's Day. It will also provide opportunity to stage a welcome home to many members just returning from Cyprus.

Work proceeds apace on preparations for the staging of the Midland Area Reunion on 24/25th May; one hopes for support on a scale equal to the effort being made.

Any reader of the 2321 era remember F. G. (Frank) Allan? Frank, subject of this month's Spotlight, is a well-known figure in the Branch. He joined the Corps in January, 1931, and after Catterick training served with Sergeant Napier in "D" Section, 1st Divisional Signals until drafted to India in 1953. He served the period 1933-1938 on the frontier at Wana with Waziristan District Signals, coming home late the same year for release. Recalled in September, 1939, on the outbreak of war, Frank spent a few months at Harrogate before joining 1 Special Wireless as Section Sergeant at Harpenden, where he has vivid recollections of Lieutenant-Colonel Barton. He served with this unit throughout the 1st Army campaigns in North Africa and Italy until demob. in 1945. Frank has been with the War Office in a civilian capacity since 1948, and is a devotee of Catterick Reunions. During his service, Frank was a keen hockey player, representing the District in 1935.

Welfare Section

Below an attempt is made to describe, with suitable anonymity, nine cases taken from the Welfare Section files concluded during the first week in March, 1958. Also on this page is a simple statement of income and expenditure.

Signalman, 1939-46. Married, three children, one of whom is in hospital far from his home. The parents continue to receive help towards the considerable expense of visiting him.

Lance-Corporal, 1942-47. Married, three children. An accident at work in November reduced the family income by two-thirds and the fund provided some coal.

Signalman, 1952/54 National Service, 1954/57 T.A. Married. Rheumatic fever reduced his income to one-quarter of what it was, and the Association and others helped to save him from eviction.

Corporal, 1941-51. Married, four children. A fifth child died recently and he last worked in December. His income after paying rent is now only £1 a week for each of the family; before illness it was over £4 a week each. The fund helped a little and so did the King's Own Scottish Borderers, with which Regiment he had previous service.

Widow of Warrant Officer. He died four months ago, leaving four children. Before his death he had started and paid part for some repairs to their house. The fund helped to pay the balance.

Signalman, 1939-44. His wife died in January, leaving him with four children and many debts. Royal Signals and R.E.M.E. Associations continued to help him. He was transferred to R.E.M.E. in 1944.

Driver, 1949-54. Married, four children, he has been ill in hospital since November. The Association paid an overdue account for electricity and aided his wife to visit him in hospital.

Signalman, 1957, still serving. Suffered a severe accident, on duty, and the Association helped his parents to the considerable cost of being near him in hospital until he was out of danger.

Driver, 1945-47. Married, two children. His wife in hospital and he has to stay off work to mind the children. The fund helped a little.

As an example of the work of Branches of the Association, No. 15 (Unit) Branch of the Association has, from its own resources, paid the not inconsiderable cost of the fare of the widow of a Warrant Officer to her home.

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION AND BENEVOLENT FUND

The following subscriptions were most gratefully received during February, 1958:

	£	s.	d.
Royal Signals Wing, School of Signals	14	0	0
Royal Signals Wing, School of Signals (Warrant Officers and Sergeants)	3	5	0
3 Training Regiment	13	11	0
52 (L) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment		11	0
1 Squadron, King's African Rifles	3	2	0
C.S.O.'s Branch, H.Q., B.A.O.R.	3	13	0
18 Army Group Signal Regiment	25	3	9
4 Air Formation Signal Regiment	7	10	6
51 Independent Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron	2	6	0
Total receipts	£73	2	3

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION WELFARE SECTION

The following donations were most gratefully received during February, 1958:

	£	s.	d.
49 (WR) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A.	1	1	0
W. T. James, Esq.		5	0
Total receipts	£1	6	0
EXPENDITURE DURING FEBRUARY, 1958 (Includes: Rent and Rates; Beds and Bedding; Furniture; Cots and Prams; General Assistance).	£772	9	1

Analysis of Cases:

Families of Soldiers serving in U.K.	2
" " " " " Malta	1
Widows and Dependants	8
Released and Discharged Soldiers	47
Total cases assisted	58

36 cases of Soldiers who served during the 1949-45 War	£603	19	1
22 cases of Soldiers who did not serve during the War	£168	10	0

Lighter Fuel Packs

The following amounts were most gratefully received during February, 1958:

	£	s.	d.
Box No. 36 ... Croydon Branch, Royal Signals Association		6	0
37 ... Croydon Branch, Royal Signals Association		7	0
80 ... 4 (Independent) Signal Squadron	1	0	0
Total receipts	£1	13	0

CLOTHING

There is a continued demand for clothing, particularly suits, shirts, collars. That a suit is well worn is no demerit.

Articles attacked by moth should, please, not be sent.

Copy of letter to The Secretary, The Royal Signal Association, Croydon and District Branch, from Major A. C. Beach, "C" Company, 6th Battalion, The Queen's Royal Regiment, T.A.

It was pleasing news to learn from you that the membership of your Branch of The Royal Signals Association is in such a healthy position. This is a creditable effort considering that your Branch only came into being less than five years ago.

Having ensured the numerical success of your Branch, at least for the time being, it must obviously be your collective intention to maintain this position and to let no opportunity slip whereby to increase this membership. It is with these thoughts in mind that I ask your members not to be too complacent of the future of your Branch, for in the long run your new blood of tomorrow can only come from those young men who are now privileged to wear the Queen's uniform and the badge of The Royal Corps of Signals, or by those who are prepared to give their time, energy and skill in service as a Territorial.

Unfortunately, the regular element of our Army is a shrinking force, but the same is far from true with the Territorial element. In fact, by the very same reason that the Regular Army is contracting—by the slow down in call-up of the National Service Man—so the Territorial Army is receiving a new lease of life. The true Volunteer is once again emerging and the young men which we have been trying to attract are coming forward.

The best recruiting ambassadors for the Territorial Army are the Terriers themselves and the Old Comrades, to whom this letter is addressed. I would not deem to expound to them the importance of the Territorial in the service of this country, or what the Territorial Army has to offer, for most of them are old "Volunteers." But I would ask that they take advantage of every opportunity to encourage the younger members of their family, and acquaintances, to go along to their nearest Drill Hall and find out more about us.

Croydon unfortunately has no Signal Unit, the nearest being at Hackbridge. But a good signaller is a heaven sent gift in any unit and he should experience no difficulty in finding a "home." I will gladly advise any potential recruit as to his most suitable unit.

SAILING

Royal Signals Yacht Club arrangements for 1958 are as follows:

In Middle East

Cito is being commissioned again. This year she is to have a new suit of sails. The three Fireflies will again be available. Any questions on sailing in Middle East will be answered by: **Major E. McK. Erskine, G.H.Q., M.E.L.F.**

In B.A.O.R.

It is proposed to hold two passage races on the Baltic this year. The Royal Signals dinghy regatta of 1957 will be repeated as well as the annual triangular team racing with R.E.Y.C. and R.A.Y.C. In the latter, in view of last year's performance, Royal Signals can hope for big things. Sailing in B.A.O.R. is being organised by: **Colonel M. A. Charlton, O.B.E., D.C.S.O., H.Q., NORTHAG.**

In U.K.

Petasus will be available for charter after Easter. She is already heavily booked. Members wishing to sail in her should contact the Secretary: *Major L. D. Line, Royal Signals Yacht Club, 88, Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1.*

Charter fees for 1958 are:—

April, May, June and September	£2/10/0 per day on Saturday and Sunday. £1/10/0 per day on weekdays.
July and August	£3/0/0 per day on Saturday and Sunday. £2/5/0 per day on weekdays.

Minimum crews for 1958 have been reduced to:

Inside the Wight

One qualified hand (P), one qualified hand and two others.

Elsewhere

One mate, one qualified hand and two others.

The suffix (P) is a new additional rating. All qualified hands with experience in *Petasus* are invited to apply for it to the Central Committee. They should give details of their experience and address their applications to the Secretary.

Two training weeks in *Petasus* for young Officers are being arranged; one in April and the other in September. The object of these training weeks is to enable young Officers to obtain seamanship ratings. Ratings will be awarded to successful candidates at the conclusion of each week.

The racing programme for *Petasus* is:

Southsea/Harwich	6–11 May approx.
Harwich/Hook of Holland	19–29 May approx.
Southsea/Varne/Cherbourg	2–10 June approx.
Round the Island	12–13 July
Cowes/Dinard	13–18 July approx.

A Royal Signals entry will be made in the Association of Service Yacht Clubs' race for the Gold Cup, to be sailed in Mermaids at Seaview, Isle of Wight, on 5th July.

There are a number of crew vacancies for each of these races and members are urged to write to Major Line if they would like to be included. All serving Officers of the Corps paying a consolidated subscription to Corps Funds are automatically members of the Yacht Club.

The six Firefly dinghies in U.K. have been allocated on seasonal charter to individuals or syndicates. Queries about dinghy sailing in U.K. should be addressed to: **Captain R. H. Gilbertson, H.Q. Mess, Royal Signals, Catterick Camp, Yorks.**

Dinghy team races against R.E.Y.C. and R.A.Y.C. are being arranged.

ROYAL SIGNALS HOCKEY

Corps matches were played on the 14th, 15th and 16th February, 1958, against: R.A.O.C. at Blackdown; R.A. at Woolwich; Aldershot Services at Aldershot.

The Corps team for these matches was unfortunately not at full strength. Four reserve players took the place of first choice players who were prevented from playing either through injury or by being on duty from which they could not be spared.

We won the game against R.A.O.C. by 2 goals to 1, and this result was a true reflection of the way the game ran. It was an enjoyable game and we deserved to win.

The game played at Woolwich was our first ever against the Gunners. They won by two to nil and thoroughly deserved to do so. They played fast, open hockey and their passing was most accurate and, although the Gunners' goalkeeper had quite as much to do as ours, their good finishing produced goals, while in comparison our finishing was poor.

Aldershot Services turned out a very strong side against us, it included the three Army inside forwards, together with four other Army players. They beat us by five to one. We looked the better side for the first quarter of the game but from then onwards the superior ability of the Services' team as a whole showed to advantage. It was a fast and enjoyable game and possibly the score was a little flattering to the Services' side.

Second-Lieutenant J. Cook has played for the Army on four occasions during the season. Captain P. C. Tripp has played for Essex "A." Corps "Jimmies" have been awarded to the following players:

Major P. S. Westmacott	Royal Signals Wing.
Captain S. C. Finch	Royal Signals Wing.
Captain M. A. T. Hartnett	2nd Training Regiment.
Captain K. Kirby	Royal Signals Wing.
Captain E. L. Rogers	Army Apprentices' School.
Captain P. C. Tripp	3rd Divisional Signals.
Captain A. J. Welch	90 Signal Regiment.
Lieutenant R. S. Etherington	3rd Divisional Signals.
Second-Lieutenant J. Cook	Royal Signals Wing.
Sergeant S. B. C. Peberdy	Officer Training Wing.
Lance-Corporal C. C. Peters	1st Training Regiment.

SPORTS RESULTS

Royal Signals Squash Racket Challenge Cup, 1958

Major J. St. C. W. Robinson, Royal Signals, retained the Squash Rackets Challenge Cup by beating Officer Cadet Renshaw in the final 9-5, 5-9, 7-9, 9-3, 9-3.

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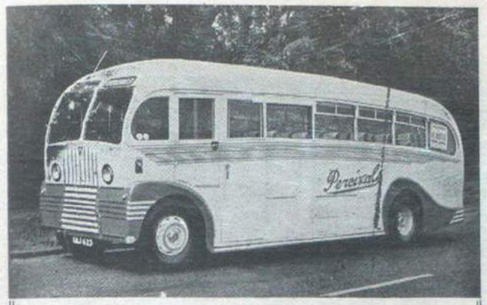
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THE WIRE

THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE

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.*

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MAY • 1958

Vol. 12 *(New Series)* **No. 5**

Editorial

UNVEILING OF A PORTRAIT OF H.R.H. THE PRINCESS ROYAL, COLONEL-IN-CHIEF

IT was with great disappointment that at about mid-day on Sunday, 13th April, it was learned from Harewood House that the Colonel-in-Chief, H.R.H. The Princess Royal, had caught a chill whilst fulfilling a public engagement during the previous week and as a result was confined to her bed and would be unable to dine at the Headquarters Mess on the following evening, when she had also consented to unveil her portrait painted by Sir Gerald Kelly, which was hung last year in the Royal Academy.

By the time this sad news was received, it was too late to cancel or postpone the dinner party. Guests from the South were already on their way and could not be stopped.

The Representative Colonel Commandant, Major-General R. F. H. Nalder, C.B., O.B.E., therefore decided that the party must go on as planned. It was also agreed that Mrs. Heymann who lives nearby and who is the widow of Brigadier F. A. Heymann, Commander Signal Training Centre 1934-1940, should be invited to unveil the portrait of the Princess Royal. H.R.H. graciously agreed to this proposal and that Mrs. Heymann should deputise for her. Accordingly, at 7.30 p.m. on Monday, 14th April, the guests, officers and their wives started to arrive at the Headquarters Mess.

At 8 o'clock, the Officers' Mess Call was blown by fanfare trumpeters of the Corps and the assembled company, a hundred strong, were led into dinner by General Nalder with Mrs. Heymann on his arm. The dining room was a splendid sight with the two long polished tables glittering with silver and illuminated entirely by candlelight from silver candelabra down the centre of each table. H.R.H.'s portrait, veiled with two Corps flags, was behind Mrs. Heymann who was seated at the centre of the right hand table.

Most of the officers were in Scarlet Mess Kit and this, together with the orders and decorations of those in evening dress, and the jewellery and evening dresses of the ladies, combined to make a very colourful and glittering display.

After the Loyal Toast had been drunk, General Nalder rose to his feet to say a few words. During the course of his short speech he read out a telegram which had been sent to the Princess Royal and a telegram in reply stating how sorry and disappointed H.R.H. was that she was unable to be present.

General Nalder then asked Mrs. Heymann to unveil the portrait. As she pulled the string, the Corps flags parted and at the same time the Fanfare Trumpeters played the Colonel-in-Chief's fanfare. The President then proposed H.R.H.'s health.

After dinner there was dancing in the large ante room until 1 a.m., to which others who did not come to the dinner were invited.

The Corps Guests were:
Mrs. Heymann.
Major-General and Mrs. Hulton-Harrop (District Commander).
Brigadier Sir George and Lady Walton (Territorial Army).
Colonel and Mrs. G. Shrimpton (A.E.R.).
Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. Burlton (Mess Secretary).
Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. Athan (U.S.A.).
Major Mohd. Saleh (Pakistan).
Lieutenant Mohd. Fayyaz Ghani (Pakistan).
Lieutenant J. H. Bird (Australia).
Major and Mrs. G. Garnett (Canada).
Captain P. Ruston (W.R.A.C.).
Captain Ohn Gaing (Burma).
Lieutenant We Lin (Burma).

In addition to Major-General and Mrs. Nalder, the following past and present members of the Corps Committee attended:—
Major-General Sir Ronald and Lady Penney.
Major-General and Mrs. W. A. Scott.
Major-General and Mrs. C. H. H. Vulliamy.
Major-General and Mrs. R. J. Moberly.
Major-General and Mrs. C. M. F. White.
Brigadier and Mrs. R. G. Yolland.
Brigadier and Mrs. E. D. Good.

* * *

Coloured reproductions of the portrait of Her Royal Highness have been made and are obtainable from the Royal Signals Institution as set out on page 129.

(The Editorial is continued on page 128).



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
COLONEL-IN-CHIEF, ROYAL CORPS OF SIGNALS

Editorial Continued

This number contains several accounts of a tour by Major-General R. J. Moberly, C.B., O.B.E., the Signal Officer-in-Chief, which included visits to Cyprus, Kenya and the Aden Protectorate. On page 151 is mentioned a spirited little action near Dhala on the Western Edge of the Protectorate where a typical detachment of one Corporal and three Signalmen of Royal Signals come under surprisingly heavy fire and indeed were at some difficulty to keep their equipment in working order. That they succeeded is in the tradition of 1942-45 (see page 152).

General Moberly did not mention this particular incident when speaking to the Representatives of Branches of the Association on 29th March, 1958 (page 157). He did, however, make it very clear that in very many out of the way places in the world there are these small parties of Royal Signals; sometimes an Officer and twenty, sometimes a Corporal and two or three; but always exactly in the tradition of Royal Signals, which those of us who are older, regarded as normal. In the way of the elderly we find it remarkable that the young Signalman of today can do it just as admirably.

☆

PERSONAL COLUMN

London Gazette

18th March, 1958

Captain (Q.M.) A. L. Phillips, M.M., relinquishes his commission on completion of service, 17th March, 1958.

W.O.I F. W. Natoli to be Lieutenant (Traffic Officer), 10th February, 1958.

25th March, 1958

Major F. E. Boon relinquishes his commission on completion of service, 23rd March, 1958, and is granted the honorary rank of Major.

1st April, 1958

Major R. A. H. Chapman, M.B.E., relinquishes his commission on completion of service, 30th March, 1958, and is granted the honorary rank of Major.

Captain (Q.M.) J. G. Bowie to be Major (Q.M.), 30th March, 1958.

8th April, 1958

Major H. C. Daniel retires on retired pay, 8th April, 1958.

Captain (Q.M.) F. W. Cox relinquishes his commission on completion of service, 5th April, 1958.

15th April, 1958

Brigadier E. S. Cole, C.B.E., is appointed Director of Telecommunications, The War Office, and is granted the temporary rank of Major-General, 15th April, 1958.

Captain D. H. Baynham, G.M., B.SC., to be Major, 13th April, 1958.

Movements — Officers

Major L. H. Dutton, Medium Wireless Troop to Signal Regiment, U.K.

Lieutenant-Colonel D. N. Deakin, Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A., to retirement.

Major D. B. Emley, B.A.O.R. to Depot (HS).

Lieutenant-Colonel W. Hammond, U.K. Comcan Signal Regiment to retirement.

Major E. R. Hardy, Norway to Depot (HS).

Lieutenant-Colonel T. G. V. Stephenson, Depot (HS) to Northern Ireland District.

Major K. L. Uttley, School of Signals to Malaya.

Lieutenant-Colonel A. V. Benton, J.I.B. to retirement.

Lieutenant-Colonel A. N. Griffiths, FARELF to School of Infantry.

Lieutenant-Colonel F. J. Swainson, School of Infantry to Depot (HS).

Captain (Traffic Officer) W. J. Thomas, FARELF to B.A.O.R.

Major C. W. Ainsworth, Depot (HS) to Signal Regiment, U.K.

Major P. S. Banbury, School of Signals to 2 Training Regiment.

Lieutenant-Colonel E. B. Elliott, H.Q., N.I.D. to retirement.

Major K. M. Evans, B.A.O.R. to FARELF.

Major T. S. Foster, B.A.O.R. to Depot (HS).

Lieutenant-Colonel F. A. Young, 2 Training Regiment to retirement.

Major R. Carlyon, Depot (HS) to 4 Training Regiment.

Lieutenant-Colonel A. C. Galbraith, M.B.E., L.F. to retirement.

Births

GREENAWAY.—To Signalman and Mrs. E. Greenaway, a daughter, Hazel Irene, at Old Windsor Maternity Hospital, on 1st March, 1958.

Marriages

ADAMS—WHITAKER.—Lieutenant M. G. Adams to Miss Anne Whitaker on 15th March, 1958, at All Saints Church, Dorchester.

WOLLASTON—COLEMAN.—On 8th March, 1958, at St. John the Baptist Church, Chester, Trooper John Wollaston, 8th R.T.R., only son of Major F. J. C. Wollaston, Royal Signals, and Mrs. Wollaston, of The Dale, Chester, to Pamela Jean, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. Coleman, of 9, Princess Avenue, Chester.

Deaths

PERRY.—Ex-Signalman G. T. Perry, of Oxford House, Garland Road, East Grinstead, Sussex, on 25th January, 1958, aged 56. Served in Royal Signals from 1924 to 1954.

AVERS.—22569647 Signalman F. G. Avers, on 18th March, 1958, in M.E.L.F.

FINDLAY.—22347717 Driver J. Findlay, on 19th March, 1958, in B.A.O.R.

BRANN.—Captain W. H. Brann (Retired), at 50, Highdown Hill Road, Emmer Green, Reading, on 10th March, 1958, aged 76 years.

PETTIFER.—Ex-W.O.II R. J. Pettifer, of 1, Kilgour Avenue, Aberdeen, on 15th March, 1958. Life Member of the Association.

RAYMENT.—Captain D. V. Rayment, on 4th January, 1958, in Newcastle General Hospital.

Arrivals and Departures

1 Training Regiment

Arrivals : Sergeant D. Todd.
Departures : Sergeants R. J. Davies and I. McLoughlin.

Officer Training Wing, School of Signals

Arrivals : Captain E. J. Hellier, Sergeants Riall, Worsdale and Hall.
Departures : Major K. L. Utley, Captain K. E. P. Andrews, M.B.E., and Sergeant J. T. O'Brien.

4 Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment

Arrivals : Majors Gregory, Pringle, Handsley and Captain Walker.
Departures : Majors Haslehurst, Foster, Emley and Captain Prince.

U.K. COMCAN Signal Regiment

Arrivals : Lieutenant-Colonel J. B. Birkett, Sergeants D. F. Reed and B. Dyer.
Departures : Lieutenant-Colonel W. Hammond, M.B.E., Mr. Jenkins, W.O.II G. H. Cowsill, Sergeants Crump and G. A. Gater.

H.Q., British Forces Arabian Peninsula

Arrivals : Lieutenant-Colonel G. S. Fenton, M.B.E., Majors R. H. Blizzard and S. Vernon, Corporal R. T. Hamilton.
Departures : Major M. A. Lloyd, Lieutenant W. J. M. Michie.

A BLESSED CORPS

"The Army Chaplain," a short history of the Royal Army Chaplains Department, written by P. Middleton Brumwell, and published in 1943, contains this interesting passage :—

"1796—Establishment of R.A. Ch.D. fixed.

. . . . . To take their places, new chaplains were appointed—brigade chaplains at ten shillings a day, and others at seven shillings a day. The Chaplain-General was given a salary of twenty shillings a day, but it is interesting to note that in addition to this pay, he received £600 a year to assist him in his establishment of telegraphy, and thus became the first Chief Signal Officer in the Army ! . . .

BRONZE STATUE OF "JIMMY" FOR SALE

Situated in Edinburgh the statue is 3ft. high, at present mounted on a 4ft. Billiard Table Leg. The owner has given it to the Association to sell to the highest bidder—minimum £50. The proceeds go—half to the Royal Signals Association, and half to a charity nominated by the owner, Major W. J. Main, Royal Signals.

Regiments, Squadrons wishing to purchase, apply: General Secretary, Royal Signals Association, 88, Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1.

★

Situated in Torquay, a Bronze "Jimmy," height, including plinth 28in., the figure 20in. £8/10/-. The Caduceus is missing.—Richard Lane, 203, Union Street, Street, Torquay.

Obituary

CAPTAIN WILL H. BRANN

A link with the early days of the Corps has been broken with the death of Captain "Willie" Brann on 10th March, 1958.

He joined the Rifle Brigade in 1899, specialising in signalling. He served in South Africa, returning to England in 1903, after which he went to Malta until 1907.

Recalled from the Reserve in 1914, he served as an Instructor at the Brigade School of Signal Instruction, Isle of Sheppey, until going to France in 1917. Commissioned on the field in February, 1918, in the Rifle Brigade, he continued as an Instructor at the Army Signal School, Dunstable, moving to Maresfield in 1919, where he stayed until the move to Catterick in 1925. During this period he was engaged in the writing of the Manual of Procedure.

From 1925 to 1939 he was on the Reserve. At the outbreak of war in 1939 he joined Royal Signals Records and remained there until his retirement in 1947.

He leaves a widow, son and daughter.

THE LAST OPERATIONAL USE OF THE PIGEON SERVICE IN WORLD WAR II

The Chief Signal Officer, 21st Army Group, Major-General C. M. F. White, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., despatched the two messages from Berlin very shortly after the cessation of hostilities. The pigeon carrying the messages was wounded in flight and finally fell into the lines of a Battalion of the Dutch Grenadiers, of the Princess Irene Brigade, in Holland.

The messages were retained by the Commanding Officer, Colonel Van Beech, who forgot to forward them on at the time. Colonel Van Beech rediscovered the messages amongst his possessions in Swaziland, where he now lives. He handed them over to an official of the Colonel administration in Swaziland. This official delivered the messages to the War Office at the end of March, 1958, while on a visit to Britain.

From : Major-General C. M. F. White, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O.
To : H.R.H. The Princess Royal.

All ranks of the Royal Corps of Signals serving in North-West Europe with Twenty-First Army Group desire to pay their Colonel-in-Chief their loyal and dutiful respects. This message has left Berlin while the Three Power Conference is meeting and comes to you by pigeon : as the birds fly on their last operational duty in North-West Europe may they symbolise to the world the re-opening of free communications between the nations and may they bring the assurance that in peace, as in its first major war, the Royal Corps of Signals proudly offers you its utmost service. Certa Cito.

From : Major-General C. M. F. White, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O.
To : Major-General L. G. Phillips, C.B., C.B.E., M.C., Director of Signals, The War Office.

This message has been carried to you from Berlin by pigeon on the last operational flight by pigeons from 21 Army Group. Because of the efficiency of all other means of communication the pigeon service has had little scope for operational employment. The cheerful and efficient manner in which Signal Officers and men engaged in this work have carried out their duties, has, however, been most praiseworthy. I take this opportunity also of expressing to your our respectful thanks for the never failing moral support and unstinted help, advice, material supplies and personnel you have provided to a Signals organisation whose foundation you so soundly laid.

COLOURED PORTRAITS OF THE COLONEL-IN-CHIEF

Reproductions of the original portrait by Sir Gerald Kelly, K.C.V.O., P.P.R.A., in the Headquarters Mess of 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., are obtainable, price £2/15/- inclusive of packing and postage (cash with order) from The Secretary, Royal Signals INSTITUTION, 88, Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1. The coloured portrait is 12in. x 17in., the mount is 18½in. x 25in.

A RIVAL TO THE 120 WATT "SPARK" SET

Major C. Robinson writes from Kuala Lumpur, Malaya . . .

"I was glad to see in your February issue an appreciation of Vic Storey. I doubt whether he would remember me in 1st Air Formation Signal Regiment as a precious young officer, but I certainly remember him.

However, I am writing to correct one claim made in the notes sent in by 50 Air Formation Signal Regiment A.E.R., where they say Vic Storey was possibly the last to operate the spark set, in 1925. I was responsible as late as 1947 for a wireless link that still employed what can best be described as a wireless set operating on the spark principle.

This link was operated by the Arab Legion Signals which I had the honour of commanding for five years. We worked a direct one-to-one link with the Northern Desert Region of Saudi Arabia. Our equipment was the 'R.A.F. Set No. 1—1917.' It consisted moreover of the Transmitter No. 1 and the Receiver No. 1. When we opened up, which we did on schedule daily, most of the coffee shop receivers in Amman closed down, as the interference caused on medium wave was collossal.

This link worked quite satisfactorily over a distance of 400 miles of desert. I was sitting in my office one day when a white robed beduin figure was shown in and introduced himself as one of the operators from Saudi Arabia, who had crossed the desert just to see what the other end of the link was like. He was a little shaken when we showed him our infernal machine.

This link was changed over to the inevitable 19 set about the end of 1947 and the old equipment was put in store, where it doubtless remains. By that time we were running out of spares."

FIRST USE OF WIRELESS IN THE ARMY

The announcement in the April number of THE WIRE of the reunion at Worcester of the 1st Wireless Signal Company, Royal Engineers, produced the following interesting information.

Up to 1914 Army wireless signalling was vested in five Units of the Territorial Army located in London, Birmingham, Liverpool, Leeds and Glasgow, and in August, 1914, these were embodied, mobilised and dispersed to various theatres of war.

In December, 1914, Colonel A. Handley, with a nucleus of the Birmingham Territorial Army Unit established a Wireless Training Centre, Royal Engineers, at Worcester. The first Adjutant was Major R. E. Priestley, now Sir Raymond Priestley, M.C., M.A., D.SC. Intakes arrived from all parts of the country and were trained into wireless sections of various types. Some of the equipment used in those early days is now in the Museum at Catterick.

It is claimed that as part of the training, a wireless station was built in the Worcester Royal Porcelain Works, from which the first experiments in broadcasting were made.

In 1934 it was decided to organise a reunion to embrace the members of the five original Units of the Territorial

Army and also the much greater numbers which had joined during the 1914/18 War. The success was remarkable. Ninety-one men attended a reunion in that year and by 1939 membership of the Royal Engineers Wireless Signals (1914-18) Association had risen to 1,000, and in 1955 the Association was able to publish a brochure with about that number of names and addresses in it. The numbers are, of course, declining. The average age of members is stated to be between 65 and 70, but enthusiasm remains high.



MERCURY HOUSE
BOURNEMOUTH

The following charges per guest will be made during 1958 :

October—May	-	**£5 10 0**
June - - -		**£6 10 0**
July—September	-	**£7 0 0**

Major and Mrs. F. E. Boon have now taken over the management from Major and Mrs. S. Dunningham. All future bookings should be addressed to Major Boon.

Have you planned your Holiday?

Letter to the Editor, from Yeoman Warder G. A. E. Gavey (late Captain, Royal Signals), H.M. Tower of London, E.C.3.

"I have just returned from a holiday at Bournemouth, where I spent a most comfortable week at 'Mercury House,' now under the management of Major Frank Boon and his charming wife.

"Your readers may perhaps like to know a few more details, especially if they have not yet planned their holidays.

"First let me say how comfortable and homely they will find it at 'Mercury House,' and the food really excellent.

"There is a maximum accommodation for 28 boarders and this is now fully booked for July and August and for part of June. At this time of the year and in September there are still vacancies. 'Mercury House' is really situated at Boscombe, a 4d. 'bus ride from Bournemouth, and in a particularly select district.

"The walks along the promenade or along the cliff top road are delightful—taking about 25 minutes.

"Should you arrive by rail at Bournemouth Central—walk or 'bus to Lansdowne Square—then another 'bus (a 3d. ride) to Boscombe Arcade. 'Mercury House' is in Florence Road, about three minutes' walk from the latter 'bus stop.

"You will find your host and hostess waiting to welcome you and to introduce you to any other boarders who may be in the house at the time.

"There is a nice sunny lounge, where you can meet your fellow guests before and after meals.

"The 'bus service is very good and you can plan trips by this method to many places of interest. I was able to do afternoon trips by 'bus to places such as Salisbury—Brockenhurst (in the New Forest) via Milford-on-Sea—Wimborne Minster and to Poole, besides daily walks, or by 'bus to Bournemouth.

"Of course, there are also numerous coach tours available; all are well advertised, to Southampton—Weymouth, and to places of beauty in the New Forest, etc.

"Should you wish to relax completely, well the Boscombe beach is only three minutes' walk from 'Mercury House' and gardens too, near the promenade, or you can sit in the little garden of 'Mercury House' itself.

"Maybe these few details given by a very satisfied guest may help you to decide what to do about that most important subject—your 'Annual Holiday.'"

The telephone number of "Mercury House" is Boscombe 360861.

Military Essay Competitions

1. Bertrand Steward Prize Essay Competition, 1958. Prize £80. Closing date, 22nd June, 1958.

Subject—"There is no doubt that the advent of nuclear weapons on the tactical battlefield requires a re-appraisal of our defence concepts.

During the past few years the old conception of the armoured division and the infantry division has been modified to try and meet these new conditions.

As a first step to this end it was decided to remove the infantry brigade from the armoured division and to provide an armoured regiment as an integral part of the infantry brigade in the infantry division.

In the opinion of many this has resulted in the infantry division becoming too big and unwieldy and the armoured division has become little more than a brigade group.

As a result opinion is now tending to favour brigade groups as the tactical entity, leaving a standard divisional H.Q. free to command whatever number of brigade groups the situation requires, armoured or infantry."

Discuss the tactical problems involved and give your views on the best organisation of infantry and armour to meet defensive problems likely to be encountered in a European theatre of war in any future contest.

General conditions for this essay competition are contained in ACI 487/1957.

* * *

2. George Knight Clowes Memorial Prize Essay Competition, 1959. Prizes—First prize £35; second prize £15. Closing date, 7th April, 1959.

Subject—The British Regular Army is to be reduced by approximately 50% by 1962—the Infantry of the Line to 49 battalions. With this reduction it will not be possible to keep overseas garrisons at, or even near, every trouble spot. Our ability to deal quickly, and firmly with situations similar to those which arose recently in Aden and Oman will depend on the speed with which troops can be moved to the area, and concentrated at the actual place of likely action.

This raises many problems such as the composition and strength, normal location, degree of readiness, equipment, training and means of movement, of forces earmarked for this purpose.

Discuss these problems.

General conditions for this essay competition will be the same as for 1957 and are contained in ACI 361/1957.

3. Gold Medal and Trench Gascoigne Prize Essay Competition, 1958. Prize—Thirty Guineas and Gold Medal. Closing date—15th November, 1958.

Subject—In a few years time the fear of retaliation may inhibit both East and West from contemplating the use of nuclear weapons against each other. This state of affairs may tempt the Communist parties to increase their efforts to gain limited military and diplomatic objectives by "nibbling" tactics. Discuss this possibly and the ways and means by which the free world can avoid being "nibbled to death" in an age of nuclear stalemate.

OR

The thermo-nuclear deterrent is the Western Nations method of preventing global war. Discuss how the Regular Forces might be organised and disposed in order to win the present Cold War in the next ten years.

General conditions for this essay competition are contained in ACI 116/1958.

*

MAJOR GORDON FRASER (late) 1 Training Regiment, Royal Signals

has been running for the past three years a small coaching establishment at WEST DOWN HOUSE, BRADWORTHY, N. DEVON—a country house with about 7½ acres of grounds—on the borders of Devon and Cornwall. There are twelve resident pupils aged from approximately 12 or 13 to 17 years, who have been unable to "keep up" in a large form at preparatory or public schools and who required individual attention.

During the four G.C.E. examinations held from July, 1956, 10 pupils have passed in various subjects, one passed 5th into R.M.A. (Sandhurst) after failing at his Public School (army class), and several boys have passed Common Entrance, or into Nautical Colleges. In these G.C.E. examinations boys have taken English, English Literature, Mathematics, French, History, Geography, General Science, Biology, Physics, Chemistry, Latin, German, Spanish—the last two are "extras." Except for an occasional cold of short duration no boy has had any illness.

Recreations include Tennis (own court), golf, fishing, swimming, and riding (if desired).

The fees are 105 guineas per term, and extras are as few as possible.

☆

Forthcoming Events

Corps Dinner 28th May, 1958.
and
Regular Officers' "At Home" 29th May, 1958.
at the Hyde Park Hotel.

Royal Signals Association
CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING 29th May, 1958.

Midlands Reunion—24th/25th May, 1958

This is being organised by 10 Wireless Training Squadron and the Loughborough Branch of the Association, Garats Hay Camp, near Loughborough.

Provisional programme:

Saturday, 24th May—Afternoon ...		Garden Fete. Retreat (Royal Signals Band).
	Evening ...	Grand Dance (Royal Signals Band Dance Orchestra).
	,, ...	Social.
Sunday, 25th May—Morning ...		Church Parade Service.
	Afternoon ...	Band Concert.

Royal Tournament, Earls Court

7.30 p.m. 4th June, thereafter at 2.30 and 7.30 until 21st June, except that there is no matinee on Mondays.
Box Office, 66, Victoria Street, Telephone Victoria 7852, London, S.W.1.

16 Independent Parachute Brigade Group Signal Squadron Week-end, 7th and 8th June, 1958

It is proposed to hold a Squadron Week-end in Aldershot on 7th and 8th June next to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the formation of the Unit.
The programme will include:—

Saturday	Demonstration of Balloon Jumping. High Tea. A Dance.
Sunday	Church Parade.

In addition to the families of serving members of the Squadron, it is hoped that as many Old Comrades as possible will be our guests. Old Comrades of 1st and 6th Airborne Divisional Signal Regiment (from whom the Squadron originated) will also be most welcome, as also will ex-members of the three Units who are now serving elsewhere.

Although the closing date for names has passed, it is possible that some interested people may have missed the announcement in last month's WIRE. They should apply without delay for further particulars to:—
O.C., 16 Independent Parachute Brigade Signal Squadron, Barrosa Barracks, Aldershot.

The Depot Regiment, Royal Signals

7th/8th June, 1958. Annual Regimental Week-end at Saighton Camp, Chester.

Indian Signal Corps

Officers of all Corps and Regiments of the old "Indian Army" are invited to the Punjab Regiment's Garden Party at the Hurlingham Club, London, S.W., on Friday, 27th June, 1958. Tickets, at 7/- each, can be obtained from Lieutenant-Colonel Wiseman, 59, Hyde Park Gate, London, S.W.7, and NOT from the Royal Signals Association, as published in the March WIRE.

Corps "At Home" and Old Comrades Reunion Catterick 28th/29th June, 1958.

Royal Signals T.A./A.E.R. Garden Party

23rd August, 1958. (*See page* 132).

Ex-Boys' Dinner, 1958

Saturday, 27th September, 1958, 6.30 for 7.30 p.m., at The Victory Ex-Services' Club, 63/79, Seymour Street, London, W.2 (one minute from Marble Arch station and *first left* up Edgware Road). Lounge suit or uniform. Remittance to Hon. Secretary, F. W. Jacob, Esq., 54 (EA) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A., 40, Ashburnham Road, Bedford, preferably not later than 1st July. Ex-Boys 16/6; wives or other guests 15/-. Cheques/Postal Orders payable "F. W. Jacob, Ex-Boys' Dinner A/C." Seating limited to 100. Early bookings desirable.

F. G. STRANGE, *Major (Retd.), Chairman, Ex-Boys' Reunions.*

* * *

The 1st Essex Signal Regiment, T.A.

are celebrating their 50th Jubilee on Saturday, 4th October, 1958, with a Reception and an "At Home" in the afternoon from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m., followed by an All Ranks "Jubilee Dance" from 8.30 p.m. to midnight. The Royal Signals Band will give a Band concert in the afternoon and will provide the Dance Orchestra in the evening. Apart from serving members of the Regiment and their families, a cordial invitation is extended to anyone with associations with the Regiment in the past and applications for tickets for these two functions should be made to Major J. H. Mansfield, T.D., 1st Essex Signal Regiment, T.A., Selsdon Road, Wanstead, E.11.

Army Art Society

The Army Art Society which exists to encourage art in the Army and Sister Services, is holding its 27th Exhibition in London during October, 1958, at the Commonwealth Institute, (IMPERIAL INSTITUTE), South Kensington, S.W.7.

All Ranks of the Army, the Royal Navy and the Royal Air Force, past or present, permanent or temporary, may submit works for consideration.

The Society is an entirely unofficial organisation and for several years very successful exhibitions have been held in London each autumn. Service artists can derive more interest from their hobby by aiming at submitting works for the exhibitions, which also give them an opportunity to compare their standard and style with others.

As the Society is non-profit-making, the entrance and hanging fees are kept as low as possible.

Intending exhibitors are invited to apply after the 1st May for particulars. Applications should be addressed to the Hon. Secretary, Army Art Society, Capt. A. J. Daldy, 16, King Edward's Grove., Teddington, Middlesex.

Annual Buffet Supper and Reunion

Saturday, 6th December, at the Drill Hall, Duke of York's Headquarters, Chelsea, London, S.W.3 (by courtesy of the Middlesex Yeomanry Signal Regiment, T.A.), from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m.

CORPS BAND SUMMER TOUR, 1958

Touring Band

19th May—22nd May	Southern Command.
25th May— 7th June	Eastbourne (Whitsun).
8th June—14th June	Victoria Embankment Gardens, London.
15th June—21st June	Plymouth.
28th June—29th June	Corps "At Home" and Old Comrades' Reunion.
6th July—12th July	Hastings.
15th July—20th July	Edinburgh.
21st July—2nd August	Dunfermline.
3rd August—17th August	Glasgow.
21st August—23rd August	Scottish Command Signal Squadron.
24th August—31st August	Edinburgh Festival.

ROYAL SIGNALS CRICKET CLUB, 1958

9th-10th June ...	R.A.O.C.	...	Bramley, Hants.
11th June	R.M.A., Sandhurst (12.00)	...	Camberley.
12th-13th June ...	R.A.S.C.	...	Aldershot.
14th-15th June ...	R.E.M.E.	...	Bordon.
16th-17th June ...	R.E.	...	Gillingham.
29th June	Yorkshire Gents (12.00)	...	Escrick Park.
2nd July	Welbeck College (12.15)	...	Welbeck.
9th-10th Sept. ...	**R.A.C.**		**Oval. Free Admission**

All matches begin at 11.30 hours unless otherwise stated.

ROYAL SIGNALS OFFICERS' GOLFING SOCIETY 1958 FIXTURE LIST

21st May	R.E.	East Berks.
18th July	R.A.	Sunningdale.
11th Sept.	R.A.M.C.	Swinley Forest.
29th Sept.	Autumn Meeting	Hankley Common.
30th Sept.	Autumn Meeting	Hankley Common.

ENGAGEMENTS — THE ROYAL SIGNALS DISPLAY, 1958

1958	
7th May	The Press Show, Command Central Ground, Catterick Camp.
7th June	Ross Group Sports Club Gala, Grimsby.
10th, 11th & 12th June	The Three Counties Agricultural Society Show, Malvern.
14th June	3rd Training Regiment Royal Signals (Regimental Week-end).
18th & 19th June ...	Lincolnshire Show, Spalding.
21st June	Selby and District Agricultural Society Annual Show, Selby.
25th & 26th June ...	Royal Norfolk Agricultural Association Show, Diss, Norfolk.
28th June	Thorgumbold and Ryehill Show, near Hull.
29th June	Royal Signals Regimental Week-end, Catterick Camp.
5th July	North Riding Territorial Army and Auxiliary Forces Association Golden Jubilee of the Territorial Army, Stewart Park, Middlesbrough.
6th July	Lancashire T.A. Jubilee Celebrations, Knowsley Park, near Liverpool.
11th & 12th July ...	Bedfordshire Agricultural Society Show, Bedford.
16th & 17th July ...	Peterborough Agricultural Society Summer Show.
23rd, 24th, 25th & 26th July	The Bath Searchlight Tattoo.
4th August	Far Forest Agricultural Show, Bewdley.
9th August	Harrogate Fete and Gala.
13th September ...	1st Training Regiment Royal Signals, Parents' Annual Week-end.

DUTCH ARMY IN WOOLWICH SEARCHLIGHT TATTOO

One of the main attractions of this year's Woolwich Searchlight Tattoo, which takes place at Woolwich Stadium on the 10th-13th September next, will be a display by the Royal Military Band of the Dutch Grenadier Guards. This world famous military musical organisation was formed in 1829 and in 1876 was given the prefix "Royal" in their title by King William III of Holland, as recognition of their extraordinary success at the Grands Concours de Musique in Paris. They will appear under the baton of Major R. Van Yperen, who has been their Director of Music since the end of the War. During the recent Royal visit to Holland this Band played on all official occasions.

An additional attraction will be a dramatisation of the "Rocket" as a military weapon. It is not generally known that experiments with Rockets were taking place at Woolwich as long ago as 1811 and in 1813 the "Rocket Brigade" was formed there. Considerable research is taking place to present the story as authentically as possible. Fortunately, the original papers of William Congreve, the first Englishman to seriously consider the application of the Rocket to the projection of missiles for warlike purposes, still exist in the Royal Artillery Institution at Woolwich, these include his original Drill Manual for the Rocket. Spectators will see a re-enactment of this Drill, which took five minutes before the weapon came into action. It now takes almost five times as long for some of the modern weapons to fire! The experts at Woolwich Arsenal have been asked to produce a replica of Congreve's Rocket, which will be fired from the arena at Woolwich Stadium. The story will be brought up to date when the guided missiles to be operated by the Royal Artillery, the "Thunderbird" and the "Corporal," will be driven into the arena.

Other turns will include displays by the United States Air Force, The Women's Royal Army Corps and the King's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery.

Retained from previous years will be the Alarm Stakes, a competition for 25-pounder guns. For the first time, this year the competition will be an inter-divisional one.

Tickets for the Tattoo may be obtained from Messrs. Keith, Prowse and Co. Ltd., 90, New Bond Street, W.1. Tel.: Hyde Park 6000, or the usual agents, price 15/- to 3/6.

ROYAL SIGNALS T.A/A.E.R. GARDEN PARTY HAREWOOD HOUSE 23rd August, 1958

H.R.H. THE PRINCESS ROYAL has most graciously consented to be "At Home" at a Summer Garden Party to be held at Harewood House on Saturday, 23rd August, 1958, to mark the Golden Jubilee of the territorial Army.

Officers and their guests will have the opportunity of viewing Harewood House and the Gardens. The 50th (Northumbrian) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment (T.A.) are kindly providing their band to play on the lawns during the party.

Notices have been sent to all T.A. and A.E.R. units requesting them to forward names of serving and retired officers and their guests who would like to attend.

The representatives of the T.A. and A.E.R. of the Corps Committee would appreciate the attendance of a proportion of regular officers, both serving and retired, especially those who have had close connections with the T.A. and A.E.R. in the past, together with their wives and daughters.

Applications for invitations should be sent to Chief Signal Officer, H.Q. London District, Horse Guards, Whitehall, by 1st June, 1958, stating the names of guests. Full particulars will be forwarded with invitations on 1st July, 1958. A remittance to the value of 15/- per person should accompany the application, cheques being made payable to "Royal Signals Dinner Club."

The 5th EDITION OF THE BLUE BOOK containing the rosters on the re-organisation of the Corps Promotion system will be published in MAY, 1958, price 2/6. If you have not secured your copy through regimental channels, apply to Royal Signals Association, 88 Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1. where there may be a few spare copies.

ROYAL SIGNALS LAWN TENNIS, 1958

2—8	June	Corps Tournament	Catterick	
9	June	Royal Army Service Corps	Catterick	(H)
10	June	Royal Army Education Corps	Catterick	(H)
18	June	Welbeck College	Worksop	(A)
14	July	Royal Engineers	Aldershot	(A)
16	July	R.M.A., Sandhurst	Sandhurst	(A)
17	July	Royal Army Ordnance Corps ...	Aldershot	(A)
18	July	Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers	Aldershot	(A)
17	Sept.	Staff College, Camberley	Camberley	(A)
18	Sept.	Royal Artillery	Woolwich	(A)

All are Corps representative matches (less Welbeck College).

DISABLED EX-SERVICEMEN'S DAY

A number of ex-Service Associations are making THE LAST SUNDAY in JUNE a day during which their members try, within their individual capacity to do something for a disabled ex-Servicemen. What is done cannot be prescribed but sensible thought will conclude that one such disabled man would like a motor drive and a meal, another perhaps would be glad of the kind thought that brought him an unexpected packet of cigarettes or tobacco.

THE LAST SUNDAY in JUNE this year, as in many others, will see 400 or 500 members of the Association in Catterick. Many hundreds of other members will be unable to go to Catterick.

The motto of the Royal Signals Association on the 29th June, 1958, should be "either I go to Catterick or I try to do some small favour to a disabled ex-Serviceman."

Subscribers are asked to note the following :—

(a) Correspondence in connection with the Royal Signals Quarterly Journal, Royal Signals Booklet, Photographs of H.R.H. The Princess Royal and the Royal Signals Museum should be addressed to the **Royal Signals INSTITUTION.**

(b) Correspondence in connection with THE WIRE, Royal Signals List, Association Subscriptions, Benevolent Fund subscriptions and donations, Corps Clothing and Employment should be addressed to the **Royal Signals ASSOCIATION.**

Careers and Opportunity

(IMPORTANT : Anyone obtaining employment through answering advertisements in THE WIRE *must notify the Employment Section, Royal Signals Association, 88, Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1.*

Members are reminded that they can ensure prompt notification of any vacancies likely to interest them by registering with the Employment Section. Jobs advertised in THE WIRE *are only a small proportion of those received).*

A vacancy exists for a retired W.O. or Staff Sergeant, preferably ex-Royal Signals, as CIVILIAN QUARTERMASTER SERGEANT with 63 Command Signal Regiment at SALISBURY.

Pay: Approximately £10 per week with Service increments to approximately £12 per week.

Applications to Adjutant, 63 Command Signal Regiment, Barnards Cross, Salisbury, Wilts.

Other advertisements about employment are on the front inside cover and page 123.

Employment Figures for Quarter Ending, 31st March, 1958.

Applicants registered	56
Placings **confirmed**	20
Other queries answered	116

PROMOTIONS

The following substantive promotions were authorised in the Corps during the Month of March, 1958:

Foreman of Signals Roster

To W.O.I	2329433	W.O.II	(700)	Potts, J.
To W.O.II	15002542	S Sgt.	(180)	Harrington, E. A. R.
	2323699	S Sgt.	(330)	Thompson, R.
	2548945	S Sgt.	(340)	Ribchester, N. A. V.
	2325285	S Sgt.	(510)	Allen, W. R.
	21128039	S Sgt.	(560)	Burrows, T. A.
	2549476	S Sgt.	(630)	Holmes, A.
	2549337	S Sgt.	(720)	Day, J. C.
To S Sgt.	14478331	A/S Sgt.	(831)	Doe, E.
	21067128	A/S Sgt.	(15170)	Mainwaring, R. M.
	22739258	A/S Sgt.	(16430)	Alblas, D. P.
	22550227	A/S Sgt.	(20900)	Pallier, J. C.
	22265450	A/S Sgt.	(22110)	Forbes, P. C.
	23008324	A/S Sgt.	(23252)	King, C. A.
	22771305	A/S Sgt.	(49820)	Howland, M. W.

Signal Centre Supervisors Roster

To W.O.I	14444491	A/W.O.I	(100)	Chapman, G.
To S Sgt.	22314875	A/W.O.II	(420)	Pilkington, J. S. P.
	2549573	Sgt.	(560)	Stringer, A.
	22523422	Sgt.	(700)	Metcalfe, P. F.
	22248984	Sgt.	(1000)	Cooper, F.
	22519415	Sgt.	(1010)	Rose, M. J.
	22446561	Sgt.	(1570)	Rowe, B.
	22562704	Sgt.	(1620)	Ingram, W. E.
	22799121	Sgt.	(2660)	Slater, G.

Clerical Roster

To Sgt.	22246397	Cpl.	(370)	Matzen, C. D.

Operating Roster

To Sgt.	22296089	A/Sgt.	(130)	Rodgers, G.

DELETIONS

Signal Centre Supervisor

W.O.I Natoli (60) Commissioned Lieut. (T.O.), 10th February, 1958.

OTHER DELETIONS

Regimental Duty Roster

W.O.II 160
S Sgt. 830. 2840. 70.

Operating Roster

Sgt. 6390. 5230. 990. 5740. 6490.

Technician Roster

Sgt. 280.

Clerical Roster

Sgt. 920. 1490. 330. 130.

Lineman Roster

Sgt. 1070.

General Duties Roster

Sgt. 2160.

INSERTIONS

Technicians Roster

23473792	Sgt. Briggs, R. S. W.	(434)
22242118	Sgt. Filtness, J. H.	(2260)

Butchers : Grocers : Game Dealers
our aim in all Depts :—
Superb Quality
CHAS. JACKSON & SONS
63, 64 and 66 SKINNERGATE
Established 1894 **DARLINGTON** Telephone 2955
Sixty Years Satisfactory Service
"WE BUY THE BEST" "WE SELL THE BEST"
DAILY DELIVERIES IN YOUR DISTRICT

THE TERRITORIAL TRADESMAN

During the 1957 camping season, many Territorial units began to realise how difficult it was going to be to function as units without their part-time National Servicemen. In Royal Signals, as in many other Arms, National Servicemen provided the bulk of the unit's tradesmen. In 1957, and again this year, a few Regular tradesmen were allotted to Territorial camps, and have helped to fill the gap. With the rundown of the Regular Army, there is unlikely to be any regular assistance available in 1959, and subsequent years.

The problem is a difficult one, and for those Territorial units who have not so far been able to give it much thought, here are a few suggestions.

The end of part-time National Service has given T.A. recruiting new life; volunteers are coming forward in increasing numbers. Many of them are young men with no previous Service experience. From amongst these volunteers units must select their potential tradesmen.

How will the unit do this? For a start, ignore the new volunteer's civilian qualifications and discover what they are best qualified to do in the unit. After all, the need is for wireless operators, despatch riders and linemen; not bank clerks, crane drivers and ticket collectors, who probably never wanted to be bank clerks, crane drivers and ticket collectors anyway.

How are they to be tested? Easy. Give them a wireless set in its box and see if they can connect it up and make it work. Ask them to find a fault on a motor cycle, fix it and start the engine. Give them a problem connected with each trade and see how they shape. Only give them help if it is clear they are not getting anywhere. How long will it take to put each man through the tests? About three drill nights.

What will be achieved? One, the volunteers interest will have been held. Two, the unit will have discovered what the volunteers can do best. Three, the volunteers will have discovered what they themselves can do best.

What next? Simple, all that remains is to train them. There are two things to remember here. First, the unit wants a practical tradesman as soon as possible. Second, when the tradesman is doing the job he ought to get the pay, in this case trade pay.

In this first stage of training the key word is WHAT. WHAT happens when a key is pressed or a pointer moves over a dial. Not WHY it happens—that comes later. There is no time for theory and no need for lectures on map reading and army organisation. Yes, these subjects may appear in the qualification sheet but they are not needed yet. Teach basic skills; consolidate each skill before going on to the next; teach well. Exactly how much is taught will depend on how long it is to annual camp.

As soon as the trainee volunteer can operate his wireless set or ride his motor cycle, give him a stiff practical test. If he passes the test give him his trade rating. Two things have now been achieved. Firstly, the unit has a man who is trained in a particular skill and who fulfils a useful role in the unit. Secondly, here is a man whose morale is high because he is doing a useful job—and knows it. Furthermore he is being paid the rate for the job.

Having reached this stage there is now time to study theory and the many other subjects that complete the tradesman's training. The sense of urgency will have gone and it will be more difficult to maintain interest. This is where the organisation of successful training becomes difficult. Up to now it has been easy.

S.S.M. G. D. ROCKALL

All will learn with regret of his death in Millbank Hospital on 28th April, 1958 and extend sympathy to Mrs. Rockall and his family. A fuller notice will appear in the June "Wire."

United Kingdom

1 TRAINING REGIMENT ROYAL SIGNALS

Not since the very severe winter of 1946-47 has there been so much snow about. It always seems to fall at the week-end too. However, spring is just round the corner!

"Present Laughter," a most successful Cary Theatre Production, was virtually a Regimental effort and reflected great credit on all concerned.

In the District Hockey League we were just pipped on the post by the Durham Light Infantry, who had a superior goal average. We hope to fare better in the Cup.

Rugby players retained the Northern Command Cup and the Northern Command Sevens at the expense of old rivals, the King's Own Royals and the Duke of Wellington's, and expect to be in there when the District Cup and Sevens are contested.

Last year Sergeant Large, A.C.C., won the District individual cookery competition. This year Sergeant Raine A.C.C., retained the award and the Regiment went on to annex the Inter-Unit Cup.

Firing in the Royal Signals .22 competition is complete and we eagerly await the results.

Water polo players are in training again and got off to a very good start by wins against the Universities of Leeds and Durham.

Next month promises to be a busy one and among the things taking place are the Administrative Inspection, Regimental athletics meeting and numerous visits by V.I.P.s but more anon.

3 TRAINING REGIMENT
"Lincoln Jimmy"



In Lincoln there is much talk of the "Lincoln Imp," a carved stone figure in the Cathedral. We, in Royal Signals in Lincoln, have discovered something, to us, of more significance — the "Lincoln Jimmy."

This little known figure of Mercury is by Joseph Nollekens. Exhibited in the Royal Academy in 1783, it became the property of Lord Yarborough, whose descendants presented it to the Usher Art Gallery, Lincoln.

This month, the month of the April, 1958, pay rise, is a fitting month for this "Jimmy" to make his debut—off duty with a bag of gold in his hand!

And what shall we spend the money on? What did "Jimmy" do? Perhaps the Greeks themselves can advise us.

Wine? Pindar said, "Water is best" and "Water is delightful as honey, ambrosial water from the fair spring," but we may prefer Alexis's view, "Wine, fragrant and sweet, smelling of flowers. Sweet it is to drink wine," remember that Cratinus declared, "A water drinker can produce nothing clever!"

If not on wine, perhaps on love, although again the advice is contradictory. "Love the limb—loosener stirs me once again: sweet-bitter, irresistible, insinuating thing," declares Sappho but Plato grumbles "Most gladly have I escaped the embraces of women, like a slave who has bolted from a raging cruel master."

Whatever our choice, there should be for Mercury and we in the Corps little need to fear Menander's "Love is slain by hunger— or by lack of cash," and little need to share the delight of Epicurus when he wrote, "I thrill with pleasure in the body, when I live on bread and water."

The "Lincoln Jimmy" photograph is published by arrangement with the authorities of the Usher Art Gallery, Lincoln.

☆



Finals of the "Allen West Snooker Challenge Trophy," presented by Mrs. Allen West

☆

4 TRAINING REGIMENT

Sports

Cycling. One of our recruits, Signalman Weeks, has pedalled his way into the Army Cycle Team and, as we go to press is slogging round Northern Ireland assisting the team to further glory.

Rugby. The Rugby XV had an average season winning eleven out of nineteen matches. The stentorian roar of "Get It Out" from Major Paris was missed in the latter stage, but Captain Sims-Clarke with practice should make a worthy successor.

Hockey. After a promising start we finally ended up only fifth in the district league. Constant team changes through posting or injury were the main cause of the small slump. Stalwarts like W.O.II Kemp, Captain Watkins-Pitchford, Staff Sergeants Richardson and Cardinal and Lance-Corporal Smith (who was a Corps representative) put in some very fine work.

4 (Independent) Squadron. The Squadron was presented with a billiard table and equipment, by Mrs. Allen West, who gave it in memory of her husband the late Captain Allen West, Dragoon Guards, who was the founder of the electrical firm which bears his name. A Knock-out Snooker Competition was arranged, and Mrs. Allen West provided the silver cup and miniatures. Whether by accident or design, the competition was won by the O.C. Squadron, Major A. E. Wood, and our sponsor made the presentation at the final match. The worthy but unlucky runner-up was Signalman Dowling, who was presented with a Corps crested tankard. It is intended to make this an annual competition. A photograph taken at this year's prizegiving accompanies these notes.

We welcome Major Hamilton to the Squadron, who will take over from Captain Richardson, soon to depart for duty with SHAPE.

Maybe it is the Brighton air, but several marriages are taking place, and we extend our best wishes to Sergeants Heasman and Horne, and Corporal Galloway, who will sign the necessary papers before the Income Tax man can say "Code Number!"

Signal Training Troop, W.R.A.C. All those who have been trained in the W.R.A.C. Signal Training Troop during the last two years will remember the two Sergeants i/c Schools, Sergeant Duke and Sergeant Boyle, and will be interested to hear that they are both being posted, having completed their two year tours.

Sergeant Boyle is posted to Salisbury Plain (M) Signals, although her private ambition, we understand, is a posting to FARELF.

Sergeant Duke has completed the Signal Centre Supervisors' Course at the School of Signals and is posted to Scottish Command (M) Signals.

W.O.II Julian, until recently on the strength of Signal Training Troop, W.R.A.C., has also completed the Signal Centre Supervisors Course, and has been posted to Northern Ireland District (M) Signals.

We wish them all the very best fortune in their new appointments.

Trainees continue to be posted overseas, to the great envy of the permanent staff. Ptes. Davis, Saxon and Sweeney have passed their Teleprinter Operator BIII Trade Test, and are now on embarkation leave; they will soon be on their way to Singapore. Private Simmons, Exchange Operator BIV, will also be reporting for the same draft to Singapore.

The last W.R.A.C. Exchange Operators completed their Trade Test this week, and what was the Exchange School is now to be known as the Signal Centre Operator School. The first squad of W.R.A.C. Signal Centre Operators is already under training. Unknown to the trainees, the instructors themselves are feverishly learning the new subjects and have managed so far, to keep one lecture ahead.

Plans for the erection of an Honours Board in the entrance hall are under way and we already have one name to be entered on the board when it is completed. In order to have her name entered on the Honours Board, a trainee must maintain a very high standard throughout the course and obtain excellent Trade Test results. The first student to qualify is Private Hay, who is being retained at the School as an assistant instructor.

OFFICER TRAINING WING, SCHOOL OF SIGNALS

Major-General R. F. Nalder, C.B., O.B.E., Colonel Commandant, took the salute at the Commissioning Parade of No. 362 Course on 7th March, 1958. The Commanding Officer's prize was awarded to Second-Lieutenant P. R. Keslake. This was the last Commissioning Parade to be held before the disbandment of the Unit.

The day started badly as far as the weather was concerned with snow and ice, but this cleared by the time the parade was due. The day turned out a great success and was thoroughly enjoyed by all the relatives and friends of the newly commissioned officers.

Turning to sport and Hockey in particular, it has been a pleasing month. Three league matches have been played and all won. 2 Training Regiment, 7 Training Regiment and 1st King's Own were beaten 5-1, 5-1 and 3-0 respectively. We are now in fifth position in the Northumbrian District Major Units League.

Sergeant Peberdy is to be congratulated on his selection by the Command team to play against Durham County Hockey Club, and by the Corps against Durham University Hockey Club.

The Soccer news is not quite so encouraging but nevertheless we are holding sixth place in the District Junior League.

U.K. COMCAN SIGNAL REGIMENT

R.H.Q. and 1 Squadron. The month of March has seen the departure of our Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel W. Hammond, M.B.E., and the arrival of the new Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel J. B. Birkett. We all wish Colonel Hammond a happy retirement, and thank him for all that he has done for the Regiment, and welcome Colonel Birkett, and hope that his stay with us will be a happy one.

In the sporting sphere the unit soccer XI, after being knocked out of the local Inter City Services Cup Competition in the semi-finals, made a startling recovery when they beat the Bon Marche XI (a local civilian side) 25-0 (IMI 25-0). It is stressed that the foregoing result *was* a SOCCER result.

The Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess entertained the Gloucester and District Home Guard to a Games Evening during the month, and the result of this grimly fought duel, proved to

be a draw—a very fair conclusion to a most enjoyable evening.

Major R. S. Cathmoir, O.C. 1 Squadron Designate, has arrived preparatory to taking over from Major R. H. Farlow, M.B.E., who will be departing shortly after 39 years' service, of which he has spent the maximum number of years with the Royal Signals. A full report will be published in the next issue of THE WIRE.

2 Squadron. This is the voice of 2 Squadron greeting you from a welter of paint pots, step ladders and barrels of tar. The inconvenience of having the roof re-felted and the whole building repainted has now been accepted, and past members of the Squadron would have difficulty in recognising the Unit in the middle of this gargantuan spring-clean.

We would like to extend a welcome to Sergeant F. M. Orr. Although he has been on the strength of the Unit for some months he has only recently joined us from a course.

We were sorry to hear that Corporal Rowland has received a medical discharge after an injury to his leg some time ago. He will shortly be proceeding on a Resettlement course.

3 Squadron. Our cross-country team journeyed down to Tidworth for the Annual Minor Units Competition. We acquitted ourselves admirably. The team finished sixth and Signalman Davis was "joint first" man home, in spite of running a "buckshee" 100 yards in the blizzard that was raging.

As we go to press C.S.O. Southern Command, Brigadier F. W. P. Bradford, M.B.E., has concluded his first visit to the Squadron. The new electric floor polisher is now cooling off in a dark corner.

The cartoon, published in the February WIRE, was received enthusiastically by the O.R.s. Lieutenant-Colonel K. Nash had done the job well and the S.S.M. and his Beret will be forever remembered.

DEVIZES TO WESTMINSTER EASTER CANOE RACE, 1958

3 Squadron, U.K. COMCAN Signal Regiment

As some of our readers will be aware from photographs that have been published in THE WIRE from time to time, this Squadron has amongst its many social activities a "Canoe Club." Late last summer a germ was sown in the minds of some of the members "Why not enter for the Devizes-Westminster Canoe Race and so carry the Corps flag in yet another sport." This was backed up by the driving enthusiasm of our O.C., Major R. H. Petty, T.D., and a period of training entered on throughout the winter, afloat on the tideway whenever possible; when not, it was cross-country running for the crews. Owing to courses and other reasons it was finally decided to enter only one team, composed of Corporals Davis and Gray. During the winter months the whole of the course was tackled in stages and in addition trips on the Kennet, Avon and Wye were undertaken. We realised that the opposition would be extremely tough, since all the best canoeists, both Service and civilian, in the country would be competing in this race. It was decided that a new canoe would be built to carry the Corps flag in this event. When the list of some sixty entries was received it was noted that Royal Marine Canoe Club had seven entries, Metropolitan Police four, Sandhurst six, R.A.S.C., R.A.F. Cranwell, Wiltshire Regiment, S.A.S. Regiment were all committed, in addition to all the well-known civilian clubs. This only added to our determination.

* *

A visit to the Boat Show at Olympia in January gave us an opportunity of seeing the various types of possible craft, and it was here we first saw the 19-feet "Swan of Mersea," which so impressed us that we felt that we must meet its designer. After some correspondence, the O.C., Major Petty, arranged a meeting with Dr. Davies, at Felsted School, where two of his boats were in the process of construction. At Felsted we saw the 14-feet "Mersea Queen," and a mould for the as yet uncompleted "Tender Giselle." Dr. Davies gave us some valuable information on canoeing in general and we left Felsted School better informed but with three possible craft instead of our former one. After



Corporals M. Davis and Q. Gray

much consideration we decided upon the 17-feet "Tender Giselle" mould, as we considered the 19-feet one to be unwieldy and the 14-feet variation too small for the combined height of the nominated crew. The mould was ready by Tuesday, 25th March, and work was at once started on building the canoe, which was constructed of two layers of 2 m.m. mahogany and one layer of 1½ m.m. gaboon. Construction was effected by laying 2-inch wide strips side by side and then stapling them to the mould until it was completely covered. Then a layer of glue was applied and another layer of mahogany was laid on top. The process was then repeated and the mould removed. Decking and the addition of various accessories occupied until Monday, 31st March, so on Tuesday, the 1st April, the canoe first took to the water. Upon trial the height of the seats was found unsatisfactory and somewhat unstable. This was soon rectified. A trolley or retractable undercarriage on the for'd was fitted for quick moving between locks during the race. The rudder presented a problem but with a second trial this was rectified by working late on Wednesday night, so that by Thursday the canoe was ready, if still untested, completely in time for the departure for Devizes. Thursday was spent in final preparations and later in the day we left for Devizes, where the R.A.P.C. were host to all the competitors, and so to bed early, with the knowledge that the whole Squadron was behind our adventure.

* *

Reveille was sounded for us by an eager junior N.C.O. at 05.00 hours.

After breakfast we pushed trailer and canoe the mile to the London road bridge over the canal. Here we assembled



our kit, lightweight tent and sleeping bags, spare clothes and rations, which were checked by a race official, and by 09.45 hours on Good Friday we were afloat and ready for starter's orders.

The weather was fine but sleet was forecasted. Never again will we question a B.B.C. weather forecast!

At 09.58 hours we set off, cheered by the presence and good wishes of Major Petty, who had come down to see us off on the 125 miles course. The other cheerful thought was that a hot shower would be waiting for us at the end.

All went well and we reached the Savernake tunnel and Newbury on schedule.

The first meal of the trip was taken at 20.00 hours after 35 locks and 34 miles of hard but very satisfying canoeing. We left Newbury at 20.30 hours in good heart, facing the worst section of the course, for the next 10 miles included nine locks, many low bridges, 20% water and 80% water weed. Nevertheless, by midnight we had traversed the slough of despond and covering the next 10 miles in three hours we reached Reading, our next stage, at 03.00 hours. This was slower than we had hoped, since our rudder had been giving trouble, possibly due to the 80% water weed and it was here at Reading that it gave up the ghost finally. Rather foolishly we threw away time trying to repair it and it was not until about 06.30 hours on the Saturday, when we had gone six miles down the Thames, that we finally abandoned hope for it.

At Reading the rain, which had been falling for an hour, turned to snow and when we stopped for a brief meal just above Henley we were soaked completely.

The next 50 miles were relentlessly covered, since the cold forbade us to stop for more than a couple of minutes and indeed at each lock as soon as we stopped paddling we started shivering.

Somewhere about Chertsey lock we must have hit some flotsam and holed the front watertight compartment of the canoe, but it was not until Kingston that the effect of this became apparent in the erratic behaviour of the canoe, and since we were trying to catch the ebb tide at Teddington lock we were forced to ignore the leak and push on. Teddington was passed at 17.15 hours and we were told that we were the first canoe through and that the sluices at Richmond were still open.

The rest of the trip was mainly an endeavour to keep awake and on course. Still, at 20.45 hours we paddled happily under Westminster Bridge and up to the steps of County Hall, where we received a royal welcome as the first arrivals and were led by devious underground routes to well-earned hot showers, where we stayed and stayed. The race for us was over. Although finishing first at Westminster, we were placed sixth on timing out of 61 starters.

* *

The following is an extract from *The Times* of Easter Monday:

> "One of those crews deserving of mention was Q. Gray and M. Davis, of the Royal Corps of Signals, whose boat was built in their Unit recreational workshop and was launched only on the Monday before the race."

After the race a civilian approached us and said how pleased he was to see we had entered under the Royal Corps of Signals and not as an unattached crew. We wonder who he was. Signal badges in the form of transfers as supplied by Signals Association were on the canoe fore and aft.

The Squadron congratulates these two young National Service N.C.O.s on their very fine performance. Much was learned which will be used to great advantage on future occasions. We hope that when Corporal Gray goes on to Oxford after his National Service and Corporal Davis to London University, they will not forsake the tideway on the Thames.

R.O.

16 INDEPENDENT PARACHUTE BRIGADE SIGNAL SQUADRON

BOXING

Army Championships.

Corporal R. Taylor of 16 Independent Parachute Brigade Group Signal Squadron is to be congratulated on winning the Army Lightweight Championship. In a very clean and interesting bout he beat Driver Ward of the R.A.S.C. on points at Aldershot on 28th March. Although Ward appeared to be taller and stronger and to have a stronger punch, Taylor by brilliant boxing gained a well merited victory.

Imperial Services Championships.

On 15th April, the annual Imperial Services Championships took place in Aldershot. The Army won by one point.

Corporal Taylor, Royal Signals, as the Army lightweight representative met the R.A.F. champion, Corporal R. McTaggart, who is also the reigning Olympic champion. The contest was keen, and it was to the credit of both boxers that the referee did not once have to speak to either of them, not even to tell them to "break." The decision went to McTaggart but the referee's congratulations to both men for a keen and close match were well deserved.

NID (M) SIGNAL SQUADRON

Since our last notes, there have been a great many changes in the Squadron. For the second time in nine months we have to bid farewell to our C.S.O.—this time it is Lieutenant-Colonel E. B. Elliott, to whom we offer our very best wishes on his retirement. To Lieutenant-Colonel T. G. V. Stephenson, O.B.E., we extend our greetings and hope that he will enjoy his stay in Northern Ireland. Major R. O. Edwards remains as O.C., but Captain S. N. Potter, W.R.A.C., has left for Germany, and Captain E. L. Burt, W.R.A.C., is now 2 i/c. Two new arrivals are Lieutenant S. R. Turnbull, W.R.A.C., who has taken over the Signal Centre, and Second-Lieutenant M. D. R. Jones who has replaced Second-Lieutenant W. D. Chaytor as resident National Service Subaltern. S.S.M. Parker, W.R.A.C., has been posted to Scottish Command—she has been replaced by S.S.M. Julian, W.R.A.C. Sergeant J. Rhodie has taken over drill and duties, Sergeant Langford is deserting us for the fleshpots of civilian life, and Sergeant Billington has taken over the M.T. Staff Sergeant Kennedy is leaving for 4 Training Regiment and the wilds of Catterick, whilst Sergeants Barlow and Sloane are posted to the South of England.

A Poppy Day dance was organised by the Squadron for all ranks in the Garrison, and certain members showed such aptitude at "jiving" that it was decided that a Squadron Rock 'N' Roll session should be held once a week. This has proved very popular, although some members appear to lack "hep." The Squadron is now no longer classified by trades, but into "Squares" and "Cats."

In the field of sport, Hockey and Tombola appear to be equally popular, while the W.R.A.C. Netball team seems to make the most of its evenings. At the W.R.A.C. Netball tournament at Aldershot, Captain Burt was congratulated by H.R.H. The Princess Royal on the high standard of play of the team. The Hockey team were runners-up in the Northern Ireland Army Minor Units Cup.

The annual Administrative Inspection passed without serious incident in spite of the difficulties experienced by those behind the scenes. It is certain that we will never lack painters and decorators. In particular, Wireless Troop and the Signal Centre Staff excelled themselves, and for a whole fortnight, Corporal Breen was never seen without a paintbrush.

STEEPLE BUMPSTEAD SIGNAL SQUADRON

No dreary sports results, hails and farewells, nor visits of C.S.O.s this month—this time we have real news. No, wrong again, the Wives' Club hasn't been reconstituted; we've actually had a visit from a high level Investigating Committee, whose terms of reference were as elastic as their expense account, namely, "What is wrong with the Army today?" Being thick-skinned, we have not stopped to wonder why the District Commander selected us to be visited!

The methods of the committee were to tour the unit lines and arbitrarily pick on soldiers as they met them. Everything was going well until they met Arbuthnott, a driver and self-accredited reporter, and correspondent for a popular national daily newspaper. It would appear that he had been waiting for them, at least he succeeded in flooring them with the following questions:

a. Why do Army bootlaces break so frequently ?
b. Why isn't blanco issued ?
c. Why is 3/- per week deducted from the travelling expenses of a soldier living in private accommodation ?
d. Why are anklets still worn, when they always cause a hole to be worn on the inside leg of the trouser ?
e. If officers are always saying that nowadays they do the work of lance-corporals, why do we still have lance-corporals ?

Should there ever be a reply to these questions, we will forward same to Arbuthnott in Cyprus !

As for the pay increase; all the senior N.C.O.s have petitioned against it on the grounds that they cannot afford the Income Tax.

We had planned a Squadron Week-End this month, but the obstacles appear insurmountable. The village church would not hold a unit as big as ours, and the objections to our indoor fete on Saturday afternoon were such that the cafes refused to serve us any more if we continued to hold it. (This would, of course, affect the P.R.I.'s morning coffee!). The replies to our invitations to the All Ranks' Dance ranged from "Not on your life" to "Only if it is held in daylight." With such opposition, we shall just have rock cakes for tea on Saturday and raspberry buns on Sunday.

Owing to the inclement weather, all thought of an exercise has been relegated for at least a month.

We congratulate Signalman Webster on gaining his Hockey Colours—black and blue !

EUROPE

18 ARMY GROUP SIGNAL REGIMENT

As on a similar occasion almost exactly a month ago, it is again snowing. We are now getting the remnants of England's Easter weather and at the moment the snow really is coming across horizontally and settling on the walls rather than on the ground. It must not be supposed, however, that we wish to suggest that the weather has been continuously bad; indeed not! As our experts forecast, the end of Exercise "Lion Bleu" last month heralded the coming of a fine, warm spell, and in general the weather continued bright and sunny if, at times, a little chilly until the approach of Easter. By this time the strain of keeping up a smiling countenance had become too much for the weather man and he relaxed, with unfortunate results. Easter, for all that, provided a welcome break in the normal routine of regimental life. The fact that it started barely a week after swinging cuts in civil labour and little more than a fortnight before the annual Administrative Inspection, which will already be over by the time this is read, in no way spoiled people's enjoyment of it. Activities ranged from trips to Paris to blanket bashing and that surely allows enough scope for everyone.

Two Officers have left us recently. Lieutenant H. G. Mackinlay, who has gone to 3 Divisional Signal Regiment, commanded our best-known Troop—that known as the "Baby Bear Troop." For reasons which we will not go into now, this Troop was granted the privilege of wearing on its vehicles a device representing a small bear in silhouette, a distinction which it guards jealously. When the Regiment returned the stone statue of the Berlin Cable Bear to its original owners last November, it was only natural that Lieutenant Mackinlay should be selected as the commander of the "Escort to the Bear" for its ceremonial departure. Although an actual recording of the ceremony was broadcast by the West German Radio, the British Forces Network made do with a somewhat sketchy account, obviously compiled from a Public Relations hand-out. In this it referred to the Bear's being "escorted by a sword-carrying Officer," and, naturally, this phrase gained a certain amount of local currency.

Second-Lieutenant P. D. Stevenson was one of those exceptions to the general rule that his period of National Service is often something of an adventure to a young man. Before his call-up he was working in Madiera and within six weeks of his release he will be in Port Sudan. His line? — Cable and Wireless; so the Army could hardly have made better use of him.

A couple of recent films take one's mind back to the war. "The Bridge on the River Kwai" is going down well in Germany and had a gala performance in Essen, with the Band of the 1st Battalion The Queen's Regiment in attendance. Although "Dunkirk" will probably not be seen on the A.K.C. circuit for a long time, it may be news to some that its recent premiere in London was duplicated by a simultaneous showing at the Globe Cinema at Mönchen-Gladbach-Rheindahlen before a distinguished, if rather less so, audience. The writer was at neither "Dunkirk" nor Dunkirk in 1940, but he recently received from Lieutenant-Colonel G. W. Cumming, O.B.E., T.D., who was in command of the Regiment from its formation until after its return from Dunkirk in 1940, a most interesting account of some of its activities. With the approval of those concerned (and this includes the Editor, who has promised to find space), the first half of the account appears in this issue. In pre-war days the Regiment was a Unit of the Supplementary Reserve and was, at the start of the account, called "G.H.Q. Signals."

Early Days

By Lieutenant-Colonel G. W. Cumming, O.B.E., T.D.
(18 Army Group Signal Regiment)

From the point of view of technical efficiency, G.H.Q. Signals, when it mobilised, must have been one of the best qualified Units in the Corps. The Supplementary Reserve was recruited and trained under similar conditions to the Territorial Army with this difference: a man had to be a qualified tradesman before we could accept him. For example, a telegraphist had to be a trained Post Office operator; exchange operators were Post Office night telephonists; linemen were Post Office linemen; a driver had to produce a driving licence and take a test on an Army truck; and a despatch rider had to produce a driving licence plus a medium- or heavyweight motor cycle. (He hired this to the Army for use at annual training. Theoretically, any D.R. could use any bike, but for the sake of peace we always let a man use his own bike). The Line and Technical Maintenance Sections were the brains of the party: practically every man was a Grade 1 or Grade 2 Technician in the Post Office. Similarly, the Officers were a pretty hot lot (excluding myself!). Although originally in the Post Office, I left that department not long after the First World War, but at least I knew what it was all about and I *did* understand the Post Office types. I graduated from signalling in the Royal Scots during the First World War to R.E. Signals, and gradually drifted back from Battalion to Brigade, to Division and even to Corps Signals. I did not then foresee the day when I should breath the rarified air of G.H.Q. itself.

Our chaps were an amazingly well qualified bunch: one of the Majors was recalled by the Post Office in June, 1940, on being promoted to Chief Post Office Engineer for Scotland. The average age was high. I should say it was at least thirty. Four of the Officers and many of the other ranks had seen service in the First World War. The age limit was forty-six for other ranks and quite a few of them were near the limit. We went to France early in September, 1939. Our technical efficiency was 100%—I say this without any hesitation. Our military efficiency was, shall we say, rated at a more modest figure. We did our best and succeeded entirely to our own satisfaction! We got by because every man was a volunteer and was keen as mustard. In peacetime we got the tradesmen and had only to train them to be soldiers and suit their technical abilities to the use of Army equipment. The military training consisted of forty one-hour drills in the evenings during the first year

and thereafter twenty drills a year. Annual training of fifteen days usually gave us a chance of doing a spot of spit and polish, but if it was at a War Office Exercise, we had no time for fancy trimmings. It was hard work all the time. One year, I remember, we reeled up the last mile of cable just in time to get our train back to Scotland. In many cases this training was the men's annual "holiday." Such things as running through cable were left to the winter months, when we got a few willing volunteers to come along and spend some evenings at it. No pay for this, of course; and yet they speak about the Scot doing nothing for nothing! In 1937 our annual training consisted of furnishing G.H.Q. Signals at Army manoeuvres. Unless I am greatly mistaken, this was the only time the War Office tried out a General Headquarters between the Wars. G.H.Q. staff was provided from War Office and Command staff. A 40-line exchange took care of *all* the local subscribers, while a 20-line board easily took care of all trunks and so forth. Incredible, what?

This, then, was the Unit which went overseas in September, 1939, and furnished the Signals at G.H.Q., British Expeditionary Force at Habarcq Chateau, a few miles from Arras. The billets were at Dainville, about a mile from Arras. Habarcq was a very small village and there was only room for the General Staff, Intelligence and the Signal Officer-in-Chief. The other branches were scattered round the villages in a radius of about seven miles from Habarcq. As the staffs grew, this area extended and internal communication for G.H.Q. became a major Signals preoccupation. The problem was solved by having subexchanges at five villages, where there were comparatively large concentrations of staff, and by running a two-hourly D.R.L.S. for the collection and delivery of signals as well as correspondence. There was only one D.R. Section of 25 men to cope with this, as well as the runs to Corps and elsewhere, so an S.O.S. was sent home for another D.R. Section. This was followed by a third and a fourth within two months. Urgent signals called for "Specials," of course. The whole Unit was grossly overworked; Signal Office personnel worked two 12-hour shifts; linemen worked from dawn till dusk; the D.R.s seemed to get no rest at all. The winter of 1939/40 was very severe and for several weeks the roads were covered with snow and ice. The D.R.s had a dreadful time. One of them, on a run to Corps and back, fell no less than twenty times. In addition, runs in the dark, with dimmed lights, were a nightmare. I found that the D.R.s had a horrid feeling that if they fell, with a heavy bike on top of them, a truck with dimmed lights also might go over them before they could disentangle themselves. As a matter of interest, I found that the older men, those of thirty or over, stuck it much better than the younger men; more philosophical, perhaps. Anyway, we withdrew the bikes altogether, cut down the number of runs drastically and used small cars for them. Our small cars in those far-off days were Baby Austins, civilian pattern.

In November, 1939, the Intelligence Branch came to the conclusion that the name G.H.Q. Signals disclosed the fact that General Headquarters was somewhere in the neighbourhood—as if no-one knew! The name of the Unit was accordingly changed to 1 H.Q. Signals.

At this time our exchanges were all of the F and F type—quite unsuitable for a major formation. Lieutenant Hough (who later as Lieutenant-Colonel F. A. Hough commanded the Unit and was until recently commanding No. 3 Construction Regiment, Royal Signals, A.E.R.) and six of his braves in the Line Maintenance Section, converted the existing exchange at Habarcq into a multiple type with "engaged" signal and all the trimmings. This took them only a week, working at nights, plus a spell of 24 hours at the end. The point was that we had no spare exchanges and they had to do this to the existing exchanges *in situ* without any interruption of communications. This was no mean feat, but with true Scottish modesty we did not tell anyone about it. Even the Signal Officer-in-Chief was kept in the dark until the job was finished.

In January or February, 1940, the Commander-in-Chief, together with the "G," "I" and a few of the other major branches, moved to Arras—the remaining branches staying in their villages (we still had our scattered staffs!). Though I "sez it meself as shouldn't," that move was a triumph of Signal organisation. It was scheduled for 18.00 hours on a certain day, but the staff began taking up their new positions from 14.00 hours onwards. Each Staff Officer found a telephone in his new office, complete with a telephone directory and a note telling him what his new number was and asking him to ring up the exchange. (The main exchange, of course, had been transferred to Arras. By this time we had one of the new 200-line Command boards—five operating positions, "engaged" tests and the lot). Anyway, as each Officer rang up, his name was ticked off the list and the telephone at his old office was disconnected. The move was actually completed by 18.00 hours and there was not a single hitch.

Later in the year we installed some carrier equipment in our old Signal Office at Habarcq Chateau. We were fully extended at the time as far as personnel was concerned, so we asked the Post Office at home if they could help. They called for a few volunteers, who were clapped into battledress and flown to France, where they took over the manning of the equipment. The day after they arrived, I took the Signal Officer-in-Chief (Brigadier Chenevix-Trench) out to see the new equipment working. The operator showed us over and pointed out objects of interest with his cold pipe. During a lull in the demonstration he pulled out his tobacco pouch and began to fill up. Mistaking the purport of my disapproving look from behind the Brigadier's back, he apologised, held out his pouch to the Brigadier and said, "Would you care to have a fill, Sir?" The somewhat startled Brigadier said, "No, thank you. I don't smoke." The brave filled up his own pipe, lit it and went on happily puffing away while he told us all about his gadgets. When we left, he bade the Brigadier a most cordial farewell. Once round the corner, out of sight, I apologised to the Old Man and explained that the operator had donned khaki just the previous day and that, so far as military behaviour was concerned he hadn't a notion. The Brigadier howled with laughter. I returned to the carrier station and pointed out that one did not normally smoke when officers were present, unless permission was given, and that one did not—repeat NOT—offer a fill to a Brigadier. "Oh?" said the lad, "Who's he?"

"He is the Signal Officer-in-Chief," I said, "and as far as you and I are concerned, my lad, he is mentioned in the same breath as the Almighty."

"Is he, now?" said the lad, cheerfully. "I'm awfully sorry. But he's a very nice man, though, isn't he?"

(To be concluded).

1 CORPS SIGNAL REGIMENT

Having survived almost 14 days of near zero temperatures on the N.A.T.O. Exercise "Lion Bleu," the Regiment is now back in the comparative luxury of barrack life, thawing out, and preparing for our next Exercise, "Garcon Bleu," in a week's time. We are all hoping that by then the weather may have improved and the "garcons'" noses may turn from bleu to rouge.

We have had a busy time trying to fit in some of our sporting fixtures between exercises and Easter holidays, but we did manage to play off our two hockey finals. On 26th March we played 2 L. of C. Signal Regiment in the final of the Royal Signals B.A.O.R. Cup and lost a very hard fought game by one goal to nil. It was a good, clean, fast game, but both teams appeared to be put slightly off their normal game by playing on a strange and not particularly good pitch. 2 L. of C. Signal Regiment snatched an early goal lead which, despite a ding-dong battle for the remaining 75 minutes, they managed to hang on to. On the following day we played 1 R.H.A. in the final of the 6 Divisional Group of the B.A.O.R. Cup. Again we lost by the only goal of the match in a very fast and exciting game which was described by the B.F.N. commentator as the best hockey game he has seen this season.

Shooting. In between Exercises and other sporting fixtures we have found time to spend some worthwhile hours in our miniature range.

Our first competitive shoot was in the local league of the Minor Units B.A.O.R. championships in which we entered all our squadrons. Despite the fact that at that stage very little practice had been held, H.Q. Squadron finished second, 2 Squadron sixth and 1 Squadron 11th out of a total of 27 units. In the Major Units Championships the Regimental teams were sixth out of eleven units.

This was an encouraging start, and as the season has progressed the standard of shooting has improved considerably. In November people who got a 90 were considered crack shots, but gradually they began to get quite blase about a 95. Then Staff Sergeant Carr began to produce scores of 98 and 99, but regrettably only in practice.

In our last match, the A.R.A. Unit Team Small Bore Championship, for which the highest scoring Royal Signals Unit is awarded a cup, our team averaged just over 90 on the 48 cards. Staff Sergeant Carr maintained a steady 94 average, Captain Garratt 93, A.Q.M.S. Warner and Captain Burton, our staunch R.E.M.E. members, hovered around 92. Others who fired for the Regiment were Captain Callan, Second-Lieutenant Newell, F. of S. Whittington, R.S.M. Page and Corporal Whyles.

We also put in a team for the A.R.A. Young Soldiers' Cup. Second-Lieutenant Newell averaged 92.5, with Corporal McCallum and Signalman Fraser both getting 87. Others in the team were Lance-Corporal Ellis, Lance-Corporal Gray, Signalman Rangeley, Signalman Bull and Signalman Heslop.

We are now hoping to pick out our stars and to see how they fare with .303s, preparatory to entering a team for the Royal Signals B.A.O.R. meeting.

2 INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT

For the last time our notes appear under our old familiar title, for shortly we are to adopt our new name, "2 Divisional Signal Regiment," the seventh in the fifty-one years of our history. At the same time we are moving to Bünde and saying farewell to St. David's Barracks, Hilden, where the Regiment has spent the last eleven years. The final burst of activity will not be quickly forgotten by those of us taking part.

Towards the end of March the Regimental Signal Officers from the Division attended a two-day convention at Hilden and in the intervals between drinking and weeping on each others shoulders over the lack of new equipment a great deal of useful work was done. The G.O.C. attended a guest night, at which the R.S.O.s were entertained and showed once again that



Mr. Duncan Sandys accompanied by Air Chief Marshal Sir William Dickson discussing signal equipment in current use with Lieutenant-Colonel Horsfield and Major Brindley



Regimental signal equipment was not forgotten. Mr. Duncan Sandys and the G.O.C. (Major-General C. A. R. Nevill) looking at the signal equipment of 1 Coldstream Guards.

sixteen stone and considerable natural skill more than compensate for advancing years when it comes to the rougher games round a billiards table.

The next highlight was the visit of Mr. Duncan Sandys to the Regiment. This was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to present the problems of Royal Signals and in particular those of the Divisional Signal Regiments. As the Commanding Officer said to the Minister of Defence in his opening remarks: "This may sound like a belly-ache.—It is." The Commander-in-Chief strongly supported our claims for new equipment and Major Brindley and his Squadron were congratulated on their excellent demonstration of some of our museum pieces.

In the same week the G.O.C. said his farewell to the Regiment. This was a sad moment, for we have had wonderful support from our Divisional Commander and his interest and cheerful visits have been a constant tonic to our morale.

Still in the same week, our R.S.M., Mr. Broadhead, and the members of his Mess carried through an original and successful experiment. A formal Sergeants' Mess guest night was held, at which fifty-one guests and members sat down to dine, with Colonel M. A. Charlton, a former Commanding Officer of the Regiment, as guest of honour. The Regimental silver was on display, including our latest acquisition, a punch bowl of majestic dimensions to commemorate the long span of years, now ended, when we used to provide Officers to command "Gunner Signal Troops." The dinner was a superlative effort and considerable endurance was needed to complete the menu.

Turning, with some difficulty, to sport, we congratulate 2 L. of C. Signal Regiment on winning the Royal Signals, B.A.O.R., Hockey Competition. In an early round, after three games and a liberal portion of extra time we were still level. The spin of a coin sent them on their way to victory.

On the football field we have fared rather better; our 2 Squadron team is in the final of the 4 Guards Brigade Group Battery/Squadron/Company competition and the same team has also reached the final of the Divisional Battery/Squadron/Company competition.

6 ARMOURED DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT

Our WIRE notes in this edition begin on a rather wistful note with the news that on 16th April, 1958, the Regiment ceases to be 6 Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment and on amalgamation becomes 2 Divisional Signal Regiment. This, of course, as many old warriors of the famous war-time 6 Armoured Division will remember, has happened before, when the 6 Armoured Division after its victorious campaigns in North Africa and Italy was amalgamated with 1 Armoured Division in July, 1946.

On the Occasion of the

FAREWELL VISIT

by

Major-General
D. S. S. O'Connor
C.B.E., G.O.C.
6 Armoured Division

February, 1958



THE WARRANT OFFICERS AND SERGEANTS, 6 ARMOURED DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT

Back Row: Sergeant P. Watton, Sergeant J. Clarke, Staff Sergeant N. Parker, Sergeant A. Durrant, R.E.M.E., Staff Sergeant H. Clark, Sergeant A. Bridgeford, Sergeant R. Stalker.
3rd Row: Sergeants F. Kemp, P. Ellis, A.C.C., E. Scott, J. Taylor, V. De Clancy, A. Wallis, Staff Sergeant M. J. Caplan, A.S.S.U., Sergeants J. Wilson, R.E.M.E., C. Stephens, I.A.S.S.U., R. Lowe
2nd Row: Staff Sergeant Hall, B.Q.M.S. Dilley, R.A., Staff Sergeant H. White, Sergeant G. King, Staff Sergeants D. Armstrong, J. Blacklock, R. Aitken, T. Gregg, W. Pickford, Sergeants J. Raffan, J. David, R.A.P.C., Staff Sergeant M. Davies
Front Row: W.O.II R. Marriott, J. Varley, W. Stewart, Major-General D. S. S. O'Connor, C.B.E., R.S.M. L. Davies, Lieutenant-Colonel J. H. St. G. Hamersley, C.R. Signals, A.S.M. R. Malyon, R.E.M.E., R.Q.M.S. Timperley, W.O.II J. Crich

Research is now going on through the Regimental History files to produce for THE WIRE a history of the 6 Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment from its inception in September, 1940, to the present, which will no doubt be of great interest to past members of the Regiment. Meanwhile, sports, training and exercises are occupying the time of the Regiment at present.

The Regiment reached the third round of the B.A.O.R./Army F.A. Soccer Cup competition after some good games against R.A.S.C. 4 Infantry Division and 1 Battalion D.C.L.I., whom we defeated 5—2 and 6—1 respectively. Our final game in the competition against the 4th Hussars was an excellent game, but the opposition was too strong and we went down to a 6—2 defeat.

The Royal Signals B.A.O.R. Cup Competition was also occupying our Soccer team's time during the period, and the semi-final was reached after defeating 7 Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment and 11 Air Formation Signal Regiment by 5—3 and 5—2 respectively. In the semi-final we were drawn against 1 Corps Signal Regiment and after a very hard game were defeated. It should be recorded that 1 Corps Signal Regiment were finalists in the competition but were defeated 1—0 by 1 Wireless Regiment in the final.

Finally, on the subject of Soccer, our H.Q., 1 and 2 Squadrons competed in the B.A.O.R./Army Minor Units Cup competition, 2 Squadron reaching the second round, but finally losing to 45 Field Park Squadron R.E. The Squadrons are still competing in the 6 Armoured Divisional Minor Units League with the following results to date:—

H.Q. Sqn — Played 4	Lost 3	Drawn 1
1 Sqn — Played 3	Won 2	Drawn 1
2 Sqn — Played 4	Lost 3	Drawn 1

The Regimental Inter-Troop League is well under way, and to date our "O" Troop is unbeaten. Our Regimental Soccer Officer, Lieutenant C. D. Browne, and the Soccer players can be congratulated on a very successful season so far.

On the Rugby field the Regimental Rugby team, under the leadership of Captain P. A. Wing, have had a full and interesting fixture list for the season. The majority of fixtures being non-competition but nevertheless not lacking in competitive spirit! The team have recently returned from an interesting Rugby tour in Berlin where they met the Berlin Wanderers, a composite team formed from units of the Berlin garrison. This game was hard fought and resulted in a win for the Berlin Wanderers by 5 points to 3.

A further game against an all German team—played under R.U.F. rules—and played in the Berlin Olympic Stadium resulted in a win for our team by 14 points to nil.

Against the R.A.F. Gatow, again a hard fought game, our team were finally successful by winning 8 points to 5.

The Regiment's hockey activities have been at a maximum during the season, and whilst no cups or trophies have been won in this direction, the team, under Major F. Clarkson's guidance, gave a good account of itself in the B.A.O.R. and Royal Signals Cup competition.

The Regimental Ski-ing team had 14 days training in ideal conditions at St. Johanne in Austria in January. In the 6 Armoured Divisional Ski-ing Competition held in Winterberg during February the team gave a good account of themselves, but unfortunately were not placed. We are sorry indeed to lose Major M. Watterson, our very keen and able Ski-ing Officer, to 1 Corps Signal Regiment on posting in early March.

Captain M. O'Connor, Royal Signals, has taken over the reins as Regimental Sailing Officer and is at present forming crews for the meetings shortly to be held in the Baltic.

Finally, a competition we did claim with pride was the 6 Armoured Division Cooking Competition, where Sergeant Ellis, A.C.C., our cook sergeant, "brought home the bacon" by winning the 6 Armoured Division Major Units Cookery Competition, ably assisted by Private B. Hill and Private E. Hill, A.C.C. Congratulations!

On the last week-end of March the Regiment was entertained by 7 Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment at Verden to an "at home," during which the Signal Regiments played one another at Hockey and Soccer.

Two coaches and a large number of private cars transported a party of well over a hundred all ranks and families from Bunde to Verden for the occasion.

This visit was in the nature of a "return engagement" between the two Divisional Signal Regiments, as 7 Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment had visited Bunde at the latter end of last year.

The visit also marked the last occasion of a very happy liaison between the two sister Armoured Divisional Signal Regiments, as 7 Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment is renamed 5 Divisional Signal Regiment from 16th April, 1958.

The week-end was thoroughly enjoyed by all, and although we lost the Soccer match by 2 goals to 1, the Hockey match after a hard and enjoyable game by both teams resulted in a draw 0—0.



Left to right: Sergeant Corrigan, Corporal Carpenter, Signalman Fitzpatrick, Corporal Cunningham, Corporal Pratt, Lance Corporal O'Donoghue, Signalman Faulkner, S.I. Costal, Lieutenant-Colonel T. H. C. Grigg, Captain Willey, Corporal Wyer, Corporal Clarkson

4 INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT

Although we have been passing through what is reputed to be the quieter part of the year, it has certainly not been very noticeable. We have taken part in the usual exercises at various levels and there have been many sporting events as well.

On the recent Divisional Patrolling Competition we acquitted ourselves well. Several bewildered and very tired infantry patrols who were vainly searching for the Divisional Headquarters were very surprised to be challenged by some warlike Royal Signals personnel who were making quite sure that the H.Q. was not found.

Turning to our sporting activities, we can be proud of our rugger team's success in its first full season, as previously we have always had a combined side with the Divisional H.Q. In the Divisional Competition we played the East Yorkshire Regiment in the final at Herford under very wet and muddy conditions. We drew 3-3 after leading at half-time. The replay, held at Osnabruck under much more agreeable conditions, was a very good game. By half-time the score was 12-5 against us. From the restart we scored a try which was converted and we pinned the East Yorks in their own 25 for most of the second half, but failed to score again. Some five minutes before the end, the East Yorks broke through and scored under the posts making the final score 17-10.

In the Royal Signals B.A.O.R. Cup we played 6 Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment at Bunde and won 8-0. The semi-final was played against 1 Corps Signal Regiment under atrocious conditions on a waterlogged pitch, but we managed to win 8-3. In the final the team travelled away to meet 1 Wireless Regiment on their own ground. The game was played under good conditions and some good hard rugby was seen. After a hard battle the score at full-time was 6-6 and extra time was played. It was in this period that the extra weight of 1 Wireless Regiment began to tell, and the closing minutes they went over for a try that was converted. The final score was 1 Wireless Regiment 11, 4 Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment 6. Congratulations to the winners on a worthy victory.

In the world of Basketball we have a very flourishing team. Having won the Divisional Basketball Competition, we went forward the B.A.O.R. Championship, where we were beaten in the semi-final by the eventual winners of the Championship, the 2nd Battalion Queen's Own Rifles of Canada. The score was 34-14, and the Canadians said that ours was the hardest game of the championship. At the time of writing we are about to run a Herford Garrison Competition to keep the team in training for next season. The photograph shows our team, who beat the Dorsetshire Regiment 45-34 in the final of the Divisional Basketball Competition.

Our football team has met with varying fortunes during the past season. Whilst realising that the same situation must confront other teams, we have only one player left of the original team that set off with such high hopes at the beginning of the season. We have broken just about even as regards our games played, our main achievement being reaching the semi-final of the Divisional Football Knock-out Competition.

We congratulate Lieutenant Pedley on his recent marriage. After a honeymoon in Austria, Switzerland and Italy, he has just returned and is settling down to the rigours of married life in Germany.

Ski Training in Austria

By Sergeant Meikle, R.A.E.C.

The night of 6th January saw us leave, 12 strong, a cold, wet Düsseldorf for the sunny snow slopes of the Tyrol. To most, the prospect of military training in such conditions was rather an exciting one, and the journey southward stimulated this feeling of expectancy, with the beauty of the moonlit Rhine, the crowded, gear-cluttered patforms in the Hauptbahnhof in Munich and the austere, little Austrian train, wooden seats packed with skiers and equipment, taking us up-valley to St. Johann, our "home" for the next fortnight.

Little more than a village, St. Johann, its guest houses clustered around the foot of the main ski-slopes and chalets scattered over the flat valley floor, greeted us with only a speckled snow landscape, but 24 hours of continuous snowfall made conditions most favourable for our initiation the following morning.

Having learned to stand up on skis on the first day, the party split into three classes and, with remarkable patience, the ski-instructors led us through the intricacies of traverse, snow plough and stem turn with an occasional three-mile cross-country patrol to increase the torture. Graduation from the nursery slopes to a steeper section several hundred feet above, gave us the double "advantage" of a gruelling climb and a varied kilometre long descent at the end of lessons, in addition to providing endless humour as, control gone, figure after figure streaked over the horizon to a maliciously-cheerful call of "Auf Wiedersehn" from the grinning instructors.

On these slopes too, platoons of Austrian ski-troops travelling downhill at high speed and in close formation, showed how efficient a body of soldiers can be, with proper, sustained winter warfare training. A note of astonisment and shame crept in here when the slope suddenly would become alive with masses of eight-year-olds displaying incredible skill while we stumbled around often nosediving into welcoming snowdrifts.

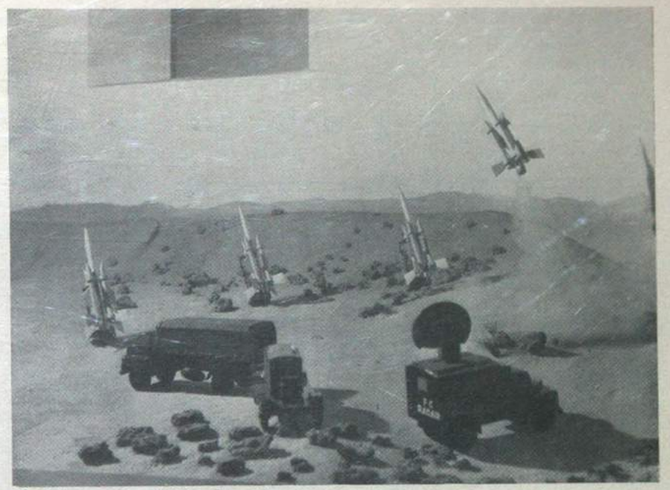
At the end of the first week we were beginning to feel that the hours spent waxing and honing skis, the interminable toppling over, the muscular pains in arms and legs, the struggling herringbone climbs, the pile-ups on cross-country and the inevitable arguments with trees, would pay dividends, and we faced the second week with hope and anticipation.

We finally reached the enviable position of tackling the main slopes, guided at first and then solo, and only then did the true enjoyment from ski-ing reach most of us. The change from the disciplined drudgery of the nursery slopes to the varied run downhill for four kilometres seemed to promote the confidence lacking earlier on, and many of us skied till fading light forced us home.

This new-found confidence was tested several times in the last few days. A full-day trip to fashionable Kitzbühl to make an assault on the famous Kitzbühler Horn began with a stiff 2,000ft. climb to reach the chairlift to the summit, and there a small blizzard gave us good experience in the worst possible visibility, with icy packed snow throughout the tortuous four-hour descent. On the final day, fast, exciting sport came from the use of a knoll as a minor ski-jump, and a cunningly-constructed slalom course, Staff-Sergeant Butler putting up good times on the latter.

To most of us, this fortnight's training seemed rather like a recruiting poster come true: we saw a little more of the world, we entered a completely different community—an international one—and, in so doing, strengthened our own ties, and we gained a new exhilarating skill, advantageous in our military life and adding to our personal ability and enjoyment.

Anti-Aircraft Signal Squadron



[By kind permission of "The Gunner"

The last time we appeared in The Wire we described our contribution to the Suez Operation when this formation provided the air defence for the island of Cyprus. During this operation we put modern theory into practice by establishing a VHF Relay Station on an almost inaccessible site by the employment of helicopters. We now think the news of our new role will be of interest. Our formation is being equipped as a Surface to Air Guided Weapon formation for Air Defence.

The Royal Artillery will be equipped with the "Thunderbird" guided missile which is being manufactured in this country by English Electric, and some new and very interesting Radar equipment for the guidance of this missile.

The introduction of this new weapon is bringing many interesting and specialised problems of handling from the soldiers' point of view. The communication problems are also of considerable interest and equally specialised.

During the last few months, indeed since we came back from Cyprus, we have been busily occupied with lectures, study groups and planning conferences, to work out the best way of fitting this new weapon into an efficient working field formation. This research has taken us to the Anti-Aircraft School of Artillery, the Missile Testing Range, the Royal Radar Research Establishment and also to the English Electric Company.

The missile, its launching and the associated military control vehicles which will be used in its operation in the field, are in an advanced stage of development and troops have actually already tried out their hands at operating the system. The vital communication aspect is also in the course of development and it is hoped that suitable equipment will be available for practical use soon.

The speed of the target is now so high that the time element between the sighting of the target to the firing of the missile is now only a matter of seconds. Consequently a really first class communication system with unquestionable realiability, within the formation, to control the firing and reporting of targets, is absolutely essential if this new weapon is to be a success.

We have in this Squadron a very good idea of the type of signal equipment required for this purpose and we hope we will be receiving something soon with which we can train this summer and with which we can put our theories to the test.

Our photograph shows the layout of the "Thunderbird" as it was presented at the Schoolboys' Exhibition early this year. This demonstration received much popularity at the exhibition both from the young and old, and proved a valuable recruiting attraction for the Royal Artillery. It is unfortunate, however, that the Royal Signals aspect was not given greater publicity.

We in the Signal Squadron are now looking forward to a most interesting exercise period for the putting into practice of our theories in the operation of the Surface to Air Guided Missiles in the Field.

Advertisements

It is hoped that readers of The Wire do spare the time, to at least, glance at some, if not all, of the Advertisements that illuminate The Wire. Incidentally, they pay a good share of the costs of production.

Foremost is Garrard and Co. who those who are older remember better as the Goldsmiths and Silversmiths. This number has one and a half pages of their wares. They do not tell all the story. A visit to 112, Regent Street is well worth while and let your steps take you upstairs to the military section where very many modestly priced gifts for Signalmen will be shown you; a Ronson lighter with "Jimmy" and a band of the Corps colours for instance.

Mr. Cox is known to most, if not all, and two pages tell of the history of that famous banking house. The following is an anonymous but true personal reminiscence to add to the tale that is told:—

"Arriving in London in 1944 after six years' absence I called at 6, Pall Mall and was discomforted to be told that "F" Section were in Ryder Street. With mounting resentment I entered the plaster board and sawdust atmosphere and stood for a moment eyeing the room with disfavour. An elderly member of the bank staff moved swiftly from behind the counter, seized my hand and exclaimed "Please do not tell me your name—give me a moment." It took him about fifteen seconds to announce name, initials and all about me. He announced that I was £150 overdrawn!!! but said that it was clearly a mistake by the Pay Department in Bournemourth (it was) that I was not to worry and how much money did I want. Immediately I Felt at Home."

Those who are to return to civil life in the near future should search diligently for the many advertisements in which employers offer positions to them, and of course there are details of many more vacancies at the Headquarters of the Association.

All who have been stationed in Catterick will know of the service given to leave parties and others by Percival Coaches. Many will have done some of their shopping with W. Metcalfe, Chas. Jackson and Sons in Darlington, and Cherry's in Richmond.

Clothing is represented by Herbert Johnson of Bond Street and Bates of Jermyn Street, Hatters to the Royal Corps of Signals, and of course the famous firm of Moss Brothers of Covent Garden.

Those considering insurance may well consider Brigadier R. T. Williams, an Insurance Consultant, whose office is in Brighton.

Last but not least, page 146 is recommended which includes a wide range of articles supplied by the Royal Signals Association. It is not sufficiently known that while you can buy in very many shops a tie purporting to be that of the Royal Corps of Signals, you will obtain it cheaper from the Royal Signals Association, and furthermore you may be sure that it is of the correct pattern, and that the stripes will run downwards from the right shoulder.

COX's

Two hundred years of banking for the Armed Forces

How much pay and allowances was the Iron Duke drawing at Waterloo? What was the cost to the East India Company of the cannon supplied to Colonel Clive for his expedition against Garish in 1756? Or of the "lanthorns Muscovy, aprons of lead and linstocks without cocks," issued then to Lieutenant Thos. Hussey "to march with the party who have not had the small-pox"?

The answers to these questions, together with countless other fascinating glimpses into the past (e.g. rate of exchange for the *pagoda* in 1761) are to be found, down to a penny, in the ledgers preserved at Cox's and King's branch of Lloyds Bank in Pall Mall.

The story of this banking office goes back exactly 200 years, to the day in 1758 when Mr. Richard Cox was appointed Secretary (de facto financial agent) to the 1st Foot Guards (Grenadiers). Such was the origin of the bank which was in time to earn the affectionate sobriquet "Uncle Cox" in the course of its service to tens of thousands of British officers in peace and war.

Mr. Cox received his appointment at the hand of Jean Ligonier, famous cavalry leader, whose eminent services had in the previous year been acknowledged by a Viscountcy, promotion to Field Marshal and succession to the Duke of Cumberland as Commander-in-Chief, and Colonelcy of the 1st Foot Guards.

Such Colonelcies were by that time sinecures: the extensive work of accountancy for pay and purchases was delegated under Power of Attorney to a Secretary.

For Mr. Cox this agency was a reward for devoted service as Personal Secretary to Ligonier in the field and at home.

Cox was a man of distinction: among his friends were Dr. Johnson, Burke, Goldsmith, Garrick, Reynolds and other notables. That he was also a very competent business man, the rest of his life story proves. By 1803, when Richard Cox died, his bank was agent to numerous Regiments. And by 1815, when his cousin, Charles Greenwood, was senior partner, the firm was agent to the entire Household Brigade, the majority of cavalry and infantry regiments, the Royal Artillery and the Royal Waggon Train (forerunner of the R.A.S.C.).

In presenting Greenwood to George III, the Duke of York described him as "the gentleman who keeps my money." Greenwood commented drily: "I think it is rather His Royal Highness who keeps my money." Among his royal customers was the Duke of Kent, Queen Victoria's father.

As the multifarious duties of the regimental agent (they included such details as trusteeship for "officers labouring under Mental Delusion") were gradually taken over by the Army itself, the personal banking business of Cox's expanded.

It reached a peak with the First World War, during the course of which the names of more than 250,000 officers passed through the books. The address was by now 16, Charing Cross. Here a 24-hour service was given, including Sundays and holidays, for officers returning from the front; and "Dear Mr. Cox," as the bank was often lightheartedly addressed, was patriotically understanding in the matter of subalterns' overdrafts. Associated in their minds with the hectic pleasures of leave in London, he became "Uncle Cox." A gallant young Colonel who fell on the Somme, had a habit of singing, when there was a moment for conviviality:

> The soldier boy is full of joy,
> As pleased as Punch you'll find him,
> With Father Grim in front of him
> And Uncle Cox behind him.

At the height of the war, 50,000 cheques a day were cleared, and up to 20,000 letters dealt with. Branches were set up behind the lines in France, and on any front an officer could draw on his account without trouble to prove his identity.

Cox's did far more than merely issue pay and keep an officer's banking account. The Insurance Department would arrange to insure his kit, the Income Tax Department would deal with his tax returns, and the Standing Order Department would see that the instalments to his tailor were paid regularly. A kindly and spontaneous service was to send a cashier with a supply of money to every hospital ship as it arrived, in case wounded officers wanted cheques cashed.

Cox's provided another humanitarian service. A careful record was kept of all officers posted as missing. Often the Bank had the first indication that the missing officer was alive and a prisoner, by the presentation of a cheque he had negotiated and which reached 16, Charing Cross through neutral channels. Mrs. Reginald Cox, the wife of the senior partner, played her part in keeping the families of missing officers posted with any information reaching the Bank.

In 1912 Cox's were appointed agents to the Royal Flying Corps, and when the Royal Air Force was established in 1918, they were privileged to continue this appointment.

Cox's was taken over by Lloyds Bank in 1923. But it preserves the memory of its founder in the title Cox's and King's Branch, and remains an "institution." Among banking offices it is in many ways unique. At 6, Pall Mall (the address since 1924) there is still a separate office labelled "Guards and Cavalry," and separate counters for sections of the military—lettered 'F' for the Foot Regiments and the Rifle Brigade, 'R' for the "Royals" (R.A., R.E., Royal Signals, etc), 'R3' is Royal Air Force; and, as throughout Cox's history, the ledgers are bestrewn with illustrious names. The accounts of many military families date back to Richard Cox himself. It is, incidentally, the largest branch bank in Europe, and has its own emergency electric plant, and artesian water supply.

In 1939, faced again with the prospect of enormous expansion in the number of officers, the Branch had already equipped itself by the installation of the most modern mechanised accounting system. Large numbers of additional staff had to be recruited, not only to replace those who joined the Forces, but to handle the additional work. Dispersal was inevitable. The Pay Department, which at one time dealt with the pay of 153,000 officers, spent most of the war in Bournemouth. But, once more, in London an all-night service was given to officers.

The extension of the war into many theatres, and the frequent interruption in communications brought difficulties, but with goodwill they were surmounted. This letter came from the Middle East:

> "Gentlemen,
>
> I return herewith a cheque book recently sent me by you. I regret to say that this book met with disaster at the hand or rather the mouth of a hungry cow . . . I would like to point out, in view of the instructions given on the cover of the cheque book, that my permission was not first obtained."

Service to the Army has been the *raison d'etre* of Cox's for just 200 years. This is a tradition of which Lloyds Bank is very proud. The close association between officers and the Bank persists; a recent letter from a customer serving abroad testifies:

"As I think I mentioned to you, whenever I enter the portals of Cox's and King's I immediately feel at home."



Field Marshal Lord Ligonier and his personal Secretary Mr. Richard Cox. From a contemporary painting by David Morier in the possession of the Cox's & King's Branch of Lloyds Bank Limited.

Two hundred years' service

IN 1758 Field Marshal Lord Ligonier appointed Mr. Richard Cox as Secretary (*de facto* agent for pay and supplies) to the 1st Foot Guards, of which Regiment he was Colonel. Today Lloyds Bank is proud to be carrying on a 200 years' tradition of service to the Armed Forces of the Crown.

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Official Agents to the Army and Royal Air Force

The following goods are available from Association Headquarters:

Corps Paint Transfers:

"Jimmy"—on background of Corps Colours (each)

20" x 15"	10" x 7 1/2"	7 1/2" x 5 5/8"	3 1/10" x 2 2/5"
4/–	3/–	2/8	1/6

Mounted on black plastic (each)

8/6	4/9	4/–	—

Corps Ties—Reppe	5/6	
Heavy Weave	7/6	
Woollen	8/6	
Terylene	12/11	
Corps Scarves—Woollen	21/–	
Woollen Scarf and Tie Set	30/–	
Cravats—Reppe	21/–	
Corps Cuff Links	7/–	
Association Buttonhole Badges or Brooches	3/–	Members only
Association Blazer Badges (Silver "Jimmy" on a shield of Corps Colours, as approved by the Corps Committee)	25/–	Members only
Blazer Buttons—Large (each)	2/3	
Small (each)	1/8	
Motor Car Badges (enamelled in Corps Colours)	35/–	
Motor Cycle Badges (enamelled in Corps Colours)	17/6	
Corps Plaques	26/6	Plus postage

Corps Diaries (available each year between November and February. Apply to Headquarters for Order Form).

PLEASE SEND CASH WITH ORDER for all the above articles *except* Corps Paint Transfers, for which an account will be forwarded.



OFFICIAL MOTOR CYCLE BADGE

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This is the actual size of the Badge which is obtainable from the Headquarters of the Association, 88, Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1



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 !

Major-General R. J. MOBERLY visits CYPRUS

☆



S.O.-in-C. inspects the Guard of Honour provided by 3 G.H.Q. Signal Regiment

The Spring is the season for visits to Cyprus, and among the many who came this way was the Signal Officer-in-Chief, Major-General Richard J. Moberly, C.B., O.B.E. It is a long time since we have been so honoured, and his tour, from the 5th-12th March, to visit the many Royal Signals Units scattered throughout the island was very welcome. When the list of visitors was circulated, his was definite, unlike that of the Archbishop in Jerusalem, against which "to be confirmed" appeared. This led to a Signal Security classification "Sacred" from G.H.Q. However, all was well, and he arrived in good order.

General Moberly, accompanied by Brigadier C. D. Gardiner, C.S.O., M.E.L.F., arrived at Nicosia Airport from Malta on 5th March and was greeted by C.S.O., Cyprus District, Colonel H. Prince. The S.O.-in-C. stayed the night at Colonel Prince's home in Nicosia. Early next morning, General Moberly called at the Secretariat to meet the G.O.C., Cyprus District and Director of Operations, Major-General D. A. Kendrew, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O.

In the morning, the General's party took the road to Famagusta, the town among the orange groves and mediaeval ruins, with Othello's tower overlooking the ships.



"THE OTHER END OF THE PIPELINE"
S.O.-in-C. talking to Corporal Edwards who had just joined the Cyprus District Signal Regiment. In the background is the Adjutant, Captain G. L. N. Langworthy

The General's first call, a few miles out from the town, was at Nikolaos Camp, the home of 2 Wireless Regiment, which is one of the oldest units (or as it maintains *the* oldest) in the Corps, and so it was fitting that the S.O.-in-C. should visit this first.

After inspecting the Regimental Quarter Guard, the S.O.-in-C. commenced a tour of the camps and installations, with a warning that he was not to be "blinded with science." He visited a representative selection of the technical buildings, including the fine office and workshop extension recently completed, and the administrative camps of tents and huts including "2 Camp," which was looking as austere and well-scrubbed as usual. There was not time to visit the detached sites out in the dusty "Arizona" plain, or the English suburban streets and semi-detached houses of the "4 mile point" married quarters area, and after a round of over two hours, the S.O.-in-C. arrived at the Sergeants' Mess, where he was greeted by R.S.M. Holmes and met the W.O.s and Senior N.C.O.s informally.

After lunch, the party departed for H.Q., 51 Independent Brigade Group, where they were shown the Brigade Signal Squadron in its Air Portable Role. One Brigade Command Vehicle, a Landrover and trailer, was lashed into a Valetta fuselage, and the S.O.-in-C. was shown other detachments, loaded as for airborne operations, with the crews standing by. After tea in the Officers' Mess, General Moberly spent an hour touring the old city of Famagusta. Returning to Nicosia late in the afternoon, the S.O.-in-C. and his party were the guests of Lieutenant-Colonel J. de D. Yule and the officers of Cyprus District Signal Regiment, at a Regimental Dinner.

On Friday, 7th March, the S.O.-in-C. had a full programme. He first visited the Secretariat in Nicosia, which is the combined Naval, Army and Civil H.Q., from which the internal security operations are controlled. Here Colonel Prince gave an outline of the extensive V.H.F. communications that provide an overlay to the civil system, that are run by Cyprus District Signal Regiment and the Cyprus Police Force Communication Officer, Chief Superintendent K. F. Burke, O.B.E., who may be remembered by some readers for his work in Kenya, explained the V.H.F. Island Wide Police network. The S.O.-in-C. was then taken on a quick tour of the Secretariat by the Chief of Staff, he looked in to see the Royal Signals Operators working in Maritime H.Q., and finally Lieutenant P. E. C. Davies showed him the wireless room having all the V.H.F. equipment that is used by the staff officers via remote control. From this small detachment, one of the many provided by



S.O.-in-C. talking to Lieutenant-Colonel J. de D. Yule. In background, Major (TOT) Rumsey

Cyprus District Signal Regiment, he went to their camp in Kykko West Camp, where Lieutenant-Colonel J. de D. Yule showed him round, ending with the traditional hospitality in the W.O.s and Sergeants' Mess. This was in the hands of the contractors, who were laying a long-overdue floor, but R.S.M. Harding introduced those members of the Mess who could be spared from their operational duties, and the party suffered nothing by being in the open. The S.O.-in-C. then lunched in the District H.Q. Mess with the Signal Staff of District H.Q., including Mr. Carlettides. Mr. Portsmouth, the General Manager of C.I.T.A., was also a guest. Those who have served in Cyprus will be glad to hear that both these stalwarts were in their usual inimitable form and it was hard to leave their company.

Major Sell, O.C., 1 Squadron, Captain Tomkins, the C.D.S.O., and S.S.M. Ilett then took him round the Signal Centre, not forgetting the civilian girls, who give such loyal service on the telephone exchange, in spite of EOKA, etc.

Next was a visit to "G" Troop at Lakatamia Camp, about eight miles from Nicosia, which is shared with the Army Guard Dog Unit. The C.O. of the Guard Dog Unit, who is also Camp Commandant, laid on a quick demonstration by the dogs and a visit to the local saddle club stables. After the technicalities of "G" Troop, which were ably explained by F. of S. W.O.II Risby, the visits to the stables was a welcome relief, and it is suspected that many of the party had certain nostalgic memories of once again taking a Royal Signals Inspecting Officer round horses which, with the dogs, set the tone of the conversation at tea in the local Mess.

On his way back to Nicosia, the S.O.-in-C. went to the local F.B.S. Station, which is a good example of how much can be done from a converted house, when practically no money is available. Here he met Lieutenant (Q.M.) McQuade and Staff-Sergeant Staite, who both look after the stores side.

To crown a very full day, there was a cocktail party given by Colonel and Mrs. Harold Prince at their house, which was attended by the married Royal Signals Officers in Nicosia. There were only one or two unavoidable absentees; and many of those intimately connected with communicating and broadcasting were also present.

The first item of the General's itinerary for the 8th March was a visit to Headquarters Cyprus District, where he was introduced to the Deputy Commander, and met members of the C.S.O. Cyprus District's Staff, headed by the Chief Clerk, W.O.II M. A. Barnes-Murphy.

His next visit was to H.Q., 3 Independent Infantry Brigade, which is the Mobile I.S. reserve brigade on the island. The Brigade had just returned from an administrative exercise, and the Signal Troop was in the middle of clearing up after that and preparing for a telecommunications inspection two days later! The General was met by the Signal Officer, Captain A. M. Hewson, and saw the Troop at work—and, thanks to the rain, he was introduced to the Cyprus mud! He stopped to talk to several members of the Troop and met the Second-in-Command, Lieutenant D. A. C. Randal, Staff Sergeants P. Kendrick and J. Spours, Sergeants P. S. W. Johnson and T. G. Hewson. Then on to Headquarters, 50 Independent Infantry Brigade, Nicosia Garrison, where the General was greeted by the Brigade and Garrison Commander, Brigadier T. R. St. P. Bunbury, D.S.O.; Captain G. A. S. Excell, the Brigade Signal Officer, conducted the General around the Brigade Signal Troop. To crown a long and interesting morning, the General was entertained to luncheon by His Exellency the Governor and Lady Foot. In the afternoon the General had a very well-deserved rest.

Sunday combined duty with pleasure, when the General drove up to the Troodos Mountains. The 50-mile drive to the 6,400ft. summit of Mount Olympus provided him with some of the island's more spectacular scenery, and although the weather on the upper slopes was somewhat capricious, the General was considerably impressed by the magnificent vistas.

At Troodos, the General inspected a large radio relay station, operated by a Troop of Cyprus District Signal Regiment, firmly implanted in the rugged surroundings of Mount Olympus.

Very conveniently, the finals of the Cyprus District Ski-ing Championships were in full swing on the northern slopes, and the General was able to see something of the island's celebrated winter sports. Among those competing was Lieutenant A. B. Byng.

Turning south from Mount Olympus, the General and his party motored down the torturous road to Limassol, to the home of Colonel J. H. L. Crichton, M.B.E., C.A.F.S.O., M.E.A.F., for tea. After tea, on again to G.H.Q., M.E.L.F., at Episkopi, to spend the night at Flagstaff House with the Commander-in-Chief, Lieutenant-General Sir Roger Bower, K.B.E., C.B.

Monday, 10th March, provided a very full programme. The day began with a rapid succession of visits to the Service Chiefs at the Joint Headquarters at Episkopi. By



Outside W.O.'s and Sergeants' Mess, 2 Wireless Regiment. *Left to right:* Brigadier C. D. Gardiner, R.S.M. Holmes, S.O.-in-C., Lieutenant-Colonel A. J. Leahy, O.B.E.



THE R.E. v. ROYAL SIGNALS RUGGER MATCH
Left to right (Seated): D.C.E., Colonel A. P. Lawies, O.B.E., Major-General D. A. Kendrew, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., S.O.-in-C., Colonel H. Prince. *Standing*: Colonel J. H. L. Crichton, M.B.E., Brigadier C. D. Gardiner

10.15 hours, General Moberly had met and discussed Signal problems with the Chief of Staff, M.E.L.F., Flag Officer, Middle East, the Commander-in-Chief, C.-in-C. M.E.A.F., and finally, C.A.F.S.O. Colonel J. H. L. Crichton, M.B.E.

He then embarked on a detailed visit to 3 G.H.Q. Signal Regiment, where he was welcomed by Lieutenant-Colonel D. R. Yearsley, O.B.E., and inspected a Regimental Quarter Guard outside the Signal Centre. During the first part of the morning he visited the technical installations of the Regiment in Episkopi and met and talked informally with all ranks about their work. The latter part of the morning included a visit to one of the new barrack blocks and a glass of the local beer in the Sergeants' Mess, where he was introduced to Warrant Officers and Sergeants whom he had not met at work. After lunch in No. 2 G.H.Q. Officers' Mess with the Officers, the Signal Officer-in-Chief ended his tour of the Regiment by visiting the Transmitter Site, where he showed great interest in the wide variety of equipment operated and maintained by the Regiment for all three Services. In the evening, he attended a cocktail party given in his honour by the Officers of 3 G.H.Q. Signal Regiment and all Royal Signals Officers serving at the Joint Headquarters. This was followed by a dinner party given at the Officers' Club by Brigadier C. D. Gardiner, C.S.O., M.E.L.F., which provided a fitting conclusion to a very hectic day.

The first part of Tuesday was taken up by visits to some of the Royal Air Force Stations on the island. First to the Royal Air Force Station at Akrotiri, on the south of the island, where the General met the Station Commander. Later, boarding a Pembroke aircraft of the M.E.A.F. Communications Flight, the General, accompanied by Brigadier Gardiner and Colonel Crichton, flew to the Royal Air Force Station at Nicosia. On landing, he was met by Lieutenant-Colonel A. C. Galbraith, Officer Commanding 4 Air Formation Signal Regiment. First the General went straight to Air Headquarters, Levant, to meet Air Vice-Marshal W. J. Crisham, C.B., C.B.E., Air Officer Commanding, Levant. Afterwards he visited 4 Air Formation Signal Regiment, where Regimental Headquarters and No. 1 Squadron were drawn up on parade. The parade was commanded by the Second-in-Command, Major J. E. L. Adams. After inspecting the parade, the S.O.-in-C. presented Long Service and Good Conduct Medals to W.O.II Mulcahy, Staff Sergeant Norwood and Staff Sergeant Linton. Next, the General toured the several Troops deployed throughout the Royal Air Force Station, Nicosia, to see members of the Regiment at work. The tour included a brief visit to the tented No. 3 Section of the Middle East Training Establishment, organised and administered by 4 Air Formation Signal Regiment for the training of Linemen and Cable Jointers in the Middle East. Shortly before lunch, the General had an opportunity of meeting Officers of the Regiment in the R.A.F. Mess.

A trifle refreshed, after a very full morning, the S.O.-in-C. left the Mess to lunch at Air House with Air Vice-Marshal Crisham. The luncheon party included the Air Member for Personnel, Air Marshal Sir John Whitley, K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O., A.F.C., Brigadier C. D. Gardiner, Group Captain E. W. Tacon, Colonel J. H. L. Crichton, and Lieutenant-Colonel A. C. Galbraith.

What remained of the afternoon was taken up watching the annual rugby match between Royal Engineers and Royal Signals, on the Locusts' ground at Kermia, where, after a closely-contested game, we gained a slender victory. The General took tea, arranged by the Royal Engineers, with the players and spectators at the ground, and afterwards stayed the night with the G.O.C., Major-General D. A. Kendrew, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., who had also watched the game.

If General Moberly's tour left him little time for private calls, he can be sure that his sacrifice was warmly appreciated. As he winged his way eastwards towards Bahrein in the early morning sunlight, on 12th March, he took with him the good wishes of all ranks, and it is hoped some cherished memories of an all-too-short and crowded visit to Aphrodite's golden isle.

GIBRALTAR SIGNAL SQUADRON

Unlike most contributors to THE WIRE we cannot claim the winning of any big sporting event. However, the forty members of the Squadron do their best to keep the name of Royal Signals on the fixtures lists and games both won and lost are always very much enjoyed.

The next few months will see almost a complete change of senior ranks in the Squadron. We have already started at the top and welcome our new O.C., Major West-Watson, and his family to the "Rock," and wish Major Dunkley a happy stay in York.

Easter week-end witnessed a general exodus of Signalmen from Gibraltar, many going across the border into Spain and the junior N.C.O.s and their families to a gay week-end in Tangier across the Straits. We hope one of them will write an account of the visit for the next issue of THE WIRE.

FORCES BROADCASTING SERVICE, TRIPOLI

Officers and Signalmen of the Army Wireless Chain Installation Troop from Malta and Linemen of Cyprus District Signal Regiment assisted during April with the move of the heavy equipment of the F.B.S. station to fresh accommodation. The work entailed the erection of the masts to carry the aerial array and the dismantling and reassembling of the complex and very weighty equipment.

The picture shews part of the team posed for the photographer of Army Public Relations to whom thanks are due.



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50 INDEPENDENT INFANTRY BRIGADE SIGNAL TROOP

Easter brings with it the first opportunity of the year for the Troop to bathe in the Mediterranean. It is still pretty chilly by Cyprus standards, but the old hands soon let the newcomers know what is in store for them later on.

The months since Christmas have flown past giving your scribe little opportunity for writing WIRE Notes. Since our last edition, however, various personalities have changed. Not least among these is the sad departure of Sergeant Williams who is the only member of the Troop to be considered "redundant." His place in the M.T. world has been taken by Sergeant Weaver.

It was felt that, after the Turkish riots of January, in which our casualties were two windscreens, Greek Independance Day on 25th March, 1958, should prove even more entertaining. After our preparations it was almost a disappointment to some that the newcomers were not permitted to EARN their Cyprus Medal, as the day passed off quietly.

A three-day exercise in March taught two Wireless crews something at least. Firstly, when erecting a mast in pitch darkness it is better to find out that the guys are too short before it reaches the vertical. Secondly, it is necessary to read a map by night as well as by day otherwise breakfast may be forfeited.

We learnt other things of course, one being that slit trenches in Cyprus are things that are born, not made.

The visit of the Signal Officer in Chief has already been described in other places, however, we found that General Moberly's previous experience in commanding No. 1 (Rugger) Training Regiment gave him a bond with our present commander, Brigadier Bunbury, an ex-C.O. of The Duke of Wellington's. We may thus say glibly that sport makes the world an easier place in which to live.

The linemen have recently had the entertaining task of laying three lines through a notorious and very out of bounds area of Nicosia. It appears the sights they saw go one better than George Formby's famous song "When I'm Cleaning Windows." Hardly surprising that even the Wireless Operators volunteer for fault finding on these lines.

We have two representatives in Cyprus Corps sides. Signalman Davies (ex Port Vale) being selected for the Soccer XI, and the O.C. (almost extinct) being selected for the Hockey XI. The latter remark is justified in view of the 80 degree temperatures in April.

Arabia

BRITISH FORCES ARABIAN PENINSULA

It is just about six months since the National newspapers first published news of the formation of the Arabian Peninsula Command, the date was to be 1st April, 1958 (was this date chosen deliberately?) and the Command was to be vested in an airman, Air Vice-Marshal M. L. Heath, C.B., O.B.E. Now, today, we are born. The occasion has been marked by three events. The first was the arrival at 5 p.m. local time yesterday of the C.I.G.S., Field-Marshal Sir Gerald Templer, G.C.B., G.C.M.G., K.B.E., D.S.O. The second was a ball last night, at which the Field-Marshal, Sir William Luce, the Governor, and all the senior Officers of the Command were present; and the third was a parade this morning at 07.00 hours at which the Field-Marshal took the Salute. Royal Signals cannot boast any particular honours in these events other than our allegiance to the new Command. We feel that we are the selected few of the Corps who are privileged to play our part in the formation of this new integrated headquarters, where blue jobs and brown jobs rub shoulders and worry over common problems.

The last six months has witnessed intense activity in the headquarters. Nowhere is any protocol laid down for dealing with the peculiar problems with which we are faced. It is all a question of trial and error and some new line of policy drawn up almost every day. It is no uncommon sight to see a dozen Officers of the two Services grouped round tables for the best part of the day thrashing out some difficulty of supply, or co-operation in the field.

Narrowing down the field to Signal matters, let us study briefly what the picture is. For the last three years one Royal Signals Officer, Major M. A. Lloyd, has carried a lone banner in Aden. When he arrived three years ago he filled the appointment of S.O.A.F. but as time passed his work became more and more disconnected with his title. A Troop of 4 Air Formation Signal Regiment was on the ground and was commanded by a National Service Lieutenant. A year ago things began to develop. The Oman operation of 1957 brought matters to a head and the demand on Royal Signals proved a major problem to C.S.O., M.E.L.F. Major Lloyd found himself more and more surrounded by problems for the handling of which he had no staff. S.O.A.F. became only his secondary job, his main task was now planning, to be followed by intense work on revised establishments. It is indicative of the amount of work that Major Lloyd undertook that his appointment has now been replaced by a triumvirate consisting of C.R. Signals, S.O. II Signals and S.O. III Equipment.

A word now about the Royal Signals representation in the Command. It is a land of private armies. Taking the local forces, in which Royal Signals serve, by seniority the Somaliland Scouts are the oldest. Here Signals are small, consisting only of one Officer (a new appointment not yet filled) and a few tradesmen. Next come the Trucial Oman Scouts with a similar Royal Signals strength, and thirdly the Aden Protectorate Levies. From our point of view the latter is the biggest, being a mixed British Arab Squadron commanded by Major L. M. Rutherford and whose activities have already appeared in THE WIRE from time to time. Non-local forces include the late 2 Squadron, 4 Air Formation Signal Regiment, now Headquarters, British Forces, Arabian Peninsula Independent Air Formation Signal Squadron, commanded by Major L. F. Ball, a small detachment at Headquarters, Land Forces, Persian Gulf, where Major F. McConnell-Wood keeps a fatherly eye on Royal Signals matters and finally the normal sort of detachment with the Armoured Car Squadron and the 41 Parachute Light Battery. Last but not least is C.R. Signals already mentioned above. Here one clerk, Staff Sergeant Stroud, battles manfully to serve three Officers—the establishment is being reviewed but he is by himself at the moment, and Foreman of Signals Waite spends his entire time touring all the Units of the Command which possess wireless equipment.

To complete the picture it is necessary to draw attention to the distances involved in the Command. Taking Aden as the centre, the Somaliland Scouts are 200 miles to the west, the Aden Protectorate Levies on the doorstep, the Trucial Oman Scouts 1,200 miles to the east-north-east, and H.Q., Land Forces, Persian Gulf 300 miles further on. It is enough to quote the 13/18 Hussars, whose "B" Squadron has troops scattered over 1,200 miles of territory. The problems of the Command are peculiar.

Some readers may have remarked at the designation of C.R. Signals, Lieutenant-Colonel G. S. Fenton, M.B.E., has a task which is far more that of a C.S.O., but the red light of confusion was seen in having two C.S.O.s in one Headquarters. The old and established C.S.O. at Aden is a Wing Commander, R.A.F., thus Royal Signals had to find a different title and for want of anything better chose Commander Royal Signals. Blue and Khaki sit in adjoining offices and the entire working days finds the staff of one visiting the other and vice versa to discuss every type of Signal problem.

In a later edition we will try to present some idea of our working machinery, in the meantime we hope that any of the Royal Signals who pass through Aden on their way to and from the Far East will call in to see us. Our offices are at Steamer Point and one can easily reach them by taxi from the Prince of Wales Pier at a cost of only one shilling, but remember that our working hours are 07.00—13.00 hours.



The C.I.G.S., Field Marshal Sir Gerald Templer, G.C.B., G.C.M.G., K.B.E., D.S.O., accompanied by the A.O.C., British Forces Arabian Peninsula, Air Vice Marshal M. L. Heath, C.B., O.B.E., inspecting the Aden Protectorate Levies Camel Troop on the occasion of the Autonomy Parade held on the 1st April, 1958

ADEN PROTECTORATE LEVIES SIGNAL SQUADRON

The highlight of March was a visit by the S.O.-in-C., accompanied by C.S.O., M.E.L.F., and C.R. Signals Arabian Peninsula. After the inspection of the Squadron on parade, General Moberly was shown the operational picture by the Commander, Aden Protectorate Levies, Colonel D. W. Lister, and then viewed the squadron's activities in Aden. Later in the morning, after half-an-hour's flight by Pembroke aircraft the S.O.-in-C. arrived at Mukeiras, one of our frontier garrisons where he was met by the Officer Commanding 2 Battalion Aden Protectorate Levies and a detachment of the Signal Squadron. Unfortunately the programme arranged for him had to be changed a little as there had been hostile activity that morning in the frontier area he was to visit. However, another vantage point was chosen and with an escort of Aden Protectorate Levies armoured cars and infantry General Moberly was able to get a number of cine shots of the Yemen without retaliatory action being observed.

Dhala, a mountain town in the Western Aden protectorate, is only a few miles from the Yemen frontier and sparodic affrays are the start of many a minor operation. An outbreak of smallpox having been reported in the area, a medical team was sent out having as their objective a small village called Laknut el Duki. A small detachment of Arab Levies were detailed as escort from the Dhala garrison with communications under the command of Corporal Le Feuvre, including Lance-Corporal Gumbrill and Signalmen Green and Lile. The station was set up on arrival at Laknut el Duki and contact made with Dhala when, much to the consternation of all concerned, shells began falling with surprising accuracy, and a couple of Levy soldiers were wounded within a few moments. Despite the fact that the signalmen had never been under fire before, they passed much useful information back to the garrison before they were forced to withdraw. An operation was laid on, and the wireless detachment went forward with Battalion H.Q., carrying a C12 as rear link and a 62 set for forward control. The Battalion H.Q. was set up and contact established with garrison and forward companies before the fireworks started with heavy machine gun firing explosive ammo, supplementing the 75 m.m. shellfire, making life a little trying. Five minutes later the charging arrangements were upset by a near miss which separated the JAP engine from the batteries it was charging, thus forcing the continuation of the argument without a change of batteries. Things were getting a bit too hot at Battalion H.Q. so, complete with remains of charging engine (peace-time accounting!) they withdrew to a less vulnerable spot where communications were resumed. Communications began to deteriorate with nightfall and a listening watch was kept on C/W until daybreak when once again R/T contact was made and maintained until the operation ended later that morning and the Battalion returned to base. Anyone who is interested in an adventurous life—well paid, too—could not do better than read ACI 544 of 1956 as amended.

On the 1st September, 1957, our "ham" station was opened, but unfortunately as the equipment was not designed to cover the 10 or 15 metre band, we are restricted to 20 metres for working DX (long distance). The equipment consists of a Tx with a final stage input of 120 watts on CW and 78 watts on voice, the aerial being a couple of interchangeable dipoles suspended 33 feet above the ground. Since going on the air we have worked 80 odd countries (50 confirmed); 75% of these contacts being achieved on voice. Some of the more obscure places contacted include ZK1 Cook Islands, VS5 Brunei, ZK2 Niue, VK9 Norfolk Islands, KL7 Alaska and KL4 Virgin Islands (very popular here). We are working hard for the Long Distance Century Club award and hope to make it very soon. Anyone wanting a friendly reception—call us, VS9AJ, on 20 metres and meet some of the boys of the squadron.



S.O.-in-C. inspecting the Unit Quarter Guard

I SIGNAL SQUADRON
KING'S AFRICAN RIFLES

The big event of the past month has been the visit of the Signal Officer-in-Chief, Major-General R. J. Moberly, C.B., O.B.E., to East Africa. We were honoured with a visit to the Unit on 21st March and had the pleasure of entertaining General Moberly to tea in the W.O.s' and Sergeants' Rest Room on the same day.

The Commanding Officer, Major A. Holifield, M.C., has been away for most of the month acting as Chief Instructor at the Outward Bound Mountain School, Loitokitok. We congratulate him on completing the ascent of Mount Kilimanjaro (19,565 ft.) and on having the honour of escorting round the school on 29th March the Chief of Imperial General Staff, Field Marshal Sir Gerald Templer. The Unit was further honoured by being called on to provide a land-rover at Loitokotok to convey the C.I.G.S. to and from the air-strip and the School.

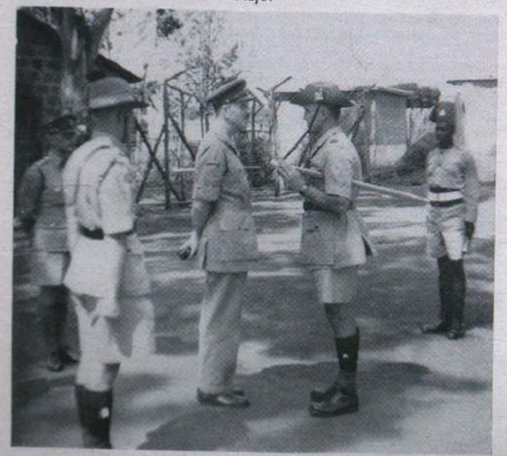
A happy occasion during the month was the wedding of our Second-in-Command and O.C. Signal Training Troop, Captain M. J. Wilton-Steer to Miss Sheila Todd. We wish them both a long and happy married life together.

A very successful All Ranks' dance was held on 17th March. For the first time ever we had a slight surplus of lady partners and in a country such as Kenya that is indeed an achievement!

While the Unit in Nairobi has been entertaining generals and engaging in revelries, "J" Troop, at Nanyuki, have been out in the field on exercises. These have ranged over such areas as Jinja (Uganda), Tanga (Tanganyika) and Archer's Post (North Kenya). On the last exercise the rain was so torrential that our vehicles, and those of the Headquarters became hopelessly bogged down in the mud and the exercise had to be prematurely curtailed. Even the Army jibs at four inches of rain in one day!

Our mixed European and African Soccer team continues to do well in the local minor unit league. At the present time we are lying second in the league, having played seven matches, won four, drawn one and lost two. Our chief goal scorers are Signalman McVeach and Signalman Isaiah Inyanje who have each scored seven goals. We are persevering with teaching

S.O.-in-C. talking to W.O.II P. Chilvers, the Squadron Sergeant-Major





Senior African Ranks of I Signal Squadron, King's African Rifles in ceremonial dress

basket-ball to our African Ranks and most of them seem to be enjoying the game. We have a long way to go, however, before we can take on the Harlem Globe-trotters!

It was a sad occasion for the Unit on the 4th March when Lieutenant Chetwynd, with Mrs. Chetwynd and son, left for U.K. Lieutenant Chetwynd was flown home on medical grounds at very short notice and is now undergoing treatment at Millbank Hospital. We send our very best wishes for a speedy recovery.

We send our regards to Sergeant Bagwell who left us this month and congratulate him on his recent promotion. One of our African senior N.C.O.s, Sergeant Sylvester Ogutu, is leaving on 12th April to attend an R.S.I. course at Hythe. We congratulate him on obtaining a vacancy and wish him a very happy and instructive stay in England. We hope that members of the Corps who meet Sergeant Sylvester during his stay will rally round and help to make his stay in England a happy one.

Red Jungle

BY JOHN CROSS, D.C.M.

This extraordinary story is a must for every Royal Signals library and for every "Signalman's" library list.

Signalman J. Cross was drafted to FARELF and arrived in Kuala Lumpur, 3rd Indian Corps Signals, in October, 1941, and in December he went north to Taiping. During the retreat preceding the capture of Malaya and Singapore by the Japanese, Signalman Cross was asked to volunteer for special service.

The book is, in fact, the diary of S.Q.M.S. J. Cross, Sergeants D. Morter and F. A. Wagstaff, all of Royal Signals. From December, 1941, until April, 1945, they lived in Japanese occupied Malaya, supported by and supporting the Malayan People's Anti-Japanese Forces, and therefore the Malayan Communist Party.

Their rôle was to obtain and maintain communications by wireless with Allied Forces outside Malaya. That they never achieved this was no fault of theirs.

Except during periods of hurried moves necessitated by enemy action, they maintained their allotted schedules and when progressive deterioration of battery charging equipment made prolonged listening impossible they kept a watch on the B.B.C. and other broadcasts. The dissemination of information thus gained led them to the publication of a monthly news sheet, 300 copies roneo'd and distributed.

With a varying number of Chinese "comrades" they lived under the most appalling conditions in the depths of the Jungle on a starvation diet of rice or potatoe soup. They suffered fearful illness. Each of them should have died several times.

The civilian "head" of their party left them and S.Q.M.S. Cross took command. Sergeant Morter was the operator, Sergeant Wagstaff, by trade an instrument mechanic, performed prodigies of ingenuity to keep his batteries charged. The expedients included the construction of water wheels in at least three of their camps and converting a petrol engine to diesel.

Completely cut off except by their daily listen to the B.B.C., they assimilated two unfortunate British Infantrymen who were the last survivors of a party of British and Australian soldiers who tried to live behind the lines and all save two died of disease and malnutrition. Later they were joined by three American airmen, survivors of a bomber, shot down. But this was in 1945.

For three years the three men of Royal Signals lived alone with their Chinese comrades. They maintained, exactly, the discipline of the Corps. Until the end they maintained their ability to communicate and their certainty of final victory.

The book ends quickly. Contact is obtained with British Army parties sent in to take over the work that Cross, Morter and Wagstaff had tried so hard to do. They were evacuated to Australia by submarine and being accustomed to each others appearance were astonished at the sensation caused by the arrival there of three "skeletons."

After a fortnight in Australia the three went by air to Headquarters, South-East Asia, in Ceylon, to be interrogated and then at last to England and for S.Q.M.S. J. Cross the Distinguished Conduct Medal, Sergeants D. Morter and F. A. Wagstaff the Military Medal.

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With Clasp "MALAYA"

"What I always say," said the Brigadier, "to young National Service subalterns is that now you are out here in Malaya you might as well see as much as you can of the country. Take a few trips. Look around."

We nodded agreement and said we would. We did.

I suppose you might say we were hardened travellers. We had flirted with the women and drunk the wine across the Rhine, sipped Vermouth and black coffee in a good few transport cafes in France and Italy, been stranded in the mountains in Switzerland, crashed a tandem in Belgium, and been called bloated capitalists in Yugoslavia.

Now Malaya, with its jungles and furry hills, was waiting with open arms (or should it be jaws?) to receive us.

We needed a car. We looked at the balance from our uniform allowance, decided we could always borrow a Number Three Dress, and bought a secondhand Standard Vanguard. This is where we should say we never regretted our choice, but we haven't made up our minds about that as yet.

We made a few preliminary forays over the causeway into the Federation—to Batu Pahat, to Malacca, where the canes come from, and to Mersing, which proved the longest drive we ever made just to have a swim.

And then we decided to venture further north—to Kuala Lumpur, the Federal capital.

Having persuaded our Squadron commanders that they could do without us for just four hours, we left early on a Saturday morning. We crossed the causeway into Johore and rolled along for twenty miles or so before encountering a belligerent nail with a complex about car tyres. We did a racing change and were off again within five minutes.

We passed Lone Tree Hill, named by us on previous trips in that direction under the influence of Gary Cooper and half-remembered TEWTs at Mons. The Malayan countryside is ever-changing. For a mile or two we passed through green fields and hedgerows and gentle hills, with only the occasional palm to remind us that this wasn't England. A few miles further on the trees grew tall and thick and black on either side of the road, sinking their gnarled and twisted roots in thick black mud which bubbled and plopped as queer creatures slithered for safety under the surface. And then there was the rubber—tall, slim trees with bushy tops which stretched as far as we could see in straight lines into the distance, like the pillars of some great cathedral carpeted with thick grass and with the occasional dusty ray of sunlight filtering down through the roof.

We crossed two wide rivers on ferries, huge rafts nosed across by a small motor boat, coaxed and nuzzled into position on the other side like a big fat sheep nudged along by a tiny sheepdog. A local bus perched precariously on one of them, its tail jutting out over the muddy water, its passengers leaning out of the windows and waving to the shore.

At Malacca there is a government resthouse, and there we paused for lunch, studying planters and their wives, gazing at a Malay priest sitting at the bar in his black habit, drinking beer and discussing the last pig hunt with a planter. Malacca shows many traces of its former Portuguese occupation, and many of the streets are European in character, with notices written in Portuguese and names like Gomez and Rodriguez over the shop doorways. In the outskirts of the town we found bullock carts, immensely huge and ponderous for the amount they can carry, and so slow that when one stopped to allow us to take a photograph we hardly noticed the difference.

It started to rain soon after we reached Kuala Lumpur. We enquired at an expensive hotel where we could find an inexpensive hotel, but we must have been misunderstood, because we were directed to a street which contained an infinite number of Western style saloons with twin swing doors and elegant ladies perched on bar stools. Finally, however, after a slight detour to look up some friends, who, it transpired, had left for Scandinavia six months before and who were now probably suffering from frostbite, finally we found a reasonable hotel. The one disadvantage was that it was Chinese, and the Chinese believe in sleeping on beds made from solid wooden planks, using pillows stuffed with horsehair.

We were stiff when we awoke next morning.

We looked round the town. We were very impressed by the wonderful Hollywood-cum-Oriental style architecture of the Sultan's palace until we discovered it was the railway station. Which explained why we had been turned away from what we had thought was the railway station the night before by big brown men with beards who carried scimitars. We saw no dancing girls, which confirmed our previous suspicion, established in Singapore, that emancipation has come to Eastern women.

We filled the Vanguard up, got the tyre mended, and set off home again. The journey went well until lunchtime.

One of the party was singing in the back seat as we pressed on towards Gemas. His voice must have displeased the gods, because they took hold of the road and suddenly bent it round in a vicious hairpin. We went straight on. The nearside wheels went into a ditch and we turned over. The car bounced gracefully up a jumbled pile of rocks, walloped a mile-stone for about thirty feet, poised on the top of the slope, and then toppled back into the road, turning over again in the process. It hit the road again with a thud which treated the springs to a battering they had never thought possible and stopped, the right way up, facing the way we had come.

There was silence inside the car for a few seconds while the earth settled back to its normal equilibrium, and then the driver broke it with one word which expressed all our feelings at that moment. The passenger in the front seat was feeling for a bump on his head where he had stuck it through the windscreen, the man in the back was searching frantically for his spectacles, which had come adrift in the course of his being bounced between floor and roof.

We kicked the door open and scrambled out into the road. Twenty yards back a man had climbed out of a passing car and was torn between investigating our injuries and reviving his wife, who had seen the crash and felt very faint. She later described it as "better than the films," which we felt was no mean praise.

The wreck (and that is an example of English understatement) was pushed off the road. One of the party hitched a lift back to the nearest town, the other two posed on the

heap of scrap and took photos of each other, smearing a little blood from a grazed arm on their faces to make it look more realistic.

People kept stopping and saying, "You poor dears!" and offering help. One of them was an insurance agent who took one look at the car, mopped his brow and muttered, "——— ———, I hope that isn't my firm!" He later recovered and left us his card if we wanted to insure our next car. We took off our hats to a brave man.

We were towed back to Tampin by an armoured car belonging to the local police. We stood up in the open top and let our hair blow in the breeze and pretended to be Anthony Steele coming back from an attack in the steaming jungle, bruised but victorious. But when we got to Tampin, Miss Ekberg was not waiting for us—and you don't know how sad we were.

Trying to hide our disappointment we put our noses to the ground and ferreted out a Gunner Mess. There we were received with great hospitality, given a room and a shower and a good meal and later entertained in a bar. Unfortunately, people kept coming in, hearing our story, and standing us a drink to congratulate us on our escape. Our hands, which had been steady after the crash, were decidedly leafy later in the evening.

A warrant was arranged for the trip back to Singapore, and we boarded the night train. We shall be eternally grateful to the Malayan Minister for Education and his party, who that night failed to claim their sleeping berths and enabled three weary young men to get some sleep.

When the Royal Signals courier arrived at the station at eight o'clock on Monday morning to collect the mail from up-country in his one-tonner, he found his troop officer and two others sitting on the bags waiting for a lift. We tried to give the impression we were doing a time check. He didn't seem convinced.

There are still a few bars left in Singapore where the story of how we wrecked the car in crashing a terrorist ambush and how we captured thirty-three of them (the other got away) is good for a drink. And when those places run out we shall just sit at home and polish our General Service Medals (with Clasp 'Malaya'). P.G.D.

Royal Signals in Malaya

BY PETER MOSS

Mr. Moss is a nephew of Major (Traffic Officer) L. J. Sharp and is on the staff of "The Malay Mail." The article and photographs are published through the kindness of the Editor.

SOMEBODY once described the Royal Corps of Signals as the nerves of the British Army. The analogy was good, and the term stuck.

Throughout the Emergency, perspiring at office desk, in damp attap bashas or under dripping tarpaulins in the heart of the jungle, teleprinter and wireless operators have stuck to their keyboard and their earphones keeping open the vital communications link on which the success of every operation must depend.

They rarely go out on patrol and have no actual kills to their credit, but in their own way they probably play as important a role as the infantryman in the front line.

The teleprinter and wireless operators particularly are specialist men in small numbers. The one or two men signal teams who work with operational units are virtually indispensable. Without them the infantrymen might lose all contact with the rest of the world.

Royal Signals are no longer the sole Signals Corps in Malaya. Over the last few years they have helped to train and build the Signal Corps of the Federation Army.

In addition they have provided, and are still providing, wireless operators and technical maintenance staff for the Armoured Car, Artillery and Special Air Service Regiments.

But they still form the essential nucleus of Army communications in Malaya and their services are still very much in demand.

Focal point of Royal Signals in the Federation is now at Seremban where O.C.L.F. Signal Squadron serves the new H.Q. 17 Gurkha Division/Overseas Commonwealth Land Forces.

The Squadron took over its new responsibilities from the Gurkha Divisional Signal Regiment in December last after moving from H.Q. Malaya Command, Kuala Lumpur, but the Gurkhas still continue to assist in the running of the signal centre.

The signal centre in Seremban is the clearing house for all traffic leaving or coming into the Federation. The teleprinters alone handle an average of 600 messages round the clock every day, and these are dealt with by shifts of four men, supervised by two N.C.O.s.

Here the clatter of teleprinters is heard almost continuously throughout day and night. Messages concerning anything from major troop movements to the welfare and morale of a soldier come tripping out on the message reels from all parts of the Commonwealth.

For example, a message concerning the sudden illness of a relative is passed to the man concerned about 22 hours after it has been received in the War Office, and if his presence is considered necessary he may be en route for his home within 36 hours.

Shifts of Gurkha operators are now working alongside the Royal Signals personnel under a new scheme to train the Gurkhas in teleprinter operating and signal centre working.

Next door, in the signals despatch room, something like 800 packages a day go through the hands of the counter clerks.

Many of these packages arrive by train from Penang and Singapore. The train despatch couriers—ordinary signalmen for the most part—travel many hundreds of miles in a week with three to five hundredweight of mail at a time in their care. Each courier bears as much responsibility as a Queen's messenger.

Signals dispatch riders, in lightweight trucks or on motor cycles, carry packages from the signal centre to the various addressees among Army units in the district.

Four times a day they make local delivery runs around Seremban, and twice a day Federation Army dispatch riders collect mail for the Military College and units at Fort Dickson.

In the wireless operations room Royal Signals personnel again work side by side with the Gurkha Signallers, tapping out morse messages to units all over Malaya.

Their messages are relayed out over the air by a bank of eight high power transmitters in the transmitter station, surrounded by its web of pylons and aerials.

These complex and awesome instruments are maintained by a staff of two men and an N.C.O., whose job is one of the most important in the signals organisation.

On the efficiency of the N.C.O., Lance-Corporal Michael Rowland, depends the signal centre's entire wireless communication system.

If the transmitters were to cease functioning the wireless links would break down completely.

This is a big responsibility for any Lance-Corporal to bear, but Rowland accepts it willingly. This 25-year-old Liverpool lad has spent four years in the Corps and has served in Malaya since last August.

Rowland is the type of man the Corps cannot find enough of. His radio technician's trade is one of the most skilled in the British Army, and few ever achieve the high degree of ability that he has.

In some units he has served with, radio technicians of his calibre have been in such short supply that he has been doing the job of five men.

Incidentally, Rowland made a highly unconventional entry when he first arrived in Seremban. Dressed in civilian clothing he went looking for his twin brother in the Intelligence Corps, who was stationed there at the time.

He entered his brother's mess and asked the men at the bar if they had seen Sergeant Rowland. They were not amused. Looking him straight in the eye they asked, "Who are you trying to kid? Are you trying to fool us you're his twin brother or something?"

It took him a long time to convince them he was not Sergeant Rowland of the Intelligence Corps.

In the technical maintenance workshop at Paroi Camp, Sergeant Richard Fenwick, from Newcastle, works with a team of five men repairing wireless receivers and other signals equipment.

An ex-Metropolitan policeman and professional footballer, Sergeant Fenwick has been wanting to see Malaya for many years.

He applied to come out here as a police officer some years ago, but eventually he found that the Royal Signals would provide him with the opportunity to see the country. He lives in Seremban with his wife and three children.

Unlike Royal Signals personnel, who receive their training in the United Kingdom at Catterick, the Gurkha Signals undergo their initial training in Malaya. Singled out for training from among the other recruits at the Sungei Patani Training Depot, they spend one year getting a solid grounding in signals work.

From there they are posted to 17 Gurkha Divisional Signal Regiment at Sikamat Camp, Seremban, for further training before being sent to one of the three brigade signal troops situated in either Segamat, Kluang or Johore Bahru.

Despite gloomy prophecies to the contrary, the Gurkha signaller has proved himself most adaptable, and rapidly became expert in the easier trades of wireless operator, despatch rider and lineman. He is now being trained by officers and N.C.O.s of the Royal Signals in the more technical trades.

After reaching a sufficiently high standard, selected Gurkhas are sent to the United Kingdom for higher training at the School of Signals.

The fact that Sikamat Camp is now turning out teleprinter operators is an achievement in itself, for the Gurkha must first master the English language before he can even start on the teleprinter keyboard.

To keep them in touch with their infantry training, the Gurkhas spend some time on refresher courses. Weapon training and drill sessions are provided for in their programme.

Away from the static units, from the desk jobs and the stabilised day-to-day routine, men of the Royal Signals are working under operational conditions with units deep in the jungle ferreting out terrorists.

Such a man is Sergeant Lawrence Smith, of 22 Special Air Service Regiment Signal Troop.

To reach him, I climbed aboard a helicopter at Kuala Lumpur Airfield. Thirty minutes' flying time from the town the helicopter set me down on a freshly-cleared hilltop, providing a superb vista of nothing but jungle on all sides.

At the bottom of the hill, in a squadron headquarters, consisting of four ground sheets slung among tree trunks oozing moisture, Sergeant Smith sat on an uprooted stump tapping a morse key, contacting Regimental Headquarters at Wardieburn Camp, Batu Caves.

A couple of ragged aboriginee porters cranked the hand generator which supplied the power to the set.

The message completed, Sergeant Smith walked over with two enormous cans of tea. He had spent a busy morning protecting his set from the rain, which penetrated everywhere and everything.

Dampness, he said, was a wireless operator's chief enemy in the jungle.

He showed me the set, about a third of the size of the old heavyweight; portable which require six batteries a



Lance-Corporal Railands and Signalman Blaze



Signalman Berry



Signalman Southern

week under normal running conditions. This required nothing but the hand generator, and even then the set could be dismantled and the load distributed among six men.

Sergeant Smith joined the Royal Signals 10 years ago, and entered the Special Air Service Signal Troop in 1950. His training for this involving intensified courses planned to test initiative and endurance, plus parachute and jungle training.

Ever since his training was completed, he has served in Malaya, with the exception of brief periods back in the United Kingdom.

At the end of a hard day's march the infantryman can at least dry his clothes off, settle down for the night and relax, but for the men like Sergeant Smith the work has only just started. The wireless operator must set up his wireless equipment on a hastily-improvised site, fix his aerial and try to contact headquarters.

It is only when a temporary operational headquarters is set up that he can begin to make himself at home and organise his equipment efficiently. He must remember always that he is one of the key men of the operation, and that everybody depends on him for the all-important communication link with base.

One of the most efficient Royal Signals wireless operators in Malaya is a Malay. He is Lance-Corporal Yussof, in charge of the wireless control centre for Air Support Signal Troop, which guides aircraft into terrorist areas and helps the Artillery with rangefinding.

Lance-Corporal Yussof has served in the Corps for six years, and with the troop for about a year. His 30 to 35 words a minute make him so fast on a morse key that other operators have difficulty in keeping up with him.

There are eleven Malayan other ranks employed with the troop, either as drivers or wireless operators. They consist of nine Malays, a Sikh and a Chinese.

Very close liaison exists between the troop and the Royal Air Force. Stationed on the ground at the outer perimeter of a proposed bombing area, their detachments, or tentacles as they are called, contact the pilots of the bombing aircraft by wireless and talk them into their targets.

At the same time their morse operators are in contact with headquarters and any brigades that might be in the area for follow-up operations.

On two occasions the troop provided communication from the ground to helicopters searching the jungle for survivors of crashed aircraft.

✶

51 (H) INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT (T.A.)

After a prolonged and trying winter during which it was a near miracle that so many members of the Regiment managed to reach the T.A.C.s from their homes far less carry out training, we are now fully occupied in a variety of ways.

Driving schools, preparations for the local and national Golden Jubilee parades and week-end Exercises, etc., will make an already belated spring rather short and before we know where we are we will be once more at Annual Camp training, which this year will be held at Guisborough, Yorks., from 28th June—12th July.

Recruiting for all Squadrons is still going strong and is proving very satisfactory. Operation "Double-up," backed by fearsome slogans such as "Recruit the Brute," looks like proving successful as far as the Aberdeen Squadrons are concerned.

A senior N.C.O.'s week-end Exercise was held at Fonthill T.C., Aberdeen, with the composition and employment of a Brigade Signal Troop and Signal Centre procedure, the subject matter leading to a most illustrative practical test by Major D. H. Freeland, the Training Major. Major J. Aberdein, M.B.E., T.D., of 152 (H) Field Ambulance, provided up to the minute details of nuclear radiation hazards with very interesting X-ray photography, showing, as a sideline, cancerous damage to lungs by smoking—tobacco sales at the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess bar dropped sharply on the second day but are expected to recover—and Light Rescue Training was explained and demonstrated by Major J. H. Moonie, M.M., T.D. Although the principles were well appreciated, a certain amount of hilarity had to be accepted during bandaging and stretcher lashing. Indeed, it was obvious during the showing of the Holger Neilson artificial respiration film—those who have seen this will understand—that the possibility of "fall-out" had a new interpretation placed upon it, but it was obvious that a great deal can be accomplished by a get-together of this nature and many problems sorted out into proper perspective.

Excellent social events have been held at Aberdeen and Stirling. In Aberdeen a very successful All Ranks' Dance was held at the T.A.C., while at Stirling a Jubilee Ball, attended by the Honorary Colonel and the Commanding Officer was voted the usual good show.

W.O.II I. N. Burton is to be congratulated upon the award of the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal (Military) with gratuity.

The death occurred on 15th March, 1958, of 2870416 W.O.II R. J. Pettifer, a Life Member of the Association. "Jim" Pettifer joined the Regular Army on 12th October, 1922, and served with the Gordon Highlanders until 1st June, 1937. From that date until 16th November, 1945, he served with Royal Signals—with this Regiment as civilian O.R.S., mobilised in September, 1939, and served in France until invalided home in March, 1940—after discharge from hospital served in Kenya until July, 1944—employed in War Office until demob in 1945. After the War he was employed as a civilian clerk at Gordon Barracks, then with Infantry Records at Perth and latterly with Ministry of Transport in Aberdeen. The sympathy of his many friends is extended to his widow and family.

✶

54 (EA) INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT (T.A.)

With the advent of spring and, we hope, better weather, we are preparing for the bustle of training week-ends "in the country." During the winter most of our time has been devoted to individual training, with a few Regimental indoor studies thrown in for good measure but now we are able to get out into the open and really exercise. We have been lucky in getting a large percentage of our old vehicles and wireless sets exchanged for new ones and now is the time to really try them out.

Preparations are in hand for a Regimental Week-end, to be held in May in the Cambridge area. This should give us excellent opportunities to prove the soundness of our winter training and also give us a chance to meet up with our comrades from the well dispersed Troops and Squadrons of the Unit. Some social activities will inevitably be included in the week-end's work.

The great event in each year for a T.A. Unit is, of course, Annual Camp. This year we are going to Crowborough, a name famous for its association with the Corps through many years. As we are going from 12th-26th July it is thought we may get at least a reasonable share of fine weather. We have heard that during our Camp we are to be honoured by a visit from the Colonel-in-Chief, H.R.H. The Princess Royal. All ranks are

Continued on next page

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looking forward to this Royal occasion, when it is hoped Her Royal Highness will meet a number of our volunteers.

Besides our Camp, we have this year another important period to look forward to—the T.A. Golden Jubilee celebrations. This Unit will be represented by a contingent at the Hyde Park Review and we are taking part in the various celebrations being organised by the Counties to which we are affiliated. There will be displays, tattoos, dances and drumhead services in celebration of the Jubilee and the preparatory work is well in hand.

We are indeed proud to record the achievements of our Motor Cycle Trial team in the annual trial organised by the 1st Essex Signal Regiment, T.A., in March. Approximately 80 riders, comprising 25 teams from Regular and T.A. Units, entered for this very popular event.

The start and finish was at Wanstead and the course consisted of two map reading and two cross-country sections, in all about 100 miles, which had to be covered to a strict time-table.

Finally, everyone would like to congratulate Lieutenant-Colonel (Q.M.) F. Spearpoint on his recovery from his recent operation.



Corporal G. P. Stephens rode brilliantly to gain the individual award. Sergeant S. J. Hoole was only two points behind, finishing fourth whilst Lieutenant W. Whittaker ran out sixth. As a team, those riders and Corporal Shaw (riding in his first big trial) won the Team Challenge Trophy by a handsome majority from the London Rifle Brigade (Rangers) who had won it for the last three years

THE SIGNALS ASSOCIATION OF THE ROYAL CORPS OF SIGNALS

Minutes of the 12th Meeting of Honorary Secretaries of Local and Unit Branches, held at H.Q., Middlesex Yeomanry Signal Regiment, T.A., on Saturday, 29th March, 1958

The meeting was attended by 58 representatives of the following 51 Branches:

Aberdeen, Aldershot, Bedford, Birmingham, Blackpool, Bournemouth, Bristol, Cardiff, Catterick, Central Scotland, Cheltenham, Chester, Chesterfield, Chislehurst, Croydon, Darlington, Derby, Glasgow, Harrogate, Hull, Jersey, Leeds, Leicester, Liverpool, London, South London, North London, East London, Loughborough, Manchester, Newcastle, Northern Ireland, Nottingham, Oldham, Portsmouth, Reading, Salisbury, Scarborough, Sheffield, Shrewsbury, Southampton, Port Talbot, Torbay, Uckfield, York, No. 15 Unit (1 Squadron U.K. COMCAN Signal Regiment), No. 26 Unit (7th Training Regiment), No. 30 Unit (11 Signal Park Squadron), No. 40 Unit (4 Squadron U.K. COMCAN Signal Regiment), and Glossop and District Royal Signals Old Comrades' Association.

The minutes of the 11th meeting were approved and signed by the Chairman.

Major-General C. M. F. White, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., Chairman of the Association, welcomed the representatives and continued:

"The meeting will wish me to record their thanks to Lieutenant-Colonel J. J. Collins, M.C., T.D., and the Middlesex Yeomanry Signal Regiment T.A., for arranging for this Meeting. Also to Major-General R. F. H. Nalder, C.B. O.B.E., the Representative Colonel Commandant, and Major-General R. J. Moberly, C.B. O.B.E., the Signal Officer-in-Chief who out of their busy lives have spared the time to come and talk to us.

Lieutenant-Colonel R. S. King, T.D., has come from Catterick to tell us about, and answer questions on, the arrangements for the Reunion on 28th-29th June.

After lunch today we shall come to the most important subject to be taken at this meeting, the question of release from the Register of Friendly Societies. Brigadier A. C. C. Willway, C.B., C.B.E., T.D., D.L., who is Chairman of the Sub-Committee dealing with this intricate matter, will be here to explain it and answer questions. We shall meet him during luncheon.

At this meeting last year we discussed the grave matter of increasing the subscriptions and I want to make it clear that I and the Central Committee appreciate very much the loyal way in which Branches agreed to this unwelcome course and have since then carried out the administrative tasks involved. We shall have an opportunity of a general discussion on this during the afternoon.

In addition to a suggestion on the Agenda paper regarding the initial subscription of National Servicemen, I shall ask Liverpool Branch to introduce a very revolutionary proposal in that the subscriptions paid by Officers be the same as for Other Ranks. I will be obliged if you will consider this during luncheon so that you will be ready to express your views.

Last year I mentioned the debt of gratitude we owed to the Signal Officer-in-Chief and all those serving in the Corps in aid of the welfare work of the Association. During 1957 Regiments and Squadrons of the Corps produced the amazing total of £5,131, which was £562 better than in 1956. General Moberly will, I hope, tell us something of the reduction in numbers during the next few years. I hope that this reduction will not be too great. It is probable, however, that this magnificent sum cannot be achieved again.

The Welfare Section has thus been able to continue its work of helping those of our comrades who are in difficulty and though it has spent a little more than in 1956 we have, thanks to this great generosity, actually re-invested £2,000 surplus to immediate requirements. Those of you who have been to these meetings for some years will remember that it was normal for the Chairman to say that £2,000 or £3,000 had been withdrawn from investment to meet the need of cash. It is a very wonderful thing that at this time we are able to build up our capital again, even if only by a little. We must all remember the necessity of this in order that our Association can continue its work into the far distant future.

Although the cost of everything continues to increase, wise financing of the Association's money has reduced the annual deficit of the General Fund. We shall hope to reduce this very considerably during 1958 as a result of increased income from subscriptions and the increased charge of THE WIRE. I am going to ask Branches a straight question—Do you or do you not make a real effort to take and sell a number of copies of THE WIRE each month? I know some Branches do, but I regret to say that a majority do not. Will you please give this matter serious attention.

Eight hundred and seventy-eight new Life Members were enroled in 1957, an increase of 14 on the number for 1956. About half of these were enroled by Branches—a very fine achievement. One thousand six hundred and ninety new Annual Members have been enroled. In total, nearly 2,000 less men joined the Association in 1957 than in 1956 and a large part of this decrease occurred in those joining early in their service in Catterick. It is very hard to arrive at a happy mean and to prevent persuasion merging into compulsion. Some years ago the young soldiers at Catterick were almost compelled to join the Association, during 1955 and 1956 comparatively few were persuaded to do so. There are, however, very great advantages to the Association and to the individual in joining early. Although very great numbers do not continue as members after leaving the Army, a surprisingly large number do continue, either paying a subscription direct to Headquarters or to Branches. Brigadier Firth assures me, and my own observations agree, that at Branch dinners, etc., there is a very small but nonetheless significant increase in the number of young men who have obviously only recently concluded their service.

I have said before, I say it again—I wish all in this room to be very certain how very appreciative we at Headquarters of the Association are of the work you do. It is to you and the other members of Branch Committees and the small hard core of loyal members that the Association owes its existence. It is often a hard and frustrating task. We at Headquarters know

something, but not all of the problems, and how tough it is. Will you please take back to your Committee our very real thanks. Please also do not hesitate to ask Headquarters' staff for help. I know that they will do all that is possible.

You will be glad to hear of new Branches being started during the last year at Reading and Shrewsbury, and at Rugby and Swindon where progress is being made but a Branch is not yet formally established; also, it is hoped to re-form the Branches at Wolverhampton and South-East Kent in the near future. You will be sorry to hear of the loss of Branches at Plymouth and Tunbridge Wells.

It is with renewed pleasure that I express my thanks to the staff at Headquarters for their loyalty and hard work. They always give of their best and make things easier for me."

Major-General R. F. H. Nalder, C.B., O.B.E., Representative Colonel Commandant, then addressed the meeting:

"General White, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am very pleased to have a chance of addressing you this morning. I think all who have any responsibility in the running of Corps affairs realise that this gathering of Honorary Secretaries is an important event in the year in that it helps to keep the Corps united.

Among the reasons for this are, firstly the perfectly obvious one that it gives you a chance of coming and discussing your difficulties and problems with the Headquarters, and gives Headquarters a chance of hearing your views and, of course, there is no substitute for personal discussion; no amount of correspondence will offset that. Secondly, I think it gives you a very great advantage in coming here and having a chance of hearing at the fountain-head the very latest news about the organisation of the Corps. As you know, it is undergoing a great deal of change these days and it is just as well that you should understand what is going on in the Corps so you can pass it on to your Branches.

