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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Editorial

The Success of the Christmas Appeal

Readers will be aware that for the second year an appeal was launched in THE WIRE for Regiments, Squadrons, Branches of the Association and individuals to send in gifts of toys, books, clothes, money, to enable the Welfare Section to send at least something to each of our poorest families.

The response has been magnificent, and with considerable extra effort by all concerned, a stream of parcels has gone out each day. Frequently the daily output has been too great to be carried and a van has been used.

* * *

On page 28 is a list of most of those who have given to us. Accuracy is impossible. Many sent in parcels without any means of identifying the giver. Other kind people ring the bell, hand in an old suit case or other package and vanish. Gifts of money have been so numerous that through human error, some who gave do not appear in the list.

* * *

Gifts of small sums, in cash, have been sent to 87 families on very low incomes; aged couples living alone on a tiny pension; widows with children; and more particularly to men permanently in bed or wheeled chair, so that they can provide a small gift for their children.

Nearly all children in such homes have received something—a toy or a book.

* * *

To these families and to very many others, we have been able to send also a parcel of clothing.

* * *

The letters of thanks are just beginning to come in, which show that the recipients are as grateful as are the Association staff.

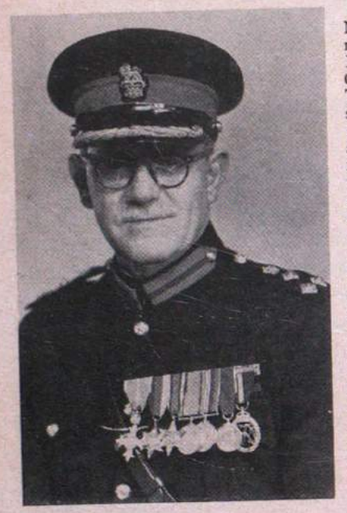
CHRISTMAS CARDS

Each year the Secretary and the Headquarters Staff of the Association receive Christmas cards from very many Regiments, Squadrons and individuals For these they are very grateful, but also it would be improper to reciprocate. The Headquarters of the Association do send cards to all Signalmen who are "Y" listed at that time. Gratitude is due to the Staff of the Records Office, who address the envelopes. Cards are also sent to many of the representatives of S.S.A.F.A. and similar organisations, who have done especial work for Signalmen during the year.

THANK YOU ALL

VALE

Brigadier C. Nettleship, O.B.E., T.D.



Brigadier Charles Nettleship started his military career in the Honourable Artillery Company (Infantry) T.A., with whom he served from January, 1927 to May, 1930, and was then commissioned and joined the 54th (E.A.) Divisional Signals (T.A.) as a Second-Lieutenant.

In September, 1939, he was promoted Captain and was embodied in a unit which became the 4th Divisional Signals and almost immediately embarked to join the B.E.F., with whom he returned to the U.K. in June, 1940. After a year's service with 5 Corps Signals he was promoted Major and posted to 2nd Divisional Signals, with whom he moved to India in April, 1942, and in August, 1943, he succeeded to the Command of the Regiment.

In March, 1944, the Regiment was in the Poona area when the Japanese launched their offensive with the object of driving the 14th Army from the Imphal Plain and to cut the Allied supply routes in the Dinapur area of Northern Assam. The 2nd Division was moved from Poona to Dinapur piece-meal by air, road and rail, and the leading Brigade succeeded in reaching the Kohima position. The size of the problem facing Charles Nettleship can be guaged from the fact that during the next five weeks the strength of H.Q. and 1 Squadron did not exceed 86 all ranks. In spite of this and the difficult country, the Divisional Commander was provided with the essential communications which enabled him to exercise command and control.

In December, 1945, the Regiment moved to Malaya. The following year Charles returned to the U.K., and after eighteen months with H.Q., S.E. District, he joined the War Office for three years as G.S.O.II, Signals 7. It was during this period he was granted a Short Service Commission—soon followed by a Regular Commission, in April 1948. From June, 1950, to November, 1951, he was again overseas, with Egypt Command Signal Regiment, and from there was posted to B.A.O.R. and the 7th Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment, which he commanded for the next three years. Following on this, he was appointed Officer-in-Charge Royal Signals Records with the rank of Colonel.

After two years with Records, he was promoted Brigadier and returned to Germany as C.S.O. 1 (BR) Corps, until October, 1958, when he returned to the U.K. and was appointed C.S.O., Western Command—which appointment he has just relinquished on retirement.

Such was his varied, interesting and distinguished career with the Corps, which he so well loves and has loyally served, and which was recognised by the award of the O.B.E. in November, 1945.

Those who have had the good fortune to serve with Charles Nettleship cannot have failed to be impressed with his strong sense of purpose, his fairmindedness, friendship, his great sense of humour and complete dedication to the task in hand. Ever ready to extend a helping hand, he won the affection, respect and esteem of all those with whom he served—and the interests of those who served him were always foremost in his mind.

Charles will be greatly missed, but he leaves behind him an excellent example to be followed. To him, and to his vivacious and charming wife, Mireille, we extend all good wishes for a long and very happy retirement.

Obituary

Brigadier Henry Courtenay Hawtrey, C.M.G., D.S.O., A.D.C.

To the surprise and deep regret of his many friends, Henry Courtenay Hawtrey died suddenly at Fleet on 16th November, 1961. Earlier in the year he had come, as usual, to the Annual Reunion of the Indian Signal Units Old Comrades' Association. On Armistice Sunday he was on parade with the British Legion at Fleet. Suddenly he has left us at the age of 79. Few would have guessed he had reached that number of years.

Commissioned into the Royal Engineers in 1900 he joined the 3rd Telegraph Battalion at Aldershot. This posting obviously influenced his future career.

Until the outbreak of war in 1914 he served frequently in Signal Units which, it must be remembered, were then part of the R.E.

In the First World War as Deputy Director of Army Signals, he was responsible for communications in the East African Expeditionary Force, a task which must have demanded all his resources of ingenuity and improvisation. He was awarded the rank of Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel, the D.S.O. in 1916 and the C.M.G. in 1918.

On return to India he served in the Afghan War of 1919 and was mentioned in dispatches. Then followed the Quetta Staff College, his transfer to the Royal Corps of Signals, his appointment as Assistant Director of Army Signals, Western Command, and in 1925 he became Commandant of the Signal Training Centre and Depot Jubbulpore.

From 1926 to 1930 he was Signal Officer-in-Chief at Army Headquarters, India, with the rank of Brigadier. Here there was ample scope for his energy in the post-war reorganisation of the Indian Signal Corps.

On return to the U.K. in 1930 he became Chief Signal Officer, Aldershot, and in 1931 was appointed A.D.C. to the King.

He was a versatile, talented person. As a Subaltern in 1906, he won the international five mile race in the Olympic Games in Athens without, according to his account, any really serious training. When asked for the secret of his success, he modestly suggested that it might be due in some measure to a refusal to recognise fatigue or pain. Among his many victories he won the ten mile championship of the L.A.C. and during this period he equalled the mile record.

All this was indeed a prophetic "qualification" to wear the historic cap badge of the Corps which was to be formed and which he was to join fourteen years later.

Courtenay, who was a cousin of Charles Hawtrey, was well known in Simla as an amateur theatrical producer. His success added much to the gaiety of life on that famous hill top.

He was a great raconteur, with a keen whimsical sense of humour; a loyal, lovable character who will be sadly missed by a wide circle of friends.

To those serving in Royal Signals today who may never have known him, it may truly be said that Henry Courtenay Hawtrey was among those who helped to lay the foundation stone of their Corps.

We offer our very deepest sympathy to his wife and daughter.

The Representative Colonel Commandant Thanks The C.S.O., B.A.O.R.

Telegram from the Representative Colonel Commandant, Major-General L. de M. Thuillier, C.B., O.B.E., to Chief Signal Officer, B.A.O.R.

"I would like you all to know how very much I enjoyed my visit to B.A.O.R. It gave me the very keenest pleasure to find myself once again mingling with so many Officers, Warrant Officers and Other Ranks of the Corps and their wives, and it was most heartening to see at first hand, how well in these troublesome times the high traditions of the Corps are being maintained in your Command. Please convey to them all my appreciation of the excellent arrangements made for my visit and for all the many kindnesses that were shown to me."

The Representative Colonel Commandant
MAJOR-GENERAL L. de M. THUILLIER, C.B., O.B.E., F.R.G.S., A.M.I.E.E.
Visits B.A.O.R.

ON Monday, 6th November, General Thuillier arrived by air at Dusseldorf to start a nine-day tour of Royal Signals Units in B.A.O.R. The General had asked specially that visits be arranged to those Units which Her Royal Highness, The Princess Royal, had been unable to visit during her tour a year ago.

So it was that on Tuesday, 7th November, the Representative Colonel Commandant after staying the night with the Chief Signal Officer, Brigadier E. J. C. Harrison, O.B.E., and Mrs. Harrison, started his tour. Having met the Officers of SX Branch, Major-General Thuillier, accompanied by the Chief Signal Officer, left by car for Krefeld.

Arriving about mid-day, he was greeted by the Commanding Officer of 10th Regiment, Lieutenant-Colonel G. B. Donald, and then took the General Salute (sounded by one of the trumpeters, Signalman R. F. Holman) of the Quarter Guard commanded by Corporal E. J. Adams. The weather was very showery and after a rather damp inspection Major-General Thuillier, escorted by the Commanding Officer and the R.S.M., Warrant Officer Class I R. D. Laing, visited the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess, where he met every one of the members and discussed old times, both war and peace, prior to lunching with the Officers of the Regiment.

Immediately after lunch, the Representative Colonel Commandant paid a short call to 16th Regiment who share the same barracks in Krefeld as 10th Regiment.

On arrival he presented the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal to Warrant Officer Class II K. J. Williams.

[Photograph by S/Sgt. C. W. H. Gardner

The Representative Colonel Commandant presenting the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal to W.O.II K. J. Williams of 16th Signal Regiment

He was then taken over the British Army of the Rhine Tape Relay Centre and shown a steady stream of traffic flowing through the various circuits. He spoke to several of the operators and to Sergeant H. Brown, a supervisor with five trade qualifications. He also had a long talk with our Regimental Custodian, Warrant Officer Class I W. H. Lockie.

The General returned to 10th Regiment and began by visiting 2 Squadron, which was occupying a field site near the Barracks. He was guided round the Pintsch Radio Relay Detachment by Major C. McDevitt. He spoke to Corporal P. J. Hodgson who told the General that he was enjoying life in Germany since he and his wife had managed to find a comfortable flat in Krefeld. Foreman of Signals C. G. Hooper, discussed future Corps trade policy at some length during the visit to the Engineering Control Vehicle.

A visit to the gymnasium showed the General some of the other activities, and gave him an opportunity to watch Judo for the first time. Corporal Kinsey was unable to demonstrate his usual skill owing to a bruised shoulder after an earlier fall, but the General was highly amused by what appeared to be the heavy fall of Lance-Corporal Hickman. He asked several questions and was surprised to learn that there are as many as sixteen grades of belts awarded in Judo.

From the Judo the Representative Colonel Commandant moved to the canoes where Second-Lieutenant T. B. Scarff explained some of the manoeuvres with these craft. The General was told that members of the Club had made several excursions this year including some down the Rhine.

The G.P. 14 dinghies looked splendid in their full rig and new coats of paint. The General was told that these were built by the Regiment and that it was hoped that whoever receives them next season would look after them and have as much pleasure out of them as 10th Regiment has done.

Captain J. A. Billing, at very short notice, produced a strong contingent, complete with karts, from the Go-Kart Club. He told the General that 16th Regiment was at present holding the Whistler Trophy for Go-Karting but that 10th Regiment was leading the field in this year's championships.

Finally, to the delight of the wives of the Regiment, General Thuillier spent nearly an hour with them in the Sergeants' Mess. He particularly admired the home-made cakes that decorated the tables for the tea party, and discussed with the ladies a wide variety of subjects, ranging from housing to holidays.

In the evening, the Representative Colonel Commandant attended a Royal Engineers/Royal Signals Dinner for Officers of the two Arms stationed at Joint Headquarters, Rheindahlen. The Dinner was held in the Officers' Mess, 28th Regiment. On the Royal Engineers side, Major-General I. H. F. Boyd, C.B.E., Chief Engineer Northern Army Group, was present, and the evening was considered a great success by all those who were present.

On 8th November the Representative Colonel Commandant, accompanied by the Chief Signal Officer, drove to Dortmund to visit 256 and 257 Squadrons. He arrived at Napier Barracks at 1100 hours and after inspecting a combined Quarter Guard he saw a demonstration of the communications which the two Squadrons provide for their respective Royal Artillery Regiments. After this he met Warrant Officers and Senior Non-Commissioned Officers of both Squadrons in the Sergeants' Mess and the visit ended with lunch in the Royal Artillery Officers' Mess, Napier Barracks.

Having had lunch the General departed for Bielefeld where he was to start his tour of Units in the Corps area the following day.

On his first day in the 1 (B.R.) Corps area the Representative Colonel Commandant visited 200 Squadron at Detmold where he was met by the Officer Commanding, Major W. R. G. Hencher, M.B.E. Later in the morning the General spent on hour at Bad Lippspringe watching the first day of the Rhine Army Hunter Trials, after which he returned to Detmold and lunched in the Brigade Officers' Mess.

After lunch the General travelled to Verden by helicopter, to be joined at a later stage by Brigadier M. A. Charlton, O.B.E., Corps Commander Royal Signals 1 (B.R.) Corps, who had made the journey by road. By a happy coincidence the visit by the Representative Colonel Commandant was on the same day as the Royal Signals and Royal Engineers Annual Dinner in the Officers' Mess and he was specially welcomed as the Guest of Honour by the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel A. J. Woodrow, M.B.E. The dinner took its traditional form with a very witty speech from General Thuillier on the

The Representative Colonel Commandant talking to Corporal J. G. Sonley (256 Squadron) N.C.O./i.c. Line Detachment

modern outlook of the young, and the debt which the Corps owes to its parent, the Corps of Royal Engineers.

On Friday, 10th November, accompanied by Corps Commander Royal Signals the Representative Colonel Commandant inspected the Quarter Guard of the 1st Regiment commanded by Sergeant J. A. Marr at Caithness Barracks. Afterwards he inspected the Command Group Complex, the Signal Centre Complex, and the Radio Relay Demonstration, and spoke to all the crews in turn.

At 11 o'clock he was met at the Corporals' Club by Mrs. A. J. Woodrow and with the help of the R.S.M.'s wife, Mrs. D. E. Woodbridge, the Representative Colonel Commandant was introduced to the married families of the Regiment, who had turned out in force to meet him. It was a most pleasant and cordial gathering, and our thanks are due to Mrs. Mullen of the Women's Voluntary Service for the excellent arrangements.

As a fitting end to his visit, the Representative Colonel Commandant was entertained to drinks at the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess, where he was regaled with stories of Service days in far flung places. His last appearance was in the Men's Mess where he saw the modern approach to Army cookery, our Silver Grill Room, Salad Bowl and Jimmy's Kitchen, which were serving fifteen different forms of lunch time dishes. He was much impressed.

The General then travelled to Hannover by road from where he flew to Templehof Airport for his visit to Berlin and 229 Squadron.

The Colonel Commandant having coffee with the ladies of the Wives' Club, 229 Signal Squadron. *Left to right:* Mrs. Newall, Mrs. Cole, Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Tyler, Mrs. Pollard, Mrs. Marley, Colonel Commandant, back to camera, Mrs. Thom

Sergeant B. J. Styles talking to the Colonel Commandant, Captain K. H. Olds and Second Lieutenant W. D. Lawrence in the background (Sergeant Styles is shortly leaving the Squadron for the R.M.A. Sandhurst, where he will instruct in the Signals Wing

During his stay in Berlin he was the guest of the General Officer Commanding, Major-General Sir Rohan Delacombe, and stayed at his house on the shores of the Havel Lake.

The first event in Berlin was dinner in the Officers' Mess, where another annual Royal Signals/Royal Engineers dinner was taking place.

During dinner the General gave a lively and interesting speech and after dinner led the entertainments.

The following day Major-General Thuillier began a tour of the Squadron at work. First the Quarter Guard under Sergeant F. Common, who despite the heavy rain gave a bright start to the tour. Next came a visit to the radio vehicles, workshops and stores before joining the Wives' Club for coffee. After leaving the ladies, the General was introduced to the Radio Section at morse practice and talked for some time with the Radio and Telegraph Operators. He next visited Squadron Headquarters and finally the line section where General Thuillier observed "It hasn't changed since I was a Subaltern!"

The General showed great interest in the work of the Squadron and in particular the equipment and vehicles which is nearly all of German manufacture.

Saturday afternoon was spent in a conducted tour of East Berlin—(they always take their visitors there to see how the other half lives). On Sunday the General attended the Remembrance Day service at the military cemetery and had a quiet day.

On returning to Hannover Airport on Monday morning the Representative Colonel Commandant was met by Commander Royal Signals 4 Division, Lieutenant-Colonel P. E. Hutchins, who escorted him to Herford.

The report of the Regiment arrived too late for normal inclusion, an abridged version is on pages 11 and 12.

Final Visit Made To 212 Squadron

The final visit made by the General was to 212 Squadron where he arrived on the morning of 14th November accompanied by Corps Commander Royal Signals.

Word had gone before him that the General did not want formal parades to be arranged, so something different was put on for him. He was met on his arrival by the Officer Commanding and spent the first part of his visit talking to the Brigade Group Commander, afterwards he toured the Squadron.

The Radio and other detachments had been deployed as they might be in the field except that, to the crew's great regret, they were not allowed to camouflage or dig! This meant that

The Representative Colonel Commandant accompanied by Lieutenant B. H. Lee, inspecting the line detachment of 212 Squadron commanded by Corporal T. Skinner. Others in the detachment were *(left to right)*: Corporal Phelps, Signalmen Mason, Hall, Dobson

the Squadron tradition of the Officer Commanding falling into the deepest hole was not shown to the General. However he saw everyone either working in their vehicles or standing outside them. In one of the Radio Vehicles Signalman J. Humphries was so engrossed in his work that he did not see the General arrive but he made up for this slip by holding him in conversation on the subject of hours spent on duty on the set. The General was most interested in the Mufax equipment demonstrated by Corporal Ormond and asked some searching questions. Finally he was taken around the offices and stores meeting the S.Q.M.S., Staff Sergeant J. Rees, and Chief Clerk, Sergeant A. Brown. He was also shown some extra mural activities in the Photographic and Radio Clubs.

After luncheon in the Brigade Headquarters Officers' Mess, where he met once again the Brigadier and his principal Staff Officers, the General went on to visit the Signal Troop attached to 11 Engineer Group. There he met and talked with most of the Non-Commissioned Officers and men. He also took great interest in the canoes they had built for their Canoe Club.

On Friday, the 15th, the General was due to leave Hannover by air for U.K. taking off at 1220 hours, or so we thought. The Chief Signal Officer had planned to fly by Beaver to the Airport to say goodbye but the Winter Timetable had not reached Rheindahlen and it was not realised that take off time was fifteen minutes earlier. Word had gone ahead fortunately and the B.E.A. officials very kindly delayed the flight until the Beaver had landed.

After the Chief Signal Officer had said goodbye the Representative Colonel Commandant boarded the plane and departed for U.K. (take off having been delayed for about five minutes, thank you B.E.A.!).

So ended a visit which we hope the Representative Colonel Commandant enjoyed as much as we did.

VACANCIES IN GOVERNMENT SERVICE

A number of vacancies, offering good career prospects exist for male

RADIO OPERATORS

Write giving details of education, qualifications and experience, to :—

Personnel Officer, G.C.H.Q. (RO/6),
53, Clarence Street, Cheltenham, Glos.

PERSONAL COLUMN

London Gazette

Received between 10th November, 28th November, 1961.

Major Bt. Lieutenant-Colonel A. J. Woodrow, M.B.E., to be Lieutenant-Colonel, 10th April, 1961.

The undermentioned Majors to be Lieutenant-Colonels:
D. L. Sylvester-Bradley, 1st March, 1961.
J. A. S. Fearfield, M.B.E., 3rd March, 1961.
W. E. Lyske, 4th March, 1961.
J. E. P. Sampson, 10th April, 1961.
P. E. Hutchins, 11th April, 1961.
T. W. Baynes, M.B.E., 12th April, 1961.
S. Schofield, 13th April, 1961.
D. D. Fairman, 13th April, 1961.
K. E. Rees, M.B.E., 13th April, 1961.
J. T. Lloyd, 15th April, 1961.
D. R. W. Thomas, M.B.E., 17th April, 1961.

Captain D. W. F. Bayliss relinquishes his commission on completion of service, 13th November, 1961.

Captain W. Wyse (A.E.R.) to be Major, 15th July, 1961.

Lieutenant A. J. Sharp (A.E.R.) to be Captain, 15th July, 1961.

Lieutenant-Colonel J. A. Waite retired, 20th November, 1961.

Major (Hon. Lieutenant-Colonel) J. Cochran, O.B.E., T.D., appointed Honorary Colonel 51st (H) Signal Regiment (T.A.), 18th November, 1961, in succession to Lieutenant-Colonel (Bt. Col.) T. P. E. Murray, O.B.E., T.D., A.D.C., tenure expired, who retains hon. rank of Colonel.

The undermentioned to T.A.R.O.:
Major A. A. J. Bacon, T.D., 5th October, 1961.
Captain S. R. Parsons, 11th October, 1961.
Lieutenant N. S. Fiske, 16th October, 1961.

Captain (A/Major) G. W. Starling, T.S., (T.A.), to be Major, 20th October, 1961.

Second-Lieutenant A. H. Sowerby (T.A.) (on probation) confirmed in his appointment, 26th September, 1959. To be Lieutenant, 26th September, 1961.

Major J. McK. Lamb retired 29th November, 1961.

Captain A. C. Bate, M.B.E., to be Major, 29th November, 1961.

Captain (Tfc. Offr.) D. N. Urquhart retired 28th November, 1961.

Lieutenant (Tfc. Offr.) G. Dibley to be Captain, 28th November, 1961.

Captain J. A. Capewell (T.A.), reverts to the rank of Lieutenant, 1st April, 1961.

Lieutenant R. M. W. Hopkins (T.A.), to be Captain, 31st October, 1961.

Lieutenant A. D. Hall (T.A.) to be Captain, 31st October, 1961.

The undermentioned to T.A.R.O.:
Lieutenant D. C. Cooper.
Lieutenant P. K. Skinner.

Major R. W. Brader to be Lieutenant-Colonel, 11th September, 1961.

Major K. J. Hinton retired, 1st December, 1961.

Major (Q.M.) W. Potesta relinquishes his commission on completion of service, 1st December, 1961.

Movements — Officers

Captain J. de v ffolljambe ffoulkes to Steeple Bumpstead Squadron.

Movements—Warrant Officers and Sergeants, January, 1962

W.O.I	M. Ham	...	To 11th Regiment
W.O.II	E. W. Firth	...	,, 24th Regiment
W.O.II	H. Fox	...	,, 41st Regiment
W.O.II	A. J. Judge	...	,, 43rd Regiment
W.O.II	F. C. Gallagher	...	,, 61st Regiment
W.O.II	C. Dunn	...	,, 1st Regiment
W.O.II	K. G. Wright	...	,, 28th Regiment
W.O.II	A. Paterson	...	,, 1st Regiment
W.O.II	J. B. Skinner	...	,, 237 Squadron
W.O.II	C. T. A. Hughes	...	,, 44th Regiment
W.O.II	R. J. Bell	...	,, Air portable and Trg Regiment Household Cavalry Sig. Tp.
A/W.O.II	T. J. Cantle	...	,, 54th Regiment
W.O.II	J. J. Bingham	...	,, 14th Regiment
W.O.II	E. G. Longstaff	...	,, 24th Regiment
W.O.II	W. Rooke	...	,, Army Apprentices School
W.O.II	J. M. Findlay	...	,, 8th Regiment
W.O.II	R. L. Shelley	...	,, 8th Regiment
W.O.II	W. Watson	...	,, 15th Regiment
A/W.O.II	R. H. Stein	...	,, CAFSO (FEAF)
S Sgt.	W. P. Smith	...	,, 327 Squadron
S Sgt.	S. C. Stuckey	...	,, Army Apprentices School
S Sgt.	B. H. Allen	...	,, 51st Regiment
S Sgt.	S. N. Avery	...	,, 234 Squadron
S Sgt.	B. W. Webster	...	,, 234 Squadron
A/S Sgt.	T. J. Cushen	...	,, 11th Regiment
S Sgt.	S. C. Longhurst	...	,, 11th Regiment
S Sgt.	M. McCallum	...	,, 240 Squadron
S/Sgt.	V. J. Gambell	...	,, 2nd Regiment
S Sgt.	J. B. Rose	...	,, 4th Regiment
S Sgt.	R. Smith	...	,, 4th Regiment
S Sgt.	R. Sugg	...	,, 7th Regiment
S Sgt.	T. A. Casey	...	,, 22nd Regiment

(Continued on next page)

S Sgt.	J. Wilson	... ... ,,	28th Regiment
A/S Sgt.	M. Bowers	... ... ,,	13th Regiment
S Sgt.	J. W. Clarke	... ... ,,	18th Regiment
S Sgt.	B. M. Huxley-Duggan	... ,,	613 Troop
S Sgt.	W. B. Webb	... ,,	Army Apprentices School
S Sgt.	D. A. W. Nichols	... ,,	7th Regiment
S Sgt.	F. A. Smith	... ... ,,	1st Regiment
S Sgt.	D. Prime	... ... ,,	246 Squadron
S Sgt.	A. R. Jarratt	... ... ,,	219 Squadron
Sgt.	G. Downie	... ... ,,	School of Signals
Sgt.	G. M. Skill	... ... ,,	School of Signals
Sgt.	J. M. May	... ... ,,	1 Signal Sqn. Comd., K.A.R.
Sgt.	W. Atherton	... ... ,,	2nd Regiment
Sgt.	G. E. Yates	... ... ,,	School of Signals
A/Sgt.	J. Howker	... ... ,,	16th Regiment
Sgt.	T. G. Jones	... ... ,,	School of Artillery
Sgt.	K. J. Hurrell	... ... ,,	8th Regiment
Sgt.	B. A. Broad	... ... ,,	11th Regiment
Sgt.	R. O. Morris	... ... ,,	21st Regiment
Sgt.	A. J. Thomas	... ... ,,	21st Regiment
Sgt.	A. R. Heath	... ... ,,	610 Troop
Sgt.	J. P. Cain	... ... ,,	24th Regiment
Sgt.	H. A. Sankey	... ... ,,	7th Regiment
Sgt.	A. W. Kyles	... ... ,,	45th Regiment
Sgt.	W. Eastham	... ... ,,	1st Regiment
Sgt.	J. M. Craig	... ... ,,	1st Regiment
Sgt.	G. M. Horne	... ... ,,	4th Regiment
Sgt.	P. B. Cairns	... ... ,,	15th Regiment
Sgt.	I. Coombe	... ... ,,	2nd Regiment
Sgt.	B. Ellis	... ... ,,	255 Squadron
Sgt.	A. Leitch	... ... ,,	227 Squadron
Sgt.	E. Cooper	... ... ,,	13th Regiment
Sgt.	K. H. Dewis	... ... ,,	13th Regiment
Sgt.	R. J. Cockburn	... ... ,,	9th Regiment
Sgt.	D. J. Geere	... ... ,,	224 Squadron
Sgt.	G. A. Lynas	... ... ,,	224 Squadron
Sgt.	W. C. Wheeler	... ... ,,	2nd Regiment
Sgt.	D. T. Llewellyn	... ... ,,	18th Regiment
Sgt.	B. T. Shears	... ... ,,	1 Signal Sqn. Comd., K.A.R.
A/Sgt.	F. Wilkinson	... ... ,,	4th Regiment

Births

235 Signal Squadron (COMCAN)

HIGGINS.—To Corporal and Mrs. G. Higgins, on 20th July, 1961, a son, Michael Leslie.

BYERS.—To W.O.II and Mrs. P. F. Byers, on 26th August, 1961, a daughter, Sandra Kathleen.

BROWN.—To Lance-Corporal and Mrs. D. Brown, on 29th August, 1961, a son, Stephen.

WOOD.—To W.O.II and Mrs. C. Wood, on 22nd September, 1961, a daughter, Andrea Jean.

COLLINS.—To Sergeant and Mrs. D. B. Collins, on 25th September, 1961, a son, Nicholas David.

PHILLIPSON.—To Lance-Corporal and Mrs. J. Phillipson, on 28th October, 1961, a daughter, Donna May.

—All at David Bruce Military Hospital, Malta.

10th Regiment

PETTIE.—To Lance-Corporal and Mrs. W. L. Pettie, on 6th November, at B.M.H., Hostert, a daughter, Amanda Dora.

MACKENZIE.—To Signalman and Mrs. M. M. Mackenzie, on November 14th, 1961, at Salisbury, a daughter, Karren Elizabeth.

8th Regiment

BLACK.—To Sergeant and Mrs. G. Black, on 13th September, 1961, at Sefton General Hospital, Liverpool, a daughter, Heather.

14th Regiment

HOWARD.—To W.O.I and Mrs. R. E. Howard, a daughter, Beverly.

MORRIS.—To Sergeant and Mrs. R. Morris, a daughter, Sandra Denise.

Marriages

PATON—FARRER.—Lance-Corporal R. H. Paton to Kathleen Francis Farrar, at Chare, Yorks., on 14th October, 1961.

SCREEN—JEWELL.—Signalman G. W. Screen to Rita Jewell, at St. Agnes Church, Whitley, on 18th October, 1961.

McNAMARA—WINSTON.—Signalman R. McNamara to Julia Winston, at Church of St. Mary and St. Benedict, Coventry, on 28th October, 1961.

CLARKE—LITTLE.—Corporal E. E. Clarke to Yvonne Little, at Parish Church, Earby, Yorks., on 7th October, 1961.

DAVIES—BOWN.—Lance-Corporal K. E. Davies to Marion Bown, at Church of St. Luke and All Saints, Salford, on 21st October, 1961.

Deaths

MACKINTOSH.—On 27th November, 1961, in London, Elizabeth, widow of Lieutenant-Colonel R. A. Mackintosh, M.B.E.

HITCHIN.—Mr. E. H. Hitchin, at Bethnal Green. Royal Signals 1920-42. Annual member of the Association.

BAMBRIDGE.—Sir George Bambridge, Kt., M.C., V.D., Director, Binny and Co. Served in Madras, 1907 to 1941. Officer Commanding 1st (Madras) Signal Company. 1921 to 1930. Previous service, Commanding 2nd Madras Field Brigade, Royal Artillery. Died in November, 1961, at Yeovil, Somerset.

BARKER.—On 13th December, 1961, in a London nursing home, Colonel E. F. W. Barker, C.B.E., D.S.O. (1898-1934).

MEAKINS.—22522042 Corporal D. Meakins, on 2nd November, 1961, at Colchester

BARR.—23473798 Signalman G. J. Barr, on November 3rd, 1951.

SNATT.—On 27th December, 1951. Lieutenant-Colonel P. C. Snatt, M.C., at Woodhall, Sunningdale, Berkshire. Royal Signals 1910-1937, 1939-1945.

Forthcoming Events

Royal Signals Association Branch Representatives Meeting
will be held at the T.A. Centre 47th Signal Regiment (Middlesex Yeomanry) T.A. at 10.30 a.m., Saturday, 31st March, 1962.

Corps Dinner
will be held May 30th, 1962.

37th Meeting of the Central Committee of the Royal Signals Association
will be held on 31st May, 1962.

Corps Regular Officers' At Home
will be held on 31st May, 1962.

Corps Week-end and Association Reunion and Annual General Meeting
will be held at Catterick on 7th/8th July, 1962.

Royal Signals Institution Lectures, 1962

Tuesday, 3rd April: "Employment of Airborne Forces in Future Wars," Brigadier A. J. Deane-Drummond, D.S.O., M.C., at 5.15 p.m., North Hall, Training Brigade, Royal Signals, Catterick Camp, Yorks.

*Friday, 25th May, "The Reserve Army," Colonel G. H. Shrimpton, T.D., 6.15 p.m., at the T.A. Centre, 47th Regiment, T.A., Duke of York's Headquarters, Chelsea, S.W.3.

*Friday, 28th September, "New Zealand," Brigadier J. E. Anderson, 6.15 p.m., at the T.A. Centre, 47th Regiment, T.A., Duke of York's Headquarters, Chelsea, S.W.3.

Tuesday, 27th November, "Training of American Cadets at West Point," Second-Lieutenant Paul L. Miles, Jnr., U.S. Army, 5.15 p.m., at North Hall, Training Brigade, Royal Signals, Catterick Camp, Yorks.

* Members are allowed two guests for these lectures.

Royal Signals Rugby Football Club Fixtures

February 21st ... Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst ... Camberley

Royal Signals Association Football Club Fixtures

February 17th ...	Sheffield University ...	Catterick Camp
March 7th ...	Durham University ...	Catterick Camp
April 18th	Billingham Synthonia ...	Catterick Camp
*	R.E.M.E.	Billingham
*	R.A.O.C.	Catterick Camp

* Fixtures not yet firm.

Royal Signals Hockey Fixtures

Mar. 21st	Welbeck College — Welbeck.
Apr. 20th-23rd	Scarborough Hockey Festival — Scarborough.

Royal Signals Display Team

May 19th	Billet Lane, Essex.
June 2nd	Kynoch Social Club, Witton, Birmingham.
June 19th—21st	Edinburgh.
June 23rd	Holmfirth.
July 7th	Catterick.
July 11th—28th	Royal Tournament.
August 1st	Nantwich.
August 6th	Horncastle.

North London Branch

The Annual Dinner and Dance will be held at The Cambridge, North Circular Road, Palmers Green, London, N.13, on Saturday, 14th April, 1962.

Tickets and information from the Hon. Secretary of the North London Branch of the Royal Signals Association, J. T. Murphy, 1, Marlborough Close, Whetstone, N.20.

Butchers : Grocers : Game Dealers

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DAILY DELIVERIES IN YOUR DISTRICT

Promotions

The following promotions were authorised during the month of November, 1961:

Regimental Duty Roster

To W.O.I	7013535	A/W.O.I	(1240)	Walker, T. W.
	2323543	A/W.O.I	(1250)	Bosten, A. E. T.
	1473099	A/W.O.I	(1320)	Marris, R. V.
To W.O.II	19038954	A/W.O.II	(2530)	Garland, M. F. B.
	5732385	A/W.O.II	(4540)	Doonan, P. J.
	19030194	A/W.O.II	(3320)	Cardinal, J. M.
	22212282	S Sgt	(2740)	Dobbs, R. S.
	14063400	S Sgt.	(3590)	Oscroft, B. C.
	22285411	S Sgt.	(4520)	Rowthorn, D. G.
	22203213	S Sgt.	(4280)	McLoughlin, I.
	22031259	S Sgt.	(4480)	Clark, W. R. D.
	19041592	S Sgt.	(4410)	Leighton, D. F.
	22212274	A/W.O.II	(3250)	Romney, E.
To S Sgt.	14457081	Sgt.	(2690 Operator)	Hunter, D. W.
	22096929	Sgt.	(950 Lineman)	Aven, G. A.
	22547226	A/S Sgt.	(2940 Operator)	Taylor, K.
	22296200	Sgt.	(2990 Operator)	Hough, W. J.
	22477059	A/S Sgt.	(890 Lineman)	Cushen, T. J.
	2549708	A/S Sgt.	(2490 Operator)	Lea, A. M.
	22541017	A/S Sgt.	(910 Clerical)	Campbell, B. J.
	22242725	A/S Sgt.	(610 Lineman)	Chipling, J. H.
	22265348	Sgt.	(2860 Operator)	Banyard, B. G.
	22542252	Sgt.	(2960 Operator)	Scott, J. B.

General Trades and Duties Roster

To Sgt.	22570436	Cpl.	(2440)	Stidworthy, P.
	22546441	A/Sgt.	(2400)	Bingham, D.
	14446191	A/Sgt.	(2300)	Mumby, G.
	22774030	Cpl.	(1340)	Clarence, R. L.
	22286359	Cpl.	(2260)	Fisher, J. W.
	22773266	Cpl.	(1590)	Lee, S. H.
	14137623	A/Sgt.	(940)	Evans, J.
	22869271	Cpl.	(2084)	Dean, D. G.
	22283293	Cpl.	(1240)	Pape, R. W.
	29549010	Cpl.	(2240)	Hornblower, K.

Technical Roster

					New Sen. No.
To Sgt.	23468035	Cpl.	(5870)	Odd, E. A. W.	3620
	22821071	Cpl.	(2970)	Jackson, P.	3630
	23210775	Cpl.	(5774)	Starling, R. D.	3650

Clerical Roster

To Sgt.	23096262	Cpl.	(1100)	Smith, W.
	23239485	Cpl.	(1224)	Howker, J.

DELETIONS

Regimental Duty Roster

W.O.I	10	510
W.O.II	1400	
S Sgt.	1050	

General Trades and Duties Roster

Sgt. 14

Lineman Roster

Sgt. 1680 1270

Technical Roster

Sgt. 1670

Clerical Roster

Sgt. 1410

OTHER DELETIONS

2325222 W.O.I Graham, G. H. Regt. Duty (460) Commissioned Lieutenant (Q.M.), 16th October, 1961.

TANGANYIKA INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATIONS
9th December, 1961

Major-General W. A. Dimoline, C.B., C.M.G., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., Colonel Commandant King's African Rifles was present. As a distinguished Officer of Royal Signals he was interested in the work of Major P. J. W. Stephens Royal Signals and 1 Signal Squadron (Command) Kings African Rifles.

A detachment thereof arranged communications from Dar es Salaam to ensure that the beacon on Mount Kilimanjaro was lighted at the moment when the Flag of Independence Tanganyika was hoisted.

The two Battalions of the Kings African Rifles, recruited mainly in Tanganyika, pass from General Dimolines Honorary Command on becoming The Tanganyika Rifles.

Lieutenant C. R. F. Hinds, Royal Signals, has been selected to command the Signal Troop. His father, Lieutenant-Colonel C. D. Hinds (Retired), lives at Arusha.

SIGNAL TROOP, ROYAL SIERRA LEONE MILITARY FORCES
Presentation of a Silver Figure of Mercury to the Royal Sierra Leone Military Forces

Present on 23rd November, were the officers of the Headquarters Royal Sierra Leone Military Forces. Also present were representatives from the Force Signal Troop, amongst whom were the last two remaining British N.C.O.s of Royal Signals still serving in Sierra Leone, Sergeant A. Hope and Sergeant L. H. Van Boeckel.

The presentation was made by Captain F. V. P. Philp, on behalf of the Master of Signals and officerss of Royal Signals. In a short speech, Captain Philp said:

"Brigadier R. D. Blackie, Officers of the Headquarters Royal Sierra Leone Military Forces and N.C.O.s and men of the Force Signal Troop represented here this evening. At the request of the Master of Signals, Major-General Sir William Scott, K.C.M.G., C.B., C.B.E., and the officers of the Royal Signals, I have very great pleasure in presenting to the officers of the Royal Sierra Leone Military Forces this silver figure of "Mercury," representing the "God of Speed. The inscription reads as follows:—

> "Presented to the Officers of the Royal Sierra Leone Forces by the Officers of the Royal Corps of Signals, to commemorate the close association between that Corps and the Forces of Sierra Leone, 1940-1961."

In his reply, the Force Commander, Brigadier R. D. Blackie, D.S.O., O.B.E., said:

"It is with very much pleasure that I accept this figure of "Jimmy" that has been presented by the Master of Signals and officers of the Royal Corps of Signals. Throughout the world the Royal Corps of Signals have won a reputation second to none, for the speedy and accurate passing of messages. I am glad to say that this tradition has faithfully been carried on in my Force Signal Troop. This generous presentation will serve as a reminder, in the years to come, of the high standard set by the Royal Corps of Signals."

After the presentation, the N.C.O.s and men representing the Force Signal Troop were invited into the Mess for refreshments.

FOR SALE

CRAMMERS ESTABLISHMENT at 30, Sackville Road, Hove 3, Sussex. Boys aged 12-14 prepared for common entrance examination to public schools. £2,500 for goodwill and furnishings.—Apply Major Gordon Fraser, who is prepared to remain for a period to ensure continuity.

THE WELFARE SECTION STILL REQUIRES MORE CLOTHING

ARMY APPRENTICES SCHOOL

The present term ended on Thursday, 17th December, 1961, and the staff and apprentices have all gone off on a "well-earned" rest for three weeks, during which time, no doubt, all the seasonal festivities will have been held and observed. We commence the Spring Term on 8th January, 1962. We take the opportunity of wishing a happy and prosperous New Year to all our readers, and especially to those amongst you who have been at this School.

This term the Senior Term (59A) passed off on Wednesday, 13th December, 1961.

Winter Games, 1961 Series, v. A.A.S., Chepstow.

Army Apprentice School, Chepstow, visited us this year and came up for the week-end 23rd/25th November, 1961. It was pleasant to see so many apprentices from our School playing in their teams. The weather was not kind and playing or watching the outside games meant getting pretty damp.

The overall results were a 4 to 2 victory to Harrogate, with soccer drawn.

Detailed results were as follows:

	A.A.S., Chepstow	*A.A.S., Harrogate*
Basketball	20 points	42 points
Boxing	6 bouts	9 bouts
Cross-country ...	68 points	21 points
Hockey	3 goals	1 goal
Rugger	8 points	5 points
Shooting	1,512 points	1,542 points
Soccer	2 goals	2 goals

Our Shooting Team put up a score which has certainly never been attained at this School before, and we are sure is a record for Army Youth Competitions.

At cross-country, seven of our team of eight were the first seven home, with the eighth man coming in ninth.

The Basketball Team maintained its unbeaten record. In these winter games they have now played nine and won nine.

Scott House ("C" Company) battled through to the finals of the Army Youth Championships, where they met "C" Company, A.A.S., Chepstow, at Aldershot, on Saturday, 9th December, 1961. Chepstow were the winners by four goals to one; a result that we were not too disappointed over, because five of their team (Westwood, Peacock, Minns, Irvine and Perry) were playing for us last year.

Penney House ("D" Company) battled through to the finals of the Army Youth Basketball Championships, and on Saturday, met the Junior Leaders Battalion, R.A.S.C., from Taunton, in the finals, which were held on a neutral court at 8th Regiment, Catterick. Penney House won, 31 points to 18 points, and so have brought the Basketball Cup up north for the first time since its inception.

Graduation List December, 1961.

RADIO TECHNICIANS (Light)

M. E. Arnatt	J. S. Ashmore	D. W. Bird
P. W. Beck	J. T. W. Coulson	D. J. Chadwick
G. A. Grant	S. M. Harvey	B. A. G. T. Hawthorne
J. Mulcahy	D. M. Nixon	B. Selkirk
D. A. Skinner	W. Wright	

LINE TECHNICIAN

S. Devereux	T. R. Morris	M. V. Parsons
T. J. Spence	B. W. Thompson	

TELEGRAPH TECHNICIAN

G. B. Dallas	P. J. C. T. Fergusson	J. Gaut
B. A. Hulme	M. C. Leeming	A. G. Neilson
T. G. Palmer		

TELEGRAPH OPERATOR

C. Bradbury	A. R. Bryant	H. M. Cooke
R. S. Cormack	C. M. Eastland	A. R. Gilliard
J. K. Noble	A. D. Peace	D. J. Price

Prizewinners, December, 1961.

Signal Officer-in-Chief's Award

"Best all round Tradesman of the Term"
A/T C.S.M. S. Devereux

Colonel Commandant's Award

"Best all round Soldier/Tradesman of the Term"
A/T Sgt. B. Selkirk

Commandant's Prize

"For Conduct, Discipline and Example"
A/T C.S.M. D. J. Chadwick

Trade/Education Prizes, 9th Term

Telegraph Operator	A/T A. R. Gilliard	Tool Kit (Philips)
Radio Technician	A/T Cpl. B. A. G. Hawthorne	"Radio Designers' Handbook"
Line Technician	A/T C.S.M. Devereux	Book "Telecommunications"
Telegraph Technician	A/T B. A. Hulme	Book "Telecommunications"

Trade/Education Prizes, 5th Term

Telegraph Operator	A/T J. W. Edmunds	Book "Crime & Criminals"

Trade/Education Prizes, 3rd Term (Basics)

Signal Technician	A/T W. C. Ambrose	Book "Telecommunications"
Signal Technician (Most progressive at Trade)	A/T P. H. McCullock	Book "Telecoms Principles"
Signal Technician (Engineer Drawing)	A/T J. O. Varga	Drawing set

Prizes Awarded by the Royal Signals Corps Committee

Radio Technician	A/T J. S. Ashmore	Tool Kit (Philips)
Line Technician	A/T Sgt. B. W. Thompson	Tool Kit (Philips)
Telegraph Technician	A/T Sgt. A. G. Neilson	Tool Kit (Philips)
Telegraph Operator	A/T Cpl. H. M. Cooke	Tool Kit (Philips)

Borough of Harrogate Prize

"Best Essay on Local Government"
A/T M. J. J. Brazier

Moberly Trophy

"To the outstanding Boxer of the Year in the School"
A/T D. A. Bettles

Champion Company Cup

Won by Phillips House
A/T C.S.M. D. J. Chadwick

A GUIDE TO THE MAINTENANE AND CONTROL OF REGIMENTAL FUNDS

By Lieutenant-Colonel W. B. Wilton, M.B.E., M.C., Royal Army Pay Corps

This is another of the very valuable series of books of instruction published by Gale and Polden Ltd.; the cost in this case being small at 10s. 6d.

During our service as Officers and Warrant Officers we constantly find ourselves in charge of some Regimental Fund be it large or small.

With little or no experience to guide us we usually carry on the system of keeping the account inherited from our predecessor.

This may be a good method or a bad one.

If it is a good method, do we understand it sufficiently to continue without error? If the inherited system is bad, and it frequently, is, how did our predecessor 'get away with it'? He may have been one to whom the running of a small business comes naturally or he may have been just lucky; more than likely the latter.

Regimental Funds are in effect small business organisations run by the Regiment, for the Regiment. The Commanding Officer is legally responsible, he is the Trustee and they are Trust Funds.

There are many ways of incurring the displeasure of a Commanding Officer with all the consequences arising therefrom. Perhaps the surest and longest lasting is to make a nonsense of a fund entrusted for administration. Those who do this are seldom forgiven.

The surest way to success is a good system and as the author so wisely says 'properly kept books of account are like well trained watch dogs, they bark when there is danger about.'

It is for this reason that a wise Commanding Officer will see to it that all holders of Regimental Fund accounts obtain and study Colonel Wilton's book. Indeed it will be prudent if the President of the Regimental Audit Board is fully informed of the contents.

If the system advocated is carried out meticulously by all account holders the Commanding Officer will sleep well and have the greater energy and time for the supervision of the performance of those on whom he relies for the success of his Regiment in other matters such as sport or signalling.

Signalman Cadeau greasing a Champ during driver training

Signalman Collie takes down morse directly onto a typewriter during training

Recruits from the Commonwealth

By Second-Lieutenant C. M. Darby, 11th Regiment

Early in 1961, authority was given for the recruitment of members of various Commonwealth Countries into the Arms and Services of the British Army. The terms of service were the same as their contemporaries from the United Kingdom and Eire, and they would be liable for posting to any station throughout the world in the normal way.

Army recruiting teams travelled to the outposts of the Commonwealth. As a result of the campaigns launched, many potential soldiers were interviewed, and if they attained the high standard required, were accepted into the British Army.

Following this campaign, recruits from the Seychelle Islands, Borneo, Malaya, Cyprus, West Indies, and the Fiji Islands joined the Royal Corps of Signals. They were sent to the Signal Training Brigade for Military and Trade Training in the variety of interesting trades that Royal Signals can offer.

The first "Commonwealth Signalmen" flew from the Seychelle Islands in the early summer of this year, were met at the Joint Services Air Transit Centre at Hendon, issued with greatcoats to offset the change of temperature in travelling north, and after a total journey of over 4,500 miles, arrived in Catterick Camp, where they started training in 11th Regiment.

Fellow recruits in 11th Regiment probably wondered how on earth the Seychelle Islands, lying in the Indian Ocean off the east coast of Madagascar, became part of the Commonwealth. It possibly would have been more correct, historically, to have enlisted the Seychellois into the Royal Navy, as the island was captured from the French by a naval ship in 1794 and was eventually ceded to Great Britain in 1814 by treaty. It will be remembered that Archbishop Makarios of Cyprus was recently confined on the island during the emergency in Cyprus.

When the Seychellois recruits had recovered from the change of a near tropical climate to the rarely temperate Yorkshire weather, they quickly applied themselves to their basic military training. This training lasted six weeks, during which time they received instruction in drill, weapon training and fieldcraft, were brought to a high standard of physical fitness, learned map-reading, current affairs, arithmetic and English for the Army Certificate of Education, 3rd Class, and went on a four-day adventure training exercise in the Lake District.

Throughout this training they proved enthusiastic and keen, and one of their number Signalman A. M. Savy, was judged to be best all round recruit of the 80 men in his Intake, a decision that was warmly applauded by his contemporaries. To commemorate his achievement he was awarded the best recruit's certificate by the Commander, Brigadier P. M. P. Hobson, D.S.O.

On completion of their military training they were posted to their trade training regiments and are reported to be doing very well.

In October this year recruits from Borneo, Malaya and Rhodesia joined Royal Signals and have undergone the same training. Signalman NG, from Brunei, Borneo, was awarded "Best All Round Recruit" of his Intake of 63 men, and was one of the smartest regular soldiers to have "passed-out" of the Regiment.

The latest recruits have come from the Fiji Islands, 13 in number, arrived on Thursday, 23rd November. On the train from London, fellow passengers were entertained by the singing and guitar playing of these happy people, who, like those from other parts of the Commonwealth have come to Serve Their Queen.

We welcome them into the Royal Corps of Signals and wish them every fortune, both in their training and when they leave the Training Brigade as trained Signalmen for duty all over the world.

Signalman Lafortune tests a WS 19 set during his technician training

"Military training—handling the Stirling

Staff Sergeant K. Foster, Junior Sergeant F. Wilson and Junior Lance Coporal R. Spree, with Frankie Vaughan, Patricia Lambert, Cliff Michelmore, Vera Lynn, Jean Metcalfe and Mr. Griffiths.

Junior Leaders Regiment Choir

The Choir of the Junior Leaders Regiment, Royal Signals at the Victoria Palace.

If someone had told me the previous month that I was shortly to appear on the stage with Gracie Fields, Harry Secombe, Vera Lynn, Frankie Vaughan and a host of other stars I would have suggested an immediate visit to the Medical Officer. And yet there I was with fifty-five other Junior Leaders entrained for London, and the Victoria Palace Theatre, to do just that. Even the journey down had an unreal flavour about it. Singing in the train, first to the alarm, and then, apparently, to the pleasure of our fellow passengers.

Junior Sergeant R. Murray, Staff Sergeant K. Foster, Junior Lance Corporal R. Spree with one of the Tiller Girls.

On arrival at Paddington the Army, in the form of the R.A.S.C., took over and in a matter of minutes we were careering through the streets of London—destination Regents Park Barracks. Within an hour most of us were out exploring the city—finding to our surprise that the cost of living was more expensive than in Newton Abbot. To some, however, it was native territory and infinitely preferable to the fleshpots of South Devon.

The following morning we left the Barracks at nine o'clock for the Victoria Palace. There, during the rehearsals that took place, we became acquainted with an R.S.M. 'of the old school.' He, a member of the Irish Guards to boot, insisted that our knees be raised to somewhere within the region of our throats, and as a result caused such shaking in the 'mark time' that we feared for the safety of the stage structure . . . We rehearsed throughout the day; Harry Secombe making the whole affair one big 'belly laugh.'

With the laughs replaced by butterflies we returned to the theatre after our evening meal. It seemed we were waiting for an age, but at last we were 'on.' To a packed house and in the presence of the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester we sang two songs with Gracie Fields ("There'll always be an England"

Junior Signalman P. Coleman, Junior Lance Corporal W. Watson and Junior Sergeant R. Murray with Gracie Fields.

and "Wish me luck as you wave me goodbye"). Much to our amazement and pride we received three curtain calls, the only act to be so honoured during the evening. (Could this have been Gracie? I wonder!)

For the finale we marched on singing "Soldiers of the Queen" while the band of the Welsh Guards marched through the theatre and onto the stage. We followed this with "There's something about a soldier" and then we ended by accompanying Constance Shacklock in "Land of Hope and Glory."

It was a very happy fifty-six Junior Leaders, not forgetting Staff Foster—the boy with the moustache!—who left the theatre somewhere around midnight.

Altogether it was a memorable occasion which, coupled with our appearance on Westward Television earlier that week, made this the high spot of the term for the Choir.

Graduation List

Name	Training Regiment	Pre-selected Trades	Troop and Adopted Regiment
P. S. Tibbs	24th	Com. Centre Op	Javelin Troop
R. Pickersgill	24th	Telegraph Op	22nd Signal Regt.
K. B. Smith	224 Sqn	Special Op	,,
H. Wright	8th	Cable Jointer	,,
J. H. Swift	24th	Com. Centre Op	Kukri Troop
V. Unwin	24th	Com. Centre Op	17th Gurkha Signal Regt.

Name	Training Regiment	Pre-selected Trades	Troop and Adopted Regiment
P. R. Wiles	24th	Electrician Driver	Francisca Troop
R. G. Watson	224 Sqn	Special Op	28th Signal Regt.
J. A. Watts	8th	Cable Jointer	,,
J. Wilson	24th	Telegraph Op	,,
R. J. West	8th	Telegraph Tech	,,
R. C. Spearman	24th	Telegraph Op	,,
R. M. Round	24th	Telegraph Op	,,
J. D. Mitchell	8th	Cable Jointer	,,
A. E. Keenan	24th	Com. Centre Op	,,
E. C. Jones	24th	Telegraph Op	,,
C. A. Hinton	8th	Technician	,,
R. M. Harber	8th	Cable Jointer	,,
D. Fitton	24th	Telegraph Op	,,
D. Coleman	24th	Telegraph Op	,,
A. R. Blowers	24th	Electrician Driver	,,
K. A. Bagnall	224 Sqn	Special Op	,,
W. J. Wedgebury	8th	Cable Jointer	Romulus Troop
A. A. Pope	24th	Com. Centre Op	13th Signal Regt.
A. K. Pinder	24th	Telegraph Op	,,
G. R. Nicol	24th	Telegraph Op	,,
G. S. Dixon	24th	Telegraph Op	,,
D. C. Longhurst	24th	Telegraph Op	,,
S. J. Mason	24th	Radio Op	Quadrant Troop
P. H. Wheatley	24th	Telegraph Op	4th Signal Regt.
P. Lindsay	24th	Com. Centre Op	,,
T. E. Jobes	24th	Telegraph Op	,,
G. E. Herod	8th	Radio Tech (Light)	,,
D. French	224 Sqn	Special Op	,,
E. F. Barrett	24th	Radio Op	,,
M. Rivett	8th	Radio Relay Op	White Swan Troop 30th Signal Regt.
P. Robson	224 Sqn	Special Op	Kohima Troop
T. P. Smith	8th	Radio Tech (Light)	2nd Signal Regt.
D. E. Stevens	24th	Staff Op	,,
H. Fendley	24th	Com. Centre Op	Iron Troop 3rd Signal Regt.
R. Murray	244 Sqn	Special Op	Jerboa Troop
M. E. Boisse	24th	Com. Centre Op	1st Signal Regt.
T. R. Baker	24th	Com. Centre Op	White Spear Troop
P. Booker	244 Sqn	Special Op	7th Signal Regt.
A. J. Crowden	8th	Radio Relay Op	,,
E. P. Etherton	244 Sqn	Special Op	,,
W. J. Hill	8th	Line Technician	,,
W. Hindmarch	8th	Line Technician	,,
A. J. Hollowell	244 Sqn	Special Op	,,
C. J. Jerram	24th	Com. Centre Op	,,
J. D. Lycett	8th	Radio Relay Op	,,
R. McKay	8th	Radio Technician	,,
J. J. Smart	24th	Com. Centre Op	,,
F. C. Songhurst	8th	Radio Technician	,,
J. A. Sullivan	24th	Telegraph Op	,,
J. P. Watkins	24th	Com. Centre Op	,,
J. F. Blakeborough	8th	Cable Jointer	,,
P. D. Maidment	244 Sqn	Special Op	,,
A. W. Needham	244 Sqn	Special Op	,,
J. W. Sneddon	24th	Com. Centre Op	,,
P. K. Skinner	24th	Telegraph Op	,,
D. Thompson	244 Sqn	Special Op	,,
J. Howell	24th	Telegraph Op	,,
C. J. Fox	24th	Telegraph Op	,,

3rd REGIMENT

If progress is change, then the Regiment has made much progress in the last month, for we have indeed changed.

The change to our new divisional role, with its consequent field exercises, has progressed smoothly.

The change to our new barracks, with *its* consequent (manual) exercises, has been completed, with the exception of the Officers' Mess and the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess, which move early in the New Year.

A change in personal appearance is also apparent, the place swarms with combat-suited, weather beaten warriors, each contriving to look like John Wayne, Errol Flynn and Audie Murphy rolled into one.

Offers from Hollywood are confidently expected at any moment.

On 29th November, Air Support Troop flew to Malta to take part in Exercise "Solinus." Working closely with the R.A.F., the Troop acquitted itself well both in Malta and in Libya, where the exercise ended. They arrived back in the Regiment in good order on 9th December.

Sport has not been neglected during the recent activity. One of the soccer hghlights was when both Regimental teams won their matches on the same day. The second XI win over R.A.F. Boscombe Down was quite spectacular, 3—0 down after 15 minutes the team rallied and won 7—3.

The following week our first XI played the 3rd Dragoon Guards in the 3 Division Knockout Cup, and with a side depleted by exercise calls, lost a hard fought game 5—2.

We lost our basketball match with 3 Division R.E., but won through to the third round of the Division hockey tournament.

The Regimental Rugby team continues to thrive.

A triangular boxing competition between the Regiment, 51 Brigade and B.M.H. Tidworth was held on 5th December and our team, made up at very short notice, gave good account of themselves. The team, comprising of Corporals W. Heaney, E. D. Little, E. P. S. Swain and R. Rocket, Lance-Corporals Marsh and T. MacDonald, was a credit to the Regiment.

Result: 51 Brigade, 12pts.; B.M.H. Tidworth, 10 pts.; 3 Signal Regiment, 9 pts.; was close enough to justify optimism for the future.

Corporal E. P. E. Swain, incidentally, has boxed his way into the first round of the 3 Division Individual Boxing Championships.

We extend our best wishes to Sergeant D. G. Layton who leaves us early in the New Year for Aden, and to Corporal F. C. Seabright—Singapore bound. Good luck also to W.O.II G. I. D. Gubler and Staff Sergeant A. Spedding, who are at present on a Yeoman of Signals course in Catterick.

Congratulations to Sergeant and Mrs. R. L. Gardner, Sergeant and Mrs. R. M. Ruffels, Lance-Corporal and Mrs. P. B. Pitt, on the birth of their sons. Congratulations also to Signalman and Mrs. K. R. Thurley on the birth of their daughter.

We leave you, gentle reader with a few choice images:—

A dark night, and Signalman W. D. Russell discovering that a water can was no substitute for petrol as an auxiliary supply for his generator.

A dull morning and S.S.M. S. A. G. Hulse solemnly stepping into an iced over ditch thinking it was a road.

A torrential Libyan downpour, and O.C. Air Supply Troop wading after his plimsolls which were floating across the camp. (Thinking they were enemy canoes?)

Finally a thought for Staff Sergeant J. G. G. Pickard, who rashly volunteered to be this year's Father Christmas and is now wondering if he'll make the weight.

4th REGIMENT

Well, it happened to us, as prophesied . . . We had a "crash-out" and it came most unexpectedly. The first shock to us, was that we had been given Thursday, 30th November, as a holiday, after having the Administrative Inspection on Tuesday, 28th November. The second "shock wave" hit us first thing Thursday morning, when most of us were enjoying a welcome "lay-in" and/or nursing sore heads . . . The code-word was received for us to evacuate the barracks! Needless to say, we completed the "crash-out" in good time, but I have never in my service, seen so many stunned and amazed looks, as I saw at 09.15 hours that day. Ah, well, such is life in a Signal Regiment; we can expect anything to happen and still take it with the proverbial "pinch of salt." As a footnote to the "crash-out," good British Army humour was shown throughout, and everyone regarded it as a master-joke on the parts of the chaps at SHAPE!

On Monday, 6th November, the Warrant Officers and Sergeants had a farewell drink with Major-General D. S. Gordon, C.B.E., D.S.O., who has now left to take up his appointment at the Imperial Defence College. We were very sorry to see him go, but we wish him the very best of luck at the I.D.C.

We welcome Major-General J. V. Allard, C.B.E., D.S.O., E.D., C.B., and sincerely hope that he will be as proud of the 4th Regiment as General Gordon assured us he was, during the time he commanded the Division.

The Administrative Inspection went very well, according to all reports. The German cleaner who keeps the corridors clean and tidy in Block 8 informed me that we should be rated "very good." Information from such a dignitary as this is second only to the information one could receive from the noble "Char-wallah" of Cyprus, Mr. Shabab Din!

As always, during Administrative Inspections, smiles were brought to the faces of the Inspecting Officers by remarks made by certain soldiers. One driver, when asked the meaning of the Continental "Caution" sign, after being shown it, replied, "Oh yes, I know that one . . . its the Divisional Sign of one of our Signal Regiments here in Germany! Never mind, lad, full marks for showing *esprit de corps*.

The parade was a huge success, and everyone watching it said that it was better than any they had previously seen. There is no doubt in our minds now, that we have officers in the Corps with "Tibby Brittain-like" words of command, after hearing our Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel P. E. Hutchins. The Quarter Guard, commanded by Corporal G.

Thomas, and made up of members of 1 Squadron, were complimented on the high standard of drill and turnout. Well done, lads, you set the standard which assured us of the day going with a swing.

During the months of October and November, many and varied things happened in the Regiment, but it is hard to keep track of everything. We were visited by the Signal Officer-in-Chief, Major-General A. M. W. Whistler, C.B.E., who enlightened many of the seniors regarding the policy and future of the Corps. From the General's remarks, it is certain that the Corps offers an extremely good future and excellent prospects to a young man who is keen to get on in the Army. The big worry of not being accepted as a tradesman by many of trade groups in British industry is fading fast. We were told that negotiations were under way between leading personalities in the industrial world and the governing body of the Royal Signals, for our tradesmen to be absorbed into industry on their return to civilian life, and gain by the knowledge they had acquired in the Corps.

8th REGIMENT

The Northern Command Inter-Unit Boxing Championships

7th December, 1961, is a cold day in Catterick. Yesterday's snow is crisp and slippery when the Regiment's eighteen boxers went to Bourlon Gymnasium to be weighed-in and medically examined. All within the weight—relief—breakfast. During the morning a crisis. Both the heavyweights weighed-in are ineligible because their upgrading courses are not of twelve months' duration. Corporal J. Hopcroft of 632 Troop (Hebrides) and Sergeant A. F. Dyer of 14th Regiment are very disappointed, while W.O.II E. D. George, the team manager, is stunned—but not for long. Signalman L. F. Hopkins, a lineman trainee of 12 stone, weighed-in as reserve light-heavy, volunteers to take on the Provost Sergeant of 4/7 Dragoon Guards, giving away seven stone!

Grant's courage and sheer guts are particularly pleasing, because he is an ex-Junior Leader from Denbury.

Of the next four bouts, 4/7 Dragoon Guards' team win three and draw level at 15 points.

The last bout is between Signalman Tait and Trooper McNulty, who both obviously appreciate their heavy responsibility, but are reminded by the roar of their respective supporters. It is a terrific bout, with no quarter asked or given. Tait's head is cut in the first round, but after an agonising wait while it is inspected, the cut is found not to be serious and the bout continues. In the second round Trooper McNulty bleeds from the mouth, but it is not until after the fight that he is found to have a broken tooth which has severely cut the inside of his mouth. By the end of the last round no one is prepared to bet on the result, but the judges declare Tait the winner.

So ends a memorable evening's boxing, and the cup is presented to Corporal Hornigold by Major-General R. B. F. K Goldsmith, C.B., C.B.E., the G.O.C., Yorkshire District.

The team finally selected is:

Bantam	...	Signalman A. E. T. Simpson (Line Tech. Trainee)
Feather	...	Corporal W. T. Davies, A.C.C.
Light	...	Corporal B. Steele (Lineman Instructor).
Light Welter (1st String)	...	Corporal H. Hornigold (A.I.P.T.).
Light Welter (2nd String)	...	Signalman J. Grant (Radio Tech. Lt. Trainee).
Welter (2nd String)	...	Signalman A. J. Lyon (Lineman Trainee).
Light Middle	...	Signalman D. W. Morrison (Radio Relay Tech Trainee).
Middle	...	Signalman A. Fagon (Tech. Storeman).
Light Heavy	...	Signalman G. White (R.P.).
Heavy	...	Signalman L. F. Hopkins (Lineman Trainee).
Welter (1st String)	...	Signalman M. D. Tait (Lineman Trainee).

At the interval, after six bouts, the score, in points, is 8th Regiment 10, 4/7 Dragoon Guards 8.

In the first half Grant is outstanding. Although quite exhausted, he stays the distance, and the decision is by no means a foregone conclusion.

Lawn Tennis Report, 1961. The 1961 lawn tennis season proved very successful. There was a turnover of 36 players of whom 13 actually played for the Unit.

The trophies won were the Royal Signals Open Doubles, and Inter-Unit Doubles Cups, the Northern Command Singles, Open Doubles and Inter-Unit Doubles Cups, the Yorkshire District Singles and Inter-Unit Doubles Cups.

We reached the final of the Northern Command Inter-Unit Doubles Tournament but were beaten into second place by H.Q. Northern Command. At one point in this match the score was four rubbers, one set and five games all, however our opponents took the next two games to win the match by 5 to 4 rubbers.

Five of our players represented the Corps, of whom only one had played for the Corps before.

We look forward to next season and hope we can produce the same if not better results.

10th REGIMENT

November—cold—anti-freeze—Road Safety Week. This has been a bleak month in Krefeld, but stirring with activity and anxious to get into December and enjoy Christmas. I sit here in R.H.Q. and wonder what the Squadrons have been doing. It isn't until I get out of the office and walk around the barracks that I see hockey being played on the square, and know the inter-Troop League is under way—is "B" Troop in the lead in 2 Squadron? And then there is 1 Squadron, busily painting Fordsons and testing cable; are they leaving us or something? That noise over there—is it the L.A.D. road testing, or are they turning that kart again? Left-hand salute! That chap with the bandaged hand must have got a bit close to that Roman candle; and who are those jogging athletes—are they H.Q.'s boxing team?

The annual Sapper/Signals' dinner was held in the Officers' Mess on the night of 16th November. The 10th and 16th Regiment, acting as hosts, 40 Advanced Engineer Stores Regiment and the A.W.O. were entertained to the pleasure of all present. The Commanding Officer was happy to show that the works service in Germany was the latest off-shoot of the Royal Engineers. The guests proved to have brought a powerful team wiht them, as they won most of the mess games.

Safety Week hit Bradbury Barracks with a vengeance on the 20th November. The previous Saturday saw the L.A.D. Scammel hauling a most disgusting wreck of a Fiat on to a pedestal outside the Guard Room; and then, having decorated the rest of the barracks with sundry wrecks and cautionary posters, the L.A.D. invited drivers to have their cars tested by their Inspection Team. Each afternoon the R.M.T.O. laid on a demonstration and test for enthusiasts, and a casual observer would have thought it was the final day of the R.A.C. Rally. Finally, Mr Roberts, the Land Police Adviser, gave a very interesting, but sobering lecture, on Road Safety, and dealt at some length with the German traffic laws and how British drivers are affected by them.

The months sports programme was heralded by the R.S.M. introducing three very entertaining evenings of inter-Squadron boxing. Where talent was lacking, guts and determination certainly made up for it. After a number of rousing bouts and an exceptionally good fight, to quote but one, between "Ginger" Corner, of 1 Squadron, and "Tich" Holman of "H.Q." Squadron, at bantam weight; 1 Squadron carried off the trophy. Lance-Corporal Smart was awarded a cup as the pluckiest loser, after fighting Lieutenant P. J. Brunton.

On Thursday, 9th November, the Regimental Soccer Team, plus a few supporters, visited Apeldoorn, in Holland, to play a match against 1 (NL) Corps Signal Battalion Soccer XI. It was a dark, cold morning, as the Regimental bus drove away from Krefeld for the long ride to Holland. They crossed the border at Cleves and then drove to Arnhem, where they were glad to stretch their legs and enjoy a pleasant cup of coffee. On the way out of Arnhem they called at the famous war cemetery and saw how well all the graves were still being kept by the Dutch. At about 11.20 hours they arrived at Camp Wittenburg, Apeldoorn, the home of the Dutch Signal Battalion. No sooner had the coach stopped inside the gates than they were warmly welcomed by two officers and four sergeants, who were to be their guides for the complete day. The team were straight away taken off for a walk around the modern camp and shown how the Dutch soldiers work and live. Once lunch was over, they prepared themselves for the afternoon game, having a ten-minute ride to the ground. On arrival, they were all glad to see an extremely good pitch, completely covered with grass. Over half-an-hour before kick-off the first of many trucks started to bring the spectators in, and at five minutes before the start, the ground was surrounded with well over 1,000 spectators. In order to keep all interested, a P.A. system was also installed, and "pop" records were played. As the

10th REGIMENT

Sergeant J. L. S. Grinnell demonstrating a piece of line equipment to Major Salomons and Lieutenant Unger of the 1 (N.L.) Corps Signal Battalion during their recent visit to the Regiment. Sergeant T. H. Atkins and two Dutch Warrant Officers look on

team came on to the field they were greeted with a tremendous cheer from all their hosts, which helped to ease the nerves of many of the players.

Sport

Right from the start of the game, the football was fast, direct, intelligent and more than exciting, with the Dutch goalkeeper doing an acrobatic leap in the first three minutes from a 30-yard drive by Signalman Gillespie, who skippered the team. The two teams were very evenly matched, finishing with the score standing at 2—2 and leaving the spectators as exhausted from the excitement as were the 22 players. The Dutch were going to present a trophy to the winning team, but as it was a draw, it was very sportingly presented to Signalman Gillespie on the team's behalf. The visit wound up with excellent hospitality in their Sergeants' Mess, so that everyone returned to Krefeld talking of the wonderful friendliness shown to them by their hosts.

The Regimental XV met their old rivals, 16th Regiment, on 31st October, in the second round of the Morrison Cup. It was an extremely hard game, and the Regiment just managed to hold off the spirited attacks of the 16th. Corporal F. Hampshire was able to break through their three-quarters and crossed their line twice. Corporal L. Kinsey converted one of the tries to make the final score 10th Regiment 8, 16th Regiment 0, and send the 10th on to meet 7th Regiment in the semi-finals.

The Go Kart Club have had another good month with a meeting at Munster on the 4th November where the powerful steam-engine kart of Captain J. A. Billing carried all before it but the Club karts suffered from maladies of the magneto, and then at Wuppertal on 24th November the Club collected a valuable 15 points in some very exciting racing. With 60 points to credit, if the Regiment is not leading the field for the Whistler Trophy at least it is well in the "van."

The Judo Club entered the B.A.O.R. Judo Championships on 24th/25th November. Lance-Corporal W. Hickman got through the semi-finals and was narrowly defeated by half a point. All competing members of the Club were awarded a higher grade belt.

From No. 1 Squadron

The notes would not be complete without hearing something from our correspondent in 1 Squadron.

Closing down a Squadron is not one of the most pleasant tasks which could fall onto anyone's plate but I think that 1 Squadron has found the answer to this rather depressing business; it is to keep working and playing at top speed and to forget the end product.

The end began really when we said farewell to Major J. E. Denton who had been with us since 1959; I think it is the first time anyone has ever said "goodbye" standing on his head and drinking pints of beer in record times!

Major Denton went to Singapore which made it almost a one-for-one swop with his successor, Major G. Klosser, who has just left there.

The Squadron had a very successful visit to a cable factory at Rheydt which had a most secret machine for coating multi-core cable with aluminium. After the technical side of the factory, the visitors were shown into a not so secret restaurant where their stomachs were coated with food.

Thus bolstered up, the Squadron boxing team, under the able leadership of Lieutenant P. J. Brunton, won the Inter-Squadron boxing contest, and no sooner had the blood dried and the dust settled than a gang of willing slaves under the whip of Staff Sergeant R. Judge tore the gymnasium apart and proceeded to work an overnight miracle of transformation with it, to prepare it for the Squadron dance on the following evening. This dance was a great success, being well supported by local German girls.

A very high standard of dress was maintained by the Sergeant-Major whose eagle eye, searching for jeans, creepers and snaffle ties soon sorted out a rather guilty looking character sneaking in without a tie on and in rather skin tight trousers. The dialogue went as follows:—

S.S.M. (to bouncer): Get that man in jeans and no tie out of here!

Weird man (alias O.I.C., L.A.D.): Good evening, Sergeant-Major.

S.S.M.: Good evening, Sir! I've been told to throw out all the zombies in jeans, but as you're wearing a track suit I suppose that will be all right!

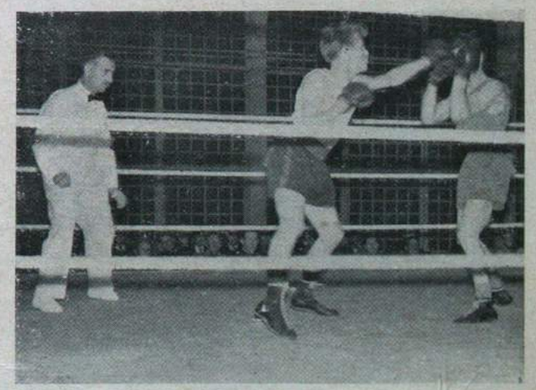
Peace reigned.

During the process of handing in our G 1098 stores a new hobby was sprung up among the mustard keen members of the Squadron—it is carpentry, and it is hoped by Christmas to make sufficient tent pegs not only to cover our own one thousand deficiencies but to have sufficient left over to give one to everybody in the Regiment!

Creepy Neper Club

In order to commemorate the engineering of circuits in nepers over Pintsch Heavy Radio Relay, a special "Creepy Neper Tie" has been made. To qualify for the tie, one must have taken some part in the establishment of a circuit over Pintsch Radio Relay.

Any ex-member of the Regiment who qualifies and who would like a tie should send 11s. to Captain D. Crookes, H.Q. School of Signals, Catterick Camp, Yorks. In view of the small stock held, early application is advised.



10th REGIMENT

Craftsman M. Chadwick, at the receiving end of a straight left from Signalman J. W. Wyllie, during the Inter Squadron Boxing Competition

11th REGIMENT

A Happy New Year !

Would you all, especially Chief Clerks, read our notes in the December issue and place a copy in the reference library marked "Homeward Bound."

From time to time we will add further helpful information. For instance, take the times of the last trains from Darlington to Richmond, Monday to Friday, 6.20 p.m.; Saturday, 11 p.m.; Sunday 10.30 p.m. (These times do not refer to the Catterick specials, which run at week-ends). Incidentally, the last bus is 10.40 p.m., and as many know, Darlington is no place to be stranded in—in any weather.

The weather! At the moment it is seasonal. In two days there has been snow, thaw, fog, rain, sunshine, sleet, snow and a howling wind.

It may be safely assumed that the recruits who recently arrived from the Fiji Islands do not appreciate our "White Christmas"! But then—who does? If it is any consolation to them, the writer of these notes went from Catterick to Aden one June. It was the year we had snow in May!

Adventure! There are, however, stalwart types who go down to the river in boats. (Some even fall in while practising). Lieutenant B. E. Brown, A.C.C., and Lieutenant M. A. J. Mulcahy, on the 2nd and 3rd December, competed in a two-day canoes race on the River Wear, open to all-comers. There were 21 entries, including six from the Army Apprentices' School.

You won't believe this—there was not enough water in the river over the first leg, Walsingham to Durham, and only very light canoes stayed the course. Many a craft was mangled on the rocks.

The second leg was from Durham to Sunderland, about 27 miles, and the first three hours were spent continuously shooting rapids, the field constantly changing position through having to repair holes, emptying-out water, and even de-icing the craft.

Many were the comments to be heard over this exciting stretch: "Help, we'll never survive this one!" "Pull to the centre, there's some rocks ahead!" "The —— rudder's gone again!"

The last 10 miles was a long slog down the tidal estuary. On approaching Sunderland, shipyard workers (yes, on Sunday) and ships' crews livened the day with ribald comment, but at least one met his match in Lieutenant Mulcahy, who asked him: "Is this Newcastle?" He was so shaken he dropped his broom in the sea.

Lieutenant Brown has competed in the Devizes-Westminster race, but Lieutenant Mulcahy has had only about 3½ hours' canoeing.

Our two stalwarts took second place in their classes and were fifth overall.

Their craft was a Wessex Mk. II with 32in. beam, and the winner's a PBK53, 26in. beam. The time between them was 23 minutes, in a race lasting about five hours—a magnificent performance.

On 22nd November, W.O.II J. D. King was presented with the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal by the Commander, Signal Training Brigade, Brigadier P. M. P. Hobson, D.S.O. Photographs were taken, but the weather was very foggy, so it is doubtful if any were clear eonugh for publication. W.O.II King joined the Corps in 1943, at the age of 17.

Brigadier P. M. P. Hobson, D.S.O. presenting the LS & GC to W.O.II J. D. King.

There was a very good attendance at St. Martin's Church on Remembrance Sunday. The Parade C.O., Adjutant and R.S.M. were provided by this Regiment. It was the first parade on which personnel were dressed in No. 2 Dress. It looked particularly smart against B.D. Our Old Comrades approved.

Visit. The Signal Training Brigade was honoured on 30th November, with a visit by the C.S.O., SHAPE, Major-General F. W. Moorman, United States Army.

Major-General F. W. Moorman, United States Army inspecting the Guard of Honour outside Headquarters Mess

The Guard of Honour, with Captain B. I. Weston in command, was provided by this Unit, and a special fanfare was played by Trumpeters of the Corps Band. This event appeared on TV.

In the evening General Moorman gave an informative and entertaining lecture to Royal Signals officers. His knowledge of the British way of life, our transport, and the weather, was as detailed as his command of the technical mysteries associated with N.A.T.O. communications.

Cary Theatre. This month Lieutenants J. L. E. Gryspeerdt and M. Allan joined the Unit from B.A.O.R., and Second-Lieutenant F. Vollbracht has completed his National Service.

Second-Lieutenant Vollbracht appeared in "Young Wives Tale" at the Cary Theatre recently—using up some of his leave to do so. It is said that he was "type-cast" as a Roué!

Many will be pleased to hear that the Cary Theatre still flourishes and is well supported by the Depot. Mrs. J. Jordan produced the last play, which was a most enjoyable comedy. The Press described it as "the best ever."

Recruit of the Month. Last month it was stated that competition among trainees was maintained by selecting the best recruit and best shot in each squad.

This week, on 6th December, one man has gained both distinctions.

Signalman B. H. W. Garner

He is Signalman B. H. W. Garner, aged just over 19½. He comes from Forest Gate, London, E., and his last two years of schooling was at Brentford Secondary Modern, which he left at the age of 15. He was two years in the Army Cadet Force and 3½ years in the T.A., first as a Lance-Bombardier in the R.A., and on amalgamation, elected to join Royal Signals "as it appeared to be more interesting." He held his Lance appointment with Royal Signals (T.A.).

After leaving school he had three or four jobs, but feeling restless, he decided to join the Regular Forces on a 22-year engagement. He is to be trained as a Special Operator.

The tradition of service runs strongly through both sides of his family, and in particular, his father served with the 8th Army in North Africa.

Good luck ! You, and the likes of you, are very welcome in the Royal Corps.

Car Rally. On 15th November a car rally was held, open to H.Q., Training Brigade and the Regiment. The course was in two parts, a day section of 50 miles and a night drive of 23 miles.

There were nine entries, and the first car away was driven by Mrs. S. W. Brackenbury, Lieutenant M. A. J. Mulcahy was navigator—they were last!

All check points were secret—some so secret that they couldn't be found.

The rally was won by Staff Sergeant Smith and Sergeant Spooner in a 1936 Jaguar. They accumulated 200 penalty points, which was an excellent result over a fiendish course, designed by Lieutenant Gordon Bartlett, of this Unit, and Lieutenant Neil Parker, R.A.E.C.

This rally was such a success that more will be run in the spring.

Good Advice. These notes will end as they began, with more information.

It should not be necessary to point out that a soldier must travel with his kit, as per A.F. H1157, but this fact is either not understood or is being ignored.

This causes unnecessary administrative problems for the Quartermasters and Officers Commanding Squadrons.

Individuals often have to pay for deficiencies in kit which, it is alleged, "is coming by M.F.O."

Personnel returning to U.K. by air, use up, quite wrongly, much of the 66lb. baggage allowance by bringing home presents and souvenirs. This baggage allowance is inadequate for kit anyway, now that No. 2 Dress and suitcases are issued, but the matter has been referred to War Office.

Please accept the following suggestions:

Make more use of the postal services—some units have "rumbled" this one, and it is working quite well.

Do not mix military kit with personal belongings.

Address military kit to the Q.M. of this Unit, which ever method of conveyance is chosen.

Consider sending some kit in advance.

Do please remember, the soldier should arrive here with his kit—or anywhere else, for that matter—unless otherwise ordered.

Soldiers are responsible for their kit at all times—take no chances.

A Happy New Year !

14th Regiment

1 Squadron. November has been a hectic month.

The last of our pre-administrative inspection Staff Officers visited Gloucester on the 9th and gave us a clean bill of health.

On Remembrance Sunday morning Second-Lieutenant D. Simmons represented the Squadron at the local Cenotaph ceremony and laid a wreath. Simultaneously, Second-Lieutenant D. Lawrence and a small contingent led the military parade at the nearby Cheltenham service, and in the afternoon two large contingents of men and women, commanded by Captain R. Barrett and Lieutenant S. Jones, W.R.A.C., participated in the Gloucester Cathedral parade service and worthily upheld our high traditions.

Then came the great day itself. Early morning fog and a hint of rain did nothing to damp enthusiasm but although the sky remained overcast we got away with it. The Pipe Band and Corps of Drums of the Junior Leaders' Regiment from Newton Abbott looked resplendent in scarlet and blue and added much needed colour and tone to the occasion. In fact, they performed most nobly. Girls in olive green and men in well pressed battle dress completed an extremely smart and impressive picture which earned the commendation of Brigadier H. W. Le Patourel, V.C., the Inspecting Officer.

After the parade, the Brigadier looked round Robinswood and spent the afternoon at Boddington.

Public relations were at their best and many excellent pictures and captions appeared in all the local newspapers.

Other recent visitors include Brigadier D. White, O.B.E., C.S.O. Southern Command, Colonel R. Linton, O.B.E., A.A.G., The War Office, Colonel D. P. K. Rennick, a former Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel P. S. Banbury, M.B.E., the new C.S.O. Comcan, and Colonel G. D. T. Harris, O.B.E., Signals 2.

Having satisfactorily disposed of the Annual Inspection, we relaxed a little and let our hair down. The Officers' Mess cocktail party was a great success and 120 guests from far and near turned up. Warrant Officers and Sergeants too have been holding a series of fortnightly get-togethers; the Corporals have had another cosy party, and the Junior Ranks' Club a cabaret and dance, at which in future we hope to have our own Band performing.

And now for Christmas and the New Year. Quite a number of parties are planned and we intend to have a very happy time.

Our soccer teams still lead the R.A.F. Innsworth League, but only one point now separates "A" and "B."

Male basketballers recently tried conclusions with the School of Infantry, Warminster, but were slightly outclassed. Later on we will have another go at them.

Our girls fared better in the Command netball championships at Yeovil and went on to Aldershot to compete in the final stages but the opposition guns were too big. However, it was a very stout effort to get as far as they did.

Lieutenant Gary Grant, the regular scribe, has wangled a posting to 30th Regiment, to which he has been attached for the past three months anyway, and in his stead we welcome Major M. Turner, from Cyprus.

We gather too there are other departures in the offing. Second-Lieutenant N. Simmons hopes to escape to civil life soon and in the New Year Lieutenant Sheila Jones expects to move further south. An old Spanish custom—we train 'em, someone else pinches 'em !

Finally, to R.H.Q., which has at long last decided to forsake the fleshpots of the Metropolis for the rustic delights of Gloucester, we extend a welcome. It is not true that we have surrounded Block 14 with a fence of dannert wire, but we have got it handy just in case.

2 Squadron. The Squadron has seen considerable change in the last month. The Regimental Pay Office from Wolverley and two other minor Units moved into the camp on 17th November. At the same time the contractors who had been hard at work on accommodation for this move were released and descended on us.

We are feeding all from our cookhouse, which now looks rather like a battlefield, with the contractors hacking away at the walls and cooks stepping over debris to prepare the meals. So far no casualties on either side and we are all still feeding jolly well. Well done the A.C.C. The Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess also looked a little sorry, but their dining room has now been enlarged and the redecoration is completed in a most tasteful "pink and French grey." We wonder who chose the colour scheme. The late Officer Commanding or a senior with a "bedroom complex"! However, the general effect is very pleasant. We doubt if when all is finished any old member of the Squadron would recognise the place. Our colour schemes range through all the pastel shades of pink, blue, lilac, green and yellow.

We have also seen innovations in the transmitter hall with dismantling of various types of aerials.

The efforts of the Entertainment Committee at extracting cash are now completed. They have done their job well and painlessly—with the draws, socials and dance meetings. We trust the children will enjoy their party on 18th December.

May we wish all a very happy New Year.

3 Squadron. November will be remembered as a month of upheaval at Bampton. Alterations to the receiver building proceed apace. For some weeks now the unfortunate shift and maintenance staff have been faced with keeping the equipments operating and serviceable, while walls, floors and ceilings have been disappearing and re-appearing round about. It would probably be more apt to describe the receiver hall as a bomb-damage site with familiar grey equipments sitting somewhat incongruously amongst a disarray of bricks, mortar, steelwork and hardboard and plastic sheeting. The last remaining "island" of any consequence is the MDF, and there is a certain amount of "head scratching" by Mr. Prince, the Technical Officer, and his staff at the moment as to the most

effective method of moving it and still providing effective line-communication. We are not inviting correspondence on this subject, thank you! Anyway, "hats off" to the Shift Superintendents and their staff for maintaining *almost* undisturbed communications during this difficult period.

Life is not all "sunshine" either for our aerial field party, which comprises Signals Linemen and civilian aerial riggers. No doubt the stalwarts of the team—W.O.II C. G. Curtis, Corporals B. H. Lee and A. Watson and Lance-Corporal E. E. Page—ponder upon the merits of reconstructing aerials at 150 feet in the windy, wet and cold November days with a comparatively inactive warm and summery autumn hardly past. However, these things must be, and the achievement of work well done under adverse conditions is surely satisfying.

Earlier in the season we mentioned a new venture for the soccer team in joining the Oxford Thursday League. I am afraid they are finding it tough and we must report large scores all too frequently for the other side. At least that leaves room for improvement. Anyway, best of luck in the future and to W.O.II W. Moore, R.E.M.E., who has recently accepted the onerous appointment of team manager.

18th REGIMENT

Hockey. Once again the hockey season is with us and, with the usual problems, we maintain a reasonably full programme. This year we are running our teams on a "club" basis and results, so far, are encouraging.

The "stars" of our 1st XI, ably led by W.O.II (Wally) Hammond, are going from strength to strength and always give a good account of themselves. Lance-Corporal Abdullah, Captain Bonny Khoo and Signalman Osman are scoring frequently; whilst R.Q.M.S. License, Staff Sergeant Reed and Signalman Sardul Singh assst Lance-Corporal Letchmanan in the defence of his goal.

The 2nd XI, under the capable guidance of Major (Laurie) Line has a full programme. This team, whilst giving games to more players of Regimental standard, is our main reserve for the 1st XI. Selection is made from about twenty players and the competition for a place is keen.

The 3rd XI, led by Captain (Jim) Ferris of the Devon and Dorsets, is constantly trying out potential Regimental standard players (under combat conditions) This will, we hope, encourage the less experienced of our players to come forward and "have a go"—the only requirements for selection being interest and enthusiasm.

Our Inter-Troop League is going strongly. In these matches the emphasis is more on enthusiasm than skill.

We recently entered two teams in the District Six-a-Side tournament. After a gruelling day's play our "A" team entered the final with the "A" team of the 19th Regiment as opponents. The final was notable for the high standard of hockey played, finishing with the runners-up place for us—beaten by the first score in extra time.

Finally, a word of thanks to Sergeant Owens, who keeps the pitches in such good condition, and to Lance-Corporal Baldev Singh who looks after the kit, plays for the 2nd XI and umpires occasionally.

M.T. Troop. With an annual mileage which makes a Steamship Company like P. & O. (who are, incidentally, the world's biggest passenger carriers) look like small fry, M.T. Troop which is almost entirely Malayan, make the most of the small amount of free time available.

During August we decided to spend a Sunday at Changi and bring along wives and children. The children particularly, love the water, but only one of the ladies was able to overcome tradition and get into a one-piece bathing suit. The rest had a wonderful time simply by getting into the water clothed as they were. A very appetising lunch was served, each family coming very well prepared with containers filled with delicious curries.

In spite of C.I.V.s we managed to run two upgrading courses to B II, and to celebrate, had a dinner at the Islamic Cafe in Singapore. This was so well attended, the course has obviously been extremely successful. After the ceremony of opening speeches we all got down to the job of eating our way through a delicious meal.

By the time October arrived, and we clocked up our 1,500,000 miles—I repeat one and a half million—for the first nine months of the year, we began to look for another reason for a party. This time the reason was the transfer of Staff Sergeant Ya'acob to the Singapore Military Forces. Our self-appointed committee selected the Jubilee Club in Singapore this time, and ensured the success of the party for the M.T.O. by providing him with a bottle of chianti and a *bottle* of brandy. No one has yet heard him complain. After that lot any comment would have been superfluous, even though he strongly denies having drunk all the brandy.

Archery. The latest sporting activity to be undertaken by the Regiment is archery. So far as Singapore is concerned, we appear to be unique in that we are the only Unit that practices this sport. Several enquiries have been received from people of other Regiments asking if they might take part in our practices. Nobody has been refused, because it is felt this is a sure method of spreading the gospel among other Regiments on the island, and we hope it will lead to inter-Unit competitions.

Although the sport got off to a slow start, it is picking up rapidly and we now get approximately twenty people turning out for practice.

We are lucky to have the services of two very competent archers to direct our talents (and arrows) in the right direction. Lance-Corporal Cheal, R.E.M.E., at 237 Squadron (who already has organised two clubs in the U.K.), and Signalman Royal, of 249 Squadron. These two are very ably assisted by our P.T.I., Sergeant Lunt, A.P.T.C.

For the benefit of other Units who might be encouraged to take part in this sport, we would like to warn them it requires much more skill than one would suppose, remembering one's childhood days. Nevertheless, lack of skill is more than compensated for at present by the enthusiasm of the participants

ANNUAL SUBSCRIBERS' ADDRESSES

Many copies of THE WIRE and of the Royal Signals List are returned by the Post Office with a note that the subscriber's address is unknown.

Will all annual subscribers please tell the Editor in good time of their new address.

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh visits Sierra Leone

25th November-1st December, 1961

We regret that owing to the absence of the O.C. on inter-tour leave, we have not had recent notes published in THE WIRE. Since our last appearance in THE WIRE, Sierra Leone has attained full Independence within the Commonwealth, and it is to be regretted that the notes recording that event arrived too late for publication in the Corps magazine.

The most important event recently was the historic visit of Her Majesty The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh to this new country. Without a doubt the visit was an unqualified success, and brought very closely to the hearts of the people the meaning and purpose of the Commonwealth. Needless to say, the Force Signal Troop was fully committed. We had the unusual experience of working to H.M.Y. *Britannia* using a Pye C 12 W/S. On the morning of the Royal arrival, we established communication with the Royal Yacht at 0600 hours. We also established communication on her departure; we received signals for the Govenor General and the Prime Minister, and also transmitted the replies thereto. We have retained the originals, which now proudly hang on the walls of the Signal Centre. After all it is not often that any Signal Centre has the honour of transmitting signals for the Queen!

As far as the Military Forces were concerned, the highlight of the visit was the presentation of Colours to The Royal Sierra Leone Regiment. Needless to say, we were closely involved in the P.A. system, which was placed in the care of A.Q.M.S. F. A. Dally, R.E.M.E. (attached). Corporal S. H. Norman had the distinction of being selected for the duty of raising H.M. The Queen's Sierra Leone Standard at the various functions she attended, both in Freetown and in the Provinces.

The O.C., Captain F. V. P. Philp, and Mrs. Philp had the honour of being presented to Her Majesty at the Officers' Mess, Wilberforce; the O.C. was also included in a group photograph with Her Majesty on the lawn in front of the Mess. In the meantime Sergeant A. Hope was fully committed in assisting in the transport arrangements for the world Press, which was covering the Royal tour in strength. Crowded in the Royal visit were many events, too numerous to mention in detail—including a Garden Party at Fort Thornton, a State Banquet followed by a State Ball, a Citizens' Parade and Youth Rally, a Congregation at Fourah Bay College, the University College of Sierra Leone, and a visit to the Guma Valley Dam (a development project to provide a new water supply to Freetown). In the provinces, the Queen and the Duke visited the Royal Show at Kenema, the alluvial diamond workings at Hangha and Yengema, the iron ore workings at Marampa, a Royal Durbar at Bo, and the rice research station farm at Rokupr (one of the few such farms in the world). From this very full programme, the Queen and the Duke were able to witness for themselves the achievements of the past, and the aspirations for the future. Before the Queen departed from Sierra Leone she was presented with an uncut diamond of 19 carats by the Prime Minister of Sierra Leone, the Rt. Hon. Sir Milton Margai. The evening departure of the brilliantly lit Royal Yacht, accompanied by the Royal Squadron, will be a sight never to be forgotten by all who witnessed it. As the Queen sailed away, the wireless traffic in the Signal Centre speeded up to full capacity, as historic messages were received from the Royal Party. Corporal F. Kamulai was the operator on the set, and in true Signals tradition, gave the Royal Navy operator a good run for his money! As the replies to these signals were received, the Signal Centre Staff (like other centres all over the world) continued to work late into the night, and only rested when all traffic was cleared.

Seven Weeks with the Navy

LANCE-CORPORALS GARDNIER AND FARRINGTON (R.N.)

H.M.S. *Rocket*, an anti-submarine frigate, is affiliated to the 18th Regiment. Last month we joined the ship, as members of the crew, for a seven-week cruise around the China Seas.

We set off for Borneo to try to intercept some of the pirates that ply their "trade" in those waters. Despite the efforts of Hollywood, U.S.A., pirates in Malaya have forsaken curly beards, cutlasses and the Jolly Roger for launches and high powered outboard motors. However our 4-inch guns would prove more than a match for any twentieth century Bluebeard!

All small boats in the area were stopped and searched—but, found no smugglers, all the craft concerned were innocent fishermen. One of our neighbouring minesweepers had more success, she caught 27 people, the convictions and sentences totalling 290 years should keep that particular gang off the high seas for a while!

After visiting the main towns of Borneo itself we set off for Hong Kong. There we joined an exercise as a guard ship, on anti-submarine duties.

All too soon, time ran out, and we had to return to Singapore. Throughout the entire voyage we were part of the ship's company working in the Electrical Branch. This entailed repairing anything from table fans to Radar sets. Also, as sailors, we did watches at the wheel, on the bridge, or as look outs, but that did not prevent us having a most enjoyable trip, to be recommended to anybody lucky enough to have a similar opportunity.

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WORLD-WIDE PARTS AND SERVICE

HUMBER • HILLMAN SUNBEAM • SINGER

24th REGIMENT

4 (INDEPENDENT) SQUADRON

THE BRIGHTON KNELL

In 1955 Cipher training was conducted in most unsuitable accommodation in Gaza Lines, Catterick. It was known as 4 Squadron of 4 Training Regiment of the then Signal Training Centre.

As always the Signal Training Centre was filled to capacity and bulging at the seams—more accommodation had to be found—what better choice than for the Cipher element to move? The problem was put to War Office who suggested that Preston Barracks, Brighton, might prove suitable. (As a point of interest Preston Barracks had already figured in Royal Signals history. Many ex-members of the Corps may remember that prior to 1939 it was occupied by a Field Regiment Royal Artillery with its attendant Royal Signals section; indeed it could well go back to the days of horse drawn cable wagons when the soldiers lived in barrack rooms above the stables.)

Preliminary and detailed surveys of the barracks were then carried out and in due course 4 (Independent) Squadron was established in the main Sandhurst Block in September, 1956. This operation was not quite as simple as it sounds because for an overlap period of six months we had to share the building with the Royal Engineers Record Office. It was remarkably cramped and congested. Our move also coincided with the Suez affair with its attendant demands on the training organisation. It was therefore of great credit to all who were serving in the Squadron—and 4th Regiment of course—at that time, that the move took place at all, and that no individual training time was lost. Anyone who has had to organise a move of this kind, with its technical and security problems will know that the work service programme is a headache in itself.

The sometimes mooted suggestion that the Brighton location was selected by those responsible in order to get away and as far as possible from that place we know and love so well, Catterick, can now be given the lie, because as will be seen, the idea came from War Office in the first place, and a very good one too! (After all, the School of Signals is moving to Dorset, which is a fair distance from Caterick.)

The setting up of the Squadron brought its quota of administrative problems. These were resolved by establishing us directly under H.Q. Home Counties District for administrative purposes. Operational command remained with 4th Regiment and has resulted in the wearing of the Catterick Rose by Squadron personnel, this has brought varying comments from visitors who wonder how a Catterick Unit can be domiciled in Home Counties District. Incidentally, it has been found in practice that the split in control between Shorncliffe and Catterick has worked out very well and to the satisfaction of all.

Having at last established in the Sandhurst Block with lots of rooms to spread ourselves in, the Squadron soon settled down into a well-run machine. There has never been any serious criticism of the system, work, or product, so we like to think that the standard of efficiency has always been reasonably high (should there be any doubting Thomases—well! Have you ever had a tour of duty in a training organisation with all its varied setbacks and problems?). Although training of the BIII Cipher Operator has been the main plank of the Squadron's platform, a great deal of work has been spent on other activities such as upgrading and assistance to the T.A.

A few figures may be of interest.

To date, and since setting up shop in Brighton a total of 1,461 recruit trainees have passed through the school; of these only 48 have failed to make the grade. Of 261 upgraders, only 29 failed to qualify.

Before a basic trainee comes to Brighton he has already qualified as a Teleprinter Operator up in Catterick. In 1960 when training pressure was at its height, we in Brighton undertook this preliminary Teleprinter training for Cipher Operators. We have also had quite a lot of W.R.A.C. through our hands and it is to their credit that they have never been one whit behind the men. We understand that this is borne out by their subsequent work in Field Units.

We like to think that our cipher school is as good as any other training establishment in the Army. It is with greatest regret that security regulations prevent us being able to hold open house from time to time.

On the civil side, it was apparent that as the only Regular Army Unit in Brighton and, indeed for miles around, there must be no blotting of copy books. It is to the credit of the Squadron that without any pressure or restrictions in any way, there have been no incidents at all which could cause eyebrow raising. If anything, the opposite is true and we have given assistance from time to time at various civic events, for instance we help in the arrangements of the annual Remembrance Day Parade by providing markers and church orderlies, and helping to muster the parade. In fact the writer has had it remarked to him by two Mayors of Brighton that so far as behaviour is concerned, the soldiers in Preston Barracks are a credit to the Service and that it would be regretable if ever they were to leave. Alas, that time is now approaching, and sometime after January, 1962, the Cipher School is due to be integrated with 8th Regiment. The present Squadron, as such, will disband. Thereafter, no longer will the young would-be Cipher Operators at Catterick be able to look forward to a few weeks by the sea; no longer will duty visits be possible for all those interested in cipher activities!

Finally, Major Alex Wood ("F" Company, 1928) who was primarily responsible for setting up 4 (Independent) Squadron in 1956 retired in September, 1959. He is now mine host of the "Old Ship Inn" midway between Lewes and Uckfield, and all Corps members are always welcome. The 500 rose trees which grace the front of Preston Barracks are there due entirely to his persuasive efforts, and the generosity of the parks and gardens departments of Brighton Corporation. So whilst it may be unknown to future occupants, those 500 trees represents a lasting remembrance of 4 (Independent) Squadron, 24th Regiment. Vale!

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21st REGIMENT

Retirement of Colonel D. E. Harrison, O.B.E.

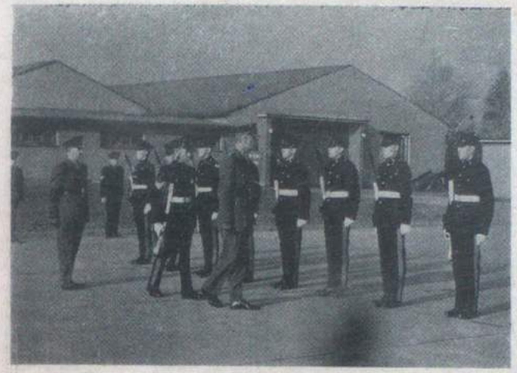
Colonel D. E. Harrison, O.B.E., Chief Air Formation Signal Officer R.A.F. Germany April '58—Nov. 61

This month we have been sorry to see the retirement of Colonel D. E. Harrison, O.B.E., who has been our Chief Air Formation Signal Officer with the Royal Air Force in Germany since April, 1958.

The occasion was well marked by a parade at R.A.F. Laarbruch. This consisted of detachments from the Regiment and from two Independent Air Formation Signal Squadrons, namely 220 and 221. After the three Independent Units had marched past the saluting base in line, Colonel Harrison addressed all ranks and wished them every success for the future.

After the parade, Colonel Harrison, who was accompanied by Lieutenant-Colonel J. J. H. Swallow, C.A.F.S.O. designate, made a short tour of Laarbruch which started at the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess. Here they were introduced to a number of Senior N.C.O.s from the Regiment and from the two Squadrons. The next engagement was drinks at the Officers' Mess where Air Formation Signal Officers from all over B.A.O.R. were introduced to Colonel Swallow and Colonel Harrison was presented with a farewell gift. Finally a 'top table' luncheon, attended by the Station Commander, Group Captain C. S. G. Stanbury, D.S.O., D.F.C., A.F.C., R.A.F. Laarbruch, rounded off what must have been a very memorable day for Colonel Harrison.

All ranks will remember Colonel and Mrs. Harrison with esteem and affection and send them their best wishes on their retirement.



Colonel D. E. Harrison, O.B.E. inspecting Regimental Quarter Guard on the occasion of the farewell parade at Laarbruch. In attendance Lieutenant-Colonel D. M. Haslehust, Sergeant M. H. White (Guard Commander)

28th REGIMENT

November has been an exceptionally busy month for the Regiment in all fields. We have had our annual administrative visit, changed Commanding Officers, been busy in the Army, Rhine Area and Morrison Cup activities, carried out an unusual expedition by water, held our first Regimental motor rally and completed annual range classification.

The annual administrative occasion this year was a visit, and not an inspection. Our "visitor" was the new Rhine Area Commander, Brigadier J. W. A. Stares, who had a hectic day seeing all parts of the Regiment. The visit had, of course, been preceded by the usual satellite inspections and he came primed with a host of potentially embarassing questions. All went off well. The Regimental Quarter Guard under Sergeant P. Lasota was especially complimented. (Arriere pensee—where did those water bottle corks get to? and who was it who had a can of oil in his store?)

The big occasion of the month was, undoubtedly, the handover of command of the Regiment by Lieutenant-Colonel J. R. West to Lieutenant-Colonel W. D. S. Renton which was finalised on Saturday, 25th November, with two formal handing-over parades. Colonel West had been with us for two and a half years and had completed the welding of 18th and 19th Regiments into 28th Regiment. Under his ministration the Regiment soared to success in Army Motor Cycling and Morrison Cup boxing to mention only two items and was active in many fields. We wish him good luck in his new job and also say farewell to Mrs. West, remembering that in addition to a very active "Mrs. O.C." function she found time to fit in a new baby whilst with the Regiment. We welcome Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. Renton who have quickly settled in at Rheindahlen. Our new Colonel comes at a time of great change as the Regiment is about to plunge into full "Natoisation" and he, for one, already knows what it is to be "thrown in the deep end."

ADVENTURE TRAINING EXPEDITION — RIVER MOSEL

Back row: Major R. Painter, Corporal Mutch, Corporal Field, Craftsman Sims

Front row: Signalmen Lindsay, Shard, Jeffrey

In the field of sport we have brought off a great triumph in the Rhine Area Boxing Championships by defeating 15 Advanced Base Ordnance Depot in the final and retaining the Cup for a further year. Now we meet 15th/19th Hussars in the B.A.O.R. Competition. In Morrison Cup boxing we meet the winners of 16th versus 21st Regiments in the New Year. In soccer, too, success attended our flag in November. After a hard replay we defeated AGRA Signals in the first round of the Morrison Cup and went on to beat 16th Regiment in the next round after a game which resembled nothing quite as much as a mudbath. In the Army Cup we defeated the 1st Battalion Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire by 6 goals to 5. In the next round we meet the 1st Battalion The Welsh Guards. Unfortunately our success at boxing and soccer is not repeated in rugger, hockey and basketball, in all of which sports we have been knocked out of the Morrison Cup Competition. Troop games are thriving and the L.A.D. currently leads in both soccer and hockey leagues at Francisca.

An unusual event in November was an expedition by canoe down the fast-flowing River Mosel from Trier. Eight adventurers in three double and two single kayak-type canoes started early on 7th November in a near-blizzard and covered 50 kilometres including a dangerous "rapid" and two or three dams under construction. On the second day 55 kilometres were covered as far as Zell. On the way, two men, Lance-Corporal Lynch and Signalman Jeffrey, capsized their canoe whilst trying to "shoot" a French Army pontoon bridge. They were rescued, in soggy state, by amused French poilus who are now more firmly convinced than ever that the British are mad. A short run of 35 kilometres before lunch on the third day and the party reached Cochem where "relief" transport awaited them. They had lived for three days and nights on their own resources (food, bivouacs, sleeping bags, etc.). Major Robin Painter led the party, and Corporals Field and Mutch, Lance-Corporal Lynch, Signalmen Shard, Jeffrey and Lindsay, and Craftsman Sims were the remaining canoeists. They intend to go again!

Christmas is upon us once again, so December looks like being as busy as November. In addition we are preparing for the arrival of a Netherlands Signal Squadron in Francisca. After this only the arrival of the Canadians at Rheindahlen will be needed to make us a four nation Regiment.

SIGNAL TRAINING CENTRE, SINGAPORE

Since our last notes in the magazine, numerous changes have taken place; we have won, and lost, at sports. We have been dehydrated with water rationing, and now, in the afternoons, several members of the unit have used flippers to come to work, as we are now having the back-ration of rain.

The changes in personnel are numerous, Major Denton has taken command of the unit, vice Major Parsonage, who is leaving us very soon, having completed his tour. Major Richardson is Second-in-Command, vice Captain Amos, who is now enjoying himself in Bangkok. Captain Nealon is our new Chief Instructor, Lieutenant Bradbury having returned to U.K. Second-Lieutenant Harris, now a civilian, has not been replaced. So, from a bachelor-administered unit, we are now very much a married one, and we extend our welcome to the ladies of the new officers. Even Lieutenant Idris must have taken the hint, as he has now joined the ranks of the Pads, congratulations.

Within the ranks, we say farewell to Sergeant Heath (R.H.E.) and welcome to Staff Sergeant Alfred (Umpitty Poo). Congratulations to Sergeant Gaze on his recent promotion.

In the sports lines we have played many games, but the only success is that of gaining the Inter-Squadron Soft Ball Cup, for which we must give thanks to the Aussie Signal chaps attending trade training courses.

The self-help work on our cinema has been completed, with the result that we can sit in air-conditioned comfort and enjoy films on electronics (???) or Mickey Mouse. A complaint was registered by a group of officers, who had the use of the cinema for a lecture, that it was too cold. I would suggest that their veins contain water, or their sap has drained into their feet.

The project for the open air theatre has got as far as sticks in the ground, money in the account, and drawings approved.

H.Q., ROYAL SIGNALS, HONG KONG

Life is full of oddities. Not the least odd is Hong Kong. To most people it's a pin-point on the bottom right-hand edge of the map of China, with the letters (Br.) after it. It is amazing how many people think the place is either a small town, or even a sort of desert island. Oddly enough, it isn't like that at all.

To the visitor, the main impact of Hong Kong lies in its people. There are well over three million of them here, more than in the whole of New Zealand. More children are born every year than in the whole of Canada. There are more cars to every mile of road than anywhere else in the world. There are restaurants to cater for every taste—British, Austrian, French, Italian, Indian, Malay and every Chinese province, to name a few. There are smart restaurants in skyscrapers; scruffy little places in side streets; restaurants perched in viewpoints way up a mountainside, and floating restaurants. There are *no* licensing laws. Land is created by tearing down hillsides and dumping the soil in the sea. Water is rationed, not seriously, but enough to be a nuisance. It is simply turned off for a few hours per day.

The scenery is magnificent. There are mountains, which, thanks to the Forestry Commission, are reminiscent of the Pennines: small plains where straight roads and avenues of trees are like the plains of Italy—except for the smell of duck farms and rice paddy. The east side of the Colony is indented with fjords and bays, and looks almost Norwegian. At night Victoria and Kowloon can fairly claim to be the most beautiful cities in the world. For air safety reasons, no neon light is permitted to flash, so that the myriad coloured sky signs and advertisements are steady and clear.

For the signalman, Hong Kong has every problem there ever was. H.F. radio is all right by day: practically useless at night. V.H.F. is fine, except that for every mountain there's a deep valley each side. Permanent lines cannot be erected on wooden poles. There are termites. The ground is decayed granite, too hard for a cable plough. There can be no straight D.R. run from Victoria to anywhere else in Kowloon or the New Territories, because the harbour must be crossed, and there has been the same argument for the last 50 years, as is still going on over the Channel tunnel at home. You may think you have seen a mixed unit: what about this one?—

British officers and other ranks
British W.R.A.C.
Hong Kong other ranks
Hong Kong Chinese civilians

and all in one Squadron!

There are many Hong Kong other ranks, or H.K.O.R., to be seen wearing our cap badge. They are in all trades, except comcen operator and cipher, and on the whole are good soldiers: they like learning, for to the Chinese education is the most important thing in the world. They are cheerful men, who are tremendously willing to oblige, and very sensitive to criticism, for public criticism means loss of "face." Serious loss of face can be worse than physical injury to a Chinese. They like a good party and have one good custom—once food has been eaten (say sixteen courses) the party is over and there is no need to sit around fidgeting and wondering if it's time to say goodbye. The host announces the fact.

Sport in Hong Kong is a bit peculiar. There is every kind of sport here (except ski-ing, ice skating and polo), but they are all played simultaneously, because the summer is too hot and humid for team games. It isn't impossible to watch cricket, soccer, hockey and rugby in one afternoon and go on to a boxing match in the evening, if anyone is so gluttonous a sports fan.

Finally, there is the frontier. Across it comes a high proportion of Hong Kong's food, and goes much of China's imports. The frontier, like everything else in Hong Kong, is a study in contrasts. One one side there is constant life and activity; on the other is profound quiet. It looks rather uninteresting by comparison.

SIGNALS BRANCH, H.Q., 17 GURKHA DIVISION/O.C.F.L.

Our Chief Signal Officer, Colonel B. R. M. Hayles, left us at the beginning of December, and the appointment of C.S.O. lapsed with his departure. Lieutenant-Colonel G. H. Wotton, O.B.E., now has the dual role of Commander, Gurkha Signals, and Commander, Royal Signals, Malaya.

The branch looks back on an extremely busy year. The outstanding events have been several exercises, among which Exercise "Trinity Angel" (a three-week Brigade Group exercise) and two amphibious exercises are of particular note; the communications problems involved in the building of the Commonwealth military cantonment at Terendak Camp (a large headache for the Telecommunications Staff); the reorganisation of Gurkha Signals and 230 Squadron (O.C.L.F.); the nightmares involved by the "Jackpot" re-equipment programme (has anyone seen a 500-watt engine, a 27ft. mast, a remote control unit, or a 24-volt conversion kit?); and the Divisional motor cycle trials.

Next year promises to be equally busy, with several large exercises already being planned.

We welcome Lieutenant (T.O.T.) C. J. Bayfield as S.O. (Telecommunications), and Sergeant H. Longbottom as his clerk.

248 (GURKHA) SQUADRON

Since the last contribution, two main events have taken place, firstly, Exercise "Cormorant," and secondly, Dashara, the Gurkha festival. Exercise "Cormorant" was held in the Kuantan area on the east coast. The main objects of the exercise were to practice air support and re-supply by air. This is the first time the Brigade has been able to practice this fully. The airportable element was flown in by Beverley, while the remainder went up by road. The road party set up air head communications and formed the "follow-on" element of Brigade H.Q. The H.Q. for the majority of the exercise was sited on the beach, which proved very convenient for bathing, and it was also an excellent landing strip—at low tide. For the exercise the H.Q. was considerably increased in size and number of vehicles, with B.A.S.O.s and A.S.S. tentacles, and even the Royal Navy. The Royal Navy were rather like fish out of water in Brigade H.Q., but managed successfully to direct helicopters to the right place from under an elegant Chinese oiled paper umbrella. As this was the first exercise of its kind done by us, initial teething troubles were encountered. For example, one free drop of jerricans had to be cancelled to a Battalion H.Q., as there were men wandering around in the Dropping Zone. Another pilot who had arrived over his Dropping Zone took rapid avoiding action as the wrong coloured verey light, a red one, which meant go away, had been fired. It was learned later that the unit went hungry! On another occasion, the Squadron Commander called a Signals "O" Group and asked O.C. "J" Troop to come up from the air head 30 miles away. About 10 minutes later O.C. "J" Troop was seen strolling along into Brigade H.Q., still out of breath—as a result of running from his tent to catch a helicopter. At the time Brigade H.Q. was being "stonked" by fighters from H.M.S. *Victorious* at tree-top level, at least 90 per cent of the H.Q. was on the beach cheering wildly. The return journey was made along some new laterite roads, and on stopping for a break, the facial colour of both the Gurkhas and the British Officers was the same—a dirty orange. This was a source of considerable amusement to the Gurkhas. The Squadron staged at Gemas, and for evening bhat the O.C. suggested wild boar, but despite the efforts of two Malay policemen, the S.S.M. and Captain Copeland's Malay (19th Regiment please note) it was unobtainable; however, a reasonable meal was made of five chicken, killed, plucked and curried, within the hour.

On arrival back from Kuantan, the whole Squadron began to help right away with the Dashara arrangements, which our small rear party had been doing during the previous week. The whole week was a succession of "Khanas"—parties. The main events were the Kalaratri Nautch, on 17th October, and the Head Cutting (Mar Katne) on 18th October. All the Gurkha units in Brigade H.Q. join together for this occasion. The Kalaratri Nautch goes on all night; at sunrise there were only the Squadron Officers left to "view" the dawn, the guests having left about midnight after, we hope, an enjoyable party. The head cutting, the following morning, was successful, so we shall enjoy good luck for the next twelve months.

V.H.F. Troop from the Gurkha Signal Regiment arrived in the Squadron at the end of September. We are pleased to welcome Captain Ridlington and his Troop. So far, they have been settling in and doing some route training in Singapore; we suspect in the Bugis Street area!

Sport.—Football ended on a sad note by the Squadron being knocked out in the first round of the sixes. Hockey is now with us and we are hoping to do better in this league.

Squadrons and Troop

237 SQUADRON

COMCAN have the builders in! At Tanglin, the receive consoles are covered in dust and the operators grimly stick to their posts as walls come down about their ears and Chinese labourers erect obstacle courses of scaffolding between them and the canteen. And why? We are making room in the T.R.C. for the G.H.Q. Signal Centre.

The builders have just left the Transmitter site, after extending the technical buildings complex, and at Amoy Quee Receiver Station they are still hard at work expanding the administration area into a minor barracks. We have an Australian unit in the camp now, and their coming has meant a lot of building, and has at last given us the justification for a Sergeants' Mess (opened 20th December). We have also had the canteen done-up, and the sports facilities improved; so the coming of our Commonwealth friends is very welcome. They are on British rations, which are a bit meagre for an Australian, who usually starts the day with a huge steak breakfast. They get an increased allowance to make up for their deprivation, and most of them have promised to invest it in beer, to the benefit of station funds.

If you are ever in Singapore, do come and see us! Everyone else does! We have been happy to welcome to our stations in recent weeks quite a few V.I.P.s, including Brigadier E. I. E. Mozley, Director, Telecommunications, who was very much "on the ball," and Air Vice-Marshal W. P. G. Pretty, C.B., A.O.C. Signals Command, Royal Air Force, who is another really keen communicator. The District Commander and other local notables have also visited; and Transmitters had a visit from Doctor J. S. Ward, of the University of Melbourne, who was interested in our back-scatter experiments, and confirmed that they were on the right lines.

Christmas is very near as I write, and "Operation Santa" is engaging half the Squadron out of hours, and quite a few during the working day, too. The Tanglin element comes under 18th Regiment for all aspects of administration, and a full social programme is planned. For the children of the Tanglin-based Troops, we are running our own party, and out at the transmitter and receiver stations there is the usual determination to go one or two better. Their plans are impressive and there is little to choose between their Christmas lunch menus, but Receivers, who came fourth in the District Minor Units Cookery Contest, hope to take the honours. The Squadron Commander usually manages to be at one station for the soup and to arrive at the other with the nuts, so he can hardly act as judge. Up at Bangkok, the hotel in which our detachment is billeted, intends to make a "just like home" meal for the boys, but the O.C., Captain Amos, has sent an urgent demand for tinned Christmas pudding. We have the pud and are looking for an aircraft to get it up there. Incidentally, Colonel A. F. Freeman, M.C., Commander, Royal Signals, Singapore, has just been up on an inspection visit to the detachment. They love visitors, and enjoyed having a senior officer to look them over, and Colonel Freeman brought back a pretty good report of them.

To all our fellow stations in the COMCAN network and to all Service communicators everywhere, we wish a very happy and successful New Year (sunspots or no sunspots!).

Visit of C.-in-C. Signal Command R.A.F. to Comcan Receiver Station, Singapore. *Left to right:* Colonel A. F. Freeman, M.C. (C.R. Signals Singapore), Air Vice Marshall W. P. G. Pretty, C.B., C.B.E. (C. in C. Signal Command R.A.F.), Captain J. E. W. Thompson (O.C. Receiver Station), Major W. F. D. Hawkins (O.C. 237 Signal Squadron), Air Commodore L. H. Greenman (Senior Technical Staff Officer, H.Q., F.E.A.F.)

239 SQUADRON

On 1st December, 1961, 239 Squadron (Eastern Command) moved from Warren Camp, Crowborough, to Beavers Lane Camp, Hounslow. At first sight, this is not a very important piece of news, but it is really the end of an era for Royal Signals. Crowborough was the first home of the Corps on its formation in 1920, and Signal Units have been stationed there for most of the intervening years. The future of Warren Camp is uncertain, but it seems unlikely that the Corps will have any more units stationed at Crowborough or Maresfield. Not very long ago, Brigadier Norman Barker dug up a horseshoe at his home at The Paddock, Maresfield, and one can imagine what a flood of memories this would have brought back to him had he pondered on how it came to be there. We wonder, rather uneasily, what evidence of our occasional inability to make the stores accounts balance may one day be revealed to some other gentleman digging in his garden at Crowborough.

It is at present intended that part of Warren Camp will continue to be used for annual training by T.A. Units, and the Squadron is retaining the equipment rooms for their use. A small detachment of civilians will look after the equipment, and as much help as possible will be given to units camping at Crowborough.

The move is not a happy one for the Squadron. The military establishment drops greatly, and we lose most of our independence. However, we hope to join forces with 238 Squadron, and 605 Troop in sporting and other activities, and between us we may be able to make "Royal Signals, Hounslow," a force to be reckoned with.

The move and re-organisation have brought postings for many old and new members of the Unit. We have recently said goodbye to Major J. Mc.D. Glass, M.B.E., Major S. C. Moore, Captain E. J. Brooks, Second-Lieutenant G. M. B. Wilson, S.S.M. J. G. Woodley, Sergeants A. D. Webster, J. F. Shipp and many others. The good wishes of the Squadron go to all of them and their families in their new stations.

240 SQUADRON

When it came to our ears that there was a shortage of good tradesmen in the Corps, this Squadron immediately posted all its excellent tradesmen to raise the morale and trade standards of various Signal Regiments, chiefly in B.A.O.R. In other words, we were ordered to disband our Mobile Troop. They were a jolly good Troop and we wish them the best of luck in their new stations.

The inevitable happened, the day our last operator left, on posting, the Staff instructed us to man three wireless stations. Our suggestion that the chairborne should be issued with "Do-it-yourself" radio kits was not appreciated. You cannot win! Particularly playing dominoes with sharks like Sutton.

The males of the Squadron are now outnumbered four to one by the W.R.A.C. It must sound like page one of "Arabian Nights" to chaps stationed in the desert, but our men are all well-married and have their families with them.

Our W.R.A.C. girls went to Catterick to play netball and returned with a silver cup as Northern Commands champs for the second year running. The effort was particularly praiseworthy, as 20 Independent Company, W.R.A.C., whom they defeated, have an establishment six times the size of ours. Well done, Sergeant Seager.

Left to right standing: Private A. Livingstone, Second Lieutenant B. Macmillan-Hunter, Major L. Beaumont, Sergeant A. Seager, Private R. Partridge

Left to right, kneeling: Privates A. Sandison, S. Connor, C. Macdonald

Those unable to attend for the photograph: Privates S. Warley, M. McLaughlin, J. Powell

Hebrew Post. If Corporal Punishment will write to Rhoda Bike, of this Squadron, he will learn something to wipe that damned silly grin off his face.

257 SQUADRON

A combination of New Year's resolutions, research for Historical Records and seeing 255 Squadron mentioned in November's issue of THE WIRE has shamed us into returning to print. Strange how the attempt to draft notes for THE WIRE results in an immediate seizure of the grey matter on all things witty and scintillating and an abundance of ideas on Administration Inspections, Visits, Exercises and prizegivings. Without doubt the abundance of such information contributes much towards the circulation troubles of our Regimental magazine. Some wag will by now be penning the obvious retort about your correspondent's grey matter but, have no fear, he knows his limits.

It has taken three years to write this since our last WIRE notes. Is this a record too?

Since our last appearance (ask Steeple Bumstead Signal Squadron when that was) we have matured into a Squadron and moved to sample some of the wine, women and song in B.A.O.R. Those seeking information on wine and song should apply to Staff Sergeant "Hoppy" and on women to Corporal "Charlie" of Radio Relay fame. For the high brow, information on suitable exercise locations can be given by any member of the Squadron. We were beginning to wonder if they did have a barracks for us.

In October we were fortunate to have a twenty-five per cent. increase in our posted strength of officers when Lieutenant A. Tregoning stopped oscillating between Shrivenham and The School. Lieutenant P. Valder was delighted to see some one else arrive to share his burden. Major R. G. Jones, the founder of the original Troop, is still with us and the officer complement is made up by Captain D. Gittins.

Who ever heard of anyone decrying the C.I.V. team whilst they were inspecting his vehicle? We have—it does not pay off—14 "A" jobs. Is this a record?

We are very proud of our Gunner Regimental soccer team; it has six of the Squadron playing in it and is unbeaten in the Garrison League. We even provide the soccer officer in the form of Captain Gittins who had the misfortune to be on leave when the job became vacant.

Anyone interested in a cheap winter holiday near that famous B.A.O.R. holiday resort of Winterburg? Excellent cuisine—all varieties of compo provided. Fresh air guaranteed 24 hours a day—you can't help but get it in a tent. Conducted tours of local beauty spots covering 50 miles—on foot. We are booked up until January—even S.S.M. "Joe" Cryer has volunteered—it must be the pressure of work that forces them to go. However there must be some consulation there as all those who have been want to go back. Is it the local Gast Haus? We wonder if other outfits in B.A.O.R. would be interested in some good expeditions in the local areas? We can recommend the following trips, more details on request. A leisurely canoe trip from Coblenz to Cologne camping and drinking en route. No paddling required really except to dodge barges. Definitely exciting and easy to arrange. Hitch hiking to Garmisch Partingkirchen and a leisurely walk around the local Alps. This can be done nicely in three-four days. Area very expensive and compo should be taken. The Y.M.C.A. in Amsterdam offers many and very lovely attractions. Anything not involving tents and rough living is frowned upon here but Amsterdam has its compensations. Quite cheap, too. A canoe trip, rather arduous this, from Ulm in Bavaria to Vienna on the Danube. About 14 days required. Planning should start now.

Now what else was there to tell you? Oh, yes! Recruiting. One of our old three-year Regular boys returned the other day in the form of Lance-Corporal D. Thorpe. Welcome back to the fold, life can't be all that bad with us. Volunteers to serve with us must possess the following qualifications: Class I trade in the new trade structure, G.C.E. in at least five subjects, represented the Army in at least one major sport, capable of driving clapped out vehicles and a conduct sheet that will not challenge some of our better known police baiters. Candidates should apply at an early opportunity for our present National Service element are thinking seriously of signing on at the end of their extra six months' service.

633 TROOP (CARIBBEAN)
COMPANY OPS. ON HURRICANE "HATTIE"

We have just survived the worst hurricane to hit the Caribbean since 1951. For three days it looked as if "Hattie" was coming straight for Jamaica, but at the last moment she veered away and we watched with growing anxiety as she headed towards British Honduras.

Our detachment there, commanded by Lance-Corporal J. H. Clayforth, with Lance-Corporal Christie (Radio Technician) and Signalman P. D. Morris, had only recently occupied their new hurricane-proof transmitter site.

As the hurricane approached they were put on a continuous 24-hour watch and Signalman Morris was sent into the town of Belize to establish communications at the Police Station.

At eleven o'clock on the night of the 30th October, she struck, and our aerial was blown down. Clayforth and Christie put it up again and kept through. At two minutes to one the next morning a flying piece of corrugated iron roofing cut one of the aerial masts in half and the full fury of the storm was upon them.

Belize, the capital, was the hardest hit. Twenty consecutive tidal waves, 15 feet high, surged over the low sea wall, drowning 372 people. Winds of up to 200 miles an hour smashed houses into matchwood. In the Army camp only four buildings remained standing. The transmitter site was one and the NAAFI, in which the soldiers and their families were sheltering, another.

Next morning, when the wind had abated enough to be safe, they erected a new aerial, which Lance-Corporal Christie held up in the driving rain. They were through again and the first signals of the disaster came out. Cable and Wireless and airport radio were completely destroyed, so Royal Signals and one "ham" operator passed all the traffic. Ours included the first Press report for the *Daily Express*, by Geoffrey Thursby.

Luckily the airport runway survived and soon rescue planes were on the way. During the subsequent relief operations not one civilian died of starvation or disease. This reflects great credit on the three Services who participated, as all crops and many stocks of food had been destroyed.

This was a real combined operation and the variety of ships, squadrons and units that came up on our radio nets or plugged into our telephone exchanges kept the operators searching the call sign books for identifications. Among the more notable ones were:

Her Majesty's Ships *Londonderry*, *Troubridge* and *Vidal*.

The U.S. Carrier *Antietam* and destroyers *Corry* and *Bristol*.

R.A.F. Squadrons 42, 204, 210 and 511 with their Shackletons and Hastings.

Army Units—1 Royal Hampshire Regiment, 1 Worcestershire Regiment and 12 Field Engineer Squadron.

Headquarters—Cincarib Panama, Bahamas, British Guiana, H.Q. 12 Engineering Group, Belize, and U.S. Naval Base, Guantanamo.

In those first desperate weeks our main link cleared 1,112 signals and only twice did the operators send that welcome signal QRU.

As a small Radio Troop we were hard pressed to maintain the extra communications required and it was with some relief we greeted Lieutenant Marples and his fire brigade relief force, when they stepped out of an R.A.F. Shackleton on the 7th November. They had come from 3rd Regiment and did sterling work until the rehabilitation of the civilian communications was completed.

Our Allies the Americans helped us with a second voice link to Cincarib and an extremely useful V.H.F. link from the airport to Belize. They were having considerable trouble with the former at night, as conditions were pretty vile.

"Why don't you try C.W.?" I urged Lieutenant Cockle.

"Well, my guys ain't so hot with them bug keys and I ain't got no radio teletype kit down here."

"Take this key anyway," I replied, "and give it a try."

"You're too kind, Major. My guys are goin' to love me for this."

They built two new aerials and got through on voice the next night. However, we parted the best of friends and Signalman Sainsbury sports a most extraordinary combat cap, while Sergeant Altenberger keeps his pants up with one of those real cute stable belts.

Sport

Rugby Football

ROYAL SIGNALS v. ROYAL ARTILLERY

Woolwich, 17th November, 1961.

Royal Signals 8 points, Royal Artillery 3 points.

Apart from a mist, which threatened to close in, conditions were excellent when the Gunners kicked off at Woolwich against the Corps.

Following up rapidly, they found touch, and thereafter held the Corps between the halfway line and their twenty-five for some fifteen minutes.

Both front rows had a difference of opinion with the referee on his definition of "binding" and, as a result, a string of penalty kicks were awarded. Owing to the Gunners' territorial advantage, things did not look too bright for the Corps; however Second-Lieutenant J. Ginone (R.A.) was unable to reap any benefit until his third attempt. Meanwhile, on the odd occasions when Signals managed to fight their way into the Gunners' half, Signalman T. Samuel failed twice, once from the halfway and once from wide out. Difficult kicks both times.

Corporal I. Love and Gunner D. Wardle (the Lancashire player) were both moving their three-quarter lines well, and some spirited attacks were put in, but little came of them, as the Gunners lacked penetration on the wings, whilst the Signals' backs never got it to the wings.

Just before half-time, a break by Corporal I. Love, followed by some good passing, saw Corporal D. A. Williams off on a thirty-yard run. A heel from the "tight head" caught the Gunners slightly on the wrong foot and Second-Lieutenant S. Small was able to break through the centre before they finally recovered; however, he was unable to get the ball to the wing, owing to a concentration of the Gunners, and he went for the line on his own. He was finally brought down on the goal line. The Gunners had had two narrow escapes and half-time, which followed, enabled them to recover.

Half-time score: ROYAL ARTILLERY 3, ROYAL SIGNALS 0.

On the resumption tactics seemed to have changed on both sides, as each side appeared to be concentrating on the mistakes of the other, and the orthodox approach tended to fade into the background. From the spectator's point of view, this could not have been better, as interceptions, loose balls, resulted in movements the length of the field with the usual "panic stations" at the receiving end. Either side might have scored, however, the score remained at 3 points in favour of the Gunners well into the second half.

By this time the Gunners were feeling the pace, and their covering was a little more laborious. A break by Corporal I. Love seriously threatened the Gunners' line, as he had four supporters with him. Unfortunately, Second-Lieutenant R. Shiner was unable to hold his pass. Shortlly afterwards he made amends.

Gunner D. Wardle, who had been outstanding, made his one and only mistake: he fumbled a pass just short of his twenty-five. Signalman T. Regan, Second-Lieutenant S. Small and Second-Lieutenant R. Shiner were up like a flash and Shiner scored under the posts. Second-Lieutenant Thompson converted.

Time was running out rapidly, and Gunner D. Wardle, as if to offset his misdemeanor, made a beautiful break, supported by backs and forwards, in full cry. Only desperate defence saved a try, but at the cost of a penalty, which was well within range. With minutes to go, a conversion would have given the Gunners the lead. The tension was too much for the kicker, and the audible sighs of relief and anguish sounded like a summer breeze.

The drop-out was followed by a forward rush, which took the Signals into the Gunner twenty-five. A break from a subsequent line-out saw Signalman Higham take the ball and two Gunners some 15 yards before being pulled down.

The last try was neatly executed. Following a heel from a set scrum inside the Gunner twenty-five, Signalman T. Regan, the scrum-half ran in one direction, leaving the ball; Signalman Davis went in the opposite direction, taking the ball and scoring under the posts before the Gunners knew what had happened.

Second-Lieutenant R. Thompson's attempt at the conversion was "just one of those things."

Overall, it was a most interesting match. The Gunners had the weight and height against the faster but lighter Signals, who took advantage of the dry conditions. It was obvious in the early stages that the Signals' backs, given the ball, were likely to be dangerous, and the big problem was, how could they achieve this? Rugby is a funny game, and the result was quite different from that anticipated. The smaller Signals' pack had more than their fair share of the ball from the scrums, and also saw to it that the Gunners by no means had their own way in the line-outs. On the other hand, the Signals' backs just didn't settle down, and several tries which appeared to be certain, never materialised. That's the way things go, and even if the backs weren't up to their usual form, their defence was very sound and they always presented a threat to the opposition.

The Royal Signals' Team was:

1.	Sig. D. Samuel	24th Regt.	9.	L/Cpl. R. Birchill	8th Regt.
2.	Cpl. D. A. Williams	8th Regt.	10.	Lt. R. Thompson	R.M.C.S.
3.	2/Lt. S. G. Small	8th Regt.	11.	2/Lt. D. E. Jefferson	8th Regt.
4.	2/Lt. R. Shiner	R.M.C.S.	12.	Sig. P. Higham	24th Regt.
5.	Lt. C. Rayner	School	13.	Cpl. T. Pepper	8th Regt.
6.	Cpl. I. Love	8th Regt.	14.	Sig. D. Davis	24th Regt.
7.	L/Cpl. T. Regan	8th Regt.	15.	Capt. R. Whitehead	R.M.C.S.
8.	Capt. J. Taylor	30th Regt.			

Referee: Major I. Jones, R.A.O.C.

ROYAL SIGNALS v. ROYAL ENGINEERS

At the Stadium Ground, Catterick Camp, 14.30 hours, Thursday, 9th November, 1961.

It was a glorious day for the battle. A crisp November morning had eased into a typical sunny afternoon, and the Stadium ground was in excellent condition. There was sufficient cross-wind to carry the majority of the play to the side of the pitch away from a packed stand, but this by no means prevented the partisans from enjoying what a consenus of opinion call a "cracker." Nor for that matter did such distance lend doubt to the partisans' ability to criticise both players and referee.

Royal Signals won the toss and elected to play with the sun over their left shoulders and a slight advantage from the cross-wind. Perhaps they and their supporters could not escape the shadow of last year's thrashing at Chatham, for there was a distinctly apprehensive air about the early exchanges. In fact, Royal Signals appeared content to hold and probe for the larger part of the first half, and it was not against the run of play when, from a quick heel, from the loose under the posts, the Sapper skipper, Raffle, initiated a quick passing movement, and Sands was over in a flash on the left, just over half way out. The home defence had had no time to reorganise after the initial loose play. The kick failed. Thompson was unsuccessful with two long-range penalty kicks for the home side, who suddenly woke up to the fact that they had the better back division. They pressed hard for the remaining period of the first half, and had they not been so keen to pick up the ball close to the Sapper line, they must surely have scored, but the Sappers came back and eased the pressure just before the whistle brought five minutes' relaxation for everyone in the Stadium.

Royal Signals obviously used the break to advantage, for from the word go in the second half, it was obvious that they no longer had doubts about the eventual result. Five minutes' sustained and quite breathtaking pressure brought the inevitable score, when Whitehead was quicker on to a loose ball over the Sapper line than all the defenders, admidst whose feet it lay; Thompson again failed with a longish conversion. With the score level and all to play for, the excitement became tense. An unfortunate injury to Lipscombe, who raised his posterior into the boot of a Signals forward who was attempting to stride over the fly-half in an effort to get at a loose ball, necessitated a reorganisation of the Sapper back division, which brought the thrustful Sands into the centre. Had the half-backs given Sands a better service, he may have altered the course of the game. As it was, the home backs gave him and others three beautiful passes, but these interceptions were marred by poor finishing.

Royal Signals suddenly woke up to the fact that they had let the pressure ease and were only on level terms; Rayner, whose covering and tackling had been very good throughout, suddenly made two or three stray runs on the left only to be thwarted within a few feet of the line. Their final rally was rewarded as Small, belying his name, thrust his way powerfully through several attempted tackles from about 25 yards on two occasions to score two tries, and Thompson this time made no mistake with the conversions. The Sappers had no time to attempt a reply.

It would be wrong to attempt to single out individuals in the successful Royal Signals' side. The foundation of the victory was laid in the pack, where a solid front row enabled Skipper Taylor to win the hooking duel against his more renowned opponent, and a relatively experienced back row, allowed the Sapper backs no respite. Neither side dominated the line-outs, which were rather scrappy. The half-back duel was undoubtedly won by the home side, and their three-quarters were the more thrustful set; but, as is proper, it was a team victory, and well deserved. For the Sappers, Sands was undoubtedly the man of the match and their pack gave as good as they got.

Players, spectators, officials, were all agreed that it was a most enjoyable afternoon. It became even more "enjoyable" for the players as the evening wore on, through the annual dinner night, and through renewed "battles" of various forms to the early hours of Friday morning. The 'bus to Richmond station for the Sappers' return home was "far too early" for both visitors and guests.

HAVE YOU ORDERED YOUR COPY OF THE WIRE?

Royal Signals Hockey

v. R.A.S.C. ... 5th December, 1961.
v. R.A. ... 6th December, 1961.

The game against R.A.S.C. played on the Officers' Club ground, Aldershot, was a disappointing one from the Corps point of view, for a marked superiority was not converted into goals and R.A.S.C. ran out winners by one goal to nil. This failure to beat a side which was not as strong was probably due to the fact that numerous changes had been made in the Corps team, due to regular players being unavailable and consequently it took time for the side to settle down. The match was played in conditions which caused even the hardy Catterick contingent to shudder and everyone was glad to do a lot of running about!

In spite of having the majority of play, the Corps team just could not score although R.A.S.C. were lucky when their goalkeeper trod the ball into the soft ground and Oehlers was unable to dig it out in his attempt to put it into the net. He has now resolved to take a spade with him in future just in case this sort of situation arises again!

The R.A.S.C. goal came as a result of a brilliant one-handed save by a Corps defender from a tentative scoop by the opposing inside-left. This save would have delighted the heart of any soccer goalkeeper, but unfortunately the umpire took exception to it being carried out by a left-back and a penalty bully was awarded. Rogers made a gallant attempt to win this but eventually Peters, the R.A.S.C. captain, forced the ball home.

* * *

The match against R.A. was played at Woolwich and a number of positional changes were made in the Corps side. As a result the team showed a marked improvement on the previous day's showing, holding the Gunners to a two-all draw. From the outset, the game was played at a sharp pace and a somewhat superior R.A. side kept the Corps defence at full stretch. However, the Corps team was first to score when midway through the first half, Smith pounced on a miskick by the R.A. goalkeeper and flicked the ball into the net. This goal brought a wave of attacks by the Gunners which continued into the second half and eventually a goalmouth scramble resulted in their inside-right scoring the equalising goal. Soon afterwards a terrific shot from a very narrow angle, by their outside-right, found its way between Dale, the Corps goalkeeper, and the post to put the Gunners into the lead. This was the climax of a barrage of attacking moves by the R.A. team, but the Corps team fought back and a glorious crossfield pass by Briggs found Smith unmarked. He took the ball in his stride, moved quickly into the circle and slammed in a shot which the Gunners' goalkeeper could hardly have seen.

For sheer tenacity the Corps deserved this draw for they fought the whole way against a better team.

The team which represented the Corps in these two fixtures was as follows: Majors A. G. Smith and H. Rothwell, Captains M. A. T. Hartnell, D. H. Briggs, E. L. Rogers, I. N. Lee, J. W. Walmesley and G. Oehlers, Lieutenant J. McLuckie, Sergeants Dale and Boddington.

Royal Signals Win Triangular Regatta

Episkopi, 16th October, 1961.

The Royal Artillery/Royal Engineers/Royal Signals regatta has become a popular event in Cyprus, but has hitherto lacked a suitable trophy. This year the Royal Artillery, Royal Engineers and Royal Signals in Cyprus subscribed to purchase a trophy to be held annually by the winning team. The trophy is a silver model of a Swordfish dinghy, beautifully fashioned by silversmiths in Malta.

The event this year was held at the Inter-Service Yacht Club, Episkopi, with the Royal Engineers as hosts. Each arm provided one team of three albacores, the event to be decided by the aggregate scores from three races.

The first race took place in the morning, with a strong wind from the south-west and a heavy sea, so all boats sailed three-up. Disaster fell upon the Sappers early, when a boat capsized just before the starting gun, reminding all crews that a moment's inattention would result in the same fate, in these conditions. Lieutenant Oliver (Royal Signals) rounded the first mark in the lead, followed by a Gunner boat. Major Gram-Hansen (Royal Signals) raced for third place round the mark against a Gunner boat on the opposite tack, but unfortunately touched the buoy and was forced to retire. This was a setback for Signals, but Lieutenant Oliver continued to increase his lead, and finally finished a clear winner, having sailed a very fine race in difficult conditions. Major Akass finished in fifth place. The resultant team scores were:

Royal Artillery 30 Royal Signals 25¼ Royal Engineers 22

The second race took place in completely altered conditions, with very light airs. Lieutenant Oliver again repeated his success, with Major Gram-Hansen third and Major Akass ninth. This narrowed the Gunner lead, the points now being:

Royal Artillery 57 Royal Signals 54½ Royal Engineers 47

In the final event, again in light airs, the Sappers made their bid, taking first and second places, but with one retirement. Royal Signals took third, fourth and fifth places. The final score now stood as:

Royal Signals 84½ Royal Engineers 75¼ Royal Artillery 75

The event was thus won by Royal Signals for the second year running, after an exciting and close-fought regatta.

ROYAL SIGNALS' TEAM

(1)	(2)	(3)
Major I. Gram-Hansen (Capt.)	Major J. L. Akass	Lieut. J. W. Oliver
Major J. R. T. Paterson	Major R. S. Lott	2/Lt. C. W. Guthrie
Major S. C. Dare	Major J. J. Pearson	2/Lt. G. M. Clark

T.A. and A.E.R.

BOXING

Representing the Army versus Scotland, Lance-Corporal P. Johnson, 44th (Home Counties) Signal Regiment (Cinque Ports) T.A., put up a most spirited performance although narrowly outpointed by the much more experienced "Dick" McTaggart, the Amateur Champion of Europe (Lightweight).

Fight seen on Television

44 (H.C.) REGIMENT (CINQUE PORTS) T.A.

"Remembrance Day," 1961

H.Q. Squadron of the Regiment were on parade at Hythe on Sunday, 12th November, 1961. Lieutenant-Colonel V. S. Gilliam (C.R. Signals) was present as a guest of the Mayor of Hythe. A wreath on behalf of the Cinque Ports Branch of the Royal Signals Association was laid by Captain P. G. Law, T.D., Royal Signals (T.A.).

At Maidstone, the Regiment's Headquarters, a detachment of W.R.A.C./T.A. from R.H.Q. was on parade with representatives of other Service organisations including U.S. Naval Airmen from a local base. The salute was taken by the Mayor of Maidstone. A wreath laying ceremony took place at the Cenotaph.

45th (ESSEX) REGIMENT T.A.

Cowdenbeath and Lands End. These were just two destinations reached in less than 20 hours at no cost to themselves by members of the 45th (Essex) Signal Regiment T.A. stationed at Colchester and Clacton during Exercise "Widespread" last weekend.

Sixteen T.A. Volunteers, two of whom were Officers, set out from the Colchester Bypass early Friday evening, 1st December, on an initiative exercise which required them to get as far as possible from Colchester at no cost to themselves and return to their Squadron Headquarters at Reed Hall Camp, Colchester, between 4 p.m. and 8 p.m. on Sunday, 3rd December, carrying food for the duration of the exercise and only 2s. 6d. in their pocket for use only in an emergency.

By midnight several were on the A.1 and by midday Saturday six were over the Scottish border having struggled through torrential rain and snowstorms.

Captain P. Egan reached Dumbartonshire and Lieutenant "Jock" Melrose reached Kirkintilloch before returning via Glasgow.

Each adventurer was issued with a prepared certificate which had to be stamped and signed by Police officials at their final destination.

Signalmen R. Loudonsack and D. Griggs reached Cowdenbeath and returned via Edinburgh, Signalmen D. Guymer and K. Rice got as far as Kilmarnock then trudged through the snow northward to Glasgow before turning for home and joining up with Captain Egan and Lieutenant Melrose en route.

Bent on trying to do something out of the ordinary, Signalmen E. Allen and R. Sharp having reached Gretna Green, tried to interview the village blacksmith who is also the Registrar and key figure in many runaway romances, but he was at a football match in Carlisle; also searching for the blacksmith were two anxious couples, and doing what they thought the next best thing Sharp and Allen tried to interview them—unfortunately no names or other information was forthcoming.

Sergeant J. Maple was the oldest adventurer as he is 48, and he worked his way over to Bristol before changing direction to Lands End, his final destination was the Scilly Isles but although he could have got there, he would have been unable to return within the stipulated time. Although a little disappointed he used the little time in hand to call at St. Martins in the Field on his return trip and spoke to the Vicar who was also good enough to sign Signalman Maples' certificate to that effect.

Corporals S. Freeland and E. Nice thumbed a lift via the M.1 to Liverpool. On the way Freeland was asked by the lorry driver if he would take over as he was tired after his trip up from Devon, Freeland who is one of the Squadron's drivers at Clacton was only too happy to oblige and volunteered to act as relief driver on the return trip from Liverpool the following night, which he did.

Signalmen F. Knox and J. Craig got as far as Edinburgh, and Craftsman K. Williamson, together with Signalman P. Finch, had to turn back at Newport, Monmouthshire.

Signalman J. Lefley managed to reach Falkirk after following a very devious route not of his own choosing and was forced by a combination of snowstorms and lack of time to return before reaching his objective at Inverness.

Snow from Peterborough onward greeted those going north, while driving rain made the going unpleasant in the earlier stages, but everyone who went agreed the scheme had been 'great fun' and had given them the opportunity of seeing places they had not previously visited.

Throughout the weekend Signalman R. Chaplin maintained a lonely day and night vigil by the duty telephone at Reed Hall-Colchester, in case any of the adventurers called for assistance. Fortunately he had a fairly quiet weekend.

The most striking feature arising from the exercise was the dogged determination of all taking part, regardless of the conditions, to make the most of their own efforts to make the exercise a success and is typical of the spirit, courage and comradeship of the T.A. volunteer of yesterday, today and may we hope, tomorrow.

52 (LOWLAND) REGIMENT (T.A.)

A T.A. Weekend—View from 2 Squadron

Snow, very early even for Scotland, has meant some icy exercises for 52 (Lowland) Regiment this winter. The snows came at the beginning of December. The R.S.M. put on his snow shoes, the R.Q. his skis and the Adjutant commandeered an electric fire from the Officers' Mess, while the Q.M. languished in a warmer climate on a course. For ten days vehicles and men alike skated back and forth across the Square. The linemen and radio relay operators froze; radio operators mocked them from the comparative warmth of their trucks; the men of H.Q. Squadron congregated in the cookhouse, and signal centres were even more crowded than usual, although the drivers are still solid. Then, as if pre-arranged by the Adjutant, the thaw came just in time for the Regimental Exercise on the 9th and 10th of December.

The exercise was held at Dundonald Camp in Ayrshire. It started on Saturday afternoon and after a period devoted to administration there was a short night exercise. On Sunday there was a full-scale Regimental Exercise which lasted until about 1530, when the convoys assembled to return to Glasgow. An H.Q. Squadron advance party left early on Saturday morning to prepare the camp for our arrival in the afternoon; they did an excellent job, for, as the convoys arrived, the men were shown to their quarters and then given a hot meal. 1 Squadron spent Saturday setting up their signal centre and installing their teleprinters preparatory to the exercise on Sunday, while the Line Troop laid their own local lines and connected up the switchboard. 2 Squadron D.R. Troop sent out the trainee drivers on night practice on Saturday and in convoy on Sunday; they completed a run which took them round the Northern half of the county, returning to driving tests in the camp on Sunday afternoon. The Radio Relay Troop practised setting up B 70 links and connecting terminal equipment, while the Line Troop laid local lines and "tails" of quad from the B 70's. 3 Squadron Radio Troop established various nets covering a considerable area of the surrounding countryside and successfully dealt with heavy traffic. Meanwhile the newly formed

C.R.A. Troop in this Squadron established their own net and set up a small signal office. Our independent Infantry Brigade Squadron from Barrhead were also on exercise with us. They spent the weekend operating their own radio net in conjunction with 3 Squadron, setting up B 70 relay stations and laying their own lines.

Unfortunately the weather for other exercises held since camp has not been so obliging. On one notable Troop weekend held at the beginning of October, the rain was torrential. A Section from 2 Squadron were on a map-reading exercise in the hills when, already soaked to the skin, they were enveloped in heavy mist and were forced to return to base on a compass bearing which took them over the top of a 3,000 foot hill. Latterly it wasn't only mist that they had to negotiate, but low cloud! They arrived back after being out for eight hours, and judging from the comments on their return, it is an episode which they are unlikely to forget for a while.

A "Wet" Christmas

The spirit of Christmas permeated the Regiment both literally and figuratively. All ranks gave up much of their spare time to decorate the drill halls for various functions held there. The Sergeants were first to start the ball rolling; when I saw some of them the next day, I didn't even have to ask—they had a ball alright! The following week it was the Officers' turn; they held a dinner dance, and just before Christmas the children of members of the Regiment were given their Christmas party which they seemed to enjoy hugely, gleefully collecting their Christmas presents from a Santa Clause W.O.II. The festive season culminated in the ball of them all, the All Ranks' Dance, the success of which I can vouch for personally.

There was, however, a rather sad note to one function held just before Christmas. Major J. P. Brown, until November O.C. 2 Squadron, was dined out of the Regiment by his fellow officers. He leaves us, as he put it, so that he may devote more attention to younger Browns, who would like to see more of father. He joined the Regiment before the war and must be one of our oldest serving members. All of us will miss him, particularly for his great sense of humour. After the dinner he and the C.O. made two very witty speeches which left us all with aching sides. We wish him, to use a good old Glasgow expression, "Orra best, orra time." He is succeeded, as O.C. 2 Squadron, by Captain Marnoch who has come from 3 Squadron and who is in turn succeeded in his old Squadron by Captain Inglis.

T.A. Scotsport

We end on a sporting note; the football team, whose fortunes fluctuated considerably last year, got off to an excellent start this season, by winning their first game 10—3. Nothing has stopped them since, and if they maintain their present form, they stand a good chance of winning the league.

INSURANCE

The Association is accredited Agent to a well-known Insurance Company and anyone who insures with this company on introduction of the Association benefits by a half-share in the Agents' Commission, the other half goes to Association Welfare. Further information from Royal Signals Association, 88, Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1.

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Headquarters Army Emergency Reserve

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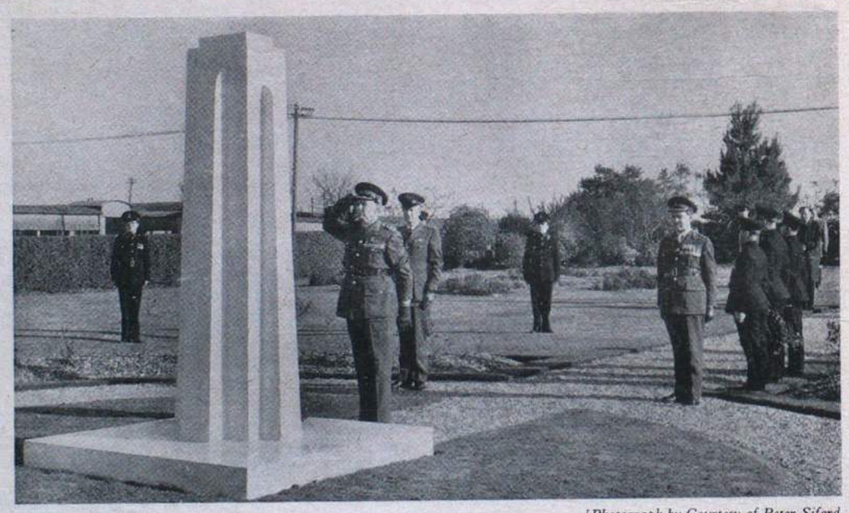

[Photograph by Courtesy of Peter Siford

CEREMONY AT U.S. MEMORIAL, ROOSEVELT PARK, BLANDFORD CAMP

Brigadier D. V. Henchley, O.B.E. (saluting), Colonel Ross A. Wood, U.S.A.F. and Colonel T. H. C. Grigg

On Remembrance Sunday, 12th November, 1961, the annual Wreath-Laying Ceremony took place at the United States Memorial at Roosevelt Park, Anson Lines, Blandford Camp.

After a short service conducted by the Chaplain, wreaths were laid by the O.C. 7505 U.S.A.F. Hospital, Colonel Ross A. Wood, the Garrison Commander, Brigadier D. V. Henchley, O.B.E., and Commander, H.Q., A.E.R. Royal Signals, Colonel T. H. C. Grigg.

The wife of the U.S. Consul, Southampton, Admiral Sir Desmond McCarthy, and a small detachment from H.Q., A.E.R., Royal Signals, were also present. The whole party later attended the Garrison Remembrance Parade Service.

In 1944 Blandford Camp was used as a United States Hospital for thousands of casualties evacuated from Normandy. Before the hospital disbanded, Roosevelt Park was laid out as a perpetual memorial. Soil from 48 States was mingled with the chalky earth of Dorset.

The park is situated in the area in which the new School of Signals is to be built and it is incorporated in the architect's plans.

☆

402 Squadron A.E.R.

☆

UNIT PICTURE TAKEN DURING ANNUAL TRAINING IN BLANDFORD CAMP, 1961

Front row (left to right): Sgt. F. A. McGovern, Sig. D. Stratton, Cpl. R. G. Bennett, S./Sgt. F. T. Mason, 2/Lt. B. J. Hordle, S.S.M. S. Lockwood, Major I. B. C. Jones, Capt. R. O. Stinton, S.Q.M.S. G. S. Pegler, Sig. B. Hayman, Sgt. W. Barratt, Sgt. R. J. Hazell

Second Row: Sig. J. H. Frith, Sig. R. C. Armstrong, Sig. J. A. Moon, Sig. M. H. W. Lawrence, Sig. T. Griffiths, Sig. G. Maynard, Cpl. S. B. C. Codd, Sig. B. R. Roberts, Sig. A. A. Barclay, Sig. P. Stewart, Sig. A. E. Oakley

Third Row: Sig. C. E. Glynn, Sig. L. A. McKeown, Sig. P. Tasker, Sig. D. A. Aylward, Sig. A. D. Fraser, Sig. K. Reynolds, Sig. L. E. Morgan, L/Cpl. W. G. Barnett, Sig. G. Morgan, Sig. I. Graves, Sig. W. G. Graham

Fourth Row: Sig. J. A. Henry, Sig. L. J. Hilton, Sig. J. P. Prunty, Sig. J. P. Quinn, Sig. E. Dalton, Sig. A. W. Bateman, Sig. D. E. Pullen, Sig. T. C. Harding

The "tail-end" of our training programme has now been completed and it is pleasing to report that we have achieved 100 per cent. success with all tradesmen who have taken the tests for up-grading or confirmation of trade. Major I. B. C. Jones, Captain P. A. Lancaster, T.D., and Captain D. C. Martin went to B.A.O.R. for their annual training and gained some good experience during the programme arranged by 13th Regiment. Your correspondent was urged to draw a veil over the episode of one Officer who had a "dud" pass and was refused permission to leave Berlin by train. Being accommodated in a Royal Air Force Mess must have had its advantages because they solved the problem by scrounging a lift to Gutersloh in a Beverly.

A recent flow of circulars from Squadron Headquarters means that our arrangements for the "out-of-camp" training have been completed and that our Unit, scattered as it is throughout the United Kingdom, now has liaison with eight Territorial Army Units of the Corps. Present indications are that everything is under control and we shall start our weekend periods in the early part of the year.

By dint of persuasion and pleading (but no threats) we managed to raise a team for the Fane Cup shooting trophy competition which was held in Dorset during October. We cannot report winning the cup but the team put up a good score and thoroughly enjoyed their weekend in Blandford and on the range.

Recruiting is proceeding reasonably well, but we still have room for some experienced types, particularly those from the Bergelen and Cyprus areas. What about it, chaps, if you get the chance, get cracking and join us in time for annual camp in June. We shall be pleased to see you.

We hope there will be room in THE WIRE for the first Unit photograph. Everyone in the picture can be considered a foundation member and we trust that they will be with us for many years to come.

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 makes a profit.

Corps Paint Transfers:

"Jimmy"—on background of Corps Colours (each)

10" x 7½"	7½" x 5⅝"	3 1/10" x 2 2/8"
3/-	2/8	1/6

As above but mounted on black plastic (each)

4/9	4/-	—

Corps Ties—Heavy Weave	... ...	7/6
Woollen	... ...	8/6
Terylene	... ...	11/-
Corps Scarves—Woollen	... ...	21/-
Rayon Squares	... ...	21/-
Cravats—Terylene	... ...	21/-
Corps Cuff Links	... ...	8/6
Association Buttonhole Badges or Brooches		3/- Members only
Blazer Badges	... ...	45/-
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)	... ...	20/-
Corps Plaques	... ...	29/6 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.

Association Notes

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 December, 1951. Also, on the same page, is a simple statement of income and expenditure.

Driver, 1947-49. Disability pensioner. Married and first child expected when he had to go to hospital for a serious operation. He got back to work, but illness stopped him again and he has not earned for months. Help given in cash and kind for the expected infant .

Widow of Signalman who served 1926-50 in Supplementary Reserve, and 1950, until his death, in 1954, in the T.A. His widow lives alone in their own house on her pension. The fund paid for necessary repairs to the house.

Driver, 1939-46. Married, one child. He has not worked since 1957, having had a number of operations, including the amputation of one leg. His wife earned enough for him and their daughter, but she herself became ill and their H.P. fell into arrears. This was put right by 5 Corps Signals Trust.

Signalman, 1937-46. He lives alone and has not worked since March, through illness. He was provided with much-needed clothing.

Widow of Staff Sergeant, 1939-45, who died in 1959. Since then she has brought up their three children. The Branch of the Association which looks after her wrote to thank us for the help that the fund was able to give her.

Corporal, 1941-46. Married, two school-age children. When illness and an operation stopped him in September, he had a good income. A small grant was made, and clothes, etc., for the children will be sent.

Signalman, 1949-51. Married, one child. Good job, own house. Hit by an incurable disease in January, 1958, and managed to exist without applying for help until November, 1961. He was helped.

Careers and Opportunities

Standard Telephones and Cables Ltd. will, in the near future, have on offer a number of excellent appointments suitable for retired officers of the Corps. Appointments are progressive. The salaries will be suitable.

Appointments will normally be offered to officers between the age of 35 and 45 years, but older officers will be considered for certain of these appointments.

Applications, in the first instance, in a sealed envelope, through the Secretary, Royal Signals Association, who will direct the application to the appropriate department in the Company.

✶

Ferranti require early 1962 a Secretary of the Atlas Owners Club who has a scientific background and is able to negotiate with management and scientists. Atlas is a large computer, and the duties involve also co-ordination of programmes. Preliminary information may be obtained from Major J. P. D. Mullally, M.A., M.I.E.E., London Office, Telephone MUSeum 8040, ext. 215. Applications, in the first instance, should be made to Dr. C. Wilson, London Computer Centre, 68, Newman Street, London, W.1.

Ministry of Defence. Third grade appointment, salary around £1,000, available for Royal Signals Officer (Retired or Retiring), upper age near 45 years. Apply Establishments Officer, Storey's Gate, London, S.W.1, having registered previously with the Ministry of Labour Professional and Executives Register, Atlantic House, Holborn Viaduct, London, E.C.1.

✶

The Pleasey Company, Ilford, require a Royal Signals Officer who is to retire about this time to apply for an appointment as Technical Assistant Sales Administrator Electronics and Equipment Group.

This appointment is progressive. Commencing salary between £800 and £1,000 depending on age and experience.

Applications to be marked "for attention Mr. G. S. Forward."

✶

Christmas Appeal

The Welfare Section are very grateful to those listed and, indeed, to others, for sending toys, books, clothes and cash.

Captain R. Lawrence, Mr. A. Stokes, Mrs. J. Fairman, Mrs. S. Yule, Major G. J. C. Moss, M.B.E., Major J. H. Lea, R. Cartwright, Esq., Mrs. L. G. Swan, Mrs. E. Fladgate, Mrs. V. Fraser, 13th Regiment, Major-General Sir Ronald Campbell Penny, K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O., M.C., Corporal J. McGhie, Major J. H. Dirs, M.B.E., Mrs. C. G. Sandys, Corporal J. Soutar, Mr. and Mrs. Tabor, F. Veness, Esq., Victor Brown, Esq., Mr. C. A. Burgess, Colonel J. C. Christopher, T.D., 624 Troop, Brigadier and Mrs. Power, Mrs. Whistler, Mrs. D. A. L. Wade, F. Adams, Esq., G. W. S. Sheratt, Esq., Lieutenant-Colonel H. Napper, M.B.E., North London Branch R.S.A., Colonel and Mrs. M. D. Price, Lieutenant-Colonel J. N. Boyland, Mr. and Mrs. S. L. Simnett, 1st Regiment, Hull Branch R.S.A., Major J. L. Donne, Capt. V. E. Shannon, W.R.A.C. (T.A.), Major W. L. Ward, Captain D. T. Hunneyball, Croydon Branch R.S.A , Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. A. H. D. Llewellyn, Miss Angela Boyland, Brigadier and Mrs. D. St.J. Hoysted, Miss Hoysted, H. J. Lockwood, Esq.

✶

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION AND BENEVOLENT FUND

The following subscriptions were most gratefully received during November, 1961:

	£	s.	d.
11th Regiment (Depot)	6	11	3
24th Regiment (Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess)	2	2	6
216 Squadron	7	6	6
239 Squadron (Officers' Mess)	1	0	0
C.S.O., H.Q., Western Command	1	1	0
304 Squadron	1	5	0
632 Troop (Outer Hebrides)		16	6
52nd (Lowland) Regiment (T.A.)	3	11	0
228 Squadron (S.H.A.P.E.)	2	15	7
1st Regiment	42	5	7
13th Regiment (2 Squadron)	4	0	0
21st Regiment	25	0	0
221 Squadron		13	2
253 Squadron (Kowloon)	3	0	7
H.Q., Allied Forces Northern Europe, Norway		10	0
Loughborough Branch	21	0	0
Collection Box		13	9
P. C. McDonald		7	0
H. S. Noakes		5	0
F. Veness	1	0	0
M. M. Simmonds		5	0
C. A. Burgess	1	5	0
W. L. Ward		15	0
C. E. Ware		4	0
Total	£127	13	5

Expenditure During November, 1961 ... ... £362 4 2
(Includes:—Rent and Rates; Beds and Bedding; Furniture; Cots and Prams; General Assistance)

Analysis of Cases:—

Families of Soldiers serving in B.A.O.R.	1
Widows and Dependants	10
Released and Discharged Soldiers	33
Total cases assisted	44

22 Cases of Soldiers who served during the 1939/45 War	£186 3 0
22 Cases of Soldiers who did not serve during the War	£176 1 2

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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.

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FEBRUARY • 1962

Vol. 16 *(New Series)* **No. 2**

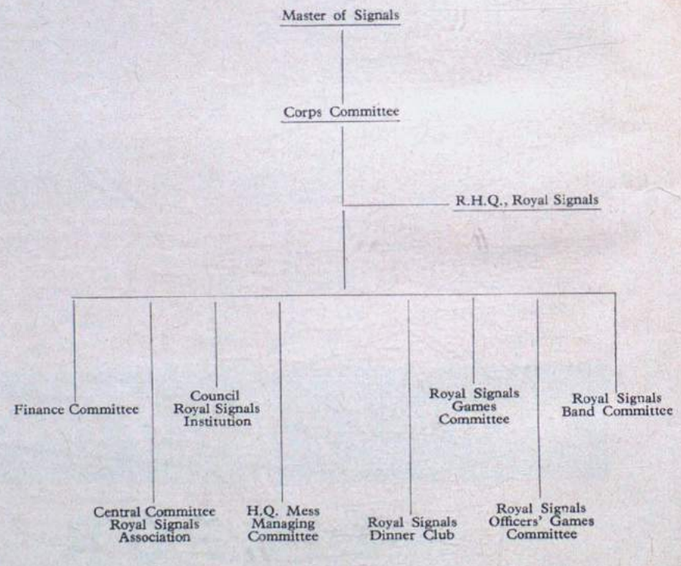
Editorial

The Corps Committee

The 78th Meeting of the Corps Committee was the first meeting after the appointment of Major-General Sir William A. Scott, K.C.M.G., C.B., C.B.E., as Master of Signals. The composition of the Committee was revised and is now as shown below:

Master of Signals	*Chairman*
Representative Colonel Commandant	*Vice-Chairman*
Signal Officer-in-Chief	
Chairman, Royal Signals Association	
Chairman, Royal Signals Institution	
Chairman, Royal Signals Finance Committee	
The remaining Colonels Commandant	
Commander, Training Brigade	
Commandant, School of Signals	
Representative, Territorial Army	
Representative, Army Emergency Reserve	
A.A.G A.G.II in attendance	

Control of certain aspects of Corps policy is exercised as follows:



Delays in the Post

It is normal that the amount of copy received for the January number of THE WIRE is small. February, by contrast, is normally a big number. Current delays in the postal system, particularly of "large" envelopes, have prevented a good deal of expected copy reaching the Editor in time to get into the February number.

[Photograph by courtesy of The Yorkshire Evening Press

Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal, C.I., G.C.V.I., G.B.E., R.R.C., T.D., C.D., D.C.L., LL.D.

At her own request the Colonel-In-Chief received (and signed for) the Christmas Card from the Representative Colonel Commandant and all ranks past and present of her Corps, delivered to Harewood House by Despatch Rider.

Later she was graciously pleased to write:

HAREWOOD HOUSE,
LEEDS.

29th December 1961

Dear General Shilleto,

I am most grateful to you for the special Christmas card sent by you on behalf of All Ranks in my Royal Corps of Signals.

The card is beautifully designed and made and I am delighted and amused by the picture of the Officers of my Corps drinking my health! (in the Mess).

I take this opportunity of assuring you of my constant interest in all that concerns the well being of those serving in Royal Signals, and shall be grateful if you will convey to All Ranks my best wishes for 1962.

Yours sincerely
Mary.
Colonel in Chief.

Marconi 60th Anniversary Celebrated

by

Major-General E. S. Cole, C.B., C.B.E.

To commemorate the 60th Anniversary of the first radio transmission across the Atlantic by Guiglielmo Marconi in 1901, the Radio Amateurs of the Cornish Group of the Radio Society of Great Britain and the Radio Amateurs of the Newfoundland Amateur Society mutually arranged to set up amateur stations on sites as near to the sites of the original stations as practicable. Accordingly, plans were put in hand for amateur stations to be erected at Poldhu, in Cornwall, and at Signal Hill, in Newfoundland; for these to be operated some days prior to the anniversary date, 12th December, and, on the date itself, for commemorative messages to be passed between the two stations.

Amateur gear was planned for installation at each terminal, but in view of the fact that the ceremony itself had received considerable publicity and that local dignatories had been invited to attend, it was considered desirable to avoid disappointing results at the critical time, to augment transmitter power beyond the authorised limit for amateur operation, namely 150-watts imput to the final amplfier.

The Postmaster General authorised this power increase for the Cornish amateurs and also allocated the special amateur call of GB3MSA for the occasion. The Marconi Wireless Telegraph Company also kindly arranged to assist by the loan of a 1 kilowatt transmitter to the Cornish Group for the occasion, for its installation while operation was to be performed by the Cornish amateurs. In the event technical difficulties arose on the installation of this transmitter, and as the only available transmitter suitable for quick installation was a D11 transmitter made by the Company for the Army, the Signal Officer-in-Chief was approached to obtain permission for this Army transmitter's use as a key terminal for the celebrations. This permission was willingly given.

During the period prior to the ceremony the D11 behaved admirably and gave a most impressive performance. Frequencies used were in the 14 Mc/s, 21 Mc/s and 3.5 Mc/s amateur bands, using for the greater part SSB, but on occasions AM. A 16ft. rod aerial was used at the station, an antenna viewed with misgivings by the Radio Amateurs who, because of the low power to which they are accustomed, resort to the use of directional antenna with their impressive effective power gains. In the event the D11, with the bulk of operating on 14 Mc/s, succeeded in putting consistent signals into North and South America, Africa, Russia, Europe, Canada, New Zealand, Australia, and Saudi Arabia, to name but a few of the amateur stations contacted during the period. Stations worked in the U.S.A. gave reports as good as the amateurs in Cornwall were able to give them, which, observing that the bulk of the American stations were using transmitters of 600 to 1,000 watts PEP, coupled to multi element Yagi's was an impressive performance. Conditions during the test transmissions on the ceremony were, in fact, quite poor, but on the 11th December, the day prior to the ceremony 22 stations, mostly North and South American, were worked on a ¼-hour period, whilst later that day during a 2½-hour period in the afternoon and early evening, 36 stations were worked, of which 28 were in North America. After the ceremony itself, the transmitter was returned to the 3.5 Mc/s band, and in the two-hour period, from 19.00 to 21.00 hours, some 15 stations were worked, and whilst contact was not established on this comparatively low frequency with New Zealand and Australia, reception reports of the D11 transmissions on this frequency were received.

The Radio Society of Great Britain is very grateful to the Signal Officer-in-Chief of the War Office for his kind permission to use this transmitter, and to the Marconi Company for their great assistance in installing the equipment at Poldhu. Both may have the satisfaction of knowing that with the introduction of this fine piece of equipment into the British Army, future communication failures will result, as they have so often resulted in the past, from digital misdirection and not from equipment shortcomings.

Vale

Brigadier W. B. Rowett, B.A., M.I.E.E.

Brigadier W. B. ("Bill") Rowett went to the Shop from Charterhouse. He was commissioned into Royal Signals in January, 1929, and after No. 19 "Q" Course, and a short while in 4 Divisional Signals, he went off to India for a five-year tour. He only returned to England for a short while, as in 1937 he was selected to go to Canada on "Interchange" duty. He remained with the Canadian Forces until 1940, when he was appointed to the War Office, where he remained, except for a short course at Staff College, until 1944, working on equipment supplies. After a short spell in France, he served in South East Asia, until 1947. He then went to B.A.O.R. for six years, holding several different staff appointments. After this, to Cyprus for a year, to command the Wireless Regiment, before taking up the appointment of Colonel M.I.8. After three years in this appointment he became Commandant, H.Q., A.E.R. for a year, before taking up his final task, as C.S.O., Northern Command.

Bill has certainly travelled round the world and is well-known throughout the Corps. He has a very elastic brain and has a wide experience of Army life.

Although never outstanding at sport, he has always taken an interest in all games. He is fond of the sea and is a good sailor. He has trained many a young officer to sail, and it is mainly due to his efforts that it was possible to have CITA in Cyprus. He is also keen on motor launching and has a launch of his own, which he has taken along many miles of canals in north England. No doubt he will now take this down to his bungalow on the island at Thames Ditton.

Those who have served with Bill will admire his endless energy and how he will always join in at anything. He has a family of five boys, mostly taller than he is, although he is over 6ft. In spite of having to bring up this family, Bill and Betty have always found time to take more than their fair share of the social side. In addition, Bill is a Lay Reader, and has often travelled miles to take part in a service. He is always well supported by Betty, who would willingly step in to play the organ or piano, if required.

Bill, after a year's course at Camberly, is going into the Church.

Presentation of Silver to the Malayan Federation Signals

In the Officers' Mess on the 24th November, Brigadier F. J. Swainson, O.B.E., C.S.O. FARELF, on behalf of the Corps, presented a silver "Jimmy" to the Malayan Federation Signals. The gift was received, on behalf of Colonel S. Schofield, C.S.O. Federation Army, by Major Ooi Teong Aun. Major Ooi said that the figure would be displayed by each of the Federation Signal Squadrons in turn, until such time as their own H.Q. Mess had been completed.

The two pieces of Silver presented

Brigadier Swainson presenting the Silver

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Obituary

COLONEL E. F. W. BARKER, C.B.E., D.S.O.

For most of its members today the Corps was in being before they were born, and its existence is taken for granted as part of the order of things, but sometimes an event occurs that recalls our origins. Such an event was the recent death, at the age of 84, of Ernest Francis William Barker. When, as a Subaltern in the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry at the turn of the century, he took up signalling, neither he nor any of his contemporaries who were then turning their minds to that branch of war could have foreseen that it was to absorb his whole career, and that he was to be one of the progenitors of the great Corps that the Army knows today.

Barker transferred to the Corps in 1921, soon after its formation and like many others who then took that decisive step in their careers, he brought with him the tradition of a famous Regiment, to be woven into the strong fabric of our tradition today. Few of his friends survive, but the writer is one of them, who has the kindest memories of him at Aldershot before the first war and in India in 1929. He impressed himself as a forceful character, an impression that was in no way belied in action, and an idea of his quality can be gathered from the award to him of the Royal Humane Society's bronze medal for saving life at sea in 1904.

He served with his Regiment in the South African War of 1899-1902. In the World War of 1914-1918 he commanded the 14th Divisional Signal Company and then held various senior appointments including that of Assistant S.O.-in-C., gaining the D.S.O. and brevet Lieutenant-Colonelcy. After the war he was C.S.O. successively at Aldershot, in the Allied Forces of Occupation Turkey (1921-23), as Commandant S.T.C. India 1926, and C.S.O. Northern Command India from 1931 until he retired in 1934. In 1924 he was awarded the C.B.E. When he retired he took an active part in an organisation that provided wireless receivers in hospitals, a forerunner of the present nation-wide system. In the second world war he was recalled and served in the Ministry of Supply.

After his final retirement he became a church warden, entertained many overseas visitors and travelled extensively abroad, especially in the Commonwealth.

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL P. C. SNATT, M.C.

The older generation of the Corps will have learnt with regret of the death, on 27th December, 1961, of Lieutenant-Colonel Snatt, M.C.

Commissioned in 1910 from the R.M.A. into the King's Regiment (Liverpool), he proceeded on service with his Regiment to France in August, 1914. Twice wounded in France, he was seconded, early in 1916, to the Army Signal Service and served with R.E. Signals until the end of the war—for the last two years with the Egyptian Expeditionary Force, with which he won the M.C., in 1918. He remained in Egypt for the next six years, seconded to the Egyptian Army, during which time he transferred to Royal Signals and was employed at the Signal School at Khartoum.

After a tour in the Depot Battalion at Maresfield and Catterick, he became O.C., Rhine Command Signal Company, at Wiesbaden, and the note below has been received from one who was a subaltern of his at that time.

A year in 4th Divisional Signals, Colchester, in 1930, was followed by his appointment as C.S.O, London District, and then as C.S.O., Scottish Command, from which he retired in 1937. Recalled from the Reserve in 1939, he was in command of the first O.C.T.U. to be formed (151 O.C.T.U., Aldershot) and subsequently of Training Battalions in the 1st and 3rd S.T.C.s, until his release at the end of the war. All ranks of the Corps will wish to extend their deepest sympathy to his widow, who survives him.

Brigadier E. V. McCormack writes:

"It was with deep regret that I heard of the death of Colonel Charles Snatt, M.C. As a very young officer, I had the privilege of serving under him when he commanded the Rhine Signal Company in Wiesbaden in 1927/28. Always immaculately groomed, and with a quiet sense of humour, he was the ideal C.O., from the point of view of the young officer. He expected a high standard of work and play from his officers, but could always be counted on for kindly and shrewd advice in the pitfalls that beset the young officer.

Retiring before the outbreak of the last war, he became Secretary of Swinley Forest Golf Club; recalled to the Service during the war, he returned to the Club on its termination.

I had the pleasure of an occasional meeting with him and Mrs. Snatt over the past two years; but little changed, and with that ever-present twinkle in his eye, we discussed Corps personalities of those earlier days. He will be long remembered by that generation of young officers who benefited from his experience and understanding."

PERSONAL COLUMN

Congratulations

To those who names appeared in the New Year's Honours List, 1962:

O.B.E.
- Colonel D. R. Horsfield, M.A., W., A.M.I.E.E.
- Lieutenant-Colonel P. R. Hoskins, T.A. (now T.A.R.O.)
- Lieutenant-Colonel B. R. Wood, M.B.E., T.D., T.A.

M.B.E.
- Major D. E. Higgins
- Major S. S. Petrie

B.E.M.
- W.O.II R. H. Stein

London Gazette

From 5th December, 1951, to 2nd January, 1962.

Major E. T. Crosley relinquishes his commission on completion of service, 6th November, 1951.

2325222/W.O.I George Henry Graham to be Lieutenant (Q.M.) 16th October, 1961.

Major D. C. Jeffrey, M.B.E. (A.E.R.) to be Major (R.A.R.O.), 1st October, 1961.

Major B. M. Mason, T.D. (T.A.), to be Lieutenant-Colonel, 7th November, 1961.

Captain R. C. Walker to be Major, 6th December, 1951.

Lieutenant Beverly John Austin, from Short Service Commission, to be Lieutenant, 21st September, 1961.

Major (Q.M.) R. O. Cant retired, 8th November, 1951.

Major F. R. Hornby, O.B.E. (A.E.R.), retires 9th December, 1961, and is granted honorary rank of Lieutenant-Colonel.

Captain R. H. Bannerman (A.E.R.) to be Major, 29th October, 1961.

Captain A. A. Pollard (A.E.R.), retired 9th December, 1961, and is granted the honorary rank of Major.

Captain C. J. Crocker, O.B.E. (A.E.R.), retired 9th December, 1961.

The undermentioned Lieutenants (A.E.R.) retired 9th December, 1961, and are granted the honorary rank of Captain:
- J. W. Inman
- W. R. Chennells
- H. V. Bennett
- C. W. West
- H. A. Kempton
- H. W. O. Sweeny

Lieutenant (Acting Captain) I. H. Blake to be Captain, 5th December, 1961.

Major W. T. M. Gaskell, B.Sc., to be Lieutenant-Colonel, 11th April, 1961.

Captain P. J. Garratt, M.A., A.M.I.E.E., to be Major, 24th October, 1961.

Captain K. G. Draper (T.A.), to be Major, 1st November, 1961.

Captain J. M. Hiles (T.A.), resigns his commission, 1st October, 1961.

The undermentioned Lieutenants to be Captains (T.A.):
- F. W. A. Bax
- T. J. Kirkpatrick
- R. C. N. Tinsley

Lieutenant M. L. Jenkins to be Lieutenant, 1st October, 1961.

Signalman John Michael Shannon Stevenson (T.A.) to be Second-Lieutenant (T.A.) (on probation) 29th October, 1961.

Cadet Stuart McLean Sanderson (T.A.) to be Second-Lieutenant (on probation) (T.A.) 29th October, 1961.

The undermentioned Lieutenants to be Captains, 16th December, 1961:
- J. O. C. Alexander
- T. H. Wheawell, B.Sc. (Eng.)
- M. J. Pickard
- A. R. J. Ainsworth
- W. F. A. Edmonds
- K. S. H. Allwright
- I. F. Bird
- H. S. Wilson
- A. R. Bushell
- C. J. Rayner

Lieutenant-Colonel H. J. Hale, M.B.E., E.R.D., B.SC. (A.E.R.), retired 7th November, 1961.

Captain C. R. N. Emary, M.B.E. (A.E.R.), retired 16th December, 1961.

Lieutenant (Q.M.) J. A. Clarkson (A.E.R.) to be Captain (Q.M.), 10th March, 1961.

Lieutenant J. W. Swindells to be Captain, 19th December, 1961.

Captain (Tfc. Offr.) R. Lawrence to be Major (Tfc. Offr.) 18th December, 1961.

Continued on page 34

The undermentioned Captains to be Majors, 22nd December, 1961:
I. M. Rose, M.A.
P. J. Holland
R. Pope
T. F. Ross

Second-Lieutenant William Patric Byard Thomas from National Service to Regular Army, 26th October, 1961.

Major (Tfc. Offr.) C. V. Walsh to be Lieutenant-Colonel (Tfc. Offr.), 6th November, 1961.

Second-Lieutenant A. D. Dixon, National Service to Short Service Commission, 20th October, 1961.

Captain W. H. W. Muir (T.A.), to be Major, 1st October, 1961.

Lieutenant J. Carracher (T.A.), to be Captain, 1st October, 1961.

Lieutenant L. Douglas (T.A.), to be Captain, 19th December, 1961.

Lieutenant W. M. Madill (T.A.) to be Captain, 15th October, 1961.

Second-Lieutenant G. F. Benbow (T.A.) to be Lieutenant, 26th November, 1961.

Second-Lieutenant T. V. Wells (T.A.), to be Lieutenant, 29th November, 1961.

Second-Lieutenant M. Walsh (T.A.) to be Lieutenant, 10th December, 1961.

Major A. C. Newton (A.E.R.), retired 27th December, 1961.

Captain J. A. Marshall (A.E.R.), retired 27th December, 1961.

Captain O. A. Parry, D.F.C. (A.E.R.), retired 15th November, 1961.

The undermentioned Captains (A.E.R.) retired 27th December, 1961:
A. S. Nichols
A. V. Durbin
A. G. Manson

Lieutenant F. E. Morgan (A.E.R.) retired 27th December, 1961.

Second-Lieutenant S. H. Savage from National Service to T.A., 20th November, 1961.

Lieutenant D. R. P. Bushby (T.A.), to be Captain, 1st November, 1961.

Lieutenant-Colonel E. A. Sinnock retired 29th December, 1961.

Major S. W. Brackenbury, M.B.E., to be Lieutenant-Colonel, 5th October, 1961.

Major C. E. Booth Jones, B.A., A.M.I.E.E., retired as Lieutenant-Colonel, 28th December, 1961.

Second-Lieutenant J. S. Beswick to be Lieutenant, 28th December, 1961.

Second-Lieutenant D. A. Pocklington from National Service to Short Service Commission, 19th November, 1961.

Second-Lieutenant N. C. Muir from National Service to Short Service Commission, 4th December, 1961.

Captain D. W. Bird, E.R.D. (A.E.R.), to be Major, 14th November, 1961.

The undermentioned Lieutenants (A.E.R.) retired, 30th December, 1961:
F. B. L. Sall
C. P. Pugsley
R. Watton
L. A. Willis

Lieutenant J. T. Ord (A.E.R.) retired, 30th December, 1961.

Sergeant T. Tevendale (A.E.R.) to be Second-Lieutenant (A.E.R.), 27th September, 1951.

Major J. A. Lawrence T.D. (T.A.), retired 15th November, 1961.

Major G. W. Shepherd, M.B.E. (T.A.), retired 30th November, 1961.

Lieutenant R. W. Forrester to be Captain, 30th October, 1961.

Cadet R. T. Ashford to be 2nd Lieutenant (T.A.), 29th October, 1961.

M. S. Geddes to be Second-Lieutenant (T.A.), 19th November, 1961.

Captain T. M. Cook to T.A.R.O., 17th October, 1961.

Lieutenant A. V. Vincent to T.A.R.O., 17th November, 1961.

Major M. C. Strover, B.A., retired, 1st January, 1962.

Captain R. A. B. Dixon retired, 1st January, 1962.

Captain A. P. King (A.E.R.), retired, 15th November, 1961.

Second-Lieutenant R. J. Hopkins (A.E.R.), to be Lieutenant, 6th December, 1961.

Major A. R. Ashley, T.D., B.E.M. (T.A.), retired, 31st December, 1961.

Lance-Corporal R. A. Davey (T.A.), to be Second-Lieutenant, 11th November, 1951.

Movements — Officers

(Taken place, or forecast to take place, period ending 15th February, 1962)

Lieutenant-Colonel (T/Col.) P. F. Pentreath, M.B.E.	... ...	To The War Office (A.G.II)
Lieutenant-Colonel (T/Col.) J. R. Pidding on, M.C.	... ...	„ Ministry of Aviation.
Lieutenant-Colonel J. R. West, M.B.E.		„ H.Q., Salisbury Plain District.
Lieutenant-Colonel A. Hollifield	...	„ Junior Leaders Regiment.
Major A. D. Inglis	... ...	„ H.Q., A.L.F.C.E.
Major C. Mitchell	... ...	„ 9th Regiment
Major D. L. Swallow	... ...	„ 24th Regiment
Major J. M. Badcock, O.B.E.	... ...	„ R.M.A.S.
Major E. F. Prockter	... ...	„ Federation of Malaya
Major T. N. Skelly	... ...	„ 4th Regiment
Major P. J. Knott	... ...	„ Ministry of Aviation
Captain D. L. Edinger	... ...	„ 4th Regiment
Captain J. A. Baker	... ...	„ R.M.C.S. (Course)
Captain P. W. Hewitson	... ...	„ Staff College
Captain St. J. P. Arcedeckne-Butler	...	„ Staff College
Captain C. J. Gilbert	... ...	„ 256 Squadron
Captain A. D. Lewis	... ...	„ Staff College
Captain J. G. Crowe	... ...	„ Staff College
Captain M. J. T. O'Connor	... ...	„ H.Q., NEARELF.
Captain J. H. Hild	... ...	„ War Office
Captain M. R. Topple	... ...	„ War Office
Captain I. E. Simpson	... ...	„ Staff College
Captain J. B. J. Halford	... ...	„ H.Q., A.A.F.C.E.
Lieutenant H. M. Bonaker	... ...	„ R.M.C.S.
Lieutenant J. M. Hincks	... ...	„ Rhodesia and Nyasaland
Major (Q.M.) R. F. C. Ashford	...	„ 44 (H.C.) Regiment (T.A.).
Captain (Q.M.) M. E. E. Truscott	...	„ 7th Regiment
Captain (Q.M.) H. Majoram, B.E.M.		„ Regimental Pay Office, Newcastle
Major (T.O.T.) T. Bennett	... ...	„ 631 Troop
Major (T.O.T.) C. W. T. Weech	...	„ A.L.F.C.E.
Captain (T.O.T.) W. Ellis	... ...	„ 630 Troop
Captain (T.O.T.) R. A. Dolbear	...	„ School of Signals
Captain (Tfc. Offr.) M. Turner	...	„ 14th Regiment

Retirements

Major J. McK. Lamb	29th November, 1961.
Major K. J. Hinton	1st December, 1961.
Captain L. R. D. Willmott, M.M., M.B.E.	16th January, 1962.

Relinquishments

Captain E. H. Rose	29th December, 1961.

Resignations

Captain (Tfc. Offr.) Urquhart ...	28th November, 1961.

Movements—Warrant Officers and Sergeants

W.O.I	Hooper, L. C. ...	To School of Signals
W.O.II	Bennett, T. N.	„ 42nd (Lancs.) Regiment (T.A.)
W.O.II	McGrath, J.	„ 42nd (Lancs.) Regiment (T.A.)
W.O.II	Simons, H. A.	„ 44th (H.C.) Regiment (T.A.)
W.O.II	Sarfaty, J.	„ H.Q., A.E.R., Royal Signals
W.O.II	Meyer, K. J.	„ 11th Regiment
W.O.II	Skelton, N.	„ 24th Regiment
W.O.II	Williams, K. J. ...	„ Gurkha Regt. and H.Q. Gurkha Sigs.
W.O.II	Shilson, N. S. ...	„ Installation Troop (COMCAN)
W.O.II	Petherick, R. A. ...	„ 9th Regiment
W.O.II	Bell, E.	„ 7th Regiment
W.O.II	Davies, H.	„ 235 Squadron
W.O.II	Wilson, C.	„ 229 Squadron
S Sgt.	Jacobs, J. R.	„ C.O.D., Donnington
S Sgt.	Blackburn, T. ...	„ 24th Regiment
S Sgt.	Allcock, R.	„ Trucial Oman Scouts
S Sgt.	Paternoster, A. ...	„ 210 Squadron
S Sgt.	Alborough, D. H. A.	„ 15th Regiment
S Sgt.	Thomas, B.	„ School of Signals (Courses)
S Sgt.	Cull. M. A.	„ School of Signals (Courses)
S Sgt.	McKeown, D. G. ...	„ School of Signals (Courses)
Sgt.	Webb, C. G.	„ School of Signals (Courses)
Sgt.	Holland, E.	„ School of Signals (Courses)
Sgt.	Boulton, F.	„ 8th Regiment
Sgt.	Falconer, A. D. F. ...	„ 37th Regiment, R.A., Signal Troop
Sgt.	Davies, M.	„ British Army Staff, Washington
Sgt.	Fordom, G.	„ School of Signals (Courses)
Sgt.	Knox, J. D.	„ School of Signals (Courses)
Sgt.	Saunders, R. C. ...	„ School of Signals (Courses)
Sgt.	Owen. R. K.	„ School of Signals (Courses)
Sgt.	Thornbury, M. D. ...	„ School of Signals (Courses)
Sgt.	Fenwick, R.	„ 652 Light Aircraft Sqn., A.A.C., on attachment).
Sgt.	Jarratt, J. R.	„ Intelligence Centre
Sgt.	Ballard, O. E. ...	„ 2nd Regiment
Sgt.	Howie, J. N.	„ School of Signals (Courses)
Sgt.	Bumphrey, C. ...	„ School of Signals (Courses)
Sgt.	Meeson, D. T. ...	„ Army Apprentices' School (Harrogate)
Sgt.	Hill. T. G.	„ School of Signals (Courses)
Sgt.	Buckland, A. G. M.	„ 8th Regiment
Sgt.	Corbett, G. D. ...	„ 245 Squadron
Sgt.	Keasey, R. M. ...	„ School of Signals (Courses)
Sgt.	Charles, R. H. ...	„ S.T.C., FARELF
Sgt.	Jones, D.	„ 236 Squadron
Sgt.	Rollings, K.	„ 210 Squadron
Sgt.	Stidworthy, P. ...	„ A.P.L. Squadron
Sgt.	Stockwell, J. E. ...	„ 254 Squadron
Sgt.	Hurrell, K. J. ...	„ 8th Regiment
Sgt.	Mancais, I. S. ...	„ 15th Regiment
Sgt.	Webley, E. H. ...	„ 619 Troop
Sgt.	Toole, F. T.	„ 7th Regiment
Sgt.	Isaac. A. I.	„ 224 Squadron
Sgt.	Gooding, B. F. ...	„ 7th Regiment
Sgt.	Brown. T. L. ...	„ Army Apprentices' School, Harrogate
Sgt.	Donovan, R. G. ...	„ 249 Squadron

Births

10th Regiment

TAYLOR.—To W.O.II and Mrs. A. R. Taylor, on 18th December, at B.M.H., Hostert, a son, Norman.

DEAS.—To Lance-Corporal and Mrs. J. D. Deas, on 26th November, at Ashton, a son, Andrew James.

STOWE.—To Seregant and Mrs. S. B. Stowe, on 9th January, at Catterick, a daughter.

Deaths

PENN.—On 31st December, 1961, at 12, Charlotte Road, Wallington, Herbert Austin Penn, M.B.E., B.SC., T.D., L. of C. Signals, S.R., 1933-1945.

GOSLING.—2303653. Ex-Driver J. Gosling, on 16th December, 1961.

GREEN.—Mr. L. F. Green, on 29th December, 1961, in Lambeth Hospital.

TREBBLE.—23202744 Signalman A. H. Trebble, on 2nd January, 1962, at Royal Herbert Hospital.

McLAUGHLIN.—2600878 W.O.II J. McLaughlin, on 9th December, 1961, at his home.

MACKENZIE.—23491037 Corporal William John Mackenzie, on 26th December, 1961, in Hong Kong.

FALCONER.—23787833 Lance-Corporal James Middleton Falconer, on 22nd, December, 1961, in Nairobi.

McCLEAN.—22351677 Acting Sergeant Alan James McClean, on 22nd December, 1961, in Nairobi.

NICHOLSON.—23832500 Lance-Corporal Barry Nicholson, on 22nd December, 1961, in Nairobi.

PRYKE.—23788996 Lance-Corporal John Bernard Pryke, on 22nd December, 1961, in Nairobi.

SIMPSON.—23788508 Lance-Corporal David Edmund Simpson, on 22nd December, 1961, in Nairobi.

SHERRATT.—23833577 Lance-Corporal Samuel Sherratt, on 22nd December, 1961, in Nairobi.

HOWE.—23660294 Signalman James Walter Howe, on 8th January, 1962, in Singapore.

ANDREWS.—23783063 Signalman J. G. Andrews. On 24th December, 1961, in the United Kingdom.

* * *

Ex-2315611 D. C. SEAGER wishes to trace an old friend, R. E. HALL, last heard of in 6th Armoured Division, prior to D-Day. It is thought that Mr. Hall was commissioned. The address of Mr. Seager is 58, Curtis Road, Ewell, Surrey.

Forthcoming Events

79th Meeting of the Corps Committee
will be held on Tuesday, 13th March, 1962, at the War Office.

16th Royal Signals Association Branch Representatives Meeting
will be held at the T.A. Centre 47th Signal Regiment (Middlesex Yeomany) T.A., Duke of York's Headquarters, Chelsea, S.W.3, at 10.30 a.m., Saturday, 31st March, 1962.

Corps Dinner
will be held May 30th, 1962.

Corps Regular Officers' At Home
will be held on 31st May, 1962.

37th Meeting of the Central Committee of the Royal Signals Association
will be held on 31st May, 1962.

Aldershot Tattoo
In place of the Aldershot Tattoo, "The Modern Army" will be at home to the public on Queen's Parade, Aldershot, on the afternoons of 16th and 17th June, 1962. Apply to Aldershot District, Steeles Road, Aldershot.

Corps Week-end and Association Reunion and Annual General Meeting
will be held at Catterick on 7th/8th July, 1962.

Royal Tournament
Earls Court, London, 11th-28th July, 1962.

Royal Signals Institution Lectures, 1962

Tuesday, 3rd April: "Employment of Airborne Forces in Future Wars," Brigadier A. J. Deane-Drummond, D.S.O., M.C., at 5.15 p.m., North Hall, Training Brigade, Royal Signals, Catterick Camp, Yorks.

*Friday, 25th May, "The Reserve Army," Colonel G. H. Shrimpton, T.D., 6.15 p.m., at the T.A. Centre, 47th Regiment, T.A., Duke of York's Headquarters, Chelsea, S.W.3.

*Friday, 28th September, "New Zealand," Brigadier J. E. Anderson, 6.15 p.m., at the T.A. Centre, 47th Regiment, T.A., Duke of York's Headquarters, Chelsea, S.W.3.

Tuesday, 27th November, "Training of American Cadets at West Point," Second-Lieutenant Paul L. Miles, Jnr., U.S. Army, 5.15 p.m., at North Hall, Training Brigade, Royal Signals, Catterick Camp, Yorks.

* Members are allowed two guests for these lectures.

Royal Signals Association Football Club Fixtures

March 7th	...	Durham University	... Catterick Camp
April 18th	...	Billingham Synthonia	... Catterick Camp
*		R.E.M.E.	... Billingham
*		R.A.O.C.	... Catterick Camp

* Fixtures not yet firm.

Royal Signals Hockey Fixtures

February 15th	Aldershot Services — Aldershot.
Mar. 21st	Welbeck College — Welbeck.
Apr. 20th-23rd	Scarborough Hockey Festival — Scarborough.

Indian Signal Units 1911-1948 O.C.A.

On 26th May, at the Eccleston Hotel, Victoria, London, S.W.1, A.G.M. and Dinner. Open to members and their wives, but guests not allowed. Further details from Captain W. Dowley, 153, Mychett Road, Mychett, Nr. Aldershot, Hants.

North London Branch

The Annual Dinner and Dance will be held at The Cambridge, North Circular Road, Palmers Green, London, N.13, on Saturday, 14th April, 1962.

Tickets and information from the Hon. Secretary of the North London Branch of the Royal Signals Association, J. T. Murphy, 1, Marlborough Close, Whetstone, N.20.

Indian Army Reunion, 1962

The 1962 Reunion will be held at Hurlingham Club on Friday, 29th June at 3.30 p.m. Tickets 9/- per head.

Royal Signals Display Team

May 17th	Hertfordshire. St. Alban's—Agricultural Show.
May 19th	Billet Lane, Essex.
June 2nd	Kynoch Social Club, Witton, Birmingham.
June 19th—21st	Edinburgh.
June 23rd	Holmfirth.
July 7th	Catterick.
July 11th—28th	Royal Tournament.
August 1st	Nantwich.
August 6th	Horncastle.
September 1st	Haltwhistle—Agricultural Show.

Wants and Offers

Wanted

Mrs. Harvey, 37, Alvan Street, Higher Openshaw, Manchester 11, ex-Secretary and Treasurer of the Manchester Branch, requires tappers and buzzers for use with her youth work. Any help would be greatly appreciated.

For Sale

Crammers establishment at 30, Sackville Road, Hove 3, Sussex. Boys aged 12-14 prepared for common entrance examination to Public Schools. £2,500 for goodwill and furnishings. Apply Major Gordon Fraser, who is prepared to remain for a period to ensure continuity.

The following goods are available from Association Headquarters:

Corps Paint Transfers:
"Jimmy"— on background of Corps Colours (each)
10" × 7½" 7½" × 5⅝" 3 1/10" × 2⅜"
3/- 2/8 1/6
Mounted on black plastic (each)
4/9 4/-

Corps Ties—Heavy Weave	7/6
Woollen	8/6
Terylene	11/-
Corps Scarves—Reppe, Square	21/-
Woollen	21/-
Cravats—Terylene	21/-
Corps Cuff Links	8/6
Association Buttonhole Badges or Brooches ... Member only	3/-
Blazer Badges	45/-
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)	20/-
Corps Plaques ... ... plus postage	29/6

Corps Diaries—Order Forms from Association Headquarters.

Promotions

The following promotions were authorised up to the end of December, 1961:

Signal Centre Supervisor Roster

To W.O.II	22306665	A/W.O.II	(210)	Chambers, D.
	22563969	A/W.O.II	(144)	Good, R.
	2548668	A/W.O.II	(204)	Pearsall, G.
	22799121	A/W.O.II	(190)	Slater, G.
To S Sgt.	22771473	Sgt.	(2400)	Hurnell, E. R.
	22469808	Sgt.	(3170)	Reid, I. A.
	2549522	Sgt.	(3300)	Jones, F. W.
	22296445	Sgt.	(3590)	Millington, A. B.
	22309313	Sgt.	(3780)	Frost, R. M.
	22096400	Sgt.	(3800)	Edgar, R. P.
	2549778	Sgt.	(4030)	Huxley-Duggan, B. M.
	21005820	Sgt.	(4320)	Brewin. R. H. J.
	22309271	Sgt.	(4830)	Hitchcock, G. E. C.
	22242661	A/S Sgt.	(5040)	Souter, A. R.
	22515452	A/S Sgt.	(5060)	Shakespeare, D.
	22836222	A/S Sgt.	(5200)	Thirkill, J. H.

Operating Roster

To Sgt.	22289372	A/Sgt.	(800)	Loveday, F. J.
	22954069	Cpl.	(1582)	Gaze, A. J.
	22537469	Cpl.	(1660)	Le Feuvre, D. B.
	22296900	Cpl.	(590)	Nurse, C. G. C.
	22828911	A/Sgt.	(3360)	Clarke, J.
	22815439	Cpl.	(970)	Browns, R. E. W.
	22526415	A/Sgt.	(3060)	Baldwin, W.
	22537897	Cpl.	(1730)	De La Mare, R. J.
	23114272	A/Sgt.	(2710)	McKenzie, D.
	22559962	A/Sgt.	(1060)	James, J. H.
	22794227	Cpl.	(3750)	Prees, J. V.
	22821117	Cpl.	(3230)	Williams, H. E.
	23236233	Cpl.	(4090)	Cole, A. R.
	22537833	Cpl.	(3730)	Duncan, J.
	22821109	A/Sgt.	(3300)	Graham. J. B.
	2549640	A/Sgt.	(3530)	Bower, D.
	22821030	Cpl.	(4020)	Binks, C.
	22969530	A/Sgt.	(3660)	Goodman, J. H.
	22773850	A/Sgt.	(3770)	Massey, R. T.
	22360121	A/Sgt.	(3790)	Law, B.

Regimental Duty Roster

To W.O.II	22247168	S Sgt.	(4230)	Francis, J. D.
	22281864	S Sgt.	(4560)	Peberdy, S. B. C.
	22053793	A/W.O.II	(4200)	Edwards, M. G. A.
	22523175	S Sgt.	(4300)	Earnshaw, D. K.
To S Sgt.	22537303	Sgt.	(3050 Operator)	Green, B. C.
	22515176	A/S Sgt.	(3030 Operator)	Rumsey, D. H. M.
	22806742	A/S Sgt.	(1180 G.T.D.)	Simpson, A. J.
	14191860	Sgt.	(1200 G.T.D.)	Downes, J. F.
	2549558	A/S Sgt.	(3130 Operator)	Shaw, R. C.
	15202839	Sgt.	(3090 Operator)	Cave, A. E. W.
	22200224	A/S Sgt.	(3030 Operator)	Brown, T. B.
	22546033	Sgt.	(3180 Operator)	Armstrong, T. G.
	2549550	A/S Sgt.	(1210 G.T.D.)	Stear, C. W.
	22212675	Sgt.	(980 Lineman)	Bell, J.
	22265266	A/S Sgt.	(1144 Tech.)	Morris, G. R.
	21187056	A/S Sgt.	(1270 G.T.D.)	Filder, E. S.
	22242002	A/S Sgt	(962 Clerk)	Warren, A.
	14026485	A/S Sgt.	(3190 Operator)	Prior, S. W.
	22265014	Sgt.	(3310 Operator)	Meyer, R. C.
	2549014	Sgt.	(3210 Operator)	Horton, B. D.
	14473289	A/S Sgt.	(1040 Lineman)	Rooke, A. C.
	22308389	Sgt.	(1050 Lineman)	Bramhall, A.
	22246081	A/S Sgt.	(1034 Lineman)	Hammond-Haley, W. K.
	22212775	A/S Sgt.	(1000 Lineman)	Evans, K.

Lineman Roster

To Sgt.	22776796	Cpl.	(3590)	Davies, A.
	22806132	Cpl.	(850)	Lee. B. H.
	23243405	A/Sgt.	(3230)	Birtles, H.
	22203954	Cpl.	(4740)	Jones. R. C.
	22776184	Cpl.	(4800)	Kirkham, D. G. M.
	22541468	A/Sgt.	(3300)	Askham, F. A.

INSERTIONS

Signal Centre Supervisors Roster

	22563782	S Sgt.	(6100)	Kreckeler, K. R.

DELETIONS

Regimental Duty Roster

W.O.I	790				
W.O.II	230	1190	1450	3416	
S Sgt.	4430				

General Trades and Duties Roster

Sgt.	3100				

Operating Roster

Sgt.	3220	151	2630	7090	8020

Technical Roster

S Sgt.	40				
Sgt.	1144				

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NATO Demonstration of Radio Equipment

Seated left to right : C of H Tribe, Captain B. H. Adams, Lieutenant Colonel W. E. Jelf, W.O.II Higgs, Sergeant Duffey.
Standing Centre : Lance Corporal Maddick, Lance Corporal Cole, Signalman Shepherd, Signalman Harlow, Corporal Gourdon, Corporal Beale, Gunner Young, Lance Bombardier Bridge, Gunner Bowes
Standing Rear : Corporal Stephenson, Trooper Derbyshire, Trooper Barnes, Corporal Peck, Signalman Clegg, Trooper Hawtin, Gunner Warren, Lance Bombardier Lawman, Lance Bombardier Earley

During October, 1961, there took place near Paris, under the auspices of N.A.T.O., a demonstration at which member nations, including Denmark, France, Germany, U.S.A. and U.K., produced their Field V.H.F. radio equipments for comparison and interoperability tests. The British team included representatives from the Ministry of Aviation, War Office, S.R.D.E. and the manufacturers, and a military party to operate the sets.

As will be seen from the photograph, the military party included not only Royal Signals, but also members of the Royal Horse Guards and Royal Artillery (18th Field Regiment). The Royal Signals members were drawn from the School of Signals, Training Brigade and S.R.D.E., and the whole party assembled in September at Christchurch, where the demonstration was prepared and rehearsed.

The party embarked in a L.C.T. in Southampton Water on 7th October. The weather was so rough that the vehicles could only get aboard by wading. In the process, both men and vehicles got thoroughly soaked and there followed a very rough crossing with two nights' aboard. It was only through the gallant efforts in wet and cold of members of the party that the vehicles were made sufficiently roadworthy to disembark near Le Havre. As a result, one N.C.O., unhappily, had to spend the whole visit in hospital in Paris with pneumonia.

On arrival at the SHAPE camp, near Versailles, the party was received by the SHAPE Signal Squadron, by whom they were well looked after throughout the visit. The Americans and French were also very hospitable, and made the visitors welcome in the various clubs and canteens in the camp.

As regards the demonstration itself, a considerable effort had been put into its preparation. A static display stand (in front of which the photograph was taken) had been made in the S.R.D.E. Workshops and was re-assembled in France, on which equipments were effectively displayed, including a working C42 set immersed in a tank, with goldfish swimming around it. Members of Messrs. Mullard, Plessey and B.C.C. were present to show their products to the international audience which attended the demonstration.

The main effort of the military contingent was directed to a mobile display in which frequency changing, remote control and rebroadcasting was demonstrated in a tactical setting. None of the other nations attempted anything of this nature, and the extremely polished performance of the British soldiers earned the particular praise of the French General directing the proceedings in his closing address.

Whether the demonstration will have contributed to the sale of British sets remains to be seen. The British soldiers, by doing repeated frequency changes in less than 30 seconds, showed that the manual tuning of the SR C42 and SR C45 is no disadvantage compared with the press-button tuning of their more expensive foreign competitors. Many of the audience no doubt gave quiet thought to the merits of robustness and simplicity of the British sets.

In the matter of recreation, members of the party were able, according to taste and within the limits of available cash, to investigate the many varied attractions of Paris, and on one Sunday afternoon the British manufacturers kindly invited the whole party to a river-boat excursion on the Seine.

The return journey proved as hazardous as the outward one, and it is best to draw a veil over the twelve hungry hours spent waiting on the canal bank; the emergency meal financed by a compassionate French Mayor for 21 impoverished British soldiers; the midnight embarkation and the rough crossing. Suffice it to say that the party reached Christchurch safely on 28th October.

This expedition to France is worth recording as an example of the sort of unusual adventure which may at any time come our way in the Army, and of which, in spite of discomforts, one preserves as a pleasant memory.

We would also like to place on record our great pleasure in working with our friends from the Royal Horse Guards and Royal Artillery. We could not have had nicer companions.

Tailpiece. The N.C.O. missing from the photograph was Corporal (now Sergeant) Stidworthy, now recovered from his pneumonia and on his way to warmer climes for service with the Trucial Oman Scouts.

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Recruits from the Commonwealth—2

FIJIAN SIGNALMEN

By Major J. G. James, M.C., 11th Regiment

On 23rd November, 1961, the main batch of thirty-two Fijians, destined to join the Royal Corps of Signals as regular soldiers, arrived in England. They were the first products of a recruiting team which had been sent to the Islands some months earlier. There are some 320 islands which go under the name of Fiji, and about 250 of these are inhabited. The two largest are Viti-Levu (literally Fiji-Big) and Vanua-Levu (Ground-Big), and the capital of them all is Suva. The journey to England was by air, and they were met at Gatwick by Second-Lieutenant C. M. Darby and Corporal Burt, who provided each of them with a greatcoat as some protection against the rather inhospitable British weather.

On the train journey northwards to Catterick, where they were to do their basic training in 11th Regiment, we first heard the excited comments about their journey over. How they had refuelled at Los Angeles, but not left the airport, and how they were met at New York by an R.A.F. Officer, whose name they cannot recall, but who gave each of them $3.50 and arranged that they stay at the Governor Clinton hotel. The day was spent on an organised tour of New York, including the U.N. Buildings. They were also taken to the Paramount Theatre to see Western films. Having met a few Americans and tasted American food, which they consider worthy of commendation, they spent until nearly 3 o'clock in the morning watching the marvels of television in their hotel bedrooms.

The train journey to Catterick, where all recruits spent six weeks in basic military training, was enlivened by Fijian songs and the travelling populace expressed their appreciation at being serenaded by these cheerful singers. Although many of the Fijians were strangers to each other, they have a natural musical aptitude, and once a leader is found, soon form themselves into a choir capable of rendering their national folksongs. This was amply proved when they appeared in a small feature film for the Independent Television Network the other night. The sound-recordist was heard to say he would not mind becoming their manager!

Our Fijian's arrival in England was, unfortunately, coincidental with the big "freeze-up," and the sight of snow and the bitter wind, must have made many of them yearn for their native sun. However, a hot meal and hot soup on arrival warmed them up, although we think most of them slept that first night of their lives in England still in greatcoats!

Many of us, perhaps, are inclined to think of Fiji much as we do of Hawaii, and visualise palm trees, the warm climate and grass skirts. However, to listen to the account of what the recruits did in civilian life is an abrupt reminder that "progress" is not confined to any one part of the world. "I was a clerk—a laboratory assistant—a wireless operator in Cable and Wireless—a draughtsman—a medical student—a reporter, or a trainee broadcasting technician" was the reply heard to questions on their initial interviews. In fact, if one close one's eyes, one might have been listening to any other English recruit who joins the Army.

Training started, and alongside their English, West Indian and other Commonwealth friends, the Fijians found themselves on drill, physical training, sports, weapon training—and all the other activities which make up the curriculum in the training programme of a modern soldier. New friendships were formed and all settled in well to the routine. Christmas was soon upon us, and the traditional Christmas dinner, at which Officers, Warrant Officers and Sergeants serve the troops, was held in the evening of the 21st December for all those going on Christmas leave. Warmed by the good food and inhibitions lifted by liberal quantities of our national beverage, folksongs and carols between Fijians and the rest were soon being swapped across the mess hall.

For newcomers in a strange land, we had wondered what could be done for our Fijians over the Christmas break. We need not have worried, however, as the Union Jack Club in London answered our appeal and accommodated all of them who wanted to stay there. We are very grateful to them, as we are also to the Reverend Steel, a Methodist Minister, who called at the Club and arranged a Christmas Day tea party for our soldiers. All of them attended services at the Central Hall, Westminster on Christmas-Eve and Christmas Day. Some went carol singing and most visited Buckingham Palace, St. Paul's, the Houses of Parliament and, of course, the Changing of the Guard. Many returned early with colds and coughs, and the general opinion was that, whilst the historic places were interesting, London itself was too big and too expensive. All unanimously declared that they preferred Catterick.

The Fijians at Christmas Dinner, 21 December, 1961

The Kava Drinking Ceremony has aroused a certain amount of interest here. This is normally laid on for distinguished visitors or guests. Kava is made from a root called Yaqona, which is dried and then ground up. The resultant powder is mixed with water to form the drink. It is non-alcoholic, but if drunk in large quantities can have an intoxicating effect, but only to those not used to it. It is drunk as a relaxing drink, or on ceremonial occasions, when a whale's tooth and green yaqona plant are presented to the guest. The guest first claps his hands as a sign of thanks and respect, and then drinks the Kava from a coconut cup, handing back the cup, when emptied, to the senior chief, clapping the hands again three times, as a further sign of thanks.

In the next few weeks our Fijian recruits will pass out of this Regiment as trained soldiers and go on to trade training. We have found them interesting and friendly, and easily adaptable. They have worked well and played well and are quickly acclimatising themselves to their new surroundings. We welcome them into our Corps and wish them the very best of luck. We feel sure they will become not only a credit to their peoples in Fiji, but also a credit to the Royal Corps of Signals.

STAMP COLLECTORS

The Junior Leaders Regiment has restarted its Philatelist Club and will be MOST GRATEFUL to receive stamps from all Regiments, Squadrons, Detachments serving overseas.

Amateur radio enthusiasts receive many QSL cards with foreign stamps.

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Moor Rescue

BY J/SIGNALMAN C. R. F. SMITH—JUNIOR MERCURY REPORTER

The Commonwealth Trophy is a termly occurance whereby four hundred fit and well-trained Junior Leaders set off across Dartmoor in patrol parties of six, passing through predetermined checkpoints, each of which is manned by a member of the staff. This term it took the form of a night compass march which was designed to test the boys' ability in basic navigation. It was not, as suggested by some of the Press, a sudden whim on the part of the Commanding Officer to send the Regiment careering around the moor at dead of night! On the contrary, the Commonwealth Trophy is an Inter-Troop Competition for the trophy presented to the Regiment by the Commonwealth Division, of Korea fame, on disbandment.

The rules of this competition have been evolved over the terms, with the aim of giving Junior Leaders exciting and arduous tasks—for how indeed can Adventure Training bear the name without an element of controlled danger and risk? If Junior Leaders along with other soldiers were to be kept in moth balls, what would be the result in the event of war?

Last term's Commonwealth trophy was held on the north quarter of the moor, sixty patrols set off from four starting points, heading for the finish at Okement Hill. Obviously each patrol had a slightly varied route, but the average distance to be covered was about eight miles.

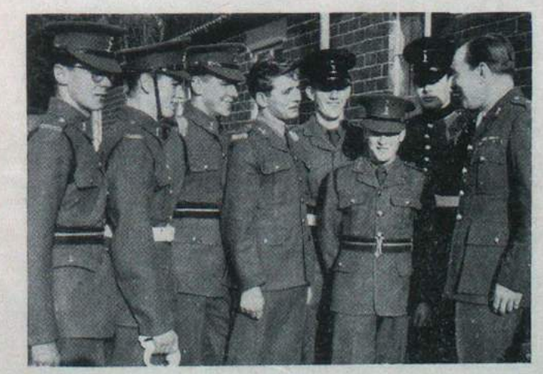
All the usual preparations were made. The weather forecast stated that there was snow on parts of Dartmoor and it was estimated that the course would take from four to five hours. Greatcoats were taken by transport to the finishing point, where a hot meal was to be provided. The last patrol departed from the start point at 2130 hours, snow showers commenced at 2200 hours and gale force winds whipped these into miniature 'blizzards.' It should be noted that these conditions were not forecast by the weather experts.

In case of accident each Patrol carried a sleeping bag, a 'Bivvy' on an Everest Carrier—these it will be seen later were used by the eight who remained on the moor.

The usual Search/Rescue Parties were formed beforehand to look for stragglers at first light. Gradually the weather deteriorated, becoming very severe in the early hours of Friday morning and in consequence several boys decided to bed down for the night. Junior Leader Corporal Lindsay had no choice in the matter when Junior Signalman McPherson collapsed and was unconscious for about 14 hours.

By first light approximately forty boys had not reported in, so search parties were sent out at 0745 hours. Stragglers reported in throughout the day, most of them at points other than the finish point. I arrived back in camp at 1400 hours on the Friday, oblivious of the fact that the eyes of the nation were focussed on developments at Denbury. However, by nightfall eight Junior Leaders in three parties, two of three and one of two, were still missing.

At this stage on the afternoon of Friday, the 8th December, outside help was co-ordinated as follows: Foot and Air Parties linked by radio with Rescue H.Q. at Okement Hill. Even local civilians, stimulated by the wailings of the Press and radio and doubtless odious memories of the "Hounds of the Baskervilles," offered to help in the search. It's an old adage that you always find who your friends are in times of stress, and the local population certainly proved staunch comrades.



Colonel L. H. M. Gregory M.B.E., talking to the Junior Leaders, rescued from Dartmore, two days later

Three hundred Junior Leaders, by this time fully rested, together with a Company of the Devon and Dorsets, parties of the S.A.S. and detachments of 41 Commando were all ready to start at first light on Saturday morning if the initial search by helicopters was not possible due to bad weather.

At approximately 0930 hours the first party was located marching down the River Tavy towards the village of Peter Tavy. Fifteen minutes later the second party was found, two of them still in their sleeping bags. Junior Signalman Thompson, who was suffering slight exposure, was admitted to Okehampton Hospital and retained for two days. The third member of this party, Junior Signalman Parkinson, had left early that morning to fetch help and arrived at Willsworthy Farm on the outskirts of the moor at lunch time..

The remaining party of two was located by a helicopter piloted by W.O.I Mead of the Army Air Corps, who took many risks in dangerously low cloud to search for the missing Junior Leaders, of whom he rescued four.

At 1200 hours all rescue parties were able to stand down. The great search was over and as things were now running smoothly—we only made page two in one of the more notorious Sunday papers. The Press had made heroes of the missing eight Junior Leaders, yet if there were any heroes at all, surely it was the three hundred and fifty odd who completed the course on Friday morning, went to bed, and wondered what all the fuss was about!

SCHOOL OF SIGNALS

Since our last notes appeared, the leaves have fallen and we have had our full share of Catterick weather, although in all fairness, it appears to have been no worse than elsewhere, including the "Deep South."

In October we had a memorable visit from Colonel General Bogdan Orescanin, Deputy Chief of Staff, Yugoslav Army, accompanied by four senior Yugoslav officers and the British Military Attache, Belgrade. The visit was particularly noteworthy since it was undertaken in spite of certain Eastern Bloc opposition and with the primary object of fostering good-will. It is of interest that the School was the only Arms School to be visited by the party during their six days' stay in the U.K.

Also in October, was held the School Autumn Golf Meeting, when some thirty cadre and students spent an enjoyable day in pursuit of the small, and often elusive, white ball. Major Ferguson won the 18-holes Medal Match from Captain Yeoman, whilst Major Ashlin won the "duffers' spoon"!

November started with a big bang, with the customary Guy Fawkes function, held on the evening of Saturday, 4th. Some 200 adults and children attended and did full justice to the hot-dogs, fish-and-chips and hot chocolate served in a marquee during the interval between the firework display and lighting of the bonfire.

Later this month an "A.B.C." conference was held at the School. Catterick sports many signboards, but on this occasion the number increased noticeably. Contrary to general opinion, the reference was to neither a schoolmasters' convention nor "Atomic, Biological and Chemical" warfare, but to American, British and Canadian armies, holding their second meeting on Signal policy. Despite a pressing agenda, the delegates had time to enjoy themselves and Colonel P. D. Smith, M.B.E., C.D., Chief Signals Officer, Canadian Signal Corps, found time to give an interesting lecture to a large party on his recent experiences with U.N. forces in the Congo.

To conclude November, we had a visit from Major-General Moorman, U.S. Signals Corps, C.S.O. SHAPE, which was also the occasion of his talk to the Royal Signals Institution. This is reported in *The Journal*.

The highlight of the Christmas festivities in Headquarters Mess was the ladies' night, on 16th December. By 8 p.m., 125 officers and their wives or lady friends had assembled in the large ante-room, prior to dinner. After a dinner of traditional fare, the diners were joined by nearly 80 further mess members and their ladies who were not lucky enough to draw seats for the dinner table. The Corps Band then led

some lusty carolling and this was followed by dancing, which continued until the early hours. At midnight a very ingenious cabaret created a diversion; this was both topical and amusing; the evening finished with a bacon-and-egg breakfast. This extremely enjoyable occasion was made possible only by the untiring work of the Mess Staff, supported by our hard-working orchestra.

Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess. "Under the N 97, under O 23," and so on. You are wrong, reader, we have not been contaminated by the "Bingo" craze: that was merely the mechanics of an elimination dance at our Christmas Ball, held on 15th December, and which set the pace for all our Christmas festivities.

This traditional event was graced by the presence of the Commandant, Brigadier A. F. McGill, O.B.E., and his lady wife, in company with most of the cadre officers and their ladies, and proved a most enjoyable affair. The evening's proceedings were ably conducted by the very versatile Sergeant K. Duffy, with a section of the Corps Band supplying the music.

On 21st December, the Mess Christmas Draw was held, and what a memorable display of prizes that was. Even in this age, the raising of over £360 towards a Sergeants' Mess Draw would seem highly improbable; such, however, was the feat accomplished by W.O.II P. Singleton and his associates on the committee. One wonders where all the ingenious ideas for money-raising originated; needless to say, a certain amount of gentle persuasion was necessary! Well done, Penny—your draw must have outshone any held in Catterick for many a long year. It's nice to be able to enjoy a drink in peace again though!

On 22nd December, prior to dispersal for the School Christmas break, the kind invitation from the Commandant and Officers to have drinks with them in the Headquarters Mess, was enjoyed by all members of our Mess. Many yarns were spun and "lamps swung," but we are sure we are forgiven! From there it was pleasant to "drift off" to two weeks' heaven-sent leisure.

These are but three of the events held—space doesn't permit a report on all the others, suffice it to say that we had all the traditional "goings-on" and that our stock of Alkaseltzers has now been replenished! Rumour has it that the R.S.M. is "toying" with the idea of living-in again—such was the quality of the members' Christmas dinner. On this note, high praise is due to all the catering staff and to our worthy barman, Mr. "Andy" Andrews, for their tireless efforts during the period.

We now stride into 1962 and take this opportunity of wishing all our readers a happy and prosperous New Year. We will, no doubt, have the pleasure of the company of many of you on courses throughout the year, so we look forward to renewing old acquaintances and welcome new ones.

Our "feature course" in this edition is No. 14 Foreman of Signals' Course, who say:

We hope we shall not be considered facetious if we introduce ourselves as those who hope to be joining the Foreman's Roster this year. The course assembled in November of 1960 at the School and got away to a good start with a drill course under the expert instruction of S.S.M. Summers. After the Christmas break of that year we went into Basics Group, from which some of us have yet to recover. Since this initial shock, we have been through Line, Multichannel and Radio Groups, and now back to Multichannel, where we are enjoying the realms of Radio Relay. Unfortunately, we have lost three of our original 18 members from the course, but hope that they are doing well, wherever they may be. A special welcome is given to our Commonwealth friends on the course; two from Malaya and one from Canada.

In the sporting world, we have made our name in basketball, and we have our representatives in both Regimental and Sergeants' Mess football teams. There also appears to be some interest in fencing; perhaps this is because the sport is becoming popular with the fairer sex.

A mention must be made of Sergeant O'Connor, who is getting married at the beginning of February—we wish him and his bride all the best for their future together.

Our course has been peculiar, compared with previous Part I courses, due to the reorganisation of the Technical and Foreman's Rosters. An extension in time has been granted to provide for this alteration. We are now looking forward to our "outside visits," when those amongst us who are married will be "off the leash" for a few days.

NO 14 FOREMAN OF SIGNALS PART I COURSE

Rear: Sergeants Yow Kim Wah (Federation Signals), Ward J. M., Staff Sergeants Timpson, D. R., Stewart, J.S. (RCCS), Sergeants O'Connor, D. M., Norton, A. G., Nixon, E. D., Nickson, G. H.

Front: Sergeants Chan Siew Yen (Federation Signals), Ellis, R. A., Horton, A. J., Jackson, D. L., Keeton, G., Kirton, J., McKay, R. A.

1st REGIMENT

The notes, received too late for inclusion in the normal way, describe:—

At considerable length, the admirable arrangements by the Regiment of its Squadrons and individual Troops of their entertainment during the Christmas period. The highlights appear to have been the Christmas Draw and Dance in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess and the Christmas Dinner of the Wives' Club.

The Regimental Football XI is in the final of the Morrison Cup, having defeated the 7th Regiment 4—1 and the 13th Regiment 3—2.

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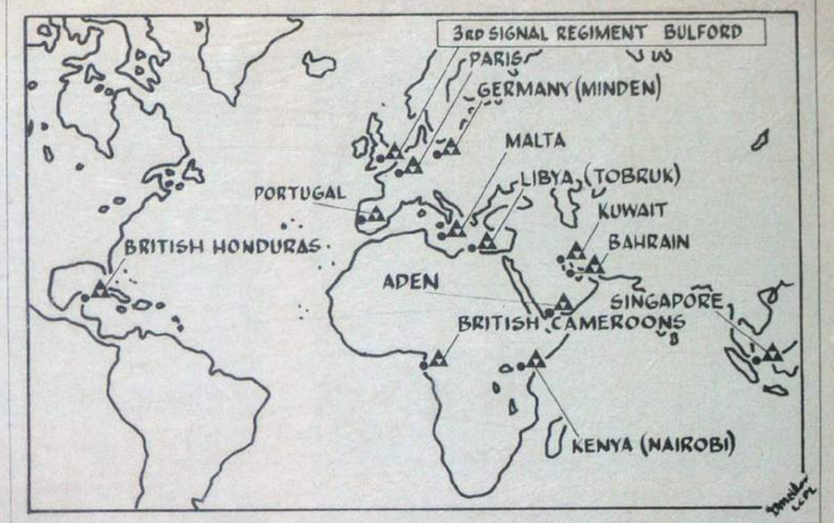

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Aden: Some 60 members of the Regiment passed through Aden on their way to and from Kuwait and Bahrain. Some met again, Lieutenant-Colonel J. D. T. Brett, O.B.E., our ex-C.O., now resident there.

British Cameroons: Two groups forming composite Signal Troops under Captains I. C. Spear and M. W. Sims-Reeve respectively, provided signals for the British Force during the recent elections. Each Troop was there for about nine months. It is reported that there were few, if any, social amenities.

Bahrain: A Signal Centre detachment under Staff Sergeant R. Crampton flew to Bahrain during the early stages of the crisis. It was hot. There were few, if any, social amenities.

British Honduras: A composite Signal Troop flew out in November. It was rumoured that Belize resembled a nuclear target area. Lieutenant M. Marples found himself overnight transformed into Signal Officer 12 Engineers Group; then again, into C.S.O. (self-styled) British Honduras.

Their report, which makes interesting reading, should be seen elsewhere in this, or next month's WIRE. It was hot, smelly and wet. There were no social amenities. The Regiment, does however, offer to teach "the Twist" in its genuine form to attractive blondes between 19 and 22 years of age. Applicants should apply to "Bart," c/o the Officers' Mess.

Germany: Two members travelled to B.A.O.R., the C.O.'s past and present, in order to look round and reserve hotel accommodation. They won't say anything about the social amenities.

Kenya: A small party was detached to 210 Squadron for the Kuwait crisis. They must have made some good friends, for each was presented by the Squadron with a silver tankard inscribed "Kuwait 1961." A generous act much appreciated. Social life must have been good as we have volunteers for a repeat tour.

Kuwait: This crisis saw a motley collection of all trades from the Regiment despatched to the Middle East. Signalman J. T. Ost found himself head cook. He spent much of the time in hospital! Conditions were apparently terrible except for the facilities and entertainments offered by the Europeans of the Kuwait Oil Company. Club, swimming pool, home cooking and even hot baths were offered.

Libya and Malta: Air Support Troop ran the air request links for Exercise "Solinus." They claim that results were excellent. No one else was there, so their claim cannot be disputed.

Paris: A few cipher operators have been in Paris for months. We have offered to relieve them. There has been no reply.

Portugal: Lieutenant-Colonel J. D. T. Brett, O.B.E., visited Portugal in advance of the Regiment for a recce for Exercise "Batalha." "Time spent in reconnaissance is seldom wasted." This was, for the remainder of the Regiment prepared to disappear sharply eastwards from Bulford instead of south.

Singapore: Lieutenant-Colonel J. D. T. Brett, O.B.E., visited Singapore on a liaison visit with 3rd Division staff. Why did he get all the good trips? Perhaps our present C.O., Lieutenant-Colonel T. W. Baynes, M.B.E., hopes it is a Commanding Officer's privilege.

Christmas Festivities: The Regiment enjoyed the usual Christmas dances, dinner, Sergeants' Mess draw (which turned out to be Staff Sergeant J. Pickards Benefit Night), children's party and hangovers. All were relieved when 21st December arrived and we started block leave. For some the block leave ended that day too! The latest 'always on a Friday' flap was on and W.O.I F. W. Taylor and a band of merry(?) men saw the New Year in browning their knees in Aden. We thought of them enviously during the last week of December, when we were shivering in Bulford Camp surrounded by snow and ice and gallons of water from countless burst pipes!

Very New Arrivals: The birth rate continues to flourish, the stork being a most frequent visitor to the Regiment. Congratulations this month to Lieutenant and Mrs. M. Y. Miller, Staff Sergeant F. of S. and Mrs. D. G. Spear, Sergeant and Mrs. R. H. Ruffels and Signalman and Mrs. L. M. G. Cambridge on the births of their sons and to Lance-Corporal and Mrs. J. McLuckie on the birth of their daughter.

Sport: Boxing now takes its place in Regimental sporting activities under the guidance of R.S.M. M. A. Barnes-Murphy. Corporals E. P. E. Swain, A. D. Millar, E. D. Little, R. Rockett, G. Richardson, L. W. Dewhirst and Lance-Corporal T. F. B. McDonald form the team. Although they lost their first competition, it was by a very small margin, and we wish them good luck in the 3 Divisional Individual Championships this month.

Another sporting occasion worth mentioning was the annual Officers versus Warrant Officers and Sergeants football match. Despite Rugby tactics, five Officers and a dog in goal, the Warrant Officers and Sergeants won easily. After all the R.S.M. was the referee!

To all members of the Corps, we send our good wishes for 1962.

Stop Press: All boxers from the Regiment won their fights in the preliminary boxing competition at Figsbury Camp on 10th January, 1962, now for the 23rd/24th.

4th REGIMENT

To all our readers may we offer belated season's greetings and hope they had an enjoyable time during Christmas and will have a happy and prosperous New Year.

Since the last notes quite a lot has happened here in the Fourth, both from the daily work point of view and social life. Recently the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess were hosts to the senior N.C.O.s of the Signal Squadron of the 4th Canadian Brigade. S.S.M. H. J. Guy and his merry band of tomato-juice drinkers, descended upon us just before lunch-time and a "whale of a time" was had by all that evening in the Mess. Once again, feats of strength were practised, in the form of "squaw wresling," etc., and it is noteworthy to mention that we were the victors. S.S.M. Guy assures us that this will not be so when our hospitality is reciprocated sometime during 1962. . . . We wonder!

For quite some time during the evening the Mess was honoured by the visit of Major-General J. V. Allard, C.B.E., D.S.O., E.D., C.D., who, being a Canadian, recounted many amusing incidents, with our guests.

Chronologically speaking, the Christmas period here in the Fourth was a rather hectic one for most of us, and all that can be said is "R.S.M., how on earth did you keep the pace?" On the 19th December the annual Mess dinner was held in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess. The 20th saw us all taking part in a "Giant Tombola and Dance Evening," which was held in the Gymnasium; the proceeds from this being in aid of the Royal Signals Benevolent Fund. A good time was had by everyone (even though the Band did arrive a little late and played a little too fast!). During the afternoon of the 22nd the Gymnasium was once again the scene of entertainment, this time the children's Christmas party. Lieutenant G. H. Cowsill made a wonderful Santa Claus, and I am sure all the parents will agree that Sergeant Harry Bushby, suitably bedecked in a brand new suit of overalls, kept the children well amused. Commencing 20.30 hours the same evening, "Yours truly" was a guest at Oscar Troop Christmas party, held in a very nice and spacious local German guest house. The reception was wonderful, the buffet pleasing and ample, the company marvellous and the entertainment very good indeed. Signalman "Adam" Bratt proved a very congenial M.C., once he had overcome his initial shyness, and his singing in the Troop rendering of "Michael, row the boat" left me assured that the Padre will not have to look very far should any of his choir go down with 'flu! Well done, Lieutenant D. S. Lloyd, Staff Sergeant R. C. Higgins, and in fact all members of Oscar Troop for a very well conducted affair.

The morning of the 27th saw us all back at work and once again caught up in the hectic life one experiences in a Signal Regiment. Many eyebrows were raised in wonder, when men were seen carrying hosepipes on to the Square and with gay abandonment commenced spraying the "Asphalt Jungle" with water. In a very short space of time it was a real ice skating rink. Aha, we thought, we are going to have skating. This was not to be so, when later on vehicles appeared and commenced practising anti-skid procedure. This idea soon was picked up by others, and within an hour we saw Military Police Champs doing "old-fashioned waltzes" out there on the frozen waste. R.S.M. M. Ham and S.S.M. T. Y. S. Templeton were seen huddled together, muttering and scowling, with drill books in their left hands and buckets of anti-freeze, laced with salt, in their right. Poor old Mother Nature certainly received some scathing remarks that day, eh?

From the Sergeants' Mess to all members of the Wives' Club and their husbands, who attended the social evening in the Mess on the night of the 18th December. . . "Who do you think was the prettiest, Miss Burly Chassis, Zsa-Zsa or Gigi?" Secondly, would the person responsible for the hole in Tara's bucket please report to R.Q.M.S. (Barracks) to sign the usual A.F. P.1956!

In a more serious mood, may we say how glad we were to see yet another young man take the plunge by enlisting in the Regular Army, here in the Fourth. This time it was Stuart Harrison, son of W.O.II G. Harrison, of "M" Troop. Stuart was born at Levenshulme in Manchester and since then has "soldiered" in U.K., Singapore and Germany. On the 9th January he reports to the Army Apprentices School, Harrogate, and we wish him all the very best in his future career. He is the second boy to be attested by our Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel P. E. Hutchins, and we have high hopes of others coming forward.

The Attestation of Stuart Harrison
Left to right: Lieutenant-Colonel Hutchins, Royal Signals, W.O.II G. Harrison, Stuart Harrison

7th REGIMENT

The past two months have, despite the close of the exercise season, been as busy as ever. Much of the effort being necessitated by the handing over of the Regiment by Lieutenant-Colonel P. F. Pentreath, M.B.E., to Lieutenant-Colonel F. L. Clarkson, M.B.E., with the normal audits, etc., which accompany such occasions.

The departure of Lieutenant-Colonel P. F. Pentreath was celebrated, if I may be permitted to use the term, in what members of the Sergeants' Mess feel may truthfully be described as a memorable occasion. An excellent dinner was followed by the Commanding Officer being placed on trial for permitting his dog to commit a most foul act on the lawn of the Mess. Of a number of damning testimonies, perhaps the most notable was that given by "Digger," not an Australian attached, but a dog of mess status. The defendant was, of course, found guilty and suitable punishment awarded.

The 4th Battalion De Troopes De Transmission. Regimental Insignia being presented to R.S.M. Keay by R.S.M. Paturiaux

Replicia of 14 Pr Cable Drum being presented to Lieutenant-Colonel P. F. Pentreath, M.B.E., by R.S.M. E. H. W. Keay

Guests of the Mess that evening included R.S.M. Paturiaux of the 4me Bataillon De Troupes De Transmission, Belgian Army, with whose Battalion this Regiment is affiliated. Their role to the Belgian 1st Corps is the same as our own to the 1st (BR) Corps, so we have much in common; unfortunately, "much" does not include Flemish or French, but does, luckily, include English, thanks to our guests' efforts.

The advent of autumn brought a welcome break for the "Legion of Grasscutters," who stood, literally, poised for opportunities between rainy spells and exercises. It did, however, mean that their armament was changed for "brooms, bass, with handles," until the last leaf fell. So far, our winter has been kind, and the necessity of snow-clearing has not arisen. Doubtless, our readers in U.K. will consider us fortunate.

The usual inspecting teams have plagued the Regiment, and since every unit must (we sincerely trust) be familiar with them, this is the extent of comment intended. The lack of decapitations oft threatened with such visitations, proves we must have survived.

The Christmas festivities included many of the hardy annuals. There is no doubt, thanks to the untiring efforts of W.O.II R. H. Pearce, A.C.C., and staff, that the men of the Regiment who sat down for Christmas dinner, will look back upon it as a meal worthy of much more expensive surroundings. The children's party was a great success again, thanks to W.O.II R. H. Pearce, and also financially, to the many sessions of tombola, organised by R.S.M. E. H. W. Keay, which provided the funds.

The Sergeants' Mess draw was another event that, thankfully, as far as the committee was concerned, went off well, and those present were treated to the unusual spectacle of a fashion show (mannequins with accent on the man) and a cookery demonstration. The latter was most ably carried out by Staff Sergeant R. E. Knight, assisted by R.S.M. E. H. W. Keay and Staff Sergeant C. H. Williams. Between them they convinced witnesses that there could not possibly be any connection between their efforts and those required by W.O.II R. H. Pearce, previously mentioned.

In the field of sport, we can say we are trying hard, although soccer results have been rather disappointing. We are in the finals of the Morrison Cup rugby. Boxing is still in doubt, since we have yet to see our team in action, and hockey is quite satisfactory. We have managed to lose, albeit well, to a local German team at basketball, and recently have started the game of shinty, which is a form of indoor hockey. The last game was played with a local German team. At .22 shooting we have been doing extremely well in the various leagues and we have high hopes.

The Regiment, as quite a large number of readers will know, is the unfortunate type that only "sparks" during exercises, and because finance necessarily dictates the frequency, scope and duration of these bursts of activity, we find ourselves barracks-bound, carrying out mundane tasks which do little to create enthusiasm. It is not surprising, therefore, that many outside interests arise, and of late we have had a .22 shoot against the local Herford club, which we narrowly lost, and, of course, the two already-mentioned events of basketball and shinty. Not very long ago the camp barber spurred the Sergeants' Mess into producing an "over thirty" soccer team (the only section of the Unit where sufficient qualify) to combat a local team. One of their members was 53, so perhaps we should have done better than lose 6—4, but the replay provided a victory of 5—3, and now we await the decider. During the second match it was rather touching to see both teams stand in silence for the German fallen, for the game was played on Germany's Armistice Day. As a mater of interest, some 184 years' service was represented by the Mess team. Is this a record?

R.S.M. Greenleaves. Alias "Staff Sergeant Knight" giving his evidence and Q.C. Jeffries, Alias W.O.I. Loudoun

It is hoped to arrange a shooting match with a local police team, and we have a very large number of purely social interests outside, as doubtless many of the younger members of the Regiment will affirm. Roaming farther afield, and at this time of the year there is much ski-ing being organised, and it is possible to learn this most exciting of sports very cheaply, and you might, if lucky, manage to do so at the expense of the public.

One's thoughts must always be in the future, and at this time of year, the event uppermost in mind is summer camp. Already some fair-sized wedges are being driven into changing O.C. 4's selection of location from that which his Squadron had last year to something nearer the sea. Of course we mean the Baltic, and not the Mediterranean—more's the pity.

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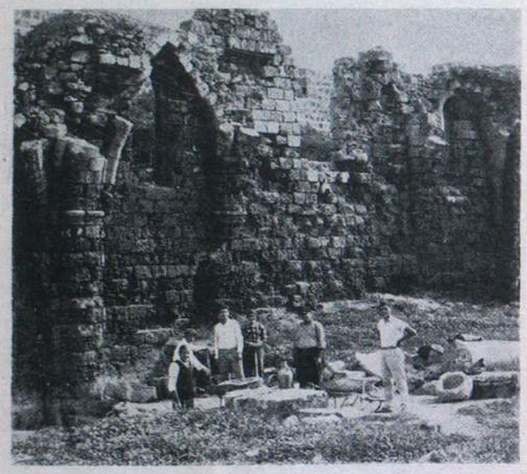
9th REGIMENT

As we promised you in the December WIRE our reappearance in print is not just a flash in the pan but an effort to remind all readers that the space between eight and ten is very nicely filled by nine.

The news this month will have great interest to all past members of the Regiment who have lived in the various forms of temporary accommodation which the Regiment has successfully disposed of in the last few years. Work on the new buildings continues apace; nobody is quite sure of the size of the pace but as the photograph shows all goes well and many people are looking forward to the move. Squadron Sergeant Majors have been seen eagerly contemplating the floor area to be polished.



LEGEND. "Work on the new buildings continues." See Footnote.

Other parts of the programme have overtaken the living accommodation and the Guard Room is nearly complete. However, the prospect of having not one, but two guard rooms in the unit, has not been greeted with universal enthusiasm.

LEGEND. "The Guard Room is nearly ready." See Footnote.

On that safe note we will end this month's notes and hand the pen to next month's contributor.

FOOTNOTE. For the more educated readers, we would add that the pictures are firstly, excavation by the 16th century wall of Famagusta, and secondly, of the tomb of St. Catherine.

Craftsman Smith (13) duels with a lady competitor from Rhine Workshops 'Kart Club'

10th REGIMENT

The emphasis has been on Christmas activities. The children's party was held on Thursday, 21st December, and to hear the noise one would have thought that there were more children than men on the strength of the Regiment. Regardless, the wives were left to cope, while husbands went about their lawful business—it's amazing the urgent jobs one finds to do on a day like that. Compliments must go to NAAFI on the tea and to the Sergeants' Mess who put so much time in preparing for the occasion. It is the first time that Father Christmas has been drawn in his carriage to his disembarkation point by Linemen winding furiously on a drum barrow.

Apart from the usual Mess entertainments a number of social functions were organised. One Squadron held two successful dances in the gymnasium—our P.T.I., Sergeant G. S. Edwards, is still muttering under his breath! and 2 Squadron, they tell me, really went to town in their Club on the night of their dance.

The Commanding Officer decreed that the Men's Dining Room must be cheered up both for Christmas and for the long term. So the Messing Officer, Captain E. P. Hughes, and O.C. 2 Squadron, Major C. McDevitt, got together, and with the aid of Lance-Corporal K. Davies as Artist-in-Chief and Second-Lieutenant J. J. H. Alexander as Works Manager, the Dining Room was transformed by Christmas Day into a restaurant, bright with flowers, gay with striped canopies and splendidly decorated by a series of most professional murals.

All ranks, particularly of 2 Squadron, are to be congratulated for the spirit in which this most creditable piece of work was carried out in such quick time—with a special word of praise for Corporal H. Allison and his floral arrangers!

The Christmas draw was held amid this gay profusion and in a happy atmosphere of Tivoli beer and cigarette smoke. Loud, rude cries greeted the first name out of the drum—W.O.I R. D. Laing, our R.S.M.—some thought that S.S.M. E. M. Short was in for another run of "good luck."

During the past six weeks the troops have been battling for the honour of winning the Inter-Troop Soccer League. The final was to have been played on Boxing Day as a conclusion to the Christmas programme, but the weather played its hand and the match was postponed due to the frozen ground. New Year's Day, however, saw the final between "K" Troop, 1 Squadron, and R.H.Q. Troop H.Q. Squadron when "K" Troop carried off the cup with a resounding 7—2 victory. Signalman T. Gillespie proved his worth yet again by scoring four of the goals.

The hockey team were narrowly defeated in both the Morrison and the Army Cup but for all this the sport has been first class and the team has gained a reputation for very fair play. It is worth noting that Lieutenant (Q.M.) S. Barnes was selected to umpire the R.A.F. Germany v. B.A.O.R. match on 13th December.

Go-Karting is in the news again with the 'Bears' entertaining about forty contestants from Units in B.A.O.R. on the Barrack Square. On 2nd December amid hail, sleet, gale and rain and under the directorship of the "Meisterfahrer," Captain J. A. Billing, a fine afternoon's programme of racing was presented. With many anxious incidents; as karts left the tracks, skidding on the wet surface, and fast lap times; the organiser and officials had few dull moments. The events ended with a thrilling Grand Prix, the first prize of which was a fine silver fruit dish presented by the Krefeld Branch of the ADAC.

10th & 16th Regiments

Corporals Mess Outing and Party for the Children of St. Michael Orphanage, Hülls

Time spent in preparation is never wasted. When the Junior N.C.O.s of 10th and 16th Regiment saw the surprise, joy and thanks glowing in the eyes of the children of St. Michael's Orphanage when Father Christmas gave them their presents, they knew their weeks of work had not been in vain.

On Saturday, 16th December, 1961, the traditional day in Germany for children's Christmas parties, the Corporals of the 10th and 16th Regiments arranged a very ambitious day for the children of the local orphanage. Organised by Corporal R. W. Adey, the day began with a grand tour by bus to Düsseldorf and Köln. Many hours of work had been spent in decorating the buses with Christmas trimmings, fixed to the luggage racks. At 12.00 hours the buses set off with 50 very excited children in the tender care of the wives of the N.C.O.s.

First stop was Düsseldorf Airport, where B.E.A. drove the guests around their aircraft in a special coach, then on to Benrath. After a walk around the castle grounds the journey continued to Köln.

A visit to the Cathedral was the main attraction of the trip and then they drove back to Zons where, in the Hotel "Zum Fährmann" festive decorated tables awaited them and a very nice tea.

The buses arrived back in Hüls early in the evening and here the N.C.O.s had prepared a further surprise for the children. On a horse-drawn float, decorated by coloured fairy lights, Father Christmas entered the orphanage, greeted by the strains of happy singing. A visit to the bedrooms of the younger children ensured that those who did not take part in the journey were not forgotten, and, of course, they were thrilled to receive presents from Father Christmas. Little drums and mouth organs, stuffed animals, balls, cars, big and small dolls, together with chocolate, sweets, fruit and nuts were presented to them. Television cameras and B.F.N. recorded the scenes in the floodlit rooms. The pleasure for the N.C.O.s was the happy faces of the children.

When Father Christmas arrived in the day-room of the orphanage he was greeted by flute-playing and Christmas carols. More presents were distributed amid cries of joy and excitement. The Sisters of the orphanage were not forgotten, and they received a nice present for their personal use. The evening finished with more traditional Christmas carols.

The appreciation of the Corporals' efforts did not finish there. Since that memorable day, they have received many charming letters from the children of the orphanage thanking them for their kindness, as this one clearly illustrates:

To the Soldiers of the English Garrison,

On behalf of all boys of the Hülser Orphanage, I would like to thank you for the wonderful day and for the Christmas party later on. It was a great adventure and pleasure for us.

We wish you best regards and a happy Christmas.

The boys of the St. Michaelstift.

Corporals W. Loveridge, B. Scattergood, A. E. Preston, A. Leary and Lance Corporal Weldon with the children prior to departure

11th REGIMENT

These notes are being recorded at the end of that exhausting series of festivities sparked off by Santa Claus, prolonged by the Scots and extended by indestructable types until Twelfth Night. They may be cautious, because we Army types all know the subject matter for December, and in any case, it would be dangerous to record incidents related to the festivities, be they never so entertaining.

Christmas dinner was served in the traditional manner to over 400 men, on 21st December. Service was slick and worthy of note, for the meal was served in 40 minutes.

A most pleasant and unusual surprise for all of us occurred when our Fijian Contingent began to sing. Incredibly, they sang carols as beautifully as a trained choir. Audience response was 100 per cent. They finished by making a close chain and performing a slow-rhythm dance round the hall to the tune of a Fijian song.

Another dinner was served on Christmas Day to those who had to stay behind and hold the fort. The School of Signals Cadre joined us and the Seychellois were able to invite their friends over from 8th Regiment.

The Officers' Mess held a most successful ladies' night just before Christmas. There was, however, a sad note of farewell, Second-Lieutenant C. M. Darby was leaving us to join a "Q" Course at the School of Signals, and Major (Retd.) C. S. R. White had decided to leave the Civil Service.

"Blanco" White, as stated in our December notes, was a Gunner, but he rapidly acquired a vast knowledge of "Signal Procedure." He took a personal interest in all contacts he made whilst controlling the Officers' Wing, and no doubt many officers were amused and relieved by the somewhat less formal wording of his letters. Indeed, this seemed to encourage the passing of personal messages and "Blanco" did much to foster the spirit of goodwill by acting as messenger.

The Officers' Mess members certainly miss this genial menace now he has gone.

He has decided to live in Chester and has taken up civilian employment in that area. The irrepressible "Blanco" carries on working when many would have retired years ago. Good luck, "Blanco"! be careful with that car and your candid colour camera!

There were more "goodbyes" on 12th January, Lieutenant-Colonel (Q.M.) W. B. Edwards and Major R. Carlyon were dined out. Colonel Edwards has been with Brigade H.Q. for over three years, where his major (colossal!) task has been to sort out A.F.s G 1198. His vast experience with stores and administrative work should make his self-imposed task of "Mine Host" comparatively easy. Many have threatened to visit him and Mrs. Edwards when they retire to "The King's Arms," Redmire, and we sincerely hope that by so doing, we will retain their friendship.

Major Carlyon retired on 15th January. We will miss his benign presence, especially as P.M.C., and most certainly will we miss the touch of genius Mrs. Carlyon always produced whenever the Mess needed floral decoration.

Good luck to you all.

The Officers' Mess also entertained Lieutenant-Colonel J. L. Judd, M.B.E., our Director of Music, who is retiring next month. May we join all members of the Corps, past and present, who will doubtless wish him and his family a very happy future.