We are very lucky to have General Moberly, the Signal Officer-in-Chief, with us. His job is no sinecure and he is a very busy man. It is very good of him to give up his time and come this morning.

Thirdly, of course, this is a reunion of old friends who come from very many scattered parts of the country and some of you have few opportunities to meet each other.

One other point I would like to make. It would be a very poor day for the Corps if members on finishing active service merely faded away and took no further interest. You, as Branch Secretaries, are a very important part in the machinery of maintaining the Association between members past and present.

As General White has said, we have got a very long agenda today and I will say no more except that I very much look forward to renewing acquaintances at lunch time."

Major-General R. J. Moberly, C.B., O.B.E., Signal Officer-in-Chief, then addressed the meeting:

"It is a great privilege to me to be allowed to come here and to address you. It is a very difficult time in the history of our Corps. Your interest and support is a source of great encouragement to me and my staff in the War Office.

Great changes are taking place and as far as the Reserve Army is concerned, I regret I can tell you nothing. The exact future organisation of the Reserve Army is being worked out now. I can say, however, that Royal Signal Units will remain in future in the Reserve Army.

As far as the Regular Army itself is concerned, this will run down by 1962 by about 11,000 men. It is interesting to note that despite this reduction the Corps of 1962 will be a good deal larger than it was in 1939. In the new smaller, compact Regular Army which is being planned, the Corps will form a higher percentage of the Army than it was before, so while we are getting much smaller, we are at least encouraged by this high proportion of the Army occupied by the Corps. This reduction unfortunately means losing something like 75 to 100 Majors and above and something like 500 Warrant Officers and senior N.C.O.s. Our losses, generally speaking, are not nearly as bad as some other Arms.

We are taking this opportunity to mould the new Corps on firmer foundations; we are arranging a proper rank structure as between Officers and Other Ranks, and Warrant Officers and Sergeants and the Rank and File. Establishments are being scaled to fit the commitments and in this the McLeod Committee has been of great help. Steps are being taken that in future the Corps will not be called upon to undertake more than it can manage as it did in the past.

The shape of the new Corps will be based on Divisional Signal Regiments and Independent Signal Squadrons but there will not be separate Infantry and Armoured Divisional Signal Regiments. Some Brigade Group Squadrons, particularly the Armoured, will carry on traditions of the old Armoured and Infantry Divisional Signal Regiments. The Corps will be deployed world-wide—Hong Kong, Malaya, Arabian Peninsula, East Africa, Middle East, Europe including N.A.T.O. area and, of course, in the United Kingdom.

These Independent Brigade Signal Squadrons will still call for initiative and resource which ex-members of the Corps built up to the reputation we serving members now enjoy.

It is hoped to move the School of Signals in four years time to the South of England, but a smaller and more compact Training Brigade will remain at Catterick.

So you see the future is far from bleak and during my recent visit to the Middle East I found that morale of the men was high.

We are faced with new operational concepts such as guided weapons, and the new Signal organisation and tactics are now being formulated.

A new range of equipment is coming into service and we hope to have most Regular Units re-equipped by 1962/63. We also hope to put such sets as the 53 and 19 and the 40 Line F + F exchange in the Corps Museum.

We are working closer with the Commonwealth and our Allies, and our communication systems must tie in with theirs. All this takes time but progress is being made.

In the field of sport, 1st Training Regiment won the Army water polo, and Lance-Corporal Williams, of 2nd Training Regiment was the individual winner of the Army cross-country championship. 1st Training Regiment was beaten in the Army rugger quarter finals by the Duke of Wellington's Regiment, who were the eventual winners.

I would like to stress the importance of morse operating which still remains the ultimate means of intercommunication even in these days of multi-channel telegraph systems. Morse is still the only sure way of working long distances in limited wars, and it can be taught to locally enlisted men."

General Moberly gave a description of his recent tour of the Middle East which included Malta, Cyprus, Arabia, East Africa, where he met small detachments of Royal Signals in the most out of the way places, with high morale keeping their circuits through and raising the standard of native operators.

He told of the Aden Peninsula which for the last ten years had been in the charge of the R.A.F. In future the R.A.F. would deal with rear link traffic from the Protectorate to London, whilst the Army had taken over the organisation of the Scouts and Levies and Royal Signals the overall management of the Signal system forward from base.

He told us about the Trucial Oman Scouts, the Aden Protectorate Levies and the Somaliland Scouts. In each case detachments from the Corps are providing rear link communications and helping to train Arab operators. He also spoke of the King's African Rifles in East Africa where the Corps is performing the same task with the help of African operators.

General Moberly concluded his address by saying:

"We are a Corps of individualists. There are detachments of Royal Signals all over the world who are helping people of many races and creeds to improve the art of signalling."

At the conclusion of the address by the Signal Officer-in-Chief, the Chairman and the meeting expressed their gratitude by prolonged applause.

Lieutenant-Colonel R. S. King, T.D., 7th Training Regiment Royal Signals, then spoke of the arrangements for the Annual General Meeting and Catterick Reunion on 28th-29th June, 1958.

"The Reunion will take much the same form as in previous years, starting with the Corps Band playing Retreat on the Saturday evening, followed by entertainment in the W.O.s' and Sergeants' Messes of the host Regiments. The Sunday would commence with Church Parade, followed by the Annual General Meeting of the Association, Lunch and the Static and Mobile Displays on Scotton Ground.

This year, as we are not troubled with petrol rationing, the Display Team will take part, and the Physical Training Display which was so popular last year.

16 Parachute Brigade Signal Squadron had kindly offered a demonstration and in the comparatively confined space available they were to demonstrate the use of the "Fan Trainer."

So you will see that there are not many changes; we have a pattern that most members like and we hope to keep the standard high.

One word of warning, as the O.T.W. is being disbanded before

June, we will be short of accommodation and the help we have received from them in former years. We must also keep in mind for further reunions that we are to lose two of the five Training Regiments at Catterick, and we will not be able to accommodate the numbers. This will have to be discussed later with Association Headquarters, but we at Catterick recommend a smaller reunion with the same high standard rather than have a reunion of numbers which are too great to be looked after efficiently."

Captain P. E. A. Montagnon, the 1958 Reunion Secretary, was available to make a note of any points on the arrangements made for the Reunion; the only one made was the shortage and delay last year at the Beer Tent. This had already been noted and improvements were being made.

Birmingham Branch then put forward their proposal that the date of the Catterick Reunion be brought forward to May, as it is normally held during the Birmingham holiday season and a lot of the members were unable to attend. Coaches are also very expensive at this time of the year.

Nottingham, Newcastle and Manchester Branches stated that the members of local Territorial Units were also unable to attend the Reunion as it was usually held during their Annual Training Camps.

Colonel King pointed out the factors which fixed the date as far as the Training Brigade was concerned:—

(a) The availability of the Band, which has long standing engagements in the South of England in May and early June.

(b) April and May are busy months for the Host Regiments when they held their Administration Inspections, etc.

(c) In alternative years the S.O.-in-C.'s Conference and "Quicksilver" are held.

(d) The weather cannot be relied upon in May, but it is more settled in June.

The Chairman pointed out the factors which make it difficult, but not impossible, for H.Q. organisation:—

(a) The meeting of Branch Representatives is always held in March, the results of which are put to the Central Committee which

(b) is always held on the day of the Corps Dinner when most of its members are in London, and this date is decided in consultation with H.R.H. The Colonel-in-Chief, and has already been fixed for 1959.

(c) The Accounts are audited and presented to the Central Committee at its June meeting.

(d) The recommendations of the June meeting of the Central Committee are put to the Annual General Meeting.

The Chairman then asked the Branches and Lieutenant-Colonel King on behalf of the Training Brigade, if they would consider early June. **Birmingham Branch** pointed out that Whitsun often fell early in June but this would not be too great a difficulty. **Loughborough Branch** pointed out that if the Catterick Reunion was held in May or early June, Area Reunions did not have much chance.

On taking a vote ten Branches voted for early June or May, but the proposal was defeated by a large majority. The best date is in late June.

The General Secretary informed the meeting of the invitation sent to the French and Belgian Signal Associations to attend the Reunion this year which the Central Committee and Corps Committee had approved.

Members would remember that General Fladgate had attended the Belgian Reunion and Brigadier Ponsonby the French Reunion, and how royally they were both entertained.

Both General Brygoo of France and General Kestens of Belgium had accepted, and he hoped that members would see that these two Officers were entertained courteously at Catterick.

The Belgians had sent us an invitation to attend their Reunion on the 21st-22nd June which we have been unable to accept, but they are insistant, and have suggested that the Officer Commanding the Signal Squadron at Antwerp represents us. This kind invitation has been passed on, and it is hoped that the O.C. will be able to attend.

The General Secretary then spoke briefly on the subject of the Trophy Fund and Lighter Fuel Boxes.

(a) **Trophy Fund.** It had been thought that the Junior Leaders Regiment Royal Signals was to combine with the Junior Leaders Regiment of the Royal Engineers, but members would be glad to hear that we are now keeping our "Boys" Regiment. Branches have given generously and the Boys Band now have Silver Trumpets. Last year three Branches presented Trophies. The Regiment is still in need of more trophies and Branches are asked to present Silver Cups. These are expensive but branches might like to combine with others, or save up during the years to follow and present one of their own. It is a sensible way of showing our gratitude, and will be greatly appreciated by the Regiment and the Corps.

(b) **Lighter Fuel Boxes.** The introduction of these Boxes was decided by this meeting three or four years ago; they are not doing as well as they should. To be of value the boxes have to collect at least 10/- a year each. Many of the boxes do not produce this small amount. Branches are asked to see these boxes are placed where they would be lucrative.

Area Reunions. The Branches were reminded by the General Secretary of the Midlands Reunion which was being held at Loughborough on the 24th-25th May. Branches had been sent details, and the General Secretary asked them to give this their keen support. It was going to be run on similar lines to the Catterick Reunion and it would be a nice way to spend Whitsun.

The Chairman then asked Branches to suggest a date and place for the 1959 Area Reunion. **South London Branch** suggested that one was held in London with say, a river trip, lunch, visits to places of interest ending with a dinner-dance on Saturday night. If accommodation could be arranged it would also be a good thing to have a Parade on the Sunday at the Cenotaph. Branches were all agreed that this would be a good thing, and September, 1959, was proposed, **The Chairman** said that Headquarters would consider the possibilities.

After the Luncheon Recess the Meeting Continued and

Brigadier A. C. C. Willway, C.B., C.B.E., T.D., D.L., Chairman of the Sub-Committee appointed by the Central Committee to look into the matter of the Release from the Register of the Friendly Societies, explained very fully the reasons and recommendations why this step be taken, as sent out in Agenda Paper HSM/12/7. He hoped the members had read the paper.

The Central Committee had a great responsibility in the policy of investment of our Funds. Detail working was done by the Trustees under the Central Committee who had to report to the representatives at the Annual General Meeting. For many years they had been considering this policy and how they could get the best out of our investments, but so often came up against the Registrar and the Rules under the Friendly Societies Act, which greatly limit powers of investment to fixed interest securities. This was all right 50 years ago when £100 of stock realised £100, but this would not apply today.

He then explained what is set out in the Agenda Paper in very simple language.

No. 40 Unit Branch (4 Squadron UK COMCAN Signal Regiment) suggested that when the proposed re-arrangement of the Association's Invested Capital was accomplished a paper showing the differences and the gains in income, etc., could be sent out with the Accounts. **The General Secretary** said that a paper would be provided in future years.

Northern Ireland Branch enquired if relief from Taxation would be affected by the proposed arrangement and **Brigadier Willway** assured the meeting that relief from Income Tax would be granted exactly as it now is.

Glasgow Branch asked permission to read a paper, and **Brigadier Willway** reassured the meeting that after Release from the Register of Friendly Societies there would be no move to sell out the whole of the Association's holding of "Trustee Securities" in favour of speculative stocks. The whole of the Association's investments would be studied AT THAT TIME and any change made would be most carefully considered and the best possible advice taken.

Aldershot Branch referred to paragraph 6(c) regarding the letter to all members and requiring a postal vote. Would this not be better done through Branches—it would save H.Q. postage and labour, and a larger number would reply.

The General Secretary accepted this proposal with gratitude and put it to the meeting. All Branches present said they would help by arranging to collect the "postal votes" of their members and forward them to Headquarters.

Loughborough Branch asked how often the Trustees altered.

The General Secretary stated that there was not likely to be any change. The present Trustees were Brigadier Willan,

General Sir Ronald Penney, General Sir Colville Wemyss and Brigadier Willway. They would become Directors of the Company as stated by Brigadier Willway in his address, and there would be no extra cost after the setting up of the Company.

Manchester Branch asked if there was a time limit.

The General Secretary told the meeting that these votes would have to be in by the end of the year.

South London Branch proposed that the meeting accept the proposal as stated by Brigadier Willway, and this was seconded by the **Glasgow Branch.** The Meeting was unanimous.

The Chairman thanked Brigadier Willway on behalf of the meeting for his wise explanations and answers to questions.

All Branches were quite happy on the matter of increased subscriptions and had no administrative problems.

Lieutenant-Colonel King on behalf of No. 26 Unit Branch (7th Training Regiment) proposed that National Servicemen during their first year in the Corps paid an annual membership subscription of 2/-. Figures of membership from Regiments were already down in the first quarter of 1958.

The General Secretary drew the attention of the meeting to Agenda Paper HSM/12/8b where the proposal was set out. Few of the men continued their membership but they were still a liability on the Welfare Section.

South London and Torbay Branches were in strong support of the proposal.

The General Secretary confirmed Leeds Branch's enquiry that a large proportion of the subscriptions paid by men joining at Catterick were paid to Headquarters.

The Chairman proposed that the recommendation be put to the Central Committee in June that National Servicemen during their first year of service pay 2/- Annual Membership Subscriptions. **South London Branch** seconded the proposal and the Meeting was unanimous in approval.

The Liverpool Branch Secretary stated that at their Annual General Meeting " concern was expressed in that the Association in finding it necessary to increase the annual rates of members subscriptions had not seen fit to move and adopt the principle of equal subscription for all members of the Association. Many factors were put forward in support of a common subscription. Firstly, it was thought that the general levelling off in incomes justified it. Secondly, many Short-Service and National Service Commissioned Officers, who had quit the service are in no better financial position than ' other rank ' fellow members who pay a smaller subscription. Further, a minority view expressed, which I mention because I feel that it must be ' aired,' is that by having different rates of subscription for ex-service men, by virtue of the rank held within the service, is tending to grade into classes the members of the Association. It was also thought that the fact that there are two classes—Officers and Other Ranks—according to subscription, is having an effect on the ex-National Serviceman who, not having served long enough to have acquired *esprit de corps*, thinks the term ' Old Comrades ' a misnomer when he reads ' Officers ' and ' Other Ranks.' Although this is a minority view I fear that it cannot be dismissed lightly. As a result of these points being raised at Liverpool, the meeting resolved

> That this Branch of the Association asks the Branch Secretaries Meeting to consider recommending that the annual subscription be fixed at the same rate for all Association members."

After discussion in which the following branches spoke in favour—**No. 40 (4 Squadron, UK COMCAN Signal Regiment), Leeds, Loughborough** and **Aldershot,** the proposal was seconded by **Aldershot Branch,** and a large majority vote was recorded that the proposal be put to the Central Committee for their recommendation to the Annual General Meeting.

The Chairman spoke of his regret that Mr. Woolley's term as a member of the Central Committee would end at Annual General Meeting, and thanked him for all his advice and help which the committee had greatly appreciated.

He then announced the outcome of the Ballot taken during the luncheon recess—**Mr. L. EVANS of Port Talbot** was nominated. **Mr. Evans** thanked the meeting for their confidence.

Leeds Branch's proposal and the H.Q. amendment regarding the immediate relief given by Branches without reference to Headquarters, which is at present £2, as set out in Agenda Paper HSM/12/10, and the proposal by **Catterick Branch,** also set out in the Agenda Paper, was discussed at great length.

A number of Branches were against any immediate help to non-members without prior reference to Headquarters, and pointed out the many pitfalls.

After discussion the Meeting, by a majority vote, agreed to a proposal by **Liverpool Branch,** and seconded by **Newcastle Branch** that the rule be amended to

> "When immediate assistance is needed, Branches may grant £5 to members of the Association but Branches are not to give financial help to non-members without prior reference to Headquarters."

Branches were unanimous in agreement with the proposal made by **Torbay Branch** and seconded by **Newcastle Branch** that the following recommendation be put to the Annual General Meeting in June, 1958.

That Rule 10d(ii) of Association Rules be amended to read

> " Can prove the payment of 21 Annual Subscriptions, or have reached the age of 60 (*having had a minimum of five years membership*) whichever is the earlier.

The General Secretary informed the Meeting that no suggestions regarding the entertainment of wives of those attending these meetings had been received during the year, and Headquarters had therefore not pursued the matter.

No. 15 Unit Branch (1 Squadron, UK COMCAN Signal Regiment) expressed thanks to the Headquarters Staff for the quick way in which they tackled welfare cases. **General White** thanked them on behalf of the Staff and added his own appreciation.

Glasgow Branch brought the meeting to a close with a vote of thanks for the Chairman.

Welfare Section

Below an attempt is made to describe, with suitable anonymity, nine cases taken from the Welfare Section files concluded during the first week in April, 1958. Also on this page is a simple statement of income and expenditure.

Signalman 1943/44 and 1947/52. Married, two children. A severe accident last August stopped him working and the fund made a grant to help with electricity account and clothing for his family.

Signalman 1939/46. Married, three children. He and his wife are BOTH in hospital and the children cared for by relatives. His income halved, he was in arrears with rent and the local Housing Authority pressed him for payment despite his misfortunes. The fund paid.

Signalman 1928/41. Married. Sickness stopped him working in January and having paid their rent he and his wife have £1 a week each for all else. The fund helped them.

Drvier 1942/47. Married, two children, the younger in hospital, and likely to remain so. He has been out of work since February, 1957, with tuberculosis and the fund paid for a fortnightly visit to the child in hospital.

Signalman 1939/42. Married, two children. Illness stopped him working in October, 1957, and the fund made a small weekly allowance for two months for extra food.

Widow of Signalman 1938, who died of wounds 1943. The fund provided much needed clothing and footwear for his son.

Signalman, T.A. Volunteer, still serving—wife ex A.T.S. They have five children, and he has had a great deal of illness during the last two years. The income is only £1 a week for each member of the family for all purposes and both Royal Signals and the A.T.S. Benevolent Fund helped generously.

Signalman 1935/43. Married, four children. He had just re-started work after two years illness (T.B.). The fund helped him to clothes necessary for his work.

Signalman 1942/47. Married, two children. Accident halved his income in November, 1957, and the fund paid part of his arrears of Hire Purchase.

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION AND BENEVOLENT FUND

The following subscriptions were most gratefully received during March, 1958:

	£	s.	d.
1 Training Regiment	21	12	5
3 Training Regiment	20	10	0
4 Training Regiment (Officers' Mess)	4	18	6
Royal Signals Records	15	0	
43 (Wx) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment (T.A.)	10	0	
Eastern Command Signal Squadron	8	3	0
Eastern Command (M) Signal Regiment (T.A.)	9	7	7
51 (H) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment (T.A.) —1 Squadron	3	17	0
COMCAN Signal Squadron, Nairobi (42 Unit Branch)	19	16	0
SHAPE Signal Squadron	2	9	0
12 Air Formation Signal Regiment	5	0	0
Gibraltar Signal Squadron	5	0	0
51 Independent Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron	1	11	0
Total receipts	£103	9	6

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION WELFARE SECTION

The following donations were most gratefully received during March, 1958:

	£	s.	d.
Glossop and District Branch	21	0	0
Newcastle-on-Tyne Branch	20	0	0
Aldershot Branch	5	0	0
" Anonymous "	2	2	0
Total receipts	£48	2	0

EXPENDITURE DURING MARCH, 1958 ... ... £824 6 3
(Includes: Rent and Rates; Beds and Bedding; Furniture; Cots and Prams; General Assistance).

Analysis of Cases :

Families of Soldiers serving in U.K.	4
" " " " " B.A.O.R.	1
" " " " " M.E.L.F.	1
Widows and Dependants	5
Released and Discharged Soldiers	38
Total cases assisted	49

32 cases of Soldiers who served during the 1939-45 War	£718	9	3
17 cases of Soldiers who did not serve during the War	£105	17	0

Lighter Fuel Packs

The following amounts were most gratefully received during March, 1958:

	£	s.	d.
Box No. 55 ... 87 AGRA (Fd) Signal Squadron, T.A.		10	0
67 ... 43 (Wx) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A.	5	16	3
Total receipts	£6	6	3

CLOTHING

There is a continued demand for clothing, particularly suits, shirts, collars. That a suit is well worn is no demerit. Articles attacked by moth should, please, not be sent.

✶

Loughborough Branch

March 22nd marked the repair of an important omission in inter-Branch relations, for on that date a small party motored over to Derby following an invitation to a social evening there. Our acceptance of several previous invitations had never been followed by an appearance—first one thing then another had cropped up; on the last occasion a violent snowstorm made the 17-mile journey impossible. However, this time we made it and were rewarded with a most enjoyable evening as guests of Colonel Hazelhurst and his lively Committee. The impression of vitality imparted by the re-formed Derby Branch was confirmed when I attended one of their Branch meetings the following week. We at Loughborough hope to cement the contact with an exchange of party visits.

There were two events on the home front this month. The first, a social evening specially put on as a welcome home to some of our members recently returned from Cyprus, was quite well attended. We had one or two ideas on livening this event up (it was held on 1st April), but the company seemed loth to depart from the old formula of drinking, gripping, dancing and a bit of tombola.

Only yesterday we tried a form of fund-raiser new to us but one which is a familiar event at Woodhouse Eaves Village Hall. Jumble Sales are rituals of village life that yours truly was not at all keen to dabble in, but I must confess the eye became less jaundiced when viewing the resultant addition to Branch funds. Once again we are indebted to members' wives—what a great help they are to us. The ladies are not present whilst mere males talk their heads off in Committees planning this and that social function and often we add insult to injury by putting them in the picture only at the last minute. But they just permit themselves a few contemptuous cracks at us, then proceed to perform prodigious feats of labour and organisation! Bless 'em.

Torbay Branch

We extend a hearty welcome to W.O.II Banham, a life member of the Association who has just joined us. Many people will remember him for his Association work with 1 Corps Signals. I feel sure he will prove a great asset to the Branch.

At our monthly meeting, held on Thursday, 10th April, it was unanimously agreed to purchase a Branch Standard, for dedication at this year's Catterick Reunion. For our Chairman, Mr. Wilkes, this is the fulfilment of his No. 1 ambition.

Prior to our April meeting the Branch Standard Fund stood at £3. However, the response from the members of our small Branch can only be summed up by the word terrific. With donations received and the promise of further donations at the meeting, we are now able to buy the Standard C.O.D.

Four members intend making the journey to Catterick for the Reunion, namely W.O.II Banham, Messrs. L. Matthews, D. Gill and D. Barnfield. It means travelling up on the Friday and back on the Monday, so this entails the loss of two days' work at the height of the holiday season, otherwise more members from our Branch would be attending.

Aldershot Branch

The Annual Dinner of the Aldershot Branch at the Royal Masonic Hall, Farnborough, was notable for the length of distinguished service of many of those present.

In the lamented absence through illness of the President, Major-General C. W. Fladgate, C.B.E., the Chairman, Mr. L. V. Goodman, " sat in " for his old commanding officer. Mr. A. V. Ient, M.S.M., the Honorary Treasurer, was justly proud of his two sons, Sergeant J. Ient and Corporal G. Ient, both serving in the Corps. The latter was happily home from Malaya for the occasion.

The Regimental Sergeant-Majors were represented by Mr. W. Lowe, Honorary Secretary of Reading and District Branch, Mr. J. F. Adkins, a Yeoman of the Guard, and Mr. C. Mepham, the senior living R.S.M., still a picture of health and power of command, and Mr. R. Nash. Sport was represented by Mr. W. J. Cotterell and Mr. F. J. Gray.

Messrs. W. J. Abbott, W. G. Chesters, H. J. Stevens, A. H. Holness, W. E. A. Richards had average service of 22 years. Brigadier F. J. Allen, C.B.E., and Brigadier H. R. Firth are both still serving the Corps as Retired Officers.

Major-General R. J. Moberly, C.B., O.B.E., and Mrs. Moberly were the guests of honour and the Signal Officer-in-Chief replied to the toast of " Our Guests." After dinner he had a long conference with Mr. C. Mepham who, incidentally, completed his first engagement in 1926.

Replying to the toast of " The Association " Brigadier Firth spoke of the sorrow of all at the absence of General Fladgate and the company were loud in applause when Captain C. R. Nichols, the Honorary Secretary, said that he had that evening exchanged messages with General Fladgate.

The Honorary Secretary later proposed the health of Mr. R. W. Fairclough (27 years' service) who had for long performed the duty of Secretary of the Branch.

Many other members of the Association were present with their ladies.

Those mentioned are some indication of the flood of reminiscences and of the quality of the Company. Incidentally, it was a very good dinner.

Sheffield Branch

May I introduce myself, folks, as the new Chairman for 1958-59, one ex-scruffy Don R. called Rotherham, ex-Catterick D.R. Cadre, 1935-39, then on to Mobile Divisional Signals, 2nd S.T.C., Prestatyn, North Wales, and N.C.O. i/c "D" Troop, 8th Army Divisional Signals, the well-known "GO" Boys, first formed February, 1940, who, I am sorry to say, I left in August, 1942, after five months in hospital and discharged forthwith into twelve-hour shifts in the engineering trade of Sheffield. I have recently had a further attack of heart trouble, with another five months' absence from work, but we still carry on, something I must have contracted as a D.R. in the Corps from the inscription written under old "Jimmy."

Many thanks are given to the past members of the Committee, who were: President, Lieutenant-Colonel J. N. Boyland; Chairman, F. Elwood; Secretary, E. Tayler; and our T.A. Treasurer, R.S.M. E. Jones, all of whom were asked to carry on the good work, except myself, who has taken over from F. Elwood. He and I take it in turns to do this, so it seems.

Our Branch is not a great Branch, but those who turn up are 100% for it, more so the wives of many, who have still got the old A.T.S. spirit in their blood, even our single member attached, Miss Margaret Kinkwood, all who helped in the past to keep the place alive, more so Mrs. Jones, our R.S.M.'s manager, who has done great work on the T.A. side and who we thank very much for the loan of the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess for the gatherings. Past T.A. members we wish also to thank, wherever they are, and best wishes to them; they are not forgotten in the least and may we see their faces again.

Any members of the Corps who are about to come to "Civvy Street" can count on this Branch when they return to Sheffield, and can get all the help they want if they will only contact the Branch to help them in employment. We who are in "Civvy Street" know what it is to settle down again and will honestly do our best to find employment with our contact with the Labour Office and members of Committees, whose job it is to get things moving, so don't forget. Don't be too shy; ask and all help is yours for the asking, as all Sheffielders will know their own town.

May I through this letter give our best wishes to my old Squadron Commander, 8th Army Divisional Signals, Major-General R. J. Moberly, C.B., O.B.E., who, as you all know, is now Signal Officer-in-Chief, and may his good work for the Corps carry on for many more years to come. "BUSTY."

Sports

CORPS CRICKET

Last year the Corps were undefeated in all matches, the final game against the Royal Armoured Corps was won by Royal Signals by 66 runs; scores: Royal Signals 134 and 142 for 6; R.A.C. 116 and 94. Season 1958 sees a revival of the pre-war match at the Oval, and this year and in subsequent years our rivals will be the Royal Armoured Corps.

Corps fixtures for 1958 are on page 132.

Officers Commanding units are requested to forward the names of potential Corps players to the Secretary, Royal Signals Cricket Club, Captain S. G. de Clive-Lowe, Royal Signals, 3 Training Regiment, Royal Signals, New Barracks, Burton Road, Lincoln, giving brief details of experience.

HOCKEY

Major J. A. Camp and Major R. O. Edwards had the unusual distinction of being nominated to be joint umpires in the ARMY HOCKEY CUP FINAL on Wednesday, 30th April, 1958.

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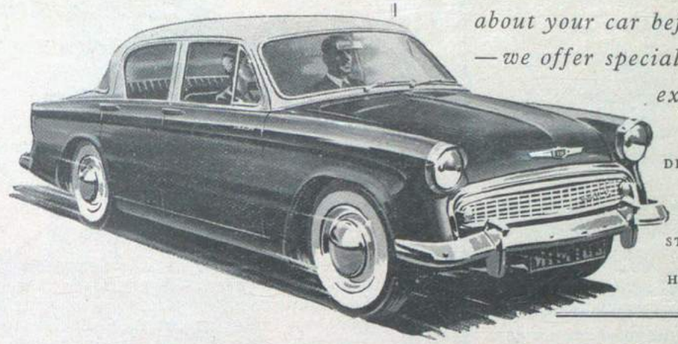
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THE WIRE

THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE

The Official Organ of the Signals Association

Editor:
BRIGADIER H. R. FIRTH

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☆

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Editorial

HOW "THE WIRE" IS PRODUCED

THE editorial staff of the THE WIRE consists of two, both of whom do a deal else besides. Both have had neither training nor previous experience. One has perforce little or no military knowledge and certainly the symbol TGPR OP. and many others mean little to her.

Contributors, and how grateful we are to them, are mostly serving in uniform and are trained to use military abbreviations.

This makes for an occasional unpardonable error.

Each item that appears in each number of THE WIRE is read at least three times by each of the editors. Acceptance reading is done by the Editor during office hours when his mind is often on other things. All too often it consists only of running an eye over the typescript, looking for obvious breaches of security and for matter which it would be a mistake to print. The Sub Editor at this reading strives to translate abbreviations into English and be it said, also to translate the Editor's instructions to the printer into language that a foreman compositor can understand.

The next reading is in "Galley"—a trial printing on sheets of paper two or three feet long—most inconvenient for reading in railway trains or in an arm chair in the late evening. It is in these places and indeed often in bed that the Editor reads "Galley" proofs. At this stage his motto is "If it reads English, it is probably alright.

The Sub Editor reads "Galley" proofs in the office, chiefly with the object of correcting printers' errors and the incorrect spelling of names, initials, decorations. In "Galley" pictures and their captions are separated from the text that goes with the picture and are often checked on a different day.

Concurrently the Sub Editor "cuts up," that is trims each piece of text of its surround of paper, pins the appropriate pictures to it and puts both into a folder sectioned to correspond with the normal sequence in the magazine.

Both Editor and Sub Editor then lock themselves into a room and "Paste up." An old number of THE WIRE is used and each piece of "copy," each picture is pasted into the exact place in which it will appear in the finished magazine. It takes between two and four hours of concentration. Both work at high speed. Normal politeness ceases after the first fifteen or twenty minutes. By the time the business is completed, the large table is a mass of discarded or unwanted paper, both are exhausted and the Sub Editor is left to write detailed instructions to the printer affecting nearly every page. She then checks all deletions and alterations with the "master galley" and sends the whole thing to the printer.

The final reading is of "Page Proofs," i.e. each page is seen exactly as it will appear. Here corrections are expensive and are only made when necessary. This final reading is again always done in a hurry. Again the Editor perforce reads in trains and arm chair or bed. The Sub Editor also frequently gives up part of her own evening to the task.

As soon as the reading is done they check against each other's discoveries and final corrections are telephoned to the printer.

How Contributors Can Help

The Editors know that contributors also have their difficulties; they work mostly in their spare time or at the expense of some other important task.

BUT

Contributors can, with little extra effort, be of great and appreciated assistance if they will obey the following simple rules:—

TYPESCRIPT. Type on one side of the paper only, double spaced and set the machine to average ten words a line This latter makes counting words easy.

ABBREVIATIONS. Do NOT use them, even such obvious ones as Capt., L/Cpl., Sigm., R (Royal), Indep. Inf. Bde. Sig. Sqn.

UNITS OF OTHER ARMS OF THE SERVICE. There is a security objection to the mention of these. "2 Gren. Gds." is more courteously typed as "The Grenadier Guards" and it prevents the Editor failing to scratch out the 2 and write the name in full. The Editor should not allow the officer who visited you to be named as Major-General W. P. Swordfish, G.O.C. the Nth Infantry Division. There is security objection to the conjunction of his name and his command.

(The Editorial is continued on page 167)

Editorial Continued

PHOTOGRAPHS. Prints should be sent, not negatives. They should be very sharp, i.e. very black, very white, on glossy paper rather than matt. AND please provide a print about twice as large as you expect it to be when it appears in THE WIRE.

A Photograph without a CAPTION loses half its value, and it is most dangerous for the Editor to attempt to provide the caption because he "thinks that he knows the names of those in the picture."

If a picture of No. 3 Squadron's Football Team is to appear in THE WIRE it is nicer for everyone if their names are appended.

ROYAL SIGNALS. Finally, it is courteous when writing to an officer at a private address to commence the envelope with "Captain X.Y.Z., Royal Signals." Royal Signals is, however, not a decoration and if an officer is serving in a Signal Regiment it is assumed that he is a member of the Royal Corps of Signals. If an individual not of Royal Signals appears in a photograph his Corps or Regiment should, of course, be inserted after his name.

It is wrong therefore to write as follows about an athletic meeting "Signalman ——, won the 440 and Lieutenant ——, Royal Signals won the high jump." It is equally correct, if regrettable to report, that "Sergeant ——, R.E.M.E. was the "best individual rifle shot.'"

BIRTHDAY OF H.R.H. THE COLONEL-IN-CHIEF

The following message was sent to Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal on the occasion of her birthday (25th April):

"All ranks your Corps send you loyal and affectionate birthday greeting. Representative Colonel Commandant, Royal Signals."

The following reply has been received from Her Royal Highness:

"The telegram I have received from you and all ranks of my Royal Corps of Signals on the occasion of my birthday has given me very great pleasure. Will you please convey my grateful thanks to them all for this message. Signed: Mary, Colonel-in-Chief."

THE BAND

When Kneller Hall re-formed after the War, the Corps Band sent the first two pupils ever sent by the Corps. They were Bandsmen Hunt and Robinson.

At the end of the year's course they tied as the best pupil of the year, out of some 200 who took the Course.

Bandsman Hunt was also awarded the Gold Medal of The Worshipful Company of Musicians, and his name is inscribed on the Roll of Winners, where for the year 1901 Mr. Ricketts appears!!

Bandsman Hunt returned to Kneller Hall in 1955 as the first Student the Corps has ever sent on a Bandmastership course, this time as Sergeant Hunt.

And so as our first Pupil topped the class, so has Sergeant Hunt in the recent War Office examination for Bandmastership.

All members of the Corps interested in our Band will, I am sure, wish to congratulate Sergeant Hunt on this double honour, which has now brought him promotion at Kneller Hall to Band Sergeant Major. J.L.J.

MAJOR-GENERAL SIR W. RONALD C. PENNEY, K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O., M.C.

Elected a President of the British Wireless Dinner Club

At the thirty-fifth Annual Dinner of the Club on 25th April, not only was Sir Ronald Penney thus honoured, but elected Vice-President for the year 1958/59 was Brigadier Sir Lionel H. Harris, K.B.E., T.D. To the Committee were also elected Colonel H. Winterbotham, O.B.E., B.A., A.M.I.E.E. and Colonel J. F. Longfield, M.A., M.I.E.E.

The British Wireless Dinner Club was founded by Colonel L. F. Blandy, who was responsible for wireless communications in the British Expeditionary Force on the western front in the 1914-18 War, and after the war was appointed to the Air Ministry as Controller of Communications.

Courtesy, Mr. Andrew Reid, Press Officer, British Radio Industry.

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Major and Mrs. F. E. Boon have now taken over the management from Major and Mrs. S. Dunningham. All future bookings should be addressed to Major Boon, Mercury House, 14 Florence Road, Boscombe, Bournemouth, Hants.

Obituary

THE LATE W.O.II (S.S.M.) G. D. ROCKALL



On 10th June, 1929, George Daniel Rockall enlisted into Royal Signals — on 27th April, 1958, still serving in the Corps — he died.

Between those dates, 28 years and 232 days apart, lies the story of a man's life utterly devoted to the service of his Country and his Corps.

After initial training and trade training in the old "Eddie" Company, he served for a short time in 3 Divisional Signals before embarking for the normal pre-war tour of service in India. Amongst his other excitements in India was the Quetta earthquake and Rockall was amongst those of 2 Indian Divisional Signals who took such a prominent part in rescue operations.

After India, "Rockie" served for a short time in Palestine and then returned to U.K. The outbreak of War saw him, as a Corporal, going out to France with the B.E.F. on 10th September, 1939. He returned through Dunkirk as a Sergeant and saw further service in North Africa.

Early in 1946 he went to B.A.O.R. and it was there that I was first privileged to serve with him. He was my S.S.M. for almost six years and we were together in many and varied parts of Germany, including Berlin during the blockade and airlift. During those years I got to know him very well and learned to appreciate his sterling qualities.

With "Rockie" it was the Service first and last. Personal considerations never entered into his scheme of things—his one object was to further the interests of his men. I well remember his vegetable garden in Berlin, where he spent all his spare time so that *his* boys, at least, got fresh vegetables whilst the rest of Berlin lived out of tins.

In the sporting world he was always prepared to do his best and he excelled at hockey, gaining many representative honours. By his leadership and example he would produce a team from whatever material he had available and would invariably put his Unit "on the map" in all competitions.

On returning from B.A.O.R., Rockall went to 7 Training Regiment and during this period he did his best work for the Royal Signals Association which he himself had joined as a life member on enlistment. He was responsible for almost 100% of the Regular intakes and a large part of the N.S. joining the Association—a feat for which he was complimented in a WIRE editorial of the time.

From Catterick he went to France—and there began the illness which eventually caused his death, in Millbank Hospital on 27th April, 1958. He was then a P.S.I. in 44 (H.C.) Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A.

S.S.M. Rockall was buried at Hanwell with full Military Honours on 2nd May, 1958. Amongst the mourners were his wife and near relatives, to whom our deepest sympathy goes out. The Firing Party was provided by War Office Signal Regiment and the Bearer Party by London District Signal Troop. A large representative gathering of Officers, W.O.s and O.R.s were present to pay a last tribute to a fine soldier to whom the Corps owes much.

L.J.P.

PERSONAL COLUMN

London Gazette

25th April, 1958
Lieutenant-Colonel W. Hammond, M.B.E., retires 24th April, 1958.

29th April, 1958
Major N. D. Farmer retires 29th April, 1958.

2nd May, 1958
Colonel (Temp. Brigadier) J. N. Barker, O.B.E., to be Brigadier, 6th February, 1958.
Captain R. P. D. Painter to be Major, 3rd December, 1957.
Major R. H. Farlow, M.B.E., relinquishes his commission on completion of service, 2nd May, 1958.

9th May, 1958
Brigadier J. D. Haigh, O.B.E., retires 1st May, 1958.
Colonel R. Pearce retires 8th May, 1958.
Lieutenant-Colonel H. E. F. Middleton retires 8th May, 1958.
Lieutenant-Colonel G. Mellor retires 10th May, 1958.

Movements — Officers

Captain A. M. McCann, Pakistan to B.A.O.R.
Captain C. H. K. Houghton, Catterick to B.A.O.R.
Major D. M. Haslehust, B.A.O.R. to 2 Training Regiment.
Lieutenant-Colonel F. S. P. H. Lang, H.Q. Southern Command to Depot (HS), (terminal leave).
Major (T.O.T.) R. W. Cooper, Depot (HS) to Signal Equipment Troop.
Captain (Q.M.) H. Sorfleet, B.A.O.R. to O.T.W., School of Signals.
Lieutenant (T.O.T.) R. Taylor, 1st Commission to Signal Regiment (U.K.).
Major (Q.M.) T. Williamson, Officer Training Wing, School of Signals to retirement.
Major J. G. Melsom, 1 Training Regiment to Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, U.K.
Major E. J. Bardell, FARELF to B.A.O.R.
Lieutenant-Colonel J. H. St. G. Hamersley, B.A.O.R. to School Regiment, School of Signals.
Major J. T. Lloyd, O.T.W., School of Signals to Depot (HS).
Major S. J. Thompson, Depot (HS) to 1 Training Regiment.
Lieutenant (T.O.T.) E. R. Addington, First Commission to M.E.L.F.
Captain (T.O.T.) D. F. D. Barry, 5 Training Regiment to 3 Training Regiment.
Captain (Traffic Officer) R. Lawrence, SHAPE to B.A.O.R.
Captain (Traffic Officer) H. W. Russell, B.A.O.R. to M.E.L.F.
Major (Q.M.) F. P. Walker, Depot (HS) to School of Signals.
Major K. F. Lloyd, M.E.L.F. to School of Signals.
Major R. R. Morrison, Christmas Island to B.A.O.R.
Major N. W. P. Pearce, 7 Training Regiment to 1 Training Regiment.
Major G. H. Peirson, 7 Training Regiment to 4 Training Regiment.
Major W. E. Sherratt, B.A.O.R. to Depot (HS).
Lieutenant-Colonel L. E. Thorpe, B.A.O.R. to retirement.
Captain (T.O.T.) C. P. Bolton, Kent and Sussex S.W.S. Troop to B.A.O.R.
Lieutenant (T.O.T.) D. J. Chetwynd, Depot (HS) to Kent and Sussex S.W.S. Troop.
Major (Traffic Officer) T. J. Winder, Depot (HS) to U.K. COMCAN Signal Regiment.
Major C. E. Page, Staff College, Camberley to Signal Regiment, U.K.
Lieutenant-Colonel D. R. Yearsley, M.E.L.F. to Royal Signals Records.
Major F. G. Barnes, B.A.O.R. to 3 Training Regiment.
Major A. C. Sugden, B.A.O.R. to M.E.L.F.
Major P. A. M. Tighe, FARELF to Depot (HS).
Major D. E. Higgins, Junior Leaders Regiment to FARELF.
Major A. P. Doyle, O.T.W. School of Signals to Malta.
Major A. J. Clarke, U.K. COMCAN Signal Regiment to B.A.O.R.
Major A. G. MacTavish, Depot (HS) to H.Q. South West District.
Major W. C. Jarvis, H.Q. South West District to B.A.O.R.
Major G. A. Horner, School of Artillery to AGRA (A.A.) Signal Squadron.
Major C. Newbold, AGRA (A.A.) Signal Squadron to 4 Training Regiment.
Major G. J. K. Mackintosh, School of Signals to Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment.
Major D. A. Bond, H.Q. Training Brigade to Depot (HS).
Major G. Peat, War Office, A.G.11 to Independent Parachute Brigade Signal Squadron.

Births

BREWIN.—To Major and Mrs. W. Brewin, a son, Clifford John Edward, at Catterick Military Hospital, 4th March, 1958.
ESPLIN.—To Corporal and Mrs. A. Esplin, a daughter, Jaqueline, at B.M.H. Hostert, on 13th April, 1958.
SHARPE.—To Sergeant and Mrs. Sharpe, a daughter, Christine, at B.M.H. Hostert on 26th March, 1958.
WOTTON.—To Major and Mrs. G. H. Wotton, a daughter, Anna Louise, at B.M.H. Hostert, on 1st April, 1958.
BROWN.—To W.O.I and Mrs. Brown, a daughter, Heather Jayne, at B.M.H. Hostert, on 13th March, 1958.
RICHARDSON.—To Signalman and Mrs. J. Richardson, a daughter, Linda, on 9th April, 1958, at B.M.H. Nicosia.

O'CONNOR.—To Sergeant and Mrs. P. E. C. O'Connor, a son, Colin, on 26th March, 1958, at B.M.H. Nicosia.

All the following of 19 Army Group Signal Regiment.

BATESON.—To Signalman and Mrs. Bateson, a son, John, at Bury, Lancs.
BERGIN.—To Signalman and Mrs. G. R. Bergin, a daughter, Judith, at R.A.F. Wegberg, on 14th April, 1958.
CASEY.—To Lance-Corporal and Mrs. Casey, a son, Martin, at Liverpool, on 12th March, 1958.
MEAKINS.—To Corporal and Mrs. Meakins, a son, at B.M.H. Hostert, on 31st March, 1958.
HOLDSWORTH.—To R.S.M. and Mrs. Holdsworth, a daughter, Penelope Ann, at B.M.H. Hostert, on 7th April, 1958.
HORTON.—To Corporal and Mrs. Horton, a son, Nigel Anthony, at B.M.H., Hostert, on 13th March, 1958.
MATHESON.—To W.O.II and Mrs. Matheson, a daughter, Jennifer Ann, at B.M.H. Hostert, on 4th February, 1958.
COOPER.—To Sergeant and Mrs. F. Cooper, a daughter, Gillian Dawn, at B.M.H. Hostert, on 7th January, 1958.

Marriages

DAVIS—WILSON.—Lieutenant L. F. Davis to Miss J. L. Wilson at Buckley (N. Wales) on 8th March, 1958.
PETERS—CANE.—Corporal B. J. Peters to Miss S. M. Cane at Southampton on 22nd March, 1958.

All the following of 19 Army Group Signal Regiment.

TUCKER—JEFFREWS.—Staff Sergeant L. L. Tucker to Miss Philomena Jeffreys at Worthing, on 15th January, 1958.
HANSON—LEWIS.—Lance-Corporal G. Hanson to Miss Elizabeth Mary Lewis at Kelvin, Glasgow, on 21st December, 1957.
HAWKINS—ELLIS.—Sergeant P. D. Hawkins to Miss Marylyn Ellis at Southend, on 21st December, 1957.
CORNELL—WARD.—Sergeant T. Cornell to Miss Dorothy Ward on 14th December, 1957.
VIDLER—DOTCHIN.—Staff Sergeant Vidler (R.A.E.C.) to Miss Rosemary Dotchin at Glasgow, on 15th March, 1958.
PLATTS—MARSHALL.—Signalman Platts to Miss Sylvia Marshall at Derby, on 7th April, 1958.
ADAMS—ALMEIDA.—Lance-Corporal Adams to Miss Peggy Almeida at Brixton, on 15th March, 1958.
WILLIAMS—DYLER.—Signalman Williams to Miss Teresa Dyler at Ince, on 8th February, 1958.

Deaths

McNIFF.—23254880 Signalman M. D. McNiff on 12th April, 1958, in M.E.L.F.
KENNEDY.—22773706 Signalman J. J. Kennedy, on 16th April, 1958, in Cyprus.
ROCKALL.—W.O.II (S.S.M.) G. D. Rockall on 27th April, 1958, in Queen Alexandra Military Hospital, Millbank, S.W.1.

Arrivals and Departures

1 Training Regiment

Arrivals : Captain R. Holmes.
Departures : Major J. Ray, Sergeant R. F. Abery.

2 L. of C. Signal Regiment

Arrivals : Captains A. M. McCann and C. H. K. Houghton, Staff Sergeants Stringer, Rose, Slater and Sergeant Bennett.
Departures : S.Q.M.S. Scaife, Sergeants Candy and Smith.

Gibraltar Signal Squadron

Arrivals : W.O.II (F. of S.) T. A. Burrows, Sergeant S. Harding.
Departures : W.O.II (F. of S.) A. N. G. Gent, Sergeant P. G. Farrell.

Officer Training Wing, School of Signals

Arrivals : Captain (Q.M.) Sorfleet.
Departures : Major J. T. Lloyd, Staff Sergeants J. Trow and D. Bees, Sergeants T. A. Pearce, H. M. Cummings, H. Callaghan and H. W. Harvey.

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19 Army Group Signal Regiment.

Arrivals : Majors I. McAnsh and E. R. Davies, Captain Ross, W.O.sII Cowsill, Stanley, Burrow and Doherty, R.Q.M.S. Grant, Staff Sergeant Johnstone, Sergeants Brown, Donoghue, McWhirter (R.A.P.C.), Owns-worth, Hunt and Hodges.
Departures : Major S. Schofield, Captain J. O. Fisher, Major (T.O.T.) R. W. Cooper, W.O.II G. J. Markey, W.O.II (R.Q.M.S.) Pooley (2 Army Signal Park), W.O.I Bell, Sergeants Brint, Houston, Foy, Small, Sillence, Daines, Caruthers and Isaaman (R.A.P.C.).

2 Wireless Regiment

Arrivals : Lieutenant-Colonel D. T. W. Gibson, M.B.E., W.O.II R. W. Carier, Sergeant D. L. Godbeer.
Departures : Lieutenant-Colonel A. J. Leahy, O.B.E., W.O.II V. H. Stephens, Sergeants B. D. Moulsher and L. Staniforth (R.A.P.C.).

Forthcoming Events

Corps "At Home" and Old Comrades Reunion Catterick 28th/29th June, 1958.

Royal Signals T.A./A.E.R. Garden Party, Harewood House
23rd August, 1958. (See page 170).

Ex-Boys' Dinner, 1958

Saturday, 27th September, 1958, 6.30 for 7.30 p.m., at The Victory Ex-Services' Club, 63/79, Seymour Street, London, W.2 (one minute from Marble Arch station and *first left* up Edgware Road). Lounge suit or uniform. Remittance to Hon. Secretary, F. W. Jacob, Esq., 54 (EA) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A., 40, Ashburnham Road, Bedford, preferably not later than 1st July. Ex-Boys 16/6; wives or other guests 15/-. Cheques/Postal Orders payable "F. W. Jacob, Ex-Boys' Dinner A/C." Seating limited to 100. Early bookings desirable.

F. G. STRANGE, *Major (Retd.), Chairman, Ex-Boys' Reunions.*

The White City Tattoo

A Searchlight Tattoo staged at the White City Stadium in London.
Evening Performances 11th, 12th, 13th, 15th August.
Matinee also on Wednesday, August 13th.
About 2,000 performers from the Navy, Army and Royal Air Force will take part.
Tickets and information from Communication Counsellors International, McCann-Erickson House, Fetter Lane, London, E.C.4.

Annual Buffet Supper and Reunion

Saturday, 6th December, at the Drill Hall, Duke of York's Headquarters, Chelsea, London, S.W.3 (by courtesy of the Middlesex Yeomanry Signal Regiment, T.A.), from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m.

CORPS BAND SUMMER TOUR, 1958

Touring Band

15th June—21st June	... ...	Plymouth.
28th June—29th June	... ...	Corps "At Home" and Old Comrades' Reunion.
6th July—12th July	... ...	Hastings.
15th July—20th July	... ...	Edinburgh.
21st July—2nd August	... ...	Dunfermline.
3rd August—17th August	... ...	Glasgow.
21st August—23rd August	... ...	Scottish Command Signal Squadron.
24th August—31st August	... ...	Edinburgh Festival.

ENGAGEMENTS — THE ROYAL SIGNALS DISPLAY, 1958

18th & 19th June ...	Lincolnshire Show, Spalding.
21 June	Selby and District Agricultural Society Annual Show, Selby.
25th & 26th June ...	Royal Norfolk Agricultural Association Show, Diss, Norfolk.
28th June	Thorgumbold and Ryehill Show, near Hull.
29th June	Royal Signals Regimental Week-end, Catterick Camp.
5th July	North Riding Territorial Army and Auxiliary Forces Association Golden Jubilee of the Territorial Army, Stewart Park, Middlesbrough.
6th July	Lancashire T.A. Jubilee Celebrations, Knowsley Park, near Liverpool.
11th & 12th July ...	Bedfordshire Agricultural Society Show, Bedford.
16th & 17th July ...	Peterborough Agricultural Society Summer Show.
23rd, 24th, 25th & 26th July ...	The Bath Searchlight Tattoo.
4th August	Far Forest Agricultural Show, Bewdley.
9th August	Harrogate Fete and Gala.
13th September ...	1st Training Regiment Royal Signals, Parents' Annual Week-end.

ROYAL SIGNALS CRICKET CLUB, 1958

16th-17th June ...	R.B.	...	Gillingham.
29th June	Yorkshire Gents (12.00)	...	Escrick Park.
2nd July	Welbeck College (12.15)	...	Welbeck.
9th-10th Sept. ...	**R.A.C.**		**Oval. Free Admission**

All matches begin at 11.30 hours unless otherwise stated.

ROYAL SIGNALS OFFICERS' GOLFING SOCIETY 1958 FIXTURE LIST

18th July	R.A.	...	Sunningdale.
11th Sept.	R.A.M.C.	...	Swinley Forest.
29th Sept.	Autumn Meeting		Hankley Common.
30th Sept.	Autumn Meeting		Hankley Common.

ROYAL SIGNALS HOCKEY

The Royal Signals Hockey Trial will be played at Catterick Camp on Friday, 26th September, 1958.

Individuals wishing to be considered for this trial should submit their names, together with playing position and record to :

Captain K. Kirby, Royal Signals, Headquarters' Mess, Royal Signals, Catterick Camp, Yorks., before 12th September, 1958.

Fixtures for the 1858/59 Season are as follows :

Saturday, 27th September, 1958 ...	Thistles	...	Catterick
Thursday, 23rd October, 1958 ...	R.E.M.E.	...	Aborfield
Friday, 24th October, 1958 ...	R.E.	...	Aldershot
Tuesday, 2nd December, 1958 ...	R.A.S.C.	...	Aldershot
Wednesday, 3rd December, 1958 ...	R.M.A.	...	Sandhurst
Thursday, 4th December, 1958 ...	Aldershot Services	...	Aldershot
Wednesday, 18th February, 1959 ...	R.M.C. of S.	...	Aldershot
Friday, 20th February, 1959 ...	R.A.O.C.	...	Blackdown
Saturday, 7th March, 1959 ...	Durham University	...	Catterick
Wednesday, 25th March, 1959	Welbeck College ...	...	Welbeck
27th - 30th March, 1958 ...	Easter Hockey Festival	...	Scarborough

The date and venue for the fixture against R.A. are not yet confirmed.

ROYAL SIGNALS T.A/A.E.R.

GARDEN PARTY

HAREWOOD HOUSE

23rd August, 1958

H.R.H. THE PRINCESS ROYAL has most graciously consented to be "At Home" at a Summer Garden Party to be held at Harewood House on Saturday, 23rd August, 1958, to mark the Golden Jubilee of the territorial Army.

Officers and their guests will have the opportunity of viewing Harewood House and the Gardens. The 50th (Northumbrian) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment (T.A.) are kindly providing their band to play on the lawns during the party.

Notices have been sent to all T.A. and A.E.R. units requesting them to forward names of serving and retired officers and their guests who would like to attend.

The representatives of the T.A. and A.E.R. of the Corps Committee would appreciate the attendance of a proportion of regular officers, both serving and retired, especially those who have had close connections with the T.A. and A.E.R. in the past, together with their wives and daughters.

Applications for invitations should be sent to Chief Signal Officer, H.Q. London District, Horse Guards, Whitehall, by 1st June, 1958, stating the names of guests. Full particulars will be forwarded with invitations on 1st July, 1958. A remittance to the value of 15/- per person should accompany the application, cheques being made payable to "Royal Signals Dinner Club."

BRONZE STATURE OF "JIMMY" FOR SALE

Situated in Edinburgh, the statue is 3ft. high, at present mounted on a 4ft. Billiard Table Leg. The owner has given it to the Association to sell to the highest bidder—minimum £50. The proceeds go—half to the Royal Signals Association, and half to a charity nominated by the owner, Major W. J. Main, Royal Signals.

Regiments, Squadrons wishing to purchase, apply: General Secretary, Royal Signals Association, 88, Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1.



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1 TRAINING REGIMENT

Easter passed off quietly but since then much has happened. First of all General Nalder paid us a visit, then the "Grigg" Committee descended and finally on the 21st our Annual Administrative Inspection took place. This last consisted, among other things, of a ceremonial parade some 700 strong, with the Corps Band in attendance.

During the month we featured in three sports finals. Playing in the District Rugby Sevens, our "A," "B" and "C" teams reached the quarter finals. In the last encounter, the "A" team disposed of Royal Signals Wing most convincingly and the Cup returned for the first time in several years. A week later Royal Signals Wing had their revenge when they narrowly defeated us in the District Rugby Cup.

About the same time, our hockey XI was taking on Royal Signals Wing in the District Cup final. Here again we had to be content with second best.

To crown a very busy month, the Regimental Athletics Meeting was held in delightful weather on the 29th and 30th. For the first time in five years, 3 Squadron wrested the trophy from 2. Well done.

4 TRAINING REGIMENT

Unit Rifle Meeting, 1958

This meeting was held in May this year and fortunately the Adjutant must have used his silver pin when he picked the actual dates, as his choice resulted in one of the sunniest week-ends we have had this spring so far.

Fortunately the meeting went with a swing and everyone seemed to have enjoyed themselves—even the markers were lustily singing after three days in the butts, but that may have been the result of the recent visit of the film "Bridge over the River Kwai" to Catterick.

As usual, everyone was amused by the appearance on the 600-yard firing point (before the 600-100-yard fire with movement) of a number of our portly backroom boys of the Q.M.'s department. I must say they all finished the course, but I'll wager most of them must have been aiming at the spots in front of their eyes and not the target by the time they reached 100 yards.

The results of the meeting are easily tabulated, as 1 Squadron swept the board, losing only the Officers', Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Rifle Match. Captain F. W. Oakes won the Individual Rifle Match for the second year in succession, with Sergeant I. McAllister, R.E.M.E., and Corporal D. S. Evans as runners-up.

The Unit team is now heavily engaged on practising for the District/Royal Signals/Bisley Meetings. We hope to do well this year—especially in the S.M.G. matches and improve our placing from last year.

Signal Training Troop, W.R.A.C.

April saw great activity in the gardens surrounding the Teleprinter School. Private Anderson started it one day when the sun peeped out for a few minutes between snow showers and Squad 63R carried on the good work in the interval between trade testing and posting. In the summer—sheep, rabbits, children and Catterick weather permitting—we should have a very pleasant display of flowers.

No. 5 (War Office) Signal Squadron, W.R.A.C./T.A., will be pleased to hear that Private J. Cosens has passed her B 111 trade test, and has been posted to Northern Ireland District (M) Signal Squadron. Are any more W.R.A.C. members of the Squadron going to follow her example in joining the Regular Army and coming to Catterick for training?

The Honours Board in the Teleprinter School was completed just before Easter and is in position in the main entrance hall. It is in light oak, with white lettering and the two Corps badges in colour.

The postings board is filling up rapidly with postcards sent by former trainees now serving in all parts of the world. Private Johnson has forwarded a set of beautifully coloured photographs of Singapore and district.

The staff in the Teleprinter School has been increased by two



CATTERICK, APRIL, 1958

Corporal M. Cunnington, Private W. Anderson, Lance Corporal J. A. Dunn, Lance Corporal D. J. Hay, Lance Corporal S. M. Abbett, Private P. Nicholas, Corporal E. P. R. Beaumont White, Corporal Ritchie, Sergeant R. Boyle, W.O.II J. M. Hobster, Lieutenant E. L. Ross, Sergeant H. G. W. Thompson, Sergeant P. R. Dixon

Royal Signals' instructors, Lance-Corporals Henderson and Cameron, and there has been one W.R.A.C. promotion—Sergeant P. Dixon.

The new section of the Signal Centre Operator School was opened during April and the first Squad to train in it should be on circuit by the beginning of June. There have been two promotions in this School—Sergeant D. J. Ritchie and Corporal M. Cunnington. But if we are to continue training Signal Centre operators, we must have two new instructors within the next two months. Are there any volunteers?

CHIEF SIGNAL OFFICERS OF SCOTTISH COMMAND

Brigadier J. N. Barker, O.B.E. writes to the Editor

It might be of interest to readers of THE WIRE, and particularly to those who served between the two wars, to hear that I have been able to build up a "family tree" of C.S.O.s Scottish Command from the date of formation of the Corps in 1920. This has only been possible through the active support of former C.S.O.s and Honorary Colonels of T.A. Regiments in Scotland and, if you decide to publish this letter, I should like to take the opportunity of thanking them for their help publicly.

The final result, which will be recorded on a board being made for my office, reads:—

Lieutenant-Colonel C. H. Prickett, D.S.O.	1920-1924
Lieutenant-Colonel E. St. J. Yates	1924-1925
Lieutenant-Colonel P. R. Bald, D.S.O.	1925-1928
Lieutenant-Colonel J. L. Tomlin, C.B.E., D.S.O.	1928-1931
Lieutenant-Colonel C. W. M. Firth, M.C.	1931-1933
Lieutenant-Colonel P. C. Snatt, M.C.	1933-1936
Lieutenant-Colonel C. Wheeler	1936-1939
Colonel C. Wheeler	1939-1941
Brigadier C. Wheeler	1941-1942
Brigadier R. E. Barker, C.B.E.	1942-1944
Brigadier F. A. H. Mathew, O.B.E., M.C.	1944-1946
Brigadier C. Knowles, C.B.E.	1946-1949
Brigadier R. W. Morgan, O.B.E.	1949-1953
Brigadier W. M. Ponsonby, O.B.E.	1953-1955
Brigadier J. C. Hardy, C.B.E.	1955-1958
Brigadier J. N. Barker, O.B.E.	1958-

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THE LAST OF THE MANY

Major General R. F. H. Nalder, C.B., O.B.E., B.Sc., Representative Colonel Commandant presenting the prize for the best cadet to Officer Cadet P. R. Keslake at the final Commissioning Parade at O.T.W. on March 8th, 1958. Officer Cadet Keslake was a member of Course 362, the last course to pass through the Wing

OFFICER TRAINING WING

As the time for closing the unit draws near, it is inevitable that one should look back, perhaps somewhat wistfully, to the days when unit life was in full swing. Then Young Officers, Officer Cadets and Potential Officers strove hard to prove themselves, and Course Officers and NCOs enjoyed themselves evaluating their worth. Now all the bustle and activity is over. The last course, 362, commissioned on March 7th has departed, and there is an air of finality around the place. Many of the cadre staff have already left and further postings come through daily for those remaining. Only in 4 Squadron does normal training continue, and even here restlessness pervades the air, as it is only a fortnight before the Squadron moves to 7 Training Regiment.

Although it has been increasingly difficult to find players to fill our teams, the unit has by no means been disgraced on the sportsfield this winter. We had hoped to retain the Northumbrian District Seven-a-side rugger Cup, but an unfortunate injury to Lieutenant Alan Godson in an early round impaired our strength, and we were knocked out in the semi-final. We here congratulate Lieutenant Godson on his promotion and also on his representative appearances for the Army XV ; we wish him well in his civilian career, and in his future sorties on the rugby field.

Corporal Favager has led the unit soccer team into 6th place in the Northumbrian District Junior League, and has also done mighty work as captain of the Corps side, for which he has been awarded his Corps colours. In the Major Units Hockey league we did well, finishing 4th out of 16 teams ; the side has played well throughout the season, and this game seems to be almost a monopoly of the cadre. Here again we have an outstanding individual in Sergeant Peberdy who has won his Corps colours, as a result of several representative appearances. Not all our sporting achievements have, however, been confined to the field. Major V. H. Martin, M.C. distinguished himself in the Northumbrian District Shooting Competition and three keen members of the unit, Lance-Corporal Burgin, Signalman Smith and Nicholls, formed a team in a comparatively new sport for us — Cycling. They gained 5th place in the Army Inter Unit Challenge trophy, and consequently we have high hopes for them in the Northern Command Championships on May 14th. Signalman Smith has also ridden twice for the Army Cycling Union. We thank all those who have played hard and kept the reputation of the unit high, and congratulate all those who have sought glory in higher spheres.

Finally we thank all Officers, NCOs and men leaving the unit for all they have done during their time here. We wish them the very best of luck for the future and hope they will look back on their stay in OTW with a gladsome eye, and with some satisfaction, to a job which, we hope, they feel has been worthwhile.

By the end of May most of the familiar faces will have gone, and only the rear party will remain to carry out the final closing of the Wing, and incidentally to write the final edition of the Wire Notes. This will contain a record of the Unit's achievements in every sphere, and we are sure that the 6,282 officers who are, so to speak " Old Boys " of the unit will be interested to see just what the Unit has to show for the 19 years of its existence. So to them all we say " Watch this space ! "

3 INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT

Spring once again finds us tackling our various commitments with renewed determination and vigour. In the sporting world our hockey team report many successes against the local civilian teams and the award of the Corps colours to Captain Tripp and Lieutenant Etherington for the second year in succession. We managed to beat a team from a Field Regiment, Royal Artillery, in a Garrison Cup match, which in a way was retribution, as they knocked us out of the Army Cup a couple of months ago. Our other sporting activities have been somewhat in abeyance for a month due to an extensive training programme carried out in the field in the Stanford Practical Training Area.

Our field training was in three phases, namely Troop, Squadron and Regimental. During the first phase we worked as Independent Troops, mainly on military training to toughen us up for what was to come later. Each Troop was issued with a No. 1 burner and compo rations, then left to it to practice for themselves the basic principles of the noble art of cooking. The budding " Beatons " in the Regiment had the time of their lives and, having overcome the mysteries of how to boil water, did an excellent job, which was reflected in the robust, healthy looking specimens that survived the first few days' treatment. Some of the smaller Troops such as 1 Squadron, H.Q., seemed to make cooking their full-time job, even the Sergeant-Major enjoyed himself in the food preparation, becoming a dab hand at peeling carrots with a matchette. On the odd occasion he looked as if he wanted to peel the rest of his crew with the lethal weapon, particularly when a typewriter ribbon found its way into the stew one day.

2 Squadron had a casualty in Signalman Dixon when the O.C. took him by surprise in the vicinity of the cookhouse with a flash camera. True to his training he dived for the nearest cover when he thought he was being attacked. Unfortunately, the cover in this instance happened to be a dixie of stew.

" K " Troop, as usual, roughed it more than anyone else, although they appear to be highly organised in their messing arrangements. They even boasted tables to eat off and some of the more gentlemanly types were known to eat their hard tack biscuits with a knife and fork.

" C " Troop, true to tradition, kept us all amused, their main entertainment this time being lively discourses between Sergeant McKenna (Scots) and Signalman Ogden (Irish), both of the same detachment. After a lively week of misunderstandings it became obvious that neither of them was prepared to learn the others language, so by common consent they finally settled down to a form of " Esperanto."

During the second phase of the training " A " Troop constructed an underground Command Post which was the envy of all the neighbouring Troops who went along to look at it. O.C. " A " Troop had to keep a close watch on his Troop Sergeant, who wanted to charge admission fee. In the depths of the burrow operators were hard at it working to other sets in the area, a large fire keeping them warm. Rabbits never had it so good, but then who said " A " Troop were rabbits!

Between the second and third phases we had an Inter-Troop communication drill competition, which consisted of trying to beat the clock (and other Troops) at setting up and working their respective Command Posts, Signal Centres, etc. The Regimental Orderly Room staff are to be congratulated on winning their event and proving that even clerks of the Regiment can move like greased lightning when the occasion demands it. 2 Squadron H.Q., however, did not commend themselves so well. Arriving on location to compete against two Saracens, 2 Command vehicles and a Signal Centre, they suffered a broken tent pole, which rather took the wind out of their sails, as it buried the S.S.M. and the other two members of the team. However, undaunted, they continued and were cheered on by the other competitors who had set up, camouflaged and had working their respective stations all in a matter of 20 minutes.

The highlight of the third phase was a convoy run to the East Coast in daylight, followed immediately by an eight-hour night drive to a new location to set up a complete Divisional communication network prior to closing down and returning to base. C.R. Signals, who observed part of the operation from the air, was told by the ex-Royal Signals pilot that the convoy was the best he had observed since he had taken over aerial spotting duties. This was high praise indeed, as most of our drivers were on their chin straps and were all ready to prop their eyelids up with matchsticks.

Shortly after returning to Colchester the Sergeants' Mess held their Annual Spring Ball, which was attended by the Commending Officer and the Officers of the Regiment and, due to the shortage of space in the Mess, was held in the Garrison Theatre. A good time was had by all and dancing, etc., went on until the small hours of the morning. Congratulations are offered to the fair lady who won the battle for the flowers at the end of the evening.

90 SIGNAL REGIMENT

April and May have been eventful months for the Unit. Following the visit to Colchester of Her Majesty the Queen, which was reported in the April edition of THE WIRE, we concentrated the whole Unit (nearly!) to prepare the " Quicksilver " Recruiting Trailers for their first tour of the year. Commanded by Major D. C. Ward, the team left on schedule for Gloucester, and our thanks go to the many members of the Regiment who in a short time helped to fit out two very large trailers which, we hope, will produce many new readers of THE WIRE in years to come.

Following the popular trend, we have introduced the cafeteria system in the dining hall—nothing lavish, but a choice of three dishes for each course at dinner has been welcomed by the " customers."

On 7th May the Corps Band visited Colchester for three days. In conjunction with 3 Infantry Division Signal Regiment a diverse programme was arranged so that everyone could take advantage of the Band's visit. Nothing serious, a little music at a wonderful cocktail party given by Lieutenant-Colonel M. D. Price, O.B.E., and his Officers on the Tuesday, followed by the Band playing for a cricket match (3 Divisional Signals versus 90 Signals) on the Wednesday afternoon. We managed to win an exciting game with about a minute to spare and then rushed to an All Ranks' Dance. This was quite a party; the Band, sensibly, let the NAAFI trucks get away from the cricket field first, to prepare the bars, and everyone was ready for an evening's dancing in the Garrison Theatre. We had lots of wonderful dance hostesses, who were invited by our P.R.I. from the many firms with whom we do business. It is rumoured that we threatened not to pay our bills unless each business house sent its quota of pony-tailed lovelies—it worked like a charm and we mustered about 150 ladies to dance with our 200 gentlemen.

The grand finale to an enjoyable week was a concert given by the Orchestral Section of the Corps Band on Thursday evening to an enthusiastic audience of over 200 all ranks. Major J. L. Judd, M.B.E., the Director of Music, listened-in and subsequently received our congratulations for a most enjoyable evening. Our thanks to the Band and we wish them a most successful season at Eastbourne and elsewhere.

STEEPLE BUMPSTEAD SIGNAL SQUADRON

A feeling of shame and disgrace hangs over the Squadron this month, all festive occasions have been postponed, even the monthly All Ranks' Tombola. We have had our second Court Martial—a most sad affair. Lance-Coporal Bentley, our Post N.C.O., changed the name of his house and then claimed Disturbance Allowance. Mind you, he was very unlucky; the chap in the Pay Office came from the same town.

Sergeant (Schoolie) Farnsbarns is now including Latin in his ACE 3rd Class studies. This has been found necessary in order to interpret some of the titles and subscribers of articles in THE WIRE. At the same time he has solved the families' baby-sitter problem by giving his students so much homework that they are only too pleased to have somewhere peaceful in which to do it.

Our Squadron Office clerk invites readers of THE WIRE to contribute information concerning methods of obtaining 12in. rulers from the Stationery Office. Under the present " one for one " system he is of the opinion that they must be inlaid with gold leaf!

Does anyone know where the Royal Signals Display Team has got to? We look for information in each issue of THE WIRE, but to no avail. The Steeple Bumpstead Annual Horse and Baby Show Committee are most anxious to book them, whilst we in the Squadron would be happy enough to know that there are still 20 motor cyclists left in the Corps. (*See page 169—Ed.*).

Alas, another Spring has gone and we must wait yet another year for yet another description of Rosenmontag in Germany. At a recent meeting, comment on this point prompted Brigadier J. H. Adamson (Retd.), a stalwart of the C.C.G. in his time, to revive the German custom of a Schutzenfest here in Steeple Bumpstead. Should anyone in the Squadron shoot down the last piece of the fish then the P.R.I. has agreed to foot the bill for the enormous round of drinks incurred. The fact that Captain Milligan, our P.R.I., is also our best shot remains a complete coincidence—so he says anyway.

Pte. Lush, A.C.C., has been attending evening classes in domestic science at the North Essex Technical College and his progress can be gauged by his last three monthly reports, viz: —

March, 1958—Trying.
April, 1958—Still trying.
May, 1958—Still very trying.

U.K. COMCAN SIGNAL REGIMENT

3 Squadron. Summer has really come to Bampton and the place resembles one of Butlin's holiday camps.

The tennis court is in constant use, cricket nets up, and the sound of ball on bat in the air to remind us that football is over for another season. Canoeists are really active, and the warm weather has had the Squadron canoes working overtime. You will have read in last month's WIRE of the outstanding achievement of Corporals Davis and Gray in the Devizes to Westminster Canoe Race.

The football team ended with a defeat by our " friends " from 2 Squadron. All in all, a good season was enjoyed and, although we won no honours, a lively and enthusiastic team carried the Signals' colours with a certain amount of distinction in the local Saturday league.

In April we said goodbye to S.S.M. Fred O'Connor on his posting to War Office. We have no doubt that he will never soldier with a Unit quite like this again. Apart from his busy administrative duties, he found time to be Equestrian Adviser to the Saddle Club, guide and mentor to the Canoe Club, and above all, chief comfort to the Canteen N.C.O. in his never-ending search for the missing Coca-Cola bottles. To S.S.M. and Mrs. O'Connor we wish good soldiering wherever they may go.

SIGNAL TRAINING WING, A.A.S. HARROGATE

As indicated previously, no notes were submitted by us for inclusion in the May issue of THE WIRE owing to Easter leave. We returned on 21st April after a welcome break and have now settled down once again to work with the prospect of yet another " Passing-Out " Parade and Trades Exhibition just around the corner.

Little of note has happened since our return; even our visitors have been much less than normal for this time of the year, although I have no doubt we will make up for it later.

City and Guilds examinations are in full swing and our total entries are well up to average at about 150. We are hoping that our successes will be on the same scale as hitherto.

The weather has not been very kind to us and we are still getting more than our fair share of rain and cold winds. However, it has not prevented our yachting enthusiasts from pursuing this sport at Semerwater at week-ends. Captain Rogers, with the able assistance of Mr. Norfolk, Mr. Hill and others form the hard core of the Club, which is attracting more and more members. So far they possess two 14ft. sailing dinghies and on order is a craft of the " Enterprise " class. There is an increasing interest in this pastime and with the approach of the warmer weather it is anticipated that the lake will see much activity at week-ends.

Recent arrivals in the Wing include Sergeants Gill, Gunstone and Cross from Norway, East Africa and Germany respectively. To them we extend a hearty welcome.

Staff Sergeant Hawkes arrived back from Catterick last week, having successfully completed an upgrading course to X.I. Heartiest congratulations.

Sergeant Coxon leaves us shortly to commence a Foreman of Signals course at Catterick on 31st May. We wish him the best of luck in the future.

I think the above covers all our news to date. More anon.

BLUE BOOK

A few copies of the 5th Edition of the Blue Book corrected to May, 1958 are available at 88 Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1. Price 2/6d.

FIRST COME — FIRST SERVED !

GERMANY

18 ARMY GROUP SIGNAL REGIMENT

We certainly did not intend to get caught out over shirt-sleeve order this year. How many times can one recall that the decision to adopt this most untidy of all forms of military dress was the signal to the weather man to do his worst? It all depends upon one's service, of course. Last year in Germany, the order—at least for us—heralded the week-long spell of wet and cold weather which coincided with the Royal Signals, B.A.O.R. Rifle Meeting. Now, a year wiser, the writer has heard of the three "Ice Men," as are called locally three consecutive days of most unseasonable weather which occur with odds-on regularity between the twelfth and sixteenth of May. As this is being written—May the twelfth—we are still in winter rig, and the Royal Signals B.A.O.R. Rifle Meeting starts on the fourteenth. Some people do tempt providence!

One of the compensations for living in an area which is a curious mixture of the heaviest and dirtiest of industries and small holdings is that the advent of Spring brings a completely new look to the area. Because of the unchanging dirtiness of the one part, the developing beauty of awakening nature is so much more of a contrast than it could ever be in the country. "Y' know that river down there, y' know the one, the — er —," "the Ruhr?" Ay, I think that's what they call it. It's beautiful down there." And so it is.

Our photographs were taken during the course of the Administrative Inspection in April. Staff Sergeant Wildego, who is shown talking to Brigadier Deane, is our chief clerk. Judging by an off-the-record remark of Staff Captain "A," who is reported by the Adjutant as having said that he would like to send his own chief clerk here "to see how it is done," it would seem that the Orderly Room is well under control. The well-equipped stationery store? Oh, that's just part of the service. What's that you said?—see how *what* is done? Well, I suppose he *might* have meant that, but he was such a nice man. Behind Staff Sergeant Wildego is one of the murals depicting scenes of Essen with which the newly decorated ante-room of the Sergeants' Mess has been embellished. These, and those that have recently appeared on the walls of the Men's dining room, are the work of a German member of the L.A.D.

Honours are even in the departures and arrivals of officers this month. At the last Regimental Guest Night, farewell was said to Major S. C. Dare and to Captain (Q.M.) A. E. Carter, Major Dare's departure was unexpected as he had been with the regiment for only a little over a year. But it would seem that the second string to his bow—the possession of a p.t.s.c.—twanged, so he is now being a boffin at the Radar Research and Development Establishment. When he went home, we asked him to take the silver Cable Bear from the Officers' Mess to Garrards so that the lacquered finish could be renewed. He tells us that



[*Photo: W.O.II Conlon*

No. 3 Parade Squadron marching past



[*Photo: W.O.II Conlon*

In front of the Line, *left to right* :—Major D. M. Humphries, the Commanding Officer, R.S.M. Boyton, Major J. C. Alcock, Brigadier H. H. Deane and Second Lieutenant B. I. Weston

the Customs were so interested in the Bear that they omitted to concern themselves at all with the rest of his kit!

Captain Carter is still here as we write, but by the time this is read he will be on route for Malta. He has spent three and a half years with the regiment and is its oldest member. It would be difficult to over-estimate the value of his services, and the regiment has been fortunate in having them for so long. If he could have won the race between LET production and Establishment revision he would have been a happy (and less hardly pressed) man, but just as he was about to touch tape someone would whisk it away, as likely as not in quite a different direction. We shall miss him, and Mrs. Carter too, for they both took an active interest in all the affairs of the regiment. To them and to their family we wish a hearty "bon voyage."



[*Photo: W.O.II Conlon*

Brigadier H. H. Deane talking to Sergeant Wildego in the Sergeants' Mess

COLOURED PORTRAITS OF THE COLONEL-IN-CHIEF

Reproductions of the original portrait by Sir Gerald Kelly, K.C.V.O., P.P.A.A., in the Headquarters' Mess of Her Highness The Princess Royal, C.I., G.C.V.O., G.B.E., R.R.C., T.D., D.C.L., LL.D., are obtainable, price £2/15/- inclusive of packing and postage (cash with order) from The Secretary, Royal Signals INSTITUTION, 88, Eccleston Square, London, SW.1. The coloured portrait is 12in. x 17in., the mount is 18½in. x 25in.



[*Photo: Public Relations*

The Commander-in-Chief talking with Major E. H. Davies during a tour of 4 Squadron



[*Photo: Public Relations*

The Commander-in-Chief B.A.O.R. inspects the Quarter Guard

19 Army Group Signal Regiment

Since our last compilation of notes the Regiment has been subjected, not only to normal — and abnormal — Exercise Commitments but to Winter's last fling, which, with a varying succession of frosts, rain and snow seriously curtailed the outdoor sporting programme. Thankfully, "everything comes to he who waits," a warm Spring portending to an even hotter Summer, and we are now "heatedly" awaiting Shirtsleeve order: Cricket is with us too, and our Athletic team can be seen, and heard, most days under the expert tuition of Lieutenant Bushell and Second-Lieutenant Hamblin — our latest reinforcements to the running track.

On the 19th of February all five of the Regimental boxing team who entered the Rhine District Individual Championships reached their respective final. We were justly proud of Signalmen Howell and Newbold who are the current Bantamweight and Light Heavyweight District Champions.

We met 1 Corps Signal Regiment at Essen on the 28th February in the final of the Royal Signals Cup. The best fight of the evening was undoubtedly that of Signalman Newbold who won on points after a very hardfought bout with his opponent Signalman McCormack. Other winners were Corporal Pengilley, with what has almost become a customary K.O., Signalman Parkin and Signalman Howell. To 1 Corps Signal Regiment, who won the contest by 18 points to 12, our congratulations.

All ranks were justly proud of the achievements of the Unit Rugger team in a 7 a side knockout tournament recently held on the Garrison Sports Ground. Entering two teams our hopes fell with the early defeat of our "A" side. Battling against even stiffer opposition our "B" team won a thrilling semi-final match against the unit 2 TAF to emerge as the remaining Army team in the contest. Much as we would wish to report a victory over our old opponents RAF Wildenwrath, the laurels went to the RAF team who won the match by 18 points to 6. Difficult as it is to single out any member of the team for special note — they all played like trojans — mention must be made of Second-Lieutenant Wilson whose energetic efforts contributed greatly to our success in the previous rounds.

Lastly in our sporting prowess is news of the unit fencing team. Competing in the Rhine District Individual competition outstanding results were Lieutenant Willingale, winner of the Sabre and Epee and 2nd in the Foil, thus qualifying for the BAOR finals in all three events : and Second-Lieutenant Peppercorn, who came 2nd in the individual competition as a whole and qualified for the BAOR finals in Epee and Sabre. In the BAOR finals the team Captain, Lieutenant Willingale, came 3rd in the Epee thus qualifying for the Army Championships to be held at Aldershot and Second-Lieutenant Peppercorn came 4th in the Sabre.

A friendly match was recently arranged against Rheydt Fencing Club. Winning the Sabre 6—3 and losing the foil 9—7 the result reflected the progress that the unit team has made, especially when this is the first time that any service team has beaten Rheydt.

The monthly gatherings of the Regiments Wives' Club, gatherings which many of us have fondly imagined to be an excuse to detail Father to "sit-in," have borne fruit in the form of a "Spring Fayre." Capably organised by Mrs. Lonnon and opened by Mrs. Bastyan, wife of the Chief Signal Officer, a substantial amount, still being calculated, was raised on behalf of the Royal Signals Benevolent Fund. Unfortunately adverse weather prevented many from attending but it was noted that the bottle Stall was a major attraction. It is understood that the Commanding Officer is quite a "dab hand" at knocking over skittles.

Although there are always the dissenting voices, our ACC Staff have followed up their culinary achievements in the Mess Hall by their success in the Rhine District Cookery Competition. Congratulations to Corporal Robinson, who won the Rhine District Individual Contest, and to the Regimental Team on being runners up to HQ BAOR in the Unit Team Competition.

On Tuesday April 22nd, The Commander-in-Chief BAOR, General Sir Dudley Ward paid a visit to the Regiment. The C-in-C visited both portions of the Unit, seeing demonstrations of equipment by 1 and 4 Squadrons at St. Tonis, and the Signal Centre, Telephone House and Transmitter Site at Rheindahlen. The emphasis of the visit was informality and the C-in-C talked to a number of men whilst working at their trade.

The Commander-in-Chief B.A.O.R. being greeted by the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel P. W. Lonnon on arrival for an informal visit to the Regiment [*Photo: Public Relations*



Winners RHINE District Fencing Championships 1958
Lieutenant R. D. Willingale, Second Lieutenant J. J. Peppercorn, W.O.II J. Saunders, Sergeant L. Smith, Lieutenant Colonel J. Catterall, Signalman A. Yates, Lieutenant Colonel P. W. Lonnon





THE WARRANT OFFICERS AND SERGEANTS OF 7 ARMOURED DIVISION SIGNAL REGIMENT AT THE DATE OF CHANGING TO 5 DIVISION SIGNAL REGIMENT, 16th APRIL, 1958.

Back Row :—**Sergeants Diddams, Norris, Shanahan, Martin, Crean, Massey, Morrell, Grant, Cox, Blackburn, Geddes, Cree, Johnson, Wilby, Bermingham, Clayton.**

Centre Row :—**S.Q.M.S. Bell, Sergeants Robertson, Robinson, Raynor, Williams, Staff Sergeants Deas, Wombwell, Mann, Bullock, Molony, Ford, Alblas· Peat, West, Sergeants Holland, McGuinness, Lumley.**

Front Row :—**S.Q.M.S. Elliott, S.S.Ms. Hammond, Cotgreave, Russell, R.Q.M.S. Judge, A.S.M. Salter, Lieutenant-Colonel J. E. Anderson, R.S.M. Latimer, Captain F. D. Williams, W.O.I. Cox, R.Q.M.S. Jeffries, T.Q.M.S. Smith, S.S.M's. Callaghan, Lloyd, Staff Sergeant O'Meara.**

Seated :—**Sergeants Anderson, Makinson, Stuckey, Pickles.**

5 DIVISION SIGNAL REGIMENT

Although it is many years since readers have seen notes from 5 Division Signal Regiment we are in the happy position of not having to make excuses, having been recreated on 16th April, 1958, from the still warm ashes of 7 Armoured Division Signal Regiment. The rebirth was painless though tinged with sadness at the passing of a famous name in the Corps. It has been made quite clear throughout the Division that the traditions and standards of the Desert Rats will be maintained, and in addition we will have the privilege of wearing the flash and carrying on the traditions of a famous Division which had such close pre-war connections with the spiritual home of Royal Signals.

To mark the change in designation the following signals were exchanged:—

"For GOC from CR Sigs. All ranks 5 Div Sig Regt send greetings on the rebirth of HQ 5 Div. While sad to witness the passing of 7 Armd Div we welcome this opportunity to confirm our intention to uphold its traditions and to maintain the close and friendly co-operation which has existed between staff and signals for twenty years."

"Personal from GOC to CR Sigs. All ranks HQ 5th Div thank all ranks of 5 Div Sig Regt for their greetings on the rebirth of HQ 5th Div which they heartily reciprocate. We are all sad to witness the passing of 7 Armd Div but will make certain that 5 Div maintains the traditions and friendships of 7 Armd Div."

Messages were also sent to and received from C.S.O. 1 (B.R.) Corps and other Regiments; these were in rather lighter vein and one contained some good advice culled from Horace, which thanks to the Oxford Dictionary of Quotations (Advt.) we were able to translate.

In the competitive field we have made a good start by decisively winning, for the second year running, the Divisional Novices Motor Cycle Trial. The observed sections, which consisted of twelve particularly tricky hazards, would have taxed the skill of many experienced trials riders and our team are to be congratulated on the fine performance they put up in collecting a total of only 53 penalty points for the whole trial including the technical hazards and road circuit; the runners-up had 85 penalties. Riding in his first trial, Lance-Corporal Orsen put up a brilliant performance with a total of only 9 penalties to win the individual award; his nearest rival had 16 penalties.

The following day brought another success to the Regiment in the form of the first prize for the best cookhouse vehicle in the Division. This is the second time in three years we have captured this trophy—last year there was no competition!

The finals of the Royal Signals B.A.O.R. Cross Country Competition were held at Essen in March, and we finished third to 18 Army Group Signal Regiment and 1 Wireless Regiment, and beat 4 Division Signal Regiment to whom we were second in the eliminating zonal run in February.

By the time these notes have been through the normal channels and are mature for publication in the June WIRE (having been written in April) we will have seen a few postings. Major R. White will have left us after a stay of just over three years, and his place taken by Major F. A. Felton. Major E. J. Bardell will have arrived and be in the throes of taking over from Major G. F. Lowe who is due to take up an appointment at H.Q., B.A.O.R., in July. Lieutenant J. H. Wheeler left us in April and Lieutenant E. F. Carrel has joined our ranks. We also hope that Lieutenant W. G. Cunningham and Second Lieutenant G. H. Morgan will have arrived in fulfillment of posting orders.

1 CORPS SIGNAL REGIMENT

With the gradual, but very late change in the B.A.O.R. weather from winter to summer, this is a very convenient time to review our winter sports activities and also the close of the 1957/58 Morrison Cup competition. For the benefit of readers outside B.A.O.R. we would explain that the Morrison Cup is competed for annually by all major Royal Signals Units in B.A.O.R. During the year (1st April-31st March) there is a knock-out competition in each major sport, the winner being awarded two points and the runner-up one point. The cup is awarded to the Unit collecting the highest number of points from all these knock-out competitions.

So it is not easy to get points; to get a single point a team usually has to get through one or two preliminary rounds and then through the semi-final; to get two points they have to win the final.

This year we collected four points and finished runners-up, which was a very satisfactory result. The winners were 1 Wireless Regiment, whom we heartily congratulate on their success.

Our greatest success was in the boxing, when after winning two preliminary rounds we defeated 19 Army Group Signal Regiment in the final. These results have already been reported in THE WIRE, so we will not give details again, but mention must be made of the Thorpe brothers, Lance-Corporal Moore, Signalman Flynn and last, but by no means least, S.S.M. Edmonds, the very successful team coach.

We had great hopes of the hockey, for we had a strong team (when we could get them all together at the same time!), but after battling our way through to the final we finally went down to 2 L. of C. Signal Regiment in a very close game by one goal to nil.

We also had a good rugger team, but here we were unlucky in meeting 4 Divisional Signal Regiment, the final winners in the semi-final. However, we had a good rugger season on the whole and would particularly mention, as stalwart members of the team, Signalmen Brewin and Wilkey (our hooker) and Corporal Fallon, who has unfortunately now left the Regiment.

We also had a very successful year at .22 shooting and collected one point for the Morrison Cup by coming second of all Royal Signals Units in B.A.O.R.

Our remaining point was gained at soccer, where we reached the final, only to be beaten by 1 Wireless Regiment. S.Q.M.S. Higgs must take credit for the soccer successes with his team, which was built around Corporal Graham, Driver Summers, Lance-Corporal Wemyss (now demobbed) and Signalman Fullerty.

We are now actively preparing for the summer season. In the sailing world a party of six is attending a "watermanship" course at Kiel, from which we hope to have a nucleous of sailors to crew for the Royal Signals, B.A.O.R., passage races later in the season.

We are also setting about raising an athletics teams; a new field for us, as last year we were unable to find time between Exercises to compete. It is too early yet to say what our prospects are, but we seem to have several promising performers, particularly in the long distance events, and hope to do well in the Royal Signals, B.A.O.R., athletics in July.

Thoughts are also turning to cricket, practice games have started and R.S.M. Page has already stated his intention that, by fair means or foul, the Sergeants will beat the Officers at the Whit Week match. Captain Garratt is still struggling against the inevitable competing claims of Exercises and other activities to train a Unit team for the B.A.O.R. Rifle Meeting; the fact that there is not an open range within easy reach is an added difficulty. By the time that these notes are finished we hope that our tennis courts will be resurfaced and playable for the first time in years; who knows what talent we may find?

To turn from sport to more serious events, we have to report that Exercises still go on. As these notes are being written the Regiment is on its way out into the field for just over a week.

And finally we would like to welcome our new Corps Commander, Lieutenant-General M. M. A. R. West, C.B., D.S.O. He takes a lively interest in our work and has already visited the Regiment twice on Exercises. On the second occasion he came to see us on the C.S.O.'s own Signal Exercise, "Blue Boy," and we were very pleased that he was able to spare time to lunch with us "in the field."

1 WIRELESS REGIMENT

The good thing about not writing WIRE notes for four months is that you do then have some raw material.

Apart from the normal Corps chore of doing more and more with less and less we have had a most successful sporting year. Starting with two teams in the NIJMEGEN marches we went on to win the District Athletics, the District Cross Country, and the Morrison Cup. In the latter we won the Cricket, Rugby, Soccer, Cross Country and .22 Shooting, and were second in the Athletics. A final score of 11 points is, we believe, the highest ever to be made in this competition. We also reached the finals of the District Rugby and got two teams in the semi-finals of the seven-a-side.



RUGBY TEAM 1 WIRELESS REGIMENT

Back Row :—Second Lieutenant Gentles, Second Lieutenant Last, Corporal Trendall, Private Thomas, Sergeant Simpson, Sergeant Schofield, Signalman Williams, Sergeant Dawkins, (Touch Judge)

Second Row :—Corporal Kelly, Corporal Redgewell, Lieutenant Adams (Captain) Lieutenant Colonel H. R. Jordan, M.B.E. (Commanding Officer), Staff Sergeant Pearse, Private Hartley

Front Row :—Signalman Bass, Signalman Bunn, Signalman Townend

The Soccer team has also reached the semi-final of the District Cup competition, and we are a certain second and possible winner of the District Major League.

All this adds up to a very creditable performance on the part of the teams, who could hardly get less training and preparation for their games, but who compensate for the fact with high determination.

We are now preparing for a heavy crack at the District and Royal Signals 303 competitions and will then start the whole round all over again with the Royal Signals Athletics Meeting in June.

With regret we have lost Major F. P. Stewart to Southern Command and Major L. M. Stewart to a golden bowler, also, after several false starts, R.Q.M.S. Willoughby, whose private aerial array has now been added to those of the Regiment.

2 L. OF C. REGIMENT

R.H.Q., 1 and 2 Squadrons. At the end of January we moved from a lovely barracks in Dusseldorf to our present home in Krefeld. Our previous home was small and compact, easy to administer, and very comfortable, although we had to share sports grounds with other units, and no canteen facilities were available in our camp.

The vastness of our new home took our breath away—and some of us still haven't seen half the area even now, some three months later!

For the move a constant M.T. shuttle service ferried stores from Dusseldorf to Krefeld, and credit is due to the M.T. Department, under Captain (Q.M.) C. C. Cross, M.B.E., who provided vehicles at short notice and at all hours of the day or night.

Bradbury Barracks boasts many additional facilities which we have too often lacked in the past. Some worthy of special mention are: a well-equipped gymnasium (with S.M.I. Powell, A.P.T.C., thrown in for good measure); an A.K.C. Cinema ("The Elisabeth") with shows twice nightly; a church (C. of E.) St. James's, under Padre Walter Evans, a devout Welsh rugby enthusiast; a N.A.A.F.I. canteen with a very modern juke-box; a Corporals' Club, just off to quite a good start, with Tombola evenings and many other activities; several sports grounds, catering for every kind of sport, *i.e.*, hockey, cricket, football, etc.; four tennis courts and a squash court; and last, but certainly not least, a huge drill square, which is an R.S.M.'s paradise.

Our last few months have been spent in getting the barracks ship-shape, and fatigues have been the order of the day. An unconfirmed rumour has it that two officers and 60 men are detailed daily for coal fatigues alone! (Reduced to one officer and 30 O.R.s in summer months!).



On Thursday, 24th April, Major General K. C. O. Bastyan, C.B.E., C.S.O., B.A.O.R., paid his first visit to the Regiment since its recent move from Dusseldorf into Bradbury Barracks, Krefeld. It will be seen from the photograph that the Commanding Officer's small dog 'Ricky', decided at the last moment to join in the inspection of the quarter guard



2 L. of C. SIGNAL REGIMENT HOCKEY TEAM
Winners R. Signals B.A.O.R. Inter Unit Hockey Competition 1958
Standing (left to right) :—Sergeant Lambert, Lance-Corporal Smythe, Sergeant Woodward, Staff Sergeant Rose, Signalman Lowe, Corporal Tickner
Sitting (left to right) :— Corporal Cooper, Lieutenant Philp, Captain Turner (*Captain*), Major Smith, W.O.II Brown
The following players took part in the competition but were not able to be present for the photograph
Goal Keepers :—Staff Sergeant Pauley, Lieutenant Massey
Backs :—Signalman Sunderland
Half Backs :—Major Bosworth, Captain Hastings, Sergeant Barnes

Despite this "shake-up," we have managed to keep up with our sporting activities, and our highlight of the season (so far) has been the winning of the Royal Signals B.A.O.R. Hockey Cup, a much sought after and coveted prize, of which we are very proud. Congratulations to all concerned in this great sporting achievement. In a recent six-a-side knockout competition, our hockey team reached the semi-final, but lost to a very good team after losing the team captain due to a sprained ankle. In other spheres, we have done equally well, and our soccer team is in the semi-final of the Rhine District Major Unit Cup competition (still being played). Since last November, we haven't lost a single match. Recently, we played a friendly match versus a German civilian club, thinking that this would be excellent for Anglo-German relations, etc. However, after the trouncing we gave them, we are beginning to have second thoughts! Particular mention must go to two stalwarts of our soccer team in Lance-Corporal Crotty (team captain), his head always seeming to be where the ball lands, and Craftsman Cunningham, a steady and reliable half-back.

In the final of a recent Inter-Troop Six-a-Side Soccer Competition, watched by the Regiment, R.H.Q. Troop beat M.T. Troop after extra time, by one goal, scored by Lance-Corporal Overton. The C.O. presented both the winning and runners-up team with medals, and a special prize of a crate of beer was also awarded to the winning team.

Rugby is not neglected, and a seven-a-side tournament found our team well to the fore. Although losing in the first round proper to the team that finally won the tournament, we went right through to the final in the Plate Competition, losing very narrowly to a very good team. Second-Lieutenant J. F. Doyle captained the side, and judging by the battle scars he has acquired, we must have faced some very tough opposition.

Major Bosworth has recently started up a new sports club in this Regiment by introducing sailing. At the present time we have use of five "Pirates," fully rigged, and three or four more will soon be available. This club is quite popular, and twice weekly the craft are more than fully subscribed. We did hear of one Y.O. who fancied himself as a submarine commander, much to the horror and eventual deep regret of his less enterprising crew!

Cricket and tennis are just starting up, and our teams are now in training for the coming season. We hope to report our successes in these fields in the months to come.

A recent welfare trip was organised to Amsterdam. This was a follow-up of our Christmas trip to Luxembourg, and we were lucky enough to obtain the services of the same coach driver. Our thanks are due to Mrs. Jane Howell (W.V.S.) for her part in making the trip such a huge success. The conducting officer reports that they had hardly been in Amsterdam three hours when one enterprising young man requested permission to import his Dutch girl friend back to Krefeld! We are glad to see that some signalmen live up to the Corps motto of "Swift and Sure!"

To Lieutenant and Mrs. L. F. Davis, we would like to extend our sincere congratulations and best wishes on their recent marriage at Buckley (North Wales) on 8th March, 1958. The officers filled the bridegroom with good cheer at a gay bachelor party held in the Officers' Mess, just before he departed for U.K., and married life.

Congratulations to Major G. Wotton on his recent promotion to Lieutenant-Colonel. We are sorry to lose our Second-in-Command — who else could say straight out "Javelin" or "Valiant" as something flashes overhead in a cloudy sky! To both Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. Wotton, we extend our very sincere good wishes for the future, and our grateful thanks for services rendered in the past. To prove the old adage that good things come in pairs, Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. Wotton were blessed with a baby daughter on 1st April, 1958.

3 Squadron (Emblem). In the spirit of the chap who brought the news from Aix to Ghent, here is news from Grobbendonck, Emblem. With a name like Grobbendonck, one would think that exciting things happen every minute, but in vain does your correspondent sit by the canal bridge (Bailey type) with camera in hand, hoping one of the barges will hit the bridge supports and so gain a scoop for THE WIRE.

But things do happen besides P.E. Tests and Drills, which we have vowed not to mention in these paragraphs.

The recent bad weather has curtailed a few of our sporting activities. Our soccer team has done quite well in reaching the finals of several competitions, but unfortunately no cup this season.

Small bore shooting, guided by W.O.II Fish, is very popular, and targets look better after every shoot. The Squadron team ended up second in the Advance Base table.

We now have a thriving model aircraft club going in the Squadron, and the smell of diesel and balsa cement even overpowers that of polish and Brasso! Corporal Broome is leading the club with bigger and faster models of all types.

This is, of course, a big year in Belgium. The Brussels Exhibition has opened this month, and your correspondent is assigned the gigantic task of covering the exhibition in a future report, so order your copy now!

One of the greatest attractions is the building of the new Autostraat (something like Autobahn). By some surveyor's error, this road passes Grobbendonck on its way to Antwerp. When it is finished our M.T. Sergeant has promised to put the springs back in our vehicles, but these are no use at the moment on our cobbled roads.

FRANCE 1940

BY LIEUTENANT-COLONEL G. W. CUMMING, T.D., O.B.E.

(Concluding a personal account of some of the doings of the Regiment, the first part of which appeared in last month's issue of THE WIRE *under the heading "EARLY DAY").*

ON the 10th May, 1940, the balloon went up. We had prepared for it, by the provision of an Advanced General Headquarters at Wahagnies (known to our Lowland Scots and, eventually, even to the Staff as "Wee Aggie") and by the allocation of various detachments for various tasks: one to go to Brussels with the first troops, others to stand by at the frontier to join French overhead routes to Belgian routes as required, and a host of other jobs. Owing to Belgian neutrality, we could get no information from them as to what they could furnish in the way of communications. Advanced General Headquarters went to Wahagnies, then on to Renaix in Belgium. At this point our chaps dug for—and found—the main underground cable from Brussels to France and England, and diverted the necessary circuits to the Signal Office there. The Commander-in-Chief, who preferred to see a battle for himself, shot off into the blue, so I had to detail an officer to follow him around (complete with a small detachment of linemen, telephonists and D.R.s) with instruction to get through to Advanced General Headquarters by commandeering the nearest telephone exchange whenever the Commander-in-Chief sat down. Curiously enough, it worked.

During the retreat the fishing up of underground cables had to be done on several occasions, and one thanked the Powers-That-Be that 1 H.Q. Signals could do anything in the Signals line. Then Arras was bombed and was in danger of being surrounded, so Rear General Headquarters made for Boulogne. We left a small detachment to run the Signal Office at Arras and other detachments went to open up an office at Boulogne. They were driven out of there by advancing German columns and the Staff were evacuated by sea. A few of our chaps went off with them, but most of them made for Calais or returned to the Advanced General Headquarters which by now was drifting back to Hazebruck. Things became a bit more scattered. The Staff Branches from the villages made for the rear; D.R.s looking for odd units would find the enemy in occupation of the village and beat a hurried retreat; odd branches of the Staff were scattered about in every little town from Armentieres to the French coast. We had odd exchanges going in nearly all the civilian exchanges. The main cables going to the coast were bombed and we had to find the breaks and mend them ourselves. (I am talking of civilian cables which were the only ones existing), and we really had the most phenomenal luck.

While Advanced General Headquarters was at Hazebruck, the Signal Officer-in-Chief was sent for by the Commander-in-Chief. It was known that the main cable was broken at the time and we had no communication to the rear. Was it possible to speak to the War Office—most urgent? The Signal Officer-in-Chief said he would do his best and, with his heart in his boots, got through to the Signal Office to talk to the Signalmaster. It happened that shortly before, I had sent an officer and a few braves to Cassel, in France, to see if the telephone exchange was working: they couldn't be raised over the civil telephone system. The officer found the town recovering from a bombing and the telephone exchange deserted. He sat at one of the boards and rang Dunkirk. He got a reply at once and asked if they could get London. Dunkirk replied, "Of course." He then tried Hazebruck where we had taken over the civil exchange, got the Signalmaster and mentioned casually that he seemed to be through to everywhere. (He didn't know the main line from G.H.Q. to Dunkirk was bust). In no time at all he was talking to the Signal Officer-in-Chief and, within five minutes of making his request, the Commander-in-Chief got his call to the War Office. Did you say, "Part of our service?" Well, well!

Advanced General Headquarters retired via Presmesque to La Panne on the Belgian coast. This move was decided on when it was found that the main cable to England entered the sea there. We took over the cable terminal and established our office. I had gone with a few braves to Dunkirk to organise an exchange at the Post Office, but it only lasted a day. The building was hit by incendiaries, also the surrounding buildings. There was no water and in a very short time it had to be evacuated. When I got outside I found my car blazing merrily. All my kit was inside. In the meantime, the detachment at Calais was stranded there. A few got off in the last boat, but about forty were taken prisoner. Several men were lost on road barriers and by bombs. I heard long afterwards that C.S.M. "Lofty" Heasman did an exceptional job there: organising the defence, manning a machine gun and cheering the chaps on generally. Before the final crack-up, I heard, he swam across the harbour and wanted to take the Germans on single-handed.

While all this was going on, various detachments were finding their way to the coast, and as lines became shorter, there was little or no use for them. Orders had been given to embark all men not required as boats became available. The main body, under Major W. M. Smith, left from the beach about midway between Dunkirk and La Panne. The embarkation took many hours, and the Quartermaster, "Jacky" O'Connor, did a great job standing up to his waist in the sea, keeping the queues lined up and getting the men embarked in an orderly fashion. It was suggested that he was a good picture-house commissionaire lost to the Army! Our casualties during the retreat were surprisingly low. Including those lost at Calais, I think our total of killed, wounded and missing was only sixty.

The officers of the unit must have looked rather a pansy lot—well-dressed gents!—waiting for embarkation. Having taken part in retreats in the First War, with consequent loss of kit, I knew what skinny treatment one got in one's subsequent claim for compensation. We had gone to France just before the battle-dress era and had our best service dress with us, although we used battle-dress for working when it came along. I advised the officers to change to their very best clothes to go home on the ground that, since service dress was now obsolescent, it would probably be replaced by a suit of battle-dress. (Probably I have a suspicious nature: must be the Scotch in me). Anway, all of them changed on the beach and looked very smart indeed. It had one amusing sequel. At the finish we had a small Signal Office and a detachment looking after some D8 cable to various varts of the beach. These were manned up to the final evacuation. As Corps and Divisional Headquarters dropped back to the beach, they used the existing Signals: *us*. This detachment was officered by Lieutenants Hough and Dyce. Hough was the last to leave; it was dark, the embarkation was almost complete and the sailors expected to find Germans on the shore at any moment, so they were lying off-shore a bit and making the troops wade out as far as possible. They were off so far when it came to Hough's turn that he had to swim for it. He had plenty to say about this, but the sailors said —in effect—"Swim or nothing," so Hough shed his garments. In the eventual cross-channel effort he lost most of them. He was particularly proud of a beautiful pair of field boots. His subsequent report ended with the sad words—a real cry from the heart: "Lost my good boots."

We re-formed at Barnsley but, most regrettfully, had to part with several sections, line and operating, to the various Command Signals. I think the idea was to give the Commands some experienced troops for the forthcoming invasion —so we thought. Then we were sent to Hammersmith to provide the Signals for G.H.Q. Home Forces, which functioned at St. Paul's School there. When we got things organised, the Signal Office relief marched from unit headquarters in the Town Hall to St. Paul's School headed by a piper wearing the Cumming tartan. We had a good pipe band going before the war but there was no establishment for it so, on mobilisation, they had to revert to their normal duties as tradesmen. We got one kilt and a set of pipes out to France and the ex-Pipe Major used to come into Mess whenever we had guests just to enliven the proceedings.

In the autumn of 1940 it was decided that General Headquarters should move to Storey's Gate in Westminster, and it was while preparations for the move were going on that I left the unit.

Subscribers are asked to note the following :—

(a) Correspondence in connection with the Journal of the Royal Signals Institution, the Royal Signals Booklet, Photographs of H.R.H. The Princess Royal and the Royal Signals Museum should be addressed to the **Royal Signals INSTITUTION.**

(b) Correspondence in connection with THE WIRE, Royal Signals List, Association Subscriptions, Benevolent Fund subscriptions and donations, Corps Clothing and Employment should be addressed to the **Royal Signals ASSOCIATION.**

Conversation Piece

Imagine Mr. Geoffrey Sumner interviewing Mr. Ian Carmichael, with Mr. William Hartnell lurking in the background.

"Recruit, eh! Right-ho, sergeant-major, wheel him in."

"Ah, Carruthers, come in. Nice to see you. Have a chair. Oh! . . Sergeant-major!"

"Sir!"

"Chair for Carruthers."

"Sir. Yes, sir."

"Well now, Carruthers, what's all this I hear. Come to sign on, eh. Splendid!"

"Well, sir . . ."

"That's the stuff. Nothing like seizing a golden opportunity with both hands. Intelligence and initiative are what we need in the New Army, eh, sergeant-major."

"Sir!"

"That's it. Well done. No more whitewashing in the New Look. You heard what the Under-Secretary said, sergeant-major?"

"Sir!"

"As a matter of fact, Carruthers, I have just been talking to the Brigadier about future developments. There's no doubt about it; you chaps are in for a big surprise. Now take catering, for example. Rations are going to be completely revolutionised. We're going to have more infra-red steaks juicy enough to set the jowls of a blood-hound fairly dripping with saliva: lobster and lampreys for lunch; cooks in silk hats à la Klondyke, and at dinner the cook-sergeant in Blues will deftly whip up crêpes Suzettes on a silver sigré in the corner of the Regimental Grill. What we're after is the intellectual approach. Tea and Proust and that sort of thing. After tea on Sundays the Education Sergeant might give readings of Brooke and Byron in the Regimental Junior Common Room. How does that strike you? Bit different from the old days, eh, sergeant-major!"

"Sir. Yes, sir."

"A triumph of enlightenment over obscurantism."

"Well, sir . . ."

"Don't say a word, my dear feller. More to come yet. After pay parades — of course, we shan't ask you to parade for pay; the R.S.M. will bring it round to you — the Pay Sergeant will always be available to advise you on safe investments or warn you of the disastrous consequences of 'bulling' at the wrong moment in the Stock Exchange. A most interesting way of loosing money quickly, y'know."

"Well, sir . . ."

"Not a word, my dear chap. There's no end to it. Now take your military education, for instance. We haven't forgotten that. Squadron Commanders will organise discussion groups on things like Wavell's 'Generals and Generalship' so that you'll be able to see how the Divisional Commander shapes up. And the NAAFI. Now there's a subject dear to the heart of every national-serviceman. More èclairs and Mars bars, and a future Rank starlet behind every counter. And that's only a start."

"Well, sir . . ."

"In the summer we'll have our own flotilla of Fireflys, and there are plenty of strong horses in the Garrison Saddle Club. Mind you, you'll have to be quick. We shall soon be slamming the gates shut to keep 'em out. Only the cream of the nation will be good enough in a few months from now. And more pay rises in the offing. You're on to a good thing, Carruthers, and no mistake about it. Isn't he, sergeant-major?"

"Sir!"

"But, sir . . ."

"Not another word. Fill him in on an AFB 217 and a half, sergeant-major, and . . ."

"Sir. Permission to speak, sir?"

"Well, speak up, man. Don't just stand there!"

"Sir. Yes, sir. Sir. Mistake, sir. 0578 Smith to sign on, sir. Carruthers early release for Hoxford, sir."

"Damnation, sergeant-major, d'you mean to tell me . . ."

J.E.L.A.



OFFICIAL

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4/–	3/–	2/8	1/6

Mounted on black plastic (each)

8/6	4/9	4/–	—

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PLEASE SEND CASH WITH ORDER for all the above articles *except* Corps Paint Transfers, for which an account will be forwarded.

CORPS FLAGS

Royal Signals Corps Flags and Union Jacks are available through H.Q., Royal Signals Association, 88 Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1.

CORPS FLAGS		UNION JACKS	
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6′ x 3′	@ 48/6	4′6″ x 2′3″	@ 22/6
4′ x 3′	@ 42/6	8′ x 4′	@ 55/6
4′ x 2′	@ 38/6		
3′ x 2′	@ 35/6		
2′ x 18″	@ 27/–	PLUS POSTAGE	

Accounts are sent direct to the Unit from the makers if the Unit is situated in the United Kingdom.

To save delay, Association H.Q. pays for the orders of overseas Units and then asks for reimbursement.

As the crest has to be hand painted, orders should be placed as early as possible; delivery date usually 6-8 weeks.

2 WIRELESS REGIMENT

During April we said goodbye to Lieutenant-Colonel A. J. Leahy and welcomed Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. D. T. W. Gibson and family. Both Colonels have at least two things in common—sailing and shooting, so perhaps one requires qualifications to command 2 Wireless after all! We wish Colonel Leahy every success in his new venture and much happiness on entering married life. A warm welcome is extended to Colonel Gibson and his family and we hope their stay with us will be successful and enjoyable.

Recent visits to the Regiment have been by the Signal Officer-in-Chief, Major-General R. S. Moberly, C.B., O.B.E., on 6th March, 1958; His Grace the Lord Archbishop and Metropolitan in Jerusalem, the Most Reverend Angus MacInnes, who administered Confirmation to ten candidates, on 23rd March, 1958.

Lieutenant-General Sir Roger Bower, K.B.E., C.B., Commander-in-Chief, M.E.L.F., paid us a visit on 16th April, 1958. He seemed pleased with all he saw and departed in fine fettle.

The Inter-Squadron .22 shooting competition was held in February. Most of the recognised shots are in 1 Squadron, but on the day 2 Squadron shot extremely well and managed to win by 30 points.

Sport has continued to play an important part in the life of the Regiment. In the semi-final of the Famagusta Area and Brigade Major Units' soccer competition the Regiment defeated Royal Leicestershire Regiment 10-1 and in the final we defeated Middlesex Regiment 5-3. This took us into the Island semi-final, where we met our old rivals, Cyprus District Signal Regiment. Unfortunately for us, our opponents had the better side and we were defeated 4-2.

1 Squadron defeated 1 Squadron 3 G.H.Q. Signal Regiment in the final of the Royal Signals, Cyprus, Inter-Squadron competition, 2 Squadron having lost to this same team in the previous round.

Signalman Dawson was selected to play for the Corps XI and for the Brigade Headquarters' side.

After a bad start to the Rugby season our team settled down extremely well. We lacked stars but produced an excellent team spirit and when the season finished we had won 14 games and lost seven, including the first five of the season. We defeated 3 G.H.Q. Signal Regiment twice and finished at one game each with Cyprus District Signal Regiment.

Captain Pratt, Corporal Carlisle, Lance-Corporal Hollins, Signalmen Anderton and Hoad played for the Corps against the Sappers and against the Gunners.

Hockey followed a similar path to Rugby and it was not until the second half of the season that the team started to play good hockey. By this time it was too late to do anything about our position in the league. However, we did well in cup matches and finished the season feeling most satisfied. In the final of the Brigade knock-out competition we were narrowly beaten by the Middlesex Regiment. We played ten men most of the game and a very good Infantry XI was just too much for us. In the Royal Signals, Cyprus, knock-opt competition, we defeated 3 G.H.Q. Signal Regiment in the final and so added the Signals Hockey Cup to the Cricket and Soccer Cups. We were unfortunate to be without one of our best players for most of the season, Corporal Mirams. He was borrowed by the Rugby team on one occasion and suffered a dislocated shoulder.

Athletics, tennis and cricket are well under way. At the Brigade Athletics Meeting we were defeated by the Middlesex Regiment and a Field Regiment, Royal Artillery. We are soon to compete against two R.A.F. teams, so perhaps we will improve. Tennis and cricket are still in the trials stage.

2 Squadron have won the Inter-Squadron soccer, athletics and .22 shooting competitions and also holds the Rowett Cup for being the most efficient Squadron at sports and extra activities. 1 Squadron can boast winning the tug-of-war two years running, but what about 3 and 4 Squadrons?

The Sub-Aqua Club recently held a very successful "Donkey Derby," which raised £150 for the purchase of a boat.

A Unit Vehicle Maintenance Inspection team descended on the Regiment during February. They gave all our vehicles a thorough going-over and confirmed the views of our M.T.O., Captain Dodd, that we are "battle worthy."

Our small arms received their annual R.E.M.E. inspection during April. The official report has not yet arrived, but we feel confident because the Armourers departed with a cheerful smile on their faces.

The inspection was probably just in time because after a year of quiet, I.S. is in the news again and we have returned to the days of vehicle escorts, extra guards and duties, road blocks and carrying of personal arms. Let us hope this is only for a short time and we will soon be able to enjoy the excellent amenities of Famagusta once more.

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GIBRALTAR SIGNAL SQUADRON

VISITORS ARE WELCOME.—Instead of passing the Rock of Gibraltar and giving passengers a glimpse of the concrete water catchments, troopships now pay a call at the Colony whenever possible. The length of shore leave varies from two hours to all day. A representative of the Squadron (usually a W.O. or Sergeant) meets visiting troopships and is able to give any information required, such as where to eat, what to see, or the way to the nearest bar. The Squadron Lines are situated at Wellington Front, near the dockyard entrance. When you have completed your shopping and sightseeing please visit us.

BLIND SWITCHBOARD OPERATORS.—In April the Squadron arranged the training of two almost totally blind O.S.B.s. The pupils, 20-year-old Gibraltarian Harry Hook and his sister Mariluz, were instructed on a 10 + 50, C.B. The boy quickly picked up the job and became most proficient, passing a standard trade test in three weeks. His sister, who is able to see such movements as the flicking of the shutters, seemed slightly handicapped by this and liable to plug into the wrong connection. Mr. Hook is to be employed on the busy Military Hospital exchange with 43 subscribers and four junctions, and as he was trained on a duplicate of this board, should prove to be both speedy and efficient. Miss Hook will be employed as a relief operator.

Members of the Squadron were displeased when that non-profit making concern, N.A.A.F.I., closed the Unit canteen at the end of February because it didn't pay. I am glad to report the Squadron now has its own canteen, run by Lance-Corporal Anderson, stocked by N.A.A.F.I. The rebate, about £1 a week, is welcomed by the P.R.I., whose funds are sorely taxed by such a small Unit. Another source of income is the weekly Tombola meeting run by the S.S.M. The P.R.I. receives approximately 30/- a week from this source.

At the time of writing, some of the linemen are busy manning the Royal Signals exhibit at the Apprentices' Exhibition, Gibraltar. This exhibition is designed to attract boys of school leaving age into the apprenticed trades of the Army, Navy, Colonial Government and City Council, Gibraltar, and to advertise the training already being provided by these official employers.

The Royal Signals' display consists of a G.P.O. switchboard type CB 875 5 + 20/25, which has two extensions and a free line to the civilian auto exchange. These lines can be used by visitors to the stand and are the delight of schoolboys and the youth of the fairer sex who are seldom at a loss for words. The workings of a Tele F are also shown. For the more technically minded, on a display board are shown all those types of cable used by Royal Signals on the "Rock" (24 in all) from SWB 33W9½ to submarine cable 35 Pr/40 IPC. These are the work of Mr. Byrne, ex-Gibraltar Defence Force Signals Section, and now working as a civilian for the Squadron. Also shown are cables 25 Pr/40 IPC and 100 Pr/6½ PCQL in various stages of jointing, the work of Lance-Corporal Anderson, assisted by Signalman Samuel. In conjunction with Royal Signals, the City Council Telephone Department displays a Ringing machine, Graduated Howler, 2 Line Auto Ex Selectors in action, the workings of a coin box, the breakdown of a modern telephone and a 2 + 4 type PBX. The R.E.M.E., who have a fairly large exhibit, have poached a Signals' prerogative and display a 31 and 62 set as a two-way working link, and the components of an 88 set. Teleprinters, an auto head and yet more cable is displayed by the Dockyard Electrical Department.

I conclude by congratulating the Signal Centre staff on their recent official recognition. We believe we are unique as the only Army Signal Centre which is a Naval Tributary Station—R.N.F.P.A.R. The Signal Centre boast only one ancient teleprinter, so the R.N. (W.R.N.S.) request to change printers doesn't cut much ice. Contrary to the S.S.M.'s belief, some work is done, and in a recent check, we found that an average of 796 local S.D.S. packages and 17 messages (sent with two fingers) are handled daily. The staff consists of only three Signal Centre Operators, who work a three-shift roster, and they also share the distinction of "we never close." The Signal Centre Operators, incidentally, were O.S.B.s until they passed a Signal Centre Clerks' BIII course locally, last July, presumably becoming the first Signal Centre Operators as this was before the official announcement of the new combined trade rating.

☆

Gibraltar N.C.O.s visit Tangier

By E. H. ROLLS, *Corporal*

On Easter Saturday we boarded the *Mons Calpe* (successor to the *Gibel Tarik* of "Captains Paradise" fame) and the fine weather promised us a smooth passage to Tangier. Our party consisted of six junior N.C.O.s, three ladies and three children.

Tangier, until recently an international zone governed by eight nations, is now Moroccan territory. It has, however, changed very little, and is still a free port with no income tax and no currency control, which is why it is the favourite haunt of smugglers and international criminals. The timid may like to know that it is a long way from the Algerian war.

We arrived at 13.30, Tangier time, after a fairly smooth crossing of just over two hours, and with only one casualty to the unusual motion. We were greeted by the usual number of pedlars and shoeshine "boys" and soon became adept at refusing their services, though I must admit that they can produce as good a shine in five minutes that would take most of us an hour's "bulling."

Our three days were spent on the two and-a-half mile long fine, golden sandy beach, in glorious sunshine, and in sightseeing. Tangier consists of two sections, the old walled Moorish city (Medina) and the very modern town, which contains the hotels, business and government buildings.

The sightseeing is done in the old town which contains museums, the beautiful Sultan's Palace, open to tourists, opposite which is the Mosque, which is still very much in use. In the Casbah, native craftsmen are still to be seen making leather goods, gold-embroidered slippers, straw hats and furniture, etc. The colourful and noisy market, taking up several streets, with its interesting goods and smells is well worth a visit. Here you can buy spices, sword fish, copper and brass ware, chatties and melons, and all the paraphernalia found in all Arab markets. Two of the single members did go visiting in the modern town, but we didn't inquire too closely as to where.

Our three days passed quickly and the food in the hotel was good. The children kept the servants busy running up and down the stairs early on the Sunday morning, but how were they to know that the bell push wasn't a dud light switch.

If our readers are thinking of visiting Tangier: You may stay up to one month on an AF B2603, supported by a certificate issued by Fortress H.Q., Gibraltar, who also supply three free travel warrants to Tangier per year. For longer stays, or if you wish to go a little further to Rabat or Cassablanca, a Moroccan visa, issued by the French Consul in Gabraltar, cost 25/-. The cost per day of hotel accommodation varies from 14/- to 30/-, but otherwise the cost of living is fairly high.

H.Q. BRITISH FORCES ARABIAN PENINSULA INDEPENDENT AIR FORMATION SIGNAL SQUADRON

We should like to introduce ourselves to WIRE readers as the founder members of this new Unit which came into existence on 1st April this year.

Soldiering in Aden has disadvantages. First of all the climate, which is hot from April to October with a high humidity, saps one's vitality and leads to a strange lethargy cynically known as "Adenitis." The second main disadvantage is the fact that "there just ain't nothing to do, and nowhere to go." Aden is not a town of bright lights, despite the fact that it is a very busy free port, and the doubtful benefits of modern civilisation are only just beginning to percolate through its streets thronged with a curious mixture of camel carts and high-powered modern saloon cars. There is an inevitable sense of claustrophobia; behind, the desert; in front, the sea (and even that can only be enjoyed behind the safety of shark nets). Lest you think this is a miserable tale of woe, there is plenty of sport for the keener members of the Squadron, and an outlet is provided by the leave scheme to Mombasa. Our Sergeant-Major E. Byrne, B.E.M., has given up much of his own time to the problem of maintaining morale. We have just enjoyed an interesting afternoon touring the harbour followed by a successful dance in our own club, appropriately known as the "Gentlemen's Rest." Another innovation is a weekly film show on the premises, run by Captain (T.O.T.) W. Ellis, which takes place two days before pay day when pockets are empty and spirits are low.

At the wheel on our first outing as a brand new shining Unit is Major L. F. Ball. As well as being Squadron Commander, he also aspires to dizzy heights as Staff Officer Air Formation Signals, Aden. Captain S. W. Mawson manfully struggles under the burden of 2 i/c, Administrative Officer, Imprest Holder, Troop Commander, and has also, with his knowledge of Arabic, struck up a useful liaison with the native contractors. Of Captain (T.O.T.) W. Ellis suffice it to say that he has got our U.G. cable system working efficiently, a transformation that had to be seen to be believed. It is heartening to think that in this remote corner of the Empire the reputation of the Corps has been enhanced. Second-Lieutenant J. N. Tempest should end his National Service knowing much more about U.G. cables than when he arrived. A historian by profession, it took some time to convince him that the armoured cable we were laying was not

the legacy from some Mediaeval Crusade. There is more truth in this than meets the eye, however, for much of our stores are of doubtful antiquity. Happily this seems to be improving.

The Senior N.C.O.s are Staff Sergeants E. Maskell and R. Wilson, Sergeants R. G. Hunt, and W. Irwin, D. Matzen (Aden veterans) and F. Askham; the last named was commended for his excellent work by the Commander British Forces Arabian Peninsula, Air Vice-Marshal M. L. Heath, C.B., O.B.E., during his annual inspection.

It is impossible to list all the men by name. More's the pity, for they are a good bunch of boys doing a splendid job under difficult conditions. The results of their efforts are just beginning to show, and the news gets through, which after all is the purpose of our Corps. Add to this the fact that we are known as the smartest unit in Aden, and it becomes clear that we have got away to a flying start. We intend to keep it up.

Incidentally, anyone in the Corps passing through Aden, either white or brown knees, should look us up. A word of advice will save pounds down in the Arab market where a cut-throat barter system is operated. Turn right when you disembark at Prince of Wales pier, take the right hand fork and after quarter-mile look for the Air Formation signs.

☆

"Rum for Seven More"

EDITED BY SECOND-LIEUTENANT P. DUTTON

Being the account of an attachment to the Senior Service by members of Singapore Signal Regiment during Naval Exercise in March, 1958.

When the hooter sounded for action stations we were lying out on the deck, enjoying the sunshine and our duty-free cigarettes, watching the coast of Malaya slip mistily over the horizon to our left. Immediately, the ship was a bustle of running men. The gun crews slipped into position behind their Bofors and swung them round to face the expected enemy. We ducked our heads and waited.

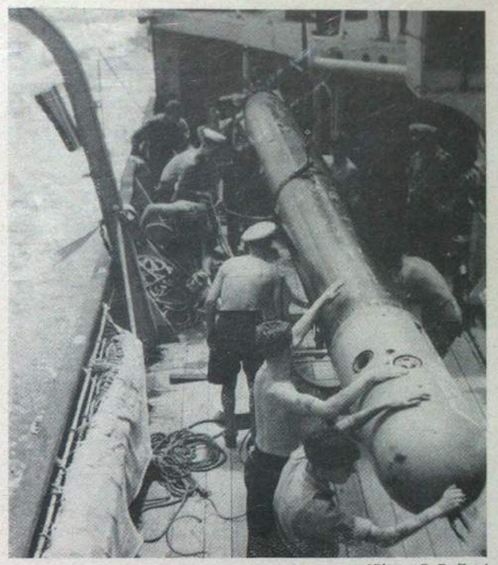
The cruiser ploughed on through the blue water, white foam springing up from her bows, and then, suddenly, R.A.F. Meteors and Venoms screamed down on us from the clear sky. The Bofors crews opened fire and the battle was on.

Before the fighters attacked we had been sailing north-



[*Photo: G. D. Ferré*

H.M.S. Newcastle's Bofors in action against enemy destroyers



[*Photo: G. D. Ferré*

One of the two £3,000 torpedoes which sank the target ship being manhandled aboard H.M.S. Newcastle

wards up the East Coast of Malaya aboard *H.M.S. Newcastle*, flagship of the Far Eastern Fleet, and behind us had been the other two members of H.M. Fifth Cruiser Squadron, *H.M.S. Newfoundland* and *H.M.N.Z.S. Royalist*. Aboard the *Newcastle* were a few hundred seasoned sailors and seven N.C.O.s and men of Royal Signals, Singapore. We were there as guests of the Royal Navy, invited to watch how the Navy acquitted themselves on manoeuvres. We were impressed.

The fighters buzzed like angry wasps over the three cruisers and the eight destroyers which had joined us just before the attack. The chatter of Bofors guns filled the air. And then above the noise came a deeper sound—the drone of a solitary bomber coming in over the fleet to make its attack—an A-bomb attack.

We had had our orders. When the signal sounded all personnel on board went as far below decks as possible and all hatches and air intakes were closed down. The air below decks was hot and stuffy, and we waited a trifle impatiently, while the decks were sluiced down and sprayed with tons of water from scores of standpipes dotted all over the ship. When a long enough period of time had elapsed for it to be safely supposed that the ship had been washed clean of any radio-active materials, different parts of the ship and the men aboard were checked for radiation. When this check had been carried out the ship was opened up again and all over the ship there were gasps of relief as the men felt the tang of fresh salt air in their nostrils again. That evening the fleet dropped anchor in the bay of an island some 90 miles off the coast of Malaya. The island was to be our operational base for the next four days. Peace settled over the ship once more and we were able to make a few exploratory expeditions into the heart of the ship before we decided to turn in. Having had visions of spending the whole of the night falling in and out of a swinging hammock, we were agreeably surprised when the Navy made a concession to our landlubberliness and issued us with camp beds. These we took on deck, and our first

night at sea we slept like babes in the cool breeze from the water.

The next morning we set sail again. Today we were going to be the attackers, and we waited excitedly for our first glimpse of the target. It soon came into sight, towed by a tug. The range was 12 miles and we wondered if the crew of the tug collected danger money.

The big, six-inch guns of the cruisers swung round and lowered at the target. The order to fire was given and we watched the fountains of water thrown up along the horizon as the shells straddled the target. The crew of the tug appeared to be in no danger at all and we revised our ideas about the danger money. Every time the big guns fired the ship rolled and shook violently, and loose articles of furniture were flung about. In the Mess plates and glasses and cutlery slid off the tables on to the floor—the deck, we should say—and we began to get acquainted with the atmosphere of battle.

After target practice the supply ship came alongside to replenish our stores and we watched the tricky business of provisioning at sea. This operation was carried out quickly and efficiently at the rate of about a ton every three minutes, in spite of the fact that both ships were steaming at a fair rate of knots.

That evening before anchoring at sea the Bofors had some more target practice, this time firing at two-inch rockets launched from other ships. One round in five was tracer and the resultant effect was a combination of Guy Fawkes' Night and Chinese New Year.

The next day, Wednesday, was battle day. A tactical target, the one which had remained afloat despite the battering it had had the day before, was fired at by the six-inch guns, while the four-inch guns and the Bofors dealt with the two protecting destroyers, represented by two marker buoys. The destroyers were sunk and the *Newcastle* closed in for the kill. She fired two torpedoes and both of them found their mark. Later, much to the surprise of everyone, these torpedos were recovered, and we were able to see just how large these £3,000 fish really are.

But damage was incurred by both sides. The target was sunk, but the shock caused by the six-inch guns had shaken the bottom out of one of the ship's cutters and split one of the gun turrets. As the turret split open, a newspaper fell out from behind a panel. No doubt it was hidden there before a ship's inspection at some time and it had remained well hidden, because it bore the date 1942. It made us think seriously for a moment about the man who had put it there and wonder what action the *Newcastle* had seen during the war. Considering, however, that the six-inch guns had fired 75 broadsides during the attack, the damage was not excessive.

During the afternoon shoot the pilot who was flying the 'plane towing the red target sleeve expressed slight concern that the gunners of *H.M.N.Z.S. Royalist* seemed a little too keen. He complained that they had hit the towline only ten feet short of his tail and asked them to remember that after all this was only practice and we are all allies anyway.

The following morning we thought the ship had gone mad. Battle fatigue or something. We had been seriously going about the business of vicious attack and stalwart defence for the last couple of days in true British fashion, and now the ship had gone mad. Stuffed dummies dangled from the mainmast, Officers, garlanded with flowers, swaying their hips and clutching guitars, pranced around the decks and swarmed over the superstructure, crooning sensuous Hawaiian melodies and tossing flowers to towering seamen. A bearded fairy clumped around the boat deck in huge boots, casting spells on the crew with a flick of his faerie wand. We really did not like to comment, in case our hosts should think us rude. We had heard about crossing the line, but we took a hasty look at the map and found that could not be the reason. Finally, it transpired that this was all part of the Exercise—to prepare the crew for any eventuality, no matter how ridiculous, and to test their ability to carry out orders at once, no matter how silly they might seem.

When the Officers took off their garlands and went to the Admiral's conference we relaxed, and those not on duty were allowed to go ashore to a small island nearby—Telong Tekak. This was a true Island in the Sun, and we enjoyed fresh coconuts and pineapples and very good bathing. We came back before dusk and in the evening went back to work in earnest.

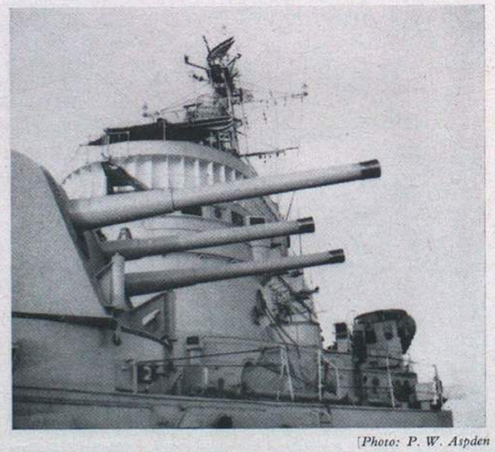
The fleet was split up into two opposing groups. The *Newcastle* formed one group with three destroyers, three frigates and a number of tankers and supply ships which had joined us that day. Radio silence was enforced and all ships were completely darkened. Then the radar located the enemy. Their position was lit up by starshells, and once more the guns went into action. The night was spent at sea.

At first light the fleet was refuelling when we were again attacked by the R.A.F. During this action an unidentified submarine was located in the midst of the fleet. Despite repeated calls for her to surface and identify herself, she remained submerged. A call to base was made and a Sunderland flying boat joined the fleet to help keep track of the intruder, which was still prowling around when it came to *Newcastle's* turn to be refuelled. But sometime after that she left us, still unidentified.

That night all was again darkened when we turned in for our last night at sea. We sailed all night and we woke up to find ourselves slipping up the Johore Straits back to Singapore. Slowly we edged our way up the shallows and manoeuvred into our berth. Home again.

Before we left the ship we experienced an agony of indecision and frustration. We had received from the crew an unofficial invitation to stay aboard. The *Newcastle* is an old ship and goes home in August to be broken up. Her last cruise will be a courtesy visit to several countries on the way home—via Hong Kong, Japan, Honolulu and the U.S.A. We looked down at the three-tonner waiting on the wharf for us and almost decided to stay.

It was a most enjoyable trip anyway. We were impressed by the efficiency and precision with which the ship is run, and by the ability of the crew to do several jobs in addition to their own if called upon to do so. But what impressed us most is the immense pride which the sailors show in their ship and, within the ship, the strong rivalry between the gun crews. For the ship's company, the ship is a common bond in which they all feel they have a part—a thing less



[*Photo: P. W. Aspden*

The Six-Inch guns of H.M.S. Newcastle

nebulous than an Army unit, a live thing which rides upon the sea, which depends on them for its life, and upon which they, in turn, depend for their survival in time of war.

We learnt a lot on our sea voyage. We picked up a few ideas. For instance, in the Royal Navy, every man has his tot of rum per day and, as temporary members, we received our ration with the rest. Now might it not be possible, with a bit of organisation, to . . . ?

Night Mail provides Vital Link

EXTRACTS FROM A STORY BY SERGEANT JOHN WOODROW.
PICTURES BY SERGEANT ROBERT ARMSTRONG,
ARMY PUBLIC RELATIONS

On a cool March evening just over 12 years ago, as the night train pulled out of the station at Kuala Lumpur, the Malayan capital, three pairs of eyes watched a coloured lamp disappear behind the doorway of a first class compartment.

The lamp, a distinctive blue and white, was destined to reappear many thousands of times during the next dozen years at stations stretching from Penang in the north to Singapore, at Malaya's southern tip.

It was the storm lamp carried by the Night Mail couriers of the Royal Corps of Signals, who have in over a decade handled millions of packages and letters between the Malayan capital and the islands of Singapore and Penang. Used to direct the three waiting Signals personnel on to the courier's carriage at each station, the lamp has become part and parcel of the scene at Malayan railway stations.

Since the establishment of the Federation Army, the couriers have also handled Malayan, as well as British Army correspondence.

During its infancy, the service operated smoothly and built up a reputation for speed and efficiency.

With the start of the Emergency, however, when, in an effort to paralyse the Security Forces' initial war effort, terrorists attempted to disrupt Malaya's rail system, the work of the couriers took on a fresh significance.

Working in close co-operation with Police and Railway Authorities the service continued to operate, but was at all times



Armed with rifles and with their first bundles of mail, two night couriers of the Royal Corps of Signals, board the night train at Kuala Lumpur, the Malayan capital, on the first stage of their journey south. *Left to right are* :—Signalman Chappel and Signalman Daniels



Destination. The courier's job is not finished until the mail has been delivered safely to the Signal Centre, at G.H.Q. SINGAPORE

ready to set in motion an emergency plan that would transfer from rail to road the precious cargoes of Military correspondence which during the height of the Emergency, were a vital factor in maintaining the efficiency of Malaya's anti-Communist drive.

At no time did Military mail carried by night couriers, facing the uncertain dangers of guerrilla warfare, fail to arrive at its destination, although, often there were unavoidable delays in transit.

To find out exactly what makes the machinery of the Army mail service tick over so smoothly, a Military Observer recently accompanied a team of couriers from their starting point at Batu cantonment, Kuala Lumpur, to their destination at the Signal Centre at the General Headquarters of the Far East Land Forces in Singapore.

At Batu, centre for north and south bound mail, there is the minimum of fuss. Packages are checked and last minute instructions regarding disposal of mail along the train's route issued before the team of two couriers eventually set off by truck for Kuala Lumpur station.

With time to spare, the couriers again check mail, setting apart that which is to be delivered to duty personnel at Seremban, where the first link in the 250-mile mail chain is forced.

Between Kuala Lumpur and Singapore there are six points at which mail is taken aboard and despatched—Seremban, Tampin, Gemas, Segamet, Kluang and Johore Bahru.

Of these Seremban, Headquarters of the Overseas Commonwealth Land Forces, where much of the mail for stations is despatched, is the most important stop. Three Signalmen are on hand at this station to ensure that mail is loaded and deliveries made for the Headquarters with the minimum of delay.

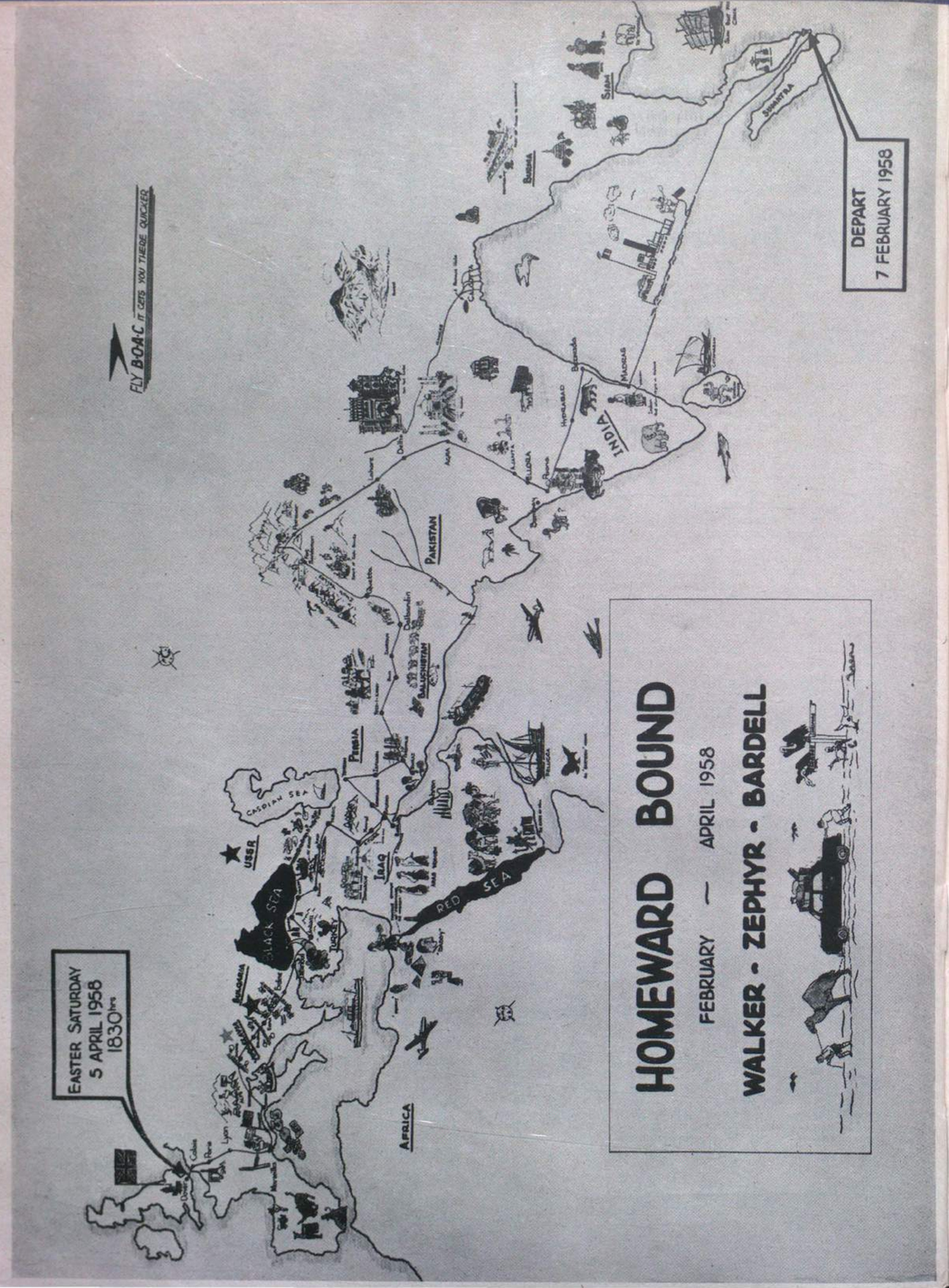
"There's no sleep for either courier before Seremban," said Signalman Chappell, "but after this stop, the remaining work is divided into shifts, with one courier resting to Segamet and the other to Singapore.

Ten round-the-clock trips—five each way—are made by permanent couriers each fortnight.

There are at present six regular night mail couriers with the Army in Malaya, who work three shifts. There are, however, a number of others who help out when the need arises.

The British Army in Malaya counts itself singularly fortunate in the manner in which it is able to communicate readily with Units scattered the length of the Federation.

This is made possible by the fact that in almost every case the Army's administrativce Units are within easy reach of the main line stretching up the west coast of Malaya.



SINGAPORE TO LONDON

(*See map on page 186*)

Having travelled to Singapore by troopship and air-trooping, Major E. J. Bardell, Royal Signals, and another Officer of G.H.Q., FARELF, decided to return home overland, driving their own car. The journey took two months. They were well looked after by the Indian and Pakistan Armies and were later entertained by the Persians at the small border town of Zahedan.

Both agree that the best part of the journey was the five guineas they received from the B.B.C. for a five-minute talk.

AFRICA

COMCAN SIGNAL TROOP, ACCRA

With the Admin Inspection now satisfactorily a thing of the past, life progresses more or less as normal. We still suffer periodically from the local wild life — two, four, six and eight legged varieties — one never knows what is coming next. Last week it was discovered that a " dis " coaxial aerial feeder was due to a particularly hardy breed of rats having taken to a diet of plastic and copper braid. One is inclined to wonder about the calorific value of coaxial cable, and also about how much rat poison should be laid in three miles of underground ducting? A period of stormy weather had brought its troubles too—Sergeant Tallon looked out of the Tx Hall window one murky morning to see what appeared to be an outsize trawl net decorating the aerial field. It was the remains of a complicated arrangement of masts and dipoles used for the tributary circuits. The high wind blew down one mast, which dragged down another, and so on, until there were three masts and half a dozen aerials in one glorious tangle around those still standing. Naturally, it just had to be a Sunday morning ! Three hours of struggling with tubes and wires, in sticky red mud, saw us back on the air again, though Sergeant Copley did say that we need a better system for keeping the string wet, than spitting on it !

Recent departures on posting were Sergeants Marlow, Menzies and McIndow, to whom we wish the best of luck in the future. Additions to strength this month number three — Sergeant Tallon via Air Charter, and two baby boys via the Accra Military Hospital.

Our heartiest congratulations to Major and Mrs. Armstrong on the birth of their son Timothy John, and to Staff-Sergeant and Mrs. Gibson on the birth of David.

The Car Club outings are now a regular feature, and the distances are slowly being increased as the standard improves. There have been no breakdowns lately, though we have to confess that this has largely been due to the fact that we only take the good cars out on long trips ! The trip planned for the Whitsun week-end should prove interesting, as we intend to go up to the Volta River at Senchi, and spend the week-end pottering about in canoes. Perhaps " potter " is hardly the best description for the activity of fighting a dug-out canoe up one of Africa's biggest rivers, but it should make a change !

We have entered a team in Division 2 of the Ghana Army football league. The result of our first league match was a draw.

"A THING OF BEAUTY IS A JOY FOR EVER"
wear a *distinctive*
BLAZER BADGE
Made entirely BY HAND to the approved Regimental design, in finest quality gold and silver wire and silks, to last you for years. We supply on dark navy or black cloth, or on your own *detached* pocket (blazers must not be sent). The Royal Signals Badge **costs 45/-** post paid. Despatched within seven days from receipt of remittance, subject to immediate refund if you are in any way dissatisfied with our craftsmanship.
D. J. PARKINSON
GOLD AND SILVER WIRE BADGE-MAKER
124 VALLEY DRIVE, BRIGHTON, 5

A friendly word to those who find themselves on the Clerks Roster

Since the introduction of the new promotion roster you now find that, through no fault of your own, you are on the Clerks Roster. Your reaction to this may be

(a) Horror—because you can't spell anyway.
(No problem here really—it is spelt A-N-Y-W-A-Y).

(b) Glee—at the thoughts of a nice cushy office job.

With (a) we sympathise, and with (b)—well, on second thoughts, we sympathise with you over that too. You are in for bitter disillusionment if you cherish the notion that peace and an unruffled existence is to be found within the hallowed walls of the Squadron Office, Orderly Room, or a Headquarters office.

All right, so all the clerks you ever did know saunter to the office at 08.30, sans boots and gaiters, whilst you shivered or sweltered on " First Works." Maybe you are right when you say that you never have seen a Clerk N.C.O. on " Sick and Canteen," or Orderly Sergeant. On the other hand, after you had smartly " downed tools " at 16.30, did you notice that the much-maligned Clerk N.C.O. was still at his labours. He probably had an Adjutant or C.O., who, after " being out and about " all day thought that 17.00 hours was an excellent time to deal with the day's " bumph." So, whilst you are downing that second pint, the Orderly Room bod is probably just starting to wend his way homewards. Of course, it quite often doesn't end there: Corporal Snook's wife has sent an S.O.S.; compassionate leave is the answer. The Orderly Sergeant *can* make out a leave pass, and the Orderly Officer usually knows how to sign it, but what about a railway warrant? No one ever seems to know what to do about a railway warrant—so send for the Clerk N.C.O. All right, so it is 20.30 hours—he won't mind. After all, he's on a cushy number.

Am I making the point? Once in the pen-pushing trade, your work, like a woman's (as I am often reminded) is never done. Has anyone ever asked you, in the course of conversation, the best way to waterproof pack a No. 19 set, or to explain the mysteries of a Divisional Wireless Diagram? I doubt it. But once you take on the mantle of Chief Clerk, Orderly Room Sergeant, or whatever you fancy being called, you can say goodbye to those cosy off-duty chats about the two things you like best about Jayne Mansfield, or the wonders performed by your favourite football club. The moment you set foot in Canteen, Mess or pub, someone will want to have a little heart-to-heart talk about the fate of his application for transfer to a Mobile Bath Unit; why has Snooks pulled sub rank and he hasn't; why isn't he getting paid for his stripe? There are two ways of tackling this problem.

ALL PUBLISHERS' MUSIC IN STOCK
★ DANCE BAND ORCHESTRATIONS
★ MILITARY BAND PARTS ★ BRASS BAND PARTS
★ MANUSCRIPT PAPER AND BOOKS
★ MUSIC DESKS ★ MUSIC COVERS AND BANNERS
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(a) Spend your off-duty time miles away from the Unit (or lock yourself up)—in which case you will be written off as a stuck-up, unsociable recluse—or

(b) steadfastly refuse to talk "shop" after hours—in which case you will be written off as a stuck-up, unsociable big-head.

You can't win.

The B.I. trade rating, like patriotism, is not enough. Not by far. To be a success in the business at all, you must possess qualities never listed in the "Q" Sheet. The main ones are

(a) The memory of a herd of elephants (one elephant is not good enough in this business). Sooner or later you'll be posed a problem like this, by the Adjutant or C.O.: "Get me the A.C.I. published a couple of months ago, or perhaps it was a Command Order, on the painting of motor cycles. On second thoughts, it might have been in that District Order about M.T. Anyhow, you know the thing I mean." Of course you do—he's referring to the chit sent out by the Q.M. yesterday about gloss paint for vehicles.

(b) The foresight of a fortune teller—*of course* you should have known that District would want to know by yesterday the number of left-handed, ginger-headed N.S. men who had P.O.S.B. accounts.

(c) Tact and diplomacy.—This is the art of telling your senior officer that he is "up the creek"—and still retain your substantive rank.

The fact that you also have to be a walking encyclopaedia is taken for granted. Then, of course, there is the official office terminology—which you won't find laid down in Staff Duties in the Field—1949 (War Office Code No. 8457). A knowledge of this is essential—and the following short guide may help:

Terminology	*Definition*
Under consideration	Never heard of it.
Under active consideration	Will have a shot at finding the file.
Is receiving careful consideration	A period of inactivity covering a time lag.
Have you any remarks?	Can you give me an idea what it is about?
Putting him in the picture	A long, confusing and inaccurate statement to a newcomer.
You will remember	Completely ignorant of the whole subject.
Passed to you	You try nursing the baby—I'm tired of it.
Concur generally Agree in principle	Have not read the document and don't want to be bound by anything I say.
Will have it laid on	Will ask someone else to do my job for me.
In Conference	Gone out, don't know where he is.
Kindly expedite reply	For Pete's sake try and find the papers.
Passed to higher level	Laid to rest in a more sumptuous apartment.—R.I.P.
In abeyance	A state of grace for a disgraceful state.
For action as necessary	Do you know what to do with it?—We don't.
Re-submit through the proper channel	You know what you can do with this.

So all this doesn't discourage you in the least. You want to press on and get to the top because you are fascinated by the fine-sounding title "Superintending Clerk." Do you have visions of sitting in high estate and in lordly manner, superintending to your hearts content? Sucker. The War Office establishment people have long since seen to it that at Commands and other high places there are no minions left to superintend. It's all Chiefs and no Indians. As a matter of fact, when I have finished this last lot of amendments, it is my turn to make the tea.

Why don't I change my trade and transfer to the Regimental Roster? What!—and lose my cushy office job. Not on your Nellie!

T.A.

54 (EA) INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT (T.A.)

2 Squadron

When the Territorial Army was re-formed in 1947, 2 Squadron of "X" Signal Regiment (at that time we had not been christened) was established at the T.A.C., Woodbridge Road, Ipswich.

We subsequently became 358 Medium Regiment, R.A., Signal Troop and commenced a long and happy association with our friends of the Suffolk Yeomanry, with whom we attended a number of extremely interesting annual camps. Although the Signal Troop has now shrunk to a detachment, we still see quite a lot of "P" Battery, who descend on us from time to time with an assortment of equipment, both military and civilian, which for various reasons "won't go."

With the formation of 54 (EA) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, the wheel has turned full circle and once again we have a 2 Squadron at Ipswich, where we share the Woodbridge Road T.A.C. with 161 (EA) Field Ambulance and 301 Battalion W.R.A.C.

After reading the contribution from "B" and "N" Troops in the February issue of THE WIRE, in which they positively gloated over their centrally heated accommodation, spacious garages, all-electric kitchen and private lake, we cast a critical eye over our own domain. Let us face it—our place is not like that. It was built about 50 years ago, when guns had iron-tyred wooden wheels and the Artillery, then in residence, or so we are told, used to borrow horses from one of the local breweries to pull them. There is no heating in the main hall, which makes the place distinctly chilly in winter, and unless the main doors are left open there is no ventilation either, so that in hot weather we have a passable imitation of a Turkish bath.

Our non-electric kitchen consists of one small gas cooker, and vehicle parking space is so limited that we have to keep most of our transport at another T.A.C. about two miles away. We are, as an estate agent would put it, "centrally located" and although this has advantages, it has disadvantages too. We are within a few yards of a busy cross-roads in the centre of the town, and immediately opposite our front and only entrance there are trolley and motor 'bus stops on both sides of the road. This leads to some quite impressive chaos when we have to get a small group of vehicles out on the road at 14.00 hours on a Saturday afternoon, and if our C.V. stalls in the course of its initial sortie across the highway, the repercussions may well become apparent on the outskirts of the town a couple of miles away.

On the credit side, however, we are blessed with good neighbours and there is a good deal of "mutual aid" among the Units sharing the T.A.C. It is, for example, extremely useful to be able to get our medical examinations carried out "at home" by an M.O. of the Field Ambulance. Combined training always goes down well; we often join forces when either Unit has laid on a training film which is of mutual interest, and last year we had an excellent week-end with the R.A.M.C. on radiac and wireless training, in which a detachment from Brentwood took part.

We have heard recently from one of our "Old Boys," Signalman T. J. Robinson, who left us last year to start his National Service and is now with Cyprus District Signal Regiment. He is the present holder of the Squadron Cup for rifle shooting, and we have considered the possibility of applying for some compassionate leave for him during next August, so that he might help us out on the final leg of the Regimental Small Bore Competition. We decided, however, that whatever higher authority might say about this, our Training Major would never "wear it."

There have been a number of week-end Exercises recently, including a wireless and map-reading scheme, which was run as a competition, with "black marks" for errors in procedure and map-reading. The prize of a case of beer was won comfortably by the crew, under Sergeant Burman; the umpires had to dig very deeply into the book to find an excuse to deduct any points at all. The control operator on this Exercise was Staff Sergeant Palmer, making his debut on the air after a long association with lines.

Our "old sweat," Staff Sergeant Whiteside, is still making gloomy references to his great age and feeble eyesight. However, as he was doing the same thing some years ago, when he won the Hawtin Cup with ten bulls in a row, nobody takes this very seriously. Sergeant Bernard, whose failing appetite was beginning to worry us last year, is now back on form and the clothing industry is being mobilised to build him a new battledress.

Idle Thoughts Department

Which V.I.P. will be invited to fire the cannon at this year's camp?

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

The unit has taken part in two Brigade exercises involving "L" Troop, assisted by personnel from other detachments. "In Absentia" was a Brigade movement exercise which was notable for its bad weather and attempts by the staff to work wireless over almost impossible distances. However, we emerged with good marks. Exercise "Brunel" was also a Brigade exercise, this time in conjunction with the Civil Defence Organisation. Suffice to say our wireless worked like a charm all day whereas the CD wireless . . . well, it did work very occasionally! There is still something to be said for H.F. over V.H.F. after all!

A lot of hard work was put into training a team for the Divisional Rifle Meeting on the 26th/27th April. The enthusiasm was high and the skill improved over the several week-ends on the range and on the day of the race we were fairly well up on the list in most events. Rumour has it that one or two members of the team made some quite undeserved financial gains with lucky shots on the pool bull.

Our recruiting figures continue to rise. Recruiting sometimes takes an unusual turn. In Bristol, Sergeant Cotterell, who won the major M.C. award in the F.M.C.'s Alpha Rally, first brought his younger brother in—and then his father. S.S.M. Jolliffe in Salisbury brought his son in as a recruit last year but this is the first case we have had this way round. We hope Signalman "Pa" Cotterell will remember to have a quick look at the Army Act sections 33 and 34 each time he reports for duty with Sergeant "Son" Cotterell.

Early in June, 2 Squadron will be starting up a detachment at Burnham-on-Sea and we hope that any former members of the Corps will not hesitate to get in touch.

LONDON DISTRICT SIGNAL SQUADRON (T.A.)

Arriving at Crowborough, Sussex, our location for Summer Camp, in the Spring, in winter conditions, it seemed as if anything might happen in the weather line. As it was, the Weather Clerk, after an initial issue of snow, sleet and icy winds, suddenly relented and most of our out-door activities were blessed with sunshine.

We were a mixed lot; T.A. Volunteers, some A.E.R. attached from London District Signal Regiment, A.E.R., Cadets (C.C.F.) from various schools and, of course, our Permanent Staff. These, unlike groups, merged themselves into one unit with commendable ease.

The main theme of the camp was individual trade training, plus a working knowledge of "the other chap's job." The highlights were two wireless and line Exercises; the first, a "warmer-upper" for the second. We are pleased to report that we were "through" on both occasions, the Cadets acquitting thmselves remarkably well, especially on the W/T nets. Major G. F. Kirby, of the A.E.R., who was i/c Cadet training, remained "in the field" experimenting with an 18 set back to Rear H.Q. on morse, after the main Exercise had ended. He was never seen in camp again and, for all the writer knows, may still be trying!

In the V.I.P. line we were honoured by visits from the Chairman and the Secretary of Surrey T.A. and A.F. Association, from the Deputy C.S.O., Eastern Command, Colonel J. H. E. Panton, O.B.E., from the C.S.O., London District, Lieutenant-Colonel B. R. M. Hayles, under whose watchful eye the Cadets took part in a message race, and from Colonel G. H. T. Shrimpton, T.D., commanding London District Signal Regiment, A.E.R. Our own O.C., Major P. C. B. Cox, who is a very keen photographer, "flashed" into view when ever anything interesting, or disastrous, appeared about to happen. The results are awaited with some apprehension by certain members of the Squadron!

The camp wound up with a most enjoyable Squadron party held in the local pub. The usual "party line" was followed especially with regard to the local brew, which is recommended.

We are now back at our T.A. Centre in Coulsdon, Surrey, and our corporate Training Centre at Carshalton, looking forward to some interesting summer training at week-ends. The local countryside lends itself very well to wireless and other Exercises.

Recruiting is, of course, very much in our minds this year and if this comes into the hands of any local ex-members of the Corps, well, "What say?"

No. 1 Special Communication Regiment, Royal Signals, T.A.

No. 1 Special Communication Squadron, W.R.A.C., T.A.

T.A. Golden Jubilee

DANCE

FRIDAY, JULY 4th

DANCE ORCHESTRA OF THE
BAND OF THE ROYAL SIGNALS

Tickets: 3/6, from H.Q., 79/85, Worship St., London, E.C.2.

SOUTHAMPTON BRANCH

Annual Dinner

The Royal Hotel

Saturday,

10th May, 1958



[Photo: Peak Pictures, Southampton

There were about 50 members present. The Chairman, Major J. Taylor, T.D., spoke of the County arrangements to celebrate the Jubilee of the Territorial Army and of the work of the Branch during the year. He proposed the toast of the Association and the Branch. In his reply, Brigadier H. R. Firth, the General Secretary, spoke of the achievements of the Territorial Army Divisions in two World Wars and repeated the statement of the Signal Officer-in-Chief at the Branch Representatives' Meeting in London. "There still were," he said, "little parties of Royal Signals, usually two or three and a Corporal who, all over the world in the most unlikely places, were keeping their communications through and teaching the local inhabitants the art of signalling." He praised the work of the Branch officers, particularly that of the Honorary Secretary in a recent difficult welfare case.

Major N. T. Warren, M.B.E., T.D., J.P., proposing the toast of the Guests, outlined the detailed arrangements for the parade in Southampton to celebrate the Jubilee of the Territorial Army. Through the good offices of Lieutenant-Colonel C. H. Howarth, O.B.E., T.D., who had served in the 43 Wessex Divisional Signals, they had obtained the loan of the cable waggon. He appealed for volunteers to form a horse drawn detachment. He spoke of the pleasure of all that during the parade the salute would be taken by the Mayor-Elect, Alderman Hammond.

The Sheriff of Southampton, Alderman R. R. H. Hammond, O.B.E., J.P., provoked much laughter at the expense of the General Secretary and said how glad he was to dine with the Royal Signals Association. He was very proud that he was to have the honour of being Mayor of Southampton and to entertain some seven hundred members of the Territorial Army to a reception later in the year.

Sheffield Branch

Greetings from Sheffield!

We in Sheffield Branch have decided to give each member in turn a chance to subscribe the month's notes to THE WIRE. He (or she) will include a short history of his (her) career in the Corps, however chequered it may have been.

By this means we hope to create more interest in the branch, and in the Association as a whole, by giving others some idea of what sort of people we are who regularly support our branch activities.

On the first Friday in May we foregathered at Crabtree Lodge, home of the local T.A. unit, for our monthly meeting. Meeting is the correct word, in that we meet. Having met, we decided this month to have a Tombola session. There were 18 of us, so the prizes were not astronomical, but I am sure Arthur Winn showed a profit on the night. Time after time it was Arthur's voice that rang out, "House!"

Our next meeting, on June 6th, will be the last of the season. We shall be back again at Crabtree Lodge in September.

Having agreed to contribute notes in turn it was, of course, decided that the Honorary Secretary should start the ball rolling.

So, may I introduce myself?

Ernest Taylor, Honorary Secretary for the last few years of Sheffield Branch. I will not quote my number as I was originally an infantryman in 5th Battalion Green Howards. I was attached to 69th Infantry Brigade Signal Section (50 Division) from 1940 to May, 1942, when I was transferred to Royal Corps of Signals and posted from the "blue" to Maadi.

Qualified as O.W.L. in October, 1942, and joined 1st Armoured Re-organisation Group Signals which had been formed in readiness for the push up the desert.

From Alamein, right through to Algiers, then up to the north of Italy with A.R.G.

Next move to the workhouse at Thirsk, and then to Chester Castle (1945).

Then, having completed my three months in U.K. (after four years overseas) I was eligible for overseas posting, and found myself with 1 Air Support Signal Unit in Germany.

Came February, 1946, and my age and service group came up and I was posted to "civvy street." Cheers. ERNEST TAYLOR.

Reading and District Branch

A meeting was held at the Red Lion, Great Knolly Street, on Friday, 2nd May, for discussion of business and a social evening. Brigadier H. R. Firth, the General Secretary, attended and gave an explanation of the proposal to obtain release from the Register of Friendly Societies and also spoke about the alterations to Rules 6, 7 and 10 recommended by the Branch Representatives Meeting. Major F. G. Strange headed a strong contingent from the Record Office.

Harrogate Branch

Nothing to report from the social front this time due to Easter leave. We held our monthly meeting on 1st May, when we welcomed new members amongst the senior term and also new arrivals on the Permanent Staff. To round off the winter's activities a social and dance is scheduled for Thursday, 15th May, after which we look forward to the summer programme.

At the last meeting it was proposed that the Branch present each term a prize to the best all-round A/T in the senior term in Technicians and Operators. This has met with the Commandant's approval and we feel that it may prove to be a valuable incentive. Details still have to be worked out, but it is hoped to be able to present the first prizes this term at the prizegiving ceremony.

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DAILY DELIVERIES IN YOUR DISTRICT

Welfare Section

Below an attempt is made to describe, with suitable anonymity, eight cases taken from the Welfare Section files concluded during the first week in May, 1958. Also on this page is a simple statement of income and expenditure.

Widow of Signalman, 1928-46, who died April, 1957. She served in W.R.A.F. The R.A.F. Benevolent Fund and the Royal Signals Association both helped to provide clothes for his three children.

Signalman, 1937-46. Married, two children. 20% disability pension. He has been out of work since January and the family of four have tried to live on a total of £6/7/- a week. The fund paid arrears of rent.

Sergeant, 1948-58. Married, one child. A severe illness caused his premature discharge and the fund helped to provide furniture for their first civilian home.

Driver, 1943-46. He lived with his married son, but the house, which was his, was burnt out. The fund made a grant towards essentials.

Sapper, 1916-18 (R.E. Signals). Married, he is now aged and has lost both legs after thrombosis. The County of Middlesex and Royal Signals Association helped both to a holiday.

Widow of Signalman who died on Service, 1942. The fund helped her with cost of rates, electricity and clothes for his son.

Signalman, 1937 (N.S.). Married, one child. The fund made a small grant to tide over until National Service grant is paid.

Sergeant, 1937-50, and since 1950 in Royal Signals, T.A. Married, four children. He and his wife have both been ill and she in hospital. The fund paid arrears of rent and a little extra to give them a fair start on resuming work.

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION AND BENEVOLENT FUND

The following subscriptions were most gratefully received during April, 1958:

	£	s.	d.
H.Q. Training Brigade	2	16	4
H.Q. Officers' Mess	3	13	0
School of Signals (O.T.W.)	6	8	9
1 Training Regiment	1	5	6
2 Training Regiment	31	3	0
4 Training Regiment	36	19	6
4 Training Regiment (W.O.s and Sergeants)	7	0	2
5 Training Regiment	39	0	0
7 Training Regiment	41	7	8
C.S.O., Northern Command	11	0	0
Northern Command Signal Squadron	5	0	0
21 (N.M.) Corps Signal Regiment, T.A.	10	0	0
D. & M. School, R.A.C. Centre	4	0	0
MES/SRDE	1	9	3
Signals Branch, School of Artillery	1	8	0
U.K. COMCAN Signal Regiment (W.O.s and Sergeants, R.H.Q. and 1 Squadron)	10	11	7
U.K. COMCAN Signal Regiment (3 Squadron)	3	0	0
U.K. COMCAN Signal Regiment (4 Squadron)	6	7	10
Junior Leaders Regiment	10	0	0
2 Infantry Brigade Signal Troop	2	0	0
16 Independent Parachute Brigade Group Signal Squadron	6	0	0
4 Independent U.K.L.F. Reserve Signal Squadron, T.A.	5	6	
12 Command (M) Signal Regiment, T.A.	3	0	0
63 Command (M) Signal Regiment, T.A.	1	17	6
War Office Signal Squadron	1	1	4
1 Essex Signal Regiment, T.A.	10	0	0
The Depot Regiment	8	13	0
1 Special Communications Signal Troop	2	11	0
U.K. COMCAN Signal Regiment (2 Squadron)	3	0	0
Western Command Signal Squadron	4	16	0
42 (Lancs) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A.	19	0	
H.Q. A.E.R. Royal Signals	3	0	0
Scottish Command (M) Signal Squadron	9	15	6
Scottish Command (M) Signal Regiment, T.A.	14	0	
3 Independent U.K.L.F. Reserve Signal Squadron, T.A.	7	7	
1 Squadron, King's African Rifles	2	0	0
6 Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment	31	0	0
7 Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment (W.O.s and Sgts.)	5	1	6
18 Army Group Signal Regiment	25	3	9
19 Army Group Signal Regiment	3	12	4
1 Corps Signal Regiment	38	6	0
2 Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment	26	1	0
1 Wireless Regiment	19	5	3
12 Wireless Squadron	6	10	0
30 Wireless Squadron	2	10	0
Hong Kong Signal Regiment	12	3	10
C.S.O., G.H.Q., M.E.L.F.	2	0	0
4 Air Formation Signal Regiment	7	2	3
COMCAN Signal Squadron, Malta	10	6	5
Cyrenaica Signal Troop	2	10	0
3 G.H.Q. Signal Regiment	28	18	6
50 Independent Infantry Brigade Signal Troop	3	2	6
2 Wireless Regiment	28	15	0
51 Independent Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron	1	11	0
37 Heavy A.A. Regiment R.A. Signal Troop	4	15	6
Total Receipts	£527	10	10

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION WELFARE SECTION

The following donations were most gratefully received during April, 1958:

2 (London) Signal Regiment, T.A. (Sergeants' Mess)	2	0	0
21 (N.M.) Corps Signal Regiment, T.A. (Contents of Collection Box)	12	0	
R.S.M. C. A. Thompson	1	0	0
Birmingham Branch	6	17	6
H.T. "Dunera" Ships Commandant's Fund	1	10	0
Total Receipts	£11	19	6

EXPENDITURE DURING APRIL, 1958 — £329 2 5

(Includes: Rent and Rates; Beds and Bedding; Furniture; Cots and Prams; General Assistance

Analysis of Cases:

Families of Soldiers serving in U.K.	5
Families of Soldiers serving in FARELF	1
Widows and Dependants	4
Released and Discharged Soldiers	29
Total cases assisted	39

18 cases of Soldiers who served during the 1939-45 War — £191 4 0

21 cases of Soldiers who did not serve during the War — £137 18 5

Lighter Fuel Packs

The following amounts were most gratefully received during April, 1958:

Box No.			£	s.	d.
6	...	1 Wireless Regiment	15	0	
7	...	2 Infantry Division Signal Regiment (7 Unit Branch)	12	1	
13	...	1 Training Regiment	1	0	5
25	...	4 Training Regiment	2	8	6
55	...	87 AGRA (Fd.) Signal Squadron, T.A.	10	0	
67	...	43 (Wx.) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A.	4	15	0
97	...	1 Port Task Force Signal Squadron, T.A.	5	1	
102	...	R. C. Macrow, Esq.	2	0	0
		Total Receipts	£12	6	1

Clothing

The continued demand for clothing, both men's and children's, is now extremely pressing. Our clothing store at present is depleted. That a suit is well worn is no demerit. Widows left with large families make a constant demand which we cannot fulfil.

Articles attacked by moth should, please, not be sent.

City of London Signals Old Comrades' Association

About forty members attended a reunion at their old Drill Hall, 20, Atkins Road, S.W.12, on Saturday, 3rd May, 1958, and had a most enjoyable evening, full of reminiscence of the pre-war Territorial Army. They were mostly members of the 1st Line of the London Divisional Signals, who served together in the 56th London Division throughout the War. As far as could be judged, Major G. M. Welsford, T.D., was the senior T.A. Officer, and Major J. Angell, from Leicester, had travelled the furthest to get there. He and Brigadier H. R. Firth, who was also there, had been on the Permanent Staff of the Unit during 1934 to 1948.

SPORT

CORPS RUGBY

Poor weather conditions caused six cancellations in the latter half of the season; however, we finished the season in a "blaze of glory," winning the annual charity match and Huddersfield Sevens.

Bradford Charity Match

The Corps defeated Bradford at Lidget Green 17-5, their heaviest defeat of the season; however, it must be said that nine points came from drop goals and a penalty and consequently the game was closer than it sounds.

Some delightful Rugby was seen, the forwards on both sides throwing the ball around like backs. The Corps' excellent cover defence kept the opposition "at bay."

Lance-Corporal Evans and Signalman Fiddes—half-backs—hardly put a foot wrong.

In order to put a little "weight" in the pack Ian Black (Harrogate), F. Whitcombe (Bradford)—both ex-Signals—played as guest players. Captain J. Hancock was unfortunately injured.

Team: Captain G. de Clive-Low, Lance-Corporal J. P. Tidswell, Second-Lieutenant M. Adams, Lance-Corporal Skirrow, Lance-Corporal D. A. Williams, Lance-Corporal G. N. Evans, Signalman W. Fiddes, F. Whitcombe, Lance-Corporal R. Bedson, Signalman J. McPherson, Corporal C. Clarke, I. Black, Corporal D. Newman, Lance-Corporal J. Smith, Lance-Corporal H. Roath.

Tries: Adams, Skirrow. Drop goals: Evans, Tidswell. Penalty and conversion, Evans.

Final Record

P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.
23	13	9	1	262	221

Huddersfield Sevens

Captain J. Hancock (Yorkshire) and Signalman G. Blackett (Northumberland) were both injured and it was decided to play the 1st Training Regiment Sevens, which has already won the Command and District competitions. They all played excellently and only a general view of rounds is given.

First Round v. Sandal

The Corps romped home without difficulty, 16-0.

Second Round v. Rochdale

This time we were against a much heavier side but fitness told in the end with a 13-8 win.

Semi-Final v. Huddersfield "A"

The Huddersfield side realised that the answer was to hit the Seven hard and disrupt it. This they did most effectively. A very worried Seven, after making heavy weather of the round, got home 6-5.

Final v. Hull and East Riding

This was said to have been the best final for years. The opposition had trained well and had also won two Sevens competitions, and like us, were after the third.

We scored first, the Hull side drew level and eventually were in front 8-5. In the second half we forged ahead to 16-8, but in the closing stages a break by Hull from their own "25" followed by a conversion caused near panic. The score remained at 16-13.

Team: Lance-Corporal D. A. Williams, Lance-Corporal J. P. Tidswell, Lance-Corporal G. N. Evans, Corporal J. Smith, Lance-Corporal R. Bedson, Corporal D. Newman, Signalman W. B. Fiddes.

HUDDERSFIELD SEVENS WON AGAIN

The Corps having won this Competition in 1949, 1950 did it for the third time in 26th April.

This is the first time that the Corps has taken the Border Sevens and Huddersfield Sevens in the same season.

Details of this competition and Corps Rugby in general are given in the sports section of this issue.

ROYAL SIGNALS OFFICERS' GOLFING SOCIETY

Match v. York Golf Club, 16th April, 1958

This match took place at York Golf Club, Strensall, with the following results:—

Royal Signals		*York Golf Club*	
Major R. Croskin		D. R. L. Dowsett	
Lieutenant-Colonel M. S. C. Shardlow	0	J. I. Tulloch	1
Major W. Macdonald		D. R. Cameron	
Major J. Y. Ferguson	1	A. P. Howell (PRO)	0
Captain D. W. F. Bayliss ...		A. R. Lister	
Captain E. Mathews	0	W. A. L. Bowen	1
Major D. D. Fairman		J. C. Paterson	
Major J. D. Norfolk	1	I. J. Evans	0
Major B. A. Beattie		W. H. Wilson	
Major P. M. C. Spence	0	A. E. Simpson	1
Major F. F. Ellis		J. W. Ruddock	
Captain R. G. Dore	0	W. L. Firth	1
	2		4

Spring Meeting

The Spring Meeting was held at Pannal Golf Club, Harrogate, on 17th and 18th April, 1958, and despite the weather the meeting was enjoyed by all competitors.

Brigadier F. D. Good, C.B.E., kindly presented the prizes at the end of the second day:—

(a) *Royal Signals Individual Challenge Cup (Stableford)*
Winner: Major J. D. Norfolk.
Runner-up: Major W. Macdonald.

(b) *Royal Signals Foursomes Challenge Cup (Stableford)*
Winners: Major P. M. C. Spence and Major B. A. Beattie.
Runners-up: Major F. F. Ellis, M.B.E., T.D. and Major J. D. Norfolk.

(c) *Royal Signals Handicap Challenge Cup*
Winner: Major F. F. Ellis, M.B.E., T.D.
Runner-up: Lieutenant G. Corden.

(d) *Royal Signals Championship Challenge Cup (Regular Officers).*
Winner: Major W. Macdonald.
Runner-up: Major J. Y. Ferguson.

(e) *Royal Signals Open Championship Cup*
Winner: Major W. Macdonald.
Runner-up: Major M. C. S. Shardlow, M.B.E.

Army Golf Meeting — Royal St. George's, 3rd-8th May, 1958.

Ordnance Cup

The Corps team won a bye into the 2nd round, but were defeated by the R.A.S.C. by 4 games to 1.

Generals Cup

We congratulate Major-General E. S. Cole on getting to the final of this competition when he was narrowly defeated by Major-General J. E. Witt by 3/2.

To reach the final Major-General Cole defeated Major-General W. B. Kay at the 22nd hole in the first round. In the 2nd and semi-final round he defeated Major-General I. D. Erskine by 3/1 and Major-General F. C. Beard by 5/3.

Match v. Royal Military Academy—Sandhurst

This match was arranged for 9th March, 1958, but was unfortunately "snowed off," and it was played at Camberley Heath on Saturday, 10th May, 1958, and resulted in a win for the Corps.

Royal Signals			*R.M.A.*		
Major W. Macdonald		½	Offr./Cdt. Shillington ...	...	½
Major J. Y. Ferguson ...	7/6	1	,, Marston ...	...	0
Lieutenant-Colonel Hayles	4/2	1	,, Gibb ...	...	0
Major-General C. H. H. Vulliamy ...	4/3	1	,, Cox ...	...	0
Major S. Schofield	4/3	1	,, Wishart ...	...	0
Major D. D. Fairman		0	,, Hughes ...	3/2	1
Major-General A. E. Morrison	5/3	1	,, Hardman ...	...	0
Lieutenant-Colonel G. Thomson ...	6/5	1	,, Stonner ...	...	0
		6½			1½

ROYAL SIGNALS HOCKEY

The names of those to whom Corps Hockey "Jimmies" have been awarded for the 1957/58 season have already been published in THE WIRE; the following, who were not awarded "Jimmies," played in at least one Corps game:—

Major D. P. Garnons-Williams.
Major L. D. Line.
Captain J. F. Blake.
Capt. A. G. Pritchard.
Lieutenant G. A. M. Holland.
Lieutenant K. H. Olds.
Staff Sergeant J. A. R. Dady.
Signalman M. L. Connolly.

The record was—played 11, won 5, lost 5, drew 1—goals for 23, goals against 27.

It was unfortunate that during the season it was not always possible to play the same team, and the record which was not nearly as good as it has been during the last few years, was influenced by the fact that on many occasions wanted players were not available either because they were injured or because they were prevented from playing by being on essential duty.

An Officers' team, drawn from the War Office and from Catterick Camp, visited Welbeck College on 19th March, 1958. We won by seven goals to nil; a result which tended to flatter us. The game was played in very pleasant conditions, except for about ten minutes during the first half when a heavy snowstorm blew horizontally across the ground; during this half Welbeck had as much of the game as the Corps' side and did not deserve to be one goal down at half-time. During the second half however, the pattern of the game changed completely and our team which had looked like a scratch eleven became a well balanced team capable of scoring goals at ease. It was a most enjoyable game and the team Corps team was well looked after and entertained by the boys and masters of Welbeck.

It had been hoped that at least two old boys from the School could have been included in the Corps team, but at the last minute they had to play rugger in a match of the Catterick District Knock-out Competition. No doubt a time will come soon when many old Welbexions will play in this annual game.

An Officers' team took part in the Scarborough Easter Hockey Festival, where owing to bad weather only three games could be played. The results of these games were:—

Royal Signals	0	Clodhoppers	4
Royal Signals	2	Puritans	1
Royal Signals	3	Stags	2

Letter to the Editor from: Major R. O. Edwards, N.I.D. (M) Signal Squadron.

Dear Sir,

With reference to the Royal Signals Hockey Notes published in the April 1958, edition of THE WIRE.

It is noted that the following statement appears: "The game played at Woolwich was our first ever against the Gunners." This statement is open to correction.

In the season 1946/47 or 1947/48—I believe it was the former season—the Corps XI played the Gunners at Woolwich and won the match 1-0. The team representing the Corps was, as far as I recall, as follows: Captain R. Kitson (3 T.R.), Captain I. J. Parkinson (4 T.R.), Sergeant Murray (5 T.R.), S.Q.M.S. Langley (1 T.R.), Lance-Corporal Gibbons (H.Q., S.T.C.), Captain N. Gordon (Northco Signal Regiment), Cadet Officer ? (Royal Signals O.C.T.U.), Major K. M. Evans (4 T.R.), Captain R. O. Edwards (3 T.R.), Captain G. Smith (1 T.R. ?), Captain Lines (W.O. Signal Regiment).

As far as memory serves, the Corps XI was unbeaten in the two seasons in question, in spite of such opponents as Edinburgh University, Watsonians and Manchester University appearing on the fixture list in addition to the usual inter-Corps matches. The average age of the Corps team was well over 30 years.

SCARBOROUGH HOCKEY FESTIVAL

The Corps Hockey season was concluded this year with the customary visit to Scarborough for the Easter Festival. Due to melting snow and rain the activities of the ten competing teams were restricted to hockey on the beach and squash at the local Squash Club.

There were no matches at all on Good Friday when the Royal Signals oppenents, the Picts, were hoping to avenge their 1-4 defeat by the Corps two years ago.



Royal Signals Hockey XI, Scarborough, Easter 1958

Saturday—all games were played on the sands and Royal Signals encounted the Clodhoppers, who settled down very quickly on the unusual playing surface and were soon three goals up. The Corps then settled down, played some very constructive hockey and fought back with determination and were unfortunate to be 0-3 down at half-time. During the second half the Clodhoppers' defence was under continual pressure but the lack of finishing deprived the Corps from scoring a deserved goal or two. A run-away-goal just before time gave the Clodhoppers a 4-0 victory which they agreed was not a true reflection of the play.

The Puritans were opposed to Royal Signals on Sunday, again on the beach. In this game the Corps showed much more fight in a very hard game in which the finishing was somewhat better. Speed on the ball and good passing defeated the Puritans fairly comfortably by a score of 2 goals to 1.

Finally, on Easter Monday the Corps faced a strong Stags XI. Throughout this game play was hard and fast and the Stags showed first half slight superiority and had a 2-0 advantage at the interval. The second half was another story with Royal Signals fighting back and putting everything into a very fine game indeed. Some good approaching and improved finishing and following up brought the Corps three very well-earned goals —the result being a Royal Signals victory by 3 goals to 2.

These games were watched with interest by a number of Royal Signals ex-serving members who saw the Corps Colours from the promenade—their support was appreciated.

The Corps was represented at Scarborough by the following:

Captain K. Kirkby, Captain S. C. Finch, Second-Lieutenant J. Cook, Captain P. C. Tripp, Captain E. L. Rogers, Lieutenant P. Gregory, Captain D. McIntyre, Corporal N. Burgess, Captain A. J. Welch, Captain N. A. T. Hartnett (captain), Captain J. P. Blake.

BASKETBALL

The newly formed Corps basketball team played two representative matches recently. On 23rd April we played the R.E.M.E. at Arborfield and won 53-39 after a very good and fast game.

On 24th April we went on to Blackdown to play the R.A.O.C. but unfortunately lost 39-50 after another hard game.

The team was very kindly received by both our hosts, and as these were the first ever inter-Corps basketball matches for very many years, we are looking forward to further matches during the coming season.

The last Corps team was drawn from the Units around Catterick, but it is hoped to go further afield for players in the future.

RUGBY FOOTBALL — ROYAL SIGNALS, CYPRUS

Four Corps fixtures were played during the season:

v. R.A.F., won 13-9.
v. Royal Artillery, lost 6-14.
v. Locusts (civilian side), won 9-6.
v. Royal Engineers, won 6-3.

Royal Signals v. Royal Artillery—22nd February, 1958

The Gunners won this well fought game by 14 points to 6. The Corps played well together as a team from the outset and it was not until the second half that the Gunners settled down.

Signals kicked off on a hard ground into a strong diagonal wind. The Gunners were awarded an early penalty but their kicker failed to control the ball. Signals then swept down the field and after a good handling movement Hollins, on the right wing, scored a good try. The kick failed. After some even mid-field play, during which the scrums went, in the main, against the loose head, and the Gunners controlled the line-outs, the Gunners were awarded another penalty and scored with a good kick.

There was no further scoring up to half-time.

Close attention from the Corps back row forwards prevented the Gunners' backs making headway. The Signals' backs saw a lot of the ball but frequently it was dropped, passed forward or knocked on. For the second half of the game the Gunners made some positional changes in their backs and the game swung from end to end. Eventually a long punt down the right touch-line gave Colman a touch-down for Signals. The kick failed and the score stood at 6-3 to the Corps. At this stage the Signals had the ill-fortune to lose their very capable hooker, Perry, with broken ribs. From then onwards the Corps fought desperately to keep their lead, but with 15 minutes to go the Gunners were awarded a penalty goal and levelled the score. Shortly afterwards, after a great battle on the Corps line, the Gunners scored a try under the posts, which was easily converted.

The Corps immediately fought back strongly and were only prevented from scoring by good defensive play by the opposition. With the last kick of the game a Gunner dropped a goal to put the issue beyond doubt.

The game was fought from beginning to end in an excellent spirit and was enjoyed by both teams. There was little to choose between the sides but the Corps, with seven forwards, were unable to hold the Gunners after half-time.

Corps XV : Second-Lieutenant Hall; Lance-Corporal Hollins, Signalman P. Webster, Second-Lieutenant Colman, Signalman Anderton; Corporal Carlisle, Signalman Hoad; Captain Pratt; Driver Perry; Staff Sergeant Taylor; Signalman Haddock; Signalman Heaton, Sergeant Gordon, Sergeant Meakins, Signalman Stewart.

Royal Signals v. Royal Engineers—11th March, 1958

The Signals gained a narrow win over the Sappers and the score of 6 points to 3 gives a fair reflection of the play which was mostly midfield.

The Sappers had a let-off when Haddock missed an easy penalty kick from the Sappers twenty-five. The Corps continued to press but a tight defence did not allow us much room. P. Webster took the ball from inside the Corps twenty-five to ten yards from the Sappers line, where he was forced to kick ahead. Colman was following up fast and got his foot to the ball but could not control it and it went into touch-in-goal.

The Sappers went ahead just before half-time with a well taken penalty kick from just outside the Signals twenty-five. Both sides were heeling well from the scrums and getting the ball back but the forwards were not following up and chances were missed.

The Engineers full back gave the Corps an anxious moment with a good straight run, well into our twenty-five, where he was brought down. Shortly afterwards P. Webster did even better, running half the length of the field before passing to Hollins, who was well up in support. From Hollins' kick Heaton gathered the ball and ran over the line but was held up by two Sappers : he could not ground the ball.

A scrum infringement gave the Signals the chance to level the scores and Hall made no mistake with an excellent kick.

Both sides were trying hard to score and play became scrappy. From a line-out in the Sappers twenty-five the ball went straight to P. Webster who ran across the field, sold a beautiful dummy and cut through the defence to score near the corner. Hall failed with the kick and the score stood at 6—3 to the Corps when the final whistle went.

Corps XV. Second-Lieutenant Hall; Lance-Corporal Hollins, Signalman P. Webster, Second-Lieutenant Colman, Signalman J. Webster, Signalman Anderton, Signalman Hoad ; Captain Pratt, Driver Perry, Signalman Haddock, Signalman Buxton, Signalman Bishop, Signalman Cook, Signalman Heaton, Signalman Hammond.

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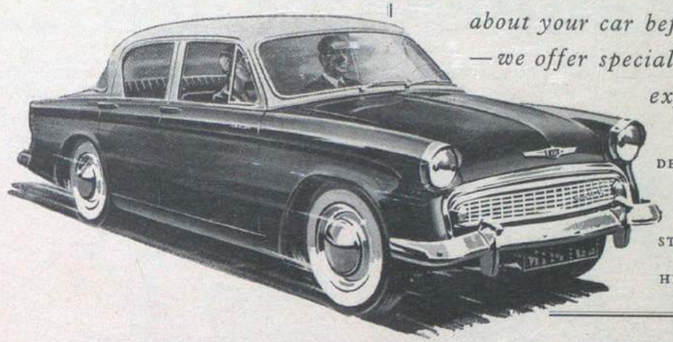
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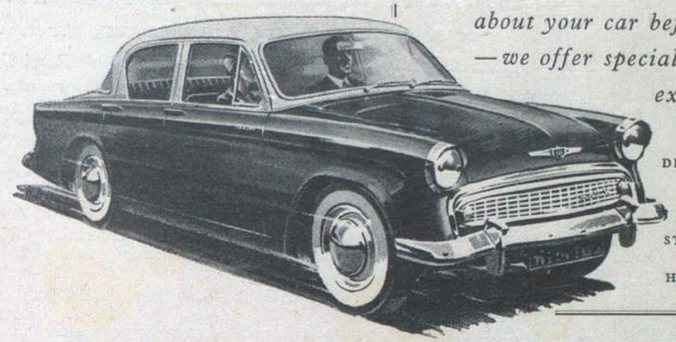
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To : Foremen of Signals and Senior Technical N.C.O's.

If you are shortly due for release, here is an invitation to a first-rate civilian career with Hollerith. You may already know something about us. Let me just fill in the details — especially about the opportunities we may be able to offer you.

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Third, the money is excellent. You'll come in for holidays with pay, pension schemes and other amenities.

Fourth, you'll get on with our people. Many of them were at one time, like you, in a technical branch of the Services—and we like ex-Service men.

If you're interested, get in touch with me and I will tell you everything you need to know.

Just write to me :

Lieut.-Col. L. S. Stirling (*Royal Signals, retired*),
Training and Personnel Division,
The British Tabulating Machine Co. Ltd.,
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THE WIRE

THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE

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.*

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☆

JULY • **1958**

Vol. 12 *(New Series)* **No. 7**

Editorial

MAJOR-GENERAL C. W. FLADGATE, C.B.E.

It will come as a shock to his innumerable friends in Royal Signals and the Association to read of his death on 15th June at his home.

He had been gravely ill for some months. A full appreciation of him will appear in the next number of THE WIRE.

THE F. R. COBB MEMORIAL TROPHY

OVER the last few years THE WIRE has often appealed for Challenge Trophies to be presented to the Junior Leaders Regiment. On page 201 is a very definite appeal to all ex-Boys.

The late Lieutenant-Colonel F. R. Cobb, M.C., had a very profound influence not only on the boys of "F" Company during the time he commanded it but for some years before and very many years after that time.

Major-General Sir Hubert Rance, G.C.M.G., G.B.E., C.B., who makes the appeal had the privilege of commanding "F" Company in immediate succession to Colonel Cobb.

It is appropriate that the trophy should be for Cross Country Running because it was particularly at this sport that during the Cobb-Rance period the boys of "F" Company most frequently excelled. Few, if any, ex-Boys who read the appeal will not respond. Not all of them, alas, read THE WIRE and while themselves responding generously to the appeal all ex-Boys should also see to it that all others of their acquaintance are aware of it.

* * *

CORPS SILVER

Commencing with this the July number, THE WIRE hopes to publish from time to time pictures of some of the more notable pieces of silver, with a small description of each item, in possession of the Corps, both in the Headquarters Mess and indeed in possession of Regiments. The series is starting, as is proper, with "The Cable Wagon" on page 204.

* * *

USED CLOTHING

THE WIRE has been constant in appeals for used clothing, which is still serviceable. Far too few are aware of the very great value which exists in suits, shirts, collars, shoes which have become too small or too well worn for the owner. So very many men have a long spell in hospital, arrive at the office of the Association in search of help to obtain employment and a glance at their appearance indicates that no employer would look at them. The possession of reasonable clothes, be it a suit or even a sports jacket and trousers which obviously have been of reasonable quality indicates to the prospective employer that the applicant for a job is at least one who is reliable.

Fair clothes, two half-crowns to jangle in his trousers pocket—for added confidence—have so often got an ex-Signalman, who, previously, was without work, into reasonable employment.

If more realised the good which is done by worn but still serviceable clothes, more would take the time and trouble to wrap them up in a parcel and address them to 88, Eccleston Square, and count the half-crown perhaps spent in parcel post, money well given to a worthy cause. Page 227 emphasises the need.

Be it said the main donors of their old clothes are:—

One retired Major-General;
One retired Lieutenant-Colonel;
One ex-Lance-Corporal;
and One Mother of a Signalman.

There are, in fact, a very great number of others who could and should help in this manner. PLEASE SEARCH YOUR WARDROBE.

(*The Editorial is continued on page* 199).

CHILDREN'S CLOTHING. In almost a majority of families children outgrow their clothes before they are worn out. Many towns and villages have an "exchange and mart" for such articles. Use it if you must, but remember there are of Royal Signals a very large number of widows who attempt to bring up the sons and daughters of deceased Signalmen on an income derived almost entirely from National Assistance. This does not attempt to pay for the cost of children's clothes and this is where you may well be able to help.

* * *

LIFE MEMBERSHIP OF THE ASSOCIATION

The recently announced terms for engagement and re-engagement into the "new look" Regular Army are, it is understood, causing a number of those now serving to re-engage for a further period. These re-engagements not infrequently entitled the man concerned to receive a gratuity. Would it not be good if concerned Commanding Officers when they are arranging for an individual to receive a gratuity on re-engaging for a further term of service to mention to him that it would be a nice gesture to utilise a very small portion of this gratuity to become a Life Member of the Royal Signals Association at £2 10s. 0d.

* * *

THE ROYAL SIGNALS TIE

From time to time officers and others who should know better, report to the Association that they have purchased a tie, alleged to be that of Royal Signals, of incorrect pattern and inferior quality from a shopkeeper in London. It relieves the feelings of the member of the staff of the Association but does not do the complainant any good when he is told that at the price he paid for the tie, which is of no value, he could have afforded to come by taxi from the place of purchase to the Headquarters of the Association, purchase a correct pattern tie of better quality and at such a price, that he could not only afford to pay for his taxi, but also afford to make a small donation to the Royal Signals Association Welfare Fund.

Terylene ties, correct in every particular which can be washed frequently and despite washing last for a very long time, can now be purchased for 11/-. Other ties are available at 8/6, 7/6 and 5/6. The 5/6 and 7/6 ties can be very well dry-cleaned but this is more expensive than using a cake of soap and a scrubbing brush on the 11/- tie which, if dirtied by day, scrubbed in the evening comes up as new by morning.

It is at present impossible to obtain from the trade tubular silk scarves in correct Royal Signals colours. Purchase has been made, however, of rayon squares which are now available for purchase for 21/-. These are appropriate to the summer season but in fact, for those who have thin necks, do equally well throughout the year.

BLUE BOOK

A few copies of the 5th Edition of the Blue Book corrected to May, 1958 are available at 88 Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1. Price 2/6d.

FIRST COME — FIRST SERVED!

Royal Signals Dinner Club

The Representative Colonel Commandant, Major-General R. F. H. Nalder, C.B., O.B.E., presided over the Annual Dinner at the Hyde Park Hotel on the 28th May, 1958, 158 Officers were present.

The guests of the Corps were Field-Marshal Sir Gerald Templer, G.C.B., G.C.M.G., K.B.E., D.S.O., Chief of the Imperial General Staff, Air Vice-Marshal J. G. W. Weston, C.B., O.B.E., Air Ministry, Major-General Victor A. Conrad, Chief Signal Officer, SHAPE (U.S.A.), and Captain C. A. James, R.N., Director of Signal Division Admiralty.

The Representative Colonel Commandant read the following telegrams:

To: Private Secretary, Her Majesty the Queen:
"The Colonels Commandant and Officers, Royal Signals, assembled at their annual dinner on Wednesday, 28th May, 1958, at the Hyde Park Hotel, Knightsbridge, send their loyal and humble greetings to your Majesty."

And the reply:

"Please convey to the Colonels Commandant and Officers of the Royal Signals dining together at the Hyde Park Hotel this evening the sincere thanks of the Queen for their loyal message, which Her Majesty greatly appreciates.—Private Secretary."

To: Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal:
"The Colonels Commandant and Officers of your Corps assembled at their annual dinner on Wednesday, 28th May, 1958, at the Hyde Park Hotel, Knightsbridge, send their loyal and humble greetings to your Royal Highness."

And the reply:

"My warmest thanks to the Colonels Commandant and Officers of my Corps for the telegram sent on the occasion of the annual dinner at the Hyde Park Hotel. May this be a most enjoyable evening for you all.—Mary, Colonel-in-Chief."

Major-General Nalder continued:

"It is customary on these occasions to say something about the Corps and tonight there is perhaps a little more to say than usual.

"You will remember that last year major changes affecting the Armed Forces were announced only shortly before the Corps Dinner. It was then much too early to make any pronouncement about them, but General Scott did say that any reduction in commitments could not do otherwise than ease the strain to which the Corps had been subjected in the post-war years.

"During the life of the Corps since it was born from the Royal Engineers Signal Service in 1920 it has been through two major phases and is now entering the third. During the first 19 years, until 1939, it was growing up and finding its feet. It did not have at all an easy start. Opinions were very much divided on the subject of recruiting its Officers and the initial plans did not realise expectation. In fact, in 1927 the situation was so serious that a suggestion was actually made at a very high level that the parent Corps, the Royal Engineers, should once again become responsible for the Army Signal Service by re-absorbing its child—a rather curious biological process, to say the least. Fortunately, the suggestion was not pressed, and curiously enough this same year 1927, marked the turning point. From then onwards it gathered strength and by 1939 was poised firmly on both feet.

"In the second phase it was not long before the war once again brought about a period of crisis, since the Corps was called upon to perform tasks for which it had insufficient men, equipment and training. Such a situation had not been entirely unforeseen, but it shared the fate of the rest of the Army in having been starved of resources by

inadequate pre-war provision. Most of you here present will remember the struggle of the early war years, which was only surmounted by the wonderful team spirit amongst all ranks.

"The second part of the second phase, the post-war years, had also been a difficult time. There has been no letting up and in fact as its commitments grew the Corps experienced an increasing state of tension. Just in time the McLeod Committee came to the rescue and the acceptance and implementation of its recommendations has already gone some way to easing that tension.

"Now that we are entering upon the third phase we need have no apprehension but that the Corps will adjust and adapt itself as it always has done. The planned reduction of the Regular element up to 1962 amounts to 44 per cent. This sounds very drastic, but is less than the overall Army average. The Corps will still be nearly half as big again as in 1939.

"In applying the cuts it is the firm intention to maintain full support for field formations and units. Static and training units will be more severely scaled down by the introduction of civilians in place of soldiers to the maximum acceptable degree. The McLeod Committee recommendations will stand and the opportunity will be taken to improve the rank structure beyond anything we have had before.

"In actual organisation the biggest change will be in the Divisional Signal Regiment, which in future will consist of a small "H.Q." Regiment, commanded by a Lieutenant-Colonel, to which will be attached Brigade Group Signal Squadrons as required. These latter will be Major's commands and capable of independent operation for extended periods.

"Commanders Royal Signals, with small command groups, will also be appointed in certain overseas theatres to take charge of such H.Q., air formation and specialist units which are less than a Lieutenant-Colonel's command.

"There will, of course, be a reduction in the number of regimental commands, but bearing in mind the organisational changes I have outlined, the reduction in Lieutenant-Colonels' commands is at present unlikely to exceed six.

"This leads to the question of redundancy. The basic principle has been to plan for a correct age and rank structure and to give an equitable opportunity for promotion up to the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel. Nevertheless, this means that during the period up to 1962 some 60 to 70 Majors and about 30 more senior Officers will become redundant. We hope that these may be found from volunteers.

"Amongst the other ranks the brunt falls on the Warrant Officers and senior Non-Commissioned Officers, mainly of the lineman, despatch rider and driver trade groups. In all the redundancy will amount to about 570. Both in Officers and other ranks we are stricken less severely than other arms and services.

"To sum up — by 1963 the Corps, though much smaller, may look forward to an improved, streamlined and up-to-date organisation. It will have a better rank structure and better prospects for both Officers and other ranks. There will be more Major's commands and of a greater variety. Finally, the Corps should be in a stronger position to meet its commitments and to serve the Army efficiently without undue strain than ever before. We have every reason to view the future with confidence.

"And now I should like to say a few words about the Corps History, which the Corps Committee commissioned me to write nearly five years ago and which has been my nightly task ever since. It is finished and we hope to get out by the end of the year, although with all the final checking it is going to be a bit of a rush. This, however, is incidental and what I really wanted to say is that I could not have completed it without an immense amount of help from very many Officers, who have been good enough to supply data from their own experiences, read and correct drafts, make suggestions and help with proof reading. I would have to take this opportunity of thanking them personally and publicly. Many are here tonight.

"So much for the Regular Army. As regards the Reserve Army I am not in a position to make any statement except to say that, what ever changes may take place, it is the intention to preserve the identity of regiments to the maximum possible extent.

"And now I turn from the austere to the pleasant subject of our guests. We are very honoured to have with us tonight the Chief of the Imperial General Staff, Field-Marshal Sir Gerald Templer. The appointment of C.I.G.S. has never been a sinecure, and is less than ever so nowadays. It is very good of the Field-Marshal, with his innumerable engagements, to find time to dine with us.

"I first met him in Italy towards the end of 1943, when he was commanding the 56th Division and I had recently become C.S.O. of the Army Group. I remember going to call on him and I know that then he took a very lively interest in his signal communications. During his career he has held a quite remarkable variety of commands, during the course of which he very early acquired an uncanny knowledge of the Black Magic of the art of signalling. I am told by some of those who have served him that it was quite useless to attempt to blind him with science.

"We are delighted to have with us Major-General Victor Conrad, United States Army Chief Signal Officer, Supreme Headquarters, Allied Powers, Europe. We have sometimes complained of the difficulties of reaching Inter-Service agreement on communication matters. General Conrad has the unenviable task of trying to reconcile the differences of the 45 Naval, Army and Air Services of N.A.T.O. I should also mention that among his many responsibilities is the rather unique one of having direct command of the Royal Signals SHAPE Signal Squadron.

"Also here tonight are Captain James, R.N., and Air Vice-Marshal Weston, who, as heads of the Signal Departments of our two sister Services, do not, I am sure, require any introduction. Captain James, apart from being a distinguished communicator himself, is the son of Admiral 'Bubbles' James. I remember so well an episode in the War when the Admiral was Commander-in-Chief Portsmouth, and how, when he was bombed out of his Headquarters, he gave such a fillip to morale, not only in the Navy but also in the Army and Air Force, by moving himself and his staff into *H.M.S. Victory*.

"Air Marshal Weston is a very old friend of mine and I am delighted that he is here tonight."

Field-Marshal Sir Gerald Templer, G.C.B., G.C.M.G., K.B.E., D.S.O., reminded the Officers how early in his service he had often contended against Royal Signals and particularly against Major-General R. F. B. Naylor, in athletics.

He had sometimes contended with Officers of the Corps when Signal considerations interfered with the tactical plan. Whatever the outcome of the argument the Corps had never failed him.

He said that the Royal Corps of Signals had to bear its share of the Army's run-down but, notwithstanding that, the proportion of Royal Signals to the rest of the Army would be greater than in 1939. He warned them against a tendency to become efficient only in the technical sphere at the expense of the wider outlook demanded of all Officers of the modern Army. In the Army of the future, Royal Signals would have to accept wide dispersion and must train to work in small parties. It was essential that every man was absolutely proficient in the task assigned to him.

The profession of arms had never been easy and it would become even more difficult in this nuclear age. If ever independence of mind and mentality and physical toughness and technical competence is required it is in the Officers and men of the Royal Corps of Signals of the future.

The Chief of the Imperial General Staff said much else that was warmly applauded by the Officers.

He congratulated the Corps on its long record of achievement in sport. In the past the main successes had been achieved by Training Regiments, but he looked forward to the day when an Army Championship would be won by a Regiment in the field, such as a Divisional Signal Regiment.

A Message to all Ex-Boys

FROM MAJOR-GENERAL SIR HUBERT RANCE, G.C.M.G., G.B.E., C.B.

I have very gladly accepted an invitation to be "Appeal Chairman" of the Committee for the *F. R. Cobb Memorial Trophy.*

Let me explain. A number of Ex-Boys who served with, or knew, the late Lieutenant-Colonel F. R. Cobb, M.C., have felt for a long time that it would be an appropriate gesture if they subscribed voluntarily for a Trophy to be presented to the Junior Leaders Regiment, Royal Signals, as a memorial from the Ex-Boys of the Corps to an Officer who did so much for their welfare over a period of 27 years' close association.

Colonel Cobb commanded the Boys' Company from 1925 to 1930. Before that, and until he died in 1950, his untiring interest in the military efficiency and sporting proficiency of the Boys and Ex-Boys was highly appreciated throughout the Corps and by many hundreds of parents who wrote letters of gratitude for what he had done to guide their sons along the path towards a successful career.

I am sure, therefore, that many, many Ex-Boys who "knew Major Cobb," whether they actually served under him or not, would wish to be associated with this proposal to subscribe something towards the memorial trophy.

The project has the approval of the Signal Officer-in-Chief. The Commanding Officer of the Junior Leaders Regiment, Royal Signals, has welcomed the idea and I am sure there will be a generous response from Ex-Boys, whether still serving, or retired.

A small Committee, after appropriate consultations, has decided the form of the memorial should be an

INTER-TROOP CROSS-COUNTRY RUNNING TROPHY

to be competed for annually by the Boys of the Junior Leaders Regiment, Royal Signals.

No matter how small the contributions, all will be welcomed. The Committee suggests anything from sixpence, but no individual's donation to exceed ten shillings. It would assist the administration of the appeal if those Ex-Boys serving in or living close to a Signal Unit, would arrange for one of their number to be the official collector for the Unit and hand in the money collected to the Adjutant or O.C. Unit, with a list of subscribers' names, for onward despatch.

Officers Commanding Units have been requested to give this assistance.

Those Ex-Boys wishing to subscribe direct should please forward cheques or postal orders, made payable to

O.C. 4th Training Regiment, Royal Signals,

and crossed "Cobb Trophy."

The Hon. Secretary is Major F. G. Strange, Royal Signals (Retired), Royal Signals Records, Caversham, Reading, to whom subscriptions may also be paid by any who happen to be visiting Records.

The Hon. Treasurer is Lieutenant-Colonel T. G. Chambers, M.C., Royal Signals, commanding 4th Training Regiment.

Finally, as I, myself, had the pleasure of commanding the Boys' Company from 1930 to 1932 I am very pleased to launch this appeal and hope there will be a prompt and generous response.

(Signed) H. E. RANCE, *Major-General.*
1st June, 1958.

STANDARD TELEPHONES AND CABLES LIMITED

On the occasion of the 75th Anniversary of the formation of the Company, the Chairman and Directors invited a most distinguished company to a reception at Claridges on 11th June, 1958. Royal Signals was as well represented amongst the guests as amongst the hosts.

Amongst those present were: Major-General C. H. H. Vulliamy, C.B., D.S.O., Major R. A. Moir, Major-General L. de M. Thuillier, C.B., O.B.E., Major J. H. Baker, T.D., Colonel G. H. S. Balmain, Lieutenant-Colonel K. B. Baldwin, M.B.E., T.D., Colonel E. J. C. Harrison, O.B.E., Brigadier H. R. Firth.

As it was a very large gathering of those distinguished in telecommunications and electronics, there were doubtless many others who had served in the Royal Signals.

FIRST USE OF WIRELESS IN THE ARMY

Letter to the Editor from G. H. R. Flynn, Major (Retd.), Headquarters, Training Brigade, Royal Signals, Catterick Camp, Yorkshire.

Dear Sir,

The article entitled "First Use of Wireless in the Army" published on page 129 of the May issue gives the impression that prior to 1914 the Regular R.E. Signal Service had no wireless units. This is not correct.

Various experiment with wireless were carried out at the S.M.E. and in South Africa at the beginning of the century, but without much result. In the 1904 manoeuvres a wireless detachment was sent to Clacton to establish communication with the Flagship but failed to obtain communication before the Fleet arrived, and was not used afterwards.

In the 1st Army Corps Manoeuvres in 1905 Wireless Telegraphy (Lodge Muirhead sets) was employed between 1st Division Headquarters and Aldershot (a fixed station) and worked successfully.

At the beginning of summer training in 1906 the 1st and 2nd Telegraph Companies marched to Hindleap Camp, Ashdown Forest, on 30th May and a wireless detachment obtained communication with Aldershot at each of the halts. Later the same year "the 1st Telegraph Co." found three airline detachments, two cable detachments and a wireless detachment for the Corps Communications . . . and a wireless detachment for the Cavalry Brigade.

On 15th April, 1907, in implementation of a Special Army Order of 1st January, 1907, the Telegraph Units were reorganised, and the following new units were formed :

1st Wireless Telegraph Co.
2nd Wireless Telegraph Co.

In 1909 Inter Divisional manoeuvres were held on 14th, 15th and 16th September near Oxford, when the Cavalry of the Red Army had two large and three small wireless detachments, whereas the Blue Army depended on Motor Cyclists.

On 1st October, 1910, all Telegraph Companies were renamed Signal Companies, and the 1st Wireless Signal Company attended the R.E. Signals Summer Training Camp at Shipton-under-Wychwood in 1911.

In November, 1911, in accordance with Army Order 309 the Wireless Signal Companies were re-organised into:—

1st Signal Squadron for the Cavalry Division.
"E" Signal Company (Wireless) for Army Troops.

This was the organisation at the outbreak of the First World War in August, 1914.

The foregoing has been extracted from "Records of the 'A' Signal Company (formerly 1st Division Telegraph Battalion) (formerly 'C' Troop) Royal Engineers" and is authentic.

I understand there were five Army Wireless Companies, each with an establishment of three Officers and 66 O.R.s, with the Territorial Force in 1914, and it is presumably these which are referred to in the article.

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Obituary

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL R. R. A. DARLING

He died in Hospital in Belfast, following an operation, on 30th May, 1958, aged 61.

He was first commissioned in the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, in 1914, shortly after his seventeenth birthday, and quickly saw service in south-east Europe, including the Suvla Bay landings at Gallipoli. Subsequently he was attached to 3 Lahore Divisional Signal Company in Egypt and Palestine. He transferred to the Corps in 1923 and became adjutant of 55 Divisional Signals, T.A. He was adjutant of 4 Divisional Signals, 1933/35. An accident in a lorry in Palestine, in 1936, was the forerunner of much ill-health, and though he obtained command of the Operators Training Battalion in 1940, he was finally forced to retire in 1943.

He joined the Home Guard in 1944, and was adjutant of the Tyrone Unit, 1952-56. He was a member of the local T. and A.F. association.

He took the greatest interest in local affairs, as a Justice of the Peace, as Chairman of the Tyrone Hospitals Group, and with his activities in all youth movements. Earlier this year he had been appointed High Sheriff of Co. Tyrone.

He was married, for the second time, in February, 1958, to Mrs. Nancie Heyn. To his widow and his family we offer our sympathy.

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL H. WORRALL (Retired)

The sudden death of Bob Worrall on 24th May, 1958, at the age of 49, from coronary thrombosis, will be sad news to the large number of all ranks who have served with or under him. He was at the time filling a Retired Officers' appointment in Germany with the Signals Works Services Group. He was commissioned from the "Shop" on 31st January, 1929, and retired on 1st August, 1957.

From his days as a Y.O. throughout his career any difficult person, animal or situation was always a challenge to him. One only had to tell him that the bearer he was proposing to engage in India or the horse he was thinking of buying were no good and never likely to be any good and he would accept the challenge, and eventually after a rough passage with both, they did turn out all right. Although most modest and kind-hearted, he was a very determined person.

His interest in his men, whether British or Indian, was unfailing and it was always the awkward ones who interested him most. In the old days the social side of Army life bored him, and he was much more at home on Brigade training, or trekking in the hills of India, or playing all games, at most of which he was well above average. Golf was probably his best game.

But later marriage mellowed his outlook and he loved a social party as much as anyone, while still retaining his interest in his former pleasures.

His sense of humour was always there and though his dry wit sometimes seemed a bit caustic, one knew that behind it was the kindest of hearts.

Latterly his chief recreation was sailing and in fact he died at night after having spent the afternoon sailing on the Dommer See.

To his widow and daughter goes the sympathy of us all in their sudden and sad loss.

MAJOR G. W. WILSON, E.R.D.

His many friends in the Corps will be shocked to hear of the tragic death of Major G. W. Wilson, E.R.D., at Bristol on 30th May, 1958. Major Wilson was a passenger in a car which accidentally plunged into the river Avon whilst trying to avoid a collision with a motor cyclist.

Major Wilson joined the Supplementary Reserve in 1939 and served with G.H.Q. Signals in France. He was evaculated at Dunkirk. He served with 1 H.Q. Signals and 21 Army Group Signals, specialising in Signal Office work and was one of the original Senior Signalmasters. He was demobolised in 1946 but was not to be long away from the army. In 1953 he volunteered for service with the A.E.R. and was one of the founder officers at No. 3 Signal Construction Regiment, A.E.R., whose Administrative Major he was at the time of his death.

By his tragic death at the age of 47, the Corps has lost a sincere and loyal member.

PERSONAL COLUMN

Her Majesty The Queen's Birthday Honours

O.B.E. Lieutenant-Colonel J. B. Birkett.
Lieutenant-Colonel (T.O.T.) E. G. Brice.

M.B.E. Major G. P. R. Anslow.
Major W. S. Grieve (T.A.).
Major J. D. B. Thornton.
Captain N. H. Harden, Royal Australian Corps of Signals.

B.E.M. Corporal A. Baxter (T.A.).
Staff Sergeant W. D. Holden.

London Gazette

16th May, 1958

Major J. T. Higgins, retires 16th May, 1958, and is granted the honorary rank of Lieutenant-Colonel.

Major (Honorary Colonel) M. G. Holmes is appointed Honorary Colonel, 50 L. of C. Signal Regiment, A.E.R., 29th March, 1958, in succession to Colonel J. G. Gardiner, C.B.E., T.D.

20th May, 1958

Her Majesty The Queen has been graciously pleased to approve, as at the 30th August, 1957, that the following be Mentioned in recognition of gallant and distinguished services in Malaya for the period ending on that date:

2548938 W.O.II W. B. Archer.

Awarded the Army Emergency Reserve Decoration
Major A. E. Cook,
Major N. E. Thomas.

Awarded the First Clasp to the Territorial Efficiency Decoration
Major E. B. Williams, T.D.

Awarded the Territorial Efficiency Decoration
Major A. V. Emery, E.R.D.

Lieutenant-Colonel E. B. Elliott retires 16th May, 1958.

Major J. W. Smith-Ainsley retires on retired pay, 1st May, 1958, and is granted honorary rank of Lieutenant-Colonel.

23rd May, 1958

Her Majesty The Queen has been graciously pleased to give orders for the following promotions in, and appointments to, the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, in recognition of distinguished service in Malaya, for the period 31st August to 31st December, 1957:

C.B.E. Colonel J. P. North, M.B.E.
M.B.E. Major P. A. M. Tighe.

Mentions
Lieutenant-Colonel A. N. Griffiths, O.B.E.
Major R. M. Matthews.
Major E. J. Winn.
Captain A. Williams.

Awarded the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal
Captain (T.O.T.) R. G. Dore.

27th May, 1958

Lieutenant-Colonel A. C. Galbraith retires, 27th May, 1958.

30th May, 1958

Lieutenant-Colonel A. V. Benton retires, 29th May, 1958.

3rd June, 1958

Lieutenant-Colonel A. L. Atkinson to be Colonel, 10th April, 1958.
Lieutenant-Colonel L. E. Thorpe retires, 1st June, 1958.
Major P. A. Worsnop retires, 3rd June, 1958.
Major (Q.M.) W. B. Edwards to be Lieutenant-Colonel (Q.M.), 7th January, 1958.

6th June, 1958

Captain P. E. A. Montagon retires, 1st May and is granted honorary rank of Major.

10th June, 1958.

Lieutenant-Colonel A. J. N. Atthill, O.B.E., retires on 8th June, 1958, and is granted the honorary rank of Colonel.

Movements — Officers

Major G. H. Wotton, B.A.O.R. to Catterick.
Major B. W. Beale, Wireless Training Squadron to 3 Training Regiment.
Lieutenant-Colonel R. B. S. Eraut, FARELF to retirement.
Major R. H. B. Evans, H.Q., Salisbury Plain District to Depot (HS).
Major J. R. Hamer, SHAPE to Depot (HS).
Major M. A. Philp, FARELF to School of Signals.
Major G. F. M. Pike, 7 Training Regiment to Signal Regiment (T.A.).
Major F. P. Stewart, B.A.O.R. to H.Q., Southern Command.
Lieutenant (Q.M.) S. G. Barnes, First Commission to B.A.O.R.
Captain (Q.M.) A. E. Carter, B.A.O.R. to Malta.
Captain (Tfc. Offr.) H. H. Johns, M.B.E., FARELF to 3 Training Regiment.
Lieutenant (T.O.T.) L. F. Knight, B.A.O.R. to J.A.R.I.C. (U.K.) (Army Element).
Lieutenant (Tfc. Offr.) N. MacLeod, Depot (HS) to Independent Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron.
Major (Q.M.) C. Rolls, FARELF to B.A.O.R.
Major E. M. T. Crump, B.A.O.R. to Depot (HS).
Major P. H. Brown, B.A.O.R. to East Africa.
Major H. McD. Chapman, B.A.O.R. to 4 Training Regiment.
Major F. L. Clarkson, B.A.O.R. to Depot (HS).
Major S. C. Dare, B.A.O.R. to Depot (HS).
Major G. H. Peirson, 4 Training Regiment to School Regiment, School of Signals.
Major G. P. R. Anslow, Northern Command Signal Squadron to Cyprus.
Major J. W. Elston, School of Signals to 7 Training Regiment.
Major R. D. Oram, B.A.O.R. to retirement.
Major R. White, B.A.O.R. to Signal Regiment (T.A.).
Major E. O. Smith, Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment to Depot (HS).
Major (T.O.T.) P. F. C. R. Locke, Western Command S.W.S. to FARELF.
Major D. Galbraith, 5 Training Regiment to H.Q., North Midland District.
Major G. W. Vero, H.Q., Western Command to 3 Training Regiment.
Major A. B. Wheeler, Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment to Depot (HS).
Major K. N. Smart, School of Signals to Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment.
Major A. B. Kennett, H.Q., North Midland District to Depot (HS).
Major B. Roskrow, Ministry of Supply to Malta.

Births

HARTSHORN.—To Captain and Mrs. Hartshorn, a daughter, on 29th April, 1958.

MATTHEWS.—To June, wife of Major R. M. Matthews, a daughter, Mary Jane, at Eastbourne, on 28th May, 1958.

All the following of 2 L. of C. Signal Regiment

NORTHCOTT.—To Corporal and Mrs. D. G. Northcott, a son, David Preston Alexander, at B.M.H., Hostert, on 29th May, 1958.

LOWE.—To Lance-Corporal and Mrs. G. S. Lowe, a son, Ian, at B.M.H., Hostert, on 9th May, 1958.

WALKER.—To Sergeant and Mrs. W. Walker, a son, Paul William, at Greenbank Maternity Hospital (Yorks), on 20th April, 1958.

* * *

NEWMAN.—To Major and Mrs. D. C. Newman, a son, Alistair Michael Charlton, at B.M.H., Kinrara, on 14th March, 1958.

BALDRY.—To Sergeant and Mrs. J. P. Baldry, a daughter, born in Catterick Military Hospital, 7th May, 1958. Margarita Rose.

Marriages

HOPWOOD—STANTON.—Sergeant R. K. Hopwood to Miss Jean Stanton, at St. Cuthbert's Church, South Shields, on 12th April, 1958.

BAYLEY—DERSINSKE.—A/Corporal G. W. Bayley, 2 L. of C. Signal Regiment, to Miss Maria Dersinske, at Lemgo, on 12th May, 1958.

LEAHY—REAY.—Lieutenant-Colonel A. J. Leahy to Miss N. E. Reay, on 14th June, 1958, at St. John's Church, Moor Allerton.

Deaths

COLVIN.—Major J. L. Colvin, of 42, Crosby Green, Liverpool 12, on 16th May, 1958. Life Member of the Association.

MATTHEWS.—Ex-Signalman A. Matthews, of 64, Arundel Street, Liverpool 8, on 20th December, 1957, aged 41 years.

NETHERSOLE.—23537249 Signalman M. S. Nethersole, on 11th May, 1958, in U.K.

GORFIN.—Ex-Driver A. E. Gorfin, of 45, Blackthorne Crescent, Exeter, on 18th February, 1958, aged 41 years.

BROWN.—No. 162 In-Pensioner Joseph Brown, Royal Hospital, Chelsea, on 4th June, 1958, aged 61 years. Served in Royal Signals from 1927 to 1937.

WORRALL.—Lieutenant-Colonel H. Worrall (Retired), at Herford, B.A.O.R., on 25th May, 1958, aged 49 years.

HOOKER.—Ex-Sergeant Arthur C. Hooker, at 22, Courtnell Street, London, W.2, on 9th June, 1958. Served with 3 Divisional Signals at Bulford and during the 1939-45 War.

DARLING.—Lieutenant-Colonel R. R. A. Darling, in Belfast, on 30th May, 1958, aged 61 years.

TINKLER.—259339 Sergeant J. E. Tinkler, on 5th February, 1958, at 15, Rapleys Field, Pirbright, Surrey. Royal Signals, 1926 to 1947. Association 1948 to 1958.

FLADGATE.—On 15th June, 1958, at Inglewood Cottage, Fleet, Major-General Courtenay William Fladgate, C.B.E., aged 67 years.

WILSON.—Major G. W. Wilson, E.R.D., at Bristol, on 30th May, 1958, aged 47 years.

OATHAM.—On 30th April, 1958, ex-Sapper H. Oatham, R.E. Signals, at Orchard Lodge, Anerley Road, Penge, S.E.20, aged 65 years.

ROBERTS.—2307606 ex-Corporal A. J. Roberts, In-Pensioner of the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, on Tuesday, 24th June, 1958, aged 73 years.

Arrivals and Departures

1 Training Regiment

Arrivals: Majors N. W. P. Pearce and S. J. Thompson, Captain E. P. Hughes, Sergeant R. Jagger.

Departures: Sergeants A. Leach, R. C. Houston, L. R. Daines and D. L. Jackson, Staff Sergeant S. R. Mingaud.

2 L. of C. Signal Regiment

Departures: Major G. H. Wotton, Staff Sergeant Hawkshaw, W.O.I Baxter, W.O.II Kemsley, Sergeants Huntingdon, Pilbeam, Berezai, Smith, Bell, Baldwin, Leiper, Riches and Manson.

COLOURED PORTRAITS OF THE COLONEL-IN-CHIEF

Reproductions of the original portrait by Sir Gerald Kelly, K.C.V.O., P.P.A.A., in the Headquarters' Mess of 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., are obtainable, price £2/15/- inclusive of packing and postage (cash with order), from The Secretary, Royal Signals INSTITUTION, 88, Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1. The coloured portrait is 12in. x 17in., the mount is 18½in. x 25in.

The British Legion Journal

This monthly magazine with very wide circulation has offered to publish, briefly, announcements of reunions, dinners, meetings, etc., of Branches of the Royal Signals Association (and, of course, others).

The announcement must reach the Editor, "British Legion Journal," Pall Mall, London, S.W.1, **before the 14th of the month.** The announcement will appear in the Journal of the following month.

BRONZE STATUE OF "JIMMY" FOR SALE

Situated in Edinburgh, the statue is 3ft. high, at present mounted on a 4ft. Billiard Table Leg. The owner has given it to the Association to sell to the highest bidder—minimum £50. The proceeds go—half to the Royal Signals Association and half to a charity nominated by the owner, Major W. J. Main, Royal Signals.

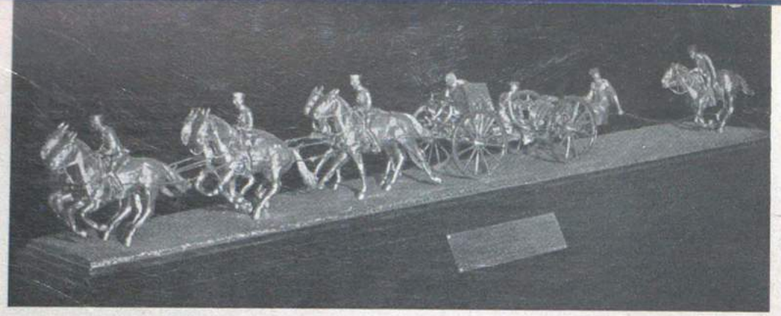
Regiments, Squadrons wishing to purchase, apply: General Secretary, Royal Signals Association, 88, Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1.

* * *

Corporal P. J. Crosbie of "B" Troop, 2 Squadron, C.D.S.R., B.F.P.O. 53, would be glad to hear from any serving personnel interested in collecting and exchanging stamps of any description.

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Silver Cable Wagon



In 1854 the first telegraph wire wagon was designed for Army use in the Crimea. It was a four-wheeled wagon, on the lines of the old farm hay wain and was drawn by two horses. It had a detachable roof which could be used as a pontoon.

By the end of the 19th Century lighter and more mobile vehicles had been produced, including a four-wheeled cable wagon and a two-wheeled cable cart, both designed for "paying out" and "reeling in" field cables.

Towards the end of the South African War a limber type cable wagon, to replace the four-wheeled wagon, was designed in the Telegraph Workshops in Pretoria. This prototype was brought home and experimented with at the Combined Telegraph Battalions' Camp at Lechlade in 1903. A few modifications were incorporated and the cable wagon shown in this model was evolved. It remained in use as the vehicle for laying the heavy field cable from then until cable sections were mechanised in 1937/38. The normal speed of laying was about three miles an hour, but given open country and the necessity, then cable could be laid at a considerably greater speed for short distances. This model is correct in every detail of harness and equipment and shows, besides the three drivers, "No. 2" on the limber, "No. 3" paying out the cable, "No. 4" the brakeman on the perch, and "No. 6" the mounted lineman following up behind to lay the cable in position with his crookstick. It was presented to the Corps by all officers, both past and present, in 1938, and originally was housed in the Royal Signals Officers' Mess, Mons Barracks, Aldershot, being brought to Headquarter Mess after the outbreak of war in 1939.

Forthcoming Events

Royal Signals T.A./A.E.R. Garden Party, Harewood House

23rd August, 1958.

25th National Radio and Television Exhibition

will be held at Earls Court, London, from 27th August to 6th September, 1958.

Association of Harrogate Apprentices

The Annual Reunion is to be held on 13th/14th September, 1958, at the Army Apprentices' School, Harrogate.

Programme of events:

Saturday, 13th September
- 11.30 a.m. Annual General Meeting.
- 2.00 p.m. School Football Match, School XI v. North of England Grammar Schools' XI.
- 7.00 p.m. Dinner and Dance.

Sunday, 14th September
- 9.30 a.m. Church Services.

Dinner and Dance 17/6 per male or 30/- with partner. Acceptances for the dinner cannot be accepted after 25th August, 1958.

All Ex-A/T's who are members are cordially invited to attend, wives may accompany.

Requests for accommodation (male only) should be addressed to "The Commandant," Army Apprentices' School, Harrogate.

Ex-Boys' Dinner, 1958

Saturday, 27th September, 1958, 6.30 for 7.30 p.m., at The Victory Ex-Services' Club, 63/79, Seymour Street, London, W.2 (one minute from Marble Arch station and *first left* up Edgware Road). Lounge suit or uniform. Remittance to Hon. Secretary, F. W. Jacob, Esq., 54 (EA) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A., 40, Ashburnham Road, Bedford, preferably not later than 1st July. Ex-Boys 16/6, wives or other guests 15/-. Cheques/Postal Orders payable "F. W. Jacobs, Ex-Boys' Dinner A/C." Seating limited to 100. Early bookings desirable.

F. G. Strange, *Major (Retd.), Chairman, Ex-Boys' Reunions.*

The White City Tattoo

A Searchlight Tattoo staged at the White City Stadium in London.

Evening Performances 11th, 12th, 13th, 15th August.

Matinee also on Wednesday, August 13th.

About 2,000 performers from the Navy, Army and Royal Air Force will take part.

Tickets and information from Communication Counsellors International, McCann-Erickson House, Fetter Lane, London, E.C.4.

The 1st Essex Signal Regiment, T.A.

are celebrating their 50th Jubilee on Saturday, 4th October, 1958, with a Reception and an "At Home" in the afternoon from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m., followed by an All Ranks "Jubilee Dance" from 8.30 p.m. to midnight. The Royal Signals Band will give a Band concert in the afternoon and will provide the Dance Orchestra in the evening. Apart from serving members of the Regiment and their families, a cordial invitation is extended to anyone with associations with the Regiment in the past and applications for tickets for these two functions should be made to Major J. H. Mansfield, T.D., 1st Essex Signal Regiment, T.A., Selsdon Road, Wanstead, E.11.

Annual Buffet Supper and Reunion

Saturday, 6th December, at the Drill Hall, Duke of York's Headquarters, Chelsea, London, S.W.3 (by courtesy of the Middlesex Yeomanry Signal Regiment, T.A.), from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m.

CORPS BAND SUMMER TOUR, 1958

Touring Band

15th July—20th July	Edinburgh.
21st July—2nd August	Dunfermline.
3rd August—17th August	Glasgow.
21st August—23rd August	Scottish Command Signal Squadron.
24th August—31st August	Edinburgh Festival.
7th September—20th September ...	Eastbourne.
21st September	Worthing.
27th September—28th September ...	Folkestone.
1st October—5th October	B.B.C. Recordings.
6th October	Return to Catterick.

ENGAGEMENTS — THE ROYAL SIGNALS DISPLAY, 1958

16th and 17th July ...	Peterborough Agricultural Society Summer Show.
23rd-26th July ...	The Bath Searchlight Tattoo.
2nd August	Perthshire Agricultural Society.
4th August	Far Forest Agricultural Show, Bewdley.
9th August	Harrogate Fete and Gala.
13th September ...	1st Training Regiment, Royal Signals, Parents' Annual Week-end.

ROYAL SIGNALS LAWN TENNIS, 1958

16 July	R.M.A., Sandhurst	Sandhurst	(A)
17 July	Royal Army Ordnance Corps	Aldershot	(A)
18 July	Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers	Aldershot	(A)
17 Sept.	Staff College, Camberley	Camberley	(A)
18 Sept.	Royal Artillery	Woolwich	(A)

ROYAL SIGNALS CRICKET CLUB, 1958

9th-10th Sept. ... R.A.C. ... ... Oval. Free Admission

Match begins at 11.30 hours.

ROYAL SIGNALS OFFICERS' GOLFING SOCIETY 1958 FIXTURE LIST

18th July	R.A.	Sunningdale.
11th September ...	R.A.M.C.	Swinley Forest.
29th September ...	Autumn Meeting	Hankley Common.
30th September ...	Autumn Meeting	Hankley Common.

ROYAL SIGNALS HOCKEY

The Royal Signals Hockey Trial will be played at Catterick Camp on Friday, 26th September, 1958.

Individuals wishing to be considered for this trial should submit their names, together with playing position and record to:

Captain K. Kirby, Royal Signals, Headquarters' Mess, Royal Signals, Catterick Camp, Yorks., before 12th September, 1958.

Fixtures for the 1958/59 Season are as follows:

Saturday, 27th September, 1958 ...	Thistles	Catterick
Thursday, 23rd October, 1958 ...	R.E.M.E.	Aborfield
Friday, 24th October, 1958	R.E.	Aldershot
Tuesday, 2nd December, 1958 ...	R.A.S.C.	Aldershot
Wednesday, 3rd December, 1958 ...	R.M.A.	Sandhurst
Thursday, 4th December, 1958 ...	Aldershot Services .	Aldershot
Wednesday, 18th February, 1959 ...	R.M.C. of S. ...	Aldershot
Friday, 20th February, 1959	R.A.O.C.	Blackdown
Saturday, 7th March, 1959	Durham University .	Catterick
Wednesday, 25th March, 1959 ...	Welbeck College ...	Welbeck
27th-30th March, 1959	Easter Hockey Festival	Scarborough

The date and venue for the fixture against R.A. are not yet confirmed.

PROMOTIONS

The following substantive promotions were authorised in the Corps during the months of April and May, 1958:

Regimental Duty Roster

To W.O.II	2323039	S Sgt.	(90)	Beardmore, D. G. T.
	2323156	S Sgt.	(270)	Houghton, H. G.
	2326968	A/W.O.II	(400)	Evans, T. W.

Technical Roster

To S Sgt.	2334840	Sgt.	(20	Campbell, R.
	21187634	Sgt.	(30)	Thornborough, R. W. F.
	2549599	Sgt.	(40)	Tombs, D. I.
	2549527	Sgt.	(50)	Gunstone, D. W.
	2549636	Sgt.	(60)	Moran, L. W.
	22286978	A/S Sgt.	(70)	Galbraith, J.
	2324482	Sgt.	(80)	Charlton, J. R.
	2549312	Sgt.	(90)	Hawkes, K. W. E.
	2549534	Sgt.	(100)	Stringer, R.
	2549316	A/S Sgt.	(110)	Pocock, D. C.
	2549586	A/S Sgt.	(112)	Staniford, R.

Foreman of Signals Roster

To W.O.I	14481644	W.O.II	(360)	Wall, J.
	2325436	W.O.II	(41)	Oates, W. E.
To W.O.II	22212052	S Sgt.	(580)	Soward, P. F.

Signal Centre Supervisors Roster

To W.O.II	14498891	S Sgt.	(14)	Chater, J. F.
	2547688	A/W.O.II	(21)	Defazio, O. E. A.

The following accelerated promotions were authorised during the month of April, 1958:

Technical Roster

To S Sgt.	22524863	Sgt.	(270)	Alderson, W. T.

Regimental Duty Roster

To S Sgt.	2549477	Sgt.	(130)	Izod, E. D.
	14441739	A/S Sgt.	(326)	Templeton, J. Y.
	2549608	A/S Sgt.	(1320)	Lloyd, A. C.
	22537398	Sgt.	(2430)	Squince, N. W.

Clerical Roster

To S Sgt.	14859592	Sgt.	(520)	Barlow, D. R.

DELETIONS

Regimental Duty Roster

W.O.II	40	150		
S Sgt.	1340	880	590	

Technical Roster

W.O.II	210									
Sgt.	1570	1660								

Clerical Roster

Sgt.	620	1610

Operating Roster

Sgt.	340	1110	5960	3430	2980	4810	6270	2010	3910	
	4300	750	4810							

General Trade & Duties Roster

Sgt.	2070	730	2462	2530	480	2370

Lineman Roster

Sgt.	30

Foreman of Signals Roster

S Sgt.	520	770	

☆

Holes with a Meaning

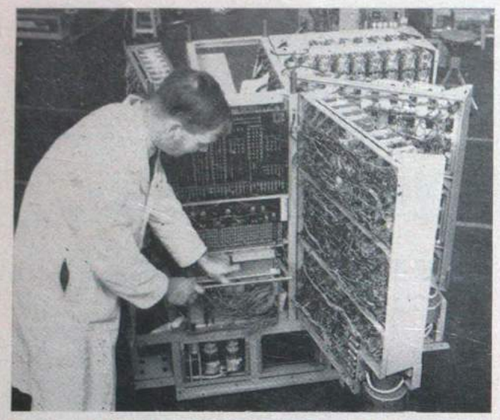
Those trained in Signals will readily appreciate the advantage and importance of coding—not only for security reasons, but more often for identification purposes and for economising space in recording. It is basically by means of coding that vast amounts of statistical data can be processed at high speed, using punched card machinery and techniques. Briefly, the procedure is this: when holes have been punched in specific positions or columns in cards of standard size, electro-mechanical and electronic machines can "read" or sense these holes. For example, provided much of the information is numerically coded the record of a Serviceman's status, qualifications and career can be punched into a Hollerith card which then becomes a semi-permanent record, available for rapid machine processing for purposes of reference, classification or selection. The simple principle of recording data by means of holes with a meaning is the basis on which the whole range of Hollerith equipment, manufactured by the British Tabulating Machine Company, Limited, works.

This method of accurate statistical tabulation using electrical impulses initiated through punched holes, was invented by Dr. Herman Hollerith, who was engaged in work for the American Census Bureau. His system was brought to this country in 1904 and this year the British Tabulating Machine Company, Limited, is celebrating the Golden Jubilee of its foundation.

Progress in machine design and construction was markedly accelerated by the needs of the Services in two World Wars. Now, with the introduction of such advanced machines as the electronic computer, miscalled "an electronic brain," which automatically undertakes scientific and commercial calculations of great complexity, the need for greater technical skill for the



Type 29 Automatic Punch manufactured by The British Tabulating Machine Company Ltd.



Final testing of the Type 542 Electronic Multiplier manufactured by The British Tabulating Machine Company, Ltd.

construction and maintenance of these machines provides exceptional opportunities for the young engineer.

Hollerith equipment has long been used by the Army for producing and maintaining the enormous number of records—both "Q" and "A"—which have to be kept. These range from a continuous checking of overhauls, of all Army vehicles, be they staff cars or tank transporters, to the service and medical records of every man and woman in the Army—and overseas, even of all civilians employed by the Army. On D-Day + 6 a mobile Hollerith installation joined the invasion forces in Normandy, where the ever changing records of casualties, postings and vehicle casualties were kept up-to-date.

Since the war, punched card installations have been established with B.A.O.R., FARELF and M.E.L.F., as well as at home, to deal with the compiling, sorting and tabulation of Army statistics. At any time the cards for any specific group of Servicemen (all those, for example, who speak Russian, or who have been before a W.O.S.B., or have been wounded on active service) can speedily be selected and listed.

At the moment Army accounting is not done by punched card procedures, but it seems likely that within the next four years the entire Army pay calculations will be done by electronic computer, a machine which does arithmetic at speeds measured in milliseconds. Since pay is for the most part a weekly undertaking concerning large numbers of Service personnel, the phenomenal speed at which pay-roll calculations can be performed is an immense and obvious advantage.

At home the Army's Hollerith equipment is operated by both civilian and Army personnel, but overseas installations are staffed entirely by the Army. Both in the Army and in the civilian world of commerce, electronic calculating equipment is becoming more and more important and there seems to be no end to possible developments in this field of electronics.

A CAREER IN MINK

Mink farming as a full time career or profitable spare time occupation increases each year in the British Isles.

We supply breeding stock and instruction on our farm of 1,200 head. 17 miles London on A22.

We shall be pleased to forward brochure on application, visitors always welcome.

FARM
Freer Mink Farms, Ltd.,
Fosterdown,
Godstone,
Surrey.

RESIDENCE
Orchard Cottage,
Portley Lane.
Caterham,
Tel. 3915. Surrey.

United Kingdom

1 TRAINING REGIMENT

Early in the month the North-Eastern Region Branch of the National Blood Transfusion Service paid us another visit and were amply rewarded for their pains.

The first day of the Regimental Rifle Meeting was rained off but lost ground was subsequently recovered and 2 Squadron emerged victors.

A week later the Regimental team competed at the District Meeting and gained second place, a very creditable performance. Praise too is due to the small bore marksmen who came second in the A.R.A. Young Soldiers' Cup. Well done, and now for Bisley.

Badminton players retained the District trophy when they defeated near neighbours, 7th Training Regiment, by three games to nil in the final.

Water polo players and swimmers continue to make good progress in friendly fixtures, while the tennis stars advanced a stage in the Garrison and District Tournaments at the expense of 4th Training Regiment and 16/5th Lancers.

Athletes too are girding up their loins in readiness for the District Meeting in June.

3 TRAINING REGIMENT

June has arrived, and the Regiment—unlike the weather—is aflame with action. In addition to the ceaseless training of Operators, our energies are being stretched by preparation for our Regimental Week-end, 14th-15th June. Following upon that, we have been honoured by being called upon to line the route during the Queen's visit to Lincoln, on 27th June. Then, of course, there is the small matter of "Admin." to face on 4th July.

The sports associated with winter are now over, but before passing on, it may be said that all round the Unit performed with some measure of success.

The Hockey XI, which started off the season rather badly, made a timely revival to win the North Midland District Cup. District Commander, General R. E. Goodwin, C.B.E., D.S.O., who presented the cup to the captain, Lieutenant-Colonel A. C. R. Stead, O.B.E., said: "How encouraging and pleasant it was to see a Unit team winning a District Trophy, when it was lead by its Commanding Officer." The team followed up this success by winning the District Six-a-Side.

The rugger season having drawn to a close, a brief review of the season is quite interesting. Despite never having more than 20 players to choose from, we managed to have a successful season. Having reached the fifth round of the Army Cup, we met and were defeated by 1st Training Regiment, Royal Signals. In the Northern Command Cup we again met 1st Training Regiment, Royal Signals, in the semi-final, and lost. However, we succeeded in winning both the North Midland Cups, and the Seven-a-Side team also annexed the Lincolnshire Open Seven-a-Side Cup. Of our team, no fewer than five saw a rugger ball for the first time last September, and all credit must go to a team of triers for giving us good entertainment throughout the season. (Even the local newspaper quoted: "The Royal Signals played good attacking Rugby"). Our ground is at present being used for "Kick-ball," but without doubt, the typical English summer will wash away any bad odours that accrue.

Doesn't Sergeant Edwards's broken neck look good in plaster?

Athletics, cricket and tennis are now flourishing. The potentially good cricket team, in which there are four Corps players, has already played four matches, two of which were won convincingly, whilst two were narrowly lost. Unfortunately, the match in the first round of the Northern Command Cup was one of the latter.

May saw the departure, on retirement, of Major Chris Collett, after 31 years' service with the Corps. Chris is well-known throughout the Corps for his sporting record—particularly as a hockey player, and as an outstanding shot. In latter years he has produced a soccer team of the highest Regimental standard. Our best wishes are extended to him in his new appointment with a firm erecting electricity cables.

Another notable departure was Major Winter, who has been exalted to D.A.A. & Q.M.G., at the Training Brigade. We hope that he and his family will enjoy their tour in Catterick as much as we have appreciated their presence here in Lincoln.

S.S.M. Johnston has left and is on his way to Malta. Sergeant Dickenson has departed for the Middle East after five years with the Regiment. We wish both these seniors well.

OBITUARY

We regret to announce the passing of the Officer Training Wing on 1st July, 1958.

This is the final contribution that the Officer Training Wing will make to THE WIRE. The time has at last, regrettably arrived to write Finis. The last act has ended, the curtain is down and it merely remains for the few remaining props to be despatched and for the last members of the company to depart.

This Unit has always been an extremely happy one, and it is therefore particularly sad to see it close finally after 19 years' service. There must be many members of the Corps, both past and present, who have memories of service with this Wing. It is felt that this opportunity must be taken to record briefly the achievements of the Wing, at both work and play.

On the outbreak of war in 1939 two Signals OCTUs were formed; one at Aldershot and the other at Catterick Camp. In January, 1942, the two Units were combined and were located at Marne Lines, Catterick Camp, and this has been the home of the Unit ever since. During the war years no fewer than 3,375 officers were commissioned, including officers of other nationalities.

In July, 1948 the Unit was re-designated "The Officer Training Wing" and commenced the training of men for National Service Commissions. The grand total of men trained and commissioned is 6,282 of which 6,187 were commissioned into the Corps. The last course to be commissioned was Course 362 on the 7th March, 1958, and this course completed its training on 10th May, 1958.

Instruction has also been given to Regular YOs, Foremen of Signals and School Cadet Forces.

The bare statistics, although impressive, cannot possibly tell the complete story. Much of the real history of the Wing will not be found recorded on paper, but has probably been recounted by ex-students over the years. Tales of line schemes—the cry "a sense of urgency, gentlemen" when all are at the last gasp with the limbs aching, the lungs wheezing and perspiration trickling; tales of "Sky Rockets" and other varieties; tales of commissioning dinners, commissioning parades, farewell parties and dinner nights. Tales of inter-course boxing matches, Wing Fetes and, of course, Crowded Hours. All these will be remembered long after the statistics have been forgotten.

Instructors will be remembered in varying degrees according to their individual idosyncrasies. Past instructors will also have their memories—unfortunately a "howler" book has not been kept with other records—one recent one however springs readily to mind. Apart from technical instruction, students have been taught power of expression: in a Wireless Examination Answer paper the following was found:—

"SECOND CHANNEL INTERFERENCE. This occurs when double the frequency of one transmitted frequency is received by sets working on that higher frequency which is twice the lower one."

In the sphere of sport the Wing has excelled and a list of the more notable achievements are appended.

To all those who have gone through the mill, to those instructors who helped them and to the cadre staff a debt of gratitude is due: for it was they who made the Officer Training Wing worth remembering. To them all, and to the various Formations, Units and Departments with which the Wing has had happy associations—thank you, good luck, and good-bye.

Sporting Achievements

1942	Hockey—Garrison Winter League	Winners
1943	Cross Country—Garrison Inter-Unit Competition ...	Winners
	Rugby—Garrison League	Winners
	Rugby—Garrison Knock-out	Winners
	Rugby—Garrison Seven-a-side	Winners
	Road Walking—Garrison Inter-Unit Competition ...	Winners
	Hockey—Garrison Knock-out Competition	Winners
	Soccer—Garrison Knock-out Competition	Winners
1944	Hockey—Garrison Inter-Unit Cup	Winners
	Cross Country—Garrison Inter Unit Cup	Winners
	Rugby—Garrison Seven-a-side	Winners
	Swimming (Water Polo)—Garrison Inter-Unit Competition	Winners
	Athletics—Garrison Challenge Cup	Winners
1945	Rugby—Garrison Seven-a-side	Winners
	Rugby—Garrison Inter-Unit Competition	Tied First
1946	Rugby—Catterick and MR Sub District	Winners
	Rugby—Northern Command	Semi-finalists
1947	Shooting—Garrison League	Winners
	Rugby—Army Challenge Cup	Semi-finalists
	Rugby—Northern Command Challenge Cup ...	Runners-up
	Association Football — Northumbrian District Challenge Cup	Runners-up
1948	Shooting—Garrison League	Winners
	Athletics — Northumbrian District Inter-Unit Championships	Runners-up
1949	Squash—Catterick Officers' Club Challenge Cup ...	Winners
	Rugby—Northern Command Inter Unit Challenge Cup	Runners-up
	Athletics—Northern Command Inter-Unit Competition	Runners-up
1950	Athletics — Catterick District Inter-Unit Team Championship	Winners
	Riding—Army Hunter Trials.	
1951	Athletics — Catterick District Inter-Unit Team Championship	Winners
	Cricket — Catterick District Inter-Unit Team Championship	Winners
	Cricket—Northern Command Inter-Unit Team Championship	Winners
	Golf — Catterick District Inter-Unit Team Competition	Winners
	Rugby—Northumbrian District Seven-a-Side ...	Winners
	Soccer — Catterick District Inter-Unit League, Div. II	Winners
	Shooting—Catterick District Rifle Meeting.	
1952	Cricket—Catterick District Inter-Unit Championship	Winners
	Golf—Catterick District Inter Unit Competition ...	Winners
	Hockey—Northumbrian District Summer League ...	Winners
	Rugby—Northumbrian District Seven-a-side ...	Winners
	Association Football—Northumbrian District Inter-Unit League, Div. II	Runners-up
1953	Rugby—Northumbrian District Inter Unit Challenge Cup	Winners
	Association Football—Northumbrian District Junior "A" League	Winners
1954	Cricket — Northumbrian District Knock-out Competition	Runners-up
	Hockey—Northumbrian District League	Runners-up
	Hockey—Northumbrian District Cup	Winners
	Rugby—Northumbrian District Cup	Winners
	Rugby—Northumbrian District Seven-a-side ...	Runners-up
	Rugby—Northern Command Inter-Unit Competition	Winners
	Association Football—Northumbrian District Junior League	Runners-up
	Association Football — Swaledale League — Arylow Cup	Winners
1955	Athletics — Northern Command Inter-Unit Competition	Runners-up
	Athletics — Northumbrian District Inter-Unit Competition	Runners-up
	Cricket — Northumbrian District Knock-out Competition	Winners
	Shooting—Northumbrian District Officers', Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Cup	Winners
	Tennis — Northumbrian District Inter-Unit Championships	Winners
	Water Polo — Northern Command Inter-Unit Championships	Winners
	Rugby—Northern Command Inter-Units Seven-a-side	Winners
	Hockey—Northern Command Inter-Unit Competition	Winners
1956	Athletics — Northern Command Inter-Unit Championships	Third
	Cross Country—Northumbrian District Inter-Unit Championships	Runners-up
	Hockey — Northumbrian District Inter-Unit Competition	Runners-up
	Hockey — Northern Command Inter-Unit Competition	Winners
	Rugby—Northern Command Knock-out Competition	Semi-finalists
	Rugby—Northern Command Seven-a-side	Runners-up
	Rugby—Northumbrian District Seven-a-side ...	Runners-up
	Squash—Garrison League	Winners
	Tennis—Northern Command Inter-Unit Team Competition	Runners-up
	Water Polo—Northern Command Championships ...	Finalists
	Cricket—Northumbrian District Competition ...	Winners
1957	Rugby—Northumbrian District Inter-Unit Cup ...	Runners-up
	Rugby—Northumbrian District Seven-a-side ...	Winners
	Hockey—Northumbrian Command Inter-Unit Cup	Runners-up

	Tennis—Garrison Inter-Unit Team Competition ...	Winners
	Tennis—Northumbrian District Unit Team Competition	Runners-up
1958	Basketball—Northumbrian District Inter-Unit Competition	Winners
	Basketball—Northern Command Inter-Unit	Semi-finalists

* * *

The above history of a very notable Unit of Royal Signals would be incomplete without a list of the Commanding Officers, and this has been taken from the time when officers started being trained in Marne Lines, Catterick Camp.

152 O.C.T.U.

Lt.-Col. H. V. von S. Thorne, O.B.E.	Oct., 1939 — Jan., 1941
Lt.-Col. J. R. Pinsent, D.S.O.	Jan., 1941 — Jan., 1942

150 O.C.T.U.

Col. W. H. N. Dent, M.B.E.	Jan., 1942 — Sept., 1944
Lt.-Col. R. Postill, T.D.	Sept., 1944 — Sept., 1945

Royal Signals O.C.T.U.

Lt.-Col. J. M. S. Tulloch, O.B.E.	Sept., 1945 — Sept., 1946
Lt.-Col. C. D. Gardiner	Sept., 1946 — Sept., 1948

Officer Training Wing

Lt.-Col. C. D. Gardiner	July, 1948 — Jan., 1950
Lt.-Col. M. A. Charlton, O.B.E.	Jan., 1950 — Oct., 1952
Lt.-Col. G. S. K. Maydon	Nov., 1952 — Dec., 1955
Lt.-Col. C. H. Howarth, O.B.E., T.D.	Dec., 1955 — June, 1958

3 INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT

Taking full advantage of the clement weather being enjoyed in Essex at present, we find ourselves busily engaged in field training and when time permits, our sporting activities.

Our swimming enthusiasts surprised us all by winning their first polo match of the season against a Field Regiment, Royal Artillery, the Garrison favourites. We hope they carry on the good work when they flip their fins against Command Workshops later this month.

Between Exercises we managed to fit in a Regimental Sports Day. This year's gladiators proved to be Lieutenant Rayner, Staff Sergeant Pearson and Craftsman Stone. Lieutenant Rayner, although closely challenged by Captain Paterson, managed to knock many valuable seconds off his last year's records in the track events, and Staff Sergeant Pearson, a great one for throwing his weight, managed to throw it a further 2½ inches this year. Craftsman Stone is to be congratulated on his magnificent throw of 141ft. 8in. with the javelin.

A fair proportion of the Regiment have recently suffered the rigours of London travel in order to visit the Royal Tournament. Despite the 'bus strike, all seemed to enjoy the trip and returned to Colchester in high spirits ready to incorporate tournament tactics in their field training. It will be most interesting to see "K" Troop try their hand at tossing Saracens from one side of the river to the other.

The next contingent to visit the city from Colchester will be the Wives' Club, who intend to leave their knitting and babies, etc., in the capable hands of their better halves while they see the current hit, "My Fair Lady," and generally do the town.

Mess life is thriving as usual; the Sergeants' Mess inviting the Corporals to a games evening which developed along the customary lines and terminated in a questionable draw. This was followed later in the month by the Corporals' annual dance in the Garrison Theatre, which was attended in strength by the senior N.C.O.s.

Another notable event in the Sergeants' Mess was Sergeant Mullins' bachelor party. He weathered the storm very well in spite of many Micky Fins before he eventually retired to the seclusion of the coat rack for a little snooze. We are glad to report that a week later he finally recovered and was promoted to the state of marital bliss by the Rector of Colchester. We wish him and his wife all the very best for their future happiness.

Our culinery staff continue to excel themselves by offering self-service in the dining room, sometimes with as many as seven alternative dishes. Chicken and ham being quite common amongst a wide variety of other tasty dishes. If there is any truth in the saying that the Army marches on its stomach then with the compliments of the Messing staff this Regiment will go a long way.

U.K. COMCAN SIGNAL REGIMENT

3 Squadron. As I write, in flaming June, the rain is battering down on the old tin roof. I hope the cat is inside.

Occupants of Married Quarters have been busy getting gardens in shape and their civilian neighbours cannot understand the feverish activity.

The Archaeology Club has been fortunate in securing the promise of a visit from Professor Atkinson, ex-Reading University lecturer. The Professor, now retired locally, will, of course, be a most valued lecturer on the Roman Legion that was camped in this area and from whom all our valuable "finds" no doubt originated.

Whit week-end saw "The Bampton Shirt Race" once again and the Squadron entered three teams. This race entails the drinking of beer at ten public-houses en route, with competitors dressed in a motley of apparel, whilst pushing a pram. Two of our entries were second, namely Corporals Gray and Cripps. They have not yet recovered from the effort! The S.S.M. has agreed to count it as annual P.E. training.

We welcome from 2 Training Regiment W.O.II Farquhar, who has taken over from W.O.II O'Connor.

Congratulations to Sergeant and Mrs. Simpson on the birth of a son, Adrian James.

4 Squadron. So much has happened at Cobbett Hill since last we went to press that it is difficult to know where to begin. However, here are some of the events that may interest our old friends.

The Administrative Inspection is over (great sighs of relief), all went very well. The Inspecting Officer, Brigadier C. H. McVittie, C.B.E., seemed pleased with our efforts.

Our new cookhouse is well and truly functioning at long last. We are successfully operating the self-service system and everyone appears to be very satisfied with the standard of messing. The new Sergeants' Mess is also open and much activity to make the place "really comfortable" continues.

We have had a recent visit from the Director of Telecommunications, Major-General E. S. Cole, C.B.E., and a brief visit from the G.O.C. Aldershot District.

Our monthly heath fire was quickly dealt with by the Squadron, assisted by the local fire brigade. This time the flames came a little too near the camp—not near enough—"take that man's name Sergeant-Major."

A social evening was held recently by the Corporals' Mess and was attended by most members and their wives or lady friends.

Our crack shots are training with great enthusiasm for the Royal Signals, Southern Command Small Arms Meeting, where we hope to successfully defend our trophy.

Congratulations to Staff Sergeant and Mrs. Redhead on the birth of a daughter.

We extend our good wishes to Sergeant and Mrs. Hitchmough on posting to Catterick, and wish Sergeant Hitchmough success on the F.O.S. Course.

Careers and Opportunity

(IMPORTANT: Anyone obtaining employment through answering advertisements in THE WIRE *must notify the Employment Section, Royal Signals Association, 88, Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1.*

Members are reminded that they can ensure prompt notification of any vacancies likely to interest them by registering with the Employment Section. Jobs advertised in THE WIRE *are only a small proportion of those received).*

Government of the Bahamas requires Assistant Superintendent of Police to administer and control Police Radio System, Control Room and cars and to instruct and train staff. Applications invited from retiring or retired Officers of Royal Signals, aged 35-45, with experience as Radio Control Officer and knowledge of radio theory and maintenance. Appointment on contract for one tour of three years with prospects of further tours. Salary £1,050-1,500 according to experience. Uniform allowance £50 per annum. Free quarters with hard furniture. Free passages for officer, wife and up to two children. Four weeks' leave per annum, to be taken locally or at end of tour. No direct taxation. Summary of personal particulars to Director of Recruitment, Colonial Office, London, S.W.1, quoting BCD 55/27/01.

Continued on page 219

ROYAL SIGNALS, NORTHERN COMMAND

Exercise "Smoke Signal IV"

The Chief Signal Officer held his annual exercise for Royal Signals Officers (Regular and T.A.) during the week-end, 26th/27th April, 1958.

The theme of the exercise was Radio Relay, a subject which though familiar to most regulars was novel to the majority of the Territorial Army Officers. The exercise was attended by over one hundred officers of whom fourteen were W.R.A.C. (T.A.).

The exercise started with a symposium which covered Radio Relay tactics, technicalities and security. In the chair was Major A. R. Glanvill, T.D., and the panel comprised Major John Elston (tactics), Major Dennis Wellings (security) and Captain Richard Gilbertson (technical). Their performance in putting across in plain language the basic principles of Radio Relay, its capabilities and its limitations, was excellent. On Saturday afternoon two practical demonstrations were staged, the first comprising a tour of part of the Northern Command Radio Relay overlay installations, and the second the 90 Signal Regiment demonstration of the new range wireless sets. The third part of the exercise on Sunday, 27th April, consisted of a problem for the use of Radio Relay in a defensive role. The syndicate's answers showed that the instructional portion of the exercise had been effective and the discussion period which followed was lively and interesting. At the end of the exercise the G.O.C.-in-C. Northern Command, Lieutenant-General Sir Richard Goodbody, K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O., congratulated all concerned on the excellent attendance at the Exercise and said a few words about the reorganisation of the Regular Army.

On Saturday night a dinner night was held in Imhpal Barracks where the principal guests were Colonel G. J. Underwood, T.D., D.L., Hon. Colonel of 21 (NM) Corps Signal Regiment (T.A.) and Colonel W. L. Hey, T.D., Hon. Colonel of 49 (WR) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment (T.A.). The Corps trumpeters and small orchestra were in attendance and a considerable show of silver was loaned by all units taking part.

Royal Signals Northern Command Rifle Meeting

A Royal Signals Northern Command Rifle Meeting for Regular and T.A. Units of Northern Command was held at Strensall on 17th May. The main items of the meeting were a Pool Bull Competition, an open Team Championship for teams of five of any rank per unit (comprising 10 rounds Application, 10 round Snap and 10 rounds Rapid practices), an Individual Championships between the ten best shots in the Team event, and a Falling Plate Competition open to teams of four per unit. There was a very satisfactory entry of fourteen teams for the Team event including a W.R.A.C. Signals (T.A.) team from 1 Command (M) Signal Regiment (T.A.).

The weather was kind to us, competition was keen, and the arrangements were excellent, especially the efficiency of the butt party which was very kindly provided by 5 Training Regiment. Results were as follows:

The Hermes Team Challenge Cup (presented by the C.S.O.) —Winner: Northern Command Signal Squadron. Runners-up: 2 Northern Command (M) Signal Regiment (T.A.) "B" Team.

Individual Championship—Winner: Sergeant Gosling (49 Divisional Signal Regiment (T.A.)). Runner-up: Captain MacGillivray (Northern Command Signal Squadron).

Falling Plates—Winner: 49 (WR) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment (T.A.) "A" Team. Runners-up: 50 (N) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment (T.A.) "A" Team.

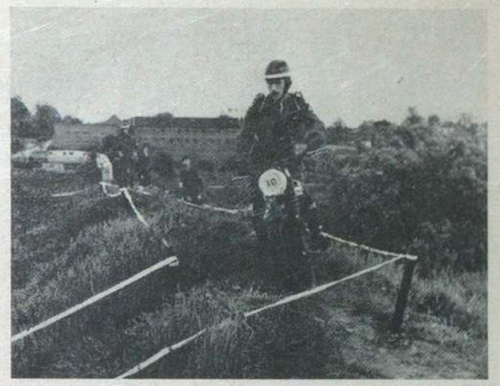
In the Pool Bull Competition seven competitors shared the prize with 1 Bull each.

At the conclusion of the Meeting the C.S.O. congratulated units on the large turn-out and thanked those teams which had come such a long way to take part. He said he was particularly pleased to see W.R.A.C. members of 1 Northern Command (M) Signal Regiment (T.A.) taking part.

The presentation of the prizes by Mrs. Hoysted ended a most successful and enjoyable day.

Royal Signals Northern Command Motor Cycle Trial

A Royal Signals Northern Command Motor Cycle Championship for Regular and T.A. Royal Signals units, other than the School of Signals and Training Brigade, was held on 18th May, 1958. The course included a circuit of 75 miles between York-Ripon and return, and a total of ten hazards; six of which were located in the area of 5 Training Regiment's barracks and four near Imphal Barracks, York. 5 Training Regiment most kindly assisted in all the arrangements at Ripon under the supervision of the Clerk of the Course, Major G. P. R. Anslow, whilst Northern Command Signal Squadron were responsible for the "base" arrangements and the four hazards at York.



[*Photo: Maurice L. Baker, York*

Captain J. P. Harrison, 49 Inf Div Signal Regt (TA).

Twenty-nine riders representing eight teams and five individual entrants faced the starter at 9.30 a.m. on a fine Sunday morning. The turn-out of the riders was judged to be very good indeed.

The results were as follows:—

The Mercury Team Challenge Cup—2 Northern Command (M) Signal Regiment (T.A.) "A" Team—56 deductions.

2nd Team—49 Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment (T.A.) "A" Team—63 deductions.

3rd Team—50 Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment (T.A.)—88 deductions.

1st Individual—Sergeant K. R. S. Stockdale, 2 Northern Command (M) Signal Regiment (T.A.)—10 deductions.

2nd Individual—Sergeant R. Gilmour, 50 Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment (T.A.)—12 deductions.

3rd Individual—Sergeant M. Woodcock, 10 Wireless Training Squadron—14 deductions.

The Mercury Challenge Cup, given by the C.S.O., and awards to placed teams and individual riders, were kindly presented by Mrs. Hoysted. The C.S.O., speaking at the end of the meeting, said that after this first Royal Signals Motor Cycle Championship he hoped to see more Royal Signals teams at the head of the prize lists in the District and Command trials.



[*Photo: Maurice L. Baker, York*

Sergeant M. Woodcock, 10 Wireless Training Sqn.



The Representative Colonel Commandant inspects No. 2 Squadron.



Lieutenant Colonel R. G. Baker, O.B.E., Major General R. F. H. Nalder, C.B., O.B.E. and Miss E. Roome, B.E.M.

Junior Leaders Regiment

Welcome news is the increase in the number of boys who have joined the Regiment recently. Recruit Troop has been bulging at the seams, and an overflow was placed under the wing of No. 1 Squadron, who coped admirably with the situation and produced a Recruit "pass-off" of very high standard. Our present strength of boys is the highest since December, 1955.

We were honoured recently by a visit from the Representative Colonel Commandant, Major-General R. F. H. Nalder, C.B., O.B.E.

The opportunity was taken to hold a Regimental Parade, during which the Colonel Commandant, on behalf of H.M. The Queen, presented to Miss E. Roome, W.V.S., the British Empire Medal, recently awarded for her services to this Regiment. After the parade, General Nalder saw the Unit at normal work and games, and spoke to many of the boys and staff.

The Unit has seen many changes of Permanent Staff lately, and the accompanying photograph of the Warrant Officers and Sergeants will be of interest.

For those like us, who have come to regard R.S.M. Thompson, M.B.E., not only as a tower of strength, but as a permanent fixture in this Unit, the news of his impending retirement at the end of the summer will come as an unwelcome surprise.

To the news of Mr. Thompson's departure must be added that of our Adjutant, Major D. E. Higgins, Captain V. S. Smith and Lieutenant P. E. Riding, all of whom leave on posting in the next few weeks, and go with our best wishes and thanks for jobs done well.

The continuing progress of the 40 boys training for the Duke of Edinburgh's Award has prompted Sergeant Pilkington, our Orderly Room Sergeant, and Sergeant Osborne, to attend a civilian mountaineering course. We shall endeavour to get them to produce an account of their exertions for inclusion in these notes in lieu of a "Course Report."

As we go to press, furious activity is taking place here, at Denbury, in preparation for Annual Camp and Parents' Day, which follows shortly afterwards. Of which, more next time.

Signals Sergeants Exposed

By Sergeant T. C. Pilkington,
Junior Leaders Regiment

It's not everyone's idea of a holiday, to spend a week mountaineering in North Wales, at least not an organised one. Working then, on the assumption that you must try anything once, we accepted the advice of some, and ignored those who only tried to give us the benefit of their extensive knowledge of nothing, we applied for a Beginners' Course, run by The Mountaineering Association. My companion in this perilous step was Sergeant "Ossie" Osborne, late of the M.T., and now the proud possessor of a Gym.

There is a fair selection of places to choose from, where you can stay, varying from North Wales to Skye; we chose the former for two reasons; firstly, because it is only 281 miles to the Llanberis Pass, and secondly because that is the limit of Ossie's car. Our joining instructions arrived in good time, and I was pleased to see that it included a map of the area, showing exactly where our guest house was situated, an invaluable piece of equipment when travelling in Wales—for a non-resident.

Coed Gwydr in the Llanberis Pass was our goal, situated right on the road, and commanding a magnificent view of Crib Goch, with its famous pinnacles, and from where, early in the morning we were able to see the engine chugging its way up to the summit of Snowdon. Mrs. Lynas-Smith was our hostess. During the week she spared no effort in her attempts to make our stay as comfortable and happy as possible, by no means an easy task, but she earned the heartfelt thanks of all who were on the course.

The normal number for a course of this nature varies from four to eight. We numbered seven. Assembly day is Saturday, with no set time to arrive, but everyone managed to be seated for the first evening meal. Sunday is a rest day, no doubt there have been courses who took advantage of this, but we were drunk with enthusiasm, and ventured forth. We had chosen an easy route over the Glyders, and spent six hours walking and scrambling in the mist and rain, and were thoroughly soaked for our pains. That evening, our instructor, Fred Taylor, from Capel Curig, arrived to introduce himself.

Briefly he outlined the course. Two days' walking and rock scrambling and three days' rope climbing. He was satisfied with our equipment, and pleased with the fact that we all wore Vibrams (Commando soled boots), taking care to point out their limitations on greasy rock.

On Monday morning we assembled beneath Tryfan, with a clear blue sky above and the prospects of a wonderful day ahead. We walked, scrambled and climbed our way to the summit, each little climb having its own degree of exposure, and all calculated to inspire confidence, not only in our guide, but, more important, in ourselves. At the top of the mountain lie two rocks, Adam and Eve. It appears that if you climb one, then you have, in fact, reached the summit; of course, we had not only to climb one, but jump on to the other. Various methods were adopted to overcome this problem, varying from stepping across and only just making it, to jumping over the gap and nearly overshooting the objective, much to the amusement of those who had done it, and the alarm of those whose turn had yet to come. After lunch we climbed up the Bristly Ridge to Glyder Fach, across to the Cantilever Stone, Castel Gwynt and Glyder Fawr, finally scrambling down the Gribin Ridge to Ogwen and home. A very energetic day, but extremely pleasant.

Tuesday was our first full rope-climbing day, Tryfan being again the objective. With seven students strung up on the climbs, it took us all our time to complete two, the Pulpit and the Rowan. Neither of the climbs involved a great deal of exposure, but each presented new problems to tax our untrained minds and bodies. We learnt the correct way to handle 100-foot of rope, the knots to tie, how and when to call. We searched for footholds and scraped around for handholds, with the instructor keeping a watchful eye on us all the time. By demonstration, we learned how to balance, leaning out from the rock face, using only small hand-holds, finger-holds in places, and how important it was at times to "stick your bottom out" and dig your toes in. At each pitch we found ourselves gaining confidence, and enjoying each new situation, although viewing some with a certain degree of trepidation at first. After the final climb, we were fortunate enough to see the R.A.F. Mountain Rescue Team having an afternoon out, and ascending the Milestone Buttress direct route with amazing speed.

Wednesday was Snowdon Horseshoe day. Our instructor has very seldom done this route in fine weather, and who were we to disappoint him. It was misty, it showered, and a stiff breeze was blowing. There are several ways of doing this famous walk. It appeared to us that our way was deliberately the hardest. We climbed Crib Goch, and it pinnacles. Perhaps we were fortunate in having the mist as our companion. The feeling of exposure from here is quite alarming, we were informed. As we slithered and swayed our way across the very narrow ridge, we heard the guide say: "If you do fall, fall to the left, please." From Cib-y-ddysal we "Bradshawed" to the Summit Hotel, closed for refreshments, where we squatted on the floor in wet clothes and partook of our packed lunches. I understand that there is a very fine view to be had from this point; outside that is—we were unable to see more than 50 yards in front of us, and then there was only more mist. The Horseshoe then carries on over Lliwedd, down to Llyn Lydaw to Pen-y-pass. We ended the day in the Everest Room at the Pen-y-Gwryd Hotel, where the roof panels bear witness to the visits of famous climbers: John Hunt, Tom Weir, Joe Brown and Petula Clarke, and some strange scrawlings by members of a T.A. Parachute Battalion.

On Thursday we did our first difficult climb, the direct route of the Milestone Buttress on Tryfan. All our previous lessons were brought sharply home to us when we found that the instructor intended to leave us more on our own, and find our own way up in parts. This proved most amusing at times, with the ropes either being stretched taut, whilst some irate climber yelled for more slack, or snaked dangerously over the rocks, whilst the belayer day-dreamed in the hot sunshine. The final chimney of the climb was fairly strenuous, the first two footholds being wet, boots slithered about and sweating faces appeared as if from nowhere after a very delicate hand traverse over a steep drop, to meet the amused face of the instructor, quietly having a smoke on the luncheon stone. Our final hour was spent on the pinnacles of Capel Curig abseiling. This movement entails "walking backwards" down the rock face, a manoeuvre guaranteed to "bring out the butterflies," when attempted by the nervous for the first time.



The last day came all too suddenly. We were to climb, again on Tryfan, the North Buttress Route, a longer climb this time, with a little more exposure. We had a high wind, and it hailstoned for a short period. It was my misfortune to be last on the climb, and stood shivering on ledges paying out the wet rope, watching the backsides of the other members of the party disappear up chimneys, over slabs and around ridges. At one point there was a considerable drop below. The move out and around the belay stance was awkward and quite tricky. As I stood paying out the rope into space, as it seemed, a voice from thence said: "Have I just done that?" That remark was probably just what the instructor wanted to hear. The fact that someone had sufficient confidence to make the initial move and not be concerned too much about the exposure.

The course is not intended to make first-class rope climbers, it tends rather, to whet your appetite for the sport. From it you learn the basic principles, your progress then depends on your own ability, and the time you can spare to carry out developing the technique. The Association provides a rope, the remainder of the equipment is not expensive. The accommodation is good, the food excellent. The weather, cannot, unfortunately, be guaranteed, but the Mountaineering Association does all it possibly can to make your stay both enjoyable and worthwhile.

Warrant Officers and Sergeants, Junior Leaders Regiment

Back Row :—Sergeants Osborne, Wingate, McClure, Batty, Greenwood, Keany, Gill, Penberthy, Hopkins, Izod, Simpson, Dobbin, Goodall, Innes.
Centre Row :—Sergeants Watkins, Yates, Cunningham, Tearse, Staff Sergeants Routledge, Thwaites, Sergeants George, Gray, Baxter, Eldridge, Pilkington, Saxby, Turner.
Front Row :—Staff Sergeant Watson, S.Q.M.S. Humphries, B.E.M., S.S.Ms. Cox, Routledge, Irving, R.Q.M.S. Bennett, R.S.M. Thompson, M.B.E., Lieutenant Colonel R. G. Baker, O.B.E., W.O.I Braithwaite, W.O.II Bailey, W.O.II Wheatley, Q.M.S.I. Vernon, Staff Sergeants Wood, Howe, White.



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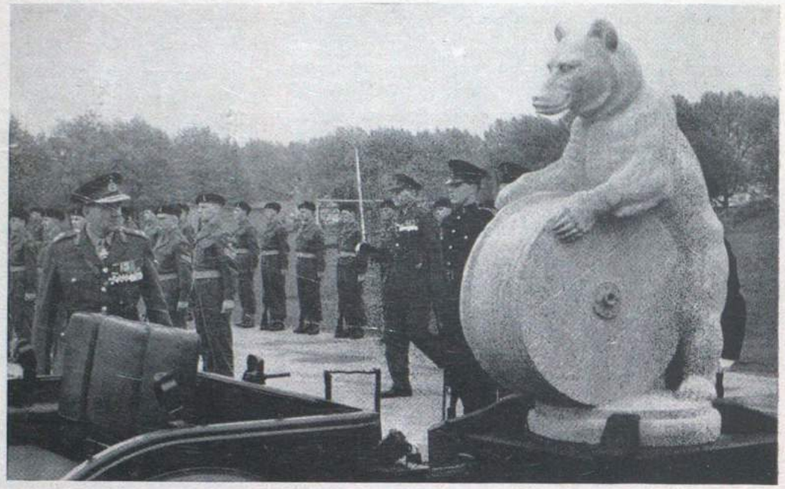
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18 Army Group Signal Regiment



Left to right : Major-General A. E. Brocklehurst, C.B., D.S.O., Corporal A. W. Charlton and Staff-Sergeant J. T. Walker (Left Marker and Left Guide of No. 1 (Parade) Squadron) and Major J. C. Alcock (No. 1 (Parade) Squadron Commander)

WEDNESDAY, 28th May, 1958, was quite a day for the regiment. Exactly six months after the original Berlin Cable Bear had been handed back to the Deutsche Fernkabel-Gesellschaft, the promised replica was received into the regiment with much ceremony.

The connection between the regiment and the Cable Bear is sufficiently well-known not to need repeating here. In the January 1958 issue of THE WIRE the main outline was given, and information subsequently received from many quarters has added quite a lot of detail to some otherwise rather bald patches.

The departure of Bruno last November was ceremonious but also rather mournful, for he had been with us for twelve years. The arrangements were made at short notice, and apart from the presence of the Director of the Deutsche Fernkabel-Gesellschaft, with some of his colleagues, and a large contingent of the press, it was a purely family affair. The arrival of Bruno II was quite a different matter and plans were made well in advance.

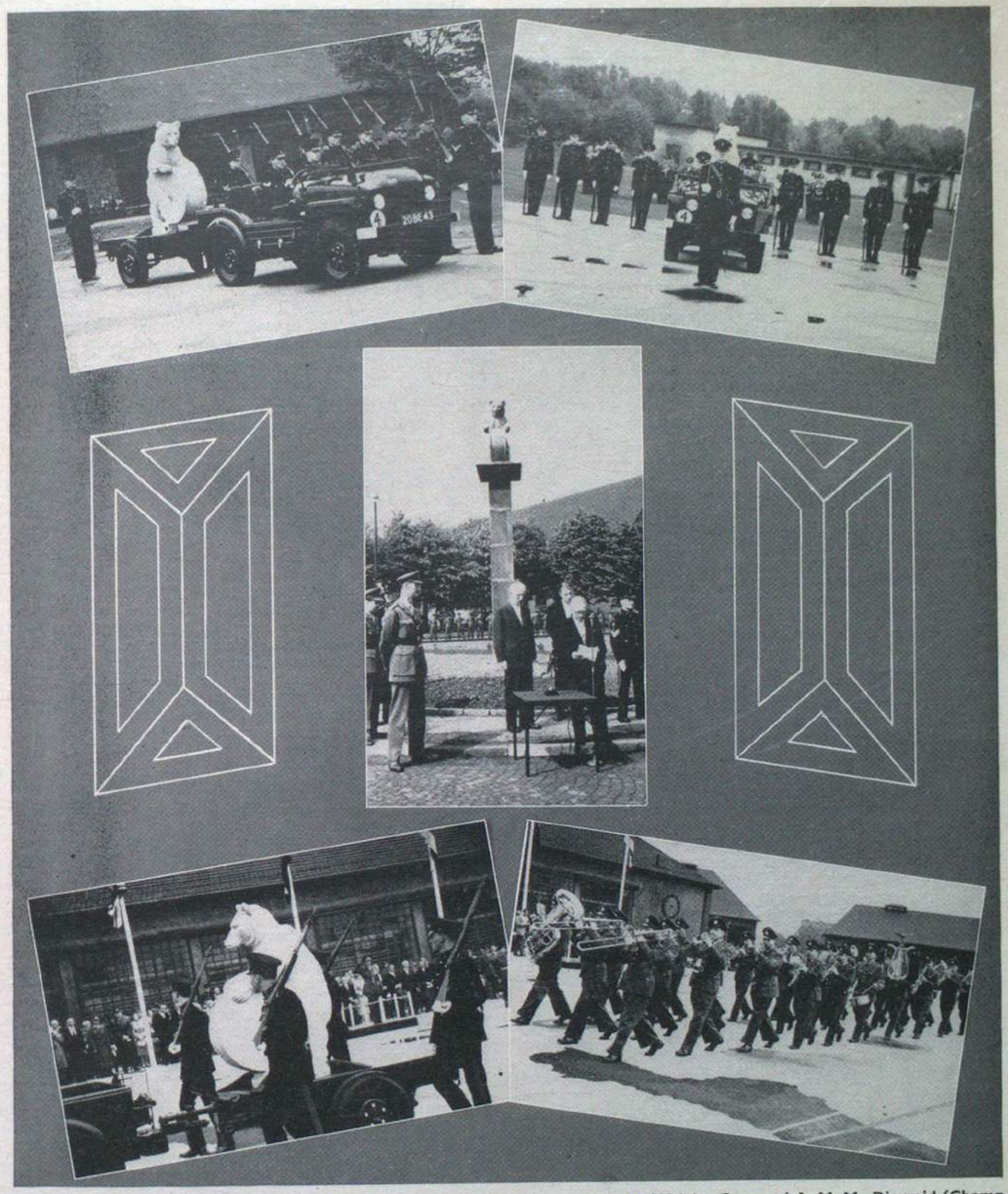
There was a parade, of course. It was thought that whatever the Deutsche Fernkabel-Gesellschaft might wish to do to mark the presentation, the regiment ought to receive Bruno II in a proper manner, and thus it was that the first part of the occasion was a military affair at which those who presented the Cable Bear were just spectators. No one had ever heard of a bear's being brought onto parade before, let alone a stone one weighing a ton, and so there were no precedents either to smooth or to limit the procedure. After considering a number of alternatives it was decided to devise a form of parade based upon the traditional military ceremonial of the Trooping the Colour, but with modifications deliberately introduced to avoid giving the impression either that the thing was a parody or that the Bear was being shewn the honour which ought only to be given to a Colour. A tricky business? Perhaps: but all who saw the parade seemed to think that it achieved its object.

Promptly at a quarter past eleven on an overcast morning, the Band of the City of Essen Police marched onto parade. Markers were set and two ceremonial squadrons, in file, were marched on under W.O.II (S.S.M.) Harcourt and W.O.II (S.S.M.) Attwell. Sufficient space was left between the squadrons for the Bear and its escort. After R.S.M. Boyton had handed over to the Adjutant, Captain B. M. Ashcroft, the Warrant Officers commanding the squadrons were called forward. This movement, to a quick march from the drums, and with rifles at the "recover," caused many wrinkled brows among the younger soldiers. When the drums sounded the "Assembly," the officers, with swords at the "carry" marched on and took up position facing the line. At this point the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel A. H. D. Llewellyn, took over and after ordering the Officers and Warrant Officers to take up positions in front of their squadrons, gave the command "To your squadrons slow march." With the band playing, and with swords and rifles at the "recover" the line moved slowly across the parade ground to their positions. The Commanding Officer now moved to his own position in line, and the stage was set.

Within a minute, at exactly half past eleven, a trumpet call call sounded by Driver Tungate heralded the arrival of the General Officer Commanding Rhine District. The General was led to the dais by two orderlies, Signalman Muddiman, W. E. and Signalman Lowson, G. A., where he was received with a General Salute. There followed a departure from normal drill. Instead of inspecting the parade at this point, the General left the dais and took a seat while the Bear was brought onto parade.

Bruno II had arrived at the barracks from the south of Germany on a civilian lorry the day before the Whitsun holiday, and had been safely locked up in a garage until the morning of the parade. A trailer had been specially modified to carry him, and during rehearsals had carried two dustbins filled with sand and all the counterbalance weights from the front of the L.A.D.'s recovery vehicle to simulate the weight of the Bear. This morning, coupled up to its towing Champ, the trailer had Bruno II lowered on to it, and by the time the G.O.C. turned to leave the dais, the Bear with an escort of a Staff Sergeant and eight rank and file under the command of Captain M. J. Watts, O.C. "L" Medium Radio Relay Troop, was turning onto the right flank of the parade ground. (Staff Sergeant McGahan was the Staff Sergeant of the Escort and Corporals Wright and Groom were in charge of the half sections).

After a brief halt during which the right flank of the



(Top left—left to right) : **Captain M. J. Watts (Escort Commander), Corporal L. H. Wright, Corporal A. M. Mc Diarmid (Champ driver) and Corporal M. J. D. Groom.** *(Top right)* : **Bruno and Escort drawn up in line in the centre of the Parade.** *(Centre)* : **Heir Mühl making his speech. Behind him, Heir Vollmeir, Secretary of the Company, Heir Mühl (Junior) and Staff-Sergeant A. P. McGahan.** *(Bottom left)* : **Bruno marches past the G.O.C., Rhine District.** *(Bottom right)* : **The City of Essen Police Band marching past**

escort turned about and wheeled into position behind the left flank the Bear and escort moved forward to the music of a quick march, and wheeling to their right, passed down the front rank of the two squadrons. On reaching the left flank, they wheeled so that the Bear passed from left to right between the two ranks of the squadrons. From here, another wheel, during which the original right flank of the escort halted and turned about so that the Bear was again flanked on either side, brought the party into the correct place and formation for its final move onto the centre of the line. As they came onto the line, the flanks of the escort moved outwards so that they too were in line, as may be seen in the picture.

The G.O.C. now inspected the parade, and one of the photographs shews him subjecting Bruno II to a critical examination. After this there were no more novel features except for a manoeuvre to save Bruno from the necessity of advancing in review order. When the squadrons were ordered to move to the right to take up position for the march past, the Bear and escort stood fast. Then, as the squadrons stepped off, the Bear and escort moved forward fifteen paces and halted. This not only gave clearance for No. 2 Squadron to follow No. 1, but put the escort in such a position that, on the conclusion of the subsequent advance in review order by the squadrons, the whole parade was again in line. Finally, the whole parade marched past in column of route, with the Bear in front, and a photograph shews Bruno marching past.

There may be precedents for a German band playing for a British Army ceremonial parade, but we do not recall them. Our venture was successful and not without its interest, because we had not only to brief the Kapellmeister of the Police Band very thoroughly on the form of the parade, but also to ensure that they could play correctly such things as the "General Salute," the first eight bars of "The British Grenadiers" and last, but by no means least, the Corps Quick March. Fortunately, luck was on our side as we had in Essen, visiting his daughter, whose husband, Captain D. A. Barry, was on parade, the Director of Music of the Hong Kong Police. Not only was there a professional community of interest between Mr. Foster and Terr Hänig, but our luck was even greater: years before, Mr. Foster had been the Bandmaster of The Buffs, so we were happy in the knowledge that the coaching of the Essen Police Band was in really expert hands. The result proved us to be right and our thanks are due to Mr. Foster, to the band for their good performance and to the Police President in Essen for allowing them to parade with us on what was really an Anglo-German occasion. The musically knowledgeable may recognise the peculiar instrument in our photograph of the band marching past the G.O.C. as a glockenspiel.

The parade was attended by most of the families of the regiment, the children (at the B.F.E.S. School) en masse and a gathering of invited guests. Herr Mühl, Director of the Deutsche Fernkable-Gesellschaft, was present with his wife and son, and was supported by a number of his colleagues. Herr Borchardt, Director of Siemens, flew down from Berlin for the occasion, and this famous firm, which is the senior member of the Deutsche Fernkabel-Gesselschaft, was also represented by regional directors. Herr Meier and Dr. Eckenburg from Essen and Herr Dietel from Düsseldorf. The West German Army and the Essen police were also represented.

After the parade, the guests of the regiment made their way to the Officers' Mess where a buffet luncheon was served. The band was similarly entertained in the Sergeants' Mess. During this interval, Bruno was taken from his trailer and hoisted to the top of the column which had held the original Cable Bear, and at half past two, the guests assembled at the foot of the column for the formal handing over ceremony. A ring of troops cordonned the area. After an introduction, Herr Mühl made the formal presentation during which he spoke of the history of the Berlin Cable Bear and welcomed the fact that an emblem of the German cable makers had become the mascot of a regiment of the Corps. He signified the presentation by handing to the Commanding Officer a scroll which had been translated as follows:—

DEUTSCHE FERNKABEL - GESELLSCHAFT
MIT BESCHRANKTER HAFTUNG

INSTRUMENT

Recognizing the JOY, given to all members of the 18 Army Group Signal Regiment at Herford and Essen by the BERLIN CABLE BEAR "BRUNO",

Appreciating the FIDELITY, with which the members of this regiment carefully guarded and watched the Bear and made him their symbol and emblem,

And considering the MAGNANIMITY, proved by handing over the CABLE BEAR on 28th November, 1957, to the Deutsche Fernkabel-Gesellschaft, original owner of "BRUNO", the Deutsche Fernkabel-Gesellschaft is induced to make the present of an exact replica of "BRUNO", the

"FIT - BRUNO",

to the proud regiment as a sign of gratefulness and as a contribution to the fraternisation among the peoples of the free world.

This fact, that the mark of a German industrial firm became an emblem of a British regiment, may signify one security of comprehension and friendship between our nations.

Given this twenty-eighth day of May in the year nineteen hundred and fifty-eight.

* * *

Lieutenant-Colonel Llewellyn then thanked Herr Mühl and his Association for their good wishes and generosity and in accepting the Bear on behalf of the regiment gave Herr Mühl a bronze statuette of Mercury as a memento of the occasion. Herr Borchardt then spoke and was followed by Herr Kirchner of the Bundespostministerium who made a witty speech in very passable English. The band played the West German National Anthem followed by "The Queen," and the ceremony was over.

2 L. OF C. SIGNAL REGIMENT

R.H.Q., 1 and 2 Squadrons. We were all overcome by the glorious tropical weather which heralded May, 1958. After a period of dillying, dallying and hoping, it was eventually decided that Shirt Sleeve Order would be worn. As normal and with this instruction hardly off the press, the weather became very English and typically Mancunian. So we shivered our way through the next two weeks, wishing that Shirt Sleeve Order had never been invented! The M.T.O. nearly ordered radiators to be drained off as a frost precaution at one stage!

A difficult problem confronted Major Smith, the Regimental Athletics Officer. The Inter-Squadron Athletics Meeting had been scheduled for May, and he had to decide which day this was to take place. He consulted the oracle, almanac, C.O. and SOPT, and eventually picked 20th May, 1958, which appeared to be just as convenient as any other day, weather permitting, of course! Imagine our surprise and joy when this day turned out to be warm, fine and sunny! A more difficult problem has now come his way. Everyone applying for leave consults him first about "the weather in July" or "which week will be best in August"! Such is fame!

The Inter-Squadron Sports Meeting took place on 20th May, 1958, at a very fine Sports Stadium in Krefeld, by kind permission of the managing directors of Edelstahl Werkes A.G. (Krefeld). All four Squadrons entered an athletics team to cover 14 events, the final one being the Inter-Squadron Relay Race. 2 Squadron athletics won eight field and track events and also the Relay Race. Individual winners include:—

Signalman Christie (2 Squadron), Victor Ludorum. 1st, One Mile; 1st, Two Mile; 3rd, Discus; member winning Relay Team.

Staff Sergeant Rose (2 Squadron). 1st, Javelin; 1st, Putting the Shot.



BAOR ROYAL SIGNALS RIFLE MEETING 1958
Captain Gilbert receiving his prize from the CSO BAOR (Major General K. C. O. Bastyan, C.B.E.). Signalman Gratton and Sergeant Little follow on.

Major Smith (2 Squadron). 1st, Discus; member winning Relay Team.

Lance-Corporal Lowe (2 Squadron) 1st, Throwing the Hammer.

Sergeant Lambert (2 Squadron). 1st, 880 yards; member winning Relay Team.

Lance-Corporal Smythe (1 Squadron). 1st 220 yards.

Signalman Osbourne (3 Squadron). 1st, 440 yards.

Signalman Keithley (2 Squadron). 1st, High Jump.

Signalman Heslop (1 Squadron). 1st, Long Jump.

Signalman Raisbeck (2 Squadron), 1st, 100 yards; member winning Relay Team.

The final results were:—

2 Squadron, 65 points, Champion Squadron.
1 Squadron, 38 points.
3 Squadron, 22 points.
4 Squadron, 19 points.

Major J. L. Waller presented the prizes on behalf of the Commanding Officer, who was away at the C.S.O.'s conference. Staff Sergeant Rose accepted the Inter-Squadron Athletics Challenge Trophy on behalf of 2 Squadron. Each event winner was presented with a silver cup and each runner-up with a medal. Signalman Christie, a very fine distance runner, was presented with three silver cups, one medal, and the Victor Ludorum Trophy. These awards were well earned and a last "fling" for Christie, who was demobbed the very next day on completion of his National Service.

The Rhine District Individual Sports Competition took place on 21st May, 1958, at Moenchen Gladbach. Approximately 26 entries were made by this Regiment, and we achieved some good results:—

Major Smith won the 120 yards Hurdles;
Staff Sergeant Rose was 2nd in the Javelin;
Lance-Corporal Lowe was 1st in Throwing the Hammer;
Signalman Keithley was 2nd in High Jump;
Corporal Dockray was 3rd in Throwing the Hammer.

As a result of this splendid effort, Major Smith (400m. and 110, Hurdles), Staff Sergeant Rose (Javelin), Lance-Corporal Lowe (Hammer) and Signalman Keithley (High Jump) have all been chosen to represent Rhine District in the B.A.O.R. Athletics Championships to be held at Berlin on 5th—7th June, 1958. We wish them every success at Berlin.

This Unit entered two teams in the Royal Signals B.A.O.R. Rifle Meeting held at Bruggen Ranges on 14th—17th May, 1958. The weather was appalling and made every effort to wash out the Competition. Despite this opposition, both teams did quite well and our successes were as follows:—

A team—4th out of 18 teams.
B team—7th out of 18 teams.

B team were also runners-up to 10 A.F. Signal Regiment in the Roupell Cup. A combined team from our A and B teams (Major Baker, Captain Gilbert, Corporal Robertshaw and Signalman Gratton) won the Falling Plate Competition against 19 A.G. Signal Regiment. Excitement rose as one after the other each team knocked down a plate. Finally, each team had *one* plate left, and Captain Gilbert, with his last round, managed to knock this last plate down, so winning this competition for 2 L. of C. Signal Regiment.

Major Baker was 3rd in the A class Methuen Cup. Signalman Gratton was 1st in B class Roupell Cup and 2nd in B class Roberts Cup. Corporal Parmenter was 2nd in B class Methuen Cup. Signalman Sirell was 3rd in B class Roberts Cup. As a result of this, Major Baker, Captain Gilbert, Signalman Gratton and Corporal Robertshaw have been invited to go to Bisley this year to shoot for the Corps (B.A.O.R. Contingent). They will be in the last few from which the team will finally be chosen. We hope to report their success in a future edition.

The Football season has now ended and our team lost the semi-final of the Rhine District Inter-unit Cup Competition to 18 A.G. Signal Regiment after three attempts to achieve a result. The games proved very exciting and full of good football, and we congratulate 18 A.G. Signal Regiment on finally winning this match 3 goals to 1.

Cricket is starting up, and we have played four games up to now. Tennis is progressing and each evening, weather permitting, the courts are fully booked. Further reports will follow as the season progresses.

On the subject of mechanisation, this Unit really progresses. The R.S.M. (W.O.I Finch) and the R.O.S. have now joined the "mounted brigade," and were last seen riding on bicycles around the perimeter wire alleged to be looking for the "Escape Route"! Shades of "The Wooden Horse"!

Finally, we extend to Mrs. Worrall and her daughter, Belinda, our deepest sympathy on the sudden death of Lieutenant-Colonel H. Worrall (Retd.) on 25th May, 1958. For the past year Colonel Worrall had been employed as T.W.O. (TELS) at Herford.

3 Squadron. Herewith notes on Brussels Exhibition as promised last month.

The Brussels Universal and International Exhibition, 1958

Although by the time this article reaches print the Brussels Exhibition will be well under way and much will have been written in praise or criticism, it is thought that a few articles in THE WIRE will not be too outdated or superfluous.

The first idea to deal with this subject was to get one person to collect all the facts and figures and a few photographs and write "something." The course adopted finally is to have a number of articles. Firstly, one as an introduction of an impersonal nature giving a general picture and the "vital statistics" of the Exhibition. Secondly, articles giving views and impressions by various people in the Unit who have visited the Exhibition.

The Exhibition at Brussels is the first World Exhibition for nineteen years. In these years the world has progressed in many fields especially in the field of science. It was the mission of the organisers of the Exhibition to give the world, in this moment of its history, an opportunity to take stock of its progress, to compare with the past and look into the future. To this end it invited the nations of the world to exhibit at Brussels showing their way of life and their technical advancements.

Brussels has been preparing for some years new roads, bridges, tunnels and viaducts to facilitate movement about the city. Over these years, the site of the exhibition on the outskirts of Brussels has been a scene of industry and progress. The Exhibition can be divided into three main sections:—

(a) The Belgian Section and Belgian Congo Section.
(b) The Foreign Section. And
(c) The International Organisations.

The Belgian Congo Section with seven pavilions and a tropical garden displays the work of the Government, the missions and private enterprise.

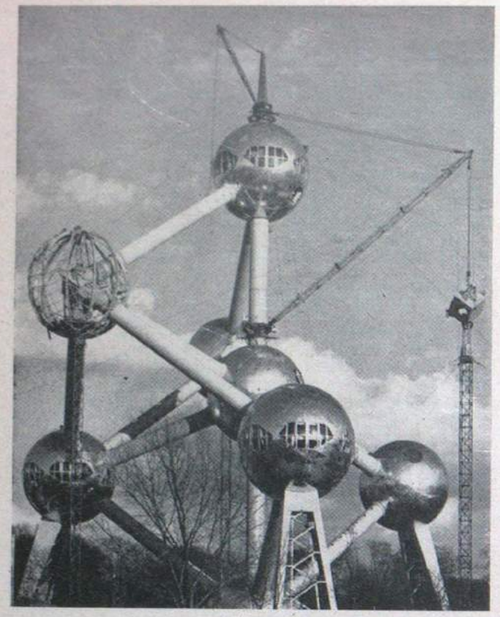
The Foreign Section contains the pavilions of 47 participating nations.

The International Organisations have built eight pavilions, which form the city of International Co-operation.

The Belgian Section consists of an exhibiting pavilion area, pleasure gardens, and a village showing Belgium in 1900.

At the centre of the Exhibition is the "Atomium," which has been built by the Metal Industries of Belgium. It is an impressive construction representing the arrangement of atoms in a crystal of metal enlarged 150 million times, and it should be regarded as a cube standing on one corner. The nine spheres are 59 feet in diameter in gleaming aluminium, and connected by twenty tubes 10 feet across and 59 to 72 feet long. The tubes contain escalators to convey visitors from one sphere to another. In the spheres are exhibits and restaurants, and at night the whole array glistens with the lights of its orbiting electrons. An imposing and impressive centrepiece.

The outstanding features of the Exhibition are the futuristic design of the buildings, pavilions and structures, and the beautifully laid out gardens. At night the Exhibition is a mass of light and the ornamental waterfalls and fountains are aglow with myriads of coloured bulbs.



BRUSSELS EXHIBITION, 1958

The "Atomium" still under construction.

The four largest pavilions in the Foreign Section are those of the U.S.S.R., U.S.A., France and United Kingdom. Each one is quite different in its design and contents, comparisons and details of which will be discussed later.

The Exhibition is vast, varied and on one's first visit, kaleidoscopic. It includes every facet and activity of modern civilisation, and as one visitor put it, "It's a pity it can't be taken to every country in the world for every one to see." There are some who say it is poor, some say marvellous, some say garish, some are just impressed by it all—but *everyone* is struck by some aspect of the Exhibition, and it is hoped to bring out a few of these views in later articles.

4 Squadron. We are now completely and comfortably established in what used to be Sergeants' Mess of the former Military Corrective Establishment at Bielefeld. The climax of our settling-in ceremony was the opening of a new O.R.s' canteen. During its first month this canteen has sold over 1,500 bottles of a locally-concocted beverage, aptly named "Ugh"! Such a demand for non-alcoholic refreshment contrasts strangely with Bielefeld's well-earned reputation as the Manchester of Germany. Some Mancunians of the Squadron strongly deny this and say there is no equivalent of "Piccadilly or Lewis's Arcade" at Bielefeld!

Our sporting activities have been completely disorganised by the weather, but our athletics team from the Squadron competed in the Regimental Sports at Krefeld, showing up quite favourably, although not getting first place in any event. We are now busy exhuming our cricket gear and looking for good spin bowlers. Instead of extra drills it's now extra bowling practice! We look forward to Wednesday and Saturday afternoons on the green, and hope to report our success in future issues.

This month we say goodbye to Staff Sergeant Hawkshaw and Sergeant Huntingdon. Staff Sergeant Hawkshaw is amongst the first to leave us due to redundancy in the Corps. Reading about this policy in the newspapers, one treats it as a very impersonal matter. Reality really strikes home when one's friends are directly affected by it. We thank both of them for loyal and valued service to the Squadron and the Regiment, and wish them every success in their future employment, and particularly Staff Sergeant Hawkshaw in "civvy street" as he joins the ranks of Ex-Royal Signals.

1 CORPS SIGNAL REGIMENT

This month we devote all our space to accounts of activities in which some of our junior ranks have taken part.

Whitsun at the Brussels World Fair

At the Whitsun holiday, Lance-Corporals A. O. Morgan and J. Boyne, and Signalmen D. J. Woolen and P. Tweddle showed great initiative in making their way to the World Fair. They went in pairs and here is the story of one of the couples, written by Lance-Corporal Morgan.

"To save time and money we made the first part of our journey on a warrant as far as Liege, which is just inside the Belgian border. We arrived at eight o'clock in the evening and immediately set out on the road to Brussels. After we had been walking for about half an hour, a lorry stopped and gave us a lift, the only trouble being that the driver was half asleep and the door of the cab kept opening while the lorry was doing about 40 or 45 m.p.h., which was decidedly dicy. Nevertheless, we arrived at Louvain at about 10 o'clock which left us about 25 kilo-metres from Brussels, but being very dark it was impossible to get a lift to our goal. We therefore decided to stay the night in Louvain, eventually staying at a wholesale fruit merchant's warehouse, with the promise from the owner's son that we wouldn't be disturbed as the next day, Saturday, was a public holiday.

We were woken up in the morning by the door against which we were sleeping being opened by a very surprised caretaker who wished us "Bonjour messieurs," and then quickly disappeared. Having been woken, we decided to get up but were stopped by the caretaker who had brought us a cup of hot milk and a bucket of water to wash. Having dressed, we started walking towards Brussels.

After about half an hour we got a lift in a car which took us to the centre of Brussels, where we immediately changed our money into francs, and sought out the information centre in the centre of the town. There we learned that a hotel would cost about 130 francs a night which was above what we could afford, so seeing that we had a bivouac we decided to use it at the cost of 30 francs a night in a field not far from the World Fair. The first night in Brussels was spent in getting things straightened out on the camping site and then a quick look round Brussels before going early to bed.

Over the next three days we tried to see as much of the World Fair as we could. But it was impossible to do more than see the larger exhibitions. The Russian exhibition was one of the biggest; but is very dull and stodgy and, apart from the Sputniks, uninteresting. The American exhibit looks great from the outside, but inside we found it rather a let-down, the main attraction being a mannequin parade. As an American explained to us in the Britannia bar, America had tried so hard to make it look peaceful and quiet that there was really nothing of interest left.

The French pavilion is a great piece of modern architecture, but would have been of more interest to us if they had written the explanations of lots of things in English as well as French.

The Canadian exhibit is very good but is more like an emigration office than a picture of the Canadian way of life. It is, none the less, worth seeing, housed as it is in a wonderfully modern designed building.

Without being biased, both of us thought that the British Government's pavilion was one of the best, although in a building about a quarter the size of the Russian, American or French pavilions. The designers have put so much more of interest of this year and yesteryear into it, that it is way ahead of the American and Russian exhibits. People were queueing to get in, which is what they weren't doing at the other exhibits, except at the Atomium. The British Industry section is another exhibit we can be proud of, as all the very best British manufacturers have exhibits there.

Truly the biggest attraction is the *Atomium*, which again is expensive, costing 30 francs each to get in, and an extra 30 francs each to go to the very top. Each one of the balls is an exhibition on its own, each one being connected to the others by an escalator, except the top one, which is a restaurant, and is reached from the ground by lift. The view from the topmost ball is terrific; still, seeing that it costs you over 10/- it should be.

Possibly the favourite place in the Exhibition as far as the British are concerned is the Britannia bar or the Fox and Hounds, both of which are exact replicas of British pubs, including the beer. After tramping around the Fair for a couple of hours, it's just the job for cooling you down.

Alas, on Tuesday we had to start on our way back, after a really great long week-end. To anybody going to the Brussels World Fair, I hope you have as good a time as we had, but be warned, take plenty of money with you, you'll need it!"

Watermanship Course at Kiel

This course was held at the British Kiel Yacht Club from 6th - 13th May, 1958, the object being to enable a nucleus to be formed of personnel trained in laying cable over water obstacles.

Here is an unexpurgated account of the course written by Signalman J. J. Higgins, one of the students. We await his course report with great interest!

"What!" exclaimed somebody in H.Q., "No underwater linemen in Signals! We must have some at once." And his staff, looking at the rain beating on the window panes, agreed that they would soon be necessary.

And so it happened that the first Signals Watermanship Course at the British Kiel Yacht Club was arranged for early May with Col. Charlton as Chief Instructor and some fifteen eager students as his class. It would be wrong to underestimate the value of what we learnt, although practical line-laying was not covered, but the instruction did not prevent us from spending a week which, to me at least, was one of the most enjoyable of my life.

"Do we really have to sleep in those?," I heard someone ask as the 1 Corps Signals contingent arrived, but six-foot skipper, Capt. Garratt, was undismayed and soon had "Hasko" looking shipshape, whilst his crew proved that subalterns make good cooks. (A.C.C. please note). "Hasko" was a thirty square metre sloop with racing lines and accommodation for four. Our two Other Ranks, L/Cpl. Garner and Sig. Higgins, had to be lent to the Sappers (learning to lay mines?), leaving Lt. Bunce, Lt. Dolan and 2/Lt. Newell as the crew of the mother ship, and a piratical lot they were, once their shore rig had been discarded. That evening the mainbrace was spliced in the clubhouse, and we learnt a few surprising facts about our comrades in other units, about ourselves for that matter. Fear of a damp, hard bunk kept the party together until midnight, but we all slept well to spite our fears.

The first morning was devoted to lectures for the novices, and the intriguing adventures of a hypothetical "Joe" who was stupid enough to fall overboard. It needed a good helping of "Meat and Veg" to restore our courage after discussing his probable fate. But in the afternoon we were shown over a boat, told which is the front end and which the back, and what a whipple-tree looks like. And much enlightened we went on to learn how to run aground in the first evening navigation lecture.

The second day brought perfect training weather, a light steady breeze and intermittent sunshine. After the first awkwardness in getting under way, we beat gaily up the fiord, even the most inexperienced having his "trick at the helm." We practised everything we had learnt, tacking, gybing, reefing, and a compo tin replacing poor Joe, "Man Overboard" drill. Then we ran back to harbour, narrowly escaping the fate of some of our infantry friends in running aground, and stowed our sails for the night.

We awoke to clouds, wind and heavy seas, a dismal prospect when the day's destination was a harbour on the lee shore, Labö at the mouth of the fiord. We set four reefs in our mainsail, entrusted our souls to our Maker and cast off. But once at sea we found we were enjoying ourselves and thinking of yesterday as child's play. Our target was quickly made in one broad reach, but we were prudent and did not enter the harbour. Beating back was a laborious process, but at the end of it we did have the satisfaction of waiting for those of our party who lacked the better half of valour. They had to be towed out of harbour and struggled in one by one to enrich the evening with salty tales of their adventures.

And now began the great "Hejira," the voyage to Sonderburg in Denmark. In the evening charts were studied, passports brought out and excess spirits consumed or hidden. Excitement ran high. We were "going foreign" at last. Saturday morning brought a fresh breeze and a slight mist. "Flamingo," the flagship, sent her brood of chicks ahead of her; she had no cause to worry with an engine and a hundred square metres of sail. We made good time to the furthest of the Kiel harbour buoys and were well and truly out to sea when the mist closed in on us. We found we could only see eight other yachts, seven, six, and almost before we knew it we were alone.

The wind had dropped off to nothing and we were only just making way. We might have been a picnic party, but in the wierdest surroundings. It is amazing how invitingly solid a calm sea looks when one is level with it, and I felt tempted to step over the side and try it when I noticed that I could see the bottom. In the same instant we heard a cow mooing to port.

We altered course. The mist was rising and we picked out the shapes of the other yachts all around us, and ahead the grey mass of the Schleimunde Light.

The forty mile passage took some thirteen hours in the end. In desperation we had tried to paddle, and, tiring of that, to hold the jib out at the end of the boathook to catch every ounce of wind. Night fell as we entered the Flensburg fiord, but we picked up the harbour lights with unexpected ease and tied up at our destination towards midnight, still wakeful enough to look round our port of refuge and to discover the high cost of Danish beer (O1—pronounced "Ugh" in the local speech).

The voyage back was a repetition of the third day, but colder, longer and gloomier, for it marked the end of a wonderful week. This was real sailing, and we felt the primitive wrestler's delight in struggling with the sea. The hours flew by, only eight of them this time, and we tied up that night to disperse through the following day, some to schemes, some to camp, some to other sports meetings, all wiser, wetter and happier men that the diverse party who had assembled a week previously. Three of our party had won their helmsman's certificate on the course, Capt. Garratt, Lt. Bunce and Lt. Doland. But all of us learnt much on the course that we could never have learnt elsewhere, and we would like to put on record our gratitude to Col. Charlton for giving us this opportunity, and our hope that it will not be the last."

H.Q. 2 T.A.F. (Indep.) A.F. SIGNAL SQUADRON

The Regiment bade good-bye to the C.O., Major Chapman, and his wife in early May. Major R. R. Morrison, M.B.E., arrived to take over command in late May.

In March we moved to R.A.F. Station Wildenrath after nearly 18 months happily spent on R.A.F. Station Butzweilerhof. We miss the joys of Cologne, but we are renewing acquaintances with the Dutch Border towns we knew in 1956 when we were in Goch.

The Rugby, Soccer and inspection season is now over and as we turn to athletics, cricket and swimming we report a heartening success in the Rhine District 7-a-side Rugby competition which our "A" team won.



HQ 2nd TAF (Indep) AIR FORMATION SIGNAL SQUADRON
Winners: RHINE DISTRICT and RAF STATION WILDENRATH 7-a-side RUGBY COMPETITION
Team :—*Back Row, left to right.* Captain Ridge, Lance Corporal Vickers, Signalman Valentine, Signalman Box
Front Row, left to right Craftsman Abbott, Corporal Biddlecombe, Sergeant Oates.

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HEADQUARTERS BRITISH FORCES ARABIAN PENINSULA (Independent) AIR FORMATION SIGNAL SQUADRON

Despite momentary flashes of excitement caused by sporadic operations up-country, life in Aden pursues the even tenor of its way. The Squadron is very busy at the moment laying U.G. cables, and there is general interest in this absorbing job, although it is tough going in this hot and humid climate. We encountered quite a gruelling task in laying 500 yards of 54 pair Armoured over what was virtually an obstacle course and had to manhandle the cable throughout. Assistance by a detachment from The Buffs (Royal East Kent Regiment) was very much appreciated.

Since our last entry in THE WIRE we have welcomed Lieutenant (Q.M.) J. W. Douthwaite from Cyprus and Second-Lieutenant B. J. N. Ashford from O.T.W. Catterick on his first posting. Sergeants Matzen and Hunt have left us, the first named after a successful and hard working tour in Aden; Sergeant Hunt in unhappy circumstances due to a breakdown in health. We wish him a speedy recovery.

1 SIGNAL SQUADRON, KING'S AFRICAN RIFLES



Staff Sergeant Boaz Nyangori instructs trainees on W.S. No. 22.

The rains arrived punctually a couple of weeks ago and although we still get occasional fine days we have had some very heavy downpours. We had a storm to beat all storms on 12th May, when 5½ inches of rain fell in four hours. The streets of Nairobi became rivers, several trunk roads and railways became impassable and three large trees in the Camp were uprooted. However, in Kenya such occurrences are taken in their stride and within a couple of days things were back to normal.

The Signal Training Troop have been fully committed over the last month with three courses running simultaneously. The O.W.L. course for K.A.R. Signals is now in its 14th week and approaching the halfway mark. A K.A.R. Regimental Signallers' upgrading course for 30 Battalion Signallers started at the end of April and finishes in mid-June. An African Junior N.C.O.'s D. and D. course, the first to be held in the Unit, commenced last week and is proving a great success. All Askaris in the K.A.R. are on a minimum engagement of six years and without exception they are very keen to improve their knowledge and to earn promotion. Although in some cases they lack basic education, this is more than compensated by their keenness and their willingness to learn. It may interest readers to know that we are inundated with applications from Africans for enlistment in K.A.R. Signals and are able to select only the best. All our latest intake of recruits speak and write good English and have passed their Kenya African School Leaving Examination.

We had the usual six-monthly visit from the Unit Documents Inspection team during May. We congratulate the Adjutant, Captain Talbot, Sergeant Underwood (Orderly Room Sergeant), Corporal Clegg (British Documents Clerk) and Staff Sergeant Norman (African Documents Clerk), who, by their combined efforts, obtained for the Unit documents a grading of "Outstanding." This grading has only been achieved once before, in the last six years, by a Unit of East Africa Command.

A happy event, on 29th April, was the birth of a baby daughter to Captain and Mrs. Hartshorn. It is interesting to note that the Royal Signals' penchant for female offsprings applies even as far as K.A.R. Signals are concerned!

Despite the alleged disadvantages of service in East Africa, we have had a heartening number of requests, over the past few months, for second tours with the Unit. S.S.M. Jenkin's application was approved last month and he leaves for U.K. on inter-tour leave in August. There are, however, still vacancies in the Unit for volunteers from Royal Signals, and individuals who would like to serve in Kenya with 1 Signal Squadron, King's African Rifles, should refer to A.C.I. 153 of 1955. The minimum rank in the Unit is Corporal but Lance-Corporals recommended for promotion can be accepted.

CAREERS & OPPORTUNITY *(Continued from page 208)*

HOLLERITH — leading British Company in the field of electro-mechanical accounting machines and electronic computers requires Assistant Engineers, Prototype Wiremen and Technical Assistants. Good electrical craft background essential; specialised training given at the Company's Training Schools. Vacancies in Letchworth and Stevenage, Herts, and at Castleragh, Northern Ireland. Excellent working conditions, well-paid, pensionable posts, promotion on merit. The work provides wide experience in up-to-date technical developments and offers an interesting and rewarding career in an expanding industry. Applications invited from ex-Foremen of Signals and Technicians. For further details write, stating experience and interests, to Lieutenant-Colonel L. S. Stirling, Royal Signals (Retired), Training and Personnel Division, The British Tabulating Machine Co., Ltd., 70, North Row (off Park Lane), London, W.1. (See article on page ...).

A vacancy may occur shortly for a Technical Librarian at the School of Signals (Royal Signals Wing), Catterick; would suit retired Technical Officer (Telecoms) or Foreman of Signals. He will be required to maintain the library and its records and classify new books, and should have sufficient knowledge of all categories of technical (telecommunications) subjects to help in choosing books and finding references. Starting salary £600 per annum rising to £750. Must find own accommodation. No fixed age limit. Apply to the Commandant, School of Signals, Catterick Camp, Yorks.

☆

FARELF

NOTES FROM MALAYA

On 23rd May, 1958, Colonel J. M. S. Tulloch, O.B.E., and the Signal officers of the Commonwealth Armies in Malaya (Royal Signals, Gurkha Signals, Royal Australian Signals and Federation Signals) entertained the Telecommunications Department of Malaya's senior officials to dinner at the Officers' Mess, H.Q. Central Malaya Sub-District, Batu Cantonment. The senior officials from Telecoms who attended included the Director-General, Mr. W. Stubbs, M.C.; Mr. S. A. Geering, M.B.E., Mr. G. A. Langley; Mr. G. Preston; Mr. W. S. Cowie; Mr. L. J. Varley; and Mr. H. Jones, all of whom served with the Corps during and after World War II.

We appreciated enormously the attendance of our military guests who, being non-communicators, kept us from talking "technical." Those who attended were Major-General F. H. Brooke, C.B.E., D.S.O., Chief of Staff, Federation Armed Forces; Major-General J. A. R. Robertson, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O.; Brigadier G. E. Peck, D.S.O.; Brigadier J. H. Cubbon, C.B.E.; Colonel R. J. Harding-Newman, O.B.E.; and Lieutenant-Colonel O. J. H. Foster.

Forty-six persons in all sat down to dinner, during which the Central Band of the Royal Malay Regiment played a well chosen programme of music. After dinner the Gurkha Signals Pipe Band entertained the guests to a first-class Piping and Highland Dancing Display. We are indebted to Lieutenant-Colonel G. W. Blackburne and the officers of Gurkha Signals for making their Band available to us. The success of the evening can be judged by the fact that the two Generals did not leave the Mess until well after 2 a.m., the party finally concluded just after 3.30 a.m.

Golf. Corporal B. D. Cousins, serving with 26 Gurkha Infantry Brigade, is to be congratulated on his achievement in winning the FARELF Services Open Golf Championship against strong opposition.

Rugger. Royal Signals (Malaya) entertained Royal Signals (Singapore) at the Annual Rugby Match, which this year was held at Seremban. Royal Signals (Singapore) had a good team and defeated us to the tune of 15—3.

Soccer. Royal Signals (Malaya) reached the semi-final of the Malayan Section of the Caldbeck Soccer Cup, defeating the R.A.E.C. Malaya and FARELF Engineer Training Centre by 2 goals to 1 in each match. They were, however, defeated by 6 goals to nil by a Field Regiment R.A. in the semi-final. We shall look forward to take our revenge next season.

Congratulations to Signalman Popplewell of OCLF Signal Squadron, who kept goal for the Combined Services Soccer Team which eventually won the Football Association of Malaya Cup, defeating Malacca by 3 goals to 1 in the hotly contested final played at the new Merdeka Stadium, Kuala Lumpur. Unfortunately Signalman Popplewell sustained a leg injury on the evening prior to the final and could not take part in the game.

Hockey. Royal Signals (Malaya) were also beaten by 3 goals to 0 by Royal Signals (Singapore) in the Annual Hockey Match which this year was held in Singapore. Unfortunately we were without the services of one of our star players, Sergeant Wilson, who had been chosen to play for the Army (Malaya) Hockey Team.

General. It is not easy for us in Malaya to compete on a level footing, but we are showing the flag in all events and when we do go down we go down with colours flying. One day our time will come.

O.C.L.F. SIGNAL SQUADRON

Since our last WIRE notes were submitted Squadron Headquarters has moved to Seremban, and after a hectic change round are now firmly settled in. This was our third move in six months, so the Orderly Room are now expert removal hands. Under the capable command of our Orderly Room Sergeant, Sergeant Arrowsmith, everything disappeared into boxes and came out again in the correct order at the other end.

It is very doubtful whether old members of Malaya Command Signal Squadron would recognise us these days. S.S.M. "Dusty" Miller is due to leave us in the near future and S.S.M. Giles is more or less now in the chair. F. of S. Powell has just departed for civilian life, and a new face with white knees by the name of F. of S. Day is now making the rounds of the various detachments and finding out the hard way just how far away the various bits and pieces of the Squadron are deployed. S.Q.M.S. "Wally" Douce is still going, following Johnny Walker's example, though many of the old "Q" Staff are missing. Sergeant Beattie is still explaining why "credits" after being spent, take time to re-accumulate.

A new word in the Married Families vocabulary is "commuter." Some of our Senior N.C.O.s are separated by as much as 50 miles from their families, but unfortunately season tickets are not available. Signalman "Bernie" Stovell's fiancé arrived out here last month. Major Swan gave the bride away and Craftsman George Burton assisted as Best Man. Hearty congratulations are extended by all ranks to the happy couple.

In the Sports world we still hopefully compete for various cups and shields, but so far we have no impressive lists of countless victories. Major Thornton, our O.C., captains our Cricket team, and by pruning our troops over the length and breadth of Malaya we sometimes pull off a coup.

Our Shooting team has just returned from Kota Tinggi, having competed in the 17 Gurkha Division/OCLF Rifle Meeting. This was our first attempt. We feel that our half-way position in the Minor Units competition was very creditable.

In our role as a Signal Squadron we man most of the Signal Centres in Central and North Malaya. Some of them are major Signal Centres and others are but minor detachments of three men, and we must not forget Corporal Jardine who is N.C.O. i/c of the detachment in the Cameron Highlands. He must be feeling the heat!

Air Support Signal Troop assists on Air Strikes and R.A.F. bombing sorties and from time to time Staff Sergeant S. Robertson, normally a Lineman, has been known to disappear on "ops." From time to time some of the Signalmen have gone on jungle patrols with some of the local infantry battalions.

Our chief recreational resort is Port Dickson. Tropical beaches, warm water and countless cafes cater for various tastes. Water ski-ing and surf-boarding are available to all. A few members of the Squadron are attempting the relatively new sport of skin diving along a local coral reef and reports of monsters are every-day occurrences. On the whole most of the members, although engaged on shift work, manage to get away at least once a fortnight.

Although there are recent reports of stray tigers carrying

away an M.O.R. last pay day, no one has been reported missing from First Works Parade. Probably there was just a little bit of him left. However, life out here is not all beer and skittles, and sometimes one does wishfully think about the wind that used to whistle around Catterick Camp.

28 COMMONWEALTH INDEPENDENT INFANTRY BRIGADE GROUP SIGNAL SQUADRON

February had barely begun when on Tuesday, the 4th, the Squadron moved en masse to the Gurun training area, skilfully convoyed by Sergeant Knight and his DRs. Their arrival was greeted by a terrific downpour which failed to dampen their spirits but certainly made a mess of the bivouac area.

A wireless exercise was held on the Wednesday, followed on the Thursday by a camouflage and bivouac exercise. Friday was spent on the range under simulated battle conditions, Line Troop gaining the laurels for top score.

The return to Taiping was made under night convoy conditions, and the Squadron arrived back in the wee small hours of Saturday morning.

The months of March and April have been notable for the number of military holidays. Easter, Hari Raya, and one which caused some very rude comments from the U.K. members of the Squadron—ANZAC Day—for Australian troops only. However, the delight of the latter was somewhat tempered when they were rudely(?) awakened at 0515 hours prior to the Dawn Service at the Taiping War Memorial, and even more so when the next morning's five-mile "Road-Bash" got under way. Beer and breath do not go well together. It was also especially noticeable that our S.S.M., W.O.II A. Parish, B.E.M., Royal Australian Signals, still retains certain characteristics of a U.K. Sergeant Major!

We were sorry, early in April, to have to say goodbye to our O.C., Major Philp. A number of people, including the char wallah, saw him off. We welcome Major F. Wainwright in his place, and hope he and his wife will enjoy a happy stay with us.

We were visited by an Australian Public Relations Team during April and all were most interested to hear they wanted to film us. Anyway, our one and only Australian DR and a team of integrated linemen and wireless operators duly "performed" as required. Prominent was newly promoted Corporal Watts, Royal Australian Signals as N.C.O. i/c line detachment who really looked as though he was after CTs. We are looking forward to seeing the colour film in a few months' time. The TV version will have already been seen in Australia.

In sport we continue to do quite well. After a somewhat poor start our Soccer team improved quickly and we are now 4th out of 12 in the Garrison League. The most enjoyable match was undoubtedly the away game versus the Cameron Highlands Garrison. Pleasure was combined with sport and the team with a dozen supporters from the Squadron enjoyed a long weekend 5,000 feet up in the cool air of the mountains. The score was equally satisfactory, 6—2 in our favour, Sergeant Harris scoring all six.

The highlight of the cricket season so far, was the match for the Ashes (U.K. versus Australia within the Squadron), held on our Regimental Weekend. The score ended U.K. 68 (Major Philp 19); Australia 15 (S.Q.M.S. Howes 4 for 3). It is hardly a wonder that Test cricket is so one-sided these days!

Basketball almost equals football in popularity. We have won our last two games, both against 1 New Zealand Regiment, 13—8 and 15—4, with Sergeant Harris again showing a touch of brilliance at long shots.

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HONG KONG SIGNAL REGIMENT

The hot and humid summer season has returned to Hong Kong. This is the season of typhoons and anxious glances at the wet thermometer by those well informed people who purport to know when one should remove all clothing, cease all work and calmly await the passing of the period of liability to heat stroke.

The season was heralded by typhoon "Phyllis" and an area of low depression which passed quite close to the Colony. Fortunately, we experienced neither the fury nor the scorn of "Phyllis," but the low depression gave us some anxious moments. For two days gale-force winds and torrential rain made life unpleasant. S.D.S. ceased for a while, transport was harboured in sheltered spots, rescue parties stood by and aerial masts were put under surveillance. No damage, however, was experienced.

In early May the Regiment took part in "Operation Silvermine Bay." The mission paragraph of the orders issued to Captain G. F. Mitchell, who was responsible for the operation, read as follows: "All ranks, less essential duty personnel, of the Regiment, including women and children, will proceed to Lan Tao Island on 6th May, 1958, to enjoy themselves." The "execution and administrative and log" paragraphs of the orders were both written and carried out most smoothly by Captain Mitchell. With the result that about 460 people embarked on a large ferry steamer at 0900 hours, bound for Lan Tao. The day was most enjoyably spent swimming, eating and, of course, drinking, and at 17.00 hours the same number of people (!) returned happy, replete and pleasantly tired.

A recent acquisition to the Regiment is a welfare 'bus. A one-and-a-half deck "B.O.A.C. type vehicle," which provides transport (on repayment, of course), for beach parties, "Mitchell's Island Tours" and picnics.

During its stay in Far East waters *H.M.N.Z.S. Royalist* has been adopted by the Regiment. The adoption has now ceased as *Royalist* made her last visit here at the end of the month before hoisting her "paying off" pennant and sailing for home. She is being replaced by another New Zealand ship with an unpronouncable name, which we also hope to adopt. To commemorate the association with *H.M.N.Z.S. Royalist* the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess were presented with a ship's shield.

The Wives' Club, under the able and enthusiastic guidance and Chair(WO)manship of the Commanding Officer's wife, Mrs. Mansergh, is now meeting fortnightly in the Garrison School. It is not certain what happens during these evening sessions, but the headmaster of the School is purported to have many more pieces of coloured paper patterns adorning the walls of the junior classes all formed they say from used tombola cards!

The Regiment has welcomed recently Major J. Shaw (Second-in-Command) and his family, Major T. P. Furlonge (O.C. 2 Squadron) and family, Captain J. A. H. K. Findlater (Adjutant) and Sergeants Pearce and Carr. We hope they enjoy their stay in what is no doubt a pleasant station. Farewells have been bid to Major and Mrs. Webber, Lieutenant J. H. Sergeant and to our Adjutant, Captain J. A. E. Hasell who, with his wife, is making his way home by landrover via India, Afghanistan, Persia and those other countries you will see if you have an atlas (*or read the June* WIRE—Ed.).

Having started these notes with a short description of the weather—we are reminded that further storms may be expected due to the second low depression which is approaching from the North—the annual administrative inspection but more of that anon. Despite this we retain our humour—the following conversation is reported to have taken place during the two days' gales mentioned earlier:—

Young Officer (telephoning the Royal Observatory): "Is that the Astronomer Royal?"

Voice from Observatory: "Nah! This is forcarster—'Iggins!"

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Left to right. Captain J. Telfer, Imam, Lieutenant Colonel A. J. Blower, W.O.I Samad, Major I. Illingworth, W.O.II Yahaya, Major Rowlands

"This ain't no ruddy holiday camp, you horrible man!" used to be one of the favourite shouts of the N.C.O.s in the Training Brigade. And the recruits, no doubt, agreed wholeheartedly. Nowadays, however, the phrase seems to have disappeared from use—in this Regiment at least. The new barracks for Royal Signals, Singapore, are now completed and it must be admitted that apart from a few inconsistencies such as the square and the guard room, it does look rather like a holiday camp. The new camp is remarkably well appointed and laid out, with large airy billets, each with a sun lounge attached, and a NAAFI which reminds one of a millionaire's bungalow in the West Indies.

The Warrant Officers and Sergeants are already occupying their new Mess, built on the lines of a small hotel, with wash-basins in all the bedrooms, a light and airy lounge, dining room and, of course, a well appointed bar which was christened a week ago with a party for Officers, Warrant Officers and Sergeants.

The Officers of the Regiment are still keeping an eager and watchful eye on the progress of their own Mess, which is being built just across the road from the new barracks. This, too, promises to be quite luxurious by Army standards and the date of completion is eagerly awaited.

The athletics season has just opened with two triangular meetings—the first between Comcan Signal Squadron, Field Squadron and Signal Training Centre, and the second between Line Squadron, Operating Squadron and "H.Q." Squadron. There will be a further meeting in the near future to select a team to represent the Corps in the Singapore Army championships. Despite the climate, the standard is quite high and the general feeling is that we stand a good chance of success in the Army meeting.

The cricket team is playing regularly and meeting with some success, and the four Royal Signals' teams in the Singapore Base District Football League are doing very well. The M.O.R. team is top of the M.O.R. Division I and the B.O.R. 1st XI is lying second in Division I of the Open League. Both these teams have lost only once this season.

The Muslims of the Regiment ended their 30 days' fast on 19th April and held their Hari Raya Puasa celebrations on the following Friday. A meal of curry and various Malay delicacies was provided and afterwards there was entertainment in the shape of a Malay band, dancing girls, comedy routines and songs. A singing competition was held, for which there were many entries, and which was recorded by Radio Malaya and broadcast the following week.

Guests included the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel A. J. Blower, T.D., Officers Commanding Squadrons and other Officers and Warrant Officers of the Regiment. The Commanding Officer presented the prizes for the Hari Raya raffle and the singing competition.

On the 7th May the M.O.R. children were invited to a party in the NAAFI, where they were entertained by an Indian magician and received Hari Raya gifts. Although a downpour of tropical rain restricted outdoor activities the party was very much enjoyed.

And so the next big date in Royal Signals, Singapore, is when we move ourselves into the new barracks. If the typewriter can still be found after that, there will be some more next month.

"Operation Coolcat"

SARAWAK is a small British Colony, which lies in North Borneo. It is a long, narrow country with a coast line of approximately five hundred miles, but extends inland only about fifty to sixty miles to the mountain ranges, which form the frontier with Indonesian Borneo.

Sarawak has a heavy rainfall and, lying just north of the equator, there is abundant vegetation. Because of the rainfall, it is a country of innumerable rivers. They rise in the hills of the interior and flow their turbulent course through gorges and rapids into the sea.

There are no railways and few roads, the rivers providing almost the sole means of communication with the interior. In the lower reaches in the coast plain, navigation is easy and launches and outboard-engined canoes may be used. In the upper reaches, navigation is made very hazardous by the many rapids and narrow gorges through which it is often necessary to man-handle the native craft. After heavy rainfall in the upper reaches navigation is quite impossible as the rivers can rise up to fifteen feet in one day. This is the country of the Ibans, Dyaks and Kenyahs, who, not so long ago, were head-hunters.

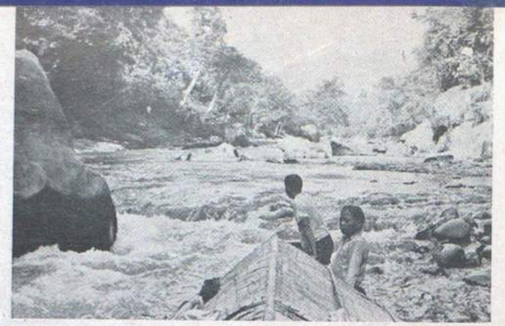
It was in this country that a Royal Engineers party supported by a Royal Signals detachment, played their part in Operation "Cool-Cat." The object of this operation was to improve navigational facilities by the clearance of natural obstacles in the upper reaches of the River Barom.

Signals were required to maintain a rear link from the Main Base at Marudi back to Singapore, a link from Main Base to Advance Base at Long Akah at the junction of the Akah and Baram rivers and a net from the Advance Base to the working parties in the area.

The Long Akah Detachment lived in tents, with their equipment set up in the local jail. The so-called jail is a multi-purpose building, being used not only as a jail, but as a staging post by the very occasional European traveller. The near-by Long House was occupied by members of the Kenyah Tribe. They are very friendly and hospitable and, on several occasions members of the detachment were entertained in the Long House. Entertainment, Kenyah fashion, is a bit different from "High Street" standards: on entering the Long House, visitors are greeted by the Penghulu and are offered drinks of Borak, a kind of rice beer. The drink is proferred by a local maiden, who sings a song of welcome, each song ending up with a glass of borak. It is not safe to refuse this drink, as if for any reason it is refused, the girls are quite capable of seizing the guest and pouring it down his throat. Good manners decree that the guest should sing a song, addressing it to one of the girls, who in turn will drink a glass of borak. The whole Long House will roar out the chorus with a drinking interval between each song, and it is not long before everyone is really in the party spirit. Proceedings from then on, tend to be hilarious. For instance, the girls delight in dipping their hands in the charcoal of the cooking fires, and



Heads at a Payan Long House approximately 30 years old.



The Gah Tama Liah Rapid on the Akah River. This section is known as suicide mile.

blackening the guests' faces. The guests are, however, permitted and expected to reply in like fashion, to the accompaniment of much giggling and laughter. The usual end to the festivities, is for the guest to be thrown into the river.

Life was not all Long House parties, however. Regular schedules were maintained on the 53 Set Rear Link to Singapore, a distance of 650 miles, using ½ wave dipole aerials. The short distance links used 76/R209 stations with ¾ wave-end-fed aerials and performed well over distances from 20 to 80 miles. On one occasion the 76 set took over the rear link to Singapore and worked satisfactorily. The success of an operation of this nature, depends, as always, on a high standard of operating ability and the pruning of stores carried to an absolute minimum. Up river, from the Main Base, all equipment had to be transported in prahus, which are merely hollowed tree-trunks, up to 60 feet long, with built-up sides and a corrugated iron roof. The width of the floor is about 3ft. 6in. over the centre portions, tapering to 1ft. 6in., the whole contraption being driven by an outboard motor. The 76/R209 stations were packed in three boxes, one containing the 76/209 and auxiliaries, the second with a 300 watt charging set, complete with two gallons of petrol and one gallon of oil, and the third, with two unboxed 12V 75A/H Cells. During the up river journey, one of the prahus struck a submerged rock, proving, if need be, that operation "Cool-Cat" was necessary and split open. The driver was, however, able to reach the bank in shallow water, where the radio set was unpacked, made contact with base and a relief craft was sent up.

The operation was a unique experience for those taking part, as it provided an interesting operational role, coupled with the opportunity to see one of the most interesting and little-known parts of the Far East.



T.A.

50 (N) INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT (T.A.)

Durham Territorial and Auxiliary Forces Association Band Competition

On the 7th June, 1958, Bands of eight Territorial Army Units in the County of Durham assembled in South Shields to take part in the Annual Band Competition for Regimental and Brass Bands, organised by the Durham Territorial and Auxiliary Forces Association.

The competition was held in the South Marine Park, which made a lovely setting, and consisted in the playing of a set piece, "French Comedy," by Keler Bela; an inspection for turn-out and playing on the march. The Mayors of all towns whose T.A. Units were competing were invited and we were very pleased to welcome the Mayor of Darlington, Councillor Mrs. Lyonette, J.P.

We have taken part in this competition since 1954, the Band being first formed in 1952. Our successes to date are:

1954	Brancepeth	Second
1955	Brancepeth	First
1956	Seaburn	First
1957	Darlington	Second

and we were very pleased when, in the Golden Jubilee Year of the T.A., we were the winners again by one point, beating our old rivals, 17th Battalion The Parachute Regiment (T.A.), who beat us last year.

The Band is a Brass Band, which is especially popular in the North, and is under the direction of our Bandmaster, W.O.I F. W. Woodall (Alderman Woodall, of Richmond), and is fully up to establishment of 30 Bandsmen, but we still have some vacancies for Bandboys.

On 23rd August the Band will be playing at Harewood House on the occasion of the T.A./A.E.R. Garden Party and we are very proud to have been chosen to play at this function.

51 (H) INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT (T.A.)

"Tempus fugit" or to give the writer's translation, "there's not much time between issues." So much has happened since our last contribution that we have scarcely had the time or opportunity to record events. Whether it is fact, or fancy, the Spring of each succeeding year seems to pass with increasing speed and we are left wondering whether we have in fact accomplished all that we set out to do. Preparations and rehearsals for our Jubilee commitments have, of course, made considerable inroads into our available training time this year, but we have been able to hold our usual Squadron and Regimental Week-end Exercises.

The Regimental Exercise was held in the picturesque surroundings of Comrie, Perthshire, in mid-April. The journey from Aberdeen to Comrie always does prove something of a trial and this year's safari was no exception. Life of course is always more trying for those who stand and wait, and the philosophy will no doubt be endorsed by the "admin wallahs" who, patiently or otherwise awaited the arrival of the "strays." The suspense was, however, endured with the aid of the usual fortifying agents taken on a strictly medicinal basis.

After a satisfactory day's training on a Squadron level on the Saturday, a Regimental Signal Exercise was carried out on the following day and the overall standard of communications was high enough to merit the approval of the Commanding Officer and the Training Major. The return to T.A.C.s was carried out without incident and we feel it fitting to record our appreciation of the efforts of Major Evans, our T.O.T., and all R.E.M.E. personnel on strength who are always there to get us home on all our military journeyings.

Perthshire was again the venue for the Officers' Week-end Exercise which was held in aquatic conditions at Birnam, near Dunkeld. We were delighted to have the Chief Signal Officer, Scottish Command, Brigadier J. N. Barker, O.B.E., and our Honorary Colonel, Colonel T. P. E. Murray, O.B.E., T.D., A.D.C., with us. The T.E.W.T. set for study proved to be of considerable interest to all and we feel that we displayed sufficient signal knowledge to convince the C.S.O. that we "are on the ball." It may be, of course, that Brigadier Barker was much more impressed with the Commanding Officer's prodigious driving of a golf ball.

The Jubilee news on a geographical basis is briefly as follows:

Aberdeen — 6th - 8th June

The celebrations took the form of:—

A Civic Reception for All Ranks in the Beach Ballroom on Friday evening. A representation of some four officers and forty O.R.s of the Regiment, together with partners, attended. The evening was voted a great success.

A Military Display in Hazlehead on Saturday afternoon in which the Regiment was represented by the Regimental Pipes and Drums performing in the massed Pipes and Drums. Despatch Riders taking part in the intricate evolutions of a motor-cycle display, and personnel of No. 1 Squadron in a Mock Battle.

A Parade, March Past and Church Service. The Parade was commanded by our Commanding Officer, as the Senior Commanding Officer in the City, and our detachment of R.H.Q., H.Q. Squadron, and No. 1 Squadron was under the command of Major J. H. Moonie, M.M., T.D. The Parade was headed by the Massed Pipes and Drums in which our Regimental Pipes and Drums were fully represented.

Stirling — 30th May - 1st June

The celebrations here on a lovely week-end consisted of:—

An All Ranks' Reunion Dinner held in Goosecroft T.A.C. Major G. Louden, O.C. 2 Squadron, welcomed Brigadier Sir John Spencer Muirhead, Lieutenant-Colonel E. G. McHutcheon, O.B.E, T.D., Lieutenant-Colonel J. Cochran, O.B.E., T.D., Lieutenant-Colonel P. A. Dewar, O.B.E., T.D., Major A. Fraser, M.B.E., M.C., T.D., and Captain (Q.M.) J. M. Ingram, as the principal guests among a large company of present and former members of the Squadron.

Beating Retreat on the esplanade of Stirling Castle on Saturday evening was performed by the Massed Pipes and Drums including our Regimental Pipes and Drums. The Ceremony was followed by a Lord Lieutenant's Reception in the Queen Anne Gardens at the Castle. The Reception was attended by a good number of former Officers of No. 2 Squadron together with Major T. B. S. MacMain, M.B.E., the Second-in-Command, and Major G. Louden.

A Church Parade and March Past was held on Sunday, 1st June. The Parade was headed by the combined Pipes and Drums of the Regiment and of the 7th Battalion Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, while an excellent turn-out of No. 2 Squadron, under the command of Major Louden, marched with precision in the parade.

Dundee

The celebrations at Dundee have not taken place at the time of writing but the events to be held include a Review and March through the city, followed by the Massed Pipes and Drums beating.

The Regiment will be well represented by No. 3 Squadron and our Regimental Pipes and Drums.

It is worth recording that on this occasion the Massed Pipes and Drums will be led by our Drum-Major—D/M Steed, who has been selected to do so on the basis of smartness: one up for Signals!

54 (EA) INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT (T.A.)

The month of May saw a continuation of the Regiment's training and the various sub-units have carried out week-end Exercises ranging over East Anglia. Many of these Exercises have been on a mutual and inter-T.A.C. basis and much has been achieved towards getting a well knit Unit together. Possibly the greatest benefit derived from these Exercises is the closer relationship now established among our widely dispersed T.A.C.s; the real T.A. spirit is becoming more evident.

The Regimental Week-end, held on 17th/18th May, was a resounding success, due mainly to the co-operation of 3 Divisional Signal Regiment, who gave us, their visitors, a real insight into a modern Divisional Signal set-up.

The Regular Regiment displayed a Divisional H.Q. sited in a wood on the outskirts of Cambridge and neglected no effort to show their T.A. counterparts the finer points of dispersal, camouflage and, what proved most important, the latest methods of communications. A great number of our tradesmen were given the opportunity of working alongside the Regulars, even manning wireless stations and laying lines to Brigades. Many comments heard afterwards confirmed the success of this effort and the assistance of 3 Divisional Signal Regiment was invaluable in making the week-end an interesting and very instructional one for all those taking part.

Our main efforts now are in preparation for Annual Camp and the T.A. Golden Jubilee celebrations. All T.A. Centres have been showing their paces to the public in connection with the T.A. Golden Jubilee. The success of these displays is reflected by the fact that our recruiting figures for the month of May show an increase throughout the Regiment, with hope for a further influx during June.

It is with regret that we learn of the cancellation of the proposed visit at Camp of H.R.H. The Princess Royal and all ranks wish Her Royal Highness a speedy recovery. However, we look forward to a visit from the Representative Colonel Commandant, Major-General R. F. H. Nalder, C.B.E., O.B.E.

"1/20 on Top"

This title aptly describes the spirits of all ranks of 1/20 (S.M.) Army Signal Regiment (T.A.), during annual training in May this year, at Proteus Camp, near Ollerton in Nottinghamshire, for the highlight of camp was a radio relay exercise "Snow Drop," requiring a transmitter station on the top of Mount Snowdown, and a relay site 1,600ft. above sea level. The aim of the exercise was to set up communication over cable and A.N.T.R.C. between Llanberris and the unit camp, 130 miles away as the crow flies, at Ollerton, in order to get practice in operating the equipment over longer distances than normally possible during routine training throughout the year (combined with a certain amount of "roughing it" for added interest!).

Llanberris was chosen in view of its proximity to Snowdon. Limitation in equipment precluded more than one relay station, and fortunately, a suitable relay point was discovered in the Pennines, near Buxton, after much map-gazing and ground recce. In the planning period, considerable doubts were expressed, in view of the distance from Snowdown to Buxton (about 90 miles) and also from the fact that on each section of the link a line of sight path could not be obtained.

In the event, clear, strong signals were obtained on both sections and also overall terminal to terminal, when strapped through at the relay station.

At Proteus Camp, an "A.N.T.R.C." transmitter terminal was established. Some 40 miles away, on top of the moors above Buxton, a small detachment, commanded by Lieutenant Peter Keiller, set up the relay station. Weather conditions were



Sergeant Harris with the train crew.



Checking a map bearing.

extremely bad and continued so during the whole of the five days of the exercise, including mist, reducing visibility to three or four yards, icy-cold gales, hailstorms and violent rain. Much use was made of the derelict Boothman's Cottages—soon re-christened "Keiller's Castle"—by Driver Beale, as a cook-house for the compo rations of Irish stew and ginger pudding.

A base camp was established at Cader Ellyll, some 700ft. up, at the foot of Snowdon. This camp was under the command of Captain O. E. Dillon, of 1 Squadron, assisted by W.O.II Warrilow, who were given the pleasant duty of liaising with the manager and staff of the Snowdown Mountain Railway (during both on and off duty!), combined with the task of running four D8 single cables up 4½ miles of heavy going to the summit, 3,000ft. higher. Originally, it was hoped that the summit station would be established with the aid of a helicopter, but this assistance was not available, so that by special arrangement, the mountain railway was pressed into service for the carrying of the bulk of the equipment and tentage to the top. The Railway Manager, Mr. Williams, and his staff entered into the spirit of the occasion and co-operated magnificently, for which we give them our grateful thanks.

The summit detachment—commanded by Major Glover, D.F.C., who joined us last year on transfer from the Royal Auxiliary Air Force—consisted of Captains Atcherley and Anderson and Signalmen Campbell and Tuckey. They spent three days on the 3,560ft. peak under extremely difficult conditions of wind, snow, rain and mist, frequently expecting their tent to disappear into the night with them inside it.

The original intention was to extend the circuit from Snowdon summit station by D8 cable to produce one audio circuit, Llanberris-Ollerton Camp. Later, it was decided to be more ambitious and to try to establish line equipment ACT 1+4, although realising that the cut-off frequency of D8 cable would prevent all the carrier channels from being established.



Captain Dillon watches Sergeant Major Warrilow up the pole.



Tented accommodation below the cairn.



Major Glover checks final stages of mast erection on the summit

The stay of the summit party at the top was limited by train times, and the exercise had to close down after the audio and first carrier channel had been successfully engineered.

On the last day of the exercise, a large party, consisting of the C.S.O., Brigadier M. G. A. Hepper, C.B.E., the Commander, Army Signals, Colonel E. R. Price, C.B.E., T.D., accompanied by Press and TV representatives, visited the summit, being met by the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel P. R. Hoskins, T.D., and O.C. 3 Squadron, Major R. C. Reid-Jones, who was the author of the plan. The weather also decided to welcome the visitors, the clouds rolled back and the sun shone, to give the working party their first clear view from the summit since their arrival.

Not to be outdone by all this activity, O.C. 2 Squadron, Major G. D. Davies, whose role had been confined to supplying a daily S.D.S. service over the 170-mile road route, decided that something more spectacular was needed. Accordingly, accompanied by Captain J. A. Dale, Staff Sergeant Hancox and Sergeant Chinner, he departed by car from Proteus Camp at 00.01 hours, 11th May, arrived at Snowdon base camp by dawn, and after a quick breakfast, climbed to the summit by the path alongside the railway track, through rain, snow and hail, and reached the top at 09.00 hours. At 09.55 hours the party began to descend down the winding Pyg track to Llanberris, and thence back up to the base camp by 12.25 hours. Leaving Snowdon at 14.40 hours, they returned to Proteus Camp at 20.35 hours, having covered 347 miles by car and 19 miles on foot in just under 17 hours, excluding stops.

Operation "Snow Drop" was a great success, and earned the Unit a good deal of publicity, both on the Midland TV News and in the local press; rumour already has it that Major "R-J" has been seen with several books on the Himalayas, in preparation for next year!

B.M.M.

ROYAL SIGNALS WING, CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY OFFICERS' TRAINING CORPS

If not the first occasion, it is certainly many years since THE WIRE featured any news of this Signals Wing. Though few in numbers, the Wing has an enthusiastic nucleus and its activities in both scope and variety is ever increasing. It is therefore somewhat of a disappointment to learn that, on the departure for Cyprus this coming October of S.S.M. Jenkins, who has done so much for the Wing as its P.S.I. since he arrived from O.T.W. School of Signals nearly three years ago, the establishment of this Wing is now to be down-graded to the rank of sergeant in accordance with the present War Office policy. However, we look forward to welcoming Sergeant Dossetter from 4 Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment as his relief at the start of the next academic year.

The C.U.O.T.C., though itself dating back to only 1908, has a long and distinguished history as the heir of the Cambridge University Rifle Volunteers, which was formed in 1860 as the 4th Battalion of the Suffolk Regiment, and is very proud of its battle honour—South Africa 1900—an achievement the equal of which no other university O.T.C. can boast. In 1908 this volunteer battalion was reformed as the Cambridge University O.T.C. with a total strength of nearly 1,200 with infantry, cavalry, artillery, engineer and medical sub-units. Two years later a Signal company was formed. Among the more distinguished past members of both the Corps and the Cambridge University O.T.C. still in residence is Professor F. J. M. Stratton, who was appointed as the first Officer Commanding the new Signal Company in 1910, which post he held until his retirement from the O.T.C. in 1929, apart from the period of the First World War. During this latter time he was O.C. 20th Division Signal Company and later A.D. Signals 19th Corps.

The equipment available for training cadets today is a far cry from the facilities available in 1910 when the primary means of communication was by flag, lamp and telephone. In the period prior to 1914, however, short range WT sets were extensively developed and tested by members of the Signal Company and in 1912 the Company, together with the Oxford University O.T.C. Signal Company, were called upon to provide communications for a Territorial Army Division on Army manoeuvres in the Cambridge area. With wireless sets powered by bicycle driven generators, cable laid from bicycle-drawn drum barrows designed by the Company (the original of which may today be seen at Christs Hospital School), and DRs on some of the early motor cycles, this considerable commitment was successfully met. Many of those who took part in the exercise later made good use of the experience gained in the R.E. Signal Service, and the company eventually provided officers i/c W.T. in no less than four different Armies during the course of the First World War.

At the present moment all Wings are preparing for the first annual camp of the O.T.C. as a Unit since 1938. This is to be held at the end of June at Cranwich in Norfolk, and so this Wing is busy overhauling equipment in readiness for duties which will include the provision of communications for R.A. Wing shoots and Infantry Wing exercises. Nevertheless, there has been much activity of late in the wireless room on the Inter-Command Schools Net which the Wing has recently been allowed to join in the absence of a University Net. In the short time that the Wing has been operating, over fifty contacts have been made spreading wide news of its activities. In this way it is hoped to encourage those persons who are interested in wireless and signalling generally to join the Wing on coming up to the University straight from school. With the demise of National Service imminent, even if this aim is only partially achieved, the Wing should prove extremely valuable to T.A. Signal Regiments throughout the country as a training and recruiting ground for T.A. officers.

It only remains to wish the present Wing Commander, Lieutenant Douglas, who has devoted so much time and enthusiasm to the activities of the Wing over the past twelve months, the best of luck on the conclusion of his University days, both in his future career and also in his duties with 52 (Lowland) Infantry Division Signal Regiment (T.A.).

Association Notes

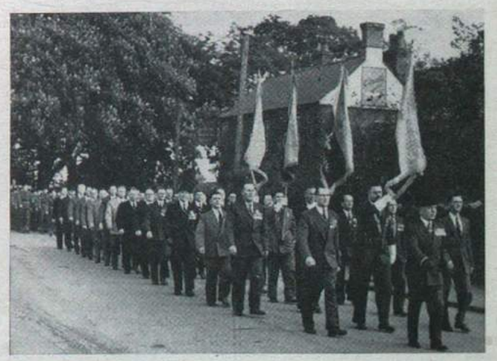
MIDLAND AREA REUNION
GARATS HEY AND BEAUMANOR PARK

Saturday and Sunday, 24th/25th May

If one needed an example of the spirit typifying this event, then it surely was provided by the Press photographer who wanted a shot of a group of "old timers." He had read in the Press hand-out that, concurrent with the dance at Garats Hey, a social evening was taking place in the Beaumanor clubrooms to cater for those who preferred the less hectic pleasures of drinking, gripping and the odd tombola card. Accordingly, said Press photographer turned up at Beaumanor, only to find the club-rooms occupied by a collection of under forties—some very much so. Off he was packed to the Dance, where, as you will have guessed, he found what he wanted—the real "old timers," all having the time of their lives and defying anno domini with all the vigour at their command!!

Yes, it was that kind of event, everyone felt young at heart—and still capable of enjoying life with a vigour that surprised more than a few of the comparative youngsters present.