Having known Colonel Judd ever since he joined the Corps, the writer would like to record that delving into book-shops for old volumes on military music, visiting Cathedrals and touring the countryside will always appeal.

The most successful calamity of the season happened when the Wives' Club organised a Christmas shopping spree to Leeds—you should have heard the husbands!

A Nativity Play was performed at St. Martin's Church, the adopted Church of the Corps, and a most unexpected company of goodly men, the Commanding Officer, with Major Jordan, Second-Lieutenants Barnett and Barker, together with Captain Topple of H.Q., Training Brigade, played very convincingly the parts of Joseph, a rich Jew, a wise king, and two shepherds, respectively. The families also took a major part, with Deborah Jordan as Mary, Mrs. Brooks and Jean Brooks as poor women and water carriers.

Our December notes caused some comment because we had omitted mention of the Quartermaster's department. Some even thought we'd forgotten it! Month after month, year after year—"Sign here," "Check this," "Board of Survey," "Ain't got none," "Who's fiddling?"—how could we forget?

The original notes should now be quoted, followed by a write-up more worthy of our much-appreciated "Q" side.

Quote: "Quartermaster—the magnificent figure of Major (Q.M.) W. F. G. Hoskings rules an empire which, judged by the quantity and variety of stores, clothing and props, with a small but diligent crew of technicians, resembles a Hollywood epic film set—including the Director's luxurious office with Starlets in attendance" *Unquote.*

The Q.M. Department of this Unit is unusual because of the vast turnover in kit and equipment. Initial issues, tropical kit, combat clothing, de-kit and re-kit and arrival, storage and despatch of M.F.O. call for planning, operating and co-operation of a high order.

In addition, it is the policy of the Depot to issue No. 2 Dress to all recruits, and those on Home Postings, before they leave the Unit. There are forty-seven sizes on issue, even so, the tailor is always very busy on final fittings to achieve perfection.

The Barracks side is also fast-moving, as may be imagined.

R.Q.M.S. L. Irving and J. E. Hutchinson are at the head of these departments, respectively. The cry of "Ain't got none" is never heard, for which this Unit and others are indeed very thankful.

Alas! Many of the Military Staff are due for a change soon. Good luck to them all and to their successors.

Major Hoskings is going to the Gurkha Signal Regiment and H.Q., Gurkha Signals, in August. A keen, and sometimes skilful cricketer, the Quartermaster has captained many a Unit team to victory. The climate of Malaya should prove more conducive to his off-duty pursuits than that of Yorkshire.

General Notes

Congratulations and farewell to R.S.M. E. R. Wall, who goes to 19th Regiment on commissioning as Quartermaster.

We welcome R.S.M. M. Hamm from 4th Regiment, who is to take over the somewhat exacting and ever-varied duties of a Depot R.S.M.

A welcome also, to Staff Sergeant T. J. Cushen, who has joined the Courses Wing as Drill Instructor for the Staff Sergeants and Junior N.C.O.s' courses. He also came from 4th Regiment.—Our condolences to 4th Regiment.

The Unit basketball team, under the guidance of Second-Lieutenant Barker has reached the semi-final of the Northern Command Cup, and Captain Lucey's 1st XI soccer team is running second in the District League.

Twenty-eight Apprentices from the Army Apprentices' School, Harrogate, arrived in 2 Squadron for drafting this month.

We were very pleased to see the following W.O.s and N.C.O.s on their way through:

W.O.IIs N. Crossley and J. Druggan; Staff Sergeant D. W. Gunstone, to B.A.O.R; Staff Sergeant B. Huxley-Duggan, to Cyprus; and Staff Sergeant J. May, to 1 K.A.R. Signal Squadron.

The season of goodwill produced a variety of headaches, some expected, some not. Of the latter, a particularly painful one was caused by belated official mail. There was considerable movement of troops, but correspondence and documents relating thereto were adrift for days. Of course, this mail began to arrive when most of the staff were on holiday.

Many will remember that some years ago, when difficulties arose over clearing Signal packages by military means, one heard the cry "Post it." Beware the cry! An appointed courier within the draft is far more satisfactory.

Attention please, sub-units and troops attached to other Arms. Please complete release documentation before you disband or move to another theatre.

"A 'Phantom' H.Q. has no conscience,
Its rear party keeps no watch"!

Some units—please keep us informed of postings which do not follow routine procedure.

There has been a re-shuffle of appointments within the Unit and are published for the benefit of all who have dealings with the departments concerned.

Major O. B. G. Shoubridge (the Second-in-Command) is now also in charge of the Officers' Wing, vice Major (Retd.) C. S. R. White, until he retires in May and we have a replacement Second-in-Command.

Captain J. Prescott ex-"Movements," 2 Squadron, has taken over command of H.Q. Squadron, vice Major R. Carlyon.

Captain J. Stockhill, ex-3 Squadron (Releases) has taken over "Movements" 2 Squadron.

13th REGIMENT

The annual Administrative Inspections, both of the Regiment as a whole, and of our detached No. 2 Squadron, which have loomed ever larger during the past few weeks, have come and gone, and we have again emerged the wiser, but comparatively unscathed.

A pleasant occasion, at the end of November, was the welcome arrival of a 12-seater coach, presented to the Regiment by the Nuffield Trust, which will fill a long-felt want in the Regiment. We are indeed grateful for the generosity of the Trust, and are delighted to hear that its illustrious founder, Lord Nuffield, is making a good recovery, after his recent illness.

A less happy event was the departure of Captain Brian Driskell, whose three hardworking years in the Adjutantal chair have been rewarded with a good posting to the Staff of H.Q., 1 Division. No-one could have served the Regiment better, and he takes with him the sincere good wishes of all ranks.

We hope his successor, Captain Roy Ward, will have an equally successful tour in the Regiment.

Officers' Mess. The Christmas period in any Regiment being as congested as it is, the Officers' Mess took the precaution of holding the, by now traditional, Ladies' Night at the end of November, and a most enjoyable evening it proved to be.

Sergeants' Mess. A Games Night against the Officers' Mess was a great success and was won, very much against the odds, by the Officers. Aspersions as to the mis-spent youth of various officers reached their height when the officers also won the final boat-race—due entirely to the efforts of our Australian, Major Alan Macdonald, whose expert and effortless swallow, raised gasps of admiration and much talk of the effects of restricted drinking hours in Australia on the drinking habits of the inhabitants.

The Mercury Theatre Group. The Theatre Club, a thriving organisation, under the direction of our civilian colleague, Jim Taylor, provided excellent entertainment in their latest production, which took the form of a double venture, in that two producers and two casts presented Rattigan's "Browning Version" and the first act of "Reluctant Heroes."

The result was a well-balanced and thoroughly entertaining evening which reflected great credit on all concerned. It is difficult to single out individual members of the cast for special mention, but possibly Staff Sergeant Lamb deserves that honour for a really excellent performance as the dedicated, but unappreciated, schoolmaster in the former play.

The next production of the Theatre Group is eagerly awaited.

The Festive Season. The annual endurance marathon of Christmas and New Year activities is now but a memory—but what a pleasant memory it is of the many thoroughly enjoyable social occasions of all kinds, which kept all ranks of the Regiment and our families in the best of festive spirits throughout the Christmas period. Much of the activity centred on the well-decorated gymnasium, which was almost unrecognisable after the imaginative efforts of S.S.M Jones and Sergeant Moffatt, and was the scene of a great deal of merry-making with, perhaps, the highlights being the ever-popular Sergeants' Mess draw, the Corporals' dance and the all ranks' dance.

However, the stark truth of the old saying that all good things come to an end was brought home—at least to the under-35s—one cold morning, with the reversion of the gymnasium to its normal workmanlike state when they found themselves working off any festive excesses on the assorted hazards and obstacles that make up P.T. circuit training—happily, they all seem to have survived.

Sport.—Although most major sports took a well-earned mid-season break over the Christmas period, there has been a fair amount of sporting activity—the recent very cold spell provided excellent ice-skating conditions, and the P.R.I. skates were in great demand with Signalman Cater, a former ice-hockey player, really coming into his own.

Rugby.—For the fourth year in succession, we are delighted to report that the Regiment has won the Rhine Area Cup, beating a Sapper Regiment 21—0 in a hard-fought final. This victory earned the Regiment a place in the semi-final of the B.A.O.R. Cup, which involved a trip to Berlin to meet the 1st Bn. The Welch Regiment, a very good side, which proved too strong for us and, after a hard, exciting match, beat us by 18—3. Far from being dismayed, the team learned a great deal from playing a team of this calibre, who may well become Army Cup winners this season.

We have reached the final of the Morrison Cup competition and, despite the loss of Second-Lieutenant "Mike" Armstrong and several other stalwarts, the team is hopeful that 7th Regiment will not prove to be too hard a nut to crack in the final.

* * *

Soccer.—After only moderate success in league matches, the 1st team has come into its own in cup competitions and progress has been encouraging.

In the first round of the Army Cup, after an almost incredible 6—6 draw against 101 Provost Company, the replay saw the team at their very best in a resounding 14—1 win, Walliker scoring six and Wood five goals. In the second round the Regiment beat 17 Rear Vehicle Depot by 4—2 after a hard-fought game. Much of the credit must go to the able captaincy of O'Connor and to the seemingly tireless Suter and Coxon, at inside-forward, and, of course, to marksman Walliker, who scored all four goals—long may he maintain this form!

In the 3rd round Army Cup match against 28th Regiment, after a disappointing display, we lost by 2 goals to 1, and we now look to 28th to keep the Corps flag flying in the competition.

In the Morrison Cup, good wins over 21st and 10th Regiments were made possible largely through the efforts of Lloyd, in goal, and Glenham and Maxwell at full-back. This brought us into the semi-final, with 1st Regiment as our opponents, and our exit from the competition, as we lost an exciting match by 3 goals to 2.

* * *

Hockey.—The half-way stage of the winter hockey season sees the Regimental team with only one defeat in 13 cup and league matches and playing well.

In the Rhine Area League, all seven matches played have been won with a goal average of 22—5. Our chief scorers have been the brothers Hamilton and Lance-Corporal Hart. Others in good form have been Lieutenant Best, Sergeant Bray and Lance-Corporal Hives.

We are now in the semi-final of the Morrison Cup, having gained a particularly satisfying win, in the second round, by 4—1 over 16th Regiment, who earlier inflicted our one defeat upon us. Our semi-final opponents will be 21st Regiment.

As little is normally heard of umpires, we would like to record our appreciation of the work of Major Herberts in that field. He is a Class I umpire and has now reached the highest possible heights as a result of a recent civilian course.

* * *

Squash Rackets.—This year has seen a welcome surge of interest in squash in the Regiment, and this reached a fitting climax last month, when Lance-Corporal Hill showed excellent form in becoming the B.A.O.R. Individual Squash Champion.

He has since toured the U.K. with the B.A.O.R. team and also reached the third round of the Army Championships, an extremely good effort.

16th REGIMENT

The account of the Regimental happenings was unfortunately delayed in the post and arrived too late for inclusion in full.

Mention is made of the Corporals' Mess Party for the young orphans of Huls, an account of which appears on page 45.

The Regimental Boxing Team successfully defeated the 21st Regiment in the first round of the Morrison Cup and met 28th Regiment during January.

● **Have you placed a standing order for a copy of "The Wire"?**

Why not do so now?

18th REGIMENT

H.Q. Squadron. Christmas has arrived once more. The rain is heavy and frequent, but it cools the island down and gives a sort of atmosphere to the Christmas festivities which are now in full swing. The Junior Ranks' Club have had their dance. The Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess have had their draw and are now looking forward to the Christmas dinner and dance on the 23rd December, 1961.

The children (God bless them) are having their party on the 22nd December. This is divided into two age groups, the under 12 years and the over 12 years. The "young uns" are having the normal jam tart type of party but the teenagers are having a much more sophisticated affair with their ham sandwiches, cakes and coca colas. There will be, of course, a string quartet in attendance to dispense the latest rock and roll. I am sure a good time will be had by all, including the young bloods of the Sergeants' Mess who have been requested "to get the party going."

Our last batch of "Jungle Jims" have returned from camp at Mersing, two days earlier than expected. They have been washed out by days of continuous torrential rain and were glad to be home.

1 Squadron. The Squadron has at last received some reinforcements and we welcome Captain Costello our new Second-in-Command and Staff Sergeants Souter, Millington and Edgar. We hope their tour in the Squadron will be a happy one. Major Bridle, our C.D.S.O., will shortly be departing for U.K. on posting to 3rd Regiment, we wish both him and his wife all the best and every happiness in the future.

We have now finished our annual camp and have some brown and healthy looking bodies around the Squadron, unfortunately, the monsoons broke before the last camp had finished, and some men are claiming to have developed webbed feet.

The new Signal Centre is nearing completion in the COMCAN building. We shall then have the TRC and Signal Centre under one roof. This should increase efficiency and also prove an interesting experiment.

At the time of going to Press we are happily engaged in preparations for Christmas, the big event being the Squadron Children's party on 21st December. We hope there will not be too many sick children to be handed back to furious Mums afterwards.

A full report of our Christmas activities will be given next month, provided that our scribe has recovered by that time.

2 Squadron. During the past two months the following Officer appointments have been handed/taken over within 2 Squadran:

O.C., Major W. Batty vice Major C. De Lyle-Turner.
Major (T.O.T.) G. A. Stanley vice Major (T.O.T.) T. Bennett.
O.C. U.G. Troop, Captain J. R. Garratt vice Captain J. G. Chitty.
O.C. T.E. Troop, Captain (T.O.T.) R. Dore vice Captain (T.O.T.) R. A. Dolbear.

It would appear therefore that we would now be in the "new broom sweeps clean era." In fact this is not so, as our Replacement Officers appear to be "old brooms that know the corners."

The Squadron—indeed the Regiment is at this very moment in the throes of an Internal Security Exercise. It would appear that (according to 248 Gurkha Squadron's November notes) we are wasting our time—or did the Gurkhas forget to mention "Steam Radio?" This Squadron's main responsibility during a disturbance on the island is to look after its line communications.

The present exercise has convinced us that warning should come before alarm and not vice versa! Providence allowed the O.C. to be armed with an Indian club, and our civilian clad S.S.M. to appropriate a Corporal's jacket—thus the gates were held.

There is a rumour that Line Maint Troop are going to issue all Linemen engaged on indoor installations with carpet slippers, or employ only muslim linemen. "Monsoons cause dirty boots!"

Congratulations go out to Lance-Corporal Drummond of G H.Q. Troop and Mrs. Drummond (previously Miss Silvia Joan Warson of 4 Independent Company W.R.A.C.) who were married on 2nd December, 1961, at St. George's Church, Tanglin, Singapore, and to Lance-Corporal and Mrs. Saunders on the birth of their son at B.M.H. Singapore on 20th November, 1961.

24th REGIMENT

During the past few months our Regimental activities have been many and varied, ranging through Administrative Inspection in October, participation in the B.A.M.A. rally, provision of long range wireless communications and officials for the same rally, helping out the School of Signals with wireless detachments for their Majors' course and, of course, normal training.

This month we are scheduled to conduct our first one week's M.T. course for Young Officers, and later in the year we will be running another pilot course, this time for Chief Clerks. Since September we have adjusted all our basic training to the new trades, and upgrading courses have had to be amended to include conversion to the new trades where appropriate.

As far as sport is concerned, a useful rugger team has won all of the matches except in the Army Cup round against the King's Own Royal Border Regiment at a score 3-6. Likewise, the hockey team has done well, only losing by 1-0 to the School of Signals, who are able to put a team on the field containing nine of the Catterick Services team. We were unfortunately defeated by the 4/7 Dragoon Guards in the first round of the Northern Command boxing, but this does not prevent us offering our most sincere congratulations to 8th Regiment on their success against the same team. One of the more lighthearted sporting fixtures was the Officers v. Sergeants hockey match, played on a full size rugger pitch in thick mud.

Christmas festivities followed a conventional pattern, including the Regimental children's party and annual Sergeants' Mess dance and draw. The Regiment broke up for 10 days from 22nd December, so therefore we substituted an all ranks' dance on 20th December for the usual Christmas dinner on the last working day. We successfully cut down the essential duties over the holiday period to two duty parties of 30 men, the first on duty from 22nd to 28th December, and the second from the 28th December to the 2nd January; thus by far the majority of the Regiment managed to have both Christmas and New Year at home. Officers and Sergeants resident in Catterick far outnumbered the 30 men who sat down to the traditional Christmas dinner on the 25th December.

From the vast number of cadre who are leaving or who have left the Regiment and to whom we wish all the best in their new Units, may we single out three "Old and Bold" who are retiring—we hope that R.Q.M.S. Davy, S.S.M. Tinto and Staff Sergeant Knowles will quickly adjust themselves to civilian life and make a great success of whatever they go in for.

Of the various out of working hours' activities we pride ourselves on our Hobbies' Club, the following write-up and photograph shows something of what the Club achieves.

Hobbies Club

After approximately three months of operation, we are now happy to state that our Hobbies Club is running on extremely satisfactory lines. Formed as a means of providing entertainment and diversion to all ranks outside working hours, its popularity increased steadily as the evenings became darker and colder.

We provide facilities for carpentry, photography and amateur radio. More recently the activities of the Club have been increased by the addition of the Regimental table tennis enthusiasts, under Lieutenant Needham, and one or two furtive characters who are apparently building a "special."

In the carpenters' shop canoes and coffee tables peel off the assembly line at a fantastic rate, and immediately before Christmas presents were the rage—one could not have moved without falling over toy forts and rocking horses!

The attached photograph, which features Lance-Corporal Brownjohn and Major Fordyce's son building canoes, was developed and printed by one of our photographic enthusiasts. A Unit dark room makes life much easier and cheaper for the amateur photographer. After spending a great deal of money, Lieutenant Thompson has now announced that he is fully equipped for everything and who knows — we may get a look inside there some day.

The "Ham" Club is a new innovation and Sergeant Tanner aroused admiration and respect by casually raising Canada on a C11 five minutes after going into operation for the first time.

The whole is benignly presided over by Lance-Corporal Brownjohn, who is proving a tower of strength. Should you require anything—he's got it! How he manages to keep the place clean and tidy, and keeps his tools and equipment up to scratch, is a mystery.

The latest enterprise is a 14-foot caravan. We have bought the chassis and are already working on the superstructure. We anticipate our first caravan holiday at Easter, 1962.

30th REGIMENT

Regimental Items. To lose three Officers from strength in a period of three weeks is a blow, but the Regiment extends its very best wishes to Lieutenant-Colonel A. J. Jackson, now on the staff of R.M.C.S. at Shrivenham, Captain W. Ellis and Second-Lieutenant R. W. Ferrand, all of whom left the Regiment late last year. Similarly, good wishes are extended to Sergeant S. I. H. Lane, M.M., who retired from the Service in December and Staff Sergeant (Foreman of Signals) R. Chidley.

The Regiment tries always to include in its notes photographs of more than parochial interest. This is not always possible, but whatever the content the technical standard is always very good. These photographs—and many taken for THE WIRE but not published—are the work of Lieutenant (T.O.T.) J. Potts and W.O.II (Foreman of Signals) J. Daw, B.E.M. Their efforts are appreciated.

Expedition to Tristan de Cunha. In the fascinating way that something well out of the ordinary often happens to members of the Corps, Staff Sergeant R. C. Shaw and Corporal T. J. McCormack of 1 Squadron have been given the task of accompanying the Royal Society's expedition to Tristan da Cunha. Their main role is to provide rear link communication to neighbouring Gough Island, which lies 250 miles south, and to Cape Town some 1,500 miles away.

As is well known to followers of the Tristan story, the Royal Society has mounted this expedition with the principled aims of alleviating the suffering of the remaining animal life and carrying out scientific studies of the volcanic activity. The complete party of twelve, led by Dr. Ian Gass, of Leeds University, is made up from eight scientists, two Tristan da Cunhans as guides and the radio operators. They leave for Cape Town in the middle of January and will be taken to Tristan by the South African frigate *Transvaal*. The expedition is due to stay for two months and will be under canvas. Man-pack radio sets have been taken to provide local communications while the rear link will use the No. 76 set initially and, later, SR C11/R210.

The story of the missing C11/R210 is a sickening one. Getting the equipment from Donnington was no mean feat by Sergeant J. H. Gustus and Corporal J. McDonald, who had a gruelling sixteen hour return journey against the clock battling through the worst possible road conditions of snow and ice in order to meet a deadline. On arrival late at night the equipment was unpacked and prepared for its long sea voyage. It was then taken, again over ice-bound roads, to Southampton to be loaded on s.s. *Windsor* which was sailing that day. The dockers refused to handle it, however, as that was the day they had chosen for an industrial dispute. No doubt words were spoken but the equipment remained on the quayside as the ship sailed.

More items of interest about the Tristan venture will probably be available in later issues of THE WIRE.

Headquarter Squadron. The main burden of organising the crowded Christmas programme falls on H.Q. Squadron. Each year the standards improve and 1961 was no exception.

This year the dining hall was very well decorated by the Squadron, under the direction of Captain R. S. Rowland and Staff Sergeant A. R. Hill, and was used for all the main parties.

The Corporals' Club organised its own dance which was well attended. The Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess dance was a bright and gay occasion with a splendid buffet prepared by Sergeant E. E. E. Jeune, A.C.C., and his staff.

Christmas is, of course, a really searching time for the skill and industry of the catering staff of any unit. In 30th Regiment we are fortunate in having a highly skilled and extremely diligent catering section which, in its recently modernised premises, turns out at any time meals of extremely high standard: for Christmas this standard was even excelled.

The All Ranks' Dance, compered by Staff Sergeant P. J. Tompkins of Demonstration Team, was a very successful evening and the Children's Christmas Party, stimulated by Captain Rowland and attended by a surprisingly large number of Officers and senior ranks (as well as the children) was as always a huge success.

No. 1 Squadron. Before the Christmas rush had set in most of the Squadron was fully engaged in the D11/R230 Troop trials. These involved setting up a station in Scotland to work into COMCAN, Malta, apart from operating voice and radio teleprinter nets over a variety of distances. Captain S. W. Mawson with W.O.II (Foreman of Signals) J. Daw, B.E.M., took a party to Fort George in the Moray Firth, where snow and ice and temperamental equipment tested their physical and technical resources to the full. Second-Lieutenant K. G. Woolf, assisted by W.O.II L. W. Leppington and Sergeant D. Jones, established and operated the Blandford tributary working to Malta. Staff Sergeant R. C. Shaw, Sergeants E. Holland and D. Jones were the commanders of the crews which set up radio nets over distances of twenty to 250 miles. THE WIRE is not a vehicle for trials reports but many readers will no doubt be interested to know that the D11/R230 installation performed very creditably. The experience of operating a radio teleprinter net was novel to everyone involved in the trial and the high degree of success achieved was both surprising and pleasing. One word to future operators: "You'll have to know your onions with this baby!"

No. 2 Squadron. The Squadron is enjoying a happy union with No. 1 Squadron administratively, but to demonstrate its independence, the shooting team of seven (from a total available strength of twenty) won both the rifle and machine gun competitions in the Inter-Squadron Range Competitions.

NO. 2 SQUADRON SHOOTING TEAM
Seated (left to right): Staff-Sergeant B. Webster, Major J. F. Everard, Officer Commanding, and Sergeant G. F. Stockham, B.E.M.
Standing: Lance Corporals F. E. Worrall, R. Briggs and Corporals T. G. W. Peake, K. C. Purnell, A. Gumbrill

Three Days with the Navy

Reveille on the morning of Monday, 18th December, was a little earlier than usual for those who were going as guests of H.M.S. *Eastbourne* on her three-day local exercise. Just before 7 a.m. we were searching the Naval Base at Johore Bahru for No. 2 berth, and two or three minutes after 7 a.m. saw the Land Rover stop at the foot of the gangway, one officer, one senior and two soldiers went on board.

After a very welcome breakfast we went up on deck, just in time to see H.M.S. *Eastbourne* slip her moorings and, slow astern, draw away, giving three blasts on the siren as we moved out into the main channel.

With both engines stopped we waited for H.M.S. *Chichester* and H.M.S. *Quickmatch* to lead in line astern down the Johore river, whilst H.M.S. *Cavalier* was to follow shortly behind.

The shrilling of the pipes as each ship passed were, in the offset, a little startling, however we soon came to recognise the "Alert" and "At ease."

At the bottom of the estuary, after a farewell message had been passed by Aldis lamp, which we as signallers, strained hard to read, *Chichester* and *Quickmatch* left *Cavalier* and ourselves to start a series of practices in the passing of 'Jackstays' or a warp between the ships, across which stores were hauled. To the uninitiated it was amazing how an apparent tangle of ropes became, as if by magic, a track upon which a pulley could, with apparent ease, be hauled.

We were most fortunate with the conditions, for the sea was like a millpond, with hardly a ripple, this allowed us to enjoy our lunch except for one of our number who was introduced to the Navy's traditional tot!

The afternoon schedule was a RV with the Admiralty tug *Enigma* who towed a target some 5-6 miles distance, at which, using all the wonders of modern science, the 4.5 inch guns were fired, during this practice we were shown around the main electronic machinery which sighted and trained the guns, allowing for speed and direction of the wind and even the movement of the ship, using Radar, the giro and computor.

On completion of this practice we steamed off, at 22 knots, to an island some 60 miles north, where we anchored for the night.

Weighing anchor at 8.30 a.m. our second day exercised the submarine detection apparatus (ASDIC) and mortars (the modern version of depth charges). Steaming at about 14 knots around the target at a distance of 1,000 yards dummy mortars were fired. To the spectators, the apparently unguided movement of the six mortar barrels, each about 10 feet long and 9 in. diameter, was quite uncanny, and the complete bracketing of the target at each shoot predicted a short and miserable existance for any enemy caught in their range.

To recover the dummies the whaler, a 25-foot canoe sterned motor boat (which can also be sailed or even rowed) was lowered from the davits. After lunch the mortars were again fired, this time using live ammunition. It is questionable as to whether the captain's fishing licence was in order, but the catch took about an hour to salvage and despite its fearsome looks after being blown up, tasted delicious.

Just before sundown we anchored off Johore shoal buoy, from where we could see the City of Singapore being ravaged by a fierce storm. After darkness had fallen a night attack exercise was practised.

The third and regrettably last day saw the anchor weighed at 08.30 when, after a short visit from the Admiralty tug, *Eastbourne* steamed at half ahead in ever-decreasing circles right hand down. This continued for two hours whilst radio calibrations were checked. The afternoon was devoted to steaming back and forth between two buoys whilst further technical tests were carried out, then on our way back across Singapore Bay the Chief Engineer was permitted to carry out a test which he claimed to have wanted to do for a long time, to put his engines from full ahead to full astern and see what happens.

I am wrong in saying full ahead and full astern for such orders on the ship's telegraph are only given in case of emergency, but half ahead is the most flexible of terms, for it may mean anything from 54 revs to 180 revs. When you consider that there is a 50 to 1 reduction gear, 180 revs means that the turbines are fairly humming. The change from 180 revs ahead to 100 revs astern took less than a minute and it is not surprising that the ship shuddered a bit.

The engine room in a frigate is a splendid example of squeezing a quart in a pint pot, for in a space little larger than a Nissen hut there are two enormous boilers, two 5,000 horse

power turbines with reduction gears, a 350 KVA turbine generator, a water distillation plant producing 40 tons of fresh water per day, steam condensers capable of distilling all the steam used by the turbines, enumerable scavange and pressure pumps as well as two stabilisers for use in rough seas.

The bridge on a man-of-war is quite fascinating, for whilst no actual controls are housed there, it houses duplicate displays of every electronic device used for controlling and fighting the ship, so that the captain, by means of conveniently placed microphones, can issue his instructions, which are carried out by operators, all of whom are blind to the actions and maneouvres of the ship by being housed in various control rooms deep in the bowels of the ship.

A frigate, for ease of manoeuvres, might be likened to a modern car and her response to throttle, brakes and steering are just as positive.

It is a most unpopular move, especially in the galleys, to give the maximum 30 degrees of rudder when steaming at anything above 15 knots, for the effect is immediate and lunch is liable to become a kedgeree on the galley floor.

We are most grateful to the captain, Commander Campbell, his officers and men, for making our short sojourn in H.M.S. *Eastbourne* so interesting and instructive, and I am certain that any further opportunities of seeing the Navy at work will be most sought after.

INSURANCE

The Association is accredited Agent to a well-known Insurance Company and anyone who insures with this company on introduction of the Association benefits by a half-share in the Agents' Commission, the other half goes to Association Welfare. Further information from Royal Signals Association, 88, Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1.

205 SQUADRON

Throughout B.A.O.R., December must be almost synonomous with Annual Inspections for Units of the British Army, and we are no exception. We were luckier(?) than most, as we managed to include a drivers conversion course in between practice parades, cleaning parades, and the rest of the upheaval. The task gave our M.T.O., Second-Lieutenant Cliff Noonan, his first grey hairs. However, he refused to disturb his normal routine, although the early hours found him surrounded by training programmes as well as tankards! To everyone's relief, our hard work paid off. Not only was the course 100 per cent. successful, but on the 19th the Inspecting Officer announced that he was pleased with our efforts, and that Lance-Corporal Stevens and his merry men had won the barrack room competition. Universal scowls were rapidly transformed into smiles, frayed tempers were repaired, and the Nag's Head did a roaring trade. Lance-Corporal Stevens and Co. exchanged their carpet slippers for boots, stopped discarding their cigarettes in adjacent barrack rooms, and resumed sleeping in their own room. The M.T.O. even managed to book a spot of leave before the vexing question of the C.I.V. reared its urgy head.

Christmas came and went with the usual festivities and attendant symptoms—late nights followed by sore heads and green faces. An almost too successful All Ranks' Dance left Lieutenant Tony Fielding, our Outgoing Radio Troop Commander, with an amazing total of breakages to account for. This he successfully did by cheerfully ignoring the normal laws of arithmetic, and, in company with the M.T.O, embarked on the hazardous task of motoring a somewhat decrepit DKW to the U.K. His last communication was prepared in rough seas in the Channel, so we can only hope that he arrived safely. We wish him a riotous leave, safe journey on the last leg of his trip to Catterick, and every success on his forthcoming "Q" course.

Apart from normal routine, a number of incidents have served to enliven proceedings. Signalman O'Donovan, with the unwilling co-operation of Corporal Moore, took great pains (Corporal Moore's!) to demonstrate that it does not pay to start a vehicle which is already in gear. The resulting sandwich formed by the vehicle, a trailer, and the victim's leg, involved Corporal Moore in the use of a stick for some little time.

Corporal Lawless has departed for the U.K. and wedding bells. With any luck he should be too pleased with life to open libel or slander proceedings on the strength of the Squadron's telegram which was based on the theme of the unofficial Corps motto, "Through."

Corporal Boyles has had an object lesson in administration and morale. He and his radio detachment departed on 1st January to operate a radio link with the Belgian Army. In response to the management's anxious enquiries beforehand, he airily replied that "the blokes who did it last year" spoke well of Belgian type food. He survived—until 2nd January—when desperate pleas were received for parkas, stoves, cookers and, believe it or not, compo! The unaccustomed food had resulted in one miserable member of the detachment not eating for twenty-four hours, and the others rapidly becoming mutinous. To his credit, he and his detachment operated successfully—on compo.

The Nag's Head and Marina continue to flourish, so much so that envious visitors arrive demanding details, in order that they too may make money. However, unless they can find a trio of stalwarts to match the S.S.M., Lance-Corporals Smith and Macdonald, they will never rival our successful enterprises.

It has been noted that Sergeant Hayden and Lance-Corporal Smith must look to their reputations. With the welcome arrival of the manly figure of our new pay N.C.O., Corporal Clucas, they appear undernourished by comparison. While Sergeant Hayden's redoubled efforts at the Sergeants' Mess bar may be very praiseworthy, the thought of Lance-Corporal Smith making inroads into the Nag's Head profits is rather worrying.

Our National Servicemen are fast leaving us. Two have just gone, and Signalman Tweedie and Lance-Corporal Tate will have gone by the time this appears in print. To them, to their many predecessors and to those still with us, goodbye, good luck, and thank you for your splendid support both on and off duty.

224 SQUADRON

Late in December last year we said goodbye to, amongst others, 23817535 Signalman A. R. Reed, who lives at Weymouth, Dorset. This event was particularly significant for the Squadron, as Signalman Reed was the last National Service Special Operator to pass out from training here. We cannot quote numbers or statistics of the many who have passed through the Unit since its formation as S.O.T.B. at Trowbridge in 1940, but many reading this will no doubt recall memories of Douglas, Isle of Man, Shenley and, of course, Garats Hay. May we, in passing, wish all ex-Operators (Special) and the later generation of Special Operators, as well as those still serving, the best of fortune in the years to come, not forgetting those former members of the A.T.S. who were numbered amongst the many wartime trainees.

Congratulations to the M.T. in winning the Regular three-ton event in the Northern Command Driving Championship of 1961. Lance-Corporal A. J. Skinner was the nominated driver, accompanied by Sergeant R. S. Clapperton and Signalman J. Moore. The team went forward to the Army Driving Championship, but unfortunately without success.

Despite reduced numbers, the Squadron continues to field teams in all major sporting events in the District. At present, special praise is due to the football first eleven, which is doing well in the Leicester Thursday League, after a setback when it was unfortunately eliminated from the Cup.

224 SQUADRON

Winners of the Regular 3-ton event, Northern Command Driving Championship 1961. Left to right: Sergeant R. S. Clapperton, Lance-Corporal A. J. Skinner (nominated driver), Signalman J. Moore.

237 SQUADRON

With the climate at Christmas not unlike that on August Bank Holiday, we have to start early in Singapore if we are to work up the Christmas spirit. As usual we have had a resoundingly successful Yuletide.

T.R.C., Tanglin. The Squadron being attached to 18 Regiment for administration, we shared in the Regiment's festivities except at the out-stations. On Christmas Day the senior N.C.O.s took over in the TRC and had a steady tour of duty receiving those ingenious greetings cards done in type on the printer which amaze us year by year with their ingenuity. Perhaps THE WIRE could start a collection and publish some of the best efforts next Christmas. The Christmas dinner in Princess Mary Barracks caused no complaints except about the clumsiness of some of the waiters! After the meal the hall resounded to the stirring bawdiness of the COMCAN song which the other Squadrons are beginning to learn. What unknown poet wrote the lyrics? With Lady Chatterley in a Penguin edition, we may yet see it published. All the Squadron Officers were hoisted table-high to speak, and R.S.M. Walker's effort went down particularly well. He held a mongrel puppy in his arms and wished a merry Christmas 'to all his dumb friends.'

We ran a children's party on 22nd December and it was voted very successful by the children attending who were rather concerned, however, at the élan with which Father Fildes (of R.E.M.E. Workshops) drove his rocket car. They wondered at his survival down the centuries and hope he gets back to Lapland in one piece.

Bangkok. No reports on Christmas at the time of writing but the Grand Hotel has been planning a special menu for months past and the puddings boiled by the Detachment Commander's mother were sent off from Singapore in good time. Captain Amos was very wise and his mother kind in protecting the Detachment from a Thai attempt at a Christmas pud!

CHRISTMAS DAY, 1961

Front: Signalman Evans, Lance/Corporal Fallon

Back: Signalman Griffith, Staff/Sergeant Stringer, Signalman Robinson, Signalman Lee, Signalman Chandler

Receivers. Amoy Quee made a very early start to the festive season with a grand party late in November to bid farewell to Captain and Mrs. Thompson and to welcome the new O.C., Lieutenant Sprackling, and Mrs. Sprackling. Three weeks later, on 15th December, the arrival of 201 Squadron (Australian), who will henceforth share the camp with COMCAN, was celebrated by a shake-down and get-acquainted stag (Australian 'buck') party. In a darts knock-out, Major Colin Catternach and Sergeant Harry Birtles were winners.

The annual station children's party was held on 20th December and the established tradition of inviting children from the Salvation Army Nursery Home was continued. The kids were a little mystified by the Australian accent of Father Christmas!

The main Christmas function at Amoy Quee was a joint 201/237 Squadron party and draw which was the most ambitious and successful function yet held at the station. The efforts of W.O.I Roy Albright (201) and Lance-Corporal Charlie Welch (237) in making the show go so well deserve special mention. What a buffet! Impressive European food, a Malay curry and the best Satay sticks in Singapore. By a happy coincidence the next day was a holiday. Many of the 200 present had danced well into it.

Christmas Day went with a swing. Amoy Quee has a prize-winning cookhouse!

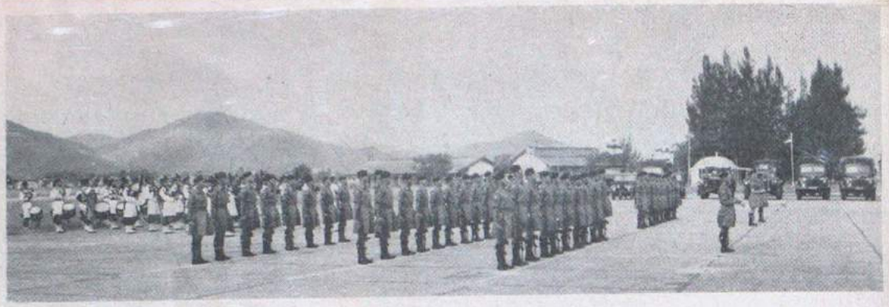
Transmitters. Chin Bee opened the season with a dance and a draw on 22nd December attended by 180 people. An electronic counter was operated as a random number selector with great success for the draw, but the sales of tickets could well have exceeded the machine's limit of 999. Next year there will be a modification and we will strive to sell 9,999 tickets! The star prize was a transistor radio and although there were more than sixty prizes it was the last one drawn, so excitement was high to the end. Again, there was a superb buffet and dancing well into the morning.

The children's party was very successful and although there are only seven U.K. families on the station, Father Christmas has eighty-odd children to satisfy. No, they aren't unduly prolific. The Malay children were asked along as well.

A Christmas morning football match between the married and single B.O.R.s ended with a score of five goals to three tries! Wining and feasting after this violent exercise left very few stalwarts for the canteen party in the evening. On Boxing Day the wives took their husbands to dinner in Singapore's swanky 'Prince's' Hotel. (Note that, you wives of the Corps!)

A Troop social was held on 29th December and a Hogmanay party is to follow.

Childrens' Party, Christmas, 1961



246 Squadron ready for it's Annual Inspection. The Pipe and Drums of 2/10 GR and some of the lesser Hong Kong Hills in the background

246 (GURKHA) SQUADRON

Since our last contribution to THE WIRE, we have started the collective training season. In Hong Kong this occurs between September and March.

A little research has shown that since January, 1961, we have taken part in 23 exercises. These have varied in scope, from simple squadron radio exercises, operating from mules, to more sophisticated exercises, with an aircraft carrier and a Royal Marine Commando.

As the Colony is very hilly and roads limited, tracks and paths are much used for movement. Our stations have to operate from Land Rovers, mules, or the ubiquitous back of man over more difficult country. To practise our radio detachments in the niceties of mule and manpack operating, we recently arranged Exercise "Pokhara." New boys were warned of the hazards of operating a mule pack station by the radio sergeant who, a year or so beforehand, had a close call as a rear link detachment commander. He was operating on the move over a particularly twisting track, with a steep, long drop on one side. He was attached to the mule pack station by a long drop lead. The mule slipped in the dark and dropped to the valley below. Fortunately for the sergeant, the drop lead came apart, and he managed to stay on the track, with his ears burning, but otherwise unharmed. The mule was killed. Also, on Exercise "Pokhara," we practised laying line from mules, using three dispenser packs on each side of the animal. This has hazards, as the load must be balanced or the mule will be upended. The linemen learnt a lot on this exercise.

During December, 42 Royal Marine Commando paid us a visit in H.M.S. *Bulwark*, and the Brigade arranged an exercise for them. As far as the Signals aspect was concerned, we all learnt a great deal. Those who have suffered the problems of mutual interference on radio nets should visit H.M.S. *Bulwark* to see the problem at its worst. They operate more than 20 nets, and cannot, when conditions become unbearable, send an interfering station up the road or around the hill.

In November, we had our annual Administrative Inspection, preceded by the numerous pre-administrative inspections. Brigadier S. P. M. Kent, O.B.E., the Brigade Commander, took the salute at the formal Administrative Inspection Parade, which went without a hitch. After the parade, Brigadier Kent inspected the Squadron's vehicles.

The results of the annual range classification produced 69 marksmen, 20 first-class and three second-class shots. This is a considerable surface improvement on last year's results, but the fact is that the classification standards with the S.L.R. are far too low—at least for us!

We have had several notable visitors, who included: H.R.H. King Mahendra of Nepal; H.R.H. Princess Alexandra of Kent; Lieutenant-General Sir Richard Anderson, K.C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O. (Colonel, 10th P.M.O. Gurkha Rifles); Lieutenant-General Sir Roderick McLeod, K.C.B., C.B.E., Brigadier E. I. E. Mozley (Director of Telecommunications).

In the sphere of sports, we have achieved some success. We came first in the Brigade Minor Units' Cross-Country, and were runners-up in the Colony Cross-Country Championship. Lieutenant K. Ryding was selected to play for the Army (Hong Kong) at rugger, and Captain F. C. Lettin and Sergeant C. J. Meredith for the Army (Hong Kong) at hockey. Corporal Gallagher has been producing excellent results in the cycling events and was the first European rider home in the Hong Kong Cycling Association Colony Race.

249 SQUADRON

Late November and December have been periods of great activity in the Squadron. Troop exercises in Malaya, the arrival of 621 Signal Troop (Air Support) trips to sea and Christmas parties are just a few of our activities.

Corporal Holdsworth, Lance-Corporal Hayes, Signalmen Pentland and Williams were the lucky ones of H.F. Troop selected to go on a five weeks exercise in H.M.S. *Bulwark*, the Commando ship. This trip included a fortnight's visit to Hong Kong which made the attachment even more enjoyable. The party went aboard on the 13th November and were soon at sea, in more senses than one. After a few days however they settled down and quickly proved to the Navy that Royal Signals Telegraph Operators were every bit as good as Naval Telegraphists, once they had learnt the new procedures. These duties consisted of inter-ship working, teleprinter links, ship shore links and teletype broadcast working. They even learnt a little crypto.

With Army clothes cast aside and clad in blue shorts, shirts and sandals it was not many days before they were almost completely unrecognisable. They all agreed that the daily tot of rum was a good thing, although their antics caused considerable amusement to the crew until they got used to its strength. They decided, however, there was one thing the Navy was quite incapable of doing and that was making a decent cup of tea.

Everyone was most hospitable and helpful to them; trips in helicopters, tours of the ship, instruction in Joint Service working were all specially laid on and when eventually these four nautical soldiers came ashore again on 19th December they left many new-found friends in *Bulwark*.

A glowing report from the Chief Communicator followed their return and it was quite obvious that in five weeks they had done a tremendous amount of good for the prestige of their Squadron and the Corps.

On 21st December a very successful children's Christmas party was held thanks largely to Captain Tacey and his committee of wives. The wives put in a lot of hard work in buying presents, cutting sandwiches, etc. and Captain Tacey made an admirable Father Christmas arriving in a landrover borne space ship. Young Timothy, his small son, was not, however, deceived by the disguise, announcing in a loud voice that Father Christmas spoke just like daddy.

We would like to extend a very warm welcome to 621 Signal Troop (Air Support) which has just come down from Seremban to join the Squadron.

The first three months of 1962 look like being extremely hectic. First we have Corps Week, and the C.S.O.'s Annual Exercise in which we are running the static demonstration, followed by a visit from the S.O.-in-C. February sees us up in Malaya on two exercises and in March we go off to Borneo.

GROG TIME ON BOARD H.M.S. BULWARK ▶

From right Signalman Williams, Signalman Pentland, Lance Corporal Hayes, Corporal Holdsworth

255 Squadron (Bahrain)

These photographs were taken when we were "Public Related" recently. 1 and 6. Signalman Harrison and Corporal Lockwood posed suitably against backgrounds of a ruined Portuguese Fort and a Mosque respectively. 2. Signalman and Mrs. Thomas. 3. Mrs. Yoxall, Corporal Yoxall and children. 4. Lance Corporals Dawson and Langstaff with 'Oily' and litter. 5. Mast Erection — Grand Style. 7. Sub-Aqua enthusiasts with Corporal Hewitt going down for the last time ?

STEEPLE BUMPSTEAD SIGNAL SQUADRON

The individual training season has commenced and we are busy converting to one thing and another. There is not, as yet, a course for "C. of E. to R.C."

Our absence for some time has been due to amendment No. 24 to Staff Duties in the Field. We've all been changing Appendices to Annexes.

The pace has slackened somewhat now that the O.C. has had his Annual Confidential Report.

The Squadron did not take part in Exercise "Spearpoint," we have not had an Administration Inspection, we've never heard of C.I.V. and we haven't won any major sporting trophy.

However, the District Commander did arrive one morning last month and seemed somewhat surprised that we were not on parade. He looked most distinguished with his sword and medals; Mrs. Claxton, the kitchen help, who met him as he arrived was most impressed. Although the O.C. was away that day we were not found lacking, the S.S.M. showed the Brigadier all he wanted to see—in fact he stayed for only a few minutes and was kind enough to say that he would return.

We have just acquired six new married quarters, in a somewhat ingenious way. Last year we launched ourselves into the amateur dramatic world and in preparing for our first production we asked District H.Q. for financial authority to build six "flats." This was duly given and we took the letter to the A.W.O. (North Essex). All C.W.O. officials are now attending a course!

After considerable pressure from the D.C.A., our cook Private Lush, A.C.C., introduced the "Help Yourself Service" in the Dining Hall. Many did not realise that this exortation was confined to food, in consequence we haven't got a knife or a plate in the place. The addition of a juke box, Coca Cola machine, bamboo trellis work and creeping plants has turned the room into an Expresso Coffee Bar. The O.C. refused the request to change the 100 watt bulbs for 5 watt ones.

We are now in the ridiculous state where all new arrivals cannot wear their much advertised Service Dress because no one else has been issued with it. They have to be issued with another Battle Dress. Back to Square One.

The posting in of a surplus Warrant Officer has enabled us to form a Sick On Leave Investigation Team. On receipt of a Medical Certificate, which usually diagnoses gastric 'flu, W.O.II McGlennon dashes off in his private car to the victim's home. He is usually found at the cinema or in a cafe and is sent back to camp.

We have asked the War Office for a W.R.A.C. Troop. They don't seem very keen—neither do the W.R.A.C. for that matter.

Look at Life in Comcan

BY SERGEANT T. L. BROWN

"All living-in personnel will ————. We all know that time-honoured phrase, don't we?

Do you, Dear Reader, live in COMCAN? If you do, then you are one of us; Brother, if you don't, then we respectfully suggest you turn the page and study traffic statistics.

As in all COMCAN, we have an "R" and a "T" Site, but unique (the O.C. thinks we're unique too, but for different reasons).

Our immediate horizon is bounded by approximately 200 yards of barbed wire fencing, and we eat, sleep, work, and play in one small (understatement) building. An ideal spot for sedentary gentlemen, as from barrack room to place of work, i.e., "R" Hall, is 20 yards, and some people are still late on shift.

Situated 12 miles from Nairobi (along the main road), and then a further five miles along what is laughingly described as a road, but which in reality is a cross between a river bed and an exploded minefield, you must bear with us when we say that "Going on the town" is difficult, to say the least.—So we stay in!

Of course, we have our canteen, generally referred to as "The Black Hole"; we sit down in relays (it's my turn a week on Wednesday), we play darts regularly—great fun—unless its your turn to sit under the board! Darts isn't a sport with us, its an occupational hazard. And then, Dear Reader, we have films. Films! Ever been to a cinema measuring 15ft. by 10ft. containing screen, projector and 20 men? Each reel is shown twice, the second time reversed for the people sitting at the back of the screen! We can't have comedies cos one has to go into the corridor to laugh. Laughing in the corridor is forbidden, in any case, as the noise may awaken a shift worker. We hasten to add that means a shift which is off duty, and not one in the hall. Noise during the day, when the living-out personnel are here, no one notices, but when the soft, warm blanket of the African night descends . . . Teleprinters chatter like mechanical monkeys, a perforator busily clacks and gobbles up tape, a symphony of telephone bells, C.F.S. racks, AR 88's with vocal solos by a bullfrog quartet outside the windows. Not forgetting six radios, each on a different programme, a record player churning out Elvis, and a learner guitarist who, like Blondell, wanders about serenading anyone who will listen.

Working day ends at 17.00 hours . . . don't let 'em kid you, son.

"Feed the chickens" . . . "watch for the hawks" . . . "check the askaris."

"Smoke in the aerial field, Sarge!" . . . No—Sorry, false alarm!

"Boddingtons faded—there's no shampoo in the bar—which film must we show first?"

Fire! Fire!!

Just a normal evening on "R" Site in COMCAN.—And you know what? We wouldn't be anywhere else! Scuse me, there's a snake in the hen-house.

P.S.—There's a spare bed, if you can stand it!

Territorial Army

51st REGIMENT (T.A.)

"On assuming the appointment of Honorary Colonel to the Regiment," signalled Lieutenant-Colonel J. Cochran, O.B.E., T.D., "I should like all ranks to know how proud I am to come back."

"How doubly proud we are to welcome you, Sir," is the feeling expressed unanimously by all serving members, and their sincere wishes for a most successful tour are echoed by the Colonel's many old friends in the Aberdeen and Central Scotland Branches of Royal Signals Association.

Lieutenant-Colonel Cochran was commissioned into the Regiment in 1929 and served with the then Stirling 2 Company until mobilisation in 1939. He assumed command of the Regiment during the desert campaign after El Alamein and remained in Command until the end of hostilities in Europe. For outstanding services during the Sicily invasion he was awarded the O.B.E. and his distinguished war record includes two mentions in despatches.

As present Chairman of the Stirlingshire Territorial and Auxiliary Forces Association and also of the Central Scotland Branch Royal Signals Association the spirit which prompted the author of the History of the 51st Highland Division, 1939-1945, in narrating the detail of the glorious initial assault of the Rhine crossing by 51st Highland and 15th Scottish Divisions to write, "And a special word must be said of Highland Divisional Signals under the indefatigable Lieutenant-Colonel James Cochran," is still much in evidence today by his tireless effort and active interest in these two spheres.

The first half of winter's so-called "close season" produced the usual headaches for function organisers. An all ranks' dance, by 2 Squadron, proved most successful, in Goosecroft Drill Hall, Stirling, while Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess members, of Headquarters and 1 Squadron, entertained wives and partners at their annual dinner in Fonthill Barracks, Aberdeen.

Much credit is due to Major M. O. MacKenzie, T.D., W.R.A.C., and to Captain W. Tyers for coping with so many members and guests at the Regimental Officers' Mess cocktail party and supper, and also at the dinner before the Territorial Army Officers' Ball, held annually in Aberdeen Town and County Hall.

Aberdeen and Stirling Squadrons each entertained well over a hundred children and their parents, in their respective Drill Halls at Christmas time. At the former party, Major D. M. Sutherland, O.C. 1 Squadron, ably assisted by Second-

Major J. H. Moonie, M.C.

A pause in the Libyan Desert

Lieutenant N. Davidson, W.R.A.C., were principal organisers of songs and games, with Corporal C. T. Brodie at the piano; Sergeant C. Lamond held his audience with comedy films, and Major J. H. Moonie, M.M., T.D., filled the role of Santa Claus. At the latter party, Mrs. Louden, wife of the Squadron Commander, Major G. Louden, T.D., organised the games and Corporal J. H. Turnbull played the part of Father Christmas.

Without the willing help at both centres, of committee members and Permanent Staff, too numerous for individual mention, the children would not have had such a wonderful and enjoyable time.

And last, but certainly by no means least, congratulations to Sergeant A. A. Johnston—whose gallant action in saving a child's life was featured in the Regiment's December notes—who has been commended for distinguished conduct by Lieutenant-General W. F. R. Turner, C.B., D.S.O., G.O.C.-in-C., Scottish Command, and whose citation reads ". . . Sergeant A. A. Johnston displayed great courage and complete disregard for his own safety."

52nd (LOWLAND) REGIMENT (T.A.)

52nd (Lowland) Regiment (T.A.) were invited by the Lion Motor Cycle Club, of Glasgow, to enter teams for their cross-country trials on Sunday, 26th November, 1961.

Two teams were entered from the Regiment, as follows: Team I, Sergeant McLure, Corporal McEvoy, Lance-Corporal Thomson; Team II, Signalmen Nicol, Butcher and O'Neil.

The trials were held in the Denny/Kilsyth area, over a very testing course, which soon churned up, and many riders were forced to retire and spend the rest of the day trying to recover their bikes from large pools of mud!

Approximately 20 Army riders had been entered, and of these, only four finished the course. Lance-Corporal Thomson of this Unit received the Best Army Rider award, for which we congratulate him, and trust that this will be a good omen for the Regiment in this year's trials.

305 SQUADRON (PARACHUTE BRIGADE) THE MIDDLESEX YEOMANRY (T.A.)

For five members of the Squadron, 1st December, 1961, was no normal London tube train scramble. As part of a force of some eight hundred parachutists—the vast majority of whom were Regulars—they jumped into Libya from Hastings aircraft for Operation Solinus.

"We were out to show that the T.A. parachutist is on a par with the Regular Soldier in every way," explained Sergeant W. Draper, a Post Office engineer who used to be with the Regular Parachute Brigade.

Four of our operators formed a radio crew for a Company Group drawn from 44 Independent Parachute Brigade, T.A., who were attached to 1st Battalion of the Parachute Regiment for the exercise.

The fifth, Sergeant R. Goodier, ex-S.A.S. veteran, was with 216 Squadron, our Regular counterpart, working a T.G. rear link to Malta. After the parachute descent on to the desert in pitch darkness, sixty miles of marching—under the constant dive-bombing of Fleet Air Arm jets and ground attacks by Commando Units—brought our troops to the nuclear stockpile they had to destroy.

Corporal M. Harding, who would normally have been at the Stock Exchange, was in at the kill. "We made our final assault on the enemy defences after creeping to within a hundred yards of the main positions."

The stockpile was eliminated, and our troops were flown back to Lyneham. The Regulars dispersed for a short leave, and the Territorial parachutists returned to their civilian jobs. The two other members of the team—Lance-Corporal R. Cole and Lance-Corporal M. Sutton—both went back to their work as Post Office engineers.

In this operation we had achieved a speedy and painless transition from civilian to soldier. We had also proved the success with which the Regular and Territorial soldiers can be fused into a single fighting unit.

Association Notes

North London Branch

This Branch was formed in August, 1955, as Standard Telephones and Cables (New Southgate) Branch, and among its Founder Members was a number of men who were attached to a Signals T.A. Unit which was based on the Company's premises until the outbreak of war.

Within a few weeks of its formation, enquiries were received from prospective members living in the district, but were not employed by the Company, and to accommodate these new members, the Branch was re-named Southgate and District.

The Branch held its first dinner and dance in 1956 and during his speech, Colonel K. B. Baldwin. M.B.E., T.D., the Branch President asked Brigadier H. R. Firth, the General Secretary, that the Branch should change its name once more, thus the North London Branch came into being.

The area covered by the Branch includes North London, Middlesex, and it also has members living in Essex and Hertfordshire. It has its Headquarters at the T.A. Centre, Priory Road, Hornsey, London, N.8. Meetings are held on the second Friday of each month, these meetings consist of a convivial get-together, at which members' ladies are welcome. The Branch holds an annual dinner and dance, and sends a contingent every year to Catterick for the Association A.G.M. and Old Comrades' Reunion.

The Branch Hon. Secretary welcomes enquiries from all serving and ex-members of the Corps, and will be delighted to provide any information that may be required.

All enquiries should be addressed to Mr. J. T. Murphy, 1, Marlborough Close, Whetstone, London, N.20.

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 of January, 1962. Also, on the same page, is a simple statement of income and expenditure.

Widow of Signalman, 1940-46, who died in October, 1961, leaving her with two school-age children and a daughter, age 16, who contributes over half her small earnings. Before his death the husband was in a good position. The fund made a grant for purchase of clothes for the two younger children, and a book and a Schoolgirls' Diary was sent in a separate parcel.

Widow of Driver, 1939-45, who died in 1960, leaving three school-age children. They manage very well on a very small income, but were grateful for books, toys and clothes, and a small gift of cash.

Signalman, 1941-46, married, five children. He has been in hospital since August, 1960, and his family exist on what is provided by the State. His wife writes: "I received your two parcels; the coat and the shoes fit me very well, and I will divide the toys amongst the children. I also received the money and can't thank you enough; we will certainly have a good dinner, and there will be enough left to treat the older children to the cinema."

Driver, 1940-44. Married, four children. He has been unable to walk since April, 1960. "I don't need to tell you the difference the money and parcel made to our Christmas, and my husband, the children and I wish you to know how much we appreciated the kindness of the gift."

Widow with six children, whose husband died in 1958, having been bedridden since 1955. She has received 10 parcels of part-worn clothing during the year, and other articles have been sent periodically. Thanking us for her December parcel, her main anxiety was that the Association Staff should enjoy their Christmas.

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION AND BENEVOLENT FUND

The following subscriptions were most gratefully received during December, 1961:

	£	s.	d.
8th Regiment	29	14	3
24th Regiment	123	2	9
240 Squadron		14	6
243 Squadron	5	5	0
14th Regiment (3 Squadron)	6	3	0
Junior Leaders Regiment	5	10	2
H.Q., A.E.R., Royal Signals	1	10	0
66th (Ulster) Regiment (T.A.)	11	0	0
632 Troop	1	4	0
1st Regiment	1	4	6
19th Regiment	150	0	0
9th Regiment	5	0	0
H.Q., Allied Forces, Northern Europe		10	0
F. C. Wilson	3	5	0
J. E. Dyson		5	0
W. R. Deane	7	9	6
G. B. Hollins		11	7
G. Corden		1	7
M. Trow		10	0
H. J. Wall		15	0
G. Oldroyd		5	0
F. E. Foulds	1	5	0
A. E. Dobbs		3	11
C. J. Aston	1	0	0
C. P. Prescot	1	10	0
The Robert Hart Trust	5	0	0
Total	£362	19	9

Expenditure During December, 1961: ... £354 0 7
(Includes: Rent and Rates; Beds and Bedding; Furniture; Cots and Prams; General Assistance)

Analysis of Cases:—
Widows and dependants ... 21
Released and Discharged Soldiers ... 73
Total cases assisted ... 94

56 Cases of Soldiers who served during the 1939-45 War ... £187 18 10
38 Cases of Soldiers who did not serve during the War ... £166 1 9

Lance-Corporal, 1953-57. Married, two children. He has been in hospital since October. The fund helped with his rent and to keep his H.P. refunds up-to-date, and in his grateful letter, he thanks also for some children's clothes, an eiderdown and some toys.

Driver, 1939-58. Married, one child. He had a leg amputated four years ago, and continuing deterioration of his condition has prevented him working since. 5 London Corps Signal Trust gave a substantial grant, and a book was sent to his 11-year-old daughter for Christmas.

Careers and Opportunities

Civilian Instructor

TELECOMMUNICATIONS OPERATING GROUP
TELECOMMUNICATIONS OPERATING—LINE AND RADIO

A post for a man fully skilled and experienced in the trade, able to teach it and to supervise trainees, appropriate O.N.C., C. and G. Certificate or equivalent qualifications desirable. Selection by trade test and interview. Starting salary £806 rising by seven annual increments to a maximum of £957. National rates. Prospects of pensionable employment and promotion. Write for details to Commandant, School of Military Engineering, Chatham. Closing date 3rd March, 1962.

Ministry of Defence

Third Grade appointment, salary around £1,000, available for Royal Signals Officer (Retired or Retiring), upper age near 45 years. Apply Establishments Officer, Storey's Gate, London, S.W.1, having registered previously with the Ministry of Labour Professional and Executives Register, Atlantic House, Holborn Viaduct, London, E.C.1.

Vacancies in the Diplomatic Wireless Service of the Foreign Office

All ranks who are contemplating leaving the Service during the next few months are reminded of the interesting and well paid appointments notified in this column of THE WIRE, December, 1961.

Starting salaries for the majority of the appointments are around £1,000 a year.

Instructors-Telecommunications (Radio, Line or Telegraph)

Five posts for men fully experienced in the maintenance of telecoms equipment (radio, line or telegraph), to teach Royal Signals technicians and trainees. Possession of appropriate O.N.C., C. & G. Certificates, or equivalent qualifications desirable. Selection by written test and interview.

Starting salary £712 (at age 21)—£993 (at age 30 or over) rising to £1,071.

Prospects of pensionable appointment and promotion.

Application forms can be obtained from C.E.P.O., Peronne Lines, Catterick Camp, Yorkshire. Closing date 19th February, 1962.

Marconi Wireless Telegraph Co. Ltd., Chelmsford, Essex,

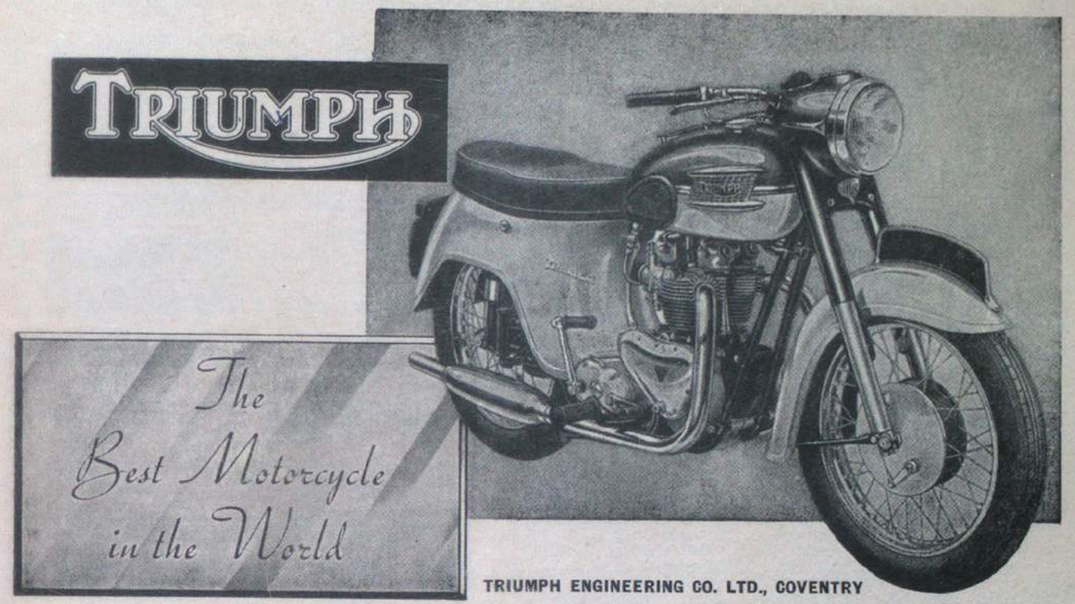
Are anxious to receive applications from ex-members of Royal Signals for the appointment of Technician Watchkeepers. A large number of men are required to supervise the working of two recently-installed Microwave Stations, one in the North of England, one in the South.

Living quarters are provided in caravans on each site; shift working, and the rates of pay will be commensurate with the employment of skilled men, plus "hard lying money."

Appointments are suitable for men trained as Technicians.

* * *

It is not possible to publish all the employment vacancies which are on offer through Headquarters, Royal Signals Association, but normally it is possible to provide introductions to a large variety of employments, for which the requirements for ex-members of Royal Signals, both Officers and other ranks, exceeds the supply.



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(iii) Specialized Communications
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(v) Automation
(vi) Servo
(vii) Nuclear Engineering

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ELECTRONICS EXPERIENCE .....

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WAR OFFICE requires TECHNICIANS

for duties in Commonwealth Communications Army Network Stations in Malta, Cyprus, Kenya, Singapore and for Stations in the South of England.

Applicants should have experience in the operation, maintenance, and repair of either high power H.F. transmitters or diversity H.F. receivers, and should have completed at least first year of City and Guilds Telecommunications Technicians' Course, or possess an equivalent Service trade qualification, e.g., Royal Signals XII trade certificate (Radio Tech. Heavy) would be acceptable. Exceptionally, candidates who have at least three years' experience in the class of work may be accepted.

TOURS OF DUTY overseas are for three years at a time, with inter-tour leave in the U.K. Officials may be accompanied throughout by entitled members of the family at public expense. For suitably qualified staff, opportunities for promotion and for appointment to established pensionable posts occur from time to time. SALARY SCALE for staff serving overseas is £665 (age 20) rising to £990 p.a. (less £55 p.a. when serving in the U.K.). Foreign Service, Overseas Families, Outfit and Trunk Allowances are payable in addition. Foreign Service Allowances are substantial and non-taxable, and in some cases double the salary, depending on family status and the overseas station concerned.

APPLICATION FORMS from Manager (PE. 1956), Ministry of Labour, Professional and Executive Register, Atlantic House, Farringdon Street, London, E.C.4.

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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.*

MATTER FOR PUBLICATION MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE 15th OF THE MONTH PRECEDING PUBLICATION.

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☆

MARCH • 1962

Vol. 16 (*New Series*) **No. 3**

Editorial

"THE WIRE"

As very many already know a letter was sent out in January to Regiments and Squadrons in which the Editor asks for guidance in framing Editorial Policy.

A small number of comments are already in. The Editor will reply to each individually, but it is desirable to publish a progress report.

By and large the present format of THE WIRE is approved. There is considerable criticism as to detail, all or nearly all of which is justified and constructive.

UNIT NOTES

All or nearly all criticise the quality and/or quantity of Unit Notes. The critics state, with varying degrees of force, that they are mostly very dull.

A consensus of opinion, so far expressed, is that Regiments and Squadrons should not send in notes as a monthly chore, but only if they have something worthwhile to say.

Some few urge the Editor to ruthlessly delete from Unit Notes every paragraph which is of purely Regimental interest and publish only what is of interest to the Corps as a whole.

ARTICLES OF HISTORICAL OR GENERAL INTEREST

Nearly all advocate more of these and here the Editor has much to be thankful for. Perhaps as a result of the letter under reference, he has received during February a splendid supply of interesting articles about foreign parts. Sufficient indeed for perhaps two or three numbers. He asks that all with some out of the way experience and all whose duty or pleasure have taken them to an unusual country to please write of it and send it for publication.

GENERAL

Most of those who have written so far admit freely that they do not read more than perhaps one-fifth of any number. This is understandable. The Editor, by contrast, has to read every word at least three times. He, therefore, cannot fail to read what is interesting, most may fail to spot such items. The following are culled from "Unit Notes" in the February number:—

Moor Rescue—being an unvarnished and true account of an incident that caused alarmist headlines in the national Press.

Expedition to Tristan de Cunha—a foretaste of Royal Signals participation.

Demonstration of Equipment—unexpected hazards.

The January Number was also "Dull" but there was an account of the remarkable work of two Lance-Corporals in Belize, British Honduras, during the hurricane that wrecked the town.

There is the sad story of "The Brighton Knell," and the loss to the Corps of a pleasant barrack fronted by 500 beautiful rose bushes.

MORAL

THE WIRE used to print a list of "What's worth reading in the Number." It will restart this in March.

FUTURE

The Editor will publish, probably in April, a précis of most of the suggestions made. He will study carefully all the suggestions BUT many Commanding Officers will agree that Unit Notes are a necessity. Many will agree that they can be improved, and made interesting.

The Editor, reading the 3rd Regiment's Notes in February regetted his lost youth.

THE 8th REGIMENT IN THIS NUMBER

The Editor has taken apart what was sent and put in the three short articles into different sections in pages 63 and 101.

Vale

Lieutenant-Colonel
J. L. JUDD, M.B.E.
MUS.BAC., F.T.C.M., L.R.A.M., A.R.C.M.

Director of Music
Royal Corps of Signals

☆

Extract from the Court and Social Column of the Daily Telegraph.

Harewood House, January 17th. The Princess Royal, Colonel-in-Chief, Royal Corps of Signals, today received Lieutenant-Colonel J. L. Judd, on his retirement as Director of Music, Royal Signals.

Like many other good soldiers, J. L. Judd commenced his career as a Fusilier, and Boy Judd, of the Inniskilling Fusiliers, became Bandsman Judd in the 1st Battalion of the Regiment in 1919. He had then done a year at the Royal Military School of Music. He went there again for his "long course," 1927 to 1930, as a result of which, he was appointed Bandmaster of the Highland Light Infantry (Warrant Officer I)—not bad, after only 13 years, including Boy Services.

Bandmaster Hibbert retired in 1942 and Bandmaster J. L. Judd was selected by the Corps to take over the Royal Signals Band; small, unofficial, paid for entirely by the officers and by what it could earn, and during the war opportunity of earning was nil.

There were, however, other opportunities for one of his ability. How it was accomplished, only J. L. Judd will know, but of the real musicians called to the Armed Services, an increasing number of the famous found their way into Royal Signals.

Many still remember a concert in a specially-opened theatre in Whitby in early 1945, to which were invited the "town and county" of that part of Yorkshire. It was in the now familiar John Judd manner, his charming introduction of each item, which, amongst so much that was excellent, included two concertos played by the great Solomons on a concert grand piano, especially and lovingly tuned that very morning.

Since those days of war, National Service, among its many benefits, brought to the Royal Signals many from the Colleges of Music who are now famous. Nearly all seem to keep in touch with the old master. This is a great source of pleasure to the Director of Music, for so he was appointed in 1947. He worked them hard: how hard, only he and they know; he taught them much. Their success is, to an extent, his achievement, because while leading the life of a bandsman in Royal Signals, they were compelled to continue their academic education.

During the years the Corps Band has become increasingly famous, both in the Army and in the world of music generally. It has given great pleasure to many thousands and brought much credit to Royal Signals. It is unique that the Royal Signals Band has been invited to the Edinburgh Festival in every post war year.

At peak, the Band has had a strength of about 120, capable of almost any combination, both musical and military. By 1960 numbers had decreased to 80, but the majority were regular soldiers, and the quality of their music was no less.

This, which is a farewell to Lieutenant-Colonel J. L. Judd, has digressed into a history of the Band—as indeed it should—it was his life.

What of J. L. Judd himself; it is difficult to differentiate between the man who acquired very high honour as a musician and the man who was, above all else, a first-class Commanding Officer.

The musical side of his character is perhaps best expressed by an explanation of the letters after his name:

Licentiate of the Royal Academy of Music
Associate of the Royal College of Music
Licentiate of the Trinity College of Music
Music Bachelor, Durham University
Fellowship of Trinity College

He was appointed a Member of the Order of the British Empire in June, 1949, for, in the main, his qualities as a Commanding Officer.

How often since then have visiting General Officers congratulated Captain, Major, Lieutenant-Colonel Judd on "The turn-out, the marching and the music of the Band."

For twenty years he has served Royal Signals, and few of our alumni have brought to the Corps greater credit than he has. Life has not always been easy, and he has had difficulties to overcome. But always it has been "The Corps" and what will bring it credit that has been foremost in his mind.

Now he has retired—a long innings (1917-1962) by anybody's standard, and the last twenty never out of the public eye. At long last he will have the leisure to enjoy his home, and Mrs. Judd's garden, in Sussex.

He boasts that he will become a man of leisure. If anyone has earned a holiday, he has. He considers that he has the longest service of any now serving.

Let us hope, however, that although his days as a soldier are over, his days as composer and adapter of good music are not.

Certainly "*arr. Judd*" must continue to appear in our programmes of music. But perhaps later we may discover the nom-de-plume which has concealed the composer, and realise that what we are enjoying was composed by that very distinguished Signal Officer and the best of good friends, John L. Judd.

He was "dined-out" in the Headquarters Mess on 13th February, 1962, by the Master of Signals, the Representative Colonel Commandant and those of his friends who were privileged to be in Catterick on that day.

(*continued on page 63*)

Bon Voyage

H.R.H. The Princess Royal, C.I., G.C.V.O., G.B.E., R.R.C., T.D., C.D., D.C.L., LL.D., Colonel-in-Chief, left the United Kingdom for the Mediterranean on an official journey on the 12th February. On the eve of her departure the following signal was sent:—

"All ranks your Corps send loyal greetings and wish you and all who sail in Britannia bon voyage.
—Representative Colonel Commandant, Royal Signals."

It is rare for there to be speeches on such an occasion, but Major-General Sir William A. Scott, K.C.M.G., C.B., G.B.E., spoke for all in tribute.

During the evening Lieutenant-Colonel J. L. Judd was given a silver box engraved with the signatures of the Colonels Commandant.

He also received many "Signals" of farewell and good wishes from his Corps all over the world.

At the end of his evening, hoisted in a Bisley-type chair, he was trooped around the Mess, set down in the large ante-room for the singing of "For he's a jolly good fellow," etc., and then to a fanfare from his trumpeters lining the stairs he was borne to bed.

A fuller account of the occasion will be in the April number.

Boxing

Army Team Championships

An article in the *British Army Review* published a number of records of those Regiments and Corps which had won the Army Boxing Championship. It made no mention of the spectacular performances of Royal Signals.

Major G. H. R. Flynn, M.B.E., Headquarters Training Brigade, immediately wrote to the Editor of the *British Army Review* pointing out that the article in reference was incomplete without at least some reference to the record of the Corps as set out in the *Royal Signals Diary*. The letter was passed to the Honorary Secretary, Army Boxing Association, who put in his reply:—

"There is no doubt that the Royal Corps of Signals have made a substantial contribution to Amateur Boxing in the Army, particularly before the war, when we were laying the foundation for present day standards.

"Men like Lieutenant F. S. Cole, Sergeant Wheeler, Signalmen Stuart and Viney and Lance-Corporal Jones were not only good boxers, but good sportsmen as well, and a credit to their Units.

"Their efforts have not been wasted, Army boxers are known for their sportsmanship in all parts of the country, and at whatever standard of tournament they may be appearing."

After expressing a slight difference between the Army Boxing Association records and what is published in the *Diary*, the Honorary Secretary continues:—

"You might be interested to know we now have another member of Royal Signals in the Army team—Lance-Corporal P. F. Johnson, 44 (H.C.) Regiment (T.A.), a Regular Soldier from Co. Durham, 19½ years of age, and doing very well. He has already boxed five times for the Army this season, and should become Army Lightweight Champion in March."

Visit to War Cemeteries in North Africa

A Mediterranean Cruise is being organised for May, 1963, to combine a holiday in the sunshine with a visit to the 1939-45 War Graves at:—

Alexandria War Memorial Cemetery.
El Alemain War Cemetery.
Tobruk War Cemetery.
Knightsbridge War Cemetery (Acroma, 15 miles west of Tobruk).
Massicault War Cemetery (Tunis).
Medjez-El-Bab War Cemetery (Tunis).

The journey will commence and finish at Victoria Station, London, and last 15 days. The cost, depending on numbers, etc., will be between 75 guineas and 100 guineas. Further information from Captain G. S. Nash, R.H.A. (Retd.), 6, Hampden Crescent, Brentwood, Essex.

Bow Bells

Corporal F. Ellis has just completed his National Service with 8th Regiment. His special hobby is campanology or bell-ringing, and the prime ambition of bell-ringers is to ring a peal. This may take from 2½ to 4½ hours of continuous ringing to complete and involves some 5,000 changes.

Corporal Ellis started bell-ringing at Wheathampstead at the age of 14 years and later graduated on to change-ringing at St. Peter's Church in St. Albans. His score of peals completed so far is: 20 peals.

On 20th December, 1961, he was selected to ring Bow Bells. This was the first time the Bow Bells have been rung for 22 years, and it was gratifying to see the Corps represented by Corporal Ellis at the heart of this very special occasion.

The Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award

BY LANCE-CORPORAL C. GARRETT, 8TH REGIMENT

On Wednesday, 20th December, 1961, I was presented with my Gold Award by H.R.H. Prince Philip Duke of Edinburgh, at St. James's Palace in the Throne Room. This was the culmination of three years' training towards the award, which I started as an apprentice at A.A.S. Harrogate.

The award itself is split into three sections, the Bronze, Silver and Gold Levels. Each of these is further sub-divided into four: (1) Public Service; (2) Physical Fitness; (3) Pursuit; (4) Expedition.

Public Service covers first aid, lifesaving and generally performing acts in aid of the public interest, i.e., helping voluntary organisations, etc.

Physical fitness includes the whole range of sports, athletics, swimming, gymnastics and also many skills, fencing, etc.

The Pursuit Section entails participating in a hobby over a period and showing interest in the chosen hobby to the extent of instructing in it and making articles associated with it.

The final section, the expedition, is over rough country, unknown to the candidate, and in each section a detailed log has to be submitted to the examiner and a close timetable adhered to.

Each section gets progressively more difficult, ranging from the elementary Bronze Section to the final, extremely difficult, Gold Section, and the candidate also has to produce service over a period, to some voluntary organisation.

On the whole, though difficult sometimes, it is a worthwhile thing to work towards and an achievement to be proud of when finally gained.

URGENT **CLOTHING** **URGENT**

THE WELFARE SECTION at Royal Signals Association, 88, Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1, will be MOST GRATEFUL for unwanted clothes — men's, women's, children's — anything in fact except ladies' underwear. There is a continuous demand which always exceeds supply.

VALE

Brigadier R. B. Ridley-Martin, MA, MIEE.

On first commissioning from the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich, into Royal Signals, in January, 1929, Ridley-Martin was posted to the Depot Battalion at Catterick, from which, on completion of his "Q" Course, he joined Armoured Fighting Vehicles Signals at Tidworth. After two years regimental duty, he was one of the officers selected to take the mechanical science tripos at Cambridge University. Going up to King's in September, 1932, he took his B.A. in 1934 (M.A., 1938), after which he spent three years in a Captain's appointment as instructor at the School of Signals.

On leaving the School he attended a three months' special G.P.O. course in London, and was then seconded for service with the Sudan Defence Force, where he reported early in 1938. During this time he became an A.M.I.E.E. and later an M.I.E.E.

He returned to regimental duty in Egypt in August, 1940, and served both in Signal units and on the staff, including Force 133, for the next four years in various parts of the Middle East, receiving a Mention-in-Despatches in the Western Desert. The last of these postings was in February, 1944, to 1 Armoured Divisional Signals, and in May, 1944, he sailed with them for Italy. He returned, X-Listed, to the United Kingdom early in 1945, but was soon posted overseas again with 47 (R) Divisional Signals.

The war in the West ended, however, while the unit was at sea; Ridley-Martin disembarked at Alexandria, and on 1st June, 1945, was appointed Chief Signal Advisor to the British Military Mission, Egyptian Army, with the local rank of Lieutenant-Colonel.

He returned to the U.K. in 1948 and served in A.A. Command as Staff Officer and unit commander, until being appointed G.S.O.1 in Signals 5, The War Office. In 1952 he became due for overseas again and was posted as G.S.O.1 to the C.S.O., M.E.L.F. He was invaluable in this appointment, with his wide knowledge of the Middle East, at a time when things were very difficult, particularly in the Canal Zone. He proved himself a tower of strength and was liked, respected and trusted by all he had dealings with. In August, 1954, he returned to U.K. as G.S.O.1 Signals 7 (Colonel) on the staff of the Signal Officer-in-Chief. After three full years in the War Office, he was appointed G.S.O.1 Signals, B.J.S.M., Washington, where he was very successful and made many friends in the U.S.A. and Canada. On completion of this appointment in Washington he returned to the U.K. to take up his last appointment as Chief Signal Officer, Eastern Command.

Dick Ridley-Martin has had a wide, varied and distinguished career in the Corps and he served his Corps well. He will be remembered by all those who had the good fortune to serve him, as a person of integrity who always gave of his best, and for his unfailing kindness and loyalty. He was a very good fencer and took tremendous interest in boats of all sorts and things mechanical. Dick will be very much missed on the active list of the Corps by his many friends. We extend to him our very best wishes for the future, also to his wife and family.

Mr. B. E. I. Jackson

There can be few officers who, when visiting Records, have not had occasion to meet Mr. Jackson.

On 21st February, 1962, Mr. Jackson retired, after completing 42 years' association with the Army and 27 years' service in the Corps Records Office.

He enlisted as a volunteer in the 1st (City of London) Royal Fusiliers in 1913, but being under age, he was discharged in September, 1914. In October, 1914, he again enlisted, this time in the R.F.A., but once more was sent home, being still under age. Finally, he joined the Royal West Kent Regiment in July, 1915, and was present in the fierce fighting on the Somme. He was demobilised in May, 1919, and then joined the R.E. Pay Office at Chatham as a temporary clerk and remained there until January, 1920, when he re-enlisted in the Royal Army Pay Corps and saw service in India.

In May, 1923, he found himself again a civilian, having fallen under the "Geddes Axe." In June, 1925, he joined Royal Signals Pay Office, and in October, 1934, was transferred to Royal Signals Records, which, at that time, was under the command of Colonel C. W. M. Firth, M.C.

Mr. B. E. I. Jackson

In March, 1939, he moved with Royal Signals Records to Balmore House, Caversham. The staff at that time totalled two officers and 26 clerks. During the 1939-1945 War he was employed in the promotion section. He was promoted Executive Officer in August, 1945, and has since that date been employed in Division II, dealing with all aspects of documentation of serving soldiers.

We in Records can only say how sorry we are to lose such an efficient colleague.

From an abundant store of knowledge and vast experience, he was always ready with sound and helpful advice. For this and his unfailing friendliness and cheerfulness, he will be much missed. His departure is a great loss to the Records Office and the Corps, which he served so well.

We wish Mr. and Mrs. Jackson many years of happy and well-earned retirement.

A LETTER FROM LIEUTENANT-COLONEL A. F. AUSTEN, M.B.E., B.E.M.

The Manor House, Fitzhead, Taunton, Somerset.

May I make use of the pages of THE WIRE to say *au revoir* to all my old friends in Royal Signals, and at the same time let them know of my new address.

I enlisted in Royal Signals in 1929, and after service in the Depot and Training at Catterick, served with 3 Division (1931), Shanghai Signal Section (1932), Hong Kong Signal Section (1932-35), 1 Division (1935), Hong Kong Signal Company (1935-40) Combined Operations and 1 Commando Brigade Signal Troop (1940-45).

After being commissioned in R.A.O.C., I served as Staff Captain and D.A.D.O.S. (Wireless) in the Provision Branch at the War Office, O.C. 3 Sub-Depot, 223 B.O.D. in Singapore, C.O.D., Donnington, Ordnance 3. G.H.Q., FARELF, and lastly at H.Q. Division/District here in Taunton. In all these appointments I have been closely associated with my old Corps, in fact, it was at one time strongly rumoured that Signals had had me planted in R.A.O.C. to be of more use!

Having subscribed to THE WIRE for all of my 32 years' service (I obtained my copy from the nearest Signal Unit), I now enclose 15/- for a year's subscription. The above address is my guest house, and all old friends will be sure of a warm welcome if they are travelling in the West Country.

I was at Denbury last Wednesday, umpiring a cup match for your Junior Leaders—there is no doubt that the future of Royal Signals is in good hands.

May I wish the Corps and THE WIRE every success for the future.

Obituary

MR. W. BUTLER

General Secretary, Royal Signals Association, 1920 to 1945

All older members of the Corps will learn with regret of the death, on 13th February, of Mr. W. Butler.

He was Chief Clerk in the Headquarters Signal Training Centre when the Royal Corps of Signals was formed in 1920. He retired shortly afterwards to become the first General Secretary of the Association. Although THE WIRE was started with Mr. G. E. Paling as Editor, Mr. Butler took a great part in starting it, and became the Editor in 1921.

He retired from the service of the Association in 1945. His widow, Mrs. W. Butler, lives at "Timberedge," Hillside Road, Leighton Buzzard.

A fuller notice will appear in April.

MAJOR J. K. BROWN

The news of the death of Major Ken Brown at Catterick Camp on 12th February at the early age of 44, has come as a sudden shock to everyone in the Corps and in Catterick in particular, where his cheerful and kindly spirit will be sadly missed.

Ken Brown joined the Army in 1938 and was commissioned into the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. Early in 1943, as a Captain, he embarked for service in North Africa and at the same time was transferred to the Royal Irish Fusiliers and saw service as a Battalion Signal Officer.

His service in a Battalion of the 38th (Irish) Brigade, one of the Brigades of 78th Division, meant that he was subject to some of the bitterest fighting both in the Tunisian Campaign and in Sicily. It was the 78th Division (sign the Battle Axe) that particularly distinguished itself on Longstop Hill, near Medjez-el-Bab, a feature that dominated the approaches to Tunis. Later one of the turning points in the Sicilian Campaign was the taking of Centuripe by the Division after particularly hard fighting over appalling hill features. Ken Brown played his part in these two great campaigns. His particular abilities as a Signal Officer were noted and he was attached to the 78th Divisional Signals prior to his transfer to the Corps in October, 1945.

After two years with the School of Signals he found himself passing through the Middle East again on his way to East Africa where he was a S.O.3 on the C.S.O.'s staff for eighteen months. A Telecommunication Course followed at the School and then three years with 3 Training Regiment from 1951-54.

Overseas again in 1954, initially for a short and pleasant six months in Trieste with BETFOR Signal Squadron, he was then posted to 10 Air Formation Signal Regiment, B.A.O.R., and so began a period of six years during which Ken gave such good service to the Corps with the Royal Air Force. The first three years with Air Formation Signal Regiments in B.A.O.R. were followed by three more, 1957-60, on C.A.F.S.O.'s staff, once again in the Middle East, which he grew to know so well.

He joined the School of Signals again in June, 1960, and was a G.S.O.2 (Training) for the last eighteen months.

During this time he developed to the full his love of music and particularly of opera. Besides being a regular member of St. Martin's Church choir he took a leading part in the Richmond Amateur Operatic Society and those who saw him will not forget his most excellent performances.

His many friends will always remember him for his sense of humour, his enjoyment of simple pleasures and his unfailing willingness to help others.

Our deepest sympathy goes out to his widow, Ruth, and to their son, Nicholas, in their tragic loss.

MAJOR P. A. HANSEN

He served in Royal Signals from 1931 to 1946, being commissioned during the 1939 War. He was well known on the North West Frontier of India, 1934, 1939, playing most games well. After the war he settled first in Henley and later moved to Maidenhead. The *Maidenhead Advertiser* published a striking tribute to him:—

"It is doubtful if any man in the town knew so many people and he could hardly walk down the street without stopping every few yards to speak to someone.

"He will be missed particularly in sporting circles. What he didn't know about football and cricket was hardly worth knowing. He had a gift for getting together unofficial football or cricket teams and generally could be relied upon to raise a team at short notice.

"At one time or another he was either Chairman or Secretary of many sporting clubs in Maidenhead.

"In his company life was never dull."

Wants and Offers

OFFICER'S DAUGHTER, aged 23, trained Secretary, experienced, and fond of children, requires post abroad with family. Free 9th July for two months or longer.—Please reply Box 85, c/o Editor.

* * *

OFFICER'S RED MESS UNIFORM, by "Alkit," chest 38in., inside leg 32in., height 5ft. 8in. to 5ft. 10in.; good condition, £10.—Enquiries: Oram, 2, Meadow Walk, Mote Park, Maidstone, Kent. Telephone: Maidstone 55385.

* * *

FOR SALE.—Crammers establishment at 30, Sackville Road, Hove, 3, Sussex. Boys aged 12-14 prepared for Common Entrance Examination to Public Schools. £2,500 for goodwill and furnishings.—Apply Major Gordon Fraser, who is prepared to remain for a period to ensure continuity.

VACANCIES IN GOVERNMENT SERVICE

A number of vacancies, offering good career prospects, exist for :—

Radio Operators — Male
Cypher Operators } Male and Female
Teleprinter Operators }

Write, giving details of education, qualifications and experience, to:—

Personnel Officer, G.C.H.Q. (RCO/6),
Foreign Office,
53, Clarence Street, Cheltenham, Glos.

Recommended Reading

Adventure Training !!! Read what happens in the course of normal duty in 210 Squadron. Pages 91 to 93.

Hurricane Hattie—the 3rd Regiment. Page 75.

KUWAIT. 601 Troop, the first arrivals. Page 99. In Retrospect. Pages 68 and 69.

Boxing — The 8th Regiment. Page 101.

The Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award. Page 63.

Brazil — Pages 86 to 88. 633 Troop.

Aden — Page 94. 222 Squadron.

Archaeology. Page 70.

Technician's Qualifications — an important War Office Article to be read by all. Page 86.

PERSONAL COLUMN

London Gazette

From Tuesday, 2nd January, to 6th February, 1962.

Lieutenant-Colonel L. M. H. Gregory, M.B.E., retired 8th January, 1962.

Captain (Traffic Officer) A. Sawyer to be Major (Traffic Officer), 9th January, 1962.

Second-Lieutenant P. S. Cook to be Lieutenant, 11th January, 1962.

Captain (Traffic Officer) J. O. Tompkins to be Major (Traffic Officer), 3rd January, 1962.

Lieutenant-Colonel C. A. Lowe, E.R.D. (A.E.R.) resigned his commission 16th November, 1961.

Lieutenant R. C. R. Barder (T.A.) resigned his commission, 6th December, 1961.

Officer Cadet R. G. Titterington to be Second-Lieutenant (T.A.) 20th November, 1961.

Major (T.O.T.) W. V. D. Maguire, T.D. (T.A.), retired 15th November, 1961.

Major G. J. C. Moss, M.B.E., to be Lieutenant-Colonel, 23rd November, 1961.

Major L. R. D. Willmott, M.M., B.E.M., retired, 16th January, 1962.

Major E. H. Rose retired, 29th December, 1961.

Lieutenant C. D. Brown to be Captain, 14th January, 1962.

Captain (T.O.T.) J. S. Davy (A.E.R.) to be Major (T.O.T.) 26th September, 1961.

Lieutenant (Traffic Officer) J. R. A. Laird (A.E.R.) to be Captain (Traffic Officer), 22nd December, 1961.

Major J. Shaw, M.B.E., to be Lieutenant-Colonel, 11th February, 1961.

Lieutenant P. R. Buchanan to be Captain, 16th December, 1961.

The undermentioned Second-Lieutenants to be Lieutenants, 23rd January, 1962:

A. J. Hervey	G. M. Finney
S. G. McK. Gordon	P. M. Stamp
P. D. Jones	K. P. Burke
B. L. Belton	A. W. de V. Hunt
R. F. Maynard	C. D. A. Blessington
A. F. Carter	G. A. Maude
R. P. Shiner	A. C. Stutchbury

Lieutenant (Q.M.) M. McDonald to R.A.R.O., 3rd December, 1961.

Captain C. H. K. Houghton retired 26th January, 1962.

Second-Lieutenant A. P. H. Marley to be Lieutenant, 1st February, 1962.

Major W. D. S. Renton, B.A., to be Lieutenant-Colonel, 25th November, 1961.

Major F. L. Clarkson, M.B.E., to be Lieutenant-Colonel, 1st December, 1961.

Major R. J. Barlow retired on 5th February, 1962.

Second-Lieutenant R. R. Johnson, B.A. from T.A., to be Lieutenant, 9th January, 1962.

Lieutenant J. E. T. Ray to be Captain, 4th February, 1962 (T.A.).

Lance-Bombardier G. S. W. Rutherford to be Second-Lieutenant, 26th November, 1961 (T.A.).

Second-Lieutenant I. J. Crouch to be Lieutenant, 23rd January, 1962.

W. C. Nicoll (formerly Pilot Officer, R.A.F.) to be Second-Lieutenant, 9th January, 1962.

Movement—Officers

(Taken place or forecast to take place—period 15th Feb. to 15th March, 1962)

Lieutenant-Colonel (T/Col.) M. D. Price, O.B.E.	... ...	To B.J.S.M., Washington.
Lieutenant-Colonel (T/Col.) J. R. Piddington, M.C.	... ...	,, Ministry of Aviation.
Lieutenant-Colonel B. R. M. Hayles		,, H.Q. Yorkshire District.
Lieutenant-Colonel J. Knowles, M.B.E.		,, 11th Regiment (HS).
Lieutenant-Colonel S. H. McKay	...	,, H.Q. A.A.F.C.E.
T/Lieutenant-Colonel C. E. Tonry	...	,, 8th Regiment.
Major D. E. Salisbury	... ...	,, 19th Regiment.
Major E. F. Prockter	... ...	,, Federation Armed Forces, Malaya.
Major D. A. Barry	... ...	,, 1st Regiment.
Captain M. J. T. O'Connor	... ...	,, H.Q. NEARELF.
Captain R. L. Stonham	... ...	,, Gurkha Signals.
Captain G. A. Thompson	... ...	,, H.Q. M.E.L.F.
Captain K. A. Reggler	... ...	,, 237 Squadron.
Captain G. J. Chitty	... ...	,, School of Signals.
Captain G. C. M. Newton	... ...	,, All Arms Junior Leaders Regiment.
Captain A. S. McK. Anderson	...	,, 28th Regiment.
Lieutenant D. W. Stubbs	... ...	,, 21st Regiment.
Lieutenant J. M. Hincks	... ...	,, Army of Rhodesia and Nyasaland.
Lieutenant R. A. Hoghton	... ...	,, 210 Squadron.
Second-Lieutenant J. H. Almonds	...	,, 1st Regiment.
Second-Lieutenant M. M. Ayrton	...	,, 7th Regiment.
Second-Lieutenant A. H. Boyle	...	,, 4th Regiment.
Second-Lieutenant D. C. N. Genders		,, 7th Regiment.
Second-Lieutenant T. T. Hallchurch		,, 7th Regiment.
Second-Lieutenant J. R. Potier	...	,, 2nd Regiment.
Second-Lieutenant W. J. P. Robins		,, 2nd Regiment.
Second-Lieutenant R. B. Smith	...	,, 2nd Regiment.
Major (Q.M.) R. F. C. Ashford		,, 44th (H.C.) Regiment, T.A.
Captain (T.O.T.) J. A. Bevan	...	,, 24th Signal Regiment.

Retirements

Lieutenant-Colonel L. M. H. Gregory, M.B.E., 8th January, 1962.
Captain L. R. D. Willmott, M.M., M.B.E., 16th January, 1962.
Lieutenant-Colonel (Q.M.) W. B. Edwards, 17th January, 1962.
Major R. J. Barlow, 5th February, 1962.
Major R. Carlyon, 17th February, 1962.
Major B. E. Tebbs, 14th February, 1962.

Movements—Warrant Officers and Sergeants

W.O.I A. Williams	... ...	To 247 Squadron
W.O.I T. Walker	... ...	,, 18th Regiment
W.O.II E. Thomas	... ...	,, 13th Regiment
W.O.II R. J. Bell	... ...	,, 253 Squadron
W.O.II R. Young	... ...	,, 253 Squadron
W.O.II J. Orme	... ...	,, 203 Squadron
W.O.II D. F. Langston	... ...	,, 235 Squadron
W.O.II B. J. O'Malley	... ...	,, 11th Regiment
W.O.II W. A. Barnes	... ...	,, 11th Regiment
W.O.II R. W. Kay	... ...	,, 14th Regiment (2 Squadron)
W.O.II A. Copestake	... ...	,, 14th Regiment (3 Squadron)
W.O.II F. E. Wood	... ...	,, 209 Squadron
W.O.II O. J. Gough	... ...	,, 44th (H.C.) Regiment, T.A.
W.O.II F. M. Murphy	... ...	,, 302 Squadron, T.A.
W.O.II L. E. Trevithick	... ...	,, Queen's University O.T.C.
W.O.II E. R. T. Pearce	... ...	,, 24th Regiment
W.O.II J. McGlynn	... ...	,, H.Q. Eastern Command.
W.O.II R. F. Fairbairn	... ...	,, 4th Regiment
Staff Sergeant F. J. Brown	... ...	,, 16th Regiment
Staff Sergeant T. E. Buckle	... ...	,, 225 Squadron
Staff Sergeant L. C. Jeynes	... ...	,, 11th Regiment
Staff Sergeant W. Nallon	... ...	,, 11th Regiment
Staff Sergeant D. Wade	... ...	,, 11th Regiment
Staff Sergeant R. Menzies	... ...	,, 14th Regiment (1 Squadron)
Staff Sergeant R. A. Ryder	... ...	,, 53rd (Welsh) Regiment, T.A.
Staff Sergeant A. C. Young	... ...	,, 63rd Regiment, T.A.
Staff Sergeant H. J. Saxton	... ...	,, 237 Squadron
Staff Sergeant L. J. Noke	... ...	,, 252 Squadron
Staff Sergeant G. E. Shakeshaft	... ...	,, 11th Hussars Signal Troop.
Staff Sergeant J. Y. Glendinning	... ...	,, S.T.C. (Far East).
Sergeant G. Dodsley	... ...	,, 1 Signal Squadron K.A.R.
Sergeant M. J. Cann	... ...	,, Federated Army Signal Squadron.
Sergeant A. W. Till	... ...	,, Camp Comdt., War Office.
Sergeant D. Livermore	... ...	,, Junior Leaders Regiment
Sergeant J. Raffan	... ...	,, 24th Regiment
Sergeant K. M. Slaughter	... ...	,, 7th Regiment
Sergeant F. Coulson	... ...	,, 254 Squadron
Sergeant A. Knox	... ...	,, 7th Regiment
Sergeant E. A. Brewer	... ...	,, 11th Regiment
Sergeant R. H. Forster	... ...	,, 8th Regiment
Sergeant D. G. Layton	... ...	,, 254 Squadron
Sergeant O. E. Ballard	... ...	,, 2nd Regiment
Sergeant A. Davis	... ...	,, 24th Regiment
Sergeant A. Waugh	... ...	,, 36 Corps Engineer Regiment, Signal Troop.
Sergeant D. G. McCartney	... ...	,, 24th Regiment
Sergeant W. E. Currums	... ...	,, 203 Squadron
Sergeant E. F. S. Le Quesne	... ...	,, H.Q. A.F.N.E.
Sergeant T. R. Morse	... ...	,, H.Q. A.F.N.E.
Sergeant J. Mackinnon	... ...	,, 9th Regiment
Sergeant J. B. Robson	... ...	,, 9th Regiment
Sergeant H. A. McHugh	... ...	,, All Arms Junior Leaders Regiment.
Sergeant E. H. Kilshaw	... ...	,, 1st Regiment

Births

10th Regiment

JOSIAH.—To Corporal and Mrs. P. Josiah, a girl, Fiona Jessica Gail, on 30th December, 1961, at B.M.H., Hostert.

McWILLIAMS.—To Signalman and Mrs. A. McWilliams, a girl, Jacqueline Elizabeth, on 31st December, 1961, at B.M.H., Hostert.

205 Squadron

DAVIS.—To Corporal and Mrs. P. J. Davis, a daughter, Tina Maria, on 9th October, 1961, at 29, Oakfield Road, Penge.

STARK.—To Corporal and Mrs. R. L. Stark, a daughter, Patricia Elizabeth, on 14th October, 1961, at B.M.H., Iserlohn.

MOXON.—To Coporal and Mrs. K. Moxon, a daughter, Susan Erice, on 22nd November, 1961, at B.M.H., Iserlohn.

McANDREW.—To Signalman and Mrs. A. McAndrew, a daughter, on 17th December, 1961, at the Green, Wallsend.

Marriages

205 Squadron

O'DONOVAN—HANCOCK.—Signalman J. O'Donovan, on 27th October, 1961, to Joan Davinia Hancock, at the Register Office, Bristol.

LAWLESS—HARRIS.—Corporal J. R. Lawless, on 6th January, 1962, to Ann Harris, at the Parish Church, Tavistock, Devon.

LEDGER—FOGG.—Signalman M. F. Ledger, on 27th January, 1962, to Patricia Ann Fogg, at St. Nicholas, in the County Borough of Lincoln.

10th Regiment

BOWMAN—HAYES.—Signalman R. Bowman to Mary Rose Hayes, at the Immaculate Heart of St. Mary Church, Gateshead, on 23rd December, 1961.

GREEN—ROBERTS.—Lance-Corporal T. M. Green to Joyce Eveline Roberts, at the Wrexham County of Denbigh Register Office, on 3rd January, 1962.

Gurkha Signals

DUTTON—McCARTNEY.—Corporal J. R. Dutton to Maureen, daughter of Sergeant and Mrs. Stewart McCartney, at St. Matthew Church, Rasah Camp, on 10th February, 1962.

Deaths

BUTLER.—On 13th February at his home, "Timberedge," Hillside Road, Leighton Buzzard, W. Butler, Signal Service Royal Engineers, First Secretary Royal Signals Association 1920 to 1945. Editor THE WIRE 1921-45.

HANSEN.—On 31st December, 1961, at Maidenhead, Major P. A. Hansen, Royal Signals 1931-46.

BROWN.—On 12th February, 1962, at the Military Hospital, Catterick, Major J. K. Brown, School of Signals.

PREBBLE.—23202744 Signalman A. H. Prebble, on 2nd January, 1962, in the United Kingdom.

KELLY.—22250054 Lance-Corporal J. J. Kelly, on 5th January, 1962, in the United Kingdom.

THORPE.—13089148 Corporal J. G. Thorpe, on 6th January, 1962, in the United Kingdom.

HOWE.—23660294 Signalman J. W. Howe, on 7th January, 1962, in the United Kingdom.

HOUSE.—On 14th February, at The Royal Portsmouth Hospital, Lieutenant-Colonel B. Harvey House (Retd.) late 8th (King's Royal Irish) Hussars and Royal Signals, 1916-1938 and 1939-1945.

Promotions

The following promotions were authorised up to the end of January, 1962:

Signal Centre Supervisor Roster

				New Sen. No.	Old Sen. No.
To W.O.II	22594957	A/W.O.II	Hammill, T. D.,	1060	260
	2549573	S Sgt.	Stringer, A.	1070	130

Regimental Duty Roster

To W.O.I	5890893	A/W.O.I	Jackson, T. W.	1010	1380
To S Sgt.	* 22771347	Sgt.	Simmonds, R. W.	6590	4760 (Op.)
	* 22515566	A/S Sgt.	Markham, J. R.	6600	1850 (Lmn.)

* *Accelerated Promotions*

Clerical Roster

To W.O.II	14615414	S Sgt.	Wainer, F.	590	340
To S. Sgt.	22793392	Sgt.	Jones, A. J.	830	740
To Sgt.	23234656	Cpl.	Jepson, P. E.	2260	820
	21055785	Cpl.	Till, A. W.	2270	780
	22978962	Cpl.	Wooden, A. G.	2280	1000
	22793392	Cpl.	Jones, A. J.	2300	1934

Technical Roster

To Sgt.	22289408	Cpl.	Whalley, J. M. P.	3345	600
	22453909	Cpl.	Elliott, W. H.	3346	2914
	22997754	Cpl.	Howden, F. G.	3660	2910

INSERTIONS

Operating Roster

22548295	Sgt.	Neill, S. G.	7494

Regimental Duty Roster

22202258	S Sgt.	Bibby, R.	3740
22249756	S Sgt.	Longhurst, S. C.	6104
22212649	S Sgt.	Crampton, R. A.	5904

General Trades and Duties

22537389	Sgt.	Collins, D. H.	2714
14052990	Sgt.	Higgins, D. F.	2004

DELETIONS

Signals Centre Roster

W.O.II	480	
S Sgt.	550	900

Operating Roster

Sgt.	4760	4610	4070	
	5090	7110	4930	9140

Clerical Roster

W.O.II	400	
Sgt.	1680	1080 1570

Technical Roster

S Sgt.	30	264
Sgt.	1300	2930

Regimental Duty Roster

W.O.I	580	850
S Sgt.	780	2550

General Trades and Duties

Sgt.	2580	2800

Lineman

Sgt.	1500

SOUTHERN COMMAND ROYAL SIGNALS ARCHAEOLOGICAL CLUB. This Club has been elected to full membership of the Council of British Archaeology from 5th January, 1962.

* * *

ADEN

Major C. Robinson, Commanding 222 Signal Squadron (Air Formation), D.F.P.O. 69, is doing all he can to compile a history of the Royal Signals in Aden. There has been a detachment of the Corps stationed there over a very great number of years. Will anyone who has recollections, particularly of Fort Morbut, write to Major Robinson.

Forthcoming Events

Electrical Engineers Exhibition

to be held 20th to 24th March, at Earls Court.

3rd Div. Signals Reunion Club

are holding their annual reunion at The Victory Club, 73/79, Seymour Street, London, W.2., on Saturday, 31st March, 1962. The Hon. Secretary, Mr. E. E. Bayley, will be pleased to send details to all ex-3rd Div. Signals, past or present, who wish to attend. Enquiries to 10, Lanark Road, London, W.9.

Aldershot Branch

The annual dinner of the Aldershot Branch will be held on 7th April, 1962, at the Masonic Hall, Alexandra Road, Farnborough, Hants., at 8 p.m. Tickets, 16/- per head. Information from A. V. Tent, 111, Gloucester Road, Aldershot, Hants.

16th Royal Signals Association Branch Representatives Meeting

will be held at the T.A. Centre 47th Signal Regiment (Middlesex Yeomany) T.A., Duke of York's Headquarters, Chelsea, S.W.3, at 10.30 a.m., Saturday, 31st March, 1962.

Corps Dinner

will be held May 30th, 1962.

Corps Regular Officers' At Home

will be held on 31st May, 1962.

37th Meeting of the Central Committee of the Royal Signals Association

will be held on 31st May, 1962.

Aldershot Tattoo

In place of the Aldershot Tattoo, "The Modern Army" will be at home to the public on Queen's Parade, Aldershot, on the afternoons of 16th and 17th June, 1962. Apply to Aldershot District, Steeles Road, Aldershot.

Corps Week-end and Association Reunion and Annual General Meeting

will be held at Catterick on 7th/8th July, 1962.

Royal Tournament

Earls Court, London, 11th-28th July, 1962.

Royal Signals Institution Lectures, 1962

Tuesday, 3rd April: "Employment of Airborne Forces in Future Wars," Brigadier A. J. Deane-Drummond, D.S.O., M.C., at 5.15 p.m., North Hall, Training Brigade, Royal Signals, Catterick Camp, Yorks.

*Friday, 25th May, "The Reserve Army," Colonel G. H. Shrimpton, T.D., 6.15 p.m., at the T.A. Centre, 47th Regiment, T.A., Duke of York's Headquarters, Chelsea, S.W.3.

*Friday, 28th September, "New Zealand," Brigadier J. E. Anderson, 6.15 p.m., at the T.A. Centre, 47th Regiment, T.A., Duke of York's Headquarters, Chelsea, S.W.3.

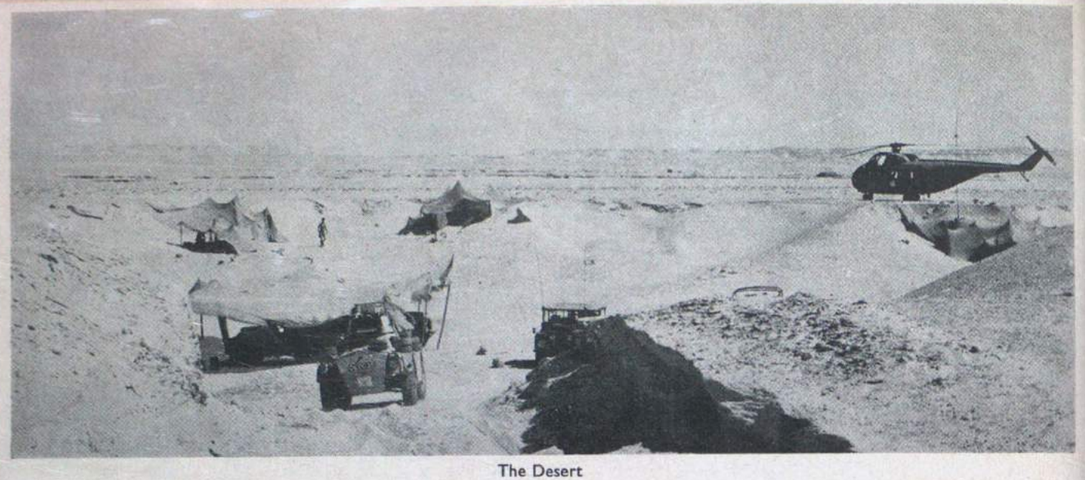
Tuesday, 27th November, "Training of American Cadets at West Point," Second-Lieutenant Paul L. Miles, Jnr., U.S. Army, 5.15 p.m., at North Hall, Training Brigade, Royal Signals, Catterick Camp, Yorks.

* Members are allowed two guests for these lectures.

Royal Signals Association Football Club Fixtures

April 18th	Billingham Synthonia	Catterick Camp
*	R.E.M.E.	Billingham
*	R.A.O.C.	Catterick Camp

(Continued on page 70)



The Desert

KUWAIT IN RETROSPECT

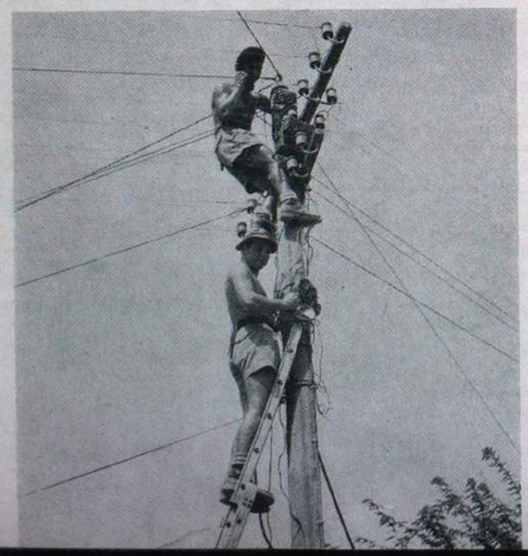
THE sun beat down through the moisture-filled atmosphere on the bare, barren, heat-reflecting sands of Arabia; for it was mid-summer and the middle of the "hot" season. At this time—26th June, 1961—Kassem decided to claim for Iraq, the wealthy oil-producing State of Kuwait. As a result of this threat, the Ruler of Kuwait requested Britain to honour her treaty obligation by sending military assistance. This alerted Middle East Command, which quickly answered the Ruler's request.

As in any military operation, Royal Signals were heavily committed. The first unit to arrive in Kuwait was 601 Signal Troop (Ship) which had landed from HM.S. *Meon*. This Troop did sterling work in these early days, establishing essential communications between H.M.S. *Meon*, Brigade Headquarters and the Airfield. They were soon joined by other units who were included to assist in the provision of Rear Brigade communications. During this period the Royal Signals were far from idle, for they also provided the communications at Bahrein, where "Flash" and "Top Secret" had become common-place terms. Let us not forget that small, but valiant band of linemen who worked unceasingly laying cable on the Forward Airfield, nor the Troop with the Armoured Car Regiment, toiling in the blistering heat of the desert. All units were hard-pressed and were beginning to feel the strain when the U.K. reinforcements made their welcome appearance on 3rd July. These reinforcements, although they had been transferred from the pleasant, temperate climate of England to the hot, dusty, humid clime of the Persian Gulf in a matter of hours, tackled their tasks with commendable purpose and energy.

Communications were soon in a settled state, and as the days passed, it became clear that the Kuwait operation was to be a "waiting-game." It was now a question of keeping alert, keeping fit and improving amenities.

What memories will remain with those who took part? Each will have his own, but many will be common. Stepping from the aircraft or sliding down a chute on to the runway of Kuwait's new airfield, which was still under construction, and seeing crates amongst the rubble and rows of vehicles. Experiencing the heat for the first time, which seemed to suck the very air out of the body. Then who will ever forget the thirst—that insatiable thirst. Cool, cool drink was the order of the day, and in those early days was not easy to obtain. The water-cooler outside the Brigade Signal Centre at the first location became a much overworked machine, and in the end could only produce a light-brown tepid liquid. Then the blowing sand, which "peppered" any exposed skin, and which, together with the glare of the sun, turned eyes into red gritty orbs. However, it was once more proved that no matter how uncomfortable the conditions, the Army is at its best in the field. An atmosphere of true comradeship exists, everyone toils with a single purpose, and the sense of humour of the soldier comes to the fore. No names have been mentioned, for everyone performed his appointed task. The results produced were not perfect, but everyone who took part can be proud of the results achieved. Many lessons were learnt and all gained from their experiences.

Last, but by no means least, one memory common to all, will be the kind hospitality of the local families to whom a grateful "thank-you" is extended.



◀ Corporal A. Winstanley, Signalman J. Dyer

KUWAIT TIT-BITS

Overheard.—One disgusted lineman to another, one warm evening in Kuwait: "We've dropped to third place on the B.B.C. news, mate!"

Who was the Warrant Officer who marched in front of his C.O. to ask why he had been left behind and was not detailed for Kuwait? Needless to say, he got there!

Where did those numerous local contractors appear from, armed with testimonials of previous service given to the British Army?

One afternoon a Signal Officer stopped his operators accepting a tea invitation from a local family due to a drop in operating standard. This immediately resulted in the officer being invited to tea by the good lady of the house—or was it to ask him what he was doing to her boys?

Overheard in a Signal Centre:

Voice 1: Staff, I can't understand this message—"All CWP drawn from OFP will be returned to RSG immeditely."
Voice 2: That message is O.K., what's the trouble?
Voice 1: The address groups, staff—I can't find them.

Who of the U.K. reinforcements asked on arrival whether he could now write home to tell his parents where the blazes he'd got to?

True or false? It was reported that an attempt was made to construct a golf course in Kuwait. All went well until the holes were made on the greens—they struck oil!

When trying to get some cable locally, one Signal Officer was informed by a resident engineer that insulated cable was not essential. He added that due to the dry soil, open wire laid on the ground would produce a satisfactory circuit.

1. "On the air" Signalman Wilkes. 2. A change from the Yorkshire Moors, Lance-Corporal Hannan and Signalman Jagger. 3. "Cool as a cucumber" Sergeant Church. 4. Corporal Fenn. 5. Desert repair Lance-Corporal McKie. 6. Beside the chopper Lance-Corporal Lowe 7. "Far from Home" Sergeant Wood, Corporal Kendall, Corporal Samphier and Signalman Moore

Forthcoming Events

Continued from page 67

Royal Signals Hockey Fixtures

Mar. 21st	Welbeck College — Welbeck.
Apr. 20th-23rd	Scarborough Hockey Festival — Scarborough.

Indian Signal Units 1911-1948 O.C.A.

On 26th May, at the Eccleston Hotel, Victoria, London, S.W.1, A.G.M. and Dinner. Open to members and their wives, but guests not allowed. Further details from Captain W. Dowley, 153, Mychett Road, Mychett, Nr. Aldershot, Hants.

North London Branch

The Annual Dinner and Dance will be held at The Cambridge, North Circular Road, Palmers Green, London, N.13, on Saturday, 14th April, 1962.

Tickets and information from the Hon. Secretary of the North London Branch of the Royal Signals Association, J. T. Murphy, 1, Marlborough Close, Whetstone, N.20.

Indian Army Reunion, 1962

The 1962 Reunion will be held at Hurlingham Club on Friday, 29th June at 3.30 p.m. Tickets 9/- per head. Hon. Secretary, Brigadier A. J. M. Wilton, O.B.E., The Cottage, 30, Thames Street, Sunbury-on-Thames.

Royal Signals Display Team

May 17th	Hertfordshire, St. Alban's—Agricultural Show.
May 19th	Billet Lane, Stamford le Hope, Essex.
June 2nd	Kynoch Social Club, Witton, Birmingham.
June 19th—21st	Edinburgh.
June 23rd	Holmfirth.
July 7th	Catterick.
July 11th—28th	Royal Tournament.
August 1st	Nantwich.
August 6th	Horncastle.
September 1st	Haltwhistle—Agricultural Show.

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Southern Command Royal Signals Archaeological Club

Report on the activities for the year 1961

The Club, in its second year, continued to attract new members and again received encouragement and help from the members and staff of the Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum and the Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society.

During the year the Editorial Staff of the club wrote and published six issues of its magazine which gave details of excavations, courses, lectures, current archaeological and historical book reviews, and ran a series of articles on county historic places of interest. It is now currently running a series on Archaeological Discoveries in Yucatan.

The year 1961 proved to be an interesting one from the point of field work, and the interest stimulated by the excavations and lectures of 1960 was carried through into 1961.

The club contracted from the Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum the job of surveying Tinker Pit, an open-cast chalk pit a few miles west of Salisbury. The surveying was completed, and on 8th January, 1961, members of the club, together with members of the Museum Excavation Sub-Committee, excavated from two adjoining Iron Age Storage Pits two skeletons of a typical Iron Age "crouched burial." One body was classified as that of a woman of middle age.

A party was formed during April and worked at odd intervals throughout the remainder of the year on a project in connection with the disused stone quarry workings at Chilmark, Teffont and Tisbury in the county of Wiltshire. These quarries have been mentioned by various authors as having provided stone for a Romano-British Villa, and for part of the construction of Salisbury Cathedral, as well as for the spire of Chichester Cathedral and many other famous houses and parish churches in Wiltshire. The old quarries were investigated, a task which entailed crawling along underground passages littered with rock falls and stone rubble from the time when the quarries were last worked. The year's work ended with an excavation at the entrance to one of the old workings.

In 1962 the club intends to survey all the entrances to the underground quarries, plot them on a survey map, and also plot the open-cast quarries and obtain a stone sample from each for the Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum who are going to carry out a petrological survey of building stone used in Wiltshire.

No. 1 King St., Odiham

Early 17th Century padlock found at the above address. Possibly from the Odiham Stocks which were situated near the property.

In July ten members of the club assembled at Odiham, Hampshire, and carried out an excavation at No. 1, King Street. This Elizabethan property had been at one time a house, ale house, brewery and public house, and lately again converted into a dwellinghouse. In the garden a well was discovered which had been bricked over since 1828. Members uncovered the well, and three of the party descended. The well proved to be 46ft. deep, and contained just over 3ft. of water. The sides were flint lined for the first 22ft., but from there downwards were

No. 1 King Street, Odiham

Members of the excavation team opening the Elizabethan well. *Left to right :* WO 1. A. G. Harfield, Mr. S. F. Abraham (ex R. Signals Lance corporal), Miss J. Bowler—of CSO's Branch, Southern Command

of natural chalk. The whole excavation took one day, and the work of writing up the excavation and historical report remains. This will require a period of documentary research at the County Archive Offices.

Members of the club attended the Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society excavation, under the directorship of the Rev. E. H. Steele, M.A., at the Iron Age and Romano-British site at Bilbury, near Wylye, Wiltshire. This was the second season that the club had helped at this excavation, and the Honorary Secretary attended for the full sixteen days. Members also attended the Society's excavation earlier in the year on a Romano-British pottery kiln site in Savernake Forest.

It was during the Annual Meeting of the Wessex Group of the Council of British Archaeology, which was held at Winchester, that an appeal was made for assistance on the site of the old car park adjacent to Winchester Cathedral, where a new hotel was to be erected and the Winchester Museum were carrying out an emergency "dig" through stratification layers which covered Medieval, Norman, Saxon, and Romano-British periods. One member, whilst working on the site of a Saxon building, excavated a coin of the reign of Ethelred.

The club has also been active in the documentary research field, and on 17th June it published an 80-page book entitled "A History of Chilmark and Guide to the Parish Church." Copies were put on sale at the Chilmark Church Annual Fete, in conjunction with an exhibition of church silver and documents, together with other items of historic interest from the Chilmark area. To date one hundred copies of this book, also a large number of photographs of houses of historic interest have been sold. Members of the club are now working on a "Supplement" to the 1961 edition, and hope to have this ready for publication by mid-summer 1962.

The 1962 programme for the club includes the continuation of the two previously mentioned Chilmark projects, the surveying of an old coaching road near Salisbury, and, if the landowner's permission can be obtained, the excavation of the site of an old inn named "The New Inn" adjacent to the coaching road. This Inn is mentioned in a document in 1773, but appears to have fallen into disuse in 1824. The club will continue to give assistance to the Wilshire Archaeological and Natural History Society on their excavation at Bilbury in 1962; this project is being carried out on either a five or ten-year plan.

The year 1962 opened with the club being voted full membership of the Council of British Archaeology, and it will now be represented at their meetings by two members.

* * *

Any officer or other rank, either serving or retired, and their families may join the Club. Any person interested should write to the Honorary Secretary, c/o C.S.O.'s Branch, H.Q. Southern Command, Salisbury, Wiltshire. Membership is not confined to personnel serving in Southern Command, but is open to all members or ex-members of the Corps wherever they may be serving or residing. It is hoped that the Club will eventually be recognised as a "Corps" club and so be known as the "Royal Signals Archaeological Society."

* * *

Any person interested in obtaining copies of the 1961 edition of the club magazine should write to the Editor at the above address.

Finally, as the present Secretary is shortly to be posted from the Salisbury area, there is an urgent need for a Retired Officer or Other Rank to fill the post of Honorary Secretary. Peferably a person resident in the Wiltshire area.

TG or not TG

That rude and unmentionable word "relegation"

The trade test hour draws near. It has been a long, hard course, every lesson and note building up to the final factor—Trade Test.

It seems ages since I first entered 24th Signals and coming from the luxury of The Eleventh I was somewhat taken aback at the complete change of attitude in everyone around me. From now on Trade Training was the order of the day.

Looking back I can remember when I was first introduced to the high piercing brain shattering morse, and under the eagle eye of Mr. Day, our civilian instructor, we were lulled into semi-consciousness with dit dah. Coming over gradually at first and then suddenly in about the fifth week, the whole screeching momento seemed to go mad and speed up to about seven words per minute. How well I remember the look on the instructor's face when he mentioned that rude and unmentionable word "relegation."

Then came the typing periods, not as bad maybe as the morse but still requiring a good deal of concentration. For the intellectuals the instructor would play music on his "Jews Harp" and at the same time beat out the rhythm with his big toe.

In between morse and typing (the big chiefs willing) we might have had either a procedure lesson or a period actually working sets. In the procedure lessons, apart from the instructor giving us all the "Griff" on how and how not to send messages he would also delight in informing us of the dreadful things that could happen if ever we went wrong.

How hard he tried to impress upon us those magic symbols.

Over the past twenty-eight weeks I think the most quiet and gentle natured person I met was the "E" and "M" Instructor, he seemed to be in a world of his own, solely made up of molecules and neucli, every now and again coming out with such mumbo jumbo as Fredohms Law.

Good grief, my time is up, the dreaded hour of reckoning has come. In a few moments the high priest, with his gentle voice, will come and usher us into the trade test room, and when the door closes behind me I will be "on my todd" . . . .

Recruits from the Commonwealth—3

BRITISH WEST INDIES

By Lieutenant A. M. P. Barker, Royal Signals

The British West Indies has been much in the news of late. Some of her peoples have immigrated and joined the Armed Forces in the U.K., others joined up in the West Indies. The latter have to pay their own fare to U.K., which is refunded after three months.

At present, seven recruits are in training in this Unit. They all have different backgrounds, but have the common desire to seek adventure and learn a trade in the Royal Signals.

The majority come from Jamaica, the largest island in the British West Indies. It may seem strange at first that men should leave such an island, with its sub-tropical climate, glorious beaches, Sugar, Banana and Grapefruit plantations, rich bauxite mines and a vast tourist trade give employment to much of the population. Many new resorts are being opened up on the beautiful north coast, and large hotels are being built to accommodate holidaymakers who come to ride the surf, to go yachting or motor boating, to fish, or just laze under the palm trees.

There is, however, a surplus of labour, and in any case, the best jobs are all family affairs and are passed on from father to son or nearest relatives. For the average man with a few G.C.E. qualifications, there are not many openings. The Government employ quite a number, especially in its Ministry of Agriculture and Lands, a most important section of the Government. The banks also provide an outlet for a few.

Appealing though some of these jobs may be, there was not enough travel and adventure associated with them to attract the men who have joined the Corps.

Most of our recruits have tried jobs in Jamaica, but Signalman Millar came to England straight from school. He was educated at a co-educational boarding school, a new venture in Jamaica. He lived in England from the age of two until he was eight years of age. Now he has come back to England and hopes to attain a Commission.

Signalman Dusquesnay has also been to England before. In Jamaica he was a member of the Cadet Force and attended camps and courses. He was fortunate to be in a party of cadets which toured England and Scotland in 1960. They visited R.M.A., Sandhurst, and had a flight in a Beverley of R.A.F. Transport Command, from Abingdon. They even went on the Ranges at Bisley before going to a cadet camp in Scotland. His trip obviously impressed him for in December, 1961, he left his job on his father's sugar farm near Spanish Town (the old capital in buccaneering days) and joined the Corps.

Signalmen Stassel and Pearce came to England together to join the Army. They had both worked together in the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands, Valuation Department. However, they wanted to study electronics, and as there were no opportunities in Jamaica, they joined the Royal Signals.

Signalmen McFarlane and Miller also worked together in the same Ministry, but in the accounts section. Feeling the need for adventure, they too joined the Corps; McFarlane to be a Radio Relay Operator and Miller a Radio Operator.

Signalman Thelwell, from the very picturesque resort of St. Anneon, the North Coast, was obviously branching into a new field when he enlisted into the Corps. He worked with the World Health Organisation on the eradication of Malaria. He has a number of qualifications relating to health and hygiene, so we have reluctantly advised him to transfer to the R.A.M.C., so that his specialist qualifications are not wasted.

Signalman Crosswell was encouraged to join the British Army by his father, now Deputy Commissioner of Police in Jamaica, who was himself once in the Army. To Crosswell this was a big change from life in the resorts of the North Coast, where he used to do native dancing, including the Limbo and Fire-Walking, in floor shows for tourists.

Signalman Cummings was born in Barbados, but spent his school years in the U.S.A. After leaving school he came to England and worked for London Transport. He is to train as a Technician.

They have all mixed well with the other Troops during training, and have held their own on the square, the ranges and in Troop boxing competitions.

The winter weather was a bit too cold for most of them, but they will no doubt feel more comfortable as the summer (?) draws near.

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ARMY APPRENTICES SCHOOL

Our newly-formed Pipe Band, now taking its rightful place on parade, has recently been presented with two Pipe Banners.

Our photographs show these banners being presented.

On a wet and windy morning, we held a parade at which Lieutenant-Colonel Edward R. Beaty, U.S. Army, presented a banner on behalf of all ranks of the American Army Unit at Menwith Hill, thus further cementing the ties of friendship between our two Units.

In our photograph, Colonel Beaty is seen, having presented the banner to Apprentice Tradesman Simpson, of Penney House.

On last term's Graduation Day, the Royal Signals Association presented a Pipe Banner to the School, and our photograph shows Lieutenant-Colonel A. R. Glanvill, T.D., President of the Harrogate Branch of the Royal Signals Association, presenting the banner to our Commandant, Colonel J. P. North, C.B.E.

Lieutenant-Colonel "Reggie" Glanvill, for the past two years our Chief Instructor, has left us and Royal Signals for civilian life. We were all very sorry to see him go; we have all benefited from his stay with us, and all at the School wish Mrs. Glanvill and himself all the very best in civilian life.

Other changes on our staff:

Major D. W. Sutherland has left us for the War Office, and Major "Fred" Leatherland has taken over as O.C. Signals Wing "B."

Captain P. Tripp has gone off to the desert and the Trucial Oman Scouts, and we welcome Captain "Mac" Wise in his place, direct from a few years' flying.

W.O.II "Jim" Griffin has left us for civilian life and has settled down in Harrogate. W.O.II "Reg" Staniford has taken his place.

Sports Notes

Hockey.—The School Staff team got through to the Yorkshire District finals, where they met the School of Signals, and after being 3—0 down at half-time tried in vain to come back in the second half with two goals. Final score: School of Signals won, 3—2.

Basketball.—The School Staff team have won the Northern Command Basketball Cup for the second year in succession. They played 11th Regiment in the final and won, 46 points to 15 points. We travelled to Edinburgh on February 25th to play the winners of Scottish Command in the quarter-finals of the Army Basketball Cup.

Army Youth Basketball Cup comes to Harrogate.—On Saturday, 9th December, 1961, Penney Company ("D" Company) won the Army Youth Basketball Championships by beating "A" Company Junior Leaders Battalion, R.A.S.C., at Catterick, by 30 points to 18 points, and by so doing, brought the Army Trophy back to Harrogate for the first time. As our result sequence shows, the way to the top was through five eliminating games, and the nearest rival in these games was Rawson House ("A" Company) of our own School, who gave the winners quite a fright.

THE WAY TO THE TOP in the Army Championships:

1st Round (Command stage)		Lowland Bde. Jnr. Soldiers	
Penney Coy.	54	Wing—(Lanark)	16
2nd Round (Command stage)			
Penney Coy.	38	Scottish Coy., Harrogate ...	24
Northern Command Finals.			
Penney Coy.	26	Rawson Coy., Harrogate ...	25
Semi-Finals (Army stage)			
Penney Coy.	36	Guards Coy. Jnr. Leaders Bn.	26
Army Final, Penney Coy. ...	30	Jnr. Leaders Bn., R.A.S.C. ...	18

Sergeant Jenning has been the coach and trainer of this Company for the past two years, and must be congratulated on producing such a high standard.

Athletics and Cross-Country.—The first half of the cross-country season has been most successful. The School Individual Races were held in September, and medals were won by:

Juniors	*Seniors*
Jennings (H.Q. Company)	Escott (Rawson Company)
Altham (Phillips Company)	Baynes (Penney Company)
Wilmot (Penney Company)	James (Scott Company)

A/T Corporal James was appointed captain for the season, and under him, the School team has only lost two matches, one to a Leeds University team (by two points) and the other to A.A.S., Arborfield, in the Winter Games. In this last match we tied on points, but their last man beat ours.

We pulverized Carlisle and Chepstow in the other games. Against Carlisle, our placings were: 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 9th, 11th and 13th, and against Chepstow we did even better, taking first seven places and ninth.

Positions in each race were:

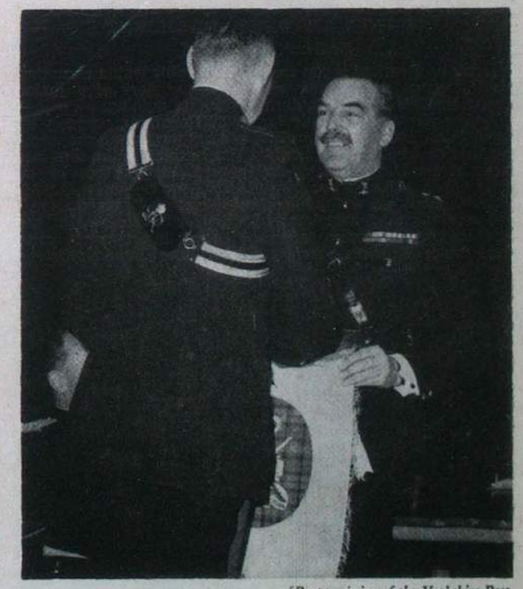
	Carlisle	Arborfield	Chepstow
A/T Corporal James	1	4	7
,, Lance-Corporal Escott	4	3	1
,, Sergeant Parsons	3	2	4
,, Baynes	2	14	2
,, Bradshaw	5	7	3
,, Collins	13	12	5
,, Lunn	9	11	6
,, Corporal Gardiner	11	16	9

We were not able to hold the Inter-Company Competition because of the raging blizzard which struck "Penney Pot" and seemed to go on for days.

We are now into the second half of the season and have high hopes for our teams in the Army Boys' Championships and in

By permission of the Yorkshire Post.

Lieutenant Colonel Edward R. Beaty having presented the Pipe Banner to A/T Simpson



By permission of the Yorkshire Post.

The Commandant receiving the Royal Signals Association banner on behalf of the School

[*By kind permission of "The Harrogate Herald."*

WINNERS ARMY YOUTH BASKET BALL CUP

Top Row, Left to Right : A/T Clarke, A/T Glover, A/T Crickmore, A/T Corporal Williams, A/T Sergeant Crow, A/T McDonald.

Bottom Row, Left to Right : A/T Lance Corporal Pilbeam, A/T Sergeant Godwin, Major S. E. Miller, M.B.E., R. Signals, A/T Corporal Poultney, Sergeant Jennings, A/T Lance Corporal Coldwell, A/T Lance Corporal Simpson

the Civilian meetings in the North of England. In these latter, we have entered a Boys' team (i.e., under 16) as well as a Youths' team.—Catch 'em young, is our motto.

We have also started athletic training. The indoor arena, which was built up in the gym in Hildebrand Barracks, has been moved to what ex-apprentices will remember as the Carpenters' Shop. This is a comparatively vast building, 50 yards by 30 yards, and we have been able to establish separate pits for the long and triple jumps, high jumps and the pole vault. We also have a sanded shot-put area, and a practice throwing net for hammer, discus and javelin is being erected. There is ample room for circuit, power and weight training, and our ambition is to get a two-lane cinder track laid down for the length of the building. This will give us room for starts practice, relay hand-over and three flights of hurdles. In the very near future, the new arena will be open every evening.

We can confidently look forward to another good athletics year.

JUNIOR LEADERS' REGIMENT

Follow My Lead

Don't be surprised if you see a film (possibly with a recruiting bias) at your local cinema which tells the story of a Junior Leader and his life before, during and after training.

A film was made recently for Army Recruiting purposes by Anvil Films Ltd., of Beaconsfield, and has been given the working title of "Follow My Lead." The casting for the film was made by the Director using our Junior Leaders in most of the parts which included our own "Alan Ladd"—Junior R.S.M. Wraith. Rank was not the main consideration, "rugged looks" and one who had completed his "Senior" were two of the qualifications that were required. Others in important parts were Junior Sergeants Sharman, Lock, Junior Corporals Greenwood, Kynaston and Junior Corporal Mate from the All Arms Junior Leaders' Regiment in North Wales.

Junior Leaders with Film Camera

The Military Advisor was Captain Guy Rogers who, using the precedence started by Alfred Hitchcock, made a short appearance as a "Rebel" in one of the scenes. Though most of the shots were taken at Tonfanau (All Arms Junior Leaders Regiment), most of the action shots were taken very close to Denbury and as usual the typical Devonshire weather, "gales and rain," held up filming on several days.

Helicopters were used very successfully and the "artists" chalked up many flying hours. It was no wonder that one of the cast commented, "Adventure Training won't be the same after all this."

We will not tell you the story or the plot; in fact we don't know what the final production will be after the "cutter" has finished. It will be a pity if they cut out "Rebel Rogers."

3rd REGIMENT

Notes from the Regiments are, by their very nature, of limited interest to readers outside the Regiment concerned. Yet the more popular four daily newspapers can make a local story sound "big" . . .

Military Vehicles Crash

The crash and roar of military traffic disturbed the tranquil village of Pucklechurch one day in January. This was the beginning of "Lifeline," an exercise in co-operation with the R.A.F.

Soldiers Lashed. Gales of 80-100 m.p.h. lashed the Relay Troop detachment high on the Mendip Hills, but apart from one mishap when an aerial was blown down, the crew had a reasonable time up there.

Notorious Figures. Pressure of work did not prevent a close watch being kept on such figures as Yogi Bear and the notorious Ena Sharples. But after ten days of wind, snow and ice no one was sorry to return to Bulford.

Intervention. The forthcoming Administrative Inspection loomed largely in our minds as unloading proceeded after "Lifeline," but Exercise "Kiwi 2" was to intervene and give us other things to think of. This two-day exercise taught us much, and the overnight snowfall enhances the memory of this event.

Members of Guard of Honour Admin Inspection

Left to Right : Lance Corporal T. F. B. McDonald, Sergeant J. H. Nelson, Sergeant R. M. Sanderson

☆

After the Inspection of Guard of Honour

"Congratulations — Now lets inspect some more!" Major General V. W. Street, C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., Lieutenant-Colonel T. W. Baynes, M.B.E.

☆

The End of the World

The Day of Judgment, widely advertised for Sunday, 4th February, did not in fact arrive until the following day when our Administrative Inspection took place.

Well wishers will be pleased to note that Doom has been postponed for yet another year.

Coalition. The Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess has now ceased to function as a Signals Mess and has amalgamated with the Division H.Q. on the Division H.Q. Mess premises.

The new Combined Mess under the guidance of W.O.I (R.S.M.) Barnes-Murphy should soon be functioning as smoothly as our old (Signals) Mess.

News In Brief

Men Severely Beaten. The Regimental footballers beat the School of Artillery 3—0 in the first round of the S.P.D. Cup. But both first and second teams lost their games with the same score, 4—2 against 18 Field Regiment, R.A., and H.Q. 3 Division.

Casualties in these two matches, Signalman Luke, damaged knee, Signalman Strain, broken leg.

Captured. Congratulations to Sergeant Chambers who is to be married on 17th February.

Welcome to Corporals Frost, Pringent and Signalman Bray, who have newly joined the Regiment.

Escaped. Corporal Flood to Trucial Oman Scouts. Corporal Hemstock and Lance-Corporal Pitt to Germany. Corporal Booker, Lance-Corporal Robertson, Signalmen Robinson, McGuire and Thurley to 30th Regiment. Signalman Ost to Cyprus.

Released. Lance-Corporals Owen and Larkman, Signalman Jackson, now civilians again.

Lance-Corporals Bulien and Line, Signalman Weir, to be demobbed before the end of February.

Scandalous Behaviour. Combat kit is a great leveller. When the whole Regiment is wearing it, one can't distinguish an Officer from a Signalman until one is close enough to see the "pips."

This fact was brought home rather forcefully to W.O.II (S.S.M.) S. A. G. Hulse one day on "Lifeline," when he invited a nearby "laddie" to "get your hands out of your pockets." The offender, on closer inspection revealed himself to be the ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ?

General. The S.S.M. is always pulling publicity stunts like this—one day he'll go too far.

Public Apology. In a recent issue we congratulated Sergeant R. L. Gardner on the birth of a son. This was a sad mistake and we hasten to announce that full credit for the event belongs to Sergeant F. R. Gardner.

Sensation. If this gets into print, there will be perhaps one more sensational headline for you next month:—

"Ace Reporter Shot!"

Hurricane Hattie

3rd REGIMENT

True to Regimental tradition, it all started on a Friday evening. Transmitter Troop was told to pack a complete C11 Radio Station for air transporting to British Honduras. A subsequent demand was made for men. Eleven men, under Sergeant Freestone, were soon put on six hours' notice. Saturday saw some action. At tea-time everybody was ready to go, and that evening Sergeant Freestone, with the detachment, set off to Lyneham. The following morning Lieutenant M. Marples joined 12 Engineer Group, who were going to form the Force H.Q. in British Honduras. The detachment flew from Lyneham to Kingston, Jamaica, via the Azores and Bermuda, and Lieutenant Marples via Shannon in Eire, Gander in Newfoundland, and New York. A brief few hours were spent in Jamaica and then on to British Honduras.

All in the party were astounded by the sight of the wreckage and other devastation as they flew over Belize. To see it on the ground was a sight that few of us will forget. Houses were laid flat, some were on their sides and some were upside down. Streets were blocked with wrecked telegraph poles, smashed cars and mud.

The first day was spent helping the very small detachment of 633 Troop to man the rear link to Jamaica, whilst Lieutenant Marples went into Belize to establish the new H.Q. at the Fort George Hotel and the 119 radio link with the airport. A second signal centre was set up in the once-luxurious Fort George Hotel and by borrowing C42 sets from 1 Royal Hampshires, a command net from the H.Q. was set up. The next problem was line communications. By salvaging telephones, all of which were the old magneto type, we managed to repair the hotel and Civil Exchanges, and soon had all the military offices, Port Control, Government Offices and Public Services back on the 'phone. This was only achieved with the invaluable help of Staff Sergeant Evans of 633 Troop. We now had telephones in Belize and telephones at the airport, with a ten-mile gap in between the two places. There was, however, a power route from Belize to the airport, so we engineered two lines, which consisted of half-inch diameter solid copper power cable, D10 and household flex. Apart from bits of it being stolen, local inhabitants hanging washing on it, prisoners breaking it on working parties and, for one day, Radio Guatemala coming through loud and clear, it worked well!

C11's, at long last, arrived from England, and we were able to replace the borrowed Royal Navy 62 set, but fortunately keeping our "Players Navy Cut" bearded operator to help work it. We were now able to communicate throughout the country. Corporal Leech and Lance-Corporal Taylor's departure for Stann Creek, the second largest town in Honduras, was slightly delayed by the first boat exploding in the harbour! Sergeant Barr, who had now joined us, looked after the signal centre in Belize with Signalman Harvey, Osprey and Smith. Sergeant Freestone, with Corporal Hutchins, Signalmen Johnson, Seelhoff, Stevens, and the three men detachment from 633 Troop, manned the radio sets and signal centre at the airport. Corporal Wood gave up his trade as a technician and became a permanent lineman, helped by anybody off duty. On more than one occasion

Damage in Belize

"Jimmy", Signalman Osprey, Lance Corporal Taylor, Signalman Smith

livid officers have been quietened by such technical phrases as "Rose, this is Chippy, be a darling and use the second cord from the left."

Transport was our big problem, until we managed to get two Land Rovers from Jamaica. Prior to this we had sported a Cadillac and a motor bike to keep the line and S.D.S. going.

Once the initial flap had died down and things moved slowly back to normal, all three roads in the country were explored. The roads took us to El Cayo by the Guatemalan border, to Stann Creek and Chetumal in Mexico; after a trip to the latter, straw sombreros became quite popular!

To all of us this has been a tremendous experience. We were given no notice at all and were sent out to do an interesting and worthwhile job under almost operational conditions. We would all like to thank Major P. Irwin, Captain J. Wheeler and all of 633 Troop for helping us in every way in most difficult conditions.

4th REGIMENT

A hearty welcome to our new "Tara" and a sad farewell to the old one. R.S.M. J. I. Jenkins arrived during the evening of 8th January and was hastily changed into No. 1 Dress and swiftly conveyed to the Officers' Mess, which was the venue for the Officers' v. Senior N.C.O.s' games evening. At the Officers' Mess, he quickly got into his stride and proved a very capable stalwart for the Sergeants in the age-old game of darts. The games evening proved very hectic, and considering the fact that he had just completed a rather long and tedious journey, our admiration must be shown to R.S.M. Jenkins for sticking the pace which was set.

R.S.M. M. Ham, seated in his car (complete with roof rack piled high, with sledge on top!) was not, in our honest opinion, a very happy man on the day that he left the Regiment. I think I am right in saying that The 4th will always be first in his thoughts, and poetically speaking, "his first love." Even being towed out of the unit lines by the Senior N.C.O.s did not seem to raise his spirits. Never mind, sir, all our best wishes go with you, and the best of luck for the future. The 4th will always appreciate what you did during the time you were here.

Well, so much for that, let us proceed to something which would surely have brought a beaming smile to the face of R.S.M. Ham. On the night of Tuesday, 16th January, the gymnasium echoed to the roar of applause when 4th Regiment beat 7th Regiment in the semi-finals of the Morrison Cup Boxing. During the course of the evening, both teams displayed some fine boxing skill and tremendous courage. Even though he lost, Signalman T. Dent, of 1 Squadron, proved that "there's good stuff in little packages." Quite naturally, the main event of the evening, which everyone looked forward to, was bout No. 10, heavyweight, Corporal R. Hooper of 2 Squadron, and Second-Lieutenant G. A. Maude, of 7th Regiment. Both these boxers put up a very good show, and everyone was sorry to see the fight end with Second-Lieutenant Maude being knocked out by a very heavy punch from Corporal Hooper in the third round. The final result, a victory for 4th Regiment, with 17 points to 16, proves conclusively that every boxer must give of his best for his team to win.

From "knock-outs" to "crash-outs"! At a very early hour of the morning (to quote one Signalman—"Cor blimey, wot a rude awakening!"), the Regiment received the code-word for us to evacuate barracks and proceed to survival locations. This was a Divisional Exercise, and as a result, caused a little embarrassment round some of the Married Quarters. Men of 7th Regiment were seen running around in circles, with wives' high-pitched voices pleading that they shouldn't go, as "it's only for those bods in 4th Div."

In typical British style, everything appeared chaotic, but funnily enough, we cleared the unit lines in good time, and within the limit laid down. A little concern was shown by certain members of "H.Q." Company, 4th Division, when it was found that at one location the water bowser had arrived bone-dry . . . Many smirks from faces of Oriental-type 4th Regiment honourable soldiers on seeing this. However, much face lost, when honourable officer of "Romeo" Troop fails to check that electrical equipment is properly earthed, and lands in most undignified position in lowly peasant-type thrashing machine!

On Thursday, 25th January, the Unit was visited by the Commander 1 (BR) Corps, Lieutenant-General Sir Charles Jones, K.C.B., D.S.O. He saw all aspects of the Regiment at work and play, and proved an extremely interested General in modern methods of communcations. 'Tis said that after seeing "Charlie" Troop give a display of physical endurance, intermingled with line-laying, and then hearing that they were departing the same day for a three-day route-march, the General said: "Good lord, all that, after this morning's performance?"

The "Charlies," led by Lieutenant J. M. Gray and Sergeant D. Loome, in fact, left camp at 15.00 hours on Thursday and were taken by vehicle to the village of Hessoldendorf. After being dropped there, they marched, with all the paraphernalia associated with exercises, to Holdendorf, a distance of seven miles and stayed there for the night. During the evening, the "Charlies" had (quote) "a good night" (unquote), with

"For God's sake, Grimshaw, do something with that awful hat." (The practice of wearing side-hats has been started by the officers on a "trial basis").

the local beer-drinking gentry of Holdendorf. The next morning at 09.00 hours the Troop set off for Assendorf, a distance of 25 miles, and covered this distance quickly, by both road and cross-country. It is worthy to mention here that the cross-country part ended in "Occy Charlie" getting lost. They stayed the night in Assendorf, and among quite a few things that happened, were serenaded by a German choir in one of the "locals." The last stage of the route-march back to Herford, approximately 22 miles, was duly completed on Saturday, and the Troop arrived back in high spirits at 17.00 hours.

On 30th January, the Regiment was visited by the C.S.O., B.A.O.R., Brigadier E. J. C. Harrison, O.B.E. The C.S.O. arrived by helicopter (you must do this more often, sir, it cleans the square better than brooms, bass).

During your service in the Army, in fact every day, if you are a good soldier, you read Daily Orders. To many this is a sad event, but to your scribe, it has proved immensely amusing in some of the stations I have served in recently. The locally-employed typists often end up as script-writers for Messrs. Milligan and Sellers. Proof of this was shown in Regimental Daily Orders recently, when a selection for a Rugby Probables side showed an Officer to be "scrun half" and a Sergeant to be "2nd tow." Greater enjoyment can be gained from the following extract from Orders, "as many members of the Unit as possible should attend to *clear* the teams on." Quite obviously the 4th Regiment do not like players hanging about too long on Rugby pitches.

Results of semi-finals of Morrison Cup boxing:—

Bout No. 1. Bantamweight: Signalman G. Broadbent (7th Regiment).
Bout No. 2. Featherweight: Signalman P. Keating (7th Regiment).
Bout No. 3. Lightweight: Signalman J. Akehurst (4th Regiment).
Bout No. 4. 2nd String Light Welter: Craftsman D. Herd (4th Regiment).
Bout No. 5. 2nd String Welter: Signalman D. Wittrick (4th Regiment).
Bout No. 6. Light Middleweight: Lance-Corporal T. Evans (4th Regiment).
Bout No. 7. 1st String Light Welter: Lance-Corporal R. McNally (7th Regiment).
Bout No. 8. Middleweight: Signalman V. O'Donavan (4th Regiment).
Bout No. 9. Light Heavy: Lance-Corporal T. J. Brown (7th Regiment).
Bout No. 10. Heavyweight: Corporal R. Hooper (4th Regiment).
Bout No. 11. 1st String Welter: Signalman R. K. Jacobs (7th Regiment).

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10th REGIMENT

No. 1 Squadron breathed their last on 15th January, but not before a lot of hard work had been completed on stores and equipment. The following Monday saw several swollen Troops in No. 2 Squadron and Troop Officers and Sergeants doing their level-best to shake down their new charges. However, two weeks or so, and everything would appear to be back to normal.

For the months before the final fold-up date of No. 1 Squadron, they had been considering what to do to mark the disbandment in a fitting fashion, before the personnel were scattered to the four corners of the globe by posting.

Corporal L. Leary was sent out to reconnoitre the area to find a suitable hotel, at a suitable price.

The reconnaissance was completed, the date and time were chosen and the scene was set. At about 8 p.m. on the 15th January, groups of extremely well-dressed soldiers could be seen moving, not so quietly, through the darkened streets of Krefeld to the rendezvous. All was prepared; the tables splendid with far too much cutlery, glass, and flowers awaited the onslaught. There was just time for a quick beer or two before the arrival of the O.C., Major G. Klosser, and the "Chancellor of the Exchequer," Lieutenant A. L. Gilhooly. Most members of the Squadron were present, including all the officers and 90 per cent of our Senior N.C.O.s—a good 70 per cent of the Squadron. A four-course steak supper, with wine, was served, and coffee was available to follow. Over the cups, Major Klosser delivered a marathon after-dinner speech studded, with dubious definitions, such as a "Whizzer" and a "Wozzer," which perform opposite functions, and interspersed with gripping tales about psychiatric ailments, morals of sailors at sea, etc., etc. The dinner itself culminated in the presentation of four "Bruno" shields to "behind the scenes" heroes of the Squadron, who had hitherto received none of the limelight justly due to their good efforts. They were S.S.M. W.O.II B. A. R. Yates, for his training of the swimming team and other accomplishments. Staff Sergeant J. Douglas, for excellent work on the Squadron M.T. Corporal E. E. Clarke for all the willing work he put into the Squadron Social Club and into the organisation for the dances. Lance-Corporal R. Haigh, who, up to the last moment, was scraping and polishing desks and tables in an effort to reduce the Squadron barrack damages bill. They then adjourned to the "serious drinking" room, and it is said that certain people in the Squadron, who should be too old to do so, and too dignified to dare to, were hammering on the door of the Gasthaus in dawn's early light—probably looking for a "Wozzer."

The only sports that do not appear to have suffered at the hand of the wintery weather are basket ball and hockey. Both with fair success and enjoyment. Saturday, the 13th January, saw the final of the Inter-Troop Hockey Competition, with "B" Troop (2 Squadron) beating "K" Troop (1 Squadron) by 3 goals to 1. In sub-zero (centrigrade, of course!) conditions, some very skilful hockey was played, and if nothing else, the competition has proved that even those who have never handled a stick before, can have a lot of fun and can acquire a good standard on the pitch in a very short time. The Commanding Officer presented the cup to Sergeant T. Atkins, "B" Troop team captain, complimenting them on a well-played game and adding his congratulations to "K" Troop, having won the soccer cup, for appearing in an inter-Troop final for the second time.

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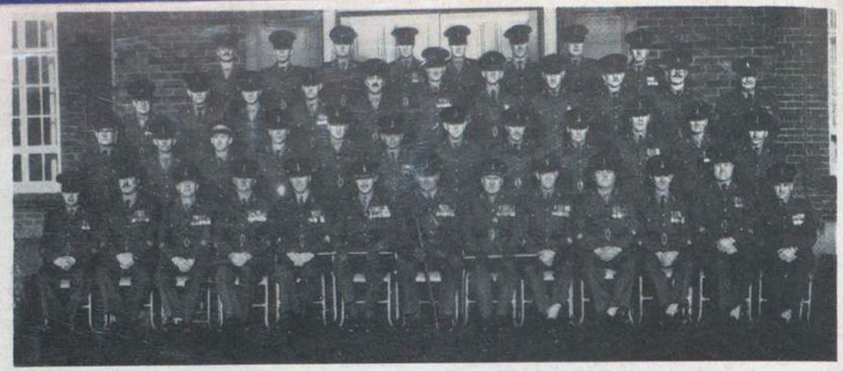
11th Regiment (Depot)

Warrant Officers and Sergeants 1962



Back Row : Sergeants S. R. Parry, F. Coulson, R. P. O'Neill, F. Finney, R. W. H. Jamieson, R. Bell, G. Godsley, G. R. Spooner.
3rd Row : Sergeants S. J. Murray, A. Rae, W. F. Kilburn, D. C. Walton, E. A. Beasley, J. Cole, D. J. Tryner, R. T. Massey, R. Clothier, H. Simister, C. W. Webb
2nd Row : Sergeant R. W. Clark, Staff Sergeants D. V. Smith, G. M. Byrne, H. W. Clark, A. Warren, R. Gilder, T. B. Brown, Sergeants K. H. R. Dale, C. W. Wells, W. H. Reeves, J. O'Callaghan, R. Gore.
Front Row : Warrant Officers II G. J. Emery, A. E. Pugh, R. D. Wright, A. E. Lee, M.B.E., L. Irving, Lieutenant Colonel S. W. Brackenbury, M.B.E., W.O. I. E. R. C. Wall, Major R. O. Wilson, Warrant Officers II J. D. Hutchinson, R. A. Graveling, J. D. King, R. J. Bell, E. Ormond

A lean month, a month of bills, paid and unpaid; insurance premiums and car tax; rubber cheques; positive attempts to cut down smoking and other pleasant habits; and how do we face up to it all? We wish every one the compliments of the season, live austerely for about a month (helped along by the odd lapse!) and by this time we are able to look forward to the Spring.

Recruit of the Month. Signalman R. Holmes won both prizes, as Best Recruit and Best Shot, on the 24th January from seventy-two men. An excellent achievement and a very good start to life in the Corps. His N.C.O. instructors were Sergeant Gore and Corporal Burt.

Signalman R. Holmes.

There was added interest to this event because Signalman Holmes is almost a "local."

He attended several schools in the North Riding but for the last two years he went to Darlington Tech and specialised in accountancy. This did not appeal to him—"Not enough excitement or variety." Very understandable, his father is a retired Police Sergeant of the North Riding Constabulary, now living in Northallerton. Training in winter in these parts, therefore, did not deter young Holmes, in fact by all accounts, he enjoyed it. He now goes on to train as a Technician.

Both his parents were among the group of parents and friends who attended the Pass-off. It is always a pleasure to have spectators, they invariably add interest and colour to the proceedings.

Shoulder to Shoulder. It may be recalled that we have about 200 civilians on our staff. Among those who have decided that the Typewriter is mightier than the Sten, fourteen people have been traced who have served with Royal Signals.

They are headed by Lieutenant-Colonel (Retd.) R. W. Atkinson, O.B.E., who joined Royal Signals in 1926 and retired in 1957.

The "Oldest Soldier" would appear to be Mr. G. E. Litchfield of the Officers' Wing, who served in the Infantry from 1916 to 1919 then R.E. Signals and Royal Signals from 1920 to 1948.

Running a close second is Mrs. E. E. Wells who was in the W.A.A.C. from 1918 to 1920, then joined the A.T.S. for the Second World War and was the Sergeant in charge of the A.T.S. girls and soldiers who staffed our present Officers' Mess from 1947 to 1953. Even in 1947 one was somewhat overawed at the sight of the 1914-18 War Medal and Victory Medal. There was "no argument" in those days and there isn't any in these days either.

Many a time has "Micky" Wells drained a Trophy—Cup, Rosebowl or even Wooden Basin of Victory—when it proved too deep for the victors who'd filled it. She would then provide eggs and bacon throughout the celebrations. One party, a farewell to a C.O., lasted with interruptions, from Wednesday midday until Sunday morning but service never faltered.

Another lady appears in this list, Mrs. E. A. Tyler (R.H.Q.) who was an instructor at the W.R.A.C. Signals Training Centre.

A close second in the men's list is Mr. W. Diball (1 Squadron) who served in R.E. Signals from 1919 to 1921 and Royal Signals 1921-1945.

There are one or two more old soldiers, who probably need watching, in the following line-up : Messrs. J. P. Baldry (W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess), 1936 - 1960.

S. E. Bowers (W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess), late A.C.C., who spent a number of years attached to Royal Signals.

F. J. Button (P.R.I. Department) 1927-35, recalled 1939, served until 1942 then transferred to R.E.M.E.

L. Carter (Vimy C), late A.C.C., was attached to School of Signals 1958-1961; W. J. Gibbons (Q.M. Department) 1922-54); L. McKeil (Q.M. Department) 1950-52 (N.S.); H. Smith (Q.M. Department), ex-Boy A.A.S. Harrogate, 1948-1961; A. Thompson (Officers' Mess), 1945-47; P. E. J. West (2 Squadron), 1953-55 (N.S.).

Sergeant W. H. Foster A.C.C. receiving the L.S. and G.C. Medal from Brigadier P. M. P. Hobson, D.S.O.

Awards. During a parade, Sergeant W. H. Foster, of the A.C.C., was presented with the L.S. and G.C. by the Brigade Commander, Brigadier P. M. P. Hobson, D.S.O., who explained to our new members the value of long and loyal service which is rendered by such men as Sergeant Foster.

Commission. On 1st February, R.S.M. E. R. C. Wall received his Commission as Lieutenant (Q.M.). Our congratulations and we trust that he and Mrs. Wall will enjoy life in Singapore. We know they will, for they have always shown a lively and active interest in Unit activities both on and off duty.

It is an extremely rare occurrence for an Officer to join the Officers' Mess of the Unit in which he was serving before being commissioned.

During lunch-time on the 2nd February the transition stage was completed successfully.

Assistant Instructors (Drill and Weapon Training) Course No. 8
Back : Lance Corporal Allen, Corporal Ryan, Lance Corporal Harrison, Corporal Johnson, Corporal Walter, Corporal Anderson, Corporal Topliss.
Front : Corporal Moorhouse, Lance Corporal Palmer, Corporal Richardson, Captain G. Barnett, Staff Sergeant Cushen, Corporal Denniss, "Lady."

Courses Wing. Commencement of the New Year saw much increased activity in Courses Wing with No. 24 Sergeants' Course assembling on 8th January, closely followed by No. 8 Assistant Instructors Course the following week. With so much outdoor activity, the weather at this time of the year makes the going more than a little tough. This point was highlighted on an all-day Map Reading Exercise, which took place over the desolate wastes of Preston Moor. Conveniently, we had reasonable visibility to start with, gazing at the still impressive beauties of Wensleydale, stretching beyond Redmire— with chattering teeth and a screaming wind trying to pluck our maps from us. The next phase though, a compass march, soon warmed everyone up and apart from Sergeant Waugh stepping into a water filled hole almost up to his waist, and O.C. Courses falling flat on his face through a similar hazard, all went well. The day ended as scheduled, with a hot meal produced in the front yard of "The Bolton Arms," except that a check revealed three Sergeants deficient. These were recovered some two hours later, cold and wet, in spite of their healthy exercise, just as the light was fading. Normally this part of the programme provides a very pleasant day, over some of the most attractive scenery in England, with grouse, pheasant, hare, and even mallard duck all over the place.

We welcome with pleasure Staff Sergeant T. J. Cushen (from Germany) who takes over the appointment of Staff Sergeant (Drill), filling the vacancy created by the relinquishment of Sergeant Parry, after a spell of recurrent poor health.

We wish the best of luck to Sergeant "Wally" Walton on his posting to Germany after nearly five years of really good work in Catterick. His versatility was unusual. Equally at home with drill, weapon training, M. of I, or carpentry, we shall miss him.

Congratulations to Sergeant and Mrs. P. D. Stowe, on the birth of a daughter (Bettina), who will have three brothers to keep her in order.

The present course is the last of the Royal Signals Sergeants' Course, and in April will commence the first of the Staff Sergeants' Course Parts I and II.

Our photograph is of the current No. 8 Assistant Instructors (Drill and Weapon Training) Course, with their Course Officer, Captain Graham Barnett, 3rd East Anglian Regiment (16/44th Foot).

Lastly, a "Howler from No. 22 Sergeants' Course initial test. "What is meant by Vertical Interval?" Answer : "Break in the construction of the spinal column."

General Notes. On the 22nd January the Royal Signals Band under the direction of Lieutenant-Colonel J. L. Judd, M.B.E., gave an orchestral concert in H.Q. Mess.

This was highlighted by excellent solo and duet performances and the Fijian "Choir" who arrived dressed in their colourful "home pattern" clothes.

It gives the writer much pleasure to record a visit by the Secretary of the Royal Signals Association and Editor of THE WIRE, Brigadier H. A. Firth, during which time he gave a very informative talk on the Association.

It was refreshing to exchange the old quip verbally during a small lunch-time session instead of by post.

Quips by post gang aft aglee! (We know, don't we?)

During adventure training recently a recruit said, "Sir, how is it that Officers keep so fit? I can't understand how they managed to bash on as they do. I thought they just sat around in offices all day being Officers."

To be quite fair, the Officer so addressed couldn't answer that one. For reasons best known to himself, he wasn't feeling too fit at the time.

At a recent hockey semi-final against the A.A.S. Harrogate (which we lost 2-1) a W.O.II supporter told a silent West Indian spectator that it was the custom to cheer on our team with shouts of encouragement. A big broad smile indicated that he understood perfectly. "Yas Suh"! Came a split-second silence then a very loud, rich bass voice implored "Yuse Vylence"! (Use violence).

It was pointed out by our more delicately nurtured S.S.M. that such a remark was perhaps overdoing things a bit. The next exhortation we heard was in an ear-splitting crescendo . . . "Play Hard . . . Yuse Vylence"!

Extract from a letter from an absentee in London, ordered to report back on Thursday. "Would it be all right for me to return on Monday because by the time I get back to Yorkshire on Friday I would only be coming back on Saturday . . . it would save me double expense . . . it would only be a waste of time." No comment! descriptive adjectives are somewhat limited in the English language.

A transitee was recently given "Attend C 1 day, bed down," by the M.O. He sent for the Troop Sergeant who, full of commiseration, was quite prepared to act as nurse and expected the poor chap to ask for aspirins, water or tea or even to have his pillow straightened.

Imagine the impact when the bod said, "Can I have a leave pass, Sarge?"

Administration Notes. Quite a few people have commented favourably on this monthly feature and it is to be hoped that everyone concerned will eventually take notice and try to help us.

Two beauties this month :—

A certain N.C.O. arrived in Southampton on a Trooper and was given 28 days' leave and a Railway Warrant from Southampton to his home town—according to the AFW 5133.

Two weeks later, the same person in No., Rank, Name, Initials and Despatching Unit, arrived by air and was given a Railway Warrant from Gatwick to home address plus 28 days' leave from the new arrival date—according to another AFW 5133.

Assuming that this N.C.O. had had the previous passage cancelled we acted accordingly but when we contacted him by letter, to our surprise and embarrassment, he'd come by Boat!

Three times this month we have had regular soldiers arriving from abroad on the day before they were due for release. This causes work enough because Regular Release cannot be held up. These types were sent off without any documents whatsoever, not even the AB 64 Pt. II.

Another reminder—please send all documents on time and if possible, all together. There have been several cases lately of documents arriving complete but for the Release Book AB 108. Some Units are not sure whether to send documents to the Depot or to Royal Signals Records—it's all in the book!

All this tends to cause misunderstanding between O.I.C. Records, who finalises documentation, and this Unit.

Sports. The Mackworth Trophy competition is giving rise to keen competition among all Royal Signals Units in Catterick. Our trouble is finding teams from an ever decreasing F.F.C.

We unfortunately lost the Northern Command Basket-ball final to the A.A.S. Harrogate by 48 points to 15. An excellent performance by the winners.

In small bore shooting we lie fourth in League 5 of Northern Command. Lieutenant R. Lister, Corporals Wade and Daniels have qualified for the Catterick Individual Championship to be held in March.

Of the three games played in the Garrison Squash League we beat 42 Transport Company A.A.S.C. and 8th Signal Regiment but lost to 24th Signal Regiment.

Lieutenant G. Barnett has taken a party of Officers from the School of Signals to Norway for a two months' course of ski-ing instruction. Although under the heading of "Sport" this course has a very serious application and is part of the regular training programme for the "Q" Course Officers.

For AG11(o)—Postings

The sun is shining through the office window and the curtain has had to be drawn for the fourth time this week! You are forgiven for sending me here to spend my declining years but it's Southward Ho! in September.

13th REGIMENT

Random Jottings. Any thoughts we might have had about an early spring were rudely shattered last week by our first heavy snowfalls of the year. Apart from disrupting sport and other outdoor activities it sent ski-ing enthusiasts, frustrated by an almost snow-free winter, scurrying to take advantage of the conditions only to find their joy short-lived as the snow soon gave way to rain and it now seems that spring really is on the way.

This thought may well have influenced some of our more adventurous spirits who embarked on the first of the year's outings in the Regimental mini-bus to Paris and Amsterdam. Another contributory factor may have been that a party of girls from our W.R.A.C. Company is at present away attending a Survival Course in Norway—we hope they survive and are soon back with us.

A sure sign that spring is not far away was the St. Valentine's Ball held in the Sergeants' Mess which, naturally, was highly successful.

Sport

Rugger.—Sadly it must be recorded that we did not win the Morrison Cup this year. The Regimental team took the cup to Herford with them for the final just to let 7th Regiment see it, but unfortunately we lost a most exciting match after extra time and were obliged to leave the cup with our hosts.

Although Signalmen Ashman and Smith and Lance-Corporals Haigh and Simpson played very well, R.Q.M.S. Rees was undoubtedly the star of the game and scored a spectacular try under the posts after a brilliant break and a long run—as the score at full time was 3—3 we may be forgiven for thinking that the cup might have returned with us if only the attempt to convert that try had been successful!

However, it wasn't to be and our congratulations to 7th Regiment and our sincere thanks for their excellent hospitality.

Hockey.—The hockey team also reached the final of the Morrison Cup competition by beating 21st Regiment in a hard-fought semi-final match in which Sergeant Bray, R.Q.M.S. Rees (yes, the same one) and Lieutenant Best were outstanding.

We hope the hockey team will go one better than the rugger team did in their final.

.22 *Shooting.*—The Regimental team finished as clear winners of the Rhine Area Competition and now go forward to the B.A.O.R. Championships at Sennelager later this month.

Consistency has been the keynote of the team's performances and, as a matter of interest, shooting with the issue No. 8 rifle, without slings, the team's average score is 92.3 for ten shoots, not brilliant but quite satisfying to team members.

The team has been chosen from Lieutenant-Colonel Sawers, Majors White and Herberts, Lieutenant Deynem, W.O.II (F.-of-S.) Nixson, Sergeant Geere, Corporal Henderson and Signalman Rickwood, of whom F. of S. Nixson and Signalman Rickwood, a National Service soldier with no previous shooting experience, have shown particularly fine form throughout with averages of over 94 points.

14th REGIMENT

R.H.Q. In mid-January, R.H.Q. divorced itself from H.Q., COMCAN, said farewell to the metropolitan fleshpots and set up shop in Robinswood Barracks, Gloucester.

One great advantage of the reorganisation is that much more time and attention can be devoted to the affairs of our widely-dispersed Squadrons and stations, and this, in turn, should cultivate and promote a better regimental spirit throughout.

1 Squadron. After the hustle and bustle of December, this has been a very welcome period of lessening tension and effort.

In its wake, the cold spell left a number of burst pipes and mains, and an outsize headache for the resident works organisation. To add to the fun and games, the local electricity board are installing a new transformer, and breakdowns in heating and lighting are not infrequent.

It is not true that electric blankets are being provided for the girls, and the R.S.M. can rest assured his lunch-time excursions to the local fish-and-chip shop are purely temporary.

Major Oliver has forsaken us for R.H.Q., and Major Walmesley-Cotham is now keeping the Robinswood hot-seat warm. Lieutenant Sheila Jones has also left us to savour the delights of Salisbury, and has been replaced by Second-Lieutenant Anthea Gelston, just recently commissioned, but no newcomer to the Corps, particularly in India.

Another addition to the family is Captain (T.O.T.) D. F. D. Barry, who is grappling with the complexities of the engineering side of the Tape Relay Centre.

Mr. E. G. Dillon, the Orderly Room King for the past six years, has gone to take up an E.O.'s appointment in War Office, and Mr. R. M. B. Day, another old-stager, is now holding the fort. News has also just reached us that Mr. R. J. Green, the M.Q.A.S. pillar of strength, has been selected for promotion and is likely to get his skates on soon.—Nothing but changes.

Our two soccer teams still head the R.A.F., Innsworth League, and we are also doing exceptionally well in a five-a-side competition, now in progress.

Our first serious outing at hockey was not attended with much success, but considering the eleven had not played before, the result, a five to nil defeat, was not too discouraging. The assistance of R.H.Q. performers is much appreciated.

2 Squadron. After the hectic Yuletide and New Year festivities, life has returned to normal. Major D. Salisbury is busy packing his bags in readiness for a trip abroad, and Major Parsonage, our new O.C., is gradually finding his feet.

A great deal of re-organisation is taking place, and presently we shall be wearing a new look.

The recent severe spell of weather has hampered outdoor activities a bit, but work in the aerial park continues to make progress.

Meanwhile, the engineer services are busily engaged in indoor structural alterations which, when complete, should improve club and dining room facilities very substantially.

3 Squadron. We have taken the easy way out this time and re-submitted the contribution intended for the January edition, but which came to grief in the Post Office "work-to-rule" campaign.

Actually, it's not quite as bad as that, but when the excitement of Christmas and New Year dies down, not very much happens for a while, and there's little to write about.

Of course there's always the weather, which has hampered, but not halted, the extensive re-building programme going on at the moment. Maintaining operational efficiency while workmen demolish walls and floors all round, is not easy, but we are managing somehow. In fact, the old efficiency graph remains fairly steady. It will be some time, however, before we can relax and say "this is it."

4 Squadron. We are due to fold up at the end of March next, when the station reverts to care and maintenance.

Already A.G.II(O) and Officer-in-Charge Records have been hard at work. Major P. A. Toombs, the O.C., is now languishing on the staff at Western Command, and quite a number of other ranks have either departed or are getting ready to go.

Closing down what was a very happy little outfit is always a sad business, but such is life. Actually, not all our members are leaving the Regiment. Instead, a few of the old-and-bold are being transferred to other Squadrons, where holes exist, and will doubtless be making their presence felt in due course.

Meanwhile, Captain W. Farmery, Lieutenant Colonel J. Martinson (Rtd.), W.O.II Copestake and Staff Sergeant Menzies are getting on with the demolition.

Later on, and before we take a fond farewell of Cobbetts Hill, we hope to produce a "Vale."

15th REGIMENT

A much-depleted Regiment managed to celebrate Christmas in true military fashion. The depletion is in anticipation of our impending civilianisation. During November and December we said goodbye to a large number of stalwart members of the Regiment. Still, from the cliffs of Episkopi, the luxury of Dhekelia (the new Signal Centre is functioning at last) and the bleakness of Mount Olympus, we few that are left, send our best wishes for the New Year.

We intend, each month, to spotlight a Troop of the Regiment. This month it is the turn of "B" Troop of 1 Squadron, but before giving them the freedom of the pen, here is a quick run-down of the multifarious sporting activities available to all in Cyprus.

Soccer. The year has begun well for the Regimental team, for on the 3rd January we defeated the Rifle Brigade 3—2 to win the Army (Cyprus) Cup Competition for the second year in succession. The Corps has quite a reputation in this competition, having provided a finalist for four consecutive years. This

Lieutenant-Colonel D. L. Sylvester-Bradley and sportsmen of 15th Regiment at the annual Sportsman's Dinner

year's cup final was extremely hard fought, and play swerved from end to end right up to the final whistle. On the way to the final, we had the dubious pleasure of eliminating our old "sparring partner," 9th Regiment, 5—1, in the semi-final. Before the draw for the semi-final, we had hopes of an all-Signals final.

The Regimental team now have to visit Malta to play for the Near East Trophy. We have high hopes that they will be successful and bring back the sister trophy to the Near East Cricket Cup that the Regiment won in Malta last September.

Corporal Paterson, of 1 Squadron, and Lance-Corporal Costello (A.C.C.), of H.Q. Squadron, have both been regular members of the Army (Cyprus) team this season, and are considered likely to be included in the Combined Services team later on.

Sailing. The "*hardworking*" season is upon us, and the more enthusiastic sailors are spending many hours "bottom-scraping," painting and telling salty tales of events past, whilst making grandiose schemes for the future.

Ski-ing. The first fall of snow on the Troodos range sent the skiers foraging for thick clothing and all the kit and pieces that are a necessary prelude to a "broken leg." Some members of the Regiment will be fortunate enough to enjoy a short ski course in the Lebanon to supplement their regular week-end excursions to Mount Olympus.

Golf. The season has opened once again and, by sheer hard work on the part of the Green (brown) keeper and his staff, the rugged course by the sea is looking most inviting.

The Royal Signals Golf Society (Cyprus) held their annual meeting at Happy Valley, Episkopi, on 1st and 2nd February. The Regiment's four competitors did very well. Major John McKellar won both the open and handicap championships and, with Major Gram-Hansen, was runner-up in the Inter-Unit Competition. The winners were 20th Regiment.

Back row, left to right—Corporals Vance, Willans, Conlon, QMSI Pearson, Lance Corporal Sorrell, Corporal Taylor, Private Campbell, Corporal McKecknie, Lance Corporal Shaw

Front row, left to right—Private Costello, Signalman Walker, Lieutenant Colonel D. L. Sylvester-Bradley, Lance Corporal Costello, Darrell Costello (mascot), Major J. L. McKellar, Corporal Paterson, Signalman Abbott.

Anyone for de-icing? . . . A view of a 60 ft (10 set) tower from the ANTRAC tower Mt. Olympus February 1961.

Our last notes mentioned the 'bleakness' of Mount Olympus. This month feature Troop is the Olympus detachment.

(*See above and next page*)

Basketball. On 30th January a one-day Royal Signals knock-out basketball festival was held at Dhekelia. We entered three teams. The results were as follows:—

First Round

3 Squadron 15th Regiment beat 203 Squadron 49—30.
2 Squadron 9th Regiment beat 1 Squadron 20th Regiment 17—16.
15th Regiment "A" beat 20th Regiment (Episkopi) 17—11.

Semi-Final

3 Squadron 15th Regiment beat 2 Squadron 9th Regiment 80—24.
15th Regiment "A" beat 15th Regiment "B" 43—15.

Final

3 Squadron 15th Regiment (The Army Cyprus champions) ran out comfortable winners with a score of 54—32. As always Staff Sergeant Dixon was the architect of the victory. Mrs. C. T. Honeybourne, the wife of C.S.O. N.E.L.F., presented the Royal Signals (Cyprus) Basketball Cup to Sergeant Gray, the captain of the winning team.

Riding. On 7th January the Episkopi Pony Club held a most successful gymkhana which culminated in a "Handy Hunter" trial over a very rough, but well-constructed, "ride" in Happy Valley. It was a most enjoyable day and attracted a large number of enthusiastic spectators.

"B" Troop, 1 Squadron

By W.O.II Frank Cooper

Sitting quietly, at the D.S.O.'s desk, minding my own business, when the 'phone rings yet again and my Squadron Commander says (very pleasantly): "You have ten days to introduce your Troop to the Corps through the medium of The Wire." Always open to a challenge, I would like you to meet some of the boys and girls who constitute "B" Troop, 15th Regiment.

Rather on the small, but happy, side, we are part of COMCAN, manning the Episkopi T.R.C. and Tributary, one of the two shifts that make up No. 1 Squadron.

In the Traffic Hall we meet Staff Sergeant K. Winfield, who is still mourning the recent car accident, when a monsoon ditch moved into the centre of the road to meet him. He is ably assisted by a most pleasant, recent, acquisition from 14th Regiment, Corporal E. Brown, W.R.A.C.—thank you, Gloucester, for your generosity. Also in the T.R.C., we are about to say farewell to our Korea veteran, Lance-Corporal W. Lee, who leaves us next week for 213 Squadron, on completion of his tour in Episkopi-on-Sea. In the past few weeks we have also said farewell to ten of the Troop, who are at present spending Christmas at home, prior to joining sundry new Regiments and Squadrons. In their place we welcome the advance party of our Civilian Operators who, having been assured that the natives are friendly, are settling down amongst us rather more smoothly than anticipated. Their arrival in the Signal Centre gave rise to the comment: "Cor, we've been nationalised."

Doubtless, amongst the Regiment's contribution to The Wire, we will have a glowing report on the latest antics of our glorious Regimental Soccer Team—so I must claim that no fewer than three of the 1st team have their origin within this Troop. They are headed by our Aberdeen Professional, Corporal A. Paterson, who also occasionally produces some good work behind the "Steel Door," under the watchful eyes of Sergeant D. Clegg.

Corporal Hacker dressed for action Mount Olympus, January 1962

The Mt. Olympus Detachment

Maintenance Troop 15th Regiment

Those members of the Corps who have served in Cyprus will be familiar with the island's highest mountain, Mount Olympus. For the benefit of those who do not know Cyprus, Mt. Olympus stands just off the centre of the island and is 6,053 feet at the summit.

Perched on top of the mountain is a small detachment from Maintenance Troop 15th Regiment who operate the Army's Radio Relay Station.

This relay station performs an essential function on an island which is almost quartered by mountain ranges. This is as true today as it was in 1956 when the station was built to serve the complex radio relay networks which were required for the emergency.

Until recently the detachment was completely self-contained living on the top and showing little desire to leave their mountain retreat. Rumour has it that vast sums of money were saved.

A few months ago, however, the domestic side of the detachment moved a little way down the mountain to Troodos.

The relay station continues to function on top under the direction of its N.C.O. I.C., Sergeant T. Charlton. Our oldest inhabitant, Corporal R. Hacker, has just left us for B.A.O.R. having spent over two years on the mountain and we wish him success in his new job.

Life on the mountain can be very pleasant in the summer away from the heat of the lowlands but in winter it is a different story. Access to the site is difficult and often dangerous and the experienced skier has the advantage but once a week, in fair weather and foul, Captain (T.O.T.) L. E. Adcock, O.C. Maintenance Troop, goes up the mountain to pay the detachment and tend to their needs.

One of our main problems is to keep the aerials free from ice and snow and much time and effort goes into this. Little pleasure is derived from climbing 60 ft. towers in the teeth of a blizzard. Experts on de-icing of aerials are invited to offer their solution

The detachment are justifiably proud of their achievements in maintaining communications up to the high standard which has been traditional with the Mount Olympus Relay Station since it was first formed.

C.R. SIGNALS, SINGAPORE

Boxing. As foreshadowed in the November number of THE WIRE, the Royal Signals boxing team fought against the R.A.O.C. in the final of the Singapore Base District Open Team Championships on 30th January. Although beaten by R.A.O.C., 18 points to 15, there were several very close fights, and all the members of the team put up an excellent performance. Signalman Sandlan had his man on the floor for the count in no time at all, Corporal Jones beat Pte. Zubir, a very clever little bantam weight, on points, and Signalman Waller was a very good loser to Corporal Cookson of the R.A.O.C. A very good effort. Next year we propose to reverse the score.

16th REGIMENT

The effects on one's spirits of a bleak winter in the Rhineland can be offset to some extent by the prospect of the traditional carnival season. The highlights are forthcoming in the form of displays and dances held by the local people. Here, as in Southern Germany, the towns along the Rhine are well advanced with their plans and preparations for celebrations which, traditionally, also leaves them without a bean for months afterwards. An atmosphere of increasing cheerfulness and lightheartedness develops gradually during February, and even if here in Krefeld the celebrations do not reach the pitch of those in Cologne and Dusseldorf, they enliven an otherwise dull month.

"Witches Night," when the local ladies take unto themselves the freedom of the city, is a particularly amusing event, and because they are masked, they have the menfolk at a tactical disadvantage.

Inter-Troop Sport is in progress, with a ladder competition for hockey, soccer, indoor football, basketball, handball and squash. The Regimental teams are showing good sport at soccer, hockey and rugby. They enjoy their games, and so do the spectators—the latter may tend to minimise the teams' difficulties with powerful opponents at times, but that is a spectator's privilege. Our boxing team put up a great fight with 28th Regiment in the second round of the Morrison Cup. It was a match in which style, pluck and clean fighting won the admiration and applause of a sporting audience, which included our C.S.O. 28th won the evening's verdict by a point, and the narrow margin is a fair indication of the closeness of some of the bouts. Well done, the boxers of both Units.

Our neighbours, 10th Regiment, have handed over two G.P. 14s to us, and they should be at the Wittzee in a couple of months, when the weather breaks. They are sailing craft which we are very pleased to receive.

Major Hastings left us to go to Hong Kong, and takes our good wishes in his next appointment. Major Tompkins is to leave on retirement, after a long and distinguished career in the Corps, and he takes leave of many friends who wish him well in his new career in civil life. Lieutenant Gilhooly has joined us from 10th Regiment and is now commanding the Heavy Radio Troop.

Education and trade conversion courses are being held and help to keep the Troop Commanders on their toes, because they have to man the Tape Relay Centre with the same people. The answer with a difficult problem is to ignore it.

The Regiment won the five-a-side basketball competition in the Rhine Area. It was a knock-out competition and by the end of a strenuous day they had earned their victory.

Incidentally, a fencing team is also in training, and that is a new activity in the Unit.

18th REGIMENT

H.Q. Squadron. This is the morning after the night before. I refer to one of the highlights of our Corps Week, the Ball which was held in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess. It started at 2030 hours and with the aid of the two bands that played, was still functioning at 0630 hours this morning. There were present representatives from every Signal unit in Singapore, Malaya and Hong Kong, including Australian, Gurkha and Federation Signals.

We are in the middle of the monsoon season and the resultant rain has caused severe hold-ups in the sports programme. Despite this M.T. Troop is at the top of the Inter-Troop League.

1 Squadron. We have finally moved the Signal Centre into the T.R.C. building. As soon as our SIGCEN Operators have been converted into COMCEN Operators, we will be able to call ourselves legitimate COMCEN.

When Second-Lieutenant Bruce broke his ankle, the DSO's must have been doomed. In a few short weeks we have gone from four shifts and three DSO's to four shifts and no DSO's. Second-Lieutenant Walden has gone to 2 Squadron and Lieutenant Dudley has moved on to the "administrative" side of the Squadron.

2 Squadron. Christmas festivities within the Squadron began with the Children's Party on the 20th December. Sergeant Wortley, the organiser, overcame all difficulties as they occurred and the children were entertained for a full three hours, eats were plentiful and the children's glasses were overflowing several times.

A miniature amusement park enabled the children to fill in any gaps between programme changes. Goodwill was everywhere with Santa Claus (Major Stanley) issuing presents to the children without an AB 43 in sight.

Once again it was proved that "Popeye" is the favourite movie star of the over 30's. Two days later it was the troops who had their parties, T.E., L.M., U.G., and G.H.Q. S.H.Q. Troop's novel idea of a party was to visit all the other troop parties with the inevitable consequences. The Squadron has now "Dug in its Heels" for the New Year with the object of doing everything that matters better than before.

Our S.O.-in-Chief visited the Regiment on 26th January, 1962, and inspected Singapore District Exchange, the maintenance of which is one of our commitments.

Lieutenant L. Lee, O.C., L M. Troop, will be leaving us soon to join the Singapore Military Forces. He is being replaced by Second-Lieutenant D. Walden. Corporal Simms, Signalmen Rahman and Yahaya are off to Borneo for three weeks to install a minor exchange. They will give us a full report on the actions of "The Wild Man."

Foreman of Signals Gent, our Sub Aqua expert, reports that club members are now in the final stages of a 3-month course to qualify as divers. Salt-water dives were performed from the causeway which joins Singapore to the Federation, last Sunday. Foreman Gent would like to hear from any other Army Sub Aqua Club in Singapore or Malaya.

The Royal Signals Amateur Radio Club, which is in 2 Squadron lines, and at present being run by Foreman Buckley, states that it should be well and truly on the air, with its own equipment, by the time this goes to print. The club is not yet quite so fortunate as its counterparts in B.A.O.R.—no glittering A.R. 88s or 53 sets can be issued locally.

The club call sign is VSIRS. The forecast of conditions predicts slight improvement during the next couple of months, so the club is looking forward to making some DX contacts with rather more distant Units.

The Squadron wishes all the best to Lance-Corporal Angel and Jarvis and Signalman Ridsdale, who are leaving us to proceed to U.K. on release.

21st REGIMENT

In November of last year, the Regiment was reorganised with four working Squadrons. Briefly, this was achieved by the amalgamation of 220 and 221 Independent Squadrons (A.F.) as No. 1 and 3 Squadrons of the new Regiment. As a result of this amalgamation, all Air Formation Signals in Germany are now in one Regiment, commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel D. M. Haslehust, with "Head Office" control by the Chief Air Formation Signal Officer, R.A.F., Germany, Lieutenant-Colonel J. J. H. Swallow.

We are very pleased to welcome to the Regiment all members of the two Independent Squadrons, and in addition, those individuals who have been posted from outside Regiments during the months of December and January. Amongst these have been Sergeants A. J. Thomas (H.Q.) and R. O. Morris (1) from 8th Regiment, after successfully completing their B.I. courses.

This month we bade farewell to W.O.II (S.S.M.) Meyer (H.Q.), who has returned to the U.K. prior to his retirement, and Sergeants Lunt and Buzzard, who have been posted to 13th Regiment. W.O.II Meyer has been S.S.M. of both H.Q. and No. 3 Squadrons, and his departure from the Regiment was marked by the presentation of a clock by the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess, in appreciation of the sterling work that both he and his wife have done while in the Regiment. We also wish Sergeant and Mrs. Lunt and Sergeant and Mrs. Buzzard the best of future at Birgelen.

Congratulations to Signalmen J. W. E. Piper (2) and W. D. Pearson (3) on their recent marriages, and also to Corporal and Mrs. Lawson and Lance-Corporal and Mrs. Webster on the birth of their respective daughters.

In the Morrison Cup Competition, our basketball team has reached the final. The hockey team was defeated in the semi-final by 13th Regiment.

In the Rhine Area Football League, the Regimental team is maintaining its position in the top half of the league, while the cross-country runners from Laarbruch (having won the Rhine Area Minor Units Shield for the second year) are now preparing for an all-out assault in the B.A.O.R. Minor Units, and later, the Morrison Cup Competition.

In December the Warrant Officers and Sergeants held a Regimental dinner at Laarbruch. The guests included Lieutenant-Colonel J. J. H. Swallow, Chief Air Formation Signal Officer, the Commanding Officer and W.O.I (SC) D. McVeigh, W.O.II G. Flann, Staff Sergeants L. A. Crane and R. D. McMurray. This is the first time that the Warrant Officers and Sergeants have been able to hold a dinner night, and it is understood that this will be repeated again later in the year.

And finally, we are very sorry to report the death, while on leave, in the Royal Herbert Hospital, Woolwich, of Signalman Prebble, on the 2nd January, 1962. Signalman A. H. Prebble had only been in the Regiment for a short period, and had been employed by the Quartermaster. We extend to his wife our sympathy.

24th REGIMENT

Major B. W. A. Collins, Royal Signals, has joined us from 8th Regiment and has assumed command of 2 Squadron from Major R. Edwards, who has retired to the peace and quiet of the vacant chair of Second-in-Command.

Major (Traffic Officer) J. Satchwell is another recent arrival to bolster up the thinning ranks of the Regimental "North-West Frontier" club. To these officers and their families we extend a sincere welcome and hope they will enjoy their stint in the Regiment.

In our last notes we mentioned the departure to civil life of Staff Sergeant Knowles. He is not lost to the Corps as, having settled locally, he has offered his services to the A.C.F., Royal Signals contingent which is affiliated to the unit—an offer glady accepted. The contingent is commanded by Captain C. R. Child (Rtd.), who the not-so-young will doubtless remember as one of our better-known Corps boxers of yesteryears.

The revival of the Mackworth Trophy—awarded annually to the best all-round sports Regiment in Catterick—is a welcome move. The sports concerned are soccer, hockey, cricket, tennis, cross-country running and small bore shooting—many a battle will be fought on the field and over a pint before the winners are known.

28th REGIMENT

In the past few months the 28th Regiment has been slowly converting from an all-British to a N.A.T.O. unit. It all started early last summer with the arrival of the first elements of 13 BE Cie TTr, which being translated means 13 Belgian Radio Squadron. Since then there has been a slow build-up of strength until now the Belgian Squadrons run all the radio and our 3 Squadron has been disbanded. The next stage of "NATO-isation" was the arrival of a Dutch Squadron, and an eye-witness report on this event follows:

"If you are a student of languages, you should really make the effort and get yourself posted to us. We are beginning to understand just what the constructor for the Tower of Babel had in mind, now that our programme of 'NATO-isation' is nearing completion. To the many dialects and accents of our four home countries, and the smooth tones of our Belgian friends of six months' standing, we added, last week, a new language—Dutch. (It took a double for us to recover!).

The arrival of the complete Netherlands Squadron of Linemen and Despatch Riders was no less impressive to U.K. eyes than that of the famous Squadron under Van Tromp many years ago. It was, of course, raining when they swept into our camp, escorted by half of the Dutch Provost Corps, several German civil police patrols and one lone English M.P.! The awed silence which greeted this massed display of police strength was finally broken by an observation in pretty basic Anglo-Saxon from the general direction of the L.A.D. After making several tours round the camp traffic (accident) circuit, we managed to stop the "merry-go-round" and got the several-dozen Jeeps and three-tonners formed up into some sort of order and got our new friends "nicely settled in, thank you."

Well, they have shaken-down well—they even have the cosy U.K. habit of nipping home for a "48" as often as possible! We look forward to working with them in the field on exercises.

Becoming a N.A.T.O. unit has many administrative complications, and we are slowly feeling our way. In later notes we hope to tell you of our progress as a fully international unit, and, in particular, to report on the arrival of the next body of soldiers, who come from Canada.

Meanwhile, the British element of the unit continues to live and work in a fairly conventional way. In particular, the Wives' Club is to be congratulated on suddenly producing another £10 out of the hat for the Royal Signals Benevolent Fund.

[Received with gratitude.—Ed.]

65th Regiment (TA)

Top table, left to right : Major-General Sir William A. Scott, Major C. H. M. Milner, WRAC/TA, The Lord Mayor, Lt.-Colonel E. W. Milner, Brigadier J. E. Rivett-Drake, WRAC, The Earl of Malmesbury, Mr. Sheriff C. S. P. Rawson, Major J. O. Hunter

The Regiment has been particularly active since July, 1961, when, after returning from Annual Camp, we set about our large stand at the National Radio Show at Earls Court, from which we have gained approximately 100 new members—nearly as many young women as their male counterparts.

Trade training has been concentrated on Telegraph Operators, Teleprinter Operators, Cypher Operators and Drivers and by Camp, 1962, our operating strength should be appreciably greater.

Our stand at the Radio Hobbies Exhibition in November produced a steady trickle of recruits and as it was our fifth year at the Horticultural Hall, we met many old friends from the "Ham" world.

The weekend of the 25th/26th November saw the Regiment manning the Signal Centre at H.Q. Eastern Command for Exercise "New Broom V." This particular exercise is a little outside the normal operational role of the Regiment, but was a very good experience—and thoroughly enjoyed by all who took part.

On the 4th December, Major-General W. A. G. Burns, G.O.C. London District, visited the Regiment in training after which he addressed the Regiment and presented the Tiffen Trophy awards for the outstanding recruits for the current T.A. year to Lance-Corporal Stone, Royal Signals, T.A., and Private Bryant, W.R.A.C., T.A.

Captain Maurice Willey, R. Signals and Captain Joy Crowe, WRAC/TA.

The Officers of the Regiment held a Cocktail Party in their Mess on the 6th December and two days later the Senior Officers of the Regiment took part in Exercise "Blue Boy VII," held by C.S.O. Eastern Command at Tunbridge Wells.

Romance is thriving in the Regiment at the present time and hardly a month goes by without at least one member of the Regiment treading the "fateful" path! The 27th of January saw our Adjutant, Captain Maurice Willey, and our senior W.R.A.C./T.A. Cypher Officer, Captain Joy Crowe, married at Southwark Cathedral and our photograph shows the "happy couple" immediately after the service. We wish them every happiness for the future.

Tuesday, 30th January, marked a unique occasion in the history of the Regiment when the Right Honourable The Lord Mayor of London, Sir Frederick A. Hoare, dined with the Officers of the Regiment. This was an excellent evening. The Commanding Officer proposed the toast of the Lord Mayor coupled with the names of our other guests and the Lord Mayor responded with a toast to the Regiment. Our guests included Brigadier J. E. Rivett-Drake, Director, W.R.A.C., Major-General Sir William A. Scott, Master of Signals, Mr. E. R. Maltby, Director of Communications at the Foreign Office, His Worship the Mayor of Shoreditch, Major-General W. A. G. Burns, the Master and Clerk of the Worshipful Company of Skinners, General Sir Edwin L. Morris, Colonel J. F. E. Goad and Brigadier J. E. Anderson and Brigadier R. B. Ridley Martin. Our guests from the Foreign Office included Mr. J. M. Bruce Lockhart, Mr. L. H. Mitchell, Mr. E. Michel and former Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel W. J. Sharpe. We were delighted that our Honorary Colonel, the Earl of Malmesbury, was able to be present. The Lord Mayor was accompanied by Mr. Sherriff, C. S. P. Rawson and the City Marshal, Colonel G. E. P. Hutchins. The Lord Mayor spoke to every Officer of the Regiment, as well as the guests and honorary

Left to right : Lieutenant Colonel E. W. Milner, The Mord Mayor, Major C. H. M. Milner, WRAC/TA, The Earl of Malmesbury, Captain H. D. P. Bambridge

members, staying until 12.30 a.m. The Lord Mayor later wrote:—

"I wish your Regiment every possible success in the future and congratulate you most heartily on the wonderful progress you have made with your recruiting campaign."

The Regiment—now in its three locations, London, E.C.2, Barnet, Herts., and Southborough, near Tunbridge Wells—is again concentrating on trade training in readiness for our Communications Exercise during Summer Camp, in July this year.

In the meantime, a warm welcome awaits any young men or women living in reach of one of these three Centres who is prepared to take spare-time technical training seriously and attend regularly.

50th (NORTHUMBRIAN) REGIMENT, (T.A.)

At the time of writing, the Regiment is freeing itself from the grip of the winter training programme. Soon we hope to have the bulk of routine inspections, trade boards and classroom work behind for another year and to get back to outdoor activities once more.

Before leaving winter, the success of the Regimental Ball should be mentioned. Brigadier W. A. C. Collingwood, Commander, 151 Infantry Brigade, and Mrs. Collingwood; Brigadier W. B. Rowett, C.S.O. Northern Command, and Mrs. Rowett; Lieutenant-Colonel B. R. D. Garside, G.S.O.1 50th Division, and Mrs. Garside, were amongst the guests. Four former Commanding Officers of the Regiment were present, as well as Brigadier Claude Fairweather, who served in the Regiment between the wars.

On 5th January we had the pleasure of a visit by Brigadier D. A. Pringle, the C.S.O. Designate, and Brigadier W. B. Rowett. The extent of our territory made this winter visit a formidable task to cover nearly all our T.A. Centres in a single day.

A Troop of 81 Regiment (A.E.R.) is to join us for training. We hope they will be sufficiently attracted by T.A. life to join in an increasing amount of our work and play.

[Photo: North of England Newspaper Co., Ltd.

[Courtesy Middlesbrough Evening Gazette.

Brigadier D. A. Pringle, O.B.E., Captain R. M. Stewart, and Brigadier W. B. Rowett visit 339 Squadron

66th ULSTER REGIMENT (T.A.)

On 1st February, 1961, 66 Ulster Regiment (T.A.) came into being. It is hoped that the new Regiment, which is regarded as the logical successor to the original Supplementary Reserve Unit (3 A.A. Brigade Signals), formed in early spring of 1939, will provide that continuity which will ensure Corps representation in this part of the United Kingdom for the foreseeable future.

Lieutenant-Colonel J. F. H. Pearcey, M.B.E., T.D. (T.A.) commands the Regiment, ably assisted by a Permanent Staff, not yet up to strength, but well represented by Captain A. I. Bruce, M.B.E., Adjutant, Lieutenant (Q.M.) J. R. Latimer, B.E.M., Captain J. McKinlay, W.R.A.C., and R.S.M. E. G. Jones, B.E.M.

Recruiting has exceeded all expectations and now stands at roughly 50 per cent of establishment. This has meant a tremendout administrative effort from all staff, who have reacted splendidly.

The Regiment's first camp was held in June, 1961, at Ballykinlar, Co. Down, and presented the first opportunity to "play" with new equipment, great interest in which was displayed by all ranks, during the local exercise.

June of 1962 will see us camping in England, in the Nottingham area, when we hope to gain further experience in our role as a Command Signal Regiment.

Despite all the trials and tribulations of reorganisation, the social side of our activities has not been completely forgotten, and here, our W.R.A.C. personnel have made a magnificent contribution, particularly in the running of a children's Christmas party, where some 170 children were royally entertained.

Recruiting potential exists, a good spirit prevails throughout, and we are confident in our ability to measure up to our new role.

The following goods are available from Association Headquarters:

Corps Ties—Heavy Weave	7/6	
Woollen	8/6	
Terylene	11/–	
Corps Scarves—Woollen	21/–	
Rayon Squares	21/–	
Cravats—Terylene	21/–	
Corps Cuff Links	8/6	
Association Buttonhole Badges or Brooches	3/–	Members only
Corps Blazer Badges	45/–	
Blazer Buttons—Large (each)	2/3	
Small (each)	1/8	
Motor Car Badges (enamelled in Corps Colours)	45/–	
Motor Cycle Badges (enamelled in Corps Colours	20/–	
Corps Plaques	29/6 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.

ARTICLES OF GENERAL INTEREST

Technicians' Qualifications

CIVIL AND MILITARY

City and Guilds to be the Link

An article in the June, 1961, issue stated that the trade training of all technicians up to and including Foremen of Signals would be related to the Telecommunication Technicians' Certificate of the City and Guilds of London Institute. Details of this relationship have now been worked out by the War Office in conjunction with the School of Signals, the Training Brigade and the Army Apprentices School. Discussions have also been held with City and Guilds.

The object of this is not only to raise the level of technical skill within the Corps, but also to improve the career prospects and the status of Royal Signals technicians in civil life.

The Telecommunication Technicians' Course (No. 49) is designed to cover a four-year course of study which candidates should cover mainly in their own time. Full details of the syllabus, exemptions, etc., are contained in the relevant pamphlet*

Royal Signals technicians passing the various examinations connected with this course will be entitled to claim recognition as follows:—

(a) **Second Year Intermediate Certificate.**
Holders of the Intermediate Certificate will be exempt from the necessity of passing the "Principles and Practise" part of the Technicians Class II Trade Test.

(b) **Third Year Examinations.**
Holders of examination certificates in Mathematics B, Telecommunication principles B, and one of the special subjects of the third year, will be exempt from the necessity of passing the "Principles and Practice" part of the Technicians Class I Trade Test and will also exempt holders from taking the Foreman of Signals entrance examination.

(c) **Fourth Year Telecommunication Technicians' Certificate.**
Although no exemption is possible, the standard is recognised as being the equivalent to the Basics portion of the Foreman of Signals Course.

Trade Test Summaries for all technician trades will eventually be amended to show these exemptions, and Trade Test Boards are being instructed to take them into account provided documentary evidence is available. All technicians should therefore, in their own interests, both for the short and the long term, consider studying with a view not only to becoming a Foreman of Signals but also with a view to taking eventually the Full Technological Certificate. The Electronics Industry is aware of what we are doing in this respect and further consultations are taking place so that the link between these civil and military qualifications can be recognised in civil life.

The above relates to military recognition of civilian qualifications. On the other hand, City and Guilds have agreed to recognise the Technicians Class II Trade Test. They now grant exemption from the first year examinations of the Telecommunication Technicians' Course to all those who have qualified as Class II technicians at 8th Regiment.

It is hoped eventually that the syllabi of some of the Technician Courses at the Training Brigade in Catterick Camp may be altered so as to help candidates for this City and Guilds course, although this will only be possible within the overall military requirement.

Correspondence Courses, covering the whole of this City and Guilds Course, are available through the Army Education Scheme (Correspondence Course Handbook—War Office Code No. 12181) and all those who are interested should approach their Unit Education Officers without delay. Special arrangements can be made by R.A.E.C. for the City and Guilds examinations to be taken in overseas stations.

* "Telecommunication Technicians' Course (No. 49) Regulations and Syllabuses." price 1s. from City and Guilds of London Institute, 76, Portland Place, London, W.1.

☆

Signalman

B. W.

Doncaster

☆

Adventure Training in Brazil

BY SIGNALMAN B. W. DONCASTER

633 Signal Troop (Caribbean)

On 9th October a small party of four landrovers and twenty men left Atkinson Field Camp, British Guiana, to try and reach the Brazilian border. The trip seemed ill fated from the very start. We were vastly overweight and overcrowded. Only one mile from the camp we had our first puncture. After a ten-minute delay, we were once more on our way, seven miles later we found that one of the brake drums on the third vehicle was burnt out and smoking. We had a two and a half hour delay for that. While the fourth vehicle was sent back to base for replacements and spares, we brewed up and had dinner on the trail, only seven miles from camp. Our average speed for three hours was 2.1 miles an hour.

When we started up again, one of the vehicles would not start and was found to have a burnt out condenser, so all starting had to be by towing. By fits and starts, we carried on towards Mackenzie, our first stop on the trail. Mackenzie is a bauxite town situated approximately eighty miles from Atkinson.

Miles from Mackenzie truck three broke down with a broken halfshaft. We left the vehicle where it was, along with its crew of five, and headed on towards our objective. We had quite a time removing dead trees from the trail, so we did not arrive in Mackenzie until about eight-thirty that night.

We spent the night at the Police Station. At breakfast the next morning, it was decided that the vehicle we left behind could be fixed in Mackenzie. One truck was detailed to travel back to the vehicle, take out the broken halfshaft, return and have it fixed, then return to the vehicle, fit the shaft, and start out for Cannister Falls the next morning. In the meantime, the vehicles that were left set out for Cannister Falls. We did the trip in one day. It was the best day's run to date, one hundred and nine miles. The next day, we all waited eagerly for the arrival of the other vehicles. By nine o'clock that night they still had not arrived so we gave up hope of them arriving that day. At nine-thirty, however, we heard vehicles in the distance, coming closer, but then they cut out, so we thought we were hearing things. The next morning, the other two trucks arrived at eight o'clock. They had camped two miles down the track and spent a very miserable night of it.

The state of the trail between Atkinson and Mackenzie was not too bad. Later, however, I do not know which was the lesser evil, the Savannah paths with their wash outs and sand traps, or the jungle with its swamps and pitfalls. In the jungle the path was atrocious, often just ending nowhere. It was hack, cut and chop paths around fallen trees and bogs. I can assure you the joke starts to wear thin, when one is up to his calves in mud, releasing a landrover trapped in between a couple of logs. Some of the hills we went down in the jungle were very bad, with the vehicle tilted at a 45° angle, and everyone on one side trying to counter-balance it. We removed quite a bit of heavy timber that had fallen across the trail, and in a couple of places blasted obstacles out of the way by the use of PE explosives (very good for fishing we found too!).

The advance party, who had driven up in a one tonner, were already at the falls, eating wild turkey and fresh fish caught below the falls.

Some very nice fish were caught here by the Major, on home-made hooks and lines. The hooks were made out of "compo" wire binding. Bush turkeys were also abundant, though the only game seen in quantity were parrots and the beautifully coloured toucans. We were woken every morning at about five by the harsh screams of these parrots and so they were not popular at all. Some excitement was caused by the capture of an Armidillo on the trail. Three members of the party went up river and said they shot a fifteen foot anaconda, some people were very sceptical about this, but time proved them wrong.

On the third day at Cannister, after we had cleared the path across the river bed for the two waterproof landrovers to drive across, and had blasted a big boulder out of the proposed path with PE explosive, we were ready for the crossing. This started at nine on the morning of the third day. The two waterproofed vehicles drove across with hardly any trouble at all, even though they were completely submerged. The water covered the engines completely and the drivers had water up to their chests, it was a great sight.

The two vehicles that were not waterproofed had to be "floated" across, by the use of a canopy, which was lent to us before we left by the U.S.A.F. at Atkinson. Firstly the canopy was laid out flat on the ground and the vehicle was driven on to it. The sides of the canopy were lifted up around the sides of the vehicle. The whole thing was then pushed down into the water, with a lot of foul language and hard work. Floating it across was simplicity itself, but when we came to beach it on the other side the trouble started. The front wheels were in about a foot of water and the rear wheels in about three feet of water, so that when the front of the canopy was lowered to drive the vehicle off, the wheels spun the canopy out from underneath the chassis. Of course the whole lot went down in about three feet of water. The motor and everything was completely covered and that's when the trouble started. No amount of pushing or pulling could get the vehicle clear of the water so we ended up using "old faithful" (the block and tackle). It took an hour to get her clear and about twenty minutes to patch the holes in the canopy, torn by the spinning wheels and the chassis. The crossing of the second vehicles was much simplified, as we had learned by our mistakes. We simply floated the next vehicle down further to dry land and shallower water without a bank.

We then drove the vehicles across the thirty yard sand spit dividing the river in two. For the second crossing we drove the two waterproofed rovers across, then half drove and half towed the other two across by using the first two vehicles and the tow ropes.

This was all accomplished by one o'clock, so it was decided to try and make at least ten miles by dark. But fate was still riding on our tails, we covered about a hundred yards, when one of the vehicles broke its four-wheel drive mechanism, so it only had two-wheel drive. This vehicle was left with its crew at Cannister Falls and the rest of the party carried on. Again, however, trouble steppped in. Vehicle number two driving a branch up through its radiator, putting itself out of action only four and a half miles from the falls. This landrover also had to be left behind with its crew.

The two remaining vehicles carried on towards the Essequibo River. We made about ten miles when, as we were backing into a clearing to camp for the night, the pinions in the leading vehicle went, putting us out of action and leaving only one serviceable vehicle.

The next morning it was decided to abandon the attempt to reach Brazil and to return back to Atkinson. Parts and replacements were ordered that morning from Atkinson, with which we had been in constant radio contact. We had a schedule set up for seven every morning. We were using the 62 set with a hundred foot all-wave aerial, and I am happy to say that communications were very good. In fact only one morning out of the entire trip were communications not established and the fault lay back at Base, as they failed to charge batteries and had no spares. Though I will say my procedure can do with a little brushing up.

We left that day for Cannister to repair the vehicle with the smashed radiator by replacing it with one of the radiators out of the vehicle with the pinions gone, so we then had two complete vehicles, except for bits and pieces, lying by the wayside.

River Crossing

The two whole vehicles left the next day for Mackenzie, to pick up the replacements and spares. Ten men left that day also to march to the Essequibo by foot, a distance of about 23 miles. They completed 16 the first day and finished the march on the second day. They did not make contact with the Amerindians until dark that night and they crossed the half mile of river by dug out canoe and spent the night at Kupupukuri, returning the next morning. They completed the trip back in one day.

In the meantime Starlight and myself were left in camp for three glorious days of complete relaxation doing nothing but sleep, swim and eat. The only hard part about it, was getting up at six-thirty, to warm up the set ready for seven.

The marching party returned at three in the afternoon of the third day and two hours later the party, which had gone back to Mackenzie, returned with the spare parts required.

It fell to Private Ede to do all the work of repairs, and the trip would have been impossible without him and his experience. While he was working, everyone else was having a grand time, swimming, fishing, and just plain loafing. A party of three of us set out to try and find the upper source of the Demerara River. Once we had reached the top of the falls, we tried to build a raft to go up the still reaches of the river. Though we were using jerry cans, we could not build a raft that would float, all the available timber being of such a nature that it sank as soon as you placed it in the water (greenheart). After four attempts, we gave up in disgust and set out on foot. It was an experience I shall never forget. Every step one saw something different. Plants that cut and ripped; plants with swordlike leaves and spines; trees with a base of seven to eight inches that could be cut with a single slice of a machete. In the way of wild life, we saw only Laba, an animal somewhat like a rabbit, but with a head very much like a rat. Also the odd fox or two and a couple of deer. Very few snakes were seen up to date, in fact I had not seen one. We only travelled up river for about four miles, and until the going became very nearly impossible. Some excitement was caused by the discovery of an old prospector's claim-board, dated 1957; we could not determine whether it was a gold or diamond mine. We could not discover any sign of workings, since the jungle was too thick all round the place.

We returned at five that evening to Base. Owing to my falling in the river when the raft sank, and going about naked, I was suffering from a case of acute sunburn on my posterier, and when I say I suffered that night, I really mean suffered!

The next morning while Lieutenant Long was shaving in a little stream, he felt something going around his feet, and to his horror discovered a 10ft. Anaconda, or Water Carmodie, as the natives call them. According to all reports, he easily beat the English long-jump record, his yell could be heard miles away, it was claimed.

The snake then swam into a still part of the main river where, fool that it was, it allowed itself to be seen again, by yours truly. It rested by an old log in about 2ft. 6in. of water, where it rose to breathe, and therefore it collected one twenty-two bullet in the head. It immediately sank, writhing, into the deeper water.

As I ran into the water to grab it, I was taken by the notion that it might be still alive, so I used a pole to get it out.

It was still alive. The bullet had only stunned it and it curled itself around the pole I had in my hands. I then had great enjoyment chasing everyone around the place with the snake on the end of the pole.

The battery of cameras that came out then, was simply amazing. Some very good action shots were taken by different people, with the still live snake around their necks, the only thing wrong was that I did not have time to put on a pair of shorts and only had a towel draped around my middle.

We stopped at Cannister Falls until the 22nd October. Nothing much more in the way of excitement happened, except when I caught a whopping big fish; I do not know the name of it, but it weighed over eight pounds, and had a mouth on it which you could nearly put your head into.

On leaving Cannister, we did the trip back to Mackenzie in one day, without incident. We spent the night and all of the next day in Mackenzie, where, owing to the fact that we had no money, anything saleable was sold for beer money. In view of the fact that we had eaten no eggs for three weeks, we did a roaring trade for eggs with "compo" rations. The manager of the local cinema gave us free admission for the two nights we were there, and told us that any time we were in Mackenzie, to pop in and see him.

We left the following morning for Atkinson Field. Seven miles out of Atkinson, I spotted a 6ft., harmless (but I did not know it then), yellowtail snake, which I endeavoured to catch and kill with a machete, but he was too fast for me.

We arrived back at Base at 3.15 that afternoon, all in good health and in good spirits, having been through, I am sure, an experience we will never forget.

I learnt a lot on this trip, and had the time of my life. I am only sorry that you all could not have been with me to share and enjoy this wonderful experience.

Malacca

The charming traditional architecture of Malaya, with mainly wooden construction, is very impermanent, so for all the great history of the country there are few buildings of any great antiquity. A very interesting spot, however (particularly for the European) is Malacca, the location of the first Portuguese settlement. The town is only 155 miles from Singapore and so readily reached by car or hired unit minibus by members of the Corps stationed in Singapore. Others, of course, are stationed rather nearer.

When the first Portuguese traders arrived late in the fifteenth century, they did not find a few huts on a desolate coast. Malacca was already a major city with a flourishing trade with China. It imported cotton, silks, ceramics and metals from China and exported gold, ivory, and spices. Of these, the spices were probably of greatest interest to the Europeans who could get high prices for spices with which to disguise the taste of badly-preserved and often semi-putrid meats that came to the table in wintertime.

In 1511, Malacca fell to Alfonso d'Alburqueque and during the century and a half that followed the Portuguese built a huge fort with palaces and many churches. They also converted many of the local population to Christianity. The Dutch came in 1641 and held the city until 1825, when they ceded it to the British in exchange for a settlement in Sumatra. The Dutch have left their mark in several street names and in the form of two fine buildings, the Stadhuys (used to this day as a town hall) and Christ Church. Both are in typically Dutch style and are built of flat pink bricks from Middleburg in Zeeland, faced with a laterite plaster, also pink. Most of the relics of Portuguese days were destroyed by the British when they razed the walls of the old fortress after taking over from the Dutch, but the main gate, the Porta di Santiago, still stands, flanked by cannon, but modified by the Dutch, who built into it the arms of the Dutch East India Company. Something of the old fort remains and St. Paul's Church, resting place of St. Francis Xavier, still stands as a charming, roofless ruin. It is in the balconies and carvings of more recent buildings that the Portuguese influence, still strong through the missions, is still to be seen.

For a weekend visit, Malacca is a good spot. A few miles to the north at Tanjong Kling there are several good and reasonably inexpensive hotels and a first-rate Church of Scotland Canteen (they are usually good, but this one is outstanding). Further north again, a dirt road follows the coast along Palm Beach, mile upon mile of golden sands backed by green lawns shaded by palms. Swimming is good, except in certain conditions of the

Palm Beach, north of Malacca.

wind when suspended sand makes the water like porrage. Prawn fishing in the surf is interesting to watch and there are prawns laid out to dry everywhere. The smell is not unpleasant and holds promise of that delectable Malay dish, Nasi Goreng, compounded of prawns, rice, and much else—a magnificent dish, and here is surely the best place to sample it.

H.F. Troop Climb Mount Orphir

By Second-Lieutenant P. E. Bruce

On the morning of 23rd October, 1961, we left Singapore for an exercise "up country." After a long drive past miles and miles of rubber plantations, we finally arrived at Malacca. We camped for the night on the edge of the Malacca reservoir quite close to the Assahan Ranges. Already encamped there was a Sapper survey team—but discreet enquiries as to whether they too were going to have a go at Mount Orphir only produced a "Not likely!"

After Sergeant Akaster had checked the bearing with a compass we chose a site, put up the aerials, and bivouacked. This was to be our rear base camp and as such was in permanent contact with the outside world.

We spent the first night here, sitting around a fire with a liberal supply of cans of Tiger Ale close at hand. Over the hubbub of conversation, every once in a while someone's voice could be heard, driving home a particular point.

"When I was in Bangkok . . . ."

"Before I was married, in Paris, I met a fabulous . . . ."

The next morning, having crammed four days rations into our packs and found someone to carry the W.S. A 510, we set off following the culvert. The party consisted of Lieutenant Golding, Second-Lieutenant Bruce, Corporal Holdsworth, Signalmen Birch, Home, Pentland, MacMahon and Ward. After a short distance we turned off up the hill and into the jungle. The heat and exertion soon reduced everyone to silence, and the going became much tougher than we had anticipated. After half an hour Lieutenant Golding called the first of many welcome halts. Our first casualty came after a further hour's travelling when Signalman Home started to complain of stomach ache, half an hour later Home was falling behind and Signalman MacMahon was beginning to show signs of wear. Rather than carry two passengers at this early stage, we decided to send them both back to the base camp. So Signalman Birch took the wireless set and the extra rations were split amongst the rest of us. The remaining six of us went on climbing. After a further two hours a long halt was called, whilst Pentland, who had lagged behind, was collected. At 2,360 feet it was decided to establish the forward base camp. This was done in an area that was relatively flat and rather less dense than the undergrowth we had been struggling through all day. No sooner was the camp set up than it started to rain. However, putting a waterbottle under a poncho or plastic sheet to catch the water that streamed off it, did save walking down to the stream!

After lunch, when the rain had abated, we left all our heavy kit with Pentland and Birch at the camp and set off up the hill again. After some time, we arrived at an area of smooth sloping rockface known as "the slabs" and had our first halt. Having crossed this we went on up to a rocky peak from which the summit Mount Orphir itself could be seen. To reach this, however, meant going down a hundred feet or so and then climbing up the three hundred feet to the crest.

With the rain coming down once again, we completed this final leg. At the summit, amongst the Chinese characters carved on the rockface we carved "H.F. Troop" and then shared out a tin of peaches by way of celebration. The most notable thing was the difference in temperature, having come up over 4,000 feet from the jungle below, it was like stepping back into a European climate again.

After wandering about for a short while, we thought that we had better get back to one of the camps before darkness came. In fact, going down was a lot easier than coming up and we were soon down at the forward base area once again.

The next morning four of us set out to follow the course of the Sungei Belamang—largest river in the area. We cut a path through the jungle to the actual river, rather than follow a tributary, such as the one that ran past the "slabs." This is because these smaller streams often vanish underground for long stretches of their course. Reaching the main river, we followed it down on to the valley floor and pausing a short while after crossing a marshy piece, to remove the leeches from ourselves, we set off along an old surveyor's track to head back to the rear base camp.

Back at base once again, it was decided, despite the fact that it was now late in the afternoon, to take the remainder of the people who had not yet been, up to the forward camp. This would mean moving for 2½ hours through the jungle in darkness.

It turned out, after an hour's march, to be far too dark and murky for practical movement, and some form of illumination had to be devised. After some deliberation, a Heath Robinson torch was evolved, using a mess tin as a reflector, a piece of sweat rag as a wick and a tin of insect repellant as fuel! Strange as it may seem this arrangement was quite effective—it gave out sufficient light to enable us to continue once more. Eventually the gleam of the forward camp fire was seen and with some relief we arrived at our second home!

The next morning Lieutenant Golding took those who had not been up before, to summit of Orphir. Meanwhile the remainder of us packed up the forward camp and pulled back to the base.

The climbing party after tackling the main objective went on to have a look at a lesser hill then came back to the rear camp as well. Once we were all together again, the whole party went down to the local bar to celebrate our success with something a bit stronger than compo peaches!

Chinese New Year

One of the delights of soldiering in the Far East is Chinese New Year. In England we have far fewer official holidays than, for instance, the French, and Chinese New Year is a holiday we should certainly adopt. It falls between 21st January and 20th February—surely the bleakest month of our U.K. winter—and is a bit of brightness we can hardly afford to miss.

On 5th February we entered the Year of the Tiger, the 2067th year of the Chinese lunar calendar, and did so to the noisy accompaniment of millions of firecrackers. A week before New Year's Day the Kitchen God went to make his annual report to the Heavenly King. He was away for a whole week, and the lesser gods, who left a day later, were away for ten whole days. We mortals, then, were left to have a whale of a party with no spoil-sport activities on the part of the gods.

Preparations for the New Year began as soon as Christmas was over. Christmas is now such a commercialised occasion that one Chinese was recently heard to ask a Christian friend if he realised how fortunate he was that he had two celebrations together—Christmas and the anniversary of the birth of Christ! Anyway, the Christmas decorations do not hang in the shops to get fly-blown. They are torn down as soon as the workers return from the Christmas holiday, and in place of Santa and the reindeer, up go the red bunting, the golden dragons and the New Year greeting "Kong Hee Fat Choy." While the shopkeepers are busily preparing for another buying spree, mother and the amah are busy at home cleaning the house from top to bottom. Once the Kitchen God has departed, to the usual accompaniment of crackers, incense and offerings, the decorations go up at home—red, red, everywhere, for this is the "good luck" colour.

On New Year's Eve, Chinese families get together to pay respects to their ancestors and to eat a family dinner. Even in the humblest home there is liable to be an enormous and very expensive spread of anything up to ten courses with plenty of drink to wash them down; so the party can indeed be merry when New Year's Day arrives at 11 p.m. (the Chinese day begins an hour earlier than the western one). The party is rather more than a New Year celebration and a family party, for the Chinese have a very sensible arrangement whereby everyone becomes a year older on the first day of the year. This is an additional reason to celebrate and spares the Chinese the task of remembering birthdays. An even more admirable arrangement is the tradition whereby no-one celebrates a birthday until he has reached a mature age and has children who can afford presents worthy of the occasion. How different from the western practice of having Dad pour out money on presents for the children, knowing he has precious little chance of getting any from them in his old age!

The barrage of crackers that greets the New Year continues throughout the following day, and in the towns the street verges are soon deep in the exploded red paper cases of crackers. Your Chinese friends keep open house and the day is one great round of visiting. It is nothing for a house to be full of merrymaking guests with the "host" and his family miles away, also visiting! Children have a great day. Sweets, fruit and toys come to them, and from all sides, they get little red and gold paper "Ang Pow" envelopes containing money. These are perhaps the most exciting feature of New Year.

Before the holiday, business houses pay bonuses to their workers, and employers tip their amahs generously before letting them go for up to four days' holiday. The aged and infirm are not forgotten either, and parties are organised and ang pows distributed by various charitable organisations.

You will be lucky to see a Chinese other rank around camp during the New Year. They generally manage to get leave and to celebrate at home with their families, but before they disperse they generally hold their own party in the unit. In 18th Regiment in Singapore, this is invariably one of the most successful parties of the year, a merry and gargantuan meal. The great sport is trying to toast the guests under the table. If challenged with a "yam sing" (bottoms-up) toast, you must, in honour, accept. The tip for initiates is to keep an eye over your right shoulder for the man with the brandy bottle who will top you up brimful with neat brandy if you give him half a chance!

SQUADRONS

STEEPLE BUMPSTEAD SQUADRON

We offer a belated welcome to our new Second-in-Command, Captain ffolljambe ffoulkes, and hope that he and his labrador will have a pleasant tour with the Squadron. He will not mind our saving that the draughtsman had to see the name on the Second-in-Command's identity card before he would print the new door notice.

It is not generally known that air passengers to and from Turkey are entitled to an excess baggage allowance of 43 lb., whereas those to European destinations (with certain Iron Curtain exceptions) are only entitled to 21 lb. (Allowance Regulations 652 refers). The subject for this year's Royal Signals Institution Essay may be chosen to elicit the best reason offered to the Treasury which persuaded them to agree to an extra 22 lb. for Turkey-bound passengers.

Driver Phillips (yes, he's still with us) has been off his food for a fortnight since seeing the photographs of some Junior Leaders at the Victoria Palace.

Surely the ultimate has been reached. The Squadron has just received a consignment of plastic India Tags (used for filing papers inside file covers). The old ones were admirable for the job, the plastic ones are useless. Doesn't anyone try these things out before purchasing six million of them?

The new 7-year rule concerning the inspection of motor vehicles has rendered the Squadron immobile. It was found that all our lights dipped on the wrong side. Craftsman Heinz Kaltenburg, our V.M., could offer no explanation.

(*Continued on page 90*)

The postal "Work to Rule" has not affected us, except to serve as a very good reason for delayed returns. Lance-Corporal Bensham, our Post N.C.O., ignored the restrictions and continued to deliver along the High Street and to Mildmay Cottages on his way from the Post Office to the camp.

SIGNAL TRAINING CENTRE (FAR EAST)

Mid-December saw the arrival at Singapore of 12 Fijian recruits, en route for various Training Regiments in the U.K.

These were suitably entertained by Foreman Rutter, with the able assistance of Staff Sergeant Thorpe of 1 Squadron. They had a 'bus laid on by the R.A.S.C. and staff instructions to see that the Fijians enjoyed themselves. This they did, and took in all the sights of Singapore. In the process F.O.S. had a whale of a time. But the Fijian lads also enjoyed themselves as can be seen from this photograph taken at the Britannia Club. Reports have it that three senior N.C.O.s were injured in the rush to volunteer to assist F.O.S., however, all have now recovered and applications have flooded in to look after the next batch of recruits who are rumoured to be female. The more optimistic of our senior N.C.O.s are casting speculative glances at the Unit's lawn mowers.

On 12th December the Squadron was involved in an internal security exercise. Staff Sergeant Alfred distinguished himself by repelling the rioters. This was due, in no small measure, to the fact that shortly before their arrival he had fallen into an open sewer. He also repelled the security troops and the staff of B.M.H. His many friends from the sergeants' courses in Catterick will be pleased to learn that he had suffered no ill effects and is once more his amiable self, and is exhibiting his scars with pride.

Sergeant E. Edwards (ex-Lincoln) went down with a bad case of yellow jaundice just before Christmas. He made a lightning recovery, however, after the M.O. sent him the following message: "If you were a dog, I would come down and shoot you." He has lost an enormous amount of weight, which detracts somewhat from his usual satorial elegance..

Major Denton, our new O.C., has now taken a firm grip of the reins, and is taking an active interest in all aspects of training and administration; in consequence, our usual lethargic life is livening up somewhat. R.Q.M.S. Cook is suffering from writers' cramp in a frantic endeavour to acquire the equipment the O.C. wants. With his usual pessimism; or is it optimism? declares "I can't see us getting this lot before I'm mister."

Sergeant Bloom has now returned to the Squadron after a spell on Provost Sergeant. His new hair style has won wide acclaim, and he has received numerous discreet enquiries as to which barber manages to cut his hair from the inside.

At the present time we have Staff Sergeant Croaker down from the Gurkha Signals, practising skills with a view to future Yeoman courses. Sergeant Harmsworth has done sterling work in this sphere, and has sent so much morse these past couple of weeks that his right wrist threatens to give up the ghost. Rumour has it that he stimulates his wrist with an occasional brush from his moustache.

Fijians Wrestling

We also have a dozen signal centre operators endeavouring to convert to comcen operators. These wander round with a permanently bemused expression, and can be heard muttering "forty words per minute, impossible!" Whilst we have reservations about predicting whether they will attain the necessary speed, we will at least predict that at the end of their course their knotted and disjointed fingers will furnish excellent material for an article in "The Lancet"!

Sergeant Wood (ex-Harrogate) is busy instructing on technicians course, and also instructing Staff Sergeant Alfred and Sergeant F. O'Brien on E. and M. in preparation for the next A.C.E.1. If industry is any guide to the outcome, Staff Sergeant Alfred will emerge with at least a B.Sc.

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The recent smallpox scare produced the inevitable reaction in our local Medical Officer, and he lost no time in cheerfully summoning the whole Squadron to one of his vaccination "parties." Contrary to gloomy expectation on the part of the management, the after-effects did not cause a mass departure to bed. However, we still have our own private epidemic to cope with. For some time now, personnel due to return from U.K. leave, almost without exception, have found themselves too ill to travel, just a few days before starting for Gatwick Airport. Heartrending letters of explanation (accompanied by convincing doctors' certificates) arrive in the Squadron office, and the "S.O.L." total on the daily parade state shows alarming increases. In spite of this, the cheerful good health enjoyed by these sufferers on their return causes certain hardened cynics to point out that no-one has become ill *before* going on leave! Certainly, Corporal Oliver and Signalmen Kennedy and Fuller seem none the worse for their protracted stay in the U.K.

The M.T.O. was the unwilling victim of very different circumstances when he returned from leave. Having been delayed by technical hitches at London Airport (his story!), he arrived late at Dusseldorf. A combination of "determination, rapid-thinking, and initiative (again his story) got him as far as Hagen, where he ran out of luck—and trains. After a little difficulty with the civilian telephone system, he contacted Lance-Corporal O'Neill, who was persuaded, somewhat reluctantly, to motor out into a wet and windy night. Having collected the M.T.O., all went well until they found themselves confronted by an overturned car, whose crew of Irish Guardsmen were staggering dazedly about the scene of the accident. Having rendered assistance to this unhappy band, the M.T.O. finally reached his destination at 3.00 a.m.—very much the worse for wear, and extremely reluctant to face work the following day.

Promotion is in the air. Congratulations to "Q" Barr (promoted to Staff Sergeant), who has filled the post of S.Q.M.S. for nearly a year, and to "Saracen" Brown, whose Lance-Corporal's stripe places him firmly on the first rung of the promotion ladder. It is further rumoured that on the strength of a recent B.F.N. request, Signalman Ashdjian has been appointed "Baby Sitter-in-Chief" to the Squadron.

On Tuesday, 23rd January, the Squadron was routed by a singularly terrifying invasion—the arrival of the Wives' Club to hold their first meeting in the Nags' Head. Hardened soldiers, with years of service, turned pale, and hastily disappeared into the remotest corners of the Squadron lines; offices and stores were locked, and the management rapidly retired behind innumerable imposing files. However, the "enemy" were appeased by despatching Signalmen Maule and Maher with gifts of char and wads to bolster the Beetle Drivers, and the day ended in reasonably good order, despite the tendency of sundry children to attempt private looting forays. The opinion is widely held that the char wallahs should be rewarded for bravery—and detailed for the same duty next time!

After nearly four years in the Squadron, W.O.II Young, our S.S.M., is due to leave, and by the middle of March will have taken up his new appointment of R.Q.M.S. in Kowloon. His many services to this Squadron will not soon be forgotten. In particular, Marina (our Minibus) and the Nag's Head canteen owe most of their success to his efforts, and he is undoubtedly the greatest champion of our horse's head emblem. Both on and off duty he has worked consistently for the good of the Squadron and its members, and we wish him every happiness and success in his new appointment.

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KUWAIT
FLOOD RELIEF IN KENYA
SERENGETI GAME PARK

IT is only in fits and bursts that THE WIRE hears from us, but this month we are bursting—so here it comes! The last contribution was written at the end of June and included an account of the ascent of Kilimanjaro, but since then much water (and other well-known fluids) have flowed, and it is related in chronological order.

Less than two weeks after coming down Kilimanjaro, the Kuwait "flap" was on—so perhaps our little sojourn at 20,000ft. provided good acclimatisation for the ensuing three-and-a-half months. It is not proposed to dwell too long on what is now a piece of history; if the author had spent less time competing in the Squadron fly-swatting competition, he might have found time to write these notes whilst still in Kuwait.

Brigade H.Q. was situated in a police fort about 15 miles north of Kuwait town, in a small village called Al Jahara, which is shown on the map as an oasis—but we have no comment! About a quarter-of-a-mile away was another fort which looked as though it could have been the original Beau Geste (which one of our non-French speaking Signalmen translated as "The Big Joke"). Conditions in the fort at Al Jahara were very squalid and exhausting, and would have been well nigh intolerable had not the Kuwait Oil Company and their civilian employees been so generous with their hospitality from the very outset of the operation. Virtually all their recreational facilities were offered to the Forces, and the soldiers managed to get about one day off a week to do down to Ahmadi, the Kuwait Oil Company "oil town," and relax in civilised surroundings. We would like to take this opportunity of thanking the people of Ahmadi so very much for everything they did for us.

On returning to Kenya, in early October, the thought uppermost in most people's mind was leave, and after a quick reorganisation, we managed to start putting leave in.

Then in November the "short rains" came in unprecedented quantities and the country was stricken by floods.

Corporal L. J. Dicker's account

"What started out as a straightforward radio exercise (aptly named Exercise "Paddle-Back") turned into a full-scale operation, with the elements as an enemy.

For several weeks Kenya had been hit with practically nonstop torrential rain, which had disrupted communications all over the country. Roads, railways and bridges were washed away and the telephone systems to various districts were put out of action. This resulted in thousands of Masai tribesmen being cut off and their cattle drowned. Consequently, the Masai were without food and were in great danger of dying from starvation.

However, when I and my detachment set out on 13th November on the exercise we had no idea of the distress this proud and friendly race were in, although before we set out it had been suggested that our help might be sought, but the exercise was to be prime importance. We were soon to learn differently on our arrival in the Kajiado area (approximately forty miles from Nairobi), when the Officer in charge of the exercise, Lieutenant M. R. Adams, approached the District Commissioner, Mr. Tom Edgar, with a view to offering the services of the wireless detachments for such things as road condition reports, weather reports and for arranging locations suitable for air drops; for example, isolated villages inaccessable by normal means. Our help in these matters was readily accepted there and then.

The job I was given entailed travelling along a circular route of approximately three hundred miles embracing an area called the Nyiri Desert, which was planned to take five days. However, this was not to be.

On the first day, we set out for a place called Mashuru, a distance of about sixty miles and report back road conditions.

On reaching this point I was instructed to try and reach Selengai if possible, which at the same time seemed unlikely as the District Commissioner informed us the road had been

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out of commission for several days. We did, however, manage to reach Selengai, encountering on the way numerous rivers, and large areas of flooded land six to twelve inches deep in water.

I proceeded further until the fourth day I had reached a point one hundred and thirty miles from Kajiado over very difficult terrain.

I was instructed to remain at this point as long as my rations and petrol would allow and report back weather and road conditions for that area, which appeared to be the worst hit part of that district.

Next morning I was told to return to Kajiado to replenish our supplies but on reaching one of many rivers previously crossed with comparative ease, I found it was now a raging torrent of flood water as far as the eye could see. I reported back this fact and was told to try and reach Kajiado by another route (the main Mombasa-Nairobi road), but on attempting this found my way barred by numerous rivers which were totally impassable. In other words, I was marooned with the Masai tribesmen of this area with whom I had, by this time, become very well acquainted.

As my position was now quite serious arrangements were made for me to receive an air drop of supplies to enable me to continue my job and try to reach the Game Warden's lodge at Merueshi, a point about twenty miles further along the road. We did in fact reach a point about 200 yards from Merueshi but this area ahead had by now turned into swamp land and we had to employ the help of a five ton road grader to tow us through. On reaching Merueshi we were approached by many starving Masai requesting food and cigarettes. It appeared that Kiboko, who had been separated from their families for about two or three weeks and had little or no food during that time. Base at Kajiado was informed of their plight and an R.A.F. food drop was requested. Problems, however, arose.

As we were not in personal contact with the Masai on the other side of the river instructions as to how to lay out markers for a dropping zone had to be shouted across. Materials for the markers were bandages taken from our first aid kit and thrown, in weighted tins, to the other side.

We waited all day for the airdrop by a Beverley aircraft which eventually came at 1600 hours and was a complete success. About the same time the District Commissioner flew over in his small aeroplane and dropped cigarettes and tins of beer to us, in appreciation of what we were doing, but which the Masai got to first, leaving us no alternative but to barter our rations for the return of these desirable items.

After living very closely with the Masai for fourteen days we were eventually recalled to Base due to the flood relief being organised on a much larger military scale involving the Army, Air Force and Navy.

The return journey was not without event, including being towed and pushed through several wide and fast flowing rivers by our new friends, which myself and my crew, consisting of Lance-Corporal Summers (driver), Signalmen Selina and Smyth, were very sorry to leave.

Despite all the hazards, we really enjoyed doing this very exciting and unusual work and only wished that we could have worked with the District Commissioner, Mr. Tom Edgar, a little longer.

This story is typical of the work done by several of our detachments although one of them, when eventually cut off, was in a much better position. They were trapped in the Amboselli Game Park but managed to make their way to the Ol Tukai Safari Lodge and enjoyed the comfort of Dunlopillo mattresses normally occupied by opulent American tourists and were very reluctant to return to camp during a lull in the flooding.

H.R.H. The Duke of Edinburgh Visits Serengeti Game Park

Another interesting voyage was that of Corporal Bee, Signalmen Harris and Powell. After the Duke of Edinburgh had concluded the Tanganyika Independence Ceremony he went to the Serengeti Game Park, and our detachment had to go and open up a radio station on the airstrip at Seronera, in the very heart of the Serengeti Plain in Tanganiyka. Here is an account of their exploits.

Corporal Bee writes :

"On the morning of Saturday, 9th December, we started a journey which was to take us through some of the most famous game country in the world. The object of the journey was to get to Seronera in the Serengeti Game Park of Tanganyika, where we were to set up special aeronautical radio facilities for the Duke of Edinburgh's visit to the Park. The party consisted of five, Mr. Keen, assistant telephones controller of the Directorate of Civil Aviation (East Africa). Mr. J. Nzaro, technical assistant and radio operator, also of the D.C.A. Two electrician drivers, Signalman Harris driving a 3-ton G.S. Bedford, Signalman Powell driving an Austin 1-ton Radio Light pulling a 6 kva generator, and myself, Corporal Bee, responsible for serviceability of the Army equipment.

"Our route lay directly south to the Tanganyika/Kenya border, through Athi River—Kajiado to Namanga, where we had our lunch at the 'Namanga River Hotel.' There was a little game to be seen on this stretch, a few buck, zebra and giraffe. After lunch we continued to Arusha, the road changed from murrum to tarmac making the going easier. The road passed near to Mount Meru which was quite clear of cloud; we were a little disappointed that the top of Mount Kilimanjaro was covered with cloud, as it would have been a good place to have photographed it from. From Arusha we pressed on to Lake Manyara reaching it just before nightfall. Our night stop was at the 'Lake Manyara Hotel' on the edge of the Rift Valley escarpment, with a wonderful view out over the lake and valley.

"On Sunday morning we contacted Nairobi Airways Centre by radio to check if there were any messages for us and to inform Nairobi of our position and movement. This was carried out everytime we stopped for a meal. From Manyara the murrum track led up the outside wall of the Ngorongoro crater, to a height of over 8,000 feet, the track was just wide enough for the vehicle with a precipitous drop on one side and a cliff wall on the other. At the top of the climb we had a good view into the crater. Just off the road were half-a-dozen buffalo that seemed to take little notice of us when we stopped to photograph them. We had lunch at the Crater Safari Lodge. After lunch we continued along the rim of the crater for a few miles, then started the long descent to the Serengeti plain. On the way down through sparsely wooded country we saw a few giraffe and herd of zebra. Progress came to a sudden halt when we came to cross a dried up river bed; the banks had been washed away leaving a step either side. Luckily the step only extended the width of the road and the crossing was approached from the side. While surveying the situation we could see lion tracks in the soft mud between the stones. We were now on the Serengeti plain, a wide open expanse of land edged by mountains. Now the herds of animals became more numerous, wildebeest, zebra and gazelles. The Olduwai River looked rather formidable with the recent rain water adding to the flow. By using sign language we were able to ascertain the depth of the torrent from some young Masai warriors, who soon appeared when we stopped. Both vehicles crossed with little difficulty, the water reached the bumper of the 3-tonner. Just over the river we saw the famous Shifting Sands—mounds of black sand blown by the wind, a few feet a year. Travelling over the Serengeti is prohibited between 7 p.m. and 6 a.m. because rhino tend to charge vehicle headlights. Just before we stopped at the entrance to the National Park we saw a rhinoceros, it didn't get dangerously near!

"During Sunday night we heard lions growling in the distance so we didn't get out of the vehicle unless absolutely necessary during the night. Whilst making our usual call to Nairobi we were called by an aircraft trying to pass its position to Khartoum without success. We offered to try and raise Khartoum which to our surprise gave us a report of 'Loud and clear' over a distance of nearly 2,000 miles using a 16 foot whip. Monday saw us bogged three times in 25 miles. On the first occasion the 1-tonner slid off the road on to soft ground and sank in with the generator—the 3-tonner easily pulled it out. The second time the 3-ton truck just sunk in the road approaching a built-up stream crossing. By now it was lunch time. It took nearly three hours to get both vehicles across the crumbling earthwork which bridged the stream. Half-an-hour later, and only 17 miles from Seronera, the 1-ton truck sunk in the bed of a stream when the generator struck a rock and caused it to stop. The 3-ton truck backed up to give a tow and sunk in itself. No amount of digging could free the vehicles and so help was requested. A Land Rover with ropes and 'Tanganyika jacks' was sent out from Seronera. As the Seronera River was in flood the Rover couldn't reach us that night. We spent that night in the vehicles again. By now our food was running out, so first thing Tuesday morning we requested an air drop; within an hour an aircraft was overhead, it dropped milk, water and bread. The Land Rover was sent out from Seronera again at around noon, when the river was lowest and the roads driest. It reached us about two hours later. The Tanganyika police officer on board advised us to lock everything up and return to Seronera with him as it would not be possible to do any towing on the wet roads. We took the opportunity to have a hot bath and good meal—the first for two days.

"On Wednesday morning it rained hard making the roads completely impassable; the Chief Park Warden closed the Park to traffic due to the state of the roads. About noon the Director of Civil Aviations' Heron aircraft made some test landings and take offs in preparation for the return of the Royal Flight Herons. The rain continued until the afternoon making the runway unserviceable for heavy aircraft and in consequence the Duke left in an 'Apache' aircraft of the Tanganyika Government. When the time came for the D.C.A.'s plane to leave, it sank in the apron when taxi-ing.

"Operations to recover the vehicles and the plane had to be suspended until Thursday.

"Thursday morning was fine and the aircraft was dug out and run on to wooden planks. The Park Warden sent for a caterpillar tractor from Benagi, about eleven miles away, but because of the flooded river it didn't arrive until evening. The plane got away after some of its load had been jettisoned.

"On Friday morning the drivers and about half-a-dozen Park workers accompanied by a Park Guide left Seronera with the caterpillar tractor to recover the vehicles and escort them from the boggy areas of the Serengeti plain. With the recent wet weather, the food supplies at Seronera had gradually dwindled. Therefore only the drivers were allowed to cross the plain in case they had to wait overnight at the Oldawai River for the level to drop."

At this stage Corporal Bee returned to Nairobi in a Kenya Police Air Wing Cessna and the story is continued by one of the drivers, Signalman Powell.

Signalman Powell writes :

"After being towed to the Seronera Lodge there was nothing we could do, as the Austin was unserviceable and required spare parts which had to be flown in from camp.

"Nairobi was contacted by radio and two days later the spares and a vehicle mechanic were flown in by an Auster, together with rations, cigarettes, and clean clothes, all of which were badly needed. The mechanic decided the vehicle could not be repaired until Christmas Day, and this information was sent back to camp.

"On the 23rd December another air supply flight arrived bringing more rations, pay, and a Christmas hamper which we were really glad to see because, as the whole area was cut off, everybody's rations were getting dangerously low. A radio operator, Lance-Corporal Wood, was also flown in on this plane so that we could maintain a direct link to camp on the journey back.

"While we were stranded at Seronera we went out with the Game Warden and saw some of the game near the Lodge. This included a pride of twelve lions and their cubs. We also went hunting with the Game Warden and shot buck and gazelle for eating. All in all we really enjoyed our Christmas, quiet as it was. The Game Warden and the owner of the Lodge gave us all the help and facilities we wanted and without them we would not have been so happy.

"On Christmas Day the Austin was repaired and we decided to set out on the 27th. We thanked everybody and set out on what was to be another rough journey. After only five miles we were bogged down again but five hours digging saw us on our way. The road was still bad and we couldn't cover more than ten miles in an hour, but we knew the road improved in 50 miles.

"However, about 45 miles out from Seronera the Austin broke down again and couldn't be repaired so we had to tow it and the generator. The going was so rough that the Bedford, in bottom gear of low ratio and in four-wheel drive, consumed 1 gallon of petrol per mile. When we came to climb the sheer wall of the Ngorongoro crater we had to tow the generator and the Austin up separately as the Bedford just could not take them both at once—it was losing efficiency as we were in the region of 8,000 feet. The tow chain had broken several times and was now only four feet long, adding to our difficulties. Once clear of the crater we had a down hill run to Arusha on better roads and we stayed there overnight.

"On the 31st we started on the last leg of our journey from Arusha to Nairobi. This road had been cut with severe flooding but had dried up to a certain extent, leaving a very rough surface. About 50 miles from Nairobi the generator wheel sheared off, but fortunately another Army truck soon passed us and we manhandled the 6 KVA on to it, and he took it back to camp for us. We crossed our fingers as we approached Kajiado, where we knew the road was flooded but fortunately the level had subsided enough to allow us to cross, and we had a clear run back to Nairobi, the end of our 900 mile journey.

"Our one thought on arrival was bath and bed, nevertheless it was a very good experience and all four of us decided we wouldn't mind doing it again!"

General Notes

There is very little to report in the way of non-aquatic sport. Hockey and soccer had just started to get under way when the rain came and flooded all the pitches and is only just starting to get going again. The rugby season does not start until the end of February The social column, however, provides fuller reading.

At the end of October we bade farewell to Major and Mrs. Willway and welcomed our new O.C., Major Sherrard-Smith, and his family. This was followed by a spate of nuptials which had been disrupted by the Kuwait emergency. Captain F. Smith, Lieutenant M. R. Adams and Lance-Corporal A. Brooks all took the vows within the space of six weeks. To them and their brides, respectively Miss Suzanne Thrift, Miss Susan Minta and Miss Margaret Littler, we offer our congratulations and best wishes for the future. Along the same lines, but apparently not disrupted by General Kassim, we offer our congratulations to Sergeant and Mrs. J. Woodhouse on the birth of a daughter in October.

However, on 22nd December we had a tragedy in the Squadron which overshadowed our Christmas leave. Six members of the Squadron, whose names follow, were killed in a ghastly traffic accident about two miles from camp, involving a civilian car in which they were travelling and an African lorry. The six killed were Sergeant A. J. McLean, Lance-Corporals S. Falconer, Nicholson, Pryke, Sherrat and Simpson. They were all buried together with full military honours in Nairobi War Cemetery on Christmas Eve. Fortunately none were married, but to their next of kin and relations we extend our deepest sympathy.

In accordance with tradition W.O.II (S.S.M.) Bailey and his senior N.C.O.s provided the "Thunder" on Christmas morning. W.O.II (F.-of-S.) G. Sharpe tells how he approached one of his customers who, unlike the others, had not thrown a bucket of cold water at him. Having difficulty in rousing him, the Foreman retired in despair bemoaning the waste of good rum. The young gentleman then leapt out of bed exclaiming, "Nobody told me you put rum in it." This was followed by a soccer match. Officers and senior N.C.O.s versus the rest. The result will be announced when the referee, W.O.II (S.S.M.) E. Summers, has worked it out. Afterwards a lot of people got wet and nine goldfish died. The Officers and senior N.C.O.s then served Christmas dinner. Our oldest soldier, Signalman Findlay, gave a speech of welcome to the Brigadier—it must have been very good because he is a Lance-Corporal now! After the dinner, and when Signalman Parker had exhausted himself, the senior N.C.O.s gave their annual rendering of a favourite song; intentional deletion.

New Year's Eve in the Brigade Sergeants' Mess got into full swing well before midnight and was enjoyed by all. A special word of praise to Mrs. Bailey and Staff Sergeant R. Cassling (ovitch) on winning the Russian dancing prize. (It's agony, Ivy!) This occasion was also a suitable welcome to the Squadron for Sergeant and Mrs. "Nipper" Wright.

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In order to give adequate cover to Squadron activities, it is necessary to go back in time to Christmas. Although this may seem a long time, the writer hastens to plead that it is not entirely due to negligence on his part; in mitigation, he would point out that due to "Work-to-Rule," his previous efforts took six days to cross the Irish Channel and to reach London—too late for inclusion in the February edition of THE WIRE.

Christmas, so eagerly awaited, did not fall short of expectations. The unfortunates who did not manage to make home and hearth, were luckily few, and they received some compensation by way of the excellent fare provided at the Christmas dinner. This had, of course, been preceded by the traditional "Gunfire," and the majority were quite astonished by the charming, soothing and sympathetic bedside manner of our two resident Sergeant-Majors, S.S.M. Rankin and the C.S.M. of "H.Q." Company. Wonders never cease !

The Squadron defied the winter elements to put in a lot of hard work in preparation for the Central Inspectorate, R.E.M.E. Their efforts were not unrewarded; congratulations to all concerned for an "Excellent" on arms and for the other very satisfactory results obtained.

Advantage was taken of the winter months to carry out quite an extensive upgrading course programme. Under the auspices of our good neighbours, 233 Squadron, most of our Radio Operators successfully gained Class II status. S.S.M. Rankin ran an interesting and beneficial course for Linemen, again with gratifying results. The Drivers still persevere in their efforts under Sergeant Southart and Co.

All is not work, however, the children's party was held just prior to Christmas and was a great success. We should like to convey our appreciation to the organisers for all the hard work which they put in—and not least to Father Christmas himself (together with those pixies, gnomes (or whatever they were) who undertook the considerable burden of pulling him into the arena!). There followed a really excellent dance. The S.S.M. used his charms to attract a host of lovely ladies from the Belfast Telephone Exchange (no work-to-rule here!) and for once we must report some surpluses, which is one of the reasons why everybody enjoyed themselves so much.

The Small Bore Shooting Team are living up to the reputation they established for themselves last year. Performances improve at every round; at the moment we head the league —and without meaning to be too rash—the general feeling at the moment is that "it's in the bag." Our hockey team is enjoying a full fixture list, but not much success! We have yet to gain a victory—in fact, on close recollection, it seems that we have yet to score a goal. However, we refuse to be downhearted, and look forward with determination; if not brimming with confidence, towards the Minor Units' Knock-out Competition. The cross-country team is training hard for the competition on 15th February; progress to date is most encouraging.

A number of familiar faces are now missing from our ranks. We would briefly mention Corporals "Paddy" Cantell (now exiled in Scotland), Pagliaro, Jewiss and Signalmen Flood and Stubbs (of future wrestling fame): last, but not least, our radio expert, Sergeant Cairns, en route for sunny Cyprus.

222 SQUADRON

This article is designed to be of general interest to everyone in Royal Signals, and especially all those who have ever served in Aden. Many who fall into the latter category will remember the "Gentlemen's Rest," which is our canteen. "The Rest," as it is known, is situated at Steamer Point. When asked where we live, we don't always reply "Oh, at Ras Morbut, on Steamer Point." We prefer to say "at 'The Rest.'"

"The Rest" is a pub, a meeting place, the unit canteen, run by the P.R.I., and quite the finest morale-raiser imaginable. In size, it is one lofty room with a home-made bar and stock rooms behind. From the ceiling hang four fans, on the walls hang photographs of H.M. The Queen and H.R.H. The Duke of Edinburgh. Our Colonel-in-Chief, H.R.H. The Princess Royal, has the place of honour in the centre. Our painting is the one by Sir Gerald Kelly. Cartoons of past members of the Squadron adorn one wall, dart boards another. Sound is built in and also wired to the parade ground outside. The furniture is home-made and consists of benches and issue chairs scrounged from R.S.G. and then repaired. The staff are volunteers, aided and abetted by one of our Arab messengers.