At one table you would find old stalwarts like Messrs. Ient, Nichols, Chester, Guest, etc., talking of decades—old incidents as if they'd happened only the only day.



Members of the Association with their standards marching to Church on 25th May, 1958.
A detachment of 10 Wireless Training Squadron is in the rear.



A group of members of the Association with their ladies taken during the All Ranks Dance at the Midland Reunion at Garats Hay Camp.

At another table would be folk like Messrs. Wiggins, Leavesly, Hopwood, Angel, etc., comparing plans and ambitions for the future as if the whole thing were just beginning.

So it was that kind of Reunion—pleasurable reminiscence with well-met comrades of bygone years, and hopeful confidence for what lies ahead. And that, unless I'm mistaken, is the main object of any reunion.

Before giving some account of the week-end's events, let me pay tribute now to the invaluable assistance given the organisers by Major Bovey, S.S.M. Hiscott, and indeed, all personnel of 10 Wireless Training Squadron, Royal Signals. Throughout the preparation, execution and final clearing up, they set a magnificent example of just how much could be done by a small unit.

The Reunion was attended by 51 members from Branches other than Loughborough, and with them came 20 wives and five children. Most members stayed in Barracks, some were accommodated with their wives in local hotels, and some were day-only visitors from nearby Derby, Nottingham, Leicester, etc. There are only three hotels in Quorn, and it was quite a job to get everyone fixed up, but it was accomplished with the minimum inconvenience or complaint.

Saturday was very wet, but our hopes of a successful Beaumanor Garden Fete rose with the break in the weather around two o'clock. Half-on-hour later Mrs. Moberly, wife of the Signal Officer-in-Chief, declared the Fete open, heralded by a fanfare from the Trumpeters, The Band played, the round of the stalls began, and we had visions of going some way towards realising the kind of profit needed to help cover the week-end's outlay. But it was not to be, for after a couple of trial runs the rain really set in and although we had marquees ready for wet weather occupation, it was too dark inside them to do anything. So we evacuated to the main building and ended the afternoon with a nice tombola session. Throughout the two hours of operation, the ladies in the refreshment tent worked manfully to ensure — in spite of quite difficult conditions — the success of the Catering Department.

Evening saw complete success attending the Social Evening at Beaumanor and the Dance at Garats Hey Barracks. The Dance Orchestra played for over four hours to satisfy an appreciative 400-odd dancers, and both bars were well favoured over the same period. Down at Beaumanor, as mentioned earlier, a tombola, grip, and steady drinking session was also very popular.

Throughout the evening there was quite a shuttle service going on between the two venues, with Major-General Moberly, Brigadiers Firth and Duvivier and their ladies making use of a certain Zephyr Six to help them "go the distance" as well as the rest of us.

Church Parade next day was blessed with magnificent weather, and the Band, the four standards, and the fine turnout of members provided a spectacle to match the sunshine. Contingents from York, Aldershot and Leeds, with their Standards, augmented by members from Hull, Sheffield and Leicester, marched with the 25-strong Loughborough party and standard behind the band. The Parade was commanded by Major Bovey, whose 10 W.T.S. provided a uniformed contingent of 50.

The Church service, in St. Paul's, Woodhouse Eaves, saw a string section of the Band adding considerably to the beauty of the occasion, as did the Trumpeters rendering of "Fanfare for Heroes." With a nice sense of timing, the Band struck up "Begone Dull Care" as we approached the saluting base on the way back. Major-General Moberly took the salute at the march past, and we carried on all the way to Beaumanor, no mean feat, for it was all but a 30 minute march. The Band was magnificent.

The pre-lunch get-together for refreshment in the Beaumanor Clubrooms was marked by an excellent speech by the Signal Officer-in-Chief which was enthusiastically received by the large gathering of members, wives and friends.

A nice lunch, a few more drinks, then on to the final event of the week-end, a concert given by the Band in Garats Hey Barracks. And to typify in another way the success of the Reunion, we had yet another full house—and that, I am assured, is uncommon for a Band Concert at these affairs. The prolonged applause given Sergeant K. R. Northover and the non-touring Band was well-deserved recognition of the wonderful work they put in, an effort of sustained quality covering the period 2.30 p.m. Saturday to 4.15 p.m. Sunday.

And so to the farewells, the handshakes and the promises to be fulfilled in the months and years to come.

Those attending from "foreign parts" assured us of their enjoyment during the week-end, we of the Loughborough Branch were really sorry to to see them go—and we'd love to do it all again!

Torbay Branch

June has arrived at last, and what a month! We started the month with our first skittles match, and although we lost, the form shown by members who had not played before was very gratifying.

Our branch outing is taking place on Saturday, 14th June. We have accepted an invitation from the Dartmoor Prison Officers' Club, to attend a social evening at Princetown. Judging from our two previous visits, there should be a few "fat heads" the following morning. Good training for the Annual Reunion!

What with T.A. members "bulling" for the T.A. Golden Jubilee, and the Annual Reunion, this is quite a hectic month.

Whilst on the subject of the T.A. Golden Jubilee, there is one rumour that I would like to repudiate. All who are going, now have their No. 1 Dress, and it is not true that two members had to go to Devonport Dockyard to get fitted for headdress.

The most pleasing thing to report from our branch is that sales of THE WIRE have increased enormously during the past two months. All the new subscribers are pleased with the magazine, and we shall have little difficulty in maintaining sales.

Welfare Section

Below an attempt is made to describe with suitable anonymity, eight cases taken from the Welfare Section files concluded during the first week in June, 1958. Also on this page is a simple statement of income and expenditure.

Lance-Sergeant, 1942-46, previous service in Infantry. Married. Ill and in hospital since October, 1957. Deeply concerned about his wife and child. Eventually she managed to obtain employment and the fund helped a little to clothes to enable her to do so.

Signalman, 1940-43, then transferred to R.E.M.E. His wife died in March leaving him with eight children. The eldest, aged 16, does the housekeeping. S.S.A.F.A.—R.E.M.E.—Royal Signals all helped and doubtless will do so again.

Widow of Signalman, 1945-48, who died in 1957. She manages a home and two young children on the total income of £4/8/- a week. Needless to say the fund helped her.

Corporal, 1942-47. Married, two children. He has been in hospital since September, 1957, and a grant helped to suitable clothing for the elder son to go to Grammar School.

Lance-Corporal, 1949-53, previous service R.A.S.C. Married, one child. After a long history of illness he had to stop working in March. He cannot see at all. The R.A.S.C. and Royal Signals shared a grant to pay off the balance owed on some necessary furniture hire purchased before his illness.

Staff Sergeant, 1921-27, previously 13 years in Devon Regiment. He is a widower and a married daughter looks after him. The other six children are married and gone. The Association made a grant to help bury his wife who died recently.

Signalman, 1950-52. Married, three children. War disability pensioner. His income halved by ill health in February, he owed two weeks rent on his Council owned flat. Despite being a pensioner and only owing two weeks the City Council's Housing Officer had him to court and his family were to be evicted whilst he is in hospital. Prompt action by the Association stopped that and the Council sent a receipt for the two weeks rent and Court fee and with great generosity wrote that action to evict the family had ceased. Oh, bureaucracy!

Lance-Corporal, 1943-46. Married, children. He has not worked since 1950 when he contracted tuberculosis. His wife and family have been cared about by the Association since then. Recently the County Health Authority lent them a caravan for a two weeks holiday and the Association paid their fares to get there.

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION AND BENEVOLENT FUND

The following donations were most gratefully received during May, 1958:

	£	s.	d.
School of Signals (O.T. Wing)	7	2	6
School of Signals (Royal Signals Wing)	14	0	0
3 Training Regiment	9	17	0
10 Air Support Signal Unit, T.A.	12	6	
Signal Wing, School of Infantry	13	6	
Army Phantom Signal Regiment, T.A.	5	0	
52 (L) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A.	10	0	
C.S.O.'s Branch, H.Q. B.A.O.R.	4	2	0
12 Air Formation Signal Regiment	8	0	0
19 Army Group Signal Regiment	5	14	0
2 L. of C. Signal Regiment	13	11	3
O.C.L.F. Signal Squadron	29	2	0
17 Gurkha Divisional Signal Regiment	7	6	0
28 COMWEL Brigade Signal Squadron	8	18	0
K.D.G. Signal Troop	2	19	8
22 S.A.S. Signal Troop	2	12	5
Cyprus District Signal Regiment	15	0	0
51 Independent Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron	1	12	0
15 Signal Park Troop	1	0	0
2 Wireless Regiment (21 Unit Branch)	17	14	0
Total Receipts ...	£150	11	10

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION WELFARE SECTION

The following donations were most gratefully received during May, 1958:

Chesterfield Branch	2	0	0
Mr. J. J. Tye	1	0	0
Total Receipts ...	£3	0	0
Expenditure during May, 1958 (Includes: Rent and Rates; Beds and Bedding; Furniture; Cots and Prams; General Assistance).	£390	3	8
Analysis of Cases:—			
Widows and dependants ... 3			
Released and discharged soldiers ... 39			
Total cases assisted ... 42			
27 cases of Soldiers who served during the 1939-45 War	£287	17	3
15 cases of Soldiers who did not serve during the War	£102	6	5

Lighter Fuel Packs

The following amounts were most gratefully received during May, 1958:

	£	s.	d.
Box No. 14 ... Harrogate Branch	4	6	0
" " 52 ... York Club		18	0
Total Receipts ...	£5	4	0

Clothing

The Welfare Section of the Association would like to express their grateful thanks to Mrs. Thomson, of 86, Watson Street, Dundee, mother of the late Ex-Signalman Thomson, for her kindness in sending the Association parcels of clothing and books from time to time, which have been much appreciated and given a lot of joy to more than one family in need.

The continued demand for clothing, both men's and children's, is now extremely pressing. Our clothing store at present is depleted. That a suit is well worn is no demerit. Widows left with large families make a constant demand which we cannot fulfil.

Articles attacked by moth should, please, not be sent.

ROYAL SIGNALS TENNIS, 1958

The Annual Corps Tennis Tournament was played at the Officers' Club, Catterick Camp, during the week 2nd-8th June, 1958. The standard of play was on the whole better than last year and entries were good, there being no fewer than 32 players who took part in the Open Singles.

Results in the finals of the various events were:—

Open Singles
Second-Lieutenant M. L. Booth (7 Training Regiment)
beat
Signalman McBride (1 Training Regiment) ... 6-3, 8-6.

Open Doubles
Signalman McBride (1 Training Regiment Regiment) and Signalman Parker (School of Signals)
beat
Captain L. S. Bamber (Headquarter Training Brigade and Second-Lieutenant M. L. Booth (7 Training Regiment) ... 4-6, 8-6, 9-7.

Regimental Doubles
Second-Lieutenant M. Booth and Captain L. Bamber (7 Training Regiment)
beat
Signalman Parker and Major J. W. Eagle (School of Signals) ... 6-2, 6-3.

Other Ranks Singles
Signalman McBride (1 Training Regiment)
beat
Signalman Parker (School of Signals) ... 6-4, 6-8, 6-3.

Other Ranks Doubles
Signalman McBride (1 Training Regiment) and Signalman Parker (School of Signals)
beat
Signalman Mill (1 Training Regiment) and Signalman Bowden (1 Training Regiment) ... 6-2, 6-1.

ROYAL SIGNALS OFFICERS' GOLFING SOCIETY AUTUMN MEETING, 1958

The Autumn Meeting will be held at Hankley Common Golf Club (near Woking) on 29th, 30th September and 1st October, 1958.

Programme

29 Sept.	A.M.	Senior Officers v. Junior Officers.
	P.M.	Senior Officers v. Junior Officers.
30 Sept.	A.M.	Royal Signals Open Championship (1st Round). Regular Officers Cup (1st Round). Handicap Challenge Cup (1st Round).
	P.M.	Individual Stableford (18 holes).
1 Oct.	A.M.	Royal Signals Open Championship (2nd Regular Officers Cup (2nd Round). Handicap Challenge Cup (2nd Round). Foursomes Challenge Cup Stableford (18 holes).

There are no entry fees for any events, however, 2/6 optional sweeps will be held in each event. Green fees and meals are chargeable to individuals.

Accommodation can probably be arranged privately with officers who live in the neighbourhood, if any officer entering informs the Secretary of his requirements.

Entries to be sent to the Hon. Secretary, Major Macdonald, H.Q. London District, Horse Guards, Whitehall, S.W.1. (WHI 4466, Ext. 141).

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THE WIRE

THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE

The Official Organ of the Signals Association

Editor:
BRIGADIER H. R. FIRTH

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☆

AUGUST • 1958

Vol. 12 (*New Series*) **No. 8**

Editorial

THE CORPS AT HOME AND REUNION

AFTER about two weeks of almost continuous rain and a real Catterick wet day on the Friday it seemed likely that very much of all that had been arranged for the members of the Association would be wasted effort.

Astonishingly Saturday, 28th and Sunday, 29th June, were absolutely perfect days and we have much to be thankful for.

By 7.30 p.m. a majority of the visitors and, or so it seemed, nearly all the regular staff of the Training Brigade and School of Signals were assembled. Sunshine with a whisper of a wind for coolness made the **Playing of Retreat by the Band** a most memorable feast of music and colour.

As always the music was perfect. Much of it is traditional but "arr. Judd" on the programme usually means something a little extra.

Major-General C. M. F. White, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., who as Colonel Commandant gave permission to "March off," paid high compliment when he said that the standard of turn-out and military bearing was as good as the music. He mentioned that Major J. L. Judd, M.B.E., and most of his men had been thoroughly soaked when playing before Her Majesty The Queen in Lincoln on the previous day.

The Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Messes were later "At Home" to everyone and in which ever sequence the guests girated between the various Messes each one appeared either just as excellent or a little bit better than the one last visited. The standard of entertainment is traditionally magnificent.

Church Parade on the Sunday was as good as ever. With a warm sun to dry them out and a little breeze to cool their brows the "Old Comrades" marched as well as ever; perhaps a little better in 1958.

About 250, including sixteen standards, marched to Church; another 50 joined for the return march.

At the beginning of the service the right marker of No. 1 Squadron turned a page of the Roll of Honour in the Memorial Chapel and then the **Standard of Torbay and District Branch was Dedicated.** A new and very delightful feature of the Service was the **Te Deum Laudamus** sung in English to an arrangement by Stanford in B Flat. The blending of the voices of the choir with the Silver Trumpets of the Band was memorable even though Major Judd later denied that he had had any part in composition or rehearsal.

The Sermon was preached by the Reverend G. S. G. Stokes, B.A., C.F., the Chaplain in Charge of St. Martin's, the Royal Signals Church.

General White, the Chairman of the Association read the lesson.

After the collection for the Royal Signals Benevolent Fund, the congregation stood for the magnificent **Fanfare for Heroes** followed by the National Anthem.

The March Past commenced quickly. General White who "took the salute" had beside him General S. Kestens, President of the "Signal Association of the Belgian Army." Major-General D. A. L. Wade, C.B., O.B.E., M.C., commanded the small echelon of senior retired officers which by tradition marches in front of the leading Squadron of Old Comrades. This select band always "fall out" when they have passed the saluting base.

No. 1 Squadron of the Old Comrades was commanded by Mr. C. Mepham, one of the original R.S.M.s of the Corps, he retired in 1926, and No. 2 Squadron by Major F. Mansfield, M.B.E. At least two Brigadiers and several Colonels marched in the ranks.

The Annual General Meeting followed the parade and despite a very long aganda was over in 65 minutes. A full report is on page 258.

After vast potations and a considerable luncheon, all assembled on Scotton Ground for an even better than usual programme of displays.

The impossible weather of the previous days had prevented the setting up of the usual lavish outdoor display of modern line equipment. A quantity of equipment, some old, some modern, was on display and also the magnificent array of Corps Silver.

The programme of Military Displays was carried out with such perfection that despite the counter attractions of 75 yards of bar and several tea tents, nearly every one watched each item.

Drill Display by the 7th Training Regiment.
Communication Race. Regular and National Service Trainees of the 2nd Training Regiment.
Physical Training Display by Royal Signals assistant instructors in Physical Training.
The Royal Signals Motor Cycle Display (5th Training Regiment).

(*The Editorial is continued on page* 230).

Editorial continued

The indefatigable Band continued to play despite appeals through the loud hailers for ex-Boys and others to roll up and subscribe to the Cobb Memorial Trophy, page 247.

"Thank You." Left to the last, but none the less sincere, is the pleasant but difficult task of trying to express what was in the minds of all of the Association as the great day drew to its end.

As soldiers of experience we all know what a tremendous and sustained effort went into all the preparations for our entertainment and less noticed but none the less worthy, the fearful job of clearing up afterwards.

To all the Training Brigade and the School of Signals our most grateful thanks.

Obituary

Major-General C. W. Fladgate, C.B.E.



It is with the greatest regret that we have to announce the death of Major-General C. W. Fladgate who died at his home in Fleet on 15th June, at the age of 67.

On leaving the R.M.C. Sandhurst in 1910 he was commissioned in the 60th Rifles and after serving with his regiment in Malta and India he went with it to France in November, 1914. In February the following year he was wounded in action and evacuated to England.

Later in the year he was appointed Command Signalling Officer, Salisbury Training Centre, and so began his long connection with Signals.

In 1915 he went to the Signal Service Training Centre then at Bedford, and was seconded to the R.E. Signal Service, and in the following year went again to France, where, as acting Major, he commanded the 2nd Army Signal Company.

In 1917 he was Assistant Director of Army Signals G.H.Q., Italy, and later of the 2nd Army in France. He was twice mentioned in despatches and was awarded the French Croix de Guerre and the Italian Cross of St. Maurice and Lazarus.

In February, 1919, he was appointed G.S.O.2 in SD 6 (the forerunner of the Signals Directorate), in The War Office, and so was very intimately connected with the formation of the Corps which took place the following year.

In November, 1922, he was transferred to the Corps and during the next ten years served with the 3rd Divisional Signals at Bulford, the Signal Training Centre at Maresfield, the Command Signal Company and the 2nd Divisional Signals at Aldershot.

On promotion to Lieutenant-Colonel he was appointed Chief Signal Officer, Northern Command at York, and in 1938 Chief Signal Officer, Aldershot Command as Colonel.

On the outbreak of war, Colonel Fladgate went to France as C.S.O., 1st Corps of the B.E.F., and in August, 1940, he was recalled to the War Office as G.S.O.1 of SD 6, and when the Signals Directorate was formed in the following year, he became the Deputy Director of Signals and in 1941 the Director with the rank of Major-General.

In 1943 he was abroad again, this time to Egypt as Chief Signal Officer, Middle East Land Forces, which appointment he held until his retirement in 1946.

He was A.D.C. to the King from 1941-46. His active connections with the Corps by no means ended with his retirement as he was a Colonel Commandant from 1947-55, and Chairman of the Royal Signals Association from 1949-54 in which capacity he was largely responsible for building up the efficient and energetic concern which it is today.

For 43 years Courtenay Fladgate served Signals, never sparing himself in doing all he could for the officers and men of the units which he commanded, and for the Corps. He was a well known figure in the Army, and his charming and friendly personality and his enthusiasms endeared him to all who knew him. There will be a large number to whom his death will be a very personal loss.

In 1922 he married Miss Evelyn Finch and the deepest sympathy of the Corps goes out to her and to their son and daughter.

Memorial Service

MEMORIAL SERVICE IN THE QUEEN'S CHAPEL OF THE SAVOY TO THE LATE MAJOR-GENERAL C. W. FLADGATE, C.B.E., ON 11th JULY, 1958

THE Queen's Chapel provided a noteable setting and can seldom have been fuller. Below is a list, probably inaccurate of some of the members of the Corps who were there.

The Service, the singing were all most beautiful and the Reverend J. C. Gethin-Jones, B.A., M.C., T.D., who was the Chaplain of St. Martin's in Catterick when in 1925 the Corps moved thereto from Maresfield, gave a most noteable address. After speaking informally of his personal friendship with "Courtenay" Fladgate in those early days he went on to emphasise the example his life and work held for all of us. The Preacher illustrated his text by quoting for the most part the work of General Fladgate after his retirement: how for five years he had devoted all of himself to the Royal Signals Association; and later to the World Veterans' Federation in which he had laboured at much personal sacrifice, in conjunction with men of many nations, to heal the bitterness of war. (*A very great number of tributes are still coming in from men of very many nations who knew and admired him in his work for international understanding amongst ex-Servicemen*). The Reverend Gethin-Jones spoke of him as a man of benevolence in mind and in action. He was essentially a patient man and his death is not so much a matter of grief but his life and death are an example to all.

The address and its purport is perhaps best paraphrased in the following very moving quotation from the Order of Service:—

"Let us give thanks to God for the life and work of COURTENAY WILLIAM FLADGATE,

Commander of the most excellent Order of the British Empire.

For his devotion to the service of his Sovereign and his country.

For the loyalty which he exhibited in the execution of his duty.

For the many blessings which his life has brought to all those who have come in contact with him.

For his constant example in inspiring the best in his fellow men.

For this we thank God."

At the conclusion of the Service, Trumpeters of the Band of the Royal Corps of Signals sounded the Last Post and Reveille.

The following members of Royal Signals were present, in many cases they were accompanied by their wives:—

Colonels Commandant. Major-General R. F. H. Nalder, the Representative Colonel Commandant, who also represented Her Royal Highness the Colonel-in-Chief, Brigadier R. H. Willan, General Sir H. Colville, B. Wemyss, Major-Generals G. G. Rawson, R. F. H. Naylor, Sir Leslie G. Philips, Sir W. Ronald C. Penney, C. H. H. Vulliamy, also representing Brigadier F. A. Sykes, C. M. F. White, W. A. Scott, Mrs. Wheatley represented Major-General M. S. Wheatley who is in Canada.

Major-Generals R. E. Vyvyan, D. A. L. Wade also represented the Royal Signals Institution, W. A. Dimoline, A. E. Morrison, R. J. Moberly, L. de M. Thuillier, E. S. Cole.

Brigadiers Sir Ralph Rayner, R. H. O. Coryton, R. A. C. Henderson, C. P. Prescot, W. T. Howe, W. H. G. Rogers, J. J. Duvivier, G. S. O'N. Power, W. D. J. Harries, W. R. Smijth-Windham, E. D. Good, F. W. P. Bradford.

Colonels B. G. Rowley, R. N. Higgs, P. G. Gambier, R. M. Adams, J. E. S. Sanders, G. H. T. Shrimpton, E. I. E. Mozley.

Royal Signals Association. Mr. L. V. Goodman and eight members of Aldershot Branch, Mr. A. W. Smith and two members of London Branch, and W.O.I S. F. Hart, Salisbury Branch, and the General Secretary and Staff of Headquarters of the Association.

Representing Other Organisations. Major-General A. H. Hornby, Colonel Commandant Royal Artillery, representing also the Royal Artillery Association, Lieutenant-Colonel G. F. Turner, Grenadier Guards, representing also the Co-ordinating Committee of Service and ex-Service Associations, Mrs. L. M. Caddy, representing the Association of W.R.N.S., Major-General Dudley Johnson, V.C., representing British Legion, Fleet, Captain L. E. Skinner representing Fleet Civil Defence.

The arrangements were made by Lieutenant-Colonel B. R. M. Hayles, C.S.O., Headquarters London District, and the following: Majors W. MacDonald, C. N. Le Gassick and Captain B. A. Canham.

As far as Royal Signals is concerned the above list is reasonably accurate although there may be some unintentional omissions. There were also, apart from family, very many others whose names were not recorded.

LETTER
(One of Many)

Dear Sir,

It is with sincere regret that I read of the death of Major-General C. W. Fladgate, C.B.E., for whom I had the deepest respect.

He was the greatest "friend in need" to me, at a time when I really needed one.

On 11th February, 1953, dressed in a good suit and stylish overcoat, I was crossing Eccleston Bridge towards the Coach Station, when I heard a voice say:

"Good gracious! Haven't you shrunk?"

Imagine my surprise when, on looking up, I saw someone I had not seen for 28 years, and gasped out "Major Fladgate!"

"I was," he answered; and continued, "You look very affluent."

This caused me to smile, and I answered, "affluent Sir?"

"Well, I have 2½d. in my pocket and my return ticket home."

"Broke, are you?" said the General. "Well, what are you doing in London?"

"Looking for a job," I answered. "I have toured as many agencies as it is possible to crowd into eight and-a-half continuous hours, and did not stop even for a lunch."

To cut a long story short, the outcome of it all was, I was loaned £5, and within two days had a job, which I still hold.

Such generosity can never be forgotten by me, more especially so, as I was never under the General's direct command. If he has done this for me, what must he have done for others, with whom he was more acquainted, or any member of the Association who was in need.

Such unselfishness is rarely met with today.

Yours faithfully,

C. M. BARTLETT,
1855003 Royal Signals.

PERSONAL COLUMN

London Gazette

13th June, 1958
Colonel J. W. Gordon retires, 11th June, 1958.
Lieutenant-Colonels F. S. P. H. Lang and F. A. Young retire, 12th June, 1958.

24th June, 1958
W.O.I S. G. Barnes to be Lieutenant (Q.M.), 19th May, 1958.

27th June, 1958
Colonel J. H. E. Panton, O.B.E., retires 28th June, 1958.

1st July, 1958
Major W. M. S. Leyson retires, 1st July, 1958.
Captain (T.O.T.) J. Spafford to be Major (T.O.T.), 30th June, 1958.
Major (Q.M.) T. Williamson retires, 1st July, 1958.

8th July, 1958
Awarded the First Clasp to the A.E.R. Decoration:
Captain R. N. Renton, C.G.I.A., M.I.E.E.

Awarded the A.E.R. Decoration:
Major J. W. Eagle, M.B.E.
Captain R. N. Renton, C.G.I.A., M.I.E.E.
Captain (Hon. Major) N. Waddleton, M.A.
Captain C. V. Ward.

Awarded the First and Second Clasp to the Territorial Efficiency Decoration:
Major (Hon. Lieutenant-Colonel) W. L. Hey, T.D.

Awarded the Territorial Efficiency Decoration:
Major L. D. Hammerson, Retired.
Major G. Louden.
Major E. C. Palmer, Retired.
Captain (Hon. Major) J. V. Fox.
Lieutenant R. G. Armstrong.
Lieutenant D. C. MacDiarmid, Retired.

The undermentioned Lieutenants (T.O.T.) to be Captains (T.O.T.), 5th July, 1958:
J. Harwood.
R. Marsh.
F. R. Pedley.
A. C. Earl.

Births

BROWN.—To 2560700 W.O.II and Mrs. D. Brown, a son, Leslie Douglas, on 29th April, 1958, at Gateshead, Co. Durham.

Marriages

WILSON—NOSOWICZ.—Corporal Wilson to Miss Barbara Nosowicz, on 14th June, 1958.

KIRK—DOBELL.—Corporal Kirk to Patricia Dobell, at Parish Church, Chapel-en-le-Frith, Derby, on 7th June, 1958.

Deaths

CLARE.—73471148 Signalman M. A. Clare, on 24th June, 1958, in B.A.O.R.

APPLEBY.—23484787 Signalman K. Appleby, on 26th June, 1958, in U.K.

Movements — Officers

Lieutenant (Tfc. Offr.) L. P. Apps, FARELF to Northern Command (M) Signal Squadron.

Lieutenant (Q.M.) R. G. Furtado, B.E.M., B.A.O.R. to Singapore.

Captain (Tfc. Offr.) D. Herberts, ALFCE Signal Squadron to H.Q., AFCE.

Major (Tfc. Offr.) J. Prentice, Northern Command (M) Signal Squadron to SHAPE.

Major W. R. M. Dunkley, Gibraltar to Northern Command Signal Squadron.

Major R. W. Hill, 2 Training Regiment to School Regiment, School of Signals and thence to M.E.L.F.

Lieutenant-Colonel A. J. Leahy, M.E.L.F. to Depot H.S.

Major E. W. Lewis, FARELF to Depot H.S.

Major V. H. Martin, O.T.W. to Depot H.S.

Major P. D. Vaigncourt-Strallen, School Regiment, School of Signals to East Africa.

Major J. R. West, M.E.L.F. to B.A.O.R.

Major P. A. Worsnop, A.W.R.E. to retirement

Major R. G. Blackman, B.A.O.R. to Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment (T.A.).

Lieutenant-Colonel C. H. Howarth, O.T.W., School of Signals to Depot H.S.

Major D. A. Polley, Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment to Guards Brigade Signal Troop.

Major D. L. Pounds, Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment to Independent Infantry Brigade Group Signal Squadron.

Major G. H. Wotton, B.A.O.R. to School of Signals.

Major J. McK. Lamb, Depot H.S. to School of Signals.

Major (Tfc. Offr.) J. Prentice, Depot H.S. to SHAPE Signal Squadron.

Major N. C. B. Cleveley, B.A.O.R. to Scottish Command Signal Squadron.

Major R. C. S. Collison, B.A.O.R. to M.E.L.F.

Major J. R. Cubberley, B.A.O.R. to Depot H.S.

Major D. K. Binks, School of Signals to B.A.O.R.

Major F. F. Ellis, H.Q., Northern Command to B.A.O.R.

Major S. W. B. Lee, 5 Training Regiment to B.A.O.R.

Major E. Williams, H.Q., Western Command to B.A.O.R.

Major J. A. Beattie, J.C.C. to Depot H.S.

Major E. S. Colman, War Office to Depot H.Q.

Arrivals and Departures

1 *Training Regiment*

Arrivals: Lieutenant-Colonel A. L. Galloway, Sergeants P. J. Kinsella and E. F. Sharman.

Departures: Major J. G. Melson, Staff Sergeants R. Ellis and D. Oppenshaw, Sergeants D. A. W. Nicholls, D. Todd, J. Winter and W. E. Butchers.

4 *Training Regiment*

Arrivals: Major C. Newbold, Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Clarkson, Staff Sergeant Kennedy. Sergeants Houston, Huntington, Turvey, Tait and Donald.

Departures: W.O.s II Defazio and Fletcher, Sergeants McDonald and Clarke.

Major-General R. F. B. Naylor, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., exhibited at the National Rose Society Show at the Royal Horticultural Hall, Westminster, and won one of the premier awards: The Lindsell Cup for 24 specimen blooms.

Courtesy, "Daily Telegraph," 28th June, 1958.

ROYAL SIGNALS OFFICIAL CHRISTMAS CARD

A folding card with fully coloured Royal Signals Crest and reproduction in colour of H.R.H. The Princess Royal, each in envelope.

Available from Messrs. Gale and Polden Ltd., Wellington Press, Aldershot.

10/9d. per dozen — Home. (Price includes Purchase Tax).

9/0d. per dozen — Overseas.

Signed Official Order or Cash with Order. (Order Forms from Gale and Polden Ltd., or Royal Signals Association, 88, Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1).

CORPS "AT HOME" AND REUNION — 1959

Saturday, 4th and Sunday, 5th July, 1959.

MERCURY HOUSE, BOURNEMOUTH CHANGE IN MANAGER

It is regretted that Major and Mrs. Boon have found themselves unable to continue as Managers of the House after August, 1958.

Arrangements have been made for the House to remain open through September, 1958.

A further announcement will be made in the September number of "The Wire."

LATE NEWS

Collection at St. Martin's Church on Reunion Sunday, 29th June, 1958: £40/4/10.

This is the largest sum received for many years.

BRONZE STATUE OF "JIMMY" FOR SALE

Situated in Edinburgh, the statue is 3ft. high, at present mounted on a 4ft. Billiard Table Leg. The owner has given it to the Association to sell to the highest bidder—minimum £50. The proceeds go—half to the Royal Signals Association and half to a charity nominated by the owner, Major W. J. Main, Royal Signals.

Regiments, Squadrons wishing to purchase, apply: General Secretary, Royal Signals Association, 88, Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1.

FOR SALE

Jaguar Mark VII 3½ Litre Saloon. First registered September, 1954. Genuine mileage 33,000. Over-drive. Flashing and Arm Indicators. Heater. Seat covers by Henlys. Carefully driven. One owner. Seen any time by appointment. £900. Major Worrin, Flat 2, 6, Queen's Parade, Harrogate. Tel. No. Harrogate 2668.

SIGNAL TITLES

Some months ago THE WIRE expressed confidence in the future of Royal Signals under its new management. We must not be complacent however.

The Senior Service makes changes slowly but when it does the effect is shattering and over the years has often been a portent of worse to come in other services.

For some three hundred years the Navy has had its Signalmen, its "Yeoman of Signals." What a splendid title! Its substitute "Communication Yeoman"!

It is some years now that "Signalmaster," a proud word that meant what it said, was thrown aside for the ambiguous title "Duty Signal Officer"—all the rest being in bed, it was assumed.

Recent changes in title of Trades introduced into the Corps are, on the whole good, e.g. Signal Centre Supervisor—three words for one—but words that do have a meaning.

So much for praise, but now a warning. If any of the following titles are mooted in Royal Signals, THE WIRE will cry aloud if nobody else does.

Wireless Operator—Tactical Conversation Operator.

Telegraph Operator—Radio (Morse Code) Communication Operator.

Radio Relay Operator—Wireless (Visual) Communication Arranger.

Foremen of Signals—Communication Repairer.

Forthcoming Events

Royal Signals T.A./A.E.R. Garden Party, Harewood House

23rd August, 1958.

25th National Radio and Television Exhibition

will be held at Earls Court, London, from 27th August to 6th September, 1958.

Association of Harrogate Apprentices

The Annual Reunion is to be held on 13th/14th September, 1958, at the Army Apprentices' School, Harrogate.

Programme of events:

Saturday, 13th September
- 11.30 a.m. Annual General Meeting.
- 2.00 p.m. School Football Match. School XI v. North of England Grammar Schools' XI.
- 7.00 p.m. Dinner and Dance.

Sunday, 14th September
- 9.30 a.m. Church Services.

Dinner and Dance 17/6 per male or 30/- with partner. Acceptances for the dinner cannot be accepted after 25th August, 1958.

All Ex-A/T's who are members are cordially invited to attend, wives may accompany.

Requests for accommodation (male only) should be addressed to "The Commandant," Army Apprentices' School, Harrogate.

Ex-Boys' Dinner, 1958

Saturday, 27th September, 1958, 6.30 for 7.30 p.m., at the Victory Ex-Services' Club, 63/79, Seymour Street, London, W.2 (one minute from Marble Arch and first left up Edgware Road).

Principal guests, COLONEL T. W. BOILEAU and THE HON. MRS. T. W. BOILEAU.

Some seats still available for Ex-Boys, 16/6; wives or other guests, 15/-. Remittances payable "F. W. Jacob, Ex-Boys' Dinner A/c" to 54 Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A., 40, Ashburnham Road, Bedford. Bookings must close by 15th September.

The 1st Essex Signal Regiment, T.A.

are celebrating their 50th Jubilee on Saturday, 4th October, 1958, with a Reception and an "At Home" in the afternoon from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m., followed by an All Ranks' "Jubilee Dance" from 8.30 p.m. to midnight. The Royal Signals Band will give a Band concert in the afternoon and will provide the Dance Orchestra in the evening. Apart from serving members of the Regiment and their families, a cordial invitation is extended to anyone with associations with the Regiment in the past and applications for tickets for these two functions should be made to Major J. H. Mansfield, T.D., 1st Essex Signal Regiment, T.A., Selsdon Road, Wanstead, E.11.

Annual Buffet Supper and Reunion

Saturday, 6th December, 1958, at the Drill Hall. Duke of York's Headquarters, Chelsea, London, S.W.3 (by courtesy of the Middlesex Yeomanry Signal Regiment, T.A.), from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m.

CORPS BAND SUMMER TOUR, 1958

Touring Band

21st August—23rd August	Scottish Command Signal Squadron.
24th August—31st August	Edinburgh Festival.
7th September—20th September ...	Eastbourne.
21st September	Worthing.
27th September—28th September ...	Folkestone.
1st October—5th October	B.B.C. Recordings.
6th October	Return to Catterick.

ENGAGEMENTS — THE ROYAL SIGNALS DISPLAY, 1958

13th September ... 1st Training Regiment, Royal Signals, Parents' Annual Week-end.

ROYAL SIGNALS LAWN TENNIS, 1958

17 Sept. Staff College, Camberley	Camberley	(A)
18 Sept. Royal Artillery	Woolwich	(A)

All are Corps representative matches (less Welbeck College).

ROYAL SIGNALS CRICKET CLUB, 1958

9th-10th Sept. ... R.A.C. ... ... Oval. Free Admission

Match begins at 11.30 hours.

ROYAL SIGNALS OFFICERS' GOLFING SOCIETY 1958 FIXTURE LIST

11th September ...	R.A.M.C.	Swinley Forest.
29th September ...	Autumn Meeting	Hankley Common.
30th September ...	Autumn Meeting	Hankley Common.

ROYAL SIGNALS HOCKEY

The Royal Signals Hockey Trial will be played at Catterick Camp on Friday, 26th September, 1958.

Individuals wishing to be considered for this trial should submit their names, together with playing position and record to:

Captain K. Kirby, Royal Signals, Headquarters' Mess, Royal Signals, Catterick Camp, Yorks., before 12th September, 1958.

Fixtures for the 1958/59 Season are as follows:

Saturday, 27th September, 1958 ...	Thistles	Catterick
Thursday, 23rd October, 1958 ...	R.E.M.E.	Aborfield
Friday, 24th October, 1958	R.E.	Aldershot
Tuesday, 2nd December, 1958 ...	R.A.S.C.	Aldershot
Wednesday, 3rd December, 1958 ...	R.M.A.	Sandhurst
Thursday, 4th December, 1958 ...	Aldershot Services .	Aldershot
Wednesday, 18th February, 1959 ...	R.M.C. of S. ...	Aldershot
Friday, 20th February, 1959	R.A.O.C.	Blackdown
Saturday, 7th March, 1959	Durham University .	Catterick
Wednesday, 25th March, 1959 ...	Welbeck College ...	Welbeck
27th-30th March, 1959	Easter Hockey Festival	Scarborough

The date and venue for the fixture against R.A. are not yet confirmed.

*

MADRASSI SIGNALMAN



This centre piece commemorates the Silver Jubilee on 1st March, 1936, of the formation of the 34th Divisional Signal Company (Sappers and Miners). It was presented to the Officers of Waziristan District Signals, the then designation of 34th Divisional Signal Company, in appreciation of the sterling service given to the Unit by the Madrassi troops.

A plate on the reverse of the plinth bears the autographs:

A. W. Roberts
R. N. Wall
C. A. Oliver
F. J. Allen
R. M. Adams
P. J. Palmer
J. T. Cussens

The extent of the service given by 34th Divisional Signal Company (S. and M.) can best be judged from its war record.

The Unit landed in Mesopotamia in 1914 with an Indian Division sent to protect the Anglo-Persian oil installations, and from then on it accompanied General Townshend's force, providing communications under very difficult and trying conditions. It was eventually besieged in Kut with General Townshend, and despite casualties, sickness and starvation continued to maintain efficient communications within the beleagured garrison until 29th April, 1916, when General Townshend was forced to surrender to the Turkish Commander.

The 34th Divisional Signal Company, which had a strength of 279, gained 32 decorations and 45 mentions in despatches. One hundred-and-four were killed or died of disease and 50 were wounded.

THE STAR AND GARTER HOME FOR DISABLED SAILORS, SOLDIERS AND AIRMEN

Field-Marshal The Rt. Hon. Viscount Alanbrooke of Brookeborough, K.G., G.C.B., O.M., G.C.V.O., D.S.O., writes :

We have recently become aware of the fact that many people, even among those in Her Majesty's Services, have very little knowledge of the work carried out by the Star and Garter Home at Richmond, Surrey, and are not even aware of the fact that it is an independent charity requiring much financial help if the grievously disabled ex-servicemen resident there are to be looked after in the way that their comrades would wish.

At the present time we have 200 patients in the Home which is full. Five of them took part in the Boer War, two-thirds served in World War I and the remainder in World War II or later. You will, therefore, appreciate that we have men of all ages here, our oldest being 87, while our youngest who was admitted in November, 1956, was then under 21.

We endeavour to maintain the highest standards generally and employ the best and latest methods of treatment; but our object is, and always has been, to create the free and happy atmosphere of a home—not just a Home.

On account of the increased cost of everything, we now have to spend more than three times as much as we did in 1939 to maintain our patients properly: In fact we need about £40,000 a year in gifts and legacies to bridge the gap between our present dependable income and known expenditure.

Any contribution, however modest, that any of your readers can send, or better still any annual subscription, would be deeply appreciated by my fellow Governors and myself on behalf of our unfortunate comrades who cannot look after themselves and are doomed to inactivity for the rest of their lives. Gifts should be sent to The Commandant, The Star and Garter Home for Disabled Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen, Richmond, Surrey.

Ex-members of Royal Signals at present being cared for in the Star and Garter Home are :—

Name	*Age*	*Year in which admitted*
H. D. Joss	57	1930
E. G. Oakey	51	1944
C. G. Mills	32	1952
R. C. G. Mildren ...	32	1953
W. J. Merritt	59	1955
W. H. Inchley ...	48	1956
D. J. Marriner ...	29	1958

COLOURED PORTRAITS OF THE COLONEL-IN-CHIEF

Reproductions of the original portrait by Sir Gerald Kelly, K.C.V.O., P.P.A.A., in the Headquarters' Mess of Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal, C.J., G.C.V.O., G.B.E., R.R.C., T.D., D.C.L., LL.D., are obtainable, price £2/15/- inclusive of packing and postage (cash with order), from The Secretary, Royal Signals INSTITUTION, 88, Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1. The coloured portrait is 12in. x 17in., the mount is 18½in. x 25in.

BLUE BOOK

A few copies of the 5th Edition of the Blue Book corrected to May, 1958 are available at 88 Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1. Price 2/6d.

FIRST COME — FIRST SERVED !

ADVERTISEMENTS

Neither the Royal Signals Association, nor the Editor, can accept any responsibility for the accuracy or otherwise of any advertisement which appears in THE WIRE. The quality of goods, services, or property advertised as for sale is a matter for the Advertisers.

PROMOTIONS AND DELETIONS BLUE BOOK, 5th EDITION

The following substantive promotions were authorised during the month of June, 1958:

Regimental Duty Roster

To W.O.II 2326669 A/W.O.II (460) O'Malley, B. J. B.

Technical Roster

To W.O.II 2548190 S Sgt. (60) Evans, R. C.

Lineman Roster

To Sgt. 22523649 Cpl. (450) McKinnon, A.

DELETIONS

Foreman of Signals Roster

W.O.I Taylor, R. (230), Commissioned Lieutenant (T.O.T.), 10th April, 1958.

OTHER DELETIONS

Foreman of Signals Roster

S Sgt. 470.

Signal Centre Supervisor Roster

W.O.I 30
W.O.II 330

Regimental Duty Roster

W.O.I 20
W.O.II 1120 140
S Sgt. 3880 40

Technical Roster

W.O.II 160

Clerical Roster

W.O.II 70 30
Sgt. 320

Operating Roster

Sgt. 4790 4300 2980 5520 4160

General Trade and Duties Roster

Sgt. 2350 480 1280 140 2150 620

INSERTIONS

Operating Roster

22515333 Sgt. (7200) English, T.

Technician Roster

2549289 Sgt. (2174) Gray, J. R.

TYLER'S TAXIS

and

SELF DRIVE CARS



THE CAMP CENTRE

or Telephone Catterick Camp 2224

Telegrams : ATAXI, CATTERICK CAMP

You may book your requirements at our office opposite the G.P.O

Careers and Opportunity

(IMPORTANT : Anyone obtaining employment through answering advertisements in THE WIRE *must notify the Employment Section, Royal Signals Association, 88, Ecclestone Square, London, S.W.1.*

Members are reminded that they can ensure prompt notification of any vacancies likely to interest them by registering with the Employment Section. Jobs advertised in THE WIRE *are only a small proportion of those received).*

Young men with some basic knowledge of electrical subjects who are interested in training as Burglar Alarm Engineers may apply for details to Mr. Caldicott, Clarion Equipment Ltd., 39, Carnaby Street, London, W.1. (Telephone GERard 8861). Permanent employment, good prospects, pensions scheme. Interviews given without obligation.

Ex-Foremen of Signals, Radio, Line and Telegraph Technicians who desire civilian employment in a warmer climate will find some interesting information in the Notes from Malta on page 247.

The European Agricultural Settlement Board of Kenya, 216, Grand Buildings, Trafalgar Square, London, W.C.2, operates schemes to assist new settlers to acquire their own farms or to obtain training in agriculture. Anyone interested in Farming in Kenya is strongly advised to consult the Board before making any arrangements. (See article on page 50 of THE WIRE, February, 1958).

The Royal Signals Association receives many enquiries from men who wish to apply for membership of a Trades Union on the strength of qualifications obtained in the Army. In almost all cases the applicant has left it too late. In order to take advantage of the agreement between the War Office and certain Unions regarding eligibility for Union membership, application should be made at least six months before discharge. (For full details see Services Resettlement Bulletin No. 9 of 1956).

Home Stations

1 TRAINING REGIMENT

"Flaming" June must have been the wettest on record. In between downpours, the sun shone now and then, and there is a bumper crop of long grass and weeds!

The Queen's Birthday Parade, with all its traditional ceremony, took place on Gaza Sports Ground. On this occasion, for the first time, we paraded as a Regiment.

Highlight of the month was the Old Comrades Reunion. This function seems to grow in popularity with each passing year. What stories of the good old days were told and retold, and with what obvious pride and outstanding military bearing did the soldiers of yesteryear march to St. Martin's on the Sunday morning.

In spite of the weather, sports continued to take place, and we have successes to record in athletics, golf, tennis and water polo. Six of our water polo players have already represented the Command, and three have been selected for Army trials.

2 TRAINING REGIMENT

Changes have been so numerous that the Regiment has gone a complete transformation within the last few months—new blood, but nevertheless very welcome, as with regret we said farewell to many "good and faithful servants." Lieutenant-Colonel Young left us in June, bound for civilian life, and to him and Mrs. Young we wish every success for the future, and many thanks for all you both did for the Regiment. To our new Commanding Officer and Mrs. Banbury we extend a very sincere welcome, and we hope that they will have a very happy tour. Success came to the Regiment in the form of athletic prowess, in respect of Lance-Corporal Williams, who won the Army Individual Six Miles Championships—shades of Joe Cotterell. This talented young man has two recent victories over the brilliant D. Ibbotson.

The cricket team has had to date a very successful season—just one defeat, thanks mainly to the efforts of Lieutenant Davis, ex-Malaya, 1954-1957.

In spite of the grass growing under our feet (wet weather), the Regiment has had its fair share of outside commitments. Although we were unplaced in the District Rifle Meeting—we did get a "thank you" letter for running the "side-shows," so even if we cannot hit 'em, we can spin 'em. The Regiment demonstrated also, just how smart it can be on the occasion of the Queen's Birthday Parade, and got a special mention for their bearing and marching; "who said a Lineman didn't know his left from his right?" The Old Comrades came and saw us. Apart from demonstrating the modern cable laying techniques, which were well appreciated, the takings of the Sergeants' Mess were ample proof that we are still the "life blood of the Corps."

3 TRAINING REGIMENT

The past few weeks have been extremely busy. The week-end 14th/15th June was our annual Regimental Week-end and we were blessed with fine weather. This oversight was corrected by the weather clerk immediately afterwards and culminated in a standby for flood relief the night before our annual Administrative Inspection.

The Regimental Week-end was a great success, our Unit efforts being augmented by the non-touring section of the Band and the ever popular Royal Signals Display Team. Well over 300 visitors attended and, according to the number of "thank you" letters received afterwards they thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Brigadier Good took the Salute at the parade and during the afternoon Sports Meeting he won the Old Soldiers' Race. The Week-end finished with a Drumhead Service on Sunday morning, the parade being led by Standard Bearers of the Old Comrades.

On 27th June Her Majesty the Queen and H.R.H. Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, visited Lincoln. Lieutenant-Colonel Stead was given the responsibility of lining the streets of the city and had the honour of being presented to Her Majesty and Prince Philip. It was a memorable occasion but how it rained! We were all pretty thoroughly drenched but we all thought that it was well worth while to have had the opportunity of taking part. In the evening the Warrant Officers and Sergeants held a Ball, which was attended by 350 guests, including members of the City Council and friends from the Navy and the Royal Air Force.

The main purpose of the visit of Her Majesty was to open the new "fly-over" bridge, named Pelham Bridge, at the entrance to the city. The Corps Band, under the direction of Major Judd, was stationed just by the bridge and, in addition to playing the National Anthem on Her Majesty's arrival, did stalwart work in playing for the entertainment of the waiting crowds during hours of rain.

On 4th July the Brigade Commander carried out his annual Administrative Inspection. By then the uniforms, headgear and arms had been worked on to remedy the effects of about six hours' continuous rain. Several Officers learned that it is not practicable to put a soaking S.D. cap in a drying cupboard and expect it to fit next time it is required.

Despite such a busy period our athletics team found time to continue training and to get second place in the Northern Command Athletics Meeting.

Tennis. Our tennis team has now reached the semi-final of the Northern Command Inter-Unit Championship, beating 6 Battalion R.A.O.C. 5-4 and the Depot K.O.Y.L.I. 6-0 on the way. The match against 6 Battalion was a very exciting one and was only won by 6-4 in the final set of the final match.

Cricket. Our cricket team have had no luck and were beaten by the Depot, The Royal Lincolnshire Regiment in the first round of the North Midland District Cricket Tournament. They unfortunately were deficient of four stars, who were running for the Regiment in the Command Athletics.

4 TRAINING REGIMENT

Most WIRE correspondents complain that there is nothing to write about, but this month there has been so much happening in this Regiment that the difficulty will be to get it all in.

The month started, of course, with the Queen's Birthday Parade and the usual rehearsals for it, which were held on our sports field. The weather throughout was wet and cold and the field became a sea of mud after a few rehearsals and the R.A. Saluting Battery was leaving ruts about eight inches deep all over it. Happily the groundsman thinks it should recover in a few weeks, though it seems a bit optimistic. I am glad to report that the composite Regiment provided by the Signal Training Brigade acquitted itself very well and the march past in line was very nearly perfect and compared favourably with most of the other arms of the Service on parade.

St. Oswald's Garrison Church fete was held on our other sports field and also succeeded in churning it up into a sea of mud too. However, £134 was raised for the Church funds, so it looks as though the next choir outing should be a highly successful affair. The fact that all the Garrison Padres have gone off to Hull for a week is purely coincidental. For the interest of other organisers of fetes, the most successful and profitable side-show was one in which a man is tipped into a tank of water whenever a tennis ball thrown at a target hits the bull. This was in full use throughout the day and is, of course, 100% profit.

The big event of the month came when, after nearly two years' preparation, the Warrant Officers and Sergeants at last moved into the Gaza Lines Mess. This has been equipped fully to scale and has to be seen to be believed. The kitchen has every conceivable electric cooking aid and the rows of coloured lights, batteries of switches and the hum of machinery is most impressive. Particularly after a social evening. We are thinking of introducing a new trade into the Corps, that of electronic cook. The only complaint so far comes from the Treasurer, who finds that the lighting is so good that the members can play billiards without having to pay for the use of the table lights. I regret, however, to announce that it will only accommodate our own Warrant Officers and Sergeants and those coming on courses will have to be accommodated in the Sandhurst block.

In addition, this Regiment has now taken over the Garrison Saddle Club. Those who have been here before will remember that the Club included a small pig farm in some disused tarron huts. Unfortunately these blew down one night recently, so the pigs have had to leave. One of the first on the scene of the wreck was the Unit Civil Defence Officer, who planned to use it for practice in light rescue. Unfortunately its late occupants had left so many traces of their residence that the idea had to be abandoned.

Finally, of course, we had 50 Old Comrades staying with us for the week-end of 28th June and very welcome they were too. We hope that they enjoyed their stay with us and thank them for helping to make a very appreciable rise in the bar takings.

Shirt sleeve order has finally arrived after many false starts caused by beautiful early mornings followed by cold and rain at about mid-morning. The result was that those who could find some coal lit fires, and we had the curious spectacle of people in shirt sleeve order sitting huddled round a few stoves.

In the world of sport, both the cricket team and the water polo team have had a successful season to date. The cricketers are in the semi-final of the Command Cup and have not lost a match this season, while the water polo team is in the final of the District Cup.

Unit Rifle Team

After a few weeks of intensive practising on Bellerby Ranges, the Unit took part in the District Rifle Meeting in late May and, after taking into account the fact that we were rained off the range on every practice day, our final placing of third in the Unit Championships certainly shows how keen the team was. Our individual successes were: Winners, S.M.G. Match (Captain F. W. Oakes, Captain J. Tate, Captain D. J. McIntyre and Sergeant I. McAllister, R.E.M.E.); winners, Class "B" L.M.G. (Corporal D. S. Evans and Lance-Corporal W. N. Smith); fourth place Individual Rifle Championships (Sergeant I. McAllister, R.E.M.E.).

We were well represented in the successful Training Brigade rifle team at the Corps Rifle Meeting at Bulford. As you may read elsewhere, the Training Brigade swept the board of all but one match.

The Unit team then moved on from Bulford to the A.R.A. Central Meeting at Bisley, where there was only one success to record, that of Captain F. W. Oakes, who, by careful, steady shooting, won a place in the Army Hundred. I think he can be justly proud of himself; few members of the Corps have reached this dizzy height.

Signal Training Troop, W.R.A.C.

During the past month we had a fine day. This day merits a mention by virtue of its uniqueness. Windows, which had jammed through remaining closed so long, were forced open, fires were not used, raincoats were discarded, shirt sleeves were rolled, and faces wore smiles. "This is the life," we thought. Twenty-four hours later we were wearing greatcoats.

Early in June we were pleased to welcome to the Teleprinter School Private M. Adams, yet another student from Hull Signal Detachment, W.R.A.C./T.A. This T.A. Unit has provided us with two students in the last two months.

For two weeks chaos reigned in the Teleprinter School. The tables and chairs were painted green and black, two lecture rooms and the entrance halls were completely redecorated (most originally in cream and green), and lino was laid there and in the two teleprinter rooms. We were warned that it would take at least ten days for the teleprinters to be disconnected and reconnected after the laying of the lino, but our mechanics confounded the Jonahs by completing the job in three days. In spite of all these upheavals, training was not interrupted, although for a time we were almost reduced to using the coal store as a temporary lecture room.

Lance-Corporal S. Abbett was married on 7th June. We wish her every happiness in the future.

Congratulations to Private J. Foulds (65 R), honours student; to Lance-Corporals Cakebread, Ellis and Grinnell on their promotion at Catterick, and to Lance-Corporal D. Lane (60 P.) on her promotion at Singapore.

3 INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT

Swimming takes first place in this month's notes and we chronicle with pride the fact that our Regimental team has just won the 3rd Infantry Division Inter-Unit Swimming Championships Challenge Cup, whilst the Regimental water polo team reached the semi-final of the Divisional competition. S.S.M. Maloney is the mainstay of the team and has organised all the training, not without opposition from some queer people who still think work is more important than flipping about in the baths.

Field sports unfortunately suffered a minor setback due to the unusually heavy rainfall in June. In fact the only cricket pitch not under a foot of water is the garrison ground, which has been in great demand. Even so we managed to reach the semi-finals of the Divisional competition before being beaten by 3rd Regiment Royal Horse Artillery. The Colchester ground, situated on the river bank, is one huge lake. We have even had articles in the local Press showing people fishing at silly mid-on. Because of the floods the Essex and Nottingham teams recently took advantage of the garrison hospitality and played their county match on our garrison ground.

Our Regimental athletics team battled their way through to the finals of the Divisional sports and were extremely well placed in all events. The satisfaction of the Sports Co-ord Officer (and the P.R.I.) was made material in the shape of a firkin of beer presented to the team to celebrate the end of long months of arduous training.

Troop Exercises have played a prominent part in the past month's training. "O" Troop in particular were most fortunate to be allocated the only dry week of continuous sunshine for their field training. The Troop camped out on the seashore near "Ardleigh" and began their busy days with a quick dip in the sea before breakfast. In fact each phase of the day's training invariably terminated in a swim for all concerned. The O.C. of the Troop, Captain Sandvic (Norwegian Army), was introduced to the complicated English game of cricket on the sands during the evenings. He was soon knocking the ball about with such gay abandon that the fielding side were kept running up and down the cliffs and in the sea to retrieve his nonchalant sixes. After the evening's sport, those of the Troop not involved on shift work were given the run of the local village. On these occasions the Don Juans of the Troop went to work with their usual charm and were very soon very much endeared to the local population.

The Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess had their monthly Dinner Night and Sergeant Reid was called on by the R.S.M. to say grace. On the strength of his recent leadership course he also gave a short sermon, which was much appreciated by all, and we hope will continue to be a feature of all our Mess dinners in the future. After dinner the Mess settled down to the serious business of the evening and judging by the number of limping Sergeants the next morning, a good time was had by all. The 1 Squadron seniors competed against the remainder of the Mess in the boat race during the evening, this event being judged and refereed by S.S.M. Templeton; the commentator was Staff Sergeant Pearson. 1 Squadron won hands down by eight pints to six, thereby proving their just claim to being the premier Squadron in the Regiment.

The Regiment is now in the process of reorganising to conform with the "new look" Army. No. 3 Squadron has ceased to exist as a separate entity and its Brigade Signal Troops are gradually being converted to Brigade Signal Squadrons and will eventually become independent. "K" Troop, commanded by Major D. L. Pounds is the first troop to achieve Squadron status and has now been designated 19 Infantry Brigade Group Signal Squadron. We congratulate S.S.M. Templeton on being promoted from Staff Sergeant to become the new Squadron Sergeant-Major.

"J" Troop would probably have achieved Squadron status in the autumn but, owing to the recent crisis in the Middle East, were flown out to Cyprus with their present Brigade—1st Guards Brigade. Before leaving, however, their Troop Commander, Major D. A. Polley, had his Troop strength enlarged to make it administratively self-contained. We are pleased to record that Lieutenant Cemm was promoted Captain as a result of this increase in establishment, and he promptly got married on the strength of this promotion. We wish him every happiness in his new married life, even though it has started with an enforced separation.

The remaining Troop of the old No. 3 Squadron, "L" Troop, having completed this year's training with its parent Brigade—29 Infantry Brigade, is now disbanding. The former "L" Troop Commander, Captain K. E. P. Andrews, is joining this Regimental Headquarters as the new Adjutant. It will thus be seen that 3 Infantry Division Signal Regiment's former empire is shrinking as, in keeping with the new Brigade Group concept, its Brigade Troops are given their independence. However, at the present time we still have No. 4 Squadron serving Headquarters, Royal Armoured Corps of 3rd Infantry Division and we attach some notes from that Squadron.

4 Squadron. Our last notes brought the odd letter in asking what had happened to various characters and what was happening to 4 Squadron, and in one case a note of surprise that we still existed considering that the Suez Crisis was over ages ago.

Strangely enough we still exist and appear to be going from strength to strength. We are even up to establishment (Special Lower, etc.) and managing to put on an occasional Brigade Exercise, and stranger still we have been able to keep "through" on the wireless. Our new arrivals are nearly all straight from the Training Brigade and they quickly settle down so that within a few weeks they are "hollerin" on the air like experts. After about six months they refer to newcomers as "nigs," what ever they may be.

The highlight of recent weeks was the Armoured Review held near Westdown Camp on the 11th June to celebrate the Queen's Birthday. The Brigade Commander has an aversion to marching through the streets at the head of a column; probably the marching is not so good and maybe the Royal Armoured Corps are not really expert at sloping arms. What ever the reason, the Armoured Review was a great success. The Regiments paraded in review order, with Brigade Headquarters out in front as usual. The Armoured Fighting Vehicles were camouflaged but mobile, and it is surprising that there is any foliage left on Salisbury Plain. Dress was denims and everyone looked very businesslike, as the order was positively no "bull." The Tank Corps looked like their old selves in their black denims, and the forest of aerials, some with and some without pennants, served to stress the importance of communications.

The parade was inspected by the General Officer Commanding 3rd Infantry Division. This was followed by a drive past, the Armoured Fighting Vehicles traversing and dipping their guns as they passed the saluting base. Having driven past, the Regiments wheeled round and formed up in three columns, the scout cars leading. They then drove back past the saluting base at about 15 miles per hour and disappeared over the brow



Headquarters, Royal Armoured Corps, 3 Infantry Division, "G" Command Saracen, drives past at the Armoured Review on Salisbury Plain

of a hill about two miles away, straight on to a five-day Exercise. It was a very impressive sight, the crew drills were faultless, the precision of the march past the saluting base showed a high standard of training, and the final dash past in mass emphasised the elan. Everyone enjoyed the parade, although there were only a few spectators, mainly families. The Public Relations Officer arranged for a Television team, B.B.C., Newsreel and other representatives to attend, so we did get some publicity as well.

When Brigadier J. C. de F. Sleeman, O.B.E., arranged the parade I do not suppose that he knew it would also signal his departure to a new appointment at the War Office. Although he could not possibly have been glad to leave the Brigade, he must have felt proud on this parade, the first Armoured Review in the United Kingdom for 20 years. The last time it was done he was Adjutant of the parade.

We gave the Brigadier a slap-up farewell party at the British Legion Club in Tidworth and presented him with a small souvenir of Royal Armoured Corps 3 Infantry Division in the form of an enamelled Brigade Pennant surrounded with the badges of the Regiments, suitably mounted in a glass case with an inscribed silver plate.

Many changes are now taking place. Major Gordon, the Brigade Major, is leaving to join his regiment. Major Waite is off to take over as Second-in-Command 3 Infantry Division Signal Regiment and is being replaced by Major K. N. Smart. S.S.M. Fawcett has arrived and his family established at Tidworth, and we have just been joined by Sgt. Harries who also hopes to get his family here in the near future.

Tidworth is not a bad station to be in nowadays, and although it is essentially a military garrison, there are very few military police. Of course, there is the usual week-end exodus, but the special bus services get everyone away and back again smoothly without any fuss. At present it is pleasant on a Sunday to laze in Tidworth Park and watch the polo. Someone said there appears to be more horses than men in Tidworth, but don't you believe it, the horses just can't look after themselves. I wonder what happens to them, when we are out on exercises?

We have a quiet period ahead for about three weeks, so I'm off on leave with the rest. You will hear from us again later in the year.

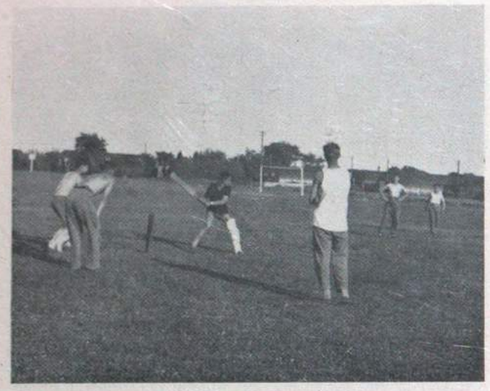
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"Summer Interlude"

JUNIOR LEADERS REGIMENT

Parents' Day, 1958, was a huge success despite the weather. Many of us woke on Saturday morning to the sound of torrential rain, which boded ill for the day's programme, and parents, who had been arriving in a steady stream since midday on Friday, packed the static training displays and hobbies exhibition to get out of the downpour.

Much to our relief the local weather bureau proved right in its forecast of a break in the skies by lunchtime, and at 14.00 hours the boys Trooped the Regimental Standard under the admiring gaze of the Mums and Dads. The increasing size of the Regiment was reflected in the difficulty we had shepherding the large crowd from parade ground to Commanding Officer's Address, to gymnastic display, side-shows, tea and, in a further break in the weather, to watch Beating of Retreat by the Regimental Band. We understand the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess found no difficulty in packing them in for the social, which rounded off the day's proceedings.

The combination of effort by Captain Joyner, enthusiasm of the boys and our larger potential, resulted in our team reversing last year's result in the triangular athletics match against Newton Abbot and Totnes Grammar Schools, and notched a win over the schools by a comfortable margin. During the meeting the Regimental high jump record was broken by Junior/Signalman Cox, at 5ft. 1in. Cox raised this by a further inch at the triangular meeting against Infantry and R.A. boys, where the team finished second, six points behind the Infantry.

During the month we have welcomed Captain P. S. Davis into the Adjutant's chair and Lieutenants Hancock and Russell and Second-Lieutenant Sprowl into the Boys' Squadrons.

The cafeteria system has been working in the dining room for a month; a boy invariably has three choices of menu, the cooks have more free time and the only unhappy man is the swill contractor, who now has little profit!

The following work by Signalman T. G. Done, of the Recruit Troop, was produced for Parents' Day. We think it deserves a wider public:

BIRDS

Gliding below the grey roofed sky
The Bird of Prey was flying high;
Far below his unwary prey
Oblivious of its death that day.

Away below in dimming light
A tired farmer viewed the fight.
Flying gradually slower and slower,
The Hawk was slyly sinking lower.

Deathlike and with sudden rush
The merciless Hawk fed on the Thrush,
Spiralling from the farmer's sight
The Thrush was struggling with all its might.

In the darkness of the thorny bush
No-one saw the end of the Thrush,
Leaving the body with triumphant cry,
Once more the Hawk patrolled the sky.



"Winter Interlude"

U.K. COMCAN SIGNAL REGIMENT

R.H.Q. and 1 Squadron. R.H.Q., who for so long have perched on the back of 1 Squadron, like the old man of the sea on Sinbad, have now moved bag and baggage to Boddington. The sighs and groans respectively were so audible as to be heard in Gloucester.

This report must necessarily be devoted to sport, coming as it does in the middle of the sporting year. In the field of cricket the Unit team has had a very successful year to date, winning four out of five matches and drawing in the other one. Much of the success so far has been due to the brilliant form shown by all-rounder Corporal Martin, of our Cipher Troop, who is one of the star performers in Bradford Cricket League. The Team Manager, W.O.II Battett, wishes to send out an appeal to any Unit in U.K. who have a "buckshee" sports field to trade it for one of the engineering links mentioned in "Soldier Magazine," to any part of the world (not guaranteed free from Q.R.M.). He goes on to say that even a Tiddley Wink Arena will be considered, for we cannot boast even that.

Due almost entirely to the enthusiastic efforts of Sergeant Don Reed, a basketball team has been launched in the Unit and even at this early stage shows fair promise. It is to be hoped that this early enthusiasm is not allowed to be dampened by lack of support, for apart from being a fine and energetic game and an excellent means of keeping fit, it provides an excellent means of bringing the Unit into closer contact with the local male population. We are already in close contact with the female half.

Badminton continues to be played on set nights in the Gymnasium and has now become a regular means of recreation in the camp.

Which is more important: complete shifts at No. 1 Signal Centre or a strong Unit athletic team? Unfortunately the powers that be decreed that shifts come before, and so the team trained under the considerable disadvantage that only about half of them could train together at any one time. Coupled with this was the great lack of training facilities (mentioned above); we had no track—just a rough football field, which we used for training.

The team went to Taunton for the South-Western District Minor Units' Competition encouraged by a comfortable win over R.A.O.C., Ashchurch. Our final position of third out of 10 Units was very gratifying and was achieved only by consistently good efforts from the whole team. In no event did we come lower than fifth and although we did not win any event, the performance of Corporal Mascarenhas in the sprint relays and long jump, and of Lance-Corporal Berry in the high jump, deserve special mention.

It says much for the tenacity and single mindedness of the Team Manager, Second-Lieutenant Mercer, that so much has been achieved with so little at his disposal. Moreover, it must have required a very glib tongue to have won so many men, in most cases the best men off each shift, in the face of considerable opposition.

Corporal Cole, our shooting "star," is to be heartily congratulated on his efforts at Bisley this year:

Whitehead ... 114 } Qualified for Stage II and only
Roberts ... 90 } missed the Army 100 by 5 pts.

2 Squadron. Since our last contribution we have had the pleasure of welcoming Captain F. N. Annan to the Squadron to take over as Administrative Officer from Captain Moss, who leaves for Shrivenham in October. Captain Annan made an early start in his rôle of Messing Officer by providing the Unit with a vegetable garden and a palatial residence for some goslings which, we are assured, will shortly be taken on strength.

Another new arrival is W.O.II J. Webster to take over from S.S.M. Bibby, who leaves us for Catterick in August.

The first of the many who will be leaving us before Christmas was Sergeant Kay, who returned last week to 1st Training Regiment after an 18-month stay in Droitwich. We wish him luck in his future posting to Malta.

At long last our canoe is afloat and has already been entered in the District Handicrafts Exhibition but did not win a prize.

The cricket team, while keen, has not enjoyed the best of luck. We were narrowly beaten in the qualifying rounds of a competition by 1st Training Regiment, R.E., but we followed this by defeating 3 Squadron. Unfortunately, in our last match we lost once again to R.H.Q. and 1 Squadron.

The Unit's latest acquisition is a juke box. In its first day of operation the inevitable happened and someone tried to work it with a denim-ring instead of a threepenny-bit — this is *not* a good idea.

3 Squadron.



Her Majesty The Queen's Message

3 Squadron, U.K. COMCAN Signal Regiment had a great honour bestowed upon it in having to find a relay runner to carry the Queen's Message on part of its long journey from Buckingham Palace, where it started in the hand of Roger Bannister at 9 p.m. on the 1st July, to the Empire Games at Cardiff where it was to be delivered at the opening ceremony on Friday, 18th July, 1958.

Corporal A. M. C. Davis was the selected runner to represent the Squadron and his take-over was at Deddington Halt from a Witney A.C. runner, when he ran a distance of three miles in the direction of Banbury.

There were 1,200 runners to do the 664 stages that were necessary to complete the journey from Buckingham Palace to Cardiff.

3 Squadron Notes continued

Now that the monsoon season has finished we are looking forward to a really glorious month. Recent weather certainly points to it.

Talk of the great steps forward in communications! Strangers passing this camp would be surprised to see a lovely green and white loft full of pigeons. This, of course, has nothing to do with our official rôle but is just another of the many activities encouraged. Signalman Vokes has done a good job, as also those who have donated young pigeons. Who knows, they may be useful if our X Tradesmen suddenly find they do not know the answers. Did someone mention "Through"!

In the Other Ranks' Dining Room the bold step was taken for "hotel" service. No more carrying mugs and knives, forks and spoons. All are laid out ready, with a waiter hovering in the background to help and serve. Although no hope was given for the success of the venture, I can report less breakages, no missing cutlery and a definite increase in the men's appetites. Sergeant Thompson and Corporal Wright—Maitre de Hotel and Head Chef respectively—this is your life.

No comings and goings to report, so one must assume that the man from Records "what mucks you about" is enjoying the sunshine of Bournemouth during his annual vacation.

VALE

Regretfully we say goodbye to Major R. H. Farlow, M.B.E., Royal Signals, a staunch and true member of the Corps, a good sportsman in every sense of the word and a man whose valuable experience and advice will be sadly missed by all those with whom he came into contact. His service is unique in that his total of 39 years' service was spent with the Royal Signals.

He was a great exponent of equitation, an outstanding boxer and as an organiser of boxing tournaments he had no equal.

His history is as follows: Having enlisted in 1920, he served for 22 years in the ranks before being commissioned in 1941. His trades were Operator Visual, Operator Wireless and Lineman. The courses that he attended cannot be recorded due to the vast number involved, but he certainly stood out on Equitation Courses and G.P.O. Courses. On commissioning he served with:

1941–1942	45 Infantry Brigade. 17 Indian Divisional Signals.
1942–1943	No. 1 Indian Construction Section, Middle East.
1943–1945	Line Construction Company (5 Construction Section). Iraq-Iran Construction of Route. Four pair 300lb. copper from Andimesk-Teheran-Kazvin-Baghdad.
1945–1947	No. 3 Training Battalion, Signal Training Centre (1), Mhow.
1947–1951	O.C. 4 A.A. Independent (M) Signal Squadron. Second-in-Command 4 A.A. (M) Signal Regiment.
1951–1953	G.II S.D. C.S.O.'s Branch, Singapore Base District.
1953–1955	O.C. Administration Squadron, G.H.Q. Signal Regiment, Singapore.
1955–1958	O.C. No. 1 Squadron, U.K. COMCAN Signal Regiment, Gloucester.

A total of 30 years was spent on overseas stations. A proud achievement indeed.

Major Farlow is not entirely lost to the Royal Signals as he has bought a house at Churchdown, a few miles from Gloucester, and is still an active member of the Royal Signals Association.

Well done, Major Farlow, for a long and vigorous career and thank you for all the good work you have done in furthering the cause of the Royal Signals. A true Corps minded Officer.



16 INDEPENDENT PARACHUTE BRIGADE GROUP SIGNAL SQUADRON

In the helter-skelter of parachuting, Battalion and Brigade exercises came the most important couple of days of all—the week-end to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the formation of the Squadron, following the disbandment of 6th Airborne Divisional Signal Regiment.

The week-end included a parachuting display and a small static display, on Saturday afternoon, at the side of Queen's Avenue, Aldershot; a social and dance on Saturday evening; a Church Parade on Sunday morning, followed by a march-past, at which the Signal Officer-in-Chief took the salute.

The parachuting display, involving a Royal Navy helicopter and a balloon and cage, was somewhat reduced by high winds, but a few hardy P.J. instructors demonstrated parachuting from the helicopter, and a few even hardier members of the Squadron, namely, Sergeant-Major Summers, S.Q.M.S. Doonan and Sergeant Turner, carried out a descent from the balloon cage in a wind of 25 knots. 16-stone S.Q.M.S. Doonan is still trying to work out, mathematically, the speed at which he hit, and bounced off, the ground!

However, despite the high winds, there was plenty of sun; tea was provided for all guests on the Queen's Avenue Sports Ground, and everybody spent an extremely pleasant afternoon.

The social and dance in the evening was a great success, but there were several sore heads on the Church Parade on Sunday morning. We were delighted to see the Aldershot Branch of the Royal Signals Old Comrades Association, who joined the Squadron for the march-past, and were afterwards entertained by the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess.

Amongst our guests over the week-end were, of course, the Signal Officer-in-Chief, Major-General Moberly, the Deputy Signal Officer-in-Chief, Brigadier Tucker, C.S.O., Southern Command, Brigadier Bradford, and Colonel Pringle. For Major-General Moberly and Colonel Pringle, both themselves late of Airborne, many nostalgic memories were aroused, and they appeared to be enjoying themselves to the full. Colonel Pringle presented to the Squadron a copy of the programme for the disbandment parade of 6th Airborne Divisional Signal Regiment 10 years ago.

Thanks to the enormous amount of work put in by all ranks of the Squadron, the week-end was a great success.

In the sports world, we reached the final of the Minor Units Hockey Competition and were defeated by the Workshops team. They had already won the Southern Command Minor Units Championship. These champions admitted (generously, perhaps) that we had given them the hardest fight of the whole season.

In the Brigade Rifle Meeting, we were again runners-up, this time to the 9th Independent Parachute Squadron, R.E.



This group, taken at the Parachute Brigade Squadron's " At Home ", shows Major General Moberly (S.O. in C.) on the left, Major A. B. Dryland (O.C.) on the right, the pilot of the Naval Helicopter and an R.A.F. Parachute Jumping Instructor W.O. The rest of the group are the men who would have given the parachute demonstration had wind speed permitted

We bid farewell to Major A. B. Dryland, who once again is to wear a "flat hat," and we wish him and his family all good fortune in B.A.O.R.; and welcome Major G. Peat, who doffs his bowler hat for the rigours of the red beret, and his family.

We also welcome Second-Lieutenant Cook, who joins us direct from Royal Signals Wing in Catterick; a welcome addition to our hockey team. He represents the Corps regularly, and has represented the Army on three occasions.

After nearly 11 years with Airborne, S.S.M. Summers leaves us to take up a new post, wearing a blue beret for the first time ever, at the School of Signals. S.S.M. Summers joined the Squadron as a signalman and rose to the rank of W.O.II, an outstanding achievement. We wish him and his family the very best of luck and good fortune in Catterick. We are sorry to see him go. His place is being taken by another old stalwart who has been with Airborne since 1943, S.Q.M.S. Doonan. He will get his acting promotion.

SIGNAL TRAINING WING A.A.S. HARROGATE

Due to pressure of work your humble scribe omitted to forward notes for inclusion in the last issue of THE WIRE. The omission was not of any great consequence however, as little of general interest has happened this term and, in fact, apart from preparations for yet another Pass-off parade little of interest is happening at present.

The Yorkshire Show has opened in a blaze of sunshine with the temperatures up in the eighties. This has caught everyone napping as the show invariably opens with storm and tempest. In point of fact this is the first summer weather we have experienced so far this year and we are not optimistic enough to think that it can last for very long. However, in spite of this and with summer leave rather more than a fortnight ahead we are keeping our fingers crossed.

Training for the Pass-off parade is going ahead and those individuals concerned with the Trades Exhibition are working feverishly. In fact, everything is normal for the time of the year.

By the time these notes are in print we shall be on leave but I would like to record here that the first of the prizes presented by our branch of the Signals Association has been awarded to A/T.C.S.M. M. J. White, to whom we offer our congratulations. These prizes are to be presented each term to the Senior term A/T who is considered to have taken fullest advantage of his opportunities in the school and consequently must be considered to be an asset to Royal Signals on joining the ranks. In making their selection the Awards Committee take into account all aspect of the apprentices' training—Military, Trade, Education and Sport.

This next term, starting on 25th August, marks a departure from a policy which has lasted since the opening of the school. The term will end in December and starting in January, 1959, we shall go on to a three-term year. This will bring the Apprentices School more into line with normal schools' practice and, we hope, increase the quantity and quality of the annual intake. There will inevitably be teething troubles from the administrative point of view but we feel that there is a lot to be gained by this change of policy.

Recent arrivals include Staff Sergeant (F.O.S.) Davies from Ghurka Signals, Malaya, Sergeant Morris from Singapore and Sergeant Todd from Catterick, to whom we extend our usual hearty welcome. Sergeant Rowlands has left us for FARELF with our good wishes for the future. Norman Rush, who has been a civilian member of the staff since 1950 leaves us shortly to take up a new position with the School of Marine Radio and Radar, Southampton. We wish him all success in his new venture.

There is no Association news this month. The only event of note, a trip to Blackpool, had to be cancelled at the last moment owing to its coinciding with an exercise. It will not now be possible to arrange anything else prior to leave but we look forward to a resumption of our activities on our return.

Employment Figures for Quarter Ending, 30th June, 1958

New applicants registered	34
Placings *confirmed*	27
Other queries answered	94

18 ARMY GROUP SIGNAL REGIMENT
21st Anniversary Celebrations

IN a programme on the British Forces Network in Germany on the 12th July, 1958, to mark the twenty-first anniversary of the formation of the regiment, the following message, addressed to the Commanding Officer and All Ranks from Major-General R. F. H. Nalder, C.B., O.B.E., was broadcast :—

"It gives me much pleasure as the Representative Colonel Commandant of Royal Signals to send you a message on the celebration of the coming of age of your regiment. You have rather an unusual history for, as you know, your regiment started life as Supplementary Reserve and only became a regular regiment after VE Day. During your career you have served a number of different General Headquarters under a number of different names. You accompanied the British Expeditionary Force to France in 1939; you served Home Forces during the critical period in 1940 when the mother country was threatened with invasion; you returned to the continent with 21 Army Group in 1944 and have remained there until now. Since 1939 you have been continually operational and have acquired a great wealth of experience.

Actually you are a little older than you claim. Parts of the original unit were raised in 1924 and these were formed into General Headquarters Signals in 1932. I feel that I cannot omit some reference to these early pioneers, even though the regiment was not fully formed until 1937. In the past I have had the privilege of visiting you and seeing you at work on more than one occasion and I hope that I may have the opportunity of renewing your acquaintance in the coming autumn. In the meanwhile I send you all my best wishes for today's celebrations and for a thoroughly successful future."

Let us make one thing quite clear: we have been celebrating our coming of age as a major unit of the army, for it was on the 12th July, 1937, that Lieutenant-Colonel G. W. Cumming was promoted to that rank to command G.H.Q. Signals which until then had been a major's command. No one, least of all the present writer, would wish to cross swords with General Nalder on a matter of Corps history, but in recording our agreement with him that our origin goes back to the Sections which were formed in Glasgow in 1924, we must add—quite honestly—that we knew it. A twenty-first birthday could have been celebrated in 1945, but it is more than likely that the regiment (as 21st Army Group Signals) was then occupied with rather more pressing matters.

We had hoped that Colonel Cumming would have been with us for our celebrations, but less than a week before he was expecting to arrive here, he had to cancel his visit owing to sudden family illness. This was a great disappointment to us all as we had been looking forward to meeting him and to hearing some of his reminiscences of the early days of the regiment at first hand. He was, however, represented in the broadcast programme to the extent that extracts from his recent articles in THE WIRE were read by Second-Lieutenant Paul Thomas, our Assistant Adjutant.

Our regimental trumpeters were also represented in the broadcast by recordings of "Retreat" and a fanfare. The "Royal Signals Fanfare," with which the programme was introduced was not, however, their work but was from a recording made by BFN when the Corps Band was last in Germany.

How the trumpeters got onto the programme may interest tape recorder enthusiasts. To avoid taking them to the studios in Cologne, we recorded the trumpet calls in barracks on an WD recorder (a Grundig portable). This is a split track machine, but an oldish one. When the tape was played on one of BFN's beautiful AEG studio machines, the result was awful as both tracks were scanned by the pick-up head. So the tape was transferred to a portable Grundig machine installed for the very purpose of playing back such split track recordings. There was a deadly silence. An exchange of data on the respective machines followed and it was soon realised that the modern Grundig owned by BFN was built to the international standard which, amongst other things, decrees that the recording shall be made on the top half of the tape as it runs through. Our WD machine, of course, is pre-international standard era, and records on the bottom half! The answer? Our tape was run through the studio Grundig backwards and recorded on the full track AEG machine. This tape was then run backwards on another AEG machine and recorded in the correct direction. The result is an excellent illustration of the flexibility of this recording medium.

Our festivities started after lunch on Thursday, 10th July, with the first part of a sports meeting in which each Squadron entered six teams of eight. Soccer, hockey, swimming and "potted sports" were included. In the evening a Super Tombola, organised by No. 1 Squadron, was run in the gymnasium. The sports were continued all day on Friday, and immediately prior to the presentation of prizes by Mrs. Llewellyn there was an aquatic contest between the Officers' and Sergeants' Messes.

After a hectic but carefully pre-planned dash through the bath, in which only three out of the eight members of a team were allowed in the water at once, and a raft and rope had to travel with each wave, there was an obstacle course to be got through (complete with raft and rope)—jumping over a ravine, clearing a six foot wall, drinking a glass of beer and getting under a tarpaulin. Then followed a dash back down the bath again, this time with no restrictions. The Sergeants' Mess with a time of 5 min. 48 sec., were declared the winners by ten seconds.

Friday evening was devoted to the rehearsal of acts for a Regimental Variety Show, assembled under the general management of No. 2 Squadron. The show itself was performed on the following Monday night (last night, at the time of writing), and we are happy, but not particularly surprised, to be able to record that it was a tremendous success. Over two hours of really good entertainment was provided, and during the interval between the two halves, the P.R.I.'s Prize Draw took place. There is no doubt that the evening was a fitting conclusion to a memorable few days' relaxation.

The Commanding Officer addressed the regiment on parade on Saturday, 12th July, and read a message of congratulations and good wishes which had been received from the Signal Officer-in-Chief, Major-General R. J. Moberly, C.B., O.B.E. This marked the formal recognition of the anniversary. On Saturday afternoon there was a Grand Funfair which was a great success and to which both ingenuity and hard work had been contributed. Children of all ages were catered for, with a sandpit, swings and a Jeep train at one end of the scale, via penny rolling, tossing a bale of straw, barrel walking and horse racing, to playing noughts and crosses with "Duggie the Robot," a fearsome-looking and ingenious para-electronic device designed by T.M. Troop, which occasionally allowed the challenger to win and thereby receive a prize voucher for 2/6. As the average entrance fee/prize ratio was of the order of 3d./1½d., the machine was a great success.

On Saturday evening the P.R.I. put the A.K.C. Cinema at the free disposal of the rank and file by the simple expedient of buying up all the tickets, while the Sergeants' Mess held an Anniversary Dance. In the Officers' Mess the Officers and their ladies dined formally after which they, too, danced into the early hours of Sunday morning.

After three days of beautiful weather it might have been too much to expect that Sunday would be fine too, but it was, and after a church parade during which both Church of England and Roman Catholic services were held simultaneously in the Regimental Chapel and the Model Room across the corridor from it, respectively, the regiment marched past the Commanding Officer by Squadrons. So ended, officially, a most enjoyable few days to which almost everyone in the regiment had contributed to some degree—and within a quarter of an hour of the dispersal of the parade it was raining hard!

1 CORPS SIGNAL REGIMENT

On Sunday, 8th June, the Officers met the Warrant Officers and Sergeants at cricket, in a game which contained all the ingredients of a perfect match except sunshine. Indeed a fair indication of the weather can be got from the fact that the scorer wore a duffel coat and still contrived to look cold.

Before a large crowd of spectators, several of whom were seen to be watching the play, the Officers' captain (Captain Butler) won the toss and broke all precedents by putting the Sergeants (led by Sergeant Howie) in to bat before the bar was open. The bowling was opened by Lieutenant Hodgson, who took such a long run that at first it was thought that he had gone on a reconnaissance for the next Exercise and the Cook Sergeant started preparing haversack rations. At the other end Lieutenant Whitehead (7 for 20), a student of the flighted full toss, was far more sedate and crafty and indeed succeeded in bowling two victims under the mat. Two quick wickets and then R.S.M. Page and W.O.II Edmonds stopped the rot for a time. When Lieutenant Hodgson imitated Freddy Truman and bowled one head high, the R.S.M. retaliated by imitating the other Truman (Christine) by playing a tennis shot, only to see the ball go lobbing gently to Major Richards. Whether or not he was looking for frilly drawers or gold panties we shall never know, but the ball was dropped. However, soon afterwards the R.S.M. was bowled neck, crop and drawers cellular.

When a change of bowling was necessary, the captain, with a stroke of genius, put Captain Kenning on at the end from which his father was umpiring. Even Peter May could not have bettered that one. The Commanding Officer also had a spell, but some mighty cross-batted swishes by A.Q.M.S. Warner and Sergeant Williams treated his "right arm optimistic" with scant respect and brought some respectability to the score. However, the return of the good bowlers (?) finished off the innings at 73, a total far greater than was at one time expected. In view of the lapses in the field, the Commanding Officer ordered the Q.M. to indent immediately for a "machine catching officers teaching how to"!

Inspired by the clink of glasses in the marquee bar, the Sergeants took the field and, opening the bowling with W.O.II Edmonds and Staff Sergeant Hughes, soon had Captain Butler back in the tea tent finishing his tea. Regimental reputations mean nothing! Six red-faced Officers soon joined the picquet round the resolute but nervous scorer, until at this point Lieutenant Hodgson (13) joined Lieutenant Whitehead (34 not out) in a determined and somewhat fortuitous partnership. The Commanding Officer arrived at the wicket and departed without troubling the scorer unduly, after somebody (unnamed) was rash enough to bowl him; we all await the next batch of postings with interest.

So to the last over, with the position as it should be: one over to go, one run wanted and one wicket to fall. In spite of heart flutterings the Officers pulled it off, thanks to Lieutenant Whitehead, who batted through the innings and remained undefeated at the close.

Following the match the Sergeants were entertained by the Officers, but the Sergeants stole the honours of the day by presenting to the winners without any warning a magnificent (?) challenge trophy (produced out of tin by "M" Troop without regard to time or expense). Doubtless this will be the subject of future battles, but if there is a return match this season all we ask is that it be played on one of the two remaining summer days.

4 DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT

"The Divisional Signal Regiment is the Division. That's what it amounts to—this new concept! Think of it, however novel the idea, a General with a small staff encased in the heart of the Regiment—surrounded by a ceaseless vigilance—fighting his battle through the ultimate weapons of war. Mark you, we're not quite there yet, it takes a little time you know, but one can read the cards when you've been here as long as I have. Now, what'll you have, eh ——"

This was the sort of conversation I became involved in late one night or early one morning, and my old friend—perhaps I'd better not mention his name, really did feel terribly strongly about this. We were "in the field" at the time, on some Ground Zero or other, and fortunately I had taken the precaution of storing away, aboard Signals Command, an adequate supply of the right sort of fluid! I listened a great deal that night—there was not much else I could do; but when I finally got to bed my conversion was complete: "The Regiment was the Division and that's what it amounted to—this new concept."

So, perhaps, the story of the Fourth Division might not be inappropriate here. After all, if it belongs to us we might just as well know something about it.

FULL CIRCLE—Almost

The story of the Fourth Division reveals how 4 and 5 Brigades, who recently joined the Division, were the very first Brigades to serve under 4th Division in 1809

No division in the British Army can claim to be older than the Fourth. It was formed on 18th June, 1809, by the Duke of Wellington during the Peninsula War (1808-1809) together with the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Divisions, and the first brigades to come under its command were those very infantry brigades that are in the Division today—4 and 5 Brigades.

In 1809, 4 Brigade comprised the 97th (Queen's Germans), the 3rd Detachments, a Portuguese Battalion and one company of the 5th Battalion of the 60th. The "Queen's Germans" were mostly German mercenaries and quite distinct from the 97th Foot (2nd Bn. Royal West Kent who were formed later). The "Detachment" battalions were made up of convalescents and stragglers who had marched from Portugal via Corunna in the autumn of 1808. The 60th at that time were light infantry for patrolling and skirmishing. In 1809, 5 Brigade consisted of the 2/7th (Royal Fusiliers), the 2/53rd (Shropshire, now the K.S.L.I.), a Portuguese Battalion and another company of the 60th.

During the course of this war brigades in each division changed constantly. In 1810, a complete Portuguese brigade served with 4th Division, and 5 Brigade went to form the nucleus of 6th Division. At one time the Division commanded another German battalion—the "Brunswick Oels," and with them waged some of the hardest fought battles of the Spanish campaign including Albuhera and Badajoz. The latter was the bloodiest battle fought by the British Army before 1914. Of the 10,500 British and Germans in the Division, over 4,000 were killed or wounded.

After Napoleon's escape from Elba, the Division took part in the Netherlands campaign, and was present at the Battle of Waterloo where it was held in reserve on the right flank at a place called Hal, to counter any attempted thrust by Napoleon towards Brussels. Here the Division had 4 and 6 Brigades under command, as well as the 6th Hanoverian Brigade, but 4 Brigade which then consisted of the 3/14 Foot (West Yorks), the 23rd Foot (1 Royal Welch Fusiliers) and the 51st Foot (1 K.O.Y.L.I.) was actually committed to the battle being used to reinforce the 2nd Division.

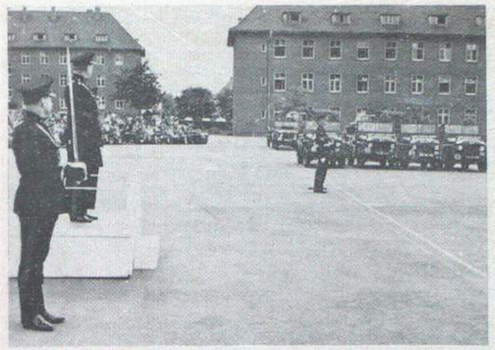
From 1854 to 1856 the Division fought in the Crimea where it lost two G.O.C.s killed in action. It landed in the Crimea on 14th September, 1854, and eleven days later was engaged at Balaclava, and again at Inkermann on 5th November.

After nearly half a century of peace the Fourth Division sailed to South Africa to fight in the South African War at the turn of the century. It fought at Natal and was invested at Ladysmith.

During the Great War 1914-1918, the Fourth distinguished itself in Flanders and was part of the Army of "Old Contemptibles" who retreated from Mons. The Division remained in France throughout the war and was involved in most of the great battles—Mons, Marne, Aisne, Ypres, Somme, Arras and the final advance into Picardy, but was not destined to form part of the Army of Occupation in Germany. It was during this war that the Fourth Division's traditional association with 10, 11 and 12 Brigades began—an association which was to last until 1958.

For twenty years, 1919-1939, the 4th Divisional Headquarters was at Colchester. In 1939 the Division again sailed for France and in May, 1940, was evacuated from Dunkirk. Later it went to Tunisia where it arrived in time to take part in the final stages of the campaign which culminated in the expulsion of the German Africa Corps from North Africa. Early in 1944 the "Quadrant" Division entered Italy where it was to fight, and win, its hardest battle of all — the Battle of Cassino. After the long weary advance in Italy, the Division was ordered to Greece to help in restoring law and order and, in 1947, with the partial demobilisation of the British Army, was disbanded.

On 1st April, 1956, the 4th Infantry Division was re-formed in Germany with its Headquarters at Herford and its Brigades



The Commanding Officer inspecting the motorized Units of his Regiment, which were keeping abreast in line just as exact as their comrades on foot. *As translated from the Germans*



The 4th Divisional Signal Regiment marches past its Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel T. H. C. Grigg

* * *

(still 10, 11 and 12) and its units scattered over Westphalia and Lower Saxony. The re-organisation in April of this year has resulted in a reversion to the traditional title "Fourth Division" and the Division's fortunes have turned almost full circle for although the traditional association with 10, 11 and 12 Brigades has been broken, the Fourth Division, possibly more by luck than intention, now renews an even older association, as well as beginning a new one. Last month 20 Armoured Brigade Group came under command for the first time and 4 and 5 Infantry Brigade Groups rejoined the Division after an "absence" of over a hundred years.

(By kind permission of the Editor of THE QUADRANT).

* * *

As out of a Picture Book, Soldiers call it "Smart"

Queen's Birthday Parade of the Signal Regiment in Herford

Translated from an article in the German newspaper "Herforder Kreisblatte."

On Vlothoerstrasse just outside Hammersmith Barracks amongst a group of civilians was a man who had brought his four-year-old daughter and a haversack. He was enquiring if this was the right "Kaserne," and told us that he was a soldier of the German Air Force, on leave, and had come to see how "they" do things. "They" being the English soldiers of the Signal Regiment of 4 Division, who were holding their traditional Queen's Birthday Parade.

The man was allowed to pass the guards at the gate, saw a lot of private cars and festive looking people—English families from the area—and also German civilians, all going into the Barracks, and was astonished to find that there was a seat for him, too. The settees and easy chairs in the first rows were soon filled. Children enjoyed the privilege of sitting on benches in front of the adult spectators, to watch from nearby all that was going to happen at 10.30.

Lieutenant-Colonel Grigg, Commanding Officer of the Signal Regiment, took the salute of his Second-in-Command and, escorted by two soldiers (Staff Sergeants), inspected the Regiment which paraded on this occasion.

In the background, the military Band of the Royal Hampshire Regiment, was playing march music.

The English National Anthem was played, the Union Jack was flown at the mast head. Commands—and all caps raised, the parading troops cheered in honour of their Queen.

And now roared the march steps of the Regiment over the parade ground. Lieutenant-Colonel Grigg took the march past. Officers—with swords drawn—paraded ahead of their troops. A unison of steps, a co-ordinated movement of white-gloved hands, "tip-top" all along the line—in one word: a parade just like coming out of a picture book.

What our man in his armchair had to say, that we do not know, as we lost sight of him after the parade. As one would say in military circles, so will have been the word "smart" on his lips, and in this sense will he have reported to his comrades in his own Unit, when he told them how "they" do that.

Diary of Recent Regimental Fixtures

1. 1st April, 1958. Rugby. v. 1 Wireless Regiment, B.A.O.R. Royal Signals Final. Lost, 11-6.
2. 17th May, 1958. Shooting. B.A.O.R. Royal Signals Final. Placed third.
3. 30th May, 1958. Athletics. v. Royal Dragoon Guards. Won, 32-31.
4. 14th June, 1958. Athletics. v. 1 Royal Hampshire Regiment. Won, 30-28.
5. 3rd July, 1958. Athletics. 4 Division Team Finals. Placed fourth.
6. 6th June, 1958. Motor Cycle Trials. 4th Division. Placed third.
7. 4th July, 1958. Water Polo. v. 1 Royal Norfolk Regiment. Lost, 8-1.
8. 13th/14th May, 1958. Basketball. Won, 4 Division/Corps Semi-Finalists, B.A.O.R.
9. 7th July, 1958. Cricket. Semi-Finals, Royal Signals, B.A.O.R.



[Army P. R. Photograph

4 DIVISION MOTOR CYCLE TRIALS IN GERMANY

A competitor is helped by the "Mountain-rescue Team" of 4 Division Signal Regiment, who organised the competition

5th DIVISION SIGNAL REGIMENT

We are just about to set off on our third major Exercise since early May and the usual frantic activity that precedes these occasions is in full swing. Some amusing incidents from the two earlier Exercises are worth recounting. One Exercise included a hair-raising journey through Hamburg, in which groups of 30 or more vehicles, nose to tail, with headlights on, were rushed through the city by the German police at a brisk pace; traffic lights were ignored, and civilian cars going about their lawful business were skilfully and ruthlessly brought to a standstill. We noted a policeman hammering furiously with his truncheon on the roof of a Mercedes that attempted to cut through one of the convoys. It is really surprising how little damage vehicles suffered, though fearing the worst a Staff Officer was seen to lock himself firmly in one of our Saracens. For an inexplicable reason our Quartermaster, who knows Hamburg well, lost the convoy and only regained his bearings when he found himself in one of the most popular and most doubtful areas in Germany. We now understand that his Champ is fitted with a device that homes on the Reeperbahn.

To date we have usually managed to make ourselves pretty comfortable on Exercise and on the whole it is astonishing how co-operative the farmers, pub owners and the like have been. A fortnight ago, however, we were given rather a rude shock. In a certain village, when we had been given the usual welcome, we were presented with a bill for some 1,000 marks on the basis of one mark a soldier a night. The payment of this bill is still under discussion at higher levels. Meanwhile, we wonder whether this means that the Divisional Headquarters will take to the woods on future Exercises.

Amongst recent arrivals, Major E. J. Bardell's was somewhat unusual. He had the distinction of driving here all the way from Singapore and gave a short interview to the B.B.C. on arrival. He is now busy discovering how the Wireless Squadron works, having bought this enviable post from Major G. F. Lowe, who has left to join SX Branch, H.Q., B.A.O.R. We take this opportunity of wishing both Major and Mrs. Lowe all good luck, and as they will not be far away expect to see them in these parts quite often.

R.Q.M.S. A. J. Judge, who has been with the Unit for three-and-a-half years, has also left us for 4 Training Regiment. We all wish him and Mrs. Judge every success and hope they too will keep in touch with us. Staff Sergeant D. Rowthorne, who is well-known throughout the Corps as a motor cycle trials expert, recently married whilst on leave in Scarborough and we hope to be able to welcome his wife to the Regiment in the near future. W.O.II C. Cotgreave is now the proud father of a daughter; however, in congratulating him and Mrs. Cotgreave we would advise him to study the laws of probability before taking bets on the sex of any future children, as on this occasion we understand he lost 14 bottles of whisky to other members of the Sergeants' Mess through making a faulty appreciation.

The Regiment came second in the Royal Signals B.A.O.R. Rifle Meeting and might indeed have won but for a bit of bad luck and we would like to record especial congratulations to Captain Jackson, who was second in the individual, and to two young soldiers, Signalmen Bishop and Purdie, who were fourth and eighth.

Most of us are glad to see the R.S.M. and Mrs. Latimer back from a well-earned spell of leave in U.K., and all of us congratulate him on becoming a grandfather. This event also led to a certain amount of trouble, including the sounding of the fire alarm, only discovered some time later (by those not in the know) to be the call to those in Married Quarters to repair hot foot to the Sergeants' Mess.

11 AIR FORMATION SIGNAL REGIMENT

Our pictures are of the Regimental Parade on the occasion of the visit of Colonel Douglas Harrison, O.B.E., C.A.F.S.O., on the 9th June. He toured the Regiment on an administrative visit and although he spent a crowded three days we hope he enjoyed it. He was accompanied by Major John Denton, of his Staff.

* * *

Staff Sergeant Boynton has returned to us from Christmas Island. On the way back he received considerable publicity in one of the Sunday newspapers by disporting himself with dusky beauties in Honolulu or elsewhere. This rather spoiled the effect of his stories concerning the hardships of life on the Island.

Our transport is "Good," R.E.M.E. tell us.

* * *

Corporal Jessop and Signalman Day were selected to shoot for Royal Signals, B.A.O.R., at Bulford, having finished in the first 20 in the B.A.O.R. competition. The kind of "bull" we do not mind hearing about.

* * *

Communications were so good on the last Exercise that the R.A.F. told us they were, which was pretty decent of them.

* * *

Signalman Tilley won the B.A.O.R. Individual Table Tennis Singles and Doubles titles. He also got into the quarter-finals of the B.A.O.R. Tennis Championship, but then unluckily pulled a muscle. Somebody pulled it back for him, so he's all right.

* * *

10 Independent Air Formation Signal Squadron came under command, as 1 Squadron, on 1st July. This event, we understand, is the subject of a separate article, so beyond extending a hearty welcome we will say no more.

* * *

Lieutenant Ian Bird was commanding a Troop on the Island of Sylt, which is mostly beach. He applied to go to West Africa, but he has not gone yet. A Bird in the sand is worth two in the bush!

* * *

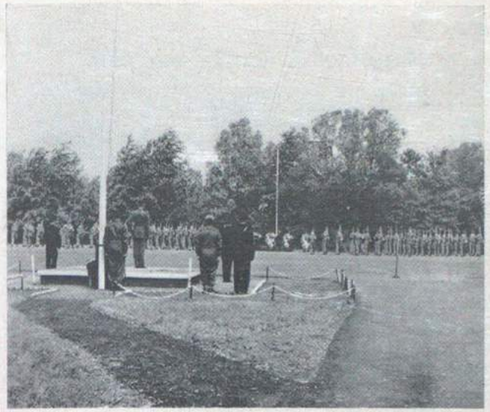
Reorganisation 2 T.A.F., 2 A.T.A.F. and consequently Air Formation Signals continues apace. We are now working on the establishment which will be submitted for approval six months after the one which is awaiting approval has been approved, if you understand what we mean. We don't.

* * *

Under Captain Bruce Foote the Regimental athletes have been busy running, jumping and throwing, all over the place. They won the Sundern Sports, but did not win the 6 Infantry Brigade Group Meeting owing to the other teams finishing in front of them. Lance-Corporal McDonald deserves mention for doing well in the Steeplechase and 5,000 metres. Come to think of it, anyone who runs that far deserves mention.



Colonel D. E. Harrison, O.B.E., presents the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal to R.Q.M.S. Mackay



The Regiment advances in Review Order



Colonel D. E. Harrison, O.B.E., inspecting the Parade.

I Wing Signal Troop, at Jever, have been awarded the trophy for the best year's work in the Regiment, with 2 T.M. Troop a close runner-up. This is in no small measure due to the leadership of Second-Lieutenant Michael Webber, who leaves us shortly on completion of his National Service. We wish him well.

* * *

We are playing a lot of cricket. We beat H.Q., 6 Infantry Brigade Group in the B.A.O.R. Cup and now meet H.Q., 1 Corps. Signalman Silvester scored 85. We beat 5 Divisional Signals in the Morrison Cup but then lost to 4 Divisional Signals in an exciting finish. Signalman Silvester scored 84—he's slipping. Lieutenant Frank Pedley is our most successful bowler.

* * *

It occurs to us that these notes are rather like a certain project at Jever—a bit disjointed.

* * *

The Draughtsmen's Office presents a peculiar appearance at the moment. Sergeant Corrieri, no mean artist, has been commissioned by the Officers' Mess to do the décor for the forthcoming Summer Ball. His main motif is a real live Wild West Saloon—spittoons and all.

* * *

At golf, the Commanding Officer beat the Headmaster of the B.F.E.S. School by four and three and won a ball. The Headmaster is not really worried—he is still using the 32 balls he has won from the Commanding Officer over the past year.

* * *

This is the end.

12 AIR FORMATION SIGNAL REGIMENT

The Annual Visit to the Regiment took place this year on 17th, 18th and 19th July and was carried out by Colonel D. E. Harrison, O.B.E., Chief Air Formation Signal Officer, 2nd Tactical Air Force.

During the ceremonial parade of R.H.Q., "H.Q." Squadron and No. 1 Squadron on 17th July, Colonel Harrison presented the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal to R.Q.M.S. M. Ham. This Warrant Officer has an excellent record of service, which is rather unique in that since enlisting into Boys' Service in July, 1939, he has served abroad in India, Malaya, Pakistan, Norway, Holland and Germany and has served in almost every type of Signal Regiment.

Our photographs show Colonel Harrison presenting the medal to R.Q.M.S. Ham and inspecting part of the parade. Music was provided by the Band of 2nd Tactical Air Force, under the direction of Flying Officer J. W. Martindale, and the parade was well supported by a large number of our married families, as spectators. After the ceremonial parade, Colonel Harrison presented various Regimental trophies and we again wish to congratulate the winners as under:

Inter-Troop Shooting Cup: L.A.D., R.E.M.E.
Inter-Troop Shooting Shield: 7 Line Troop.
Inter-Troop Football Cup: 7 Line Troop.
No. 1 Squadron Troop Efficiency Cup: 9 Heavy Cable Troop.

On the same day we said farewell to our Second-in-Command, Major N. C. B. Cleveley, who has now joined Scottish Command (M) Signal Squadron. We were sorry to see him go and wish him and his family the best of luck, but we look forward to hearing his voice again through another medium! We also said farewell to Major Mott on his way to Records, and to Lieutenant (T.O.T.) Pyper bound for Malta. Lieutenant Pyper will be particularly missed for his cheery good humour and the good work done by his Troop in establishing our new System Control Centre.

On the 18th and 19th July Colonel Harrison completed his visit when he inspected our Wing Signal Troops at their various dispersed locations. We again congratulate 20 Wing Signal Troop, to whom he presented No. 2 Squadron Troop Efficiency Cup.

Our Regimental cricket team, under the captaincy of Lieutenant Cox, are making good progress in the Royal Signals B.A.O.R. Competition and have won their two fixtures so far, against 2 L. of C. Signal Regiment and 10 Air Formation Signal Regiment. We hope they can keep it up!



Colonel D. E. Harrison, O.B.E., presenting the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal to R.Q.M.S. M. Ham



The Royal Salute to mark the symbolic arrival of Her Majesty The Queen at the Parade and shows (left to right) Major General R. E. Lloyd, C.B.E., D.S.O. Brigadier G. S. Knox, O.B.E ; Colonel H. D. Pyman, Parade Commander and Major T. I. G. Gray

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY PARADE AT JOINT HEADQUARTERS MIDDLE EAST

Inspecting Officer Accompanied by Two Royal Signals Officers

At the Queen's Birthday Parade, which was held on the air-strip at Joint Headquarters, Middle East, Episkopi, Cyprus, the Inspecting Officer, Major-General R. E. Lloyd, C.B.E., D.S.O., Chief of Staff, Middle East Land Forces, was accompanied by two Royal Corps of Signals Officers. They were Brigadier G. S. Knox, O.B.E. (late Royal Corps of Signals), who is Brigadier in charge of Administration, Middle East Land Forces, and Major T. I. G. Gray, Staff Officer to the Chief of Staff.

The Royal Corps of Signals were also represented on the parade by a 60 strong detachment drawn from 3 G.H.Q. Signal Regiment, under the command of Major T. Cunningham-Birley.

During the parade, there was an impressive flypast by Canberra and Hunter aircraft from Royal Air Force Stations Akrotiri and Nicosia.

(Courtesy : Public Relations Service, Middle East).



After the parade, General Lloyd presented the Long Service and Good Conduct medal to W.O.II J. Woolgar, M.M., B.E.M., who is S.S.M. No. 2 Squadron 3 G.H.Q. Signal Regiment

GIBRALTAR SIGNAL SQUADRON

The highlights of May, from a military angle, were firstly, a very informal visit from our neighbour, the retiring Governor and C.-in-C., Lieutenant-General Sir Harold Redman, K.C.B., C.B.E. Having said his farewell to the Squadron as a whole, General Redman then had a chat with each of the senior ranks and with many of the civilians who have long been in the employ of the Squadron. Before leaving, he visited the Radio Distribution Studios. General Redman visited only a few selected Units in Gibraltar and we were pleased to note that whilst he arrived almost on schedule his stay with the Squadron was double that allotted. This upsetting of a heavy itinerary was a compliment much appreciated. The second event occurred when Royal Signals provided our only Officer and fifteen men for the street lining for our new Governor and C.-in-C., General Sir Charles Keightley, G.C.B., K.B.E., D.S.O. General Keightley arrived by sea on Empire Day and was given an almost Royal welcome. Radio Distribution, in conjunction with recently opened Radio Gibraltar, broadcast a commentary of the Governor's arrival and of the impressive "Swearing in" ceremony.

On 12th June the Squadron held its own Queen's Birthday Parade. After inspection by the Senior Staff Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel King, the Squadron marched past and, after three cheers for Her Majesty, the S.S.O. warmly congratulated the Squadron on a magnificent turn-out, and more particularly their bearing during the march past, which was carried out on a road having a sideways slope of 30° to the horizontal.

Gibraltar has very few sports fields, so that the close of the football and hockey season is followed by a long wait by cricket enthusiasts, whilst the Army's only sports field is used daily for athletics. They can, however, use Royal Navy and Royal Air Force pitches when allocated. As the Squadron is too small to hold a really successful sports meeting, we combined with the R.M.P., R.A.P.C. and F.H.Q. staff, and held a C./F.H.Q. athletics meeting on 4th June. Several of the Squadron won cups and an enjoyable meeting concluded with presentations by Mrs. King, wife of the S.S.O.

On 25th June the Command athletics were held and we entered several competitors in the C./F.H.Q. team, which finished, unfortunately, last in the Minor Units' competition with 112 points. We did, however, set up a new Command record in the 4 x 880 yards relay race with a time of 9 minutes 9.2 seconds. Signalman Brownbridge was our representative in this team. Owing to illness we were deprived of the services of our finest long distance runner, W.O.II Grant. His presence is greatly missed in the Squadron and the news that he will be leaving hospital in two weeks is welcome to us all, especially as he usually writes these notes.

On 26th June our team took part in the first Command rowing regatta and, although returning a faster time than ever before, were eliminated in the preliminary heats. During the next few weeks we are losing Staff Sergeant Hopson, Corporals Milne and Daniells. This, following the postings of W.O.II Gent and Sergeant Farrel, means many new faces in the Squadron. We wish them luck in their new Units and hope that their replacements will enjoy their stay on the "Rock."

W.O.II Burrows, Staff Sergeant Dique and Sergeant Harding and family have already arrived and are tasting of its fruits. One thinks it a little sour at the moment, but we are sure that before long they will become "peculiar to the Rock," as everything else here is claimed to be.

*

MALTA G.C.

The Corps on this island does not seem to have been very publicity minded and it may come as a shock to some readers to hear that Royal Signals are present on this traditionally naval station. We assure them that we do exist and, according to some rather faded and formal photographs, seem to have existed here as long as the Corps itself. We shall try and do better in future and report our doings that are of interest.

The contribution this month comes from Comcan Signal Squadron which is one of the small units that make up the Signal garrison of the island.



The opening of the new receiver site. Major General C. H. Colquhoun, C.B., O.B.E., cuts the tape

COMCAN SIGNAL SQUADRON, MALTA

After a life of four years, it will not be amiss to announce our existence to those of the Corps, who do not find themselves connected with COMCAN. The Unit was formed initially in July, 1954, to replace the former Middle East Tape Relay Centre which was coming to an end, due to the policies of those controlling the destiny of Egypt.

Thanks to the efforts of many (especially AWCIT) "temporary" operating sites were quickly established here and within a few months the Middle East circuits were taken over. We have now at last begun to reap the advantage of earlier planning, and have started to settle into more permanent accommodation. A new Receiver Station (with the rather romantic name of Ta Wied Rini) was recently taken into use to replace the temporary station located in and on an Ordnance Ammunition Dump. A rather unsettling location for nervous types at any time which also was reputed to have the worst site for an aerial field ever seen.

The new station was recently opened officially by the G.O.C., Malta, Major-General C. H. Colquhoun, C.B., O.B.E., who was later escorted round the station by the C.S.O., Lieutenant-Colonel J. D. Elliott, and the Squadron Commander, Major P. H. Leney. The occasion was also attended by "communicators" of the other services and civilian organisations in a similar line of business. The proceedings ended with the serving of light refreshments (it was a warm and thirsty day). Our photograph shows the G.O.C. cutting the tape to open the station.

Last February we were pleased to receive a visit from the S.O.-in-C. who made a quick tour of our sites, enabling him to see the Unit at work, and also to meet a large number of our personnel, both civilian and military.

Another visitor was the Inspector of R.E.M.E., Major-General L. H. Howard Jones, C.B.E., who after visiting the attached R.E.M.E .Workshops, was keen to see our equipment and discuss with us our maintenance problems.

On the sports fields we have established our mark in football, hockey and, just recently, in cricket. We are also making full use of the excellent bathing facilities; sub aqua club people would enjoy Malta. For those with nautical leanings a flourishing Army Sailing Club provides excellent sailing facilities at negligible cost.

We extend a warm welcome to our new arrivals: W.O.I W. Lombard (Sig. Cen. Sup) and W.O.II (F.O.S.) F. Thompson.

Ex-members of the Corps and those shortly becoming ex-members who wish for employment in a warmer climate may be interested to hear that we have vacancies for U.K. based civilians in Comcan here. These vacancies are to replace F. of S. and Radio, Line and Telegraph Technicians. If anyone is interested they can obtain details from O.C. Comcan Signal Squadron, Malta, British Forces Post Office 51.

To those married members of the Corps who come to Malta in the future, we would give a word of advice on married accommodation. Whilst we welcome new arrivals accompanied by their families; official quarters on the islands are few (especially for officers). Civilian accommodation in the form of "hirings" or otherwise is available but varies in quality, price and type of location. As we do not know your ideas and preferences therefore we normally book an accompanied family into a hotel. Some people find it easier to come out alone and let their families follow them two or three weeks later.

ARE YOU AN "EX-BOY?" If so, have you subscribed to the "F. R. COBB MEMORIAL TROPHY"? The Honorary Treasurer is Lieutenant-Colonel T. G. Chambers, M.C., O.C., 4 Training Regiment, Royal Signals, Catterick Camp, Yorkshire. Full details were published in July "Wire" and are available at 88, Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1.

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S.O.-in-C., C.S.O., M.E.L.F., talking to Lance Corporal Robson in Central Oman



H.Q. Sultans Armed Forces. Royal Signals detachment accomodation located in the tower on right (bottom window)

H.Q., L.F.P.G. SIGNAL TROOP

By the time these notes are published H.Q., L.F.P.G. Signal Troop will, it is hoped, have been officially recognised in one of the ponderous A.C.I.s on establishments. The embryo of this Troop has been in existence since 1953, sweating it out in the Persian Gulf. Little known until last year, when reinforcements arrived from Cyprus. A number of them did not return to the delights of Cyprus and are still living "out in the blue."

Signals can claim to have put themselves firmly on the map of Southern Arabia and the Corps will have at its disposal one of the few remaining areas in the world where those who have adventure in their blood can fulfil their desires in full measure.

The S.O.-in-C.'s visit in March was indeed a tonic to all concerned, but it is believed that he was quite surprised to find so much Signal activity going on in this out of the way part of the world.

On arrival in Bahrain late in the afternoon of 15th March, 1958, the S.O.-in-C., accompanied by Brigadier C. D. Gardiner, C.S.O., M.E.L.F., was met by Brigadier E. H. Tinker, Command H.Q., Land Forces Persian Gulf, and Major F. D. McConnell-Wood, Royal Signals.

Owing to the limited time available in Bahrain the General was given little respite, just time for a cup of tea in the R.A.F. Officers' Mess before visiting the R.A.F. Signal Centre, Muharraq, prior to driving over the Causeway which joins the airport to the main island of Bahrain.

All Royal Signal personnel met the S.O.-in-C. and were able to have a few words with him during his visit to the L.F.P.G. Signal Centre.

The following morning the S.O.-in-C. and C.S.O., M.E.L.F., escorted by Major F. D. McConnell-Wood, left Bahrain in an R.A.F. Pembroke to visit the isolated outstation detachments, including H.Q., Trucial Oman Scouts.

Muscat, on the Barbary Coast, some 500 miles from Bahrain, was the first stop. This particular flight followed a route which is most interesting and awe inspiring to the visitor.

For the first hour the azure blue Persian Gulf lay below, occasionally broken by small rocky islands which offer the local fishermen and gun runners protection and quiet anchorage from the unpredictable temperament of the sea. Then across the desert wastes of the Trucial States and over much disputed Buraimi, gradually climbing up on approach to the formidable jagged mountains of Central Muscat and Oman. The sight of the Indian Ocean off the Barbary Coast indicated that the first part of the trip was almost over. Following the coastline eventually brought into view the narrow gap in the towering hills through which the aircraft must pass on approach to the small sandy airstrip nestling in a natural bowl.

A short distance from the airstrip is a medieval type of fort where the Sultan of Muscat's Armed Forces have their Headquarters. The Signal Detachment live and work in one of the four round towers which, from an outsider's point of view, could be described as being a truly romantic setting.

Conditions are quite primitive and in the summer the climate is somewhat tiresome. Inside temperatures are always in the region of 100°, although fortunately the humidity is not as high as elsewhere in the Gulf area.

Air conditioning and fans do not exist, for most of the year normal dress, therefore, consists of P.T. shorts and shoes.

The second part of the trip, to Firq, began after a stay of two hours. Taking off downhill and downwind, the aircraft just squeezed through the gap and flew at 800ft. or thereabouts up the locally well-known wadi, Sumail, where the hills on either side rise to 4,000ft. The Northern Frontier Regiment of the Sultan's Armed Forces have their camp at Firq. It was there that Staff Sergeant Williams anxiously awaited the safe arrival of the S.O.-in-C. from the airstrip some five miles away.

Again conditions are primitive and accommodation for both men and equipment consists of tents and huts, the latter known Barastis are made out of palm leaves. The majority of personnel thoroughly enjoy the life and prefer being out in the blue to being in Bahrain or Cyprus.

It is regretted that the communication system cannot be enlarged upon other than to say that from a hand-key operating point of view the ex-OWL would be in his element and old-timers will be glad to know that the Corps can still cope with conditions that no present day training pamphlet considers exists.

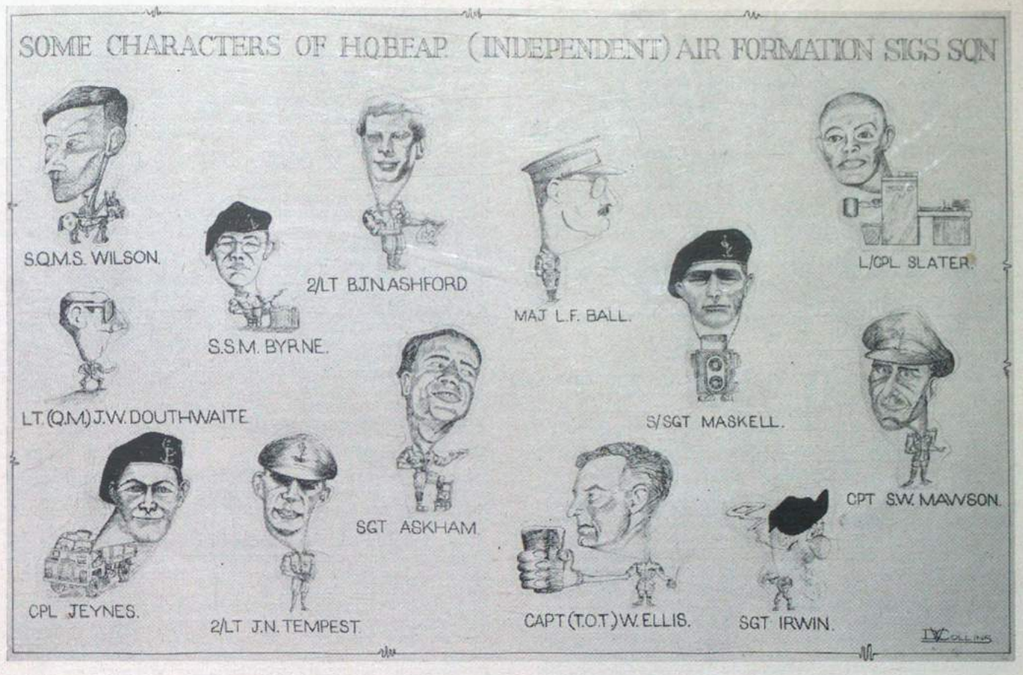
To return to the S.O.-in-C.'s visit, the final part of his trip was from Firq to Sharjah, on the Trucial Oman Coast, where the Trucial Oman Scouts have their Headquarters. On leaving Firq, the aircraft flew over one of the highest mountains in Central Oman, some 9,000ft., known as the Jebal Akhdar, leaving behind in the late afternoon a panorama of kaleidoscopic magnitude.

The R.A.F. landing ground lies a short distance inland from the coastal town of Sharjah. It is here, within the R.A.F. compound, that the T.O.S. have their H.Q. The T.O.S. Signal Troop consists of both Royal Signals and locally trained Arabs. The latter begin their training from about the age of ten; are fully trained and operating over distances of 200 miles or more by the time they are twelve or thirteen.

The General's party left Sharjah the following morning for the Aden Protectorate, where they were to visit more isolated detachments in equally desolate areas.



S.O.-in-C., inspects T.O.S. Signal Troop, Sharjah Trucial States



HONG KONG SIGNAL REGIMENT

2 Squadron. Our Regimental notes this month are compiled by this Squadron, now owners of all Signal worries in Kowloon and the New Territories.

Hong Kong in July is very hot and sticky. Most things come to a standstill, except essential work. However, most of ours is essential, and must go on, although perhaps the tempo of manual labour gets a little slower in the noonday sun! With the hot weather come smells, insects, typhoons and pestilences. In fact, the Chinese consider the month of the fifth moon to be a happy one only for the numerous little devils, not counting the S.S.M., S.Q.M.S., and various Troops Sergeants, who pester humans.

The commitments of the Regiment are not any the less in the summer heat, and our particular devils still put faults on cables and cultivate mould in wireless sets and on our clothes. Furthermore, gangs of coolies descend with abandon on our routes and in the course of altering the shape of the countryside, expose our cables whenever they can. Against this background, we are preparing for our annual Administrative Inspection (Lance-Corporal Verchere knows the value of the paint brush in his Radio Tech's tool kit).

The Regiment is now reorganised, with 1 Squadron responsible for the communications on the Island and 2 Squadron for those on the mainland. Between it and the Island is a small stretch of water which takes 10 minutes to cross, but the journey from door to door takes over half-an-hour, even if one has the thick blood of the newcomer. A disgruntled Troop Commander complained that he had done the journey nine times in the day. He explained the odd number of journeys by asserting that he was Orderly Officer.

The new system works well, although there is a tendency for accusations to fly across the water. The mainland accuse the island of featherbedding and the island accuse 2 Squadron of Empire building. Both sides are, of course, quite right.

Changes are going on all around us. A few of the better-known names are: Staff Sergeant Hawke, Sergeant Hadfield, to U.K.; Major L. M. Evans, W.O.II R.Q.M.S. Scott, to Regiment; Sergeant Swalwell to 1 Squadron. Arrivals include Second-Lieutenant A. S. Everest, W.O.II (S.S.M.) McNaughton, Sergeant Cave and Sergeant McSorley from Regiment; the new O.C., Major T. P. Furlonge, Sergeant Carr and Sergeant Houldsworth, from U.K., and Major Millichip from Sham Shui Po.

Sport, except for swimming and six-a-side hockey, virtually stops during the summer, and we are basking in the past glory of being Colony champions for football and hockey; Sergeant Cave was a member of the Colony hockey side against the much-vaunted Indian national side. It was good experience for him.

Nowadays, the older inhabitants are packing their bags sorrowfully; the middle-piece ones are wondering if more energy is expended by dodging the new brooms than complying with their wishes, and the new brooms feel as though they are attacking cotton wool. The replies, "It came from Korea," or "It happened when we reorganised" are unanswerable.

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T.A.

MIDDLESEX YEOMANRY SIGNAL REGIMENT (T.A.)

During the past four months the activities of the Yeomanry have increased considerably, not only in training, but also in the social sphere.

In February, Brigadier Young made his farewell visit to 3 (Para) Squadron. At the beginning of June the Squadron completed a very successful drop via Abingdon and Watchfield; accompanying them was a Land Rover, which Major Udell, the O.C., claims has done more drops, undamaged, than our most veteran parachutist. The only snag to a perfect week-end was reveille at 2.15 a.m., on Sunday morning, for a 5 a.m. take-off. In the 44 Independent Parachute Brigade Rifle Meeting at Ash Ranges, Aldershot, the Squadron acquitted itself well by coming third in the Minor Units Competition. Early in June Brigadier Frost, the new commander of the Independent Parachute Brigade (T.A.), made acquaintance with the Squadron at a drill night.

1 Squadron have been visiting Chatham and Rochester to give demonstrations to their new responsibility, H.Q., 27 Engineer Group.

4 (Phantom) Squadron have continued to attract numerous recruits. At Poole they provided the administrative net for a Royal Marine-Army amphibious exercise. They have also tested their abilities to operate as Phantoms by working from the Cairngorms (Scotland) to Uxbridge on a manpack set. This survival test, which took place in the snows of February, was feasible, mainly due to the hospitality of the Lovat Scouts. The horsemen (the one time Yeomen) of 4 Squadron are now training hard for their equestrian appearance at the T.A. Pageant to be held at the Duke of York's H.Q. on the 3rd and 5th July, 1958.



During May, a very successful long-range exercise was conducted on a Regimental basis. Detachments operating from Darlington, Castlemartin (Pembrokeshire), Biggin Hill and Gloucester maintained successful communications for a week-end on manpack stations.

Training for the Nijmegan March is going ahead with all the necessary blood, sweat and tears, since this will be the third year we have competed, we hope that we will be able to show the infantry the way to do it.

During April, the Officers' Mess held a cocktail party. Brigadier Frost, the new commander of 44 Independent Parachute Brigade, being one of the distinguished guests. This was followed, in May, by the annual dinner, and as a new departure, an informal party was held late in May, this was hailed as a calamitous success by all concerned.

While the snow was still falling, in March, the Sergeants' Mess held a dance which was very well attended, beside representatives of all the London Signal Units, members of the R.A.F. and R.N.V.R. could be seen supporting the bar. One of the more distinguished guests was our former R.Q.M.S., now R.S.M. Creed, of 50 (T. & T.) Divisional Signal Regiment (T.A.) of Darlington.

The Old Comrades Association continues to meet in the Sergeants' Mess, at the Duke of York's H.Q., on the first Wednesday in each month. All former members of the Regiment will be more than welcome at these meetings.

[*The Notes continued*]

During the past month the Regiment has been very heavily engaged, mainly with the Territorial Army Golden Jubilee Review and the London Territorial Display at the Duke of York's Headquarters, Chelsea.

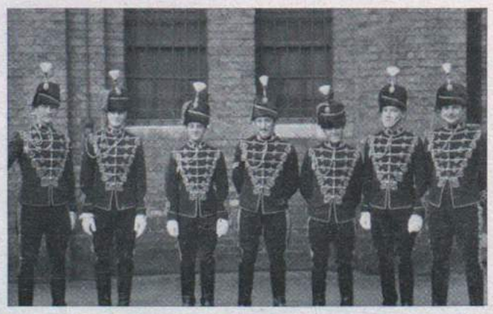
The Regiment sent two detachments to the Jubilee Review in Hyde Park; the first detachment was reviewed with the Eastern Command contingent and the second detachment with 44 Independent Parachute Brigade.

Besides the marching troops the Regiment provided the wireless communications for the control of the Review and manned the telephone network which was built by London District Signal Troop. In consequence there were only a very few of the Regiment who managed to keep dry on 22nd June.

On the 3rd and 5th July the London Territorial Army Association held a Jubilee Display at the Duke of York's Headquarters. 4 Squadron revived the Cavalry traditions of the Regiment by sending a mounted detachment. This detachment and two dismounted took part in the historical procession. At each performance the detachment was applauded for its lively exit from the arena, the horses lent by the Household Cavalry being rather high spirited.

3 Squadron provided, as a static display, an Air Contact Team and, for the Airborne Landing scene, a rear link detachment mounted on a Land Rover and trailer. On passing over a Bailey bridge Signalman Rich who was seated in the very bouncy trailer, nearly had to use his reserve 'chute for a very low level exit.

After both performances the Officers' Mess acted as hosts, for



Part of 4 Squadron Middlesex Yeomanry taking part in the County of London Territorial Display. *Left to right*: Signalmen Smith, Lane, Banyard, Corporal French, Lance-Corporal Keen, Signalmen Crisp, Waklin

the County of London Territorial Association, to the distinguished guests. On the 3rd July the Lord Mayor of London, Sir Denis Truscot, T.D., and his entourage visited the Mess and met the Colonel of the Regiment, Lord Maldon. After the performance on 5th July the Deputy C.I.G.S., Lieutenant-General Sir Harold Pyman, and the Mayor of Chelsea were entertained.

Once again we built and manned the telephone network for the control of the display.

Earlier this year a visit was arranged to 90 Signal Regiment of Colchester. All too early on a Sunday morning it was found possible to fit in some sports against their Regimental teams. In spite of losing at shooting, soccer, basketball and hockey the officers and sergeants felt that they redeemed the honour of the Regiment by winning a very long boat race, Lieutenant Frewer arriving from Leicester just in time to row stroke.

The team taking part in the Nijmegen march for the third year have now completed 431 miles of marching in training and feel that it will all be worth it in the end. 4 Squadron have held two very successful dances at their Drill Hall and hope to make them regular fixtures after camp.

For camp this year the Regiment is even more split than last year, squadrons going to Crowborough, Castlemartin and Penhale.

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

The main event of the past month has been the annual camp which took place from 7th-21st June. The accommodation at Warren Camp, Crowborough, was excellent.

Highlight of the first week was the visit of Major-General R. F. H. Nalder, C.B., O.B.E., Representative Colonel Commandant, Royal Corps of Signals, to the Regiment on 13th June.

The General, accompanied by Lieutenant-Colonel Basil Hayles, C.S.O., London District, arrived at 1100 hours and was met by Brigadier W. R. Smijth-Windham, C.B.E., D.S.O., A.D.C., C.S.O. Eastern Command, the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel B. R. Wood, M.B.E., T.D., and our Adjutant, Major C. O. Bound.

After a brief resumé of the Regimental history, the General was conducted on a visit to the individual training being carried out on the well appointed training area. The General was shown all aspects of training, including wireless operators undergoing practical wireless instruction, wireless masts being erected, radio technicians carrying out practical fault finding, despatch riders negotiating a strip of treacherous muddy track, and drivers carrying out driving hazards. Finally, a Phantom patrol and a skeleton Phantom Headquarters were visited.

The General and those in his party showed great interest in the operational role of the Regiment, and later saw fit to congratulate the Regiment on the bearing and morale shown by all ranks.



["By kind permission of the Times"

Major-General R.F.H. Nalder, C.B., O.B.E., Brigadier W. R. Smijth-Windham, C.B.E., D.S.O., A.D.C., Lieutenant-Colonel B. R. Hayles, Lieutenant-Colonel B. R. Wood, M.B.E., T.D., and Sergeant J.A.J. Jeeves

Whilst at lunch in the Officers' Mess, the General passed a verbal message to the Commanding Officer from The Princess Royal to the effect that she was bitterly disappointed at having to cancel her visit to the Regiment on the advise of her medical advisers, but that she hoped to visit the Regiment in the future.

The first three days of the second week saw the Regiment out on an Exercise "Jubilee II" planned by Captains Wilding, Graham and Poupard, who together with Captain Blogg, acted as umpires. R.H.Q. was established at Rotherfield and the Patrols found excellent sites in the Isle of Thanet. The exercise proved to be extremely valuable and a competition organised by the umpires resulted in No. 7 Patrol, consisting of Captain R. G. Barwell, Sergeant Overland, Corporal Lupton and Signalmen Barnes, Campbell, Cooper and Wardally, being placed first. It was, however, a very close finish and all must be congratulated on their efforts and spirit.

A feature of this Crowborough Camp has been the keenness and desire to learn by the recent recruits to the Regiment, some of whom had never tasted Army life before.

52 (L) INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT (T.A.)

This Regiment was extremely busy during the first half of this year getting ready for the T.A. Jubilee Display, which was held in the Kelvin Hall, Glasgow, from 10th to 14th June. This function consisted of a static display in the main hall and a pageant in the arena.

The Royal Signals (T.A.) stand in the static display was a combined effort by the 52 (L) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment (T.A.), Scottish Command (M) Signal Regiment (T.A.) and 3 (Independent) U.K.L.F. Reserve Signal Squadron (T.A.).

Two Signal Centres were set up on the stand, one being a Rear Area Signal Centre and the other a Divisional Signal Centre, and telephones were provided at each centre so that the general public could talk on them over radio relay from one signal centre to the other. Some of the new range of wireless sets and radio relay sets were obtained from the Signal Training Brigade, Catterick, and proved of great interest to visitors to the stand.

The first item in the arena show was a display of motor cycling by the Despatch Rider Team of 52 (L) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment (T.A.), assisted by two members of No. 4 (S) Port Task Force Signal Squadron (T.A.). Although the space in the arena was rather limited, the D.R.s gave an excellent performance each night. This team trained hard for six months before the show and lived up to the high standard set by the Regular Army Royal Signals Display. One of the members of the team, S.S.M. McCann was in the Royal Signals Display just after the war, but most of the Despatch



THE MOTOR CYCLE DISPLAY TEAM
52nd Lowland Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment T.A.



THE BAND
52nd Lowland Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment T.A.

Riders were young volunteers, about 18-years-old, who have recently joined the Regiment. The formation riding, jumps, etc., thrilled the audience, especially the young; and fortunately, there were no accidents.

A team from this Regiment also competed with a team from 3 (Independent) U.K.L.F. Reserve Signal Squadron (T.A.) in a wireless mast erection race. This item also proved most popular with the audiences, and all the races were very close.

It was most amazing that no mast sections were broken.

Scottish Command (M) Signal Regiment (T.A.) also organised a recreational drill hall scene, and 3 (Independent) U.K.L.F. Reserve Signal Squadron (T.A.) put on a training night in a drill hall; the instructor being a robot machine.

Members of this Regiment's pipe band also played with the massed pipes and drums in the arena, and now that they have their No. 1 Dress, they look very smart.

Before these notes are published, a contingent from the Regiment will have taken part in the T.A. Jubilee Parade in Edinburgh before Her Majesty The Queen, and our annual camp, which is being held at Proteus, near Nottingham, will be a thing of the past. More of them anon.

56th (1st LONDON) DIVISIONAL SIGNALS, T.A. DISPLAY TEAM REUNION DINNER

In 1934 Captain Henry Firth came to 56th (1st London) Divisional Signals T.A. as Adjutant, and shortly afterwards Jack Angell arrived as a P.S.I., whether by accident or design perhaps only Records can tell. The result was a foregone conclusion, and the first T.A. Despatch Rider Display Team was born, due to become well known over much of the country, particularly amongst the publicans and police, from Scunthorpe to Southampton, and from Diss to Yeovil, not forgetting the three W's, Windsor, Windlesham, and Wembley, where performances were given all on one day. In 1937 the team gave their display at every performance, afternoon and evening, at the Royal Tournament, and remains the only T.A. unit to have this honour.

Due to the inspiration and hard work of Jack Angell, about fifteen members of the team assembled again on Saturday, 12th July at the old Drill Hall, 20, Atkins Road, S.W.12, by the kindness of Lieutenant-Colonel K. C. Goldie-Morrison, T.D., Commanding 56th Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A., and enjoyed an excellent dinner served by Mr. Whittington, the caretaker.

Those present included Jack Angell, Richard Denison-Pender, Jack Knight, Robin Thyer, R. Lemoine, Joey Crewdson, Dingdong Bell, the Overton brothers, G. Putt, Stuart Thompson.

S.S.M.s Maughan and Childs of the present unit, who, although not members of the team, had frequently joined in their activities in the old days, provided a very welcome link between the former display and their successors. Despite the many calls on his time, Brigadier Firth also dined, much to everyone's delight. Unfortunately "Excused Boots" Duggie Hollister was having a recurrence of his old trouble and could not make it, but rang up to send his regards, and letters were read from Jimmie Law, Cliff Dennis, Fred Molteni, Nat Benjamin and Jack Tyler.

As questions were asked about the whereabouts of so-and-so, it transpired that all too many would not be attending reunions in this world again, but had left for the remainder many happy memories, and it was brought home to the rest that some twenty years had passed, including the war. Particularly remembered were Pete Foster, Maurice Payne and Ginger Garton.

As there had never been more than about thirty at any one time in the show, to assemble so many was a great tribute to the comradeship of the team and to the efforts of Jack Angell. Everyone knew everyone, and there can have been few reunions so much enjoyed, and with so little formality. A film, in which most people seemed to appear, of practices at Latimer, Bucks, was shown, and re-awakened memories that had hardly slept.

A suggestion from S.S.M. Maughan that some of the original members might like to come and give hints to the present team met with a very ready response, though he was warned that W.D. machines might suffer.

The reminiscences went on long into the night, and were mainly too personal or libellous to bear repetition in these pages, but everyone wished to send their regards to all who had befriended the team, or who had enjoyed their performances, and do so now in this brief report. R.E.D-P.

EASTERN COMMAND (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

The Regiment camped this year at Crowborough, together with our sister Unit, Home Counties District (M) Signal Regiment, T.A., and No. 1 Independent U.K.L.F. Reserve Signal Squadron, T.A. Crowborough is not unknown to us as a weekend training centre and is so close to London that there were many misgivings about spending our fortnight's camp there. That there proved to be many disadvantages was inevitable but these were in part compensated by the ease in settling down in a camp we already knew well and the shorter time needed to "recce" the local inns.

On the training side of camp, we concentrated on individual training in the first week, with a scheme in the second, followed by trade tests. Little need be said of all this, as it followed the normal pattern with no major incidents to report. It would be pleasant though if we, as a Signal Unit, did occasionally pass traffic for a real staff engaged on a real Exercise with all the urgency that sort of situation engenders.

We had a number of distinguished visitors, including the Army Commander, Lieutenant-General Sir Charles Coleman, K.C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., O.B.E., the G.O.C. Home Counties District, Major-General W. F. R. Turner, D.S.O., the Bishop of Maidstone, who had what was no doubt the interesting experience of being present at the Officers' party to the Sergeants, and the Mayor of Wallington.

The social side too followed the normal pattern of parties, dances, etc. The qualities of endurance of the T.A. are perhaps even better shown by the way we get through a fortnight of this sort of activity than by a drenching on parade (House of Lords please note).

At the Commanding Officer's parade the Colonel presented the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal to Sergeant Templeton, a clasp to the T.A. Efficiency Medal to Sergeant Thorndyke, and Meritorious Service Certificate to W.O.II Button, W.R.A.C.

At camp we had to say goodbye to a number of members of the Permanent Staff. First of all, our Colonel, Lieutenant-Colonel A. J. M. Atthill, O.B.E., retired after 29 years' service in the Army, and after commanding the Regiment for nearly 18 months. We owe much to him for his powers of organisation and administration and for his efforts to understand the spirit of the T.A., which we all recognised was very difficult for a Regular soldier. We hope though, that he will look back with some pleasure at his stay with us and can assure him of his place in the history—and the legends—of the Regiment. To mark his retirement the Officers presented him with a telescope and the Sergeants with a barometer both eminently suitable for a leisurely life at Plymouth. We wish him a very happy retirement and not too many disillusionments with civilian life.

Also leaving us at camp was Captain Emma Foster, W.R.A.C., who served us so ably both as a Squadron P.S.O. at Wanstead and Worthing and as our Signal Office expert. We are very sorry to lose her and wish her luck in her new posting. A third Officer to leave us was Captain W. F. Joyce, who had been with us only a few months and who has gone to be an Assistant Secretary of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce. Although his stay with us has been short, it was far from being unmemorable and he will forgive us for wondering what effect "Auntie Mabel" will have on Anglo-Indian relations.

Lastly, our R.S.M., W.O.I M. R. Townsend, has been posted to Donnington. We shall miss his cheerful organisation of Unit dances and those qualities of humanity so essential in a T.A. R.S.M. and hope that he will not miss the fleshpots of London too much. We have not said goodbye to him, as we expect to see him and his wife at Brompton Road quite often.

Relieving Colonel Atthill as Commanding Officer is Lieutenant-Colonel H. Ll. Daniel, Royal Signals, T.A., who has served in the Regiment or been associated with it since 1948. He joins us from 33 A.A. Brigade Signal Squadron, T.A., and in welcoming him we wish him a happy and successful tour of command. That it should be an exciting one will be obvious to anyone who knows him.

As our new R.S.M. we welcome W.O.I W. J. Russell, whom we wish every success on this, his first appointment, in his present rank.

Any account of camp would not be complete without a mention of the help given us by Eastern Command Signal Squadron, whose training lay-out was excellent and made training so much easier.

Since camp the major activity of the Regiment has been our participation in the T.A. Jubilee celebrations and contingents were present at the Queen's parade, the service at Westminster Abbey and the London T.A. Association Tattoo at the Duke of York's Headquarters.

MID WEST DISTRICT (MIXED) SIGNAL REGIMENT (T.A.) and 5 INDEPENDENT U.K.L.F. RESERVE SIGNAL SQUADRON (T.A.)

Mid West District (Mixed) Signal Regiment (T.A.) and 5 Independent U.K.L.F. Reserve Signal Squadron (T.A.) once more joined forces this year at annual camp, which was held at Proteus Camp, Ollerton, Notts., in the midst of the Robin Hood country, in early June.

The Regiment, commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel G. Thomson, was formed in 1957, upon the disbandment of Western Command (Mixed) Signal Regiment (T.A.). With Regimental H.Q. and H.Q. Squadron at Fallings Park, Wolverhampton, the Regiment is scattered over a wide area, with T.A. affiliations in four counties.

Number 1 Squadron (Major O. H. D. Hughes) based on Sutton Coldfield, has detachments in Coventry and Newcastle-under-Lyme, whilst Number 2 Squadron (Major R. B. Teagle) with its H.Q. in Cardiff, has detachments at Newport and Swansea.

5 Independent U.K.L.F. Reserve Signal Squadron (T.A.), commanded by Major W. E. Newsom is located at Harborne, Birmingham.

The highlight of the camp was to have been a visit by Her Royal Highness, The Princess Royal, and it came as a great disappointment when the Colonel announced that owing to ill-health our Colonel-in-Chief had been forced to cancel her visit. Nevertheless, both units had the honour of being visited by the Representative Colonel Commandant, Major-General R. F. H. Nalder, C.B., O.B.E., B.SC.

After inspecting the Quarter Guard, the General visited both units in their training areas; he was accompanied by the C.S.O. Western Command, Brigadier M. G. A. Hepper, C.B.E., and C.S.O. Northern Command, Brigadier D. St. J. Hoysted, C.B.E. Whilst new members of the Regiment were hard at work in the training rooms, experienced tradesmen and girls were engaged in Signal Centre Operations, line-laying, technical maintenance and driving instruction. 5 Independent U.K.L.F. Reserve Signal Squadron (T.A.) were demonstrating all the many and varied forms of communication facilities which they normally provide.

After luncheon in the Officers' Mess, Major-General Nalder joined both Units in a combined group photograph before giving a short address in which he conveyed the Princess Royal's regret at being unable to carry out her visit.

2 NORTHERN COMMAND (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT (T.A.) and 2 (INDEPENDENT) U.K.L.F. RESERVE SIGNAL SQUADRON (T.A.)

We have just returned from our second annual camp since our reorganisation, and we can honestly say that it was an unqualified success. However, before coming to that, let us record one or two of the events that took place before camp.

Recruiting has been proceeding by leaps and bounds, particularly in Sheffield and Derby, and we have doubled our male strength over the past three months. Under the direction of Major Farnol, two displays were held in Sheffield to bring the work of the Corps to the notice of as many people as possible, and their results show that they were a great success.

We have had two great successes in the competition world in recent months. The first being in the Royal Signals Northern Command Motor Cycle Trial, where we won the team prize, and our team leader, Sergeant Stockdale, was also the individual winner. Our next aim is the North Midland District Trial. In the Corps Command Rifle Meeting we came second, being beaten by the Regular Command Signal Squadron. Signalman Bradbury, of 1 Squadron, had the highest aggregate score of the day.

Annual camp this year was at Chickerell Camp, near Weymouth, and we shared it with the West Riding Transport Column, R.A.S.C., from Leeds. The weather was good throughout the whole fortnight, with the exception of one day when a gale blew. The only casualties were the Chief Instructor's tent and the Padre's tent which both blew down.

The chief event at camp was the Commanding Officer's exercise, which took place during the second week. The following is the Chief Instructor's account of the exercise:—

"The two units took part in a three-day exercise, "Armada Warning," on the 23rd to 25th June. The mission was to provide radio relay, H.F. wireless and S.D.S. communications between Portland, Beer Point and Teignmouth. Jupiter Pluvius was very kind, and the marvellous weather enjoyed by all on Monday, the first day of the Exercise, paved the way to a rattling good start. The requisite stores were drawn and loaded and each detachment proceeded to its location, the farthest being a distance of 85 miles away. On arrival on site, each member of each detachment lent the whole of his force and spirit, so that by early evening, the vehicles and aerials were in position, the tents erected, the latrines well sited, and the cookhouse in place and in action; and in what good action too. I have never seen such a willing band of volunteers so thoroughly enjoying themselves, and eating so well. My haversack rations felt very dry and very distasteful.

The weather on Tuesday was good with occasional heavy showers which failed to dampen the ardour of the happy warriors. The H.F. wireless net was set up in excellent time, and proved once again that even with rod aerials distances of 35 and 50 miles were nothing to the old reliable 19 set. Our Radio Relay teams with their own and equipment kindly loaned to us by No. 5 Independent UKLF (Reserve) Signal Squadron soon set up an ANTRC link relayed at Beer Point.

The Terminal Equipment Troop, who for the first week had been working on the new 1+4 equipment No. 2 for the first time, soon showed us that they had got to know it. Before long, one audio channel and four speech channels existed between Portland and Teignmouth plus one telegraph circuit on channel three. It was possible to speak from an extension on the switchboard at Portland to an extension on the switchboard at Teignmouth as well as to send a message over the teleprinter.

The same circuits were re-established on Wednesday morning and then the troops were directed to provide direct communications from Portland to Teignmouth without the relay station. In their wisdom the Teignmouth detachment had already set up their spare receiver on the correct frequencies and within ten minutes the AN/TRC was through. The Terminal Equipment troop then set to with a will and within a further 20 minutes four speech channels were connected to switchboards at each end. After a further 15 minutes the telegraph circuit was again fitted on channel three.

On both occasions the tone and volume on each channel was first class and the Radio Relay Team and Terminal Equipment Team are to be congratulated on a good job very well done.

Our wireless troop were through at all times and afforded some light relief unwittingly when an officer at the relay point sent a message, "Please send my boots." The arrival of a crate

of beer was very acceptable and it wasn't until a little later that he realised his message had been interpreted as "booze."

The social side of camp was looked after by Major Farnol, who, with Captain Heaton's assistance, organised an excellent All Ranks' Dance at the local Drill Hall on the first Friday of Camp. A really good time was had by all and it was a dance that will long be remembered.

The Royal Navy were extremely co-operative in allowing a majority of the unit trips on either frigates or submarines during camp, and our grateful thanks are due to them.

Finally, what of the T.A. Golden Jubilee celebrations. Here we must record that the weather has been dead against us all the way. First the National Review by Her Majesty the Queen in Hyde Park was washed out as you all no doubt know, and all our representatives came back covered in mud up to their knees. Our Derby W.R.A.C. detachment were due to be inspected by the Duke of Devonshire at Derby on 28th June in a county review, but this was cancelled due to the bad weather and the waterlogged state of the ground. Finally, the Sheffield celebrations were held in rain which lasted most of the day, but the cheerfulness of all who took part made the day a great success in spite of the weather.

HOME COUNTIES DISTRICT (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

Home Counties District (M) Signal Regiment, T.A., has not appeared in THE WIRE before and a report of its activities is long overdue.

The Regiment, commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel N. C. Butler, T.D., has its H.Q. and 1 Squadron at Shorncliffe. 2 Squadron, formerly 4 Squadron of Eastern Command (M) Signal Regiment, T.A., is at Canterbury, and there are detachments at Dover, Gillingham and Tunbridge Wells.

The first annual camp of the Regiment was held at Crowborough in conjunction with Eastern Command (M) Signal Regiment, T.A. A good many lessons were learned to such good effect that we want to run our own camp next year, much as we enjoyed joining up with them again.

During camp the Regiment was visited by Lieutenant-General Sir Charles Coleman, K.C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., O.B.E., Major-General W. F. R. Turner, D.S.O., Commander Home Counties District, the Bishop of Maidstone and the C.S.O., Eastern Command, Brigadier W. R. Smijth-Windham, C.B.E., D.S.O.

Three members of 2 Squadron represented the Regiment on the Jubilee Review by Her Majesty the Queen on 22nd June. They were Major M. H. Seys-Phillips, Staff Sergeant Tobutt (Canterbury) and Sergeant Nicholls (Gillingham). Apparently their ardour is undamped, as they will all three appear again at the County Parade in Canterbury on 6th July.

The long suffering Permanent Staff include, among others, Captain A. W. French, late of 2 Training Regiment, now P.S.O. at Canterbury, W.O.I (R.S.M.) R. Rose, and S.S.M. Froud, who joined the Corps in 1927 and is unfortunately to leave us in October to start a career in civil life. All members wish him every success and hope that he will rejoin as a T.A. member.



[Photo : J. Douglas Clark, Uckfield

LONDON DISTRICT SIGNAL REGIMENT (A.E.R.)

After the pomp of Pirbright and the storminess of Stiffkey, it was back to the comfort of Chester for London District Signal Regiment (A.E.R.) when they returned after an absence of two years to Blacon Camp for annual training in June. For most—and especially the "Q" staff—this was a welcome return, for not this year were there to be assorted columns of stores, vehicles and bodies converging on the camp location from various corners of the countryside, nor the anxiety which such movements inevitably cause. Moreover, it is always wise to return to one's parent from time to time to observe the changes in character that have taken place. In this case, these were to most eyes remarkable, for the greeting given to the Regiment—and to all other A.E.R. Units apparently—compared with that afforded the prodigal son. Nothing was too much trouble.

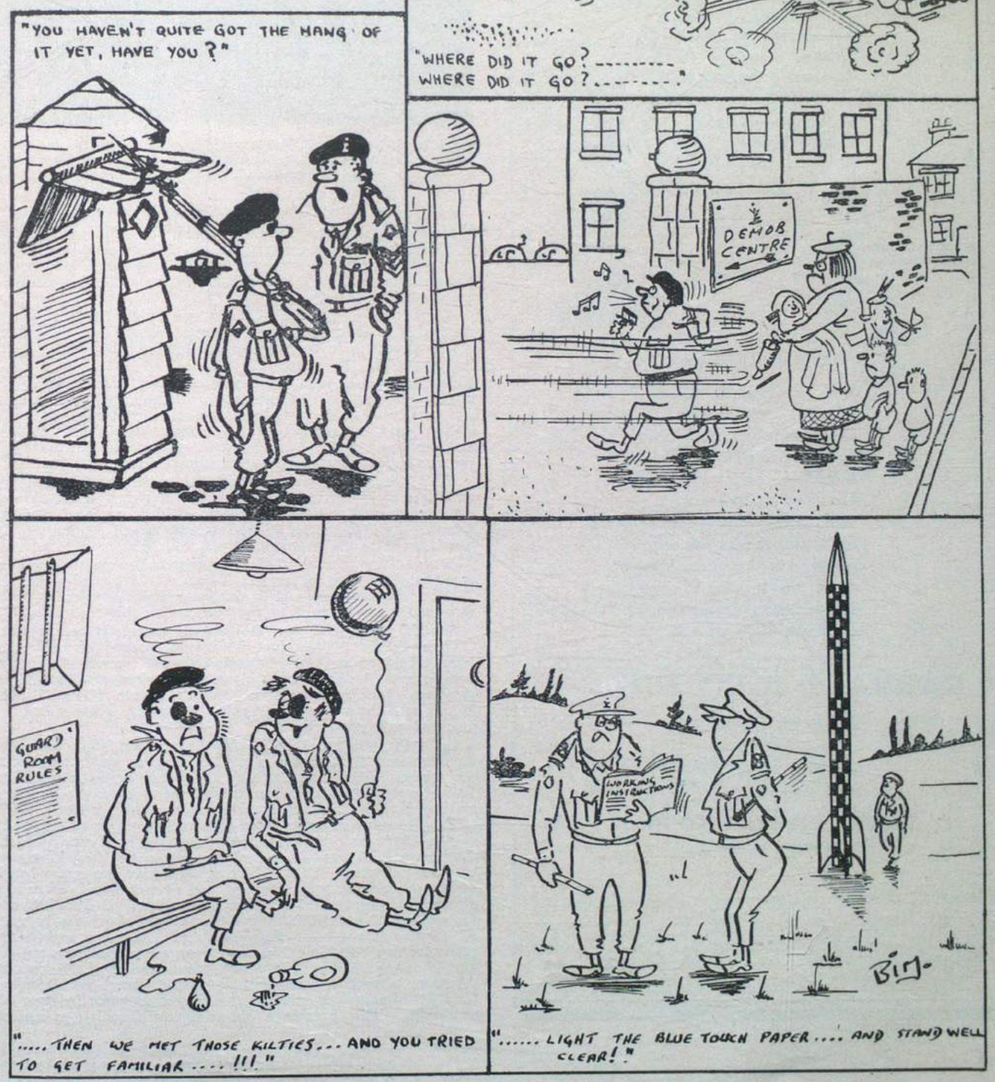
The first week of training contained, in addition to normal squadron undertakings, two days of enlightening and informative lectures from the H.Q., A.E.R. staff and a day on the open range. The former illustrated very forcibly the probable nature and shape of any future war and made clear to the Regiment how best to be prepared for it, both now and "when the time comes." At the latter, the Regimental team fired for the Blacon Trophy and recorded what at the time of writing is the second best score. In the individual shooting, perhaps the most outstanding feature was a display of great courage by a subaltern when firing the revolver at an advancing target. With a calmness that any Western sheriff would envy, the Officer waited until his foe was within inches before firing, explaining modestly afterwards that such action was forced on him due to a fault in the weapon. The big event of the second week was Exercise "Evergreen," when, after a deal of theoretical work, the Regiment moved away from Blacon and deployed in various parts of the wet and boggy countryside. The writer is regrettably very non-technical but he understands that one highlight of the Exercise was when immediate contact was made after a B70 had been re-sited very early one very wet morning.

Socially there was a variety of functions and for the Officers' Mess "variety" is probably an apt word. Following a visit to the local music hall, an invitation was issued to those appearing to a party in the Mess after an evening performance. This was accepted and in due course Messrs. Morecambe and Wise, Russ Hamilton and several other artistes and their relatives were entertained until far into the night. The Officers held two dinners and were especially pleased to welcome at one the Honorary Colonel (Colonel P. T. Lovely, C.C.), who was paying a brief visit to Blacon. The Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess too had a full social programme, including a successful dance during the first week. On the last evening of camp an all ranks' party was held at a nearby inn, and this appeared to be enjoyed by all and especially by those who were able to absent themselves from time to time to attend to the welfare of the local female inhabitants. The weather, unfortunately, marred the sporting programme, but in two brief spells of sunshine the other ranks beat the Officers at cricket and lost to them at six-a-side hockey.

This was undoubtedly a happy and enjoyable camp. Memories are still very much in the mind—the hilarious but informative lecture on Unit documentation, the rotund Officer with thick soled brown boots sitting precariously astride a roof-top adjusting signal equipment, the R.Q.M.S. (as detachment leader) instructing in no uncertain terms the Adjutant (as an overpaid Lance-Corporal lineman) in the art of cable laying during Exercise "Evergreen," the incessant complainings of the Officer who wanted butter and not margarine at all his meals, the riotous and unprecedented Officers' Mess meeting held at 02.00 hours on the final day of camp. But overall there was more than a tinge of sadness, for this was to be the Regiment's final camp under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Shrimpton. From the day of its birth, more than five years ago, Colonel Shrimpton has worked untiringly and unerringly to see that all has been well for the Regiment, and all members, past and present, have good cause to be thankful for the ceaseless efforts of their Commanding Officer. This surely is the appropriate time to put on record the gratitude that is properly due to Colonel Shrimpton and to wish him all happiness in the future.

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Bim's Page



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Mr. L. V. Goodman, Mr. A. V. Ient, and Captain C. R. Nichols. It will be remembered that the late Major-General C. W. Fladgate, C.B.E., was for very many years President of the Aldershot Branch

Aldershot Branch

Since my last notes were forwarded, the Midland Reunion at Loughborough has taken place and a large contingent from this Branch attended with standard. Despite the long route march to the church, it was a huge success and enjoyed by all who made the journey.

A sweepstake on the Derby was run by the Branch, which resulted in a profit of £10 towards our welfare fund. Vic Ient, our Treasurer, is to be congratulated for his hard work and on the success of the draw.

On Sunday, 1st June, the Branch attended with standard the annual Mayoral Day Service in St. Michael's Church. Macs and brolleys were in attendance but it did not rain, although it had prior to the time of the parade. Civic and military organisations assembled and marched to the church, headed by the Band of the Royal Army Ordnance Corps.

After the service crowds lined the route and the Mayor, accompanied by the G.O.C., Aldershot District, took the Salute. The march past was headed by an R.M.P. mounted section, followed by Branches of Old Comrades of all Regiments, of which we were the strongest.

At our June meeting three "youngsters" were seen sitting together; they were Messrs. G. Tibble, C. Mepham and A. S. Turner. Nothing unusual in this, you would say, except that their total age amounted to 229 years. Can this be beaten?

Sunday, 8th June, saw the Branch attending yet another Church Parade. This time it was in honour of the 16th Independent Parachute Brigade Signal Squadron's tenth anniversary. A dance was held on the previous evening after a parachute jumping display on Queen's Parade. The Church Parade was held in the Garrison Church. Nine members attended with standard.

On 27th June members of this Branch combined with the Reading Branch to forego a night's sleep in order to attend the annual Reunion at Catterick Camp on the following day. Rain also travelled with us but decided not to attend the Reunion and we were thankful for two days of excellent weather.

This Reunion improves every year and we thank all members of the Corps and the Committees for the hard work which they must have put into the arrangements, not forgetting the catering staff of the A.C.C. The actual figures are not to hand but the attendance at the Reunion and Church Parade exceeded all previous figures. Mr. Charlie Mepham, of this Branch, being the oldest R.S.M. of the Corps, was given the honour of commanding No. 1 Squadron Old Comrades and, ably prompted by "Paddy" Holness, managed to pilot the whole parade to the church. The first fifteen members were seen to disappear around the wrong side of the church still led by Charlie. Finally appearing at the correct entrance in spite of everything. This, I may say, was no fault of Charlie's, as several hands were seen waving in all directions, but the service in church atoned for all this.

The interior of the church looked better than we have ever seen it, the singing was good, and the choir are to be congratulated on an excellent rendering of Stanford's Te Deum, followed by the Anthem by S. S. Wesley.

After the usual displays by Drill and P.T. Squads, Motor Cycle Display Team and Linemen, we had to leave on our long journey back to Reading and Aldershot, having enjoyed the whole week-end including the Saturday night "Mess Meetings" of old pals, shaking hands and talking of old times.

It is with great regret that I register the death of our Branch President, Major-General C. W. Fladgate, C.B.E. Until his illness he was an active and regular attender at all our meetings and functions. We shall miss his guidance in our affairs.

I do not need to tell you of his work for the Association, for, by the time these notes are read, full details will be given in THE WIRE.

Except for a summer outing to be held on 31st August, we shall be closed until 3rd September, when all serving and ex-members of the Corps are invited to join the Branch and attend our meetings and functions.

Meetings are held on the first Wednesday in each month, commencing at 8 p.m., on 3rd September at the Royal Standard Hotel, Little Wellington Street, Aldershot.

Torbay Branch

Through the medium of these notes, I would like to thank again the Organising Committee at Catterick for a wonderful reunion. It was the first time our Branch has been represented at the Reunion and we hope that next year more of our members can make the 750-mile round trip. Thanks also go to our hosts at 1 Training Regiment and members of other branches who helped us bring back such happy memories. The dedication of our Branch Standard is one memory we shall always treasure.

We would like to congratulate Mr. L. Evans (Port Talbot Branch) on his election to the Central Committee of the Association.

On Saturday, 14th June, we had our summer outing, across Dartmoor to Princetown, where we were entertained during the evening by the Dartmoor Prison Officers at their club.

They certainly serve some of the best beer we have tasted, and judging from later "discomfort" experienced by some of our members it was some of the most potent.

The trip certainly started with a bang! On the way to the prison our coach was in collision with a private car. However, after a short delay we were able to proceed without further incident. Altogether an exciting time was had by all.

WELFARE SECTION

Below an attempt is made to describe, with suitable anonymity, seven cases taken from the Welfare Section files concluded during the first week in July, 1958. Also on this page is a simple statement of income and expenditure.

Widow of Driver, 1939-46, who died in February, 1958. Her main need was for help in clearing a hire purchase debt, incurred while her husband was alive and working. Through the good offices of S.S.A.F.A., and the generosity of the hire purchase firm, the total bill was much reduced, and the Fund paid it.

Driver, 1948-53. He suffers from epilepsy, and lives with his widowed mother. Their combined income is £3/14/- a week. The British Legion and the Fund co-operated in providing him with essential clothing.

Signalman, 1939-43. Married. He has a 100 per cent Disability Pension—Bronchiectasis. In 1953, various societies combined to obtain a small cottage for him. Recently, his medical condition worsened to the extent that he can no longer manage to enjoy sanitary arrangements that were all outside the house. The associations and other societies that are interested in the case, combined to find the best part of £300 to remedy this.

Lance-Corporal, 1940-46, married, three children. Illness stopped quite a good wage in April. Now, from the State they have a reasonable, though not lavish, income, and had some small debts which the Fund paid.

Signalman, 1904-19 (R.E.) and 1920-25, whose wife died in 1956. This 72-year-old man wrote a most grateful letter, saying how much he had benefitted from a two weeks' holiday at Mercury House, Bournemouth, which was paid for by the Association.

Mother of Signalman, 1956, serving. A portion of her arrears of rent were paid.

Signalman, 1956-58. Married. On leaving the Army, he got a house, and immediately was badly hurt in a motor accident. His wife now works to keep the home, and the Fund gave one month's rent to give her a fair start.

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION AND BENEVOLENT FUND

The following subscriptions were most gratefully received during June, 1958:

	£	s.	d.
H.Q. Mess, Royal Signals	3	6	11
School of Signals (O.T. Wing)	11	16	0
School of Signals Administrative Regiment (Sergeants' Mess)	1	4	9
Royal Signals Display	5	0	0
1 Training Regiment	21	14	11
3 Training Regiment	23	3	6
4 Training Regiment (Officers' Mess)	5	0	0
10 Wireless Training Squadron	10	0	0
43 (Wx) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A.	13	0	
Junior Leaders Regiment	10	0	0
London District Signal Regiment, A.E.R.	6	6	0
The Depot Regiment	33	0	0
51 (H) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A. (H.Q. and 1 Squadron)	2	5	0
SHAPE Signal Squadron	2	15	0
Berlin Signal Squadron	10	0	0
Malta Signal Squadron	10	0	0
51 Independent Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron	1	10	0
Total Receipts	£157	15	1

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION WELFARE SECTION

The following donations were most gratefully received during June, 1958:

	£	s.	d.
19 Army Group Signal Regiment (Wives' Club)	35	0	0
J. McCabe, Esq.	2	0	0
Sergeant T. Cree	9	8	
St. George's Garrison Church, Chester	6	5	8
Total Receipts	£43	15	4

EXPENDITURE DURING JUNE, 1958 ... £288 18 6
(Includes: Rent and Rates; Beds and Bedding; Furniture; Cots and Prams; General Assistance).

Analysis of Cases:

Families of Soldiers serving in U.K.	1
" " " " M.E.L.F.	1
Widows and Dependants	8
Released and discharged Soldiers	32
Total cases assisted	42

20 cases of Soldiers who served during the 1939-45 War	£188 15 2
22 cases of Soldiers who did not serve during the War	£100 3 4

Lighter Fuel Packs

The following amounts were most gratefully received during June, 1958:

		£	s.	d.
Box No. 9	19 Army Group Signal Regiment		11	0
19	19 Army Group Signal Regiment		5	6
26	7 Training Regiment		2	7
30	School of Signals (O.T. Wing)		7	0
67	43 (Wx) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A.	6	0	0
85	3 G.H.Q. Signal Regiment	5	3	6
	Total Receipts	£12	9	7

CLOTHING

The continued demand for clothing, both men's and children's, is now extremely pressing. Our clothing store at present is depleted. That a suit is well worn is no demerit. Widows left with large families make a constant demand which we cannot fulfil.

Articles attacked by moth should, please, not be sent.

THE SIGNALS ASSOCIATION OF THE ROYAL CORPS OF SIGNALS

MINUTES of the 13th Annual General Meeting held at Catterick Camp on 29th June, 1958 at 12.15 p.m.

Present: Major General C. M. F. White, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., Colonel Commandant, Chairman of the Association; Brigadier A. C. C. Willway, C.B., C.B.E., T.D., D.L., Member of the Central Committee and Trustee of the Royal Signals Association; Brigadier Sir George H. Walton, K.B.E., C.B., T.D., D.L., Chairman of the Finance Committee, Royal Signals Corps Committee; Major General D. A. L. Wade, C.B., O.B.E., M.C., A.M.I.E.E., Chairman of Council, Royal Signals Institution; Brigadier W. T. Howe, O.B.E., Secretary, Royal Signals Institution; Colonel F. E. B. Jones, O.B.E., T.D., J.P., member of the Central Committee representing the Territorial Army; Mr. W. A. Woolley, Chairman of Liverpool Branch and member of the Central Committee; Brigadier H. R. Firth, General Secretary, Royal Signals Association; and approximately 200 serving and ex-Service members of the Association.

Before opening the Meeting, Major General C. M. F. White, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., Colonel Commandant and Chairman of the Association, informed the members with very deep regret of the death on 15th June, 1958, after a long illness, of Major General C. W. Fladgate, C.B.E. He reminded them of General Fladgate's long and distinguished career in Royal Signals and of his work as Chairman of the Association from 1949 to 1954.

He reminded the Meeting of two lines of a hymn they had sung at church that morning:

I'll fear not what men say,
I'll labour night and day

which for him, and perhaps others, had brought General Fladgate especially to mind.

He asked members to stand in remembrance for a few moments.

* * *

The General Secretary, Brigadier H. R. Firth, then read to the meeting the following messages:—

"I appreciate so much the message of loyal greetings sent to me on the occasion of the Annual Reunion and Annual General Meeting of the Royal Signals Association. My best wishes and thanks to Major General White, Chairman, and all members present.

(signed) Mary,
Colonel-in-Chief."

From General R. Brygoo, Fédération Nationale des Associations D'Anciens Corps de Sapeurs Télégraphistes et des Formations de L'Arme des Transmissions.

He expressed his regrets that he was unable to accept the invitation to attend the Reunion and sent his best wishes.

From General J. Kestens, Federation Nationale des Transmissions de Belgigue.

He asked the Annual General Meeting to consider joining with the Signals Associations of the Armies of Belgium, France, Holland, Italy, in an informal Federation designed solely to enable members of the respective associations to meet each other when visiting the countries concerned.

The 13th Annual General Meeting agreed unanimously that negotiations to this end and final decision in the matter should be left to the Chairman.

* * *

As is customary, the business of the Meeting was carried out during the Chairman's report:

Major General C. M. F. White, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., the Chairman, said:—

"My first task is to thank, on your behalf, Brigadier E. D. Good and Brigadier R. G. Yolland and all those serving under their command, whose work so generously given has made our Reunion here possible."

He congratulated the members on a very fine turn-out for Church Parade and how it had greatly impressed General Kestens of the Belgian Army who had been with him on the Saluting Base. He commented on the loveliness of St. Martin's Church and of the gratitude all owed to those members of the Corps who had done much for the Memorial Chapel.

The Chairman continued:

"I have to ask the 13th Annual General Meeting to approve the Minutes of the 12th Meeting, which was held here in Catterick on the 30th June, 1957. The Minutes were published in THE WIRE and copies sent to all Branches."

On approval by a show of hands the Chairman signed the Minutes of the 12th Annual General Meeting.

"You will notice on your Agenda Paper certain matters arising out of the Minutes of the 12th Meeting, and I will deal with these as I go on.

We have a very long Agenda this year and I will be as brief as possible.

You will notice that you have before you printed papers which give the Balance Sheet and Income and Expenditure Account in shortened form. The figures shown thereon correspond with those in the full accounts which run to several large sheets of paper and which have been studied carefully and approved by the Central Committee. Copies of the full accounts are available for all who desire them.

Before dealing with the Accounts which are before you, I would like to refer to the Royal Signals Association and Benevolent Fund which with the approval of the 12th Annual General Meeting was instituted on 1st January, 1957. Into this Account is paid all the contributions of those of the Corps who are serving in uniform, in which they are so generous in support of the Association. During 1957 they gave a total of £4,486 which under the direction of the Central Committee was distributed equally between the General Fund and the Welfare Section Fund and is reflected in the Accounts of these Funds now before you. This sum is a record and we should all be very grateful. Owing to the planned reduction in the size of the Corps in the Army of the future it is unlikely that this sum can ever be equalled again.

As you know the Welfare Section Fund is the fund from which the Committee which meets each Thursday at 88, Eccleston Square disburses sums of money, large and small, to those of our comrades or their widows who, nearly always, through accident or sickness, have been reduced to very real poverty. You will see that we gave in grants £5,154, a little more than in 1956. On the other side you will be gratified to see that £1,174 was refunded by men who had received financial assistance in past years and with this help had overcome their difficulties and then during 1957 were able and willing to repay some or all of the money which had been given to them.

We received no assistance from the Army Benevolent Fund, and indeed we could not ask for it because the 1956 account showed an excess of income over expenditure. You will see



The Standards



The Band plays the Corps March at the conclusion of "Retreat"

that in 1957 this excess dropped to only £53 and I hope to be able to obtain a grant from the Army Benevolent Fund in 1959."

As there were no questions on the Welfare Section Account, the Chairman proposed that the 13th Annual General Meeting approve the Account. The proposal was seconded by **Major F. G. Strange, Reading and District Branch,** and unanimously approved by the meeting.

"Now to the General Fund Account. This fund again shows a deficit, but it is £1,000 less than in 1956. I have every hope that the increased charge from THE WIRE and the increased subscriptions which were approved by the 12th Annual General Meeting will have a very considerable effect in narrowing this gap. Your Central Committee in 1956 set up a special sub-committee to examine every item of expenditure and recommend remedial measures; a similar sub-committee is to be set up again in 1958/59 to make a most careful and detailed examination of the progress of this fund."

As there were no questions on the General Fund Account, the Chairman proposed that the meeting approve the Account. The proposal was seconded by the **Catterick Branch** and unanimously approved by the meeting.

"You will remember that with the greatest reluctance the Central Committee last year had to seek your approval to make rather drastic increases in the subscriptions. Now in 1958 they ask you to make some small concessions. These will mean alterations to the Rules.

Firstly, as set out at Agenda Item 3,

Rule II (a) That the first Annual Subscription of National Servicemen who join whilst in the Training Brigade Royal Signals be 2/-.

This is only a matter of expediency. As you all know it is the intention of the Government to abolish National Service in 1960. It has been represented by those in Catterick, who do so much to persuade these young men to join the Association, that the National Serviceman during his first weeks of service cannot afford to pay 5/-. Taking your approval for granted, the Central Committee reduced this to 2/- as from 1st April last, and you will be glad to know that there was an immediate and considerable increase in the number of National Servicemen who joined the Association during the first weeks of their service. I therefore propose that what is set out in Agenda Item 3—Rule II (a) be approved."

The proposal was seconded by **Lieutenant-Colonel R. W. Atkinson, O.B.E., (No. 26 Unit Branch, 7th Training Regiment)** and unanimously approved by the meeting.

Secondly, Rule 11 (b) That with effect from 1st January, 1959, there will no longer be a separate subscription for Officers and that all members of the Association shall pay the same subscription, viz:

Life Membership: £2/10/-.

Annual Membership: 5/- (except, of course, for National Servicemen during their first year whilst in the Training Brigade, Royal Signals).

This proposal, which in simple words, abolishes the separate subscriptions for Officers, came from the Annual General Meeting of the Liverpool Branch of the Association. My good friend Mr. Woolley, here beside me, is the Chairman of the Liverpool Branch. He piloted this proposal through the Branch Representatives' Meeting and through the recent meeting of the Central Committee of which he is a member. I will ask him to speak on this proposal."

Mr. W. H. Woolley, Chairman of the **Liverpool Branch,** and member of the Central Committee, said: "At the Liverpool Branch Annual General Meeting, where the matter cropped up, two main facts emerged out of the many; firstly, that all members of the Association joined for a common reason and therefore should pay a common subscription. Secondly, that since the last war there had been a general levelling off of incomes. I beg to move the motion."

The motion was seconded by **Leeds Branch** and passed unanimously by the meeting.

The Chairman continued:

"I now come to a matter on which I know many feel strongly. At the Branch Representatives' Meeting there were two proposals put forward:

(a) That the discretion of Branch officers in making grants in urgent cases be raised from £2 to £5 and this has been incorporated in the amendment before you at Agenda Item 3—Rule 7.

(b) That Branch officers were under no circumstances to make a grant to one who is not a member of the Association.

To this the Central Committee could not agree and made it clear that both by the letter and the spirit of the Rules of the Association, anyone who has served or is serving in Royal Signals is entitled to consideration; they have agreed, however, to have the words 'strongly advised' written into the rules, which in the view of most of us is sufficient authority to enable officials to refuse to make a grant without reference to Headquarters, if they are doubtful about the bona fides of the applicant. I propose therefore that Rule 7 be amended to read:

All local Branch Committees will communicate with Association Headquarters before dispensing Association moneys to applicants for financial assistance, except in urgent necessitous cases, when emergency relief not exceeding £5 may be granted immediately and the matter subsequently reported to Association Headquarters for refund. Branch officials are, however, strongly advised not to grant monetary assistance to applicants who are unknown to them, whether membership of the Association is claimed or not, without prior reference to Headquarters.

Will someone please second the proposal?"

Mr. L. Evans, Port Talbot Branch, who seconded the proposal, said, "I had strong views on this matter and during the Branch Representatives' Meeting in London, I spoke in support of a further proposal made by the General Secretary that:

'The amount of assistance given by Branches (without prior reference to Headquarters but in expectation of a refund) be limited to members of the Association £5, and to non-members of the Association £2.'

Then I had to depart to catch a train to Port Talbot. I must confess that I was greatly surprised on seeing the Minutes that the meeting had decided after my departure that NO BENEFIT BE GIVEN TO NON-MEMBERS. On reflection,



The Physical Training Display

I am sure that all will agree, that it is wrong. The Central Committee in their wisdom have charted a course that we can navigate. The amendment is a directive and I suggest that all would prefer to give assistance where it is really required than differentiate.

The proposal was passed unanimously by the meeting.

The Chairman then informed the meeting and asked the approval of members that the saving clause to Rule 10(d) (underlined below) recommended by the Branch Representatives' Meeting and the Central Committee be included in the Rules.

"Life membership may also be granted free by the Central Committee to annual subscribers who:

(i) Have rendered valuable service to the Association; or
(ii) can prove the payment of 21 annual subscriptions or have reached the age of 60 having had a minimum of five years' membership, which ever is the earlier."

The Torbay Branch proposed and the **Catterick Branch** seconded that the amendment to Rule 10(d) be included in the Rules. The meeting passed the proposal unanimously.

General White then continued with his report:

"There are only two more short points I must make before we continue with the Agenda.

Firstly, the proposal made at the 12th Annual General Meeting that £500 be invested in Premium Bonds. As the proposer of this has been informed, it has been established that these Bonds may be held only by an individual and not by a corporate body, so the suggestion cannot be implemented.

Secondly, the Army Sport Control Board, who publish the Royal Signals Diary, have considered carefully the question of putting an insurance coupon in the diary. They find that they are unable to do so without increasing the cost of the diary and that they will not do."

The Chairman drew the attention of the meeting to Item 4 of the Agenda—the Investment Powers of the Trustees, and introduced Brigadier A. C. C. Willway, C.B., C.B.E., T.D., D.L., "a lawyer and Vice-Chairman of the Surrey Quarter Sessions; he was appointed a Commander in the Order of the Bath for his service as Chairman of the County of Surrey Territorial and Auxiliary Forces Association; he is a Director of a large industrial concern and above all he was a most successful Chief Signal Officer of a Corps during the war. He has been a Trustee of the Association Funds since 1950 and is Chairman of the Sub-Committee which has been investigating the matter which he will now explain to you."

Brigadier A. C. C. Willway, C.B., C.B.E., T.D., D.L.

"I am sure on this lovely day no one wishes to discuss finance but it is of the utmost importance that we do, for it is quite apparent that we must do the best we can to safeguard the value of our Funds for our members and the widows of past members.

A hundred years ago it was easy for Trustees. £100 of Government Stock paid out at par but it would also buy £100 of goods or service, so Trustees invested in the safest—gilt edged. Conditions, as you know, are different in these days;



The Standards are dipped in salute. Beside Major-General C. M. F. White, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., is General J. Kestens, the Presidents of the Signals Association of the Belgium Army. Sergeant T. Lannigan of the Royal Hospital and Captain C. Childs (Standard Marshal)



The Aldershot Branch Standard marches to Church

what is that £100 going to buy now, or for how much can the Stocks be sold. With dated Government Stock, that is Stock with a fixed repayment date, you can rely on getting your money back on the date of repayment, but what is the money going to be worth?

Those who were at the Branch Representatives' Meeting will remember the Agenda Paper which gave some illustrations (and I take this opportunity of saying that the Branch Representatives' Meeting unanimously endorsed this proposal), will forgive me if I now tell those members present today one of two of the illustrations.

Those Trustees who bought the 2½% Daltons (Treasury) Stock in 1947 at par will have done so to their sorrow, for a short time ago they were only worth £47 for each £100; I noticed yesterday that the position is slightly better now at £49. Do not forget that since 1947, due to inflation, the value of each £1 is dropping, say 15/- as against £1 in 1947. Therefore £50 won't buy the same as it would have in 1947.

If you look at your copy of the Welfare Section's securities, you will note the difference between the nominal value and the market value.

Inflation will probably continue for a while longer, but we hope will not be as wild as it has been.

What is needed is freedom of investment. Why cannot we have it? Because the Association is a Friendly Society registered under the Friendly Societies Act, which involves complying with many statutory provisions, one of which limits its powers of investment to trustee securities, which generally means gilt edged Stock. In the opinion of your Central Committee the only advantage of practical value of being registered is the provision by which securities can pass to succeeding Trustees without expensive formalities.

The Central Committee decided that we should, like the Church Commissioners and certain County Councils, have got or are getting, the power to spread investments. For example, if we had this power and had purchased £1,000 Consols 2½% Stock on 1st January, 1919, the value of the investment on 31st December, 1956, would have been £886, and the income would have been constant at £42 per annum. Between 1919 and 1957 the value of the investment would have fluctuated between £767 and £1,668. In contrast, suppose £1,000 had been invested in a selection of high-grade equities under the same conditions on 1st January, 1919. On 1st January, 1957, the investment would have been worth £4,134, the value having fluctuated between £847 and £4,804 over the intervening period. The income would have risen from £65 per annum in 1919 to £237 per annum in 1956.

Do you realise what you are being asked to do? It is only right for me to tell you that we might make a bad guess, but it is not likely, as professional advice is always sought before

money is invested, although shares may not be bought at the right time; but as I have already pointed out, even Government securities are not safe from the risk of loss.

Well, what are the steps to be taken? The Sub-Committee which considered this matter consisted of Brigadier Sir George Walton, Brigadier W. G. Tucker and myself. We took advice of financial experts and made strong recommendation to the Central Committee and the Branch Representatives' Meeting that your approval be sought to deregister from the Friendly Societies. If you approve the proposal, the Association, with the help of Branches, will ask members for a postal vote. If a majority of those who reply are in favour of release from the Register of Friendly Societies, the Registrar will agree.

I would like to assure you that we are not going to sell all our gilt edged Stock and buy equities but what we want to do is take advantage of the market.

Over the years I believe, and so do the others, that fluctuation or not, that it will mean the Funds of the Association will increase and be in better shape.

After answering any questions, I move the resolution as it stands on the Agenda."

Major General D. A. L. Wade, C.B., O.B.E., thought it sounded commonsense and seconded the resolution.

Mr. Bevan, North London Branch, asked what actually was a limited company.

Brigadier Willway said that if on deregistration individual Trustees continued, it would be necessary for all the securities to be transferred each time a new Trustee was appointed, and this would cost £75 each time. If, however, a Custodian Trustee Company was formed at a cost of about £85 only, the securities would be held by the Association, who would appoint Directors (who would be in effect the Trustees, probably the present Trustees), who would be subject to the direction of the Central Committee as are the present Trustees.

Brigadier Sir George H. Walton, K.B.E., C.B., T.D., D.L., Chairman of the Corps Finance Committee, said that he felt very strongly on the matter; he regarded the Registrar as our common enemy and that the sooner we got rid of him the better would be our financial state.

Colonel R. W. Atkinson, 7th Training Regiment (No. 26 Unit Branch), asked if we would be subject to Income Tax if we deregistered. **Brigadier Willway** said, No, not as ours were Charitable Funds.

The meeting was unanimous in its approval that:

(a) The Association obtain release from the Register of Friendly Societies and thus secure the power to spread its capital over a wider field of investment than at present; and
(b) Steps be taken to form a private limited Trustee Company with four members each of which shall be nominated a Director in accordance with the scheme prepared by the Association's solicitors and that the Association's Funds and any other Corps Funds which the Corps Committee may wish to be so dealt with shall be vested in the Trustee Company.

Item No. 5 of the Agenda was then taken.



The "Brigadiers" commanded by Major-General D. A. L. Wade, C.B., O.B.E., M.C., A.M.I.E.E.

The following retire by rule and being eligible were nominated for re-election by the Annual General Meeting on the recommendation of the Central Committee:

Chairman: Major-General C. M. F. White, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O.
Vice-Chairman: Major-General A. E. Morrison, C.B., O.B.E.
T.A. Representative: Colonel F. E. B. Jones, O.B.E., T.D., J.P.
A.E.R. Representative: Colonel F. H. T. Shrimpton, T.D.

Mr. Black, Liverpool Branch, proposed their re-election and **Mr. Kennett, North London Branch,** seconded the proposal. The Meeting was unanimous in its approval.

The Chairman explained that Mr. W. H. Woolley had completed his two years of service on the Central Committee and the 12th meeting of Branch Representatives and the 28th meeting of the Central Committee had nominated Mr. L. Evans, Port Talbot, to take his place.

Mr. Leavesley, York Branch, proposed, and **Mr. Lightbody, Newcastle Branch,** seconded the election of Mr. L. Evans. The Meeting was unanimous in its approval.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Woolley on behalf of all for his advice and help and assured him of the appreciation of the Central Committee.

General White continued:

"The Central Committee had considered at their 28th meeting and decided that the Annual General Meeting be asked to approve the re-organisation of the Central Committee to include a total of three Representatives of Branches of the Association, those eligible for election at the Branch Representatives' Meeting being a Chairman, Honorary Secretary or Honorary Treasurer of a Branch. The Central Committee also asked to be empowered to reduce the number of ex-officio members so that the membership of the Committee does not become too large. The Central Committee also intend to invite up to three Representatives of Branches to attend meetings of the Central Committee as observers. These are in addition to the elected representatives.

If you approve this proposal, I, as Chairman, will ask the Central Committee to so arrange matters so that one of the three Representatives of Branches is elected each year. This will mean that Mr. Woolley will be asked to serve for another two years and Mr. Evans and those that come after him for three years."

The re-organisation was proposed by **Mr. Black, Liverpool Branch,** and seconded by a **member of Chester Branch.** The meeting was unanimous in its approval.

The Chairman concluded his report by saying, "It gives me the greatest of pleasure to once more thank on behalf of all the Association Headquarters' staff for their loyal and efficient work."

Colonel F. E. B. Jones, O.B.E., T.D., J.P., T.A., Representative on the Central Committee, said that "it is with the greatest of pleasure that I propose a formal vote of thanks to our Chairman, General White. We are very fortunate to have him as our Chairman, and if someone will second this proposal, I ask you to show your appreciation for his wise and careful guidance of our affairs."

The proposal was seconded by **York Branch** and the meeting closed with loud applause, which continued for many minutes, and for which the Chairman thanked the members.



The Royal Signals Display

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION
GENERAL FUND
Balance Sheet as at 31st December, 1957

1956					1956			
£	£		£	£	£		£	£
		ACCUMULATED FUND			1,670	CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND		613
	13,342	Balance at 31st December, 1956 ..	10,901		2,793	SUNDRY DEBTORS AND PAYMENTS IN ADVANCE		3,406
		Less: Excess of Expenditure over Income for year .. 2,136			122	LOANS TO BRANCH ASSOCIATIONS		69
		Less: 22 years Interest on National Savings Certificates realised 210			5,221	INVESTMENTS—at Cost British Government Securities	5,430	
	3,430		1,926		197	Dominion and Colonial Government Securities ..	197	5,627
	9,912		8,975			Market Value of the above Investments as at 31st December, 1957 was £5,033 (1956 — £5,136)		
	989	*Add:* Life Membership Subscriptions received during year	980		953	STOCKS ON HAND		632
10,901				9,955	376	OFFICE FURNITURE — at Cost less Depreciation		361
515		SUNDRY CREDITORS AND ACCRUED CHARGES ..		823		LEASEHOLD PROPERTY—at Cost	200	
					84	*Less:* Amount written off to date	130	70
						C. M. F. WHITE, Major-General, *Chairman.*		
						H. R. FIRTH, Brigadier, *General Secretary.*		
£11,416				£10,778	£11,416			£10,778

We have examined the above Balance Sheet and accompanying Income and Expenditure Account with the books and records of the Fund and we report that in our opinion they present a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Fund at 31st December, 1957 and of the Excess of Expenditure over Income for the year ended on that date. We 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.

Gresham House, 24, Old Broad Street, London, E.C.2.
18th March, 1958.

H. S. BAKER & CO.,
Chartered Accountants, Auditors.

Income and Expenditure Account for the Year ended 31st December, 1957

1956					1956			
£	£		£	£	£	£	£	£
		Administration Expenses:			1,384	Subscriptions		1,000
		Salaries, National Insurance and Superannuation Contributions of Headquarters			159	Income from Investments — Gross		159
	4,609	Staff..	5,280		210	Income from Publications ..		60
		Other Administrative				Sundry Income, Corps Clothing,		
	3,072	Expenditure ..	2,856		281	Badges, etc.		274
						Excess of Expenditure over		
	7,681		8,136		3,430	Income for the year		2,136
		Less: Contributions to these expenses from:						
		Officers'						
	250	Benevolent Fund 250						
	2,000	Welfare Section 2,300						
		Royal Signals Association and Benevol-						
	—	ent Fund .. 2,200						
			4,750					
5,431				3,386				
1		Loss on publications		211				
		Taxation						
		Income Tax ..	23					
32		Corporation Duty ..	9					
				32				
£5,464				£3,629	£5,464			£3,629

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION WELFARE SECTION
Balance Sheet as at 31st December, 1957

1956					1956			
£	£		£	£	£	£	£	£
		ACCUMULATED FUND			5,102	CASH AT BANK ..		4,967
	97,568	Balance at 31st December, 1956 ..	100,138			INVESTMENTS—at Cost		
		Less: Loss on Investments sold during			38,042	British Government Securities	38,497	
	497	year	—			Dominion and Colonial		
					31,204	Government Securities	31,204	
	97,071		100,138			British Municipal Securities	25,391	
		Add: Transfer of Minor Trust 5th (London) Corps of Signals Trust £455 3½% Defence Bonds			25,391	Other Securities ..	1,922	
	—	at par	455		—			
	—	Cash	11		94,637			97,014
		Premium on Conversion of Investments	—			Market Value as at 31st December, 1957 was £80,255 (£81,293 — 1956)		
	16	Transfer from Memorial Fund ..	20		702	INCOME TAX RECOVERABLE		464
	—	Excess of Income over Expenditure for year	53			LEASEHOLD PROPERTY at Cost	1,800	
	3,051				768	*Less:* Amount written off to date	1,160	
100,138				100,677				640
		SUNDRY CREDITORS AND				LOANS AND INTEREST OUTSTANDING		
1,768		ACCRUED CHARGES ..		3,526		War Memorial Fund	949	
		5TH (LONDON) CORPS OF SIGNALS TRUST £455 3½% Defence			707	Other Loans ..	169	
	—	Bonds transferred above	—					1,118
	10	Cash	—			C. M. F. WHITE, Major-General, *Chairman.*		
						H. R. FIRTH, Brigadier, *General Secretary.*		
£101,916				£104,203	£101,916			£104,203

We have examined the above Balance Sheet and accompanying Income and Expenditure Account with the books and records of the Fund and we report that in our opinion they present a true and fair view of the affairs of the Fund at 31st December, 1957 and of the Excess of Income over Expenditure for the year ended on that date. We have ascertained that the Inscribed Stocks stood in the names of the Trustees and Lloyds Bank Limited has certified as to the correctness of the Bank Balance and that they hold for safe custody the other securities representing the Investments except one, for a partly paid Stock, for which the Fund's Stockbrokers held the Allotment Letter.

Gresham House, 24, Old Broad Street, London E.C.2.
18th March, 1958.

H. S. BAKER & CO.,
Chartered Accountants, Auditors.

Income and Expenditure Account for the Year ended 31st December, 1957

1956					1956			
£	£		£	£	£	£	£	£
5,026		Benevolent Grants ..		5,155	1,265			1,174
		Donations—				Donations		
		Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Families				Corps Units (specified donations) and Corps		
		Association ..	100		4,956	Funds	1,327	
		National Association for the Employment of Regular Soldiers,				Donations from Individuals and Local		
		Sailors and Airmen	336		720	Branches	479	
		Sundry other Charitable and Welfare Organisations for service and ex-servicemen and their families	452		—	Estate of the late Blanche Curtis ..	431	
758				888	1,000	Royal Signals Association and Benevolent Fund	2,200	
					6,676	Army Benevolent Fund	—	
		Amount written off Leasehold Property		128	94			4,437
128		Administration Expenses—			3,376	Lighter Packs ..		64
		Contribution to General Fund	2,300			Interest from Investments—Gross ..		3,543
	2,000	Cost of Association						
	333	Reunions	568					
		Audit and Professional						
	79	Charges	79					
	36	Sundries	47					
2,448				2,994				
		Balance being Excess of Income over Expenditure for the year ..		53				
3,051								
£11,411				£9,218	£11,411			£9,218

Singapore Athletic Victory



ROYAL SIGNALS, PRINCESS MARY BARRACKS ATHLETIC TEAM, 1958

Front Row (left to right) :—Signalman Thiagarajan, Signalman Brown.

Second Row :—Signalmen Hammond, Ishak, Harun, Sulaiman, Jamaludin, Corporal R. Ja'afar, Signalmen Radzi, Phillips, Ismail (702), Corporal Bryant (R.A.P.C.).

Third Row :—Corporals Ward, Cee, Signalman Tann, Second-Lieutenant Sergeant, Major Swan, S.S.M. Maskell, Lance/Corporal Abdullah, Signalman Sergeant, Corporal Galway.

Back Row:—Corporal Fairhurst, Signalman Gurdial Singh, Captain Trotman, C.S.M.(I) Wood (A.P.T.C.), Sergeant Taib, Signalman Deacon.

Not in picture :—Lance/Corporal Baldev Singh, Signalman Ismail (458).

It all started on the reorganisation of Royal Signals in Singapore, when it was decided that the Units in Princess Mary Barracks should produce an athletics team. Royal Signals Administrative Regiment (about Squadron strength), Operating Squadron and Line Squadron competed in an inter-squadron meeting in mid-May to decide the possession of the Inter-Squadron Athletics Cup, previously competed for within the old Singapore District Signal Regiment, and to select a Barracks' team.

It became obvious as the meeting progressed that there was some talent available, which, with training, might develop into a good team. Our A.P.T.C. man, C.S.M. I. Wood, admitted that athletics was his first love and subsequent events have proved the quality of his coaching.

The Princess Mary Barracks' team won the triangular Royal Signals Meeting at Changi towards the end of May in competition with 19 Air Formation Signal Regiment (our hosts) and the Maresfield Barracks' team, containing the pick of Signals Training Centre (F.E.), Comcan Signal Squadron and Field Squadron Royal Signals (F.E.).

The Singapore Base District Inter-Unit Team Championships were held at Nee Soon in mid-June and 13 teams entered, including G.H.Q., FARELF, and Singapore District Workshops, R.E.M.E., who, between them, had won the championship almost every year since its inception in 1946. The K.O.S.B. team, who had won in 1956, were also in the running for this year's title.

The next three days provided exciting fare, with the Princess Mary Barracks' team well up with the leaders. We won the 110 yards, 220 yards and 880 yards relays and the discus and in fact never dropped below sixth in any of the events.

District Workshops, R.E.M.E., and 30 Battalion R.A.O.C. were close on our heels, but towards the end of the last day Princess Mary Barracks pulled ahead to a clear victory. In torrential rain we formed up to receive the coveted shield and individual prizes from the General Officer Commanding Singapore Base District.

So the District Athletics Shield came to Royal Signals for the first time. We were pleased, not only at having won, but also because the team, although coming from three different Units, trained hard and regularly together and fought hard in what was essentially a team competition.

We look forward with interest to the Singapore Base District Individual Championships to be held shortly.

GOLF

Match v. Royal Artillery

This match was played at Sunningdale on Friday, 18th July, 1958, and resulted in a win for the Corps:—

SINGLES

Royal Signals			*Royal Artillery*		
Maj.-Gen. E. S. Cole		0	Lt.-Col. A. W. Tyler	4/2	1
Major W. Macdonald		0	Lieut. J. R. C. Harman	4/3	1
Lt.-Col. B. R. M. Hayles	3/1	1	Brig. K. S. Mackenzie		0
Maj.-Gen. C. H. H. Vulliamy	1 up	1	Lt.-Col. C. R. Harman		0
Major S. Schofield	3/1	1	Lt.-Col. T. G. Crosse		0
Col. G. C. Winkley		0	Lt.-Col. I. R. MacIntosh	2 up	1
Major B. A. Beattie	2/1	1	Lt.-Col. R. W. F. Fagan		0
		4			3

FOURSOMES

Major W. Macdonald Maj.-Gen. E. S. Cole	2/1	1	Lt.-Col. A. W. Tyler Lieut. J. R. C. Harman		0
Lt.-Col. B. R. M. Hayles Major S. Schofield	4/3	1	Brig. K. S. Mackenzie Lt.-Col. I. R. MacIntosh		0
Maj.-Gen. C. H. H. Vulliamy Col. G. C. Winkley	4/3	1	Lt.-Col. C. R. Harman Lt.-Col. R. W. F. Fagan		0
Brig. C. K. Thursby Pelham Major B. A. Beattie		0	Lt.-Col. T. G. Crosse Maj.-Gen. A. E. Morrison (R. Sigs.)	1 up	1
		3			1

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BISLEY, 1958

About 80 members of the Corps attended the A.R.A. Meeting at Bisley at the end of June and the beginning of July. The floods in the Whitehead run up made water-wings a necessity, but apart from this little difficulty we were not rained on during the actual shooting.

Despite a disaster in the Methuen, the level of Corps shooting showed an improvement over the past years and provided we can continue to give to shooting the effort it requires we shall be still better in the future.

The Methuen team consisted of:

Lieutenant-Colonel Townsend
Lieutenant-Colonel Thompson
Major Walsh
Captain Oakes
Captain Wright
Captain Weston
Corporal Hill
Signalman Wilkins
Ninth man: Lieutenant Halford

The team had high hopes of doing well but the last practice in particular caused a bad upset. However, those shooting in the Hundred consoled themselves with much better scores the following day.

The Army Hundred was shot in two stages. Eight hundred and fifty shot the Roupell and Whitehead for 400 places in the Roberts, who in turn shot for 100 places on the final day. We had 23 in the 400 and four in the Army Hundred, with Lieutenant-Colonel Townsend taking 33rd place in the Hundred and shooting for the Regular Army versus the Territorial Army.

The main results are shown below:—

S.R.a

ROUPELL		
Class A		
Lieutenant-Colonel E. W. Townsend	44th	War Office
Class B		
Signalman D. C. Wilkins	41st	1 Training Regiment
WHITEHEAD		
Class A		
W.O.II E. Firth	33rd	4 Training Regiment
Class B		
Signalman D. C. Wilkins	9th	1 Training Regiment
Lance-Corporal K. Dean	32nd	1 Training Regiment
Corporal J. Snoxall	45th	1 Training Regiment
Corporal B. Walmsley	54th	1 Training Regiment
ROBERTS		
Lieutenant-Colonel E. W. Townsend	8th	War Office
ARMY HUNDRED		
Lieutenant-Colonel E. W. Townsend		War Office
Major C. V. Walsh		Southern Command
Captain F. Oakes		4 Training Regiment
Corporal J. Hill		19 Army Group Signal Regiment

S.R.b

BISLEY CUP		
Lieutenant-Colonel H. J. Thompson	29th	43 Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment (T.A.)
Captain J. A. S. Weston	40th	7 Training Regiment
Signalman D. C. Wilkins	41st	1 Training Regiment

S.M.G. XXX

Sergeant C. Courtney		7 Training Regiment

BISLEY TROPHY

Shot concurrently with the BRITANNIA.
Winners 1 Training Regiment.

ROYAL SIGNALS (SINGAPORE) CRICKET CLUB

The Royal Signals (Singapore) Cricket Club are having a good season.

Details of matches played, to date, are appended:

v. R.A.S.C.—Lost—Royal Signals 77; R.A.S.C. 78 for 3.
v. R.E.M.E.—Win—R.E.M.E. 80; Royal Signals 81 for 5.
v. Singapore Cricket Club—Win—S.C.C. 160 (Wilson 6 for 48); Royal Signals 164 for 7 (Telfer 41, Black 39, Honner 28, Williams 24).
v. R.A.F., Changi—Win—Royal Signals 220 (Godfrey 73, Pearce 47); R.A.F. 110 (Wilson 5 for 33).
v. R.A.P.C.—Drawn Game—R.A.P.C. 137 for 7 declared; Royal Signals 95 for 2 (Godfrey 45 not, Pearce 40 not).
v. R.A.M.C.—Win—R.A.M.C. 148 (Telfer 4 for 2); Royal Signals 150 for 5 (Pearce 70).

The following matches are yet to be played: R.A.E.C., R.A., R.A.O.C., Royal Signals (Malaya) and R.E.

Signalman Pearce and Lance-Corporal Wilson regularly represent the Army, and Pearce plays for the Combined Services and Singapore Colony.



ROYAL SIGNALS (SINGAPORE) CRICKET CLUB - SEASON 1958

Back Row :—Major C. Allan (Umpire), Corporal Wiltshire, Corporal Suett, Corporal Black, Signalman Handley, Lance-Corporal Wilson, Major J. J. Ryan (Scorer)

Sitting :—R.Q.M.S. Godfrey, Captain J. Telfer, Lieutenant Colonel P. C. Williams O.B.E., Captain B. Sellars, Corporal Killick

In Front :—W.O.II Bligh, Signalman Pearce

Royal Signals Cricket Tour

9—17 June 1958

The Corps cricket team played five matches during the tour, three matches were drawn and two heavy defeats were inflicted upon the XI. The batting throughout the tour was extremely brittle and the bowling, although reasonably steady, lacked sufficient penetration.

Although the success of previous tours was lacking, many lessons were learnt that will not quickly be forgotten.

Brief accounts of the matches are given below:

Royal Signals v. R.A.O.C. Dideot, 9th/10th June, 1958

Result : Match drawn.

In perfect weather and on a hard, fast pitch the R.A.O.C. having won the toss batted first. Hostile opening bowling by Signalman Gibson and Major Pocock accounted for Lieutenant-Colonel Parnaby and Private Brown. Four wickets were down for 52 runs but good stands between Captain Fawkes and Major Eccles and Major Eccles and Private Wakefield saw the score to 200. R.A.O.C. declared at tea with the score 244 for nine wickets. Lieutenant Crook bowled steadily to take 3 for 37 in 16 overs.

The Corps began badly, losing Signalmen Lewis and Dakin and Captain Keech for 21 runs. Lance-Corporal Tebay and Captain de Clive-Lowe survived on a fiery wicket and saw the score to 52, when Tebay was caught in the slips off the last ball of the day. The following morning the Corps collapsed and were all out for 119, Captain de Clive-Lowe top scoring with 51 made in 139 minutes.

The follow-on was enforced, leaving the Corps 125 runs behind and four hours of play left.

A fine opening stand of 62 between Signalman Lewis (45) and Captain Keech (36) virtually thwarted the R.A.O.C. from gaining the upper hand and after sound batting by Crook (36) and de Clive-Lowe (35 not out), the game ran its inevitable course and at 18.05 hours stumps were drawn with the Signals' score at 187 for six wickets.

Royal Signals v. R.M.A., Sandhurst, at Camberley, 11th June, 1958

Result : Match drawn.

The R.M.A., having won the toss, elected to bat on a batsman's wicket. Officer Cadets Hatch and Lofting scored 52 at a run a minute before Hatch was caught behind the wicket by Lieutenant-Colonel Hayles off Captain Spencer. Spencer continued to bowl well and took the wickets of the first four Academy batsmen, including top scorer Lofting, who scored 74. The R.M.A. batted consistently throughout and were all out for 197 runs, Spencer taking 4 for 50.

The Corps were left with two-and-a-half hours to score the runs. Signalman Lewis and Captain Keech opened confidently but with the departure of Lewis wickets began to fall in a bid

to score the runs. Keech was bowled with the score showing 64 runs for three wickets, having scored a sound 37, and despite innings by Lieutenant Crook (16), Lieutenant-Colonel Hayles (15), Captain de Clive-Lowe (38), sound ground fielding by the Academy and poor batting against slow bowling found the Corps fighting to survive. At stumps the score was 148 for nine wickets, Captain Spencer and Signalman Gibson staving off defeat in a tense last five minutes. Officer Cadet Parkes, with slow leg breaks, took five wickets for 49 runs.

Royal Signals v. R.A.S.C., at Aldershot, 12th/13th June, 1958

Result : Match drawn.

Having won the toss, R.A.S.C. elected to bat on a wicket which was soon shown to be both green and fiery, after a start delayed until 2.15 p.m. by rain.

Signalman Gibson and Lance-Corporal Young opened the bowling and the R.A.S.C. were soon in trouble, three wickets being down for four runs, Gibson taking two wickets and Young one. Sensible batting by Captain Gray (30), Major Mercer (19) and Private Clayton (26) steadied the side. When the innings closed at 17.20 hours the R.A.S.C. had scored 107 runs. Signalman Fowler kept wicket well, taking three good catches.

The Corps had lost four wickets for 44 runs at stumps on the first day against good, tight, fast bowling by Private Griffiths and Lieutenant Beckett.

The overnight batsmen, Lance-Corporal Tebay and Signalman Jones, took the score to 56 before Tebay was out for a solid 24, scored in 119 minutes. Good contributions by Lieutenant Crook (14) and Major Pocock (21 not out) helped the score to reach 104 runs when the innings ended at 12.29 hours.

The R.A.S.C., in their second innings on an easier pitch, found runs coming more freely than in the first innings and good batting by Clayton (48), Beckett (29) and Mercer (25) enabled the side to declare at 168 runs for nine wickets. Lieutenant Crook bowled steadily to take five wickets for 74 runs.

Left with two hours to get 172 runs, the Corps began well with an opening stand of 47 between Captain Keech and Lieutenant Crook. With two wickets down for 61, Major Pocock joined Crook and runs came freely. Crook was out at 86, having batted extremely well for 43. Lance-Corporal Young joined Major Pocock and the score was taken to 115 before Pocock was caught for 24—57 runs wanted in 53 minutes —Signalman Jones joined Young and the score was taken to 140 before Young was bowled for 14 runs. Thirty-two runs were now wanted in 20 minutes with five wickets left to fall. Jones and Lance-Corporal Tebay took the score to 166 before Tebay was caught, leaving four minutes left for play.

Amid mounting excitement Jones added two more runs before being bowled trying to hit the ball out of the ground; his innings of 29 being invaluable.

Signalman Lewis was next, run out, not having faced a ball, with the score still on 168 and with one ball to go, four runs required.

The last ball of the game was driven by Signalman Fowler into deep, two runs were run and in attempting a third Fowler was run out and Signals were two runs short of victory. And so ended the best game of the tour. Major Mercer, for the R.A.S.C., took six wickets for 32 runs.

Royal Signals v. R.E.M.E., at Bordon, 13th/14th June, 1958

Result : R.E.M.E. won by an innings and six runs.

R.E.M.E. having won the toss batted first on a soft wicket; neither opening bat was unduly troubled by the Corps opening bowling and after scoring 25 without loss in 40 minutes the bowling was changed, Major Pocock coming on for Signalman Gibson. Two runs were added before Major Pocock took the first wicket. With the score at 53 Lieutenant Crook took the next wicket and at 76 the third wicket fell to Signalman Jones.

Major Troman and Major Taggart then batted soundly against some loose bowling, adding 63 runs before Troman, who had been troubled by Pocock only, was caught in the deep off Crook for a well played 56. Despite frequent bowling changes and some fine overs by Major Pocock, the R.E.M.E. reached 184 at the fall of their last wicket. In 22.2 overs Major Pocock took six wickets for 41 runs, being the only bowler able to extract any life from the pitch.

The Corps innings opened disastrously, seven wickets being down for only 13 runs, to the bowling of Colonel Henchley and Major Troman, before Signalman Jones and Lieutenant Yeoman affected a recovery; by sensible methods and concentration Jones and Yeoman took the score slowly up to 64 before Jones was bowled by Troman, having scored 28 invaluable runs. The innings closed for 84 runs, Yeoman being undefeated for a fine face-saving innings of 34. The Corps following on 100 runs behind and with 280 minutes left for play found runs difficult to score. Lewis left with one run on the board but with really solid batting down to Number 9 a draw at one stage appeared a possibility. Lieutenant Crook batted for 119 minutes in scoring 19 runs to be top scorer; other contributions were Captain de Clive-Lowe 16, Lance-Corporal Young 15 not out. The innings closed at 17.35 hours for 94 runs.

Royal Signals v. R.E., at Gillingham, 16th/17th June, 1958

Result : R.E. won by an innings and 20 runs.

The Corps won the toss and elected to bat on a hard, true wicket and were in trouble from the start against two opening bowlers of county experience. With two runs scored, Lewis was caught behind off Clarke, of Glamorgan, for 0; Captain Keech followed without addition to the score, being bowled by Standring, of Lancashire, for two; Lieutenant Crook was then lbw to Clarke for 0, and three wickets were down for two runs. Lieutenant Yeoman and Captain de Clive-Lowe stayed together for 27 minutes before Yeoman was caught behind the wicket off Clarke with the score at 10. de Clive-Lowe was next to go, having scored 13 and five wickets were down for 27. Major Pocock and Lieutenant-Colonel Hayles saw the score move to 45 before the latter was bowled by Standring for eight. Major Pocock fell next with the score at 54, having scored 26. Clarke then took the remaining three wickets in four balls and Signals were all out for 55 after two hours six minutes' batting. Clarke took seven wickets for 25 runs and Standring three wickets for 22 runs.

The Sappers lost one wicket almost immediately when Captain Newman was bowled by Signalman Hood for one, but Sapper Harris and Captain Withall, in an undefeated partnership of 198 runs in 180 minutes, punished the Corps bowling to all parts of a fast outfield.

Harris scored 105 and Withall 82 and at stumps on the first day the Sappers declared the innings closed—199 for one wicket.

The Corps, following on 144 runs behind, were soon in trouble, Captain Keech, after a most confident start, having hit three fours in his first ten balls, was caught at short leg changing his mind after scoring 12. A further wicket fell with the score at 17, but Lewis and Lieutenant Yeoman took the score to 41 before the former was bowled for 11. Yeoman was out with the score at 56, having scored 18 in 80 minutes. Captain de Clive-Lowe and Major Pocock survived until lunch and took the score to 95 before Pocock was caught for 13. de Clive-Lowe was next to go at 103, losing concentration after batting for 75 minutes for 38 runs.

The only other batsman to offer any positive resistance was Lieutenant-Colonel Hayles, who scored 18.

As in the first innings, Clarke took the last three wickets in rapid succession and Signals were all out for 124.

Royal Signals v. Yorkshire Gentlemen, at Eserick Park, 29th June, 1958

Result : Match drawn.

Scores:

Royal Signals: 151 for 7 (Lieutenant Yeoman 44 not out, Major Pocock 26 not out, Lance-Corporal Young 23).

Yorkshire Gentlemen: 91 for 7 (Lance-Corporal Young 3 for 45, Major Pocock 2 for 8, Captain Spencer 2 for 27).

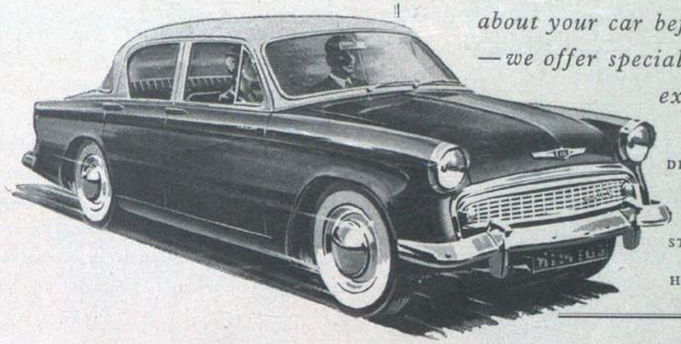
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"I can confirm Major Edward's remarks (Hockey Notes, May, 1958) about our games with the Gunners because I had the privilege of playing in both matches, in 1947 and again in 1948, and both were played at Woolwich. I remember particularly in the 1947 match what a desperately scrambled affair we made of that all important goal.

The Officer Cadet whose name eludes Major Edwards was surely Peter Ashworth, a National Serviceman, who went on to gain a blue at Cambridge. He subsequently captained Sussex and The South and was recently given a trial for England, but then he was not the only budding International in that wonderful Corps side of eleven years ago."

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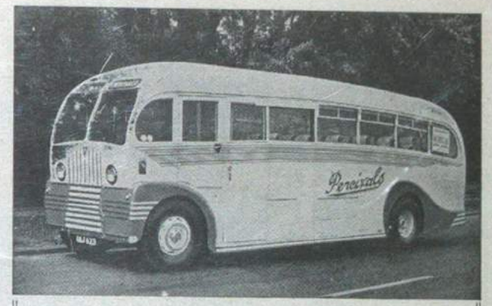
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Field Marshal Lord Ligonier and his personal Secretary Mr. Richard Cox. From a contemporary painting by David Morier in the possession of the Cox's & King's Branch of Lloyds Bank Limited.

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THE WIRE

THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE

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.*

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☆

SEPTEMBER • 1958

Vol. 12 (*New Series*) **No. 9**

Editorial

THE WIRE much regrets to announce the deaths of two Senior Officers who in their respective spheres gave the greatest of service to Royal Signals.

Brigadier H. Clementi Smith, D.S.O. Born 12th August, 1878, died 16th August, 1958. He transferred to the Corps on its formation and was the Senior of the Colonels Commandant. He was for many years Chairman of the Association and was indeed the inspiration of its work during much of the 1939/45 War.

Colonel J. W. Danielsen, D.S.O., died in a motor car accident on the same day, aged 82. He also gave a lifetime of service to the Signal Service Royal Engineers and Royal Signals in the Territorial Army in the City of Birmingham. He was mentioned in despatches five times during the 1914/18 War.

A fuller appreciation will appear in the October number of THE WIRE. They both served in the South African War as well as in the First World War.

* * * * *

The Effect of Reorganisation

As announced in the Press, the reorganisation of the Army into a number of Independent Brigade Groups dependent for command purposes only on a smaller number of Divisional Headquarters is fairly easy to understand.

It has, however, put THE WIRE into a proper muddle. The Editor does not know where and who the various Brigade Groups are.

It is essential that he does know and C.S.O.s and C.R. Signals can do the greatest possible service by asking Os.C. Independent Brigade Group Signal Squadrons to write to the Editor and tell him.

First — How many copies of THE WIRE they can accept each month.

Second — and almost as important, whence they obtained THE WIRE previously.

It is very necessary to keep the sales figures of THE WIRE as high as possible and it is feared that many of the newly Independent Squadrons are not receiving the magazine at all.

Any help that can be given will be very much appreciated.

Sudden Moves

Similarly it is of the greatest possible assistance if Os.C. can find a moment during the often hurried preparations for a move to let the Editor know of the departure or if this is banned on grounds of security to tell him as soon as possible after arrival. It is heartbreaking to send off 20-30-40 copies of the magazine to someone who isn't there. Assiduous reading of the newspapers helps but not in all cases.

* * * * *

News

In this connection attention is drawn to a letter on page 272 of appreciation of the service given by Royal Signals to the organisers of the Empire Games. About the time of the Games everything appertaining to the event was news. According to the letter a reasonably high standard of communications seems to have been provided BUT there has not been even a whisper from the concerned Signal Unit or Units. Talk about the Silent Service! ! !

An account of the service rendered by Royal Signals to the Empire Games did come in on 1st September, 1958, ***after*** *this was printed.*

Copy of a letter from the Chairman of the Communications Committee of the Empire Games, dated 1st August, 1958

Dear Sir,

I feel I must write to say how much I, as Chairman of the Communications Committee, and all the members of the organisation, appreciate the communications facilities provided by the Signal Units.

I cannot speak from personal experience of what happened at Lake Padarn, but I know that at many of the events in South Wales the smooth running of the events and of the ceremonial was only possible because of the splendid communications which the Signal Units provided. Major Teagle and his people were a tower of strength to me and honestly I do not know what we should have done without them.

To give you one example of the several which have been brought to my notice, on the last Saturday of the Games the Chairman of the Ceremonial Committee had to deal with a very urgent matter in connection with the Queen's message and immediate contact with Sir Arthur Porritt was necessary. All that was known was that he was travelling around the Ogmore circuit for the 120-mile road cycle race, but within a matter of minutes the Chairman of the Ceremonial Committee was able to speak to him because of the services of a mobile wireless operator. The comment of the Chairman was "what a triumph."

This is not an isolated instance and the initiative and enthusiasm of all the people concerned was really wonderful.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Brigadier Coxon but I would be grateful if my thanks could be passed down the line.

Yours sincerely,
(Signed) R. F. BRADBURN,
Chairman, Communications Committee.

Brigadier M. C. A. Hepper, C.B.E., Headquarters,
Western Command, Chester.

FIRST USE OF WIRELESS

No less authority than Major-General C. H. H. Vulliamy, C.B., D.S.O., comments on the suggestion in the May number of THE WIRE that the Territorial Army were the first users of Wireless in the Army.

He points out that Cavalry Formation Signal Units used Wireless in 1914.

A lesser known fact is that an officer of the Royal Engineers installed 50 K.W. spark stations in several cities in India five or more years before 1914. These stations were the most modern of their day. Royal Engineer technicians maintained these sets until the necessary Government Telegraph Department personnel were competent to do so.

FIFTY YEARS BACK

Esprit de Corps! If you retired with over 46 years' service from 1907 to 1954, you could claim to have achieved something in reaching the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel, with a M.B.E. That's the pretty good record of an ex-Boy who will be one of many at their fifth reunion dinner on 27th September. There will also be present at least two 1911 Boys (one a retired Lieutenant-Colonel and the other a retired Major); some of 1912 and about half-a-dozen who enlisted as Boys in 1913. That makes the 1914-ers feel like Rookies; nevertheless nearly twenty of those will be present.

Esprit de Corps and horsed cable waggoners, intermingled with "Telegraphists, Office" on the 4d. rate of pay, will vie with the larger representation of those from the 1920s and 1930s. More important will be the presence of half-a-dozen who joined the ranks in the last two years and from the Boys' Regiment itself will come two lads not yet eighteen. It will be a particular pleasure to welcome the first attendance of Chas. Bunney, Percy Andrews, Bert Elsmore and Nobby Clark.

Esprit de Corps! 1914-ER

PERSONAL COLUMN

London Gazette

11th July, 1958
Lieutenant-Colonel F. J. Swainson, O.B.E., to be Colonel, 16th June, 1958.

18th July, 1958
Captain M. M. Barker to be Major, 18th July, 1958.

29th July, 1958
Lieutenant-Colonel R. B. S .Eraut retires 30th July, 1958.

1st August, 1958
Major (T.O.T.) A. T. Smith, M.B.E., retired, 31st July, 1958.
Lieutenant-Colonel V. W. Hawkins, O.B.E., T.D., is appointed Honorary Colonel, 53 (W) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A., 1st August, 1958, vice Major (Hon. Colonel) C. G. Traherne, T.D., J.P.

5th August, 1958
Short Service Commissions
W.O.I E. R. Addington to be Lieutenant (T.O.T.), 21st April, 1958.
W.O.I J. A. Green to be Lieutenant (T.O.T.), 7th July, 1958.

8th August, 1958
Major R. D. Oram retires, 7th August, 1958.

Movements — Officers

What is shown below is extracted from a periodical look at a file which contains A.G.11 posting orders. Movements shown below are not necessarily accurate, or up-to-date.

Major W. C. Ramsay, Signal Regiment, T.A., to Depot HS.
Major R. A. Warren, Signals 5, War Office to Aden Protectorate Levies.
Major (Q.M.) S. G. Bow, M.B.E., School of Signals to B.A.O.R.
Lieutenant (T.O.T.) J. A. Green, First Commission to Aden.
Major (Q.M.) C. Rolls, Depot Regiment (HS) to School of Signals.
Major (Q.M.) F. P. Walker, Depot Regiment (HS) to Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A.
Major P. E. Mott, B.A.O.R. to Royal Signals Records.
Major A. L. Galloway, B.A.O.R. to 1 Training Regiment.
Major F. A. L. Terrey, 5 Training Regiment to 7 Training Regiment.
Major (T.O.T.) C. H. G. Allen, FARELF to East Anglian S.W.S. Troop, Royal Signals.
Major (Q.M.) R. G. August, B.A.O.R. to retirement.
Captain (Tfc. Offr.) F. W. Moseley, B.A.O.R. to South Africa.
Lieutenant (T.O.T.) J. A. Pyper, B.A.O.R. to Malta.
Major (Tfc. Offr.) A. B. Roderick, B.A.O.R. to FARELF.
Major J. A. C. Webber, FARELF to Depot Regiment (HS).
Major C. L. Wikner, Malta to 7 Training Regiment.
Major P. H. Palmer, B.A.O.R. to FARELF.
Major M. Stears, Nigeria to School of Signals.
Major J. R. West, Depot Regiment (HS) to Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, U.K.
Major T. I. G. Gray, M.E.L.F. to B.A.O.R.
Major J. E. Taylor, FARELF to Depot Regiment (HS).
Major A. R. Wythe, 2 Training Regiment to M.E.L.F.
Lieutenant-Colonel R. G. Miller, School Regiment, School of Signals to Depot Regiment (HS).
Major G. Proudman, FARELF to School of Signals.
Major P. Wolfendale, M.E.L.F. to Depot Regiment (HS).
Captain (Tfc. Offr.) L. T. Cann, B.A.O.R. to retirement.
Lieutenant (T.O.T.) N. A. Parker, First Commissioning to FARELF.
Major J. W. Ingledow, London District to Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment.
Major G. Rowland, H.Q., Aldershot District to H.Q., London District.
Major (Q.M.) A. Sharp, Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A., to East Africa.
Major H. B. de M. Hunter, H.Q., Eastern Command to H.Q., Aldershot District.
Major C. Worrin, H.Q., East and West Ridings Area to Depot HS.

Births

FRANCIS.—To Staff Sergeant and Mrs. J. D. Francis, a daughter, Alison Jean, at Nottingham, on 28th July, 1958.

BAKER.—On 18th July, 1958, at the British Military Hospital, Berlin, to Caryl, wife of Captain N. L. Baker, a second son, Martin James.

COCKCROFT.—To Sergeant and Mrs. R. Cockcroft, at Odstock Hospital, Salisbury, Wilts., on 23rd July, 1958, a daughter, Jacqueline Christine.

All the following of 19 Army Group Signal Regiment.

ANDERSON.—To Sergeant and Mrs. J. D. Anderson, a son, Ian Robert, at B.M.H., Hostert, on 14th June, 1958.

STANLEY.—To W.O.II and Mrs. D. W. Stanley, a daughter, Susan, at B.M.H., Hostert, on 4th June, 1958.

KINDRED.—To Lance-Corporal and Mrs. F. C. Kindred, a daughter, Carol Jean, at Haveshill, Suffolk, on 4th April, 1958.

McCULLOCH.—To Staff Sergeant and Mrs. J. W. McCulloch, a daughter, Carol Ann, at B.M.H., Hostert, on 23rd May, 1958.

WOMERSLEY.—To Signalman and Mrs. Womersley, a daughter, Glynis, at Ashton-under-Lyne, on 29th May, 1958.

MILLS.—To Sergeant and Mrs. D. Mills, a son, John Timothy, at B.M.H., Hostert, on 24th May, 1958.

FREEMAN.—To Staff Sergeant and Mrs. F. M. Freeman, a daughter, Jane, at B.M.H. Hostert, on 20th May, 1958.

GREY.—To Signalman and Mrs. G. Grey, a daughter, Dawn Rita, at B.M.H., Hostert, on 16th May, 1958.

MITCHELL.—To Major and Mrs. C. Mitchell, a daughter, Ruth Mary, at B.M.H., Hostert, on 15th June, 1958.

BRUNNER.—To Captain and Mrs. J. E. R. Brunner, Royal Army Pay Corps, a son, Nicholas Ian, at B.M.H., Hostert, on 30th June, 1958.

All the following of 2 L. of C. Signal Regiment

FOLEY.—To Captain and Mrs. E. W. P. Foley, a son, Sean Christopher, at B.M.H., Hostert, on 23rd July, 1958.

HOLDRICK.—To Corporal and Mrs. K. V. Holdrick, a son, Mark William, at B.M.H., Hostert, on 9th July, 1958.

FOX.—To Sergeant and Mrs. J. Fox, a daughter, Petra Elli, at B.M.H., Rinteln, on 13th June, 1958.

Marriages

PERRY—JUSTEN.—Sergeant J. Perry, 2 L. of C. Signal Regiment, to Miss Anna Margarete Justen, at Dusseldorf, on 24th May, 1958.

BOWDEN—GERMAINE.—Signalman Bowden, 2 L. of C. Signal Regiment, to Miss Pierrette Louise Germaine, at Paris, France, on 1st July, 1958.

CLARENCE—SMALL.—Corporal R. L. Clarence to Miss Anne Small, at St. Helens, Lancs., on 10th May, 1958.

Deaths

McDONALD.—Lieutenant (Q.M.) J. McDonald, late Royal Signals, of 68, Railway Street, Barnes, S.W.13, on 2nd August, 1958.

BARRETT.—Ex-Signalman G. T. Barrett, of 16, Cawdor Avenue, South Ockendon, on 8th June, 1958, aged 42. His widow's address is 8, Dene Path, Aveley Estate, South Ockendon, Essex.

BARRON.—Ex-Signalman T. S. Barron, of 15, Harefield Avenue, Dundee, on 5th July, 1958, aged 48 years.

HOWLAND.—22771305 Staff Sergeant M. W. Howland, on 7th July, 1958, in U.K.

FITCH.—23277516 Corporal S. J. Fitch, on 7th July, 1958, in U.K.

KENNEALLY.—Ex-Signalman T. Kenneally, on 5th August, 1958, at Camberwell, aged 53 years. Served from 1919 to 1931.

PHILLIPS.—Major L. A. Phillips, of 203 Passage Road, Brentry, Bristol, on 9th February, 1958. Royal Signals 1940-46. Royal Signals Association 1947-48.

Arrivals and Departures

Malta Signal Squadron

Arrivals: Major Boyle, Captain (Q.M.) Carter, W.O. II Johnston, Sergeants Enfield, Earnshaw, Smethurst, Cracknell.

Departures: Major Wikner, Major W. I. P. Thomas, R.A.S.C., Sergeants Mears and Gurden.

1 Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment

Arrivals: W.O.II (R.Q.M.S.) D. C. Sherard, Staff Sergeants D. F. Langston and K. Beadle, Sergeants T. Downs, R. Cockcroft, G. J. Holland.

Departures: Major E. O. Smith, D.C.M., Staff Sergeant D. W. Thomson.

4 Training Regiment

Arrivals: Major C. Newbold, M.B.E., Sergeants R. G. Turvey and J. M. Fox.

Departures: Staff Sergeants A. J. Pearce, G. Oakley and C. W. J. Leggett.

19 Army Group Signal Regiment

Arrivals: Lieutenant (T.O.T.) N. W. Merrifield, W.O.II (F. of S) S. A. J. Lees, W.O.II R. Telford, Sergeants K. R. Brown, P. D. W. Davies, R. J. Parry, J. Green.

Departures: Major P. H. Brown, Lieutenant (Q.M.) R. G. Furtade, Lieutenant (T.O.T.) L. F. Knight, Sergeants Hawkinge, Bullock, Mercer and Nellist.

2 L. of C. Signal Regiment

Arrivals: Staff Sergeants Stringer, Slate, M. J. Rose, Sergeant Bennet.

Departures: W.O.IIs Brandreth, Herring.

CLOTHING

The response to the request for part worn clothing in the July "Wire" and the July Number of the Royal Signals Officers' List has been very good. Both the staff and Association Headquarters who give it away, and the recipients are grateful.

BUT MORE IS NEEDED.



PEGASUS

This centrepiece was presented to the Corps by the Officers of the 6th Airborne Divisional Signal Regiment on its disbandment in 1948.

Pegasus, the winged horse tamed by Bellerophon and used by him for his conquests of the Chimera, of the fierce mountain robber race of the Solymi, and of the Amazons, was adopted as the device of the Airborne Forces raised during the Second World War.

The 6th Airborne Divisional Signal Regiment was raised in 1943 and saw service in Normandy, in the Ardennes, and the Rhine crossing and in South-East Asia and Palestine before being reduced to Squadron strength and re-designated 16th Independent Airborne Signal Squadron in 1948.

PIGEONS, 1941

Exercise "Bumper" Autumn 1941, 2 Corps acting as one of the invading Corps with Rear H.Q. (where pigeon lofts situated) at Corkley Clay in Norfolk.

Pigeons allotted to forward Armoured Cars to report vital first contact with enemy to avoid wireless delays consequent on following the channel of Command. Contact made in Bedfordshire, birds sent off but message never arrived. Information came later through wireless on command channels.

Those damn pigeons failed again.

Sequel, one day six weeks later the loftman noticed two birds walking, mark you walking, up the drive at Corkley Clay. They entered the loft and the messages in their containers proved to be those sent off by the Armoured Cars in Bedfordshire six weeks before.

Had they walked all the way? Foot inspection proved nothing! C.H.H.V.

11th Reunion Dinner—Indian Signal Corps Units, 1911-1926

This took place on the 7th June, 1958, at the Victory Ex-Services Club. The guests were Major D. N. Sahni and Lieutenant-General Sir Lionel Bond, K.B.E., C.B.

Forthcoming Events

Ex-Boys' Dinner, 1958

Saturday, 27th September, 1958, 6.30 for 7.30 p.m., at the Victory Ex-Services' Club, 63/79, Seymour Street, London, W.2 (one minute from Marble Arch and first left up Edgware Road).

Principal guests, COLONEL T. W. BOILEAU and THE HON. MRS. T. W. BOILEAU.

Some seats still available for Ex-Boys, 16/6; wives or other guests, 15/-. Remittances payable "F. W. Jacob, Ex-Boys' Dinner A/c" to 54 Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A., 40, Ashburnham Road, Bedford. Bookings must close by 15th September.

The 1st Essex Signal Regiment, T.A.

are celebrating their 50th Jubilee on Saturday, 4th October, 1958, with a Reception and an "At Home" in the afternoon from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m., followed by an All Ranks' "Jubilee Dance" from 8.30 p.m. to midnight. The Royal Signals Band will give a Band concert in the afternoon and will provide the Dance Orchestra in the evening. Apart from serving members of the Regiment and their families, a cordial invitation is extended to anyone with associations with the Regiment in the past and applications for tickets for these two functions should be made to Major J. H. Mansfield, T.D., 1st Essex Signal Regiment, T.A., Selsdon Road, Wanstead, E.11.

24th Divisional Signals (1914-1919)

Date of next Reunion — Saturday, 11th October, 1958.

3.00 p.m. Ceremony at the Divisional Memorial, Battersea Park.

6.00 p.m. Assemble — The Chevrons Club, 3, Dorset Square, London, N.W.1.

7.45 for 8 p.m. Dinner — The Chevrons Club.

For further information apply Hon. Secretary, Mr. A. W. Rathbone, The Ridge, Penlee, Budleigh Salterton, Devon.

44th Division (1939/42) Old Comrades' Rally prior to the EL ALAMAIN REUNION, 24th OCTOBER, 1958

The Rally will take place at The New Inn, 252, Westminster Bridge Road, London, S.E.1, from 5 p.m. to 6.30 p.m. Ladies also invited. Tickets 5/- each from the Hon. Secretary, O.C.A., c/o H. J. Green and Co., Ltd., Aldrington Works, Hove 3, Sussex.

54 (EA) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A.

The Annual Officers' Ball will be held in the Hyde Park Hotel, Knightsbridge, on Saturday, 1st November, 1958. Applications for tickets should be made to Major L. J. Parker, Royal Signals, at 40, Ashburnham Road, Bedford.

Annual Buffet Supper and Reunion

Saturday, 6th December, 1958, at the Drill Hall, Duke of York's Headquarters, Chelsea, London, S.W.3 (by courtesy of the Middlesex Yeomanry Signal Regiment, T.A.), from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m.

CORPS BAND SUMMER TOUR, 1958

Touring Band

21st September	Worthing.
27th September—28th September ...	Folkestone.
1st October—5th October	B.B.C. Recordings.
6th October	Return to Catterick.

ROYAL SIGNALS OFFICERS' GOLFING SOCIETY 1958 FIXTURE LIST

29th September	... Autumn Meeting	Hankley Common.
30th September	... Autumn Meeting	Hankley Common

ROYAL SIGNALS HOCKEY

Fixtures for the 1958/59 Season are as follows:

Saturday, 27th September, 1958 ...	Thistles	Catterick
Thursday, 23rd October, 1958 ...	R.E.M.E.	Aborfield
Friday, 24th October, 1958 ...	R.E.	Aldershot
Tuesday, 2nd December, 1958 ...	R.A.S.C.	Aldershot
Wednesday, 3rd December, 1958 ...	R.M.A.	Sandhurst
Thursday, 4th December, 1958 ...	Aldershot Services .	Aldershot
Wednesday, 18th February, 1959 ...	R.M.C. of S. ...	Aldershot
Friday, 20th February, 1959 ...	R.A.O.C.	Blackdown
Saturday, 7th March, 1959 ...	Durham University .	Catterick
Wednesday, 25th March, 1959 ...	Welbeck College ...	Welbeck
27th-30th March, 1959	Easter Hockey Festival	Scarborough

The date and venue for the fixture against R.A. are not yet confirmed.

ROYAL SIGNALS LAWN TENNIS, 1958

17 Sept.	Staff College, Camberley	Camberley	(A)
18 Sept.	Royal Artillery	Woolwich	(A)

Both are Corps representative matches.

☆

PROMOTIONS

The following promotions were authorised during the month of July, 1958:

Technical Roster

To W.O.II	2581181	S Sgt.	(80)	Cowen, J. E.
	2547734	A/W.O.II	(90)	Howard, R. E.
	2547337	A/W.O.II	(100)	Barrett, S.
To S Sgt.	2549706	Sgt.	(124)	Weighell, R. E.
	22203531	Sgt.	(130)	Dunlevy, J. M. M.
	2549621	Sgt.	(140)	White, D. G. O.

Clerical Roster

To S Sgt.	6215936	A/Sgt.	(40)	Pegg, R. J.
	2979014	Sgt.	(70)	Youngman, H.

Regimental Duty

To W.O.I	2325875	A/W.O.I	(700)	O'Connor, T.P.
	2325390	A/W.O.I	(740)	Russell, W. J.
To W.O.II	5127190	S Sgt.	(490)	Redman, E. W.
	2328525	S Sgt.	(660)	Howell, B.
	3768478	S Sgt.	(850)	Crennell, F.
	5773538	S Sgt.	(890)	Norwood, A.
	2329497	S Sgt.	(1010)	Lord, B. T.

Signal Centre Supervisors' Roster

To W.O.I	22265461	W.O.II	(142)	Brandreth, F.
To S Sgt.	14945756	A/S Sgt.	(210)	Dossor, C. A.
	22306665	A/W.O.II	(430)	Chambers, D.
	2549278	Sgt.	(1170)	Leggett, C. W. J.
	22008380	Sgt.	(1310)	Hayes, R. G. W.
	22212315	Sgt.	(1530)	Boughton, C.
	22308697	Sgt.	(1940)	Duffy, O.
	22594957	Sgt.	(2770)	Hammill, T. D.
	22550845	Sgt.	(2900)	Dubois, G. O.
	14098948	Sgt.	(3570)	Hawkins, P. D.
	19034163	Sgt.	(3690)	Coyne, A.
	22812197	Sgt.	(6170)	Giles, G. W.

INSERTIONS

Operating Roster

22281923	Sgt.	(7210)	Gray, F. H.
22039334	Cpl.	(1071)	Hall, E.
23537165	Cpl.	(384)	Pollard, L.

Technical Roster

22537342	Sgt.	(2270)	May, J. M.

General Trades and Duties Roster

22265156	Cpl.	(2916)	Franks, A.

Signal Centre Supervisor Roster

5193970	S Sgt.	(23)	Clements, K. A.
2547742	S Sgt.	(24)	Oakley, G.
2548667	S Sgt.	(25)	Drugan, J.
21005225	S Sgt.	(26)	Byers, P. F.
19031817	S Sgt.	(27)	Kinch, N. L.

DELETIONS

Foremen of Signals Roster

S Sgt.	1320

Signal Centre Supervisor Roster

W.O.II	330

Regimental Duty Roster

W.O.II	820	1740	2490	1120	
S Sgt.	2670				

Clerical Roster

W.O.II	90				
Sgt.	100	860	710	1760	

Operating Roster

Sgt.	110	930	1610	7170	4160

General Trades and Duties Roster

Sgt.	260	1570	2150	620	1280
	480	2100			

Lineman Roster

Sgt.	1080

The First Reserve

SCENE: Almost any Troop Office, any Regular Royal Signals unit.

CHARACTERS: Captain Busybee, a Regular Royal Signals Officer: commanding almost any Troop.
Signalman Mobile (NS 12345678—30 days and an early breakfast to go).

TIME: January, 1958.

BUSYBEE: Now Mobile, I've got to put you down for A.E.R. or T.A. Which do you want?

MOBILE: A.E.R., sir.

BUSYBEE: Why?

MOBILE: Well, the A.E.R. don't do any drills, only camps, and I live more than five miles from a drill hall, and . . er . . well, sir . . . . .

BUSYBEE: Your'e damned idle—still, I'll put you down and Records will sort it.
(Exit Mobile, with a mild gurgling noise to a secluded General Pool).
This scene sums up a popular misconception.

This article is designed to clear up that misconception. A great many of us are still horribly ignorant of Reserve Army as a whole, both A.E.R. and T.A. Some of us who are still serving as Regulars will soon find ourselves transferred to the Reserve, and, I suspect, shortly missing the family feeling of the Army. What can we do about it?

There are three alternatives: Forget the Army and serve in the Regular Army Reserve; hoping, at first, that you won't be called back. Join the T.A.; volumes have been written about the T.A., you know the form. Volunteer for the A.E.R.; they may take you, if you have the qualifications needed.

Historically, the A.E.R. is the lineal descendant of the Supplementary Reserve (S.R.), and is the senior formed reserve of the Army, taking precedence before the T.A. Its task is to provide, and I quote:

"Officers and Other Ranks required overseas in the event of a peace time emergency or "small war," or when a threat of war develops, before the T.A. or other sections of the R.A.R. can be sent overseas" (A.E.R. Category I)

and

"It provides those units which are required to complete the mobilisation order of battle, but which are not required by the Active Army in peace time, and which are not suitable for raising as part of the T.A. It provides specialised and non-specialised officers and other ranks to complete the establishment of Regular Units on mobilisation." (A.E.R. Category II).

This represents a very much better picture than our friends (?) Busybee and Mobile have conjured up for themselves.

Within the A.E.R., Royal Signals, has a very large commitment indeed. Naturally there is the General Pool—and half-a-dozen specialist pools as well. It holds some thousands of National Servicemen, who, cosily envisaging no more drills and camps, might find themselves, after Proclamation, playing a very active part indeed in a "peace time emergency" or "small war." It also holds several hundreds of volunteers, and it is with these, their training, organisation, pay, bounties and commitments that this article is mainly concerned.

How many of us realise that the A.E.R. Royal Signals is organised into regiments. That these regiments exist and train now; that nearly every one of these regiments has a higher formation role. And that the majority of our volunteers possess experience and skills which compare very favourably with their Regular counterparts?

The regiments form, in the main, an existing reserve of H.Q. Army/Army Group, Air Formation, Line of Communication and District Signal Regiments. This forms a natural balance to the T.A., who provide our reserves of Divisional, Corps, AGRA and similar field force Royal Signal units. Very few people realise that the A.E.R. Royal Signals provided an L. of C. Signal Regiment and the Press Communication Signal Squadron for Suez in 1956. This case of civil life to active service operation of SWB8's (in the teeth of the world's Press) illustrates most clearly the worth and vigour of the A.E.R.

This versatality can only be achieved by allowing for two factors. The first is that the volunteer recruit for the A.E.R. Royal Signals must possess, and keep alive, a sound technical knowledge. The second is that each regiment must have a flourishing spirit and tradition of its own. Let us discuss the first factor. We want the man who has a Royal Signals trade at his fingertips, or if he is an officer, then he must be a good one. We like his civilian occupation to be allied to his Signals job. The best recruits, from the A.E.R. point of view, are those from the Post Office, and from the electronic industry—for they possess, and develop, their qualifications at their peace time job. We also, naturally, want the retired Royal Signals Officer, N.C.O. and Signalmen, who know the form better than anybody. This does not, of course, rule out everybody else. We include ex-R.A.F.V.R., Income Tax Collectors, Chartered Accountants, Warehousemen, Clerks, and a variety of civilian occupations. While not implying that this is true in this instance, it is not hard to translate three of the four occupations mentioned above into imprest holder, P.R.I. and technical storeman (or R.Q.M.S.).

Regimental spirit in the A.E.R. Royal Signals is astonishingly strong to the newcomer. Officers' messes, Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' messes and P.R.I.s flourish during camp, and the majority of regiments also have voluntary out-of-camp gatherings. Camp training is for 15 days annually, usually at H.Q., A.E.R. Royal Signals, which is a small Regular component, responsible for co-ordination, training and administration. Here, in a fortnight, annually, regimental cadres, each on an average about seventy or more strong, really work hard, learning tactical doctrine, brushing up on their technical ability and firing their annual range course, etc. In the nature of the regimental roles, the equipment they handle is interesting in itself—radio relay, heavy and medium wireless, line carrier equipment, and, of course, switchboards and teleprinters. They play hard, too, with a round of guest nights, dances, games and tours, which would be absolutely exhausting if it were kept up for more than a fortnight!

All this sounds like a "plug." Of course it is. The Regular Army is getting smaller almost every day. Our Reserve Army must correspondingly develop a higher degree of readiness than it has already. This means that we need more volunteers of the right type. Some men cannot afford the time that the T.A. demands; others, and this is most important, possess qualifications which can be better applied in the nation's interest in the A.E.R. than in the T.A. The A.E.R. is *not* a haven for the idle; it is a vigorous, live, first line reserve with a predominantly overseas role. We want the best men. The A.E.R. offers Regular rates of pay, in camp or when mobilised. There is also a bounty paid annually, as a reward for having undertaken, voluntarily, the obligation to serve your country in time of need.

Money, however, is not the most important thing the A.E.R. offers. The principal assets are a continuation, in the best sense, of military loyalty and family feeling, and an opportunity for a man to do his duty by his country as a real volunteer—"A person who undertakes Military Service of his own free will."

(*Editor's Note*: Those requiring information on the A.E.R. Royal Signals are invited to write to: The Commander, H.Q., A.E.R. Royal Signals, Blacon Camp, Chester).

COLOURED PORTRAITS OF THE COLONEL-IN-CHIEF

Reproductions of the original portrait by Sir Gerald Kelly, K.C.V.O., P.P.A.A., in the Headquarters' Mess of 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., are obtainable, price £2/15/- inclusive of packing and postage (cash with order), from The Secretary, Royal Signals INSTITUTION, 88, Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1. The coloured portrait is 12in. x 17in., the mount is 18½in. x 25in.

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Home Stations

3 TRAINING REGIMENT

July has been a quiet month with a large proportion of the cadre away on leave. Our Schemes Troop has, however, been busier than ever with assistance to Territorial Army camps and in providing communications for an exercise at the Staff College.

In common with other units we had a sudden crop of jaldi postings to warmer climates but there were not as many of these as one might have expected.

In Tennis the Unit team, captained by the C.O., reached the finals of Northern Command Inter-Unit Championships but were beaten by H.Q. Northern Command.

4 TRAINING REGIMENT

The main event of the month has been The Annual Parents' Day, when 250 parents and friends visited the Regiment. There were some worried faces on the part of the directing staff because of the weather which had been appallingly bad for several days before the event, but fortunately it kept dry for the big day except for some drizzle in the afternoon. The morning's parade was taken as the opportunity to present the bar to the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal of ex-R.Q.M.S. R. E. Hodges, who has now retired from the army but is still with the Regiment as a civilian instructor for the clerks. The African General Service Medal was also presented to Sergeant P. J. Robinson, A.C.C., attached to the Regiment. The parade was followed by the usual conducted tour of the camp and barracks, and not all parents were convinced that the midday meal on exhibition was quite normal, and not a specially good one put on for the occasion. This, incidentally, was the last performance of our specialist messing officer, Second-Lieutenant M. B. Rose, A.C.C., before the end of his full time national service.

The afternoon was devoted to our Inter-Squadron Athletics meeting. Rather late in the year perhaps, but a good time was had by all for all that. The old soldiers' race was won, as usual, by Major R. L. J. Shove, and the chain of command race by 2 Squadron, largely owing to S.S.M. Firth's ability to drink a pint of beer quicker than any of the other Sergeant Majors.

The side shows produced £10/5/10 for the Benevolent Fund, which was not bad seeing that the weather did not encourage the parents to wander round much. They rather tended to stay huddled in their macintoshes and greatcoats.

The only failure in the organisation occurred on Sunday morning's Church Service, when the organ, played with great skill by Signalman Short, gave a loud bang and ceased to function. It appears that a vital piece of string in the interior had broken. We did not know that modern organs worked with string, but apparently they do. The choir, however, under the able leadership of Second-Lieutenant M. A. Hossick of this Regiment, carried on as though nothing had happened.

Ex-members of the Regiment will be interested to know that a start has at last been made with demolishing the old cookhouse in Ypres Lines, and a vast collection of junk is now scattered over the grounds. It is quite amazing how many bits and pieces there are in an old cookhouse. There is not, unfortunately, a great deal of wood, which is a commodity that we are always short of, and always glad to find lying around unattended.

Captain J. Tate and the radio relay troop are at present up at Newcastle putting on a recruiting display of R.R. equipment. It is rumoured that they have taken the precaution of laying a few lines under the floor to be on the safe side. So long as none of the local post office types start asking awkward questions they seem to be on a good thing.

It is rumoured that our new A.C.C. Messing Officer, Second-Lieutenant P. G. Roberts, is going to start serving lemonade at meals. He met with some opposition from the experts, on the grounds that lemonade has no nutritional value, but apparently he has been able to blind them with science, and has got his own way.

We have to announce with regret that the Cricket team was knocked out of the finals of the Command Cup by Chilwell. The team blame it all on the hospitality of our opponents who unsportingly took us out on a tour of Nottingham the night before. Being used to the quiet life at Catterick, our team was unable to stand up to it. The swimmers also failed to win the Command Competitions but came a creditable second to 1 Training Regiment, Royal Signals, in both water polo and swimming, the latter being an exciting match with the result in doubt until the last event.



Presentation of a bar to the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal to Mr. R. E. Hodges

Careers and Opportunity

(IMPORTANT : Anyone obtaining employment through answering advertisements in THE WIRE *must notify the Employment Section, Royal Signals Association, 88, Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1.*

Members are reminded that they can ensure prompt notification of any vacancies likely to interest them by registering with the Employment Section. Jobs advertised in THE WIRE *are only a small proportion of those received).*

WORKING PARTNERSHIP

Brigadier K. H. Treseder, O.B.E. (late Royal Signals), Clonlack House, Rhode, Offaly, Eire, is farming 275 acres in Eire and intends to expand either in that country or in England. The farming is mixed.

Any officer interested in taking up farming and who would like to learn whilst working with Brigadier Treseder with a view to eventually joining with him in partnership, should get in touch with him at the above address. It must, however, be understood that the land is to be worked—Brigadier Treseder and his wife work with the men and his wife would need help in the house.

Other advertisements about employment are on the back inside cover and on page 296.

Have you placed a regular order for a copy of "The Wire"? Why not do so NOW?

Jottings

by NACERBY

English as she is spoke . . .

Chaps from outlying stations like Catterick, Christchurch and Chislehurst who take "duty trips" to London only to find they have inexplicably clashed with the Test Match/Wimbledon/Cup Final/Henley and the Varsity Rugger Match, have often complained to me that they find great difficulty in finding anyone in the Metropolis who understands and speaks English (apart from Development Branches). Major Doug Kelly, who adorns Signals 3 and who hails from a thriving village called Niagara-on-the-Wash, in the backwoods of Ontario, says its even worse in Canada!

Asked to describe a film thriller dealing with narcotics, he says the following was written by one of those under-privileged few who really dig that crazy talk:

"Man, this one's so far out the trains don't run there any more. It's Endsville and there's no more room. Now blow this on your ax. A real Cool Cat from East Desperation comes wheeling up to the village school in a real crazy short and starts to stink up the upholstery. Man he's got life with a belt in the back. He bugs the teach and rains the warden, a real sad square, "Man your draggin' your rear axle in waltztime." Pretty soon the hipster is smitten with a kitten who is all the way out and talking tight. But this boy is looking for more than a ball. He's hip that half the oofuses in this school are on, and he's got a stack of big ones to buy the hard stuff and muscle in on the jig.

So he sounds the cat that pushes the junk, and then he tries to score. So they fall up to the main man's pad, and before you can blast a joint, everybody is tuned in. The main man offers him a pop of H, but this kid ain't dry—he's a plain clothes fuzz.

And the next day, when there's time to deliver the stuff, there's a shuffle that's very tough toenails for the busters. Be there with your bear, and if you don't flip I'm sorry man. It's terrible and you got it all."

Five shillings for the best English translation!

Gardening . . . (in verse or worse)

When the little flowerlets flicker
Forth from winter's rime and rue,
Does it make the heart beat quicker?
Oh, it do! it do! it do!
Sing a song of gardening with flowers by the score,
Cherienthus dimorphotheca and roses round the door,
Geraniums on the rockery, fried spuds and watercress,
Butterflies' Feet and Love in the Mist,
The Devil take the rest.
Lettuce up the crazy path, rhubarb and rhododendron,
Blackberry Pie and pheasant's eye,
The same to you with knobs on.

This Week in Parliament . . .

The Matrimonial Proceedings (Children's) Bill and the Litter Bill, both Private Members' Bills, received third readings and now go to the Lords.

Power . . .

This question has been a major irritation with Signal Officers for many years, and it may not be generally known, certainly not in planning circles, that thought has been given to powering wireless stations with electric eels.

Sounds fishy, doesn't it, but eels develop 300 to 500 volts at about 40 watts, and have the advantage that medium Wireless Troops cut off from the ration wagon could eat their wireless set H.T. supply equipment. Rotary convertors are, and this is news to me, quite indigestible.

The main snag is the recharging of the animals. Under normal conditions an output of 40 watts continuous will require a food input to the eel/eels of some 600,000 calories per day assuming an efficiency of food/electricity conversion of 70% — 1 watt/Sec= 0.2388 calories.

This is clearly impossible and quite beyond the scope of SWS.

In addition, the phenomenon of the electric eel is probably piezo—electric in nature, and in the design of a suitable container for the power supply unit a reasonable clearance must be allowed for the elongation of the power source during discharge. Happily this is readily calculable:

$$E = \exists\exists L \int \alpha \ S.F.A.$$

where E is the elongation per Unit length (E.E.L. Units)
L = Length A^2 at a time dt before the load is applied
S = Poissons ratio (to scale)
F = Hysteresis Coefficient in Grausses per square Rickman
A = Asletts aquarium constant — packing fraction divided by form factor

For evaluation of the above eulyptic integral, reference should be made to the Camp/Creeth tables of irrational discriminants in Issue 2 of SRDE Designers Manual.

Any questions?

Service with a Smile . . .

Aware of the heavy penalty for sleeping on sentry duty, a recruit posted on the early morning relief did his best to keep awake. But in the end he went to sleep on his feet. Awakened by a slight noise, he dimly saw the Field Officer approaching. The recruit kept his wits and stood for another minute with head bowed. Then, raising it slowly, he looked piously at the sky and murmured "Amen."

SCOTTISH COMMAND (M) SIGNAL SQUADRON

So much time has passed since the last notes appeared under this heading that we feel we ought to enquire if you are still there. You are? Good! Here is our news from behind the "Tartan Curtain."

Once again we are up to the ears in the Edinburgh Festival and Edinburgh Tattoo. This year we are accommodating the Pipes and Drums of four different Regiments which will practice for the Mass Pipes and Drums item in the Tattoo. We will therefore be treated to what is known in this part of the country as "Presbyterian Music."

The work-a-day world has included in addition to normal commitments, technical aid to 51 (H) Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A., 52 (L) Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A., Fife and Forfar Yeomanry and 43 W.E.T.C., at their various camps and are now billeting sundry other Regiments' bands in our lines. Very cosmo-Scots we are getting says Staff Sergeant Blake (Charlie).

By the time this appears in print we will have had an All Ranks' Dance and a Band Concert—music by Major John Judd and the Corps Band.

Our cricket team has had a fair measure of success for which thanks are due to Signalman Williams and Signalman K. Robinson for some fine opening stands, to Signalman MacLennan and Staff Sergeant Greenbrook for whirlwind batting and to Corporal Norris and Signalman D. Kay for some devastating bowling. To all the others for their fine spirit in turning out during the week and at week-ends thank you, too.

The Inter-Services Scotland Athletic Meeting, was held at Pitreavie Castle on 23rd July, 1958, when a W.R.A.C. team from the Squadron took part in the persons of Lance-Corporals Woodward and Davies, and Privates Russell, Frazer, Smith, M., and Wilkinson. In the overall team events the W.R.A.C. came second out of the three Women's services represented. Lance-Corporal Woodward was the best all rounder, she carried off first place in the Long Jump, second place in the 80 metres hurdles and 100 yards. The team for the relay race was Lance-Corporals Davies and Woodward and Privates Frazer and Russell, who after a bad change on the first leg managed to take second place.

Last but not least we have to bid farewell to our Commanding Officer, Major W. J. Hotchkiss. All the Old Timers will remember him well. He is one of the original boys as he enlisted in R.E. Signals in February, 1919, and came over to Royal Signals when we became a separate Corps. His long and continuous service and his ability should be an inspiration to all ex-Boys and Boys of the Corps. In his retirement, in which he has been given the honorary rank of Lieutenant-Colonel, we wish him and Mrs. Hotchkiss all the very best. To those who visit Jersey and remember him he will, we know, be delighted to meet them.

We welcome to our fold Major N. C. B. Cleveley, who has taken over command. We hope his stay with us will be enjoyable and pleasant and by the time he has settled in he will have added another language to his vocabulary—"Gaelic" and be an expert in Highland Dancing.

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A Message to all Ex-Boys

FROM MAJOR-GENERAL SIR HUBERT RANCE, G.C.M.G., G.B.E., C.B.

I have very gladly accepted an invitation to be "Appeal Chairman" of the Committee for the *F. R. Cobb Memorial Trophy*.

Let me explain. A number of Ex-Boys who served with, or knew, the late Lieutenant-Colonel F. R. Cobb, M.C., have felt for a long time that it would be an appropriate gesture if they subscribed voluntarily for a Trophy to be presented to the Junior Leaders Regiment, Royal Signals, as a memorial from the Ex-Boys of the Corps to an Officer who did so much for their welfare over a period of 27 years' close association.

Colonel Cobb commanded the Boys' Company from 1925 to 1930. Before that, and until he died in 1950, his untiring interest in the military efficiency and sporting proficiency of the Boys and Ex-Boys was highly appreciated throughout the Corps and by many hundreds of parents who wrote letters of gratitude for what he had done to guide their sons along the path towards a successful career.

I am sure, therefore, that many, many Ex-Boys who "knew Major Cobb," whether they actually served under him or not, would wish to be associated with this proposal to subscribe something towards the memorial trophy.

The project has the approval of the Signal Officer-in-Chief. The Commanding Officer of the Junior Leaders Regiment, Royal Signals, has welcomed the idea and I am sure there will be a generous response from Ex-Boys, whether still serving, or retired.

A small Committee, after appropriate consultations, has decided the form of the memorial should be an

INTER-TROOP CROSS-COUNTRY RUNNING TROPHY

to be competed for annually by the Boys of the Junior Leaders Regiment, Royal Signals.

No matter how small the contributions, all will be welcomed. The Committee suggests anything from sixpence, but no individual's donation to exceed ten shillings. It would assist the administration of the appeal if those Ex-Boys serving in or living close to a Signal Unit, would arrange for one of their number to be the official collector for the Unit and hand in the money collected to the Adjutant or O.C. Unit, with a list of subscribers' names, for onward despatch.

Officers Commanding Units have been requested to give this assistance.

Those Ex-Boys wishing to subscribe direct should please forward cheques or postal orders, made payable to

O.C. 4th Training Regiment, Royal Signals,

and crossed "Cobb Trophy."

The Hon. Secretary is Major F. G. Strange, Royal Signals (Retired), Royal Signals Records, Caversham, Reading, to whom subscriptions may also be paid by any who happen to be visiting Records.

The Hon. Treasurer is Lieutenant-Colonel T. G. Chambers, M.C., Royal Signals, commanding 4th Training Regiment.

Finally, as I, myself, had the pleasure of commanding the Boys' Company from 1930 to 1932 I am very pleased to launch this appeal and hope there will be a prompt and generous response.

(Signed) H. E. RANCE, *Major-General.*
1st June, 1958.

Up to 8th August, 1958, the Honorary Treasurer had received £64/10/9.

This is about half the total that was expected and all are asked to draw the attention of Ex-Boys and others to this appeal.—Ed.

U.K. COMCAN SIGNAL REGIMENT

R.H.Q. and 1 Squadron. The improvements to Robiniswood Barracks continue to proceed rapidly. Already lino has been laid in every barrack hut, new and larger stoves have been installed and the reconstruction of the ablution blocks throughout the barracks ensure that everyone now has showers and baths almost on his doorstep.

Under the watchful eye and guiding hand of Sergeant "Jock" Grant, of the A.C.C., the Mess Hall is run on competent lines. The food, which is excellent, with many choices at each meal, has already been the subject of an article in the *Gloucester Citizen*, where it was compared favourably with that in any of the larger local restaurants.

On the cricket field our teams added fresh laurels to their unbeaten record, and we now meet our old rivals, the Depot Gloucestershire Regiment in the semi-final of the District Cup.

With the Soccer season just around the corner, several of our "pros" have begun to do good work in preparation. They must keep this up if they are to beat the Depot of the Somerset Light Infantry this year.

Badminton and Basketball are in full swing and with the arrival of W.O.II Robertson, A.P.T.C., physical fitness is receiving a boost.

Our congratulations go out to all members of the Squadron Shooting team for their fine performance at the Royal Signals Southern Command Rifle Meeting held at Bulford on 15th and 16th June, 1958. Special mention may be made of Corporal Cole who gave us third place in both the Champion Team and the Henry Whitehead Cup and of Signalman Quale who helped us into second place for the Roupell Cup and Roberts Cup and of Captain Rose, team leader, for his shooting in the Parachute Regiment Cup when the Squadron team was placed third. Our thanks to all of them for a very fine effort.

We have said "Good-bye" to Captain Goodsir after a long and useful career in 1 Squadron. We are going to miss his wonderful grasp of the M.M.L. and his local knowledge (particularly of the local police) which got quite a few people "out of the cart."

However, he hasn't left the Regiment—only to 3 Squadron—so we hope to see quite a lot of him in the future.

As we go to press, it is learned that Signalman R. W. Smith of this Squadron has been selected as a member of the four-man Army Cycling Team taking part in the "Tour of Scotland" Competition from 23rd to 25th August.

2 Squadron. Our congratulations to Corporal and Mrs. Malcolm Kemp on their marriage, which took place at Lincoln on 2nd August. Corporal Kemp, who was with the Squadron for some time, is now on the instructional staff at the School of Signals.

It seems inevitable these days for us to be saying good-bye to a member of the Squadron. This time we have two departures to report—W.O.II W. Bibby leaves us this month to take over as R.Q.M.S. at Catterick. The best of luck in your new job.

To W.O.II (F. of S.) John Dods, who is leaving the Army, we would like to offer our best wishes for the future.

Capt. Moss was the proud winner of our last Unit Snooker competition which calls to mind an item from one of our previous contributions to THE WIRE when winners of snooker competitions were linked with the phrase "mis-spent youth."

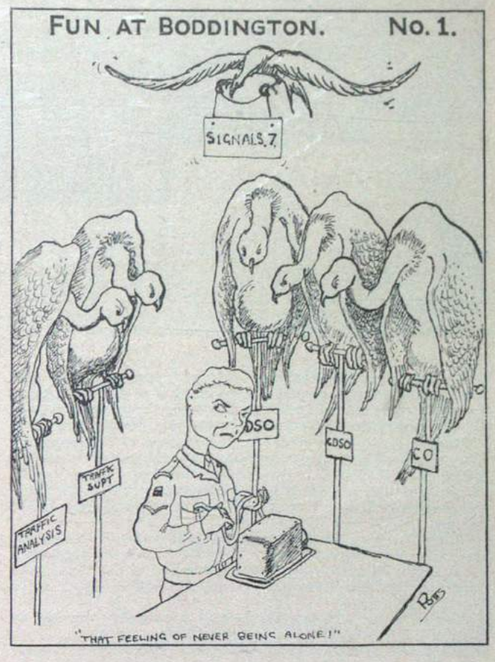
Oakhanger Det., 4 Squadron, U.K. Comcan Signal Regiment. We are just settling down to routine again after the yearly upheaval of Administration, being very pleased to receive a personal letter of congratulation on our report from the G.O.C. Aldershot District.

Since late 1957 this detachment has had no less than three changes of command. The latest to whom we extend our welcome is Captain Hild, who has come to us from the Temple of Signals, Catterick.

Our sporting activities have been of a largely local nature. Staff Sergeant Pocock being successful in keeping six-a-side Football alive all through the summer, viewed with some distaste by the cricket purists. The latter having played some enjoyable games with the local village and camps in the vicinity not forgetting our friendly skirmishes with Squadron H.Q.

Last month the new Sergeants' Mess was well and truly opened with assistance ably and thirstily rendered by our friends from the Squadron "Sharp End."

The Stork has visited two of our families since we last went to press, to Coroporal Bradford a son, Peter Anthony, and to Corporal D. Jolly, a daughter, Jennifer.



WAR OFFICE SIGNAL SQUADRON

This Squadron has been jogging along quietly since the last notes. There have really been only two items of interest. In March/April of this year there was a sudden rush of recruits for employment as Civilian Telecommunications Operators; as a result of this, the rundown of the Unit on civilianisation is being speeded up and, with luck, the Unit will be down to its basic establishment in the autumn.

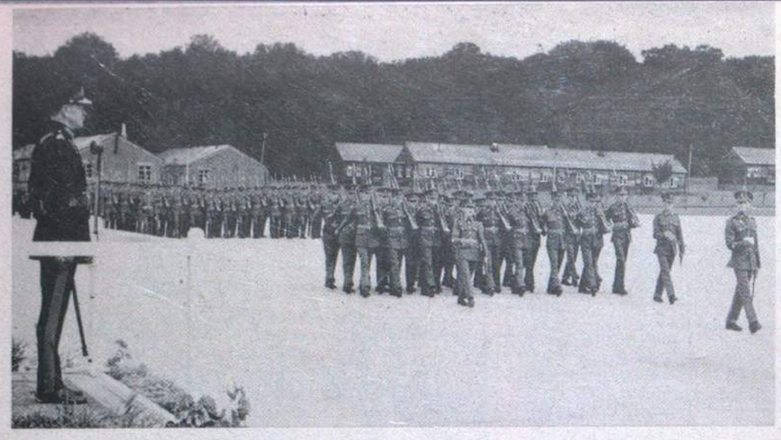
The second event of interest was the visit to the Unit, on Friday, 11th July, 1958, of Major-General E. S. Cole, C.B.E., Director of Telecommunications, to present to Staff Sergeant Johnson of the Unit, a well-deserved Meritorious Service Medal. It was a pity that Major-General Cole was only able to spend a very short time with Squadron, but by scraping the barrel, it was possible to put on a parade of some 60 all ranks, followed by a quick tour of the camp.

CORPS PICTURES

Photographic reproductions of the three Corps Pictures, "*THROUGH*," "*MENIN GATE*" and "*THE CABLE WAGON*," 18" x 24" with 3" white margin, may be obtained from Captain L. N. Lloyd, 36, Hampton Road, Worcester Park, Surrey, price £2/15/- each. The increased price is due to the new postage rates.

Captain Lloyd can also supply similar-sized reproductions of "*BURIED CABLE*," but as this was copied from the original oil-painting, it requires a large amount of retouching by hand, the extra cost of which has brought the price up to £3/10/-.

Specimen copies of all four pictures may be seen at Association Headquarters, 88, Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1.



JUNIOR LEADERS REGIMENT

☆

Presentation Parade — The March Past
Inspecting Officer Major-General E. S. Cole, C.B.E.

A stillness lies over Denbury. The rush and excitement of a near end of term is over. The planning and the frustrations, the conferences and competitions, the reports and the rehearsals, all are finished and only echoes remain—the Boys are on leave.

Major-General E. S. Cole, C.B.E., Director of Telecommunications, spared time from his many pressing duties to present Trophies and Awards at the end of term Presentation Parade. Despite the weather which hampered preparations, he was able to congratulate the boys on a very high standard of turnout and bearing.

Thirty-two boys leave us this term to go to man's service and we wish them every success. They have been replaced by a recent input of 43 boys to Recruit Troop, and the Regimental boys now number some 350 strong, the highest figure for a considerable time.

Another event of importance which has marked this end of term is the marriage of Major T. G. H. Jackson, M.B.E., Commanding No. 1 Squadron, to Miss Janet Maddicott. To bride and groom we extend our congratulations and very best wishes for their future happiness.

Some of the highlights of the summer term are illustrated in the accompanying photographs. The term has been very full and outside activities have been curtailed to some extent by bad weather, although our major parades have gone on, and the record of never being rained-off summer presentation parade remains unbroken.



Rock Climbing



The Inspection by Major General E. S. Cole, C.B.E.



Summer Camp



Major General E. S. Cole, C.B.E. and J./R.S.M. Francis



W.O.I (R.S.M.) Thompson, M.B.E.—Major General E. S. Cole, C.B.E.

EUROPE

18 ARMY GROUP SIGNAL REGIMENT

The last few weeks have been very full ones from all points of view. July and August are all too frequently dull months, meteorologically as well as materially, but if they have maintained the condition known as the "English summer," they have at least provided a variety in other directions.

On a Sunday towards the end of July, the City of Essen Police held their annual Sports Show at a stadium in town, and by invitation the Regiment took part. This annual event is in fact much more of an entertainment spectacle than a sports meeting, and the number of serious athletic events is strictly limited. Our team was entered for the 8 x 400 metres obstacle relay race, in which the other competitors were teams from the *Luftwaffe*, the Police and the Fire Brigade, and for a tug-of-war against the Police.

The relay race started with the first string lying in bed. They had to dress, clear a 9ft. wall and negotiate a narrow plank before handing over to the second string, whose obstacles were a 25ft. scaffolding structure and a low wire netting obstacle to be crawled under. There was tremendous excitement and the Police and Fire Brigade fought a neck-and-neck duel for first place. The reader will appreciate that the obstacles were those which both of these services would be trained to take in their stride, and this is literally what the firemen appeared to do, notably in clearing the 9ft. wall. In the end they beat the policemen by, maybe, a foot. A second duel was fought, but at a progressively lengthening distance from the first, between the Regiment and the German Air Force team, and it is pleasing to be able to report that the Regiment won this one to be placed third. Unfortunately, a sudden torrential thunder storm flooded the stadium shortly after this and the show had to be abandoned before the tug-of-war team had a chance to show their worth.

The Nijmegen Marches are well established as an annual event and the following members of the Regiment took part this year:

Lieutenant F. R. Fletcher, Staff Sergeant Instructor Mitchell, A.P.T.C., Sergeant Porter, Corporals Long and Mallender, Lance-Corporal Moore, Signalmen Allcock, Cain, Foulkes, Matheson and Roberts, Driver Gagan and Craftsman Borthwick.

The whole thing is a test of endurance and is non-competitive. All who complete the course receive a medal and a team medal is awarded in addition if the whole team stick it out. The test involves marching 25 miles a day (within an 11-hour period) with a load of 22lb. The routes—different for each day—start from and end in the town of Nijmegen in Holland, and for the best part of a week the town is *en fête*. On the last day of the Marches the teams mostly stop just outside the town and give themselves a special smartening up for the final stretch through the packed town to the Wetren Field, which is the official finishing point. It is quite a sight to see some of the Army teams marching in at attention in No. 1 Dress with a Band at their head, and if our own team did not achieve—or attempt—this degree of elegance, it is to their credit that they earned a team medal for the Regiment and finished with only five blisters between them.

Visitors both official and private have been exceptionally numerous recently. Parents, of course, have predominated amongst the private visitors, but other relatives of various degree have also defied the dirt of the *Ruhrgebiet* and have seen for themselves how we live. As for official visitors, Colonel R. G. Miller and Major P. A. M. Tighe have called on us, separately, from the Signals Directorate at the War Office, and we have seen Mr. C. Myers, from the Signals Research and Development Establishment, as well as a couple of members of a well-known firm of cable manufacturers.

A few weeks ago we were asked by the British Forces Network whether we could, at very short notice, let them come to the Regiment and run a light-hearted Quiz Show as a live broadcast. Thus it was that on the 6th August the weekly programme in the series "It's Up To You" was presented from Meanee Barracks, Essen-Kray. The two teams were formed from two members put up by each Troop, the taller of each pair going into the "Longs" and the shorter into the "Shorts." An occasional substitution was made, for variety, by replacing a member so selected by his wife. Nearly everybody managed to answer his question and so have the record of his choice

played, and the result was a widely ranging selection of records and an overall win by the "Shorts." Some 150 people contributed by their laughter and applause to what was quite an enjoyable evening.

During the last month we have lost our official photographer with the posting of Regimental Quartermaster-Sergeant Conlon to the Far East. A keen and competent photographer, he has been responsible for nearly all the photographs which have illustrated our contributions to THE WIRE over the last year or so. He covered with his camera all Regimental activities, from formal visits and inspections to athletics meetings, with the result that we have a good pictorial record of our activities over quite a period. We wish him and Mrs. Conlon good luck for the future and hope that we shall be fortunate enough to find someone else with as keen a sense of the photographic point of view to take R.Q.M.S. Conlon's place.

In closing, we record with pleasure the award to Signalman Lydiate of British Army of the Rhine Colours for cross-country running. Congratulations!

19 ARMY GROUP SIGNAL REGIMENT

Although the months of May and June are generally associated with fine weather, and such entertainments as is afforded by open-air sports, the recent widespread deluges—more reminiscent of a monsoon—have done their best to bring all sporting activity in this area to a complete standstill; undoubtedy statisticians—amateur and otherwise—will produce figures to show that June this year has been the wettest for years and once again another "met." record remains to be surpassed.

Despite the wet—and it might well be written in capital letters—our representatives have had varying fortune in the athletics contests, Rhine District Individual and Inter-Unit Championships in which they have participated. Prior to this, however, the annual St. Tonis versus Rheindahlen Regimental meeting took place on the Garrison Sports Ground on 3rd May; as well as affording a first class afternoon's entertainment it serves as the ideal manner by which to form the nucleus of the unit's team. As in last year, Rheindahlen survived a strong challenge to defeat our compatriots in a contest only decided in the closing events. Having seen our athletes in action we were fairly confident of winning the first Garrison Sports Meeting to be held here: came the day and with it a torrential downpour resulting in a postponement until the end of July.

Following this came the Rhine District Individual Championships, as a result of which five of our team qualified for the B.A.O.R. Individual Championships in Berlin: they were Lieutenant A. R. Bushell (440 hurdles), Second-Lieutenant C. Hamblin (880 yards), Second-Lieutenant R. Wilson (220 yards), Lance-Corporal Westerman (shot) and Lance-Corporal Horspool (high jump).

On a first class track and, for once, in fine weather, Lieutenant Bushell qualified for the Army Championships at Aldershot, being "pipped" into second place by a fifth of a second. Competing at the meeting held on 26th/27th June he was once again beaten by his victor in the B.A.O.R. Championships, Lieutenant Bullock of the Devon and Dorset Regiment; to the winner and our representative go our warmest congratulations.

Competing on the 20th/21st June in the Rhine District Inter-Unit Championships held at 17 Vehicle Battalion, the team did not live up to our expectations. Although we registered wins in the middle distances we were far below par in other events and could only take sixth place out of the seven teams competing.

The Regiment entered two teams ("A" team—R.S.M. Holdsworth, Staff Sergeant Copestake, Corporal Hill and Signalman Stewart; "B" team—W.O.I Cowsill,, Staff Sergeant Seaman, Sergeant Mercer and Signalman Smith), in the Royal Signals, B.A.O.R. Rifle Meeting at Bruggen Ranges from 14th-17th May when, in fairness to the hard work put in by many un-named members of the Regiment, we had a large hand in the organisation of the shoot.

Although no outstanding results were reported the "A" team won the Championships, with Signalman Stewart, now released, attaining the highest average shot in both teams. R.S.M. Holdsworth, Staff Sergeants Seaman and Copestake and Corporal Hill have gone forward to compete at Bisley.

As mentioned in our previous notes Lieutenant Willingale attended the Army Fencing Championships at the Royal Tournament in Earls Court, and was beaten for third place in the semi-final pool of the Epee by the then current holder.

A parade of 1 and 4 Squadrons was held at St. Tonis on the 12th June in honour of Her Majesty's Birthday. The parade



was commanded by Major E. J. Buirski, and inspected by the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel P. W. Lonnon, M.B.E., before a march past at which the Commanding Officer took the salute.

Members of the T.E. Troop, not least Lance-Corporal Catterall were elated to note the latter's recent "promotion" in the June issue of THE WIRE. Was it this that caused the Editor to submit "Notes for the Guidance of Aspiring Contributors"? His comments have been noted and the position is now regularised.

It is rumoured that the P.R.I. amongst many other things, is considering running a bus trip to London following several successful trips to neighbouring countries. No dearth of applicants is likely to be forthcoming. The comments of a harassed Liverpool Street R.T.O. on being told "I've missed the last bus home" leave much to one's imagination.

Three teams from the Regiment entered for the 42nd Four Day Nijmegen Marches. Although the marches are not designed as a competitive race, the course and conditions are quite gruelling.

Teams march a distance of 50 kms. daily on four different routes and each march must be completed in 11 hours.

The teams all successfully completed their marches and were awarded a team plaque and each individual of the team received a medal. Only two members of the three teams failed to complete the course. Although they were willing to continue the Dutch Medical Officer had the final say.

Lieutenant A. R. Bushell was awarded his B.A.O.R. athletic colours for 1958.

2 L. OF C. SIGNAL REGIMENT

R.H.Q., 1 and 2 Squadrons (Krefeld). Recently, our Annual Administrative Inspection preparation has been casting a gloomy shadow on the Regiment, but on the day this proved to have been time well spent. Suffice it to say, that we are now back to normal with the TWO "W"s no longer receiving top priority, i.e., weeding, and working parties!!!!

Even so, we have competed in Athletics and other sports, and although sadly depleted in our available sportsmen and athletes due to courses, leave and exercises, we have continued to compete although success has not been too prominent.

The Rhine District Inter-Unit Athletics Team Championships were held under most trying conditions both for competitors and officials, and rain persisted throughout the whole meeting! The Regimental team found itself the holders of the wooden spoon at the Final Whistle, however, it must be emphasised that this was NOT due to lack of trying, but to the excellence of the competition. Particular mention must be made of the very fine effort by Signalman Osborne (3 Squadron), Signalman Baggott (3 Squadron), Signalman Howard (2 Squadron) and Sergeant Lambert (2 Squadron) in reaching the "A" Final of the 4 x 440 team race. Our Field team did quite well and we achieved second place in the following events: Hammer, High Jump and Discus, and third place in the Long Jump and Javelin.

Our congratulations to 1 Wireless Regiment on their extremely

good performance in the track events and their success in winning the Rhine District Inter-Unit Athletics Match.

The weather recently has been varying from cold and rainy to rainy and cold!! However, the sun does appear occasionally, and on such occasions, the Garrison Swimming Pool, which is situated in Bradbury Barracks, is popularly subscribed. Swimming is now becoming a popular recreation here in our open-air pool, and is also taken seriously by some, namely Signalman Green, Whitehouse and Moran, who entered recently in the Rhine District competitions (coming fourth in two cases and the race being scratched in Moran's case due to insufficient entries). Also, a water polo team is being trained and Corporal Shaw, Corporal Dockray, Signalmen Green, Heslop and Moran are all practising hard under the direction of Major Smith and Staff Sergeant Powell, A.P.T.C.

Our Cricket team continues to battle on against the inclement weather. One of the team recently complained that although he always scored at least one run per innings (up to present), he was worried about this "Duck" business! On investigation, he was found to be suffering from "Webbed feet"—presumably through paddling around in the outfield!! The R.M.O. also suggested that people ought to stop calling him "The Quack" as this "Duck" business was getting him down too!!

3 Squadron (Emblem). The keynote to the Squadron's activities this month has undoubtedly been one of recreation with, of course, our usual fair share of P.E. test training and drills.

First, however, let us turn to the more mundane happenings in and around Grobbendonk during the last month. The first of these was the very successful C.I.V. Inspection, immediately after which, our M.T. Sergeant, Sergeant Filder, disappeared for a few days to B.M.H., Munster. (Recuperation?) Our forms of recreation this month have continued as ever, with particular emphasis on athletics and basket ball. Sunbathing has been one of the pastimes we have not so far indulged in for reasons which must be obvious to everyone stationed here.

Possibly the highlight of our recreational training was a trip organised to the Brussels Exhibition, which entailed the use of a civilian coach, this being by far the most convenient way of travelling a distance of fifty miles.

Since the writer was present on this trip it falls to him to record something of the Fair, mainly as first impressions. Obviously the external features of the pavilions are the most striking part of the Fair, and from this point of view, the American Pavilion excels, although it is rather a disappointment when one enters. The exhibits appear to be scattered about with little or no resemblance of order but individually they are well worth seeing.

A short walk to the Russian Pavilion, and the atmosphere changes radically to one of awe, since dominaing ALL in this vast pavilion, is a huge statue of Lenin who looks impassively down on huge chunks of machinery which, sad to say, "left the writer cold"!! Shades of Siberia!!

The British, on the other hand, have omitted basic machinery, but instead, have models showing machinery in its context, as is shown in the models of the Dounreay Atomic Station and the "Heart and Lung" machine.

A brief glimpse of one or two of the smaller exhibits and a refreshing, if expensive, pint of beer in the Britannia Inn completed a very enjoyable day for everyone.

4 Squadron (Bielefeld). Life has been generally rather quiet at Bielefeld this month, in spite of (dare one say, because of?) the abence of the O.C. in Catterick, Staff Sergeant Edge on leave in Austria, and W.O.IIs Dibley and Tuley, together with most of the senior N.C.O.s, on various courses elsewhere in Germany. Major Knott has now returned, fully genned up on the army of the future, and one by one the others are reappearing in their accustomed places. Gradually life returns to a normal condition.

Normal conditions have also prevailed in the weather, which has generally consisted of torrential rain, interspersed with periods of near-heatwave conditions, such we envied (momentarily) the lot of these "Sharp-End" units disporting themselves on a week exercise. One of these brief sunny periods, remarkably enough, coincided with the Whitsun break, and helped to make a success of an expedition to the local spa of Bad Salzuflen, where in the intervals of entertaining the natives with skiffle and consuming a considerable proportion of the canteen's liquid assets, we swam, boated, or just relaxed in the park's "pseudo-Southern" atmosphere, produced by a cunning combination of brush-wood and sea-water.



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!

M E L F

51 INDEPENDENT INFANTRY BRIGADE SIGNAL SQUADRON

"No news is good news" is an old adage, and there has been none from us for several issues of THE WIRE. The main events can be divided into Training and Inspections, Internal Security Duties and Sport.

During the Spring, training for all our various roles continued unabated, and the Squadron covered quite a large part of the Island when it was at its best. This period culminated in a visit from the S.O.-in-C., about which much has already been written, suffice it to say that we believe he liked what he saw.

Shortly afterwards the communal disturbances started and we have been flat out ever since. For 10 weeks we provided the normal Brigade communications, manned a 24-hour road block, provided mobile patrols for the R.M.P.s and an I.A. Squad. (A description of an incident at the road block is contained elsewhere in this issue). Sleep was at a premium, but such was the spirit of a job well done, that the majority of these details were found from volunteers. With the arrival of reinforcements from the U.K., we were able to hand over our I.S. duties and concentrate on providing communications for incoming units, which is no less a task.

In spite of the work, sport has not been neglected. Our chief achievement was to enter a team for the Cyprus District Pentathlon Competition. The competitors had to ride a motor cycle, run two miles across country in 14 minutes, fence, swim 200 yards (against the clock), and shoot with a pistol. Sergeant Hope, Corporal Richardson and Lance-Corporal Osborne were our volunteers. There were 10 teams altogether, six of which were major units. Our aim in entering was not to be last—we finished seventh—and great credit is due to these three in their efforts to train for a competition and events of which they had no previous experience. Sergeant Hope and Corporal Richardson are entering again next year.

We have an excellent cricket team this year, and in the Cyprus District Squadron Knockout Competition, we are through to the semi-final.

As from the middle of August, we shall have two Amateur Wireless Stations in action, with call signs ZC4WW and ZC4XX. Any contact, on 10, 15 and 20 metres will be welcomed.

As was said at the beginning, in spite of the uneasy political situation, "no news has been good news."

Road Block Duties in Cyprus



On the night of 11th/12th June, 1958, 51 Independent Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron were ordered to establish a road block two miles north of Famagusta in order to enforce the curfew. Staff Sergeant J. R. Cooper was detailed as N.C.O.-in-charge, and with him were Lance-Corporal Rose, Signalmen Jones, Hogg, Tawse, Taylor, Willshaw, Drivers Baker and Mennell. These nine men established a road block with two Land Rovers and a coil of dannert wire, and took up positions to prevent the road block from being charged.

At this time the intercommunal riots were in full swing, and both Greeks and Turkish Cypriots gathered into gangs, on the slightest provocation, for their mutual protection. The curfew was imposed to prevent incidents.

At about 2330 hours, the sentry saw headlights approaching and the guard stood to. The vehicles halted, but then came on to the road block where they were stopped. There was a private car, followed by a van, three buses and two 3-ton lorries. Each bus and lorry contained about 30 Cypriots, many dressed in their night attire, and all carrying offensive weapons, which they brandished from the windows. There were 180 altogether, and all in a high state of excitement. Staff Sergeant Cooper realised the seriousness of the situation and ordered the guard to go, one man to each vehicle, and make as much noise as possible in ordering the occupants out, so as to make the guard appear larger than it was. The Cypriots dismounted and were ordered to throw their weapons into a pile. The weapons were found to include axes, hatchets, sheath knives, clubs, garden and pitch forks, crowbars, lengths of piping, heavy cranked spanners, and specially lengthened torches.

The Cypriots were then ordered to lie face downward and were searched. They were divided into two groups of those with and without Identity Cards. In due course the Civilian Police Mobile Reserve arrived and the 180 Cypriots were handed over to them for detention.

Each of the guard afterwards admitted that they were scared stiff at the time, but their collective courage, and through the planning and commendable orders given by Staff Sergeant Cooper, what would have been a very unpleasant incident, involving casualties, was brought under control.

The tale has been told many times over by those taking part, and it certainly produced a long list of volunteers for such duties.

This is not an isolated incident, for the Squadron has done many other duties of a similar nature, over and above their normal communication responsibilities, and once again shows the elasticity of the Corps.

TRIPOLITANIA SIGNAL SQUADRON, M.E.L.F.

Tripoli, no doubt, brings back some pleasant memories to a lot of "Old Soldier" types of the Corps who were perhaps stationed here during World War II. We, who serve now, in this Arabian Metropolis, introduce ourselves. We are known as Tripolitania Signal Squadron, Commanded by Major L. Beaumont; Captain H. K. Witt (ex-Indian "B" Corps, Karachi) is our Second-in-Command; S.S.M. "Pip" Young (ex-India, etc., etc.) takes care of the Squadron discipline; whilst the communication side is in the capable hands of W.O.II (Signal Centre Superintendent) Batram. Our remaining seniors are S.Q.M.S. F. Stringer, Sergeant Cadman (been here too long), Sergeant T. Burke, Sergeant F. Hughes (Chief Clerk), Sergeant J. Cullen, Sergeant Bendall, R.E.M.E. (who has just joined us from Malta).

A very small staff to cope with extensive communications and onerous duties, but we manage.

Welfare and sports facilities are really first class. On our doorstep we have a cricket ground, swimming pool and tennis court. Further afield, at Piccola Capri, on the Tripoli-Sabratha road there is an excellent Officers' Club, W.O.s' and "Joes," and an O.R.s' Club, with a small beach and beach huts. Here, too, there is limited accommodation for families on leave. Swimming facilities are varied and numerous along the coast, and "shuftiscopes" and harpoon guns are in constant use. Fishing is not as good, due mainly to explosive "hooks" used by Arab fishermen.

Thanks to the American Forces network, we have television in the Squadron, all "canned" TV, but nevertheless, very acceptable. Where *did* our TV receiver come from? Can some ex-members of the Squadron help?

I will not bore you with our prowess at cricket, let it suffice to say that we are in the middle of a league of seven teams.

AGONY COLUMN: "Pip" Young would like to hear from the following:

"Joey" Done, "Spike" Hewitt, "Ginger" Hankin, Ben Spall, Duggie Young, George Evans. (All ex-"B" Corps Signals, Karachi, 1936/38).

WHAT WE WOULD LIKE TO KNOW:

Where are the big guns Army Sport, who are prominent in the Corps Diary:

C. A. Smith	Tennis
"Tubby" Cant	Tennis
M. Shardlow	Tennis
W. M. Cotterell	Running
Jimmy Emblem	Boxing
Bert Beale	Swimming

What are they doing now, Mr. Editor? Can we see some photographs?

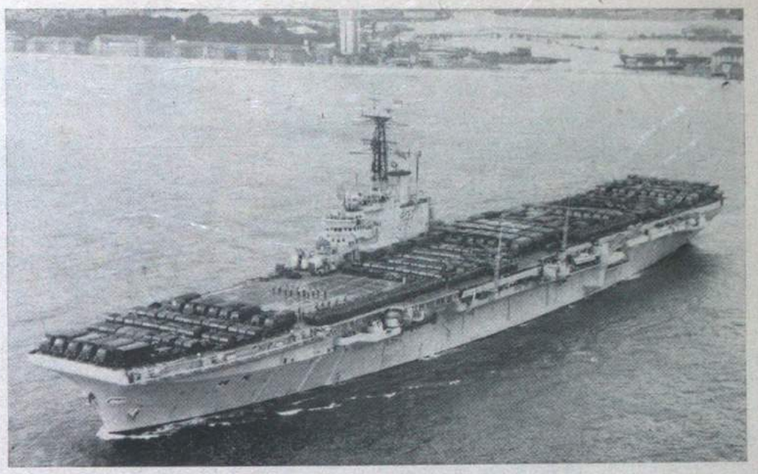
Those named and others please provide news and photographs.—Ed.

BLUE BOOK

A few copies of the 5th Edition of the Blue Book corrected to May, 1958 are still available at 88 Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1. Price 2/6d.

3 Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment

☆



H.M.S. "Albion" leaves Portsmouth with a full load. On the foredeck is the Royal Signals element of Tac H.Q. 3 Division

Well! Well! Well! Who would have thought three weeks ago that the Regiment would now be in Cyprus?. It has been an eventful period.

As the Middle East crisis developed the wires started humming in earnest. In a matter of days a large Tactical H.Q. was on its way by sea and air. Meanwhile back in Sabraon Barracks pressure of work reached fever pitch; stores into boxes, boxes into vehicles, the issue of khaki drill and mosquito nets, the arrival of reinforcements, and of course outside the M.I. Room, a queue of men all rolling up their left sleeves. No praise can be too high for Lieutenant (Q.M.) R. S. Etherington and his staff who, under conditions of strict peace time accounting, accomplished a monumental task and with unfailing good humour.

Soon the main body of the Regiment was being called forward for air movement, while the vehicles and drivers proceeded to the port. During this period it was a common sight to see small groups listening with heightened interest to the old hands whose reminiscences were concentrated for a change on Cyprus at the expense of more outlandish parts.

The Regiment now finds itself established in Episkopi where G.H.Q., and G.H.Q. Signal Regiment in particular, have received us into their Messes and Canteens and have indeed proved worthy hosts. In place of Sabraon Barracks we now have a line of tents and the Reema Factory Hall, lately used as a gymnasium. Within this hall the regiment lives and has its being, but the scene might remind the visitor of a busy London station. R.H.Q. is established in accommodation formerly allocated for toilet purposes; squadrons have their office tables and stores in the main part of the hall; at the far side the Quartermaster has a railway through his premises—surely a unique example of labour saving devices put to a good use; and round the corner (?) Major Jarvis and his pay clerks do their best in spite of all. "Noise while you work" is provided by the L.A.D. constructing an imposing armoury out of bits and pieces.

Of personalities we have noted the second-in-command, Major Waite, surveying the scene at Episkopi as he recalls his previous tour as C.S.O., Cyprus. Captain (T.O.T.) Pritchard who remains cheerful in all adversity. The Adjutant trying to cope with paper work while the unit office is on the high seas (we do not mention his name as there are four adjutants and we get a bit confused). Captain Bolt who stands happily in several fathoms of water. And, of course, Major Barrett, O.C. 1 Squadron, who, with another officer, demonstrated that the unscaleable cliff path at the back of the Mess is really quite easy given the right degree of physical fitness and determination. The activities of the W.O.s and Sergeants will be reported in the next issue.

On Saturday, 3rd August, the Regiment was honoured by a visit of the Commander-in-Chief, who, accompanied by the Divisional Commander and the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel M. D. Price, O.B.E., inspected the tent lines and the Reema Hall. While on the subject of tent lines it is rumoured that the W.O.s and Sergeants are fitting an early warning system to their approaches.

Speculation on the future occupies plenty of time, particularly amongst those with families in Colchester. Two months is the forecast of Shahab Din, our contractor, who is usually infallible in these matters. However, your present contributor deputising for W.O.II Kennedy, who is on the high seas, expects to be home himself much earlier and therefore takes this opportunity to wish the Regiment the very best of luck in the future.

MALTA, G.C.

The social event of the last month has been the celebration of the anniversary of the Corps' "birth" with our parents the Sappers. In addition to the normal officers' guest night the day included a cricket match. We are glad to report that on this occasion the children won the "fathers' match" by a comfortable margin. As a point of interest, the two opposing captains—Lance-Corporal Packham and Sapper Hayden—at other times play on the same side in the Malta Army team; a few days later, in fact, their bowling helped the Army to beat the R.A.F. by five wickets.

The Guest Night followed the normal course, although neither Corps having a Mess entirely on its own the event was held in the Marsa Club.

Malta Signal Squadron

We have not appeared in THE WIRE for some time, so a few details about the Squadron may be of interest.

The Squadron is the oldest and original Signal Unit on the Island and nowadays is responsible for all Army and Royal Air Force landline communications on the Island. We also maintain a number of submarine cables in the harbours and offshore. From all this one might think that our sole topics of conversation are db's and PG's; on the contrary, we are equally at home in H.F. and V.H.F., having a fairly large wireless commitment within the Island as well as all the other small jobs that go with what is really a small Command Signal Unit.

The military personnel of the Squadron are partly U.K. and partly local enlisted Maltese. We also have a large civilian element, some of whom have been with the Squadron for over 20 years, and have an almost embarrassing knowledge of every cable in our extensive UG system.

Malta offers almost unlimited scope for summer sporting activities. We have weekly cricket and water-polo fixtures, and many of the Squadron have taken up underwater fishing—we even saw an aqualung in the T.O.T.'s office the other day. Lance-Corporal Packham, mentioned in connection with cricket above, is to be congratulated on having now represented the Army here at football, cricket and athletics.

Ex members of the Squadron will be glad to know that 'Blue' is well up to standard, and that the grapes in the Cable Yard are doing nicely this year, thank you.



Signalman Black, our TV personality! This scene has now been televised in FIVE different countries, including America



Almost our only visitor from the outside world, C.S.O. M.E.L.F., Brigadier C. D. Gardiner, talking with the Squadron Commander Major G. Peat, Captain M. U. Ryan and Signalman Black

Amman, Jordan, and the Parachute Brigade are synonymous in the minds of the public at the moment. And with the Parachute Brigade is, of course, the Signal Squadron.

On Friday, 13th June, the Brigade was warned to move to Cyprus and by 18th June the Squadron was complete, less rear party, in Cyprus. We took over a stretch of sand, formerly the cricket pitch of the Grenadier Guards, and built our camp, erecting everything from wash-stands to basketball pitches. Personal initiative was the order of the day and nobody failed the test. When the camp was complete all thoughts turned to training, both fitness and technical and some very successful Exercises were held throughout the length of Cyprus.

We had come to Cyprus ostensibly to reinforce the Security Forces, but in fact to prepare for further operations. Where or what? We were not long left in doubt. At 02.30 hours on 17th July we were warned for Jordan and at 05.00 hours on the same morning the first aeroplane took off for Amman with elements of Brigade H.Q., including Major Gordon Peat, who incidentally took over the Squadron the day before we left England, Corporal Easter, a second wireless operator, one radio technician—and a WS 52. They landed at Amman Airfield, obviously somewhat unexpectedly and were stared at rather hard by some rather suspicious foreign soldiery. The aeroplanes following had all been turned back over Israel and the Tactical Brigade H.Q. was left feeling, as they put it, rather lonely.

However, all was well, the airlift was resumed and meanwhile 20 minutes after landing on the airfield Corporal Easter made contact with Cyprus, a no mean achievement at the best of times but an even greater achievement when he was found to be suffering from a combined attack of dysentary and malaria. He eventually collapsed on the set and had to be taken to the local hospital. Communications were maintained and within 24 hours the Squadron, less yet another rear detail and the 1st Battalion The Parachute Regiment Royal Signals' detachment, was complete on Jordan soil.

In such a situation as this the communications problems were not easy. At only half-strength in operators, we supplied the equivalent communications of a Divisional H.Q.—a tremendous achievement by a hard working bunch of operators who, despite the rough conditions, sometimes worked up to 12 hours at a stretch on a set. Needless to say they could not keep up this strain and were reinforced over a period of two-and-a-half weeks by most of 2 Medium Wireless Troop, which has now taken over the greater part of the Signal Centre working and rear link communications.

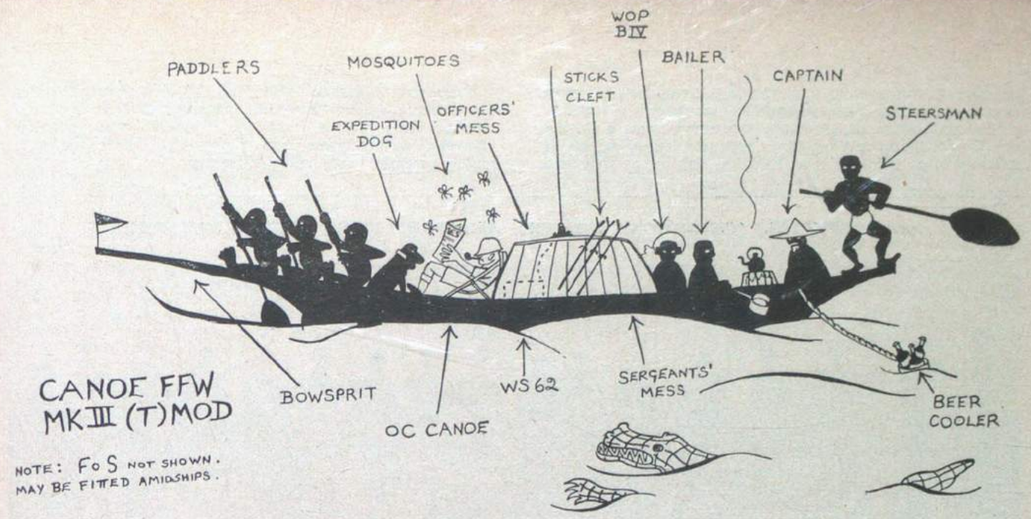
At the moment of writing, the next step is anyone's guess. The Squadron's morale is extremely high and, as always, they are ready for anything anywhere. We are prepared to accept a few more of the Corps' best and can promise them never a dull moment! The latest latrinogram is "Home for Christmas," but no-one is yet prepared to say which year.



W.O.I McKirgan, Radio Technician, works in conditions not conducive to a sense of comfort and well being

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THE NIGERIAN SIGNAL SQUADRON

In the Northern Region of Nigeria, on the banks of the River Niger, there is a small clearing which is a French "enclave." This is the site of a former French fort, but the only traces of military activities there now are the grave of the fort commander and the gun-metal bracelets worn by the women of a nearby village.

On the 21st May, 1958, a small detachment of the Nigerian Signal Squadron was sent to locate the grave and—carrying out a long standing agreement with the French Government—to make sure it was in good repair. The way to the grave lay 300 miles by road up-country to Bussa, a trading village on the Niger, then 100 miles down the river by canoe to Jebba. The grave was known to lie opposite a small island downstream from a village named Bajibo.

On Empire Day the schoolchildren of Bussa and the village's local (three-man) police force were holding an athletics meeting and drill display for the Emir of Borgu, whose palace is in Bussa, and the District Officer. The Detachment arrived in time to watch the displays and hear the speeches and after the show was over the Emir agreed to provide a canoe and its crew and a messenger to take the river party to Jebba.

The boat with its four paddlers and Baba, owner and captain, an old man with a wrinkled face, a grey beard and a twinkle in his eye, set off at dawn the next morning. The military members of the party were Second-Lieutenant G. J. Bennett, Staff Sergeant (Foreman of Signals) D. G. Willis, Signalmen Momo Zaria, David Opara and Sebastian Eze.

The first day's journey down river was the longest and swiftest; the river ran through narrow, rocky channels and was dotted with scores of islands. About 20 miles downstream the canoe began to quicken speed and the paddlers had to do little more than guide it on its course in the centre of the current. After two miles of this the canoe swung round a 90-degree bend and the water ahead tumbled over the first set of rapids. The Baba had travelled this way since boyhood and, shedding his enveloping outer garments and enormous straw hat, he took a pole and guided the boat through the deepest parts. At this time of year—the end of the dry season—the level of the water was at its lowest, and despite the crew's efforts the canoe scraped bottom, lurched to starboard and stopped. The paddlers wasted no time, but leaped overboard and heaved the boat off the rocks—its solid wood bottom was luckily undamaged.

There were one or two lesser rapids to shoot before the expedition finally emerged into quieter waters and there were no further incidents before they arrived at Awuru, a tiny village of Borgu people on the west bank of the river. Here the water was so shallow that the large canoe could not be floated over the rocks, so the party had to trek across country to the next village, leaving the canoe behind, and with the entire population of Awuru carrying their equipment "for head" (including a wireless set 62 and two 100lb. batteries).

The next day the Baba commandeered a second (and smaller) canoe and constructed an awning amidships. One Wireless Operator was remustered as a bailer on the spot. Now the river spread out and the paddlers had to work harder. On two wide stretches hippopotamuses were seen and now and again a grey snout would push itself above the waterline and the shout would go up "Look sah, na crocodil!" The paddlers gave both these animals a wide berth.

Finally, as the sun began to sink, the village of Bajibo was seen, at a place where the river widened into a calm and quiet stretch half-a-mile broad. There was a travellers' rest house at Bajibo, whose caretaker, an aged leper, kept a tattered visitors' book, started in 1932, and with only a handful of entries. This was an unexpected luxury, although water still had to be fetched from the river, filtered, boiled and sterilised, and a crowd of village women turned up to watch morning ablutions in baths canvas collapsible.

The third day, aided by the invaluable boat crew, the expedition crossed to the other bank of the river, found a landing place and followed a path through the bush which led direct to the grave—a simple slab with a small granite cross and the inscription:

Ci Git
Leboulanger E. A. F.
Lieut. D'Artillerie Coloniale
Décédé à Badjibo le 28.11.1903
Né le 14.1.75
Ecole Polytechnique le 17.10.96
Sous Lieut. le 25.9.1900
P.P.L.

The grave stood in a small clearing on the high bank of

the river, surrounded by thick jungle. It was certainly most beautiful, but one of the unhealthiest places in the world.

Having located the grave the expedition spent a further day investigating the country around Bajibo, which is sparsely inhabited, and apart from the fish in the river and the duiker and guinea fowl in the bush, has little to offer the African. The following morning, the last tin of sausages having been fried, the blue and white pennant fluttered bravely again from the prow of the canoe as it glided towards Jebba and civilisation.

No. 2 SPECIAL (CHRISTMAS ISLAND) AIR FORMATION SIGNAL SQUADRON



Back Row, Left to Right. Driver Johnson, Signalman Muskett, Signalman Johnson, Signalman Antliff, Signalman Little, Lance Corporal Grange, Driver Ward, Signalman Gaffney, Signalman Bark, Driver Attwood, Lance Corporal Ferguson, Signalman Poulton, Driver Candy, Signalman Sara, Lance Corporal Bailey, Driver Thomas.
Centre Row, Left to Right. Lance Corporal Morvan, Lance Corporal Smallridge, Signalman Powell, Signalman Penn, Signalman Wilkinson, Driver Thomas, Lance Corporal Reilly, Signalman Potts, Signalman Bray, Signalman Henderson, Driver Pilkington, Signalman Clark, Signalman Johnson, Lance Corporal Welland, Signalman Tyreman, Signalman Warren, Signalman Satterly, Signalman Jones, Lance Corporal Reid.
Front Row, Left to Right. Corporal Jewiss, Corporal Johnson, Sergeant McKie, Lieutenant (TOT) C. Brodley, Captain R. B. Carroll, W.O.II. F. of S. Soward, Sergeant Jamieson, Sergeant Malone, Corporal McGreggor, Corporal Cooper.

Since our last contribution to THE WIRE many changes have taken place. In March most of the old faces who arrived last August finally got off the island, much to their surprise. Major Morrison followed in April and is now in Germany, where we hope he is enjoying himself. The Officers' Mess bar stewards are interested to know if he still uses his double-sided coin in attempts to double his already double gin! At the time of writing Cyril Brodley is returning to U.K. via Australia. So many people said he would be off-loaded in Beirut rumour has it that the mysterious package he departed with contained one of the island's precious tin hats. Talking of Australia, Driver Morgan seems to be making a good job of keeping his aircraft unserviceable down there and is now in his second extra week of leave. Most of the Squadron, including the O.C., have had a spell of leave in Honolulu, the Paymaster will readily confirm. It is hoped to start a Fiji leave scheme in the near future.



Sergeant McKie with the catch of the month

At the time of the Squadron photograph Lance-Corporals Hunt and Riley were in Fanning Island as rear-guard of a larger Squadron party which had an enjoyable return trip on one of H.M. ships.

Lance-Corporal Hunt, however, is shown assisting our "Yellow Line Taxi" boys, alias "The Choppers," in practising their rescue procedure.

Sergeant McKie distinguishes himself with the best catch of the month in the ever-contagious disease of fishing. The fish shown is an Aloha, weight 66lb. Lance-Corporal Mesher and his radio relay boys in B.A.O.R. are probably saying what a tiddler compared with their catches at South-East Point. This one, however, was caught on a rod and not by the deadly combination of butcher's hook, D8 cable and vehicle rear axle!

Finally, we send best wishes to all old members of the Squadron and we hope that they have not told 4 Training Regiment what we use for a flagpole.



Lance Corporal Hunt performing the Indian Rope Trick (Christmas Island version)

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

During the last two months, the Regiment has been very much involved in T.A. Golden Jubilee Celebrations, both in London and locally. At the Royal Review in Hyde Park, we were represented in the Southern Command Contingent by a detachment of 25 all ranks under Captain E. H. Robin, O.C. "K" Troop. In spite of the torrential rain, the general opinion of those who took part was: "I wouldn't have missed it for anything!" Someone nearly did—who was the N.C.O. in "H.Q." Squadron who was found *asleep* in the changing tent only minutes before the parade formed up?

Local celebrations have also been held. 1 Squadron (Exeter) and "L" Troop (Plymouth) both attended local church parades, followed by "Open" Days at their T.A. Centres. "H.Q." and 2 Squadrons attended a County Church Parade in Wells Cathedral. 2 Squadron also had a most successful "Open" Day with a very good display designed by Corporal Sharkey. The Mayor of Bridgwater honoured us with a formal visit and sent a message of greeting to the Mayor of Exeter by wireless. In the evening, a most successful Jubilee Ball was held.

"H.Q." and 2 Squadron again combined in a parade in Taunton, inspected by the Mayor of Taunton, at which 4/5 Somerset Light Infantry presented a piece of silver to the Mayor and Corporation to mark the Jubilee Year and its long association with the Borough. This was followed by a march-past through the town, at which the salute was taken by the Mayor. The Royal Signals contingent, mounted in vehicles, made a fine showing. 3 Squadron (Bristol) joined in an all ranks' T.A. ball. "J" Troop, in Salisbury, attended a church parade at which the salute was taken by the Lord Lieutenant, who presented Lord Lieutenant's certificates for Meritorious T.A. Service to S.S.M. Jolliffe and Corporal Callaway.

An ingenious and attractive recruiting display was provided by "H.Q." and 2 Squadron for the Bath Tattoo, which brought in many visitors. Members of "K" Troop (Bristol) also took part in a most spectacular tableau representing the T.A. over the last 50 years.

Such have been the various means whereby the unit has helped to celebrate the T.A. Jubilee. Now we take a breather before annual camp in September. Meanwhile training, in preparation for the trade board at camp continues, and our numbers continue to swell satisfactorily.

54 (E.A.) INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT (T.A.)

Crowborough is a name well-known to the older members of the Corps. From July, 1958, it will be well-known to all members of this Unit, for it was there that our annual camp was held. On 12th July, The Regiment arrived in The Warren Camp, ready for anything. A rather mixed bunch this year, some with rows of campaign stars, and some with only three weeks T.A. service behind them. When R.S.M. Kempton, our new R.S.M., had finished work on the latter, they were difficult to discern from the former!

After settling in, and general preparation over the first weekend, we really got down to Individual Technical Training, using the extremely good facilities already installed by the sponsor unit, Eastern Command Signal Squadron. The results of this training can best be assessed by the figures of passes at the Trade Board, which was the culmination of this phase of training. Even Signalman "Joskins," the amazing trainee who turned up at various lectures, etc., thinks he may have obtained the rating "Actor, Class III."

As a break from the classrooms, the Regimental Rifle Meeting was held on Wednesday, 16th July. This was the only event which was spoiled by the weather, and the meeting had to be curtailed. We can say, however, that Signalman Mann won the individual honours and that Norwich produced the winners of the team event.

On Thursday, the Officers' Regimental Guest Night was held, and Major-General F. R. Moore, C.B., C.B.E., and Brigadier W. R. Smijth-Windham, C.B.E., D.S.O., A.D.C., the Chief Signal Officer, Eastern Command, were among those guests who saw the Honorary Colonel of the Regiment, Colonel R. A. Helps, O.B.E., M.C., D.L., present a magnificent silver bowl to the Mess to mark his 10 years as Honorary Colonel.

On Saturday, recreational training permitted almost the whole of the Regiment to visit the seaside resorts nearest the camp. We merely record there were no casualties on either side!

After a Drumhead Church Parade on Sunday, the Regiment indulged in one of its favourite pastimes, which is becoming a camp tradition—the Motor Cycle Trial. It was encouraging to find that there were over 40 entrants prepared to have a go at a rather tricky course of eight observed sections, which had been laid out at Pippingford Park. After some very close competition, Corporal Stephens won the individual award and Bedford the team trophy.

Monday, the 21st, was a really "big" day. Besides the Command and Regimental Trade Board, we were honoured by a visit from the Representative Colonel Commandant Major-General R. F. H. Nalder, C.B., O.B.E., who braved the inclement weather to meet a really representative cross-section of the Regiment at work.

The Regimental Sports Meeting, on the afternoon of 22nd July, were held under somewhat strained circumstances. Firstly, because of the threatening weather, and secondly, because at their conclusion the Unit was due to move out on a four-day exercise, about which there had been some strange rumours.

The exercise, in fact, was the highlight of camp. The whole Unit was dumped on the Sussex beaches, without transport, and told to assault the high ground north of Eastbourne, in an attempt to open a bridgehead. After the all-night march, during which many people found their map-reading a little rusty and their feet a little sore, the Unit transport, and a magnificent breakfast, ready to eat, were indeed welcome sights. Some eight hours after "landing" on the beaches, the normal Divisional Communication network was opened and remained so until the end of the exercise on Friday. There is no doubt that "Bootlace" will remain a memory of 1958 camp, long after many of the other events have faded.

Now that we are safely back at our T.A. Centres, we look forward to a busy winter polishing up the little rusty spots which our training has revealed. Next year we will take roller skates to camp—just in case!

Signals in Southampton

Territorials of Royal Signals and members of the Southampton Branch of the Royal Signals Association turned out in force in helping to make a great success of the Southampton T.A. Golden Jubilee Parade on 5th July.

After a tea party in the Guildhall as guests of the Mayor of Southampton, Alderman R. R. H. Hammond, O.B.E., J.P., the largest assembly of T.A. troops seen in the town were inspected by the Lord Lieutenant of the County, the Duke of Wellington.

The Parade marched through the town, under the famous Bargate, to the Civic Centre, where the salute was taken by the Duke of Wellington. Mechanised Units depicting the old and the new T.A. followed the marching contingents.

The crowds lining the route were particularly appreciative of the Signals representatives, a strong force from 10 A.S.S.U., men and women marching together from 2 Squadron, 63 Command (M) Signal Regiment, the W.R.A.C. (T.A.) Band of 2 Squadron—looking extremely smart in their No. 1 Dress—and the contingent of the Southampton Branch of the Association.

In the mobile column, Signals were well represented, with displays of many modern vehicles from the two local Squadrons, and by the Old Comrades manning a World War I cable laying waggon and a bull-nosed Morris containing a No. 1 set.

The honour of sharing in the Golden Jubilee Parade dated from 1920, for it was in that year that a handful of men from the Southampton Head Post Office set about the task of forming the first Signals T.A. Unit in the town. In one small room in Hamilton House, Commercial Road, No. 2 Company, 43rd Wessex Divisional Signals was born.

Captain Austin Grist, O.B.E., M.C., now an Alderman in the Isle of Wight, was the O.C. and C.S.M. Dickinson, C.Q.M.S. Coombes, Sergeant Cole and Sergeant Hoare formed the nucleus of this Company. They had an uphill task to overcome the apathy of that immediate post-war era, but with the help of their first P.S.I., C.S.M. Zach Baker, B.E.M., recruits and equipment soon came in. By 1926 the Company was well up to strength and with good foresight had formed a Boys' Squad. Many of these boys were to become senior N.C.O.s in the years that followed.

An eventful year was 1930 when the Unit became mechanised, and the Okehampton Camp that year, with no stable fatigues, will be well remembered.

During the depression of 1932 the Unit was one of the few

that undertook training at a voluntary camp with restricted pay and allowances.

What a keen Company it was. From 1937 there was a waiting list for vacancies!

In 1939 Major F. E. Moules, T.D., then a Captain, and 43 Other Ranks left the Company to form part of 5 A.A. Divisional Signals at Fareham. Despite this loss, the Company strength was not only restored, but with the duplicity of the T.A., a second Company (No. 3 Company) was formed and up to strength within six weeks.

The 43rd (Wessex) Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A., was then commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel E. R. Moore, of Salisbury, with No. 1 Company at Salisbury, commanded by Major (now Lieutenant-Colonel) Clifford Howarth, and 2 and 3 Companies at Southampton, commanded by Major Jerry ("Winklepin") Flemming and Major Stuart Bridgwater respectively.

The 1939 annual training camps of both the A.A. Signals at Fareham and 43 Divisional Signals at Corfe Castle were interrupted by the imminence of World War II. The A.A. Signals were immediately operational. The Terriers of 43 Divisional Signals were mobilised at Salisbury and after training at Mere, Wilts, the Unit was organised and equipped for operations in Norway and moved to Scotland. But only a small part of it had embarked before the British troops were evacuated from Norway. It was with some embarrassment that the return to Mere was made, but those friendly Wiltshire people were delighted. Later, in South-East England, the Unit played a valuable part in providing communications for the defence of the U.K. against the threat of invasion. Then, in 1944, it took part in the Normandy landings and saw bitter fighting in the Bocage country and in the famous battles of Hill 112, Mount Pincon and the closing of the Falais Gap. During these and many other operations and until its disbandment in Germany around VJ-Day, the Unit was commanded by one of its pre-war Territorials, Lieutenant-Colonel M. Trethowan, O.B.E., of Andover.

It was a great pity that when the T.A. was reconstituted in 1947 no part of this fine Divisional Signals was re-formed in Southampton, where so many men had done so much to enhance its glory and, furthermore, who would have been ready and willing to enlist again as Territorials. Many valuable volunteers were lost because of this.

As it was, a great many keep Territorial friendship alive in an active Royal Signals Association, under the chairmanship of Major John Taylor, T.D., and hold regular meetings at the Black Horse Hotel, Church Street, Shirley, Southampton, where ex-Signals Bill Frost is Mine Host to greet them. Their able Secretary, Mr. A. F. Fuller, M.M., of 54, Gordon Avenue, will gladly supply details of the annual dinner and other functions to any old or serving members of the Corps.

The reconstitution of the T.A. in 1947 did, however, give the town two large Signal Squadrons, namely 10 Air Support Signal Unit and 2 Squadron, 63 Command (M) Signal Regiment, T.A. These two Squadrons, who live side by side at Blighmont T.A. Centre have a lot to offer the young men and women of Southampton, and it is hoped that many who read the notes that follow will encourage young people to join them.

10 A.S.S.U.

Air Support Signals, or A.S.S.U. as it is usually known, is a comparative newcomer to the order of battle of the Territorial Army, having existed only since 1947. And it was in that year that 10 A.S.S.U. was raised in Eastleigh, its present Commander, Major N. T. Warren, M.B.E., T.D., being the first member. It was in 1949 that the Unit moved to its present home, where better garaging facilities for its many technical vehicles were available.

A.S.S.U. has its origins in the studies made after the campaigns in France and Belgium in 1940, which had shown the great advantages accruing to the Germans from close air support to their mobile columns. The first British trials took place in November, 1940, and one of the Officers who took part in the trials is the present C.O. of 10 A.S.S.U. (T.A.).

The official history of Royal Signals in the Second World War states: "During the War, Air Support grew up from virtually nothing to be one of the most potent war-winning factors. Its success was dependent, perhaps more than in any other activity, on the efficiency of communications." Air Support was perhaps of the greatest importance in amphibious operations, and in the D-Day landings in Normandy the A.S.S.U. wireless circuits were accorded the highest priority of any Army wireless channels in the allocation of equipment in Headquarter ships."

By the end of the War A.S.S.U.s existed in all theatres and built up a considerable reputation for their efficiency and ability to keep their communications through, no matter how difficult the conditions.

Although the introduction of tactical nuclear weapons and changes in Army organisation have brought many new problems to A.S.S.U. in the past year or two, the efficiency of communications remains the same important task, a task managed confidently by this virile, experienced and enthusiastic Unit.

The Officer Commanding, Corporals Sapsard and King are pre-war Territorials, and until his retirement recently S.S.M. Charlie Ray provided another link with the horse drawn cable waggons of the early Hamilton House days of the T.A. Yet another link with the past is the Second-in-Command, Captain John Clifton, whose father was the pre-war Adjutant of 43 Divisional Signals.

2 Squadron, 63 Command (M) Signal Regiment, T.A.

Originally formed under Major F. E. Moules, T.D., as an Anti-Aircraft Signal Unit, this Squadron has had many rôles and changes of designation.

Its formation in 1947 was something new for Signals, for it was the first of the Mixed Territorial Units and very quickly proved a great attraction to the young women of the town. Within a year the female element was up to strength and the Squadron was in the fortunate position of having a waiting list of girl recruits.

The male side did not materialise so soon but helped by many wartime Signallers and a large percentage of pre-war Territorials it rapidly became an efficient Signal Squadron.

The "Mixed" Unit was a success and a great team spirit was soon built up, capable of performing not only its rôle of that time—the operating of the complex communications of an Anti-Aircraft Operations Room, but also of winning the Regimental Sports Trophy for five years running.

In 1950 the present O.C., Major W. H. Mullineaux, T.D., took over command and steered the Squadron through the difficult days of the disbandment of A.A. Command to the present rôle of operating the Command communication network.

Changes in personnel have, of course, taken place since the early days and changes in establishment have caused many vacancies still to be filled. But there are still many who were in at the beginning and who served with the Terriers before the War—the Officer Commanding, the Second-in-Command, Captain W. Loveless, T.D., Captain A. Gollop, S.S.M. L. Wrixon, R.Q.M.S. N. Rodaway and Sergeant W. Briers. Another stalwart was Sergeant H. Katon, who served the T.A. loyally from 1923 until his retirement from the Squadron in 1954.

The enthusiasm of the popular Sergeant Major, S.S.M. Wrixon, will be sadly missed when he leaves the Squadron shortly on posting overseas.

Amongst the many fine ex-Gunner Terriers who elected to serve with the Squadron are the members of the W.R.A.C. Band. These girls have the distinction of being the only W.R.A.C. Signals Band in the country, and great demands are made on their time at this period of the year to play at all sorts of functions.

Another brand of music is supplied by Maestro Tex Southgate, whose long rhythmic recitals give great pleasure, particularly at annual camp, an occasion for which this Squadron and 10 A.S.S.U. are now busily preparing.

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24 ARMY TROOPS SIGNAL SQUADRON, ARMY EMERGENCY RESERVE

This is probably the first time that this Unit has burst into print, but it is hoped that we may now be reported more regularly. A.E.R. Units in general do not have a great deal to record between their annual camps, which, of course, are the "highlight" of the year. We have just completed our camp at Blacon, near Chester, and for the second year running we were attached to 22 Army Signal Regiment.

Our time was chiefly spent in technical training, consideration of the problems involved in atomic warfare and a wireless/line Exercise covering Cheshire and part of North Wales. We were fortunate in our choice of weather for the Exercise and a really interesting time was spent in setting up and manning the radio relay and carrier terminals. An interesting feature was the appointment of "umpires" at each of the main detachment sites, although these unfortunate types had to bear temporarily with the unofficial titles of OGPU, M15, snooper, etc. However, they were able to give valuable and constructive criticism at the "inquest" which was held after the Exercise.

For the first time a Squadron small bore shoot was held and this was won by Lieutenant A. Greenhalgh, with Second-Lieutenant H. Bambridge and Corporal A. Dodds second and third respectively.

We congratulate Second-Lieutenant H. D. P. Bambridge on his appointment to commissioned rank, also Captain A. Greenhalgh, Sergeant P. Dight, Corporal C. Curtis and Corporal A. Dods on their promotions. Now that camp is over and the winter season will soon be upon us we are concentrating on administration and recruiting. We extend a welcome to anyone with experience in the various Signals trades, for we have plenty of vacancies and many ranks to fill. If you would like to have details please write to Major I. B. Jones, 8, Horsecombe Brow, Combe Down, Bath, Somerset.

WELFARE SECTION

Below an attempt is made to describe, with suitable anonymity, nine cases taken from the Welfare Section files concluded during the first week in August, 1958. Also on this page is a simple statement of income and expenditure.

Signalman 1920-31. (Previous Service, Duke of Wellington's Regiment, 1910-15). Married. He is aged 66 and been ill for a long time. Both the Duke of Wellington's Regiment and Royal Signals contribute to extra nourishment for him.

Signalman 1951, Serving. Very seriously injured in an accident, and his parents received assistance in the very considerable expense of being near him in hospital.

Corporal 1943-46. Married, three children. His wife has been ill almost continuously since 1949, and incurred debts unknown to her husband. The Royal Army Pay Corps, in which he had previous Service, the A.T.S. Benevolent Fund, because of his wife's Service, and his own Association all combined to extract the family from the mess they were in.

Corporal 1944-48. Married, two children. He had just become "self-employed" as a consultant, when he and both children were discovered to be tuberculous. The fund agreed to pay the weekly premiums on a number of very important insurance policies, until his affairs could be straightened out a little.

Signalman 1942-46. Married, one adopted daughter. He is 100 per cent disability pensioner. The fund paid part of the cost for him to have a holiday at a seaside nursing home, and for his wife and the daughter to have a much-needed day's outing while he was away.

Signalman 1950-56, N.S. and A.E.R. Married. Three children. He has been ill and in hospital for a long time, and the Association made a large grant to his wife to pay off arrears of rent.

Widow of Corporal 1932-45, who died in 1956, leaving her with three children, one earns. The British Legion and the Association helped her to move from Prestatyn to Workington, where he has family and friends.

Mother of Signalman, who died while serving, was helped to cost of his funeral. The parents are elderly and have other children to bring up.

Corporal 1952-58. Single. Leg amputated following accident. Association and British Legion helped to cost of convalescent holiday.

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION AND BENEVOLENT FUND

The following subscriptions were most gratefully received during July, 1958:

	£	s.	d.
School of Signals	14	0	0
2 Training Regiment	28	7	6
3 Training Regiment	14	16	6
4 Training Regiment	24	17	9
5 Training Regiment	32	0	0
7 Training Regiment	41	9	1
Royal Signals Display	50	0	0
C.S.O.'s Branch, H.Q., Northern Command		10	0
Northern Command Signal Squadron	5	7	0
D. and M. School, R.A.C. Centre		7	6
M.E.S./S.R.D.E.	1	10	4
Signals Branch, School of Artillery	1	0	0
U.K. COMCAN Signal Regiment (1 Squadron)	9	5	7
U.K. COMCAN Signal Regiment (3 Squadron)	2	5	3
U.K. COMCAN Signal Regiment (4 Squadron)	6	7	10
12 Command (M) Signal Regiment, T.A.	3	0	0
4 Independent U.K.L.F. Reserve Signal Squadron, T.A.		4	6
Signal Wing, School of Infantry		11	6
2 (London) Signal Regiment, T.A.	4	4	0
Depot Regiment	10	2	7
U.K. COMCAN Signal Regiment (2 Squadron)	4	10	0
Western Command Signal Squadron	4	10	0
1 Special Communications Signal Troop	2	11	0
1/20 (SM) Army Signal Regiment, T.A.	4	0	0
42 (Lancs) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A.	1	7	0
53 (W) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A.	1	10	0
North-West District Signal Regiment, T.A.	2	10	10
107 (U) Independent Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron, T.A.	6	10	0
Scottish Command (M) Signal Squadron	7	13	6
Scottish Command (M) Signal Regiment, T.A.		10	10
52 (H) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A.	3	1	7
20 Armoured Brigade Group Signal Squadron	2	1	0
18 Army Group Signal Regiment	25	3	9
2 Divisional Signal Regiment	25	0	0
4 Divisional Signal Regiment	165	16	4
5 Divisional Signal Regiment	70	0	0
1 Corps Signal Regiment	38	2	8
2 L. of C. Signal Regiment	15	16	3
2 T.A.F. (Independent) Air Formation Signal Squadron	7	0	0
1 Wireless Regiment	27	14	0
Hong Kong Signal Regiment	8	14	4
3 G.H.Q. Signal Regiment	28	10	0
3 Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment	56	9	6
51 Independent Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron	1	11	0
15 Signal Park Troop	1	5	0
Total receipts	£762	5	6

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION WELFARE SECTION

The following donations were most gratefully received during July, 1958:

	£	s.	d.
2 (London) Signal Regiment, T.A. (Sergeants' Mess)	2	0	0
St. Martin's Church (Catterick Reunion collection)	40	4	10
Capt. W. F. H. Herdon	1	0	0
Major F. C. Forbes		4	0
H. R. Wilkinson, Esq.		2	6
Total receipts	£43	11	4

EXPENDITURE DURING JULY, 1958 ... £556 8 9

(Includes: Rents and Rates; Beds and Bedding; Furniture; Cots and Prams; General Assistance).

Analysis of Cases:

Families of Soldiers serving in U.K.	3
,, ,, ,, ,, ,, FARELF	1
Widows and dependants	2
Released and discharged Soldiers	52
Total cases assisted	58

30 cases of Soldiers who served during the 1939/45 War	£365	18	2
28 cases of Soldiers who did not serve during the War	190	10	7

The following goods are available from Association Headquarters:

Corps Paint Transfers:		
"Jimmy"—on background of Corps Colours (each)		
20" x 15"	10" x 7 1/2"	7 1/2" x 5 5/8"	3 1/10" x 2 2/5"
4/-	3/-	2/8	1/6
Mounted on black plastic (each)			
8/6	4/9	4/-	—
Corps Ties—Reppe			5/6	
Heavy Weave			7/6	
Woollen			8/6	
Terylene			11/-	
Corps Scarves—Rayon Squares			21/-	
Cravats—Reppe			21/-	
Corps Cuff Links			7/-	
Association Buttonhole Badges or Brooches			3/-	Members only
Association Blazer Badges (Silver "Jimmy" on a shield of Corps Colours, as approved by the Corps Committee)			25/-	Members only
Blazer Buttons—Large (each)			2/3	
Small (each)			1/8	
Motor Car Badges (enamelled in Corps Colours)			35/-	
Motor Cycle Badges (enamelled in Corps Colours)			17/6	
Corps Plaques			26/6 Plus postage	
Corps Diaries (available each year between November and February. Apply to Headquarters for Order Form).				

PLEASE SEND CASH WITH ORDER for all the above articles *except* Corps Paint Transfers, for which an account will be forwarded.

ROYAL SIGNALS OFFICIAL CHRISTMAS CARD

A folding card with fully coloured Royal Signals Crest and reproduction in colour of H.R.H. The Princess Royal, each in envelope.

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10/9d. per dozen — Home. (Price includes Purchase Tax).
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Signed Official Order or Cash with Order. (Order Forms from Gale and Polden Ltd., or Royal Signals Association, 88, Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1).

Bisley 1958
The Army Hundred



The four Royal Signals firers who qualified for the Army Hundred Cup. *Left to right :* Corporal A. Hill, 19 Army Group Signal Regiment, Captain F. W. Oakes, 4 Training Regiment, Lieutenant-Colonel E. W. Townsend, War Office, Major C. V. Walsh, HQ Southern Command

Corps Rifle Meeting, 1958

The meeting was held at Bulford on 17th, 18th and 19th June.

Ninety competitors, including teams from B.A.O.R., the Training Brigade, Western Command, Northern Command, Southern Command and N.I.D., competed. The matches fired were: The Roupell Cup, The Henry Whitehead, The Roberts Cup, The Methuen, The Para Regiment Cup (Sub Machine Gun).

The weather was reasonable, except on the last afternoon, when rain and wind made conditions distinctly unpleasant and, as a result, scores were much lower than on the previous two days.

It was most gratifying to see the keenness of competitors and the general improvement on the 1957 standard of shooting. The A.R.A. scoring system has undergone a change this year, but, by reducing last year's scores to the new system, interesting comparisons are:

(a) ROBERTS CUP In 1957 there were three competitors with scores of 70 or higher. This year there were 16.
(b) HENRY WHITEHEAD In 1957 there were four competitors with scores of 110 and higher. This year there were 28.

This improvement indicates that the Meetings are, in fact, achieving their object of raising the standard of shooting within the Corps.

The Training Brigade team did extremely well in winning four of the five matches, and Captain Oakes, the Team Captain, is to be congratulated on this fine performance. B.A.O.R. won the other match and Southern Command, feeling the unexpected loss of the good shots in the 16 Parachute Brigade Signal Squadron, could do no better than finish second in two matches.

Lance-Corporal Dean of the Training Brigade was a worthy Champion Shot, with a winning margin of 18 points. Lieutenant Halford, who also shot well in 1957, finished runner-up. There were a number of other individuals, all fairly young, who also confirmed their form of the previous year and who will form the backbone of Corps shooting in the years ahead.

While the Stats Staff completed their work, after the last match, an impromptu falling plate match was arranged between teams representing each Command, the Training Brigade and the School of Signals and, in addition, a team of Warrant Officers Class I, and a Lieutenant-Colonels' team. The Lieutenant-Colonels' team was disposed of in an unceremonious manner by the Training Brigade in the semi-final, but they themselves were unexpectedly beaten by the School of Signals in the final.

Last year there was only one Challenge Cup, which was presented to the Champion Team. This year there were four additional challenge cups for the winning teams of each match, except the Methuen. The cups have been named:

The Champion Team Trophy, The Catterick Cup, The Maresfield Cup, The Signal Officer-in-Chief Cup, The Colonel Commandant's Cup.



Mrs. Cole presenting the individual prize to Lieutenant-Colonel H. J. Thompson, O.B.E.



WINNERS SMG MATCH—CORPS RIFLE MEETING 1958
Training BDE Team. *Left to right :* Sergeant R. Dunkley, 2 Training Regiment Captain F. W. Oakes, 4 Training Regiment, Captain J. H. S. Weston, 7 Training Regiment, Captain J. Tate, 4 Training Regiment

To add some social life to the occasion, the officers of Southern Command gave a cocktail party in Kiwi Mess on 18th June.

Major-General E. S. Cole, C.B.E., Brigadier M. G. A. Hepper, C.B.E., and Brigadier F. W. P. Bradford, M.B.E., attended the meeting on the last day and, in a rain storm which rather damped the proceedings, Mrs. E. S. Cole presented the prizes.

Prizewinners were as follows:

Match 6 (Roupell)			
Winning Team	B.A.O.R.	Score	709
Winner Class A	Staff Sergeant Copestake, B.A.O.R.	Score	95
Winner Class B	Lance-Corporal Veaney, B.A.O.R.	Score	100
Match 7 (Henry Whitehead)			
Winning Team	The Training Brigade	Score	886
Winner Class A	Lieutenant-Colonel, Thompson, Southern Command	Score	126
Winner Class B	Lance-Corporal Dean, Training Bde.	Score	123
Match 8 (Roberts)			
Winning Team	The Training Brigade	Score	524
Winner Class A	Lieutenant Halford, School of Sigs.	Score	82
Winner Class B	Lance-Corporal Dean, Training Bde.	Score	90
Match 30 (Methuen)			
Winning Team	The Training Brigade	Score	1,168
Winner Class A	Captain Wright, B.A.O.R.	Score	163
Winner Class B	Lance-Corporal Veaney, B.A.O.R.	Score	156
Match 25 (Para Regiment Cup)			
Winning Team	The Training Brigade	Score	300
Winner Class A	Major Walsh, Southern Command	Score	83
Winner Class B	Corporal Cole, Southern Command.	Score	69
Champion Shot	Lance-Corporal Dean, Training Bde.	Score	460
Runner-Up	Lieutenant Halford, Schools of Sigs.	Score	442
Champion Team	The Training Brigade	Score	3,349

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CHAMPION TEAM
Southern Command Mobile Signal Squadron

Royal Signals Southern Command Rifle Meeting

The meeting was held at Bulford on 15th and 16th June. Forty-eight competitors and six teams competed.

The move of 16 Parachute Brigade Signal Squadron deprived the meeting of 16 keen and competent competitors, who, the previous year, had won the team championship and three of the four matches fired.

This year the matches fired were: The Roupell Cup, The Henry Whitehead Cup, The Roberts Cup, The Parachute Regiment Cup, The R.U.R. Cup.

The weather was fine throughout and there was little wind, making conditions almost perfect for good shooting. Scores were reasonably good and the standard was slightly higher than in 1957, which indicates that the meetings are achieving their object of improving the standard of shooting within the Command.

The Mobile Signal Squadron had things pretty well their own way in winning one match and finishing runners-up in the team championship. Of the young soldiers, Signalman Foster of the Mobile Signal Squadron did exceptionally well in winning two Class B individual events and finishing runner-up to the Champion Shot. Mention must also be made of Corporal Williams, of 47 G.W. Signal Troop who, with practically no training, managed to win the Class A award in one match and finish well up in the other three rifle matches.

Snap shooting and rapid, although showing a slight improvement on last year, were again the downfall of many individuals. This is a weakness which team captains should concentrate on during the coming year. *Continued on page 294.*



The junior leaders regiment team and winners of the sub machine gun match

The falling plate match was, as usual, full of interest for both competitors and spectators. The less-fancied Mobile Signal Squadron No. 2 Team surprised the Junior Leaders Regiment in the semi-finals and completely stole the show in the final by beating their much-fancied No. 1 team. They managed to knock down their last three plates with one volley, whilst the opposition tried in vain to knock down their one remaining plate.

Mrs. F. W. P. Bradford presented the prizes.

Prizewinners were as follows:

Match 6 (Roupell)

Winning Team	Southern Command Mobile Signal Squadron.
Winner Class A	Major Walsh, Southern Command Mobile Signal Squadron.
Winner Class B	Signalman Quayle, 1 Squadron, U.K. Comcan Signal Regiment.

Match 7 (Henry Whitehead)

Winning Team	Southern Command Mobile Signal Squadron.
Winner Class A	Major Walsh.
Winner Class B	Corporal Cole, 1 Squadron, U.K. Comcan Signal Regiment.

Match 8 (Roberts)

Winning Team	Southern Command Mobile Signal Squadron.
Winner Class A	Corporal Williams, 47 G.W. Signal Troop.
Winner Class B	Signalman Foster, Southern Command Mobile Signal Squadron.

Match 25 (Paratroop Regiment Cup)

Winning Team	Junior Leaders Regiment, Royal Signals.
Winner Class A	Major Walsh.
Winner Class B	Signalman Foster.

Match 24 (R.U.R. Cup)

Winners	Southern Command Mobile Signal Squadron "A" Team.
Runners-up	Southern Command Mobile Signal Squadron "B" Team.

Champion Shot	Major Walsh.
Runner-up	Signalman Foster.
Champion Team	Southern Command Mobile Signal Squadron.

ROYAL SIGNALS WATER POLO

The first series of four matches was played off between 9th and 13th June. Dates, opponents and results are as follows:

9th June	City of London Police	—	Won	12—0
10th June	Aldershot District	—	Drew	5—5
11th June	Shell Petroleum Co.	—	Won	8—0
12th June	Plaiston's Ltd.	—	Lost	1—3

The second series of four matches was played off between 7th and 11th July. Dates, opponents and results were as follows:

7th July	R.E.M.E.	—	Won	14—10
8th July	Aldershot and Farnham Borough A.S.C.	—	Drew	3—3
9th July	R.A.M.C.	—	Won	12—0
10th July	R.M.A., Sandhurst	—	Won	16—3

Mention should also be made of the outstanding success attained by Royal Signals players at the Northern Command Water Polo Trials, which were held at Shute Road Swimming Bath, Catterick Camp, on 4th June, 1958. Every player chosen by the Selection Committee to represent Northern Command, was a member of Royal Signals; and, in fact, constituted to a man, our present Corps Team. That alone, speaks volumes for the keenness and fitness of the individuals who are:

W.O.I (F. of S.) R. W. Foakes	1 Training Regiment (Team Capt.)
Corporal G. Stockdale	1 Training Regiment
Corporal R. Winters	7 Training Regiment
Lance-Corporal N. McGrail	1 Training Regiment
Signalman E. Motley	1 Training Regiment
Signalman H. Heatley	Royal Signals Wing
Signalman A. R. Porter	1 Training Regiment
Signalman A. Miller	1 Training Regiment

Three members of the team have also been selected to represent the Probables versus Possibles in the Army Water Polo trial match at Woolwich on 13th August, 1958, namely:

Lance-Corporal N. McGrail	1 Training Regt., Royal Signals
Signalman A. R. Porter	1 Training Regt., Royal Signals
Signalman E. Motley	1 Training Regt., Royal Signals

In addition to the aforementioned matches, the Corps Team also played against Leeds University, at Shute Road Bath, Catterick Camp, and Loughborough College, at Loughborough, on 19th and 26th June, 1958, respectively. Results of these matches being:

v.	Leeds University	—	Won 5—0
v.	Loughborough College	—	Won 8—6

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When replying please indicate for which of the above you are interested and state details of education, qualifications and experience to :—

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THE WIRE

THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE

The Official Organ of the Signals Association

Editor:
BRIGADIER H. R. FIRTH

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☆

OCTOBER • 1958

Vol. 12. *(New Series)* **No. 10**

Editorial

COLONEL M. W. EMLEY, O.B.E., T.D.

IT was with sorrow that the September number of THE WIRE recorded the death of two of those revered elders who in their respective ways did so much to carry the reputation and ideals of the Signal Service Royal Engineers through into the new Corps of Signals. Such was Colonel M. W. Emley, O.B.E., T.D., whose career parallels that of Colonel J. W. Danielsen whose service is outlined on the next page.

Starting in the Tyneside Engineers and transferring to Army Signal Troops R.E. in London he was in 1914 a Captain and served in 5 Corps Signals. Wounded at Ypres, he had much to do with the formation of the first Anti Aircraft Signal Unit in London in the 1930s.

He died on 13th September. To his widow and son, Major D. Emley, Royal Signals, go our sympathy. A fuller notice will appear in the November number.

COBB MEMORIAL TROPHY

A full statement appeared in the September number, and it has been mentioned several times previously. It is an appeal to all Ex-Boys to subscribe a small sum, 10/- or less was suggested, to a Challenge Trophy for competition within the Junior Leaders Regiment, Royal Signals, for Inter-Troop Cross Country Running. This is the eleventh hour, because the subscription list closes down on the 1st November when it is hoped at least £100 will have been subscribed, which will provide a very suitable trophy in memory of the late Lieutenant-Colonel F. R. Cobb, M.C.

THE SPECIAL AIR SERVICE REGIMENT AND ITS SIGNAL TROOP

One of the great joys of serving in Royal Signals is the way in which one's life shews infinite variety. One can serve in COMCAN at home or in the Signal office at a large Formation Headquarters: shift work with set hours and a well-known and trusted routine. Between that and a Beau Geste type of existence as one of a "Corporal and three" with Levies or Scouts in some desert or jungle or mountain—the Corps offers conditions to suit nearly everyone.

For the young man who likes real adventure with efficiency there is much to commend the Signal Troop of the S.A.S. Regiment. A letter on Page 303 commends this service in the Regular Army. When and if that proves an insufficiency a transfer to the equivalent Royal Signals Troop in the Territorial Army will also provide opportunity for the adventurous.

A.C.I. 241/1955 tells you how.—Ed.

THE BAND

As is known the Band under Major J. L. Judd, M.B.E., MUS. BAC., F.T.C.M., L.R.A.M., A.R.C.M., has for some years been one of the leading Army Bands at the Edinburgh Festival. The following extract from the "Edinburgh Evening News" expresses the opinion of very many:—

> "May I say 'Thank You' to the Director of Music and Band of the Royal Corps of Signals for the grand concerts they have given us in Princes Street Gardens this year. Could the Entertainments Officer not arrange to have them brought back to give a concert during the winter months in the Usher Hall?
>
> I am sure I am voicing the opinion of many of the public who have heard them.
>
> *Music Lover.*"

The cutting was sent by an ex-Member of "22 Squad, Maresfield Camp in 1920."

With this copy of the "Wire" is an Order Form for next year. It is the very greatest help to the Editor if these can be COMPLETED and SENT IN AT ONCE.

CLOTHING

The Welfare Section, at 88, Eccleston Square, are very grateful indeed for the wonderful response to their cry for part-worn clothes, which appeared in the July number of THE WIRE, and in the "Retired Supplement" to the Royal Signals List.

The requirement continues.

Men's Clothing.—Suits, sports coats and flannel trousers, shirts, collars, ties.

Women's Clothing.—Especially coats and dresses, shoes.

Children's Clothes.—Of all sorts and sizes.

So many men emerge, after a long stay in hospital, in clothes so old or ill-fitting that their chance of obtaining employment is impaired. Equipped with suit and shoes that "have been good" and with a couple of half-crowns in their pocket for extra confidence, they stand a good chance of obtaining good employment.

The Association knows of so many widows who strive to bring up young children on the "subsistence only" income from the Welfare State.

In most families children outgrow clothes before they are worn out, and the Association can pass on any such.

In nearly every such case the mother gives all to the children, and a good-quality, albeit worn coat or dress will often be the first addition to her wardrobe in very many years.

PLEASE send parcels to Royal Signals Association, 88, Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1.

Please do NOT send articles affected by moth.

A list of those who have kindly sent clothing and other similar gifts this year appears on Page 326.



Colonel J. W. Danielsen

Obituary

COLONEL J. W. DANIELSEN, D.S.O., T.D., D.L., J.P.

Will Danielsen was killed in a motor accident on 16th August last when the car he was driving struck a tree on the Evesham to Cheltenham road. He was 83 and one of the diminishing number of Signal Officers who had held C.S.O.'s appointments in the 1914-18 War. He was a man of amazing vigour and vitality and his passing will be a loss to his many friends.

John William Danielsen joined the Southern Command Signal Companies, T.F., as a Captain on the formation of the Territorial Force in 1908. In 1915 he was Second-in-Command of the Fenny Stratford Signal Depot and at the end of the year he formed and commanded a Corps Signal Company. As Major Danielsen he took this Unit to France and in January, 1916, joined the newly formed XIV Corps, holding the north face of the Ypres Salient, with headquarters at La Lovie Chateau. Shortly afterwards he took over the post of Assistant Director of Signals at the Corps, which was upgraded to a Lieutenant-Colonel's appointment in the following November.

In July, 1916(the XIV Corps moved south to the Somme offensive and in a change of Signal Units Danielsen and his Corps Signal Company joined the V Corps at Marieux and remained with this formation until the end of the War. (Captain) C. H. H. Vulliamy commanded the Corps Signal Company during 1918. Danielsen provided the communications for V Corps in most of the major engagements on the Western Front from the Battle of the Ancre onwards, including Bullecourt, Ypres, 1917, Cambrai, the German March offensive and the battles of the Hindenburg Line, Selle and Sambre. He was five times mentioned in despatches and received the D.S.O. in 1917.

It was characteristic of Danielsen's keenness as a Territorial soldier that immediately after the war he set about raising Birmingham's new T.A. Signal Unit—the 48th Divisional Signals—at Great Brook Street Barracks. He saw the new Unit safely through its early years and completed his tour of command in 1924. He was D.C.S.O. Southern Command till 1929 and Honorary Colonel of 48th Divisional Signals from 1927 to 1931.

Apart from his military career he was a leading figure in industry. After nearly 40 years as managing director of the Deritend Stamping Co., he became Chairman of that important group of drop forging companies. He had been President of the National Association of Drop Forgers and Stampers for two terms of office.

Colonel Danielsen was a well-known figure in Birmingham, always spruce and alert, with his carnation buttonhole and ever ready to help any deserving cause. He took the greatest interest in the Corps up to the day of his death. He regularly attended all Signal functions in Birmingham and the Corps dinner. Every year he presided at the annual dinner of the Southern Command Signal Companies, at which some 60 members, who were serving with him in August, 1914, were present.

A measure of the esteem in which Colonel Danielsen was held may be seen by the fact that Edgbaston Old Church was filled to over capacity well before the funeral service. The congregation included many who had served with Signals and the 1/20th Army Signal Regiment, T.A., provided Officer pall bearers.

Colonel Danielsen had one daughter and three sons. Two sons were killed in action with the R.A.F. in 1940 and 1942. The eldest, who survives him, served with the 48th Divisional Signals, T.A., from 1933 and was captured in the retreat to Dunkirk.

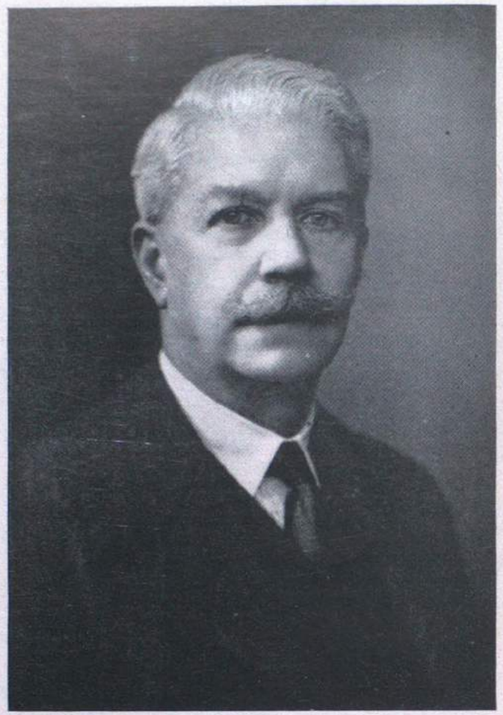
E.A.J.

Obituary

Brigadier H. Clementi Smith

D.S.O.

Colonel Commandant Royal Corps of Signals



BY the death of Brigadier Hubert Clementi Smith on 16th August, four days after his eightieth birthday, we have lost one who did more for the Royal Corps of Signals than most of us have done since the Corps was created, one might well say even before its foundation, for he was amongst those officers of the Royal Engineers who clearly saw that the formation of a Signal Corps was necessary.

"Clem" was a real friend to all ranks, he had the well being of the Corps always at heart and never spared himself. A keen sportsman, any success whether of an individual or of a team was a real pleasure to him, and he was always ready to help with any form of sport.

He took a keen interest in the Royal Signals Association, he did much work for it during the last war period, helping to expand and reorganise its work and that of the benevolent fund, in this work he was assisted by one of his family, his eldest daughter, Ann.

He kept in close contact with all that went on in the office, often spending long hours helping at the routine work.

He married in 1909 Kathleen Margaret, only child of Sir Henry Clarke Jervoise, she died in 1935, her hospitality and help to the married families is well remembered by many of us.

Clem came of a family used to giving service to his country as he was the second son of Sir Cecil Clementi Smith, who was successively governor of Hong Kong, where Clem was born, of Malaya, and finally of Ceylon. Of his own family Clem's only son has recently retired after commanding a battalion of the Essex Regiment, two daughters have married officers in the Corps, and the other has kept house for him since the death of her mother and who has nursed him through a long illness.

His record of service was a long one, some forty years. Commissioned to the Royal Engineers from the R.M.A. in 1898, he served in the South African War from 1900 to 1902. Subsequently he returned to England, serving with the Telegraph units at Aldershot and being given command of the 1st Divisional Signals R.E. on the creation of the "Army Signal Service" in 1912. At the outbreak of the 1914-18 war he went to France as staff officer to the Signal Officer-in-Chief, Colonel John Fowler, he served on the S.O.-C.'s staff until 1917 when he went to an Army Headquarters as Chief Signal Officer.

He was awarded the D.S.O., the Legion of Honeur and Croix de Guerre. Four times mentioned in despatches and was made a Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel.

After the war he was appointed G.S.O. I on the Directing Staff at the Staff College, Camberley, he moved to the War Office to become G.S.O. I S.D. 6 (Signals) from January 1921 to 1925. He was Chief Signal Officer, Aldershot Command, May 1925 to February 1926, when he proceeded to Catterick to command the S.T.C. as a Brigadier. In February, 1930 he was appointed Signal Officer-in-Chief, India, serving there until 1934 when he retired. Although beyond the age of recall he re-joined for service in November, 1939, holding the appointment of Chief Signal Officer G.H.Q. Home Forces until June, 1940. He was President of Command interview boards from 1940 to 1942 when he finally retired. He was appointed Colonel Commandant Royal Signals, 30th November, 1934.

T.A. and A.E.R. Garden Party *at* Harewood House

☆



● **The guests assembling for presentation to Her Royal Highness**

[*Photographs, courtesy: "Yorkshire Post"*

As a part of the celebrations of the Golden Jubilee of the Territorial Army, 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., graciously gave permission for a Garden Party to be held at Harewood House on Saturday, 23rd August, 1958, for Officers of Royal Signals T.A. and A.E.R. Regiments and Squadrons and their wives and families. Despite the deplorable weather record of 1958 the storm clouds which had been threatening throughout the morning cleared away about half-an-hour before the guests were due to assemble and they arrived in bright sunshine on the lawns in front of Harewood House.

At 3.30 p.m. Her Royal Highness stepped out of the front door and the Band of the 50th (Northumbrian) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A., played the first half of the National Anthem. Thereafter the guests were presented in the library, and at 4.15 p.m. were all assembled for tea in a marquee on the lawns.