Soldiers in an Independent Air Formation Signal Squadron lead a hard life; in our case, our lives are made even harder by the rigours of Aden. The barracks are crowded and stuffy (we do not yet have the luxury of air-conditioning), the food is poor, dhobi is expensive, and there are few amenities. The work of digging cable in the desert, and of maintaining equipment under primitive and harsh conditions, in heat and eternal sand storms makes the hours of leisure all the more precious. At the same time, the almost complete lack of entertainment makes the problem of "self-help" all the more pressing. Our answer is "The Rest." Run by the P.R.I., its sole source of income comes from bar profit. Hard and soft drinks, cigarettes and sweets are sold over the bar. Five types of sandwiches, pies, and a "hot-dog" stand to supply the inner-man.

"The Rest" is essentially a meeting place. It can be borrowed by anyone when not in use by the Squadron. All types of people, all ranks, and all Services use it regularly. The Rugby Union Club, the Welsh Society, the Referees and Football Associations hold monthly meetings. We have had a number of wedding receptions and two Tramps Beatnik dances. Christmas time saw the entertaining of 150 children from the Parish Church, two dances, two cinema shows and a conjuror.

Why do I write in this boastful manner? Why do I think my readers in THE WIRE should be interested? Firstly, Air Formation Signals work for, and are an established part of, the R.A.F. Administered by the R.A.F., the good name of the Squadron, and in turn the good name of Royal Signals, depends largely on our ability to keep in with the R.A.F. In this "The Rest" assists in many ways. Secondly, "The Rest" is a great morale raiser in a desolate part of Arabia, where the maintenance of morale is always a problem. "The Rest," like the aeroplane badges we wear on our K.D., is something that the Squadron stands for. The personnel of treble-two enjoy its simple privileges, and at the same time save money, as it is far less expensive than Aden town (and far cleaner!).

227 SQUADRON (ALFCE)

It is some months since this Squadron's notes appeared in THE WIRE, and therefore it is only possible to give a brief resumé of events over the past three months. Anything that was liable to affect Corps history must have happened before your correspondent arrived.

In November, 1961, the Squadron provided N.C.O.s and men for a combined Remembrance Day Parade through Fontainebleau. As usual, the rehearsals proved to be far more hazardous than the actual parade. Troops taking part were an American Air Force Band, a contingent from the U.S. Signal Company here in Fontainebleau, the British contingent of combined Army and Royal Air Force, together with what appeared to be a complete French Training Battalion. The parade was commanded by a French officer. In consequence, all the commands were in French, which, as you know, not only requires a powerful voice, but demands numerous gesticulations with head, arms and hands. We found the best system for moving off at the correct time was to watch for the Americans leaning forward as if for a catapult take-off. Naturally, all went well on the day, and the British troops received a very enthusiastic reception from the Fontainebleau locals as we marched through the town. One final hazard was that the American Band played Light Infantry quicksteps as we marched at 120 paces to the minute . . . talk about integration! Similar "manifestations" took place at our outstation near Soissons, at which M. Pierre Clostermann, the distinguished French airman, was present.

On 14th November, the Squadron Sergeants' Mess arranged a darts evening with the Royal Signals' Officers from ALFCE Headquarters. The evening started with the presentation, by Colonel P. C. Williams, O.B.E., of a fine bronze replica of "Jimmy" to the Sergeants' Mess (we hope to forward a photograph for the next edition), and he was thanked, on behalf of the Mess, by W.O.I Kelly for this most generous gift. Although we never did get round to playing darts, all present had a most enjoyable evening.

Christmas entertainments started on Thursday, 14th December, with a party given by Major and Mrs. Sinclair for the Senior N.C.O.s and their wives. An excellent party, although one of the side-effects was that two members of the Sergeants' Mess found themselves in Orleans (60 miles away) at 04.00 the following morning, trying to find Fontainebleau . . . The Squadron all ranks' party took place the following night in the dining hall. The highlight of the evening was a very local production of "Les Sylphides" (arranged Shine) with the Squadron Corps de Ballet, Messrs. Tarbuck, Barry, Osborne and Cook. This same versatile group later performed a rather near-to-the-skin cabaret act, including the Can-Can—Toulouse-Lautrec would *not* have been amused. A very fine buffet was provided by Sergeant Gray and his assistants, and was demolished by the horde all too soon.

Christmas Day was the usual routine of "Gunfire," Officers to Sergeants' Mess, Sergeants' Mess to Cookhouse, serve Christmas dinner and pick the odd bone, return to Sergeants' Mess, and before you could say "Alka Seltzer" Christmas had gone.

The sporting life of the Squadron is good. We are well represented in the ALFCE Rugby Union side, with W.O.I Kelly, Sergeant Copland, Corporal Hargreaves and Lance-Corporal Tippen. The soccer team has improved greatly, after setbacks early in the season; they have not lost a match in the past two and-a-half months, and are now making fine progress in the Combined ALFCE League. Hockey has started, too, and we appear to have the makings of a team. Although today there is about four inches of snow outside, Captain Halford just can't wait for the cricket season to arrive.

More about work in the Squadron next month—in the meantime I must find out where it takes place! Although one reads a lot about Algerian rebels, O.A.S. and the dreaded plastic bomb, the only bombs in this Squadron are very local, and usually home-made. During our annual camp at Gien, in the Loire Valley, last year, members of the Comcentre Troop Photographic Club at our out-station produced a very amusing 8 mm. record of our activities. This received two performances on Wednesday, 31st January, one for the Squadron wives and the other for the members of the Squadron in the evening. It was very well received; in fact, at the evening performance an immediate repeat was demanded.

236 SQUADRON

Looking back over the Squadron visitors' book for the past few months, we find some distinguished signatures, but a strange lack of khaki. They include Air Marshal Sir Charles Elworthy, K.C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.V.O., D.F.C., A.F.C., The Commander-in-Chief Middle East; Captain P. G. Loasby, D.S.C., Royal Navy, The C.S.O. Middle East; Air Marshal Sir Wallace Kyle, K.C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., A.F.C., the Vice-Chief of Air Staff; Air Vice-Marshal F. E. Rosier, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., the A.O.C., Middle East; Mr. John Profumo, M.P., the Secretary of State for War.

The Quarter Guard mounted for Mr. Profumo, commanded by Staff Sergeant J. A. Morris, were wearing white No. 3 dress, the first time it has been worn in this form in East Africa. They were specially commended by the Secretary of State for their smart turnout. The series of vists will reach its climax in a few weeks' time when H.R.H. The Duke of Gloucester comes to Nairobi and meets some members of the Squadron.

Football. The season is in full swing again and the Squadron team has made a very successful start by winning the first four matches in the Minor Units League. Top goal scorer, so far, has been Lance-Corporal Green with 10. The team is being managed this year by Captain Judd Gurney, who will be known to many Catterick players. Unfortunately our captain, Signalman E. Siddall, and a lot of others in the team, will have left before the season is over, so some new talent and hard training will be needed to keep up the high standard.

Rugger. Training has started for the new season, and it is encouraging to find so many keen players in the Squadron. Although W.O.II Clements had to give up playing at the end of the last season because of illness, the club looks forward to his keen support and help in organisation this year. We shall be sorry to lose him to 210 Squadron in a few months' time. Signalman D. E. Boardman is again captain until he also goes.

Arrivals and Departures. Departures still greatly exceed arrivals. We now have a number of civilians working as operators and technicians, and this is a considerable help with our greatly reduced numbers. Among these civilians we are lucky enough to have some ex-Royal Signals men. Some of these will be well-known in the Corps, so their names are given here: (Lieutenant-Colonel) N. de la P. Tate, (Major) R. Jarvis, (W.O.II) S. J. Usher, (Staff Sergeant) D. Moorman, (Sergeant) J. Linskey, (Sgt.) G. Harrison, (Corporal) D. H. Bycroft, (Corporal) G. A. Asker (T.A.), (Lance-Corporal) F. Phillipson, (Lance-Corporal) M. C. Lowe, (Signalman) H. Greenwood.

Safari. The safari truck is still being repaired after its disaster at Kampala on the last safari. Now that the rains have at last stopped, we hope it will be ready soon, as lots of new trips are planned, including a fishing safari to the slopes of Mount Kenya and another attempt at Murchison Falls, on the upper reaches of the Nile, where there are so many chances of photographing elephant, hippo and crocodile. There is usually plenty of excitement on these safaris. At the end of last year Captain Gurney was chased smartly back to cover when trying to get a really close, close-up of an elephant, and the O.C., Major J. Handy, and his family were chased in their car by a group of three rhino, only to find that, having shaken them off, there was an old bull elephant waiting to charge a little further down the road. Good tyres are worth having at these times.

Line Troubles. The Squadron Linemen and Cable-jointers, under Sergeant G. W. Walker, had hoped for a slight respite when the very heavy "short" rains finally stopped in January, but a spate of thefts of the underground cables (they are reputed to be worth a shilling a foot in the bazaar) has kept them even more busy than they were during the rain. Lance-Corporal Anderson, an operator by trade, has found himself enjoying being foreman to a group of 18 African labourers working on the routes. When the local African night guards found they did not like the job of guarding the open cable pits at night because of the noise made by lions, the Coldstream Guards took over. They did not enjoy it much, either.

Mr. Profumo talking to the Guard Commander Staff Sergeant J. A. Morris. Others in the guard are *(left to right)* Lance-Corporal C. S. Mason, Lance-Corporal A. Henretty, Corporal K. Halliwell, Signalmen E. J. Webster, B. T. Talbot, Lance-Corporal W. Fox and Signalman A. N. Chesters

Colonel E. J. C. Spanton, M.B.E., Commander Nairobi Garrison presents the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal to Staff Sergeant Agatsiotis

Front row : Staff Sergeant Hashim, Lieutenant Sprackling, Staff Sergeant Hayes, General Whistler, Staff Sergeant Weir.

Back Row : Sergeant Burrows, Colonel Freeman, Sergeant Birtles, Captain Roberts, R.S.M. Walker, Sergeant Fredericks, Major Hawkins.

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This month we welcome the advance elements of the COMCAN Installation Troop under Major R. Lott. They are already hard at work at Amoy Quee and are contributing to our play by joining the Squadron on the sports field. A re-organisation that has placed our Traffic Troop under O.C. 1 Squadron, 18th Regiment, is going to hit our sporting potential and we don't relish meeting W.O.I Bicknell and Signalman Platford on the other side. Already, however, there is keen competition for the vacant positions in the Squadron soccer side, and with the outstations contributing more than heretofore, we mean to remain a major force on the sports fields.

Golf is the latest big interest. Ten players are swinging away furiously in an effort to obtain or reduce handicaps. It is hoped that the Princess Mary Barracks golf course (an exercise ground for volunteers, felons and fatigue men at present) will be ready for play before they become scratch players. We are anxiously waiting for the grass to grow!

On 13th January we had an official opening party for the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess at Amoy Quee, a most successful occasion which gained in informality and zip from the fact that the majority of the members were from 201 Squadron (Australia). Mrs. Warren, wife of our C.O., is an Australian herself, so it is not surprising that the Colonel's departure was delayed well into the early hours.

On 25th January, the Signal Officer-in-Chief, General Whistler, visited the T.R.C. at Tanglin and was given a little talk on tape relay organisation from Lance-Corporal Fallon! He visited Transmitters and Receivers on 27th January and stood up well to the barrage of questions aimed at him from all sides by all ranks. He found time for a drink in each of the Sergeants' Messes, a gesture that was greatly appreciated. The General has appeared in numerous photographs in THE WIRE of late, but we dare to offer yet another—taken in the Amoy Quee Sergeants' Mess.

Convinced that our notes are no better reading than your own, dear reader, we have deliberately kept them short this month and are also contributing a few articles, some of which will, we hope, meet with the Editor's approval and get published. Could we not make common policy of this? Our administrative inspections and P.E. tests are dull stuff, even to us, but the reflections on Cyprus, in the December issue, and the two views of Hong Kong from wives of chaps stationed there made excellent reading. Every couple of years or so we are all 'sweating on a posting' and so there is always a ready audience for news of life on other stations. And life, thank God, has more to offer than administrative inspections! If it hadn't, why would we be the happy band of communicators we are?

245 SQUADRON

Reporting this month from a not-so-sunny Benghazi. Much rain and local storms. Still, we are surviving and enjoying life to the best of our ability. We are awaiting the completion of the new Signal Centre, complete with air-conditioning, and a more fixed abode for S.H.Q., next door.

Visitors come and go, obviously very impressed, and the Squadron is still fielding its sports teams and fulfilling respective fixtures. No records have been broken, but somehow we always get a mention. Three of our men recently attempted to cycle from Benghazi to El Adem and back on Nuffield Trust Hercules. Distance involved nearly 700 miles on Libyan roads; three days' riding each way, with one day's rest at El Adem. They were accompanied by a wireless detachment who reported progress daily, which was duly transmitted over F.B.S. and followed with great interest. However, very bad weather at Derna, on the return journey, forced them to abandon the task. Credit goes to Signalman Griffiths, however, for staying in the saddle, and to Lance-Corporal Shallis and Signalman Mason, who paced him. Without doubt, apart from the weather, Griffiths would have completed the run on time.

Another highlight is taking place at the present time, Corporal Thompson is on his third trip across the desert, this time towards Khartoum, accompanying a detachment from 2 Royal Tank Regiment, as wireless operator. A separate report from Corporal Thompson will be forwarded on his return.

We have moved our Royal Signals Association abode into the Squadron bounds into more spacious accommodation. The Christmas festivities were held there and, needless to say, everything went with the usual Royal Signals' swing; including a spontaneously-recruited cabaret.

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W.O.II Chin Ten Loy has been with Royal Signals for the past nine years. He is at present our S.S.M. (H.K.O.R.). He writes our notes for this copy of THE WIRE under the title :—

"Kung Hei Fat Choy"

"Kung Hei Fat Choy" (or wishing you a prosperous New Year (Chinese)) is the regular greeting in this part of world about now.

The Chinese calendar is on a lunar month basis of twelve months. But there are thirteen months in a leap year (for every fourth year there is a leap year). The first moon occurs between the end of January and the beginning of February of the Western calendar and it has long been the Chinese custom that there is a big clean up day about a week before the New Year's Day.

After coming in contact with, and being employed by Europeans, a delightful Chinese custom was instituted whereby two Western solar calendar months' wages were paid for the last month of the year to give a total of thirteen payments corresponding to thirteen lunar months. In other words making an equivalent of twelve Western calendar months. The local government and the Army Pay Office have resolutely set their faces against this scheme. Unfortunately in a number of cases, this bonus payment is still insufficient to clear off all the debts incurred during the year. But provided a debtor can keep clear of the debt collectors until dawn on New Year's Day, the debts are usually allowed to drag on until the fifth moon of the year.

Some twenty years ago, and even in the rural districts nowadays, hardpressed creditors were in the habit of carrying a lantern around on New Year's morning to maintain the fiction that it was still dark and the monies owing should be paid.

Over Christmas all possible Squadron duties are performed by H.K.O.R.s and over the Chinese New Year the B.O.R.s reciprocate.

As usual on feast days, a feast is held. This year we were particularly fortunate in having the Signal Officer-in-Chief, Major-General A. M. W. Whistler, with us at New Year. To celebrate the event, we combined with our sister Squadron (253 Squadron) and laid on a "big chow" at the State Restaurant, a first class restaurant in the colony, of which a full report will appear later.

The local people here always have a New Year Fair. One of the main wares is flowers. The favourite is the peach blossom which is designed to bloom on New Year's Day. The possession of such a bloom is believed to guarantee good luck throughout the year. "M" Troop has studied this problem in detail and has eventually produced the ideal answer. It is the automatic blooming narcissus (plastic type). Foreman Williams is convinced that he is on the verge of a major break through on the Hong Kong economic market. He rather enjoys the thought of being a "taipan" (Big Shot) and is already having himself measured for a silken robe.

For those interested in the Chinese calendar, the following may be worthy of note.

The third and eighteenth days of the moon are the high tide days; the fifteenth day is the day of the full moon. The first cold spell and the second big freeze of the year are forecast and are remarkably accurate.

The S.O.-in-C. looks at the Squadron Trophies

The eyes of the year (Lap Chun) normally fall early in the first moon and sometimes late on the twelfth moon. There were two "Lap Chuns" in the year before last, and one in last year. There is none this year and the Chinese people consider it to be a poor year for contracting marriages and starting schooling for children—be warned.

The symbol for this year is the "Tiger." Once again "Kung Hei Fat Choy."

Can You Beat This

The Squadron has had some success in sport and is at present holding the following trophies. See picture.

FARELF—Runners-up, fencing.
Hong Kong v. Singapore and Malaya—Winners, fencing. (The Squadron provided five of the six members of the team).
Land Forces, Hong Kong—Winners, fencing.
Land Forces, Hong Kong—Runners-up, Open League basketball.
Land Forces, Hong Kong—Runners-up, Open K.O. Competition basketball.
Land Forces, Hong Kong—Winner, Minor Units basketball.
Land Forces, Hong Kong—Winner, Minor Units K.O. Competition basketball.
Hong Kong Garrison—Winner, Minor Units summer hockey.
Royal Signals, Hong Kong—Winner, soccer.
Royal Signals, Hong Kong—Winner, athletics.
Royal Signals, Hong Kong—Winner, hockey.
Royal Signals, Hong Kong—Winner, swimming.

Dare we add that the small cup in the right centre bottom shelf of the picture is the Island League darts competition which we won last season.

In addition to the above, Corporal Sims represented Land Forces Hong Kong in swimming and rugby and Sergeant Brown, R.A.P.C., represented Land Forces cricket. Captain R. D. Winningale won the Master at Arms fencing title FARELF.

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We would like to congratulate two of the Squadron who recently got themselves married. Lance-Corporal and Miss E. Breed married at Willesdon on 16th December. Corporal Perry and Miss Jones married at Tooting on 13th January. Good luck to you all! It is to be hoped that you will join us in our beautiful bracing holiday resort when and if you can find a spare shack to put up in, just temporarily of course, and then one day who knows, you might even qualify for a married quarter, if there is one.

Our congratulations to Corporals North, Wydell and Signalman Hamill and their wives on living rough so expertly in such snug little caravans.

The pen is now desperately trying to get started on a few topical remarks about exercises and the like but, really we have not done anything particularly out of the ordinary lately beyond doing what we are paid to do. We reckon we just about earn our keep.

Christmas was pleasant enough but marred to a considerable degree by the enterprise of certain Staff Officers who decided to allow us to have our annual checkover immediately before the festivities. This was not a good thing. However, most people survived the period and came through the intoxicant stage without undue harm being done. Five of the Squadron spent the period in a small village in the Sauerland where we have a permanent camp and were royally entertained there. It was noticeable how much more the festival meant there in the country than amongst us nearer civilisation and its horrid commercialisation.

Recently some have been ski-ing locally but were handicapped by a lack of the essential snow. However, they looked as though they could ski, which is, one supposes, ninety-nine per cent. of the general idea! And of course, stories could be told, too!

It is so difficult to know just what you who read this article in this magazine want to read. The members of this Squadron we know would be delighted to have their names mentioned in some connection or other but for others who almost certainly do not know these names from Adam it is uninteresting. One feels that perhaps abstract subjects would be best. How difficult it is to obtain the views of the readers. The inevitable notes on the memo attached to the latest requests for ideas from the Editor: "Seen," "Nil," "No," "Na." Yet one can hear these same literary experts moaning over our efforts. Perhaps one's training reduces normal English to "SD-ese" which is rather dull. Or perhaps the comics take the edge off our talent. Always we are losing our men for varying periods to education and yet the consumption of comic continues to rise!

Our basketball enthusiasts have been training hard and succeeded in beating 28th Regiment without much difficulty in the Morrison Cup competition. Recently, however, we met 7th Regiment in the semi-final and were well beaten by a better side. Our players were S.S.M. Cryer, Corporals Crabtree, Wydell, Brough, Signalmen Hamill, Footitt, Corporal Coker of 256 Squadron and Corporal Basset of 604 Troop. Sergeant Seddon, A.P.T.C., trained the team. Signalman Hamill played very well and was probably the most "polished" player on the court.

Signalmen Douglas, Wood and Lance-Corporal Mills have distinguished themselves on the rugger field and certain individuals have made efforts to find out if Lance-Corporal Mills is as hard as he is reputed to be.

What has happened to the correspondent of Steeple Bumstead Squadron? We would be grateful for some information on rearing and operating pigeons.

The Secretary of our Entertainments Committee would like to correspond with opposite numbers with a view to organising a telegraph Bingo session.

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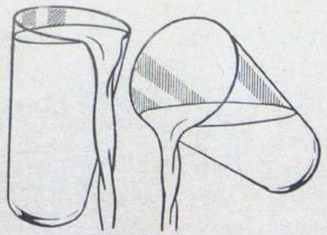

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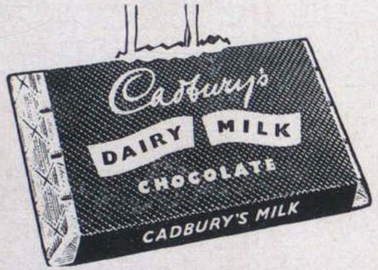

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601 Troop (Ship)

Since our last notes we have lost one home and found another. H.M.S. *Meon* has sailed for a six-month re-fit in Malta and we have been rehabilitated with 255 Squadron, who administer us extremely well.

By far the most interesting event in our lives since our last appearance in THE WIRE has been our somewhat eventful trip to Kuwait. This was a surprise move, to say the least. The detachment aboard H.M.S. *Meon* were peacefully enjoying tropical routine in Bahrein harbour when we received the news that we were to proceed post-haste to Kuwait. One advantage, of course, was that we had twelve hours to think about it, on the way there.

Once ashore, we were well and truly put to the test. Corporal Hendren, Signalman Stewart and Signalman Norrie were established at 24 Brigade Headquarters, Lance-Corporal Smith, Signalman Chapman and Signalman Watkins were located at Kuwait New Airport. The fact that the airport was in the process of being constructed, enabled the soldiers to use their initiative, and little one-room abodes sprang up everywhere, built with material originally destined for more opulent structures.

After the initial panic things settled down, and because of the hospitality of the civilians of the Kuwait Oil Company, life became very pleasant. We must note here, in particular, our special hosts, Mr. and Mrs. Hall (John and Ros) who adopted the Troop en masse, and who opened their home to us all. In fast we were better off in Kuwait than we had been anywhere else in the Middle East; Signalmen Argent and Atkins now look upon Kuwait as a second home.

Since our return from Kuwait we have settled in with 255 Squadron and life is very pleasant. Normal training is interspersed with amphibious exercises, and during the Christmas period members of the Troop visited Abadan, aboard H.M.S. *Meon*, and Kuwait aboard H.M.S. *Loch Lomond*. We have asked Sergeant Poole if he enjoyed his trip to Abadan, but for some reason he doesn't remember. For those who remained in Bahrein, there was a Squadron party, which was certainly the biggest success of the social season.

Our last exercise took us once again to Yas. This is an uninhabited island in the Persian Gulf which, although admirable for military exercises, has nothing else to recommend it.

On the return journey we had a bit of "roughers" with the usual results! Even Signalman Watkins missed his meals! Signalman Cardy was initiated to life aboard, and he has certainly learned not to step back to admire his handiwork aboard a Rhino ferry.

Signalman Chapman, Signalman Argent, Signalman Atkins. On the quarter deck of HMS Meon. The quartermaster is Able Seaman Harwood.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Hall (John and Rosaumund) with the shield presented by the troop in appreciation of their wonderful hospitality during our stay in Kuwait.

Left: A Centurion tank being disembarked from an LTC.

Right: Corporal Waring, Lance-Corporal Smith. On the 'sundeck' of an LCT.

SPORT

The 1961 Triangular Regatta Far East

R.A. v R.E. v R. Signals

29 Nov. - 1 Dec.

Royal Signals won this Regatta for the second year running, and by a bigger margin this year. However, the issue was very much more in doubt, until the end of the final race, when our team came from behind to snatch victory from the Gunners.

This year, the contest was arranged on a match basis, with points to count only if matches were level at the end.

First Day. Signals started well in the first race of the match against R.E. Shortly after the start our team was in first, second and third places. An impudent Sapper, who forced his way into second place, was stopped by our leading boat and firmly handed down from boat to boat into fourth place. This was pretty, and it looked prettier still when our first boat opened an unassailable lead, almost a pre-requisite to team success, while our other boats sailed defensively. But the defensive sailing was overdone and the Sappers infiltrated before the end into second and fourth places. We ended with a lead of 3¼ points; good, but not good enough.

In the afternoon, in blowing weather, the Sappers firmly thrashed the Gunners by 5¼ points. This was a very thrilling race, with the leading Sapper overtaking the leading Gunner in the last few lengths, to win by inches.

Second Day. The day started with the first race between the Gunners and Signals, and went badly for us. After a bright start, our team sailed badly and although our leading boat was a safe first, the Gunners, packing well, occupied the next three places to win by 2¾ points. The position now, at the half-way stage, was that each team had won half-a-match, but the Gunners were clearly favourites.

In the afternoon the Gunners consolidated their position by exactly reversing their earlier result against the Sappers.

Third Day. We went into the final day requiring to win both races to be sure of victory; particularly, we needed a big win against the Gunners, and this was a tall order.

Against the Sappers we again did badly. From a good start with first and second boats, we sailed along with the race comfortably won until in the final stages, our second boat made a fatal mistake and dropped two places. The Sappers won this race by ¾ point, but it was not enough, and we had won the match on aggregate by 2¼ points.

It was blowing hard for the start of the crucial final race against the Gunners. We needed at least a second, third and fourth to halve the match and thus win the series. After an even start, our team rose to the occasion, and in the long beat out to the windward mark, sailed the Gunners down, to occupy first second and third places. The last two Gunners went off in an attempt to outflank the fleet and our third boat was detached to police this manoeuvre, so we rounded the windward mark in first, second and fourth places, a safe match-winning position.

At this time a vicious line squall came in with a wind force of about 5 to 6 and a steep sea rapidly built up. Everyone sailed conservatively, concentrating on keeping control. Not so our second boat, which went off in a slithering plane in an attempt to put the issue beyond doubt. For 10 minutes he flew along in a smother of spray, sailing very much faster than anyone else, until the inevitable happened. The dinghy spun on a wave crest and capsized dramatically, turning completely upside down, a difficult position to recover from. In a flash, we were down to first, third and sixth, a match-losing combination, but fortune finally smiled when shortly afterwards, the leading Gunner also rolled in. First, second and sixth was good enough, and to make sure, our last boat recovered to fifth place in the closing stages. We had won the race by 5¼ points and the match by 2½ points, so the "Saint Barbara's Buoy" was our's again.

Royal Signals' Team:

Helmsmen: Captain D. S. Keech, 3rd, 1st, 1st, 1st; Major L. D. Line, 1st, 5th, 6th, 5th; Major N. D. Shaw, 5th, 6th, 4th, 2nd.

Crew: Lieutenant Crow, Lance-Corporal Coley, Signalman Day, Major I. McAnsh.

In retrospect, the result seemed to reflect the sailing accurately. For Signals, Captain Keech was in devastating form, and was clearly the fastest helm of the whole series. To this, and to more purposeful and constructive team tactics, we owed our victory. However, we left it very late indeed, and at lunch-time on the final day, no one could be found to give more than sixpence for our chances.

Royal Signals Singapore Regatta 1961

The second Royal Signals, Singapore, Regatta was sailed at Royal Singapore Yacht Club on 16th and 17th November, 1961. As in the previous year, the first day and-a-half were allotted to team racing to provide the selectors with a chance to choose a team for the triangular regatta, due in a fortnight's time.

Four teams were entered, two from 18th Regiment, one from 19th Regiment and a Staff Officers' team. The event was sailed as a knock-out competition.

18th Regiment "B" v. The Staff Officers

The Staff Officers had bad luck in that two of their team retired in the first race for breaches of the rules. This gave the Regiment such a big lead that all they had to do in the second race was to finish complete, and this they proceeded to do, despite every endeavour of the Staff Officers to engage in a tactical gambit.

18th Regiment "A" v. 19th Regiment

18th Regiment "A," currently theatre champions, proved too strong for 19th Regiment, although in the first race, by some judicious manoeuvring, one of the 18th Regiment's boats was put out and this race was won by only a quarter-of-a-point. 18th Regiment eventually won the match by three points.

Final: 18th Regiment "A" v. 18th Regiment "B"

The final had come about contrary to the organisers' seedings and proved only that the teams had been fairly selected. The "A" team produced first, second and third boats home in both races.

Individual Race

On the final afternoon, an individual helmsman's race produced the heart-warming spectacle of 24 Royal Signals sailors at sea together, and besides this, some of the acknowledged experts had been left ashore to give the lesser lights a better race. Captain Garratt got away to a good start and was doing well until, unfortunately, he hit a mark and retired, when Major Hamer took up the running. The wind freshened sufficiently to capsize one dinghy containing a rather senior ship's company. At the end of the first round, Major Hamer was just leading from a close-packed fleet, but 200 yards later he was back to fifth place, so keen was the competition.

As so often happens in Singapore, the wind now died away completely and it became impossible to finish the race. Major Hamer was adjudged the winner on the first round positions.

Not such an exciting regatta this year, although the standards of skill exhibited were much higher, and there were more sailors wishing to sail than boats available. A healthy indication of the growth of Corps sailing in the theatre.

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Boxing

Army Team Championships

U.K. Semi-Final 8th Regiment

Having won the Northern Command Inter-Unit Team Boxing Championships in December (see January's WIRE, page 12), the Regiment was drawn against the winners of Eastern Command, 1 Stafford, who defeated 1 Royal Fusiliers, 2 Grenadier Guards and 1 Gloucesters in the Command rounds. The match, the Third Stage (U.K. Semi-Final) of the Army Inter-Unit Team Boxing Championships, was to have been held in Colchester Garrison Gymnasium on Friday, 19th January, but due to injuries they sustained in their Command Final, 1 Stafford were unable to field a team on that date and the match was postponed to Monday, 22nd January.

209 Squadron (Infantry Brigade Group), led by their O.C., Major A. C. Bate, M.B.E., turned up in force to make up for the small number of our own supporters (training in Catterick must go on), and we are very grateful to them, especially as they had returned from a ten-day exercise 48 hours before, and have not yet had a week-end at home this month. Any fears that the loyalty of the Squadron to a Battalion of their Brigade might prove stronger than that to their Corps were very quickly dispelled when at 18.00 hours, after a fanfare of trumpets, the teams marched in to their respective Corps/Regimental marches for the National Anthem.

Our team showed seven changes from that of the Command Final in December: such is life in a Training Regiment. The team finally selected was:

Bantam	Signalman P. S. Dickason
Feather	Lance-Corporal C. A. Wright
Light	Signalman B. H. Gooding
Light Welter (1st String) ...	Corporal H. Hornigold
„ „ (2nd String) ...	Signalman R. C. Marshall
Welter (1st String)	Signalman M. D. Tait
„ (2nd String)	Signalman A. J. Lyon
Light Middle	Lance-Corporal J. A. Naisbit
Middle	Corporal M. G. Springer
Light Heavy	Sergeant R. I. Williams
Heavy	Signalman L. F. Hopkins

The reserves, who trained and travelled with the team were Signalmen J. D. Lycett, B. P. Streetly, J. W. J. Head, D. W. Morrison, V. R. Tonkin and G. White, and S.I. G. Davis. A.P.T.C., was team second. Signalmen Dickason, Marshall and Head, from Tonfanau, and Signalman Lycett, from Denbury, are all ex-Junior Leaders, who joined the Regiment after Christmas.

During the boxing it soon became obvious that the 1 Stafford boxers more than made up for any lack of boxing experience by their toughness and hard-hitting, and both Signalman Dickason and Lance-Corporal Wright were unfortunate enough to be knocked out in the first round before they could get going. Signalman Gooding lost on points and Corporal Hornigold won on a disqualification when his opponent, in the noisy excitement, did not hear the referee from behind him shout "stop" and landed a blow after Corporal Hornigold had looked at the referee. Signalman Marshall had a terrific bout and shows real promise for the future. His stylish boxing won two points after the full three rounds. Signalman Lyon had a hard bout, which he lost on points, and at the interval the score was 1 Stafford 9 points, 8th Regiment 8 points

Lance-Corporal Naisbit avenged our early first round knock-out by flooring his opponent within a minute, and the scores were level. Corporal Springer was unlucky enough to get his left eye closed very early on, but at the end he had done enough to win his bout and we took the lead. Nobody in the gymnasium had seen 1 Stafford's next boxer in action. He reached Sergeant Williams' corner before Sergeant Williams had turned round, and was obviously very keen for a quick decision, but after three rounds of hard-fought action, Sergeant Williams' straight lefts had won the bout. Lance-Corporal Spray, the 1 Stafford heavy-weight is a man to be reckoned with and Signalman Hopkins received a body blow in the first round, which not only finished the bout, but put Hopkins in hospital for the night under observation.

As in our previous match with 4/7 Dragoon Guards, everything depended now on Signalman Tait, and once again he put up a most skilful and exciting display against a more experienced boxer. After three rounds, with the supporters of both teams nearly hysterical, and after congratulations from the referee to both boxers on a very close and well-fought contest, 1 Stafford were declared the winner. So, with the match points even, at 16 each, 1 Stafford got through to the U.K. Final on the result of the last bout. No-one could have wished for a better bout on which to decide the contest.

W.O.II E. D. George, the team manager, who has given up so much of his time to Regimental boxing, can leave 8th Regiment in April knowing that the boxing spirit of 12th Regiment has been firmly planted in 8th Regiment, since the amalgamation of the two Regiments in April, 1961.

Association Notes

Salisbury Branch

The Branch annual dinner took place on 10th February in the T.A. Centre, 340 Squadron, T.A., (by kind permission of Major R. H. Stock, T.D., Officer Commanding the Squadron).

Although a small affair, as compared with previous years, the guests enjoyed a thoroughly good dinner, followed by dancing and games.

Major H. Wattley, B.E.M., Branch Treasurer, welcomed the guests in a (for him!) short speech, and praised particularly, the hard work put in by wives of members and other ladies who help the Branch on the weekly Tombola sessions.

The top table included: Brigadier D. White, O.B.E., Chief Signal Officer, Southern Command (Branch President); Brigadier F. W. Nicholls, C.B.E., Brigadier C. D. Clapp, C.B.E., Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Evan Nepean, Bart., Mr. E. G. Hand (Vice-Presidents) and Major R. H. Stock, T.D.

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, 1962. Also, on the next page, is a simple statement of income and expenditure.

Lance-Corporal, 1942-47, married, one child. Before becoming paralysed, he had a good income. Now chair-borne, it was necessary to make certain alterations to his home to enable him to look after himself for at least a few more years. Royal Signals, the British Legion and the Royal Air Force, in which his wife served, readily shared the cost.

Signalman, 1940-46. Single. Lives with his aged parents. has been too ill to earn for very many years, and not for the first time, the Royal Artillery Charitable Fund, the Air-borne Forces' Benevolent Fund and Royal Signals continued to help him.

Signalman, 1915-19. Infantry and Royal Engineers, 1939-47 Royal Signals. He writes thanking for help to erect a garage. He now resides in a disabled person's bungalow, built especially to enable Disabled Persons to move about more freely.

Sergeant, 1948-58. 100% disability pensioned from polio. Married, one child. The British Legion, the Infantile Paralysis Fellowship and Royal Signals shared the cost of a reading machine—he cannot hold a book!

Widow of Signalman, 1943-46, who died December, 1961, in tragic circumstances. The fund helped her to part cost of the funeral.

C.O.M.S., 1939-46. Married, two school-age children. Wife totally paralysed. In order to continue his well-paid and pensionable employment, he has to hire a "home-help." Although the income is large, the fund made a grant to cover the period of adjustment to a lower scale of living.

Widow of Signalman, 1920-21. Previous service in other Corps from 1914. Royal Signals and the British Legion shared in making her a very small weekly allowance.

Signalman, 1952-55. Married, three children. Illness stopped him working in November, 1961, and the fund helped with arrears of rent.

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION AND BENEVOLENT FUND

The following subscriptions were most gratefully received during January, 1962:

	£	s.	d.
224 Squadron	8	6	0
26th (N.M.) Regiment, T.A.	1	0	0
3rd Regiment	32	17	3
14th Regiment (1 Squadron)	10	0	0
14th Regiment (4 Squadron)	2	10	0
201 Squadron	2	5	0
216 Squadron	15	12	0
M.E.S./S.R.D.E.	1	10	0
Signals Branch, School of Artillery		14	6
54th (East Anglian) Regiment, T.A.	1	10	0
C.S.O.'s Branch, H.Q. Scottish Command		6	0
61st Regiment, T.A.	2	1	6
H.Q. Royal Signals, 1 (B.R.) Corps	5	0	0
1st Regiment	19	7	2
4th Regiment	20	0	0
4th Regiment (W.O.'s and Sergeants' Mess)	17	15	6
13th Regiment	22	5	0
28th Regiment	10	0	0
205 Squadron	15	0	0
229 Squadron	8	0	0
Aden Protectorate Levies Signal Squadron	6	10	0
601 Troop (Ship)	1	0	0
H.Q. Allied Forces Northern Europe		10	0
R. T. Wicks		5	0
H. Liley		10	0
R. Weir		5	0
N. L. Robertson		15	0
F. G. Strange		1	0
H. N. Fensome		5	0
J. F. Fish		10	0
I. G. Swan		10	0
J. S. T. Williams		1	6
T. McGrath		15	0
J. J. C. Finch		10	0
D. N. Van der Goot	1	0	0
Total	£209	7	5

Expenditure during January, 1962 ... £575 13 10
(Includes:— Rent and Rates; Beds and Bedding; Furniture; Cots and Prams; General Assistance).

Analysis of Grants:—

Families of Soldiers serving in B.A.O.R.	3	
Windows and Dependants	3	
Released and Discharged Soldiers	30	
Total Cases assisted	36	

18 Cases of Soldiers who served during the 1939-45 War ... £288 11 3
18 Cases of Soldiers who did not serve during the War ... £287 2 7

Careers and Opportunities

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The following civilian technical industrial vacancy exists in 231 Signal Squadron (Park), serving the Central Ordnance Depot at Donnington, Wellington, Shropshire.

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This vacancy is suitable for an ex-Regular Royal Signals Tradesman who has attained a Class II standard in his trade, a Cable Jointer or Lineman with underground cable experience.

The basic starting wage is £10/0/2 for a 42-hour, five-day week, with incremental increases, subject to satisfactory service, to £11/8/2, and further increases in certain cases up to a maximum of £12/8/2, subject to technical ability and application.

Ten working days' annual leave, in addition to Bank Holidays, is granted, and conditions of service are excellent.

Establishment as a permanent Civil Servant, with its advantages, is also possible, subject to qualifications of seniority and satisfactory service.

Employees become eligible for admittance to the housing points list on the Local War Department Civilian Housing Estate after 12 months' service.

Application should be made to Major W. E. Fill, Royal Signals, 231 Signal Squadron (Park), C.O.D., Donnington, Wellington, Shropshire.

Sierra Leone Military Forces

Are you looking for a posting as a Radio Technician (Light) in sunny, tropical Africa?

If so, why not apply to Royal Signals Records Office for secondment to the Royal Sierra Leone Military Forces?

We have a vacancy for a Sergeant, or suitable Corporal for promotion to Sergeant, in early July, 1962. This is an interesting and very worthwhile job—helping a newly independent country to maintain an efficient fighting force. The job is suitable for a married man (with children up to the age of 11 years, who would go to the Army School). Pay is good—£147 approx. per month for a married man—also there is a secondment credit at the end of each of your 18-month tours.

Quarters are generally available, and accompanied passages, and there is a British Sergeants' Mess.

Plenty of sport is available to cater for all tastes, and Sierra Leone has some of the most beautiful beaches in the world. There is plenty of opportunity for travel up-country, but you would be based in Freetown.

For further details, see "Terms and Conditions, Sierra Leone," WO Code No. 12718 (Part XII); also ask your Orderly Room to see Royal Signals Records Letter No. 11281 of 23rd January, 1962.

Don't delay, or the only other member of Royal Signals in Sierra Leone, the O.C. himself will have to find an A.V.O. and repair the sets!

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Apply, giving details of qualifications, to Assistant Director of Communications (D.W.S.), Foreign Office, London, S.W.1.

52 (L) Regiment (T.A.)

Administrative Officer required for service with 321 Squadron, T.A. Centre, Paisley Road, Barrhead. The selected candidate will be commissioned in the rank of Captain on consolidated rates of pay. Applicants most suited to the post will be ex-Service officers, less than 42 years of age. The starting salary will be £945, rising to £1,035, after six years. Certain allowances may also be claimed. Tenure of appointment will be three years in the first instance.

Apply in writing to the Commanding Officer, 52nd (Lowland) Signal Regiment (T.A.), 21, Jardine Street, Glasgow, N.W.

Headquarters, London District

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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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APRIL • 1962

Vol. 16 *(New Series)* **No. 4**

Editorial

The Beginning of the Association and The Wire

A Tribute to the Late Mr. W. Butler

Volume I—No. 1 of THE WIRE is dated 26th February, 1920, note this was four months before the creation of the Royal Corps of Signals.

G. E. Paling, for so many years a stalwart of the Association in the Tunbridge Wells area, was Editor; C.S.M. W. Butler was Financial Secretary.

The Editor's office was in Headquarters Signal Training Centre. The Staff Captain was he who is now Major-General Sir Ronald Penney, K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O., M.C. His guiding hand is very apparent in the early Minute Books of the founding of the Association.

Volume 1—No. 8 printed a copy of the now historic Royal Warrant wherein His Majesty King George V authorised the formation of the Corps of Signals. The Warrant was signed on 28th June, 1920, by Sir Winston S. Churchill.

The Signal Association of the Royal Corps of Signals was inaugurated on 14th December, 1920, at a meeting presided over by Brigadier-General E. G. Godfrey-Fausett, C.B., C.M.G. The credit balance in the bank is noted as being £1,600, and Mr. W. Butler is appointed Secretary and G. E. Paling continues as Editor of THE WIRE.

The offices of the Association and THE WIRE were in Shoe Lane, Fleet Street, E.C.4.

The first Reunion Concert, 'an absolute success,' was held in April, 1921.

The first Branches of the Association were rapidly forming and it is noted that The Benevolent Fund is being kept busy.

Brigadier-General E. G. Godfrey-Fausett was appointed a Colonel Commandant and THE WIRE commenced publication of his 'Notes on the History of Signals.'

Volume 2—No. 19 of September, 1921, records the presentation of King Prempeh's Chair now in the Headquarter's Mess.

A page of cartoons illustrating a Royal Signals Mounted Gymkhana on 16th July, 1921, pictures at least six men on one motor cycle. The Royal Signals Display Team of today always boasts that it was started in 1930.

July, 1922. The 'Office' had moved to Stamford Brook Lodge, Ravenscourt Park, W.6. (So long the home of 44th Home Counties Regiment T.A.) G. E. Paling was still the Editor but W. Butler, as Secretary of the Association, retained financial control. Then, as now, the Association was appealing for discarded but serviceable clothing.

The Association in 1922 made a contribution to the "Farningham and Swanley Homes for Boys." It was doing it in 1960.

In March, 1923, Mr. W. Butler became Editor of THE WIRE. That number published twenty pages which read astonishingly like the current numbers which are double in size and double the price.

The first 'Blue Book' (Corps Promotion Roster) was published in February, 1924; the first Royal Signals List was published in 1926.

By 1929 the office was in 95, Belgrave Road, S.W.1, and THE WIRE was publishing 26 pages very much as now and a long residence there culminated in severe structural damage caused by enemy action in November, 1940—the office moved to Dolphin Square *and* THE WIRE didn't even miss a month.

More suitable accommodation was found in Buckingham House in the Strand and later in the war a further move was made to Princes Gate.

THE WIRE ceased publication in December, 1941, but the work of the Association in the Prisoner of War and Comforts Fund went on until the end of the war and shortly after it a move was made to 88, Eccleston Square.

During these years Mr. Butler was never "off duty," his staff were mostly voluntary who came when they could, did what they could.

He handed over the appointment of Secretary of the Association in July, 1943.

Recommended Reading

Pages 108 to 111 ...	Being the farewell to the Director of Music and the introduction of his last task for us, the making of the Corps Gramophone Record.
Page 116	The work of the 1st Regiment in Hamburg.
Pages 120 to 122	Three good stories.
Pages 122, 123 ...	The Army "line" on Nuclear Warfare.
OBITUARIES ...	In an unusual position on pages 123, 124.
Page 131	Liaison with 403rd Regiment in Melbourne. 237 Squadron have all the luck.
Page 134	Tanganyika in words and pictures.
Page 137	A new Bagpipe March.

Two Farewells to Our Director of Music
"The Expected and the Unexpected"

Lieutenant-Colonel

J. L. JUDD, M.B.E.

MUS.BAC., F.T.C.M., L.R.A.M., A.R.C.M.

☆

The "expected" took the form of the traditional "Dining Out" in Headquarters Officers' Mess, with variations. The occasion chosen was the Corps Guest Night, 13th February, 1962, and the welcome to 51 "Q" Course. The Master of Signals, the Representative Colonel Commandant and Signal Officer-in-Chief, plus many senior and not so senior friends of J.L.J. were happy to be present on this momentous occasion, to say welcome to the newest members of the Corps and goodbye to, not the oldest member, but certainly one of the longest serving soldiers in the Corps.

One hundred and twelve Officers sat down to dine and after the loyal toasts the Master of Signals made a speech of farewell, and made reference to the presentation casket which had been on display before dinner. An extract of the speech and that of the reply by Colonel Judd are given at the end of this article.

After dinner we enjoyed the music in the hall and then the retiring Director was enticed into the small ante-room for a glass of champagne. Whilst thus diverted, the whole of his Band filed into the large ante-room, complete with instruments, and to this great and unexpected sight he was conveyed in a sedan chair, accompanied by the enthusiastic throng, and there was much singing. We heard, supposedly for the last time, the masterly rendering on the rifle, and saw for the first time the sight of his boys not taking any notice of the baton, but playing "For he's a jolly good fellow" in response to the magic weaving, never before disobeyed.

Finally, he was chaired up to bed with his glorious fanfare trumpeters lining the stairs and playing Fanfare No. 1, composed by John Judd.

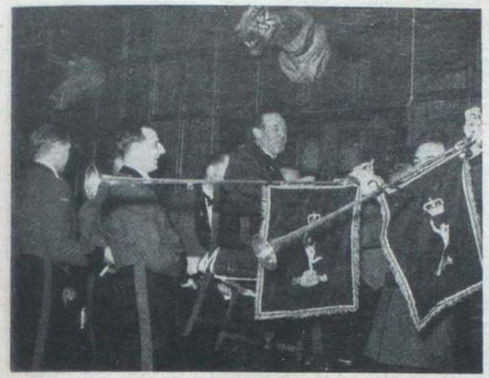
Trumpet Voluntary arr Judd

Farewell Speech by The Master of Signals

"I do not normally agree with speeches in the Mess, but tonight we are saying goodbye to our Director of Music, Colonel Judd, and we hold him in such esteem that rules go by the board.

John Judd has a very remarkable record of 45 years' unbroken service. We are used to records nowadays. I did not check up, but I think that takes some beating. He joined the Inniskilling Fusiliers as a boy in 1917. Now, at that time, I was a Cadet at the R.M.A. and I think you will agree with me that he has worn better than I have.

He joined us 20 years ago and at that time we had a very pleasant little Band, which was an unofficial one. We got no help from the War Office. We paid for it out of our own pockets. It was quite inadequate for the needs of a Corps like ours, and in the course of the years he has built that up into the splendid Band we have today, which is such an immense asset to our Corps and which is in such high repute throughout the whole country. He had been able to do that, I think, because not only is he a fine musician, but he is a very fine Commanding Officer. He has been helped, too, by a shrewd business sense and I think a very keen sense of theatre, which has helped him in his outside work. He knows what people are likely to like and he gives them what they like, but he has done this in his own way. His methods, I think, are simple. He knows what he wants and he gets it. Many is the time I



And so to bed

have seen a proposal come up from the Band, all with some increase, but always something for which he wanted money, and the Corps Committee says 'No,' or 'You can only have half'; then about a year later you wake up and find he has got the whole thing.

Well, that sounds easy, but to bring off that sort of thing you have to be right nine times out of ten, and you have got to have good judgement, and I think John Judd has got splendid judgement. From first-hand knowledge of meetings and conferences on military matters at the War Office and Kneller Hall, I know how much respected is his opinion on any affair concerning military music and Bands and, of course, to bring off results like this you have got to keep your eye on the ball and never have I seen a better example of sheer devotion to duty than we have seen from John Judd in these 20 years. He has given up much of his home life, given his whole heart and soul to the Band and to the Corps.

You are all familiar with the success of the Band outside the Corps; at Eastbourne and at the Edinburgh Festival in particular. I am sure those have been of great value to us. The purely military value of a Band is difficult to overestimate. We have gained much of that through John's time, but more than that, I think his work outside has made us many friends throughout the whole country and given us much to be proud of.

Now you have all, I hope, seen outside in the ante-room before dinner this little box which we are going to ask John to accept. I would like him to know that the inscription is no mere conventional phrase. It really does take with it our grateful thanks and a token of our immense affection for him and appreciation we have of all he has done for the Corps. We shall think of him as a wonderful servant of the Corps, but I think more than that as our friend. He has made great friends of us all and we shall think of him with great pleasure in the years to come as one of the best of good men and now he is going to retire. I do not know what he will do — if he is open to suggestion, I think perhaps he might fill in some of his spare time trying to tidy up the Stock Exchange. We shall part with him with the greatest regret and he will take with him our good wishes for the future, our grateful thanks for all he has done for the Corps and our appreciation of long devoted service.

Now before I finish I must, I think, take the opportunity to welcome his successor, Lieutenant Pike, who is dining with us tonight to assure him that we will support him in every way we possibly can, and to wish him the very best of good fortune and a happy stay with us."

Mr. Vice — John Judd

Gentlemen: Colonel John Judd

John Judd

Lieutenant-Colonel J. L. Judd Replies

General Scott, Gentlemen,

May I first of all say how very conscious I am of the great honour you have paid me this evening in dining me out in this Headquarter Mess. I am well aware that this is an honour which is usually reserved for Officers much senior in rank to me and Officers who had had a much more distinguished career, and I am very grateful to you for the compliment you have paid me and it will always be a very bright picture in my memory. Also I would like to assure you that I shall prize this memento which you have given me to mark my retirement as Director of Music of the Corps. It will have pride of place in my home. I shall see it daily and it will be a constant reminder of the happy years I have had in the Corps.

If I may dwell for a moment on the Corps Band, the Master of Signals, General Sir William Scott, has paid great tribute to the Corps Band under my leadership. He has told you it was an unofficial Band and I do not think it can be said too often that the debt we owe to the Officers who were in the Corps at its birth when they said with one voice and with a loud voice, this Corps of ours must have a Band, and if the War Office will not give us an establishment we will make one, and if they will not pay us for instruments we will buy them ourselves, and furthermore we will pay the salary of the best Bandmaster in the land. Now there is not a shadow of a doubt that the fine spirit in the Corps towards the Band was born at that moment and which has been quite ably carried on through the years.

When I came to the Band, as the Master of Signals said, we had 30 musicians and each Brigadier I served under they each tried in their own way to improve the Band. They wanted a better Band for the Corps. The first one wanted a better Dance Orchestra — we added men to the Band to give a better Dance Orchestra. The second one wanted a better Orchestra, so we added some more men to the Band. The next Brigadier said 'Cannot you leave the Band behind, John, when you go away in the summer,' and so we made a non-touring Band, and then the next Brigadier said 'John, when you go away to the Middle East you take away the Light Orchestra, cannot we have two Light Orchestras,' so we made two Light Orchestras, and then the next Brigadier came along and he said we must have Fanfare Trumpeters, and so we had Fanfare Trumpeters, and I remember at that time Brigadier Galwey was Secretary to the Mess and I said to him 'Tell me, where does all this finish,' and lo and behold the next Brigadier came stopping up as it were. He had been to see the Trooping of the Colour or some other ceremony and he said we must have five side drums, so we had five side drums. The next Brigadier came along and he said we are short of organists, cannot we supply organists for the churches in Catterick, and so we supplied, and we still supply. St. Martin's, the Scottish Church and the Methodist Church, and so we reach the astronomical figure of 127.

Well now, the Master of Signals has paid very generous tribute to the Corps Band. I would like to say this, if I have

For he's a jolly good fellow

achieved any measure of success, it is not due to any professional skill that I may have, it is without doubt due to the inspiration of Officers under whom I have served. I was very pleased to see in this room this evening Wilfred Jelf, whom I served under as a Warrant Officer. I used to go to him in 1946/47 when I was a Warrant Officer at four o'clock every day with all my worries and with all my troubles, and he put them right and I could go to the Band and I could get along with music without any hindrances, and we got along very happily.

Also in this room tonight is Edward Day, who was in at the birth of the Fanfare Trumpeters, and also devised the lighting which shows the Trumpeters out in relief in this dining room. I thank David Coatsworth, George Blackburn, Dennis Dixon and a lot of other brilliant Officers who gave me great inspiration to do my job. Now, not only did my Band Presidents give me such inspiration, but many senior Officers in the Corps not only inspired me, they inspired the whole Band and I would like to give you one or two instances.

After the War, when we had a Labour Government, there was continual changing of policy regarding the distribution of fees at private engagements. Before the War that regulation had not been changed for 50 years and with the advent of the Labour Government we had about seven changes in a year and I went to the Brigadier and showed him a spiteful A.C.I. and told him it would have serious results, and he tore the A.C.I. up and almost spat on it, threw it in the waste paper basket and he said 'I am not having the Corps Band ——— about.' There was another case when they changed the Regiment who administer the Band, and the Commanding Officer sent for me and he said 'My Regiment in future will administer the Band,' and he said 'I have told my Officers that it is an honour to administer the Band.' Now, it is not what he said to me which is the point of the whole thing; the point is that within a few moments that went right through the Band and there was a much more happier atmosphere for me to work in and it was easier for me to get results out of the Band.

When we arrived in B.A.O.R. one year with the Corps Band to do a tour we were met by the C.S.O. He not only met us, he saw every man through the dining room himself. When we went to the Middle East Brigadier Ridley-Martin had waited at a cold aerodrome for two hours. Our plane was late, we arrived at four oclock in the morning. He saw every man through the transit camp, he saw them fed, and he saw them bedded. Now I could go on giving you illustrations such as this and there is no doubt that those experiences not only affected me, but affected the whole Band, and I am very grateful indeed for the support that I have received from my Band President and throughout the Corps.

I would not like this occasion to pass without thanking Officers who have been kind to me when I have been on tour. Many of you have invited me into your homes, and many of you have made what might have been a drab tour into a very happy one, and even those who cannot be with us tonight, I hope that those words of mine will reach them.

Now I would like to pay tribute to my wife. Many of you have never seen my wife, and when I came here in 1942 the quarters had ceased to be allotted and we looked at houses up here. We knew that I would be separated from her for six months of the year, so we decided to make our home in Sussex. Now never once has she complained to me about being away, never once has she telephoned and said she was ill, and she said to me 'Go away and get on with your career, and I will make a home for you,' and I would not like this evening to pass without making reference to her.

Now I commend to you my successor, Clifford Pike. If you give him the same support you have given me, I am quite sure the Band will never look back. Thank you very much indeed.

The Band's Surprise Farewell

The "unexpected" took place at Darlington Station, and is best described in an extract from an article which appeared in the *Yorkshire Post* on the 24th of February.

He looked like a City man, in dark suit, dark overcoat and bowler, with a rolled umbrella. A flurry of high ranking officers moved around him as the Pullman was awaited at Darlington.

In fact he was a man going home. Until this moment he had claimed to be Britain's oldest serving soldier. There were

forty-five years of continuous service behind him. Now he was off to his place in Sussex. *Begone, Dull Care.*

He was about to step on to the Pullman when he heard just that. *Begone, Dull Care* is the march of the Royal Signals, and here was the full Corps Band marching out from its hiding place on another platform to play goodbye to its Director of Music, Lieutenant-Colonel John Leonard Judd.

It was a complete and moving surprise to Colonel Judd. He had already said farewell to his "boys," but a 'bus had been hired from Catterick Camp to Darlington Station so that they could play him away.

As the Pullman moved away, the Band switched to *Auld Lang Syne.* It was the end of what Colonel Judd called "a wonderful gesture by my boys."

This whole idea, which originated from the Band, was made possible by the friendly co-operation of the Stationmaster and his staff. And so John Judd left the Corps as he had lived with it, to the sound of music.

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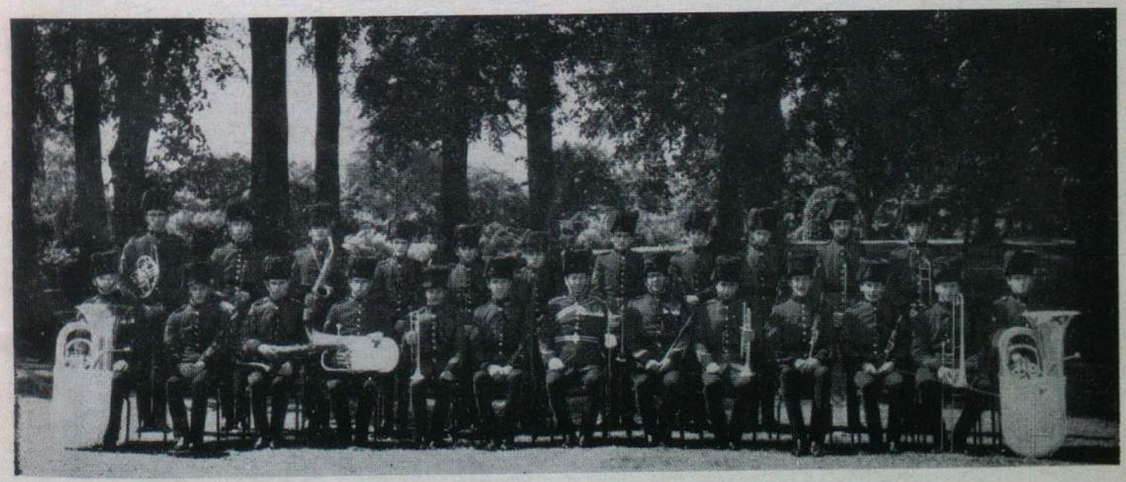
THE BAND OF THE ROYAL CORPS OF SIGNALS

Conductor

Lieutenant-Colonel John L. JUDD, M.B.E., F.T.C.L., L.R.A.M., A.R.C.M.
Director of Music, Royal Signals



Unveiling of Portrait of The Princess Royal in the Signals Mess, East Pakistan

A pleasing ceremony took place in the Signals Mess, 14 Division, Dacca, East Pakistan, on 30th January, 1962.

During the 50th anniversary celebrations in Kohat last year, the O.C. Signals 14 Division noticed that a signed photograph of the Princess Royal from the old days hung in the School of Signals Mess in Rawalpindi, West Pakistan.

Later, he asked through the British High Commissioner in Pakistan if Her Royal Highness would sign one for the Signals Mess in East Pakistan. This Her Royal Highness graciously consented to do and in due course a signed photograph was sent to O.C. Signals, East Pakistan, from the Corps.

Lieutenant-Colonel Ashiq Hussain Chowdhery, Commanding Signals 14 Division, took the opportunity, during a tour in East Pakistan by the British High Commissioner, His Excellency Mr. J. M. C. James, K.C.M.G., C.V.O., M.B.E., to invite him to unveil this portrait on the occasion of a special dinner in the Signals Mess in Dacca, to the organisation of which much thought was given.

The High Commissioner was the chief guest; other guests included Major-General Khawaja Wasiuddin, G.O.C. 14th Division, Major-General Sher Bahadur, Adjutant-General of the Pakistan Army, Brigadier Mohammed Ahmed (author of the biography of President Ayub entitled "My Leader"), who is shortly to take over as Director General of the East Pakistan Rifles, the Deputy High Commissioner and 1st Secretary of the British High Commission, the Regional Information Officer and the British Council Representative, as well as several senior representatives of the British community in Dacca. Other officers of the unit made up a party of twenty-two.

The evening started with a reception in the well-equipped Mess bar and, after about half-an-hour, the party moved into the Mess lounge, which contained portraits of the Quaid-e-Azam, the President and, with a curtain drawn across it, the new signed photograph of H.R.H. Colonel Chowdhery made a short and appropriately phrased speech in which he said how pleased he and his unit were to have the High Commissioner with them for this ceremony and referred to the close association between the Pakistan Army Signals and the Royal Corps of Signals in Britain. He mentioned that until March, 1956, when Pakistan became a Republic, the Princess Royal had also been Colonel-in-Chief of the Pakistan Signal Corps and concluded by saying that this close association had a special significance for the Signal Unit in Dacca and that the Unit was proud to have this signed portrait of the Princess Royal in their Mess, particularly as it was the only one which had been presented to a Unit in Pakistan.

In replying, the High Commissioner thanked Colonel Chowdhery and the Signal Unit for their graceful compliment to the British Royal Family in asking him as The Queen's representative in Pakistan, to undertake this ceremony. Speaking of the close association of the two Corps to which Colonel Chowdhery had referred in his speech, the High Commissioner expressed the hope that this association, symbolised by the presence of the portrait of H.R.H. in the Mess, would continue. He then drew back the curtain from the photograph of H.R.H. and official photographs were taken of the group after the unveiling.

Mr. J. M. C. James with officers of the Army Signals, 14th Division

The New Director of Music

Lieutenant C. H. Pike, L.R.A.M., A.R.C.M., p.s.m.

It is with great pleasure that we announce the appointment of Lieutenant C. H. Pike as Director of Music in succession to Lieutenant-Colonel J. L. Judd. Lieutenant Pike joins us from the Rhine Band of the Royal Tank Regiment in Germany which he joined on being commissioned in August, 1960.

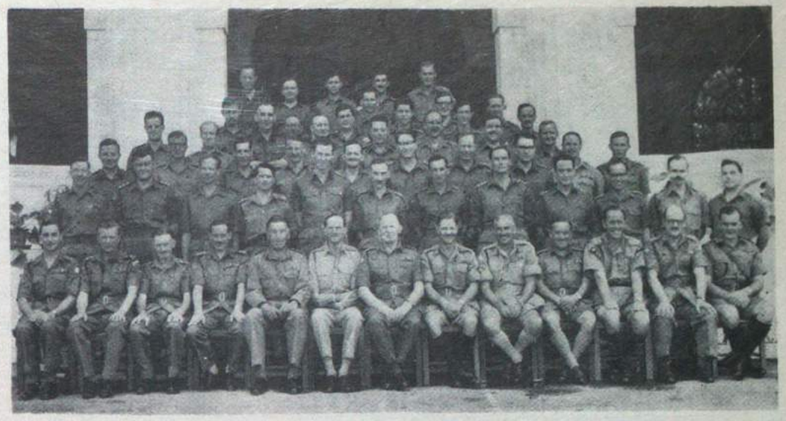
Clifford Pike enlisted at the age of 14 in the Band of the Royal Engineers at Chatham. He has a long Royal Engineers tradition behind him. Father, Grandfather and Great Grandfather all serving twenty-one or more years in the Corps. He quickly came to the forefront as a musician playing particularly the violin and clarinet.

He attended his first course at Kneller Hall in 1939, and then accompanied the Royal Engineers Band on its tours during the war years. He again entered Kneller Hall in August, 1945, this time as a student bandmaster and became leader of the School Orchestra. There he obtained his L.R.A.M. and A.R.C.M. diplomas.

In 1949 he was appointed Bandmaster of The Cameronians (Scottish Rifles) and for seven years he had a varied and very successful association with the 1st Battalion in the Far East, on the Continent and in the United Kingdom. In 1956, still wearing the Cameronian uniform, he became Bandmaster of the Lowland Brigade, and one important function was to conduct the Massed Bands of Scottish Command on the occasion of the Territorial Army "Golden Jubilee" parade, reviewed by Her Majesty the Queen and His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh.

We offer a sincere welcome to Lieutenant and Mrs. Pike and wish them every success and happiness for the future.

Corps Week FARELF 1962



Names of front row only

Lieutenant-Colonel G. J. C. Moss, Lieutenant-Colonel J. W. Elston, Lieutenant-Colonel D. E. Warren, Colonel A. F. Freeman, Colonel R. K. Roseblade, Major General A. M. W. Whistler, Brigadier F. J. Swainson, Brigadier P. E. M. Bradley, Colonel G. G. L. Hinde, Colonel D. A. Caughley, Lieutenant-Colonel S. Schofield, Lieutenant-Colonel M. J. R. Fletcher, Lieutenant-Colonel G. H. Wotton

General A. M. W. Whistler, C.B.E., arrived in Singapore by air on the evening of Saturday, 20th January. He was met by Brigadier F. J. Swainson, O.B.E., C.S.O. Farelf (who had returned from England only twelve hours earlier), and his A.D.C. for the Singapore/Malaya part of the tour, Captain J. R. Roberts.

On Sunday, 21st January, General Whistler, accompanied by Colonel A. F. Freeman, M.C., C.R. Signals Singapore, attended the annual Corps Sunday Service held in St. John's Garrison Church, adjacent to Princess Mary Barracks, and the Bishop of Singapore preached the sermon. Unfortunately, the Singapore weather rained off the March Past. Later in the morning, the S.O.-in-C. met officers and their wives at a Curry Lunch in Princess Mary Officers' Mess.

On Monday, the S.O.-in-C. joined the C.S.O.'s Annual Conference and we are grateful to him for his guidance on many of our problems (and for letting us into a few of his secrets).

S.O.-in-C. inspecting the Quarterguard at 19th Regiment

For an evening's relaxation we took General Whistler to sea for a cruise round Singapore Harbour in a R.E. "Z" Craft. The party was well supported by officers and ladies, and despite a rare swell in Singapore Roads, all survived. A beach landing on the South Sister Island was achieved and the party re-embarked safely (and, so far as we know, no one was left behind).

The following day we showed the General how, in Farelf, we try to make our equipment fit the task and terrain. In a static demonstration of equipment we showed how we try to attain air-portability while new equipment, in quantity, is still lacking. 248 (Gurkha) Sqn. showed a skeleton Brigade Headquarters consisting of 7 Landrovers and Trailers carried in the initial "fly in."

H.F. and Radio Relay Troops of 249 Sqn. showed ½-ton and 1-ton mounted detachments, all of which are airportable in Hastings, Bristol Freighter or Beverley aircraft. We were glad to welcome detachments of the Federation of Malaya Armed Forces Signal Sqn. to display some of their new commercial sets which have impressive performance.

At the close of the demonstration, the Radio Relay Troop gave a very slick display of the speed at which a complete working relay station can be landed from a helicopter and put into operation on an unprepared site. S.O.-in-C. spoke and rang on all channels which surprised him a little as he had been shorting out surreptitiously two bared wires he found under his chair!

In the afternoon, General Whistler gave a talk to the C.-in-C. and Senior Officers of Farelf, on the new communication plan for 1970. This was very well received indeed. After a busy day, he attended the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess Ball in Princess Mary Barracks. By a process of expansion of existing accommodation, some six hundred people attended the ball; the festivities started at 21.00 hours and the last remaining guests (some 80 in number) were served with breakfast at 07.00 hours. The Bands, the Buffet Supper and the Cabaret (provided by Hula-Hula girls) were all first class and we hoped that the S.O.-in-C. enjoyed his visit as much as the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess enjoyed his presence on this occasion.

In Farelf, the communicators of all three Services work in very close harmony, and on Thursday, 25th January, the General visited the Royal Navy and the Royal Air Force. In the morning 19th Regt. (Air Formation) proudly "stood to," when General Whistler visited H.Q. Far East Air Force at Changi. He was met on arrival by Colonel G. G. L. Hinde, O.B.E., C.A.F.S.O., F.E.A.F., and Group Captain N. M. Maynard, D.F.C., A.F.C., A.D.C., Station Commander, Changi. After inspecting a Guard of Honour found by 19th Regt., General Whistler met at H.Q., F.E.A.F., the Command Signal Officer,

S.O.-in-C. talking to W.O.s and Sergeants in Princess Mary Sergeants Mess

Arrival of S.O.-in-C. and C.S.O. FARELF at Kai Tak Airport

Group Captain E. V. Stokes, C.B.E. Returning to 19th Regt. he took coffee with the Warrant Officers and Sergeants, during which he took the opportunity of talking informally on a wide range of subjects connected with the Corps. This was keenly listened to and very much appreciated. He then visited the new auto exchange building and new cable pits. After lunch with the officers in the R.A.F. Mess, he moved on to the Naval Base where he was met by the Fleet Communications Officer, Commander P. W. Spencer, D.S.C., R.N. After a discussion with Admiral Sir David Luce, K.C.B., D.S.O., O.B.E., C.-in-C. Far East Station, he visited Naval Signal installations.

For the next two days the S.O.-in-C. had a good look at Army Signals on Singapore Island—not so much to see the technical problems, but to meet the chap on the job. In the course of a day with 18th Regt., he visited the Tanglin Comcentre, and took the opportunity of speaking to a number of B.O.R.s, W.R.A.C. and M.O.R.s as well as meeting the seniors. He was interested in the amalgamation of the Signal Centre and the Tape Relay Centre which he felt was a long jump in the right direction. Later he saw H.Q. Squadron and went to the dining hall to see lunch being served. One N.C.O., who was introduced as the "chief moaner," gave the General his views on the frequent issues of Australian rabbit. This conversation was cunningly steered by the General into a lively discussion on poaching, which left everyone, including the grumbler in a happier frame of mind. In the Sergeants' Mess, the S.O.-in-C. made a special point of speaking to all the Warrant Officers and Senior N.C.O.s who assembled—well over a hundred strong—he explained what is required of the Corps in the future and left no doubt that only "the best" is required in the Corps, and only "the best" will remain. He also had a separate talk with the Signals R.S.M.s of Singapore. After lunch he visited the Signal Training Centre (Far East), and saw some of the problems of teaching two different trade structures in three different languages to five different races!

On the following day, the General visited the Transmitter and Receiver sites, and visited 248 (Gurkha) Sqn. at Nee Soon which was ceremonially drawn up on the Brigade Parade Ground. After inspecting the Squadron, the General took the salute at an impressive March Past.

The S.O.-in-C. started the second week of his FARELF tour by visiting units in the Federation of Malaya. After flying to Kuala Lumpur, accompanied by C.S.O. FARELF, he was met by Lieutenant-Colonel S. Schofield, C.S.O. Federation Armed Forces, and spent the day with the Federation Army. After visiting Federation Signal installations, he met all seconded Royal Signals officers for lunch. During the afternoon he visited a Federation Brigade H.Q. which was set up in the jungle. The landrover ride along an almost non-existent jungle track was both exhilerating and rewarding.

The following day was spent with Gurkha Signals. Accompanied by Lieutenant-Colonel G. H. Wotton, O.B.E., C.R. Signals Malaya and Commander Gurkha Signals, the S.O.-in-C. visited the Comcan and transmitter sites. After a visit to the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess, and lunch with the officers, General Whistler spent some time with No. 2 (Training) Sqn. Throughout his tour, he repeatedly paused to talk to instructors and students and was clearly impressed by the knowledge of English possessed by all ranks. After a visit to the family lines where he saw school children playing games, the S.O.-in-C. had tea in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants'

S.O.-in-C. talking to members of the Radio Operator BIII to BII Upgrading Course at the Gurkha Signal Regiment

Major Sturge, Brigadier Swainson and Lieutenant-Colonel Fletcher listen to the S.O.-in-C's views on mules. C13 mule stations in the background

S.O.-in-C. shakes hands with Mr. Chan Lu On. Other long service linemen in the picture are Messrs. Wun Yin Gai, Chu Woo and Chan Fat

Mess and met many of the wives. In the evening, after a short Cocktail Party in the Officers' Mess, the General visited the Q.G.O.s' Mess for "Bhat" and a "Nach" party.

Bright and early (almost too early) on the morning of 31st January, the S.O.-in-C. visited H.Q. 28 Comwell Brigade Group at Terendak Camp, where he met Brigadier F. G. Hassett, D.S.O., M.V.O., O.B.E., the Australian Brigade Commander, and Major B. P. James, the Brigade Signal Sqn. Commander. This visit was of double interest to him, as not only was he able to see 298 (COMWEL) Sqn.—a completely integrated squadron of U.K. and Australian Signals—but he was also able to see the completed Terendak Camp which he himself had planned on a previous tour of duty in FARELF.

Returning to Singapore for just long enough to pack his kit, General Whistler, again accompanied by C.S.O., FARELF, flew to Hong Kong on 1st February. He was met on arrivel by Lieutenant-Colonel M. J. R. Fletcher, M.B.E., C.R. Signals Hong Kong, and his A.D.C. for the Hong Kong tour, Capt. M. J. Hales. The following day, the S.O.-in-C. visited Tai Mo Shan, the highest point in the New Territories and then went on to Sek Kong to inspect a parade of 246 (Gurkha) Sqn., New Territories Signal Troop, 4 R.A. Signal Troop and 14 R.A. Signal Troop. Touring the lines of 246 Sqn., the General showed interest in the mule pack radio stations and recalled his experiences with mules (four legged variety) in India before 1939. His comments on the handlers' efforts to line up the mules for a photograph showed that he had forgotten none of his drills for mule handling acquired many years ago. From Sek Kong the S.O.-in-C. visited 253 Sqn. (Kowloon) in Whitfield Barracks. Here he was introduced to four Chinese linemen Supervisors whose service with the Corps totalled more than 100 years. The S.O.-in-C. had, however, taken his lineman's rating some two years before the supervisor with the longest service. That evening, General Whistler and Brigadier Swainson were guests of honour at a very successful Royal Signals Chinese New Year Chow at a restaurant on the waterfront of Hong Kong Island. Afterwards the S.O.-in-C. was taken to the adjacent Night Club for a glimpse at the Colony's night life.

On 3rd February, General Whistler visited 252 Sqn. (Hong Kong) and after inspecting the quarter guard and having had a quick look around the Squadron lines he spoke informally to the Warrant Officers and Sergeants on Corps matters. The same evening saw the last of his official engagements in FARELF when he attended a Ladies' Night given by the Royal Signals Hong Kong Officers' Dinner Club in the Victoria Officers' Mess. After dinner he took part in some games of skill and chance with "make-believe" money, which was probably just as well, as his quota only lasted a very short time!

General Whistler left Hong Kong to return to U.K. on Sunday, 4th February. His visit to the theatre has been a brief one, unavoidably so. But the impact of his visit to FARELF was exceptional. We see, at our far end of the pipeline, many visiting Senior Officers during the course of a year, and we tend to become a bit blasé about them; but this visit made a deep impression on everyone, at all levels; the pace became a bit brisker, and the eyes brighter after General Whistler had moved on.

The S.O.-in-C. speaks to Staff Sergeant R. Gilmour, representing 4 R.A. Signal Troop. 14 R.A. Signal Troop, the New Territories Signal Troop and 246 (Gurkha) Signal Sqn. also on parade in the background

Lieutenant Tay Ah Tee
Royal Signals

There can be few officers in the Corps who have packed so much experience into so short a time as Lieutenant "Eddie" Tay, whose home is in Johore.

He joined the Army in January, 1955, for boy service, was trained in the Boys Training Unit at Nee Soon in Singapore and from there went to the Signal Training Centre (Far East) earmarked for training as a line technician. In his two years at E.T.C. not only did he study E. and M. but also learnt to be a Sigcen Op. D.R. and lineman. In May, 1958, he went to the U.K. for the first time and after a six-month course, at Mons O.C.S., was granted a six year Short Service Commission in the Corps.

As an officer he has served in both 18th and 19th Regiments in Singapore, gained second place on a four month R.S.O.s course in Australia and has spent almost a year in Hong Kong as Second-in-Command Training Company in the Hong Kong Chinese Training Unit. In his last appointment he performs a task invaluable to the Corps, for through his hands pass the locally enlisted Chinese who form a very large part of the Corps units in Hong Kong.

Lieutenant Tay Ah Tee, Royal Signals, escorting H.R.H. Princess Alexandra of Kent during her visit to the Hong Kong Chinese Training Unit on 9th November 1961

The Display Team

Royal Signals Display, 1962

The 1962 Display commenced training on 1st November, 1961, and spent the first six weeks sorting out men and machines on the bleak heights of Gandale. In mid-December, the activity moved to Gaza Square, Catterick Camp, and by the end of January, the Display was beginning to take a rather shaky, but promising shape.

Captain H. Taylor leads the team for the second year running, Sergeant Sankey left at the end of last season, after four years as Team Sergeant, and his replacement, Sergeant Raffan, arrived during February. The team is 28 strong, and is the first all-Regular Team for many years.

The main bookings for 1962 include the Royal Tournament, the Berlin Tattoo, the Royal Highland Show, and a rather late, but most welcome return visit to Northern Ireland in October. Naturally the Tournament is looked forward to with great anticipation, and our third visit to Berlin in three years is indicative of the appeal of the Display to the West Berliners, and the hospitality shown by the Berlin Signal Squadron to the Team.

The Team visited the Triumph factory on 1st March to collect the 19 machines for the coming season, and were honoured by a civic reception by the Lord Mayor of Coventry, Alderman W. Callow. The reception had been organised by Triumph's General Sales Manager, Mr. Neil Shilton, and he can be seen guiding the Team to the Council House in the photograph.

Captain Taylor presented the Lord Mayor with a message (reproduced below) of greetings and congratulations on this momentous year for Coventry. For in May, Her Majesty the Queen will visit Coventry and attend the consecration of the new Cathedral. The original one was destroyed by enemy bombs during World War II.

The message was sent by the Representative Colonel Commandant of the Corps, Major-General R. J. Moberly, C.B., O.B.E., and the Lord Mayor expressed his delight at receiving this reminder of the 31-year-old association between the Corps and the City of Coventry.

The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress received the entire Team in the Council House, and over sherry and coffee, chatted for some 30 minutes about the Display, the Corps, and the Lord Mayor's recent visits to the Lord Mayors of East and West Berlin. The reception ended all too soon, and before long, the Team were on their way back to Catterick Camp, feeling very proud of this new honour.

It is hoped that in future news letters, we shall be able to bring you photos and details of our Displays, both at home and abroad, and remember, if the Team are performing in your district, we will be only too pleased to meet you.

[Display fixtures are given in Forthcoming Events in each number of THE WIRE*]*

* * *

Letter from Major-General R. J. Moberly, C.B., O.B.E.,
Representative Colonel Commandant.

My dear Lord Mayor,

On behalf of All Ranks of Royal Signals, I have great pleasure in sending greetings and good wishes to you and all citizens of Coventry on this momentous year.

We are very proud of our Association with your City through our close connection with The Triumph Motor Cycle Company over more than 30 years, and it is most appropriate that this message from the Royal Corps of Signals should now be conveyed to you by the hand of the Officer-in-Charge of the Royal Signals Display Team.

The Lord Mayor with Captain H. Taylor

The Hamburg Floods

On Friday, 16th February, 1962, the City of Hamburg suffered one of the worst disasters in its history when, after a night of storms, some 20 per cent of the city became inundated by flood water. The extent of the damage and danger threatening large numbers of the inhabitants created a national emergency and called for the assistance of all who could help. Among the many who came to the aid of the stricken city were the Royal Engineers of the Division, who immediately despatched Field Squadrons with boats and other rescue equipment. These took on the task of rescue in the southern suburb of Wilhelmsburg, where many thousands were marooned and in danger. A small H.Q. was established in the police station at Harburg, where operations were co-ordinated with the police and the Bundeswehr.

In the early hours of Sunday morning, the 18th February, various detachments of 1st Regt. were despatched to Harburg to provide communications for H.Q., R.E. All the civil telephone lines were out of order and our primary task was to establish radio relay and H.F. radio circuits back to Verden, some 60 miles away. By Monday night a small signal centre had been established and traffic was being handled for both the Army and for the Press. With the restoration of the Bundespost circuits, our commitment gradually ceased, although we continued to provide a C.11 detachment for H.Q., R.E., to control the Engineer Squadrons in the city until their withdrawal on 23rd February. During the operations the Sappers rescued over 3,500 persons, and did tremendous work in salvage and repair tasks. It was a great privilege for us to play our part in support of the Divisional Engineers in their great task. Messages of thanks were received, not only from all formation commanders in the theatre, but also from the President of the Federal Republic, to all troops who took part.

Of the many incidents during the week, perhaps the problems of the Cable Troop are worth mentioning in laying the radio relay tails in the city. These had to cross the tram lines at one point, and in the absence of accessible sewers, seemed destined to be cut once the trams began running again. This proved to be the case. The problem was solved by throwing the cable (suitably weighted) *over* the conductor wires and making a high crossing over the street. This produced certain taut moments until the cable had been pulled clear and made off!

Mention must also be made of the collection of clothing by the Regt. Five three-tonner loads were delivered to the Red Cross, having been collected on various circular tours round the married quarters during the week.

Headquarters Allied Forces Northern Europe

Presentation of the L.S. and G.C. medal to A/W.O.II W. E. Beadle by C.-in-C. Allied Forces Northern Europe, General Sir Harold Pyman, K.C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O. The presentation took place in the C.-in-C.'s office on 1st February, 1962 in the presence of Colonel C. R. Roberts, U.S. Army (Deputy C.S.O. A.F.N.E.) and the Senior Royal Signal Officers, H.Q. A.F.N.E., Major C. N. le Gassick

Inter-University Signals Competition

The Inter-Varsity Signals Competition, between the Signal Wings of Oxford and Cambridge University O.T.C.s, was held on 10th/11th February, 1962. This was the first meeting since the war, although the event is more than fifty years old.

Cambridge were the hosts, and Oxford arrived at mid-day on 10th February. At 14.30, the first stage of the competition, the wireless section began. Messages, frequency changes, and system changes were all to be coped with on voice and morse. After passing traffic over ranges of five miles, the outstations were moved out to ranges of 15 miles, and were promtly lost. The exercise then turned into a game of hide-and-seek, with the control stations driving round the countryside trying to find the outstations. Needless to say, the outstations returned to H.Q. just after the search parties had left!

Following an evening spent sampling the liquor in the Cambridge University O.T.C. Mess, the second phase, line-laying, took place in the Saffron Walden area, on 11th February. This got off to a rather bad start when the opposing line vehicles collided! However, no serious damage was done, and the exercise proceeded roughly as planned. What with poles for pole-crossings being lost, cables snapping and other mishaps, the details of the laying are better forgotten!

The final result was a win for Cambridge, but this does not really reflect the proper state of affairs. Cambridge were in the lead by 15 points after the wireless stage, but only managed to stay ahead due to Oxford forgetting their jumper in the line-laying stage. Cambridge won by eight points, but Oxford lost 10 points for forgetting the jumper.

Next year Oxford will be the hosts, and it is hoped that most of the teething troubles will have been sorted out by then. However, both teams enjoyed the competition very much and look forward to meeting again next year.

Our thanks are due to Captain J. A. Gatward and the N.C.O.s from 239 Squadron at Hounslow, who judged the competition.

Boxing

On page 63, March, 1962, was published a note of correspondence about an article in a recent number of the *British Army Review*, including extracts from a letter from the Honorary Secretary, Army Boxing Association.

Major-General R. F. B. Naylor, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., a former Colonel Commandant, has pointed out that the letter was ungenerous in not mentioning "Harry" Spencer, who taught nearly all of those named how to box, and was himself an Army Champion and Imperial Services Boxing Association Champion, 1922-1925.

Princess Royal Day

The Colonel-in-Chief has approved that the 28th June or the Sunday nearest to it be celebrated as the anniversary of the formation of Royal Signals in 1920.

11th Regiment (Depot) Photograph Album

There is in existence in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess of 11th Regt. (Depot) a most valuable and interesting photograph album containing many groups and other interesting photographs of Officers, Warrant Officers and Sergeants of the Corps who have served with the Depot through the years since the formation of the Corps. This album is now being renewed. Any members or ex-members of the Corps in possession of photographs of groups or interesting events whilst they served with the Depot are requested to forward them to Lieutenant-Colonel R. W. Atkinson, O.B.E., (Retd.), P.R.I., 11th Regt. (Depot), Vimy Lines, Catterick Camp, Yorks.

As much information as is available should be included with the photographs, such as the year in which the photograph was taken, names, where possible, of personnel in groups, etc.

Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland

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Signals Officers, Operators Keyboard and Cipher, Radio and Radio Relay Technicians, Technical Storemen, Electricians, Operators Wireless and Line—the job *you* seek may well be in the list available.

Send brief details of your experience to:

Senior Army Liaison Officer,
Rhodesia House,
429 Strand,
London, W.C.2.

PERSONAL COLUMN

London Gazette

From 6th February, 1962, to 13th March, 1962.

Major R. Carlyon retired on 12th February, 1962.
Major B. E. Tebbs retired on 14th February, 1962.
Lieutenant-Colonel (Q.M.) W. B. Edwards retired 17th January, 1962.
Captain (T.O.T.) A. Beckelaers to be Major, 10th February, 1962.
Major J. O. Hunter, M.B.E., from A.E.R. to T.A., 1st November, 1961.
Captain R. N. C. France relinquished his commission, 1st January, 1962, Hon. Major (T.A.).
Lieutenant (Q.M.) J. C. Gosling to be Captain, 16th February, 1962.
Lieutenant P. J. March to T.A.R.O., 4th January, 1962.
Second-Lieutenant J. H. May from Short Service Commission to be Second-Lieutenant, 13th November, 1960.
Major N. R. Williams, M.C., E.R.D., T.D., resigned commission, 1st December, 1961.
Major W. C. Loveless, T.D., to T.A.R.O., 20th December, 1961.
Captain E. E. R. Dillon to T.A.R.O., 21st November, 1961.
Captain A. W. Medhurst to T.A.R.O., 27th December, 1961.
Lieutenant-Colonel A. R. Glanvill, T.D., retired 24th February, 1962.
Lieutenant A. J. Harrison to be Captain, 23rd February, 1962.
Lieutenant (Q.M.) S. G. Barnes to be Captain (Q.M.), 22nd February, 1962.
Lieutenant-Colonel (Director of Music) J. L. Judd, M.B.E., MUS.B., F.T.C.M., L.R.A.M., A.R.C.M., retired on 28th February, 1962.
Major A. Holifield, M.C., to be Lieutenant-Colonel, 14th April, 1961.
Officer Cadet E. R. Castle to be Lieutenant, 13th January, 1962.
Officer Cadet R. G. Spear to be Second-Lieutenant, 13th January, 1962.
Officer Cadet P. A. Lenthall to be Second-Lieutenant, 13th January, 1962.
Lieutenant-Colonel R. R. Morrison, M.B.E., retired on 18th February, 1962.
Lieutenant (Director of Music) C. H. Pike from Royal Tank Regt., 28th February, 1962, to be Lieutenant (Director of Music).
Captain B. E. M. Prophet, T.D. (T.A.), to be Major, 1st January, 1959.
Captain A. L. Cook from R.A. (T.A.) to be Captain, 1st February, 1962.
Captain F. Dymond (T.A.) to be Major, 1st January, 1962.
Second-Lieutenant N. J. T. Munro, from A.E.R.O. Nat. Serv. List, R.A.P.C., to be Second-Lieutenant (T.A.), 10th September, 1960.
Sergeant D. Graham to be Captain (T.A.), 1st March, 1962.
J. P. F. Mason to be Second-Lieutenant (T.A.), 17th January, 1962.
Colonel W. B. Rowett retired on 3rd March, 1962.
Lieutenant W. A. F. Morgan to be Captain, 16th December, 1961.
Captain (Traffic Officer) W. J. Thomas to be Major (Traffic Officer) 6th March, 1962.
W.O.I E. R. C. Wall to be Lieutenant (Q.M.) (S.S.C.), 1st February, 1962.
Second-Lieutenant S. H. Savage to be Lieutenant (T.A.), 4th March, 1962.
Colonel D. E. Harrison, O.B.E., retired, 9th March, 1962.
Captain R. W. M. Wright to be Major, 10th March, 1962.
Lieutenant R. Saville from Short Service Commission, Gordons, to be Lieutenant, 13th February, 1961.
Captain W. S. Michael from Foresters to be Captain (T.A.), 22nd May, 1957.
Lieutenant F. K. Bailey to be Captain (T.A.), 21st December, 1961.
Second-Lieutenant G. Ronan to be Lieutenant (T.A.), 12th February, 1961.
Major (Traffic Officer) J. O. Tompkins retired 16th February, 1962.
Captain (Q.M.) S. T. G. Marks relinquished his commission, 15th March, 1962

Movements—Officers

(Taken place or forecast to take place period ending 15th April, 1962)

Lieutenant-Colonel D. C. Harris ... To the War Office
Major J. A. C. Webber ... ... ,, H.Q. NEARELF
Major D. S. Clarke ... ... ,, British Military Delegation, France
Major C. O. Bound ... ... ,, H.Q. 1 (Br.) Corps
Major W. J. Clapp ... ... ,, Junior Leaders Regiment
Major F. M. Handsley ... ... ,, School of Signals
Major P. A. C. Baldwin ... ... ,, The War Office
Major J. A. Masser ... ... ,, H.Q. Northern Army Group
Captain P. C. V. Dolan ... ... ,, School of Signals
Captain L. A. Grace ... ... ,, 24th Regiment
Captain J. O. C. Alexander ... ... ,, Junior Leaders Regiment
Captain I. F. Bird ... ... ,, 13th Regiment
Captain J. G. Billingham ... ... ,, 651 Lt. A.C. Squadron, A.A.C.
Captain L. A. Welton ... ... ,, 30th Regiment
Captain A. D. Steel ... ... ,, 14th Regiment
Lieutenant A. J. Lewis ... ... ,, Junior Tradesman Regiment.
Lieutenant M. A. Best ... ... ,, School of Signals
Second-Lieutenant K. G. Doyle ... ,, 3rd Regiment
Second-Lieutenant W. P. B. Thomas ,, 3rd Regiment
Major (Q.M.) N. J. Coslett ... ... ,, 232 Squadron
Major (Tfc. Offr.) E. H. J. Bridle ... ,, 3rd Regiment
Major (Tfc. Offr.) J. Hastings ... ... ,, 252 Squadron
Captain (T.O.T.) J. A. Bevan ... ... ,, 8th Regiment
Captain (T.O.T.) A. V. Render ... ,, 625 Troop
Captain (Tfc. Offr.) G. S. Massey ... ,, 16th Regiment
Lieutenant (Q.M.) J. Wilderspin ... ,, 16th Regiment
Lieutenant (Q.M.) E. R. C. Wall ... ,, 19th Regiment

Movements—Warrant Officers and Sergeants, April, 1962

W.O.I J. A. Kelly ... ... To 622 Troop
W.O.I R. D. Laing ... ... ,, 1st Regiment
W.O.II V. F. Burman ... ... ,, 9th Regiment
W.O.II R. Finister ... ... ,, 11th Regiment
W.O.II J. M. Ross ... ... ,, 13th Regiment
Acting W.O.II E. D. George ... ... ,, 48th Regiment (T.A.)
W.O.II B. C. Folkard ... ... ,, 52nd (L.) Regiment (T.A.)
W.O.II T. E. Knight ... ... ,, 63rd Regiment (T.A.)
W.O.II E. H. Walker ... ... ,, 66th Regiment (T.A.)
W.O.II E. D. Izod ... ... ,, A.A.S., Harrogate.
W.O.II B. V. Link ... ... ,, 8th Regiment
W.O.II A. J. Lane ... ... ,, 11th Regiment
W.O.II (R.Q.M.S.) J. Crich ... ... ,, 14th Regiment
Acting W.O.II E. Robinson ... ... ,, 19th Regiment
W.O.II J. B. Skinner ... ... ,, 237 Squadron
W.O.II I. P. Windebank ... ... ,, Trucial Oman Scouts
W.O.II J. A. Raymond ... ... ,, 11th Regiment
W.O.II B. C. Byrne ... ... ,, H.Q. Training Brigade
W.O.II C. Cooke ... ... ,, 22nd Regiment
W.O.II R. J. Hoe ... ... ,, H.Q. COMCAN
W.O.II J. C. Brown ... ... ,, 208 Squadron
W.O.II J. N. Clark ... ... ,, 11th Regiment
W.O.II K. A. Clements ... ... ,, 210 Squadron
Staff Sergeant T. Lockley ... ... ,, Junior Leaders Regiment
Staff Sergeant T. B. Brown ... ... ,, School of Signals
Staff Sergeant G. W. Mercer ... ... ,, School of Signals
Acting Staff Sergeant J. B. Lindsell ,, 11th Regiment
Staff Sergeant A. G. Riddell ... ... ,, 24th Regiment.
Staff Sergeant G. V. Douglas ... ... ,, 18th Regiment
Staff Sergeant A. E. Kingham ... ... ,, 18th Regiment
Staff Sergeant E. R. Ashworth ... ... ,, 247 Squadron
Staff Sergeant D. R. Handley ... ... ,, 9th Regiment
Staff Sergeant P. L. Harrison ... ... ,, 9th Regiment
Staff Sergeant N. W. Cunion ... ... ,, 234 Squadron
Staff Sergeant I. Sharif ... ... ,, 2nd Regiment
Acting Staff Sergeant A. J. Hawtin ,, 16th Regiment
Staff Sergeant J. R. Charlton ... ... ,, 15th Regiment
Staff Sergeant R. F. Hampson ... ... ,, Federal Army Squadron
Staff Sergeant F. M. Stock ... ... ,, 19th Regiment
Staff Sergeant B. A. Kimber ... ... ,, 15th Regiment
Staff Sergeant D. Clarke ... ... ,, 21st Regiment
Staff Sergeant D. H. Davies ... ... ,, 225 Squadron
Staff Sergeant B. T. Flint ... ... ,, 14th Regiment
Staff Sergeant J. M. Gilyeat ... ... ,, A.A.S. Harrogate
Staff Sergeant B. T. Godfrey ... ... ,, A.A.S. Harrogate
Staff Sergeant N. A. Johnson ... ... ,, 9th Regiment
Staff Sergeant I. R. Lidstone ... ... ,, 22nd Regiment
Staff Sergeant R. Lund ... ... ,, 1st Regiment
Staff Sergeant R. M. Mainwaring ... ,, School of Signals
Staff Sergeant G. Moore ... ... ,, 7th Regiment
Staff Sergeant A. J. Murray ... ... ,, 209 Squadron
Staff Sergeant J. V. Culbert ... ... ,, 252 Squadron
Staff Sergeant B. Adcock ... ... ,, 9th Regiment
Staff Sergeant A. Coyne ... ... ,, 9th Regiment
Staff Sergeant T. Keany ... ... ,, 9th Regiment
Staff Sergeant P. H. Iverson ... ... ,, 11th Regiment
Staff Sergeant P. V. Dixon ... ... ,, 11th Regiment
Staff Sergeant D. Reed ... ... ,, 11th Regiment
Staff Sergeant G. Hayes ... ... ,, 11th Regiment
Staff Sergeant D. Boughton ... ... ,, 600 Troop
Staff Sergeant R. Blohm ... ... ,, 228 Squadron
Sergeant R. V. Fairhurst ... ... ,, 2nd Regiment
Sergeant P. E. Jepson ... ... ,, 1st Regiment
Sergeant J. Hughes ... ... ,, 252 Squadron
Sergeant P. C. Perrin ... ... ,, 3rd Regiment
Sergeant G. E. Stringer ... ... ,, 11th Regiment
Sergeant R. W. Hetherington ... ... ,, H.Q. North Ireland Command
Sergeant R. Lahan ... ... ,, 236 Squadron
Sergeant F. E. Slade ... ... ,, 209 Squadron
Sergeant J. Rhind ... ... ,, 222 Squadron
Sergeant G. Woods ... ... ,, School of Signals
Staff Sergeant R. J. R. Wood ... ... ,, Signal Troop, 3rd R.H.A.
Staff Sergeant W. P. Scott ... ... ,, 228 Squadron
Acting Staff Sergeant G. H. Nickson ,, 628 Troop
Acting Staff Sergeant A. G. Norton ... ,, 16th Regiment
Sergeant G. H. Tickner ... ... ,, 234 Squadron
Sergeant R. W. Aldous ... ... ,, 19th Regiment
Sergeant M. I. Dunmall ... ... ,, 19th Regiment
Sergeant J. B. McKissock ... ... ,, 615 Troop
Sergeant J. Gardner ... ... ,, Air Portable and Training Regiment (H.C.)
Sergeant P. Watton ... ... ,, R.M.A. Sandhurst
Sergeant R. G. Mills ... ... ,, 210 Squadron
Sergeant A. F. Dyer ... ... ,, 235 Squadron
Sergeant G. W. Bulman ... ... ,, 13th Regiment
Sergeant A. E. Abbott ... ... ,, 8th Regiment
Sergeant D. J. Radfor ... ... ,, 8th Regiment
Sergeant H. Shevlin ... ... ,, 234 Squadron
Sergeant I. B. T. Hill ... ... ,, 15th Regiment
Sergeant K. Maidment ... ... ,, 227 Squadron
Sergeant P. Mannion ... ... ,, 8th Regiment
Sergeant E. T. A. Webster ... ... ,, Junior Leaders Regiment
Sergeant J. J. McElvogue ... ... ,, 41st Regiment (T.A.)
Acting Sergeant F. M. Young ... ... ,, 65th Regiment (T.A.)
Sergeant R. Ridley ... ... ,, 46th Regiment (T.A.)
Sergeant J. R. Brown ... ... ,, 66th Regiment (T.A.)
Sergeant J. Gledhill ... ... ,, 239 Squadron
Sergeant L. K. Maillard ... ... ,, 11th Regiment
Sergeant F. J. Lace ... ... ,, 2nd Regiment
Sergeant A. D. Bermingham ... ... ,, 256 Squadron
Sergeant B. J. R. Travers ... ... ,, School of Signals
Sergeant J. Akehurst ... ... ,, Junior Leaders Regiment
Acting Sergeant P. J. Freeston ... ,, 227 Squadron
Sergeant G. H. Johnson ... ... ,, 249 Squadron
Sergeant E. Hall ... ... ,, Signal Training Centre, F.E.
Sergeant M. Morphey ... ... ,, 210 Squadron
Sergeant H. Cooper ... ... ,, 45th (Essex) Regiment (T.A.)
Sergeant J. J. Smith ... ... ,, Junior Leaders Regiment
Sergeant H. F. Bumby ... ... ,, 16th Regiment
Sergeant P. W. Weatherell ... ... ,, 227 Squadron
Sergeant E. V. Adams ... ... ,, 54th (E.A.) Regiment (T.A.)
Sergeant A. Sim ... ... ,, 8th Regiment
Acting Sergeant A. C. Robertshaw ... ,, 243 Squadron
Sergeant I. I. Carruthers ... ... ,, 1st Regiment
Sergeant R. T. Massey ... ... ,, 235 Squadron
Sergeant H. Holdsworth ... ... ,, Junior Leaders Regiment
Sergeant B. L. Brewer ... ... ,, 7th Regiment
Sergeant D. Holmes ... ... ,, 15th Regiment
Sergeant R. Rodger ... ... ,, 2nd Regiment
Sergeant F. Finney ... ... ,, 9th Regiment
Sergeant R. E. Hunt ... ... ,, 227 Squadron
Sergeant J. J. F. Logan ... ... ,, 1st Regiment
Sergeant G. E. Harrison ... ... ,, 11th Regiment
Sergeant L. Burnham ... ... ,, Junior Leaders Regiment
Sergeant G. Miller ... ... ,, 219 Squadron
Acting Sergeant W. E. Bowles ... ... ,, 224 Squadron
Acting Sergeant J. Reid ... ... ,, 227 Squadron
Sergeant T. W. Potter ... ... ,, 2nd Regiment
Acting Sergeant D. Smith ... ... ,, 209 Squadron

Births

Headquarters Scottish Command—C.S.O.s Branch

MORRISON.—To W.O.II and Mrs. J. B. Morrison, on 13th February, 1962, a son, Ian George, at Banff Hospital, Scotland.

11th Regiment

CUERDON.—To Captain and Mrs. A. R. Cuerdon, a daughter.

LOCKWOOD.—To Corporal and Mrs. Lockwood, a daughter.

16th Regiment

TAMS.—To Corporal and Mrs. Tams, on 26th January, 1962, a son, Gary.

BROWN.—To Sergeant and Mrs. Brown, on 5th March, 1962, a son, Gary Dennis.

Marriages

16th Regiment

PICKERING—MILBURN.—Corporal V. Pickering, on 23rd December, 1961, to Miss S. M. Milburn, at All Saints' Church of Four Oaks, Sutton Coldfield.

Deaths

CAREY-THOMAS.—On 23rd January, 1962, at Kensington, Lieutenant-Colonel H. C. Carey-Thomas, M.I.E.E.

MEREDITH.—On 3rd March, 1962, Lieutenant-Colonel A. E. Meredith, late 114 Mahrattas, Indian Signal Corps and Royal Signals.

WATTS.—On 6th March, at his home in Salisbury, ex-C.Q.M.S. H. S. R. Watts, D.C.M., M.M. Life Member of the Association and Member of Salisbury Branch.

EDWARDS.—On 10th March, 1962, Major F. T. Edwards, Royal Signals, 1920-1948.

OZANNE.—On 12th March, 1962, Mrs. B. Ozanne, widow of Colonel G. D. Ozanne, Royal Signals (T.A.). She was an enthusiastic worker for Royal Signals Prisoner of War and Comforts Fund, 1939-1946.

ROBERTS.—On 9th March, 1962, at Penrhiwceiber, Glamorgan, ex-Driver A. Roberts, Royal Signals, 1940-1946. Annual Member of the Association.

O'CALLAGHAN.—On 19th March, 1962, at Catterick (11th Regiment), 16903 Sergeant J. O'Callaghan, aged 63 years. 1915-1925, Royal Irish Regiment and Royal Army Service Corps; 1925-1962, Royal Signals. Life Member Royal Signals Association, 1925. Member of Chester Branch. Total service, 47 years.

BIRD.—On 22nd March, 1962, Major R. C. Bird, of 17a, Hastings Road, Bexhill. Life Member Royal Signals Association, 1921.

LEECE.—At R.A.M.C. Hospital, Millbank, on 27th March, 1962, Major H. R. Leece, Royal Signals, 1940-62.

Wants and Offers

THE Royal Signals Troop attached Royal Wiltshire Yeomanry, T.A., requires, in Swindon, an ex-Warrant Officer or Senior N.C.O. to command as Troop Sergeant. Volunteer to apply O.C. Royal Wiltshire Yeomanry or Secretary, Wiltshire T.A. and A.F. Association, T.A. Centre, Bythesea Road, Trowbridge, Wilts.

OFFICER'S DAUGHTER, aged 23, trained Secretary, experienced, and fond of children, requires post abroad with family. Free 9th July, for two months, or longer. Please reply Box 85, c/o Editor.

Southampton Branch

Annual Dinner will be held at Blighmont Drill Hall, Millbrook Road, Southampton, on 12th May, 1962, at 7.30 p.m. Tickets, 8/6 each, from F. S. Griffiths, 60, Winchester Road, Shirley, Southampton.

Members from neighbouring Associations are welcome, and also any 1939-45 members of 43 Divisional Signals, who will feel very much "At Home" at this gathering.

Forthcoming Events

Corps Dinner
will be held May 30th, 1962.

Corps Regular Officers' At Home
will be held on 31st May, 1962.

37th Meeting of the Central Committee of the Royal Signals Association
will be held on 31st May, 1962.

Aldershot Tattoo
In place of the Aldershot Tattoo, "The Modern Army" will be at home to the public on Queen's Parade, Aldershot, on the afternoons of 16th and 17th June, 1962. Apply to Aldershot District, Steeles Road, Aldershot.

Corps Week-end and Association Reunion and Annual General Meeting
will be held at Catterick on 7th/8th July, 1962.

Royal Tournament
Earls Court, London, 11th-28th July, 1962.

Association of Harrogate Apprentices
The 10th Annual General Meeting and Reunion is to be held on Tuesday, 31st July, and Wednesday, 1st August, 1962, at the Army Apprentices School, Harrogate. The provisional programme is: August 1st, a.m., Graduation Parade; 14.00 hours, Trades Exhibition; 20.00 hours, Social Evening. All ex-A/T's who are members, are cordially invited to attend. Requests for accommodation should be addressed to the Commandant, Army Apprentices School, Harrogate, to arrive before 1st July, 1962.

Royal Signals Institution Lectures, 1962

*Friday, 25th May, "The Reserve Army," Colonel G. H. Shrimpton, T.D., 6.15 p.m., at the T.A. Centre, 47th Regiment, T.A., Duke of York's Headquarters, Chelsea, S.W.3.

*Friday, 28th September, "New Zealand," Brigadier J. E. Anderson, 6.15 p.m., at the T.A. Centre, 47th Regiment, T.A., Duke of York's Headquarters, Chelsea, S.W.3.

Tuesday, 27th November, "Training of American Cadets at West Point," Second-Lieutenant Paul L. Miles, Jnr., U.S. Army, 5.15 p.m., at North Hall, Training Brigade, Royal Signals, Catterick Camp, Yorks.

* Members are allowed two guests for these lectures.

Royal Signals Association Football Club Fixtures

April 18th	Billingham Synthonia ...	Catterick Camp
*	R.E.M.E.	Billingham
*	R.A.O.C.	Catterick Camp

* Fixtures not yet firm.

Royal Signals Hockey Fixtures

Apr. 20th-23rd Scarborough Hockey Festival — Scarborough.

Indian Signal Units 1911-1948 O.C.A.
On 26th May, at the Eccleston Hotel, Victoria, London, S.W.1, A.G.M. and Dinner. Open to members and their wives, but guests not allowed. Further details from Captain W. Dowley, 153, Mychett Road, Mychett, Nr. Aldershot, Hants.

Indian Army Reunion, 1962
The 1962 Reunion will be held at Hurlingham Club on Friday, 29th June at 3.30 p.m. Tickets 9/- per head. Hon. Secretary, Brigadier A. J. M. Wilton, O.B.E., The Cottage, 30, Thames Street, Sunbury-on-Thames.

Royal Signals Display Team

May 17th	Hertfordshire, St. Alban's—Agricultural Show.
May 19th	Billet Lane, Stamford le Hope, Essex.
June 2nd	Kynoch Social Club, Witton, Birmingham.
June 19th—21st	Edinburgh.
June 23rd	Holmfirth.
July 7th	Catterick.
July 11th—28th	Royal Tournament.
August 1st	Nantwich.
August 6th	Horncastle.
August 18th	Darlington—Darlington Show.
September 1st	Haltwhistle—Agricultural Show.

The Wyvern Club
The Annual Dinner for members will be held in the Naval and Military Club, London, on 3rd October, at 7.30 p.m. for 8 p.m. Tickets and information from the Secretary, The Wyvern Dinner Club, Headquarters 43 (WX) Div./District, Sherford Camp, Taunton, Somerset.

Promotions

The following promotions were authorised up to the end of February, 1962:

Signal Centre Supervisor Roster

				New Sen. No.	Old Sen. No.	
To W.O.II	22562704	A/W.O.II	Ingram, W. E.,	1080	180	

Operating Roster

To Sgt.	23133970	A/Sgt.	Storey, L. G. H.	9280	5456	
	22537807	A/Sgt.	Smith, E. R. B.	9290	4500	
	22537710	A/Sgt.	Lace, F. J.	9300	3870	
	22266099	A/Sgt.	McGreavy, T.	9310	1140	
	22537639	A/Sgt.	Hamilton, E. L.	9320	3550	
	23486032	A/Sgt.	Lewis, J. E. S.	9330	5354	
	22972707	Cpl.	Thomas, L. C.	9340	3610	
	22537855	Cpl.	Spiers, J.	9350	1560	
	21005396	A/Sgt.	Griffin, J.	9360	4700	
	22265734	A/Sgt.	Simmons, R.	9370	5210	
	22296564	A/Sgt.	Newell, D. A.	9380	5970	
	22813072	A/Sgt.	Bryar, E.	9390	6590	
	22808334	A/Sgt.	Smith, K.	9400	6290	
	22959077	Cpl.	Kelly, L. J.	9410	7280	
	22246079	A/Sgt.	Preece, J. A. M.	9420	5820	
	22526417	Cpl.	Rogers, F. D.	9430	6570	
	22821101	Cpl.	Blakelock, P. G.	9440	6760	
	22776004	Cpl.	Young, G.	9450	6724	
	23481382	A/Sgt.	Clemson, W.	9460	7270	
	23847720	Cpl.	Dewhirst, L. W.	9470	5732	

Clerical Roster

To Sgt.	22993627	Cpl.	Stapleton, A. G.	2310	2110	

Technical Roster

To Sgt.	22537766	Cpl.	Phillips, J. H.	3445	1620	
	22967513	Cpl.	Crowder, N. J.	3655	5910	
	22845292	Cpl.	Gilbert, F.	3665	2430	
	23467500	Cpl.	Coverley, C.	3670	6140	

Regimental Duty

To W.O.I	2325306	A/W.O.I	Warren, W. J.	1020	1382	
To W.O.II	21187441	A/W.O.II	Curley, D. A.	4270	4570	
	22569789	S/Sgt.	Nicolson, A.	4280	600	
	14452127	S/Sgt.	Handley, D. R.	4290	4600	
	22272339	S/Sgt.	Burns, A.	4300	4610	
	15002573	S/Sgt.	Gibbs, F. A.	4310	4126	
	2355032	A/W.O.II	Johnstone, R.	4320	480	
	22548293	S/Sgt.	May, E. J. B.	4330	4690	
	5438706	A/W.O.II	Warwick, R. A.	4340	1920	
To S/Sgt.	22274297	A/S. Sgt.	Cleaver, B.	6610	3390 (Op.)	
	22562336	A/W.O.II	Morris, A.	6620	3340 (Op.)	
	22212676	Sgt.	Hawey, J.	6630	3200 (Op.)	
	22289336	Sgt.	Mason, K.	6640	3410 (Op.)	
	22296816	Sgt.	Harrison, P. L.	6650	1070 (Clk.)	
	2549501	A/S. Sgt.	Pearson, A.	6660	1100(Lmn.)	
	2549639	Sgt.	Bell, W. K. L.	6670	1120(Lmn.)	
	22356721	A/S. Sgt.	Kingham, A. E.	6680	1110(Lmn.)	
	22537177	Sgt.	Baglietto, C.	6690	960(Lmn.)	
	22212954	Sgt.	Price, H.	6700	1350(GTD)	
	21040550	Sgt.	Page, A. D.	6710	3490 (Op.)	
	22953025	Sgt.	Dickinson, F. W.	6730	3510 (Op.)	
	22548629	Sgt.	Tune, B. W.	6740	3530 (Op.)	

INSERTIONS

Regimental Duty

	19038954	W.O.II	Garland, M. F. B.	3552	3874	

General Trades and Duties

	2325537	Sgt.	Marsden, J. E.	12	60	(Regt. Duty S. Sgt.)

Operating

	2320009	Sgt.	Baker, A.	102	290	(Regt. Duty S Sgt.)

DELETIONS

Regimental Duty

W.O.II	—	2394
S. Sgt.	—	3670

General Trades and Duties

Sgt.	530	1360	2310	2940

Lineman

Sgt.	2264

Signal Centre Supervisor Roster

W.O.II	50	580	670

Operating Roster

Sgt.	6360

Technical Roster

520

ARTICLES OF GENERAL INTEREST

A Surfeit of Durian

Anyone who has served in Malaya will know the Durian. It is a fruit which may grow to the size of a rugger ball, has a rough green exterior and a sweet white pulp within. The Malays rate it the finest of fruits, but most Europeans condemn it on its all-pervading and corrupt smell alone. For many, to taste it is to love it, but beware of a surfeit, lest you have an experience like that recounted below by Sergeant Baba bin Mohd Zaman, of 237 Squadron (COMCAN).

Thunder rumbled in the distant sky and a flash of lightning slashed the darkness. Cold rain stung my face. Sharp, pointed finger nails dug deep into my neck; my hands and feet were chained to my sides. With a strangled cry I shot upright in my bed, trembling from head to foot and wet with sweat, my teeth chattering with fright. Slowly lingeringly, my senses cleared and I realised that my wife was bending over me, worried by all my abrupt actions. The words "It was a dream, a dream," drummed on my mind, and with a final dismissal of doubt, I came down to earth. Yes, it was a dream, and a most dreadful one too!

It was a hot June night last year. Durians, freshly picked from my friend's estate were to be the special item on the menu, and so, after a rather heavy dinner, I revelled shamelessly in the white flesh of the durian. Funnily enough, the more I ate, the less satisfied was my ravenous passion. Satiated at last with this delicious food, I fell on my bed and slept like a log. For a few minutes only, it seemed, I was sleeping and snoring soundly and peacefully. Then it happened!

Suddenly I was walking alone in a weird and grotesque wood. The trees had branches like claws, thin and wiry. Set in this eerie environment was a gleaming marble palace. As I drew near, the two sentries at the entrance (dressed, I noticed, like durians) saluted me. I passed, unmolested, through a hall where green tapestries decorated the walls and the smell of durian was pungent in the air. All around the hall were polished brass doors which led into other chambers. I entered the first room. It was bare, with a green pool in the middle and crystal chandeliers hung from above. As I stood gazing into the pool, I was grabbed from the rear by hideous creatures dressed in green and covered with long, pointed spikes. They tore at my flesh with their spikes until I slipped from their grasp and fled, bleeding profusely. Each room I darted into was full of the same monstrous creatures. I reached the last room.

Here it was calm and safe, and there was a bed, too, with clean, white sheets. Although there was the same, identical pond in the middle, there were no chandeliers. I had given my pursuers the slip, so, taking courage, I washed myself in the water and lay down between the cool sheets of the bed. I was about to close my eyes when there was a loud thud and before my eyes stood a huge, uncouth monster just like the others, but much larger, and armed with longer, sharper spikes. Menacingly it advanced, with claws like spears. Now it was upon me, piercing my flesh with its claws, choking me. Panic-stricken, I screamed.

That was all. The vision vanished and I was safe and sound in my wife's arms, vowing never to touch another durian as long as I live.

The Temple of the Emerald Buddha

BANGKOK

Surely the most interesting city in the Far East is Bangkok, easily and inexpensively reached from Singapore and Malaya by rail. The Y.M.C.A. in Sathorn road provides good accommodation, and some visitors have had the great good fortune of being taken from the Y.M.C.A. to private homes where they have lived the life of Thais for a few days. Several excellent tours of the city are available and if you go to "Jimmy's Tours," in an alley off New Road opposite the turning leading to the Oriental Hotel, mention of 237 Squadron will get you a sizeable reduction on all tours.

Fearsome "Yaks" guard the entrances to the Temple of the Emerald Buddha

With so much to see, there is one place you must visit whatever else you miss. This is the splendid and spectacular group of buildings including the Royal Palace and the Wat Phra Keo, or Temple of the Emerald Buddha. Plan this as soon as you arrive as the temple is open only on Sundays and holy days. Each of the several entrances to the compound is guarded by a pair of huge highly-coloured demon giants or 'Yaks,' but for all their forbidding appearance, entrance is free save for a modest charge for permission to use your camera.

The main building or bot, was built in 1785 by King Rama I. It is a superb building with walls of white plaster covered with patterns and flowers in blue and gold. The four super-imposed roofs are tiled in bright red, yellow and green and along the frontals are carved serpents with their heads in the eaves and their tails projecting outwards from the gable-tops. The eaves are hung with wind bells, and the slightest breeze is enough to move the brass plate attached to the clapper, so that the temple is always filled with the soft music of the bells. Inside, there are beautiful murals depicting incidents in the life of the Lord Buddha and overhead there is a breath-taking ceiling, carved and decorated in red and gold. The Emerald Buddha is surprisingly small, less than two feet high, in fact. He sits under a canopy on a high tiered pedestal richly decorated with gold leaf. Cut from a single piece of solid green jasper, the little figure has a curious, serene dignity for all its diminutiveness. It has had a chequered history since it came (it is believed) from Ceylon to Southern Thailand. Again and again it has been a prize of war and has been moved five times at least during its recorded history since 1436. The little figure is appropriately dressed in golden raiment according to the season of the year and his dress is changed by no less a person than the King.

The other buildings of the temple include a Pantheon, the Phra Tepbidorn, originally built to house the Emerald Buddha but found to be too small for elaborate state ceremonies. It is a charming building, now used to house statues of the kings of the Chakri dynasty. In an entirely different style is the slender-spired and collonaded Mandapa, an absolute gem of architecture, which houses the Buddhist scriptures. The group is completed by a belfry and a tall gilded spire or chedi in the traditional Thai Buddhist style. On the terrace of the temple there are charming little golden mythological figures of half-human, half-animal or bird figures said to live in a wonderful forest at the foot of the Himalayas.

There is so much to see in this temple alone that one cannot see enough of it in a short visit. But Bangkok has much more to offer, and after the foot-wearying quest of culture by day, there is the no less delightful, no less wearying, delight of the restaurants and night clubs by night. How staid and quiet Singapore seems in comparison!

A Leave in East Africa in 1962

BY LANCE-CORPORAL C. A. BARKER

I have been stationed with 222 Squadron in Aden for nearly a year. The only official local leave that is organised is the Nyali Leave Camp in Mombasa. I, with my friend, Signalman Patterson, applied for, and were allocated vacancies, immediately after Christmas. However, after some careful thinking, we decided not to go to Nyali, but to seek the wide open spaces of East Africa by the method of "thumb." So Sunday found us on the outskirts of Mombasa with rucksacks on our backs and aches in our heads from the bright lights of Mombasa the night before.

Our lift to Nairobi soon materialised and took us through the Tsavo Game Reserve. At one point half-a-dozen cars were parked by the side of the road with their occupants standing on the roofs with cameras and binoculars held to their eyes. On stopping, we learned there were elephants about. Soon we heard the very angry trumpeting of an elephant. I was just thinking it sounded very close when simultaneously the doors of six cars went bang, six engines roared into life, six tyres screamed, and six cars disappeared over the horizon. A second trumpeting, and we had overtaken them. Our driver, a member of the community sometimes rather unfairly referred to as a "Bombay Welshman," explained that he had just had his car resprayed and that if the elephant had charged his car, it would have cost him East African shillings, 400, to have it resprayed.

Nairobi, the throbbing heart of East Africa, where one can sit at a table of a pavement cafe and hear French, German, Italian, Gujerati, Hindustani, Swahili, and, on rare occasions, even English, spoken. Cosmopolitan Nairobi, with tall contemporary buildings, first-class hotels, first-class shops, first-class night clubs, with beautiful, but expensive, hostesses, and only one public convenience. Oh, and I nearly forgot—lions five miles from the city centre.

Monday, and south towards Uganda. A Mercedes pulls up and the driver, after asking if we were nervous passengers, proceeded to overtake every car in front of us. He was a Gilgil farmer. Have you ever driven down the road that twists and turns from the top to the bottom of the Great Rift Valley with the needle not dropping below 65? No? Then in that case you haven't had the thrill of dying twenty or thirty times in three and one-half miles. Later he explained that he used to drive with the Aston-Martin works team with Tony Brooks, "a couple of years back, old boy." We were no longer frightened, we just resigned ourselves to the thought that when one's time is up, that's it. He dropped us off some 17 miles from Nakuru, and within minutes we were picked up by a Volkswagen. He was a sedate driver, who never let his speedometer go above 50, so that at lunchtime we found ourselves welcomed to Nakuru, by the courtesy of King Size Filter-Tip Cigarettes.

In the afternoon an Asian police inspector and his wife gave us a lift to about 30 miles outside of Nakuru. His wife was driving, but he was changing gear for her. She was a good learner and only drove off the road once, but the words "where the hell do you think you are going, sister," soon had us back on the road again. The long evening shadows were creeping across the road when a Peugeot 403 open van offered us a lift to Eldoret. About 30 miles from Eldoret, it decided to rain. We reached the town in the dark, soaked to the skin and sitting in three or four inches of water. Eldoret is the central market town of the White Highlands.

On Tuesday morning we travelled in another Volkswagen with a chap working for UNESCO. He was on his way to give some lectures at the University in Kampala in Uganda. Just before we crossed the Kenya-Uganda border we caught glimpses of members of an infamous tribe, whose name escapes me at the moment. Despite police prevention, these chaps still eat the occasional man and run around in '*puris naturalibus.*' I believe, however, that they only eat the occasional missionary on festive occasions. They only have the festivals of rain, sun, fertility, harvest, light and darkness, etc. . . . Oh well!

Jinja is an important port on the north shore of Lake Victoria. It is here, at the Owen Falls Dam, that the River Nile starts its rather tiresome journey through Uganda, the Sudan and Egypt. Fifty miles further on, through banana, tea, coffee and cotton plantations, we were welcomed to Kampala by, this time, the courtesy of Coca Cola, King Size and Family Size bottles.

Kampala is famous for Makere University. The next day we commenced the return journey to Nairobi, but only reached

a little town called Iganga, about 30 miles from Jija. At lunch-time we were picked up by W.O.II Bell, of 4 K.A.R. He kindly took us to his house and gave us dinner and a lift back to the main road.

On Thursday we were picked up by the Town Clerk of Mbale. He asked us to stay the day with him and we spent a pleasant time swimming and relaxing, and enjoyed a good night's sleep, before once again taking to the road.

A Kitale farmer and his German wife gave us a lift to Broderick Falls, and then an African offered us a lift on to Eldoret. When we arrived there he demanded 10/- from each of us. That was the only time on our trip that we were "stung." Having reached Eldoret as night was approaching, we decided to call it a day, but in a cafe we met a Mr. Desai and his son, who asked us if we were going to Nairobi. On the road, the father gave us the most comprehensive talk on contemporary Indian history, for which we were both very grateful. At the top of the Rift Valley we ran into cloud, and even with fog lamps it was impossible to see the road. We passed about a dozen cars abandoned, having come to grief in the ditches on either side of the road. Reaching Nairobi in the early hours of Saturday morning, we were forced to spend the week-end there as the road to Tanganyika was closed.

But on the Monday morning the road was opened, and we were on our way again. We rode in a new Peugot 404 with two chaps going on a fishing trip. We crossed the border at Namanga and reached the Arusha by-pass just as the cloud was clearing from Mount Meru. It was a spectacular sight, this 15,000ft. mountain, but nothing to what was in store for us. As we were nearing Moshi, our destination, an enormous cloud bank was beginning to clear and there, towering above us, was the majestic Kilimanjaro. Its two peaks, Mawensi, 17,500ft. and Kibo, 19,500ft. were both covered in snow down to about 15,000ft. Hemingway was inspired by it; royalty has been awed by it. We were overwhelmed by the magnificence of this mountain. If the lion is the lord of animals in Africa, then Kilimanjaro is the lord of scenery.

As we did not like Moshi, we decided to start our return journey to Nairobi immediately, even though it was dark. Oh calamity! We accepted a lift from a Sikh gentleman driving a large American saloon. He told us he was going to Arusha, where we could stay the night. Tearing along the road at 100 m.p.h. plus, he decided to look for his cigarettes with both hands. We rocketed off the road and ploughed through a field. To him this was very funny. He roared with laughter as he drove back on to the road, still doing 100 m.p.h. As if that was not enough, when he finally found his cigarettes, he used both hands to light it. Off the road again, this time into bush where, had there been a tree in the way, I would not be writing this now. As it was, we flattened some 50 small bushes before reaching the road again. This was even funnier. Lofty, my mate, was laughing too, until even I started, but we were both laughing with hysteria.

When we saw lights from a farmhouse we decided we could stand no more of our Sikh friend. He was really disappointed and reluctantly bade us good-bye and good luck. Seeing our plight and state of fright, the kind farmers filled us up with bacon and eggs and provided a bed.

We reached Arusha the next morning. Arusha is in the exact centre of Kenya, Uganda and Tanganyika, and is exactly half-way between Cairo and Cape Town. We got stuck at Arusha, and as funds were running low, we decided to make use of the police station for the night. Take my advice, don't do anything so silly. We were given the use of the office belonging to the inspector. The floor was crawling with big black cock-roaches that had the horrifying habit of promenading over our faces all night.

Wednesday, and a Ford Zephyr, with two chaps just returning "up country" from "holidaying at the coast." We reached Nairobi without incident (?) around lunchtime. We stayed with friends and picked up a lift to Mombasa on Thursday morning in a cattle truck.

Although we didn't share our truck with any animals, it smelt to high heaven, so that when we dropped off at Kiboko, 100 miles from Nairobi, we smelt too. That night, sleeping in the petrol station, we were bitten to death by mosquitoes. Luckily, we had been taking our Paludrine.

We got a lift around lunchtime on Friday with a Government official and his wife and got stuck in the mud in a foot of water. Lofty and I, with the three-fingered salutes of Boy Scouts, did our good turn of the year.

We reached tropical Mombasa late in the afternoon, dirty and tired, but feeling all the world like great explorers. We had covered 2,000 miles for 10/-. Our only worry was that we still smelt like something out of a badly-kept farmyard, and we noticed how people in Mombasa walked on the other side of the road. We really did smell.

Saturday, and farewell to East Africa. Hitch-hiking had given us one of the best leaves ever. Now the return to Aden—Ugh!

* * *

[Commanding Officer's Note. — This story is absolutely genuine and has been typed in the author's own words. Lance-Corporal Barker is a regular technician and "Lofty" Patterson is a lineman. Barker is now serving in Bahrein].

Nuclear Warfare

By Lieutenant-Colonel A. R. Wythe

"I had just joined the Regiment," said the Adjutant, "and I thought I'd have a surprise Civil Defence alarm."

The President of the Board of Inquiry, a Gunner Major, leaned forward interestedly. "Did they tell you at Staff College that Regimental soldiers had to be kept right on their toes because they were liable to slack?"

"That's it," said the Adjutant.

"They always do," said the President. "When I joined my Regiment, I turned out the fire picquet at two a.m."

"I read my Standing Orders . . . " said the Adjutant.

"They went through the C.O.'s garden at a hard gallop."

"Oh yes . . . " said the Adjutant.

"Straight into the canal. The C.O. threw me after them."

"I read my Standing Orders," said the Adjutant.

"Which of course said that all ranks will read and understand them," said the President.

"Yes," said the Adjutant, eagerly.

"They always do, and there was a note on the outside, 'R.S.M. get these damned orders amended.'?"

"That's it," said the Adjutant.

There was a sympathetic silence. Captain Trumper, the senior member, coughed and made a note.

"The orders said," said the Adjutant loudly, "that the telephone operator, on being told where an atom bomb had fallen, would inform the persons listed below."

"Yes," prompted the President.

"So I rang the operator and said 'An atom bomb has fallen on the Quartermaster, inform everybody.'"

The Court looked at the Adjutant admiringly. "You certainly pressed the button there," said the President.

"It's what the orders *said*," said the Adjutant.

There was a pause. Captain Trumper leaned across: "Had you told the R S.M. you were having a surprise alarm."

"No," said the Adjuant, "I wanted it to be a complete surprise."

"And it certainly was," said the President, "especially to the Quartermaster."

* * *

Signalman Smith and the President weighed each other up.

"No doubt," said the President, "your mind is all a blank like concerning the day in question."

"It may help," said the President, "when I tell you that I am Garrison Field Officer over the week-end, and if there is any delay due to bad memory on the part of witnesses, I have no objection to passing time by further enquiries. All witnesses will, of course, have to be present. You see my point, Smith."

"Yessir." said Smith.

"Good," said the President. "Tell us what happened."

"I was on me switchboard," said Smith, "when the Adjutant's light came up. I plugged in, and the Adj. shouted 'there's an atom bomb on the Quartermaster, tell everybody.'"

"You immediately said 'wot' and rang in his ear," said the President, pleasantly.

"I did not," said Smith with dignity. "I'd 'eard no atom bomb, and I turned to Signalman Sugsby, 'oo 'appened to be in the exchange, after feeling ill on coal fatigues, and said 'The Adjutant is 'orf 'is nut.' I'd left me switch over, and the Adjutant 'eard. 'I'm not 'orf me nut,' 'e bawls, 'do as you're told and you're under arrest.'"

"You then read your list, I suppose," said Captain Trumper.

"Wot list," said Smith.

Lieutenant Hackett, the junior member, who all this time had avoided looking at the Adjutant, cleared his throat nervously.

"Now surely you remember a list of names which was given you by the last operator," said the President coaxingly.

"There weren't no list," Signalman Smith said, suspiciously. "I weren't given no list."

"All right," said the President, "what did you do then?"

"I informed everybody I could think of," said Smith. "I started with the town fire brigades. I told the main police station, Brigade 'eadquarters, the Town 'all, the 7th Tanks, the NAAFI Manager, 'alf, the locals on me board, and the Brigadier."

"Wot did 'e do," said the President.

"'e called me a blasted idiot," said Smith, "and told me to put 'im on to the C.O. Cor, 'e didn't 'alf carry on."

"Anything else," said the President.

"No sir, that's all I did," said Smith.

"Few men," said the President, "could have done more. You may leave us."

"Yessir," said Smith.

"We'll have some tea," said the President, "then see the Q.M."

* * *

"Well," said the President to Major and Quartermaster Flugle, "you had a rare old day over this lot, George."

The Quartermaster looked balefully at the Adjutant, who paled and fidgetted with his gloves.

"In all my forty-two years of service," began the Quartermaster.

"Quite," said the President soothingly. "If you could give us the exact details."

"I was counting socks at the time. O.C. 3 had drawn some while my back was turned. Suddenly the door flew open and a man in blue uniform trod on my hand. 'I'm the Senior Warden,' says, 'keep calm.' I began to explain who I was. He opened a window, said 'Shock case, Charlie,' and two men came in and tied me to a stretcher. The Warden pushed all my papers and ledgers on to the floor, sat at my desk, and said 'Don't you worry, mate.' They carried me outside, and there were fire engines and men all over my stores."

"And tanks?" said the President.

"They came later," said the Quartermaster, "and pushed over the oil stove, which caught fire."

* * *

"I've good news for you," said the C.O. to the Adjutant, who was well aware of what the C.O. had been studying.

"Sir," said the Adjutant.

"Forty quid," said the C.O., "and you're lucky you didn't have to pay four hundred."

"But it was what the order *said*," said the Adjutant.

"You'd better get those orders amended," said the C.O.

Obituaries

Lieutenant-Colonel B. H. House

Born 1897, commissioned 1916, retired 1938, recalled 1939, final retirement 1945. The story, in one sentence, of an English gentleman.

In fact, like many of his contemporaries, he started as a Second-Lieutenant in the Territorial Army in 1915 hoping for a short cut to active service. Parental influence, or common sense, put him instead to a regular commission after six months at the Royal Military College and to the 8th Hussars in 1916.

In 1918 he was serving in the Cavalry Corps Signal Squadron and in December of that year he was officially "Seconded" to Signal Service Royal Engineers. Rhine Army Signals, India, Mesopotamia, "F" Company S.T.C. Maresfield, occupied him until in April, 1923, the then Lieutenant House, transferred to Royal Signals.

After a year in 1st Divisional Signals at Aldershot he was appointed Adjutant, 51st Highland Divisional Signals (Temporary Captain). One of the Subalterns of that time writes:—

"I remember him well, as our Second Adjutant, 1926-30. This unit came into being a year or two after the end of the First World War and Colonel F. R. G. Forsyth, M.C., D.L., had been acting both as Adjutant and Commanding Officer. In those days the Territorial Army did not involve the amount of work now required by an Adjutant or other permanent staff, and many look back now with pleasure on the carefree days of the twenties. When Brian House came to the unit as Adjutant things were changing. There were, of course, only horses for movement of cable wagons, etc., as well as personnel, and Brian House had always been a keen horseman. One of the good things he did for the unit was use his skill as an army boxer in creating enthusiasm amongst all ranks. Many years after he had gone there was often quoted from his repertoire in the ring 'stand back—box on.'"

Brian House then went to Gibraltar as O.C. Signals for five years. Almost longer than anyone before or since (1930-35).

He returned to England to 1st Divisional Signals, attained Field Rank in 1936 and retired in 1938. He had not long to enjoy his leisure in his village, Alverstoke, in Hampshire, where he was born and where much later, he died.

In 1939 he served with 3rd Divisional Signals in the B.E.F. of that year, returning to England with the Division via Dunkirk.

By 1941 as Acting Colonel he was commanding 2 Corps Signals, later to "R" Corps Signals, later to 8 Corps Signals, as Commanding Officer in each case. Having "made" the two latter units he was relieved by a "younger man."

In 1943 he became D.C.S.O. Sussex and Surrey District, whence in 1945 his journey to his home was not of any great distance.

Post war he resumed his life as a country gentleman and it was recorded in the Hampshire Press that he had been prominent in the work of the Conservative and Unionist Association and in all those other "public duties" which still attach to a gentleman who lives in rural England.

He died on 14th February, 1962, and at his funeral at Alverstoke his Corps was represented by Major C. W. Ainsworth (30th Regiment).

As far as is known he had no near relatives. His contemporaries will remember him.

Men of his style are becoming fewer and England is the worse for lack of them.

Lieutenant-Colonel H. C. Carey-Thomas, 1908 to 1944

Thirty-six years is a long time and Carey-Thomas served very nearly continuously throughout this period. His first commission was in London District Signal Company, R.E.T.F. He ended the war in 1919, his last appointment being Assistant Director of Army Signals (equivalent C.S.O.), Headquarters, Western Command, Chester.

In 1920 he was appointed to a permanent commission in Royal Signals — Captain — and after a normal career of those days he went to R.A.R.O. in 1935 as C.S.O. Air Defence Formation, T.A.

In 1936 he was restored to the Establishment and served until 1939 in 1st and 2nd Anti-Aircraft Division, T.A.

During the Second World War he served mainly in Egypt, commanding 3 H.Q. Signals for a time and later in South Africa.

He was mentioned in despatches in 1916.

He died on 23rd January, 1962.

Sergeant J. O'Callaghan

Sergeant J. O'Callaghan, born 1st May, 1898, who enlisted in the 3rd Bn. Royal Irish Regiment on the 19th April, 1915, at Cork, was buried at Hipswell on the 21st March, 1962, with Military Honours.

"Paddy" had been with The Depot since 1958 and made many friends. Although he kept very much to himself, his company was often sought either for a yarn or invaluable advice such as can only be gleaned from years of soldiering.

There were 15 wreaths at the graveside, including one from the Signal Officer-in-Chief. The Regimental Association of the Royal Irish Regiment was represented by Major (Retd.) C. J. Murphy, who laid a wreath on their behalf. Major Murphy also enlisted in 1915.

In 1948 it was said of "Paddy": "With 34 years' service, he requires no supervision. Steady old soldier." He has been a steady old soldier ever since, and when interviewed by a Resettlement Board last year, said that he wouldn't require re-settling just now as he was re-enlisting for another year. The Army was his life.

Mr. H. W. Taylor (R.S.M., Signal Service, Royal Engineers,

currently Sergeant Pensioner, Royal Hospital Chelsea) writes:

It is with deepest regret that I heard of the sudden death of Sergeant 'Paddy' O'Callaghan.

Whilst guest of the Warrant Officers and Sergeants of 11th Regiment (Depot), at Chester in 1960 and Caterick, 1961, 'Paddy' was my guide, taking me to various parades, schools, workshops, etc. I spent many pleasant hours in his company. He was to have visited me at the Royal Hospital this year. The Corps has lost a grand old soldier."

Regiments

1st Regiment

"Plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose," to borrow a quotation from The Journal. The changes since our last notes have been numerous, but the Regiment seems to carry on in much the same way. New arrivals include W.O.I D. Duncan, Staff Sergeant Kreckler and Sergeant Downey, in the Sergeants' Mess, and Major Bonnart in the Officers' Mess. Sergeants Murray and Smith have left us recently, as well as three distinguished members of the Regimental Football Team, Corporal Faithfull, Lance-Corporal Lister and Signalman McBeath, whom we wish all the best in their new civilian way of life. We managed, however, to get into the finals of the Morrison Cup, but lost to 22nd Regiment by 3 goals to nil.

The Regiment took part, for the first time, in the Divisional Ski Meeting, where we entered an enthusiastic, if somewhat inexperienced, team. Mention must be made of Corporal J. D. Currie, who, as a first-year novice, came second in the Novices' Slalom. The team took part in all the team events—the Patrol Race, the 4 x 10km. Langlauf Relay, the Open Downhill and Slalom—and Lieutenant Barnes and Signalman Smith ran in the 15km. cross-country individual. Although we did not come away with any cups, the team by no means disgraced itself, and with more training and experience, hopes to do better next time.

We are now starting our athletics training for the Regimental Athletic Meeting in May, prior to the Royal Signals Meeting in July. A keen body of would-be sailors was addressed by the Commanding Officer last week, and shown films of sailing on the Baltic. Applications to join the Regimental Sailing Club came rolling in—had the shot of the girls' band in Korsar anything to do with it?—and there are rumours of potential trainees tying running bowlines with spun yarn on aerial masts. We are all looking forward to the arrival of *Pegasus*, in Kiel, in May.

On the more serious side, the Regiment was committed operationally during the Hamburg floods in February, to provide communications to an improvised Flood H.Q. in Hamburg. This story is told by Major Tighe, and published on another page.

The exercise season is with us, but the Spring, alas, did not come with it. The first "Cygnet" was consequently somewhat cool, and tempers were not improved by one regimental column waiting for a second one in adjoining streets in a small town south of Herford. It it had not been for a Lieutenant-Colonel acting as D.R., they might well still be there. The second "Cygnet" clicked much better, but we could have done with our white camouflage suits! We all got there and back, though, in spite of snow and ice, which says a lot for the standard of driving.

And now—ah for some adventure training in the sunshine of a Norwegian fjord!

Lions in 9th Regiment

9th Regiment can trace its origin back 38 years, having been formed as 2 Wireless Company in Palestine from a number of wireless sections remaining in the Middle East after the First World War. The Unit (under various names) has served continuously in the Middle East since then. The Regiment (then 2 Wireless) Regiment) moved from Palestine to Cyprus in 1947 and is now the longest continuously serving Unit in Cyprus.

It was natural, therefore, when the Corps Committee provided a grant for the Regiment to purchase some decorative silver, that it should commemorate its service in the Middle East with a piece of silver representative of the historic background of Cyprus and Palestine. The piece chosen was a copy in silver of the heraldic lion of the House of Lusignan, which had connections in the Middle Ages with both Cyprus and the Holy Land.

The Lusignans had been Kings of Jerusalem for many years before they were displaced in 1187 by Saladin's capture of Jerusalem. When Richard I of England (Coeur de Lion), leading Christendom's Third Crusade in 1191 to recapture the Holy City from the Muslims, was diverted to Cyprus by storms he captured the island. Even in those days he found the islands an expensive luxury to hold, so he transferred it to one of his Knights, Guy de Lusignan, the displaced King of Jerusalem, as compensation for the loss of his Holy Land crown. The successors of Guy de Lusignan ruled Cyprus for some 300 years, during which period the island became one of the powerful trading influences of the Middle East and reached the peak of its glory. When the last of the Lusignan line died in 1489, the island was annexed by the Republic of Venice (Shakespeare's "Othello" recalls this). Eighty years of Venetian neglect led to Turkish conquest. The island remained under Turkish dominance until 1878, when it came under British influence.

The Lusignan Lion can still be seen in Cyprus in the Old City of Famagusta and on a coat-of-arms on the walls of Kolossi Castle. In addition, a pair of these Lions (see photograph) now grace the dinner table of the Officers' Mess of 9th Regiment.

"A thing of beauty is a joy for ever"

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11th Regiment (Depot)

February is usually a quiet month, a sort of post shock period after the spending spree, when most of us are content to take things easy; the weather being an excellent excuse for people to stay at home and golfers to stay in the club house.

Mad March winds arrived on the 10th/11th of February which made staying indoors almost as hazardous as going out. Many a friendly "Tree to Tree" line crossing is no more and the old Field Cable training routes look quite different—speaking as one who knew most of the trees in the Hunton, Hawkeswell, East Whitton, Bellerby and Scotton areas.

Other hazards were occasioned soon afterwards by St. Valentine. Whoever wanted to spend some time alone with me on a desert island has not pursued the matter. Heigh ho! Lackaday! She probably heard that I intend to spend next winter on and around Polynesia. However, one or two local dreams seemed to have had every chance of coming true after the various Regimental dances held in that week.

Recruits of the Month

The best recruit on the pass-off parade held on the 14th February was Signalman R. P. D. Lloyd, aged 19. He comes from one of the less salubrious areas of Cardiff "very near Tiger Bay" and joined the Army in order to change his environment and get away from the temptations which prevail in such places.

His family had no Service connections yet he belonged to the Army Cadet Force (The Welch Regt.) and later served for two years with the R.A.S.C. (T.A.) as a driver.

During his first week here, he went absent but by his subsequent behaviour has obviously made good and received the support of his instructors and Officers.

He wishes to train as a Line Technician and achieve a useful standard as a soccer player. Good luck!

Commonwealth Recruit

Signalman Luis, R.A., 28th February, 1962
Best Recruit

On the 28th February yet another recruit from the Commonwealth came out on top. He is Signalman R. A. Luis, aged 23, from Seremban, Malaya. His father is Principal of the Government School in Seremban but Luis spent five years at St. John's Institute, Kuala Lampur, where he passed the G.C.E. by obtaining six credits.

He gave an interesting reason for joining the Army, apart from its attractions of travel, pay and opportunity, "As there are five brothers and four sisters, one less at home is appreciated."

He is a first class hockey player, having represented the Unit in every match and is undoubtedly a potential Corps player.

Good luck anyway and we need Radio Technicians with good academic backgrounds who are in for nine years.

Courses Wing. This month sees the end of an era, with the last of the Royal Signals Sergeants' Courses (No. 24) passing off. The photograph of this historic course (page 126) includes some notable characters, not the least of which were the instructors: Staff Sergeant Warren, Major M. W. Jordan, W.O.II King, Staff Sergeant Cushen. They were a good course, scoring five "B" Gradings. Being fairly representative of our senior N.C.O.s today, they indicate a comfortingly bright future for Royal Signals.

On the other hand, they were a motley shower, revealing unsuspected talents on social occasions, from Russian dancing to accordion playing and a most entertaining standard of football, the highlights of which were probably "Steamroller" Phillips and "Cannonball" Le Quesne, whose transfer fee declared as being one 3d. stamp, rapidly diminished in value as the game progressed.

The Sergeants' Course have been running for nearly five years and during that period have handled just under 400 Sergeants, of which less than a dozen failed to qualify. Various changes have taken place, many of them during the regime of Major M. Sinclair, predecessor to the present O.C. Courses Wing (Major K. W. Jordan). The interesting and popular period spent on First Aid and Civil Defence Rescue at Guisborough and the R.A.F. Day, are still with us, but the Sergeants' initiative tests were hastily terminated in 1959, following agitated calls from the War Office. History has it that one pair of Student Sergeants were given the task, "Say good evening to your O.C. from the television screen on Saturday night." This mission was successfully accomplished on the Ted Ray Show, much to the consternation of an awful lot of people. Apart from exciting the War Office, this event even disturbed the imperturbable W.O.II A. E. Pugh, whose lively and colourful lectures will be remembered by many old students. They no doubt will wish W.O.II A. E. Pugh "Happy Landings" on his posting to B.A.O.R.

CLOTHING is still urgently required by the WELFARE SECTION

Recruits from the Commonwealth—4

MALAYA AND SINGAPORE

Malaya and Singapore are now providing recruits for the Corps.

In order to enlist in the British Army, Malayan recruits normally have to pay their own fares to U.K. and this gives an indication of their keenness to become members of H.M. Forces. At the present time there are three recruits from Malaya and Singapore in training with this Regiment.

Signalman Ali Abdullah, 22 years old, comes from Pahang in North Malaya and came originally to the U.K. to study in London. He had already belonged to the Cadets while at school and after 10 months in London he decided to join the Army. He would like to become a cipher operator. Signalman Abdullah is a good all-round sportsman and has already represented the Regiment at badminton.

Signalman Luis, from Seremban, who features in the notes from 11th Signal Regt. this month has maintained the high standard of Commonwealth recruits by gaining the award of Best Recruit of his intake.

Signalman Hoe Teck Swee, aged 19, comes from Singapore. After leaving school where he was a member of the Cadets, he joined the R.N.V.R. He started work as a trainee motor mechanic but became dissatisfied with the training facilities and low pay associated with his trade. He decided to join the Army and paid his own passage to U.K. to enlist. He takes a keen interest in sport, has also represented the Regiment at badminton and possesses a yellow belt for judo.

All our recruits from Malaya and Singapore have impressed everyone by their cheerfulness and determination and have mixed very well with the others. They seem to thoroughly enjoy military training and sports and like all Commonwealth recruits they are most enthusiastic and loyal.

We welcome them and wish them all the best of luck during their service with the Corps.

No. 24 ROYAL SIGNALS SERGEANTS COURSE
Sergeants Cain, Snell, Phillips, Morse, Lewis, Staff Sergeants Singer, Judge, Sergeants Thompson, Le Quesne, Otley, Elliot, Waugh, Snow, Jones, Leak, Staff Sergeants Cage, Brice, Warren, Major K. W. Jordan, W.O.II King, Staff Sergeants Cushen, Armistead, Sergeant Noble, "Maggie"

Lieutenant M. A. J. Mulcahy (right) delivering left hook to Sergeant J. Chalmers, R.E.M.E.

Sport

Small Bore. In the rifle match to count for the Mackworth Trophy, the Unit team came third with a score of 1323. Lance-Corporal Wade put up the best score with 93 out of 100.

Cross Country. We did not do too well in the event to count towards the a/n Trophy, but there were notable individual performances. Sergeant Spooner joined the team at short notice and finished tenth. Signalman Galley finished eleventh and Signalman Nicolson seventeenth. These two were recruits with one week's service—a most promising start.

No. 1 Squadron—the Recruit Squadron—provided most of the personnel for this event.

Soccer. The Unit team is to meet 6 Bn. R.A.O.C. in the Command soccer final in April.

Five members of the Unit have been selected for the Corps side in a match against Durham University, Corporal Lockwood, Lance-Corporal Cockerill, Signalmen Johnson, Wilkie, Quinn.

Boxing. Northern Command Individual Championships.

In the preliminary bouts held in morning, Lieutenant M. A. J. Mulcahy knocked out Trooper Shepherd of the 4/7 Dragoons and Lance-Corporal Thomas won his fight on points. This brought them into the finals.

Lieutenant Mulcahy met Lance-Corporal Chalmers of the R.E.M.E. in the light middleweight class. It was an extremely well fought contest, neither contestant giving ground right up to the final bell. Lieutenant Mulcahy won on points.

Two entries, two champs!

Badminton. On 1st March the Unit "A" team beat 150 Provost Company by four rubbers to nil and now stand second in the league.

Administration Net. The 2355 hours Sunday train from Kings Cross to Catterick Camp is discontinued. Passengers for camp must catch the 2345 hours and change at Darlington.

A special diesel leaves Darlington at 0535 hours Monday mornings and arrives in camp at 0614 hours.

The 2350 hours from Darlington stops at Catterick Bridge and Military Transport is provided for the journey to camp centre at 2d. a head.

* * *

National Service Personnel continue to arrive late for release. This month Group 60-05, one man arrived the day after he was due for release—an improvement on January.

* * *

Personnel posted in for discharge under Q.R.'s 55 Para (xix) (a)—"Services No Longer Required"—are arriving a little prematurely as far as this Unit is concerned. There should be no delay in getting these people out of the way, yet because personal documents are arriving up to a week late these people become a nuisance to themselves, the public, the R.M.P.s and to us.

Some Units are in such a hurry to get rid of all trace of such men that when the documents do arrive, they are not completed.

* * *

There have been several cases lately of A.B.s 108—Discharge Books for Regulars—arriving almost blank with neither character assessment nor testimonial.

* * *

Please ensure that all personnel are in possession of their A.B.s 64 Pt II at all times.

* * *

A Royal Signals enthusiast recently tried to sell a copy of the "Blue Book" to our Q.M.S.I., A.P.T.C.

There is a story here somewhere, 'tis thought, with a plot.

14th REGIMENT

R.H.Q. Bit by bit the old "homestead" is taking on an inhabited look. A self-help face-lift, some sign boards and a flagstaff all help to improve the appearance.

Later on, our gardener's sterling work on lawns and flower beds should produce a riot of colour. Gradually, too, our staff is building up and settling in, but there's still a great deal to do before the machine is working smoothly.

Lieutenant-Colonel W. E. Lyske has just returned from an Electronic Warfare Course and Captain R. T. Martin is at this moment gracing the Yorkshire Moors while he brushes up on "what makes it tick." In his absence, Captain R. Holmes, due to return to the School of Signals in April, is keeping an eye on the Adjutant's "in" tray when he is not busy briefing Captain (T.O.T) D. Barry about the engineering intricacies of T.R.C., Boddington.

1 Squadron. Apart from coping with the usual crowd of visitors and trying to solve the problem of trade conversion, military proficiency and upgrading, while furnishing the T.R C. with numbers required to maintain continuous watch, life is placid and uneventful.

Seriously though, latest information about the foreseeable manpower situation is causing some misgiving and not a few headaches, particularly in the technician field. However, as Confucious says, "It will be all the same in a thousand years."

Our soccer and hockey teams continue to battle away, the former with a great deal of success in the R.A.F. Innsworth League, the latter with less spectacular results, but much honest endeavour. Very few young men nowadays wield the lakhri and so it is left to the old Koi Hoi's to do their stuff.

2 Squadron. Major Salisbury and Captain Reggler have completed their work with us and proceeded to Singapore. We hope that the "Hot House" effect of Droitwich has proved useful as an acclimatising process.

Major Parsonage arrived at the end of January, closely followed by Captain Steel, both from Singapore.

Our new O.C. has made rapid contact with the Droitwich Cadet Forces, as a result of which 20 boys, escorted by Lieutenant Williamson and his staff, were invited to the Station, taken in hand by Mr. Whines, the Station Technical Officer, and instructed in the work of Signals.

After being impressed with the equipment, and permitted to operate the Teleprinter, they were given supper in the dining room, and later despatched home, with rounded tummies and half asleep.

Thanks are due to the members of the Squadron who assisted in making the Cadets welcome.

We welcome Major Logan, a retired officer, as R.O.III and hope his admin. problems are little ones.

3 Squadron. Despite unprecedented winds, frost and snow, work on the reconstruction of the Aerial Field and Receiver Station has proceeded apace. All our towers have been re-formed in a new and purposeful pattern, and stand erect and proud at 150ft.; and the aerial party, led by Sergeant B. H. Lee, Corporal A. Watson and Lance-Corporal E. E. Page, have displayed considerable determination and aptitude in completing the renewal of aerials and feeders well within the target date. The receiver hall itself is also well on the way, and following on the belated departure of the contractors, the COMCAN Installation Team, under the direction of Captain T. T. McVeigh, R.E.M.E., W.O.II F. of S. P. Harvey and W.O.II C. G. Curtis, has made notable progress with the re-installation of equipments and control line facilities. So it is with a sigh of relief and some satisfaction we turn to receive the R.A.F. Detachment (Central Communication Centre) who join us this week. We extend a hearty welcome to W.O. R. Y. Ford, R.A.F. i/c Detachment, who is already with us, and his team who are joining during the next few days. We feel that this is an auspicious occasion in the history of Bampton, and is a practical example of co-operation between the Services and a step towards an integrated fixed communication system. May their stay with us be a happy and permanent one.

Interest has been revived in .22 small bore shooting as a preliminary to the range practices and Regimental and District rifle meetings in the offing. The Squadron has entered the Regimental, Sub-District, and Southern Command small bore competitions, and is looking for good results. R.Q.M.S. J. E. Cox and W.O.II C. G. Curtis are very active in this field, and we hear that Sergeant D. J. Gill (R.E.M.E.) and Corporal W. A. Hunt are also producing some very good results. In addition, we are pleased to record that we have Lance-Corporal E. M. Ford competing in the "Army 40."

Congratulations to Corporal D. J. Wright, who was recently awarded first place in the Junior N.C.O.s' Regimental Drill and Duties Course, No. 22.

It seems that the slogan "Join the Army and see the World" still has some foundation. Postings out this month have sent (with our best wishes, of course), Corporal K. E. Hill to Aden; Lance-Corporal E. E. Page to Cyprus; Signalman R. Benwell to B.A.O.R.; and south, but not so far, Corporal J. A. Grainger, to join S.R.D.E. Establishment at Christchurch. On the other hand, Bampton has been very pleased to welcome new regular arrivals in the form of W.O.II J. J. Bingham, R Q.M.S., Corporals D. V. Hall and G. J. Izzo, and Lance-Corporal F. M. Sage.

Almost Stop Press News: "Very recent arrivals: Corporal and Mrs. A. Watson, a son, Alexander Hamish; Signalman and Mrs. G. F. Fuoco, a son, Jefferson Richard Michael; Signalman and Mrs. J. Adam, a son, John.

4 Squadron. There are only two men and a boy left to wind up the party, but we hope to produce a "Vale" for the next edition.

16th REGIMENT

Those of our German staff who remember the hot, sunny days in early March in Germany in 1945 (as no doubt some of you do too) are just as displeased with the present spell of cold snowy weather as those who are going to be here in March, 1965.

However, the loss of our barber has led to the increased growth of local protection against the cold. This raises the question is there a closed season when the soldier is not hunted for his fur.

Carnival time is here, and most enjoyable it is too. It is very pleasant to see people enjoying good humoured entertainment and jollity with a carefree attitude that defies depression. In Krefeld the social calendar of the local people has been very full and carnival costume dresses have been well supported.

We had an informal visit recently from Commander, Rhine Area, and as it was not an inspection, we showed him all over the barracks.

The sports teams have turned out in some pretty horrid weather of late, and although they are not likely to head the league tables, they reward the support of the red-nosed spectators stamping up and down the touch lines.

The ski-ing detachment is back from Winterberg and they thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Second-Lieutenant Garton, our National Service Officer, took part in ski patrol and survival training, and as a special concession, he will be permitted to tell gripping yarns about it to all officers in the Regiment with less than 20 years' service. That should keep him quiet. Incidentally, we are still running the primary tape relay station, H.Q., B.A.O.R. Signal Centre, two other signal centres, and a heavy radio troop, among other things, so those who are keen on signalling, as well as social and sporting activities, will find a well-balanced arrangement of work and play here. We look forward to seeing you.

THE GURKHA REGIMENT

Since our last notes, Christmas and all its festivities have come and gone. Father Christmas made a perfect landing by parachute in a rubber plantation and then proceeded to astonish the children by covering the distance to the party—about a quarter-mile—in one minute, albeit he arrived somewhat red in the face. The L.A.D. were not amused at having to recover his "body" from the top of a rubber tree in pouring rain.

Like all other Signal Units, we have to endure an Annual Administrative Inspection, but this year, somewhat to our surprise, our inspection took the unusual form of testing the signalling efficiency of the Unit in an emergency, our mounting of the Divisional Headquarters Queen's Birthday Parade counting as our ceremonial parade. Needless to say, this went off with only minor hitches such as smoke and shellac smells pouring from a standby transmitter and other equipment breakdowns at most inopportune moments. The realism of the test was carried to the extent of the Regiment having to run road S.D.S. services throughout Malaya instead of trains and guards being placed on exchanges. In some cases it was several days before the latter were dismounted, as the outstations were overlooked in the relief of getting over the inspection.

18th REGIMENT

We have a party of civilians under instruction just now, and later they will be employed in the T.R.C. Ten of these are young ladies. The pleasant odour they emanate throughout our training area has been the source of much guessing from our connoisseurs of perfumes, etc. But it's all in good fun.

Captain Nealon, our C.I., has departed for a trek up Malaya to Terendak Camp, Malacca. Before he left, he gathered what he thought to be the necessary supplies. If there are any reports of large dust storms on the Malayan Peninsula during the next week, they can be attributed to foot powder emanating from the lace holes of his jungle boots. If he uses all he has taken, the whole of Greater Malaysia will be covered with it.

Early in the month three of our members put in a noteworthy appearance on the field of sport. Staff Sergeant Heaps, Sergeant F. O'Brien and Corporal Walsh turned out for the Serangoon Social Club soccer team. Their opponents were the ladies of the aforementioned club. Whilst our N.C.O.s performance failed to arouse comment, their attire certainly did. Staff Sergeant Heaps wore a yellow flowered maternity smock, which was very becoming. The neckline had to be ripped to accommodate his head. This caused someone to remark that "those garments are designed to accommodate swelling in another portion of the anatomy." Sergeant O'Brien was very chic in a blue flowered flared skirt, which flattered his rather trim figure. Corporal Walsh wore a firm fitting yellow dress, which gave him a strong resemblance to the late Arthur Lucan. His immaculate ensemble was completed with basketball boots and droopy socks, both of which were secured with string. As can well be imagined, the ladies won by a comfortable margin, and the local populace are firmly convinced that the British are mad.

S.T.C. Blues

From Hong Kong far across the sea
I found my way to S.T.C.
Where I, to my amazement found, that waves don't wet but
make a sound
That volts push amps and ohms oppose
That gassing cells affect the nose
That likes oppose unlikes attract
Could sex be getting in the act
This science lark defeats me.

The morse comes out oh what a noise
That demon up there just enjoys
The looks of anguish on our faces
Whilst all the while his damned wrist races
The hieroglyphics on my page will send him in a frightful
rage
You're thick as . . . he'll loudly bawl
This eagle eye can see my all
Oh Bugis Street where art thou.

I work out resistance and what current flowed
I even have calculated how much lent owed
In spite of such efforts and abstention from drink
I've finally developed a marked Tetrode kink
Faraday's Theory and Maxwell's Rule
The things I've forgotten make me such a fool
The year of the Tiger I'm planning to study
I've drunk so much of it my eyes have gone bloody
A week with Staff Alfred would put me quite straight
But drill and Staff Alfred are two things I hate.

At hockey and rugby I've turned out to show
That even in Hong Kong their value we know
On Dover Road's fourth green my putting was sweet
But I've done it so well I've got athletic feet
This sport lark is healthy of this I can vouch
I've done so much of it each muscle says ouch
The cure to my sorrows is drown them in drink
But I find when I do this my brain just won't think.

Batteries, portable, which weigh half-a-ton
The person who named them just did it for fun
Acid to water he yelled as he strode
If you mix it vice versa your face will corrode
My brain's sulphated, my minds in a whirl,
Oh when will I see my Cheongsam clad girl?
In spite of my efforts in this learned throng
I still find dear Suzie my answers are Wong.

A whiff of sulphuric cures hangovers well and I've got a
secret I'm itching to tell
In spite of your teaching I've got but one aim
And that's to write GD alongside my name.

RELUCTANT STUDENT

22nd REGIMENT

The New Year brought many changes to 22nd Regiment. Lieutenant-Colonel J. Knowles, M.B.E., who commanded us since our formation as a Corps Signal Regiment, in September, 1959, left us to take up a new appointment at the Training Brigade in Catterick. In January we welcomed to Lippstadt Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. A. R. Wythe, from Cyprus.

Colonel Knowles' departure will be keenly felt by those who worked with him towards the development of this Regiment, which was formed by the integration of 244 Squadron (Air Support), 2 Squadron (7th Regiment) and 218 Squadron (AGRA Field). We extend our best wishes to him and Mrs. Knowles, and take this opportunity of thanking them for all that they have done for the Regiment and wish them every happiness in their new surroundings.

If progress is change, then the Regiment has made much progress, since was last reported we have indeed had many changes. In December, Major D. Galbraith retired, and in February, our Quartermaster, Major N. Coslett left for a new appointment in Singapore. New arrivals include Major P. J. C. Lloyd from 28th Regiment, Major J. A. King from Libya, Captain T. E. D. Baxter from 2nd Regiment (who has taken up the appointment of Adjutant from Captain J. T. Treglown, who has become O.C. 3 Squadron, and Captain A. J. Welch from H.Q, 2 A.T.A.F. (a welcome addition to our hockey team). Second-Lieutenants M. Cornforth and D. Henning have joined us on their first appointment. Our congratulations to W.O.II Peberdy on his recent promotion and appointment as S.S.M. of 3 Squadron.

Training.—Much effort, in competition with the volume of paper work produced by R.H.Q., has been put to individual training during the winter months. Upgrading courses and conversion courses have competed strongly with the demands of Regimental Sports Officers and those who have succeeded in slipping away to Silberhutte to learn the art of ski-ing and winter warfare. The reconciliation of all these demands has been resolved in a masterly fashion by our Second-in-Command, Major P. Flear, notably assisted by Lieutenant Robinson, not forgetting Staff Sergeant Cleaver who, despite the hazards, quietly and efficiently runs the training school.

Sport.—On the hockey field, we fought our way to the 4th Divisional finals of the Army Cup, losing to 45th Regiment, R.A., 2—1, in a very hard-fought final, which was played in appalling weather conditions. After the game both teams were congratulated on their good sportsmanship and hard play; it was an excellent game which could have gone either way.

On 10th February we lost to 7th Regiment 2—0 at home in the semi-finals of the Morrison Cup, another excellent game; the 7th team have our congratulations, and we hope they are successful in the finals.

In the field of football, we reached the final of the Morrison Cup, which was played on Friday, 23rd February, at Bunde. It was a very cold, windy day with a hard surface on the pitch. 1st Regiment, our opponents, began to attack straight away, and the play moved from end to end for some time, until a miskick by a 1st Regiment defender gave an easy chance to Sergeant Grierson, who put us in the lead.

In the second half we were more in command and appeared to be gaining strength; Signalman Pontin pulled a high ball on to his foot and scored a good goal from about six yards, which put us two up. 1st Regiment never gave up, but we were now very confident. Signalman Pontin scored once more, in the closing minutes of the match, to make the final score 3—0.

In reaching the final we defeated 4th Regiment, 4—1; 2nd Regiment, 4—1; 28th Regiment, 5—1.

The leading scorer for our team was Signalman Pontin, who scored nine goals, in spite of missing the first game.

24th REGIMENT

The main point of interest, since last month's notes, has been the placing on a firm basis of the Regimental Branch of Royal Signals Association. We are grateful to our Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel P. D. Vaigncourt-Strallen, for his great interest, through which the Branch has a "home" in which to meet—both for business and social occasions—where the younger members can attend with the more senior, and take an active part.

At the initial meeting—when the Committee was elected, the 24 members in attendance undertook to each bring one Association member or potential member to the next meeting. This, held on 7th March, resulted in an attendance of 53, and further resulted in five new Annual and 13 Life Members.

On 9th March we were pleased to welcome the Catterick and District Branch to our Unit, where they held their monthly meeting in the Unit Branch club room.

We hope that these activities will stimulate interest in the Association and its work and encourage the younger members to play an active part in its affairs in unit branches while serving and continue their interest when they eventually revert to "civvy street."

By the time these notes appear, Sergeant P. W. Weatherall will have taken the final hurdle of the matrimonial stakes. His bride, who is Miss Anne Howett, of Scotton, has been a member of the Corps Church of St. Martin's for some 18 years, and it is appropriate that the wedding is to take place at that church. We wish them all they wish themselves.

Captain L. A. Grace has joined us from 8th Regt. and has found a niche in 2 Sqn. He has also landed the job of Regimental Swimming and Water Polo Officer.

The Regiment congratulates our "old enemies" of local hockey, the School, on reaching the quarter-final of the Army Cup, and wish them well on their trip to Northern Ireland in the quest for a place in the semi-final.

30th Regiment

For some time it had been known that he was threatening to go and there had been official confirmation that he was, indeed, to go but it was a future event that no one took too seriously. However, it has now happened and the Regiment is very much the poorer because of it for Lieutenant-Colonel J. R. Piddington, M.C., Commanding Officer of this Regiment from 21st August, 1959, until 22nd February, 1962, has relinquished command on promotion and appointment to the staff of the Ministry of Aviation.

For a Regiment with such well known connections it was altogether appropriate that the Commanding Officer should go on a swan and the photograph illustrates how this was done at a memorable ceremony on 16th February, 1962. A motorcade formed by all the Officers and senior ranks of the Regiment, with some of the wives, escorted the Commanding Officer and Mrs. Piddington round the perimeter road in Blandford Camp, finally depositing them with due ceremonial at their residence.

The departure of the pre-eminent member of a Regiment always signals the end of an era. It has been a very gainful one for the Regiment and all ranks combine to wish Colonel and Mrs. Piddington all happiness and success in their new home and role.

On the 20th February, 1962, the G.O.C.-in-C., Southern Command, Lieutenant-General Sir Robert Bray, K.C.B., C.B., D.S.O., visited the Regiment and lunched with the Officers.

No further direct news has been available from Staff Sergeant R. C. Shaw and Corporal T. J. McCormack who formed the radio section of the Tristan da Cunha expedition. However, it is known that morse communication has been satisfactory between Tristan and the Royal Navy Radio Station in Cape Town and that a voice circuit between Tristan and Gough Island has been working on a short schedule. Both these links have been set up using SR C11/R210 at Tristan. The geological work in Tristan is nearly complete and the party is due to return in late March. Staff Sergeant Shaw and Corporal McCormack have now the pleasant prospect of a leisurely sea voyage home from Cape Town in a luxury liner.

New arrivals recently have been the forerunners of a new Squadron in the Regiment. They include Lieutenant L. W. Moran, formerly of 7th Regt. and Lieutenant J. G. M. McLuckie. Of the seniors only Sergeants A. D. Falconer and C. Coverley have so far arrived.

In the games of winter the Regiment has had steady if not notable success. The football team, under the coaching of W.O.II M. J. P. Giles, has scored a lot of goals; the rugger team, under W.O.II Doonan, has held its own against strong opposition, while the hockey team, under Captain D. H. Briggs, has had a full season with times of high success. Captain J. N. Taylor played rugby for the Army on several occasions and has since been on the verge of achieving a full cap. He watches the health of the current Army hooker with morbid interest. Lieutenant McLuckie is congratulated on being selected to play for the Dorset County hockey team.

The C.O. and Mrs. Piddington enjoy their last "Swan-Upping" ceremony at Blandford Camp

Staff Sergeant A. R. Hill, Corporal T. Peake, Lance Corporals N. McKay, C. Clements, J. Crawley, F. Worrall, J. Hudson and P. Jones, who formed the Quarter Guard at the visit of the G.O.C.-in-C. Southern Command.

SQUADRONS

204 SQUADRON

Now that the threat of prolonged ice, snow and frost is gone, the Squadron is preparing its deck chairs and transistor radios for the summer exercises. Having had two abominable "summers" running, we should now get a good one, and Lance-Corporal G. L. Cox must wait another year for his ski-ing. No more will his eyes light up at the first flimsy snow flake that alights on the square. Six members of the Squadron went to Austria for two weeks in January to slide down a few hills on their bottoms. They came back, not sunburnt from ski-ing but pale and wan from the night life offered by the little Tyrolean village of Ehrwald. They also came back just in time for the first exercise of the year. A little thing called, quite rightly, "Ice Jaunt." The one compensating feature was that there were others who were much colder and wetter than we were. Soon after that the first Brigade H.Q. exercise took place. We left barracks in good order at 4 a.m. in cold, pouring rain. The rain changed to snow just as the first move from our wet, boggy wood was taking place. It snowed on and off all day, never quite covering the ground. Just as it got dark the whole lot froze up, and the thought of all the vehicles sliding around the Ruhr on the proposed Driving Competition (at night) so horrified the Brigade Major that it was decided to convoy home. This we did, sideways most of the way, without a single accident. We have always said that the Squadron drives better in its sleep. Sergeant C. W. Owen, who drove a Saracen, said he'd never sleep again. And he doesn't want to drive a Saracen again, either modified, remodified or unmodified.

Our three spanking new Land Rovers have arrived, and Lieutenant M. E. G. Chandler is busy making them unrecognisable with forests of aerials. The O.C. and the Second-in-Command have bagged one each to the envy of Brigade H.Q. Signalman E. Greenwood has fitted some plush carpets and their trailers have been modified by Lance-Corporal E. Evans to take the kitchen sink. We are now experimenting with hot and cold running water.

The Saracens are going away to be remodified again, this time for the last time. The armoured one-tonners are being interior decorated by Lance-Corporal F. B. Haines, and all Operators must either have flat topped heads or be under five and a half feet tall in order to sit inside. It is nevertheless a tremendous improvement on the soap box we used to sit on.

Alpha Troop asked if they could use a sports afternoon for a

trip to the local police force a few weeks ago. After being shown the cells and procedures for catching criminals, they decided that honesty pays. They enjoyed the trip so much that others were organised, and Friday afternoons are now written off for visits to Industrial Museums and the Airport. The latter visit required a hasty issue of a ball and chain per man. They wanted to go to the Persil Factory, but the Persil people said that they really only put on demonstrations for housewives, the people who used it. If only they could have seen the Administrative Inspection preparations!

The National Servicemen who are remaining as paid guests have taken their good fortune extremely well. We are astonished to discover that those who were not retained reckoned that if their mates were to stay, then everyone should stay. Such Esprit de N.S. Corps is not found every day. Only a few are left now, but we shall do our best to see that they are entertained well while still with us.

Lance-Corporal Evans has taken over the Canoe Club started by Corporal Bryan, who has recently left the Squadron to our

regret. Corporal Bryan's talent as a sign writer left little to be desired, and the Squadron signs were works of art. His canoes did not quite touch water, but Lance-Corporal Evans will put that to rights when the ice breaks. We have had a few suggestions about a water borne radio troop, but feel that the War Office might be suspicious about the write-off of a water-logged C11. Nevertheless we have a few ideas that we'd like to try out, and given reasonable weather, troop trials will start at Mohne See this summer.

Ex-Apprentice Sergeant R. W. Smith and Lance Corporal D. A. Pace in the Workshop

219 SQUADRON

A lot has happened since last we appeared in THE WIRE; as usual we have welcomed a great many visitors. Chief among them was the C.S.O. NEARELF, Brigadier C. T. Honeybourne, O.B.E., who spent two days with us in December. As well as inspecting the Squadron, Brigadier Honeybourne went with the O.C. to Wheelus Air Base where he spent an afternoon touring the signals installations, pursued by industrious photographers from American P.R.

In February we were asked to look after a Royal Fleet Auxiliary over from Malta R.A.F.. *Sea Salvor*. The ship's company seemed to enjoy themselves and we noticed the officers continually wore dark glasses after a party arranged for them on their second evening. They refused a challenge to a friendly football game but accepted an invitation to a Squadron social evening. Some confusion was caused by the ship having to move from one side of the harbour to the other in the middle of the night; the crew, ashore, were disconcerted; the R.M.P. suspected theft; Corporal Taylor mourned the loss of the telephone which he had installed on the bridge.

We welcomed the football team from 15th Regiment which came over to play in the Near East final. Most of us watched them beat the Royal Scots very convincingly 3-nil. Our draughty barrack-rooms must have seemed pretty rough after the luxurious quarters of 15th Regiment in Cyprus. Lieutenant Barrett continues to organise football for the area and was delighted with the 15th Regiment's victory, as were we all.

Our own football team is not as good as last year but we managed to finish third in the league, which was good considering the number of players we had lost. Among these is Corporal P. Blakelock who has gone as a Sergeant to the Junior Tradesmen's Regiment at Rhyl. We shall miss him both as a sportsman and as a radio operator.

Brigadier C. T. Honeybourne, O.B.E. with (right) Colonel W. Donics at Wheelus Air Base

237 Squadron and Royal Australian Signals

The modern tape relay centre at Watsonia Barracks, Melbourne

From Singapore the tentacles of Commonwealth communications reach in many directions, but perhaps our best radio circuit is to Melbourne and the reason is not far to seek. We have an arrangement whereby several exchanges of Officers and N.C.O.s, both technical and operating, are made each year between ourselves and 403rd Regiment in Melbourne. These are understandably popular for the Australians see something of Singapore and Malaya and return home at the end of three months with their transistor radios, cameras, etc., while our chaps come back enthusiastic about Australia and, if bachelors, engaged to Australian girls as likely as not. These working exchanges make a refreshing change of air, and exchangees return to their Units with plenty of new ideas about their jobs and with the knowledge that they have firm friends and not just an anonymous 'they' at the other end of the circuit. At the moment we have Captain Morris (O.C. Transmitters), Staff Sergeant Scrafton and Corporal Irons 'down under' and are awaiting the arrival of Lieutenant Gould and two seniors for a three months attachment here. The Squadron Commander has just returned from a short visit to Australia and local deliveries by kangaroo will probably be introduced at an early date.

Readers might like to know a little about 403rd Regiment. Commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel J. S. MacArthur, it is a surprisingly small unit for the very big job it does. It is accommodated in a very modern barracks (far from typical accommodation, as the Australian Army, like our own, is working hard to get modern accommodation for troops everywhere, but has much rebuilding still to do). Dominated by a line-of-sight radio tower and some twelve miles from the centre of Melbourne, Watsonia Barracks houses other units, and besides a very modern and well-equipped Tape Relay Centre, has a small signal centre. The Regiment also runs a transmitter station at Diggers Rest on the Bendigo Road and a receiver station on the Ballarat Road, both approximately 20 miles from Melbourne. New equipment buildings and accommodation blocks are nearly ready and badly needed to replace installations that 'just growed, like Topsy.'

Old-timers remember the good old days when space was at such a premium that there were two 500 watt transmitters installed in the privy at Diggers! Unfortunately there is no photograph available of a technician 'tuning up.' These rugged days are fast passing and Diggers even have the luxury of a piped water supply. The Regiment also runs small Signal Centres at Southern Command H.Q. and Army H.Q., Melbourne, and has a C.M.F. (roughly equivalent to T.A.) Squadron with a small regular cadre.

You have probably read of the recent fire disaster in Victoria when forest fires blazed across the Dandenong Hills and threatened the suburbs of Melbourne itself. 403 turned out in force both fire-fighting and providing communications for fire control and did a sterling job.

Major R. Topp, a keen railroader, is one of a devoted band of enthusiasts who have been working through the years to preserve the 'Puffing Billy Line,' a hill railway which was to have been discontinued as uneconomical. Making good the permanent way, removing landslides and so on were necessary tasks tackled by volunteers and the Army came to the rescue, undertaking major works as training projects for regular and C.M.F. units. 3 L. of C. Regiment rehabilitated the telegraph system. Before long 'Billy' will be puffing up into the Dandenongs with excited loads of schoolchildren—a bit of Australian railway history preserved by the efforts of civilian and military enthusiasts.

One thing you should know about Melbourne (and it is reason enough to cross the world for confirmation)—it has quite the finest beer you will ever taste!

The following goods are available from Association Headquarters:

Corps Paint Transfers:
"Jimmy"—on background of Corps Colours (each)
10" x 7½" 7⅛" x 5⅝" 3¹/₁₀" x 2²/₈"
3/- 2/8 1/6
As above but mounted on black plastic (each)
4/9 4/- —

Corps Ties—Heavy Weave 7/6
Woollen 8/6
Terylene 11/-
Corps Scarves—Woollen 21/-
Rayon Squares 21/-
Cravats—Terylene 21/-

Corps Cuff Links 8/6
Association Buttonhole Badges or Brooches 3/- Members only
Blazer Badges 45/-
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) 20/-
Corps Plaques ... ... 29/6 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.

Installation Troop, COMCAN

After several years based in the Mediterranean where it completed various installation projects in Malta, Cyprus and elsewhere, Installation Troop, COMCAN, has now come East to put new gear in for COMCAN, Singapore. The O.C., Major Lott, and a team led by Captain (T.O.T.) Iveson flew out to join us in January, the second team having returned to U.K. in November after a spell in Malta and nine months in Nairobi.

The troop certainly gets around and life with it sounds exciting and perhaps a little glamorous. There is certainly adventure and travel but there is also the tiresome business of packing and unpacking with every move and the periodic family upheaval. It is hard to predict where the next job will be and the troop lives for the present, but the work is interesting and varied with no two jobs alike. It is nice, too, to be handling new equipment before it is introduced into service.

The troop is keen on sport and regularly contributes to the teams of the units by which it is, from time to time, administered. In fact their (professional' footballer, Signalman Abbott, was left behind in Cyprus to improve the Regiment's chances of winning the cup. He was capably supervised by W.O.I (F.-of-S.) Jenkins. Naturally soccer was not a full time employment!

The troop says farewell with regret to many of the stalwarts who are leaving at about this time, including W.O.II Critch, the very competent secretary of the Episkopi Motor Club. May they have every luck in their new units and jobs.

244 SQUADRON (A.S.)

In January the Squadron was called to assist in the making of a colour film on the subject of Air Support. This was a truly N.A.T.O. effort, as also starring in the production were elements of the Belgian and German Signal Corps.

Squadron star performers on location were Lance-Corporal Dickenson, who will be seen sitting at a typewriter, illuminated by hurricane lamps in the cellar of a ruined castle, surrounded by Belgian Signallers, and crouched under what would appear to be an outsize steel helmet. Corporal Price is seen looking more purposeful, handing messages to his staff officers in the staff trailer, and Signalman Benny drives a Champ a little faster than the approved speed, but succeeds in getting the well-known "Red Hand" into the act.

The Regiment is in the throes of preparing for its Annual Administrative Inspection by our C.C., Royal Signals, Brigadier M. A. Charlton, O.B.E., on 13th March.

We are no longer in doubt as to our future, as the cloud of possible amalgamation has passed over, and we now look forward to an interesting and, we hope successful year ahead.

247 (GURKHA) SQUADRON

The Squadron had a busy year in 1961. The news of our move to U.K. hit us in April, and a large number of men were sent on leave to Nepal, so that we would have none due for leave in 1962 or early 1963. Return leave parties and postings began to reach us in September and continued to arrive until now, in late January, 1962, we are almost up to establishment for the move. Our days are now spent either fitting on Battle Dress and other forms of warm clothing, or visiting the M.I. Room. The doctors promise us an inoculation or test of some sort weekly for at least two months, as they complete the comprehensive immunological procedures they have hatched up for us. The Squadron won the Royal Signals (Malaya) Rifle Meeting again in 1961, our L.M.G. pair won the Divisional Minor Unit Championship later in the year. Our next notes should come to you from Jellalabad Barracks, Tidworth, which to us, is an exciting thought.

VACANCIES IN GOVERNMENT SERVICE

A number of vacancies, offering good career prospects, exist for :—

Radio Operators — Male
Cypher Operators } **Teleprinter Operators** } — Male and Female

Write, giving details of education, qualifications and experience, to:—

Personnel Officer, G.C.H.Q. (RCO/6),
Foreign Office,
53, Clarence Street, Cheltenham, Glos.

248 (GURKHA) SQUADRON

In December there were a series of Internal Security Exercises of short duration aimed at practising deployment, Signals and Reserve Units. Prior to these Exercises a good deal of time was spent in testing ground to air communications with light aircraft and helicopters. The use of aircraft in Internal Security has obvious advantages, but there was no satisfactory method of communication from the ground to the L.O. and pilot. In the absence of the A41, an A40 was tried out in conjunction with a ground A40 station and C42. The chief difficulties were that of cutting out engine noise in aircraft and obtaining a good intercom for the pilot and L.O. to converse to each other. This latter was overcome by the R.A.F., who produced a "grey box" for fitting externally on the A40. This enabled the set via the box to be plugged into the aircraft intercom and with only one pair of headsets the L.O. could speak to pilot and the ground. The A.A.C. and R.A.F. gave us a lot of help with their aircraft (it was rumoured that Lieutenant G. D. Birch was applying for flying pay).

After the round of Christmas and New Year festivities the Squadron prepared for the Signal Platoon assault at arms. This competition is for the Signal Platoons of each Battalion in the Brigade. The first day consisted of tests of signalling technique and all the senior ranks were involved as examiners. The second day was the communication race in which the three Platoons simultaneously pass a message over a course involving radio, line and D.R. The finish of the race on motor cycles rivalled the Singapore Grand Prix.

V.H.F. Troop, now that they have settled down, have been busy with their "social engagements." Captain P. H. Ridlington left these arrangements in the capable hands of Lieutenant (Q.G.O.) Bhupal Gurung while he went on trek to Nepal. The Troop took to the high seas on New Year's Day to assist the umpires of the Singapore Sea Sports. Naturally enough, the organisation was a little chaotic, but eventually all the sets, crews and batteries were deployed on the correct launches stationed around the harbour. These must have looked something like the ships which went to Dunkirk, they were seething with the local population, but despite this no sets or men were lost overboard. At the beginning of this month the Round the Island sailing race took place and again a few of the Troop took to the seas; all returned.

The highlight of January was the visit of the Signal Officer-in-Chief. He first saw the Squadron at Meiktila Barracks during the "Ultra Violet" demonstration. The Squadron had laid out the airportable Brigade Headquarters and some of the "Sea Tail" vehicles. An aerial test was in progress to Sungei Patani and Kuantan 360 and 170 miles away respectively, the aim being to try out the theory propounded by the School of Signals on the orientation of dipoles (Liaison Notes, May, 1961). Prior to this the Squadron had not dared to try it out on Exercises. It was decided that east-west was best, so there is no change for us, but there was really little difference. During this test the 8ft. rod was used and communications were still "O.K."

The Signal Officer-in-Chief visited the Squadron in Nee Soon on 27th January. A ceremonial parade was put on and after this the Signal Officer-in-Chief met the senior ranks in the Squadron canteen over a glass of beer.

Immediately Major-General A. M. W. Whistler, C.B.E., had gone preparations of Exercise "Talisman" were started. The Squadron was moving out the next day. This Exercise, though short, gave valuable practice for Brigade Headquarters calling for air support from H.M.S. *Centaur*.

The Brigade/Squadron hockey team won the 17 Division Minor Units Hockey Cup. This was a good effort after a shaky start to the season. The Squadron were runners-up in the Regimental cross-country and achieved the same in the 99 Brigade Minor Units race. Now that basketball has started we are looking forward to another successful season.

249 SQUADRON

We have just returned from Exercise "Hope Angel" and "Charity Angel" respectively. These were held in the Malacca area and apart from giving R.F. and R.R. troops some valuable experience in the field (Security Troop was also tactically deployed outside H.Q. Commonwealth Brigade Sergeants' Mess but of course that's all extremely hush hush) it allowed Corporal Mahoney and Signalman Pitts to get their quota of duty free beer.

All H.F. Troop's 53 sets worked admirably after the initial truculence one expects after a long move. There was talk of a conspiracy amongst the crew commanders to organise a series of tragic accidents at the Muar ferry, but we all managed to cross in one piece. Radio Relay excelled themselves and provided excellent communication back to Singapore throughout the exercise; they also gave a spectacular demonstration of the combustability of a Land Rover relay station.

We had our highlights of course, Lance-Corporal McFadyen and his scorpion bite which caused a minor sensation in the Maternity Section of the M.R.S. at Terendak Camp. This, I would hasten to add, was due to faulty directions given by one of the local inhabitants. Corporal Holdsworth disappeared with Corporal Howells halfway through the exercise to hack his way through the jungle with the K.O.Y.L.I. to test a replacement for the A510. I hope the powers that be will heed the opinion of the man on the spot which was:—

"It's too B—— heavy," which seems fairly conclusive.

We all arrived back in Singapore in reasonable condition to find to our unbounded joy that the pre-administration was in full swing. There was of course an immediate influx of leave applications, special sick reports, applications for change of air postings and one N.C.O., who shall be nameless, was seriously considering an application for a posting to the Long Range Desert Group. However, everyone seems to have settled down to the job in hand and you can find us most mornings on the square in Meiktila Barracks advancing and even sometimes retiring in review order.

Even after the administrative the pace will not slacken, we shall be running a refresher course for our Training Operators and Staff Sergeant Felton is frantically trying to find an E.D. to put on a refresher course, there is a rumour that we have at least two somewhere in H.F. Troop.

That would seem to be just about all the news at the moment, as you can see our claim to being a busy Squadron is fairly well substantiated. We must alas bid farewell to Sergeant Abbott and Corporal Hay, both of whom are returning to U.K. for their T.I. course. Congratulations also to Corporal Hay who has passed the Foreman's entrance exam. We also welcome Sergeant Donovan to Radio Relay Troop and in the same breath categorically deny the rumour that he is being sent on a Fire Fighting Course.

253 SQUADRON (KOWLOON)

Since our last notes we have said farewell to Lieutenant J. M. Hincks and Lieutenant D. W. Stubbs. We would like to congratulate the latter on the occasion of his marriage to Miss Rosemary Francis, and are sorry we could not attend the ceremony.

Lieutenant B. F. Strange and his wife have joined us, and have quickly settled down to Hong Kong life, as have S.Q.M.S. and Mrs. W. Carnley. S.Q.M.S. Carnley is now working on the barracks side of our "Q" Department, filling the gap left by the departure of S.S.M. and Mrs. T. N. Bennett, to whom we wish success in their new posting with the T.A.

Christmas and Social Activities.—Though it's a long time ago, the Squadron Christmas should not go unrecorded. For the first time we had our own Sergeants' Mess. S.S.M. R. B. Mills, ably assisted by Staff Sergeants D. M. McPhail, K. W. Hawkes, and others, made sure that the Mess played its full part in the Christmas festivities. Two children's parties, a Corporals' Mess dance, a Squadron dance and draw, and several troop parties were held. The Christmas lunch was of monumental proportions and excellent quality. For this, Corporal A. Littlewood, A.C.C., and his assistants, take the credit.

The Squadron dance and other functions gave the opportunity for the wives of our somewhat scattered community to meet. A similar function is planned for March, when we are hosts to H.M.A.S. *Queenborough*, an Australian frigate.

Training and Sport.—The Squadron is probably fitter now than for many months. Early morning P.T., P.E. tests and competitive teams on the hockey and football fields ensure that all are physically alert. Captain M. J. Hales has notched his first success in the local golf world; Lance-Corporal T. Kenneally is showing excellent form at hockey, and Sergeant F. Loveday and Signalman M. Sutton continue to represent the Army at hockey and soccer respectively. With the athletics season approaching, we are looking to several newcomers to help us produce a winning team.

It is becoming current practice to encourage volunteers for particular places and units through the medium of THE WIRE. Let us conclude by enumerating our particular needs. They are for line technicians who are trained as fire N.C.O.s, assistant P.T. instructors, first aid orderlies, sanitary orderlies, weapon training instructors, and, in addition, have passed their Army Certificate of Education, SECOND CLASS, their military proficiency tests and excel in their trade. Humour apart, this is a good station with plenty of opportunities for challenging work and amusing play.

ROYAL SIGNALS TROOP OF 37th REGIMENT, R.A.

Attached to a "Thunderbird" Guided Weapons Regiment, our role in life is a simple one, namely the maintainence of a Command link when the regiment is deployed tactically.

Although under our full strength of 11 O.R.s the Troop still fulfills its commitments within the Regiment. Our two Drivers are kept happy with the Troop's small amount of Motor Transport; the Radio Technicians have plently of C.45s to play with and the Rear Link Commander has a 53 set all to himself. Incidentally, it is surprising what good stand-ins for D.E.s, Operators make.

Situated in a rather woody part of Dorset, at Piddlehinton, the nearest "bright lights" being Dorchester, the Troop takes a part in most of the Unit's activities, to pass the leisure hours. Troop members play in the Regiment rugby, soccer and basketball teams. Our smallest member, Lance-Corporal Murphy, has lately been "persuaded" to have a go at filling a vacancy in the lower weights division of the boxing team. We also take an active part in running the Unit Radio Club, which hopes soon to get on the air on the "Ham" Band.

Standing : Signalman Chantrey, Lance Corporals Murphy, Potter, Signalman Hallam
Seated : Corporal Spears, Staff Sergeant Leach, Corporal Burn

1 Signal Squadron King's African Rifles

Tanganyika Independence Celebrations

Members of the expedition at the last camp at 15,000 feet. Centre, front row, is the Expedition Leader, Major P. J. W. Stephens, Royal Signals, and back row, right, are Captain P. D. Alexander, Royal Signals and Sergeant K. Glenville

OUR big news of the month is the expedition organised by the Squadron as part of the official celebrations of the occasion of Tanganyika's Independence. The expedition took five weeks from start to finish and kept members of the Squadron busy communicating and administering throughout that time. The final achievement was a spectacular pyrotechnic display, flag raising ceremony and broadcast from the 20,000-foot summit of Kilimanjaro, Africa's highest mountain, at midnight on 8th/9th December, the exact moment of independence. The expedition kept everyone fully occupied in climatic conditions ranging from humid tropic heat to glacial conditions of 20 degrees of frost at the summit. We entertained the Prime Minister of Tanganyika to lunch and achieved mentions in newspapers throughout the world. We exchanged signals with the Prime Minister of Tanganyika and the Signal Officer-in-Chief, and a congratulatory telegram from the Prime Minister now holds a place of honour on the Commanding Officer's office wall. We hope that our photographs and their captions will tell the full story.

By comparison with expedition days, life in camp must be dull by comparison. However, operations and exercises keep us busy, and we have also had a visit from the Secretary of State for War to keep us on our toes.

Finally, arrivals and departures. We welcome Staff Sergeant R. V. Purkis and family, and Sergeant B. T. Shears, from B.A.O.R., Corporal H. D. Woolf from the Training Brigade, Corporal R. J. Bailey from 242 Squadron and finally Second-Lieutenant W. D. Lawrence from Berlin. We have said "goodbye and thank you" to Sergeants D. F. Potter and K. M. Slaughter who are both going to B.A.O.R. and to Sergeant A. W. Kyles and Staff Sergeant Longhurst, who are going to the joys of a home posting.

☆ ☆ ☆

The Expedition was visited by the then Prime Minister of Tanganyika who is seen touring the lines with Major P. J. W. Stephens, Royal Signals, and Captain P. D. Alexander, Royal Signals

☆ ☆ ☆

(*Above*) Members of the Expedition are here seen resting at Hans Meyer Cave, the last resting points before the summit. The height here is approximately 18,000 feet

(*Right*) Members of the Expedition are here seen erecting a tent just below the summit at 19,000 feet

Sport

Football

15th Regiment Win NEARELF Football Cup

15th Regiment, Cyprus, retained the Near East Land Forces Challenge Cup recently in Tripoli, Libya, when they defeated 1st Battalion, The Royal Scots, who are based in Tripoli, by 3 goals to nil.

This year the competition was open to North Africa and Malta as well as Cyprus and the Royal Scots had beaten the 2nd Royal Tank Regiment, from Benghazi, and the 1st L.A.A. Regiment of the Royal Malta Artillery to qualify for the final. 15th Regiment had been forced to two replays in their first qualifying round in Dhekelia, but then went on to beat 9th Regiment 9-1 and 1st Rifle Brigade to reach the final, which was played in Tripoli's Municipal Stadium.

It was soon evident that Royal Signals were the faster and more skilful side, and the left wing pair of Costello and Paterson—who is on Aberdeen's books—were prominent in many early raids. It was Costello who put Signals ahead after 17 minutes when he pounced on to a loose ball and beat the Scots goalkeeper easily.

The Scots had a few chances but their shooting was wild and Sorrell in the Signals goal was rarely troubled. Captain and left-half McKechnie turned defence into attack skilfully and the promptings of Paterson helped the Signals to assert keen pressure on the Scots goal.

Patterson made it 2-0 before the interval and although there was greater pressure from the Scots on the resumption, Signals never seemed in trouble. The defence coped adequately with the opposition's attacks and although Sorrell was beaten once, the goal was declared offside. Centre-forward Campbell dispelled any remaining doubt about the result with a third goal in the second half.

H.E. the British Ambassador, Mr. A. C. Stewart, presented the cup to Corporal McKechnie, the 15th Regiment's captain.

With acknowledgement to P.R.S., Libya.

Royal Signals Hockey

v. R.E.M.E., 13th February, 1962
v. R.M.C.S., 14th February, 1962
v. Aldershot Services, 15th February, 1962

This tour got off to a poor start when on the day preceding the first match the complete right wing pair had to drop out of the side due to completely unforeseen circumstances. Consequently, two players from Catterick were called in at the last moment and had their work cut out to reach Arborfield for the R.E.M.E. game.

There was a noticeable lethargic approach by the Corps team to the match against R.E.M.E. probably due to the effects of travelling and trying to settle down to play as a team. R.E.M.E., however, got off to a good start and took advantage of a slow moving Corps team. By half-time R.E.M.E. were two goals up, but worse was to follow, for in the second half they added a further four goals to give them a convincing victory by six goals to nil.

Before the second match of the tour against R.M.C.S. could be played, yet another team change had to be made because Briggs, the Corps right-half, had been injured in the R.E.M.E. game. We are indebted to 216 Squadron for helping us out of difficulties by producing Davidson, who proved to be a very able player. In this match the Corps team produced rather more fire than it had shown the previous day, but R.M.C.S. were still the quicker moving side. By half-time neither side had managed to score, but after the interval R.M.C.S. netted twice to give them victory. The first of these two goals is worthy of particular mention because it came from a terrific shot on the volley by the centre-forward, which gave Dale, the Corps goalkeeper, no chance at all to save.

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For the final game against Aldershot Services, Pitkin, from the Army Air Corps Centre, relieved Davidson in the half-back line and in this match the Corps team at last struck form. The ball was moved about quickly and accurately and the tackling developed a fervour which had been lacking in the other two matches. Services took the lead early on in the game, but it was not long before Oehlers equalised in a goalmouth scramble after some good approach work by Smith. Soon afterwards Whiting put the Corps into the lead when he forced the ball into the net through a mass of opposing defenders. This goal put added heart into the Corps team and up to half-time the Aldershot Services side was easily held. After the interval, however, the Corps side failed to keep up the pressure and slowly Aldershot Services came back into the game. Eventually, after a number of dangerous attacks, their inside-right made the scores level and soon afterwards the whistle blew for full-time.

The following played for the Corps side during the course of the three days: Major A. G. Smith, Captains D. H. Briggs, E. L. Rogers, I. N. Lee, D. C. Whitehead, D. Pitkin, C. N. Last, G. R. Oehlers, J. M. Walmsley, Lieutenant J. G. McLuckie, Sergeant Dale, Corporals Whiting and Davidson.

Royal Signals (Cyprus) Golf Meeting

This meeting was held on the 1st and 2nd of February over the Happy Valley course in Episkopi. It was the first Corps meeting ever held in Cyprus—as far as any records show—and although the field was small it was an encouraging start. On the first day the Open and Handicap championships were played over thirty-six holes (both won by Major J. L. McKellar), whilst on the second day, the inter-unit championships was won by 20th Regiment in the morning and the Stableford by Major F. F. Ellis in the afternoon.

At the end of the meeting, the Chief Signal Officer's wife (Mrs. C. T. Honeybourne) presented the trophies. To any golfers coming to Cyprus it is worth noting that there are courses at both Episkopi and Nicosia—so bring along your clubs and help swell the field at next year's meeting.

Territorial Army

45th (ESSEX) REGIMENT (T.A.)

On Saturday and Sunday, 17th and 18th February, 1962, 45th (Essex) Regiment (T.A.) was "At Home" to the public as part of a vigorous recruiting drive, and it demonstrated the efficiency of the Territorial Army as a whole.

During the week-end, more than 300 people visited the "At Home" and the outstation signal centres in the area and saw demonstrations of the Regiment at work, and themselves operated and used the equipment on display.

Before the "At Home," 30,000 leaflets were distributed throughout the area and wide press coverage was given, both before and after the week-end.

The Southern Command Royal Signals display provided a most interesting stand, which was efficiently manned by 234 Squadron and Army Apprentices' School, Harrogate. The film "Three Roads Ahead," also proved a popular feature of the exhibition.

47th Regiment (T.A) were kind enough to put their Band at our disposal, for which we were most grateful. Marching displays throughout Leytonstone High Road on a busy Saturday afternoon certainly drew attention to the "At Home." Traffic piled up behind the Band for some miles. A hard-working squad of volunteers under the D.R. Sergeants Fox and O'Neill faithfully distributed leaflets to the shoppers—and, cheekily, to some of the irate car owners in the queue.

The result of a great deal of hard work and planning was over 40 recruits, which, we feel, is a big step in the right direction, but we are still badly in need of more trained Signal personnel, both Officers and O.R.s, as instructors—so to any would-be "leavers"—make use of your knowledge and experience by passing this on to our T.A. recruits and do yourself some financial good at the same time—WE NEED YOU.

52nd (LOWLAND) REGIMENT (T.A.)
Junior N.C.O.s' Map Reading Exercise on 11th February, 1961—The W.R.A.C. View

After a certain wet weekend spent camping in October, Officers and N.C.O.s alike hoped that they would never again experience worse or even like weather conditions. The junior N.C.O.s' map reading exercise in February proved how forlorn their hopes had been. This was the weekend of the gales. Remember?

It was a very cheerful group who met in the drill hall on Saturday evening for the Junior N.C.O.s dance. Remarks about the exercise the next day were all made in a light-hearted manner. As everyone pointed out, seven miles was nothing; a mere stroll, long enough to create an appetite for the tea waiting at the end. The next day several opinions were changed.

In spite of the rain the N.C.O.s set out next morning, happily clutching at groundsheets, cookers and food, and making jokes about the stretcher sticking out of one of the trucks. On arrival at Inversnaid the first part of the exercise was carried out successfully—lunch was cooked on individual cookers. The Adjutant's demonstration of the previous day helped greatly. It is true that an outhouse had to be used because of the wind and rain, but appetites were hearty.

After lunch the party was divided into groups (one W.R.A.C. and the rest military), issued with wireles sets and maps and sent out. For a while all went well, as the route was on the road, but progress became slower when the mud on the hillside was reached. The track was reasonably clear but it crossed numerous streams. These, due to the persistent rain, had become roaring torrents. What bridges there were had become unsafe, so excursions up the hillside had to be made to find easier places to cross. The pace became slower and the W.R.A.C. party eventually found themselves in the rear. However, their numbers were reinforced by some military members, one of whom had hurt his ankle. Even wireless communications were poor at times due to squawls on Loch Lomond.

Darkness was falling by the time the main body of W.R.A.C. reached the road and saw the lights of the truck, which had been sent to pick them up. They were speedily revived by mugs of tea, but spirits were soon to be dashed again when a call for a stretcher party came over the wireless. This was immediately sent out but difficulty was met in finding the group with the exhausted member, as they had done what seemed the impossible and crossed the biggest and swiftest waterfall on the hillside. As a result the stretcher party had an unnecessary journey down the wrong side of the waterfall before realising their error.

The main body of N.C.O.s had been sent back to the T.A.C. by this time, leaving only sufficient people to cope with the stretcher, so it was an extremely weary group who finally reached Rowardennan, where an ambulance was waiting to take the stretcher case to hospital. (The girl, we are pleased to say was discharged from hospital next day.)

The journey back to Glasgow was made in record time. Even so the rear party was six hours late in arriving at the T.A.C. One of the rescuers, an experienced climber, was heard to remark, "Mountaineering was never like this." It certainly was a never-to-be-forgotten experience for everyone, especially those who so nobly carried out the rescue operation. As far as the W.R.A.C. are concerned—well, we just didn't realise how fit we were.

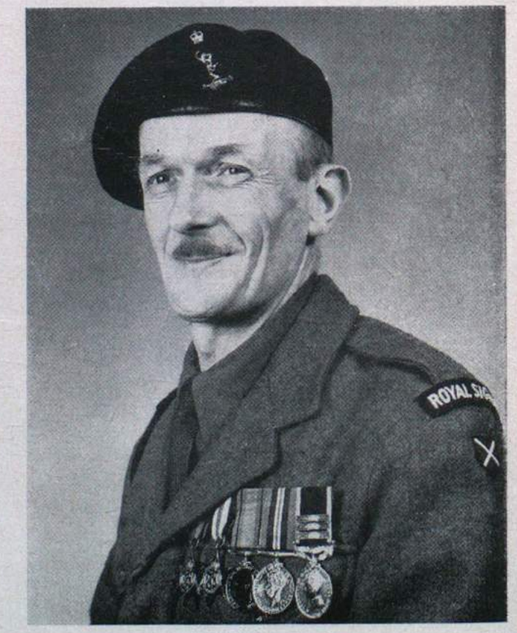
Regimental Personalities (No. 1)

We had a most unusual anniversary in the Regiment on 14th February this year. Sergeant-Major Kelsey—affectionately known as "Pop"—celebrated his 32nd year with Signals.

He joined the 52nd in those far-off days, on 14th February, 1930, in the days of horse-drawn military transport. In September, 1939, he was mobilized with the Mountain Division, served with Signals at War Office and was finally demobbed on his return from Germany in November, 1945. On the reorganisation of the Territorial Army, "Pop" Kelsey was once again on the doorstep anxious to soldier on, and rejoined 30 Armoured Brigade Sqn. which later amalgamated with other units to become 52nd Division Regt.

Now, at the age of fifty, he looks as alert and young in heart as he ever did, and his energy and smart turnout serve as an example to the present day recruits.

We would like to take this opportunity of publicly wishing him well.



51st Highland Regiment (T.A.)

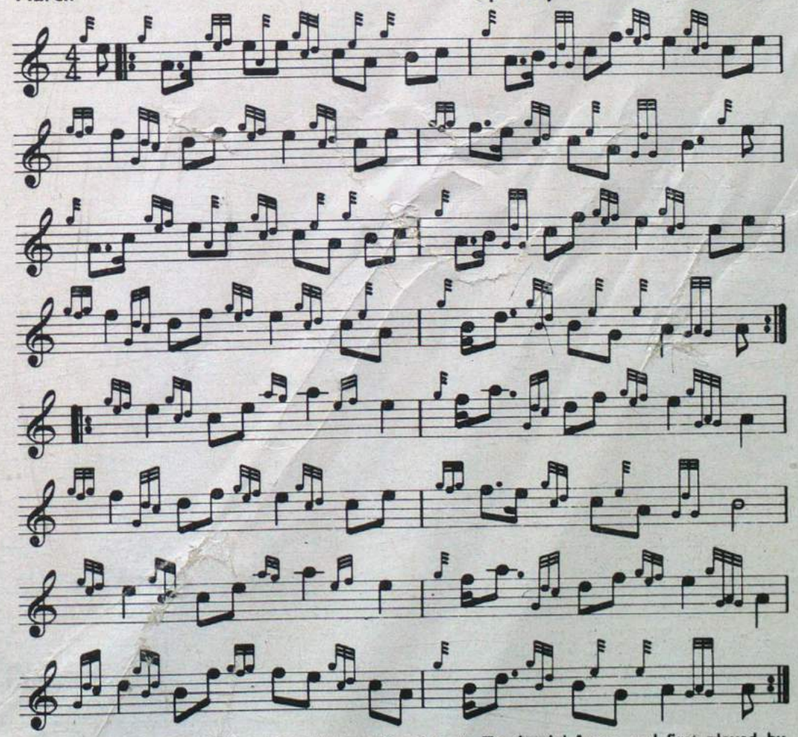
From left to right : Major J. H. Moonie, M.M., T.D., Major M. O. Mackenzie, T.D. (W.R.A.C./T.A.), Colonel G. D. G. Mackinnon, T.D., Colonel R. Linton, O.B.E., Colonel T. P. E. Murray, O.B.E., T.D., A.D.C., Lieutenant-Colonel T. B. S. McMain, M.B.E., T.D., Lieutenant-Colonel J. Cochran, O.B.E., T.D., Colonel E. Birnie Reid, O.B.E., T.D., Major R. W. Shaw (W.R.A.C./T.A.), Major J. E. Evans, M.C.

To the pleasure of serving officers and many retired friends, assembled to mark the retirement of Colonel T. P. E. Murray, O.B.E., T.D., A.D.C., upon completion of a five-year term as Honorary Colonel to the Regiment, a bagpipe march, "Colonel Edward Murray," was played by its composer, Pipe-Major A. McDougall and Regimental Pipers, and approved by the Colonel, who now have pipe tunes named in their honour.

Colonel Murray's long history of 40 years' service in the Regiment is known throughout the Corps, and many who read this report will echo the sincere good wishes for his continued well-being, expressed by his successor, Lieutenant-Colonel J. Cochran, O.B.E., T.D., by the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel T. B. S. McMain, M.B.E., T.D., and by Captain R. T. Ellis, who represented the sentiments of those retired members, whom he delightfully termed the "Black and White Minstrels."

Colonel Edward Murray

March — Pipe Major Alexander McDougal



Composed by the Pipe-Major of 51 Highland Signal Regt., Territorial Army, and first played by Regimental Pipers at a Dinner in Fenthill Barracks, Aberdeen in February, 1962 in honour of Colonel T. P. E. Murray, O.B.E., T.D., A.D.C., who served the Regiment from 1922 to 1961

Association Notes

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 March, 1962. Also, on the same page, is a simple statement of income and expenditure.

WIDOW OF CORPORAL, 1950-55, who died in 1962 leaving her with two young children. A grant was made to enable SSAFA to help her.

CORPORAL, 1945-49. Married, three children. His wife contracted cancer in August, 1961, and died in February, 1962. He had to give up his work to care for her and the children and so the Association helped him by paying his electricity account.

SIGNALMAN 1942-47. Married, four children. In 1958 he had a leg amputated and will shortly lose the other leg. One child contributes but the family income is very small and has been for three years. On this first appeal for help the Association made a grant to pay off arrears of rent.

SIGNALMAN, 1940-53. Life Member of the Association. Married, one child. Illness stopped him in March, 1961, and it was not until February, 1962, that he had to ask for help, which was quickly given.

SIGNALMAN, 1949-57, previous service Royal Artillery. Married, five children. His work ceased through illness in July, 1961, and Royal Signals and the A.T.S. Benevolent Fund, his wife served therein, continued to help him in his financial difficulty.

SIGNALMAN—1960—SERVING. On the very strong recommendation of the Commanding Officer the fund helped his aged mother whom the Signalman partially supports.

DRIVER, 1941-46. Married. Since 1951 he has been completely chairborne and can do nothing for himself. The Branch of the Association near to his home look after him. For many years they have provided him with a Television Set, his only enjoyment, the Central Fund pays the rent, the Branch pays license, insurance, etc., and frequently go to see him bearing some small gift.

DRIVER, 1943-45. Married. One child remains at home and contributes. Total income is low. The fund bought him an overcoat as he suffers from pneumonia.

Royal Signals Association and Benevolent Fund

The following subscriptions were most gratefully received during February, 1962:

	£	s.	d.
11th Regiment	19	19	9
24th Regiment (Officers' Mess)	3	14	0
24th Regiment (Warrant Officers and Sergeants' Mess)	5	18	6
49th Regiment T.A.	1	1	0
36 Corps Engineer Regiment	2	0	0
43rd (WX) Regiment T.A.	7	0	0
227 Squadron (ALFCE)	3	0	0
228 Squadron (SHAPE)	2	10	0
238 Squadron (War Office)	5	0	0
2 Squadron, 41st Regiment (P.L.R.K.) T.A.	1	8	0
47th (Middlesex Yeomanry) Regiment T.A. (Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess)	2	0	0
80th Regiment, A.E.R.	4	0	0
243 Squadron	3	0	0
59th Regiment T.A.	1	0	0
2 Squadron, 51st (Highland) Regiment T.A.	5	0	0
4th Regiment	18	19	7
28th Regiment (Warrant Officers and Sergeants)	6	6	3
H.Q. Middle East Command		18	6
254 Squadron (Aden)	3	16	0
255 Squadron (Bahrain)	5	0	0
235 Squadron (COMCAN)	4	7	0
Allied Forces Northern Europe		10	0
Central Scotland Branch	1	1	0
W. J. Morrant		2	0
E. F. Morey	1	5	0
P. Drayson		1	0
J. W. S. Wise		15	0
A. R. G. Maynard		1	0
T. L. Harries	1	1	3
R. E. Barker	2	2	0
R. P. D. Gibb		5	0
T. W. Baynes		7	0
A. C. J. Chalmers		5	0
F. S. Morgan		10	0
R. J. N. Solly		1	0
W. M. Lindley		5	0
A. J. G. Copeland		3	0
S. H. McKay	1	4	3
M. B. Holdsworth	1	0	0
H. J. F. White	1	1	0
C. A. Oliver	1	0	0
Total Receipts	£118	18	1

Expenditure during February, 1962 (Includes:— Rent and Rates; Beds and Bedding; Furniture; Cots and Prams; General Assistance).	£566	10	5
Analysis of Cases:—			
Families of Soldiers serving in U.K.	2		
Families of Soldiers serving in B.A.O.R.	3		
Families of Soldiers serving in M.E.L.F.	1		
Families of Soldiers serving in FARELF	1		
Widows and dependants	7		
Released and discharged Soldiers	27		
Total Cases assisted	41		
21 Cases of Soldiers who served during the 1939/45 War	£302	17	9
20 Cases of Soldiers who did not serve during the War	£263	12	8

33 Indian Corps Signals

The 17th Officers' Annual Dinner was held at the Royal Court Hotel on 25th February, 1962. Sixteen Officers were present and a large number of others wrote to regret their inability to attend.

Lieutenant-Colonel J. E. Woodward, O.B.E., the President, introduced a discussion on the future form of the Officers' Reunion and thereafter proposed the Toast of the Royal Signals Association.

The date of the 1963 Dinner is Saturday, 23rd February.

M. R. Holden, "White Rock," Pinewood Green, Ivor Heath, Bucks, assumed as Honorary Secretary vice J. N. Shearme, who received the thanks of all for his work during the last five years.

Chesterfield Branch

The 12th annual dinner was held at the Ashgate Road Drill Hall, about 30 members and their guests attended, on the 16th February, 1962. After the loyal toasts, Colonel J. G. Underwood, T.D., D.L., proposed the toast of the Association and Brigadier H. R. Firth, the General Secretary, made reply. He was sure that the thoughts of all would be with Her Royal Highness, our Colonel-in-Chief, recently embarked in H.M.Y. *Britannia* on her mission to various countries bordering the Mediterranean. He mentioned the storm of wind that had done considerable damage in Chesterfield on that day. This led him to a description of the work of two Lance-Corporals and a Signalman while maintaining communications in British Honduras, where the city of Belize was destroyed by a hurricane. He hoped to see a strong representation of the Branch at Catterick on 7th/8th July, but warned all that Lieutenant-Colonel J. L. Judd, M.B.E., would not be in command of the Band. Colonel Judd had been "dined out" in Catterick on the 13th February. Referring to some of the other guests, he mentioned the close co-operation in Chesterfield between the Corps and the Grenadier Guards Comrades' Association and the Royal Air Forces Association and, of course, others in Chesterfield. He was pleased to see Mr. H. H. Wilson (1st Guards), but all regretted the absence of Squadron Leader Swannick (R.A.F.), that noted after-dinner speaker, who, it might be assumed, was in Bedford assisting his brother, the Queen's Counsel.

Lieutenant-Colonel R. F. A. Turner, O.B.E., T.D., proposing the toast of "The Guests," regretted that business pre-occupation had prevented him from taking as active a share

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in the affairs of the Branch as he would have wished. He hoped the guests would enjoy their evening as much as he intended to.

Mr. H. H. Wilson, Grenadier Guards Comrades' Association, replying for the guests, stressed the importance to all the Ex-Service Associations in Chesterfield of their co-operation one with the other—a combined operation.

Careers and Opportunities

Wimbledon Stadium Ltd.,
Plough Lane, London, S.W.17.

Vacancy exists for the position of Assistant Totalisator Engineer. Qualification is that of having some knowledge of automatic telephones. Salary to be discussed, depending upon age and qualifications. Five-day week. Applications, in the first instance, to Royal Signals Association.

52 (L) Regiment (T.A.)

Administrative Officer required for service with 321 Squadron, T.A. Centre, Paisley Road, Barrhead. The selected candidate will be commissioned in the rank of Captain, on consolidated rates of pay. Applicants most suited to the post will be ex-Service officers, less than 42 years of age. The starting salary will be £945, rising to £1,035 after six years. Certain allowances may also be claimed. Tenure of appointment will be three years in the first instance.

Apply in writing to the Commanding Officer, 52 (Lowland) Regt., (T.A.), 21, Jardine Street, Glasgow, N.W.

Retired Officers Wanted in the Signals Directorate

Two retired officer appointments are available in the Signals Directorate, War Office, London, S.W.1. Applicants should be ex-Regular Officers of Royal Signals. Preference will be given to those having staff training or experience. No special technical knowledge is required.

Applications to: The War Office, Signals 1, Whitehall, London, S.W.1.

Technical Industrial Vacancy

The following civilian technical industrial vacancy exists in 231 Signal Squadron (Park), serving the Central Ordnance Depot at Donnington, Wellington, Shropshire.

Maintenance Electrician (telephone)
(UG Cable experience essential)

This vacancy is suitable for an ex-Regular Royal Signals Tradesman who has attained a Class II standard in his trade, a Cable Jointer or Lineman with underground cable experience.

The basic starting wage is £10/0/2 for a 42-hour five-day week, with incremental increases, subject to satisfactory service, to £11/8/2, and further increases in certain cases up to a maximum of £12/8/2, subject to technical ability and application.

Ten working days' annual leave, in addition to Bank Holidays, is granted, and conditions of service are excellent.

Establishment as a permanent Civil Servant, with its advantages, is also possible, subject to qualifications of seniority and satisfactory service.

Employees become eligible for admittance to the housing points list on the Local War Department Civilian Housing Estate after 12 months' service.

Application should be made to Major W. E. Fill, Royal Signals, 231 Signal Squadron (Park), C.O.D., Donnington, Wellington, Shropshire.

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This Company offers an interesting career to Servicing Engineers, who work on fault-finding, repair and maintenance of data processing machines and computers. This Company is rapidly expanding and there are, therefore, exceptional opportunities for advancement.

Applicants should be between 22-30, possess the G.C.E. at "O" Level, or an O.N.C., or an Armed Forces examination of equivalent standard, and have completed either an apprenticeship in electro-mechanical instrument engineering, or have successfully completed the equivalent Armed Forces trade training. City and Guilds or H.N.C. and similar qualifications are an advantage. A knowledge of French is useful, but not essential.

After a six months' initial training period, which may include a period of training at the factory in Paris, subsequent employment on machine maintenance will be organised on a regional basis in the United Kingdom. As far as possible, Engineers will be employed in the areas in which they are normally resident, but this cannot be guaranteed.

Salary will be £750-£950 per annum, according to qualifications and experience. Appropriate allowances will be paid to cover lodging expenses in the case of engineers who are sent to Paris for part of their training. There is an excellent Superannuation Scheme.

Application, stating full details of age, education, qualifications and experience should be made to The Personnel Officer, De La Rue Bull Machines Limited, 114, Southampton Row, London, W.C.1.

Candidates short-listed for interview will be required to take a simple competitive written test in electro-mechanical engineering and also a short practical test.

Clerical Vacancy

There is a vacancy for a clerk in Regimental Headquarters, Royal Signals (in the Central London area) in the grade of clerical officer, as assistant to the Secretary, Royal Signals Institution.

A suitable ex-Royal Signals clerk could be taken on as a temporary clerical assistant at £10/19/6 per week. Subject to suitable recommendation, he could then be upgraded, after a minimum of a month's probation, to Temporary Clerical Officer, at £660 per annum.

The duties are of a general clerical nature, including assistance in the publication of the Royal Signals Journal.

Any interested candidate should apply to the Secretary, Royal Signals Corps Committee, R.H.Q., Royal Signals, 88, Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1., from whom fuller details may be obtained.

Other Employment Vacancies

(*see page* 105)

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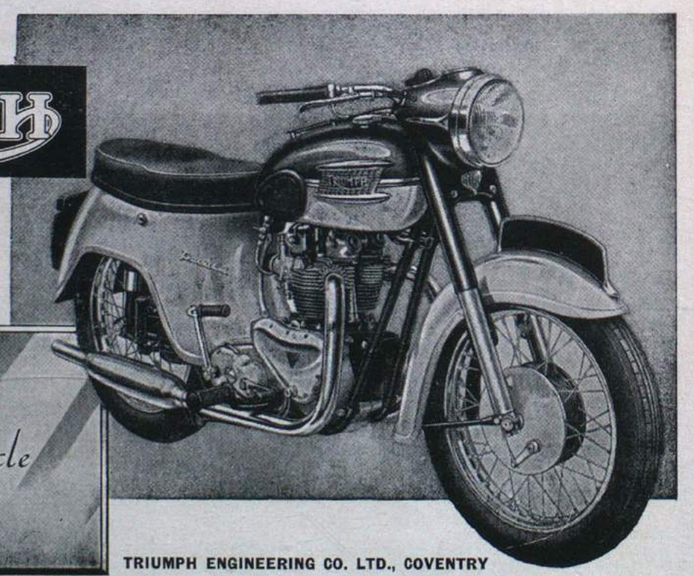

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(Conversation overheard in a Sergeants' Mess)

Sergeant-Major Jones: "I know you've quite a time to go, Bill, before you get into Civvy Street, but have you thought about where you're going to live? Have your parents a house they are going to leave you?"

Sergeant Smith: "Funny you should mention that, Jim. We were only talking about it last night. Somebody said they had seen a booklet written by a retired Brigadier which talks about buying your own house when you leave the Service.

"No, unfortunately, I have no prospects of a house being left me."

Sergeant-Major Jones: "Well, a Gunner friend of mine lent me his copy of the booklet—it must be the same one—which tells you all you want to know about House Purchase and how best to plan ahead. There is a proforma in the booklet which you fill in.

"I wrote in and got back a suggested plan which I have just started on. It's a matter of investing so much a month while you are still serving. I only wish I'd started years ago."

Sergeant Smith: "Sounds a good idea. I might use my pay increase on the principle that what you've never had you never miss. How can I get a copy?

Sergeant-Major Jones: "All you've got to do is to write in to this Brigadier chap. I've got the address here—I certainly advise you to do it:—

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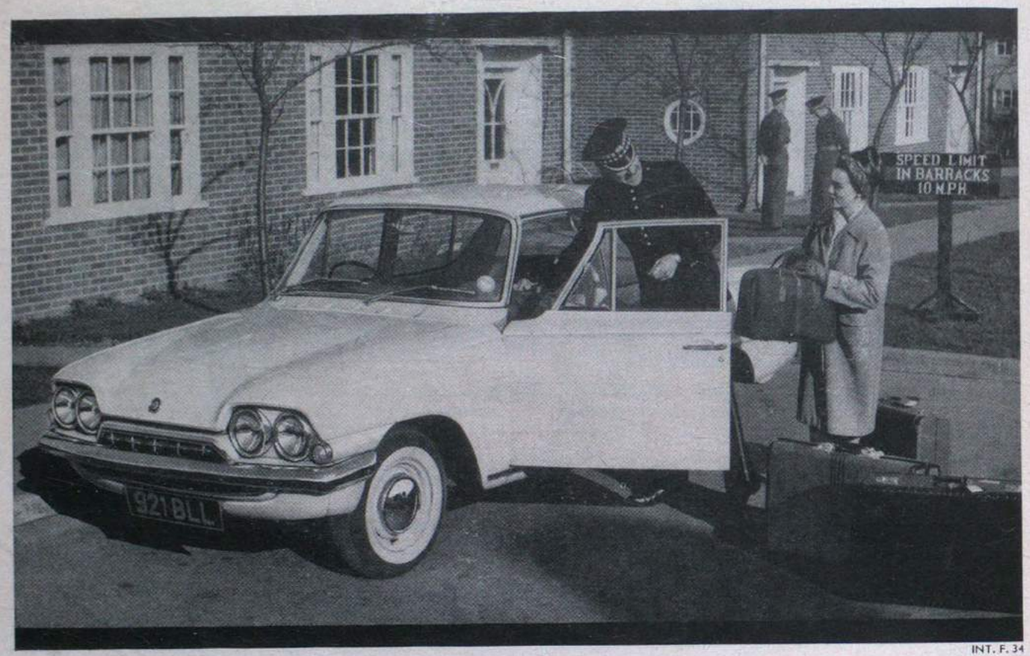

INT. F. 34

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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 • 1962

Vol. 16 *(New Series)* **No. 5**

Editorial

Earlier this year, the Regiments and Squadrons of the Corps were asked in a questionnaire to advise the Editor of THE WIRE on the following heads:—

The priority of various sections of THE WIRE which were listed
and
constructive suggestions for the improvement of THE WIRE.

As far as can be judged, every Regiment and Squadron answered this questionnaire with most valuable criticism and suggestions. These are still being studied and will continue to be studied.

The main criticism—and there was not one single reply which did not voice this criticism—was on the style of "Unit Notes." Criticism ranged from a desire for their complete abolition to an exhortation to the Editor to ruthlessly expunge anything in Unit Notes which was not of general interest to others besides the Regiment or Squadron of origin.

The Editor is assured that THE WIRE must continue as it always has to depend on "Unit Notes." It is most remarkable how over the years historical research has depended on the reading of Notes from Regiments and therefore Unit Notes will continue to be printed.

The Editor is then left obeying the second exhortation which is to prune them and commencing with the June number he is assured that he fulfils the wishes of the Corps when he commences to do this pruning. Regiments and Squadrons can help very much in this by very severely editing their own notes before they are sent in. Such things as the Administrative Inspection, Junior N.C.O.s Courses, P.E. tests, Inter-Troop games, are really of no interest outside the Unit concerned. They are of no value to those concerned in historical research and so should be omitted.

What Is Wanted?

Nearly everyone who wrote about THE WIRE asked for descriptions from Regiments and Squadrons of 'What we do?' 'How do we live?' 'Where do we live?' How we live and where we live are of great interest. The Corps is becoming regular and long-serving, and many of its readers will be interested in a description of what goes on in another Regiment on the other side of the world. 'What we do' needs careful writing and then vetting by a Senior Officer. We must not put into print too much about our official work. Let us say how well we have tackled the unusual. How well we have provided communications during disasters. We must not give a technical description or describe in detail the apparatus used.

In fine, the Editor needs your help if he is to perform his task to fulfil your wishes. He, himself, by experience and temperament is a firm believer in "The men at the sharp end knows best" and will therefore be loathe to expunge something which, while it may seem to him to be complete drivel, may well be of great importance to the Regiment or Squadron that sends it to him.

Meanwhile, he has a completely free hand to overspend in the production of THE WIRE so that it may continue to be as it now is acknowledged to be one of the best, if not the best, of the monthly magazines of the Corps of the Army.

Address by Major-General A. M. W. Whistler, Signal Officer-in-Chief

To a Meeting of the Representatives of the Branches of the Association on 31st March, 1962.

My predecessor, who addressed you in 1960, and my Deputy, in 1961, were able to tell you of our plans, what we were trying to do, and I can now tell you of some progress.

Never before in the Army in peacetime has there been such a big change. It is not only a matter that National Service is ended and now we have an all-Regular Army. Now, work and exercises can be progressive. Officer-in-Charge Records is now dealing with people known as persons with personal attributes.

The speed with which this change has been made has caused what is known as "the trough," a period when there is a shortage of trained men. This has necessitated such palliatives as the introduction of the Territorial Army Emergency Reserve and the retention for six months over their normal engagement of National Servicemen in B.A.O.R.

Some years ago Royal Signals, under the name "Hobart" started planning for ten years ahead. Is is incidental that a similar planning branch has now been established for the whole Army. The advantage of this planning in Royal Signals has been great. It is on this clear look ahead that the new trade structure is based, and indeed, changes in trades are planned on the requirement anticipated in ten years' time. To meet these plans, individual efficiency must be greater—obviously as this occurs unit efficiency becomes greater. And an efficient unit is a happy one.

In our career planning for officers, also based on long term planning, we are encouraging more to take appointments outside the Corps with the object of having a Royal Signals Officer in other branches of the staff at headquarters.

With a view to restoring the Regimental Sergeant-Major to his proper position and to ensure proper delegation of duties, R.S.M.s' Conventions have been instituted where all such matters can be discussed. The Sergeants' Mess is again becoming the backbone of the Regiment.

The name "Hobart" for all our pre-planning was a wise choice. General Hobart was famous for saying "Commanders get the Signal communications they deserve."

Dealing with his "Tours," General Whistler then gave the meeting a resumé of the state of the Corps and its activities in various theatres.

NEAR EAST. Despite that, as announced in the press, the role of the Army will be less than it has been, the role of Royal Signals will still be important. He had seldom, if ever, seen a better Brigade Signal Squadron than that stationed in Cyprus.

MIDDLE EAST. This area is becoming much more important for strategic reasons and because of the situation in East Africa, occasioned by what has been described as mistaken nationalism, there was cause for anxiety. He wondered about the future of our old comrades of the King's African Rifles.

ADEN was therefore of real importance and here was currently the unique situation where married people were happier than single, largely due to the accommodation situation.

KUWAIT had been a very near thing. Brigade Headquarters and Brigade Signals started their journey in the first aircraft, but had arrived much later on. The small Ship Signal Troop in H.M.S. *Hermes* had landed a detachment which had acted almost as Brigade Signals until the situation had been restored. All praise was due.

FAR EAST. He described his visit to the Commonwealth Signal Squadron: a unique organisation currently commanded by a Major in Royal Australian Signals; to Gurkha Signals, where he met Gurkha Sergeants qualified to go ahead as Foremen of Signals. The Federation Army Signals were making excellent progress, aided by a small number of Officers and N.C.O.s Royal Signals.

In Hong Kong, Royal Signals was re-organising as an Operating Squadron and a Works Squadron. This is regarded as a very good station by those posted there, where Royal Signals work with Chinese Signalmen in all trades of the Corps.

B.A.O.R. The 10th Regiment is being disbanded, their task being taken over by a German Signal Battalion. The 28th Regiment is being internationalised with Dutch and Belgian Squadrons included in it.

He paid tribute to the efficiency of the Signal Regiments and Squadrons in Germany and to their high spirit and the way in which National Servicemen had accepted their enforced retention.

CARIBBEAN. He told the meeting how well the small detachments of Royal Signals in that large area had handled the difficult communications situation arising out of the hurricane in British Honduras, and more recently, due to unrest, in British Guiana, until reinforcements arrived.

CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. During his visits thereto he stressed the importance of close co-operation, and how good our relations with them are. It was of great interest that Royal Canadian Signals had, unusually, managed to arrange purchase of certain wireless equipment in the United Kingdom as opposed to the U.S.

UNITED KINGDOM. The Signal Regiment of the Strategic Reserve had a difficult role. It was prepared to send appropriate detachments to anywhere in the world at the shortest notice by air and at the same time to organise and train as a normal Divisional Regiment.

THE TRAINING BRIGADE had introduced many new ideas, and indeed, a new concept of discipline. After initial misgivings, it had been found that there was far less time wasted, greater progress, greater enthusiasm, better discipline.

THE SCHOOL OF SIGNALS was increasing its liaison with the Schools of other Arms of the Service and this will be facilitated after its move to Blandford. Unhappily, the building programme there is delayed, and the move of the School cannot commence before 1965.

ARMY APPRENTICES AND JUNIOR LEADERS. The Corps was making remarkable progress in each category. In the foreseeable future, 90 per cent of our technicians will come from the former. Numbers of boys exceeded capacity, and some Junior Leaders of Royal Signals took up vacancies of other Arms.

RECRUITING. The Signal Officer-in-Chief, stating that Royal Signals' Recruiting was now going well and boys were best in the Army, stressed the continuing importance of the problem and the need for all possible help.

THE ASSOCIATION. Paying a tribute to the work of the Association in its frequent assistance to the Regular Corps, the Signal Officer-in-Chief stressed the continued need of help and advice. Branches should not hesitate to write to Regiments, Regular or Reserve Army, and to Chief Signal Officers giving suggestions, particularly for recruiting and for publicity for the Corps. The Signal Officer-in-Chief asked his audience for immediate comment or questions on what he had said.

CAPTAIN J. BIRCHALL (Manchester Branch) stated, correctly, that the visits during 1961 of a Demonstration Team of 3rd Regiment, of the Band and of the Display Team to Lancashire had omitted Manchester. In Manchester and Cheshire there was great publicity for certain Cavalry Regiments, but very little for Royal Signals. He advocated greater care in the selection of cities and towns as the venue for such demonstration.

The Signal Officer-in-Chief, in reply, said that unhappily, the resources of the Corps were, in England, less than those of the Royal Armoured Corps. He had recently appointed Lieutenant-Colonel J. Knowles, M.B.E., to a new post, "Controller of Recruiting, Royal Signals," based at Catterick, and he hoped that Colonel Knowles would visit very many towns and cities and gradually build up a better organisation.

* * *

THE CHAIRMAN thanked the Signal Officer-in-Chief for his most interesting address and the meeting applauded.

☆

Visit of Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal to Cyprus and North Africa

☆

The Colonel-in-Chief talks to Staff Sergeant Ross Guard Commander 9th Regiment. Also in the picture: Signalman Vinton, Corporal Cole, Signalman Royston

The Princess Royal plays many roles in life. Apart from her military appointments, such as Colonel-in-Chief of four regiments, five Corps of Signals and the Women's Royal Army Corps, her position and interest in the work of the Red Cross, the Girl Guides and children's welfare ensure that any visit she makes is both an extremely busy and an extremely diverse one. It is, however, as Colonel-in-Chief of the Royal Corps of Signals that our main interest and respect lie, and the time and attention that Her Royal Highness paid to Royal Signals units during her very full tour proved that she has a considerable interest in us as well. Throughout her tour Her Royal Highness was accompanied by Miss Gwynedd Lloyd, M.V.O., and Lady Margaret Hawkins (Ladies in Waiting), Admiral Sir Geoffrey Hawkins, K.C.B., C.B., M.V.O. (Equerry) and Major Geoffrey Eastwood, C.V.O., C.B.E. (Comptroller).

The honour of making the first contact of the Royal visit went to 203 Squadron (Infantry Brigade Group) who operated the shore end of the Famagusta berthing link to H.M.Y. *Britannia.* Contact on key was made on the first call by *Britannia,* ten minutes before the scheduled time of opening, followed by an immediate change to voice. Corporals C. C. King and C. C. Laws and Signalman J. Murty enjoyed a short excursion in Joint Procedure and had a fine view of *Britannia* as she passed close to the signal tower into the harbour. Disembarking, Her Royal Highness visited Cypriot Red Cross and Children's Home work, calling on the President of the Republic (His Beatitude Archbishop Makarios) and taking tea with the Vice-President (His Excellency Doctor Kutchuk). The second day was also a full one, as Her Royal Highness spent the day visiting the historical areas around Salamis.

[Army Public Relations Photograph

Saturday, the 3rd of March, was the first Royal appearance as an Honorary General of the British Army. After entering the Dhekelia Sovereign Base Area the first engagement was the formal opening of the new Dhekelia Signal Centre. This centre, designed by Mr. G. A. Saville, A.R.I.B.A., A.M.P.T.I., and run by 3 Squadron 15th Regiment, is probably the most modern outside of the United Kingdom. Mr. Saville was waiting with the Chief Signal Officer (Brigadier C. T. Honeybourne, O.B.E.), the Commanding Officer of 15th Regiment, Lieutenant-Colonel D. L. Sylvester Bradley, the Squadron Commander, Major A. R. B. B. Dale, M.B.E., and Mr. D. Jackman, M.C., A.C.I.S., the Area Works Officer. On the arrival of The Princess Royal, Brigadier Honeybourne presented those waiting, before Lieutenant-Colonel Sylvester Bradley invited her to use a pair of silver scissors to cut a chadless tape strung across the main entrance of the Signal Centre. To commemorate this formal opening, a plaque inscribed with inlaid gold lettering and surmounted by a silver and gilt "Jimmy" had been set up on the inside wall.

In the Signal Centre, Staff Sergeant K. Winfield handed a message of loyal greetings from the Signal Officer in Chief. The Princess signed a reply, and with the aid of a pictorial diagram the Commanding Officer explained how the message would be transmitted by Radio Relay via Mount Olympus to the Tape Relay Centre at Episkopi where it would enter the COMCAN network. In the System Control, Warrant Officer Class II D. W. Capon, who has been responsible for the installation of equipment, and Staff Sergeant M. H. Welch demonstrated the technical transmission of the message.

After leaving the Signal Centre the Royal party went to the Dhekelia telephone exchange. The Cyprus Inland Telecommunications Authority inspector, Mr. Photiades, conducted them explaining the various equipments. The switchboard is operated entirely by Cypriot girls, under the supervision of Mrs. Gavriella Zambakidou.

Leaving the Telephone Exchange, Her Royal Highness came to the demonstration of three vehicle detachments of 203 Squadron (Infantry Brigade Group). The Squadron Commander, Major J. R. Cubberley, was presented by Brigadier Honeybourne and conducted the Royal party to the demonstration.

Her Royal Highness meets Mr. D. Jackson, M.C., A.C.I.S., the Area Works Officer when opening the new Dhekelia Signal Centre on 3rd March 1962.

Also in picture Mr. G. A. Saville, A.R.I.B.A., A.M.T.P.I., the architect, Major A. R. B. B. Dale, M.B.E., Royal Signals, O.C. 3 Squadron 15th Signal Regiment, Lieutenant-Colonel, D. L. Sylvester Bradley, Royal Signals, O.C. 15th Signal Regiment.

The first stand consisted of the light scales airportable "G" Command vehicle fitted with two radio sets (C11/R210 and C42). Sergeant R. Breese explained the layout of the vehicle and its purpose while Corporal G. Powell directed an Alauette helicopter of 10 Reconnaissance Flight Army Air Corps into the demonstration area where it performed an elegant curtsy and flew off.

The next stand was the normal scales 1-ton Armoured Humber with a modified staff compartment and external batteries, designed for use as a "Q" Command vehicle. Foreman of Signals F. W. Matthews explained the special modifications and Corporal J. W. Birkwood, the crew commander, showed the remainder of the installation and equipment carried. During this section of the demonstration, a message of loyal greetings from 245 Squadron (Cyrenacia) was received from Benghazi. Her Royal Highness graciously received the loyal greetings and approved a reply which was then sent.

From here, the group moved onto a tenacle of 620 Signal Troop (NEARELF) staffed by a Ground Liaison Officer (Captain A. Dixon, R.A.S.C.). A demonstration of a ground attack by a Hunter aircraft of 43(F) Squadron Royal Air Force, controlled by the tentacle, was put in train, the Hunter making a low pass over the tenacle precisely on time.

On leaving the Sovereign Base Area for 9th Regiment, the Princess Royal was able to see those members of the Squadron whom did not take part in the demonstration. Flanked by two 1-ton armoured vehicles, and paraded under the Squadron pennant, they were brought to attention by Warrant Officer Class II R. W. Thornborough as the Royal party passed by.

It was a perfect spring morning, the sun shining in a cloudless sky and a gentle breeze ruffling the flags, when Her Royal Highness arrived at 9th Regiment. At the main entrance to the Regiment's camp, a crowd of Cypriots had gathered at the prospect of seeing Her Royal Highness who in the two days already spent in the Famagusta area had become a familiar and popular figure with them.

The Princess Royal was greeted by the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel D. G. Jones, and was saluted by the Quarter Guard as her personal standard was broken by Warrant Officer Class II D. B. Owen. The Quarter Guard was under the command of Staff Sergeant R. G. Ross.

It was fortuitous that Her Royal Highness should be with the Regiment at this time, for although the new barracks are not quite ready for occupation, the name of "Mercury Barracks" had just been approved. It was, therefore, most fitting that the Regiment should ask Her Royal Highness to perform the naming ceremony. With the road lined by local Scouts and Cubs, a large crowd of families had come to watch. Before the ceremony, members of the Regiment in each rank from Warrant Officer Class I to Signalman, together with their wives, were presented to Her Royal Highness who put everyone at ease with her ready smile and charming manner. Among those presented with their wives were Signalman Gleeson, the most recently joined regular Special Operator, Lance-Corporal G. B. Pease, a National Service radio technician who has brought his wife with him to Cyprus, and Corporal D. B.

Her Royal Highness in a gay mood as she meets W.O.I (F. of S.) and Mrs. Carpenter and W.O.II and Mrs. Charlton

R.S.M. Marris presents his daughter Margaret to Her Royal Highness

Weedon, the Regiment's cricket captain and chairman of the Mercury Theatre Group.

To mark the occasion a plinth in local stone, showing the Corps badge with the name "Mercury Barracks" below, had been made by Mr. Kostos Nikolao, our Clerk of Works, who has been 22 years attached to the British Army in Cyprus, 12 of them with this Regiment. With scissors handed to her on a velvet cushion by Corporal S. G. Dawson, Her Royal Highness cut the ribbon and the Corps flag which had covered the plinth fell aside to reveal the carving. Her Royal Highness most graciously complimented Mr. Kostos Nikolao on his work when he was presented, and learned that he had also carved the impressive wooden lectern which Her Royal Highness had seen the previous day when visiting the Monastery of St. Barnabas.

With a final salute from the Cubs, Her Royal Highness got into her car to drive past the new barracks and up to the Operating Building, looking remarkably fresh in its new coat of paint! In the Operating Building Her Royal Highness showed genuine interest in the work and the problems of shift employment. In addition to military operators, she met several of the civilians who work alongside the soldiers and who had previously served in her Corps. This part of the visit was followed by one to the married quarters of Regimental Sergeant-Major R. V. Marris and Regimental Quarter-Master Sergeant T. R. McGrath, both of whom were presented with their families.

During the afternoon Her Royal Highness went on a sightseeing tour of the Old City of Famagusta which has so much of history to show. Throughout her tour Her Royal Highness spoke with pleasure at being able to visit again many of the archaeological sites which she had first seen in 1938 on her original visit to the island.

On Sunday, 4th March, 9th Regiment was again privileged to have a visit from The Princess Royal. The Royal party attended Morning Service in the Garrison Church, where the singing, which is usually lusty in St. Michael's, was particularly good. Her Royal Highness was kind enough to say how much she had enjoyed the Service and the singing. From Church the Commanding Officer escorted Her Royal Highness to the Parade Ground where nearly 300 Guides and Brownies were drawn up for review. A large crowd of proud parents had turned up to watch the parade, a commentary on which was recorded and later broadcast on The Forces Broadcasting Service. The young ladies (and grown-ups too) thoroughly enjoyed their parade, and many went away with proud memories of having spoken to a real Princess. After

the parade Her Royal Highness joined the Officers and their ladies for sherry before returning to H.M.Y. *Britannia*, leaving the Regiment with many happy memories of a memorable week-end.

On Sunday afternoon, the *Britannia* was due to sail to Limassal from where it could most conveniently serve the Princess' visit to the west of the island. A strengthening wind, however, meant that embarkation and disembarkation there might well have been unpleasant. As a result, the yacht did not sail until Tuesday. Despite this, and the long road journey it entailed, The Princess Royal continued with her visit to the Akrotiri Sovereign Base Area on Monday, the 5th March. Spending the morning with the Royal Air Force and the afternoon with the Guides and Brownies.

During this visit Her Royal Highness visited 11 Airfield Troop of 20th Signal Regiment at Royal Air Force Station, Akrotiri. She arrived at Wing Operations Centre where the Commanding Officer (Lieutenant-Colonel J. H. Cooper), the Squadron Commander (Major E. J. Buirski), the Troop Commander (Captain B. B. Gallagher) and Staff Sergeant J. A. Sharman, the Troop Sergeant, were presented. Her Royal Highness then visited the Automatic Telephone Exchange and Fault Control where Sergeant G. E. Morrill was presented. She spoke to the two duty technicians, and talked to Corporal T. A. Hyde in the Frame Room. The Royal party was then shown a radio relay terminal where Staff Sergeant R. E. Weighill, B.E.M., and Sergeant G. H. Johnson were presented. Her Royal Highness showed great interest in the equipment and its operation.

Tuesday, 6th March, meant another drive from Famagusta over roads a great deal of which are either under repair or construction. Fortunately, moderating winds meant that *Britannia* was able to sail to Limassol that morning. Her Royal Highness thus only had to drive back the fifteen miles from Episkopi at the end of her engagements, the main feature of which was her visit to 15th Regiment.

The route into the Regimental Compound was lined with H.Q. NEARELF E.R.E. personnel from all units of which the Princess Royal is Colonel-in-Chief, and 20th Regiment. At the entrance to the Regimental Compound the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel D. L. Sylvester Bradley, presented the Second-in-Command (Major S. F. Dunkley), the Adjutant (Captain K. G. White) and Regimental Sergeant-Major F. Stockdale, B.E.M. Drawn up on the square behind the Communications Centre was a Guard of Honour under the command of Captain W. G. Robinson. The Regimental trumpeters, Corporal J. Dark and Lance-Corporal M. R. Reed, crowned their weeks of practice with a perfect General Salute. After inspecting the Guard, Her Royal Highness visited the Communications Centre where, accompanied by Major J. L. McKellar and Major C. F. Bushell, she chatted to many of the W.R.A.C. and newly arrived civilian operators. In System Control, Captain F. St. C. Robinson showed the Colonel-in-Chief a novel call band made into a most realistic "Jimmy."

At the telephone exchange Captain E. B. Foster, W.R.A.C., presented Sergeant E. J. Benson. Whilst in the telephone exchange, Admiral Sir Geoffrey Hawkins admired the brand new carpet. One of the operators, her natural tact momentarily deserting her, said: "Yes, sir, it's very nice, but we have to send it back to the Barrack Stores when you leave." "Nonsense," said the Admiral, "Tell 'em I say that you can keep it." This story was passed on to the Barrack Officer. It must have touched his heart because the exchange still sports its new carpet!

The next stop for the Royal party was the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess, where the Warrant Officers of both 15th and 20th Regiments were assembled with their wives. During coffee, many of the wives had the opportunity of talking with the Princess.

Then followed a visit to the Receiver Site and a visit to the Transmitter Site. At the latter, Major S. C. Dare, the Operations Officer was presented. Staff Sergeant D. C. Pockock amused the Royal party by performing the "E10 Key Trick." Having seen the transmitter opened in "double-quick" time, the Princess stepped inside the High Power Rectifier sections.

Meanwhile, in the Officers' Mess, the officers and their ladies were gathering for lunch. The Mess Staff, under Staff Sergeant W. J. Gunn, had worked extremely hard, and the Mess looked most attractive. The large collection of Regimental Sporting trophies decorated the table. The preparation of the luncheon had been under the supervision of Staff Sergeant F. Morgan, A.C.C., and a fine meal it was. Before and after lunch, many of the wives had the honour of talking informally with the Princess. To commemorate the occasion, a group photograph was taken on the Mess Patio.

The 7th March was again a day spent with the Cyprus civilian authorities, and Her Royal Highness was able once more to display her interest in, and knowledge of, the antiquities in which the island abounds. The Thursday was a military social day, and The Princess Royal's charm and graciousness were continually apparent to the very many varied people that she met and spoke to.

The Corps had an interest in her afternoon visits to the Episkopi Saddle Club and Inter-Service Yacht Club. In the afternoon she paid a visit to "Happy Valley," calling first on the Episkopi Saddle Club. The Chairman of the Saddle Club is Lieutenant-Colonel D. L. Sylvester Bradley, who escorted the Royal party around the stables. A number of young enthusiastic members of the Pony Club, of which he is commissioner, were lined up with their ponies to greet the Princess. In the nearby paddocks the Royal party saw jumping instruction and schooling in progress. Amongst the instructors was Mrs. Grant, wife of Captain F. Grant, of 15th Regiment. The 40 ponies belonging to the Saddle Club are most versatile, for as well as being used for hacking, show jumping and basic equestrian instruction, they are also used for polo. The Princess Royal showed a keen interest in both horses and riders.

H.R.H. visits the Signal Centre at 15th Regiment. *Left to right*: Private Brindle, Lance Corporal Goodwin, Private Gosling, H.R.H., Major McKellar, Major Bushell, Lieutenant Colonel D. L. Sylvester-Bradley

H.R.H. visits Episkopi Saddle Club

Squadron Officer D. Trick, Lieutenant-Colonel J. H. Cooper, Colonel A. C. Cox, Her Royal Highness, Brigadier A. C. Honeybourne, Lady Margarit Hawkin, Colonel D. G. Parker (late Royal Signals), Major Geoffery Eastwood, Lieutenant-Colonel A. D. Mackenzie (late Royal Signals), Lieutenant-Colonel The Hon. M. M. Anderson, A.D.W.R.A.C., Lieutenant-Colonel D. G. Jones

By the time the Royal party had reached the Inter-Services Yacht Club House on "Tunnel Beach," a considerable gale was blowing. It had been hoped that the new Albacore named *Quindecimus*, a gift to 15th Regiment from the Nuffield Trust Fund, would be launched for the Royal occasion. Major I. Gram-Hansen and Corporal J. Dark were ready for its maiden voyage, but the seas were too high. In the Club House, The Princess Royal spoke to many of the members, including the Secretary, Major J. E. Carroll, M.B.E., of Chief Signal Officer's Branch, Headquarters, Near East Land Forces.

The second member of the Branch to meet The Princess Royal that afternoon was W.O.II J. Dean, the Orderly Room Quarter Master Sergeant. He and his wife were presented when the Royal party visited his quarter in Episkopi.

The remainder of Thursday was occupied with the two Royal Signals social functions. At tea-time Brigadier and Mrs. Honeybourne were hosts to the Princess Royal. At this tea party, she met the officers and wives at Extra Regimental Duty in Episkopi and Limassol, Headquarters, Near East Land Forces, and 20th Regiment. Each couple spent a few minutes talking with Her Royal Highness, whose charm once more made the tea party a very enjoyable and relaxed occasion. At its end, Brigadier C. T. Honeybourne presented the Colonel-in-Chief with a hand-made Cyprus lace tablecloth and set of napkins, a gift from Royal Signals Officers serving in Cyprus.

That evening, in the Officers' Club, Episkopi, Her Royal Highness attended a Regimental Dinner given by the officers of the Royal Signals, The Royal Scots (The Royal Regiment), The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire, and the Women's Royal Army Corps, with a representative officer of Princess Mary's Royal Air Force Nursing Service among the guests. There were 92 officers present at this dinner, which was a truly memorable and brilliant occasion. The mixed waiting staff of NAAFI Cypriot employees, Sudanese waiters in traditional flowing dress, and W.R.A.C. women serving in Episkopi, completed a colourful Royal scene. The Regimental Band of 2nd Bn. The Parachute Regiment, under Bandmaster W. Best, L.R.C.M., A.R.C.M., played throughout dinner.

After a day of private visits to some of the island's beauty spots, on Friday, 9th March, *Britannia* sailed for Tobruk. After having undertaken official civilian engagements, the Royal party went to the Air Force Station, El Adem. During this visit the Colonel-in-Chief met not only 14 Airfield Troop of 20th Regiment (commanded by Lieutenant L. A. Woods), but a detachment of 245 Squadron (Cyrenaica), who had travelled across from Benghazi, under their Squadron Commander, Major J. B. Stewart, for the occasion. Further civil engagements and the voyage filled the days until her arrival at Tripoli, where the main Corps interest lay in the visit to 219 Squadron (Tripolitania) on Monday, 19th March.

Welcomed by the Squadron Commander (Major T. W. Fortescue-Hitchins) who presented Captain J. H. Cooper and W.O.II J. A. Crabtree, Her Royal Highness was conducted by Lieutenant (Traffic) E. G. Barrett around the Signal Centre whilst the normal day's routine continued. A visit to the Training Room followed, where several N.C.O.s, Signalmen and their wives were presented, and Her Royal Highness signed the Squadron Historical Record.

The Princess Royal then saw the Transmitter Site and visited Sergeant and Mrs. J. Kitchen's quarter, close by. This part of the morning was a particular success, being pleasantly informal. Her Royal Highness seemed to enjoy it very much. The Princess Royal finally had coffee with the officers and their wives in the Garrison Officers' Mess.

A tour like this is an exhausting task, particularly when it includes not only roles in the very many appointments that The Princess Royal holds, but a very full list of civil and protocol engagements that her position as a Royal ambassadress imply. There is no doubt, however, that all in the Corps who met her—and as this article shows, the Colonel-in-Chief met many and was seen by all ranks in her Corps—were impressed by her warmth, graciousness and interest in all that she saw and did. Perhaps never before has Her Royal Highness's interest in her Corps welfare been more clearly demonstrated than by this voyage through stormy seas to see us, followed by such a heavy programme of visits.

H.R.H. The Princess Royal with Lance-Corporal E. Hurst

H.R.H. The Princess Royal with Staff Sergeant and Mrs. Kitchen and Sergeant and Mrs. Smith and their families

R.S.M.'s BASED IN THE UNITED KINGDOM AT CATTERICK CAMP, MARCH 1962

Back Row (left to right) : G. N. Smith, T. Jones, I. D. C. Currie, W. E. Howley S. G. Pavey, J. Donaldson, R. H. Jackson, G. D. Webster, C. Nutton, A. E. T. Bosten
Centre Row (left to right) : E. C. Jones, T. P. O'Connor, E. J. Ford, D. F. H. Crosby, A. C. B. Stout, F. L. Holt, D. Haughney, G. H. Elsey. R. F. Wilford, J. W. Sinclair
Front Row (left to right) : M. A. Barnes-Murphy, P. S. Mullin, T. A. Swales, M. Ham, Major-General A. M. W. Whistler, C.B.E., SO-in-C, W. G. Finch, A. V. K. Ward, B. E. Clark, J. P. McKenna

Regimental Sergeant-Majors Convention

AT 09.30 hours on Thursday, 8th March, 1962, in the Sergeants' Mess, 11th Regiment (Depot), Catterick Camp, Yorkshire, twenty-eight R.S.M.s stood before the Signal Officer-in-Chief.