After tea, the Bandmaster, W.O.I S. W. Woodall, was presented to Her Royal Highness, who congratulated him on the excellent performance of the Band. The weather still being kind, Her Royal Highness then received a number of guests on the terrace on the south side of Harewood House, where they all had the honour of a few minutes' individual conversation with her. Other guests took the opportunity of having a private view of certain of the rooms and works of art in Harewood House and of strolling in the terraced garden, from which there is a magnificent view of the lake and wooded hills beyond. Here is an example of some of the finest landscape gardening which exists in the country. The guests departed soon after 6.30, after a most enjoyable and memorable afternoon.

The arrangements, which were excellent throughout, had been made by the Chief Signal Officer, Northern Command, Brigadier D. St. J. Hoysted, C.B.E., assisted by a number of Officer marshals and Warrant Officers and Non-Commissioned Officers drawn from the 49th (West Riding) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A.

Among some 360 guests present, which included a few Regular Officers and their wives, were: The Representative Colonel Commandant, Major-General R. F. H. Nalder, C.B., O.B.E., and Mrs. Nalder; Major-General and Mrs. W. A. Scott, C.B., C.B.E., Brigadier Sir George Walton, K.B.E., C.B., T.D., D.L., J.P., Senior Representative of the T.A., and Lady Walton; Colonel S. J. Lovegrove, T.D., Senior Representative of the A.E.R., and Mrs. and Miss Lovegrove.

Among the guests also, were several Officers of the W.R.A.C. serving with Royal Signal Regiments.

● **H.R.H. The Princess Royal, accompanied by Major-General R. F. H. Nalder, C.B., O.B.E., the Representative Colonel Commandant, about to enter the marquee. (Right) The presentation of W.O.I. S. W. Woodall**





PERSONAL COLUMN

London Gazette

15th August, 1958
Major W. C. Ramsay retired on 1st August, 1958.

22nd August, 1958
Major C. H. Golden retired on 23rd August, 1958.

25th August, 1958
Major J. E. V. Rice retired on 26th August, 1958.

29th August, 1958
Major L. B. H. C. Baker retired on 1st May, 1958.

2nd September, 1958
Major A. M. R. Mallock retires 28th August, 1958.
Lieutenant (Q.M.) R. A. B. Dixon to be Captain (Q.M.), 2nd September, 1958.

5th September, 1958
W.O.I G. H. Cowsill to be Lieutenant (Tfc. Offr.), 28th July, 1958.
W.O.I F. Iveson to be Lieutenant (T.O.T.), 7th August, 1958.

Movements — Officers

What is shown below is extracted from a periodical look at a file which contains A.G.11 posting orders. Movements shown below are not necessarily accurate, or up-to-date.

Lieutenant (T.O.T.) F. Iveson, First Commission to B.A.O.R.
Major K. J. A. Adlam, Signals 5, War Office to Depot HS.
Major S. D. Allaway, FARELF to H.Q., Northumbrian District.
Major A. R. Glanvill. H.Q., Northumbrian District to Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, U.K.
Major W. G. B. Wright, B.A.O.R. to Wireless Training Squadron.
Captain (Q.M.) J. L. Callan, B.A.O.R. to retirement.
Lieutenant (T.O.T.) C. Brodley, ex-Christmas Island to B.A.O.R.
Major (T.O.T.) J. A. Brown, B.A.O.R. to Eastern Command Signal Squadron.
Major P. S. Harris, M.E.L.F. to Portsmouth Signals.
Maior (T.O.T.) F. V. Mancy, Portsmouth Signals to Aldershot (M) Signals.
Major J. A. C. Webber, Depot Regiment (HS) to H.Q., ALFCE.
Major (Q.M.) R. F. C. Ashford, Eastern Command Signal Squadron to Nigeria.
Major T. W. Armour, A.W.R.E. to U.K. COMCAN Signal Regiment.
Lieutenant-Colonel M. S. Hancock, War Office to Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment.
Lieutenant-Colonel G. Thomson, Mid-West District (M) Signal Regiment (T.A.) to Depot HS.
Lieutenant-Colonel T. R. Warburg, Depot HS to Mid-West District (M) Signal Regiment (T.A.).
Major J. C. Clinch, Malaya to B.A.O.R.

Births

MORGAN.—To Sergeant and Mrs. A. O. Morgan, a son, David Charles, on 4th April, 1958.

BAXTER.—To Sergeant and Mrs. E. J. S. Baxter, a daughter, Valerie Ann, on 22nd May, 1958.

MURRAY.—To Sergeant and Mrs. N. Murray, a daughter, Lynda Marjorie, on 25th March, 1958.

BOULTON.—To 22212960 Sergeant and Mrs. F. Boulton, a son, on 19th April, 1958, at Catterick Camp.

CHARLTON.—To 22229309 Sergeant and Mrs. A. Charlton, a son, on 6th August, 1958, at Catterick Camp.

HUGHES.—To Sergeant and Mrs. J. Hughes, a daughter, Jane Elizabeth, at 12, Elmwood Avenue, Feltham, on 20th August, 1958.

PLANT.—On 25th August, 1958, at B.M.H., Kirrara, to Rowena, wife of Captain R. Plant, a daughter, Naomi Elizabeth.

The following of 2 L. of C. Signal Regiment

JOWETT.—To Signalman and Mrs. B. Jowett, a son, Stephen Paul, at B.M.H., Hostert, on 17th May, 1958.

WALKER.—To Corporal and Mrs. G. W. Walker, a daughter, Sharon Fay, at B.M.H., Hostert, on 10th August, 1958.

HASTINGS.—To Captain (Tfc.) and Mrs. J. Hastings, a daughter, Clare Loise, at B.M.H., Hostert, on 9th August, 1958.

The following of Berlin Signal Squadron

BAKER.—To Captain and Mrs. N. L. Baker, a son, Martin James, on 18th July, 1958, at B.M.H., Berlin.

PRICE.—To Sergeant and Mrs. H. Price, a daughter, Karen Elizabeth, on 1st July, 1958, at B.M.H., Berlin.

WILLIAMS.—To Corporal and Mrs. F. Williams, a daughter, Annette Lesley, on 18th June, 1958, at B.M.H., Berlin.

SMETHURST.—To 2549631 Sergeant and Mrs. J. D. Smethurst, a son, Christopher Ramsey, at D.B.M.H., Mtarfa, Malta, on 22nd August, 1958.

Marriages

BRESLOFF (ex-BRESLOFSKY)—CAVANAGH.—Sergeant R. S. Bresloff to Miss Maureen Cavanagh, at St. Mary-at-the-Walls Church, Colchester, on 19th July, 1958.

ADAMSON—VINALL.—Corporal Adamson to Marjorie Louvaine Vinall, at Guildford, on 12th July, 1958.

The following of Berlin Signal Squadron

FERRIS—DAVIES.—Lance-Corporal D. W. Ferris to Miss Maureen Pearl Davies, at Swindon, on 26th April, 1958.

WATKINS—PENNEY.—Lance-Corporal P. J. Watkins to Miss Elizabeth Jean Penney, at Birkenhead, on 2nd August, 1958.

ASHWORTH—GALLEAR.—Signalman P. T. Ashworth to Miss Janet Hazel Gallear, at Normanton-by-Derby, on 26th April, 1958.

The following of 2 L. of C. Signal Regiment

HUNTER—CLEMINSON.—Sergeant R. Hunter, to Miss Christine Margarete Cleminson, at Dusseldorf, on 26th July, 1958.

TAYLOR—HILDEN.—Corporal A. Taylor to Teresa Grata Hilden, at Boston, Lincs., on 9th August, 1958.

BEECH—TRAVIS—Driver A. R. Beech to Ada Travis, on 14th July, 1958.

Deaths

BRUNT.—23346382 Corporal A. Brunt, on 4th August, 1958, in B.A.O.R.

PURDY.—22242773 Sergeant W. A. Purdy, on 6th August, 1958, in the Queen Alexandra Military Hospital, Millbank, London, S.W.1.

HODSON.—22837131 Corporal J. Hodson, on 22nd August, 1958, in U.K.

REID.—23533029 Driver G. F. Reid, on 21st August, 1958, in R.A.F. Hospital, Wegberg, B.A.O.R.

EMLEY.—On 13th September, 1958, at Kings Barn House, Steyning, Colonel M. W. Emley, O.B.E., T.D.

EVELYN.—Captain G. Evelyn, M.B.E., T.D., died on 15th September, 1958, at his home, Myrtle Cottage, Island Road, Sturry, Kent.

Arrivals and Departures

1 Training Regiment

Arrivals : W.O.II (F. of S.) R. G. P. Spragg, Staff Sergeant R. J. Dumont, Sergeants C. W. Burden, W. Skimming and A. J. Davis.
Departures : Staff Sergeant R. M. McLeish, Sergeant T. C. Cook.

Western Command Signal Squadron

Arrivals : W.O.II (R.Q.M.S.) M. W. E. Charlton, W.O.II (S.C.S.) R. E. Smithard, Staff Sergeant J. Francis and Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) H. J. Perry, Sergeant W. W. Robertson.
Departures : W.O.I (F. of S.) M. C. L. Harden, W.O.II (R.Q.M.S.) A. Grant, M.B.E., W.O.II (F. of S.) G. H. Paul, Staff Sergeant K. A. Clements, Sergeants A. Whalley, J. H. McGovern and R. E. Hunt.

Berlin Signal Squadron

Arrivals : W.O.sII E. J. Holloway, and R. J. Cook, M.B.E., Sergeant H. J. McCabe.
Departures : W.O.sII W. E. Lea, B.E.M., and J. C. Pendock, Sergeants T. J. Dean, A. N. Brookes and H. Price.

2 L. of C. Signal Regiment

Arrivals : Sergeants R. H. Ruffles, J. C. Mead and A. L. Stephens, Staff Sergeant C. Boughton, R.Q.M.S. G. N. Smith, Sergeants F. P. Dignan and K. Evans.
Departures : Major L. B. H. C. Baker, Sergeants J. Fox, J. C. Drake, D. F. Lamper and Staff Sergeant D. W. Marshall.

Colonel Rolf T. Palmstrom

Colonel Rolf T. Palmstrom, Chief Signal Officer of the Norwegian Army, retired on the 27th August, 1958, on reaching the age of 65.

His Majesty The King of Norway appointed him a Knight of the Order of St. Olav in 1956 and on his retirement granted him a twenty minute audience.

Colonel Palmstrom served with the Corps of Engineers from 1915 until 1930 when he left fulltime military service and joined the Oslo Telephone Company. He resumed full time military service in 1940. In 1942 he "travelled" to England via Sweden and during his service in this country was Chief of Staff in the Norwegian Defence Department and from 1944 he was Chief Signal Officer of the Army. He later became the first Inspector-General of the Army Signals and in 1946 served as a member of the Commission set up to review the Norwegian Defence organisation.

Despite his age he continues actively to serve his country as Chairman of a Committee dealing with the unification of all the Technical Corps in the Norwegian Army. In post war years he has, of course, been instrumental in arranging the most profitable attachment of a number of officers of the Royal Corps of Signals to Norwegian Army Signals to study and practice warfare under arctic conditions.

Special Air Service Regiment

Dear Operator,

I was originally an OWL and then my trade was converted to Telegraph Operator.

I got bored with sitting about in Signal Offices and started to look round for a more lively job. I considered trying to get into the Parachute Brigade Signals and then I noticed an A.C.I. calling for volunteers for the S.A.S. Regiment Royal Signals Troop.

Soon I met a chum who told me about the job and I put my name in at once. It seemed to me that I would get all the change and excitement I wanted in that job and so it turned out. Our Signal Troop is short of Royal Signals operators, so I thought some of you would be interested in what we do. I hope that there may be some restless soul like me wanting a bit of excitement who will join the Troop.

Having filled in the official application according to the A.C.I. I was then interviewed and eventually was sent on a course at Brecon. This course is hard work and good fun as long as you are fit and don't mind roughing it. Your initiative and staying power are tested. The great thing is that there are lots of other chaps with you in the same boat.

I then found myself on a 'plane bound for Malaya to join 22 S.A.S. Regiment, where I took a Parachute Course in Singapore, which was easy money after the Brecon Course. After that we did a short acclimatisation period, during which we were taught all the tricks of jungle warfare.

We learnt not only the signalling side—use of special aerials, new types of sets, power supplies, etc., but we were taught to be able to take our part as a full fighting soldier in the Squadron or Troop to which we were attached.

This was something like it—what I had been looking for. I soon began to realise with a considerable amount of excitement that on me alone, in the jungle, miles from anywhere, would depend whether we got supplies, whether casualties would be evacuated, whether the Squadron Commander could direct his operation and send vital and red hot information about the Communist terrorists back to base. There is no other means of communication once we have entered the jungle.

I realised that my technical training had to be up to standard and I realised that I must know a hell of a lot more than the book says.

At last the great day came; we had our briefing and we were loaded into aircraft and helicopters. I went in a helicopter with my wireless set and was roped down in a spot in the jungle.

I then had to set up a suitable aerial and connect the set and get through to base—the relief when I heard my pal on the 53 set answering my call.

I am not going to describe all the happenings during that two months' stay in the jungle. Sufficient to say that here was never a dull moment—we travelled over mountains, through swamps, and down rivers. We used aborigines as porters.

During all that time I had tremendous satisfaction that my wireless set worked and I remained through.

There was one episode one evening when we all stood to, as we had information that there was a gang of Communist terrorists close by, and once we were sniped. Patrols from my own Squadron killed four Communist terrorists on that operation and captured another one.

Another time we were parachuted in the jungle and my wireless set required a bit of sorting out before it would work.

We were lifted out of the jungle again by helicopter and flown back to base—how good it was to see Kuala Lumpur again. Just think of it, two months' pay all saved up, and remember, one gets extra pay for the job.

As I said at the beginning of the letter, we are short of operators; there must be dozens of chaps in the Corps who, like me, want some excitement.

Why not volunteer for the S.A.S. Regiment Signal Troop? It is hard work, but it is a great life. Don't hang back—we do want good tradesmen though.

I think we operators in the Corps ought to keep this Signal Troop full up and have a waiting list. There doesn't seem to be many such opportunities in the Corps, as far as I know.

Yours, etc.,
E. MARSDEN, Signalman.

Hi Fi Year Book — 1958

Once again the Hi Fi Year Book has provided us with both useful and pleasant reading. This virtually pocket-sized volume provides not only comprehensive and accurate information on nearly every component and equipment on the British market, but also contains short articles written by well-known experts in the Audio field. These articles together with occasional Editorial comments, give clear and precise information on the equipment and techniques involved and explain in simple language what should be expected of the various types of equipment and what should not. The advice they give to would-be buyers is very real and most informative and should not be disregarded. Even the layest of laymen armed with this booklet, could instal sensible and efficient Hi Fi apparatus into his home without the risk of acquiring a heterogeneous collection of unmatched and over-expensive units.

This year the Editors have anticipated the Stereo Boom and have provided a book which must be a veritable goldmine to those grappling with this new technique, and just at the moment when it was wanted. Stereo is thus treated very fully and the various directories are arranged so that stereo equipment in particular, can be referred to with a minimum of delay.

After an interesting introduction giving a brief history of the Audio Art there is a complete section devoted to stereo articles dealing with all the aspects of stereo in the home today. The Monaural Section which follows contains both articles and the Directories which form the main body of the book, and terminating with a Directory of the Dealers themselves. These Directories are well laid out and copiously illustrated. The mass of information they provide is remarkably easy to work through due to the sensible type and lay-out, and although one or two errors have been spotted the general accuracy is high. It is unfortunate that one or two extravagant claims are to be seen, but obviously the Editors can only reproduce specifications as given to them by the manufacturers. Each Directory is preceded by an appropriate article giving advice and information.

It is a tribute to the thoroughness of the compilers of this book that they have included a section on "Hi Fi Furniture" as quite apart from the importance very rightly given to the size and shape of the odd boxes we put speakers in, the appearance given to the six or seven units collected by the modern audiphile can be a very real factor in reducing wife-resistance, besides the fact that Dusting Difficulty is proportional to the number of units, irrespective of size! It is indisputable that the furniture designers have made a very material contribution to the acceptance of technical apparatus into the modern drawing-room.

In conclusion, it can be said that this third edition establishes even more firmly the position of a reference book which has become indispensable to professionals and amateurs alike, and that a little time spent in its perusal will save the prospective buyer a lot more than the mere 10/6d. involved.

J. E. Grose-Hodge, Research (Hi Fi), Pye Limited, Cambridge.

ROYAL CORPS OF SIGNALS LIST JANUARY, 1952

In the Headquarters Office of the Royal Signals Association is a complete set of all issues of the Royal Signals List from its first publication until now.

These are constantly referred to on behalf of the Corps historian, and other searchers after fact. Most unfortunately, the above quoted number is missing.

It is certain that some officer somewhere has the required copy, and he will earn a great deal of gratitude if he will send it to the General Secretary, Royal Signals Association, 88, Eccleston Square, S.W.1.

THE ROYAL SIGNALS DIARY, 1959

On Page 309 an advertisement appears for these diaries. Commanding Officers and others are urged to place their orders for diaries as early as possible. Sometimes diaries are asked for as late as February or March. Sometimes these requests can be complied with, but only at great cost and trouble to all concerned. The earlier you order, the earlier you will get them and the easier it is for the hard-working staff at Association Headquarters.

BRONZE STATUE OF "JIMMY" FOR SALE

Situated in Edinburgh, the statue is 3ft. high, at present mounted on a 4ft. Billiard Table Leg. The owner has given it to the Association to sell to the highest bidder—minimum £50. The proceeds go—half to the Royal Signals Association and half to a charity nominated by the owner, Major W. J. Main, Royal Signals.

Regiments, Squadrons wishing to purchase, apply: General Secretary, Royal Signals Association, 88, Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1.

THE BRITISH LEGION JOURNAL

This monthly magazine with very wide circulation has offered to publish, briefly, announcements of reunions, dinners, meetings, etc., of Branches of the Royal Signals Association (and, of course, others).

The announcement must reach the Editor, "British Legion Journal," Pall Mall, London, S.W.1, **before the 14th of the month.** The announcement will appear in the Journal of the following month.

PROMOTIONS

The following promotions were authorised during the month of August, 1958:

Technical Roster

To W.O.II	21005548	(120)	A/W.O.II Harrison, G.
	2547760	(140)	S Sgt. Granger, G. A.
	14461783	(150)	A/W.O.II Wilson, C.
To S Sgt.	22242357	(160)	Sgt. Gill, P.
	22192571	(170)	Sgt. Crosbie, K. J.
	22309517	(180)	A/S Sgt. Clark, E. J.
	22547760	(190)	Sgt. Carrington, J.
	2549660	(200)	Sgt. Lane, D. J.

Foreman of Signals Roster

To W.O.I 14569276 (420) W.O.II Stevenson, H.

Regimental Duty

To W.O.I	899384	(760)	A/W.O.I Pooley, A. H.
To W.O.II	2328685	(320)	S Sgt. Hodgekins, W. H.

DELETIONS

Regimental Duty

W.O.I	300				
W.O.II	340	550	640	1280	2390
S Sgt.	640	3340			

Operating Roster

Sgts. 720 1360 2180 3960

Lineman Roster

Sgts. 1020

Clerical Roster

Sgts. 1350

General Trades and Duties Roster

Sgts. 70 230 1140 1440

Foreman of Signals Roster

W.O.I 370
W.O.II 330

R.D. Roster

W.O.I Barnes, S. G. (150) Commissioned Lt. (Q.M.) 19th May, 1958

W.O.I Farquharson, J. (130) Commissioned Lt. (Gen. List) 19th May, 1958

Foreman of Signals Roster

W.O.I Green, J. A. (30) Commissioned Lt. (T.O.T.) 7th July, 1958

W.O.I Addington, E. R. (240) Commissioned Lt. (T.O.T.) 21st April, 1958

Forthcoming Events

44th Division (1939/42) Old Comrades' Rally prior to the EL ALAMAIN REUNION, 24th OCTOBER, 1958

The Rally will take place at The New Inn, 252, Westminster Bridge Road, London, S.E.1, from 5 p.m. to 6.30 p.m. Ladies also invited. Tickets 5/- each from the Hon. Secretary, O.C.A., c/o H. J. Green and Co., Ltd., Aldrington Works, Hove 3, Sussex.

54 (EA) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A.

The Annual Officers' Ball will be held in the Hyde Park Hotel, Knightsbridge, on Saturday, 1st November, 1958. Applications for tickets should be made to Major L. J. Parker, Royal Signals, at 40, Ashburnham Road, Bedford.

Officers' Buffet Supper and Reunion, 1958

The Royal Signals Officers' Buffet Supper and Reunion is to be held at the Drill Hall, Duke of York's Headquarters, Kings Road, Chelsea, London, S.W.3, by kind permission of the Middlesex Yeomanry Signal Regiment (T.A.), from 7 to 11 p.m., on

SATURDAY, 6th DECEMBER, 1958.

Dress: Lounge Suits.

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 (14/- 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.

ROYAL SIGNALS RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB, FIXTURES, 1958-59

Date 1958	Opponents	Ground
Oct. 18th	Huddersfield	Catterick
†Oct. 20th	Cambridge LX Club	Cambridge
Nov. 1st	Northern R.F.C.	Gosforth
Nov. 5th	Northern Command v. Lincolnshire	Market Rasen
Nov. 8th	West Hartlepool	Catterick
†Nov. 13th	Royal Engineers	Chatham
Nov. 19th	Northern Command v. Western Command	Oswestry
Nov. 29th	Huddersfield	Huddersfield
Dec. 13th	Old Novocastrians	Newcastle
Dec. 20th	Wakefield	Wakefield
1959		
†Jan. 17th	Preston Grasshoppers	Catterick
†Jan. 21st	Royal Artillery	Catterick
†Feb. 4th	Royal Military Academy	Camberley
Feb. 7th	Harrogate	Harrogate
†Feb. 12th	Oxford University Greyhounds	Oxford
Feb. 21st	Billingham	Catterick
Feb. 25th	Leeds University	Catterick
Feb. 28th	Durham City	Catterick
March 4th	King's College	Newcastle
March 11th	Sheffield University	Sheffield
March 18th	Command Cup	Catterick
March 25th	Command Sevens	Catterick
April 11th	Percy Park	Catterick
April 18th	Wakefield	Catterick
April 22nd	Bradford Charity Match	Bradford
April 25th	Huddersfield Sevens	Huddersfield

† *Corps Representative Matches*

ROYAL SIGNALS HOCKEY CLUB, FIXTURES, 1958-59

Date 1958	Opponents	Ground
Thurs. Oct. 23rd	R.E.M.E.	Aborfield
Fri. Oct. 24th	Royal Engineers	Aldershot
Tues. Dec. 2nd	R.A.S.C.	Aldershot
Wed. Dec. 3rd	R.M.A., Sandhurst	Sandhurst
Thurs. Dec. 4th	Aldershot Services	Aldershot
1959		
Wed. Feb. 18th	R.M.C. of Science	Aldershot
Fri. Feb. 20th	R.A.O.C.	Blackdown
Sat. March 7th	Durham University	Catterick
Wed. March 25th	Welbeck College	Welbeck
March 27th—30th	Scarborough Hockey Festival	Scarborough

ROYAL SIGNALS OFFICERS' GOLFING SOCIETY, FIXTURES, 1958

16th Oct.	R.A.O.C.	Swinley Forest
19th Oct.	Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst	Camberley Heath

Home Stations

1 TRAINING REGIMENT

August has been a comparatively quiet month, principally because so many people disappeared in search of sunshine. Let's hope they were more fortunate than we back here.

Our water polo and swimming team, which last year had no equal in U.K., just failed to make the Army semi-finals this year and so the silver sideboard looks a little barer.

As a curtain raiser, the Inter-Squadron novices' boxing competition took place recently and all who attended were treated to some very spirited and exhilarating contests. 2 Squadron emerged worthy winners but 1 were not far behind. If the talent on view is any criterion, then I'm sure a lot more will be heard of our boxers this season. Look out, 11 Hussars!

To round off a not very successful cricketing summer, Officers and Sergeants staged their annual set to on Scotton. Had the former played as well as they looked, all would have been well. Alas, appearances belied ability and they were soundly trounced. Nevertheless, with the weather on its best behaviour, families turned out in force and a very pleasant afternoon was had by all. A special word of praise to the caterers, who produced a magnificent spread.

WESTERN COMMAND SIGNAL SQUADRON

British Empire and Commonwealth Games, 1958

In July the Squadron was called upon to provide wireless communications for the Empire Games, both at Cardiff and Lake Padarn in North Wales.

Six wireless detachments, under Captain B. W. A. Collins, provided communications for the 25-mile marathon race and the 120-mile cycle road race at Cardiff, and a detachment of wireless operators, under Second-Lieutenant J. C. Wilson, provided communications for the rowing events at Lake Padarn.

The marathon race started at Cardiff Arms Park and followed a course through the centre of the city on to the main Cardiff-Newport road, then by a roundabout route back through the city again to Cardiff Arms Park. One mobile 19 HP detachment accompanied the leading competitors, reporting back progress to a fixed 19 HP Control Station, a second 19 HP detachment proceeded round the course keeping roughly midway between the leading and last competitors, also passing back progress, and a third mobile 19 HP detachment followed the last competitor, accompanied by a Medical Officer and an ambulance. Apart from recurring calls for medical assistance, this detachment also reported progress. Two fixed control stations were established at points around the course, which necessitated the use of very accurate flick procedure by the mobile detachments. The progress of the race received by the control stations from the mobile detachments was telephoned to Cardiff Arms Park by civilian officials and in addition a WS 62 was set up in Cardiff Arms Park to receive as much information as possible direct from the mobile detachments.

The cycle race was held on a 7½-mile circuit in the Ogmore Area, which is approximately 16 miles from Cardiff. As the race was scheduled to start at 07.00 hours in the morning it was decided to camp out for the night previous to the race, but due to the unfavourable weather conditions and much to the delight of some members of the detachment the local R.E.M.E. Workshops accommodated us in dry beds for the night.

In this race four 19 HP detachments were used, one vehicle as control was stationed at the start/finish to receive commentaries and reports from the other three detachments who were mobile. Remote control equipment was used here to enable the P.A. announcer to listen-in and to call for whatever information he required. One mobile detachment carried the course Commissaire and travelled behind the leading riders giving a commentary, two other mobile detachments, one of which had a civilian mobile ambulance radio set installed, to call for medical assistance, followed the last riders; both these detachments gave progress and information regarding accidents to Control. Great work was done by the mobile detachments, particularly as they had to travel round the circuit 16 times, which meant approximately 5½ hours of concentrated driving by the drivers.

The Chairman of the Empire Games, Sir Arthur Porritt, K.C.M.G., K.C.V.O., C.B.E., F.R.C.S., inspected the control station and congratulated all the detachments on the excellent communications provided for this race and for the marathon.

For the rowing events at Lake Padarn all communications were by line, but the wireless detachment provided alternative communications, using WS 88 and 31, which linked all the strategic points on the course during racing. The net, however, was only used on the afternoon of the last day when the judges' pontoon partially sank, causing a fault on the line. *The Daily Mail* wrote:

> "Lance-Corporal Derek Betts, Royal Signals, stood rigidly to attention on the upper deck as the raft canted over to a 30 degrees list. He was at attention because ashore the Band of the Royal Engineers was at that moment of time playing "Land of Hope and Glory" in honour of an England win."

As a grand finale to the Cardiff commitment the detachment was greatly honoured by having to provide a wireless set and crew at Cardiff Arms Park, to work direct to the Royal Yacht *Britannia* in connection with the departure of H.R.H. The Duke of Edinburgh after the closing ceremony of the Games.

A letter from the Chairman of the Communications Committee of the Empire Games to the Chief Signal Officer, Western Command, complimenting the Detachments of Royal Signals which provided communications for the Empire Games, as outlined above, was published in the September number of THE WIRE.—Editor.

U.K. COMCAN SIGNAL REGIMENT

R.H.Q. and 1 Squadron. It is not often that we are called upon to assist the Civil Power, unlike our brethren overseas—but when we are the same feeling of satisfaction is in evidence. In this case we were able to restore three lost children to their parents. Signalmen Jim Keys and John Hopewell were the two directly responsible but we understand "B" Troop remain unsatisfied as to who found who. However, the result was a marked improvement in relations between ourselves and the local police. It is to be hoped that this trend will continue.

We have said "Goodbye" to Second-Lieutenants Phipps and Mercer, who have returned to civilian life and extend a hearty welcome to Second-Lieutenants Barton and Sear.

At this time of the year we should be enjoying our first winter games. However, notwithstanding the lack of sports grounds and with the kind permission of other Units we are getting down to practice matches for the rugger and soccer fans who are all very keen and looking forward to a good season.

The hockey enthusiasts are doing their best to organise hockey matches on the parade square despite a 15 degree slope.

In the semi-final of the District Cricket Cup we were narrowly beaten by the Depot Gloucestershire Regiment. However, we look forward to another try next year.

2 Squadron. We welcome the two new additions to the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess, Sergeant Mungall and Sergeant Moore. This is a particularly pleasant task for your correspondent, who sees in them potential reliefs from a rather prolonged tour of duty as Mess Caterer.

Our congratulations go to Corporal Davies and Signalman Jenkins, who recently completed the first of what we hope will be a series of long-distance canoe trips. They did the journey with three of Bampton's more experienced crews in three days of glorious sunshine (is this a record for this summer?).

The canoes went to Shrewsbury by truck and the trip down

the Severn began on a Sunday morning. They arrived in Worcester on Tuesday afternoon and the round trip was completed when they brought them back from there to Droitwich.

3 Squadron. Farewell to August and the monsoon season. Situated as we are amidst so much farmland, the damage by rain to the crops has been heavy. During off duty hours members of the Squadron have given valuable assistance to the local farmers in the haste to get the crop in between showers.

Christmas was brought to mind recently when the annual posting in of "20 geese" took place. The old place looks the same now and the Guard Commander is happy with his nightly job of rounding up the flock. Roll on Christmas dinner.

Our confirmed batchelor S.S.M.—Charlie Farquhar—drifted quietly away in August and got wed. Congratulations and best wishes to him and his wife.

Just prior to going to press a party was being organised for the Radio Exhibition.

In August we said farewell to W.O.II (Foreman of Signals) Wilkinson on release. To him we say "All the best for the future."

4 Squadron. The news from 4 Squadron this month mainly concerns improvements to the general recreational facilities of both Cobbett Hill and Oakhanger Stations. The new barracks block at Cobbett Hill is now occupied by the Regulars. At Oakhanger we have just opened a new quiet room and the Hobbies Club should open shortly.

Our annual Range Classification brought out quite a number of very good shots and we have had a competition which promoted keen enthusiasm both at Cobbett Hill and Oakhanger. Signalman Garratt won the prize for the best shot with under two years' service; Signalman Wagster won the prize for the best shot with over two years' service. The Cobbett Hill team were the winners of the falling plate. Oakhanger were the winners of the Inter-Troop Shield for Cricket.

The R.E.M.E. Inspection team has now departed, having been with us since last Christmas. We wish to congratulate Lieutenant (T.O.T.) Green on his recent promotion and wish him well in Aden. We also bid farewell to Sergeant Gwynne and family and wish them well at their new station.

Severn Canoe Exercise

30th August - 3rd September, 1958

Crews

3 Squadron, Bampton. Corporal Davis and Corporal Gray in *Ducota II*.

Lance-Corporal Haynes and Signalman Black in *Ducota*.

Lance-Corporal Gordon and Signalman Shaw in *Sure*.

2 Squadron, Droitwich. Lance-Corporal Davis and Signalman Jenkins in *Enterprise*.

Saturday, 30th August. We left Bampton at 14.00 hours and picked up the Droitwich canoe and crew at 17.00 hours and the party duly arrived at Salop. We circumnavigated Salop, passing through some very fine country and eventually found a camp site in the water meadows below the Mount, about three-quarters of a mile above Welsh Bridge, Shrewsbury. We made camp and then spent the evening completing final preparations and undertaking a brief tour of the town.

Sunday, 31st August. We rose early, encouraged perhaps by the seventh or was it eighth fine morning of the summer, and after Corporal Gray had returned from church embarked at about 09.30 hours. We paddled down the wide, swiftly flowing river and paused under the suspension bridge to refill our water bottles. Shrewsbury weir provided us with our quota of excitement for the day when we lined down—the highlight being some thrilling skating movements by Don Hayes. We continued down to Atcham Bridge, where we paused for light refreshment, and then decided to stop at Wroxeter—three miles further down—for lunch. The river so far had been wide and meandered between high alder and willow-covered banks. All the rapids were covered, due to recent rain, making the river fast flowing, but less interesting than usual. These conditions continued to Buildwas.

After lunch, some of us visited the Roman remains, where we saw the site of the public baths and forum, while others mended *Sure's* back rest supports and re-packed their own canoes in a more efficient manner.

The afternoon took us through pleasant, rolling country until we entered the Upper Severn Gorge at Cressage Bridge. Here the river drew in, giving us fast water, with two minor patches of white water down to Ironbridge. Here we passed under the first iron bridge to be built in England.

Passing between rubbish tipped and rock strewn banks we were glad when the valley opened slightly and we were able to land for the night in a field half-a-mile below Coalport Bridge. The farmer said that canoeists often used his field (no charge) and he showed us where to get water and offered us fresh eggs and milk at a reasonable price. We walked to Coalport to telephone, crossing another ancient iron bridge which we had previously been under.

Distance covered — 27 miles.

Monday, 1st September. Another fine day! (Hot run from lunch on).

A hearty breakfast preceded a start at about 11.00 hours and we paddled easily down to Bridgnorth, where we rode up the cliff railway (3d. return) and wandered round the old town. We bought provisions, wrote postcards and had some light refreshment before continuing down the long reaches which stretched between high wooded banks. Twelve pleasant miles later we reached the long awaited Eynmore Rapids, which in normal summer conditions consist of two waterfalls and a mile of fast rapids. Due to the high water level, however, the waterfalls were reduced to a couple of feet in depth and we had a fast if unspectacular run through our only real patch of natural rough water. Pausing only at Bewdley for a chocolate purchasing break, we arrived at Blackstone Rock (a red sandstone cliff) at about six o'clock and camped on the left bank overlooking the last shallow stretch of the river.

As usual, we pitched our tents and cooked our meals in pairs —a very satisfactory arrangement indeed—and we spent the evening looking around the natural and artificial beauties of the town.

Distance covered — 22 miles.

Tuesday, 2nd September. A very misty morning seemed sufficient reason to delay our hour of rising a little and so after a late breakfast we started individually for Stourport. *Ducota II*, delayed by a patch that needed repairing, was last to leave at 11.15 hours. The party reassembled below Stourport Bridge and we paused for a while in order to get rid of the rubbish from the previous night's camp and to consume a cup of coffee each. A mile below the bridge we entered our first lock, price 7d. per head and not 4d. as stated in the book.

By now the river had widened out again and the banks were alder and willow-covered except where erosion was taking place at too fast a pace for them to take root. We had also entered the navigational part of the river and the bow waves of the occasional barge or large launch proved enjoyable even if rather more "damping" than the Eynmore Rapids.

Passing through Holt Fleet Lock and later by the entrance at the Droitwich Canal we arrived at Bevere Lock, which we were informed by the book could be by-passed by shooting the weir. Sure enough there was the obvious route down on the left bank and Corporals Davis and Gray, who had been hoping for conditions higher up stream similar to those met with on the Wye trip last year, led down the 10-foot drop in a flurry of spray and moving paddles, followed at intervals by the remainder. This proved the highlight of the trip, but Worcester lay ahead, so pausing only to give *Enterprise's* crew time to remove their life jackets, we paddled on. We arrived at Worcester at about 1630 hrs. and had tea and ham rolls before bidding our Droitwich friends farewell. Their enjoyment of the few days was perhaps marred by some lack of equipment, but they persevered and nevertheless "went through."

We paddled the ten miles down to Upton-on-Severn in the late afternoon, and after some enquiries had been made gained permission to camp in Joe Griffin's orchard which is situated just below the bridge on the left bank. Joe (of B.B.C. fame, next appearance September) is usually to be found sitting on a seat on the other side of the river, and if not the man hiring out boats will be able to put you in touch with him. After paying him our "bob a head" he told us how he had rowed up to Welshpool and back (up in 9 days, down in 5; record time) in 1910, and stated that the Ironbridge Gorge was practically impassable in those days due to huge rocks round which his team of four had had to tow up and line down their craft.

Lance-Corporal Davis arranged to ring the O.C. from Droitwich, so after a short circuit of the town we returned to bed.

Distance covered — 27 miles.

Wednesday, 3rd September. After a massive breakfast followed by a general cleaning of canoes and equipment, we were ready to leave by 1000 hrs. but for the patch on *Ducota II* which was peeling off again. The patch was removed and a new one made and carefully fixed, and we finally moved off at 1100 hrs.

The morning, which had been extremely misty earlier on, made a rally and the sun emerged from behind the clouds for a short while only, to be covered once and for all by some nasty looking storm clouds. However, we reached Tewkesbury—a town associated with Mrs. Henry Craik's English novel, "John Halifax, Gentleman," in one and three-quarter hours hard paddling. After a pause for coffee and rolls followed by a slightly longer one in which we re-patched *Ducota II*, which had been rapidly sinking by the stern, we started on the last 12¾ miles to Gloucester. Half-a-mile downstream we came to Lower Lode Lock and as the gates were being repaired had to portage round. Corporal Davis and Lance-Corporal Haynes, however, saw in the edge of the weir "a way down" and despite cries of protest from Signalman Black unloaded *Ducota* and unceremoniously descended the five-foot drop. Even unloaded the keel grated against the bottom, so we continued to carry the other canoes and kit round the weir.

Soon afterwards it began to rain and we quickly put on plastic macs or removed all excessive clothing in preparation for the weather that we had been expecting all the morning. Needless to say the weather triumphed and we were given a couple of hours of almost continuous rain, some of which would not have been amiss in the tropics. There was little point in sheltering, so we decided to continue paddling until we reached Gloucester. Corporal Davis's and Corporal Gray's experience in the Devizes—Westminster Race served them in good stead, and they reached Gloucester two hours after leaving Upper Lode Lock. They quickly changed, ordered hot meals at the West End Cafe, and then rang back to camp for transport.

The other crews who had decided to shelter during the worst of the storm followed soon after and we all enjoyed the luxury of dry clothes and warm food to the full.

Having pursued us to our "goal" the rain stopped and we had the canoes and equipment ready for loading when the transport from Camp arrived.

Distance covered — 19 miles.

Conclusion. Ninety-five miles of technically easy canoeing were covered in four days. If the river had been at its normal level a trip which would have equalled our Wye trip could have been expected.

Much experience was gained, especially by those new to long trips, who learned how to keep equipment dry under all conditions the hard way.

The crew per tent and cooking unit worked very well indeed, and the Detention Allowance was much appreciated as it gave a wider variety of foods that could be varied to suit the climatic conditions.

An excellent trip, thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Notes

The following equipment was carried by each canoe: One tent, two sleeping bags, groundsheets, one Primus and fuel container, torch, mess tins, knives, forks, spoons and mugs, water bottles, food and spare clothing, waterproofs and bags.

The following equipment was carried by one canoe only, being shared out: Two W.S. 38, two billies, repair kit, first-aid kit.

The wireless sets were tested and kept ready for use if needed, but it was not found necessary to use them.

Droitwich personnel were obviously hampered by lack of equipment and overcrowding in one of the tents was unavoidable.

A basic minimum is suggested for future trips: (1) Tent. (2) Waterproof bags (two per man if blankets carried). (3) One Primus.

We noticed that a lot of rubbish had been left behind benches, etc., by other campers. This is a bad idea and where possible rubbish should be carried until it can be disposed of on a dump or in a dustbin. Failing this, flattened tins can be buried or dropped into midstream.

The Severn becomes slower as one proceeds. Thus 27 miles on the first day represents much less work than 27 on the third or 19 miles on the fourth.

A SCOTTISH OCCASION



[Photograph: Courtesy The Scotsman Publications Ltd., Edinburgh

Colonel T. P. E. Murray, O.B.E., T.D., A.D.C., Honorary Colonel of the 51 (Highland) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A., being presented to Her Majesty The Queen on the occasion of the Scottish Territorial Army Jubilee Parade in Edinburgh on the 5th July, 1958.

SCOTTISH COMMAND (M) SIGNAL SQUADRON

The mixture in the Squadron is steadily resolving itself and in doing so is providing the Second-in-Command, Captain A. N. Wright, with a migraine type headache emanating from a close study of who not to lose in the post and how to keep the records straight with regard to who married whom. Co-operation being the watchword, here is a short list: Signalman Rennie to Private Senior, Cfn. Stenson to Lance-Corporal Doig and Signalman Doran to Private Leach. Our congratulations and best wishes to them all.

During the month we had the pleasure of a performance from the Royal Signals Band, under its Director of Music, Major J. L. Judd, M.B.E. Although we cannot claim high-class acoustics for our gymnasium, there is no doubt that the orchestra is an extraordinary fine one, and gave us a grand performance. Part of the orchestra also played for our All Ranks Dance which was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone.

The start of the winter sports session which has been most encouraging, no doubt due to the extra curricular events already in hand by way of P.T., etc. At any rate the football team returned a 10-0 win which is wonderful advertising for Major MacPherson's (RAF) P.R.I. boots. The P.R.I., having seen the extent of the success of the "Never-Never" lark, has entered this field on behalf of the institute and has purchased 40 pairs of boots for re-sale at 1/- instalments and is now looking forward to increased business.

The Hockey team, by dint of making use of the substitute rule (not to be found in the book), won 1-0, scorer Staff Sergeant Greenbrook. However, we mustn't detract from some very good play since the score does not do justice to the team's superiority or to Second-Lieutenant Risks's amazing mobility.

18 ARMY GROUP SIGNAL REGIMENT

It is, perhaps, unkind to the reader in England to mention the weather this summer, and we can only hope that by the time he reads this he will have forgotten the worst; but here we have had a beautiful succession of hot and sunny days, which has stretched from late August until now (mid-September).

We are still in Essen and despite the fact that we have been due to move for the 18 months or so and have existed mainly—as far as interior decoration in the barracks is concerned—on self-help, we have lately seen the result of some Royal Engineer (Works) activities.

After about 12 months of effort, an agreement was reached with everybody that something ought to be done about our NAAFI Families' Shop. After that, progress was quite rapid and some accommodation recently vacated by the Garrison Engineer was suitably altered to make a new shop. The main snag of the old shop was that its store rooms were so hopelessly inadequate that the bulk of the stock had to be kept in another building. The new plan altered all that, but NAAFI went one better and completely re-equipped it as a self-service shop.

Soon we hope to have our petrol pumps working again. For nearly a year now we have been making do with jerricans, as our underground tank had subsided slightly and developed a leak. Then, after much negotiation, a new tank appeared one day and was deposited on the grass beside the petrol pump. And there it stayed (apart from one occasion when some members of —one suspects—a demob party rolled it for about 30 yards) for four months. The next point of the story shows how some people acquire quite unearned reputations for getting things done. We had a visit from the Commander, Base Garrisons, and this Officer—amongst other things—studied the derelict tank, now painted black to preserve it from the atmosphere, and made a note in his little book. He also studied a nasty, pothole-ridden road about which we had been trying to get something done for some time—another note in his book. The next day, literally, a gang of men descended on us and started to mark out the ground for the hole to put the tank into, and a steam roller fitted with a short tusk began to tear up the offending road.

There are those, of course, who are quite certain that this was the Brigadier's doing, which, as has been mentioned, shows how chance can bestow her favours to good effect. (A cynical minority suggests that if Inspecting Officers cannot arrange for their visits to precede by a minute interval the commencement of some work of major importance to those they are visiting, they are being let down by their staffs!). However, we are not too much concerned with what goes on in the background; either we have a lucky Brigadier, or he has a particularly good staff (which makes him lucky which ever way it goes), and if his first visit is anything to go on, the more we see him the better we shall be pleased.

2 Squadron's roadway is a mere scratch compared with what is going on outside the barracks. *Bundesstrasse* 1 (rather attractively called the *Ruhrschnellweg* in a fit of wishful thinking) skirts our wall on the north. For years work has been going on at various places on this road, which runs from Aachen through Düsseldorf, the heart of the Ruhr (Essen, of course), and eventually to Berlin, if the maps can be believed, to enable it to live up to its names of a fast road. For example, one can see great bridges in the middle of nowhere, just waiting for the road to join them. Enormous works have been undertaken on sections within a few miles of the barracks. Now, the section along our northern boundary is to be closed *for five years*, so that its carriageway can be doubled and all the paraphernalia of modern highways incorporated. Of what interest is all this to us? Merely that all the eastbound traffic will now be diverted to the road which flanks our southern boundary and on to which our main entrance opens. The traffic department of our friends, the Essen Police, have provided us with a wand, at the waving of which by a regimental policeman all this vast stream of traffic will stop! It is understood that there is some speculation in certain quarters at the efficacy of this wand.

September has set a new "high" in the departure rate of Officers. The loss of five within half that number of weeks would be a blow to any regiment, and so it is to us to lose so many familiar faces. Captain R. K. Nice, who was our oldest inhabitant (by service with the Regiment, not by age, of course), and Captain D. A. Barry, who had been here only eight months, have both gone to Catterick for two years' hard labour on the Long Telecommunication Engineering Course. By a remarkable coincidence, each of the other three Officers is also undertaking a prolonged course of study; they are, in fact, all going up to Cambridge. Lieutenant R. D. Harries has transferred to the Regular Army Reserve of Officers and will be reading Theology as a preliminary to entering the priesthood of the Church of England. Lieutenant C. E. Slater, at the expiry of his short service commission, will be reading Mechanical Sciences, and Second-Lieutenant P. R. Thomas, who leaves today at the end of his period of National Service, will be reading Natural Sciences. To all of them, those who are going out of the Service not less than those who are remaining, we wish good fortune in the future and hope that we may meet again.

1 CORPS SIGNAL REGIMENT

This month we start with a review of our athletics activities during 1958 and finish with a note on our success in the Nijmegen March.

The 1958 athletic season got off to a late start, thanks to the usual late Spring combination of Officer shortage and Exercise surpluses; in fact the newly appointed Athletics Officer was just bemoaning the meagre return from his appeal for athletes in Unit Part I Orders when he was asked to produce a team for the preliminary rounds of the Army Cup. Unfortunately, there were hardly enough volunteers at that time for one event, let alone 14, and so we departed from the Army Cup.

In desperation the Athletics Officer entered practically all of his small band for the 4 Divisional Individual Championships at Hubbelrath on the 23rd May, a move that met with gratifying success. (In particular Corporal Diment broke the meeting high jump record with a jump of 5ft. 8in.). Corporal Diment (fourth in high jump) and Corporal Clarke (fifth in 800 metres) both performed well in the subsequent B.A.O.R. Individual Finals at Berlin.

By mid-June constant publicity was at last taking effect and the number of track suits trotting around Maresfield Barracks in the evening trebled. Thanks to Corporal Clarke's excellent liaison with the local German club, the lack of training facilities was to some extent overcome and a match arranged at the Herford Stadium. The Germans triumphed by seven events to four, but they included several outstanding athletes and the competition was of immense value.

People returning from leave and courses at this time had good cause to be apprehensive; Sergeant Slade was more or less taken off the train to compete in the Herford match (clearing 10ft. 6in. in his first vault for two years); Sergeant Howie, having driven through the night from Ostend to make the second round of the Morrison Cup cricket, was pitchforked into the 120 yards hurdles team, and three days later was driving the same car towards Munchen Gladbach.

18th and 19th July saw the climax of the season with the Royal Signals' Team Championships at Munchen Gladbach. The Regiment performed consistently to finish fourth, only one point behind 19 Army Group Signal Regiment, with whom we had dead-heated in a most exciting hurdles final.

Only two of the 14 events were won, the high jump and the pole vault. Both victories had been anticipated as our pairs were the envy of B.A.O.R., but the team captain's ulcers were not improved on the first day by an injury to Sergeant Slade's ankle, which made it hard work for him to vault 9ft. 9in., or the stiff leg of Signalman Hartley, the second string high jumper, who jumped only 5ft. 11in.—6½in. less than he had achieved only seven days before.

Corporal Diment, the first string in both events, started the second morning by cheerfully winning the pole vault without disturbing the bar. The high jump was a much more tense struggle; he was left alone at 5ft. 4in. with three more inches to clear in order to clinch the event for the Unit. No doubt the spectators in the stands watching the spectacular track events finals wondered why the whole Corps team were gathered round the high jump pit watching the man jump. Inch by inch he closed the gap and amidst a cheer, which obviously disturbed the perspiring milers on the track, he cleared the all-important height.

All of the team performed well, particularly considering the limited training, but several deserve especial mention. Corporal Clarke for his sub two-minute half-mile, which rescued two places in the 4 x 800 metre relay; Lance-Corporal Bell for his devastating sprinting (and deplorable baton changing), which was such a feature of the meeting; Sergeant Howie for his very fast 120 yards hurdles, despite the comment of a nameless onlooker that with his build he ought to enter for the Grand National; and Lance-Corporal Blanchet for his electrifying finish in the three miles.

Next year we shall start earlier with a good nucleus of this year's team remaining, and 1 Wireless Regiment and 4 Divisional Signals had best look to their laurels.

Nijmegen March

Jig! ah jig! ah jig! Oy! oy! oy! This is a familiar chant to anyone who has been to Nijmegen during the four-day international march festival held annually during July each year. This year we entered a team for the first time and after many miles with aching feet and worn out limbs during training, the team arrived at Nijmegen feeling very fit.

The third day began to sort out the men from the boys, and on the final day there was no holding our team until they were held up for an hour whilst waiting for the Royal Netherlands Engineers to complete the building of a pontoon bridge across a river. Although the march is not a race, nevertheless we were pleased to find ourselves the third British and the first Royal Signals' team to pass the saluting base. It must be recorded that the team of 13 men, under Lieutenant Bunce, all satisfactorily completed the course of 100 miles with 22lb. of kit, thus earning a team trophy for the Unit as well as individual medals.

ROYAL SIGNALS DIARIES, 1959

Diaries will be available in November, 1958.

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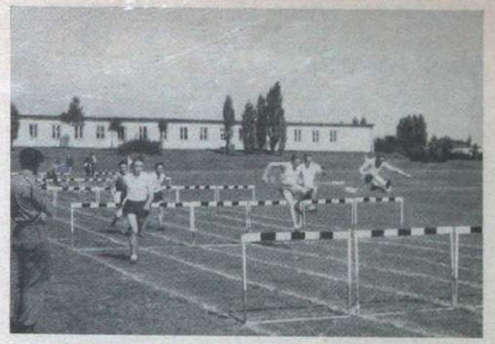
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2 DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT KOHIMA DAY, 1958

Whenever the exploits of the 2nd Division in World War II are recalled the Battle of Kohima stands out as its finest hour.

In March, 1944, the Japanese launched 100,000 men against General Slim's 14th Army positions in the Imphal Plain (India-Burma frontier) as the main effort in their "March to Delhi." The garrison of Kohima was cut off and surrounded. The 2nd Division was part of the relieving force from India. The Japanese pressed their attacks fanatically and in the torrential monsoon rain bitter fighting continued night and day for three months. The Japanese could not prevail against such determined defence and having lost 75,000 men broke and fled back into Burma. From that moment the re-conquest of Burma began and India was saved.

To commemorate the Battle this year, 2 Divisional Signal



Corporal Hull (HQ Sqn) (centre) winning the final of the 110 yards Hurdles, closely followed by Lieutenant P. Bullard (left)

Regiment celebrated Kohima Day on 17th August as part of the functions of a Regimental Week-end. The celebrations began with the Officers' Cocktail Party, to which guests from all units in the Division were invited, followed by the Inter-Squadron Regimental Sports next day. The Brigade Signal Squadrons arrived in strength from their distant barracks by bus and car.

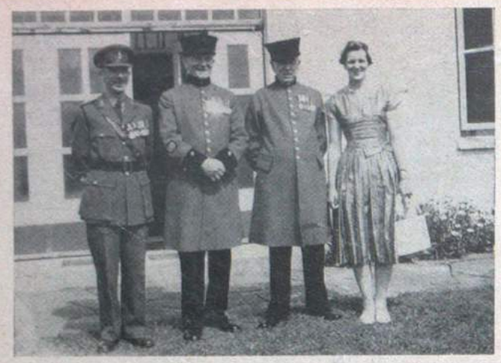
After very heavy rain during the night—washing out all the chalk markings!—bright sunshine and a stiff breeze made the track just usable at 11 o'clock when the sports began. 6 Infantry Brigade Group Signal Squadron won the Tug-o'-War, and although 11 Infantry Brigade Group Signal Squadron sent another very strong athletic team, they were unable to wrest the cup from 2 Squadron, last year's winner. Corporal Brown is to be congratulated on his team's success—a just reward for his enthusiasm and hard work in training the team. Major F. G. G. Rapsey made a spirited effort in the Hammer event with a close second to the massive Corporal Dicker (2 Squadron) who made a throw of over 115 feet. Staff Sergeant Orme won the Long Jump with a fine jump of 20 feet 8½ inches, beating the present B.A.O.R. champion (Corporal Hull, H.Q. Squadron). Competitors were restricted to a maximum of two events each in order to encourage everyone to take part. The Old Soldiers' Race was won by Major E. E. T. Bennett, our Quartermaster, which was not surprising considering he had a start of over 30 yards!

On Saturday evening the Kohima Ball was held in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess. Guests were received in the entrance hall, which Staff Sergeant Armstrong had made into a realistic Kohima jungle position from first hand knowledge of the battle.

Our chief guests were the Chelsea Pensioners who stayed with the Regiment for a week. They arrived by air at Hanover, where they were met by the R.S.M., L. Davies, and a party of senior Warrant Officers and Sergeants in No. 1 Dress. They were accorded full V.I.P. treatment by B.E.A. and the German airport authorities. The first of these two grand old gentlemen, R.Q.M.S. Tom Comins, is aged 82 and enlisted in 1893 in the Royal Engineers, Telegraph Battalion (the forerunner of the present Royal Corps of Signals). He was discharged in 1919 after 25 years' service. He is very proud of the fact that he was on parade at Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee in 1897 and saw Kaiser Wilhelm ride in the procession. During his period of service he was awarded the Queen's South Africa Medal, with Clasps Paardeburg, Drienfrontien and Cape Colony (Transvaal); the King's South Africa Medal, with Clasps 1901 and 1902; the Africa General Service Medal, with Clasps Somaliland 1902-04 and Jidballi; the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal; the British War and Victory Medals (1914-18) with Oak Leaves (he was mentioned in despatches no less than three times). Since then Tom has been awarded the Meritorious Service Medal and the Imperial Service Medal. He also served with the Home Guard in World War II, but considers himself a "rookie" inasmuch as he has only been in the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, for twelve months!

The second old gentleman, George Styles, aged 73, enlisted in the Dorset Regiment in 1901. After serving in the Royal Artillery and West African Frontier Force, he transferred to Royal Signals until his retirement in 1925. Not content with these 24 years of service with the Colours, George volunteered in 1939 to seek further active service and joined the Queen's Royal Regiment, in which he served until 1941.

He, too, has a chest full of campaign medals to commemorate his service, among them the West African "Egba" Expedition Medal.



Left to Right : R.S.M. L. Davies, Mr. Comins, Mr. Sykes, Mrs. Davies

George has been in the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, for 16 months and does not allow Tom Comins to forget the fact!

Other functions held over the week-end were the Corporals' Dance held in the Corporals' Mess to the music of Sergeant Hurnell and his Skiffle Group, and a strictly Smoking Concert in the NAAFI on Monday, at which an American Services' concert party performed.

The Kohima Memorial Service was held in St. Peter's Church on Sunday, the G.O.C. 2 Division and a large number of the Regiment and their families attending. The heroic stand of the Kohima Garrison was recalled and we were reminded of the words inscribed on the Kohima War Memorial.

For your tomorrow, we gave our today.

What is not stated in the paragraph about the Kohima battle is that for the first part of the battle the Divisional Signals numbered only 86 all ranks. The Commanding Officer worked in his own line parties, all on man pack with the drivers as working numbers. Operators worked 18 to 20 hours a shift. The Divisional Signal Office was often under shell fire, the command posts were heavily mortared. Only after a month of heavy fighting did the remainder of the Divisional Signals begin to arrive. For the 2nd Division this was not a defensive battle. It was a prolonged and violent assault gainst an immensely strong and well fortified position.—Editor.

THE 4th DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT

The Officers' Mess

The Officers' Mess has only a small complement of living-in members but certain features of Mess life have prompted and encouraged the support of an ever increasing number of the Herford set which leads to many varied and thoroughly enjoyable occasions.

It is now four months since the Mess held its first Regimental Scottish Country Dancing evening—an instant success, and these weekly gatherings are as novel and interesting now as they were at the outset. The evening's meeting is invariably opened with the dancing of the Corps Reel—the existence of which is not widely known—and it is hoped in the near future to affiliate our club to the Royal Scottish Country Dancing Society in Edinburgh.

The Mess "Buttery" is now a firmly-established institution where, in the quietude of an atmosphere of sweet music and soft lights, affairs of state may be discussed by philosophers and others over a glass of wine and a steak, the quality of which is unsurpassed in Herford.

The "Buttery" murals present an interesting object lesson in life to the perceptive eye and perhaps a subtle and rather cynical reflection on the frustrations and difficulties which had to be met and overcome in order to bring about the existence of this unique "eating house." They depict, in eleven studies, the attempts of a humble frog to surmount a large and apparently impossible boulder but before success is finally achieved through sheer perseverance and tenacity of purpose, the frog had to undergo the experience of failure, humiliation, grief and self-pity.

Should the observer's powers of perception become a little blunted by the excellence of the wine, the story of the frog is available for him to read at no extra charge. Membership of this exclusive club is acquired by the purchase of a handsome frog brooch (patent applied for) at a very moderate price.

The Sergeants' Mess

These are the first notes submitted since we moved into our brand new Mess and a delightful haven of rest it is too (apart from Saturdays and Mess Meetings), with all mod. con. and a bar decorated in light oak, with a black imitation marble top and fittings in brass and chrome.

Sergeant Paddy Stevenson, a man of Irish stock with strong leanings to Scotch, attends to our simple needs from behind the bar and rumour has it that his steadiness in this capacity has caused his name to be included in the short list for Regimental Provost Sergeant. With the aid of some "What are they saying" quotes let me introduce a few selected members of the Mess:

R.S.M. W. A. Timbrell ...	Who favours the M.M.L. for light bedside reading.
R.Q.M.S. Bob Wride	"Call me Mister—if you please."
R.Q.M.S. Harry Laidlaw ...	"When I was serving in Russia-Greece - Abyssinia - Germany-France, etc., etc."
Staff Sergeant Jock Morrison	"I'm going to get married."
Sergeant "Taffy" Jones ...	Always quoting something but normally unintelligible.
Staff Sergeant Jim Currie ...	"Let's have your pass."
Sergeant "Gordy" Sanderson	Leads remarks for "Taffy" Jones.
Sergeant "Gordy" Morrison, A.C.C.	"The rice is soggy again" and disclaims all responsibility.

These among others go to make up a very good Mess and anyone due to join the Regiment can look forward to a happy tour.

A recent inspection of "O" Troop barrack room revealed—among other things—an amended version of the local A.K.C. cinema programme. Some of the substitutes were as follows:

Bonjour Tristesse	Demob.
Family Doctor	M. and D.
Hour of Decision	First Works Parade.
Count Five and Die ...	Saluting Drill.
Reprisal	No Permanent Passes.
The Silent Enemy	Staff Sergeant Currie.

The Corporals' Club



Outside the Club



Behind the Bar

"The Corporal Arms embraces everything."

The Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel T. H. C. Grigg, declared the Club *open* on the 23rd July, 1958. The occasion was attended by the officers, Warrant Officers and Sergeants and was altogether a very satisfactory affair.

In addressing the Junior N.C.O.s the Colonel said:

"When I arrived in the Regiment my first thoughts were to have a Junior Leaders' Club, but it has taken almost two years to achieve—and not without a struggle. . . .

"As a Subaltern, one of the more pleasant Orderly Officer duties I can recall was to take a glass of beer in the Corporals' Mess at closing time. . . .

"The task of the junior N.C.O. is probably the hardest of all. It is at his level that the most vital orders are finally translated into action and the success or failure of these orders depend entirely upon his leadership. He has often to take action that he knows to be unpopular. He has to rise above the level of his friends on promotion and to resist the very natural impulses of his heart. Yet that first stripe is the most worth while step of all. . . .

"The Corporals' Club is your own to bring your wives and your friends when ever you like. You must look after it and use it well and properly. Work hard and play hard and find in your club a place in which to relax after the day's work is done. Looking around, I am prompted to comment that the Corporal Arms must and does embrace everything. . . ."

Other Ranks

The Other Ranks have a place of rest too—the Y.W.C.A. (Why Dub), where they spend what little money they receive on tea, cakes, cooked meals, papers and the juke box.

Those of us not burdened with the cares of a Mess or Club are happy to submit to the refreshing ministrations of the Young Women's Christian Association and some of us have been seen going into the NAAFI. Others claim that Herford hospitality has much to offer—but they are, of course, a minority.

We have at hand a very good cinema, a Rost Bratwurst Stall just outside it (the German equivalent of a "fish and chips" shop—with the difference that the commodity offered is "bangers and rolls") and the Cafe Schmidt hard by. We realise it must be a very hard job to obtain the same film twice in two months and pardon that, but a petty annoyance stands in the way of many soldiers. Have you ever heard of *No Smoking* in the cinema? What is the fire piquet for? With no offence meant, Sir!

Now to return to the Cafe Schmidt and all that it stands for. It is often referred to as the last stop before the dungeons. It has proved a Waterloo for some and a Crimea for others. So many aspiring leaders have come hurtling down its steppes—surrendering stripes on the way, and others have practised their profession through the back doors and windows. The floor is blood-stained and tear-stained and the Provost Company float a brisk trade from its weekly intake. But for all that, the Cafe Schmidt is a pub, our pub, and who may we ask would do without that?

If the Cafe Schmidt sometimes spells war the "Why Dub" always spells peace—in spite of the juke box, and talking about that here are a few of the more popular records and the current nicknames given them.

Mack the Knife	Military Police.
Island in the Sun	Herford.
Happy Days are Here Again	Demob.
Get a Job (say the Corporals)	Skive (say the Other Ranks).
I'm Walking	P.E. Test Nine-mile Bash.
Bye Bye Love	Catterick.
Water Water	NAAFI Tea.
Magic Moments	Leave.
Hound Dog	S.S.M. (?) Squadron.
Let Me Go	No Comment.

What are the Other Ranks saying? Well, it goes something like this: "Mid pleasures and places . . ." remember? And someone has written a snappy little tune called "Red Train to the Hook"—but more about that next time.

Postscript

The Commanding Officer and All Ranks send their congratulations to the Gurkha Signal Regiment in Malaya for winning the much coveted Nepal Cup in 1958.

Diary of Recent Regimental Fixtures

18th/19th July, 1958. *Athletics :* B.A.O.R. Royal Signals Championships. Runners-up to 1 Wireless Regiment.

19th/27th July, 1958. *Nijmegen Marches :* Two teams entered; all qualified.

20th August, 1958. *Cricket :* B.A.O.R. Royal Signals Championships. Runners-up to 12 Air Formation Signal Regiment.

16th August, 1958. *Athletics :* B.A.O.R. R.A.S.C. Championships. Both Invitation Races won by 4 Divisional Signal Regiment, Signalman Davidson, 1,500 metres. Time 4.19.

2 L of C Signal Regiment

☆



The Officers taken on the occasion of the Admin Inspection on the 26th July 1958

Back Row (reading left to right) : Second Lieutenants R. Gill, J. Doyle, I. McLeod, Captain R. Nunn (REME) ; Lieutenants J. E. P. Philp ; L. F. Davis; Second Lieutenants M. Mortlock, P. J. Moore

Centre Row (reading left to right) : Lieutenant L. E. Adcock; Captains E. W. P. Foley, E. Thompson, R. Bryson, M. A. Turner, A. M. McCann, J. Hastings, C. Cross, M.B.E.; Lieutenant J. Hopkins.

Front Row (reading left to right) : Captain E. W. Evans (RAChD), Major R. W. Bosworth, Major J. L. Waller, Lieutenant Colonel W. C. Burke, Major General A. E. Brocklehurst, C.B., D.S.O., Captain C. J. Gilbert, Captain J. Ansell, R.A., Major B. E. Tebbs, Major A. G. Smith.

R.H.Q., 1 and 2 Squadrons (Krefeld). During the last month the weather man must have made a special effort to make up for his idleness in the other summer months and at last produced some sunshine for us. While those of you in the U.K. have experienced, from all reports, the most dreadful vagaries of weather we in Krefeld have been sweltering in the sun.

1 Squadron, with the very essential aid of 2 Squadron, deserted Bradbury Barracks and took themselves to the woods near Herongen for a week and exercised themselves in their trades. When they came back they all looked bronzed and ready to go out again at the earliest opportunity.

Sporting activities this last month have seen the birth of the coming winter's sports and the winding up of the summer sports. During the past few weeks we have played several cricket matches and some very exciting games have resulted. The last game against 1 Wireless Regiment finished unhappily in a victory for the visitors by five wickets, after we had declared at 120 for one wicket, Lance-Corporal Church and Lance-Corporal Burston scoring 60 and 56 not out respectively. That defeat, however, has been our only setback this month, and with two matches left to play we can look back on a very successful season, having won far more games than we have lost. In the two cup matches, however, we were not so lucky, losing both in the first round.

Association football and hockey training are now in full swing. A recent football match against a German works team augurs well for the future; the Regiment doing little towards improving international relationships, trounced the opposition.

A sport which does not often appear in the pages of THE WIRE is fishing. We have here a redoubtable fisherman in the person of Sergeant Ainsley, who, with his colleague, Sergeant Hunter, have been fishing (legally) the local waters. Sergeant Ainsley is to be congratulated on winning second prize in a fishing competition by catching a carp weighing 11½lb. The competition was organised by a local area German fishing club.

From all reports, however, he will not get many marks for recruiting new members for the club, since he omitted to collect an ardent beginner the other morning who was waiting for him at half-past-four! I am told, incidentally, that the Unit Fire Officer has been told not to drain the static water tank without reference to Sergeant Ainsley, since he keeps fish in it, which, we hope, will reach the tables of all ranks at Christmas. Some will have it that he puts them here for growing to competition size.

At the close of this month the Corporals' Club ran their first dance since leaving Düsseldorf. The dance was a tremendous success due primarily to the exceptionally hard work that Corporal Francis put into the preparation and compering of the dance. Private Bailey, of the A.C.C., deserved special mention for the hard work he put into preparing an excellent buffet.

3 Squadron (Emblem). We had the pleasant duty of entertaining two members of the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, who were spending 14 days in Belgium as the guests of the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess, Grobbendonck Camp.

One of them, C.Q.M.S. King, is ex-Royal Signals and the other, Sergeant Henry Bayley, is ex-R.A.S.C. They came to the Squadron on the morning of 2nd July and first visited the Signal Centre, where C.Q.M.S. King showed especial interest. After having a cup of tea they left for a visit to the Ypres Salient, of which they both had vivid memories. They visited first the Hooge Chateau where, in the First World War, C.Q.M.S. King had worked in the Signal Office. This Chateau is now a large restaurant. During lunch, which we had here, C.Q.M.S. King remembered that near the Chateau were the trenches in which he had soldiered, so consequently we visited them and found them to have been preserved in their original state, with the odd pieces of weapons and equipment that had been left behind. Alongside the trenches is a cafe (pub), to which is attached a museum, and both C.Q.M.S. King and Sergeant Bayley spent a long time studying the different cap badges and equipment, most of which they could recognise at a glance.

We returned to camp via the Menin Gate, on which is engraved the name of every Allied soldier who fell here during the 1914-1918 War, and Poperingen, where the great movement of Talbot House (Toc H) was started.

We found that the original Toc H canteen was still *in situ* and we were welcomed by the British representative of the Toc H movement, together with the Belgian landlord and his wife. We were very interested to see here the original drawings of some of World War I's artists, amongst which were some of Bairnfather's cartoons of Bill of the Better 'Ole fame. This visit ended the day and on the return journey these old soldiers slept peacefully, doubtless dreaming of days of yore.

4 Squadron (Bielefeld). We are glad to report that a "mass escape" took place from the M.C.T.C., Mossbank Barracks, in that we broke out of our former prison establishment after a short sentence. We were aided by the contractors, who tore down the surrounding walls to make way for us.

We are now settled in Ripon Barracks and are finding life pleasant enough, though we have lost the Unit canteen, much to the regret of the soldiers and much to the relief of the P.R.I. and Imprest holder.

Second-Lieutenant R. Wood has left us on demobilisation; not only does he join the ranks of civilians but he also changes his cap badge to that of the Mobile Defence Corps for his part-time service.

The cricket season is now over and although we were not often on the winning side everyone who took part in the games enjoyed them. The Squadron team had to be changed so frequently, due to shift work and postings, that there is probably no-one in the Bielefeld detachment who has not played for the Squadron. It is reported, we are sorry to say, that our only victory was won on the toss after rain had stopped play!

BERLIN SIGNAL SQUADRON

Berlin Signal Squadron, out of natural diffidence and preoccupation with its rather peculiar problems, has kept silence. Or perhaps it was because we could not confirm our boast of winning the Brigade Minor Units Marching and Shooting Competition. It was not for lack of trying.

Mr. E. H. Betts, O.B.E., Senior P. and T. Officer here, has left to retirement. A succession of Squadron Commanders, with their bright ideas, will remember that there was nothing Ernie Betts did not know about Berlin. He was a good friend and a much respected expert. We wish him well and welcome Mr. Sudell, from Hanover, in his place.

A spontaneous expression of the people's feelings at Potsdam —they arrived by 'bus just after the Duty Officer left, we understand—caused some disquiet at the establishment of the British Mission to the Soviet Forces there recently. One 19 set (fresh from user trials) and Signalman Brown's feelings were damaged.

Potsdam is in the East Zone of Germany, to anticipate your question and the cause was alleged to be Jordan and Lebanon.

S.S.M. Cook, M.B.E., has joined us from 1 Corps Signal Regiment. He states that he recently walked up the Zugspitz in Austria.

The O.C. states that he recently climbed the Round Tower in Copenhagen without using the steps; both are being polite about it. Let's hear from the reader who knows the trick to the second statement.

Between cricket matches Major Collins does like his camping holiday.

Which reminds us that a family of wild boars attended our first Squadron camp this year in the Grunewald. They thought highly of the "fresh" rations which Sergeant Jones had not cooked in time.

We repeat our invitation to all ranks of Royal Signals in Europe to visit us—in small parties. Sergeant Brookes, who has acted as Chief Clerk and who dealt with the sometimes chaotic paper aspect of such visits, agrees. He leaves us on 31st August to get an "X" Certificate at Catterick.

Guard of Honour

Field Marshal The Viscount Montgomery of Alamein, K.G., G.C.B., D.S.O., *will visit Fontainebleau on Tuesday, 9th September, 1958" read the AFCENT H.Q. letter. It continued "O.C. ALFCE Signal Squadron (who will report direct to the Adjutant General for his instructions) is selected as Commander of the Guard of Honour for the Deputy Supreme Allied Commander Europe."*

On arrival, with Africa Star plus eight well to the fore the Commander designate was handed the draft orders. His ego was reduced to manageable proportions when he discovered from erasures that he was the third choice for the appointment. Never mind.

The Guard of Honour was to consist of seven detachments, each of twenty-four men, one from ALFCE Signal Squadron, one from the British Army Element, one from the American Army, one French, one composite detachment consisting of Germans, Belgians and Dutch, one Air Force and one composite Naval Detachment. The American Air Force provided the Band.

In ALFCE Signal Squadron, after a great deal of hard work which was undertaken with increasing enthusiasm, Sergeant W. J. Beddingfield produced a well drilled squad. This then formed the Royal Signals detachment. Corporal P. Johnson (an ex-boy R.S.M.) was right marker. Corporal C. C. Nurse was the only bemedalled soldier in the ranks. The men were all kitted out in well fitting blues with black leather equipment and white gloves.

Tuesday morning the 9th September proved clear and sunny and for the Parade Commander it soon also became an intriguing day for on the parade ground in Cour Henri IV of the Chateau of Fontainebleau there were assembled eight detachments instead of seven. The French Signals had decided they should also take part. Such is the way of N.A.T.O. Parades that this addition hardly raised an AG eyebrow and it was ruled that eight detachments should parade.

The troops were standing easy at the edge of the parade ground prior to being brought up on parade. The Royal Signals had been trained to relax when standing easy without discernible movement. A rather officious "A" Staff Officer responsible for preparing the parade ground advised Captain J. A. King to stand his men easy. A smart spring to attention and "They are standing easy, sir" ended that conversation to the evident approval of certain spectators.

When the Guard Commander reported to the Field Marshal he was asked which way they were to go; when told "to your right, sir," the Field Marshal gave a whimsical look and commented it was a "rum do." The Guard Commander agreed. "The wrong way." More agreement and so to the inspection. This went off well and the inspecting officer expressed himself pleased with a "Good Show." He then entered the Chateau accompanied by the Commander-in-Chief AFCENT, General Valluy, and the Commanders of the Air, Land and Sea Forces Central Europe, Air Chief Marshal Sir George Mills, General Dr. Speidel and Vice-Admiral Bos.

The parade was followed by a Champagne d'honneur with the Field Marshal for All Flag, General and Air Officers.

The Commander of the Guard of Honour as he sipped his champagne in this illustrious company, reflected that when it came to "rum dos" the teetotal Monty drinking, and doing so in the company of General Dr. Speidel, was nearly as odd as inspecting a parade from the left.

When General Valluy was about to embark on his prepared speech Monty chipped in "You should speak in English." The Commander-in-Chief replied in fairly good English, "I think it will be easier for us all if I speak in French," then made his address. The Field Marshal's reply began, "Well, I speak very good English. I'll reply in English." Later Monty raised his champagne glass and said, "I don't normally drink this stuff but it's very good champagne, good luck." General Vully picked up a bottle of vintage champagne and said in English, "Field Marshal, have some more champagne—English champagne."

"Hitch-Hiking is Fun"

BY LANCE-CORPORAL B. ALCOCK

Radio Relay Troop, ALFCE Signal Squadron, Fountainebleau

How many of you have hitch-hiked home on leave? Have you ever thought of hitch-hiking on a complete holiday, for the pure fun of it? Believe you me, it is fun; with no car troubles, accommodation troubles, train troubles, and the like. You simply eat, drink and sleep where and when circumstance puts you. My friend, Jock, and I decided to spend this type of holiday touring the southern part of the Continent.

On Thursday morning, 5th June this year, we heaved on our haversacks — containing the bare camping kit, and enough "compo" for six or seven days. We were wearing jeans, shirts and polo-neck pullovers, and Army boots. We set off from Fontainebleau, south of Paris (Fontainebleau being our H.Q.) and arrived at Dijon just after dinner, using travel warrants we had obtained. After this came the down to earth hitch-hiking.

We reached Geneva, Switzerland, on that same Thursday evening, our final lift there being by the winner of last year's Monte Carlo Rally. As we came over the last part of the Swiss Alps, we were greeted by an unforgettable sight of the sinking sun shining all its glory on the snow-capped peak of Mont Blanc, the whole scene being reflected in the still, crystal clear water of Lake Lermont.

After spending two days in Geneva, we carried on up the whole length of the lake, to finally cross the Southern Alps into Italy, where we made straightway to Milan. Here we were very lucky to obtain tickets for a Russian ballet performance of three ballets at the world-famous, beautiful Teatro Alla Scala, of Milan. An unforgettable experience.

Next place we hit was that great Mediterranean seaport of Genoa, where we spent two days idling on the beaches and attempting a little underwater fishing, using a borrowed harpoon gun. It was here, at Genoa, that we tried Italian spaghetti. Never again will I attempt the impossible feat of eating this stuff.

We then spent seven days making our way along the Italian Riviera and the complete length of the French Riviera, stopping at such obvious places as San Remo, Monte Carlo and Monaco, Cannes, Nice, Toulon and Marseilles, finally stopping at Perpignan. We were very disappointed on reading an English newspaper (no advertisements allowed!), to find that the day after we left Monaco Princess Grace, Prince Rainier and Frank Sinatra arrived there for the premier of their documentary film on Monaco.

We recuperated a little in the little Cornish-like fishing village of Cerbere, which is the last inhabited place in France, before entering Spain. We had no visas and so could not enter the land of the "Toreadors," but while I was swimming one morning, Jock calmly walked over the hill forming the border, found himself in Spain, took some snaps and calmly strolled back into France, without a soul seeing him.

After Cerbere we made it direct to Loudres, where, as you probably know, they are holding a year's celebration for the centenary of little Bernadette's vision of the Virgin Mary, at the now-called Grotto-Miracles. Never have I been so inspired as I was by the thousands of people on pilgrimages from every part of the globe. We joined in a mighty torchlight procession of thanksgiving, in which over 10,000 people took part, all of us singing "Ava Maria," the Hymn of Loudres, in our own native tongue. A wonderful memory I still have of that. We made it direct to Foutainebleau in one day from Loudres, due to one exceptional lift of 500 Kms. from Perigeaux.

So we had travelled 4,010 Kms. in 19 days and spent a little over £20, seen places, slept in some queerer places, and met people (yes—queer ones, too).

Now, don't you think it is worth while hitch-hiking for the fun of it! I do!

Careers and Opportunity

(IMPORTANT: Anyone obtaining employment through answering advertisements in THE WIRE *MUST notify the Employment Section, Royal Signals Association, 88, Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1.*

Members are reminded that they can ensure prompt notification of any vacancies likely to interest them by registering with the Employment Section. Jobs advertised in THE WIRE *are only a small proportion of those received).*

A rapidly expanding firm of Engineering and Market Research Consultants (with a bias towards electrics and electronics) offers most excellent opportunity to Officers of Royal Signals who are about to retire. Optimum age under 40. Very early application to Secretary, Royal Signals Association, will effect the necessary introduction.

THE ENGLISH ELECTRIC COMPANY LTD., which has Works in Accrington, Bradford, Liverpool, Preston, Rugby and Stafford, offers progressive employment at the Kidsgrove (Stoke-on-Trent) Works in the development and production of control and electronic equipment. "X" Tradesmen of Royal Signals are especially suitable, but any tradesmen of the standard of the Intermediate City and Guilds Examination or S2 of the Ordinary Certificate in Electrical Engineering may apply. Tradesmen are particularly required in the Test Engineering Department, but suitable candidates may also be offered training in Electrical Draughtsmanship. Apply by letter, giving brief details of experience to Personnel Officer, The English Electric Company Ltd., Kidsgrove Works, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire.

Other advertisements about employment are on Pages 297, 328, and on the inside back cover.

M E L F

3 G.H.Q. SIGNAL REGIMENT

One thing about life in Cyprus is that it seldom, if ever, gets back to normal; but then perhaps it is normal for things to be abnormal here.

The usual unruffled calm (EOKA regardless) was broken, on 16th July, when the Parachute Brigade landings in Jordan took place. Hand-speed wireless links were manned and the complications of COMCAN were diminished in relative importance by the simplicity and urgency of the Morse Code. After a couple of days and restless nights communications were well and truly established. It is astonishing how many mistakes in procedure and even in operating were made, which shows how much we have become accustomed to more mechanical means. After a few days, however, mistakes become less frequent.

Much needed reinforcement came from B.A.O.R. and we are most grateful to these reinforcements, under Captains Lawrence and Lavers, for the way in which they got down to it. Considering they all moved at extremely short notice, and are here

on a very uncertain tenure, it is all the more creditable that all ranks of these hastily attached troops have really made themselves part of the Regiment, indistinguishable from the rest of us, apart from their fresh industry and useful ideas they brought with them. We shall be sorry to see them go! To those "they left behind them," we would say that they are all fit and happy and will return all the better for their stay in Cyprus sunshine. (They will tell you otherwise and in much plainer language!).

Well, we feel once again, almost back to normal, but already the rumblings of abnormality are heard; who is that who has just arrived? — AWCIT, on their annual summer visit (it *must* be filthy hot in Malta!) to tear our installation out by the roots and leave behind a proper one—again!

No record of our recent activities would be complete without mention of W.O.I E. G. Barrett's promotion of 1st September, 1958, to the rank of Lieutenant (Traffic). Only recently did he have the distinction of receiving the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal, and it is very creditable that his labours should now be so justifiably rewarded by promotion to commissioned rank. Our hearty congratulations go with him, and although he leaves us for Cyprus District Signal Regiment, we hope to retain contact with him at the other end of the E.P.N.I. circuit.

3 INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT

We are now firmly established in Episkopi and have clearly been identified as the cuckoos in the G.H.Q. nest. This is pretty obvious from the writing on the wall, "3 Div Go Home." Now no-one agrees more with this sentiment than 3 Division. We came out full of enthusiasm thinking we would play a vital part in the Middle East troubles, but shortly after our arrival everything seemed to quieten down. Who knows, it may have been due to the fact that we moved out here in strength with such speed that it was quite clear we meant business. We may have achieved the desired result without resorting to hot war.

The past few weeks have not been the easiest of times. Main and Rear Divisional H.Q. on a quarter-ton basis have been training hard whilst the remainder have been busy improving our accommodation. The Unit lines are looking first-class and there has been keen competition between Troops to produce the best improvement. "Q" Troop of "H.Q." Squadron just beat "C" Troop, although there was very little in it. Sergeant Mullins must have exerted all his "charm" to encourage "H.Q." Squadron in their efforts.

It has been a heartbreaking task clearing up the Reema factory area and making an M.T. park in preparation for the arrival of the Sea Tail. The banging and clattering in the Reema factory, plus the horrifying sound of the Royal Engineers' circular saw has had a definite brain-washing effect on all who have had to work in this madhouse.

With the arrival of the vehicles and stores at Limassol activity was further stepped up. It is unfortunate that we cannot just load up our vehicles and embark without having to pack stores separately in crates. The packing and loading in U.K. was bad enough, and now we have had to go through the reverse process. The Reema factory resembled a huge auction sale as crates arrived and were unpacked and checked down to the last item. We are on peacetime accounting, which does not help matters when there are no lock-up stores. The Q.M. has wired in his area of the factory, so that it looks rather like a huge cage. It could be mistaken for the zoo if it was not for the railway running through the middle.

Although we are not concerned with the Internal Security situation in Cyprus, we have been producing a very strong guard on the West Gate perimeter near Paramali. There have been a few exciting incidents and we have picked up the odd suspect now and again. This type of guard has been quite a change and proved to be very good training. In addition we have a party of platoon strength detached from the Regiment employed on mobile internal security duties. They have been out for about ten days now and, from all reports, appear to enjoy themselves. Rather like playing cowboys and Indians, so I am told.

The Regiment is in good shape and just about ready for any eventuality. The quarter-ton H.Q. element consider themselves the elite, of course. The remainder on the old conventional style of operating are working and training hard; they too consider themselves just as good and, quite rightly, will not acknowledge that anyone else could be any better.

Sports grounds are very limited and there has been neither time nor opportunity for inter-regimental games. Fitness is being maintained by hard work, route marches and bathing in the sea. It is surprising how quickly everyone became acclimatised and rapidly acquired a healthy tan. Inter-Troop games have been started to select the gladiators and already the basketball team has made a name for itself.

Major West, who joined us just before we left U.K., has now left on normal posting to B.A.O.R. Although he was with us for only a short time, it was during the early difficult days. He made his personality felt in that brief period and was a great help. To him we say thank you and hope your new appointment gives satisfaction.

The Officers gave a small party for the local staff and their wives as a small token of appreciation for all that was done to make our arrival and stay in Episkopi as smooth and as pleasant as possible. This was much appreciated and proved very beneficial. I am told it was reminiscent of a similar occasion in 1951 when the Regiment was in a newly built temporary camp called Kykko, near Nicosia. History repeats itself, but we all hope that this time someone in high places will hear the whispering campaign "3 Div Go Home," and with a little bit of luck, who knows, we may yet be back in Sobraon for Christmas.

CYPRUS DISTRICT SIGNAL REGIMENT

No sooner had the emergency been re-instituted in Cyprus than events in the Middle East in general took a turn for the worse and the Regiment was, for the third time, in the thick of it. However, after nearly three months of continuous activity, preparations and despatches, the time of reckoning has arrived when all the chickens are being counted; it has proved most interesting to discover where they all eventually came to roost.

The Regimental "Empire" has naturally expanded considerably and there is now hardly a Garrison of British troops anywhere in MELF which has not Unit representation with it to provide or operate some form of communication

The moves have provided a change for many of those whose sole "home" was Kykko Camp, in which they have been confined by curfews and security restrictions for so long, and letters from the distant places indicate that all are enjoying the change, even if it is only putting up with an alternative species of fly and bug and gazing at a different colour of sand!

Regimental sport has continued but rather on a limited basis and we have seen some good Inter-Troop sport, especially Squadron cricket. The attraction of swimming has been popular and the Under-water Swimming Club has been endeavouring to outdo Hass's exploits as and when it has been possible to get to the coves of the north coast. Staff Sergeant Wright is our leading light but, after hours at 90 feet, is reported to be even more fishy and dark than usual.

The Wives' Club recently held a very successful families' swimming gala at the Nicosia Garrison Pool, mainly for children and wives, but some accompanying fathers were cajoled into partaking. Father Garland (Staff Sergeant) just made two lengths and thoroughly enjoyed his booby prize of a lollipop eaten entertainingly on site.

The Kykko Komets, our resident dance group—Staff Sergeant Wright, Staff Sergeant Garland, Corporal Baker, Corporal Minns, Corporal Lingham and Corporal Harkness—enrolled a new singer/actor in Lance-Corporal Clarke (269) just out from U.K. and await his return from Jordan, where he had to go at short notice, most eagerly. New Hashemite skiffle horrors are expected when he does arrive.

Major Inglis ("H.Q." Squadron) and Major Wolfendale (2 Squadron) left by sea for U.K. on 15th July with their families on completion of their tours, and Second-Lieutenant Goddard flew away for the same reason on 21st August. Major Hinton has taken over 2 Squadron (the dispersed one), and Major Wythe is expected from U.K. at any minute to command "H.Q." Squadron.

R.Q.M.S. Howley (unfortunately for family medical reasons), S.S.M. Ford, Staff Sergeant Baker and Sergeant Thorn have all returned to U.K. from the Regiment.

Major Bosworth arrived recently from B.A.O.R. with both Officer and Other Ranks reinforcements for the Unit, most of whom are now well and truly dispersed.

Major Bosworth himself has temporarily taken over 1 Squadron and Major Sell has stepped into his true rôle of Second-in-Command and in his capacity as Welfare Officer issues titbits from his repertoire of limericks from time to time to maintain an air of cheerfulness amongst his brother Officers. The book of words from which they are taken has not yet been unearthed!

The Regiment has its quota of "funnies" in spite of the seriousness of its work. Outstanding is the sterling work done by a detached technician who, when with a well-known Regiment and assisting to load mules with equipment for an Interior Security operation in the hills, keenly loaded the Regimental mascot when the supply of mules was exhausted. But they beat us at soccer, so there!

Finally, it would be most interesting to find out who increased the short back and sides haircuts to very short on top as well. Perhaps a tribute to the Sixth Fleet, just improved allied co-operation or the ultimate effect of the thumping juke-box in the NAAFI?

☆

MEMBERS OF 16 INDEPENDENT PARACHUTE BRIGADE SIGNAL SQUADRON IN AMMAN

Picture taken in July failed to arrive in time for inclusion in the September number of the Wire.

☆



GIBRALTAR SIGNAL SQUADRON

August and September are popular holiday months and many in the Squadron have recently been on leave. We are fortunate in that we are certain of summer weather. Some of the more junior members who have not had leave have at least been able to enjoy a quiet period while the Sergeant-Major had his. Two enterprising Lance-Corporals have set out on a motor scooter with the intention of travelling up the coast of Spain via Valencia and Barcelona and thus into France, with the object of crossing the South of France and returning to Gibraltar via San Sebastian and Madrid. I hope they can be persuaded to give an account of their travels on their return for the next issue of THE WIRE.

The first Saturday in each month is set aside for a general 48-hour pass. On the first Saturday in September, 50 per cent of the Squadron, including our Pay Clerk, a member of the W.R.A.C., set out in an R.A.S.C. launch for a highly successful fishing trip. The party enjoyed a swim off the Spanish coast near Algerciras, whilst most of the fishing was done off Tarifa Point (the most southerly point of Europe). The biggest catch of the day—1¾lb.! A cause for minor excitement was the sighting of a Spanish fishing boat, becalmed presumably with engine trouble, judging from the large cloud of black smoke coming from that quarter. The fishing was interrupted to tow this boat into Algerciras harbour.

From the sporting angle I can report that results are satisfactory, especially with cricket. There is an added interest here, as it has been decided to re-award the cup for "The Best All-Rounder" at cricket again this year. This cup was presented to Gibraltar Signal Section in 1936 by the Commanding Officer, Captain R. H. Gem. Previous members of the Squadron may be surprised to know that of the seven matches played we have won five. In an exciting match versus R.A.S.C. recently we batted first to score only 84 runs, after being 63 for three wickets. The R.A.S.C. went from two for 48 to seven for 76 and finally all out for 81. A win for us by three runs, putting Royal Signals second in the league, and a personal victory for Signalman Backshall, who took eight wickets for 23 runs.

We could not muster enough swimmers to enter a team in the Command Swimming Championships, but four members of the Squadron are to be congratulated for passing the Life Saving Examinations, earning four bronze medals and two bronze crosses between them. A novel swimming endurance race across the Gibraltar Dockyard appealed to only one member of the Squadron (shame on us Signalmen—he was A.C.C. attached), though he came only 18th, he deserves a mention for trying.

We still press on with our rowing, but the only win so far was a first heat in the August Regatta. Rather a pity, as the Gibraltar Rowing Club was started by the Corps in 1925. Q.M.S. (Foreman of Signals) R. McIntosh (later Lieutenant-Colonel) was mainly responsible for this and the long run of Royal Signals' successes which followed. In the September Regatta we are entering two gig crews and after all their early morning and evening training we hope for slightly better results.

The Squadron Boat Club has graduated from two canoes to a whaler. While it is not always expertly sailed, it gives Boat Club members plenty of enjoyment and somewhere from which to fish and swim.

Another Club which is extremely popular is the Squadron Record Club. The Club possesses a Garrard auto-change record player and over 100 records; mostly popular modern. The club room has been appropriately and tastefully decorated by the Club members, which consists of over 50 per cent of the Squadron. Incidentally the subscriptions are a joining fee of 2/6 and a weekly subscription of 1/-.

MALTA, G.C.

Royal Signals here have just completed a Corps Week. We have never had one before but as we enjoyed this one we intend to make them an annual event.

There were three main events. On the Tuesday we held inter-squadron "potted" sports. No-one seems quite clear what "potted" sports are, so we made our own interpretation and said that each Squadron must produce three teams of four and that each team must compete in all six competitive events. One of the teams in each case was made up of civilian employees. It was found that a man included for discus throwing was not necessarily so good at the 100 yards but that was part of the fun. There were also children's races and a three-legged race in which you could take as a partner any lady other than your wife. COMCAN Signal Squadron were the overall winners and also won the tug-of-war and it was only the C.S.O. who was rude enough to wonder if this had anything to do with the fact that they had organised the meeting (and very well they did it). Altogether an enjoyable afternoon for all and the NAAFI catered suitably for a warm afternoon.

On the Wednesday evening the Officers held an open-air cocktail party for about 200 guests, which was also pronounced a success despite the fact that the floodlighting of a small ornamental fountain did things to the ladies' complexions that they did not like.

The week finished with a combined Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' dance in the same venue as the cocktail party (after modification to the fountain lighting). A sudden thunderstorm earlier in the afternoon caused considerable alarm but in the event everything went very well.

A good week on the whole, thanks to hard work by a number of people in the background.

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EAST AFRICA COMMAND

Recent weeks have been very full. 24 Brigade, with their Signal Squadron, arrived in the Command at the same time as the new C.S.O., Lieutenant-Colonel P. H. Brown, who has joined us from Germany. While Brigade were unpacking their accompanied baggage, a whistle of Comets was heard and Brigade plus Signal Squadron disappeared in a cloud of muram dust. It was a question of "Hail Caesar and Farewell," but we hope to see them back soon. The C.S.O., we are pleased to say, did not take-off during the flap and is still very much with us.

Comcan Signal Squadron, Nairobi

So that our friends in other parts of the world will not labour under the misapprehension that we are revelling in the lap of luxury or suffering unendurable hardships in darkest Africa, we thought you would like to know about our surroundings.

Squadron Headquarters and the T.R.C. are at Eastleigh R.A.F. station, about three miles from Nairobi, and the receiver and transmitter sites are some 25 miles from the city. Nairobi is the capital of Kenya Colony, 330 miles from the nearest sea port, which is Mombasa, and is at an altitude of 5,452 feet. The city area is about 35 miles square and there is a good range of hotels, restaurants, cinemas and other amenities (some out-of-bounds).

Within the Squadron we have the usual amenities and facilities for the pursuit of hobbies, and we can boast of one club which is not so usual—the Squadron "Safari" Club. Guns, camping equipment and even a safari truck are available for those brave young spirits who wish to venture forth (with a licence) to pursue wild life in the bush instead of the city. It was remarked by the Game Wardens after the last expedition that some members of the Club appeared to have great difficulty in distinguishing between different kinds of fauna, such as a giraffe and a monkey, and it is quite likely that we shall have to run a short course on "animal recognition" before the next party of mighty hunters sets forth.

The recent developments in the Middle East have naturally caused our good neighbours the R.A.F. a greatly increased volume of work, and the roar of aircraft engines has been ear-shattering, whilst the comings and goings have been continuous. However, the R.A.F. are taking it all in their stride and the Station Adjutant and Warrant Officer are still keeping a watchful eye on the "Pongoes" to see we render our due returns and perform station tasks. We always tell them to watch us if they want to see how it should be done!

We had a visit this month from the new C.S.O., East Africa Command, Lieutenant-Colonel P. H. Brown, who spent a morning with us, and during that time managed to meet nearly everyone at Eastleigh at their place of work.

The Comcan Theatre Club, under the able direction of our Quartermaster, Major Snell, and Major Henning, of 1 Signal Squadron, K.A.R., is busily preparing for its next production. We do not yet know quite when or what it will be, but Major Snell was recently seen on his "tippy toes" demonstrating a pirouette to an admiring audience. The last production, "Comcan Capers No. 1," had a well-deserved and enthusiastic reception; besides being seen and enjoyed by the Squadron it went "on tour" to other British Units in the area. The Club

Continue on Page 317

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is holding a Tramps' Ball in September and plans are well ahead for a Christmas pantomime.

The Wives' Club is still flourishing and this month arranged a much appreciated trip for the Squadron's single soldiers (by themselves, let it be said) to the National Game Park, near Nairobi, and it is hoped to follow this with a family trip in the near future. After the monthly meeting a very enjoyable film show was screened.

The main emphasis of sport during this month of July has been on soccer. The Squadron soccer teams are most successfully managed by Staff Sergeant Ewens, who has had the satisfaction of seeing his teams have a most rewarding season so far and receive excellent write-ups in the local Press. In the replay of the second round of the John Boyes Cup, Signalman Lagden scored two goals and Lance-Corporal Slee took a beautiful penalty, but the Cameronians found our pitch more to their liking and scored six. The next match was a Division I League one against Railway, in which Corporal Fisher's late goal gave us a share in the points.

A few days later we entertained and were beaten by the Nairobi Heroes, a local Goan team, in the F.A. of Kenya Cup. The "A" team visited the new league leaders, Impala, and brought home a point from a 2-2 draw. We hope to spring a few more surprises on the giants before the season ends in November. Signalman Hazard has been selected to play for the East Africa European team and has received most enthusiastic write-ups on his style from the local sports writers.

This month we have said farewell and good luck to Captain Caiger and family, who have departed to the warmer and, we hope, drier climes of the U.K., and we welcome Captain Gilham and family, who we hope will enjoy their stay in Kenya.

In this school holiday month of August all the fond fathers who can manage it have taken leave and loaded their somewhat apprehensive families (apprehension in direct proportion to age of car) into their cars and set forth down the 300-odd miles of mostly dirt road to Nyali Leave Camp at Mombasa. En route they pass through the Amboseli and Tsavo National Game Parks and may well encounter a pride or two of lions or a herd of elephants. Unfortunately, the animals are not very well up on their "kerb drill," and a traveller may well hit (or be hit by), a large, mean and very bad-tempered creature. It happened on the Mombasa road only last week (not to a member of this Squadron); fortunately, the only serious casualty was the unhappy rhino, who was hit well and truly in the back of the neck and died almost immediately. You will see therefore, that even going on leave is likely to present some hazards, but having arrived safely at Nyali Leave Camp, our intrepid Comcan family is able to enjoy a seaside holiday with the amenities of a good hotel, at a very reasonable cost.

The even more adventurous spirits spend their leaves in other ways. For instance, although there has been a great deal in the local Press recently about lifts for soldiers, but Signalman Taylor has no reason to complain of lack of transport. During his recent leave he managed to hitch-hike from Nairobi to Mombasa, and from Mombasa on to Zanzibar and back again, a round trip of approximately 1,000 miles, all in very reasonable style, and at not much cost. He even brought us back a copy of the *Zanzibar Times*.

Amateur radio enthusiasts may like to know that Captain Gilham (VQ4HI ex G3LWG) is now on the air on the 20 metre DX band, phone and CW, most evenings from about 17.00-18.00 hours G.M.T., and is looking for other Service Q.S.O.s. The East African Amateur Radio Society has been most helpful and extended a friendly welcome to interested members of the Squadron. Very soon it is hoped to form a Squadron "Ham" Club, probably in conjunction with our neighbours, R.A.F., Eastleigh. Needless to say, bearing in mind the limitation of the amateur's power output, we shall not use the Eros, at least not when our worthy Officer Commanding Wireless Troop, Captain Cropp, is looking.

There has been a rattle of small arms fire to be heard most days this month, as the Squadron team prepares for 70 Brigade Rifle Meeting. Lieutenant Lockett, Sergeant Catton and others have been coaching a promising team, but it seems that other members of the pistol team have advised Staff Sergeant Cross to get a bayonet fitted!

With Division I of the European Soccer League nearing completion, COMCAN began the month with seven points from eight games, and little chance of being among the honour winners. We decided to try, however, to cause as much consternation as possible among the leaders in the remaining few games. Success soon came when, on 6th August, we beat league leaders R.A.F. for the first time ever. The score was 3-2 and although it is difficult to single out any one player as outstanding, mention must be made of Signalman Hazard's "goal of the season" from 30 yards. Incidentally, the R.A.F. have since made sure of the league title. In our next match we were narrowly defeated by Caledonian Football Club 1-0 in an exciting game.

In Division II the second eleven started the month poorly with a home defeat by bottom of the league Kenya Regiment, the score being 5-4. The latest game showed some improvement with a 2-1 win over Command Headquarters. In both these matches Signalman Barber has proved to be outstanding, while Signalman West and Signalman White walked off the 'plane into football boots and played as though they had come to stay. At present we are lying third in this league, with a fair chance of being among the honours when the season ends in October.

Finally, our congratulations to Corporal Fisher, Lance-Corporal Cavanagh and Signalman Hazard, who were selected to play for a League XI at Kisumu recently.

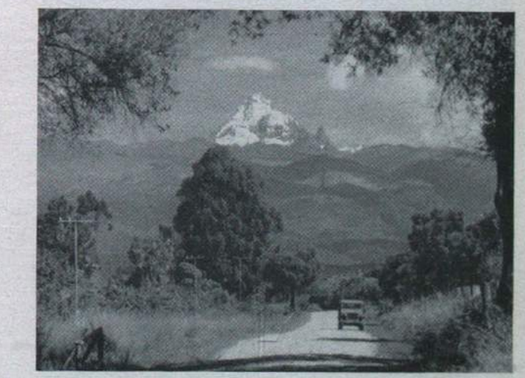


On the Nairobi-Mombasa road.

"J" TROOP, 1 SIGNAL SQUADRON, K.A.R., NANYUKI

These are the first notes from this Troop since it became a part of 1 Signal Squadron, K.A.R., and was re-designated from 70 (E.A.) Brigade Signal Troop to "J" Troop.

During the past few months detachments have been very active working from such places as Lokitaung on the Ethiopian Border, Mombasa and Dar-es-Salaam on Exercises.



View of Mount Kenya

The B.O.R.'s Mess is flourishing and a full-size billiard table is expected very soon. An expedition is planned to the snowline on Mount Kenya during the next few weeks.

His friends will be pleased to hear that Lance-Corporal Donworth has at last removed the fangs of his pet puff-adder with a pair of nail scissors. (Some say that it is time he was R.H.E.).

We congratulate Sergeant Winchurch, our Troop Sergeant, on playing rugger regularly for the Army (East Africa) and wish him good luck on his forthcoming U.K. course.

1 SIGNAL SQUADRON (EAST AFRICA)

We would like to open our notes this month by extending a welcome to Lieutenant-Colonel P. H. Brown, who assumed the appointment of C.S.O., East Africa Command, during the month. We hope his stay in East Africa will be a happy one.

On 18th July we were honoured by a visit from the Commander, 70 Infantry Brigade, K.A.R. The Brigadier was the sixth senior Officer in 12 months to visit the Unit and we can say with justifiable pride that with so much practice we have reached the stage where such occasions are taken in our stride. We look forward to yet another visit in September, when Major-General Dimoline, C.B., C.M.G., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., Colonel Commandant of the King's African Rifles, will be visiting us. It gives us great pleasure that the first Colonel Commandant of the King's African Rifles to visit us should be an Officer who has had such a long and distinguished career in Royal Signals.

Last month, as part of the training for our Physical Efficiency test, the Commanding Officer decided to take us on a route march to the top and round the crater of a local extinct volcano, Mount Longonot. The mountain rises to a height of over 9,200 feet and the crater has a circumference of about seven miles. There is a narrow, precipitous track round the crater's rim. The march was most enjoyable in retrospect, although a bit of a sweat at the time. For the first three hours we were marching in cloud, but soon after midday the sun came through and we admired a wonderful view of the Rift Valley. There were several places where the track ran unpleasantly close to a sheer drop of many hundreds of feet, but we all managed to get round without mishap. The crater of the volcano is reputed to be teeming with game, but apart from a pack of baboons, we hurled monkey abuse at us and then ran off into the mist, we did not see much wild life. The Commanding Officer, Major Holifield, however, had his excitement for the day when, leading the column, he nearly trod on a puff-adder.

Departures from the Unit over the month include one Officer, Second-Lieutenant Hornby, and two N.C.O.s, Sergeant Riches and Corporal Yendley, all of whom are returning to civilian life on completion of their National Service. They go with our best wishes and with a special pat on the back to Sergeant Riches for attaining his three stripes as a National Serviceman.

WEST AFRICA COMMAND

1 SQUADRON, SIERRA LEONE SIGNALS

This contribution to THE WIRE will probably be the last we shall write.

Sierra Leone, like many of our colonies, is moving nearer to independence. Internal changes are taking place and the R.W.A.F.F. must reorganise to meet the changing conditions.

This Unit ceases to function in its present form in December of this year and will be replaced by Sierra Leone Force Signal Troop, a mobile Troop, whose main task will be to provide communications for the Force, where and when ever required.

To past and present personnel the passing of the Squadron will be a matter of regret.

Formed in 1947 from the remnants of the wartime Signals, it has seen many changes but has built up a reputation that is in true keeping with the tradition of the Corps.

In 1947 the then Squadron Commander, Captain S. B. Duke, was given the job of building up a Signal Unit not only with "Signals" personnel but with African other ranks who had served in many different Regiments during the war, and from stores and equipment which were scattered over a wide area of the Colony. It was on the solid foundation that he laid, that Major R. E. Scouller continued to build when he took over as Officer Commanding in early 1951. From that time onwards, training and the efficiency of the Squadron was his main concern and when Captain K. E. P. Andrews took over as Officer Commanding in early 1954 the Squadron was firmly established and carrying out its day-to-day job and trained for mobile communications should they be required.

In 1955 the test came. Riots broke out in Freetown and the Army was called in to aid the civil powers. As a result of the excellent work of the respective Officers Commanding, the Signals kept their communications working when all civil and police communications were out of action and in addition provided communications for the police. For this work at this time Captain Andrews was awarded a well-deserved M.B.E. Many will remember "Kep" for his work and energy in getting the Telephone Exchange built at Wilberforce, the reconstruction of the Signal Centre and the building of his "masterpiece"—the "Ops" Room at Force H.Q.

It was during Captain Andrews's time that West Africa Command closed and the first murmering of "Africanisation" were heard. It was he who made the first plans for the reorganisation of the Squadron, plans which have, as is usual, been altered several time.

In the early months of 1957 Captain D. J. D. McKail became Officer Commanding and it was he who was called upon to produce a plan for the new Signal Troop and work out the details. Hardly had "Mac" time to "warm the seat" than the Squadron was called upon to provide communications for the Force who were assisting the civil police to maintain order in Yengema. The work of the Squadron was recognised by a reporter of the *Daily Telegraph*—his report was printed in THE WIRE last year.

Captain M. G. Panton, our present Officer Commanding, now has the job of winding-up the present Unit and bringing into being the new Force Signal Troop.

It was obvious that the change of rôle would mean a complete revision of training and during the past few months Exercises have been carried out in the Protectorate. We are not certain if the bad state of the roads during the "rainy season" brought these Exercises to an abrupt end or if the Officer Commanding has found a better pastime than elephant shooting in semi-tropical storms. There is no doubt, however, that those concerned are now well trained for the job they have to do and will carry out their duties in the same spirit that has always existed in "the Signals."

In spite of the extra work caused by reorganisation, sport has not been neglected. Although we have not achieved any major results the Unit takes part in all league sports and athletic meetings. Two of our British N.C.O.s are regular members of the Force football team, whilst our Officer Commanding is Force Hockey Officer and takes an active part in all matches. Sergeant Roy Nicholls, our M.T. Sergeant, has made a name for himself in the Colony Motor Rallies, ably supported by our Officer Commanding and Lieutenant J. U. Liddell.

In the meantime, the work of the Squadron goes on. Sergeant Ray Heeley and his stalwart band of African linemen are battling to keep the lines working in spite of near monsoon weather, while Sergeant Jack Fulstow, with a definite R.H.E. look in his eye, continues his excellent work in training Wireless Operators. W.O.II "Dinger" Bell, in the Sigcentre, keeps us in touch with the outside world, and Sergeant Nicholls manages to keep the transport on the road in spite of the Freetown taxi drivers and the hundred-and-one others who make W.D. transport their special target. Staff Sergeant "Jock" Mitchell, our "Q," is at present home on "Recup" leave, no doubt enjoying his native brew, unworried by new L.E.T.S. and Stores disposals.

Sergeant Len Crane, our Chief Clerk, was awarded the B.E.M. in the New Year's Honours List and attended an Investiture at Government House in April, when he received his B.E.M. from H.E. The Governor, Sir Maurice Dorman. During his stay in Sierra Leone he has taken a great interest in the welfare, education and training of our African other ranks and has given up much of his free time for this purpose.

The activities of Sergeant Les Reddington and Sergeant Ron Sampson, both on and off duty, remain a mystery.

The former has just managed to get himself engaged and we offer sincere congratulations, whilst the latter is frequently seen to disappear into the Unit dark room—obviously a keen photographer or dodging the column.

We send best wishes to all members of the Corps who have served with the Squadron in the past. Captain Panton, together with Staff Sergeant "Ricky" Langhorn, Sergeant Harry Orton and Sergeant "Taffy" David, will be remaining with the new Signal Troop, so we can rest assured that the Corps will, as in the past, continue to play an important part in the life of the Colony.

Escape into Borneo

EDITED BY SECOND-LIEUTENANT A. W. F. CLAPPERTON

It is always weak to write a travelogue on the experience of a mere two weeks' stay, but the orders of the Regimental Representative are ever effective to ellicit the goods if not an epic. Escapism, after spending a year in civilisation and high humidity at Singapore, led me to join a soil surveying expedition into the little known interior of British North Borneo. Not the coastal belt, developed by trade, or the over-glamourised Sarawak of the explorer, but the virgin forest of the interior, of which long term town dwellers apologetically admit complete ignorance.

We started out on our journey from Keningau, the seat of the Interior Residency. This place, in common with the rest of the area to the south-west, is a thousand feet above sea level. The combination of altitude together with shade of the forest trees interlocking overhead makes walking delightfully cool—to all appearances almost European. Land Rover tracks radiate from Keningau in all directions for anything up to 20 miles. Thereafter horses and pack ponies can cover the best routes, but short cuts are negotiable only on foot. The Murut aborigines readily provide porters, who take anything over any ground for any remuneration at a pace which is a challenge to the unladen European. They carry their loads in Bongons, the oriental conical rucksacks of bark, which have the great advantage of not clinging to the back. Progress with ponies may be 20 miles a day, but with porters 10 is good going.

Having consumed a vast quantity of Singapore curry and rice over the past year, it was refreshing to find that, although our staple diet was boiled rice—it was the delicious nutty flavoured hill rice with husks in it, utterly unlike the polished rice of civilisation. The alternative was raw tapioca, pleasantly different from its processed cousin, which is grown as a safeguard against the failure of the rice crop. Chicken or sometimes buffalo or wild pork completes the dish. The meal is rounded off with whatever esoteric jungle fruits are in season—tarap, durian, water mellon, etc. We ate this sitting on the floor of the stilted longhouses with their bamboo frames and walls of split bamboo.

The natives consume tapai, the local liquor, at all times of day and well into the night. This is a concoction of tapioca, after a two to four-week fermentating period. The drinker squats beside a great jar and sucks up the fluid from the mash therein through a bamboo pipe wedged in the sheet of banana leaf in the neck of the jar. This leaf acts as measure, for the drinker leaves when the banana leaf is dry. He demonstrates the vacancy of this seat by raising the liquor level again over the leaf and up to the lip of the jar with a flourish.

Unfortunately, these picturesque people are fast dying out owing, it is officially held, to the insanitary condition of their whole life. We were amazed at the lack of children in the villages by comparison with the teeming juvenile activity in Malaya. The atmosphere of general listlessness and lack of industry permeates throughout the area.

On our return to Keningau we took the short cut, which runs for nearly all its 19 miles through dense jungle on the sides of steep hills. Half-a-dozen streams had to be forded and at each there seemed to have concentrated a foraging party comprising a large proportion of the island's leech population—holding out a warm if slippery welcome.

We spent two full days on this track, with never more than a glimpse of the sun, separated by a cold night in a primitive hotel—a group of huts for travellers offering full overnight parking and servicing facilities for mules.

I boarded my 'plane at Keningau after a ten-day holiday, which I shall certainly never forget, nor repeat. The memories which remain with me are those—of sleeping with the stars for a blanket and with the forest interlocking overhead for a sheet; of my face swathed in a towel to hinder the dive-bombing sorties of the locally based squadrons of mosquitoes; and of washing my bleary eyes in the morning with cold water at a place on the bank of the stream where another part of the leech population seemed to be on a short summer seaside vacation.

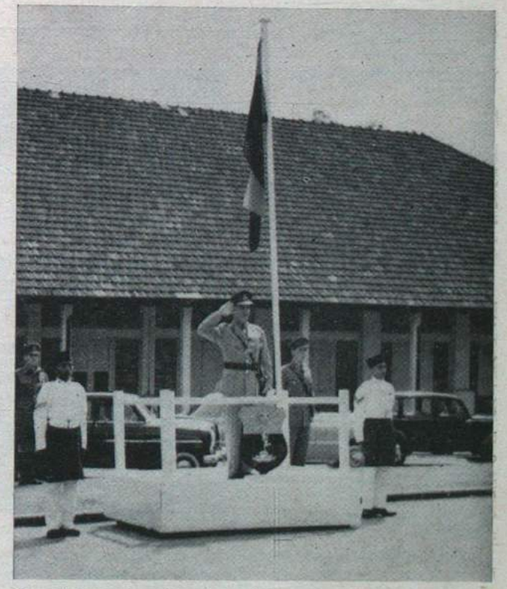
The grand finale came at Singapore Airport, where bureaucracy triumphed. I came within an ace of being arrested for importing offensive weapons into Singapore. However, this fate was reduced to a mere temporary confiscation of the lethal weapons in question—one blowpipe and nine darts!

FARELF Corps Week Singapore 1958

Corps Week was held this year from 16th-24th August, rather later than last year. This was in part due to local Exercises and partly to the S.O.-in-C.'s Exercise. Next year we hope that our week will include the birthday anniversary of the Corps and also that it will not interfere with school holidays.

On 16th August our opening function, the Royal Signals Fete and Equipment Demonstration, was held on the Sports Ground of Princess Mary Barracks. The sun shone and there was a big attendance. The Band of 1 Cheshire Regiment very kindly gave their services free, and the counter-marching of the Gurkha Signals Pipes and Drums overjoyed the children. As a result of the hard work put in by the promoters, and the generosity of the visitors, about £450 was made for Corps funds, including local Corps funds.

Over the Week-end some 50 Royal Signals Officers from all over FARELF gathered in Singapore and met at the G.H.Q. Lecture Hall for the first of the two problems of the C.S.O.'s Exercise on Monday, 18th. We also had with us Lieutenant-Colonel J. S. Macarthur, from Army Headquarters, Melbourne, representing the Australian Director of Signals; Major D. A. Bond, Royal Signals, the senior Signal Officer of the Federation of Malaya Armed Forces, and a number of observers from the Royal Navy, Royal Air Force, G.H.Q. FARELF Staff Branches, Headquarters AUSTARM and Headquarters NEWZARM.



General Pike takes the salute. Lieutenant Colonel Evans in the background. The 2 orderlies are Royal Signals Malay O.Rs.



Left to Right : Brigadier H. L. Lewis, C.B.E., CSO FARELF, Lieutenant Colonel K. Evans, O i/c Parade and C.O. 19 Air Formation Signals and Major-General W. G. H. Pike, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., Chief of Staff

The two problems for the C.S.O.'s Exercise were admirably produced by Colonel G. S. K. Maydon, CAFSO, F.E.A.F., and a team of Staff Officers and draughtsmen drawn from Singapore Island's resources.

Monday and Tuesday were days of hard work, enlivened on Tuesday afternoon by an interesting demonstration of their equipment by Major Butler's Field Signal Squadron. Much ingenuity had been shown in mounting large equipments in small vehicles in an endeavour to become air mobile.

In the evening an informal dance was held in the Royal Signals Officers' Mess, Tyersall Park. This dance was very well attended and was voted by all to have been a great success, the catering especially was first-class. The Gurkha Signals Pipers played an eightsome reel. As we move into our new Maresfield Barracks in September this was probably the last function of this sort to be held in our old Mess.

On Wednesday more work was followed by our annual cricket match versus the Royal Engineers, during which we were "At Home" to Royal Engineer Officers and their families. The exciting match ended in a draw in Royal Signals' favour, though matters might have been different if the Royal Engineers had gone for the runs a bit sooner. The Pipes and Drums of the Gurkha Signals played in the tea interval and Beat Retreat at the end of the afternoon.

On Thursday and Friday problem two of the C.S.O.'s Exercise was tackled, followed by a visit to R.A.F., Changi, where the working of the Parachute School, the Air Traffic Control tower and the Signal Centre were explained.

On Friday a large group of Officers visited Messrs. Cable and Wireless, where a most interesting conducted tour of their equipment had kindly been arranged for us; it had also been hoped to visit the cable depot and cable ship, but *C.S. Recorder* was at sea.

On Saturday evening the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess arranged a dance in their new Mess in Maresfield Barracks. A great deal of work had been expended in organising this dance against the vagaries of the Singapore weather, but the evening was cool, without rain, and everyone had a most pleasant time.

Throughout the week the G.H.Q. Signal Centre, Tape Relay Station and COMCAN transmitter and receiver stations had been open in the afternoon to the public and a large number of visitors were received. However, although the "Open House" had been well advertised, no-one spotted a visitor from G.H.Q.

The Week ended on Sunday with a Corps Church Parade in the Tanglin Garrison Church. Lieutenant-Colonel K. M. Evans, of 19 Air Formation Signals, commanded the parade, which was composed of a Squadron from 19 Air Formation Signal Regiment and two composite Squadrons from the Singapore Administrative Regiment. The Salute was taken by Major-General W. G. H. Pike, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., Chief-of-Staff, who had also given the opening address for the C.S.O.'s Exercise. After the parade General and Mrs. Pike, as well as the Rev. K. C. Oliver, O.B.E., M.A., the Assistant Chaplain General to the Forces, who had preached a well-Jimmy'd sermon, visited the Officers' Mess, where they met Royal Signals families and where we all had a pre-luncheon drink together.

By the evening all our visitors had gone and Signals Week, 1958, was over.

Royal Signals Dinner Club Malaya

☆

Royal Signals and Gurkha Signals officers were hosts to the CSO Malaya at a dinner given on 16 May, 1958 in the Gurkha Signals Officers' Mess Seremban to inaugurate the formation of a Royal Signals Dinner Club, Malaya. Those present were :



Third row : Major (TOT) F. R. Cox, Lieutenant (TOT) J. U. Wolfenden, Lieutenant C. M. Senior, Major (QM) R. O. Cant, Captain A. C. Dexter.

Second row : Captain A. V. Swindale, Captain F. C. Lettin, Captain R. Plant, Major P. H. Flear, Captain J. R. Gibson, Lieutenant H. A. Morrison, Lieutenant (Tfc Offs) S. J. Wyatt, Major J. D. B. Thornton, Major E. J. Winn, Major S. D. Allaway, M.M., Captain R. T. Martin.

First Row : Major D. C. Newman, Lieutenant-Colonel G. W. Blackburne, Colonel J. M. S. Tullock, O.B.E., Major J. E. Evans, M.C., Major J. I. Parkinson, M.B.E.

NOTES FROM MALAYA

We extend our heartiest congratulations to 17 Gurkha Divisional Signal Regiment on winning the Nepal Soccer Cup, defeating 2/2 Gurkha Rifles 3-0. Last year they were runners-up. This Cup is competed for annually by all Gurkha Units in Malaya and competition is extremely keen. The Divisional Signal Regiment's progress to the final was marked by the following victories:
First round: Gurkha Signals 5, 2/6 Gurkha Rifles 1.
Second round: Gurkha Signals 6, Gurkha Engineers 1.
Semi-Final: Gurkha Signals 4, Depot Brigade of Gurkhas 0.
Final: Gurkha Signals 3, 2/2 Gurkha Rifles 0.

The Royal Signals (Malaya) cricket team also succeeded in reaching the Zone Final of the Army Cup, beating 56 Compahy R.A.S.C. in the first round and R.E.M.E. Workshops in the second round. They were, however, defeated in the final by the 1st King's Dragoon Guards, scores being King's Dragoon Guards 144 runs, Royal Signals (Malaya) 81, despite a fine fighting innings by Major J. D. B. Thornton, of O.C.L.F. Signal Squadron, of 51.

On 7th June a Garden Fete, organised by the Royal Signals Wives' Club (O.C.L.F. Signal Squadron and 17 Gurkha Divisional Signal Regiment), was held. It was well attended and a great success. Mrs. Tulloch was able to send a cheque of £20 to the Signals Association and £10 was handed over to Gurkha Welfare.

Major-General J. A. R. Robertson, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., attended the fete and "had-a-go" at most of the side-shows, winning a coconut and also succeeding in guessing the weight of a chicken, but sportingly gave the bird to the next nearest competitor. He point blank refused, however, to have his fortune told!

As a complete contrast the Corps has been prominent in the local Press in an entirely different form. A Philharmonic Society was formed in Kuala Lumpur in March this year and has now enrolled nearly 200 members. Major L. J. Sharp, of O.C.L.F. Signal Squadron, was given the task of training a cast of 60 principles and chorus and an orchestra of 20 local professional and amateur musicians for a production of Gilbert and Sullivan's comic opera "The Mikado." This production ran for 10 performances in the Kuala Lumpur Town Hall in July and according to the Press, was the finest musical production ever seen in the Federal capital. A measure of its success is that the entire cast and orchestra have been commanded by His Majesty the Yang di Pertuan Agong, the Paramount Ruler, to give a special performance in the Istana Negara (the Royal Palace) on the occasion of His Majesty's birthday, the 25th August, 1958.

O.C.L.F. Signal Squadron

The past couple of months have been noteworthy, mainly due to the face-lift being given to Paroi Camp by the Royal Engineers. Basha roofs have been ripped off and renewed, whilst from the chaos at the Cookhouse has emerged an N.C.O.'s dining room and a cinema.

The S.S.M.'s labour gang now appear to be trying to move the whole camp. Truck loads of soil and turf are a common sight around S.H.Q.; even a tree was moved recently!

The general upheaval of our move from Kuala Lumpur has now vanished and the normal chaos of an S.H.Q. is now the order of the day.

With a view to December's "Admin," a spate of courses are now in progress, included among which are some real beauties—Rodent Control, Water Duties, Anti-Malarial—to name but a few.

Sporting activities are, at the moment, confined mainly to cricket and the odd swimming trip to Port Dickson, due to the present heat-wave, which makes any physical effort sheer hard work.

Central Malaya Sub-District Signal Troop

Like most small Troops we find it difficult to produce a team and we have to scrape around roping in all unknown "stars." We are represented in the C.M.S.D. Football League and hold the record for the highest number of injuries.

Our train despatch couriers have received some well deserved publicity from the local Press, THE WIRE and the "Soldier" magazines. It was a bit too much for the Troop Commander on his morning inspection to find cuttings from these magazines festooning the Signal Centre walls.

We are the envy of the rest of the Signal Squadron due to our geographical location, as we are situated just outside Kuala Lumpur. We have the opportunities of seeing the finals of practically all major sporting events and almost unlimited scope in the entertainment world. It can be a very expensive life, however!

Air Support Signal Troop (M)

The Troop continues its task of supporting jungle operations and, though perhaps not so active as in former years, most of our detachments are kept busy. After a five-week spell on Ops, No. 1 tentacle is now back for a period of training and can once more savour the delights of Kuala Lumpur.

The Troop has recently been taken over by Captain R. Plant from Lieutenant C. Hirst, who has left us on posting to Catterick. The handover/takeover necessitated trips by air amounting to 3,000 miles, which must be something of a record to take over a Troop. With detachments at Butterworth and Nee Soon, Ipoh and Tengah (the first two 600 miles apart), a tour of inspection, even by air, is a week's job. The 3,000 miles quoted above does not include the trip when they put us off at Butterworth when we wanted to go to Ipoh.

Sport (outdoor) has been carried on as usual. Most days find the off-duty personnel in the R.A.F. swimming pool, and our soccer stalwarts continue to help C.M.S.D. Troop. Lance-Corporal Russel has been active in trying to get a place in the Army athletic team to meet the R.A.F. Unfortunately, he was pipped for a place as a discus thrower by a few inches. However, he did get a second place in 224 Group sports.

28 Commonwealth Independent Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron

The end of June saw our annual Administration Inspection. The highlight was the farewell presentation of an Australian "Digger's Hat" complete with the two "Jimmy" cap badges of Royal Signals and Royal Australian Signals, to our Brigade Commander, Brigadier P. N. M. Moore, D.S.O., M.C. The presentation was made by Sergeant B. R. Hillier, Royal Australian Signals, and the Commander delighted everyone by wearing the hat, which, by the way, was an excellent fit, for the remainder of the Inspection. We still wonder whether this early surprise presentation had anything to do with the swift and satisfactory completion of the Inspection.

The middle of July enabled duty and pleasure to be combined by way of a cricket match versus the Cameron Highlands Garrison, coupled with a convoy run. The journey is some 130 miles by road, the last 30 miles being a tortuous climb from sea level to nearly 5,000 feet. Both events were highly successful, no accidents or breakdowns on the convoy and a very comfortable win for the cricket team. The score was Signals 202 for 9, Cameron Highlands 36. The chief scorer was our Officer



ANNUAL ADMINISTRATION INSPECTION 1958
Picture shows right to left Brigadier P. N. M. Moore, D.S.O., M.C., talking to Signalman James, Royal Australian Signals, Major F. A. Wainwright (O.C.), Major P. G. Carruthers (2 i/c), Major P. Dewdney, Worcester R. (Staff Officer), Lieutenant A. F. Hanley, Royal Australian Signals



ANNUAL ADMINISTRATION INSPECTION 1958
28 (Commonwealth Independent Infantry Brigade Group Signal Squadron and North Malaya Sub District Signal Troop, OCLF Signal Squadron), marching past the Brigade Commander, Brigadier P. N. M. Moore, D.S.O., M.C.

Commanding, Major F. A. Wainwright, with a stalwart 123 not out, ably backed up by a 36 from Lance-Corporal Fellows. S.Q.M.S. Howes and Corporal Saul shared eight wickets for 11 and 23 runs respectively.

The Australian Public Relations colour film of "Australians at War in Malaya" was shown locally in July. The Squadron had its fair share of space and it turned out a great success. It showed all types of communication in the jungle and it is confidently expected to see recruiting in the Australian Army rising in leaps and bounds.

The Squadron has been assisting in recent months on various operations, both technically and otherwise. One was the provision of wireless communications for the Home Guard on a Special Air Service operation, some 4,500 yards inside the jungle from the Perak River. This entailed a march carrying a wireless set, batteries and generator through virgin jungle. The final exit was something more pleasant, by helicopter; an interesting experience.

The next job concerned an Auster in rather unfortunate circumstances. It had the misfortune to have to crash land in a padi field and it ended up a complete write off. There being no roads, R.E.M.E. and the Squadron had to man-pack it in pieces back to base. This is a somewhat tedious task when the distance involved is some two miles. Fortunately, however, the pilot was uninjured. The Squadron football team has now finished its league programme, commendably ending up fourth out of eleven Units in the Taiping Garrison League. One of its most interesting informal matches involved a visit to a large rubber plantation during their three-day festival. The 700 Asian employees of all races have this festival held every second year as their only holiday and it consists of such things as fire walking, magicians, gymnasts, drama plays and sport, as well as the usual feasting and drinking. The actual game ended in a hard earned victory for the hosts, fought out in cup-tie atmosphere. Afterwards the whole team was entertained by the manager to a chicken curry. The team left at 23.15 after the start of a long drawn out Hindi drama, the type which carry on monotonously until the early hours of the morning.

Basketball has received encouragement by the addition of a new Unit court and the commencement of the Garrison League. Many new faces have appeared on the court and it is hoped that the team will flourish. It already has won its first league match, so we hope to have good news in this line next time.

1st King's Dragoon Guards Royal Signals Troop

Due to the Regiment being deployed throughout the length and breadth of Malaya, the members of the Royal Signals Troop have also been widely dispersed in small detachments. This made the task of producing WIRE notes extremely difficult and this is, in fact, our first venture into print since arriving in Malaya. It will also be our last, as by the time this appears the Regiment will be on its way home.

The Regiment consists of four Squadrons, which at one time were situated in Kuala Lumpur, Seremban and Johore Bahru, with a Training Squadron at Singapore. All these Squadrons had to be in radio contact. With only a handful of men (at one time the Troop strength was only nine men) it was difficult to distribute them fairly and efficiently between the Squadrons. To pleas for more men we received the invariable answer "Suez." It was only due to the hard work of the Radio Technicians and the more than welcomed help of the very well trained King's Dragoon Guards operators plus the enthusiasm and helpful advice given by Lieutenant A. C. A. Benda, the Regimental Signal Officer, 1st King's Dragoon Guards, that we managed to maintain efficient communications within and without the Squadrons.

However, now that the Regiment's tour in Malaya is coming to an end, things have improved. As well as having more men in the Troop, the Squadrons have moved closer together, "H.Q.," "C" and the Training Wing are now at Ipoh, leaving "A" Squadron still at Johore Bahru. The only outside communication required now is between Johore Bahru and Ipoh. The Troop has not by any means confined its duties to "rear links" and armoured cars. They have been out with all ambush parties and jungle patrols, of which "C" Squadron have had many.

In September of last year we were more than pleased to cast away the solid old 19 set and unpack the brightly coloured C12 set. The latter, although having a higher output than the No. 19 set, proved somewhat unreliable at first and the Radio Technicians had a hectic time learning new circuits to keep the sets "on the road." The operators, on the other hand, found the controls easy to handle and like the set.

The Troop has not been slow as far as Regimental sports are concerned. Sergeant Williams (our latest arrival) is in the Regimental football and cricket teams; Corporal Chambers and Lance-Corporal Prescott, "A" Squadron football team; Lance-Corporal Harris, the Regimental Rugby team; and Corporal Clarke and Staff Sergeant Pollard have played in the Regimental hockey teams.

It is with much regret we find that although the Regiment is leaving Malaya in October of this year, many members of the Troop are staying out here. To these people we say farewell and good luck in the future.

48 Field Regiment, R.A., Royal Signals Detachment

The detachment is now reduced to only nine men. It is commanded by Sergeant Craig and consists of two Radio Technicians, three Wireless Operators and three Drivers.

The Wireless Operators man the rear link (telegraph) to H.Q., 17 Gurkha Division/O.C.L.F., and as this net passes a large volume of traffic, are kept very busy.

The Radio Technicians similarly have their hands full, as the Gunners are adept in producing many varied small faults on their No. 19 sets. Corporal Owen is in charge, with Signalman Jackson working at R.H.Q. and Signalman Beard detached with a Battery near Batu Gajah, in North Malaya.

The sporting activities of the detachment are led by Signalman Little, who recently gained second place in the shot putt at the Negri Sembilan State Athletics Championships.

Despite our small numbers and pressure of work, the detachment is a very happy one and we hope succeeds in maintaining the high standard of the Corps in this remote corner of the world.

North Malaya Sub-District Signal Troop (O.C.L.F.)

The Troop H.Q., plus our largest Signal Centre, is situated in Taiping. Here fairly old hands such as Sergeant Sharp, Corporal Chopping, Signalmen Ronney and Chantrell are helping to maintain communications for the 28 Commonwealth Brigade Group and North Malaya Sub-District. Our second detachment, under the direction of Corporal Clapperton, is situated on the island of Penang; here there is plenty of swimming and sunbathing, although the swimming is safer just now in the swimming pools, as there is a glut of sea snakes waiting for the unwary.

Our third detachment is at Ipoh, the second largest city in the Federation. This detachment mans a small, newly painted Signal Centre, with a teleprinter link working to Seremban and Taiping, and a small Signals Despatch Office.

This detachment consists of Corporal Wallace, Lance-Corporal Sadler, Signalmen Southern, Casey, Berry and Ward.

Sporting activities are quite widespread. For a small Troop we have our fair share of experts. Corporal Saul has played cricket for a Taiping District U.K. eleven in an inter-country competition and also represented Royal Signals, Malaya, against 48 Field Regiment, R.A. Signalman Ronney and Signalman Murphy play soccer for the 28 Commonwealth Brigade Signals Squadron team. Apart from that, we have basketball, badminton, hockey and Rugby, so at least we have the chance of keeping fit.

T.A.

HOME COUNTIES DISTRICT (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT (T.A.)

Since our last notes and despite the lack of real summer, the Regiment has not been idle. Now at last with many members away on leave there is a lull for taking stock.

July was mainly occupied with events in connection with the Territorial Army Jubilee. The Regiment provided a contingent in conjunction with 1 and 2 Squadrons of 44 (HC) Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A., at the Kent County Parade at Canterbury, when a service was held at the Cathedral, attended by H.R.H. The Duchess of Kent, who also took the salute at the march past afterwards.

Public days were held at Gillingham and Canterbury in conjunction with other Units, at which recruiting demonstrations were presented by members of the Regiment, and a Jubilee Dance was held at Shorncliffe in an effort to publicise the T.A. and particularly the Corps.

Equipment demonstrations were also arranged for the Cadets camping in the Shorncliffe area, two Officers were attached to one of the Cadet camps to provide advice and assistance on Signal matters.

At the same time as the events in Canterbury the Regiment, represented by a collection of tradesmen and women of all trades, provided wireless communications for the International Cross-Channel Dinghy Race from Folkestone to Boulogne. The only live tests possible beforehand were carried out from Dungeness to Dover and Folkestone to the Varne Lightship in mid-Channel. It was therefore a great relief to all concerned when the day came and all communications worked.

Using 31 sets, contact was maintained from the Race H.Q. by Folkestone Harbour to within a mile of the French coast and results were relayed back from a station put ashore in France shortly before the end of the race. The problems involved in providing wireless control over a 10-mile front and 20-mile depth gave excellent training and experience for all ranks involved. Many lessons were learned by all, but we still want to know why and how our R.S.M. came through the French immigration control on W.R.A.C. identity papers.

The steady increase in the number of volunteers gives encouragement to all concerned and it is pleasing to see that the rate of recruiting continues higher than the rate of discharges on marriage.



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We were honoured to receive a visit from the Lord Mayor of London, Sir Denis Truscott, and Lady Truscott, on 17th July. They were accompanied by Mr. Alderman and Sheriff Clifton Brown and Mrs. Clifton Brown and Mr. Sheriff Walker, the Deputy, and Mrs. Walker. The Officers and the Warrant Officers and Sergeants entertained the Lord Mayor and his party in their respective Messes. The Lord Mayor said that he was very pleased to have the opportunity of meeting the Territorial Army in the City and wished the Regiment good luck for the future.

This year, our annual camp took us to many places in the South of England. W.T. stations were established at T.A. Centres at St. Leonards, Bexhill, Eastbourne, Newhaven, Brighton, Shoreham, Littlehampton, Bognor and Havant. These detachments worked schedules with each other and with our main base station at Worthing. A great achievement was accomplished on our very first day—Saturday, 23rd August. We arrived at Crowborough—our Administrative H.Q.—about midday. All detachments were then briefed, kitted out, generally administered and reached their Exercise locations late on Saturday night in time for the Communications Exercise to commence at 06.00 hours the following morning. During this Exercise, detachments passed over 100,000 groups.

At Crowborough we established radio teleprinter communication to a site up on the South Downs some 3/4 miles north of our main base station at Worthing. Teleprinters operated between the South Downs and Worthing, using land lines (three pairs excellently laid and most rapidly recovered) by the Line Troop, under Lieutenant John Norris. They fully deserved the award of the Gambier Parry Shield for the most efficient Troop for 1958.

We were very privileged to have the G.O.C.-in-C., Eastern Command, Lieutenant-General Sir Charles Coleman spend a day with us. He was accompanied by his D.C.S.O., Colonel G. F. Houghton. The Army Commander dined with the Officers of the Regiment after visiting the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess. The following day he inspected Crowborough, Eastbourne, Newhaven and Worthing and commented favourably upon our work.

Our Honorary Colonel, General Sir Edwin Morris, spent two days with us and toured the Exercise area. We were delighted to see him.

On Wednesday, 3rd September, Major-General W. A. Scott, the Earl of Malmesbury and Lieutenant-Colonel B. R. M. Hayles visited the Regiment. They were entertained by the Warrant Officers and Sergeants and later dined with the Officers of the Regiment. The following day General Scott and Colonel Hayles made a tour of inspection. General Scott said that he was very pleased with what he had seen.

Apart from our own Regiment, including the W.R.A.C. Squadron, 12 members of our A.E.R. Pool, 20 from the Regular Troop, 4 from No. 9 S.C.R. and Captain Keith Sharman from Leeds University were with us at camp. All trades worked extremely hard, in particular the lineman, D.R.s, drivers and the traffic analysis staff. Congratulations to the W.R.A.C. for their magnificent cooking at Worthing under difficult circumstances.

All Parachutists jumped at Chickerell, near Weymouth. Latest news is that all ex-Breconites who have not taken the parachute course have now volunteered to do so early next year. We have vacancies for more!

Starting at 06.00 hours and finishing at 14.30 hours proved popular with all ranks. Some perhaps did not finish quite on schedule! The middle week-end was free—when most took advantage of being by the sea—and the weather was good!

On the last Thursday night all detachments were due to re-assemble at Crowborough. All got back, except the Linemen, who were still reeling in.

Friday's Commanding Officer's parade saw Sergeant T. English presented with the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal by the Commanding Officer. Congratulations to Sergeant English.

Friday, 5th September, our last night in camp. A party with beer "on the house" and an amusing cabaret, well organised by our Adjutant, Captain Jimmy Smith. "Not a word to Bessie" about our three souvenir hunters in Uckfield. Better luck next time!

The general concensus of opinion — our best ever camp — plenty of hard work, all trades fully employed, an attractive variety of locations by the sea and a good portion of free time. Here's to bigger and better numbers in 1959.



Major General W. A. Scott and the C.S.O. London District arrive at Worthing with the Commanding Officer



(*above*) Major General Scott with Lieutenant John Norris and Staff Sergeant Apthorpe

(*below*) Lieutenant Colonel E. W. Milner presents the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal to Sergeant T. English

[Photograph Courtesy: Panoramic Groups (Brighton) Ltd.



Association Notes

Sheffield Branch

This month's meeting was rather quiet.

It was not intended to be.

A Dance—Social Evening—Get Together—What have you, had been arranged with, I may add, refreshments (solid, as well as liquid).

However, those of us who were there enjoyed ourselves. The orchestra was very good, even though Ted Jones, our ex-Treasurer, had to keep dashing up and kicking it when the needle got stuck.

Yes, I said "our ex-Treasurer."

We are all sorry to have to say farewell to Ted, alias R.S.M. E. C. Jones, on his posting to Cyprus. For the last three years Ted, and his hirsute appendage, has kept our accounts in order. Well—he has kept them.

A very big "Thank you, Ted"; from all of us in Sheffield, for all you have done for the Branch, and the best of luck go with you.

Farewell, too, to Mrs. Jones, and thank you for coming to our monthly Get-Togethers. We know that Sheffield did not rate very high on your list of places to be visited, but we hope you found some consolation on the first Friday of each month.

Our new Treasurer is R.S.M. M. A. Barnes-Murphy, who has recently returned from Cyprus. Welcome to Sheffield, Mr. Barnes-Murphy, and may your stay with us be a happy one.

Harry Rotherham, our Chairman, was with us, but his recent series of illnesses has certainly quietened him down. He is on a strict diet and has lost quite a bit of weight, but those are the doctor's orders so—stick to it, Harry. May you soon be back in form.

Cheerio from Sheffield.

ERNEST TAYLOR.

Newark Branch

Greetings one and all from Newark. Yes. Following the move of 3 Training Regiment Royal Signals to Lincoln some months or so ago, we in this Squadron found ourselves transported from the wilds of Catterick to the semi-civilisation of Newark, once more to come under the care of 3 T.R. This, of course, happened last March, with the result to Catterick Branch of the loss of a few more members of the O.C.A. Once settled, then we began to be pushed around to start a Branch of the O.C.A. at Newark. And so, after much sweating of blood, hard work and copious advertising, and with a nucleus of seven ex-Catterick members, we hailed to our first meeting at the beginning of May. We were very kindly offered the use of the W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess of the Squadron by both R.S.M. F. Stockdale and S.S.M. L. Evans, to whom we owe so much and yet appear to give so little in return. But we do say a very sincere "Thank You."

This first meeting produced quite a good response and the final result was the birth of the Newark Branch of the O.C.A. Royal Signals. Small beginning some may say, but we had got a committee, namely: President, Lieutenant-Colonel A. C. R. Stead, O.B.E.; Chairman, Major J. Widgery; Vice-Chairman, Major H. Hill; Treasurer, Mr. F. Dixon; Secretary, Mr. C. Ransom; Members, Mr. W. Hall, Mr. J. Wright.

After the meeting closed the Mess was thrown open to members and their wives for a social evening.

Meeting nights are the first Wednesday of each month at 7.30 p.m., and although the hours of work in the area are such that we can never see all the members at any one time, each successive meeting seems to produce a few more ex-Corps members and the total membership is now 35.

Then came the final night of glory. Our first Annual Dinner. Our President, Lieutenant-Colonel A. C. R. Stead, O.B.E., took the chair and the guest of honour was the General Secretary, Brigadier H. R. Firth, together with the O.C. Squadron, Major S. B. Coyne, and S.S.M. L. Evans. A total of 30 sat down to dinner, again held in Mess. The usual toasts were taken and then the General Secretary rose to address the members. He gave quite a witty speech and all heartily applauded him. Shortly afterwards we all retired to the bar and rejoin the womenfolk who had been patiently waiting their men, and having satisfied the inner man, naturally everyone was in good spirits. Then came a couple of hours' amusement in which Sergeant G. Brooker had us all in hysterics with his impersonations. Finally came the draw for the St. Leger Handicap. The party eventually broke up somewhere about two in the morning but we sometimes wonder what time the General Secretary arrived home in view of the fact that I understand he was still in the land of Nod when we started work the next morning.

Finally, we all so heartily thank our cookie, Sergeant S. Hayford, for the most excellent dinner he turned out, the waiters who did such a magnificent job, and the staff behind the scenes, not forgetting Mrs. Hayford for her very kind help with the flowers.

And for any ex-Corps members who happens to be this way, there is always a welcome awaiting him at Newark.

So, until the next time, Salaams.

R.

Loughborough Branch

The social front has, as usual, been very quiet during the summer months, probably our only activity of note being the children's sports. This event suffered somewhat at the hands of the weather clerk, and although we completed the programme, the attendance was kept low by quite heavy rain just prior to the commencement.

Our season was due to start with a dance on 3rd October, but we got in a rather unusual pipe-opener on 7th September, when we put on, in the clubrooms, a lecture and demonstration on "The Progress of Sound Recording and Reproduction, 1928-1958." This was given by two well-known Midlands experts on behalf of a largish firm of TV and radio dealers. An audience of 56 was treated to a most interesting talk, illustrated with equipment from pre-electrics to stereophonic. Spotted in the crowd were Mr. and Mrs. Roy Fullagar, whom we welcome back to the fold from a tour of duty in Melbourne, likewise Harold Meeke.

The guest list for our Annual Dinner and Dance on 31st October is complete and we are happy to have, as chief guest, the Representative Colonel Commandant, Major-General Nalder. A new and most promising venue, plus a growing list of diners, indicate we are in for a really successful evening.

And to end these brief notes, here is something from the never-too-late-department. Recently I had an enquiry about joining the Association from a gentleman after he had read Press accounts of the Midland Reunion. When he returned the enrolment cards I sent him, my eyes fairly boggled at the service details . . . September, 1913, to December, 1917. With the cards came a subscription . . . for Life Membership!

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WELFARE SECTION

Below an attempt is made to describe, with suitable anonymity, eight cases taken from the Welfare Section files concluded during the first week in September, 1958. Also on this page is a simple statement of income and expenditure.

Signalman, 1923-30 and 1941-46. Married, one child (spastic). Cancer stopped him working last April, when he had a good income. He will not earn again and so the fund made a grant to clear part of the H.P. commitment entered into before his illness.

Signalman, 1915-19 and 1939-44. Married. When the rent is paid they have £4 a week between them for all purposes. The wife is 75, blind and bedridden. The fund made a grant to buy bed linen.

Signalman, 1949-50. Married, three children. Illness stopped his earnings in January and grant made to help with the more pressing debts.

Signalman, 1939-46. Now aged 50. Has not been in regular work for some months. R.F.E.A. secured him a suitable employment and the Returned P. of W. Association and Royal Signals gave him a little financial help.

Signalman, 1941-46. Previous service Irish Guards. Married. Has been unable to work for some years through illness. Small grant made.

Sergeant 14 years in Suffolk Regiment, seven years Royal Signals. Married, three children. His wife has been ill for a long time. The Suffolk Regiment, the British Legion, S.S.A.F.A., Forces' Help Society and Royal Signals all made it possible for her to have a holiday.

Widow of C.S.M. who died in 1954, leaving one son. The son had nine weeks in hospital and grows rapidly. Help given to clothe him.

Signalman, 1942-44. Previously Norfolk Regiment, later R.A.O.C. He has an invalid wife and he himself has been unable to work for months. All three Associations helped him.

GOLF

MATCH v. R.A.M.C.

This match was played at Swinley Forest on Thursday, 11th September, 1958 and resulted in a win for the Corps:—

SINGLES

Royal Signals			*R.A.M.C.*		
Major W. Macdonald	2 up	1	Captain J. Maccaig		0
Major-General E. S. Cole	3 & 1	1	Colonel J. H. Anderson		0
Major S. Schofield		0	Colonel J. Clinton Reed	4/2	1
Lieutenant-Colonel B. R. M. Hayles	5 & 4	1	Lieutenant N. Cuthbert		0
Major-General C. H. H. Vulliamy	4/3	1	Major-General E. B. Marsh		0
Colonel G. C. Winckley		0	Major Forrest	4/2	1
Mr. A. N. Symonds	4/2	1	Brigadier E. J. Curran		0
Major J. D. Norfolk		0	Colonel Lasser	5 & 3	1
		5			3

FOURSOMES

Major W. Macdonald Majore-General E. S. Cole	1 up	1	Captain J. Maccaig Colonel J. Clinton Reed		0 0
Major-General C. H. Vulliamy Lieutenant-ColonelB. R. M. Hayles	1 up	1	Major-General E. B. Marsh Colonel J. H. Anderson		0
Major S. Schofield Colonel G. C. Winckley	4/3	1	Lieutenant N. Cuthbert Major Forrest		0 0
Maior J. D. Norfolk Major Padwick		0 0	Brigadier E. J. Curran Colonel Lasser	2/1	1
		3			1

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION AND BENEVOLENT FUND

The following subscriptions were most gratefully received during August, 1958:

	£	s.	d.
3 Training Regiment	20	19	0
3 Training Regiment (Warrant Officers and Sergeants, 3 Squadron, Newark)	16	5	6
63 Command (M) Signal Regiment, T.A.	10	4	11
126 Wireless Troop, T.A.		4	6
War Office Signal Squadron		15	0
2 (Lon.) Signal Regiment, T.A.	2	2	0
1 Signal Squadron, King's African Rifles	3	1	0
19 Army Group Signal Regiment	30	8	0
4 Squadron, 2 L. of C. Signal Regiment	2	0	3
4 Air Formation Signal Regiment	8	15	0
H.Q., B.F. A.P., Independent Air Formation Signal Squadron	4	17	0
COMCAN Signal Squadron, Malta	9	15	6
Cyprus District Signal Regiment (Warrant Officers and Sergeants)	22	7	9
51 Independent Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron	1	7	0
Total Receipts	£133	2	5

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION WELFARE SECTION

The following donation was most gratefully received during August, 1958:

	£	s.	d.
23 Independent Armoured Brigade Signal Squadron, T.A.	1	0	0

EXPENDITURE DURING AUGUST, 1958 ... £425 4 5
(Includes: Rent and Rates; Beds and Bedding; Furniture; Cots and Prams; General Assistance).

Analysis of Cases:

Families of Soldiers serving in U.K.	4
" " " " " B.A.O.R.	3
Widows and dependants	3
Released and discharged Soldiers	39
Total cases assisted	49

29 cases of Soldiers who served during the 1939-45 War	£284	2	4
20 cases of Soldiers who did not serve during the War	£141	2	1

Lighter Fuel Packs

The following Amounts were most gratefully received during July and August, 1958:

		£	s.	d.
JULY	Box No. 70 ... 50 (N) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A.	1	0	0
AUGUST	Box No. 67 ... 43 (Wx) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A.	3	4	0
	Total Receipts	£4	4	0

CLOTHING

In response to recent appeals for clothing, gifts have been received from the following:

J. Cheetham, Esq., Major J. N. Evans, S.Q.M.S. J. McGrath, P. R. Buttery, Esq., A. Stokes, Esq., Major H. D. V. Chappell, Lieutenant-Colonel C. L. Ommaney, O.B.E., Mrs. G. M. Fraser, N. E. Thomas, Esq., Lieutenant (Q.M.) P. H. Johnstone, Lieutenant-Colonel C. B. Minns, Major B. M. Moxon, Sergeant L. Coleman, Captain W. F. Kent, A. C. J. Chalmers, Esq., Major T. D. Shillcock, Major F. C. Forbes, T.D., Brigadier C. C. Fairweather, O.B.E., T.D., D.L., Mr. Kennedy (Dundee), Mrs. R. Thomson, Mrs. C. Thomson.

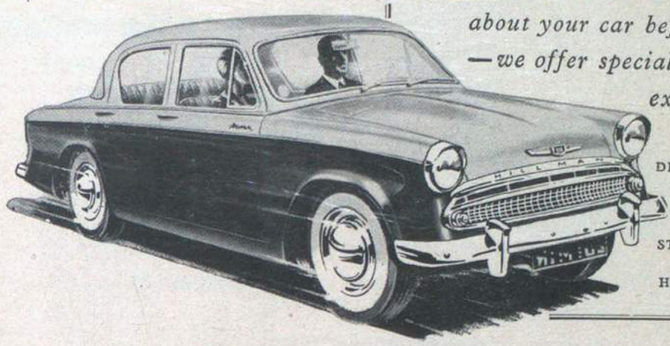
LAWN TENNIS

The Corps Lawn Tennis Team finished another highly successful season by playing the Staff College at Camberley on the 17th September and the Royal Artillery at Woolwich on the 18th September, 1958. In both cases the opposition were rather overwhelmed but some very keen and enjoyable sets were played.

Results: Royal Signals beat Staff College ... ... 9 — 0
Royal Signals beat Royal Artillery ... ... 9 — 0

The Royal Signals Team consisted of:—
Major J. W. Eagle and Signalman Parker (both of School of Signals).
Colonel E. L. L. Vulliamy (War Office) and Captain L. Bamber (H.Q. Training Brigade).
Major H. Chapman and Signalman Howden (both of 4 Training Regiment).

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THE WIRE

THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE

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.*

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Remittances should be made payable to: Royal Signals Association. Subscription rates (post free, except air mail): Twelve months, 15/-; single month, 1/3.

☆

NOVEMBER • 1958

Vol. 12 *(New Series)* **No. 11**

Editorial

CORPS HISTORY

ON page 360 will be found an advertisement for the first full and accurate history of Royal Signals ever to be attempted.

It has involved the author, Major-General R. F. H. Nalder, C.B., O.B.E., in more than five years of patient research. Truly, as he says himself, he has been aided by a very large number of other people but in the main the work has been his.

Perhaps the cause of the most prolonged and difficult research has been the tracing of the history of many of the Signal Regiments which exist to-day.

The writer of this article served for some years in a famous Infantry Regiment in the 2nd Battalion thereof. As a very junior Second Lieutenant almost his first important task was the keeping of the Regimental Diary which he had to serve up monthly in draft form to the Adjutant. Much pain and tribulation ensued but when transcribed into the Regimental book there was no happening of importance that was not recorded in very great detail. If memory serves, these books were annually, or perhaps biennially, lodged in the Regimental Depot. Profusely illustrated with photographs of every great occasion these Battalion books made the writing of history more easy.

General Nalder and his helpers, with infinite labour, have got history up to date.

His book will be published in December, 1958, and bought and read by very many.

Is it too much to ask that successive commanding officers of all Regiments of Royal Signals see to it that a Regimental book is kept?

In it must be recorded changes in role, major changes in establishment, changes in Command, important exercises, important inspections, moves of the Regiment or moves of detachments, the name of the formation which the Regiment is serving, the names of those who win distinction while serving in the Regiment.

General Nalder has done great service in writing the present volume. Let those now serving make more easy the task of whoever it is who writes Volume II in say 1970.

He who is given the task may well be one who to-day is comparatively junior.

* * *

The Royal Corps of Signals. A history of its antecedants and development, is reviewed in the November, 1958, issue of the Journal of the Royal Signals Institution.

Memorial Service
for the late
Brigadier H. Clementi Smith, D.S.O.

Her Royal Highness, The Princess Royal, G.I., G.C.V.O., G.B.E., R.R.C., T.D., D.C.L., LL.D., Colonel-in-Chief, was represented by Major-General R. F. H. Nalder, C.B., O.B.E., Representative Colonel Commandant at the Queen's Chapel of the Savoy on 7th October, 1958. Amongst those present were:—

Family and Friends: Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. P. F. Clementi Smith (son and daughter-in-law), Brigadier and Mrs. W. R. Smijth Windham (son-in-law and daughter), Mrs. E. J. Murphy (daughter) also representing Brigadier E. J. Murphy, Miss R. Clementi Smith (daughter), Miss Clementi Smith (sister), Miss Midlemiss, Mr. Simon Smijth Windham (grandson), Miss Johanna Smijth Windham (granddaughter), Lady Clementi, Mrs. C. Clementi, Mr. Peter Clementi (cousins), Mrs. A. H. French and Major General B. T. Wilson.

The following members of Royal Signals were present:

The Colonels Commandant Brigadier R. H. Willan, General Sir H. Colville B. Wemyss, Major-General and Mrs. G. G. Rawson, Major-General R. F. B. Naylor, Major-General Sir Leslie and Lady Phillips, Major-General Sir Ronald and Lady Penney, Major-General C. H. H. Vulliamy, Major-General C. M. F. White, representing also Brigadier Sir George H. Walton, Major-General and Mrs. W. A. Scott, Major-General M. S. Wheatley.

Major-Generals R. E. Vyvyan, D. A. L. Wade (also representing the Royal Signals Institution) and Mrs. Wade, A. E. Morrison, Squadron Leader A. W. Harris (representing Major-General Sir Leslie Nicholls) and Mrs. Oliver Edgcumbe.

Brigadiers R. Chenevix-Trench, W. T. Howe, C. A. H. Chadwick, D. W. Burridge, R. G. Yolland (also representing Brigadier E. D. Good), H. G. Henderson, W. D. J. Harries, F. W. P. Bradford (also representing Lieutenant Colonel P. G. Gambier), H. R. Firth (representing Brigadier A. C. Sykes).

Colonels B. G. Rowley and Mrs. Rowley, R. J. N. Solly, C. J. Aston, H. O. Pargeter, R. M. Adams, Major J. L. Judd.

Brigadier H. R. Firth represented the Headquarters Staff, Royal Signals Association, with Mr. and Mrs. K. J. Amos.

Representing other organisations: Colonel Sir Frank Watney, Mr. J. L. Watney (Master, Mercers' Company and chairman of governors, St. Paul's Schools) with Mr. G. E. Logsdon (clerk to Mercers' Company and to governors St. Paul's Schools), Mr. A. N. Gilkes (high master, St. Paul's School).

The following wrote regretting their inability to attend: Lieutenant-General E. A. Osborne, C.B., D.S.O., Major-General L. de M. Thuillier, C.B., O.B.E., Brigadier D. St. J. Hoysted, C.B.E., Lieutenant-Colonel J. W. Orange-Bromehead, M.C.

The arrangements were made by Lieutenant-Colonel B. R. M. Hayles, C.S.O., Headquarters London District, and the following: Major W. MacDonald and Captains C. N. Le Gassick and R. L. Murray.

Trumpeters of the Royal Signals Band suonded the Last Post and Reveille.

The Rev. Cyril Cresswell, Chaplain to the Queen's Chapel of the Savoy, conducted the service.

BRONZE STATUE OF "JIMMY" FOR SALE

Situated in Edinburgh, the statue is 3ft. high, at present mounted on a 4ft. Billiard Table Leg. The owner has given it to the Association to sell to the highest bidder—minimum £50. The proceeds go—half to the Royal Signals Association and half to a charity nominated by the owner, Major W. J. Main, Royal Signals.

Regiments, Squadrons wishing to purchase, apply: General Secretary, Royal Signals Association, 88, Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1.

Obituary

COLONEL M. W. EMLEY, O.B.E., T.D.

Maurice Emley first became a Signal Officer when he was posted from the Tyneside Engineers, T.F., in 1912, to the London Army Troops Signal Companys, R.E., T.F., in which he commanded a Section of the Air Line Company and very quickly assimilated "Signals" and became popular with all ranks. His enthusiasm covered every phase of our Territorial activities and he coupled efficiency with popularity.

He and his L. 11 Air Line Section went to France in December, 1914, with 5th Corps Signals and served in the Ypres Salient. While repairing lines at Ypres railway station, under bombardment, during the second battle, he was badly wounded by a shrapnel bullet, which caused him to limp for the rest of his life.

It was long before he was passed fit and then only for home service, in which he formed and commanded the first London Anti-Aircraft Signals, until the end of the war and demobilisation.

When the T.A. was reconstructed in 1921, the old "London Army Troops" became 111 (London) Corps Troops under Emley's command. In 1922 this unit was converted into "Air Defence Formation Signals." Emley commanded the unit for eight years, finally retiring in 1930. It may be said truly that he founded and carried out the yearly development of the Anti-Aircraft Signals which served London so magnificently during the Second World War. He will be remembered for this great service to the Corps.



CAPTAIN GEOFFREY EVELYN, M.B.E., T.D.

Geoffrey Evelyn's military career commenced in 1908 when he enlisted in the 4th (Vol.) Battalion The Hampshire Regiment, now known as the 4th Battalion The Royal Hampshire Regiment, T.A.

He took up signalling almost immediately after enlisting and by the outbreak of the 1914-18 war was a Signal Sergeant. He held the Battalion Signallers and Efficiency Cups for many years.

At the outbreak of the First World he was embodied with the T.A. and was, with many other Regimental Signallers, transferred to the Royal Engineers' Signal Service. In November, 1914, he went to France with 43rd (Wessex) Divisional Signals but soon after Christmas was back with enteric fever. In 1915 he again went to France, this time with the 58th Divisional Signals, but in 1917 was again back in England, having been gassed. Recovering from that, he passed the remainder of that war with the Army Signal School at Dunstable, as an Assistant Instructor. During the 1914-18 War he was for some unknown reason known as "Banji" and ex-members of the R.E. Signals may remember him by that name.

In 1919 he enlisted as a Regular and spent the next 10 years or so with 1st and 2nd Divisional Signals at Aldershot. Then, to India (Meerut) as T.S.M. of 3rd Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop and later as R.Q.M.S. of the S.T.C. at Jubbulpore. Home again in 1936 to Canterbury at R.Q.M.S. of 4th Divisional Signals, and in 1937 to Palestine with 7th Divisional Signals.

In 1939 he took his discharge from the ranks and was commissioned as Quartermaster to the 2nd Line of 56th (City of London) Signals T.A., and in 1941 sailed with that unit (as 3rd Air Formation Signals) to the Middle East where he remained until the end of the war. During that period he was awarded the M.B.E. and the T.D.

After the war he returned to his old Corps, the Royal Engineers where he served as a retired Officer with No. 1 Railway (Home) Group, R.E., until his final retirement in 1956.

Thus he completed 48 years with the Army. He was a unique holder of the Territorial Efficiency Medal (earned pre-1919), the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal (Regular) and the Territorial Efficiency Decoration, and also possessed 10 other medals and awards. He was affectionately known throughout the Corps as "The Duke."

He was buried at Sturry, in Kent, where he had settled in his retirement on 19th September, 1958, and at his funeral were representatives of the local British Legion of which he was Chairman, the local Conservative Association, Royal Signals' Association and No. 1 Railway (Home) Group, R.E.

He leaves his widow, Georgina, to mourn his loss.

THE LATE MAJOR C. E. J. REYNOLDS

Brigadier J. N. Barker, O.B.E., writes:

"The announcement in yesterday's *Daily Telegraph* of the the death of Major C. E. J. Reynolds on 1st October, at the age of 72, will have brought back many memories of service with Indian Signals in the days between the two World Wars to those who saw the announcement.

"There cannot be many still on the Active List of the Corps who knew and served under 'Daddy' Reynolds, as he was always affectionately called, but there must be many friends of his amongst those who have retired. To those who did know 'Daddy,' he will always be remembered as a very loyal member of Indian Signals and a friend in every respect of those officers and other ranks of Royal Signals who saw service in pre-war India and had the honour of meeting him. 'Daddy' Reynolds was essentially a very shy man, who shunned publicity and who always preferred to work quietly in the background. His qualities as a man and his experience of Indian Signals were, however, assets, which made him the confidante of all, British and Indian alike, and many were the occasions when his advice was asked and given freely. 'Daddy' was incidentally, a first-class operator, whose skill on a key would put many operators of today to shame.

"His passing leaves a further gap in the history of the Corps in India, which can never be re-filled, and there are probably many, who like me served with or under 'Daddy' Renyolds who would wish to pay respect to his memory."

LETTER TO THE EDITOR FROM BRIGADIER R. CHENEVIX TRENCH, C.B., O.B.E., M.C.

"Sir,

Your recent numbers have contained statements and speculations about the beginnings of wireless in the Army. I played a modest part in its early developments, and some basic dates may interest your readers.

In 1896 Marconi came to England and gave the first practical demonstration of wireless telegraphy. The War Office sent an officer to watch these early tests, and an unsuccessful attempt was made to use the method in the South African War (1899-1902).

In 1903 it was decided that enough progress had been made to justify the Army's taking it up, and in 1904 a Wireless Section of the 1st Telegraph Battalion, R.E., was formed at Aldershot. By 1907 this had grown to two W/T Companies (this is where I came in), and in 1910 a Wireless Troop formed part of an experimental Signal Squadron improvised to take part in Cavalry Divisional manœuvres on Salisbury Plain.

Until 1911 the two functions of scientific research and experiment on the one hand, and field duties on the other, were combined, very uncomfortably, in the same unit. In that year a separate experimental establishment was formed and the two old companies were amalgamated into the 1st W/T Company, able to devote itself solely to training for war. The idea from the start had been that the role of the new method should be to provide communications for cavalry, and in 1912 the Signal Squadron, R.E., took its place as a unit of the Cavalry Division.

To all this the Territorial Army had made its own notable contribution. In particular, an officer of the Westmorland and Cumberland Yeomanry, at his own expense, had equipped his unit with two pack W/T sets designed by Marconi's, and had taken them on manœuvres. Their success was such that the authorities adopted the design and added the Marconi pack equipment to its own wagon-borne sets with their six-horse teams.

In 1914 the British Army took the field with 10 wireless stations. These were made up of six (three wagon and three Marconi pack sets) in the Cavalry Divisional Signal Squadron, and four (three wagon and one Marconi set in a motor lorry) in an Army Troops Wireless Company."

THANK YOU

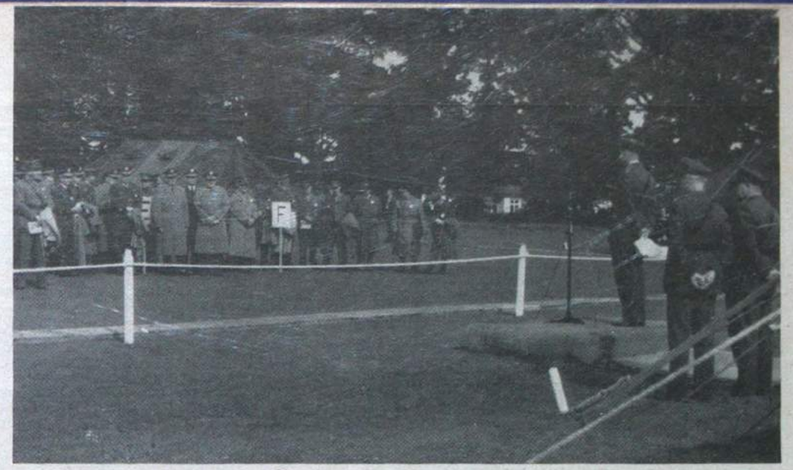
Thank you to Mrs. C. Fairlie, of Myres Castle, Auchtermuchty, Fife, who for many years has collected parcels of books and magazines and sent them out to Malaya for distribution amongst the very scattered units of the Corps in that country, many of which have detachments far from civilisation or any civilised shop.

If any other benefactor of their kindness would care to do the same sort of thing, we of the Association can always supply an address to which books and magazines should be sent.

There is a very considerable requirement at present in the Persian Gulf and books and magazines sent to C.R. Signals, British Forces Arabian Peninsular, B.F.P.O. 69 will be thankfully received, and will be sent on to small detachments of Royal Signals completely isolated and living under some discomfort.

Demonstration of Signal Equipment to Representatives of NATO and the Commonwealth

BY NACERBY



The Signal Officer-in-Chief (Major General R. J. Moberly, C.B., O.B.E.) welcoming the visitors. In the foreground Colonel R. G. Miller and Lieutenant Colonel A. R. Marshall

CERTA CITO . . . .

If you've passed down 90 Signal Regiment way during the past month you'll have noticed an extra air of pride almost to the point of jauntiness—and if I may say so, they've every right.

All Home Commands will have seen, or heard of, the remarkable demonstration of Signal equipment staged by the Regiment at the Signals Research and Development Establishment at Christchurch on 23rd September for representatives of N.A.T.O. and Old and New Commonwealth Countries.

But such a splendid show should I feel be known to all members of the Corps, past and present, and especially those abroad.

Everyone knows that communications equipment, as distinct from trundling tanks and vehicles, guns and firing demonstrations, are the most difficult to display and demonstrate except perhaps to the ultra scientist or boffin. But to stage a demonstration shewing the new range of communications equipment in static positions at Unit, Brigade, Division and Areas rear of Division levels, and yet have all equipments live and working as "in the field" seemed an impossible task. With, however, the splendid co-operation and ease of facilities afforded by the Director, Signals Research and Development Establishment (Mr. H. W. Forshaw) and the "Certa cito" enthusiasm of 90 Signal Regiment Demonstration Troop under their Commander, the old adage that the "difficult can be done at once, the impossible takes a little longer" was exemplified.

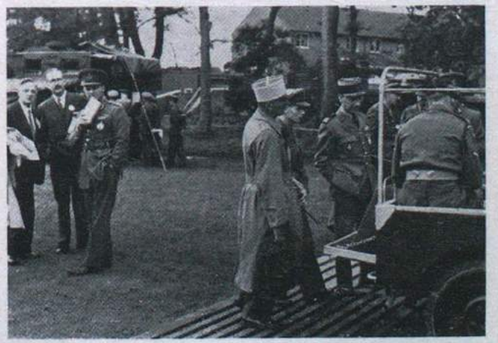
Set in almost sylvan surroundings on the SRDE sports field the equipments were displayed and demonstrated in the appropriate vehicles and in marquees at the various communication levels, and ending in two displays by SRDE personnel depicting development trends in both radio and line.

The Signal Officer in Chief (Major-General R. J. Moberly, C.B., O.B.E.) welcomed the distinguished visitors in a speech of "Signal" importance, and as the visitors dispersed and passed from stand to stand it was obvious from the professional interest and probing questions that the demonstration had made a tremendous impact on everyone, and that the long arduous years of planning and development of the equipments for the Corps was at last coming to fruition.

From a vantage point I particularly noticed among the British spectators the D.C.I.G.S. (Lieutenant-General Sir H. Pyman, K.C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O.) and the Director of Weapons and Development (Major-General G. E. R. Bastin, C.B., O.B.E.) and his successor designate (Major-General D. G. Moore) in earnest conversation with the Signal Officer-in-Chief at each stand, and I'm sure those happy expressions had "equipments" written all over them.

Altogether a tremendous day for the Corps—so you can now understand those proud looks at 90 Signal Regiment.

(The photographs are by kind permission of the Director, S.R.D.E.).



To the left—Mr. H. W. Forshaw, (Ministry of Supply), Mr. R. G. Friend (Ministry of Supply), and Major General G. E. R. Bastin (late Director of Weapons and Development). To the right—French visitors at a wireless vehicle installation stand



The Unit Level Stand

PERSONAL COLUMN

London Gazette

12th September, 1958

W.O.I J. C. Pendock to be Lieutenant (Tfc. Offr.), 5th August, 1958.

16th September, 1958

Major (Q.M.) M. Cullen retired on 13th September, 1958.
Major K. J. A. Adlam retired on 16th September, 1958.

19th September, 1958

Her Majesty The Queen has been graciously pleased to confer the following awards:

Army Emergency Reserve Decoration:
Major A. G. Kneen; Captain R. A. M. Morris.

First Clasp to the Territorial Efficiency Decoration:
Lieutenant-Colonel P. G. Hallett, T.D.; Major K. J. Hart, T.D.; Captain (Hon. Major) E. A. S. Ledsam (now T.A.R.O.).

Territorial Efficiency Decoration:
Captain (Hon. Major) E. A. S. Ledsam (now T.A.R.O.); Captain E. J. Walke; Lieutenant (Hon. Captain) T. G. Forse (now T.A.R.O.).

Captain T. N. Skelly to be Major, 18th September, 1958.
Captain A. N. Wright to be Major, 19th September, 1958.

23rd September, 1958

Captain (Q.M.) J. P. Cairns to be Major (Q.M.), 23rd September, 1958.
Captain D. W. Sutherland to be Major, 23rd September, 1958.
Brigadier W. G. Tucker, C.B.E., is appointed Colonel, the Gurkha Signals, 1st September, 1958.

26th September, 1958

Brigadier (Temp. Major-General) E. S. Cole, C.B.E., to be Major-General, 24th August, 1958.

30th September, 1958

Her Majesty The Queen has been graciously pleased to approve the following awards for distinguished service in Malaya for the period 1st January to 30th June, 1958:

M.B.E. R.S.M. (now Lieutenant (Q.M.)) G. B. Symonds.

Mentioned in Despatches Major F. R. Cox.
Gurkha Signals—Captain (Q.G.O.) Birendrasing Gurung, Captain (Q.G.O.) Teibir Gurung, A/S/Sergeant Abir Pun, Sergeant Balbahadur Thapa, Signalman Bhagisor Limbu.

Her Majesty The Queen has been graciously pleased to approve the following awards for distinguished service in Cyprus for the period 1st January to 30th June, 1958:

C.B.E. Brigadier C. D. Gardiner.
O.B.E. Lieutenant-Colonel A. C. Galbraith (now R.A.R.O.).
M.B.E. W.O.II E. M. Frost.

Mentioned in Despatches Major D. J. Benson, Major S. J. Thompson, W.O.II K. V. Risby, Lance-Corporal V. Hughes.

Lieutenant-Colonel G. H. K. Hewlett, B.A., retired 30th September, 1958.
Major M. A. Lloyd retired, 31st August, 1958.
Major A. M. R. Mallock retired, 28th August, 1958.

3rd October, 1958

Captain K. F. Lloyd to be Major, 3rd October, 1958.

Major (Q.M.) E. R. Collins relinquishes his commission on completion of service and is granted the honorary rank of Major (Q.M.).

Captain (T.O.T.) J. F. Everard to be Major (T.O.T.), 26th July, 1958.
Lieutenant (Q.M.) J. F. McQuade to be Captain (Q.M.), 3rd October, 1958.

7th October, 1958

Captain F. D. Williams to be Major, 8th October, 1958.
W.O.I G. B. Symonds to be Lieutenant (Q.M.), 1st September, 1958.

Movements — Officers

What is shown below is extracted from a periodical look at a file which contains A.G.11 posting orders. Movements shown below are not necessarily accurate, or up-to-date.

Major K. E. P. Andrews, Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment to Depot (HS).
Major A. D. Inglis, M.E.L.F. to Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment (T.A).
Major R. T. M. Sharp, East Africa to Depot (HS).
Major J. D. B. Thornton, FARELF to Cyprus.
Major H. J. Waters, Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment to 2 Training Regiment.
Major A. J. Woodrow, B.A.O.R. to J.S.S.C.
Major R. J. Armstrong, A.A.S., Harrogate, to FARELF.
Major A. R. Brooke War Office to Depot (HS).
Major G. Byrom, B.A.O.R. to Depot (HS).
Major A. P. Johnson, U.K. COMCAN Signal Regiment to Depot (HS).
Major F. D. McConnell-Wood, Aden to Intelligence Corps Centre.
Major P. Wolfendale, Depot (HS) to 5 Training Regiment.
Major (Q.M.) R. F. C. Ashford, Eastern Command Signal Squadron to Depot (HS).
Lieutenant (Q.M.) R. Burge, Depot (HS) to Depot Regiment (Cadre).
Lieutenant (Q.M.) G. B. Symonds, First Commissioning to B.A.O.R.
Major E. S. Colman, Depot (HS) to H.Q., AAFCE.
Major I. Gram-Hansen, FARELF to B.A.O.R.
Major J. R. Romaines, User Trials Squadron to Cyprus.
Major H. Rowlands, FARELF to Depot (HS).
Major D. E. Salisbury, 2 (London) Signal Regiment (T.A.) to Depot Regiment Cadre.
Lieutenant-Colonel J. J. Lamb, 1 Training Regiment to Depot (HS).
Major H. E. Roper, B.A.O.R. to Cyprus.
Major H. Rowlands, Depot (HS) to Depot Regiment Cadre.
Captain (Tfc. Offr.) M. Turner, B.A.O.R. to M.E.L.F.
Major G. P. R. Anslow, Depot (HS) to Signal Regiment, U.K.
Major B. H. Parsonage, Signal Regiment U.K. to FARELF.
Major (T.O.T.) S. W. E. G. Bowser, Malta to B.A.O.R.
Major (T.O.T.) W. Brewin, Northern Command S.W.S. to Northern Command Signal Squadron.
Captain (T.O.T.) J. Foster, Northern Command S.W.S. to Northern Command Signal Squadron.
Major (Q.M.) R. N. Richmond, Northern Command S.W.S. to Northern Command Signal Squadron.
Captain (Q.M.) M. E. E. Truscott, B.A.O.R. to M.E.L.F.
Captain (T.O.T.) S. A. Bristow, B.A.O.R. to East Africa.
Major A. Pagan, Malaya to B.A.O.R.
Major E. S. Colman, H.Q., Eastern Command to Depot (HS).
Major W. T. M. Gaskell, B.A.O.R. to Depot (HS).
Major R. S. Holbrook, Malta to B.A.O.R.
Lieutenant-Colonel J. J. Lamb, from 1 Training Regiment to retirement.
Colonel E. C. R. Blaker, from A.E.R. to 1 Training Regiment.
Captain (T.O.T.) W. Ellis, Aden to Signal Regiment U.K.
Major (T.O.T.) A. Long, Aldershot Signals to School of Signals.
Major (T.O.T.) T. Bennett, East Anglian S.W.S. Troop to FARELF.
Lieutenant-Colonel P. A. Duke, M.T.8, War Office to Depot Regiment (HS).
Captain (Tfc. Offr.) J. O. Tompkins, M.E.L.F. to B.A.O.R.
Major (T.O.T.) A. F. Goat, M.B.E., 3 Training Regiment to retirement.
Captain (T.O.T.) H. W. Bolton, U.K. COMCAN Signal Regiment to Malta.

Births

HORNER.—To Major and Mrs. G. A. Horner, a daughter, Sarah Diane, at Tidworth Military Hospital, on 14th August, 1958.

HAINES.—To Corporal and Mrs. F. J. Haines, a daughter, Brenda, at Laindon, Essex, on 24th September, 1958.

NORRIS.—To Stella, wife of Captain W. J. Norris, a son, Graham Philip, on 9th September, 1958, at Catterick Military Hospital.

HEWITSON.—To Captain and Mrs. P. W. Hewitson (1 Ship Signal Troop), a daughter, Julie, at Malta, on 4th September, 1958.

JACOB.—To Captain and Mrs. B. R. Jacob (COMCAN Signal Squadron, Malta), a daughter, Bridgitte Mary, on 29th September, 1958.

CASTLE.—To Staff Sergeant and Mrs. J. G. Castle (COMCAN Signal Squadron, Malta), a daughter, Pamela Anne, on 27th August, 1958.

SMETHURST.—To Sergeant and Mrs. J. W. Smethurst (Malta Signal Squadron), a son, Christopher Ramsay, on 22nd August, 1958.

HARRIS.—To Sergeant and Mrs. P. J. Harris, a daughter, Carolyn Audrey, at the Jubilee Maternity Hospital, Belfast, on 7th August, 1958.

LE QUESNE.—To Sergeant and Mrs. E. H. Le Quesne, a daughter, Jacqueline Ann, at the British Military Hospital, Paris, on 6th September, 1958.

SAWYER.—To Corporal and Mrs. W. Sawyer, a son, Peter, at the British Military Hospital, Paris, on 18th July, 1958.

TURNER.—To Lieutenant and Mrs. D. G. Turner, a daughter, Susan Margaret, at the British Military Hospital, Paris, on 3rd October, 1958.

All the following of 2 Wireless Regiment

WHAPHAM.—To Lieutenant and Mrs. P. R. Whapham, at B.M.H., Nicosia, a son.

GRICE.—To Captain and Mrs. T. E. Grice, at B.M.H., Nicosia, a son.

LANE.—To W.O.II and Mrs. Lane, at B.M.H., Nicosia, a son.

BRACKSTON.—To Sergeant and Mrs. Brackston, at B.M.H., Nicosia, a son.

Marriages

All the following of 7 AGRA (AA) Signal Squadron

HAYES—SCOTT.—Corporal M. Hayes to Miss Jasmine Elsie Scott, at Aylesbury, on 30th August, 1958.

SHELTON—HEBB.—Lance-Corporal P. Shelton to Miss Hill Hebb, at Melton Mowbray, on 6th September, 1958.

PENNY—BAILEY.—Signalman W. S. J. Penny to Miss Kathleen Mary Bailey, at Salisbury, on 26th July, 1958.

TURNER—MARKEY.—Signalman N. Turner to Miss Pearl Edurria Markey, at Prestwich, on 13th September, 1958.

BANKS—MUSCROFT.—Signalman B. E. Banks to Miss Sheila Margaret Muscroft, at Leeds, on 13th September, 1958.

JAGGER—HUMPHREYS.—Sergeant R. Jagger, at the Church of the Sacred Heart, Old Toad, Thornton, Bradford, to Miss Elizabeth Christina Humphreys, on 20th September, 1958.

Deaths

JOHNSON.—Ex-Signalman C. E. Johnson, of 35, Riley Way, Porchester, Hants, on 6th September, 1958, aged 24 years.

HUTCHEON.—Ex-R.S.M. J. Hutcheon, of 20, Dalmaik Crescent, Peterculter, Aberdeenshire, on 19th September, 1958, aged 56 years. Served in Royal Signals from 1920 to 1945.

CROUCH.—Ex-Signalman W. J. Crouch, of 23, Mountbatten Avenue, Chatham, Kent, aged 32 years, on 31st August, 1958.

MOORE.—Ex-Signalman R. A. Moore, of 42, Fordfield Road, Lea Hall, Birmingham, 33, on 6th July, 1958, aged 22 years.

WILD.—Ex-Signalman K. J. Wild, of 8, Pakeman House, Pocock Street, Blackfriars, S.E.1, on 15th March, 1958, aged 47 years. Life Member of the Association and ex-P.o.W.

REYNOLDS.—On 1st October, 1958, at his home, Milford-on-Sea, Major C. E. J. Reynolds, Indian Army, aged 72 years. He served for many years in the Indian Signal Corps.

LAWRENCE.—Ex-Signalman E. C. Lawrence, of 31, Grantham Road, Stockwell, S.W.9. Life Member of the Association and member of Chislehurst Branch.

WEEKS.—Mr. W. H. Weeks, of 8, Empress Drive, Chislehurst, Kent. Life Member of Association from 1923 and member of Chislehurst Branch.

DIXON.—Ex-Corporal A. W. T. Dixon, of 78, Archer Road, Millhouses, Sheffield, 8, on 13th June, 1958, aged 36 years.

INSTRALL.—Colonel R. C. Instrall, O.B.E., on 15th October, 1958, at his home, Copper-Beech, Mayfield Road, Weybridge, Surrey, aged 61 years.

DAY.—The death is reported of Colonel J. Day, D.S.O., who retired in 1934.

Arrivals and Departures

7 AGRA (AA) Signal Squadron

Arrivals: Sergeants A. B. Turner, T. McColgan and C. F. Smith.

Departures: Sergeant T. L. Grisdale.

School of Signals

Arrivals: Colonel P. C. Williams, Lieutenant-Colonels J. St. G. Hamersley and B. M. A. Philp, Majors G. H. Peirson, R. W. Hill, K. F. Lloyd, J. McK. Lamb, C. Rolls, M. Stears and G. Proudman, Captains H. Sorfleet, N. C. Moody and K. Watts, W.O.I R. Davidge, W.O.sII Summers, Hooper, Casson, Staff Sergeants Wood and Yates, Sergeants Smith, Hopson, Bramhall, Blease and Taylor.

Departures: Lieutenant-Colonel R. G. Miller, Majors K. N. Smartt, P. D. Vaigncourt-Stratten and D. K. Binks, Captains I. M. Rose, C. B. Ward, M. E. Rogers and R. Ruston (W.R.A.C.), W.O.I N. A. Parker on commissioning to Lieutenant (T.O.T.), Staff Sergeants Staniford and Rye.

Gibraltar Signal Squadron

Arrivals: W.O.II L. Lloyd.

Departures: W.O.II P. H. Grant.

1 Training Regiment

Arrivals: Sergeants R. Walmsley, J. E. T. Mellett, G. R. Short, A. E. Harratt and E. G. Hall, Staff Sergeant A. W. Marshall.

Departures: W.O.I P. W. Foakes, Sergeants K. S. Pemberton and G. A. Vickers, and A/Sergeant D. T. P. Kay.

4 Training Regiment

Arrivals: Sergeants R. E. Webster, R. E. Hunt, R. E. Hoare.

Departures: Captains F. W. Oakes, D. J. MacIntyre and A. I. Littlejohn, R.A.M.C.

1 Divisional Signal Regiment

Arrivals: Lieutenant M. S. Hancock, M.B.E., Major A. R. Glanvill, T.D., W.O.I H. Liley, W.O.II S. Kendrick, Sergeants J. Frazer, G. S. Paterson, D. McKenzie and P. R. Finney (A.C.C.).

2 Wireless Regiment

Arrivals: Majors A. C. Sugden, M.B.E., J. R. C. Hudson, Lieutenant (T.O.T.) M. Hogan, Sergeants Ewing, Montgomery and Wilson.

Departures: Major (T.O.T.) P. S. Harris, W.O.II Smith, Staff Sergeants Taylor and Sedman, Sergeants Lock, A. D. Burgess and Todd.

SHAPE Signal Squadron

Arrivals: Major J. Prentice, Captain W. Richardson, W.O.II Archer, Sergeant Goad, Sergeant Harris.

Departures: Captains R. Lawrence, B. A. R. Driskell and E. H. J. Bridle.

* * *

Mr. S. G. Wilkes. As recorded on page 367, Torbay Branch has lost a founder member and Chairman. Over the years the Branch and Association owe much to Mr. and Mrs. Wilkes.

They have settled in Bromsgrove, near Birmingham, and we hope that they will accept this as a very grateful "Thank you" for all that both have done for the Association.

50 (N) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A.

An opportunity will shortly occur for an ex-Technical Officer (Telecoms) or Foreman of Signals, living in the Tyne/Tees area, to join the Territorial Army (Royal Signals) as a T.O.T. (T.A.). Anyone interested should write to the Officer Commanding, 50 (N) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A., T.A. Centre, Larchfield Street, Darlington, Co. Durham.

(N.B. This is purely a Territorial Army appointment and not a full-time salaried post).



SILVER PIGEON

Presented to the Corps by Major R. H. Rayner (later Brigadier Sir Ralph Rayner, M.B.E.) to commemorate a famous Signals carrier pigeon of the First World War.

The inscription on the base is as follows:

PIGEON No. 2709

Died of wounds received in action 3rd October, 1917.

"In the action which was fought in the region of the Menin Road on 3rd October, 1917, this bird was despatched with a message from the front line to Divisional Headquarters at 1.30 p.m. The bird was hit by a bullet, which broke one of its legs, drove the message carrier into its body and passed out through its back. In spite of its wounds the bird struggled home to its loft, a distance of nine miles, and delivered its message.

"It died shortly afterwards."

S.S.A.F.A.

All should know of the wonderful work done by the Sailors' Soldiers' and Airmen's Families' Association with its representatives in almost every town and village.

There is urgent need for more voluntary helpers and from the **Chichester** Division of **West Sussex** comes an appeal for assistance. S.S.A.F.A. representatives are needed in the following places and any lady or gentleman living in or near the towns and villages named who can spare a very little time each week is asked to volunteer to:

The Honorary Secretary of S.S.A.F.A. and Forces Help Society and Lord Roberts Workshops of the Chichester Division (West Sussex) at 44, South Street, Chichester.

Almodington	Drayton	Sennicotts
Barnham	Easthampnett	Shopwyke
Bosham (new and old)	Forest Side	Sidlesham
Boxgrove	Goodwood	Singleton
Chichester, Parklands	Hermitage	Stansted
,, Portfield	Halnaker	Tangmere (incl. R.A.F. Stn.)
,, St. Pancras	Highleigh	Up Waltham
,, St. Pauls	Lumley	Walderton
,, Sub-Deanery	Maudlin	Westhampnett
Chilgrove	Merston	Westerton
Colworth	Oving	Woodmancote
Crocker Hill	Prinsted	
Donnington	Racton	
Dell Quay		

The Royal Signals List, January, 1952

Major W. J. E. Gammage, T.D., who served in the City of London Signals (T.A.) from the early 1920's until about 1946, and who admits that he still finds much of interest in THE WIRE, has kindly produced the required copy of the List to complete the set at Headquarters, Royal Signals Association.

THANK YOU.

Ex-Boys' Dinner "Call"



EX-BOYS' FIFTH ANNUAL DINNER, 27th SEPTEMBER, 1958

Amongst the very distinguished company, the author of an enquiry in the September number of the "Wire" will recognise Mr. "Joe" Cotterell. He is on the left of the picture and in middle age has taken to spectacles.

Sound the trumpets!

There is a military publication called "Trumpet and Bugle Sounds for the Army, 1927" (War Office Code No. 1725 for those who wish to know) and if we were composers we would add another Call to that book to mark the occasion of having had 103 diners present at the ex-Boys' fifth annual dinner on Saturday, 27th September. This is the first time we have exceeded the one-hundred mark—a tangible compliment to our principal guests of honour, Colonel T. W. Boileau and the Honorable Mrs. Boileau.

It was a happy gathering at the Victory Ex-Services Club in Seymour Street, W.2. Corps reminiscences from 1907 to 1958 were bandied about between a few of the quite young and the greater number of the not-so-youngs who enlisted as Boys from 1907 onwards. The two Junior Sergeant-Majors, Bennett and Oliver, with four or five of their near contemporaries, added colour to the assembly by wearing their "blues," and were a credit to their units in the smartness of their turn-out. And we know they enjoyed themselves very much.

Had we thought to borrow a trumpet for the occasion, one of our Ex-Boys would surely have sounded the Dinner Call for us. He was a Boy Trumpeter in June, 1914 and went to France in August of that year with "A" Signal Company, as a mounted trumpeter when he was not yet 15. Now he is a Lieutenant-Colonel.

There were seven ex-Boy Lieutenant-Colonels present*; numerous Majors and Captains; also Civil Service Higher Executives and those who have made their mark in industry; all ex-Boys.

Evidently, the Public Relations department of the War Office had not heard of our gathering—despite its very definite recruiting publicity value—so we brought in our own photographer and are pleased to publish a picture of most of the diners and of two stout pillars in the room, which successfully eliminated the picture of the Chairman, and others!

The ladies were not forgotten. They numbered thirty-four and our Chairman, in welcoming all the guests, singled them out for a very special welcome for their loyal support as a group of charming guests who might almost be described as "lady Ex-Boys."

On behalf of the ex-Boys present, the Chairman paid a warm tribute to Colonel Boileau (truly an ex-Boy at heart) for attending our festive board and for his past 34 years close association with the Boys of the Corps, and his continuing enthusiasm. He commanded the Boys' Company from 1937 to 1939. We can be assured his interest in us will long continue and the same can be said of the Honorable Mrs. Boileau on account of her activities in connection with the welfare of the Corps families.

The younger element of the ex-Boys then came under fire. It was most gratifying to see so many present, and as the Chairman remarked, it is they who, in the years that follow, will have the pleasant task and responsibility to ensure that these annual reunions go on from strength to strength. Good luck to them!

There must be many ex-Boys now between the ages of 25 and 40 who would welcome the opportunity of attending our reunions. The answer is in their own hands. If they live or are stationed within reasonable travelling distance of London all they need to do some seven or eight months ahead, is to write to two or three of their own contemporaries and agree that they will join together as representative of their own age-group, and come to the dinner. We of the Committee would welcome them and even if our numbers jumped to three hundred, the Victory Ex-Services Club could accommodate us provided we booked early enough for the larger Victory Hall which takes 350 diners.

During the course of the evening some further donations were received for the Cobb Memorial Trophy and have since been sent to the Hon. Treasurer of the fund.

Mention must also be made of the goodly number of ex-Boys and their guests who came to London from such distant places as Catterick Camp, Bedford, Eastbourne, Hastings, Newton Abbot, and the counties of Hampshire, Berkshire, Sussex and Nottinghamshire. This is surely no small proof of the popularity of the London Reunions and the Committee hope other ex-Boys will be encouraged to join us next year.

Yes, the 1959 dinner date is alreadv fixed for *Saturday, 26th September, 1959, at the Victory Ex-Services Club*, 63/79, Seymour Street, W.2. The time, 6.30 for 7.30 p.m.; and come early to get all your talking done before dispersal at 10.30 p.m.

We guarantee that you will enjoy yourselves.

THE COMMITTEERS



[*Photo: Courtesy Craine Roche & Co.*

EX-BOY'S FIFTH ANNUAL DINNER, 27th SEPTEMBER, 1958

Left to Right: F. W. Jacob, Hon Sec., Mrs. F. G. Strange, Colonel T. W. Boileau, O.B.E., Chief Guest, Major F. G. Strange, Chairman, Mrs. F. W. Jacob, The Hon. Mrs. T. W. Boileau, Lieutenant Colonel M. J. Conway, M.A.

**The Senior Lieutenant-Colonel was W. Clarke, O.B.E., who joined Signal Service Royal Engineers in 1907.*

Forthcoming Events

Officers' Buffet Supper and Reunion, 1958

The Royal Signals Officers' Buffet Supper and Reunion is to be held at the Drill Hall, Duke of York's Headquarters, Kings Road, Chelsea, London, S.W.3, by kind permission of the Middlesex Yeomanry Signal Regiment (T.A.) from 7 to 11 p.m., on

SATURDAY, 6th DECEMBER, 1958.

Dress: Lounge Suits.

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 (14/- 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.

Wednesday, 27th May, 1959

CORPS DINNER.

Thursday, 28th May, 1959

Central Committee Meeting, Royal Signals Association.
Regular Officers' "At Home."

SATURDAY, 21st MARCH, 1959

Special General Meeting, Royal Signals Association. This will be combined with the Branch Representatives' Meeting, Duke of York's H.Q., Chelsea, London, S.W.3.

ROYAL SIGNALS RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB, FIXTURES, 1958-59

Date 1958	Opponents		Ground
Nov. 19th	Northern Command	v. Western Command	Oswestry
Nov. 29th	Huddersfield		Huddersfield
Dec. 13th	Old Novocastrians		Newcastle
Dec. 20th	Wakefield		Wakefield
1959			
†Jan. 17th	Preston Grasshoppers		Catterick
†Jan. 21st	Royal Artillery		Catterick
†Feb. 4th	Royal Military Academy		Camberley
Feb. 7th	Harrogate		Harrogate
†Feb. 12th	Oxford University Greyhounds		Oxford
Feb. 21st	Billingham		Catterick
Feb. 25th	Leeds University		Catterick
Feb. 28th	Durham City		Catterick

†Corps Representative Matches

ROYAL SIGNALS HOCKEY CLUB, FIXTURES, 1958-59

Date 1958	Opponents	Ground
Tues. Dec. 2nd	R.A.S.C.	Aldershot
Wed. Dec. 3rd	R.M.A., Sandhurst	Sandhurst
Thurs. Dec. 4th	Aldershot Services	Aldershot
1959		
Wed. Feb. 18th	R.M.C. of Science	Aldershot
Fri. Feb. 20th	R.A.O.C.	Blackdown

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL CLUB FIXTURES, 1958-59

Date 1958	*Opponents*	*Ground*
Wednesday, 5th November	Durham University	Away
Saturday, 15th November	Sheffield University	Home
Wednesday, 3rd December	Manchester University	Home
1959		
Wednesday, 4th February	Durham University	Home
Saturday, 21st February	Sheffield University	Away
Wednesday, 4th March	Manchester University	Away
... ... *	R.A.O.C.	Home
... ... *	R.A.C.	Home

* Dates not yet confirmed.

PROMOTIONS

Technical Roster

To W.O.II	19038289	(166)	S Sgt. Rooke, W.
	2548936	(170)	S Sgt. Watson, W.
To S Sgt.	21124558	(210)	Sgt. Cottee, A. F.
	2549428	(220)	Sgt. Catton, P. J.
	22101453	(230)	Sgt. Jones, D. R.
To Sgt.	22242841	(70)	A/Sgt. Forster, R. H.
	21005081	(230)	A/Sgt. Rothwell, B. R.

Operating Roster

To Sgt.	19078466	(70)	A/Sgt. Cooper, L.
	22308500	(160)	A/Sgt. Chitticks, H. A.
	22660121	(220)	Cpl. Peters, T. J. M.
	22265884	(330)	A/Sgt. O'Brien, F. C.

Foremen of Signals Roster

To W.O.I	2548952	(430)	W.O.II Herring, D. P.
	14927016	(460)	W.O.II Newton, P.
	2326642	(480)	W.O.II Lees, A. J.

Signal Centre Supervisor Roster

To W.O.I	14888393	(180)	A/W.O.I Lombard, W. C.
	21023704	(150)	W.O.II Davidge, R.
	22515791	(190)	W.O.II Batram, A. W.

Regimental Duty Roster

To W.O.I	2325667	(762)	A/W.O.I Liley, H.
To W.O.II	15002529	(1020)	A/W.O.II Molony, M. J. L
	2599770	(1060)	S Sgt. Davies, R. J.
	5891479	(1090)	A/W.O.II Little, N. R.
	2875263	(1110)	A/W.O.II Farquhar, C.
	889930	(1120)	A/W.O.II Trevithick, L. E.
To S Sgt.	14081787	(130)	A/S Sgt. Ings, L. V. W.
	2549726	(90)	A/S Sgt. Maskell, A. E.
	22540221	(160)	Sgt. Cameron, W.
	2340163	(180)	Sgt. Thomas, F. A.
	2575940	(120)	A/S Sgt. Menzies, R.
	22246831	(90)	A/S Sgt. Stephenson, T.

DELETIONS

Regimental Duty Roster

W.O.I	130	110
W.O.II	120	800

Foreman of Signals Roster

W.O.I	240	30
W.O.II	370	

Operating Roster

Sgt.	4620	1510	4360	5720	3070	4110	830
	6460	4910	2390	9736			

Lineman Roster

Sgt. 840

General Trades and Duties Roster

Sgts.	10	1040	720	770	80	1980	1500
	2010	680					

Clerical Roster

Sgts. 1540

Foreman of Signals Roster

19034515	W.O.I Parker, N. A.	(270)	Commissioned Lt. (T.O.T.)	1 Aug. 58
2547267	W.O.I Iveson, F.	(300)	Commissioned Lt. (T.O.T.)	7 Aug. 58

Signal Centre Supervisor Roster

7595728	W.O.I Cowsill, G. H.	(130)	Commissioned Lt. (Tfc. Offr.)	28 July 58
1493244	W.O.I Pendock, J. C.	(140)	Commissioned Lt. (Tfc. Offr.)	5 Aug. 58

INSERTION

Technical Roster

23666239 Sgt. Walmsley, R. (1706)

* * *

Mr. J. Milburn, 2319296, writes from 27, Brook Crescent, Hawthorn, E.2., Victoria, Australia:

"My service with the Corps was 1928-34 (1st Divisional Signals and 4th Indian Divisional Signals). Thereafter with the Bombay City Police till the final change of constitution in India, in 1950, made me seek pastures new. But any old cobbers of those early days who may be down amongst the "Diggers" here, will be right welcome to a cuppa and a yarn or two."

The Army Motor Cycle Association Championship Trials 1958



Second Lieutenant Reynolds, Corporal Lampkin, Staff Sergeant Slaughter, Lance Corporal Jones

SATURDAY, the 4th of October, was a "Red Letter" day for the motor cycling section of "The Corps." The occasion was the finals of the Army Team and Individual Trials Championship held at Bagshot. The weather was vile! so much so that only those who have experienced monsoon conditions at Cherapumji can have any conception of the conditions. "Quagmires," as a description of much of the ground, is a hopelessly inadequate word; in fact a normal quagmire would have been a very welcome break.

Having won the Northumbrian District and Northern Command Trials, 5th Training Regiment qualified for the Army Trials with two teams, and an additional four members of the regiment qualified for the finals of the Individual Championship.

On arrival in the area we met many old friends among the competitors, notably Sergeant Edwards of 19 Army Group Signals, a previous winner of the event. It was obvious that the competition was going to be "tough," but as we had spent the summer in the mud and rain on the Yorkshire Moors—teaching the young entrants how to handle their machines over rough going—we were confident that conditions would favour us. The results justified our optimism. After an extremely heavy rainfall that lasted most of Friday night, Saturday morning broke clear with promise of the rain holding off. However, it was not long before "normal" summer conditions were upon us; torrential rain, thunder and lightning being the order of the day. The going deteriorated to such an extent that it was decided to cancel the marking of two of the sections; although all of our chaps had completed the sections, the decision was a very fair one as it evened up the difference between the early and late starters. We are particularly proud of the fact that all the entrants from this unit were "Despatch Riders" and members of the D.R. Training Troop, led by the O.C., Second-Lieutenant Alan Reynolds, riding in a Trials event for only the third time in his life. Despite the conditions, the standard of riding was extremely high, and of the one hundred and seventeen starters only fourteen retired for being more than thirty minutes over time.

There were many excellent performances, but that of our star rider (Lance-Corporal Lampkin) bordered upon the miraculous. He lost only six points, all on the observed sections. Sergeant Edwards of 19 Army Group Signal Regiment who started 59th (Lampkin was second to start), lost only twenty-one points, and there is no doubt that the later one started the tougher it was; both of these are, of course, "old hands" at the game.

Second-Lieutenant Reynolds (who had only twice before ever ridden in a Trials), is deserving of very high praise, not only did he lose only 40 points, but gained a Mention in "Motor Cycling" for a very fine effort at the seventh section.

At the end of a very gruelling day, excitement mounted when it was learned that two of the sections were cancelled. However, it made a difference of only seven points to our "A" team and when 5 T.R. were announced as this year's Championship winners, the feeling of "at last we have done it" was very much in evidence.

This is that third time that the team championship has been won by a unit of "Royal Signals," the previous occasions were:—

School of Signals in 1938 and Western Command in 1951.

It is a coincidence that it is also the third time that the Individual Championship has been won by a competitor from Royal Signals—Captain T. E. Dobson in 1939 and Sergeant Edwards (this year's runner-up), in 1955, when he was also a member of Western Command Signals winning team.

It is perhaps worthwhile taking note of the fact that *all* the Army competitors chose to ride the W.D. Matchless in preference to the B.S.A. Next year the story may be different as Matchless Motor Cycles may be withdrawn from the Service. (No, Mr. Editor, I haven't any vested interest!).

The results obtained by Royal Signals speak for themselves; they were:—

1. *Gort Trophy* (for the best team of three)
   5th Training Regiment Royal Signals "A" Team
   Lance Corporal Lampkin (– 6 points)
   Lance Corporal Jones ... (–35 points)
   Staff Sergeant Slaughter (–43 points)
   Total ... ... (–84 points)
2. *Norton Trophy* (for the best individual performance)
   Lance-Corporal A. Lampkin, 5th Training Regiment Royal Signals (6 points).
3. *Motor Cycle Industries Cup* (best performance by a Regular)
   Sergeant Edwards, 19 Army Group Signal Regiment (21 points).
4. *Motor Cycle Industries Cup* (best performance by a National Service competitor)
   Lance-Corporal Lampkin, 5th Training Regiment Royal Signals (6 points).
5. *"Runner-up" Individual Championship*
   Sergeant Edwards, 19 Army Group Signal Regiment (21 points).
6. *First Class Award*
   Lance-Corporal Jones, 5th Training Regiment Royal Signals (35 points).
7. *Second Class Award*
   Signalman Taft, 4th Training Regiment Royal Signals.

The points lost by the remainder of the competitors entered for 5 Training Regiment were:—

"B" Team:	Sergeant Fayers	40	
	Sergeant Sankey	42	–126
	Signalman Futers	44	
Individuals:	Second-Lieutenant A. Reynolds, Royal Signals	40	
	Signalman Williamson	41	
	Staff Sergeant Simpson	42	
	Signalman Hewson	44	

Altogether a most triumphant day—until—

The teams had dispersed on Saturday night for a very well earned week-end. Telephones rang all over England, the teams were required for a T.V. appearance. Flaps!! Some were on their way North—some South—some East. Thanks to the efforts of the Orderly Officer and the efficiency of the G.P.O. the message got through "return to Aldershot at once for a T.V. show." Nothing daunted. Week-ends went by the board, and straight back to Aldershot—what happened? The T.V. show was cancelled; all part of the fun. Finally, our very sincere congratulations to all the competitors and to Second-Lieutenant Reynolds and his D.R. Troop, for the hard work, enthusiasm and splendid spirit displayed.

This was probably the last public appearance of Staff Sergeant Slaughter and Lance-Corporal Lampkin as members of the Regimental team—we shall miss them both, very badly. We do say "thank you" for the manner in which they have "brought on" those whose job it will be to keep the flag flying. Such has been the success, that even our O.I.C. Trainng forgave them—dare we mention it?—perhaps we had better not.

1 TRAINING REGIMENT

Highlight of the month was the Parents' Week-End, held in ideal weather and attended by large numbers of very appreciative people. From beginning to end, everything went with a rare swing and parental expressions of gratitude more than amply rewarded all those who worked so hard to make it a resounding success.

Most of the winter sports are now under way and first results indicate this might well be a bumper season.

Presently we say goodbye to Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. J. I. Lamb, on their way to retirement after three years at the helm. To both we owe a lot and now tender our grateful thanks and extend best wishes for a happy and prosperous future.

In their stead, a hearty welcome is accorded to Colonel and Mrs. E. C. R. Blaker who join us soom from the A.E.R. and T.A., and whose sojourn in Catterick we hope will be an enjoyable one.

4th TRAINING REGIMENT

The winter season can now be said to have definitely arrived in Catterick. Football, rugger and hockey posts have sprung up everywhere like mushrooms, confidential reports and promotion exams are in full swing and the civilian staff have bought a thermometer and put a marker in "Civil Service Regulations" at the page which says they can have space heating when the temperature drops below 55 degrees for two consecutive days. Both the football and rugger teams have made a promising start to the season with a couple of resounding victories. The hockey team has not been so fortunate, but hope to be better later.

Up to date, no-one in THE WIRE appears to have mentioned the new improvements to the Great North Road which have now started on the Catterick By-pass. This will leave the old A.1 just opposite the airfield, pass to the west of the racecourse, to the east of Brompton-on-Swale and will rejoin the old A.1 just north of the level crossing. In fact, it more or less follows the line of the old Roman road as marked on the map. They have already almost completed the bridges over the railway and two of the roads, though they have still to put a bridge across the river. Anyway, it will alter the face of the country round about quite a bit when completed, and at the present rate of progress this should not take long.

Most instructors in Training Regiments can produce a good list of "Howlers," though most of them are pretty well known by now. One that may be new, however, occurred recently when a trainee clerk was asked "What is a Nil return?" The reply was "It's what you get when you ask a man for something he hasn't got." Is this a new version of the old saying "Sent away with a flea in his ear?" It reminds us of the true story of the sentry who failed to challenge the Orderly Officer on his visiting rounds. When asked why not, he replied, "Well, I knew you were the Orderly Officer; no-one else would be out at this time of night."

We would like to congratulate R.Q.M.S. Davey on his efforts for brighter barrack stores. He has erected a gaily painted wooden fence round his store and completed the scene with some potted geraniums round the door. It is understood, however, that this does not mean that his heart is any softer now than it used to be. We also congratulate Second-Lieutenant Hossick on successfully producing a play at the Cary Theatre. In spite of having most of his cast either posted or sent on compassionate leave at one time or another, the play "The Living Room" was a success and enjoyed, not only by the cast, as all amateur shows are, but also by the audience.

On the more serious side, we would also like to congratulate Staff Sergeant Jones and Sergeant Biddlecomb on their promotion, and to wish them the best of luck and success in their new ranks.

Signals Training Wing, W.R.A.C.

Hullo to all from Catterick. We have lots of news for you this month. First, let's take a look at the changes in the management. We have said goodbye to Major S. Foley, who, as O.C. 20 Independent Company, did so much for us. In her place we have Major V. I. Fisher, and we hope she will enjoy being with us. Captain P. Ruston is now Officer i/c of the Wing, and we know she will be happy with us, as she just loves Catterick!

Sergeant Lysaught, recently of Hong Kong Signals, has arrived, plus luggage and a family of wooden heads; She has taken over from Sergeant Ritchie, who has gone to Bonnie Scotland. Lance-Corporal Osborne has arrived from Northern Ireland and Corporal Cunnington has left us to change places with her in that Emerald Isle. Course 89Q arrived in a "Blaze of Glory." They arrived one night and three barrack rooms in "C" Block were destroyed by fire the next night—the Board of Inquiry proved they were beyond suspicion. This also exonerates Private Dempsey, who was visiting us that week-end!

Now let's move to what has happened since "The Fire." We were very happy to have a visit from Brigadier E. D. Good, C.B.E., Commander, Royal Signals Training Brigade. He visited all departments of the Wing and spoke to many of the trainees.

Congratulations to Lance-Corporal Abbott (ex-Squad 62) and Lance-Corporal Morris (ex-Squad 61) on their recent promotions. Also best wishes to Private Anderson who, after working in the Wing Headquarters for a long time, has left us to get married.

This month we have what we hope is good news and that is there is a big rise in the number of recruits passing through the Wing. We here are delighted to see them and we hope Units will soon be having their services. Courses 90Q Signal Centre Operators and 71R Teleprinter Operators arrived on 17th September and from these courses we pay a particular welcome to Private G. M. Hughes from 75 Independent Company W.R.A.C./T.A., Private R. A. Osborne from 328 Battalion W.R.A.C./T.A., Private J. E. Simpson, whose father was with Royal Signals, and Private J. I. Adams from 5 (War Office)

Signal Squadron W.R.A.C./T.A. Private Adams is the second member of her Squadron to join us here this year. Who will be the third?

Other than the continual rain, not much has happened during the past month. Sergeant H. W. G. Thomson has been away to Aldershot and she seems pleased to get back to this rain soaked spot. Course 69R has now departed and from that course we would like to congratulate Lance-Corporal Littlewood for maintaining a very high standard and getting her name on the Honours Board. She has now joined the Permanent Staff and along with Lance-Corporal Booth we would like to say welcome to this rain soaked spot. People who have lived here for years assure us it is not always wet! We have yet to be convinced.

What has happened at Steeple Bumpstead? We were disappointed to find no news from that delightful Unit. We had hoped to be able to send them some of our trainees!

Despite the weather, romance has bloomed. We offer our best wishes to Corporal Beaumont-White on her recent engagement.

Well, that's it from this gem of the North!

SCHOOL OF SIGNALS

The disbandment of the Officer Training Wing during this year has afforded an opportunity to revise the organisation of the School of Signals.

The increased importance of electronic warfare and radio relay and the need to continue certain tasks previously carried out by the Officer Training Wing are all reflected in the new organisation which now comprises an Instructional Wing with a headquarters and two Instructional Schools and the School of Signals Regiment.

The functions of the Royal Signals Wing, which has disappeared in the reorganisation, have been taken over by the Instructional Wing and School Regiment and the Planning Wing continues unchanged.

The following account by a student Officer from 42 "Q" Course gives a glimpse of some of the activities in the School.

"Ten very green Second-Lieutenants arrived in Catterick on 23rd September, 1957, seeking the answer to a pressing problem. Just what would a 'Q' Course be like? Fifteen months in Headquarter Mess was to provide us with a very full answer. Our first discovery was that our number had increased to 13, three subalterns having dropped from the ranks of 41 'Q.' Here was stark evidence that more than cruising speed was required!

Nothing daunted we plunged into Basics Land. Just as Red Indians had to apply themselves to learning to build fires before graduating to smoke signalling, so we had to master feedback, phase modulation and the whole range of 'O.K. phrases.' A week at Ripon provided us with fiery mustangs in the shape of 500 c.c. B.S.A. motor cycles, which were enjoyed, if not completely mastered.



No. 42 ROYAL SIGNALS QUALIFYING COURSE
Left to Right: Lieutenant J. R. Burrows, Second Lieutenant D. W. Stubbs, J. M. Hincks, L. J. Pertwee, M. S. Wilson-Brown, D. A. Nicol, R. S. Mansfield, M. R. Adams, H. M. Calder, B. F. C. Kavanagh, E. G. Wiillams

In October we were deeply grieved by the loss of Marcus Smith in a sailing accident on Semerwater. The Course attended his funeral in Leicester.

At the end of Basics Group, two of our number were 'retired,' the remainder went on to the Equipment Groups.

Wireless Group dismayed us with the fiendish tricks of the Ionosphere and Sporadic E, but managed to arrange most sites for Exercises within reasonable distance of the 'Fisherman's Rest' or the 'Brown Cow.' Line Group let us into the dread secrets of phantoms, superposing units and telegraphy. With battered brains we went on to Multi-Channel Group, who posed the pretty problem of how to get not one but five conversations on one pair of wires. With this and more achieved, we were passed as being on a par with most smoke signallers and were passed on to the tender mercies of the final group, Tactics Group. There, midnight oil was at a premium, gutteral jabberings of sigcens ops, bns, and, of course, Xpal, filled the air. This, however, was the last stepping stone in the Course, the last hurdle before we would be sent to our Units to start anew the process of learning.

The Course has taken advantage of the remarkable sports facilities that exist in Catterick. Three of us are regular members of the Regiment's Rugby team; Second-Lieutenant Jim Pertwee is usually to be found playing squash or tennis, and Second-Lieutenant John Hincks energetically rounds us up to provide soccer teams. Riding is popular with several members. There is a nice balance of work and play in the Course and, who can tell, amidst so much learning some at least may stick."

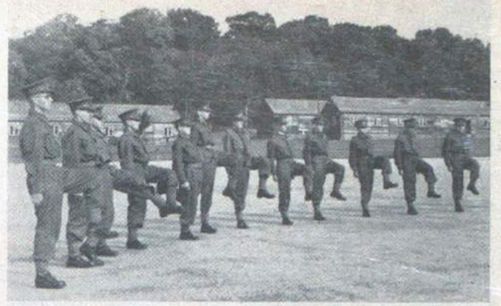
16 INDEPENDENT PARACHUTE BRIGADE GROUP SIGNAL SQUADRON

Amman, Jordan, remains the same. Parties depart from here almost daily, bound for Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Jerash (the old Roman city), the swimming pool, Amman Town, Jericho, the Dead Sea, Aqaba and even the hidden city of Petra in the desert. In between these activities our work of keeping the communications through, and passing the traffic, continues. Now that the initial "battle of signals" is over life has become a very routine matter and only plenty of sport and exercise has prevented it from becoming boring.

Sport now takes the form of volley ball, basketball, soccer and the occasional unpopular road-run (in boots) described by some of the more blistered and bitter members of the Squadron as "torture." But basketball really takes pride of place in the sporting world. We have, of course, built our own pitch and taught ourselves the rules. Needless to say, over the weeks, the rules have been slightly modified to suit Squadron requirements, such as automatic blowing of the whistle when either Major Peat, Captain Ryan or the Squadron Sergeant-Major touch the ball. Apart from that and the occasional scrum accompanied by cries of "On-on-on," the game is being played by the majority of members of the Squadron with considerable skill. Every single man in the Squadron, unless he is sick or dying, plays at least one game a day. We have now formed a Squadron team and are ready to take on all-comers.

Perhaps the most sought after trip outside Amman is the Aqaba, Petra trip, the down journey to Aqaba via the desert and the up journey, calling in at Petra, via the mountain route. This is generally a three or four day trip, depending on the condition and size of the vehicles. We have proved communication all the way down and up both to Amman and Cyprus, although the wireless sets (WS 52) mounted in trailers for airborne use were not able to stand the strain and the sets have had to be mounted in prime movers. One such party, commanded by Captain Ultan Ryan, was accompanied by Noyes Thomas, Foreign Correspondent of the "News of the World," and the journey was described in his article in the "News of the World" of 14th September, 1958. It was obviously a journey that he will not forget in a hurry.

The days get shorter, the sun slightly cooler and the nights comparatively cold. Still we remain in Jordan. Never have so many theories been put forward by so many people in such a short time—all conjecture. Nevertheless, morale remains as high as the hopes. Perhaps after all, Christmas, 1958, will see us in dear old Aldershot once again. (*Welcome Home.—Editor*).



"First steps"

JUNIOR LEADERS REGIMENT

R.H.Q. are viewing with detached amusement the glee with which 2 Squadron look forward to 1 Squadron "Outward Bound" training. Needless to say, it always rains on 1 Squadron, while 2 Squadron bask in the sun, whenever it appears.

Mention of R.H.Q. reminds me; our highly efficient Orderly Room Sergeant slipped up recently. On his opinion, as supplier of duplicating paper, rested the decision whether or not the boys could start a unit newspaper. Several excellent issues of "Junior Mercury" have since appeared, but the stock of paper is almost exhausted! The fact that Sergeant Pilkington is leaving shortly for Cyprus probably has something to do with it, and the outcome is awaited with interest. Will the "J.M." cease to publish (perish the thought!); will R.H.Q. reduce the volume of its daily output, or will W.O.II Chandler, who replaces Sergeant Pilkington also be able to replace the paper?

A large number of Mr. Sandys' new Regular Army arrived at Denbury in the last few weeks, swelling the Regimental strength of boys to 441. At the same time our establishment has been raised to 480 boys, and we are confident we shall reach that figure with the next intake.

The sudden large influx has necessitated certain reorganisation and streamlining, and an intensification of effort on the part of the hardworking permanent staff—which is no doubt good for our souls if not for our ulcers. In response to our urgent appeals, a number of units have attached N.C.O.s to us for a limited period. To these N.C.O.s, who are all doing sterling work, and to the units which made them available—at short notice and at the expense of their own organisations, we offer our sincere thanks.

The new recruits are rapidly being absorbed into our training and way of life generally, and already some have made their mark and found places in various Regimental teams. We hope with our larger potential to continue the trend of last term, reversing and avenging earlier defeats suffered at the hands of other Junior Leaders units. ("The Infantryman" please copy!).



"On the way"



"Finished product"

With the onset of winter, boxing, rugby and soccer have replaced the fair weather games. Already the Regimental open boxing championships have been held, revealing a wealth of talent from which will be selected the team to fight against *H.M.S. Fisgard* later this month. The rugger XV have started well and scored a convincing win over Teignmouth Colts; the highlights of this match being the exhilarating turn of speed displayed by Junior-Sergeant Briant and the deadly tackling of Junior-Corporal Williams.

The Regimental Band fulfilled its first engagement of the term during the Newton Abbot Shopping Week. The reputation the band enjoys is such that far more calls are made on its services than can possibly be met. Boys join the band as a hobby and submit to the direction of the redoubtable Sergeant Yates, N.C.O. in charge, Corps of Drums, with good grace and in a spirit of fun. Their joint efforts result in the band being greeted with enthusiasm and delight when ever they make a public appearance, and does much to enhance the spirit of goodwill which exists between the Unit and the local population.

One reason the band is popular as a hobby is probably the fact that before each engagement they have tea in barracks, and on arrival in town promptly have another, provided by the organisers!

3 INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT

Shades of Suez—we are returning home again. Many more flying trips to the East like this and we will be redesignated the Yo Yo Division.

After many inconsistent rumours we finally received our marching orders, and at this moment we are busily attending to our much practised packing operations. This is slowed up considerably by routine bomb searches which are carried out daily. It is quite comical to see the chief clerk, Staff Sergeant Williams, guarding his Orderly Room boxes from the ravages of a bomb search squad intent on "making hay while the sun shines" with the packed conduct sheets and attractive stationery.

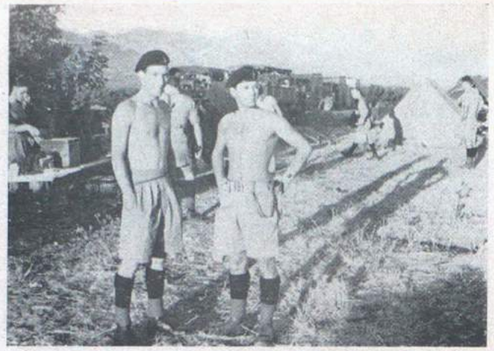
In many ways we are sorry to leave the cantonment of Episkopi for Sobraon barracks. Whilst out here sport has flour-



Major R. S. D. Maunsell and Staff Sergeant Williams on a convoy run through the Troodos mountains



Scenes of the REEMA Factory, our base HQ in Episkopi



Captain J. P. Brian and Lieutenant A. Yeoman roughing it on a Division exercise

ished as never before, helped along by that fact that all players are available all of the time and not on leave or courses, etc. We have even discovered more talent, heretofor hidden in the seclusion of a plush Colchester married quarter. Some of the old time Corps gladiators have come out of retirement to show the young lads how to really play the game. Notable of these are the T.O.T., Captain Pritchard of hockey fame and old Twinkle Toes, Lieutenant (Q.M.) Etherington. He represented the Corps at soccer in all parts of the world before hanging up his boots as a grand finale to an Army game that took place in Singapore in 1946. His energy and dash on the field of sport out here, sometimes with temperatures in the hundreds, have shamed the idle eighteen-year-olds into astronomical feats of endurance that should go a long way to improve their game.

The most popular game has been basketball, each Troop claiming to have at least six unbeatable teams. Sergeant Williams is the recognised expert. He has often led the Regimental side to victory against all-comers on the island who dared to take us on. The mortality rate in the inter-troop games very often reaches fifty per cent, the surviving half being the winners. This is accounted for by the fact that the book explaining the game was lost on the way out and by common consent we now play basketball to the "Queensbury" rules. The most robust teams were to be found in Oscar Troop much to the dismay of the S.N.C.O.s, particularly Sergeant Forth who was often in stitches.

The water polo team led by Sergeant-Major Molony flipped their fins in the island championships at Nicosia and were knocked out in the semi-final by the 45th Royal Marine Commandoes. The gala was reported on the Cyprus radio the following evening and it was possible for all who missed the exciting battle to cheer our side on whilst reclining in the comfort of their charpoys in the tent lines.



W.O.II Kennedy on a Moke

Sergeant-Major Kennedy solved the transport shortage on a recent Squadron Exercise at Evidimou by requisitioning a donkey for travel between the widely dispersed signal centres and wireless sets. The photograph shows what he describes as a soldier on safari accompanied by gun bearer, but in actual fact portrays a grip photograph of a cantankerous donkey being held by a local native to stop it running away with our "indispensable" and only Signal Centre Supervisor.

Worthy of note are our Indian Char Wallahs (Hassan Mohammed and Gulid Khan), both of whom are regarded with great affection by all ranks and who we recommend to our successors in the cantonment as extremely helpful and reliable. They are sponsored by Shahab Din, who some of the older members of the Corps will remember from their Kyber Pass days. When we first arrived in the camp it was with great surprise that the men woke up the first morning to find a dark coloured gentleman standing over them with a steaming hot mug of tea and a cheery good morning sahib. Since then the early morning tea has developed into a flourishing establishment at the end of the tent lines serving such delicacies as chip sandwiches and egg banjos. This facility, if nothing else, will make us loath to depart from this sunny isle. If you read our notes in the September WIRE you will notice that Shahab Din was predicting the duration of our stay. His predictions have proved correct.

Our field training and route marches are normally terminated at Happy Valley on the shores of the deep blue Mediterranean where the arms are stacked pyramid style and a guard posted whilst the remainder of the men enjoy a refreshing dip. Most of our off duty time is spent at Happy Valley where the Don Juans and Signalman Nutts of the Regiment can be seen practising their charms on the Women's Royal Army Corps. It is anticipated that more than one broken heart will be left on the island when we return to our peacetime hunting grounds of Sobraon Barracks and Colchester.

We wish a belated welcome to Captain D. A. Davies, Captain J. O. McCormack, Captain E. T. Bolt, Lieutenant M. R. Topple and Lieutenant A. Yeoman, who arrived from Catterick to make the Regiment up to strength. To the latter we bid fond farewell on his posting to the Guards Brigade Signal Squadron.

The storks have been busy during our stay here. Captain Davies, Sergeant Howse and Corporal Groom have all been presented with offspring.

As a final adieu we would like to say thank you to Brigadier C. D. Gardiner, C.B.E., Lieutenant-Colonel R. J. Western and all ranks of G.H.Q. Signal Regiment for their assistance, help and consideration during our second visit to Cyprus.



Major R. S. D. Maunsell, Captain J. P. Brian and Lieutenant A. Murray taking time off to see the ruins

WESTERN COMMAND SIGNAL SQUADRON

Vale. Captain W. F. Kent. (1 Divisional Signals, 1932-37. Commissioned as Lieutenant (Q.M.) in 1945. Short Service 1951. 3 L. of C. Signals and Western Command Signal Squadron).

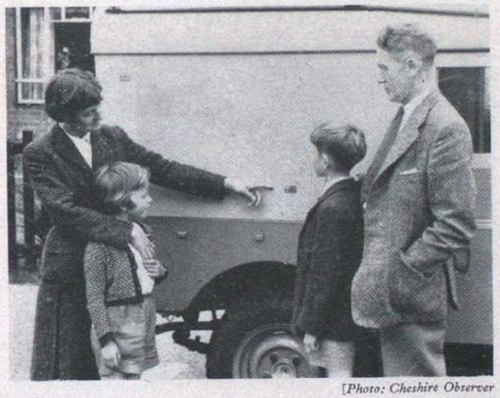
The cream and bright blue landrover has now left Chester for Australia, but before Captain Kent and his family left us, he recorded the following statement:—

"I have been asked to write THE WIRE Notes this month and to give a reason for my projected journey overland to the Antipodes.

"Both my wife and I feel that our two younger children will have a better chance of enjoying life in Australia, and from the point of view of education, now is the time to move. Peter is 11 years and Joanne 8.

"As a family, we all prefer the warmer climates so we are chasing the sun.

"There are several ways of getting to Australia, and when we first made up our minds to emigrate we envisaged going out by sea. I am not certain whether it was my wife or I who first suggested going overland. I think it was wife after I had remarked how nice it would be to have access to a duty free bar for five weeks.



[Photo: Cheshire Observer

"Our mode of conveyance is a landrover fitted with heavy duty springs, extra petrol tank, hard top and tropical roof and carrying a tent, camping and cooking equipment.

"The route, aptly christened 'The New Kent Road' by my O.C., is France, Switzerland, Italy, Yugoslavia, Greece, Turkey, Iran, Pakistan, India, Ceylon, with a possible diversion into Afghanistan and Nepal (despite six years in India, I have never seen the Khyber Pass).

"On arrival in Australia we intend to travel round most of the Continent before settling down.

"I hope to send an occasional progress report to THE WIRE of any items of interest we encounter en route."

We all wish him a safe journey and happiness for his retirement.

EASTERN COMMAND SIGNAL SQUADRON

When the sun appeared in this part of the world for a few hours, the scribe realised that it must be August, and our last appearance in these columns we were waiting for the results of the Annual Inspection which took place in February last.

Of our occurrences and happenings over the past few months, the most notable has been the change of command of the Squadron, and we offer through these columns a welcome to Major and Mrs. Scouller, and hope they have a long and happy stay at our country seat here at Crowborough.

At the same time we should like to wish all the best to Major and Mrs. Carlyon, who by now have settled down in Catterick.

Wireless and Operating Troop have once again had a busy and active summer out on Exercises with their Command vehicles and rounded off their programme with a demonstration of their mobile C.F.S. to various Cadet camps in Essex and Norfolk over the August Bank Holiday period.

This happened a week before the R.E.M.E. Inspection of M.T. and Telecon Equipment, and it was a very suspicious inspection team that set about the task of finding out how we tick, especially when they were confronted with missing items of equipment such as teleprinters and receivers AR 88, which one does not normally associate with Trucks 3-ton G.S. Wireless.

Our other section of the Unit, Training Troop, have been for the most part hosts to various T.A. Signal Units who have come to Crowborough for their fortnight's training throughout the summer. This has given an opportunity for old friendships to be re-established and new ones made. There is no record of any being broken, which seems to indicate a successful training season for all concerned.

In the sporting world we have had our style cramped mainly due to the weather; at least that is our story. We have played only ten cricket matches, of which we have won five. It is hoped that we have a more successful soccer season providing the bull-rushes are removed from the football ground.

Lastly, we should like to wish a speedy recovery to our Quartermaster, Major R. F. Ashford, from his present illness.

Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess

Our notable events in the past month have been the departure into civilian life of R.Q.M.S. (Mac) McDiarmid and Sergeant Frank (I joined when Hyde Park was a flower pot) Sansom.

At a social and dance given in their honour, we were pleased to welcome the Eastbourne Police and the nurses from Pembury Hospital, together with Officers and their ladies from our own Unit and the Middlesex Yeomanry T.A.

The Commanding Officer presented the farewell presents and thanked them for their loyal service to the Unit and the Corps as a whole and wished them all the best for their future careers in civilian life, a wish which was endorsed by us all.

Congratulations are extended to Sergeant Webster on his recent marriage to Miss Georgina Donalds and we wish them all the best for their future happiness, also to Sergeant and Mrs. Oram on the birth of a son, David Richard, who looks just like his dad.

The whole weight of a R.E.M.E. Equipment Inspection was thrown on us from 11th-22nd August, 1958. However, due to stirling work by the T.O.T. and M.T.O. and their departments, the inspection departed happy and a good report has followed.

7 AGRA (AA) SIGNAL SQUADRON

This is our first appearance in THE WIRE for several months. During the recent floods in our part of England the Squadron turned out at 2330 hours one very stormy Friday night to rescue some 500 people from the local railway station and transported them to their homes. This was greatly appreciated by the British Railways and by the local population. Our M.T. staff returned to their beds at 5.30 next morning, very tired but very happy that they had performed a real service to the public.

We entered three of our D.R.s in the local District Rider of the Year Competition organised by the Road Safety Organisation. Signalman McKie won the Road Safety Organisation Trophy for the Motor Cycle Section, and Signalman Veness won the Trophy for the best performance by an entrant under 20. They were riding Army machines and were dressed in their Army D.R. kit. Well done.

As the football season opens we hope this year to win the local Wednesday Football League instead of losing in the final as we did last year.

The Squadron is preparing for the Annual Exercise to be held this month and has been training hard to master the new equipment it has recently received. More news of that next month.

HAVE YOU COMPLETED AND RETURNED *YOUR* ORDER FORM FOR 1959?

U.K. COMCAN SIGNAL REGIMENT

R.H.Q. and 1 Squadron. The month of September has passed very quietly here in Gloucester.

On 24th September we held the Inter-Troop Boxing Competition and some very good bouts were witnessed. We extend our congratulations to all those who took part, and especially to Leading Aircraftsman Lally from the local R.A.F. Station, and Signalman Powell who put on a very fine exhibition bout. The competition was eventually won by "B" Troop with "C" Troop very close runners-up.

With the rugby and soccer season now upon us, the football enthusiasts are now busily training with a view to the future. The basketball team is also training hard with hopes of doing well in the South Western District competitions.

Now that the Inter-Troop "Efficiency" Competition is in full swing, and with "D" Troop having won the first round, there is a great feeling of keenness in the air, especially with the thought in mind of seeing one's Troop Pennant flying high and mighty above all the others.

During the month we have seen the departure of Sergeant Willoughby to a much warmer climate, somewhere in East Africa, and welcome the arrival of Staff Sergeant Giles and Sergeants Gardiner and Nellist.

Results of the Inter-Troop Boxing Competition:

Featherweight: Signalman Woodburn beat Signalman Taylor.
Lightweight: Signalman Woodhouse beat Signalman Cox.
Light Welter (1st String): Signalman Terry beat Signalman Horsley. 2nd String: Driver Marsh beat Signalman Hardy.
Welterweight (1st String): Lance-Corporal Bunce beat Signalman Atkinson. 2nd String: Signalman Field beat Lance-Corporal Fryman.
Light Middle: Signalman Edwards beat Signalman O'Rourke.
Middleweight: Signalman Proudlove, walk over.
Light Heavy: Signalman Haw beat Signalman Knox.
Heavyweight: Lance-Corporal Jones beat Signalman Parr.
Special Contest: Leading Aircraftsman Lally (R.A.F.) beat Signalman Powell (Royal Signals).

2 Squadron. Congratulations to Sergeant Wagstaff and Sergeant Buckland on passing their XI course, and, although Sergeant Buckland is shortly off to Malta, the Unit can now boast four XIs.

Our only new arrival this month is R.Q.M.S. Holland, whom we welcome for his last six months of service.

The Unit is revelling at present in a spate of machinery. The automatic scrubber is slower than a G.D., but infinitely more efficient on the corridors. The arrival of a floor polisher has caused the Sergeant-Major to go into paroxysms of delight, and by the time the Administration team arrive on 23rd October, we should have the slipperiest lino in the Command. However, it has delighted the pre-administration teams who we have already seen.

3 Squadron. Our trumpet is slightly tarnished through constant use, but once again we must blow it.

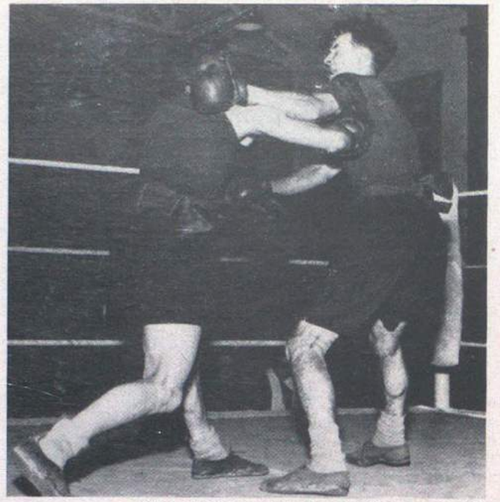
As previously reported in THE WIRE, the "Tender Giselle" canoe we built specially for the Devizes-Westminster Race, was entered in the Army Arts and Crafts Exhibition, organised by the Institute of Army Education, at Eltham Palace, London, on Tuesday, 30th September. Many entries were on view, submitted by all ranks from every section of the Army. We record with pride that our entry took first prize as the best exhibit in the show. Great credit must be paid to the gallant few who worked so hard to produce such an outstanding example of amateur craftsmanship. So once again the Royal Signals flag was raised.

On the sporting side, we entered a team in the West Wilts Military Football League, and up to press we have acquitted ourselves admirably. For such a small Squadron, some 60 strong, the fielding of a team in two leagues is quite something.

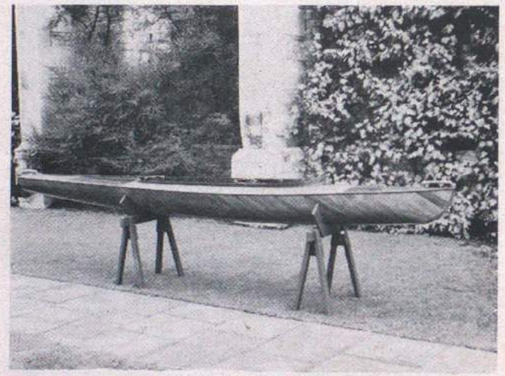
Past members of the Squadron will learn with regret that the "pub" of the village, namely, the "Jumbo," was badly gutted by fire, so personnel are temporarily without a base. Glad to say rebuilding plans are in hand, and a bigger and better "pub" is promised.

From 1 Squadron at Gloucester we welcome Captain W. C. Goodser and hope his stay will be pleasant.

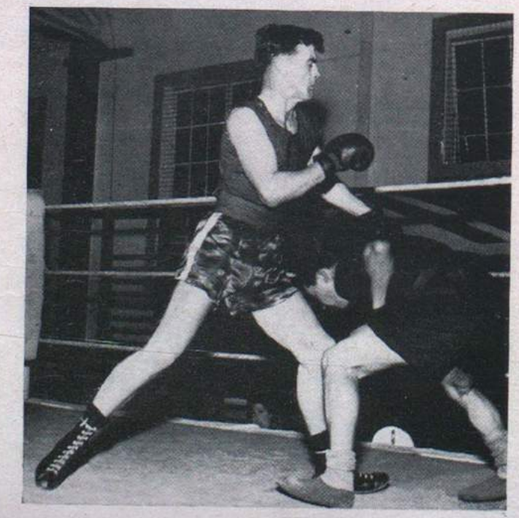
4 Squadron. A fairly quiet month as far as 4 Squadron is concerned. Our soccer team continue to do well—we are now third from the top of the league and we hope we shall soon be the leaders.



[Photograph: Courtesy The Gloucestershire Newspapers Ltd.
Driver Marsh (left) v. Signalman Hardy (Right)



[Courtesy: War Office Reproduction Services, C.I., London, S.W.1
TENDER GISELLE
First prize Army Arts and Crafts Exhibition, 1958



[Photograph: Courtesy The Gloucestershire Newspapers Ltd.
Signalman O'Rourke (left) v. Signalman Edwards (Right)



3 SQUADRON, UK COMCAN SIGNAL REGIMENT
Members of Whitney League Division I. West Wilts A.F.A. Division III.
Back Left to Right : WO.II Farquar, Signalmen Donoghue, Wheeler, Sergeant Simpson, Signalman Shaw, Corporal Peachey, Signalman Vokes, S.Q.M.S. Nicholls
Front Left to Right : Signalman Bellamy, Lance Corporal Stoneley, Lance Corporal Gordon (Captain), Signalman Flint, Signalman McCormack

Our thoughts are turning towards Christmas, and ideas for the festive season are already forthcoming from a number of sources. We shall, no doubt, have many bright suggestions at out next welfare meeting.

We have had a number of comings and goings—W.O.II Wilson has left us for Cyprus; Sergeant Bulman has gone to Catterick. We wish them both well in their postings. We welcome W.O.II (F. of S.) Gent to the Squadron and trust he will enjoy his tour at Cobbett Hill.



OFFICIAL
MOTOR CYCLE
BADGE
Price
17s. 6d.

This is the actual size of the Badge which is obtainable from the Headquarters of the Association, 88, Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1

The following goods are available from Association Headquarters:

They are of good quality and are correct in style and colour. Many imitations are sold in shops, at higher prices. Even at the quoted prices the Association make a profit.

Corps Paint Transfers:
"Jimmy"—on background of Corps Colours (each)

20" x 15"	10" x 7 1/2"	7 1/2 x 5 5/8"	3 1/10" x 2 2/5"
4/-	3/-	2/8	1/6

Mounted on black plastic (each)

8/6	4/9	4/-	—

Corps Ties—Reppe	... ...	5/6
	Heavy Weave	7/6
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Association Buttonhole Badges or Brooches		3/-
Association Blazer Badges (Silver "Jimmy" on a shield of Corps Colours, as approved by the Corps Committee)		25/-
		Members only
Blazer Buttons—Large (each)	... ...	2/3
Small (each)	... ...	1/8
Motor Car Badges (enamelled in Corps Colours)	... ...	35/-
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Corps Plaques	... ...	26/6 Plus postage

Corps Diaries (available each year between November and February. Apply to Headquarters for Order Form).

PLEASE SEND CASH WITH ORDER for all the above articles *except* Corps Paint Transfers, for which an account will be forwarded.

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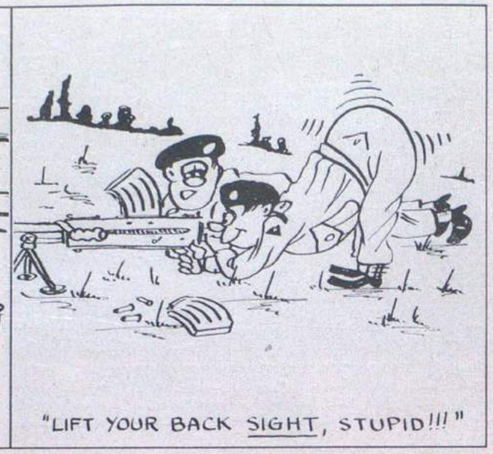
WHO IS HE?

Is he a Boxer or a Runner ?

During which year was he especially famous ?



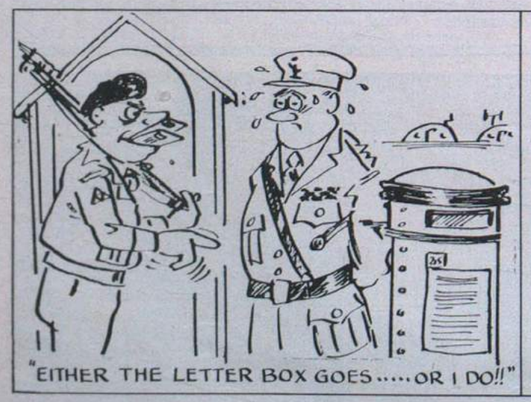






Bim's Page







?

This is a group of boxers.

WHAT Signal Unit and what year ?

The name of the officer in centre has been in the "Wire" recently.

The Warrant Officer standing in the back row is now .. and does much work for the welfare of ex-Servicemen and their families.



Making Officers in a Stately Home

The writer of this article, Brigadier Noel Chamberlain, formerly served with the Army Education Corps and is now a member of the Claro Division Education Executive and one of the managers of the Harrogate group of primary schools. He is also a governor of County Secondary Modern Schools and of Harrogate Art School, and represents the Executive on the Harrogate St. John Fisher Roman Catholic Secondary School Board.

This article is republished through the kindness of the "Harrogate Advertiser," in which it appeared on 30th August, and by very kind permission of the author.

THE War Office could not have selected a more attractive site for an Army Public School than Welbeck Abbey, the seat of the Duke of Portland, and one of the most famous of the great houses of England. But times change. The seventh Duke, who lives in his own house at Welbeck Woodhouse, still retains the suite of state drawing rooms and some rooms in the Oxford wing of the Abbey, but the rest of the building is now an Army Boys' School. The great kitchen is a dining room, the smoking room a masters' common room, and the underground ballroom a gymnasium.

Welbeck College, as it is called, opened in 1953, offers a free education to suitable boys of about 16 years of age who wish to go to the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst. A boy who is admitted to Welbeck stays there for two years and then moves up to Sandhurst without having to sit for the Army entrance examination or any of its alternatives. Admission to Welbeck College is, therefore, a certain and inexpensive mode of securing a Regular Commission in the Army.

The scheme arose from the necessity to find an increased number of Officers to fill the vastly greater numbers required in the Royal Engineers, the Royal Corps of Signals, the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, and the Royal Army Ordnance Corps. In the face of strong competition from the Royal Navy, the Royal Air Force, and Industry, the Army had difficulty in attracting promising young scientists. It became evident that entrants had to be sought from a wider field than had been usual before the Second World War.

Easing a Problem

Up to now few day schools have encouraged their boys to choose the Army as a career, and the boy who entered Sandhurst from a day school undoubtedly found life harder at first than his counterpart who was already inured to separation from his parents during term and to the stresses of community life. Welbeck College was opened to attract to the Army a fairer representation of boys from day schools and thus to ease the problem of Officer recruitment.

To enter Welbeck a boy must be between sixteen and seventeen years of age. He should be up to the standard of the G.C.E. in mathematics, a science, preferably physics, and one or two other subjects of which English language and a foreign language are desirable. This is a modest enough requirement below that for admission to the clerical class of the civil service, but it ensures that boys entering Welbeck have a bias towards technology and engineering. Academically, the instruction at Welbeck is fully competent, and nearly all of its boys up to the present have passed the G.C.E. in enough subjects at "O" and "A" levels to ensure not only their entry to Sandhurst but their subsequent admission to a university.

Welbeck College, therefore, offers both a good education and the assurance to the boy of a settled career. It is also true that a boy, admitted to Welbeck at 16 years of age, will cost his parents little or nothing for the rest of his career. At Welbeck tuition, board, lodging and maintenance, including clothing and pocket money, are provided free of charge by the War Office. The same applies to books and stationery, hairdressing, and holiday journeys to and from home. In certain circumstances a parent is required to make a contribution. This varies according to his net income, i.e., the income left after allowance has been made for Income Tax, other dependent children, insurance, and certain other commitments. Parental contributions vary from £1 to £30 a term. They cover everything, and to pay the maximum, a parent's income must be very substantial.

About a quarter of the 150 boys at Welbeck are the sons of serving or retired Officers. Some of the others have a connection with the Army, but most are the first in their families to seek Regular Army commissions. They are ordinary, middle-class boys with no unusual characteristics, except that they wear their hair fairly short and look neat and tidy in their grey flannel trousers and blazers, a tribute no doubt to the efforts of the house matrons. One other point was significant. Every boy to whom I spoke knew exactly what he intended to do when he left school.

Every year 75 boys enter Welbeck, 48 in September and 27 in January. There is some competition to enter the school, though not so keen as might be expected. The War Office plan has worked, and nearly all the boys come from day grammar schools.

There is little outward evidence of the close connection between the school and the Army. A stranger might be excused for not realising that there was any. The school is like a normal Public School except that it consists solely of a sixth and an upper sixth form. It profits from its size. Every boy is known personally to the Headmaster, and the boys know each other.

So far the results achieved at Sandhurst have been up to expectations. The first batch of Welbeck boys to enter Sandhurst passed out last year. Eight of them finished in the first twenty places, a good showing out of 136 competitors. The eight boys who did so well in 1957 were educated previously at Richmond Grammar School, Yorkshire; Farnham Grammar School, Surrey; Fleetwood Grammar School, Lancashire; King George V School, Southport, Lancashire; Wallington Grammar School, Surrey; Chesterfield Grammar School, Derbyshire; King Alfred's School in Germany, and Holyhead Grammar School, Anglesey. It seems evident that the Army has found a new field of recruitment for its Officers and that a new type of professional soldier has arrived.

These boys do not complete their education at Sandhurst. The Headmaster at Welbeck estimates that 75 per cent. of his boys should ultimately enter Cambridge University or the Royal

Military College of Science at Shrivenham, which is associated with London University.

In brief, a boy goes to Welbeck for two years and next spends two years at the R.M.A., Sandhurst. He is then commissioned and does regimental soldiering for a year. Following this he has a good chance of being selected for a three-year course at Cambridge or the Royal Military College of Science, which results in his securing a civilian degree in engineering. On his return to soldiering he is close to promotion to Captain at 24 years of age, and he need not have cost his parents a penny since he was 16.

For his part the boy must undertake to serve at least five years from the date of his first commission. If he attends a university course, he must serve a further five years from the date of its completion.

I have stated the system of entry to Welbeck. One thing must be stressed, and that is that the boy must be keen on joining the Army and making it his career. He may be brilliant at his work and good at sport, but if he is not prepared to throw his heart and soul into his future profession, he is not the boy for whom the Army is looking. At Welbeck a boy has a fine chance to develop intellectually and physically. The Army provides a fine school with a qualified staff and every conceivable amenity and even comfort. This should be better known than it is, and the problem of selection made considerably more severe than it is, for a good deal of public money has been sunk in this venture.

EUROPE

1 CORPS SIGNAL REGIMENT

At last we are through that trying period when summer and winter sporting activities overlap, and are safely at the start of what looks to be a most promising winter season. Major John West is our Regimental Sports Officer and his firm control and detailed planning is creating great confidence. His master plan for the major games, is—like all good plans—simple. Whilst the Regimental rugger, hockey and soccer teams are to play twice a week with outside teams of their own standard, the main sporting effort in the unit will be concentrated on soccer and hockey Inter-Troop Leagues. These leagues are so designed as to ensure that each Troop will get one game of football and one game of hockey each week. The Regimental teams' "gladiators" will be barred from playing in these games but will help by coaching and providing umpires and referees. Everyone who wants to play or learn to play will have the chance and we hope that this vast nursery will also provide a solid backing for the 1st teams.

Rugger Prospects

With a full fixture list and several promising players, we look forward to a most enjoyable season. Apart from an early setback of losing our field to "that other game," we are now established on our new ground which has the added advantage of changing rooms and showers in the pavilion. Major Jack Westwood is looking after us, but try as we might we cannot get him to don a jersey and shorts—that will come later!

We are captained by Lieutenant Bernie Hodgson (a Yorkshireman, but nevertheless, quite a player) and have a small nucleus of those who played last year, notably Corporal Bradley, Lance-Corporals Wright, Wibberly and Williamson. As can be seen, the majority of the 1st XV are new boys, and among them W.O.II Clark—our new education Warrant Officer—is proving to be a most valuable performer. Mention must also be made of two new players who, until this season had not handled the oval ball—Lance-Corporals Bond and Mitchell—both of whom have literally forced their way into the 1st XV.

The 2nd XV is captained by S.S.M. Lovell and is ably supported by several very keen players who have come to our evening training sessions and practice games.

We have entered for the Army Cup and are playing 5th Dragoon Guards in the first round. Our Morrison Cup opponents are 5 Division Signal Regiment.

Hockey

The season started with great enthusiasm throughout the Regiment, when, as a pipe opener before the Inter-Troop League started, there was a Squadron knock-out competition which was won by Warrant Officers and Sergeants (average age 40?) who defeated the "Hairies" of 3 Squadron, by 3—0.

Hockey is being run by that great enthusiast R.S.M. Page. The 1st XI is captained by Sergeant Howie and with a nucleus of nine players from last season has—as might be expected—settled down very quickly. Sergeant Prescott and Corporal McMahon are probably the players of longest standing, and, of course, reference to hockey would be incomplete unless we mentioned that S.S.M. Day is still the 1st XI umpire.

Soccer

The football season has started well and a strong regimental side has already defeated H.Q., 1 (BR) Corps 10-3, 11 Air Formation Signals 2-1 at home and 4-2 away, 16 Brigade Workshops 6-2, and has drawn with 9 Queen's Royal Lancers 2-2 away. For all these matches, Lance-Corporal Morrison has captained the side, playing in the centre-half position. Other pillars of strength have been Lance-Corporals Wilkie and Young, two excellent goalkeepers with so little to choose between them that they have to take turns, Corporal Graham and Lance-Corporal Porter from last year's team, and McVey and Woodward, newcomers this season.

The Regiment has joined two leagues, 20 Armoured Brigade and Herford Garrison. We have also entered for the Army Cup and the Signals Soccer Cup, where we hope to improve on last season, when we were defeated in the final by 1 Wireless Regiment.

Other Activities

An inter-squadron boxing competition is planned for mid-November as a preliminary to concentrating on training the regimental team. During the bad winter months of January and February we shall concentrate on inter-troop shooting, cross-country running and basketball. After the withdrawal of all British issued amateur radio licences earlier in the year there was a lull in "ham" activities. We now have a new German issued licence, however, and DL 2 AD is active on the 80, 40 and 20 metre bands.

Last, but by no means least, it is with very real regret that we have to record that we have bid farewell to Brigadier C. Nettleship, who has completed his tour of duty as Chief Signal Officer of 1 (BR) Corps. In his place we have welcomed Brigadier A. M. W. Whistler.

5 DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT

The last two months have on the whole been fairly quiet and the main topic of conversation has been leave, but from now until Christmas we shall be up to our eyes in Exercises and Administrative Inspections. We have just finished our own regimental training camp, which this year was established just north of Eckenforde, on the Baltic. Finding a suitable site for the camp was quite a problem. The Officers who did the recce claim they motored the entire length of the east coast of Schleswig-Holstein and that this was the only patch which was not swarming with Germans. In fact, the site was lent to us by the R.A.F., so we had the place to ourselves amid exceptionally pleasant surroundings. There were nightly trips to Eckenforde, where we soon found the best kellers, and there were several stories of soldiers who missed the last 'bus and arrived home at dawn, having walked either 12 kms. by road or 9 kms. along the beach. The local population were friendly and the town had a holiday atmosphere about it which is missing from Verden. Each Squadron spent a week at the camp and everyone came back looking extraordinarily fit and there was no doubt we benefited from the training.

Soccer in the Unit is being played very actively under the guidance of Lieutenant Pat Massie. Soon we shall start selecting a regimental side and this year we are determined to remove the Soccer Cup from 1 Wireless Regiment, who have held it far too long.

We entered a scratch crew in the Divisional passage race from Kiel to Sondenborg and return, and to our immense pleasure won. Congratulations to Major Bardell and Major Elliot and their crew, Corporals Jones and Dickinson; the latter, we understand, became quite good at navigation by the time they returned to Kiel.

We have said farewell to our Q.M., Captain Monty Truscott, who has served the Regiment faithfully for three years. We wish we could have given him a pyrotechnic departure but he avoided the thunderflashes by going in his own car. We hope that his wife will be able to join him in his new station before long. In his place we welcome Major Bow, who has come from the rigours of Catterick, where he has been winding up the O.T.W.

No. 1 WIRELESS REGIMENT

One of the bigger shocks you can get about the passage of time is to look up the last date you put in some notes for THE WIRE. All quite inexcusable. "It is only, of course, the people who have too little to do who never have time," etc., etc. What nonsense most of these old saws are; as Job is reputed to have said.

We have yet to feel the impact of the loss of National Service and we view the future I suppose with the same mixture of interest and apprehension as anyone else. Nobody seems in a flap, that's a good thing.

One of our main sources of pride is now the farm which is producing pigs, ducks and geese by a most profitable form of mass production. (But what happens to the eggs? C.O.). The ducks have found the jumping pits on the assault course, which are normally full of water, to be an excellent duck pond. Old members of the unit will remember the roving habits and strict time-table of previous geese. Our new flocks are severely disciplined as it has been found that their manure is extremely good for tomatoes. It all goes to add to the "kitty" and produce more of our increasingly expensive sports equipment.

Having won five out of eight Morrison Cup Trophies last year we aimed to take nine out of nine this year. To our great surprise, and no doubt benefit, we were beaten out of the cricket by 12 Air Formation Signal Regiment, who ultimately won the cup, much to their credit. However, winning the Athletics this year enabled us to have on the table for a short time no less than six Morrison Cups and the Morrison Cup itself. No mean feat. We have now got a boxing ring and a string of volunteers and will be able to enter the only competition we could not compete in last year.

We have also done well over the season in District and Rhine Army games. We won the District Football, Swimming and Athletics, got to the second stage in the Rhine Army Athletics and the finals of the Rhine Army Swimming, won five individual Rhine Army colours and also won the Army mile at Aldershot where Second-Lieutenant R. Thorn set the seal on an excellent record during his National Service.

Practice games are in full swing at the moment, and we are having an irritating run of minor injuries at both football and Rugby. Lieutenant Adams has dislocated his shoulder and will not be able to play for some time and, among others, one of our footballers was taken to hospital with a head injury and two of another man's teeth were found impaled in it. You aren't safe anywhere.

We were only able to enter one team in the Nijmegen Marches this year, but enlivened proceedings with a very professional bicycle trailer and some snappy arms drill on the move.

The usual flow of faces have passed in and out of the Regiment and we are as sorry to see them go as we are as glad to see their successors arrive. What is it really going to be like to have everybody in a Regiment for at least three years?

11 AIR FORMATION SIGNAL REGIMENT

In Noel Coward's play "Private Lives" one character says to another: "Don't be facetious." The reply is: "Has it ever occurred to you that being facetious might cover a very real embarrassment?—I shall continue to be facetious."

That goes for us too—even if we are not noticeably embarrassed. Life is too short and space in THE WIRE too precious for us to take ourselves seriously. But make no mistake, behind this cloak of frivolous amusement is an earnest endeavour, a relentless pursuit of perfection, a determination to uphold the prestige of the Corps, an understanding of our great responsibilities, and all that sort of thing, which makes us blush to think about.

So that when we write about our Garden Fete it must not be assumed that this sort of entertainment goes on because we have got nothing better to do. Not at all. It had to be carefully timed to take place when most of the Officers, at any rate, were back from leave, and so as not to cause too much interference with the cricket fixtures (we had a poor season, by the way). There was also some work going on at Gutersloh Airfield, in which 7 Heavy Cable Troop were interested. What were we talking about? Oh, yes. The Fete.

The sun shone, there was a light breeze (zephyr) and everything was blooming—particularly Corporal D**, who was a blooming sight, too blooming, we thought. There was all the fun of the fair (and some of the fair *had* some fun we heard from the younger lads later); there were roundabouts, pony rides, Wheels of Fortune, "The Sundern Flyer," treasure hunts, and the ladies, bless 'em, fairly raked in the shekels with home produce and white elephants.

We really did awfully well and besides raising £140 for the Royal Signals Association and Benevolent Fund we were able to donate smaller amounts to the Station Commander's Fund, R.E.M.E., R.A.E.C., R.A.P.C. and A.C.C. Benevolent Funds. We might mention here that Major "Eddie" Jordan was responsible for most of the org—and jolly well orged it was too.

Major-General K. C. O. Bastayn, C.B.E., C.S.O. B.A.O.R., paid us a visit on 23rd September, and in his own words "liked what we were doing and approved of the way we were doing it." He was accompanied by C.A.F.S.O. 2 T.A.F., Colonel D. E. Harrison, O.B.E.

The previous week was a bit hectic. It saw the closing down of H.Q., 2 Group, 2 T.A.F., and might have been a sad occasion but for the personalities involved.

The Air Officer Commanding, Air Vice-Marshal S. R. Ubee, C.B., A.F.C., has been a great friend of the Regiment and his ebullient personality has set the tone for the whole group. A parade was held to speed him on his way, and merits, we think, a brief description.

Three "Squadrons" were on parade—two R.A.F. and one of the Regiment. No. 1 Dress was worn and as the parade formed up the dark blue of the Regiment in the centre, with the light blue of the R.A.F. on the flanks, made a good picture.

After the General Salute the A.O.C.'s personal standard was lowered as a fly-past of aircraft from No. 2 Group airfields took place. Hunters, Swifts, Meteors, Javelins and Canberras made an impressive sight as they passed overhead in split-second timing and precision.

Afterwards, to the tune of "He's a jolly good fellow," the A.V.M. and Mrs. Ubee were escorted out of the gates in a gig drawn by the Officers of the Air Staff.

Later, much later, after a dinner in the Officers' Mess, the A.V.M. was given a send-off by torchlight, which would be familiar to those who have witnessed occasions at Headquarters' Mess Catterick, but which was new to most of the R.A.F. present. Org again by Major Jordan.

At the dinner, after speeches by the Commander-in-Chief, 2 T.A.F., Air Marshal Sir Humphrey Edwardes-Jones, Air Vice-Marshal Ubee, and Commodore Maurenbrecher (Royal Nether-



Major-General K. C. O. Bastyan, C.B.E., talking to Signalman New, Sergeant Marchant looking on

lands Air Force), Lieutenant-Colonel Nash was able to voice the Army's appreciation of the Group in a speech which was well received, as they say.

Peeling off with the autumn leaves this September are Major R. S. Campbell and Captain Hugh Johnstone to Singapore and Kenya respectively. Both have left their mark on the Regiment, as Second-in-Command and Adjutant respectively, and we wish them and their families *bon voyage* and good luck in their new stations.

That's enough. Au revoir.

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The Field Marshal salutes the NATO Colour. Sergeant W. J. Beddingfield, A.L.F.C.E. Signal Squadron a member of the Colour Guard. The Field Marshal is followed by General Valluy C in C Allied Forces Central Europe and Air Chief Marshal Sir George Mills. Major E. J. Beale commanding the parade is beside the Field Marshal.

An article describing this Parade appeared in the October number of the "Wire" under the title "Guard of Honour"

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2 L OF C SIGNAL REGIMENT

During the last month the Regiment has not been involved in any serious competition events in any of the major sports. However, there have been many so-called friendly games which in the main resulted in resounding wins for the Regimental teams. The 1st XI football team has won all their matches as also have the hockey team. There are quite a number of players in both these teams who were with us last year and we hope they will be with us for the majority of the coming season.

Basketball is a very popular game in the Regiment and our team has entered for the Morrison basketball competition. The first round is to be played against 18 Army Group Signal Regiment later this month. As the team has not yet been proved, the officer in charge, Second-Lieutenant Carpenter, describes progress as promising. However, it is good to see a number of keen beginners working with the more experienced players, and we are looking forward to a most enjoyable season.

In the early days of this month there was something of a general exodus from Bradbury Barracks in that 2 Squadron took to the field. In order to be able to work there, however, 1 Squadron had to loan a number of their key men. The result was that those in the field enjoyed themselves thoroughly while those remaining in barracks were hard put to it to keep things going.

As these notes go to Press, we would like to take the opportunity of congratulating Major A. M. McCann on his recent promotion. Not only do we congratulate him, but we are sure that many of his friends in the Pakistan Signals will also be pleased to hear the good news.

3 Squadron. Paradoxically, we started the football season with some blazing hot weather, although unfortunately the standard of football was not equally "hot."

The reason for the opening paragraph concerning itself with football is that everyone in the Squadron is now preoccupied with producing a good team from plenty of players.

Unfortunately, we were disappointed in the Advance Base basketball league, since we were unable to find a team in the final stages and were forced to retire from the competition.

Those of our readers who have ever travelled the Belgian cobbles will be pleased (and astounded) to hear that the Grobbendonck—Emblem strip has been re-surfaced. The writer almost had a soft spot for these cobbles, which at times had nearly shaken the life out of him and the car he was travelling in.

To more mundane things. An imminent administration inspection has been heralded by visits to Brasschaat and Leopoldsburg rifle range, the latter being somewhat farther from camp, but perhaps a rather better range. Results have been most pleasing, although there remains the inevitable nucleus of signalmen who just cannot classify, however many rounds of ammunition they use. One detail had to be taken off the firing point because they appeared to be doing considerable damage to the earth mound in front of the butts.

In spite of a reluctance to start, the Squadron is well under way with that unfortunately titled activity, "P.E. Test Training." We are now the proud possessors of a 6ft. wall, ropes and a ditch, so that nothing can daunt us.

Corporal Broome's Model Club thrives with its rather limited membership, but one's ears are often assailed with the crack of some tiny engine capable of producing more sound than the whole of the M.T. Park together. With the evenings drawing in, it is hoped that more members will turn to the club as a form of recreation and that we shall have even more of these noisy little monsters hurtling through the air.

These, then, are the main activities of the Squadron throughout September, and it has indeed turned out a pleasant month full of achievement, both on the sporting side, and from the military point of view.

4 Squadron. Our reporter from Bielefeld tells us that the Squadron revels in rising for early morning training for sports and in preparation for forthcoming P.E. tests.

The Squadron has played several friendly matches of football and hockey but does not seem to be having the same success as the Regiment. It is reported that they have lost more games than they have won, but that they have purposely chosen strong teams to play against.

SHAPE SIGNAL SQUADRON

When discussions turn to the subject of postings, many older soldiers maintain that there are no good stations left these days. Those who have served in such places as India, Austria, Trieste seem to be the staunchest supporters of this opinion. Looking through THE WIRE, however, it is evident that there still exists a variety of stations in which one may serve in Royal Signals. Judging by the smiling faces in many photographs in THE WIRE quite a few of the stations would appear to have attractive prospects although, of course, "one man's meat is . . . ."—how about Catterick?

In order that those elsewhere may compare their "lot" with us at SHAPE, we are producing two articles written by N.C.O.s of the Squadron, one this month by a married Sergeant and next month by the single "bloke." How do your problems and pleasures compare?

The Married Point of View

"One of the most difficult things that face a married soldier on his arrival at SHAPE is the seemingly endless search for accommodation. As SHAPE has its own points system and since everyone starts from scratch, it is a long time before one can hope to move into one of the furnished flats which comprise SHAPE Village—the international married quarters.

If therefore you wish your wife to join you without this long delay it is necessary to find private accommodation; but, alas, this is far more difficult than it seems. French housing conditions and the scale of rents do not run on the same ratio as those in Great Britain and all too often one finds oneself paying a seemingly high rent for a flat which is below the modern standard to which one is accustomed. Two of the more common faults are the existence, in many apartments, of ancient and minute ovens—which fail to cook—and the lack of water heating facilities. However, one comes to accept these conditions with the passing of time and they are only recalled when the rent is paid each month. There is one further snag for house searchers who are also potential shift workers. The fact that the search for accommodation is restricted to areas immediately adjacent to the 'bus route to and from SHAPE. However, this difficulty is eventually overcome by purchasing a private vehicle of some description.

It is quite possible for a thrifty person to buy himself a car after a reasonable length of time. A generous allowance is one of the advantages of serving at SHAPE, and it is no unusual occurrence to be offered a lift to work by one of the Signalmen in the Squadron who happens to be passing in his car.

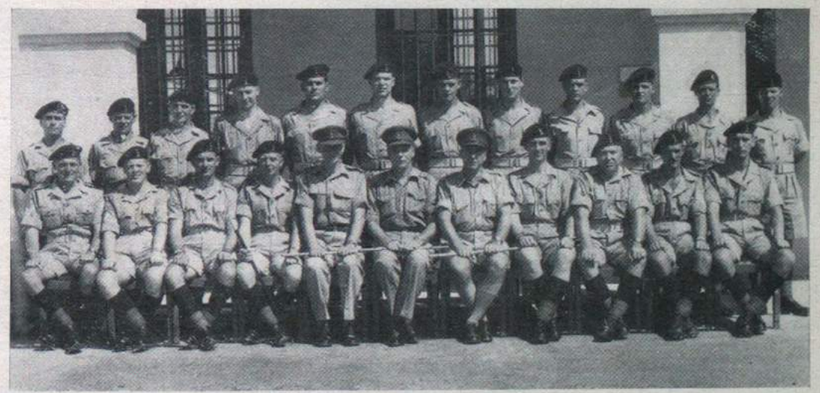
Serving in Paris has several other advantages, one being that recreational and entertainment facilities are both numerous and of the highest standard. Camp Voluceau, the "barracks" of the various Forces, has a first-class International Club, which has its own self-service cafeteria, games room and lounge where one can relax and watch television or merely read through the magazines which are provided. Music is relayed over loudspeakers and a piano is on hand for the musically ambitious. In addition, the Club runs organised tours of Paris and various other French cities of particular interest, gives a weekly floor show, organises a dance each Saturday evening and on the whole caters for the taste of everyone using the Club. The British element of Camp Voluceau also boasts its own Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess and a very successful Corporals' Club, both of which have their own entertainment programme. In addition, a weekly Bingo Night is held in the SHAPE cafeteria. Bingo is run along the lines of English Housey-Housey but is much slower and easier to follow, although perhaps not quite so exciting. There are a large number of valuable prizes to be won and by keeping your entrance ticket you may be lucky enough to win one of the cars which are offered from time to time. As one can see by now, the problem of what to do when off duty seldom occurs.

Paris has, of course, a wide variety of entertainment to offer but these are too abundant to mention individually. Suffice to say that all tastes are catered for. In addition the city is an excellent starting point for the tourist who wishes to visit any other European country. An hourly 'bus service, quite free, conveys Servicemen to and from Paris. This 'bus runs only to Place de l'Etoile, where stands L'Arc de Triomphe and from here journeying is by foot or Metro.

Work at SHAPE may well prove to be your most interesting experience. You will see and work with some equipment which is quite unfamiliar to you, and your fellow worker may be unable to speak English. Nevertheless, a spirit of co-operation is always in existence and the work gets done. All in all, SHAPE is a posting to look forward to for those yet to come. For those who have left or are leaving it has been, to say the least, quite an experience."

MALTA SIGNAL SQUADRON

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The Warrant Officers and Sergeants, MALTA Signal Squadron on the Occasion of the Opening of the Squadron Sergeants Mess on 27th September 1958

Sergeants J. Grech, A. Murray, A. Cush, G. Black, E. Brewer, D. Moynan, L. Enfield, A. Brown, C. Busuttil, L. Perrier, G. May, F. Cracknell. Sergeant D. Barnshaw, Staff Sergeant (FOS) F. C. Williams, RQMS J. E. Marsden, SSM C. W. Johnston, Major A. P. Boyle, CO Malta Signal Squadron, Lieutenant Colonel J. D. Elliott, CSO Malta, Captain (QM) A. E. Carter, RQMS J. W. Sinclair, Staff Sergeant A. Govus, Sergeant A. Thorpe, Sergeant J. Smethurst

After the recent social activity of a Corps Week on the Island we have carried on the good work by opening a Sergeants' Mess for the Squadron. Actually, it is not a residential Mess and our bachelors continue to live in the Garrison Mess but it fills all the other much needed requirements. The opening ceremony was performed by the C.S.O., Lieutenant-Colonel J. D. Elliott, who cut the tape in approved fashion. One Mess member was heard to remark that he had never, in 18 years' service, seen red tape cut through so quickly. The accompanying photograph was taken immediately prior to the opening ceremony. A subsequent social evening has also gone off well.

Mr. Mamo, our civilian clerk, acted as trainer for the Malta team entering for the World Under Water Fishing Competition in Portugal, in which Malta was placed fifth out of 13 entries.

Our Maltese recruits receive their basic training with Malta Fortress Squadron R.E., with whom we share Lintorn Barracks. On the Pass Off Parade on 3rd October, Signalman G. Brown was awarded the C.R.E.'s cup for the best recruit in his squad.

Since we last appeared in print we have welcomed to the Squadron Lieutenant (T.O.T.) J. A. Pyper, W.O.II J. W. Sinclair and Sergeant G. Black. With the arrival of W.O.II Sinclair the balance of ex-O.T.W. and ex-18 Army Group Signal Regiment members of the Squadron is now about equal. We have said goodbye to Major (T.O.T.) S. W. E. G. Bowser, who has been with the Squadron for the past three years. We congratulate Captain and Mrs. P. W. Hewitson and Sergeant and Mrs. J. W. Smethurst on the birth of a daughter and son respectively.



COMCAN SIGNAL SQUADRON, MALTA
Junior N.C.O.'s D and D course

Comcan Signal Squadron

Recently a Junior N.C.O.'s D. and D. Course was held, of necessity in the early hours of the Mediterranean dawn, to avoid the heat of the day. The final Pass Off Parade was taken by the C.S.O., who complimented the course on the standard achieved. We have now a number of newly appointed Lance-Corporals. Squadron Sergeant-Major F. Eastwood, was to be heard every morning muttering what were presumed to be incantations to the "Patron Saint of Sergeant-Majors," after his period on the square (Just what do Sergeant-Majors say on these occasions?)

The unit has recently had a change of Administrative Officer. We were sorry to lose Captain F. M. Partington who departed to take up an appointment as S.O.III, C.S.O.'s Branch, H.Q. Troops, Malta. We welcome the previous holder of that appointment, Captain J. B. Booth as his replacement, and also Sergeant Skill ((Training Technician) as a new arrival in the unit and hope that their stay with us will be a happy one.

Our hearty congratulations to Sergeant A. J. Field on having passed his W.O.S.B. and left us to start training for an S.S.C. commission. Our congratulations are also extended to S.S.M. Kinch upon having passed the Signal Centre Supervisors' Course, and to Captain Jacob and Staff Sergeant Castle on the births of their daughters.

At the time of going to Press (1st October) the sea here is still over 75°F and the weather remains enjoyably warm and sunny. However, we expect the rainy season to start any day and are beginning to make plans for the winter sports season.

GIBRALTAR SIGNAL SQUADRON

The cricket season ended and soccer begun. We finally ended up fourth in the cricket league. Signalman Wilkinson well deserved the award of "The Best All Rounder" cricket cup, which was presented to him on the day before his departure from the Squadron. Signalman Backshall was runner-up for this cup.

We still manage to avoid combining with another unit in an effort to keep the Corps flag flying on the sports fields, but if we ever have to play a hockey and a soccer match at the same time there will be some very unfamiliar faces in the teams.

Badminton is having its seasonal popularity and this year the Squadron will be able to enter both individuals and a unit team in the Command Badminton Championships which take place shortly.

From the work point of view we have been congratulating ourselves that the line faults have dropped to only 3.1 per cent on all exchanges and lines. This is undoubtedly partly due to the dry summer season but the linemen have put in a great deal of work and these satisfactory statistics are a just reward. At the moment eight of our linemen are attending a B III to B II upgrading course.

The Royal Canadian Corps of Signals has been much in evidence in Gibraltar during recent weeks. The Canadian Army is changing over the troops stationed with the United Nations Force in the Gaza area and Gibraltar is staging point for this switch over. As the R.A.F. is looking after the Canadians during their brief stay in Gibraltar we do not see as much of our sister Corps as we should like. Some of them have visited our Squadron, however, and have gone out with the line truck on an unofficial "Rock Tour."

All the cameras were out and there was keen competition to photograph Sir Winston and Lady Churchill and the Onassis yacht on which they arrived during a two-day stay in October. In such a small Colony there is little difficulty in obtaining a close up of a V.I.P. Sir Winston visited the apes, some of which are the offsprings of the six which he caused to be sent here during the war. At the time, the ape pack was well below strength and the new arrivals allayed the worries of the local population who have a superstition that when the apes leave the Rock the Colony of Gibraltar will no longer be British. Sir Winston and Lady Churchill drove in an open car through the narrow streets to the airport on their departure. We were all given time off, so many of us were able to photograph the famous man, his cigar and the "V" sign.

TRIPOLITANIA SIGNAL SQUADRON

We did not give our postal address last time. It is B.F.P.O. 57 if anyone is interested. Since last time we have now a W.O.I (Sig. Cen. Sup.) in our midst albeit not for much longer. Arthur Batram leaves us shortly and he will be missed by all ranks. Do not forget to keep in touch; we are losing not only an efficient D.S.O. but a popular friend.

Any day now we are expecting W.O.II de Fazio, who is relieving W.O.I Batram. More about him in another issue. We are also expecting a new Second-in-Command from Catterick. Captain Witt leaves for U.K. in December and is being replaced by Lieutenant Larrington, who has just finished his subaltern's long grind. Bring out some snowballs with you, Sir!

We offer congratulations to Corporal Dale on the birth of a son on 2nd October, 1958. That makes a total of three for him, and between three Corporals we now have 12 kids, with Corporal Tyler owning half. Something in the desert air y'know!

Our football team has had four practice matches, two versus R.E.M.E., won both, one versus Circola Italia lost, and one versus R.A.O.C. lost. Training will start shortly and with a fit team we should hold our own. Somebody asked the S.S.M. to turn out for hockey—at his age, too!

By the time these notes appear in print our Chief Signal Officer, Brigadier C. D. Gardiner, C.B.E., will have paid us a farewell visit. Subject to the normal hazards we hope to include some photographs for the next issue of THE WIRE. Incidentally, Sir, sincere congratulations on your recent award of a well deserved C.B.E. and our very best wishes for the future.

Things we would like to know, 2. Why doesn't the R.S.A. produce a desk diary?

Aqaba Again

BY "OLD BILL"

One thing about the Middle East — life never gets tedious. Just over a year ago your writer was happily shining the seat of his trousers behind a G.H.Q. desk and helping to sort out some of the problems involved in our withdrawal from Aqaba. At the moment he has no desk, very little trouser seat left to shine and is in Aqaba helping to put back in some of the things we took out. Somebody, somewhere, must be having a very quiet laugh.

Let me tell you about it—but please don't think I'm trying to write a documentary. I'm not. It will be a fairly light-hearted (I hope) account of some of the trials and tribulations involved in rehabilitating the "Aqaba Signal Centre." And, a little note for those who knew Aqaba in the old days, we did *not* take over the old Signal Centre, nor had we any of the amenities that you had—few though they may have been.

Anyway, here's how it all came about. Very soon after the 16th Independent Parachute Brigade arrived in Jordan somebody thought it might be a good idea if we had some signal communication with Aqaba. As a small staff was to be installed there and all the seaborne supplies were coming through that rather salubrious port this idea was obviously correct. Old Bill was despatched forthwith—wonderful phrase—to establish said communication.

In this task he was to be assisted by the gang of pirates pictured (if the Editor can stand it) and comprising:—



THE PIRATES
There's a Land over there, too

Sergeant Elliott, Troop Sergeant, R. Tech. and General Handyman.

Corporal Veater and Corporal Coles, Cipher Ops and ex officio Sigcen clerks.

Corporal Read, Signalman Tolley and Signalmen Few, Line party and scrounging organisation.

Lance-Corporal Field, Signalman Proctor and Signalman Munro, Tg. Ops.

Signalman Parnell, E.D. and char wallahs fortune.

Driver Brown, a driver who could be an E.D.

Our resources were two 3-ton C.V. plus a few line stores. Actually only a little judicious sabotage on the part of Signalman Parnell gave us the second C.V. This should have gone up to Amman by road (?), but the introduction of a water boiling gremlin into the cooling system rather effectively squashed the idea. As it transpired this spot of sabotage saved the situation. Joking apart we were soon up against the problem that always seems to face Signals, particularly in the early stages of an operation; viz, the making of bricks without straw. The possession of the second C.V., however fortuitous, saved the situation.

I think I might set the situation as it was when we arrived by producing a somewhat modified Op. Order.

Therefore:—

Intention

To provide wireless and line communication with H.Q. 16 Parachute Brigade in Amman and such local communication as was deemed necessary by the Commander, Aqaba Sub District.

Own Forces

Pirates as noted above.

Enemy Forces

(a) A climate that doesn't deserve mention (it can't be mentioned in any language acceptable to this magazine).

(b) A shortage of stores and a complete lack of any civilised amenity.

(c) The local pirates who charged five bob a bottle for beer (NAAFI supplies being almost non-existent) and ten bob a block for ice to cool it—always assuming that you could find somewhere to keep the ice.

Equipment

As noted, two C.V., reasonably well equipped but suffering from having been issued in a hurry and a six-day sea voyage. A 10-line magneto to exchange and a few line stores. Plus what could be borrowed from a very co-operative Jordanian Army Signal Squadron. Two trunk telephone lines of very doubtful quality between Aqaba and Amman.

Accommodation

Two small unfurnished rooms for Cipher Office and Signal Centre. Living accommodation—initially *nil*, later two 180lb. tents and, still later, a bay in a rather dilapidated Nissen hut.

Beds, etc.—what could be begged, borrowed or stolen which, as everyone was doing the same thing, wasn't very much. Office furniture—one table, G.S. 6ft., period.

From this unpromising collection an L. of C. Signal Centre had to be built.

As a necessary first step was to obtain communication with H.Q. in Amman one of the C.V.'s was readied and brought into use as a mobile Signal Centre. Not many snags really. After being assured by the local engineers that we could take all the power we required from their mains supply we connected the C.V. We didn't use it for long though—just long enough to blow all the blowable fuses (i.e. those *not* made from 6in. nails) and burn out the odd stretch of power line. In any case the "nominal" in the "nominal 230 volts" supply was the operative word. So back to the 3.5 kva. Our aerial masts needed to be about 120ft. apart, running east/west. A fairly simple proposition—especially when the only available open space is liberally festooned with bare copper power and telephone cables running north/south at intervals of about 50ft. We did manage to get the aerials up eventually—and no one got really hurt.

And so it went on—by dint of hectic scrounging (and the odd spot of hard work) a Signal Centre was equipped, lines were laid and a telephone exchange installed and we ceased to be almost entirely isolated as we had been at the beginning. Perhaps the Signal Centre wouldn't have stood comparison with Boddington and the lines system would have delighted the heart of a Signals-minded Emmett. But at least everything worked.

Since the draft of this article was started your writer has left Aqaba (very reluctantly in many ways) but by then things had started to settle down and stores had started to come in. At the time of his departure the communications established were:

One W/T link to Amman, two fairly effective trunk telephone circuits, also to Amman, and provided through a 1 plus 4, Ship/Store R/T links as required and a local telephone system based on a 20-line F. and F.

I know that my successor (Lieutenant Gordon Oehlers) and his chaps must still have had a lot of work to do but I hope they will agree that the foundations, at least, had been well and truly laid.

And now I must conclude with my very sincere thanks. First, to the Commander and Staff at H.Q. Aqaba Sub District for their understanding of our failures and appreciation of our successes. To Major Gordon Peat and his 16 Parachute Brigade Signal Squadron for their help, co-operation and encouragement. To the ebullient "Rashid Effendi" and the indefatigable Staff Sergeant Mohammed of the local Jordanian Army Signal Squadron, who gave so freely of their knowledge, material and manpower. And last, but most certainly not least, to the pirates who formed the new "Aqaba Signals Troop," who worked hard and long in the most difficult conditions and proved, once again, that Signals can still "deliver the goods"—even if they have to carry them on their backs.

2 WIRELESS REGIMENT

At the end of the long, hot Cyprus summer, during which time much hard work has had to be done, we have finally managed to get our notes to the Editor.

Captain D. G. Pratt has now assumed the duties of Adjutant. Captain J. E. Trotter now being R.H.E. prior to Staff College.

1 Squadron rounded off a good season by winning the Cyprus Royal Signals Inter-Squadron Soccer Cup.

In the Unit Athletics Meeting the Squadron won the "coveted" Tug-of-War Cup. Beer, brawn and coaching by R.Q.M.S. Smith won the day against the playboys of 2 Squadron.

We all regret the departure of Major and Mrs. Harris and Captain and Mrs. Cooper. They will be greatly missed for the great efforts they made to get more social life for the unmarried soldiers. Scottish Dancing, Modern Dances and Tombola were all organised by both families. We wish them luck in their new appointments.

Lieutenant (T.O.T.) Hogan arrived to replace Major (T.O.T.) Harris and we wish him and Mrs. Hogan a happy stay in Cyprus. (They'll be lucky!).

One often wonders when instructing a class in such subjects as Wireless Theory what thoughts are passing behind the glazed, tired eyes of the students. (Students or victims?).

The following extract from the answer to a question on an upgrading course shows how little penetrates to some of those minds and the complete confusion that results.

"The current will flow from your positive charge along the coil. The electrons come up on the negative of your condenser, and when your condenser has filled up they will be fed to the

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grids who will push them round to your negative H.T. They will not attract at this point so you get the same procedure over again until saturation point is reached."

It is presumed that saturation point had been reached in the head of the victim—sorry, student.

" Sand Sharks Sub-Aqua Club "

Due to the political situation on the Island our activities have been somewhat restricted. With frequent curfews and stand-still orders and many sea and beach areas out of bounds to our military members, life has been a little difficult for we who spend a lot of time grubbing about on the sea bed in search of the strange creatures which inhabit the deep.

However, through a lot of hard work on the part of the members and good friends in the Sergeants' Mess, we managed to raise enough money to purchase two powered boats, one, *Sand Shark*, being a 22ft. Greek fishing vessel, decked fore and aft and powered by a 4 h.p. paraffin burning engine, and the other an ex-infantry assault craft, powered by a heavy-duty Marston " Seagull " outboard and duly christened *Sand Sark II*.

Security regulations forbid us to use underwater breathing apparatus at the moment, but we hope to overcome this obstacle and purchase some aqua lungs in the near future, also water-tight camera cases, since several of our members are keen cine enthusiasts and are preparing to produce some sensational films (they hope).

Many of the members took advantage of the lull in terrorist activity recently and complete with families sailed away across the bay in search of picnic spots. A very enjoyable time was had by all too, except for the party who were caught mid-way across Klapsides Bay in a thunder storm. However, all made port safely and the sun was soon shining again and everyone vowed that they were looking forward to the next trip.

Speargun work has been fairly interesting so far this year. Tom Chapman captured a 30lb. stingray near the Old City early in June, and there have also been groupers and rock cod in varying sizes, to say nothing of the odd octopus now and then, but the year's greatest thrill came when two of the boys each got home a harpoon in a very large turtle which led them a long and hectic dance, finally breaking away and disappearing with both harpoons. This was the one that *really* got away—with £2 worth of equipment too!

For the first time we have tried " Trolling "; for the uninitiated, this means towing an artificial bait behind the boat, and it has proved quite successful. We have landed tunny, groupers and vlahos so far and are looking forward to more of this delightful way of idling away a sunny afternoon.

Ah, well, the gulls are calling and the sea is blue and I must go. So, cheerio until next time. Take a good deep breath before you head downwards.

MERCURY THEATRE GROUP

On 18th, 19th and 20th September the Mercury Theatre Group of 2 Wireless Regiment presented a three-act farce, " All for Mary," by Harold Brooke and Kay Bannerman, in the out-door Mercury Theatre.

This play is probably the last which Ron Brown, of the C.E.P.O. staff, will be able to produce for the Group as he is due to leave us early next year on the completion of his present tour. Ron has been the " Comedy King " of the Mercury Players and we shall all be sorry to see him leave.

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D. J. PARKINSON

GOLD AND SILVER WIRE BADGE-MAKER

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The Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel D. T. W. Gibson, M.B.E., who is President of the Theatre Group, attended the first night performance with Mrs. Gibson. The Commissioner of Famagusta, Mr. R. D. Sheridan, Judge Trainor and their wives were also present, together with a scintillating array of Regimental Officers and other residents of Famagusta. Mrs. A. C. Sugden was particularly interested in the production, as she was an active member of the A.D.S. of 12 Wireless Squadron, the Unit recently commanded by her husband, Major A. C. Sugden, M.B.E.

The play was most enjoyable and at least three of the cast deserve special mention. Shaun Ferguson, of 3 Squadron, gave a brilliant performance as Humpy Millar, a middle-aged business man married to a much younger wife, Mary, played by Patricia Lamb, who may be remembered by members of the A.D.S. of 1 Wireless Regiment. Jo Fermidge, of the Children's School at Karaloas, delighted her audience in the part of Nannie, who, undeterred by the fact that " the boys " she had been sent to nurse with chicken pox turned out to be men, treated them as " little boys in long trousers." John Cane, 3 Squadron again, had only a small part, but what a wonderful cameo he gave of the voluble *maitre de chambre*. Well done, John, a bigger part next time, *n'est pas ?*

In December the Mercury Theatre Group plan to present " A Christmas Carol," by Charles Dickens. Ted Lamb is to produce this play. It will be Ted's first production in Cyprus although, as many people will remember, he was the leading light of the A.D.S. of 1 Wireless Regiment. We wish him every success with the Mercury Group.

Since terrorism first reared its ugly head in Cyprus amateur dramatics is one of many pastimes which have begun to flourish among communities like our own at Famagusta. However, the Mercury Group has now become so firmly established in the Famagusta area that it is doubtful whether a cessation of EOKA activities, which we all hope for, would seriously affect our very active and interested membership or the helpful support we have always received from the Commanding Officers of 2 Wireless Regiment, past and present. What ever the outcome of the present strife we feel certain that amateur dramatics have come to stay.

The Aden Protectorate Levies

In a previous article, some idea was given of the way in which the Signal Squadron of the Aden Protectorate Levies operates in its role in the modernised Protectorate Force; it is now our intention to give you a closer look at the men who make up the Squadron.

It must be remembered that the force is of native constitution, and that the British officers and other ranks are primarily to lead and assist the Arab officers and men who make up the Infantry Battalions and supporting arms. In the case of the Signal Squadron, however, it is necessary to have a basic establishment of British personnel in such categories as radio technicians or technical storemen, as the Arabs have little or no basic education, and it has been almost out of the question to teach any of them sufficient radio knowledge to be of any great use as technicians, and allow them to work without any supervision. However, a class for assistant radio technicians was started and they were coming along quite well, but unfortunately had to be suspended temporarily due to the shortage of operators during operations. Their keenness to learn was almost embarrassing; their arithmetic amounts to adding and subtracting only, so you can imagine that teaching Ohms law and a smattering of A.C. theory, over which lots of us have had our difficulties, is no mean problem to both teacher and pupil.

The Aden Protectorate Levies was formed some 30 years ago to enable the British Government some local assistance in maintaining law and order in a land about the size of England and Wales, consisting of barren mountain or desert, with communications in those early days extremely difficult. Many of sheikhs and headmen of the tribes were very pleased to co-operate and encouraged recruiting from their young warriors. A police force friendly to them might put paid to their age-old enemies from other tribes, and in this way, a somewhat distant sense of loyalty and responsibility to a central form of government was encouraged amongst people who, for hundreds of years, have owed allegiance to no one but a local sheikh, and he a very wary allegiance to a sultan or emir. Nevertheless, peace was assured between tribes, and recruits were happy to join the Levies. Many a family are very proud indeed of their honourable service to the Crown, where obtaining a Governor's commission in the Force is the very acme of success.

Recruiting takes place once or twice a year, when a small team travel from village to village calling for young men not below the age of about 16. Well, age has no meaning to the tribesmen as no records are kept, and when a young warrior presents himself, his age is assessed and he is either accepted or told to grow a bit bigger and come back next time. They are then brought to Aden, thrust into boots and khaki drill, shown the parade ground and taught—the same as us all—how to try and break it and the rifle which they are given, before it breaks them. They quickly learn basic soldiering, and are posted to a battalion or, if they show promise, we take them into the Signal Squadron and teach them how to become operators in three (or more) easy lessons. Unfortunately, the lessons take some six months, by which time they become quite competent operators, with a certain amount of experience on the actual sets which are included in their training.

This is where the British ranks first meet them, and it is here where good co-operation in the Squadron begins. The Arab must learn our ways, and the British must understand his native workmate. It is no use the B.O.R. applying his own idea of what the Arab should be, without getting to know him, and that is not done overnight. Some, of course, try to, and their stay with the Aden Protectorate Levies is not long. The The obvious answer is to go " up-country," work next to him, and make an endeavour to learn his language. For what is required it does not take long, the colloquial arabic examination can be studied in service time, and upon successful completion, adds another 17/6 to one's pay each week.

The Arab tribesman is naturally a happy-go-lucky fellow, and many things which mean a lot to us mean nothing at all to him. It is not until he has had some training that he does start to be malleable, accepts new ideas and becomes an asset to the Squadron. Once they get the idea they make good, competent and reliable signalmen. Certain tasks they will not do, cooking being one, although you can always get a good brew of " chai " or a cup of the most potent ginger coffee from them —if you can bring yourself to taste the latter—but apart from that, cooking is the work of women or the follower cook, and cleaning anything else but his own kit or room is the job of sweeper; O.K. that's the way they think, then we see that those " menial " tasks are not given to them.

There are three battalions in the field (shortly to become four), so it can be seen that we are a fairly large force. Officered by British Officers, Administration, " A " and " Q " carried out by British Officers and N.C.O.s. The Arab Officer holds a Governor's Commission and from the Bimbashi al Awal (Senior Arab Officer) who wears a crown, the ranks are as follows: Bimbashi, Yuzbashi, Mulazim, who wear three, two and one " pip " respectively. There are, in addition, all ranks from R.S.M. to Lance-Corporal and Private.

Returning to the Signal Squadron, we have our own Senior Arab Officer, Yuzbashi Ali Abdullah Maisari, his last name being that of his tribe (or clan). The British ranks of the Squadron give him all the support they can, and acknowledge his ability and 18 years' experience when dealing with Arab ranks and their troubles arising from domestic or service problems. He is, despite his youthful appearance, respected by all Arab ranks, and any signs of bad operating or slackness of any description are instantly quelled when the Yuzbashi handles it, whether in person or on the key to our distant garrisons. In all this he is ably assisted by three Mulazims and the Arab S.S.M. and numerous N.C.O.s, who teach in the Signal Squadron school, supervise in the wireless rooms, or take charge of the Arab signal detachments in garrisons or on convoys to and from these garrisons. Early this year Yuzbashi Ali returned from England, where he had successfully completed the Regimental Signal Officers' course at Hythe. He has paved the way for other Arab Officers and N.C.O.s, two of whom have returned very recently, who, despite their language difficulty and the added vagaries of a British winter in summer, managed to do very well.

Now that the first 18 months have passed since the Army took over, almost all the original British O.R.s of the Squadron have completed their first tour. The majority of whom, being National Servicemen, will be demobbed, some have signed for a further tour, and new replacements are just arriving and adjusting themselves to a very hot and sticky September; despite the heat though, they were tough enough to have a hockey workout, and being a hockey-minded Squadron—we are determined to recapture the Command League Cup this season—we were delighted to find so many potential players. There are still one or two vacancies, especially for Training Operators, Electrician Drivers and Radio Technicians (Light). We don't use outmoded equipment either; have you heard of the C.11? well we've got it. So if anyone feels he would like to try a job in this lovely warm climate—have no delusions about that; it is really hot in Aden for five months of the year—but up-country garrisons can be delightfully cool, an outdoor life with a bit of excitement thrown in occasionally, with the added attraction of overseas allowance *plus* 20 per cent of your basic pay and a lump sum secondment credit of quarter of your basic pay at the end of your first tour of 18 months, and a quarter if you sign for a second tour. Not forgetting a free trip home for a couple of months' leave at the end of the first tour. The information can be found in A.C.I. 544/56, as amended by A.C.I. 103/57, 11/58 and 301/58.



PREPARING FOR DHALA CONVOY
Left to Right : W.S. 62., C. 12., C.11

EAST AFRICA COMMAND

1 SIGNAL SQUADRON, KING'S AFRICAN RIFLES

The big event of the month has been the visit to the Unit on 8th September of the Colonel Commandant of the King's African Rifles, Major-General W. A. Dimoline, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C. The Colonel Commandant inspected the Unit on parade and, after a tour of the camp, was entertained to lunch by the Officers.

On 1st June a new establishment for the Unit was introduced, which cut down the number of British Corporals and increased the number of senior British N.C.O.s. We now have an establishment of 10 Officers, 26 British Warrant Officers, Staff Sergeants and Sergeants, and 27 British Corporals, plus about 200 African ranks.

We extend a hearty welcome to Lieutenant Bushell, Staff Sergeants Oakley and Winfield, and Sergeants Wright, Meacher, Bodys, Pritchard, Harrison, Filtness, Downes, Willoughby and Slaughter, all of whom have joined us in the past month or are standing by awaiting posting to the Unit. We also congratulate Sergeants Bell, Coulson and McPherson on their promotion. During the month Second-Lieutenant Hornby and W.O.II Chilvers left the Squadron, the former on completion of National Service and the latter on posting to the Royal Signals Junior Leaders Regiment. We send our regards to both of them, and to Mrs. Chilvers, and wish them the best of luck in their new jobs.

At the present time we are in the throes of recruiting. The problem in East Africa is one of selection rather than recruitment. The Unit has a fixed " tribal structure " and it is necessary when recruiting to ensure that the correct number of recruits is taken from each tribe. The problem gets a little out of hand, however, when, as was the case with the recruits from the Wakamba tribe, over 100 healthy, keen and suitably educated young men presented themselves for the six vacancies open to that tribe! Recruiting from the more remote Uganda and Tanganyika tribes also has its problems. Recruiting in these



The Colonel Commandant Inspecting the Squadron

tribes is carried out through the District Commissioner of the tribal area concerned. Suitable candidates, selected by the District Commissioner, are despatched to Unit H.Q. in Nairobi for final selection and enlistment. It is, to say the least, a little hard on the unsuccessful candidates, who may be required to spend up to 14 days travelling on foot, on lake-steamer, on 'bus or on the railway, to be told at the end of it that their services are not required!

The Unit has become very "hockey-conscious" in the past few weeks and we have been playing two or three games a week. In the first match of the Nairobi Area League we beat 11 Bn. King's African Rifles 5-0. Staff Sergeant Walker and Sergeant McPherson were outstanding in this game. We are enjoying some very pleasant sunny weather in Nairobi and swimming is one of the most popular sports. There are four open-air swimming baths in the town and several flourishing water polo teams. Two individuals from the Unit have been playing regularly in the Nairobi Combined Services' water polo team.

A very successful All Ranks' barbecue and dance was held in the Junior Ranks' Mess on 30th August. The weather was ideal for the occasion and the combination of barbecue and dance worked out admirably. The combination of hot music and hot dogs was irresistible!

As "Peterborough" said in the "Daily Telegraph," of 24th October, Major-General Dimoline spoke in Swahili, Chinyanja, Matabele and Mashona, as well as English, during his 15,000 mile tour of Africa.

As Colonel Commandant of the King's African Rifles, the Northern Rhodesia Regiment and the Rhodesian African Rifles, he spoke to every man, personally, in ten Battalions.



KAR VETERANS
General Dimoline speaking to Ex-RSM. Jumah, M.B.E.

COMCAN SIGNAL SQUADRON, NAIROBI

With the children back at school and father back on duty, life is back to normal—more or less.

The Squadron shooting team duly went up-country to compete for the Minor Units Cup and they managed to come third against some stiff opposition. However, Signalman Rowley won a pool bull, which at least provided the team with a pint apiece, even if they did not win the pots to put it in. The meeting took place at Nanyuki, on the slopes of Mount Kenya in the Aberdare Mountains, right on the Equator at 0° latitude. It was a new experience for most of the team to be able to stand beside the board marking the Equator, with one foot in the northern hemisphere and the other in the southern.

The COMCAN Theatre Club sponsored a very enjoyable Tramps' Ball and cabaret, in which Lance-Corporal Drummond starred. There was a delightful décor of dead cats and live bats, fish and chips were eaten out of the traditional wrapping (modified for Capricorn, so we used the *East African Standard*). Mrs. Lyske and Miss Wendy Barnes, of Forces Broadcasting, judged the competition for the best dressed tramp and "trampess," which was won by Corporal Pedder and Mrs. Gelston. Major Snell looked particularly glamorous as a "Mrs. Mopp," complete with red flannel unmentionables.

The Theatre Club are now in full swing with rehearsals for the Christmas pantomime, "Babes in the Wood," which promises to be a hilarious bit of fun.

W.O.II Haw is back from inter-tour leave and Lieutenant Lockett and he have already started to plan a Safari Club programme. The Club truck, old "Rock-a-Billy," complete with its bleached buck's skull on the radiator, is receiving a thorough overhaul by a happy band of intrepid "white hunters," led by Corporal Fordon.

The annual Officers and Seniors v. The Rest cricket match has taken place and needless to say The Rest won. Corporal Smith had a very fine innings and really punished the bowling. It was a fine sight to see the efforts of the "more mature" Officers attempting to stop the ball before it reached the boundary. Their efforts were always loudly applauded by a large and very appreciative if somewhat derisive audience. At the interval the families enjoyed a very fine tea and kiddies had a non-stop supply of ice cream, dispensed by "Uncle" Grainger.

The combined monthly meeting of the East Africa and Squadron Branches of the Royal Signals Association was held in the Squadron Hangar Club and attracted a large gathering. We were very pleased to welcome the C.S.O., Lieutenant-Colonel Brown, and it was seen that he was soon deep in conversation with Major Savage, President of the East Africa Branch, and snatches of conversation about "Razmak Brigade" and "old so-and-so" were overheard. There are many ex-members of the Corps in and around Nairobi, and we are delighted to be able to combine our association meetings so successfully, and thus get the opportunity of meeting civilians living locally who are "on net" with us.

Whilst talking about being "on net," the Squadron "Ham Club" is now in being and although we have only made a small beginning we have installed our equipment in a club room of our own and hopes for increased support. VQHI is the call-sign and we hope to have details of "sked's" next month.

We had a distinguished visitor to our T.R.C. at the end of the month, Mr. C. Orr-Ewing, Under-Secretary of State for Air. Newsreel cameramen accompanied Mr. Orr-Ewing's party and some of the merry men of "B" shift are hoping to see themselves on the silver screen in due course.

With only two second team league games to play, our football season is virtually completed. To sum up briefly our achievements (?) during the past six months—the first team completed its programme in Division I of the Nairobi European Soccer League and finished fifth of the six entries, their record being Played 12, Won 4, Drawn 2, Lost 6. Undoubtedly, our greatest triumph in this Division was our first ever league win over neighbours R.A.F., who eventually became champions. The "A" team, playing in Division II of the E.S.L., are at present in third position, but should they win the two remaining games there is little chance of catching the leaders. The record to date reads, Played 14, Won 8, Drawn 1, Lost 5.

The luck of the draw has not been with us in the cup competitions. In the F.A. of Kenya Challenge Cup, a local Asian team did the damage in the first round, while in the exclusively European competitions, 1st Bn. Cameronians in the second round of the John Boyes Cup, and R.A.F. in the semi-final of the Girouard Cup, put paid to any hopes of some new silver for the coming year. In the Judge Cup, for European reserve sides only, the R.A.F. "A" went forward at the expense of COMCAN "A."

Finally, mention must be made of the following players who have received representive honours with one or more of the following teams—Kenya, E.S.L. XI, Combined Services (EA), Army (EA). They are Signalman Scullin (goal), Lance-Corporal Cavanagh (right-back), Lance-Corporal Slee (left-back), Signalman Hazard (right-half), Lance-Corporal Frank (centre-half), Signalman Beattie (outside-right), Lance-Corporal Millar (inside-right), Lance-Corporal Lagden (centre-forward), Signalman Walker (inside-left), Corporal Fisher (outside-left).

The Squadron hockey team started the season in winning form, heading the Minor Units' tables, having played four and won three games. We have also been trying to keep in trim by carrying out our usual friendly (so-called) fixtures. The most important of these being against our hosts, the R.A.F. We are leading in the Services by two games to one. The loss of Signalman Richardson and Sergeant Bonwick will greatly decrease our playing strength in a few weeks time, but we hope there will be new talent amongst the next 'plane load of reinforcements.

19 Air Formation Signal Regiment

☆



Athletic Team — Winners
Changi Station Inter-Wing
Championship, 1958

The 1st of July saw a change in command; from that date we have been commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel K. M. Evans. To him and Mrs. Evans we extend a warm welcome and our best wishes for the future. Soon after we said good-bye to Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. P. C. Williams, a sad moment, cheered by the knowledge of a posting to France (he thought!). Latest information tells us that it has been changed to Catterick and promotion; well, you cannot have everything. Our heartiest congratulations and we trust the Colonel and his family will enjoy all that lovely fresh air.



19 AIR FORMATION SIGNAL REGIMENT
Mrs. I. C. K. Swales, wife of the Station Commander, presents Changi Station Athletic Championship Cup to team captain, Captain A. Eeckaelers

More good-byes and congratulations have since been said to R.S.M. and Mrs. G. B. Symonds, who have left us for B.A.O.R. The R.S.M. on promotion to Lieutenant (Q.M.). The Corps in gaining a Quartermaster has lost, believe it or not, a popular R.S.M. liked by all. (Well, nearly all!).

We have just finished a sporting season which out here includes cricket, athletics, soccer and swimming. We have had successes at them all. Our best performances in athletics, in which the Regiment won the Station Championship and provided nearly half the Station side which won the Far East Air Force Championship; this included the considerable compliment of Second-Lieutenant J. C. C. Walker being asked to captain the team. The highlight we think worthy of mention was the 440 yards in which Second-Lieutenant Walker beat Flight-Lieutenant Wilkinson, of national fame, in a time of 50 seconds; in this temperature a fine performance.

Credit is also due to Major F. G. Bolam for organising, and Captain A. Eeckelaers, the non-competing captain and trainer.

At swimming we won the Royal Signals (Singapore) Tournament by a very narrow margin amid great excitement. In the Station meeting the standard was very high and although weakened by R.H.E. and injury we did as we anticipated, gaining more experience than points.

Rugby and hockey have now started. In Rugby much training and instruction is going on and our first fixture is nearly upon us.

In hockey we have already won the Station six-a-side tournament; our age structures of two over 42 and four under 22 worked well. We have great hopes of our Unit side. Major (Q.M.) A. W. Fisk, who had done so much on the training and organising side during the last two years is still with us, as are the majority of last year's side, and we now have the addition of the Commanding Officer.

Thoughts are already turning to Christmas festivities, planning for our annual dance has began and the Wives' Club is a hive of activity making articles for their sale of work to provide funds for the children's presents and party.

We hear the S.O.-in-C. expects to visit us next year. We are looking forward very much to seeing him.



The G.O.C. inspects the Guard (found from recruits) at the Ceremonial Parade held on 19th September, 1958

43rd (WX) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment (T.A.)

A NEW chapter in the peacetime history of the Regiment was added last month, when 240 Officers, N.C.O.s and men of the Regiment attended a most successful annual camp at Chickerell, near Weymouth, from 6th-20th September.

It was the eleventh annual camp since the reconstitution of the Regiment, in 1947, and the success mentioned was due to good weather, good food and to the smooth way the very full programme was got through.

Settling in took no time at all and the first week was taken up with individual trade training, under the direction of Major G. A. L. Davies, and competitive events, which took place in warm sunshine. So much of interest took place during the fortnight that it is difficult to highlight any single item. The communications race, in which teams from our T.A. Centres at Salisbury, Bridgwater, Plymouth, Taunton, Bristol, Exeter and Torquay took part, was keenly contested and produced a very close approximation to *Certa Cito*. This race was won by "J" Troop (Salisbury), who put up a very fine all-round performance in all events.

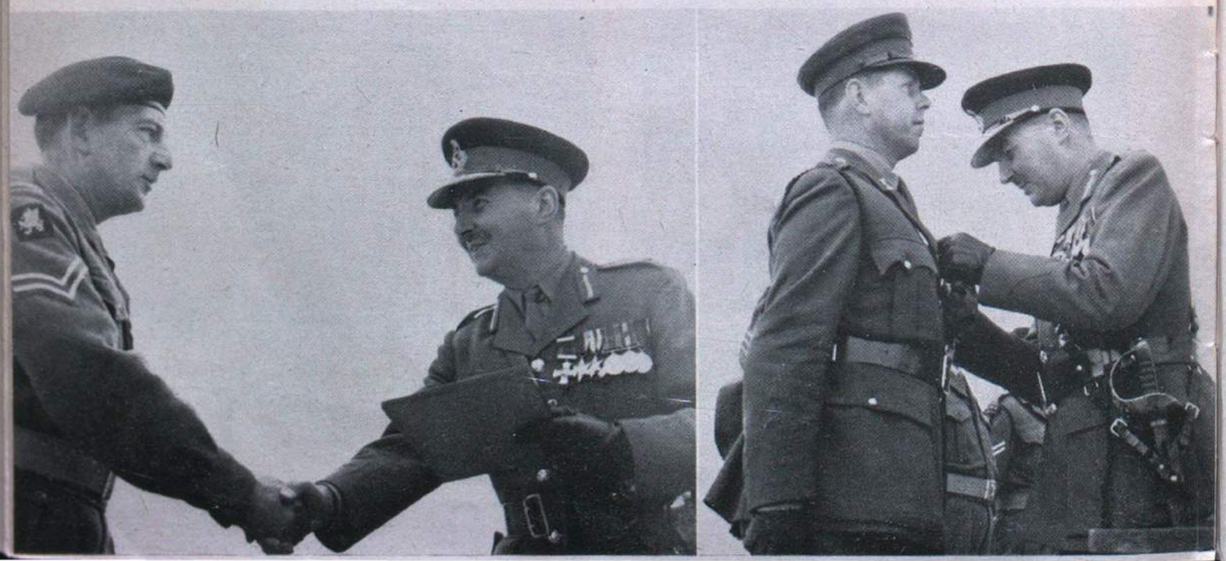
"Open Day" on 14th September, however, attracted the largest number of "entries." Nearly 200 parents, wives and sweethearts—not to mention children—converged on Chickerell Camp by car, train and in specially chartered coaches. A buffet luncheon was served to everyone present and the children enjoyed all the fun of the fair, including rides in a pony trap (ably conducted by Corporal Beck, Plymouth, in bowler hat), swings and, for the very young, a sandpit. For the more adult onlookers on this bright and sunny day there were the tug-of-war and driving competitions, the latter involving six hazards, in which driving skill and manoeuvrability of vehicles were searchingly tested. The winning team ("B" Troop, Torquay) comprised Corporal Foster and Driver Howle, both of whom put up excellent performances.

Highlight of the day was the prizegiving, at which Mrs. Bradford, wife of Brigadier F. W. P. Bradford, M.B.E., C.S.O. Southern Command, kindly presented the prizes and trophies to winning teams and individuals.

Presentations made were:

Wakefield Cup (football) won by Salisbury.
Murray Cup (athletics) won by Salisbury.
Gould Cup (small bore team shooting) won by Bridgwater.
Michelmore Cup (open range team shooting) won by Taunton.
Odell Cup (individual open range shooting) won by Lieutenant D. T. Clidero (Exeter).
Rayner Cup (motor cycle team) won by Plymouth.
Cummings Cup (communications race) won by Salisbury.
James Cup (team driving) won by Torquay.
130 Brigade Cup (recruiting) won by Bristol.
Award to the best recruit won by Signalman I. T. Fackrell.
Moore Efficiency Cup (best all-round T.A. Centre) won by Salisbury.

● **(Left) The G.O.C. presenting the Lord Lieutenants' Certificate to Corporal Callaway (Salisbury). (Right) Captain Walke receiving the Territorial Efficiency Decoration**





● **Signalman Allen (Taunton) negotiating a hazard on the Motor Cycle Trial**

Let it be mentioned, too, that the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel H. J. Thompson, O.B.E., took the winner's medal for the "Veteran's 100-yard Dash."

And so to the second week. . . .

The main event, following the Trade Board, which produced very good results, was a two-day Exercise, appropriately named "Seagull Swansong," with the departing Adjutant, Captain M. Thorman, on the way out and the incoming Adjutant, Major R. G. Blackman, well and truly in. The Exercise, which involved five moves, was both successful and enjoyable. Some 200 miles were covered and, through the good offices and willing co-operation of Dorset and Wiltshire farmers and landowners, we were able to site ourselves in good positions from every point of view. Many useful lessons were learned and the aim of the Exercise, namely that of practising reconnaissance, movement and setting-up of Headquarters, was successfully achieved. The Regiment returned to Chickerell tired but jubilant, with all vehicles intact.

Regimental Guest Night

A Regimental Guest Night was held on the last Friday. Among those present were our Honorary Colonel (Major-General W. A. Scott, C.B., C.B.E., C.S.O. Southern Command (Brigadier F. W. P. Bradford, M.B.E.), Commander 130 Infantry Brigade, and Major-General A. C. Fuller, C.B.E., of Fullerphone fame. General Fuller expounded some interesting theories at dinner and delighted those Officers sitting within earshot with many of his reminiscences. Amongst other gems, he recalled the time when the use of valves in Army wireless sets was being advocated against strong resistance from the "G" staff at the War Office, who could see no future in using "those glass things."

During a speech after dinner, the Commanding Officer, in saying farewell to Major Bastin, the Second-in-Command, Major Cook, Officer Commanding 3 Squadron, and Captain Thorman, paid a warm tribute to their services to the Regiment.

The Ceremonial Parade

Last, but by no means least, mention is made of the Ceremonial Parade, on 19th September, at which the Salute was taken by the General Officer Commanding 43rd (Wx) Infantry Division (T.A.). On arrival at the camp the G.O.C. inspected the Quarter Guard, commanded by Sergeant Regan (Plymouth). This Guard was composed of recruits. In an address to the Regiment he congratulated all ranks on the smartness of their drill and turn-out and stressed the vital importance of good communications within the Division. During the parade the G.O.C. presented medals and awards to Captain "Jimmy" Walke, O.C. "J" Troop (Territorial Efficiency Decoration), Sergeant Bill Williams, P.S.I. 3 Squadron (Long Service and Good Conduct Medal), and Lord Lieutenant's Certificates for Meritorious Service to Staff Sergeant C. H. Dempster ("H.Q." Squadron), Corporal P. Napper (L.A.D.), and Corporal R. T. Callaway ("J" Troop). The results of early morning sword drill by Officers made a fine showing on this parade!

One Query Remains Unanswered

And so Annual Camp, 1958, is behind us. One query remains unanswered. Who was the recruit who was sent to 1 Squadron Store to draw a Sten gun? How many pictures of a Sten gun did he draw and what was the reaction of the N.C.O. i/c Store?



● **Mrs. Bradford presenting the Gould Cup to Bridgwater Small Bore Team**



SITTING PRETTY

Corporal Coombes and Signalman Galliver posing for Gaumont British Newsreel Cameras at 3 (Paratroop) Squadron Camp



The Unit Challenge Trophy (presented by the Middlesex Yeomanry last year) coming back to the fold

MIDDLESEX YEOMANRY SIGNAL REGIMENT (T.A.)

Now that all Squadrons and R.H.Q. have returned intact from their camp it is felt safe to mention some of their more ambitious exploits.

1 Squadron departed first, going with 27 Engineer Group to Penhale. Though they did not enjoy the best of weather, they lived in luxurious conditions and even our four West Indian recruits said they had enjoyed our first camp.

R.H.Q. and 4 Squadron went to Warren Camp, Crowborough, where they found the best method of locating members of the Regiment was to use P.A. equipment.

At Crowborough our newly formed Band made their first appearance, playing for the Commanding Officer's Parade. Though they have a solid nucleus, more Bandsmen and Bandboys are needed. The Band is based upon the Drill Hall, Uxbridge, where they practise on Monday nights and at week-ends.

There is a rumour going the rounds of the Regiment that during camp at Crowborough the Assistant Adjutant was court martialled, sentenced to death and executed at dawn. It is at the present rather difficult to ascertain either the source or the veracity of the rumour.

During the second week of camp 4 Squadron sent out several Phantom Patrols. One came to stay with 3 Squadron at Castlemartin while others went to Weymouth and Dover.

3 (Parachute) Squadron went to Castlemartin, where they were most unlucky with the weather. Lack of aircraft for jumping (due to the Middle East crisis) was made up for by balloon jumps and the arrival of the Joint Experimental Helicopter Unit (J.E.H.U.). Most of the Squadron managed to get at least two jumps. Lieutenant Skinner felt it was hardly worth it when he made an emergency water jump into at least a foot of water on a very soggy dropping zone. With the co-operation of Captain Stennard, of J.E.H.U., practically all the Squadron were given a helicopter flight. Major Udell and S.S.M. Judd were unlucky to have their water jump cancelled, the rescue launch was, however, not fast enough to pick them up and they might have been dragged across Tenby Bay to the monastery on Caldey Island.

The best quote of the camp was that of S.S.M. Judd, as reported in the "Western Mail," after watching 15 Parachute Battalion dropping from a Beverley at Brawdy: "Everything went off fine today. This is fun compared with D-Day, when all that flak was coming up."

In the Champ trial run for 44 Independent Parachute Brigade the Squadron's two teams came second and third.

On the 28th September the Regiment regained the challenge cup at the Eastern Command T.A. Signals Rifle Meeting; the Regiment originally presented the new challenge cup, having retained the original trophy by winning three years in succession.

On the week-end 3rd to 5th October the Regiment was engaged in detaining R.A.F. escapees in conjunction with 44 Independent Parachute Brigade. The Exercise, very aptly named "Rhino Trek," took place in East Sussex with detachments of the Regiment operating at Uckfield, Crowborough and Lewes.

The Old Comrades' Association is holding regular meetings on the first Wednesday in each month at R.H.Q. in the Duke of York's H.Q. They held their annual reunion dinner on the 24th October at the Duke of York's and had a very good attendance. The Memorial Service at St. Martin's, Ludgate Hill, was held on 26th October.

THE ROYAL CORPS OF SIGNALS

A History of its Antecedents and Development

BY

MAJOR-GENERAL R. F. H. NALDER, C.B., O.B.E.

with a Foreword by

FIELD-MARSHAL THE RIGHT HONOURABLE THE EARL ALEXANDER OF TUNIS, K.G., G.C.B., G.C.M.G., C.S.I., D.S.O., M.C., D.C.L., LL.D.

This volume covers the period from the Napoleonic Wars until 1955. Starting with the visual "telegraph," it traces the successive development for Army use of the "electric telegraph," the telephone and, finally, wireless. It deals with the telegraph organization of the Royal Engineers, which later was expanded into the Royal Engineers Signal Service and was eventually superseded by Royal Signals. It describes the formation of Royal Signals and its growth during the first thirty-five years of existence.

The book contains a section giving brief biographies, with photographs, of some 80 officers. It also includes the outline histories of 53 signal regiments, selected from those which have been in existence since the Second World War. It is illustrated with 12 plates and 26 maps, and, as a frontispiece, has a coloured reproduction of a portrait of the Colonel-in-Chief, Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal.

Published by The Royal Signals Institution, 88, Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1.

Price 30/- (including packing and postage).

Cheques/Postal Orders to be made payable to "The Royal Signals History A/C."

54 (E.A.) INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT (T.A.)

"O" Troop. I think that most of us regard THE WIRE as a means of keeping in touch, remote though it may be, with colleagues that we have met in previous years. In some cases it is possible to re-establish contact after a lapse of time. It is for this reason that all of us at Brentwood wish to record a sincere vote of thanks to our P.S.I., Sergeant A. C. Rooke. Before it becomes this Troop's turn to contribute to THE WIRE again, he will have left us for 18 Army Group Signal Regiment, B.A.O.R. to join R.S.M. Halford and S.S.M. Angus. Reverting to Sergeant Rooke, he has done us proud in his stay at Brentwood and the car park will not be the same without his bright red Sunbeam Talbot. It may well be that one of you reading this contribution will have lost touch with him until now; if THE WIRE does keep us all together in this way, I think that it does a well worth-while job.

The Troop has been very active in a wide field. Finishing second in the Unit .22 Rifle competition was considered satisfactory, although we hope to go one better when we become more expert at pencil pushing. Certain members of the Troop were to be seen doing a "Dorian Williams" and a "Raymond Glendenning" at a local Horse Show and Point-to-Point respectively; whereas at a local sports meeting wireless and line were much in evidence, so were the fault finders until the beauty competition came along.

On the more serious side, the Troop has been getting down to its new job as "O" Troop of the Regiment ever since it saw 3 Divisional Signal Regiment deployed near the Gog Magog hills at Cambridge earlier in the year. The keenness has been exemplified by the instruction we are receiving in teleprinter operation which is being given by Mr. Trimm, himself an ex-Signals warrior.

As we go into winter (who said that we never left the last one?) one has memories of many things but foremost in most of our minds must be the seaborne landing at Eastbourne in mid-July and the storming of Beachy Head. Just as vivid to some, no doubt, will be the unofficial sorties to Brighton and the occasional skirmish in Tunbridge Wells. What price camp next year?

51 (H) INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT (T.A.)

"Time and tide await no man."—That quotation is also applicable to the Editor of THE WIRE.

Another Annual Camp is now well behind us. This year we were at Guisborough, Yorks., from 28th June to 12th July and, apart from the very useful training, capably organised by our genial Adjutant-cum-Training Major, Major Desmond Freeland, the Camp was voted one of the best we have ever done.

We hope incidentally, that our Yorkshire friends, and in particular, our pals of 50th (N) Divisional Signal Regiment (T.A.) were not upset by the sensational report in one of the popular Sunday newspapers that we were given the "cold shoulder" by the residents of Guisborough. The reporter concerned should have visited our All Ranks' Dance or, for that matter, the courtesy playing of Retreat by our Regimental Pipes and Drums in Guisborough, to realise the absurdity of his report. It is worth recording that on the latter occasion even our Commanding Officer was involved in forming a "protective screen" round the band to prevent it being completely "mobbed" by the enthusiastic crowd. The band carried out successful engagements in Darlington, Whitby, Saltburn and also at the Middlesborough Tattoo.

The Regiment was very proud of our Jubilee Contingent, under Major J. H. Moonie, M.M., T.D., O.C. No. 1 Squadron, who paraded before Her Majesty The Queen at Edinburgh on 5th July. Representatives of our Pipes and Drums, under Pipe Major Angus Coffield, also paraded in the Massed Pipes and Drums of the Division.

We also have it that a certain officer of the Regiment who was last seen on Darlington Station looking for his kit was ultimately successful in his quest and made his home without further mishap.

Since our return to our T.A.C.s, the usual administrative checks have been in full flow, and we understand that as our Q.M., Captain Bill Tyers, has been seen to smile recently, all is reasonably well.

At the C.S.O.'s Rifle Meeting at Dreghorn on 4th/5th October, Major Sandy Evans, our T.O.T., managed a Pool Bull, while our "D" Team won the Falling Plate Competition.

Pipes and Drums again.—The writer being also the President of the Pipes and Drums is often accused of being rather lavish with his publicity of his "Private Army." We are, however, proud of the fact that our Pipes and Drums carried out another successful B.B.C. broadcast on the Scottish Home Service on Thursday, 25th September.

To close on a note of regret—we are about to say farewell to our O.C. No. 3 Squadron, Major James Miller, T.D. Major Miller, although a Gunner before stepping in and holding the fort at Dundee, has become one of us. We regret his going, and we wish him well in his retirement. Major M. Timmons assumes command of the Squadron on 1st November, and we are sure that he will prove a worthy successor.



The Close of the Meeting. Mrs. Newcombe presenting the prizes

THE EASTERN COMMAND ROYAL SIGNALS, T.A., RIFLE MEETING

It is not usual to be blessed with a fine, dry day when one arranges a Rifle Meeting, but this was so at Pirbright, on 28th September, when the Eastern Command T.A. Signal Rifle Meeting took place.

Approximately 180 all ranks competed from eight different Signal Units, but we were sorry to find that 54 (EA) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment could not be represented as they were committed elsewhere.

The meeting was organised very successfully by the Middlesex Yeomanry Signal Regiment, assisted by the Eastern Command Signal Squadron, who kindly provided a large and efficient butt party, which also erected and dismantled the tentage.

The refreshments were by kind co-operation of 2 (London) Signal Regiment, who also found themselves dominating the scoreboard, with 1st (Essex) Signal Regiment in second place, for the greater part of the meeting. However, the Middlesex Yeomanry Signal Regiment Unit team found its form at the very last moment and, after a rather protracted discussion between the recording tent and the butts which must have appeared most suspicious, this Regiment went into the lead when the final results were announced.

The Chairman, Brigadier W. R. Smijth-Windham, C.B.E., D.S.O., A.D.C., C.S.O. Eastern Command, congratulated those responsible for running the meeting and said how pleased he was to see so many representing their Units. Mrs. R. C. Newcombe then kindly presented the prizes and trophies.

The meeting was closed by the Chief Umpire, Lieutenant-Colonel B. R. M. Hayles, C.S.O., London District, leading the cheers for Mrs. R. C. Newcombe.

The results were as follows:

(a) *Open Individual*
1st, W.O.II Griffiths, R.E., 1st (Essex) Signal Regiment (T.A.); 2nd, Corporal Ryan, 2nd (London) Signal Regiment (T.A.); 3rd, Captain Oliver, 2nd (London) Signal Regiment (T.A.).

(b) *W.R.A.C.*
1st, Corporal C. J. Hart, Eastern Command (M) Signal Regiment (T.A.); 2nd, Sergeant W. Blackwell, Eastern Command (M) Signal Regiment (T.A.); 3rd, Lieutenant V. Shannon, No. 1 Special Communications Regiment (T.A.).

(c) *Cadets*
1st, Sergeant Gould, 56 (London) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment (T.A.); 2nd, Lance-Corporal W. Hart, 44th (HC) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment (T.A.); 3rd, Cadet Williams, 44th (HC) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment (T.A.).

(d) *Young Soldiers*
1st, Private D. Scales, No. 1 Independent U.K.L.F. Reserve Signal Squadron (T.A.); 2nd, Lance-Corporal A. Donvar, Army Phantom Signal Regiment (T.A.); 3rd, Signalman D. A. Hawkins, Middlesex Yeomanry Signal Regiment (T.A.).

(e) *Permanent Staff*
1st, W.O.II Crabtree, 1st (Essex) Signal Regiment (T.A.); 2nd, Captain (O.M.) A. Knight, 44th (HC) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment (T.A.); 3rd, Captain F. B. Saul, 1st (Essex) Signal Regiment (T.A.).

(f) *Falling Plate*
1st, 1st (Essex) Signal Regiment (T.A.); 2nd, Army Phantom Signal Regiment (T.A.).

(g) *Unit Team*
1st, Middlesex Yeomanry Signal Regiment (T.A.); 2nd, 2nd (London) Signal Regiment (T.A.).

(h) *Unit Challenge*
1st, Middlesex Yeomanry Signal Regiment (T.A.); 2nd, 2nd (London) Signal Regiment (T.A.).

1st (Essex) Signal Regiment, T.A.

This year has been momentous for national events celebrating the Golden Jubilee of the T.A. For us, it has been an outstanding year as, besides celebrating the Jubilee of the T.A., we also celebrated the Golden Jubilee of the Regiment itself.

Raised in 1908, from existing volunteer units of Royal Engineers, and called the East Anglian Divisional Telegraph Company, R.E., it gained its first divisional task in 1911 under the title of East Anglian Divisional Signal Company, T.F. On the outbreak of war in 1914, it became 54 (T.A.) Divisional Signal Company; going to Galipoli with that Division and providing its communications, throughout the war. Disbandment followed the cessation of hostilities in 1919, with immediate reformation in 1920 as 54th (E.A.) Divisional Signals, T.A. On the outbreak of the second World War, in 1939, the first line of the Regiment became 4th Divisional Signals, and the second line retained the old title. Both units provided communications for their respective divisions throughout the war.

When the Territorial Army was re-formed in 1947, the Regiment was converted to an Army Signal Regiment, and retained this role under the title 2nd/20th (E.A.) Army Signal Regiment, T.A., until 1957, when, on the general reorganisation of the Army, the Regiment was reorganised, re-equipped, and given a new task under its present title. The inclusion of the word "Essex" in our title marks a continuous association with that county for over fifty years.

Thus, on Saturday, 4th October, at Signal House, at the Headquarters of the Regiment, our Honorary Colonel, Colonel R. W. Dale, O.B.E., D.L., and the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel W. H. Lamb, T.D., began the celebrations by welcoming some 200 distinguished guests. We were particularly honoured by the presence of Her Majesty's Lieutenant for the County of Essex, Sir John Ruggles-Brise, Bt., O.B.E., T.D., J.P., and the Representative Colonel Commandant, Royal Signals, Major-General R. F. H. Nalder, C.B., O.B.E. Trumpeters of the Corps Band sounded the General Salute on the arrival of the Lord Lieutenant, after which he inspected a Guard of Honour, under the command of Captain K. G. Draper,

The Guard consisted of a fair cross-section of the Regiment, including men with considerable service and many ribbons, as well as young volunteers of only a few weeks' service. Among the other guests, announced in fine voice by the R.S.M., W.O.I G. M. Derwent, M.B.E., in his capacity of Master of Ceremonies, were Colonel N. R. Salew, O.B.E., D.L., Secretary of the Essex T. & A.F. Association; the Mayor and Mayoress of Wanstead and Woodford, Alderman and Mrs. R. A. Dalton; the Town Clerk, Mr. McCarlie-Findlay, LL.B.; Colonel C. H. Houghton, O.B.E., Deputy Chief Signal Officer, Eastern Command; Mr. J. Harvey, M.P.; Colonel C. A. Newlin, United States Army Signal Corps; Major D. W. Kelly, Royal Canadian Corps of Signals; Brigadier J. J. Duvivier; Colonel W. H. Barlow-Wheeler, D.S.O.; Brigadier H. R. Firth; Colonel H. B. Somerville, C.B.E., Regional Director, L.T.R., G.P.O.; and no less than five previous Commanding Officers of the Regiment, namely, Colonel J. L. Lilley, T.D., D.L.; Lieutenant-Colonel L. H. Gentry, T.D.; Lieutenant-Colonel F. A. Manley, T.D.; Lieutenant-Colonel W. E. Raynor, T.D.; and Lieutenant-Colonel A. R. Marshall, T.D. Many Old Comrades of the Regiment were also received and joined us in the celebration.

In his welcoming address, the Honorary Colonel said that some people had recently been professing to believe that the Territorial Army was defunct; these celebrations proved that it was still very much alive. Glancing back at the history of the Regiment, and considering its present activities as exemplified by displays around the premises, Colonel Dale felt that we definitely had something to celebrate. In the future he believed that the necessity for the T.A. would increase, providing as it did, a valuable trained reserve, as an insurance of survival and safety.

There followed an excellent concert given by the Corps Band under the Director of Music, Major John L. Judd, M.B.E., Mus.Bac., F.T.C.L., L.R.A.M., A.R.C.M. Outstanding solos were given rousing ovations, but perhaps the most stirring item was the fine performance on trumpets and post horns of a piece entitled "Trumpets all the Way," arranged by Major Judd and rendered by the trumpeters and the Band.

Before inviting the guests to partake of the refreshments provided, and to visit the displays around the T.A. Centre, the Commanding Officer said that although the Regiment was justifiably proud of its 50 years of service to the Crown, it was not to be forgotten that very many different people had helped to make the Regiment what it was today; one with a fine spirit, an excellent reputation and, what was probably more important, the ability to do its job. The Commanding Officer paid tribute to the keenness, enthusiasm, volunteer spirit and patriotism of the key men of the Regiment—the Territorial volunteers, and thanked all the Officers, Warrant Officers and Non-Commissioned Officers of the Regular Army who had served as permanent staff instructors. "The Regular Army sent us their best and the Regiment owed much to them." A vital part had also been played by the Essex Territorial and Auxiliary Forces Association, "our military father and mother, who provided this Headquarters and have looked after our creature comforts



Major General R. F. H. Nalder unveiling the History of the Regiment



Lance-Corporal Foakes, Sergeant Bavin and Sergeant Marriott in uniforms past and present



Sir John Ruggles-Brise, Lord Lieutenant of Essex inspecting the Guard of Honour

since . . . 1908." Colonel Lamb then thanked all employers who granted enlistment facilities to their employees, particularly the British Post Office, with which both the Corps and this Regiment has always had close and cordial relations. He recalled the "adoption" of the Regiment by Wanstead and Woodford, and expressed his thanks to the Mayor and the Borough for their continued interest and support. Wives and sweethearts who "encourage, or at least permit, their menfolk to serve," were also thanked. The main problem for the future was recruitment, which, though steady, was slow; many more volunteers were needed. The C.O. said his only requirements for recruits was that they should be fit, of good character and volunteers; the Regiment could do the rest. The Commanding Officer concluded by asking General Nalder to unveil an illuminated History of the Regiment. The "History," executed to commemorate the occasion, by W.O.II (S.S.M.) K. Thomas of the Regiment, remained on display. (Sergeant-Major Thomas's oil painting of a working lineman is well-known to the Corps as the cover of the booklet "Royal Signals").

During the "At Home" which followed, our guests inspected some of the equipment and activities of the Regiment. On show were multi-channel voice and telegraph equipments, line construction gear, radio relay and medium wireless sets, switchboards and teleprinters, terminal equipment, wireless and other vehicles of the Regiment. The miniature range was open for those of our guests who felt like trying their hands at shooting. On display, to illustrate fifty years of signalling, were many instruments from the past, very kindly lent to the Regiment by the Corps Museum. This display included the original Fuller-phone and a Telephone D Mark III, on which many of us first learnt the Morse Code. A Heliograph was very ably demonstrated by Brigadier H. R. Firth.

More evidence of the art and craft of Sergeant-Major Thomas was given in a set-piece in the entrance hall. This depicted some of the outstanding events of 1908 and 1958, and two volunteers of the Regiment dressed in the uniforms of 1908 and the present day.

The Regiment rounded off this historic day with a Grand Golden Jubilee Dance, at which most of the afternoon's guests were also present. Music was provided by the Dance Orchestra of the Corps Band.

The thanks of the Regiment must go to our Second-in-Command, Major J. H. Mansfield, T.D., for organising what, in the words of the Lord Lieutenant was an "outstanding and memorable occasion" for the Territorial Army in Essex.



The Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel W. H. Lamb, T.D., and five previous Commanding Officers
(*Left to Right*: Lieutenant Colonel F. A. Manley, T.D., Lieutenant Colonel A. R. Marshall, T.D., Colonel J. L. Lilley, T.D., D.L., Lieutenant Colonel W. H. Lamb, T.D., Lieutenant Colonel L. H. Gentry, T.D., and Lieutenant Colonel W. E. Raynor, T.D.)

42 INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT (T.A.)

It was a very happy party which gathered in the Other Ranks' Mess to say farewell to Lieutenant-Colonel Deakin before his departure to the South and retirement. This was staged by the members of the Other Ranks' Mess. After being introduced to members and their wives, a good representative body sat down to light supper. The guest of honour was joined by the two youngest recruits, Signalmen Preston and Sword, also Signalmen Shelmerdine and Riley as serving members during the last war.

The loyal toast was given by Signalman Bracegirdle, then followed the departing speech given on behalf of all members by Corporal Young, during which it was said that we all wished we had known him earlier in his service and that we regretted his retirement. Corporal Young continued, that we shall treasure always the very happy memory of Mrs. Deakin, who endeared herself to us in such a manner that we feel we are losing a good friend. We all look forward to seeing you both should you come North at any time.

Lieutenant-Colonel Deakin, in reply, thanked us all for the kind thoughts spoken about him and Mrs. Deakin and stated that he had been most happy here and that he had a very soft spot for the Lancashire people, but not for the climate. He touched on the future work of the T.A. and said now was the time for us to go forward and do a real job of service to the community. He welcomed anyone who might be in the area of his new home to call and see him, but that they might have to camp in the garden. He concluded by thanking everyone for their hard work and loyal support.

The gifts given to Mrs. Deakin were a small illuminated address containing all the signatures of the members of the Other Ranks' Mess, a set of mugs and a painting of a yachting scene on the Solent.

After the presentations, dancing followed and a general get-together. Solos were given by Corporal Hill and others. Also present were Captain and Mrs. Lawson, Captain Clark, Captain and Mrs. Brown, who represented R.E.M.E.

Towards the end of the evening a happy incident occurred. The D.R. team, who had been on the Western Command Trials returned looking very tired but happy and Sergeant Waterfield, who had led the team, had received a certificate of merit, which was indeed good news.

1 NORTHERN COMMAND (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT (T.A.)

It is nearly six months since this Regiment appeared in THE WIRE and the only excuse our scribe can offer is that time passes far too quickly.

Since our last contribution the Regiment has been engaged in further week-end training both at Command and Squadron level and has been able to improve in its knowledge and in the use of the ANTRC equipment.

With the conclusion of the series of "Overlay" exercises the Regiment had to direct its energies and attention to Annual Camp.

Annual Camp this year was at Barry/Buddon in Scotland and the whole Regiment (Military and W.R.A.C.) were under canvas. Training this year was on an individual basis and the results achieved justified to the full the hard work put in by the Advance Party.

Of particular interest on the training side was the recruits basic course both Military and W.R.A.C. and the Radio Relay Course. The latter in particular was inspiring in that it for the first time was possible to train selected Military Officers, and O.R.s from the Regiment together. Lieutenant K. White is to be congratulated on the excellent course he organised.

From the humorous side the highlight of camp was probably the success with which H.Q. Squadron managed to pierce the main water pipe with a "jumper." When it is recorded that the operator of the "hammer and jumper" is a plumber in civilian life his affinity to piped water is easy to understand. It is not true that he offered to repair the burst, at a price, nor that he burst the pipe under an understanding with the local plumbers' union.

The Regiment held its Annual Concert and Dance—both of which were attended by the local dignatories and were voted a success by all.

We were pleased to see the Area Commander, C.S.O., and A.D.W.R.A.C. at Camp and also Colonel Walker.

The Regiment was well represented at the T.A. Golden Jubilee Parade in London and it was pleasing to learn that the work put in by R.S.M. J. Phillips was appreciated and commended by the Coldstream Guards.

We were also delighted to have a visit from our Honorary Colonel, Major-General A. E. Morrison, C.B.E., O.B.E., and although it was not possible for him to tour the whole Regiment in the short time available we are pleased that he was able to see some of us.

Our best wishes to Lieutenant B. Lyons, W.R.A.C. and Lieutenant J. Pearson, W.R.A.C., both of Hull detachment, who were married in September, our congratulations go to the bridegrooms who, by now should be well aware that they have gained well trained (signals) wives. We wish them all every happiness in the future.

Captain F. Mansfield, M.B.E., has left us to take up a post as Permanent Staff Officer to 2 U.K.L.F. Signal Squadron in Sheffield, we wish him every success in the future.

We have also lost Captain B. Elliott, M.B.E., our W.R.A.C. Advisor, who for so long has looked after our W.R.A.C. so well; fortunately she still visits us for a full day once a week and is able to ensure that we keep on the right lines.

Probably the greatest news of the period is the successful completion of the "Cleveland Lyke Wake Walk," a gruelling forty mile walk across the North York Moors which was successfully completed by a team of twelve which included four W.R.A.C.

Until next time we bid adieu from "North of the Humber."

The 'Cleveland Lyke Wake Walk'

"When thoo frae hence away art passed,
Ivery neet an all,
Ti Whinny Moor thoo comes at last
An Christ tak up they soul."
(The Cleveland Lyke Wake Dirge Traditional)

The Cleveland Lyke Wake Walk is part of the history of the North Riding of Yorkshire. Traditionally, it is said, the dead were carried in relays across the North York Moors from Osmotherley to Ravenscar for burial, a distance of some forty miles across some of the most difficult moorland country in England.

A club exists called the Cleveland Lyke Wake Club, membership of which is open only to those persons who have completed the walk in under 24 hours and they are then known as "Dirgers." There is no club house and the members do not hold meetings, they become "Dirgers" simply by complying with the rules for the walk, as laid down by the Chief Dirger, Mr. Cowley, of Swainby.

This route across the moors covers deep heather, bracken, scree and bog, and is by no means to be confused with a Saturday afternoon stroll over the local common.

So much for the background. Now for this Regiment's story on how it became interested and how its mixed team of Military and W.R.A.C. volunteers completed the walk on Saturday, 27th September, in 19 hours.

It all started with the Training Major (Major D F. Willet) attending a T.A. Jubilee cocktail party. During the evening an officer of the 5th Battalion The West Yorkshire Regiment (T.A.) (The Prince of Wales's Own), had the temerity to suggest that although the West Yorkshires could do the Lyke Wake Walk it would undoubtedly be beyond the scope of Signals, and in any event, W.R.A.C. could not even hope to complete it. It should be added that The West Yorkshires had just completed the walk in 21 hours, under appalling weather conditions and their tails were definitely well up.



[Photograph: Courtesy The Yorkshire Post and Leeds Mercury
ARRIVING WHEELDALE FOR LUNCH
Right to left: Lieut-Colonel J. Kilner, T. D., Sergeant F. Moss, Major D. F. Willett, R.G.M.S. Marshall, Captain M. E. Clarke, WRAC, Corporal P. J. Hill, WRAC, Corporal M. Wynne, Lance Corporal G. Cole, Private, F. Wilson, WRAC, Lance Corporal E. Dalton, Staff Sergeant Maybury, Corporal E. Holmes, WRAC, Lieutenant N. Sheard

As can be imagined, the suggestion that it was beyond Signals was too much for the Training Major, and it was not surprising therefore, when, within a week a letter went out to Squadrons and Detachments calling for volunteers.

At this stage there was very little optimism at R.H.Q. about volunteers being forthcoming since a hard, tough walk is not everyone's cup of tea. However, the blessing of the Commanding Officer (Lieutenant-Colonel J. Kilner, T.D.) was obtained and he made it quite clear that he in any event intended to qualify as a "Dirger."

Within a week names were in, far more than had been expected and a process of weeding out commenced, eventually the list was reached to 15 probables and training commenced.

It was decided to walk the route firstly in two halves on two separate Sundays as a practice. On the first Sunday from Arncliffe, North of Osmotherley, on the Thirsk-Stokesly Road to Rosedale Head, and on the second Sunday from Rosedale Head to Ravenscar, on the South end of Robin Hood's Bay. It was considered that this would enable the best route to be recce'd and an idea of the capabilities of the walkers to be ascertained.

In the event, phase two of the recce had to be completed first as a Gunner Regiment was firing its 25 pounders on Fylingdales the second week and the route for the walkers was through the centre of the target area.

It was not considered advisable to add the extra hazard of a "gunner shoot" to the tribulations of the walk.

Sunday, 14th September, dawned fine and clear and 0830 hours found the party debussed and ready to go.

Rosedale, Wheeldale, Goathland, Fylingdales and Stony Marl all had to be crossed from West to East on a compass bearing, no tracks existing The snags were soon obvious firstly the easy route on the map was by no means the easiest route on the ground and scrambling up and down 200ft. escarpments like mountain goats was definitely not on, particularly as the older members of the party had passed the giddy stage long ago. The heather was found to be a real obstruction growing two or three feet high and thick at the bottom. Several times, too, the shortest member of the party, S.S.M. B. Roberts, W.R.A.C., just disappeared beneath fern and bracken, the only indication of her whereabouts being the shaking of leaves at the top and plaintive cries from the bottom. So across Rosedale to Hamer House, where Sergeant Flanagan had posted himself as a marker, on to Wheeldale, where the administration party had prepared lunch then on again. All of us will remember the long tiring two-mile climb from Eller Beck Bridge to Lilla Howe, on Fylingdales in a more than hot sun. R.Q.M.S. Marshall expressed himself forcibly at Lilla Howe when he said: "My wife said I was mad to try this walk, and for the first time in my married life, I believe her." On to Fylingdales P.T.A. and the scramble down and up to cross Jugger Howes and the Beck. Was it Sergeant Moss who opined that: "I bet after all this that the cemetery will be closed?"

It was obvious to the writer after the first walk was completed that all the party was enthusiastic and determined to go on with the project.

Sunday, 21st, found the party again debussing at 0830 hours, this time at Ingleby Cross. This Sunday was probably the most frustrating of all, short cuts turned out to be boggy paths overgrown and finally through yielding to temptation a broad, friendly track led us well off route, and just when the party discovered that it was well adrift a short, sharp thunderstorm soaked us and added to our miseries. Once again the Administration Party turned up with hot tea and morale was raised and the final decision made, it was unanimous, the "Lyke Wake Walk" would be attempted the following Saturday, all 40 miles of it.

During the week further recces were carried out by R.H.Q., and when the party assembled at York, on Friday evening, 26th September, all plans were completed.

It was decided that the walk would commence from Arncliffe at 0200 hours, Saturday, 27th September, and continue until Ravenscar was reached.

Midnight saw the walking party depart from York, and at 0135 hours the walk started. It could not have been a better night, cold with a clear sky and full moon. Chopgate, a distance of seven miles, was reached by 0430 hours, where a short halt was made for tea with a dash of rum.

The Administration Party said it was cold waiting, the suggestion that they should join the walkers who were glowing at this stage was turned down. The next stage was over Urra Moor to Bloworth Crossing, the going was slowed a little due to the declining moon and a very nice line in bogs. however, much to the relief of the whole party dawn found us at Bloworth Crossing dead on route. Along the old railway line, reputed to be the oldest in England, across Farndale Moor, and a climb through heather to Ralph Crosses at Rosedale Head reached at 0.50, 16 miles completed and breakfast piping hot waiting for us and hot water for washing.

The party moved off again at 0930 hours to cross Rosedale Moor sad to relate but nevertheless true, we somehow got off route and reached Hamer House behind schedule at 1225. From this point on it was obvious that we had to quicken our pace, particularly as we knew that the B.B.C. TV cameras were waiting from 1200 hours at Wheeldale Lodge.

Wheeldale Lodge was if anything worse than when it was first recce'd on 14th September, the heather appeared to be higher and the bogs much deeper, and it was 1445 hours before Wheeldale Lodge was reached. We were delighted to find that Lieutenant-Colonel M. Millington, O.B.E., T.D., A.D.W.R.A.C. Northern Command, was there to meet us, we enjoyed being recorded on TV, although why it had always to be as we climbed up hill and far from looking our best, we do not know. A hasty lunch was taken which did not do justice to the work of the Administration Party and by 1510 we were on our way across Goathland for Eller Beck Bridge. At this stage S.S.M. B. Roberts, the oldest W.R.A.C. walker, aged 48, decided that she would cry halt as if she carried on the party would be delayed. We were sorry to leave her and congratulate her on doing so well. Staff Sergeant Maybury also had to retire with the mother and father of all blisters—to both of them we said well done, and better luck next time.



[Photograph: Courtesy The Yorkshire Post and Leeds Mercury
WRAC CONTINGENTS LUNCHING AT WHEELDALE
Left to Right : S.S.M. B. Roberts, Private F. Wilson, Captain M. E. Clarke, Corporal E. Holmes, at the back Corporal P. J. Hill

Now for Fylingdales with the certainty that the 5½ miles of gruelling moorland had to be covered before dark. It was crossed in two hours, which we feel is a record.

At 1900 hours we left Fylingdales P.T.A. for the last lap. By 1930 it was dark, and then came the final laugh. Leading in front, the Training Major was heard to call out: "Its boggy in front but we'll go straight through, after all, it doesn't matter now." Next instant, exit Training Major to his waist in the coldest, smelliest, nastiest bog of the day. However, on we progressed, and 2010 hours saw us one mile from our goal. At this stage everything came to life. Unbeknown to us other members of the Regiment had arrived by car to welcome us and what a welcome, cheering, the sounding of car horns and flashing of lights accompanied the party as led by the Colonel we marched. Yes, marched the last mile, whistling the marches of our own Corps and of the W.R.A.C. with our tails right up. Suddenly we were there in the bar at the Raven Hall Hotel, Ravenscar, 40 miles from the start in 19 hours, congratulating each other, drinking the beer we had been thirsting for, and proud that we were, we think, the first Royal Signals Regiment and certainly the first Mixed Signal Regiment to complete the "Lyke Wake Walk." We had, too, beaten the 5th Battalion West Yorkshire Regiment's time by two hours, and although conditions had been far better for us than for them we reckoned we had done pretty well.

We were pleased, too, because as we understand it, up until now very few women had ever completed the walk before—and now four of our girls had done it.

From Ravenscar by truck to Burniston Barracks where 260 Company The Royal Pioneer Corps were our hosts for the night and very good hosts at that.

We feel we have achieved something worthwhile not just in walking but in keeping as a team and together overcoming difficulties.

All these endeavours would have been as nothing without the excellent support of the Administration Team who were always at the right locations and always ready with refreshments on time.

In conclusion we enjoyed seeing ourselves on the T.V. programme on Monday, 29th September, and now it is rumoured that the Training Major is cogitating on what to do next. Could it be that we go North next time to follow the footsteps of Bonnie Prince Charlie or is it Nijmegen. Those taking part were:—

Royal Signals: Lieutenant-Colonel J. Kilner, T.D., Major D. F. Willett, Lieutenant N. Sheard, R.Q.M.S. H. Marshall, Staff Sergeant R. Maybury, Sergeant F. Moss, Corporal M. Wynne, Lance-Corporal G. Cole, Lance-Corporal E. Dalton.

W.R.A.C.: Capt. M. E. Clarke, S.S.M. B. E. Roberts, Corporal P. J. Hill, Corporal E. Holmes, Private F. Wilson.

Careers and Opportunity

(IMPORTANT: Anyone obtaining employment through answering advertisements in THE WIRE *MUST notify the Employment Section, Royal Signals Association, 88, Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1.*

Members are reminded that they can ensure prompt notification of any vacancies likely to interest them by registering with the Employment Section. Jobs advertised in THE WIRE *are only a small proportion of those received).*

THE ARMY APPRENTICES SCHOOL, at Harrogate, has vacancies for the following:

(a) Two Civilian Instructors, Grade III, to teach Radio, Line and Telegraph Technicians up to Class III standard. Applicants should have served an acceptable apprenticeship, be fully-experienced in the trade, and capable of teaching subjects included in one or more of these trades. Possession of Ordinary National Certificate, or equivalent, qualification in Mathematics and Physics is desirable. Appointments are unestablished in the first instance, with prospects of establishment later, are made after test of technical and instructional ability and interview by Board of Officers, and are subject to six months' trial period. Salary £746 (at age 28) rising by annual increase, subject to satisfactory service, to £870 for a five-day, 44-hour week. Closing date 31st December, 1958.

(b) Three Civilian Maintenance Technicians to repair and maintain radio, line and telegraph equipment, and assist in the construction of training aids. Applications invited from ex-Line Technicians, Telegraph Technicians or Radio Technicians (Light). Five-day, 44-hour week; pay at Engineering rate (at present £9/2/4 per week) plus merit pay up to a maximum of £1/2/6.

Apply, in writing, to the Commandant, Army Apprentices School, Harrogate, Yorks.

Large Commercial Security Organisation requires men of good character for employment as Security Guards in the Greater London area. Age, preferably, 25-55, but older men considered if physically fit. Mainly light work; earnings depend on type of assignment. Incentive Bonus, Sick Benefit and Pension Schemes, good prospects of advancement. For full details apply to Personnel Manager, Securicor Ltd., Old Swan House, Chelsea Embankment, London, S.W.3.

Employment Figures for Quarter Ending, 30th September, 1958

New applicants registered	33
Placings *confirmed*	20
Other queries answered	123

COLOURED PORTRAITS OF THE COLONEL-IN-CHIEF

Reproductions of the original portrait by Sir Gerald Kelly, K.C.V.O., P.P.A.A., in the Headquarters' Mess of 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., are obtainable, price £2/15/- inclusive of packing and postage (cash with order), from The Secretary, Royal Signals INSTITUTION, 88, Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1. The coloured portrait is 12in. x 17in., the mount is 18½in. x 25in.

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Association Notes

ANOTHER TROPHY FOR THE JUNIOR LEADERS REGIMENT

In recent months THE WIRE has reported progress towards the "Cobb Memorial Trophy" for the Junior Leaders Regiment.

On the 11th October at the end of their Annual Dinner in Bakewell, **Glossop and District Royal Signals Old Comrades' Association** handed over to Major-General R. F. H. Nalder, C.B., O.B.E., the Representative Colonel Commandant, a very beautiful silver cup for onward transmisson to the Junior Leaders Regiment as another addition to their Challenge Trophies.

Port Talbot Branch

The Annual Dinner was held at Maesteg on 18th October, 1958, and was a very happy occasion. After dinner, a section of the Kenfig Hill Gleemen, under their conductor, Mr. J. Leslie Evans, sang in Welsh and English. Mr. Evans, who is also Honorary Secretary of the Branch, and a member of the Central Committee of the Association, gave an account of branch activities. The year had been a quiet one, but henceforth, all members and their ladies would have to be increasingly active in an endeavour to find the money to provide a club room of their own. Mr. Gordon J. Toms proposed "the Royal Signals Association," and Mr. Haydn Thomas, D.C.M., the President of the Port Talbot Branch of the British Legion proposed "the Port Talbot and District Branch of the Royal Signals Association." The toast of "Our Ladies" came from Mr. W. J. Wadling in a most able speech. He is the Vice-Chairman of the Branch and must be one of the youngest to hold such office in the Association; Mrs. J. E. Toms replied.

Mr. J. H. Mills spoke of Absent Friends and gave the British Legion exhortation. Mr. H. H. J. Behrens the Assistant Honorary Secretary of the Branch, even went so far as to propose the toast of "the Guests" in verse:

"That jovial soul of ample girth,
Our Guest of Honour, Brigadier Firth,
Who never lets Port Talbot down;
Even motors here from London Town
Our annual function to attend,
He is indeed a loyal friend.

Haydn Thomas, D.C.M.,
A man who always thinks of *"them"*;
He gives a room up to the few
who monthly meet at his H.Q.;
Thanks then to him for his kind deed,
Lending the home that Signals need.

Our friends and visitors gathered here,
Who join us at our feast each year,
Gaze on all of them tonight,
To be with us is their delight;
They're all as happy as can be
And know they're in good company.
So then to you who look so fine,
Please join us again in 1959."