Six hundred and eighty-five years' service confronted the Signal Officer-in-Chief, every one of the twenty-eight wearing the Badges Arm Royal Arms.

History was made as never before in the history of our Corps had so many R.S.M.s assembled together in one room.

They came from Scotland, Ireland, Wales, and from all over England to this, the first U.K. convention. In 1961 a B.A.O.R. convention of Royal Signals R.S.M.s took place at H.Q., B.A.O.R. coinciding with the Signal Officer-in-Chief's visit; a short convention of one afternoon and evening.

The U.K. convention lasted for two-and-a-half days; two-and-a-half days of abounding interest, discussion, argument, humour and goodwill. Several met again for the first time for over 20 years. Addresses were given by the Signal Officer-in-Chief, the Commander Training Brigade, Officer i/c Records, Senior Personnel, Selection Officer, Major F. S. Petrie, M.B.E., representatives of the Army Apprentice School, Harrogate, and Junior Leaders Regiment, Royal Signals, from Denbury. Colonel J. H. Collins from the Signal Officer-in-Chief's staff at the War Office and Major (Q.M.) J. J. Brown from AG 11 were also present.

No query raised was left unanswered. Boys (both Apprentice and Junior Leader), postings, promotions, trade structure, trade training, recruits, dress, the future signal plan, the T.A., equipment, supply, commissions—all were discussed in an informal atmosphere. A vast amount of information was both given and received by all in attendance.

Catterick, as usual, provided typical weather for the time of year—even including a snow storm when the group photograph was taken.

Visits were made to the School of Signals and also to 11th Regiment (Depot) 1 Squadron to see recruits forming into squads prior to training and actually undergoing training. The Headquarters Officers' Mess invited the R.S.M.s for drinks at lunch time on the Friday in time to meet the Signal Officer-in-Chief again and see him depart for London.

A dinner was held on Friday evening in 11th Regiment (Depot) Sergeants' Mess, Helles Lines, at which eight hundred and twenty years Military Service sat down to dine. The Corps Orchestra played throughout the dinner and the Fanfare of Trumpeters from the Corps Band was also present. Our guests were Brigadier P. M. P. Hobson, D.S.O., Commander Training Brigade, Royal Signals, Colonel D. R. Horsfield, O.B.E., Chief Instructor, School of Signals. Lieutenant-Colonel S. W. Brackenbury, M.B.E., Commanding 11th Regiment (Depot), Major P. D. Parker, Brigade Major, Training Brigade, Major (Q.M.) J. J. Brown from AG 11 and Lieutenant (Director of Music) C. H. Pike.

The fanfares preceding the Loyal Toast and The Colonel-in-Chief, the Orchestra playing the National Anthem, the silver and uniforms by candlelight, the occasion itself and what it represented, made for the writer, and I am sure to all present, a memory to be treasured for ever.

The convention ended at mid-day Saturday, 10th March, and most R.S.M.s departed on the 1.25 p.m train from Darlington. One, however, who must remain nameless was still "Dispersing" at eight o'clock that night (he made an excellent job of billet orderly!) If the reader should be curious about the circumstances that created an R.S.M. Billet Orderly—ask someone who was there, maybe he will tell you.

We hope next year that the R.S.M.s from B.A.O.R. will join us—it's possible.

Finally, to the Major at H.Q. Training Brigade who "suggested" that perhaps the syndicate discussion would "dry up" all I can say is, "Sir—Oh, Sir!"

The Sergeants' Mess Bar steward is still recovering.

Birthday of Her Royal Highness The Colonel-in-Chief

On the 24th April, 1962 the following Signal was made :

H.R.H. The Princess Royal, Harewood House.

All ranks your corps send loyal and affectionate greetings on your Birthday.

Representative Colonel Commandant.

FIRST U.K. REGIMENTAL SERGEANT-MAJORS' CONVENTION

By R.S.M. M. A. Barnes-Murphy

Corps history was made at Catterick Camp on 8th March, 1962, when almost (I regret we were unable to enjoy the company of R.S.M.s Derwent and Creed, due to illness) all the U.K.-based R.S.M.s met together for the first time. Twenty-eight "fearsome" personalities confronted the excellent company of officers who laboured gallantly, and successfully, to straighten out and to explain the many problems and questions presented.

The experience was undoubtedly a great success, and all credit should go to its instigator—it is certainly an occasion which should be repeated annually.

We were greatly honoured to be in discussion (I will not say lectured, because the informal atmosphere during talks was the keynote to the success of this convention) with the team led by Major-General A. M. W. Whistler, C.B.E., Signal Officer-in-Chief, and which included Brigadier P. M. P. Hobson, D.S.O., Colonel F. P. Johnson, O.B.E., Colonel J. H. Collins, Lieutenant-Colonel S. W. Brackenbury, M.B.E., Majors J. J. Brown, F. Petrie and P. D. Parker.

Our first evening was spent meeting old friends and attempting to fit names to people we did not know. By the second evening, when we were entertained by R.S.M. M. Ham in the 11th Regiment Sergeants' Mess, we were beginning to address each other without the prefix "er-um."

R.S.M. Ham excelled himself in his speech of welcome and introduced our distinguished guests, amongst whom was our new Director of Music, Lieutenant C. H. Pike. Brigadier P. M. P. Hobson, D.S.O., Commander of the Training Brigade, responded in his usual inimitable way and set the seal on an extremely enjoyable evening.

There were many items of extreme interest presented to us during the two and-a-half very short days; the Hobart presentation (our congratulations to the American Colonel who baffled us all with his science!) and the initial training of the recruit; but time is short and if I write in detail and give credit to every point, these notes will never get into print.

Many good things for the Corps will come from this, the first U.K. R.S.M.s' Convention, of that I am sure, and I am proud to have been one of those who attended.

Silver Presentation to the Corps

On Thursday, 5th April, 1962, Mr. D. Prenn, Chairman of the British Communications Corporation Limited, attended a Guest Night at the Headquarter Mess, Royal Signals. Mr. Prenn was accompanied by Lieutenant-Colonel F. P. Nurdin (late Royal Signals), who is the Sales Manager of the same Company.

The Representative Colonel Commandant was presented as principal host. After dinner Major-General R. J. Moberly, C.B., O.B.E., gave a speech of welcome in which he outlined the very interesting careers of the two guests. Mr. Prenn had been a sportsman of international repute having represented Germany before the war in Olympic tennis championships. He is now the head of a very successful British Company manufacturing radio equipment. One of its products which is now familiar to members of the Corps is the C13 HF radio set. Lieutenant-Colonel Nurdin is well known in Royal Signals as Chief Signal Officer to Major-General Wingate during the Burma campaign.

At the conclusion of a most interesting and amusing speech in reply, Mr. Prenn presented a silver model of a C13 set to Major-General Moberly as a token of his Company's esteem of Royal Signals. This magnificent gift is complete in every detail and it has already attracted much admiration from those who have seen it displayed as a centre piece in the Headquarter Mess dining room.

Recruiting — Southern Command

In the July, 1961 edition, an account was published on the recruiting activities of 243 Squadron (Southern Command) under the direction of the Chief Signal Officer, Brigadier D. White, O.B.E. The purpose of this article is to complete the story of the twelve months April, 1961—March, 1962.

During the spring and summer of 1961 a total of 19 outdoor events totalling 57 days were attended by the outdoor display based on two 2-ton cipher trailers which had been specially converted for the purpose by S.R.D.E. Without exception, at all these events interest was shown by all classes of the public, and the Corps was brought to the notice of many thousands of persons.

Before the end of the season in September, plans were underway for the construction of an indoor display for use in the winter. The intended locations of cinema foyers and large shop windows were dropped in favour of all arms exhibitions organised by Area Recruiting Officers, usually in T.A. Drill Halls. During the period 1st December, 1961—3rd March, 1962, a Corps stand was produced at nine exhibitions totalling 30 days.

Other activities during 1961/62 were equipment displays at five schools, the showing of the Corps film at a youth club, and the distribution of recruiting literature.

Results in this field are always difficult to assess, but the statistics are encouraging. With only a few weeks' figures to come in, it seems certain that the number of men and boys recruited in Southern Command for the twelve months under review will be over 40 per cent higher than in the previous equivalent year.

Furthermore, as a number of the outdoor displays were at holiday resorts, it is hoped that the right idea may have been germinated in the heads of a number of holiday-makers resident outside the Command.

At present we are engaged on the renovation of the outdoor display, but the equipment which we shall be able to show this year is still uncertain. However, we have gone ahead arranging dates and our present fixture list is published under Forthcoming Events.

Christmas Card for the Colonel-in-Chief

It has become the custom to send to the Colonel-in-Chief a special Christmas Card painted by someone in the Corps. Her Royal Highness much appreciates this card.

It has been decided that a competition for the painting of this card will now be held, the conditions of which are:—

(a) The competition is open to all ranks of the Corps, Regular or Reserve Army, and their families.
(b) Paintings should preferably, though not necessarily, have a Christmas theme.
(c) Any medium may be used provided the picture is capable of being suitably made up into a Christmas Card.
(d) Pictures should not exceed 8ft. 6in. (upright or horizontal), though there is no objection to their being a little smaller than this.
(e) No attempt should be made to mount or embellish the painting—arrangements will be made by R.H.Q. to mount the one finally selected, as a card, together with the necessary lettering.
(f) The card to be used will be selected by the Representative Colonel Commandant and will be sent from "The Representative Colonel Commandant and all ranks Royal Signals, past and present."
(g) A prize of £5 is offered, which will be awarded to the artist who has the honour of having his or her picture selected for use in the card for Her Royal Highness.

All who wish are invited to submit paintings to reach this Regimental Headquarters Royal Signals, 88 Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1, at any time between now and 1st September, 1962. The final selection will be made in September and pictures not used will then be returned if senders have so requested.

Captain H. Taylor has his photograph taken

Arctic conditions on Sutton Bank

Royal Signals Display, 1962

The activities of the past month have largely been restricted to routine training, but it has been a satisfying month watching the Display take form and begin to gain that polish for which it is renowned. The undoubted highlight of the past month was the visit of a B.B.C. television unit to film the Display for their 'World of Sport' programme on May 3rd. It was feared that the date of the visit—9th April—was a little too early in the training season for the standard to be that expected of the team. However, those of you who saw the programme on 3rd May will agree that there was certainly nothing lacking, and the team can be congratulated on a fine show so early in the season. The photograph shows the Assistant Television Sports Producer for the B.B.C. North Region, Mr. Stan Parkinson, giving the Officer I.C. Display, Captain H. Taylor, a few pointers on shooting angles and stage management.

The other photograph shows the less glamorous side of being a member of the team. The picture was taken when the new machines were being run in prior to the actual Display training. In four days the men and machines covered over 600 miles, and the Arctic conditions shown here near Sutton Bank were pretty common up and down the country.

There have been crop of weddings and engagements over the past month, and it isn't known whether the cause is Spring or the Income Tax deadline! Anyway, many congratulations to Lance-Corporal Howard, Signalmen Rowe, Thompson, Usher and Hall on their respective marriages, and to Lance-Corporals Blakey and Robinson, and Signalman Parmley on their engagements.

It is with regret that we have lost Signalman Rowe from the team. He has been discharged from the Army on medical grounds, and we all wish him well in civilian life. Lance-Corporal Robinson is also a casualty. He landed awkwardly during training, and at the present moment is suffering at the hands of all the pretty nurses in the Camp Hospital! Some people have all the luck! However, the injury is not so severe as it was thought, and with his ankle out of plaster shortly, he should be back with us in a month or so.

The training goes on; the spirit of the Team was never better, and the boys are looking forward to a hard but enjoyable season. More news next month, so until then, drive carefully, and watch out for Pandas on the roads!

The Cable Wagon

Do you know of a complete or partial *Cable Wagon* which could be given, or loaned, to the Royal Signal Museum to back-up the one and only which they have?

Please write to:—

The Secretary,
Royal Signals Institution,
88, Eccleston Square,
London, S.W.1.

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR, THE RIGHT HONOURABLE MR. JOHN PROFUMO, M.P.

He visited Catterick early in March and afterwards wrote as under to Brigadier P. M. P. Hobson, D.S.O.:—

"Thank you very much for an interesting visit to your Training Brigade and also for such an enjoyable luncheon in the Royal Signals Mess.

"I was very glad to meet some of your recruits and to be able to see some of the advanced courses which you run.

"On Saturday I saw the Boys at Harrogate and it looks as if you have got some good material for the Corps.

"I shall be grateful if you would thank your Commanding Officers who kindly showed me their Regiments and also all those who helped to make my visit to you so interesting and enjoyable and, from my point of view, so successful.

"My best wishes to you all."

ROYAL SIGNALS BAND GRAMOPHONE RECORD

Side 1 is devoted to music for Ceremonial Parades.

Side 2 contains music for guest nights and other occasions.

This record is what everyone has been asking for for so long.

The coloured sleeve in which the record is packed has photographs of the Band and a full description of the music.

It is available cash with order from Royal Signals Association:

Price — by post 30/-
counter sale 27/-

Civilian addressees outside the Commonwealth will be asked to pay a little extra for postage.

Description of Record — Page 165

PERSONAL COLUMN

The London Gazette

From 13th March, 1962, to 30th March, 1962

Captain (T.O.T.) P. R. Moores to be Major (T.O.T.) 18th March, 1962.

The undermentioned Lieutenants from A.E. Res. of Officers, National Service List to be Lieutenants 20th March, 1962:

J. P. Lesquereux — P. A. E. Rees
J. P. Day — P. T. Taylor

The undermentioned Lieutenants from T.A. National Service List to be Lieutenants 20th March, 1962:

D. G. Hornby — R. M. Scott
R. K. Wilson — G. P. J. Beynon
G. Amos — A. J. Williamson

Second-Lieutenant R. E. V. Wright (A.E.R.O.) (on probation) to be Lieutenant 26th February, 1962.

Second-Lieutenant C. R. Reynolds-Jones from Reg. Army National Service List to be Second-Lieutenant 9th March, 1962.

Second-Lieutenant R. G. S. Green (T.A.) to be Second-Lieutenant (on probation) 11th January, 1962.

Second-Lieutenant T. B. W. Gregory (T.A.) from S.A.S. to be Second-Lieutenant (on probation) 15th February, 1962.

The undermentioned Colonels to be Brigadiers on date shown:

P. E. M. Bradley, D.S.O., O.B.E., 1st January, 1962.
A. F. McGill, O.B.E., 1st January, 1962.
M. A. Charlton, O.B.E., 7th February, 1962.
C. T. Honeybourne, O.B.E., 20th February, 1962.

Major W. A. Dalziel from T.A. to A.E.R.O. to be Major, 15th March, 1962.

Second-Lieutenant G. M. B. Wilson from Reg. Army National Service List to be Second-Lieutenant, 13th December, 1961.

Second-Lieutenant C. F. R. Wilson from Reg. Army National Service List to be Second-Lieutenant, 13th December, 1961.

Captain G. W. Dyer from Unattached List to be Captain (T.A.), 1st February, 1962.

Brigadier R. B. Ridley-Martin retired 24th March, 1962.

Major D. C. Ward to be Lieutenant-Colonel, 4th September, 1961.

Major (Traffic Officer) L. J. Sharp retired 27th March, 1962.

Second-Lieutenant C. T. Williams (S.S.C.) to be Lieutenant, 16th February, 1962.

W.O.I (R.S.M.) J. Wilderspin to be Lieutenant (Q.M.), 1st March, 1962.

Lieutenant-Colonel C. Vincent Smith, T.D. (T.A.), to be Bt. Colonel, 1st April, 1961.

Lieutenant A. B. Acton from R.W.F. to be Lieutenant, 5th February, 1962.

Lieutenant P. A. Treseder to be Captain, 30th March, 1962.

Captain A. Hughes relinquished his commission on completion of service, 31st March, 1962, and is granted the hon. rank of Major.

Captain E. T. Williams, T.D., to be Major, 1st January, 1962 (T.A.).

Lieutenant (Acting Captain) P. F. Jolliffe to be Captain, 29th March, 1962 (T.A.).

Major D. Galbraith retired 1st April, 1962.

Lieutenant G. T. Mills transferred from R.E.M.E., 20th February, 1959.

Movements—Officers

(Taken place or forecast to take place period ending 15th May, 1962)

Major W. T. A. Lockwood	To	11th Regiment
Captain J. Westlake	,,	Junior Leaders Regiment
Captain W. A. F. Morgan	,,	Army Air Corps Centre (H.S.)
Captain C. J. Rayner	,,	11th Regiment (S.A.S. Course)
Lieutenant M. F. H. Colman	,,	Junior Leaders Regiment
Major J. R. T. Paterson	,,	School of Signals
Major J. C. Green	,,	11th Regiment (H.S.) attached War Office, Signals 3
Lieutenant R. Howell	,,	11th Regiment (H.S.)
Captain A. F. Seymour	,,	H.Q., M.E.L.F., Aden
Captain L. A. Welton	,,	30th Regiment
Lieutenant-Colonel R. S. King, T.D.	,,	11th Regiment (H.S.)
Captain S. W. Read	,,	222 Squadron
Captain I. F. Bird	,,	225 Squadron
Captain D. M. A. Burridge	,,	210 Squadron
Major L. S. McCarthy	,,	11th Regiment (H.S.)
Captain H. Clarke	,,	11th Regiment (H.S.)
Major E. J. Bardell	,,	11th Regiment
Major A. Lamb	,,	School of Artillery
Major W. G. Neilson	,,	Royal Military Academy
Major J. N. Burrell	,,	2nd Regiment
Captain W. Farmery	,,	605 Troop
Captain D. C. Sidney	,,	Junior Leaders Regiment
Major (T.O.T.) J. T. Rogers	,,	C.A.F.S.O. (F.E.A.F.)
Captain (Q.M.) A. H. Knight	,,	8th Regiment
Captain (Tfc.) G. S. Massey	,,	16th Regiment
Major (Tfc.) E. H. J. Bridle	,,	3rd Regiment
Captain (Tfc.) D. W. Swenson	,,	11th Regiment (H.S.)
Captain (T.O.T.) A. V. Render	,,	625 Troop
Major (T.O.T.) E. Thompson	,,	19th Regiment
Lieutenant (T.O.T.) L. R. Churchill	,,	235 Squadron
Lieutenant-Colonel A. T. Burrows	,,	30th Regiment
Major J. L. Donne	,,	19th Regiment
Major K. E. P. Andrews	,,	H.Q., A.A.F.C.E.
Captain M. A. T. Hartnett	,,	210 Squadron

Movements—Warrant Officers and Sergeants

W.O.I J. W. Sinclair	To	42nd (Lancs.) Regiment (T.A.)
W.O.I D. E. Woodbridge	,,	61st Regiment (T.A.)
W.O.I A. N. G. Gent	,,	632 Troop
W.O.II (R.Q.M.S.) J. D. Hutchison	,,	252 Squadron
W.O.II A. A. Kemp	,,	30th Regiment
W.O.II L. Irving	,,	57th Regiment (T.A.)
W.O.II R. M. MacLeish	,,	44th (H.C.) Regiment (T.A.)
W.O.II R. H. Jackson	,,	224 Squadron
W.O.II J. M. Brady	,,	243 Squadron
W.O.II C. D. Evis	,,	Signal Training Centre, FARELF
W.O.II B. A. R. Yates	,,	227 Squadron
W.O.II Q. F. Clayton	,,	13th Regiment
W.O.II J. E. Grigsby	,,	18th Regiment
Acting W.O.II J. McGuire	,,	48th (H.C.) Regiment (T.A.)
Staff Sergeant A. Leach	,,	13th Regiment
Staff Sergeant W. G. MacLeod	,,	245 Squadron
Staff Sergeant E. R. Hurnell	,,	15th Regiment
Staff Sergeant C. Martin	,,	8th Regiment
Staff Sergeant D. Palmer	,,	47th Regiment (T.A.)
Staff Sergeant A. Spurgin	,,	1st Signal Squadron, K.A.R.
Staff Sergeant G. H. Waters	,,	47th Regiment (Middlesex Yeomanry) (T.A.)
Staff Sergeant A. D. Mears	,,	49th (Yorkshire) Regiment (T.A.)
Staff Sergeant E. Milne	,,	326 Squadron (T.A.)
Staff Sergeant D. V. Smith	,,	All Arms Junior Leaders Unit
Staff Sergeant R. Hills	,,	30th Regiment
Staff Sergeant J. M. Gittins	,,	3rd Regiment
Staff Sergeant H. H. Anderson	,,	11th Regiment
Staff Sergeant R. M. Jones	,,	30th Regiment
Staff Sergeant J. T. R. Walker	,,	238 Squadron
Staff Sergeant T. W. Gibson	,,	18th Regiment
Staff Sergeant J. C. Mead	,,	18th Regiment
Staff Sergeant J. R. Markham	,,	Gurkha Signal Regiment
Staff Sergeant M. J. Waite	,,	Queen's Royal Irish Hussars Signal Troop
Acting Staff Sergeant H. Pearson	,,	13th Regiment
Acting Staff Sergeant R. Ellis	,,	627 Troop
Acting Staff Sergeant A. Horton	,,	14th Regiment
Acting Staff Sergeant D. O'Connor	,,	Army Apprentices School
Sergeant L. Sant	,,	2nd Regiment
Sergeant M. H. Webb	,,	236 Squadron
Sergeant K. R. Brown	,,	222 Squadron
Sergeant R. K. Hopwood	,,	227 Squadron
Sergeant B. A. Meachin	,,	H.Q., ALFCE
Sergeant G. Bashford	,,	235 Squadron
Sergeant W. G. Thomas	,,	59th Regiment
Sergeant C. Hatcher	,,	Army Apprentices School
Sergeant B. Ashton	,,	Singapore Military Forces
Sergeant R. G. Postlethwaite	,,	24th Regiment
Sergeant R. H. Hanson	,,	School of Artillery
Sergeant H. Jacobs	,,	14th Regiment
Sergeant T. L. Grisdale	,,	11th Regiment
Acting Sergeant J. P. Huey	,,	C.R. Signals, Singapore.
Sergeant J. H. Izzo	,,	19th Regiment
Sergeant P. A. Williams	,,	H.Q., East Africa Command
Sergeant C. A. Smith	,,	208 Squadron
Acting Sergeant D. C. E. Silk	,,	24th Regiment
Sergeant W. J. Duncan	,,	U.K. Garrison Signal Troop
Acting Sergeant G. Coatsworth	,,	U.K. Garrison Signal Troop
Sergeant M. Drugan	,,	1st Regiment
Sergeant J. R. Purdy	,,	2nd Regiment
Sergeant R. E. N. Growns	,,	4th Regiment
Sergeant D. C. Parry	,,	U.K. Garrison Signal Troop
Sergeant G. Young	,,	R.M.A., Sandhurst
Sergeant R. T. Thompson	,,	Oxford University O.T.C.
Sergeant D. H. Owen	,,	2nd Regiment
Sergeant D. A. F. Adam	,,	22nd Regiment
Acting Sergeant J. L. Harrison	,,	225 Squadron
Sergeant L. W. Wrixon	,,	4th Regiment
Sergeant J. H. Wise	,,	U.K. Garrison Signal Troop
Sergeant M. Stanger	,,	50th Regiment (T.A.)
Sergeant A. McKeever	,,	Army Apprentices School
Sergeant L. Pollard	,,	241 Squadron
Sergeant K. J. Driscoll	,,	7th Regiment
Sergeant E. N. T. Withall	,,	4th Regiment
Sergeant P. E. C. O'Connor	,,	224 Squadron
Acting Sergeant J. A. Ironside	,,	225 Squadron
Sergeant W. Forrest	,,	18th Regiment
Sergeant G. J. Brooks	,,	U.K. Garrison Signal Troop
Sergeant J. M. Bell	,,	228 Squadron
Sergeant J. Sinnett	,,	44th (H.C.) Regiment (T.A.)
Sergeant J. M. Ferguson	,,	254 Squadron
Sergeant G. P. Selwyn	,,	255 Squadron
Sergeant P. Blunt	,,	3rd Regiment
Sergeant T. Cockerill	,,	28th Regiment
Sergeant P. R. Sellwood	,,	2nd Regiment
Sergeant B. A. Jewiss	,,	254 Squadron
Sergeant P. Donoghue	,,	210 Squadron
Sergeant C. H. Richardson	,,	21st Regiment
Sergeant T. Burns	,,	242 Squadron
Sergeant R. C. Jones	,,	21st Regiment
Sergeant J. L. S. Crinnell	,,	All Arms Junior Leaders Regt.
Sergeant P. G. Farrell	,,	237 Squadron
Sergeant S. Braithwaite	,,	24th Regiment
Sergeant R. H. Charles	,,	Signal Training Centre, FARELF
Sergeant R. A. Isgate	,,	3rd Regiment

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RECOMMENDED READING

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History, etc., 10th Regiment	156-160
Army Life in A.D.1	164
Malta—Bankok	177, 179
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Army Apprentices School win Army Rugger Cup	182
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Births

CRANE.—To Sergeant and Mrs. R. D. Crane, on 8th January, 1962, a daughter, Jacqueline Anne, at Earlsdon, Coventry.

HARRIES.—To Sergeant and Mrs. R. J. L. Harries, on 28th January, 1962, a daughter, Allison Dawn, at Wegberg.

POWDRILL.—To Signalman and Mrs. D. Powdrill, on 12th December, 1961, a son, Robert, at Belper, Derby.

GOODMAN.—To Signalman and Mrs. C. F. Goodman, on 14th December, 1961, a son, Peter, at B.M.H. Hostert.

SMITH.—To Signalman and Mrs. H. Smith, on 13th March, 1962, a daughter, Allison, at B.M.H. Hostert.

ATKINS.—To Sergeant and Mrs. T. H. Atkins, on 22nd February, 1962, a son, Graham, at B.M.H. Hostert.

DAVIS.—To Signalman and Mrs. J. A. Davis, on 31st March, 1962, a son, Paul Anthony, at B.M.H. Hostert.

POWELL.—To Captain and Mrs. C. K. Powell, on 12th February, 1962, a son, Simon, at B.M.H. Hostert.

Marriages

205 Squadron

KENNEDY—SHAW.—Signalman W. J. Kennedy, on 3rd March, 1962, to Irvy Shaw, at the Register Office in the County Borough of Manchester.

SCANTLEBURY—SEYTOR.—Signalman K. L. Scantlebury, on 27th January, 1962, to Pascaline Ernestine Seytor, at the Registry Office, Wooden.

DOUGLAS—O'HARA.—Lance-Corporal D. M. Douglas, on the 28th May, 1960, to Flora Macphail O'Hara, at the Registry Office, Chatham, Kent.

REDPATH—McLEAN.—Signalman J. B. Redpath, on 20th March, 1962, to Isabella McLean, at the Colinton Mains Church of Scotland, Edinburgh.

Deaths

WEBSTER.—On 29th March, Major H. McD. Webster, at his home, 32, Tewkesbury Gardens, London, N.W.9. Royal Signals 1919-1955. A Life Member of the Association.

BARKER.—On 6th April, Major-General R. E. Barker, C.B.E., of The Downs, Geraldine, Canterbury, New Zealand.

BROWN.—On 15th February, 14354366 ex-Signalman L. H. Brown, at his home, 26, Shaftesbury Road, Reading, Berks. A Life Member of the Association.

ALBISTON.—John Murray, 23820612, Junior Signalman, on 10th March, 1962, at Denbury Camp, Newton Abbot.

BALL.—John, 23849735, Junior Signalman, on 10th March, 1962, at Denbury Camp, Newton Abbot.

HOLLINGSWORTH.—Gordon Douglas, 22020065, Lance-Corporal, on 16th March, 1962, in East Africa.

O'CALLAGHAN.—Jeremiah, 16903, Acting Corporal, on 19th March, 1962, at Catterick Camp.

MACKENZIE.—Leslie, 23770481, Signalman, on 28th March, 1962, at Liverpool.

INCHLEY, W. H.—On 15th April, 1962, at the Star and Garter Home, Richmond, ex-Signalman, aged 52 years. Royal Signals 1942-1946.

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Obituary

MAJOR H. A. LEECE, Royal Signals

The funeral of Major H. A. Leece took place with full military honours on Friday, 30th March, 1962, at 15.00 hours at St. George's Garrison Church, Aldershot, and the military cemetery.

The Senior Chaplain to the Forces, Millbank Military Hospital, took the service. 30th Regiment provided the Bearers, the Firing Party and the Wreath Bearers—there were many floral tributes.

The Royal Artillery Mounted Band played the slow march to the cemetery and provided a musician to sound the Last Post and Reveille at the graveside.

The gun carriage was provided by 1 Training Battalion, Royal Army Service Corps.

The Signal Officer-in-Chief was represented by the Chief Signal Officer, Eastern Command, Brigadier E. C. R. Blaker, O.B.E.

Many Officers of Royal Signals and friends of Bill Leece were present.

MAJOR (T.O.T.) H. MacD. WEBSTER (Retired)

We learn with regret that Major H. MacD. Webster died on on the 29th March, 1962, at his home in North London.

Many old Corps members will no doubt remember Mac during his long and varied service. Born in 1900, he joined the Machine Gun Corps in 1919, and transferred to R.E. (Signals) in February, 1920.

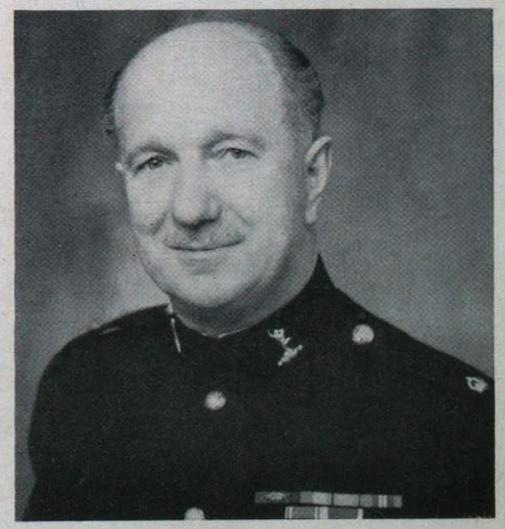
In 1922, on his posting to Turkey, Mac had his first taste of overseas service, he returned home in 1923, but 1927 saw him back in the Middle East, this time with 2 W.T. Company in Palestine. He came home to "A" Corps Signals in 1930, but returned to Palestine, again to 2 W.T. Company, in 1934.

In September, 1939, he was R.S.M. 1st Divisional Signals and was commissioned as a (T.O.M.) in April, 1940. He joined the ill-fated B.E.F. in France and was one of the last to leave via Cherbourg.

In 1944 he was back in the Middle East as Second-in-Command Palestine Command Signal Regiment, and was posted to Scottish Command in 1947. He returned to the Middle East for a final overseas tour in 1950. He spent the autumn of his service with Eastern Command and retired in June, 1956.

We offer our deepest sympathy and condolences to his widow, and daughter Jean and son Derek.

The funeral service was held at Golders Green and was attended by many serving and retired members of the Corps.



The funeral of Sergeant J. O'Callaghan

Sergeant J. O'Callaghan

As reported briefly last month, Sergeant O'Callaghan died on 19th March. Here was a truly 'Old Soldier'; he was probably the oldest serving soldier in the Army.

Born on the 1st May, 1898, he enlisted in the 3rd Battalion Royal Irish Regiment at Cork, 19th April, 1915. On the 20th June, 1916, he was promoted Lance-Corporal and in the following August went to France with the British Expeditionary Force. A year later he was wounded in the right arm and was sent to Dublin. Within three months he was back again in France with the 6th Battalion. Captured in March, 1918, he remained a prisoner of war until repatriated on 23rd December, 1918. "The finest Christmas I ever had!"

After four months on the "Z" Reserve, he re-enlisted in the Royal Army Service Corps, spent about a year in U.K. at Chatham and Bulford then went off to India. He spent most of his time there with 4th Mobile Company R.A.S.C. and qualified as a "Driver, Lorry and Car" at the BMT Workshops, Chakalata, in 1921. In 1924 he was sent on a refresher course to Aldershot where he transferred to our Corps—26th April, 1925.

His first Royal Signals Unit was "E" Company, The Depot, then he went to "D" Troop Cavalry Signals in July of that year. In 1926 he was posted to M.E.F. Egypt and there he stayed until 1937. After three years in the U.K. he returned to Egypt and served with Egypt Command Signals.

By the time war broke out he was back in U.K. and the war years are recorded in his documents simply as "Active Service," but he in fact served in France and Germany. From 1945-49 he was in N.W. Europe and his last Unit in B.A.O.R. was Berlin Signal Squadron. Since 1949 he has been with the Depot carrying out various store duties with a thoroughness one may expect from an "Old Soldier."

"Needs no supervision" appears in many of his annual reports during this period, but here is one of the most recent, written at Chester in 1960:

"As stalwart and loyal as ever, despite his age and years of service he is still a credit to any Regiment and an example to both young and old soldiers in every way."

By this time, he was quite a figurehead and by way of marking 45 years service, he was promoted Local Sergeant and Lieutenant-Colonel E. A. Sinnock, Officers, Warrant Officers and Sergeants presented him with a specially inscribed tankard.

His last place of employment was in thhe Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess Stores and once again he produced that little extra, by meeting all late arrivals and ensuring that they were settled in.

In the last years, quiet and unassuming, he was nevertheless very determined to soldier on until the end.

He was buried with military honours on 21st March, at Hipswell Cemetery.

Among the many wreaths was one from the Signal Officer-in-Chief. The Old Comrades' Association of the Royal Irish who had kept in touch through the years was represented by Major C. J. Murphy who laid a wreath on their behalf. All local Royal Signal Units were represented. There were representatives from other Units in the area, the Garrison Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Club and the local branch of the Royal Signals Association.

Many of his civilian friends were present too and to these and everyone who knew him as a friend, we extend our deepest sympathy.

Part of the "Old Comrades" Squadron marching to Church, 4 July, 1961. Sergeant O'Callaghan second from right

MAJOR F. T. EDWARDS

Major F. T. Edwards, who died on 10th March, 1962, was a long-serving member of the Corps. He served in the Royal Marines during World War I and started in Royal Signals in 1920. A Clerk by trade, he served in 2nd Divisional Signals at Aldershot, Headquarters S.T.C. at Catterick, and then India. During the 1939-45 War he was commissioned and spent much time in charge of the Indian Wing Record Office at Jubbulpore. In 1944 he joined the staff of Officer-in-Charge Royal Signals Records at Reading. Retiring in 1948 he joined the Civil Service and continued until about 1958, when his final illness overtook him.

He was buried at Wootten, near Abingdon, Berkshire, in the village church, and almost all of his neighbours attended his funeral, along with Major R. R. Evelyn, M.B.E., T.D., Royal Signals (Retd.). His widow, and a son, who also served as an officer in the Corps, survive him.

Forthcoming Events

80th Meeting Corps Committee
will be held 30th May, 1962.

Corps Dinner
will be held May 30th, 1962.

37th Meeting of the Central Committee of the Royal Signals Association
will be held on 31st May, 1962.

Corps Regular Officers' At Home
will be held on 31st May, 1962.

Aldershot Tattoo
In place of the Aldershot Tattoo, "The Modern Army" will be at home to the public on Queen's Parade, Aldershot, on the afternoons of 16th and 17th June, 1962. Apply to Aldershot District, Steeles Road, Aldershot.

June 18th. Massed Bands Royal Artillery on Horse Guards Parade. Performance 1 p.m. and 6 p.m.

Corps Week-end and Association Reunion and Annual General Meeting
will be held at Catterick on 7th/8th July, 1962.

Royal Tournament
Earls Court, London, 11th-28th July, 1962.

Royal Signals Institution Lectures, 1962

*Friday, 25th May, "The Reserve Army," Colonel G. H. Shrimpton, T.D., 6.15 p.m., at the T.A. Centre, 47th Regiment, T.A., Duke of York's Headquarters, Chelsea, S.W.3.

*Friday, 28th September, "New Zealand," Brigadier J. E. Anderson, 6.15 p.m., at the T.A. Centre, 47th Regiment, T.A., Duke of York's Headquarters, Chelsea, S.W.3.

Tuesday, 27th November, "Training of American Cadets at West Point," Second-Lieutenant Paul L. Miles, Jnr., U.S. Army, 5.15 p.m., at North Hall, Training Brigade, Royal Signals, Catterick Camp, Yorks.

* Members are allowed two guests for these lectures.

Royal Signals Association Football Club Fixtures

*	R.E.M.E.	Billingham
*	R.A.O.C.	Catterick Camp

* Fixtures not yet firm.

Indian Signal Units 1911-1948 O.C.A.

On 26th May, at the Eccleston Hotel, Victoria, London, S.W.1, A.G.M. and Dinner. Open to members and their wives, but guests not allowed. Further details from Captain W. Dowley, 153, Mychett Road, Mychett, Nr. Aldershot, Hants.

Indian Army Reunion, 1962

The 1962 Reunion will be held at Hurlingham Club on Friday, 29th June at 3.30 p.m. Tickets 9/- per head. Hon. Secretary, Brigadier A. J. M. Wilton, O.B.E., The Cottage, 30, Thames Street, Sunbury-on-Thames.

Association of Harrogate Apprentices

The 10th Annual General Meeting and Reunion is to be held on Tuesday, 31st July, and Wednesday, 1st August, 1962, at the Army Apprentices School, Harrogate. The provisional programme is: August 1st, a.m., Graduation Parade; 14.00 hours, Trades Exhibition; 20.00 hours, Social Evening. All ex-A/T's who are members, are cordially invited to attend. Requests for accommodation should be addressed to the Commandant, Army Apprentices School, Harrogate, to arrive before 1st July, 1962.

The Wyvern Club

The Annual Dinner for members will be held in the Naval and Military Club, London, on 3rd October, at 7.30 p.m. for 8 p.m. Tickets and information from the Secretary, The Wyvern Dinner Club, Headquarters 43 (WX) Div./District, Sherford Camp, Taunton, Somerset.

Royal Signals Display Team

May 17th	Hertfordshire, St. Alban's—Agricultural Show.
May 19th	Billet Lane, Stamford le Hope, Essex.
June 2nd	Kynoch Social Club, Witton, Birmingham.
June 19th—21st	Edinburgh.
June 23rd	Holmfirth.
July 7th	Catterick.
July 11th—28th	Royal Tournament.
August 1st	Nantwich.
August 6th	Horncastle.
August 18th	Darlington—Darlington Show.
September 1st	Haltwhistle—Agricultural Show.

Recruiting Displays—May-September, 1962

May 17th-19th	Devon County Show, Exeter.
May 26th	Reading Pre-Service Day.
June 3rd-9th	Taunton Army Week.
June 23rd	R.A.F.A., Filton.
June 27th	Nelson Haden School Day.
June 30th	Christchurch and Highcliffe Tattoo.
July 11th-28th	Royal Tournament, Earls Court (subject to confirmation).
August 6th-8th	Southsea Fete.
August 15th	Poole Hospital Fete.
August 25th	Hambledon Flower Show.
August 29th	Gillingham and Shaftesbury Show.
Sept. 2nd-9th	Plymouth Army Week.
Sept. 10th-15th	Swindon Carnival.
Sept. 26th	Frome Show.

ROYAL SIGNALS AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY
"At Home"—July, 1962

Royal Signals A.R.S. will be 'At Home' during Old Comrades Weekend on 7th and 8th July, 1962. All members and ex-Corps members of Royal Signals A.R.S. are invited to visit the H.Q. Station which is situated near Whinney Hill. The Club House will be signposted from Vimy Lines. The special call-sign GB2RCS will be used for this period and contacts will be willingly sought on all bands, using AM and SSB. A cubical quad atop a 60-foot metal tower, visible from many parts of Catterick, marks the Club House.

CLOTHING is still urgently required by the WELFARE SECTION

Promotions

The following promotions and deletions were authorised up to the end of March, 1962:

Technical Roster

				New Sen. No.	Old Sen. No.	
To Sgt.	23256460	Cpl.	Brown, J. D. G.	3662	4710	
	23288690	Cpl.	Woolf, H. D.	3680	3420	
	22967472	Cpl.	Wright, M. R.	3690	6030	
	22983282	Cpl.	Maple, P. J.	3700	5830	
To S. Sgt.	22212952	Sgt.	Lawrence, J.	1170	540	

Clerical Roster

To W.O.I	14278902	W.O.II	Bain, W. A.	210	320	
To W.O.II	22522842	S Sgt.	Barnaby, G. A. J.	600	560	
	14187225	S Sgt.	Randall, K. H.	610	540	
To S Sgt.	22459818	Sgt.	Williams, P. A.	840	750	
	22003746	Sgt.	Bennett, H. R.	850	800	
To Sgt.	22170656	Cpl.	Rae, A.	2320	1212	
	21127427	Cpl.	Collins, T.	2330	510	
	22342694	Cpl.	Williams, J.	2340	180	

Operating Roster

To Sgt.	23232184	Cpl.	Bowes, R.	9480	4830	
	22805081	A/Sgt.	Wise, J. H.	9490	7300	
	22154083	A/Sgt.	Toole, F. T.	9500	8340	
	23484589	A/Sgt.	Rolls, E. H.	9510	8480	
	22242620	A/Sgt.	Vasper, R.	9520	3960	
	22515900	Cpl.	Isaac, R. J.	9530	7510	
	23205288	A/Sgt.	Brown, T. L.	9540	7560	
	22971666	Cpl.	Palmer, M. J. L.	9550	4010	
	22537410	A/Sgt.	Conibeere, D. L.	9560	6360	
	23481853	A/Sgt.	Walton, A. S.	9570	8284	

Regimental Duty

To W.O.II	22246831		Stephenson, T	4350	4130	
To S Sgt.	22242524		Arnott, G. S.	6750	1120	(Clerk)
	22242083		Howard, K. S.	6760	3540	(Op.)
	22418163		Hughes, D. J. M.	6770	3480	(Op.)
	22250264		Greenwood, P. B.	6780	1150	Lmn.)
	22820181		Leiper, G. A.	6790	3560	(Op.)
	21005770		Baigent, G. M.	6800	650	(Clerk)

General Trades and Duties

To Sgt.	22212670	Barber, R. W. J.	3520	1420	
	22515009	Chalmers, W. M.	3530	2330	
	22265150	Torliss, G.	3540	1370	
	22868421	Jepson, F.	3550	2570	
	22997290	Braithwaite, S.	3560	3220	
	22287748	Thornton, E. C.	3570	3520	
	22276190	Goodridge, C. J.	3580	3710	
	22559690	Blank, J. H.	3590	3730	
	22569040	Andrews, K. G. T.	3600	3750	
	22966659	Parlett, E. D.	3610	3760	
	22295119	Atherley, K. A.	3620	3940	

Linemen

To Sgt.	22144777	Kybery, L. C.	2990	490	
	22562515	Devey, R.	3000	1240	
	22212997	Morris, J. B.	3010	1294	
	22792161	Jewiss, B. A.	3020	2460	
	22296881	Salt, D. T.	3030	2920	
	23220887	Sellwood, P. R.	3040	3496	
	23468034	Wormall, K. E.	3050	3510	

DELETIONS

Regimental Duty

W.O.II	1750					
S Sgt.	5670	3080	4240	2350		

General Trades and Duties

Sgt.	2620	1660	2270	1740	2390	860

Lineman

Sgt.	60	1740				

OTHER DELETIONS

Technical Roster

Sgt.	1310	1890	2760	3140	3660	

Clerical Roster

S Sgt.	470					

Operating Roster

Sgt.	3250	4490	5100			

Signal Centre Supervisor Roster

W.O.II	270	690				

4128458 W.O.I Wall, E. R. C. R/Duty 430 Comd. Lieut./Q.M., 1st Februarv. 1962.

History of the 10th Regiment

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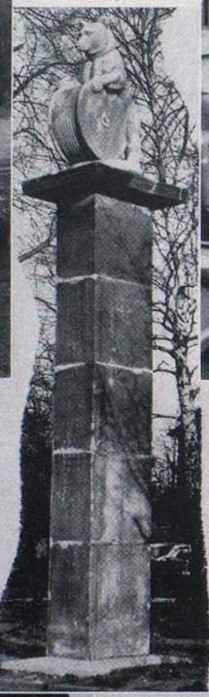

1

1. The Cable Bear "Bruno"

2. Signalmen Varley and Stacey testing circuits at a well known training pick-up point

3. Corporal Hull accepting a new telegraph circuit in the J.S.C. vehicle

4. October, 1956. Major General Rance (then Representative Colonel-Commandant) being shown the Pintsch Equipment by Lieutenant Colonel Elliott soon after its arrival in the Regiment

5. "Next Hop — 80 K." The Commanding Officer showing an Army Air Corps Pilot the location of the next radio site

4

5

THE Regiment traces its origin to a group of a Signal Company and three Sections raised in Glasgow on the formation of the Supplementary Reserve in 1924. In 1932 these Units were re-grouped and converted into General Headquarters Signals. In 1937 a new Company was raised in Edinburgh and the following year two Wireless Sections in Coventry. During the pre-war years the Unit had few opportunities of training with troops, but participated in two major Exercises in 1937 and 1939. In September, 1939, the Unit, together with a Regular Special Wireless Company, was mobilised and went with the British Expeditionary Force to France to provide communications at the G.H.Q. The Advanced Signal Office was opened at Harbarc, near Arras, in October, 1939, and Christmas was spent at Dainville. The main communication to Corps Headquarters was by line and two Companies of Gordon Highlanders were attached for six weeks to assist with the digging.

After the German invasion of Holland and Belgium, the G.H.Q. had moved on 28th May, 1940, to La Panne, where the submarine telephone cable to England was still intact and in the hands of the Unit.

After Dunkirk the Unit was re-formed at Catterick and moved to Barnsley in June, 1940. When the G.H.Q. Home Forces with its supreme operational responsibility set up its headquarters in the St. Paul's School, Hammersmith. Lieutenant-Colonel G. W. Cumming, O.B.E., the same Commanding Officer who had commanded the Unit in France, moved with the Unit to London. The Unit headquarters was situated at the Old Town Hall, Hammersmith, and provided in addition the Advance Signal Centre at the Cabinet War Room. The provision of communications was a busy task with only skeleton facilities and the hazard of nightly air raids. However, great reliance was placed on the G.P.O. to provide circuits to all the Command Headquarters. The most disastrous breakdown of G.H.Q. communications occurred in the early hours of the morning on 15th September, 1940, when the 100-pair J cable from St. Paul's School to Shepherds Bush was destroyed outside Cadby Hall by enemy action. Seventy telephones and 16 telegraph circuits were put out of action. A burning gas main prevented repair until 06.00 hours, then 12 pairs were put through on Quad. The whole cable was not, however, restored until 09.00 hours on the 17th September, 1940.

Late in 1940 the H.Q. was moved to heavily protected accommodation at Storeys Gate Office adjoining the Cabinet War Rooms with the Officers and men still billeted at Latymer Court and in Hammersmith, and an emergency installation was developed at Wentworth golf course. These duplicated instalations and moves of H.Q., although necessary, made still further demands on the engineers of the Post Office, with very extensive switchboards and immediate trunk switching facilities.

The Unit at this time was organised with an Operating Company and a Wireless Company at Hammersmith and a Construction Company at Teddington. The radio transmitters were scattered in the neighbourhood of South Kensington with remote control from Whitehall and St. Paul's School. As wireless was a standby to the G.P.O. cable system, the transmitter control lines had to be independent of the ordinary telephone cables. To meet this requirement the line construction troops laid seven pair cable routes through St. James's and Hyde Parks, from Whitehall to South Kensington and on to the School. At this time G.H.Q. was linked to all the Commands, the War Office, Air Ministry and Admiralty, the Home and Foreign Office, Kneller Hall, all the R.A.F. Commands and to IV and VII Corps. It is interesting to think how much depended on these insignificant looking cables strung on the trees if the main cables were interrupted by bombing.

In February, 1941, Lieutenant-Colonel L. H. Harris took over command from Lieutenant-Colonel C. K. Thursby-Pelham, C.B.E., M.C. The Regiment was some 1,200 strong and still had a large element from Scotland by reason of its Glaswegian origin.

The Regiment continued to function as G H.Q. Signals for the next two years. One of its responsibilities was to operate a Despatch Rider Letter Service to the Military Commands and to the Formations and Units of Home Forces and to the many other Service Headquarters with which the G.H.Q. was associated. It operated by motor cycle or car and in the case of Western, Northern and Scottish Commands by train. There was the almost incredible case of a despatch rider whose extraordinary habits were brought to light in a letter received from a passenger on the train. She said she thought it peculiar to see the man opening his despatch bag and letters and reading the contents to the other occupants of the carriage to while away the time and that the Unit might be interested. Investigation proved the story to be entirely true, even to the extent of the individual providing himself with string and sealing wax for re-sealing the envelopes. He was court-martialled and sentenced, but the mystery remains as to how the mentality of the man remained undetected long enough for him to have been entrusted with such a job.

In July, 1943, the Unit was allocated the task of providing communications for H.Q., 21 Army Group, while a new Unit, G.H.Q. Home Forces Signals, was formed to provide the communications for G.H.Q. Home Forces. Lieutenant-Colonel L. H. Harris was succeeded by Lieutenant-Colonel F. Jones in November, 1942, and then by Lieutenant-Colonel F. A. Hough in November, 1943.

As preparation for offensive operations generally speeded up, many Unit Exercises took place to practise establishing and maintaining the Army Group communications during rapid moves and to practise the use of TEVs. As long as the Services remained in the United Kingdom, they relied mainly on the G.P.O. to provide all the elaborate signal installations. The big question in the minds of those who knew the magnitude of the requirement was how we should manage when everything had to be provided from Army resources. Once on the Continent Royal Signals would be responsible for the provision of the whole network. The staff had become used to an elaborate civilian telephone system and had to be trained to operate on only the skeleton system which would be available during periods of fast movement. The Wireless and Operating Companies were getting plenty of practice; and to practise the Construction Company detachments were loaned to the G.P.O. Such an opportunity occurred on 10th May, 1941, when heavy raids interrupted the Birmingham trunk cables at the Old Bailey. Immediately a large team of ex-Post Office workmen were loaned to make good the damage. A feature of this job was the temporary filling of the gap in a coxial cable with a length of electric lighting wire between two manholes. In September, 1943, the Unit was re-designated 21 Army Group Signals and such was the intensive training that the Signal Officer-in-Chief 21 Army Group aimed at 10,000 groups per net per day over the wireless nets.

In July, 1944, the Unit moved from Hammersmith to Windlesham, Surrey, and from there the Main Group moved to France on 31st July and established itself at La Ville. From the 17th July No. 1 Company had been employed on the construction of communications to and within the proposed location of Main H.Q, 21 Army Group. Some of the existing routes were rehabilitated and maintained, although much of the German underground cables were abandoned as being of too poor a quality to be worthwhile. Main H.Q. moved to Le Tronquay on 4th August. From Le Tronquay Main H.Q. moved to Amiens on 9th September, 1944, and then to Brussels on the 14th, where the Regiment was billeted in Caserne Artillerie Barracks.

The provision of communications now became very routine. No. 1 Company responsible for all line construction, rehabilitation and maintenance, No. 2 Squadron for operating and wireless at Main H.Q., and No. 3 Squadron for operating and wireless at Rear H.Q. The main tasks included the rehabilitation of the Brussels to Namur cables, the Amiens-Roye-Arras-Lille route, the Amiens-Douleens-Frevant-St. Pol route, and the main Brussels-Antwerp cable.

It is of interest to note that No. 1 Field Force Pigeon Section was still being used in the Unit. On 17th October the first automatic telephone exchange was installed by the Bell Telephone Company at Rear H.Q., while 143 Line Maintenance Section installed a six-position board at Main H.Q. On 20th January the total daily traffic at Rear H.Q. Signal Office exceeded 3,000 messages for the first time.

A typical month in No. 1 Company can be seen in this report of 23 Construction Section (now No. 1 Construction Troop) for January, 1945.

"23 Construction Section was stationed at Hasselt throughout the month and carried out the following work:

(a) Construction of loaded 7 pair cable AGR 29 from Zonhaven to Helchteren.
(b) Construction of loaded 7 pair cable AGR 31 from Oostmalle to Turnhout.
(c) Construction of two unloaded field quads AGR 32 and 33 from Bourg Leopold 10 set side to Wychmael.
(d) Construction of two 'P' type carrier quads AGR 34 and 35 from Hasselt Repeater Station to Neerpelt Repeater Station via De Groote Test Point."

One Officer and jointer were employed on underground cable maintenance throughout the month. They were stationed at Brussels until 24th January, 1945, when they moved to Hasselt.

On 26th March, 1945, Tactical H.Q. moved to Brunel and line construction was being provided to Suchteln in preparation for the move of Main H.Q. on 5th April. The final move of H.Q., 21 Army Group took place in May, 1945, to Bad Oehnhausen and Herford. The advance Signal Construction Group had moved to these locations on 28th April and settled down to the work of catering for the staff of over 2,000. Installations included a 500 extension automatic exchange, 18 × 6 channel V.F. system and 20 × S + DX in the Post Office at Bad Oehnhausen and a 10 position W.D. switchboard at Herford. The Signal Office in the Post Office at Bad Oehnhausen was expected to handle a daily flow of 7,000 messages from the 1,450 Staff Officers alone. The eventual extent of the traffic is shown by this analysis:—

13th June: 10,012 Messages—IN, OUT and THROUGH
18th July: 10,755 Messages—IN, OUT and THROUGH

During August the Regiment provided a wireless detachment for high speed work at Luneberg for the Belsen trials. The first Train Despatch Service from Bad Oehnhausen to Antwerp was initiated on 17th August. On 29th August the Unit was re-designated H.Q. B.A.O.R. Signals. The Commanding Officer was Lieutenant-Colonel H. K. Hagon four days previously. The Regiment again assisted at a war trial, this time at Nuremburg with cipher and keyboard operators. Another unusual task was in connection with a survey of the Denmark coast by the Geodetic Institute of Denmark. It had been noted that German V2s directed at Norway had been landing in Sweden and further observations disclosed inaccuracies in the maps used. Survey teams were posted at three trig points on the Danish and Norwegian coasts, inter-communicating on 12 sets. To ensure accurately-timed readings by the teams, time signals were sent over 33 sets using a series of pre-arranged morse code signals.

On 10th September, 1945, the unit was once again designated No. 1 H.Q. Signals and now began the task of reverting to a peacetime unit. The strength was over 2,000 strong in 73 Troops and Sections. Apart from documentation, for which had to be devised a complete office and staff, there was the appalling task of "accounting" for section stores, fairly warworn and generally 30 to 100 per cent. over ledger strength.

No. 1 Squadron, apart from continuing with the construction and maintenance of telephone communications, ran the Royal Signals Cable Factory at Soltau, staffed by German civil labour. Their monthly output ran to:—

7 pair VIR	... ...	28 miles
Field Quad	... ...	300 „
D 8	... ...	475 „
D 3 (Single)	... ...	410 „

No. 2 Squadron provided the Signal Office and Exchange at Minden. There were:—

245 T.S.B.O.s employed (150 A.T.S. 95 Royal Signals).

No. 3 Squadron provided the Wireless Telegraphy and Signal Despatch Service as well as the Training School Courses.

No. 4 Squadron provided the communications for H.Q. C.C.G. until 11th September, 1946, when it was disbanded.

The sphere of the unit's work stretched from Berlin to Nuremburg, Paris and the Hook. During the severe flooding of the Telephone Exchange at Minden on 10th February, 1946, the basement was flooded to within one foot of the ground level and the telephone communications were seriously effected. Ten set links were set up from Minden to the H.Q. of 1 and 30 Corps, while AN/TRC worked between Minden Repeater Station and Berlin Repeater Station.

One night in the spring of 1946 a white armoured car on DRLS between Helmstedt and Berlin skidded and ran off the road down the embankment. Shaken but unhurt the crew shouldered the mail bags, locked the car and thumbed a lift. Next day when the R.E.M.E. recovery team went out they found a Russian officer with a team of horses dragging the white car away. Protests were unavailing and it was never seen again—written off as "lost due to Allied Action."

By April, 1946, the strength of the unit was down to 56 Troops and included Construction, Teleprinter Operating, Cipher, Medium Wireless, Despatch Rider, High Speed Wireless, Wireless Carrier, Security, Terminal Equipment, Troops and Cable Repair Factory. By December, 1946, the last of the war established troops had been disbanded. The activity that most of the Regiment from the immediate post-war period will remember was the Mercury Theatre that was established in a derelict garage in Bad Oehnhausen and presented a high standard of theatre in the area.

The command of the Unit passed from Lieutenant-Colonel A. T. Sladon to Lieutenant-Colonel R. C. Conway-Gordon on 15th October, 1946, followed by the amalgamation of 1 H.Q. Signals and 12 L. of C. Signals in December to become No. 2 L. of C. Regiment. The Regiment was organised on a three Squadron basis:—

No. 1 Squadron still being responsible for the construction, maintenance and installation of lines. The new Rhine Army Switchboard at Bad Oehnhausen was installed, while clearing up of old overhead cables was also carried out. Since the end of the war 25,000 miles was returned to the Unit Cable Factory at Soltau, of which 2,500 miles was salvaged.

No. 2 Squadron, in conjunction with A.T.S. Signals, Germany, ran the Signal Office and Switchboard at H.Q. Rhine Army. Signal Office detachments were also provided for the British Military Mission to Denmark and for Fiat (Main) at Hochst in the United States zone.

No. 3 Squadron provided and operated the Wireless communications and SDS routes. Detachments were located in Berlin, Hamburg, Stettin, Iserlohn and with 1 Belgium Corps. The Wireless Carrier Troop permanently manned a 10 set link along the route Minden—H.Q. B.A.O.R.—Bielefeld —Iserlohn. During the latter months of 1946, several installations such as Minden Trunks, Herford Switchboard and Minden Repeater Station were handed over to C.C.G. (P. & T.).

By March, 1947, the strength of the Regiment dropped to 1,154 other ranks and the officers' strength was 60. On 15th June, 1948, the Regiment was renamed H.Q. B.A.O.R. Signal Regiment with Lieutenant-Colonel F. C. Seely in command. The Regiment was responsible for the provision of static communications for H.Q. B.A.O.R. at Bad Oehnhausen (2 Squadron) and for all H.Q. B.A.O.R. communications in the field. Lieutenant-Colonel Seely remained with the Regiment until March, 1949, when his successor was Lieutenant-Colonel J. E. S. Sanders, O.B.E. In February, 1951, the original 2 L. of C. Regiment was reformed and 2 Squadron of H.Q. B.A.O.R. Regiment became 5 Squadron of that Regiment. In April, 1952, when Lieutenant-Colonel J. D. L. Morris, O.B.E., assumed command, the role of the Regiment was again changed. An Army Group H.Q. was brought into being once more and the Regiment was responsible for providing communications at Main Army Group H.Q. It was re-named 18 Army Group Signal Regiment in November.

Exercises were very frequent during the summer months.

In the effort to become really mobile, the Regiment designed its own terminal equipment, teleprinter and cipher office vehicles. These were German 10 tonner lorries constructed in Army Workships to specification. The radio relay troops were equipped with German P.P.M. equipment in British 3-ton lorries and was in regular use whilst the British equivalent was still very experimental. The use of Deutsche Marks enabled the Regiment to have these innovations and included the fitting of Telefunken equipment into the Commander-in-Chief's Rover, so that he could be tied into the telephone network without the laying of local lines.

In 1954 H.R.H. Princess Margaret visited the Regiment during her journey from Sennelager to Bad Oehnhausen and although her stay was brief she posed for a photograph with the Regimental Officers (this photograph has its place in the Mess to this day).

With the planned move to the Northern Army Group H.Q. west of the Rhine, the role of the Regiment was changed to that of a trunk regiment and it was proposed to move it from Herford to Essen-Kray which was the nearest suitable barracks to the H.Q. However, as 19 Army Group Regiment could not accept the men and equipment until the spring of 1957, the Regiment fulfilled a dual role with four operating squadrons, two designated to provide radio relay communications, plus a Signal Office Squadron and a Line Squadron for the field H.Q. The P.P.M. equipment was discarded about mid-1955 and the Regiment relied solely on AN/TRC until the purchase of Pintsch Multi-Channel Carrier equipment in late 1956. A month before the change of command between Lieutenant-Colonel J. D. Elliott and Lieutenant-Colonel A. H. D. Llewellyn in April, 1957, the Regiment shed its operating commitments, said farewell to 3 and 4 Squadrons to 19 Army Group Regiment, and confined itself to the radio relay role with all its equipment and at full strength. No. 1 Squadron had the cable

(The History Continues on Page 160)

10th Regiment

HANDING OVER

Major J. E. L. Adams, Acting Commanding Officer, handing over the Lance and Pennant to Oberstleutnant E. Stroedter, Kommandeur 71 Fernmelde Battalion, Bundeswehr.

Standing on the dais, left to right: Oberst H. Beyling, 1st German Korps; Brigadier J. W. A. Stares, D.S.O., O.B.E., Commander Rhine Area; Brigadier-General Dr. H. Maultzsch, C.S.O. Northern Army Group; Brigadier E. J. C. Harrison, O.B.E., C.S.O. B.A.O.R; Lieutenant-Colonel R. W. P. Brader, Royal Signals, O.C. Troops, Krefeld.

In the background: Major G. Klosser and Second-Lieutenant W. R. Ewing are in attendance.

Our farewell ceremonial parade to mark our entry into that dreaded and nebulous state of suspended animation was held on Friday, 30th March. Brigade-General Dr. H. Maultzsch, Chief Signal Officer, Northern Army Group, took the salute and gave an address of thanks and gratitude for the Regiment's long service to Northern Army Group.

Among those distinguished visitors who watched the Parade were Brigadier J. W. A. Stares, D.S.O., O.B.E., Commander Rhine Area, Brigadier E. J. C. Harrison, O.B.E., Chief Signal Officer, British Army of the Rhine, and Oberst H. Beyling, Chief Signal Officer, 1st Korps, Bundeswehr. The Parade was held under heavy, threatening skies but we managed to complete the ceremony before the rain came down in large, cold lumps. An appropriately lugubrious ending.

Bruno, the Berlin Cable Bear, our much cherished Regimental mascot, was motored swiftly past the saluting box, off parade and into his large wooden crate for immediate transshipment to Blandford where a new home awaits him. Former members of the Regiment will be glad to learn that Bruno maintained a stiff upper lip and a cold, stony silence throughout the ceremony. (*Wie typisches englishes kaltes Blut*!)

Our Regimental Mascot, Bruno the Berlin Cable Bear being towed past the saluting box.

Our Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel G. B. Donald, was unfortunately admitted to hospital about a week before the parade and was unable to be present, so our Second-in-Command, Major J. E. L. Adams, deputised for him. After a short address Major Adams presented a former British Cavalry lance bearing a specially woven pennant to Oberstleutnant E. Stroedter, Kommandeur 71st Fernmelde Bataillon, Bundeswehr, to commemorate our past associations and *Freundschaft* with his Bataillon. Oberstleutnant Stroedter very kindly presented us with a fine silver salver engraved with the figure of Bruno and inscribed eloquently in German. The same evening we held our last Regimental dance. It was a day to be remembered.

The breaking up of a Regiment is a sad affair at any time, but we were not forgotten. The Representative Colonel Commandant sent a commemorative message to Herr Meul, Direktor-General, Deutsche Fernkabelgesellschaft, reminding him of our association with his Company and of their generosity

The Regimental Guard saluting 71 Fernmelde Battalion as they march off the Parade.

The Guard is commanded by Major C. McDevitt. Immediately behind him is Lieutenant C. A. Brown.

in originally presenting us with Bruno. The Signal Officer-in-Chief, Major-General A. M. W. Whistler, C.B.E., sent us a message of farewell and so, too, did Brigadier E. J. C. Harrison, O.B.E., C.S.O. B.A.O.R.

We have been proud indeed over the years, in the several guises in which our Regiment has appeared, to have served Northern Army Group and to have had the opportunity and the privilege of playing a small part in the growing history of our Corps.

Dulce et decorum es . . .

HISTORY OF THE 10th REGIMENT

(Continued from Page 158)

and carrier equipment troops and No. 2 Squadron had three heavy and two medium radio relay troops. Exercise "Pietbull" was the first time the Regiment functioned in its proper role as a trunk regiment.

From then exercise followed exercise and such names as "Crossed Swords," "Bruno" and "Grand National" will bring back many memories. In the autumn of 1958 a start was made in the internal re-organisation of the Regiment into two identical Radio Relay Squadrons. This was completed with the introduction of VF Telegraphy into the terminal equipment troops early in 1959. When all signal units were re-designated on 1st September, 1959, 18 Army Signal Regiment became 10th Regiment. The strength then was 26 officers and 365 other ranks. Lieutenant-Colonel A. H. D. Llewellyn relinquished command on 1st November, 1959, when he handed over to Lieutenant-Colonel G. B. Donald. 24th October, 1960, saw the last move of the Regiment when it formally handed over the Meanee Barracks, Essen-Kray to a Bundeswehr Signal Battalion and move to Bradbury Barracks, Krefeld. The Regiment remained in Krefeld where it continued to fulfil the role of the trunk radio relay regiment for the Northern Army Group H.Q. until being placed in Suspended Animation on 1st April, 1962.

From simple line and wireless equipment in 1924 to magnificent 60 Channel radio relay equipment in 1962 the purpose and aim of the Regiment has never altered. It has continued to provide communications from the Army or Army Group Commander to his subordinate formations. It has been a worthwhile task and all who have been members of the Regiment can look back on their work with a sense of satisfaction.

The Berlin Cable Bear

No history of the Regiment would be complete without an account of Bruno. In 1945 an undamaged statue of a bear holding a big cable drum in his paws was rescued from the ruins of Berlin. It belonged to the Deutsche Fernkabel Gesellschaft and stood at their headquarters in Rognitzstrasse. Not wishing to see such a prize fall into the hands of the Russians, the bear was loaded onto a 3-ton lorry, concealed by signal equipment, passed through the zone check-points and arrived at Harewood Barracks, Herford. The intention was to ship the bear, together with the Eagle that adorned the entrance to Harewood Barracks, back to H.Q. Mess, Catterick, but neither got any further than the Hook.

Then, in the spring of 1948 the bear was, with much difficulty, hoisted into place on top of a column which once carried a German Eagle. There he stayed until his ceremonial move to Essen-Kray. Bruno's enduring presence with the Regiment has had its effects. He was adopted as the Regimental mascot and was used by sports teams on their track suits as a form of "colours," then on Christmas Cards and eventually on notepaper. His rear part has changed colour from time to time at the hands of revellers and much scrubbing, washing and scraping needed to remove the disguise.

One of the Medium R.R. Troops (No. 5 later "L") used a baby bear wearing a sailor hat with an AN/TRC aerial on it as a troop badge on all their vehicles. They even kept this when they went to Suez during the famous operation. This was adopted after an exercise with a T.A. Army Signal Regiment when the Regiment really worked for the first time as a R.R. Regiment. The unit cartoonist had produced a series of cartoons indicating the birth of a new Regiment by illustrating the birth and progress of the baby bear. Because they had been so heavily committed during the exercise, No. 5 Troop adopted it as their mascot badge.

It was at Essen that a visiting engineer from Siemens saw "Bruno," recognised him and thereby started off the negotiations which eventually resulted in the return of the statue to the Deutsche Fernabel Gesellschaft. The bear was handed over to Herrn Friedrich Mühl, Director of the firm, with full honours at a ceremony in the Barracks at Essen-Kray on 28th November, 1957. The difficult part of the operation was Bruno's transfer from the top of plinth to the ground, undertaken with the aid of a large mobile crane and with a precision which was more remarkable in view of its novelty. An expression of the extreme generosity of the firm was the promise to have a replica of the statue made and this was presented to the Regiment by Herr Mühl on 28th May, 1958. The press and radio coverage of both these ceremonies confirmed the mutual feeling surrounding the Cable Bear.

During the visit of one of the Commanding Officers to the firm's offices, in Berlin, soon after these events, one of the ladies on the staff recalled that at the time of the acquisition of the bear in 1945 the British soldiers involved said they were taking it back with them to the Tower of London.

Bruno has occupied an affectionate place with the members of the Regiment ever since. At the time of writing a major operation is afoot to transport Bruno (on a no cost basis) to, we hope, his final resting place with the School of Signals.

The help of past members of the Regiment in the preparation of this article is gratefully acknowledged. Permission is acknowledged of Brigadier Sir Lionel Harris, K.B.E., T.D., to quote from "Signal Venture" and Royal Signals Institution to quote from the "Royal Corps of Signals." In addition, the Officer in Charge Royal Signals Records who kindly allowed an officer to examine the War Diaries of the Unit.

ARMY APPRENTICES' SCHOOL

The Spring Term which has now ended, has been a more hectic term than usual owing to the fact that it is the first time that a Graduation Ceremony has been held during such term. In addition sporting activities have been large and all in all we look back to a most successful three months.

On Saturday, 17th March, we were honoured by a visit from the Secretary of State for War, the Right Honourable John Profumo, O.B.E., M.P. Although a lightning visit which lasted only three hours the Secretary of State had a very detailed and full programme seeing many Apprentices under training as possible.

Graduation Day was held on Wednesday, 11th April, 1962, when a further 38 apprentices passed out into man's service. The Reviewing Officer on this occasion was Brigadier W. D. Tarr, Inspector of Boys' Training, War Office. Despite the cold north-west winds many parents and relations attended the ceremony. To all apprentices leaving may we say "Good Luck in the years ahead."

Prize winners for the Senior Term were as follows:—

Army Commander's Prize — "For All-Round Excellence": A/T R.S.M. Harwood, A. (Line Technician).

Commandant's Prize—"For Conduct, Discipline and Example": A/T C.S.M. Deans, R. (Radio Relay Technician).

Signal Officer-in-Chief's Award—"Best All-Round Tradesman of the Term": A/T Beaumont, J. (Telegraph Operator).

Colonel Commandant's Award—"Best All-Round Soldier/Tradesman of the Term": A/T Sergeant Scriven, R. (Radio Relay Technician).

Trade Prizes
Best All-Round Tradesman of Senior Term

Telegraph Operator	...	A/T Beaumont, J.
Line Technician	...	A/T Witt, F. C.
Telegraph Technician	...	A/T Beer, E. C.
Radio Technician	...	A/T Sergeant Hetherington, H.
Radio Relay Technician	...	A/T C.S.M. Turner, A. G.

Prizes Awarded by the Royal Signals Corps Committee

(To A/T who have made best use of their opportunities at the School)

Telegraph Technician	...	A/T C.S.M. Snook, M. N. F.
Line Technician	...	A/T Corporal Harrison, R. P.
Radio Technician	...	A/T C.S.M. De-La-Mare, M. J.
Radio Relay Technician	...	A/T Sergeant Scriven, R.
Telegraph Operator	...	A/T C.S.M. Chick, R.

Continued on page 162

1. Sergeant McGrath, W. F. receiving his Long Service and Good Conduct Medal from the Reviewing Officer. 2. A/T Lance-Corporal Frimpong (G.M.F.) who won the Army Flyweight Championship and was runner-up in the I.S.B.A. Tournament. 3. A/T C.S.M. Deans receiving the Commandant's Prize from Brigadier W. D. Tarr. Lieutenant-Colonel P. H. Brown, Chief Instructor is in the centre. 4. The Secretary of State talks to A/T Corporal Whydell and Major F. W. Leatherland, Royal Signals, O.C. Signals Wing B. 5. The School Trade Exhibition Stand at Queen's Hall, Leeds, during the West Riding Science Fair (photo: Pickard of Leeds, Ltd.). 6. The Secretary of State talks to A/T Witheridge during Military Training. 7. The Basketball Team.

Borough of Harrogate Prize

(Best Essay on Local Government)

A/T Sergeant Scriven, R.
A/T Corporal Harrison, R. P.

Champion Company Cup

Penney House—O.C. Major S. Miller, M.B.E., Royal Signals.
C.S.M. W.O.II Wilson, Duke of Wellingtons.

Basketball

In beating the Sherwood Foresters, the York Brigade and 11th Regiment to win the Northern Command Championship, the School Staff team automatically went forward to the quarter final stage of the Army Cup. Victories over Depot Black Watch and Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders at Edinburgh and the 9/12th Lancers (N. Ireland champions) earned the team a place in the Army final which was played at York.

After an extremely hard but clean fought match, the School's opponents, Guards Depot, Pirbright, emerged as winners by 59 points to 39.

Rugby

This term has seen the reward for great effort put into this sport when we were able to emerge as runners-up in the Northern Command Seven's to the R.A.F. Leeming.

Penney House have won the Army Youth Cup and separate account is included of this match.

JUNIOR LEADERS' REGIMENT

Graduation Parade, Easter, 1962. We had to break with tradition when we decided to have our Graduation Parade on Saturday, 7th April. This was done in order that it would be easier for parents to come down and see the parade than it would have been had it been held, as in the past, on a week-day.

As always, some distinguished person was asked to take the parade, and this time we were honoured by a visit of the Chief of the Imperial General Staff, General Sir Richard Hull, G.C.B., D.S.O., A.D.C. It was for him his first impression of a Junior Leaders Regiment dressed in the new No. 2 Dress—by all accounts he was very impressed by both turnout and drill.

Several other distinguished people attended, who included the Master of Signals, Signal Officer-in-Chief, Divisional Commander, Inspector of Boys' Training with many local dignitories from local towns and boroughs.

Again, as on so many occasions in the past, we were lucky with our weather—the rain held off just long enough for us to complete the parade.

After the parade, the Chief of the Imperial General Staff, accompanied by the Commanding Officer and R.S.M., visited the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess, where he met members of the staff, and on leaving was interviewed by Junior Signalman Smith, our top *Junior Mercury* reporter.

After a quick lunch in the Officers' Mess, the C.I.G.S. had to leave, but we carried on with our customary prizegiving in the cinema, attended by all parents and staff. The prizes were kindly presented by Mrs. Whistler, who also received a bouquet of flowers, presented by the smallest man in the Regiment (by quarter-of-an-inch) Junior Signalman Dawson of White Swan Troop. With the prizegiving over, there followed a display of Highland Dancing, *Swords and Fling*, by Scottish Country Dancing Team, and the afternoon was closed by the choir, which gave a very fine performance, under the direction of the Choir Master—the programme ranged from our traditional songs to a selection from "Stephen Foster Melodies."

Captions for facing pictures ☛

(Top) The C.I.G.S. interviewed by Junior Signalman Smith, *Junior Mercury* Reporter. An apprehensive R.S.M. "looks on"

(Centre) Junior Signalman B. J. Dawson, White Swan Troop, presents a bouquet to Mrs. Whistler

Bottom) The C.I.G.S. presents an award to Junior R.S.M. Wraith

Parents and Staff were able to discuss the progress of the Junior Leaders over afternoon tea, which was held in the gymnasium. This was a particular success and very much appreciated by the parents, many of whom had a pleasant chat with the Signal Officer-in-Chief. Most of the parents, after spending a night in barrack rooms, departed early on Sunday morning, though a few stayed behind to attend the end-of-term church services.

Once more Denbury is quiet, and to the output we send our sincere best wishes for the future and we look forward to a full Summer Term—always the busiest. Next term we return to find the greatest number of Junior Leaders under training we have ever had in the Regiment—we have over 40 per cent more under training now than we had three years ago—all this in spite of a much higher entry and retention standard.

Graduation List

Name	Training Regiment	Pre-selected Trades	Troop and Adopted Regiment
C. G. Stubbing	24th	Telegraph Op	Javelin Troop 22nd Signal Regt.
J. M. Smith	8th	Technician	Kukri Troop
M. H. Webster	224 Sqn	Special Op	17th Gurkha Signal
A. H. Gauld	24th	Telegraph Op	Regt.
A. P. Tucker	24th	Telegraph Op	,,
J. R. Cavanagh	24th	Comcen Op	,,
R. M. Gourley	8th	Lineman	,,
R. E. Short	8th	Technician	Francisca Troop
C. Parkinson	8th	Technician	28th Signal Regt.
C. A. Hinton	8th	Technician	,,
F. H. Spencer	24th	Telegraph Op	,,
A. J. Bryant	24th	Telegraph Op	,,
J. H. Wooler	224 Sqn	Special Op	,,
M. J. Toye	8th	Radio Op	,,
J. W. Brister	8th	Radio Op	,,
A. P. Heard	24th	Comcen Op	,,
W. T. McCormack	24th	Comcen Op	,,
P. Stanger	24th	Comcen Op	,,
D. P. Stephenson	8th	Lineman	,,
C. D. Cameron	8th	Technician	Romulus Troop
D. Kay	24th	Telegraph Op	13th Signal Regt.
J. A. Sharman	24th	Telegraph Op	,,
L. Ward	24th	Comcen Op	,,
M. H. Beresford	24th	Telegraph Op	Quadrant Troop
K. L. Black	24th	Comcen Op	4th Signal Regt.
L. W. Buglass	24th	Comcen Op	,,
A. Locke	24th	Comcen Op	,,
B. Gable	24th	Comcen Op	,,
C. H. Hollander	8th	Technician	White Swan Troop
M. J. Kynaston	224 Sqn	Special Op	30th Signal Regt.
W. R. Ferris	224 Sqn	Special Op	,,
R. W. McLaren	24th	Telegraph Op	,,
K. M. Blatherwick	8th	Radio Op	,,
R. C. Harbird	224 Sqn	Special Op	Kohima Troop
C. W. Leach	224 Sqn	Special Op	2nd Signal Regt.
P. D. Edwards	24th	Electrician Driver	,,
J. Collison	8th	Technician	,,
J. S. Manning	24th	Electrician Driver	,,
J. A. Wraith	24th	Telegraph Op	Iron Troop
M. W. Smith	24th	Comcen Op	3rd Signal Regt.
C. K. Claypole	24th	Comcen Op	,,
G. Dowdle	8th	Technician	Jerboa Troop 1st Signal Regt.
T. S. Rayson	24th	Telegraph Op	White Spear Troop
K. Walters	24th	Comcen Op	7th Signal Regt.

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Book Review Section

Army life in AD 1

The Roman Army was the first fully professional regularly paid military force the world has known. And now that we are getting back to an all-Regular footing it is pertinent to ask ourselves the question: what was the Roman Army like in its daily routine? How did the conditions of service, the fatigues and the duty rosters, the pay rates, saving schemes and stoppages, the N.A.A.F.I.s, ablutions and messing, training pamphlets and Annual Administrative Inspections and so on 2,000 years ago compare with Army life as we know it today? The similarities are extraordinary and merit a closer look:

Terms of Service: 25 years with the Colours.

Volunteers were signed on in their teens with the following inducements: Regular pay, a gratuity, a pension, the grant of Roman citizenship, and a free plot of land.

Recruiting: The prospective recruit had to undergo a selection test, known as a probatio, which included a medical. Here is the discharge certificate of a failed applicant:

Copy of a certificate of discharge in the 12th year of the Emperor Tiberius Claudius Caesar Augustus Germanicus, on the 28th day of the month of Pharmouthae. This man was discharged by Gnaius Virgilius Capito, the Army Commander:—

Tryphon, son of Dionystus, weaver, with weak sight owing to a cataract. On the list of those from Oxyrhyricus. The examination was conducted at Alexandria.

Postings: Recruits who passed the test were posted to a unit. An example of a posting order dated A.D. 103 details recruits enlisted in Egypt for posting to the third cohort of the Itureians:—

My Dear Calcianus, (Commanding Officer)

Please give orders that the recruits approved by me be included in the rolls of the cohort with effect from the 19th February. Their names and marks of recognition I have appended to this document.

Gaius Veturius Gemellus, 21 years, no marks of recognition.
Gaius Julius Pricus, 22 years, scar on left eyebrow.
Gaius Julius Maximus, 25 years, no marks of recognition.
Gaius Julius Saturninus, 23 years, scar on left hand.

Yours faithfully,
GAIUS MINICIUS ITALUS,
Prefect of Egypt.

Pay Rates: In the first century A.D. a private soldier's pay was 225 denarii a year, paid in three instalments. The pay could be supplemented by loot and by Imperial bounties. An example of compulsory stoppages from the pay book of a Roman private serving in Egypt in A.D. 83 where the pay entitlement in local currency was 248 drachmae for each pay-period is:—

Stoppages	*Drachmae*	
Bedding	10	10
Food	80	
Boots and lace straps ...	12	
Annual Camp Dinner ...	20	(in the first pay period only)
Clothing	60	(in the first period, 146 in the third)
Burial Club (i.e. Life Insurance Policy)	4	(in the second period only)

Out of 248 drachmae due to him in the first pay period, the soldier got only 66. in the second he received 142.

In addition, soldiers were expected to bank part of their pay with the Colours:—

From the bonuses which were issued to the troops a half-share was retained with the Colours and preserved there for the men themselves, to prevent its being wasted by the Other Ranks through extravagance or the purchase of useless articles (*Vegetius*).

Duty Rosters: Here is an example of an all too familiar barrack-room notice dating from the reign of the Emperor Domitian, about 1,800 years ago:—

Name	October 5	6	7	8	9	10
Domitius C.					Leave by permission of prefect (a)	
Aemilius V.	Uniform of Helius			Armoury	Bath house fatigue	Bath house fatigue
Julius	Armoury		Bath house fatigue	Batman	Duty in Century	Bath house fatigue
Julius O.	Duty in Century	Bath house fatigue	HQ Guard	Street dutv		
Clodius S.			Gate Guard	Centurians boots	Helius' shoes	Helius' shoes
Arrius N.	Barrack fatigue	Barrack fatigue	Barrack fatigue	Barrack fatigue	Barrack fatigue	Barrack fatigue
Sextilius G.	Duty in the Century of Decrius					

(It is clear from the above that Arrius had incurred the displeasure of the Sergeant Major).

Messing: Corn was the main item, with soup, bread, vegetables and lard. Meat was rarely eaten. Mess-tins and cooking-pots were issued. The main drink was a mixture of vinegar and water. (This puts a different light upon that seemingly insensate episode where, at the Crucifiction, a sponge soaked in vingegar was proffered. It was the soldiers' own standard drink).

Training Manuals: An example from a Roman Army Train-Manual recalling bayonet-drill is:—

Single stakes, six feet high, are fixed to the ground. The recruit attacks them as if they were the enemy, with a wicker-work shield and a wooden sword. He attacks as though against the head and face, against the flank, the knee and the legs; withdraws, comes up from the side, slinks up as though it were a real enemy, threatens him with his wooden sword, using all the strength and skill needed in real battle.

Annual Administrative Inspections: The Inspecting Officers' address, in this case by Hadrian to the 1st Pannonian Squadron in North Africa, will strike a familiar chord:—

You were quick to obey orders and you manoeuvred well over the whole ground. Your javelin-throwing was accurate and good, and that in spite of the javelins being of a type difficult to grasp.

Your spear-throwing too was in many cases excellent, and the jumping was neat and lively. I would certainly have pointed out to you any deficiencies if I had noticed them—for example, if you had shown a tendency to overshoot your targets.

But there has been no flaw of any kind. All your exercises have been carried out perfectly according to rule.

N.A.A.F.I.s: The bath-house to be found outside the walls of nearly all Roman forts was no mere ablution-room. It was a place for relaxation after the day's work with a series of rooms heated to varying temperatures. The bath was a kind of club:

Gossip and gambling took place in the fore-rooms. In leisure hours the soldiers played games, gambled, wrote letters, drank . . .

In case this article paints too rosy a picture of Roman Army conditions, it is as well to close with an extract from Tacitus which quotes mutineers under Tiberius as saying:—

A soldier's life is heavy and unrewarded, that we know, body and soul bought for 10 coppers a day. And out of that he must buy clothes, tent equipment, weapons, blunt the callousness of Centurions and pay for exemption from duties. It is nothing but blows and wounds, cruel winter and fatiguing summer, disastrous war and useless peacetime.

* * *

(Contributed by 8th Regiment)

This article is a book review with extracts from the book *The Great Invasion* by LEONARD COTTRELL. Publishers, EVANS BROS.

Gramophone Record

The Royal Signals Band Conducted by

Lieutenant-Colonel John L. Judd, M.B.E., Mus. Bac., F.T.C.L., L.R.A.M., A.R.C.M.

THIS RECORD has been made for the express purpose of giving units of the Corps an opportunity to hear and use our Corps music when their geographical position precludes a visit from the Corps Band.

Side 1 is devoted to music for Ceremonial parades.

Side 2 contains music for Guest Nights and other occasions'

Side 1

1. **QUICK MARCHES**
   (a) **The Contemptibles** (Stanley)
   (b) **On the Quarter Deck** (Alford)

These two marches are two of the finest marches for marching troops on the line of march. *The Contemptibles* was written by Mr. R. R. Ricketts who was Bandmaster of the Corps Band from 1926 to 1939. *On the Quarter Deck* was written by his brother F. J. Ricketts who was Bandmaster of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders and later Director of Music of The Royal Marines. He wrote many famous marches including *Colonel Bogey*. Both started their military careers as Bandboys in The Royal Irish Regiment.

2. **GENERAL SALUTE**
   "Cavalry Brigade" (Anon.)

3. **CORPS SLOW MARCH**
   H.R.H. The Princess Royal (Stanley)

This is one of the finest Slow Marches ever written. It was composed by Mr. R. R. Ricketts and strains of our Corps Quick March can be heard running through it. It is generally used for "Inspection music."

4. **CORPS QUICK MARCH**
   "Begone Dull Care" (arr. Judd)

The Corps Committee in 1924 offered a prize of £50 for the best composition submitted which would be suitable for use as our Corps March. There were some 140 entries. Dr. Charles Wood's arrangement of *Begone Dull Care* and *Come you not from Newcastle* was chosen, awarded the prize, and adopted as our Corps March.

As a result of complaints about the joining of the two airs, when entering the second half of the march, an amended version was adopted in 1952. This version was subsequently revised in 1959 in order to include some characteristc traits of the original version, the omission of which in the first amended version was deplored by older members of the Corps.

Eight minutes of this march has been recorded to allow for a big parade on a large parade ground.

5. **"THE BRITISH GRENADIERS"** (Anon.)

For the advance in Review Order.

6. **"RETREAT CALL"** (arr. Judd)

It is a great pity that records have not been kept concerning the composers of the Trumpet and Bugle Calls of The British Army. The composers of such fine calls as *Reveille* and *Last Post* are not known, but they are certainly the work of a fine musician and fit their purpose admirably.

This arrangement was made for Band and Bugles.

7. **THE NATIONAL ANTHEM** (arr. Adkins)

On the Queen's Birthday Parade at SCUTARI in the Crimea in 1954 the Bassed Band which was formed of Bands of all different pitches and instrumentation, played the National Anthem so badly that the Commander-in-Chief, H.R.H. The Duke of Cambridge, ordered that a Military School of Music should be formed immediately.

H.M. King George V together with H.R.H. The Duke of Connaught visited Kneller Hall, The Royal Military School of Music, in 1925 to hear several different arrangements of The National Anthem and this one was chosen, to ensure that all the Bands of The British Army played what was considered the correct version, and also the same version.

H.M. King George V hated it being referred to as "The King" instead of its proper title "The National Anthem."

Perhaps no other piece of music of the same length, and so widely known, is capable of so many different and quite musical interpretations. To ensure that all Bands in the Army play the same interpretation, it is laid down in Queen's Regulations 1955—para. 1284—exactly how it should be played.

Side 2

1. **"DINNER CALL"** (Anon.)

This is the Officers Dinner Call and an arrangement made for our Fanfare Trumpeters.

2. **"THE ROAST BEEF OF OLD ENGLAND"** (Anon.)

For over one hundred years it has been traditional to play this music as the Officers process in to dinner.

3. **"FANFARE FOR THE LOYAL TOAST"** (Judd)

4. **CORPS FANFARE**
   "Begone Dull Care" (Judd)

This is built on the theme of the Corps March *Begone Dull Care* and strains of that air can be heard running through the fanfare. This fanfare is usually played on Guest Nights before the toast to our Colonel-in-Chief H.R.H. The Princess Royal.

5. **FANFARE FOR A ROYAL CHANCELLOR"** (Judd)

In 1951 our Colonel-in-Chief H.R.H. The Princess Royal was installed as Chancellor of Leeds University in the Town Hall at Leeds.

The fanfare Trumpets were purchased in this year, and appeared in public for the first time on this memorable occasion.

This fanfare was the first fanfare to be played in public by our Fanfare Trumpeters.

6. **"FANFARE FOR HEROES"** (Judd)

This fanfare was composed for Victory Sunday at York Minster, and was played for several years at this annual service.

7. **"LAST POST"** (Anon.)

This is the Cavalry version of the Last Post.

8. **"REVEILLE"** (Anon.)

Also the Cavalry version of this call. The soloist is Sergeant J. Greer.

9. **QUICK MARCHES**
   (a) **Old Comrades** (Tiecke)
   (b) **Officer of the Day** (Hall)
   (c) **Imperial Echoes** (Safroni)

These marches have been joined together to give ten minutes continuous marching music to play the troops off parade or for marching practice at drill parades.

Old Comrades. A world-famous German march which has been very popular with Bands of The British Army for many decades. A fine march on the line of marches.

Officer of the Day. One of the few American marches played by our Military Bands. It was written in 1898 and is still one of the best marches for parade purposes.

Imperial Echoes. A very good march written by an Italian.

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3rd REGIMENT

Exercises are now so commonplace for the Regiment that one almost forgets to mention them. Indeed, some of us are trying to remember what we did with all the spare time we must have had before these schemes became so numerous.

Since our last notes, the Regiment has completed "Kiwi III," "Kiwi IV," Exercise "Swansong" and Exercise "Cross Over," plus a number of schemes at both Squadron and Troop level.

Exercise "Swansong," a six-day exercise, took the Regiment to Norfolk, a welcome change from Salisbury Plain, whose highways and byways are becoming all too familiar to us. The weather has been none too kind to us during any of these exercises.

Exercise "Cross Over," a four-day exercise, was a success in spite of weather most foul. Lieutenant Thomas and Second-Lieutenant Doyle joined the Regiment in time for this exercise; we trust they enjoy it.

Another new arrival was Lance-Corporal Armbruster. He had only been in the Regiment 15 minutes when he found himself donning combat clothing and standing by to move out with the Regiment.

Two events of note—an unexploded shell found near main Division cookhouse; a bottle of wine, produced by Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Spear to celebrate his birthday during the exercise.

These activities may be expected to interfere with Regimental sports, and in fact, training time has been reduced to a minimum. However, despite exercise commitments, demobs and injuries, the first XI will finish about fourth in their division, and the second XI about half-way. On the whole, not a bad performance after a poor start to the season.

On 28th March we played the 1st Battalion Royal Welch Fusiliers in the semi-final of the Salisbury Plain District (Major Units) Cup, and this game was a thriller from start to finish. At one time 2—0 down, we drew level at 3—3 and finally lost 4—3 to a lucky goal scored in the last two minutes. It was a centre which the wind carried over Corporal Gooch's head.

Special mention must be made of Signalman Levett, who blotted out the R.W.F. centre-forward; and of Signalman Smith, who played havoc with the Welsh defence.

Recent results:		*For*	*Against*
v.	A.A.C.C. (F)	6	2
v.	School of Artillery ...	5	2
v.	R.A.S.C. (F)	12	1
v.	R.W.F.	3	4

Representing the Regiment in the 3rd Division fencing championships will be W.O.I (R.S.M.) M. A. Barnes-Murphy, who has also recently been called upon to officiate at the Army, Command and the Divisional Boxing Championships.

Still in a sporting vein, we look forward with some trepidation to "touching four walls and back again smartly," for S.I. Arnold (A.P.T.C.) who joins the Regiment in April, ex the Durham Light Infantry.

April will also see an interesting experiment, when 3rd Division Headquarters integrates with the Regiment.

Congratulations are offered to Sergeant and Mrs. M. J. Palmer on the birth of their daughter, and to Corporal and Mrs. S. Hicks on the birth of their son.

Congratulations also to Sergeants Thomas, Dewhirst and Palmer (666) on their promotion.

We welcome Corporal Kirk to the Regiment and welcome back Sergeant Dutton, Corporal Pyke and Signalman Pope, from British Guiana.

Recent departures include Sergeant Holdsworth and Corporal Dulling to 21st Regiment; Sergeant Dewhirst to the Junior Leaders, at Troon, and Signalman Diviney to Bahrein.

Good wishes are extended to Sergeant Ruffels, Lance-Corporals Hopkinson, Mellor, Walls, and Signalmen Holden, Oliver, Herbert and Paley, all demobbed recently.

7th REGIMENT

4 TTr re-visited. The celebration of the Feast of St. Gabriel, Patron Saint of the 4th Battalion Troupes de Transmission, was the occasion for a visit to Veiden, a suburb of Cologne, by a delegation of this Regiment. As has previously been mentioned in a former issue of THE WIRE, 4th Battalion TTr is our affiliated unit operating for the 1st Belgian Corps in the same way 7th does for 1st British Corps. Our delegation was representative of the Regiment and also included the regimental football team. In following certain "you can't miss it" instructions, W.O.II G. E. Loudoun and W.O.II J. J. Gerrard, travelling by car, found that "It" could be missed quite easily and having passed their ETA by over an hour decided to seek the assistance of the local police. An officer of the Polizei, resplendent in his light green uniform and speaking excellent English, soon had them on their correct way and in departing they thought how much more difficult the solution of a similar problem for non-English speaking visitors to U.K. would be.

The arrival of the above-mentioned Warrant Officers completed the contingent and in a garrison where members have been stationed some 10-15 years it was not surprising that they found a number of familiar faces from their previous visit some months before. R.S.M. Paturiaux as usual proved an excellent host and made sure all was in order before carrying on with his many tasks in the preparations for the following day.

At 0845 hours the following morning a special Mass was celebrated in the Garrison Church and those who are not familiar with Continental church services would have been impressed with the way the priest celebrated Mass from the rear of the altar. In this particular case the altar was erected in the centre of junction of the congregation's accommodation which was in the three arms of the letter "T," and in this way it seemed all concerned were so much more a part of the service. The escort to the Regimental Colour remained complete with head-dress and throughout were under the control of a junior officer who gave his commands in a suitably subdued voice. Latin delivered in a French accent and hymns sung very effectively in that harmony so typical of Continental choirs added further interest to the occasion for the unaccustomed visitors. Following the French spoken sermon proved too much of a strain on long forgotten school learning, although a general impression was gained by the writer.

The programme then carried on to the Regimental Parade which was held in the Garrison Stadium and it must be admitted that 4th TTr, as far as sports facilities are concerned, are much luckier than their affiliated cousins of 7th. During the parade there were probably two major impressions that strike the British Service spectator. Drill movements are more slowly and deliberately executed and the feet movements during turns at the halt seem to be the reverse of our own. The other and probably most notable impression is the manner in which dignatories arrive, salute and in turn are saluted. After marching out each in turn (having been previously announced to the public), to the centre of the parade ground, three separate salutes are made by the individual to the parade throughout 180 degrees and this is repeated on the return to the area of the spectators who of course stand and acknowledge in a manner according to the status.

A most polished performance by the band of 1st Belgian Corps then followed. This consisted of marching and countermarching led by the Drum Major whose physique, ability to make the mace appear weightless and overall execution would make his counterpart in the Brigade of Guards envious.

Vin d'Honneur was followed by an excellent lunch, which it is considered would make even our own expert, W.O.II R. H. Pearce, dare we say it, "eat humble pie"? The football match followed, and whether by thoughtful design, accident, or even the cause of "Cologne by Night" after-effects on our team, a very friendly result of three-all was obtained.

Various evening entertainments were arranged and the previously-mentioned Warrant Officers found themselves at a dance which seemed to show no signs of ending. Bearing in mind the hazards of 160 miles of hectic autobahn the following morning, an early "goodnight" was considered wise. Final departure was made after partaking of coffee, made in that excellent manner for which the Belgians and French are famous, and the return journey was accomplished without need for police guidance. Of course there really was no excuse for getting lost, as they had made the journey once before. Records show that they got lost that time as well! A host of happy memories survive this visit, surmounted overall by recollections of the wonderful warm generosity of our allies and friends of 4th Troupes de Transmission.

Exercises. That certain season is with us again, and really it doesn't seem so very long since we wiped the mud from our "Boots, CWW" and dried out our blankets from the last exercise of last season. Nothing seems to have changed—except, perhaps, the participants here and there. Farmyards still smell, mud still prevails and the local population seem, if anything, to have forgotten what little English they managed

last year. "Mutton, Scotch style," still makes an excellent breakfast, of course, though it is not understood how such delicacies of "Compo" stock get issued outside Highland Regiments. We feel that many of us would willingly forego such issues if it meant that the Highlander could enjoy a dish described in such national terms. The Linemen and D.R.s still have the donkey-work and still, surprisingly, manage to complete same with their typical imperturbable air. Outcry from other trades will perhaps be avoided if in acknowledging the efforts of operators and technicians, it is pointed out that their task and problems are reasonably standard and nearly always carried out sheltered from the elements.

The start of this season will be remembered as one of the coldest, and hopes are echoed by all that it is not the pattern for the rest of the year. Ironically, the exercise was a "Hot Spot," and further comment will only serve to upset suffering participants' convalescence, and chances of recovery.

Morrison Cup—Basketball. The Regimental Team, under what has proved to be the expert tuition of Staff Sergeant A. H. R. Carpenter, A.P.T.C., managed a very comfortable win in the Morrison Cup final. Our opponents were 21st Regiment, who seemed to take a long time to get into a scoring mood. At one stage the score was 7th, 24 points to 21st's nil. 21st did not, at this rather discouraging stage, give up, however, and mainly due to the efforts of Signalman Roberts and Choalt, they began to find some baskets, gradually pulling their score up. In our team there were perhaps many who played well, but perhaps the outstanding player was Signalman Hall. The final score was decisive at 64—32, with Hall having scored 42 of our points.

Shooting. In the Morrison Cup shooting, we wait with baited breath for the result, which is expected hourly. We have not done as well as the extremely high scores of last year—there have certainly been some "off form—shouldn't have happened" results. However, we believe we have done well enough to win—the next 72 hours will show whether our confidence was misplaced.

CR SIGNALS BRANCH, MIDDLE EAST LAND FORCES

During February, 1962, Lieutenant-Colonel D. C. Harris relinquished the appointment of Commander Royal Signals Mideast, and Lieutenant-Colonel T. I. G. Gray has taken over. Having handed over his appointment it appeared that Colonel Harris was reluctant to leave us for a while and in order to stay gave up his seat twice on aircraft scheduled for the U.K.—there was some rumour about chickenpox!

Also during February the office staff suffered a blow in losing three clerks in one fell swoop. However, two ladies were engaged on a temporary basis and are not only very efficient but extremely decorative; so much so that the Chief Clerk now has many more visitors than ever before.

Colonel Gray, despite the fact that he has been on our posted strength for two months has not been seen around the office all that much. In order to know his 'parish' he must travel, and travel out here takes days even though most of it is done by air. For example, it is about 1,100 miles to Bahrain, 700 to Sharjah and about the same to Muscat, and there are no roads from Aden.

Another traveller from the branch has been Captain G. Dibley, who had the pleasant task of going places to take 'shots' for the Corps officer recruiting film. He went to Dubai, Sharjah, Massafe, Manama and Bahrain; and all except Bahrain were very hot, dusty and full of desert.

Major B. H. Townson, our late GII, left us for the United Kingdom on 17th March, having obtained a passage on the *Canberra*, which, believe it or not, he gave up for a passage on the RFA Amhurst! Major G. A. Thompson arrived from England and on assuming the appointment of GII found himself *immersed* in two exercises with aircraft carriers. He hopes to begin normal staff duties any time within the next two years provided he is not irrevocably caught up in the vicious spiral of manpower planning and establishments.

During the past 1961/62 cool season we were pleased to welcome to Aden Colonel G. D. T. Harris, from the Directorate, and Colonel P. F. Pentreath, M.B.E., the A.A.G. We hope their memories of Aden are mostly pleasant, though we fear Colonel Harris may feel that trips in motor boats that require rowing are hardly usual serials in a programme.

HEADQUARTERS, ROYAL SIGNALS, HONG KONG

Small headquarters do not, as a general rule, have annual administrative inspections, sports days, at homes, nor any of the other useful standbyes for Unit notes. They do, however, have committees. It is probably news to a lot of people that many of the clear crisp orders that eventually go out to Units are the result of hours of wrangling round a table "in committee."

Hong Kong is not a very big place, but it has all the machinery of government of a far larger nation. It is also very crowded, so that something which may start as a quite minor project may have a chain reaction effect on many people and organisations. There is, therefore, a hive of committees on which H.Q. Royal Signals, Hong Kong, is represented. This article concerns some of them.

Let us suppose that a quite minor P.L. project comes up. In Hong Kong virtually all cable is underground. It also follows the line of the roads, which themselves carry the heaviest traffic density in the world. Clearly, digging up the road is a big thing, which leads to traffic jams, hold ups, universal bad temper and rude letters to the newspapers. To overcome this the Public Works Department run the Road Works Committee, of which we are members. Here is exercised a degree of low cunning, as the game is to persuade someone else, like the Waterworks, to dig up the road and allow us to use their hole or trench. We say this is to avoid inconvenience to the public. It also gets our cables put in the ground with a minimum of fuss to us, and what is more the rude letters are about wicked waterworks or what have you, and not the brutal Army.

With one of the world's busiest harbours, a large concentration of industry and a tourist industry that uses radio controlled taxi cabs and tourist cars, and the Services, there is a mass of communications in Hong Kong. There are constant demands for frequencies, new broadcasting facilities, television, radio telephone installations, new cable projects, both civil and military, and so on. This activity would easily get out of hand if it weren't for the Hong Kong Communications Board, and its off shoot, the Frequency Assignment Committee.

These are predominantly civilian boards. Their tasks range from fierce directives to radio owners to pay their licence fees to an endless pursuit of plastic flower manufacturers whose unsuppressed machinery is apt to play havoc with H.F. radio. It is rumoured that between them the manufacturers own one piece of fully suppressed equipment which moves round one pace ahead of the Government Wireless Inspector. A typical problem that comes to the Frequency Assignment Committee is that of 15th harmonic interference from an R.A.F. H.F. transmitter using a rhombic array to an international radio relay link using a three-element Yagi. All good stuff.

In Hong Kong external radio communications are handled by the Royal Navy and R.A.F., while the keying circuits and other associated lines are provided by the Army. This is known as integration—a word that the Corps will hear often in the future. To co-ordinate all these activities there is a Joint Signal Board which deals with all matters of inter-Service communications. Even although we are all in the same business it is extraordinary how many differences there are of procedure and method between us. It is the Joint Signal Board's job to help sort things out. You might describe their charter as "Deciding who does what, with what, to/for whom." It gets complicated sometimes.

C.A.F.S.O., H.Q.,F.E.A.F.

This is probably not the first time that notes from C.A.F.S.O., F.E.A.F., have appeared, but certainly the first time for a long time. To many within the Corps, unless one has had experience of serving in an Air Formation Signal Unit, the abreviation C.A.F.S.O. means very little. To remedy this, these notes have been written. C.A.F.S.O. stands for Chief Air Formation Signal Officer.

The appointment in the Far East is at present held by Colonel G. G. L. Hinde, O.B.E., who has as his Staff, Major F. P. Stewart, M.B.E., Lieutenant (T.O.T.) A. K. Mercer, W.O.II J. McGlynn, Sergeant D. A. Ewer, Lance-Corporal B. J. Whitbread, our only National Service representative, who, apart from the humid heat of Singapore, is sweating at the thought of an extra six months' N.S.—though to be fair, he has managed to convince himself, and the Staff here, that

he won't have to do it. We only hope that Mr. Profumo's representative at Officer-in-Charge, Royal Signals Records, is convinced as well. And last, but not least, we have Signalman J. Davis, as our draughtsman. Signalmen Jani and Abu Bakar represent the Malayan side of the Unit.

The branch is situated with the Headquarters of the Far East Air Force at R.A.F., Changi. C.A.F.S.O. is the senior Army Officer within the headquarters and is responsible for R.A.F. Signal Works Service and Telecommunications requirements in the Far East Command. The main services being undertaken at the moment are the automisation of the telephone exchanges; installation started at Changi the second week of March. Approval has been given for a new air-conditioned building for the new exchange at Seletar. Large underground cable projects have been undertaken in the last two years to prepare for the automatic exchange scheme.

There has also been considerable extension of the underground cable system at each station to bring them up-to-date to meet the modernised Far East Air Force. Hunters, Javelins and "V" Bombers disturb our tropical slumbers. Transport Command is also getting new aircraft, Argosys, Belvederes, Wessex and Whirlwinds will be seen here in due course.

On island-wide radio relay system is also in the course of installation and we have a considerable underground cable tailing programme.

For relaxation, the interests are varied. Both Colonel Hinde and Major Stewart have boats at the R.A.F., Changi, Yacht Club, Lieutenant Mercer has a Go-Kart, though, as yet, no trophies haye appeared. Swimming and, even in Singapore, the inevitable "Bingo," come in for support. Then we have the office football pools entry, which is run by Sergeant Ewer and Lance-Corporal Whitbread, who are both sure that a cable will be on its way from Littlewood's Pools, Liverpool, telling of the vast fortune won.

SIGNAL TRAINING CENTRE, W.R.A.C.

It is high time we burst into print again and here we are with a further edition of "News from the North"—brackets on frozen brackets off.

The word "Spring" has a somewhat hollow ring about it, as we keep adding to our already healthy supplies of winter woollies and fur-lined collar studs.

However, in spite of the elements we are "fighting fit" which just goes to prove that there must be something about Catterick.

Although we are coping with ever increasing numbers of recruits we still find the time for lots of outside activities, and only wish that there were more than 24 hours per day.

Since our last contribution, we appeared in a very short successful B.B.C. television programme which caused the Students a great deal of excitement, and the local hairdressers a great deal of overtime.

Our Administrative Inspection came and went in a flash. It's amazing how popular drill is with the "gentle sex." You should hear the complaints if there is any suggestion that a Parade might have to be cancelled because of ghastly weather!

We are still holding our regular monthly dances, and the proceeds of the next dance are to go to the Oxford Fund for Famine Relief.

We have been heavily involved in most forms of sport and have produced Unit teams to play in Badminton, Squash, Table-tennis, Hockey and Netball league competitions with a certain degree of success.

Don't tell anyone—but we have actually managed to win the odd game when playing against male opposition. Or are they being very gentlemanly?

We have now started training for the Athletics season and at 6 o'clock each evening a strange collection of ladies (young and not-so-young) can be seen padding around the stadium and doing all sorts of bending and stretching exercises which vaguely resemble the "twist." Apart from doing our vital statistics a lot of good, here's hoping we produce some athletic champions when the time comes.

The most strange blue apparition appeared in our midst one morning and took up its position at the entrance to the Signal Training Centre. Feeling that it was our duty to take steps urgently to find out what the thing was, we decided to ask W.O.I Baylis—who knows all the answers—and sure enough we got the answer. It was Miss Baylis's newly acquired motor car, a 1935 Austin 7 model, known as "Wee Willie." Mind you, it works. This has been proved by the fact that, in spite of Wee Willie's limited cubic capacity, it seems to transport a tremendous number of people to and from the Signal Training Centre.

There is considerable enthusiasm amongst the Instructors to learn to drive. W.O.II Macey recently passed her driving test having got herself a car in anticipation. Corporal Brown is now sporting a Lambretta as big as herself. She could easily be mistaken for a member of the Signals Display Team when she appears at a rakish angle on the saddle, complete with helmet.

If we maintain our present rate of progress in this direction we will soon be able to start our own school of driving.

Now for news of our staff. Major Dallas arrived to take over from Major Ruston last August. Second-Lieutenant Byrom arrived in January from the W.R.A.C. School of Instruction, Hindhead. Staff Sergeant Tweney left for B.A.O.R. this month and Sergeant Foulds has now arrived from Cyprus.

By the way we are still looking for some more N.C.O.s. Any offers?

We hope to re-establish communications with you in the not-too-distant future. In the meantime, we pray for a heatwave.

* * *

A Visit to Paradise

By Corporal Sims, Signalmen Rahman and Vayaya

The journey from Singapore to North Borneo in an R.A.F. Beverley takes five hours. Once at Jesselton, the capital of Borneo, a further journey by truck some 47 miles inland brings one to Paradise Camp. This is the main Camp for a large military training area running through the centre of the island.

We did this journey in company with a detachment of the Singapore Guard Regiment who were going to the camp for some field training. Our visit, however, was purely for pleasure; we were going to spend three weeks having a look around the island.

Arriving at Jesselton, the first impressions were of a town exactly the same as Singapore but on a rather smaller scale. The main difference was that all the houses were built above the ground, on pillars, to overcome the swampy nature of the ground.

Having had a meal we set off for the last leg of our journey by truck. The final miles of this journey proved to be quite epic for having darkness come when we were about half-way. The journey was completed along an extremely winding road, just wide enough to take a lorry, with cliff face on one side of the road and a sheer drop on the other.

The next day revealed the camp to be rather grim-looking. Due to the past weeks of rain everything was in a sea of mud. However, the weather was improving and within a week the camp dried out sufficiently to allow our wanderings to start. Moving about the countryside was a bit of a problem, but was solved by the local trader who hired us a buffalo and a stick to encourage it along.

Not long after being there we had an invitation to spend an evening at a long house. So climbing on to our trusty water buffalo we set out. Arriving at the far end, rather saddle-sore, the long house proved to be a wooden structure like an overgrown hen house. Under its roof 28 people lived together.

Nobody spoke English, so all communication was conducted in a series of pantomimes and gesticulations. In this manner the headman introduced us to the assembled households, and we all sat down in a big circle on the floor. A meal was brought on, consisting of lots of dishes of all shapes and sizes. These were placed in the centre of the circle and everyone helped themselves. Local etiquette demanded that you taste something then show appreciation by loudly smacking your lips and nodding in deep approval. This went on for two hours or so, the whole meal being washed down with the local brew called "Tapple." It looked and tasted rather like sherry, but was treated with great caution as it has the reputation of being rather potent.

The evening ended on a rather higher note, for when the time came to leave, or so we thought, the headman would not hear of such a thing and invited us to stay the night, at the same time making an expansive gesture at all the assembled and eligible women. A rather tricky situation to extricate oneself from, especially in sign language. However, this obstacle was overcome, and we climbed back on the trusty buffalo to return to camp.

11th REGIMENT (DEPOT)

March has been a strange month this year. Normal activities seem to have been carried out in a rather subdued way, as though everyone were waiting for the coming of spring as a signal for an excuse to get out and about and scatter a little personal sunshine.

Of course we blame the weather. The most reliable feature of the regularity of the seasons is its irregularity. The sun has crossed the equator 'heading this way,' the spring equinox has passed, yet so far, the only sign of spring has been the song of a 'blackbird'—cleverly imitated by a starling who had found a tub of frozen swill.

Even St. Patrick found the English somewhat unresponsive in this area—which brings us to a very sad note.

As reported elsewhere in The Wire our oldest soldier, Sergeant J. (Paddy) O'Callaghan died just after St. Patrick's Day. One cannot serve for 47 years without a sense of humour and without becoming the subject of many a tale. It is in this way that we prefer to remember our old soldiers.

When serving in Egypt for the second time, "Paddy" chummed up with another Irishman, one "Paddy" Brown, whom many will remember. These two soon became inseparable and their main hobby was pooling their intuitive knowledge of horses and jockeys to some advantage. They were so expert indeed that they implemented their beer money to such an extent that when war broke out, Brown was issued with a medical certificate recommending an extension of his tour in M.E.L.F. because of the adverse effect beer rationing at home would have on him.

Anyone who has tried to follow horse racing in the Middle East will admit that one would need almost supernatural powers to succeed. Apparently the blarney of these two types was a match for the mysteries of the East—as applied to horse racing.

It was only natural that these sons of Ireland should fall out occasionally but when this happened, instead of resorting to invective or invoking the aid of the more sporting of the Saints, military discipline was strongly and ruthlessly imposed. Brown was one week senior to O'Callaghan and everything became extremely formal. Brown would order O'Callaghan to stand to attention and the latter retaliated by addressing Brown as "Senior Soldier," asking permission to speak and kicking at "Leo"—a comic but loveable black dog who owned both of them.

These phrases, however, never went beyond pay day when both thirst and tempers were quickly quenched. It was a sad day for O'Callaghan when "Paddy" Brown died in Chelsea Hospital two or three years ago. This seemed to make "Paddy" more determined to stay in harness.

His medals are to be mounted and placed in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess.

In 1954 when applications was made for a bar to the L.S. and G.C. it was discovered that he had rather over-celebrated victory in Berlin and the consequent Regimental Entry disqualified him.

Here are some unusual entries to have in one's documents in 1962:

"Service for pension ends on 22nd July, 1941."
"Classified as Driver BIV 1951."
"Classified as Driver BIII 1961."

Sports

The Unit is lying third in the Mackworth Trophy Competition.

Signalman J. Quinn played for the Army soccer team in the successful matches against the Royal Navy and the Belgian Army. He has been selected for the Army soccer trials on the forthcoming FARELF tour.

The Unit lost the Northern Command soccer final 1—6 to 6th Battalion R.A.O.C., who we sincerely congratulate. Certainly the best team won but both teams played excellent football. Oddly enough, the general opinion was that our goalkeeper, Signalman J. Johnson, put up the best individual performance of the match.

Four young officers, Lieutenants Brown (A.C.C.), Mulcahy, Bradbury and Parker (R.A.E.C.) are training for the Devizes/Westminster Canoe Race, each canoe has a crew of two. To the young recruit who thought that Officers "just sat around being Officers," this is a fairly strenuous exercise and at times very uncomfortable.

Neither crew expects to beat the Royal Marine Commandos, in fact to complete the course at all would be a good enough reason for a celebration, since the only experienced canoeist is Lieutenant Brown.

Recruits of the Month

Since the last issue of The Wire there have been two Pass Off Parades.

Signalman B. G. Carter

On the 28th March it was particularly gratifying to see a young man following in his father's footsteps. Signalman B. G. Carter won the Recruits' Prize. He is the son of Captain G. M. Carter who is at present Adjutant of the 53rd (W) Signal Regiment (T.A.), Cardiff.

Young Carter, who is 21 years of age, finished his normal schooling at St. Illyds Grammar School, Cardiff, and gained his G.C.E. in five subjects. He joined the G.P.O., studied part-time and gained his Second Year City and Guilds Telecommunications Diploma. Although he had made a good start in civil life the call of Service life proved the greater attraction and he is now training to be an Electronic Technician.

* * *

Here's to a long, interesting and successful career in the Corps.

Signalman J. J. Travers

On the 11th April Signalman J. J. Travers gained the honours. He is 22 years of age and comes from Londonderry where he spent the last three school years at the Christian Brothers Technical School. His father served in both the American and British armies and was a professional soccer played for Derby City. It was not surprising to learn that Travers had the wanderlust and in fact he had been in the Merchant Navy since he was 17. He could have continued with the Merchant Navy but considered that a career in the Corps presented more opportunity for advancement. He is now training to be a Radio Operator, and has signed on for nine years. We sincerely hope that he will like the life and that the attractions of the Corps will outbid the call of the sea in 1971.

Last month we were honoured by a visit from the Secretary of State for War, the Right Hon. John Profumo, O.B.E., M.P. He saw recruits in various stages of training. With typical zest for obtaining first hand knowledge, he chatted with several men, putting them immediately at ease with his sympathetic approach.

The G.O.C.-in-Chief Northern Command, Lieutenant-General Sir Michael West, K.C.B., D.S.O., accompanied Mr. Profumo during his tour.

Administration Net

One or two Units abroad are instructing personnel on Movement Orders to report direct to their new Unit on arrival in U.K. for Home Posting. They should of course be sent on leave and instructed to report to the Depot in writing immediately on arrival, unless a special instruction is issued to the contrary.

The Right Honourable J. Profumo, O.B.E., M.P., Secretary of State for War

Incorrect home addresses are still being checked on the AF W 9803 and other documents. One N.C.O. this month had three variations of the one address.

Officers please advise the Depot of your arrival in U.K. as soon as possible. This will help the Officers' Wing to expedite publication of leave and ration allowance.

It does happen that we are asked for the U.K. address of an officer. It is embarrassing to turn up a personal file which indicates that the person concerned is not in U.K. whereas in fact the inquirer has already met him in U.K.

With the issue of No. 2 Dress valued at £11 3s. 4d. came an increase of 2d. a week in the Clothing Allowance. Take great care of your uniform because it would take 25 years and 10 weeks to cover the cost of a replacement at 2d. a week.

Spring is in the air at last with the sun shining, buds bursting and real blackbirds burbling merry notes.

Recruits from the Commonwealth — 5

Borneo Signalmen

The latest arrivals in the recruit Squadron of 11th Regiment are Signalmen Gang-Gang and Sahari-Bin-Ubu, from the British Colony of North Borneo.

Borneo itself is located some 1,000 miles south-east of Singapore. It is the second largest island in the world and is divided into three territories, North Borneo, the Sultanate of Brunei and the Crown Colony of Sarawak.

Signalman Ubu is a Melano whilst Signalman Gang-Gang is a Sea-Dyak. Melanos live mainly along the coast and their livelihood is obtained from fishing and farming, which are their main industries. Sea-Dyaks mostly come from the interior which, like Malaya, is jungle.

These people build the famous "long-houses" in which sometimes 200 or more people live as a village community. The Dyak race provided the famous trackers who became so well known as the "Blood Hounds," to the Security Forces in Malaya in their fight against the Communist Terrorists during the Emergency. Their excellent jungle sense and tracking ability was of immense value.

In civilian life, Signalman Ubu was a trainee engine fitter and Signalman Gang-Gang was an apprentice electrician. Both of these young men are firm friends, although of entirely different origins. This friendship was cemented at the Shell Training School, where they were receiving their instruction and it was here that they heard about our Corps. Both men now wish to train as Radio Technicians.

Borneo offers many sports including the hunting of wild pig and deer. One unusual animal still to be found in the jungle is the Honey Bear but unfortunately these are becoming very rare. Perhaps one of the most unexpected vegetables to be found in Borneo is the cabbage. Anyone who has visited the Cameron Highlands in Malaya will know that many of the European type vegetables are grown at a height of 6-7,000 ft. It is the same in Borneo and cabbage, together with many other varieties of fresh vegetables, are grown on the fertile high slopes of the mountain sides. These are very popular amongst the inhabitants of tropical countries such as Borneo.

Borneo has its own Army in the form of the Sarawak Rangers which have British Officers to lead them. Personnel who have served in Malaya will know of this famous Regiment, which had such a fine record in the Malayan Emergency and which is still serving as part of the Commonwealth Force in Malaya. The Sarawak Rangers could not offer our two recruits the technical training they wanted so they decided that the next best thing was to take the 10,000 mile trip to the United Kingdom to achieve their aim. There is much to say to their credit for they also paid their own fares. We are, of course, investigating the possibilities of a refund of their passage money.

These young men have now settled down very well to their basic training and have quickly adapted themselves to our food and weather. They are proving very good material and will soon be passing out of this Regiment on posting to the 8th Regiment for the Trade Training.

13th REGIMENT

13th Regiment has always had a reputation for high sporting standards but we have now gained new honours. Under the captaincy of our Medical Officer, Captain S. L. Geoghegan, the Regimental table tennis team gained second place in the B.A.O.R. Inter-Services League. In addition, Captain Geoghegan and Signalman Catton won both the Rhine and B.A.O.R. doubles championships with Captain Geoghegan becoming the B.A.O.R. singles champion.

Not to be outdone, 5 Communications Company W.R.A.C. produced a table tennis team led by Lieutenant C. Diggins, W.R.A.C., which won the B.A.O.R. (Women's) Inter-Unit Championships. Following this success the team represented the W.R.A.C. in the B.A.O.R. Inter-Services Championships and were again the winners. At the time of writing our team is in U.K. to play the Army (Women's) Inter-Unit Championships and we hope to be able to report further success in the future.

Since our last contribution to THE WIRE when we reported winning the Rhine Area Major Units .22 Rifle League our team fired in the B.A.O.R. Championships at Sennelager. In this league we got as far as the semi-finals where we were beaten by the 1st Durham Light Infantry by five points. All things considered we feel this was a very creditable performance.

Turning to hockey our team won the Rhine Area Inter-Services League, played 16 games of which we won 15. During the league the team scored 94 goals against 13.

To conclude our notes we must say farewell and best wishes to our Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel J. M. Sawers, M.B.E., who is leaving the Regiment to take up a staff appointment in Aden. Lieutenant-Colonel Sawers is being succeeded by Lieutenant-Colonel R. J. Tyrrel-Gray, M.B.E., who we hope will enjoy his tour with 13th Regiment.

14th REGIMENT

R.H.Q. One way and another it has been quite a busy month.

First of all, the No. 1 Yeoman of Signals Course came down from their Yorkshire fastness to see how things are done in the Tape Relay Centre. No sooner had they shaken the dust of Boddington from their feet than a party of apprentice tradesmen from Harrogate turned up to try conclusions on "live" circuits.

An unusual but nevertheless very welcome visitor was Chef de Bataillon Jacques Perrot who spent a week looking round all the Squadrons and their various activities. He seemed to enjoy himself and went away quite enchanted with our "goggle-box."

1 Squadron. The first flush of spring, and two weddings to report. On the eve of his wedding to Miss Violet Brittain, R.S.M. A. Creed found that a strenuous game of hockey obliged him to make an emergency trip to the Military Hospital, Tidworth. Somehow, thanks to modern surgery, the wedding and the honeymoon took place according to plan.

On St. Patrick's Day, Miss Wendy Lynam, daughter of Major (Q.M.) G. Lynam, our Quartermaster, married Captain P. Shield, R.A.S.C., at St. Michael's Church, Bishops Cleeve. The reception was held in the Officers' Mess at Robinswood Barracks. Our congratulations and good wishes go to both couples.

Meanwhile the T.R.C. Traffic Hall is all a'glitter with new engagement rings when the W.R.A.C. shifts are on duty and more weddings are rumoured. The rapid run-down of male personnel has caused some despondency in the W.R.A.C. compound and we are approaching the day when we may have to import some partners to keep our dances going!

New heating systems are now being installed and former 1 Squadron types who have memories of huddling round coke stoves will be interested to hear tropical climate temperatures are being so nearly simulated that a certain N.C.O. succumbed to prickly heat! We wonder what caused the current wave of German Measles? Perhaps when it is safe to go into the O.C.'s office we will find out.

Adventure Training started with a ten mile ramble down the Wye Valley to Symonds Yat. Second-Lieutenant D. J. Lawrence showed great aplomb dealing with a worthy who accused him of leading a pack of lunatics on a day that wasn't fit for a dog. When the mixed party visited Goodrich Castle, shrieks from the dungeons shattered the calm but Second-Lieutenant A. Gelston, W.R.A.C., who went to investigate found it was nothing worse than side-splitting laughter caused by seam splitting jeans!

The "Babes in Robinswood" joke became almost fact when the Army Apprentices' School sent twelve boys to us for a week's training. It was nice having them, and they made quite an impression at Boddington. Captain N. E. Robinson had not seen so many male soldiers on his shift for many months.

During the month two well known personalities have left for cooler climes—Captain R. Holmes to Catterick and Sergeant E. H. Le Quesne to Oslo. They both have our good wishes but we wonder which will be wearing snow-shoes for the longer period.

2 Squadron. Captain K. Reggler has left for warmer climes and Captain A. D. Steel is now installed in the Second-in-Command's chair.

A great deal is happening at the moment but in the words of the poet we don't know whether we're bewitched, bothered or bewildered. However, one of these days we'll pause for breath and tell the world about life at Droitwich Spa.

3 Squadron. Here at Bampton it is at last relatively quiet: the Receiver Hall is finished, the contractors have departed with their dust and the Installation Team has not only taken over but nearly finished putting in our new equipment. It is doubtful if any "old hands" would recognise the joint now: outside it is the same but there all similarly ends.

In the sporting field we are fairly active and have entered three teams in the Devizes/Westminster Canoe Race. These are:

Corporal Wright and Signalman Hoare, Gazelle; Lance-Corporal Smith and Signalman Fraser, P.B.K.; Lance-Corporal Stacey and Signalman Lang, Folding Hammer.

They have been training quite hard and hope to do well.

The Squadron is also taking part in the sub-area hockey competition and quite a good team is in training. It appears an Independent Company W.R.A.C. has also entered and the general feeling is that we must stay in the competition at least until we have played them.

Entertainments are rather important for an out station and it has been found that a variety show in addition to the usual dances is a worth-while event. We are having such a "do" shortly and if it is as good as the last two have been then it will be an evening to remember.

Staff Sergeant Major A. A. Copestake, 4 Squadron and Staff Sergeant Major Harrison, 1 Squadron and the Normandy Pistol Trophy

Signalman B. Hodgett, 4 Squadron 14th Signal Regiment presents the 'Cobbelt Hill Canoe Trophy' to O.C. 14th Signal Regiment Lieutenant Colonel W. E. Lyste

S.S.M. W.O.II V. J. Clarke will be leaving us very shortly on retirement. He is taking a job at Donnington. All ranks wish him well.

4 Squadron. When this appears in print we will have ceased to exist. The 'wind of change' also blows in places other than Africa. As part of COMCAN policy the Squadron disbanded on 1st April, 1962, and the Cobbett Hill Transmitting Station put into care and maintenance. Droitwich carry the transmitting load unaided until Cobbett Hill is eventually rebuilt bigger and better and thoroughly modernised.

It is a melancholy task to close any show and disband and disperse all that has been put into it over the years. This is particularly so in our case where the Squadron was a singularly happy one as previous generations of Cobbett Hillers will confirm. At times like these it is brought home that an outfit like this is not merely a matter of technical equipment, barrack rooms, stores, offices and such like but an intangible thing compounded of morale, loyalty, discipline and friendship. Every unit in the Army has a little mystic of its own which makes it different from all others.

Closing down has meant much more than just a slow fading away. A great deal of hard work had to be completed to time and carried out with a steadily diminishing staff.

It has also given us opportunity to show our paces at a 'Farewell Parade' held on 16th February, 1962, and attended by our Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel W. E. Lyske, Royal Signals, who was presented with the new Cobbett Hill Canoe Trophy by Signalman B. Hodgetts on behalf of the Squadron. This is to provide a stimulus to canoeing within the Regiment.

After the parade, the Commanding Officer attended the special dinner and bade all ranks and civilian staff goodbye and God speed and thanked them for their service.

In the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess, W.O.II Harrison of 1 Squadron, deputising for the R.S.M., accepted another new Regimental trophy from S.S.M. A. A. Copestake. This is the Normandy Pistol Trophy and was accompanied by quite the most magnificent wooden spoon which is to be awarded to the lowest scorer in the same competition.

On 1st March a most enjoyable social evening was held in the Junior Ranks Club to bid farewell to all and sundry. During the evening, Lieutenant-Colonel J. Martinson, our R.O., was presented with a silver salver on behalf of all ranks as an expression of thanks. He has helped the Squadron and its personnel a great deal and his fund of kindly wisdom and never failing assistance in problems personal or military will be long remembered; we wish him luck in his new appointment at "the war box."

On 2nd March the Officers closed their Mess by entertaining the Warrant Officers and Sergeants and their wives together with other good friends of the Squadron.

It is impossible to name all to whom thanks are owing for

sterling work done in the closing period. S.Q.M.S. R. Menzies is however worthy of special mention; a great deal of weight of evens has fallen on him and he has seen us through splendidly.

Thanks are also due to 1 Training Battalion R.A.O.C. at Blackdown who housed and fed our men for the last few weeks and are now becoming custodians of Cobbett's Hill until the station is re-activated some four years hence.

15th REGIMENT

We seem to herald each month with a report of yet more soccer successes. Once again we have to report that the Regimental team have hit the headlines. On 17th February they went to North Africa and in the Tripoli stadium before a large crowd including the H.M. Ambassador they defeated the Royal Scots 3—0 in the Near East Command Challenge Cup.

One of the more interesting things about the trip was the fact that the Americans at the Wheelus base airport have apparently become ardent soccer fans. The game was televised by the A.F.N., Major J. McKellar along with certain members of the team having been invited along to a pre-match interview programme. On their return to Cyprus the team were feted at the airport by the local press and F.B.S. The season has still not ended, however, and as the Western Cyprus League Champions, the Regiment are involved in the all-island league play-off.

Unfortunately, the Regiment does not run a boxing team, but we continue to make our presence felt in this field because we have on our strength no fewer than eight qualified, active boxing officials.

Our "Troop of the Month" this month are also boxers but of a different kind. The honour falls to "Q" Troop.

"Q" Troop. At long last fame has come our way; selected to be "Troop of the Month" is an honour indeed. Unfortunately, being small in numbers our claim to collective sporting honours is slight. Nevertheless, many Garrison and Regiment activities are organised amidst the varied assortment of stores we have to handle.

R.Q.M.S. E. W. Redman, besides being a prop of the W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess, has come into prominance as the Regimental Projectionist; too late in life to gain rapid promotion his ability as a photographer is now being recognised. W.O.II D. R. Handley organises and competes successfully in the Episkopi Motor Club Rallies. He is to be congratulated on attaining his present rank; unfortunately, we lose his services in the Technical Stores. Our loss is 9th Regiment's gain.

Staff Sergeant A. Wingate represents the Regiment at hockey; on top of his worries in the Accommodation Stores he successfully copes with the problems of property Member W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess. Staff Sergeant P. Teyen has recently joined the throng; with Signalman Hatton he can occasionally be seen to surface above the bundle of demob kit. Signalman Rafferty, of football fame, and Corporal Hemsley heroically carry out the many tasks that in our more plentiful days were the lot of seven G.D. men. Both are thinking of entering the strong-man contest in the next Western Area Fair. The Armoury is the responsibility of Corporal Barnes; Quarter Guards and Guards of Honour have recently become his speciality. Corporal T. Beare has recently joined the Troop together with the M.T. accounts; gone are the days of peace and security he once knew.

The remainder of the staff consists of the civilian element, Messrs. Halil, Burgess, Easty; they are known as the "Indent Happies." The boss, of course, is Captain (Q.M.) H. Newsham; his opinions on Near and Middle East soldiering are a revelation. Space unfortunately prevents these from being published.

To the Regiment we extend our thanks for this unusual honour; to other "Q" Troops, we wish you "Many Happy Boards of Survey."

Ham Galore. The Ham station (ZC 4 TX) at the Transmitter Site has had an active month. They have moved from their shack (and we do mean shack) and are now embedded (firmly, we hope) in what was the library in the administrative building. Their Minimeter Mercury 200 has been polished, aerials re-routed and the room spruced up no end.

Corporal R. Price, R.E.M.E., Lance-Corporal D. Bullard, Royal Signals, and Lance-Corporal J. Carson, R.E.M.E., are the leading lights of the club, and together with other members have amassed an impressive collection of QSL Cards. Score to date in six months is 134 countries from 2,500 contacts.

In 618 Troop there is a second hive of Ham activity. Here,

Lance Corporal J. Carson and Corporal A. B. J. Drewson show their new Minimeter Mercury 200 — a gift from the Nuffield Trust

Captain Fred Stork with many willing helpers operates as ZC 4 FS. Unfortunately, Captain Stork leaves Cyprus shortly and so the BC 610 transmitter will have to have a new licence holder . . . Volunteers, please.

Down in Limassol there is an enthusiast *par excellence*. Staff Sergeant Derek Pocock (ZC 4 CP) operates a home brew type set with success. As well as attending to his own station he is frequently to be seen encouraging new members of the Transmitter Troop club.

We are very proud of all our stations who, although they normally work CW, frequently can be heard having RT chats with all parts of the world. We would be very pleased to hear more of other Royal Signals hams.

(The above Notes were held from the April number of THE WIRE *as they did not arrive in time. The Notes continue.*

The visit of H.R.H. The Princess Royal overshadowed all other events during the period under report. A full account of the visit is contained elsewhere in this issue.

At long last the Regimental soccer team has suffered a setback. Having won the Island Cup, Near-East Cup and the All-Island Army League Championship play off (all the trophies available to us), we were matched against R.A.F. Nicosia to decide the champion Unit in the entire Mid-East. The sands of time however have run out and, because of rundown releases, the Regimental team was only a shadow of its former self when it suffered a 3—1 defeat in front of a large crowd of spectators at Happy Valley, Episkopi, on 17th March, 1962. The pundits say that this is the virtual end of our sporting history, for with civilianisation and establishment cuts we shall no longer be considered a major unit, but we shall see. The Troop of the Month this month is "A" Troop of 1 Squadron.

"A" TROOP

By Staff Sergeant D. J. Mortlock

"Once upon a time" (where have I heard that before) "A" Troop consisted of a Major, a Warrant Officer II, 25 male Other Ranks and 25 W.R.A.C. These were the "good old days." Now we have a total of six male Other Ranks (not a single Signalman to do the dirty work), seven W.R.A.C. and a host of civilians, mostly ex-R.N. and bearded (or about to become bearded) to boot. The civilians man the T.R.C. under the supervision of Mr. (ex-Chief Petty Officer) E. F. Leigh. Though lacking the 'enthusiasm and fire' normally associated with National Servicemen, they have settled down extremely well. Behind the 'Green Door' we find Sergeant (Monty) Featherstone withstanding the 'cold blast' of civilisation. The Signal Centre remains predominently a female preserve, and amongst the members of 27 Independent Company W.R.A.C. (the matrimonial agency) is Corporal Stead who is 'enjoying' a second tour with "A" Troop. She remembers the 'Time that was Once Upon' having previously served with "A" Troop from July, 1958, to July, 1960. (I discovered this whilst examining the dust-covered Bumph that the troop has accumulated over the ages.) Our girls are an athletic bunch and are always representing somebody at something or other—in consequence we are always short handed. This must be my cue to return to the D.S.O. desk, better known as the C.I.P. (Civilian Information Post).

Members of the Regimental team leave their aircraft carrying the Command Soccer Challenge Cup

16th REGIMENT

Spring is here in a half-hearted fashion, but nevertheless the name of the season alone is enough to set the mind to thoughts of excursions and outings which are relatively easy to make from Krefeld here. The Dutch bulb fields, the Rhine, Amsterdam, the Nurburgring, all can be reached with comparatively little difficulty by the enterprising and thus Krefeld, the Silk City, remains a popular station.

The imminent departure of our friends of the 10th Regiment has been heralded by the arrival of the Advance Party of our new neighbours, the 16th Regiment, Royal Artillery. We look forward to a long and friendly sojourn together in Bradbury Barracks.

There have been a number of movements of officers. Major Bullough has taken over as Paymaster on the departure of Major Waites. Captain Boast has come to us from 10th Regiment to take over as Adjutant from Captain Simpson, whilst Lieutenant Wilderspin has assumed the mantle of Q.M. (Technical) from Captain Douthwaite. A warm welcome to those joining us is extended, whilst our good wishes accompany those who have left us having served the Regiment well.

With the aim of brightening up the barrack rooms, the Troops are now searching for good ideas. Whilst pin-up girls remain the firmest favourites a number of our men have used photographs of friends and their homes, plus the works and products of their hobby hours to produce neat and homely bedspaces independently of those pictures of the bosom brigade which, with such little variation, tend to become monotonous.

The newly arrived members of the Sergeants' Mess, one Staff Sergeant F. J. Brown and Sergeant Thorpe (R.A.E.C.) to whom a warm welcome is extended.

A successful Go-Kart Meeting was held on 31st March, 1962. Entries were received from far afield and a good afternoon's racing was seen by the few hardy spectators who braved the elements.

At the conclusion of the meeting the prizes were presented by Mrs. Brader, wife of the Commanding Officer.

18th REGIMENT

By S.Q.M.S. W. Smith, A.C.C.

Man may live without love—what is passion but pining?
But where is the man who can live without dining?
We may live without friends, we may live without books,
But civilised men cannot live without cooks.

How often must the cooks have wished that 18th Signal Regiment had no civilised men. The aim of the cooks is to satisfy the hunger of the Regiment plus two Independent Squadrons and the Signal Training Centre (FE). Indian, Chinese, Malays, Nepalese, Scots, Welsh, Irish and English camped together making 500 Asians and Europeans requiring sustenance. The achievement of this aim is beset with problems, albeit often interesting ones.

Basically, no matter from which part of Britain a soldier comes, his diet is similar; thus, an Irishman will tackle a Lancashire hot-pot or Cornish pastie—the Scot will wade into an Irish stew—the Welshman will mutter over the mysteries of Scottish broth—and the Englishman will sniff and suffer over a leek as long as it has simmered to destruction in a soup. However, to persuade an Asian to try any of these commendable British dishes is a hopeless task—to tempt Asians to eat each others food, even more of one. Succulent pork, much relished by the Chinese, is anathema to Malays and Indians. Sheep, cow, goat also have their admirers and at the same time horrify others. Thank heavens the numerous religions of Britain have little sway over the matter of diet as is the case with Asians.

To find common ground between Asians and Europeans we must come right down to the humble rice grain. At the grain, however, all similarity starts and ends. For while the British create, with the help of milk, a marvellous stodge of a pudding, the Asian reverently turns the grain into a snow-white fluffy food and has it as the staple food of his diet. Some two hundredweights of the stuff is devoured by the Asians in this Regiment per day, every day. To feed the mixed masses of the Regiment, however, we are not bound to accept the common denominator: R.A.S.C. and A.C.C. go quite a long way in providing the necessities to ensure that if not each man, each religion is satisfied.

Shift workers from communication centres; exchange operators; drivers coming in from late details; the social functions that Messes always seem to hold more of overseas; training exercises; water-rationing; the extraordinary variety of sporting activities that go on in the Regiment, all require that little extra amount of effort from the cooks, and though the archers never shoot a stag or hog and the submarine swimmers never seem to catch any fish with which to supplement their rations, the aim of the cooks is achieved: the hunger of the Regiment satisfied and the presence of the A.C.C. justified. As Meredith said: "But where is the man who can live without dining?"

21st REGIMENT

As is usual at this time of the year, we have been having a turnover of both Officers and Senior N.C.O.s in the Regiment. At the end of February, Major (T.O.T.) J. T. Rogers, who has had a long stay in the Regiment (so long, in fact, that he can say, "I was at Wahn") has departed to the Far East to join C.S.O.'s Branch. In addition, Sergeant E. A. Brewer from 'N' Wing Troop, and one of our star hockey enthusiasts, has departed for 11th Regiment (Depot), and Sergeant B. Thorp, R.A.E.C., to 54 Army Education Centre.

Congratulations to Signalmen J. Rogers, N. Brown, L. McPadden, Sergeant R. Hamilton and Lieutenant G. H. W. Milburn on their respective marriages; and also to Staff Sergeant and Mrs. W. Harvey on the birth of their daughter.

This month we are proud to include a photograph of five members of 'K' Wing Troop, who were instrumental in helping in the rescue of an air crew member from a crashed aircraft.

Members of 'K' Wing Signal Troop who helped in a successful attempt to rescue an aircrew member from a crashed aircraft
Left to right: Signalman Fred, Corporal Charlesworth, Corporal Fromson, Lance Corporal Laing, Signalman Mancianne

ROYAL SIGNALS (BAOR) CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIP MARCH 1962
The winning team - 21 Signal Regiment
Left to Right: Signalmen Shilling and Bacon, Captain Woods, Signalmen Holden and Glendenning, Craftsmen Maxwell and Enticott, Lance Corporal Price, Signalman Aimer, Lance Corporal Kent and Private Gray, A.C.C.

In particular Corporal D. Charlesworth is to be congratulated on the prompt action he took in making the rescue operation a successful one.

Now that the winter sporting season is coming to an end, it is perhaps fitting to look back on some of the achievements the Regiment has had in the various sports. Perhaps our best successes have been in the field of cross-country and basketball, and these may be summarised as follows:

Cross-Country.

Winners of the Royal Signals (B.A.O.R.) Cross-Country Championship.

Winner of the Rhine Area Minor Units Shield.

Runners-up in the B.A.O.R. Minor Units Championship.

Runners-up in the Rhine Area/R.A.F. Cross-Country League.

To help the Regiment establish this record we have been able to call upon Lance-Corporals A. L. Price and W. P. Kent, Signalmen M. Bacon, E. G. Shilling, J. Aimer, A. B. Webster, W. Glendinning, B. Ashby, Craftsmen A. G. Enticott, I. A. Maxwell and Private J. T. Gray.

The most successful member of the team has been Signalman G. H. Holden who has claimed the following: Winner of the Royal Signals (B.A.O.R.) Championship; Runner-up in the Royal Air Force Championship; Best runner in the Rhine Area/R.A.F. League; 54th in the B.A.O.R. Championship at Crookham.

At basketball the Regiment notched the following successes under the watchful eye of Second-Lieutenant M. J. Bowen: Runners-up in the Royal Signals (B.A.O.R.) Competition; Semi-finalists in the Rhine Area section of the B.A.O.R. Cup; Third in the Rhine Area League; and semi-finalists in the five-a-side competition.

Those who have played regularly for the team and have been awarded their Regimental Colours are Lance-Corporals A. G. Ghaut, R. Wilson, A. R. Mead, Corporals W. Ling, M. D. Annis, R. Roberts, F. Pratt, Signalmen O. F. Thompson, R. Curtis and D. A. Friday.

During the first three months of the year we have been able to send off various parties to Ehrwald (Austria) and Winterberg for ski-ing, and as a result we now have about thirty members of the Regiment who can manage to propel themselves (in varying degrees of efficiency) down the slopes.

Ski-ing with 21st Regiment

(By Our Skiing Representative)

It has now become a recognised Regimental calendar event that a party should carry out two downhill skiing at Ehrwald in the Austrian Tyrol. This year, eight members of the Regiment took advantage of the opportunity to pursue this exhilarating and exciting sport. They were: W.O.II(FOS) D. Hazel, W.O.II(A.Q.M.S) M. U. Halliday, R.E.M.E, Sergeants G. P. Licence, R.E.M.E., G. McKie, B. Thorp, R.A.E.C., Corporals F. Pratt, A. Felton and Lance-Corporal A. Bolton.

Foreman Hazel and Sergeant Licence were the only remaining members of last year's skiing party and the only ones with previous skiing experience.

As far back as August, 1961, plans were being made to ensure the venture was a success. Ehrwald is a popular, medium class resort and to ensure suitable, cheap but adequate accommodation, bookings have to be made early. Skiing is a hardy sport and pre-training has to be done in the gymnasium for many weeks before departure.

Last year the Regiment received a very generous grant from the Army Skiing Association to assist with equipment, travel and accommodation expenses. Unfortunately, no grants were made this year, and it is particularly creditable to the junior N.C.O.s that the party was completely self-financed. A great financial saving was that this year Foreman Hazel attended a Skiing Instructors Course at Murnau at the beginning of the season, and was able to teach the party all the basic downhill skills without the expense of a professional instructor. All skis, sticks and boots and insurance were arranged by the Regiment, but clothing had to be supplied by the individual.

Ehrwald is a particularly good resort for beginners with the more advanced slopes at Lermoos only 5 kms. away. The village is 10 miles from the German/Austrian border and is 1.200 metres above sea level. It is surrounded by high peaks, the most notable being the "Zugspitzmassiv" which rises to a height of 2.965 metres. All winter sports facilities are available and are within walking distance of the village centre. The nursery slopes and ski-lifts terminal are situated adjacent to the majority of the hotels and pensions, and after a day on the slopes it is actually possible to ski all the way back to your doorstep. An ice-skating rink and tobogganing area are additional attractions of the resort, and the numerous sports shops in the village all have a full range of ski kit, ice skates and tobaggans for hire at very reasonable prices.

The first time one alights from the lift at the terminus (another fine art) the view is breathtaking, the scenery being excellent and the downward slope appearing very steep. One must immediately start on the downward journey to make way for others alighting from the lift and there is no time for second thoughts on ever becoming a skier. The first few trips are always a series of falls and recoveries and the party soon learned to try the things they had been taught, since they were going to fall in the snow anyway. Confidence was soon gained and at the end of week one the majority had mastered the stem turn and the stem swing. Some were even beginning to ski with their feet together; Foreman Hazel insists that this is a sign of real progress! During the first week it actually snowed day and night for five days and every day before instruction could commence—much to the delight of the Austrian instructors—a large area of snow had to be packed. Packing is a long, tedious process but good for the leg muscles and no one ever complains of feeling cold.

On the Monday of the second week the only injuries were sustained: Sergeant McKie twisted a knee and Corporal Pratt fractured an ankle. Both were skiing well and were unlucky enough to unexpectedly run into deep snow. The nearest Service establishment to Ehrwald is at Garmisch-Partenkirchen,

Left to right: W.O.II Hazel, Sergeant McKie, Corporal Pratt, W.O.II Halliday, Sergeant Thorpe, Peter (Austrian Instructor), Sergeant Licence

where the U.S. Army has a hospital. The hospital staff seem to specialise in skiing accident treatment, and the two casualties were soon in very good hands.

Again this year, the period 10th to 24th February was chosen. Snow is guaranteed during this month and since the resort usually has sunshine and warm daylight hours it is particularly good for beginners. The party travelled by rail overnight from Laarbruch and arrived in Ehrwald at lunch time on Saturday. First impressions of the resort were excellent, not a cloud in the sky, brilliant sunshine and the snow quite slow.

After a hasty lunch, everyone bursting with enthusiasm tackled lesson one on the nursery slopes. This involves walking on skis, kick turns, side stepping, herring-bone step and generally getting "ski legs." By dusk all were showing signs of progress, thoroughly enjoying themselves and ready for the first rum grog in the ski-lift cafe. During the next two days, snow ploughing, snow plough turns and traversing were mastered, at the end of which the more advanced were ready for the first trip on the ski-lift. The ski-lift at Ehrwald is the "coat hanger" type, where one leans backwards into a wooden yoke and is dragged on skis up the hill. The use of this type of lift is in itself an art, and many hilarious moments are to be had when novice skiers are boarding.

24th REGIMENT

Our stalwart right-back of Regimental Hockey and head of the R.H.Q. Orderly Room—W.O.II E. C. Byrne, B.E.M., has departed in the rank of W.O.I to become Chief Clerk at H.Q. Training Brigade, Royal Signals. Sincere congratulations on his well earned elevation—he will be missed on the hockey field, as will his cheerful co-operation in the Orderly Room. His successor, W.O.II E. R. T. Pearse, has taken possession of the "hot seat"—we trust that he will find the Catterick air as amenable as that of Blandford.

We include notes from the Signal Training Centre, W.R.A.C. —we have a good deal in common—and welcome their eruption into print and hope to include monthly snippits from them in the future.

By the time these notes appear in print, Major R. O. Edwards will have departed to civilian life?? after 34 years in the Corps. He has been granted a T.A. commission in Royal Signals and will be employed full time with 49 (Yorkshire) Regiment, T.A., at York.

SQUADRONS

205 SQUADRON

Despite the start of the exercise season, we are still trying to upgrade our tradesmen, and convert them to new trades where possible. Some surprising results are achieved. Signalman O'Donovan, among others, departed for our parent Regiment with the aim of becoming a B2 radio operator. His battered appearance on return gave us the impression that the lessons had literally been "hammered home." However, all was made clear when we discovered that the scars were received in the ring helping the Regiment to a very fine win in the Morrison Cup boxing. Indeed, our special congratulations are due to Signalman O'Donovan, as his own first class personal victory was the turning point in a match that until then had looked rather black for the Regiment.

Plaster of paris must be the Spring fashion this year, as four members of the Squadron have been wearing a fair quantity of the stuff. Signalmen O'Neill, Lant and O'Donovan have been stumping around with leg injuries, and no less a personage than S.S.M. Chilvers has had his writing arm incapacitated by a plaster sleeve—the result of a fall on our winter exercise aptly named "Frozen Hand." Signalman McLeish only just failed to join the clan as his cuts and abrasions only merrited a sling.

The Squadron has had its share of new faces recently, and we welcome Lieutenant Peter Brown who has come from Herford to command Alfa (Radio) Troop, Corporal Stokes from Catterick, and Lance-Corporal Douglas from the recently disbanded 10th Regiment. Recent promotions are also noted, and Corporal Connor is congratulated on receiving his second stripe—almost simultaneous promotion to full corporal and his 21st birthday is no mean achievement.

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210 SQUADRON

Signalman A. S. Cassie exercising MT Troop's mascot — a baboon who once lived on the slopes of Mt. Kilimanjaro.

At the end of January we took part in a Brigade Signal exercise which involved most of the Squadron. It was, in the main, uneventful. Perhaps the message which caused the greatest stir was from one of the battalions which announced that they stampeded a herd of buffalo in the direction of Brigade H.Q. Was it purely coincidental that W.O.II (F. of S.) G. Sharpe was heard to be enquiring about the feasibility of an armoured type radio repair vehicle when he got back to camp?

Immediately after this exercise, the Squadron went "Bushwacking" up to Nanyuki for a week for annual range classification. When not actually shooting, various training took place. Some of the Squadron drove up Mount Kenya to a height of 12,000 ft. —the more energetic spent two or three hours climbing even higher, while those suffering from "petrol feet" were quite content to admire the remarkable view. Others visited a local game farm where wild animals are kept in semi-captivity for breeding purposes. A couple of sports fixtures were arranged for "J" Troop, 1 Signal Squadron, K.A.R., and honours in that field were fairly equal.

The greatest lesson learned during the week was that field-craft is not taught on Foreman of Signals courses, and we recommend that the School of Signals includes it in the syllabus of all future courses. The Foreman was obviously not at home

2 of our few remaining National Servicemen, Signalman Powell from Birmingham and Signalman Slater from Durham, working on a vehicle

W.O.II (F of S) G. Sharpe and Corporal Bee checking over a double C11 installation before a journey to Tanganyika

in the "Bundu," and W.O.II Sharpe (alias "Buffalo Gill") was completely unnerved by his rustic environment. A conversation with the O.C., however, shows the technical approach to these problems.

Setting.—A wood behind the ranges just before lunchtime. O.C., S.S.M., and F. of S. on reconnaisance for Squadron patrol exercise.

F. of S. (horror): "You are not going into that wood, are you, sir?"

O.C.: "Yes, this is where the exercise will be."

F. of S. (pointing): "What's that on the ground?"

O.C. (casual): "Elephant droppings."

F. of S. (from 10 yards behind): "Elephant!" (noises from behind of revolver being cocked).

F. of S. (pointing again): "That's funny!"

O.C.: "That's quite normal, its only where a rhinoceros slept last night."

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124 VALLEY DRIVE · BRIGHTON · 5

(BRIGHTON 27180)

Sergeant C. State, Lance Corporal J. Findlay, Signalman A. Berry, and a wet Signalman M. Meadows (who now holds the Corps record for quick evacuation of sinking vehicles!) ponder over a recovery problem. As a matter of interest the vehicle started after only an engine oil change

F. of S. (from 20 yards back): "*Rhinoceros!*" (F. of S. then produces a flick-knife and walks close beside the O.C.).

O.C.: "What's that knife for Foreman? That won't be much good against wild animals."

F. of S.: "Oh I know that, sir. But if something charges us I'll slash you with the knife. The animal will then smell your blood and leave me alone, so I'll be alright!"

The week was concluded by a Squadron "Smoker," when a lot of new talent was exposed.

Sporting activities have been mostly restricted to hockey and soccer, the latter again being organised by Corporal M. Bailey. The rugby season is just starting—and some people are playing cricket as well, which may sound paradoxical to European climate dwellers. Swimming is a perennial activity and is now enhanced by the new swimming pool at Templer Barracks.

Postings-in include Lieutenant Houghton, Staff Sergeant Paternoster and Sergeant Morphey, and postings-out are Sergeant Truran to an upgrading course at the School of Signals and subsequently B.A.O.R., and Signalman Brown to civilian life. Also taken on the strength is a baby son who was recruited by Sergeant and Mrs. A. B. Vowles, and we offer them our congratulations.

222 SQUADRON (AIR FORMATION)

The first few months of the year seem to bring a crop of visitors. Our most important V.I.P. this year has been the D.D. of Tels. (A.F. Signals), Colonel D. R. Yearsley, O.B.E. Coming to Aden via Malta and Cyprus, during the week of his stay he completed an ardous programme. He toured all our route stations. He enjoyed a picnic 'up country.' He also enjoyed an All-Ranks cocktail party in the Gentlemen's Rest. This was partly in his honour so that he could meet the Squadron personnel informally off-duty and partly in honour of the visit to Aden of the Bishop to the Forces, the Right Reverend Dr. Betts, Bishop of Maidstone.

As we are now fully deployed around the gulf and along the southern Arabian coast, as well as having linemen in East Africa, our sporting activities have to some extent suffered. We still play in the Minor Section League and have a few representative players. Because we find it so difficult to raise a strong team where eleven players are required, we have turned away and concentrated on more individual games and ones requiring smaller teams. We have a number of enthusiastic gymnasts, who are now making the various items of equipment not available from the R.A.F. They are ably trained and led by our Orderly Room clerk, who goes by the Welsh name of Jones the P.T. Our fishermen are encouraged by the Q., Staff Sergeant Ridley. He claims to catch sharks, rays and all sizes of deep-sea denizens. The struggle sometimes lasts up to two hours. The C.O. has checked that the 1033 is signed up-to-date for the hurricane lamp by the light of which these night battles are fought out. The Q. also breeds racing pigeons. It is early days and your writer promises statistics in due course.

Close Naval liaison also occupies our leisure. This is understandable if what we read in the newspapers is true. After all, we are soldiers of Royal Signals working for and with the R.A.F. Our activities include outdoor as well as indoor sports.

DD of Tels (AF Sigs) with CR Sigs MIDEAST Lieutenant Colonel T. I. G. Gray and NCO's of 222 Squadron at Abyan

Social evenings in the Gentlemen's Rest, visit aboard and even a voyage to Djibouti. Our bag to date is two aircraft carriers (communicators only), three destroyers, two frigates, five minesweepers and one survey ship. One young Regular found his brother on board the last named.

Our visiting societies continue to thrive. What a night we had on St. David's Day with one hundred and fifty Welsh voices raised in song. All present were thrilled to receive a cable from Buckingham Palace in reply to their loyal greetings.

All old friends will be pleased to hear that Colonel McNair called in to see the Squadron a few days back. He looked fit and well and enjoyed a cold glass of beer. I wonder how many officers he moved during his tenure in the Officers' Wing of the Depot?

This is Vale from the Commanding Officer, who is also your correspondent. Major Christopher Robinson is 'bowlering goldenly' in the near future, and sends his regards to all old friends. The new C.O. is Major G. W. A. Stephenson, who arrives in early May.

234 SQUADRON (MALTA)

Posted to Malta

Say, "I am posted to Malta," and the reactions among the brown-kneed and experienced members of the mess or barrack room will be sharply divided. "You lucky devil," half will reply, enviously. "You poor . . . " sympathise the others. This article is not a holiday guide to Sunny Malta, but a Signals eye-view of your prospects on posting to Malta, G.C. It is written, admittedly, by one who likes the islands, the work and the people, but I have tried to give an unbiased view in the hope that some who read this may come knowing something of what to expect, and give this posting a sporting chance of being a happy and contented one.

My first reaction on hearing, in the throes of an English winter, that we were going to Malta, was delight at the thought of being warm again. I then reached for the Encyclopaedia Britannica, for I confess that my knowledge of where, and how big, was distinctly hazy. I discovered that there were three islands, not one, of reasonable size, plus a couple of old rocks. Malta, the largest and most populous, with its capital of Valletta and airport Luqa, is no great shakes for size, being only about 17 miles by 8 miles. Gozo is about a quarter of this size, with a small, mainly agricultural community, and Comino is really ridiculously small, housing about 20 inhabitants. These three are set in a tight little group about 75 miles south of Sicily.

Originally thought to have been the centre of a land bridge between Europe and Africa, the Maltese islands have sat astride the sea trade routes of the Mediterranean since trading began and because of this position have suffered a long chequered history of invasions, dominations and "take-over bids" in which, up to now, the local population has had very little say. For those who are interested, and it helps in understanding and appreciating the people and the islands, this history is readably traced in "Malta, An Appreciation," by Sir Harry Luke.

Getting to a posting is normally not a great worry—the Army seems to cater for this quite efficiently, either by air-trooping to Luqa Airport or by troopship, when one sails into Valletta's impressive Grand Harbour. Having a small babe, and being of independent mind, my wife and I decided, as have many others, to do the journey by road (as far as possible). We did this via Belgium, Germany, Switzerland, Italy and Sicily, taking a fairly leisurely ten days. This is not the cheapest way to travel and, with a small son, not the most restful, but it made an interesting and enjoyable experience and prepared us for mid-summer weather in Malta. Transit accommodation on arrival, however one travels is little problem: there are two quite good hotels which are given over almost completely to housing Forces' transitees, a task they do pleasantly and well. Trying to give the form on quarters and hirings is a dangerous game, and I cannot be quoted as an authority, but at present the situation is as follows. Quarters are at a premium, and one needs a fairly astronomical points count to guarantee a short wait on the list. Hirings, on the other hand, are fairly plentiful, and it is a buyer's market. Given time, there is seldom difficulty in finding suitable, if not perfect, accommodation. The quarters, which for the main part, are old, but solid, at the moment, are about to be added to by a "new patch," at present in construction: hirings are mainly fairly modern flats, thrown up hastily in great blocks by speculative locals to meet a sudden, but decreasing, demand.

Most of the military families find their homes in the northern suburbs of Valletta, Sliema, Paceville and Gzira, but there are many more who prefer the open spaces of St. Paul's Bay and other country districts. With a car, it is possible to live practically anywhere in Malta and still get to work on time without having to wake at the crack of dawn. On the subject of cars, the traffic system, or lack of it, must be seen to be believed. The standard of driving is erratic and faith is found a fair substitute for rules of the road. The only reason that more people aren't killed is that the roads themselves make any speed greater than dead slow almost impossible.

The Royal Signals element in Malta consists of two Independent Squadrons and a co-ordinating Headquarters. 234 Squadron (Malta) deals mainly with internal communications on the island, being involved with cable, auto and manual exchanges, mobile radio, signal centre and Air Formation Signals work. The personnel are made up of U.K. Based and Locally Enlisted ranks, and a fair number of civilians. It has a long and proud history going back to the formation of the Malta Signal Section in 1923. This Squadron occupies the old, but pleasant, Lintorn Barracks in Floriana, just on the outskirts of Valletta. 235 Squadron (COMCAN) whose Headquarters is at Imtarfa, some 10 miles from the capital, has its detachments spread over the rest of the island, and its name gives its role and functions. This Squadron employs only U.K. Based military and local civilians.

Malta's climate, with a long, hot summer and a short, mildish winter, dictates very leisurely working hours, which leave plenty of time for sports and recreations. As a general rule, there are only two full and four half working days a week, but owing to the shortage of sports fields, even these two afternoons are used for league and cup fixtures. It is difficult to think of any sport, other than ski-ing, for which facilities do not exist, and it is even possible to get that in by going to ski courses run in Cyprus in the winter. Anything from polo to karting, tennis to skin-diving, the facilities are there. One of the more popular "odd" sports is water ski-ing, for which the coast and climate is ideal. In the competitive sports the Squadrons either field their own individual teams or combine to form a Royal Signals (Malta) team. We have a name on the island for sport, and although we don't yet run to a polo team, we give a good account of ourselves in nearly every sport.

Off duty, Malta abounds in things of interest to cater for nearly every taste. Historically and architecturally, there is enough to keep one interested for a complete tour; for those not so academically-minded, there are modern cinemas (with not-so-modern films), restaurants, bars by the thousand; we even have a TV station planned for this year. There are excellent lidos set up for all military ranks, which are extensively used during the summer, and the inter-Unit and inter-Service social whirl ensures that there is no need for anyone to be bored, unless they really insist on it.

As a posting, Malta has much to offer. It has its frustrations (don't they all) and the very size of the place is inclined to induce claustrophobia, but with a sense of humour and a determination to get the best out of it, it could be your "best station so far."

236 Squadron

Some of the transmitter site staff with both this year's and last year's shields. Standing left to right: Lance Corporal Yaxley, Sergeant Hingley, Lance Corporal Mawson, Corporals Lines and Brough, Lance Corporal Vietch, Corporals Toms and Valentine, Signalman Foster, Lance Corporals Rogers and Robertson. Kneeling: Lance Corporal Winch, Major Handy (OC Squadron), WO II (F of S) Jupe, Mr. Pachebat (FBS), Lance Corporal Logan, Mr. Norman (EAA), Lieutenant Glydon (OC Troop), Corporal Sanders

Radio Troop Transmitter Site have got themselves into the news again by winning, for the second year running, the East African Airways Corporation Shield for the most noteworthy contribution to the Forces Broadcasting Service "Wireless for the Blind" Christmas Charity Appeal. £104 was raised by the men at the site, only just over 20 altogether, and everyone from W.O.II (F. of S.) J. B. Jupe to the youngest soldier, Lance-Corporal F. A. Baugh, is to be congratulated on their magnificent effort. The money paid for two programmes, which were excellently presented by Lance-Corporal Denver, by Corporal Brough, R.E.M.E., and Lance-Corporal D. Lightfoot, were very much enjoyed by the rest of the Squadron. The shield was presented by Mr. Pat Pachebat, the director of the F.B.S. Station, to Lance-Corporal F. A. Baugh; Mr. L. Norman of East African Airways also came along to the presentation. After the ceremony everyone went into the canteen for drinks and a cake, made specially for the occasion by Lance-Corporal J. Veitch, A.C.C. It was a pleasant break from normal routine. The visitors enjoyed the "Pin-ups."

The Mercury Club has been closed for redecoration, and when it is re-opened, we hope it will once again be a smart, comfortable, social centre for the Squadron. One of the attractions will be a library, which has been started by S.S.M. A. J. Pearce. Usually a library looses books rapidly, but our S.S.M. hit on a novel idea for doing just the opposite; anyone who borrowed a book was asked to bring back two, and—stranger than fiction—within a week he had 500 books on his shelves. He spent the rest of the month gloating over certain of the titles, and being constantly amazed by some people's choices.

Visitors continue thick and fast. The O.C., Q.M. and S.S.M. were presented to H.R.H. The Duke of Gloucester on his recent visit to the station, and this month we have three Signals Staff Colonels and the Quartermaster-General all within a fortnight.

Since it has proved impossible to keep up with everybody's comings and goings, we will, from now on, publish at the end of each monthly note, a list of all those of a certain rank or trade, at present serving with the Squadron. This month—the backbone of the Army, the Sergeants: Sergeant C. F. Smith, R.R.Op.; Sergeant N. Ladds, Tg. Tech.; Sergeant D. M. Hingley, R.Tech. (Hy.); Sergeant G. W. Walker, Lmn.; Sergeant J. E. Mellett, Sig. Cen. Op.; Sergeant A. Agnew, Cable Jointer; Sergeant D. Jones ED.; Sergeant D. G. Ellen, Clerk; and Sergeant G. J. MacNally, R.A.P.C.

(The above Notes were held from the April number of THE WIRE *as they did not arrive in time. The Notes continue.*

W.O.II A. J. Pearce

Safari News. Taking advantage of the past couple of months of very fine weather, Lieutenant C. H. Glydon, O.C. of Radio Troop has been taking some of his Troop on various photographic safaris.

The first one, in February, was to Murchison Falls, in Uganda, and Corporal James, Lance - Corporals Cain, Smales, Ibbotson and Riley went on this one. Elephant, hippo and crocodile were seen in large numbers. They also visited the Ruwenzori Mountains and saw some of the famous Congo pygmies.

This eight-day 1,600 mile trip was followed by two visits to the game sanctuary of the Ngorongoro Crater in Tanganyika, and Amboseli Reserve in Kenya. The first trip found Corporal Williams (R.E.M.E.), Lance-Corporals Denver, Logan and Robertson and Signalman Foster seemingly enjoying themselves pushing the Squadron safari vehicle out of mud, and photographing charging rhino. They were, however, unlucky that no lions were seen.

On the second, similar trip, when a long wheel-base Land Rover was used instead of the Squadron's Chevrolet truck, Lance-Corporals Doughty, Smales, Croson and Huddart (A.C.C.) and Signalman Warman had more luck. There was no pushing out of mud, and they also saw a total of 19 lions and 11 rhinos, getting within 10 feet of some. Normally rhino are extremely unfriendly and charge without provocation, so it is an interesting experience to drive to within 30 yards of one and then watch it walk towards you to get a closer look.

After camping in the bush for four nights, it was a sad blow to have to get back to work again, but it was unanimously agreed that a safari with Lieutenant Glydon is an experience not to be missed!

Sergeants' Mess. Last month the Warrant Officers and Sergeants of the Squadron celebrated the 10th anniversary of 236 Squadron's living with the Royal Air Force at Eastleigh. A Wednesday afternoon was devoted to drinks and a buffet lunch, and the S.S.M., W.O.II A. J. Pearce, presented the R.A.F. Mess with a Royal Signals plaque and engraved plate, which commemorated the event. The first very happy decade at Eastleigh was thus brought to a close. Owing to the crush indoors, we were unable to obtain any photographs of reason-

Signalman R. Little (Trainer), Signalman Garbutt, Sergeant Marchment, R.E.M.E., Corporal Morgan, R.E.M.E., Corporal Cooper, Private Walker, A.C.C., Corporal Vaughan, R.E.M.E., Lance Corporal Green, Lance Corporal Hughes, R.E.M.E., Major J. Handy, Captain J. M. Gurney, Lance Corporal Newton, Signalman James

able quality of the actual presentation, but the spirit of the occasion is summed up by the photograph of our Sergeant-Major on page 178.

Football. Soccer hopes are running high in COMCAN this season. With the Nairobi Section of the Minor Units League already won, at the cost of only one defeat from fourteen matches, the unit side is confidently expected to acquit itself well in the forthcoming Kenya European Soccer League and Cup Competitions.

The 1962-63 season got away to a faltering start in January, when it was discovered that half the unit side were enjoying belated Christmas leave on the sun-soaked shores of the Indian Ocean. A hurried postponement of the initial two hockey fixtures eventually saw a well-tanned COMCAN XI take the field against 92 Company K.A.R. for their first fixture of the season.

The thrills and toil of this game have long since faded in soccer memory, except for recording the birth of a goal-scoring feud between our COMCAN R.E.M.E. Workshop's centre-forward, Corporal Morgan, and ex-8th Regiment inside-forward Lance-Corporal Green. This feud was finally solved by the Soccer Officer some half-dozen matches later, when Corporal Morgan was protestingly moved to full-back with the scores Green 10, and Morgan 9.

The fates were exceedingly kind when an immediate replacement in the shape of Sergeant Marchment (R.E.M.E.), ex-14th Regiment arrived to take over as skipper and right-half from Signalman Siddall. Siddall, at rather short notice, had boarded a U.K.-bound Britannia on the conclusion of his National Service with the Corps, and will long be remembered for his soccer services, both to the Unit and the East Africa Army XI.

The team continued to play sound football, robbing opponents of their unbeaten records, and pushing all thoughts of personal defeat into the realms of unreasonability. Lance-Corporal Green and Lance-Corporal Hughes were now established Combined Services and Army East Africa players, whilst Private Walker, the Sergeants' Mess cook and unit centre-half, had received recognition of his underestimated talents with games for a Kenya Scotland representative XI.

At the expected height of the team success, a strange, if not unknown malady, struck the forward line. The inside trio were rendered incapable of placing the ball anywhere other than the outside edge of upright and crossbar, and only one point was gained from two successive games. In vain, Corporal Morgan was recalled to the forward line; Corporal Sanders, a goal-snatching outside-right, could only set his sights at either corner flag, and Signalman Goodall, an established centre-forward, converted winger, displayed a marked reluctance to shatter the serenity of the opposition's goalmouth.

Came the day when the return match against 8 Recce Flight, the unit's only conquerors dawned, and no remedy had yet been found for the forwards' dilemma. Lance-Corporal Hughes, the Combined Services and Army East Africa left-half, fell heavily after a tackle in the opening minutes of the game and retired to the touchline with a badly-sprained ankle. Heavily strapped, he pluckily limped on to the field to don the number nine shirt with instructions to lean on the opposing centre-half for support. Here, at last, was the long-lost remedy, for Hughes introduced a hitherto unknown accuracy to the forward shooting, scoring twice himself and allowing the team to gain sweet revenge with a 5—3 win. Nor was this a fluke, for with Lance-Corporal Cooper playing outstanding at left-half, Hughes, without ankle strapping, donned the number nine shirt for the second time against Headquarters, Nairobi Garrison, and found the back of the net no less than seven times.

With all our teething troubles seemingly over, the unit is to be congratulated on its final league record of played 14, won 12, lost 1, drawn 1, goals for 56, goals against 18, and fresh battlegrounds are confidently sought midst the Kenya European Civilian Leagues and Cup Competitions.

237 SQUADRON

Bangkok

The Bangkok Troop continues to flourish and there is still no lack of volunteers for duty up there. One of the difficulties of being out on a beam, militarily speaking, is that the sporting facilities the Army provides so liberally elsewhere are conspicuously lacking. However, the Troop has managed to turn out players for the Bangkok Sports Club and has organised teams in several sports to play against various European organisations which have sports fields of their own. It is surprising what a good team you can turn out with such a small number from whom to choose. As Bangkok can be unpleasantly hot, there is a great demand for swimming facilities. Heretofore we have had to do a trip of some sixty miles to the seaside at Bang Saen, but an arrangement has now been reached with an hotel which has a small pool.

Bangkok is a city of canals (klongs) and as illumination along their banks is often poor it is not surprising that quite a few of the lads have fallen in! We reckon no one really 'belongs' until he has had a ducking in a klong. The detachment claims several records, among them that for the number of passengers in a taxi (14) and in a samlaw (motorbike-cum-car, half the size of a taxi, also 14).

Every month brings some major religious or state festival and all men off duty generally turn out to see what goes on. One very spectacular recent festival brought the whole city to the banks of the river to see the gilded Royal barges row past and our chaps would never have got near the river but for the kindness of a Thai civilian who said a few magic words that gained them admission to a superb vantage point. It was only later that they heard that they had been introduced as very important officers attending a conference!

Guide books tell us that the jungles near Bangkok abound with crocs, tiger, elephant and so on. After a difficult trip to the crocodile centre we discovered an aged local who distinctly remembered the last crocodile—fifty years ago! We have yet to see a tiger, but got quite close to one in the National Park a couple of weeks ago.

The Troop decided en masse to go and give blood a short time ago and doubled the local Red Cross Blood Bank reserves in a single visit. It was discovered that three members of the Troop have unusual blood groups, and recently we had Corporal Rennie standing by with a truck ready to dash to the hospital and give blood should this be required on the birth of a baby to German parents whose blood groups were incompatible. Quite elaborate arrangements were made and Rennie duly gave a transfusion as a result of which the baby is likely to live. The Troop is rather proud of this effort in which practically every member played a part either by doing extra duties, acting as telephone orderly or standing by as duty driver.

Singapore

You are all waiting to hear about our administrative inspection, so here is as full a report as our readers are likely to wish for: it's over! Anticipating a stand-down after the inspection, we had a full day's six-a-side soccer programme organised at Amoy Quee and this proved a most successful occasion, for besides revealing new sporting stars it was very well supported by the families, as was the social evening later on. We have had to get by with somewhat depleted ranks in consequence of the day's sport and W.O.II O'Toole (who broke a bone in his cheek) and Signalman Smoker (who busted a knee and had a spell in hospital) will certainly remember it.

We are now thinking of getting the ladies onto the miniature range and are quite prepared to discover that they are better marksmen than their husbands.

Boats at Chin Bee and Amoy Quee are out of the water for refurbishing and repainting before the end of the monsoon, Captain Blashill and his cricketers are regularly down at the nets and our athletes are practising hard to uphold the honour of the Squadron in forthcoming 18th Regiment sports. Meanwhile the supporters of the arts are joining in a Squadron art and handicrafts competition which has an adult and two junior sections. Entries so far received are quite impressive.

Mobile Detachment

This detachment rarely gets into the news but we must record that it recently did a deployment exercise in which it motored to a site and was through on a 800-mile circuit within 2½ hours. Some allied communicators expressed polite unbelief when the lads bragged about their performance afterwards, so we are now committed to a repeat performance with quite a lot of money at stake!

249 SQUADRON (FARELF)

If anyone in S.E. Asia with nothing better to do (perish the thought) cared to pay us a visit they would find a large proportion of the Squadron in the process of being refreshed. We have several courses running at the moment and it is rumoured that Security Troop are awaiting authority to run a brief course in Counter Espionage.

Several members of the Squadron have vanished into Signal Training Centre for various reasons and even Sergeant Clark has managed to escape from the Squadron Office into the comparative tranquility of S.T.C. and was last seen having a violent argument with a teleprinter. At the time of writing Corporal Hay is still with us and can often be seen wandering round and round the swimming pool at the Britannia Club reciting the syllabus of the F.O.S. course quietly to himself. We wish him luck.

Sergeant Abbott left us in an alcoholic haze and we sincerely hope he comes too before his 'X'I course starts.

Now we come to the most interesting snippet of information to come our way to date. I have it from a reliable source that Staff Upfield has learned to swim. After only three lessons, I am assured by Captain Davis, Staff was able to strike out on his own.

There is a rumour at present rife throughout the Squadron that S.S.M. Hammond was seen in his office the other day. This is at present unconfirmed and the last reported location was given as Macao, with the Combined Services hockey team.

The television club continues to make steady progress under the guidance of Sergeant Hiles who, with a small but devoted following can usually be found in Basha 9 at almost any time of the day or night. Sailing is now on the upward climb after a quiet period due to exercises and various other unwarranted intrusions. The Squadron has once again excelled itself on the sports field by winning both the inter-Squadron seven-a-side rugby and the six-a-side soccer competitions.

In conclusion we offer congratulations to Signalman Firman, or rather Mrs. Firman, on the birth of a daughter. Congratulations also to Sergeant Chalmers on his recent promotion. and to Signalman Sandlan on being selected to box for the Army in this theatre.

254 SQUADRON (ADEN)

General. Our last appearance in print promised an article on life in Aden. That was last August, and much water has flowed down the Red Sea since then. Following a prodding by Commander, Royal Signals, we again launch into print, this time to alleviate that sinking feeling common to all on hearing of a posting to Aden.

Aden is neither as bad as the old soldier—or old wives—make it sound, or as good as the new recruiting posters make it appear. Its climate is delightful in the less hot season; the lowest temperature one freezing night last January being 64°F. The hot season is hell.

Single accommodation consists of single-storey "GAN" huts, each air-conditioned barrack room housing six men. All ranks receive a Local Overseas Allowance, which is adequate. (The currency is East Africa Shillings, a decimal coinage, the exchange rate being 1/- sterling equivalent to EAS 1.00, i.e., 12 pennies = 100 cents).

Married accommodation varies from excellent to deplorable. The quarters consist largely of huge blocks of prefabricated flats, well furnished, with all air-conditioned bedrooms, on the Isthmus joining the barren rocks of Aden proper to the mainland. Hirings, which vary in standard, are situated either in Crater, an area which describes itself, or on the Ma'Alla "straight." They are owned by Arab landlords and consist of six and even eight-storey blocks.

The Services are reputed to spend some £2 million per year on rents for them. Private accommodation, for which the highest rate of L.O.A. is payable—approximately EAS 50.00 per day—is scarce, expensive and subject to many rules and regulations that the faint-hearted soldier may be easily put off. But it *is* obtainable, provided the requirer is prepared to persevere with his search relentlessly. The cost of hotel accommodation is prohibitive, and "calls forward" to hotels are not permitted.

How long must one wait for the family? One or two old soldiers can get an accompanied passage, but in general a wait of at least 10 weeks is inevitable—sometimes it is much longer.

"Unaccommodated" allowances are such that most people break even—just. But with rents upwards of £40 per month *unfurnished*, it is not easy.

Aden is a big sea port, but in common with most Arab towns, there are few Western-type amenities. There is an Officers' Club in Telegraph Bay, and a NAAFI "Mermaid Club" for O.R.s, both with excellent beaches, complete with shark-nets. There are four open-air cinemas, about five reasonable restaurants, and a large number of drinking saloons, camera shops, radio and watch shops, and emporia who call themselves "general traders"—a term which implies that they are prepared to stock anything by which they can trick the purchaser into paying too much. Food, although plentiful, is expensive, with the exception of melons and tomatoes, grown in an agricultural scheme about five miles up the beach at Abyan. Water—surprisingly—is plentiful, but its taste requires getting used to. Most families cook by using bottled butane gas from the neighbouring BP Oil Refinery. As in all overseas garrisons V.I.P. visitors are common—all in their honour, there are a steady series of Retreats, Tattoos, Colour Troopings and the like.

All forms of sport are played—even golf. We have just won the Inter-Corps Basketball Competition, and our soccer team goes from strength to strength. There is seldom a soccer final in which we are not represented. Riding, Go-Karting, hockey—even fishing, represented by Corporal Swift and his intrepid Lieutenant Vernon—and Staff Sergeant Prescott toured Kenya for the Combined Services Middle East Hockey Team. S.S.M. Kirk posed in a recent recruiting poster as a water-polo player. Everybody swims—we even do so during working hours under the guise of "training."

In short, life in Aden is basically what one makes it. It can be a very pleasant and interesting tour; or, as so succinctly expressed by Signalman Connolly: "There's not much point in seven days' RPs here: a tour in Aden is already 730 days' RPs. The only people who unwittingly enjoy Aden are the very little ones, clad only in nappies—they thrive.

* * *

Stop Press.—Yesterday, 4th April, 254 Squadron were victorious in the final of the Command Army Cup Soccer, beating the team representing H.Q., Middle East Command Army Element by four goals to two—after extra time!

Maintenance Troop. The Troop consists of a Technical Officer, Telecommunications, a Foreman of Signals, twenty technicians and an electrician driver, at the time of writing.

The tasks of the troop are similar to Maintenance Troops elsewhere, but they have some interesting local angles.

For example, Lance-Corporal Barclay is detached to the Royal Marines and finds himself involved in all Commando exercises; it is noteworthy that he is the only National Serviceman with the Commando. Signalman Wright finds himself confronted with repairs to the turret of a Centurion tank. Lance-Corporal Lambert and Signalman Wright are now detached to the Federal Army. Corporal Piper, our Electronic Technician, has not been seen out of the R.A.F. Comcen Cypher Office since he arrived. Lance-Corporal Mawby, a Telegraph Technician, overdue upgrading, is at present keeping his hand in with machines in the Comcen gaining knowledge for his upgrading.

Our T.O.T., Lieutenant H. Stevenson, and F. of S., Staff Sergeant Nugent, are in the process of running a Command upgrading course for Radia Technicians light XIII to XII assisted by Captain T. W. Hackworth, our Administrative Officer, and Sergeant B. Hill, our Telegraph Technician Sergeant.

Thirteen technicians are attending the course, which is in its second week. We hope to be able to publish results at a later date.

Line Troop. Although we choose to call ourselves Line Troop we are in fact an S.W.S. troop and it is in this capacity that we function in Aden. Before continuing with a resumé on our activities as an S.W.S. Troop it is felt that it should be pointed out that although our *main* task is S.W.S. we may be called upon to lay line in the field, e.g., during the Kuwait operation we had the responsibility of telephonic communications within the Joint Administrative H.Q. Thus it can be said that we have the dual role of both static and field line communications.

If the reader can imagine the vast amount of work entailed setting up from almost nothing the telephone system for a Command H.Q. and divide by three, the result is the tasks which our Troop faced before the battle commenced. The total is divisible by three as we shared the task with the civilian P. & T. department and 222 Air Formation Squadron. After almost two years the work is almost complete. Again the main task can be split into three categories, and these are major projects, works orders and fault duties. To date all major projects given to us have been planned and executed by the Troop itself.

The latest addition to our list of "project honours" was the laying of the underground route from Little Aden to Falaise Camp. This was sorely needed to replace a light steel pole route which had been up approximately 10 months after a planned life span of only four months. The distance covered by this route was exactly 18,070 feet and an interesting piece of Royal Signals - Royal Engineers co-operation went into its completion. At one point there was a Michigan grader, a Fowler bulldozer, a small bulldozer, a 3-ton G.S. Cargo, a cable trailer and 19 sunburnt linemen working on the trenching. The system was that the Fowler dozer angled its blade and scooped out a run of 200ft. - 300ft., 2ft. - 2ft. 6in. deep in three runs. The cable and trailer was hauled along the trench and the cable laid in, and the grader followed up behind and back filled. Net result 300ft. of cable laid and backfilled in rocky ground in about three hours. Needless to say that when this goes to press the cable will be working. We have three more major projects in the near future and one of a more interesting nature in the form of the complete rewiring "telephone wise" of one of the up-country stations.

It is hoped to bring you a report on the completion of another project in our next notes.

Radio Troop. It is a long time since we last appeared in print, i.e., just before Kuwait. The Troop spent an interesting and, after things had quietened, an enjoyable time there, ably abetted by our U.K. reinforcements. The Squadron raised soccer, basketball, water-polo, snooker, billiards and darts teams which competed regularly against Kuwait Oil Company teams. On top of this two members were in the Royal Signals VI which won the Plate Competition in the K.O.C. 1961 six-a-side hockey competition. Our favourite opponents was the Nadi Club, who always sat us down to an Arab feast afterwards.

After our return we spent some time sorting ourselves out, after which we got down to the more mundane things of life. Our role in Aden itself is to provide rear link communications for any unit requiring them. Some of the more interesting ones are as follows:

45 Commando Administration Rear Link. Whenever the Regiment goes out on either ground or carrier exercises with *Bulwark* the Troop provides a rear link from the Regiment in the field to its base located in Little Aden. The detachment is commanded by Corporal Mitten who is greatly liked by the Royal Marines, much to his disgust, as he swears that they do nothing but march everywhere and dig holes when they stop. On one occasion Corporal Mitten was seen manpacking a C12 on his back, a pressel switch in his right hand and his aerial (a 52 set Cdn. Telescopic) in his left.

10 Brigade Medical Company. The Company goes up-country at least once a month doing Casualty Evacuation, Mountain Rescue, and Heat exercises. The Detachment provides an H.F. link back to the Federal Regular Army H.Q. in Aden, who keep a 24-hour net open for their own up-country stations and any units exercising in the area, and a V.H.F. set for talking down the helicopter and Twin Pioneer should a CASEVAC become necessary.

Assu. At present we provide the operators to man the G.L.O. wireless sets at TAC Ops. on Khormaksar Airfield. Exercises have included H.M.S. *Centaur*, *Victorious*, *Ark Royal* and 8 Squadron R.A.F.

Air Supply Platoon, R.A.S.C. It is probable that in the future we will provide a link between the Airfield and the D.Z. for the Air Supply Platoon on exercises.

On top of the above minor commitments we assist in, or provide morse training for the Infantry Battalions, Colony Morse Broadcast which is sent out daily except Sunday on M.C.W. at 6, 12 and 18 w.p.m., Internal Security Exercises, Officer Voice Procedure Lectures, etc. On the 10th April we are starting off a training C.W. link on T53/RAR88D and SR C11/R210 between Bahrain, Aden, Nairobi.

There is no lack of work for this Troop.

1 SIGNAL SQUADRON (COMD.) K.A.R.

After the disastrous floods, inevitably comes the prospect of drought. Already S.S.M. Young's gardens are taking on a parched aspect and the red murrum dust is dancing, dervish-like around the camp. Lethargy creeps upon one in the heat of the afternoon, but a compensating factor is that one finds various offices occupied by their owners seeking shade.

There is heavy breathing each Sunday morning at 11.00 hours, when eleven portly gents from Buller Camp Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess take the field to compete in the Nairobi Social Football League. Thirty minutes each way with a 20-minute interval for "shandies" is the programme, and anyone who is reasonably fit is promptly banished to the touch-line. Fortunately, too, the rules are à la Continental plus, for substitutes are allowed to an unlimited number. Immediately one feels the heat, on comes a substitute and off goes an old one, to partake of sustenance not necessarily mixed with lemonade. The result doesn't really matter, and after the match the "social" part of the league title really comes into its own. We recommend it.

The news that his notes to THE WIRE are actually read by someone is not only astonishing, but actually heartwarming to the 'umble author when one has positive proof.

In October's WIRE I reported the gift of a plaque to our Mess by the members of 209 Squadron, whom we had entertained to a social evening when they were sojourning in Nairobi. This plaque was unfortunately destroyed in the ensuing fire in the Sergeants' Mess, which was reported in October's WIRE.

The above-mentioned members have since forwarded another plaque, which we assure them will take a place of honour in our new Mess. May we of 1 Squadron extend our grateful thanks through the pages of THE WIRE for their kind gift. I still maintain that their Sergeant-Major would have made a talking point, fixed in the vacant place, but let that not detract from our gratitude.

FEDERAL REGULAR ARMY SQUADRON

On the 29th November, 1961, the title Aden Protectorate Levies ceased to exist, and the Force was redesignated "The Federal Regular Army of the Amirates of the Southern States of Arabia." This event was marked by a parade at Al Ittihad at which His Excellency the Governor handed to each of the Battalions and Training Battalion a Regimental Colour. This was the Formal Handover of the Aden Protectorate Levies to the Chairman of the Supreme Council of the Arab Amirates of the South. The Minister of Defence, H.H. Sultan Fadhle Bin Ali Al-Abdali will now be responsible for the Federal Regular Army. The Squadron, under Major R. H. Gilbertson, was responsible for the public address system used by the Governor and the Chairman of the Supreme Council.

The Christmas preparations then got underway and the Squadron held a cocktail party in the "Jimmy Club" for all members of the Squadron and their wives and guests. The real highlight of our Christmas celebrations was the Squadron annual dinner party held in the Holkat Bay Restaurant, at which all ranks and their wives sat down together to enjoy the typical English Christmas fare.

The Squadron has undergone a few changes, Captain W. E. A. Edmonds to B.A.O.R., Corporals Peplow and Dickason to 213 Squadron, Corporal Chambers to the wilds of civvy street; arrivals: Sergeant Cann from Northern Ireland, Corporals Kerr, McKnight from U.K., Sergeant Stidworthy from School of Signals, who is no stranger to the Squadron having been our M.T. Corporal on his previous tour.

At present the Squadron is deployed on operations and we hope to give a detailed account of this in our next contribution.

Army Apprentices School win Army Rugby Challenge Cup

In the replay of the final round of the Army Rugby Union Youth Challenge Cup, Penney House, Army Apprentices School, Harrogate, defeated "C" Company, A.A.S. Chepstow, the holders by two tries (6 points) to one try (3 points).

The match was played at Harrogate on Saturday, 7th April, the first encounter between the two teams at Chepstow having resulted in an 8—8 draw.

Conditions for the replay were only just short of impossible: heavy and continuous rain had reduced the playing surface to the semblance of black porridge, thickly sweetened by a liberal admixture of black treacle. To make matters worse, a lateral wind of about five-eights of gale force blew gustily throughout.

Harrogate, having won the toss and elected to play against the slope, Chepstow kicked off and immediately forced the pace, with clever use of the windward touchline, forming the basis of a sustained series of attacks into Penney House territory. These culminated, as always seemed likely, in the first score, when, after 15 minutes, "C" Company, Chepstow, who had established a clear ascendancy in the set scrums, heeled clearly and sent their three-quarters away for the first and only time in the game. Miraculously, in view of the conditions, the movement did not break down, and Hamblin, their captain, got over for a splendid try near the corner flag. The kick, not surprisingly, failed.

Nothing daunted—though they might well have been—Penney House fought back, and had their efforts rewarded by being given two penalties in quick succession right on the Chepstow line. Kicking was clearly out of the question, but the heroic efforts of the entire Harrogate pack to "bulldoze" their way over, were somehow foiled, and half-time arrived with the score still standing at 3—0 in favour of "C" Company Chepstow.

Penney House attacked strongly from the re-start, and a concerted forward rush carried the ball over the opposing line: mud had long since rendered individual players unrecognisable, and it might have been any one of three forwards who scored, as it is, credit for the actual touch-down is given to A/T P. J. Davies. It goes without saying that A/T Crow's gallant attempt at conversion did not succeed.

Play now swayed excitingly from one end of the field to the other, as each side in turn exerted pressure. Chepstow maintained their superiority in the set scrums, hooking three times to Harrogate's once. But the ball was so slippery that despite the excellent service from their scrum-half, Chepstow could build up no three-quarter movement and Penney House's lively pack were quick to capitalise on their opponents' mistakes.

One of these indeed—and inevitably—prefaced a second devastating "hack and follow" by the lively Harrogate forwards, which enabled Lowry to set the seal on a splendid captain's game by achieving the touchdown himself; Crow's efforts to make the ball stand up long enough for him to kick it proved of no avail, and this try, too, remained unconverted.

Thus Penney House took the lead, 6—3, but Chepstow had by no means had their final fling: twice judicious kicks ahead crossed the Harrogate line, only for the pursuers to be foiled, first by Randall and then by Pearson, who stuck to his unenviable full-back's task most manfully throughout.

By now the sweet scent of victory had overcome, in Harrogate's nostrils, the pervading odour of mud, and they amply held their own till no-side. A dour and difficult battle it may have been, but there can be no doubt that Penney House mastered the abominable conditions the better and thoroughly deserved their victory, which brought them the added distinction of being the first side ever to beat A.A.S., Chepstow, in this competition.

Royal Signals Hockey

Royal Signals v. Welbeck College
21st March, 1962

21st March, 1962

Welbeck must be congratulated on gaining their first victory against the Corps. The teams were very evenly matched but Welbeck, always direct in their approach, took their chances whilst the Corps forwards frittered theirs away with too much close passing.

Welbeck started the match at a furious pace, obviously determined to run the 'old' men off their feet. The Corps defence with Jolly outstanding, stood firm and gradually the pace of the game was controlled and the Corps took command. Goals just would not come and though wingers created openings the punch was lacking in the centre. Five minutes from half-time Welbeck with swift cross-field passing created half an opening and their inside-right cracked in a perfect shot from the edge of the circle. The goal rejuvenated the College and they pressed hard until half-time and were unlucky not to score again from a penalty bully. Goalkeeper Brewis having conceded the bully stickless, cleared with ease thus silencing those critical of his stick ability.

The second half followed a similar pattern, the Corps dominant in mid-field but failing to convert chances into goals. A quick clearance caught the Corps defence out of position and although Bird gallantly stood on the ball he was unable to prevent the second goal. The Corps fought back to try to reduce this lead but could not pierce the competent College defence.

Special mention must be made of Major B. Edwards playing what may well be his last game in Corps Colours. He gave the Welbeck defence an uncomfortable afternoon and was our only forward to look like scoring. Bob will be missed next season both on and off the field since he has contributed so much to Corps hockey as player, coach and umpire.

The team which represented the Corps was as follows:—

Major R. O. Edwards	Second-Lieutenant P. R. Brewis
Captain I. F. Bird	W.O. I. Lombard
Captain A. C. Earl	Staff Sergeant Howie
Captain A. R. Bushell	Sergeant W. B. Brown
Lieutenant D. Jolly	Sergeant Boddington
Second-Lieutenant Darby	

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47th REGIMENT (MIDDLESEX YEOMANRY)

Special Operations. The "Brighton March."—"Tough and Technical," our Regimental slogan, was justified by results on the last week-end in March, during which, the County of London T.A. Association sponsored a gruelling 44-mile, London-to-Brighton March, for The Courage Trophy.

As well as providing all the equipment and personnel for the wireless communications necessary for controlling the March, the Regiment also fielded a team of enthusiasts to enter the event itself—led by Second-Lieutenant D. Manders—the team proving tough enough to finish 12th out of the 27 teams that completed the March. Our associated Squadron, 305 (Middlesex Yeomanry) Signal Squadron (Parachute Brigade), also fielded two teams.

Tactical Operations. "Greenfields" and "The G-Plan Ops."!—In anticipation of our "Greenfields" Camp in the first fortnight of July, pre-planning, training and general activity gets brisker daily, and with it, a mounting enthusiasm throughout the Regiment.

Early in the New Year, our Command Team (Lieutenant-Colonel S. R. Beazley, Major S. J. Williams, M.B.E., T.D., and Major G. F. M. Pike) produced "The G-Plan," a series of week-end tactical operations, designed as a gradual training build-up to "Greenfields," and its aim: *Operational Efficiency*, which, as the C.O. said recently, is only possible with the co-ordinated efforts of all ranks towards the achievement of its prime factors, *High Morale plus Technical Proficiency.*

Social Activity. Since we last went to press, in November, this has included: the Regimental dance and prize-giving in December, which has never before received such popular acclaim; much of the credit for this being due to S.S.M. D. H. A. Alexander, B.E.M., whose tireless efforts were an example to all.

A social evening, held in February, by the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess, to which they invited members of the Middlesex Yeomanry Old Comrades' Association, proved another major success, and we hear that it was truly an occasion of "Yeoman Yarns."

The Wandsworth Military Ball was at the end of March, at which Major F. Ruthven, O.C. of our Putney Squadron, representing the C.O., received a magnificently illuminated scroll from the Mayor of Wandsworth, embodying the formal adoption of the amalgamated Regiment by the Wandsworth Council. Three members of the Regiment, in full dress uniform of The Middlesex Yeomanry (Duke of Cambridge's Hussars), and their leader, Staff Sergeant Abbot, provided part of the Full Dress Guard.

Personal Column. Welcome to W.O.I I. D. C. Currie, our new Regimental Sergeant-Major. Although this is now a somewhat belated welcome, we nevertheless hope he will enjoy his stay with the Regiment.

Congratulations, on their recent appointmentments and promotions, to: W.O.II J. C. Clark to R.Q.M.S.; Corporal W. H. French to Sergeant; Corporal J. E. Heaton to Sergeant; Corporal K. D. Keen to Sergeant; Signalman D. P. Wainman to Lance-Corporal.

VACANCIES IN GOVERNMENT SERVICE

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Foreign Office,
53, Clarence Street, Cheltenham, Glos.

THE LONDON-BRIGHTON MARCH
S.S.M. Wyllie, Signalmen Titmus, Swift, Snowden, Bell, Stapp
Dumbleton and Second-Lieutenant Manders

52nd (LOWLAND) REGIMENT (T.A.)

321 Squadron. On yet another drizzling Sunday morning, the intrepid soldiers of 321 Squadron (T.A.), Barrhead, assemble in the Drill Hall and await the formality of muster parade. Some are in uniform, some are not; some have a hangover, some have not; some are keen to work, some are not; but they all have in common a willingness to give of their leisure time to the Territorial Army.

In recent years, the role of the Squadron has changed several times, and at present we are under the eye of a somewhat Orwellian "Big Brother"—fortunately not quite of the "1984" type. If he were, alas, we should have all been long redundant, as the communications we offer are sometimes as effective as Red Indian smoke signals. But were the need to arise, we would certainly send up our smoke signals with the best of them.

Our "Big Brother"—52nd (Lowland) Regiment (T.A.), with which we have been amalgamated—has introduced a more formal military note to the Squadron. More comprehensive and varied training courses are now run than was possible during our period as an independent Squadron. Further, the new relationship with our associate Squadrons provides the welcome stimulus of healthy inter-Squadron rivalry.

At this time of year, when spring is about to blossom forth, we, too, are beginning to shake off the trammels of winter, and soon we shall be helping Mother Nature to adorn the countryside by festooning the odd few miles of cable along the hedgerows and by erecting the occasional aerial mast to blend with the growing foliage. Can it be that we are unwittingly following a greater plan than that drawn up by our O.C., by so conforming to the schemes and activities of nature? Oh well, perhaps not! The experience gained and the benefit derived from these week-ends and one-day exercises often appear to end rather indecisively, yet seem to bear fruit at annual camp, which this year will be at Blandford.

The number of recruits joining is encouraging and it looks as if the present recruiting campaign is achieving some success. Perhaps the abolition of National Service means that the T.A. will thrive and prosper in its own right. As the complete run-down of National Service has only recently ended, it is possible that those who previously believed that they were escaping military service, now realise that they are missing something.

It is noted, too, that the majority of National Servicemen who blinded, grumbled and complained their way throughout their two years' service, now reminisce wistfully about "Do you remember when . . . "

We must finish on a more serious note. Captain I. C. Gibson, our P.S.O., is leaving to take up a post with a well-known radio firm. We are extremely sorry to lose him, and officers and men join in wishing him the best of good fortune in his chosen career.

64th REGIMENT (T.A.)

R.H.Q. and 1 Squadron (Sheffield). The long-awaited move of R.H.Q. and 1 Squadron from Crabtree T.A. Centre, Sheffield, took place during February, 1962, and we are now firmly settled in our new abode. Far better facilities, including miniature range and covered garage accommodation are now available, and the greatly-increased attendance on training nights and week-ends proves the popularity of the move.

On Sunday, 11th March, the Lord Lieutenant's Certificate for meritorious T.A. service was presented to W.O.II H. Greaves by Sir Frederick Neill, C.B.E., D.S.O., T.D., D.L., Deputy Lieutenant of the County. The occasion took the form of a short parade followed by "At Homes" in the Officers' Mess, Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess, and Junior Ranks' Club. This was very much in the nature of a "house-warming" of our new T.A. Centre, and we were honoured by the presence of the Lord Mayor of Sheffield, the Chief Constable, Brigadier and Mrs. D. A. Pringle, and many other guests.

On 27th March, Brigadier D. A. Pringle, O.B.E., Chief Signal Officer, Northern Command, carried out our Annual Administrative Inspection. There was a large attendance of T.A. Volunteers and the Chief Signal Officer was able to see all aspects of T.A. training and meet many members of the Regiment. The C.S.O. also saw our recently-acquired Manor Cadet Detachment, Royal Signals A.C.F., and was photographed with their football team, which won the West Riding of Yorkshire A.C.F. Six-a-Side Football Competition.

2 Squadron (Nottingham). W.O.II R. F. Dobbs has now joined the Squadron as Senior P.S.I., and is busy settling down to the T.A. life.

The Squadron is now under Command of Major E. Holmes, who succeeded Major G. H. Hillior, T.D., in October, 1961. The move from Beeston to Wigman Road T.A. Centre caused a drop in attendance for a time, but this is now picking up and several successful week-ends have been held, which have also been attended by the Glossop Detachment under Captain G. Sharples and Lieutenant R. Mistlin.

The Chief Signal Officer visited Glossop and Nottingham on 28th March as part of the Annual Administrative Inspection, and so far no "horrors" have been reported.

404 SQUADRON A.E.R.

404 began life as the Army Reserve Wireless Squadron; it became 2 Press Communication Squadron, A.E.R., and under that title took part in the Suez operation. Now, as a Category 1 A.E.R. unit, it has a special role to play in providing the press communications which are beyond the capacity of the regular units in the order of battle.

In order that the unit should train most effectively, it was decided that the Category 1 extra training commitment, which in the case of most other A.E.R. units is met by affiliations to local T.A. Signal units, should be met by the affiliation of 404 to 3rd Regiment. Lieutenant-Colonel T. W. Baynes, M.B.E., Commanding 3rd Regiment took up the suggestion eagerly, and as a result, 70 members of the Squadron descended upon Ward Barracks at Bulford on the week-end of 24th/25th March. This is easily said, but the Squadron recruits its personnel from all over the British Isles, and as a consequence, many men had to travel all night to attend, some lost work in order to get away in time to catch trains on the Friday, and there were some who lost Saturday and Sunday on duty in order to attend. When it *costs money to come*, you have to be enthusiastic.

This first meeting between the two units was especially important in view of their future close association, and 3rd Regiment were geared up splendidly to look after us. The enthusiasm and interest with which they brought us to an understanding of their organisation and problems found a ready response in 404. We realised that we both have experience and knowledge which could help the other, and it is gratifying to record the happy bond which we feel has been established.

Colonel Baynes and his Second-in-Command, Major F. M. S. Winter, succeeded admirably in conveying the principles behind the strategic reserve and the main signal responsibilities to an attentive audience, and Major J. Stubbs, from Southern Command Public Relations Office, introduced us to the organisation behind the war correspondent and his particular needs.

A number of searching technical and administrative questions from the Squadron, directed at a joint panel of 3rd Regiment and 404 Squadron officers, sparked off a lively discussion and really set the seal on the Saturday's activities. This was followed by an extremely well-organised demonstration of radio equipment for those concerned as operators or technicians, and the remainder of us were introduced to the mysteries of the SL rifle.

On the Sunday morning, strengthened by the previous night's hospitality, in the respective messes (some among us seemed strangely weakened) we were all firing the new weapon on a nearby range. Once again our regular colleagues, apparently on the principle that since we were daft enough, they could do no less than sacrifice a Sunday, provided both instructors and butt party.

The outstanding impression was that the week-end had been tremendously valuable and that all the effort involved in reaching Bulford was amply repaid. We hope that our Regular Army colleagues in 3rd Regiment feel that the tremendous work they put into this exercise was worth the effort. We are convinced of it.

On the week-end 7th/8th April, ten members of the Squadron took part with 304 Squadron (T.A.) on Exercise "Indivisible," at Blacon. This was another successful exercise, and a party of 30 Sea Cadets visiting the site on the Sunday morning, were visibly impressed by a control station ruling a net ranging from Eastbourne to Aberdeen, over which hand-traffic was being passed by some hurrying keys.

The Squadron's training nets still occupy the skyways every Sunday morning, and we hope that this year will see even more of our members becoming registered amateurs. This is the way to keep a reserve which is active in every sense.

410 SQUADRON A.E.R.

Until January we were unique in having a phantom O.C., and so were delighted when Major W. A. Dalziel joined us from the T.A. Since his appearance he has begun to establish everything on a firm footing faithfully aided and abetted by Captain P. MacLeod and despite hinderances from Captain I. Blake in Dublin, who insists that all correspondence be sent in a plain envelope and addressed in green "Biro" to fool the I.R.A.!

At the time of writing 410 has not met as a unit, and although many of the members know each other from their days in 82nd Regiment, the Squadron as yet is nothing more than lists of names and a collection of coloured dots on a map in the office.

Every so often the O.C. looks at it and sighs; his problem is that of arranging out-of-camp training weekends require a system of speedy transport which Scotland does not possess. It's easy enough to get hold of those in Edinburgh and Glasgow, but what about the ones in Aberdeen, Oban, Inverness?

A London-based conference held in February was attended by the O.C., and although there was much useful discussion the details of the role we are to play have yet to be tested in the field. However, there is a certain piquancy in the fact that we are liaising with all sorts of exciting and faintly exotic units of the R.E. and R.A.S.C. One man at the conference announced that he was from "the Fast Launch Company" and he had a splendid moustache ("Whiskers if worn shall be of moderate length"?) So this conjures up the vision of Major Dalziel in sparkling flannels, yatching cap and one of those smart navy blue blazers dashing away to Cowes—"Just off for a recce."

One of the most exciting prospects is that as a Category I unit we shall be expected to reach a standard comparable with that of the Regular Army so we can fit into a complex of units in an emergency and function efficiently right from the start. The London conference left us in no doubt that unless we can swing into top gear at the very beginning, during the initial unloading of cargo, we shall be worse than useless. Part of the attraction in becoming a member of what will no doubt turn out to be something of an "elite" group, is that it will be necessary to attain a degree of flexibility unnecessary for most Signal units. Added to this is the fact that nearly everything at this stage is "experimental."

Camp will take place initially at Blandford, but for the second week we shall move to Marchwood to participate in Exercise Pablo II being staged by Force H.Q. Certainly June is a more attractive time than October, during which month 82nd Regiment had two successive training seasons and nobody who was there can ever forget 1961 of wet and muddy infamy.

In welcoming all those who are now part of 410 we should like to point out that apart from technical training we hope to hold our own in other fields of Army life, notably sport. There is no reason to suppose that June will prevent a Scottish unit from playing numerous games of football, and a look down the list shows that a goodly number of players from 82nd have come to us. Whilst commiserating with 82nd Regiment, who gave us birth, one is reminded of the Walrus and the Carpenter, who, you may remember, sorted out "those of the largest size," we would like to assure Colonel Lawrie that we shall take good care of his former players. Can we suggest a match perhaps?

Royal Signals (Hackbridge) Troop, Surrey ACF Affiliated to: 2 Squadron 41st Regiment (Princess Louise's Kensington Regiment) T.A.

Whilst THE WIRE is primarily a Corps magazine for the Regular Army and T.A. I feel that many serving and ex-members of the Corps may be interested to hear of a rather unusual achievement by a Royal Signals A.C.F. Troop.

The Cadet Troop was very keen to enter the recent County of London Brighton march as their parent T.A. Unit was putting up a team, but this was not possible as arrangements for A.C.F. competitors could not be made this year. It was decided therefore that a team should be raised unofficially in order to see if in fact Cadets could compete this distance and carry the same kit as the T.A.

All the volunteers had an Army medical by courtesy of Captain K. Walker of 47 Field Ambulance R.A.M.C. T.A. and training with 2 Squadron started in early February. This continued each Sunday until every Cadet could march 20 miles without suffering acute discomfort. By this time the "team" had been reduced to six Cadets and it is interesting to note here that, of these six, four are waiting to go into the Regular Army. We had also acquired four members of 301 Parachute Field Squadron R.E. T.A. who volunteered to accompany the Cadets and at the same time use the march as a training run for their own tough training competition later this summer. We should like to thank Major Hobbs, 301 Parachute Squadron, for "loaning" these parachutists.

The Cadets completed the march to Brighton without any casualties and in good shape at the end of the second day. They marched the same distance in battle order with arms and the only "cheating" allowed was that an emergency vehicle manned by Corporal Simpson and Lance-Corporal Marshall of 2 Squadron kept in touch with the marchers and made numerous brew ups during the weekend. These two N.C.O.s also erected the Cadets' bivouacs and cooked a hot meal for them in our own bivvie area near Handcross; it being felt that it was rather a lot to ask of Cadets to do this as well as the march. The ages of the Cadets were: three of them 14 years and the other three 15 years.

In view of the Cadets' achievement the C.O. 41st Regiment T.A. is hoping to obtain some form of modified certificate that they completed the march and is also allowing the award of Regimental medallions to the Cadets as well as the T.A. personnel who completed the march. These two items, needless to say, being greatly appreciated by the Cadets.

May I conclude this article by thanking all at R.H.Q. and 2 Squadron for their kind assistance on this effort; particularly Major Luttman-Johnson, the Second-in-Command, for fixing us up with a bivvie area and Major Clarke, O.C. 2 Squadron, and Permanent Staff Instructors for unlimited assistance to the Cadet Troop as usual. Finally, I would like to say a very sincere "thank you" to Corporal Simpson and Lance-Corporal Marshall of 2 Squadron who gave up an entire weekend for the Cadets and did all the dreary routine chores. Their efforts were indeed greatly appreciated.

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION

The minutes of the 16th Meeting of Branch Representatives of the Royal Signals Association, held at Headquarters 47th Signal Regiment (Middlesex Yeomanry) T.A., Duke of York's Headquarters. London, S.W.1, on Saturday, 31st March, 1962.

The meeting was attended by 63 representatives of the following 44 Branches: Aldershot, Bath, Bedford, Birmingham, Blackpool, Bournemouth, Bristol, Cardiff, Catterick and District, Central Scotland, Cheltenham and District, Chester, Chesterfield, Chislehurst and District, Croydon and District, Darlington, Harrogate, Hull, Jersey, Leeds, Leicester, Liverpool, London, London North, Loughborough, Manchester, Middlesbrough, Newark, Newcastle-on-Tyne, Nottingham, Oldham, Portsmouth, Port Talbot and District, Reading and District, Salisbury, Scarborough, Shrewsbury, Southampton, West Hartlepool and District, Torbay and District, Tunbridge Wells, York, No. 27 Unit Branch (3rd Regiment), No. 24 Unit Branch (24th Regiment).

1. **Major-General A. E. Morrison, C.B., O.B.E., Colonel Commandant, Chairman of the Association,** welcomed the representatives and after it being proposed by Mr. T. Black, Liverpool Branch, and seconded by Captain J. Birchall, of Manchester Branch, and approved by the Meeting, he signed the Minutes of the 15th Meeting, which had been sent to branches and published in THE WIRE. He continued:

Mr. W. Butler

You will all be sorry to learn of the death on 13th February of Mr. W. Butler, the first Secretary of the Association, 1920-1945. Under the direction of such famous men as Brigadier R. W. Willan, Brigadier H. Clementi Smith, Major-General Sir Ronald Penney, he guided the Association during the first years of its formation, from the Royal Engineers Signal Service Association.

He established the Offices and continued as Secretary during the War, 1939-45—the office was bombed out at least once.

He was Editor of THE WIRE from 1921-45, the first Editor being Mr. Gordon Paling, Tunbridge Wells Branch, who died a few years ago.

The funeral, near Leighton Buzzard, was attended by Mr. Jacob, of Bedford Branch, on behalf of us all.

Thank You

I know you will wish me on your behalf to thank Lieutenant-Colonel S. R. Beazley and the 47th Regiment (Middlesex Yeomanry) T.A., who have so often in the past kindly made arrangements for our Meeting.

Signal Officer-in-Chief

Immediately I have finished my report, Major-General A. M. W. Whistler, C.B.E., the Signal Officer-in-Chief, is going to tell us something of the state of our Corps. He has given us one of the few Saturdays he has free during the year and we should thank him.

Financial Statement

The financial effect of the establishment of Regimental Headquarters

(a) 1961 was by no means a full year in that, although established in 1960, Regimental Headquarters did not become effective until February, 1961, and indeed, many matters remain uncompleted, it is clear that the SAVING IN COSTS OF ADMINISTRATION IS, and will be, very considerable. Subject to final check, the saving is nearly 50%—in the region of £4,000.

(b) We shall get a more accurate picture in 1962, but I do not expect to reach finality until 1963.

The 1961 Accounts

In 1960 there was a deficit of £839.
In 1961 there was a surplus of £2,199. Gain: £3,038.
That is the main thing.

I will not bore you with a lot of figures. You will have an opportunity of studying the accounts in detail after they have been scrutinised by the Central Committee and before the Annual General Meeting.

Suffice to say that with two exceptions, the various items were much the same in 1961 as in 1962, and where there was a difference it was anticipated. The two items I refer to are:

(a) **Support of the Association by Regiments and Squadrons of the Corps.** Despite considerable reductions in the numbers of units and of the total men serving in them, the comparative figures are

1960 £3,500 1961 £3,300

A reduction of only £200 is a very remarkable thing, and I think we should all express our thanks to the Signal Officer-in-Chief and ask him to pass on our gratitude to all concerned.

(b) **"The Wire."** In 1960 there was a small profit, £172; in 1961 a considerable loss, £995. THIS WAS ANTICIPATED. During 1961 the Executive Committee considered this and approved that this loss be accepted as an effort to maintain and indeed improve the standard of THE WIRE. The Central Committee in October, 1961, confirmed this, but directed that a questionnaire be sent out to the Corps and the Association to get the feeling of readers. We shall be discussing this paper this afternoon.

State of the Association and the Effect of the end of National Service.

New Members. In 1960, 3,621, of whom 367 were enrolled by branches. In 1961, 759, of whom 430 were enrolled by branches. Well done, the branches.

In these figures is an increase in new Life Members, 381 in 1960; 492 in 1961.

It will be seen, therefore, that of the new members enrolled by units nearly all were Regulars, nearly all Life Members.

Three Branches Unhappily Ceased during 1961

BRIGHTON: Chiefly because of the withdrawal from Preston Barracks of the 4th Independent Squadron. Without the support of the Squadron the Branch could not continue.

NORTHAMPTON: Ceased chiefly because there was no one to keep it going.

SHEFFIELD has ceased for the same reason, but I have hope that the Commanding Officer of the 64th Regiment will make a strong effort to restart it this year when the Regiment moves into a new Drill Hall.

But I received news only this morning that a Branch has been established in Kirrawee (Australia) known as the New South Wales Branch. The Branch Officers are: *President*, Major W. J. Main, M.C.; *Chairman*, Mr. L. J. Allison; *Secretary*, Mr. E. Fishbourne; *Treasurer*, Mr. J. H. Ternent.

You may possibly know some of these, and I think we should instruct the Secretary to send them our good wishes.

(The Meeting signified their approval of this proposal).

Contributions from Branches

I wish to mention particularly, how grateful we all are to those branches, and there are many of them, who have sent very generous cheques to help the charitable work of the Association during the past few days. Some of these have been received this morning, and it is understood that more are in the post.

Clothing Scheme and Christmas Appeal

The scheme by which part-worn clothing of all sorts, men's, women's, children's, is given to and sent out by the Welfare Section, has continued during the year. It has met a very great need amongst our poorest families. These live pretty strictly within the National Assistance Board scales, and those of you who have experience of welfare work will know that the income from National Assistance Board does not provide for replacements of clothing. It is interesting that, while a gift of money does not always mean a letter of thanks, a gift of clothing invariably brings real gratitude. The Christmas Appeal—its second year was again a very great success. Miss Hyde-Parker and Miss Cook, assisted by Mrs. D. Hughes, a Clerical Assistant in Regimental Headquarters, worked very long hours to unpack, sort, repack and despatch the parcels. On very many days a van had to be used to take the parcels to the post. We are very gratified indeed to those who enable us to do these two things. I wish I could read you all the appreciation letters.

The Trustee

I would like to say a word about the Directors of Royal Signals Association Trustee Limited who, under the Chairmanship of Major-General Sir Ronald Penney, guide our investment policy.

As you should know, they have been carrying out a planned and wise programme of re-investment of about one-third of our capital.

When the accounts are shown to the Annual General Meeting, you will see that all, or nearly all, the initial "paper" value has been regained, and the income from our investments is already greater by £300 as compared with 1958; £200 as compared with 1959.

Lieutenant-Colonel J. L. Judd, M.B.E.

As most of you know, our Director of Music retired in February, having then had 46 years' service; longer, so he says, than any other serving soldier.

I think we would all like to send him a message of appreciation for all he did for the Association, and of good wishes for his future happiness.

You will be glad to know that the *Standing Committee on Free Life Membership* decided to break all their own rules and have granted him a Free Life Membership of the Association.

Move of Association Offices

The lease of 88, Eccleston Square ceases at the end of the year, and before then, as part of Regimental Headquarters, Royal Signals, the Headquarters of the Association are to be established in the Duke of York's Headquarters—in fact, not 50 feet from where we are now.

As soon as considerable structural alteration is completed and the date of the move known, you will be informed.

It will be a big step—change of address and telephone number, etc. The Secretary will give you the longest notice he can. I ask you to do all that you can to inform your Members.

Tribute to Branch Officers and Committee

In fine, I wish to pay a very real tribute to you—each one of you here today, and to your immediate colleagues—the Chairmen, the Honorary Secretaries, Honorary Treasurers, and a few of your Committees. By your efforts the branches continue. We here, at Headquarters, know the work that you do. As they can, the Headquarters staff try to help you. You know, as they do, how inadequate that help is.

The Headquarters Staff

It is customary for the Chairman to say a few words about the work of the Headquarters staff. In this, mention may be made, perhaps, of:

Miss Veronica Shannon—12 years—the Branch Representatives all know her well. The awkward gap between her departure and the arrival of

Mr. S. H. Wilson (still Staff Sergeant) as he has given up his terminal leave to serve the Association.

Mr. W. J. Evenden and Mrs. Urs, who keep the accounts.

Mr. A. E. Stead, who now conducts most of the correspondence with branches.

Miss Hyde-Parker and Miss Cook—Welfare and Employment.

Junior Leaders Regiment

After the Signal Officer-in-Chief had addressed the Meeting, the Chairman, Major-General A. E. Morrison, spoke of the prompt and efficient aid given by the Association to the Junior Leaders Regiment after the recent disastrous fire at Denbury.

2. **Address by the Signal Officer-in-Chief, Major-General A. M. W. Whistler, C.B.E.**

The Signal Officer-in-Chief's address was of such general interest that it is published separately on page 144.

3. **General Secretary's Announcements**

(a) Apologies for absence had been received from Mr. J. Dewsnap, Glossop and District Royal Signals, O.C.A., and from Mr. J. O. Adams, Northern Ireland Branch.

(b) The Secretary then read a letter from Major T. L. Harries, President of Shrewsbury Branch:

"In presenting a cheque for £30 to the Association, I wish to thank all Branch Secretaries who so kindly aided by selling raffle tickets and so helped to raise this money. It was grand working for such a cause, and in thanking all who helped me, I am equally grateful for their kind wishes and remembrances of the past."

(c) The Secretaary then read a list of dates of "Engagements" of branches; their annual dinners. This list was posted on the board.

(d) The record recently made by the Band of the Royal Corps of Signals had been played—orders were invited.

General Secretary

The Chairman announced that subject to the approval of the Central Committee, it was expected that Brigadier P. M. P. Hobson will assume the duties of General Secretary, vice Brigadier H. R. Firth at the end of the year.

The Meeting adjourned for lunch and reassembled at 2 p.m.

4. **Alterations to Rules**
President of the Association

Mr. A. V. Ient, Aldershot Branch, proposed, Captain D. T. Hunneyball, Croydon Branch, seconded, and the Meeting AGREED TO RECOMMEND to the Central Committee that:

The Master of Signals be ex-officio President of the Association.

Major-General Sir William A. Scott, K.C.M.G., C.B., C.B.E., be invited to become the Association's first President.

Alteration to Rule 8

Captain D. T. Hunneyball, Croydon Branch, proposed, and Mr. S. F. Hart, M.B.E., M.S.M., Salisbury Branch, seconded, and the meeting AGREED TO RECOMMEND to the Central Committee that:—

DELETE. The following sentences from Rule 8 be deleted:

"Unit Branches in Regiments of the Training Brigade, Royal Signals may retain out of each National Service Signalman's

Annual Subscription 2/–
Life Subscription 5/–

Except as above, branches may retain out of each

Annual Subscription (all branches) 3/–
Life Subscription (unit branches) 15/–
Local Branches 25/–

The remaining portion of Annual and Life Subscription will be remitted to Association Headquarters, which will issue Life Membership Cards and Serial numbers on receipt of Life Subscriptions."

AND SUBSTITUTE

Branches may retain

(a) The whole of the Annual Subscription paid to the Branch.

(b) Of the Life Subscription:
In the case of unit branches ... 15/–
Local branches 25/–

The remaining portion of the Life Subscription will be remitted to Association Headquarters, which will issue Life Membership Cards and Serial Numbers on receipt of Life Subscriptions.

5. **Catterick Reunion**

In considering Agenda Paper 16 BRM 5, the following additional matter was discussed:

Standards

Racking will be provided for the placing of Standards in North Hall during the Annual General Meeting.

Dedication. West Hartlepools and District Standard is to be dedicated.

Entertainment on Saturday, 7th July

Captain H. A. Cuerden, Secretary of the Reunion Committee opened discussion on the suggestion that to permit the Junior Ranks serving in Catterick, who are members of the Association, to attend the various entertainments on Saturday evening that these be organised by the Warrant Officers and Sergeants, as heretofore, but OUTSIDE the respective MESSES.

Major R. O. Edwards stated the case as President of the 24th Branch of the Association. In the 24th Regiment there was an increasing membership of the Association and they had their own club room where all ranks met as *Members*. There was considerable feeling in that, when the Saturday evening entertainment of Members was held in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Messes, Junior Ranks who were serving must perforce be excluded.

Mr. W. A. Lightbody (Newcastle), Mr. W. E. Reynolds (North London), Mr. T. Black (Liverpool), Mr. A. V. Ient (Aldershot) and others spoke. The Chairman summed up and put the matter to the vote. The Meeting AGREED TO RECOMMEND that on Saturday, 7th July, 1962, the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Messes be closed in the evening, and that the Warrant Officers and Sergeants, Royal Signals, be asked to extend their normal, most generous hospitality, in other premises.

The General Secretary asked branches to use their influence to ensure that:

(a) As many as possible wore their medals to Church on Sunday.

(b) All their members were properly dressed during the evening entertainment on Saturday. A very small minority of younger men had attended without collars or ties and this, quite reasonably, had given offence to our hosts.

(c) All members of the Association took care to safeguard their "reunion" badges. In 1961 a number of these had been "lost" and had got into the hands of men who had no connection with Royal Signals, who had thereby received hospitality. This no doubt accounts for (b) above.

Standard Marshal

On the proposal of Mr. W. A. Lightbody (Newcastle Branch), seconded by Mr. A. W. Smith (London Branch), the Meeting AGREED that Catterick and District Branch continue to provide the Standard Marshal for Church Parade.

Turning the Page of the Book of Remembrance

Bath Branch stated they were unlikely to be able to have a contingent at Catterick in 1962. The General Secretary proposed and Birmingham Branch accepted the duty.

Accommodation

Captain H. A. Cuerden and the General Secretary both asked branches to send an estimate of numbers attending the Reunion by 1st May, 1962. There were certain anticipated difficulties of accommodation in the 8th Regiment, and the problem of providing overnight accommodation for ladies was always acute.

Cost of Meals

Cost of meals for "families" on Sunday will be the same as last year: Lunch 5/-, Supper 2/6.

"The Wire"

The Meeting NOTED Agenda Paper 16 BRM 6 and a statement by the Editor of THE WIRE in amplification thereof. He exhorted branches to send in accounts of their activities for publication.

The Editor accepted the suggestion of Mr. W. A. Lightbody (Newcastle Branch) that names and addresses of Secretaries and dates of Branch meetings be published in THE WIRE.

7. **Princess Royal's Day**

The Meeting AGREED TO RECOMMEND THAT:

(a) In future years the Annual General Meeting and Reunion be arranged, as far as is possible, during the week-end immediately following 28th June.

(b) The words "Princess Royal's Day" be incorporated in the official title of the "Catterick Week-end."

8. **Dress, Standard Bearers and Escorts**

After Captain D. T. Hunneyball (Croydon Branch), Mr. T. Black (Liverpool Branch) and others had spoken, the Meeting, without exception, voted AGAINST the proposal of Catterick and District Branch that blue berets should be worn.

9. **Telephone Numbers of Branch Honorary Secretaries**

The Meeting agreed unanimously with Hull Branch that telephone numbers should be published, where they existed.

10. **Election**

By a large majority, the Meeting elected Mr. S. F. Hart, M.B.E., M.S.M. (Salisbury Branch) to fill the vacancy of "Branch Representation" in the Central Committee, vice Mr. V. Goodman (Aldershot Branch) tenure expired. The Secretary was directed to write to Mr. Goodman in appreciation of his services.

11. **Vote of Thanks**

Mr. T. Black (Liverpool Branch) proposed that the Meeting pay tribute to the Chairman and the Headquarters Staff for their conduct of the Association's business during the year. The Branch Representatives were unanimous in approval.

12. The Chairman closed the Meeting at 3.50 p.m.

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 April, 1962. Also, on the same page, is a simple statement of income and expenditure.

WARRANT OFFICER, 1937-45 (B.E.M.), Life Member of the Association. In full and good employment until September, 1961, when cancer stopped him working. Now living on National Assistance. On strong recommendation of S.S.A.F.A. the Fund helped him generously.

WIDOW OF SERGEANT, who had previous service in the Gloucestershire Regiment, with Royal Artillery and Royal Armoured Corps, about 24 years' service in all. He died in 1959. Royal Signals and the Royal Artillery helped her. She has two school aged sons and a very small income.

WIDOW OF SERGEANT, who had service in other Arms 1933-42 and from 1942-6 in Royal Signals. He died in March. The Branch of the Association near to her home were quick to aid. Association Headquarters were then brought in to assist with a grant too large for the Branch.

SIGNALMAN 1940-46, married, one school-age daughter. He has been in hospital (Tuberculosis) since September, 1960, and when he came home in mid-winter he had not a warm overcoat and indeed was without any warm clothes. He opened a credit account, paid off a little, and recently S.S.A.F.A. recommended and the Fund paid the balance.

WIDOW OF SIGNALMAN WHO WAS KILLED IN ACTION IN 1942. Since then she has managed very well bringing up his two children, one of whom still lives at home and helps to support her. Since November, 1960, she has been ill and after an operation on her hip, she has been advised by the Ministry of Pensions to have special shoes for which under the National Health Service she has to pay! Needless to say the Association paid.

CORPORAL 1921-57, married, five of his six children have married and gone away. Now aged 60, he and his wife and surviving son (currently out of work) have only £4 a week between them. He is now permanently incapacitated and Royal Signals and the British Legion continue to make a small weekly allowance.

LANCE-CORPORAL 1953-56, married, five children, four of school age. He has been too ill to work since October, 1960, and so the Fund helped him a little. He is a Life Member of the Association.

SERGEANT 1920-26, Distinguished Conduct Medal, previous service in Devon Regiment, now aged 77 and his wife aged 60. He is a Life Member of the Association. He needs constant care so his wife has had to give up her small work as a cleaner. Their combined income £3 7s. 6d. The Fund helped.

Clothing

Since the beginning of the year, gifts of clothing, toys, etc., have been gratefully received from the following:—

Mrs. D. F. Symonds; Captain H. S. de M. Rogers; Major R. Lawrence; Captain L. D. Edinger; Major K. M. Smartt; H. J. Wall, Esq.; Wives' Club, 1st Regiment; 202 Radio Troop; Lieutenant-Colonel T. V. Barber; Major J. L. Donne; Lance-Corporal M. R. Trow; Lieutenant (T.O.T.) C. J. Bayfield; Lieutenant-Colonel E. R. N. W. Nanney-Wynn; Colonel J. L. Lilley; Captain C. A. M. Robertson; Colonel R. Linton, O.B.E.; Major G. D. K. Woolrych; Sergeant G. Park; R. Cartwright, Esq.; Major R. F. C. Ashford; Lieutenant-Colonel G. M. Welsford; Mrs. M. Snatt; Miss U. Moberly; Mrs. F. W. Oakes; 2 Squadron, 13th Regiment; Mrs. R. J. Moberly; W.O.II R. A. Lawry; Mr. and Mrs. Simnett; Mrs. D. E. Warburg; Captain D. T. Hunneyball; Major-General M. S. Wheatley, C.B., C.B.E.; Major G. Proudman; Miss Linn.

Northern Ireland Association

Our quarterly meeting was held as usual and a good number turned up, but we still would like to see more.

Bad weather was the cause of some of our "far out" members not turning up and apologies were accepted. Committees were elected for the year, practically all remaining in office. Captain W. Houston has had to give up the "Treasury" owing to heavier business commitments, his place has been taken by Mr. E. Warren, whose stay will be long and, we hope, enjoyable. The C.S.O., Lieutenant-Colonel J. Boyland, unfortunately through some error, did not manage to turn up.

After the meeting Major B. McVicker informed the Officers present that Colonel Piercey and he were arranging a dinner for Royal Signals Officers, Retired, T.A. and Serving, in Northern Ireland and Eire, and provided support was good enough it would take place on 16th March in the Officers' Mess, Victoria Barracks. The results of their efforts were that 33 sat down to dinner, the following being present: Lieutenant-Colonel Boyland, C.S.O., Colonel Lindsay, E.R.D., Lieutenant

(*Continued on Page 189*)

Royal Signals Association and Benevolent Fund

The following subscriptions were most gratefully received during March, 1962:

	£	s.	d.
Headquarters Officers' Mess (from Mayor of Richmond for services of the band)	2	2	0
School of Signals	7	7	0
24th Regiment	22	0	11
24th Regiment (W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess)	2	4	6
14th Regiment (3 Squadron)	5	11	0
14th Regiment (4 Squadron)	1	15	0
4 (Independant) Squadron	27	0	0
63rd Regiment T.A.	6	6	10
H.Q. A.E.R. Royal Signals	1	10	0
213 Squadron	1	11	0
2nd Regiment	15	0	0
7th Regiment	73	4	5
253 Squadron (Kowloon)	1	7	0
234 Squadron	13	4	7
H.Q. Allied Forces Northern Europe	10	0	0
9th Regiment	18	2	6
219 Squadron	6	0	0
Cheltenham and District Branch	30	0	0
Harrogate Branch	10	0	0
Leeds Branch	10	0	0
Chester Branch	1	1	0
Hull Branch	6	6	0
Leicester Branch	2	2	0
P. R. Sellwood		3	9
H. Hammond		9	0
R. D. Bromley		1	0
N. Bradbury		2	0
M. Trow		2	6
N. L. Robertson		4	7
W. T. Wagg	1	5	0
J. A. D. Hamilton		6	6
H. G. Smyth		10	0
C. K. Maclennan	1	1	0
W. Glendinning		5	0
W. E. McNamara		10	6
M. G. G. Wilson		10	0
R. F. A. Weaire		5	0
J. F. Clarke		5	0
W. H. Storey		4	0
A. Fraser		7	0
J. Lothian		10	0
J. Cochran		10	6
R. N. Houston	1	0	0
F. Winter		10	6
R. J. Henderson		4	0
W. Butters		10	0
R. S. Forward		15	0
J. N. Armstrong		5	0
J. Gray		10	6
D. M. Forsyth		10	0
N. D. Clive		4	0
C. P. Prescot	1	10	0
G. D. Adamson	1	1	0
D. L. Carnegie		10	0
F. G. G. Davey	1	0	0
H. E. Day	1	0	0
H. E. K. Wakefield		8	0
L. Evans	1	1	0
C. R. H. Firth		10	0
F. S. Thompson		10	0
Sir Leslie G. Phillips	2	0	0
C. G. Hawes	1	0	0
B. G. Rowley		7	0
G. W. Ogden		8	0
Total Receipts	£287	12	1
Expenditure during March, 1962 (Includes:—Rent and Rates; Beds and Bedding; Furniture; Cots and Prams; General Assistance; Assistance to Junior Leaders' Regiment).	£1,591	12	11

Analysis of Cases:—

Families of Soldiers serving in U.K.	2
Widows and dependants	11
Released and discharged Soldiers	26
Total Cases assisted	39

24 Cases of Soldiers who served during the 1939/45 War	£256	3	4
15 Cases of Soldiers who did not serve during the War	£1,335	9	7

(*Continued from Page 188*)

Colonels Piercey, M.B.E., T.A., Davis, Finney, Majors Stanley, Tucker, E.R.D., McVicker, Grieve, M.B.E., E.R.D., Bowie, Paton, Wade, Waller, T.D., Neill, T.D., Adams, Bramham, Taylor, Kirk-Patrick, Leeburn, Captains Scott, Smyth, Douglas, Blackwood, Roy, Farrer, Johnston, Brooke, Montgomery, Kyle, Ormsby, Second-Lieutenants McCartney (Mr. Vice), Lyster, Kennedy.

During dinner Lieutenant-Colonel J. Boyland read a telegram of apology from the Signal Officer-in-Chief, as he was otherwise committed—bad luck for us, but time was against us—better luck next time. After the toasts we retired to the lounge and bar, where the usual was heard, "Remember so and so, etc., etc." It was here that Major J. Bowie and Captain P. Roy (both retired) met, both ex-Northern Ireland District members (pre-war)—Bannu, etc. The former found that Lieutenant-Colonel Davis was an ex-"Y" member and again the past returned. Lieutenant-Colonel Finney sends his regards to Cecil Barker. Major V. Hoyland, Lieutenant (Q.M.) J. Latimer were "out" under Doctor's orders and who, with our Southern Ireland members (owing to distance), were sadly missed.

For the organisers this was a fine success and it is hoped that it will now become an annual affair. Many thanks again to Colonel Piercy and B. McVicker for their hard work in making this evening possible.

Aldershot Branch

Major-General R. J. Moberly, C.B., O.B.E., Representative Colonel Commandant and President of the Branch, presided at the annual dinner which was attended by some fifty members and their friends in the Masonic Hall at Farnborough. Mr. A. V. Ient introduced the speakers. The Aldershot Branch is particular in that a majority of its members have long service in Royal Signals. The occasion of the annual dinner is therefore even more "family" than in other branches.

Major-General R. J. Moberly spoke briefly. Proposing the toast of the Royal Signals Association he mentioned particularly the value of Regimental Headquarters Royal Signals, of which the Secretariat of the Association is a part, in co-ordinating much of the work of the Corps. He looked forward to its move into new offices in the Duke of Yorks Headquarters.

He spoke of the excellence of the Junior Leaders Regiment at which on that day the Graduation Parade was being taken by the Chief of the Imperial General Staff. He remembered the recent tragic fire at Denbury when two Junior Leaders had lost their lives and some ninety others had lost everything that they possessed. The Headquarters of the Association had been quick to proffer all aid and as a result some of the hardship had been ameliorated.

Replying to the toast, Major-General A. E. Morrison, C.B., O.B.E., Colonel Commandant and Chairman of the Association introduced Brigadier H. R. Firth, the General Secretary, who praised especially the way in which the Aldershot Branch always did exactly all that they were asked.

Mr. A. V. Ient, Secretary and Treasurer of the Branch, proposed the toast of the Guests, and Mr. J. Ridgon, Royal Naval Association, responded.

Careers and Opportunities

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Candidates short-listed for interview will be required to take a simple competitive written test in electro-mechanical engineering, and also a short practical test.

Clerical Vacancy

There is a vacancy for a clerk in Regimental Headquarters, Royal Signals (in the Central London area) in the grade of clerical officer, as assistant to the Secretary, Royal Signals Institution.

A suitable ex-Royal Signals clerk could be taken on as a temporary clerical assistant at £10/19/6 per week. Subject to suitable recommendation, he could then be upgraded, after a minimum of a month's probation, to Temporary Clerical Officer, at £660 per annum.

The duties are of a general clerical nature, including assistance in the publication of the Royal Signals Journal.

Any interested candidate should apply to the Secretary, Royal Signals Corps Committee, R.H.Q., Royal Signals, 88, Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1., from whom fuller details may be obtained.

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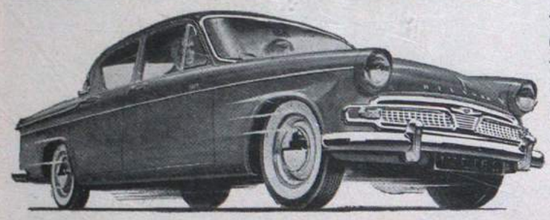

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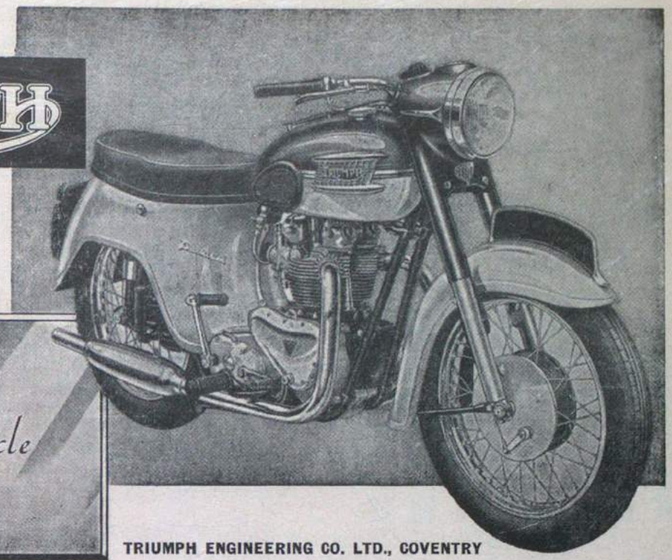

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THE WIRE

THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE

The Official Organ of the Signals Association

Editor:
BRIGADIER H. R. FIRTH

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☆

JUNE • 1962

Vol. 16 *(New Series)* **No. 6**

Note from The Chairman Royal Signals Association

I am sure all readers of THE WIRE will be sorry to hear that the Editor, Brigadier Firth, had to be rushed off to Millbank on Friday, 18th May, for an operation. I am pleased to be able to inform you that the operation was successful and he is now making slow, but good, progress. He hopes to be fit and well for the Reunion at Catterick, as I am sure he will be.

I know you will agree that the staff in his absence have made an excellent job of this copy of THE WIRE.

Brigadier Firth sends you this message from hospital:—

Today's Wire

For the first time since 1948 THE WIRE is not publishing the Editorial. The reason is that the Editor is in hospital and cannot write it.

Since 1948 THE WIRE has only twice before been pasted up, that is prepared for publishing, by anyone other than the Editor. On these two occasions it was undertaken by those long practised in doing so.

The June WIRE has been put together by people who have only done it once before in their lives, and a wonderful job they have made of it, too.—Editor.

Message from Her Royal Highness The Colonel-in-Chief

In reply to a signal of congratulation on her birthday (published in the May WIRE), Her Royal Highness was graciously pleased to send the following:

St. James's Palace,
25th April, 1962.

The message of loyal and affectionate greetings from all ranks of my Royal Corps of Signals on the occasion of my birthday has given me very great pleasure.

I send you all my best wishes.

MARY,
Colonel-in-Chief.

Recommended Reading

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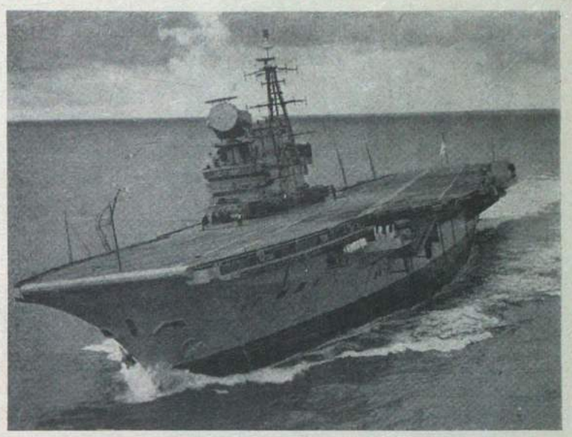
H.M.S. HERMES



AN important event in the history of the Corps took place on 24th April, 1962, when we, the Royal Corps of Signals, presented to H.M.S. *Hermes* a silver "Jimmy" to mark the affiliation between the carrier and our Corps. The presentation was made during the commissioning ceremony, prior to the ship's departure for eventual service with the Far East Fleet.

About 30 officers and men of the Corps reported to the Naval Dockyard, Portsmouth, just before mid-day and were received on board H.M.S. *Hermes* and entertained by the Ship's Signal Section. We were shown round the control, transmitter and receiver rooms, given some idea of the difficult aerial problems that have to be faced, and then entertained at lunch in true naval fashion.

The commissioning ceremony started at quarter past two, when all the ship's company, accompanied by wives, children, fathers, mothers and girl friends assembled in the ship's hangar.

The Captain, Captain W. D. O'Brien, D.S.C., R.N., made a short address and read the Commissioning Order, and this was followed by a short service.

The Master of Signals, Major-General Sir William A. Scott, K.C.M.G., C.B., C.B.E., then presented the silver "Jimmy" to Captain O'Brien. In a short speech, he said how proud we of the Royal Signals were to be associated with H.M.S. *Hermes* and hoped that the affiliation would be long and valuable. The cooks were then played on and the huge ceremonial cake was cut. After the ceremony we were shown round some more of the ship, leaving after tea.

The name *Hermes* has been associated with the Royal Navy for over two and-a-half centuries, and in that time ten ships have borne the name. It was first used in 1796 to re-name a captured Dutchman, and for the next hundred years six other vessels, mostly lightly-gunned sloops of about 500 tons, carried on the tradition.

The eighth ship was a 5,600-ton cruiser, an 11-gun vessel with a top speed of twenty knots. Her life was uneventful until 1900, when she had a boiler breakdown in the West Indies. She drifted about under sail until eventually found by a tug and towed back into harbour. In 1913 began the link with the Fleet Air Arm which was to continue until the present day. She was fitted out as a seaplane carrier, with three aircraft (a development of the Mayfly) and became the seagoing parent ship of the Naval Wing of the Royal Flying Corps. In August that year, *Hermes* was the scene of the first-ever flight of an aircraft with folding wings. Soon after the outbreak of the First World War, she was ordered to sail for Dunkirk, where her aircraft were to attack the German flank. She arrived on the day of a submarine scare. The following morning, after there had been a submarine attack, she was ordered to Dover, but shortly after getting under way, she was struck by two torpedoes from the German submarine U.27 and sank with the loss of 23 lives.

The ninth *Hermes* had the distinction of being the first ship specially designed as an aircraft carrier. Work was started on her in January, 1918, and she was completed in February, 1924. She displaced 12,900 tons and her flight deck was 598ft. long. She carried nine fighter aircraft (Fairey Fly-catchers) and six spotters (Fairey 111F). In 1937 she had 803 and 824 Squadrons on board, but these left in 1938, 824 going to *Eagle*. In September, 1939, she embarked 814 Squadron (Swordfishes) from *Ark Royal*. Shortly after the outbreak of the Second World War, eight hunting groups were formed to track down the German raiders; *Hermes* formed part of Group "N" together with the French Battleship *Strasbourg* and the cruisers *Dupleix* and *Foch*. One of these groups later caught and sank the *Admiral Graf Spee*. Her next action called for a special kind of courage, because after the fall of France, in July, 1940, *Hermes* (with Captain R. F. J. Onslow in command) became the senior ship of a force ordered to put out of action the French Battleship *Richelieu*, at Dakar, and prevent its use by the Germans. When the force arrived off Dakar, six Swordfish made a torpedo attack and scored one hit, which only caused slight damage; but with the poor repair facilities available at Dakar, the battleship was out of action for a whole year. *Hermes* remained in the South Atlantic after this, covering British convoys. In December, the same year, together with the cruiser *Dragon* and the Armed Merchant Cruiser *Pretoria Castle*, she formed one of the groups set to trap the raider *Admiral Scheer*, but we had very few ships at our disposal and the German escaped. In January, 1941, she helped the Army drive the Italians out of East Africa, and in company with the cruisers *Shropshire*, *Capetown* and *Ceres*, she sank eight Italian destroyers. April, 1942, found her at Trincomalee, when reports were received of a strong Japanese carrier striking force approaching the island. *Hermes*, with the Australian destroyer *Vampire* and three oilers sailed clear of Ceylon to avoid the air attack, but left her Swordfish at Trinco. When the attack came, *Hermes* was 65 miles from the island, but soon after she headed back to the harbour. They were sighted by Japanese reconnaissance aircraft and later attacked by an overwhelming force of more than 50 fighters (including many Zeros). *Hermes* was the main target, and within ten minutes she had received 40 bomb hits; within another ten minutes she had sunk—the third *Hermes* to be lost in action with the enemy.

The present *Hermes* was laid down in Barrow-in-Furness in June, 1944, and was launched by Lady Churchill on 16th February, 1953, after building had been halted once or twice while the need for new carriers was debated. Her first commission was from November, 1959, until September, 1961, and

Master of Signals Major-General Sir William Scott, K.C.M.G., C.B., C.B.E., presents statuette

her second commission has been ordered at the end of extensive alterations. Although originally a unit of the *Centaur* class, her design has been modified to such a great extent that she is now an entirely new class—the *Hermes* (Modernised) Class. She has a displacement of 23,000 tons and a ship's company of 1,700, including same 200 officers. Her equipment includes three post-war British inventions—the angled flight deck, the deck landing mirror sight and the steam catapult; in addition, she has the most modern radar and display system in the world. It is very fitting that Britain's latest carrier should be given the name borne by the first ship designed and built specially for this role.

The *Hermes* is currently undergoing trials in the Channel, and towards the end of May she will sail for foreign waters.

Her Signal Officer is Lieutenant-Commander B. A. N. Buckley, R.N., whom some may recall as a member of 2 Wireless Regiment Officers' Mess in 1952. We look forward to reading some WIRE Notes from him in due course.

We all wish H.M.S. *Hermes* God-Speed, and assure her Signal Section of a hearty welcome from the nearest Royal Signals detachment whenever she comes into port.

* * *

Prize Essay Competitions

BERTRAND STEWART ESSAY COMPETITION, 1963. Prize: £80. Closing date: 22nd June, 1963.

Subject: The R.A.F. is at present building up a short-range transport force which will operate in the battle area in support of the Army. One Commando ship with helicopters is already in service and a second will shortly be available.

Discuss the tactical and logistic opportunities which these developments will afford a commander.

General conditions for this essay competition will be the same as for the 1962 competition and can be found in A.C.I. 440 of 1961.

GEORGE KNIGHT CLOWES MEMORIAL PRIZE ESSAY, 1963. Prizes: 1st prize £35; 2nd prize £15. Closing date: 31st March, 1963.

Subject: In the recent past Armies have relied on reservists to bring Units up to war establishment on mobilisation and the British Expeditionary Forces sent to France in 1914 and 1939 included a high proportion of reservists. Some critics doubt if, under modern conditions, this method of reinforcing Units is still practicable. They doubt if we can rely on always having the time, or means, to do so—especially in the case of B.A.O.R.

Discuss in general terms the problems of Service Reserve personnel and with special reference to reinforcing Army Units, in Germany and elsewhere overseas, in an emergency.

General conditions for this competition will be the same as for the 1962 competition and can be found in A.C.I. 308 of 1961.

Expedition Kilimanjaro

By Major P. J. W. Stephens, Royal Signals

Kilimanjaro, towering above the Northern Province of Tanganyika, has presented a challenge to all who have seen it since it was first discovered in 1848. Mr. Julius Nyerere, the future Prime Minister of Tanganyika, looked upon it as a symbol and decided it should play a major part in the Independence celebrations of his country in December, 1961. It was his wish that a beacon should shine at the summit and the new flag of Tanganyika raised at midnight, 8th/9th December. At the same time a symbolic "torch of freedom" was to be lit and a radio broadcast made from the top to the peoples of Tanganyika.

This task was given to 1 Signal Squadron, The King's African Rifles, to carry out. The preliminary instruction was given to me mid-October, 1961. At first it seemed a staggering task with little time for preparation, and none in the Squadron really knew where to begin. A minute to the Chief of Staff at Headquarters, East Africa Command, mentioned no more than a dozen people as being necessary for the task. The list included a Royal Signals Officer to command the military party, a Sapper or R.A.O.C. Officer to assist in the beacon preparations, and a medical officer. Public relations were included and a few signal personnel were included to provide communications. I saw with much relief that the East Africa Posts and Telegraphs were also involved and were to supply the communications for the broadcast from the summit. An African officer of the 6th Battalion, The King's African Rifles, was to be nominated to do the actual broadcast.

The expedition then was to be a combined operation with the E.A.P. & T. and I felt we could do no better than to get together as soon as possible. The official name of the expedition was Exercise "Highlight," an apt title, but this gradually gave way to another name, "Expedition Kilimanjaro."

We met together at the foot of the mountain near a small village, Marangu, where we had our first look at one another. The very friendly atmosphere which was immediately apparent augured well for the future and we got down to some preliminary planning. Most of the discussion centred round the problem of the beacon, which was to be seen far and wide and to burn for an hour. Suggestions as to what fuel should be used ranged from magnesium to tons of firewood to be dropped into the crater from the air. We agreed that none of these was practicable and decided to lay on a firework display which we thought would be more impressive and be seen from a greater distance.

The division of tasks was agreed and worked like this: The Squadron was to be responsible for the complete administration of the expedition including rations, tentage, accommodation stores, beds and bedding, cold weather clothing, provision of the fireworks, radio communications within the route from the base camp to the summit, provision of oxygen and the transportation of all stores to the summit. The E.A.P. & T. party was to provide the high quality radio broadcast circuits from the summit, postal facilities at staging posts on the route to the top and a radio call system at each of those posts. The radio call would enable voice contact to be made with any part of East Africa and in the event proved a great boon.

I was asked to take over the leadership of the expedition and agreed to do so. I saw that the entire resources of the Squadron would have to be used and that the project was bigger than was suggested in the original minute to the Chief of Staff. I was fortunate in having Captain Paul Alexander, my Administrative Officer, with me and appointed him second-in-command of the expedition.

Now a little about the mountain.

It is 19,340 feet high and lies in the Northern Province of Tanganyika. On its northern slopes it forms a boundary with Kenya. Under German rule all of it was in Tanganyika and it was presented by the Kaiser to Queen Victoria which made it necessary to alter the border between the two countries.

Two hotels on the southern slopes cater for the tourist who wishes to climb in reasonable comfort. The normal method takes the climber three days to the top and two for the return journey. Porters, a guide and all food and bedding are supplied and carried on the heads of the porters all for a charge of £20. There are three staging points on the route up. The first, Bismarck Hut, at 9,000 feet, is some ten miles from the hotel and provides the first night's shelter. It is immediately below a dense rain forest on a precipitous slope traversed by an extremely narrow track. Once through the rain forest the track breaks out into the open and leads over rolling hills covered with tall thick grasses and enormous flowers of the red-hot poker variety. Six streams have to be crossed on the way. The water is crystal clear and very fast flowing, fed by the melting snows from the mountain.

The next shelter, Peter's Hut, is reached after an eleven-mile walk up to an altitude of 12,335 feet. From here both peaks of the mountain can be seen as if they were a few hundred yards away.

Kilimanjaro has two peaks, the main and higher one, Kibo, and the lower one, Mawenzi at 17,339 feet. They are separated by a saddle 12 miles long. Kibo, our objective, is a "walk" compared to the craggy Mawenzi Peak which has already claimed several lives owing to the very brittle volcanic rock of which it is composed. Both peaks are perpetually covered with snow and ice. Peter's Hut is the last where both water and wood fuel are available and there still remain 14 miles to the summit. From here all supplies required at the next and last hut have to be carried by the porters. The walk from Peter's to the last hut, Kibo Hut, immediately below the summit is a truly exhausting one. A steep track winds upwards to the saddle at the base of Mawenzi, and it is on this leg that the lack of oxygen first makes itself felt.

Once on the saddle all signs of vegetation ceases and the barely visible track straggles across an arid and cheerless desert. Kibo Hut can be seen in the distance some five or six miles away, and it was our experience that the hut appears to get further away rather than nearer. The whole effect is depressing and utterly exhausting. The hut lies at 15,200 feet with the peak immediately above it. The view of the summit from here is quite wonderful and awe-inspiring with its blanket of snow and ice. The air is cold and thin, but even at this height invigorating if one is not using energy.

The normal drill for the climber at Kibo Hut is to get to bed early. He rises at 0300 hours to commence the 45-degree slope which to begin with consists of deep scree where the feet sink in and progress is slow and laborious. Under normal weather conditions, 2,000 feet or so higher up the scree gives way to snow but progress is little better. Breathing is difficult and often sickness overtakes the climber making it impossible for him to go on. Halts have to be made every few steps. This comparatively short distance of two miles and 4,000 feet takes anything from three to six hours, but once the summit is attained the agony of the climb is forgotten in the beauty and utter silence of the peak, the highest point on the continent of Africa.

To return to the expedition. A base camp was necessary and it should be as high as possible and within reach of Motor Transport. Bismarck Hut was considered early on because normally four-wheel drive vehicles can get up to it. The weather broke at this time and heavy rain fell daily, turning the track into a muddy and impassable morasse feet deep. A new site was found further down the mountain than was desirable but near one of the motels and ten miles from Bismarck. It had the advantage of possessing a large building which the local Chief generously allowed us to use for no charge and ideal surrounding for a camp site. As normal tourist climbing had to continue we were not allowed to use the huts on the route up the mountain, so we planned tented camp near each of them. These were necessary as staging posts for the summit party and for the large amount of stores, equipment and rations, etc., which we required.

The question of transporting tentage and other heavy items was our big concern as the porters' maximum load was 40 pounds up to Kibo Hut and from there to the summit only half this amount. I thought then of 67 Animal Transport Troop, The King's African Rifles, stationed in Nanyuki, 130 miles north of Nairobi. I asked for and obtained a section consisting of 12 horses each capable of a load of 160 pounds. They were placed under the command of Second-Lieutenant D. Bowley, R.A.S.C., who proved a highly energetic and enthusiastic member of the expedition. Our problem of transporting stores as far as Kibo Hut was solved. Each horse had its own handler. This meant more personnel with a consequent increase in tentage, rations, bedding, and so on. It was our constant aim to keep the party as small as possible, but in the event we were 70 strong and each man was vital.

In Nairobi we gathered together the key people and picked each others' brains as to store requirements. The Sapper, Major C. Gillespie, who was G II(SD) at Command Headquarters—and this fact served us well for obvious reasons—was particularly helpful as he had some previous experience of expeditions of this nature. He suggested airfield locating flares as the basis for the firework display. These required a mortar type projector weighing some 10 pounds. We thought of all stores in terms of weight, particularly those which were to be carried to the summit, as the porter could carry only 20 pounds on the last leg of the climb. If any item was more than this it could just not be taken up. A rough stores list emerged and included such unlikely items as face cream, energy pills, crampons and lip salve. Oxygen was included on the suggestion of an expert on our particular mountain particularly if serious work were to be carried out at the peak with exact timings to cope with. It is a fact that mental and physical reactions at a height of 20,000 feet are very slow. Our medical officer, Major C. Walkley (who is now on his way to Australia to practise as a civilian) also told us that fits of irresponsibility are very liable to occur. All our efforts to obtain oxygen failed and we made up our minds to do without it.

Nine 3-tonners were required to carry all stores to Marangu, a distance of 240 miles. Particularly helpful in providing the detail of the list was Major C. Rolls, our Quartermaster.

He was also our anchor man back in Nairobi when we had occasion, rather frequently, to ask him ferry out and send down some important but overlooked item. To enable us to speak to him we had installed a C11/R210 link which produced very good voice communication from Squadron Headquarters to base camp.

Julius Nyerere, the future Prime Minister, wished to pay a visit to the expedition at the base camp on 26th November, 1961. This fixed our departure date from Nairobi at 20th November and would give the camp party time enough to get the camp ready. On the longer term planning it also gave the summit party a reasonable period in which to move up the mountain by stages, becoming acclimatised, and also time for a dress rehearsal which I thought was necessary. As always, plans do not work out, and this was no exception. The Prime Minister found he could not come on the 26th November and brought his visit forward to 16th November. Our 'time cushion' was gone and the flap was on in real earnest. Major C. Gillespie took me up to the Command Ordnance Depot and for the first time in my life we were allowed to wander around and select any of the items which caught our fancy. It was rather like being on a shopping expedition without having to worry about the pennies. The Ordnance people were quite wonderful and co-operated splendidly in this rather unusual procedure.

In the meantime most of Kenya was under flood and the roads south were impassable in places. After several false starts

The highest post office ever in the world. John Sharkv posting his first day covers of the new stamp issue. Height 19,000 ft

Captain Alexander and W.O.II C. Young, my Squadron Sergeant-Major, left Nairobi on 10th November with the convoy of twelve 3-tonners and six Land-Rovers and after two days arrived at Marangu. I flew down in a helicopter on 14th November and found that everything was ready. In that short time it was a very fine effort. I also found that they had started to establish Bismarck as well. With the party were Sergeant McSorley, who had the very tricky job of looking after the large variety of stores and keeping tabs on them when they were spread over the length and breadth of the mountain. Our eventual losses were relatively small and most of the credit goes to him for that. Sergeant Glenville was organising our radio set-up and was later destined to be in charge of the Bismarck Camp. Staff Sergeant Nunn, of the A.C.C., was our catering expert for the duration, and he laid on a very excellent lunch for the Prime Minister's visit. Corporal Payne, our Radio Technician, was busy at anything but his trade and kept the battery charging and lighting systems going. I have included a comprehensive list of the members of the expedition at the end of this article.

Early on 16th November the Press descended on us. They took over the camp and I wondered how any order would come out of the confusion in time to get things sorted out before the Prime Minister arrived. Of course it rained. The drenching, gentle, persistent variety. A representative parade, both civilian and military, was soaked to the skin. At last the Prime Minister arrived accompanied by the Chief of Staff, Brigadier N. W. Biggs, Lieutenant-Colonel J. Eagle, C.S.O. East Africa, and Mr. W. Moore, who was our chief contact with the Tanganyika government and also the Regional Director of the Tanganyika E.A.P. & T.

The parade was inspected and after a tour of the camp followed the handing-over ceremony of the flag and torch which were to be taken to the summit. Lieutenant A. Nyerenda, of 6 K.A.R., received them from the Prime Minister. It was particularly suitable that he should do so as he was the first African Queen's commissioned officer and also a Tankanyikan. Pre-lunch drinks followed at which all the local chiefs, sub-chiefs, petty chiefs, etc., were present. After lunch, the Prime Minister left having expressed his thanks and appreciation. After the last guest and Pressman had left, we were left with a feeling of anti-climax, but also with the thought that at last we could get down to business and stop polishing up the camp.

The first step was to continue the establishment of Bismarck Camp, 10 miles from base camp. Half the distance of the track leading to it is all-weather but the second leg was the mud already described. The rain continued and in fact did so for the remainder of the expedition except for two days. It was most ironic that the last day of the operation saw the end of the bad weather. This added to our anxiety that we should not have all the camp sites established in time for the summit party to pass through on schedule. I was not able to spend the entire preparatory period at base camp and the work fell to Captain Alexadner. His plan was to pack stores into Land Rovers at base camp with orders to the drivers to get as far up the track as they could or until they became bogged down. The horses then took over and the loads were transferred. This part of the journey was often three to four miles but always in thick mud and up steep slopes to Bismarck, which was eventually estabilised. The other camps were established by this method except that the horses carried everything the whole way. Every single item, tentage, cookers, blankets, rations, petrol, oil, charging engines, wireless sets, batteries went up on the backs of the horses. Replenishment lifts were carried out every single day of the expedition and everything started off from base camp.

By the end of November Peter's and Kibo Huts had been established. Each camp was run by a British N.C.O. or officer who acted as Camp Commandant and was responsible for the provision of food and accommodation for those passing through. He also had to organise and supervise the loading of the horses on their way up to the next camp. We had installed a SR B44 net linking all camps with base camp and every evening a conference was held to decide on the lifts for the following day. Captain Alexander usually presided. This was often complicated by lack of horses owing to sickness and injury. One horse had to be shot, as it fell and broke a leg in the rain forest just above Bismarck. All of us by now were very fond of these gallant animals and their handlers and this, our first casualty, was depressing. They each covered some twenty miles every day and over deep, rough, muddy tracks where every step had to be planned and every foot placed. Horse and handler arrived at their destination soaked, and all of us were fully conscious of the efforts of these men and their animals.

Our basic ration was COMPO, which was filling enough but very monotonous. Occasionally eggs and bread filtered through from base camp to vary the diet. A highlight of the expedition was at Peter's camp when we had an air drop. Special cold weather mittens had been sent out from U.K. and had arrived in Nairobi well after the beginning of the expedition and were to be flown down to us. Through the radio call Major Gillespie was talking to Major T. Lacey, who commands 8 Independent Recce. Flight in Nairobi and fixing the details of the drop. As an afterthought and more in fun than anything else he asked Major Lacey if he could send down some potatoes and bread as well. The Beaver aircraft arrived and the mittens were dropped. A little to our surprise the aircraft turned for another run and we saw a container on the end of a parachute leave the aircraft. Something was obviously wrong because the container, its contents and the parachute all parted company and we found ourselves pelted by loose potatoes. This was repeated, and the next 'free' drop was bread. Three or four runs were made and we were surrounded by mangled loaves of bread and thousands of potatoes. All were edible, and the askaris spent hours searching the area. Someone suggested that in time a 'high level' potato would be found growing at 12,000 feet and would pose a problem for its discoverer.

On 2nd December the summit party moved out of Peter's camp and started the climb to Kibo in preparation for the rehearsal on 4th December. It was an exhausting march, but we each took our own pace. Major Walkley, our medical officer, was the first to arrive at Kibo. The next day we spent resting, and at 05.00 hours on 4th December we started for the summit, Gilman's Point. It was a beautifully clear day and we were well above the clouds. The going was bad. The snow line was lower than it ever had been in living memory. This also applied to the abnormally bad weather conditions. The snow was fresh and soft and the feet sank in deep. Every step was a conscious and studied effort and all thought was concentrated on keeping going. To stop and rest was defeat, but the periods between halts became more frequent. I was the last to reach Gilman's Point and arrived at 1045 hours, just a few minutes before the broadcast rehearsal was due to start. It appeared unreal to hear Dar-es-Salaam coming in with a clear and loud signal. The test broadcast was made and went very well. It was done in English and Swahili and Lieutenant Nyerenda filled in most professionally from a very sketchy script.

John Sharky, the senior E.A.P. & T. engineer, asked me if I would like to talk to my wife. I was still in a daze and thought he was joking. However, a few minutes later I was speaking to her in Nairobi and the quality of the speech was excellent. She later told me that the local operator was quite overcome with the task of putting through a call coming from the top of Kilimanjaro. I think that this must have been the first time that such a thing had happened. It reminded me of 1946 when I had last climbed the same mountain and took with me (carried by the guide) a 48 wireless set and had spoken to Nanyuki very clearly from the top.

The broadcast over, we had time to look around and decide where we could site the rocket launchers. There was very little space and the safety precautions demanded a 30-foot gap between rockets and the operator firing them. Gilman's Point is on the very edge of the crater, the floor of which is a thousand feet below. The rim is well defined and its edge sharp. There are ways down, but the thick snow obliterated the tracks and anyway we did not appreciate the thought of having to climb back again. A spot was eventually selected some 50 feet below the crater edge, which was not really large enough but would have to do. It should be explained here, that further south along the crater edge is Kaiser Wilhelm Spitz, which in fact is higher than Gilman's Point. It could not be reached under the conditions which prevailed and, indeed, the guides were unwilling to take us there. No track was visible, and I think all of us were thankful in our hearts that this was so. However, for all practical purposes Gilman's Point has long been considered the summit and the point at which to aim.

The descent to Kibo Camp occupied just over an hour and took the form of slithering sort of toboggan on one's behind. The braking effort was extremely tiring and the muscles which one seldom used ached excruciatingly after a day or two. Most of us agreed that there was little to choose between the aches caused by the climbing and the descent.

My original plan was for the summit party to return to Peter's camp for three days to rest and then to return to Kibo for the final climb on 9th December. We all agreed that it

Lieutenant Alex Nyerenda caught in a dramatic pose at midnight 8/9 December 1961 on the summit as he raises the flag of the new Tanganyika. The symbolic torch can be seen attached to the flag pole

would be better to remain where we were, and so avoid the gruelling journey back again. This, of course, put out the plan for the replenishment of the camps. Captain Alexander reorganised the lifts and the animal caravans arrived with our rations, petrol and water. To supplement our water supply we melted the snow, which was plentiful and learned the lesson that it takes an unbelievable amount of it to produce even a glassful of water. It also used up a vast amount of petrol to keep the cooker going. We were using No. 3 Cooker which at that altitude worked well but slowly.

We had five days before D-Day and were occupied, or rather requisitioned, by Major Gillespie whose rockets and launchers had by this time arrived. They were encased in thick, greased paper wrappings and all had to be cleaned and tested for continuity. About this time I began to feel feverish and could not keep any food down. I was advisd to retire to bed by our doctor. I lost that day, the whole of the next and finally awoke the following day, feeling much better but very weak and unsteady on my feet. I was concerned that I should be fit to make the climb again on D-Day but felt that in my present condition I should not be able to do so. Major Walkley strongly advised me against it, and having seen the rehearsal go well I felt that there was little for me to do there anyway.

The morning of 8th December arrived and final preparations for the departure of the summit party were made. During the previous five days the porters had been ferrying the rockets, launchers, a tent and the other stores to the summit. We employed ten porters and each made one journey a day. This made a total of 500 pounds of stores which they had carried to the top—a truly remarkable effort. H-Hour was 2340 hours that night, when the pre-independence broadcast was to be made from Gilman's Point. By then all the rockets had to be positioned and the launchers wired into a control panel which Colin Gillespie had manufactured. The radio circuits had to be tested. All had to be done during daylight. It would have been impossible to carry out these tasks during darkness without the very real risk of stumbling over the edge.

A gradual thinning-out process had started two days before and Kibo camp moved down to Peter's. Everything was now in position and only the summit party and I occupied Kibo Hut, by arrangement with the Mountain Club.

With little ceremony the party left and in a moment were lost to sight in the mists. I was alone in Kibo and it was very quiet. As the mist cleared, I could follow their progress up

At the garden party in Dar-es-Salaam, the day after the descent. H.R.H. The Duke of Edinburgh is talking to Lieutenant Alex Nyerenda with Major Stephens looking on

through the steep snow slope. At 1700 hours they were all on the top, then darkness fell and there was nothing to do but wait until H-Hour. I still had the radio call set and was able to listen to the Tanganyika Broadcasting Corporation programme which would be relaying the broadcast from the top of the mountain.

My relief was profound when at last I heard Lieutenant A. Nyerenda's voice cracking through the air announcing that the party was all well and he was about to hoist the new flag of his country. To confirm this, at exactly midnight I saw the first rockets soaring up a thousand feet into the air and exploding with a million candlepower brilliance and then drifting slowly down. Another broadcast followed and the rockets were still going up until 0020 hours when the last of them lit the sky and then all was dark and silent again. It was all over. The first of the summit party returned to Kibo Hut at 0400 hours and after drinking some hot soup which I had kept ready went straight to sleep. The remainder of the party slept the rest of the night at Gilman's Point in an eight-man tent and eventually returned at 0700 hours looking very fit and full of high spirits. After a short rest and some breakfast we all set off on the long walk back. It was all over and we were a very happy party on arrival back at base camp at 1800 hours, having walked about thirty miles. Major Gillespie, Lieutenant Nyerenda and I decided to spend this night in one of the local mountain hotels. On arrival we asked for large beers and were told that the local branch of the Tanganyika African National Union had forbidden the sale of any alcohol on the mountain for that day. It was a bitter moment! However, we felt that we were exceptions and we did get our beer. I drank mine in my bath, which was the first for two weeks.

Early next morning Lieutenant Nyerenda, Mr. Sharky and I left by charter aircraft for Dar-es-Salaam. Major Gillespie and Major Walkley left later by road for Nairobi. We had been summoned to attend a garden party where we were to be presented to the Duke of Edinburgh. It felt most uncomfortable to have exchanged the cold, thin mountain air for the steaming heat of Dar-es-Salaam within 24 hours.

The following day I left by the same aircraft and landed at Moshi where Captain Alexander was waiting and we returned together to Nairobi. Kilimanjaro seemed a long way away. A large part of the expedition and the Squadron were still high up on the mountain, packing up and searching for missing kit. This part of the expedition was the least glamorous and rewarding and I give great credit to W.O.II Young and Sergeant McSorley who brought the large convoy back to Nairobi with no casualties and comparatively few losses of stores. Second-Lieutenant D. Bowley followed a day or so later with his horses and the handlers.

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We were all pleased to say 'goodbye' to our mountain having seen a bit too much of it. On arrival home there was Kilimanjaro looking at me from the wall—a large painting which my wife had got for me as a surprise present for my return!

* Major P. J. W. Stephens, Royal Signals	O.C. 1 Signal Squadron, K.A.R., and Leader.
Captain P. D. Alexander, Royal Signals	1 Signal Squadron, K.A.R. and Expedition Second-in-Comd.
* Major C. L. B. Gillespie, R.E.	G.S.O. II (SD), H.Q., E.A. Command & I/C Fireworks.
* Major C. Walkley, R.A.M.C.	O.C., 70 Inf. Bde. K.A.R. Medical Company and Expedition Medical Officer.
Captain A. Reid, R.A.M.C.	24 Inf. Bde. Group Field Ambulance, and Expedition M.O. for the early part.
Captain J. Ellis, R.E. ...	P.R. representative from H.Q., E.A. Command.
* Lieutenant D. Bowley, R.A.S.C.	92 G.T. Company K.A.R. and I/C Animal Transport.
* Lieutenant A. Nyerenda	6 K.A.R.
* W.O.II (S S.M.) C. Young, Royal Signals	1 Signal Squadron, K.A.R.
Staff Sergeant R. G. W. Nunn, A.C.C.	1 Signal Squadron, K.A.R.
Sergeant J. A. McSorley, Royal Signals	1 Signal Squadron, K.A.R.
Sergeant K. Glenville, Royal Signals	1 Signal Squadron, K.A.R.
Corporal R. A. Payne, Royal Signals	1 Signal Squadron, K.A.R.
Corporal Jones, A.C.C.	24 Inf. Bde. Group Ordnance Field Park.
* Corporal Stuart	P.R. Photographer (H.Q., Near East).
* Mr. J. Sharky	E.A.P. & T.
* Mr. T. Marshall	E.A.P. & T.
Staff Sergeant Meshack Kiptoo	1 Signal Squadron, K.A.R.
* Lance-Corporal Michael Maingi	1 Signal Squadron, K.A.R.
18 Askari	1 Signal Squadron, K.A.R.
14 Askari	67 Animal Transport Troop, K.A.R.
* Sadikaeli	Guide.
* 10 Porters	
5 Officials	E.A.P. & T.
* Henry	Cook, civilian of 1 Signal Squadron, K.A.R.
Mulachi	G.D., civilian of 1 Signal Squadron, K.A.R.

* Achieved summit.

BLUE BOOK 9th EDITION

It is anticipated that delivery to Regiments who ordered through C.S.O.s will be effected by mid-June.

Copies are also available for purchase by individuals, price 3/6 from Headquarters Royal Signals Association.

Promotions

The normal column of amendments to the Blue Book will next appear in August.

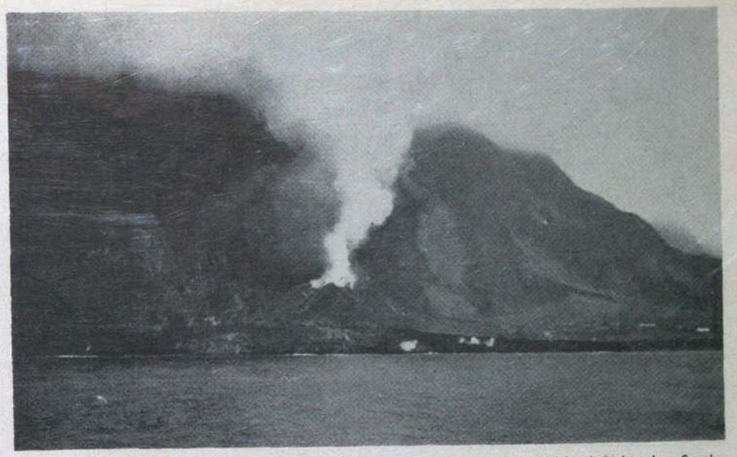
CHRISTMAS CARD FOR THE COLONEL-IN-CHIEF

In the article under this heading in the May number of THE WIRE, due to an error in para (d) of the conditions, the size of the card was given as 8ft. 6in. This, of course, should have read 8in. x 6in. We regret any puzzlement which may have resulted from this.

The Royal Society Expedition to Tristan da Cunha

by

Corporal McCormack



View from SAS Transvaal. Volcano in centre with lava flow covering normal landing beach. Settlement at right

The Army was selected to provide and man the communications for the Royal Society's expedition to Tristan Da Cunha and 30th Regiment was chosen to send two wireless operators. I was just about the happiest and proudest soldier in the Regiment when I heard I was to be one of them.

It was quite a rush getting the equipment packed and ready to go, what with trials still going on in my Squadron and Christmas almost on us. I was beginning to wonder if we would every be ready, but the 5th January, 1962, came and Staff Sergeant Shaw and I were waving goodbye to the snow and rain of England and looking forward to the sun of Africa.

After three days in a Beverley we arrived in Aden. There was no chance of getting anything duty free though, for we were offered a lift to Nairobi by Hastings the following morning. Other than that the best they could do was a Beverley some days later and after a three-day trip to Aden we were not too fond of Beverleys, so we took the early morning plane and managed six glorious days in Nairobi. With quite a reasonable sun tan we boarded a B.O.A.C. Comet 4 at Embakasi airport and on to Capetown. After Beverleys and Hastings it was pure luxury. We were billeted with H.M.S. *Afrikander* a few miles from Capetown, and there, repacked all equipment, charged batteries and got to know the people who we would be working with, and also a little Naval procedure. We met the rest of the expedition and on the 22nd January the twelve of us boarded S.A.S. *Transvaal*. Not being a very good sailor I had plenty of running about on the ship and had more views of the side of the ship than any other who sailed her.

I managed to catch up on a little of the island's history in between sprints. It was discovered by the Portuguese in 1506 and was originally spelt Tristan D'Acunha. It became a British garrison in the 1800s and in this garrison was Corporal William Glass, who founded the colony which was approximately 280 strong before it was evacuated. Two other islands make up the group, Nightingale and Inaccessible, but neither of these are populated with anything other than birds.

The island was sighted on 27th January at the end of our 1,500 mile journey from Capetown. With everyone on board wanting to see the volcano the small frigate soon developed a definite list to port. The weather was much too rough to make any attempt at a landing so we just had to steam around for the day. Next morning three of the party, Staff Sergeant Shaw, Dennis Simpson (Agricultural Advisor) and Adam Swain (Islander-Guide) managed to get ashore on the southern side of the island at Stoney Beach. They were going to try to get to the other side of the island to the settlement, and see if a landing was possible at the lava flow, but bad weather was still with us and made it impossible for the shore party to attempt the climb to the base (2,500 feet) and another day was spent being tossed about in the bad weather.

Next morning things were looking much better on the settlement side of the island so the Captain decided to land us. Another party went ashore to find the best beach to land the stores. The Captain, making sure that things were running smoothly, was keeping a careful eye on the party through his glasses, but catching sight of someone on deck fishing he decided to have a try himself. As the Captain was doing it, it seemed an open invitation for anyone to join in. Within two minutes the deck was a free-for-all, with just about every kind of fishing tackle imaginable being used, and not one person interested in the landing party. We managed to get ashore with the help of the ship's crew and soon set up a camp at the settlement itself.

Communications being of first importance, Staff Sergeant Shaw and I set up the C11 in the wireless room previously used by the South African Met Stations radio operator. The set was soon in working order and using a station rhombic aerial we soon had communications with Capetown and let them know how things were progressing. Of the time spent on the island not once did the C11 let us down, the only trouble being when the charging engine broke down. We set up a 24 volt wind charger which we found on the island and had things working alright again without a break in schedule.

We settled down in the houses which were fine except for the fleas but we got rid of them after a few days. I found that after the wireless schedules I had some time to myself so I became the expedition's poulterer and caught some chickens. In two weeks, just as the South African supply of eggs ran out we had fresh eggs every day and they also helped out with the meat ration.

Evenings were perhaps the dullest part of the day; whereas the scientists had their paper work to catch up on, I had very little to do, so I took advantage of the expedition's Ham licence and tried my luck on the wireless. I didn't realise that I would be such a popular station. As soon as I gave a call the frequency was jammed with people trying to contact me. I worked well over 100 stations, most being South African; I was working to Bombay on voice (5,000 miles) and managed five British stations on CW. Not bad going for an Army C11!

I had the opportunity to travel to the other islands, Nightingale and Inaccessible, this I took up saying that I would help out bringing back specimens of rock, etc. The trip was quite a disappointment all round, five of us went and we only managed to land twice due to bad weather. We were taken out on the Tristan Development Company ship, *Tristania*, but as it was only five hundred tons, I was quite glad to get back to the solid ground of Tristan again.

The volcano seemed to have quietened down whilst we were away so three of us decided to climb and see what it was like inside the crater. I was quite scared when I got on top and I'm sure had I been by myself I would have turned back. The others probably felt the same way as this was the first time anyone had been right inside the crater but we encouraged each

The island's only transport. This is me on our favourite moke (the volcano in the background)

other and pressed on. It wasn't quite as hot as I had imagined but the fumes made it uncomfortable. We spent about half an hour in the crater, climbed on top of the new dome and then made our way back to the settlement.

The animal life seemed to take no notice at all of the volcano; cattle would graze at the foot of it most of the time although vegetation directly above and four miles to the east had been greatly affected. It could be seen growing again, even on the slopes, so any damage was only temporary.

The dogs on the island managed to kill almost 700 sheep, carcases could be seen all over the island. Obviously we had to do what we could to protect the remaining sheep so it was agreed to shoot all the dogs (agreed by everyone that is, but the dogs). They didn't take too kindly to the decision and gave us a good runaround but we managed to put down all but one. Later we heard some barking from the base but no sight of a dog was seen in the last two weeks.

Private mail was sent and received over our link to Capetown and thence by air mail, under despatch arrangements of the S.A. Navy, and the same in reverse for replies. If the person receiving the letter in England answered by return, a letter sent on Monday would have a reply back on the following Monday. 253 signals were handled by Staff Sergeant Shaw and myself; of these, 152 were private letters, each person being allowed a letter in each direction once a week.

The weather was much warmer than expected. We were all warned to take plenty of waterproof clothing, but luckily we didn't have to use it too often. The weather was just beginning to turn towards the end of the expedition, as March in the Southern Hemisphere is the start of their winter season.

We made contact with H.M.S. *Protector* whilst she was sailing for us, and at 07.30 hours on 20th March, she came into sight. We had placed all the stores by the heliport, which we had marked out some time back, and everything was ready to go aboard. A helicopter on board *Protector* had been arranged to lift the expedition's stores and members off, and the whole lift took only 3½ hours. The total weight of stores and rock speciments evacuated was 4½ tons. It had been arranged for *Protector* to take aerial photographs of Nightingale and Inaccessible, so we had yet one more day bobbing around the islands. The trip to Capetown took four days. This ship is well-known for her ability to roll on just about any sea, and this she certainly did; I can't say I was sorry to see Capetown.

It was great to be back in civilisation again, but after travelling at walking pace for so long, the speed of cars was frightening. It was good to eat food without first cooking it, and most of us made straight for fruit and milk and other fresh foods.

Within four days we were saying our goodbyes to the expedition, because we were booked for a two-week holiday aboard the *Windsor Castle*, which was to bring us to Southampton. With everyone on board in holiday mood and clean, air-conditioned cabins, it was the perfect ending to the most interesting job I have ever had the pleasure to do. Too soon Southampton appeared, and I had to come down to earth. After a short leave, I was back in my job in 30th Regiment—it's interesting work, but not the fun that the expedition proved to be.

Special Meeting of the British Institution of Radio Engineers

The British Institution of Radio Engineers held a special meeting at Catterick Camp on 10th April, 1962.

It was the first British I.R.E. lecture meeting to take place there, and was held by kind permission of Brigadier H. F. McGill, O.B.E., Commandant, School of Signals.

More than one hundred people attended to hear Mr. J. B. Wilson, M.Sc., of James Scott (Electronic Engineering) Ltd., deliver his paper on "Jodrell Bank." Mr. Wilson, who had been engaged upon scientific work at Jodrell Bank, began with an introduction to the subject of radio astronomy as a science, following the early work of Jansky in 1931 and Reber between 1938 and 1944.

Comparison with optical astronomy was made and it was shown how the radio astronomer has advantages over his optical counterpart. Interferometer aerial systems were considered and the kind of information obtained from them discussed.

A very good film, showing the design and construction of the massive "dish" and supporting framework, and the railway on which the wonderfully balanced masterpiece of engineering moved.

A vote of thanks to Mr. Wilson was given by Major M. McIntyre, A.M.Brit.I.R.E., Royal Signals, who is now a member of the North Eastern Section Committee.

The evening was enjoyably continued in the Headquarters Mess, where the guests were entertained to dinner.

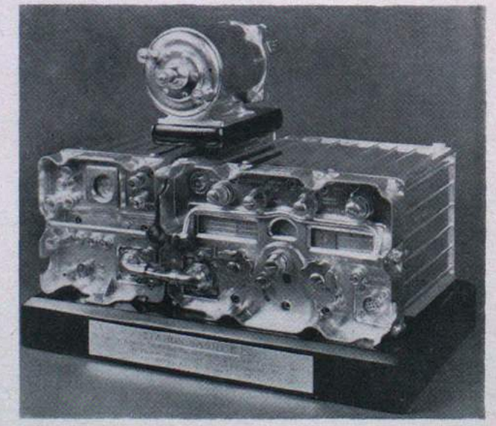
Those present included Brigadier H. F. McGill, O.B.E., Captain D. E. Bromley Martin, R.N. (Captain of H.M.S. *Mercury*, R.N. School of Signals), Colonel D. R. Horsfield, O.B.E. (The Chief Instructor, School of Signals), Mr. Mitchell (The Controller of Telecommunications Liaison Group, B.A.O.R.), Lieutenant-Colonel D. T. W. Gibson, M.B.E. (Senior Instructor (Equipment) School of Signals).

Corps Silver

The picture shows the silver model of the C 13 set which has been presented to the Corps by the British Communications Corporation Limited to commemorate the introduction of the first Phase Modulated Radio set into the Army.

The actual presentation was made by Mr. D. D. Prenn, the Chairman of the Corporation, at a Guest Night in the H.Q. Mess on 5th April, 1962. Mr. Prenn was accompanied on this occasion by a Director of the Corporation, Mr. F. G. Nurdin, who served as a Lieutenant-Colonel in the Corps during the war, notably with General Wingate.

The model is beautifully carried out in a dull finish silver, complete in every detail. It will form a magnificent addition to our Corps Silver and we are deeply grateful to the British Communications Corporation for their generosity.



Obituary

MAJOR-GENERAL RICHARD ERNEST BARKER, C.B.E.

This is an age of standardisation and the Army, like other great institutions, seeks to mould its raw material, that is its men and women, into an accepted pattern of excellence. It does so, on the whole, with remarkable success, but its raw material is wayward and from time to time, happily for us all, a product emerges that does not conform but keeps its own intractable shape, excellent but different. As the years pass he impresses himself on his community and becomes recognised as a character.

Dick Barker was such a one, and a most lovable character in his own right. With his great frame and deliberate movement, a face that a friend described as knobbly and a general massive presence, he looked rugged and that is exactly what he was. He had unshakeable integrity and robust commonsense. His best friends, and he had many very good ones, would not have called him brainy, and he would have recoiled from such a tribute; it was with reluctance that he put pen to paper himself and he viewed the habit, especially in his superior officers, with distaste and suspicion. He was afraid of nothing, and simple, perceptive people like Kurds and Pathans found in him something that greatly commended itself to them. Any outdoor activity appealed to him; he was a yachtsman and a man of his hands who could build his own boat, a good shot and a good but not a neat horseman. His temper, except when roused by some act of meanness, was remarkably even: in the full meaning of the old phrase, he was kind and true.

He cared greatly for the men and officers under his command, and senior officers of today, who were once his subalterns, remember him with affection and with gratitude for all that he taught them.

As with all characters, stories grew up about him. He was Master of a pack of Beagles at Colchester; in the middle of a run hounds were suddenly, unaccountably at a loss; nearby lounged a gipsy-looking man in a long overcoat. Prompted by an instinct all his own, Dick laid firm hands on him, said "Where's my hare?" and drew the animal from the stranger's capacious inner pocket.

He was born in 1888 at Christchurch, New Zealand, and went to Wangahui Collegiate School and from there to Sherborne School in Dorset. He joined the New Zealand Mounted Rifles in 1907, was commissioned in the Prince of Wales' Volunteers (South Lancashire Regiment) four years later and transferred to the Royal Signals as a Captain in 1922. By then he had served with the Indian Signal Corps and the Kurd Irregulars, in Iraq (1915-1918) and as a Political Officer in Iraq, Kurdistan and Persia (1918-1920). He was in Ireland in 1920-22 and served as Chief Signal Officer in Palestine and Trans-Jordan (1936-37), in Northern Command (1937-40) and the Middle East (1940-41). This led to his appointment as Signal Officer-in-Chief, Middle East, with the acting rank of Major-General, in 1941. He was for a time C.S.O. Scottish Command and finished the war as Chief Signal Officer, Home Forces. He retired in 1944.

In 1920 he married Dorothy Enid Millton, of Orari, New Zealand, and a better match and a happier marriage cannot be imagined. Their son Mark is a Major in the Corps; their other two sons have both served with the rank of Major, one in the New Zealand Regiment in Malaya and the other in the Royal Artillery. The latter has retired and is studying for Holy Orders in the Church of England. Their daughter Prudence has married a soldier, Major C. Hay of the Staffordshire Regiment.

From his boyhood on his father's farm farming was in his blood, and he dreamed through his long service of the time when he should retire and follow his heart's desire in his own country. At one of the yearly tea parties, where it is the gracious custom of our Colonel-in-Chief to meet her officers and their wives, he was presented in his turn to Her Royal Highness, and she bade him sit beside her for the usual short chat. The interview prolonged itself far beyond the traditional few minutes: both parties were clearly absorbed in their subject and the organisers of the occasion grew anxious about the time-table. When finally the Royal guest allowed him to go it was learnt that they had been discussing a subject of engrossing common interest—the virtues of different breeds of dairy cattle.

His friends are happy to think that his last 15 years were spent in the realisation of his lifelong dream, on his own farm at Wainui; and they can only be thankful that his great heart and active spirit were never vexed by long incapacity, for he died suddenly, of heart falure, in Christchurch. Their thoughts go out in sympathy to his wife and family.

CAPTAIN D. G. WRIGHT

It is with deep regret that we record the death of Captain David Wright, of 253 Squadron. He was killed by a fall on training on a mountain called Ma On Shan, in the New Territories, on 4th May, 1962.

Born in London, on 12th March, 1930, of Irish parents, David Wright was educated at St. Wilfrid's School, Seaford, Sussex, and then at St. Edwards' School, Oxford. Enlisted as a Gunner in April, 1949, he joined the R.M.A.S. in August of that year and was commissioned into the Corps in February, 1951. After his Y.O.'s course at the O.T.W., and a parachute course at Abingdon, he joined 1st Infantry Division Signal Regiment, with whom he served for two years, in Egypt. He then returned, in November, 1955, to U.K., where he completed his subaltern's Part II course. Immediately after this he was placed in charge of the Royal Signals Display Team for a year. Between December, 1955, and February, 1957, he served with 12th Wireless Squadron and 16th Independent Parachute Brigade Signal Squadron. A period of two years with 1st Wireless Regiment was followed by a similar period with Eastern Command (subsequently 239) Signal Squadron.

In April, 1961, he left U.K. for Hong Kong, where he continued to serve, until his untimely death.

He was accorded a full military funeral on 8th May, 1962. his body being buried in the Happy Valley Cemetery. The very large turn-out of voluntary mourners, both officers and other ranks, British and Chinese, clearly showed the extent of the respect and affection in which he was held.

Our sympathy goes to his mother and family.

PERSONAL COLUMN

London Gazette

From 3rd April, 1962, to 4th May, 1962

Second-Lieutenant W. C. Nicoll to be Lieutenant, 5th April, 1962.
Major P. G. Castner, M.B.E., relinquished S.S.C., 5th April, 1962, Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel.
Major S. B. Coyne relinquished S.S.C., 7th April, 1962, Honorary Major.
Lieutenant-Colonel Viscount Malden, T.D., relinquished Hon. Colonel, 40th Regiment (T.A.), 6th April, 1962, retaining Honorary rank Colonel.
Lieutenant F. D. H. Jones to be Captain, 8th February, 1962 (T.A.).
Captain (Q.M.) T. Mellor relinquished S.S.C., 9th April, 1962.
Captain J. D. S. Levick to T.A.R.O., 13th March, 1962.
Lieutenant R. L. Dodds to T.A.R.O., 1st March, 1962.
Second-Lieutenant C. M. Darby to be Lieutenant, 12th April, 1962.
Captain (Tfc. Offr.) R. Barrett to be Major (Tfc. Offr.) 12th April, 1962.
Lieutenant D. E. Burt to be Captain (S.S.C.) 14th April, 1962.
Captain J. P. Harrison to be Major, 15th April, 1962.
Captain J. M. N. Lyons to be Major, 16th April, 1962.
Second-Lieutenant D. A. Pocklington to be Lieutenant (S.S.C.) 15th April, 1962.
Major W. Robertson to be Lieutenant-Colonel (A.E.R.), 12th March, 1962.
Lieutenant J. M. Barraclough to be Captain (T.A.), 17th April, 1962.
Captain J. B. Prince to be Major, 22nd April, 1962.
Lieutenant C. A. Brown from S.S.C. to Lieutenant, 2nd February, 1962.
Lieutenant J. M. Gray from S.S.C. to Lieutenant, 14th December, 1961.
Captain D. A. W. Clark, T.D., to be Major (T.O.T.) (T.A.) 7th March, 1962.
Lieutenant J. W. Banks to T.A.R.O., 10th November, 1961.
Undermentioned Captains to be Majors:
J. B. Cox, B.A., 4th December, 1961.
L. A. Welton, 4th December, 1961.
J. H. S. Weston, 2nd March, 1962.
Major (Tfc. Offr.) T. J. Winder retired 30th April, 1962.
Major-General A. E. Morrison, C.B., O.B.E., relinquished Hon. Colonel 49th Yorkshire Regiment (T.A.), 30th April, 1962.
Lieutenant A. W. Douglas to be Captain (T.A.), 1st March, 1962.
Second-Lieutenant H. D. Stanley to be Lieutenant (T.A.), 30th April, 1962.
Lieutenant-Colonel B. R. Wood, O.B.E., T.D., promoted Colonel (T.A.), 1st May, 1962.
Major A. R. Wythe promoted Lieutenant-Colonel, 4th February, 1962.
Major L. M. Rutherford, B.Sc., A.M.I.E.E., retired 5th May, 1962.
Captain A. C. Birtwistle, B.A., promoted Major, 5th May, 1962.
Major R. Hair, relinquished S.S.C., 4th May, 1962, Honorary Major.
Second-Lieutenant J. A. Clark to be Lieutenant, A.E.R., 11th March, 1962.
Second-Lieutenant R. Eaton to be Lieutenant, A.E.R., 27th March, 1962.
Second-Lieutenant L. J. Abbiss to be Lieutenant, T.A., 11th March, 1962.
Second-Lieutenant A. J. Hartup to be Lieutenant, T. A., 11th March, 1962.
Second-Lieutenant L. H. Quilter to be Lieutenant, T. A., 18th March, 1962.
Second-Lieutenant J. L. R. Echlin to be Lieutenant, T.A., 25th March, 1962.
Second-Lieutenant G. C. Washington to be Lieutenant, T.A., 27th March, 1962.
Second-Lieutenant B. Crinson to be Lieutenant, T.A., 2nd May, 1961.
Second-Lieutenant J. J. M. Scarlett to be Lieutenant, T.A., 5th May, 1962.
Second-Lieutenant D. Hunt to be Lieutenant, T.A., 5th May, 1962.
Lieutenant E. P. Brown to T.A.R.O., 28th March, 1962.
Major J. C. Green retired, 30th April, 1962.
Second-Lieutenant R. C. Patten to be Lieutenant, S.S.C., 29th April, 1962.
Colonel John Reading, M.B.E., E.R.D., relinquished Honorary Colonel 86th Regiment, A.E.R., 1st May, 1961.
Lieutenant-Colonel J. A. Charlton, E.R.D., relinquished Honorary Colonel, 90th Regiment, A.E.R., 1st May, 1961.
Major A. P. Lawrie, E.R.D., to be Lieutenant-Colonel, A.E.R., 2nd April, 1962.
Second-Lieutenant H. Wall to be Lieutenant, A.E.R., 27th April, 1962.
Second-Lieutenant B. J. Hordle to be Lieutenant, A.E.R., 5th May, 1962.
Second-Lieutenant A. M. Anderson to be Lieutenant, T.A., 9th March, 1962.
Second-Lieutenant M. W. R. Bell to be Lieutenant, T.A., 2nd May, 1962.
Captain W. C. Bradford to T.A.R.O., 1st April, 1962.
Lieutenant I. J. E. Barrow to T.A.R.O., 1st April, 1962.

Movements—Officers

Major V. C. Valle	... ...	... To H.Q., AFCE
Lieut./T/Captain G. H. Morgan	...	,, Aden (601 Troop)
Lieutenant B. J. Austin	... ...	,, 22nd Regiment (B.A.O.R.)
Lieutenant J. J. Bally	... ...	,, 3rd Regiment
Second-Lieutenant P. R. Brewis	...	,, 4th Regiment (B.A.O.R.)
Second-Lieutenant P. C. Burns	...	,, 7th Regiment (B.A.O.R.)
Lieutenant C. H. D. Cross	... ...	,, 237 Squadron (B.A.O.R.)
Second-Lieutenant C. M. Darby	...	,, 1st Regiment (B.A.O.R.)
Second-Lieutenant J. McD. Edgar	...	,, 11th Regiment (Held Strength)
Second-Lieutenant R. C. Etheridge	...	,, 1st Regiment (B.A.O.R.)
Lieutenant R. Saville	... ...	,, 7th Regiment (B.A.O.R.)
Lieutenant I. D. Scott	... ...	,, 11th Regiment (H.S.)
Second-Lieutenant P. B. Webster	...	,, 4th Regiment (B.A.O.R.)
Lieutenant B. C. Carpenter	... ...	,, 1st Regiment (B.A.O.R.)
Lieutenant G. Wilkie-Snow	... ...	,, 20th Regiment (NEARELF)
Major F. C. Lockwood	... ...	,, 11th Regiment (Cadre)
Major A. Begg	... ...	,, 11th Regiment (H.S.)
Captain J. B. Prince	... ...	,, 19th Regiment (FARELF)
Major A. M. Hewson	... ...	,, 11th Regiment (H.S.)
Major D. A. R. Elliot	... ...	,, 11th Regiment (H.S.)
Captain A. R. Bushell	... ...	,, A.A.S., Harrogate
Captain M. C. Deverill	... ...	,, 11th Regiment (H.S.)
Major F. W. Lewis	... ...	,, 11th Regiment (H.S.)
Major J. L. Donne	... ...	,, 18th Regiment (FARELF)
Captain D. R. Beadon	... ...	,, 216 Squadron (Para Brigade)
Lieutenant-Colonel A. J. Clarke	...	,, C.R. Signals (Malta)
Lieut./T/Captain C. N. Last	...	,, 305 (Ms. Yeo.) Squadron (Para Brigade) T.A.
Captain D. P. Watson	... ...	,, 1st Regiment (B.A.O.R.)
Captain M. A. T. Hartnett	...	,, 210 Squadron (East Africa)
Major D. P. Garnons-Williams	...	,, 2nd Regiment (B.A.O.R.)
Major (L/Lieut.-Col.) H. E. Roper	...	,, Course No. 26, JSSC.

Movements—Warrant Officers and Sergeants

W.O.I L. J. Taylor	... ...	... To 22nd Regiment
W.O.II R. D. Angus	... ...	... ,, 61st Regiment (T.A.)
W.O.II J. H. Coleman	... ...	... ,, 24th Regiment
W.O.II D. F. Leighton	... ...	... ,, Junior Leaders Regiment
W.O.II K. A. Rutter	... ...	... ,, 4th Regiment
W.O.II A. Holmes	... ...	... ,, 14th Regiment, 1 Squadron
W.O.II L. Leppington	... ...	... ,, School of Signals (Courses)
W.O.II W. Newton	... ...	... ,, A.A.S., Harrogate
W.O.II D. K. Earnshaw	... ...	... ,, 66th Regiment (T.A.)
W.O.II A. E. Pugh	... ...	... ,, 16th Regiment
W.O.II R. A. Rankin	... ...	... ,, 19th Regiment
W.O.II D. G. Rowthorn	... ...	... ,, 249 Squadron
W.O.II J. S. P. Pilkington	... ...	... ,, 17th Gurkha Regiment
W.O.II D. Bees	... ...	... ,, 7th Regiment
W.O.II J. D. Francis	... ...	... ,, 18th Regiment
W.O.II G. W. Boscomworth	... ...	... ,, 16th Regiment
Staff Sergeant R. Weir	... ...	,, 3rd Regiment
Staff Sergeant R. Campbell	... ...	,, 13th Regiment
Staff Sergeant R. Conway	... ...	,, H.Q., ArSE
Staff Sergeant E. M. Short	... ...	,, 18th Regiment
Staff Sergeant K. Crosbie	... ...	,, 20th Regiment
Staff Sergeant K. S. Pemberton	...	,, School of Signals (Courses)
Staff Sergeant J. C. Willis	... ...	,, School of Signals (Courses)
Staff Sergeant R. Stringer	... ...	,, School of Signals (Courses)
Staff Sergeant G. Shakeshaft	... ...	,, School of Signals (Courses)
Staff Sergeant A. R. Jarratt	... ...	,, School of Signals (Courses)
Staff Sergeant D. I. Tombs	... ...	,, School of Signals (Courses)
Staff Sergeant R. Weighell	... ...	,, School of Signals (Courses)
Staff Sergeant A. Leach	... ...	,, School of Signals (Courses)
Staff Sergeant D. Spear	... ...	,, 237 Squadron
Staff Sergeant D. Timson	... ...	,, 4th Regiment
Staff Sergeant R. A. C. Drake	... ...	,, 11th Regiment
Staff Sergeant E. Platt	... ...	,, H.Q., Royal Signals, Hong Kong.
Staff Sergeant A. W. Bird	... ...	,, Junior Leaders Regiment
Staff Sergeant A. Morris	... ...	,, 43rd Regiment
Staff Sergeant H. E. White	... ...	,, 9th Regiment
Staff Sergeant R. C. Shaw	... ...	,, 24th Regiment
Staff Sergeant L. J. McGuinness	... ...	,, 30th Regiment
Staff Sergeant A. Morris	... ...	,, Junior Leaders Regiment
Staff Sergeant A. W. Pugh	... ...	,, 8th Regiment
Staff Sergeant R. F. Telford	... ...	,, U.K. GRN Troop
Staff Sergeant J. G. Stanley	... ...	,, 200 Squadron
Staff Sergeant C. A. Smith	... ...	,, 208 Squadron
Staff Seregant K. A. Francis	... ...	,, 210 Squadron
Staff Sergeant C. D. Hawkes	... ...	,, 601 Troop
Acting Staff Sergeant R. A. McKay	...	,, 229 Squadron
Acting Staff Sergeant R. J. Judge	...	,, 8th Regiment
Acting Staff Sergeant D. Jackson	...	,, 28th Regiment
Acting Staff Sergeant J. C. Kirton	...	,, 629 Troop
Sergeant R. Cobb	... ...	,, 19th Regiment
Sergeant G. K. Wardill	... ...	,, 28th Regiment
Sergeant W. S. Rowland	... ...	,, School of Signals (Courses)
Sergeant A. J. Cook	... ...	,, School of Signals (Courses)
Sergeant M. C. Foulds	... ...	,, School of Signals (Courses)
Sergeant B. T. O'Connor	... ...	,, School of Signals (Courses)
Sergeant J. Morris	... ...	,, School of Signals (Courses)
Sergeant D. W. Evans	... ...	,, School of Signals (Courses)
Sergeant C. A. Thompson	... ...	,, School of Signals (Courses)
Sergeant J. P. Steeples	... ...	,, School of Signals (Courses)
Sergeant F. W. Wilson	... ...	,, School of Signals (Courses)
Sergeant R. Goodman	... ...	,, School of Signals (Courses)
Sergeant A. G. M. Buckland	... ...	,, School of Signals (Courses)
Sergeant R. Morris	... ...	,, School of Signals (Courses)
Sergeant J. Edgington	... ...	,, School of Signals (Courses)
Acting Sergeant G. Geldard	...	,, School of Signals (Courses)
Sergeant D. N. Curtis	... ...	,, 19th Regiment
Sergeant R. J. Wortley	... ...	,, 228 Squadron
Sergeant J. Clark	... ...	,, Sierra Leone Military Forces
Sergeant R. Aldous	... ...	,, 19th Regiment
Sergeant J. M. Ward	... ...	,, 8th Regiment
Sergeant A. G. Curtis	... ...	,, 18th Regiment
Sergeant A. Murray	... ...	,, 245 Squadron
Sergeant L. Walters	... ...	,, Gurkha Regiment
Sergeant T. J. M. Peters	... ...	,, Gurkha Regiment
Sergeant D. Mackay	... ...	,, 235 Squadron
Sergeant E. P. Close	... ...	,, 11th Regiment
Sergeant A. Leitch	... ...	,, 11th Regiment
Sergeant P. Donnelly	... ...	,, 245 Squadron
Sergeant P. W. F. Shirley	... ...	,, 210 Squadron
Sergeant T. M. Cannings	... ...	,, 15th Regiment
Sergeant R. Cockcroft	... ...	,, 15th Regiment
Sergeant C. A. Smith	... ...	,, 210 Squadron
Sergeant G. H. Wright	... ...	,, Special Recce Squadron, R.A.C.
Sergeant R. E. W. Growns	... ...	,, 4th Regiment
Sergeant P. B. Wymbs	... ...	,, 2nd Regiment
Acting Sergeant R. C. Breese	...	,, R.M.A., Sandhurst
Sergeant C. V. Forth	... ...	,, 76 Squadron, R.A.S.C.
Sergeant A. J. Playford	... ...	,, 208 Squadron
Sergeant R. W. Henson	... ...	,, 13th Regiment
Acting Sergeant E. Rapson	... ...	,, 254 Squadron
Sergeant R. L. Clarence	... ...	,, 24th Regiment
Sergeant W. M. Chalmers	... ...	,, A.A.S., Harrogate
Sergeant J. T. Driver	... ...	,, 13th Regiment
Sergeant P. R. Uttridge	... ...	,, Junior Tradesmen Regt., Rhyl
Sergeant T. E. B. Cran	... ...	,, Selection of Personnel Staff
Sergeant W. C. Mitchell	... ...	,, 239 Squadron
Sergeant W. Smith	... ...	,, 236 Squadron
Sergeant J. Hughes	... ...	,, 252 Squadron
Sergeant D. W. R. Monteith	... ...	,, 541 Ordnance Depot
Sergeant K. Ruddy	... ...	,, 609 Troop
Sergeant S. Nelson	... ...	,, 21st Regiment
Sergeant H. E. White	... ...	,, 9th Regiment
Sergeant S. C. Gibney	... ...	,, School of Signals
Sergeant R. H. Marchant	... ...	,, 30th Regiment
Sergeant J. Donaghy	... ...	,, 11th Regiment
Sergeant J. W. Horne	... ...	,, School of Signals
Sergeant P. R. Hardman	... ...	,, 238 Squadron
Sergeant E. H. Holland	... ...	,, 237 Squadron

Births

205 Squadron

MOORE.—To Corporal and Mrs. Moore, a son, on 16th April, 1962, at B.M.H., Iserlohn.

242 Squadron

GALE.—To W.O.II and Mrs. P. W. Gale, on 28th March, 1962, a daughter, Linda Celia, at the Royal Simpson Memorial Maternity Pavilion, Edinburgh.

16th Regiment

BARTLETT.—To Corporal and Mrs. Bartlett, on 21st April, 1962, a daughter, Catherine Dorothy.

BELL.—To Staff Sergeant and Mrs. K. Bell, on 15th March, 1962, a son, Ian.

BROWN.—To Sergeant and Mrs. H. Brown, on 14th April, 1962, a son, Alexander.

FISHER.—To Staff Sergeant and Mrs. B. Fisher, on 23rd April, 1962, a son, Robert Adrian.

HODGSON.—To Corporal and Mrs. P. Hodgson, on 29th April, 1962, a son, David Joseph.

WATKINSON.—To Corporal and Mrs. J. C. Watkinson, on 7th March, 1962, a son, John Andrew.

BOAST.—To Captain and Mrs. T. G. Boast, on 12th March, 1962, a son, Gregory John.

HAIGH.—To W.O.I (S.C.) and Mrs. P. Haigh, a daughter, Jane Kathleen, at Chester on 9th May, 1962.

Marriages

JENKINSON—COOKE.—Private K. P. Jenkinson, A.C.C., to Janet Irene Cooke, at the Primrose Hill Congregational Church, Northampton, on 23rd April, 1962.

Deaths

WATSON.—22522806, Lance-Corporal J. A. Watson, on 7th April, 1962, in U.K.

LOCK.—22569066, Corporal D. R. F. Lock, on 20th April, 1962, in U.K.

WRIGHT.—On 5th May, 1962, in Hong Kong, Captain D. G. Wright, Royal Signals, as the result of an accident. First commissioned 9/2/51.

DEEDES.—On 4th May, 1962, Brigadier J. G. Deedes, C.M.C., O.B.E., at Bulawayo, Southern Rhodesia. R.E. Signals T.F. 1914-18. Member Royal Signals Association.

WILSON.—On 6th May, 1962, 19037982, Corporal G. W. Wilson, at B.A.O.R., as the result of motor accident.

COCKBILL.—On 23rd April, S. J. Cockbill, M.B.E., at his home in Welwyn Garden City. Ex-R.Q.S.M., 1937-1945. Annual Member of London Braneh.

Four Brigadiers in one Troop Ship

On 29th April, Brigadiers C. H. Stoneley, O.B.E., A.D.C., P. E. M. Bradley, D.S.O., O.B.E., and F. J. Swainson, O.B.E., stepped aboard s.s. *Navasa* in Singapore to welcome Brigadier R. H. E. Robinson, O.B.E., E.R.D., as C.S.O. Designate to FARELF.

Hockey

Colonel J. E. S. Sanders, O.B.E., M.A., A.M.I.E.E., who is a master at Welbeck College and before he retired was President of Corps hockey, was appointed to umpire during 1961/2 and also umpire the international trial—the East versus an English XI played at St. Albans on 20th January, 1962.

Wants and Offers

Wanted by 45th (Essex) Regiment (T.A.), Signals House, Selsdon Road, Wanstead, E.11, a "Solar Topee" and a "Bombay Bowler." These are required for recruiting demonstrations.

Prints of "Menin Gate" and "Through." 22nd Regiment wishes to purchase copies of either of these well known prints. If you know of any possible source of supply please write to 22nd Regiment, B.F.P.O. 16, and give details.

PORTWAY GUEST HOUSE, Curry Rivel, Langport, Somerset. Telephone Langport 225. Proprietors, Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Partridge. Every comfort, good touring centre, good food, terms moderate.

Forthcoming Events

Aldershot Tattoo

In place of the Aldershot Tattoo, "The Modern Army" will be at home to the public on Queen's Parade, Aldershot, on the afternoons of 16th and 17th June, 1962. Apply to Aldershot District, Steeles Road, Aldershot.

Corps Week-end and Association Reunion and Annual General Meeting

will be held at Catterick on 7th/8th July, 1962.

Royal Tournament

Earls Court, London, 11th-28th July, 1962.

Royal Signals Institution Lectures, 1962

*Friday, 28th September, "New Zealand," Brigadier J. E. Anderson, 6.15 p.m., at the T.A. Centre, 47th Regiment, T.A., Duke of York's Headquarters, Chelsea, S.W.3.

Tuesday, 27th November, "Training of American Cadets at West Point," Second-Lieutenant Paul L. Miles, Jnr., U.S. Army, 5.15 p.m., at North Hall, Training Brigade, Royal Signals, Catterick Camp, Yorks.

* Members are allowed two guests for these lectures.

Indian Army Reunion, 1962

The 1962 Reunion will be held at Hurlingham Club on Friday, 29th June at 3.30 p.m. Tickets 9/- per head. Hon. Secretary, Brigadier A. J. M. Wilton, O.B.E., The Cottage, 30, Thames Street, Sunbury-on-Thames.

Association of Harrogate Apprentices

The 10th Annual General Meeting and Reunion is to be held on Tuesday, 31st July, and Wednesday, 1st August, 1962, at the Army Apprentices School, Harrogate. The provisional programme is: August 1st, a.m., Graduation Parade; 14.00 hours, Trades Exhibition; 20.00 hours, Social Evening. All ex-A/T's who are members, are cordially invited to attend. Requests for accommodation should be addressed to the Commandant, Army Apprentices School, Harrogate, to arrive before 1st July, 1962.

Royal Signals Cricket Club Fixtures

June 16th/17th	R.E.	Aldershot
July 11th/12th	R.A.O.C.	Bramley
July 13th/14th	R.M.	Eastney
Sept. 6th/7th	R.A.C.	Oval

The Wyvern Club

The Annual Dinner for members will be held in the Naval and Military Club, London, on 3rd October, at 7.30 p.m. for 8 p.m. Tickets and information from the Secretary, The Wyvern Dinner Club, Headquarters 43 (WX) Div./District, Sherford Camp, Taunton, Somerset.

Royal Signals Display Team

June 19th—21st	Edinburgh.
June 23rd	Holmfirth.
July 7th	Catterick.
July 11th—28th	Royal Tournament.
August 1st	Nantwich.
August 6th	Horncastle.
August 18th	Darlington—Darlington Show.
September 1st	Haltwhistle—Agricultural Show.

Recruiting Displays—June-September, 1962

June 23rd	R.A.F.A., Filton.
June 27th	Nelson Haden School Day.
June 30th	Christchurch and Highcliffe Tattoo.
July 11th-28th	Royal Tournament, Earls Court (subject to confirmation).
August 6th-8th	Southsea Fete.
August 15th	Poole Hospital Fete.
August 25th	Hambledon Flower Show.
August 29th	Gillingham and Shaftesbury Show.
Sept. 2nd-9th	Plymouth Army Week.
Sept. 10th-15th	Swindon Carnival.
Sept. 26th	Frome Show.

BAND ENGAGEMENTS

Touring Band

June 17th-23rd	Victoria Embankment
June 24th-29th	30th Regiment, Blandford
July 19th-21st	Oban
July 22nd	Kirkcaldy
July 23rd-28th	Dunfermline
July 29th	Kirkcaldy
August 6th-11th	1st Royal Sussex Regiment, Shorncliffe
August 12th-18th	Folkestone
August 19th-25th	Edinburgh
Sept. 30th-Oct. 7th	Eastbourne

Non-Touring Band

June 21st	Leeds
August 5th	Liverpool
August 17th-18th	Edinburgh
September 6th	The Oval

Forthcoming Events—Continued

"Quicksilver," 1962

June 17th-20th ... ... Glasgow
June 21st-25th ... ... Glasgow—Paisley Road

Army Benevolent Fund

A concert in aid of the Army Benevolent Fund will be held at the Royal Albert Hall on Sunday, 24th June, 1962, at 7.30 p.m.

Brigadier Leslie Wieler is organising the concert, and the following have agreed to take part. The Kneller Hall Band of the Royal Military School of Music and the Orchestra of the Royal Opera House (a total of approximately 320 musicians). The soloists will be Harry Secombe (tenor) and Ian Wallace (baritone). Eric Robinson, of B.B.C. fame, will be the Guest Conductor, supported by Lieutenant-Colonel Brown, Director of Music Kneller Hall.

As in the case of the Royal Performance last November, all leading personalities taking part in the concert served in the Army in World War II.

The Army Art Society

Patron: H.R.H. Princess Marina, Duchess of Kent.

The Society, which exists to encourage Art in the Army and sister Services, is holding its 31st Exhibition from 5th-12th September, 1962, at the Chenil Galleries, King's Road, Chelsea, S.W.3.

All ranks of the Army, Royal Navy and 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, W. A. Arnold, 4, West Drive Gardens, Harrow Weald, Middlesex.

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3rd Divisional Regiment

Reunion Dinner

Some seventy odd members of the 3rd Divisional Signal Regiment Reunion Club gathered at the Victory Ex-Services Club, Seymour Street, London, W.C.2, on Saturday, March 31, for their eleventh annual reunion dinner. The customary A.G.M. preceded dinner when the Secretary and Treasurer gave their reports; the latter showed the Club as being in a healthy financial position. Serving officers and committee were re-elected en bloc and Major K. N. Smartt gave details of his inquiries regarding a club tie; alternative patterns were displayed and the final selection, "Jimmy" and the Divisional sign on a blue background, was ultimately decided by vote. Major P. Wheeler gave some advance news of a possible trip to the Normandy invasion beaches and explained that the committee would make enquiries with a view to a trip, which might include wives, being arranged during the summer of 1964.

The Club's President, Major-General R. F. B. Naylor, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., presided at the dinner which followed. The Guest of Honour this year was Lieutenant-Colonel S. A. W. Philcox, T.D., who as many will remember took over command of the Unit during the hectic days immediately before the Dunkirk evacuation and, as the Club's first Chairman, contributed largely to its formation in 1952.

Following dinner the President, on behalf of the Club, presented Colonel Philcox with a tankard appropriately inscribed as a memento of the occasion and in doing so expressed the very real affection in which Colonel Philcox is held by all those who served with the Unit during his period of command. The President also welcomed the Signal Officer-in-Chief, Major-General A. M. W. Whistler, who in spite of protests that he was present as a member of the Club and hoped for a quiet evening, was brought to his feet for a few words. In proposing the toast to the Regiment, General Naylor warmly welcomed the present, C.O., Lieutenant-Colonel T. W. Baynes, and other serving representatives present and, in his response, Colonel Baynes gave a lively and interesting account of the Regiment's present role and activities during the past year. It was good to see present for the first time one or two of the old L.A.D. boys, particularly ex-Sergeant McCulloch who, in order to be present, motored all the way down from Perth during the previous night.

Dinner and speeches over, the company ever true to form, gathered round the bar and as the evening passed memories revived and old times recalled. Eleven o'clock came all too soon and with it another successful and very happy reunion came to a close.

3rd Divisional Regiment Reunion Club Annual Dinner, March 31st, 1962. The President Major-General R. F. B. Haylor, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C. and Guest of Honour Lieutenant-Colonel S. A. W. Philcox, T.D.

ARTICLES OF GENERAL INTEREST

Contrast and Comparison

By L.R.O. A. Knight, R.N.

At 08.30 hours on 4th February, 249 Squadron left Meiktila Barracks on Singapore Island for Tarendak Camp which is just outside Malacca and approximately 170 miles from Singapore. They were about to take part in Exercise "Hope Angel" which was designed primarily to exercise the communications personnel in preparation for a larger exercise which was to start about ten days later. Travelling with the 1st Detachment of the Squadron, and enjoying the colourful scenery, was a Royal Naval L.R.O. (Leading Radio Operator). The Communications Officer on board H.M.S. *Centaur* had been approached by the Signal Officer of 249 Squadron who had asked if two R.N. operators could be borrowed for Exercise "Hope Angel." The outcome of this was that myself and a Radio Supervisor had been volunteered, transported to Meiktila Barracks and piled into two jeeps.

We arrived at Tarendak Camp at 17 00 and after an Army supper of chicken, we spent a leisurely hour or two in the camp canteen and then turned in for the night. Next morning brought a rude awakening but a pleasant drive to the artillery range at the foot of Mount Ophir which was to be the exercise area. Corporal Holdsworth, who was in charge of Detachment 1 and had taken part in one of the few successful assaults on this mountain, calmly informed me that we would be very comfortable once we were established. I learned quite a lot about making oneself comfortable in the Malayan bush during the five days of the exercise, but I can not understand how anyone, however primitive, could describe our living conditions as comfortable.

The setting up of the various Tentacles and their associated equipment was a fascinating sight, and one very strange to the Navy, as were many other things that we saw during the exercise. The Army practice of cutting aerials to length for a specific wavelength was something that I have only seen done once in the Navy. Theoretically, an aerial that is cut for a specific frequency gives better reception and reduces the power loss in the aerial. This also dispenses with the aerial tuning coil in the transmitter as the aerial's length does not have to be adjusted electronically. The main transmitters used by 249 had an aerial tuning coil fitted but this I understand was only used in conjunction with the whip aerials mounted on top of the jeeps. As an aerial coil was already fitted, I should have thought that it would have been just as effective and far more efficient to use a length of wire for the aerial and match the aerial to the transmitter by using the inductance coil. We in the Navy use a whip or wire aerial and match it with the transmitter by using an inductance coil and a selection of fixed capacitors. This seems to work quite well. The mobile units of 249 Squadron can be likened, to some extent at least, to a ship. The difference being that 249 may one day be caught with their aerials down! I hope this does not cause any ill feeling as it is not meant as a criticism, but as a comparison of methods employed.

The transmitters used by 249 were also rather bulky in comparison with some Naval transmitters of similar standards. We have at least two transmitters of similar power output, supply requirements and with a higher frequency range. They are much smaller and more compact than 249's and also much lighter. As weight is of such great importance to a Squadron such as 249, these transmitters would at first glance seem ideal. The modifications that they would require for them to be of use to 249 however, may be so numerous that they would be of little use. They would have to be able to take a great deal of rough riding, as I found out, but on the other hand, they would leave more space for other equipment if they could be easily adapted.

Many differences were noticed in the procedure and operating signals that were used during the exercise. As the Navy is now developing and extending its amphibious operations and is taking greater interest in ground support techniques, these differences should be hunted out and, where possible, standardised in order to facilitate greater speed in handling signals. This could be of major importance to all three Services, not to mention N.A.T.O. The confusion that sometimes occurs on a R.N./Army circuit is due mainly to slight differences in technique, procedure and in the different use of operating signals. I noticed that 'QTC,' meaning—I have a telegram for you—was used to indicate that a station has a message for transmission, while the Navy use 'QTC' to indicate a commercial telegram—as opposed to an official message. The operating signal 'ZBO,' meaning—I have a message for you—is used in the Navy to indicate an official message. After using it on one of the nets in use, I discovered that it was not immediately recognised. After discussing this with Corporal Holdsworth and one or two other Signalmen, quite a few differences in the use of operating signals were noticed. This is probably due to the different interpretations put on them by the Services. Whilst the operators usually have a copy of these operating signals handy, it must be remembered that if they are used to any great extent on a circuit, and the operators are not familiar with them, delays must invariably occur.

The procedure used in the Army to ask for a repetition of a portion of a message also seems to differ greatly from the Navy's procedure. No doubt the R.A.F. have similar difficulties. This causes a great deal of delay in receipting for a signal and is one of the major sources of delay on inter-Service circuits and in some instances could result in loss of life. A number of ways to overcome this problem present themselves. Bearing in mind that we are a member of N.A.T.O., the procedures of all three Services could be standardised to conform with N.A.T.O. requirements. This has already been done in some instances and is still going on, but it would undoubtedly cause a certain amount of confusion if introduced suddenly, therefore it has to be a fairly gentle transition which incorporates both old and new techniques at some stage. Another method would be to exchange personnel for short periods, during exercises for example, and let the operators man their own circuits. This also presents difficulties but it would enable the operators to understand the difficulties and differences involved at both ends of the circuit. This would also give operators valuable experience in working with different equipment and with the procedures used by all three Services.

I personally learned a great deal about the equipment used, the men using it and the difficulties involved in Army communications. I also have a fair idea of what happens when a Brigade H.Q. is set up and the vast amount of planning involved. I would like to repeat my visit to the Army Signal Corps and go into the general organisation more fully, as my short stay did not allow for any detailed study. Operators of all three Services would benefit greatly from a better knowledge of methods and equipment used in the Services, but whether this is a practical idea or not is not for me to say.

Finally, I would like to thank the officers and men of 249 Squadron for their patience in dealing with our incessant questioning and wanderings throughout the exercise, and for their hospitality afterwards.

Note: H.M.S. *Centaur* recently took part in Exercise "Meniscus III" which was held off the North African coast and involved the 1st Royal Scots and 3 Troop, Royal Artillery. At the wash-up on completion of the exercise, the Chief Radio Supervisor (equivalent to a Staff Sergeant) of H.M.S. *Centaur* commented on the high standard of operating shown by the Army operators and jokingly asked if they had borrowed Naval operators for the exercise. The Army Signal Officer gave his answer in a more serious voice. Strangely enough, it was 'Yes'!

Music in Krefeld

A soldier writes of his hobby

By Corporal E. E. Clarke, 16th Regiment

For the past 2½ years I have had the good fortune to be in a station which gives me ample scope for my hobby, which is a great passion for opera and classical music.

I refer of course to Germany, birthplace of some of the greatest composers the world has ever known.

Unlike the United Kingdom, where lovers of serious music are in a very small minority, Germany has a large percentage of her population who prefer **Puccini** to Presley and Beethoven

to Bilk. Nor is this percentage confined to adult "squares." A visit to any Opera or Symphony Concert will show a large number of young people between the ages of 12 and 25, an age group which in England seems to confine itself to "Pops."

Every town worthy of the name in Germany has its own Town Orchestra whilst most of the larger towns also possess an Opera House or large theatre. Even small villages have a small hall which can be used for quartets or small Chamber Orchestras. The densely populated Rhine and Ruhr areas contain many fine orchestras and Opera Houses and I would like to take Krefeld as an example. This silk and satin weaving centre of Germany, to give the guide book name, boasts both Concert Hall and Opera House. The hall seats about 800 people and is usually full to capacity for every performance. It is used for everything from piano recitals by well known concert pianists to 150-strong choir concerts.

The Opera House or Stadttheatre, also held about 800 people until it closed in March. Not, as you may imagine, through lack of support, but in order that it could be enlarged to about double its present capacity! At a time when, in England, we have cinemas closing down every week, such is the support for serious music in Krefeld, that the Directors of the Opera House are spending somewhere in the region of one million Deutsch marks to give more people the seats they demand. At the same time, do not think that this money has been obtained by charging exorbitant prices far beyond the reach of the average wage earner. Seats in the Opera House range from 3s. 6d. to 14s. 6d. This is about the price one would pay for seats in a good cinema in England or for tickets to a First Division football match, something which thousands of people do for 42 weeks in the year.

Although, as I have mentioned before, Germany has produced composers such as Beethoven, Mozart and Weber, they do not concentrate on the works of these composers but cater for every taste by playing works by every well known composer.

The Opera Company here in Krefeld is not very large, the choir being usually in the region of 35 to 40, but at nearby Duisburg, however, at a performance of Verdi's "Aida," I counted over 150 in the choir. This beautiful Opera House is on the same circuit as the world-famous Dusseldorf Opera House and consequently features stars of the German radio in the superb performances which are given there, and among my favourite records is one of "Aida," featuring two world-famous stars and conducted by the same person whom I saw conducting the same Opera in Duisburg.

The Krefeld Symphony Orchestra has the reputation of being the finest town orchestra in Germany and it certainly lives up to its name. Concerts, which are given every month, usually consist of a work by one of the Old Masters and one or two by one of the modern classical composers. The versatility of this orchestra under the direction of their Director of Music, Romanus Hurbertus, is really fantastic. They bridge the gap between a Beethoven Symphony and the extremely modern *Roman Festival* by Resphigi, with no effort whatsover.

This then, is a glimpse of another facet of life in Germany. One which will not appeal to all members of H.M. Forces, but for those who like classical music, this posting offers an invaluable opportunity to see and hear the finest music in the world and I am sure that if more people who profess to detest classical music were to take this opportunity to really listen to it, they would enjoy it. I have myself proved this on two occasions. After playing Tchaikovsky's 1812 Overture several times the first few days I had it, I was amazed to come in one day and find a fervent "Pop" fan, who had previously derided me for listening to that "tripe," listening to the record with obvious enjoyment. The same sort of thing occurred with Ravel's Bolero in another barracks. When asked why they were playing these records, their reply was the same on both occasions. They had got to know the basic melodies and had consequently enjoyed them more and more each time they had heard it.

These replies lead me to the theory that if Disc Jockeys would play a piece of classical music every day as they do a "pop" tune, then that record would become as well known as any in the "Top Twenty." After all, what is a "pop" song? Something which is drummed into the minds of people who are too lazy to think about the music they hear. A simple melody and a repetitive text are made to order for an idle mind.

I can enjoy "pops" and jazz as well as the next person but my pet hate is the person who ridicules good music when he or she has never tried to listen to it and understand it. You see, it is the easy way out to say one does not like it when one is too lazy to think about it.

A Holiday Tour in the Far East

By W.O.I (F. of S.) I. Gent

Part I — Hong Kong Holiday

Asian Travel Service Ltd., in Battery Road, made my outgoing sea and open ticket air return bookings. The afternoon of 13th February saw me embarking on the P. & O. liner S.S. *Cathay*, bound for Hong Kong. The accommodation and all amenities left nothing to be desired, and the cuisine was absolutely superb. The variety to choose from was really staggering.

Being at the Purser's table, I was in a position to be up to date with the news, as well as to satisfy my curiosity about any of my fellow passengers. The most notable amongst these was the Sultan of Selangor and his entourage; the most interesting was a blonde nurse.

The time passed quickly enough, reading, writing, sunbathing, playing at deck quoits with the blonde nurse, tombola, going to the pictures, dancing, and, of course, just chatting away with the blonde nurse; it was a very pleasant journey. The only upset was when gale-force winds at one stage decimated the attendance in the dining room for a few meals.

On Saturday morning we steamed into Hong Kong harbour and berthed at Kowloon. Although I had not been to Hong Kong before, I had seen it on films and postcards. I was very surprised to identify it on the left instead of my right-hand side as we came steaming in. The mystery was solved when I found out that the southern entrance was a bit tricky and, in fact, we were entering from the north. In Kowloon are the majority of the large hotels, restaurants and night clubs. It is a far larger shopping centre than the island; frequent ferries connect the two places.

There are a number of places of interest for the visitor, once he has had his fill of the shops. Repulse Bay, on the south side of the island, is a very popular swimming resort, with a vast expanse of beach and a lido.

Near the eastern tip of the island is one of its best bathing beaches. There is an 18-hole golf course nearby, or visitors may become temporary members of the Royal Hong Kong Golf Club, which has a 9-hole course at Deepwater Bay.

Happy Valley contains most of the Colony's recreation grounds and the racecourse, which holds meetings approximately once a fortnight.

The Peak Tram, which was built in 1888, carries you up 1,800 feet to the top of Victoria Peak on the island, and is well worth the somewhat terrifying ride for the magnificent view.

The floating fish restaurants at Aberdeen are a definite *must* for any visitor. The amount of time and skilled handicraft taken to produce the elaborately-carved restaurants has to be seen to be appreciated. Fresh fish, crabs and crayfish of many varieties are kept alive in tanks and large wickerwork baskets at the rear of each restaurant, so that you can select your meal on the spot and be sure that it is really fresh. This is possibly not appreciated too much by the squeamish.

Only when one has once seen the vast areas of floating junks at Yaumati, it is possible to appreciate that some people live their lives without once having set foot on dry land. Even cats and dogs seem to accept their water-borne life. Vendors ply their heaped sampans from junk to junk, supplying the inhabitants with their needs, and yet others take the children to the school house junk, or the sick to the floating hospital. In every sense, it is a real floating city.

No visit is complete without a trip into the New Territories, where agriculture is being carried out in the traditional ways that have lasted through the centuries. Also to be seen are the old, square, brickwalled, moated villages, with watch towers at each corner, that are relics of centuries long since past, when these defences were necessary. Nowadays cement paths and water stand pipes are being provided on a self-help basis to improve the lot of the villagers, and the moats are used for keeping ducks and growing lotuses.

252 Squadron is on Hong Kong. 253 Squadron is in Kowloon, and there is a 19 Air Formation Signals Detachment with the R.A.F. at Kai Tak. I visited all three and renewed a number of old acquaintances. I was invited by 253 Squadron to stay in the Mess and save on hotel bills. I was very pleased to accept this welcome offer.

The O.C., Major McKinnon, said I was their first visitor. He was very helpful and most hospitable during my stay. When the time came to say thank-you and farewell, he told me to tell anyone in the Corps, in Singapore, that he and his Squadron would be very pleased to meet any visitors who called in to see them. It was a most generous, heart-warming and open invitation.

Hong Kong is the stepping-off place for the Portuguese colony, Macau, for which a visa has to be purchased from the Portuguese Consulate. Unfortunately, with so much to see and so many invitations to accept, I did not find time to sample its 24-hour gambling and other intriguing possibilies.

I definitely recommend Hong Kong and Kowloon to anyone who has the chance to visit it. Many things there, especially luxury goods, are cheaper than in Singapore. But be warned, that with such a vast and tempting display, you will find that you need a deep, deep pocket!

Locust Control

By W.O.II J. H. Coleman

A week after our last exercise of the year, the Scouts received a plea for aid from the Locust Control. One would hardly think that there would be locusts in a desert, but there are, in great profusion, which we learnt almost immediately.

Six Land Rovers, with B.O.R's and A.O.R.s, took off "up country to Dig Dugga. All ignorant and eager, we disappeared in a cloud of sand, determined to wipe out every locust in the Trucial States. Arriving at Dig Dugga, which is an agricultural station, we were met by Mr. Tillen, who has spent the last 20 years in every centre in the Middle East on locust control.

After staying the night, we moved to the field camp, where we had our first view of the enemy; disappointed by their size (¼in. long) but awed by their numbers (they appeared endless) we set about destroying them. This is done by dusting the whole of the area with a mixture of Gamaxine and sand; the effect of this is immediate, and had we collected the carcasses of the first lot they would have filled a three-tonner.

Flushed from the first victory, we returned to camp, reloaded with Gamaxine and moved off north, east and west, finding and destroying these "hopper bands" as they are called. At last light we were still finding them, but had to call a halt until next morning.

The camp that night was a weary one, but a happy one. While the Arabs sat around the camp fire singing (can one call it singing?) Mr. Tillen and the B.O.R.s sat drinking tea and discussing the campaign. It seemed that if we could destroy these locusts whilst they are still young and in groups, that is during the first three weeks of their lives, we would win the battle. We had a tremendous area to cover, approximately 120 square miles, and even in that first day we had seen more than we thought could possibly exist, in the solitary square mile or so that we had covered. After three weeks, if not halted, the locusts gather in huge bands and eat everything in their path. At that stage aerial spraying would be the only way to stop them. Therefore, we had to make every effort to catch them in the first three weeks. The next day we went back to Sharjah for more vehicles and "bodies." When they arrived, we went into the same routine, out of camp, into the dunes, see, stop, spray, remount and on again.

The female locust which laid the eggs from which these hoppers were hatching, always seem to choose the top of the highest sand dunes, where one could only take the Rover to the base, clamber up, sliding back six inches at every pace, only to find, having dusted all the way up that there were hoppers on that side, too.

Mr. Tillen, to save us taking time out to cook, hired a cook; this misguided individual produced gallons of tea, at all times of the day and night. Curry and rice for lunch and curry and rice for dinner. After three days of this, we decided that we would have a U.K.-type of meal for a change, and gave him simple instructions as to opening three tins of Scotch broth and one tin of potatoes, to chop up the potatoes and put all into a large cooking pot, heat it up and serve. He came staggering into the circle with the inevitable large tray bearing bowls, plates and spoons. Yes, he had curried the lot!

We moved camp the fourth day to a new area about forty miles away; there we were joined by a further five Land Rovers and ten B.O.R.s from Signal Squadron. They, too, were shown what the locust looked like, and how to dust them, etc., and they started their second day all aches and pains, as we had done.

The operation now continued at a much faster rate, with ten Land Rovers dashing in and out of camp, up the dunes, exterminating locusts for miles around.

Travellers on camel would arrive at our camp at all times of the day and night and shout to our Bedouin workers that they heard all about these mad Englishmen who were killing "dibba" (hoppers) even in places a hundred miles or more away, they couldn't quite understand why we didn't leave them until they were big enough to eat, then everyone could have a real feast. "But what about grazing?" "Oh, Allah will provide." "What about the people in the watered plains who are gardeners, and a plague of locusts would leave destitute and starving?" "They are not Bedu, so why worry?" They may not have the expression "Jack and the Lifeboat," but the attitude is there.

The operation finally wound up after Christmas in the field, all having enjoyed it. Quite an experience. Not one that comes in the normal run of soldiering, but then, the Trucial Oman Scouts are not normal soldiers. We do not do the usual things in the Scouts, and its not a usual country we serve in.

Singapore

With the Malaysia Plan very much in the news these days, the spotlight is again turned on Singapore, genetically and climatically truly a melting pot! It may be of interest to some who have never served here to read about the island and its people; and to those who have been here, certain nostalgic memories may be recalled.

Historical

Six thousand years B.C., the ancestors of the Australian aborigine passed through Singapore in their search for new homes. Since then it has come under the influence of the Indian, the Malay, the Javanese, the British and the Chinese.

The name Singapore is derived from two Sanskit words, "Singa Pura." It is recorded that Sang Nila Uttama, a descendant of Alexander the Great, was driven ashore by a storm. On reaching land he saw an animal which he was informed was a lion. He said "If the animals here look so smart and fierce, it would indeed be a good country to found a kingdom." The new kingdom was then named Singapura (the Lion City).

Modern Singapore dates from 1819, when Thomas Stafford Raffles, who was in the service of the East India Company, saw the possibility of turning what was a swampy, malarial island into a great trading centre.

In 1824, the island of Singapore, together with the small islands within ten miles of its coastline (except those in the Straits of Johore) were ceded to the East India Company. In 1836 it was incorporated with Penang and Malacca as the Straits Settlements. In 1869 the Straits Settlements were transferred from the East India Company to the Colonial Office. From 1869 to 1946 Singapore remained a part of the Straits Settlements. In 1946 it was made a Crown Colony, separate from the mainland of Malaya.

Singapore became the self-governing State of Singapore within the Commonwealth of Nations in May, 1959. On all internal matters the State is independent. The defence and external security of the State is the responsibility of the United Kingdom Government. Singapore has raised defence forces of its own in the Malayan Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve, and Malayan Auxiliary Air Force, and the Singapore Military Forces, which include regular battalions, with a number of seconded British Officers and Senior N.C.O.s

Geographical

Situated 85 miles north of the Equator, Singapore lies at the centre of the rich lands of South-East Asia, which now produces rubber and tin, essential to modern industry. The island is diamond-shaped, approximately 26 miles from east to west and 14 miles from north to south, and lies at the tip of the Malay peninsular, to which it is joined by a causeway carrying road and railway.

Vegetables, fruit and tobacco are grown and pigs and poultry kept. Being so near to the Equator, there are no "seasons" as such, and the days are of uniform length. There is a so-called Monsoon season, from November to March, when tropical storms of considerable ferocity are experienced. The damp, warm climate produces luxurious vegetation, and the Chinese vegetable growers, with their skill and hard labours, can produce crops all the year round.

The People

The Malays. Of all the peoples in Singapore, the Malays, recognised by the Constitution as the indigenous people, have been here the longest. It is believed that originally they came from Yunan in China, thousands of years ago. They were settlers left behind from the peoples moving southwards from the heart of Asia to the islands of South-East Asia. They comprise 13% of the population, and their language is the national language of Singapore. By tradition they are an agricultural and fishing people, and are not so prominent in commerce and industry as are the Chinese population. Many wear the traditional dress of songkok and sarong, and they look most colourful when dressed for festive occasions. Westernised dress is, however, gaining ground with all races of Singapore.

The Indians. Indians have been present since the first century, mainly for the purpose of barter and trade. Many more have arrived in recent years and settled on the island, and Indians represent about 8% of the population.

The Chinese. 76% of the total population are Chinese. To Singapore have come Cantonese, Hokkien, Teochew and others, and although many have retained their own dialects and customs, the Chinese national language of Mandarin is becoming more common. The Chinese are to be found in every walk of life, and have a strong influence on island affairs. The educated Chinese, like the Indian, is multi-lingual, and many are extremely wealthy.

Other Races. The remaining 3% of the population includes Europeans and Eurasians, with a sprinkling of many other races.

Religion

The multi-racial population of Singapore includes Buddhists, Christians, Confucianists, Jews, Hindus, Muslims, Parsees, Sikhs, Taoists and Zoroastrians, all of whom have their own places of worship and religious customs. Some of the religious festivals provide a great spectacle, with public parades.

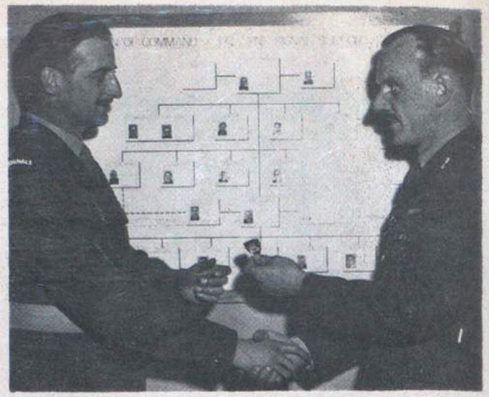
H.Q. ALLIED FORCES NORTHERN EUROPE

Perhaps, somewhere in the ranks of the Royal Corps of Signals, there may be a person who eagerly awaits the arrival of his copy of THE WIRE each month so that he may see what has happened in Oslo since he was here with H.Q. A.F.N.E. Perhaps there are more than one such person. If there are, then we do confess that usually they are disappointed and must lay aside this magazine for yet another month. In April, we were able to put a small pictorial appearance sufficient, we hope, to keep their interests alive, but we do apologise for not appearing more regularly.

There is, however, a pretty good reason for our apparent reticence. Unlike our big brothers (or are they sisters) 227 and 228 Squadrons, we have no life of our own here in Oslo. There is only about a score of us, some of whom work on the staff of H.Q. A.F.N.E. and the rest form part of what is called the Signal Support Element. To give you some idea of the extent of integration in this Unit, which is responsible for the provision for H.Q. A.F.N.E. of all forms of communication including photography and one or two equally unlikely things, we have in our ranks, in strict NATO alphabetical order, Danes, Norwegians, United Kingdomites and United Statesiders. All four nations provide individuals from different Services, Army, Navy and Air Force, which means that we may possibly have up to twelve different types of uniform. When one realises that those uniforms may be filled by male or female occupants and that, in addition to that lot, we have male and female Norwegian civilians, one may begin to realise just what a mixed bag we are.

Accepting the fact that we Royal Signals types fit into such a background and realising that we have clerks who work during the day, communicators who work during the day, communicators who work on shifts and officers who don't work at all, one begins to see that it is almost impossible for us to arrange to get together in the same place at the same time.

Nevertheless, we don't let this get us down. We are pretty happy in our job and consider that we run a pretty good Signals Support set-up. In spite of long winters and short summers, there are not many of us who would volunteer to change places with a person serving in, say, Catterick. We like it here, and



Major C. N. Le Gassick, H.Q.C.O. H.Q.A.F.N.E., hands over to Major D. J. Strong

we will see if we can do something about producing something for future copies of THE WIRE, not regularly every month, but sufficient to show just how much we do like it here, and that we have not forgotten that we might be somewhere else.

We have recently said "goodbye" to Major C. N. le Gassick who, until 22nd March, 1962, was H.Q.C.O. (That stands for Headquarters Communications Officer). The photograph shows him handing over his "badge of office" (not really! It's something that all Warrant Officers and above wear) and his job to his successor, Major D. J. Strong. We wish him and Mrs le Gassick all the very best in their new assignment in Aberdeen, and would remind him that we still expect to receive the promised photograph of le Gassick-in-kilt in the near future.

JUNIOR LEADERS REGIMENT

The Adventurous Term. Summer Term as always bursts upon us and this term was no exception. From the Denbury Calendar we can see that two of our biggest adventures takes place—ten Tors 1962 and Nijmegen Marches. These are the products of several terms' planning, work and training—but more will be said about each of these, individually, later.

One of our new "ventures" was the participation of twelve of the Highland Dancing Club in the South West of England Dancing Festival at Pagnton. By enthusiasm and encouragement our Instructor overcame the natural caution and apprehension of the dancers themselves. The final results were far better than the wildest of hopes could have expected. Corporal

Junior Sergeant Wooley and Junior Lance-Corporal Wellington playing fanfare trumpets at the Exeter Assizes, May, 1962

Polland the Club Leader, who is now of at least Silver Medal standard, received a class Distinction Certificate and a Silver Medal for his performance at the Fling. Four other Junior Leaders received First Class Certificates and awards of merit, and the team dancing on its own and in combination with a young ladies team received altogether four merit certificates. This was not the end for dancers; they go on to compete in the Taunton and Plymouth Army Weeks and the Reading Searchlight Display plus several local charity shows.

Of our Pipe Banners we have written before and this term started with the presentation of another two—this time from the ancient town of Ashburton and from the Newton Abbot Rural District Council. It will surely be a wonderful sight to see our Pipe Band at full strength displaying our royal and seven other banners. On local civic occasion a request for the Band and Pipes is always qualified by "You will ensure that our piper carries our Banner won't you"? This request has been made on several occasions and very recently was made again by the Mayor of Totnes who will welcome Her Majesty the Queen and His Royal Highness, the Duke of Edinburgh in July when they sail up the River Dart to Totnes from Dartmouth Royal Naval College.

Two of our Regimental Fanfare Trumpeters were honoured by being invited to play the civic fanfares at the recent Devonshire assizes at Exeter. The trumpets and banner, unfortunately, were not our own—they were provided by the City of Exeter as they always do for the unit providing the trumpeters be it the Royal Marines or the County Regiment. Comments by professional musicians were most flattering—one of them would not accept that they played as a hobby and not as full time bandsmen—there could be no greater compliment paid to their leader—Drum Major Yates, B.E.M.

Our next contribution will be a detailed report of "Ten Tors 1962," the third year of this "Youth Expedition" sponsored by the Regiment. Over Whitsuntide there will be over 2,000 youths of all ages and sizes in Denbury—the assembly point of the expedition.

The atmosphere over the period has to be experienced to be believed, but once seen the calibre and value of present day youth can never be in doubt.

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Super De-Luxe Caravans for 1st Regiment

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General view of the site

Thursday, 1st March, was an auspicious day for five married members of the Regiment. On that day they became the first occupants of brand-new, British-made, Bluebird caravans.

Of the 200 of these ultra-modern, 30ft. long caravans, ordered by the War Office for use as married quarters in B.A.O.R., five were allotted to 1st Signal Regiment. Their arrival by sea and rail from U.K. was the signal for the start of feverish activitiy at the site selected for them at Cluvental Barracks, Verden, some two miles from the Regiment's home in Caithness Barracks, Verden. The preparation of the site was carried out almost entirely by self help. The site had first to be levelled and cleared of rubble, and then some 350 yards of drainage trench had to be dug, varying in depth from 2ft. 6in. to 7ft. 6in. Each caravan had to be wired for electricity and water supply had to be laid on. Brick pillars were built to support the corner of each caravan, and brick bases made for the steps outside the doors. Next came fire points, paths, and posts for clothes lines.

The vast majority of this work was carried out by the ubiquitous "C" Troop, who toiled long and hard under their Troop Commander, Lieutenant E. W. Penny, quite undeterred by a particularly bitter and miserable winter. To them goes the gratitude of the new occupants, and satisfaction of a most worthwhile job completed in extremely difficult conditions. The picture shows them man-handling a caravan into position in the final stages of the project.

The caravans themselves bear little resemblance to the popular conception of a "towing van" of the type towed by the average medium-sized family car. These are the "super de-luxe" models, which really live up to the description of homes on wheels. Externally, they are attractively finished in pale blue, whilst the interiors are fully and tastefully furnished. The appointments include a double bedroom with fitted wardrobe, bathroom with bath and separate lavatory, kitchen complete with sink unit, refrigerator and electric cooker, and a bright lounge equipped, among other things, with a settee which converts easily into a double bed. French windows from the lounge open on to a pleasant verandah with wrought-iron rails. Curtains, carpets and all furnishings are of modern design, while wall-fitted electric fires in each room and insulated walls keep the caravans snug and warm against the rigours of the North German winter.

The occupants are unanimous in their praises of their new homes, and have settled in quickly.

Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. Woodrow take tea with Signalman and Mrs. Parry

3rd REGIMENT

" Grandstand "

We take this opportunity of bringing to you the news and views of the men of the Strategic Reserve !

Alert. Ever on the Qui Vive, ever on the alert, the Regiment continues its high pressure training in exercises on the verdant green of Salisbury Plain. Exercises " Crossover " and " Panther's Leap " showed a vast improvement in skills and technique. The Regiment is fast identifying itself with its new role and Regimental pride in turnout and our ability to provide communications is increasing with every new day.

Time to Remember. The winter series of exercises in the " Mud " role culminated in Easter Block Leave—a heaven sent relief to relax and recover our essential sense of humour, but not, I may say, until all was made safe and secure.

No Hiding Place. Leave over and Exercise " Recovery " begins. All equipment to be overhauled and set to rights. New ideas to be tried and tested.

The days of recovery are slow and laborious but it must be a job well done. Our future success depends on good organisation and serviceable equipment which will work and continue to work under the stress and strain of active service conditions. It is a time too, for the men who work the machines, to take a breather and look at life in a fresh light.

In the coming year we will be preparing for the " Sand " role but we're very versatile in this Corps of ours, and we will tackle the task as we do all others and no doubt succeed.

Sports Report. Although the Regiment was committed almost continually on exercises we managed our fair share of sport. Two soccer teams were entered in the local leagues and finished the season in creditable positions. We had a crack at the Army Cup and the Divisional Cup and were lucky enough to reach the semi-final of the Salisbury Plain Sub District Cup. Troop teams played on every occasion throughout the season so that everyone was given a chance to play in a game of some kind.

Hockey produced our usual team of enthusiasts and they fought their way through to the final of the District Cup. Not winners but again we had no gladiators and everyone plays their best. The Regiment is not in a position to give regular training to sportsmen but nonetheless if the odd cup came our way we would be very pleased.

Boxing and fencing were included in the programme and all those who took part enjoyed the experience and are looking forward to an even better next season.

The rugby team has been ably supported and participated in some very good games but the queer shaped ball takes a lot of getting used to—maybe the Army will finally become converted, who knows?

Hearty congratulations to Major (Q.M.) Glover on succeeding to bring the Meiktila Yachting Trophy into the Regiment.

Sports Preview. Cricket and tennis has come at last—now for the long warm summer days, or are we being unduly optimistic?

Lieutenant (Q.M.) Harding and S.S.M. Hulse have prepared a very complete fixture list for the Regimental cricket team for the forthcoming season and we are glad to see they have catered, in the troop matches, for those who are more conversant with a " duck " than with a " Tun."

Tennis, squash and golf facilities are available and we will be heading in that direction too in the coming months.

Lieutenant P. T. Jones, the athletics officer, is busily knocking the Regimental team into shape for the 3rd Divisional Championships and later, if they are successful, for the Southern Command Championships. The R.S.M. will be the Chief Recorder on both these meetings, so in either event we will be represented !

Emergency Ward Ten. Our best wishes and hopes for a speedy recovery to Sergeants Oliver and Thorpe who are spending the first of the sunny months in hospital.

Double Your Money. The Wives' Club ran a very successful May fayre in aid of the National Cancer Research Fund. They cleared £60 and were able to send a substantial cheque to the fund—well done.

Although the weather was not altogether all that could be hoped for, the visitors, and the children especially, enjoyed themselves . What more could be asked for than ponies, swings, slides, bran tub, ice cream, side shows, music and Easter Eggs ! For the little older there were stalls—white elephant, handiwork, plants, raffles, toys and books, and tea and refreshments.

MAY FAYRE
Mrs. V. W. Street, Elizabeth McLuckie and Mrs. T. W. Baynes

Mrs. V. W. Street, wife of Major-General V. W. Street, G.M.G., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., was invited to open the fayre, and the small daughter of Lance-Corporal McLuckie very prettily presented her with a bouquet. The committee, Mrs. Baynes, Mrs. Winter, Mrs. Barnes-Murphy, Mrs. McLuckie, Mrs. Page, Mrs. Chapman, Mrs. Bell, and all the ladies worked extremely hard to make the occasion a success and they felt themselves amply rewarded by the fine response to their efforts.

Roving Report. Sergeant Dutton has recently returned to us after five weeks in British Guiana; this gives the Regiment a new territory on its " World Wide Tours."

He now refuses to travel again unless it is by Boeing 707 (1st Class) !

Here Today. During the past weeks we have lost many of our stalwarts to other lucky Regiments and in the near future we will lose quite a few more.

R.Q.M.S. Knight, Staff Sergeant Nallon and Staff Sergeant Lindsell who formed the backbone of the Q department, have recently left us and the Q.M. is speedily training a new staff in the complicated role of the Regiment.

Captain Tonnison, our stalwart of the hockey field and the M.T., has now handed over these harrowing duties to Lieutenant (Q.M.) J. Harding and departs for Singapore very shortly.

Sergeant Andrews and many others are now settling down in new fields. We wish them all the best of luck and hope to see them in the future at the reunion dinners.

The May Fayre White Elephant Stall. Mrs. Wicks and Mrs. Hulse

3rd DIVISION COOKERY COMPETITION
Sergeant Mansfield, Private Edgington, W.O.II Kennedy, Major J. D. Stevenson, D.C.A., Lieutenant Drake (Messing Officer)

New arrivals are too numerous to mention in detail, Lieutenant Lieutenants Mills, Thomas, Second-Lieutenant Doyle, Staff Sergeant Gittins, S.I. Arnold, Sergeant Fuller and so on. We welcome them all and hope they have a happy and profitable stay with the Regiment.

Date with Mystery. Lieutenant Jones, Sergeant Chambers and Lance-Corporal Gordon have joined the ranks of the " happy chosen of Allah." At least that's the impression they give after the brief idyll of the honeymoon, but we know that they will soon be just as we are—tamed and subdued but to all the world, masters of all we survey ! Congratulations on their marriages, may they be very happy.

Beat Your Neighbour. A number of photographs have been produced by our Regimental Photographer and selections are published in this issue. Everyone is not photogenic but our success in the Divisional Cookery must be put on record.

First individual : Corporal Hanson, 3rd Regiment.
Second Team : 3rd Regiment.
A fine tribute to the men who provide the excellent fare we enjoy.

Epilogue. Perhaps these notes are long but we have covered a great deal of ground and your correspondent is literally brain washed—out with the TV Times, up with Armchair Theatre, Close Up and This Week, I can again enjoy the best programme of them all—The Flintstones !

11th REGIMENT (DEPOT)

Last month's notes ended thus: " Spring is in the air at last with the sun shining, buds bursting and real blackbirds burbling merry notes."

For the ensuing three weeks, the Arctic Circle was diverted through Leeming Bar, the blackbirds went all silent and the buds popped back for shelter. During the past week, however, the trees decided to show their leaves and what's more it was almost " shirt-sleeve order."

Excellent weather for a fête held to raise funds for the Royal Signals Benevolent Association and the Oxford Famine Relief. Under the benevolent dictatorship of Major R. O. Wilson everyone rallied round, including the wives, to produce a display of most attractive side-shows. Customers were queuing at some of these for the whole afternoon and an extension of half an hour became necessary.

It was interesting to see our Commonwealth Troops trying out the Bow and Arrow. One would expect a certain amount of skill—possibly through an association of distorted ideas—but they were as inaccurate as our own " NAAFI Cowboys " were with the revolver earlier in the month.

SIX QUARTERMASTER'S PROBLEMS
(Left to right)

	Height	Waist	Weight
Corporal Wright	5' 7½"	48"	18st.
Signalman Austin	6' 5"	44½"	20 st.
Signalman Trotter	5' 0½"	32"	8st. 2lbs.
Signalman Lee (Recruit)	6' 2½"	33"	11st. 7lbs.
Signalman Bams (Recruit)	6' 2½"	35"	11st. 8lbs.
Corporal Perkins	5' 8½"	43"	17st. 7lbs.

Mrs. S. W. Brackenbury, wife of the Commanding Officer drew the prize-winning raffle tickets at the end of the day and presented the prizes.

The success of the proceedings may be judged from the results; over £160 for these worthy causes.

Recruits of the Month. On the pass-off of 11th April, Signalman R. H. Johnson was top recruit. He comes from Falkirk, where he attended the High School and was a member of its A.C.F. He spent the last year at Welbeck and is 19 years of age. Possibly influenced by family associations with the Forces, one grandfather was a Lieutenant-Colonel in the " Sappers," he has always had an urge to join the Army. He is to train as an Electronics Technician.

Signalman R. H. Johnson

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On the 2nd May, the top recruit was Signalman N. N. Medford, from Trinidad. He is 26 years of age and had tried to join earlier but his parents would not consent. He followed up normal schooling by attending a Commercial College for two years where he studied English and gained certificates in shorthand and typing. He has been an electrician and a typewriter mechanic.

One of his teachers showed films on Service life and one on Sandhurst particularly impressed him.

Eventually, by achieving independence and paying his own fare, he came to U.K. and enlisted. He will train as a Teleprinted Operator.

Two grand chaps, good luck to them both.

Signalman N. W. Medford

Sport

Regimental Rifle Meeting. Although, as a Depot we find it very difficult to come across good shots and even more difficult to get them out to practice, a handful of bold warriors led by the C.I. decided it would be a method of " digging out " some desk bound individuals, if we held a Regimental Meeting.

The morning of the 27th April, " D-Day," was cloudy and overcast with a biting wind but it produced a good " shooting light " and by 0940 hours—only ten minutes behind programme time—the meeting got under way.

To round off a very pleasant day the Commanding Officer kindly presented prizes to the winning teams and individuals.

Champion S.L.R. Shot: Sergeant Daniels, 1 Squadron.
Champion Pistol: Major Hutley, 2 and 3 Squadron.
S.L.R. team winners, 1 Squadron: Lieutenant Barnett, Sergeant Daniels, Corporal Wade, Corporal Bayne, Sergeant Jepson, Sergeant Gore.
Falling Plate, 2 Squadron: Captain Stockill, Sergeant Simister, Sergeant Brewer, Corporal Brace.
Pool Bull: Corporal Bayne, Corporal Underwood.

On 6th May, Lieutenant Brown came second in the South Shields harbour race, paddling a K1 racing Kayak in a time of 33 minutes.

Administrative Net. Will overseas Units please send size-rolls of personnel of unusual stature, some three months in advance, to our Quartermaster. You will appreciate the problem if you take a look at the photo of some of our non-standard types. Special sizes may take up to eight weeks to come through from the date of indent.

* * *

Some Units continue to send personnel home late for release—and without their AB 64 Part II. Two men were overdue for release.

* * *

Quite a few W.O.s and S.N.C.O.s are very rusty on current affairs which personally affect them. As examples: Rules governing the issue of railway warrants; the price of THE WIRE; the address of the Royal Signals Association; action on loss of AB 64 Part II; action on change of leave/home address and so on.

* * *

There were two cases this month of men being sent on U.K. leave and told "To wait further instructions." Nothing happened and we were not notified—until the men began to worry and contacted us.

* * *

Several cases of amendments to R.O.P.O.s were missed, causing a lot of trouble all round.

* * *

Incorrect compilation of AF W 9803. The more troublesome are incorrect leave entitlement (Leave Manual) and failing to say if personnel are for Courses (Serial 18).

* * *

Posting CORSUK personnel to this Unit instead of L.A.C.

* * *

Incorrect procedure on posting personnel from one overseas Unit to another.

* * *

If there is any doubt, please ask. This is much preferred to the horrors of sorting out shambles with a depleted staff.

* * *

The other day we had a fire practice round about 1630 hours. One of our elderly civilian clerks, a little bit pushed, rushed out and joined a fast moving group of civilians on the road. Puffing a bit by now, our clerk impatiently asked where they were parading. Came the reply "We're not parading, we're catching a bus."

14th REGIMENT

1 Squadron. Robinswood is beginning to look civilised again. The arduous battle to get an adequate grass cutting contract has been won—the mowing machines commenced humming two weeks ago without any prompting from us. The trim appearance of our acres of grass, the colour provided by Mr. Mill's flower beds and the summer frocks of W.R.A.C. personnel have transformed the place in a very short space of time.

The brighter sunshine has spurred our Canoeing and Rambling Club to greater efforts. Last week a very successful sortie on the River Wye took place and although it was a short trip which did not overtax the capabilities of the members of the mixed party, it was a good rehearsal for the four-day outing planned for the coming weekend.

Our soccer team, which finished the season with top honours in the R.A.F. Innsworth League, met the R.A.F. Secretariat Squadron in the final of the "Walker Challenge Cup." We lost to the tune of 3—5 after a very hard fought game. All in all soccer players are to be congratulated on a creditable season.

New arrivals include Lieutenant (Tfc.) G. H. Cowsill and R.Q.M.S. J. Crich. We welcome them.

Our very successful Wives' Club monthly meetings are continuing, and we are pleased to say membership is increasing.

Mrs. Eileen Holmes, who was such a very efficient and hard-working President and did so much to get the club on a sound footing and then to sustain interest, has now left us but we are delighted to welcome Mrs. Lyske, the Commanding Officer's wife, as her successor.

At our last meeting, Lieutenant-Colonel W. E. Lyske's colour slides and talk of life in Kenya were much enjoyed.

3 SQUADRON 14th REGIMENT. MOTOR CRUISER—MERCURY I
Major L. H. Dutton, Royal Signals, handing over key to Staff Sergeant J. Povon, Royal Signals. At the wheel, Sergeant D. J. Gill, R.E.M.E. Also in the cockpit, S.A.C. G. B. Wilson, R.A.F.

2 Squadron. A very enjoyable and well supported social evening was held on 13th April. We were all pleased to see our Commanding Officer, his wife and Major Oliver, our worthy Second-in-Command from R.H.Q.

Dancing partners were produced by energetic members of the Squadron who raided the local hospitals and a lively time was had by all. The members who strove so hard to make it a success earned our gratitude.

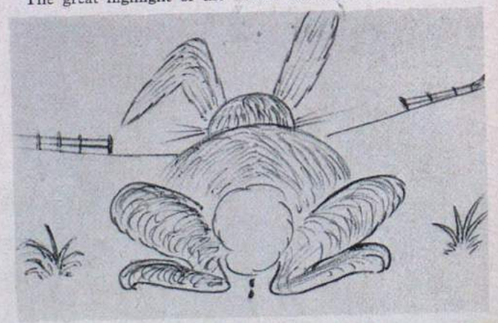
The machine age has arrived and a dispenser is busy with fresh milk, flavoured drinks and orange juice. These tough soldiers, how they must suffer!

3 Squadron. April, 1962, in Bampton will be remembered for its fine, dry and warm summery days adding colour and encouragement to those eager to get out and get on with the summer programme.

In the sporting world we were quickly eliminated from the District Hockey Competition, losing away to the R.A.E.C. School at Beaconsfield. Noteworthy is the fact that Captain J. Webb, Royal Signals, attending a language course there, played an important part in our demise.

We regret we are unable to report success in the Westminster/Devizes Canoe Race of the 19th, 20th and 21st April. Both entries had to retire because of damage to canoes during the night period. Many valuable lessons were learned, however, and enthusiasts are already discussing the "next time."

The great highlight of the month has been the arrival—due



THE COPSTACICUL BINGMONIOUS
More commonly known as the white tailed hare. This rare animal was recently discovered near the ancient Roman site at Weald, Bampton, where it is believed to be the only species in existence

to the generosity of the "Nuffield Trust"—of our new Burnham Pioneer motor cruiser which we have named Mercury I. With the kind co-operation of Mr. F. Ward, mine host of the "Trout," we have been able to launch and moor it on the Thames at Tadpole Bridge. A photograph is included in these notes.

We are very pleased to welcome our new Squadron Sergeant-Major, W.O.II A. Copestake, who has already impressed us with his brisk, efficient and cheerful approach to the job. It seems his arrival has also "sparked off" an early-morning activity in the Sergeants' Mess area—the study of "natural history" at 06.30 hours. The President and Chairman of the new group are W.O.II (R.Q.M.S.) J. J. Bingham and W.O.II (S.S.M.) A. Copestake. Their first discovery was "The Copstacical Bingmonious," bona fide replica and description attached. Some believe this is a figment of the imagination liable to occur in the early morning, especially if disturbed by the S.S.M.'s bugle call. What do you think?

15th REGIMENT

Summer was certainly slow a' coming this year. Heavy rain in mid-May, the worst for 16 years, they say. Perhaps that is what has been keeping the cricketers away from practice.

We are the holders of the Near East Command Cricket Trophy, but we will have to be light-hearted about our team this year if the first practice game was anything to go by.

"B" Troop, of 1 Squadron is Troop of the Month. Their article, in lighter vein is, we hope, about their new civilian element. We take the opportunity to welcome all our civilians and wish them and their families a happy stay with us.

* * *

THE TRIBE CALLED "TELE O's" ("B" TROOP)

And it was decided by the Great Ones that those not of the Centurions, but in civilian habit, would travel by sea and bird to dwell in a place called "Romantic Kyprios," across the seas, to slave with the Centurions.

They were to catch the voices from the sky in boxes which spewed forth paper, which looked as though the eagles had tried to devour it, for it were covered with many peckings. Disciples of the Great Ones had taught the minions to read these strange papers and extract the voice from them; these they called messages.

For this the slaves were paid many sheckles to rent dwellings, buy food, clothes and mechanical chariots. These sheckles they received from the Temple, and because they were many, the local merchants soon did have words with each other so that they may reap a rich harvest, richer than they had ever known before.

The memsahibs of these strange people called Tele O's found much time upon their hands to visit the bazaars to spend the sheckles of their masters. And they found others to do their menial household tasks and their dhobi, so that they could brown their soft white bodies in the sun of Kyprios and play like children in the waves of the blue sea. And the sahibs also spent many sheckles on mechanical chariots and in the dwellings of the dancers and in the eating of strange meats called kebabs, washed down with fire water of the name of Keo Brandee.

Verily, Kyprios has not seen the likes of this before, and still these strange people arrive by bird from their homeland called Anglaise. They say the Great Ones have sent them for 36 moons; only five moons have passed, and their mechanical chariots and their strange voices are everywhere. Yea, the scribes will have many scribblings on their pads by the time another five moons have passed.

And now, speaking in the strange language of the Tele O's, I must say zed kay jay; I will take myself to the building called bank and shovel more sheckles into the urn named deposit.

* * *

The Troop does not consist entirely of civilians though, behind the steel door (and also behind bars) we find two busy little men who shout, at odd times at the window leading into the Signal Centre, queer words such as "Traaa-Fick," "Oh Pip" and "Where's my tea." The two, when they get called anything else other than Cifa are Sergeant D. Clegg and Corporal "Nobby" Coole, who amaze everyone, including themselves, by producing a reasonable amount of Crypto traffic (that is, when "Nobby" can spare time from collecting tea money).

"Beauty and the Beast (s)"

The beauty is supplied by our seven W.R.A.C. Operators, each one a "good girl" (not of the "good time" variety, we might add). It has been said that they don't let the little finger know what the index finger is trying to do, but with Zel . . . ? they certainly are good tea makers! The beasts are in the shape of the Superintendent and, of course, the D.S.O.

16th REGIMENT

The Stadt Wald in Krefeld is looking very pleasant with all its trees now in new leaf and the nearby racecourse has had its first meeting this year. In the Tiergarten, the Zoo's new arrivals are beginning to show themselves outside the dens where the infra red lamps have been offsetting the cold spell. The hundreds of specimens in the Botanical Gardens are responding to the changing season. In Bradbury Barracks the R.S.M. has started the Regimental spring drills. The first Go-Kart meeting has shaken the dust from the Parade Ground. The first coughs and colds are fast disappearing. There is movement among the jallopies outside Block 3. Summer is probably on the way.

Training is going ahead for the Nijmegen marches, an event in which the Regiment annually takes part. Boots and anklets are being worn at increasingly frequent intervals by the "short list" in readiness for the battering of briny feet. They always do well as we have a goodly number of keen chaps. P.T. classes for the over 35s are held every Wednesday afternoon and a powerful stimulus has been given to this voluntary activity by the Commanding Officer. It is sufficiently gentle to ensure that there are repeat attendances.

The Fencing Club has increased its numbers and at times the stage in the gymnasium rocks to the steady advance of the fencers under command of Sergeant Cairns. Some interesting and well spun yarns are to be expected now that the Angling Club has started its activities.

Captain McQuade, our Officer-in-Command Signals Works Services and Messing Officer, continues to produce a large choice of spare parts in the Tape Relay Centre and six choices on the menu for lunch in the Men's Dining Room.

Preparations for the Regimental Fête in June are going steadily ahead and it will no doubt be as great a financial success as those we have held in the past. The Royal Regiment of Artillery which is now in the Barracks in increasing numbers is now sharing the chores with us. It is a pleasant coincidence that we also share the same Regimental number.

18th REGIMENT

The Hari Raya Puasa Festivities

BY ISHAK LONG — H.Q. SQUADRON

Every year, the ninth month of the Muslim calendar is a month of fasting. This period is known as Ramadzen, and is one of the five commandments of the Muslim religion. The fasting is absolute during the daytime. The exact length of the day is laid down by the religious leaders, and usually is from about 5 o'clock in the morning to midnight. During this period no food may be eaten and no drink taken—which can be rather trying in this tropical climate, especially if work involving any hard labour has to be done.

The culmination of this month is Hari Raya Puasa, or the day of celebration of Puasa, when all the trials and tribulations are laid to one side and give way to celebrations and eating.

Unlike Christmas, the actual day on which Hari Raya Puasa falls is not fixed. It is determined as that day upon which the new moon is sighted. Thus, if the first few nights are cloudy, Hari Raya may actually take place some days after the calculated date.

For some time before the day, houses are cleaned and prepared, new clothes and food are bought, then finally, when the moon is sighted, everyone begins the big day of celebration. It starts early in the morning when, after putting on new clothes, everyone goes to the Mosque.

After that, families usually spend some time remembering relatives and friends, past and present. Where possible, graves are visited.

From this point on, the Puasa celebrations follow the same pattern as Chinese New Year or Christmas or, I suspect, any celebrations anywhere in the world. Close friends are visited, and all the family sit down together to a meal. The children come into their own, for it is at this stage that presents are exchanged.

That is how the day goes on—a day of relaxation and enjoyment.

19th REGIMENT

And the Sun Shone. In warm sunshine, the G.O.C., Singapore Base District, with D.R. escort, arrived at the Station Square, R.A.F., Changi, to carry out this year's Administrative Inspection. The General Salute was played by the Band of the 2/7 D.E.O. Gurkha Rifles, and the "day" had begun—too late now to rectify any omissions from the preparatory activities of several weeks!

Hockey. The ambition of Major (Q.M.) R. H. A. Salisbury, officer-in-charge hockey, until he departed on the *Nevasa* last month on R.H.E., was realised this season when the Regiment won the FARELF Hockey Cup for the first time. In our most successful season, the Regimental team has won the FARELF Cup, the Singapore Zone Cup, Singapore Base District Six-a-Side Cup, Singapore Inter-Services Six-a-Side Trophy, and the R.A.F. Changi Station League Cup.

The final of the FARELF Cup competition was watched by the Commander-in-Chief, Lieutenant-General Sir Nigel Poett, K.C.B., D.S.O., who presented the trophy to our skipper, Staff Sergeant Devine-Jones. Our opponents were 1/7 Q.E.O. Gurkha Rifles, the holders, and a thrilling struggle was watched by a capacity crowd at the Gillman Barracks ground, Pasir Panjang, the final score being 2—1.

Representative honours have been many for individual members of the team; all have played for the Corps at some time; Sergeant Nizar, Corporal Jaafar, Lance-Corporal Freeman, Signalmen Ashari, Noordin, and Shamsuddin are all Combined Services players; additionally, Nizar, Jaafar and Noordin are State players and trainees for the Malayan Olympic team to go to Tokyo.

Several familiar faces will, however, be missing from the team next season, and we are fortunate in our new officer-in-charge hockey, Lieutenant (Q.M.) E. R. C. Wall, who, with his family, we welcome to the Regiment, as his love and knowledge of the game will be of great value in maintaining our prestige.

Hari Raya. For those who have served with Malay troops, the impact on day-to-day working of the fasting month will be well known. During the fasting period, the commencement of which is controlled by the sighting of the new moon of the Muslim month of Shawal, and which lasts for thirty days, Muslims do not eat, drink or smoke between the first sign of dawn and sunset.

Celebrations and feasting follow the fasting month, and in the Regiment, a very successful children's party was held. Mrs. Elston, the wife of the Commanding Officer, assisted by the ladies of the Regiment, distributed presents to our 385 Malay children. The Malay camp was transformed for the Hari Raya dinner and dance. At the dinner, the Commanding Officer cut the traditional Hari Raya cake, which had been superbly made by Sergeant Mahadi, our A.C.C. Cook Sergeant. Unfortunately, the weather was against us on this occasion, and a severe downpour caused some disruption to the programme. However, it dried up sufficiently for Joget dancing to take place in the evening, as planned, and Brigadier F. J. Swainson, O.B.E., C.S.O., FARELF, and Brigadier C. H. Stoneley, O.B.E., A.D.C., Deputy Commander, S.B.D., were among the distinguished guests.

19th REGIMENT HOCKEY TEAM, SEASON 1961/62

(*Standing*) : Sergeant Nizar, Lance-Corporal Freeman, Staff-Sergeant Devine-Jones (Captain), Signalman Asharri, Captain (T.O.T.) P. Thomson, Signalman Shamsuddin, W.O.II (R.Q.M.S.) Clayton, Sergeant Shamsuddin, Major (Q.M.) R. H. A. Salisbury (O.I.C. Hockey)

(*Sitting*) : Corporal Jaafar, Signalman Noordin, Lieutenant-Colonel J. W. Elston (Commanding Officer), Signalman Arshad, Sergeant Lee Kim Ann

Movements. Troopships and charter aircraft have of late been active, and in addition to the departure of Major and Mrs. Salisbury, Major J. A. Massey who, with his wife, will be greatly missed, has departed for B.A.O.R. Gone, too, is Captain Henry Watson, R.A.P.C., who held the money bags for so long. W.O.II (R.Q.M.S.) Clayton and W.O.II (S.S.M.) Wood will also be missed. With Corporal Dooley, W.O.II Clayton won the S.B.D. Badminton Doubles Championship last season. Staff Sergeant Walters was very pleased to be posted to the Middlesex Yeomanry—home is round the corner!

We welcome Major D. E. Salisbury as the new O.C. 2 Squadron, also Captain J. McCarthey, R.A.P.C., the new Paymaster, and his family.

22nd REGIMENT

The main event for the Regiment during March was our annual Administrative Inspection which was held on the 13th March. The Inspecting Officer, Brigadier M. A. Charlton, O.B.E., C.C. Royal Signals 1 (B.R.) Corps, was met at the entrance to Churchill Barracks by the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel A. R. Wythe. There he inspected the Regimental Quarter Guard under the command of Sergeant M. O. Wilson of 2 Squadron. After coffee with the Commanding Officer, Brigadier Charlton inspected the Regiment by its various tactical groups. The Regiment was paraded in battle order loaded and prepared for action. His inspection started on the hockey pitch where he saw R.H.Q. and these elements of 1 Squadron, normally located at Main 1 (B.R.) Corps. He then moved on and inspected 2 Squadron (Rear Corps) and 244 Squadron (A.S.). Following a visit to the Sergeants' Mess the Brigadier lunched in the Officers' Mess. The afternoon was taken up with an inspection of H.Q. Squadron set up and camouflaged to represent a typical Regimental Administrative Area. We are happy to report that the Brigadier subsequently expressed himself well pleased with all he saw and congratulated us on our bearing and appearance.

244 Squadron (A.S.). The accent this month has been on centralised training in the field and for this purpose the Squadron left Lippstadt on 15th March and established itself under canvas in a wood near the Dutch border.

During the first week we took part in a N.A.T.O. exercise in conjunction with various allied A.S.S.U.s. This period was followed by a series of small scale day and night exercises. During this time gradual improvements were made to the camp site, including the acquisition of a television set. It was quite like home to many as the Dutch television service carry a number of English films in their programmes.

Sport. Despite the pressure of inspections and exercises sport continues to play an important part in our daily lives. The Knowles Cup is still fought out. All Squadrons are preparing their teams for the hockey tournament due to be played on the 19th April. On the 8th April a combined team from this Regiment and our neighbours, 49th Regiment, R.A., met the Royal Naval Engineering College (Magpies). This was a first-class game in most appalling weather conditions, the "Magpies" coming out the winners with a score of 3—0. In the field of football the Regiment is now fourth in the local league having acquired 20 points from 16 games.

Finally we must congratulate W.O.II Evans on his recent promotion and the acquisition of a pace stick. R.H.Q. are also to be congratulated on obtaining the services of W.O.II Oliver as R.Q.M.S. for 244 Squadron. This transfer was made necessary as we recently lost W.O. II R.Q.M.S. Dodsworth to a warmer climate. We wish both he and Mrs. Dodsworth a happy and successful tour in their new station.

24th REGIMENT

Rifle Shooting. The highlight of this month's activities has been rifle shooting. The Regiment held a very successful meeting at Deerpark Range on 6th May. Messes were established on the range, which gave the right atmosphere to the occasion.

The results were:

Rampell Cup Competition

Winner Class A ... ... 2 Squadron
Class B ... ... H.Q. Squadron

Henry Whitehead Cup Competition

Winner Class A ... ... 2 Squadron
Class B ... ... 2 Squadron

S.M.G. Competition

Winner Class A ... ... H.Q. Squadron
Class B ... ... 1 Squadron

Falling Plate Competition

Winner Class A ... ... H.Q. Squadron
Class B ... ... H.Q. Squadron

Champion Squadron 2 Squadron

Champion Shot

Class A Sergeant Wallington, R.E.M.E., H.Q. Squadron
Class B Signalman Watson, 2 Squadron

Champion S.M.G. Shot

Class A Sergeant Wallington, R.E.M.E., H.Q. Squadron
Class B Lance-Corporal Brownjohn H.Q. Squadron

Lieutenant-Colonel P. D. Vaigncourt-Strallen presenting the Championship Cup to Captain Grundy of No. 2 Squadron

The W.O.s and Sergeants won their match against the Officers and duly collected their winnings in the Mess at lunch time.

The Regimental Meeting was closely followed by the Northern Command Rifle Meeting, in which Sergeant Wallington, R.E.M.E., of H.Q. Squadron, won the Individual Championship. Initially, he tied with Captain Grayson, Royal Signals, which necessitated a re-shoot of the Roberts Match. This he won by 10 points, scoring 126 out of 150. A highly creditable achievement.

The Regimental Team also gave a very good account of themselves at this meeting, as the following results show:

Major Units Championship	Third Place
L.M.G. Match	Runners-up
Falling Plate	Semi-Finalists

Departures. Major R. O. Edwards said goodbye to the Regiment on 26th April, 1962, and departed for civilian life after serving the Corps for over 30 years. He will be particularly remembered for his services to Corps and Army Hockey. Besides being a great player himself, he did much to encourage young soldiers to take up the sport. He is not lost to the Corps, as he has taken up an appointment with 49th Yorkshire Regiment (T.A.) at York. He was suitably dined out by the officers of the Regiment and presented with his bowler hat by Lieutenant-Colonel P. D. Vaigncourt-Strallen.

30th REGIMENT

Changes of the Commanding Officer of a Regiment are, of cause, all important in its life. With a change of head the body can also suffer a change of heart. However, the arrival of Lieutenant-Colonel A. T. Burrows, M.B.E., E.R.D., finds everyone in very good heart and all combine to welcome him and Mrs. Burrows to Blandford Camp and to hope that their tour will be brimful of success and happiness.

The new C.O. knows the Regiment well from his connection through his previous appointment in the Ministry of Aviation, where he was greatly concerned with the production of new communication equipment.

Changes, it seems, rarely come singly. Of a sudden the second-in-command, Major V. C. Valle, is posted and finds himself ordered to Paris. What luck! Dining him out involved listening to an after dinner speech of rare quality, bristling with good fun.

Amongst new arrivals are Major L. A. Welton, who is commanding 260 Squadron and Staff Sergeant Hills; and Sergeants Waugh, Druggen, Hayler and Coatsworth who are forerunners of a new Troop.

Sport is the principal interest of the month. The outstanding item is the recent achievement of Captain R. B. Carroll, well known as a golfer of great merit, who has opened the 1962 Championship season by winning first the Southern Command and then the Army Golf Championships. From the latter event he brought home a large cup (little known by the Corps for he is the first Royal Signals winner) which was duly filled with champagne in an Officers' Mess ceremony. The Regiment extends its special congratulations to Capain Carroll.

The Regimental football team must not be overlooked either, for on the last day of April in the final league match of the season they beat No. 1 P.R.D., R.A.S.C. (6-3) to become South West Services League Champions, 1961/2. The final table is:

P	W	D	L	F	A	P
17	14	2	1	88	34	30

Much credit for this splendid consistency of performance is due to W.O.II Giles, the coach and mainspring of the team, who welded the efforts of individuals of no outstanding talent into a formidable whole.

With an eye to the future, when much of the Corps hockey talent is likely to be concentrated in the South, the Regiment sponsored a Signals hockey team in a side competition of the Bournemouth Easter Hockey Festival. Games were played at Blandford against the Norfolk Rams (0-0) and Gypsies (lost 0-3). Should it be desired to enter a Corps team in this excellent Festival when the School of Signals comes to Blandford the path for entry should, it is hoped, be smoothed.

No. 3 Squadron is at present in Skye. Its inimitable report is as follows:

These notes come from Meanish Pier, Glendale, Isle of Skye, where the Squadron is again in tented residence. Warm sunny weather is quickly tanning winter faces and newcomers are

Captain R. B. Carroll receives an acclamation by officers of the Regiment on winning the Army Golf Championship 1962

Back row : Lance-Corporal H. B. Oakden, Sergeant A. D. Webster, R.S.M. J. W. Sinclair, Signalman D. Boland, Lance-Corporal J. P. Macey, Signalman A. L. Catherall

Front row : Corporal W. B. Bell, Signalman E. F. Newham, Corporal H. J. Byrne (Captain), Lieutenant-Colonel A. T. Burrows, M.B.E., E.R.D., R.Q.M.S. W. Giles, Signalman A. Fisher, Lieutenant J. McLuckie

wondering where the rain and mists predicted by the old hands have gone.

"The Commodore," Staff Sergeant A. J. Crabbe, now has a fleet of four boats. Fishing, trips round the Loch, swill dumping and "Get those boots out of that boat," are all his province. Thursday night is cinema night and Corporal N. J. Willmott, our projectionist, is so expert that the break between reels is barely sufficient to obtain another drink. Shifts are being worked, but it is hoped that the local girls will have an opportunity to Strip the Willow or dance a reel with everyone of us during the liberty visits to Portree.

Finally, our congratulations to Sergeant L. P. Rann on his recent promotion.

SQUADRONS

203 SQUADRON

Early on a cold, wet, Sunday morning, a party of potential skiers left Anzio Camp for the Troodos Mountains. The party was commanded by Sergeant Fenney, who was also the ski instructor, and included Sergeant Breese, Corporal Smith-Taylor, Corporal Hardwick, Lance-Corporals Beacher and Wright, Signalmen Turner, McDonald, Yates, Love, Newby and Burton. Captain Stanley and four men of the Intelligence Corps joined the party en route.

The journey itself was uneventful until two miles from Troodos, when the vehicles joined the tail end of a traffic jam which stretched into Troodos village. Whilst waiting for the traffic jam to clear, the party heard, over a portable radio carried by Corporal Smith-Taylor, that vehicles in the Troodos area should remain where they were until the police had cleared the hold-up. As it was impossible to move, this announcement seemed superfluous. Two hours after arriving within two miles of Troodos, the vehicles finally reached the village, where there was a further delay of two hours due to another traffic jam. Traffic conditions were chaotic, and were not helped by the local drivers, whose road sense must be world renowned.

Whilst the vehicles were held up in the village, Sergeant Fenney, in the company of Sergeant Breese and Captain Stanley (whom they had met in the traffic jam) went up to the camp site to look at conditions. Sergeant Breese returned to gather a snow-clearing party, which soon removed enough snow to make a reasonable car park and tent area. Eventually the vehicles arrived and all hands set to to erect the tentage and lay out the camp area. Although the weather conditions were about the vilest Cyprus could produce—it was cold, wet, slushy and thoroughly miserable—everyone worked with a will and not a complaint was heard.

The rain stopped during the night and a hard frost set in.

From left to right looking at photo : Lance-Corporal Beacher, Lance-Corporal Wright, Signalman Yates, taken from top of Sun Valley looking east

Monday morning saw everybody up bright and early, and immediately after breakfast they all boarded the three-tonner and drove to the Leave Centre to draw their skis and equipment. Unfortunately skis were not available for all, only four were able to get themselves fully equipped—they had all done a little ski-ing before, and were allowed to draw the better-class skis from the ski store. The remainder drew ski boots, which meant that they were at least dry shod. On return to camp those with skis began instruction under Sergeant Fenney, whilst the others completed all the small camp details.

Snow fell during the day and soon ski-ing conditions were perfect, but the wind and snowfall made long runs very unpleasant.

On Tuesday all the men were fitted out with skis, and by 10.30 hours, lessons were able to start for everyone. At first there were the usual laughs and giggles as men fell all over the place, and many of the party became first-class contortionists without even trying. Continuous snowfall made the weather slightly unpleasant, and marred otherwise perfect ski-ing conditions. Even so, all the men made satisfactory progress, and by the end of the day everybody was able to perform kick-turns, herring-bone, step-turns, and even traverse with a fair degree of proficiency. It should be mentioned here that the New Austrian Ski System teaches traverses, side-slipping and uphill swings before the snowplough is even mentioned. The late afternoon saw the arrival of the unit M.T.O., Lieutenant N. Moss, with a very welcome addition to rations in the form of a jar of rum. This was much appreciated by all concerned and was despatched with all the respect due to it.

The sun shone on Wednesday and everyone's spirits rose with it. On this day the party went to Sun Valley, where they were the only class to use the slopes that day. The roads were impassable to vehicles and the party went on foot. Ski-ing technique and ability improved throughout the day, and by the evening nearly everyone mastered the traverse, side-slip and uphill swing.

Snow fell again on Thursday, but the party braved the elements and went again to Sun Valley, which this time belied its name. The class practised again what it had learned the previous day but, due to the weather or the snow, it did not have the same proficiency as it had the day before. That evening some of the class went to the Leave Centre to see a film on ski-ing. After the film, which impressed everyone, the class returned to the warmth of the fire in Makhlouf's Hotel.

Friday was another cold, snowy day, and most of the ski-ing was confined to the slopes in the vicinity of the camp area. For a change, and to break the monotony, the class were taught the snowplough. Turning at a given spot is not as easy as it looks, and several of the class evolved now dances like the "Ski Cha-Cha" and the "Ski Waltz." Notwithstanding the weather, everybody's spirits were high, and late in the evening they all worked with a will to pack all non-essential kit ready for the move on Saturday.

Saturday was a glorious day, and by 10.00 hours all the kit had been packed, with the exception of a small amount of

cooking gear. Those who wanted to, went to Sun Valley with Sergeant Fenney, ski-ing across country, and considering the inexperience of the party, they made very good time, covering the distance in 35 minutes. By road and on foot it took at least 45 minutes. At Sun Valley they saw some very fine ski-ing, notably by two Austrian Ski Instructors from the Leave Centre and a young girl believed to be the British Junior Ski Champion.

Leaving the Camp site as spotless as it was when they arrived, the party left at 13.30 hours and handed their equipment to the Leave Centre. They bade farewell to Troodos at 14.15 hours.

The party learned a lot from this expedition, the least of which was the ski-ing. They learned how to exist in the snow under foul weather conditions; how to co-operate with their fellow men, and how to remain cheerful, even when soaked to the skin in icy cold rain. They returned bronzed, fit, and eager to "have another bash."

205 SQUADRON

After years of complaining about overwork, the officers of the Squadron have had their excuse sabotaged by the arrival of a fourth officer. Lieutenant P. Brown has arrived, complete with guitar, to command "Alfa" Troop. After two months spent in reorganising troop stores and accounting, there are many who believe that a fiddle would have been a more appropriate instrument.

We have recently been preparing for, and participating in, Exercise "New Harpoon."

Our new Brigade Commander sets a very high standard of camouflage, and we went to considerable trouble to achieve his standard. The highlight of our efforts was probably the order for all junior officers to conceal their overlong hair—a subtle hint which was quickly taken, and resulted in the junior officers of the Squadron having their hair cut the day after the exercise ended. The last word on camouflage came when the Squadron Commander lost his voice. A weary voice emanating from a pile of brushwood was heard to declare: "That's taking camouflage too far!"

208 (COMMONWEALTH) SQUADRON

Your scribe from the Commonwealth Squadron apologises for a lack of words from his unit recently. He hopes to make up for it with these notes of the Squadron's comings and goings.

In early December, the Squadron moved from its wood and atap home in Taiping to a new and modern camp at Terendak. Terendak is the home of the whole Commonwealth Brigade, and is now nearing completion. Being among the early inhabitants of a new camp has its disadvantages for all, as we are the ones to discover all the little, and sometimes not-so-little, things that go wrong. We have to put them right, but we hope that those who follow us will benefit.

We read with interest the article on Malacca in the March issue, but were sorry that the author did not travel seven miles further north of Tanjong Kling and visit the Commonwealth cantonment at Terendak Camp. I hope he won't mind if 208 (Commonwealth) Squadron's notes complete his journey with a few words about the cantonment.

All the units of the Brigade live in the one camp, and so there are miles of barracks to be seen. These are the main feature, and are good. Among the facilities in the camp are a fine sailing club, beach clubs for all ranks, and an air-conditioned cinema run by the A.K.C. Sports fields abound, but as yet are not really settled. A golf course is in the course of construction, and will eventually sport nine holes. NAAFI have provided Junior Ranks' Clubs in all the major unit lines, and a central one for the minor units.

The beach at the camp is sandy, but at certain times of the year is infested with a particularly vicious form of jelly fish, which has already claimed many victims with its most unpleasant sting.

So life in Terendak is quite pleasant. Within easy reach of Singapore and Kuala Lumpur, we need not go short of the bright lights at week-ends or for leave. Malacca town itself is some fourteen miles from the camp, but provides little in the way of entertainment.

The Squadron, like all others with infantry brigade groups, has its share of exercises. These are of particular interest, as we are probably the only Brigade doing jungle warfare, apart from the Gurkhas. We have the added interest of working with Australians and New Zealanders.

210 SQUADRON

The period has again, to a large extent, been one of exercises. We do not understand the great affinity shown by the Brigade for exercising at Kajiado; the multitude of ticks and crabs, while unquestionably the finest specimens in East Africa, do not represent a realistic enemy and, moreover, they thrive on anti-louse powder! By the time this article appears in print, the Squadron will have flown up to the remote Northern Frontier District for a short exercise.

603 Troop was recently detached from the Squadron, with which it is at present normally integrated, and flown to Aden for a series of Air Support Exercises. These proved most interesting and valuable, providing practice in procedures not normally used. We operated to the carrier H.M.S. *Centaur*, an old friend from Kuwait, and later to H.M.S. *Ark Royal*. Several F.A.C.s had also been with us in Kuwait. After the exercise, ten of the Troop went on board H.M.S. *Centaur* for a visit and were very well looked after.

This was the first visit of the Troop to Aden, and we were pleasantly surprised by the weather (though we were told it gets much hotter from May until October) and by the facilities of the station. From the soldier's point of view, something that "went down big" was the standard of service offered by the Arab batmen, and it was an indescribable lowering of the standard of living to get back to Kenya and clean one's own boots!

While duty persists in the uncanny knack of taking one to the more unpleasant areas, leave, if organised with a bit of initiative, must rank among the best one is ever likely to have. The scope is there—if only more people would take advantage of it! Recently, half-a-dozen Signalmen hired the Safari Land Rover and spent a leave touring Tanganyika and Kenya, including in their trip two game parks and the coast. Another interesting leave was spent by Lance-Corporal Horsfield and Signalman Moore, who hitch-hiked round Uganda and even included a sly peep in the Congo. Signalman Moore, a National Serviceman Signal Centre Operator, from Plymouth, writes: "On the first day of our 1,500-mile hike, we left camp and managed to get as far as Kisumu, on the N.E. corner of Lake Victoria. We stayed the night in an hotel (at that time we had some money). The next day we reached Kampala, the capital of Uganda, having passed through Jinja and taken photographs of the Owen Falls Hydro Electric Dam there. (It was at this point, only about 100 years ago, that the source of the Nile was discovered). At Kampala we met a European who owns a hotel and, typical of the generosity shown by many of the people here, he gave us free accommodation for the night. The great highlight of our stay in Kampala was that we discovered what we believe is the only bar in East Africa which sells draught beer (real draught beer). It was surely a discovery which ranks in equal terms with the discovery of the Nile!

Next morning we got a lift to Masindi, which is the last township before Murchison Falls National Park. After a five-hour wait at Masindi, we got a lift right into the Game Park, and so reached our main objective—a distance of 630 miles in three days.

We only stayed one day in the park—all we could afford, because the Safari Lodge charges prices more suitable to the pockets of American tourists! The Murchison Falls National Park must be one of the most fantastic sights in the world. The park itself is about 50 miles square, and is divided across the middle by the River Nile, which is approximately 400 yards wide at this early stage of its existence.

The falls, from which the park gets its name, is a sight within itself. The whole river is funnelled through a gap in the rocks 20 feet wide and drops through a distance of 140 feet, before opening out to its normal width again—the noise and reverberation seem to make the very ground one stands on unsafe. The whole park abounds with elephant in their hundreds, and along the river bank, also in their hundreds, are crocodile and hippo. Throughout the park are to be seen many of the lesser species of game, including a fine selection of birds.

We woke up the next morning and, to add to the natural optical derangements of that time of day, we saw, about 50 feet away, a bull elephant. We cautiously took some photographs and then ran; we found out later that he was fairly tame and liked to come near people because he was often fed with bananas. The highlight of our stay in the park was a trip up

the Nile. As the river was in flood though, we could not go as far as is normally possible. During this launch trip we went through the middle of the park and got very close indeed to the game; it was quite possible to take photographs without the use of a telephoto lens.

We then pushed on to try and reach the Sudan, about 50 miles away, but we met a chap who was going into the Congo, about 30 miles away, so we went with him. He was a European, though I don't know what nationality; his English was perfect. We went with him to his farm about 50 miles inside the Congo and came out that evening with him again; our trip had been made without passports or visas.

We stayed the night at Masindi at a hotel, and that cleared us out of money, 580 miles from home. On the next morning we hitch-hiked back to Kampala and stayed at the Makere College there, free of charge, for a few days. The college is the nearest thing to a university in East Africa and is for African and Asian students. We were allowed to stay in the students' quarters. We then hitch-hiked back to Nairobi, sleeping in police stations and eating sugar cane; this took us three days. We got back all right after spending one of the best leaves of our lives, and something which was really worth doing. It is a great feeling getting up in the morning and saying, "I wonder how far we will get today."

And now back to the rest of the Squadron news. It is with regret that we must record the sudden death, due to natural causes, on the 16th March of Lance-Corporal G. D. Hollingsworth. It was a great shock to all who knew this promising N.C.O., and to his wife and small daughter we offer our deepest sympathy.

The births column is again busy. It must be the altitude! This time we congratulate Sergeant and Mrs. Wright and Signalman and Mrs. Berry on the births of their daughters, and Corporal and Mrs. Harrison on the birth of their son.

Recent arrivals in the Squadron are W.O.II (Y. of S.) Clements, Staff Sergeant R. Jones (F. of S.), Sergeant K. Rollings, Sergeant M. Morphey, Corporals Davenport and Harvey—all with their families over here. Those departing (and they shall all be a loss to the Squadron) are W.O.II (F. of S.) G. Sharp to 7th Regiment and W.O.II E. Summers to the R.M.A. Sandhurst, Corporal G. J. Williams to 238 Squadron and finally Corporal Bee who has completed his National Service.

213 SQUADRON

Defying both elements and an impending annual Administrative Inspection, our Squadron training got off to a flying start with Exercise "Spring Fever" in early March. For those at Squadron H.Q. during the exercise, many thanks to Second - Lieutenant Dixon for housing everyone so comfortably (comparatively speaking!) and efficiently at Gosford Castle. It is reputed that Gosford Castle is one of two "twin" castles, each the result of a wager between two men as to who could build the ugliest castle! Be that as it may, we were most grateful for our sanctuary in the adjoining farmhouse, and would wish to extend our thanks to the two unknown gentlemen, and the Ministry of Agriculture, for making our stay possible. Perhaps our sub-stations were less fortunate in their comforts, but at all events they were well plied with line and incoming radio signals in the early phases of the exercise, and succeeded in maintaining fairly continuous radio contact up to the conclusion of the exercise from the very north of Ulster. The linemen were to be observed putting into practice much that they had learnt on previous upgrading training; the Bridge Megger whirred happily in its efforts to fault find and repair the damage done by S.S.M. Rankin's wire cutters and the more acquisitive members of the local population! Signalman Raby never did successfully account for the two hundred yards gap in the overhead part of the line: explanations about hungry sheep and phantom circuits are quite unacceptable! On the radio side there are memories of the C.V. crew controlling the net with microphone in one hand and the new Voice Procedure Pamphlet in the other; also of our Continental friend "George," who constitutes a very useful check as to whether one is on frequency or not; mention should also be made of Signalman McClure, who almost managed to dispose of the rum ration into his batteries (murmers of "lack of appreciation" and "Slow McClure" may still be heard); lastly, perhaps, the efforts of the O.C. to erect a wire aerial (one comment: "Swingin").

The day after our Easter break finished, the Brigade Headquarters complete moved to Magilligan Camp for the annual Range Classification. For the five days we were there, the sun shone almost unceasingly, and everyone returned as perfect examples of what a holiday in Ireland can do for you. Recreational transport made available the exploration of Port Rush and Coleraine, and added to the enjoyment of this very pleasant time.

In the sporting life of the Squadron there have been two notable successes. Firstly, victory by the Brigade H.Q. team in the Minor Units Cross Country Championship at Eglinton; secondly, the achievement of the Squadron Small Bore team in winning the 39 Brigade Competition and being runners-up to 66th (U) Regiment (T.A.) in the Northern Ireland Command Competition. The hockey team enjoyed a good fixture list thanks to the efforts of Second-Lieutenant Dixon, but we were soundly beaten by the strong H.Q. Company team from 1 Foresters in the semi-final of the Brigade Knock-Out Competition. Activity at the moment is directed towards the Brigade Command and Corps Rifle Meetings, and the Command Athletic Meeting.

We also report that Lance-Corporal Toole and Signalman Squirrell have taken the plunge, and we wish them and their brides every happiness. Best wishes, too, to the following members of the Squadron on posting: Sergeant Rhind to Aden, Corporal Milton to the Trucial Oman Scouts.

Corporal O'Kill in B.A.O.R., and Signalman Powell en route to Kenya.

STAMP COLLECTORS

THE JUNIOR LEADERS REGIMENT has restarted its Philatelist Club and will be most grateful to receive stamps from all Regiments, Squadrons, Detachments serving overseas.

Amateur radio enthusiasts receive many QSL cards with foreign stamps.

Envelopes containing stamps to please be addressed: Philatelist Club, Junior Leaders Regiment, Royal Signals, Denbury Camp, Newton Abbot, South Devon.

VACANCIES IN GOVERNMENT SERVICE

A number of vacancies, offering good career prospects, exist for :—

Cypher Operators
Teleprinter Operators } Male and Female

Write, giving details of education, qualifications and experience, to:—

Personnel Officer, G.C.H.Q. (RCO/6),
Foreign Office,
53, Clarence Street, Cheltenham, Glos.

229 SQUADRON

It's a long while since we wrote to THE WIRE, but, as ex-Berlin Signalmen will know, although the city is a Shangri-La for reporters and scoop-writers, the military programme leaves little time for non-staff officers to produce bumf.

Reading between the lines of national newspapers, the experienced cold-war soldiers will know of the type of life we lead and of the frequency of flaps and alarms that ripple the waters of our gold-fish bowl.

The Unit has its lighter side, however, and as our readers will see, Herr Ulbricht does not demand our full-time efforts.

Winter Warfare Training—Harz Mountains. During February our Squadron Commander, Major Beattie, led a party of twelve specially detailed volunteers out of Berlin and into the Harz mountains. For the next two weeks the spare tyres, expensively purchased in many a Berlin pub, were rapidly punctured by expert Norwegian ski instructors. The perky Squadron pom-pom hats gave a false impression of apres ski-ing to the party as they sweated and slogged around the hills of St. Andreasberg. Anyhow they all came back to Berlin full of enthusiasm for the newly experienced sport and sporting muscles in places where most people don't have places. The twelve would all willingly go again but feel that next year a different twelve should be sent—noble and comradely chaps!

International Co-operation. Berlin offers unique opportunities to get to know Allied armies. The Squadron, never slow in grasping opportunities, have been busy cementing international friendships. A visit to the American 3rd Battle Group started this year's visits and members of the 229th (as the Americans refer to us) featured in the *Stars and Stripes* newspaper climbing up-the-pole with their hosts. We shortly after returned their hospitality as our photograph shows. The French Signals have been our most recent guests. They come across each year to play us at soccer and exchange their bistro for the whisky of our Junior Ranks' Club.

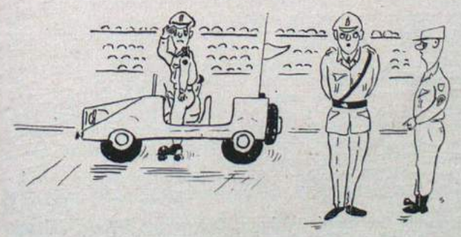
Parades, visits and inspections. Our more serious visits this year so far have been from the C.S.O., B.A.O.R., Brigadier Harrison, and Brigadier Charlton, C.C. Royal Signals, 1 B.R. Corps. Both of these distinguished Signals Officers were given the full round of the Squadron at work and, we believe, departed happy that all is well with Berlin Signals.

The Squadron was privileged recently to provide a vehicle detachment at the farewell parade of our G.O.C., Major-General Sir Rohan Delacombe, K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O. The detachment of seven vehicles, drivers and crews were most impressive as they drove past the saluting base in perfect formation and very shiny.

An Allied guest, whose nation shall be nameless, actually believed the story told to him by the Squadron Commander, that Captain Olds managed to salute without holding on to the vehicle because the "soles of his boots are screwed to the floorboards!"

"M" Troop as usual, and helped by the Line Section, had done an unobtrusive but first-class job of the tannoy arrangements and all passed off well.

Sport. If you are keen on sport there is no better place than Berlin. We are indeed fortunate to occupy the pre-war German University of sport for our barracks and have everything that healthy young sportsmen could need and we take full advantage of it. Best achievement so far has been by the soccer team who were finalists in the Brigade Soccer Competition and we are not ashamed to say we were only defeated in the final by none other than those giants of Army soccer the Durham Light Infantry.



U.S. Signal Corps personnel visit 229 (Berlin) Squadron. W.O.II V. F. M. Thom explains the layout of the Brigade Signal Centre

236 SQUADRON (COMCAN)

As Easter comes round each year East Africa is gripped by "Safari" fever. Not the usual shooting, fishing or photographic safari that take up so much of our time during the rest of the year, but the Safari Motor Rally, probably the toughest motoring event in the world. Over 3,000 miles is driven at average speeds in the fifties on roads that, if found in England would certainly be marked "Impassable to Motor Vehicles." The newspapers are full of it, the local Radio Stations talk of nothing else, the "ham" Radio Bands are jammed by it as amateurs send back results to Nairobi, and the world and his wife turn out to watch, cheer, chase and throw stones at the competitors. No one from 236 took part this year but many watched and helped and talked about it. The C.O. had his windscreen broken by a stone, the Adjutant came to a grinding halt when his car boiled on a hill, and Sergeant D. G. Ellen finished off the suspension on his Citroen ID 19, all in the cause of watching "The Safari." The latter, with Lieutenant Glydon, followed the rally round most of the course and their description of what they saw is printed below, as it will undoubtedly stir up nostalgic memories in those who have served in East Africa, and will perhaps give to those who hope to serve here in the future some little idea of the joys of travelling by road in this magnificent country of wide open spaces. Sergeant Ellen writes:—

The entry was a record one, and 104 cars drove down the ramp outside Nairobi City Hall on Thursday night of the Easter weekend. The first car away was a Renault R41, the others followed at three-minute intervals. Lieutenant C. H. Glydon and I saw the cars leaving before we set out to follow them over a large part of the route.

Early on Friday morning we set out in my Citroen ID 19 Safari to cover the northern leg; leaving Nairobi at dawn, we drove to Tororo in Uganda, via Naivasha, Nakuru and Eldoret. We went to a control at Busia, 11 miles from Tororo. Here we waited for the cars to come in after their all-night drive over the treacherous Embu-Meru section (about 90 hairpin bends in 100 miles of dusty, rocky, unsurfaced road, through the foothills of Mount Kenya, and described in the A.A. handbook as the most breathtaking road in Kenya!) and the even worse section around Mount Elgon. The cars came through well spaced out and all were at least an hour late, showing signs of a rough journey. Stone damage was much in evidence, and all the drivers we spoke to told of Africans throwing rocks and putting logs across the road. It was on the Mount Elgon

section that two of the new Ford Zodiac Mk. IIIs retired after hitting a washaway at speed and ruining their radiators. After lunch, the first Volkswagen appeared, bringing news of the retirement, with a smashed sump, of last year's winner, John Manussis. We saw three VWs through; one, driven by two Singhs, had front suspension trouble, and arrangements were made for it to be repaired at Nairobi. VW works cars were supported all round the route by travelling workshops carrying every spare needed. Pat Moss and Ann Riley in their SAAB 96 received a tremendous ovation from the crowd. The SAAB sounded very sweet and good for many more miles. Soon after this four cars went through in quick succession. A Rapier, a Hillman Minx 1600 (leading its class) a Simca Montlhery and a Peugeot 403, all sounding healthy. On our way back to Tororo and home, we met Peugeot 404s, Austin A60s and two Mercedes Benz 190s, all going very fast. At Tororo itself, we saw a little Renault R41, driven by a French crew, who were protesting about the state of the road. We went back to Nairobi, where we spent the night, and transferred into Lieutenant Glydon's VW for our journey to the control at Msanga, nr. Dodoma, in Tanganyika, 450 miles south. We passed Kilimanjaro, the highest mountain in Africa, its 1,900ft. peak always snow capped; Lake Manyara, a beautiful lake surrounded by hills, and on those banks elephants are often seen; and then on to some of the worst tracks that pass for main road I have ever travelled upon. The little VW performed magnificently, taking potholes, corrogations, and the mud in her stride.

We arrived in the afternoon and camped near the control. After a supper, cooked by Lieutenant Glydon (who burned the soup), we slept in the car. I was woken at 05.45 by Pat Moss going through in her SAAB, closely followed by Erik Carllson in a similar car, both going very fast. After an early breakfast, we went to the control which was one of the best organised in the rally. A steady flow of cars began to come through, all showing signs of a muddy passage. From the officials we learnt that most of the big cars were mud-bound on the Mbulu escarpment, a track hacked up the side of the Rift Valley by the Germans in the 1914-18 war so that they could get their horse-drawn guns up. Most of the small cars got through without too much difficulty, but the Peugeot 403s had mud covering their radiators; a Rapier was stuck in mud over the top of its wheels, and two Mercedes 220 SE6s were held so fast that a tractor could not get them out. The only two African entrants, in a VW, were also stuck here and were dismayed when pushed further into the ditch by a Ford Anglia slithering by. The first big car through was a Humber Super Snipe, which had holed its sump on a rock. This was repaired with shaving cream and bananas. The same thing happened to a Volkswagen driven by two Sikh A.A. patrolmen who repaired it in the same way and brought their car home to finish in the first 10.

We left Msanga to drive to the Ngngeregere control, 82 miles from Dar es Salaam (Swahili for "haven of peace," and capital of newly independent Tanganyika). On our way we stopped to help the drivers of car 29, an Auto Union 1000, which had dropped out with a seized engine. We cooked them some food and carried on. They were removing the offending con-rod and were going to carry on with two pistons. Spirit ! ! In Morogoro crowds lined the streets waiting for Safari cars to pass. By this time our VW was covered in mud and we got a few cheers. At the control we were able to see the latest positions, a VW was in the lead and the Humber Super Snipe was fourth, but had to fall out shortly afterwards when the crew ran out of bananas! At this stage we were fortunate enough to be able to see cars coming back from Dar es Salaam, as well as those going to Dar es Salaam. Here we again managed to see the British girls, Pat Moss and Ann Riley in their SAAB. They looked very fresh and gave us a spirited wave whilst motoring at about 70 m.p.h. We saw some Fiat 2300s, a lone Ford Zodiac Mk. III going very well, a Mercedes 220 SEB looking the worse for wear, and an Austin A60 which had lost an argument with a lorry, minus its windscreen, and with a new look in roof-lines.

We then started our long journey back to Nairobi, overnight, through Morogoro, Korogwe, Moshi, Arusha and Namanga, a distance of 621 miles. It was a nightmare drive from Korogwe to Moshi, along a narrow, wet, muddy and potholed road. Twice the VW took off completely, and I hit my head on the roof at frequent intervals. Most of the bends were without warning, and those that were, were not always correct. One that was marked as a left-hand bend, turned out to be a right-hander. With some wheel-juggling, Lieutenant Glydon got us round, but only just. Just before Korogwe, we came across a dead buck, a victim of Pat Moss and her SAAB. Near Moshi we got a tumultuous reception at a service station, where we were mistaken for a competitor's car. The VW was spring-cleaned in next to no time. I took over the wheel and soon after came to a sharp bend, turned the wheel and the VW carried straight on across the bundu and regained the road, none the worse for wear! I still think the road should follow my route; it was no rougher. We arrived in Nairobi at 10.30, just in time to see the leading cars finishing—Erik Carllson came in minus rear springs, which had finally given up 300 miles back, near Mombasa, and soon afterwards a VW, the eventual winner, drove in to the cheers of the very large crowd watching.

We also saw the Peugeot 404, which had come second, and the SAAB, which came third, clock in, before driving home to a well-earned sleep.

246 (GURKHA) SQUADRON

Since our last WIRE notes, in December, the Training Cycle for 1961/62 has ended and we have started the Individual Training for the current year. Upgrading is the main theme of this training, but we have several other activities planned in order to get maximum benefit from this period.

In January, 1962, we used VHF as the primary means of communication for the Brigade Command Net, and it worked very well indeed. This success was repeated during February and March and the operators, after a sceptical start, became enthusiastic VHF supporters.

The Signal Officer-in-Chief visited us in February, and after a very crowded tour, sat for a Squadron photograph. At his suggestion, a pair of mules FFR were included in the group and behaved with complete indifference to the occasion. After a time, the mules were arranged, noses to the camera, but it is with regret we announce that the photographer (a Gurkhali-speaking Chinaman) made a nonsense and the photographs were not worth the time and effort spent in posing.

March was a month of change and event. Major H. A. J. Sturge handed over command of the Squadron to Major K. Kirkby, who arrived from 17th Gurkha Regiment, Malaya. In the same month, S.Q.M.S. McGuinness and Sergeant W. N. Dunn left us.

Major Sturge left in early April, after a run of chronic bad luck had delayed his departure. We hope his luck will change when he goes to J S.S.C.

To McGuinness, Dunn and Staff Sergeant Robertson (who left on 6th March, 1962) we would like to record our appreciation for their keen efforts and hope they will be able to borrow a copy of THE WIRE and read these few lines.

In March we were also committed to providing a marching and a mechanical column for the Queen's Birthday Parade (12th April, 1962). In Hong Hong this occasion is performed on the grand scale appropriate to a Crown Colony.

The Squadron has been affiliated to H.M.S. *Alert* for a number of years. Although no records exist of the start of this affiliation, it is believed that it was started in 1954, through the efforts of a past Squadron Commander (now Lieutenant-Colonel Glanville, T.D.). The *Alert* visited Hong Kong during March/April, and the Squadron acted as hosts. One event which in fact went down quite well (for sailors!) was a trek over Snake Pass (5 miles), followed by a Gurkha Bhat on Cloudy Hill which, at the time, was very cloudy.

The Squadron is at present training for the Round the Colony Race. This consists of visiting ten check points in the more remote parts of the Colony in the quickest time. The team consists of an officer, two corporals and above, and four rank and file. Apart from a ban on aircraft, and a strict regard for the Hong Kong traffic laws, there are no rules. The whole course will take about 12 (plus) very strenuous hours.

The Squadron seems singularly gifted in sporting talent. The U.K. element consists of three British Officers, one Staff Sergeant, three Sergeants and two Corporals and one Signalman. Between them they have netted the following Corps Colours (FARELF) Hockey, 2; Rugby, 3.

Corporal Gallagher has been awarded a special commendation by C.S.O., FARELF, for his outstanding performance as a Colony Cyclist.

Brigadier Mohamed Suleiman, Director of Signals, Pakistan Army, visited the Squadron on Saturday, 7th April, 1962, at the end of his stay in Hong Kong. After seeing the Squadron vehicles, fitted for radio and line, he was entertained in the Q.G.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess, and then for lunch in the Brigade H.Q. Mess.

255 SQUADRON (BAHRAIN)

Here in the Persian Gulf, the cool season is now over and, by a strange coincidence, our stream of visitors from the U.K. has diminished to a trickle. Since the beginning of November, the following V.I.P.s, in order of appearance, visited the Squadron:

Lieutenant-General C. L. Richardson, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O. (D.G.M.T.); The Right Honourable John Profumo, O.B.E., M.P. (Secretary of State for War); The Bishop of Maidstone; Colonel G. D. T. Harris, O.B.E. (War Office); Colonel P. F. Pentreath, M.B.E. (War Office); General Sir Richard Hull, K.C.B., D.S.O., B.A. (C.I.G.S.).

In addition, of course, we have had several visitors from Middle East Command, including the G.O.C., Chief of Staff, and C.R. Signals. We are delighted to see our visitors and are pleased to think that we are not forgotten out here.

We hear that sometime next year we may be providing the Royal Signals personnel for a Joint (Integrated?) Communications Centre. Already we have noticed a slight rise in the NAAFI sales of rum and a certain well-known brand of hair cream. The Squadron Commander has refused to grow either a handlebar moustache or a beard. On the subject of beards, 601 Troop (Ship) live with us and roll around the camp uttering seamanlike noises. The oldest member of the Troop, who claims he has "More seatime than Noah," managed to sail the Squadron GP14 dinghy on to the only rock in the bay. The crew ended up in the water—sorry 'Oggin!

Another of our neighbours on the island is a Troop of 222 Squadron, who joined us for a recent Royal Signals social in the local church hall. The wives and a few (too few) girl friends partnered us in our dancing, and there were large quantities of beer and food. We noticed that the boys of "Treble Two" left most of the dancing to their Troop Commander; they were quite happy with the "cakes and ale."

We have a very fine rifle range on Bahrain Island, and the occupants of the "butts" are never tired of explaining the ingenuity of the target-raising system and trying to persuade someone else to take over their next stint. During the recent range classification, the Squadron Commander offered a prize (liquid) to the Troop with the highest average score. Signal Troop won, beating Radio Troop by 0.5 points, 3 goats and a stray camel. The Squadron Headquarters claimed that they were the true winners, but were disqualified when the S.S.M. was seen standing in the butts with the butt-marker's leave applications.

TRUCIAL OMAN SCOUTS

Since we last went to press, the Squadron has experienced a number of changes to its members. Major A. W. McKinnon has left for home to get married and then take up his new appointment in the War Office. We wish him the very best of luck for the future, both as a married man and as a Staff Officer. S.S.M. J. Coleman has also left, after completing 18 months with the Scouts. Before he left, however, he was prevailed upon to put on record an account of an anti-locust campaign in which he took part. His story is published in this issue on page 209.

The Squadron is now commanded by Major P. C. Tripp, who arrived from the Arabic Language School in Aden on 3rd May. By comparison, S.S.M. I. P. Windebank, who relieved S.S.M. Coleman, is now an old stager, for he has been in office for two months, and has virtually commanded the Squadron for that time.

Finally, we are delighted to welcome Staff Sergeant J. Allcock, who has the distinction of being the first Royal Signals S.Q.M.S. in the T.O.S.; previously the post has always been filled by a Staff Sergeant from another arm. Perhaps this is an indication that at last the T.O.S. Signal Squadron is coming to the notice of other members of the Corps.

Sergeant Dicker, the oldest serving member of the Squadron, has added to his numerous achievements by opening an amateur wireless station. He operates under call signs MP4TAM and MP4TAC, and is known as the "Voice of Oman." He is on the air most evenings and would be delighted to hear from any member of the Corps.

The Squadron still continues to train its own operators, and it is astonishing to see the high degree of efficiency some of these Arabs obtain—many of whom are boys whose ages range from 9 to 16 years. The fact that most of them are illiterate in their own language and are required to write English script by the end of the course is even more remarkable.

The Arab appears to have what almost amounts to a natural affinity to the morse key. This, however, also has its drawbacks, for his enthusiasm knows no bounds, and when he has no official traffic to pass he "chats." Furthermore, he has discovered that by merely changing frequency—any frequency—he can "chat" without being molested or monitored. The difficulty is to stop this breach of net discipline without curbing the enthusiasm that precipitates it. Happily, we are slowly bringing this misguided enthusiasm under control but, like the painting of the Firth of Forth Bridge, it is a task that requires constant attention.

The hot season fast approaches, and with it the prospect of exercises. For many years, apparently, the accepted rule has been that no ops., and therefore no exercises, can be successfully carried out in the hot season. This, like so many other tales that first saw the light of day in Arabia, was proved to be a fallacy, and since then, just to remind everyone, and this includes the Arabs, of this fact, the Force conducts a number of exercises during the "100 days of hell"—as the Arabs call the hot season.

This does not imply that the entire Force packs its bags and proceeds to "swan" about the desert for a few weeks; on the contrary, for this is perhaps one of the few genuinely active forces operating under the auspices of the British Government. All that happens is that instead of conducting its affairs from within the confines of Sharjah, Force H.Q. moves into the field and operates from there, as indeed it would do in the event of a major conflict. With it, quite naturally, goes the Squadron, less those persons necessary to keep Rear H.Q. Signal Centre operating.. However, all this is still to come, and no doubt will be the subject of further contributions to THE WIRE from the Trucial Oman Scouts.

Sport

FARELF Royal Signals Corps Hockey 1961-1962

The Royal Signals (Singapore) Corps Hockey Team have recently completed a most successful season. A total of 11 Corps matches were played, eight were won, two drawn, and one lost. Two matches were cancelled due to bad weather.

The team toured Malaya for the triangular tournament against Royal Signals (Malaya) and the Federation Signals. The first match, against Royal Signals (Malaya) was played at Seremban, and the Corps XI won this match 1—0. The following evening the Corps XI played the Federation Signals at Kuala Lumpur, and after a very thrilling match in which 20 minutes extra time was played, were beaten 3—2. Federation Signals, who had previously beaten Royal Signals (Malaya), therefore won the trophy.

During the season, 16 players of 18th and 19th Regiments have played for the Corps XI; eight members have played for the Army, and eight in the Joint Services XI. In addition, Sergeant Nizar, Corporal Jaffar, Signalman Noordin and Signalman Abdullah have represented the State of Singapore in inter-state games

Golf

The outstanding success this year within the circle of Corps golf is the magnificent effort on the part of Captain R. B. Carroll in winning the Army Golf Championship, and equally commendable, the victory of Major-General E. S. Cole, C.B., C.B.E., in the Generals' Cup. On behalf of all Corps golfers we offer our congratulations.

The Spring Meeting was held at Pannal Golf Club on 12th and 13th April in bright and clear weather. Twenty-seven members played, and we must congratulate Captain J. B. Prince on winning the Handicap Challenge Cup, the Championship Challenge Cup, and the Open Championship Cup with a fine round of 74 and 82.

The results of the Corps matches so far are:

R.M.A.S.	Won
R.M.C.S.	Won
R.A.S.C.	Won
York Golf Club	Lost

T.A. and A.E.R.

H.Q., A.E.R. ROYAL SIGNALS, BLANDFORD CAMP
Weekend Exercise, March 17/18, 1962

During the evening and night of Friday, 16th March, thirty-seven A.E.R. Officers assembled at Blandford, the last arriving an hour before breakfast after driving through the night from Leeds. In spite of the distance between the Officers' Mess and the new location of the working portion of H.Q. A.E.R. in Drake Lines, everyone assembled in the cinema in time for the opening session on Saturday morning. After a short introduction from Colonel T. H. C. Grigg, Commander, A.E.R. Royal Signals, a team of regular staff officers from Headquarters 3rd Division took over and gave a delightfully lucid account of the many aspects of the problems involved in limited "cold war" operations. Lunch followed and the afternoon session opened with a well rehearsed and briskly presented playlet by that well-known troupe the "Blandford Barnstormers," whose resemblance to the permanent staff was a great credit to those responsible for production, make-up and wardrobe! This playlet was designed to introduce to the audience the personalities, organisation and role of the Regiments represented at the weekend and in this it was very successful. It was equally successful in introducing to those who had not already suspected it, certain aspects of the rigorous life led by those who work at H.Q., A.E.R.! The remainder of the afternoon and early evening was spent in syndicates considering the two exercise problems.

On Saturday evening some 45 officers assembled in the Officers' Mess for dinner, the guests on this occasion being: General V. W. Street, C.B., D.S.O., M.C.; Brigadier D. D. Zvegintzov, O.B.E.; Colonel J. M. C. Tulloch, O.B.E. (C.S.O., 3rd Division); Lieutenant-Colonel H. R. Jordan, M.B.E., T.D. (C.S.O.'s Branch, H.Q., Southern Command); Major V. C. Valle and Major W. T. A. Collyer (both of 30th Regiment).

An extremely good dinner was prepared and served by the staff of the Mess, and the last stewards departed for bed in the early hours of a very frosty Sunday morning.

Work commenced again at 9.15 a.m. on Sunday morning, and at least one officer who had decided that a morning constitutional was a necessary correction to the previous night's excesses arrived at the Drake Cinema exhausted, not from his walk, but from continually saying "No!" to any of his brother officers who had offered him a lift in passing. The first half of the morning was spent in discussing the problems, of which there were two, the first being based on the tactical setting and the second being of a general character, on recruiting and training. This latter provoked a considerable amount of interesting discussion, to which, to their credit, many of the younger officers present, made a valuable contribution. The discussion could well have continued until lunch time, but had to be broken off to leave sufficient time in which to see a display of modern equipment, kindly arranged for us by 3rd Regiment and 30th Regiment. Once again we were all very impressed by the keenness and knowledge of the present-day regular soldier, particularly on this occasion by the young N.C.O.s in charge of their detachments.

There is no doubt that this was an extremely valuable and interesting week-end for all present, more particularly in that it provided a get-together of Regular and Reserve Officers. We are extremely grateful to H.Q., 3rd Division, for their excellent co-operation, and to H.Q., A.E.R., for all their activities, both in front of and behind the scenes. And a special word of praise and thanks is due to the Mess Staff, who looked after us so well.

Have you placed a standing order for a copy of The Wire?

Why not do so now?

81st REGIMENT A.E.R.

Lieutenant-Colonel Jack Pritchett, E.R.D., retiring C.O. of 81st Signal Regiment, A.E.R., February, 1962

Hitherto we have held our winter weekend conference at some well-furnished hotel reasonably accessible to all our members. This year, however, we broke with tradition and journeyed south to H.Q. A.E.R., Royal Signals, at Blandford Forum. The weekend was significant for two special features; it was the first winter reunion of the amalgamated 81st and 90th Regiments, and we were dining out on his retirement Lieutenant-Colonel J. Pritchett, E.R.D., the first Commanding Officer of the new 81st and a founder member of the old 81st Regiment (originally 50 Air Formation Signal Regiment). The success of the marriage of the two Regiments was evident from the near 100 per cent. turn out of officers of the new Regiment; for this success credit is mainly due to Colonel Pritchett, who conducted the official ceremony last summer.

Colonel Pritchett has now retired after completing eleven years of service with A.E.R. Royal Signals. The term of each of the Commanding Officers of the two Regiments marked a distinct phase in their life; that of Colonel Pritchett a consolidation of the foundations laid and a careful nurturing of the corporate spirit of the Regiment, a vital feature of any Regiment but doubly so in the case of the A.E.R. where a lack of continuity out of camp poses special problems.

Lieutenant-Colonel Pritchett has brought to his command an extensive technical ability and above all a down-to-earth understanding of A.E.R. people. On behalf of the officers of the Regiment he was presented by Major Frank Beckett, his Second-in-Command and successor, with a handsome canteen of cutlery. We wish Colonel Pritchett everything of the best for the future.

Our traditional farewell drama, staged for departing Commanding Officers, on this occasion took the form of "This Is Your Life "with due acknowledgement to the B.B.C. We were entertained by an excellent sequence of film and recorded interviews enlivened by some inventive reminiscences. We were delighted to have with us two previous Commanding Officers: Colonel A. Woodland, E.R.D. (now our Honorary Colonel), and Colonel D. Braine, E.R.D., and also Colonel T. Grigg, Commander of H.Q., A.E.R., Royal Signals.

The working part of the weekend was devoted to the study of the problems connected with A.E.R. recruiting and the out-of-camp training of Category I reservists.

304 SQUADRON T.A.

Chester has been a garrison town for over two thousand years. 304 Squadron would like to lay claim to the Roman legionaries as its founder members, but alas we can trace our history only to June, 1939. Score Lane, Liverpool, was the birthplace of 23 Armoured Brigade Squadron.

The Squadron trained as part of 55th (West Lancs) Division until May, 1942, and then 23rd Armoured Brigade joined 8th Armoured Division and sailed for the Middle East. Within two weeks of its arrival in Egypt the Squadron was in action and took part in the defence of the El Alamein box. After the breakout the signalling resources of the Brigade were taxed to the limit in the 800-mile advance through the desert to El Agheila, but 23rd Armoured Brigade were still on net when Tripoli was captured in January, 1943. Still in the vanguard of the advance 23rd Armoured Brigade supported 50th (Northumbrian) Division, 4th (Indian) Division and 56th (London) Division during the advance which culminated in the final battle in Africa at Enfideville in May, 1943.

During this period the Brigade adopted the Liver Bird as its sign to show its proud associations with Merseyside.

Into action again in June, 1943, with 23rd Armoured Brigade at the Salerno landing in support of the United States 5th Army. In May, 1944, the Brigade supported the Canadians of 8th Army in the breakout from Anzio. Communications were still loud and clear when, in June, 1944, the Armoured Brigade was withdrawn to Egypt to recuperate.

On once more to new fields in Greece and Salonica for, by no means, peaceful garrison duties in those troubled lands in October, 1944. The end of the war found the Squadron still in Greece but disbandment lay ahead. The wireless sets were handed in and the Armoured Command vehicles put to respectable retirement in May, 1946. Only seven years after its formation the Squadron was placed in "suspended animation."

But in January, 1947, the Territorial Army was reborn and the Liver Bird was once again to be seen on Royal Signal sleeves. This rebirth again took place at Score Lane, Liverpool, but in May the Squadron moved to Chester. There it survived many trials and reorganisations and even happily accepted the anonymous sounding title of 304 Squadron (Armoured Brigade) T.A.

The Liver Bird eventually met its demise in March, 1961. What had begun as yet another reorganisation overnight became a very personal problem, 23rd Armoured Brigade had fallen under the planners axe. For the second time in its brief but splendid history the Squadron laid up its Armoured Command vehicles and looked ahead with some misgivings to becoming an Infantry Brigade Squadron.

However, when it was discovered that being in an Infantry Brigade in no way implied that the Squadron were required to march morale rose. We joined 42nd (Lancs) Regiment whose history is longer and just as splendid as our own and we now wear the Red Rose with just as much pride as we wore the Liver Bird.

Our new role has brought its problems but it has also brought us new equipment and even the most stalwart armoured men have agreed that the new CII/R210 stations and Humber radio vehicles have some advantages which the "Tin Lizzy" lacked.

If any WIRE readers are in Chester we shall be very pleased to see them at Blacon Point House, telephone Chester 21144, particularly if they want to join our ranks or can put us in contact with ex-members of the Corps who want to do some active soldiering in their spare time.

402 SQUADRON A.E.R.

Since our last notes appeared we have had a busy time and we are also pleased to report that a number of recruits have joined us since last year. The majority of them will be with us for annual training in B.A.O.R. during June. The main occupation of the winter months has been the organisation of the week-end training, which is now an additional obligation of Category I of the Army Emergency Reserve. One Detachment spent a very good week-end with 327 Squadron (T.A.) during April, and by all accounts, everything went according to plan. Your scribe spent a week-end with another Detachment of the unit who trained with 325 Squadron (T.A.) in Bristol during April, so that I can report on this more fully. When this additional training was first announced, we all wondered just how it would work out. The answer is that, given some common sense application to the administration, plus some enthusiasm on both sides, it works out very well.

We spent the Saturday in Bristol, doing some revision, and also some preliminary training, ready for the new range practices, and on Sunday we were busy with trade revision and morse training. The success of the week-end was mainly due to the provision of good instructors from the T.A. unit, combined with excellent accommodation provided at the Week-End Training Centre; nor must we forget the T.A. Cooks. On these week-ends we purchase rations locally, and the cost is shared by the personnel attending. These cooks deserve a special mention, they cared for our needs excellently.

As examples of enthusiasm, mention can be made of one T.A. member who missed his train from Plymouth to Bristol, but, undaunted, returned home, loaded up his kit on his motor-cycle and arrived in Bristol on time. An Army Emergency Reserve member, en route from Cardiff, had "big end" trouble and was forced to leave his car in Chepstow. From there he hitched a lift to Gloucester, and there, by a fluke, was picked up by another member of the unit travelling from Hereford to Bristol. So something of the old *Certa Cito* spirit still exists.

We would like to take this opportunity of thanking the many Royal Signals T.A. units in the United Kingdom who have co-operated in accepting our members for training.

64th REGIMENT (T.A.)

3 Squadron. In Glasgow, in April, 1961, 313 Squadron (T.A.), whose previous aliases had been 3 (Indep.) U.K.L.F. Squadron (T.A.) and 500 (Indep.) Squadron (T.A.), surrendered its ten years of independence and became the adopted son of an English Signal Regiment. We once again changed our name by Deed Poll and were re-christened 3 Squadron, 64th Regiment (T.A.). We changed not only our name, but our Formation Signs as well, and a surgical operation converted the proud Lion of Scottish Command, which had hitherto adorned our vehicles, into the U.K.L.F. Griffin (described in my dictionary as a "Heraldic Monster" or a "Fierce, ugly woman").

To celebrate our new status, we were given a Drill Hall, above whose doors the words "First Lanarkshire Volunteer Artillery" are cut deep into the stonework. We had previously "roomed" with 52 (Lowland) Regiment (T.A.), and although our association with that unit had been a very happy one, we were delighted to have our own "house" at long last.

Annual Camp followed, and we journeyed to Sussex to be introduced to our two step-brothers, namely, No. 1 Squadron, from Sheffield and No. 2 Squadron, from Nottingham. We looked each other over for a couple of days, but at the end of the fortnight we all realised that a very happy, efficient, though rather under-strength Trunk Line Regiment had been created.

We had barely drawn breath, after camp, when we were informed that top priority was now recruiting. If, in fact, we did not double our numbers in "X" months, we were running the risk of being "wound-up," "dissolved," "cannibalised," or other fates that sounded worse than death itself. The "dog-fight" was on — and in Glasgow, Paratroopers battled with Gunners; Infantrymen with Sappers; and Signallers with the "lot," in the "Civil War" to get that extra recruit. We came our fairly well, but are still far short of our target.

We are all now looking forward to our annual reunion with our English relatives once again, as we will be spending a fortnight's camp at Hornsea in Yorkshire.

The following goods are available from Association Headquarters:

Corps Ties—Heavy Weave	7/6	
Woollen	8/6	
Terylene	11/-	
Corps Scarves—Woollen	21/-	
Rayon Squares	21/-	
Cravats—Terylene	21/-	
Corps Cuff Links	8/6	
Association Buttonhole Badges or Brooches	3/-	Members only
Corps Blazer Badges	45/-	
Blazer Buttons—Large (each)	2/3	
Small (each)	1/8	
Motor Car Badges (enamelled in Corps Colours)	45/-	
Motor Cycle Badges (enamelled in Corps Colours	20/-	
Corps Plaques	29/6 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.

Association Notes

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 May, 1962. Also, on the same page, is a simple statement of income and expenditure.

SERGEANT, 1923-31. Other service on various engagements, mainly R.A., from 1907-1942. Aged 78, lives alone. In hospital for a successful operation. The fund bought him some coal, to come home to.

WIDOW OF SIGNALMAN, 1924-31 and 1939-45. He died in 1960. Her widow's pension is £2/17/6 and at age 54 she worked in a laundry, earning £2/6/0. Illness stopped her in March and the fund made a generous grant to pay electricity and gas bills.

SIGNALMAN, 1938-46. Married, son age 4. He has been ill since 1958, and his wife became ill a few weeks ago. The fund helped him to pay his rates.

LANCE-CORPORAL, 1947-52, previously five years R.A.O.C. Married, five children. Illness stopped him working in December, 1961. The income is not bad. The only debt was an electricity bill, which the fund paid.

SAPPER, R.E. SIGNALS, 1917-1919. Now aged 64. He lives with his wife and 34-year-old son, who is crippled, but is still able to pay for his board, he has not been able to work for some months. British Legion give 10/- a week and Royal Signals paid for some coal.

SIGNALMAN, 1941-46. Married, five children. He went to hospital in 1960 and has not worked since—an incurable disease. His wife writes: "Grateful thanks for the latest of several parcels you have sent."

WIDOWED MOTHER, who is sole support of ex-Signalman son who has been increasingly ill since discharge from the Corps. Since 1954 he has been completely incapable. They are sent clothing from time to time, and the mother writes to us most gratefully.

Royal Signals Association and Benevolent Fund

The following subscriptions were most gratefully received during April, 1962:

	£	s.	d.
Headquarters Officers' Mess (Grand National Draw)	3	17	0
11th Regiment (Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess) ...	5	5	0
24th Regiment (24 Unit Branch)	75	0	0
224 Squadron	9	10	3
240 Squadron		9	0
1 Squadron, 14th Regiment	10	0	0
2 Squadron, 14th Regiment	3	1	6
201 Squadron	2	5	0
MES/SRDE	1	10	0
Signal Wing, School of Artillery		7	6
605 Troop	4	0	0
47th (MY) Regiment (T.A.) (Warrant Officers and Sergeants) ...	2	0	0
C.S.O.'s Branch, Headquarters, Scottish Command		4	6
632 Troop	1	6	6
61st Regiment (T.A.)		5	2
Headquarters, 1 (BR) Corps	5	0	0
Headquarters, Royal Signals, Hong Kong	1	3	9
253 Squadron	4	16	1
403 Radio Troop	1	10	0
Shrewsbury Branch	30	10	0
Bath Branch	5	5	0
Glossop Branch	21	0	0
North London Branch	4	0	0
Hartlepools and District Branch	5	0	0
Birmingham Branch	5	0	0
Southampton Branch	5	5	0
H. K. Hagon		3	6
T. H. L. Spaight	1	0	0
A. C. Layzell		5	4
R. A. Briggs		10	6
M. C. Stanley	6	0	0
J. F. Timings		10	0
H. W. G. Cooper		5	0
R. M. Dawson	2	0	0
H. W. Howe		7	0
D. G. Heilbron		10	0
J. M. Jones		10	6
J. G. Hopkins	1	0	0
A. H. Campbell		10	6
E. J. Piers		10	6
J. N. B. Penny	1	10	0
A. M. Stonebanks		5	0
R. Bruce		7	6
R. M. A. Jones		10	0
L. Haves		5	0
R. E. Pickford		10	0
G. Cawthorn		10	0
I. Proctor		10	0
Total Receipts	£226	1	7

Expenditure During April, 1962 ... ... £83 9 9
(Includes: Rent and Rates; Beds and Bedding; Furniture; Cots and Prams; General Assistance).

Analysis of Cases:

Families of Soldiers serving in U.K.	1		
Families of Soldiers serving in B.A.O.R.	1		
Widows and dependants	3		
Released and discharged Soldiers	8		
Total cases assisted	13		
5 Cases of Soldiers who served during the 1939/45 War ...	£52	8	5
8 Cases of Soldiers who did not serve during the War ...	£31	1	4

Southampton Branch

The 16th Annual Dinner was held at Blighmont T.A. Centre and the Branch kept up its remarkable standard—95 attended.

Major J. A. Taylor, T.D., Chairman and founder member of the Branch presided and announced the names of the new officers of the Branch: Mr. G. Dickenson (President), Mr. F. S. Griffiths (Hon. Treasurer), Mr. L. Illingsworth (Hon. Secretary). He spoke of the Branch's summer outing on 20th June.

Brigadier D. White, O.B.E., the Chief Signal Officer, proposing the Toast of the Association, spoke highly of the state of the Corps and how small detachments "fired" by Southern Command had done very well in coping with crises the world over.

He was arranging for a Special Royal Signals Recruiter (Sergeant Collins) to be appointed to Southampton and asked members to give him support and comradeship. In an apt illustration he likened the Corps to the four fingers of one hand:

The Regulars
The Territorial Army
The Army Emergency Reserve
The Association which he emphasised was co-equal with the others working in its specialised field.

Brigadier H. R. Firth, General Secretary, responding to the Toast chided the C.S.O. because one of their members with ONLY 43 years' service in the 43rd Regiment was now, by age, relegated to Civilian Employment IN the Regiment. He also mentioned a young competent N.C.O. not allowed in the Regiment because he was in the Regular Army Reserve—Regulations gone mad! He, as did the C.S.O. before him, spoke highly of the work of the Association.

Major J. A. Taylor read out the names of some unavoidably absent and of others who had come considerable distances.

Mr. G. Dickenson, the President, proposed the Toast of the Visitors. Although only the 16th Dinner it was, in fact, the 27th Anniversary of the Branch.

Colonel C. H. Howarth, T.D., was by no means a visitor although he was to reply to the Toast. He had considerable previous service in the 43rd Regiment (T.A.). He spoke of the interest taken in the Branch by some members of the Signal Service Royal Engineers.

Colonel C. H. Howarth, replying for the Guests, said he had enlisted in the Regiment at Hamilton House in 1933 and reminisced nicely about life in the T.A. in those previous days. As a member of the War Office staff his particular charge was the "Ever Readies," the T.A.-E.R. It was necessary to give greater publicity because in Royal Signals the numbers joining them were too low.

North London Branch

The seventh annual dinner and dance was held at the Cambridge Hotel, Palmers Green, N.13, on 14th April, 1962. About 75 members and their ladies were present. After the Loyal Toast, Brigadier H. R. Firth proposed the toast of the North London Branch and in his speech paid compliment to the ladies of the Branch who encouraged their husbands to take time for Branch activities.

He compared the Corps of today with the Corps of the past—and of the future, and while sure that those now serving were worthy of their great traditions, he was very certain that the Corps of the future would outshine them all. In illustration he described the action of the Junior Leaders' Warrant Officers, N.C.O.s and Boys during the recent fire at Denbury when two Junior Leaders lost their lives and some ninety others lost all their possessions. He quoted one of the Squadron Commanders there who, commenting on rather laudatory articles in the National Press, had said "The Warrant Officers and Non-Commissioned Officers did exactly as might be expected. We have been training them for three years!"

He mentioned the greatest battle of the 44th Home Counties Division in World War II. The Branch has its origins in the Southgate Section of the Divisional Signals. Brigadier Firth was promptly reproved by:

Colonel K. Baldwin, M.B.E., T.D., President of the Branch, who explained that the 44th had fought in three of the greatest battles 1939-42. He himself had been in the Divisional Signals on each occasion.

He spoke of the progress of the Branch and of his desire that there should be greater representation at the Catterick Reunion. He regretted the absence of Major-General L. de M. Thuillier, Representative Colonel Commandant, Vice-Chairman of the Association, and Mrs. Thuillier. A telegram had been sent wishing the latter a speedy return to health.

Major G. G. Freemantle, Chairman of the Branch, proposed "The Guests" and Councillor E. T. Hendrich, the Deputy Mayor of the Borough of Enfield, responded.

Presentation

At the conclusion of the speeches, bouquets were presented to Misses E. A. Reynolds and B. Merryweather who aided the Officers and Committee of the Branch in dealing with correspondence and to Mrs. E. D. Murphy, wife of the Honorary Secretary of the Branch.

Mr. J. T. Murphy acted as Toast Master and later compered the dancing with his usual skill. A thoroughly enjoyable evening was aided by the music of the Embassy Band who played during and after dinner.

Careers and Opportunities

Sound Service Limited

Vacancy suitable for Royal Signals Officer, aged 35 years (perhaps 40). The Company interested deals with sound films and equipment and all forms of sound and visual presentation for industry and commerce, and is one of a large group specialising in the production and distribution of films. The successful applicant will most certainly have to make a considerable effort to become acquainted with technical information and methods associated with the business, but the prospects are quite considerable. While technical ability, with a suitable background, is very important, the major portion of his duties would be of an administrative nature, including dealings with clients.

The starting salary is likely to be in the region of £1,200 per annum, and anyone interested should write to Mr. H. S. Hind, Sound-Service Limited, Wilton Crescent, Merton Park, London, S.W.19. The letter should be marked "Confidential" and full personal details, together with information regarding education, training and experience should be included.

42nd (Lancs.) Regiment (T.A.)

Assistant Adjutant required for service with 42nd (Lancs.) Regiment (T.A.), Norman Road, Manchester, 14. The selected candidate will be commissioned in the rank of Captain, on consolidated rates of pay. Applicants most suited to the post will be ex-Service officers under the age of 42 years. The starting salary will be £945, rising to £1,035 after six years. Certain allowances may also be claimed. Tenure of appointment will be for three years in the first instance.

Apply, in writing, to the Commanding Officer, 42nd (Lancashire) Regiment (T.A.), Norman Road, Manchester, 14.

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This notification has been sent to us by the Branch Manager of the London/City Branch of the Sun Life Assurance Company of Canada, Mr. C. K. Chillcott.

Several new amendments are being made to the Sales Organisation of this Branch, due to a special expansion programme. The Branch Manager will welcome applications from candidates who fulfil the following requirements:

(1) Age 23 to 45 years.
(2) Good educational standard. Minimum G.C.E. (O Level) or equivalent.
(3) Ambitious to earn an income on results. Many existing Representatives earn over £2,000 per annum. Initially candidates should budget to between £750/£1,000 per annum. Pension and other benefits provided.
(4) Good health essential.

Applications for more information and to arrange an exploratory interview should be made to the Branch Manager: G. K. Chillcott, Esq., Sun Life Assurance Company of Canada, London/City Branch, King's House, 36/7, King Street, London, E.C.2. (Telephone Monarch 4934).

Employment of Retired Regular Officers

There are vacancies for Retired Regular Officers in Royal Signals Establishments in Headquarters and Units of the Corps at home and abroad.

Currently, applications can be considered for posts in London, Eastern Command, Southern Command, Northern Command, and overseas in Germany, Near East and Far East.

The present salary range is from £1,067 to £1,266.

Overseas allowances are payable in addition to salary.

Serving officers who are about to retire should follow the rules given in ACI 433/61.

Retired Officers should apply for details of employment to: The Under Secretary of State, The War Office (C5/RO), London, S.W.1.

AG 11 will gladly help any officer who needs advice regarding submission of an application for a Retired Officer post. The address is: The Under Secretary of State, The War Office (AG11), Stanmore, Middlesex.

Diplomatic Wireless Service

Vacancies exist at the Foreign Office in London for MALE and FEMALE CYPHER STAFF. Applicants must have previous experience in cypher work. Starting salary £655 at age 25 or over, rising to £875. Conditions of service include acceptance of night, Sunday and shift duties (for which extra allowances are paid). Candidates and both their parents must have been British subjects, or citizens of the Irish Republic, at all times since birth. All first appointments are on a temporary basis with possibility of later establishment. Apply, giving details of qualifications, to Assistant Director of Communications (D.W.S.), Foreign Office, London, S.W.1.

INSURANCE

The Association is accredited Agent to a well-known Insurance Company and anyone who insures with this company on introduction of the Association benefits by a half-share in the Agents' Commission, the other half goes to Association Welfare. Further information from Royal Signals Association, 88, Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1.

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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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☆

JULY • 1962

Vol. 16 *(New Series)* **No. 7**

Editorial

Nearly everyone will agree that the 36 pages published in June were well up to standard. This was due to two main causes.

First, the way in which the apprentice Editors put the magazine together—all praise is due; second, AND MORE IMPORTANT, the EXCELLENT MATERIAL placed at their disposal.

Over the years the Editor has constantly appealed for more factual accounts of the unusual experience either in the course of duty or on leave. In the past few months these have been flowing in.

In particular, in June, a nice balance was reached. There were several good stories of unusual travel.

Two of the best were unfortunately "concealed" in the notes of 210 and 203 Squadrons. Had the Editor himself been competent these two excellent stories of individual adventure would have been "headed" to emphasise them. When the Editor did the final proof reading, it was too late to alter the setting of the concerned pages.

APPEAL

Please keep up the supply of these excellent true stories of adventure or travel. This is often a matter for Commanding Officers. The individual Officer or Signalman who has an unusual experience will seldom think of putting it on paper unless encouraged to do so.

* * *

THE WIRE is becoming more and more readable. It depends entirely on what is sent by Regiments and Squadrons.

B.A.O.R.

Currently (13th June) the Editor, having little else to do, reads several newspaper each day. There is a good deal of criticism of certain Regiments in Germany. It would be well if THE WIRE could publish the truth of how our Regiments work hard and play harder, offending no one, edifying nearly all.

Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal departs for Canada

On the eve of the departure of Her Royal Highness, Princess Royal, for Canada, on 12th June, the following message was sent to Her Royal Highness by the Representative Colonel Commandant:—

"All ranks of your Corps wish you a happy and successful tour in Canada."

Her Royal Highness graciously replied as follows:—

"The message from all ranks of my Royal Corps of Signals for a happy and successful visit to Canada has given me very great pleasure.

"I thank you all for your kind thoughts.

MARY,
Colonel-in-Chief."

TEN TORS 1962

MESSAGE FROM HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

The success of the Ten Tors expeditions shows clearly that the spirit of adventure is still very much alive.

Living as we do in an overcrowded, highly regulated island it needs considerable ingenuity to find an outlet for this spirit.

Colonel Gregory has hit upon an idea which provides just the right mixture of challenge to the ingenuity, toughness and adventure of healthy young people.

I hope all the patrols taking part in the 1962 Ten Tors will have an interesting time and when it is over I hope they will thoroughly enjoy the sense of achievement.

1st January, 1962

"If there is anything more important than the will to succeed, it is that the will shall not falter."

St. James's Palace,
S.W.1.
Whitehall 4110

8th June 1962

The message from all ranks of my Junior Leaders Regiment and 1500 young people starting on the Ten Tors Expedition on Dartmoor has given me very great pleasure.

I send you all my best wishes and hope you will have good weather and a successful and enjoyable venture.

MARY

Colonel-in-Chief

IT was with greatly increased support that over 1,300 competitors assembled at Haytor for the start of the third "Ten Tors." Due mainly to the increased numbers, the start had to be carried out in three phases, the first of which was at 07.00 hours on Whit Sunday.

The Lord Lieutenant of Devon, Lord Roborough, started each phase by welcoming the competitors to Devon and wishing them God Speed and success in their expedition, which was to take them over some of the roughest country on Dartmoor.

Among the many hundreds of spectators were Major-General Whistler, the Signal Officer-in-Chief, Major-General Cubbon, the Commander of the 43 (Wx.) Division/District and also a patron of "Ten Tors," and Lieutenant-Colonel Gregory, our former Commanding Officer and founder of the expedition.

On 8th June competitors arrived at Denbury from all over the country—in fact there was even one team from B.A.O.R. (2nd Signal Regiment). The first night was spent on one of the two large camping areas in Denbury which were specially prepared for competitors.

Youth from all walks of life arrived, and their varied dress was greeted with mixed comments of surprise, envy, amusement and admiration.

Scouts, Police Cadets, Pre-Service Units, Public and Local Schools, Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme Clubs, and other Youth Teams assembled for the expedition. These teams, with names like "The Moor Trekkers," "Concordian Centrifugal Force," "Four Admirals Club," "Margaret Mitchell's Team," "Operation Dartmoor" provided over 800 competitors, whilst the remainder came from the three Services, were represented by both male and female competitors, with the males coming mainly from Officer and Junior/Apprentice Training Establishments.

The distance marched was dependent on the age and sex of the individual teams, which had to be six in number and within an age bracket of 14 to 20 years: 35 miles, girls and boys, 14 to 16 years; 50 miles, boys, 16 to 18 years; 60 miles, young men, 18 to 20 years.

With a time allowance of 36 hours (including a 10-hour compulsory rest) each team had to visit ten selected Tors, at which they had their patrol cards stamped and signed. Control H.Q., which was established on the moor and resembled a division in the field, was in direct communication with all the Tor checks points. Communications were provided by detachments from the Gurkha Signal Squadron, at present stationed in this country, and Junior Leaders and ex-Boys from Catterick.

The weather was kind (probably a little too kind) with bright sun for most of the time. Heat and the long road approach to the moor took its toll of many of the marchers, particularly those who had not carried out sufficient training (an essential for this type of adventure).

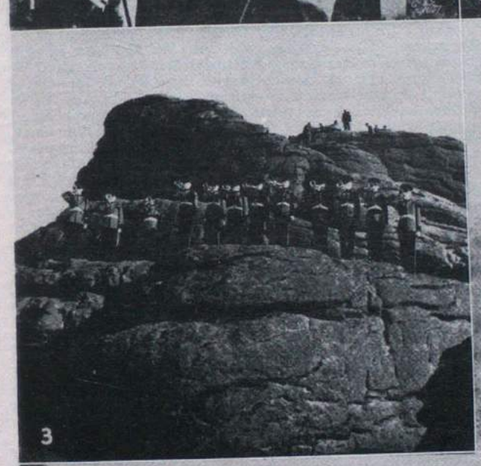
However, most teams finished and qualified for medals and certificates, which were presented the following day at the prizegiving ceremony in Denbury on the 30-yard range, which had been decorated for the occasion and formed an excellent amphitheatre.

At the prizegiving, Colonel Holifield, the Commanding Officer and Chief Controller of the expedition, introduced Colonel Gregory, who made a fine speech and presented awards to successful competitors.

Brief statistics of the whole expedition are as follows: Teams competing, 225 (girls 13, boys 58, youths 112, young men 42); total competitors, 1,348; certificates, individuals, 188; team medals (each complete team), 83; individuals finished, 683.

The utmost credit must be given to the competitors themselves, who, by their fine spirit of cheerfulness, co-operation, good sense and adventure, made the whole expedition a great success. Anyone who had the good fortune to witness this large gathering of youth could not help but feel immensely proud of their achievements.

For us in the Regiment, we were all satisfied that our efforts were appreciated.



1. Lord Roborough, Colonel Holifield and General Whistler study the route. 2. The Wrens Team study their maps at the start 3. Fanfare Trumpets 'sound off' the start from the Hay Tor Rocks. 4. A Junior 'First Aider' with a pretty task. 5. The first girls teams arrive at the finish. 6. Colonel Gregory presents Certificates and Medals. Major Nye, R.A.E.C. (Secretary Ten Tors) is on the left

Royal Signals Dinner Club

THE Master of Signals, Major-General Sir William A. Scott, K.C.M.G., C.B., C.B.E., presided at the Annual Dinner held at the Hyde Park Hotel on 30th May, 1962. Two hundred and ten officers were present.

Messages in reply to telegrams of loyal greetings were received from Her Majesty The Queen and Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal.

Speech by Major-General R. J. Moberly, C.B., O.B.E.

After the two Loyal Toasts, the Representative Colonel-Commandant, Major-General R. J. Moberly, C.B., O.B.E., rose to speak as follows:—

"This year we have a new look for our dinner. The Top Table has been abolished and some tables have been specially arranged. You will notice one for the 'Desert Rats' and two for 'Gurkha Signals.' There are others I would prefer not to mention.

We also hope to have a new look for the Tea Party next year in the form of a garden party, perhaps at Hurlingham.

We are all very disappointed that after all Lord Portal cannot dine with us tonight. On the other hand a family party, with no guests, is very appropriate, in particular because we have with us for the first time in our history our Master, General Sir William Scott.

We are all glad to see that other Signal Corps are represented tonight—Canada, Australia, Pakistan and the United States. We also have with us two Gurkha officers.

Since our last dinner many distinguished officers have died. I cannot list their names but I would like to mention Major-General R. E. Barker, who recently died so suddenly in New Zealand, because he dined with us last year.

You will be sorry to learn that The Princess Royal is not well and may be unable to attend the Tea Party tomorrow. However, I am glad to say she is much better today. You will also be sorry to hear that Brigadier Firth is ill in Millbank Hospital recovering from an operation and that Major Sen is also in hospital there. Otherwise I am sure that Major Sen would have represented India here tonight.

You may have heard that those old soldiers Firth and Howe are shortly to retire for the second time, and that they will be replaced by Hobson and Day.

It is appropriate to have a new look tonight for we are on the threshold of a new era. Far reaching changes will come in the Corps. However, plans for the future have been made by some of our best officers and we must have the courage of our convictions.

The Regular Corps is in good shape. Recruiting is going well and is better than most—about 60 a month—but we need even more. Our Boys recruiting is the best in the Army and I keep hearing that our Boys' Regiment are also the best. The officer position is improving and Sandhurst is full. More of the better cadets are asking to come to us and a great deal of the credit must go to our devoted team of Instructors at the R.M.A.S. We have two new prizes for our cadets in addition to the Agar Memorial Prize for the first in order of merit. A sword is to be given for efficiency and character and the Wemyss Memorial Prize for the second in order of merit.

Re-equipment is going well for the Regular Army. By the end of the year it will be complete for All Arms except for certain increased scales, principally for Infantry. Unfortunately, however, certain key equipments for Royal Signals are lagging behind. Reserve Army re-equipment will get under way in 1963.

Plan "Hobart," a very imaginative all Army Signal plan for the future, is making steady progress. Recently a team from the School of Signals has made a number of presentations of this plan in the United States and they have been very well received.

The Adjutant General told me the other day that he is very impressed by our Units and in particular by two Regiments that he inspected—one in Germany and one in Cyprus. He considers them first-class in every way from the Commanding Officers down to the most junior signalman.

You all know the tragic story of the fire in our Junior Leaders Regiment at Denbury when two boys lost their lives. Although some 95 boys lost all their possessions these have all been made good with outside help, in particular from our Association. The Regiment has made a wonderful recovery and has recently had the uplift it needed when for the first time in our history the Pass-Off Parade was taken by the C.I.G.S. himself.

Plans for the move of the School of Signals to Blandford are going well and the Master has approved the architect's plans on the spot. The School is expected to move from Catterick in the Spring of 1965.

Our Units in the Reserve Army are settling down well, following the recent reorganisation. We all know of their two most pressing problems—the obtaining of good quality volunteers and new equipment.

Our Corps has close links with the Royal Air Force. Our links with the Royal Navy have been fewer and so I am glad to say that in addition to the adoption of H.M.S. *Meon*, the one remaining headquarter ship on which we have a Signal Troop, we have more recently adopted the aircraft carrier H.M.S. *Hermes*. At the Commissioning ceremony last month, after her refit in Portsmouth, we were well represented and the Master presented a "Jimmy" to the Captain for the ship's company. Unfortunately the "Jimmy" we gave was not of the correct design—a figure with very fat legs and certainly no messenger of the Gods, as General Scott himself said. We have since replaced this "Jimmy" by one of the correct pattern. On your behalf I have given Captain O'Brien of H.M.S. *Hermes*, at his request, permission to play our Corps March onboard whenever he likes. I have also presented to him one of the long playing records of the Corps March which Lieutenant-Colonel John Judd made with the Corps Band shortly before he retired. Incidentally I have also presented one of these records to our Colonel-in-Chief from whom I have had a very gracious message to say that she looked forward to playing it at Harewood House.

Her Royal Highness has approved that Princess Royal Day should be celebrated by Units throughout the Corps on or about 28th June.

Recently the Chief Signal Officer of the U.S. Army, Major-General Nelson, accompanied by his wife, paid a short official visit to this country. He stayed with the Signal Officer-in-Chief, he was entertained to an official luncheon in London, he had discussions in the War Office and it was my privilege to present him and his wife to The Princess Royal at St. James' Palace.

As always, the Corps has done well in sport. In Soccer, 15th Regiment won the championship for the second year running in NEARELF. Gurkha Signals won the Nepal Cup in FARELF.

In Athletics, Royal Signals won the Army in Malta Championship.

In Shooting it has been an outstanding year. We have had five representatives in the Army 12 Long Range Inter-Service Match and five in the Army 20 Inter-Service Match. 7th Regiment won the A.R.A. Unit Team, Young Soldiers and Company strength Small Bore Matches. They also won the Stock Exchange Cup. The Corps Shield was won by 20th Regiment and Lieutenant Waxman won the Young Officers' Cup and was in the Army VIII Pistol and Rifle teams.

In Golf, General Cole has again won the General's Cup, beating another General Cole in the final. Captain Carroll has won the Army Championship.

In Sailing, Royal Signals won the Triangular Regattas against the Gunners and Sappers in NEARELF and FARELF. The 4½-ton yacht *Ganga Devi*, skippered by Captain Alexander, arrived in Falmouth from Hong Kong last July having covered 10,000 miles in seven months.

Incidentally when Captain Alexander reached Aden he and a naval member of his crew took official jobs there for a month or two for two reasons. First it was necessary to make special arrangements to get through the Suez Canal. Second, of perhaps more importance, they had to await the beginning of the next leave year in order to be able to continue the voyage.

In Mountaineering, Captain Hasell, an Instructor at the R.M.A.S., is a member of the Joint Pakistan British Army Expedition due to arrive in Rawalpindi about the 3rd June. They are to attempt to scale an unclimbed peak in the Karakorams. I wrote to Brigadier Mohammed Suleman, the Director of Signals in Pakistan, asking him to look after Hasell in Rawalpindi and I have had a typically friendly reply saying he will do everything he can.

You will be interested to know that a Royal Signals Amateur Radio Society has been formed. The President is the Signal Officer-in-Chief and the Vice-President, General Cole.

Unfortunately for us General Whistler gives up Signal Officer-in-Chief a year early next September. He has done so much to reorganise the Corps for the future—for example, the new Trade structure, the new Selection Board system for promotion, and the new training cycle for officers. But above all he has put the Corps on the map and he will be greatly missed.

On the other hand we must congratulate him on his wonderful new appointment as Chairman of the B.J.C.E.B. and Director of the Joint C.E. Staff in the Ministry of Defence, in which capacity he will have direct access to the Chief of the Defence Staff, Lord Mountbatten.

We are very fortunate that such a distinguished officer as Brigadier Swainson will be taking over as Signal Officer-in-Chief in September.

As you know, one of the recent changes in the Corps has been the formation of our new Regimental Headquarters—it has four R.O.s and a number of clerks paid for from Government funds and W.D. accommodation provided instead of our having to pay rent for the Eccleston Square premises. The Regimental Headquarters, together with the Association and Institution, are to move into accommodation in the Duke of York's Headquarters near Sloane Square in October or November this year.

As I have already said we have with us tonight for the first time our Master of Signals. It is perhaps a strange coincidence that his appointment dates from the 4th August last year, a date which will be well remembered by the older ones of us present tonight. We are indeed very fortunate that General Scott has accepted this new appointment. We all know of his very distinguished career and of his devotion to the Corps and we wish him every success in the future.

I am sure that you would like to hear something from him on this historic occasion and so I will now ask him if he will speak to us."

Speech by the Master of Signals, Major-General Sir William Scott, K.C.M.G., C.B., C.B.E.

The Master of Signals, Major-General Sir William Scott, K.C.M.G., C.B., C.B.E., then rose and said that as this was the first time in his recollection that we had dined alone as a family party, he was not going to take up their time by making a speech, but as it was also the first time we had had a Master of Signals, he felt there were just two things he would like to say.

First, he wanted everyone to know that our first choice for the appointment of Master of Signals had been Ronnie Penney (Major-General Sir Ronald Penney). He would have done it supremely well, but his doctor had put his foot down and he had had to refuse. The Master thought everyone would like to know that and he was glad of the opportunity to pay him a tribute.

The second point was the title itself. He thought it was a good one and certainly he had heard favourable comment from outside the Corps. He had no doubt people would be exercising their wit and would devise variations of the title—he had in fact heard one: "Master Oscillator"!

He concluded by saying that although the title was "*Master*," he would always regard himself as the "*Servant*" of the Corps.

Dakar Operation

The story of the Anglo-Free French Expedition which attempted to rally French West Africa to the Free French cause in September, 1940, as planned by Mr. Winston Churchill and General de Gaulle.

By Colonel John A. Watson, O.B.E.
Officer of the Legion of Merit, Chevalier de la Legion d'Honneur, Croix de Guerre.

Publishers: P.R.M. Publishers, Ludgate House, Fleet Street, London, E.C.4.

Price: 25/-.

Obituary

BRIGADIER J. G. DEEDES, C.M.G., O.B.E.

Jack Deedes started his Army career in the T.A., obtaining a commission in the 2nd (London) Divisional Signal Company in March, 1914.

He served in France, and in 1919 went to South Russia with the British Military Mission as Signals Liaison Officer.

On the formation of the Corps, approval was given for the granting of regular commissions to a small number of non-regular officers and Deedes was one of those selected.

After service in Egypt, at the War Office and on the C.S.O.'s staff at Aldershot, he retired in 1933, but was recalled for service in June, 1939, and went to France with the staff of C.S.O., 2nd Corps, where he was awarded the O.B.E.

In February, 1941, he returned to the War Office as G.S.O.2 in the Signals Directorate, later became G.S.O.1, and in February, 1944, was appointed D.D. Signals Telecommunications.

He retired in 1945, and for the next two years served as Telecommunications Attaché at the British Embassy in Washington, receiving the C.M.G. in 1948.

Jack Deedes saw many aspects of Signal work during his long service, and was a most experienced Signal Officer. It was as a Signals staff officer that he was at his best, and the Corps owes much to the untiring and capable enthusiasm with which he tackled his many jobs in his quiet, unassuming and friendly way.

In 1949 he emigrated to Southern Rhodesia, and his many Corps friends of the old days will be very sad to hear of his death there on 4th May, 1962.

He leaves a widow and a son, to whom we offer the sympathy of the Corps.

The New Signal Officer United States Army

The following messages have been exchanged between Major-General A. M. W. Whistler, Signal Officer-in-Chief and Major-General Earle F. Cook on his nomination as the new Chief Signal Officer, United States Army.

Signal Officer-in-Chief to General Cook:

Heartiest congratulations from us all. We are delighted with the news and look forward to continued and expanding co-operation between our two Corps.

General Cook to General Whistler:

I was delighted to receive your thoughtful message of congratulations. Thank you very much. I, too, look forward to a lasting and pleasant association with you and members of your command. Kindest personal regards.

Recommended Reading

	Pages
Ten Tors	230/231
Hong Kong	237
Signals in the Cameroons, by an "Old Coaster"	238
A Holiday Tour in the Far East—Part II ...	239
Istanbul—or Bust	240/241
School of Signals	244/245
"Anglo-German Relations," 7th Regiment	249/251
S.O.S. Message Intercepted—24th Regiment	256

PERSONAL COLUMN

Birthday Honours List

Congratulations to those honoured by Her Majesty.

C.B.E. Colonel G. H. T. Shrimpton, T.D.

O.B.E. Lieutenant-Colonel V. C. Holland (Civil)
Lieutenant-Colonel D. D. Fairman.
Lieutenant-Colonel E. W. Milner, T.D.
Lieutenant-Colonel J. R. Piddington.

M.B.E. Major R. J. Barlow.

London Gazette

From 8th May to 29th May, 1962.

Captain W. G. Heaton, T.D., to be Major, 1st April, 1962.
Second-Lieutenant G. L. Richards to be Lieutenant (T.A.), 12th May, 1962.
Lieutenant-Colonel R. S. P. Forbes, T.D., to T.A.R.O., 1st April, 1962.
Captain D. F. Oakley to be Major, 14th May, 1962.
Major R. O. Edwards retired (S.S.C.), 1st May, 1962.
Major A. F. Cook, T.D., to T.A.R.O., 1st April, 1962.
Second-Lieutenant P. E. Bruce to be Lieutenant (S.S.C.), 17th May, 1962.
Second-Lieutenant M. A. Orwin to be Lieutenant (S.S.C.), 17th May, 1962.
Captain (Q.M.) W. E. Roscoe to be Major (Q.M.), 15th May, 1962.
Major J. P. Brown (T.A.) retired 25th March, 1962.
Second-Lieutenant L. E. J. Evans to be Lieutenant (T.A.), 15th April, 1962.
Second-Lieutenant S. H. Boardman to be Lieutenant (T.A.), 18th May, 1962.
W.O.II F. G. Rayner to be Lieutenant (Tfc. Offr.) (T.A.), 21st March, 1962.
Major C. E. Meager to T.A.R.O., 12th March, 1962.
Captain J. M. Frewer to T.A.R.O., 30th April, 1962.
Lieutenant J. V. Miles to T.A.R.O., 25th February, 1962.
Captain (Tfc. Offr.) N. E. Robinson to be Major (Tfc. Offr.), 11th April, 1962.
Major P. M. Luttman-Johnson, T.D., to be Lieutenant-Colonel (T.A.), 1st May, 1962.
Lieutenant J. M. Whipp-Goode to be Captain (T.A.), 12th April, 1962.
Second-Lieutenant G. G. F. Tulley to be Lieutenant (T.A.), 15th April, 1962.
Second-Lieutenant J. J. Ferguson to be Lieutenant (T.A.), 15th April, 1962.

The undermentioned Lieutenants to T.A.R.O. on the dates shown:—
J. F. Doyle, 1st April, 1962.
J. G. Wilkinson, 3rd April, 1962.
C. S. P. Cordingley, 3rd April, 1962.
T. Wilkinson, 9th April, 1962.

Major (Q.M.) L. Teal to be Lieutenant-Colonel (Q.M.), 17th January, 1962.
Captain H. Clarke retired (S.S.C.), 25th May, 1962.
Second-Lieutenant S. G. Small to be Lieutenant (S.S.C.), 8th April, 1962.
Captain (Tfc. Offr.) D. W. Swenson retired (S.S.C.), 23rd May, 1962.
Lieutenant P. G. H. Summers to T.A.R.O., 3rd April, 1962.
Lieutenant D. G. Mitchell to be Captain, 29th May, 1962.
Captain (Tfc. Offr.) F. W. Moseley to be Major (Tfc. Offr.), 23rd May, 1962.
Captain K. Watts to be Major (S.S.C.), 29th May, 1962.
Second-Lieutenant B. V. Tout to be Lieutenant (T.A.), 27th May, 1962.
Second-Lieutenant R. D. Gee to be Lieutenant (T.A.), 29th May, 1962.
Captain K. Watson to T.A.R.O., 31st December, 1961.
Major O. B. G. Shoubridge retired, 1st June, 1962.
Major L. S. McCarthy retired, 1st June, 1962.
Colonel (T/Brigadier) F. J. Swainson, O.B.E., to be Brigadier, 16th June, 1962.

Movements—Officers

(Taken place or forecast to take place period ending 15th July, 1962).

Lieutenant-Colonel (T/Col.) R. S. King, T.D.	... ...	To B.A.S., Washington
Major E. W. Lewis	... ...	,, A.A.S., Harrogate
Major L. V. McNaught-Davis	... ...	,, School of Infantry
Major R. C. K. Baron	... ...	,, 16th Regiment
Major D. A. R. Elliott, M.C.	... ...	,, H.Q., Malta
Major W. McDonald	... ...	,, 24th Regiment
Major R. H. Blizard	... ...	,, H.Q., Training Brigade
Major D. C. Newman	... ...	,, War Office
Major G. S. Symonds, T.E.	... ...	,, H.Q., Middle East
Captain J. M. Ellingworth	... ...	,, 226 Squadron
Captain E. L. Rogers	... ...	,, 4th Regiment
Captain J. T. Treglown	... ...	,, War Office
Captain J. M. Horsley-Curry	...	,, 656 Light Aircraft Squadron
Captain N. C. Grayson, T.E.	... ...	,, 237 Squadron FARELF
Captain P. Gilham	... ...	,, 14th Regiment
Lieutenant D. S. Mullineaux	...	,, 1 Squadron, K.A.R.
Lieutenant I. D. Scott	... ...	,, 210 Squadron
Lieutenant (Tfc. Offr.) J. E. Gill	...	,, 242 Squadron

Movements—Warrant Officers and Sergeants

W.O.I W. C. Whitbread	... ...	To 30th Regiment
W.O.I N. Lane	... ...	,, 8th Regiment
W.O.II P. F. Byers	... ...	,, 11th Regiment (2 Squadron)
W.O.II C. Wood	... ...	,, 11th Regiment (2 Squadron)
W.O.II J. N. Clark	... ...	,, 16th Regiment
W.O.II D. W. Capon	... ...	,, School of Signals
W.O.II B. C. Cole	... ...	,, School of Signals
W.O.II S. R. Mingaud	... ...	,, 8th Regiment
W.O.II G. A. Sharp	... ...	,, 7th Regiment
W.O.II G. A. J. Barnaby	... ...	,, 30th Regiment
W.O.II H. J. Crocker	... ...	,, G.H.Q., FARELF
W.O.II G. E. Flann	... ...	,, C.R. Signals, Singapore
W.O.II F. Eastwood	... ...	,, Army Camp Comdt., Aden
W.O.II V. A. Vallor	... ...	,, 3rd Regiment
W.O.II I. McLoughlin	... ...	,, 224 Squadron
W.O.II E. Summers	... ...	,, R.M.A., Sandhurst
W.O.II R. W. Steadman	... ...	,, 4th Regiment
W.O.II M. B. McCormack	... ...	,, 13th Regiment
W.O.II C. W. Palmer	... ...	,, Junior Leaders Regiment
W.O.II S. W. Halbert	... ...	,, 22nd Regiment
W.O.II W. J. Harrison	... ...	,, 237 Squadron
W.O.II A. Stringer	... ...	,, 30th Regiment
Staff Sergeant J. L. E. Walke	...	,, 8th Regiment
Staff Sergeant J. Lawrence	... ...	,, 18th Regt., R.A., Signal Troop
Staff Sergeant V. J. Kimber	... ...	,, 232 Squadron
Staff Sergeant F. P. J. Edge	... ...	,, H.Q., London District
Staff Sergeant E. S. Cone	... ...	,, Junior Leaders Regiment
Staff Sergeant J. H. Edwards	...	,, 308 Squadron (T.A.)
Staff Sergeant L. H. Devine Jones	...	,, 4th Regiment
Staff Sergeant F. P. Simpson	...	,, 7th Regiment
Staff Sergeant A. M. Sutherland	...	,, 13th Regiment
Staff Sergeant H. Price	... ...	,, 222 Squadron
Staff Sergeant D. H. M. Rumsey	...	,, 235 Squadron
Staff Sergeant T. G. Armstrong	...	,, 236 Squadron
Staff Sergeant J. R. Overton	...	,, 237 Squadron
Staff Sergeant G. E. Tompkins	...	,, 3rd Regiment
Staff Sergeant K. R. Montgomery	...	,, U.K. Garrison Signal Troop
Staff Sergeant G. W. Giles	... ...	,, 11th Regiment (2 Squadron)
Sergeant L. R. Jones	... ...	,, 638 Troop
Sergeant W. C. Yates	... ...	,, 73 Squadron, R.E.
Sergeant C. McGilvray	... ...	,, A.A.S., Harrogate
Sergeant A. J. E. Irons	... ...	,, 24th Regiment
Sergeant S. Whorrod	... ...	,, Junior Leaders Regiment
Sergeant P. D. Watton	... ...	,, A.A.S., Harrogate
Sergeant M. D. Hammond	... ...	,, 30th Regiment
Sergeant J. S. Pearson	... ...	,, 8th Regiment
Sergeant J. N. Phillips	... ...	,, Intelligence Centre
Sergeant A. C. Potts	... ...	,, 9/12 Lancers Signal Troop
Sergeant G. H. Lomax	... ...	,, 24th Regiment
Sergeant D. L. Bassett	... ...	,, 602 Troop
Sergeant P. B. Cairns	... ...	,, 255 Squadron
Sergeant H. Orton	... ...	,, 21st Regiment
Sergeant A. Byram	... ...	,, 4th Regiment
Sergeant W. Forrest	... ...	,, 18th Regiment
Sergeant W. O'Connell	... ...	,, 16th Regiment
Sergeant J. Low	... ...	,, 235 Squadron
Sergeant P. Day	... ...	,, 11th Regiment
Sergeant J. M. Hancock	... ...	,, 255 Squadron
Sergeant J. Cummins	... ...	,, 24th Regiment
Sergeant R. M. Sanderson	... ...	,, 9th Regiment
Sergeant F. J. Lovatt	... ...	,, 13th Regiment
Sergeant W. N. Dunn	... ...	,, 3rd Regiment
Sergeant R. H. W. Jamieson	... ...	,, 210 Squadron
Sergeant T. T. F. Harding	... ...	,, 16th Regiment
Sergeant P. W. Nichols	... ...	,, Signal Training Cen. (Far East)
Acting Sergeant W. G. Wallace	...	,, 254 Squadron
Acting Sergeant M. Jennings	...	,, H.Q., A.F.N.E.
Acting Sergeant W. Mowatt	...	,, 11th Regiment

Births

GITTINGS.—To Sergeant and Mrs. Gittings, on 12th February, 1962, a son, Stephen James.

MULLINS.—To Corporal and Mrs. Mullins, on 29th April, 1962, a daughter, Catherine Carmel.

COWE.—To Staff Sergeant and Mrs. A. J. Cowe, on 10th May, 1962, a daughter, Jane Elizabeth.

CHAINEY.—To Signalman and Mrs. C. W. A. Chainey, on 1st April, 1962, a daughter, Lorraine.

HARGREAVES.—To Signalman and Mrs. G. A. Hargreaves, on 12th February, 1962, a daughter, Colette Irene.

SHAW.—To Signalman and Mrs. J. G. Shaw, on 20th April, 1962, a son, Ronald Alan.

SWINBANK.—To Signalman and Mrs. R. A. Swinbank, on 20th July, a son, David.

FISHER.—To Staff Sergeant and Mrs. Fisher, on 23rd April, 1962, a son, Robert Adrian, at B.M.H. Hostert.

DEAN.—To W.O.II and Mrs. J. Dean, on 24th April, 1962, a son, Kevin Alexander, at R.A.F. Hospital.

Marriages

O'NEILL—HARTLEY.—Lance-Corporal T. F. O'Neill, on 15th May, 1962, to Maureen Hartley, at the Register Office, Blandford.

JOINER—VERHAGEN.—Captain B. H. Joiner to Jannette Verhagen, at the Hague.

LITTLE—SALMON.—Lance-Corporal G. H. Little to Denise Salmon, at Redford.

TEWKESBURY—SCKHEWSKI. — Signalman Tewkesbury to Liane Sckhewski, at Krefeld.

BARR—SMART.—Sergeant R. Barr to Margaret Smart, on 21st April, 1962.

LEE—KISTLE.—Corporal R. A. Lee to Constance Edith Kistle, on 19th May, 1962.

POWER—RYDER.—Corporal T. C. Power to Ann Ryder, on 2nd June, 1962.

Deaths

WILSON.—On 6th May, 1962, at B.A.O.R., Corporal G. Wilson, as a result of accident.

OSWIN.—On 11th May, 1962, in Aden, Signalman T. R. Oswin, as a result of accident.

MILLS.—On 13th May, 1962, Lance-Corporal E. G. J. Mills at his home, 19, Bromfelde Road, Stockwell. Member Royal Signals Association 1945.

CURTIS.—On 26th June, 1962, at B.A.O.R., Signalman R. Curtis, 23797465, as the result of a road traffic accident.

Wants and Offers

Would any Unit with stocks of unsold stable belts of the old, obsolete pattern please contact PRI, 1 Signal Squadron (Comd.), The King's African Rifles, B.F.P.O. 10, who is interested in buying up stock.

* * *

PORTWAY GUEST HOUSE, Curry Rivel, Langport, Somerset. Telephone Langport 225. Proprietors, Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Partridge. Every comfort, good touring centre, good food, terms moderate.

Forthcoming Events

Royal Tournament

Earls Court, London, 11th-28th July, 1962.

Royal Signals Institution Lectures, 1962

*Friday, 28th September, "New Zealand," Brigadier J. E. Anderson, 6.15 p.m., at the T.A. Centre, 47th Regiment, T.A., Duke of York's Headquarters, Chelsea, S.W.3.

Tuesday, 27th November, "Training of American Cadets at West Point," Second-Lieutenant Paul L. Miles, Jnr., U.S. Army, 5.15 p.m., at North Hall, Training Brigade, Royal Signals, Catterick Camp, Yorks.

* Members are allowed two guests for this lecture.

Association of Harrogate Apprentices

The 10th Annual General Meeting and Reunion is to be held on Tuesday, 31st July, and Wednesday, 1st August, 1962, at the Army Apprentices School, Harrogate. The provisional programme is: August 1st, a.m., Graduation Parade; 14.00 hours, Trades Exhibition; 20.00 hours, Social Evening. All ex-A/T's who are members, are cordially invited to attend. Requests for accommodation should be addressed to the Commandant, Army Apprentices School, Harrogate, to arrive before 1st July, 1962.

Royal Signals Cricket Club Fixtures

Sept. 6th/7th ... ... R.A.C. ... ... Oval

Royal Signals Lawn Tennis Fixtures

July 25th	... ...	Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers	Aldershot
July 26th	... ...	Royal Army Education Corps ...	Aldershot
Aug. 8th	... ...	Royal Army Service Corps ...	Aldershot

V.J. Day Dinner

will be held in Headquarters Mess on 15th August, 1962.

81st Meeting of the Corps Committee

will be held at the War Office on 28th September, 1962.

Representative Colonel Commandant

tours B.A.O.R., 21st to 31st October, 1962.

Council Meeting of the Royal Signals Institution

will be held on 24th October, 1962.

Royal Signals Officers' Reunion

will be held at the Duke of York's Headquarters on 30th November, 1962.

82nd Meeting of the Corps Committee

will be held at the War Office on 30th November, 1962.

10th Annual General Meeting of the Royal Signals Institution

will be held at the War Office on 30th November, 1962.

Annual T.A./A.E.R. Royal Signals Officers' "At Home," 1962

will be held at Hyde Park Hotel on 1st December, 1962.

The Wyvern Club

The Annual Dinner for members will be held in the Naval and Military Club, London, on 3rd October, at 7.30 p.m. for 8 p.m. Tickets and information from the Secretary, The Wyvern Dinner Club, Headquarters 43 (WX) Div./District, Sherford Camp, Taunton, Somerset.

Royal Signals Display Team

July 11th—28th	Royal Tournament.
August 1st	Nantwich.
August 6th	Horncastle.
August 18th	Darlington—Darlington Show.
September 1st	Haltwhistle—Agricultural Show.

Recruiting Displays—June-September, 1962

July 11th-28th	Royal Tournament, Earls Court (subject to confirmation).
August 6th-8th	Southsea Fete.
August 15th	Poole Hospital Fete.
August 25th	Hambledon Flower Show.
August 29th	Gillingham and Shaftesbury Show.
Sept. 2nd-9th	Plymouth Army Week.
Sept. 10th-15th	Swindon Carnival.
Sept. 26th	Frome Show.

BAND ENGAGEMENTS

Touring Band

July 19th-21st	... ...	Oban
July 22nd	... ...	Kirkcaldy
July 23rd-28th	... ...	Dunfermline
July 29th	... ...	Kirkcaldy
August 6th-11th	... ...	1st Royal Sussex Regiment, Shorncliffe
August 12th-18th	... ...	Folkestone
August 19th-25th	... ...	Edinburgh
Sept. 30th-Oct. 7th	... ...	Eastbourne

Non-Touring Band

August 5th	... ...	Liverpool
August 17th-18th		Edinburgh
September 6th	... ...	The Oval
September 15th	... ...	York

"Quicksilver," 1962

July 12th-19th	... ...	Manchester
July 20th-29th	... ...	Liverpool
August 2nd-7th	... ...	Leeds
August 8th-15th	.. ..	Yorks Coast (Scarborough, Whitby, Bridlington, Filey)
August 16th-21st	... ...	Darlington—Middlesbrough

The Army Art Society

Patron : H.R.H. Princess Marina, Duchess of Kent.

The Society, which exists to encourage Art in the Army and sister Services, is holding its 31st Exhibition from 5th-12th September, 1962, at the Chenil Galleries, King's Road, Chelsea, S.W.3.

All ranks of the Army, Royal Navy and 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, W. A. Arnold, 4, West Drive Gardens, Harrow Weald, Middlesex.

APOLOGIA

On page 148 of the May issue of THE WIRE there is a description of a visit of the Colonel-in-Chief to Cyprus and North Africa. Unfortunately, a most regrettable series of errors were made in the caption to one of the photographs. The corrections should read as follows:

For Lady Margarit Hawkin read Lady Margaret Hawkins.

For Colonel D. G. Parker (late Royal Signals) read Colonel D. G. Parker (late Royal Scots).

For Major Geoffery Eastwood read Major Geoffrey Eastwood.

For Lietenant-Colonel A. D. Mackenzie (late Royal Signals) read Lieutenant A. D. Mackenzie, Royal Scots.

For Lieutenant-Colonel The Hon. M. M. Anderson, ADWRAC, read Lieutenant-Colonel The Hon. M. M. Anderson, CWRAC.

The Regular Officers' "At Home"

The At Home was held this year, as hitherto, at the Hyde Park Hotel, on 31st May.

Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal was unfortunately unable to be present, being confined to her room with a throat infection.

Sir William and Lady Scott received the 173 officers and their wives who attended and a most enjoyable afternoon followed.

Entering R.M.A., Sandhurst

It would be appreciated if any serving or retired members of the Corps, of the Regular or Reserve Army, who have sons about to enter R.M.A., Sandhurst, would notify this fact to the Senior Royal Signals Officer on the Staff there, at present, Major J. M. W. Badcock, M.B.E.

There are many little ways in which boys can be helped, and it is only right that we should "look after our own." It is not always possible, however, for the Staff on the spot to know who may be in this category unless this notification is given.

Guide to British Electronic Valve Industry

Who Makes What in U.K.

A guide to the structure of the British electronic valve and semiconductor industry, published in booklet form in London this month (May), broadly classifies 48 types of valves, tubes and other devices and gives the names of the firms which make each type mentioned.

In a brief historical foreword, it is stated that British production of electronic valves and tubes exceeds 90 million annually, while the current annual rate of manufacture of semiconductor devices in the United Kingdom is of the order of 32 million transistors, 28 million diodes and five million rectifiers (including selenium). Exports have been growing steadily and direct exports of valves for industrial purposes alone have multiplied more than three times over the last four years.

There is a reminder in the 800-word history that the thermionic valve, patented in 1904, resulted from research by a British scientist, Sir Ambrose Fleming, and that the magnetron, which revolutionised radar, and travelling wave tubes were invented in the U.K.

Primarily intended as a brief for British Commercial Attaches and Information Officers abroad, the booklet is published by the British Radio Valve Manufacturers' Association (B.V.A.) and the Electronic Valve and Semiconductor Manufacturers' Association (V.A.S.C.A.) and is available, post free, from the Secretary, B.V.A., Mappin House, 156, Oxford Street, London, W.1.

The B.V.A., formed in 1926, is concerned solely with entertainment types of valves and television cathode ray tubes, V.A.S.C.A. being responsible for all industrial valves and tubes and semiconductor devices. Each association is autonomous, but they share the same secretariat and offices and work closely together in all matters involving liaison with government departments, allied trade associations and international bodies.

Her Majesty's Ship "Hermes"

Commissioning Service 24th April, 1962

Tuesday, the 24th April, 1962, dawned clear and bright, a very happy portent for the visit of representatives of the Corps to the commissioning service aboard Her Majesty's Ship *Hermes*.

The party from 3rd Regiment, under the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel T. W. Baynes, M.B.E., included R.S.M. M. A. Barnes-Murphy, Staff Sergeant V. J. Kimber, Corporals D. S. Frape, H. E. Bishop, C. Pritchard, R. B. Hutchings, W. Helme, Lance-Corporal P. Marshall and Signalman J. Spink.

We arrived at Portsmouth Dockyard with military precision, dead on time, and prepared for an enjoyable day.

Our expectations were fulfilled but an aircraft carrier is no mean item of equipment to cover in a short time. However, we did visit the various messes (and were royally entertained), the flight deck, the hangar and the signal section. The Commanding Officer and the officers were entertained in a mysterious section of the ship called the "Wardroom."

C.P.O. (Chief Radio Superviser) R. W. Rogers and the R.S.M. discussed (amongst other things) the different and related aspects of radio signalling between the Royal Navy and the Army. Future visits and perhaps short trips would be enthusiastically received by both sides and it is hoped that the bond between the Corps and our friends on H.M.S. *Hermes* will be strengthened with the passage of time. The C.P.O.s Mess now have a standing invitation to visit the Sergeants' Mess at any time, and also to attend one of our Regimental Mess Dinners. This will probably be difficult for some to come as H.M.S. *Hermes* will soon be east of Suez leaving on her first voyage, but nevertheless we will welcome the opportunity to repay the hospitality of the members of this fine ship as early as we can.

The name *Hermes* has been associated with the Royal Navy for over two and a half centuries, a little longer than *Mercury* has been associated with the Corps, and in that time ten ships have borne the name. In 1913 the eighth *Hermes* (a seaplane carrier) became the seagoing parent ship of the Royal Flying Corps; this gives further identification with the Corps in the Royal Signals and R.F.C. were both children of the same parent, the Royal Engineers.

In more recent times there has been closer association with *Hermes*. Cruising off Kuwait, at the time of the "Incident," the small Ship Signal Troop in H.M.S. *Hermes* landed a detachment which acted almost as Brigade Signals until the situation was restored.

The present *Hermes*, the Flagship of the Aircraft Carrier Fleet, was laid down in Barrow-on-Furness in June, 1944, and was launched by Lady Churchill on 16th February, 1953, after building had been halted once or twice while the need for new carriers was debated. Although originally a unit of the *Centaur* Class, her design has been modified to such a great extent that she is now an entirely new class—the *Hermes* (Modernised) Class. She is Britain's latest carrier and it is very fitting that she should be given the name borne by the first ship designed and built specially for this role.

To commemorate the occasion of H.M.S. *Hermes*, about to embark on her second General Service Commission, and her association with the Corps, Major-General Sir William Scott, K.C.M.G., C.B., C.B.E., The Master of Signals, presented to her Captain, W. D. O'Brien, D.S.O., R.N., a silver Jimmy, on behalf of the Corps. Captain O'Brien, in thanking General Scott, welcomed the members of the Corps attending the ceremony aboard and said that he hoped the association would be a long and happy one.

The Commissioning service was very impressive throughout and I can do no better than to conclude with an extract from the message of the Commander to all ratings. A message, which with a few amendments, we could well apply to ourselves—"A happy ship occurs, no matter what her size, when the leadership is good, when everyone on board knows his job and sufficient of the next person's to appreciate his difficulties; when there is maximum co-operation and respect between all departments; when there is pride in a job well done, whether it be from achieving the ultimate in aircraft serviceability, launching and landing cycles, interceptions, maintenance schedules, steaming and working the ship, provision of the best food or even the more mundane tasks of spit and polish to produce the cleanest ship—both internal and external—in the Fleet, or of returning from leave on time!

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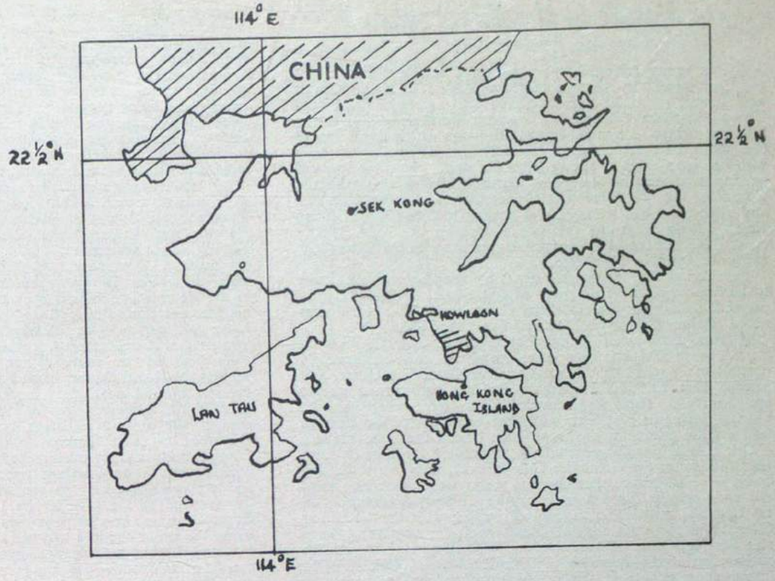

For those who know Hong Kong, the following notes may be of interest, if only to show how different (or the same) are the signalling arrangements since they left. For those who do not know Hong Kong, its news anyway. We had best start with a sketch map.

Sek Kong is the home of 246 Gurkha Squadron, who work with 48 Brigade Group; Kowloon houses 253 Squadron (Engineering) and Hong Kong has H.Q., Royal Signals (part of H.Q., Land Forces) and 252 Squadron (Operating).

Kowloon and the north side of the island are densely populated city areas.

Outside of these areas is a pleasant rural quiet, varying from rice paddy, through jungle, to pleasant beaches.

Weather

We are fortunate in Hong Kong in having a recognisable winter season from the end of November to about the middle of March. Snow does not fall, but last winter we had frost, on the Peak and at Sek Kong ice formed in a trailer which had been left in the open all night. This cool spell is most welcome and, in fact, Hong Kong is perhaps most enjoyable in December—humidity is low, and the temperature is in the range 65° to 68°F. Spring and autumn are hard to determine, for the clear line where summer begins and ends is hard to find, but the summer season is reckoned to last from May to September. During this time the temperature builds up to the nineties and the relative humidity to nearly 100% on most days, and the devotees of air-conditioning prefer to remain in their protected areas, whilst those of us who profess to be anti-air conditioning (but are in fact unable to afford the luxury) just melt, and melt, and melt!

No dissection on weather is complete without some mention of rain. To date, this year has been extremely dry, and only half the normal amount of rain has fallen, which has had the effect of causing water rationing—water is now available for only four hours daily, so one is forced to fill as many receptacles as possible during these four hours to prepare for the 20 "dry" hours. It is only when no water is available that one appreciates the many uses to which water is put.

Facilities

Sport. Although sports grounds do not abound in Hong Kong, there is ample opportunity to follow practically any of the sports normally played. However, since we try to get the more strenuous games played in the cool season, it is no strange sight to have cricket, hockey, soccer and rugger taking place simultaneously on adjoining pitches. The only drawback to this is that one often finds that Player X, who is opening bat in the first XI, centre-half in the hockey XI, and reserve full-back in the rugger XV is required to play for all three teams on the same day—this makes life difficult.

For those wishing to escape (even if only temporarily) the heat, there are many pleasant beaches, both on the Island and on the Kowloon and New Territories mainland. Throughout the summer water ski-ing and swimming are most popular, and for the very hardy, it is possible to swim all the year round—even though 65°F to local residents is a trifle cold to a native of Mud-Sticking-in-the-Mud (North of the Wash of course!) this is quite warm.

Recreation.—Virtually any recreational activity or hobby can be pursued here. Due to the (sometimes over-emphasised) fact that Hong Kong is a Free Port, many commodities can be obtained here cheaper than in their country of origin, and in consequence, if one wishes to indulge in cinephotography or build up a stereophonic suite to "out-stereo" any other, this is the place to do it. However, it is not intended to convey the impression that all things are cheap here; on the contrary, many commodities are extremely expensive, due to freightage charges, etc. For the devotees of night clubs, these are here in numbers, but for those who are attracted by the click of the roulette wheel, one must travel a little further afield, to Macao, which is some 50 miles from Hong Kong. Here are many casinos to cater for those who like a flutter.

For those who like their recreation to be a little more strenuous, ample facilities exist for sailing (most units have their own boat club), fencing (although this is perhaps more of a sport than recreation), rowing, and a whole host of others.

Before one can partake in any of these activities, there must obviously be some work done, and we try to do this with the minimum fuss, but at times frustration clouds the air, particularly when one reads in THE WIRE that Unit Z has just been issued with the latest equipment, and here we struggle on with equipment which the F. of S. swears was issued just after the war (not specifying whether Boer, Crimean or Napoleonic). Then one is forced to admit that all the benefits of being in Hong Kong outweight the many disadvantages of being at the end of the pipeline for stores and reinforcements, and perhaps having read this there might be a flood of applicants to O.I.C. Records for posting to Hong Kong. We are short of the following tradesmen . . . !

Signals in the Cameroons

By An "Old Coaster"

A few scanty references have appeared in The Wire about the Cameroons. In recent editions we have read about Kuwait and Kuwait again. In support of my short tour with 634 Signal Troop (Southern Cameroons), covering the same period as the 'Kuwait Storm,' I append my recollections which do not cover the political situation, but are merely the jottings of someone who has been used to sitting behind a desk, looking seedy and peering at dozens of files. The experience of serving with the Grenadier Guards Force was a refreshing and memorable one and although I had anticipated a posting to Singapore or Hong Kong, having spent my previous service on the West African coast, I did not regret the opportunity to serve in the Cameroons and once again in West Africa.

I arrived at Bulford on an early May morning with what was to be known as the rear party of 634 Signal Troop, and prepared for draft for the Southern Cameroons. This party consisted of three Senior N.C.O.s and five Other Ranks.

What a moth-eaten lot we looked when unloading our kit at Tidworth Station; we were faced by the immaculately dressed main party of the 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards. It seemed that half the Household Brigade had turned out to see them off. Their Regimental Colours were being escorted up and down the platform, whilst we crept sheepishly away to find a quiet corner in the troop train bound for Southampton.

Our role in the Cameroons was to provide the outside communications for the Grenadier Guard Force, who as a protecting body, were to ensure that law and order was maintained until the country was handed over to the Cameroon Republic on 1st October, 1961. The thought of serving with the Grenadier Guards was met with mixed feelings by all the supporting Arms and Services, since all ranks up to W.O.II seemed to act like automatons at the approach of their R.S.M. and Officers. Our introduction into their way of thinking was soon to come.

On the H.T. *Devonshire* we sailed on 12th May, 1961, from Southampton for the West African coast, stopping at Las Palmas and Lagos. The trip out was indeed a very pleasant one. However, we were disappointed to see so little of the coastline and after seven days at sea, much of our time was spent dashing from starboard to port, looking at a variety of tropical fish in abundance.

At the end of May we approached the Cameroons, and all that could be seen was a massive mountain rising from the sea. The following morning we disembarked at Victoria, and were met by the Drill Sergeant (known in the Battalion as 'Russian Henry') who promptly, in his own inimitable style, marshalled us into trucks for our destination Buea the capital, a distance of 23 miles from Victoria.

The Troop was divided into Headquarters at Buea, and small detachments up country with each of the Guards Companies. We met our brethren of the advance party (who had arrived by air a month earlier and were quite 'old hands'), and soon settled down to the life and tasks expected of us. The Force was fortunate enough to have ready-made camps, and our communications had been established successfully with the equipment in situ. These were provided by the hard work and experience of the former Force—The Kings Own Border Regiment.

The weather, up to our arrival, was perfect. However, we had heard such a lot about the rainy season in the Cameroons. It holds the record of having the world's highest rainfall. Can you imagine 141 in. of rain a year? At that stage neither could we. Two weeks later it hit us. The Camp being located on the lower slopes of Mount Cameroon, and our Signal Centre and accommodation and aerial fields at the southern end of the camp, invited all the drainage to descend upon us. The drains proved inadequate and we were faced with building larger concrete drains and concrete paths. An unusual task for Signals, but interesting, and we were well pleased with the results of our humble efforts.

The aerials were resited, improved and rested on concrete blocks instead of mud, and it was so satisfying to receive a strength 5 signal from Nairobi, some two thousand miles away, and vice versa, instead of the usual strength 2.

The four Telegraph Officers at Buea (one was later to have an accident when he damaged his spine in a fall, and was medevac to U.K.) were kept very busy. Our schedules worked from 09.00 to 01.00 hours daily on the Nairobi rear link.

It is nice to recall that our Troop had the highest standard of morale in the camp at Buea. This was no mean feat in a country where it rained almost continuously for three to four months of the year (four of our six spent there), and with no outside entertainment available. Moving beds because of leaking roofs; forever changing wet clothing; waking up to find your bed standing in a pool of water; continually trying to dry wet clothing; changing rotted halyards and guys; coaxing generators which were being flogged quite heavily and working long hours, were but a few of the labours which were accepted quite cheerfully by each member of the troop. True we had not the need for ice cream and lollies as in Kuwait, but umbrellas in plenty were available for purchase and a surfeit of ponchos in store.

We ran our own canteen and a number of social evenings were organised such as darts tournaments, tombola, etc. Swimming was available at the Banana Plantation and the Cameroon Development Centre Social Club pools in addition to sea bathing. An unfortunate accident put a temporary stop to the sea bathing. A young A.C.C. Private was drowned at sea soon after his arrival. A non-swimmer, he was standing waist high in the water when the treacherous undercurrents swept him off his feet and carried him out to sea. His body was never found. Later on, parties with lifeguards, ropes, whistles, etc., were organised and sea bathing continued.

At weekends we ventured out to visit different parts of the country by Land Rover, armed with a portable camp cooker, dry rations and near rusty cameras. We were lucky to catch sight of an antelope hunt in progress. The natives use dogs which have a kind of black bell slung around their necks. Directed by their masters' calls and whistles, they charge through bush country making such a din and driving everything before them. It was, unfortunately, nearing the end of the day and we could not stay to see what was bagged. Earlier that day we had paid a visit to the Lava Bed, which can be seen for miles around as a black scar on the side of Mount Cameroon. From the crater the lava had run down the side of the mountain covering a village during its journey, and then stopped with dramatic suddenness, leaving great boulders rising to a height of 50 ft. The width of the flow was about 400 yards. Steam formed white clouds hovering over the lava which was still hot some two to three years after the eruption. Everywhere an uncanny stillness filled the air as we wandered over the bed. The temperature of the lava is frequently recorded. This can be seen by white painted circles indicating where the thermometers are buried, and it is said that some idea can be formed of when the volcano is likely to erupt again, based on the temperature readings.

Other visits took us in search of monkeys, bamboo to improve the decor of our canteen, to lakes, bays, etc.

A few members of the Troop went along with the mountaineering Club to climb Mount Cameroon. Others to visit old wrecks of planes which had crashed into the mountainside and where dolls, trinkets and other personal items still remained untouched, within the area of the crashed aircraft.

The Troop provided a soccer team and a good average was selected for the Garrison teams for rugger and soccer.

The O.C. kept alive the outside interest in world news by producing a nightly news sheet which was distributed throughout the country. This, together with the weekend sports news and, later in the tour, football results, was most popular.

Our pets included a couple of chameleons, a tortoise and a monkey which, after a bath, caught pneumonia and unfortunately, died.

Of snakes, there were a number, and we killed one of the deadly variety, a black cobra. Many anxious moments were spent after the killing, in looking for its mate. Or was it the other way?

Most of our time was centred in our 'Nissen Hut' where the WS 53's were operated on the Nairobi Link, and which also contained the Administrative Office and Stores section, and a little portion not much larger than a telephone kiosk, as our Cipher Office. We had, of course, a workshop where a full repair programme was carried out with a variety of equipment, and a Battery Shop and Generator Sheds.

The Cameroon Republic was to take over Southern Cameroons on 1st October when the deployment of the force would end. There were a few skirmishes with the rebels and during one a Guardsman was killed. Several raids were made by the rebels on villages bordering the country. However, all was quiet at the all important time approaching 1st October. Then started the business of returning our equipment to the over-worked small Ordnance Depot.

Gradually we handed in our equipment and spares, leaving just sufficient to enable us to remain in contact with the outside world until the last possible moment. Certain stores were to be sold to the Cameroon Republic Army, and French Army representatives arrived to inspect their purchases and see how they worked. Trying to teach tuning and loading drill on WS 53 and WS 62 to the French during the days that followed was amusing to the onlooker, but a headache to the instructor. Difficulties were eventually overcome and they went away satisfied.

Our Nissen hut had taken on a new look. A bare shell stripped of all the familiar racks which had held expense and G1098 stores, now held just a few boxes and our personal kit all ready packed and waiting to be collected for loading in the *Devonshire* which was lying in the harbour. An air of excitement had pervaded the Camp for over a week or more. This was it! At last we were going home. Some of us boarded the *Devonshire* earlier and set up a link from ship to shore, which worked Buea and points up country to cover the convoys as they left each area of the Cameroons on their way to Victoria Harbour. The organisation of evacuating the force was extremely well done. The R.N. destroyer *Diana* arrived for H.E. The Governor, and the handover/takeover of Governments was completed. At midnight on the 1st October, we watched the fireworks display from the *Devonshire*, which heralded the new Government and Independence, feeling quite relaxed, and knowing that all had gone well.

We left the Cameroons on 3rd October for Southampton. It seemed as though we had been away for years instead of just six months, but the experience we had gained in that short tour will last a lifetime. Would we do it again? Of course we would.

And what of the future? In my case, back to an office, looking seedy and squinting over more d——d files, but the Gods have been kind, and the office is in Singapore.

A Holiday Tour in the Far East

By W.O.I (F. of S.) I. Gent

Part II — Bangkok

Leaving Hong Kong, I took the Cathay Pacific flight to Don Muang airport, 18 miles outside Bangkok. Having completed the customary formalities, and bought a 20 baht bus ticket, I was bowling merrily through the countryside on the way to the City of Bangkok. The newly-arrived passengers kept an eye open for the first sight of the famous temples in the picturesque Thai architecture.

Arriving, I booked into the Erawan Hotel, and was soon showered, changed, and refreshed from my travels.

There are a number of tourist agents available to show you round, but I elected to use "Harry's Tours," in New Road. It was only three doors from the Princess Hotel, which most taxi drivers knew. Students acted as guides. They were very knowledgeable about their city, and all spoke quite good English; correction of faults in their English was appreciated and they were quick to learn. When visiting places at the same time as other tours it was surprising how many of them stopped to listen to our discourse. I get no commission for panhandling for "Harry's Tours," but I did appreciate the good, friendly service it offered.