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STOCKIST OF APPROVED ROYAL SIGNALS SPORTS CLOTHING

CRESTED MALACCA WALKING CANES AND PACE STICKS

RICHMOND, YORKS.

Loughborough Branch

3rd October signalled the advent of another winter social season with a dance in our Beaumanor Clubrooms. It was attended by some 80 members and friends; not bad for the first one. We shall be running a function once a month, with alternate dances and social evenings.

Right now we are looking forward to the Annual Dinner and Dance, being held this year at a well-known Loughborough Hotel. The dining attendance will be over the 100 mark, and many more will be coming along for the dancing later. We are very pleased to have as our guests the Representative Colonel Commandant, Major-General Nalder, Brigadier Firth, and the Mayor and Mayoress of Loughborough. Also among the Guests of Honour is our oldest member, Ted Newmarch, who is shortly to retire from the supervisory post he has held for many years in the War Office Civilian Wireless Service. However, he will continue to live in the district and keep in touch with us, but we shall have to find a volunteer to take over Ted's job of distributing the Branch quota of "Wires." Several members of the Nottingham, Derby and Leicester Branches will be present at the Dinner Dance, and a very successful evening seems assured. A report will appear in next month's issue.

Shortly to leave 10 Wireless Training Squadron, Royal Signals, on posting abroad is S.S.M. H. R. Hiscott, who has represented his unit on our Branch Committee for nearly four years, and was in fact, our Vice-Chairman last year. To him we say thank you for many things, farewell, and much success in the future.

Torbay Branch

Our Branch has had quite a shake-up over recent weeks. We have now lost the services of our Branch Chairman, Mr. S. G. Wilkes, who has left the district to reside in the Bromsgrove area. Mr. Wilkes, a founder-member of the Branch, will be greatly missed by all our members, who have come to rely on his words of wisdom and encouragement. We wish him and Mrs. Wilkes good luck and fortune at their new home. Knowing Mr. Wilkes' capabilities, we are quite sure that a new Branch will be formed in his area before very long.

Mr. Wilkes' place as Chairman has now been taken by Mr. Jack Collett, and S.S.M. Banham has accepted the post as Branch Treasurer. Mr. G. W. Harbour, having 60 years behind him, has now become a life-member of the Association. It was only during the last 12 months that Mr. Harbour joined us coming to Torquay from Macclesfield. He has proved himself to be quite an acquisition to the Branch.

Things have been quiet on the social "front" during recent months, but the whip has been brought out again and the Social Committee are busy making arrangements for the winter months.

WELFARE SECTION

Below an attempt is made to describe, with suitable anonymity, cases taken from the Welfare Section files concluded during the first week in October, 1958. Also on this page is a simple statement of income and expenditure.

Widow of Signalman, 1952-54, who died September, 1958, in a road accident, leaving two very young children. The fund cleared her of debts.

Signalman, 1957, still serving National Service. Married, one child, writes, "On behalf of my wife and family I wish to extend heartfelt thanks for the assistance given in time of need. I also wish to thank SSAFA for kindly and immediate action in dealing with my problem."

Signalman, 1943-48. Has been tuberculous for several years. The Seaforth Highlanders, Royal Corps of Military Police and Royal Signals all shared to set him up in clothes so that he can resume work.

Signalman, 1957, still serving National Service. His mother was helped towards the cost of his father's funeral.

Corporal, 1949-54. Married, three children. Help given to cost of necessary removal.

Signalman, 1922-34. Now aged 59. Illness stopped him working in April and the fund helped by a small grant to finish off a H.P. contract entered into long before he became ill.

Signalman, 1939-46. Married, three children, admirable income before illness last July. A little financial aid to square H.P. contract entered into before illness.

Signalman, 1947-49. Unmarried. He has been ill for a long time and British Legion and Royal Signals combined to get better clothes for him.

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION AND BENEVOLENT FUND

The following subscriptions were most gratefully received during September, 1958:

	£	s.	d.
Headquarters, Training Brigade	2	5	6
1 Training Regiment	17	2	8
3 Training Regiment	39	12	6
4 Training Regiment	20	19	2
Signals Branch, H.Q., East and West Riding Area	1	0	0
Southern Command Mobile Signal Squadron	1	1	0
12 Command (M) Signal Regiment, T.A.	6	0	6
43 (Wx) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A. ...	2	5	0
SHAPE Signal Squadron	2	10	0
56 (Lon) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A.	1	5	0
52 (L) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A.		8	8
C.A.F.S.O., H.Q., 2 T.A.F.	1	13	6
11 Air Formation Signal Regiment	140	0	0
Berlin Signal Squadron (4 Unit Branch)	10	0	0
30 Wireless Squadron	2	10	0
20 Armoured Brigade Group Signal Squadron	1	19	8
Cyprus District Signal Regiment	45	0	0
3 G.H.Q. Signal Regiment	30	0	0
51 Independent Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron	1	11	0
2 Wireless Regiment (21 Unit Branch)	42	13	0
Total receipts	£369	17	2

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION WELFARE SECTION

The following donations were most gratefully received during September, 1958:

	£	s.	d.
16 Wireless Squadron, T.A.	5	5	0
D. E. Waters, Esq.	1	0	0
G. H. Vasil, Esq.		17	0
L. Cadogan, Esq.		4	0
Major P. W. Fountain		2	6
Total receipts	£7	8	6

EXPENDITURE DURING SEPTEMBER, 1958 ... ... £969 19 6
(Includes: Rent and Rates; Beds and Bedding; Furniture; Cots and Prams; General Assistance).

Analysis of Cases:

Families of Soldiers serving in U.K.	4
" " " " " B.A.O.R.	2
" " " " " M.E.L.F.	2
Widows and dependants	5
Released and discharged Soldiers	40
Total cases assisted	53

28 cases of Soldiers who served during the 1939-45 War ... £731 14 3
25 cases of Soldiers who did not serve during the War ... £238 5 3

Lighter Fuel Packs

The following amounts were most gratefully received during September, 1958:

	£	s.	d.
Box 33 ... 1 Squadron, 2 Northern Command (M) Signal Regiment, T.A.		5	0
" 45 ... 42 AGRA (AA) Signal Squadron, T.A.		5	0
" 66 ... 42 (Lancs) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A.	2	10	0
Total receipts	£3	0	0

CLOTHING

Since the end of August gifts of clothing have been received from the following:

Brigadier C. C. Fairweather, O.B.E., T.D., D.L.; Major J. H. Dirs; A. C. J. Chalmers, Esq.; Mrs. G. M. Fraser; Captain R. E. Barber; Lieutenant-Colonel E. H. Clarke; Port Talbot Branch, Royal Signals Association; Captain L. Lloyd; Mrs. F. W. P. Bradford; Colonel A. M. W. Whistler; Lieutenant-Colonel J. J. Lamb, O.B.E.; Lieutenant-Colonel C. L. Ommaney, O.B.E.

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SPORT

Triangular Sailing Match Cyprus 1958

The triangular sailing match against the Gunners and Sappers was held once again at Dhekelia on the south-east coast of Cyprus The weather ran true to form, with warm sunshine and a southerly breeze which crept in from the sea at about nine o'clock and gradually freshened, until during the afternoon, it gave fast and exciting sailing in a breaking sea.

Because of the lightness of the wind the start of the first race was postponed until 9.45 a.m. and only one circuit of the triangular course was sailed. Each team sailed its own three Fireflies for this race. The first mark of the course was dead to windward and Lieutenant-Colonel Gibson with Captain Grice reached it in second place, Colonel Crichton with Lieutenant Read in sixth place, and Lieutenant-Colonel Sheepshanks with Major Sykes in ninth. As was to be expected, this order remained unchanged during the two downwind legs of the course, until when almost at the last mark, a Sapper luffed a Gunner whose centre plate was up. Right under the noses of the Protest Committee, the discomfited Gunner was unable to respond to the luff and could but retire. This made the score for the race, Royal Engineers 25¼ points, Royal Signals 24, and Royal Artillery 22.

The Commander-in-Chief Middle East Land Forces arrived just before the start of the second race at 11.30 a.m. Signals were now in the Sappers' boats and the wind was fresh with a calm sea. The nine boats split into those who favoured working along the shore on the port tack and those who thought there was a better wind out to sea. As this first leg was being sailed, there was great speculation amongst the onlookers whether a Gunner boat would be disqualified for being over the start line early. The recall gun was late in being fired and it was argued that he was justified in not recrossing the line. At the end of the first round Signals were in third, fourth and eighth places. By the end of the race Lieutenant-Colonel Gibson had sailed into second place with Colonel Crichton fifth and Lieutenant-Colonel Sheepshanks eighth. The Protest Committee disqualified the Gunner boat for its early start and this made the score, Royal Engineers 56½, Royal Signals 48 and Royal Artillery 35.

The third race started after lunch with the white horses sparkling in the sun. The Gunners fought back strongly against their run of bad luck, but their best was a third place, with the Sappers in first and second and Signals in fourth, seventh and eighth. So the match ended with Royal Engineers 86¾ points, Royal Signals 68 points, and Royal Artillery 57 points.

SCOTTISH COMMAND ROYAL SIGNALS RIFLE MEETING, 1958

The Scottish Command Royal Signals Rifle Meeting was held at Dreghorn Rifle Ranges on 4th/5th October, 1958. Unfortunately the meeting was held two weeks later than usual owing to pressure of demand for the ranges, and weather conditions were not very good. Heavy rain showers with strong variable wind influenced the shooting quite considerably but competition was keen, especially in the falling plates match.

The meeting attracted two teams for the Lord Lieutenant's Challenge Shield and Mercury Cup, nine teams and 13 individual entries for the Corps Shield and Hardy Challenge Cup and 18 teams for the falling plates competition. Altogether over 100 competitors took part in the meeting. The pool bull competitions also attracted very good entries.

The results of the competitions were:

Lord Lieutenant's Challenge Shield and Mercury Cup
Results forwarded to Secretary of T.A. Rifle Association.

Scottish Command Corps Shield and Medals
1st, 4 (S) P.T.F. Signal Squadron (T.A.), 442 points; 2nd, Scottish Command (M) Signal Regiment (T.A.), 436 points; 3rd, 3 (Independent) U.K.L.F. Reserve Signal Squadron (T.A.), 377 points.

Hardy Challenge Cup and Young Soldiers' Medal
Lance-Corporal F. Wolfendale (C.S.O.'s Staff), 76 points.

Falling Plates Competition
Winners, 51 (H) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment (T.A.) "D" team; runners-up, 4 (S) P.T.F. Signal Squadron (T.A.).

The falling plates competition was very keen and of quite a high standard. Two teams accounted for their eight plates with 14 rounds and one with 16 rounds.

Pool Bulls
2, Major A. C. Evans, 51 (H) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment (T.A.); Signalman J. Niven, Scottish Command (H) Signal Regiment (T.A.).

.22 *R.F.—Best Target*
Corporal Swann, 4 (S) P.T.F. Signal Squadron (T.A.).

At the end of a very interesting and enjoyable meeting the trophies, medals and prizes were presented to winners by Mrs. J. N. Barker.

The organisation, administrative and ranges' duties were performed in the usual efficient manner and contributed greatly to the success of the meeting. All who helped in these essential duties are to be congratulated and thanked for their important contribution to this increasingly popular annual event.

ROYAL SIGNALS HOCKEY

The first Corps match of the season, played at Catterick Camp on the 27th September, 1958, was, as usual, against the Thistles who again brought a strong side from North of the Border. A very enjoyable game resulted in a win for the Thistles by 3 goals to 1.

Royal Signals scored first after about ten minutes play and up to that point the Corps side was well on top and fully deserved to score; for the rest of the first half however the Thistles were definitely the better side and scored all their three goals before half-time.

There was no score during the second half, but the Corps team played better than they did in the first half and on the whole had a territorial advantage and exerted more pressure on the Thistle's goal than the Thistles did on the Corps' goal. The Thistles, however, deserved to win because they played so very well during the last twenty minutes of the first half.

ROYAL SIGNALS CRICKET

Royal Signals v. R.A.C. at the Oval, 9th/10th September, 1958.

Result: Royal Signals won by 10 wickets.

Kennington Oval heralded the return of the Corps, for the first time since World War II, with two pleasant late summer days, for the game against the Royal Armoured Corps.

The wicket and outfield under sunshine looked as pleasant as one could desire, and the stage was set for what eventually turned out to be a most entertaining game, full of runs and incident.

Royal Signals won the toss and elected to bat on a firm but easy-paced wicket.

Captain Keech and Signalman Lewis opened against the attack of Alexander and Hodgson, the first runs coming from a fine hook by Keech to the square leg boundary. Runs continued to come, with Keech scoring more quickly than Lewis, who was content to play himself well in. With the score at 18, an appeal against Keech for a catch at the wicket was upheld; he had scored 13.

Lance-Corporal Tebay joined Lewis, both batsmen showing the form that earlier in the season had eluded them. Runs came slowly, with neither batsman showing any hint of carelessness. Lunch was taken with the scoreboard showing 110 for 1.

Lewis was out with the score at 124, and his 49 included eight boundaries. Tebay was joined by Captain de Clive-Lowe and the score was taken to 139 before the latter was caught at deep extra cover off a full-toss from Alexander, having scored 18.

Major Pocock and Major Garnons-Williams fell with the score at 171 and 182 respectively, having scored 5 and 8 runs apiece.

Lieutenant-Colonel Hayles joined Tebay and soon increased the rate of scoring, driving strongly to both sides of the wicket. Tebay, at this stage, had completed a fine century, distinguished mainly by his play off the back foot, and both batsmen took toll of some rather loose bowling.

With the score at 286, Hayles was caught by Colonel Lewis off Hodgson for a fine forcing innings of 46. Pocock declared the innings closed at 286 for 6 wickets. The R.A.C. ground fielding was a feature of the innings, Major Howard-Dobson and Trooper Davey showing particularly fine form in the deep.

The R.A.C. opened their innings after tea, and Howard-Dobson immediately set about the Corps bowlers, revealing a most punishing pull-drive. Davey was caught by wicket-keeper Hayles for 0, and Lieutenant Farmer, after a promising and forceful start was bowled by Signalman Fontaine for 14. The score at this stage being 2 wickets for 19 runs.

Howard-Dobson continued to bat forcefully before being caught by Lance-Corporal Young off Lieutenant Crook for 37, a fine free-hitting innings, and in partnership with Captain Featherstonhaugh had added 67 runs. Featherstonhaugh left after an innings of 35, being caught by Tebay off Pocock.

Lieutenant Kenny and Captain Alexander added 37, and after the latter left, after hitting one tremendous six off Crook, Kenny batting very soundly, found no support forthcoming. The R.A.C. innings closed for 162 all out, Kenny being undefeated for a fine innings of 32. Fontaine's pace took toll of the last four R.A.C. batsmen, and with an analysis of 5 wickets for 39 runs, was the Corps' most successful bowler. The Armoured Corps followed on 124 runs behind, with all but 11 minutes of a full day's play left, opening with Kenny and Davey. Both batsmen, especially Kenny, batted soundly, and 63 runs had been added before Davey left, after an hour's play. Kenny, batting in fine form, left at 90, having, in his 74 runs, hit one six and seven fours in a stay of 76 minutes.

Featherstonhaugh took over Kenny's role, and despite poor support from the remaining batsmen, kept the Corps in the field until 15.20 hours, when, with his personal score at 64, was last man out l.b.w to Pocock. R.A.C., having scored 195 runs, left the Corps 72 runs to make in 135 minutes. Lewis and Keech opened the Signals' innings confidently, but with the score at 33, the former was l.b.w to Alexander for 11. Tebay joined Keech, and unhurriedly they saw the Corps home for the only victory in not too successful a season. Keech scoring 32 and Tebay 22.

Next year the match will be held on 24th/25th June at the same venue, and it is hoped that many more spectators will attend and enjoy the amenities that the Surrey County Cricket Club have placed at our disposal; to them we are indebted for a most enjoyable and altogether very satisfactory stay.

Survey of Season, 1958

The final record was as follows:

Played 7; Won 1; Drawn 4; Lost 2.

Corps Cricket Colours were awarded to the undermentioned:
Captain S. G. de Clive-Lowe
Lieutenant G. B. Crook
Lance-Corporal K. Tebay

Congratulations are extended to the following ex-Corps Cricketers:
F. H. Tyson—for selection for M.C.C. to Australasia.
D. J. Green—Captain-elect, Cambridge University XI.
A. C. Smith—Captain-elect, Oxford University XI.
P. T. Marner (Lancs.)—for a highly-successful return from serious illness.

ROYAL SIGNALS OFFICERS' GOLFING SOCIETY AUTUMN MEETING, 1958

The Autumn Meeting was held at Hankley Common Golf Club on 29th, 30th September and 1st October, 1958. Twenty-two members fought the elements for three days and despite the high winds and heavy rains the meeting was a success.

Mrs. W. G. Tucker kindly presented the prizes at the end of the third day:

Royal Signals Open Championship
Winner, Major-General Cole, C.B.E.; runner-up, Major J. Y. Ferguson.

Royal Signals Regular Officers Cup
Winner, Major-General E. S. Cole, C.B.E.; runner-up, Major J. Y. Ferguson.

Individual Challenge Cup (Stableford)
Winner, Major-General E. S. Cole, C.B.E.; runner-up, Major-General C. H. H. Vulliamy, C.B., D.S.O.

Handicap Challenge Cup
Winner, Major J. Y. Ferguson; runner-up, Major-General E. S. Cole, C.B.E.

Foursomes Challenge Cup
Winners, Major-General R. F. H. Nalder, C.B., O.B.E., and Major-General A. E. Morrison, C.B., O.B.E.; runners-up, Major P. M. C. Spence and Major W. Macdonald.



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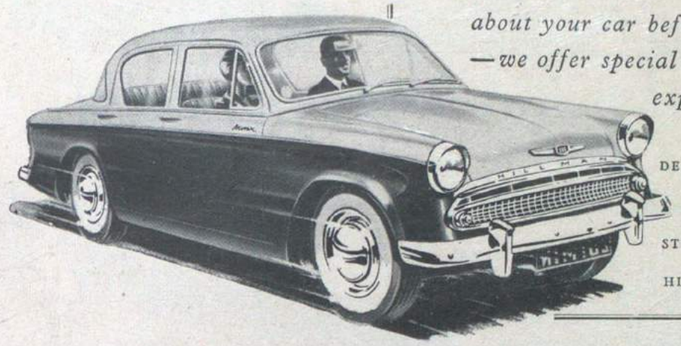
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For full details write to the Personnel Officer (Graduate Recruitment) at the Head Office, St. Helens, Lancashire, giving age and a brief description of education.

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Applications are invited from qualified candidates to fill by competitive interview, the following posts :—

1. **Engineer/Technicians grades A & B and grades 1 & 2**
   Radio Engineers are required for shift duties in Receiving and Transmitting Stations at home and abroad. Applicants should have experience in the maintenance of Communication Receivers and associated equipment and/or experience in the operation and maintenance of Telegraphy Transmitters and High Power Broadcast Transmitters and should have technical knowledge to the standard of the C & G Final in Telecommunications or the H.N.C. or show evidence of an equivalent standard of technical education.
   Grading according to qualifications and experience.
   Salary Scales: grade A £1,235 — £1,464; grade B £1,180 — £1,325.
   grade 1 £974 — £1,180; grade 2 £820 (at age 30 years) — £974.
   Adequate allowances paid whilst serving overseas and in most cases families may accompany husbands to posts abroad.

2. **Engineer/Technicians grade 3**
   Radio Engineers required for shift duties in Receiving and Transmitting Stations at home and abroad. Applicants should have experience in the maintenance of Communication Receivers and associated equipment and/or experience in the operation and maintenance of Telegraphy Transmi ters and High Power Broadcast Transmitters and should have technical knowledge to the standard of the C & G Intermediate in Telecommunications or its equivalent. Adequate allowance paid whilst serving overseas and in most cases families may accompany husbands to posts abroad.

3. **Control Room Engineers** required for shift duties in hte Radio Teleprinter Terminal in London. Applicants should have experience in the maintenance of Teleprinters, V.F. Telegraph and other line equipment, and have some knowledge of short wave Radio Propagation. They should have technical knowledge to the standard of the C & G Intermediate in Telecommunications or its equivalent.

4. **Charge Hand Rigger** required at a Radio Station in Buckinghamshire. Applicants must have experience in the erection of steel and wooden masts up to 150ft. in height and the rigging of aerial wires and transmission lines.
   Salary Scale grade 3 £655 (at age 26 years) — £820.

Candidates must be British subjects or citizens of the Irish Republic born within the Commonwealth or in the Irish Republic of parents born within these territories.

All first appointments are on a temporary basis with prospects of establishment. Candidates must be prepared to undergo a medical examination. The Department, which already employs a large number of ex-members of Royal Navy, Royal Signals, R.E.M.E. and the R.A.F., will welcome applications from qualified ex-Servicemen who have served in Technical Units of H.M. Forces.

Write giving age, qualifications and experience to :—

The Chief Establishment Officer,
Diplomatic Wireless Service,
Foreign Office, London, S.W.1.

THE WIRE

THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE

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, 15/-; single month, 1/3.

☆

DECEMBER • 1958

Vol. 12 *(New Series)* **No. 12**

Editorial

THE first thing to do is to give good wishes for Christmas and for 1959 to all of Royal Signals who are serving at home and overseas and to all of the Association who have now ceased to serve.

Next we should "count our blessings." 1958 has been a good year. Royal Signals all over the world have kept their communications through in circumstances of difficulty, discomfort and sometimes danger. The 16th Parachute Brigade Signal Squadron quite deservedly hit the headlines but the 3rd Divisional Signal Regiment and others have been almost equally mobile.

Some of our famous Regiments have gone, in reorganisation, but if rumour is correct they will rise again in the not too distant future.

Despite reductions the Corps has continued its wonderful generosity to aid the work of the Association. The final figures cannot be given until January but it is already clear that the smaller numbers have given very nearly as much as the record sum given in 1957.

* * *

We must all look to 1959 with confidence that Royal Signals will continue to enhance the great reputation of the Corps.

All not now privileged to serve should spare a thought for the very many who on Christmas night, and indeed every night in the year, are at their duty.

* * *

It is also right that at this time of the year THE WIRE should thank all those who give of their time to contribute to its columns, to those who buy it and read it and not least to the staff of F. J. Parsons Ltd. who print it, and send it all over the world. Without their skilled assistance and wise advice it would be impossible to maintain a reasonable standard.

* * *

The F. R. Cobb Memorial Trophy

The response of Ex-Boys of all ages and from all countries to the appeal launched on 1st June, 1958, has been most generous. Donations have also been received from a number of both serving and retired officers of the Corps who wished to be associated with the memorial.

Donations total £120, and it was decided to close the appeal from 1st November, 1958.

The Chairman of the Appeal Committee (Major-General Sir Hubert Rance, G.C.M.G., G.B.E., C.B., and the committee members would like, through the medium of THE WIRE, to thank all who have subscribed.

The Committee is arranging to purchase a suitable trophy, which will be inscribed as a memorial presentation piece from the Ex-Boys of the Corps. The formal presentation and the date of the occasion will be announced in THE WIRE at least two months prior to the selected date.

To all Ex-Boys who subscribed towards this project, and to the individual officers who subscribed although not Ex-Boys, the committee say, "Thank you."

VALE

Brigadier D. St. J. Hoysted, C.B.E.



In its early history officers of Royal Signals either served the Indian Signal Corps or served in Egypt, or elsewhere. Hoysted was unusual in that fate kept him in England from 1924 to 1932. From 1st Divisional Signals he went to 2nd Indian Divisional Signals in Quetta for three years; S.T.C. India for a further three and Waziristan District Signals for two. It will be agreed Divisional Signals was his bent.

He passed in to the Staff College in 1939 but his course was broken by the outbreak of war and the War Office claimed him for two years until he joined the newly-forming 11 Armoured Divisional Signals. Staff work soon reclaimed him. He "escaped" again, however, in 1942 to command 79th Armoured Divisional Signals but after a little more than a year he returned to the staff and at the end of 1943 he went to Supreme Headquarters A.E.F. In 1946 he returned to India to relieve Gardiner as Deputy Director where Brigadier Akehurst will have been grateful for his knowledge and Indian experience of the Indian Signal Corps during the partition in 1947.

After two years in the Signals Directorate in the War Office he was promoted Colonel and sent abroad again in 1950; this time to Egypt to seek pastures new in the Air Formation field as C.A.F.S.O. Middle East Air Force. He returned to England once more in 1952, was promoted Brigadier and appointed Chief Signal Officer Western Command in December, 1952. It was during this appointment that his valuable services were recognised by the award of the C.B.E. After nearly three years at Chester he was appointed C.S.O. Northern Command and moved to York in November, 1955. In both of these appointments his Exercises "Smoke Signal" were famous things for the Territorial Army and Army Emergency Reserve Officers for whom they were designed. He has a great aptitude for such things, and always caught the imagination of participants.

The "Guest Night" after these exercises, with its silver from all the T.A. Regiments, the Trumpeters and an "eating orchestra" from the Corps Band were famous occasions.

After dinner Desmond used to mount a table in the Camp Ante-room and make "a few announcements." These, so often, included the first news of the promotion of some of the officers present. The ensuing conviviality was always appropriate to the occasion.

For nearly thirty-three years Desmond Hoysted has served the Corps and the Army loyally and efficiently and he will be missed. Rumour has it, however, that he may take on a "retired officer" appointment with the Corps so we shall not lose him altogether.

We wish him and his wife the best of luck on his retirement and offer our best wishes to them for continued happiness.

THE ROYAL CORPS OF SIGNALS

A History of its Antecedents and Development

BY

MAJOR-GENERAL R. F. H. NALDER, C.B., O.B.E.

with a Foreword by

FIELD-MARSHAL THE RIGHT HONOURABLE THE EARL ALEXANDER OF TUNIS, K.G., G.C.B., G.C.M.G., C.S.I., D.S.O., M.C., D.C.L., LL.D.

This volume covers the period from the Napoleonic Wars until 1955. Starting with the visual "telegraph," it traces the successive development for Army use of the "electric telegraph," the telephone and, finally, wireless. It deals with the telegraph organization of the Royal Engineers, which later was expanded into the Royal Engineers Signal Service and was eventually superseded by Royal Signals. It describes the formation of Royal Signals and its growth during the first thirty-five years of existence.

The book contains a section giving brief biographies, with photographs, of some 80 officers. It also includes the outline histories of 53 signal regiments, selected from those which have been in existence since the Second World War. It is illustrated with 12 plates and 26 maps, and, as a frontispiece, has a coloured reproduction of a portrait of the Colonel-in-Chief, Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal.

Published on 15th December, 1958, by The Royal Signals Institution, 88, Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1.

Price 30/- (including packing and postage).

Cheques/Postal Orders to be made payable to "The Royal Signals History A/C."

4 (INDIAN) AIR FORMATION SIGNALS REUNION

The twelfth Annual Reunion took place in London on 8th November, 1958. Eighteen members of the old Unit attended the Reunion; and the all-too-short evening passed in pleasant reminiscence and light banter of the trials of an efficient Signal unit which finally ended up in Japan. Of that unit, only four Regular officers are still serving.

It is unique, perhaps, that members of this old Unit still meet every year to sustain a wonderful spirit of comradeship that existed, and still exists, among members of the Corps. It may be of interest, also, to know that on the occasion of each reunion the old Unit flag is brought along. It is very frayed and torn, and "Jimmy" still seems to be looking for the Japs!

As members we are eternally grateful to stalwarts like Henry Hayfield and Bob Rogers, who work so hard to keep us together and draw us to London once a year to revive the old spirit.

The following members attended the reunion: Messrs. Baker, Beale, Beech, Bradford, Chisnall, Collins, Fowler-Dixson, Harrower, Hayfield, Hetherington, Mansfield, Newton, Nichols, Rawlings, Shrimpton, Simpson, Stewart-Jones and Vevers.

Corps Silver

The Asoka Pillar



This handsome centre-piece, together with an illuminated parchment signed by General Cariappa, the G.O.C.-in-C India, was presented to the Royal Corps of Signals by the Indian Signal Corps to commemorate the many happy years of close association and comradeship of the two Corps in peace and war from the formation of the Indian Signal Corps in 1920 until India became independent on 15th August, 1947.

It is a replica of the Capital of an Asoka pillar, and this Capital with its Persian lions has become the national symbol of India.

The Emperor Asoka, a famous Buddhist Emperor, reigned from 264 B.C. to 227 B.C. over a vast tract of land including India from latitude 13° up to the Himalayas, Nepal, Kashmir, the Surat Valley, Afghanisan as far as the Hindu Kush, Sind and Baluchistan.

He was a grandson of Chandragupta who had wrested the Indian provinces of Alexander the Great from Seleucus. In the ninth year of his reign the Emperor Asoka invaded Kalinga and became so deeply impressed with the horrors involved in warfare that he abandoned that form of conquest and devoted himself to conquest by "religion." This religion was explained in some of his edicts. It was purely ethical, independent of theology and ritual, and was a code of morals laid down in the Buddhist sacred books for laymen. About thirty-five of his inscriptions, including seven pillar edicts, still exist, and they are among the most interesting of Buddhist monuments.

The object of the edicts was to proclaim the firm determination of Asoka to govern his people righteously and kindly in accordance with the duty of pious kings, and with consideration for other religious belief, other than the Brahminical faith. Three years before the end of his long reign he became a convert to the Buddhist order and, following the not infrequent custom of Indian Kings, he abdicated, took the vows of a monk and spent the remainder of his days in religious retirement in a cave dwelling on Savarnagira, the hills surrounding the ancient city of Girivraja.

The column of Asoka at Sanchi was probably one of the most remarkable of the pillars. It originally stood by the South gateway of the Great Stupa, or relic mound. It was 42ft. high and weighed 40 tons. The column is now shattered, but on its broken stump is an edict written in the early Brahmi characters. The Capital with its "back to back" lions is in the Museum. It affords an excellent example of what Graeco-Persian art was achieving at that period.

* * *

Mallorca

Lieutenant-Colonel F. H. Bury lives at Es Portellet, Galilea, Mallorca, Balearic Islands, and has very kindly said that if any members of the Royal Corps of Signals considers having a holiday in that delightful spot he (Colonel Bury) will be only too pleased to give any help and advice they wish.



W.O.I (R.S.M.) C. A. THOMPSON, M.B.E.

The Corps loses yet another of its outstanding personalities with the release, after 23 years' service, of W.O.I (R.S.M.) C. A. Thompson, M.B.E.

He joined Royal Signals in November, 1935, and after basic training elected to become a despatch rider. Passing out top of his course, his outstanding ability as a rider and mechanic resulted in his selection as a member of the Corps display team. During his stay with the team he introduced a number of new items, including the now famous "ladder."

When the team disbanded at the outbreak of war, the young Lance-Corporal Thompson was posted to Catterick, where his experience and success as an instructor earned him rapid promotion. The realisation of his ambition to serve abroad came with posting to India early in 1944. It was at Mhow he developed the talent as a drill instructor, which was to be called upon increasingly from then onwards.

Southern Command Signals (I) saw S.Q.M.S., later R.Q.M.S., Thompson engaged in supplying Signal stores to 14 Army in Burma, although even during this exacting time, his prowess as a drill instructor required him to make frequent appearances on the drill square.

In April, 1946, R.S.M. Thompson was given the task of training a motor cycle display team consisting of Indian ranks of Southern Command Signal Regiment. An addition to the usual problems inherent in such an undertaking was a demand from members of the team for "danger money"!

A brief year at home in 1947 was followed by a tour in Singapore, where again he devoted much of his time and energy to training a very successful motor cycle trials team.

Returning to England, he spent 18 months with 42 Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment (T.A.) before being posted to 6 (Boys) Training Regiment, later to become Junior Leaders Regiment, Royal Signals.

The wealth of experience he gathered during the years has been of immeasurable value in this appointment. His sincerity, strength of character and dedication to all aspects of training and welfare of boys in the Regiment, was recognised by the award of the M.B.E. in November, 1957. Boys have found in him an example of a first-class regimental soldier, tradesman and instructor, and all have benefited by his understanding, encouragement and warm humanity.

He has been nobly supported by Mrs. Thompson in all his efforts and we wish them both every success and happiness as they go out into civilian life.

The Brookwood Memorial

On Saturday, 25th October, 1958, the Representative Colonel Commandant, Major-General R. F. H. Nalder, C.B., O.B.E., attended the unveiling of the Brookwood Memorial in Brookwood Military Cemetery, near Woking, Surrey, by Her Majesty The Queen.

The Memorial, built by the Imperial War Graves Commission, takes the form of an open rotunda of Portland Stone with fourteen piers radiating from a grassed court in the centre. Each pier has on either face a panel of green Broughton Moor slate bearing the names.

Facing the central court is a curved stone wall on one side which is the bronze box containing the Memorial Register, and on the other the following inscription:—

1939-1945

This Memorial bears the names of three thousand five hundred men and women of the Forces of the British Commonwealth and Empire who gave their lives in their own country and in many foreign lands, in home and distant waters, in the Campaign of 1940, in Norway and in later raids on the coast of Europe, and to whom the fortune of war denied a known and honoured grave.

Surrounding the Memorial will be wide grassed walks bounded by curved yew hedges with recessed seat features and flower beds, the whole being framed by eight weeping birches. Four adjacent quadrants are to be planted with rhododendrons, azaleas, heathers and other shrubs and flowers.

Major-General R. F. H. Nalder, C.B., O.B.E., placed a wreath on the Memorial for the Royal Corps of Signals and the Association.

The Royal Canadian Corps of Signals was represented by Colonel C. A. Peck, O.B.E., C.D., who also laid a wreath on the Memorial.

PERSONAL COLUMN

London Gazette

14th October, 1958

Captain (Q.M.) J. L. Callan resigns his commission, 14th October, 1958.

21st October, 1958

For services in Malaya.

M.B.E. Major A. Pagan. Seconded to the Malayan Federation Forces.

Mentioned in Despatches Major J. C. Clinch. Seconded to the Malayan Federation Forces.

24th October, 1958

Major P. F. Pentreath, M.B.E., to be Bt. Lieutenant-Colonel, 1st July, 1958.

Lieutenant-Colonel D. N. Deakin retired 25th October, 1958.

31st October, 1958

Lieutenant-Colonel G. Thomson retired 30th October, 1958.

7th November, 1958

Major-General L. de M. Thuillier, C.B., O.B.E., retired 7th November, 1958.

Movements — Officers

What is shown below is extracted from a periodical look at a file which contains A.G.11 posting orders. Movements shown below are not necessarily accurate, or up-to-date.

Major C. Newbold, 4 Training Regiment to 1 Training Regiment.

Lieutenant-Colonel D. E. L. Gardiner, AAFCE to Depot Regiment (HS) pending retirement.

Major B. C. Skelly, East Africa to B.A.O.R.

Lieutenant-Colonel A. C. Cox, War Office to Depot Regiment (HS).

Major R. S. Campbell, B.A.O.R. to FARELF.

Colonel M. A. Charlton, B.A.O.R to War Office.

Major R. J. F. Whistler, ALFCE to Cyprus District Signal Regiment.

Captain (T.O.T.) L. S. Pettifer, FARELF to Depot (HS).

Lieutenant (T.O.T.) G. E. Pinder, Signal Regiment (U.K.) to Army Increment to J.I.B.

Lieutenant (T.O.T.) R. Taylor, Depot (HS) to Signal Regiment, U.K.

Lieutenant (Tfc. Offr.) S. J. Wyatt, FARELF to B.A.O.R.

Captain (T.O.T.) T. H. Amott, 2 Maintenance Team to Signal Regiment, U.K.

Lieutenant (T.O.T.) W. R. Hefferon, User Trials Squadron to Signal Regiment, U.K.

Captain (T.O.T.) C. E. Runeckles, 1 and 2 Installation Troop to Signal Regiment, U.K.

Major R. P. D. Painter, 1 Special Wireless Troop to Signal Regiment, U.K.

Major J. R. Romaines, User Trials Squadron to Signal Regiment, U.K.

Major T. N. Skelly, Staff College, Camberley to Depot Regiment (HS).

Major D. V. Wellings, War Office Monitoring Team to Signal Regiment, U.K.

Lieutenant-Colonel P. A. Duke, War Office to Depot Regiment (HS).

Major E. J. Winn, FARELF to Depot Regiment (HS).

Major R. T. M. Sharp, Depot Regiment (HS) to 3 Training Regiment.

Major F. D. Williams, B.A.O.R. to Cyprus.

Lieutenant-Colonel T. G. V. Stephenson, H.Q., N.I.D. to Depot Regiment (HS) pending retirement.

Lieutenant (T.O.T.) W. A. Nation, Malta to U.K. COMCAN Signal Regiment.

Major D. Dibsdall, Ministry of Supply to Depot Regiment (HS).

Births

NEWMAN.—To Captain and Mrs. J. M. Newman, a son, Stuart Richard, at Sheffield, on 3rd August, 1958.

BELL.—To Sergeant and Mrs. H. Bell, a son, Duncan Edward, at Maybole, on 5th July, 1958.

SAUNDERS.—To Staff Sergeant and Mrs. J. E. Saunders, of Eastern Command (M) Signal Regiment, T.A., a daughter, Lindsey Ruth, on 21st October, 1958.

KENNETT.—To Mr. and Mrs. L. S. Kennett (Hon. Secretary North London Branch, Royal Signals Association), a daughter, Carole Joyce, at Chase Farm Hospital, on 29th September, 1958.

Deaths

EVANS.—Ex-Signalman R. B. Evans, of 14, Norman Drive, Rhyl, Flintshire, on 11th March, 1958, aged 25 years.

LAWRENCE.—Ex-Signalman E. C. Lawrence, of 31, Grantham Road, S.W.9, on 8th September, 1958, aged 38 years. Life Member of the Association.

LAWTON.—Ex-Signalman C. F. Lawton, of 77, Millbrook Road, S.W.9, on 18th October, 1958, aged 32 years.

SPENDER.—Ex-Signalman W. H. Spender, of 78, Cavendish Gardens, Barking, Essex, on 11th October, 1958, aged 43 years. Served in Royal Signals from 1943 to 1947 and was a Life Member of the Association.

GREGG.—Mr. H. T. Gregg, at his home, 283, Holdenhurst Road, Bournemouth, on 27th October, 1958. He served in Royal Signals from 1936 to 1945, was an Annual Member of the Association and President of the Bournemouth Branch.

BUNTON.—23429643 Signalman R. L. Bunton, on 5th October, 1958, in Cyprus.

LLOYD.—Captain L. N. Lloyd, of 36, Hampton Road, Worcester Park, Surrey, on 3rd October, 1958.

Arrivals and Departures

1 Training Regiment

Arrivals: Colonel E. C. R. Blaker, O.B.E., Major C. Newbold and Sergeant G. W. Bulman.

Departures: Lieutenant-Colonel J. J. Lamb, O.B.E., Staff Sergeant W. Medford and Sergeant T. Ion.

Northern Command Signal Squadron

Arrivals: W.O.II E. J. Ford.

Departures: Major J. Prentice.

4 Training Regiment

Arrivals: Staff Sergeants Thom and Spours, Sergeant Waring.

Departures: Major C. Newbold.

19 Army Group Signal Regiment

Arrivals: Major L. V. McNaught-Davies, Captain (Q.M.) G. Thornton, W.O.s II Russell, Taylor, Clements, Sergeants Izzo, Edwards, Frost, Kingham, Clarke and Winfield.

Departures: Majors R. Roderick and W. T. M. Gaskell, W.O.I Cowsill, W.O.II Holland, Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Marshall, Staff Sergeants Donovan, Byers, Darby, Sergeants Morse, Skill and Brown.

* * *

BRONZE STATUE OF "JIMMY" FOR SALE

Situated in Edinburgh, the statue is 3ft. high, at present mounted on a 4ft. Billiard Table Leg. The owner has given it to the Association to sell to the highest bidder—minimum £50. The proceeds go—half to the Royal Signals Association and half to a charity nominated by the owner, Major W. J. Main, Royal Signals.

Regiments, Squadrons wishing to purchase, apply: General Secretary, Royal Signals Association, 88, Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1.

BOUND VOLUMES of "THE WIRE"

We have available material to bind in book form 20 copies of the 1958 "WIRE." Messes and individuals who require bound volumes should please let the Editor know as soon as possible.

PRICE IS £2/10/0

Those who served 1951-53 will be interested to learn that Mr. J. Mortimore, of the Gloucestershire County Cricket Club, who has recently joined the M.C.C. team in Australia, did his National Service in Royal Signals during those years and his Territorial Army Training with 43rd (Wessex) Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A.

* * *

Staff Sergeant E. P. Finnigan, 4th Brigade Group, Signal Squadron, Papakura Camp, New Zealand, would like to hear of old friends in Royal Signals.

"F" Company (Boy), 1935-38.
4 Sec. Palestine Force Signals, 1939-46.
16 Infantry Brigade Signal Section, 1939-1946.

Forthcoming Events

NORTH LONDON BRANCH 4th Annual Dinner and Dance, at The Cambridge Hotel, Palmers Green, N.13, on Saturday, 14th March, 1959. Tickets from L. S. Kennett, 201, Lonsdale Drive, Enfield, Middlesex. £1 1s. 0d. each.

SATURDAY, 21st MARCH, 1959

Special General Meeting, Royal Signals Association. This will be combined with the Branch Representatives' Meeting, Duke of York's H.Q., Chelsea, London, S.W.3.

Wednesday, 27th May, 1959 ...	Corps Dinner, Hyde Park Hotel.
Thursday, 28th May, 1959 ...	Central Committee Meeting, Royal Signals Association.
	Regular Officers' "At Home," Hyde Park Hotel.
Saturday, 4th July, 1959 ..	Royal Signals Association Annual General
Sunday, 5th July, 1959 ...	Meeting. Corps Week-End and Association Reunion at CATTERICK.

ROYAL SIGNALS RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB, FIXTURES, 1958-59

Date	Opponents	Ground
Dec. 20th 1959	Wakefield	Wakefield
†Jan. 17th	Preston Grasshoppers	Catterick
†Jan. 21st	Royal Artillery	Catterick
†Feb. 4th	Royal Military Academy	Camberley
Feb. 7th	Harrogate	Harrogate
†Feb. 12th	Oxford University Greyhounds	Oxford
Feb. 21st	Billingham	Catterick
Feb. 25th	Leeds University	Catterick
Feb. 28th	Durham City	Catterick

† Corps Representative Matches

ROYAL SIGNALS HOCKEY CLUB, FIXTURES, 1958-59

Date	Opponents	Ground
1959		
Wed. Feb. 18th	R.M.C. of Science	Aldershot
Fri. Feb. 20th	R.A.O.C.	Blackdown

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL CLUB FIXTURES, 1958-59

Date	*Opponents*	*Ground*
1959		
Wednesday, 4th February ...	Durham University	Home
Saturday, 21st February ...	Sheffield University	Away
Wednesday, 4th March ...	Manchester University	Home
... ... * ...	R.A.O.C.	Home
... ... * ...	R.A.C.	Home

* Dates not yet confirmed.

Have *YOU* completed and returned the Order Form for "The Wire" for 1959 enclosed in the October number?

If this is not received *BEFORE* 1st January, 1959, you will not receive the January or subsequent numbers of "The Wire."

PROMOTIONS

Technical Roster

To W.O.I	2322004	(20)	W.O.II	Moore, M. C.
	2322457	(30)	W.O.II	Scott, G. H.
	2324483	(40)	W.O.II	Fisk, R. A.

Foreman of Signals Roster

To W.O.I	21127322	(500)	W.O.II	Baker, J. D.
	2547765	(550)	W.O.II	Spragg, R. G. P.

Signal Centre Supervisor Roster

	2549317	(210)	A/W.O.II	Duncan, D.
	21188032	(220)	A/W.O.II	Matheson, D.

Regimental Duty Roster

To W.O.I	2323857	(1960)	W.O.II	Rumford, E.
	2326953	(790)	A/W.O.I	Kempton, D.
	6012184	(812)	W.O.II	Barnes-Murphy, M. A.
	2820567	(830)	W.O.II	Donaldson, J.
To W.O.II	14498268	(1124)	A/W.O.II	Reed, A. A. J.
	22515936	(1126)	A/W.O.II	Armstrong, D. R.
	68158	(1140)	A/W.O.II	Charles, F. H.
	14464300	(1150)	A/W.O.II	Foster, R.
	14759394	(1170)	S Sgt.	Bees, D.
To S Sgt.	22204014	(90)	Sgt.	Rigby, D. C.

DELETIONS

Regimental Duty Roster

W.O.I	90				
W.O.II	480	800	690	920	
S Sgt.	2720	3490	840	310	

Lineman Roster

Sgt.	10	1350	700	

General Trades and Duties Roster

Sgt.	1860	1390	147	1420	1000	1790	1310

Clerical Roster

Sgt.	760

Operating Roster

Sgt.	4910	4650	100	3440	4200	4630
	4850					

DELETIONS

Technical Roster

Sgt.	1180	1380	30

Foreman of Signals Roster

W.O.II	370

INSERTIONS

Regimental Duty Roster

2979614	S Sgt.	Youngman, H.	(4074)

General Trades and Duties Roster

779141	Sgt.	Hickson-Brown, M. E.	(14)

Clerical Roster

14440343	Sgt.	Creigh, C.	(34)

Technical Roster

21058261	Sgt.	Wilson, F. W.	(1152)
2549595	Sgt.	Radford, J.	(2254)

DELETIONS

Regimental Duty Roster

2598114	W.O.I	Symonds, G. B.	(140)	Commissioned LT (Qm)	1 Sep 58
2324007	W.O.I	Harding, J. V.	(170)	Commissioned LT (Qm)	15 Sep 58

United Kingdom

1 TRAINING REGIMENT

The first fortnight of the month was a busy time for everyone. In fact we are just now recovering from a series of farewell parties and dinners arranged to speed Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. Lamb on their way.

Harvest Festival was celebrated in St. Martin's Church on Sunday, 19th, and the following day we had a visit from the District Commander.

For some years now, the Cary Theatre, Dales Club and Radio Club have been thriving in our midst. Quite recently the Saddle Club has taken up residence in what was the old Mounted Wing stables and, more recently, our M.T. set-up.

Winter sports continue to engage our attention. At the moment we head the District Soccer League, but after a replay with 7 Training Regiment, in the Army Cup, have ceased to be interested in that competition for another season. In the Army Rugby Cup we had a rather easy win in the second round against the Army Apprentices School, Harrogate, who put up a spirited but unavailing struggle.

2 TRAINING REGIMENT

After a dummy run on Amalgamation, we still are in existence, despite what THE WIRE readers might otherwise think. Queen's Birthday Parade, Old Comrades' Week-end and the Administrative Inspection (which revealed no major skeletons) have all passed by.

Major Philip Smith, our Second-in-Command, was dined out in September, having "done his bit." Twenty-six years was it? His sword is replaced by the pen, and we wish him good luck at Durham University. W.O.II Powis also joined civilian ranks when he departed from the Regiment. "Bill" (F.T.C.) Williams has taken over Second-in-Command, and Major Waters as O.C. "H.Q." Squadron. Major Kennett stepped into the Chief Instructor's shoes when Major Wythe left us for Cyprus. Whilst on personalities—an officer, who shall be nameless, had occasion to telephone the Wing Commander, Administration, at R.A.F., Catterick, the R.A.F. Regiment Depot. He announced himself as "the Assistant Adjutant, 2nd Training Regiment, Royal Signals, Catterick Camp," and received the answer "Congratulations"!

At the St. Martin's Church Fete, early in September, we ran jumble and grocery stalls and also pony rides. The profits from these ventures being very nearly £32.

At sport, our cricket team did well to reach the final of the Northumbrian District Knockout Competition. Lieutenant D. A. Davies, the team captain, was unfortunately posted before the final game. Signalman Fontaine, who played in many representative games, and Sergeant Ruddy did well, but were unable to prevent defeat in the final. A cricket bat, nevertheless, has joined the cup won by Lance-Corporal R. O. Williams (Army 3 Miles Champion) on our Regimental mantelpiece. We sincerely hope that Lance-Corporal Williams makes a speedy recovery from the Lake District accident in which he was involved and that he is soon running again. R.S.M. Taylor organised the Officers versus W.O.s and Sergeants cricket match and was on the winning side, in spite of the Officers winning the toss and putting up just over 100 (Captain McKail 36 and Major McVickers 23). All round, a pleasant afternoon, during which, time was also found for miscellaneous children's races over 25 yards!

Captain Frank Philp and S.S.M. D. A. Jones are still "trying" with the soccer team. At hockey we are more or less even on wins and losses—perhaps the team is waiting for younger blood, as the avergae age must be near 40! The boxing team is in training, and meets the 11th Hussars on 6th November.

The Wives' Club have had a busy season and have spent pleasant evenings together on a trip in the Dales, lectures and demonstrations on flower arrangement, make-up, and first aid in the home. Another enjoyable evening was also spent with a group of local country dancers from Tunstall. Partners were a little short as so many husbands seemed to have volunteered for baby-sitting!

3 DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT

And again we are firmly established in Colchester after our usual annual tour abroad. The majority of our personnel were conducted home in grand style by R.A.F. Comets flying at 44,000ft. and taking about five hours to complete the journey from Nicosia to Lynham.

Many thanks are due to the R.A.F. for the organisation of an extremely comfortable journey. Before and after emplaning, we were provided with tea or coffee and also a light snack whilst airborne. On arrival at Lynham we all climbed aboard a luxury coach, anticipating a long journey, but after driving a few hundred yards, we all got off for more tea whilst the Customs prepared to receive us or rather receive off us. We then heard that dreaded phrase "Transit Camp" for the night, and prepared for the worst. However, our fears were soon put to rest, for on arrival we sat down to a substantial steak dinner. This was luxury indeed after the compo delicacies such as steak and kidney pudding, to which we became accustomed in Cyprus. By this time, we fully expected to find hot water bottles in our beds and felt quite cheerful. Most of us spent the evening showing off our tans by standing next to the whitest of the permanent staff.

After three weeks' leave, we all turned up for the first works parade, which was held knee deep in the Autumn leaves that had accumulated on the square during our absence. The R.S.M. was all for a court of enquiry to find out why the leaves had dared to violate his sacred parade ground. However, we soon had things ship-shape and the Tara settled down happily to polishing his pace stick and thinking up new amendments to Standing Orders.

Since returning we have thrown out challenges to all and sundry for hockey, football, swimming, basketball, etc. To date we have got the basketball going with a swing, beating the M.P.S.C. and the Provost Company. The former were the garrison champions of last season.

The big surprise was to be moved home with the same speed and alacrity with which we were sent out. Quite a few would have preferred to stay in Cyprus, and even now, there is a little nostalgia for the hulabaloo of the Reema Factory.

The Sea Tail arrived soon after the air transported personnel and we have really got to get down to the business of getting back into business. Who knows? We may be put at planning notice and move in three days at any time. Come to 3 Division if you want to travel on the cheap.

The married patch seem to have spent their disembarkation leave digging gardens and mowing lawns. There is a lot to be said for the old fashioned barracks like Sobraon, no gardens to dig and very little grass to keep down, just a few areas of concrete to be swept.

To 3 G.H.Q. Signal Regiment, once again we thank you for putting up with us, and hope you will miss the cuckoo from the nest. If no one else misses us, Shahab Din will, and we thank him too for the free char on our departure. We will probably be in the Middle East for the 1959 Silly Season, so keep the Keo on the ice and a corner bed space for your correspondent.

4 TRAINING REGIMENT

Today, as I write these notes, the first ice of winter has formed on the roads of Catterick, the wind is glowing from the frozen North and fatigue parties are busy sweeping up fallen leaves. Winter has definitely arrived. We have, as a matter of fact, been very lucky in the weather during October, with bright warm sun almost every day, so we cannot complain.

On Guy Fawkes' Night we had the usual Regimental bonfire and firework display, which was attended by a large crowd of children and fathers. Baked potatoes were provided by Sergeant Robinson and the fireworks were let off by S.S.M. Firth, not always, we think, in the manner he intended. The bonfire was one of the best ever and having been ceremoniously lit by the R.S.M. at 6.30, it was still smouldering the next morning. It would probably be tactless to say what it consisted of, that being a secret known only to the Quartermaster's staff, we hope. Anyway, it was a magnificent affair. The fire picquet stood by throughout, ready to deal with any emergency. Fortunately, their services were not required, as it was later found that several cars had been parked on the hoses, which would not have helped the water supply much.

Remembrance Sunday was marked by the usual parade service, and in addition two field guns on our barrack square were used to signal the times for the two minutes' silence. At

least, two were meant to be used, but one of them had a misfire and had to be left fully loaded for the regulation safety time—we were rather alarmed, as it was pointing straight at the road along which the march past was due to take place, and even though loaded with blank ammunition, it could have caused some inconvenience if it had suddenly gone off during the march past. However, the Gunners duly cleared it and drove off before any damage was done.

Past members of the Regiment who used to be concerned with entertaining the parents on intake afternoons will be interested to hear that we now have a new demonstration for them. This is a mock-up of a COMCAN circuit from the War Office to Malta, and the parents can see the whole process from originator to addressee in about three minutes flat. They are suitably impressed, though we understand from men who have worked with COMCAN that the real time of transmission is a little longer than that in practice.

In the world of sport, we wish to congratulate Signalman Taft on getting a certificate of merit in the Army Motor Cycling Championships, 1958, at Blackdown.

The Regimental cycling team has also covered itself with glory, winning third place in the Army best all-round team of the year and winning the Western Command 100 kilometres road race, with Signalman Weekes coming first in the individual placings. The team was Lance-Corporal Burgin, Signalman Weekes and Signalman Hastings, to whom we give our heartiest congratulations on their fine performance.

Signals Training Wing, W.R.A.C. Br. . . . thank goodness the Army has declared it is now winter and we can (with the help of "Scrounger" Dixon) have fires. It has been very cold here and the winds from the moors have been playing havoc with our neat hair styles. Well, the number of trainees is still on the increase and the Wing is rather like a beehive, everybody dashing here, there and everywhere. During the last month we have had a visit from the District Commander, Major-General W. H. Hulton Harrop, D.S.O. He toured the Wing and saw the trainees at work. We were also very pleased to welcome Major Williams, W.R.A.C. Recruiting Officer, from Liverpool. She spent a morning with us and spoke to many of the recruits she had enlisted.

Bonfire night was a big event in the Unit. The Corporals held a social preceded by a bonfire. We hear that Staff Sergeant Slack, our C.Q.M.S., had a very narrow escape. It happened like this; the Corporals had three "guys," one dressed as a W.O.II W.R.A.C., one as a man, and the third as a woman with three stripes and a crown. Now we only have one C.Q.M.S. and it was a very dark night and her stripes are always whitened. Still, all ended happily, as with shouts of joy the W.O.II W.R.A.C. and the man succumbed to the flames. We did, however, notice a slight touch of sorrow as the C.Q.M.S. went up in flames! The fireworks display was well done by Corporal Taylor, who works with the R.E.M.E. here. Supervising all this merriment were the two civilian boilermen. A very good evening!

We would like to say welcome to W.O.II Neal, who has come to the Wing to help us while W.O.II Hobster is away on her long course. We hope she will be happy with us. We feel that she will, especially when she sees the trainees' barrack room. There are masses of photographs of a certain popular entertainer, whom we know she admires. We have lately seen the same look of admiration in W.O.II McCormack's eyes. He must have something, eh? Still, it is good for morale!

No marriages to report this month; a little bird told us that Lance-Corporal Grinnell and Lance-Corporal Ellis have that "caught" look, but we have no definite news yet.

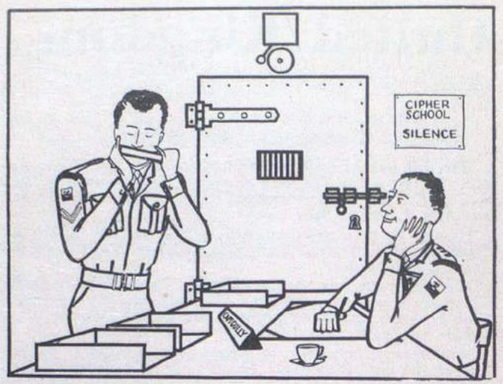
If these notes are in time, may we wish everyone a very happy Christmas and lots of good fortune in the New Year.

SCHOOL OF SIGNALS

We are at present in the midst of preparing for our Annual Administrative Inspection, a popular, but perhaps somewhat tedious subject for THE WIRE Notes. Accordingly, we are concentrating in this issue on animate rather than inanimate objects.

The disbandment of the Officer Training Wing and the formation of the School of Signals Regiment, when the School reorganised, has inevitably involved many changes. Not least amongst these are the changes that have taken place in the Cadre Staff.

We welcome Colonel P. C. Williams as Chief Instructor and wish his predecessor, Colonel G. H. R. Hewlett, good fortune in civilian life. Welcome also to Colonel E. I. E. Mozley in



Captain Gully deciphers a cryptogram, played by Corporal Hall
(Corporal Hall represented Great Britain in the World Harmonica Championships, 1958)

place of Colonel A. B. McVittie as O.C. Planning Wing. The School Regiment is now commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel J. H. St. G. Hamersley, with Major G. Proudman as Second-in-Command, both are comparatively recent arrivals.

Earlier in the month we bade sad farewell to Staff Sergeant "Pop" Pellant who left us for civilian life having completed twenty-two years service. He is an ex-boy and will be remembered by many members of the Corps both past and present. We understand he is to live in Kent and we take this opportunity of wishing him good fortune in his new life.

Congratulations are due to W.O.II Shepherd, Staff Sergeant Meyes, Staff Sergeant Horwell, Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Riley and Sergeant Westerman on the award of Long Service and Good Conduct Medals. They will be presented later this month. Somewhat belatedly we congratulate W.O.II Seymour who was married in August, an event unreported hitherto.

Our final congratulations are reserved for Corporal Hall, of the Cipher School, who distinguished himself in an unusual departure from his military activities. He was selected to represent Great Britain in the World Harmonica Championships held at Pallanza in Northern Italy at the beginning of the month. We are pleased to report that he was most successful, being placed third in the diatonic solo event. Even those among us who think of the instrument as a mouth organ consider that this was a fine effort.

No. 44 Royal Signals Qualifying Course assembled in Catterick on 13th September. Since then several officers have left us to join the young officers' degree course at Shrivenham. The remainder have been introduced to our new system of training in Basics Group. They have already been on two wireless exercises; in addition linelaying has provided some "relief" from the everyday round of academic studies. This month the course are learning to ride motor cycles with 5 Training Regiment at Ripon, so we feel that any criticism that our officers do not get a practical approach to the Corps' work must now be unfounded. There is a high proportion of sportsmen in the course and nearly all the Regimental teams have at least one officer from 44 "Q" in the regular sides.

JUNIOR LEADERS REGIMENT

What can be wetter than wet? The answer lies in the sight of boys assembling at the check point high on Dartmoor at the end of a gruelling spell of "Outward Bound" training late in November. What, one might ask, inverted pleasure can they find in persuading the Troop Officer to dismiss the waiting transport and allow them to march the twelve dark, weary, rain sodden miles back to camp? (Let those who doubt the calibre of our rising generation come to Denbury and find hope!)

One of the few events of note this month was when trumpeters of the Regiment, resplendent in blue patrols and carrying silver trumpets, sounded the poignant and stirring notes of Last Post and Reveille from market square and ancient church towers as the climax to services in a number of towns and local villages on Remembrance Sunday.

Exciting bouts were enjoyed by spectators when the Regiment boxed the apprentices of H.M.S. *Fisgard*. The match was drawn with five wins each and some really good hard-hitting boxing was seen. None of our losers was easily beaten, our wins were decisive and the Regiment feel that at least we gained a moral victory over these strong opponents. An amusing sidelight on this contest was the two coach loads of supporters from *H.M.S. Fisgard* which left Cornwall one hour behind the other. They next met head-on deep in the Devonshire lanes miles from Denbury, both proceeding "under instructions received." Even the local farm workers were fighting for us that night!

The second match of the month resulted in a very well deserved win by ten bouts to five against the R.A.C. Junior Leaders Regiment in the first round of the Junior Leaders Knock-Out Cup. The strength and fitness of the team were apparent throughout the contest and hopes run high for continued success in the next round of the Cup against our old opponents, the Infantry Boys.

At the end of November R.S.M. Thompson leaves us. Elsewhere in this issue is a short appreciation of his services, but we wish to record here our thanks to both he and Mrs. Thompson for all the hard work and efforts they have made on behalf of the Regiment. Goodbye and good fortune.

U.K. COMCAN SIGNAL REGIMENT

R.H.Q. and 1 Squadron. This month has seen quite a bit of activity around Robinswood Barracks.

On 17th October we received a visit from the G.O.C. South Western District.

The Annual Administrative Inspection takes place on 25th November and preparations are now in full swing—what with drill parades, etc., the Square has seldom seen anything like it (even in the time of the Gloucesters).

On 27th October we were besieged by the First COMCAN Conference, at which the Director of Telecommunications, Major-General E. S. Cole, C.B.E., and many other representatives from overseas Signal Units and the Commonwealth attended.

An all ranks dance was held in the Gymnasium on 9th October and a good time was had by all, thanks mainly to the great efforts of the Entertainments Committee headed by Captain J. O. Douglas-Beveridge and the Master of Ceremonies, Sergeant ("Busty") Cowling.

In the field of sport, the rugby team were narrowly beaten by R.A.F., Hereford, in a fast and exciting game, and the basketball team beat the local St. Paul's College from Cheltenham.

We are also in the middle of our Inter-Troop Football Knock-out competition, and results to date are as follows:—

No. 1 Special Communications Signal Troop v. Administration Troop: 2—1.
"B" Troop v. "C" Troop: 4—1.
"A" Troop v. System Control: 1—7.
System Control v. No. 1 Special Communications Signal Troop: 2—2.

During the month we said goodbye to Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Lewis, who left us to join 3 Squadron of the Regiment at Bampton and welcome the arrival of W.O.I (F. of S.) Churchill from the Army Apprentices School, Harrogate.

P.S. If anyone can give information as to where *coloured* prints of the four Corps pictures, "Cable Wagon," "Through," etc., can be obtained, please write to the P.M.C., Officers' Mess, of this Regiment.

2 Squadron. As usual life proceeds at an even tempo, as always, here in 2 Squadron.

The major change has been the change in command, Major A. P. Johnson handing over to Major T. W. Armour. This took place on 23rd October, which was, by a coincidence, the day of our administrative inspection.

The whole Squadron would like to wish Major and Mrs. Johnson all the very best of luck for the future, and we hope Major Johnson will enjoy his new job.

In welcoming Major Armour, we would like to express the wish that his stay here will be a happy one.

Another farewell. We have to say goodbye to our R.A.E.C. Sergeant, Sergeant Rhind, and in saying farewell we would like to say how much we have appreciated having him with us in the Squadron.

3 Squadron. October for us here in Bampton is usually Annual Administrative season, and this year was no different. Sufficient to say we polished, painted and probed in every corner and emerged with a reasonably good report. We have 11 months of recuperation in readiness for the next one.

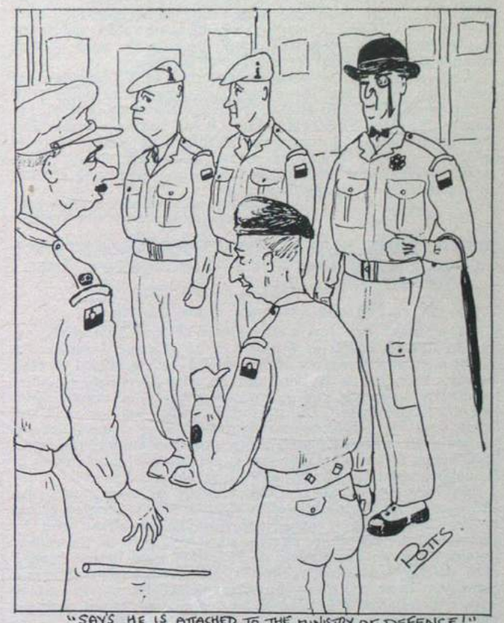
Personnel continue to come and go, and it is a test to keep memorising new names and faces, etc. Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Lewis arrived from Donnington (via 1 Squadron) to take over the tabulating of E.M.E.R.s and dive into the "COMCAN Complications." We hope he retains his youthful looks during his stay.

On the technical side we were graced with a visit from all the officers responsible for the smooth working of all the COMCAN tentacles. Brief though their stay was, many old faces were recognised, and that age-old question, "Weren't you at so and so," was repeated many times.

A party from the Squadron journeyed down to London and Wembley to witness the England footballers humbling the pride of Russia with a 5—0 whacking. Very enjoyable.

Our popular social evenings are back with the winter months, and all the local belles journey down the lane to trip the light fantastic with our rock and roll merchants.

4 Squadron. Missed the boat this time!



"SAYS HE IS ATTACHED TO THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE!"
[War Office Signal Squadron

NORTHERN COMMAND SIGNAL SQUADRON

There have been many changes during the quarter. We welcomed a new Officer Commanding, Major W. R. M. Dunkley, and said a reluctant farewell to Major G. P. R. Anslow, M.B.E. His many friends will regret to hear that "Pat" Anslow suffered a heart attack shortly after leaving York, but rumour has it that he is now nicely on the mend.

W.O.II Herring, D.C.M., is now firmly in the chair, vice W.O.II Alexander, who has retired locally to a good job with York Glass Company.

On the sporting side, we finished second in the local cricket league, and Lieutenant Apps (ex-Corps soccer) is hammering a football team into shape.

During September there was a revival of the ever-popular "Week-end Military Training." The "Fortyeighters'" club gladly cancelled its fixtures for 20th/21st September, and at 07.00 hours on a cold wet morning, a gay and sparking Squadron

assembled in preparation for exercise "Breakout," at Knostrop. Now Knostrop is a delightful little spot, practically in the centre of Leeds; an "oasis," a "pearl," as you might say, in the heart of a black and dismal swamp. It is an old A.A. gun site and, of course, everything is in splendid condition; as a matter of fact, when one got over the first awful shock, it was not too bad, and as our exercise did not include a great deal of "blanket-bashing," the setting was favourable.

Actually there was one genuine gold-plated volunteer, Lieutenant Terence Murphy, Royal Marines; he is learning to fly (aeroplanes) at nearby York Airfield, and when he heard that a bit of "sojering" was to be done, he "zoomed" in and begged to take part.

He was promptly appointed commander of a mob of tough "Commando" types who had unfortunately been captured (by a trick, of course), and were on their way to Knostrop P.O.W. Cage. The Camp Commandant, Colonel Nockemov, Fantasian Army, vaguely reminiscent of Captain (T.O.T.) J. Foster, was typically brutal and was all prepared to make the preliminary interrogation really tough. He had underestimated our gallant mob, however, because, led by the gallant O'Murphy, R.M. (he has red hair and freckles), they swamped his guards and disappeared over the horizon, hell-bent (we presume) for the delights of Leeds. We nearly didn't have an exercise atall, atall, but by 16.00 hours, persuaded with offers of vodka and caviar sandwiches, the Commandoes came back to the cage and all concerned were briefed for the nights revelries.

Well, surprisingly enough, only four P.O.W.s managed to break out during that awful night. Everyone, including your scribe, was soaked and mud-covered, but the truth of it is, that largely thanks to T. Murphy, Esq., R.M., and an exercise plan "different" from the normal run of things, all concerned voted it a most enjoyable and, of course, instructive show. What next? Watch these columns for a long and interesting account of our A.A.I., due in January, 1959.

REPORT ON SIGNAL TRAINING AT GANDALE C.C.F. CAMP, 30th JULY—2nd AUGUST, 1958

By Seargeant J. A. Anderson,
of Northern Command Signal Squadron

On a bright July day, a detachment of cowed signalmen set out to instruct cadets at Gandale C.C.F. Camp, Catterick. A slight altercation en route with a civilian driver helped to raise spirits a little, but as the hordes of schoolboys disguised as cadets descended upon us, the general atmosphere of dazed gloom prevailed once again. The weather thereafter followed suit, and wind and rain enforced the introduction of Lance-Corporal Parker as "Guy Rope Patrol." The close proximity of the native inhabitants of Hauxwell Moor also entailed the appointment of Lance-Corporal Lethbridge as "Duty Shepherd."

However, despite all setbacks, training got under way. An Advanced Signal Course, run by Captain W. A. Montague, and a Pre-Classification Course and Classification Test, run by Second-Lieutenant E. P. Brown, soon took hold of the cadets' interest, and an atmosphere of "question time in the house" was quickly established. On the Advanced Course, Sergeant Anderson explained away the intricacies of 88, 31, 62 and 19 sets, and followed this triumph by baffling the cadets with the far deeper mysteries of Voice Procedure. Undeterred, the cadets then turned to the Line Instructors for further enlightenment and got instead a lecture on the 20-line F. & F. switchboard.

The lot of the Classification Cadre was a little more hectic, but an enthusiastic class of cadets was soon "knotting and jointing" as though they had been linemen for years. Voice Procedure, however, proved a little more elusive, and their interpretation of some points of procedure caused raised eyebrows, even among the linemen. The practical wireless and cable-laying exercises were undergone with great gusto, although the profusion of lines connected to the 10-line magneto switchboard seemed to be designed not so much for speed of communication as for an increase in the accident rate. As Sergeant Hilder put it: "There's no denying they're 'CERTA,' but there's a bit of doubt about the 'CITO'." (*Surely vice-versa.—Ed.*).

Eventually the weather improved, and the various courses came to an end amid a blaze of sunshine. The cadets returned home with heads buzzing with information about "masher oscillators," "B.F.O. controls" and "decibel losses," whilst the relieved Signals Cadre travelled back to York marvelling at the capacity of their pupils for ice-cream, lemonade and chocolate, and trying strenuously to remember the unabridged versions of public school songs.

Military Display, Belfast

A Military Display was held in the King's Hall, Balmoral, on 10th to 14th October. The aim was to bring the public into contact with all Corps and Regiments of the Army, and to foster good relations. In addition, it was hoped to provide an incentive towards regular recruiting, both men and boys. Admission was free, and it was hoped that at least 5,000 people would visit the display each day.

The attendance far exceeded expectations. Over the four days nearly 65,000 people went through the turnstiles, or one in every 230 of the whole population of Northern Ireland, showing the keen interest taken by the public here in the Army. Each Corps had a stand, also the Infantry, the Irish Guards, the North Irish Brigade, the W.R.A.C., Army Apprentices School, Civil Defence and the various organisations connected with the Army, such as NAAFI, A.K.C., etc. Some of the equipment on display included a Thunderbird, a Corporal, the latest Centurion tank and a helicopter.

There was a central arena in which displays took place hourly. There were three bands, a P.T. display, war dogs, a jeep assembly race, Scottish and Irish dancing, and Mortar and M.M.G. displays.

The Royal Signals' stand proved very popular. With the co-operation of the War Office, facilities were available for relatives to send free messages to soldiers and W.R.A.C. serving overseas, and no less than 360 messages were handed in and despatched during the four days. Much publicity was given to this facility beforehand, and advantage was taken of the lessons learned at the last National Radio Show, at which the Corps provided similar arrangements, and relatives were warned to come armed with the required information, viz, name, number rank, regiment and unit. The stand also showed the responsibility of the Corps technically, for broadcast transmitters overseas for the entertainment of all three Services. A "lucky dip" was provided for relatives sending messages, and through the co-operation of the Forces Entertainment Service and the B.B.C., two lucky soldiers in B.A.O.R. will be called on Two-Way Family Favourites, and two more on request programmes in overseas theatres. Both these activities were filmed and shown on B.B.C. TV.

Other items displayed on the Royal Signals stand included tape relay working, voice recording and play-back with oscillagraph, Air Formation Signals activities, and some of the latest equipment, very kindly lent by 1 Training Regiment and by 90 Signal Regiment.

Persistent interference with TV reception on the A.K.C. stand was traced to the Wireless Set A40, which had been switched to a quite unauthorised frequency by a small boy. Indeed the enthusiasm displayed by many of our future regular soldiers on occasions became embarrassing. The outside tank telephone on the A harness was torn off on the first day, headphones and microphones provided an every-ready source of conflict and what wasn't screwed down was regarded as being available as a souvenir. It was found necessary, eventually, to remove some of the smaller and more portable items from the display.

The Royal Signals stand also gave publicity to the activities of the Royal Signals Association, and the name and address of the Secretary of the local Branch was prominently displayed. Many ex-Royal Signals visitors said they had no idea a Branch existed in Belfast, and it is to be hoped that they will lose no time in joining.

In addition to providing its stand, the Corps was also responsible for manning the display switchboard, suitably installed in a glass cubicle, and for no less than four public address systems. One, intended to reach all corners of the vast hall, posed an interesting problem, since its efficacy could not be judged until the display, with its attendant noises, was in full swing. However, results came up to expectation, and everything worked like a charm.

The display was a resounding success and received much Press publicity. The Royal Signals' stand was featured on five occasions in Northern Ireland newspapers and once in a Dublin paper. Much hard work went into its preparation, which, judging by the tremendous interest displayed by the public and the Press, was far from wasted.

Finally our thanks must go to Major Tighe, of Signals 5, for his help, and to 1 and 4 Training and 90 Signal Regiments for the loan of equipment or personnel, or both.

More Impressions of Immigration

By Bee Wickerson

To my pint-sized mind a lot of water has flowed into Lake Taupo since last I wrote, but there has been precious little electric current to show for it. Candle-power has dropped to two or three which sit on top of old hock bottles, giving scant light and driving me to the exasperated use of a spirit cooker. If it weren't for the glorious sunshine that bathed each winter day in warmth and boosted my morale to solar-heights, how despairing could I get?

For didn't Lock and Laker send the kiwis, flightless and so very nearly runless, to pavilions up and down the country? We crouched, half a world away, by a battery set listening to the commentary through the long watches of the night and murmered, "Oh, woe and woe again," mourning each blistering over and singing with fresh fervour, "God Defend New Zealand." We realised that no longer need we cherish the tenuous threads of nostalgia that bound us forever, or so we had imagined, to the land of our birth. "Rubber to England" completely erased all hankering for Home.

And woe again, said I, when my son returned from school enthusiastically recalling highlights from an afternoon of sport. He eulogised about a leather egg with which he had run amuk on a mud-churned field. I had new rules to learn, dirty boot laces to scrub to snowy whiteness and collar bones to mend. No more can I reserve my "Well done, John!" for a classic drive to the boundary. Now I freeze in wind and rain, watching my fellows closely, and when they bellow, so do I; and hope that I'm rooting for the right team.

As Spring came with its blossom, pink promise of peaches, freesias grown outdoors and the fragrant bouquet of wallflowers, we heard the House of Representatives singing songs of sixpences—and shillings—and pounds. They played ducks and drakes with our pay packets, sending the bitter pill of increased taxation richocheting on domestic waters, and at each bound the ever-dilating ripples found new pockets to scour. The Man in New Zealand's Street rose up to defend his sixpenny glass of beer, which had diminished in size and increased in price. But all to no avail; and the only remedy left is to tighten belts all round.

There has been a deal of discussion about the deer that roam and lay waste the mountainsides, and the consequent dangers of soil erosion. If we are to believe the dire prophecies of the pessimistic experts there will soon be no Dominion left to send you your cheap butter. A suggestion to import lions and tigers to prey upon the deer has met with no welcome response. Doubtless because there are no pukka sahibs to slay the tigers. But some would like to come.

Now and and again we see an advertisement in the agony columns of the daily Press. "Ex-Army officer, English, 42, married, two children, desires obtain employment with accommodation. Travelled, well-educated, capable taking responsibility, no snob, go anywhere, do anything." And the best of luck old chap, we say. Emigration with small capital assets isn't all beer and skittles. Homes are expensive, hard to come by. Jobs are well paid but the cost of living is relatively high. Famed for its free and easy life it may be, but the Dominion does have petty restrictions; and it is devastatingly simple to open one's big mouth and put both feet right in it. To own a car is more important than having modern sanitation. Unless your funds run to a down-payment on a house, you probably pay top rate tariffs for fourth-rate bed-sitters, children in bunks; and watch with misery as your savings seep away at a suicidal rate. But always there is the sun and the sea; and the children are fit and well, full of energy, self-possessed, capable. Go anywhere, do anything is a large statement. Unless you really mean it, and your wife and family mean it too, stay in Suburbia ... where mail comes through the letter-box twice a day, the milk is delivered to the doorstep, where public

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transport is readily available, where you can have a bob each way on an outsider and take your wife to the "local" on the proceeds, where you have mains water piped to your home. Alternatively, if you have an urge to mend leaks in tin roofs, glaze windows, lay drains, join a society (for every conceivable interest) and, in addition, have no rooted objection to no smoking in cinemas and theatres, a 50 m.p.h. speed limit on all motorways, no Saturday shopping, no laundries, no pubs after 6 p.m. and no TV—then do come, by all means.

And from there, to where I live—with penguins in the basement, appossums on the roof and bedlam in between. We are rearing day-old chicks in the airing cupboard, three black kittens in the laundry, more and more white mice in boxes, guppies in the water tanks and a praying mantis in a jam-jar. Life grows steadily more complex for a commonplace housewife who has no Colonel's lady's shoulder to weep on. Especially since everything is sold in atomisers, these days. I spray: the roses, my hair, inside the oven, throughout the home, to paint walls, to clean the car, to starch the linen. If only there were a spray for a soot-choked chimney. I tackled our chimney with bare hands and a bunch of manuka scrub. With the job completed and myself part-worn I slid from the roof to confront a door-to-door salesman. He did a double-take, decided I was white underneath and bleeping like a satellite, he thrust a bottle into my filthy hands. "Bath salts," he explained. I bought a large and expensive jar of them—such acumen deserved recognition. I certainly deserved the bath salts.

There is feverish haste to keep abreast of world events, provided they aren't too soul-stirring. Hula-hooping has hit the kindergartens and is rapidly ascending the education spiral toward post-university levels. Coffee bars have been souped up with espresso machines, contemporary decor and eye-catching serving wenches. Shoes with pointed toes are a must for the smarter woman. Unfortunately, now this fashion is on the wane, we who live in New Zealand are condemned to squeeze our toes, as well as our middles, until the girdle of embargoes inflicted upon us by alarmed economists is loosened. The shoe-makers say that the last last they bought will have to last a long, long time.

In all the years spent travelling about the globe labelled "Military Baggage," I always made a garden wherever it was possible. This was too good a journalistic gambit to pass up and I invaded the broadcasting hierarchy and recorded five talks on gardening. The small effort has had endless repercussions and I am now asked all kinds of questions on horticulture. (Thus is an "expert" born). What do *I* know about the things they grow in this gardening paradise? Chinese gooseberries, chockos, kumeras, silver beet, butternut pumpkins, passion fruit, apple cucumbers, and so on. But I'm learning and can hold my own on bananas, oranges, frangipani, magnolias, peanuts and lemons, with an odd apt remark about paw-paws and tree tomatoes.

As well as growing things in gardens New Zealand is also growing skyscrapers. Not the lank, window-chequered giants of New York city, but tall buildings nonetheless. Wellington sprawls higgledy-piggledy over the hills that fringe her magnificent harbour. Long ago all flat land was exhausted, so now, with earthquake risks mastered by architectural gimmicks, the new offices and apartment blocks reach skywards. Old landmarks are being dwarfed by new ones, city streets are being widened and traffic bottle-necks remodelled. Yet, to see the steady stream of dormitory domiciled city workers driving home for dinner is apt to belie my words . . . serious bottle-necks still exist.

And other things I say, boomerang occasionally. I wrote home to tell everybody that if they wanted to know where the old London trams went on retirement, they were here, in Wellington. But it isn't true. The trams we have here —which have me skittering across a pedestrian lane a shade faster than light—are antidiluvian in comparison. They hurtle round hair-pin bends with terrifying clatter and climb hills at breakneck speeds. Auckland ran her last tram, with accompanying undergraduate-type pomp and circumstance, about two years ago; but the capital city still prefers to have its transport run on well-defined lines.

And so to Christmas, with holidays in the sun and roast fore-quarter of lamb, mint sauce, green peas and new potatoes for dinner on the twenty-fifth. Note for gourmets: N.Z. lamb has mint sauce built-in. Our neighbours are rearing a pet lamb for their Christmas dinner (and I lay any odds you like they will never have the heart to slaughter it) and they feed it on fresh milk with a sprinkling of sugar, add a dash of malt vinegar and then turn it out on a bed of mint. The lamb's name is Charles, just to emphasise the point that this is another labour-saving device that didn't come out of the U.S.A.

A Happy Christmas—may your turkey be tender and your pudding perfection. And a Prosperous New Year, too—with postings and pensions, promotions and pay according to your lights. May I borrow a phrase with due acknowledgements? "It's all in the mind, you know."

Twelve Men in Denmark

By Brigadier G. Chatterton, D.S.O.

I have just returned from a tour extraordinary, in the company of 10 ex-Servicemen of 10 different nationalities. The original intention was for it to have been a study tour of Denmark, but in all our opinions, it turned out to be one of those small miracles, whereby a wonderful example was given by all of the possibilities of world understanding, which lies in the heart of every man.

It is an irony of fate, that the inspiration to attempt such an experiment should come from one of the smaller countries in the world, Denmark. It is even more inspiring, when it is appreciated, that they appealed to a world organisation, which his as its ideal the betterment of man and world peace, The World Veterans Federation.

The idea was as follows: The Danish Resistance Movement ment decided that they would like to invite a number of nationals, who fought and suffered in the world wars, to visit their country as their guests, and by so doing, to be given a close study of Denmark, its organisation, history and development in all fields. They applied to the World Veterans' Federation, who sent out an appeal to their member countries, and 10 complied.

I was the fortunate member of the British Isles, who had the time to spend (three weeks) in Denmark, to be a witness and to take part in this remarkable experiment.

The 10 countries which supplied representatives were Turkey, Greece, Finland, Sweden, Belgium, France, Holland and Italy, Jugoslavia and Great Britain, and subsequently we moved as a body of 12 men, a Dane as our guide and an American who operated a movie camera in order that a complete record of this could be kept.

It is well to say from the start, that if these 12 men had been chosen with the greatest care by the organisations concerned, they could not have been better chosen. Yet, they did not select them, for they came together by chance, and they were an example of the many millions which they represented. None was particularly outstanding in peace, yet all had pretty significant war records, which proved their characters, and therefore it is well to record them before continuing any further, in order that a better picture may be gathered of them.

The Finn had fought against the Russians, and had lost his leg at the age of 15. His spirit was such, that he fought on and even today, with one leg, he is an international skier. The Swede, despite the neutrality of his nation, volunteered and fought with the Finns and suffered with them. The Frenchman won the Legion D'Honneur in the 1914-18 War, but not withstanding, fought in the Maquis, walked out of France through Spain, joined the Free-French in North Africa, and finally fought a squadron of tanks at Cassino, was wounded and won the Croix de Guerre.

The Belgian, as a young student, formed an underground university during the German occupation of his country, and 800 students joined, they were able to fight as resistance groups, also to study and pass their examinations, despite the German ban. The Greek and the Jugoslav both fought in the resistance against the common enemy, the Germans. The Turk was a young volunteer in Korea, was wounded and paralysed in the foot as a result; and the Italian fought in North Africa and at

?

In which sport did this team make Royal Signals famous in 1923?

?



El Alamein, and was decorated for valour by the Germans with the Iron Cross, which, incidentally, he told me in confidence. The Dutchman who, when he was a student, was put into a forced labour camp by the Germans, and escaped, he was captured where he received the traditional treatment at the hands of the Gestapo. He ended up in England in the Netherland Forces, to finally fight in Indonesia, where he was wounded and decorated, and, as he explained to me, to become somewhat disillusioned. The Dane fought in the Danish Resistance from the age of 18, and the American was an A.B. in the U.S. Navy, and is now a welfare worker.

As I have already said, none of them had achieved any great distinction since the war, but were representatives of so many millions, who had also given their services, had suffered and had carried on. It was as well, for it makes this story all the more significant.

It is impossible to give anything but a brief appreciation of the tour. It was organised with brilliance from the start. We were first of all taken to a Folk-High School, these are famous throughout Scandinavia. Here we were given a complete series of lectures, for three days, on the culture, politics, welfare organisations and industrial background of Denmark. It was here that we had to bed-down, two in a room. A good example of the understanding that prevailed was that the Turk and the Greek chose to sleep in the same room. This experience bound us all together at the earliest stage. It was here that it became aparent that there was something unusual in the air, and that these men were creating a spirit of comradeship and humour which was not of the usual calibre.

It was decided to make a film and tape recording of the tour, and the young American who, strangely enough, happened to be camping in the college grounds, was asked to join us and to take the film of our activities as we proceeded.

In this spirit we travelled from one end of Denmark to the other, by rail, boat and 'bus. We visited farms, factories, schools, breweries and welfare organisations. We were entertained as only the Danes can entertain, and within all this we had many extraordinary experiences, which seemed to bind us always closer together. In short, the Danes left absolutely nothing to the imagination, and gave us a wonderful idea of how their country has developed, and the great pains they have taken to try to make it the perfect state.

It might be said—What was the good of all this? What could it achieve? Let me give one example. I was fortunate enough to visit a peasant farmer's small holding with the Jugoslav, a communist. This Dane had, on 16 acres, so developed his farming that he was netting £600 a year, and I have seldom seen a more efficient man, yet he was the standard smallholder. The Jugloslav had a great number of searching questions to ask him, I sat by whilst these were asked, and I was deeply impressed with the way the young man answered all and one, without any preference. At last the Jugoslav was also overwhelmed and, as he said to me afterwards, he had had his eyes opened and that he had never seen anything like it in his life, and, of course, his impression was increased as this man was a peasant and unprivileged. His standard of living was quite remarkable and all achieved by his own hand and hard work. Examples of such experiences and their impact upon us could be mutiplied, and we had all our horizons immensely broadened. Both the Jugoslav and I learnt something that day we shall never forget, and we both became close friends. It is worth recording that he was the first to write to me on our return.

But more important than this was the spirit of good fellowship that prevailed. I was placed in the wonderful position to judge and witness all that happened, as they chose me to be their speaker and leader, and general factotum. I helped them in language difficulties, they came to me with their troubles, and sometimes differences and so on. I say this in order to show what a close view it gave me of them, and I became the liaison with the Danes, as I had to make speeches all over the country. I was proud to have been asked to do so.

It is interesting to note, that it was the Danes who were constantly making observations on the wonderful spirit which has developed among these 12 Nationals, it was they who were delighted and pleased. It was they who saw that this was not just an ordinary state of affairs, but as it was for us, so it was for them, a miraculous little example, of what can be achieved.

Some might say, so what? It was an organised journey and therefore was made easy, and so on, but I am sure that there were none among us who were not more than deeply moved and inspired. After all, we had all fought, lived and suffered, and we had all had our fill of life, which made us too experienced and tough to be misled by the possibility of false sentiments. There was not one of us who was unaware of the anxieties of the day, or the terrible possibilities of tomorrow, nor were we unaware that there was little that we individually could do about it. Yet, despite all this we were conscious of the faith, spirit, good humour and comradeship surrounding us all and I feel sure that we recognised in it something wonderful and inspiring. It must have been so, as our friendship and affection, yes affection, was so strong at the end, that there was great sadness in the air as we departed to our homes, for we all recognised that we had been privileged.

I can say that it is a wonderful tribute to the Danes, for the inspiration to arrange the tour, and to the World Veterans' Federation for making it possible, and therefore if the Federation does nothing else, it has fulfilled one small item of its charter, and that is the creation of goodwill and understanding among nations, through the medium of ex-Servicemen.

We one and all believe that it should be continued in every country, if the funds could be made available. I reckoned it cost the Danes somewhere in the region of £1,000. It is not much when one thinks of the astronomical sums which are spent on the weapons of war.

If nothing else, there is still the film, which was faithfully recorded. It should be edited and shown, in all its simplicity, for its story is but a simple one, behind which there lies a great inspiration. It is the proof that men can get together in good faith and fellowship, however unpromising the political climate, and it can be seen that these 12 men stepped out of the millions for a few moments and stood on the stage, and by so doing, perhaps, were privileged to prove this fact to be true.

Jottings

by NACERBY

Here we are again . . . .

And a very Nacerby Christmas to you all at home and abroad. This has been a tremendous year—Sputniks, Doug Kelly's waistcoats, new equipments (well almost!), good intentions, radio relay, travelling claims, SRDE, wireless set 53 in a Lambretta (see this column in 1959), dames, Bull and ourselves—and a funny lot we are, too.

Take the average man . . . he has to have a certain brand of cigarette but any type of booze will do. He criticises the Government but doesn't bother to vote. He condemns women for using make-up, and falls for it every time. He talks about the folly of overwork and plays cards until 3 a.m. He is glad if the train is late enough for him to catch it and sore because it's late as soon as he gets on. He goes to Church on Sundays and to the devil the rest of the week, making the odds 6 to 1. He can't refuse the flag day girl, but will stand off the man he really owes. He laughs at his wife's judgment, and always asks for her advice. He thinks one way and acts another, and if there was a third way to it, he would do just that.

And behind nearly every successful man is the woman—he manages to get away from.

Any questions?

Happy Christmas!!

Thoughts on 1958 . . . .

1. Holidays are great levellers. The person who takes one returns home just as broke as the person who stayed at home because he couldn't afford to go away.

2. Women's hats are all different because no one likes to make the same mistake twice.

3. By the time a couple can really afford to have children, they're having grandchildren.

4. A lot of mothers in the last generation had their daughters vaccinated in places they wrongly thought would never show.

Thoughts on War . . . .

1. In my humble capacity I fancy the Nobel Peace Prize will escape me, yet I'm certain I've found the simple answer to end War . . . . Nudism. Nobody will be able to tell who the enemy is, and think of ridiculous looking parades!

2. The battle of the sexes will never be won by either side. There's too much fraternising with the enemy.

Power . . . .

Those of you who read this column—bless you both—and especially my brilliant article on obtaining power from electric eels, will be shocked to learn my mathematical formula has been seriously challenged by certain colleagues at the Signals Research and Development Establishment.

They have the temerity to state that the design of the "Installations, charging, eels, electric" is not the simple matter envisaged by the War Office, they argue that:—

Charging Capacity required = Number of Eels (N) × capacity per unit length of eel (in cods) × length of eel in arms.

Thus: Capacity = N cods × Forearms.

This capacity is, however, conditioned by the availability of chips in degrees Aslett, and in turn is measured in Clubbs—the scale of which reads "small Clubbs, normal Clubbs (most unusual), abnormal Clubbs, No. 5 irons and coshes.

In winter when the eel efficiency tends to fall to lesser Asletts, the Capacity would be given by:—

N cod pieces × Aslett forearm = normal Clubbs

but since

$$\text{Small Clubs}^2 = \sqrt[3]{\text{Rickman}}$$
$$\text{Asletts}$$

one Rickman × one Aslett = one abnormal Clubb showing that fish without chips is indigestible.

I queried all this of course but despite my arguing that "the steady state solution for the susceptibility tensor of a two lattice system has been found by using sub-lattice equations of motion which include complete LANDAULIFSCHITZ relaxation terms with individual relaxation parameters and which describe relaxation toward the instantaneous total field acting on the sub-lattice," I conceded the point.

Sic Gloria Transit Civil Service!

Q.E.D. . . . .

A striking lesson in keeping the upper lip stiff is given in the weekly bulletin of the Federation of Civil Engineering Contractors, which prints the following letter from a bricklayer in Barbados to the firm for whom he worked:—

Respected Sir,

When I got to the building, I found that the hurricane had knocked some bricks off the top. So I rigged up a beam with a pulley at the top of the building and hoisted up a couple of barrels full of bricks. When I had fixed the building, there was a lot of bricks left over. I hoisted the barrel back up again and secured the line at the bottom, and then went up and filled the barrel with extra bricks. Then I went to the bottom and cast off the line. Unfortunately the barrel of bricks was heavier than I was, and before I knew what was happening the barrel started down, jerking me off the ground. I decided to hang on and halfway up I met the barrel coming down and received a severe blow on the shoulder. I then continued to the top, banging my head against the beam and getting my fingers jammed in the pulley. When the barrel hit the ground it burst its bottom, allowing all the bricks to spill out. I was now heavier than the barrel and so started down again at high speed. Halfway down, I met the barrel coming up and received severe injuries to my shins. When I hit the ground I landed on the bricks, getting several painful cuts from the sharp edges.

At this point I must have lost my presence of mind, because I let go the line. The barrel then came down giving me another heavy blow on the head and putting me in hospital. I respectfully request sick leave.

?

The Royal Signals Boxing Team of 1923 brought this Shield to the Corps.

What is the Trophy shewn in the centre?

?



?

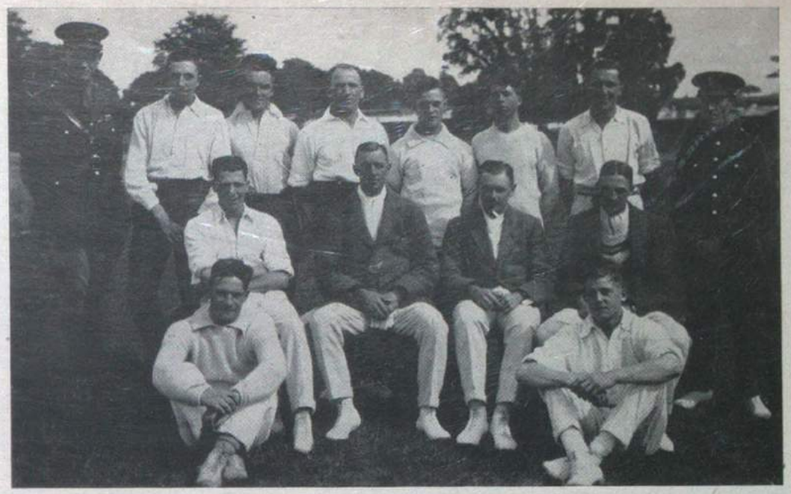
This picture is of a Company Cricket team but it includes some who became famous.

Which Company?

Which year?

Can you recognise any in the picture?

?



BAOR

18 ARMY GROUP SIGNAL REGIMENT

The preparations for Christmas seem to begin earlier each year, and each year, too, it seems to be more difficult to fit everything in. By the time this is read a large part of what has been planned in the way of entertainment will already be over. Any account of what has actually happened over the festive season would necessarily have to wait until February to be read, by which time, of course, it would have lost a lot of its interest. So, at the risk of depriving himself of an easy topic for a subsequent contribution, but in the interests of his readers, the writer will say now that the traditional entertainments will be held; and (with one exception) unless anything very special happens he will try not to refer to them again.

This year a pantomime is being attempted, and a more detailed account of this will probably be offered to the reader in February. All that can be said now is that if "Jack and the Pintschstalk" is of the same standard as the Variety Show that was put on as part of the Regiment's twenty-first anniversary celebrations in the summer, it will be good. Old members of the Regiment and others who know us will appreciate the significance of the title.

As a British Forces Network announcer said the other evening, this is the season of visits by Colonels of Regiments, and although we are not being paid an official visit by our Representative Colonel Commandant this year, we are looking forward to meeting Major-General Nalder informally. We very much appreciate the fact that he is giving us the time he could otherwise devote to a well-deserved rest during what must inevitably be a most strenuous tour.

Another pleasure in prospect is a visit from the Corps Band. They also have a heavy programme during their tour of B.A.O.R. and we have arranged to keep them well occupied during their stay with us at Essen. They will, it is to be hoped, discover that Essen is a well-known shopping town as well as being a great industrial centre. (It surely cannot be a coincidence that all these visitors come just a little while before Christmas). Let them not think, however, that the town is illuminated in their honour. The lights of Essen during Advent and Christmastide are famous, and they, too, despite the yearly prophecy that they probably cannot be afforded again, seem to come on earlier each year. Later, perhaps, when it is dry enough to venture out at night with a camera without needing a de-mister for the lens, we shall be able to let the reader see for himself what they are like.

One associates beer cellars with Germany, and correctly so, but when Major A. W. Stewart, Officer Commanding No. 1 Squadron, was looking for a place to be used from time to time for a Squadron "do," he had to cast his eyes, if not to the heavens, to the roof. And so, under the steeply pitched gables over the top floor of their barrack block, the majority of the Squadron could be found the other evening thoroughly enjoying themselves. The bare wooden tables were there, the beer mugs were there, and so was the beer—at least it was at the beginning of the evening (and how much more convenient just to be able to walk downstairs to bed!)—but that was by no means all. A piano, a set of drums, two guitars and an accordion were played in various combinations to great effect.

Signalman Paul and Private Caffery, A.C.C., repeated their performance on other occasions with skiffle songs and their guitars; Signalman McNeill gave a vigorous performance of what the writer is informed is an Elvis, and Signalman McBride squeezed some Scottish reels from his piano accordion. No. 1 Squadron cannot claim credit for the drummer, Signalman Maden of No. 2 Squadron, whose performance was in the professional class, or for Cpl. Trickett, of the Royal Signals School, B.A.O.R., whose piano syncopation had the facility of much experience. "Presto," The Wonder Illusionist, hides the identity of Signalman Presten, a student at the School, who gave an excellent display of modern magic.

Presten showed us his tricks on an earlier occasion: the opening night of the Corporal's Club. This event was a most important one for the large number of junior Non-Commissioned Officers who are its members, and it was marked by a dance and buffet supper. The Club's accommodation is that which had in the past been used as a canteen for the German civil staff, and a great deal of work had been put in, not only in cleaning but in decorating and in re-constructing the bar, to achieve the bright and attractive spectacle that was presented on the opening night. All this was not one man's work, of course, but it is only fair to record that those members from the School, under the enthusiastic direction of Corporal Neath, the President of the Club Committee, did the lion's share. Mention must also be made of the vast and appetising spread provided by Corporal Whiting, A.C.C., for supper.

And now, may we wish the reader a happy and joyful Christmas and a peaceful and prosperous New Year.

19 ARMY GROUP SIGNAL REGIMENT

Despite the demands of a major Exercise which occupied the thoughts of the Regiment during the greater part of the month, some time was found for the pursuit of more pleasurable activities.

The rugger XV set the standard for the rest of the Regimental teams by scoring a 46 points to nil victory over 2 L. of C. Signal Regiment in the first round of the Army Cup competition.

This was followed by an equally convincing performance against 12 Air Formation Signal Regiment in their first Royal Signals (B.A.O.R.) Cup match, when the Regiment won by 27 points to nil.

Our soccer XI, determined not to be outshone by their rugger rivals, promptly recorded a 7–0 win against 30 Wireless Squadron in round one of the Royal Signals (B.A.O.R.) Cup. If one man may be singled out from a galaxy of soccer talent, it is Signalman Hopper, our inside right.

Our boxing team met 17 Vehicle Battalion, R.A.O.C., in a friendly match and although we were only able to draw the match, the performances of our hitherto untried boxers and the fact that some of our best boxers were not competing gives us great hopes for the Rhine District Inter-Unit Championships which we confidently expect to win this year.

The successes of the Unit teams tend sometimes to overshadow the achievements of those who compete as individuals in various less-patronised sports. Of these individuals, mention must be made of Sergeant Edwards, Sergeant Martin, R.A.E.C., and Signalman Baird.

Sergeant Edwards, a former winner of the Army Motor Cycling Individual Championship, went to U.K. to compete as an individual in this year's competition. He rode extremely well and was placed second—the best Regular soldier in the competition.

Sergeant Martin, R.A.E.C., competing in the B.A.O.R. Individual Swimming Championships, won the breaststroke, butterfly and freestyle events. Going forward to the Army Championships in Woolwich, he again won these events and came second in the butterfly in the Inter-Services' match.

Signalman Baird, a fairly recent arrival in the Regiment, has soon established himself as a cyclist of note. After successes in local cycling events, he was selected as one of a team of four to represent the Command in a five-stage cycle race in U.K. This team won the award for the best overseas team, and Signalman Baird's individual placing was 16th.



The Commanding Officer Lieut.-Colonel P. W. Lonnon, M.B.E., presenting Long Service and Good Conduct Medals to W.O.II Edwards and W.O.II Richards

1 CORPS SIGNAL REGIMENT

In common with most other Royal Signals Units in B.A.O.R., we spent most of October preparing for, taking part in, and clearing up after the Northern Army Group Exercise "Crossed Swords II." The weather ran true to form and it rained almost every day. Despite this major interruption, our inter-troop hockey and football leagues are flourishing and regimental games continue, as we shall now report.

The main attractions in the hockey world are our draws in the major competitions. In the Royal Signals B.A.O.R. Morrison Cup hockey tournament we drew a bye in the first round and are to meet 11 Air Formation Signal Regiment or 2 Divisional Signal Regiment in the second round. We have been drawn to play 9th Queen's Royal Lancers in the first round of the B.A.O.R. Major Units' Hockey Competition.

On 29th October we won our match in the first round of the soccer section of the Morrison Cup competition by beating 5 Divisional Signal Regiment by five goals to one. This was a very hard fought match, with keen tackling by both sides. In the first half 5 Division had a slight edge, finding their men with fast and accurate passing. However, in the second half our forwards spread out, concentrated on some really good football and eventually ran our opponents off their legs. Special mention must be made of our goalkeeper, Wilkie, who played well above form. Our five goals came from McGee, Stevenson, Mooney, Fullerton, and one goal was scored by the opposing back into his own goal.

In the first round of the Army Rugby Cup we were drawn to play the 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards. Right from the start it was obvious that our team was superior and the only question in the spectators' minds was how large the score would be. The pack proved their worth both in the scrums and in the line-out, getting the ball back quickly and cleanly. The backs moved the ball around rapidly, and Webster, following a break through by Longley, went over for the first try. Second and third tries were scored by Wibberley and Beckett. Pearce went over to score the fourth try. The last try of the match was scored by Second-Lieutenant Hill. Lieutenant Hodgson converted two to give us a final score of 19 points to 3.

During the winter lull in Exercises—and particularly so now that the Royal Signals School, B.A.O.R., is in the process of closing down—we have turned ourselves into a bigger and better Catterick. Individual trade upgrading and refresher courses are now being run in a variety of subjects, including telegraph, wireless, radio relay and signal centre operating; there are also courses for linemen, clerks, electrician drivers, drivers, in fact the lot! In addition there is an extensive education programme and a full season of Drill and Duties courses. Oh, for the peaceful existence of the Exercise season again!

We are all looking forward with eager anticipation to the visit of the Royal Signals Band at the beginning of December. Two afternoon concerts are planned, plus evening functions in the Officers', Sergeants' and rank and file Messes. Then, almost without a break, we swing into Christmas activities, which include Mess functions, parties for children and for regimental civilians, and, of course, the traditional Christmas dinner.

4 DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT

In this age of change and uncertainty it is as well to emphasise those things about which there can be no doubt whatever and one of these is the future of the Divisional Signal Regiment. We hear so much about the "Brigade Group concept" and Independent Brigade Group Signal Squadrons that a false picture might creep into the mind of a casual observer—removing the Divisional Regiment from the battlefield altogether.

It is right and proper to applaud the elevation of the old Brigade Signal Troop to Independent Squadron status—though why we must insist on the independent part of it is difficult to understand.

Perhaps the Division as a formation is dying but, if so, the *teeth* function of its headquarters is very much alive and here lies the future rôle of the Divisional Signal Regiment, smaller and streamlined, geared to meet modern needs and designed for a single exclusive purpose: "*To Fight the Battle*"—if we cannot preserve the peace! Call the new Regiment anything you like: "Combat Signal Regiment" or "Field Signal Regiment," we like to think of ourselves as the *Fourth* Divisional Signal Regiment and make no mistake about this, its future was never brighter. A future in which it will assume a new responsibility as the sole repository of the stories of yesterday.

So what about a tie? A Regimental tie—bold and dashing; rich in colour and studded with quadrants at random, rolling down a centre line; a tie that will tell its own story in its own way, and remind us all that far from dying out, Divisional Signal Regiments are really coming into their own. Anyone who belonged to the Fourth; rogue or blaggard, saint or sinner, rich man or poor man, may have one of these ties from the Regiment, but with this proviso: when applying for a tie, the applicant must give some details of his connection with the Regiment—for the record.

And now here's a jolly fine article by Corporal Hanson on the Initiative Test carried out in August this year:

Initiative Test by Corporal Hanson

Following close on the Nijmegan Marches, there was organised, at the beginning of August, an Initiative Test, designed principally for the Junior N.C.O.s and Signalmen. The Sergeants' Mess did, in fact, make a "guest" appearance by entering a team, but were not eligible for the final prize.

Twelve teams, each consisting of six men, gathered at Hammersmith Barracks on Monday, 11th August, ready for the start, their object being to visit as many Lande Capitals as possible in 5½ days. From each, proof had to be obtained in the form of a stamp and a signature that every member of a team was in that particular city at the same time; no easy task, when you consider the distance between some of the places.

Method of travel was optional, the only restriction being that no Service transport could be especially detailed. Needless to say, the majority of competitors favoured hitch-hiking and here the first problem was encountered. To obtain lifts more easily, teams split into twos and threes, arranging a meeting place at the other end. Whereas this plan seemed perfect when made, in practice it became complicated. One team, for example, arranged to meet on Hamburg Bridge; unfortunately they failed to realise how long the bridge was, with the result that they spent tiring hours walking along its length hoping to meet the others. Several of the other teams fell at this hurdle, and once contact was lost, the chances of meeting up with your companions were slim indeed.

One cannot speak too highly of the generous hospitality and co-operation the teams received in the way of transport and accommodation. Whether it was American, German, French, Belgian or British Military Units, or whether it was the local inhabitants, all were only too willing to help in any way they could. One man, who became separated from his party in Nuremburg, without money, sought assistance from a neighbouring base. There he received not only food and accommodation, but also lifts in their patrol cars to some of his destinations, all expenses paid. Another team led by Corporal Punt, finding themselves with no shelter one night, decided that the police cells in Bremen would be more comfortable than a park bench, and were suitably accommodated by the helpful police. Corporal Wyer and his team will also have good reason to remember their tour of the Lande Capitals, for they walked farther than anyone else. Leaving Koblenz, they walked for a day and a night to the outskirts of Mainz, a marathon hike of over 40 miles!

The weather was not particularly kind and not a day passed without rain. Consequently few teams escaped without at least one soaking.

Surprisingly enough, the language barrier proved of little hindrance. As long as one could say "Ein Bier, bitte," then it really did not matter whether one knew the finer points of the language or not. Indeed many of the Germans who stopped to give lifts had more than a passing knowledge of English and were only too pleased to practise their linguistic talents.

The winners of the contest were Corporal Pratt and his team from the L.A.D., who were, apart from the Sergeants' team, the only complete group to visit all nine capitals. This was a fine performance in so short a time. A word of praise is due to the remaining teams, for only great determination and perseverance enabled them to get as far as they did.

One of the successes of the test was the break from routine training, while it gave the teams a good opportunity to see much of Germany. Perhaps at the time it seemed rather a strenuous way of doing your sight-seeing, but all were agreed at the end that they had thoroughly enjoyed the experience.



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DIARY OF RECENT REGIMENTAL FIXTURES

1.	Visit of C.S.O., B.A.O.R., Major-General K. C. O. Bastyan, C.B.E.	7 Oct.		
2.	Rugby v. 11 Air Formation Signal Regt.	10 Oct.	Lost	24—6
3.	Football v. W.O.M.T.	29 Oct.	Won	3—1
4.	Basketball v. Royal Hampshire Regt.	8 Oct.	Won	44—33
5.	Basketball v. Mormons (U.S.A.)	22 Aug.	Drawn	37—37
6.	Basketball v. R.A.S.C.	22 Oct.	Won	44—28
7.	Basketball v. Royal Hampshire Regt.	28 Oct.	Won	38—29
8.	Basketball v. 12 Lancers	31 Oct.	Won	45—28
9.	Basketball v. R.A.F., Borgentreich	31 Oct.	Won	44—7
10.	Basketball v. 5 Divisional Signals (Morrison Cup)	29 Oct.	Won	66—19
11.	Basketball v. 9 Lancers.	4 Nov.	Won	32—28

5 DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT

After our remarks last month on soccer we must admit that we were handsomely defeated in the first round by 4th Division Signal Regiment. We have *no* excuses to offer and we shall watch their progress in subsequent rounds with interest.

Second-Lieutenant Armstrong is running the rugger and he has gathered together a team which plays an extremely vigorous though not always very skilled game. However, everyone seems to enjoy themselves, especially in games against the local Provost Company, when there always seem to be a number of "dead" coppers lying on the field.

Hockey, too, is going strong and we are now in the second round of the B.A.O.R. Cup, having defeated 1st Battalion D.C.L.I.

Little did we realise how peaceful July and August were. Since those comparatively halcyon days, the rat race has once more been on.

The last month in particular has been a very intensive training period, with two Exercises on which the Regiment was heavily committed. The final Exercise, "Crossed Swords II," in October, was a N.A.T.O. one and it was an opportunity to see many friends in other Signal Regiments. The Exercise produced its usual crop of incidents. For instance, who lays power cable across the tops of railway lines? Not "C" Troop, but our friends the Sappers, who had to appease a somewhat irate engine driver. Who put the G.O.C.'s caravan in a pig-sty? The Second-in-Command denies doing this, though he admits the A.D.C. had it removed—to the middle of a duck farm. Then there was the Brigade Signal Squadron which was attached to us for a short time. The O.C. went off for a bath one afternoon only to find on his return that his Brigade had vanished and had come under command of another Division. The Officer concerned obviously thought it not a good thing to report to his new C.R. Signals and confess he had lost his Squadron, so he came to us for guidance. We subsequently found that we had sent him to the wrong place and we hope he eventually found his Squadron again. The mobile bath unit had a lot of trouble and we still do not know of any soldier who actually succeeded in having a bath. One of our Officers was left high and dry covered in a lather of soap, and on another occasion a welter of hot sand came out of the shower and a driver was seen to go inside to get his sparking plugs cleaned. Towards the end of the Exercise 11 Air Formation Signals came to our rescue and we are most grateful to them for all the baths they supplied to the Regiment.

Our Adjutant, Major Derek Williams, has left us and we wish him luck with 2 Wireless Regiment. We miss his store of good humour, especially at two o'clock in the morning in Signals Command on an Exercise. S.S.M. Taylor will also soon be on his way to FARELF, final destination as yet unknown. He is an experienced traveller, who has spent 14 of the last 17 years abroad.

And now for the rigours of our Administrative Inspection, which coincides with a visit from General Nalder and the Band. All in all, we shall be very busy for some time to come.

2 L. OF C. SIGNAL REGIMENT

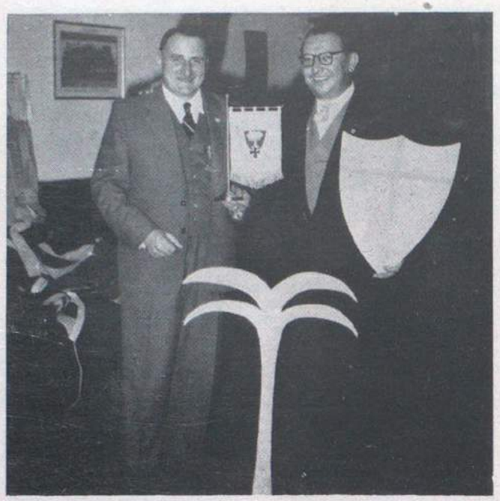
The month of October has been an eventful one for us here in Krefeld. At the beginning of the month we held the annual Harvest Festival in the Garrison Church, which lies in Bradbury Barracks. The married families of the Regiment provided flowers and fruit, and Mrs. W. C. Burke, the Commanding Officer's wife, aided by wives of members of the Regiment put in good work decorating the church. The flowers and fruit, which were donated, were given to an orphanage in Krefeld.

The Association Football season opened with a bang! Our record to date shows that we have played 10 games, won 8 and lost 2. Of our victories our best was that against our old enemy 1 Wireless Regiment, who we defeated in the 1st round of the Morrison Cup (R.S.M. Boynton to note). This unfortunately was the last game played by our Captain, Lance-Corporal Crotty. We wish him well in civilian life and hope he will have a successful career as a "Pensioner." Our next game was the 1st round of the Army Cup. We suffered a 4—3 defeat at home. To single out individuals of the team would be wrong, our greatest asset is team spirit and on this note of "Esprit de Corps" we go on into our League programme with confidence.

The Hockey team have played several games during the month. The team has varied greatly in composition, but even so has not suffered any crashing defeat.

The Rugby team is not doing too well at the moment. The outsides lack experience but the pack, although small in stature, are fast and play well together. It is hoped that with more experience they will prove to be a useful team.

The Officers' Mess has had an upheaval this month and they have now moved from a very pleasant small house just outside Krefeld to the Garrison Officers' Mess which they now share with the Garrison Officers. The move is considered to be a good thing and we look forward to holding Guest Nights again.

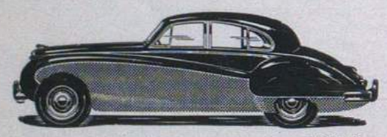


W.O.II Parks being presented with the banner by Karl Becker, the Vice President of the Krefeld Branch of the Afrika Corps Old Comrades Association

The W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess celebrated the anniversary of the Battle of Alamein by inviting ex-members of the German Africa Corps, who are at present living in Krefeld, to a games night.

It is stated in the local German press that "the Germans were welcomed as real comrades," and judging by the consumption of liquor that night I would hesitate to deny it. During the evening the senior member of the German party presented to W.O.II Parker a very handsome banner mounted on a brass stand with the words "From the Desert Foxes to the Desert Rats" embroidered on it. After this presentation a film showing preparations for the Battle of Alamein on the British side was shown.

The evening closed with everyone congregating to have a drink and to exchange tales of their North African War experiences. As a result of this get-together it has been decided for representatives of the W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess to go to the International Cemetery in Holland yearly to lay wreathes together with their German comrades.



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II Air Formation Signal Regiment

1 Wing Signal Troop, Jever. Combating the many and varied troubles that beset a Wing Signal Troop, we have recently managed to field a consistant, if not spectacular, football team; Signalmen Kirkwood and Acton, Lance-Corporals Naughton and Fowler and Corporal Kerr, to mention a few, do much to demoralise the opposition who, unfortunately, still get by now and then. The invasion of our area by the opposition probably accounts for our many changes of goalkeepers and also for our not being top of the station league; still, a good friendly spirit exists and we enjoy our games.

Working parties on the airfields have been very busy lately and it may be some consolation to the chaps to know that Sergeant Reeves has blisters too! Rumour has it that he got his through pushing his motor bike but this is not true!

We have no projects on hand at present but our tele-briefing (a system of telephone communications to all airfields to the uninitiated) remains infested with peculiarities which keep the lineman fully occupied.

We have started our winter training programme which has meant digging deep into the minds of the instructors, and their pamphlets, but Staff Leppington has things under control and they are going with a swing.

Sergeant Christie has gone rejoicing to Malta Signal Squadron, accompanied by his Borgward "Isabella" (this is not a German popsie but a car). Sergeant Ashurst, Signalman Clark and Driver Loxam, ex-Ahlhorn, and Lance-Corporal Rosa, ex-H.Q. 2 T.A.F. are welcome reinforcements.

24 Wing Signal Troop, Ahlhorn. This Wing recently disbanded as the airfield has been handed over to the Germans. The cartoon it is felt is self-explanatory.

Air Operators Detachment, Sundern. With the disbandment of No. 2 Group and the formation of the T.O.C. we have been working hard, and still are, fitting our new Teletest around the camp.

It is not really hard work (or is it?) but when one wakes up in the middle of the night shouting colour codes to the poor unfortunate in the next bed, the approaching Christmas leave is a comforting thought. Who is the chap who is looking for a lead magnet for a slugged relay?

The T.O.T. wanders around muttering "Deadline Deadline"—our present one being the 17; we must wait and see what happens. Under the able guidance of Captain (Frank) Pedley and Staff Sergeant Thomas we are a happy and contended bunch, as one banana said to another.

We are happy to have Signalman Tony Best back with us from Cyprus, although he still "grips" very much about his "active service."

In the sporting line 95 per cent of the detachment either represent the Station or the Regiment at one game or another; all, it seems, on the same day which reduces the troop to a bare minimum. Still—it's not all system controls that have a senior N.C.O. at the test board, even for one day.

Tail piece—although the Army is cutting out its "Bull" we cannot get away from facts; as Sergeant Paddy Pressagh, says, "Beds will be made up as laid down in Standing Orders."

General. It is felt that the following notes, written by a fond father, on schooling in Germany may be comforting to those about to come to Germany:—

Children's Education in Germany

Apart from the normal and extra-ordinary duties we encounter in Germany we have the problems of Children's Education. I am not setting out to give full details of the British Families' Education Scheme, since these can be obtained, on application, from the appropriate authority, but rather, as a parent of two girls aged 13 and 9, to give my impressions of a subject that caused me a lot of worry when my posting order to Germany was received.

Primary Schools. These are established in all places where our forces are stationed, and cater for children up to the age of 11. I have nothing but praise for the enthusiasm of all the teachers who, incidentally, if married live in officers' married quarters, and if single in the officers' mess and are in effect another arm of our service.

The children are taught up to the Murray House test and have the great advantage of being in classes of an average of 25. The schools are very modern and are very well equipped. The usual games are played and in addition they have Brownie, Guides, Cubs and Scout troops. Parent-Teachers associations are very active.

Secondary Schools. Wilhelmshaven, Plon and Hamm are boarding schools, and at Munchen Gladbach there is a day school.

My elder daughter is at Prince Rupert School, Wilhelmshaven and I shall therefore give my impressions, as a parent, of boarding school life there.

Classes are graded in accordance with the child's ability which means the school caters for the Secondary Modern, Secondary Technical and Secondary Grammar student, and from what I have seen is comparable with the best at home.

Classrooms are well equipped, teachers are first-class and games facilities excellent. It is true to say that all hobbies are catered for—riding, sailing, shooting, drama, choral societies, Scouts, Sea Rangers, Guides, Combined Cadet Force and so on.

The examination results are very good and include the G.C.E. —R.S.A. and Forces apprentice entrance examinations.

All this for a very nominal charge which is graded in accordance with the parents' income.

In conclusion, I would like to say that both my daughters are very happy with their new life and as a parent I am delighted with the results. If you should be posted to Germany, rest assured everything possible will be done for your child's education.

Notes from R.H.Q. On behalf of all members of the Regiment, to all Royal Signals, past and present, everywhere—the Season's Greetings.

P.S. from the R.S.M. I already know what to do with my Christmas Pudding, thank you.

"SAFELAND"

By Major A. W. Richards, Royal Signals
11 Air Air Formation Signal Regiment.

The importance of the work done by Air Formation Signals was brought home to us all on 29th September, 1958, by a Special Order of The Day describing an incident which occurred on 26th September, 1958.

A Swedish-made "Safeland" barrier has recently been installed at the Western end of the main runway at R.A.F. Gutersloh. This barrier is designed to catch and safely decelerate an aircraft which lands with unserviceable brakes or one which aborts on take-off.

The raising and lowering of the barrier is remotely controlled from the Air Traffic Control Caravan. The remote control cables are normally installed by the Air Ministry Works Department. At Gutersloh we were asked to provide the pairs as the AMWD were unable, for the time being, to lay the necessary two miles of special cable.

An existing, but spare, cable spur was diverted to the barrier site and the control pairs were provided by jumper-



[*Courtesy: Air Ministry*

Flight Lieutenant Cobban's "Swift" at the end of the "smooth ride"

ing through spare pairs in the various sections of the airfield perimeter cables.

At 0830 hrs. on 29th September, 1958, Flight Lieutenant "Sandy" Cobban was about to start the day's flying in a "Swift" jet aircraft. At the eastern end of the runway he ran-up his engine and switched on the re-heat, or after-burner, which is a device which provides extra thrust for take-off or steep climbs.

When Cobban started his take-off, a R.A.F. engineer party were just completing some maintenance on the barrier, which was in the fully lowered position. The "Swift" had roared more than halfway down the runway when the re-heat cut out.

Cobban immediately called for the barrier on his R/T.

The Controller jabbed the "Barrier Up" button with both forefingers—almost pushing the button right through the control unit!

The "Swift" raced on—with the pilot braking as hard as he could. He dared not use his brakes when his aircraft ran off the concrete runway on to the slippery PSP extension, and the barrer—only 150 yards away—was still only half erect. It locked in the fully erect position less than two seconds before the "Swift" struck it at 100 knots.

The aircraft was brought safely to a standstill in 130 yards and stopped just short of a stout wooden fence which divides the airfield from the bank of the River Ems.

It is a matter of great satisfaction to us all that the circuits which we provided were instrumental in saving a man's life and a quarter of a million pounds worth of aeroplane. If the barrier had been operated on local control with a telephone link bewteen a local operator and the Air Traffic Controller, the added delay due to one more human being in the chain, would have been fatal. As it was the pilot was able, subsequently, to describe his experience as "a smooth ride."

"Since this was written, two more aircraft have been safely "caught" by the barrier."

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M E L F

CYPRUS DISTRICT SIGNAL REGIMENT

The Regimental "empire," about which we expounded in our last notes, started to contract in mid-October, when King Hussein bade the Parachute Brigade farewell from Jordan, and the L. of C. Signal Squadron (Captain Anderson, Lieutenant Oehlers and company) started to pack up and come back to Cyprus. Some lucky chaps hopped aboard Hastings and Beverleys and flew direct, whilst the not-so-lucky bashed their way in Rovers to Aqaba and embarked on L.S.T.s for this troubled island.

On the other hand, six members of 2 Squadron have now gone for a holiday in Libya to help out Tripolitania Signal Troop in what apparently is an hour of need. Our T.O.T., Major Rumsey, enquired if he could revert to Signalman to accompany them to his original stamping ground!

Now we have a more reasonable climate, compared with the summer, everyone appears to be a little more even tempered, and sport has got into its swing again. The Regiment heads the Cyprus Units Soccer League at the moment, and our congratulations go to the team on their good start to the season, under the able organisation of Captain Mellor.

The Unit cricket season, such as it was, ended with an Officers versus W.O.s and Sergeants match, which was both well played and supported. The W.O.s and Sergeants' Mess laid on an excellent buffet/curry lunch for all who attended, and deserved to win handsomely for their kindness alone. The result, however, was a tie, and no one knows how that was arrived at!

The Unit fete was held (but only just, due to "enemy" attacks on a V.I.P. that morning) in October, and the array of stalls was most impressive and there were donkey rides for the children, as well as trips round the camp in "T" Troop's puffing billy, the Kykko Komet.

The Unit L.A.D. provided and operated the best stall (a "Round Britain Quiz" with thousands of lights) only just beating, however, 2 Squadron H.Q. roulette table stall, which was ably run by Staff Sergeant Coleman and Signalman Chadwick, with Major Hinton providing the proper snippets of French from time to time.

The Wives' Club had a very fine stall, either selling home-made cakes and buns, or raffling them, and the Kykko Komets, our Unit skiffle group, provided the background music. It took some time to convince people that the P.A. was *not* faulty. The day was finished off with an informal evening in the Sergeants' Mess.

Major Bosworth left us for Benghazi last month, where he will be for only a short while before leaving the Army. Captain Watson has already left us, and leaves the Army as well very shortly. Our "Handsome Harry" (Lieutenant Taylor) has returned to U.K. on completion of tour, and is no doubt missed by many.

Also departed to U.K. were W.O.II Kelly and Staff Sergeants Rotherham and Bratlid, and from U.K. has arrived our new R.S.M., Mr. Jones, who fills the vacancy created by the departure of Mr. Harding on becoming a "sir."

Our new Quartermaster, Captain Truscott, has arrived and, all other things being equal (presumably the ledger figures) will

free Major Banham to go to U.K. on completion of his tour. Major Collison is now with us, after a "holiday" in L.F.P.G. en route, and Lieutenant Read and Second-Lieutenant Woodward have joined 2 Squadron, and Lieutenants Copeland and Mills No. 1 Squadron.

Major Sell, who, to his great delight, has been awarded his golden bowler, will be away quite soon, and is spending his spare time collecting seeds from loofahs, melons and other endemic plants, with which to start Sells Super Saprophyte School. If he fails, he can always fall back on his sense of humour!

With the coming of Christmas, programmes of entertainment for both young and old are being devised, and O.C. "H.Q." Squadron (Major Wythe) is A/U/Father Christmas this year, and filling his office with dolls and toys in anticipation of the great day.

And, if it's not too late, a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all.

TRIPOLITANIA DISTRICT SIGNAL SQUADRON, M.E.L.F.

Visit of Brigadier Gardiner, C.B.E. This is described in the following articles copied from the "Tripolitania District Gazette."

"On 13th, 14th and 15th October we were fortunate enough to receive a visit from Brigadier C. D. Gardiner, C.B.E., Chief Signal Officer, M.E.L.F.

"The visit was in effect a farewell one, for Brigadier Gardiner is to retire at the end of this month after 32 years' service, the last two-and-a-half years having been spent as C.S.O., M.E.L.F., under very hectic conditions in Cyprus.

"During his visit, Brigadier Gardiner inspected a parade and took a march past of Tripolitania Signal Squadron, commanded by Major L. Beaumont, Royal Signals. The parade detachment commander was Captain H. K. Witt, Royal Signals.

"Amongst several complimentary comments made by Brigadier Gardiner apropos the technical standards of the Squadron activities, we mention only one: "It is a long time since I saw such a high standard of turn-out on parade, and even longer since I have seen so many berets worn so correctly.

"The visit covered all aspects of the Squadron activities and a tour of F.B.S. conducted by the Station Commander, Mr. Richard Angove, was included.

"To conclude our VALE to Brigadier Gardiner we offer our sincere congratulations on his very well deserved C.B.E., the award of which was announced in the *London Gazette* at the beginning of October, and we all wish him a long and happy retirement."

We in Tripoli have been responsible for the last two years for the display of fireworks on Guy Fawkes night. This year under the guidance of Captain Witt about 20 of the Squadron qualified as Pyrotechnicians down at Piccola Capri, and according to all reports we gave an excellent display. (I wonder who will give the display next year?)

Before the fireworks display, the Pipe Band and Drums of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Irish Fusiliers, gave a magnificent exhibition of marching and counter-marching to their wonderful music. A grand show.

W.O.II De Fazio is now in the Signal Centre Supervisor's chair and is getting a grip. On his journey from Accra he touched down in three different countries, and it was a very tired Mr. and Mrs. with two exhausted children who marched into



Courtesy: Army Public Relations

Brigadier C. D. Gardiner, C.B.E., inspects the Squadron

quarters in the wee sma' hours. We welcome W.O.II De Fazio and his family and hope their stay will be a happy one.

Things We Want to Know—3.

Why can't some T.O.T. or F. of S. or anyone else design a Corps cap badge with crown attached. Anyone who has experienced the frustrating, infuriating nonsense of putting the present cap badge in a No. 1 Dress hat or a S.D. cap will agree that something should be done.

The Squadron is carrying on in its quiet way and though sea bathing is finished it looks as though we might start fresh water swimming if this rain persists.

MALTA, G.C.

Army Wireless Chain Installation Troop

It seems to be the fate of all new arrivals to be asked to write notes for THE WIRE. Whether this is due to the fact that everyone else has written everything they can think of, or whether a new person is expected to think of something new, I am not sure, but it seems to be my fate, both previously and now.

Firstly, it must be about a year since we last appeared in print, but as we only number 18 all ranks, of whom four are R.E.M.E., once a year is not a bad proportional representation, when compared with a regiment, for example.

We are stationed in Malta, a small island about 150 miles south-west of the toe of Italy and 220 miles from the coast of Africa. It is really a large rock protruding from the Mediterranean, with the sides dropping steeply away, so that creeks and inlets form natural harbours. As the island is so rocky, soil is at a premium and is carefully conserved and cultivated, mainly in small fields with rock walls to prevent it being washed away during the rains.

The climate here provides something of pretty well everything. The summer officially starts in May and ends at the beginning of November; August being the hottest month, with tempartures in the nineties. September, however, is a humid

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month, and as the temperatures are still high, can be quite unpleasant. The rains start around October, and then the temperatures start dropping, until around Christmas they are down in the forties. Spring starts in March or April and then gradually turns to summer once more.

Now what is it like as an Army station? Everything here is in permanent or semi-permanent buildings, and as far as we are concerned, there is no question of temporary or tented accommodation, although the permanent accommodation is often so permanent as to be antique. Our office building was built in 1570. As a families' station, it is not at all bad. Private accommodation in the form of flats is easy to find for all ranks, though houses are difficult, but not impossible. International situation permitting accompanied passages to Malta are easily obtained. One word of warning, however, the accommodation does not contrast well if you come from say Germany or the U.K.; however, it is quite adequate, and a furnished flat will normally provide everything essential so that you can move in before your heavy baggage arrives.

Most forms of sport are available and, of course, there is plenty of swimming and underwater fishing. In fact at the hottest time of the year most people seem to spend more time in the sea than out of it.

If you have read this far, you are none the wiser on who this unit is or what is does, and whether we have won or lost any good games lately. Well, the short answer is that we must save something to write about next time.

The Trucial Oman Scouts

No record can be found of any notes being sent from this Troop in the past, and in order to forestall such questions as—"Who are the Trucial Oman Scouts?" "Where are they?" and "What do they do?"—we are sending the following outline of our whereabouts, history and activities, as provided by the "Editorial Committee."

GEOGRAPHY

The Trucial Oman States are made up of seven independent Sheikhdoms, whose external affairs are handled by the British Foreign Office under a treaty agreement. They are called "Trucial" because the rulers originally signed a truce with the British, agreeing to suppress the pirates who attacked British ships in the Persian Gulf.

The states lie along the southern coast of the Persian Gulf, bordered by Qatar, Muscat and Saudi Arabia, so the climate is typically "Gulf" (i.e. varies between hot and very hot).

Our headquarters is in Sharjah (one of the seven states) and our camp and an R.A.F. Station are both about a mile from the town of Sharjah. The town is small, but there are quite a number of Arab shops, and the creek on which it lies is usually full of fishing boats of various shapes and sizes.

Nearby Dubai is the largest town on the coast, and is the main port, although it is also built round a creek which is comparatively shallow, so large ships have to unload on to lighters. It is also the centre for the small pearling industry.

There are no metalled roads but the bus sets out from Dubai every week for Buraimi. It is an incredibly dilapidated three-tonner. The load is apparently unlimited and stores are piled up to the canopy rails (there is no canopy). Forty or more passengers then drape themselves on top, round the sides and



Signalman Roberts, Corporal Harding and Captain Fisher stop for a "brew up" during a trip up country

on the bumpers and mudguards. It makes numerous stops during its journey—usually due to punctures or breakdowns—and passengers are expected to take their own food and bedding for overnight stops (overday stops in the summer when it is too hot to travel by day). Numerous camel trains also load up in Dubai before setting off with supplies for all parts of the country.

The countryside varies from flat salt plains along the coast, through huge expanses of sand and desert scrub to mountain ranges in the east.

HISTORY

The Force, first known as The Trucial Oman Levies, was raised in 1952 to provide some measure of security for persons under British protection, living or travelling in the country. At that time the force consisted of a British officer on contract to the Foreign Office and 60 Arab soldiers.

A year later, in order to deal with a territorial dispute in the Buraimi Oasis, the Force was expanded and, at the same time, came under War Office, instead of Foreign Office, direction.

The name was changed to The Trucial Oman Scouts in 1956, and the Force has continued to expand until now, when the strength is approximately a hundred British and a thousand Arab ranks.

MILITARY

Apart from a Cable and Wireless office in Dubai and H.F. nets operated by the Political Agency and the oil companies, there are no civil communications.

The Force maintains a number of permanent stations outside Sharjah, and this Troop provides communications for them, for mobile patrols, a rear link, a link on one of the civil nets, occasional ground/air communications and occasional links with H.M. Ships.

The Troop is a mixed British/Arab Troop with a Royal Signals and an Arab officer. Selected recruits and boys are trained at the Signal Wing of the Training Squadron by Arab N.C.O.s of the Troop, under the Arab Officer, Mulazim Said Muhsin.

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Boy Hamed Saleh at work in the Signal Centre

Three signallers, Lance-Corporal Abdullah Ali and Privates Mayuff Awadh and Hamed Abdullah, have recently graduated from Boys' to Men's Service. Lance-Corporal Abdullah Ali was the best recruit and Private Mayuff Awadh the best shot on their course. Both were given watches at a presentation parade attended by the Commander Land Forces Persian Gulf, the Political Agent and the Rulers of six of the seven states.

SOCIAL

There are only five British women on the Trucial Coast and they are all married. However, there is a cinema and a swimming pool, and the NAAFI sells beer.

A day out in a dhow recently produced several fish. Most of them were caught by Signalman Brown, but nearly everyone had his photograph taken with them (presumably to send home with suitably exaggerated stories).

Lance-Corporal Ironside, with others of the Troop, keep the football team going (so he says), while Lance Corporal Goodman sticks to darts and Egyptian P.T.

Staff Sergeant Cage and Sergeant Lawrence have opened a ham station and are always pleased to hear from other hams. They are usually on the air from about 5 p.m. G.M.T. (call-sign MP4 TAC).

Corporal Harding (our tame Cipher Operator) only visits us at intervals. He is normally only seen emerging from the gloom of the Cipher Office to make dashes to the cookhouse or to bed.

Captain Fisher goes on frequent expeditions to the out-stations, and when in Sharjah sometimes ventures from the Signal Centre (which is air-conditioned) to feed our two dogs. The donkey, chicken and cat seem to be able to fend for themselves.

Mulazim Said Mihsin has recently received a new pair of glasses and can now keep an even sterner eye on his trainees.

Sergeant Ali Abdullah has just run a Signals exercise, and although communications were not a hundred per cent satisfactory he placated the O.C. and Sergeant Barr by giving them cups of tea whenever they visited him, so all was well.

Preparations for Christmas are in progress. We hope to run a troop party if we can find somewhere, other than the Signal Centre, to hold it.

GARDENING

The T.O.S.S.T.D.C.S. (Trucial Oman Scouts Signal Troop Desert Cultivation Scheme) has swung into action. It has found it is easier to cultivate weeds than flowers or vegetables.

We are, of course, governed by certain laws, both natural and civil. Basically, these are:—

1. We have no flowers or vegetables to start with.
2. If we had they would not grow in either the salt dry desert sand or the camp sand which is 90% salt.
3. Weeds abound in many varieties within the camp.
4. They are even more profuse outside the camp.
5. Small bushes may be "had" outside the camp at the risk of the Sheikh's Guards (political and legal implications unknown).
6. Palm trees may be "had" at the risk of Bedouin defenders and goat herds. The Bedouins have marvellous Martini Henry rifles that . . . . sorry, back to gardening!

Speed is also important when transplanting—assuming one has avoided other obstacles—as it is essential to get the various plants, bushes or shrubs back into the ground (already soaked in fresh water "acquired" in the camp or bought at 4 annas per jerrican) before they turn to dried faggots.

Other natural hazards endured by this hard-working band under the direction of the President of the T.O.S.S.T.D.C.S. (Corporal Williams) are hungry camels and the eat-anything donkeys—not to mention the dogs on this treeless waste. Lastly, the human hazard, i.e., "Attracting those ——— flies again," or "You must be twisted" and "How long have you been here, mates?"

It is a problem, but never fear, Signals will have a garden even if the President is shot in the attempt.

SUMMARY

There are worse places than Sharjah and we manage to occupy ourselves.

Visitors are always welcome and anyone passing through is invited to "give us a ring." We can normally produce some cold drinks and a cool seat now that the Signal Centre has been air-conditioned.

1 SIGNAL SQUADRON, KING'S AFRICAN RIFLES

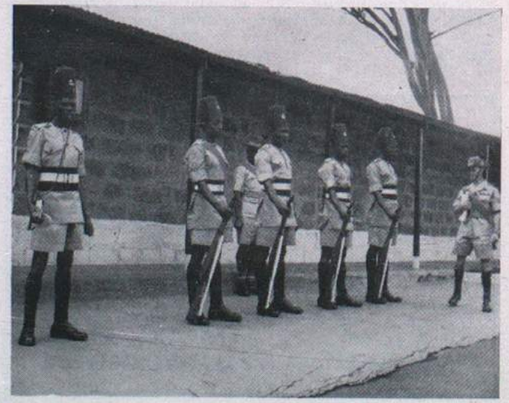
During the month the Unit was honoured by a visit from Major-General N. P. H. Tapp, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., G.O.C., East Africa.

On 1st October, 1958, after many months of hard talking, a new joint W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess, shared with 92 (M.T.) Company, K.A.R., opened in Buller Camp. Although the Mess is not our very own, it is a great improvement on the Garrison Mess.

We are continuing to play plenty of hockey in the Unit, and even soccer has temporarily taken second place to it. Our earlier successes in representative matches have not been fully maintained, but we are continuing to hold our own. We congratulate Staff Sergeant Walker and Sergeant McPherson on being selected to play in the Command hockey trials, and the latter in particular, for being selected to play for the Command Army team in their first match against Gymkhana Club.

The arrangements for air trooping to East Africa have been revised over the past month, and we are now conveyed in 98-seater DC-6s, in place of the smaller Hermes aircraft. The larger planes are inevitably flying less frequently, and it is proving difficult to fit arrivals and departures on to planes leaving at suitable dates. The old joke about the Quarter-master's Stores: "Would you like your uniform too big or too small?" is now being varied with respect to air passages, and the question now asked is: "Do you want to return to U.K. too early or too late?"

Our Commanding Officer, Major A. Holifield, M.C., returned on 23rd October, 1958, from a second ascent of Mount Kilimanjaro. He was accompanying a party of officers from the King's African Rifles. The round trip from Loitokitok to the summit and back is about 50 miles and entails a climb from 5,000 to just under 20,000 feet. On the return trip Major Holifield went on ahead of the main party and lost the track in the forest. After marching about 20 miles along game tracks, through primary jungle and finally down a muddy, overgrown and tortuous river bed, he finally emerged, unscathed, at the edge of the forest, and has since been shooting the biggest line since Stanley met Livingstone. The lower forests on Kilimanjaro are



teeming with elephant and rhino, and how Major Holifield managed to get through without being savaged or at least chased by the game remains a mystery to us all.

Our next social event will be on 5th November, when the Junior Ranks' Mess will be holding a Firework Party. We hope that most of the Unit children will attend and look forward to a noisy but enjoyable evening. The fire picket has been warned to stand by! Some of the Mess members have stated they are more interested in fire-water than fire-works, but after all, it's the spirit that counts!

T.A.

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

Since the last notes we have had a busy time, both from the purely military and social angles. A number of successful "Phantom" Exercises have been conducted, in spite of the curb imposed on training funds in July. An unusual feature of the October Exercise, "Jubilee III," was the inclusion of a Phantom Forward Patrol from the Phantom Squadron of the Middlesex Yeomanry Signal Regiment. This proved a great success and of mutual benefit. It is hoped to expand this feature in future "Phantom" Exercises.

In view of the restrictions on training funds, range practices laid on for August and September had to be cancelled. However, a successful Regimental Rifle Meeting was held in September, which was also attended by a contingent of the Regimental Old Comrades' Association numbering 60. After the various Regimental competitions and the Old Comrades' Association shoot, the Old Comrades' Association managed rather convincingly to reverse last year's Regiment versus Old Comrades' Association competition result, by soundly beating the Regiment.

In the Eastern Command Royal Signals' T.A. Rifle Meeting a Regimental team managed to take second place in the falling plate competition and Lance-Corporal Denver, a fairly recent recruit, managed to obtain second place in the Young Soldier competition.

On the social "front" emphasis has been placed upon celebrating the Golden Jubilee year of the Territorial Army. The Mayor and Mayoress of the Royal Borough of Kensington held a reception during October for the T.A. Regiments housed in the Royal Borough, at which All Ranks were able to meet the Borough's leading citizens.

The Regiment held an All Ranks' Ball to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of the T.A. on Saturday, 18th October, 1958. Present at this function was the Regiment's Honorary Colonel, Major-General M. S. Wheatley, C.B., C.B.E., M.I.E.E., and Mrs. M. S. Wheatley. Principal guests included the Mayor and Mayoress of the Royal Borough of Kensington, Councillor A. N. E. McHaffie, J.P., and Mrs. A. N. E. McHaffie, Lady Petrie, Deputy Chairman of the London County Council, Senior Signal Officers from Command and District Headquarters and Commanding Officers of neighbouring Signal Regiments. The evening, voted a great success by all who attended, continued into the early hours, a fitting tribute to the occasion that it marked.

Finally, a note on recruiting. The Regiment last month recorded its 50th recruit within the preceding 12 months. It is apparent that the glamour of "Phantom" is by no means on the wane. There are, however, still vacancies for Radio Technicians and Wireless Operators within the Regimental establishment. Possible recruits interested in these trades are always welcome at the Regimental H.Q., at 190, Hammersmith Road, London, W.6.

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No. 2 NORTHERN COMMAND (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT (T.A.) and No. 2 INDEPENDENT U.K.L.F. RESERVE SIGNAL SQUADRON (T.A.)

First of all we would like to extend a hearty welcome to our new Honorary Colonel, the first we have had, Colonel M. W. Batchelor, J.P. We consider it a great honour in having such a prominent "Man of Sheffield" as our Honorary Colonel. He has been a Justice of the Peace for the City of Sheffield since 1947. He is at present Chairman of the East and West Ridings of Yorkshire Resettlement Committee for ex-Regulars, Officers and men, and has been, in the past, both President and Chairman of the Sheffield and District Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Help Society and Lord Robert's Memorial Workshop, in addition to many other appointments in both civil and ex-Service Associations. He had a distinguished war record from the outbreak of war until 1943, when he had to retire due to ill-health. We have already felt the benefit of Colonel Batchelor's advice and experience, and he has made a very generous donation to the Unit P.R.I. Funds.

The last three months has seen quite a lot of activity, even though it is supposed to be the quiet period of the year.

A very successful radio relay exercise was carried out in September with the help of 21 (N.M) Corps Signal Regiment (T.A.), when the aim was to provide radio relay contacts between Nottingham and York. The AN/TRC contact was established right on time and remained through for the whole period of the exercise. During the same week-end the remainder of the Unit carried out Civil Defence training at Proteus Camp.

During October, the whole Unit, less 1 Squadron, who had a local T.A. Jubilee Parade, had a week-end's range and weapon training at Strensall W.E.T.C. This was slightly marred by the fact that a thick mist hung over the ranges until nearly midday on Sunday, and we had to make do with the open 30-yard range. However, one or two promising shots were discovered (including some in the W.R.A.C.).

Two recruiting displays were held simultaneously during August at the large local fair and also at the Sheffield Show, where we also provided the communications. Both of these may be judged successful, if the number of recruits that they produced is taken as the measure.

In October also, through the good offices of our Honorary Colonel, the Editors of the Sheffield morning and evening newspapers were entertained to lunch at Crabtree, and afterwards taken on a conducted tour of the T.A. Centre.

Now, what of our detached Squadrons. T.A. Jubilee parades have been held at Nottingham and Beeston, in which our Beeston Squadron took part. Both these resulted in a small number of new recruits. At Derby, a very successful social



[*Photo: Sheffield Telegraph*

(*Left to right*) Mr. E. Gooseman, Editor *Sheffield Star*, Mr. H. E. Boulter, Chairman Sheffield A.T.C., Captain J. M. Newman, Adjutant, Colonel M. W. Batchelor, J.P., Honorary Colonel, W.O.II J. R. Hufton, Major A. E. Farnol, T.D., O.C. 2 Squadron, Lieut.-Colonel J. N. Boyland, Commanding Officer

evening and dance was run by Captain Henfrey, W.R.A.C., and her assistants, and a good time was had by all.

In addition to our Honorary Colonel, we also welcome Captain F. Mansfield, M.B.E., who has taken over the post of Permanent Staff Officer of 2 U.K.L.F. Reserve Signal Squadron (T.A.) R.S.M. M. A. Barnes-Murphy took over from R.S.M. E. C. Jones, to whom we bid a sad farewell. Mr. Jones has gone to Cyprus, so we pass a word of warning to Colonel Grivas, beware! Staff Sergeant West is at present in the midst of taking over as Chief Clerk from Sergeant Thomas, who is shortly to depart for Fontainbleau.

Finally, congratulations to W.O.II M. McCue, B.E.M., W.R.A.C., our senior W.R.A.C. P.S.I., on the award of the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal; and to W.O.II E. Griffiths and Corporal A. J. Ripley, on the award of the Territorial Efficiency Medal.

54 (E.A.) INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT (T.A.)

"K" Troop. It really doesn't seem twelve months ago that "K" Troop produced its first Unit WIRE notes!

1958 has been a good year for us at Luton: a full programme for the T.A. Golden Jubilee Celebrations, the Hyde Park Review in June, followed by the local Drumhead Service in July, left us rather breathless for our Annual Camp at Crowborough, also in July. What little breath we had left was expended on a hectic but extremely realistic exercise at the latter end of camp which left most of us feeling like a "bootlace."

Sunday, September 28th, found the troop participating in a Drumhead Service at Dunstable, followed by a display of equipment in the local Park, which rounded off our Golden Jubilee Celebrations and at the same time helped the recruiting campaign.

More recently, in October, a successful local training weekend was organised in the form of a "Hare and Hounds" Exercise, which proved valuable in training the newcomers of all trades.

We were very fortunate to "take on strength" Lieutenant P. Wharton early in the year. Signalman R. G. Day has rejoined the Troop after an absence of four years, Signalman E. J. Barton has also returned to the fold, bringing along his brother, Signalman J. Barton. This year's new members include Signalmen Bell, Neves, Robins, Smith, McLusky, with Signalmen Linney and Weston late of the Royal Navy. Sergeant Brown has joined us as the M.T. Sergeant.

It is refreshing to look round at these latest recruits, most of them completely "green" to the Service, and see the keen spirit that exists. Refreshing to realise that, despite the gloom merchants, there still exists in England the same type of yeoman stock that fought at Agincourt. Time will see the T.A. as strong as it ever was—it's up to us to ensure that the time is, in actual fact, the very near future.

"K" Troop has had a "face lift" in the form of a change of accommodation—December will see us settled in an ultra-modern T.A.C. in Marsh Road, Luton, sharing its many amenities with the 249 Field Squadron, R.E.

The Mayor of Luton, Ald. Mrs. Mary Brash, gave a concert for the T.A. on Friday, 28th November, at the T.A.C., Old Bedford Road—a very good one it was, too. It is essential for the T.A. to have the "backing" of the Local Government. We are extremely lucky here at Luton to enjoy the full support and co-operation of our Mayor and Corporation.

Sergeant Stan Cooke, our P.S.I. for four years, will leave us early in the New Year. This will be a sad loss to the Troop, and it makes one look back and think. We should think of our Permanent Staff, you know, who nurse us (often curse us) and who tidy up the numerous "loose ends" to make our various projects possible. Without them we couldn't exist!

Major P. B. H. Stobart, our Squadron Commander, and all members of "K" Troop, wish readers the Season's Greetings and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

R.H.Q. The Annual Regimental Ball was held in the Hyde Park Hotel, London, on November 1st, 1958. The Commanding Officer and Mrs. Dicker received the guests, which included Major-General and Mrs. Nalder, Colonel R. P. A. Helps, our Honorary Colonel, and Brigadier and Mrs. Smijth-Windham.

A section of the Royal Signals Dance Orchestra provided excellent music throughout the evening, and the ballroom had been transformed so that there was a "family party" atmosphere prevailing. Everyone voted the evening a success.

We are glad to report that Lieutenant-Colonel (Q.M.) Spearpoint is now well on the way to recovery after a protracted illness which has necessitated frequent sojourns in Milbank Hospital. It is quite noticeable that the Permanent Staff now shun all forms of gardening exercises without the Spearpoint garden to shame them into activity.

We wish the best of luck to W.O.I Kempton and his family, who have moved on after a very short tour with us. We welcome W.O.I and Mrs. Donaldson as relief.

SCOTTISH COMMAND (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT (T.A.)

Since the start of the new training year, this Regiment has been extremely fortunate in its recruiting. This was in the main due to the activities of the T.A. Jubilee Year and the various displays held.

Readers will no doubt recall that in the August issue of THE WIRE 52 Lowland Divisional Signals, T.A., reported on the joint effort with Command Regiment of displays and arena items that took place in the Kelvin Hall, Glasgow, during the summer period. A similar effort, "The T.A. Fair," opened by the Edinburgh T.A. Association, took place in the Waverley Market, 23rd-27th September. Scottish Command (M) Signal Regiment, together with 3 Squadron, 52 Lowland Divisional Signals (T.A.), provided one of the static displays. This took the form of items of equipment, Mess silver and trophies, with selected vehicles and motor cycles.



Scottish Country Dancing Display Team at the T.A. Fair





ROYAL SIGNALS T.A. STAND

(*Left*) At the T.A. Fair, Waverley Market, Edinburgh. In the picture are S.S.M. Evans and R.S.M. Hall. (*Right*) At the T.A. Jubilee Exhibition, Kelvin Hall, Glasgow

The Regiment was also responsible for the cinema which showed to capacity audiences twice nightly and also for the general communications for the Fair, and in particular for the arena show, which was of a very high order. The general comment of the Edinburgh citizen was, "A great little Tattoo." The Regiment was privileged to provide a mixed team which took part in the Scottish Country Dancing—one of the main arena show items.

The whole T.A. Fair was voted a great success and a great deal of thanks is due to our Training Major, Major Townson, and the Permanent Staff who worked extremely hard to get Signals a worthy mention.

A Regimental Dinner for Officers of the Regiment was held in the Carlton Hotel, Edinburgh, on Saturday, 8th November, 1958, to say farewell to Major D. V. Seddon, T.D., and Major J. Baillie, T.D., both of whom joined the Regiment on the reconstitution of the T.A. in 1947.

Lieutenant-Colonel H. S. Scarborough, T.D., and Lieutenant-Colonel J. Lothian, E.R.D., T.D., both former Commanding Officers, attended.

Presentations were made to departing Officers by both former Commanding Officers.

Lieutenant-Colonel T. D. Childs, M.B.E., T.D., present Commanding Officer, also presented Captain M. C. Lamb, M.B.E., with a beer tankard on his retirement from the T.A.

To all three retiring Officers, the Regiment sends best wishes and extends a hearty welcome to them any time they care to visit.

The activities of the Regiment continue much as usual with emphasis being placed upon technical and basic training, though attention is being given to recreational nights where our W.R.A.C. Country Dance Team are practising hard for the Scottish Command Country Dance Competition to be held at the end of November.

Rifle shooting is playing its part, especially after our recent successes in the Lowland District Rifle Meeting where Lieutenant Cruickshank obtained the first prize with the highest score and Signalman Niven was runner-up for the highest score in the Young Soldiers' Competition. Our team was placed fourth, being only 26 points from the winner. Other successes were obtained in the Edinburgh T. and A.F. Rifle Association Meeting, when the Regiment won two silver medals and the pool bull was cracked on a number of occasions. At the Scottish Command Royal Signals Rifle Meeting the Regiment kept its name to the fore by being runners-up in the competition with R.S.M. Hall and Sergeant Peebles being joint runners-up for the Hardy Challenge Cup and with Major Townson and Signalman Niven also sharing the honours.

The W.R.A.C. have now taken a keen interest in the Shooting activities of the Regiment and no less than three teams have entered for the competition to be held in March, 1959. We wish them every success.

The Highland District M/C Trials at Cultybraggan have just been completed and the Unit "A" Team succeeded in gaining sixth place, which was quite a good performance. Sergeant Peebles was again in the running for the Individual Event, losing only 15 points. He will get that prize yet.

Winter training is now in full swing at Brandon Terrace and Coplaw Street, and so to Administration Inspections, Christmas parties and the like. Camp will be a welcome break.

63 COMMAND (MIXED) SIGNAL REGIMENT (T.A.)

1958 has been an eventful year for the Regiment.

We duly participated in Jubilee parades in Salisbury, Bournemouth, Portsmouth and Southampton, and at the Hyde Park Royal Parade provided the second largest contingent. The Commanding Officer was in charge of the Southern Command Army Troops Detachment, and all ranks, in common with 7,000 others, got soaked to the skin.

Annual Camp took place from 9th to 23rd August at Penhale Camp in Cornwall, and in spite of really atrocious weather, a great deal of realistic training was done. The first week was devoted to trade training and the second to Trade Boards and the Regimental exercise "Yak's Head." During this exercise, a successful cable crossing was made over the River Camel which necessitated coping with a 5/6 knot tide and an impromptu bathing party. Seldom have so many naked linemen been seen on the Cornish coast. The Antrac worked well and the traffic exercise caused many a sore throat. Amongst distinguished visitors we had Brigadier F. W. P. Bradford, Chief Signal Officer, Southern Command, and Prince Chula of Thailand, on whose property one of the wireless detachments operated.

The march-past was taken by the Chief Signal Officer and, as usual, the W.R.A.C. band was well to the fore. They have now reached a very high standard, both as regards music and drill.

The best news we have is that at last we have a brick-built R.H.Q. instead of the somewhat dilapidated erection at the back of the Command Pay Office. We have taken over Bishopsdown House, a small Victorian Manor House, which stands in its own grounds, and it is certainly a joy to have proper training accommodation (and even an Officers' Mess). It is hoped that next summer the Regimental tennis court may be put to proper use.

Taking attached units into account, we now number 450, and with the opening of a new T.A. Centre in Basingstoke at the end of the month, hope to top the 500 mark soon. The T.A. Centre there is a reconditioned antiquity, but the local T.A. Association have done their best for us.

A great loss will be the departure of Major "Nick" Warren of 10 A.S.S.U., on 17th October. He is one of our oldest serving officers, and has been a Squadron Commander for nine years. John Clifton, who has been his deputy for many a long day, succeeds him.

R.S.M. E. R. Gay, M.B.E., has been a tower of strength throughout the year, and although he has never found out who sends him his yearly "Valentine," copes in a most genial and capable way with the other sex. We hope we shall not lose him for many a long day.

Our other Corps celebrity, Jack Carr, continues to Quartermaster with his usual aplomb, and for the third year running, has ensured that we have come away from camp without the usual grisly train of barrack damages. He now has a genuine Yak's Head on charge, which improves the look of the Quartermaster's Stores.

We have been visited by our founder-Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel D. J. Goldsmith, whose present command is 4,000 chickens, but we found him just the same except, perhaps, not able to stand the strain of the usual T.A. 20-hour days as in days of yore.

We look forward to an energetic training year in 1958/59 and a continued increase in numbers.

Association Notes

Bournemouth Branch

It is some considerable time since we appeared in these columns but on 25th October we passed an important milestone in our history and thought you might like to hear from us again.

On that date we celebrated our 21st birthday and invited many old friends to join us at dinner. Among them were some of the original members of the Branch and two of the original members of a group who founded Association Branches in the South of England. Many of you will know Freddy Cole and Ernie Hand and will be pleased to know that they are as keen as ever on the Association and all it stands for—they look as young as ever too! Lieutenant-Colonel C. H. Howarth, O.B.E., T.D., the old hands tell me, hasn't changed a bit from the days when he was one of our founder members. Mark you, he has ascended quite a few rungs of the ladder since those early days and we were very appreciative of the fact that he could find time to be with us. Lieutenant-Colonel M. J. R. Fletcher, M.B.E., D.C.S.O. Southern Command, brought us up-to-date on Corps activities and brought it home to us that Royal Signals are still pretty busy people—how they get along without you and I, I don't know.

"Are you still at it" was the remark made by many former members when they found that Sam Rouse is still holding down the job of Secretary, as he has done since the inception of the Branch. That's a good record you know—21 years of keeping the Branch going, for without him we might well have fallen by the wayside. But, by judicious use of a mixture of cheerfulness and rudeness, bullying and cajoling, Sam has kept us going and the success of the dinner was, in no small measure, due to the fact that he had worried and fretted for weeks beforehand to make sure everything was "right on the night." In his speech he particularly mentioned the lack of new, young members, a matter that troubles most secretaries no doubt, and it was heartening to have Brigadier Firth tell us that he recently attended a Branch function at which the Chairman was a National Serviceman. So it can be done—and we must all search for the answer to the problem.

Brigadier Firth, apologising unnecessarily for the length of his speech, added some amusing and interesting sidelights on Corps activities when he spoke to us about the Association. There were also interpolations on world affairs, rock 'n' roll, wines—as usual a good speech from a man of lively and varied experience.

We were particularly pleased to have two, too often unsung, heroines of the Welfare Section with us, Miss Hyde-Parker and Miss Cook. No, Miss H-P, you neither look nor sound like "witches"—I think that's what you said he said! Come down and see us again sometime, please.

It really was a representative gathering, "hims" ancient and modern, in fact (the "hers" were, naturally, all modern) and much good chatter, many good memories. In short, a gathering of old comrades, which is just as it should be.

In a surprise item we had our Chairman, Mr. Harry Wright, blushing right up over his rather high forehead. It's hard to assess just how much value to the Branch there is in a Chairman like ours. Always helpful with advice, always in control of the meetings and always ready to draw on his experience for the benefit of others—yes, the car badge and tie we presented to him can only be a very small token of the gratitude and thanks we owe him for the many years' service he has given us as chairman.

To end on a sober note, it was with the most profound surprise that we heard only a day or two after this dinner of the passing away of our President, Mr. H. T. Gregg. Most of his service was spent in and around Catterick and he made a number of visits to the reunions there and had been looking forward to our celebration dinner for it would have been the first major event in our life during the time he was President. He had been a regular supporter for many years and we shall miss him very much.

Loughborough Branch

We held our annual dinner and dance on 31st October, and a highly successful evening it was too. Some 80-odd diners enjoyed an excellently-served meal in the company of honoured guests, Major-General Nalder, the Mayor and Mayoress of Loughborough, Brigadier Firth, and our oldest member, Ted Newmarch. Brigadier Duvivier, Branch President, spoke briefly of Branch achievements during the year, with particular reference to the Midlands Reunion, and to our hopes and plans for the future, in a compact speech which ended with appropriate tributes to each of our guests, whom we toasted.

Replying, Chief Guest, Major-General Nalder, expressed his appreciation of the large gathering and the spirit prevailing in the Branch, tangibly expressed in the £30 donation to the Welfare Section, which he accepted on behalf of the Association. He ended with some brief, but encouraging comment on the state of the Corps, serving and ex-serving, as he found it on his extensive travels in the capacity of Representative Colonel Commandant.

In much less time than it takes a good dinner to settle, and glasses to be freshly charged, the floor was cleared and the company, augmented by some 50 "dancing only" ticket holders, proceeded to disport themselves with no mean ability/agility in a programme of modern and old-tyme dances. These were spiced with the odd game and competition, and such was the spirit prevailing that we found ourselves with a party, rather than a dance, on our hands—it was great fun, and all were sorry when "Auld Lang Syne" and "will-you-drive-or-shall-I" time came at 1 a.m. I don't know whether it was the Irish or the Scotch in us which prompted so many requests to "have these Annual Dinners more often"!

Now we are back on the bread-and-butter functions of the social season at Beaumanor, with a social evening, and one more dance to come before the next highlight, the Hogmanay dance on December 31st. There'll be a full house for that one. Meanwhile, several members are looking forward to trips to the Nottingham and Derby Branches' events this month.

It is appropriate that these notes, appearing, as they do, in the December issue, should end with most cordial compliments of the season to all serving and ex-serving members of the Corps, from all at Loughborough.



[Photo: Hall, Loughborough, Leics.

Back row : Messrs. J. S. Peddie, E. Newmarch, H. Dix, Mrs. Bovey, S. Wort, F. Cooke, Major B. Bovey

Front row : Mesdames Cooke, Newmarch, Dix, Wort, Peddie

Sheffield Branch

Another good meeting this month!

When we can afford to give a 10/- prize on a 4d. tombola card, it shows a growing interest, and when I win one of the 10/- notes, it is even more interesting. Thanks are due to our Treasurer, R.S.M. Barnes-Murphy, for the propaganda he has so obviously spread since last month, and when he starts searching for enrolment cards it is better still.

A great pity that such a pleasant evening had to be marred by sad news.

During the month I had learned, rather belatedly, of the sudden death of one of our Life Members, Mr. A. W. T. Dixon. Due to the nature of his work at the G.P.O. he was not able to attend many of our meetings, but even so, he will be sadly missed. He was only 36 years old, but he served as a Boy, immediately pre-war, at Catterick, under our present Branch Chairman, Harry Rotherham. In a letter to me, Harry says, ". . . He was a good D.R., a good soldier and worthy of the luck of serving in our Corps. I can say no more."

The second sad news concerned one of our most steadfast and regular members, Ernest Lee. He is in hospital with digitalis thrombosis. He has had one operation and is awaiting developments to see if an amputation is necessary. Mrs. Lee came to the meeting last week, after visiting Ernest, and told us he was as well as could be expected, but thoroughly "browned off." I hope that, by the time this is published, you are home again, Ernest. All the very best of luck to you.

Sorry to have more sad than pleasant news this month, but who knows, someone may get married soon. We have a few single members. Cheerio for now. ERNEST TAYLOR

☆

WELFARE SECTION

Below an attempt is made to describe, with suitable anonymity, nine cases taken from the Welfare Section files, concluded during the first week in November, 1958. Also on this page is a simple statement of income and expenditure.

Widow of Signalman, 1941-42, who died September, 1958, leaving three children. S.S.A.F.A., The British Red Cross Society, The British Legion, The King's Fund, The Royal Berkshire Regiment (in which he had previous service), and Royal Signals Association (of which he was a Life Member), all combined to pay the entire cost, and a little over, to move the family from London to Yorkshire.

Signalman, 1945-47. Married, two children, a third elder child was drowned while on holiday far from their home. The Border Regiment and East Lancashire Regiment, in which the father had previous service, and the Welfare Section combined to help pay the unusually large funeral expenses of the child.

Signalman, 1950-52 (N.S.). Has been in hospital since June, 1958, and two earlier long periods in hospital in 1957. The fund made a grant to pay part cost of some clothes in which to go on convalescence before restarting work.

Widow of Signalman, 1947-48, who died in August, 1958, leaving four young children. He had much service in other Regiments and Corps. The R.A.O.C. have so far combined with Royal Signals to help the widow.

Corporal, 1944-46. Married, three children, of which two contribute, one still at school. After Royal Signals, the Post Office, and in 1952 an incurable progressive disease. He has been helped before. In August the Rowland Hill Benevolent Fund and Royal Signals helped him to a vacation at a convalescent home.

Widow of Signalman, who enlisted in 1941 and died the same year. His widow has managed to support herself until now, when a long bout of illness forced her to apply for a little aid. This was, of course, given quickly.

Corporal, 1940-51. In 1957 he had a very good salary when an accident fractured his spine. R.E.M.E., in which he had short subsequent service, and Royal Signals shared part of the not inconsiderable cost of converting the approaches to, and part of the interior of his mother's house, so that he can be "mobile" in a wheeled chair.

Signalman, 1937 (N.S.). Married, three children, was earning £13 a week before being called to National Service. S.S.A.F.A. and the Association combined to help his wife—a little.

Signalman, 1944-48. Married, three children. He has been unable to stay in regular employment since 1955, as he has bronchial asthma which is getting worse. The Royal Fusiliers, in which he had previous service, The British Legion and Royal Signals Association continue to help him a little.

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION AND BENEVOLENT FUND

The following subscriptions were most gratefully received during October, 1958:

	£	s.	d.
Royal Signals Wing, School of Signals		11	6
2 Training Regiment	23	2	6
4 Training Regiment (Officers' Mess)	5	0	0
5 Training Regiment	27	8	6
7 Training Regiment	45	10	8
Northern Command Signal Squadron	5	0	0
42 AGRA (AA) Signal Squadron, T.A.	6	8	6
50 (N) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A.	2	2	0
1 Squadron, No. 2 Northern Command (M) Signal Regiment, T.A.	2	7	0
D. and M. School, R.A.C. Centre		6	6
MES/SRDE	1	10	4
1 Squadron, U.K. COMCAN Signal Regiment	7	0	0
2 Squadron, U.K. COMCAN Signal Regiment	4	10	0
3 Squadron, U.K. COMCAN Signal Regiment	2	17	6
4 Squadron, U.K. COMCAN Signal Regiment	6	7	10
Junior Leaders Regiment	10	0	0
2 Independent Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron	1	19	8
43 (Wx) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A.		10	0
63 Command (M) Signal Regiment, T.A.	1	2	9
4 Independent U.K.L.F. Reserve Signal Squadron, T.A.		5	6
Eastern Command Signal Squadron	2	4	0
Army Phantom Signal Regiment, T.A.		10	0
2 (LON) Signal Regiment, T.A.	2	2	0
The Depot Regiment	11	0	0
Western Command Signal Squadron	3	10	0
Mid-West District Signal Regiment, T.A.	1	7	0
H.Q. A.E.R. Royal Signals	3	0	0
Scottish Command (M) Signal Squadron	8	2	6
Scottish Command (M) Signal Regiment, T.A.		12	9
C.S.O. H.Q., 1 (Br) Corps	2	16	0
1 Air Support Signal Unit	1	0	0
2 Divisional Signal Regiment	23	0	2
4 Divisional Signal Regiment	25	9	6
1 Corps Signal Regiment	38	16	9
2 L. of C. Signal Regiment	15	16	3
H.Q. 2 T.A.F. (Indep.) Air Formation Signal Squadron	6	5	0
4 Air Formation Signal Regiment	8	8	0
51 Independent Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron	1	11	0
Total Receipts	£309	11	8

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION WELFARE SECTION

The following donations were most gratefully received during October, 1958:

	£	s.	d.
Colonel W. Boyle, O.B.E.	10	10	0
2 (LON) Signal Regiment, T.A. (Sergeants' Mess)	2	0	0
Total Receipts	£12	10	0
EXPENDITURE DURING OCTOBER, 1958 (Includes: Rent and Rates; Beds and Bedding; Furniture; Cots and Prams; General Assistance).	£508	11	7

Analysis of Cases :

Families of Soldiers serving in U.K.	3
Widows and Dependants	7
Released and Discharged Soldiers	45
Total cases assisted	55

28 Cases of Soldiers who served during the 1939-45 War	£234	4	3
27 Cases of Soldiers who did not serve during the War	£274	7	4

CLOTHING

The response to the request for part worn clothing in the July "Wire" and the July Number of the Royal Signals Officers' List has been very good. Both the staff and Association Headquarters who give it away, and the recipients are grateful.

BUT MORE IS NEEDED.

Torbay Branch

As we near the end of 1958 it is with satisfaction, and even with a certain amount of pride, that we look back over the past twelve months. Membership has doubled, and the Branch Standard bought and dedicated. The lighter fuel pack obtained from Headquarters in the Spring is now showing dividends, so the outlook for 1959 is quite bright. However, complacency can be very dangerous, so we will have to try to double our membership again next year. Quite a target! But not impossible.

Our biggest hope for 1959 is that other West Country Branches will be formed.

To round off, we at Torbay wish all other Branches, not forgetting H.Q. members, a Happy (and not too dry) Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

D. W. BARNFIELD

SPORT

GOLF

Results:

Royal Signals v. R.A.O.C.

This match was played at Swinley Forest on Thursday, 16th October, 1958, and resulted in a win for the Corps:—

SINGLES

Royal Signals			*R.A.O.C.*		
Major W. MacDonald	3/2	1	Major Spencer		0
Major J. Y. Ferguson	2/1	1	Captain Knowles		0
Major S. Schofield		0	Major Atherton	2/1	1
Lt.-Col B. R. M. Hayles		0	Col. Jackson	1 Up	1
Maj.-Gen. C. H. H. Vulliamy	7 & 5	1	Brig. Innes Hopkins		0
Col. G. C. Winckley	2/1	1	Lt.-Col. Else		0
Maj.-Gen. A. E. Morrison		½	Maj.-Gen. Jones		½
Major J. D. Norfolk		1	Col. Sellars		0
		5½			2½

FOURSOMES

Major W. MacDonald Major J. Y. Ferguson	4/3	1	Major Spencer Captain Knowles		0
Lt.-Col. B. R. M. Hayles Major S. Schofield	5 & 3	1 0	Lt.-Col. Else Col. Sellars		0
Maj.-Gen. C. H. H. Vulliamy Col. G. C. Winckley	3 & 1	1	Major Atherton Col. Jackson		0
Maj.-Gen. A. E. Morrison Major J. D. Norfolk	7 & 5	1	Maj.-Gen. Jones Brig. Innes Hopkins		0
		4			0

Royal Signals v. R.M.A.S.

This match was played at Camberley Heath G.C. on Sunday, 19th October, 1958, and resulted in a win for R.M.A.S.:—

SINGLES

Royal Signals			*R.M.A.S.*		
Major J. Y. Ferguson		0	O/Cadet Drummond	4/3	1
Major S. Schofield		0	O/Cadet Hatch	1 Up	1
Maj.-Gen. C. H. H. Vulliamy		0	O/Cadet Winckley	2 Up	1
Lt.-Col. B. R. M. Hayles	1 Up	1	O/Cadet Gibbs		0
Col. G. C. Winckley		0	O/Cadet Hughes	5/3	1
Maj.-Gen. A. E. Morrison	3/1	1	O/Cadet Hill		0
Col. Rowley		0	O/Cadet Randel	3/1	1
Major P. M. G. Spence		0	O/Cadet Wishart	5/3	1
		2			6

FOURSOMES

Major J. Y. Ferguson Major S. Schofield		0	O/Cadet Drummond O/Cadet Hatch	2 Up	1
Lt.-Col. B. R. M. Hayles Col. G. C. Winckley		0	O/Cadet Winckley O/Cadet Gibb	6/5	1
Bay.-Gen. A. E. Morrison Maj.-Gen. R. F. H. Nalder		0	O/Cadet Hill O/Cadet Wishart	4/3	1
Col. Rowley Major P. M. G. Spence	3/2	1	O/Cadet Randel O/Cadet Kenney		0
		1			3

ROYAL SIGNALS CHESTER SHOOTING TROPHY

This trophy, originally the Western Command Signal Regiment Champion Troop Trophy, was competed for for the first time this year. It is the premier award of an annual weapon meeting between the Signal units at Blacon and Saighton Camps.

Eighteen competitors formed each side and the trophy was awarded for the combined score of the best eight rifle shots and four best S.M.C. shots.

Final team aggregates were:—

Blacon 1,355 Highest possible score 1,632
Saighton 1,325

Other results were as follows:—

Champion Shot (H.P.S.) 204		Major (Q.M.) J. Parsons	147
First Class "A"		Lieutenant L. Stockhill	146
Second Class "A"		Major A. E. Scaife	146
Third Class "A"		R.Q.M.S. A. Walker	146
First Class "B"		Corporal Walker	136
Second Class "B"		Lance-Corporal Michie	124
Third Class "B"		Signalman Harper	124

S.M.C. Competition (H.P.S. 102)

1	Major (Q.M.) Parsons	72
2	Major R. E. Rooks	70
3	Second-Lieutenant S. Couper	69

Falling Plate Match: Winner, Blacon.

The trophy and prizes were presented by Lieutenant-Colonel A. W. Barron, M.C.

ROYAL SIGNALS HOCKEY

We played our annual matches against R.E.M.E. and the Sappers at Arborfield and Aldershot on 23rd and 24th October, 1958.

R.E.M.E. beat us by three goals to one, and deserved to do so, because we never settled down to play decent hockey until the second half of the game, by which time we were two goals in arrears.

The Corps team played very well against the Sappers and were deservedly beaten by a better team, the score being 2—0.

Our goalkeeper, Captain K. Kirkby, played brilliantly in both games, and Sergeant S. B. C. Peberdy played very well at left half. Second-Lieutenant J. Cook at centre half also played well.

The Corps team for both games was as follows: Captain K. Kirkby, Lieutenant P. D. E. Gregory, Captain S. C. Finch, Captain P. C. Tripp, Lieutenant J. E. Cook, Sergeant S. B. C. Peberdy, Sergeant R. H. Forster, Captain M. A. T. Hartnett, Signalman R. V. Taylor, Lieutenant A. B. Byng, Captain J. F. Blake.

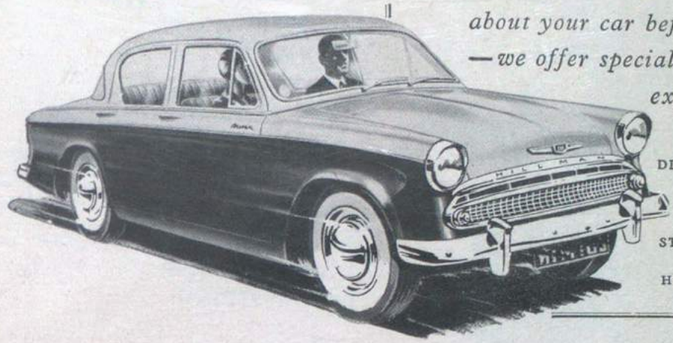


ROYAL SIGNALS HOCKEY TEAM

Standing (left to right): Colonel J. E. S. Sanders, O.B.E. (President), Sergeant S. B. C. Peberdy, Lieutenant A. B. Byng, Captain K. Kirkby, Lieutenant P. D. E. Gregory, Signalman R. V. Taylor

Seated (left to right): Captain E. L. Rogers, Major P. S. Westmacott, Captain M. A. T. Hartnett (Capt.), Captain P. C. Tripp, Captain S. C. Finch. *Absent*: Lieutenant J. Cook

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