Bangkok is the major port, as well as capital of Thailand, so a cruise along the river discloses a very active scene. The people themselves are very friendly, and you can wave your arms off if you feel like it. Once into the klongs (or canals) there is a continuous traffic of sampans laden with all kinds of produce.

The Temple of the Dawn or Porcilain Pagoda, as it is sometimes called, offers an impressive panorama of the city if one cares to hazard the steep break-neck stairs to its top. Its colourful figures and designs have all been made with bits of coloured china. Apparently the materials came from a cargo of crockery which suffered a bit of a rough passage en route to Bangkok, and someone had the bright idea of putting the wreckage to this effective use.

On certain days, one can visit the Grand Palace, which contains the Emerald Buddha; this is allegedly carved from one huge piece of jade. It is held in very great esteem by the people, and has clothes for the summer, winter and rainy seasons. Apparently the clothes are changed ceremonially by the king himself.

If desired, a tour can be arranged to the famed Augkor Wat, in Cambodia, and they will arrange to obtain the required visa for you.

This has only been a very abbreviated summary of the main attractions and more famous places of interest. Statistics quote that there is a shrine, temple or pagoda for one in every five people in Thailand. The City of Bankok itself is very large and spread out, so that transport is a problem. The buses and trams are all rather quaint. The rickshaw and trishaw have been ousted by the samlor, which is a scooter-powered three-wheeled cab that operates very effectively—if your nerves are up to it.

I will never forget a birthday party in our Bangkok detachment. After dinner we all poured out of the hotel into samlors and proceeded in triumphant procession to the detachment site. It really is quite surprising some of the things you find in luggage compartments nowadays.

At the majority of tourists in Bangkok are Americans, prices, generally, are rather high, and the impression held by the residents is that all foreigners are rich, so to any intending travellers: "You have been warned."

The people, however, are very friendly and hospitable, but comparatively few speak English.

The most famous and popular sport is boxing. But Thai boxing is not fought under the Queensbury Rules, for feet are legal weapons and, generally speaking, it is a case of there being literally no holds barred.

I have only painted a little of the picture, because the canvas is so vast, but Bangkok is well worth a visit. I have been and enjoyed it, so much that if the opportunity ever arose, I would go again. Finally, I should like to take this opportunity of thanking everyone whose cordial hospitality and welcome assistance made my trips to there and Hong Kong so memorable.

Anniversary of the Battle of Tunis, 7th May 1962

Copies of Signals Exchanged between the 1st Signal Regiment and the 1st Divisional Signal Regiment, Royal New Zealand Signals

Signal received from 1st Divisional Signal Regiment, Royal New Zealand Signals:

The officers and other ranks of 1st Divisional Signal Regiment Royal New Zealand Signals send warmest greetings to your command on the occasion of the anniversary of the Battle of Tunis. All ranks are mindful of our proud alliance with your Regiment. May the future strengthen our kinship.

J. W. Bateman, *Lieutenant-Colonel,*
Commander, Royal Signals, New Zealand Division.

* * *

Signal sent to 1st Divisional Signal Regiment, Royal New Zealand Signals:

From 1st Signal Regiment

To 1st New Zealand Signal Regiment, Wellington.

Lieutenant-Colonel A. J. Woodrow and all ranks of 1st Signal Regiment, Royal Signals, thank the officers and other ranks of 1st Divisional Signal Regiment, Royal New Zealand Signals, for the greetings sent on the occasion of the anniversary of the Battle of Tunis. We send our greetings to you on the anniversary of our alliance. We wish you all good luck in 1962. We shall drink your health at our Regimental Guest Night on 15th May.

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Plessey

Istanbul — or Bust

Over Easter, Corporal J. Golding and Lance-Corporal A. P. Edens, both of Royal Signals Troop, 42nd Regiment, R.A., and a member of the Gunners all stationed in Cyprus, decided to get to Istanbul and the Black Sea (and back) in five days.

Regimental funds kindly helped with the air fares but all other expenses were to be borne by the three of us, so consequently we planned to do the trip as cheaply as possibly. As we had such a short time we had to travel as swiftly as possible in order to accomplish our object, hence, this trip may appear less rugged and rather more civilised than some of the accounts of jungly adventures that usually figure in these pages. From Nicosia we flew to Ankara, the capital of Turkey, briefly touching down at Adana on the way for arrival formalities. One look at our rucksacks bulging with compo rations and the customs man lost interest.

The airport bus took us to the middle of Ankara and we had a long walk with the rucks to a hotel at which accommodation had been previously booked by a well meaning friend. We found it was far too expensive for our slender means and made an undignified exit to a doss-house opposite that only charged six shillings each for a bed. Unfortunately one of us had to share a room with a voluble turk who didn't arrive until 1 a.m. and then talked French half the night. In the morning he brought his friends in for tea to watch the Englishman carry out his morning ablutions which they seemed to find immensely fascinating. All the kit was fingered and handed round for minute inspection. We started the day with a touch of luxury as we got a lift in a British Embassy Jaguar to the bus station. Has the high ranking officer who normally uses this smooth motor-car, ever found on the floor a tin of compo egg and bacon that dropped out of one of the packs?

We caught one of the fast buses that does the 400k.m. journey to Istanbul in just under 8 hours. It cost a little more than we had expected but throughout the journey a smart bus-hostess walked up and down handing out chewing gum, peppermints and flashing smiles to the blare of Turkish Top Twenty; so we felt we were getting our money's worth. We stopped three times only, and at midday whilst the rest of the passengers went into a comfortable looking restaurant we opened some tins and had an equally good meal sitting on a pile of bricks. Turkish brown bread is delicious and only costs ninepence for a large loaf.

Already we had experienced the great friendliness and courtesy of the Turks and this impression grew stronger during our stay. On the journey a Turkish student brought us tiny glasses of rather bitter tea, which is very refreshing. Our route took us through the Boilu Mountains and the rolling southern plains. Military Camps seemed much in evidence, which is not so surprising when you consider the proximity of the Russian frontier. Most of the soldiers wear a drab rough open-neck battle dress and really looked scruffy, even in the big cities. Daily pay is about sixpence. By about 4 p.m. we were getting rather weary of our luxury bus and then quite suddenly we turned a corner and there it was—Istanbul. "An azure blue misty panorama of a thousand mosques set against the waters of the Bosphorous." Even the travel brochures are hard put to find enough superlative words; it really was a breathtaking view. We crossed the water on the car-ferry which gave us plenty of time to enjoy the approach into the main part of the city. On the plane we had met an engineer out on business from U.K. and in conversation it transpired he worked for a Lincoln firm well known to Lance-Corporal Edens. This proved lucky, for we then went to see his Turkish agent in Istanbul who gave us useful information on the best area to stay, and also how to use the underground. This wasn't very difficult as it only joins two stations and links the lower and upper parts of the city. We eventually found a very reasonable hotel very near to the main shopping centre at nine shillings a night including breakfast.

It was already evening when we finally got organised but we went down to the commercial centre to absorb a little of the real atmosphere. A stretch of water called the Golden Horn separates the North part of Istanbul and is spanned by the Galata Bridge which is always packed with a surging hurrying crowd and scores of boats lie alongside. In order to allow the larger boats through the bridge is supposed to swing open between 3 and 6 a.m. each morning, but we never quite got round to getting up early enough to see it open.

The next day we set out in true American tourist style with cameras and guide books (but without transistor radio) to "do" the sights of the old part of the city. Much better pens than this have described Istanbul's great glories. St. Sophia, an enormous Byzantine Mosque. The Mosque of Sultan Ahment, better known as the Blue Mosque because of the magnificent blue tiles which adorn the interior. The Seraglio which is the ancient dwelling of the Ottoman Sultans and the historic palace from where the great empire was ruled (the harem unfortunately was empty). The enormous underground vaulted cistern which supplied the palace with water. We saw them all.

Outside the Seraglio we got out the Hexamine burners for a midday meal and then, full-up inside, made for the Bazaar. This is a huge covered labyrinth of shops. A friendly Turk told us that if you walked along every alleyway you would cover over fifteen miles. It was at this stage one member of the party commenced delicate negotiations with a secretive store holder, over a bottle of whisky we had brought with us. Let us draw a veil over the proceedings except to say the deal was financially to everyone's advantage and that our standard of living improved considerably afterwards. After several purchases we walked back to Galata Bridge to catch a ferry up the Bosphorous. We usually found someone that could speak English although several times we scraped through on basic French or German, even fluent Spanish by one of us) but on this occasion it was only after the journey started that we discovered the ferry was due back much later than we thought. After about four stops we made a hasty disembarkation. We now had to get back about fifteen miles to Istanbul and had our first experience of the "Dolmus" or shared taxi. These are very common in Turkey and instead of hiring a taxi and paying the full fare, each individual passenger hires one of the five seats and pays one-fifth of the fare; our journey cost us two shillings each.

A large new Opera House is rising in Taksim Square but it won't be completed until the end of the year, so we paid a visit to the old wooden original building of the present Opera to see Verdi's "A Masked Ball." Like most opera stories it was quite incomprehensible, even more so than usual because we arrived late and missed the first act, and, of course, it was sung in Turkish. The more sleepy of us woke up for a deafening pistol shot at the end where some spare Duke (who was making passes at a most attractive Princess who thought she was someone else) shoots the hero who took 15 minutes to die and sang lustily until he expired—but at only four shillings for a good seat in the stall it was just worth it.

On Easter Sunday we went to Galata Bridge to catch the public ferry up the Bosphorous to the Black Sea. This ferry holds about 150 people and is a fairly matey journey. For a five hour journey the cost was only tenpence each return—excellent value for money. To our left was Europe and to our right Asia. As we sailed between the continents up this impressive waterway we called on each side at about a dozen villages. Eventually we sailed through a substantial looking boom and steamed into the entrance to the Black Sea stopping at a village apparently called Rumelikavagi (although a tipsy local resident insisted on spelling it Dostuzhemsizhedediz). Here we had an hour ashore and cooked a midday meal whilst watching numerous ships, including several Russian, steam in and out.

We arrived back in Istanbul about 5 p.m. to find all the bakers on strike for more pay, and no bread for sale unless we joined long queues; in desperation we tried a rather seedy restaurant where the owner was already putting up his shutters. After some haggling in German he agreed to sell us the left over bread that was already lying cut up on the tables. His opinion of the British was obviously rather shattered as we walked away grasping our bag of crusts.

In the middle of the smart part of Istanbul, and overlooking the Bosphorous, is one of the American Conrad Hilton Hotels, built only four years ago. After asking visitors whether they have seen St. Sophia and the Blue Mosque, every Turk will ask whether you have seen the Hilton?—we could hardly answer no. White shirts and ties were dug out and we sauntered into this fabulous hotel to sample one drink with the "international set." Looking fairly international ourselves (or so we thought) we soon found the sumptuous cocktail bar in which you can luxuriously sink "Manhattans" and "Screwdrivers" whilst seeing the lights of Istanbul twinkling below. However, the sight of rich Americans shovelling in delicious-looking foods made us hungry and we returned to our room for Mutton, Scotch Style, à la Golding—perhaps not served with the finesse of the Hilton, but equally delicious.

Easter Monday, we caught an early morning 'bus in order to return to Ankara. It was 23rd April and National Children's Day. The towns and villages we passed through were gaily decorated and all the children were wearing fancy dress. Goblins, butterflies, fairies, and even dark-moustached little sultans with baggy trousers were all waiting to join the procession through the streets headed by the local military band (which had changed out of B.D. for the occasion). When the 'bus stopped at midday, we improved our drill and produced a meal in ten minutes. By 4 p.m. we were back in Ankara.

Ankara is not only the capital of the Turkish republic, but the symbol of the new Turkey, founded by a man called Kemal Ataturk in 1923. Everywhere his portrait, in shops, hotels, etc., looks down in rather a forbidding manner. Most of it was built in the 1930s, and is not particularly impressive, and, apart from several individual buildings of interest, is rather drab. However, on the outskirts, on a small hill is Kemal's mausoleum. This was built in 1953 to house his remains. A 300-yard flag-stoned avenue, bordered by Hittite lions, leads up to a large square, and which is crowned by the mausoleum itself; a huge granite stone marking the tomb. The whole thing is most impressive and looks rather like a film set from Cleopatra.

We eventually found a hotel on the main boulevard, but still only paying nine shillings each a night. The room had the advantage of a tiny balcony and soon a curry was bubbling over a hexamine burner. Fortunately the manager never got up to the top floor to discover where the delicious smell was coming from. We celebrated our arduous journey with a bottle of "four lire plonk" a local red wine of fair potency.

After an outing to the opera in Istanbul, what better than a "bash" at the ballet in Ankara. A seat in the seventh row of the theatre was only five shillings, and was packed with smartly-dressed people (apart from us).

We flew back to Nicosia next morning, just scraping enough money at Adana to pay the airport tax on leaving. We left Turkey most impressed by the friendliness and genuiness of everyone we met. In five days we had never wasted a moment, in fact those members of the party who were waiting to write long letters to girl friends in U.K. only had time for a quick postcard on the 'plane.

On arrival in Cyprus the customs man was officious; the immigration officer irritable, and the Land Rover which came to pick us up wouldn't start—the trip was over; we were back.

Why not . . . Hand over your Pantry?

By Captain F. W. Edwards

Well, why not? The M.F.O. has gone and, if you are in a quarter or equipped hiring, there's not much else to do. The mad rush of borrowing from "Mum" or living on one knife, two forks and a chipped tea pot for two weeks does not apply. There's plenty of equipment. Stacks of it. Up to the day you leave, and hand over, you can have a dinner party for twenty people of ten courses and still have enough cutlery and crockery for breakfast before you wash up next day. (I think the scale is right!). That's not the trouble. What *is* the trouble is that there is nothing to eat with all this equipment. Of course, there could be, but who wants to fill up the pantry at this stage?

With the departure of the M.F.O. and the waiting to hand over the quarter, comes a period of either leave or handover. In both cases this means having to do some work. By the end of a tour in the normal circumstances the average soldier has things so organised that he is not exactly over pushed! But now he is. So? So he tends to eat more. He certainly tends to drink more—as a medicinal sedative, of course. But—ah—here's the paradox. He doesn't want to buy more food or buy more drink just now. It will only fill up the pantry and that's no good on the verge of a move. One can invite "the lads" around for a drink session—just to help out—but wifey is apt to . . . . well you know what. A problem indeed.

In the new Welfare State that the single man so clearly sees the married army drifting into, there must be an answer. The soldier can't be happy without his food and drink. I'm sure Napoleon must have said it. It's certain Marie Antoinette did. (Trust the French). At this time of each tour, as he has been so clearly proven above, he needs his food and drink even more—one doesn't mention the yet further demands the excitement of movement and travel require. Yet he cannot buy what he wants because he does not want to leave behind a full pantry. He cannot afford to. Think of it. If the departing housewife could fill her last M.F.O. box with that half carton of salt, those two part used sauce bottles, a pint and a third of milk, two eggs, four sausages and a tin of "Kattomeat"—to mention but a few items—it would pay for a down payment on a new tele at least (if going to England) and pay it off if leaving. But it can't be taken. It won't travel. I don't think an insurance agent would look at it.

The answer? Why not . . . . hand over your pantry when you hand over the house? I see it happening this way. At each local headquarters would be established a new department known as Q (kitchens and pantries) or Q (K and P). Each area would need, say as G.S.O.II, two Staff Captains (one an expert on food values and one on drink values; the latter would probably be the more senior), an A.C.C. advisor, an R.A.O.C. storage and preservation team, a NAAFI price expert and clerks, runners and drivers to scale. Nothing complex. Two weeks before the planned handover date a Q (K and P) assessment party would provisionally allot points, based on international scale, for all items of food and drink in the house. These points would be based on quantity, age, size, colour, smell, storage ability, value on ITV and similar guides to truth. On the day, items no longer there would have their points deducted—items bought since given points, and hey presto, off you go to your next quarter in the new station. There, a ready made working larder awaits you. If its points equal the ones given to you, there is no problem. Any balance either way will be made up by buying or receiving from NAAFI part used items left over from their canteens to make up your full entitlement of half sponge cakes, part used (and sticky) tins of treacle and empty beer cans.

There are problems, of course. How far can personal choice enter into it? Maybe you don't want to take over one third of a four month old gorganzola cheese even if it doesn't equal in points the six fresh eggs you left behind. Again, what if you don't move into a quarter, or leave the army altogether? How are different brands, prices, dates of original opening and so on to be equalled? How can you get a posting to Q (K and P)? If this proposal gets the serious support and consideration it deserves, I will produce next month a draft Army Council Instruction. Like any other A.C.I. it will solve all problems and put this vital matter on a firm footing once and for all. Developments into the field of cars, electrical equipment and many other items must, of course, be considered later under separate heads involving Royal Signals and R.E.M.E. participation.

We Were There

By 19th Regiment

As all our readers now know, in April Thailand appealed for help. Her Majesty's Government along with the New Zealand and Australian Governments decided to send help in the way of fighter 'planes. There was much coming and going at 224 Group H.Q. R.A.F. 19th Regiment kept its ear to the ground and, at last, after a couple of false alerts Chiang Mai was fixed as our airstrip. The Hunter aircraft left for Bangkok and the rest of us collected our bits and pieces to fly in and activate the airstrip. A detachment of Operations Troop consisting of four men, a Land Rover and trailer took off for Changi Airfield

Lance Corporal Stubbs

and loaded themselves into a Hastings. The Royal Signals party went off in the second aircraft for Chiang Mai.

Their job to lay the essential cable for the F.S.K. receivers and transmitters, the V.H.F. receiver and transmitter and such other operational lines as were essential to get the Airstrip running.

We have had no word as yet from the Corporals Juckes and Stubbs or Signalmen Anderson and Holmes. We all assume that the "tickal" or should it be spelt "tickle" is proving valuable. No doubt as soon as our other commitment, "Exercise Trumpeter" (which is deploying the rest of Ops troop) is over we shall get a chance to visit them. In the meantime you will see Royal Signals have done it again and can say "We Were There" as they did in a certain T.A. Regiment a little while ago. Unfortunately, the strain of sailing, plus the Operation and "Exercise Trumpeter," have proved too much for the Troop Commander. He has slipped a disc? and is in B.M.H. The Troop and all of us hope to see Lieutenant Crow back with us soon.

C.R. Signals, Malta

Sporting Activities

It has previously been stated in THE WIRE that the two Squadrons, 234 Squadron (Malta) and 235 Squadron (COMCAN), enter a combined team for certain sporting competitions. The Royal Signals (Malta team has upheld the sporting traditions of the Corps as follows:—

Hockey. The team had a most successful season, and were runners-up in the Major League and the Major Unit Knock-out Competition. The team was captained by Captain P. D. E. Chase, and was very ably managed by Major H. Gully. Next year we hope to win at least one competition. W.O.II Rose and Lance-Corporal Perry (235 Squadron, COMCAN) were awarded their Army colours and played in all the Inter-Service games.

Rugby Football. The team under the captaincy of Captain S. Ward did extremely well, and a number of L.E. personnel played the game for the first time. The following played for the Army team:—Corporal Scrivens, Signalman Bentley, both of 235 Squadron (Malta); and Major J. H. S. Weston, Corporal McClure and Sergeant Morgan of 235 Squadron (COMCAN).

Athletics. The Royal Signals team had been runners-up in the Major Units competition for the last two years, and we were hoping that we would be third time lucky. The team on the 3rd and 4th May did extremely well, and at the meeting it soon became apparent that our strength was in depth, rather than good individual winners. Lance-Corporal Harrison was second in the three miles, and ran a good tactical race to win the 880 yards. Corporal Zammit was second in the hop, step and jump, long jump and the 100 yards. Corporal Cotton, R.E.M.E., the team captain, was a good example to his team and was second in the 220 yards, third in the 100 yards and third in the long jump. Corporal Scrivens won the 110 yards hurdles and was second in the 220 yards hurdles.

The final event was the 4 x 110 yards, and provided we were not disqualified the cup was ours for the first time in Malta's history. The team after considerable briefing were under starter's orders, and our fears were soon lost. The team (Corporals Cotton, Zammit, Costello and Signalman Attard) gave a perfect exhibition of baton changing and won by a distance of some eight yards. There was much joy when Corporal Cotton, R.E.M.E., received the cup from the G.O.C., Major-General A. J. C. Block, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O. The name of Royal Signals now appears on the cup amongst such illustrious names as 45 and 42 Command R.M., 1 Royal Fusiliers and many others.

I Royal Highland Fusiliers were runners-up and 2nd Regiment, Royal Malta Artillery, third.

It was agreed by all Royal Signals personnel that it was a fitting present for Lieutenant-Colonel T. G. Chambers, M.C., before he hands over his appointment as S.R. Signals, Malta.

The following also represented the Army:—Corporals Scrivens, Zammit, Cotton, Lance-Corporal Harrison and Major J. H. S. Weston.

Back Row, left to right: Lance Corporals J. Philipson, R. Eldred, D. Smith, A. Keohane, Sergeant A. Wright, Corporal F. Costello.
Centre Row, left to right: Lance Corporal G. Redpath, Corporal R. Scrivens, W.O.II J. Rose, Signalman B. Attard, Corporal D. Mitchell.
Front Row, left to right: Major J. H. S. Weston, Corporal I. V. Zammit, Major G. J. Curl, Lieutenant-Colonel T. Chambers, C.M.M., M.C., Corporal B. Cotton, Lance Corporal R. Harrison.

Composite Squadron, 1st Regiment visits Denmark

For the second year in succession, a Squadron of the Regiment has been attached to the Jutland Regiment for two weeks' training. For the Officer Commanding, Major P. A. M. Tighe, and ten others of the Squadron it was a return visit, but for the remaining eighty men and for Captain D. G. Pratt and Lieutenant B. A. Blackwell, it was a new and welcome experience.

Once again the composition of the Squadron was based on the tasks required of us on the Danish exercise. Whereas last year, however, we were integrated into the Danish Signal Battalions and provided certain channels at each level between Brigade and Army H.Q., on this year's exercise we replaced the Danish Divisional Signal Battalion who were themselves on exchange training with 2nd Regiment in Bünde. Having left Verden on Sunday, 20th May, and staged overnight at Kiel, we found ourselves briefed and driving to our first exercise location at first light on the following Tuesday morning. Our Danish hosts had made considerable preparations to ensure that the exercise was a success and, above all, that their British guests were kept as busy as possible! Our task involved Radio Relay and a V.H.F. Command net from Division to three Brigades, and a Telegraph H.F. Radio link to a Joint H.Q. With only one Signal Centre and the need to deploy Relays and rebroadcast detachments, we were unable to step-up when moving H.Q.s. By early recce and getting Cable Detachments forward to lay tails and locals, however, we were able to reduce the breaks in communications when moving to a minimum. In fact on our last move of the three, all of which were at night, we beat the Danish target time of two hours by 50 minutes. Danish detachments from the Corps Battalion were attached to us to provide Radio Relay and carrier cable circuits. These gave us three Teleprinters and six speech circuits to Corps, the former with On Line Cipher. Luxurious communications indeed! In fact, all were fully utilised, since a small, but extremely efficient, Traffic cell was attached to the Signal Centre and fed in prepared traffic every fifteen minutes throughout the exercise. In our 56 hours of working, we passed 434 messages, most of which were between 60 and 90 group texts.

Lance Corporal Kayne starting the P.E.75 with Danish assistance

So much for the business-like side of our visit. Throughout the exercise we once again experienced the friendliness of the Danish people in the areas where we stopped. Nothing was too much trouble for them; they let us use their school-rooms to get dry and warm in the atrocious weather, and the supply of coffee and Danish pastries seemed unending. It was left to Corporal Cruickshank and his radio crew to repay some of this hospitality by giving a lecture and demonstration at the school near their "Brigade H.Q." and, incidentally, gain some further Press publicity in the process.

The remainder of our stay in Denmark became a sucession of visits and tours interspersed with Troop and Detachment training. Our hosts laid on coach trips to various points in Jutland, including the most popular attraction, the local brewery. A party of twenty went to Copenhagen for the week-end; many used the local swimming pool and the beaches, and all found something of interest to enjoy, although the details are in many cases not known to your correspondent!

With memories of our heavy defeat last year at football, we decided this time to bring some footballers with us. The match took place in glorious sunshine in the local stadium before a large crowd of troops, and this time, after a hard and exciting game, we managed to win 6—3. Our numbers had been reinforced at the time of the match by the crew of the Royal Signals yacht, *Petasus*, which was on charter to the Regiment. She had been sailed up from Kiel the previous week, and among those on board were the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel A. J. Woodrow, who stayed with Colonel Worm-Leonhard, the Colonel of the Jutland Signal Regiment, and attended both the football match and a cocktail party we gave for the Danish officers. Colonel Worm-Leonhard and his family also spent an afternoon on board *Petasus* as guests of the Commanding Officer. Two pieces of silver were exchanged after the football match and we shall now treasure a beautifully engraved cup from our Danish friends as a memory of our visit.

It will, however, only be a matter of weeks before we renew our friendship with the Jyske Telegrafregiment, as a composite company will be visiting us in Verden for two weeks from 18th June, and we shall have the opportunity to repay the kindness and hospitality we have all enjoyed.

Sergeant D. Bracey and Lance Corporal N. Craig of Romeo Troop brew up with their Danish counter part

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School of Signals

[US Army Photograph

The Team in the Commandant's Office at The United States Signal School, Fort Monmouth, New Jersey
Left to right: Major R. H. Borthwick, Colonel A. D. Brindley, M.B.E., Brigadier-General C. M. Baer, (Commandant of the Signal School), Brigadier A. F. McGill, O.B.E., Major-General Wm. D. Hamlin (Commanding General of the US Army Signal Training Command and Fort Monmouth), Lieutenant-Colonel N. C. Porter Lieutenant-Colonel A. T. Scott (British Liaison Officer at Washington)

On 24th February, this year, the Commandant, Brigadier A. F. McGill, O.B.E., and a Planning Wing team, headed by Colonel A. D. Brindley, M.B.E., sailed from Southampton in the *Queen Mary*, bound for New York. A brief account of the trip, written by one of the team, is given below:

"On the morning of the day we arrived in New York, Colonel Glenn had made his triumphal tour of the city, during which 3,500 tons of ticker tape had been strewn about the streets. The remarkable thing was that by the time we arrived, in the early afternoon, every scrap of it had been swept away.

Like all good visiting Englishmen, our first visit was to the top of the Empire State Building, to be followed by a trip to the R.C.A. exhibition. In search for the latter, we asked our way of a man in the street and the genial reply was: "Say, you guys English?" We were all wearing British warms and there was no denying it, whereupon our questioner said: "You come along with me and have a drink." Now this rather worried us, because the Movements Staff Officer who had met us when the *Queen Mary* docked had warned us about the various dangers of being accosted in the New York streets. However, we went along, and were reassured by being taken into the sophisticated Longchamps bar, where a waiter bowed and bid "Good evening, Mr. Watson," to our host. Mr. Watson turned out to be a Canadian who had lived in the United States for 36 years and had a thriving business as a corset manufacturer in Fifth Avenue. He had fought in France in the First World War and had spent several months in English hospitals after being wounded. He obviously had a great affection for Britain and the British people, and he made our first day in America an unforgettable one. When we finally emerged from the Longchamps, three hours later, we still did not know where the R.C.A. building was, but by this time we didn't really mind.

The purpose of our trip across the Atlantic was to give a series of presentations on the future communications in the British Army to a wide cross section of the American Army, including Combat Development Staffs, Research and Development Staffs and Signal Staffs. The principal establishments visited were: The Pentagon, Washington, D.C.; United States Marine Corps, Quantico, Virginia; H.Q., CONARC, Fort Monroe, Virginia; United States Army Electronic Proving Ground, Fort Huachuca, Arizona; Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas; Army War College, Fort Carlisle, Pennsylvania; United States Signal School, Fort Monmouth, New Jersey; Army Headquarters, Ottawa, Canada.

At each place we were given a very real welcome, and it was obvious that the Commanders and their staffs had gone to great trouble to assemble the appropriate audience and to ensure that every opportunity was allowed for the fullest discussion on all subjects.

While at Fort Monmouth, Brigadier McGill took the opportunity to present an inscribed leather bound volume of General Nalder's "History of Royal Signals" to Brigadier-General Charles M. Baer, Commandant of the United States Signal School.

In contrast to the soothing trip on the *Queen Mary*, all the travelling in the United States and Canada was done by air on seventeen different scheduled flights. It was this which really brought home to us the vastness of North America, especially when it took half-a-day's flying to cross Texas.

In addition to the scheduled visits, we were able to visit many other places of interest, such as West Point and Project Advent, and the battlefields of the Shenandoah Valley Campaign. While in Arizona, we had two days free, and were given a wonderful trip round a Hereford cattle ranch by the rancher friend of Colonel Peter Lonnon, the British Liaison Officer at Fort Huachuca. This was followed by a short trip into Mexico to the town of Nogales, where only the thought of British Customs prevented the wholesale purchase of the cheap but good Mexican silver and leatherwork.

The second day was devoted to a visit to the town of Tombstone, of Wyatt Earp fame. The graveyard there, Boothill Cemetery, contains the graves of many a famous Wild West character, and the headstones bear witness to the misfortunes of their owners:

"Killed by Indians"; "Legally hanged"; "Hanged by mistake"; "Lynched in error"; and so forth. It was difficult to find a single grave whose occupant had died peacefully. One amusing inscription ran as follows:

"Here lies Lester Moore
4 slugs from an A44
No Les
No more."

In the evening we were guests at a big party in Tombstone's main saloon, The Waggon Wheel, where we were treated to a raid by a gang of six-shooting desperadoes, who relieved various people of their valuables and went on to hang Brigadier McGill with proper ceremony. The arrival of the Sheriff restored law and order, and the four of us were then sworn in as Honorary Deputy Marshalls of the City.

The tour round the United States was rounded off by a debriefing conference in the Pentagon with Major-General R. T. Nelson, the United States Chief Signal Officer, who generously admitted that our presentations had provided a stimulus to U.S. Army thinking on signal communications.

We then left for Canada to give a presentation to Army Headquarters in Ottawa, followed by visits to the Signal School at Kingston, and various research establishments in Ottawa. While at Kingston, Brigadier McGill presented a second leather bound volume of "History of Royal Signals" to the Commandant of the Canadian Signal School, Colonel G. E. Streb, M.B.E., C.D.

Finally, on 24th March, we flew back to London, leaving Lieutenant-Colonel N. C. Porter behind for further discussions at Fort Huachuca.

Although some of our off-duty moments have been given in detail, it would be quite wrong to leave an impression that the tour was basically a "jolly." A great deal of work was done and much was achieved, but security reasons prevent an account being given. The tour was extremely hectic, and on several occasions we arrived at an establishment late at night, after a whole day's travelling, having to be ready to give a presentation first thing the next morning. We were fully rewarded, however, by the warm friendliness and generous hospitality we met wherever we went. The whole trip was, indeed, a most memorable experience."

In this edition we feature No. 1 Yeoman of Signals Course, whose students write:

"In June, 1961, some eighty aspiring Class I Operators of various trades sat the first Yeoman of Signals Entrance Examination. There were four written subjects: Voice, Telegraph, Switchboard and Tape Relay Procedures, and practical tests using Morse, Teleprinters and Typewriters for transcription.

Mid-November saw eighteen successful candidates starting their preliminary training course with No. 4 Independent Signal Squadron at Brighton.

On 15th January the course assembled at the School of Signals with, as we now know, 12 weeks interesting and hard work ahead of us. After being made welcome at the School, we sat the acceptance tests and the course proper began. The first three weeks were spent with Tactics and Traffic Groups, with a written examination at the end of the Tactics phase, which caused a little surprise, if not consternation.

Week 4 began on 5th February, where the course started the phase with Line Group. Here we were given instruction in Telephony systems, DC Telegraphy, with various types of equipments and circuits. V.F. Telegraphy, Cables and a brief outline and demonstration of facsimile equipments. The phase ended with a one-day exercise, followed by a written examination.

Electronic Warfare was next to claim our attention; this proved to be very interesting, and we soon realised the scope and importance of this new subject.

Switchboard operating and supervision followed, and we were instructed and tested by W.R.A.C. Instructors on a 400-line exchange, with calls coming in 'fast and furious.' During these phases with the different groups in the School of Signals, periods were allocated throughout the programme for Keyboard and Morse practice, so that students could reach the required speeds by the final week.

The halfway stage was reached while we were with Radio Group. An introduction to the new range of equipment, particularly the SR D11, and a wider knowledge of Aerial Theory and Propagation left little time for boredom. After several days of practical handling with the various types of sets, an exercise was held in Arctic-like conditions around the Yorkshire Moors. After encountering some very treacherous road conditions, the RV for lunch at the "Boars Head" boosted morale considerably. During the afternoon a very heated argument was overheard, coming from inside the radio vehicle laying on its side in a ditch, as to the advantages of horizontal polarization over vertical polarization!

Then followed a week's visit to Boddington, where, considering the staff's main concern was handling the 'live traffic,' they did extremely well in organising a comprehensive training programme, which covered all duties in the Tape Relay Centre, both from the Traffic and Engineering points of view.

The large number of precis already held was now to be increased during our stay with Multi-Channel Group, whose subject was completely new to the majority of the students. However, all went well and, we like to think, a most successful exercise was held using SR C41 and ACT 1 + 4 (this was confirmed by the Drivers who said :' The Officers and Foremen never get through as quick as this.').

Week 10 arrived and in the Automatic Data Processing Systems Group we were introduced to a new language—an auto code and machine language used with a computer. After preparing programmes with mixed success, the phase culminated in a visit to the I.C.I. Computer Section at Wilton Works, Middlesbrough, where we received full V.I.P. treatment.

The final stages of the course were now reached and we found ourselves inundated with exercises and traffic handling problems from the supervisory angle. Our numbers by this time had dwindled from the original eighteen to 'The Magnificent Seven,' as we have been christened by the remainder of the Mess.

Rightly, we think, the standards required are high, and these were maintained through every phase of the course. We only hope that the final product will fill the long-needed requirement of the Corps for a 'Supervising Operator.'"

[US Army Photograph

Brigadier-General Baer accepts the inscribed History from Brigadier McGill at Fort Monmouth

Hughes

Hughes joined the Army in 1944. It would perhaps be more accurate to say that somebody of extraordinary pertinacity had winkled Hughes from civilian life and deposited him, at the age of 38, at the General Service Depot. For Hughes cannot be said ever to have joined the Army: he remained, throughout the training designed to make him a soldier, a pleasant, cheerful, entirely co-operative civilian.

He liked the Army and all those in it, from the Colonel (though we managed to keep their contacts few) to the N.C.O.s in charge of his billet. But he never actually belonged and behaved throughout as a polite and grateful guest.

From the very first, he found the Army an inexplicably benevolent organisation. I met him just after his intake arrived in their billet, a converted house in a northern town, piled high with greatcoats, suits of battledress, denims, boots, and the other products of a lightning visit to the Quartermaster. They were not happy—except Hughes, who was exasperated by the general disgruntlement.

" I can't think what's wrong with you chaps," he said. "You've come here with your fare paid, the first thing they do is give you a whacking great meal, and now they've given you all this stuff for nothing. Now they're going to treat you to a haircut—a decent one that'll last some time they tell me—and then you'll be going to bed in the firm's blankets. And there's even three or four chaps laid on to look after us. What more do you want?"

After breakfast, the next morning, he was even more delighted. The Sergeant (Hughes never referred to him as anything else but "the foreman") of his platoon believed that a belligerant spirit should be inculcated immediately, and always began the training with an hour's bayonet drill. He demonstrated very well; with enormous ferocity he would assault the dummies, finishing with a butt-stroke of lightning speed and accuracy. It never occurred to Hughes that this could be other than a remarkable comic performance laid on to entertain "the chaps." He roared with laughter and called delightedly for an encore, exhorting the others to show their appreciation. The sergeant was taken aback, but, having recovered, expressed himself with vigour. But Hughes had seen this sort of thing at the Palladium and was not to be deceived by this display of wrath.

At all training parades he was the same. He simply could not believe that these extraordinary activities had any serious intention, and any attempt, whether kindly or fierce, to convince him that they had made him think that his leg was being pulled. At drill parades, which a despairing seregant allowed him to watch, he was rather like an avuncular figure at a dance: he liked to see the young things enjoying themselves provided that it didn't go on too long. If it did, he was apt to go up to the N.C.O. and say that he thought the chaps had had enough and wouldn't want to miss dinner.

One thing irritated him, however. He could not understand why, whenever something had to be fetched from the stores, or the platoon went to the canteen for a meal or, indeed, when any movement took place, it had to be in threes with an N.C.O. at the head. It was all right once or twice for a lark, but as a regular thing it seemed to him inefficient and cumbersome. He came up to his officer one day—or rather hailed him from afar with his usual greeting of "Hey, Guv."

"Hey, Guv," he said. "Why does the foreman always take the chaps to dinner all that way round the road? I've found a jolly good short-cut through the back. I've told him about it, but he won't listen. He seems to take some notice of you—why don't you have a word with him?"

After a very short time his sergeant announced that, from now on, Hughes would be permanent billet orderly. Hughes was very pleased about this. "Hey, Guv," he said, "the foreman's given me a job. He says I've got to stop in when the chaps go out, and look after everything—you know, see that all the stuff's all right and all that. Say's it's important. Hope I can do it all right." (He was one of the few genuinely modest men I have met).

He was, in fact, an excellent billet orderly, fatherly to the "chaps," an excellent cleaner and tidier, and a formidable protector of platoon property. Billet Inspection was a delight. "Morning, Guv," he would say. "Come to have a look round?" He would keep up an invaluable running commentary.

"They've taken the guns out this morning, so you won't be able to see them . . . but you ought to have a look at Mick's—he's not pulling it through a lot these days . . . Look at young Jimmy's buttons! I keep telling him he ought to take more trouble, but he's an idle little nipper. I reckon his mother spoilt him . . . Hello, hello, here's young Lofty's spare pair of boots tucked under the bed . . . I'll bet it's because they need mending . . . I thought so—no, it's *my* fault, I told him I'd take them down to the cobbler . . . "

Every Wednesday he borrowed five shillings from his officer, "an advance on my pay," and as the platoon marched back from pay parade on a Friday, the only time that Hughes went along with the "chaps," he would break off with a shout of "Half-a-minute, mate," to the N.C.O., pursue his benefactor and repay the loan.

After a few weeks of billet orderly, Hughes felt sufficiently confident to ask the sergeant for some other job, on the grounds that he could do something while protecting the property. Of all things, he was given the job of polishing the dustbin. For some reason that I have never been able to understand, Hughes, who found nothing remotely serious in any Army activity he had met, felt that polishing the dustbin was a responsibility not to be discharged lightly. He worked with extraordinary vigour, and after a week must have had the best dustbin in Northern Command.

But this was only a beginning. As the weeks went by it grew glorious, inside and out, until it had that *thickness* of shine that shows long and devoted labour. It was the talk of the whole unit, but Hughes never mentioned it himself. At billet inspection you passed it by on the way in—its moment came later. When all was finished inside and Hughes had pointed out everything that was wrong, you moved outside and approached the dustbin. In a silence that was almost reverent, Hughes would lift the lid. Still silent, you looked inside (and on a sunny day this was not easy) and then Hughes replaced the lid. No word would be spoken —it would have been impertinent to congratulate him—until you reached the gate "Well, Guv, see you tomorrow."

I do not think that his sergeant talked to Hughes about it either. But one day I noticed an addition to the list of duties of the billet orderly.

"When rain seems imminent the billet orderly will take in the dustbin and put it in the sergeant's bunk." Hughes had been doing this for some time, but this was the official recognition of his work, the blessing of authority.

And then one Sunday morning before Church Parade his sergeant reported that Hughes had gone absent. A great many men went absent from that unit and we knew what to do, but this was altogether a more serious and sad affair. It was as if we had offended a guest, who had departed without recrimination and fuss, and we felt bewildered and ashamed. "What about the dustbin?" we asked. It was there, in the sergeant's bunk, so that we knew that it had been after dark that Hughes had gone, for he always put it in for the night. But nobody had seen him go, nor had he said anything to the "chaps." We did nothing about reporting his absence; the thought of the police being on the look-out for Hughes was more than could be borne.

I cannot describe my feelings of relief when, approaching the billet on the Monday morning, I saw the dustbin outside and knew that Hughes was back. "Where the hell have you been, Hughes?" I said. "The foreman told me you were all worried. I only nipped over to Leeds for the week-end. The wife was coming up to see her aunt and I thought I'd go over and meet her—there didn't seem much on, except Church, and I don't mind missing that." I don't know what I ought to have done—I suppose that, in the interests of military discipline and the safety of the realm, Hughes should have been hauled in front of the C.O. All I did was to say "Well, glad to see you back." It was true, and it would have been impossible to explain to Hughes the system for getting leave passes—he simply would not have believed it.

I was in charge of the draft of which Hughes was a member when his preliminary training was complete. Inevitably, he joined those who were not very advanced in military arts, and went with them to a unit which was admirably determined to make the best of the material and keep up morale. They were met at the station by a band and marched to the barracks in great style. I saw Hughes go off with them and, as I followed with all the papers, wondered what he would make of all this. I need not have worried. As I left after lunch there was Hughes waiting at the gate for me. "Smashing place this, Guv," he said. "You ought to see where they've put us to sleep—all polished up it is. And look at this." He pointed to a large looking-glass at the gates, with "Are you smart enough to go out?" printed above it. "What a good idea!"

We said goodbye, and as he walked away I saw Hughes eyeing the dustbins at the back of the Mess. There was work to be done.

STAMP COLLECTORS

The Junior Leaders Regiment has restarted its Philatelist Club and will be MOST GRATEFUL to receive stamps from all Regiments, Squadrons, Detachments serving overseas.

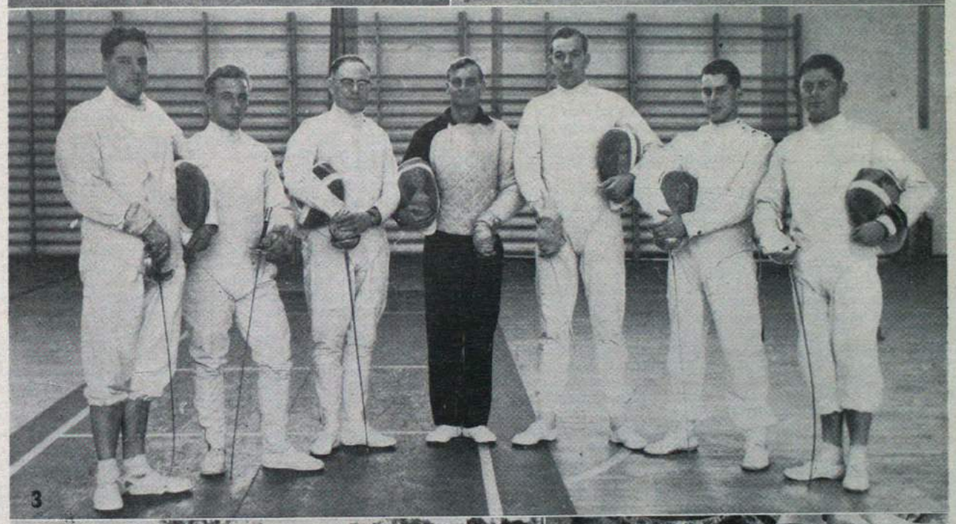
Amateur radio enthusiasts receive many QSL cards with foreign stamps.

Envelopes containing stamps to please be addressed: Philatelist Club, Junior Leaders Regiment, Royal Signals, Denbury Camp, Newton Abbot, South Devon.

Regiments

1st Regiment

1. 2 Squadron winning the tug-of-war. 2. Lance Corporal Gill of 2 Squadron on the High Jump. 3. The Fencing Team: Sergeant Boyd Lieutenant Blessington, Sergeant Preece, C.S.M.I. Woollard, Lieutenant Passmore, Corporal Houghton. 4. Corporal Johnson, Sergeant Nichols Corporal Daley and Signalman Jones of 1 Squadron. 5. Second Lieutenant Crew in the Message Race. 6. Regimental Sports Day. Three cheers for Mrs. Woodrow. 7. 1st Signal Regiment on Exercise "New Harpoon," watch the Cup Final being televised.



1st REGIMENT

We may have been quiet in the last three months, but that is not to say that we have been inactive—far from it. Exercise "Overnight," in frosty April, was followed by a cool "New Harpoon" in rainy May. Cool though it may have been, the wires, physical and others, were humming red hot, and the Regiment came back proudly, having been praised by the G.O.C. and treated to a pint by the C.O. Our new Second-in-Command, Major Clinch performed wonders with aerials and produced a television performance of the Cup Final in a barn on our way out to exercise—and what's more: in English!

Regimental Sports Day was a great event, especially for the Quartermaster, Major Bill Howard, who won the Old Soldiers' Race (could it have been due to his handicap; he did not dare to breathe too hard at the start lest his chest touched the finishing line). 1 Squadron distinguished itself by winning by a very narrow margin. A very fine performance was put up by 2 Squadron tug-of-war team, which, contrary to expectations, carried the day against a highly professional demonstration by 207 Squadron Team.

Fencing is a successful Regimental activity and we are very proud of our team consisting of Lieutenants I. Penny and C. Blessington, C.S.M.I. Woollard, Sergeants Boyd, Preece and Cosser, and Corporal Houghton for winning the B.A.O.R. Unit Fencing Championships.

Second-Lieutenant Davis, Corporal Alexander and Signalman Taylor, having helped (or hindered, as the case may be!) our shooting team into fourth place at the Royal Signals (B.A.O.R.) Meeting, are off to Bisley to try their luck. Our good wishes go with them.

In the second half of May, a composite Squadron, led by Major Tighe (and accompanied by Mrs. Tighe to keep an eye on him) proudly drove through the gates on their way to Aarhus in Denmark. Their adventures are the subject of a separate article.

Combining adventure training, sport and liaison added up to a glorious trip to Denmark by the Royal Signals yacht *Petasus*, which set out from Kiel with a crew from this Regiment (mainly relying on Corporal Robinson, our staunch helmsman) and sailed gaily into Aarhus harbour at the week-end, having picked up the Commanding Officer on the way, there to be received by the Commander of Jutland Regiment and members of Major Tighe's Squadron. Another crew took the yacht back to Kiel, calling at some wonderful Danish islands on the way.

We had our usual spate of visitors—including some Very Important Persons. The new Corps Commander, Lieutenant-General K. T. Darling, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., made a lightning tour of the Regiment on 19th April. The C.S.O., B.A.O.R., Brigadier E. J. C. Harrison, O.B.E., visited us on the 15th and 16th May, and was received by the Wives' Club in the Junior Ranks' Club, which had been delightfully arranged by Frau Dietz, the Manageress. Shortly, a whole Company of Danes will descend on us—to repay our visit to Jutland Signal Regiment, and towards the end of the month we expect a number of M.P.s We are getting ready to practise by-elections . . .

STOP PRESS: June has suddenly burst out all over! Trucks are being prepared, small kits packed (including swimming trunks) and boots polished (including beach sandals) as the Regiment prepares to disperse for Whitsun Adventure Training along the Baltic Coast!

3rd REGIMENT

It is often said that literary contributions by units to THE WIRE are too often a monotonous list of arrivals, departures, births and marriages, with little entertainment or informative value. This may be so, and probably justifiable criticism, but when there isn't an author or a newspaper correspondent on the strength, life becomes very difficult. The fact becomes increasingly obvious when WIRE notes time comes around and I can imagine all the other scribes in the Corps laboriously placing pen to paper and stirring the sluggish brain.

However, the time of waiting is over and the game must be played.

Kick Off. The close season is for us a time for individual training and Regimental preparation in our strategic role. Every available man has been set his allotted task and there is little time for distraction, but things do come up and, as usual, they did.

Knock Out. After many evenings of training, and a little coercion, the Squadrons eventually fielded reasonably strong teams to battle for the Inter-Squadron athletic trophies. 1 Squadron finally captured the cup from H.Q. Squadron, with some slight assistance from Lieutenant P. T. Jones. The greatest satisfaction is that so many took part in a most enjoyable day. Sport should be for all — whether participating, officiating or organising, and everyone certainly played their part. Mrs. Baynes kindly presented the prizes and was rewarded with a bouquet of flowers from Julie, the small daughter of Corporal G. R. Bergin—father providing the moral support.

Presentation of the bouquet to Mrs. Baynes. Corporal Bergin, Julie and Mrs. Baynes

Captain J. A. Tonnison again won the Old Soldiers' Race, followed closely home by the Colonel—this sort of thing certainly becomes monotonous! Major E. H. Bridle turned out in a fine pair of track shoes, but he appeared to lose one just before the "off"—I wonder how that one got away!

Hurdles. Two military parades came in quick succession, but with one rehearsal and a great deal of enthusiasm, both went off without a hitch.

Due to our tightly-run schedule, the parade in honour of Her Majesty the Queen's Birthday took the form of a modified private ceremony on 1st June, and we took this grand opportunity of presenting Corporal G. Herberts with his well-earned Long Service and Good Conduct Medal. On the 3rd June, Lieutenant M. Marples commanded the contingent representing the Regiment on the Army Parade Sunday Service at the Garrison Church, and both hurdles had been cleared without serious interruption of our training programme.

Line Out. At the end of April six radio detachments left Bulford to join the Royal Horse Guards on their annual exercise, "Spey Cast," in the lowlands of Scotland. When we reached Catterick for our overnight stop, we had been reduced to five detachments, leaving a rather mangled Humber in Leicester. The next day we moved on to Alnwick, on the north-east coast and harboured with the R.H.G. and units attached for the exercise. The Guards and S.A.S. were acting as enemy.

The exercise was a withdrawal on a wide front, and we were withdrawing from the north-east coast of England to the west coast of Scotland. We moved about three times a day and our drivers did very well to keep up with the speedy armoured cars and Rovers of R.H.G. The disadvantages of 1-ton Humbers became very apparent on soft ground, and our motto was "Anywhere the Horse Guards can get bogged, we can get bogged deeper."

Our wireless links worked very well and on a few occasions R.H.G. were forced to pass their traffic over our links when their duplicate links were not through. Although we all suffered from lack of sleep due to the insistence of R.H.G. to move before first light, everyone on the exercise really enjoyed themselves. The weather was excellent and we all returned from the wilds of the north with good sun-tans.

Our thanks to 11th Regiment (Depot) for their patience and for the help offered to these detachments, especially on the return journey, when they arrived unexpectedly and unannounced.

Air Support Troop has been again in action, working with the R.A.F. on F.A.C. courses. The object of these courses is to train Army officers in the control of ground attack aircraft. Altogether, these exercises appear to have been very successful, and the R.A.F. wireless operators have certainly advanced in the estimation of our experts.

Long Jump. Promotions are in vogue at the moment. Not, happily, as automatic as they used to be. Our congratulations on their promotion to Sergeants Thomas and Palmer and to Corporals Hallam, Biddiscombe, Nichol and MacDonald. Great things are expected!

Love Match. Corporals Lee and Power have recently joined the Married Families' Union—it must be the last pay rise! We wish them both every happiness on their voyage into the unknown.

Half Time. On 30th May the combined Sergeants' Mess, presided over by the R.S.M., held its first Regimental Dinner under the new roof. The evening was a great success and, we feel, has further cemented the friendship and co-operation which is so essential in an experiment of this kind. The Band of the 3rd Carabiniers (Prince of Wales's Dragoon Guards) provided excellent music during dinner and afterwards at the dance, and our thanks are due to Bandmaster Price for his kindness in permitting his musicians to attend.

7th REGIMENT

Perhaps the most notable event in the Regiment's history so far this year, is the retention of the Morrison Cup. The scoreboard below is probably the best way of describing the Regiment's progress towards final victory although it must be pointed out that for some time throughout the series of events the result was far from certain. It can be seen that our closest rivals throughout the whole competition were 13th Regiment who gave us plenty of concern and indeed it was not until the final scores in .22 shooting were in could we relax and say "success."

Morrison Cup Scoreboard—1962

Regiment	1	2	4	7	10	13	16	21	22	28	AGRA
Cricket	—	2	—	—	—	—	4	—	2	3	—
Athletics	—	—	4	—	—	2	—	—	—	3	—
Rugby	—	—	—	4	2	3	—	—	1	—	—
Boxing	—	—	4	2	—	—	2	—	—	3	—
Soccer	3	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	4	2	—
Hockey	—	—	—	3	—	4	—	2	2	—	2
Basketball	2	—	—	4	—	—	—	3	—	—	—
Cross Country	—	—	—	3	—	2	—	4	—	1	—
.22 Shooting	—	—	—	4	—	3	—	2	—	1	—
Totals	5	2	8	20	2	16	6	11	9	13	2

We have had other commitments of course, both military and social, and recently Exercise "Ground Zero 28" kept us up to date with various problems and on some occasions, at least, with their solution. We do not understand why local farmers choose a low lying piece of ground when they make their farmyards—the result in this particular exercise was that everything went with a squelch! The S.D.O. at one time seemed in danger of being completely engulfed in thick black ooze, the smell of which gave rise to considerable doubt as to the wisdom of such site selection. To Corporal A. Aziz, who spent long hours under such conditions the blue skies of his native Cyprus must have seemed very far away.

In every location throughout the exercise it seemed as though the farmer had waited for our arrival before emptying the cess pit (seemingly bottomless) which are usually constructed at the end of each stock building. The liquid is used as fertiliser on the fields and no stretch of the imagination is necessary to appreciate that this operation when coinciding with mealtimes, as it often did, did much to account for an unusually large amount of unconsumed exercise rations being handed in.

W.O.I G. E. Loudoun presenting a cup to the 56 year old captain of Werl F.C. with some obvious indication of winter's breath

SERGEANTS' MESS SOCCER XI

Front row: Sergeant H. A. Sankey, Sergeant A. McCabe, Sergeant P. C. Barnett, Staff Sergeant J. Packwood, Sergeant J. A. Heacock
Rear: Sergeant S. Tearse, Sergeant J. A. Higgins, Staff Sergeant A. H. R. Carpenter, Sergeant A. Knox, Sergeant G. A. Pfeiffer
Staff Sergeant F. W. Jones

A party of cadets from King's School, Worcester, were attached to the Regiment for the period of the exercise and by now it is a debatable point whether such attachments do have good recruiting value. It does seem, however, that King's School has as part of its curriculum the subjects Tact and Diplomacy, for of those cadets interviewed, not one could be persuaded to pass any disparaging comments or perhaps they really did enjoy their stay and "Ground Zero 28."

In the Herford area it is becoming not uncommon to find a team of elderly gentlemen from the Sergeants' Mess featured in a match with a local village football club. It is a requirement of these matches that team members should have reached the age of 30 years. Necessity makes us cheat occasionally but we rely upon the good nature of our hosts or guests to avoid an international incident.

Over the past few months the Sergeants' Mess have played a number of matches and is becoming quite well known. The start of these games was inspired by Herbert, a local fellow, who when he is not arranging games for the Mess, cuts the hair of members of the Regiment. Perhaps this admission will result in remonstrations by the Commanding Officer when the subject of 'long hair' crops up on administrative conferences. Herbert has now gone all British and adopted the Mess as his team, certainly no one is more pleased than he, when they score one of their occasional victories.

The social evening which usually follow these games have resulted in mutual respect on both sides and many friendships have grown. It could be said with conviction that the Mess is doing its share of promoting Anglo-German relations. Of course there is an anti-climax in nearly every situation and perhaps the following extract of a conversation between the writer and his son will illustrate the point.

Father—to son arriving home late for tea: "Where have you been"?

Son: "In the woods playing"—this is followed by a nominal roll of playmates involved.

Father: "What games were you playing that made you late for tea?"—thinking of such dangerous pastimes as tree climbing.

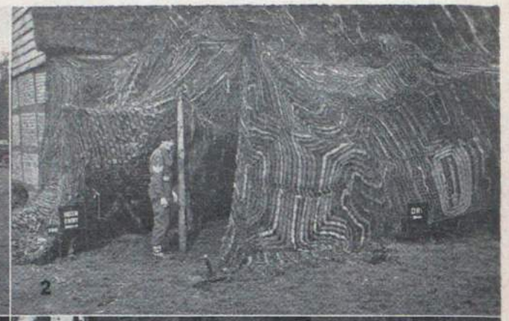
Son: "War and cowboys."

Father: "War! What sort of war?"

Son: "Germans and English of course!"

Does this, as the saying puts it, place us back "In Square One?"

We extend a special welcome to W.O.I Cyril Holman (F. of S.), Royal Australian Signals, who has joined us for a six month spell before he returns to 'Down Under' complete, we hope, with a certain recording of you know what, by Charlie



1. Lined up in packets ready to move off in a "Crash Move." 2. Sergeant Toole seems happy with his camouflaged Signal Centre. 3. Sergeant Horne with Signalman Cooper checks phone comms from DR hide. 4. W.O.I (F of S) P. Holman Aust. Sigs. assisted by Corporal Hammonds and A. N. other ponders an aerial siting problem. 5. Classified waste is burned by Lieutenant (Tfc) Pendock and Cipher Corporals Howell and Hancox. 6. Perils of a new location.—7.—Adequately coped with by Signalman Allen of 3 Sqn. 8. Staff Sergeant Sugg, Sergeant Law, Staff Sergeant Williams and Sergeant Horne discuss the merits of compo.

(Left) 7th REGIMENT R. SIGNALS (BAOR) FULL BORE CHAMPIONS 1962

Left to right: Corporal P. M. Upton, Lance Corporal G. R. Timms, Second-Lieutenant M. Mcl. Ayrton, Second-Lieutenant D. C. N. Genders, Captain W. E. Caiger, Signalman M. Madge, Signalman B. Atkins, Staff Sergeant C. J. Courteney, Signalman B. Southern

(Right) 7th REGIMENT SMALL BORE RIFLE TEAM WINNERS OF ARA TROPHY, MORRISON CUP AND 20 ARMD BDE LEAGUE

Back row: Signalman B. M. Southern, Signalman B. Atkins, Signlaman M. Madge, Signalman R. C. Everett

Centre row: Corporal C. J. Boot (RAPC), Sergeant J. Donaghy, Lance Corporal G. R. Timms, Sergeant N. S. Fazackerley (REME), Lance Corporal T. H. Parry (RAPC)

Front row: Staff Sergeant R. Rowden (RAPC), Captain G. W. Gittins, Lieutenant (QM) F. J. Pavey, Lieutenant-Colonel F. L. Clarkson, M.B.E., Captain W. E. Caiger, Staff Sergeant C. J. Courtenay

Drake. In the short space of time that he has been here already he has fitted in so well that we shall surely miss him when he goes.

Also, we hope, with the consent and co-operation of the Editor, to let photographs tell most of our story for us. Not that we are lazy, or short of news, but we suspect that the usual catalogue of exercise is becoming a little stale—after all, one exercise is much the same as another to most of us.

The outstanding feature of last month was the visit to the Regiment by General Sir Richard Goodbody, K.B.E., C.B.E., D.S.O., the Adjutant General. During his visit he was accompanied by the D.A.G., H.Q., B.A.O.R., Brigadier M. A. Charlton, O.B.E., C.C. Royal Signals 1 (BR) Corps. The General walked through the Regimental lines and visited the caravan site, O.R.s' restaurant and W.V.S. room, where he had coffee with a representative party of wives of the Regiment. After a drink with the members of the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess, the visitors were entertained to lunch with the officers. From all accounts, the visit has been judged as a great success.

Shooting. The photographs give some idea of the successes of the Regimental Small Bore and Full Bore teams. In detail, the full results are:

ROYAL SIGNALS RIFLE MEETING (B.A.O.R.) 1962

Royal Signals (B.A.O.R.) Inter-Unit Team Championship		Winners
Match 6	(The Roupell Cup)	Runners-up
Match 7	(The Henry Whitehead Cup)	Runners-up
Match 8	(The Roberts Cup)	Winners
Match 24	(Revolver Team Match)	Winners
Match 32	(Parachute Regiment Cup, S.M.G.)	Winners

Individual Successes

Champion Shot		Second-Lieutenant D. C. N. Genders
Match 6	2nd in Class B	Lance-Corporal G. R. Timms
Match 7	1st in Class A	Second-Lieutenant D. C. N. Genders
	1st in Class B	Signalman B. Atkins
	2nd in Class B	Signalman M. Madge
Match 8	1st in Class A	Second-Lieutenant D. C. N. Genders
	1st in Class B	Signalman B. Atkins
Revolver xxx Cup	1st in Class A	Second-Lieutenant D. C. N. Genders
	1st in Class B	Signalman B. Atkins
Match 32	2nd in Class A	Second-Lieutenant D. C. N. Genders

A.R.A. Small Bore Championships, 1962

A.R.A. Trophy	Winners
Young Soldiers Cup	Runners-up
Company Cup	H.Q. Squadron 2nd
	1 Squadron 5th

14th REGIMENT

Highlight of the month was undoubtedly the Regimental Athletics Meeting, which took place at Bampton on Saturday, the 19th.

At the conclusion, Mrs. Lyske, wife of the Commanding Officer, presented the prizes.

This was the first meeting of its kind for a number of years, and in spite of our operational role and the wide dispersion of Squadrons, performances were good and attendance encouraging.

To Major L. Dutton and members of 3 Squadron, who were responsible for the excellent arrangements, go our grateful thanks.

Inter-Squadron rivalry was fierce and each event keenly contested; right to the last moment, 1 and 3 were running neck-and-neck, but the former's superiority in the high jump tipped the scales in their favour.

Our girls, too, had a dour battle with "A" Troop, emerging winners over "B" by a narrow margin.

Results were as follows:

URGENT CLOTHING URGENT

THE WELFARE SECTION at Royal Signals Association, 88, Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1, will be MOST GRATEFUL for unwanted clothes — men's, women's, children's — anything in fact except ladies' underwear. There is a continuous demand which always exceeds supply.

MEN

Javelin
Cpl. Wells 1
L/Cpl. Smith ... 2
Cpl. Wright 3

High Jump
L/Cpl. Dearnley ... 1
Cpl. Kay 2
Sig. Day 3

Discus
Cpl. Wells 1
Cpl. Hall 2
Sgt. Meachin 3

Shot
Pte. Tyrell 1
Cpl. Long 2
Sgt. Meachin 3

880 Yards
L/Cpl. Clowes ... 1
Sig. Lomas 2
Cpl. Toovey 3

100 Yards
Sig. Day 1
L/Cpl. Taylor ... 2
Cpl. Hall 3

Long Jump
Sig. Day 1
Cpl. Wells 2
L/Cpl. Smith 3

440 Yards
Cpl. Kay 1
Cpl. Hunt 2
Sig. Stainer 3

One Mile
L/Cpl. Clowes ... 1
Cpl. Toovey 2
Sig. Clement 3

220 Yards
L/Cpl. Taylor ... 1
Sig. Stainer 2
L/Cpl. Ainsworth ... 3

4 x 110 Yards Relay
3 Squadron 1
1 Squadron 2
2 Squadron 3

Old Soldiers' Race
Major Turner ... 1
S.Q.M.S. Grummett... 2
Major Oliver 3

Tug-of-War
3 Squadron 1
1 Squadron 2
2 Squadron 3

Chain of Command
1 Squadron 1
3 Squadron 2
2 Squadron 3

Inter-Sqn. Athletics Challenge Cup
1 Squadron 1
3 Squadron 2
2 Squadron 3

W.R.A.C.

High Jump
Pte. Salisbury 1
L/Cpl. Woodyatt ... 2
Pte. Martin 3

Long Jump
Pte. Ryder 1
Pte. Hullott 2
L/Cpl. Hetherington 3

Old Soldiers' Race
Major Cavanagh ... 1
Mrs. Keyte 2
S/Sgt. Herbert ... 3

22 Yards
Pte. Wootton 1
Pte. Pollard 2
Pte. Carnall 3

100 Yards
Pte. Ryder 1
Cpl. Baxter 2
Pte. Hullott 3

4 x 110 Relay
"A" Troop 1
"B" Troop 2

Inter-Troop Athletics Challenge Cup
"A" Troop 1
"B" Troop 2

Husband and Wife three-leg
Cpl. & Mrs. Collins 1
Major & Mrs. Dutton Dead
Capt. & Mrs. Senior Heat

A.G.11(O) and Officer-in-Charge Records continue to issue little bits of paper which herald change for a number of people. Those on wheels in the near future include Major (Q.M.) G. Lynam to Tripoli; Major (Tfc.) N. E. Robinson to Blandford; Captain R. T. Martin to Bahrein; Lieutenant (Tfc.) A. W. Batram to Aden; W.O.II Harrison, Staff Sergeant Butler and Sergeant Gray to Catterick; Sergeant Meachin to ALFCE; Staff Sergeant Aldborough, Sergeant Andrews and Sergeant Cumming to Singapore; Sergeant Boxall and Sergeant Low to Malta; and W.O.II White, Staff Sergeant Coe, Sergeant Chambers, Sergeant Daines, Sergeant Nurse to B.A.O.R.

A little bird also whispers that Staff Sergeant E. M. Cresswell, W.R.A.C., is about to take her leave of us; not on posting, but to wedded bliss.

16th REGIMENT

The cry in Krefeld at the moment is "Where, oh where, has the sun gone to?" and to add insult to injury, the A.K.C. cinema recently screened "The Day the World Caught Fire" —"The Day the Rains Came" would have been more appropriate.

Though the rain may put a damper on most things, it has not affected our spirits—liquid or otherwise.

The month has been a busy time in sport and work. With the end of the soccer season, we have been looking for those among us who wield a trusty bat or bowl straight and true, and with high hopes, we go forward to the cricket season.

The Nijmegen marchers are still hard at it and looking fitter every day. With "what course are you on, chum," as the password these days, our training officer, Major J. G. Baker, has been showing a few more grey hairs.

For the nautical types who have just completed the sailing course at Kiel, "well done." Congratulations to Major G. Klosser and W.O.II W. Littlejohn on obtaining their certificates; they are now qualified to take out 30 square metres of sail. This most interesting course is available to all ranks in Germany. It is six days' hard training, and can often be quite hazardous, especially when the weather is against one. The main test is from Kiel to Sonderborg, Denmark, and with high seas and strong winds, it can be quite a feat of endurance and craftsmanship to bring the boat into the right harbour.

The hockey team made sixth place in the Rhine Area League, and with six of the games drawn, we could be called the "Bankers." With the first game played in the summer league against C.P.O. as a 4—2 win for us, we hope to achieve a better position in this league.

The Rhine Area Athletics Meeting was held on 24th to 26th May, at Mönchen-Gladbach. After a lot of hard training in a very short space of time, the Regiment was represented in most events, with the result that the Major Units Trophy was brought back to Krefeld. In the individual events, Signalman M. J. Smith won the 220 yards and came second in the 100 yards. He also recorded the fastest time for the 100 yards during the heats. In the team events the Regiment was successful in the 3 miles, 1 mile, 4 x 440 yards, 4 x 880 yards, 4 x 120 hurdles, the weight, discus and javelin, and took second place in the other events. With congratulations to 21st and 28th Regiments, who finished first and second respectively in the Minor Units events, it was truly a Corps victory.

The Regimental Fencing Team of four novices and two members with previous experience, namely W.O.II (R.Q.M.S.) Crabtree, Sergeant Tookey, Sergeant Cairns (capt.), S.I. Edwards, A.P.T.C., Corporal Crowe, Corporal Grant, and with Staff Sergeant Gardner as reserve, entered the B.A.O.R. championships and surprised us all when they finished in fourth place, which made us Rhine Area Champions. Two of the novices, Corporals Crowe and Grant reached the semi-finals in their weapon. Our S.I. Edwards won the A.P.T.C. individual Epee competition and at the moment is in the U.K. competing in the Army championships, and we hear rumours that he has beaten the Army Fencing champion.

With all this sporting success, you may wonder if we do anything else, but don't be deceived. Our role in the world and B.A.O.R. communications networks remains as ever, and to keep us on our toes in this respect, the C.S.O., Brigadier E. J. C. Harrison, O.B.E., visited the Regiment on the 22nd. This was truly a flying visit. With the C.S.O. using a helicopter as his means of transport, he was able to inspect us here in Krefeld, and 3 Squadron, in Belgium, all in the one day. For the first time, the Quarter Guard was in, what is to us, the new No. 2 dress, and very smart they looked too.

For those who may be joining us in the future, we have, in previous issues, tried to give a fair picture of life in our part of Germany, and in each issue it is hoped to add a little more.

Krefeld is situated in North West Germany, some 25 miles north of Düsseldorf and 30 miles inside the border between Germany and Holland. It is a town that is expanding rapidly and offers excellent shopping and recreational facilities. The town is linked with the rest of Germany by the main autobahn running from Berlin in the north to Munich in the south, and to which most other autobahns in Germany are connected. For those who are not interested in high-speed motoring, the town is connected by other main roads to places of interest. From the railway station one may get a train to any part of Europe or the U.K., though this does entail some interchanging en route.

With Holland not too far away, the Wives' Club runs a bus, usually once a month, to Venlo, which does afford one some cheaper buys and gives the wives a day away from the normal chores. For the single members, the W.V.S. run many trips to all parts of Germany and Holland, which are very popular with the junior ranks. Recently the Operating Troops have been running their own Troop outings to places mutually agreed upon . . . to be continued.

To end these notes, it would be fitting to say that our next contribution will be in the 43rd year of Corps history, and may that year be as happy and successful as the past.

Arrivals.—Captain R. J. Tanner, Captain C. K. Powell, Lieutenant J. S. Beswick, W.O.I. (F. of S.) C. Hooper (from 10th Regiment); Staff Sergeant A. J. K. Hawtin and Sergeant N. F. Bumby (from 24th Regiment); Sergeant T. H. Atkins and Sergeant W. J. Bunn (from 10th Regiment).

19th REGIMENT

The picturesque Padang (Sports Field) at Changi, fringed by the sea and palm trees, was the scene of two athletic meetings during the month. The first meeting was the annual Regimental Inter-Squadron Championship, and in this 1 Squadron gained a fairly comfortable victory. The 2 Squadron tug-of-war team, well coached by W.O.II (F.-of-S.) Davies, won the Furtado Tug-of-War Cup however. Corporal Bell of 2 Squadron gave an outstanding performance in the 440 and 880 yards, also in the 880 yard leg of the medley relay. Sergeant Shamsuddin won the Long Jump and Hop, Step and Jump for about the tenth year in succession!

The prizes were presented by Mrs. Elston, wife of the Commanding Officer, at the conclusion of an enjoyable afternoon.

Talent was being carefully spotted by Major D. E. Salisbury and Lieutenant (Q.M.) E. R. C. Wall (Corps and Regimental Athletic Officers respectively) in preparation for the Corps Triangular Meeting which was held on the same ground a fortnight later. Teams from 18th Regiment and the S.T.C. provided the opposition for this meeting. 18th Regiment succeeded in wresting the Challenge Shield from 19, the holders for the previous two years, in a close struggle.

At the end of a very successful meeting, the prizes were presented by Mrs. Robinson, wife of our new Chief Signal Officer. One new trophy was a handsome Tug-of-War Challenge Cup given by Brigadier Robinson, and this was won by the Regiment, represented by the 2 Squadron team, again well coached by W.O.II (F.-of-S.) Davies.

Corporal Bell and Signalman Syed Othman were members of the victorious Royal Signals team which won the open one mile medley relay at the R.E.M.E. Corps Sports.

Congratulations to Sergeant Nizar, Corporal Jaafar, Lance-Corporal Freeman, Signalmen Ashaari and Shamsuddin on being awarded Corps Hockey Colours (FARELF). Sergeant Nizar was also awarded Singapore State Colours.

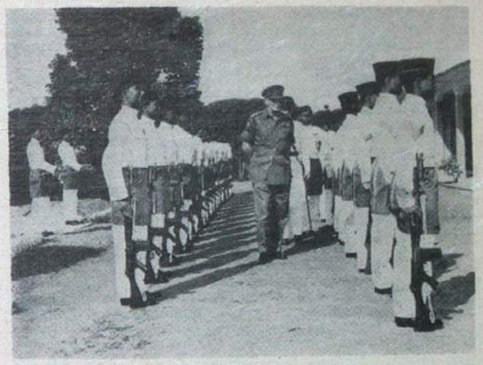
Art. When not polishing or painting his vehicle, M.T. driver Signalman Baharum directs his artistic talents to painting and drawing. In the recent R.A.F. art exhibition, one of his oils was highly commended and a water colour gained second place in its class.

Staff Changes. We welcome to the Regiment, Major and Mrs. J. T. Rogers and Major and Mrs. E. Thompson and family, and bid a fond farewell to Lieutenant and Mrs. Mercer and Captain and Mrs. P. Thomson. W.O.II (S.S.M.) Ritchings of 1 Squadron has departed for Germany; congratulations to his successor W.O.II (S.S.M.) Stephenson on his promotion. Staff Sergeant Hehir is also welcomed.

Singapore. Although bascially there are no seasons in Singapore—flowers bloom the year round, and fruits ripen throughout—the year is split by the monsoons. From October to March the winds come from the north-east across the South China Sea, and from June to September from the south-west. During this latter period rain squalls of a violent nature, but of short duration occur. These are known locally as 'Sumatras' since they come from the direction of Sumatra. Tropical showers occur throughout the year to make up the average annual rainfall of 95 inches.

Although the temperature is more or less constant the year round, definite sporting 'seasons' are laid down, and we have now, in contrast to U.K., started the soccer season in addition to the cricket season.

Soccer. The Regimental team plays in two leagues, the Singapore Base District and the R.A.F. Changi Station League. So far this season fortunes have varied—sometimes giant-killers, sometimes the despair of our enthusiastic Officer-in-Command Soccer, Captain J. McCarthy, R.A.P.C. A successful run, however, in the Malayan Armed Forces Cup competition took the team to the final for the first time. The disappointment at being defeated was softened slightly by the knowledge that our conquerers were 18th Regiment, so it was at least a Corps victory in a competition which included teams from the Singapore Military Forces and the Singapore Police.



Brigadier F. J. Swainson, O.B.E., Chief Signal Officer inspecting a Malay Guard of Honour from the Regiment

Boxing. Our close ties with the Royal Air Force were in no way impaired by the aggressive victories of Corporal Jackson and Signalman Graham of 2 Squadron, Seletar, who battled through the eliminating rounds to win the Middleweight and Lightweight divisions respectively in the Royal Air Forces Far East Individual Open Boxing Championships. They were loudly applauded when they received their awards.

Badminton and Basketball. Now, too, is the badminton and basketball season. As a Regiment we do better in the former. Most of our basketball enthusiasm comes from our Chinese members, whose agility is often no match for the height of opponents.

The badminton team have now reached the semi-finals of the Singapore Base District Inter-Unit Championships. Sergeant Nizar, who has captained the team for many seasons, is still displaying his remarkable agility and anticipation.

Christmas Island. Congratulations to Major (T.O.T.) P. R. Moores, who commands Changi Communications and Maintenance Troop of 1 Squadron, on his promotion. Major Moores has just returned from an attachment to Christmas Island with some lovely stories about the American Bell Telephone Company civilian cable jointers, who as a three-man team joint 54 pr/20 cable complete in 34 minutes. With overtime it is claimed they can pick up £150 per week (steady boys —no recruits required!). A claimed jointing rate is 100 pairs per hour (for 19 gauge cable) using a pair of scissors and a couple of spanners only!

Farewell Visit of C.S.O., FARELF. Brigadier F. J. Swainson, O.B.E., Chief Signal Officer, FARELF, paid a farewell visit to the Regiment on 27th April. After inspecting a Malay Guard of Honour from the Regiment, commanded by Lieutenant J. A. Eastgate, the C.S.O. toured departments bidding farewell to the various members of the Regiment, who are all indeed sorry to see him go, and wish him success in his new appointment.

20th REGIMENT

These notes mark the disbandment of 20th Regiment, a unit whose record goes back to July, 1941, when it was raised as 4th Air Formation Regiment, and served during the war in the Western Desert, in Sicily and Italy. In 1946 the unit was moved to Palestine and Egypt, and in 1954 to Cyprus. In September, 1959, the unit was redesignated 20th Regiment and moved to Episkopi, No. 1 Squadron remaining at Nicosia.

In addition to the usual airfield communications the Regiment has been responsible for providing inter-station circuits, mostly by radio relay, throughout the island and our thanks must go to all the radio relay technicians and operators who kept the system working in spite of the frozen aerials on Mount Olympus and the red hot B 70's at Pergamos and elsewhere.

With the handover of this commitment to the new Marconi system the Regiment's establishment has been reduced and the Regiment becomes 261 Squadron, with its headquarters at Episkopi and Airfield Troops at Nicosia, Akrotiri and El-Adem.

A farewell parade was, however, held in March before our radio relay men left, and the Regiment was thanked for its work by the A.O.C.-in-C., Air Marshal Sir William L. M. MacDonald, K.C.B., C.B.E., D.F.C.

The rundown to the new establishment has inevitably meant the departure of many familiar faces. Major E. J. Buirski, O.C. 2 Squadron, Major (T.O.T.) T. Jenkinson, Captain J. P. Brian, the Adjutant, Lieutenant L. A. Woods from the Airfield Troop at El-Adem, Lieutenant W. Oliver from 6 Construction Troop and Captain B. B. Gallagher from the Airfield Troop at Akrotiri have left. Major Buirski and Captain Brian leave a difficult gap to fill the ranks of Corps golfers in Cyprus, likewise we shall miss Captain Gallagher from the Regimental shooting team.

Major M. H. Priestley has moved from No. 1 Squadron at Nicosia to take over the new Squadron when Lieutenant-Colonel J. H. Cooper, the Commanding Officer, relinquishes Command. Lieutenant-Colonel Cooper, we are glad to say, will remain in charge of our destinies as C.A.F.S.O.

R.S.M. N. Lane, who left recently for 8th Regiment, is greatly missed for his enthusiastic work in the Amateur Radio Club (ZC4TJ), for his own swimming and captaincy of our successful swimming team last year, and for his work on the hockey field. Our Chief Clerk, Staff Sergeant F. P. J. Edge, has left for London District, leaving us without his wise counsel. We hope his feelings on the Cyprus Traffic laws have mellowed!

Many members of our football team have unfortunately left as a result of the run down—Signalman Rooney, an Army representative player, Craftsmen Maddocks and Harrison, Signalmen Smith, Cordall, Taplin, Coyle, and Lance-Corporal Tomlinson. We wish them every success, and success, too, to R.Q.M.S. Humble in rebuilding a new team.

Our best wishes for their speedy recovery to Lance-Corporal Pearce from Akrotiri and Corporal Cottis from Episkopi who have been "Casevac" to U.K.

Corporal Smith and Signalman Charlton represented Royal Air Force Station, Akrotiri, in the finals of the Inter-Station Boxing Competition against Royal Air Force Nicosia. Corporal Smith managed to pull off a win for the Station in the light-heavyweight contest by finishing the contest in the first round.

Welcome newcomers include Captain R. Ping at Akrotiri, Lieutenant (T.O.T.) C. Brodley and Lieutenant G. Wilkie-Snow. Lieutenant I. Graham has taken over as Adjutant, W.O.II Lacey as S.S.M. and Corporal Worrall as Chief Clerk.

21st REGIMENT

These notes include the happenings in the Regiment during April.

It is appropriate to mention here that the previous notes' writer, our Second-in-Command, Major L. C. P. Jaggard, has now left us on posting to the Works Study Group Headquarters B.A.O.R. He has left a gap in the Regiment which it will be hard to fill and we wish he and his family all good fortune.

Lieutenant - Colonel J. J. H. Swallow, C.A.F.S.O., H.Q., R.A.F. Germany, 2 T.A.F. presenting a Shield at the Regimental Small Arms Meeting

During this period we have also said farewell to Captain A. A. Griss on retirement, to Captain P. A. Spooner on posting to 65th Regiment T.A., to Lieutenant (T.O.T.) R. Taylor on posting to 234 Squadron, to Staff Sergeant D. Sparrow (on posting to 226 Squadron) and to Staff Sergeant J. Smith on posting to 28th Regiment as W.O.II.

Newcomers to the Regiment have been: Major E. C. Collins from 17th (Gurkha) Regiment, W.O.II C. Johnson from the Life Guards, Staff Sergeant I. Bowers from 13th Regiment, Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) D. Clarke from the School of Signals, Sergeant A. F. J. Gunderson from 10th Regiment, Sergeant R. Jones from 16th Railway Regiment R.E. and Sergeant C. Richardson from 201 Squadron.

Congratulations to Signalman M. Hill on his marriage.

Congratulations also to R.Q.M.S. and Mrs. D. Spence, Corporal and Mrs. C. Hughes, Corporal and Mrs. T. Scott, on the birth of a son, and to Staff Sergeant and Mrs. M. Pearson, Sergeant and Mrs. F. Brudenal, and Signalman and Mrs. M. Tilley, on the birth of a daughter.

The first event of the month was the annual Regimental Small Arms Meeting held at Arsbeck Ranges on the 5th and 6th April. The competition consisted of three matches, S.L.R., S.M.G. and L.M.G., points being awarded for team placings. For the third year running "M" Troop were the winning team. The prizes were presented by C.A.F.S.O., H.Q. R.A.F. Germany, 2nd Tactical Air Force, Lieutenant-Colonel J. J. H. Swallow. Some results were:

Best Officer	Second-Lieutenant R. A. Lenthall
Best W.O./S.N.S.O. ...	R.S.M. T. A. Vaughan
Best Cpl./L-Cpl.	Lance-Corporal Gilbert
Best Signalman	Signalman Saxon
Champion Shot	Lance-Corporal Gilbert

On 17th April, 1962, Royal Air Force Station Laarbruch was visited by the Air Officer Commanding Headquarters Royal Air Force Germany, Air Vice-Marshal Gordon Jones, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., D.F.C., R.A.F., on the occasion of the Annual Inspection of the R.A.F. station. The Regiment was honoured by a visit from the A.V.M. and provided a Quarter Guard. The A.O.C. was shown round the Regiment's "Hall of Mirrors," where photographs illustrating the Unit's activities during the past year and the Regimental silver were on display.

In the Royal Signals (B.A.O.R.) Spring Golf Meeting held at R.A.F. Bruggen on 30th April and 1st May, the Regiment had several outstanding successes. The Regimental Foursomes competition was won by Major S. W. B. Lee and Second-Lieutenant I. G. Dorward. Major J. W. Ingledow and W.O.II (F. of S.) Hazel came third in the same competition. In the 18 Hole Bogey Competition, Major Lee was again triumphant, and Second-Lieutenant Dorward was runner-up.

The Regimental Athletics Meeting was held on a very cold 2nd of May. The Inter-Squadron Trophy was won by "H.Q." Squadron with a convincing margin. It would be invidious to name any particular performer. Mention must be made, however, of Signalman Holden who beat the R.A.F. Station, Laarbruch, record for the 1,500 metres.

The soccer season came to a successful end with the final of the Inter-Troop Knock-Out Competition which was won by "N" Troop who beat "H" Troop by 4 goals to 3 at Laarbruch on 10th May.

1961/62 was the last year for which all Royal Signals units in B.A.O.R. competed for the full range of Morrison Cup sports. The year has seen the best ever results for 21st Regiment, who finished fourth out of twelve units. Our successes included:—

Athletics	Winners of the Tug-of-War.
Basketball	Runners-up.
Cross Country ...	Winners (Signalman Holden: Individual Winner).
Hockey	Semi-Finalists.
.22 Shooting	3rd out of 8 teams (Lieutenant E. R. Maynard: Highest Scorer).

'PUBLIC RELATIONS.'

22nd REGIMENT

AFTER THE FOURTH NIGHT MOVE WE GOT THE HANG OF THINGS.

April's arrival has brought the Regiment once again very much into the Exercise Season. 1 and 2 Squadrons have been much involved and 244 Squadron's activities are reported elsewhere. Newcomers whom we welcome to the Regiment include Captain (Q.M.) W. Roscoe and Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Lidstone. We wish them both a happy tour with the Regiment. Unhappily we also during April said farewell to Captain (Q.M.) Harry Bond, one of the old and bold, who has retired from the Army. He was of course dined out in good style and it is typical of his devotion to the Corps that he spent his last hours in the Regiment umpiring a Knowles Cup hockey match. He will be very much missed.

H.Q. Squadron. At the risk of incurring the wrath of the Editor, we feel we would be boring our readers by telling them what we do in normal times—everyone knows what an H.Q. Squadron does. The fact that we do it rather better than most is by the way.

Where we excel is when the cry arises "To the Woods," and off we trundle in stately convoy: the woods lately have turned out to be farmyards, and we are becoming quite superb at infiltrating barns.

Exercise "New Harpoon" saw us ensconsed in the country for quite a number of days, ministering to the more mundane needs of the Regiment—from the action side, it was most successful and we all learnt a lot.

Little highlights stick out—R.Q.M.S. Johnston, as duty officer, his urbane and unruffled self quietly answering three telephones at once with a confidential "City Desk."

Officers and seniors had breakfast served by the indefatigable Signalman Kerr in a cowshed, to the great interest of some 20 cows and one small white goat. However, we progressed—first in the kitchen and finally, by evening, we were in the best room in the farmhouse, suitably entertaining Grandad and the lot with some of Messrs. Booth's well-known "Mothers' Ruin."

To our arrivals, we bid welcome to Lieutenant C. A. Brown, from 10th Regiment; Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Nixon from Training Brigade and W.O.II (Y. of S.) Ewens, who is no stranger to us, having formerly been S.S.M., 1 Squadron. We offer our congratulations to the Yeoman and Mrs. Ewens on the birth of their daughter, and Lance-Corporal and Mrs. Nicholson on the birth of their son.

Farewell and the best of luck to Sergeant and Mrs. Walrond and their family who have now joined 7th Regiment.

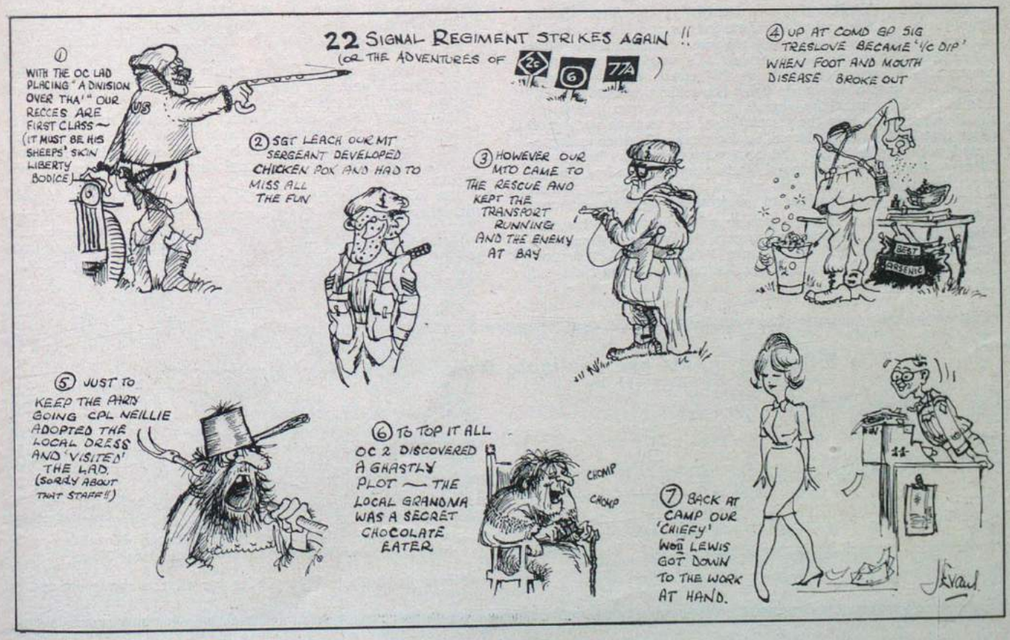
Our congratulations are also due to W.O.II (R.Q.M.S.) Oliver on his appointment to R.Q.M.S.

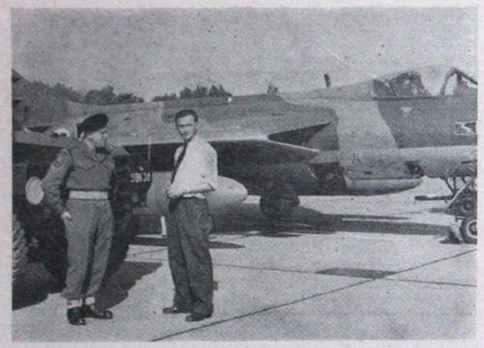
1 Squadron (Main Corps Radio). As a historical note and to enlighten former members of the Regiment, this Squadron was originally 2 Squadron of 7th Regiment, and as such, was transferred to 22nd Regiment. It has recently been renumbered as 1 Squadron, 22nd Regiment (Main Corps Radio).

During May, we have had the usual spate of exercises and received the usual congratulations for our performances! There has been little time for recreation, but Corporal Mansfield spent an enjoyable (?) two hours in the Möhnesee when his dinghy capsized during the Royal Signals regatta.

We welcome back to the Squadron Lieutenant J. Sayers from another unit; he has been replaced by Lieutenant J. Bromley, from the Squadron.

2 Squadron (Rear Corps Radio). This month, in common with the rest of the Regiment, and many others, we took part in Exercise "New Harpoon." We are glad to report that all went well. A period of intentional Radio Silence fortunately occurred at a time when the Cup Final appeared on German Television. Due to the goodwill of our landlord farmer, the majority of the Squadron retired to the front parlour and looked in. No doubt Grandma was suitably bribed with an extra supply of chocolate, which appeared to be her staple diet. Goodwill seemed to abound, and S.S.M. Peberdy "arranged" a plentiful supply of eggs and potatoes to augment the compo.





Corporal J. E. Walker 244 Squadron, 22nd Regiment, standing in front of his vehicle during exercise "Royal Flush." His detachment is parked near a "Hunter" at Ramstein Airfield

Later in the month the Squadron was given the task of erecting the camp for the Royal Signal B.A.O.R. Rifle Meeting, held at Brackwede Ranges. The camp went up in about seven days and came down in one (due we feel to the imminence of a long week-end), that is not counting the large marquee which disappeared one night in a blaze of glory, despite, of course, adequate fire precautions!

244 Squadron (Air Support). For the past seven years, teams from the Second and Fourth Allied Tactical Air Force have pitted their wits and flying skill against each other in a visual and photographic reconnaissonce competition named "Royal Flush." The centre for this competition this year was at Ramstein, in the American Zone. A new section to the competition was added this year requiring pilots to pass an In-Flight Mission Report to an Air Control Team.

4 Squadron, R.A.F., who were providing the Short Range Team for 2 A.T.A.F., asked this Squadron to provide the A.C.T. and an HF Admin. Link back to base. Unfortunately, due to the lack of Yankee dollars, the A.C.T. could only consist of one man. This one man band was ably taken over by Corporal Walker. In spite of having to drive his vehicle, operate the HF Admin. Link, contact the aircraft and do his own cipher, he still found time to help the remainder of the team to such good effort that he has been elected an Honorary Member and presented with a pilot's tie. Your correspondent has been confidently informed that Corporal Walker has at last had regrets about his figure, he just could not fit into the modern fighter, so his activities were confined to the ground side of the exercise.

Serving, but in a less spectacular way, Sergeant Jukes and other detachments, commanded respectively by Lance-Corporals Hunter, Dickinson and Pirie, from "Alpha" and "Bravo" Troops went into the wilds of the Sauerland to play hide and seek with the pilots, who were sent out to find them. Their camouflage was put to such good effect that a signal was sent out to reduce camouflage and give the pilots a chance.

24th REGIMENT

Corporal's Vickers and Blackmore working on the C 11/R 210 on which they received the S.O.S.

On Tuesday, 29th May, 1962, two of our Instructors, Corporals Vickers and Blackmore, were supervising a course of telegraph operators. Trainees were given a band of frequencies in which to search and read any morse stations radiating on this band.

Whilst demonstrating the technique to the rest of the class, Corporals Vickers and Blackmore located readable signs on a training frequency. Their attention was alerted by the fact that the station was sending S.O.S.

Calmly and efficiently, they recorded the message being transmitted. It was from the Captain of the Naval Corvette, *Cliona*. This stated the *Cliona* was on fire, blazing in the Irish Sea, that some of the crew were injured, and help was required.

The Instructors, with great presence of mind immediately rang Headquarters of the Signal Training Brigade and passed on the S.O.S. Within seconds the message was relayed to the Police, Air Sea Rescue Teams and Coastguards. Help was soon on the way in the nature of a Dutch tug and two other vessels.

Later, the full story was received. The *Cliona* had been engaged on an exercise in the Irish Sea and was dropping depth charges. A fire started on board caused by a broken fuel line. Flames belched through a starboard ventilator and quickly spread. Three of the crew were burned and were subsequently detained in hospital.

The Captain of the *Cliona* finally managed to get the fire under control and was able to take her to Cork in Southern Ireland under her own steam.

Two hours later, the Captain, Lieutenant-Commander H. Henry, R.N., sent a message of thanks to the Regiment in which he said that all his transmitters had been damaged by fire, and he had only been able to transmit his S.O.S. on the one frequency.

The initiative displayed on this occasion by Corporals Vickers and Blackmore was highly commendable. Their vigilance illustrates the importance of the work of the Telegraph and Radio Operators of Royal Signals. Throughout the Corps acts like this occur frequently, but rarely is it possible for the individual operator to see the fruit of his labour.

The following goods are available from Association Headquarters:

Corps Ties—Heavy Weave	7/6	Blazer Buttons—Large (each)	2/3
Woollen	8/6	Small (each)	1/8
Terylene	11/–	Motor Car Badges (enamelled in Corps Colours	35/–
Corps Scarves—Woollen	21/–	Motor Cycle Badges (enamelled in Corps Colours)	20/–
Rayon Squares	21/–	Corps Plaques	29/6 Plus postage
Cravats—Terylene	21/–	Corps Diaries (available each year between November and February. Apply to Headquarters for Order Form).	
Corps Cuff Links	8/6		
Association Buttonhole Badges or Brooches	3/– Members only		
Blazer Badges	45/–		

Please Send Cash With Order for all the above articles.

A moment of reflection as the Signal Officer-in-Chief asks Major I. G. Swan what was obviously an impossible question which readers will recognise from the look on his face

Left to right: The Signal Officer-in-Chief, the Master of Signals, Colonel T. H. C. Grigg (Liaison Officer for Blandford Rebuild Project), Lieutenant Colonel W. E. Jelf, G. I. School of Signals, Brigadier F. J. Swainson, O.B.E., Signal Officer-in-Chief Designate, and with his back to camera, Major I. G. Swan, Executive Officer Blandford Rebuild Project

30th REGIMENT

Corporal G. Herberts receives his Long Service and Good Conduct Medal from the Commanding Officer on HerMajesty The Queen's Birthday Parade

On 15th May a distinguished body assembled at 30th Regiment to present the plan for the rebuild of Blandford Camp to the Master of Signals. The majority of participants are shown in the photograph, and others attending were Colonel Vulliamy and Captain (T.O.T.) W. A. Nation. The rebuild will commence at the end of this year and will be complete enough in 1965 to enable the School of Signals to move from Catterick. By 1967, H.Q., A.E.R., Royal Signals and 30th Regiment should be able to move from hutted accommodation in the camp into permanent buildings.

During a tour of the camp, the Pimpernel Beagles, which are a joint-owned 30th Regiment/civilian pack, were paraded for the Master of Signals to see one of the many assets of Blandford. This pack has a civilian Master. The huntsman for the 1962/63 season will be W.O.II (F. of S.) W. G. Paul of the Regiment.

PARADE OF THE PIMPERNEL BEAGLES

Left to right: Master of Signals, J. M. Grice Esq., F.R.I.B.A., Architect for the Blandford Project, Lieutenant Colonel A. T. Burrows, M.B.E., E.R.D., Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel E. G. Day, (Rt'd), Corporal Fryer, Signal Officer-in-Chief, Lieutenant Colonel W. E. Jelf, Brigadier A. F. McGill, O.B.E., Brigadier J. E. Anderson

47th REGIMENT (MIDDLESEX YEOMANRY)

Caps Off

Ours—to all the Regular Army personnel, Old Comrades and civilian friends of the Regiment who have given such cheery encouragement and real practical support, in response to our various requests for help since 1st January, when the C.O. (Lieutenant-Colonel Simon Beazley) started our **Operational Efficiency Drive**.

Tactical Operations. G minus 44 . . . The "Greenfields" Operation gets nearer!

The middle of April saw another Tac. "Op" of the "G-Plan" series—more stimulating than anything previously, if only because it showed us that we were not quite as good as we thought! Which was, of course, "Meat and Gravy" to Major G. F. M. Pike, the Tac. "Ops" specialist of our Command Team (Lieutenant-Colonel Beazley, Major Williams and Major Pike), whose ubiquitious activity gave fair warning of what he and the rest of the Command Team expect on the next "Op" of the series at the end of May.

But the C.O.'s following remarks pin-pointed key lessons to be learnt:—

Remembering:—

The "Greenfiields" Aim:—Operational Efficiency.

Efficiency Factors:—

(a) Organisation is the basis of efficiency.
(b) The basis of Organisation is:—
(c) Systematic Approach.
(d) Delegation of Responsibility.
(e) Super-Supervision.

Tactical Operations. 'G'-Day, 30th June!

"Greenfields" only a month away gave special impetus to the final Tac' Op'. in our "G-Plan" series of pre-camp build-up operations, held in the Blackdown area, in the last week-end of May.

This operation, designed by our Command Team (Lieutenant-Colonel Beazley, Major Williams and Major Pike) as a final field "work-out" for all equipment and personnel engaged on "Greenfields"—and planned for maximum realism, relative to "Greenfields" conditions—was an object lesson in what can be achieved, in terms of operational efficiency, by pre-planning and team work—in spite of the "extra realistic" torrential rain throughout.

The "Stars of the Show" were undoubtedly our Tech' Team, led by the T.O.T., Lieutenant J. Simpkins, who, in spite of the appalling weather, succeeded in completing the entire engineering test programme that had been set by Major G. F. M. Pike, of our Command Team, for the proving and "bug" clearance of the V.H.F. and Line Carrier equipment associated with our newly-wired Signal Centre vehicles.

The enthusiasm of the T.O.T. and the Foreman—Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) W. A. Aldridge, so inspired the remainder of the Tech'. Team, that until specifically ordered to do so, none would stop for either food or sleep.

Are the Troop Leaders Leading?

The C.O.'s theme phase, for our recently-introduced "Officer Development Programme," was put to the test towards the end of the operation, when our officers were suddenly given, as a "Leadership Task," an hour, in which each had to complete a report on "Recommendations for improvements likely to increase operational efficiency during 'Greenfields.'"

Such shock treatment can be disturbing!—and we hear that the R.S.M. is still seeking "the Voice" overheard commenting "'ere! look at their faces, they've never 'ad it so good!"

Special Operations. Cavalry to Communications!

The Regiment amply showed the mettle of its past and present roles at the Easter Parade in Battersea Park—with two

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horsed Hussars in the parade itself. These were Sergeants W. H. J. French and J. E. Heaton of the Mounted Patrol, wearing the full dress uniform of the Middlesex Yeomanry (Duke of Cambridge's Hussars).

At the same time, elements of "B" and "C" Squadrons, on a special "Op" in the area, under Majors F. Ruthven and J. R. N. Nicholson, were able to offer assistance to the parade authorities with communications for casualty clearance and crowd control—and when it was learnt that our efforts had been directly responsible for the speedy clearance of over a hundred first-aid casualties from the crowd, the fact that we were still recovering part of the ten miles of cable late into the Sunday evening, did not seem to matter—morale was high!

Special Operations—Battle Training, Aldershot

"D" Squadron personnel, under their Squadron Leader, Major S. J. Williams (the Special Ops. specialist of our Command Team) and two Troop Leaders, successfully completed the special op'. planned for the first week-end in June, in the Aldershot area.—An introduction to Battle Training, with emphasis on fostering initiative and self reliance.

"D" Squadron, our primary training unit, being responsible for instructing all our recruits in elementary military training, basic signal knowledge and the Cavalry customs and traditions of the Regiment (raised in 1797), prior to their posting to an operational Squadron for trade, and continuation training.

The operation opened with an amphibious attack from assault boats on Hawley Lake, followed by the establishment of a defensive position behind Cove. Here, part of the night was spent under canvas—the remainder on patrols, involving a night map-reading march of 12 miles.

By morning the Squadron had advanced to Pirbright, where, after firing a short range course on the ranges of The Guards Depot, it moved to Aldershot and the final objective, via an assault course, at The Army School of Physical Training.

We gather that the subsequent hot meal, with the 2nd Bn. The Parachute Regiment, was an "objective worth fighting for!"

Shooting. The efforts of our two shooting teams were justly rewarded in the London District Rifle Meeting held on the 15th April, when we not only won the Inter-Unit Shooting Trophy, but gained second place also. The winning team was led by Captain P. R. Lewin.

Engineering Test Programme, Chiswick

The sight of the Chiswick Regatta gave Major J. R. N. Nicholson a novel means of providing some "live traffic" and added interest for the detachments of "A" and "B" Squadrons taking part in the Engineering Test Programme that he directed in the Chiswick area recently.

The programme, one of several, for the "Testing and Proving" of the technical equipment to be used on "Greenfields," utilised V.H.F. and Line Carrier equipment for the provision of a multi-channel service for speech.

Ceremonial Duty—Cavalry Memorial Parade

The Regiment was represented at the annual Cavalry Memorial Parade in Hyde Park, on the 6th May, by a detachment of serving members and Old Comrades of the Middlesex Yeomanry.

The Regimental Band

"Greenfields" prevents our Band from attending Camp with the Regiment this year, instead they have been kindly accommodated by the 41st Regiment (Princess Louise's Kensington Regiment), at Penhale, from which they have just returned and where we understand that their services were much appreciated.

Mayoral Installation Ceremony

Holding the Freedom of the Borough of Chelsea, we are one of the privileged Regiments who find Escorts to the Mayor of Chelsea on ceremonial occasions, which included the recent installation of the new Mayor, when two Sergeants of our associated Squadron, 305 (Middlesex Yeomanry) Squadron (Parachute Brigade), were on duty.

Recreational Training—Motor Cycling

Second-Lieutenant A. R. Maxwell and Sergeant N. Jones of our Dispatch Rider Team tied for second place in a recent heat for the 250 c.c. class of the "Motor Cyclist of the Year" competition, held at Uxbridge, by The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents.

Social Activity—"Baynes Day" Celebrations

"Baynes Day"—11th May, 1797. This, the 165th anniversary of the formation of The Middlesex Yeomanry (prior to 1871 known as The Uxbridge Yeomanry Cavalry), was marked by a champagne party given by the Officers' Mess aboard a Thames river steamer, which made the return trip to Greenwich from Cadogan Pier, Chelsea, with the Regimental Band playing from the upper deck.

The guests included Major-General and Mrs. Cecil Deakin and the Mayors of Chelsea, Wandsworth and Uxbridge and their ladies.

Personal Column—Departures and Arrivals

Goodbye to Major (Q.M.) T. H. Luscombe, our Quartermaster, and to Major F. Ruthven of "B" Squadron, who leave us with our best wishes for their future and thanks for all their past services to the Regiment.

Welcome to Major (Q.M.) K. Parsons, our new Quartermaster, and Staff Sergeant D. J. Palmer, whom we hope will enjoy their stay with us.

Promotions and Appointments

Congratulations on their recent promotions and appointments to:—Captain T. D. W. Woodgate to Major, and O.C. "B" Squadron; Captain E. A. Scarlett, B.E.M., to Major, and O.C. "C" Squadron; Major J. R. N. Nicholson, from "C" Squadron to Technical Duties at R.H.Q.; Corporal P. W. L. Adey, to Sergeant; Signalman H. H. Sawford, to Lance-Corporal; Signalman R. E. Leach, to Lance-Corporal.

SQUADRONS

219 SQUADRON

The writer, chastened by world-wide criticism of boring and parish-pump Unit contributions, will this time at any rate try to keep it short. He believes, however, that there is some point in recording the activities of small Units. Such notes are of interest to past members and also to the present generation, even if they seem dreary to the Royal Corps as a whole.

In April we won the Area Rugger Competition and the Seven-a-Side Rugger: this we regard as a major sporting achievement as it involved beating teams from an Infantry Battalion and other Units many times our size. Congratulations to Lance-Corporal Pace (now released), Sergeant Smith, Corporal Lucas and all concerned.

4th May brought our Administrative Inspection by Brigadier Dickson, the Area Commander, who seemed pleased with all he saw. "Self-help" is still our watch-word and one which we find useful on these occasions; slightly too much self-help went on in the O.C.'s office where the safe was effectively sealed up with paint; breaking the paint seal is now included in the standing orders for the duty telegraph technician. We ended the day with a very successful Squadron Social Evening,

219 Squadron Rugger XV Winners of Tripolitania Area Rugger Competition

where those who had not had their hair cut off let it down. We were glad to have with us that evening two E.R.E. Warrant Officers of the Corps; one was R.Q.M.S. Arthur Godfrey the Camp R.Q.M.S., and the other R.Q.M.S. Arthur Dodsworth, recently arrived for duties with the Army School.

222 SQUADRON

Everywhere there are new faces. Major C. Robinson left us early in May on retirement from the Army: we wish him every success. Major G. W. A. Stephenson has now assumed command, with new Troop Commanders Captain S. Read and Lieutenant E. Castle.

The deployment of the Squadron over such vast distances—four and a half hours by Brittania to visit one distant troop, for instance—keeps those of us at S.H.Q. very busy. S.Q.M.S. Ridley reckons he's getting in more flying hours than many an airline captain! For the "Q," these hours aloft seem to inspire the muse, and he is becoming a regular contributor to our local Command newspaper. They say that one day he's going to re-write the "Tales of the Arabian Nights"—if he ever gets off the Peninsular!

The existence of small detachments from the airfield troops—in some cases just one or two men—does much to foster a sense of responsibility in the chaps concerned. As the sole representatives of Air Formation Signals on the ground, they have to work on maintenance and projects, keep a check on their stores and report in detail on their work, all on their own initiative. The only access to these localities is by air, and constant visits by Troop Commanders and S.H.Q. personalities are not possible. But the junior N.C.O.s concerned seem to thrive on it, the importance and responsibility of their jobs on these isolated sites bounded by sea and desert bringing out the very best in them.

Our T.O.T., Captain C. Bolton, continues to shout so loud when the dusky-skinned labourers employed by opposition concerns put their picks through one of his cables that you'd think his foot was under it!

As we said a month or two ago, finding Squadron teams is a bit of a problem now that we're so split up. Still, our contribution to Station teams is not inconsiderable. The Royal Signals Aden soccer team which reached the Command Cup Final had no less than four players from "Treble Two." And Lance-Corporal Mitchell from S.H.Q. played rugger for Aden and Royal Air Force Steamer Point, finishing up with a Command trial.

The Squadron's pigeons, having completed their basic training, are now allowed out unaccompanied. They are said to go down to the Crescent (where we buy our cameras, radios and other loot) to look round the stalls. They haven't bought anything yet, but one of them put a deposit on a new hat.

To sum up, we are a very dispersed and very busy Squadron these days. But as everyone knows, hard work and high morale go hand in hand, so the busier the better!

248 GURKHA SQUADRON

Exercise "Ophir"—this unusual-sounding name was given to our major activity carried out since the last contribution from the Squadron.

It was generally agreed by the officers of the Squadron that some serious, uninterrupted training must be carried out in order to maintain our standards. It was obvious that this could not be achieved in barracks, since someone always "thinks-up" something for Signals to do. The idea was born—the Squadron should go out—lock, stock and barrel—but where? A suitable training area was selected and plans went ahead, not without a few hitches, availability of rations and tents and other small details! Like all military exercises, a name had to be allocated, and Exercise "Ophir" was decided on; Ophir is the 4,000ft. mountain peak dominating our training area and up which the Squadron was to launch an assault.

The Recce party moved off on 3rd March and arrived at the site in the early afternoon. Captain Motilal Thapa and Lieutenant Birch sited the camp and soon tents sprang up like mushrooms. The following day a slight mishap occurred; the tents appeared not to be in the correct area (according to some Water Board authorities), but after a slight move and some diplomacy from the O.C., Major A. Dacre, the Squadron stayed where it was. The camp site was by the side of a small reservoir at the foot of Mount Ophir, the scenery was delightful. Captain Copeland brought the main body up, and the next day was spent in camp organisation.

One of the major items on the training programme was the assault on Mount Ophir, to establish a C42 rebroadcast station on the summit. Lieutenants Birch and Bhupal, with a small party, went on a recce to discover if the path was suitable for heavily-laden men. On their return they were able to report success to the O.C., who had just arrived.

Training went ahead, a long route march and individual Troop and Detachment training! A daily A.D.S. service was established with Singapore and rear links to Nee Soon and Seremban were operated on schedules. Air recognition panels were flown from the dipoles, giving the impression of Tibetan prayer flags; this was necessary as the camp was at the end of an air strip. The O.C. demonstrated his prowess at seamanship and neatly hauled the Squadron pennant to the top of a 36ft. mast. H.Q. Troop were in their element, this being their chance to show they could look after the Squadron in the field. An efficient office and "Q" Store were set up, the armoury, cookhouse and canteen completed their organisation.

The Troop Commander, Captain Motilal, arranged, organised and received an airdrop.

The assault on Mount Ophir was at hand. The previous day, loads were made up, some in packs, some on manpack carriers. The break-down was: 1 C42 complete, "A" Troop; 1 C42 complete, V.H.F. Troop; ration party, "J" Troop; 300-watt generator party, 10 "picked" men.

The party totalled 70 all ranks, the 300-watt generator proved the most awkward load, and this was carried in relays, one man at a time. Although the equipment load, with the secondary batteries, generator, petrol and rations was a large one, it could have been handled by fewer men.

The ascent, through steaming jungle on a narrow and, in places, steep path, took five and-a-half hours—a good time for a laden party. (See the report by H.F. Troop of 249 Squadron in March edition of THE WIRE). The view from the summit was glorious, to the south and west the flat, cultivated areas of Johore and Malacca were laid out like a map. The hills to the north around Seremban were visible through a haze. Tea, with condensed milk, never tasted so good as the first cup on the top, but there was work to be done and communications to be established. The two C42s were set up for re-broadcasting, and our two out stations on opposite sides of the mountain, down below, were contacted, one an A40 and the other an A41. All worked well—10 miles, and then 20 miles distant, but suddenly an unknown station was heard. Security was thrown to the winds and the station was found to be a detachment of Gurkha Engineers in Kluang, 60 miles away, with a C42. After a little explanation, this detachment joined the test and was "plugged" through to an astonished Sergeant Krishnabahadur on an A40 in Jasin. The result was a very satisfactory working link from Kluong to Jasin, C42 to A40 via a re-broadcast station—total range, 75 miles.

Towards evening the weather deteriorated and it rained quite hard and the rum bottles were "lightened" for the return journey. In the morning the officers spent a frustrating two hours trying to get a down shot with a battery of cameras, but the clouds decided otherwise. The descent was made in light-hearted manner, being a gentle trot all the way down.—Phase I completed.

The next phase was a series of aerial and frequency tests. This was something the Squadron had wanted to do for some time. Problems are always cropping up on that 15-35 mile range. Twenty C11/R210 detachments were set out at varying distances to put up five different types of aerial. A selection of the Squadron frequencies was made, and the results were taken down over a 24-hour period. Some very useful knowledge was gained, but naturally, a test of this nature could not be fully conclusive.

The final training scheme was a three-day jungle march, the aim being to practise jungle-craft and jungle communications with A510s and A41 sets. A tactical setting was devised for a Brigade advance with the O.C. acting as Brigade Group Commander. Jungle navigation was proved to the officers to be just as difficult as they thought—you are never where you think you are—and that it is possible to go around in a circle when following a river. Air recce support had been arranged and was successful in locating "Lieutenant-Colonel Ridlington's" Battalion who duly turned up at the R.V. slap on time and in good order. A reception committee in the form of three officers from R.H.Q. and our "Q" element with beer and orange respectively were eventually brought to the correct R.V.!

The general verdict on the exercise—a good useful two weeks' training was gained by all. Now we have I.S. for the month of May and Exercise "Trumpeter" for the whole of June to look forward to.

249 SQUADRON

This month has found the Squadron heavily involved in exercises up-country in Malaya, Troop-wise and Squadron-wise; all in preparation for bigger and better exercises to come. In spite of this Corporal Holdsworth has managed to put in several spells of Adventure Training with his Canoe Section. One week-end sortie was spent paddling to the islands around Singapore, and another week-end was spent following the source of the Segamat and Muar Rivers until it reached the sea on the west coast of Malaya. They had a most exciting time coping with rapids and squally seas, and the crews suffered several duckings.

H.F. Troop had a most amusing incident during Exercise "Gabriel." The Troop managed to acquire several tins of hard-tack biscuits to help augment the "compo," but found them unpalatable and uninteresting after a week or so. It was decided by popular consent to try and barter the biscuits with the local people in Alor Gajah area for chickens. Corporal Westerman had little success with this venture, but Signalmen Mokhtar and Abu Bakar had more success when they sallied forth later in the afternoon. They returned with four fine chickens but, unfortunately, alive and kicking. This rather put off most of the chaps, however partial they were to chicken, they did not feel like eating them after seeing them on the hoof, as it were. It was not very long afterwards that hunger overcame squeamishness and Corporal Holdsworth started making enquiries as to how one killed chickens; Corporal Westerman performed this task for him with alacrity. He simply grabbed one of the chickens and pulled its head off, much to the astonishment of everyone. The squeamish members of the Troop became even more squeamish when they saw the chicken running around without a head. Corporal Holdsworth then tried his hand at plucking and cleaning the carcass, which he managed without much difficulty. Signalman Mokhtar despatched another of the chickens much more adaptly, plucked it and cleaned it, quartered it, dipped it in curry powder and fried it in oil. Corporal Holdsworth rather liked this idea and did the same with his, and the friend chicken was really the finest tasting hard tack ever savoured in 249 Squadron. Another of the remaining chickens was consumed the following day, and the last surviving chicken was never consumed. No one relished the idea of despatching the last of the lonely chickens and it became an intimate pet of Corporal Mawdsley, who fed and looked after it. He brought it back to Singapore with him when the Troop returned, and it now resides in his garden as a fed, contented pet for his children. If you ever go on exercise with a pile of hard tack biscuits you cannot eat, and do not know what to do with, try some bartering with the local inhabitants; you never know what you might get; we certainly had some good entertainment and good eating.

605 TROOP

It is not always easy in a small troop such as this to find time to produce WIRE notes or produce items of interest.

As it is quite a time since we last went to Press a few short notes now will help to remind readers that we still exist.

One of the high spots of each year for the troop is the Queen's Birthday Parade held on 2nd June.

The troop provided three radio nets. The first Buckingham Palace—The Mall for controlling the start of the parade. R.S. No. 88 were used. The link was manned by the O.C., Staff Sergeant A. J. Cowe, Lance-Corporal R. J. Savage and Lance-Corporal R. Coules.

The second net was established at Horse Guards, using R.S. No. 31, and was manned by Sergeant J. Spiers, Sergeant A. Todd, Sergeant N. M. Donnelly and Corporal P. M. Warren.

The third net, using fourteen R.S. No. 88, was set up in The Mall by St. John's Ambulance for casualty clearing. We lent the sets and provided Corporal W. G. Eggleton to supervise. St. John's manned the stations.

Our list of outstations continues to grow, and we have now taken over staffing and operating responsibilities for the telephone exchange at the Guards Depot, Pirbright.

On the lighter side mention must be made of two excellent parties held.

A troop dance organised by Staff Sergeant W. A. Peat was held in Beavers Lane Camp NAAFI on 3rd May and was a roaring success.

The following evening we entertained our civilian staff in the Duke of Yorks H.Q. This too was a great success, albeit a quieter one. It was gratifying to note how many attended from outlying exchanges, ranging from Mill Hill to Woolwich. This type of entertainment was a new venture, which we hope to repeat.

Our main item of sporting interest is the appointment of Lieutenant B. W. Giller as Team Manager of the Army Gliding Association. At the time of writing he is away at Aston Down.

We have said goodbye to Captain D. C. Sidney, who was O.C. for three years, and who did so much in every sense for the troop. The efficiency of the troop is a direct reflection of his wise and steady guidance. We wish him well in his new job with Junior Leaders Regiment.

H.Q. A.E.R.

A Church Parade was held on Sunday, 3rd June, at Blandford, in which detachments of 37th Regiment R.A., 30th Regiment and 82nd Regiment A.E.R. took part. During the Service, Colonel T. H. C. Grigg, the Commander H.Q. A.E.R., read out Her Majesty's message to the youth of the Commonwealth, and later he took the salute as the troops marched past under the Command of Lieutenant-Colonel J. M. Bellman, M.C., R.A., Officer Commanding 37th Regiment R.A.

82nd Regiment A.E.R., who were in their first week of Annual Camp, also held a parade to commemorate the Queen's Birthday on Saturday, 2nd June, at which their Honorary Colonel, Colonel M. G. Holmes, took the salute. Also present at this parade were Colonel R. Linton, O.B.E., C.S.O., Scottish Command and the Commander, H.Q. A.E.R.

The high standard of drill and turn out achieved by the Regiment on both days reflected great credit on all concerned.

SPORT

British Army Motoring Association

Singapore Centre

Championships 1962

By 19th Regiment

The B.A.M.A. held its first Singapore Championships on 29th and 30th May, 1962. The 19th Regiment entered a team and succeeded in winning the Shell Trophy for the best team, and the Freeman Cup for the best Royal Signals crew.

The championships were organised by C.R. Signals, Singapore, and comprised 150 miles rally type driving at night, followed by a cross country section with observed hazards, a series of manoeuvreability tests and a technical hazard designed to test the drivers knowledge of his vehicle and servicing techniques. All crews (driver and navigator) were mounted in standard Bedford RL 3 ton trucks, each vehicle carrying approximately two tons of sand.

The afternoon of 29th May saw the square of Meiktila Barracks crammed with vehicles from Units in Singapore, their anxious crews watching the scrutineers performing "CIVs." Surviving this the Regimental team retired to the NAAFI, and at 8 p.m. the first vehicle left the start. Running somewhere about the middle of the order, our three crews cleared the start and disappeared into the night. By first light it was apparent that they were doing well, and at the end of the road sections 19th Regiment was clear into the lead by some 500 points, one crew having lost fewer penalty points than any other.

The cross country sections and hazards were performed in daylight after the crews had had some two hours rest. These were not our meat and our lead was shortened.

Back at Meiktila Barracks the driving tests began. Here 19th Regiment's drivers performed creditably placed third, but with their lead cut down to 300 points.

The examiners advanced for the technical hazards. Puzzled frowns boded ill for us, but when the scores were announced we were placed second, 30 points ahead of our nearest overall rivals.

Then followed the usual period of waiting whilst the might of Singapore's Pay Department concentrated and produced some final totals. By 3.30 the slide rules were cooling off and the Regiment had won two more 'pots.'

Considering that this was the first event of its kind to be run in Singapore, congratulations are due to both competitors and organisers. The Championship is now an annual affair and it is hoped that the cups will remain with us for many years to come.

Detailed results are as follows:

CREW 1

Driver, Craftsman Fowler; Navigator, Craftsman Laverton: 2nd overall crew. Highest placed Royal Signals crew. Winners of the Freeman Cup.

CREW 2

Driver, Lance-Corporal Shabuddin; Navigator, Signalman Rosli: 3rd overall crew. 2nd highest placed M.O.R. crew.

CREW 3

Driver, Signalman Yusoff; Navigator, Corporal Syed Mahmood: 14th overall crew.

Royal Signals Hockey

Scarborough Festival—20th April, 1962, to 23rd April, 1962.

Unfortunately, the side which visited Scarborough for the Annual Hockey Festival was a rather depleted one. This was due to regular players being unavailable, and also the fact that "Signals, Blandford," fielded a side at the same time, to play a number of teams selected by the Bournemouth Festival Committee, with a view to the eventual entry of a full Corps team into the Bournemouth Festival.

The first game, on Good Friday, was against our old rivals, The Thistles, and during the early stages the Corps team held the initiative. They were, however, unable to convert their dominance into goals and soon Thistles fought back to score a good goal through their centre-forward. The Corps replied to this setback with a goal from a short corner, but Thistles continued to press for the remainder of the match and eventually ran out winners by three goals to one.

On Easter Saturday our opponents were the Lincolnshire Poachers, and once again the Corps side started off in fine form. Both teams managed to get early goals, and by half-time the score was two goals each. In the second half, however, Signals were unable to control the thrusting Poachers' forwards, and the final result was a win for our opponents by five goals to two.

Easter Sunday saw us up against the powerful Picts, and once more, although the Corps moved the ball about well, they were unable to gain control of the game. Gradually the remorseless attacks of the Picts' forwards found gaps in the Corps side and they gained a well-merited victory by six goals to nil.

The final game of the Festival on Easter Monday was against the Scarborians, whose main strength lay at centre-forward and in Moore, one of their full-backs. The Corps team enjoyed a good deal of the play in this match but failed to pierce the competent Scarborians' defence. Our opponents, however, took the chances offered and put the ball into the net four times. Two of these goals were scored by the centre-forward and the other two came from short corners which Moore converted.

At the other end of the country, the "Signals, Blandford," team, led by Derek Briggs, had two games against teams selected by the Bournemouth Festival Committee. The first of these matches, against the Norfolk Rams, ended in a goalless draw, but in the second, game the "Signals, Blandford," side lost to the Epsom Gypsies by three goals to one.

Corps Shooting

Results of Non-Central and Small-Bore Competitions 1961-62 were as follows:—

Match 39—The Corps Shield

4th	9th	Regiment	Score	733*
5th	20th	Regiment	Score	706

*Winners of "Abroad Series."

Match 54—The Individual Rifle Match

2nd	Signalman R. Neall	Score	91
5th	Lieutenant-Colonel C. V. Walsh ...	Score	89

Winner of Royal Signals Bulford Cup—Signalman R. Neall

Match 66—The Individual Small Bore Championship

5th	Lance-Corporal T. Parry	Score	388
7th	Lieutenant-Colonel C. V. Walsh ...	Score	385
8th	Lance-Corporal T. Pilkington ...	Score	384
11th	Sergeant J. Fazackerley	Score	383

Winner of Royal Signals Aldershot Cup—Lance-Corporal T. Parry

Match 67—The Individual Small Bore Match

10th	Lieutenant-Colonel C. V. Walsh ...	Score	393
13th	Second-Lieutenant A. W. Low ...	Score	391

Winner of Royal Signals Blandford Cup—Lieutenant-Colonel C. V. Walsh

Match 69—The Unit Small Bore Match

1st	7th Regiment	Score	4555
4th	9th Regiment	Score	4059

Winners of Royal Signals Small Bore Trophy—7th Regiment

Match 70—The Team Match—Any Rifle

5th	7th Regiment	Score	4494

Match 71—The Young Soldiers' Cup

2nd	7th Regiment	Score	1430

Match 72—The Company Cup

5th	1 Squadron, 7th Regiment ...	Score	1409

Match 77—The Three Positions Match

4th	Major G. M. Allan	Score	289

Association Notes

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, 1962. Also, on the next page, is a simple statement of income and expenditure.

SIGNALMAN, 1943-1947. Married, four children. Has worked very little during the winter owing to chest trouble. The Association made a small grant to tide the family over a difficult period.

CORPORAL, 1943-1947. Married, one child. Has not worked for over a year due to a serious illness. The Association cleared his electricity account.

SIGNALMAN, 1920-1925. Service in other Regiments. Life member of Royal Signals Association. He is permanently in hospital and the funds made a small grant for comforts.

SERGEANT, 1939-1946. Married, four children. Has been in hospital for a long time and still unable to work, owing to serious illness. A grant was made to clear outstanding accounts and toys and clothing were sent for the children. A most grateful letter has been received from the Sergeant and his wife.

CORPORAL, 1940-1946. Married, five children. Has an incurable illness and has not worked for two years. A grant was made and parcels of clothing sent.

WIDOW OF CORPORAL, 1946-1948. Husband died suddenly last year leaving three young children. The Association co-operated with the British Legion in a grant to set the family up with clothing.

SIGNALMAN, 1943-1947. Life member of the Association. Single, several months unemployed owing to ill health. The Fund helped to meet various small commitments to tide him over a difficult period. Employment Section trying to help him to find suitable light work for the future.

Royal Signals Association and Benevolent Fund

The following subscriptions were most gratefully received during May, 1962:

	£	s.	d.
11th Regiment	118	14	11
24th Regiment (Warrant Officers and Sergeants' Mess) ...	4	5	6
216 Regiment	1	9	0
80th Regiment, A.E.R.	15	0	0
C.S.O., H.Q. B.A.O.R.	19	10	0
1st Regiment	36	6	11
4th Regiment	20	0	0
7th Regiment	1	15	6
229 Squadron	10	0	0
Royal Signals Troop, Queen's Royal Irish Hussars	1	10	0
H.Q. Allied Forces Northern Europe		10	0
Birmingham Branch	5	0	0
London East Branch	10	0	0
W. R. Redpath		1	7
N. R. Cooper		5	0
J. D. F. Hewson	1	0	0
R. H. Lucas		7	6
V. E. Deaman		7	6
R. W. C. Reeves		5	0
H. R. W. Marsh (Deed of Covenant)	10	0	0
F. F. West		6	0
E. T. Parkes		5	0
C. R. Dickenson		10	6
H. M. Kirkaldy		10	0
T. W. Vigers	2	2	0
R. G. Coates		10	0
J. D. Buchanan		10	0
R. G. L. Giblin	1	0	0
Total Receipts	£262	1	5

Expenditure during May, 1962 ... ... £356 8 0
(Includes:—Rent and Rates; Beds and Bedding; Furniture; Cots and Prams; General Assistance).

Analysis of Cases:—
Widows and dependants 10
Released and discharged soldiers 33
Total cases assisted 43

32 Cases of Soldiers who served during the 1939/45 War ... £303 15 7
11 Cases of Soldiers who did not serve during the War ... £52 12 5

Careers and Opportunities

48th (S.M.) Regiment (T.A.)

Administrative Officer (W.R.A.C.) required for service with 48 (S.M.) Signal Regiment (T.A.), T.A. Centre, Cateswell House, Stratford Road, Hall Green, Birmingham, 28. The selected candidate will be granted a T.A. Commission in the rank of Captain, on solidated rates of pay, i.e. starting salary £775 per annum rising to £845 after six years, and will be required to attend for evening and weekend training periods and for annual camp. Upper age limit on appointment 44 years. Tenure of appointment will be for three years in the first instance.

Applications in writing to the Commanding Officer, 48 (S.M.) Signal Regiment (T.A.), at the above address. Preference will be given to applicants who have had previous administrative experience in the Services.

Joint Services Staff College, Chesham, Bucks. Vacancies exist in the following grades: Photoprinter Grade 1, Carpenter/Joiner, Q.M. Storeman, Other Ranks' Mess Waiters, Sergeants' Mess Waiters, Hall Porters, Barman, Kitchen Porters, Cleaners.

Applications should be made to the Administrative Commandant, Joint Services Staff College, Latimer, Chesham, Bucks.

Vacancy with accommodation. A man is required who would be interested in a job of gardening in the summer and looking after two horses in the winter. It would be an advantage if he could ride a horse, but this is by no means essential. There would also be occasional work on the farm. Wife would be required to do some work in the house. A three-bedroomed modernised cottage is available. The village is three miles from Hertford and about 20 miles from London. Train and bus services.

Applications should in the first instance be addressed to Royal Signals Association, 88, Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1.

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Several new amendments are being made to the Sales Organisation of this Branch, due to a special expansion programme. The Branch Manager will welcome applications from candidates who fulfil the following requirements:

(1) Age 23 to 45 years.

Employment of Retired Regular Officers

There are vacancies for Retired Regular Officers in Royal Signals Establishments in Headquarters and Units of the Corps at home and abroad.

Currently, applications can be considered for posts in London, Eastern Command, Southern Command, Northern Command, and overseas in Germany, Near East and Far East.

The present salary range is from £1,067 to £1,266.

Overseas allowances are payable in addition to salary.

Serving officers who are about to retire should follow the rules given in ACI 433/61.

Retired Officers should apply for details of employment to: The Under Secretary of State, The War Office (C5/RO), London, S.W.1.

AG 11 will gladly help any officer who needs advice regarding submission of an application for a Retired Officer post. The address is: The Under Secretary of State, The War Office (AG 11), Stanmore, Middlesex.

Diplomatic Wireless Service

Vacancies exist at the Foreign Office in London for MALE and FEMALE CYPHER STAFF. Applicants must have previous experience in cypher work. Starting salary £655 at age 25 or over, rising to £875. Conditions of service include acceptance of night, Sunday and shift duties (for which extra allowances are paid). Candidates and both their parents must have been British subjects, or citizens of the Irish Republic, at all times since birth. All first appointments are on a temporary basis with possibility of later establishment. Apply, giving details of qualifications, to Assistant Director of Communications (D.W.S.), Foreign Office, London, S.W.1.

VACANCIES IN GOVERNMENT SERVICE

A number of vacancies, offering good career prospects exist for male

RADIO OPERATORS

Write giving details of education, qualifications and experience, to :—

Personnel Officer, G.C.H.Q. (RO/6),
53, Clarence Street, Cheltenham, Glos.

STAMP COLLECTORS

THE JUNIOR LEADERS REGIMENT has restarted its Philatelist Club and will be most grateful to receive stamps from all Regiments, Squadrons, Detachments serving overseas.

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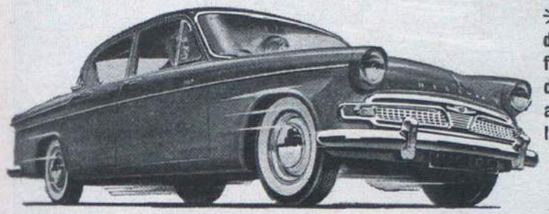

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ROOTES AUTOS (Deutschland) G.m.b.H., Military Sales Dept., Alleestrasse 33, Dusseldorf.

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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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☆

AUGUST • 1962
Vol. 16 *(New Series)* **No. 8**

Editorial

CATTERICK, 1962.

"Bigger and Better!" has been the motto of each successive Old Comrades' Week-end at Catterick for many years.

In 1961, graced by the presence of the Patron of the Association, Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal, C.I., G.C.V.O., G.B.E., P.R.C., T.D., C.D., D.C.L., LL.D., everyone thought that the summit had been reached.

Opinion, as expressed by so very many of the guests, was that "1962 was the best ever."

They say that every year!

The Hosts—Training Brigade and School of Signals—faced many additional difficulties; but as Brigadier P. M. P. Hobson, D.S.O., Commander, Training Brigade and Chief Host, said the day before: "We will get there somehow."

After church, the march past was tremendous. In ranks of six, headed by eighteen standards, the members of the Association demonstrated by their marching that "Once a year we show our pride in being Signalmen."

The Displays. All so very good. The writer, who is very old, will be given indulgence if he expresses a preference.

The young Signalmen of 11th Regiment in their "Pass-Off" Parade.
The drill of 247 (Gurkha) Squadron. Gurkhas of any age "look young," and all had sacrificed a leave warrant to come and please us.
The Band of the Junior Leaders' Regiment. They *are* young; they *are* good—they *are* Royal Signals of the future.
An innovation—a Finalé—and the tunes of "Sunset," with all performers assembled, to the music of the Corps Band and Junior Leaders' Band.

It made the older Signalmen very still, very silent, with memories of friends no longer available, and complete confidence in the future.

Saturday, 7th July. "They" began to assemble at 7 p.m., and at 7.30 p.m. the Band marched on—some tunes were old—we knew and liked; some tunes were new—we liked them, too.

"Sunset" we always stand very still and we do not look at each other's faces.

Then on to the incredible hospitality of the Headquarters Officers' Mess and of the Warrant Officers and Sergeants.

Sunday, 8th July. The General Secretary "fell in" the troops after the Annual General Meeting. If the numbers appeared a bit thin, he consoled himself by the knowledge that they would be doubled by the time No. 1 Old Comrades Squadron marched on to Baghdad Square. And indeed that is exactly what happened.

THANK YOU

So many of the "Signalmen" not now in uniform, asked the Editor to express their thanks. This is done unreservedly.

At the A.G.M. (reported on pages 301 and 302) on Sunday, 8th July, someone praised the catering, and this got as big a round of applause as any other statement.

If Brigadier P. M. P. Hobson, D.S.O., and Brigadier A. F. McGill, O.B.E., can say it for us, to ALL ranks under their command, we shall be grateful. But they cannot express all that is in our minds. So first let THE WIRE say "Thank you," and please may we come back again next year; all of us, Generals, Sergeants, Signalmen. We do enjoy it. We do like to show that marching behind OUR Band, we are just as proud as you are of being "Signalmen."

THE COLLECTION AT ST. MARTIN'S

Thank you all again for £52/19/9. This has only been beaten once.—Last year!

PERSONAL COLUMN

The London Gazette

From 5th June, 1962, to 29th June, 1962

Captain M. H. Willey retired 24th May, 1962.
Second-Lieutenant H. D. K. Flannery to be Lieutenant, 7th June, 1962.
Captain E. A. Scarlett, B.E.M., to be Major, 1st May, 1962.
Second-Lieutenant M. D. Owen to be Lieutenant (T.A.), 27th March, 1952.
M. J. B. Poole to be Lieutenant (T.A.), 29th March, 1962.
Colonel R. C. Newcombe, O.B.E., T.D., T.A.R.O., 1st May, 1962.
Second-Lieutenant D. A. French to be Lieutenant (T.A.), 13th May, 1952.
Lieutenant J. D. Bromley from S.S.C. to be Lieutenant, 11th April, 1962.
Undermentioned Second-Lieutenants to be Lieutenants, 16th June, 1962:
C. R. Crew
C. R. M. Noonan
J. J. Cullen
J. E. Ken
A. B. Atkinson
J. F. Higton
Captain F. C. H. Walker relinquished S.S.C., 16th June, 1962.
Captain S. Cox resigned (T.A.), 18th April, 1962, Honorary Major.
Captain G. S. Dove retired (T.A.), 16th June, 1962.

The undermentioned Lieutenants to be Captains (T.A.):
G. H. J. Isted, 1st May, 1962.
N. M. D. Farrant, 1st May, 1962.
E. G. Smith, M.B.E., 8th May, 1962.
Captain R. Holmes to be Major, 20th June, 1962.
Lieutenant (Q.M.) H. B. S. MacMorran to be Captain (Q.M.), 5th June, 1962.
Second-Lieutenant G. H. J. Grist to be Lieutenant (S.S.C.), 19th June, 1962.
Captain (Tfc. Offr) L. T. Cann to be Major (Tfc. Offr), 1st February, 1962 (A.E.R.).
Major P. M. Vane, T.D., to T.A.R.O., 24th April, 1962.
Captain D. J. MacIntyre to be Major, 24th June, 1962.
Captain H. H. Montgomery, T.D., resigned (T.A.), 31st May, 1962.
Lieutenant N. J. East to be Captain (T.A.), 23rd June, 1962.
Brigadier W. G. Tucker, C.B.E., is appointed Colonel Commandant, 30th June, 1962, in succession to Major-General Sir Hubert Rance, G.C.M.G., O.B.E., C.B.
Captain P. A. MacF. MacGillivray to be Major, 1st July, 1962.
Major (Q.M.) C. Rolls retired, 15th June, 1962.
Captain (T.O.T.) J. Pickering retired, 1st June, 1962.
Lieutenant T. G. Llewellyn resigned (T.A.), 5th May 1962 (Honorary Major).
Second-Lieutenant D. G. Ker to be Lieutenant (T.A.), 27th May, 1962.

Movements—Officers

(Forecast period ending 15th August, 1962)

Lieutenant-Colonel F. E. Berry	...	To 11th Regiment for retirement
Major W. McDonald	...	,, 24th Regiment
Major R. H. Gilbertson ...	...	,, School of Signals
Major P. A. M. McGillivary	...	,, 254 Squadron
Major P. D. Mootham	...	,, 14th Regiment
Major A. E. Scaife	...	,, 11th Regiment for retirement
Major (Q.M.) J. P. Cairns ...	...	,, H.Q., A.E.R.
Major (Q.M.) J. A. G. Stokoe	...	,, 11th Regiment
Major (Tfc. Offr) H. Gully ...	...	,, H.Q., COMCAN
Major (Q.M.) W. R. Pearse ...	...	,, 30th Regiment
Captain H. M. Ashton ...	...	,, 24th Regiment
Captain A. Coates	...	,, Junior Leaders Regt.
Captain V. S. Smith	...	,, 224 Squadron
Captain P. W. Powley	...	,, 238 Squadron
Captain R. T. Martin	...	,, 255 Squadron
Captain P. S. Reader	...	,, Canada
Captain T. I. McL. Robinson	...	,, 11th Regiment
Captain J. G. Fleming	...	,, 24th Regiment
Captain P. E. Riding	...	,, H.Q., A.E.R.
Captain M. G. Adams	...	,, 7th Regiment
Captain A. C. Birtswhistle ...	...	,, 2nd Regiment
Captain J. M. Ellingworth ...	...	,, 226 Squadron
Captain N. C. Grayson	...	,, 237 Squadron
Captain G. A. W. Hickman ...	...	,, 254 Squadron
Captain J. M. Hewson	...	,, 19th Regiment
Captain J. A. Tonnison	...	,, 18th Regiment
Captain C. S. Tyson	...	,, 4th Regiment
Captain J. M. Newman	...	,, 15th Regiment
Captain E. L. Rogers	...	,, 4th Regiment
Captain T. H. Wheawell	...	,, 7th Regiment
Captain J. C. Campbell	...	,, 4th Regiment
Captain P. A. Dally	...	,, A.A.S. Harrogate
Captain P. A. Talbot	...	,, 20th Regiment
Captain (T.O.T.) P. Thompson	...	,, 7th Regiment
Captain (Q.M.) A. E. Carter ...	...	,, 4th Regiment
Lieutenant D. M. O. Miller ...	...	,, 240 Squadron
Lieutenant D. F. Malone ...	...	,, 7th Regiment

Movements—Warrant Officers and Sergeants

W.O.I A. V. K. Ward	...	...To 48th Regiment (T.A.)
W.O.I R. A. Rankin ...	...	... ,, 19th Regiment
W.O.I R. Jenkins ...	...	... ,, 30th Regiment
W.O.II G. A. J. Barnaby	...	... ,, 30th Regiment
W.O.II R. N. Howells ...	...	... ,, 9th Regiment
W.O.II G. E. Appleyard	...	... ,, School of Signals
W.O.II J. P. Williams ...	...	... ,, 9th Regiment
W.O.II M. J. L. Molony	...	... ,, 234 Squadron
W.O.II H. Haw ...	...	... ,, 14th Regiment (1 Squadron)
W.O.II T. E. Hall ...	...	... ,, STC FARELF
W.O.II D. Spence ...	...	... ,, 28th Regiment
W.O.II R. C. Routledge	...	... ,, 24th Regiment
W.O.II R. Reid ...	...	... ,, 14th Regiment (1 Squadron)
W.O.II P. F. Byers ...	...	... ,, 11th Regiment (2 Squadron)
W.O.II C. Wood ...	...	... ,, 11th Regiment (2 Squadron)
W.O.II M. Edge ...	...	... ,, AAS Harrogate
W.O.II R. J. Cook ...	...	... ,, 14th Regiment (3 Squadron)
Staff Sergeant R. Warmsley	...	... ,, 257 Squadron
Staff Sergeant R. Chidley	...	... ,, 24th Regiment
Staff Sergeant T. Burke ...	...	... ,, 256 Squadron
Staff Sergeant D. Greenbrook	...	... ,, 45th Regiment (T.A.)
Staff Sergeant R. C. Meyer ...	...	... ,, 234 Squadron
Acting Staff Sergeant D. H. Gorman		... ,, 240 Squadron
Staff Sergeant J. Wilson ...	...	... ,, 224 Squadron
Staff Sergeant S. Hughes ...	...	... ,, 19th Regiment
Staff Sergeant J. F. Byrne ...	...	... ,, 8th Regiment
Staff Sergeant R. W. Coe ...	...	... ,, 28th Regiment
Staff Sergeant C. A. N. Woods	...	... ,, C.H.Q., FARELF
Sergeant A. Smith	...	... ,, H.Q. 17 Gurkha Div./OCLF
Sergeant E. T. Ball	...	... ,, H.Q. Training Brigade
Acting Sergeant M. M. McEwan	...	... ,, 1 Squadron Command, K.A.R.
Sergeant D. F. Goodyer ...	...	... ,, 9th Regiment
Sergeant D. G. Ellen	...	... ,, 14th Regiment (R.H.Q. and 1 Squadron)
Sergeant A. Struve	...	... ,, 235 Squadron
Sergeant F. G. Froggatt ...	...	... ,, 1 Squadron, 14th Regiment
Sergeant K. Smith	...	... ,, 54th Regiment (T.A.)
Sergeant J. E. Braithwaite	...	... ,, 217 Squadron
Sergeant B. F. Welch	...	... ,, 2nd Regiment
Sergeant L. G. Didlick ...	...	... ,, 4th Regiment
Sergeant L. T. Oliver	...	... ,, 8th Regiment
Sergeant P. Thornborough ...	...	... ,, 240 Squadron
Sergeant J. Evans	...	... ,, 15th Regiment
Sergeant G. A. Lewis	...	... ,, 235 Squadron
Sergeant R. G. Patient ...	...	... ,, 13th Regiment
Sergeant G. J. Holland ...	...	... ,, AAS, Harrogate
Sergeant E. H. Thompson ...	...	... ,, 30th Regiment
Sergeant G. Mumby	...	... ,, 30th Regiment
Sergeant B. D. Parlett ...	...	... ,, Q.R.I.H. Troop
Sergeant C. W. Owen	...	... ,, 48th Regiment (T.A.)
Sergeant A. T. Wright ...	...	... ,, 24th Regiment
Sergeant P. Whitham	...	... ,, 254 Squadron
Sergeant D. L. Bassett	...	... ,, 602 Troop
Sergeant A. Lunney	...	... ,, 216 Squadron
Sergeant G. E. Jones	...	... ,, 225 Squadron
Sergeant H. J. Dee	...	... ,, 225 Squadron
Acting Sergeant D. S. J. Wootten		... ,, 11th Regiment
Acting Sergeant J. A. Higgins	...	... ,, 600 Troop
Sergeant P. A. Evans	...	... ,, 53rd Regiment (T.A.)
Sergeant S. H. Waudby ...	...	... ,, 4th Regiment
Sergeant D. B. Collins	...	... ,, 8th Regiment

Births

16th Regiment

HALL.—To Craftsman and Mrs. A. S. Hall, on 24th May, 1962, a son, Michael, at B.M.H. Hostert.

Marriages

H.Q., A.F.N.E.

CADMAN—OSMAN.—Corporal P. J. Cadman, on 28th July, 1962, to Leading-Wren Margaret Osman (WRNS), at Church of the Ascension, Preston Road, Wembley.

16th Regiment

ALMOND—VILLETTE.—Signalman F. J. Almond, on 16th June, 1962, to Miss C. L. Villette.

BATES—BESHARI.—Lance-Corporal R. Bates, on 19th May, 1962, to Miss B. Beshari.

RIORDAN—ALSOP.—Signalman T. H. Riordan, on 2nd June, 1962, to Miss N. A. Alsop.

SMYTHE—HENSHAW.—Lance-Corporal L. F. Smythe, on 2nd June, 1962, to Miss V. M. Henshaw.

BATEMAN—LEE.—Craftsman A. N. Bateman (R.E.M.E.), on 26th May, 1962, to Miss J. M. Lee.

Deaths

BEST.—22523095 Corporal S. Best, died at Rimini, Italy, whilst on leave, on 26th June, 1962.

BAILEY.—23160740 Signalman D. J. Bailey, on 28th June, 1962, at Staines, Middlesex, as a result of a road accident.

CROOKS.—22964071 Lance-Corporal E. Crooks, on 28th June, 1962, at Staines, Middlesex, as a result of road accident. Life Member.

BARCLAY.—Signalman A. A. Barclay, on 27th May, 1962, as a result of a traffic accident.

STALLAN.—On 12th July, at his home, Pinkers Revel, Bourne End, Buckinghamshire, Lieutenant H. A. C. Stallan, Royal Signals, 1925 to 1931.

CARLYON.—On 12th July, 1962, at Farnborough Hospital, Kent, Major R. Carlyon, 79, Kingswood Road, Shortlands, Bromley, Kent. Royal Signals 1935-62.

MARTIN.—On 26th June, 1962, at St. James's Hospital, Balham, Captain S. G. Martin, of 29, Ormeley Road, Balham, S.W.12, after a long illness.

LEEMING.—On 18th June, 1962, at 104, Shelford Road, Cambridge, Captain John Heys Leeming, Royal Signals. Beloved husband of Peggy and Daddy of Susan and Michael.

WANTED

All the oldies serving in B.A.O.R. of Group 49 B (Operators or Technicians) please try to contact Staff Sergeant D. C. Paterson of 1st Regiment, British Forces Post Office 32. It is proposed to hold a re-union early in the Autumn if enough support is forthcoming. The chance of meeting Bill Hough, Brian Cleaver, Colin Forth, Bob Magnum, Jim Purdy, Gordon Blackman, just to mention a few should not be missed. All letters will be answered.

* * *

Will any Unit with stocks of unsold stable belts of the old obsolete pattern please contact PRI, 1 Signal Squadron (Command), The King's African Rifles, B.F.P.O. 10, who is interested in buying up stock.

* * *

PORTWAY GUEST HOUSE, Curry Rivel, Langport, Somerset. Telephone Langport 225. Proprietors, Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Partridge. Every comfort, good touring centre, terms moderate.

FOR SALE

PREFECT, 1955. One owner, now giving up driving. Black, good tyres, battery, plugs. Excellent condition. M.O.T. certificate. £230 or near offer.—Seen any day by appointment, 88, Ecclestone Square, London, S.W.1. VIC 5480.

* * *

No. 1 DRESS (seldom used); chest 37in., inside leg, 31in., waist 32in., under-arm seam 17¼in., 14½in. collar, £12/10/-. No. 1 Dress hat (seldom used), size 6⅛/6¾ (22in. inside band), £3.—Apply Box No.—?—? c/o Editor.

FOUND

ONE PAIR bronze American optical spectacles have been handed in to the Orderly Room, 11th Regiment (Depot). These were found on Messines Sports Ground after Old Comrades' Week-end. Telephone Catterick Camp, 2281, Ext. 61 or 67.

Forthcoming Events

65th Regiment, T.A.

invite you to visit their stand at the National Radio and Television Show, 22nd August to 1st September, at Earls Court.

Royal Signals Institution Lectures, 1962

Friday, 28th September, "New Zealand," Brigadier J. E. Anderson, 6.15 p.m., at the T.A. Centre, 47th Regiment, T.A., Duke of York's Headquarters, Chelsea, S.W.3.

Tuesday, 27th November, "Training of American Cadets at West Point," Second-Lieutenant Paul L. Miles, Jnr., U.S. Army, 5.15 p.m., at North Hall, Training Brigade, Royal Signals, Catterick Camp, Yorks.

* Members are allowed two guests for this lecture.

Royal Signals Cricket Club Fixture

Sept. 6th/7th ... ... R.A.C. ... ... Oval

Royal Signals Officers' Golfing Society

will hold its Autumn Meeting at West Hill Golf Club, Brookwood, near Woking, on 13th and 14th September, 1962.

81st Meeting of the Corps Committee

will be held at the War Office on 28th September, 1962.

The Wyvern Club

The Annual Dinner for members will be held in the Naval and Military Club, London, on 3rd October, at 7.30 p.m. for 8 p.m. Tickets and information from the Secretary, The Wyvern Dinner Club, Headquarters 43 (WX) Div./District, Sherford Camp, Taunton, Somerset.

Representative Colonel Commandant

tours B.A.O.R., 21st to 31st October, 1962.

39th Council Meeting of The Royal Signals Institution

will be held on 24th October, 1962.

38th Meeting of the Central Committee, Royal Signals Association

will be held on 14th November, 1962.

82nd Meeting of the Corps Committee

will be held at the War Office on 30th November, 1962.

10th Annual General Meeting of the Royal Signals Institution

will be held at the War Office on 30th November, 1962.

Royal Signals Officers' Reunion

will be held at the Duke of York's Headquarters on 30th November, 1962.

Annual T.A./A.E.R. Royal Signals Officers' "At Home," 1962

will be held at Hyde Park Hotel on 1st December, 1962.

Royal Signals Display Team

August 18th	Darlington—Darlington Show.
September 1st	Haltwhistle—Agricultural Show.

Recruiting Displays—June-September, 1962

August 25th	Hambledon Flower Show.
August 29th	Gillingham and Shaftesbury Show.
Sept. 2nd-9th	Plymouth Army Week.
Sept. 10th-15th	Swindon Carnival.
Sept. 26th	Frome Show.

BAND ENGAGEMENTS

Touring Band

August 12th-18th	Folkestone
August 19th-25th	Edinburgh
Sept. 30th-Oct. 7th	Eastbourne

Non-Touring Band

August 17th-18th	Edinburgh
September 6th	The Oval
September 15th	York

"Quicksilver," 1962

August 16th-21st ... ... Darlington—Middlesbrough

To the Regimental Associations of the Old Indian Army

20, BARTON COURT AVENUE, BARTON-ON-SEA, NEW MILTON.

Tel.: New Milton 1859.

STATION: New Milton, Hampshire. (Bournemouth 10 miles)

In order to give effect to the wishes of a well-known ex-Officer of the Old Indian Army, who died recently, it is proposed to make available, in the house mentioned above, accommodation for ex-Indian Army Officers and their wives who may feel in need of rest and a change, in surroundings congenial to them and with an atmosphere of home. This plan has been discussed with Field Marshal Sir Claude Auchinleck, who hopes it may succeed in its object.

The house belong to me and I propose to run it myself. There is no wish to make money or profit by it, and terms are framed accordingly (see note below).

Visitors would be accepted for a limited period, probably not exceeding one month.

If anyone wishes to avail himself of this offer, he is requested to communciate with C. H. Ireland (Miss) at the above address.

Terms: 12 gns. per week double; 6½ gns. per week single.

NOTE: Officers who, after service in the Indian Signal Corps, are in receipt of Indian Army Element of Pension, are regarded as Officers of the Indian Army.

Colonel G. J. Underwood,
C.B.E., T.D., D.L.

On his retirement as Chairman of the Joint Administrative Council of the Territorial Army and Auxiliary Forces Association, Colonel Underwood was honoured by Her Majesty, and was also entertained by the Council of the Territorial Army and Auxiliary Force Association to luncheon on the 12th July.

Col. Underwood began his military career as a subaltern in the 4th Hussars in 1917, and joined the Territorial Army in 1921, continuing on the Active List until 1945, a period of 24 years. He became a member of the Council of the Territorial and Auxiliary Forces Association in 1930. Colonel Underwood commanded the 46th Corps Signals (T.A.) from 1930 to 1938, and then raised a second line regiment in 1939. A portion of the second line regiment accompanied him to India in 1939, forming the nucleus of 4 Corps Signals. He became C.S.O. of 4 Corps Signals until in 1944 he was invalided home. He has been Honorary Colonel of the 46th Signal Regiment (T.A.) for 15 years. He has been Deputy Lieutenant of the County of Lancashire for over 10 years.

Telstar — and — Certa Cito

During the inaugural intercontinental exchange of television pictures and sound, Royal Signals did not fail. Chief Yeoman Warder A. Griffin (Royal Signals) was shown to America during the Ceremony of the Keys at H.M. Tower of London.

Signals are said to be bounced off Telstar. Those who know Mr. Griffin will have been heard to comment "some bounce"!

ROYAL SIGNALS BAND

The Band had the privilege of playing at a Garden Party at Buckingham Palace on 25th July, 1962, an honour shared by the Band of the Royal Horse Guards.

Mr. Leonard Charles Colgan

Mr. L. C. Colgan, civilian switchboard operator at H.Q., Chatham Garrison, who was awarded the Imperial Service Medal in the Queen's Birthday Honours List, was presented with the medal on 26th June by Brigadier E. C. R. Blaker, O.B.E., C.S.O., Eastern Command. The presentation was made in the Library of the School of Military Engineering, where the Commandant entertained Mr. and Mrs. Colgan afterwards.

Mr. Colgan's record of service is remarkable, he having enlisted in Royal Engineers on 22nd June, 1916. He transferred to Royal Signals when the Corps was formed in 1920 (Army Number 2308645!) and was transferred to the Reserve in 1923. He then joined East Command Signal Company as a civilian and was employed as a switchboard operator at Chatham. He did tours of duty at Hounslow, Sheerness and Biggin Hill, but always returned to Chatham. He was embodied from 1939 to 1948 when he reached the rank of Sergeant, but remained at the Chatham switchboard throughout.

When his war service was finished, Mr. Colgan returned to his previous civilian post and has thus served with Eastern Command Signals, in its various titles, as a soldier and civilian for 39 consecutive years. This is probably a unique record, and as the accompanying photograph shows, Mr. Colgan looks as though he will be able to give several more years' service before he has to think of retirement.

★

Brigadier E. C. R. Blaker, O.B.E., C.S.O., Eastern Command, presenting Imperial Service Medal to Mr. L. O. Colgan

★

Vale

MAJOR R. O. EDWARDS

After twenty-seven years service, this Officer retired in April, 1962, he still serves the Corps in 49th Yorkshire Regiment, T.A. For a variety of reasons unsufficient mention was made of his service in an earlier issue of THE WIRE.

During his service he did many things, and doubtless finished them.

Unfinished, but quite the most successful, was his influence on Corps hockey and his love for and work for the Association.

Hockey, even in his last years, he was either a member of or on the fringe of Corps and Regimental elevens. As a referee he is of international standard.

This short article is, in the main, an appreciation of his work for the Association. To the writer's personal knowledge he has been 'at it' for fifteen years.

Probably his active and most effective work started earlier than that. Northern Ireland, and later, the 24th Regiment.

In the latter—a Training Regiment—a Club Room, a most lucrative weekly Bingo session and a very great amount of careful, unobtrusive welfare work.

Unconnected? Connected? demonstrations to Schools and Boys' Clubs in the North-East.

There has been some criticism in the National Press that in the modern Army some officers and others are "Clock Watchers." Where the good of his Corps is concerned, 'Bob' Edwards never had a watch, much less ever knew the time.

York Branch of the Association will be the better for his adherence. He has been a Life Member since 1935 and usually boasts that 100 per cent. of his Squadron are also Life Members of the Association.

A very great Signalman and a very great friend.

The Singapore Signals Group

Notice the new name, but don't be confused, there are no basic changes. The Group consists of 18th Regiment, 237 Squadron (COMCAN), 249 Squadron (FARELF), Signal Training Centre, 612 Troop (Cipher), 621 Troop (Air Support), and spreads it wings over Borneo and Thailand as well as dealing with the complex signal problems of Singapore Island.

The Group is under command of Colonel A. F. Freeman, M.C., C.R. Signals, Singapore. He and his staff are moving to the Tanglin area about 1st September.

This is in line with the present reorganisation trends in Singapore.

Obituary

LANCE-CORPORAL E. J. MILLS

BY MAJOR H. E. KNIGHT, J.P., M.I.E.E.

"Recently I had the sad duty of attending the funeral of my old batman, Lance-Corporal E. J. Mills, of 19, Bromfield Road, Clapham, S.W. He was 58 years of age. He had quite a long career in Royal Signals, as I know he was at Maresfield in the early days and was recalled from the Reserve on the same day as myself, i.e., June 18th, 1939.

My connection with Mills was unique in that he was my batman from June, 1939, until he was demobilised three weeks before me, in July, 1945. He served me with devotion in all my travels, i.e., France and Belgium, 1939-40; North Africa, 1942-43, and Italy, 1943-45, and I have very happy and grateful memories of him."

SIGNALMAN A. A. BARCLAY

Signalman Alexander A. Barclay died as a result of a traffic accident on 27th May. An ex-National Serviceman, he joined 402 Squadron, A.E.R. (Radio) as a special operator in 1961. An excellent tradesman, he soon proved to be a very popular member of the unit. The funeral was private and took place in Kirkcaldy on 31st May. To his parents, at 150, Lismore Avenue, Kirkcaldy, we offer our very sincere sympathy on the loss of a fine son.

Promotions

The following promotions were authorised during the months of April, May and June, 1962:

Technical Roster

				New Sen. No.	Old Sen. No.
To Sgt.	22569401	Cpl.	Mortimer, B. G. T.	3661	1290
	22265735	Cpl.	Sutcliffe, R. H.	3710	770
	22537999	Cpl.	Maple, G. C.	3715	5900
	2549712	Cpl.	Fox Roberts, P.	3716	9266
	23468298	Cpl.	Esdale, S. J.	3717	5310
	22309118	Cpl.	Sawyer, W.	3720	1050
	23220360	Cpl.	Brabon, T. D.	3730	4920
	23220477	Cpl.	Smith, J. F.	3740	7010

Regimental Duty Roster

To W.O.I	3971804		Jenkins, J. I.	1050	1490
To W.O.II	14857628	A/W.O.II	Richings, S.	4360	1680
	7888926	A/W.O.II	George, E. D.	4370	4290
	22296401	S Sgt.	Allcock, R.	4380	4440
	22242164	A/W.O.II	Talbott, R. H. J.	4390	3444
	22540458	A/W.O.II	Downs, T.	4400	4780
	2547772	A/W.O.II	Plumridge, L.M.G.	4410	2700
	2553003	A/W.O.II	Healey, J.	4420	2620
	22212894	S Sgt.	Green, J. J.	4430	4030
	25477738	S Sgt.	Greenbrook, D.	4440	3610
	22239628	A/W.O.II	McKay, A. Y.	4450	4710
To S Sgt.	21022118	Sgt.	Howie, B. S.	6810	3640 (Op.)
	22190317	A/W.O.II	Robinson, E.	6820	370 (Field)
	22275131	A/S Sgt.	Hopkins, D. G. E.	6830	3674 (Op.)
	21033799	Sgt.	Kendrick, L.	6840	3680 (Op.)
	22265073	Sgt.	Turner, B.	6850	3600 (Op.)
	22569464	Sgt.	Baxter, J.	6860	2410 (Op.)
	22390873	Sgt.	Houghton, R.	6870	3660 (Op.)

Field Roster

To Sgt.	21125468		Smith, H.	3104	966
	22296697	A/Sgt.	Pfeiffer, G. A.	3270	2020
	23250836	A/Sgt.	Stirling, A. J.	3280	3540
	22525806	A/Sgt.	Phillips, J. F.	3290	3570
	22569054	A/Sgt.	Wingate, C. J.	3300	1940
	22772980	Cpl.	McGhie, J.	3310	2220
	22296349	Cpl.	Rann, L. P.	3320	2230
	23217552	Cpl.	McGregor, R. A.	3330	2370
	22539015	A/Sgt.	Tyler, T. W.	3340	2540
	22956231	Cpl.	Sanderson, J. F.	3350	2570
	22265080	Cpl.	Skipper, M.	3360	2640
	23224369	Cpl.	Thurgood, M. A.	3370	2670

Foreman of Signals

To S Sgt.	22265335	S Sgt.	Timson, D. R.	1630	5180
	22526338	Sgt.	Norton, A. G.	1640	2010
	22776078	Sgt.	Kirton, J. C.	1650	2630
	22550228	Sgt.	O'Connor, D.	1660	2940
	19037429	Sgt.	Nixon, E. D.	1670	2960
	23469698	Cpl.	Ellis, R. A.	1680	4900
	23238336	Cpl.	McKay, R. A.	1690	6440
	22569553	Cpl.	Keeton, G.	1700	6710

Chief Clerks Roster

To W.O.II	22242105	S Sgt.	Levins, M. J.	620	650
	14093285	S Sgt.	Morrison, J. B.	630	620
To S Sgt.	14441343	Sgt.	Southgate, T. H.	860	820
	22537083	Sgt.	Pemberton, F. H.	870	452
	22709645	Sgt.	Finch, T. A.	880	950
	22537845	Sgt.	Nightingale, J. E.	890	850

Administrative Roster

To Sgt.	23340178	Cpl.	Feber, H. L. H.	2350	2370
	22821017	Cpl.	Jewell, J. P.	2360	2520
	22560642	Cpl.	Kitchen, J.	2370	2634
	22660028	Cpl.	McEwan, M. M.	2380	460
	23297841	Cpl.	Williams, B. K.	2390	2030
	23327146	Cpl.	Bellamy-Wood, C. R.	2400	2050
	22295193	Cpl.	Jones, A.	2410	2124
	22817852	Cpl.	Sharrock, T.	2420	2240

Signal Centre Supervisor Roster

To W.O.I	2597200	A/W.O.I	Leggatt, A. T.	360	460
To W.O.II	2549278	S Sgt.	Leggett, C. W. J.	1090	220
	2547737	S Sgt.	Dixon, P. V.	1100	234
	22862197	S Sgt.	Giles, G. W.	1110	300
	19034163	S Sgt.	Coyne, A.	1120	290
	22446561	S Sgt.	Rowe, B.	1130	170
	2340163	S Sgt.	Thomas, F. A.	1140	306

Yeoman of Signals Roster

To S Sgt.	23666171	Sgt.	Smith, C. A.	1010	4476
	22515692	Sgt.	French, K.	1020	5250
	22956230	A/S Sgt.	Hawkes, C. D.	1030	6730
	23823877	A/S Sgt.	Brown, P.	1040	7050

Operating Roster

To Sgt.	23336288	Cpl.	Bassett, D. L.	9810	11070
	23516611	A/Sgt.	Wilkinson, F.	9820	11720
	23546291	Cpl.	Brown, K. C.	9830	13860
	22776496	Cpl.	Botham, R.	9840	4300
	22821085	Cpl.	Gray, P. C.	9850	4620
	23460604	Cpl.	Frost, J.	9860	4940
	21005514	Cpl.	Richards, J. C. T.	9870	5590
	22776121	Cpl.	Coultish, C. A.	9880	6720
	22845303	Cpl.	Birkwood, J. W.	9890	9154
	23480761	Cpl.	French, R. G.	9900	11160
	22526002	A/Sgt.	McMahon, M. D.	9910	11320
	22823478	Cpl.	Tasker, A. C. T.	9920	11390

DELETIONS

Foreman of Signals

W.O.I 490

Technical Roster

W.O.I 40
W.O.II 50
Sgts. 2010 2630 2940 2960 3200

Regimental Duty

W.O.I 780
W.O.II 70 2520 2794 3710 3860 4230
S Sgt. 4150 4720 4840

Field Roster

Sgt. 260 670 790 950 1840 1880

Chief Clerks Roster

W.O.I 140
S Sgt. 650 620 200

Administrative Roster

Sgt. 820 452 950 850 1220 1842
2060

Signal Centre Supervisor Roster

S Sgt. 640

Operating Roster

Sgt. 4540 5730 2410 3600 1760 5000
3640 3660 3674 3680 4770

INSERTIONS

Yeoman of Signals Roster

2549264 W.O.II Ewens, R. M. 430
19056979 W.O.II Gubler, G. I. D. 440
22247168 W.O.II Francis, J. D. 450

Field Roster

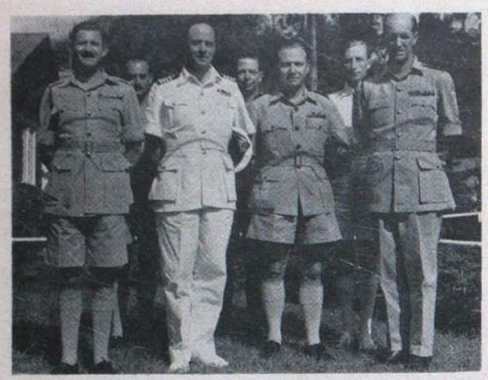
22772254 Sgt. Thompson, E. H. 1514 790

Colonel M. D. Price, O.B.E., Royal Signals (right) and Colonel G. T. Kimbrell, Deputy Chief of Staff, HQ, Usconarc

British Army Staff Representative visits Fort Monroe, Virginia, U.S.A.

Colonel M. D. Price, O.B.E., Royal Signals, representing the British Army Staff in Washington, was a recent visitor to Headquarters, U.S. Continental Army Command, at Fort Monroe.

The British officer discussed U.S. Army Signal organisation and developments with USCONARC officials during his visit to the Fort Monroe headquarters.



Members of the British Joint Communications—Electronics Board (Middle East)

B.J.C.E.B.(ME)

Visit of British Joint Communications-Electronics Board (Middle East)

On the 26th June, the B.J.C.E.B. (M.E.) visited East Africa Command to hold their second quarterly meeting of 1962.

For those who don't know, the B.J.C.E.B. (M.E.) is, as its name implies, composed of officers of the three Services and is charged with studying and making recommendations for all communication matters which have a 'joint' aspect.

The Chairman is Captain P. G. Loasby, D.S.C., R.N. The Secretary is Squadron Leader A. F. Plant, D.F.M., R.A.F. The Members are Lieutenant-Commander E. A. Spencer, R.N., Staff Officer Communications to the Flag Officer Middle East; C.R. Signals, Middle East, Lieutenant-Colonel T. I. G. Gray; Wing Commander (Tels.) Middle East, represented in this case by Wing Commander 'Jimmy' Edwards, R.A.F.; Squadron Leader C. F. L. Turner, B.E.M., R.A.F., and Lieutenant-Colonel J. W. Eagle, M.B.E., E.R.D., C.S.O. East Africa.

Since the meeting coincided with Princess Royal Day we, together with every R.A.F. Signal Officer in the Command, combined business with pleasure and entertained the Board to dinner on the 28th June.

Sixty-five officers and their ladies sat down to dine, the guests of honour being Major-General and Mrs. R. E. Goodwin.

The dinner was held in the New Stanley Hotel, which will be well known to those who have served in East Africa. Afterwards, mellowed by wine and good food, many of us went on to the Equator Club, now moved into Lugard Avenue from Victoria Street. There we danced into the small hours to the Jambo Boys' Band.

At the end of their visit, the visiting B.J.C.E.B. Members, wives and children went to the famous "Treetops Hotel." They were lucky, as the elephant, rhino and buffalo were out in force. It was an interesting and exciting experience for them. Mount Kenya too, showed her beautiful head late in the evening and there are few more lovely sights than Kenya in the setting sunlight.

CORPS CRESTED ASH TRAY

Available from Royal Signals Association.
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Visited on 18th July, the Tournament still provides the best entertainment in London.

The Royal Signals' Display was in excellent form and, judging by audience reaction, was the most popular item amongst many that were very good.

A stroll round the building after the performance revealed the Royal Signals' Stand, manned by 243 Squadron of Southern Command, was attracting reasonable interest. Aided by the loan of equipment from 30th Regiment and, be it said, from Gurkha Signals, a large amount of modern equipment was displayed attractively.

Technical Training Manuals

Attention has been drawn previously to those excellent manuals Basic Electricity and Basic Electronics. These were described in THE WIRE as making all things easy, both for students and instructors.

The Technical Press, 112, Westbourne Grove, London, W.2., have now produced Part I of three parts of each of Basic Electronic Circuits and Rasic Radar.

Again, each subject is dealt with in a series of profusely illustrated, short, easily understandable, notes. These are very simple for the student. For the instructor, they provide a series of lectures, complete with easily copied diagrams.

Basic Radar is, alas, useful only to the enthusiast. It is not a Royal Signals subject.

Basic Electronic Circuits is a must for instructors. It costs 16/- for Part I only, but it is very well worth it.

Recommended Reading

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An Experience in Sailing

By W.O.II W. A. Littlejohn

Left to right: Lance Corporal Darkins, navigator; W.O.II Littlejohn, helmsman; Captain Tanner, skipper

A chilly morning in May saw five members of 16th Regiment making their various ways to Kiel, on the North Coast of Germany. Our unit had been fortunate in having been allocated one of the British Kiel Yacht Club's fleet of 30 square metre class sailing boats for a one-week Baltic Helmsman's Training Course. Under the experienced eye of our qualified instructor, Captain R. J. Tanner, the crew of Major G. Klosser, W.O.II W. A. Littlejohn, Corporal L. C. Williams and Lance-Corporal A. C. Darkins were to be initiated into the ways of the Baltic sea waters and their effect on the 30 square.

On arrival at the club, we scanned the boat list and discovered that a yacht called *Hieko* had been allocated to our party. This was handed over, in true military style, by a member of the Royal Engineers permanent staff. It was only then that we had the opportunity to have a good look around at the 6ft. x 6ft. x 12ft. area that was to be the home of the four crew members. The instructor was to sleep on a much more luxurious boat than ours—a 100 square metre class. A boat that size was like a palace compared to ours, and the "skipper" never ceased telling us of the grandeur he enjoyed.

During our first evening, we met the members of the other crews and their skippers in the convivial atmosphere of the clubhouse. There were 12 crews in all for the course. We also met Captain S. Townsend, Royal Engineers, who was the "Captain of Boats" and is the main instructor and Chief mentor. He gave us the outline programme of the course.

We had to get into bed in relays, because the area between the bunks would not allow for four grown men to jostle out of their clothes and into their pyjamas together. This was only our first lesson in adaption to our new surroundings. The peaceful rising and falling of the boat with the gentle swell of the water soon put us to sleep.

We arose early next morning and made a noble effort of preparing a meal for five on our one gas ring. (We also learnt that the first one up must put the kettle on for tea, otherwise breakfast would be delayed). A delightful Compo breakfast out in the cockpit under the early morning sunshine set us up for our first morning's instruction. This was an introduction to the boat, its construction, and to some unfamiliar nautical terms. Boat husbandry (the nautical term for BULL) was on the afternoon programme—all in preparation for going to sea. So much fresh sea air during the day had exhausted us so we all had an early night.

On the second day, after starting early again, we found ourselves much more suited to our unusual surroundings. It is amazing how adaptable human beings are. We spent the morning under the experienced eye of the Captain of Boats, in his classroom, learning about navigation, chart reading and seamanship. In the afternoon, we had our first sail. We cruised the quiet waters of the inner harbour area learning to handle our craft. The fleet of sailing boats looked very picturesque in full sail.

The third day started with lessons, very important lessons, too, for we learnt that if the weather permitted during the last three days of the course we would put all our studies to good use on a sea voyage to Denmark. During the afternoon we sailed *Hieko* around the Kieler Fjord. In Kiel Harbour, the apparent prosperity of the shipbuilding yards, full of activity, made a sharp contrast to the crumbled concrete of the submarine pens remaining from the Second World War.

The land takes on a different aspect when viewed from the water, everything and everyone seems to be in such a hurry, whereas on the water, things take their time.

We now had the handling of the yacht at our fingertips, all our crew had been "dinghy" sailors for some time, so the adaption to the larger vessel was not so difficult. We were ready to face our anticipated sea passage.

We had to await the early morning weather forecast before our exact destination could be announced. Fresh south-westerly winds were announced, and we were to set our Rhum line for Sonderborg, the most southerly port in Denmark. Corporal Williams had to make up the crew of one of the 100's that were to travel over as escort to the fleet of smaller vessels. We had completed customs and immigration formalities the night before, so at 11.00 hours, we made sail and steered for the seaward end of the fjord. The weather was perfect. A fresh south-westerly wind "pushed" us along past the Fredricksorte lighthouse and the line of buoys that marks the channel for the liners. The small markings on the chart came to life—just like road signs. We set a course, steered by compass, and were soon out of sight of land.

In the Baltic we met the heavier swell of the sea. Lance-Corporal Darkins was the navigator on watch and was below working on the passage chart. Suddenly he popped his head and shoulders out of the hatch and leaned daringly over the side. Only his subsequent green pallor indicated that he was our first, and only, victim of seasickness. He elected to take over as helmsman—out in the fresh air for a while! The wind was freshening now, and we were making about 5 or 6 knots on a "reach." The 30 square class is, by repute, a "wet" boat, and *Heiko* was showing us just how wet. Our oilskins were hastily donned, but the persistent sea soon found its way in and soaked us. Brewing coffee in this weather at sea is quite a feat, but drinking it is an even greater one. The worried looks of our skipper were eased when we sighted the Flensbore Lightship. This marks the entry into Danish waters, and was one of the signposts of our journey. We changed our courtesy flag and made for harbour. The high seas were tossing us about and making the passage very uncomfortable. *Avalanche*, one of the 100 squares passed us. She was a splendid sight in full sail.

The calm of Sonderborg harbour made the journey really worthwhile. At the entrance stood the impressive fortress of Sonderborg Castle and beside it the red brick customs house. The harbour is used mainly by yachtsmen from Copenhagen and Germany, and the Bkyc fleet is a regular sight there.

We moored up at the quayside. The town is situated on a hill, its streets running down to the water's edge.

By now, the cooking prowess of Major Klosser had come to the fore, and he elected to prepare the evening meal. His method of selecting tins of compo at random, mixing them together and producing a savoury result, always received our grateful thanks. That evening we sampled the Danish hospitality. The people were very friendly, and really made us welcome.

The next morning, it was our skipper that awakened us at about 09.00 hours and noisily produced breakfast. We allowed him to eat it all, as well, because we had to admit we had had perhaps just a little too much of that "friendly Danish hospitality.

For the next two hours, we worked as a crew—trying to delay our sailing time to allow the cobwebs to blow away. We were, in fact, the last of the fleet to set off for a sail in local Danish waters. We had the experience of stopping the road traffic at Sonderborg, when a low bridge had to be opened to let us through. Our passage took us up the Alsund, a narrow waterway separating the island, on which Sonderborg is situated, from the mainland. We had lunch at anchor in the sound in a very peaceful setting. Back at our moorings at Sonderborg that evening, preparations were made for the passage back. We were a much wiser crew now, and the art of preparation and stowage of kit came easier. The order for all boats to be out of harbour by 09.00 hours curtailed any ideas of more fraternising, so we had a pleasant walk around the local beauty spots and collected a few souvenirs before retiring.

The passage back was made in a force 7 wind, and in just as fast a time as we had made on the outward journey, even though we had to beat against the raging south-westerly. The submarine memorial at the entrance to the Kieler Fjord was an indication that our journey was nearly at an end. We were exhausted when we tied up at our clubhouse mooring.

The course was over! In just one week we had learnt so much about the elements of nature and how to use them to the best advantage that all seemed worthwhile. In was an unusual course for soldiers, but one which exercised the little-used qualities of resourcefulness that lie dormant for so long.

Operations Troop and Exercise "Trumpeter"

By Signalman R. Ingham

I am 19 and come from Adswood, near Stockport. I was educated at St. George's Secondary Modern School until I was 15. I then became an apprentice electrician—firstly, with a firm doing contract work on internal wiring of houses and offices. I got around quite a bit on this. For the last nine months before I joined the Army, I worked on electrical maintenance and plant wiring installations. On one job I was at Leeds for a month assisting on the wiring of an overhead crane.

My main interests, outside work, were with the local youth club. I am keen on weight lifting, soccer, swimming, and have played some cricket. When I was 17 I started to run the weight lifting classes for those up to 16 years at the youth club. I used to spend three nights a week at the youth club, with the intention of becoming a leader.

My last job was becoming a bit boring, since it was gradually developing into a 9 to 5 routine. I wanted to move around. My aunt and her husband (he was in the Manchester Regiment) had recently returned from Germany. My girl friend and I used to visit them very frequently. My aunt told her what a grand time she always had with the Army overseas. I eventually got my girl friend sold on the idea of my joining the Regular Army.

I reported to Catterick, 11th Regiment, in October, 1961, and there I did my six and a half weeks initial training. I went to 8th Regiment in January, 1962, and passed out as a lineman BIII in April, 1962. I had been interviewed whilst under training by the Parachute people. They had accepted me. I was in fact, on my 11 days end of course leave, prior to joining them for training, when I was told to make it 14 days' leave, since I was now to go to 19th Regiment at Changi. I heard that it was an Air Formation Regiment and imagined it would be somewhat on the scale of 8th Regiment. When I got to the Depot after my leave the other chaps said I was 'dead lucky' to be going to Singapore. I was at 11th Regiment for seven days getting kitted up and receiving my 'jabs.'

I left for Lynham on 16th May, arriving at about 16.00 hours. I spent the night there. We boarded a Brittania at about 08.30 hours; after being airborne for about 15 minutes an engine hatch cover fell off and within 20 minutes we were on the ground again. Another night was spent at Lynham. We finally took off at 09.00 hours on Friday, 18th May. We night stopped at El Adem and had a refuelling stop at Aden. Both looked a bit barren. We arrived at Gan Island on Sunday morning at 02.00 hours. We had a long wait there whilst a spare part which had been sent for from Singapore was fitted. We took off late Sunday afternoon and arrived at Changi at 02.00 hours on Monday, 21st May, 1962. We were then taken to Nee Soon Transit Camp. At about 15.00 hours on Monday transport arrived and I was taken to Changi. I spent a week at Changi getting by O.G. tailored and kit sorted out. On Monday, 28th May, I saw the Commanding Officer and was posted to Operations Troop at Seletar. Lieutenant Crow, O.C. Operations Troop, saw me and told me exactly what the Troop did. I also learned I was off on an exercise on the following Monday.

What were my impressions? I thought the Regiment would, before I arrived, deal only in UG and overhead cables. Little did I think that I would find myself dealing with D 10 cable, jungle survival and field rations in addition. One lives and learns. My biggest surprise was to find that mosquito nets are not required in Seletar—we are mosquito free.

At 03.00 hours on 4th June—out of bed—we left in Land Rovers for Temerloh at 05.00 hours. We got there at 14.15 hours. The journey was tiring. It was mainly mile after mile of jungle with odd kampongs dotted here and there. We unloaded our tents and put them up, then sorted things out ready to lay the lines next day. We started to lay the engineering lines between the R.A.F. transmitter and receiver sites. Then the more important lines in order of priority given to us by Captain Higham. On 7th June I left Temerloh with Corporal Jackson for Triang, the Forward Air Strip. We left at 10.00 hours and arrived about 11.00 hours. We unloaded and appropriated one of the wooden chalets just off the airstrip. On the 8th we laid the R.A.F. engineering lines and the other lines in order. Unfortunately, the R.A.F. had to move their radio vehicles five times so we had a lot of extra work.

This airstrip catered for Naval Helicopters, Twin and Single Pioneers and Army Air Corps Austers. Since none of us had

Signalman J. Ingham

experience of working with helicopters before, we made a duff choice. Our chalet had a thin tin roof. One of the first helicopters to land came to rest about 40 yards from our chalet. When it started up we were sandblasted, and one side of the roof of the chalet folded back over the other. What a mess. It took 20 chaps to get it back in position. We roped it down, only to lose it again to the next helicopter. We were beaten and moved to a disused generator shed. Not so comfortable, but at least fairly dry, with an intact roof. We only had a 10 line exchange. 28th Brigade provided the big exchange, further down the road, we had lines to this. We were able to swim in the river for the first two days, but then it was put out of bounds because the water spread jaundice. We were not allowed to wear "flip-flops" because of scrub typhus in the grass.

Regiments

See 1st Regiment
page 274

Lieutenant Colonel A. J. Woodrow, M.B.E., wishing Captain Klysner a safe journey back to Denmark

The Danish Army visits 1st Regiment

Major J. C. Clinch 2 IC 1st Regiment inspects the Danish Signal Company on arrival in Germany

A Squadron of 1st Regiment, having recently spent two weeks in Denmark, a reciprocal visit by a Company from the Jutland Regiment has now been made. The Company, 100 strong, arrived in Verden on 19th June, under the command of Captain S. Klysner, to spent two weeks living and working with the Regiment. Of their complement of seven officers, eight Warrant Officers and Sergeants, and 85 other ranks, only ten were regular soldiers; the great majority being National Servicemen and, in the case of the officers, Reservists. They brougnt with them a varied selection of signal detachments, including radio, radio-relay, cable and signal centre; the composition having been previously decided in order to provide certain communications for the Divisional C.P.X "National Hunt," which took place in the second week of their visit.

Some preliminary preparations were necessary for this exercise, in order to integrate the Danish equipments into the signal layout, and a small regimental exercise was held during the first week, and the few problems were sorted out. These preparations, however, were but a small part of a busy programme laid on for the Danish soldiers, who, from the moment of their arrival, found themselves taking part in Regimental activities, some of which must have been strange and surprising to them, but were always accepted with enthusiasm, perhaps as examples of the strange ways of the British Army! Quite clearly, however, our Danish friends found nothing strange or surprising about the parade arranged for their reception, on which they were greeted by a Squadron of the Regiment and the Band of the 13th/18th Hussars, and were inspected by the Commanding Officer. Their marching and bearing were of a high order.

A certain amount of rivalry has already been created on the football field in the course of our friendship with the Danes, and this competitive spirit was strengthened during their stay through various other sporting activities, in which they acquitted themselves extremely well, despite the fact that they were only of company size. The football match, played in the Verden stadium, was a victory for the British, but, in fact, not an easy one. On the athletic field the Danes came into their own, however, and at an inter-squadron sports day, held as part of the celebrations of Princess Royal's Day, on Saturday, 23rd June, they were able to show how fit they were. Not only did they win the tug-of-war and the soldiers' obstacle race and 880 yards, but in a cable laying race with two detachments from the Cable Troop, they won by a handsome margin. The young officers of the Regiment slightly recouped our losses by winning their obstacle race, and the Warrant Officers and Sergeants were perhaps moral victors in theirs. It was a much-appreciated surprise, at the prize-giving, to find that our guests had regimental ashtrays ready to give to all the winners of both teams.

It would perhaps be unwise to dwell too long on the many social occasions of the past two weeks, which included the Regimental cocktail party on Princess Royal's Day, and a special lunch for the men, served by the Officers, Warrant Officers and Sergeants of both Regiments. There were also parties in the Corporals' Club and dinner nights in both messes. The dinner night in the Officers' Mess was attended by Brigadier M. A. Charlton, C.C., Royal Signals 1st (BR) Corps, and Colonel Worm-Leonhard, Commander of the Jutland Regiment, and his Adjutant. Colonel Worm-Leonhard stayed to see the first day of Exercise "National Hunt," and before leaving expressed his delight at the success of these exchange visits between our two Regiments.

This success is most clearly apparent in the work of the Danish signallers on the exercise, during which they provided a variety of links at various headquarters. Their main task was communications for the Corps cell, including Radio-Relay, Teleprinters with on-line-cipher and radio. They also laid a carrier cable between Main and Rear Divisional H.Q., and provided terminal equipment and radio as well, including a Radio Teleprinter link from Rear Division to H.Q., 7 Armoured Brigade. There is little to add to this except to say the links worked and were well manned and a credit to the Danish Signals.

Too soon, it seemed, the visit was at an end. So much had happened in the two weeks, and many have been omitted from this report. Visits were made to Bremen and Hamburg, also to Bergen-Belsen, and to Steinhudermeer for some sailing. The 5th Royal Tank Regiment arranged a memorable tour for the whole Danish Company, who returned full of their day with this Regiment and the thrill of looking over the tanks and equipment of an armoured regiment.

A smorresbrod and beer party (and Aquavit, too, for those who understand) rounded off the visit, and on Monday, 2nd July, with the whole Regiment lining the roadway of Caithness Barracks, our Danish guests drove back to Denmark, leaving with us memories of many good friends made, and the hope that we shall all meet again, either in Denmark or in Germany.

OC of the Danish Signal Company presenting prizes after the Football match

THE DANISH ARMY VISITS 1st REGIMENT

1. Brigadier Harrison, C.S.O., B.A.O.R., with a Patrol Team from the Danish Signal Company. 2. The overall winning team from Charlie Troop Left to Right:—Corporal Webster, Signalman Sharpe, Lance Corporal Piggins, Corporal Collett, Lance Corporal Taskers, Signalmen Saunders, Prendergast, Tweedie. 3. A team from "Oscar" Troop in the Watermanship Contest. 4. A team from Radio Relay Troop competing in the Log Race. 5. Brigadier Charlton, CCR Signals (BR) Corps Lieutenant-Colonel Hoerder, CR Signals 2 Div, and Captain Fick, OC Danish Signal Company, watching a Watermanship Race from the Rescue Boat. 6. Brigadier Charlton with Y of S French, who recently attended the first Yeoman of Signals Course and passed out third in order of merit. 7. The Nuclear and First Aid Exercise. 8. Competing on the Scrambling Net.

2nd REGIMENT

At the southern edge of the British Zone, where it joins the U.S. Zone, south of Paderborn, is the Sauerland, a "picture postcard" area of wooded hills and lakes. Some of the lakes are well-known through the Second World War exploits of the "Dam-Busters." Between two of the famous lakes, the Mohne See and Eder See, lies a smaller lake, the Diemel See, by the side of which the Regiment held its annual camp in conjunction with a signal company from the Royal Danish Army.

The programme for the camp was divided into two distinct phases, the first week being a patrol competition, designed to develop individual initiative and to give everyone a chance of seeing something of the beautiful countryside. Some of the families travelled down from Bunde to see the camp over the week-end, and brought with them the first sunny day. The second week saw the second phase, a Regimental signal exercise to practise co-operation between the British and Danish Signals.

The patrol competition had two parts. The first consisted of a 24-hour map-reading and initiative test, which included a night in bivvies, and the second, which was held in the camp area, consisted of a series of P.T. competitions, a nuclear, light rescue and first aid exercise and an assault boat race. The overall winners were a team from "Charlie" Troop, led by Corporal C. Webster, and the runners-up were the L.A.D. team, led by Corporal A. Delbridge.

During the first week of camp, the Regiment was visited by the C.S.O., B.A.O.R., Brigadier E. J. C. Harrison, O.B.E., by C.C.R. Signals, Brigadier M. A. Charlton, O.B.E., and by Colonel Thompson of the Danish Army. Colonel Thompson helped the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel G. H. Hoerder in presenting prizers to the winning teams in the patrol competitions.

It was the small events that will make the camp memorable; such occasions as the "Charlie" Troop party after the prize-giving, when it became difficult to distinguish between the Danish linemen, the British linemen and the L.A.D., especially after all had been despatched into the lake in true boat race fashion;

Sergeant D. B. Le Feuvre suspended over the river on the Death Side; the H.Q. Squadron team watching their clothes drift downstream during the log race; the visiting senior officer, travelling in the powered assault boat to follow one of the races, having to help with the paddling when the engine broke down;

Signalman K. Hughes, "Romeo" Troop, who forgot to wait for the boat and found himself launched into the water; the two teams in the 24-hour patrol competition, one of which marched to the debussing point instead of the embussing point, and the other that arrived extremely fresh in the bivvy area . . . having done their "march" in a taxi!

As a last note, many friendships were formed between the Danish Signallers and ourselves, and the Regiment looks forward to the possibility of visiting them on their own ground in the future.

4th REGIMENT

At the end of May, the R.E.M.E. inspection team from Dusseldorf descended upon us for the Unit C.I.V. In preparation many full working days were taken up, plus considerable burning of the midnight oil, especially by Captain Dix, R.E.M.E., and his men of the L.A.D., who seemed to run an uncomplaining 24 hour shift.

During this same period, a small team was entered for the 4th Division, the B.A.O.R., and the Royal Signals rifle meetings, in the first of which, Lieutenant D Insall, Royal Signals, achieved second place in the individual pistol practices. Unfortunately, he was later taken ill, and unable to compete at the other two meetings. The falling plate team had its moments of glory, but the general lack of practice was evident.

Following close on the heels of the C.I.V., came the Queen's Birthday Parade, when all Regular soldiers of the Regiment paraded for the first time in their No. 2 dress. The parade was commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel P. E. Hutchins, and we were honoured by the presence, on parade, of the Divisional Commander, Major-General J. V. Allard, C.B.E., D.S.O., E.D., C.D. Judging from letters received afterwards, the hard work put in for this parade was well worthwhile.

The G.O.C. talks to Lance-Corporal Butcher the Ex Junior R.S.M of Newton Abbott

In mid-month, four Squadrons competed for the Regimental Athletics Trophy. Unfortunately, 205 Squadron were unable to attend owing to other commitments. This year 1 Squadron retained the cup in an exciting finish, with H.Q. Squadron second, and a depleted team from 204 Squadron hard on their heels in third position.

There were some notable achievements, with Lance-Corporal Chambers, 1 Squadron, winning the high jump, having returned from leave literally 15 minutes before his event. Lance-Corporal Pitman "H.Q." Squadron, won the sprints and Corporal Bowler, 1 Squadron, the long distance races, but perhaps the best performance of the meeting was by Corporal Cox, 204 Squadron, who, having won the hurdles, walked away with the pole vault, clearing over a foot higher than any of his rivals. At the end of an excellent day, we were treated to the spectacle of the handicap stakes for 'old soldiers,' those with more than 15 years' service. This was won by the R.S.M. (the white flash), who was running in his tennis kit and should therefore have been disqualified.

The Whitsun break came as a relief to many, with Hammersmith Barracks seemingly deserted. Almost all were basking in the glorious sunshine somewhere in central Europe.

Of all the trips that were organised, perhaps we should mention the one to Berlin under the guidance of the W.V.S., and that of the Acquarist Club, who went north to pursue their various activities.

This club, with Lieutenant J. M. Gray still at the helm, marches on, and the canoeing team is in hard training at the time of writing for this year's races. We wish them every success, in spite of the fact that they left the Regiment to communicate alone on Exercise "Salad Days." We don't know how we managed without them.

This exercise was not, as was popularly believed, a production by the local Amateur Dramatic Society, but an administrational exercise in Schleswig Holstein. It seems to be the general opinion that all exercises should be held in this area where we were not without the basic comforts, thanks to the warm welcome accorded to us by the local population, who provided everything from a horse for the Technical Warrant Officer to complete S.D.S. runs, and a blue tiled shower for the 'gungy' members of the L.A.D. (These R.E.M.E. men must either be brighter or 'filthier' than we Signallers).

We offer our congratulations to Lieutenant 'Bob' Middleton on the occasion of his marriage; say farewell to Second-Lieutenant Ian Kerr (to 50th Regiment, R.A.), Second-Lieutenant 'Mike' Forge (to 204 Sqadron) and to W.O.II Singer, who, so soon after his promotion, is called 'sir' even by his General.

We must also extend our welcome to Captain R. Trotman, Lieutenant I. Hamilton and Second-Lieutenants P. Webster and R. Brewis, the latter of whom managed to eat breakfast in the Regiment before disappearing to 205 Squadron.

Throughout the exercise we acted as hosts to a party from the Cambridge University O.T.C., consisting of three Officers, one W.O.II and 10 Cadets.

Having arrived, they plunged with great enthusiasm into the Regimental life and were not spared.

They slept, ate and worked with the detachments and came out with considerable credit.

One story is told of a Champ breaking down in the middle of nowhere whose B1 driver left a Cadet with the vehicle while he went for the repair team. Two hours later, on arrival at Main H.Q., he found the Champ and Cadet awaiting him.

The Cadets themselves report having thoroughly enjoyed their stay and having learned not only some technical but also some tactical aspects of signalling. We are told this was exactly what they required.

We wish them all the best and hope we may have convinced them of a worthwhile career in the Corps. Several of them confessed to entertaining new thoughts on their respective futures.

7th REGIMENT

Of late the Regiment has suffered a lull in activity, as far as exercises are concerned and, with the exception of Exercise "Salad Days," which only affected 5 Squadron, little movement has occurred.

B.A.O.R., as readers will know, has suffered a lot of publicity lately, unfortunately not all good, and yet another term to be included in the military vernacular has been found. "Poison Dwarf," which it should be emphasised now, in fairness to those now so termed, was not a strictly correct interpretation but,

☆

REGIMENTAL PARADE PRINCESS ROYAL DAY

Brigadier M. A. Charlton, O.B.E., Commander Royal Signals HQ 1 (BR) Corps, presenting The Long Service and Good Conduct Medal to W.O.II A. E. E. Hawkes

☆

due to the imagination of some individual, has now been accepted as such. Such events as have led up to the press campaign were doubtless unfortunate, but as the German press has pointed out, the situation is no different now to what it has been in the past.

In our garrison area it is true to say (and we are only some 20 miles from Minden) we enjoy cordial relations with the local people. The Sergeants' and Corporals' Messes both have played soccer matches, some of which have been previously reported, with local German teams. In the very near future the Sergeants' Mess is organising a football festival, and some indication of the relationship between both sides is the fact that no trouble at all has been experienced in finding participants. This festival is to be followed at a later date by a Regimental one, involving some ten teams. On 1st July the Sergeants' Mess was presented with a very fine trophy from the village team of Milse to commemorate the game played on that day. The game was followed by a very convivial evening, during which the language barrier seemed non-existent. Some visitors were overwhelmed by our hospitality and suffered the following morning, so it is reported, but undaunted, they have quickly challenged the Mess to a return match on their own ground, followed by an evening in their club. It is a pleasant thought that nearly all the German teams use the local gasthaus as club premises.

It would seem, therefore, that despite press reports, we can,

REGIMENTAL PARADE - PRINCESS ROYAL DAY
Brigadier M. A. Charlton, O.B.E., Lieutenant Colonel F. L. Clarkson, M.B.E., The Commanding Officer, Major R. H. Maxfield, OC 4 Sqn, R.S.M. E. H. W. Keay and Sergeant J. Horne

and do, enjoy friendly relations, and it is simply a case of the world-wide rule: "If you want trouble you can always find it." It is, of course, just as easy to make friends.

28th June, which no reader should need amplifying, was celebrated in true military style, with a Regimental parade. The Regiment was most fortunate in securing the service of the Band of The Royal Tank Regiment for this parade, and there is no doubt that live music is far more conducive to good drill than "canned" versions. Everyone concerned, not least of course, R.S.M. Keay, was pleasantly surprised at the standard, which was comparable to any much more experienced unit commonly associated with ceremonial parades.

We are more than pleased with our Motor Cycle Trials teams' latest efforts. On 3rd July they competed successfully in 12 Infantry Brigade Trials and literally swept the board. First overall team was our "B" Team, followed in second place by our "A" team. In addition, Signalman Everett won first individual and first novice prizes, while Signalman Hill came away with second novice prize.

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9th REGIMENT

Spring has once more given way to summer, and the thermometer is shooting rapidly up the scale. Being a comparative newcomer to Cyprus, the change in the temperature is very noticeable, but I have drawn comfort from those stalwarts whose "knees are brown," from previous summers here, who deign to admit that it is warm. Many of us will, however, shortly escape on leave from the heat to the summer health resorts in the mountain ranges, of which Troodos is one of the most popular. After this we can look forward to next spring, when we shall be able to enjoy the magnificent splendour of the island's flora, when fields erupt into a blaze of colour from the masses of gladioli, iris, marigolds and poppies, and a host of other flowers which appear miraculously to transform the island's summer barrenness. As one of the few overseas stations left for us to enjoy, Cyprus must surely rank as one of the best. Apart from its agreeable climate, its beaches and splendid bathing, there is much of historical and archaeological interest to be seen, and one should count oneself fortunate to be posted here.

This month we said goodbye to Lieutenant-Colonel D. G. Jones, who commanded the Regiment from July, 1960, and who has relinquished command on promotion and appointment to a new role at Catterick. Colonel Jones shares very many happy memories with those who were privileged to serve under his command, and all ranks combine to wish him and Mrs. Jones every success in their new home and role.

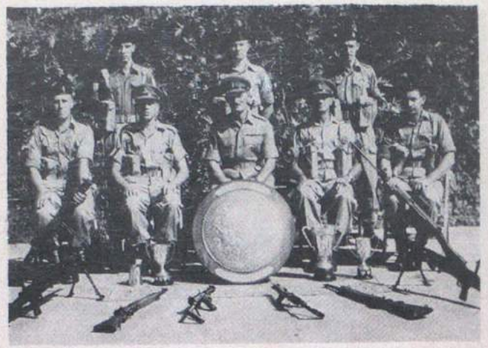
We extend a cordial welcome to our new Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel D. D. Fairman, and to Mrs. Fairman, and offer our congratulations to him on the award of the O.B.E. in the Queen's Birthday Honours. We are confident that the loyalty and spirit of happy relationship that existed throughout his predecessor's time will prevail during Lieutenant-Colonel Fairman's tenure.

The new Mercury Barracks, which were graciously named by Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal during her tour of Cyprus and North Africa this year, will shortly be occupied, and we are looking forward to vacating the Twynham and Nissen Huts hitherto occupied. The temporary absence of mirrors over wash basins and pelmets from which to hang curtains will not seriously inconvenience us!

Some of the Senior N.C.O.s of the Regiment have been actively engaged in spring drills under the eagle eye of the R.S.M., Mr. Harris, who, although suffering from a strained larynx shortly after the drills commenced, carried on in true tradition and got his message through. His success is evidenced by the amount of tailoring being done to the waistlines of some of his victims' K.D.

On 28th June, we celebrated the first of the "Princess Royal Days." It was of an informal nature, the sole object being to enjoy ourselves. In the morning a church service was held at Dhekelia, which was attended by the Chief Signal Officer, Brigadier A. T. Honeybourne, O.B.E., members of 203 Squadron (Infantry Brigade Group), 15th Regiment and ourselves, after which we saw a display of 203 Squadron equipment, followed by a conducted tour of the Dhekelia Signal Centre and Telephone Exchange. In the afternoon a social get-together of all ranks took place at the Services' Beach Centre, Famagusta, where everybody, including, it was noticed, some of the local populace, enjoyed a free barbecue. The get-together was highlighted by the R S.M. offering to be thrown into the sea, and his generous, unrehearsed, act received deafening acclaim from those who witnessed it. The R.S.M. is still wondering how it happened and how he forgot to remove his watch! A free cinema show was held at night, and the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess entertained the officers and their ladies at a very successful Spring Ball.

On the sporting side, the Regiment is at present actively engaged in cricket against the major units of the island, and are so far faring very well. Additionally, the Rowett Cup, which was donated by Brigadier W. B. Rowett, when he commanded the Regiment, is being contested by the Squadrons. This cup is presented annually at the end of the competition to the Squadron gaining the most points from the sports played —these are Association football, rugby football, basketball, hockey, cricket, tennis, swimming, shooting, athletics and cross-country running. The competition fosters a tremendous enthusiasm and spirit between Squadrons. There remains swimming, tennis, cricket and shooting to complete the competition for this year. At the moment 3 Squadron are just ahead of 2 Squadron, and a storming finish seems likely.



THE SHOOTING TEAM

Sergeant R. B. Walters, Lance Corporal A. I. Cheese, Sergeant D. E. Wilson (INT Corps)
Sergeant S. E. Denton (RE.M.E.), Captain D. Hall, (R.A.P.C.), Lieutenant Colonel D. G. Jones, Royal Signals, Major A. Milligan, Royal Signals, Sergeant J. E. S. Lewis

A word about Regimental shooting.

The shooting year, which ended on 31st March, has been this Regiment's most successful so far. The initial success came early, when the team won the Royal Signals (N.E.L.F.) Small Arms Cup at the Central Meeting, held in Cyprus in August, 1961. Unfortunately, our fortunes ebbed in the Cyprus Rifle Meeting, probably due to our younger members being overawed by the occasion. Nevertheless, was carried off several individual prizes and had the honour of providing four of the Cyprus 48. These four acquitted themselves very well indeed, and finished within the first twenty. Team prizes eluded us by very narrow margins. The team next tackled a series of A.R.A. non-central matches and succeeded in winning the A.R.A. Corps Shield (Overseas). This is a truly magnificent trophy and is ample reward for all the effort. Small bore matches met with relative success and the team achieved fourth place in the Unit Team Small Bore Championship—no mean feat when one considers that the match was fired on an outside range in a strong crosswind and with issue .22 ammunition! Following the completion of the A.R.A. matches, the team was awarded the Royal Signals (N.E.L.F.) Shooting Trophy for the best aggregate of six matches, which included S.L.R., S.M.C. and .22 rifle matches. Finally, we were pleased to learn we have also been awarded the Royal Signals Inter-Unit Trophy, having returned the best Royal Signals aggregate score in the A.R.A. matches "1st Army Cup" and "Corps Shield." The team is now looking forward with confidence to the new shooting year.

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11th REGIMENT

Alas, this month THE WIRE notes for the Regiment pass out of the hands of Major D. S. A. Hutley, G.M. His interesting writing will be missed by all THE WIRE readers. Unfortunately, other duties have made it necessary for him to hand over the notes to a new editor.

May is always a refreshing month in the United Kingdom, especially in Catterick. Winter, which has been hanging on for grim death, has at last given way to more moderate weather, and in all aspects of training, more fresh air activities can be expected.

Ullswater is now open for Adventure Training, and each recruit intake will now spend four days there, fell walking, canoeing and generally getting fit.

Sport. *Tennis.*—In the Mackworth Trophy Tennis Competition, the unit defeated a strong School of Signals side by seven matches to three. Let's hope we can keep this up.

Basketball.—Lance-Corporal Evans was awarded his Army Colours when he represented the Army in April this year.

Canoeing.—Lieutenant B. E. Brown, A.C.C., continues to encourage canoeing. Two canoes were entered for the Chester National. The crews were: Lieutenant B. E. Brown, A.C.C. (K1), Lieutenant M. E. Bradbury, Royal Signals, Lieutenant N. A. Parker, R.A.E.C. (Wessex).

This was a very exhausting and fast race over a 13-mile course, and we cannot grumble at the results: Singles, Lieutenant B. E. Brown, A.C.C., 4th. Doubles: Lieutenant M. E. Bradbury, Royal Signals, and Lieutenant N. A. Parker, R.A.E.C., 3rd. Lieutenant Brown had a third the following week in the annual Windermere race.

Recruits of the Month. Since the last issue of THE WIRE, there have been two Pass-Off Parades.

On 18th May, Signalman G. Brook passed out as best recruit. What better start in the Army could a man wish for, who joined in the first place on a spot decision.

Signalman Brook was educated at Kingsley School, Barnsley, and left at the age of 15 years to study coal mining at Hensworth Tech. He has no previous connection by family association with the Army, they are all in mining.

He is now 27 years of age and married, with a son aged three and a daughter, one year.

A friend of Signalman Brook, named Eastwood, decided to leave the mines and join the Army. Signalman Brook accompanied his friend on a visit to the local Recruiting Office. He was interested in the tests he saw and decided to try for himself. He completed the tests successfully and being impressed with the "patter" he heard, decided to join up. A decision I am sure he does not regret. He leaves now to train as an electronic technician.

Signalman P. G. Cainille

Signalman G. Brook

On 1st June, Signalman P. G. Camille, aged 18 years, passed out as a very proud best recruit.

Signalman Camille was born in Nairobi, where his parents worked, and then went to live with his aunt in the Seychelles. At the age of 14 he rejoined his parents in Dar-es-Salaam, Tanganyika, where they now live. He attended school until the age of 17, and then decided to join the Army, owing to the political unrest in that country.

Although initially he had difficulty in getting in, he made a trip to Nairobi Garrison and they accepted him there.

He soon found himself in England, training, and now will continue his training as a Radio Relay Technician.

At the moment he is on a six-year engagement, but he says, "I enjoyed myself so much at 11th Regiment (Depot), I might make it my career." Let's hope he does.

Two recruits passed out on the 1st June Pass Off Parade already decorated.

One was Signalman O'Connor, from Bantry, County Cork. O'Connor served with the Irish Brigade in the Congo and holds the United Nations Congo Medal.

Staff Sergeant Nallon

He was attached to the India Brigade H.Q. at Katanga, and was so impressed with the longe range communications there, that he decided to join the Royal Signals.

An experienced recruit with his weapons, he now continues his training as a Cypher Operator: *Knows what he wants, this chap.* Term of service, 9 to 22 years.

The other decorated recruit was Signalman Omera Fikri, from Cyprus. He holds the G.S.M. for 6½ years with the W.D. Police Force, 9th Regiment. His reasons for joining are a full life and better pay. Fair enough. Term of service, 9 years.

Staff Sergeant Nallon was presented with the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal on 1st June by Colonel D. R. Horsfield, O.B.E.

Car Rally. A successful car rally was run on 23rd May, and it was encouraging to see such a good entry list.

It was not run in a too business-like way, and everybody seemed to enjoy themselves.

However, it must be faced that the ladies seem to adapt themselves to this sport very well, much to the alarm of some keen motor types. It was most discouraging for some of the men to leave "Mr. Dunlop" all over the Yorkshire Moors and to come back and find that certain lady crews had covered twice as many check points and had never changed out of first gear.

The men's prize was won by R.S.M. Ham and R.Q.M.S. Barnes. The ladies prize, or to be proper, "Coupes de Dames," was won by Miss C. Best and Miss O. Jones.

The writer is much too interested in his career to mention who came last!

Admin Net. Personnel continue to arrive without kit or without evidence that it has been withdrawn. Please keep a look-out for cases in which personnel are detached to U.K. (without kit) temporarily or medevac and then are suddenly retained in U.K. Heavy charges up to approximately £30 have to be raised against some individuals.

AF W 9803

Serial 17. Reason for Move and Authority: Where possible please quote ROPO. If a ROPO is not quoted, we assume that

it is a "funny" and act accordingly. If the authority is a local one please send copy of relevant correspondence.

Serial 37: At the end of a tour a man is granted 28 days' leave and we calculate the balance.

Serial 30. *Leave Address.*—This must be read as Home Address or Private Address. We cannot progress pay, R.A., leave, dekit/rekit, joining instructions, etc., when the man proceeds direct to Home Address on deplaning and we don't know where he is.

For the past seven months various comments have been made in these notes, illustrating the need for co-operation in order to cut down our unnecessary administrative tangles. One or two units have been most helpful, others, perhaps, do not realise the extent of the problem.

As an indication, since the middle of March the Release side only of No. 2 Squadron, has handled 314 signals, nearly all avoidable from 84 units and sub-units.

Please do not post inter-unit mail in Personal Document Files. This is really asking for trouble.

Relevant copies are most helpful, but originals could so easily be filed as copies instead of actioned.

Military personnel travelling with passports must travel as Government Officials. Passports must not be altered.

Postings In. We welcome Major F. C. Lockwood, who has recently arrived in the unit to take over command of 1 Squadron, from Major J. G. James, M.C. Major James now assumes the appointment of Second-in-Command of the Regiment in place of Major O. B. G. Shoubridge, who has recently retired. Fortunately, Major Shoubridge will still be with us for some time yet, and now takes up a new task as O.C. Officers' Wing.

13th REGIMENT

Attachment of 402 Squadron (A.E.R.). Earlier in the year the news that the Regiment was to play host to 402 Squadron (A.E.R.) for their annual training in June was received with some misgivings but, in the event, the attachment was most successful and we were delighted to have the Squadron with us for a fortnight.

It was encouraging to see the enthusiastic way in which all personnel of the Squadron approached their training, and it was most gratifying to see the way in which they fitted into the life of the Regiment and the standards of efficiency they achieved.

A welcome visitor to see 402 Squadron at work was Colonel T. H. C. Grigg, Commander A.E.R., Royal Signals, and he was good enough to comment favourably on the training of the A.E.R. personnel.

Regimental Training. Training in the Regiment is now concentrated on trade conversion courses, military proficiency courses, annual range classification and P.E. tests and, to put it mildly, life is rather full.

Visit of Director of Telecommunications. The Director of Telecommunications, Brigadier E. I. E. Mozley, was also able to spend two days with us during a crowded week in B.A.O.R. and saw something of the work of the Regiment.

His visit happily coincided with a Regimental guest night, and we think he enjoyed his visit.

Rifle Shooting. The Regimental team did well in the Rhine Area Rifle Meeting, W.O.II (F. of S.) Nixson being in particularly good form to win the title of Individual Best Shot of the Meeting.

Princess Royal's Day. The activities arranged to celebrate Princess Royal's Day, including a Church Service, Regimental Athletics, All Ranks' Tombola and Social Evening, and the annual Officers v. Warrant Officers and Sergeants cricket match (won, need we say, by the officers), were very successful and enjoyable, in spite of the rather discouraging and unseasonable weather.

Cricket. Under the guidance of Captain R. Ramsey the Regimental team is doing well in league matches and we are hoping for success in the cup competitions. Stars of the team are undoubtedly Signalmen Thompson and Walliker, who are both in great form as all-rounders. Thompson has also been chosen for the B.A.O.R. team on several occasions and has done very well indeed.

14th REGIMENT

3 Squadron. June has been a particularly active month, placing exceptional demands on our diminishing manpower.

Details of the Annual Regimental Rifle Meeting will be seen elsewhere in the Regimental notes, but should like to add our congratulations to the 3 Squadron team who we think "did us proud." The follow-on has been the Southern Command Corps Meetings and currently as writing the A.R.A. Meeting at Bisley. So Captain C. M. Senior, W.O.II R.W.Q.S. J. E. Cox, W.O.II S.S.M. A. A. Copestake and W.O.II C. G. Curtis have all been absent from the fold for a longer spell than we care to dwell upon; but we wish them the best of good fortune in the final competition and must say that we are pleased to see the Squadron so strongly represented.

The long spell of dry weather has encouraged the Squadron cricket team who have been playing regular week-night and weekend matches with notable success in most instances. An exception was the match versus Mr. G. Collins's (local farmers) eleven, when we lost by virtually an innings defeat. Considerable interest is centred around the return fixture due on 17th July when the Squadron hopes to reinstate itself in this now annual event.

We are pleased to be able to report that the Unit motor cruiser *Mercury II* is proving to be a success on the nearby Thames, and is used every weekend and on some week-days by the "fortunates" off duty. Judging by the extent of the canoe repair programme in hand by the Squadron Canoe Club, this is currently a very active sport. It is hoped to organise a "canoe regatta" combined with Squadron picnic in the near future.

The long-awaited Camp Improvements Scheme chiefly concerning messing and recreational amenities is still only a subject of conversation. The optimistic, however, are looking for completion before the winter.

Finally we offer our sincere condolences to Corporal and Mrs. G. Martin in the very recent sad loss of their newly born son after but a few days when all seemed well.

15th REGIMENT

Closing of the Officers' Mess. On 20th June, the last formal dinner night in our own Mess was nostalgically enjoyed by a number of important guests. These included the G.O.C.-in-C., Cyprus, Lieutenant-General Sir R. Anderson, K.C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., and the C.S.O., NEAREAST, Brigadier C. T. Honeybourne. In future, the officers of the Regiment will mess with No. 2 Headquarters Mess, Episkopi. The C.S.O., in a short speech after dinner, expressed the hope that in a not too distant future we would again have our own Regimental Mess. The closing of the Mess is the natural result of the NEAREAST run-down and civilianisation. The number of "livers-in" has been steadily declining for some time. The recent marriage of Lieutenant E. Mulley to Lieutenant A. Hill, W.R.A.C., and their subsequent elevation to the status of "Married Pads" cut the number of resident Mess members almost by half.

To those who have seen the Mess bare Nissen huts gradually take on an air of respectability and comfort, it was a sad evening. Naturally, rumours about the future use of the Mess buildings have been numerous. It has variously been reported as a youth club, barrack store, office block, theatre and education centre. It now seems likely to become an R.C. Church.

"Episkopi, Oh Episkopi." On sale at bookshops throughout Cyprus recently was a new publication. A short satire on cantonement life, entitled "Episkopi, Oh Episkopi." The author of this book is Lieutenant J. Cooper, R.A.E.C., our tame educationalist. The book is extremely well illustrated by W.O.II "Charlie" Fawcett, the S.S.M. of 2 Squadron. Incidentally, if anyone is interested, copies of this book can be had from the author, c/o 15th Regiment, price 5s., post free. (I promised him a plug).

Episkopi Mythology, Part II. Inspired, no doubt, by the communication centre notes last month on "Centurions," etc., the Transmitter Troop submit their own "fairy story." As a background, let me say that until a short while ago, the Tx. Troop lived and worked about seven miles from the rest of the Regiment. They became quite independant in outlook. Now the Troop is partly civilianised and the balance of military personnel have been "welcomed" back to live with the rest of the Regiment. They now commute daily, and we have almost got them speaking the same language.

Lieutenant J. Cooper, R.A.E.C. and W.O.II C. F. Fawcett Royal Signals, autographing copies of their book 'Episkopi oh Episkopi'

THE TX FAIRIES (Or Paramali Pixies)

Once upon a time there was a Fairy Troop; I know that they were fairies because they were not the same as other men. These fairies lived on a rocky plateau on a small island far away in the Mediterranean Sea.

No one knows when the fairies first came to Tx, for that was the name of the place, but they were first recognised as recently as 1954 when "wizards" in Bampton and other equally remote places, I believe, recorded hearing strange voices talking to them. It transpired that the Tx fairies were performing a service for a fairyland called G.H.Q., Episkopi—but that is another story.

I must tell you all about the fairy camp and how they lived. They had everything, simply everything! . . . They lived in little canvas houses and right beside their homes they were clever enough to arrange all the amenities that they needed. Books, music, moving pictures on the the wall, games, a fairy boat, plenty of good food (the fairy cook was quite excellent) and pets. The fairy pets included dogs, pigeons, rabbits, the odd snake, and at least a million dear little pussy-cats. Above all, the fairies had their inn, the "Getsome Inn." Ah! what fun and games went on at the inn (talking of fun and games, it wasn't unknown for little girl fairies to be seen in and about that special place). The fairies had their own band and a bard. Now this fairy bard was a great teller of stories—special fairy stories. In addition, he knew all the verses of "Eskimo Nell," and would often recite them right through without a mistake—this after five Coca-Colas and five Keo, is no mean feat—even for a fairy.

The fairies would, I am sure, have been happy as they were for ever, but others, learned and worldly men, no doubt, were so anxious to lend a hand that bit by bit they "took control," as they say.

Alas and alack, the poor fairies, downhearted and dispirited, all disappeared. It is whispered that they all went back to Fairyland to live happily ever after.

Ordinary mortals do all the fairy work now, but it could be that the fairies have left a sort of rear guard, for some of these mortals look suspiciously like the original fairies in disguise.

(I apologise for being unable to publish a fairy picture, but you will understand that if they had settled in one spot long enough to "pose," they would have died of "exposure."! !)

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16th REGIMENT

On the evening of the 25th May, the Warrant Officers and Sergeants entertained the Officers at a games tournament held at the Sergeants' Mess. Zero hour 20.30 local. The battle commenced on schedule with an assortment of games, including darts, billiards, snooker, dominoes and cribbage. One felt the deadly earnest in which the contestants entered the fray. Blood match, *no*, no blood to spill, just liquor. The darts teams, with arrows poised, took deadly toll and with the early casualties in the Officers' team it gave the Sergeants a lead which they maintained throughout the evening. With an unauthorised sortie at tipit the Officers fought to a worthy victory, though this was not accredited to their final score. A marathon game of cribbage interruped the scheduled truce for eating. The contestants being the Commanding Officer and Second-in-Command, Lieutenant-Colonel R. W. P. Brader and Major K. S. Newell respectively, on one side and W.O.I Seymour and W.O.I Lockie on the other. With the timely help of "sheckles," Staff Sergeant Brooks, it ended in a win for the officers. Many thanks are due to the cooks under the guidance of Staff Sergeant Woodhart for a most excellent feed. Back to battle, and the traditional boat race was on, under the expert refereeing of the Padre, "The Reverend A. K. James," who was heard to remark, "This is the biggest congregation I've had since joining the Regiment." The evening ended with the presentation of the Losers' Trophy to the Officers. This was accepted by Captain McQuade who after his most eloquent speech handed it back to the R.S.M., W.O.I W. J. Warren, for safe keeping. With the battle well fought it was time for home and bed, except of course the Diehards, who rallied at the bitter end with Liar dice. A most enjoyable evening which we hope will be repeated on many more occasions.

To celebrate the occasion of "Princess Royal Day," the Officers' and Sergeants' Messes held a "Regimental Dinner" night. At 20.15 hours, when all the Officers, Warrant Officers and Sergeants were assembled in their respective Messes, a signal was despatched to the Chief Signal Officer B.A.O.R. containing Loyal Greetings from All Ranks of the Regiment on the 42nd birthday of our Corps.

Despite the weather, the Regimental Fête held on 30th June was a great success. With the many stalls and side shows gaily decorated, "All the Fun of the Fair" was very quickly instilled into all of us.

A big attraction was the miniature race track controlled by Staff Sergeant Fisher and Sergeant Simpson, who I believe run a miniature racing club here in Krefeld. With an extensive layout it fascinated young and old alike.

Much hard work went into producing a very intricate Bottle Stall, which reminded one of a gigantic spider's web, the principle spiders being Lieutenant Cheshire and Sergeant Tookey, who were more interested in money than flies. "Flip a coin," "Three Balls in the Bucket," "Test your Nerves" and "Throw a dart" being only a few of the stalls, one had quite a choice of places to lose one's money. The R.S.M. and R.Q.M.S. Evans took the chair to get a ducking at Aunt Sally and a queue of patrons quickly formed to try their luck. The "wee" train, expertly driven by A.Q.M.S. Calvert, was thoroughly enjoyed by the children. There was even a miniature station for them to await the train's arrival. Nothing has been seen of last year's rocket, which was understood to have left on a journey into space, so it was surprising to see the A.Q.M.S. there at all.

It was most gratifying to see the amount of electrically operated stalls as this always gives an air of professionalism. The most interesting of these was that operated by Lieutenant Sansom and Staff Sergeant Gardner, in which an aeroplane travelling across the stall, at the press of a button, released its bomb in the form of a dart onto the target in the middle of a model village.

Many thanks to the Wives' Club for their magnificent effort and many well baked cakes. With their responsibilities divided into groceries, books, cakes and white elephants, they were hard pressed for most of the afternoon. The draw run by W.O.II Snell produced some attractive prizes for the lucky winners, including radios and cameras. I am told the camera won by Captain (T.O.T.) Foster just about completes his collection. At the end of this most enjoyable afternoon, one could see clutched tightly in the hands of the children a stream of coloured balloons disappearing through the barrack gates and down Kempener Allee towards the Married Quarters. Well done, the Fête Committee, for such an enjoyable and prosperous afternoon.

The Royal Signals Association benefitted by £317/10/3, a wonderful effort.—Editor.

We now boast an Angling Club of 20 members, amongst whom is the Commanding Officer. We cannot get waters of our own, but after much effort by individual members and the committee, especially W.O.II Snell, the local civilian fishing club have allowed us three guest cards on their waters, which can be transferred amongst our own members. We are slowly finding our way around other daily ticket waters. Most of them are old gravel pits and hold plenty of fish, carp and tench being the main quarry. There are a number of records held by members awaiting to be broken, such as the Chairman's, Staff Sergeant "Brummie" Hawtin, who holds three: largest fish so far (carp), 9 lb., number of rods broken, two, and hours fished, uncountable. The only record the treasurer (R.S.M.) holds is the one showing the large amount of cash received off the members. Another record is held by the Secretary, Staff Sergeant Gardner for "miles covered" transporting members about Germany trying the pools. We are now looking around for competition, but (as yet) are sorry we cannot challenge any team to come to Krefeld. If 21st Regiment care to accept a challenge to a match and name a rendezvous, we will be pleased to oblige (what about it 21?).

Note from the Secretary: I do not recall seeing a photograph of a fish in THE WIRE, but I will, in due course, submit one for publication.

Life in Krefeld continued. Bradbury Barracks is located on Kempener Allee in Krefeld and is the present home of R.H.Q., 1 and 2 Squadrons, 16th Regiment, R.A., are also accommodated in the Barracks. Recently, the Officers' Mess moved to Hindenburg Barracks which is approximately half a mile away and the living-in Officers are accommodated in their own Mess. The Warrant Officers and Sergeants have their Mess in Bradbury Barracks in the same building as the Sergeants' Mess of the R.A., the building being split into two, one Mess upstairs and one down. Our Sergeants' Mess occupies the upper half. Junior Ranks are accommodated in Barrack Blocks in four or six-man rooms. The Junior Ranks' Club is shared with the R.A. It provides billiards, table tennis, a large lounge, a writing room and separate TV room on the upper floor and these are under the expert care of the W.V.S. The lower floor consists of the restaurant, the tavern and separate facilities for the Junior N.C.O.s. Alongside the J.R.C. we have a swimming pool which has now been renovated. This is very popular during the hot spells and is especially appreciated by the off-duty personnel. The Barracks has its own AKC cinema which at times is not quite big enough, mainly due to the fact that it is the only one in Krefeld and personnel as far out as Willich (five miles away) use it. Welfare buses are laid on to bring in those who wish to attend the cinema. The cinema changes its programmes approximately four times a week, so there is a good selection of film entertainment.

Food being all important to most soldiers, a word here about the messing facilities. The junior ranks' restaurant is run on the cafeteria system and caters for both Regiments. The menu for the midday meal always includes a good selection of dishes. Meal times are so arranged as to meet the special needs of the personnel who work shifts. Messing meetings are held at frequent intervals presided over by the Messing Officer and all personnel are represented. *To be continued . . .*

In our last notes we explained briefly the sailing courses held at Kiel. With this contribution, we have submitted an article (with photographs) written by W.O.II W. A. Littlejohn which I am sure you will agree makes very interesting reading and, for those of us who like sailing, a certain feeling of nostalgia.

CLOTHING is still **URGENTLY** required

by the WELFARE SECTION

C.R. SIGNALS BRANCH, M.E.L.F.

A Report on behalf of Royal Signals (Aden) on "The Corps Weekend"

Due to the absence on duty of Commander Royal Signals, Lieutenant-Colonel T. I. G. Gray on the Corps Birthday, Royal Signals (Aden), celebrated the occasion over the weekend 22nd to 24th June.

It was very much a pioneering venture but the evident success and enthusiastic atmosphere created leads us to believe that we may well try a full Corps Week next year.

The programme started on the Friday afternoon with a knock-out basket ball competition. This was organised by Lieutenant M. Orwin of 254 Squadron who eventually led his team from Line Troop to victory and to receive their prizes from Mrs. T. I. G. Gray.

In the evening, a barbecue on the beach at Elephant Bay for the other ranks and their families and a Signals/Sappers cocktail party for the officers and their wives in the Tarshyne Mess took place concurrently and provided much needed refreshment between the sporting events.

On the Saturday morning, teams from all Royal Signals Units, Aden, large and small, participated in a soft ball competition. C.R. Signals Branch (including E.R.E. officers), 222 Squadron (Air Formation), 254 Squadron, F.R.A. Squadron, 403 Radio Detachment and Q.R.I.H. Troop all entered teams. Unfortunately 17/21 Lancers Signal Troop could not compete due to a previous engagement—a tels inspection!

The morning was hectic, hot and very sandy and excitement over interpretation of the rules ran high. Only the umpires, Sergeant Roberts, of 254 Squadron, and Mr. J. Stevens, the American Vice-Consul, remained calm and undaunted by the chaos around them.

Line Troop 254 Squadron emerged the victors after a thrilling struggle in the final against 403 Radio Detachment (resplendant in gaudy blue pyjama type jackets but not Red Sox!). The result was hardly surprising as Line Troop had previously been coached by Mr. Stevens and therefore had the advantage of knowing what was going on.

However it would be wrong to assume that the evident predominance of Line Troop spoilt any of the enjoyment. More than one game was decided by the simple expedient of the fielding team and their supporters so completely confusing the opposing team by their shouting, that the strikers ran back and forth between bases like the proverbial yo-yo. Under these circumstances excitement for spectators and players alike was at fever pitch. Staff Sergeant Ankers and his ubiquitous barmen (and bars) from 254 Squadron did legion service in preventing all concerned from being so exhausted that the prizegiving could be appreciated. Mrs. J. Pearce, wife of the O.C. 254 Squadron, bravely did the honours at the end of a gruelling morning in the face of a sandstorm.

After a quick lunch a gratifying number of hardy spectators came to see another thrilling spectacle. This was a safe driving competition organised by Captain B. Freeman and the F.R.A. Signal Squadron. After a series of manipulative tests, a run round a section of Aden had to be performed twice, in opposite directions, in as near as possible identical times—without watches, clocks or sand-timers! Those who know Aden and its Arab drivers will realise this is no mean feat.

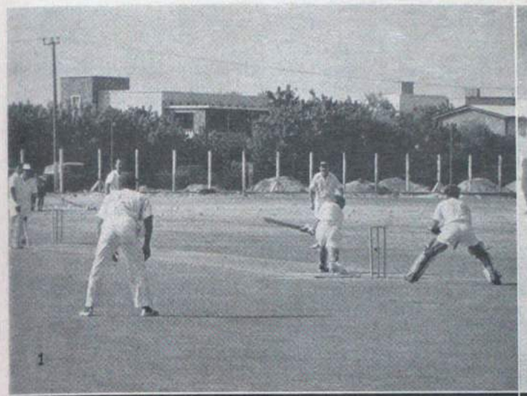
403 Radio Detachment (by this time having doffed their blue pyjamas) completed the double. Signalman Dix of the Detachment and his navigator won the military vehicle class, while Major N. Baker, the O.C. of the Detachment with his wife as navigator, won the civilian vehicle class, though closely followed by C.R. Signals, Lieutenant-Colonel Gray, also navigated by his wife.

Excitement lasted throughout the afternoon as no one knew who had won until Mrs. R. Walker, wife of the O.C. F.R.A. Squadron, presented the prizes. Second in the military vehicle class was Signalman Hardiman of 254 Squadron and third was Signalman Kane of 222 Squadron. The ladies, too, were included, as third in the civilian class was Mrs. G. A. Thompson, wife of the G2 Signals, who merely acted as navigator. The winners were therefore remarkably representative, which perhaps proves that we are all safe drivers!

That night, Saturday, was devoted to indoor games, the results of which are not for publication. If, however, the number of empties which had to be removed next morning is proportionate to the enjoyment, we may assume some results.

A Drumhead Service was held in the open on the Sunday morning. We were fortunate enough to have both the Band of the 1st Battalion the King's Own Scottish Borderers (why

CR Signals Branch M.E.L.F. — The Corps Weekend



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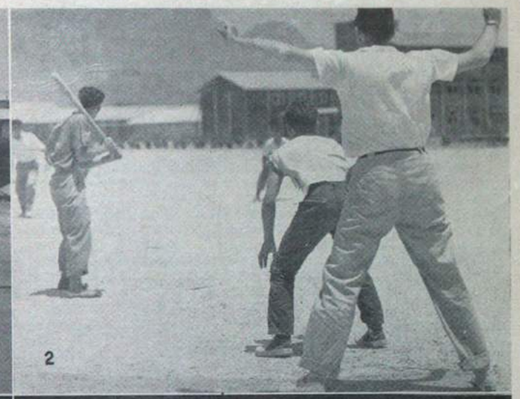

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1. CRICKET MATCH: The Demon Horner Bowling. 2. SOFTBALL: Not Sing Sing just Singapore Lines, Aden. 3. COCKTAIL PARTY: One event at least which was strongly supported by ERE officers. In the picture Lieutenant-Colonels Sawers and Brett with Major Macdonald. 4. BARBECUE: Man and meat done to a turn! 5. CAR RALLY: They also win who only navigate. Mrs. N. L. Baker receiving her prize from Mrs. R. Walker (ably assisted by Captain Gregory). 6. CHILDREN'S PARTY: One of the camels indicating that *three* is a crowd.

doesn't the Corps Band travel?) and Padre Higgins, Chaplain to the F.R.A. The Padre conducted the service in a total time of 23 minutes without in any way detracting from the solemnity or significance of the occasion. Again those who know Aden in the hot season will appreciate how lucky we were.

Having got rid of our soaking uniforms, those who weren't playing settled down to watch a Signals v. Sappers cricket match. The little evident talent was soon to disappear after the lunch time beer, but in the end it was the Signals team which received the winner's tankards from Mrs. T. W. Hackworth (who had to wait an extra twenty friendly overs before presenting them—obviously the players at least hadn't had enough!).

Signals won by 24 runs in an exciting finish. Best performances were by Signalman Hardman of 254 Squadron who scored 37 runs before he was run out and by Major Horner who took four Sapper wickets for 10 runs (a good thing for the Royal Signals that Major Horner didn't accompany his wife home by boat the previous week).

Midst all the sport the children weren't forgotten. Thanks to the organisation of Major Stephenson and Staff Sergeant Ridley of 222 Squadron they were given a splendid time during the afternoon's play in the cricket match. It was noticeable that the succulence of the tea and the excitement of pony, camel and tractor train rides soon attracted as many adults as children. The children were so well looked after under the watchful eye of Mrs. B. D. Elsmore, wife of S.O.A.F. Signals, that the parents could completely relax—well almost!

The first Royal Signals Weekend in Aden ended with that well known sport tombola. This was organised by 254 Squadron who under the guidance of the O.C., Major Pearce, and the Squadron Sergeant-Major, W.O.II Kirk, also laid on many other administrative arrangements.

All those who participated, helped or just watched should feel satisfied that their efforts gave the Corps in Aden a good weekend of celebration, sport and enjoyment.

A Charter for Technicians?

BY 'LYEMOOR'

Last month, in somewhat frivolous vein, I asked "Why not?" to the handing over of the supplies left in pantries on posting. Only Mother Hubbard would be unlikely to find that article valuable (excuse the modesty). This month on a somewhat more serious note, I want to consider a possible way of filling an empty cupboard that the Royal Corps of Signals faces. To compare the Signal Officer-in-Chief with Old Mother Hubbard might seem a quick way to get the boot—and not a golden one at that! As far as the technician's cupboard is concerned, however, he is in a dangerously similar situation. So—why not a charter for technicians?

Let me hurriedly say that I do not hold the view that the officer speaks only to technicians, whilst the technicians speak only to God! Nevertheless, they are vital to the continuance of the Corps and they are not as readily available as we would like. Many efforts have been made to encourage them to sign on, and not only by the Army. Both I.C.I. and Unilever, who run large-scale apprentice schemes, with all the benefits that their vast rescources allow, admit to finding difficulty in recruiting the sort of man who makes our technician. Competition from every source is fierce. This is not a recruiting essay, but accepting that the Army cannot pay the same as the oil companies (who wants continuous tours in Bahrein!) nor provide the permanent home comforts of the new Wilton works at Middlesborough, the variety of surroundings, employment and welfare amenities offered by the Army—plus the pay and guaranteed promotion—are enough to entice the potential technician. Why then, does he not join? Many minds have grappled with this problem, including those of serving technicians who are not always as capable in explaining their reasons for going out as they are in their work. One major factor occurs, however. "I am being pushed about—not employed in my trade." I said above that I do not consider the technician as something apart. He must be a soldier first. Nevertheless, he is a scarce man whose value in modern society is ever increasing.

So why not—get up to date! The technician is a specialist trained man. After long schooling, it is neither in his nor the Army's interest to waste his ability on barrack chores. Therefore, the charter. Outside the Army, it has long been the practice to present a potential employee with a contract. Due to misguided and over widely spread trade union practices, this has come to imply a one-sided arrangement designed constantly to limit what an employee may be told to do. The result of this trend is frequently seen in the "who-does-what" type of strike that bedevils industry today. A contract can be quite clearly an employer's one. It lists the conditions under which a man is employed—period of service, pay, gratuities and so on—and also exactly what will be expected of him. In effect, a charter can tell a man "You will do anything you are told that is legal—*but* if you do anything outside your normal scope of work, certain precautions and benefits will apply."

At the Headquarters of the International Telecommunication Union in Geneva—in which our Corps should have a considerable interest, and to which subject I intend to return in another essay if the Editor will tolerate this series any further—the charter system is used extensively. Like anyone else in the communicating world, they cannot forecast details of what a job will entail and for how many hours in any day or week will be required. What is done is to give each employee a charter. In the case of our technicians, this could define the standard Army terms of service—his option dates, pay rates, examinations he must pass and how his time promotion scale operates with even a weekly mean of hours to be worked; it could outline his future—guarantees of taking a Foreman of Signals examination and, on passing, the extent a Foreman's course can be guaranteed. The charter could continue by defining his tasks—what equipments he should and should not be expected to work on at each trade level, plus the extent to which he is liable for drill, weapon training and parade-type duties; and it could then say, quite clearly, that duties beyond these, or hours in excess of the mean, *will* be done if legally ordered, but that overtime will be paid for them, and unprejudiced requests for their restriction may be made to Commanding Officers.

I can almost see the hands raised in horror. Overtime! Trade Unionism in the Army! Never! But steady. Is overtime such an unusual thing in the Army? Drop in at the next dance run by one of the Regiment's Messes and see how many many men are getting extra duty pay. It's not such a novelty, and its definition as a right in certain cases is only a logical step to keep abreast with the changing national social structure. The fear of Trade Unionism is similarly a bit wide of the mark. Trade Unionism is restrictive. The charter employee needs no trade union. Each man is his own. He has got his own conditions, and his value is recognised by the safeguards and benefits that apply if the accepted mean of those conditions is varied from. The charter is an employer's one—but one that allows that when conditions dictate excessive working or serious misemployment, the intelligence of the employee is not insulted and his skill not wasted without some forethought and pre-consideration.

The remaining complaint is that the technician, by such a charter, becomes too much a man apart from his fellows. If a charter for them, why not one for the field signalman? This is partly answered by the fact that on present pay scales and time promotion rules, the technician is already a marked man. The rest of the answer, however, is that as he is not a contented man, neither is he an easily recruited man. The introduction of a charter on the lines described above may supply the invention to help satisfy the necessity. Why not?

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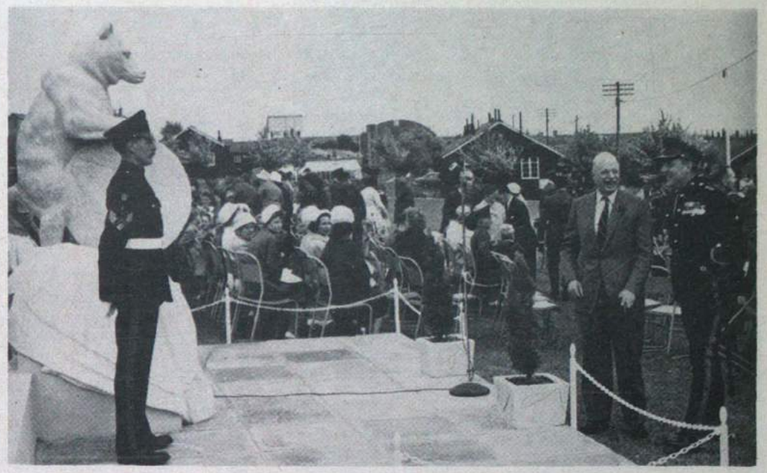
Description of Record — Page 165

30th Regiment



The crowd watches the Corp Band whilst Colonel T. R. Warburg and Lieutenant-Colonel J. D. Elliott examine the Berlin Cable Bear. Staff Sergeant Hill stands guard until the ceremony is over

We were privileged to have the Corps Band with the Regiment accompanied by the Director of Music, Lieutenant C. H. Pike, during the last week in June. During four busy days, we fitted in a wide variety of entertainment, and our picture shows the most formal occasion, which was held to celebrate Princess Royal Day.

We "kicked-off" our "Corps Week" with a band concert in the County Modern School in Blandford Forum, under the auspices of the Mayor of Blandford. This civil/military occasion was much enjoyed by a large audience, and a worthwhile collection was made for the Mayor's Old People's Outing Fund and the Royal Signals Benevolent Fund. A Regimental "At Home," in brilliant Dorset sunshine, took up most of Wednesday, where a combination of competitions, games (some of chance) and music made a memorable, even if exhausting, occasion. A massive effort by the ladies of the Regiment and our own sideshows showed a handsome profit for charities, most of which is to go to the Royal Signals Benevolent Fund.

Readers will recall that the May issue of THE WIRE gave an account of the ceremonial removal of the Berlin Cable Bear from 10th Regiment location in Germany. On Princess Royal Day, he changed his crate cage for a more dignified setting in our own lines, pending his final enthronement by the School of Signals, when they arrive in Blandford. This ceremony was conducted by Colonel T. R. Warbug, and to a fanfare of trumpets and a roll of drums, his veil fell away to clapping from the crowd and sighs of relief from the highly-qualified technical staff who for the previous week had been burning the midnight oil studying unveiling techniques. We were pleased to see three of "Bruno's" former Commanding Officers. Lieutenant-Colonels J. D. Elliott, A. H. D. Llewellyn and G. B. Donald, who were impressed and gratified with our efforts to give him such a dignified, even if temporary, home.

Elsewhere, during the week, the band entertained us, not once, but five times, with a concert in the other ranks' quarters area, a lunch-time session in the dining room, music in the Officers' Mess at a cocktail party, which followed the unveiling of "Bruno," music for a Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess dance, and music for an all ranks' dance which followed our "At Home." This dance was the best one we have ever had, and because of the popularity of the band, our gymnasium was packed with a cross section of regimental, garrison and local residents. 410 Squadron (Port Task Force) A.E.R., the Unit in summer camp in Blandford Garrison, produced a welcome diversion in the shape of a piper, who lead the Scottish dancing and much later in the night could still be heard in our still Dorset air.

Meanwhile, 3 Squadron have been having their share of incident in the Isle of Skye. For two days in May they endured a gale and storm which even the Skye residents had to admit was severe. Although the mess and living tents were flattened, sufficient aerials were saved to allow work to continue as soon as fair weather returned. Scottish Command turned up trumps and had new tentage, including two portable light aircraft hangars and, far more important, new rations on the way in a matter of hours. The storm preceded a visit by the Director of Telecommunications, Brigadier E. I. E. Mozley, and the Chief Signal Officer, Scottish Command, Colonel R. Linton, O.B.E. Although they did not see us at our best, they donned gum-boots and found us all cheerful. Gales seemed to dog visiting officers, for when our Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel A. T. Burrows arrived, it was a hot, sunny day, with a southerly gale keeping us guessing as to whether there would be any tents or operations site left for him to inspect.

The last week in May was Skye Week, and the Squadron provided a detachment for the parade through Portree to the Highland Games sports field, where Lieutenant Walter put the 12lb. stone, Lieutenant Grant ran in the mile and Lance-Corporal Jack demonstrated his skill at throwing the Scottish hammer. Lance-Corporal McKay entered the long jump and Signalman Court the 880 yards. All did well, particularly McKay, who came third in his event. Fishing has continued to thrive, with large quantities of mackerel being regularly caught. The only salmon caught so far was by Sergeant Cooke, when out fishing for trout.

The surprise of the month has been Corporal Bell's perform-

ance in shooting. He started what we imagined would be a mediocre shooting career only a few days before the Southern Command shoot, where his score gave no indication of what was to follow. In the following week in the Corps match, his ability for the first time began to show, and he was made a last-minute entry for Bisley. At Bisley, in the Whitehead Competition, his score was the highest in Royal Signals, and he also shot for the Corps in the Methuen Cup and was awarded the Corps Shooting Tie. Our other representatives at Bisley, also last-minute entries, were W.O.I Ferguson and Lance-Corporal Davies. They both did well, W.O.I Ferguson being awarded the Corps Rifle Association Tie.

C.R. SIGNALS, SINGAPORE

Princess Royal Day was marked by a dinner in Princess Mary Mess, one of the guests being Mr. Searle, the Regional Officer of The Diplomatic Wireless Service in Singapore. Lieutenant-Colonel W. W. Cock, the new C.O. of 18th Regiment, was dined in. There was a half-holiday (for some), a swimming gala and a party for the M.O.R.s.

Owing to prearranged exercises and other activities it was not possible to celebrate the 28th June to the full this year. However, the Annual Fête and Funfare at Princess Mary Barracks will be held on 28th July, and next year we hope to arrange this and other functions nearer the right date.

The Corps soccer team in Singapore is shaping well and beat R.A.F. Changi 3—2 in a "friendly" on the latter's new floodlit ground on 21st June. They were beaten by R.A.F. Seletar 4—2 on 5th July in a very level and fast game. The side was missing Signalman Platford who returned to U.K. that very morning. He will be remembered by all footballers in Singapore. No doubt a worthy replacement will emerge. Records please note!

19th REGIMENT IN THAILAND

By Major D. E. Salisbury

By now you will all have read the last Wire Notes concerning our operations Troop's departure for Thailand. The main part of the Troop departed for Malaya and Exercise "Trumpeter" two days after the party for Thailand. Having been out to visit the R.A.F./Army Joint Headquarters' party at Temerloh on 8th June, I flew up to Malacca on Sunday, 10th June, departing from Seletar at 06.00 hours in a Beverley and returning in a Twin Pioneer at 17.00 hours. I got into the office at 08.00 hours on Monday, 11th June. I was in the middle of organising the extra telephones I, for Chieng Mai, requested by signal, when the phone rang. There was the Commanding Officer. "Good morning, Dennis. I want you to go up to Chieng Mai on Wednesday and see how the chaps are getting on? You will be stopping over-night in Bangkok. The Adjutant will fix the flight for you. O.K.?" A bit staggered. "Yes, sir." "Oh, take a camera with you and get some snaps please." I then got cracking with the Quartermaster, Lieutenant E. Wall. We got the phones and they went up with me. I sent a signal from the R.A.F. Radio Room to the worthy Juckes, hoping it would get there before me. To cut a long story short, I finished my last telephone call to Malacca at midnight—then packed my kit and tumbled into bed at 01.00 hours. 03.45 hours came all to soon, with a little man with my coffee—off to Changi air terminal. Breakfast at 05.00 hours—air borne by 06.30 hours in a Hastings. We landed at Bangkok for an hour to refuel. Here we collected the British Consul, Chieng Mai, and his wife. They had been to Bangkok on a conference for the visit of the King and Queen and the Secretary of State for Air on 16th June. We landed at Chieng Mai at 12.00 hours. Flight-Lieutenant John Dickenson, our Captain, kindly agreed to stay till 14.00 hours so that we (Mrs. Smith, Malcolm Club, the R.A.F. Command Catering Adviser, and I) could get our jobs done. My signal arrived—Corporal Juckes was there to meet me.

"You can't put a pole crossing there — that's the runway."
Corporal Jukes; Signalman Holmes; Signalman Anderson (Background)

Flying over Thailand is quite an experience after jungles of Malaya. It appears to be nothing but wee villages and paddy fields, all looking very fertile. The airfield at Chieng Mai is some 15 kilometers from the town, which was the old capital of Thailand. The landing strip lies practically due north/south. It is some 4,000ft. high.

The camp is tented and at the side of the airstrip. The detachment has laid so far, five miles of cable. They have a 10-line switchboard with 15 telephones from it. The lines laid are for the R.A.F. radio transmitter and receiver controls, the Hadley Teletalk and domestic use. The domestic telephones to the messes are in parallel. The food is plentiful and good. They have an excellent mountain stream for bathing, the water in this is luckily free from the indigenous microbes and hook worm. The mosquitoes are a nuisance, but we all have nets. We have managed to keep the supplies of duty free beer reasonably well up. It is a great pity NAAFI cannot open up a canteen. However, the Malcolm Club ladies will be established up there soon.

The fighter aircraft are at present operational from 07.00 hours to 13.00 hours daily. This gives all a reasonable spell off duty in the daylight hours. We hope that by the time we come to change the chaps over at the end of the month, they will all have been able to have had a look at the temples, Thai silk weaving mills, the umbrella, silver, woodcarving and lacquer villages. This is the centre for all these industries.

We took off at 14.15 hours and landed at Bangkok at 18.00 hours. We arrived just as the heavens burst. What a downpour! If this was a sample of the monsoon, Chieng Mai will be very *damp* under canvas. We arrived at our hotel at 20.00 hours, in the centre of Bangkok. After a very long day, we all had a quick meal and so to bed. We left for the airport at 07.30 hours next morning; took off about 10.00 hours and arrived back at Changi at 15.30 hours. A pity we were not able to sample the night life of Bangkok or see the sights next day. I hope to do better if I get a second chance. Anyway, it was a pleasant way of spending my birthday.

Just before we arrived, the American Sabres had dive-bombed the airfield and we had to wade through a sea of American "Army Form Blank," I noticed theirs is the "Andrex" variety. I wonder what they got in return?

At least one of Operations Troop is enjoying his stay there—I have had a written request for a second tour from Signalman Holmes! We will see.

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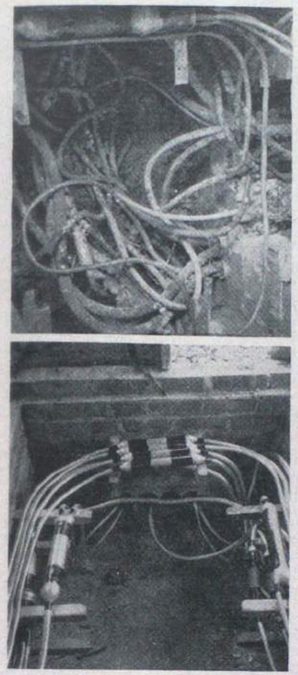

(Top) Before . . . and (Below) After

In the May issue of The Wire, the Editor requested correspondents to write their notes on "What we do and where we do it." This coincided with the completion of a job of which we are justly proud. As most people may know, we are an Air Formation Signal Unit, which means that we provide, install, and maintain ground communications for the Royal Air Force in Commands abroad. The Regiment is based at Changi, in Singapore, where we have R.H.Q., H.Q. Squadron and 1 Squadron. About 10 miles away, at Seletar, we have our 2 Squadron, which has a Troop based at Tengah. Finally, 2,000 miles away, we have our Gan Island Troop.

The main work at Changi in the recent past has been the preparations for the installation of the first military automatic exchange on Singapore Island, and it is in connection with this that we have produced the "before" and "after" photographs shown here.

In addition to our work for the R.A.F., we also look after a very ancient 10 + 50 switchboard which served the 1st Bn. Queen's Own Highlanders (Seaforths and Camerons) in nearby Selarang Barracks. This had been installed in about 1947, and the time had come when it was decided to remove it, and the extensions it served were to be cut-over to the Changi switchboard in anticipation of the ultimate transfer to automatic working.

Over the years the joint pit outside the exchange had degenerated to a state rather reminiscent of a "snake pit," as shown in the "before" photograph. It was therefore decided to use the opportunity provided by the cut-over to carry out a "spring clean" and renovation of the pit. The job was given to two detachments of U.G. Cable Troop, with Corporals Errington and Brookes as N.C.O.s-in-charge detachments. They started working in relays, cutting and jointing cables, and altogether, they made 14 joints including two crutch joints and one plug joint. As can be seen from the "after" photograph, they did a good job of work.

★

Well—unfasten the lot and see what happens then. Lance-Corporal Stubbs; Signalman Holmes; Signalman Anderson

Back Row: Sergeants Morris, Gwinnel, Phillips, Stoneham, Bloom, Owens, Prees, Balch, Akester, Tanner
Sitting: Captain J. H. T. Nealon, Major J. E. Denton, Brigadier R. H. E. Robinson S.S.M. Alfred, Staff Sergeant Brewin, Staff Sergeant Heaps
Front Row: Sergeants Dryden, Hammil, Keeler

No. 1 STAFF SERGEANTS' COURSE, FAR EAST

Fifteen intrepid students reported in to the Signal Training Centre (Far East) on 23rd March, 1962, to attend course No. 62/62 or No. 1 Staff Sergeants' Course. Ahead of them lay ten gruelling weeks, much evening swotting and little or no let-up. It was, however, not without its lighter moments.

Each day throughout the course opened with a period on the drill square, where Staff Sergeant Alfred endeared himself by his continual display of "Umpety Poo." In Methods of Instruction, we were fascinated by Sergeant Phillips' very accomplished dissertation of "Boils" where, by the use of hard-boiled eggs he managed to utilise all of the five senses. To one and all, it brought home many of the problems of teaching, and during practical periods the air in the classroom achieved the intensity of the dentist's waiting room, where the usual pervading odour of T.C.P. was replaced by good honest sweat.

Sergeant Hamil celebrated his 40th birthday on the drill square, where Staff Sergeant Alfred, in his most fatherly manner, paid tribute to his great age by giving him his individed attention for an additional period as I.C. the squad.

Sergeant Keeler was, throughout the course, always at the alert to dispense coffee, whilst Sergeant Balch justifiably earned the nickname of "Professor" by asking intricate questions at the psychological moment when the instructor was about to conclude his lesson.

To exercise their initiative and tenacity, the whole course was sent off in pairs over the Island to discover many and varied items, the most amusing of which Sergeants Bloom and Keeler, who were commissioned to bring back the "Pas de Chat." After following intricate clues, they discovered themselves to be in the midst of a troupe of teenage girls at a Singapore Ballet School. Here they acquired the sought-after "Step of the Cat," which they were privileged to exhibit in the Mess on subsequent occasions.

The course Pass-Off Parade was taken by the C.S.O., Brigadier R. H. E. Robinson, O.B.E., E.R.D., who, in his closing address, congratulated one and all on a very splendid display of squad and continuation drill. He pointed out that now that they had seen and, he hoped, acquired the knowledge and skills expected of senior ranks of the Corps, that they would use this knowledge as a firm foothold and not relax in their search for greater knowledge, "For it is only on this," he concluded, "can you achieve the all-essential self confidence and assurance."

203 SQUADRON

The Squadron has been reasonably active since our last notes. The usual exercises and other diversions have kept us fully occupied—not too occupied, however, to preclude a little light relief in the form of travel off the island. In April, we joined a desert expedition to the Kufra Oasis, and in May a party went off on adventure training in Turkey. Both were much enjoyed and most successful.

Kufra

The expedition rejoiced in the name of Exercise "Mixed Bag," as personnel were drawn from the numerous minor units closely associated with H.Q., 3 Infantry Brigade Group.

The task of the Squadron detachment was to provide communications from the desert back to Cyprus; whether or not the composition of the detachment indicated the difficulty of the task it is hard to judge, but in fairness to Lieutenant Moss, Sergeant King and Corporals Bowden and Moorhead it should be recorded that all fell for a shoal of duties outside pure signalling.

Kufra, 600 miles south of Tobruk, is not in fact a single oasis but a widespread group of oases each with its own Arab settlement. It will be well known to all who have read accounts of the wartime exploits of the Long Range Desert Group, who used it as a staging post between Egypt and their area of operations. The initial progress of the expedition was slow because of the difficult nature of the terrain south of the hilly area known as the Jebel El Aihdar. It was here that the expedition first encountered that well known desert feature, the wadhi. It was generally acknowledged that the wadhi was the winner on this occasion. However, once the oasis of Jalo had been reached the way south was open and distances of up to 200 miles a day were covered across the featureless gravel plain. Nearer to Kufra, which was reached eight days after setting out from Tobruk, the going again deteriorated; typical desert as it is popularly conceived—soft sands and rolling dunes with occasional outcrops and low ridges of lunar type hills.

The 16-man expedition travelled in six standard military vehicles—four mark three Land Rovers and two dropside Bedford RLs.

The Land Rovers in particular had a number of modifications carried out on them in advance by workshops. Panniers were mounted on the sides and Jerrican holders on the front, all giving a greater carrying capacity.

A guard, not unlike a cowcatcher, was bolted to the front bumper to give protection to the track rods on the rocky sections of the route. A bracket mounted on the dashboard allowed the fitting of a sun compass, the expedition's chief means of navigation. Last but by no means least, road tread tyres were fitted to facilitate movement through soft sand. Needless to say the vehicles performed extremely well throughout their 2,000 mile journey despite the great heat, dust and long periods in low gear and four-wheel drive.

One C11/R210 and two C13's were taken along to provide communications. Schedules were worked twice a day to Benghazi and Cyprus. Ever since the fatal day on which operators Sergeant King and Corporal Moorhead discovered that an 8 foot rod would normally give results every bit as good as an endfed they were quite insufferable, in fact, confidence rose to such a level that a serious attempt was made to abandon their Signal Officer in a particularly nasty stretch of desert!

The fleshpots of Benghazi acted as a spur on the return journey so that the coast was reached in only four days. This part of the expedition was notable only for the gibbli, or hot, sand-laden wind, which blew in on the second day. The weird forms of dress adopted to combat the searching grains of sand were only partly successful and talk over the evening meal that night was all of this hazard to desert travel.

By the standards of men who know the desert, this journey to Kufra presented no real difficulties, but members of the expedition returned to Cyprus realising above all else that the desert is no place in which to take chances, however simple the journey undertaken.

★

KUFRA
Signalman Bowden in an informal mood

'Turkey Trot'

On Thursday, 17th May, 1962, a detachment of the Squadron left Cyprus for a ten-day period of adventure training in the neighbouring country of Turkey. The party, all suitably equipped, consisted of Lieutenant Wilson-Brown, Sergeant Currums, Lance-Corporal Walmesly and Signalmen Barton, Griffiths and Yates and all emplaned at Nicosia arriving at Adana at 17.50 hours the same day.

The night was spent in a modest hotel, in the company of one Danish traveller namely Henrik W. Tetens whose acquaintence we made at the airport, and whose everlasting fame we guaranteed by inclusion of his name in our trip record.

Prior to settling down for the night we had our first taste of Turkish food in the shape of a dish called Doner Kebap, which, with one or two bottles of the local wine (scarab) proved to be quite tasty.

Next day the party proceeded by bus to the town of Kayseriver the route through the Taurus range of mountains. After many pleasant hours of viewing this quiet little town with all its historical attachments, the last two and a half hours being spent as extremely interested spectators at the local celebration of Bayram or Youth Day, we set out for the fabulous valley of the "Fairy Chimneys," Goreme.

This beautiful tourist attraction is simply riddled with ancient caves, temples and tombs, and hours were spent gazing in wonder at all the intricate carvings and writings to be seen in each temple and tomb. Completion of an exhaustive exploration of the valley saw us on our way to Avanos via rocky terrain and many valleys.

Avanos suitably viewed and monumental points noted, Neveshir was our next stop. This was reached earlier than anticipated by virtue of a spot of hitch-hiking.

In this area, and in particular at the village of Nar, we experienced our first real taste of the hospitality for which Turkey is famous. Having met quite a few of the local people in our wanderings through-out the village we were escorted by our newly found friends to a local beauty spot—a most beautiful gorge, rich in colour and boasting a waterfall in addition to the hot springs which are the valley's most notable feature. Forming a giant circle of friendship the locals plied us with food and wine of the highest quality, to which Lance-Corporal Walmesly and Signalman Yates in the main will readily attest, for at the end of a delightful day both were flushed with good living, if that is the correct diplomatic expression to use.

Regretfully we said goodbye to our friends of Nar and made our way to Nevishir and then on to Kirse-hir, where we were enthralled by the town's main feature, a 4,000-year-old building some 140 feet high now used as a Mosque. Your scribe can vouch for the 140 feet as he climbed every single foot of the way up the interior of the minaret!

Ankara was our next objective and we spent a whole day in the capital taking in all the places of interest, the highlight here being the floodlit Youth Park, surely one of the most beautiful of parks to be found anywhere. We then moved on to Konya, the old capital of ancient Anatolia and the H.Q. of the widely known "Whirling Dervishes," where the tomb of Mevlana, their founder and leader, is the main feature of the Konya museum.

From Konya to Mersin, on the southern-most coast, was perhaps the most interesting leg of our journey for the road led right through the Taurus Range. Our vantage point throughout the passage of the range was the back of a 10-ton vehicle from which we saw the most impressive and beautiful views. Mersin, with its many inlets and coves enhancing the beauty of the Mediterranean, was soon reached and we spent the night enjoying the hospitality of the small Dutch community, within whose compound we camped and bathed.

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Left to right: Sergeant Currums, Signalman S. G. Yates, Lieutenant Wilson-Brown, (*standing*): Signalmen S. G. Barton, S. G. Griffiths, Lance Corporal Walmsley

★

From Mersin we moved to Tarsus, the historical birthplace of St. Paul and then to Adanax, where we spent our last hours purchasing souvenirs of our memorable visit. On the morning of Saturday the 26th of May we ate our last Kebaps and at 13.30 hours regretfully emplaned for the more routine life in Cyprus.

Amid all this exciting adventuring the normal Squadron routine naturally continued and the usual arrivals, departures and promotions occurred and though not aglow with journalistic phrasings are duly recorded.

Congratulations to Corporals King and Birkwood on their elevation to senior rank status, Lance-Corporal Conway to 'full rank' and Signalmen Phillips, Dyson and Kearney to the heights of Lance-Corporal, by now paid of course!

Departures of stalwarts W.O.II Thornborough, Sergeants Johnson, Breese, Inglis and Whitham, and by the time of publication Lieutenant Brown, each and all to the cooler climate of U.K., other than Sergeant Whitham and family to Aden. On the arrival side we welcome to the Squadron W.O.II (S.S.M.) Orme, Sergeant Currums, Corporals Cartwright and Gray, Lance-Corporal Hanley and Signalmen Wardle and Callinan, and hope that their stay will be a happy one.

Finally, our congratulations to Sergeant Goodyer, our Chief Clerk, on his award of the B.E.M. in the Queen's Birthday Honours.

210 SQUADRON

The Army in East Africa devoted the week ending 14th July to raising funds for the Army Benevolent Fund by having an "Army Week." Events during the time included an Open Day at the new Templer Barracks, a Band Concert of massed bands, soccer and rugby matches and culminated in a Horse Show and Searchlight Tattoo. The Horse Show was held on 13th, 14th and 15th July and the Tattoo on the first two evenings. Both took place in the Mitchell Park area, which was surrounded by side shows (all the fun of the fair) and stands showing the work and equipment of the various Corps and Units.

"Two-Ten" was proud to have contributed its efforts for this worthy cause. Many soldiers worked hard and late to produce the eye-catching displays of the Squadron, and their efforts have been gratefully acknowledged. Their hard work and that of those who took part in the displays, undoubtedly helped to swell the profits for the "Week."

One of the Squadron's main efforts was staging of the static displays, both at Templer Barracks and at Mitchell Park Royal Signals' stand, the latter shared with other Royal Signals units in Kenya. Long hours were spent in "bulling" the Saracen, a Ferrett, Line Land Rover, which vehicles proved to be very popular with the public. In addition, the normal display of equipment was made, and all visitors seemed very impressed.

The Searchlight Tattoo was one of the week's greatest attractions. This typically military function included such events as Massed Bands, P.T. and drill displays, a musical drive by a Battery of 3 R.H.A., and a Platoon in the attack demonstration by a K.A.R. unit. Which brings me to what your modest reporter and many others to whom he spoke, considered to be the most exciting and impressive event of all—the 210 MOTOR CYCLE DISPLAY TEAM. The local press reported it to be "As daring a spectacle as you can see anywhere." Yes, the Squadron trained and produced its own Display Team. In a short space of time, and handicapped by heavy machines which had seen many better days, the team was trained by Sergeant State and brought up to a very high standard. The performance they gave was most creditable and did much to put the Corps in the East African public eye, both civil and military.

"SUNDAY SAFARI"
Signalman (alias Mrs) Cotterill and Signalman Chester

"SEVEN UP"
(*Top to Bottom left to right*): Signalman Herbert, Sergeant State, Signalman Harris, Corporal Fish, Corporal Davenport (pilot), Corporal Wood (Tail end Charlie), Lance Corporal Finlay (Eyes Down)

The display followed the Corps Team pattern, with high-speed crossing and formation riding. The driverless sidecar and ramp jumps through paper hoops, by Signalmen Clowes and Harris. It ended with Sergeant State jumping through a wall of fire and, like the Phoenix, our Brigade badge., coming through unscathed (although perhaps slightly singed!).

One sidelight of all this has been the worried expressions worn by the O.C. and M.T.O. It seems that the G.O.C., while watching rehearsals had said: "This is very good. You will get a lot of bids for this display all over Kenya." Most encouraging news—but who is going to maintain the Squadron's transport while the team is practising and performing? The team is, in fact, already booked for the Royal Agricultural Show, Kenya, in October this year.

227 SQUADRON

The last of the paint is dry, the Generals and their A.D.C.s have departed and the Squadron settles back into a normal routine again. Even the most reticent of our members could hardly describe the merry month of May as being less than hectic. In the space of 10 days we have had our Annual Administrative Inspection, Her Majesty The Queen's Birthday Parade and the L.C.S.C.D. Signals Day.

The Annual Administrative Inspection, by Major-General T. B. L. Churchill, C.B., C.B.E., M.C., took place on Monday, 28th May, with the Squadron on parade in a smart mixture of No. 2 Dress and Battledress at Caserne Lariboisiere. All went well, and the inspecting officer seemed well pleased with both turn-out and obvious hard work that had gone into the preparation of the barrack block.

On Friday, 1st June, together with detachments from the Royal Navy, British Army Camp Support Unit, Royal Air Force and Royal Canadian Air Force, we paraded at AIRCENT H.Q. to celebrate H.M. The Queen's Birthday with the traditional ceremony. The salute was taken by Air Chief Marshal The Earl of Bandon, G.B.E., C.B., C.V.O., D.S.O., COMAIRCENT. For this parade we were fortunate in having with us the Band and Pipes of the 1st Royal Irish Fusiliers, who were on a four-day visit from B.A.O.R.

Saturday, 2nd June, was LANDCENT Command Signals

Day, a new annual event devised by a committee of Signal Officers from France, Germany, United Kingdom and United States.

The Signals Day started with a combined parade from the four participating nations in a large French barracks in Fontainebleau. On this occasion the Squadron paraded in No. 1 Dress which, against the khakis and greys of the other nations, made a very smart splash of colour. The parade was inspected by General Holle, of the Royal Netherlands Army. Accompanied by a French Military Band and the Band of the 1st Royal Irish Fusiliers, the troops marched past a distinguished gathering of V.I.P.s, including General Spiedel, Commander AFCENT. The parade was followed in the afternoon by a fete in the Headquarters Stadium. The Squadron provided numerous stalls and entertainments (including Crown and Anchor, ably misrun by Messrs. Weech and Burge, straight from the White City), a treasure hunt (very difficult to resolve, as we neglected to bury the treasure) and toffee apples, a great hit with the children, but causing irate mumurings from sticky mums and dads. Beer and hamburgers were provided by the other nations, ensuring that the day went with a swing. The fete ended at 17.00 hours, with beating "Retreat" by the Band and Pipes of the 1st Royal Irish Fusiliers. The day finished with a grand ball in the Headquarters gymnasium, a fine affair, but some of us were just a little too tired to enjoy it. The day was a great success, and our thanks are due to those who worked so hard to make it possible; in particular, our overworked comrades in the Band.

Enough said. If you've got this far you'll be wondering exactly what we do for a living here. Normal work *did* carry on throughout and we are now preparing for our Annual Camp at Gien on the banks of the Loire—happy thought—field soldiers for 14 days.

We welcome to the Squadron our new S.S.M., W.O.II R. Yates, and his wife and family and all other recent arrivals and trust that their stay with us will be a happy and rewarding one. Departures recently include W.O.I J. Kelly and family, Sergeants Blunt, Uttridge, Thorburn and Driscoll, their wives and families, to all of whom we wish the best in their new stations.

236 SQUADRON

General Sir Richard Hull, G.C.B., D.S.O.

The C.I.G.S. visited the Squadron last month and instead of the normal visitors tour of Squadron H.Q. and the T.R.C. we arranged for a helicopter to fly him to Transmitter Troop at Ruiru, about 20 miles from Nairobi. The pilot was horrified at the thought of landing in the middle of the aerial field, the sort of place pilots have nightmares about. He took the O.C. with him on a dummy run a few days before so that he could be shown a way in through the wires. A route having been successfully pioneered all went well on the day, and the C.I.G.S. stepped safely out of the aircraft a few yards from the entrance to the site. The site is guarded by a detachment of East African Army Wardens, old soldiers of the King's African Rifles who are very keen and proud of having this job, and they provided a special guard for the visit.

General Hull showed great interest in the transmitters and

The Inspection of the EAAW Special Guard

General Hull talking to Lance Corporal J. Morrison the Transmitter Hall

went inside one to see the maintenance team at work. He met and talked to a number of men in the hall and control room, and after inspecting the living accommodation went over to the standby power house where he saw one of the generators run up to its full load of 280 KVA. He then got back into the helicopter, found a way out through the maze of wire, and flew off to H.Q. 24 Brigade. Before he left he said how much he had enjoyed visiting one of the smaller isolated Army Units, and complemented the troop on their high standard of work and turnout in spite of being so much under-strength.

249 SQUADRON

In response to the appeal in the Editorial of THE WIRE for May, 1962, herewith, an attempt to give an insight into the life in 249 Squadron (FARELF).

We are a semi-independent squadron—one of a group of units under C.R. Signals, Singapore—independent as far as our work and training are concerned, but coming under 18th Regiment for our administration. This organisation, although unorthodox, works, largely due to the efforts and desires of the officers and N.C.O.s of the units to get together.

The Squadron consists of an H.Q. and six troops; H.F., Radio Relay, Line Troop, Security Troop, 621 Troop (Air Support). Our task is mainly that of providing Rear Link communications for the Far East Strategic Reserve. As such, we are one of the few mobile signal field units in the Far East. We are proud of this, and we are proud of our special position. At the time of writing, we are fully deployed on Exercise "Trumpeter," one of the biggest exercises ever held in the Far East. Malaya is not an easy country for communications, as many who have served in this theatre will remember, and it is a constant struggle to maintain our high standards. There is talk of new equipment which would make our task easier, but, as we have heard this before, we will believe it when we see it.

We spend a lot of our time in the field, and in the course of a year we cover most of Malaya. The scenery varies little, and for the most part consists of endless rubber plantations and thick jungle. The towns and villages are small and widely separated, and the further one travels, the more obvious it becomes that even small operations in country of this nature involve tremendous difficulties.

The task of R.R. and H.F. detachments and the A.S.S.U. tentacles is a difficult and often very uncomfortable one, but at the same time very worthwhile and rewarding. Any operator who has not sat sweating in the back of a wireless vehicle, surrounded by a swarm of voracious mosquitoes trying to pass a long cypher message in the middle of a violent electrical storm, doesn't know what he has missed, and I recommend that he apply immediately for a posting to this unit.

In spite of the usual chorus of moans and groans, and the Wednesday night hate sessions in the NAAFI, I consider that we are among the more fortunate units in the Corps today. Our accommodation, Princes Mary Barracks, borders on the luxurious, and has all the comforts, and a few more besides, that a soldier could ask for. It is very pleasantly situated, in one of the less odorous parts of the island, and the blocks are so sited that even on the hottest day they always seem to get a cool breeze.

We share the barracks with 18th Regiment and 237 Squadron (COMCAN) whilst S.T.C. (F.E.) live in Meiktila Barracks, a few hundred yards down the road. Our Squadron Office and Troop stores, etc., are also situated in Meiktila Barracks, and this, of course, much to the disgust of many in the Squadron, necessitates two guards every night and two Orderly Sergeants; this, however, is a minor irritation, when put up against the comparative luxury in which we live. We have often heard whispers of an extension of Princess Mary Barracks to accommodate us altogether, but not a brick laid as yet.

Pasir Panjang, which is the name given to the area in which we live, is situated in close proximity to the city itself. Singapore is, by anyone's standards, a large city and contains all the various advantages and disadvantages that go with this state. There are several very large and very expensive cinemas that screen all the latest Hollywood epics with monotonous regularity. We are just recovering from a spate of the adventures of Hercules and resting our eyes and ears before the onslaught of Barrabas. However, we do get some of the more docile films, and for this we have to thank, in the main, the A.K.C., who run several cinemas on the island and cater very adequately for all tastes.

For those interested, there are several very good amateur dramatic societies, who regularly stage some extremely good plays, for which there is no lack of support. The last one seen by the writer was Agatha Christie's "Mousetrap," which was of a very high standard.

Those who enjoy good food will find Singapore well up to the mark. There are large numbers of very good restaurants and hotels, and the menus range from the ultra exotic to "Abdul's Egg Rolls" and "Zam Zam's" chicken curries, which have provided the staple diet for many thousands of Servicemen.

On the field of sport, we more than hold our own against the other Squadrons in this theatre. Swimming and sailing are very high on the list of recreational pastimes; there are a large number of good swimming pools and some very nice stretches of beach within easy reach of Princess Mary Barracks. The Regiment owns a Falcon (generously provided by Lord Nuffield) and also has the use of several Fireflies belonging to the FARELF Sailing Club. The O.C., Major P. H. F. Webb, M.B.E., is a keen sailor, and an increasing number in the Squadron spend their week-ends at sea, paddling tenaciously up nameless rivers in the wilds of Malaya, very ably led by Corporal Holdsworth, the shining light in the Canoe Club.

There, briefly, is an outline of how and where we live and what we do. You can see that when off duty, there are endless ways of whiling away the time, but when at work it becomes not quite so pleasant. However, it's all part of the job, and the Royal Signals offer, I think, more than most branches of the Service today, a varied and interesting life.

253 SQUADRON

Captain D. G. Wright. It is with deep regret that these notes are written. On 4th May, Captain D. G. Wright, the O.C. New Territories S.W.S. Troop, was killed in a climbing accident. An obituary has already appeared in THE WIRE, and we in the Squadron can add little to the sentiments expressed there. He had many friends, and all are shocked and sorrowful at his death, and offer their sympathy to his mother and family.

Personalia. Major E. Hewson (Retd.) has arrived in the Squadron to take the Retired Officer vacancy in S.H.Q. Captain D. Whitehead has also joined us. S S.M. R. Bell has taken over from S.S.M. R. B. Mills, and R.Q.M.S. R. Young fills this new R.Q. appointment. We welcome the newcomers and their families, and wish S.S.M. and Mrs. Mills good fortune in their new posting.

Reorganisation has caused many moves, and we have lost Lance-Corporal R. Furey, Signalmen Dixon and D. Collins to Singapore, to be followed by Staff Sergeant Carnley. May these moves bring promotion! Staff Sergeant Platt has moved to H.Q., Royal Signals, and is replaced by Sergeant J. Williams as Chief Clerk, on promotion.

Sport. Athletics and swimming have claimed much of our off-duty hours, with a few keen sailors in the Squadron Boat Club.

An excellent effort by the Athletics Team just enabled us to beat 252 Squadron and 246 Gurkha Squadron for the Royal Signals Inter-Squadron Cup. It was a team effort, everybody producing their best. New talent was found in the "throwing things" events, with Lance-Corporal A. Hopkinson, Signalman P. Shaw and K. Parry showing hitherto unsuspected talents. Signalman B. Phillips ran with speed and determination. Sergeant F. J. Loveday captained the team with success.

Our triumph was short lived, for 252 Squadron beat us in the Garrison Athletics Championships by a narrow margin.

Swimming is just getting under way. Captain M. Hales is forming a team. Signalman K. Parry remains our best performer at this sport, but we have two promising H.K.O.R.

Sailing continues, but too few people take advantage of the facilities the boat club offers. Staff Seregant K. Hawkes enthusiastically instructs the few who come.

Social Activities. Two major social events have been held in the last quarter. In March we entertained members of our affiliated ship, H.M.A.S. *Queenborough* to a social and dance, as well as beating them at football and in a games evening in the Sergeants' Mess. We look forward to their return.

Princess Royal Day was celebrated by an All Ranks' Dance and a families' Church Service. The dance was well attended and greatly enjoyed, in spite of the heat and humidity we are now suffering. The Band of the Queen's Surrey Regiment provided the music, and their enthusiasm was matched by that of some of the dancers.

Work. Though this comes last in our notes, for some it must be all they have time to think about. Senior N.C.O.s, line technicians and some switchboard operators are carrying two jobs because of our new establishment. Past good work in the underground cable system has led to a great reduction in faults. Project work continues, albeit haphazardly, because of the weather, changes in plan, and non availability of stores. Being "away from it all," in Hong Kong, has as many disadvantages as advantages when it comes to getting a job done on time. The great rate of building development is unbelievable, and has caused a repeat of this Hong Kong story.

"A short occurred on an O.H. line circuit. The Troop Sergeant went out on a recce, and at a particular point a building had been erected with the route going in one side and out of the other. The short was caused by the washing hanging on the lines in the loft." It could happen, it may have happened, who knows?

254 SQUADRON

Presentation of Long Service and Good Conduct Medal to Lieutenant H. Stevenson, Royal Signals.

"Regard this award as a positive achievement, and not just as 18 years undetected crime," said Major-General J. A. R. Robertson, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., General Officer Commanding Middle East Land Forces, to an informal parade of 254 Squadron (Aden) on 16th May, 1962, as he presented the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal to Lieutenant (T.O.T.) H. Stevenson, Royal Signals.

The General went on to say that he hoped many of the young soldiers in front of him would one day themselves achieve the award.

Lieutenant Stevenson joined in 1943 and served with the

British Liberation Army during the war. He then became an F.-of-S. and was commissioned in October, 1960; he has served with 254 Squadron in Aden since.

Exercising. For the rest of the contribution we submit brief details of a number of exercises that have been held recently involving Radio Troop.

Readers will readily see that this Troop is kept busy, and any operator in any other Unit who is tired of life in barracks, would do well to apply for service with this Squadron.

The exercises we take part in range from Kenya to the Persian Gulf, and involve moving by air. Life is busy, but varied and interesting.

Air Portability Exercise to Ataq. On 2nd May two detachments of Radio Troop numbering eight men went on an air portability exercise to Ataq in the Western Aden Protectorate. The exercise was designed to test the air portability of stores and radio sets and also to set up communications back to Aden.

Ataq is a small garrison manned by the Federal Regular Army, 150 miles from Aden as the crow flies, and 300 by road.

We had an uneventful trip up from Aden by R.A.F. Valletta. The only hardship endured was that no cigarettes could be smoked for an hour—the time taken to do the trip. On arrival we unloaded the stores and set up the radio stations. We lived under canvas which was comfortable at night but extremely hot during the day. The rest of the week passed with the detachments fulfilling their schedules, and having a quiet rest from the bustling metropolis of Aden.

The day before we were to return, we were invited to go on a patrol with the 2nd Battalion F.R.A. There were groans from the mattress-pressers. However, at six o'clock on Monday morning we set off in a convoy consisting of armoured cars, Land Rovers and 3-ton vehicles. Everyone was armed with a rifle or equivalent and ammunition. The Yemen border was not far away and dissident tribesmen were roaming the hills. We were looking forward to some action and we got it, but not the sort we wanted. At 8.30 we dismounted from the vehicles to patrol along a wadi and after a march of five or six miles entered a long valley with djebals (hills) on either side, all over 1,000 ft. in height and of a volcanic nature. The djebals had to be picketed, so the Arab troops started to climb. We looked on marvelling at the skill and speed of those men, loaded with equipment, as they climbed. It was decided to test the mettle of the Signals as the last pickets so up we went, keeping up with the Arabs. It was very tough going but we managed to scramble to the top although all of us I'm sure were wishing for "Jimmy's" wings.

At the top of the hills we were lookouts while the convoy moved through the valley. One member of a picket passed the time conjuring up images of ice cold beer in gallon cans which made him very unpopular, for all we had was warm brackish water.

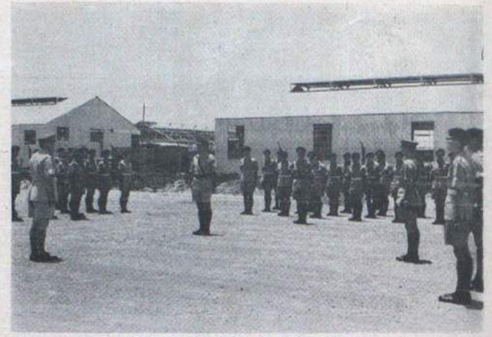
At 2 p.m. in the afternoon we returned to the open desert again and had lunch, although it was a decidedly liquid one, with pints of water easing our thirst. The rest of the day was spent driving round the desert showing the flag. The occupants of the 3-tonners (us) were rather uncomfortable as the desert tracks are not very level and most of the trip was spent airborne.

We got back to the camp at eight o'clock in the evening, tired but satisfied that we had matched the experts at their own game.

The following morning we loaded our kit onto a Beverly and sat back to have a well earned hour's rest in the plane on the return trip with happy thoughts of the hospitality and helpfulness of the 2nd Battalion Federal Regular Army.

Exercise Bake. On the 26th May Radio Troop went into the field again, this time to supply communications for the Medical Research Council, who were conducting heat trials using members of the Parachute Regiment. The exercise lasted for a fortnight and during that time each of our four detachments was attached to a doctor in charge of a particular branch of the research team. As timing was very important it necessitated communications being established for the whole exercise and apart from one or two tricky faults on the sets, which were soon remedied, we came through with flying colours.

An Exercise with Federal Regular Army. On Tuesday, 12th June, Radio Troop again went on exercise with the Federal Regular Army Signal Squadron. The object of the exercise was to give the Arab operators practice at sending and



LS & GC MEDAL PRESENTATION

Captain T. W. Hackworth, Royal Signals reporting to Major General J. A. R. Robertson, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., the GOC MELF

receiving messages. The exercise lasted for three days and took place in Lahej, which is one of the Arab sheikdoms in the Western Aden Protectorate. Both radio elements had a very instructive time and the exercise was reckoned to be quite a success. There was a touch of drama when one of our 1-ton vehicles broke down and as the nature of the country is very difficult quite a lot of scratching heads went on until a solution was reached. We finally managed to tow it back to Aden which was no mean feat and full marks to the drivers involved. To imagine the type of country we work in, one would have to visualise miles and miles of sand dunes and scrub liberally sprinkled with rocks ranging from boulders to pebbles. However we have always managed to supply communications when and where they have been desired.

Exercise "Hot Potato." Two detachments reported to 10 Brigade Medical Company to provide a rear link, and also a training link on their recent Exercise "Hot Potato."

The detachments being Signalmen Hardiman and Lee, Corporal Ainsworth and Signalman Bowman. Each detachment carried a complete C.12 radio station and each detachment was self-contained except for messing.

The object of the exercise was to exercise a section of 10 Brigade in casualty collection and evacuation in the field. The Signals role being: one detachment on a roving commission, to site casualties and communicate back to the C.C.P., giving the location, nature of casualty and the cause of the casualty. To make things more interesting we instructed the R.A.M.C. personnel in voice procedure and message procedure, and then sat back and let them have a 'bash.' It was quite easy to pick out the TV addicts who used "Highway Patrol" procedure 10-4.

The area of the exercise was at Abyan, a small Arab village approximately 70 miles east of Aden, where the water supply is somewhat doubtful, so we carried enough to "see us through" plus a few crates of beer to eke out the water ration.

The refrigerator unit housed in the 3-ton vehicle was quite useful to the extent of keeping the beer cool and the empty beer crates useful for carrying Medical equipment.

On the journey back we exercised in "Ambush" drill, and Air Attack procedure, both quite interesting but "one sided," the ambush party being two men and the ambushed 20.

The exercise ended with a mad dash to reach the beach and get back to Aden before the tide came in.

Exercise "Hartney Wintney." On the recent exercise of 24 Brigade held in the Kajiado area of Kenya, the rear link detachment for 45 Commando, R.M., was provided by Radio Troop. The enemy were represented by the Gordon Highlanders and a Squadron of Q.R.I.H.

The whole party was transported to Kenya by a Brittania of R.A.F. Transport Command and whilst in Kenya the detachment was accommodated with the 2nd Battalion Scots Guards in their new camp at Kahawa.

Preparations for the exercise went very smoothly, thanks to the assistance of 210 Squadron.

Plenty of time was allowed for sightseeing, and tours around the Games Reserves were arranged. A visit to Thompson Falls

took place on the day before our return and we had lunch with the Gordon Highlanders at their camp at Gilgil. Their hospitality was second to none.

The R.A.F. Eastleigh were our hosts on one occasion, when they kindly offered to take us for a trip in a Twin Pioneer aircraft. The trip lasted approximately 4½ hours and enabled us to see quite a lot of Africa and its wild life.

We also enjoyed the wild (night) life of Nairobi, with its numerous bars and dance halls.

The exercise was held during the rainy season and on two occasions the exercise was halted to recover vehicles bogged down in mud. Quite a change from being stuck in sand and much harder to dig out. One vehicle of the exercise was dug in so far that the recovery vehicle got bogged in trying to get him out and another recovery vehicle had to "recover the recovery to recover the unrecovered" (work that one out!).

One crew got annoyed at the helicopters landing beside him every half-hour to ask if he was all right. His reply was, "I have enough food, water and "hard stuff" to last me for weeks, now, please leave me in peace."

We were a bit reluctant to leave the green fields of Kenya to go back to the stifling hot season of Aden, but all good things must come to an end as we soon realised when we touched down at Khormaksar. The question now is "When is the next Kenya Exercise!"

632 TROOP

Now where shall we send him? I know—the Outer Hebrides! Not being very sure where the Hebrides were, let alone knowing what went on there, I asked that font of all knowledge—the Unit chief clerk. After a short pause he muttered some well known catchy phrases and so it was that I volunteered to go anywhere east of Dover.

To cut a short story even shorter, after 24 hours of travelling, I arrived at the Royal Artillery Guided Weapons Range, Benbecula, Outer Hebrides. I was shown to a Barrack room and there given some of the local griff.

The troop, about thirty all told, was responsible for the usual administrative communications and also communications associated with the safety of the range, both at Benbecula and on St. Kilda. St. Kilda, I was very quickly told, was an 'OP' island 45 miles "out in the blue." The only things that could be said for St. Kilda were that it was a birdman's paradise, gave scope for those who collect wind and rain records (100 knots—a spring breeze) and exercised the water transport company of the R.A.S.C. in seamanship. In passing, I was told that in spite of the former civilian occupants having been evacuated from the island in 1930 because life was a little raw, the Army borrowed it after the Navy and Air Force had seen the red light. (To the uninitiated there are no trains or night clubs on the island.) With all this most interesting griff and with the sound of water bubbling through the barrack room window, I went to sleep on my double tier bunk in Benbecula.

The next day, I was in the thick of it. After a miraculous ride for twenty minutes, missing sheep and peat trailers by the score, I arrived at the rangehead. I was taken into the hub of industry—Range Control. The countdown of a missile was in progress and I was promptly told to get my finger where it should be, get weaving on the teleprinter, answer the phone and last but not least pay my respects later in the day to the Unit Quartermaster to have my head examined. (We have no professional barbers in this part of the world.) X-3 seconds, X-2 seconds, X-1 second, Fire . . . missile away! To the sound of a tremendous roar, a 30 ft. surface to surface missile left a pad 300ˣ away. The teleprinter stopped, the O.C. swore and I was again told where my finger should be!

Well, much water has passed under the bridges since then. I went to St. Kilda on the m.v. *Mull* via the rocks of West Loch Tarbert in Harris, put red and blue cochineal on the feet of some St. Kilda mice so as to impress some of our visiting Chelsea animal lovers on the rarities of the isles and last but not least, tried my hand at a dram or two of the local beverage.

To those of you wanting to come up the sharp end, just drop us a line—c/o O.I.C., Royal Signals Records—and before you have time to read the answer, you'll be here. Cheers the noo!

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- SPORT -

Tour of Britain Cycle Race, 1962

It all started nearly twelve months ago with a letter from the Signal Officer-in-Chief! At that time the writer knew nothing about cycling, and even less about milk, however, since that first letter, he is now the proud possessor of a file nearly two inches thick which lists all the requirements that should be considered when organising such a venture.

The first task, after meeting the Milk Marketing Board (who sponsored the race) and learning of the requirements, was to find crews for the two Rover mounted C11s, with which it was decided to control and pass information regarding the riders to the race officials during each day's racing.

Volunteers were called for from the A.E.R., and the final seleciton was: Sergeant J. Wynne and Signalman L. Wilby, 80th Regiment, A.E.R.; Corporal P. Wilcox, 83rd Regiment, A.E.R.; Lance-Corporal C. Barlow, 404 Squadron, A.E.R., together with Corporal Machin and Signalman Roebuck, Regulars, from Headquarters, A.E.R.

This being done, and authority forthcoming to participate in the event, it was then possible to complete the detailed planning with the sponsors, which was a long, laborious task. Hotels had to be booked and petrol and battery-charging arranged at each of the 13 stage towns; however, it was all eventually completed, and "D-Day" arrived, Blackpool, 11.30 hours, Monday, 11th June. The race was started by comedian Tommy Cooper (who said he was the Lord Mayor of Blackpool!), and the whole cavalcade of 40 white Ford Zephyrs, 77 riders and two Land Rovers, moved off to the Blackpool town limits, where the race was deneutralised. What amazed the Rover crews was the terrific speed that these riders maintained, 30 miles per hour on the flat, and nearly 50-60 down slight gradients and hills. In Wigan the whole field overtook the leading Rover—which soon found itself travelling two vehicles in front of the rear Rover (wondering why reception strength had suddenly increased). It took nearly an hour to regain its position, but by the time Rhyl was reached, everything had sorted itself out.

Tuesday, 12th June, found the Rover crews travelling through country familiar to all those members of the A.E.R. who remember the halcyon days of Blacon. Rhyl, St. Asaph, Denbigh, The Horseshoe Pass and Oswestry, to name just a few places. Communications were extremely good on this leg, except for a short period when the vehicles were on different

16th June, Massed Start, Bournemouth

"Following a Break"

Bournemouth 16th June, the crews taking their "Daily Pinta"

sides of the Horseshoe Pass, but during the final stages, a distance of 25 miles on voice was achieved from Ledbury to Cheltenham. The following stage wended its way through some very pretty countryside in the Cotswolds, then on through Somerset to finish at Weston-Super-Mare, where our Radio Technician, Corporal Machin, found he was unable to keep up his boast of a bathe at each coastal resort we visited; the tide was so far out that he needed rubber boots to cross the mud.

The fourth day was over extremely difficult country, both for vehicles and riders, and within the first 40 miles, everyone, with the exception of a vehicle carrying our spare batteries, cable, etc., had managed to negotiate Porlock, the riders, however, did not dismount on this one-in-four hill. On arrival at Paignton, the Rover crews and cyclists were welcomed by the Regimental Band of the Royal Signals Junior Leaders Regiment, who looked very splendid in their red tunics. The trumpeters played a fanfare as the winner of this stage received his wreath of laurel from the Dairy Princess, after which the Band beat "Retreat" on the promenade.

The fifth day was rather uneventful, but nevertheless the crews were very pleased to be welcomed on arrival in Bournemouth by Colonel T. H. C. Grigg, Commander, H.Q., A.E.R., Royal Signals, who was able to see a spectacular finish on the Undercliffe by the first foreign competitor to win a stage, Pokorny of the Polish Team.

Saturday, 16th, found us on our way again, and right from the start, the race was in trouble, due to heavy traffic on the A.31. It could not be deneutralised at the selected point, with the result that the riders only covered 93 miles, instead of the planned 103.

Communications over this stage were difficult, but due to some very efficient operating on the part of Lance-Corporal Barlow and Signalman Wilby, who promptly changed to C.W., the vehicles were never out of touch with the progress of the race, and a running commentary for forty-five minutes was made possible, prior to the arrival of the first rider at the finish in Hove. This stage was won by a British rider, and put the British team well up on points.

Sunday was no day of rest, and at 10 00 hours we were off to a very thrilling start, at which the stars of the English teams, Buttler, Nuttal and Hinds, forged into the lead and kept it until well past Guildford, where they were caught up by the Pole and a couple of Spaniards, who forced the pace even harder. On occasions, the leading Rover was doing well over 35 m.p.h., and only just keeping in front of these very tough and fit riders—who fought it out mile by mile until the Pole, with a tremendous burst of speed, about two miles from the finish, managed to gain a 200-yard lead, making him an easy winner for the second time in three days. The interest shown in this day's stage by the spectators surprised the crews of the Rovers, who were besieged for information whenever they had cause to make a stop, of even a temporary nature.

Monday and Tuesday of the second week proved very uneventful, consisting of a 99-mile ride from Northampton to Skegness; and a 25-mile time trial on Tuesday, which was won by a Spaniard in 56 minutes.

Wednesday found us off again for a very hard, fast ride of over 130 miles through Lincolnshire, South and East Yorkshire to Scarborough. This stage was won in tremendous style by a rider of one of the English teams, in an almost photo finish. Pokorny was still overall race winner, because his individual time for the whole race was well below that of all other riders.

The next stage of the race to Seaburn, over a much different type of country, including stiff hill climbs in both Rosedale and Westerdale, in the North Riding, and when the comparatively flat country was reached just north of Darlington, the Scandinavian team came into its own, one of their riders forging ahead to cross the finishing line 4 minutes 40 seconds ahead of his nearest rival.

On the thrilling penultimate stage, from Seaburn to Morecambe, across the North Yorkshire Moors, over Gunnerside, Muler, Keld, Hawes, and on past Ingleton, the cyclists had to climb no fewer than six mountains of over 1,200 feet, including the Buttertubs, and it says much for their fitness and endurance that they all finished only 3 minutes behind the stage winner.

Saturday, 23rd June.—Blackpool again, having covered 1,400 of the most arduous miles in England and passed through no less than 350 towns and villages (the Rover crews consumed 252 pints of milk, or 4½ gallons per person, during the 13 days of the tour), we were welcomed by the Corps Band under its conductor, Sergeant Hewson, who kept the crowds entertained with a selection of light music during the very anxious period of waiting for the first riders to arrive at the finish on the Middlewalk of Blackpool Promenade.

The final results were:

Team: England 1st, Poland 2nd, North Region 3rd.

Individuals: Pokorny (Poland) 1st, Holmes (England) 2nd, Hinds (Southern Region) 3rd.

Communications during the tour proved to be excellent, at no time were the vehicles out of touch, although C.W. was found to be necessary on occasions. Distances of up to 30 miles on voice were achieved on most days.

Army Cycling Champion

Signalman M. J. Coupe, 28th Regiment

Signalman M. J. Coupe

Signalman Coupe has been sweeping the board in both local and Army cycling championships.

Earlier this year he won the Ronde um Duren, one of Germany's cycling classics. The race was over a gruelling 129 kms. Coupe broke away with four other top class riders from the rest of the field in the first lap, but it was 20 miles from home that Coupe really showed his class, forged ahead, and despite four broken spokes, won by a clear three quarters of-a-minute.

Coupe has not been satisfied with this, and has gone from strength to strength, winning outright both the Army 25 and 50-mile events. Next week he goes to England to represent the Army in the Inter-Services 50-mile event. Good luck to him.

Royal Signals Tennis Championships

The championships, this year, were held at the Officers' Club, Catterick, on 23rd to 26th May.

High winds made good tennis on the first two days almost impossible, but the matches were somehow pushed through.

Some new talent appeared on the scene and this will reinforce the Corps side, badly weakened by the loss of Lance-Corporal Sharp and other National Servicemen last year.

The results of the championship are as follows:

Singles: Winner, Captain G. Oehlers (24th Regiment); runner-up, Lieutenant K. Kent (School of Signals), 6—2, 6—3.

Open Doubles: Winners, Second-Lieutenant Louge and Staff Sergeant Smith (A.E.R., Blandford); runners-up, Lieutenant Kent and Lieutenant P. Webster (School of Signals), 6—3, 6—1.

Inter-Unit Doubles: Winners, Second-Lieutenant Louge and Staff Sergeant Smith (A.E.R., Blandford); runners-up, Captain G. Oehlers and Lance-Corporal McLaughlin, 6—1, 3—6, 6—4.

Some excellent tennis was seen in the finals, especially the Inter-Unit Doubles Championship, as suggested by the score.

It was nice to see Colonel E. L. L. Vulliamy, O.B.E., playing again in the Championships, and still playing excellent tennis.

Royal Signals Southern Command Rifle Meeting, 1962

The Meeting took place at Bulford on 14th and 15th June, 1962. Eighty-five competitors attended.

The matches fired were the Roupell, Henry Whitehead, Roberts, Parachute Regiment Cup (S.M.G.) and the R.U.R. Cup (Falling Plate).

A strong variable wind made shooting conditions difficult, particularly for the less experienced shots. Even so, the scores obtained by the best individuals and teams were higher than last year's. This is encouraging, and is a pointer that we are learning more about the S.L.R.

The two teams able to put in a few weeks practice, 216 Squadron (Parachute Brigade Group) and 243 Squadron (Southern Command), had a keen tussle throughout. 216 Squadron won the Roupell, Whitehead and Roberts by narrow margins, 243 Squadron won the Parachute Regiment Cup, the Falling Plate, and the Championship.

Teams for each match consisted of four firers, but the Championship was awarded on the aggregate of the best six competitors in each Unit's team.

S.S.M. W. G. Turner of 216 Squadron was a worthy Champion Shot. He had one poor practice only, and quickly put it behind him and got on with the rest of the job. W.O.II C. G. Curtis of 3 Squadron, 14th Regiment, came from behind with a very good Whitehead and Roberts, and finished runner-up, 11 points behind the winner.

Mrs. J. M. S. Tulloch kindly presented the prizes to the following:—

Match 6 (Roupell)		
Winning Team	216 Squadron (Para.)	567
Ind. Class "A"	Lieutenant-Colonel C. V. Walsh, 243 Squadron	156
Ind. Class "B"	Signalman R. G. Davies, 216 Squadron (Para.)	142
Match 7 (Whitehead)		
Winning Team	216 Squadron (Para.)	514
Ind. Class "A"	W.O.II C. G. Curtis, 3 Squadron 14th Regiment	155
Ind. Class "B"	Signalman R. F. Biddlecombe, 216 Squadron (Para.)	127
Match 8 (Roberts)		
Winning Team	216 Squadron (Para.)	384
Ind. Class "A"	W.O.II C. G. Curtis, 3 Squadron 14th Regiment	119
Ind. Class "B"	Signalman V. L. J. Church, 216 Squadron (Para.)	103
Match 32 (S.M.G.)		
Winning Team	243 Squadron	493
Ind. Class "A"	Corporal C. H. Davidson, 216 Squadron (Para.)	136
Ind. Class "B"	Signalman V. L. J. Church, 216 Squadron (Para.)	113
Match 30 (Falling Plate)		
Winning Team	243 Squadron ("B" Team)	
Runners-Up	3 Squadron 14th Regiment	
Champion Shot	W.O.II J. G. Turner, 216 Squadron (Para.)	511
Runner-Up	W.O.II C. G. Curtis, 3 Squadron 14th Regiment	500
Third	Lieutenant-Colonel C. V. Walsh	488
Champion Team	243 Squadron	2723
Runners-Up	216 Squadron	2673

14th REGIMENT

The past month has been a very busy one.

On 3rd June in brilliant sunshine and amid the picturesque setting of Sneedham's Green the Regimental Rifle Meeting took place and attracted large crowds from Bampton, Droitwich and Gloucester.

It coincided with Army Sunday and before shooting commenced a Drumhead Service was conducted by our Chaplain, Padre Matthews, to the musical accompaniment of the Band of the 5th Battalion Gloucester Regiment (T.A.) which also performed at intervals throughout the day.

From an early hour competitors and families began to arrive and the gaily coloured frocks of the ladies contracted vividly with the more sombre attire of the khaki clad military gentlemen.

There was something to cater for all tastes—pony rides and jaunting cars for the kiddies, sideshows for the not-so-young and of course Antonio and his inimitable ice cream cart.

At noon a wonderful buffet lunch was served on the range and a most enjoyable day came to an end with the prizegiving by Mrs. Lyske, wife of the Commanding Officer.

As in the Athletics Meeting, 1 and 3 Squadrons keenly contested every inch of the way, the verdict this time going to the chaps from Oxfordshire.

Results were as follows:—

Falling Plates

3 Squadron		1st
1 Squadron	"A"	2nd

S.M.G.

3 Squadron		1st
1 Squadron	"A"	2nd
1 Squadron	"B"	3rd
2 Squadron		4th

Rifle

3 Squadron		1st
1 Squadron	"B"	2nd
1 Squadron	"A"	3rd
2 Squadron		4th

Champion S.M.G. Shot

433 Sergeant Smith — 1 Sqn.

Champion Rifle Shot

W.O.II Curtis — 3 Sqn.

Later on, 1 and 3 Squadrons competed in the Royal Signals Southern Command shoot at Bulford and acquitted themselves very creditably, the former obtaining 5th and the latter 3rd place. W.O.II Curtis of 3 Squadron again distinguished himself with the second best rifle score of the meeting.

Finally, to round off a most successful month's shooting, the Regimental team consisting of representatives from all three Squadrons, obtained second place at the Corps Meeting. On this occasion, W.O.II Kay of 2 Squadron and W.O II Curtis of 3 Squadron were second and third respectively in the individual championship. Well done.

The team is now at Bisley trying conclusions with the elite.

Male athletes from 1 Squadron took part in the District competition at Taunton but our only success was in the mile race with Signalman Clowes leading the field from start to finish and thus repeating his success of the Regimental Meeting.

Not to be outdone, our girls from Gloucester proceeded to the W.R.A.C. Southern Command meeting at Tidworth and distinguished themselves by winning the 4 x 110 yd. relay race and a handsome cup to boot. The team consisted of Corporal Thompson, Lance-Corporal Blenkin, Private Ryder and Private Lee. Lance-Corporal Blenkin also won the 440 yards. Jolly good show and we hope you enjoyed the champagne.

Finally, Princess Royal Day was celebrated with an All Ranks' Dance in our elegant J.R.C.

This was a magnificent affair beautifully organised by 1 Squadron but attended also by outstation Squadrons from Bampton and Droitwich.

During the evening an imported cabaret company entertained us regally and after partaking of a sumptuous buffet supper prepared by Staff Sergeant Wilson, A.C.C., everyone settled down to witness the "Piece de resistance," the Miss Robinswood 1962 Competition, confined to members of the W.R.A.C.

Twenty girls, encouraged and spurred on by boy friends, eventually took the floor and posed some pretty headaches for the panel of judges. After a great deal of thought, Private Roper was declared the winner and received a handsome sash and a £5 note. Private Staniland was second and Private Wootten third. Mrs. Lyske presented the prizes and in turn received a bouquet of flowers from "Miss Robinswood." Majors Oliver and Walmesley-Cotham, her partners in crime, were the recipients of red roses and kisses from second and third competitors. They just refused to be left out of the act!

To Sergeant J. Harvey, of 3 Squadron, who was awarded the B.E.M. in the Birthday Honours we tender our hearty congratulations.

Mention of Sergeant Austin, 2 Squadron, whose efforts contributed in no small measure to the success of the May Day Dance in Droitwich was inadvertently omitted last time. Our felicitations and apologies for the "belated entry."

Singapore Driving Championship, 1962

British Army Motoring Association (Singapore Centre)

After many months of patient lobbying, C.R. Signals managed to form the Singapore Centre of the British Army Motoring Association. The final approach came from the R.A.C. and the H.Q. of B.A.M.A. in the U.K., just two weeks before our first rally.

A willing band of helpers, headed by Major D. Hall and the Chief Clerk, W.O.II G. K. Rothwell churned out the "bumph" and organised the rally down to the last nut and bolt.

All units on our small island were invited, and we started off with 31 three-ton vehicles, including a team each from 18th and 19th Regiments. We had decided on three-ton vehicles for our first venture because they provide a greater test of driving skill, though judging from the number of vehicles caught in the speed traps, Lieutenant ("Sanda") Carling (18th Regiment's ace) for example, they are not much slower than a quarter-ton. They were all loaded with ammo boxes, filled with two tons of sand under "unit arrangements." 18th Regiment, being such a busy Regiment could only find time to fill after dark—I am told the local population were a little surprised to hear the shovels pounding from the graveyard under the mosque in time to the muezzin call, but were somewhat mollified to know that the "*words*" that were issuing forth had a fervent "religious" flavour!

All went well on the 125-mile road run, apart from four recoveries, one cockpit fatigue and one lost (I've been up and down this road for 30 minutes and I'm b—— if I can find the right turning!). The route had been selected with the cunning skill of W.O.II Rothwell and Mr. W. Wells, the Secretary of the Forces' Motoring Club, and the penalties lost ranged from 166 points to 2,428 points.

After a short rest, the cross-country and driving skills started. No one knows who drove the tank across the water splash, but the first vehicle across thought it a little "off beat" when his front wheels met a 3ft. vertical bank of mud. The recovery crew had a field day. One of the leading contenders broke his arm moving between hazards, but the newspaper story was wrong—only *two* vehicles overturned, not three.

The skill tests on Meiktila Barrack square were very searching. Bogey time was made by Pte. J. McArthy (Queen's Own Highlanders) and times varied between this and the maximum, which a large number of entrants collected.

There were 23 survivors fit for the final scrutiny. The results were:

1st, Driver Zainol and Corporal A. Rahman (25 Company, R.A.S.C.; 2nd, Craftsman Fowler and Craftsman Laverton (19th Signal Regiment); 3rd, Lance-Corporal Shabuddin and Signalman Rosli (19th Signal Regiment).—1st Team, 19th Regiment.

19th Regiment, with second and third places were really good. Although Lieutenant Carling would have won if it hadn't been for that d—— speed trap.

Brigadier C. H. Stoneley gave away the many splendid trophies. He tells me that as an ex-member of the Corps (he graduated in 1959) he was highly amused to find that two R.E.M.E. craftsmen appeared for The Freeman Trophy (the best Royal Signals crew prize).

We learn from Staff Sergeant Levins, who came to pick our brains during the rally, that 17 Gurkha Division are holding a rally in September, again run by Signals. In this part of the world, anyway, it is apparent that the motor cycle has been replaced by four wheels, but Signals are still running things.

Royal Signals Officers' Golfing Society

The Royal Signals Officers' Golfing Society will hold its Autumn Meeting at West Hill Golf Club, Brookwood, near Woking (nearest Railway Station, Brook, 7 minutes walk), on 13th and 14th September, 1962. All those who have held any type of commission in Royal Signals (T.A., A.E.R. and War Emergency included) are eligible to take part.

A match against the Ironsides is to be played at West Hill on 12th September prior to the Autumn Meeting. All those officers who would like to be considered for the team are requested to let the Secretary know by 1st September, 1962.

Entry forms for the Autumn Meeting can be obtained from the Secretary: Major J. P. Durrant, Air Ministry (O.R.11), Whitehall London, S.W.1. Completed entry forms should reach the Secretary not later than 7th September, 1962.

T.A. and A.E.R.

54th (EAST ANGLIA) REGIMENT (T.A.)
3 Squadron Attends Annual Camp at St. Martin's Plain, Shorncliffe

19th MAY—2nd JUNE, 1962

During the latter half of May the Squadron attended Regimental Annual Camp at St. Martin's Plain, Shorncliffe, and a very successful camp it was too.

Last year, due to the T.A. reorganisation it was somewhat of a "getting to know you camp," this Squadron being the residue of 55th (M) Regiment (T.A.) having to meet R.H.Q. from Cambridge and other Squadrons from far flung posts of the Regimental Empire in East Anglia. This year, however, we settled down to training from the word go and it is amazing what can be done on a shoestring. The Squadron policy of really mixing the W.R.A.C. and Military in their duties is meeting with great success. At camp, Communication Centre wise, we had no problems. The W.R.A.C. ran them very efficiently, but it was interesting to see a mixed D.R. Section in action (a necessity through shortage of men) and how ably a W.R.A.C. driver attached to the Wireless Troop for the period of camp coped with the problems of siting and setting up station.

The three-day Regimental Exercise during the second week had its inevitable trials and tribulations. The ramifications of manning and administering Rear Division were a constant worry to O.C. Squadron prior to the exercise due to the extreme shortage of men. It would work if everyone put twice as much effort than normal into it and the fact that it proved to be a success was only due to all ranks doing just this. The Padre, becoming Officer-in-Command tents. The S.Q.M.S., in addition to normal "Q" duties became head cook and bottle washer. The S.S.M. (always with a cup of cha) was Chief Technician, W.O.-in-Command cookers (temperamental beasts) and father confessor to all and sundry. Captain Hovey, W.R.A.C. Squadron Training Officer, when not keeping a maternal eye on her girls, was always on hand to answer pertinent questions on wireless, lines or technical equipment.

Early on the second day of the exercise, O.C. Squadron found himself very perturbed at the air of peace and quiet which pervaded the atmosphere of Rear Division. It just didn't seem true. What a relief to find that all communications were through. Shifts were being relieved, lunch was well under way and in spite of the unreliable weather everybody was happy. In all his years of experience of Regimental Exercises at T.A. Camps this was the very first time he had been able to sit back and enjoy his pipe.

The Regimental Parade went well and it is felt that the R.S.M. is now satisfied that it is possible for the W.R.A.C. and men to march past in one body as a Squadron. Corporal Hamilton, W.R.A.C., was a credit to the Squadron during the presentation to her of the T.E.M. by the Honorary Colonel on the Regimental Parade. We, much to our surprise, became runners-up in the Regimental Inter-Squadron Football Competition and the nine men (all we could muster) are very proud of their bronze medals.

The following, penned by one of our newest W.R.A.C. recruits, Private A. Conley, is well worth reading and gives a more enlightened and amusing eye witness account of life in camp in a mixed Squadron:—

W.R.A.C. Viewpoint

"Some weeks ago I received, through the post, a card inviting me to spend fifteen days at Shorncliffe Camp, Folkestone, with the 54th (E.A.) Regiment (T.A.). Somebody told me I would enjoy it—that, coupled with the fact that there was small print on the card to the effect that if I did not attend civil action could be taken in the absence of a good reason, made me decide to go. That is why 3 Squadron of the above Regiment was hampered with one very raw, very green, very new recruit in its W.R.A.C. ranks.

"Since I enjoyed the rank of Private it was inevitable that I became involved in fatigue duties and generally getting under the feet of the worthy sergeant in the Officers' Mess on the only fine day we had during the first week. When I eventually emerged into the sunshine I had a hunt round for a bath. I found one too, and I wallowed in what seemed to be unbelievable luxury for half-an-hour or so. I read the orders later and discovered that a certain hut 36 was for the use of male officers only. Hut 36 was where I had just had my bath . . .

"After the initial shock of having to work for a living my sense of humour returned and camp became a most enjoyable place to be. In the middle of the first week we had a couple of map-reading sessions on foot. It is amazing how those of us who complain about a 15 minute walk to the tube ploughed our way through the fields and lanes of Kent, enjoying every minute of it, even though Christina Rossetti's lines flitted through the mind occasionally:—

Does the road wind uphill all the way?
Yes, to the very end.

"It was during the second week that we camped in the real sense of the word, and for two and a half days we roughed it in a very pleasant Kent valley. We had to pitch tents to sleep in, and this was where the Padre took the lead. I was quite merrily tightening some guys when I heard the Padre saying, 'Someone will have to climb to the top of this tent—the centre pole has come out.' I thought to myself that that should be worth watching and I looked round to see whom he was addressing. There was nobody else there but me; I knew the Padre did not talk to himself, and he was looking at me. 'You mean,' I ventured hesitantly, 'you want me to climb up there . . .' I left the sentence in mid-air. A few minutes later, with the Padre pushing me, I joined it via the tent. When my inelegant ascent was completed all I could do was hang on, and the pole stubbornly remained out of place. 'Let go,' suggested the Padre. I had been obeying orders, immediately, for over a week by then—eyes right, eyes left, quick march, halt, about turn, let go—it was just another order—so I let go like the perfect little Private I am, and Whoosh!—the inelegance of my ascent was surpassed by the alacrity of my descent. (In the end the Padre had to fix the pole himself, but I tried—honest I did!)

"When all this was going on our Staff Sergeant was preparing a delicious meal from compo rations, and what a successful meal he and his helpers dished up. The next day the teleprinters were in action—and how! When I decided to become a teleprinter operator nobody warned me that the blessed things could become live. One of the other operators discovered it first, then I too discovered it. In spite of S.S.M.'s promise that it would make my hair curl I was loth to touch the thing. Someone then had a brainwave—'Perhaps we'd better earth it!' So it was earthed, but it still kept giving us an odd jag every so often, and the reason the teleprinter operators came back, tingling fresh, was not due to the toothpaste they were using! Ours is a mixed Squadron and that is the reason why the Signal Centre was turned into a mad house for a few moments during the exercise. The lads had found a slow-worm. To me anything more than two inches long is a snake and I don't trust it, so when this monster arrived I had only one thought in mind—namely to make a quick exit. It wasn't the call to duty which prevented my carrying out my intentions it was merely that the soldiers and the slow-worm were blocking the only means of escape. I did the next best thing—I grabbed hold of the Sergeant-Major and with a series of gyrations managed to get behind him. So intent was I in escaping from that reptile (i.e. the slow-worm) that it wasn't for a second or two I realised that I had wedged myself against the live teleprinter, thus at the ripe old age of twenty-three I learned that life presented problems. I emerged from the fray unharmed, untouched and hair still uncurled!

Two and a half days after the exercise started we returned to base and civilisation, but it had been tremendous fun. We did some work as well of course, but the spirit was such that even work was fun.

At another post, during the exercise, the story is told of a young Signalman who was sent by his Sergeant-Major to a nearby café for two hot pies. A few minutes later the young soldier returned, handed some money back to the Sergeant-Major and explained: "Here is your change, sir, there was only one pie."

"Thank you, where is it?"

"Oh, I ate it, sir!" But I don't know what the Sergeant-Major said after that. Rumour hath it that the Signalman is still in circulation, but nobody is quite sure where.

"A Squadron party ended the fortnight, but few of us wanted to return to the mediocre work in shops, offices and factories where the battle of the sexes is ever ranging. For one busy fortnight men and women proved they could work together in perfect harmony, the superiority which each sex feels over the other blending in a superior fighting force. It's a great life in the T.A. and, if I may quote Masefield out of context:—

Tomorrow
By the living God, we'll try the game again!"

80th REGIMENT, A.E.R.

In its first annual camp, after last year's amalgamation exercise, the new 80th Regiment, A.E.R., was subjected to what must have been the biggest barrage of "brass" aimed at a Reserve Regiment for many years.

Although the weather in the first week of camp at Blandford was rather cool for mid-May, this did not deter us from giving a warm reception to our first visitor, Major-General A. M. W. Whistler, C.B.E., the Signal Officer-in-Chief, who was accompanied by Brigadier J. Anderson. Because of a very tight schedule he was only able to spend just over an hour with us, but nevertheless, in his characteristic style, he managed to see, be seen and talk to most of the Regiment whilst the normal training sessions were in progress. He stressed his theme of "One Army"—whether Regular, A.E.R. or T.A., in his talks and conversations with all ranks. We thank the General for fitting us into his intinerary on that day, because it gives a real meaning to the idea of the A.E.R.

Our second visitor, Lieutenant-General Sir R. Bray, K.C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., G.O.C.-in-C., Southern Command, literally dropped in for a flying visit—arriving by helicopter. It was his first visit and contact with any unit or any Corps of the A.E.R. and, we gather, he was suitably impressed. He took a great deal of interest in the particular problems of A.E.R., Royal Signals, and this visit, we hope, will be of benefit to all other units camping at Blandford, as the G.O.C.-in-C. seemed anxious to do what he could for the A.E.R., Royal Signals, now that the Headquarters is in his Command. After meeting as many soldiers and officers as possible, in their normal training work, he was entertained in the Sergeants' Mess before having lunch with the officers.

We were also very pleased to play host to Colonel D. R. Horsfield, O.B.E., The Chief Instructor, School of Signals, who interrupted a busy programme to spend an afternoon visiting Sqadron locations and detachments on Exercise "Empress" during the second week of camp. As the School of Signals will be our neighbour at Blandford in a year or two, it is as well that liaison "networks," official and unofficial, should be set up as soon as possible, to the mutual advantage of both. We hope the C.I. enjoyed his visit. We did.

In addition, we also had our usual great pleasure in entertaining Colonel P. T. Lovely, C.C. (our Honorary Colonel), Colonel G. H. T. Shrimpton, C.B.E., T.D. (a former C.O.) and Colonel C. Vincent-Smith, T.D. (Comd., Force Signals, A.E.R.).

Before camp this year, it became apparent that the Regiment had grown sufficiently in numbers to consider a re-organisation on the usual R.H.Q., Squadron and Troop system—the anticipated role of the Regiment being based on a "brick troop" organisation. In previous camps "ad hoc" arrangements were made year by year, according to the particular needs of training and the exercise. This year a determined effort was made to settle an organisation, post all ranks to troops or appointments and establish a chain of command. During a busy weekend, a few weeks before camp, the senior officers and the Adjutant fitted everyone into their respective pigeon holes, and it is to their credit that the experience gained at camp uncovered only a handful of cases where cross-postings became necessary. At the beginning of camp it was explained by the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel H. Oxborough, and the C.O. designate, Major L. Hancock, E.R.D., that the effect to make the organisation work and to establish the chain of command was just as much a necessity as the training programme and exercise. The effort was made and was worth it, and should prove, we hope, the foundation of a happy, efficient and expanding Category I Regiment.

Having done the good work, it is a pity that many will have their last camp with the Regiment, and we will be very sorry to see them go. In particular, everyone will regret that

GOC-in-C VISITS 80th REGIMENT AER

Left to right: Lieutenant Colonel H. Oxborough, Major P. R. King, E.R.D., Lieutenant General Sir R. Bray, K.C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., Colonel T. H. C. Grigg, Captain D. Latham, Major E. M. Fox

Lieutenant-Colonel H. Oxborough will be finishing on 30th September, 1962, after completing an extension to his term. We owe so much to the hard work that he has done, both in and out of camp, first of all in making the amalgamation of 1961 succeed, and then establishing a viable unit in 1962.

Among others who are leaving the Regiment for age or other reasons, are Major (T.O.T.) "Willie" Wattle, E.R.D., Captain (Q.M.) H. F. Smart, Captain (Tfc.) H. E. Crawford, S.S.M. C. Lonergan, R.Q.M.S. W. T. F. Newton, R.Q.M.S. J. T. Shanahan, Staff Sergeants Pettitt, Winsland, Clark, Norrish and Coe, and Sergeants Dight, Barratt, Harding and Grattan. Although leaving the Regiment, some are remaining in the A.E.R. by transferring to Category 2. For their help and service to us in their many varied ways, we thank them all and we are very sorry to see them go.

Fortunately for us, new men have been coming along, and we are very pleased to welcome into the Regiment a number of men who have never served in any of the Services before. We are anxious, however, to step up recruiting, and if you know anyone in the South-East of England who wants to join Royal Signals, A.E.R., we can accommodate practically every trade, and there are plenty of opportunities for promotion.

There is no truth in the rumour that most of our wireless operators are a crowd of old lags who have done a spell "on the moor." What is true, of course, is that we were asked to provide the umpires' wireless net for a T.A. Brigade exercise on Dartmoor during the first week of camp. About 35 of our men, under the leadership of Captain L. Oswin, braved it out for four days in most unseasonable weather. By all accounts, a very good job was done by all concerned. They were accompanied by our L.A.D., dashingly led by Captain V. Sharp, R.E.M.E., and we hear also that they did a very worthwhile job, and not only on our behalf, either. We enjoyed having our L.A.D. with us this year, and we look forward to a continuation of the practice in future years.

82nd REGIMENT (A.E.R.)

At long last we have been blessed with a *summer* camp, this we have calculated as being the third fine weather camp in ten seasons, we certainly made the most of it.

All ranks were disappointed to learn that our popular Second-in-Command would not be with us this year. Major W. Lang was spending a couple of months "down under" in Australia on business, we wish him well in his venture. In Major Lang's absence, Major D. A. B. Crawford stood in, and although he admits to finding the pressure of authority at times a little much, he managed to last out the fortnight and came through with flying colours.

Colonel Lawrie and his clan did not arrive in Blandford until the Monday, having assembled on the previous Saturday at Edinburgh on a mobilisation exercise. The exercise had gone off smoothly, ending with an overnight train journey—with no losses; that we know of! Though some vivid descriptions of a "Sassenach" breakfast on cheese sandwich and sausage roll were heard.

It was rather a shock to Major Crawford and his advance party to find four W.R.A.C. mentioned in the nominal roll; after much checking and re-checking, it was proved to be true; four women were due to arrive on the Sunday, only one of them having had previous services in the Forces! They were, in fact, the first women volunteers in the A.E.R., and they certainly got the V.I.P. treatment. A visit from Colonel E. W. Gibson, M.B.E., D.A.D.W.R.A.C., Southern Command, whose kindly advice was appreciated all round, and a plentiful supply of all those things considered necessary to young female comfort, electric irons, kettles, radio sets, bed lamps and mirrors, all by courtesy of H.Q., A.E.R., on "scrounge" by "Q" 82nd Regiment; we sincerely hope that the girls respond to the treatment they received and that their numbers increase next year.

This year the Regiment was divided into three composite detachments from the beginning of camp, eating, sleeping, working and playing together in the first week, prior to going on exercise the second week. This proved a great success, bringing a sense of competition and team spirit back into the Unit.

Due to the dissection of the Regiment with the formation of 410 (Port Task Force) Squadron (Category I), our numbers were very small for this camp, compared with previous years. The loss appears to be felt greatest among the technician and operating trades. However, with a great effort from those present the exercise, "Reploy II," proved a success. A little trouble was experienced in setting up the H.F. radio, but the operator at Bovington showed the usual Royal Signals initiative by eventually getting on "net" standing on top of his radio vehicle using the convoy flags semaphore fashion—*certa cito!*

There is only one Queen's Birthday and one Army Sunday in the year, and it fell to the lot of 82nd Regiment to have them both occur in their fortnight at camp. Without too many groans and with much effort from all ranks, a very good turnout was displayed on both occasions, especially at church parade. We certainly were not outclassed by the regular contingents from the Royal Artillery, Royal Signals and R.E.M.E. Colonel Lawrie was very proud of his men on this occasion, perhaps the first of its kind, with battle-dressed A.E.R. marching in step with No. 2-dressed Regulars.

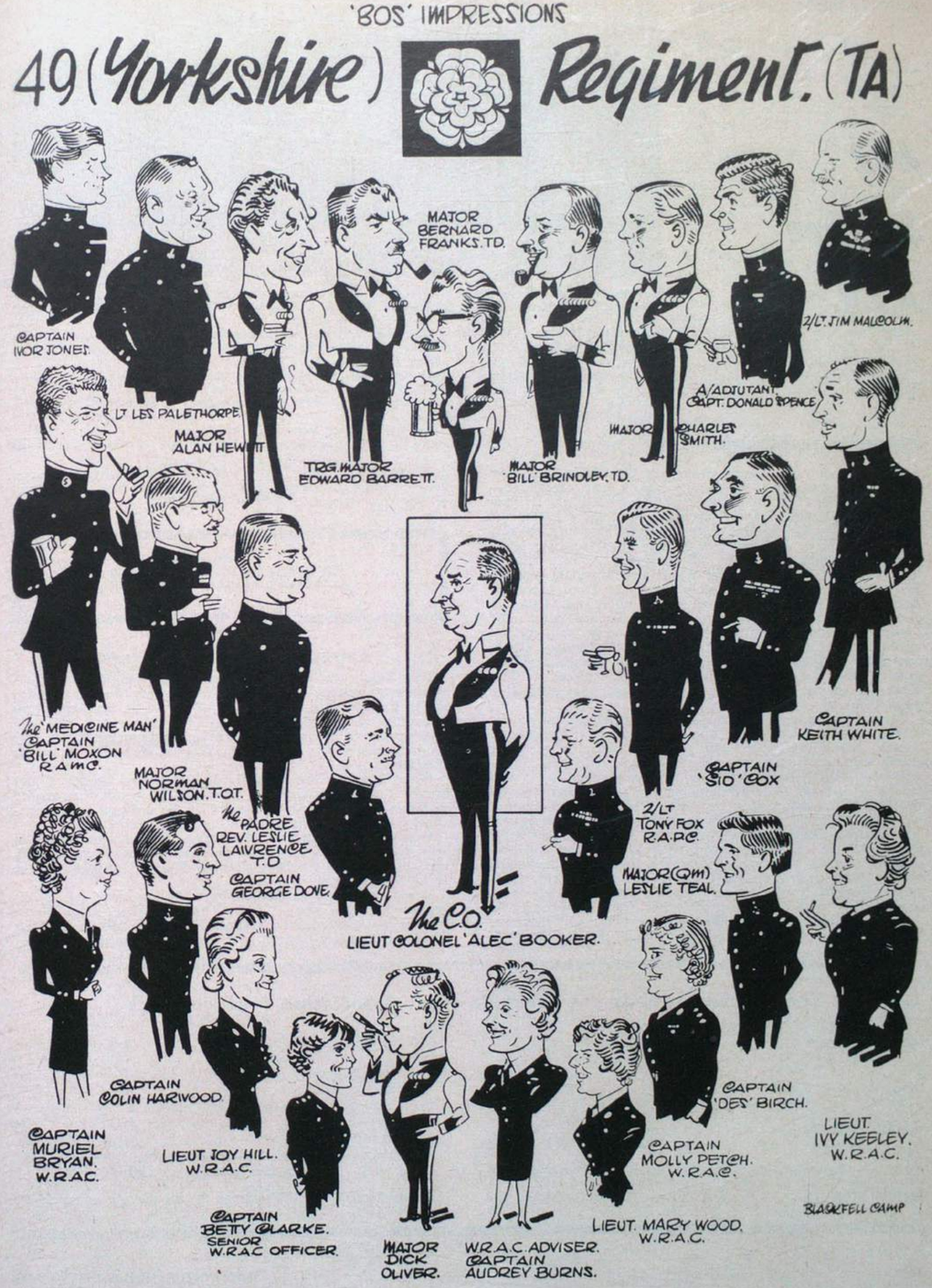
The Regiment suffers a great loss this year, due to the imminent retirement of our former Adjutant and Recruiter-in-Chief, Major R. Bannerman; we shall all miss him and his work a great deal. We wish him good health and happiness in the future, and offer our thanks for all his past work; he must surely know that he will always be welcome as a visitor at future camps. Best wishes to his successor, Lieutenant T. Tevendale, now in the Adjutant's chair.

The Regiment notes with respect 410 Squadron's article in the May edition of THE WIRE, and certainly accepts the challenge to a soccer match, if it can be arranged. We must point out that we defeated 30th Regiment 4—1 this year. It is to be hoped that 410 as a whole can put up a better show than their officers did last year in a similar challenge to a "boat race"!

We hope to have another early camp next year, now that we have had a taste of the finer weather. We are, as previously mentioned, badly in need of recruits, and any ex-members of the Royal Signals, Regular, National Servicemen, T.A., A.E.R. and W.R.A.C. will be heartily welcomed, especially if resident North of the Border. A Regimental Piper is now required urgently, our previous "music maker" (his opinion) deserted the ranks of the elite to help give a little Scottish tradition to 410 Squadron.

The planned early end to camp this year, in order to avoid the Whitsun rush, was almost snookered. Who locked the bounty cash in a safe which was locked in a bar, which was locked in a Mess, which was locked (the keeper of the bounty having only the safe key!) and which senior (very senior) officer displayed burglar potentialties to get at it—all this at 06.00 hours! This almost caused a 1962 "Mutiny of (correction 'for') the Bounty"!

All round, camp, 1962, was a very happy one, a fact reflected in the "wind up" of Q Tech and Q Accommodation matters with absolutely no losses. The first-class co-operation between Major (Q.M.) R. Shove, Captain (Q.M.) E. Mowatt and their respective staffs is always a feature of annual training and both sides deserve the highest commendation.



402 Squadron A.E.R.

First Row: Corporals W. R. Kernick, J. B. Heath, Sgt. R. J. Hazell, S/Sgt. G. F. Pegler, Lt. G. J. P. O'Neill, W.O.II S. Lockwood, Maj. I. B. C. Jones, Capt. P. A. Lancaster, Sgt. T. J. Gorton, S/Sgt. F. T. Mason, Sergeants F. A. McGovern, W. V. Taylor, G. B. Codd

Second Row: L/Cpl. D. A. Fishlock, Signalmen H. Ferran, J. M. Kelly, A. Thornton, L/Cpl. B. Hayman, Sigmn. J. A. Henry, L/Cpl. E. G. James Sigmn. A. D. Barnett, L/Cpl. W. G. Barnett, Sigmn. M. P. Firth Cpl. R. G. Bennett, Signalmen D. E. Pullan, B. F. Perriam, Cpl. J. B. Quinn

Third Row: Signalmen G. Morgan J. C. Mackel R. G. Giffard, Cpl. C. G. Glynn, Sigmn. J. Prunty, Cpl. E. J. Hilton, Sigmn. G. Maynard, Corporals J. H. Williams, L. A. McKeown, Signalmen T. Griffiths, P. Tasker, E. Dalton

Fourth Row: Sigmn. J. A. Moon, L/Cpl. P. L. Campain, Signalmen M. H. W. Lawrence J. B. Thorburn, Cpl. P. Stewart, L/Cpls. J. H. Frith, D. Stratton, Signalmen G. R. Ambler, T. C. Harding, Col. A. N. Sheppard, Sigmn. G. W. Smithson, L/Cpl. D. A. Aylward, Sigmn. R. J. Lee

Sitting: Corporals A. E. Oakley, B. Blackburn, L/Cpl. A. D. Fraser, Corporals K. Reynolds, D. J. Ottaway, R. C. Armstrong

All too soon, our annual camp has passed, and to most it is just a memory. This camp was a new experience—travelling to B.A.O.R. as a unit, and to complete our training under the guidance of 13th Regiment. On our return to the U.K., what do we remember most strongly? Primarily, the fact that, as a Reserve unit, we were training away from our home ground and under the kindly, but discerning eye of a Regular unit, and that several quarters would be "watching points." We believe that we were certainly able to hold our own, and that our hosts were satisfied by all that we undertook. Camping under these conditions means that both host and guest must consider each others point of view, if all is to go well, and we would like to place on record the splendid assistance which was given to us. We cannot, in these notes, acknowledge our debt to every individual concerned, but the circulation of THE WIRE will convey our gratitude for the co-operation which was given to us by all ranks of the Regiment.

Corps Day occurred towards the end of camp, and so enabled us to take back some of the prizes during the Regimental Sports. Administrative problems prevented several of our more elderly members from entering the "Old Soldiers'" race, otherwise the M.T.O. may not have won this event so easily! In our own Small Bore competition, the trophy was won by Corporal B. Blackburn, but not before Captain R. O. Stinton had made a fine effort to retain the trophy for the second year.

Of course, going overseas brings with it the risk that some of our members may be attracted by Regular service and prepare the way for "signing on," and this in fact has happened. On the other hand, it does give us a chance to encourage those leaving National Service to join us, and we found several candidates—so we should show a profit. The Squadron photograph was taken after our first parade as a re-formed Squadron. The march past and salute was taken by Lieutenant-Colonel R. J. Tyrrell-Gray, M.B.E., who took the opportunity to address the Squadron afterwards and welcomed the first A.E.R. unit to visit his Regiment.

Association Notes

REUNION, CATTERICK, 1962

Port Talbot and District (South Wales) Branch were given a rare treat at this year's Reunion, when they were entertained at 8th Regiment by ten members of the Fijian Squadron, now in training at Catterick.

Accompanied by a guitar-strumming handsome six-footer, they rendered some very fine South Sea melodies with first-class choral effect.

When asked by the Secretary of Port Talbot Branch if they knew "*Cwm Rhondda,*" that famous Welsh hymn, they replied that they did, and were astounded at the unforgettable experience of hearing "*Cwm Rhondda*" sung in Fijian!

Coming from a great rugby nation, Port Talbot were also amazed to learn that rugby football is a national sport in Fiji, and that some of the boys were good enough to play for the Royal Signals Team.

Great tribute, it is felt at Port Talbot, must go to the organisers of this year's "do." The march back from church was the best ever, and the "Grand Finale," on Messine's Sports Field on Sunday afternoon, was a sight to remember.

The following goods are available from Association Headquarters:

Corps Ties—Heavy Weave	... ...	7/6	
Woollen	... ...	8/6	
Terylene	... ...	11/-	
Corps Scarves—Woollen	... ...	21/-	
Rayon Squares	... ...	21/-	
Cravats—Terylene	... ...	21/-	
Corps Cuff Links	... ...	8/6	
Association Buttonhole Badges or Brooches		3/-	Members only
Blazer Badges	... ...	45/-	
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)	... ...	20/-	
Corps Plaques	... ...	29/6 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.

Welfare Section

Below, an attempt is made to describe, with suitable anonymity, six cases taken from the Welfare Section files during the first week in July, 1962. Also on the same pages is a simple statement of income and expenditure.

SIGNALMAN, 1950 (two months' service). Life Member of the Association. Grant and loan made to help his wife to a holiday. She served in A.T.S. 1939-41.

WIDOW OF SIGNALMAN, 1953-58, who died in 1962. There are three children under six years. Grant made to clear an electricity account.

SERGEANT, 1955-61. When he was discharged from the Corps on medical grounds, his wife left him and he and his school-aged son lived with his widowed mother, paying over to her all that he receives for his maintenance. In conjunction with the British Legion the fund contributed to a slightly higher standard of maintenance. He is a complete invalid. The Association also helps with clothing.

WIDOW OF SIGNALMAN, 1941-46, who died 1960 leaving her to bring up their son aged 17, an apprentice carpenter. In conjunction with the British Legion the fund paid for a set of tools when his apprenticeship ceased.

DRIVER, 1946-52. Married, two children. Before an accident in January, 1962, he earned a good wage and now his income is exactly half what it was. The fund paid arrears of rent.

SIGNALMAN, 1939-46. Married, one child. Illness stopped his working in 1956 and he is now at a Ministry of Labour Training Centre with a view to becoming employed again. The fund paid a small electricity account.

Royal Signals Association and Benevolent Fund

The following subscriptions were most gratefully received during June, 1962:—

	£	s.	d.
Headquarters Officers' Mess (Derby Draw)	3	7	3
24th Regiment	22	6	10
Army Apprentices' School	6	4	0
3 Squadron, 14th Regiment	5	8	0
A.A.S.		17	6
54th (E.A.) Regiment, T.A.	3	0	6
51st (H) Regiment, T.A.	2	1	0
16th Regiment	46	14	8
226 Squadron (Radio)	17	0	0
236 Squadron (COMCAN)	10	0	0
246 (Gurkha) Squadron	1	17	6
252 Squadron (Wives' Club)	25	0	0
254 Squadron (Aden)	4	14	0
9th Regiment	18	3	6
20th Regiment	35	5	0
H.Q., Allied Forces, Northern Europe		10	0
Cardiff Branch	20	0	0
Catterick and District Branch		6	0
Bequest—the late Colonel B. H. House	200	0	0
H. S. Nokes		11	6
C. West		10	0
J. D. F. Hewson	1	0	0
J. B. Melhuish		10	0
S. De W. H. Bradley	1	0	0
C. P. Prescot	1	10	0
Total Receipts	£498	19	6
Expenditure during June, 1962	£299	18	7
(Includes:—Rent and Rates; Beds and Bedding; Furniture; Cots and Prams; General Assistance).			
Analysis of Cases:—			
Widows and Dependants 5			
Released and discharged soldiers 28			
Total cases assisted ... 33			
18 Cases of Soldiers who served during the 1939/45 War ...	£185	3	0
15 Cases of Soldiers who did not serve during the War ...	£114	15	7

CLOTHING

Gifts of clothing have been gratefully received from the following, since early April:

W.O.II W. Barnes, Major G. Proudman, Mrs. and Miss R. Hoysted, Major L. M. Rutherford, Brigadier F. W. P. Bradford, M.B.E., W. Thornley, Esq., Mrs. G. M. Fraser, Lieutenant-Colonel E. H. Clarke, R. Cartwright, Esq., Mrs. R. Wagner, Major J. L. Donne, Capt. D. T. Hunneyball, Capt. H. Scott, Capt. (T.O.T.) A. G. Pritchard, A. E. Stokes, Esq., Mrs. T. Peck, Capt. W. G. Cunningham, Major J. H. Dirs, M.B.E., Mrs. A. W. Caulfield, Mrs. P. Logan, Staff Sergeant and Mrs. A. J. Cowe, Lieutenant-Colonel T. H. C. Grigg, Major L. V. McNaught-Davis, W.O.I M. A. Barnes-Murphy, Colonel J. C. Christopher, D. W. Woolford, Esq., Colonel B. H. P. Barnes, Lieutenant-Colonel T. Victor Barber, Mrs. H. M. Webster, Major J. F. Stokes, T.D., Mrs. S. Trow, Mrs. I. G. Swann, Captain G. Dibley, Lieutenant-Colonel J. E. D. Farr, Major K. M. Smartt, Major T. D. Shillcock, J. Wheeler, Esq., T.D., Mrs. D. E. Harrison, Captain A. C. Dexter, Mrs. C. Fairlie, Mrs. C. Swallow, Major E. H. Prampton, M.B.E., Mrs. A. S. Rawson, P. Denny, Esq.

Careers and Opportunities

South Western Electricity Consultative Council

Applications from those holding an electrical qualification are invited for appointment as Secretary of the Council, salary £1,530 x £40—£1,650, from 1st January, 1963. The post will be superannuable and subject to three months' notice on either side. Otherwise terms and conditions of service will be similar to those agreed by the Electricity Supply Industry National Joint Council. Applications, marked "Confidential," stating age, qualification and present appointment, should be sent before 19th November, to the Chairman, South Western Electricity Consultative Council, Pearl House, High Street, Exeter.

48th (S.M.) Regiment (T.A.)

Administrative Officer (W.R.A.C.) required for service with 48 (S.M.) Signal Regiment (T.A.), T.A. Centre, Cateswell House, Stratford Road, Hall Green, Birmingham, 28. The selected candidate will be granted a T.A. Commission in the rank of Captain, on solidated rates of pay, i.e. starting salary £775 per annum rising to £845 after six years, and will be required to attend for evening and week-end training periods and for annual camp. Upper age limit on appointment, 44 years. Tenure of appointment will be for three years in the first instance.

Applications, in writing, to the Commanding Officer, 48 (S.M.) Signal Regiment (T.A.), at the above address. Preference will be given to applicants who have had previous administrative experience in the Services.

Joint Services Staff College, Chesham, Bucks. Vacancies exist in the following grades: Photoprinter Grade 1, Carpenter/Joiner, Q.M. Storeman, Other Ranks' Mess Waiters, Sergeants' Mess Waiters, Hall Porters, Barman, Kitchen Porters, Cleaners.

Applications should be made to the Administrative Commandant, Joint Services Staff College, Latimer, Chesham, Bucks.

Annual General Meeting

Minutes of the Seventeenth Annual General Meeting held at Catterick Camp, on 8th July, 1962.

Present: Major-General A. E. Morrison, C.B., O.B.E., Chairman and Colonel Commandant; Major L. de M. Thuillier, C.B., O.B.E., F.R.G.S., A.M.I.E.E., Vice-Chairman and Colonel Commandant, and approximately 200 members of the following branches: Aldershot, Birmingham, Blackpool, Catterick, Cheltenham, Chester, Chesterfield, Cardiff, Croydon and District, Darlington, Edinburgh, Glossop and District, Grantham, Harrogate, Hartlepools and District, Hull, Leeds, Leicester, Liverpool, Manchester, Newark, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, North London, Nottingham, Oldham, Port Talbot and District, Reading, Scarborough, Sheffield, Shrewsbury, York.

The Master of Signals, Major-General Sir William Scott, K.C.M.G., C.B., C.B.E., was present.

The Chairman, Major-General A. E. Morrison, C.B., O.B.E., opened the Meeting by saying: "My first and most pleasant task is to thank, on your behalf, Brigadier P. M. P. Hobson, D.S.O., and his staff, and the three Regiments of the Training Brigade; Brigadier A. F. McGill, O.B.E., and the School of Signals, for all that they have done, and are to do, for our entertainment. They have, as I know, suffered from many difficulties this year, but there is no outward sign of this."

1. Captain R. D. Hardy, Chester Branch, proposed and Major-General C. M. F. White, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., seconded, that the Minutes of the sixteenth Annual General Meeting be approved. This proposition was carried unanimously and the Minute Book was signed by the Chairman.

2. The Chairman announced that on the recommendation of the Central Committee, and with the approval of the Annual General Committee, it was proposed to ask Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal, Patron of the Association, to agree that a new appointment, "President of the Association" be created

and filled by The Master of Signals. The meeting approved of this by acclamation. Major-General Sir William A. Scott stated that subject to the approval of Her Royal Highness, he would be honoured to be the first President of the Association.

3. **Chairman's Report**

You have before you a shortened form of the Accounts which in a fuller form were considered in detail by your Central Committee on 31st May, 1962. A number of copies of the full detailed accounts are available here.

Before asking you to approve the Accounts for 1961, I would draw your attention to three salient facts.

The value of our capital is creeping up to the figure at which it started in 1948—£106,000.

A loss of £839 in 1960 has been turned into a profit of £2,224 in 1961.

These two excellent things are due in part to the wise policy of our Trustee in dealing with our investments and also to the impact of Regimental Headquarters. Around 50 per cent. of the cost of administration of the Headquarters Office is now borne by the War Deparment.

The margin of profit would have been greater if THE WIRE had not lost £1,000. This was anticipated. The Central Committee were fully informed of the position in advance.

It is the considered policy of the Central Committee to continue this subsidy during 1962 in order to maintain the high standard of THE WIRE.

Major-General C. M. F. White, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., said that with reference to THE WIRE he had always felt that one's coat should be cut according to one's cloth—but he entirely agreed with the decision of the Central Committee that as long as our finances were sound the debt of THE WIRE should be carried by the Central Fund.

Mr. T. Black, Liverpool Branch, proposed and Captain D. Hunneyball, Croydon Branch, seconded, that the Accounts be passed. The Meeting approved their adoption unanimously.

4 (a). **Rule 8**

The Chairman, Major-General Morrison, asked the meeting to approve the alteration of Rule 8 as set out in Agenda Paper 17: A.G.M.: 4 (a).

Delete:

"Unit Branches in Regiments of the Training Brigade Royal Signals may retain out of each National Serviceman's

Annual Subscription	2/–
Life Subscription	5/–

Except as above, Branches may retain out of each

Annual Subscription (all Branches) ...	3/–
Life Subscription (Unit Branches) ...	15/–
Local Branches	£1 5 0

The remaining portion of Annual and Life Subscription will be remitted to Association Headquarters which will issue Life Membership Cards and Serial Numbers on receipt of Life Subscriptions."

And Substitute:

"Branches retain

(a) The whole of the Annual Subscriptions paid to the Branch.

(b) Of the Life Subscription:

In the case of Unit Branches ...	15/–
Local Branches	£1 5 0

The remaining portion of the Life Subscription will be remitted to Association Headquarters which will issue Life Membership Cards and Serial numbers on receipt of Life Subscriptions."

After favourable comment by Captain R. D. Hardy, Chester Branch, it was proposed by Captain C. Childs, Catterick Branch, and seconded by Captain J. May, Croydon Branch, and the meeting approved unanimously that Rule 8 be amended as indicated.

4 (b). **Rule 11**

The Chairman stated that it was necessary to withdraw this item from the Agenda.

The General Secretary, as part of the Establishment of Regimental Headquarters, Royal Signals, is 'officially' appointed by the War Office. Obviously the Central Committee must retain their power of selection.

Similar considerations affect the Royal Signals Institution.

The Chairman emphasised that the delay in altering the rule was only to provide a form of words suitable to all. The matter will come before the 38th meeting of the Central Committee in the Autumn of 1962 and for ratification to the Annual General Meeting in 1963.

5. **General Secretary**

The Chairman asked the meeting to note that the 37th meeting of the Central Committee had approved, under Rule 11, that Brigadier P. M. P. Hobson, D.S.O., is to be appointed General Secretary vice Brigadier H. R. Firth, with effect from 1st January, 1963.

6. **Territorial Army Centres**

The Chairman announced that the Central Committee at their 37th meeting had considered recent War Office letters whereby under normal circumstances the use of canteen facilities could not be extended to Branches of the Association. He stated that the Central Committee had asked the Representative Colonel Commandant to take up the matter with the Director of Personnel Services and that the General Secretary had represented the case to the Co-ordinating Committee of Service and ex-Service Organisations.

Colonel F. E. B. Jones, T.D., J.P., emphasised that the matter was one of considerable urgency and quoted several cases of which he had first-hand knowledge, wherein bona fide Regimental Associations had, of necessity, been denied these facilities.

7. **Charities Act 1962**

The Chairman announced that the General Secretary was in treaty with the Charity Commission to effect registration of all funds administered by the Association.

It was hoped that these negotiations would avoid the necessity of the Registration of Branches under the Act.

8. **Corps Gramophone Record**

The Chairman announced that this excellent recording on a double-sided long playing record of the music of the Corps Band would be on sale during the afternoon and he urged those who had not already done so to purchase a copy.

9. **Other Business**

Various members then raised points of detailed administration of the current Reunion which the Chairman ruled were to be noted by the Secretary and brought before the Branch Representatives Meeting in 1963.

A representative of Cardiff Branch voiced the opinion of all in praising the catering arrangements—Commander, Training Brigade, was asked to pass this on to the staff concerned.

10. **Major-General L. de M. Thuillier,** C.B., O.B.E., F.R.C.S., A.M.I.E.E.

"I shall be very brief, but I should like to say I am very proud that you have elected me as your Chairman, and I hope I shall be able to adequately follow in the footsteps of my predecessors—Generals Morrison, White and Fladgate, to mention only three since the war. Secondly, and much more important, I am sure you would like me to pass a vote of thanks to General Morrison on retirement as Chairman and thank him very much for all the work he has put in as Chairman and Vice-Chairman, and to assure him that we appreciate all he has done, and to say that we shall look forward very much to seeing him as an Old Comrade at future reunions of this kind."

11. **Thanks to Headquarters Satff**

The Chairman then spoke of the work of the Headquarters staff and of the until now, unsolved difficulty of replacing Miss V. Shannon. He paid a considerable tribute to her for stepping into the breach and for being kind enough to come on the platform to do the Minutes of this meeting.

Despite all difficulties the Headquarters Staff had continued to function with amazing efficiency and loyalty, particularly during the illness of the General Secretary.

The meeting showed their appreciation by their applause.

12. **Brigadier Sir George H. Walton,** K.B.E., C.B., T.D., D.L., expressed the feeling of the meeting in a very generous tribute to the retiring Secretary, Brigadier H. R. Firth, and the meeting supported this by prolonged applause.

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION
AND BENEVOLENT FUND

Balance Sheet as at 31st December, 1961

1960					1960				
£	£		£	£	£	£		£	£
		ACCUMULATED FUNDS (including Minor Trusts)			1,589		CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND ..		891
		Balance at 31st December, 1960 ..		102,690	1,960		SUNDRY DEBTORS AND PAYMENTS IN ADVANCE		2,182
107,773		*Add:* Excess of Income over Expenditure for the year	2,224		957		INCOME TAX RECOVERABLE		961
—		Profit on Realization of Investments during the year	5		40		LOANS TO BRANCH ASSOCIATIONS ..		35
				2,229	431		STOCKS ON HAND		428
				104,919			INVESTMENTS—At cost		
		Less: Excess of Expenditure over				12,634	British Government Securities ..	11,928	
	839	Income for the year	—				Dominion and Colonial Government		
		Excess of grants made by Minor				28,116	Securities	28,116	
	11	Trust over Income	26			19,158	British Municipal Securities ..	19,158	
		Loss on Realization of Investments				38,093	Other Securities	41,642	
	4,233	during the year	—		98,001				100,844
5,083				26			Market Value of the above Investments at 31st December, 1961 was £93,898 (1960—£86,713)		
102,690				104,893	4		Shares in Royal Signals Association Trustee Ltd.		4
1,040		CURRENT LIABILITIES		1,079	464		OFFICE FURNITURE—At Cost, less Depreciation		485
						2,000	LEASEHOLD PROPERTY—At Cost ..	2,000	
						1,716	*Less:* Amount written off to date ..	1,858	
					284				142
		A. E. MORRISON, *Chairman* H. R. FIRTH, *Secretary.*							
£103,730				£105,972	£103,730				£105,972

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 represent a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Fund at 31st December, 1961 and of the Excess of Income over Expenditure for the year ended on that date. Lloyds Bank Limited has certified that it held the securities representing the Investments which are registered in the name of the Royal Signals Association Trustee Limited, and that the Bank Balance is correct.

London. HOWARD SMITH THOMPSON AND CO., *Chartered Accountants.*

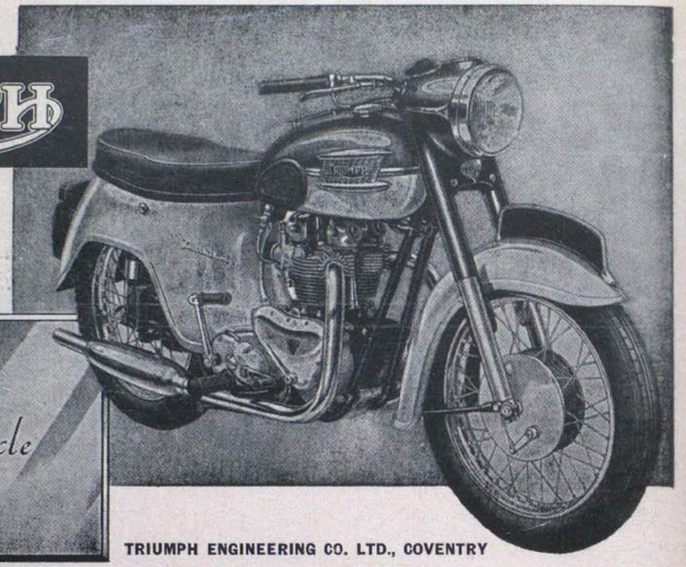
Income and Expenditure Account for the Year ended 31st December, 1961

1960					1960				
£	£		£	£	£	£		£	£
		Administration Expenses			1,039		Subscriptions		1,167
		Salaries, National Insurance, Superannuation contributions of headquarters					Donations from individuals and local		
5,612		staff		3,159	926		branches		598
3,309		Other administrative expenses		996			Receipts from regiments, squadrons,		
					3,516		Royal Signals		3,302
8,921				4,155	97		Receipts from branches		202
172		Loss on "The Wire"		996	1,000		Receipts from corps funds		1,000
		Formation expenses of Royal Signals					Sundry receipts from sales of corps		
188		Trustee Ltd.		—	274		clothing, badges etc.		237
3,870		Benevolent grants		3,691	75		Income from publications		127
		Donations—			1,273		Grants refunded		640
		Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmens' Families			4,124		Income from investments—gross ..		4,179
	100	Association	100		1,500		Donation from Army Benevolent Fund ..		1,000
		Shaftesbury Homes and Arethusa Train-					Contributions to administration expenses		
	160	ing Ship	240			250	Officers' Benevolent Fund	250	
		National Association for the employment				27	Royal Signals Institution	—	
	346	of Regular Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen	298		277				250
		Forces Help Society and Lord Roberts'			839		Excess of Expenditure over Income .		—
	100	Workshops	100						
	40	Royal Alexandra and Albert School	40						
	160	Star and Garter Home	160						
		Sundry other charitable and welfare							
		organisations for service and ex-service-							
	102	men and their families	103						
1,008				1,041					
51		Depreciation of Office Furniture		54					
142		Amount written off leasehold property ..		142					
253		Bad debt, written off		—					
242		Cost of Association reunions		290					
		Income Tax deducted on Investment							
93		Income not recoverable		109					
—		Excess of Income over Expenditure ..		2,224					
£14,940				£12,702	£14,940				£12,702

Note:—The following administrative expenses are now borne by the War Office :—

Secretary's Salary, part of Staff Salaries, Rent and Rates, Heating and Lighting, Telephone, part of Printing and Postage, Office Cleaning and some Travelling Expenses.

TRIUMPH



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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 • 1962

Vol. 16 *(New Series)* **No. 9**

Editorial

A Farewell Letter

From Major-General A. M. W. Whistler, C.B.E.

This month I hand over, after two years as S.O.-in-C., to General Eric Swainson. First, let me welcome him and say how pleased I am that the mantle has fallen on him; his forthright, rugged and honest character is just what Royal Signals need to guide them through the next few years.

It has been my fortune, or fate, to be at the head of your affairs during the exciting and exacting time of the change from a National Service to a Regular Army and during a complete re-organisation of the Reserve Army, with all the consequent planning and counter-planning unavoidable at such a time. That this vast and fundamental change has and still is taking place with success and comparative ease is due in no small measure to the National Servicemen themselves, to whom no tribute can be too great; and for the rest, credit is due to the fundamental good sense and hard work of the old regular and voluntary core of officers and N.C.Os., on whom the brunt of the work has and is continuing to fall.

My period in office may have been looked upon as one of reform or "all change." This, from the very nature of things, has been largely unavoidable, but my guiding principle has been a two-fold one — long term thinking and efficiency. No changes or plans have been accepted, nor must they be accepted, unless they both fit the future and raise efficiency; from these two precepts come stability, confidence and happiness. This goes for both men and equipment, but it must always be foremost in ones mind that it is the man that matters; the equipment is but a tool in his hand. Obviously, "temporary expedients" are occasionally necessary in both manpower and material and are, for instance, unavoidable where shortages exist and have to be overcome for operational reasons, but there they must stop.

We have not, as I hoped, caught up on our recruiting, but stern measures are in hand to put this right, and when it is so, then expedients should cease. That we have not yet met our manpower target is due largely to the fact that, in pursuit of my two-fold principle, we have refused to lower out standards; the young entry is excellent, and the future holds tremendous promise.

From the C.I.G.S. in person downwards, the value and importance of Royal Signals is fully recognised. We must live up to this recognition, particularly in our military efficiency if our plans for the future are to mature as well as we hope and expect. Communications are, after all, but a means to an end, and the good Signalman knows all about that end in order to apply his art. When he does not, his voice is not heard, and his task made doubly difficult.

It is with great reluctance that I leave Royal Signals at this time of great achievement, great expectations and great hope. What I have enjoyed most as S.O.-in-C. has been the chance to get round the world meeting you all—or nearly all—and talking with you, hearing your hopes and ideas, and even your doubts and fears, discussing the future, and seeing you at both work and play. To those whom I did not see, I apologise; my time has now been cut too short to make amends. Without a doubt, what I have seen augurs well for the future.

But I do not leave the Army or communicating, for my new job is in the Ministry of Defence as Chairman of the British Joint Communications-Electronics Board and Director of the Joint C.-E. Staff where I hope to be of help, even if indirectly.

Thank you all, particularly my own staff in the War Office, for your support and inspiration. In the words of my family motto—"Forward!"

Major-General W. A. Dimoline,
C.B., C.M.G., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C.

We are indebted to "Peterborough" in the "Daily Telegraph" of 3rd August for the following:

FAREWELL TO THE RIFLES

Major-General Dimoline, Colonel-Commandant of the King's African Rifles, leaves next week for a farewell tour, taking him to Uganda, Kenya, Rhodesia and Nyasaland.

With the arrival of independence, the names of battalions are being changed. What used to be the 6th, for instance, is now the Tanganyika Rifles.

General Dimoline has held his post since 1954, and has made several tours. The approaching trip will be melancholy, but lightened by one thought.

This is of the African cadets now being trained at Aldershot. Last week he attended the passing-out parade of the first 16, whom he expects to meet in Kenya as officers. Another 15 should pass out shortly."

What is not mentioned is that General Dimoline was, in his other capacity, a most distinguished officer in Royal Signals.

The Empire Field of Remembrance, 1962

The Empire Field of Remembrance, 1962, will be held at Westminster from 8th to 12th November (both dates inclusive). It will be opened at 12 noon on Thursday, 8th November, with a short service, conducted by Canon Stancliffe, assisted by the Dean, at which members of the Association are invited to be present, and will remain open daily from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., although access thereto is, of course, possible at any time.

The Royal Signals Plot is No. 203, as in previous years. Mr. A. E. Stead and members of the London Branches will be the official representatives of the Association at the opening. If any other members of the Association are in London on 8th November, and wish to attend the opening, they should notify Headquarters, Royal Signals Association, 88, Eccleston Square, S.W.1.

It is hope that a good number will be able to attend this year.

The following are available from the British Legion Poppy Factory, for the Memorial Plot and, if ordered, will be placed on behalf of units and branches who cannot send representatives, by the official representatives of the Association.

Badge Crosses	@	21/-		
Field Crosses	@	15/-	Remembrance Crosses	@ 6d.
Poppy Crosses	@	10/-		
Wreath Crosses	@	5/-		

Correspondence and orders relating to the Field should be addressed DIRECT to the Secretary, British Legion Poppy Factory, Petersham Road, Richmond, Surrey (with a copy to Association Headquarters), and cheques should be made payable to:

The British Legion Poppy Factory Ltd., and should be crossed.

Recommended Reading

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T.A. Training in Malta, G.C.	349
Athletics in B.A.O.R.	339-341
The cost of living, Hongkong	328
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War Office Notes on Policy Matters

Recruiting is now improving steadily, although we are not yet getting the numbers we want. In particular, COMCEN Operators are not coming forward. A television advertisement film is being prepared to try to attract these types.

Dress. A new Corps Memorandum, No. 7, more comprehensive than the present one, is in draft and will be issued as soon as all concerned have approved it. It is hoped to lay down patterns for non-issue items, e.g., blazers and officers' shirts. We know that everyone has been waiting years for this, but the 34 pages of draft, reflecting no fewer than 70 items from meetings of the Corps Committee have required careful research and cross-checking.

Entering R.M.A., Sandhurst

It would be appreciated if any serving or retired members of the Corps, of the Regular or Reserve Army, who have sons about to enter R.M.A., Sandhurst, would notify this fact to the Senior Royal Signals Officer on the Staff there, at present, Major W. G. Neilson.

There are many little ways in which boys can be helped, and it is only right that we should "look after our own." It is not always possible, however, for the Staff on the spot to know who may be in this category unless this notification is given.

Ajax
The Catterick Club

On Sunday, 12th August, 1962, Major-General R. B. F. K. Goldsmith, C.B., C.B.E., G.O.C. Yorkshire District, in front of a large number of Members of the Catterick Garrison Officers' Club, made a presentation to Colonel and Mrs. Ajax Broomfield, in recognition of their fifteen years service to the Club.

The presentation took the form of a large cheque, specially prepared, depicting around its edges in colour the favourite pastimes of Ajax with Ruth looking on. The cheque was made out for three hundred and eighty-seven and one half brace of pounds, and the General said when making the presentation that a few runners were still being picked up, and he hoped to be able to sign a supplementary cheque, which would bring the total up to £800 before the end of the month.

Museum Pieces

The following bound copies of THE WIRE are available from the Headquarters, Royal Signals Association.

1927, one; 1928, five; 1929, one; 1932, four; 1933, four; 1934, one; 1935, seven; 1936, four; 1938, four; 1939, two; 1940, fifteen; 1947, one; 1948, one; 1949, one; 1953, one; 1954, one; 1955, one.

If you want one or more of these, please send your request, with postage of 2s. 6d. per copy. There will be no other charge, and applications will be taken in strict rotation.

VACANCIES IN GOVERNMENT SERVICE

A number of vacancies, offering good career prospects, exist for:—

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Teleprinter Operators } Male and Female

Write, giving details of education, qualifications and experience, to:—

Personnel Officer, G.C.H.Q. (CO/6),
Foreign Office,
53, Clarence Street, Cheltenham, Glos.

PERSONAL COLUMN

The London Gazette

From 15th July, 1962, to 15th August, 1962

Major R. J. F. Whistler, B.SC., retired 25th June, 1962.
Captain F. R. Redding relinquished S.S.C., 6th July, 1962.
Second-Lieutenant L. A. Rowntree to be a Lieutenant (S.S.C.), 5th July, 1962.
Captain G. A. S. Excell, B.A., to be Major, 11th July, 1962.
Captain A. A. Griss relinquished S.S.C., 8th July, 1962.
The undermentioned Captains to be Majors, 14th July, 1962:
K. Kirby
J. P. Durrant
W. J. A. Norris, B.SC.
D. C. Woodbridge
R. D. Whitehead
F. C. Lockwood
M. J. Watts
J. R. Garratt
Second-Lieutenant D. W. Hill to be Lieutenant, 29th May, 1962 (A.E.R.).
J. MacLeod, from R.A.F.V.R., to be Captain (T.A.), 16th May, 1962.
Second-Lieutenant G. J. H. Grist to be Lieutenant, 19th June, 1962.
Lieutenant (T.O.T.) J. A. Green to be Captain (T.O.T.), 15th July, 1962.
Captain D. Peden, T.D., to be Major (T.A.), 16th July, 1962.
Lieutenant R. F. Day, from T.A.R.O., to be Lieutenant (T.A.), 12th April, 1952.
C. G. Simmons to be Captain (T.A.), 1st June, 1962.
Lieutenant-Colonel G. J. C. Sumner retired 21st July, 1962.
Second-Lieutenant W. D. Lawrence to be Lieutenant (S.S.C.), 19th July, 1962.
Major D. W. Cottrell, T.D., to be Lieutenant-Colonel (T.A.), 1st April, 1952.
Captain A. V. Swindale to be Major, 22nd July, 1962.
Major (Tfc. Offr.) J. McD. Glass, M.B.E., retired 24th July, 1962.
W.O.I A. N. G. Gent to be Lieutenant (T.O.T.), 11th June, 1962.
Lieutenant C. M. G. France to be Captain (T.A.), 24th July, 1962.
Second-Lieutenant J. P. Goldney, from N.S., to be Lieutenant, 26th July, 1962.
Captain P. J. Egan to be Major (T.A.), 1st April, 1962.
Lieutenant A. H. Hawksworth, from T.A.R.O., R.A., to be Lieutenant, 1st June, 1962.
Second-Lieutenant C. Reynolds-Jones to be Lieutenant (T.A.), 29th July, 1952.
Captain F. Enright to T.A.R.O., 1st July, 1962.
The undermentioned Lieutenants to be Captains, 27th July, 1962:
J. Mills
M. F. H. Colman
G. V. Page
R. I. F. Amos
C. H. Glydon
Lieutenant W. J. Folkes to be Captain (A.E.R.), 27th May, 1962.
Captain H. C. Lawson relinquished his commission (T.A.), 24th April, 1962.
Lieutenant K. D. Brown, from N.S., to be Lieutenant (T.A.), 6th June, 1952.
Lieutenant R. Mistlin to be Captain (T.A.), 1st June, 1962.
Lieutenant J. A. Capewell to be Captain (T.A.), 7th June, 1962.
Captain (T.O.T.) P. M. Pearson, T.D., to be Major (T.O.T.) (T.A.), 24th April, 1962.
Second-Lieutenant N. C. Muir to be a Lieutenant (S.S.C.), 4th August, 1962.
Major C. E. Meager, from T.A.R.O., to be Major (T.A.), 21st May, 1962.
Lieutenant (T.O.T.) Brodley to be Captain (T.O.T.), 7th August, 1962.
Major D. A. E. Chopping, T.D., from R.O., to be Major (A.E.R.), 28th May, 1952.
Captain P. G. Bennett, T.D., to be Major (T.A.), 4th July, 1962.
Lieutenants to be Captains (T.A.):
D. E. M. Bennett, 8th May, 1962.
K. W. Dodd, 9th July, 1962.
H. H. W. Crust, 9th July, 1962.
Second-Lieutenant P. R. Harrison to be Lieutenant (T.A.), 8th February, 1962.

Movements—Officers

(15th August—15th September, 1962)

Lieutenant J. M. Drake	... ...	To Jun. Tradesmen's Regt. (Troon).
Captain B. B. Gallagher	... ...	,, 8th Regiment
Major R. H. Gilbertson	... ...	,, School of Signals
Lieutenant-Colonel P. E. S. Mansergh, O.B.E.	... ...	,, 11th Regiment (Held Strength)
Lieutenant (T.O.T.) A. K. Mercer	...	,, 24th Regiment
Major G. H. Peirson	... ...	,, 11th Regiment (Held Strength)
Captain (Tfc.) N. E. Robinson	...	,, 30th Regiment
Major J. T. R. Sylvester-Bradley	...	,, 11th Regiment (Held Strength)
Captain A. C. Birtwhistle	... ...	,, 2nd Regiment
Captain P. A. Davison	... ...	,, 2nd Regiment
Captain E. Wells	... ...	,, 2nd Regiment
Lieutenant G. R. Funnell	... ...	,, 1st Regiment
Captain J. C. Campbell	... ...	,, 4th Regiment
Captain G. A. Cox	... ...	,, 4th Regiment
Major J. R. Cubberley	... ...	,, 4th Regiment
Major D. H. Thursby-Pelham	...	,, 7th Regiment
Captain (T.O.T.) P. Thomson	...	,, 7th Regiment
Captain T. H. Wheawell	... ...	,, 7th Regiment
Major S. G. Hodgson	... ...	,, 16th Regiment
Second-Lieut. R. C. F. Homewood	...	,, 21st Regiment
Major J. E. Carroll, O.B.E.	...	,, 22nd Regiment
Lieutenant (Q.M.) W. G. Finch	...	,, 22nd Regiment
Major E. J. Buirski	... ...	,, C.A.F.S.O. (2 T.A.F.)
Captain A. C. Dexter	... ...	,, 28th Regiment
Captain N. C. Moody	... ...	,, 227 Squadron (ALFCE)
Captain G. N. Jenkins	... ...	,, H.Q., ALFCE
Major J. L. Botterill	... ...	,, 224 GL Sec., Bahrein
Captain P. S. Reader	... ...	,, 1st Regiment (Barrefield, Ontario).
Lieutenant (Tfc.) A. W. Batram	...	,, H.Q., M.E.L.F., Signals Branch
Captain R. T. Martin	... ...	,, 255 Squadron (Bahrein)
Major P. A. M. MacGillivray	...	,, 254 Squadron (Aden)
Captain (T.O.T.) P. E. C. Davies	...	,, 17th (Gurkha) Regiment
Major (Q.M.) W. F. G. Hoskings	...	,, 17th (Gurkha) Regiment
Captain T. C. Livingstone	...	,, 17th (Gurkha) Regiment
Captain (Q.M.) W. A. Rowbory	...	,, 17th (Gurkha) Regiment
Captain J. A. Tonnison	... ...	,, 18th Regiment
Captain J. M. Hewson	... ...	,, 19th Regiment
Lieutenant-Colonel W. R. G. Hencher, M.B.E.	... ...	,, 19th Regiment
Second-Lieut. R. J. G. M. Rumford		,, 19th Regiment

The undermentioned on First Commissioning are posted to School of Signals

Second-Lieutenants

A. R. Bailey	P. L. Bye
S. R. Carr Smith	D. W. Cook
I. S. Durrell	A. M. Elliott
A. B. Grant	G. W. Howard
R. A. Knox-Johnson	J. H. Lowe
B. Robinson	W. Roper
G. C. Saunders	R. W. Stark
J. F. Storr	K. G. Turner
J. J. Ventham	D. B. S. Yates

Movements—Warrant Officers and Sergeants

W.O.I H. Bell	... ...	... To 24th Regiment
W.O.I K. B. Bailey	... ...	,, 64th Regiment (T.A.)
W.O.II R. Porter	... ...	,, 52nd Regiment (T.A.)
W.O.II H. A. Hemming	... ...	,, 24th Regiment
W.O.II R. R. Bulloch	... ...	,, 8th Regiment
W.O.II J. E. Orme	... ...	,, 11th Regiment
W.O.II D. L. Morgan	... ...	,, 41st Regiment (T.A.)
W.O.II W. R. D. Clark	... ...	,, 3rd Regiment
W.O.II F. A. Gibbs	... ...	,, 2nd Regiment
W.O.II W. F. Hammond	... ...	,, St. Andrew's University O.T.C.
W.O.II R. B. Mills	... ...	,, 11th Regiment
W.O.II S. Richings	... ...	,, 4th Regiment
W.O.II A. E. Lee	... ...	,, 16th Regiment
W.O.II P. Harrison	... ...	,, School of Signals
W.O.II (R.Q.M.S.) C. W. Johnston	...	,, 1st Regiment
W.O.II R. Thornborough	... ...	,, A.A.S., Harrogate
W.O.II R. Thompson	... ...	,, 239 Squadron
W.O.II P. J. Walls	... ...	,, 209 Squadron
W.O.II J. Donaldson	... ...	,, 45th Regiment (T.A.)
Staff Sergeant K. Mason	... ...	,, 4th Regiment
Staff Sergeant J. J. Green	... ...	,, 213 Squadron
Staff Sergeant A. A. Leach	... ...	,, 228 Squadron
Staff Sergeant G. E. Curtis	... ...	,, 228 Squadron
Staff Sergeant R. Statther	... ...	,, 248 Squadron
Staff Sergeant N. Walker	... ...	,, 2 Royal Tanks Signal Troop
Staff Sergeant G. R. Harrison	... ...	,, 14th Regiment (2 Squadron)
Staff Sergeant D. H. A. Alborough	...	,, 237 Squadron
Staff Sergeant G. E. Tompkins	... ...	,, 3rd Regiment
Staff Sergeant J. Berry	... ...	,, C.A.F.S.O., N.E.A.F.
Staff Sergeant J. J. Brough	... ...	,, School of Signals
Staff Sergeant G. R. Morris	... ...	,, C.V.D., Marchington
Staff Sergeant J. D. Anderson	...	,, 302 Squadron (T.A.)
Staff Sergeant J. Hehir	... ...	,, 24th Regiment
Staff Sergeant R. G. W. Hayes	...	,, 4th Regiment
Staff Sergeant W. J. B. Gunn	...	,, 7th Regiment
Staff Sergeant P. G. Ahern	...	,, School of Signals
Staff Sergeant J. G. Sharman	...	,, 8th Regiment
Staff Sergeant J. C. Mead	...	,, 249 Squadron
Staff Sergeant W. Carnley	... ...	,, 18th Regiment
Staff Sergeant J. S. Allison	... ...	,, 30th Regiment
Staff Sergeant T. Quinn	... ...	,, 14th Regiment (1 Squadron)
Staff Sergeant W. Murphy	... ...	,, 227 Squadron
Staff Sergeant L. V. W. Ings	... ...	,, 13th Regiment
Staff Sergeant R. Hornsby	... ...	,, 2nd Regiment
Sergeant L. N. Whitmore	... ...	,, 13th Regiment
Sergeant A. Rae	... ...	,, 237 Squadron
Sergeant T. Collins	... ...	,, 15th Regiment
Sergeant G. James	... ...	,, 9th Regiment
Sergeant L. Perrier	... ...	,, C.R. Signals, Singapore
Sergeant B. A. C. Hardy	... ...	,, 24th Regiment
Sergeant V. B. Selby	... ...	,, School of Signals
Sergeant W. C. Stagg	... ...	,, A.A.S., Harrogate
Sergeant D. Potter	... ...	,, 4th Regiment
Sergeant M. Truran	... ...	,, 4th Regiment
Sergeant W. Lee	... ...	,, 38 Corps Engineer Regiment Signal Troop
Sergeant G. J. McKie	... ...	,, 219 Squadron
Sergeant R. C. Kelly	... ...	,, 14th Regiment (1 Squadron)
Sergeant W. H. Elliott	... ...	,, 45th Regiment (T.A.)
Sergeant L. P. Rann	... ...	,, 213 Squadron
Sergeant M. A. Thurgood	... ...	,, 28th Regiment
Sergeant C. W. Kitchen	... ...	,, 8th Regiment
Sergeant B. J. Buzzard	... ...	,, 19th Regiment
Sergeant W. J. B. Gunn	... ...	,, 7th Regiment
Sergeant J. A. Sharman	... ...	,, 8th Regiment
Sergeant B. H. Lee	... ...	,, 638 Troop
Sergeant F. W. Dickinson	... ...	,, 233 Squadron
Sergeant J. Baxter	... ...	,, 21st Regiment
Sergeant J. Lakey	... ...	,, 224 Squadron
Sergeant J. M. Higgins	... ...	,, 227 Squadron
Sergeant J. Q. Hazard	... ...	,, 8th Regiment
Sergeant B. R. Hunt	... ...	,, A.A.S., Harrogate
Sergeant M. Metcalfe	... ...	,, 11th Regiment
Sergeant R. Fell	... ...	,, 24th Regiment
Sergeant T. N. Richardson	... ...	,, 209 Squadron
Sergeant W. Y. N. Grierson	... ...	,, 24th Regiment
Sergeant D. L. Brown	... ...	,, 42nd Regiment (T.A.)

Sergeant B. Cook	... ...	,, H.Q. A.E.R., Royal Signals
Sergeant E. Brant	... ...	,, 209 Squadron
Sergeant J. W. Swann	... ...	,, 213 Squadron
Sergeant R. G. Osborne	... ...	,, 234 Squadron
Sergeant A. J. Playford	... ...	,, 229 Squadron
Sergeant F. J. Knowles	... ...	,, 208 Squadron

Births

16th Regiment

LEARY, Corporal A.—A son, Peter Gareth, on 17th July, 1962.
McREYNOLDS, Lance-Corporal S. H.—A son, Michael Robert, on 20th July, 1962.
TURNBULL, Signalman G. W.—A son, Michael, on 18th July, 1962.
IRONMONGER, Signalman L.—A son, Brett Lynton, on 29th July, 1962.

19th Regiment

BARRETT, Captain, M. C.—A daughter, Tracey Ann, on 26th February, 1962.
DAVIS, W.O.II (F. of S.) R.—A son, Graham Leslie, on 24th May, 1962.
ROBERTS, Captain J. R.—A son, Mark Ogwen, on 28th May, 1962.
FORD, Lance-Corporal D. H.—A daughter, Marion Joy, on 22nd July, 1962.
THOMAS, Captain E. G.—A daughter, Joanne Davida, on 21st June, 1962.
CLARK.—To Corporal and Mrs. Clark, a son, on 11th August, 1962, at B.M.H. Iserlohn.

Deaths

MUTTER.—On 7th August, 1962, at his home, 16, Buckingham Avenue, Welling, Kent, W. A. Mutter (ex FO/S), M.B.E. Royal Signals 1920-1938. Widow and one daughter. Association member since 1946.

MELLOR.—On 13th July, 1962, suddenly at his home, G. E. Mellor, Royal Signals 1944-1946, Lieutenant. Life member of the Association.

LEEMING.—John Hays Leeming, Captain, Royal Signals, on 18th June. Beloved husband of Peggy and Daddy of Susan and Michael, of 104, Shelford Road, Cambridge.

PERRY.—On 7th August, 1962, G. C. Perry. Served in Royal Signals 1934-1945. Annual Member of the Association since 1945.

Mrs. G. Stickler wishes to thank everyone who sent flowers and letters at the time of the sudden death at the Junior Leaders Regiment of her second son, John Ball.

Wanted

All the oldies serving in B.A.O.R. of Group 49 B (Operators or Technicians) please try to contact Staff Sergeant D. C. Paterson of 1st Regiment, British Forces Post Office 32. It is proposed to hold a re-union early in the Autumn if enough support is forthcoming. The chance of meeting Bill Hough, Brian Cleaver, Colin Forth, Bob Magnum, Jim Purdy, Gordon Blackman, just to mention a few, should not be missed. All letters will be answered.

* * *

Will any Unit with stocks of unsold stable belts of the old obsolete pattern please contact PRI, 1 Signal Squadron (Command), The King's African Rifles, B.F.P.O. 10, who is interested in buying up stock.

For Sale

PREFECT, 1955. One owner, now giving up driving. Black, good tyres, battery, plugs. Excellent condition. M.O.T. certificate. £230 or near offer.—Seen any day by appointment, 88, Ecclestone Square, London, S.W.1. VIC 5480.

ASSOCIATION OF DESPATCH RIDERS

Mr. F. Adam Collins, 68, Greenacres, Lansdown Lane, Weston, Bath, is anxious to get in touch with any who wishes to join with him in the starting of an Association of the Armed Services who were Despatch Riders during their service.

MOVEMENT OF HEADQUARTER OFFICES

The Headquarters offices of the Association of the Royal Signals Institution and Regimental Headquarters Royal Signals from 88 Eccleston Square to Duke of York's headquarters, Chelsea S.W.3, is likely to take place in early December.

Exact dates will be published in the Wire when they are known.

Chief Yeoman Warder A. Griffin (Late Royal Signals) is greeted by Her Majesty at Tower Pier on 18th July

Forthcoming Events

Royal Signals Institution Lectures, 1962

*Friday, 28th September, "New Zealand," Brigadier J. E. Anderson, 6.15 p.m., at the T.A. Centre, 47th Regiment, T.A., Duke of York's Headquarters, Chelsea, S.W.3.

Tuesday, 27th November, "Training of American Cadets at West Point," Second-Lieutenant Paul L. Miles, Jnr., U.S. Army, 5.15 p.m., at North Hall, Training Brigade, Royal Signals, Catterick Camp, Yorks.

* Members are allowed two guests for this lecture.

81st Meeting of the Corps Committee

will be held at the War Office on 28th September, 1962.

The Wyvern Club

The Annual Dinner for members will be held in the Naval and Military Club, London, on 3rd October, at 7.30 p.m. for 8 p.m. Tickets and information from the Secretary, The Wyvern Dinner Club, Headquarters 43 (WX) Div./District, Sherford Camp, Taunton, Somerset.

Representative Colonel Commandant

tours B.A.O.R., 21st to 31st October, 1962.

39th Council Meeting of The Royal Signals Institution

will be held on 24th October, 1962.

38th Meeting of the Central Committee, Royal Signals Association

will be held on 14th November, 1962.

82nd Meeting of the Corps Committee

will be held at the War Office on 30th November, 1962.

10th Annual General Meeting of the Royal Signals Institution

will be held at the War Office on 30th November, 1962.

Royal Signals Officers' Reunion

will be held at the Duke of York's Headquarters on 30th November, 1962.

Annual T.A./A.E.R. Royal Signals Officers' "At Home," 1962

will be held at Hyde Park Hotel on 1st December, 1962.

BAND ENGAGEMENTS

Sept. 30th-Oct. 7th	... ... Eastbourne
Nov. 18th	... ... Middlesborough

Promotions

JULY, 1962.

Regimental Duty Roster

				New Sen. No.	Old Sen. No.
To S Sgt.	14193728		Burman, D. W.	6720	130 (Fd.)
	22538396		Andrews, L. M.	6880	3830 (Op.)
	22774871		McIntosh, W.	6890	3820 (Op.)
	22537553		Leverton, R.	6900	390 (Fd.)
	22309459		Healey, J. R.	6910	400 (Fd.)
	22249576		Fugill, A. B.	6920	3730 (Op.)
	22053455		Rodger, W. A.	6930	3810 (Op.)
	22515596		Elliott, N. C.	6940	3460 (Op.)

Field Roster

To Sgt.	22276049		Magowan, T.	3380	210
	22537448		Medway, E. L.	3390	3680
	22107443		Phin, J. T.	3400	1160
	22537307		Hassett, T. H.	3410	1710
	22525331		Harding, C. G.	3420	2770
	2342906		Rapson, E.	3430	2770

Operating Roster

To Sgt.	22537989	A/Sgt.	Cotillard, A. S.	9574	1800
	22515799	A/Sgt.	Evans, A. G.	9576	3280
	22562535	A/Sgt.	Omahoney, H. J.	9930	14040
	22296978	A/Sgt.	McIver, J. R.	9940	2420
	22196818	Cpl.	Potter, E. R. S.	9950	2720
	23466436	A/Sgt.	Walters, L.	9960	11460
	22569904	Cpl.	McBeath, A.	9970	11890
	22056085	A/Sgt.	Campbell, C.	9980	6750
	23250899	Cpl.	Neal, T. B.	9990	12580
	23229398	A/Sgt.	Clegg, D.	10000	13210
	22594363	Cpl.	Howson, A. S.	10010	13290
	22549234	A/Sgt.	Murdoch, J.	10020	13970
	23186476	Cpl.	Arnold, H. G.	10030	14030
	23398373	Cpl.	Meredith, C.	10040	14420
	23220418	A/Sgt.	Symonds, B. J.	10050	14470
	23677847	Cpl.	Waugh, A. P.	10060	14544
	22798654	A/Sgt.	Syme, A. R. G	10070	13996

Signal Centre Supervisor Roster

To W.O.I	22265249	W.O.I	Taylor, A.	370	490

Chief Clerks Roster

To S Sgt.	22561602	Sgt.	Strutt, R. A.	855	600

Administrative Roster

ADDITION TO SGTS.

*	14441343	Southgate, T. H.	820	
†	2594228	White, H. E.	14	

* Last month's promotion to S Sgt. now cancelled.
† Transferred from S Sgt. R.D. on continuance (Regtl. Ext. career).

DELETIONS

Regimental Duty Roster

W.O.I	800	880	
W.O.II	812	1360	1840
S Sgt.	2870		

Operating Roster

Sgt.	7280	7720

Chief Clerks Roster

W.O.I	120
W.O.II	260
S Sgt.	860

Administrative Roster

Sgt.	600

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H.R.H. The Duke of Edinburgh having "laid" the foundation stone

THE ROYAL SCHOOL OF MILITARY ENGINEERING

Friday, 20th July, 1962, is a date which will long be remembered by all Sappers as one of historical significance. It occurred during the week of celebrations commemorating the 150th anniversary of the founding of the School of Military Engineering in Chatham, and was the occasion of the visit of H.R.H. The Duke of Edinburgh. He had come to lay the foundation stone of the School's new barracks at Chattenden. It was during luncheon in the Royal Engineers' H.Q. Mess before he crossed the Medway to perform this task, that he announced that Her Majesty the Queen wished to mark the 150th anniversary by conferring the title "Royal" upon the School. From that moment the School became the Royal School of Military Engineering and a new chapter was opened in its long and distinguished history.

Present at the luncheon was our corps representative, Lieutenant-Colonel T. Cunningham-Burley, who commands the Signal Wing of the School. As soon as lunch was over he passed the glad tidings to the Signal Officer-in-Chief who sent a signal of congratulations to the Commandant. This signal and the Commandant's reply show how our close ties and long association with the Royal Engineers enabled us to share with them the happiness of this historic event.

From General Whistler to Lieutenant-Colonel Cunningham Burley:—

Please convey following message to the Commandant. I have just heard the splendid news that the School has been granted the title and style of The Royal School of Military Engineering. Congratulations from all of us in Royal Signals. We are all delighted with this news. It is perhaps appropriate on this unique occasion for Lieutenant-Colonel Cunningham-Burley to present again his credentials to you as our representative with The Royal School of Military Engineering.

From Brigadier E. F. Parker for Major-General A. M. W. Whistler, Signals Officer-in-Chief:—

Thank you so much for your very kind message which Lieutenant-Colonel Cunningham-Burley conveyed to me on his appointment as your representative at The Royal School of Military Engineering. At this moment we are very proud of ourselves and very happy to have the congratulations of our friends the Royal Corps of Signals.

Major-General R. T. Nelson, U.S. Army, visits U.K.

On the 12th May General Nelson, C.S.O. of the U.S. Army, arrived at London Airport with Mrs. Nelson to spend the week-end with the S.O.-in-C. and Mrs. Whistler and make a three-day farewell visit to the U.K. They were met at London Airport by General Whistler, Captain Derek Poole (appointed A.D.C. for the visit) and Miss Whistler (also in W.R.A.C. uniform for the occasion), and Colonel and Mrs. John McKinney, from Catterick.

General Nelson and his wife, Chris, interrupted a long and strenuous tour of the U.S. Forces in Europe to honour us with this visit, so the first evening was spent quietly at the S.O.-in-C.'s house in Bagshot. The two Generals at last had time to renew that spontaneous and deep friendship which sprang up between them only last year in the U.S.A.

On Sunday morning the whole party drove to Matins in the R.M.A., Sandhurst, Chapel, and they were shown round both the Chapel and the R.M.A. after the service. They had drinks with the Commandant, Major-General Gordon Lennox, and his wife, who, like all who met them, were immediately impressed by the Nelsons and asked to see more of them, but time did not allow. They met and spoke with most of the Royal Signals Staff and Cadets at the Academy.

The highlights of the stay were visits to Windsor and to London, which included an audience with Her Royal Highness The Colonel-in-Chief and to the War Office. At St. George's Chapel, Windsor, General Nelson has probably been booked by the Dean. The Padre was showing him the banners of the Knights of St. George, in particular that of "Monty" with its lions with "claws rampant." The C.S.O. merely said "Some might say you scratch my back and I'll scratch yours." No doubt that saying will be remembered and quoted for many a year.

At the Royal audience, Her Royal Highness was graciously pleased to accept a presentation autographed book on General Greely, that famous American C.S.O.—or was it infamous? For, you will remember, he was accused of cannibalism on his Arctic expedition.

At the luncheon party at the United Services Club afterwards, General Nelson presented Royal Signals with a handsome case containing the books on the United States Signal Corps, and amongst others that on General Greely. This bookcase will find a place of honour in the Headquarters Mess in due course.

Royal Signals Staff and Cadets with the S.O. in C and Major General R. T. Nelson

General Whistler presented the Nelsons with reproduction portraits of Their Royal Highnesses The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh.

General Nelson's visit to the War Office was climaxed by a bet he made with the M.G.O., General Sir Cecil Sugden, that the latter, before his tour of office expired, would be able to cable General Nelson that he had reduced production time from four to two years! Let us pray that General Nelson wins his bet!

In spite of such a short visit General and Mrs. Nelson found time to entertain a large number of British and United States guests at the Columbia Club before they left, a gesture thoroughly appreciated by us all. They were seen off at London Airport by General Moberly, the Representative Colonel Commandant, and his wife.

They admitted to enjoying their visit as much as we enjoyed having them. If all Anglo-U.S. relations were as cordial there would be less worries in this world.

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School of Signals

CADRE W.O.'S AND SERGEANTS' JULY 1962

Front row (left to right) seated: W.O.II (C.S.M.I.) Sankey, F., W.O.II (R.Q.M.S. Tech.) Parfitt, G. E., W.O.I (F. of S.) Ireland, J. C., W.O.I (Sig. Cen. Spvr.) Lombard, W., W.O.II Golding, S. H. D., Captain L. P. Clayton, Royal Signals, Lieutenant-Colonel W. E. Jelf, Royal Signals, Brigadier A. F. McGill, O.B.E., W.O.I (R.S.M.) Stout, A. C. B., Lieutenant-Colonel F. E. Berry, T.D., Royal Signals, W.O. (F. of S.) Hooper, L. C., W.O.I Bain, W. A.,W.O.II (R.Q.M.S. Gen.) Baalham, C., W.O.II Hunt, A. A. E., W.O.II (F. of S.) Capon, D. W
2nd row (left to right): W.O.II (F. of S.) Hudson, G. L., W.O.II Higgs, W. E., W.O.II Marshall, D. W., W.O.II Tipton, N., Staff-Sergeant Mercer, G. W., Staff-Sergeant (F. of S.) King, C. A., Staff-Sergeant (F. of S.) Mainwaring, R. M., Staff-Sergeant Healey, J. R., Staff-Sergeant Yates, G. E., Staff-Sergeant Ryton, H. F., Staff-Sergeant Hopson, C. E., Staff-Sergeant Freeman, D., C/Sergeant (R.M.) Bell, J. C., Staff-Sergeant Smith, P., Staff-Sergeant Brown, T. B., W.O.II Gubler, G. I. D., W.O.II Singleton, D. W., W.O.II Weir, W.
3rd row (left to right): Sergeant Smith, C. M., Sergeant Palmer, D. G., Sergeant Johnson, G. H., Sergeant Travers, B. J. P., Sergeant Jarratt, J. R., Sergeant Wright, L. H., Sergeant Abery, R. F., Sergeant Woods, G., Sergeant Lindsay, O. E., Sergeant Duffey, K. F. Sergeant Goldsmith, P., Sergeant McInally, J., Sergeant Abbis, B., Sergeant Kybert, L. C., Sergeant Horne, J. W.
4th row (left to right): Mr. E. Andrews (Mess Steward), Sergeant (R.A.P.C.) Carr, J., Sergeant Beresford, D. C., Sergeant Downie, G. A., Sergeant Smith, B. J., Sergeant Gibney, S. C., Sergeant Buxton, H. A. L., Sergeant Short, J. E., Sergeant Atkinson, E. G., Sergeant R.E.M.E.), Baily, R. C., Sergeant Skill, G. M.

Since our last notes went to press the somewhat doleful climate has been brightened by a series of lively events which have together made our summer term a memorable and enjoyable time for all at the School.

We have enjoyed the company of a number of short courses, not least that of No. 17 W.R.A.C. Officers' Qualifying Course and No. 7 N.A.T.O. Signal Officers' Course. The former is the subject of our "Feature Course" and their literary effort appears later in this article.

Not all the work of the School is concerned with teaching, and examples of the diversity of our activity are the Satellite Symposium and Exercise "Dovetail." As these are of wide interest we include here "copy" produced by our "reporters" on the spot.

As the "backbone" of our organisation our W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess continues in good heart and great strength and is the home and focal point for our long-term students on Foreman, Yeoman and Radio Technician Heavy courses, in addition to an average 60 Cadre members. It is hoped to move the Mess into more spacious premises in the near future. On the occasion of the Annual Administrative Inspection an excellent photograph was taken of Cadre members, so we are pleased to feature the Mess, complete with many of their smiling faces in their own article.

One of our numerous visitors this term has been Brigade General Dr. H. Maultzsch, C.S.O. NORTHAG, and we were proud to show him our organisation and to record his visit by the accompanying photograph, taken whilst looking-in on the W.R.A.C. Officers' Course on Exercise "Centre Peace."

No. 17 W.R.A.C. Officers' "Q" Course. Seven subalterns arrived at Catterick on 18th June. From the outset all things mechanical connected with the Course seem to have gone wrong! A tape recorder was the first to take exception to our dulcet tones, teleprinters objected to our nimble fingers—or should it be their not so nimble fingers? The Course began to worry that they had a jinx over everything they touched.

The Course has included a variety of subjects including instruction from Traffic, Radio and Systems Groups, but most of the time we spent learning signal centre organisation and working.

To prove that what we had learned is applied practically we visited the Command Signal Centre at York. Here the mysteries of tape relay were cleared up and we had our first experience of handling "live" traffic.

Various exercises were arranged to help us appreciate the practical application of our newly acquired theoretical "knowledge." Among these was an exercise with Radio Group, when the Course set out in three one-ton radio vehicles. Unfortunately our jinx appeared again, one truck just escaped the ignominy of being towed home and contacting anybody was rarely simple.

Besides being busy at work the Course was well occupied socially. They felt really in the midst of things being in Catterick during the Royal Signals Old Comrades weekend. A great risk was taken by the School in asking some members of the Course to operate radio sets for the athletics meeting at the Regimental Weekend—for once nothing went wrong.

We were very pleased to be included in two Regimental guest nights.

The patience and understanding of all instructors is greatly appreciated and the Course hopes that they have not caused too many grey hairs to the staff. The staff will, no doubt, be glad of a recuperation period of some 40 weeks before the W.R.A.C. again invade the School.

We were delighted to learn that as W.R.A.C. Signal Officers we will be entitled to wear Royal Signals Collar Dogs, and hope that we will prove worthy of the honour.

Symposium On Satellite Communications. On the 28th June, 1962, a satellite communications symposium was held at the School of Signals, with the object of giving an insight into this very exciting field of communications. By the generosity of the Royal Aircraft Establishment and Messrs. Plessey, De Havilland and A.E.I. who kindly provided exhibits for display, the atmosphere in North Hall was highly futuristic.

We were a large audience which included many officers in the Corps from Home Commands and Germany. The Press and television were also present and on the evening television news a good coverage of the day was given.

The symposium was opened by the Signal Officer in Chief, Major-General A. M. W. Whistler, C.B.E., who stressed the need for the Corps to keep abreast of the times in its thinking. He reminded us of the tremendous efforts being put into space communications by both the United States of America and by Russia and said that we must take note of this and consider it in all our future planning. He went on to say that satellite communications were something which we would have to contend with in the not too distant future and were therefore of interest to our Corps now. "We must always look forward, not backward." He ended by saying that the cost of such systems seemed to point to a single government strategic system of communications.

The S.O-in-C. then introduced our four speakers pointing out how lucky we were in having lecturers all immediately concerned with satellite communications. First Major-General L. de M. Thuillier, C.B., O.B.E., F.R.G.S., A.M.I.E.E., Co-ordinator of Communications Electronic Policy, the Cabinet Office, who headed a British delegation in recent talks with the Americans.

He gave a broad survey of the whole field of satellite communications. He explained the basic cries and terms associated with satellites and their orbits and went on to talk about active

No. 17 W.R.A.C. OFFICERS Q COURSE
Left to right: Second Lieutenants A. Byrom, A. K. E. Toby, M. J. Birkett, Lieutenant E. E. Payne, Second Lieutenants A. E. Pickering, J. P. Tyler, M. H. Patterson

SPEAKERS AT THE SATELLITE SYMPOSIUM
Left to right: Commander Wells, R.B., Major-General Thuillier, Colonel McKinney, Mr. Jowett

and passive satellites, the frequency bands used for control, the positioning of satellites and the various orbiting systems which could be used. He concluded by summarising all projects which had taken place in the last few years bringing us up to the present day position and Telstar.

Next came Mr. J. K. S. Jowett, B.SC., M.I.E.E., from the Engineer-in-Chief's Office G.P.O., who is actively concerned with project Telstar.

He gave a very interesting lecture covering the potentialities of broadband communications systems using artificial earth satellites, the preferred design of a system and our collaboration with the United States National Aeronautics and Space Administration in tests across the North Atlantic. This led into a comprehensive description of the new ground station at Goonhilly Down, including a film made during the construction of the station.

The third speaker was Commander W. R. Wells, D.S.C., R.N., from the Admiralty Signal Division.

His talk dealt with the joint military interest in satellite communications and their cost and gave a general picture of how a satellite system could be put into effect. This talk was classified so unfortunately little reference can be made here.

Our final speaker was Colonel J. B. McKinney, U.S. Army Signal Corps, who is an integrated member of the Planning Wing, Royal Signals, and fills the appointment of G.S.O.I. (Plans). He gave a very interesting presentation on project Advent, a United States military satellite system presently under development to test the feasibility of synchronous communications satellites. The basic concept of Advent is similar to that proposed for a commercial system but the system itself is much more complex. The military satellite must be able rapidly to connect local military communication networks into a world-wide communication system and provide multi-channel communications between U.S. military commands anywhere on the globe. These military requirements add greatly to the amount of electronic equipment which must be used and thus increases the weight of the satellite. Although the Advent programme is a research and development project, it is expected to be the forerunner of an operational system to be introduced in the post 1965 period.

The Symposium was brought to a close with an interesting discussion in which many points were aired from the body of the hall.

Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess. In the words of the prophet, much water has passed under the bridge since our last notes.

Occasions hectic and placid have been endured and enjoyed in the balmy (or barmy) summer weather which only Catterick can experience.

The Mess strength has been swelled by the arrival of Nos. 15 and 16 Foremans and No. 2 Yeomans Courses, the latter looking more like an ex-boys reunion than their annual dinner. It is hoped that all the students "enjoy" their course.

Two new arrivals to the cadre ranks are W.O.II (F. of S.) D. W. Capon and W.O.II B. C. Cole — here's hoping that your next 3-4 or 6 years here will be enjoyable—who knows, you may even see the School move to Blandford.

The Old Comrades descended on us on 7th/8th July; it is quite pleasing to note that "civvy street" has not stiffened their elbows nor had their hollow legs filled in.

The weather was actually kinder to us this year and the display on the Sunday afternoon seems to improve each year, this one being slick in its presentation and interesting in its entirity.

Administrative Inspection — got through — usual flap — nuff said.

During this inspection, the Commandant, Brigadier A. F. McGill, O.B.E., presented Long Service and Good Conduct Medals to five members of the Mess, W.O.I (F. of S.) L. C. Hooper, W.O.I (F. of S.) J. Ireland, W.O.II D. Golding W.O.II D. W. Singleton, and Colour Sergeant J. C. Bell, Royal Marines.

For our further entertainment we had the Regimental Weekend on 28th July, with the Mess providing side shows.

For light relief the following weekend saw us all getting "hep" in our jeans and check shirts at a western style Bar B Q, under the watchful eye of Sherrif Ken Duffey. It has been rumoured that I.T.V. were relaying this over Telstar to show the Americans how we in the ole country spend our summer evenings!

After all these activities the School has its summer break when we can all sit down peacefully, and prepare for the exams next term.

In the meantime, your scribe is going to change his trade from author to artist, and draw this article to a close.

Exercise "Dovetail" 1962 was held in the North Hall, Catterick Camp, on 18th-20th July. Its aim was to study Army and Interservice communication problems in a limited war operation. About 60 representatives from the Arms Schools, Signals Directorate at the War Office, H.M.S. *Mercury*, 38th Group Royal Air Force and many other organisations and establishments attended, in addition to many Cadre Officers of the School.

The exercise comprised a series of presentations, each of which was followed by discussion. The presentations included an Amphibious Operation, a Parachute Brigade Operation, a 3rd

C.S.O. NORTHAG VISITS 17 W.R.A.C. Q COURSE ON EXERCISE CENTRE PEACE
Left to right: Major F. T. Harris, Second Lieutenant Pickering, Brigadier-General Maultzsch, Major H. R. Woodger, Second Lieutenant Birkett, Brigadier A. F. McGill, Captain B. I. Weston

Division/38 Group Royal Air Force presentation and the air landing of a strategic reserve Brigade.

A demonstration was given of lightweight signal equipment and modifications to standard equipment for air portability. Included in this demonstration was a Radio Station D11 fitted in Airteck containers and the new 100-foot lightweight mast. This was easily and quickly erected by a two-man team.

A guest night was held in the Headquarters Mess and this perhaps did nothing to ease the confusion of A.S.O.C.s, B.A.S.O.C.s, A.T.O.C.s, F.A.T.O.C.s, etc., on the last morning!

THE R.M.A., SANDHURST
Signal Communications Wing

We have arrived at the end of another term and hope to enjoy a well-earned leave.

Over the last six months, we have had a complete change of staff. Our Chief Instructor is Major W. G. Neilson, with a capable staff of W.O.II E. Summers, Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) P. Brown, Staff Sergeant (S.Q.M.S.) V. DeClancy, Staff Sergeant D. Wood, Staff Sergeant R. Simmonds, B.E.M., Sergeants L. Waumsley, J. Barton, B. Styles, C. Speight, B. Symonds, and Sergeant (S) D. Hague, Royal Marines. We are unfortunate in one sense that we are losing our Royal Signals drivers who are being replaced by drivers from various Armoured and Cavalry Regiments. Our replacements are of the highest order and are settling down in the Wing and doing a good job of work. We have two most excellent tradesmen soldiers from the R.E.M.E., Sergeant K. Johnson and Corporal G. Chitty, who replaced our Corps Technicians. Both have now settled down and are regularly found to wander from the Sandhurst Hall (The Wing Headquarters) muttering. "P.A. on the OLD Building Square, 09.00 hours," "P.A. on the NEW Building Square 09.15 hours—how can I do it?" One sympathises with new arrivals at this vast place; it really is a terrifying experience to be conducted on the first tour of the Academy!

The Academy had summer camp at Otterburn during July. After six weeks without rain, it rained the day the vehicle party left Camberley for Otterburn (a good omen for a summer camp). We were most grateful to 8th Regiment for putting us up, and for putting up with us for one night, after which we pushed on to Otterburn.

Our summer camp was a complete success as far as Signals were concerned, with perhaps some of the credit due to Officer Cadet operators at Control who appeared just a little "power-drunk" after reading para 44 on page 10 of Pamphlet No. 7. (More rockets were launched at offending users and operators than ever left the launching pads at Cape Canaveral).

In the world of sport, we field a team in every league within the Academy H.Q., which includes every possible team game. Everyone is encouraged to play and the results are sometimes startling to say the least, as one occasionally finds talent, hitherto unsuspected, at the end or last game of the season.

At the annual sports meeting we won the tug of war, the team each receiving a prize. The team suggested a vote of thanks to the coach, the Chief Instructor. The gesture left him speechless. (He lost his voice coaching and urging the team to greater efforts).

The June ball held by the Sergeants' Mess was, as always, a wonderful evening. We undertook to instal lighting and such effects which always produces a glow of appreciation from those present. (Subdued lighting and liquor always produces a glow anyway).

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JUNE BALL, SERGEANTS' MESS, THE R.M.A. SANDHURST
W.O.II (S.S.M.) and Mrs. E. Summers, Mrs. M. J. Molony, Mrs. Marshal, W.O.II (S.S.M.) M. J. Molony, Major and Mrs. W. G. Neilson

Well, there it is; whilst all others are on leave, yours truly, the scribe and the Chief Instructor report every other day to clear the "IN" tray. Administration continues whether the instruction has ceased or not. One cannot even attempt to visualise the mountain of correspondence that would be waiting if one had every day away.

To those who have passed this way before, we know you must have many happy memories of days spent in "The Academy"; to those who are yet to come, you will never find a better job in happier surroundings, and to those who pass us by, don't pass next time but call in and see us. You will be certain of a warm welcome.

More at the end of next term.

SUMMER CAMP

"The Summer Camp this year was held
In the land of sheep and heather
And the Signals Wing from R.M.A.
Went Northwards—all together.

Sergeant Barton urged and urged
His driver to go faster
By-passed the town and then went back
To motor through Doncaster.

Sergeant Waumsley had no luck
As his mournful features showed
At the start his aircraft lost the way
At the end—he lost the road.

So steep was the hill where Sergeant Styles
Lived in amongst the trees
He now has a permanent list to port
Of forty-five degrees.

Staff Sergeant Wood had had enough
Of mountains, rain and sheep
And so he tried to hide his truck
In a large manure heap.

Sergeant Speight as Callsign Nine
Fulfilled his job with zest
His efforts earned him the title of
The Regimental pest.

The Company operators humped their sets
Until their backs were creaking
If they made an error their reward
Was, "Pronto Minor Speaking."

And when at last we set off home
After two weeks on the moor
Our motto had been well upheld
"Certa Cito"—Swift and Sure."

Army Apprentice School, Harrogate

☆

The Senior Squadron being inspected by the Reviewing Officer

Graduation Day

Sixty-eight Apprentices graduated to Man's Service on 1st August, 1962. The parade was under the command of Apprentice Tradesman R.S.M. R. Harris.

The Reviewing Officer was Lieutenant-General Sir Charles L. Richardson, K.C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., Director General of Military Training. During his speech he stated that he had visited a number of Schools all over the country, but the quality of performance of Apprentice Tradesmen on parade was about the highest he had ever witnessed.

Among the Apprentices passing out were three Ghanaians—Apprentice Tradesman Sergeant Tontoh, Apprentice Tradesman Corporal Nyameke and Apprentice Tradesman Corporal Frimpong, who will be the last to attend this School due to the provision of training facilities in Ghana.

During the year there has been an intake of 341 boys and 130 are already booked for entry next term.

Amongst the official guests present were:
Major-General H. T. Alexander, Chief of Staff Northern Command, and Brigadier J. E. Anderson, B.G.S. War Office.

Army Commander's Prize.—For all-round excellence, A/T. R.S.M. R. Harris.
Commandant's Prize.—For Conduct, Discipline and Example, A/T. Sergeant I. Tontoh.
Signal Officer-in-Chief's Award.—Best all-round Tradesman of the term, A/T. Corporal R. L. Windmill.
Colonel Commandant's Award.—Best all-round Soldier/Tradesman of the term, A/T. Sergeant D. P. Poultney.
Major The Earl Wavell, M.C., Memorial Award.—For Outstanding Efforts in Adventure Training During the Past Year, A/T. C.S.M. J. D. Rayment.
Commandant's Silver Bugle.—Overall Best Bugler of the Year in the School Corps of Drums, A/T. Corporal M. J. Ellins.

List of Prize Winners continues on Page 316.

★

Receiving their prizes from Lieutenant General Sir Charles L. Richardson, K.C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O.:

(*Top left*): A/T C.S.M. Rayment receives the Major the Earl Wavell Memorial Prize

(*Top right*): A/T Corporal Windmill receives the S.O.-in-C.'s Award

(*Bottom left*): A/T Sergeant Poultney receives a Prize from the Reviewing Officer

(*Bottom right*): A/T Corporal Ellins winner of the Commandant's Silver Bugle

★

Prizes Awarded by The Royal Signals Corps Committee

To Apprentice Tradesmen who have made best use of their opportunities at the School:

Line Technician	A/T. J. T. Davies
Telegraph Technician ...	A/T. Corporal M. Frimpong
Radio Technician ...	A/T. Sergeant I. Tontoh
Radio Relay Technician	A/T. P. J. Luccombe
Telegraph Operator ...	A/T. C.S.M. J. D. Rayment

Trade Prizes

9TH TERM

Telegraph Operator ...	A/T. C.S.M. J. D. Rayment
Line Technician	A/T. Sergeant D. P. Poultney
Telegraph Technician ...	A/T. Corporal N. A. Pilbeam
Radio Technician ...	A/T. J. S. Cook
Radio Relay Technician	A/T. Corporal R. L. Windmill

Athletics.—Although the season has not been a great success in winning team events, there have however been some notable individual performances by A/Ts. of the School.

The following awards were obtained in the Army Championships at Aldershot on 7th-8th July:

Army Champions

A/T. Lance-Corporal Randall ...	Junior 120yd. Hurdles	17sec.
,, Baynes	Junior 880yd.	2min. 2.4sec.
,, Cairns	Youth High Jump	5ft. 2in.

Runners-up

A/T. Baynes	Junior 1 mile
,, Lance-Corporal Newman ...	Junior 120yd. Hurdles
,, Norrie	Junior High Jump
,, Harris	Youth 220yd.
,, McKeitch	Youth Weight

Third

A/T. Black	Junior 120yd. Hurdles
,, Morris	Junior Javelin
,, Sergeant Williams	Junior Hammers
,, Harris	Youth 100yd.

As a result of the above performances, A/Ts. Randall, Baynes and Newman were selected to represent the Army in the Inter Services Junior Championships which were held at St. Athans. Results were as follows:

A/T. Lance-Corporal Randall ...	3rd in the 120yd. Hurdles in 16.6sec. (personal best).
,, Lance-Corporal Newman ...	4th in the 120yd. Hurdles in 16.7sec. (personal best).
,, Baynes	2nd in 1 mile in 4min. 37.6sec.

The overall result was:

1st — Army 2nd — RAF 3rd — Royal Navy

Canoeing.—The School has had a most successful term so far as this sport is concerned.

In the Westminster to Devizes race our teams finished 2nd, 4th, 7th, 8th and 13th out of 170 teams competing.

A/T Shillinglaw gained an outstanding personal achievement when he managed to reach the National Youth Kyak final, which was held at the Serpentine on Saturday, 11th August, 1962.

Royal Signals Amateur Radio Society

Script of a broadcast by Captain J. E. P. PHILP, B.B.C., 27th July, 1962

On 28th June this year, the Royal Corps of Signals Amateur Radio Society undertook the largest ever amateur radio hook-up in the history of the Army. Every member throughout the world, and there are over 100 of them, together with amateurs of the Signal Corps of Canada, Australia, New Zealand, India and Pakistan, were invited to come on the air during the 24 hours from 7 a.m. on 28th June until 7 a.m., the 29th June. The Headquarters station of the Society at Catterick Camp was manned by myself and Staff Sergeant Bill Grahame and for 24 hours we made contacts worldwide.

Question: **Why was the 28th of June chosen for this hook-up?**

This is the Corps' birthday. The Royal Corps of Signals was officially formed on 28th June, 1920. Earlier this year, in honour of our Colonel-in-Chief, Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal, the 28th of June was named "Princess Royal Day." Throughout the world, wherever our Corps is serving, this day would be celebrated in many and varied ways. Furthermore, on this day, we would be reunited as a Corps in thought. It was this idea that led me to organise the hook-up.

Question: **Why then did you invite the Commonwealth to join in?**

In most Commonwealth countries there is a Corps of Signals. Each of these is closely connected by many ties with our own. I believed that this would give all the radio amateurs of our own country and those of the Commonwealth a great opportunity to speak to each other. By specifying a definite day, this made the chance of meeting on the air a certainty. I sent a signal via the normal military channels to every Command at home and overseas and to the senior Signal Officer of the Commonwealth countries. In this I merely gave the facts of the hook-up and invited them to send me the call signs of radio amateurs taking part. I received many replies, including some from the Commonwealth.

Question: **Was your hook-up successful?**

Yes, we made over 300 contacts throughout the world, but because of bad radio conditions we did not hear many stations from the Far East. We did not contact India.

Question: **Will you try this again next year?**

Most certainly and I hope that even more stations will join in.

Question: **Apart from your hook-up, is your Amateur Radio Society very active?**

Very active! We have a fine club building at Catterick and have some very good amateur radio equipment. We meet twice a week and apart from making contacts, there are many non-amateurs who build such things as radios, tape recorders, amplifiers and so on. We even had one chap who built his own colour television transmitter and receiver. During Old Comrades' Reunion Weekend our Club, which houses the Headquarters station of Royal Signals Amateur Radio Society, were again on the air all day Saturday and Sunday, the 7th and 8th of July. This time we used a very special call sign, GB3RCS. This was issued by the Radio Services Department of the G.P.O. We made over 250 contacts during those two days. Both operators were very glad when we finally closed down, as we had pretty husky voices by then!

Question: **Do you only use speech when you contact other amateurs?**

No, we use the Morse Code often, but as this was a special day I felt that a more personal note would be sounded if we spoke rather than used Morse. I might add we use Single Sideband a lot, as this offers greater range for a given power of transmitter.

Question: **How long has your Society been going?**

Only just over a year. We held our inaugural meeting in June, 1961. The Royal Navy and Royal Air Force both have fine Amateur Radio Societies and it was felt that it was high time the Royal Corps of Signals had one too. Major-General Cole was the one person who mooted the idea and who saw our Society finally launched. Although he is now retired, he is Vice-President of the Society and I, as General Secretary, have dealings with him. General Cole is a very famous radio amateur himself and holds the call G2EC. Until very recently he was President of the Radio Society of Great Britain, the radio amateurs' national organisation. We have received magnificent support from the Army and they have even given us transmitters to loan to Regular or Territorial Army Units who wish to start a club but have no equipment. We have our own funds and are a very active and happy Society. We offer the soldier a chance to become a radio amateur and then help him where possible with equipment to carry on his hobby. There is not, unfortunately, an Army Amateur Radio Society yet, but I am quite confident that there will be in the not too distant future. It is my hope that our Society will be able to offer it the experience that we have gained.

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Junior Leaders Regiment

Major M. D. Scott accompanies Her Majesty the Queen

Royal Guard of Honour and Summer Graduation

As expected the summer term was very busy and it was with satisfaction and a sense of achievement that Junior Leaders and staff went home for the usual long summer leave.

The streamlined new training programme worked well and was not unduly handicapped by two great events—Ten Tors (already reported in our last notes) and the provision of what is believed to be the first Royal Guard of Honour to be provided by a Junior Leaders' Regiment.

The close links between the Regiment and the towns of South Devon have been reported before when these towns, and in some cases Rural Councils, presented Pipe Banners. The town of Totnes through their previous Mayor (Councillor Evans), was the first to present a banner—this banner is now carried by the Mayor's Piper on any occasion that the Mayor may require his presence. Such an occasion arose recently (Friday, 27th July) when Her Majesty The Queen visited Totnes whilst on her Royal Tour of South Devon.

Totnes not only requested the presence of the "Mayor's Piper" but asked if the Regiment could provide the Royal Guard of Honour. The selection, training and grooming of the Guard was under the direction of the Second-in-Command Major Scott (seen in the photograph accompanying H.M. The Queen). Each Squadron, Slim and Alexander, provided sixty junior leaders each and from these the final selection was made. The standard and bearing was of a very high order and the crowd of several hundred applauded their marching both to and from the Steamer Quay where the inspection took place.

Graduation. General Whistler, probably visiting the Regiment for the last time as S.O.-in-C., took the parade, which was watched by over four hundred parents who had stayed in the Regiment overnight and were to see the prizegiving in the afternoon and the Denbury Theatre Show in the evening.

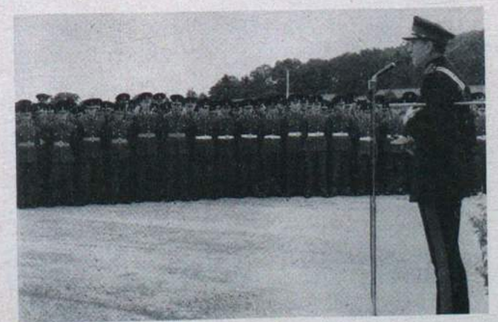
General Whistler, in addressing the Junior Leaders, stressed the tremendous opportunities that are available to those graduating to colour service, and in particular to the promotion prospects that are there to those Junior Leaders who are prepared to develop the skills and standards that started in Denbury. The General's words were very much appreciated and all ranks wish him every success in his new appointment and sincerely hope that he will visit the Regiment again.

Parades vary very little at Denbury though each graduation parade has that little "something" that is different from the rest—this time we had our Pipers in full dress for the first time. (The photograph shows the Pipe Major, Junior Corporal Bowie, carrying the Royal Banner, talking to the S.O.-in-C.). After some apprehension about the weather, we were thankful for a fine day and the Adjutant, with a sign of relief, put his Wet Weather Programme away for another term.

At the prizegiving in the afternoon, Mrs. Holifield presented the individual prizes immediately after the Colonel had given his report (Headmaster style) to the parents. Tea followed for all parents and staff in the gymnasium where the careers and progress of the boys were discussed in a more relaxed and informal manner.

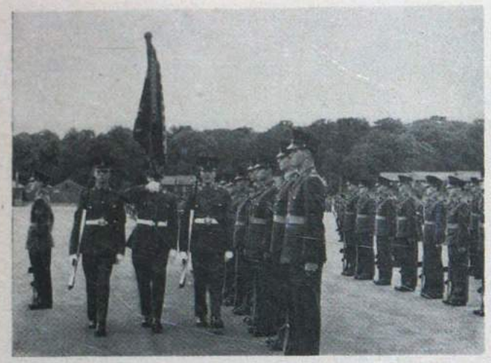
The evening's highlight, after the Beating of Retreat (under the direction of Drum Major Yates), was a full two and a half hour show in the theatre by Junior Leaders and staff. With every seat taken the parents, who formed the majority of the audience, were treated to a show of a high standard of both variety and performance—by far the best seen at Denbury. Production was by Mr. Whapham, one of our civilian teachers.

Summer term came to a close on a high note and as it fades away one wonders what Christmas term will bring—Firelight Fantasy?

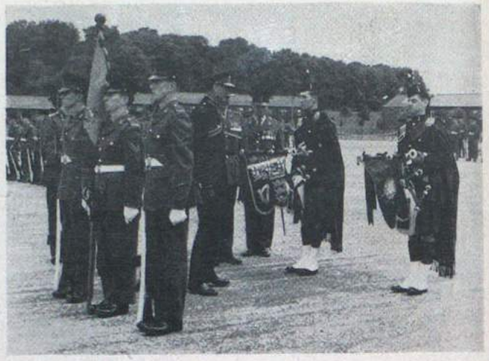


S.O.-in-C. addresses the Parade ("Monty" fashion)

Part of the Band with the new Drums



The Regimental Standard accompanied the S.O.-in-C.



The Pipers in Full Dress

Graduation List — August, 1962

Name	Training Regiment	Pre-selected Trade	Troop
D. R. Menhennet	8th	Technician	Romulus
R. B. Moore	24th	Radio Op	,,
B. Wray	24th	Electrician Driver	,,
G. Hedges	8th	Radio Relay Man	,,
P. J. Cowley	24th	TG Op	,,
D. F. R. Laing	24th	TG Op	,,
H. Seabrook	24th	TG Op	,,
M. J. Britten	24th	Comcen Op	,,
E. J. R. Owens	24th	Comcen Op	,,
D. J. Hunt	24th	Comcen Op	,,
J. S. Beaumont	8th	Technician	Kukri
J. Cooper	8th	Technician	,,
L. Proctor	8th	Technician	,,
D. V. Langstaff	8th	Lineman	,,
O. M. Prevost	8th	Lineman	,,
B. Sharpe	8th	Lineman	,,
J. Gainer	24th	TG Op	,,
D. M. Rand	24th	Comcen Op	,,
G. E. Moore	24th	Comcen Op	,,
R. Rumley	8th	Technician	Quadrant
M. L. McPherson	24th	Radio Op	,,
B. McKenna	24th	Radio Op	,,
M. L. Stone	24th	Radio Op	,,
R. W. Hyde	24th	Comcen Op	,,
M. J. Swinburne	24th	Comcen Op	,,
J. E. Davies	24th	Comcen Op	,,
D. Read	24th	Comcen Op	,,
B. E. Slavin	24th	Comcen Op	,,
D. Forbes	224 Sqn	Special Op	,,
B. E. Pridmore	24th	Comcen Op	,,
K. V. Austin	8th	Technician	Kohima
R. Jaggard	8th	Technician	,,
R. Porter	8th	Lineman	,,
S. G. H. Mann	24th	Electrician Driver	,,
J. Powell	24th	Electrician Driver	,,
R. J. Watts	24th	Electrician Driver	,,
C. T. Cartland	24th	TG Op	,,
C. R. F. Smith	224 Sqn	Special Op	,,
M. E. Turner	8th	Lineman	Javelin
R. B. Dunn	24th	Electrician Driver	,,
C. Cunliffe	24th	TG Op	,,
A. Edwards	24th	TG Op	,,
A. D. Innes	24th	TG Op	,,
H. Maddison	24th	TG Op	,,
A. T. Simpson	24th	TG Op	,,
D. S. Smith	24th	TG Op	,,
F. S. Brookes	224 Sqn	Special Op	,,
E. J. Grove	8th	Lineman	Francisca
G. T. Lawton	24th	TG Op	,,
J. H. Wooler	224 Sqn	Special Op	,,
T. McKenzie	8th	Lineman	White Swan
R. Monk	224 Sqn	Special Op	,,
R. O. N. Woolley	224 Sqn	Special Op	,,
J. Polland	224 Sqn	Special Op	,,
C. M. Lawrence	24th	Radio Op	Iron
A. E. Nash	24th	Radio Op	,,
D. Forster	24th	TG Op	,,
R. G. Young	24th	TG Op	,,
D. M. C. Curliss	24th	Comcen Op	,,
J. Fawcus	24th	Comcen Op	,,
D. Hudson	24th	Comcen Op	,,
P. M. Newlands	24th	Comcen Op	,,
R. E. Cousins	24th	Comcen Op	,,
R. W. Dewar	24th	Comcen Op	,,
E. F. Forester	24th	Comcen Op	,,
D. C. Lister	24th	Comcen Op	,,
A. M. Cunningham	24th	Comcen Op	,,
B. Hall	24th	Comcen Op	White Spear
P. J. Meadows	224 Sqn	Special Op	,,
D. T. Foster	24th	Comcen Op	Jerboa
T. Gould	24th	Comcen Op	,,
D. Stephens	24th	Comcen Op	,,
J. C. Gibb	24th	Comcen Op	,,
J. Isherwood	24th	Comcen Op	,,
A. G. Stockton	24th	Comcen Op	,,
E. Tai	24th	Comcen Op	,,

The following goods are available from Association Headquarters:

Corps Ties—Heavy Weave 7/6
Woollen 8/6
Terylene 11/–
Corps Scarves—Woollen 21/–
Rayon Squares 21/–
Cravats—Terylene 21/–
Corps Cuff Links 8/6
Association Buttonhole Badges or Brooches 3/– Members only
Blazer Badges 45/–
Crested Ash Trays 4/6

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) 20/–
Corps Plaques ... ... 29/6 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.

Band and Drums of the South Wales Borderers Beating the Retreat on Bunde Market Square on Saturday, 7th July

Kohima "Potted Sports Meeting," Saturday, 7th July. Sergeant Steel with Staff-Sergeant McCormack hanging on

2nd REGIMENT

"Kohima" Regimental Weekend

Second Signal Regiment commemorated Kohima (Assam, 1944) with a Regimental Weekend on the 6th, 7th and 8th July. It began with an address to the Regiment by Lieutenant-Colonel G. H. Hoerder, M.B.E., the Commanding Officer, in which he outlined the battle and its importance as the turning point in the war in Burma. A specially recorded talk by Brigadier Nettleship who commanded the Regiment at Kohima conveyed a vivid picture of the grim conditions in Assam and the unfailing spirit of the signalmen who survived monsoons, malaria and Japanese, and maintained the essential communications.

The garden fete, which took place that afternoon in very English weather, nonetheless produced well over £100 (£40 better than last year!) for Royal Signals and other Corps' benevolent funds. The stalls of the Wives' Club alone produced £60 and their doll raffle was won by S.S.M. Grainger on behalf of his small daughter. The L.A.D.'s "Birdwood Express" kept the children happy while their elders went round the numerous Troop and Squadron stalls or tried to make a fortune at bingo.

The Warrant officers' and Sergeants' Mess Kohima ball, to which they kindly invited the officers and their ladies, was held the same evening and proved a great success — the Mess door dominated by two large Burma Ribbons and Stars, dance music provided by the band from the South Wales Borderers (rumour has it that the R.S.M. was seen "twisting"), and a mouth-watering buffet.

Saturday morning saw a variety of sporting activities including a seven-a-side knock-out football competition amongst 12 teams in which 211 Squadron eventually beat 206 Squadron in the finals; a tennis match between the Officers and Ladies of Bünde and the Officers and Ladies of Lubbecke, which the home team won by 8 matches to 5; a tug o' war in which the Warrant Officers and Sergeants of the Regiment defeated the officers in two straight pulls, despite the fact that the two small officers were entered as one man; a Squadron Commanders' race won by 1 Squadron with Major Cattermull putting in a fine spurt; and a children's race which was adjudged a dead heat for all 13 competitions!

Saturday evening was fairly hectic—Beating Retreat on the Market Square in Bünde at 5.30 p.m., the Officers' Mess cocktail party at 7.30 followed by the all ranks' dance from 8.30 to midnight. The Band and Drums of the South Wales Borderers by kind permission of Lieutenant-Colonel A. J. Sharp and the officers of The South Wales Borderers put on a very stirring display which was watched by over 1,000 of the local population and the leading citizens and town officials of Bünde. They also provided the music at the Officers' Mess cocktail party where the 200 guests included the G.O.C. 2 Division, Major-General M. A. H. Butler, C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., Brigadier M. A. Charlton, O.B.E., C.C.R. Signals 1 (BR) Corps, Bürgermeister Röthemeyer and many town officials. The all ranks' dance went with a swing; there was no lack of young ladies from Bünde and the "twist" seemed to further Anglo-German relations.

Sunday provided the culmination of the weekend by the open air Kohima Memorial Service held on the sports field in which H.Q. 2 Division participated. The service was conducted by the Rev. L. Lloyd Jones, B.A., S.C.F. 2 Division, and the Lesson

Lieutenant-Colonel G. H. Hoerder, M.B.E. with G.O.C. 2 Div., Major-General M. A. H. Butler, C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., after the Kohima March Past, Sunday 8th July

Garden Fete, Friday 6th. Bundwood Express starting out from the Station

was read by Lieutenant-Colonel Hoerder. In his address the Rev. Jones reminded us that those who fought and died at Kohima were ordinary men who had risen to the occasion with courage and selflessness.

After the service Major-General M. A. H. Butler, C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., took the salute as Lieutenant-Colonel Hoerder, M.B.E., led 2nd Regiment and H.Q. Company 2 Division in the march past to the music of the Band and Drums of the South Wales Borderers. So ended another Kohima Weekend which had involved a large amount of hard work for everyone in the Regiment and for which thanks are due not only to the Squadrons and Troops but also to Staff Sergeant Mitchell, A.C.C., and his stalwart cooks, the Regimental Wives' Club and the Band of the South Wales Borderers who brought a touch of colour which made us forget the weather.

3rd REGIMENT

The Regiment is now not sure whether it is rainbow bombs or the Officers' multi-coloured "fore and aft" hats which occasionally dazzle the atmosphere to such an extent that it can no longer carry our radio comms!

We have now completed our periodic about turn in "Regimental roles." Our Divisional type vehicles are wedged in the garages. Our set boxes (and all the other bits and pieces of Force Signal Regiments) have been taken out and dusted, the spiders on them painted over. The weighing machines have been working overtime—everything from linemen's ladders to Landrovers now has its weight painted on it! All this has culminated in the first big "Force" Exercise of the year. Half the Regiment flew from Colerne to Abingdon with all its kit and belongings and the other half from Abingdon to Colerne. Perhaps the choice of name Exercise "Kiwi VI" was a little unfortunate (as kiwis cannot fly), otherwise it was counted a considerable success.

As part of "Kiwi VI," Radio Relay Troop took a step forward into the future. For the first time ever a half-ton radio relay detachment was lifted bodily under a Belvedere helicopter and was flown to its relaying location. The crew of the detachment travelled inside the helicopter and Lieutenant T. A. Panther, the Officer Commanding, even did his recce from one! Altogether the detachment travelled some 60 miles slung underneath the Belvedere. Who was more worried when this unusual combination flew over Marlborough at about 200 feet is not recorded, but it has been suggested that both the citizens of the town and Mr. Panther were pretty green looking at this time!

Another Exercise—this time in Denmark—helping the S.A.S. The Regiment sent a detachment of one Corporal, one Lance-Corporal and five Signalmen to 22nd Special Air Service Regiment at Hereford to go with them for their annual Exercise to Denmark. All seven men were operators and they spent a week in Hereford familiarising themselves with the codes and sets in use with the Regiment.

This is Corporal Mortimer's report:

"We left on 31st May. Our job was to help man the 'Base' radio sets and keep a 24-hour watch in case any patrol checked in with information. On his briefing, the Commanding Officer said we should be roughing it this time. We arrived to find huge Danish tents put up and waiting for us to move into, with double tiered beds already made up. If this is roughing it at base, I'll join the S.A.S. Within hours of our arrival the patrols were on their way. Their task was no easy one, because most of the Danish population seems to take an active interest in these Exercises and they do their best to catch our blokes. One patrol was informed on by a group of young children.

"After the Exercise the fun began. We were given a day-and-a-half to go sightseeing. We went to Viborg to have a look at the cathedral, with its various murals, and then to the brewery—officially to inspect the bottling department—but really to get jugged up on their lager, which was very nice! After we had slept that lot off, we were allowed into a night club free as long as we were in uniform. The local female population was extremely hospitable, perhaps it is our colourful uniforms! The next day, unfortunately, we had to return to England."

After "Kiwi VI", the Princess Royal's Day. Thursday, 5th July, the Regiment had a holiday—festival would perhaps be a better word. We started off with a quiet morning. In the afternoon we had a cricket match, Officers and Sergeants against the Regimental team (guess who won?); Go-Karting on the Square, a children's fun-fair and pony rides at Mercury House (our Regimental Club). We finished the day quite noisily with an all ranks' dance to the excellent music of the Band of the Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment. Man, that Band play Twist way out! There are still ugly rumours going around that Signalman Barry Cosford actually did split himself up the middle that night!

Belvedere carrying Radio Relay Detachment

This month we have set the "powers on high" something of a problem. We have at last joined forces with the "workers" of 3 Division—H.Q., 3 Division Headquarters Company—to whom we extend a hearty welcome—they can share our guard duties with us; we might even persuade them to buy THE WIRE.

We congratulate C.S.M. J. D. French, M.M., Scots Guards, S.S.M. of Division H.Q. Squadron, on being the first C.S.M. to be an S.S.M., if you can work that one out!

As we bring these notes to a close, 2 Squadron are trundling down the road on a week's holiday in Cornwall. They claim they are going down there to get some work done, but it was noticeable that they all packed their swimming trunks! Anyway, who has ever heard of an Exercise with a name like "Cornish Pasty"?

Later News

We referred last month to our integration with our Divisional Headquarters: this may be the last set of Notes appearing under this heading. Finding a new and acceptable title is no easy task and somewhere a game is being played not unlike that on "Sunday Night at the London Palladium" with intrepid ladies trying to make sense out of a jumble of words.

Meanwhile most of the Regiment is on block leave leaving a rear party in a very empty Bulford. Empty that is of soldiers, for we have been invaded for some time by an army of civilians bent on rebuilding Bulford. It is just forty years since the Regiment first came to the Garrison. There have been many changes since then, but none on the scale of those started this spring.

Large areas have been fenced off by the contractors (as a defence against children?) and many of the hutted areas are now but scars in the chalk. And not before time, for some of these buildings—long condemned—were still in use as married quarters until a few weeks ago.

Welcome as this work is, for some it was a wrench to leave the Kiwi Officers' Mess which is being rebuilt as an Infantry Battalion Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess. However, thanks to some sterling work by the LAD we were able to remove the panelling from the ante room and library which was put in by the officers of the Regiment in 1938.

We already have some two hundred new other ranks' married quarters and are promised much new building over the next two years, including schools and a community centre to replace the shopping area so appropriately known as "Tin Town."

4th REGIMENT

The first weekend in July will long be remembered in Herford, for an entirely new sound was heard above the usual thunder of lorries and squeal of tyres—the skirl o' the pipes. The occasion? The Regiment was host to the Pipe Band of 227 (Argyll and Sutherland) Regiment, R.A. (T.A.), World Champion Pipers of 1962. Having played on Friday, 6th, for the Regimental Cocktail Party (an extremely well-attended function, and very enjoyable by all accounts), the Band went to, and played at, the Wives' Club 'Sale of Work' on the Saturday. Then, having thoroughly disturbed the usually peaceful, in fact somnolent, residents of Hammersmith Barracks, they marched off into the town of Herford on the morning of Sunday, 8th, where, resplendent in their ceremonial bearskins and kilts, they drew a crowd of several hundred people in the square, and successfully disrupted all traffic in the town. In the afternoon, the Band played to an equally large audience in the neighbouring town of Bad Salzuflen, where they were filmed, later to appear on German Television. Many thanks to the Band for a 'stirring' weekend, and one can safely say that their enjoyment of the tour can be judged from the looks on their faces on being told the price of whisky over here.

Pride of place this month must go to the canoeists of the Regiment. The first ever canoe crossing from Norway to Denmark, and a convincing win in the Divisional Canoe Race; both achievements of which we are justly proud.

Firstly, Exercise "Terje Viken" which grew from an idea of Signalman Richards of 1 Squadron into a full scale leave project, complete with full co-operation from the Royal Norwegian Navy. It was based on a mythical journey by the legendary Norwegian Terje Viken, who is said to have rowed across the Skagerrak, which lies between Norway and Denmark, in 1809. His journey is related in a poem by Henrik Ibsen, and Signalman Richards, with Lieutenant P. S. Norris of The Lancashire Fusiliers, decided to try to emulate this achievement. Hence they set out from the Adventure Leave Centre at Kristiansand on June 29th, having already been delayed three times due to bad weather. They were placed in the water at 23.00 hours that night at Torigen Light, and 20½ hours and 70 nautical miles later arrived at Hirtshals in Denmark, tired but physically fit. The weather throughout the crossing was bad, despite assurances to the contrary by Norwegian Naval forecasters. In fact, Commander Bang, of the R.N.N., who accompanied the canoeists in his vessel S.K.S. 5, predicted that the water would be 'like a mirror.' After the crossing, Lieutenant Norris voiced the opinion that 'if that was typical of Norwegian mirrors the local males must have an awful trouble with shaving.' All the more credit, then, to these adventurous young men, and congratulations on a really fine effort.

The Divisional Canoe Race on the River Weser was this year a two-day event, with seven Units from the Division entering. Our old rivals, The Green Howards, were reported to have been training very hard, and on the strength of this, Lieutenant Gray and a party of stalwarts were not seen by the Regiment for many moons. Their absence was justified, however, for on the first day, which consisted of a sprint of 7 km., the Signalmen showed that local knowledge was advantageous because they cunningly used the currents to help them along, thus gaining many valuable minutes on their rivals. Canoes from the Regiment finished 1st, 2nd, 4th, 5th and 10th out of 22 giving us first and second in the team placings. The second day, however, was yet to come. The distance to be covered was 65 km., and our canoes moved up well right from the start. We were feeling quite confident, when we suddenly discovered that the Green Howards canoes had crept up, and were now ahead on time. Much frantic exhortation from spectators on the banks, including a radio detachment waving several suspicious-looking brown bottles in encouragement, resulted in a close, but clear, victory over our rivals. Well done, Lieutenant Gray, Corporals Thomas and Pittaway and Signalman Brookes for a fine team effort, and well done the other members of the Regiment who competed. Congratulations also to the Green Howards team who so very nearly pipped us. Incidentally, there is no truth in the rumour that a certain O.C. Squadron deliberately manoeuvred a car ferry into the path of their canoes—he was, in fact, shanghaied! On the other hand, can anyone substantiate the report that Mr. Gray was seen *wearing uniform* one day last week?

From the point of view of training, things have been very quiet since Exercise "Salad Days." The Regiment has run a Military Proficiency Course, on which students practised the basic skills of a soldier; how easy it is to become 'rusty' after leaving the Training Brigade! Also a Driver Conversion and Upgrading Course was held towards the end of the month. A party of Officers, N.C.O.s and men from the Regiment, led by Captain Lloyd, disappeared in the direction of England on a tour which is officially labelled 'Keeping the Army in the Public Eye.' With a week of leave at the end of the recruiting drive, there should be little doubt that the aim will be well and truly maintained.

Arrivals in and departures from the Regiment are too numerous and frequent to mention in detail. We would, however, like to wish all those departing the best of luck in the future and extend a hearty welcome to all new arrivals.

4 DIV CANOE RACE

Signalman Brookes (front) and Corporal Pittaway in Canoe No. 5. They were the other half of the winning team

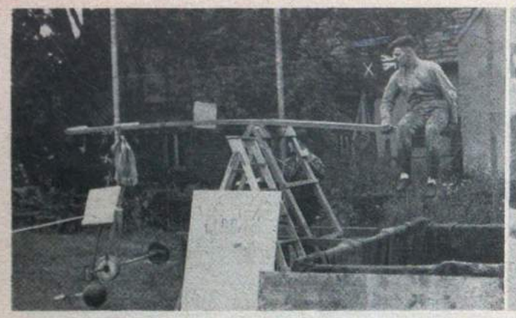
7th REGIMENT

Nijmegan Marches. This year once more the Regiment successfully took part in this event which has now reached international scale proportions. Due perhaps solely to the drive and persuasion of Captain R. N. Filsell, R.E.M.E., O.C. L.A.D., and C.S.M. Carpenter, A.P.T.C., who trained the team over some few hundreds of miles of local countryside the team succeeded where many failed. 13,000 marchers were reduced to 11,000 after the first day which is some indication of the effort required to stay the course. Blisters in plenty, even the cycle orderly suffered with them, fatigue and extremely warm humid weather were successfully combatted by our determined team and won for them a team award for the second year.

Regimental Fete. This was held on 30th June which apart from being the writer's birthday was memorable for its most unfavourable weather. Winter clothing was the order of the day which makes the smiling face of Sergeant Stacey in the photos shown that much more of a gallant effort. An encouraging profit was however made which has now been forwarded to R.E.M.E., R.A.P.C., A.C.C., and our own Corps Benevolent Funds.

Continued on page 322

Nijmegen Marches—7th Regiment's Team



THE REGIMENTAL FETE

(*Left*) Sergeant Stacey faces the "bowling" . . .

. . . and is bowled !

Motor Cycle Trials. The successes of our Trials Team are, without any exaggeration, becoming taken for granted. For example:

26th June, 1962: Team winners 7 Armoured Brigade Group. Runner-up Best Individual, Sergeant Slaughter.

4th July, 1962: Team winners ("B" team) 12 Infantry Brigade Group Trials. Team runner-up ("A" team). Best Individual, Signalman Everett. Best Novice, Signalman Everett. 2nd Novice, Signalman Hill.

16th July, 1962: In 6 Infantry Brigade Group Trials our teams took all the awards except one—"The Best Beginner." The simple reason was that no member was eligible.

31st July, 1962: Team winners in 4th Division Trials. Runner-up Best Individual, Sergeant Slaughter.

At the time of writing our teams are out again attempting successfully, we hope, to bring off yet another victory.

11th REGIMENT

It seems almost unbelievable that with flaming June behind us little sunshine has appeared in Catterick this year. However, the weather has not been unkind enough to spoil the Old Comrades' Week-end activities, or interfere with the two Pass-Off Parades we have had since the last WIRE notes were despatched.

Best Recruits

On 2nd June 23895851 Signalman R. Laidlaw passed out as Best Recruit with 3 and 4 Troops. Born in Edinburgh, Signalman Laidlaw finished his schooling at Portobello Senior Secondary School. He worked as a wholesale fruit salesman until the age of 22 and then decided to join the Royal Signals.

Signalman Capell

7TH REGIMENT MC TRIAL TEAMS

Facing from left to right: Sergeant Williams, Sergeant Atherley, W.O.II Gibson, Signalman Everett, Sergeant Sankey, Sergeant Slaughter, Signalman Collier, Sergeant Spooner, Corporal Huntleigh-Smith. At back: Captain T. P. Canham, OIC Team

He originally enlisted on a three years' engagement but has now changed his engagement to nine years. When asked why he increased his engagement, he said "I now realise that the Army gives me a worthwhile opportunity to learn a trade and excellent chances to see the world.

Signalman Laidlaw has four brothers and a sister, all of whom work as civilians. His father, however, was in the Royal Scots during the war.

He now continues his training as a Special Operator.

On 8th July, 23911056 Signalman Capell passed out as Best Recruit with 5 and 6 Troops. Signalman Capell was born in Loughborough and attended secondary school there. He left at the young age of 15, then joined the Merchant Navy for two interesting years; he toured European and Middle East ports, working as a steward with the Blue Star Line. He left the Merchant Navy at the relatively young age of 17. For a short time he worked as a stone mason at Bracknell, hoping that his new employment would satisfy his ambition. He soon found out that this was not so. The urge to travel came back and after consulting his father he decided to join the Royal Corps of Signals.

None of his three brothers have been in the Army, but his father did serve with the East Yorkshire Regiment for six years during the war.

Signalman Capell now continues training as a Telegraph Operator, a trade we hope he can settle down in.

Visits

The Regiment were honoured by a visit from the S.O.-in-C., Major-General A. M. W. Whistler, C.B.E., on Tuesday, 26th June, 1962. During the course of his visit he spoke to many Officers and N.C.O.s and expressed his interest in the problems of recruit training. Later he remarked that he was well satisfied with the general pattern of training within the Regiment.

On 12th July, the Chief Signal Officer of Northern Army Group, Brigadier-General Dr. H. Maultzsch, visited the Regiment. During his stay he was introduced to the general aspects of training Royal Signals recruits and observed young soldiers being introduced to their weapons. Perhaps he was most impressed by 1 and 2 Troops undergoing drill training on Baghdad Drill Square. It is often forgotten that German troops are still restricted by convention from this type of drill training.

Captain B. I. Weston, 11th Regiment, acted as A.D.C. for the visit. He has recently completed a course to enable him to take his interpretership in German. A useful exercise for him to this end.

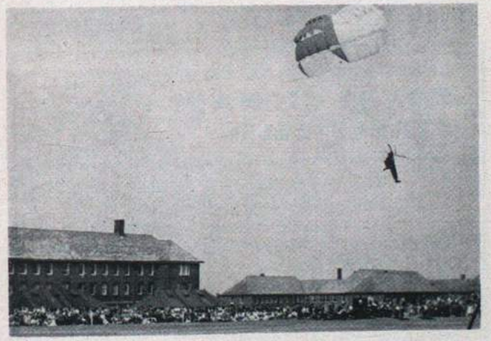
It was apparent that relationships common to our own Corps are already building up in Signals circles in N.A.T.O., when the General immediately recognised R.S.M. M. Ham, whom he previously met in Herford, B.A.O.R., many months ago. We are sure that General Maultzsch found his visit most profitable in furthering the knowledge of N.A.T.O. Signals that a C.S.O. NORTHAG would require.

Cricket

In the Mackworth Trophy cricket knock-out competition, the Regiment's "A" team defeated 8th Regiment "A" team by seven wickets. The same day the "B" team also defeated 8th Regiment "B" team, and both teams are now successfully through to the next round.

Tennis

It is pleasing to note that despite the lack of tennis players early on in the season the tennis team is now well reinforced. In our Mackworth Trophy match against 8th Regiment the team convincingly won by eight matches to one, despite the fact that it was depleted by other regimental activities. It is hoped that we will strengthen it even further before the end of the season.



Display by 44th Parachute Squadron, T.A.

MURPHY RADIO

require an experienced Maintenance Engineer for a large VHF communications system in Northern India. The tour of duty will be approximately six to nine months with the prospect of similar employment elsewhere afterwards. Applicants must have had suitable installation or maintenance experience, preferably with multichannel VHF transmitters and receivers, and have a reasonable technical background. Write with details of age, qualifications and experience to the Personnel Officer, Murphy Radio Limited, Welwyn Garden City, Herts.

Old Comrades' Week-end, 7th - 9th July

The week-end was a great success throughout Catterick. The Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess were responsible for sponsoring the entertainment of 61 Old Comrades, although the 'bus service laid on resulted in a great majority of them visiting the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess over the week-end. This was a great effort of hospitality when considering that the Mess had only moved eight days previously back to Baghdad Lines. This now ancient location provided some nostalgic memories to many of the visiting Old Soldiers. The photograph below shows R.S.M. Ham talking to ex-R.Q.M.S. W. G. Withers. R.Q.M.S. Withers was born on 16th September, 1893, and enlisted in the Middlesex Regiment on 6th June, 1910. In 1912 he joined R.E. Signals and served with them until 1920. In 1920 he became a member of the Royal Corps of Signals and served until 1933. War resulted in his re-enlistment to Royal Signals in 1939 and he eventually retired in 1949. How's this for a Regimental Number, 2303470? Certainly a man with a great deal of Signals experience behind him. The Regiment also entertained two Chelsea Pensioners, Coughan and Pledger, ages 79 and 67 respectively.

R.S.M. M. Ham and Mr. W. G. Withers

After the Saturday night's entertainment it was pleasing to see such a splendid turn-out at the church parade of no less than 250 Old Comrades. Lieutenant-Colonel S. W. Brackenbury, M.B.E., took the parade, R.S.M. M. Ham being Parade R.S.M. Then followed the magnificent sight of all these Old Soldiers marching energetically to church, headed by the banners of the Association Branch; a fine example to all the younger generation looking on and taking part.

On Sunday afternoon a display and Pass-Off Parade was held on the Messines Sports Field. The Old Comrades witnessed the Pass-Off of 5 and 6 Troops, 11th Regiment (Depot), in a most impressive parade. It was pleasing to hear some of the favourable comments made by the Old Soldiers about the turnout and bearing of the recruits on parade.

Other activities at the display included an assault course competition. Two teams from each of the three Signal Regiments in Catterick and the School of Signals were present. Lieutenant D. J. Jolly and his merry men from 7 and 8 Troops, 11th Regiment (Depot), carried off with "A" team the Competition Cup, which was presented by the Master of Signals. The cup will now be competed for annually at this event.

There is little doubt that the week-end reunion was a great success. Certainly the turn-out of so many Old Comrades and the energy these men still have to enjoy themselves clearly portrays the calibre of the men we have in our Corps.

APOLOGY

Through an inadvertence, the August number of The Wire featured a visit by a Company of the Corps of Signals of Denmark to the 1st Regiment. The host Regiment was in fact the 2nd Regiment.

THE WELFARE SECTION URGENTLY REQUIRES CLOTHING

14th REGIMENT

Holiday month and not a great deal to report.

The Commanding Officer has returned to the fold fit and well after a brief spell in hospital.

Our shooters, too, have joined again from Bisley, where W.O.'s II Copestake, Curtis and Kay had the distinction of firing for the Corps in the Methuen Cup.

These three and Sergeant (433) Smith made the "Army 400" and W.O.II Kay reached the "Army 100."

Considering training problems and difficulties, this is a rare achievement and reflects great credit on all concerned.

The girls, too, have been in the news again. Last month they came away from Tidworth with the Southern Command 4 x 110 yards Relay Cup, and in mid-July, at Aldershot, took on the winners of this event from the other U.K. Commands. Two bits of silver now grace the sideboard, and we hope to produce some pictures of the gladiators with their trophies next time. Well done.

They have also reached the third round of the Southern Command inter-unit rounders competition, and have their sights fixed on that third pot. Keep going.

3 Squadron. July has been kind to the Cricket Team, no fixtures being cancelled for weather. The two most notable matches of the month were both here, at Bampton; one with Messrs. Smith and Philips, from Witney, and a replay with Mr. G. Collins (Farmers' XI). Both produced very close results and entertaining cricket, and we think did much to "cement public relations."

During August we had two public engagements with a recruiting flavour. First, a cricket match for boys from the district, followed by a look-see at items of interest in the Squadron, and later a visit from the Witney Round Table.

Congratulations to one of our younger families, Lance-Corporal and Mrs. J. Cuffe—a new arrival—a son.

16th REGIMENT

We are unable to forward photographs of the Regimental Fete; however, with the accounts now complete the monetary result was excellent and exceeded our expectation. With the final count down at over £300, some nice healthy cheques have winged their way to the Benevolent Funds.

The Nijmegen Marches are in full swing and the Regimental team left in high spirits in search of glory, or is it gory (especially on the feet), amongst the flat hills of Holland. After months of hard training they looked very fit and confident. Hard luck on W.O.II Snell, who had to withdraw from the team with a pulled muscle in the leg!

With fair weather, the Warrant Officers and Sergeants played off the scheduled cricket match against the Officers. Was it a fact that the Captain turned up in his pyjamas and was left out of the team, or was it something I read in the daily papers. With sputniks and Telstars the talk of the day, it is certain they have nothing on some of the balls bowled during the course of the afternoon.

The result of the match was a victory to the Officers by seven runs. Not to be out-done, the Warrant Officers and Sergeants, ably led by the R.S.M., retaliated by winning the beer match. A very good day was had by all, including excellent buffet tea held in the Sergeants' Mess.

Sporting activities in the Regiment are of the seasonal trend, despite the bad weather we have had. In the summer hockey league we are running in a good position with five games won, two drawn, one lost, and four to go we hope to finish near the top.

On 9th July the Unit athletic team travelled to Herford to take part in the B.A.O.R. team athletic competition representing Rhine Area.

Conditions were ideal on these two days and the performances very high. The team finished last out of nine teams.

On 12th July the team took part in the Morrison Cup competition. As in the previous two years, the weather was wet and conditions poor. A very tired team who had run themselves to a standstill the previous two days finished fifth.

We finished first in four of the 14 events: 4 x 100 metres; 4 x 200 metres; discus; javelin.

Angling within the Unit continues, with keen competition for the use of our three day tickets. One member of our Club was invited to join the local Angling Club, on whose waters we fish; needless to say he accepted, which now means, of course, four of our Club can fish at the same time. The local Club (which from now on we will refer to as the Kempener Club) invited four of us to enter their annual competition, which is a best weight out of three days, only fish of size to count competition. Best weight of the first day was 400 grams, caught by a member of Kempener Club. The first day of the competition was definitely not a fishing day. The evening finished us up in a gasthouse where only the best pidgeon English/German is spoken; the evening stretched well into the following day. German anglers have as their patron saint Saint Peter, and always greet each other with "Petri hail," to which the answer is "Petri dunk." This particular night it was "Petri hail" and Petri drank." That is, I am afraid, all the news about the Angling Club at present, more next month.

Life in Krefeld

In this issue I am devoting the space for the interest of married personnel. As in most cases, the amount of married personnel far exceed the quarters available, so firstly I will deal with the situation as it stands at the moment. Married Quarters are allocated on the points system by a Garrison Committee, which usually sits twice each month. There is a fairly long waiting list and on average a man with 60 points would have a wait of approximately two months, for Officers the wait is much longer. Though many of the Married Quarters are in Krefeld, the Regiment also occupy some in other places as far afield as Düsseldorf, Bracht, Neu-Kirchen and Uerdingen. We do try to keep our shift workers quartered in Krefeld, but this is not always possible.

Now a word about amenities for the family. Most of the shopping is done in the NAAFI, which in Krefeld is situated in Bradbury Barracks. The shop is at the moment a "B" class shop and is on the small side. A new, larger shop is at the moment under construction and should be ready in a few months. We then hope to have facilities for buying commodities which at the moment are only obtainable on order or at one

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of the "A" shops. The Regiment runs a weekly 'bus service for the families to these NAAFI shops in Krefeld and Rheindahlen.

There is here, as in most Regiments, a Wives' Club, which normally holds meetings once a month. Included in their many activities are shopping trips to Holland and, on occasions, Cologne.

For the children's education, the B.F.E.S. have a primary school in Krefeld for the younger children normally up to the age of 11, after which they may go to one of the secondary boarding schools or the day school at Rheindahlen, depending on where one's Married Quarters is situated. For the day schools adequate transport is provided from and to the school each day. The midday meal is provided by the school at a cost of approximately DM 3 (5/-) per week.

The education afforded is good and compares favourably with schools in the U.K. Uniform is worn generally, but is not compulsory for the children at the secondary schools.

Finally, identity cards must be carried by all dependents of the Forces in Germany, so it is advisable for the family to bring two passport size photographs with them; this will save a delay in the issue of the cards. Families require the identity card and trading permits to be able to shop in the NAAFI.

Princess Royal Day in Near East, 1962

THE first and the last. What might be termed as a "Final" inauguration of the new Corps day was held in NEARELF only 34 days before the Command ceased to exist for, on 1st August, Malta and Libya moved out to orbit on their own. Like Telstar, it is hoped in Cyprus to hear from them occasionally.

The last it may have been in one sense, but it was a first that set what is hoped to be a sound pattern for the future. The Chief Signal Officer's view was this was a Corps family day and, as the following report culled from the various unit reports shows, this view was well implemented.

In Cyprus, the day started with a Church service at Dhekelia attended by families stationed in Dhekelia itself and some who journeyed over from Famagusta.

203 Squadron notes take up the story.

The Corps first Princess Royal Day saw 203 Squadron and 3 Squadron 15th Regiment, old friends of work and play, once again working closely together to make a success of this historic occasion in our Corps annals.

Most of us at the time were heavily involved in preparing for, or committed on, the various exercises which 19 Infantry Brigade Group had flown to Cyprus to take part in. Consequently there were a few mumblings from the depths when the time came to erect tents and generally gird ourselves for the great day.

Fortunately all went well and the members of both Squadrons and their families seemed to have thoroughly enjoyed it. We started the morning with an open air church service in Dhekelia (held under the cover of marquees to keep the sun off our heads!) which was attended by the Chief Signal Officer Brigadier C. T. Honeybourne, who flew up from Episkopi to join us, and also Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. D. D. Fairman, and most of his officers and their wives of 9th Regiment.

The Padre (Reverend M. C. Lillingston-Price) set not only the right scene for a truly family gathering, but pointed out that our communications to God were probably not up to the high standard of our daily work. Lance-Corporal D. C. Toller of 203 Squadron read the Lesson.

After the service we refreshed ourselves with drinks and toured 203 Squadron's working display of some of its equipment and vehicles. This was concluded by a ¼-ton line detachment laying a demonstration route, after which we all moved to 3 Squadron's area.

3 Squadron showed us their gleaming new Signal Centre which was opened by the Princess Royal on her recent trip to Cyprus. We were also given an interesting tour around the Dhekelia Area Telephone Exchange.

Everybody then moved to a nearby beach for a picnic lunch followed by an afternoon of swimming, nattering, children's races, chattering, ladies' and gents' races and still more talking. Many thanks are due to Signalman D. Oddie of 3 Squadron who kindly lent us his boat for the afternoon. The boat was hardly visible under its load of yelling children who were thoughtfully, and with many thanks from Mums, looked after by several of the bachelors.

During the afternoon consternation reigned amongst the assembled gathering when an Auster aircraft appeared at practically nought feet with a figure waving and appearing to be trying to land amongst us. However, it turned out to be the Chief Signal Officer on his way back to Episkopi who, presumably smelling our delicious barbecue, had found us and dropped us a good luck message.

After the successful barbecue on the beach most of the children went home to bed while the remainder had a last drink and final swim before moving back to Camp.

Here the bar was again opened and film show given for all ranks and their families on the officers' mess tennis court. As the sounds of "Davy Crockett" came to a close all quietly and sleepily departed for their beds after our first and very successful Princess Royal Day.

At Famagusta, 9th Regiment's programme included a luncheon party at the Officers' Mess, where the chief guest was Brigadier Honeybourne, beach barbecue parties and late night festivities. Throughout all these events the keynote of a family holiday was maintained. A different kind of note was the "ham" activity.

The twenty-four hours from 08.00 G.M.T. was very much enjoyed by all operators of the radio club, who covered the whole time on shifts. This was to be the last event as ZC4SS, for the Republic call 584SS was due to come into force on 1st July, so, we decided once more to go out in the sun. Nothing elaborate . . . . just a long extension lead from a point on the corner of the cricket pitch and two 36 foot masts, a brightly coloured sun umbrella . . . . and away.

The only planning that we had time for was the construction of a "ZL Special" dreamed up by Corporal J. Dark and put together with the aid of Signalman P. O. Buchanan. With high hopes that 21 mc/s would be open . . . . we pointed this at U.K. and got on the air eventually a couple of hours late. The first thing we heard was a discussion between M.P.T.A.M. (Trucial Oman Scouts) and 9M2AD (Royal Signals Malaya). We heard 9M2AD calling "C.Q. Royal Signals Contest" and after working MP4TAM . . . . we did the same with little result. However still R/T (Royal Signal type) we worked V.S.I.G.C. in Singapore (but he was R.E.'s) and followed up with various other contacts in Europe. The horrible realisation struck us in the afternoon that we were beamed in the wrong direction so a hasty down and up was carried out. Later in the evening, glory be, we heard our first listed call in the Royal Signals A.M. Radio Society Members List . . . . G3ADZ (Major Haylock) was calling on C.W. but fighting the Q.S.B. . . . we realised that he was giving us his "Mercury" number . . . . and we had been thinking more in the serial number way! However we reciprocated, but contact was lost. That was the end of the contest as far as we were concerned. Stalwart "ops" to work the shifts were Signalman D. Hardman (soon for U.K.), Corporal J. Dark, Signalman P. Buchanan and Corporal J. Staniforth.

A similar "ham" effort was being made by 15th Regiment.

It was decided that 2 Squadron's celebrations of Princess Royal Day would be in the form of a day out on the beach for the whole Squadron, with their wives and families. Accordingly, quite early in the morning, an advance party set out for Governor's Beach about 16 miles east of Limassol, for the purpose of setting up the bar, beach umbrellas, etc. This was done with a little effort and a lot of swearing, and at about 10 o'clock the rest of the Squadron began to arrive in buses and private cars.

The weather was excellent, the water warm, and soon everybody went for a swim. S.S.M. Molony established himself as barman and was soon administering in a very professional manner to the needs of those of us who wanted to get wet inside as well as out.

There being several amateur radio enthusiasts among us, the "ham" station from Transmitter site had been bodily uprooted and brought along with us, and after a few unexpected sparks and flashes at the outset we finally got on the air. Our callsign was ZC4TX/P, the /P, of which we were very proud, meant that we were operating a portable rig (after all, we carried it there ! ! !). Our first contact came when searching the band for a clear spot to send out a C.Q. and we tuned in to a conversation between MP4TAM (Sergeant Dicker in the Trucial Oman) and 9K2AD (Kuwait). We "worked" both these stations after they had finished. We did even try to work the other Royal Signals hams in Cyprus, but could not even raise them. Inside the skip distance, you know ! ! !

We had several more contacts during the day, among them being EA3NQ (Spain), VS1GC (Singapore), 9M2AH (Kuala Lumpar), I1SR (Italy), and G38MY (England). The last-named contact, by the way, was the club's only contact with England all day, and to our chagrin was made by a visitor to the beach, an amateur friend of our (ZC4AB) who had come down to see how we were getting on. Other visitors were some of the lads from the club station at R.A.F., Akrotiri (ZC4AK).

Our stalwart operators were Staff Sergeant D. C. Pocock, Lance-Corporal D. C. Bullard, Signalman F. A. Larcombe and Mr. P. B. West. Everybody on the beach seemed very interested, we had plenty of spectators around the rig all the time. Although most of them had never seen a "ham" station being operated before, all being jaded professionals, we were asked a lot of questions, so perhaps we'll be getting some new operators. One person who seemed especially interested was the O.C., and we tried to get him to send out a call, but apparently he is shy!

Perhaps the two highlights of the day were provided by the excellent salad lunch put on by the cookhouse, and the "buzzing" we were given by the Chief Signal Officers' 'plane. We had been informed that he would be flying over to drop us a message, and at about 4 o'clock the 'plane appeared, flying very low. He passed over our heads and dropped his message on the large 15 we had made in the sand. It informed us that the Chief Signal Officer was sorry he could not join us, but hoped we were enjoying ourselves. The pilot then made a few more runs over the beach, narrowly missing the ham club's aerial, and was gone.

At about six o'clock we began to pack our gear, ready to depart. Everybody had enojyed themselves, and as they made their ways home, tired but happy, many were heard to remark: "We must do this again sometime." Maybe next 28th June might be appropriate!

Headquarters and 1 Squadron had, meanwhile, been sent on a frantic car treasure hunt by Major C. F. Bushell. "Frantic" may sound too harsh a word for a very well organised and thoroughly entertaining enterprise full of (very!) original thoughts—but maybe the average competitor just did not have the same tortuous and off-beat thinking that to the organiser appeared to have been thought straight-forward. The competitors, of course, made no mistakes—but the planner! Nevertheless, no one really got lost, and whether it was the scent of the brine, all made the final rendezvous on Governor's beach more or less in good order. For those on shift during these frolics, a beach barbecue was held on tunnel beach that night. To add to the general family atmosphere success, it was very pleasant to have the full support of the civilian members of the Regiment thoroughout.

Away in Malta, a full week's programme is described, together with other items of interest. First and foremost, we say farewell to Major W. Brennan the ex-T.O.T. of 234 Squadron (Malta), who has now retired from the Army, after over 35 years' service. We wish both he and Constance many happy years in their retirement. Even though India became divorced from the British military scene in 1947, we feel that our last military link with that country has now finally been severed, but we eagerly await more experiences in the "whats" name (Memoirs) on there!

We welcome Lieutenant and Mrs. Taylor to the Squadron in their place.

We also bid farewell to our C.R. Signals and his wife, who recently departed, and welcome Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. A. J. Clarke. We wish the best of fortune to Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. T. G. Chambers in their new station.

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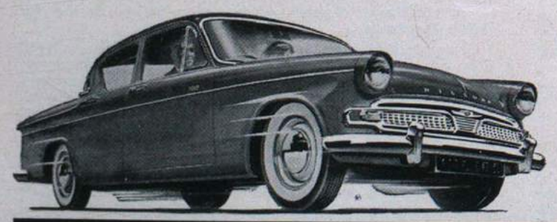

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WORLD-WIDE PARTS AND SERVICE

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Royal Signals (Malta) completed a successful Corps Week. All ranks' dances were held at Zonkor and on the tennis court at Lintorn Barracks. The Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' ball was held at the lovely ballroom of the Hotel Phoenecia this year, and was enjoyed by all, except the more active, who were "floored" by the lack of ventilation on an extremely hot night. A church parade was held on the Sunday at Mtarfa, and the two church services were fully attended. At the parade, Lieutenant-Colonel Chambers presented the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal to Staff Sergeant D. Convery, Chief Clerk, Headquarters Signals.

The officers' cocktail party was this year held on the roof of our administrative block, where chimney stacks were disguised as windmills which, together with the floral decorations and coloured lights, proved an attractive setting for the 150 guests.

The cricket match between Royal Signals officers and Royal Engineer Officers (Malta) this time resulted in a win for the Sappers by five wickets. For us, the only bright spot was a 49 by Captain P. Chase.

We welcome a visit from part of 65th (M) Regiment (T.A.), who somehow have contrived to hold their annual camp in Malta.

On the sporting scene, cricket is not one of the highlights, but the water polo and swimming teams are training hard to retain the trophies they won last year.

On 1st August, as mentioned earlier, North Africa left NEARELF and joined Malta. The last reports from 219 and 245 Squadrons to come from the old Command, tell their Corps Day stories.

219 Squadron (Tripolitania's) main celebration for Princess Royal Day was a Squadron barbecue. They held this one day late, on 29th June, as it has been found in the past that it is better to have these Squadron parties on a Friday. The staff seem to keep pretty quiet on Saturday mornings and we can spare some men to clear up the remains.

Captain and Mrs. J. Cooper organised the barbecue, which was on the beach at Kassala. It started at about 18.00 hours so that children could see part of it, and went on until the early hours, with dancing under the stars. A certain lethargy in the Squadron was noticeable the following day. Thanks to the hard work put in by Captain Cooper and many others, especially Corporal E. V. Taylor and the line party, the evening was a great success.

On 1st July, Royal Signals church service was held at the Garrison Church, for which the Squadron provided the flowers,

As many of 245 Squadron (Cyrenaica) as possible were excused duty for the day to enable all but a few essential shift workers to participate in this, the first Princess Royal Day.

Throughout the daylight hours a "family day" was held on the beach, where swimming and other beach activities, suitably aided by "light" refreshments, were the order of the day.

Unfortunately, the plan to play off the annual challenge match against the British Military Mission cricket team for the "Allsops" Trophy was stumped before the wickets were pitched, due to the "field of battle" being required for more benevolent purposes.

In the evening, the Mercury Club was a scene of more social activities. A film show was quickly followed up by "games of skill," not to mention "chance," and ended on the familiar notes of dance music, kindly provided by guests and hosts alike, certain instrumentalists of the 1st Bn. The Royal Highland Fusiliers (Princess Margaret's Own Glasgow and Ayrshire Regiment) band and other individualists who shall remain nameless!

The theme in NEARELF was "a family day." No large-scale entertainments with outside guests were held. From the Padre's opening remarks to the last barbecue fire glimmer, this theme was well maintained. Other reports will be read with interest, but it is hoped wherever people then in this Command go in future, they will retain a happy memory of the first of what is hoped to be a long line of days to come.

CLOTHING is still **URGENTLY** required by the WELFARE SECTION

CR SIGNALS (SINGAPORE)

V.S.I.R.S. The members of the Corps Club in Singapore woke on Saturday, 28th July, to a gloomy weather prospect. Dull, with heavy monsoon clouds wandering about. Nothing daunted, we started to set up our station and display equipment in a marquee on 18th Regiment Sports Field to do our whack for the Regimental Fete being held that day. Foreman Buckley, Club Secretary V.S.I.L.B., was a tower of strength in producing transport and labour, Staff Sergeant Llewellyn produced the patter and lots of quiet hard work, and Staff Sergeant Dowsett, V.S.I.H.D., produced the "rig" for the day.

The heavy equipment arrived with the rain and with a flurry of activity the station displays and gimmicks were set up.

V.S.I.B.U., muttering away to himself as he knocked up a couple of ground-planes for the duplex radio telephone, lent by the Pye agents for the day, was studiously avoided until he had his pair of little monsters mounted on M.A.L. poles and got the gear working. Then every service telephone exchange supervisor rang up and that side of the show was on, loud and clear. Kerata 99, our radio tele call sign, was quite busy from then on.

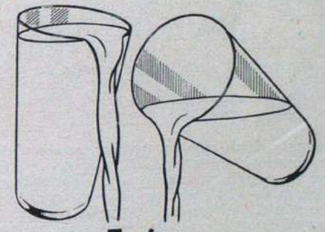
While this was going on, the Club station was being set up and a loud cry of "Where's the power?" disclosed the fact that no one had the key to the "Gents" holding the nearest available power socket.

This was soon put right and V.S.I.R.S. was on the air. The local amateurs had been asked to "give us a shout" and co-operated magnificently, the President of MARTS, Mr. S. Read, V.S.I.F.Z., visiting in person.

The club set was kept busy throughout the fete and a steady trickle of visitors kept things going.

Marconi provided a S.S.B. point-to-point transceiver which aroused a lot of interest and members provided many items of both "home brewed" and commercial equipment which were looked at avidly and worked by many.

Provided by the Signal Training Centre (F.E.), a C11/R210 ground station was shown a lot of attention and admired by many.



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H.Q., ROYAL SIGNALS, HONG KONG

Thumbing through back numbers of THE WIRE one is struck by the number of articles that deal with unit work, unit environment and even unit weather. It is a rarity to see an article which answers the question, "What does it cost to live there?" This, we think, is interesting information to all, whether it is the cost of beer and cameras or rent and baby food. After all we all know what pay we're going to get—most of us don't know how far it will go when we arrive in a new station. In fact, one of the first thoughts of most people on posting is "Will I be richer or poorer?"

Hong Kong is one of those places where a few people are very rich indeed, and the vast majority are very poor. Somewhere in the middle are the Armed Forces, extremely well off in the eyes of the majority, but themselves apt to be a bit jealous of civilians in business, whose income (taxed locally) looks astronomical. In addition to the residents there are the tourists, mostly American, and frequently having the biggest spending spree of their lives. All this means that in Hong Kong there are four distinct price levels, which are:

Tourists; Hong Kong's European residents; Armed Forces; Chinese.

The first thing that the Serviceman must do when he shops in Hong Kong is to establish who he is, otherwise he will find himself paying top rates (and it is worth noting that some Chinese shopkeepers are curiously unable to distinguish between British and Americans when money is involved).

Having established that the price range is that for the British soldier, there are other factors to be considered. For example, is the shop fixed price? If it is then the price on the label is the one the shopkeeper expects. This is the usual rule in the bigger, usually European, department stores. Smaller shops often claim to be fixed price, but in fact give a substantial discount for cash: 15% is a fair average, 25 or 30% not uncommon. Lastly there are the shops which display no prices at all. Here the customer is fair game. If he does *not* bargain he is rightly regarded as a sucker, loses much face and more money. Patience is a good weapon in such shops, and may even inspire a patter from the shopkeeper that goes like this:

"At $800 this beautiful piece of furniture is a gift. Ah, I see, yes, there is a tiny crack there, well, as I was saying, for $750 you won't find anything better; you are clearly a very good man, and I would like to sell you this, as I said, with this beautiful vase thrown in for $680." At this point bargaining begins: a European is doing well if he gets the price down to $300, which is probably only twice what the article is worth.

So much for generalisation; now some brief notes on special items:

Luxuries. This includes watches, cameras, other photographic equipment, tape-recorders, transistor radios, gramophone records, jewellery, pearls, etc. These items are far cheaper than in the U.K., and probably cheaper than anywhere else in the world. There are hundreds of shops, and price ranges vary widely; however, £12 for a good 35 m.m. camera, £6 for a transistor radio, 25/- for a long playing record, £25-£30 for a good watch of famous make, are all reasonable target prices. The real bargain hunter waits for the sales, which follow no apparent pattern. Prices then tend to become ridiculously low.

Cars. Contrary to popular belief cars are nearly as expensive as they are in U.K., British cars being cheaper than foreign due to a 10% Imperial Preference Tax. Good second hand cars can be bought for £250-£350. Jalopies, often old taxis—and sadly battered—cost about £50. Garage servicing and retreads are cheap; petrol costs less than in U.K. Insurance rates are reasonable.

Eating Out. There are restaurants and bars to fit every pocket and a wide choice of food. Drink is normally about two-thirds of U.K. prices. The bigger hotels are designed for the tourist, as are the more famous Chinese restaurants. The food and service often don't justify the prices charged. Chinese restaurants are often very good, especially for parties, as the bill per head tends to decrease in relation to the number at table.

Eating At Home (for married men). Food is expensive. It is bought either from NAAFI or from a general goods store known locally as a compradore. Very brave housewives shop in the market, which is much cheaper, but apt to be a smelly and tedious pastime. Hygiene is almost but not quite unheard of. Most wives say that housekeeping is almost exactly double U.K. prices, but this is offset to a great extent by L.O.A.

Rents. The married man in a quarter, hiring or hostel is all right. Private flats are horribly expensive and well beyond the means of most. Even a high rate of accompanied, unaccommodated L.O.A. does not really make private accommodation a practical proposition. Wherever the married family lives the quarterly electricity bill is always a nasty shock particularly if its head has indulged in an air-conditioner.

Clothing. There is no difficulty in finding cheap clothes of reasonable quality. Inexpensive tailoring of a very high standard used to be a major Hong Kong attraction, but these days are nearly over and prices for bespoke tailoring have already increased considerably—charges now are somewhere between Montague Burton and Savile Row.

We hope this has shown something of the price level for the soldier in Hong Kong; luxuries are cheap, but the general cost of living is high. Because of the quantity of cheap luxuries available there are terrible temptations for the newcomer who, if he is careless, can find himself over the ears in debt with remarkable speed. The discriminating and careful shopper can live very well and save on his pay. Many soldiers' wives work—full-time jobs are fairly easy to find, part-time jobs are almost non-existent. Pay for full-time work is usually of the order of $600 - $700 a month (£37 - £43). If there are children in the family then often an extra amah has to be engaged to look after them; this of course knocks down the return considerably, but still shows a profit for the working wife. It is a popular myth that Hong Kong is a "get rich quick" station. Maybe it was once. For anyone posted here it is as well not to arrive expecting too much; if you do you will be disappointed, if you don't you will be agreeably surprised.

18th REGIMENT

H.Q. Squadron. Preparations are going ahead for the Regiment Fun Fair to be held on 28th July, 1962, on Meiktila Sports Field. H.Q. Squadron is providing bingo, lucky dip, hot dog and satay stalls, guess the weight of the cake, the space ship and toy train.

As can be seen all departments of the Squadron are contributing something. If nature contributes the right kind of weather, and the public contribute handsomely, it will all be worth while.

Work continues on the Warren golf course, the Squadron, in addition to cutting all the grass once a week, has now been presented with a demand for 219 man days of work to be completed by the end of August. This is in the nature of a big drive to get the course completed, but it is only fair to say that all the other Squadrons have been given a share of the work too.

In the sporting world we continue playing all games with reasonable success. M.T. Troop is top of the Troop football league, and thanks to R.Q.M.S. Leeson who took eight wickets, we managed to beat 1 Squadron at cricket in our latest encounter.

Arrivals and Departures. First of all, a daughter Shelly Ann for Staff Sergeant and Mrs. Sowman (R.A.P.C.)—congratulations.

Lieutenant P. L. Thompson, Royal Signals, came to us from the Far East Training Centre, just in time for the annual Triangular Athletic Meeting, and found himself entered for the pole vault and 4 x 110 yards. It may have been just a coincidence that 18th Regiment were the winners this year.

Staff Sergeant Douglas joined us from U.K. For him, it is a return, to what he terms his second home. He now languishes in the Squadron Store, trying to balance the P.R.I. and Welfare Ledgers. He is also treasurer of the W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess.

Staff Sergeant Gibson also recently arrived from U.K. and has found a niche somewhere in Major (Q.M.) Don Banham's complex. "Drawing" has taken on a new meaning for him.

We were all sorry to lose Captain G. J. Ferris (Devon and Dorset). He had been a tower of strength over the past two years, holding down such diverse assignments as Unit Education, Messing, Fire, Internal Security, relief Paymaster, etc., etc. We were glad to hear that he and his family had a pleasant journey home on H.T. *Nevasa,* and that he is enjoying his resettlement course at Aldershot.

1 Squadron (Op.). The highlight of this month was the fishing competition held on Sunday, 15th July. The competition, well organised by Staff Sergeant Clarke, was attended by a good crowd which included teams of five from "A," "B,"

Staff-Sergeant (F.O.S.) G. J. Wright, 19th Regiment

"C," "D" and S.D.O. Troops. Four ladies also competed, Privates Winterbottom and Wiffen (W.R.A.C.), Mrs. Gibney and Mrs. Chambers. Prizes were to be awarded for the best individual fish and the highest aggregate weight caught by a team.

Fishing in Singapore is carried out at ponds, mostly owned by Chinese gentlemen who supposedly restock these ponds at frequent intervals, for this service they charge each fisherman $M2. The fish normally found in the ponds are Grasseaters, Carp and Song (this fish doesn't sing it hums).

The day was hot and catches were small, so the competition was open until the very end. W.O.II Chambers landed the first fish—a 3lb. 6oz. grasseater. This was followed by a furious five minutes when Private Winterbottom (on her first ever fishing trip) hooked a big one. Signalman "Jock" McCaskill went to help but by the time the interpreter had passed on the advice the fish was gone. Incidentally, Private Winterbottom, to the eternal shame of all the male anglers, landed the biggest fish of the day, a 3lb. 7oz. grasseater, and won the fibre glass rod and a spinning reel.

After lunch Corporals Gibney and Huet both wrestled with what they claim were "big" ones but didn't land them. "C" Troop ran out winners with a total catch of 7¾lb., and were presented with the challenge cup. In an unofficial drinking competition held afterwards, S.D.O. Troop came into their own and won "Cans down."

Hatches. To Mrs. Edgar, wife of Staff Sergeant Bob Edgar, a son, Robert Alan McKay. To Mrs. Cairns, wife of Lance-Corporal Cairns, a daughter, Anita.

Matches. A quiet month, nil, but from the goings on on the back row of the Sampan cinema—it won't be long now. One of the W.R.A.C. was heard to say she was getting married on the first; this turned out to be on the first opportunity.

Despatches. Only the usual odd one hundred thousand passing through S.D.O. per month.

2 Squadron (Line). The Squadron is at present very much involved in the Automatisation programme of the Service Telephone Exchanges throughout the Island, and the term "Final Selector" is now known to have a technical significance, as opposed to one young Signalman's interpretation as a "bloke" who has the final say in picking this year's Test team.

Major J. Batty, our O.C., has managed to survive the rigours of a tongue twisting Malay language course and is once more in the chair of authority, which was kept warm (and very ably too) by Captain John Garratt, who has since been promoted to the rank of Major; we think that the whole thing was prearranged just to give Major Garratt a "dummy run."

We are extremely lucky in 2 Squadron to be accommodated adjacent to what must be some of the finest sports fields in the Army, and we certainly take advantage of them. We are a busy Squadron, but we are always ready to take on our weight at most sporting events, and win or lose, we enjoy the encounters.

We were recently the guests of the T.X. Troop of 237 Squadron at a sports and social function; we managed to distinguish, or disgrace ourselves, by winning all the sports fixtures

Final of Singapore Base District Inter-Unit Badminton Championship 1962, Malay Section. Played at Badminton Hall, Pasir Panjang, Singapore on 20th June, 1962. 19th Regiment

arranged for that day, and came back after a very enjoyable trip to Chin Bee, looking like a Silversmith's Guild, loaded with a fine array of "pots." We greatly appreciated the excellent hospitality of our hosts under the very able direction of Major and Mrs. "Wallie" Norris and Lieutenant H. James. (The curry was just what the doctor ordered).

We get more than our share of sunshine in this Evergreen Island. We are always prepared to share it with anyone who has the good fortune to visit or join us. We can guarantee a wide and varied assortment of entertainment including sailing, deep sea fishing, aqua lung diving.

It is with regret that we said "Goodbye" to Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) and Mrs. Le Butt, and to that elusive bachelor, Sergeant Clavey, who joined them in a posting to "Civvy" Street; we wish them every success in their new sphere, although we have a sneaking suspicion that Sergeant Clavey may return to the fold when the rugby season starts.

We extend a welcome to Staff Sergeant and Mrs. Short, Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Burton, and Lance-Corporal Shaw, and hope that they will enjoy their time in Singapore.

2 Squadron (Line) can always assure you of a warm welcome, and we hope a happy "tour"; we work hard, we play hard, and "twixt" the two we thoroughly enjoy ourselves.

19th REGIMENT

July has proved a month of movements. Although the recent failure of the Singapore cricket team against Selangor, at Kuala Lumpur, in the State Competition, was not entirely due to the absence of Captain D. Keech, his departure on 21st July for U.K. has deprived the State side, not to mention the Regimental, Corps, Army and Inter-Service sides, of a reliable and attractive run-getter. He will be missed, too, in the sailing world where, for the past three seasons, he has proved almost unbeatable in the Snipe class. We welcome Captain P. Graham-Hill to the Regiment, just in time for the shooting competitions, in which we hope he will quickly "find his eye." Captain J. R. Roberts who commanded the Troop at R.A.F., Tengah, was another departure, leaving his mark in the world of the theatre.

The unfortunate premature departure of Lieutenant-Colonel C. J. Crow, on medical grounds, was regretted, and we hope his disc will be quickly and completely "unslipped." W.O.II Marshall (R.E.M.E.) replaces W.O.I (A.S.M.) Mitchinson, who has successfully guided the destinies of the L.A.D. for three years, and we also welcome Sergeants Aldous and Cobb. Sergeants Welch and Martin departed with good wishes on a job well done.

Our athletes have continued to show good form during the month. The 4 x 110 yard relay team, of Sergeant Shamsuddin, Signalmen Syed Othman, Hassan and Yussof, representing R.A.F., Changi, were victorious in the R.A.F. meeting held at Tengah, and were again successful in the District/Army Championships held at Nee Soon. Overall, the Regiment were placed third in the District Meeting, 18th Regiment taking second place by only one point in a thrilling climax. Lance-Corporal Bell deserves especial mention for his continued 440 and 880 yard successes, and Corporal Kinsey, who almost ran down the gangplank from the T.T. *Nevasa* into the arena, has proved unbeatable with the discus.

For the first time, the Regimental team reached the final of the Malay Section of the District Badminton Championships, but had to be content with runners-up position, being beaten by

H.Q., R.A.S.C. in the final. W.O.II (R.Q.M.S.) Reed, who runs the badminton, hopes to do even better next season.

The Regimental Sepak Raga Cup was won by 2 Squadron "A" Team who, in the final, defeated UG Troop "B" in this essentially Malay sport, which can be likened to badminton, played with a 4in. rattan ball, and without a racket, calling for a high degree of fitness and agility.

The Regimental Swimming Gala provided a win for 1 Squadron. The high spot of the meeting being the diving of Signalman Ghani, although "Neptune" (Major J. R. Hamer, our Second-in-Command) made a dramatic descent from the five-metre board in the chain of command race!

The one year term of service on Gan Island has meant a change of O.C. for the Signal Troop there, and Lieutenant J. L. Golding has been torn away from the flesh-pots of Singapore to replace Lieutenant M. J. Ford, who rejoins the Regiment.

Personality Parade. Our photograph shows Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) G. J. Wright with trophies won at Go-Karting. Geoff. Wright enlisted in 1953 and trained as a Radio Technician, being posted in 1954 to 2 Divisional Signal Regiment in B.A.O.R. He left 2 Division to join the School of Signals, B.A.O.R., at Hamburg and subsequently Lemgo and Essen. After successfully completing his Foreman's Course, in 1959, he was posted to Singapore, where he became interested in karting, which was then being developed on the island. Purchasing a Clinton-powered Trokart, he at once met with success, which he has maintained. He still races the Trokart, but has spent so much spare time breathing on the engine and modifying the chassis that it almost qualifies as a special! Some chassis modifications are, however, attributable to excursions into monsoon drains which inevitably border the parade ground circuits in Singapore. Staff Sergeant Wright hopes to continue to race when he leaves Singapore at the end of his tour, possibly progressing into the ¼-litre class.

21st REGIMENT

The Regiment brought the 1962 Athletics Season to a not-undistinguished close on 12th July, 1962, by winning the Morrison Cup Tug-of-War Competition for the second year in succession. Previously the unit had won the Rhine Area Championship in both weights and reached the B.A.O.R. Semi-Final, only to be knocked out by two Canadian Army teams. Our tug-of-war men are trained by Staff Sergeant Hadfield, who leaves us for Berlin Signal Squadron on well earned promotion. In the Athletics, 21st Regiment won the Rhine Area (Minor Units) Competition for the first time ever, and were unlucky not to win the Morrison Cup due to an unfortunate series of "no jumps," "no throws" and gremlin-infested baton-changing!

Successes were also scored in B.A.O.R. Royal Signals Shooting (third) and Rhine Area Swimming (third).

Princess Royal Day was celebrated on 29th June, 1962, by a Church Service at R.H.Q. Geilenkirchen, and invited as their guests Rhine Area Commander, the Station Commander, Command Electronic Officer (R.A.F.) and C.A.F.S.O. This is only the second known occasion when a formal guest night has been held with all available officers of the Regiment present. The opportunity was taken to present a Royal Signals plaque to R.A.F. Geilenkirchen, and in addition Majors Lee (C.A.F.S.O's staff) and Jaggard were accorded an Air Formation Signals dining-out. Major Lee also collected his well-earned Regimental Golfing Colours for helping us to win the Royal Signals B.A.O.R. Foursome Trophy.

The next large item on the Regimental calendar is the summer exercise, when we shall be acting as host to five officers and 20 men of our adopted Regiment, 81st Regiment (A.E.R.) and probably an unknown number of T.A.E.R. personnel as well.

Our Annual CIV Inspection passed off with very satisfactory results, owing to the help of all hands, and we can now breathe again until the same time next years!

No. 1 Squadron and "D" (Heavy Cable) Troop, have been to war again. We refer, of course, to Exercise "Spider," during which they not only did everything that was required of them in the way of communications, but also found time to spare for Fieldcraft and allied subjects. It was, we learn, a somewhat soggy exercise, the South-West Monsoon having moved north obligingly for the occasion; conditions were such that Lieutenant Mansfield learned a number of soldierly expressions which he had never heard before. . . . The Squadron goes back into the line again shortly, for Exercise "Blind Mouse," so no doubt he will learn a few more!

Lieutenant Colonel D. M. Haslehurst presents a "Jimmy" plaque to the Station Commander, R.A.F., Geilenkirchen

We say goodbye this month to a formidable list of Regimental stalwarts, including W.O.I W. C. Whitbread, W.O.II Eastwood, Staff Sergeants Willis and Sammut, Sergeants Stapleton, Rapson, Morris, Marchant, Gibney and Markham, and Corporals Hutchinson, Flute, Keegan, Morrison, Kirk and Young. We wish them all the best in their new units, and assure them that in the meantime we shall endeavour to struggle on without them. To assist us in this task, we welcome our new arrivals, prominent amongst whom are Captain W. E. A. Edmonds ("N" Airfield Signal Troop), Staff Sergeants Franklin and Osborne and Sergeant Nelson.

We congratulate Corporals Johnson and Pritchard, Lance-Corporal McFarlane-Lumsden, Signalman Gee and Pte. Baines on their marriages, and an equally long list of proud fathers; the birth rate in the Regiment is so high that this "new arrivals" section is too numerous to mention!

It is with the deepest regret that we record the death of Signalman Robert Curtis of No. 2 Squadron, in a traffic accident at Neiderkirchen on 26th June. He was a most popular member of his Troop and represented the Regiment at Basketball, in addition to being a fine soccer player. Our deepest sympathy is extended to his parents, Mr. and Mrs. T. Curtis, in their sad loss.

Forthcoming events include the Regiment's participation in the Nijmegan Marches, with a team led by Lieutenant M. F. Andrews and Sergeant Richardson. The entire team, with the exception of Signalman Boswell, are doing the marches for the first time, and we hope to include brief notes on their experiences in the next issue.

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.**

22nd REGIMENT

This month R.S.M. J. W. Webster left the Regiment on retirement from the Army. On the day of his departure he was duly towed in his car from the Sergeants' Mess to the Guard Room by the Officers, Warrant Officers and N.C.O.s of the Regiment.

We wish him and Mrs. Webster every success and happiness in their new sphere of life.

Major (Q.M.) J. A. Dunbar is welcomed to the Regiment, having just arrived from Ghana, and Lieutenant R. W. Garlick from a "Q" course.

Athletics. At the Inter-Squadron Athletics Meeting the eventual winners were 1 Squadron, who thus prevented 244 Squadron from gaining permanent possession of the trophy. Even so, it was a very close thing and it was not until after the final event, the medley relay race, that the result became clear.

Perhaps the most thrilling event was the invitation medley relay, in which the Squadrons joined forces to produce a team to beat two German teams, one an Army team and the other from a Guided Missile Battalion. Another event which caused a lot of interest was the pole vault. The spectators were so enthralled by this that the rest of the meeting was temporarily suspended until Corporal Lightfoot proved himself the winner at 8ft. 9in.

Signalman Smith of 244 Squadron, repeated his last year's performance in the javelin and proved an easy winner by throwing 149ft. 10in. Another athlete who excelled was Corporal Holmes, also of 244 Squadron—he cleared 5ft. 11in. in the high jump, as well as gaining places in both his sprint events. He was given a special cup at the conclusion of the meeting by Mrs. Flear, who presented the prizes.

H.Q. Squadron. A very quiet month from the Squadron's point of view and with little of general interest, apart from the fact that we won the tug-of-war at the Regimental Sports.

Congratulations to Major (Q.M.) W. E. Roscoe on his promotion to Major, and to W.O.I (R.S.M.) C. W. Johnston on his promotion to that rank.

1 Squadron. There have been several Officer changes during the month. Captain John Welch has taken over Papah Troop, and we welcome Lieutenant Austin, who has taken over Alpha Troop from Captain Livingstone. Tom Livingstone is leaving us after three years of very successful command of his Troop, during which time it has been activated, reorganised and thoroughly disrupted by a variety of outside influences. (The Commanding Officer, on checking over these notes, merely wishes to say that on dark nights, during Regimental field training, he has heard himself called many things, but never an outside influence). Its spirit has been very high and it has always produced good communications.

2 Squadron. This month we welcome Major P. J. C. Lloyd, who came to us via 28 Signal Regiment and R.H.Q. to replace Captain J. T. Treglown, late Squadron Commander and now ensconced in the War Office complete with bowler hat and striped trousers. Among other new arrivals we welcome Second-Lieutenant J. Graham and Sergeant Adams.

The biggest event of the month, if only in the fact that it occupied most of the Squadron, was the Royal Signals (B.A.O.R.) Rifle Meeting at Brackwede, where we were responsible for the preparation of the range. For two weeks enormous gangs of slave labour swarmed over the range, erecting tents, painting white everything that did not move, erecting flag poles wherever there was a space, even levelling hills. For those of us left in camp the only sign we saw of the work in progress was the collection of barrels of beer from the local brewery. The meeting itself was rather an anti-climax in comparison.

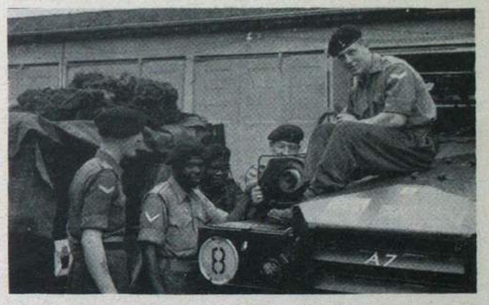
Schleswig Holstein seems to be a favourite haunt of 2 Squadron—"B" Troop were there for a week of glorious weather providing radio communications for 26 Transport Column, R.A.S.C. (BR). Besides communicating they instructed (rather roughly at times) in voice procedure and turned amateur technicians by repairing two 31 sets, a ten line exchange and countless tele "L's." Two weeks later the greater part of the Squadron went to almost the same area for Exercise "Salad Days"—unfortunately, the weather had broken and we never did get our promised swimming and football. It was even more galling to hear that Lippstadt (usually almost permanently under water) was enjoying warm weather!

We close on an optimistic note; from having last month no S.S.M., no S.Q.M.S., and only one senior N.C.O. to run the Squadron, we are back to what we should have. In fact, we have the edge on the other Squadrons, as our acting S.S.M. is Foreman of Signals Lidstone until 16th July.

244 Squadron. Apart from the Regimental Athletics Meeting, the Squadron has been exercising very hard and apart from work has little to report. We are pleased to announce the arrival of Lieutenant Nichol, newly posted in from a "Q" course. His past experience in the R.A.F. is proving to be of great benefit to him in his new job as Officer Commanding "B" Troop.

W.O.II Oliver, the ex-S.S.M., is congratulated on his new appointment as R.Q.M.S. to the Regiment. Though the Squadron is very sorry to see him leave, it is nice to have a contact man in the Regiment's Super Market. Rumour has it that a Self-Service department is arriving at any time now.

Later Notes



Lance Corporal Drewitt, Lance Corporal Allie, Signalman Paul, Signalman Cook, Lance Corporal Brewer standing by their detachment 1 ton armed vehicle

Canoeing on the Baltic Sea during 1 Squadron's Camp
(*Left to right*): Corporal Wheeldon, Signalman Hesson, Lance Corporal Hutchison, Signalman Tuffin

1 Squadron. During July we held a very successful Squadron Camp on the Baltic Coast where we concentrated on Infantry Tactics and crew-drills in between prolonged periods of sunbathing, swimming and canoeing.

A certain amount of training was carried out in the Reeperbahn Training Area of Hamburg and a number of members of the Squadron visited Denmark.

When not training or on the beach, we arranged two soccer games with the local side in which we did not disgrace ourselves

A successful patrol return with two prisoners! Training during 1 Squadron Camp

in spite of their rather loose interpretation of the substitute rule—in one count twenty-five men were on the field.

Needless to say we hope to arrange a return match next year, the Burgermeister, Police Chief and local farmers have already said that they will be delighted to see us again.

2 Squadron. July has once again been a month of exercises and we have all been out frequently. The C.R.A.S.C. of 2 Division was very pleased with the communications he was provided with; he described them as the best held during the last eighteen months. Well done, "B" Troop. We are busy now licking our wounds, having a well-earned rest and preparing for exercises late in August.

Our congratulations to Sergeant Moore and his wife on the birth of his daughter (after four boys), Lance-Corporal Leigh and his wife on the birth of their twins and to Lance-Corporal Pile and Mrs. Pile on the birth of their son.

244 Squadron (A.S.). Over the past three months the Squadron has been looking after Lance-Corporal Allie, a member of the Royal Sierra Leone Military Force Signal Troop, stationed in Murray Barracks, Freetown. Lance-Corporal Allie, a 21-year-old Radio Operator B.III, has found his work with an Air Support Squadron of a somewhat different nature to his life in a Signal Centre, working C 12's in Freetown. He commenced his attachment by working hand in hand with the crew commander of an Air Contact team and then graduated(!) to a detachment attached to the Corps H.Q., where in his own words he found out about Crash Moves! Lance-Corporal Allie had never used or for that matter seen the type of sets we use but nevertheless he soon got the hang of things with the help of the crew shown in the photo, which includes Lance-Corporal Drewitt, Signalman Paul, Signalman Cook and Lance-Corporal Brown (*page 331*).

Lance Corporal Allie is due to leave us during August to return to his Unit and his wife and two young children, we wish him the best of luck in his career and more specifically that the Royal Sierra Leone Military Force Signal Troop will benefit from his experiences in Germany.

H.Q. Squadron. The fact that the Squadron has not been out of camp this month, apart from one Saturday morning jolly round the lanes, is causing some "buffalow lowden in the brain bokkers" to quote Professor Stanley Unwin of Brewmaster fame, in order to find something interesting or even scandalous to write about.

Captain John Harwood, or T.O.T., has been hurling himself round the car race tracks of Europe at an alarming speed and happily his front wheels seem to have stayed on more frequently now—it must be all that Bostik.

A new activity becoming popular at weekends is not holding under the leadership of Staff-Sergeant (F. of S.) Nixon. Some people are never satisfied: but shown to dig a nice deep slit travel and all you get is a reproach for look and some show shovelling hot ash then to leap lightly down a pot hole and ten men are trampled in the rush. Fade out to the strains of I was diggin "an ole."

The Squadron Command wishes to be known that any resemblance between the cartoon heading the Regiments fully act, and himself is purely coincidental—anybody knows a Good Lawyer.

Hail and Farewell Sep.

Welcome to W.O.II (S.S.M.) Blake, W.O.II (R.Q.M.S.) Halbert, Sergeants Rozier, Southgate and Campbell.

Farewell to W.O. (S.S.M.) Evans who has crossed the road to 244 Squadron (A.S.) and Staff Sergeant Berry who has departed for better climates.

WHY NOT?

A Pub In Every Camp

by Lyemoor

Are we to tempt our young soldiers still further to drink? The man thinks it's manly—and he's no boy by the time he's made up his mind on a six year engagment! Indeed, it is more of an adult decision than most employment ones. Saving the three months discharge by purchase clause—one, that with sensible handling should only be used by the genuine misfits in both their and the Army's eyes—there's no easy way out by giving a fortnight's notice. Thus, before we start any argument about leading "young soldiers" to anything, let us make sure that we are talking of the same men.

But why are we talking at all? Ah, yes, the title of this "why not." It's better "they say" to begin at the beginning, so here goes. One of the big failings of camp life is the lack of facilities for all ranks to meet socially. This is more particularly so outside the United Kingdom. The troop party, the Branch social, the sports team get togethers, the promotion/birth/posting celebrations—where can they easily be held? As readers will be only too well aware, there is little choice. Both NAAFI and Unit club and Messes are organised on a rank basis with little scope for hiring a private room. Even if such a room exists, it means a restriction upon its normal users, and it cannot be expected to have either permanent facilities or equipment to give the relaxed off-duty air essential to an all ranks function success. I repeat, this is the troop/promotion celebration scale of activitity. Larger balls and dances can be well catered for on a one-time special effort basis.

Recent events in Germany have highlighted the problems of evening boredom. The more serious commentaries can be summarised in one view to the effect that "the television is in German." This I take to mean not just what it says. One only has to stroll around any British town in any evening to find that all the young people do not spend all night watching "tele." No what is probably being pointed out is that "the evening entertainment is all in German." It is said that the charm of serving overseas is taking part in the local life. Only part of the charm, however. The very fact that NAAFI canteens exist is generally proof of this. Only the keenest student of local sociology is going to merge himself completely into the background of his overseas posting. Even if there is no language barrier, the normal tour is scarcely time enough for the average chap either to get deeply into his temporary environment or to grow out of his preference for British tastes. When he goes "down town" overseas it should be as a pleasant selected change, and not as a necessity of boredom.

As long as Messes retain home and living connations, they must remain divided by rank. I have no personal wish, nor have I found any general support, for an introduction of some communal mess life. Here, the rank groupings may find their own companions in their own surroundings. What is needed to solve the two problems outlined above—the need for a place for private all rank meetings, and the need to introduce a British evening entertainment atmosphere particularly overseas —is to, quite simply, *build a jolly good pub* in every camp. And I don't mean a NAAFI pub.

NAAFI is too closely tied to the Army structure to be suited to the type of pub I have in mind. This is not a criticism of NAAFI. Its services are considerable, and its future development would appear to best lie in the field of shops and catering. The pub I want to see in every camp is one with bar, lounge, smoke room and private room; with piano, darts, crisps and winkles—and run by a straight forward, no (other than possible brewery) strings attached landlord, with power to adjust his opening hours to those rival attractions around him. Ho, Ho! I hear, and if that's not leading young soldiers to drink, what is? I'll admit its leading drink to the young soldiers—a slight, and at first sight, worse difference—but to pretend any more that the NAAFI closing hour of 9.30 p.m. has any relevance, again particularly in overseas theatres, is to bury one's head in the sand. A few shindigs like the recent German ones and even the sand is quickly scattered. The only real result is to send your soldier out of camp all the earlier, despite higher prices, to some place where he won't be turned out in the middle of his evening by (to him) schoolboy rules that teenage money and freedom since 1945 have grown out of.

Let me try and rationalise. What I'm after is a straight forward British civilian "pub in every camp." It would be completely independent of the Army and would be run by a free landlord as a private enterprise, backed maybe by a brewery. Here, any groupings of any ranks could meet, whether by design or accident, over a drink. Ladies would be able to use the lounge or smoke room. If the pub pays off, a cocktail bar could also be added. There will be darts, skittles and so forth and maybe television—even if in German! There will also be a room for private hire. Against such a natural, informal and socially mixed background, any young man will be able to enjoy himself in a relaxed and natural way. Trips to the down town spots will be reserved for special occasions—and for the regular "down towners." Drawbacks? Well, NAAFI will lose some canteen trade, for these pubs can only be a success as much at their expense as the local hosteleries. In turn, this means unit P.R.I.'s will lose, but will lose I would argue in the positive sense. By losing the canteens portion of their income they will gain more in morale and social conditions for the soldiers than they ever could by spending that money on some specific function. Other losers will be semi-private clubs—Sailing Clubs, Motor Clubs, Buffaloes and the like. But they should only lose those with a fringe interest, whose departure may well be a benefit. If COMCAN can get its space television on a par with the Americans, we may even have a darts tournament between "The Mucky Duck," Nairobi, "The Red Bear," Berlin, and "The Hole in the Wall," Catterick—with at least one Major, Sergeant and Signalman in each team.

Well—Why Not?

24th REGIMENT

Farewell. The Regiment said farewell to Brigadier P. M. P. Hobson, D.S.O., during July. Brigadier Hobson's contribution to the Corps will be recorded later in THE WIRE, but he will always be remembered by this Regiment as a Commander whose first interest was the welfare of his officers and men.

Brigadier Hobson was dined-out by the officers of the Regiment on 26th July, 1962. He was taken home in traditional style riding a motor cycle mounted beneath the Display Team "Fire Jump." A torchlight procession by officers marching to the music of the Corps March, provided a fitting background for the journey back to Jutland House.

Our photograph shows Brigadier Hobson mounted in the "Fire Jump." This picture was posed on reaching Jutland House; he was with difficulty restrained from demonstrating his skill and ability by riding through the blazing jump standing on his head on the handlebars of the machine.

Sport. 2 Squadron reached the final of the Minor Units Cricket Competition, but were beaten by a team from the School of Signals.

The Regimental Motor Cycle Team gave a good performance in the Northern Command Motor Cycle Championships, gaining second place to a team from the T.A. Being the champion team from the Regular Army qualifies them for the Army Championships, to be held in Borden in October.

Church Fete. The Regiment was given the task of organising the 1962 Fete for St. Oswald's Church. With the help of other units who use the church, the record sum of £267 was raised.

The Putting Championship of Catterick Camp, 1962, was staged during the fete. The winner of this much-coveted trophy, against intense competition, was Major R. Harvey.

24th REGIMENT

Brigadier P.M.P. Hobson, D.S.O.

SQUADRONS

203 SQUADRON

July saw the Squadron busy with Exercise "Barbican II," in which we entertained 209 Squadron in the hot and dusty hills of the Troodos range. It, perhaps, would be difficult to say who entertained who in the event; suffice it to say that we enjoyed the visit of 209 and would have liked to see them again.

July also brought final confirmation that the Squadron was to disband—so "Barbican II" was our swan song and this will be the last report from the Squadron to appear in THE WIRE.

By any measure, our life as a Squadron has been indeed short—1st September, 1959,-30th September, 1962. However, for those who have had the good fortune to know the fine spirit of the Unit and its high standards it will remain a lasting memory.

There is little point in detailing the major events in our short history except to say that there have been many—all reasonably to our credit.

Our association with H.Q., 3 Infantry Brigade Group and with Units in the Brigade has been close and happy — always an indication that a Squadron is doing a good job.

A great number of Units will be receiving, or have already received, reinforcements from us. The Units will find the men "above standard"; we hope the men will say the same of the Units and we wish both a happy and successful future.

205 SQUADRON

The Moselle Wine Harvest

Since we last appeared in print the activities of the Squadron have had an extra mural tinge. Corporal Page, Lance-Corporal O'Toole, Signalmen Cross, Evans, Robinson and Lant took a day off to explore the lower reaches of the Moselle. Strangely enough, their visit coincided with the end of the wine harvest.

Signalman Lant writes:—

"We arrived at Rudisheim at about 12 o'clock after following the Rhine river for five hours. It was the time of the wine harvest, and with most of their work over the people were letting themselves go. The festival was in full swing as we walked around the town. Having browsed round the shops, the old buildings and the young frauleins in summer dresses, we were debating whether or not to visit the local 'schloss,' when someone suggested that we sample the wine. Surprisingly, there were no dissenters.

"The main street was literally jammed with people. We could hear music and singing coming from every guest house, and having selected a likely looking one we entered. In the dimly lit cellar-bar, our official wine taster, Lance-Corporal O'Toole, sampled the wine and pronounced it 'good.' After we had all tried this ourselves and given our verdicts, we moved on, sampling our way round the guest-houses of the town. At the fourth (or was it the fifth?) house, we were singing with the best, and Signalman Evans requested that 'Tom Dooley' be sung. The result sounded something like 'Michael Row the Boat Ashore,' but anyway we sang.

"All too quickly the time came for us to return. Unfortunately the scenery did not get much of our attention on the way back—we were all sound asleep!"

Baltic Cruise

Meanwhile, "somewhere in the Baltic," Lieutenant Noonan, Corporal Chambers and Signalman Gordon were battling against the elements to get a small boat from Kiel to Sondeborg. Did I say "battling?" There follows a short extract from the log of the good ship *Friese*":

Sunday, 15th July

11.00 hrs. Slipped British Kiel Yacht Club Moorings. Wind NNW Force 0-1.

12.00 hrs. Kiel Fiord. Threw matchbox over bow and timed its progress to estimate our speed.
13.00 hrs. Kiel Fiord. Matchbox still with us.
14.00 hrs. Wind now steady Force 1.
Beginning to leave matchbox astern.
17.00 hrs. Clear of Fiord. Wind Force 2. Alarming speed of 1½ knots.
Thinking of reducing sail.
20.00 hrs. Becalmed. Familiar looking matchbox beginning to overhaul us.

Friese eventually reached her destination, Sondeborg, at 05.30 hrs. the next day. Food and sleep occupied her crew for the next five hours, and after a visit from a friendly Danish Customs officer, who knew *Friese* better than anyone aboard her, sail was set and a course laid to Faaborg.

This leg of the trip was much the same as the first. For the first five hours or so there was hardly any wind at all, and *Friese* drifted rather than sailed her course. But the sun was shining, no one was in any great hurry, and the crew was content to get nowhere and get a tan doing it.

The wind freshened later on in the day and good progress was made as far as Skoljdness Light. Once round this headland, however, things were back to normal, beating to wind was in a Force 1 wind. Nightfall found *Friese* tantalisingly close to her destination, but simply lacking the motive force to get there.

Faaborg was eventually reached at 04.00 hours, after some dodgy moments in the very narrow channel which leads to the harbour. While halfway through the channel the wind dropped so far as to very nearly deprive *Friese* of steerage way, and the prospect of going aground in the dark was not faced enthusiastically by the crew. Just at the right time, however, the wind freshened and the channel was cleared.

Friese stayed in Faaborg for the remainder of that day and night, to give the crew a chance to clean up and sample the delights of life ashore. In Faaborg this meant sitting in the one and only café playing the top twenty of c.1950 to death on the juke box.

The next morning (Wednesday) the party sailed to Aeroskjobing, in a good steady Force 4. The sun shone, the sea sparkled, and the spray flew. Contrary to tradition, Aeroskjobing harbour was entered in daylight. *Friese's* crew marked their stay in this delightful old town by a visit to the New Moving Biograph, or "Kinema," where a modern "film" from the New World was exhibited to the wonder and delight of the capacity crowd of thirty-five.

On Thursday morning *Friese* slipped her moorings and sailed for Kiel and home. She moored up at the Bkyc at daybreak on Friday in the traditional manner, and after sleep and food the crew cleaner her and handed her over. All that was left to be done was to take leave of *Friese* and Kiel and return to sunny Iserlohn.

In our September notes we hope to have an account of the doings of a party from the Squadron which will be attached to a French Chasseur Unit in the Alps for three weeks.

208 (COMWEL) SQUADRON

Dear S.S.M.,

Now that you are proudly showing the flag by wearing the Commonwealth flash in that far flung outpost of the Empire(?) called Catterick for a few months, we thought you might like to know how your boys have been getting along while you have been away.

You will remember some time before you left that it was rumoured that we would be doing a big exercise in Borneo which was supposed to last for for about ten weeks? Well, we have done that exercise now but it was it little different to what we originally expected. We didn't go to Borneo at all, and some people hardly went anywhere. A terrible rumour reached those of us at the sharp end that some people even managed to go home for lunch from their exercise area. Anyway, you can rest assured that most acquitted themselves fairly well on Exercise "Trumpeter." We were away from the bright lights of Terendak Camp for about three weeks, and one or two of us even did at bit of real jungle bashing during that time. We had a lot of rain on the exercise, so much so that I must tell you of the night we had a visit from Captain Regler, 249 Squadron's radio relay officer. He appeared at the signal centre late one night looking a little bedraggled. He asked if anyone knew if a C41 was supposed to be waterproof. Trying to cover our ignorance (you might find out what a C41 is while you are at Catterick) we all said that we thought so. "Look at this one," and so saying he tipped a large green box on to one corner to allow a lot of dirty brown fluid escape. Now that shows you that it really must have rained some. Lieutenant Edwards still has not recovered from the shock of the mess on his nice clean signal centre floor.

Your stand-in, Staff Banham, is doing well, although he has not got your touch when it comes to selling THE WIRE. I nearly managed to read all of last month's in the office without paying for it before he spotted me. If you don't get back before the next issue I may get away with it.

By the way, don't come back too soon as their is a whisper of this year's administrative inspection taking place in a couple of weeks, and I haven't done my PE tests yet. Some people managed to qualify for them on the exercise, ask Signalman Down when you get back.

What is Catterick looking like these days? If you can, bring a few photos with you to prove to the Diggers that winter in Catterick is the same time of year as it is Down Under. They don't believe that it snows in July.

Somebody told me the other day that Lance-Corporal Wallhead, who is detached to the Garrison Military Police, distinguished himself by "booking" the O.C.'s wife for speeding in the camp. I hear she got a severe reprimand from the O.C. that night. Lance-Corporal Wallhead is going home shortly, and we'll have to replace him, any ideas?

I hope these snippits of news from Malaya have been interesting to you and that you haven't forgotten us.

Best wishes from all the Poms and Digs.

216 SQUADRON (PARACHUTE BRIGADE GROUP)

At the end of our last notes we were preparing for Exercise "Solinus" last November. This exercise took a large part of the Squadron to North Africa for two weeks. We all came back with suntans, and Christmas presents which we gave to the Customs men. The round of Christmas parties was consequently slightly drier than anticipated, but nevertheless went with a swing.

Troop exercises took place throughout the early months of this year beginning with a Brigade Troop manpack exercise on Salisbury Plain. This was designed to simulate conditions during the period immediately following an airborne assault before the heavy drop arrived. This it did. It also simulated conditions somewhere near the North Pole! In the same month radio detachements again flew out to North Africa for 1 Worcesters' exercise. The Worcesters were under command for training purposes, because at this time the 2nd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, were overseas.

The Royal Air Force have recently taken delivery of the new medium range transport aircraft, the Argosy, and the Brigade has been carrying out parachute trials on it. Fifty guinea pigs from the Squadron spent the second week in April living at Westdown Camp and jumping on Everleigh DZ, as the Squadron's contribution to these trials. The new A and B type parachutes were tested too, so the week was one of new experiences and great interest. A smaller group had gone down earlier in the year and on that occasion W.O.II Turner had a hair-raising incident when he got caught up with an S.A.S. Sergeant in the door.

A Southern Command signals Exercise "Cross Over" employed most of the Squadron on control and umpire communications for the first week in April. Everything worked well,

and was good training for all tradesmen. We then got busy on the Brigade Administrative and Headquarters exercises and also a series of small Troop exercises.

In the name of recruiting, Captain Flynn took W.O.II Elliott, Corporal Houston and Corporal Daniels off on a round Britain tour, followed by a Continental tour. This was very popular with the team, and it also seems to have had some success. The Squadron's intrepid "infanteers" gaily bashed away at the 10-mile Evelyn Woods marching and shooting course, and marched very well on the day to win fifth place in the competition. This competition was the entree to the Brigade Rifle Week which was a good excuse for the more belligerent members of the Squadron to work off their excess emotions.

The Squadron then polished its boots for the Rhine Crossing Parade, when the *Aldershot News* decided that we were the smartest unit on parade and published a photograph of us. That they called us "The Parachute Regiment" should be disregarded.

Lieutenant Funnell and Corporal Daniels went on separate S.A.S. Escape and Evasion exercises and had a "cool" time. Lieutenant Collins went off to join the Norwegian Army for a month and, in spite of living in a bale of straw, he too had a cool time.

Corporals Hay, Drennan and Petty, our trained free-fallers, have each made a few continuation descents this year, though these are fairly hard to come by.

Camp this year was at Penhale in Cornwall, and the Squadron travelled down with happy memories of two years ago when we camped in the same place. We had lots of open air fun and games during the day which was just as well considering what went on in the evening. Some people took their military training too far. In particular, two men are known to have run the 8 miles from Newquay to Camp, and to have arrived just in time to change and parade for early morning P.T. This performance is particularly remarkable because one of the men had already been excused boots due to bad blisters. Corporal Emery's travelling circus toured the locals, and to the delight of the landlords led the good people of Perrinporth and Newquay in community singing.

We wound up the camp with a barbecue on the beach when our two cooks, Corporals Harden and Prosser, did a miraculous job in converting 10 rather eggbound broody hens into the most presentable roast chicken. An enormous driftwood bonfire kept us all warm, although there was nearly a tragedy when the blazing telegraph pole which formed the centre piece of the fire came crashing down onto the sand. It was a pity we only had time for one week there.

Princess Royal Day was celebrated by a Squadron open-day on Hankley Common. We had a buffet lunch on the Common, a communications race in the afternoon and an all ranks' dance in the evening. For the race, teams of 10 men parachuted; collected a message; registered it and prepared it for transmission; found and corrected a fault in a C11/R210 and set up a radio link over which the message was passed; laid ½-mile of D10 by which the message was passed to a DR; drove the message to a comcen where it was decrypted, and then carried the message by runner to the finishing line. Lance-Corporal Chadwick drove his Landrover with such ardour that he managed to strain his back.

We have just finished our summer block leave and are now packing like mad before going off for a training period in Greece. Reports from the advance party and promises of exercises in store, indicate that this is going to be a marvellous trip. Watch this column for further news.

On the sports field we have had a victorious season culminating in the Squadron coming 1st equal with 9 Parachute Squadron, R.E. (our old rivals) in the Ismailia Cup Competition. This is the first time we have won the cup and is a credit to every man in the Squadron. The swimming, basket-ball and hockey teams won their competitions outright and deserve a special mention. The soccer and rugger teams have also had a full season, although Sergeant Griffiths' ardour in arranging rugger matches had to be restrained when it was discovered that he had a provisional fixture to play a floodlit match against Cardiff.

Changes amongst the officers have occurred. Captain C. N. Last is still wearing a red beret, but is now with 305 Signal Squadron (Parachute Brigade) T.A. We thank him and his wife for all they have done for the Squadron. Captain D. R. Beadon, his wife and twins have joined us from the Junior Leaders Regiment, and Lieutenant A. M. Willcox has come over from B.A.O.R. They are all most welcome and we hope they will enjoy their stay with us. Also, with the run-out of National Servicemen, a lot of the Squadron characters have left. The Squadron Office backroom boys left en masse. As with all the others, they are missed, both for themselves and also for the gaps they leave in the Squadron.

So if you think you're up to it and would like to have a go at taking their places, then read ACI 327/60, and take no notice of any "wild" stories you hear about the selection course (particularly from people who have failed it). It is tough, but any determined man can pass it if he has the guts and the right spirit.

227 SQUADRON

Since our last appearance we have suffered the annual torture of the yearly inspection. No sooner was this over than we launched into the arrangements for the Inter-Allied Signals Day, photographs of which appear here This Fete des Transmissions was a general reunion between the four nationalities of signal company serving this headquarters and we paraded together, drank together and fought over dance partners together on a brilliant 2nd of June. To the C.O. of the 1st Bn. The Royal Irish Fusiliers we send many thanks for letting us use the Pipes and Drums and Military Band—they made the day.

The Squadron twist expert, led by Seregant P. Evans, then proceeded to win the team prize on the AFCENT four-day marches. The medals should really go to a certain firm of brewers at Chalons—their product helped and fortified the team in its praiseworthy efforts.

We then repaired ourselves to the banks of the Loire to undergo our annual field training (?). A great success largely due to wonderful weather and very hard work by all concerned. The local papers had much to say about "Nos camarades anglaises' and this year we forced the Gien football team (one of the best in French amateur league football) to a 4-1 victory over us as compared to 9-3 last year. We beat handsomely the local French Armoured Workshops—again a great improvement on past years.

To former members of the Squadron "Noddy" sends her love, as do Dany and Solange. The bear still keeps going round and round and Signalman Spencer now seems to be the champion shot especially when he has consumed fairly large amounts of the local potion.

Fishing this year occupied the spare time of some members of the Squadron. Our attached R.A.F. Medical Orderly caught a good 1¼lb. chub and a 1¼lb. roach. Major Henning is not approachable on the question of the size of his catch!

On 29th June, the O.C., Sergeants Reid and Johnson, Signalman Dunn, Gosling, Ridyard and Corporal Cooper carried out an adventure training sortie that conveniently ended up at the French Atlantic resort of Les Sables d'Olonne in which town the marriage of Captain John Halford (our PRI) and Mlle. Madeleine Bodinier was solemenised on 30th June. The patrol arrived back the following day somewhat jaded, deciding that sleep at any cost was the prescription for the next week! To the newly-weds we offer our very best wishes and say "bienvenue Madame" to our newest member of the Wives' Club.

The news from our detachment this month includes the arrival of a son for Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) and Mrs. Kent—many congratulations. Other couples at Soissons are "infanticipating" and more news of them in due course.

We hope that any Royal Signals friends who may be driving through France on holiday this year will look us up. Squadron H.Q. is located only a few hundred yards off RN 5 South from Fontainebleau in an ancient French Barracks known as Caserne Lariboisiere. Our "rest home" at Soissons is in fact rather more difficult to find but is, nevertheless, on RN 2 North of Soissons and about 10 Kms out of town near the village of Neuville. We are always pleased to see visitors and do hope that all who can will look us up. A word of advice—the Gendarmerie are very hot on dangerous driving and parking in unauthorised places, so keep your wits about you.

There is not a great deal to report on sports at the moment. We are, however, very proud of the fact that Lance-Corporal Bennett is riding as a British entry in the amateur "Tour de France." At the time of writing he is lying 26th—a good effort. His next appearance will be in the World Championships at Milan in September and thereafter the British and Empire Games. He, incidentally, happens to be a Technician and occasionally favours the TOT with the odd visit when he has a moment to spare from cycling!

Lance-Corporal Little delivers message from President Army Benevolent Fund to H.E. the Governor

236 SQUADRON

The Squadron Display and Funfare in the East African Army Week Show was the event of last month. This show, which combined tattoo, horse-show, display and funfare, was organised to raise money for the Army Benevolent Fund. The Squadron ran a most successful funfair arcade during which over £40 was collected in three afternoons. Nearby was our display. A large satellite was in orbit high above the road outside and inside the stand a teleprinter, beside a 10 foot high dramatic picture of the first communications satellite, was receiving messages, which some of the public really thought were coming from Telstar I. The Racal Digital Frequency Meter with a neon display panel above it helped complete the picture of COMCAN in the future. On another bench Corporal Taylor and Lance-Corporal Little, with the help of COMCAN the world over, provided the public with a free greetings telegram service to anyone in the Army. They were kept really busy, passing 147 messages in all, including one from H.E. The Governor of Kenya, who sent greetings to the Secretary of State for War, and said he was admiring our Signals equipment in Nairobi. The G.O.C. received a message from General Sir James Steele, President of the Army Benevolent Fund, wishing the show good luck. The show-ground teleprinter was linked into the COMCAN network through two B70 relays, perhaps the first time COMCAN has used 4000 mc/s. Sergeant Webb and his band of helpers put in a lot of work in the days before the show to make sure everything would work on the day. Almost everyone in the Squadron, including the R.E.M.E. Workshop, was involved in one aspect or other of this show, and the feeling that the Signals' stand was one of the highlights was confirmed when the *Sunday Nation's* description was published, more than half the column was about us.

237 SQUADRON

Since the last notes from this Squadron appeared there have been many changes among the personnel. Firstly, we have a new Squadron Commander. He is Major W. J. A. Norris who previously was O.C. T.X. Troop and he replaced Major W. F. D. Hawkins who has returned to the U.K. Our new Admin. Officer is Captain P. F. White, who replaced Captain D. Steele. Captain (T.O.T.) A. D. Martin has gone home to U.K. and we welcome his relief Captain (T.O.T.) J. Le Hardy. Our Engineering Troop Officer, Captain T. Blashill, left us on 22nd July on the *Nevasa*, and we await his relief Captain N. Grayson, who is due to arrive at the end of August. The present O.C. T.X. Troop, Lieutenant H. James, is due to join 18th Regiment in the near future, so we have the unique occasion of a virtual 100% change over of officers in a couple of months.

If it is true that new brooms sweep clean, the Squadron should rapidly become spotless. The only thing that carries on regardless is the work, and we feel justly proud of the numbers and scope of the projects and improvements now going on. The COMCAN installation team is well and truly into its task of installing the new H.S. 51s at Transmitters, in fact, we are amazed at the state they have reached considering that they are still awaiting the installation kits ! ! !

We still follow the golden rule, that it is essential to play hard as well as work hard, and to this end we have taken a full part in the sports programme of our parent unit 18th Regiment, and have had several social functions.

A fishing competition at our R.X. Station was quite a success, whilst our T.X. Troop challenged 2 Squadron 18th Regiment to an open sports day. T.X. Troop were beaten in all events, but later proved that it was the "Spirit" that counts.

A Squadron social was held on 7th July to say goodbye to Captains Blasshill and Martin, and also R.Q.M.S. Licence and A.S.M. Fildes. We were honoured on this occasion with the presence of the Commanding Officer 18th Regiment, Lieutenant-Colonel W. W. C. Cock, and his wife.

A mention should be made before closing of the new element in our Squadron, the civilians who are arriving weekly from U.K. We welcome them to Singapore and feel sure that they will very soon feel full members of the team. Who knows, we may get a new look to our WIRE notes if any of them shows a literary ability.

248 GURKHA SQUADRON

In May we entertained Singapore with the annual three-day Internal Security Exercise; some of the simulated crowds were so good they must surely have given some prospective trouble makers an idea or two. The local population seem to take it all very well and some even express the view that it gives them a "sense of security" to see the Gurkhas rushing around — me too !

Although a considerable effort was put into Internal Security during May, most of our working hours were devoted to preparations for Exercise "Trumpeter." This was undoubtedly the biggest Exercise of its kind this side of Suez since the last war.

The aim was to practise the Commonwealth Brigade in its strategic reserve role against a jungle-bound insurgent-type enemy — our Brigade.

Had the Squadron's responsibilities been merely providing communications for our own Brigade, life would have been fairly simple, but next we were asked to provide Umpire Communications; the General asked so nicely t'would have been churlish to refuse. On top of this the planners realised they needed communications at the combined Army/R.A.F. Control-Umpire-Force Headquarters and convinced us of their need for us.

This raised the problem that a third of the Squadron as umpires with the Commonwealth Brigade would know of "things" which another third (the enemy) must never hear about, and the remainder at Control Headquarters knew everything about everybody, but must on no account tell either of the other factions. The Squadron Commander, who attended everybody's briefings, is now recovering from a bad bout of schizophrenia.

The enemy side of things gave everyone, including the communicators, a lot of scope. To begin with, our Brigade Commander was given a fairly free hand as the insurgent commander; but when they began to realise, back at G.H.Q., what a really criminal mind he has, they began to have doubts and imposed some controls. Even so, two Gurkhas dressed as civilian policement "controlled" Commonwealth Brigade vehicles through a small Malay Kampong during the initial stages of the Exercise.

The main "enemy" problem was providing communications over a three-week period to Battalions, Companies and small parties of the Sarawak Rangers, all in deep jungle spread over a wide area—without any resupply whatsoever throughout the three weeks. Rations, petrol and stores were initially moved in by helicopter before the exercise started, dumped and made secure.

One element of the enemy was situated in a specially constructed insurgent-type defended village, populated by Gurkhas—some dressed as women—with their own "rations on the hoof" running all over the place. Signalman Thambahadur Pun provided communications from here with an A510 — his aerial also serving as a clothes line !

One Battalion rear link had their C11/R210 equipment moved into deep jungle by helicopter and then had to carry it a couple of miles up a stream (actually in the water) to the base location. This, with charging engine and batteries, would have made quite a splash — but they did not drop it.

The Squadron borrowed a 97-foot mast from 237 Squadron

Signalman Thambahadur Pun strolling around the "Enemy" Village. The tall poles are to deter helicopters from "dropping-in."

Signalman Birkaji Gurung with the C11/R210 Detachment in the Insurgents Jungle Stronghold

(COMCAN) in order to elevate a C42 ATU and aerial (with a sputnik-like ground-plane arrangement) to its top. After the top section had fallen down twice, fortunately without killing anybody, we realised that it was not as easy as it looked. Our L.A.D. managed to repair the mangled sections and the welder who did the job insisted on coming to see our third attempt at erecting it. In his expressed view, "He'd repaired the b—— thing twice and didn't want to miss it when it fell down the third time." He was disappointed — and we were delighted; it enabled our Squadron pennant to flutter at least 60 feet higher than any other bunting in the area and gave us superb V.H.F. communications to the manported A41s in the jungle.

For the first time ever we worked a really combined Signal Centre with the R.A.F. It was not easy to begin with, as we just did not speak the same language (and I do not mean Gurkhali/English); our technical terms, operating procedures and handling are so very different, within a few days, however, all difficulties had been thrust aside and R.A.F. traffic was rattling over our teleprinter, whilst they cleared many of our messages.

Lieutenant Birch, who was looking after "enemy" communications, tried his hand at intercept and "net intrusion." Quite a lot of bogus traffic was also passed, but I doubt if the results will ever be known.

Once again we were working closely with "248 plus-one," our friends of 249 Squadron. Possibly they feel that with the recent posting in of Corporal McBlain and S.S.M. Rowthorne from Gurkha Signals that there is a little bit of insurgency work going on in Singapore !

After a month out on "Trumpeter" we turned our vehicles southwards and made for home. Here we gave Lieutenant Birch just time enough to take his jungle boots off before putting him on a plane bound for Nepal, where he will be our Assistant Recruiting Officer for two years. There he replaces Captain H. McI. Paterson, who returns to the Regiment this month.

The next event was our annual Funfair organised in aid of the Army Benevolent Fund and our own Gurkha Welfare Fund. The Squadron was assisted by the Brigade H.Q. Company and the Gurkha Army Service Corps Company. It was a grand afternoon's entertainment and raised 2,300 dollars, almost £300.

The web of intrique spun by the enemy during exercise Trumpeter was equalled only by this one spun by our seven field linemen

Our Gurkha Signal Pipes and Drums came down for this and later Beat Retreat for us in the Nee Soon Garrison.

The Squadron has just welcomed Lieutenant Kent, who replaces Lieutenant Birch; he should find time passing quickly, for within half-an-hour of arriving he was instructed that he had to learn the language, lay an underground cable, take over "J" Troop, look after the athletics team and captain the football team.

Lieutenant Narbahadur Thapa recently arrived back from a Hythe course to take over "A" Troop and with our full complement of Officers Captain Copeland is planning on a spot of leave; nevertheless, he will have to work it in between the Squadron Commander's return from Nepal and his departure for Australia.

249 SQUADRON

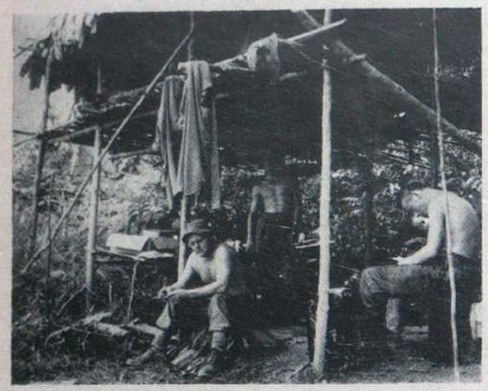
The Squadron has only recently returned from the largest exercise ever held in the Far East, Exercise "Trumpeter." After a series of brilliant operations carried out last year known as "The Angel" operations, in which the Squadron featured prominently, the forces of Northland were vanquished by Southland. In June of this year, however, Northland, in the shape of 99 Gurkha Infantry Brigade, reared its ugly head, once again in the central region of Malaya, and Southland, as usual, called in 28 (Comwel) Brigade and 249 Squadron to come to their rescue. Exercise "Trumpeter" was launched.

In this exercise 224 Group of the Royal Air Force and a Naval Helicopter Squadron participated and the accent throughout was mobility by means other than by road. Members of the Squadron moved by Pioneer, the Auster aircraft, helicopters, and on their feet. Waterborne transport was also used but we avoided this refinement.

Detachments of the Squadron were deployed over the whole length of Malaya from Penang in the north to Singapore in the south. Our accommodation varied from the luxurious surroundings of a peacetime R.A.F. station encountered by Corporal Mahoney and his detachment to a rainswept hill top miles from civilisation on which Corporal Whittle and his relay detachment sat. Even more isolated were Staff Sergeant Brotherton and his tentacle who found themselves deep in the jungle providing the very vital Air Support Communications for Tac Brigade H.Q. The only way of reaching their location was by helicopter.

As usual detachments arrived back with stories of huge snakes that had been sighted and the eyes of weird beasts that had been seen close by their bivouac areas at night. Whether these latter belonged to local inhabitants or genuine wild animals will never be known.

The weather was particularly vile, boiling hot to start with and then almost incessant rain. Only those who have served in this theatre will know how grim working a wireless set in the cramped surrounding of a landrover with rain beating in whilst your kit in a home-made bivouac is getting soaked, can be. Lance-Corporal Caisley and Signalman Tregenza were enjoying a game of cards in a home-made shelter one evening when suddenly a rushing torrent swept through their bivouac and the card table floated away. Two Radio Relay chains, one of which was over 100 miles, were successfully engineered although the new O.C. Radio Relay Troop, Captain Reggler, took on an emanciated look by the end of the exercise. Captain Tacey, of H.F. Troop, who sat at Rear Brigade H.Q., however put on even more weight and looked more comfortable and opulent than ever by the time he was due to leave for home. The Squadron Commander, Major Webb, seemed more placid than usual, although this might not have been apparent to Radio Relay Troop, being fed copious cups of tea by Foreman Bradford and



Corporal Whittle and his detachment utilising a tappers hut for living accommodation

Lance-Corporal Marsh carrying out "field repairs on Ex Trumpeter"

Signalman Abbott outside his relay station on top of a lonely hill in the middle of Malaya

his team. By the end of the exercise everything was so well under control that Sergeant Todd had hardly to rise from his bed. Who won the war we shall never know, but anyway we are now back in Singapore again, and the tired old 53 sets which have done gallant service for nearly twenty years have been put in to the Foreman's workshop for a rest and refurbish before a Telecommunications inspection at the end of September. The equally tired, but not so old, detachment commanders have been packed off to the Signal Training Centre for upgrading and a spirit of relative peace and calm reigns over the Squadron, except for preparations for the funfair which is being run for Singapore and Service Charities in the near future. Sergeant Prees who is helping prepare the Squadron float was heard having a heated conversation as he had a bevy of "lovelies" but no grass skirts for them, whilst another Squadron had got grass skirts but no lovelies. Who won in the end or whose floats looked the most glamorous will not be known until the next edition of THE WIRE.

255 SQUADRON
Bahrain

Since our last appearance in THE WIRE, very little of note has happened in the unit which would be of interest to the majority of readers. Because of this, and the strong words in the May Editorial, we will try and give you some idea of Bahrain.

Bahrain is the largest island of a small group lying half-way up the Persian Gulf. It is linked by a one and a half mile causeway to the next largest island of Muharraq. Manama, the capital, lies at the Bahrain end of the causeway and is quite a large town by any standards, the population being nearly 62,000.

There are, at the moment, no army quarters or hirings in Bahrain so families have to make their own arrangements, renting bungalows, houses or flats in Manama. The European residential area is very pleasant and the more fortunate live in houses overlooking the sea. Rents are high but are within the usual allowances. Food is expensive but plentiful. Most British and American canned and frozen goods are available in the shops. Radios, cameras and projectors are cheap, particularly those imported from Japan. Most soldiers return home with a camera and transistor portable radio.

Bahrain used to be the centre of a very large pearl fishing industry but this has dwindled to nearly nothing. You can, however, still buy very nice natural pearls and have them made into rings or earrings at about a third of what it would cost in the United Kingdom.

Currently there is a shortage of evening entertainment on the island. There are two cinemas which we normally use, the R.A.F. cinema at Muharraq and the Oil Company cinema at Awali in the centre of the island. We have of course the usual camp cinema shows using the end of a barrack block as a screen. We also have our usual quota of canteens including a Malcolm Club. The foundations have just been laid for a new Junior Ranks' Club in the compound where the Squadron lives. For those with money the Bahrain airport has a very nice restaurant (with licence!) where you can watch the Comets and Boeing 707's take off for home.

The weather features in everyones' conversation out here just as it does at home, but for vastly different reasons. It IS hot and nobody will convince us otherwise. Fortunately there is a cool season, in fact you can nearly call it winter. In January it is cold enough for electric fires and an overcoat. At the other end of the scale, the daily temperature in the hot season rises to a little over 100°F. with nearly 100% humidity at night. All houses and barrack rooms are fully air conditioned and the inside temperatures are usually kept at 70° - 80°F.

Soccer, basketball, hockey, cricket and even rugby are all played, although enthusiasm for energetic games wears thin during July and August. The more hardy sportsmen go shark fishing and some mighty monsters have been landed.

For those of you in Southern Command, the island of Bahrain is an archaeologists goldmine. It is the site of one of the world's largest prehistoric cemeteries with something like 10,000 burials mounds dating back to 3,000 B.C. A Portuguese fort built between 1521 and 1562 still stands on the site of a city built 5,000 years ago. "Digs" have been started in only a few areas.

Bahrain is no "Paradise" but no one expects to be stationed there! It is *not*, however, half as bad as our "friends" told us when we were posted to 255. After all we have the desert, palm trees, moonlight nights, the sound of breaking surf and, yes—a GIRL.

TRUCIAL OMAN SCOUTS
SIGNAL SQUADRON

When we last appeared in print we glibly referred to the approaching hot weather—the notorious 100 days hell—and the fact that we exercised and operated in it. However, then it was largely a case of "ignorance is bliss" for it was difficult to visualise intense heat and "old sweats" always tend to exaggerate the facts.

Now we can comment from experience and for once old soldiers' tales are not exaggerated. On the coast, shade temperatures are often well over the 110° mark with 100% humidity rating and inland temperatures rise to 130° or more but with little humidity. A poor choice!

Any sort of activity in this weather has to be very carefully controlled to avoid heat stroke, heat exhaustion and breakdown of vehicles and equipment. Everything and everyone stops during the heat of the day, everyone that is except the Army which is required to continue operating. Even mad dogs wait until it is cooler!

In spite of the precautions, vehicles constantly stop due entirely to heat, and the last exercise put "paid" to two of our older soldiers. However, we trust that this is but a temporary setback and we hope to see them up and active again shortly.

Before we finally drop the subject, we were amused to hear that the R.A.F., who were conducting special hot weather trials on aircraft, decided that Aden was not hot enough. The aircraft were finally sent to Sharjah. (Any comment from Aden?).

The T.O.S. Navy took to the sea a few times last month. It consists of a dhow, "Al-Qaid," fitted for radio, whose job it is to carry stores to some of the more distant Squadrons and patrols and to stop and search vessels suspected of gun running and other nefarious activities.

The crew consists of a family of three Arabs—father and two sons—who between them and accompanied by much shouting and gesticulating, manage to sail the dhow and carry out all the manoeuvres that they are from time to time called upon to execute.

The main armament is a troop of soldiers commanded by an officer and on occasions they must present an unusual sight for the unwary. The distinctive uniform and general appearance of the soldiers—many with shoulder-length hair and beards—are reminiscent of the Spanish Main and Jolly Roger rather than H.M. Forces carrying out routine patrols. However, notwithstanding their appearance (or perhaps because of it . . . .) these patrols have proved worthwhile from a military viewpoint—in addition to their obvious attraction as a break from land patrols.

The Al-Qaid's greatest achievement to date was to stop and board the United States destroyer *Gainard*. The U.S. vessel had been on a courtesy visit to the T.O.S. and had just weighed anchor preparatory to leaving when the T.O.S. Navy hove into sight and bore down on them. The Skipper, presumably at a loss as to what to do and particularly as to what Al-Qaid was going to do, decided that discretion was the better part of valour, and dropped anchor again. The Al-Qaid's crew which had merely put to sea to give the U.S. Navy a nautical send off were, instead, welcomed aboard to the strains of pipe music—the Skipper of the *Gainard* had at some time in the past been presented with a set of pipes, which he had learned to play and which he did play on every possible occasion. Some two hours later the Al-Qaid finally sailed back to Sharjah, once again to the strains of pipe music (we were assured it was a well-known Scottish tune!) having successfully stopped a vessel of the U.S. Navy.

The visit of the U.S. Navy was the excuse for much celebration with the usual friendly game of soccer. The Sergeants' Mess entertained the Petty Officers in the time honoured manner and "acquired," as a trophy, the only flag on board with fifty stars—the ship sailed next morning displaying only forty-nine stars on the mast. Truly a memorable visit.

Our amateur station is still flourishing but although we maintained a 24 hours schedule on Corps Day we regrettably only worked five other Royal Signals stations. The "Voice of Oman" still operates regularly and we are delighted to welcome newcomers to the fold. Do please call us and swap information.

We would like to end these notes with a "Can you beat this?" Our best wireless operators are enlisted boys, whose ages vary between 10 - 13 years. These boys are in every respect, except age, serving soldiers and they are all entitled to—and proudly wear—the General Service Medal. This was awarded for operation Jebel Akhdar in 1957/59, and the youngest soldier to be awarded the medal was nine years old at the time.

- SPORT -

BAOR Inter Unit Athletics Championship, 1962
Royal Signals

This year the athletics and tug-of-war championships were again held at Herford Stadium, this time under the management of 7th Regiment.

Herford Stadium offers a good 400 metre red marl track, with ample throwing space and jumping pits, together with a covered stand capable of holding some thousand spectators. It is, in fact, typical of the high-class small arenas with which almost every sizeable town in N.W. Germany is provided, and in the case of Herford, it is very well looked after by resident groundsmen.

Eight teams competed for the athletics championship and four for the tug-of-war, and they converged upon Herford from as far afield as Verden, in the north, to Rheindahlen, in the south-west. Since a unit team averages about 30 athletes, the numbers involved made it impracticable to hold a two-day meeting, and consequently many athletes had to work hard for their day's pay on 11th July—a runner doubling up in the 4 x 400 metres and 4 x 800 metres relays, for example, had to take on four strenuous races in one day, due to the necessity to run A and B finals in all the relays.

The day was notable on two counts; firstly, for the intensity and closeness of the competition, and secondly, for the almost unbelievable ferocity with which the weather deteriorated at the eleventh hour (alpha time). The track competitions opened at 10.30 with the 5,000 metre team race, and by this time the finishing straight was completely flooded in its centre section opposite the stand. After one lap, the seat of each runner's shorts was a dull red in colour, and by the end of the race, the general appearance of the 32 runners suggested a steeplechase rather than a pure track event. After this there were, admittedly, one or two dry periods, but the bad weather was never far away and several of the events took place in driving rain.

It soon became apparent that no fewer than six of the eight teams were all very evenly matched, with 2nd, 7th, 21st and 28th Regiments all looking like winning at various moments. By tradition, the "Queen" of all the events, the 4 x 400 metres relay, was the last to be decided and immediately prior to it the scores were:

2nd Regiment	203
7th Regiment	199
21st Regiment	194
28th Regiment	186

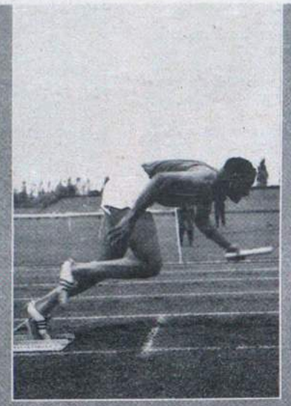
Furthermore, all these items were in the final and would score 32, 28, 34 or 20 points, barring disqualifications, and so any of the first three could therefore still win the competition.

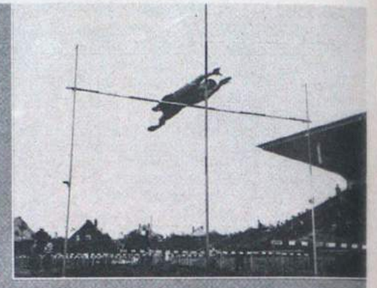
The setting at the start of the race was therefore one of considerable tension, and at one juncture, as the final leg was being run, it looked as if all the home team supporters would swarm on to the track. However, although 7th Regiment were convincing winners of the particular race, 2nd Regiment were placed second, so that the two regiments had an overall score of 231.

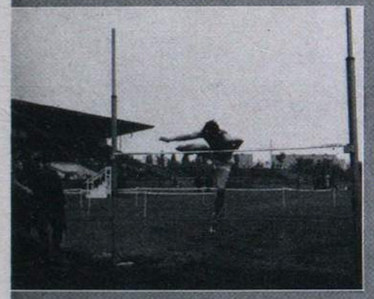
A tie is, of course, a splendid way to end an athletics match, but a cup is a cup, and doesn't divide quite so easily. It was only when trying to decide who should take the cup that the closeness of the result became apparent. The view that the winner of the 4 x 400 metres relay decides the competition, as with the welterweight in a boxing tie, was superceded by a rule that the team with the most wins takes the trophy. This, however, failed to decide the issue, since 2nd and 7th Regiments were credited with four wins. Admittedly 7th Regiment had four clear wins, whereas 2nd Regiment had three clear, and one drawn win (in the high jump), but on the other hand, 2nd Regiment had two second places, as opposed to 7th Regiment's one. In the end, the Referee, Brigadier E. J. C. Harrison, O.B.E.,

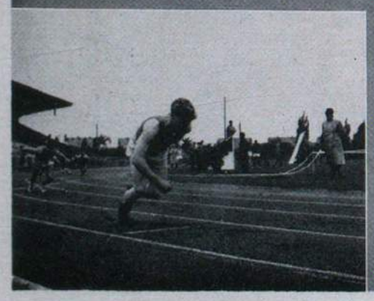
Royal Signals
BAOR
Athletic Meeting

Herford Stadium
12th July, 1962









decided that the tie should stand and that the cup should be held for six months each by each Regiment in turn, starting with 2nd Regiment—for no better reason, as the referee put it, "that 2 was less than 7."

The great thing about athletics, as the Olympic motto points out, is to take part, and the great thing about inter-unit athletics, in particular, is that it is a team game, allowing a higher number of people to represent their Regiment than in any other sport. In keeping with this, no mention has been made of any individual athlete or his performance. All gave of their best and produced a first-class competition—who can demand more. Below are listed, just for the record, the final placings and the winning performances.

In the tug-of-war, which was limited to 100 stone, 21st Regiment beat 7th Regiment by two straight pulls in the final. The standard of pulling by both teams showed a great improvement over the "all weight and no strength" spectacle which, until the last few years, had too often been the case. The tug-of-war is an event calling for fitness and determination, as well as pure strength, and it is one in which a small unit is not so markedly at a disadvantage as in other sports. One hopes that next year more teams will enter for this competition, which can be as exciting as any.

In a short address, after giving away the trophies, Brigadier Harrison said that all concerned, athletes, officials, organisers, assistants and spectators were to be congratulated for the way they contributed to a very successful day's competition.

All the teams appreciated the co-operation of the Herford authorities in lending us, without charge, their splendid stadium and, in return, it has been decided to present them with a cup to be competed for annually by teams from all the local schools who also use the stadium regularly. Detailed arrangements for the competition and the presentation of the Cup, which comes from all Royal Signals in B.A.O.R., are still being made.

RESULTS AND PERFORMANCES

4 x 100 metres relay	16th Regiment	46.4secs.
4 x 200 metres relay	16th Regiment	1min. 34.8secs.
4 x 400 metres relay	7th Regiment	3mins. 45.7secs.
4 x 800 metres relay	21st Regiment	8mins. 52secs.
1500 metres team race	7th Regiment	
1st man home	28th Regiment	4mins. 12.9secs.
5000 metres team race	7th Regiment	
1st man home	7th Regiment	15mins. 57.4secs.
4 x 110 metres hurdles	2nd Regiment	1min. 14.8secs.
Long Jump	1st Regiment	37ft. 8½ins.
High Jump	4th & 2nd Regiments	10ft. 7ins.
Pole Vault	7th Regiment	19ft. 9ins.
Shot	2nd Regiment	69ft. 9ins.
Discus	16th Regiment	211ft. 6ins.
Hammer	2nd Regiment	261ft. 1ins.
Javelin	16th Regiment	298ft.

FINAL PLACINGS

1st equal	2nd & 7th Regiments	231 points
3rd	21st Regiment	218 points
4th	28th Regiment	206 points
5th	16th Regiment	182 points
6th	1st Regiment	173 points
7th	4th Regiment	137 points
8th	13th Regiment	134 points

Tug of war — Winners: 21st Regiment; Runner-up: 7th Regiment

Shooting

Corps Rifle Meeting, 1962

The meeting was held at Bulford on the 18th, 19th, 20th and 21st June. There were 91 competitors, including five Gurkhas from 247 (Gurkha) Squadron. 7th Regiment was the only B.A.O.R. Unit able to send a full team. It was hoped that at least three teams would attend but 21st Regiment had to cancel at the last moment and 1st Regiment could only spare their men for the Bisley Meeting.

The weather changed each day and provided good training for even the experienced shots and particularly for the competitors from B.A.O.R. who mainly have to train on tunnel ranges and therefore lack experience in aiming off.

The matches fired were the Roupell, Henry Whitehead, Roberts, Britannia, Parachute Regiment Cup (S.M.G.), Revolver XXX Cup, and The Bisley Cup (SR(B)). The general standard of marksmanship was slightly below last year's, but there were many good experienced shots unable to attend the Meeting. Of the newcomers W.O.II Kay, of 14th Regiment, and Corporal W. G. Bell, of 30th Regiment, showed great promise. At Bisley they both shot in the Corps Methuen team and W.O.II Kay made "The Army Hundred" at his first attempt.

Southern Command retained the Champion Team Trophy with 14th Regiment runners-up. Northern Command won the Henry Whitehead and Britannia, Southern Command, the Roupell and Roberts and 8th Regiment the Parachute Regiment Cup (S.M.G.).

Three of the Gurkhas shot very well, particularly at 300 yards, and Signalman Dhanbahadur Chhetri won the prize for the best Gurkha rifle shot.

The Second Officer-in-Charge, Major-General A. M. W. Whistler, C.B.E., attended the Meeting on the last day and presented the prizes. In addressing the competitors he stressed the importance of shooting as a first-class sport within the Corps and urged that all who had ability, and the time, should

CORPE RIFLE MEETING 1962
CHAMPION TEAM — SOUTHERN COMMAND

Back row : Corporal D. M. Anderson, Signalman R. F. Biddlecombe, Sergeant A. C. Robertshaw, Signalman V. I. J. Church, Signalman J. T. Marsden, Signalman R. G. Davies

Front Row : Staff Sergeant D. Greenbrook, Lieutenant Colonel C. V. Walsh, The S.O. in C. Major General A. M. W. Whistler, C.B.E., Major G. M. Allan, WO II J. G. Turner

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be given the opportunity to practice their skill and to compete against other Arms and Services at central meetings.

Prizes were presented to the following:—

Match 6 (Roupell):
Winning team — Southern Command.
Individual Class "A"—Lieutenant-Colonel C. V. Walsh, Southern Command. Score 163.
Individual Class "B"—Lance-Corporal P. J. Davies, 30th Regiment. Score 137.

Match 7 (Henry Whitehead):
Winning Team—Northern Command.
Individual Class "A"—Lieutenant-Colonel C. V. Walsh, Southern Command. Score 161.
Individual Class "B"—Signalman R. G. Davies, Southern Command. Score 143.

Match 8 (Roberts):
Winning Team—Southern Command.
Individual Class "A"—Staff Sergeant D. Greenbrook, Southern Command. Score 118.
Individual Class "B"—Signalman R. F. Biddlecombe, Southern Command. Score 105.

Match 11 (Bisley Cup):
Winner—Lieutenant D. H. Insall, 4th Regiment. Score 142.
Second—Lieutenant-Colonel C. V. Walsh, Southern Command. Score 139.
Third—Sergeant H. Simister, 11th Regiment. Score 138.

Match 12 (Revolver):
Winner—Lieutenant-Colonel C. V. Walsh, Southern Command. Score 91.
Second—Lieutenant D. H. Insall, 4th Regiment. Score 84.
Third—Major G. M. Allan, Southern Command. Score 83.

Match 22 (Britannia):
Winning Team—Northern Command.

Match 32 (Parachute Regiment Cup):
Winning team—8th Regiment.
Individual Class "A"—W.O.II J. G. Turner, Southern Command. Score 135.
Individual Class "B"—Signalman J. T. Marsden, Southern Command. Score 122.

Best Gurkha Rifle Shot:
Winner—Signalman Dhanbahadur Chhetri, 247 (Gurkha) Squadron. Score 351.

Champion Rifle Shot:
Winner—Lieutenant-Colonel C. V. Walsh, Southern Command. Score 423.
Second—Captain N. C. Grayson, School of Signals. Score 414.

Champion Shot:
Winner—Lieutenant-Colonel C. V. Walsh, Southern Command. Score 543.
Second—Staff Sergeant C. J. Courtenay, 7th Regiment. Score 510.
Third—W.O.II C. Curtis, 14th Regiment. Score 495.

Champion Team:
Winner—Southern Command. Score 2,591¾.
Second—14th Regiment. Score 2,405.

Bisley, 1962

A.R.A. Meeting

42 Royal Signals competitors attended the Meeting from 23rd June - 7th July. Of these 24 qualified to shoot in the Second Stage of the Army Championship and two, Second-Lieutenant D. C. N. Genders of 7th Regiment and W.O.II R. W. Kay of 14th Regiment reached the Army Hundred and were awarded The Army Hundred Medal, 1962.

Four Gurkhas of 247 (Gurkha) Squadron competed in the championship and three of them reached the Second Stage. They got a special mention at the prize giving for being the first Gurkhas to attend a Bisley Meeting.

Staff Sergeant C. J. Courteney of 7th Regiment won his place once again in the S.M.G. XXX and was awarded the S.M.G. XXX 1962 Medal.

Lieutenant-Colonel C. V. Walsh and Lieutenant D. H. Insall of 4th Regiment qualified for the Revolver XXX final stage.

7th Regiment retained the London Middlesex Rifle Association "Stock Exchange Cup" which they won for the first time last year, and were placed third in the S.R.(B) Team Match—a new match introduced this year.

243 Squadron came fourth in the Revolver Team Match.

Many of our best known shots were unfortunately unable to attend this meeting and our Methuen team was not as strong as we would have liked. We kept ahead of the Sappers in the first two practices, but they gradually eased us out in the final two practices and once again won The Woolwich Trophy. We had little difficulty in beating the Gunners.

CORPS METHUEN TEAM 1962

Back Row: Second Lieutenant S. R. Davis (Reserve), Major G. M. Allan
Sitting: Staff Sergeant C. J. Courtenay, WO II C. G. Curtis, WO II A. Copestake, Second Lieutenant D. C. N. Genders, Lieutenant Colonel C. V. Walsh, Corporal W. G. Bell, WO II R. W. Kay, WO II J. G. Turner.

We had our money on Second-Lieutenant D. C. N. Genders to retain the Young Officers' Cup for the Corps, but he had a very poor "Whitehead" and although he finished strongly in the Roberts and Army Hundred he had left himself too big a margin to make up and was beaten into third place, 9 points behind the winner.

W.O.II R. W. Kay of 14th Regiment and Corporal W. G. Bell of 30th Regiment, in their first year of competitive shooting, shot extremely well. W.O.II Kay made the Army Hundred and also shot very well in the N.R.A. Meeting and Corporal Bell failed by only two points to make the "Hundred."

Lance-Corporal O'Neill, of the R.A.C. Centre, was a member of the winning pair in the Lindley Cup, an L.M.G. match.

N.R.A. Meeting — S.R. (a)

Second-Lieutenant D. C. N. Gender, W.O.II R. W. Kay, W.O.II J. G. Turner (216 Squadron) and Staff Sergeant C. J. Courtenay represented the Corps and used the SLR rifle. The R.N. and R.A.F. still use the No. 4 rifle and have a distinct advantage in most matches of this Meeting. We were therefore very pleased with out team when they finished second in "The Hythe," the Sitting and Standing Match, their score being only two points behind the winners. We had a major success when Second-Lieutenant D. C. N. Genders won the "Sitting" match and Challenge Cup. It was the first N.R.A. Cup we have won for many years. He tied with two other competitors, scoring a "possible," and in the shoot-off was an easy winner with a score of 39 out of 40.

W.O.II R. W. Kay had an excellent score of 170 in the first stage of the "Queen Mary" and was also well placed in the Service Rifle Aggregate and the Rapids Aggregate.

N.R.A. Meeting — S.R. (b)

Lieutenant-Colonel C. V. Walsh, Lieutenant-Colonel D. C. Ward, Captain J. Tate, Lieutenant D. H. Insall (4th Regiment), Second-Lieutenant D. C. N. Genders, Second-Lieutenant M. M. Ayrton (7th Regiment), Staff Sergeant C. J. Courtenay and Sergeant H. Simister (11th Regiment) represented the Corps at this Meeting.

We had a good representation in the Army teams once again. Lieutenant-Colonel C. V. Walsh, Lieutenant-Colonel D. C. Ward, Captain J. Tate and Lieutenant D. H. Insall firing in the XX Match, with Second-Lieutenant M. M. Ayrton and Sergeant Simister as reserves and in the Long Range XII we had Lieutenant-Colonel D. C. Ward as reserve.

Lieutenant D. H. Insall had an excellent meeting, his more important successes being 4th in the Stickledown, 4th in the "Stock Exchange" and 5th in the Wimbledon (S.R.). He also shot for England in the "National" and for his county in the County Long Range Match and reached the final stage of the Georges.

Captain J. Tate and Second-Lieutenant M. M. Ayrton were also well in the prize money in a number of matches.

Sergeant H. Simister had an excellent shoot at 900 yards in the Duke of Cambridge, scoring 49 out of 50 which was equal second best score on the range and won him the Class "H" Silver Bar.

Lieutenant-Colonel C. V. Walsh reached the final stage of the Georges once again and the second stage of the Queens and shot for Ireland in the "National," "Mackinnon" and the "Elcho." He also came 3rd in "The Albert," a Match Rifle Shoot at 1,000, 1,100 and 1,200 yards.

The Corps team of four in the "Belgian" shot well but although

their score was only three points below the second team's their placing was 9th. In the Ranelagh our team of six averaged 95, but the winning team managed to average 97. We hope to win this event one year, particularly so as it is a concurrent shoot with the First Stage of the "Queens."

Cricket

Report of 'Corps' Matches

19th May, 1962—Royal Signals v. Welbeck College.
At Welbeck: Game cancelled due to rain.

26th May, 1962—Royal Signals v. Ampleforth College.
At Ampleforth: Match Drawn.
Ampleforth 192 for 7 declared (Signalman Crichlow 3 for 45).
Royal Signals 156 for 9 (Captain M. J. Williams 41 not out).

Royal Signals v. R.M.A., Sandhurst.
Played 13th June, 1962, at Sandhurst.

Conditions were ideal for cricket when the Corps played Sandhurst in the opening game of the June Tour.

The R.M.A. were put into bat on a firm wicket and their opening pair faced Walmsley and Crichlow. The former had been 12th man for Combined Services against Cambridge University on the previous day.

Runs came quickly and the first wicket put on 71 before Evans had Denison Smith l.b.w. for 37. With the score 81, Bernard and Lunn came together and proceeded to put on 103 most attractive runs for the third wicket. They both completed 50 before being out. The fifth wicket fell with the total 196 at which stage the R.M.A. could obviously afford to go for the runs and this they did. At 247 for 9 the innings was declared closed.

Wilkinson was the most successful Corps bowler with 5 for 76 in 22 overs.

Cole and Bamborough opened the batting for Signals but were out quickly; when Walmsley was brilliantly caught at short leg the score was 27 for 3. Porter and Johnson then set to work to retrieve the situation. They put on 63 for the fourth wicket before Porter was caught for 34. Johnson was l.b.w. at the same total for 39 and the score was 90 for 5. The scoring rate decreased against accurate bowling and keen fielding, McLoughlin taking 30 minutes to score 6 before he was out. Radford scored a useful 18 but when he bowled Wilkinson was out immediately afterwards. The total at this stage was 138 for 8 and the game appeared to be almost over. However, Williams and Crichlow proceeded to set about the bowling very effectively and with the total 190 there were thoughts of a tight finish. This was not to be. Crichlow was stumped for 29 and when Evans was bowled the innings closed at 191. Williams had scored a very good 34 not out.

Result: R.M.A., Sandhurst won by 56 runs.

Royal Signals v. R.A.S.C.
Played on 14th/15th June, 1962, at Aldershot.

The weather was fine and warm when the R.A.S.C. played the Corps on the attractive ground in Buller Barracks.

Signals won the toss and elected to bat. Cole and Johnson opened the innings and faced the bowling of Thorold, an Army player, and Vaughan. Runs came slowly but steadily until with the total 16 Johnson gave Thorold a return catch. Crichlow came in and immediately began to play attractive shots all around the wicket. Cole, too, was batting well and the score mounted. With the total 46 Cole was caught off Lerwill for 22 and at 55 Walmsley was out to Waller. Crichlow, Porter and Bamborough were out in quick succession and the score deteriorated to 61 for 6. Mitchell and Williams then batted carefully taking the total to 98 before Williams was bowled for 14. However, Thorold was brought back to bowl and took the wickets of Wilkinson, Mitchell and Cummings to end the innings at 115.

Wigigunawaradena and Wallace opened for the R.A.S.C. against the bowling of Walmsley and Crichlow. Off the last ball of Walmsley's first over Wallace was brilliantly stumped on the leg side by Cole. However, "Wigi" and Goodall then added 109 for the second wicket before the latter was caught off Wilkinson for 34. "Wigi" was out in an identical manner a short time later for 77. The score at this stage stood at 112 for 3. Ryder and Lerwill then came together and having settled down proceeded to attack the bowling scoring at a rapid rate. They added 122 for the sixth wicket before Ryder was caught for 60. The innings was finally declared closed at 253 for 5, Lerwill having scored a very good 72 not out.

The Signals second innings was very similar to their first. Only Walmsley, who scored 54, managed to get on top of the bowling. The side were eventually all out for 117, losing by an innings and 21 runs.

Royal Signals v. Royal Engineers.
Played on 16th/17th June, 1962, at Aldershot.

This game was played on the attractive Officers' Club ground and the weather was fine and sunny throughout.

The Sappers won the toss and chose to bat. Johnson and Crichlow opened the bowling for the Corps and the latter had both the opening batsmen back in the pavilion without scoring. When Johnson bowled Jarman the score was 9 for 3. Proctor and Woodward temporarily stopped the rot but the latter was caught off Johnson with the total of 25. Wickets continued to fall at regular intervals, due to steady bowling and keen fielding. Proctor was the only batsman to make any headway. He scored 39 before being bowled by Radford. The Sappers were eventually all out for 94 in their first innings.

When the Signals batted, Mitchell was bowled by Richardson in the first over but Cole and Johnson then proceeded to put on 107 for the second wicket in even time. Both were eventually out to Hunt, a left arm slow bowler. Johnson scored 61 and Cole 45. The scoring rate now declined due to the accurate spin bowling of Hunt and Sartain. Wickets fell quickly also and when McLoughlin was bowled by Sartain the score was 146 for 7. However, Banborough, Evans and Wilkinson revived the batting and a total of 215 was achieved giving Signals a lead of 121 on first innings.

When Sappers batted a second time they were obviously not going to be got out cheaply. Both the openers were out with the total of 33 but the first innings deficit was cleared off before Stott was out at 140 for a very good 56. Richardson, Proctor and Jarman also batted well and the total was 180 for 5 when Jarman was out for 25. The tail then wagged to good effect, the final total being 257. A feature of the innings was the bowling of Wilkinson who took 5 for 87 in 33 overs. Signals thus had to score 128 to win.

This was not to prove easy.

Cole and Johnson were both out with the total 9. Mitchell and Crichlow then took the score to 56 before Crichlow was bowled by Richardson for 35. After Mitchell was out at 69 wickets fell quickly and when McLoughin was out the score was 87 for 7 and it seemed that Signals would lose.

However, Porter and Radford batting with great determination held off the Sapper bowlers and scored the remaining 41 runs necessary for victory.

A most enjoyable game culminating in the Signals first win of the season.

Royal Signals v. R.A.O.C.
Played on 11th/12th July, 1962, at Bramley.

The weather was rather showery when the Corps played the R.A.O.C. but a full game was completed. R.A.O.C. won the toss and batted first. Crichlow and Harding opened the bowling and immediately found the wicket to be very helpful. Four wickets fell in rapid succession for 11 runs and there were visions of a very low score. However, Flack, batting determinedly at one end, staved off a major catastrophe, but even so the seventh wicket fell at 52. Hammond and Golding then came together and added 38 very good runs for the eighth wicket before Hammond was caught off Harding for 26. Golding continued to bat well and when the side were all out for 139 he had scored 58 not out. Crichlow was the most effective Corps bowler with 4 for 48.

When Signals batted they found Golding to be equally troublesome with the ball. Gaining a lot of help from a rain-affected pitch he caused the batsmen many anxious moments. Cole, Crichlow and Porter were out with the total 39. Mitchell was batting doggedly at one end and he found a useful partner in Pocock. However they were both out with the score 89 when there were six wickets down. Radford was bowled at 101 for 8 and it seemed that R.A.O.C. would lead on first innings. However Wilkinson proceeded to attack the bowling vigorously scoring all around the wicket. When he was eventually caught for 48 the innings closed with the total 165. Golding had the excellent figures of 5 for 54 in 22 overs.

When R.A.O.C. batted a second time they had a deficit of 26 on the first innings. This they quickly cleared off and put on 45 before the first wicket fell when Skinner was stumped for 28. Carroll was batting well and when he was bowled by Harding for 46 R.A.O.C. were 93 for 3. At this stage Pocock

(*continued on page* 334)

The Colonel-in-Chief with 46th North Midland Regiment T.A.

Her Royal Highness with visiting officials and officers of the Regiment

ON one of those most rare sunny mornings during this all too wet summer, the morning of Friday, 27th July, the parade ground clock at Burniston Barracks, Scarborough, reached 10.45 hours, the Quarter Guard Commander, Sergeant Dukelow, was heard bringing the Guard to attention, and we knew that the occasion, to which we had all looked forward so much, was upon us: our Colonel-in-Chief, Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal, accompanied by Her Lady-in-Waiting, Miss Gwynedd Lloyd, M.V.O., had arrived to inspect the Regiment.

A little while later the Parade Commander, Major T. S. Wragg, M.B.E., T.D., called the Regiment to attention and brought it to the slope, and Her Royal Highness, escorted by the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel A. V. Emery, E.R.D., T.D., mounted the saluting dais for the Royal Salute, and our hearts swelled with pride. Then, to the music of the band of the 1st Bn. The Loyal Regiment, Her Royal Highness inspected the Regiment. Blessed by the sun, it was a colourful scene, no less for those on parade than for the spectators. To the left and right of the saluting dais were the Representative Colonel Commandant, Major-General R. J. Moberly, C.B., O.B.E., the Chief Signal Officer Northern Command, Brigadier D. A. Pringle, O.B.E., the Honorary Colonel, Colonel G. J. Underwood, C.B.E., T.D., D.L., our earlier Commanding Officers, Colonel R. E. Pickford, T.D., D.L., and Colonel J. R. S. Grimwood-Taylor, T.D., D.L., and the Mayor and Mayoress of Scarborough. We were honoured, too, by the presence of Brigadier (retired) W. B. Rowett, the previous Chief Signal Officer, Northern Command.

Her Royal Highness, after the inspection, presented the Territorial (Efficiency) Decoration to Major J. T. Gibbs and Captain W. S. Michael, the Lord Lieutenant of Derbyshire's certificate to W.O.II V. C. Neal, W.R.A.C., and the Territorial (Efficiency) Medal to Corporal P. Warren, W.R.A.C.

The Regiment then marched past Her Royal Highness to the strains of "Begone Dull Care" and "The Lass of Richmond Hill." The Ceremonial Parade ended with the final Royal Salute.

After the parade the Regiment dispersed to its various training centres. Her Royal Highness, amongst other forms of training, inspected a simulated lay-out of the communications network for which the Regiment is responsible in its Civil Defence rôle, and in this she took a very keen interest.

After visiting the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess, and lunching in the Officers' Mess, Her Royal Highness honoured the Regiment by attending the Regimental Sports Day and presenting the prizes. In the course of the afternoon several members of the Regiment and their wives and families were presented to Her Royal Highness, and Signalman MacBain was presented with the silver bar which he recently won at Bisley. It was a splendid afternoon: our Colonel-in-Chief; a cloudless sky; the sports field embellished with bunting; the sound of the sea; and the happy contestants and spectators. The cheers to which Her Royal Highness left the Regiment came indeed straight from the heart.

A Regiment owes what it is and has, not only to its present permanent staff but also to the past, and for this reason we were delighted to have three past Adjutants at our Regimental Guest Night, Lieutenant-Colonel F. E. Berry, Major P. Ashlin and Captain P. Gilham, supporting our present Training Major, Major M. S. Gordon-Jones.

During the second week of camp the Regiment was honoured by a visit from Major-General T. H. Birkbeck, C.B.E., D.S.O., Commander of North Midland District and the 49th Division T.A.

In addition to the preparations and training carried out during the first week for the visit of our Colonel-in-Chief, an intensive programme of military, physical and trade training was implemented. The Regiment was divided into trade-training cadres and additional courses were arranged for the officers, N.C.O.s and recruits. From the Trade Boards there emerged 43 successful candidates.

The social side of Annual Camp was not neglected. Thanks to the efforts of the Training Major, the Padre, and many others, a very good and enjoyable camp concert was incorporated with the All Ranks' Dance. Many of those gallant soccer players who had damaged their limbs in the inter-Squadron soccer competition were seen trying bravely to do the Twist.

The Commanding Officer in his final address to the Regiment complimented all ranks on the splendid way in which they had co-operated in the preparations for the Royal Inspection, and on the zeal which they had shown in their training. The Regiment had good reason to be proud of itself.

Cricket

(*Continued from page* 343)

and Wilkinson settled down to bowl very steadily and accurately taking the remaining wickets between them.

R.A.O.C. were eventually 142 all out, Pocock taking 5 for 39 and Wilkinson 4 for 42.

Signals required 117 to win in 2½ hours on a rain-affected wicket.

Mitchell was out almost immediately with the score 7, but Cole and Cricklow pushed the score along until at 35 Crichlow was l.b.w. to Pike for 24. Porter followed immediately and when Pocock was out the score was 60 for 5, then with the sky threatening rain it was anybody's game. Cole and Harding battled on, gradually pulling the game in Signals favour. At 93 Harding was caught at the wicket and at 105 for 7 Cole was caught and bowled for an invaluable 38. McLoughlin was next to go at 112—eight wickets down five runs required! Radford came in. Gratefully he hit a full toss for four. But he was out next ball! A tie with Hunt, the last man, facing Golding!—the scourge of the first innings. He survived. Williams hit four off the second ball of the next over to finish it.

Signals thus won by one wicket. A magnificent game with a magnificent ending.

On arrival Her Royal Highness, escorted by General Moberly, Representative Colonel Commandant meets Senior officers

Her Royal Highness escorted by the Commanding Officer Lieutenant Colonel A. V. Emery E.R.D., T.D., starts the tour of inspection

Her Royal Highness presents The Lord Lieutenant of Derby's Certificate to W.O.II Neal (WRAC)

47th REGIMENT MIDDLESEX YEOMANRY (The Duke of Cambridge's Hussars)

The King's Guard.—His Majesty King Hussein of Jordan accorded the Regiment the privilege of providing the Guard of Honour and Music on the occasion of his laying the Foundation Stone of a new Youth Centre being built at Camberwell Green.

This honour resulting from the friendship of His Majesty with our Regimental Chaplin, The Reverend John G. Nicholls.

At the conclusion of the Ceremony, the Parade Commander (Major S. J. Williams, M.B.E., T.D.) and the Bandmaster (W.O.I E. J. Tamplin) were personally congratulated by His Majesty on the bearing of the Guard and the Band's performance, respectively.

The Commanding Officer and Mrs. Simon Beazley were received by His Majesty at a reception after the ceremony.

Tactical Operations.—G-Day, 30th June! "Greenfields" was truly the "Tac. Op." of the year: fifteen days up country—a 1,000-mile operation—30th June to 14th July—London - Leeds - London via the Shires and East Anglia. Mission: Through all the way. Result: Mission accomplished!

The Mission result, however, was not achieved without the odd "bug clearance" problems. There were times in fact when we found that we were truly living with our Regimental slogan —"Tough and Technical"—opening up, shutting down, moving! But if nothing else, it was then that we appreciated the value of our Command Team's planned development programme of monthly Tac Ops, which they (Lieutenant Colonel Beazley, Major Williams and Major Pike) have operated since the beginning of the year and so aptly named, "The G-Plan Series.

Leeds was reached at the mid-weekend in time for all to be on the C.O.'s Saturday Parade at 154 WETC, Knostropp, for which the Regimental Band had travelled up specially.

The Band played again on the Sunday for the voluntary Church Service conducted by the Regimental Chaplin.

The lessons learnt on this Operation were many and deep. Of them all, two predominated:

(a) Pre-Plan Before Chaos.

(b) The close relationship between Food and Morale.

In the latter case that indefatigable old soldier S S.M. D. H. Alexander, B.E.M., saw that "B" Squadron "was all right," and Sergeant Day and the Officers' Mess staff now advertise themselves as experts in Mess Erection and Organization—in woods, wrecked houses, jungle, sandpits and ruined aircraft sheds.

Reference to the Officers' Mess cannot pass without mention of the invaluable services rendered by our Honorary Mess Secretary, Lieutenant-Colonel L. C. Udell.

The Tech. Team once again worked wonders—the 1+4s and Teleprinter links worked so well over the Antrac that a complete staff had to be employed on message writing to keep the Signal Centres alive with traffic.

Individual trade training was not forgotten. In particular, W.O.II Alexander of "C" Squadron ran a most successful course for Trainee Wireless Operators, and "D" Squadron (our Primary Training Unit) conducted its normal General Military Training programme for recruits, enabling eleven to be Passed Out and transferred to Operation Squadrons by the end of "Greenfields." The Squadron also assisted in setting up and closing down R.H.Q. during the frequent moves.

Recreational Activity.—Judo, Boxing, Riding and Shooting are the current activities.

The Judo Class held at "C" Squadron (Uxbridge) on Monday evenings is under the instruction of Civilian Instructor Mr. F. Newman, who in only nine weekly classes, has got eight out of ten of the class through their first White Belt.

The class, like the boxing and riding, owes impetus to the efforts of Second-Lieutenant D. Manders, Troop Leader of the Uxbridge Troop of "D" Squadron. In passing, it's worth mentioning that the Judo Mat is the product of the purchase of 50 mattresses from a local hospital which were then suitably covered.

The boxing, under Signalman Middleton as Instructor, has been operating for about five weeks and is also held at Uxbridge on Monday evenings.

The riding class is held at Uxbridge on Thursdays and Sundays, and it is from this that riders are drawn for the Mounted Patrol of Full Dress Hussars for special ceremonial duties which arise at various times throughout the year.

"On Net." Lance-Corporal Spour, C Squadron, during The Greenfields Operation

Personal Column.—Captain Frank Enright, our late P.S.O., has left us for commercial life in the city, and with him go our best wishes for the future, and our thanks for his efforts on behalf of the Regiment.

Congratulations to the following on their recent promotions and appointments: Captain (T.O.T.) P. M. Pearson, T.D., to Major (T.O.T.); Lieptenant N. M. D. Farrant to Captain; Corporal E. G. Ulph (R.E.M.E.); to Leading/Sergeant and Signalman C. R. Harding to Lance-Corporal.

Welcome to Second-Lieutenant D. P. Wainman who joins us as Troop Leader of the Chelsea Troop of "D" Squadron.

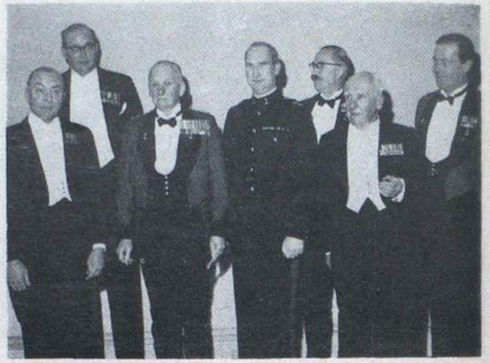
The Activity Forecast.—The Commanding Officer's principal management tool in relation to our Regimental Development Programme is already showing some twenty separate activities planned for us before the end of December, these spread over the five aspects that the C.O. has broken all T.A. activity down to (i.e., Tactical Operations, Special Operations, Miscellaneous Military Activity (Mismilac), Recreational Activity, Social Activity) to ensure a proper balance of activities between the needs of Morale and Technical Proficiency—a most important requirement when considering the needs of the Retention Factor which controls T.A. Recruiting.

49th (YORKSHIRE) REGIMENT T.A.

An event took place on Saturday, 14th April, 1962, at Gibraltar Barracks, Leeds, which must be well-nigh unique in the history of the Corps. A dinner was held by the Officers and ex-Officers of 49th (Yorkshire) Regiment, T.A., in honour of Colonel W. F. Jackson who was commissioned into the Northern Telegraph Company, R.E. Volunteers—a forerunner of the present Regiment—on the 1st March, 1912.

Colonel Jackson has had a very distinguished career in the service of the Corps and holds the O.B.E., M.C. and Bar, T.D. (with no fewer than five Clasps), Croix de Guere and the American Legion of Merit.

In World War I he served in Gallipoli and France with great distinction, winning the M.C. in 1916 and a Bar to it in 1918. Between the wars he continued to serve in the T.A., taking over command of the Regiment in 1937. During World War II he commanded the Regiment in Norway and Iceland until his appointment as C.S.O. Iceland. On cessation of hostilities in 1945, and after 33 years service in the T.A., which included



Back row: Lieutenant Colonel A. D. McLaren, M.B.E., T.D., Colonel N. R. Bigland, T.D.
Front row: Colonel W. L. Hey, T.D., Colonel W. F. Jackson, O.B.E., M.C., T.D., Lieutenant Colonel A. M. Booker, T.D., Colonel W. Boyle, O.B.E., T.D., Lieutenant Colonel J. Bray, T.D.

active service during the full period of World Wars I and II, Brigadier Jackson, as he then was, became a full time civilian.

His connection with the T.A. and his Regiment was not, however, completely severed, because in 1948 he accepted the appointment of Honorary Colonel of the Regiment, which he held until 1957.

It was most fitting, that after devoting so much of his life to the Regiment, he should become its Honorary Colonel.

At the dinner, which was attended by no fewer than five other former Commanding Officers, the present C.O., Lieutenant-Colonel A. M. Booker, T.D., and many others, including members of both the old and the reconstituted Regiment, a silver salver was presented to Colonel Jackson on behalf of the Officers and ex-Officers by Colonel Walter Boyle, O.B.E., T.D., who was commissioned into the 2nd West Riding Volunteers, R.E., in September, 1903, and is really the only officer qualified to speak of Colonel Jackson's early years.

Our picture shows Colonel Jackson and the other Commanding Officers of the Regiment.

To complete a most notable weekend in the Regiment's history, a parade was held at Imphal Barracks, York, on Sunday, 15th April, 1962, when Major-General R. B. F. K. Goldsmith, C.B., C.B.E., G.O.C. Yorkshire District, presented the British Empire Medal to A/W.O.II Barbara Searle, W.R.A.C., and 14 Territorial Efficiency Medals to members of the Regiment (one W.R.A.C. and 13 Royal Signals members).

It was a matter of great regret to all concerned that Major-General A. E. Morrison, C.B., O.B.E., who ended his tenure as our Honorary Colonel on 30th April, 1962, was not able to attend but we had the good fortune to have he and Mrs. Morrison with us whilst we were at Annual Camp at Crowborough. We are sorry to lose him as Honorary Colonel but will retain many happy memories of both he and Mrs. Morrison.

General Morrison is succeeded as Honorary Colonel by Colonel W. L. Hey, T.D., whom many will remember as C.O. of the Regiment from 1940-1943 and was in fact Honorary Colonel of the 49th (West Riding) Regiment, T.A., at the time of the amalgamation. May we extend to him a most hearty welcome.

53rd (WELSH) REGIMENT (T.A.)

Contrary to the customary beliefs about Welsh volubility the Regiment has been somewhat of a stranger to the columns of THE WIRE. Perhaps the speed of events in the last twelve months have had something to do with that. At all events, we are now thoroughly "mixed"—in the nicest possible way, of course, following our marriage last year with 58th (M) Regiment (T.A.). The fortunes of the Regiment ebbed and flowed during the ensuing months in tune with the fluctuations of T.A. policy until now, we hope, stability has at last been reached.

344 and 345 Brigade Squadrons camped with their Brigades this year for the first time and the inevitable lessons were drawn from their successes and failures. In July, Lieutenant-Colonel D. W. Cottrell, T.D., newly appointed to command, took the rest of the Regiment to camp at Tavistock where it endured the vagaries of typical Dartmoor weather in company with H.Q. 53 (W) Division (T.A.) and some supporting arms. A varied and memorable camp, it was graced by a visit from Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal and tensed by the visits of Mr. Ramsden, Permanent Under-Secretary of State for War, and of the Army Commander, Lieutenant-General Sir Howard Vyse. Small wonder if training appeared, however wrongly, to be overshadowed by such occasions. Certainly, the new form and function of the Regiment was somewhat disconcerting to those greybeards who remember only the crude maleness of the old Divisional Signal Regiment, and its "arduous" 3-day exercises.

In July, too, another event brought a limited and surprised pride to the Regiment when its Cambrian March Team, soft from the seats of C.V.s and Sigcens, reached sixth place against the competition from hardier and more occupational marchers. The lanky athleticism of its leader, Lieutenant H. M. Peterson, owes something to a father whose name is not unknown as a sportsman and distinguished boxer.

Camp, and the peripheral summer activities almost over, the testing time begins in the slow return to strength, and signals efficiency, in the new fields, after the punishing blows of "re-org." Camp over and already the time is far too short, it seems, before next camp. T.A.—hobby or occupation? We, and our wives, wonder.

58th REGIMENT (T.A.)
ANNUAL CAMP, 1962

Move to Barry Camp — Angus, Scotland

This year it was decided to break the custom of moving the Regiment to annual camp by British Railways, but instead to use the Unit's own transport for the move. The overall journey from T.A. Centres to Barry Camp, which is next door to Carnoustie (of golfing fame), is between 450-500 miles. It was therefore decided to accomplish the move in three stages, stopping at Catterick Camp on the first night, Edinburgh on the second night, and reaching Barry Camp on the afternoon of the third day. Apart from this long drive, the Regiment was going to do its own cooking and sleep in two-man bivouacs at each staging area.

We arrived at Barry Camp without any further incidents at 3.00 p.m., to be met by our overworked advance party, who had been fighting to keep the tents in the camp upright, as the gale still persisted in Barry. However, after an evening meal at 6.00 p.m., the Regiment went to bed, tired but pleased with having accomplished this long journey, complete with all its vehicles still in one piece.

Period in Barry Camp, 26th June - 3rd July

Tuesday, 26th June, was spent checking over vehicles and equipment and generally getting the camp ship-shape and comfortable. The Regiment had been allocated a training area in the Tentsmuir Forest area, which was the other side of the Tay Estuary, opposite Dundee. The shortest way of getting across was by using the Tay ferry, which operated from Dundee to Newport. On Wednesday the majority of 1 Squadron crossed on the ferry and established radio and radio relay contact with 2 Squadron, who had been left at Barry Camp. On Thursday this was reversed and 2 Squadron crossed and once again established radio relay communications.

On Friday, 29th July, the Commanding Officer's parade was held and this was followed by the annual drill competition. Captain Fred Howard, of 2 Squadron, played a recorded Corps Regimental March, "Begone Dull Care," over a loudspeaker system, which added to make the parade a success. The drill competition was a very close run thing, with 1 Squadron just beating 2 Squadron by the narrow margin of one point. After lunch there was a sports afternoon, which consisted of Inter-Squadron football and tug-of-war. The tug-of-war was very exciting and the eventual winners were the Officers, who beat the L.A.D., R.E.M.E., team after three very exhausting pulls.

Saturday was declared a holiday, as Sunday in Scotland can be very quiet with little entertainment. Two coachloads of Officers and men made a journey to Perth, some 30 miles from camp, and a few parties spent the day touring the Highlands to the north. A good time was had by all and some people were so impressed by the beautiful Scottish countryside that they are planning to spend holidays there in the near future.

Officers Tug-O-War team, Winners of Regimental Tug-O-War Competition

On Sunday the Regimental initiative competition was held in the Tentsmuir Forest area. Captain Keith Harmon, of 3 Squadron, was disguised to look like an old professor, complete with beard and spectacles and hidden on top of a nearby hill. Each Squadron was ordered to deploy six two-man patrols, equipped with man portable radio sets, approximately 1½ miles from Captain Harmon's location. His location was then passed over radio in the form of a couplet, which Squadron Commanders had to work out, so that they could instruct their patrols accordingly. Major Norman Phillips, of 1 Squadron, was very quick off the mark and worked out the problem in

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five minutes, and had his patrols moving in half-an-hour. Squadrons could gain possession of Captain Harmon by establishing the greater number of patrols at his locations at one time, and they also had to get him from his hilltop hide to a mythical airfield some four miles away. Sergeant Greenwood and Signalman D. E. Mansfield, of 1 Squadron, reached Captain Harmon's hide first, just one hour after the couplet had been worked out, and managed to get him back to the airfield without encountering any other patrols from the opposition. 1 Squadron were therefore declared the winners of this competition. The weather was very kind and all the competitors had an enjoyable though energetic day, especially Captain Harmon, who has lost at least a stone in weight.

Monday was spent loading vehicles and packing up for the move back to T.A. Centres via Edinburgh, Catterick and Ollerton, on Tuesday.

Move Back

The Regiment got away to an early start from Barry Camp on Tuesday, as the object of the Exercise was to get to Edinburgh in reasonable time to enable the men to look around this very beautiful city. We reached our old camp site on Dreghorn ranges by 3.00 p.m., and after the evening meal at 5.00 p.m. most men went on a sight seeing tour. The view from a nearby hill was quite wonderful and the few who had not gone out walked to the top and enjoyed the magnificent view of Edinburgh at sunset. Another early start the following morning, destination Catterick, the home of the Royal Corps of Signals, where the Regiment was going to stay until Friday morning. Catterick was reached at about 4.00 p.m. and bivouacs were put up with amazing alacrity, as the men at this stage were quite expert in making themselves comfortable in the shortest possible time. Most people spent the evening in Catterick and a number of old friends were met and stories exchanged, over pints of excellent beer to be found in the pubs of Catterick and Richmond.

Exercise " New Look "

Thursday and Friday were devoted to Exercise " New Look," which entailed the use of radio, radio relay, line and line terminal equipments. The Regiment was deployed into two forces, " Wolfor " representing Wolverhampton and " Newfor " representing Newcastle-under-Lyme. These forces were made up basically by 1 Squadron and 2 Squadron respectively, and each force had a radio relay detachment from 3 Squadron attached for the Exercise. The Exercise started at midday and communications by radio and radio relay were established within a couple of hours. Line communications took slightly longer, as the two forces were some six miles apart, and the route the lines had to follow were continuously in use by tanks of the R.A.C. Training Regiments. A few linemen from 1 Squadron had to jump out of the way rather rapidly on one occasion, where a tank driven by a learner driver had an argument with a wall along their line route. However, the linemen persevered and linked the two forces by line at about 6.00 p.m. All told the Exercise was successful and most soldiers enjoyed it, especially the linemen, who were quite exhausted after their efforts.

Next stop was Ollerton, on Friday, the eve of end of camp. The Regiment bivouaced near some pleasant woods for the night and a coach took men into nearby Mansfield for an evening out. The majority of men had a very pleasant evening and in fact a number said that this was probably the most enjoyable evening spent during the camp. Respective T.A. Centres were reached at 11.00 p.m. on Saturday and after unloading and cleaning vehicles the Regiment dispersed, and so another camp came to an end.

Radio Relay terminal in TENTSMUIR area working to BARRY Camp. B70 provided by 2 Sqn. AN/TRC provided by 3 Sqn.

The Signal Officer-in-Chief discusses weather prospects with the Honorary Colonel and our M.O.—Major Charles Mansfield—on the DZ at Whaton-on-the-Green

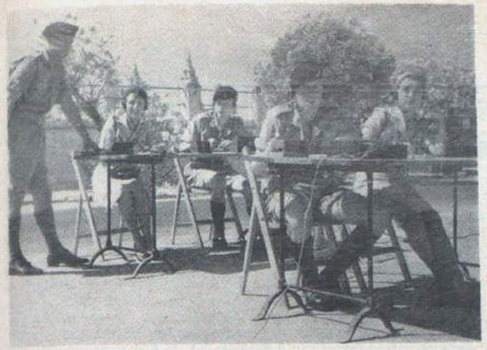
65th REGIMENT (T.A.)

At the time of going to press we have just returned from annual camp and we are in the throes of preparing our Stand at the Radio Show and having a lesson in diplomacy in dealing with the shop stewards of the E.T.U. and other Unions at Earls Court. Camp was preceded by the departure of our Adjutant, Captain M. Willey, and we wish him luck in making his fortune with Shell. Arriving in the Regiment with camp almost on the doorstep was our new Adjutant, Captain P. Spooner, who has already displayed his prowess at parachuting.

Camp this year again saw the Regiment on a Communications Exercise and deployed over an even wider area than hitherto. A party of 40 All Ranks, including W.R.A.C., went to Malta. There they provided two main line radio channels to the U.K., where others attended the Radio School. No less than seven returned home with their A.III telegraph operator trade ratings. After a delayed departure, they arrived safely by air at Luqa, and apart from working exceedingly hard, they all thoroughly enjoyed the Mediterranean sunshine and the generous hospitality which was extended to them by Major R. C. Anderson and All Ranks of 234 Squadron.

Another party of 40 men and W.R.A.C. carried out their training in Germany. They were flown out by the U.S. Air Force and provided four radio channels back to the U.K. In addition, a successful Teleprinter Training School was also organised in H.Q., B.A.O.R. Many thanks to Major S. P. Irwin and All Ranks of No. 2 Squadron, 28 Regiment, who again did everything possible to make this stay an enjoyable one—also not forgetting Captain Daphne Chandler and the members of her Squadron, who looked after our girls so well.

" H.Q." Squadron, with all its drivers and potential drivers,



Part of the Radio School in the Mediterranean sunshine of Malta. Instructor Sergeant Derek Wilson supervises Private Valerie Dunstan, Signalman Peter James, Signalman James Dixon and Private Sandra Horne

The S.O.-in-C. and the Honorary Colonel inspect a souvenir of Signalman Cutmore's misdemeanour! More haste less speed in future

were attached to the R.A.F. Station, Thorney Island, on the South Coast of England. The R.A.F. were magnificent hosts and with the weather in our favour, the training progressed in leaps and bounds, and the social side of life was acclaimed by all the men and W.R.A.C. who spent their camp with the R.A.F. Our heartfelt thanks to Group Captain J. J. McKay and the members of his station.

Inevitably, those at our base station had a less glamorous time, but this year the Exercise went particularly well. Apart from channels to Malta and Germany, two channels were working to Nairobi, another to 92 Regiment, A.E.R., in Scotland and, of course, we had to keep an eye—by radio—on " H.Q." Squadron on Thorney Island. Cypher offices were established at main base and in H.Q., B.A.O.R., and our 20 cypher operators did a magnificent job and were extremely exhausted when the Exercise finally closed down.

In all, the Exercise gave each trade an opportunity to be fully exercised and although the hours of working were very long, all concerned felt that they had learnt a tremendous amount by taking part in an Exercise covering 12 days. Midway during the Exercise the Army Commander, General Sir Roderick McLoed, visited R.H.Q. and inspected the main base radio station. He was accompanied by the C.S.O., Brigadier E. C. R. Blaker, D.D. W.R.A.C. Colonel L. E. Baldwin, C.S.O. London District, Lieutenant-Colonel P. G. Curry, and A.D. W.R.A.C. Lieutenant R. D. Allerton. By the evening of Wednesday of the second week nearly all the Regiment had been " safely gathered in " at R.H.Q. in North Bucks. Thursday, 12th July, was our V.I.P. Visitors' Day and we were honoured by the Signal Officer-in-Chief, Sir Dick White, from the F.O., and Group Captain Harman (Secretary of the City of London T. and A.F. Association), who spent the whole day inspecting the Regiment on this last day of the Exercise. This day the weather was on our side and at 15.15 hours, when our guests were standing on the D.Z. over came the Hastings aircraft disgorging 24 parachutists, who made a perfect drop. This was a most impressive sight and General Whistler congratulated the parachutists on their performance. The radio channels were working well that day, cypher were as usual flooded out with work, and " H.Q." Squadron laid on an interesting M.T. competition. The inspection concluded at 17.00 hours and our guests returned later to be entertained by the Warrant Officers and Sergeants prior to the Guest Night in the Officers' Mess.

◀ The girls in sunny Malta relax between classes in the Radio School

Other guests that evening included the Earl of Buckinghamshire, Mr. E. F. Maltby, the Master of the Skinners Company, Major-General W. H. D. Richie, Brigadier J. E. Anderson, Brigadier R. N. Hanbury, Brigadier J. Sykes-Wright, Colonel T. M. Niven, Lieutenant-Colonel W. J. Sharpe, Group Captain R. G. Harman, the Headmaster of the Judd School and Lieutenant-Colonel T. Morgan.

Our Honorary Colonel, the Earl of Malmesbury, spent no less than 6½ days with the Regiment during annual camp. He visited Thorney Island; with the Countess of Malmesbury he visited detachments in B.A.O.R. and he was present on V.I.P. Day and addressed the Regiment on the following morning. No Regiment could have a more enthusiastic Honorary Colonel, and this, Sir, All Ranks of the Regiment greatly appreciate.

Friday, 13th, started at an all too early hour with a Regimental Parade and March Past, which was taken by the Commanding Officer. After the Regimental photograph, an unorthodox football knock-out competition took place, the winners of which we never really decided. But some still had to work, including all those who took part in the annual Morse competition, which this year was won by Sergeant Ryan, of the Regiment, and Sergeant Campbell, of the W.R.A.C. Congratulations to them both.

896 Troop, A.E.R., were well represented at camp; no less than 17 were present and all were soon back in top form as telegraph operators.

Our thanks to 602 Troop in Nairobi and to 92 Regiment, A.E.R., in Scotland for the part they played in the Regimental Exercise.

As soon as we got back from camp, our Stand at the Radio Show covering some 6,000 square feet immediately occupied the vast majority of our effort, and we are looking forward to the 21st August, when all will be completed and when we hope to meet many of our friends from other Signal Regiments both in the Regular Army and the T.A.

Major Roy Hadfield, Officer Commanding 2 Squadron, who has served with the Regiment for the past 11 years, has decided to immigrate to New Zealand and leaves with his family in early September. He has done an outstanding job in the Regiment; we will all miss him, good luck to him in his new surroundings and his new job with A.E.I.

The main requirement in this Regiment is for telegraph operators, cypher operators and teleprinter operators, and both young men and women are invited to visit our T.A. Centres in London, E.C.2, Barnet and Southborough, near Tunbridge Wells, where a warm welcome awaits them.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIBERS' ADDRESSES

Many copies of "The Wire" and of the Royal Signals List are returned by the Post Office with a note that the subscriber's address is unknown.

Will all annual subscribers please tell the Editor in good time of their new address.

404 SQUADRON (PRESS COMMUNICATIONS) A.E.R.

After a year full of wild dreams of Exercises in North Africa or with B.A.O.R., the Squadron finally reconciled itself to a prosaic fortnight's camp in July, which was to open with a practical mobilisation at our nominated T.M.C.

The mobilisation practice went smoothly enough; the Depot staff worked hard and efficiently not only at the documentation but also at housing and feeding us. The latter was an especial relief, with two of our cooks stranded in London owing to a stripped gearbox.

On the first Sunday some rather weird convoys were seen crossing Southern England, but all assembled at Blandford without mishaps.

At Blandford we were camping with "H.Q." and "I." Squadron of our parent 83rd Regiment, A.E.R., and with 57th Regiment, T.A., so that there was pressure on facilities. In the end all worked well and with co-operation high and friction low.

Once we had settled in, the tempo increased and basic training was soon vigorously under way.

With the changes in the Signal trade structure, we were faced with a formidable amount of reclassifying to be done, in addition to the intensive training we had planned for new recruits of all trades, but the tremendously keen response enabled us to more than fulfil our programme.

While those who required it were kept on basic trade training the whole time, the majority of the Medium Wireless Troop, together with the Signal Centre Operating and Control Troops, were committed on the second week to an Exercise with 3rd Regiment. Apart from a vehicle fault which left one crew and station marooned a hundred miles from its objective, the Exercise went smoothly and the relationship between members of the Squadron and their Regular Army colleagues became even better than before.

The personnel of the Heavy Radio Troops settled quietly down to five days' hard work in the classrooms mastering the features of the Golden Arrow Mk. II C.F.S. equipments and systems. This was followed by some eight hours' mast drill — no records were broken but much helpful experience was gained by all members of the Troop.

In the meantime, the Radion Technicians settled down to checking over the transmitter equipment, which has generously been made available to us. Two faults were found on the SWB8E C.F.S. These were quickly diagnosed and rectified. It was not long before the receiver terminal crew were resolving traffic, perforating tapes and transmitting traffic via the SWB8E on dummy aerial. Systems were patched, changed and repatched without complaint and it was soon apparent that 404 Squadron now had a real Heavy Radio Troop. The electrician drivers and drivers of the Troop after erecting masts were soon mastering every aspect of their Golden Arrow vehicles and the two 27½ K.V.A. generator. In fact, they took such interest in everything that at one stage there seemed a distinct possibility that they were about to take over the operating of the receiver terminal.

Before the camp ended we were able to issue a further 22 wireless sets to those who have been waiting patiently to join our week-end training nets, the value of which was amply demonstrated by the speed of the traffic passing during our Exercise.

Needless to say, there was an active social life in and out of camp. We managed to fit in a publicity Exercise at nearby Iminster Grammar School and in general show everyone the sort of business 404 means.

We were, and still are, pleased to receive enquiries about the A.E.R. and the Squadron in particular from serving men or those not long out. This is the best way to keep in touch with Signals and you could not do it with a better Unit. Enquiries to H.Q., Royal Signals, Blandford Camp, mentioning this Squadron.

409 SQUADRON (PARK) A.E.R.

During the second half of 1961 409 Squadron (Park) A.E.R. was formed, but it was not until the early months of 1962 that the Squadron really came to life as an active part of the reorganised Reserve Army. Affiliation to 231 Squadron (Park), Donnington, was agreed to by the powers-to-be and the wheels began to turn to start the Squadron on its first training session.

To most of us, Donnington was unknown; we had only a vague idea where it was, what facilities existed for training, and who lived and worked there. Now we are much wiser, for we have had a recce week-end, a full Squadron training week-end and annual camp with 231 Squadron and the assurance we received from military and civilian staffs was excellent.

Donnington is a few miles east of Wellington, Shropshire, and north of the A.5 road (Watling Street). The Central Ordnance Depot provides employment for many people over a large area. The history of the Depot, its organisation and its importance to the British Army, are described in detail in a very interesting booklet issued by the Commandant for distribution to military and civilian staffs when they take up an appointment in the C.O.D. A copy of this booklet was handed to each member of 409 Squadron on arrival.

The Officer Commanding of 231 is Major "Bill" Fill, who in bygone days instructed many hundreds of cadets in the mysteries of M.T. at the Catterick O.C.T.U. We were fortunate to have this genial Officer and his helpful right-hand man and R.O.II Major Arthur Smith, to tell us about the Signal Park organisation and Signals Works Services and to arrange the whole of our training programme and watch our interests.

The C.O.D. covers a large area and has its own road and rail systems which link together the vast buildings, storage sheds and storage parks and provide outlets to British Railway yards outside the boundary fence. A tour of the Depot was the first item in our training programme and we tramped miles that morning and by noon were footsore, but well content with what had been shown us, and amazed at the neatness and tidy state of the area between the buildings. Some of the factories adjoining the main railway lines would be less of an eyesore if they kept their backyards and spare ground in the same tidy state as the C.O.D.

The Signal Park has its own buildings and open storage space and these were visited last, as our practical training was to follow immediately after the end of the tour. Three large buildings of immediate interest to Signals were the Central Provision, Planning and Supply Block and the Surplus and Returned Stores Depot. The first contained the nerve centre of the organisation, the place where your demand is received, checked, the supply arranged and instructions sent to the Store point for issue. In this building work—and they do work hard—about 800 staff. It is a little bewildering and yet at the same time fascinating, to step inside and watch the activity going on around you. And glamour certainly abounds here, for many of the clerical staff are girls who operate the punched card machines, the tabulators, accounting machines and the ever-faithful typewriter. Plans are well advanced to introduce Auto Data Processing in 1964 . . . but I hope the pretty girls are still retained! The Signal Park has its H.Q. in this building, so Major Fill and his staff are right on the spot to look after the Corps interests and give technical advice to the Ordnance on Signal requirements.

The Signal Sub-Depot holds the replenishments for all types of Signals stores used in the day-to-day work of the Corps and issues major items to re-equip Units and bring them up to

CLOTHING is still URGENTLY required by the WELFARE SECTION

scale. The third building contained the most miscellaneous collection of stores I have ever seen. All the unwanted stuff comes in here, is sorted, graded, repaired if necessary and re-issued if serviceable and the item is still in use. Some very old stores arrive from time to time, often dating back to World War I, but most of the items are of fairly recent issue and returned by Units breaking up or by others who have been re-equipped with the latest equipment. The three buildings are controlled by Ordnance with the Signal Park maintaining good liaison and keeping up-to-date on any interesting developments.

The R.E.M.E. Workshops are an essential part of the C.O.D. and here we dropped off our T.O.T. and his Maintenance Troop. They immediately got working on a project of installing and wiring up Signals equipment in specialist vehicles destined for B.A.O.R. They did a first-class job and thoroughly enjoyed their stay. At the Transport Sheds the M.T. Troop left us and before long the drivers were trying their hand at crane operating and maneouvring fork-lift trucks and the Troop Sergeant quickly got a Land Rover signed over to him.

All we had left were the Stores Troops and they had an interesting time browsing around the Signal Park stores and Cable Park before settling down to lectures and practical instruction given by members of 231 Squadron. The cable jointers were on home ground, for being P.O. jointers they quickly settled down to the job. They had just swapped civilian clothes for khaki. Within a few days the Stores Troops had grasped essentials and we were fortunate in having two ex-R.A.O.C. N.C.O.s and three new recruits from the C.O.D., who guided the hands of the less experienced men.

For 15 days the Squadron stayed at Donnington and we had a most useful and enjoyable camp. Accommodation was provided by 9 Battalion R.A.O.C. at Parsons Barracks and all the facilities of this excellent barracks were made available to the Squadron. Messing for Officers, Sergeants and other ranks is done by civilian contractors and we found the standard very good. Our sporting activities were numerous and the Squadron get-together at a local pub was merry yet orderly. The publican was so over-joyed at the increased business that he provided free sandwiches for all.

We look forward to the new training year with confidence and hope that the friends we made at the C.O.D., Donnington, will again be available to help us in our future training sessions.

WELFARE SECTION

Below, an attempt is made to describe, with suitable anonimity, eight cases taken from the Welfare Section files concluded during the first week in August, 1962. Also, on the same page, is a simple statement of income and expenditure.

WIDOW OF CORPORAL, 1922-1935, later served with Royal Navy. Now elderly and in a very poor way. The Association joined with the Royal Naval Benevolent Trust in making a small grant to help her.

WIDOW OF SIGNALMAN, 1946-49, who died in 1957, leaving her to bring up his four children, three of them now at school. She has a small income and the Fund joined with the Education Authorities in helping the eldest child with a school uniform on qualifying for a place at Grammar School.

CORPORAL, 1941 to 1946. Married. Two school-age children. His wife has recently become paralysed, and after hospital treatment was strongly recommended for a short convalescence. The Corporal is a Life Member of the Association and a generous contribution was made.

DRIVER, Signal Service, Royal Engineers, 1915 to 1920; Royal Signals, 1920 to 1921. Now aged 65 and long in hospital. His wife, also elderly, has to travel a considerable distance to visit him. The British Legion and the Association combined to help her in various small ways, and a recent grant was made to help her with the cost of travel.

SIGNALMAN, 1946-1948. He had good employment which ceased in July, 1961, when he contracted a disease from which there is no recovery. He is married with a school-age child. The British Legion and the Association combined to make a small allowance to help with what is given by the State.

SIGNALMAN, 1941-1946. Married. One child who earns and contributes. His wife was in the Auxiliary Territorial Service, which fund combined with Royal Signals to help them periodically with hire purchase arrears. He has been out of work since the beginning of the year suffering from epilepsy and reduced mental capacity.

LANCE-SERGEANT, 1941-1946. Married. One child at school. He earned a large salary until December, 1960, when an accident at work reduced his income to less than a half. Despite the fact that his wife works part time to help, the Fund paid overdue rates.

DRIVER, 1941-1946. Married. One school-age daughter. He ceased work in May, 1961, and is still ill. When working, he had a good income. The Fund made a grant to help with clothes for wife and child, and hopes to provide more with part-worn clothing, as soon as articles to fit are given.

Royal Signals Assn. and Benevolent Fund

The following subscriptions were most gratefully received during July, 1962:

	£	s.	d.
11th Regiment	31	1	4
24th Regiment (Officers' Mess)	3	14	0
24th Regiment (Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess)	4	5	0
224 Squadron (Radio)	11	15	3
3rd Regiment	25	0	0
14th Regiment (1 Squadron)	10	0	0
30th Regiment	50	0	0
63rd Regiment, T.A. (part Church Collection)	2	18	6
243 Squadron	4	0	0
Junior Leaders Regiment	4	0	0
Signals Branch, School of Artillery		11	11
46 Squadron, R.A.S.C. (L.C.T.)	3	15	0
41st Regiment (T.A.)	3	0	0
47th Regiment (Middx. Yeomanry) T.A. (W.O.s' & Sgts'. Mess)	2	0	0
Royal Signals attached 9th Bn. R.A.O.C.		15	0
66th (Ulster) Regiment (T.A.)	10	0	0
C.S.O.'s Branch, H.Q., Scottish Command		4	6
632 Troop	1	9	0
52 (L) Regiment (T.A.)	4	2	0
61st Regiment (T.A.)		7	4
H.Q., 1 (BR) Corps	5	0	0
7th Regiment (Regimental Fete)	60	0	0
16th Regiment (Regimental Fete)	317	10	3
254 Squadron	3	3	3
641 Troop	1	10	0
235 Squadron (COMCAN)	12	13	3
H.Q., Allied Forces, Northern Europe		10	0
W. F. H. Herdon	1	0	0
J. D. F. Hewson	1	0	0
Major Robertson		10	0
Anonymous (Catterick)		4	6
J. Law	1	5	0
G. M. Welsford	1	0	0
J. A. Springett		10	0
J. A. Prowse		5	0
G. F. B. Grant		3	8
R. H. Priestley		3	9
J. F. Prideaux		7	10
R. A. Oswick	1	0	0
D. W. Lloyd Davies	1	5	0
T. A. Roberts		16	6
Total Receipts	£581	16	10
Expenditure during July, 1962 (Includes Rates and Rent; Beds and Bedding; Furniture; Cots and Prams; General Assistance).	479	17	3

Analysis of Cases:

Widows and Dependants	11
Released and Discharged Soldiers	39
Families of Soldiers serving in U.K.	2
Total cases assisted	52

22 Cases of Soldiers who served during the 1935/45 War	£273	3	7
30 Cases of Soldiers who did not serve during the War	£206	13	8

The following donation was most gratefully received during June, 1962: Chambers Encyclopaedia.

Revision by Major E. J. Hellier and Captain D. A. C. Randel ... £10 10 0

Careers and Opportunities

A vacancy exists for a National Service Officer who will be completing his service shortly. The individual selected would be trained in our Research Laboratory and then be required to lead a team demonstrating new techniques.

Subsequently he would be able to progress in the field (Laboratory, Works, Sales or Administration) for which he showed himself best suited.

The field of advancement within the Company and the Group is unlimited for the right individual who must possess drive, initiative and the will to succeed. Those who feel their chemistry might not be up to the mark should not refrain from applying provided they have the other qualities mentioned.

Please apply to: Major A. R. Matthews, R.E. (retd.), General Manager, Floor Treatments Limited, High Street, High Wycombe, Bucks.

South Western Electricity Consultative Council

Applications from those holding an electrical qualification are invited for appointment as Secretary of the Council, salary £1,530 x £40 — £1,650, from 1st January, 1963. The post will be superannuable and subject to three months' notice on either side. Otherwise terms and conditions of service will be similar to those agreed by the Electricity Supply Industry National Joint Council. Applications, marked "Confidential," stating age, qualification and present appointment, should be sent before 19th November, to the Chairman, South Western Electricity Consultative Council, Pearl House, High Street, Exeter.

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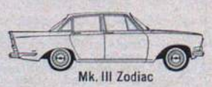
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THE WIRE

THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE

The Official Organ of the Signals Association

Editor:
BRIGADIER H. R. FIRTH

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☆

OCTOBER • 1962

Vol. 16 *(New Series)* **No. 10**

Editorial

Christmas Appeal for Toys and Clothes

Writing in September to be read in October it seems very early to mention Christmas but truly there is little time.

For several years now Royal Signals has been unique in that it has provided very wonderfully some kind of present for each member of the very poorest families known to the Association.

If we are to do it again YOU MUST START NOW.

Gifts of Toys and Books:—It does not matter if they are duplicates or rejects in your own family; they will go to children whose parents, or widowed mothers cannot provide for such things.

Gifts of Money:—Will go to Signalmen who, because they themselves are permanently bedridden or chairborne cannot earn. It gives them great pleasure to be able themselves to buy some small present for wife or children.

Clothes:—The Association knows of so many families who have lived, for years, on National Assistance Board scale of income. This provides for rent, light, a little heat and a very economical diet. It does not provide for replacement of clothing. The need for clothes is very great. One Charitable Society in Manchester distributes annually 20,000 garments and nearly 1,000 pairs of shoes. The need is no less today than it was when this Society was formed nearly fifty years ago.

We of Royal Signals have in comparison only a small number of families in real need, perhaps fifty or sixty. It should be a matter of pride that OUR families do better than most.

Why This Early Appeal

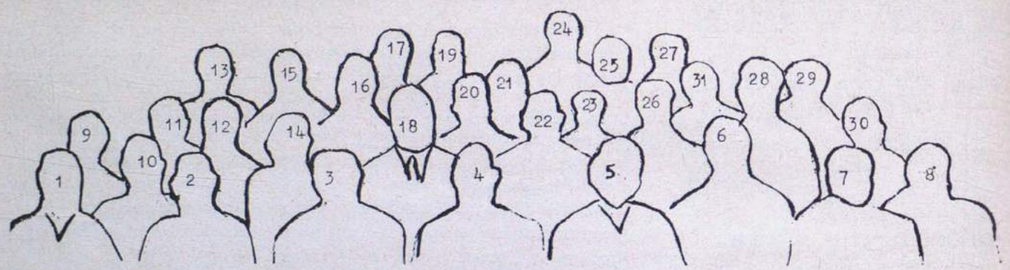
Each year the Welfare Staff at Association Headquarters has been nearly overwhelmed by your generosity. They have worked very long hours, sorting, packing, parcelling, addressing.

All this has been done in addition to their normal day to day work of dealing with, on average, two hundred new applications for help and advice each month.

In this year in December! it is likely that the move from Eccleston Square to Duke of Yorks Headquarters will take place. Imagine the added chaos.

Last year, or was it the year before, one famous Regiment sent over thirty parcels of toys, books, clothes, footwear. Suppose this happened again. We hope it will. Whatever date of arrival, all will be unpacked, repacked and posted in time for Christmas, BUT you will have twice our gratitude if you send early to us, so that we can have a little more time.

PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY



1. Major W. H. Walters, Australia.
2. Squadron-Leader R. K. Starkie, Australia.
3. Commander R. E. Lesh, Australia.
4. Lieutenant-General Sir William Pike, Vice-Chief of the Imperial General Staff.
5. Major J. G. Berry, Canada.
6. Group Captain A. C. Bowes, Canada.
7. Colonel A. Rehman Khan, Pakistan.
8. Colonel Mohammed Noor, Malaya.
9. Major-General A. M. W. Whistler.
10. Major-General R. N. Batra, India.
11. Major P. K. Sen, India.
12. Mr. R. F. T. Stannard.
13. Lieutenant-Colonel J. E. D. Farr.
14. Lieutenant D. T. Hunt, Australia.
15. Major-General F. J. Swainson.
16. Captain J. R. G. Trechman, R.N.
17. Air Vice-Marshal C. M. Stewart.
18. Commander Shafiq Ahmad, Pakistan.
19. Mr. A. R. Barrow.
20. Lieutenant-Colonel A. W. Fitchett, New Zealand.
21. Wing Commander S. P. Singh, India.
22. Colonel Abdul R. Khan, Pakistan.
23. Lieutenant-Commander J. D. Gresson, New Zealand.
24. Mr. G. Mellor.
25. Squadron Leader D. A. Duthie, New Zealand.
26. Commander Akhtar Hanif, Pakistan.
27. Brigadier E. I. E. Mozley.
28. Lieutenant-Colonel D. H. Grainger, Rhodesia and Nyasaland.
29. Air Commodore C. C. Morton.
30. Wing Commander W. D. Reid.
31. Wing Commander J. P. Conyers-Brown, New Zealand.

The Seventh Military Communications-Electronics Conference

THIS Conference takes place every other year. It was attended by S.O.-in-C.s and Directors of Signals and/or their representatives of the Navies, Armies and Air Forces from various Commonwealth countries. Amongst those attending on the Army side were Major-General R. N. Batra (S.O.-in-C. India), Lieutenant-Colonel A. W. Fitchett and Lieutenant-Colonel D. H. Grainger (Director of Signals in New Zealand and Rhodesia and Nyasaland respectively); Colonel A. R. Khan (Commandant Pakistan School of Signals), Lieutenant-Colonel E. McK. Erskine (C.S.O. designate, Malaya), Major J. G. Berry, Major W. A. Walters, Major P. K. Sen, Colonel Abdul R. Khan and Colonel Mohammed Noor (from the London Staffs of Canada, Australia, India, Pakistan and Malaya respectively). The United Kingdom War Office was represented by Major-General A. M. W. Whistler, Major-General F. J. Swainson, Brigadier E. I. E. Mozley and Colonel G. D. T. Harris. The Conference was opened by Lieutenant-General Sir William Pike, V.C.I.G.S.

The photograph was taken on the opening morning and also includes Lieutenant-Colonel J. E. D. Farr from L.C.-E.S.A. and Lieutenant-Colonel G. Mellor (Retd.) now with the B.J.C.E.B. (London).

On the evening of the first day the delegates were entertained at a Ministry of Defence Reception. The guests were received by His Grace the Duke of Devonshire, Joint Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Dominion Relations. (Ed.—Since promoted and now Minister of State). The reception was held in King Henry VIII's Wine Cellar, an interesting old Tudor brick structure built by Cardinal Wolseley, and once part of the old Palace of Whitehall. Originally at ground level, it was moved complete on rollers and jacks and is now incorporated two floors below the ground in the new Board of Trade Building in Horse Guards Avenue.

During the week, additional receptions were given by the Electronics Trade, and greatly enjoyed by all.

A Visit to Goonhilly Down

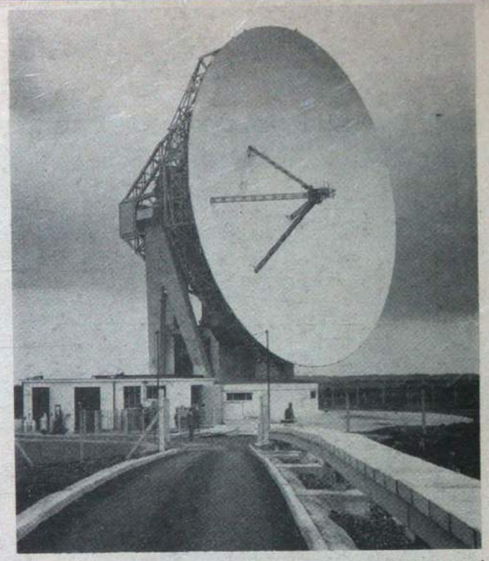
BY MAJOR-GENERAL L. DE M. THUILLIER, C.B., O.B.E.

I was one of a number of senior officials representing Government Departments in Whitehall who were invited by the Deputy Engineer-in-Chief of the Post Office, Captain C. F. Booth, to visit the Post Office satellite communications station at Goonhilly Down about a fortnight before the historic Telstar experiments began. Amongst those present in the party was Lieutenant-Colonel D. Dibsdall, my assistant in the Cabinet Office.

By a singular coincidence the station is less than five miles away from the site of the Poldhu station from which the first radio signal (the three dots of the morse code letter S) was transmitted across the Atlantic to a receiver on the east coast of Newfoundland. And here was I standing, sixty-one years after that equally historic event, in the shadow of a giant aerial that would shortly transmit for the first time a television signal via a communications satellite to another station at Andover, Maine, on the other side of the Atlantic. As I gazed up at the 85 ft. white painted dish and its supporting structure and turned round to look at the control buildings 100 yards away, it was difficult to realise that a year ago there was just virgin heath. The complete station had been designed, built and tested out in the short space of a twelve month, an achievement of which the Post Office and their contractors were justly proud. It was conceived from scratch too. There was no copying of an American model as with the French station in Brittany. This one incorporated the fruits of much original thought by Post Office engineers, as well as having the ability to become, without much alteration, the ground terminal of a satellite system when one is established in the years ahead.

We were given a free run of the whole station and although most of the technicians were busy putting final touches and completing last minute preparations it was quickly obvious how keen they were to show us every detail of the work they were doing. We were allowed to climb up the back of the dish and gaze through a peep-hole at its smooth white surface, a surface accurate to tolerances of 3/16th of an inch and providing a 3 db beamwidth of ·15 degrees at 6,000 Mc/s. We looked into one of the operating cabins just behind the dish where the liquid cooled maser was housed and we admired at close quarters the enormous 30 ft. high screw-thread assembly that elevated and lowered the dish. Then we entered the penthouse where the transmitters were, the doors of which are clearly seen in the photograph between the concrete legs of the cradle. The apparatus in here was a tight fit since not only did it contain the equipment for the Telstar experiments, but also for the forthcoming Relay one. There were cabins containing the high power stages (1,725 and 6,390 Mc/s) low power drive equipment and some of the frequency shift equipment. Back on the ground we entered the door of the building, the roof of which was the turntable which took the whole weight of 870 tons of dish, concrete cradle, transmitter penthouse and screw-thread elevating assembly. We looked at the immense "bicycle" chain that spun the turntable and in a separate room saw the two 100 h.p. closed looped servo motors, one of which drove the "bicycle" chain and the other the elevating screw-thread. So accurately were the speeds of these motors controlled (by means of instructions from a punched tape—of which more later) and their motions transferred to the "bicycle" chain and the screw-thread that the dish could pick up and be kept pointed at a 3 ft. diameter satellite travelling at round about 15,000 miles an hour up to 3,000 miles away!

Then we walked down the road towards the main building in which was the control centre for the whole station. Here we saw first the control consoles, in front of which were places for the Controller of Experiments and his assistants. From these every operation in the whole station could be supervised, as for example, the operation of each transmitter and receiver. On top of the left-hand console were two television receivers; a fortnight later the eyes of many millions of people were to be glued on to the screen of the left-hand one waiting for the picture to appear of the first television signal to be relayed via the satellite across the Atlantic. The drama of that historic evening was hidden from us. Then we had a look at the apparatus rooms, finishing up in the computer room. Here we could not help being amazed—at least I was—at the intricate calculations that had to be performed. The task of the computer was to accept orbital data of the satellite's movements (i.e. its exact position in space at one minute intervals, calculated from the information received from the worldwide chain of



[By courtesy of H.M. Postmaster-General

Goonhilly Downs Radio Station. A view of the aerial

Minitrack stations) and to convert this data into instructions on a punched tape, so that at each second of time, electrical impulses could be fed to the control mechanism of the servo motors, the latter then elevating and rotating the dish to keep its eye, as it were, on the satellite.

And so after the description of the job of that computer, our visit ended. Having been privileged to see so much of the intricate apparatus and equipment that is necessary to operate successfully a station of this kind, we could not but marvel at the enormous amount of work that had been put into it and especially how so much had been accomplished in so little time.

"Hermes" Maiden Voyage

Those who know Cyprus must know Glossa, the bay in front of the Florida Hotel at Famagusta, and the coast past Salamis and up to Boghaz. This was to be *Hermes* maiden voyage and in the nature of "troop trials" with a crew of eight.

Hermes is the new Regimental boat, donated to the Regiment by the Nuffield Trust. She is a 22ft. locally-built fishing vessel and, with a Turner Marine single cylinder engine, capable of about seven knots. She cost £300 and was officially launched by the Commanding Officer's wife, Mrs. David Jones, in April.

We were to spend the night out on the sands just past Boghas after having been suitably beered and dined from the 3-tonner, which was to meet us there. We were to catch plenty of fish and get very sun-tanned. In fact it did not quite work out that way.

Hermes with Corporal Winton at the helm

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On leaving Glossa at nine in the morning, the sun shone and the seas were calm, but only until we were out in the open sea.

Fishing was tried out nearer the coast, just past Salamis, but the waves were already quite large and, as the anchor would not hold, we ended up far too close to the rocks for comfort. In the ensuing "paddy," we eventually found that the engine would not restart until it was put into neutral gear, six fishing lines got very tangled up, and half a fishing rod was lost overboard. Discretion being the better part of valour, we had to content ourselves with an enthralling experience and no fish.

Beaching the boat at lunchtime we found was no easy matter, especially as the waves were then about five feet high. But difficulties were nothing compared to the re-launching, as can probably be imagined, and all sailors got very bruised and battered. The re-fitting of the rudder, which was remembered in the nick of time, was a full ten minutes of impossibility. All this pantomime was to be repeated again at our final destination, near Boghaz, and, even with our added experience, it was not a happy thought, especially as the wind and spray were by now a little chilling and beer stocks were running low.

Just before we died of thirst, a truck was sighted and soon extra willing hands were to make beaching easier than was expected. Hot, sticky tea gave welcome relief, and fishing for supper was quickly started in earnest. This meal was to be one of the best we had ever tasted—consisting of curried beef and rice. Obviously not much hope for the fishermen, but congratulations to the cooks.

Apart from having to rescue *Hermes* from the rising tide at about two o'clock in the morning, and the miscomforts of some whose waist diameters were larger than the internal diameters of the sleeping bags, a good night was spent, and all were up early fishing for our breakfast. This was also a good meal consisting of bacon, sausage and eggs.

The return trip was started a little earlier than planned, due to the forbidding-looking waves. They were worse than the previous day, but we were now hardened seamen and there was plenty of beer to keep the salt water taste from the mouth and plenty of whisky to keep the cold from the body. Glossa was sighted with sighs of relief.

At least we got back to tell the tale, and to future users of *Hermes*, we wish them better weather and better fishing, but can guarantee to them a marvellous time.

Army Art Exhibition

The 31st Exhibition of the Society, containing over 300 pictures by artists from all three Services, was opened on 5th September at the Chenil Galleries, Chelsea, by Lieutenant-General Mohammed Yousuf, the High Commissioner for Pakistan.

Field Marshal Auchinleck, himself a regular exhibitor (this year all three of his pictures were sold on Private View day), is Chairman of the Society, and the Secretary is Mr. W. Arnold, now a professional artist, who served in Royal Signals during the war.

From the Corps, neither Lieutenant-Colonel Hutchins nor Lieutenant-Colonel Fletcher was exhibiting this year, but Colonel Vulliamy had four pictures hanging (two of the English countryside, two of Pakistan) and Major Whistler three of scenes in Malta and Cyprus.

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BRIGADIER P. M. P. HOBSON, D.S.O.

Brigadier Pat Hobson was first commissioned on 30th January, 1930, and posted to the Depot Battalion, as it then was, at the Signal Training Centre at Catterick. After 32 years' service, he finally finished his service, also at Catterick, but commanding the Training Brigade.

Essentially a man of action, his service has been mainly in the East (where he took part in operations on the North-West Frontier) or at Catterick, except for a short spell of Arctic conditions in Canada in 1948, when he took part in Exercise "Musk Ox." However, to make up for this latter, he was shortly after posted to Hong Kong, to command 46 Infantry Division Signal Regiment.

Among his many outstanding qualities, those of leadership and devotion to the welfare and morale of his men were predominant. His keenness for fostering all forms of sport and his participation in them is well known (one commanding officer described him as "the finest physically-built subaltern I know") and is exemplified in the record of 1 Training Regiment, during his tenure of command, when the Regiment reached the finals of the Army Rugby Union in 1947, and the S.T.C., with a team largely composed of members of 1 Training Regiment, won the cup in 1948, and were rated as the best rugby side in the North of England. In 1947 also, the Regiment also won the Catterick District Athletics, whilst the Boys' Squadron won the Northern Command Enlisted Boys Soccer Cup. Later, whilst in Austria as C.S.O., B.T.A., he took up ski-ing wholeheartedly, and by his enthusiasm and energy, encouraged the Klagenfurt Signal Squadron so that in 1953 they entered teams for the patrol team race, the downhill and the slalom, coming fifth in the downhill.

As a leader and trainer of men his whole-hearted sympathy, enthusiasm and determination were recognised by his many training appointments, commencing with the Boys' Company at the S.T.C., India, and followed by a Class B instructorship at the Army Signal School, Poona. Always sympathetic, he would never accept the attitude "it won't work" until he personally had proof that this was so. Many will remember him in Poona, Austria, Hong Kong and East Africa, taking a wireless set and proving to its users, be they Gunners, Infantry or our own Corps, that in fact it would work, provided it was correctly handled and sited.

During World War II, Pat Hobson first commanded 50 Army Tank Brigade Signal Squadron and later 7 Indian Divisional Signals in the Arakan, where, during the phase known as the Battle of the Box, the Regiment took a major part in the defence of Divisional Headquarters. A description of the battle, the ferocious hand-to-hand fighting, and the grim tenacity of 7 Indian Divisional Signals is vividly portrayed in the book "Spearhead General," by Maule. For his part in this operation, his coolness, courage and devotion to duty, Pat Hobson was awarded the D.S.O.

Pat Hobson, from his earliest days in the Corps, has always had the good name and efficiency of the Corps very much to his heart, and nothing has been too much trouble to him to ensure that this was maintained. It is pleasant to know that he is to maintain a close association with us by taking over the post of Secretary to the Royal Signals Association from Brigadier H. R. Firth. We wish him all success and happiness in his new job.

Obituary

COLONEL G. J. MORLEY PEEL, M.B.E., T.D.

He started his career in the Territorial Army in 1909, serving first in the Nottinghamshire Royal Horse Artillery and, after business reasons moved him to London, in The Roughriders, before his commission as Second-Lieutenant in the Surrey Yeomanry in 1915. He was seconded to the Royal Flying Corps in 1916, qualified as a pilot, and served therein until the end of the war.

On the reconstitution of the Territorial Army, he joined Anti-Aircraft Signals at Regency Street and served this unit throughout, until he succeeded Lieutenant-Colonel (Brigadier) G. C. Wickins in command.

In 1939, when the 1st Anti-Aircraft Divisional Signals was divided, he commanded the newly-formed 6th A.A. Divisional Signals, responsible for the Anti Aircraft defences between London and the coast, and remained in command until 1943, when he had to retire because of ill health.

After 1946 he was very active in helping to re-form his Regiment in Brompton Road, and became Honorary Colonel thereof in 1956.

He died on 30th August, 1962, aged 70 years.

He gave over 50 years of his life to voluntary service of his Sovereign and to his country. It is typical of him that even when he had no official position, he was constant in the service of his Regiment. All who knew him are aware of the example he gave to those under him of this devoted service.

His very long service to Royal Signals T.A. was marked by the large number of officers, warrant officers and senior N.C.O.s who attended his funeral; upward of 100 were present.

He was a Freeman of the City of London.

A further tribute to Lieutenant-Colonel G. J. Morley Peel, M.B.E., T.D., and those who served with him will appear in November.

Mr. GRAHAM WALKER

Mr. Graham Walker who died at his home in Lyndhurst on 7th September was a very faithful friend of Royal Signals. One of the original 'Corporal Despatch Riders' 1941 he served in the Signal Service Royal Engineers until the end of the war.

He joined the Rudge Whitworth Motorcycle Manufacturing

Company and rode in several Tourist Trophy races, winning the Lightweight Race in 1931, at the then very high speed of 69 miles an hour. He was editor of Motorcycling 1939 to 1961.

In 1935 he used his considerable influence to arrange the stud of Rudge Whitworth Motorcycles on which City of London Signals T.A. provided the Motorcycle Display at the Royal Tournament. This is believed to be the only Territorial Army which has appeared at *all* performances of a Royal Tournament.

He was also a founder member of the Association of R.E. Despatch Riders which flourished between the two wars. A well known commentator on Motorcycling subjects in Radio and Television.

Signalman G. C. Prentice

Courtesy : Daily Herald

Signalman G. C. Prentice was killed on 4th September, 1962, while taking part in the Manx Junior Grand Prix: he was at the time on leave from his unit, 2nd Regiment, in B.A.O.R.

Geoffrey Prentice was called up for National Service in May, 1960, and two months later passed out from 24th Regiment as a driver. He joined 2nd Regiment in September, 1960, and was posted to No. 2 Squadron, where he quickly became the Squadron Commander's driver, first to Major R. I. Osbourne and then to Major W. E. Sherratt. Throughout his two years with the Regiment he worked extremely hard: his cheerful, friendly personality was always in evidence, even during the coldest and wettest of B.A.O.R. manoeuvres, of which he was a veteran. He was widely recognised as a most skilful driver, but his interests were not confined to his driving duties. He had been a member of his local rifle club and soon became a member of the Regimental shooting team with which he shot at Bisley in 1961 and, for the last time at the Royal Signals (B.A.O.R.) meeting in May this year. In his spare time he was the senior projectionist at the A.K.C. Globe Cinema, Bünde. His greatest love was, however, his motor cycling. He had been an enthusiast for several years and in recent months had one of his machines (a 650 c.c. B.S.A.) with him in B.A.O.R. He had taken part in junior races before joining the Army.

His death came as a great shock to his many friends in 2nd Regiment, several of whom were listening to the commentary on the race, when it was announced that he had crashed and died. Tribute was paid to his memory, and the whole Regiment observed one minute's silence at a parade on 5th September. Wreaths were sent to the funeral from the Regiment, his Squadron and individual friends; every assistance being given in this by the Royal Signals Association Headquarters.

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The Empire Field of Remembrance, 1962

The Empire Field of Remembrance, 1962, will be held at Westminster Abbey from the 8th to 12th November (both dates inclusive). It will be opened at 12 noon on Thursday, 8th November, with a short service conducted by Canon Stancliffe, assisted by the Dean, at which members of the Association are invited to be present, and will remain open daily from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., although access thereto is, of course, possible at any time.

The Royal Signals Plot is No. 203, as in previous years. Mr. A. E. Stead and members of the London Branches will be the official representatives of the Association at the opening. If any other members of the Association are in London on 8th November, and wish to attend the opening, they should notify Headquarters, Royal Signals Association, 88, Eccleston Square, S.W.1.

It is hoped that a good number will be able to attend this year.

The following are available from the British Legion Poppy Factory, for the Memorial Plot and, if ordered, will be placed on behalf of Units and Branches who cannot send representatives, by the official representatives of the Association.

Badge Crosses ...	21/-	Wreath Crosses ...	5/-
Field Crosses	15/-	Remembrance Crosses	6d.
Poppy Crosses ...	10/-		

Correspondence and orders relating to the Field should be addressed DIRECT to the Secretary, British Legion Poppy Factory, Petersham Road, Richmond, Surrey (with a copy to Headquarters), and cheques should be made payable to: The British Legion Poppy Factory Ltd., and should be crossed.

Christmas Presents

It cannot be time to start thinking about Christmas presents ! ! ! Certainly not in Great Britain, but by the time THE WIRE reaches some far distant places, the season of present-giving is all too near.

What of some of the things advertised in THE WIRE.

Garrard, for instance, have some excellent figures of "Jimmy," mounted on brooch or pin for around £6 (see September WIRE).

Ladies who would like one of these may perhaps open the subject by suggesting that the new Corps Gramophone Record, or more cheaply, one or two ashtrays at 4/6 each, will appeal to husbands. These are pretty near unbreakable, unless thrown on a hard floor after being washed in very hot water.

Tie, scarves, cuff-links, blazer badges and buttons, car badges—all are available in good quality from Association Headquarters. You will find advertisements in nearly every number of THE WIRE. You can buy him a belt from Hobson & Sons, prices range from 10/- to £14.

If you buy the boy a motor cycle, let it be a Triumph—or at least give him a Royal Signals badge to go with it.

Recommended Reading

	PAGE
A Visit to Goonhilly Down	355
Radio Show	362
Now we are getting somewhere	363
Exercise "Mickey Finn"	365
Greece and Turkey for £30	365
Hurricane "Wanda"	366
An Interesting Account of Shooting	391

PERSONAL COLUMN

London Gazette

Extracts from Gazettes received between 20th August and September

Brigadier P. M. P. Hobson, D.S.O., retired 13th August, 1962.
Lieutenant-Colonel J. I. Parkinson, M.B.E., retired 13th August, 1962.
Major (T.O.T.) W. L. P. Brennan (S.S.C.), retired 13th August, 1962.
Captain F. H. Rugg, E.R.D. (A.E.R.), retired 15th August, 1962.
Captain A. Hall-Brown to T.A.R.O., 2nd June, 1962.
Captain (Q.M.) J. H. W. Roake (S.S.C.) to be Major (Q.M.) 9th August, 1962.
Second-Lieutenant E. P. Magill (T.A.) to be Lieutenant, 10th August, 1962.
Captain M. J. E. Gammage (T.A.R.O.) to be Captain, 2nd May, 1962.
Major (Tfc. Offr.) G. K. Thorne, T.D. (T.A.R.O.), to be Major (Tfc. Offr.), 30th July, 1962.
Captain M. J. O'Conner to be Major, 26th August, 1962.
W.O.I W. C. Lombard to be Lieutenant (Tfc. Offr.), 30th July, 1962.
Captain I. G. Jones to be Major (T.A.), 1st August, 1962.
Lieutenant H. P. Clegg to be Captain (T.A.), 7th June, 1962.
Lieutenant H. D. Stanley to be Captain (T.A.), 1st July, 1962.
Lieutenant J. R. Selby from N.S. to T.A., 16th July, 1962.
Major (Tfc. Offr.) H. Gully, retired 1st August, 1962.
Captain J. K. White to be Major, 1st August, 1962.
Lieutenant C. N. Last to be Captain, 2nd September, 1962.
Second-Lieutenant J. H. May to be Lieutenant, 2nd September, 1962.
Captain N. D. B. Corby to T.A.R.O., 17th July, 1962.
Lieutenant-Colonel F. E. Berry, T.D., retired 1st September, 1962.
Lieutenant-Colonel N. Pidsley retired 1st September, 1962.
Major D. W. Sutherland retired 1st September, 1962.
Captain G. G. Campbell to be Major, 4th August, 1962.
Major A. E. Scaif relinquished S.S.C., 1st September, 1962.
Captain E. Roberts to be Major (A.E.R.) 3rd September, 1961.
Second-Lieutenant P. Connolly to be Lieutenant, 29th August, 1962.
Lieutenant-Colonel J. T. Lloyd retired 6th September, 1962.
R.S.M. W. G. Finch to be Lieutenant (Q.M.) (S.S.C.), 13th August, 1962.
Captain N. G. Wilson to be Major (A.E.R.) 29th July, 1962.

Movements—Officers

Lieut.-Colonel W. R. G. Hencher, M.B.E.	To	19th Regiment
Major M. H. Broadway	,,	School of Signals
Major B. C. Skelly	,,	1st Regiment
Major R. S. Lott	,,	8th Regiment
Major J. R. Ellis	,,	21st Regiment
Major K. W. Watts	,,	41st Regiment (T.A.).
Major G. H. Pierson	,,	63rd Regiment (T.A.).
Major J. A. Cleland	,,	G.H.Q., FARELF
Major S. C. Dare	,,	Ministry of Aviation
Major (T.O.T.) J. F. Everard	,,	21st Regiment
Major (Tfc.) H. W. Russell	,,	14th Regiment
Captain T. Rigby	,,	School of Signals
Captain B. I. Weston	,,	256 Squadron
Captain D. S. Keech	,,	30th Regiment
Captain G. R. Oehlers	,,	School of Signals (Course)
Captain D. Lvcett-Gregson	,,	22nd Regiment
Captain A. J. Harrison	,,	School of Signals (Course)
Captain R. E. Pack-Davison	,,	School of Signals (Course)
Captain P. F. Larrington	,,	School of Signals (Course)
Captain D. W. Gent	,,	School of Signals (Course)
Captain (T.O.T.) A. D. Martin	,,	30th Regiment
Lieutenant J. V. Fielding	,,	4th Regiment
Lieutenant I. S. Brinsford	,,	217 Squadron
Lieutenant N. Moss	,,	School of Signals (Course)
Lieutenant (T.O.T.) P. W. Foakes	,,	222 Squadron
Lieutenant (T.O.T.) H. W. Galloway	,,	610 Troop

Retirements

	Date of Retirement
Lieutenant-Colonel F. E. Berry	1st September, 1962.
Lieutenant-Colonel N. Pidsley	1st September, 1962.
Lieutenant-Colonel J. T. Lloyd	6th September, 1962.
Lieutenant-Colonel A. P. Johnson	15th September, 1962.
Major D. W. Sutherland	1st September, 1962.

Relinquishment

	Date of Relinquishment
Major A. E. Scaife	1st September, 1962.

Movements—Warrant Officers and Sergeants, During October, 1962.

W.O.I A. T. Leggat	To	11th Regiment
W.O.I D. MacGillivray	,,	H.Q., Southern Command
W.O.I A. G. Harfield	,,	Royal Signals Records
W.O.I R. S. Todd	,,	24th Regiment
W.O.I G. N. Smith	,,	54th Regiment (T.A.)
W.O.II (R.Q.M.S.) P. W. H. Lafferty	,,	22nd Regiment
W.O.II (R.Q.M.S.) C. A. Baalham	,,	615 Troop
W.O.II (R.Q.M.S.) R. J. Fletcher	,,	41st Regiment (T.A.)
W.O.II M. J. L. Molony	,,	234 Squadron
W.O.II V. F. M. Thom	,,	223 Squadron
W.O.II C. L. Gardiner	,,	49th Regiment (T.A.)
W.O.II B. C. Oscroft	,,	219 Squadron
W.O.II R. Foster	,,	16th Regiment
W.O.II I. A. Crabtree	,,	11th Regiment
W.O.II C. Dunn	,,	224 Squadron
W.O.II C. C. G. Curtis	,,	249 Squadron
W.O.II G. A. Granger	,,	School of Signals
W.O.II D. W. Stanley	,,	A.A.S., Harrogate
W.O.II R. W. F. Thornborough	,,	School of Signals
W.O.II J. B. Morrison	,,	H.Q., Middle East Command
W.O.II J. P. Skinner	,,	H.Q., Royal Signals, Hong Kong.
W.O.II D. J. Carnell	,,	H.Q., Scottish Command
W.O.II G. K. Rothwell	,,	4th Regiment
W.O.II M. J. Levins	,,	1st Regiment
W.O.II F. A. Thomas	,,	51st Regiment (T.A.)
W.O.II P. V. Dixon	,,	2nd Regiment
W.O.II J. N. Clark	,,	4th Regiment
W.O.II A. J. D. Davies	,,	24th Regiment
Acting W.O.II P. J. Doonan	,,	46th Regiment (T.A.)
Acting W.O.II A. Morris	,,	Junior Leaders Regiment
Staff Sergeant C. H. Young	,,	Signal Training Centre, F.E.
Staff Sergeant D. C. Pocock	,,	School of Signals
Staff Sergeant M. Butler	,,	School of Signals
Staff Sergeant B. Fisher	,,	School of Signals
Staff Sergeant F. Clarkson	,,	9/12 Lancers Signal Troop
Staff Sergeant J. Stanhope	,,	227 Squadron
Staff Sergeant I. D. C. MacMillan	,,	School of Signals
Staff Sergeant G. F. Hughes	,,	School of Signals
Staff Sergeant J. A. Coxon	,,	School of Signals
Staff Sergeant R. Banham	,,	School of Signals
Staff Sergeant R. J. L. Harries	,,	Royal Scots Greys Signal Troop
Staff Sergeant E. J. F. Garner	,,	20th Regiment, R.A., Signal Tp.
Staff Sergeant C. A. Berry	,,	30th Regiment
Staff Sergeant L. M. Andrews	,,	22nd Regiment
Staff Sergeant A. R. Hill	,,	11th Regiment
Staff Sergeant N. C. Elliott	,,	9th Regiment
Staff Sergeant D. N. M. Eldridge	,,	254 Squadron
Staff Sergeant R. E. Brooks	,,	238 Squadron
Staff Sergeant N. W. Cunion	,,	235 Squadron
Staff Sergeant B. Dossetter	,,	11th Regiment
Staff Sergeant S. J. Martin	,,	22nd Regiment
Staff Sergeant G. Hayes	,,	3rd Regiment
Staff Sergeant G. E. Tompkins	,,	3rd Regiment
Staff Sergeant S. Finlayson	,,	4th Regiment
Staff Sergeant I. W. Davies	,,	49th Regiment (T.A.)
Staff Sergeant P. H. Iverson	,,	7th Regiment
Staff Sergeant K. A. Lambert	,,	11th Regiment
Acting Staff Sergeant G. Smith	,,	H.Q., Royal Signals, Cyprus
Sergeant C. H. Moynan	,,	20th Regiment
Sergeant W. H. Elliott	,,	45th Regiment (T.A.)
Sergeant W. Norrie	,,	24th Regiment
Sergeant H. J. Paul	,,	249 Squadron
Sergeant G. S. Hiles	,,	8th Regiment
Sergeant B. A. Cumming	,,	237 Squadron
Sergeant L. Goodwin	,,	630 Troop
Sergeant B. R. Baker	,,	School of Signals
Sergeant B. Rothwell	,,	School of Signals
Sergeant K. F. Duffey	,,	School of Signals
Sergeant J. Gardner	,,	School of Signals
Sergeant G. V. Kay	,,	School of Signals
Sergeant W. A. Ramsay	,,	School of Signals
Sergeant D. Thom	,,	School of Signals
Sergeant M. E. Rowland	,,	219 Squadron
Sergeant A. Jamieson	,,	A.A.S., Harrogate
Sergeant J. P. S. McInally	,,	8th Regiment
Sergeant J. R. Gray	,,	School of Signals
Sergeant J. A. Callow	,,	Q.R.I.H. Signal Troop
Sergeant M. J. Bayliss	,,	School of Signals
Sergeant D. J. Freeston	,,	234 Squadron
Sergeant A. B. Turner	,,	School of Signals
Sergeant A. W. Wise	,,	Camp Comdt., War Office
Sergeant S. Y. Murray	,,	24th Regiment
Sergeant A. Brown	,,	11th Regiment
Sergeant D. Newsham	,,	11th Regiment
Sergeant P. C. Wood	,,	14th Regiment
Sergeant H. Bushby	,,	11th Regiment
Sergeant G. H. Wright	,,	51st Regiment (T.A.)
Sergeant D. P. Lefeuvrf	,,	11th Regiment
Sergeant J. M. Preece	,,	Cambridge University O.T.C.
Sergeant D. Jones	,,	Junior Leaders Regiment
Sergeant H. G. Arnold	,,	School of Signals
Sergeant H. I. James	,,	602 Troop
Sergeant L. W. Poole	,,	224 Squadron
Sergeant L. Davies	,,	16th Regiment
Sergeant E. J. S. Baxter	,,	2nd Regiment
Sergeant G. P. T Raku	,,	14th Regiment
Sergeant W. J. Beddingfield	,,	219 Squadron
Sergeant C. Southart	,,	13th Regiment
Sergeant M. Skipper	,,	30th Regiment
Sergeant E. C. Thornton	,,	16th Regiment
Sergeant G. H. Johnson	,,	17th (Gurkha) Regiment
Sergeant D. W. L. Crisp	,,	U.K. Garrison Signal Troop
Sergeant G. Fenney	,,	11th Regiment
Sergeant A. A. Agnew	,,	219 Squadron
Sergeant T. R. Mallabone	,,	8th Regiment
Sergeant R. G. Payton	,,	

Births

THOMAS.—To Captain and Mrs. E. G. Thomas, on 21st June, 1962, a daughter, Joanne Davida.

BARRETT.—To Captain and Mrs. M. C. Barrett, on 26th February, 1962, a daughter, Tracey Ann, at R.A.F. Hospital, Changi.

DAVIS.—To W.O.II (F. of S.) and Mrs. R. Davis, on 24th May, 1962, a son, Graham Leslie, at B.M.H. Singapore.

ROBERTS.—To Captain and Mrs. J. R. Roberts, on 28th May, 1962, a son, Mark Ogwen, at B.M.H. Singapore.

MARSHALL, Sergeant B. B.—A son, Raymond Paul, born 22nd August, 1962.

PLUMB, Sergeant J. B.—(R.E.M.E. attached). A daughter, Julie Ann, born 23rd August, 1962.

MAGUIRE, Lance-Corporal E. P.—A son, Craig Douglas, born 26th August, 1962.

Marriages

STEWART—BROWN.—Lance-Corporal D. Stewart, on 10th August, 1962, to Jean Flockhart Brown, at the Register Office, Tranent.

HOWKER—JACKSON.—Sergeant J. Howker to Miss M. Jackson, at Bradford, on 11th August, 1962.

CRONIN—TUGWELL.—Signalman A. B. Cronin to Miss S. Tugwell, at Kent, on 18th August, 1962.

Deaths

FORSYTH.—On 3rd September, 1962, in a London Hospital, Lieutenant-Colonel Frederick Richard Gerard Forsyth, M.C., D.L., retired, aged 80 years, of the Seaforth Highlanders and Royal Signals. Commanded 51st Highland Divisional Signals and Honorary Colonel of that Regiment 1951-52.

MORLEY PEEL.—On the 30th August, at 95, St. Marys Abbots Court, W.14, Colonel G. J. Morley Peel, M.B.E., T.D., Royal Signals, Territorial Army 1921-1957. Until recently Honorary Colonel 55th Mixed Signal Regiment, Territorial Army.

PRENTICE.—On 4th September, killed during the Isle of Man Junior Tourist Race, George C. Prentice, aged 24. 2nd Regiment.

CULLEN.—22537456 Sergeant J. P. Cullen, serving in 200 Squadron (Armoured Brigade Group), died at Detmold, Germany, on 31st August, 1962, as result of a road accident. Life Member of Royal Signals Association.

LIGGINS.—Ex-Corporal Tom Liggins, in January, 1962. Served R.E. Signals 1911-1919. Oldest member of Birmingham Branch.

SPURR.—Captain R. J. Spurr, at his home in Birmingham, in August, 1962. Served in R.E. Signals 1908-1911, 1915-1919, and Royal Signals 1940-1941. Member of Birmingham Branch from 1945.

HENDERSON.—22776479 Corporal I. Henderson, on 11th August, in accident, U.K.

MOORE.—23660985 Signalman D. N. Moore, on 22nd August, 1962.

Wanted

A number of old service dress jackets are required by the Pimpernel Beagles for conversion into livery. Would any officer who may be able to help please contact Major Swan, 30th Signal Regiment, Blandford Camp, Dorset.

* * *

Will any Unit with stocks of unsold stable belts of the old obsolete pattern please contact P.R.I. 1 Signal Squadron (Command), The King's African Rifles, B.F.P.O. 10, who is interested in buying up stock.

* * *

For Sale

PREFECT, 1955. One owner, now giving up driving. Black, good tyres, battery, plugs. Excellent condition. M.O.T. certificate. £230 or near offer.—Seen any day by appointment, 88, Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1. VIC 5480.

Promotions

Regimental Duty Roster

				New Sen. No.	*Old Sen. No.*	
To W.O.I	6291067	A/W.O.I	Kemp, A. A.	1070	1550	
	3386957	A/W.O.I	Irving, L.	1080	1580	
To W.O.II	22550785	S Sgt.	Overton, J. R.	4460	4890	
	21005066	A/W.O.II	McQuire, J.	4470	3070	
	21005335	A/W.O.II	Higgs, W. E.	4480	1130	
	2549552	S Sgt.	Waters, G. H.	4490	4880	
	19179652	A/W.O.II	Jagger, R.	4500	4940	
To S Sgt.	22798494	A/S Sgt.	Hawtin, A. J. K.	6950	340	(Field)

Chief Clerks Roster

To W.O.I	21005649	W.O.II	McGlynn, J.	220	330	
	15002407	W.O.II	Crocker, H. J.	230	380	
To W.O.II	22840606	S Sgt.	Crane, L. A.	640	760	
	14164597	S Sgt.	Howells, R. N.	650	280	
To S Sgt.	14190871	Sgt.	James, G.	900	970	(Admin.)

Administrative Roster

To Sgt.	22525887	Cpl.	Clark, A. H.	2430	3140	
	22547161	Cpl.	Griffiths, J. D.	2440	3648	
	22951490	Cpl.	McEwan, T.	2450	830	
	22296592	Cpl.	Rocke, J.	2460	940	

Signal Centre Supervisors Roster

To W.O.II	2547295	S Sgt.	Reed, D.	1150	380
	2549664	S Sgt.	Kent, P. B. R.	1160	350
	22983981	S Sgt.	Scrafton, R.	1170	390
	22242754	S Sgt.	Rowbottom, N.	1180	370
	2573261	S Sgt.	Thorpe, A.	1190	360

DELETIONS

Regimental Duty Roster

W.O.II	1164	1500	2764	2796		
S Sgt.	500	980	4870	4390	4960	5300	5800

Field Roster

Sgt. 40 2530

OTHER DELETIONS

2325767 W.O.I W. S. Finch. Commissioned Lieut. (Q.M.), Aug. '62—530 (Regt. Duty) W.O.I

Chief Clerks Roster

S Sgt. 390

Operating Roster

Sgt. 7700 2030 5890 8740 2680

INSERTIONS

Field Roster

Sgt.	7018765	Sgt.	Gunn, W. J. B.	—	94
	22309128	Sgt.	Foster, R. H.	—	1804

Technical Roster

			New Sen. No.	*Old Sen. No.*
To Sgt.	23108836	Wright, L. H.	3658	1350
	23220359	Gray, P. W.	3760	8242
	23220364	Holden, B.	3765	4960
	22289322	Feltham, A. E.	3725	430

DELETIONS

Technical Roster

Sgt. 3350 3300 1010 3390

Foreman of Signals Roster

W.O.I 490

Ex-Boys' Reunion Dinner

The next dinner will be held on Saturday, 14th September, 1963—*note the year.*

The Dinner Committee very much regret circumstances beyond their control have compelled them to announce that it has not been possible to arrange a dinner during 1962.

Full details for the 1963 Ex-Boys' dinner will be notified at a later date.

Farewell Dinner to Brigadier Firth

The Dinner to mark the retirement of the General Secretary, Brigadier H R. Firth, will be held in the Victory Hall, Victory Club, 73, Seymour Street, London, W.2, on Saturday, 8th December, 1962. The reception will be 7 p.m. for 7.30 dinner, after which there will be dancing to music of the Corps Band.

The cost of tickets is £1 each, and applications should be made as soon as possible to the Dinner Committee Secretary, Miss M. Archer, 163, Westbourne Grove, London, W.11.

MOVEMENT OF HEADQUARTER OFFICES

In early December, 1962, R.H.Q., Royal Signals; the Royal Signals Institution; the Royal Signals Association will move to Cheltenham Terrace, Chelsea, London, S.W.3.

It is hoped to give telephone numbers in the November "WIRE."

Forthcoming Events

Royal Signals Institution Lectures, 1962

Tuesday, 27th November, "Training of American Cadets at West Point." Second-Lieutenant Paul L. Miles, Jnr., U.S. Army, 5.15 p.m., at North Hall, Training Brigade, Royal Signals, Catterick Camp, Yorks.

* Members are allowed two guests for this lecture.

Representative Colonel Commandant

tours B.A.O.R., 21st to 31st October, 1962.

39th Council Meeting of The Royal Signals Institution

will be held on 24th October, 1962.

Reunion of 55(M) Signal Regiment (T.A.)

at 206, Brompton Road, S.W.3, on Saturday, 10th November, 1962, at 8 p.m. Notices to be forwarded to members in due course.

38th Meeting of the Central Committee, Royal Signals Association

will be held on 14th November, 1962.

4th Indian Air Formation Signals Officers' Reunion

The Sixteenth Annual Officers' Reunion Dinner will take place at the Dominions Hotel, Lancaster Gate, London, W.2, at 7.30 p.m., on Saturday, 17th November.

82nd Meeting of the Corps Committee

will be held at the War Office on 30th November, 1962.

10th Annual General Meeting of the Royal Signals Institution

will be held at the War Office on 30th November, 1962.

Royal Signals Officers' Reunion

will be held at the Duke of York's Headquarters on 30th November, 1962.

Annual T.A./A.E.R. Royal Signals Officers' "At Home," 1962

will be held at Hyde Park Hotel on 1st December, 1962.

BAND ENGAGEMENTS

Nov. 18th ... ... Middlesborough

Royal Signals Rugby Football Club

8th Nov.	Royal Engineers—Chatham
24th Nov.	Cambridge LX Club—Cambridge
5th Dec.	Royal Artillery—Catterick
2nd March	Oxford Greyhounds—Oxford
20th March	Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst —Camberley

Museum Pieces Remaining

The following bound copies of THE WIRE remain for disposal at 2s. 6d. per copy: 1926—one, 1928—three, 1932—two, 1933—one, 1935—four, 1936—one, 1938—two, 1940—twelve, 1948—one, 1950—one, 1955—one.

News from Scotland

The Band are reported to have had a very successful tour in July and August and incidentally broke new ground by giving a Concert for Officers of the Corps serving and retired and their wives in Edinburgh. Playing in Princes Street Gardens the band was seen and heard by thousands during the first week of the Festival.

The Display Team scored a considerable success at the Royal Highland Show in June. One of the Directors of the Show, Brigadier H. N. Crawford, M.B.E., D.L., introduced the Team performance by loud speaker. He was well qualified to do this. Those who are older will remember that he commanded the Display Team 1935/38.

["Scotsman" Publications Ltd.

After a fanfare of trumpets by the Royal Corps of Signals, the Lord Provost Sir John Greig Dunbar, standing outside St. Giles' Cathedral, declares the 16th Edinburgh Festival open

7th Regiment Rugby Football XV was in Scotland during the first weeks of September playing against good sides.

ROYAL SIGNALS
OFFICIAL CHRISTMAS CARDS

ORDER FORM

To: GALE AND POLDEN LTD., WELLINGTON PRESS, ALDERSHOT.

From Unit .....
PLEASE WRITE IN BLOCK LETTERS

Address .....

.....

..... Pattern "A"

Please supply ..... Pattern "B" Christmas Cards

..... Pattern "C"

*and charge to the account of .....

*for which I enclose remittance of £ : s. d.

* Delete line which is inapplicable.

Date ..... Signed.....

DESCRIPTION

PATTERN "A"

Folding card with colour reproduction of winter scene with Hunters, by Lucas van Aden, 1595-1672, on front. Illuminated Royal Signals crest in gold, silver, green, red and blue, printed above greeting inside card. Each card in plain envelope.
12/- per dozen, Home. 10/- per dozen, Overseas.

PATTERN "B"

Folding card with illuminated Royal Signals crest in gold, silver, green, red and blue on front, tied knot of Royal Signals ribbon, inset printed greetings only. Each in plain envelope.
9/- per dozen, Home. 7/9 per dozen, Overseas.

PATTERN "C"

(1961 *Stock Card—available whilst stocks last*)

Folding card with colour reproduction of Annunciation to the Shepherds—Nicholas Bercham, 1620-1683 on front, illuminated Royal Signals crest in gold, silver, green, red and blue, printed above greetings inside card. Each in plain envelope.
6/- per dozen, Home and Overseas.

POST FREE

TERMS: Signed Official Order or Cash with Order.
(*Price includes Purchase Tax for Home Orders*)

RADIO SHOW 1962

65th Regiment, T.A. Stand

The main portion of the frontispiece of the Stand

THIS is the third successive year the Regiment has provided a stand at the Radio Show at Earls Court. We were allocated some 6,000 square feet on the first floor at Earls Court, right opposite the other two Services. (The Royal Navy and the Royal Air Force always provide large stands at the Radio Show; perhaps one day the War Office will follow suit).

As we, as a single T.A. Regiment, were competing with the full resources of the other two Services, we realised that we had to achieve a high standard of professional appearance on our stand, even though our financial resources were little better than in 1960-1961. Mr. Don Lord, a friend of the Commanding Officer, produced an attractive design for the stand and he maintained a very close interest in the progress of the stand right up to its completion. Once the design had been agreed, the next step was to find a means by which a stand, which would cost between £8,000 to £10,000, if put out to contract, could be produced for an overall cost of £1,000—£1,000 of which had to be found from private sources. 30 Command Workshops, R.E.M.E., were asked to produce the whole of the front of the stand, and this they did magnificently. Sources (known only to the Commanding Officer!) produced the other major parts of the stand, and by the generosity of Messrs. Terrapin Ltd., a 5oft. prefabricated building, providing all the requisite offices and administrative accommodation, was loaned for the period of the Radio Show. By the time we went to camp, in the first two weeks in July, production was well in hand. From the end of July onwards, various parts were delivered to our Headquarters in Worship Street. Each part was in its raw state and had to be decorated, papered, fireproofed, sign-written and assembled by the members of the Regiment. We had access to Earls Court for two weeks preceding the show, and gradually all the various completed parts were moved to our stand site. After the inevitable initial difficulties with the shop stewards, a formula was eventually agreed upon, and members of the Regiment were allowed to carry out the assembly work almost unhindered. The morning of the Preview Day saw us still finalising our stand, but by 11 o'clock—the opening time—we were ready to receive visitors.

The stand consisted of an attractive frontispiece, which can be seen in the photograph above, and the sub-stands were as follows:

1. A variety of communication receivers: the C.42 immersed in water (complete with goldfish, supplied by Plesseys!) operating to another C.42 which was in a constant state of vibration. The C.42s proved a great attraction to small boys, whereas the communication receivers were frequently in use by radio "Hams."
2. A bank of Creed teleprinters proved particularly popular. They were constantly in use, and gave us a good opportunity of discovering the young man or woman who could already operate the keyboard, and therefore were particularly suitable as potential members of the Regiment. At times we were compelled to persuade small boys and girls that they could not be allowed to sit on these machines all day long, even though they might be planning to join in eight or ten years' time.
3. Closed circuit television within the stand itself, provided by the Nottingham Electronic Valve Company. A camera was focused on a Creed teleprinter churning out "propaganda," and a second camera was focused on the audience. This proved a great success with visitors—just how vain can some people be when facing a camera!
4. Included a Siemens teleprinter, a Creed 75 teleprinter, and monitor receiver of the closed circuit television, and two or three tape recorders with pre-recorded morse at various speeds.
5. A Morse School. This was included at the last moment. and apart from the films, turned out to be the greatest attraction on our stand. It was quite incredible how many visitors to the show had had previous experience with morse training, including a beautiful blonde of 19 years of age, who could receive 25 words per minute perfectly, but who, alas, hailed from Sweden!
6. An almost continuous film show, with "Trooping the Colour" as popular as ever, and "Three Ways Ahead" a close second.

The Radio Show opened with a Preview Day on Tuesday, 21st August, when, amongst our distinguished visitors, were the Representative Colonel Commandant, Major-General R. J. Moberly; the Signal Officer-in-Chief, Major A. M. W. Whistler; the Director of Recruiting, Major-General J. E. L. Morris; the Director of Communications at the Foreign Office, Mr. E. F. Maltby; and the Chief Signal Officer at Headquarters, Eastern Command, Brigadier E. C. R. Blaker.

A public exhibition like the Radio Show, attended by nearly 400,000 people, presents an excellent opportunity for approaching a very representative cross section of the public, and the S.O.-in-C. agreed that this should be tackled on a three-pronged basis. Consequently, not only was our own Regiment represented at all times, but the following Royal Signals Units also helped to man the stand during the exhibition.

Mr. Harry Roberts describes his 2000 guineas, 18 carat gold encased portable radio to The Earl of Malmesbury, during a tour of the Radio Show

Mr. Jack Train hands Private Joan Wildhack her prize of three books, which she won in the Regimental Grand Radio Show Draw

Junior Leaders Regiment, Royal Signals	41st Regiment (T.A.)
30th Regiment	47th Regiment (T.A.)
Army Apprentice School, Harrogate	305 Squadron (T.A.
	80th Regiment (A.E.R.)
	91st Regiment (A.E.R.)

In addition to Royal Signals Regiments, a considerable number of T.A. Units of other Arms also participated, and these came from as far afield as Newcastle, where the Northumberland Hussars sent down two of their members.

This year we finally succeeded in breaking through the "Sound Barrier" of the radio industry. This was done primarily through the dynamic approach of one of its leading members, Mr. Harry Roberts, the head of Roberts Radio Ltd. To him we owe a debt of gratitude for the amount of work he did on behalf of the 65th Regiment (T.A.). We are now convinced that the radio industry not only fully understands the problems facing a single T.A. Regiment producing a large stand at the radio show, but in future they will do even more to help.

We ran a "Grand Radio Show Draw" to help defray the cost of our stand. Philips generously donated a magnificent 23in. television set as the first prize, and Mr. Harry Roberts a Roberts transistor radio as the second prize. Other members of the radio industry gave generously; they also provided magnificent prizes for our daily quiz competition, so that we were able to offer each day, a transistor radio as a prize.

The draw took place on Saturday, 1st September—the last day of the Radio Show—and Mr. Jack Train, the well-known B.B.C. personality, drew out the lucky winners for us.

Recruiting for our own Regiment progressed well, and although one can't assess the final results until at least the end of October, more than 25 young men and women had already reported to our Headquarters and were being documented by the time the Radio Show ended. This was a considerable improvement on previous years, and indications are, that our annual target of at least 100 new members through the Radio Show, will be achieved.

We thank all those from Royal Signals Regiments and those from T.A. Regiments of other Arms, for coming along and manning the stand with such energy and enthusiasm. All concerned appeared to thoroughly enjoy the experience, and many Regiments other than our own, were satisfied with their recruiting results. Our thanks to S.R.D.E. for use of their equipment and pictures; to Corporal Rayner of 30th Regiment for his high power selling of draw tickets; to the B.B.C. for the loan of their amplifiers; and to 30 Command Workshops, R.E.M.E., for their contribution towards the building of the stand.

What of the Radio Show in 1963? Each year our own recruiting achievements resulting from the Radio Show have gone up and up. There is no doubt that with its unique access to advertising on both sound radio and television, the Radio Show will always be very well attended, particularly by young people with time on their hands. Perhaps, therefore, in 1963 we, as a Corps, will be provided with a respectable budget for this venture. The Regular Army, the Territorial Army and the Army Emergency Reserve element of the Royal Signals will then be able to derive an ever-increasing benefit from the Radio Show without the handicap of having to be constantly "on the scrounge."

Computers go into Battle

THE WIRE is indebted to the Editor, "Daily Telegraph and Morning Post" and to Brigadier W. F. K. Thompson for permission to republish this article, which appeared on 8th September.

Expenditure up to £750,000 has been approved by the Ministry of Defence for design studies to be submitted by British electronics firms for an entirely new concept of communications for the Army in the field.

The Hobart system, as it is called, will entail expenditure of about £100 million over the next 10 years. Almost all this sum will be spent with British firms.

The new equipment will make full use of digital computers and teleprinters, of transistors and printed circuits. Maps and battlefield intelligence will be transmitted instantly.

The new equipment will revolutionise the passing of information in battle. By being designed for component replacement, rather than repair, there will be considerable saving in maintenance.

Links By Radio

The system in use at present is in effect a linear one with links radiating downwards from each headquarters in a chain of command. In the new system, the chain of command will remain, but a grid system will be established covering the battlefield area.

This will be not unlike the automatic telephone system which is flexible because calls can be routed through a variety of exchanges.

In the Hobart system calls will also be dialled. But instead of lines between exchanges, calls will be linked through nodal points containing high-power transmitting and receiving equipment by radio beams.

Sending Direct

Operationally, it is designed primarily for use where the defence must be mobile and widely dispersed in the face of an atomic threat, such as in B.A.O.R. It will also have advantages in all situations.

Its main operational advantages over the present system are that it can handle a very much greater volume of signal traffic simultaneously. Vital information will be sent direct and without delay.

The Hobart system gives great flexibility for if some centres of communication are knocked out, many other means of routing messages will still remain. It is less subject to enemy interference.

At the same time it will do much to solve the problem of mutual interference between the multitude of wireless sets which in the past it has been necessary to set up in the vicinity of brigade and higher formation headquarters.

The intention to spend £100 million on new communications underlines their importance in modern war.

Royal Naval Hospital, Plymouth, 1762–1962

A BRIEF HISTORY

The story of the Royal Naval Hospital at Plymouth begins in 1756. In that year certain land called "No Place Field" was bought by the Commissioners of the Sick and Hurt and two years later five neighbouring fields near Stonehouse Creek were purchased for a little over £2,000 from Lord Edgcumbe. It was in these fields covering 25 acres that the building of the Hospital was begun in 1758. The building was ready to receive patients in 1760, was finally completed in 1762, and provided accommodation for 1,200 patients.

In the days before special Naval Hospitals were built, sick and wounded sailors were treated at the ports in lodgings and attended by civilian practitioners. Later they were treated by contract in civil hospitals. It was here in Plymouth in 1689, that the first hospital was taken up for the treatment of the sick and wounded from the Fleet. Later, the patients were accompanied in the Hospital Ship *Canterbury*, which was paid off exactly 200 years ago on the completion of this Hospital.

For the first 33 years this Hospital was administered by a Physician, assisted by a Surgeon, an Agent and a Steward, directly responsible to the Commissioners for the Sick and Hurt.

But it appears that things did not run very smoothly here and as the result of an enquiry a Post Captain, Captain Creyke, was appointed in 1795 to be in charge of the Hospital. He held the post for 31 years until his death at the age of 81.

In 1867 the Hospital was once again placed under the command of a Senior Medical Officer.

The nursing staff consisted originally of women only. The nurses were paid 2s. 6d. a week which was later increased to £12 a year. Records show that these women, who were quite untrained, were frequently in trouble on account of theft, drunkenness, helping patients to escape and persuading the dying to make wills in their favour. These women provided the nursing requirements for about 100 years until they were partly replaced by male nurses. Later the staff was composed entirely of men who at that time were quite untrained in their duties.

It was not until 1884 that an Order in Council authorised the establishment of a trained Sick Berth Staff for duties ashore and afloat. The pay of a Sick Berth Attendant was 1s. 4d. a day and of a Chief Sick Berth Steward 4s. a day.

In other days patients were usually landed from boats at the Hospital Jetty in Stonehouse Creek. Here they were washed and provided with hospital clothing before being admitted to the Wards.

In 1906 new accommodation was built for mentally sick patients but this is no longer required and is now used instead by the Instructing Medical Officer who approaches his department through what used to be the "Yard for Alcoholic Patients." The "lunatic airing ground" is at present a vegetable garden.

During 1941 and 1942 twenty-four bombs fell on the Hospital and did much damage to the Church and two of the original ward blocks, besides demolishing two houses.

This Hospital is now the only Service Hospital in the South-West and provides accommodation for patients from the three Services and from a wide area. Civilian patients are admitted when vacant beds make this possible.

Reminiscences

Browsing through some old copies of the Journal I came across Colonel A. S. Milner's article on the delights provided by horses in the good old days. It must have aroused many memories in those of us who are old enough to have them.

The following story is one of mine and because it is true in essentials I am sure my readers will agree that it is best that I remain anonymous. Here it is then.

There had been an all ranks dance the night before and on Thursday morning I was still getting over it when an orderly arrived to summon me to the R.S.M.'s office. On arrival there I was informed that I was required to act as timekeeper at the Handy Hunter Trials that were being held the same afternoon. In those days in India Thursday was a whole holiday and I had other ideas about spending the day. What was more, I had to find "two other volunteers," the dress was uniform, and by way of consolation I had been asked for by name.

I duly reported to the Secretary of the Trials and he gave us our instructions. They were quite simple, really. Time the rounds and call out the time to the recorder. We drew and checked our stop-watches and settled down to our duties.

The jumping was of a high standard and to tell the truth I was enjoying my afternoon immensely. All went well until the last event before tea. This was a team jumping event, three riders going off singly at thirty second intervals. The jumping brought forth admiring comments from the Chief Judge standing just behind me, and these were duly echoed by the Secretary. Then off went the last team to jump; a Sapper team and they were really good. More praise from the Chief Judge and the Secretary and it was quite obvious that this was the winning team if all went well. But it didn't. The third and last horse after jumping half the course in Grand National style suddenly refused and refused and refused. The trumpet sounded and the team was eliminated. Bad luck for the Sappers.

It was then that I looked at my stopwatch and to my horror I saw that it was recording about eight minutes which was far in excess of what it should have shown. Quite obviously I had forgotten to zero my watch before starting it to time the Sapper team. What would I have done, what would I have said had that team finished the course? I was in a blue funk at the thought of what the Secretary would have done to me. Would he have speared me with his shooting stick? It wouldn't have surprised me after all the praise he had lavished on that team in the early stages. What a let-off I had had!

My mind was still full of dreadful thoughts when I was brought back to earth by the voice of the Secretary. "Right, you chaps," said Captain (later Colonel) A. S. Milner, "go and get some tea, back in twenty minutes."

Hams

Too late for publication in the August or September WIRE, news was received of the voyage of the schooner *Taurua*, under command of Major L. D. Line, from Singapore to U.K., via Cocos Islands, Seychelles and Aden. It will be interesting, however, to hear if any contact was made with *Taurua*, call sign MJDJ.3 on 7980 kcs. communicating to Singapore or Aden, call signs M.U.R. and G.E.W., between 15th August and 14th September.

First Catch your Mole

The C.O. looked a bit imperious that morning but he was very nice about it all and simply said, "Moles! Catch-um!" Quite frankly I felt like sitting him on a chair in the middle of our sports field where, like King Canute, he could say "Moles! Go away." Or be like that chap I read about in the *Telegraph* who caused a flourishing ants nest to move simply by uttering "I say, old chaps, you are a bit of a nuisance you know." They all disappeared and dozens of other nice people wrote in to say they had banished wasps, bees, frogs and lizards from bedrooms, sittingrooms and attics by sheer kind persuasion.

Now the mole is different. He is a small, velvet coated mammal with a voracious appetite which can only be satiated for a few seconds by a never ending supply of worms. The few second intervals are taken up by reproduction of the species. There is no question of sleep because I believe the mole always has his eyes closed.

To get these wormy morsels, he digs tunnels just under the surface of bowling greens, lawns and sports fields. At fairly rapid intervals he comes up for a breath of fresh air and to throw out a few barrow loads of surplus earth on the surface of bowling greens, lawns and sports fields.

The result is a series of shapely mounds, generally in pairs with a Mae West contour (if your mind thinks that way). It seems fairly certain that the tunnels also serve as "tunnels of love" because the rate of unseen reproduction just beggars description.

By the way, the C.O. is still quite nice about it and simply says, "Those little beasts have been at it again," which is a triumph of reserve when one considers that the R.H.Q. lawn and our sports ground look like a lunar landscape.

You may gather by now that the object of the exercise is to build a sports field with smooth green vistas fading into the distance unmarred by shapely mounds. This means an all-out attack by any methods with no holds barred. Traps, exhaust fumes, sulphur smoke and curses. To date the count is sixteen but what about the rate of reproduction?

I understand my next posting is to some remote desert outpost where there ain't any moles.

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A Trip through Greece and Turkey

The Mediterranean is an excellent theatre for cheap travel and adventurous sight seeing. Not only does each of its countries contain so much of what is the world's history, but particularly the further East one goes the less obvious are the effects of modern European civilianisation, whilst the climate allows the travellers to live in the open air pleasantly if the more luxurious trappings of this civilianisation are missing.

In keeping with the C.S.O. NEARELF's policy of encouraging any initiative in travelling throughout the theatre, and subsidising the costs as far as possible, a party of three from 15th Regiment recently travelled through Greece and Turkey. Corporal H. A. Simms and Lance-Corporal F. J. Brown joined Second-Lieutenant R. S. F. Cathmoir from whose notes of the journey the following story comes both to encourage those already in Cyprus, Malta and Libya to do likewise and to tempt others, yet to come to the theatre, to make full use of it when they do.

The route finally decided on was by sea to Athens, overland into Turkey and to its southern town of Adana via Istanbul and Ankara. From Adana it is easy to fly back to Nicosia in Cyprus. The party embarked as deck passengers at Limassol with first landing at Rhodes. At once the pleasures of the climate became apparent. With sleeping bags this is not only a cheap but comfortable way to cross the Mediterranean—as comparison with the over-night Dover-Dunkirk ferry even in August will show! One lesson was quickly learned, that ships did not provide food for deck passengers. Thus part of the short stay at Rhodes was essentially occupied. However, there was time to look around the lovely walled town before sailing on for Piraeus, the ancient port of Athens.

Early next morning they disembarked at Piraeus and with little fuss were cleared of the formalities. They quickly took the train to Athens eager now to get to grips with the trip proper, and removed from their packs the many objects that it was obvious were just extra weight. These were sent off to Cyprus from the main Post Office after much gesticulating between them and the officials. The remainder of the afternoon was spent looking for somewhere to sleep. The answer was found in a clean hostel, where a cold shower after three days on deck was soon discovered to be one of the keenest pleasures of life.

The next two days were spent viewing the grandeur that is Athens, including the magnificance of the Parthenon and the ceremonial drill of the Palace Guards.

To leave Athens it was decided to take a long distance bus to the town of Larissa and then from there what ever luck brought. While travelling on this lap many friends were made among fellow travellers, and much of the trip was spent testing little smatterings of Greek on passengers and conductor.

The party left the bus at Larissa, and Larissa by the wrong road! Innocently they had accepted a lift, but were taken through some lovely mountain country to the little town of Kozani. Unable to find any accommodation it was decided to use the corner of a field as a dormitory. To bed down like this is very easy, entailing only unrolling sleeping bags, removing foot wear and getting inside. Little other preparation is needed except to remove any large boulders from the area. Greek fields are without doubt some of the most stone strewn in the world!

Next day a series of short lifts through a very fertile area took them to the port of Thessaloniki. The kindness of the chauffers was considerable, but the progress was somewhat slow. Bearing this in mind, a visit to the colony of monks at Mount Athos had to be missed.

The next day was spent travelling towards Turkey and sleeping in a small wood outside the village of Komotini. Among fellow travellers on this road were two Dutch girls. The journey on to Alexandropolis provided two interesting animal items. The first was a surprise encounter with two camels apparently leading themselves, and the second the finding of numerous tortoises taking a perilous journey across the main road.

In Alexandropolis, kit was left in the local tourist office whilst the party went to find food. On returning from the meal the office was found to be locked. It was the siesta, and the officials had all gone to bed, not returning for several hours. Just to rub the whole matter in, the wrong road was again taken—probably due to the fact that the maps were 1936 editions!

Nightfall brought them to a little town near the Greek/Turkish border. Here Corporal Simms decided to do battle with the local liquor, an extremely potent brew called Ouzo. Needless to say, he lost!

The following day was Sunday, but with the Turkish border in sight they decided to press on. This proved to be a bad mistake as the borderland Greeks have a motto—"Never on Sunday." As a result the only lift during the morning was a very short one on a horse drawn cart. The party split up for the rest of the day. Corporal Simms soon got away, reaching Istanbul that evening. The other members, however, only managed to cross the border by walking some 40 kilometres, spending the night in a hotel in the Turkish town of Edirne. Both had been looking forward to a shower but the town was in the grip of a drought. While sharing the washroom and meagre water supply with a Turk, he put one foot in the bowl. With a tremendous crack and rush of water it went right through the bottom of the basin trapping him. During the time it took to release him they received a valuable lesson in Turkish.

Next day after a long time on the road they reached Istanbul and fortunately they very quickly found the hostel where Corporal Simms was. He was stretched out on his bed and looking most refreshed! All three went out into the old town to find some food, where there is a great selection of Kebab dishes.

It was decided to spend until the next weekend in Istanbul, a matter of five days. During that time activities were divided into three classes. Mainly the time was spent sightseeing. One of the greatest sights of this beautiful city is, undoubtedly, the awe inspiring jewellery collection in the old Royal Treasury. Much time was spent in buying souvenirs in the Grand Bazaar, whilst the evenings were passed among the night spots of the new town. One night club gained the dubious honour of being visited in ammunition boots, must to the concern of the management.

Istanbul was without doubt the highlight of the trip and it was a little sadly that at last the ferry was taken across the Bosphorous, exactly two weeks after leaving Cyprus. They travelled very quickly to Ankara and found a good hotel, due to the wonderful assistance of the driver of the final lift, who bargained with the owner of the hotel on their behalf. The hotel was beautifully clean and it was decided to stay in Ankara a little longer than originally intended.

As Ankara is a fairly modern town there is little for the tourist to see except for the Municipal Museum and the Kemal Attaturk Mauseleum. The latter is without doubt a very fine monument. It stands on a hill commanding a magnificent view of the capital, and is surrounded by lovely gardens.

They left Ankara by long distance bus for Adana. This proved to be the most eventful stage of the whole trip. Before the bus even left the garage it was delayed over an hour because the owner, who was an ex-Turkish Champion Wrestler, decided to chastise the conductor in a most forceful way. Finally the bus left and after numerous incidents, including bursting tyres and the driver losing his way, entered the Taunus mountains and the most beautiful country of the whole trip. The road ran right through a deep valley with snow capped peaks towering on both sides. Finally breaking away from the mountains the bus crossed the coastal plain to Adana.

This was really the end of the trip, and the party by now a little travel weary. Thus they happily boarded the plane for Nicosia, arriving in Cyprus with no money but many memories.

Within a few hours they were all spinning their tales to many listeners and planning the next year's leave. Army routine seemed almost easy after living as they had for three weeks, but it had been a wonderful trip. For the guidance of any future voyagers, the complete expenses came to a little under thirty pounds a head—despite the five days in Istanbul!

Exercise "Mickey Finn"

By Lance-Corporal Pow, 213 Squadron

Lance-Corporal Pow has described the team's experiences after the initial shoot at Ballykinlar:

The team was in very good spirits when we set out early afternoon. The aim was to follow the route given to Derryadd. Speed was of no importance, as the canoeing was not due to start until 06.00 hours the following day. The route took us from Ballykinlar through Clough to Derryadd. Two secret check points took an average of our speed, which was around 3½ miles per hour. There was also a short cross-country section which included a check point. The team's morale was extremely high, even when we knew there was another 20-odd miles still to cover. Our speed slowed down later on, but

after Corporal McAleenan and Lance-Corporal Ellis changed their footwear from boots to civilian shoes it increased! At one point we covered seven miles in an hour-and-a-quarter, which is quite a pace, especially after already covering 25 miles or so. We arrived at Derryadd at approximately 01.00 hours. A warm cup of tea was waiting and which was really welcome.

The G.S.O.III then de-briefed the team, taking note of morale and physical condition and the team leader was given maps of the area from Toome to Magilligan. Before morning each team was told to make out a plan describing at what stage it intended to disembark from the canoes and how it intended to get to the frontier. We quickly devised a plan and each man was given a mattress for the night. Army issue or not, we were glad to have them! Everybody was called at 06.00 hours and given an hour to make any preparations required. At 07.00 hours we were all taken to the quay in a 3-ton Bedford. There we were directed to two eel fishing boats. It was cold and windy, with worse to come. As we left the quay to cross Lough Neagh the wind was coming from the North. The boat shipped a lot of water and the spray soaked everybody. It took two hours to cross the Lough and it was a very wet and very miserable bunch that arrived at the North side. To add to the discomforts the teams had to suffer a jolting truck, which took us to the River Bann for the start of the canoeing. Corporal McAleenan then gave the Brigade Major details of his plan; meanwhile, the rest of the team made a brew of tea and put their belongings in plastic bags in case any of the canoes should overturn. Our plan was to canoe as far as Kilrea, then split into three pairs which would make their way independently to a RV just inside the border, and which we hoped to reach within a short time of each other. The team would then report in together.

After pushing off from the shore, the wind dropped a little but still whipped round the bends in the river. We stopped several times to rest and it was during one of these rests that Willis and Farrell overturned their canoe. The only loss was a Mars bar, which Willis had kept and cherished for two days. Even now he still mourns his loss. The only weir the team encountered was at Portna. This entailed lifting the canoes out of the water and carrying them some 400 yards round the weir. About a mile further on was Kilrea Bridge, where we had decided to quit the river. Only one or two of the teams went any further, as twelve miles was exhausting enough.

After a short rest the team split up; this was thought best, as we would attract less attention. Each member of the team carried a card which would be stamped with time and place, should he be captured. Signalman McClure and myself posed as an insurance man and his friend on holiday, taking ciné films of Northern Ireland. McClure, who comes from Londonderry, gave us a great advantage. We concealed the Exercise cards in a trouser waist band and in the camera case lining. We headed for Ballymoney and from there walked about four miles before getting another lift to Coleraine. There we decided that our false documents and almost foolproof story would get us through safely. Crossing the Bann at Coleraine, we were stopped and questioned by one or two policemen watching the bridge. He searched our wallets and bags; half-an-hour later we pushed on without having been found out. As it was possible that our story would be checked, we headed for Londonerry through Limavady instead of taking the direct route to Mugilligan. It was dark by the time we reached Limavady and this helped us to slip through the back streets on to the road to Magilligan. A car heading for Downhill gave us a lift. The police stopped it but the driver who thought us genuine tourists, vouched for us. When we were dropped at the nearest point to the camp, we told the driver the truth: he said he would never give anybody else a lift! As the other four were not at the RV, we had to spend the night in the open.

Corporal McAleenan and Lance-Corporal Ellis, posing and looking very much like Youth Hostellers, made their way on foot to Ballymoney. There they cadged a cup of tea from one of the locals and got a lift to Coleraine, discovering, like us, that the only bridge was guarded by two policemen. They decided to take a chance, crossing the bridge with no more than a suspicious glance from the policemen. They found a warm place to sleep for the night and set off at first light to cover the last seven miles to Magilligan camp. At Downhill, a small seaside resort, they were stopped by a detachment from the 9/12 Lancers. They bluffed their way through but decided to take to the hills to avoid the heavily watched main roads. They moved along the cliffs, coming down the steep escarpment to cross over the border to the camp. As they walked along the road to the RV point a Ferret suddenly emerged from a corner and they were too slow in finding cover to avoid capture. Their cards were stamped and they were allowed to continue the last few hundred yards to the RV.

Having arrived at Kilrea Bridge wet, cold and rather miserable from their canoe upset, Willis and Farrell made for Ballymoney. Only a few yards from the bridge they were lucky in finding an old man who let them in to dry out. They had hoped for sympathy and perhaps a cup of tea, but as nothing was forthcoming they moved on to Ballymoney. Two lifts helped them on their way and they arrived about 20.30 hours. They remained for a couple of hours, had a cup of tea and good wash and brush-up, which was badly needed. They hitched a lift all the way to Coleraine and were luckily dropped off after they had crossed the guarded bridge. So at 23.00 hours they were safely over the bridge and immediately moved off cross-country, taking advantage of the darkness. After encountering bulls, cows, Irish bogs and very wet ditches which could not be seen in the dark, the pair changed to the back roads, preferring the police to all the trails of the Irish countryside. After moving a fair distance by road, they decided to travel the last three or four miles along the hills to drop down finally into Magilligan.

It took them two hours to reach the cliff top above Magilligan, travelling through a virgin forest plantation and putting up with two rain storms and the inevitable bulls. It took them another two hours to descend the 600 feet through similar ground. Approaching the road which represented the border, a plain clothes policeman stopped them and showed his "Special Branch" card. He asked several questions concerning the Exercise, all of which met with "What's that. Don't know what you're talking about," etc. They gave the story that they were on a hitch-hiking holiday from England and various civilian documents were produced. Somehow or other their story must have seemed really good as the policeman invited them for a drink in a nearby inn and the hospitable barmaid gave them another. After Farrell had almost sold the policeman, his motor cycle sidecar, they left and walked briskly across the border to the RV.

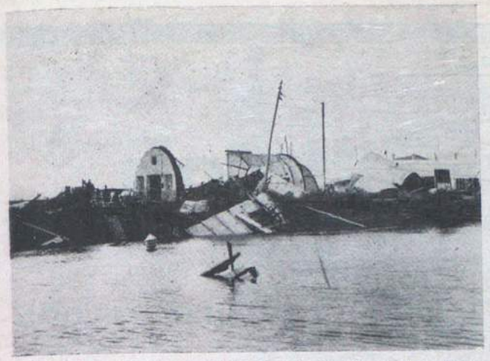
The team finished feeling very satisfied for having completed the Exercise and having put up with all its trials and tribulations in good spirit. We also felt much fitter. Our overall position was sixth and we received the Brigadier's prize of 10/- each for the best team led by a junior N.C.O.

Royal Signals, Hong Kong

Typhoon "Wanda," 1st September, 1962

On 1st September, Hong Kong was hit fair and square by its biggest recorded typhoon. For those who still have a copy, the map of the Colony, published in the July issue, will come in handy for the story that follows.

First, some statistics. The main storm blew from 04.15 hours until about 14.00 hours, which included a lull while the centre passed over the Colony. Recorded wind speeds rose to gusts of 140 knots, with a mean average, at the worst period of 68 knots. A 10ft. tidal wave hit the East Coast of the Colony. Ten inches of rain fell in 24 hours. Casualties, as at present assessed, are:



Recce Flight Wreckage. Shatin Airstrip, 2nd September, 1962

Submarine Cable termination, Stonecutters Island. "S.S. Lian Hin" cuts the keying circuits

Killed	123
Missing	53
Injured	approximately 600
Homeless	75,000
Merchant Shipping aground	21 ships of about 120,000 tons.
Junks and Sampans sunk ...	Over 230

These figures are the harsh background to this account, which will try to show the problems of the three Signal Squadrons in the Colony, both during the storm and after it. It is a tale of lost aerials, destroyed overhead distribution wires, blocked roads, damaged underground cables, disruption of mains power, dragged and severed submarine cables, and of the devotion to duty of those who were on duty or who were physically able to reach their places of work before the storm struck. It is also the story of the hard, slogging, labour needed to restore communications to normal.

The best way to look at it is to see what happened in each of the three main areas. On Hong Kong Island, the people most affected were 252 Squadron (Operating), Force Fault Control, and the main switchboard at H.Q., Land Forces. Half-hourly met forecasts kept track of the approach of the storm, and essential radio links were manned and open ten minutes after storm signal No. 7 (which heralds increasing gales from the North-West) was hoisted on 31st August at 22.50 hours. W.R.A.C. were manning the switchboard, fortunately well sheltered in the underground headquarters. H.Q., Royal Signals, was represented in the Land Forces Emergency Control Centre. At Fault Control, Corporal Ross of 253 Squadron was waiting for his first typhoon.

For the first few hours, until daylight, the situation remained fairly normal. There was a strong wind, but communications by radio and line stayed in. Daylight revealed little physical damage, but then Storm Signal 10 had been raised, indicating that the arrival of the typhoon was imminent. By 09.00 hours the typhoon was approaching full force, and radio communications became increasingly difficult as aerials blew down. Communications by line got progressively worse as overhead distribution in camps disappeared. Shatin could *not* be raised, by telephone or radio, though there was then no means of knowing why. Movement out of doors was very risky indeed. Eye witnesses reported uprooted trees blowing past windows. In the harbour, a 6,000-ton merchant ship could be seen dragging through the cable reserve. Mercifully, it hooked no cables. Possibly, an abnoramlly high tide saved them, although results of this elsewhere were tragic.

In Kowloon, Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Hawkes was manning fault control, where he remained for nearly 48 hours. During this period, submarine cables carrying all our external keying circuits, went out. Communications to Sek Kong, at one time, was down to two junctions out of eighteen. In every camp phones were out, mostly because the distribution cabling was destroyed; in some cases because of flooding. Cross harbour travel was, of course, impossible. On the Kowloon exchange there were four operators available. The rest were confined to their homes by the wind. The city was becoming a chaos of fallen sky signs, scaffolding and corrugated iron. In some places walls and houses collapsed. At R.A.F., Kai Tak, Captain Hales of the Air Formation Troop, was trying to keep track of the destruction of his communications.

Up at Sek Kong, Sergeant Bates manned New Territories Fault Control, and prepared for the task of restoration which would inevitably fall most upon his S.W.S. Troop. 246 Gurkha Squadron kept radio communications back to H.Q., Land Forces and throughout the Brigade area on the Typhoon net. The two civilian operators on Sek Kong switchboard, Miss Sophia Chan and Miss Julia Chan, were at the start of a shift which was to last for 36 hours. As the day wore on, Tai Lam Camp, as well as Shatin, went completely out of communication. The main disaster was at Shatin-Taipo. There a tidal wave killed 97 people, wrecked boats, huts and houses, and virtually destroyed 20 Recce Flight, A.A.C. When the storm died away, the exchange equipment at Shatin was found, in the midst of a wrecked Nissen hut, to be a total write-off. On the frontier, three-quarters of the Military O.P.s were out of telephone contact—one had had its Nissen hut blown away. The low-lying land on the west side of the Colony was seriously flooded. Nearly every road was blocked by fallen trees, wreckage (on the coast road, including junks) and landslides.

At about 15.30 hours, the first rough picture could be discerned. Fifty-one junctions and keying circuits were out of order, plus some two hundred subscribers' telephones. One submarine cable had been severed at both ends, and another had a large Panamanian merchant ship aground on it. There was no power north of a line Tsuen Wan - Shatin. The civil authorities had been far worse hit—Hong Kong Telephone Company, for example, had of the order of 20,000 faults to deal with. All Service strategic radio links to Singapore were out; at one stage clearance was via Cable and Wireless Cable to Singapore—the only Colony link remaining.

The work of restoration began immediately, on the afternoon of 1st September. By evening the island was nearly back to normal, with only nineteen faults remaining. This was the work of Lieutenant Newton's Island S.W.S. Troop. In Kowloon, Captain Bewley and the Kowloon S.W.S. Troop had restored priority circuits to all camps and had managed to get in one keying circuit, thus enabling one R.A.F. circuit, which was used to carry traffic from all three Services, to be opened to Singapore. The Navy were also clearing traffic through a Cable and Wireless Transmitter and a nightmare of a keying circuit. Captain Hales' Troop were beginning to clear up at R.A.F., Kai Tak. In the New Territories, the S.W.S. and 246 Gurkha Squadron were restoring junctions, and lines to the O.P.s. By Sunday, 2nd September, contact was restored to all camps and to the frontier. Units were told to carry out as much self help as possible in restoring their internal telephones. Power supply was a major problem, helped by 34 R.A., who deployed their 27.5 KVA Listers to bring light and power. The work of restoration still continues. It will probably be many weeks before all the damage is made good on a permanent basis; in the meantime, military communications are as nearly normal as is possible. Tribute must be paid to all ranks—especially to many of the locally enlisted Chinese, who have suffered loss through this disaster, but whose devotion to duty has not wavered.

Typhoon "Wanda" was a disaster on the scale of a considerable battle. It was frightening and ferocious. Through it all, Royal Signals maintained essential communications of some sort. This was an achievement against the odds.

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☆

Macau

by

Captain

E. J. Larner

☆

St. Pauls from Fortaleza Do Monte showing "S.S. Fatshan" on leftmiddle distance coast of China in background

I had never heard of the place until early 1959 prior to my posting to Hong Kong, then all things that were happening in this part of the world were of interest.

When I came to Hong Kong I found out that a boat journey of about four hours would take you to Macau; it was a popular place to go to escape the bustle of urban Hong Kong and regular exchange visits of football, hockey and cricket teams took place.

My next door neighbour, who was R.H.E. in August, 1961, in a frantic bout of last-minute sightseeing, suggested in May of that year that I might like to go with him to Macau for a quick looksee.

There has been a Portuguese Colony in Macau since 1557, when Jesuit Priests made a settlement there. The whole colony is only ten square miles in total area, including the two small islands of Taipa and Coloane, the mainland part being a peninsula, about three miles long and two across. It joins China proper by a narrow neck of land, some eight hundred yards wide. On the western side, the coast of China runs parallel to the colony and is separated by about half-a-mile of water. Most of the local matches used in Hong Kong are made in Macau, its other main industry being the manufacture of fireworks, and joss sticks. There is also a large casino which is a tourist attraction. The whole area is highly developed. The population is about 200,000, of which 3,000 are Europeans.

We decided to travel on the S.S. *Fatshan*, one of the three boats that ferry to and from Macau. The fare was surprisingly cheap. Some clever Staff Officer had, in the past, persuaded the Command Secretary that the journey should be equated to a leave railway journey at home, so the fare can be reclaimed in lieu of a free railway warrant. For this we were most grateful. We left quarters at 10.30 p.m. and boarded the boat half-an-hour later. She was due to sail at midnight. We had a double cabin with a single berth each, which appeared to be quite comfortable, clean and roomy. After dumping our cases we had a stroll around the ship.

Hundreds of Chinese were huddled in family groups with bags and shoulder poles. In the 2nd Class Saloon more Chinese were full stretch in scores of deck chairs, obviously settled for the night. We went to the 1st Class Restaurant and after a drink and a bowl of soup it was time for the ship to sail. The ship steamed out of the harbour at about six to eight knots and after watching the lights of Victoria slowly disappear we decided to turn in. After settling down to sleep we realised that the vibrations were many and strangely varied, every loose bit of storage was making a fair clatter. After several unsuccessful attempts to secure water glasses, cases, porthole latches, etc., we realised that we could not stop the cause of the "juddering" and that we would just have to live with it.

At about five o'clock the "juddering" ceased and the noise of the ship being tied up started, accompanied by the patter of feet belonging to departing Chinese passengers. Looking out of the porthole to seawards the water was a yellowish green, due, no doubt, to the nearby river mouth, and it was crowded with junks and sampans. The fishermen were changing shifts.

The next thing that struck one was the nearness of the Chinese coastline, just a few hundred yards away. This, I suppose, is because in Hong Kong, under normal circumstances, you only get a very distant view of the other side of the Bamboo Curtain. The view on land was similar to the waterfront in Hong Kong; a continuous line of three storey houses, the ground floor a shop, and the whole area covered in red painted Chinese characters and advertisements for soft drinks. At seven a.m., after a light breakfast we were handed over to our guide for the day, an Indonesian Chinese named Paul. He had a Ford Consul and his rates were $8 HK (10/-) an hour.

As soon as we got in the car he offered us "special entertainment," but whatever our answer might have been at seven p.m., at this time of the morning our answer was a definite "No." We travelled for about four hundred and forty yards and our attention was drawn to a group of about one hundred Chinese who were waiting for a bus to Red China. The crowd had many sacks of rice and baskets of bread. The nearby province of Kwan Tung was suffering a food shortage. Two green and yellow single-decker buses arrived and an interesting thing to note was that each vehicle had two licence plates, the Chinese one having a six figure number with a red star.

We continued our journey along the water front, passing a Portuguese destroyer and two small gunboats only about two hundred yards away from two Chinese gunboats.

The next stop was at one of the several Chinese Temples. This one was called Ma Kok Mia. We were fortunate enough to see a Chinese fisherwoman come in, go to a monk for a bamboo cup full of slivers of bamboo which were covered in Chinese characters and two pieces of wood about four inches long which were semi-circular in section. After she had said several prayers in front of the altar table she threw the two pieces of wood in the air; they both landed on the round side. She took hold of the bamboo cup and gently shook it up and down until one bamboo sliver fell out. She returned to the priest and after giving him some money he gave her some joss sticks, which she lit, and some token money which she burnt in an ornate incinerator. Paul explained that the old woman had gone to seek heavenly guidance on where to fish that day. The two sticks landing on the round side had meant that she would have a good catch and the writing on the bamboo slivers had told her where to go.

We then went to the Penard Church and the Bishop's residence which is on the southern end of the peninsula. The church was closed. This was a pity because from the outside at least the architecture was very interesting.

The Governor's Residence is near the church, and is a large square colonial style house with a guard of Portuguese Colonial Troops from Mozambique. Also guarded, and in the same area, is the house of the owner of the casino. He was a very elderly Chinese gentleman who had been kidnapped several times. We then made our way into the town, which was quite a busy place but seemed relatively quiet after Hong Kong. It has its Town Hall and the usual statues and Government Shop for tourists. Other differences from Hong Kong are the presence

of pedicabs. A pedicab is a large three wheeled bicycle with a seat for two behind the drive. There were not so many Europeans to be seen and a complete absence of wealthy Chinese. The streets were quite crowded and trade was fairly brisk. After buying some bottles of wine at the Government Shop, some hand painted tiles for a proposed table top and posting some postcards covered with Macau stamps, we visited an old fort. This is roughly in the centre of the colony, called Fort Alezo de Monte. At present it is used as a barracks and married quarters for the Mozambique Troops. We tried to speak to one but all we established was that, like all soldiers, he would rather be home and was looking forward to RHE. His uniform was rather old as was his 1914 pattern webbing. But they were all tall fine looking chaps who appeared well fed and happy. The fort itself could best be described as a sub-standard version of Edinburgh Castle. It overlooks the town, has a guard of one N.C.O. and three men and had the usual collection of cast iron cannons.

From the fort we had a fair view of the ruins of St. Paul's Cathedral. Only the steps and facade still remain which make a striking subject for a photograph. On this day work had started on an attempt to find an old tunnel which connected St. Paul's to the Porta do Cereb, the gateway leading from the colony into China. Paul, the guide, said something about buried gold and smuggling which I did not understand. As that was three months ago, and so far nothing has appeared in the news about it, whatever the digging was about has not proved sensational.

Nearby is the Old Protestant Cemetery attached to a church. This proved to be very interesting as it gave a record of the period when Macau was of special interest to H.M. Government. Before the Treaty of Nanking, in August, 1842, which ceded the colony of Hong Kong, the British, who could only trade at Canton were not allowed to stay in Canton all the year round, but during the trading season only. The rest of the year they resided at Macau where their wives and families permanently lived. Trade with China started in 1755 and the evidence of the presence of a British population during the years up to the 1940s can be seen by the dates on the headstones. To me the most interesting grave was that of the Rev. Robert Morrison (1782-1834) who published in 1809 the New Testament in Chinese and in 1817 the Old Testament. This must have been a task of some magnitude not made easier by the seventh paragraph of the Chinese Government's Trading Manifesto, "All Chinese, under pain of death by a thousand tortures, are prohibited from teaching the Chinese language to foreign devils." Other graves of interest were of George Chinnery, who was an English resident of long standing, and as a painter, left a graphic record of Macau during the early 19th Century, and the grave of The Right Hon. Lord Henry John Spencer Churchill, fourth son of George, fifth Duke of Marlborough. Services are held once a month in the church by a visiting padre from Hong Kong. Next door to the church is the Macau Museum which was full of interest and I wish now we had spent more time there. There were several paintings by George Chinnery; the portraits show that formal Chinese dress has not changed since the middle of the 19th Century, neither have the street markets and eating houses. There is a fine collection of weapons, including a hand cranked Gatling Gun and a Samurai Sword. Several sedan chairs and rickshaws of the Rolls Royce type, for Governors only, were in CIV condition. There is also a large collection of ancient church music on parchment.

We then visited two more Chinese Temples, To Tei Miu and Kum Tam Tong, and saw the house where Dr. Sun Yet Sen lived. We had worked our way from the southern end of the peninsula and were now in the northern end. This was obviously the middle class residential district, very similar in appearance to its counterparts at home.

The time was now about 1 p.m., and we were getting a little bit tired and very thirsty. We asked Paul to take us to see the Chinese border, then we would call it a day. The boat sailed for Hong Kong at 3 p.m.

The car stopped at a check point about three hundred yards from the Porta Do Cereo, which is built in the style of a Roman Triumphal Arch. No cameras were allowed; the reason for this was hard to see. The only close view we had of Red China was a military block house in use as a sentry box, and one Chinese soldier. He was dressed in a cloth cap, a quilted jacket and puttees, with a carbine slung across his shoulder. Several vehicles went into Red China, the sentry making only a cursory inspection and then allowing them to pass; and that was that. It was hard to think why we had even wanted to see it.

We then returned to town and after some lunch we made our way back to the boat. The journey back was uneventful, we arrived in Hong Kong at about 6.30 p.m., and after passing straight through customs we joined the local rat race of office workers crossing home to Kowloon.

As I tried to get through the ferry turnstile I found that I could not manage to get my suitcase through so I reached over a barrier and had to drop the case for the last few inches. As I walked up some steps someone tapped me on the shoulder and said, "Excuse me, but your suitcase is dripping red liquid." I suppose he thought I was a trunk murderer, but I knew what it was—one bottle of red wine; most of which found its way to a white shirt and underwear. The shirt I threw away but I still wear my purple Macau pants and vest!

Imphal

By Lieutenant-General Sir Geoffrey Evans, K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O., and Anthony Brett-James

Brett-James' easy way of writing of the war in Assam and Burma is well known from his two previous books, "Report My Signals" and "Ball of Fire." He was indeed a Signal Officer in Sir Geoffrey Evans' 5th Indian Division.

Imphal as its title shows is the story of 4th Corps in defence of that town and the vital plain surrounding it. It is a long book easily read despite that it goes into very great detail of actions fought by Battalions and even Companies.

Imphal and Kohima, for the two battles were really one, was the most decisive defeat inflicted on the Japanese Army up to that time 1944. At the end of nearly five months of most bitter fighting three Divisions had been routed.

The 31st Division opposing 33 Indian Corps at Kohima ceased to exist.

Of the two opposing 4 Corps at Imphal only the 33rd Division retained some small ability to fight an infrequent ineffective rearguard action during its headlong retreat.

A most stirring story.

(MacMillan & Co. Ltd., London)

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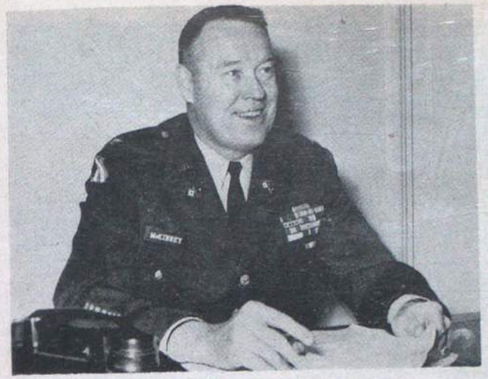


Colonel J. B. McKinney, School of Signals

SCHOOL OF SIGNALS

On 15th September, 1962, we said goodbye to Colonel J. B. McKinney of the U.S. Signal Corps, who has been G.S.O. I (Plans) in Planning Wing since 8th July, 1961. When he was promoted to Colonel last June, we realised that he would be vulnerable for posting, but hoped that it would not come for a long time. And now, after only four weeks warning, he is off with Marsha, his wife, to Turkey, where he is to take up the post of Chief of the Communications and Electronics Branch of the Joint Projects and Advisory Section in the U.S. Military Mission in Ankara.

When he goes, we will have lost not only the U.S. Liaison Officer at the School of Signals, but a fully integrated member of the Planning Wing; one who often uses "we" to mean "we, the British." What is equally important is that the School of Signals as a whole will lose a warm-hearted and valued friend.

His experience in the U.S. Signal Corps has been wide and has taken him to active service in the Philippines, New Guinea and Korea. He has been special assistant to the Chief Signal Officer and has held the appointment of Chief of Army Communications in the Pentagon. He holds the Legion of Merit and the Bronze Star with Oak Leaf Cluster, which are the second and third highest non-combat awards made in the United States.

Before he joined the Army for the second time, on the U.S. entry into the Korean war, John McKinney was a practising lawyer, and this background no doubt led to his being chosen to attend Harvard University, where he was awarded his master's degree, with honours, in business administration, shortly before coming to Catterick.

This wealth of experience and knowledge is allied to imperturbability, good humour and sound commonsense, and has enabled him not only to fit in with the British organisation, but to take a leading part in the various studies that have been undertaken. It has been amusing to see the surprise caused on those occasions when, in Colonel Brindley's absence, an American Officer has been introduced as head of the Planning Wing.

Although his departure was formally marked on Monday, 10th September, when the Commandant, Brigadier A. F. McGill, O.B.E., presented him with a bronze statue of Mercury, an inscribed Corps History and a Corps tie; we should like John to know that he also takes with him the best wishes of the very large number of friends he has made in our Corps. We hope that in the years to come it will be our good fortune to meet John and Marsha again.

SIGNAL TRAINING CENTRE (FAR EAST)

During the past months this unit has added another string to its bow. We now actively participate in the world of art in the form of ballet, which was brought about as follows.

On his initiative test, Sergeant Bloom was set the task of capturing a "*Pas Des Chats.*" As can be seen from the photograph, he was successful, due, in no small measure, to the able assistance of Sergeant Keeler of 621 Troop.

At the Annual Fun Fair, which was held on Saturday, 28th July, our members proved to be very adroit at charming cash from the pocket. Staff Sergeant Hamid took a busman's holiday; instead of fiddling in the R.Q.'s Store, he fiddled on his "Shakey Dice" stall, where his long training on the "Q" Staff stood him in good stead. He made over £25 in the course of the afternoon, and also convinced his patrons that it was not a fiddle. Staff Sergeant Heaps, Sergeant Gaze, Sergeant O'Brien and Corporal Price got hooked with a dive-bomber, worked by magnets. The idea was to aim the bomb at a village, the main target in which was a wooden hut. The alternative target was a pond, and the children, of course, found the splash sent up from this much more amusing.

Signal Training Centre (Far East)

"Pas des Chats"

Staff Sergeant Alfred has recently taken over as S.S.M. and has applied a firm grip to the reins. Indeed, Calcutta Camp is rapidly assuming the appearance of an "overseas Catterick Camp," and our tropical lethargy has been penetrated by vocal demands to snap out of it and make greater efforts.

We welcome R.Q.M.S. Evis, who has recently taken over from R.Q.M.S. Cook. Staff Sergeant Hamid reports that the tempo of work has increased and the afternoon siesta is now a thing of the past.

In view of this urge to work, past members of the unit will realise "Fings Ain't Wat they used to be" in S.T.C. (F.E.).

16th RAILWAY SIGNAL TROOP

As far as we know, after a long and careful search into the archives of the Troop records, this is the first contribution to THE WIRE from this Troop since its formation, in the dim and distant past.

For those in the Corps who have never heard of this Troop—and they must number many thousands—I would like to give a very brief outline of the Troop's job.

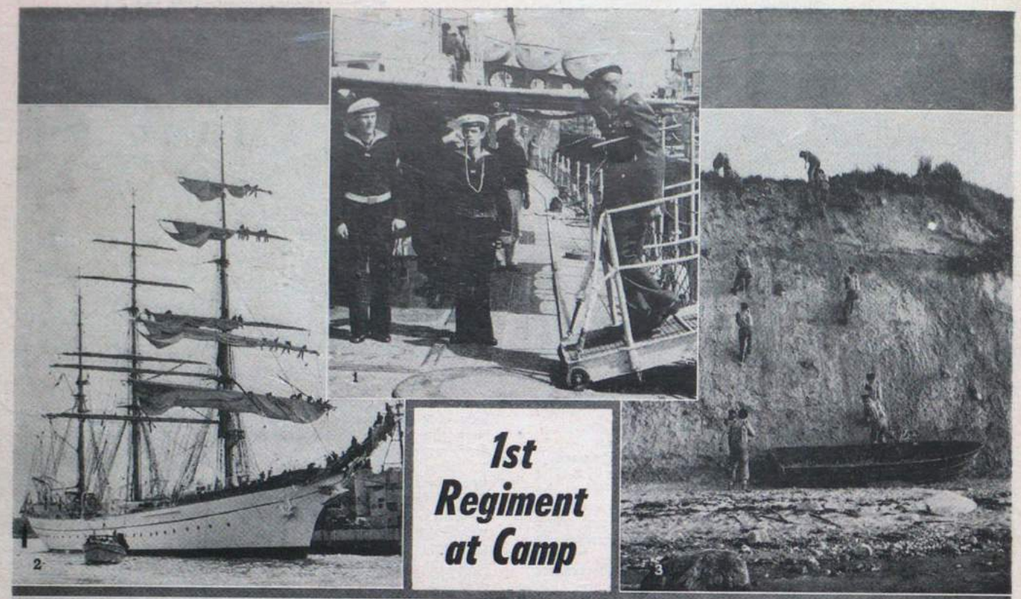
The Troop normally consists of six men, Sergeant Wise (Tech.), Corporal Kinsella, Signalmen Rowlands, Gray and Congdon (Linemen) and an ex-member of the Corps Mr. (Bob) Yarnell. We have also a relief for Sergeant Wise, Corporal Edwards, R.E.M.E. (Tech.), as Sergeant Wise is about to plague the instructors on the Foremen of Signals course.

We are located about five miles south of Borden, at Longmoor Camp, and the railway runs from Liss to Borden, joining the British Railways at both these points. Altogether there is about 30 miles of track, and our job is to maintain the communications between Blockposts (Signal Boxes to the layman) by means of weird and wonderful instruments called Double Line Block Instruments, Miniature Staff Instruments, Key Token Instruments, and the like. We also have in our care a selective telephone system, from Control to Blockposts, peculiar to railways.

One of the delights of fault-finding here is to call for the duty transport and find a large 2-10-0 on the doorstep, complete with brake van and guard. Then charge through the countryside, whistle blowing, scattering the local inhabitants, peasants and pheasants alike.

On the sporting side, Sergeant Wise represents the Regiment at cricket and hockey; Signalman Rowlands at Boxing; whilst Corporal Kinsella performs a rather nifty Orderly Corporal.

If anyone wishes to realise his childhood ambition to become an engine driver, may I suggest he arranges to be posted here (only Linemen may now apply).



1. Lieutenant Colonel A. J. Woodrow, M.B.E., Commanding Officer, 1st Regiment, going on board the Destroyer of the German Navy during the visit of the Regiment at Kiel. 2. German Training Vessel "Georg Foch" in Kiel Harbour. 3. Assault Boat Training during Camp at Kiel. 4. Signalman Walker sailing in a 100 square metre on a Baltic cruise. 5. Assault Boat bringing the Dentist, Captain MacEwan, R.A.D.C., ashore from "Petasus" to see a patient. 6. "Escape" Exercise during Summer Camp at Kiel. Searchers frisking R.S.M. Laing before departure from the P.O.W.Cage. 7. Morning ablutions in Camp at Kiel.

1st REGIMENT AT CAMP

As a welcome change from the daily round in B.A.O.R., it was decided that this year the whole Regiment should go to camp. A site on the Baltic coast north of Kiel, was selected early in the summer, and the task of providing all the necessarity amenities and tentage was taken on by the Quartermaster, Major W. J. Howard, and his staff. An advance party went off on 9th July, under Major P. H. Palmer, and soon were fully employed on road building, tent erecting and the hundred-and-one tasks necessary to enable 300 officers and men to live in two fields for a fortnight.

The Regiment arrived on 16th July to find themselves in a delightful site on the cliff edge overlooking the Eckernforde Channel, the hard work of the advance party being in evidence on all sides. There was even some sun after a week of rain. The main aim of the Regimental Camp was to carry out Infantry-type training, and for this Major F. G. Bonnart had arranged two exercises. The first was an escape and evasion exercise with each Squadron in turn being moved by road as prisoners-of-war from a prison camp. Having been allowed to escape from their vehicles, each man had to make his own way to a rendezvous some 25 miles away. To prevent him, an enemy Squadron patrolled the country around in vehicles and on foot. Men recaptured were taken to an interrogation centre where the S.A.S. experience of Staff Sergeant Hunter, assisted by Sergeant Cosser was brought into use to discover the location of the rendezvous. Both N.C.O.s may have lost a few friends whilst playing their parts as interrogators, but those who were captured will not easily forget the realism and effectiveness of their methods!

The exercise was spread over three days and nights, and all ranks had a run for their money. It fell to the lot of Corporal Marshall, of 2 Squadron, to capture the Commanding Officer, but both Lieutenant-Colonel Woodrow and Major Clinch, the Second-in-Command, who also fell into enemy hands, were sent back to a higher cage, much to the disappointment of the interrogators. There were some praiseworthy feats of marching during the exercise, and although many were footsore the next day, there were few who did not look back at their own efforts with satisfaction. Not the least the prisoner who escaped from interrogation and completed the march in his socks.

The second exercise was carried out on a competitive Troop basis between ten patrols. Each patrol, in its turn, was launched in assault boats to make an assault landing some 3 kilometres down the coast. From there through a series of ambushes, manned most determinedly by "Charlie" Troop, they had to march about 16 miles, finally attacking a strong post and going over an assault course. The latter constructed by C.S.M.I. Woollard, A.P.T.C., was extremely good and was enlivened by the bangs of Captain Blackwell and his assistants. The winning patrol, for overall performance, comprised men from 200 and 207 Squadrons, led by Lieutenant Finney, and a well-deserved crate of beer was suitably dealt with in the evening.

Two other activities occupied the time in camp. The first was a visit to the German Navy at Kiel, during which we were shown some destroyers and toured Kiel harbour in patrol boats. Especially interesting was the sight of the training vessel *Georg Forch*, later to win the Tall Ships Race from U.K. to Holland, with her crew of cadets carrying out their sail drills. The three Korvetten Kapitans were later to come to lunch with the Regiment in camp.

Throughout the period of camp the Corps Yacht, *Petasus*, was on charter to the Regiment, together with 100 square metre *Kranich*, from the British Kiel Yacht Club. This enabled many soldiers to spend a day sailing, and on one occasion when the dentist, Captain MacEwan was on board *Petasus*, and sailing past the camp site, a quick examination of a patient with severe toothache was achieved by launching an assault boat and bringing him ashore. Those interested in improvisation may like to know that shore-to-ship communications were established by using the dip-switch on the headlights of a Champ, operated by the Q.M., the only person who could read lamp with confidence —or so we let him think!

The camp was visited by Brigadier E. J. C. Harrison, O.B.E., C.S.O., B.A.O.R., who made the long journey by air to see us, and who showed great interest in everything he saw. There were many people to thank for the success of the two weeks: Regiments who lent us water-carts, Engineers for road-building materials, assault boats, electric lighting and water tanks, A.K.C. film shows, and not least of all, the German farmer, who allowed us on his fields, and the Burgomaster, who was so helpful, even to giving us traffic lights for our one-way approach road.

We returned to Verden on 26th July, saying with conviction that a change is as good as a rest. The camp was dismantled in 24 hours, and the cliffs once more returned to their normal inhabitants, the cows and the gulls.

3rd REGIMENT

Last month we finished our notes with the Regiment packing up for the summer block leave. Since we have combined with the Divisional H.Q. it has become apparent that block leaves are not nearly as simple as they are for a normal Signal Regiment. Most of our 3 Squadron, which is what our old H.Q. Squadron is now called, had to stay behind to look after our new H.Q. Squadron, the one time Divisional H.Q. Company. At the end of the three weeks' leave most of those who did succeed in getting away seemed quite pleased to get back to work, as obviously the weather had been saving up its worst moments especially for our Regiment's leave. It is now unlikely that this Regiment will take block leave again as it is administratively very difficult, and if the leave is spread throughout the year there is always the chance that somebody might get some good weather.

This month has also seen a lot of coming and going. On Friday, 31st August, General V. W. Street, C.M.G., C.B.E., paid us a farewell visit after only a year commanding the Division. However, even in that short time he has made a great impression on everyone in the Regiment, and we served him for a good two years' worth of exercises. The following Monday we welcomed the new C.S.O. from Southern Command, Brigadier A. L. Atkinson, who paid us a flying visit and on the Friday after that we welcomed our new G.O.C., General R. M. P. Carver, C.B., C.B.E.

Now to the exercises. In three weeks since coming back we have been engaged in five major exercises, and we are now frantically working up our "Force" role for the possible big air movement exercise "Winged Coachman" in November. Everything from the tractors that the Regiment has not yet got to the last bottle of ink in R.H.Q. has been weighed, painted and had its chalk number written on it. Last week on Exercise "Griffin I" we had our preparations checked for the first time and naturally enough discovered all sorts of horrors. This week we are practising long distant communications on Exercise "Playmate II" working from Bulford to our own detachments in the North of Scotland, and 247 Ghurka Squadron in the Grampian Mountains. Next week we have exercise "Griffin II" by which time we will have put right all faults from "Griffin I," we hope! Over the weekend, just to fill in the time between exercises, we are taking part in the mobilisation exercise, "Kandy." This we are told is all part of an even bigger exercise on account of which we have several of our detachments in Greece. To add to this we also have the whole of Radio Relay Troop and also quite a number of other people away busily keeping the Army in the public eye touring various towns in

Presentation of the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal to W.O.II (CSM) J. D. French, M.M., Scots Guards in The Sergeant's Mess, 3 HQ and Signal Regiment, on the occasion of General Street's farewell visit, 21 August, 1962

Major-General Street leaving the Sergeant's Mess

the London area. On the 29th August, Air Support Troop lent the Devon and Dorset Regiment an Air Support Tentacle for a four-day exercise on Salisbury Plain to make sure that everyone had something to do! 3 Squadron say that they do not know what all the fuss is about, they are busily preparing for Guy Fawkes night and the children's Christmas Party!

Finally we bid a welcome to our new Adjutant, Captain E. W. Hunt, and wish him the best of luck in the job he has taken over!

4th REGIMENT

August started off as a very quiet month. Being uncommitted for any exercises, most people took the opportunity of snatching a well-earned leave. The favourite resorts seem to be in Italy, and the largest exodus was to the Adriatic Coast, in the shape of Major T. A. Skelly. Just before this, Major Cleland disappeared on leave and nothing was heard from him until he phoned for recovery, some 100 miles away on the Autobahn. Immediately, Scammells, P.R.I. buses and 3-ton cargo vehicles were despatched in convoy, lights flashing and sirens blaring. However, when they arrived on the scene of the emergency, O.C. 1 had gone, having been recovered by the Strassenwacht. ("All welfare problems quickly and efficiently dealt with").

In the second week of August, the Regiment received an invitation from the 41 (NL) Verbindungs Batailjon, our Dutch counterpart, to be present on the occasion of their fifth anniversary. A representative party duly went, consisting of Lieutenant E. A. Gamble, S.S.M. P. Kendrick, Sergeant Eastwood, Corporal Creedy and Signalman Carr. They arrived at Harderwyk on the afternoon of 14th August to be caught unawares by a very high-powered welcoming committee. The celebrations started at 08.30 the next morning with a parade followed by a sports day and an official reception. In the evening there was a private Regimental party, at which Lieutenant Gamble presented a commemorative plaque to the Colonel of the Regiment. So much for the official entertainment! It seems that the hospitality extended to the party knew no bounds—in fact recovery time and return average one hour in bed for every two hours spent in Holland.

By way of return, a similar party, led by a Dutch subaltern, stayed with our Regiment the following week. After being shown round the Regiment in the morning, the Dutch party attended the Regimental Fete, where they seemed to have a mania for winning Teddy Bears and flowers. In the evening they were guests at a party run by 2 Squadron. They must have enjoyed themselves thoroughly, as they left on Sunday morning an hour-and-a-half late!

By far the most important event of the month was the advent of our first annual Regiment Fete. From the beginning of August, feverish preparations were in progress. The R.S.M. and Staff Sergeant Sparrow were the leading lights; the R.S.M., in his own inimitable way, co-ordinating the organisation; and Staff Sergeant Sparrow using his German contacts to great effect. The advance publicity, especially in the German papers, even surprised us. Once it had gained momentum, the whole thing seemed to run away with us. Hardly a morning would go past without an article appearing on the front page of one of the local newspapers praising the "popular and hardworking 4th Signal Regiment." The Colonel's son, Miles Hutchins, figured prominently one morning in one of the Herford papers as a major helper with the preparations. This proved to be the first the Colonel had heard of his son's hard work.

The final "panic" the night before, over the last details, was completed in pouring rain, which did not bode well for "Glorious 25th of August." However, when the fete opened on Saturday afternoon, the pessimists were disappointed. The stalls, some 25 of them, were all run on a Troop basis. There was everything from a miniature railway, which transported children round the fairground, to a very professional shooting gallery. The main attraction for our German guests, who numbered at least 1,000, were the very "English" fish-and-chip shop and tea rooms. By the time the fair closed, and the last convivial drinkers, both German and English, were prised from the "Bavarian Beer Stube" all the many prizes had been won and the Regimental coffers were full. After all expenses have been met, it appears that the Royal Signals Benevolent Fund will benefit by about £100. This is less than half the sum we had hoped for, and we conclude that our Teddy Bears must have been overweight and our fish-and-chips too cheap. Next year, as fully-fledged professionals at the game, we should be more successful. Unfortunately, we can attach no cash figure to the value of enhanced Anglo-German relations—suffice it to say that half our Teutonic visitors came back for more the following day, and accepted the news that they were twelve months early with disappointment but good humour.

Another very successful event in the Regiment was the Wives' Club "Bring and Buy" sale last month. It must be admitted that the fairer sex have great talents for this sort of thing, and although they are as yet being reticent as to total proceeds, and where they will be bestowed, it is understood that at least £30 is to go to the Benevolent Fund.

The motor cyclists, not to be outdone by the canoeists of last month, kept the Regiment's flag flying in the B.A.O.R. competitions. After a "wobbly" start in the 11th Brigade Trials, Corporal Deans put us back on top by winning the individual trophy in the 4th Division trial. In the B.A.O.R. Championships, the team gained fourth place. Credit must be given to our motor cyclists for these achievements as they had little or no time at all to do any hard training for these events until the end of July. Moreover, they were heavily handicapped by mechanical troubles, due to the Regiment's failure to appreciate what is required in the preparation of 20-year-old motor cycles!

The month closed with the whole Regiment going off, on consecutive days, to classify on the ranges at Sennelager. The results were considerably better than last year, with a good number of new marksmen, and the majority of people showing themselves to be proficient shots. This does not mean to say, however, that we had to do without the usual comedy turns of officer being shot whilst certain people were unloading, and of the bewildered clerk indicating to an N.C.O. with the barrel of his Stirling that his "gun wouldn't work."

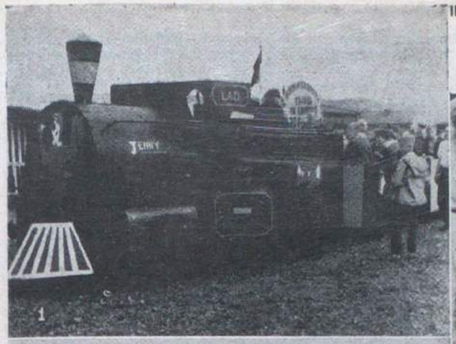
We started September with 1 Squadron on a "working" camp, somewhere near Hamburg, and 2 Squadron spread over Europe on their own exercise, "Long Hop III." These will doubtless prove a good source for next month's notes.

We are now in the process of saying goodbye to a few long-standing members of the Regiment. Lieutenant D. Shields, our M.T.O., left for Edinburgh on the 26th, and is replaced by Captain Nick Carter. One mainstay of the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess, Staff Sergeant Crisp, and his wife, have also left us, which deprives us of our cartoonist and No. 1 cabaret turn. We have not yet had replacements for these important posts. Major Francis has just joined us and he is making himself felt in H.Q. Squadron. Major Brown has now moved over to 1 Squadron and will be taking over from Major Cleland, who leaves us for the Far East next month. Our best wishes go alike to those who have left and to those who have joined us.

Motor Cycle Trial Successes

6 Brigade Trial—Corporal Deans, 5th.
4 Division Trial—Corporal Deans, Individual Winner, and winner of the Hazards Section.
11 Brigade Trial—4th Regiment, 4th.
2 Division Trial—Corporal Garside; 3rd Novice Award.
B.A.O.R. Trial—4th Regiment, 4th; Corporal Deans, 12th Individual.

4th Regiment



1. "The Hammersmith Flyer" sets off on a journey round the Fair Ground

2. Engine Driver Franks awaiting the Guard's Whistle

3. Part of the most successful stall at the Fete. Lance Corporal Robinson, A.C.C., working hard selling bratwurst

4. Two of our Dutch guests with Lance Corporal Morgan, R.A.S.C. (Attached) enjoying themselves on the roundabout

5. Lance Corporal Deans at the end of the last section emerges the winner of the 4 Div. Trial

6. 2 Div. Trial. After the prize-giving

7. 2 Div. Trial. Corporal Garside at the end of a narrow tree and section

Major-General R. N. Batra discussing messing problems with the Commanding Officer, 11th Regiment

11th REGIMENT

There has been a considerable rise in the Recruit Intake Figures over the past two months. Shortly the figure will be almost double that of June this year and it is expected that no less than 500 recruits will be in training at any one time. Naturally a situation like this calls for considerable re-organisation of the present Regimental structure and much work has to be done now in preparation. Needless to say, the old Baghdad Lines will once more come to the rescue and one can foresee a volume of accommodation in use comparable to the old 7th Training Regiment days.

Despite all this activity, readers will observe from the accompany notes that there are still many other events taking place in the Regiment.

Visits. On 27th August, Brigadier A. C. Cox, O.B.E., visited the Regiment for the first time as Brigade Commander. During the course of his tour he naturally showed great interest in the training of recruits. On a visit to 1 Squadron training area, the Brigadier saw recruits engaged in recreation and the more business side of training.

Major-General R. N. Batra, Signal Officer in Chief, Indian Army, visited the Regiment on the 4th September. He was interested to see the training pattern of Signals recruits in this country. We are sure that he found his visit useful in comparing the methods used here, with his own Signals Training Establishments. There is little doubt that Major-General Batra was impressed with the standard reached in training after only six and a half weeks.

Rebadging Ceremony
Wensleydale County Secondary Modern School.

On Wednesday, 11th July, a rebadging ceremony was held at Wensleydale County Secondary Modern School to mark the occasion of the reaffiliation of the Wensleydale C.C.F. Contingent from the Green Howards to 11th Regiment (Depot). The Inspecting Officer was Brigadier P. M. P. Hobson, D.S.O., Commander Training Brigade. The parade was held on the Wensleydale School parade ground where the contingent of some thirty cadets were paraded with Number 8 Recruit Troop of No. 1 Squadron of the Regiment and the Corps Band. The parade was handed over by the Officer Commanding C.C.F. Contingent, Major — Hall, to the Commandant C.C.F. (North Riding), Colonel Forbes. Although some thirty minutes before the parade Leyburn was drenched by a heavy thunder storm, the Parade Commander bravely insisted we should adhere to the outdoor programme and what little rain that fell during the ceremony did nothing to dishearten the Cadets whose drill, turnout and bearing earned many words of praise from the spectators.

After the inspection by the Commander Training Brigade Royal Signals, Colonel Forbes, on behalf of the Green Howards, made a short address. He explained to the Cadets the significance of the ceremony and pointed out that the reaffiliation had become necessary as a result of the re-grouping of Infantry Regiments and the fact that the Depot of the Yorkshire Brigade was now in York. He then paid tribute to the Corps, making reference to its task and the high standard that had been set in the forty years since its inception.

Brigadier Hobson in his reply welcomed the Cadets into the Corps and thanked Colonel Forbes for his generous praise of the Corps.

The addresses were then followed by the actual rebadging of the contingent and the old cap badges were first marched 'off parade' to the slow march of the Green Howards. Then the new cap badges were presented and the contingent, designated 'Royal Signals' for the first time, gave a smart general salute as the Corps flag was broken at the flag mast.

After the parade refreshments were served in the School Library and here were heard many kind tributes being paid to the Corps. The Wensleydale C.C.F. Contingent Royal Signals will now be looked after by 11th Regiment.

Best Recruit. On the 24th August, 3 and 4 Troop Passed Out. Signalman Davidson was chosen as best recruit. Davidson had a good start in his military career having already served for three years with the Territorial Army (Signals) in Belfast where he was born. After leaving the Park Parade Intermediate School at the age of 14, he served an apprenticeship with Short Brothers and Harland as an Air Frame Fitter. He worked in this occupation for eight years and then decided to seek a broader life in the Army. It is appropriate that he is now serving in the Signals as his father was at one time a Lineman attached to the Royal Inniskillings.

Signalman Davidson

Signalman Davidson is married and has two children. He now continues his training as a Clerk Technical at 24th Regiment.

Sport

Rugby. It is hoped that this year the Regiment will be able to produce a reasonable Rugby team. With the decline of National Service very few Rugby enthusiasts pass through the Regiment. However, already this year we possess some talented forwards and there is reason to believe that re-enforcements are on the way. With 22 fixtures to play off we hope the Depot Rugby team will be back on the map.

Shooting. One member of the Regiment was selected this year as an Army reserve. Sergeant Simister met with a considerable amount of success in competitions throughout the season. He was a member of the successful Norco Rifle Team that won the Whitehead and Britannica Cups at the Bulford Corps Meeting in June.

At the N.R.A. Imperial, Bisley, in July, Sergeant Simister took part in the Duke of Cambridge Match. Scoring 49 points out of a possible 50, he was first in his class and collected a silver bar. In the overall positions he was joint second and was subsequently awarded a Silver Medal for his efforts. With his form still improving, we expect to hear more about Sergeant Simister in the future.

Car Rally. A Car Rally was held on the 21st August and once again the 1st prize was carried off by the now well experienced pair R.S.M. Ham and R.Q.M.S. Barnes.

There were 19 entries in all of which 18 managed to finish. The 19th car was driven by Lieutenant Allan with Lieutenant Mulcahy, Lieutenant Jolly and Mrs. Jolly navigating. Unfortunately, this great navigational effort proved too much for the course. Lieutenant Allan drove his rather battered car back to the finish minus a few navigators, who are fortunately still intact.

R.Q.M.S. King and Mrs. King were a very good second. The ladies' prize was carried off by Mrs. Brackenbury and Mrs. James. Everybody seems to enjoy these rallying events—we hope more people will enter next time.

Brigadier P. M. P. Hobson, D.S.O., inspecting the Wensleydale School A.C.F.

Postings In and Out. Major (Q.M.) J. A. G. Stokoe has arrived in the Unit and has now taken over a formidable task in the Quartermaster's Department. We were sorry to lose Major (Q.M.) W. F. G. Hoskings who has now departed for Malaya. We wish him well in his new job with the Gurkha Signals.

Captain T. I. McL. Robinson has arrived from Malaya to participate in Recruit Training. Captain B. I. Weston will leave shortly for B.A.O.R. where he will have ample opportunity to put his hard earned German language qualifications to good use.

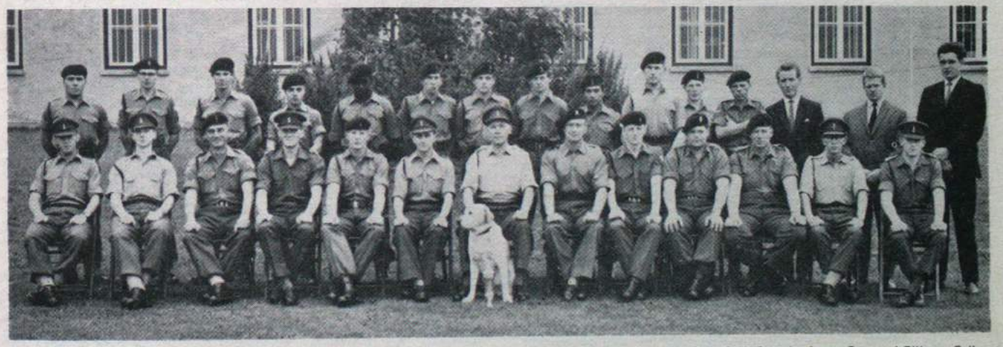
We were very sorry to lose W.O.II A. E. Lee, M.B.E., and the Regiment thanks him for the efficient way in which he carried out his job as S.S.M. (Movements). Best wishes to him in his new posting for the last six months of his distinguished service at Blandford.

Brigadier A. C. Cox, O.B.E., with 3 and 4 Troop Commander, Lieutenant A. M. P. Barker on the Assault Course

Marriages. On 21st July, Lieutenant M. E. Bradbury was married to Miss Anne Marie McCambridge at Ballycastle, Northern Ireland.

The Commanding Officer and Mrs. Brackenbury attended the wedding. Also other officers of the Regiment. By all accounts everybody thoroughly enjoyed the occasion. The Guard of Honour for the newly weds was formed by all Officers present. Fortunately, all the guests from Catterick arrived back safely, if not in the best of health. Best wishes to the bride and bridegroom.

2nd Regiment Athletic Team which tied with 7th Regiment in winning the Morrison Athletic Cup



Back Row, left to right: Signalman Preston, Corporal Delbridge (REME), Corporal Denton, Lance Corporal Collins, Signalman Bell, Garrahy, Lance Corporal Gilbert, Galley, Corporal Maddern, Corporal Samuels, Corporal Collins, Lance Corporal Smith, Lance Corporal Harrington Fossey, Second Lieutenant Jewel. *Absent:* Sergeant Kelly, W.O.II Devanney, Signalman Lilley, Staff Sergeant Thomas

Front Row, left to right: Second Lieutenant Higton, Second Lieutenant Robins, Lance Corporal Brown, Second Lieutenant Smith, Lance Corporal Fountain, Lieutenant Wood, Lieutenant-Colonel G. H. Hoerder, M.B.E., QMS Nichol, Corporal Lewis, CFN Vick (REME), Freeman, Lieutenant Hervey, Leiutenant Johnson

URGENT CLOTHING URGENT

THE WELFARE SECTION at Royal Signals Association, 88, Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1, will be MOST GRATEFUL for unwanted clothes — men's, women's, children's — anything in fact except ladies' underwear. There is a continuous demand which always exceeds supply.

14th REGIMENT

R.H.Q. and 1 Squadron. The Sergeants' Mess Summer Ball went off in great style. I think the very potent rum punch each visitor was required to sample on arrival had something to do with the air of well being which prevailed everywhere. One of the evening's highlights was undoubtedly the dance competition between Officers and Senior N.C.O.s. Strangely enough, the latter proved themselves much the more accomplished "twisters."

Preparation for winter sports is well under way and hockey, rugby and soccer enthusiasts have already played a number of friendly fixtures with encouraging results.

Adventure training too has come into its own again, although the first effort at Brecon Beacons a combined operation so to speak, ended in disaster—damaged canoes and very wet hides. The O.I.C.'s diary for the occasion is appended and speaks for itself:—

"Set out 09.45 hours Friday, 31st August. Stopped Gloucester to purchase butane gas refills and two stoves. Unloaded canoes near Aberyscis at 14.00 hours approx. Set out down River Usk with two canoes, two W.R.A.C. and one Royal Signals Corporal. Fifty yards down river encountered first set of rapids. Put girls and kit ashore to walk down bank while Harrison and myself waded through, pushing canoes. After this progress better for about ¼ mile until met with shallows and rapids. These continued to trouble us for the rest of our journey. River running very fast in places, consequently both canoes developed minor leaks, mainly owing to previous repairs not standing the strain. Two haversacks were dropped in river from bank by girls trying to climb along while Corporal Harrison and myself manoeuvred canoes through shallows—consequent soaking of clothing and sleeping bags. Approx. 19.00 hours stopped to eat and bale out canoes. Discovered one canoe developing unpleasant crack down bow. Re-embarked and continued downstream to try and make Brecon. Alternating shallows and rapids became more frequent. One canoe holed badly shooting one rapid, other canoe two or three small cracks. Third haversack dropped in water from canoe. One canoe became unstable owing to amount of water on board; capsized about 20.00 hours (last haversack soaked). Swam after canoe and pulled it into bank. Collected party on bank and appreciated situation. No dry clothing, no dry sleeping bags, one dry groundsheet, acres of wet grass. Pitched one tent, spread other over top for added insulation. Distributed least wet clothing viz. Corporal Harrison—anorak and bathing trunks, myself sweater and bathing trunks. Girls one pair dryish jeans, one pair wet slacks, two damp anoraks. Decided to use one tent for four to utilise body warmth, added to which only one stove was working and one groundsheet serviceable. Spent night drinking tea, shivering and making completely humourless jokes. Morale was higher than might have been expected, and temp. outside was approaching freezing. Approx. 05.30 hours reviewed situation. Decided impossible to cross mountains with no dry clothes or sleeping kit, but did not want to spoil Sergeant Boxall's side of the scheme. Took Corporal Harrison into Brecon (¾-hour walk) and rang for truck. Purchased fibreglass repair outfit and bread and returned to tent. Girls had hung clothing out to dry and were catching up on sleep. Spent morning getting canoes onto bank and cleaning holes preparatory to repair. Met truck approx. 13.00 hours, loaded canoes and kit and moved down to peaceful stretch of River Usk. Repaired canoes on bank, handed over two cases of compo rations remaining, and returned to Gloucester, arriving approx. 18.00 hours Saturday.

"For myself the most formidable part of the expedition was shopping in Brecon clad in anorak, bathing trunks and plymsolls."

Better luck next time. Some adventure!

And now for an account of a journey from Gloucester to B.A.O.R. by road with technical equipment, contributed by Corporal F. Bowker, R.E.M.E.:—

"During the early part of August a small party, consisting of two men and a 3-ton Bedford lorry, was detailed to proceeed to 16th Regiment, B.A.O.R. (Krefeld), the object, delivery of important stores.

"The first problem arose in preparing the vehicle for the trip and with the kind help of R.E.M.E. 93 V.D.W. at Ashchurch modifications complying with continental road rules were carried out.

"It was loaded and driven cautiously to London where a night stop was arranged. Early next morning the trip from Hounslow to Tilbury was undertaken. London's traffic in the early part of the day is not the best of friends.

"Once at Tilbury, the vehicle was placed aboard the M.V. *Doric Ferry* (built at Troon in 1961) and a very pleasant trip to Antwerp followed. The port authorities were most helpful and soon the party was under way, destination B.A.O.R.

"The first few miles or kilometres were strange. People don't believe in hand signals, or light signals, or anything else for that matter. The best man wins. The miles passed rapidly. Fuel stop at Olen. Border stops and many fancy stamps. The road sign Krefeld appeared the nose of the truck pointed in that direction. 'Road up!' Turn round and find the alternative route. On into Germany, then suddenly Krefeld. A few enquiries gave the direction to 16th Regiment, and the load was delivered. No breakages, no dents or bumps. Whatever was in the back was religiously carried into the depths of a subterranean T.R.C. and that was that.

"The return trip was simple, since the route was now known, and once back in Gloucester, some calculations were made. Distance covered, 560 miles; average petrol consumption, 10.6 m.p.g.

"An experience worth talking about, and it is hoped in some small way, an aid to the Army in B.A.O.R."

3 Squadron. Hockey and soccer are already off to a flying start, several preliminary matches having been played in readiness for the winter fixture list. With the arrival of "new blood" and the assistance of the R.A.F. Detachment, we hope the Signals Team entered in the Oxford Thursday League will have better fortune this year.

Two mixed hockey matches have been played with a team from Smiths (Witney) followed by a buffet, and we are told a "good evening" was had by all on both occasions.

Visits from our 1 and 2 Squadrons, some 40 miles away, are "highlights." Yesterday we were very pleased to welcome a mixed hockey team from 1 Squadron, which includes a W.R.A.C. element. Although we managed to win in the end by 5 goals to 3, the result was very much in the balance. From observations of this match and the Witney games it seems the girls these days are right on top for enthusiasm and ability when it comes to hockey.

Two events during the month, with a public relations flavour, were the visits to the station by the Witney Round Table and the schoolboys' cricket match tea and tour. Both were highly successful from interest point of view, and we feel both the young and old have a better idea of the scope of Royal Signals and what it has to offer in the way of a career.

Recent arrivals, in order of "seniority."—Six well-fed geese, which are now thriving in the Squadron paddock and, incidentally, making a very efficient job of keeping the grass down. Target date for passing-out parade—Christmas-Eve.

A welcome also to W.O.II "Q" R. Cook and Lance-Corporal M. S. Smith, from 11th and 8th Regiments, respectively, and Lance-Corporal P. Rawlinson and Signalman D. McFaul, both from Malaya. We hope their tenure at Bampton will be a happy one.

During this period we have lost three National Servicemen and three regulars, namely Sergeant J. S. I. Glendenning, Sergeant E. Watts and Signalman W. T. Skelly. We wish them good fortune in civilian life, except that in the case of Sergeant Glendenning, it isn't really goodbye to the Service, as he is taking up a Technician II appointment in COMCAN.

Our latest family increase—to Signalman and Mrs. B. H. Stainer, a son.

15th REGIMENT

Final Contribution

The Regiment was raised in Cairo in 1940 as the Divisional Signals of 8th Division, personnel being drawn from many units then in Egypt. Whilst the Unit was being formed, the Division was disbanded, and the Unit, then titled 3 G.H.Q Signal Regiment, became responsible for the communications of G.H.Q., Middle East.

It continued to provide communications for G.H.Q., Middle East Land Forces after the end of the war, moving from Cairo to Fayid in 1947, and to Cyprus in 1955.

On 1st September, 1959, the Unit was re-designated 15th Signal Regiment (Cyprus), No. 3 Squadron was formed in Dhekelia on 1st January, 1960, and assumed responsibility for the communications in the Dhekelia Sovereign Base Area.

On 30th September, 1960, 15th Regiment amalgamated with 29th Regiment, and became responsible for all military communications in Cyprus.

In October, 1961, the Regiment was asked to send 143 men to B.A.O.R. This was, for a while, civilianisation without civilians. However, civilians came in due course, and they settled in and worked with the Regiment very well. Nevertheless, the Regiment has not been the same, and now we have come to the end of the road; we have reorganised as two independent Squadrons—262 Squadron (District) and 259 Squadron (COMCAN). Both Squadrons are independent and we wish them all good fortune.

Meanwhile, R.H.Q., 15th Regiment, is tidying up the paper work and closing the books. The Regiment ended its life with a unique sporting record, holding the following cups:

Army (Cyprus) Soccer Challenge Cup, 1960/61, 1961/62.
NEARELF Challenge Cup (Soccer) 1962.
Army (Cyprus) Major Unit Cricket Cup, 1961.
NEARELF Major Unit Cricket Cup, 1961.
Royal Signals (Cyprus) Hockey Cup, 1960-61.
Royal Signals (Cyprus) Basketball Cup, 1960/61, 1961/62.

16th REGIMENT

Well now! with the Indian summer and temperatures in the upper seventies (at last) comes this month's not so bumper bundle, to let you know 16th is still kicking, especially now the soccer season is upon us. So let us start with sport.

Hockey. The summer league ended with the Regiment as runners-up to 13th Regiment. Out of the 12 games played we won seven, drew three and lost two with the goals 31 for and 16 against.

We are looking forward to the start of the winter league in October and hope to be as successful as we were in the summer league.

At last we are finding that most of the young soldiers who thought that hockey was a game for girls are quickly changing their minds, due mainly to the Inter-Troop six-a-side sports ladder. These Inter-Troop matches have helped a great deal in the selection of players for the Unit team.

Soccer. The Association Football season does not commence its strenuous league programme until the first week in October. The Regiment are in the First Division of the North Rhine Inter-Service League and will have some stiff opposition from 13th and 28th Regiments, the 1st Bn. the Irish Guards and the Lancashire Regiment, to mention but a few, if it is to retain its position as "Top Dog" of the Army football world in the North Rhine area. Under the guidance of Captain G. S. Massey and Sergeant Edwards, A.P.T.C., however, they will at least take the field a fit and fighting side for the new season.

During August, the Regiment was invited to take part in a soccer festival organised by clubs in Krefeld, and including teams from Holland and the neighbouring German area. The Regiment topped Group 1 of the tournament with four points from two games, scoring eight goals with one against. They played the winners of Group 2 in the final and, although feeling the pace of three games in one day, disposed of the local Krefeld side by one goal to nil to win a very nice trophy.

Inter-Troop Sports and Games. The summer Sports Ladders have just terminated, and as usual the latter two months have provided the most action. The enthusiasm and determination increased day by day as the closing date came into sight. Several battles for supremacy were fought in the dying hours of 31st August.

Despite the very poor weather this summer, one of the more active troop competitions was water polo which certainly attracted the most onlookers, even though they probably assembled only to see just how blue and exhausted the players might become in an unheated pool which is really too long for water polo.

Six-a-side hockey was also very popular and was again one of the more tiring games when played on a full sized pitch. The other sports are squash, indoor-football, tennis and six-a-side cricket. The emphasis on these particular games, at Troop level, have done a great deal towards the stamina and team spirit of the men.

At the end of each season the winning Troop for the individual sports is presented with a shield, and the championship winner for the complete season at all events receives a very handsome cup—the Burke Trophy, presented by Lieutenant-Colonel (R.T.D.) W. C. Burke, Commanding Officer of 16th Regiment 1956-1959.

There are ten representative Troop teams in each Ladder league and during the summer months it has been Medium Radio Troop who have shown enthusiasm, keenness and drive far above any other Troop. Their efforts have been well worthwhile as can be seen by the results. The Operating Troops are coming out into the fresh air more often this season, and 4 Operating Troop did well to finish second in the Burke Trophy.

Last season's holders of the trophy, Cable Troop ,seem to prefer the winter games, but it must be noted that they were unable to play as regularly during the summer because of their commitment.

Angling Notes. Fishing continues during time off. Staff Sergeant A. Hawtin came third in the second day stage of the Kempen Angling Club competition.

It seems to be that when there is a competition on a pond, all the fish gather in the middle of the pond and stay there out of reach and out of sight. Certainly the writer of these notes saw no fish on the day of the competition.

We are now waiting to see if our challenge to 21st Regiment is being accepted and all are looking forward to a good day's sport.

Staff Sergeant C. Gardner and Sergeant C. Bonwick spent four days under canvas on the Möhne See looking for the big stuff—but came away without having seen any fish other than one small 'un in somebody else's keep net.

During this trip an ex-member of the Corps, John Haydon from London, was met on arrival at the Camping Ground complete with three friends and a 1937 London taxi cab after spending seven weeks on the Continent, out of 10 weeks unemployed holidays. They had visited Spain, Southern Italy, Austria, Switzerland, Yugoslavia and were on their way to Scandinavia for the last three weeks of their holiday. Cost all in was £100 per person including cost of car, etc. This shows the adventure spirit is still with us.

General Notes. Moans and groans all round. P.T. has reared its ugly head and won. I'm sure the P.T.I.s intend to make the fit fitter and kill the rest. The backache endured by yours truly had nothing to do with it. Just old age creeping on so they say.

We welcome W.O.II (Y. of S.) J. Druggan back from No. 2 Yeoman of Signals Course which he passed despite his off-duty course collision. Well done Yeoman. Fond farewells to W.O.I "Toby" Seymour and W.O.II Alec Littlejohn who are joining No. 3 Yeoman of Signals Course, and then to 9th Regiment and 17 Ghurkha Division respectively. Good luck to you both. Your tankards have not been forgotten.

The swimming pool has been a boon in this spell of warm weather, especially for the children of the garrison. All praise to Major G. Klosser and W.O.II (S.S.M.) A. E. Pugh for their efforts in the improvements, particularly the Bathing Belle cubicle, provided of course as changing rooms!

All Ranks' Dance. Held on 5th July this was a great success despite the amount of Twisters present. As always it was held in the gym, which after much hard work organised by Major J. S. N. Dale and W.O.II T. Pearce had been transformed into "Ye Olde English Taverne." Many local girls and a contingent from the W.R.A.C. attended but unfortunately had to leave early to cries of dismay from the cowboys who were at that time in great form.

Lance-Corporal McQuire gave his party piece with a very good running act of "George and Dragnet," "Little Bo-Peep" and a few more to boot. Then came a Norman Wisdom act rendered by a Lance-Bombadier who had stepped in and ably took over as M.C. Marvellous, ain't it, where these blokes come from. I don't know where he went or what his name was. Here it comes, what a Twist, with the Commanding Officer watching his Warrant Officers and Sergeants performing this highly dangerous feat (No Drill Parades since, I wonder why?). With a first class German band supplying the music, it was a most enjoyable evening, but all good things must end and on this occasion ended very well, also the Commanding Officer had announced that the following morning would be a stand down. So we had the whole weekend to get over all those things one suffers after so much excellent entertainment.

Twist Note:—Does the R.S.M. twist better on the Square?

☆

18th Regiment

☆

A general view of the 1962 Funfair

On 28th July, we had our Annual Funfair. It occurred too late to be reported in our July notes, therefore it had to wait until now. The idea behind this fete is quite a sound one. It has been found that the number of charities and appeals that are made is growing yearly; there seems to be no end to the number of worthwhile causes that require support. In addition, there are a number of purely internal and military charitable organisations that rely on voluntary contribution to sustain themselves. This situation has grown and grown until every week there would be a collection for something or other. Of course, the usual thing happened—blood just won't be squeezed from a stone, and people's generosity started, naturally enough, to dry up.

It was decided that rather than badger everyone to dip continually into their pockets, we would hold a monster fair, annually, and donate all the proceeds to the various charities concerned. This would have the added advantage that, in the usual fairground tradition, everyone who spent money would have a chance to win something quite worthwhile for their money.

With this in mind the fair was put on last year and realised some $5,000 (about £580). This year the committee was determined to better this amount. Early in March Major J. E. Denton, the Chairman, called them together and, having fixed the day, began the planning.

Work built up until by 10 o'clock, Saturday, 28th July, the sports ground in Meiktila Barracks was laid out. In addition, for the past two days the city itself had been subjected to what the experts call "saturation advertising," using a P.A. truck, posters, and all the other paraphernalia of modern high-power salesmanship.

Then the weather took a hand, it started to rain.

In two and-a-half hours the neatly laid out and bright fair was looking decidedly bedraggled. It is a funny thing that tropical rain is so penetrating; even the most waterproof poster paint will run if subjected to the concentrated downpour of a tropical storm. After all those hours of hard work and preparation, it seemed that the whole venture would be doomed to go into involuntary liquidation!

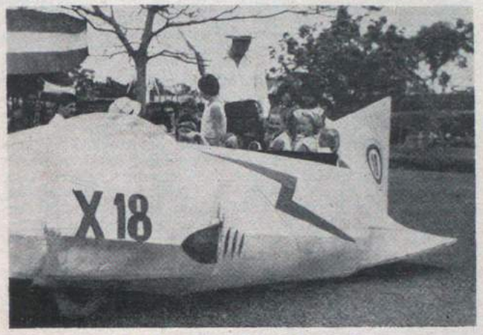
However, at half past one, the rain stopped as suddenly as it came, and everyone set about repairing the damage. An hour later the crowds started to arrive and it looked as though it would be business as usual. The prizes available were due entirely to the efforts made by 50 of the main business houses in Singapore. They all responded to requests that had been made to them for suitable prizes.

By evening time the main business was over—many stall-holders were sitting back with empty shelves. Eventually, when the final reckoning was made, the balance was $3,100 (about £360), which, considering the weather, was a very creditable effort.

SSM Lovell and supporters

Some of the Stalls

All the fun of the fair



The rocket about to be launched

This young lady obviously reads the best papers

18th Regiment relaxes at their Annual Fair

The ducking stool proved a great attraction, especially as it was "baited" with Staff Sergeant Dunne's daughters

The Wobbly Bicycle claims another victim

19th REGIMENT

Many strange faces, young and not so young, have been seen in the Changi area during August, when several children and relatives have come out from U.K. for the holiday. We hope they have not been too disappointed with the weather, as August has been rather a rainy month.

Shooting. Fortunately, however, the rain did keep off for the three days of the Corps Small Arms Meeting—from all accounts this was exceptional! The meeting was smoothly run, and although the Regiment provided both the champion B.O.R. and M.O.R. shots in Staff Sergeant Hammond-Haley and Signalman Wan Saupek, the Team Trophy eluded us this year.

Sport. In contrast to U.K., our soccer season has now come to a close—perhaps with a sigh of relief in some quarters, as the fixture list became very crowded—the Regimental XI were runners-up in Division IV of the Singapore Base District League. The runners-up crown was also ours in the R.A.F. Changi Inter-Section Cricket League.

Swimming galas have brought to the fore Signalman Mohamed Ghani, who has shown brilliant form in the 1 metre spring and 5 metre firm board diving, winning both the District and Far East Air Force championships. The swimming team has been strengthened by the posting in of Captain P. S. Davis to command the Troop at Tengah R.A.F. Station.

Arrivals and Departures. We also welcome Captain and Mrs. J. M. Hewson to the Regiment, and W.O.II Rankin who has taken over as M.T.O. Captain M. R. F. Pack-Davison departed this month for Catterick, and we said farewell too to Sergeant Sanderson who has gone to U.K. as a special recruitor.

Penang

A favoured FARELF leave centre is the island of Penang, which lies two miles off the north west coast Malaya, forming part of the Federation.

The island, approximately 14 miles long and nine miles wide, is endowed with bountiful tropical splendour. There are magnificent beaches on the north coast, where a splendidly-situated and comfortable leave centre, known as Sandycroft, is located. There is also a Gurkha leave camp on this part of the coast. Officers and their families can stay at the Runnymede Hotel, a comfortable and spacious hotel by the sea, and there is a wide choice of civilian hotels. Up in the mountains of the island, magnificent views and relative coolness can be enjoyed. The only British military installation on the island is Minden Barracks, ideally situated overlooking the sea on the east coast.

Penang came into being as an East India Company trading station in 1786, the result of the foresight and diplomacy of a Captain Francis Light, who negotiated the cession of the island to the Company from the Sultan of Kedah.

Like Singapore, it is basically a free port, only tobacco, alcohol and petrol attracting duty. Penang is not free, however, from the good old oriental custom of bargaining over prices. Whilst the port and population centre are referred to generally as Penang, especially in connection with shipping, the city and port is actually called George Town. An excellent double decker car and passenger ferry service spans the two-mile gap to the mainland. Many Air Force personnel stationed at Butterworth Airfield, on the mainland, are daily commutors.

Of the island's 570,000 population, well over half are Chinese, with 165,000 Malays and 70,000 Indians and Pakistanis. The varied religions are well served by places of worship, but some of these are somewhat commercialised. The interior of the so-called Snake Temple, at Sungei Kluang, is festooned with snakes which, fortunately, seem docile and undisturbed by the click of camera shutters! Another much more imposing Chinese temple is the Kek Lok Si Temple, situated at Ayer Itam. Among the attractions here is one for the fit, a seven-tiered pagoda, reputed to be decorated with a million Buddhas, and with a spiral staircase leading to the top. The view from the top is some reward for the climb! This is the largest Chinese temple in Malaya. In the grounds there is a pond in which live hundreds of tortoise—these can be fed with water hyacinth leaves, conveniently supplied for a few cents. Another pond is full of carp—these can be fed with biscuits—again conveniently supplied for a few cents!

An enormous reclining Buddha, 130ft. long, was unveiled in a George Town temple by the King and Queen of Thailand during their state visit to the Federation in June.

Another of the tourist attractions on the island is the Penang Hill Railway—a funicular with a maximum gradient of 1 in 1.96, which carries one to the mountain top, 2,400ft. above sea level, with a 10 degree drop in temperature, and an inspiring panoramic view. On the summit of Penang Hill, in addition to a hotel and guest house, there are many, most attractive "hill station" houses.

21st REGIMENT

Headquarters Squadron. Is it the Laarbruch air? The marriage-bug has caught the Officers of this Squadron. No less than three Officers took the "plunge," and were marched willingly to the altar: Major J. Ingledow to Miss M. A. Wickham, Lieutenant John Curtis to Miss Audrey Clarke and Second-Lieutenant I. Dorward to Miss E. M. Maccoll. Our heartiest congratulations and the best of luck to them.

Congratulations also to Captain and Mrs. Stuubs on the birth of a son, Second-Lieutenant and Mrs. Scarff on the birth of a daughter and Sergeant and Mrs. White on the birth of a son.

R.Q.M.S. D. Spence has left us for 28th Regiment on promotion to W.O.I., Sergeant Warburton and family go to civilian life, and we wish them the best of luck in their new jobs.

1 Squadron. The month of July got off to a good start with the Squadron parading at R.A.F. Wildenrath C. of E. Church for the Royal Signals Day service—a memorable occasion.

Captain Stork's drive and persuasion has resulted in some extremely good athletic results, and produced latent talents in many. We carried off the R.A.F. Wildenrath Athletic Cup, providing men for the R.A.F. "G" Station Athletics League and produced some commendable efforts in the Morrison Cup Competition. Athletes worthy of note were Corporal Annis, Signalman Wilson and Signalman Western, who all helped the Regiment to achieve good results.

We didn't honestly expect great things from a swimming team who had little practice and who were selected on a cold, wet Wildenrath morning with the water temperature standing at 60°F!—Nevertheless we travelled to Laarbruch and came away with the Regimental Championships!

"Charlie" Line Troop set off to exercise with 2nd Regiment on 13th July for 14 days. This was quite an experience, for the friendly rivalry between 2nd Regiment Line Troop and ourselves produced some outstanding laying speeds. The work was hard—as we expected—but had its lighter moments, such as laying through a town on a Sunday during a shooting festival! The job was done, but not without certain linesmen's imaginations and expectations stretched to their limits!

An added local attraction has appeared for the men—the first fully-automatic ten-pin bowling alley on an R.A.F. station outside the U.K. The technicians of Alpha Troop are now to be seen (much poorer) with a "bowler's stoop" (soon to be corrected by S.S.M. Collins, having just arrived back from a Guards' course), and with seriously enlarged thumbs.

Second-Lieutenant Spear carries on his "work" as goalie for the Station hockey team (no serious injury to date). Captain Stork's tasks vary from starting at the School Sports to starting at the R.A.F. Germany versus Netherlands Air Force Athletics.

We learn this month of the impending posting of Lieutenant Mansfield and the arrival of Second-Lieutenant Thorlby from 1st Regiment. We wish both of them success, and we are indeed sorry to see the former go.

No. 1 Squadron entered a team in the 1962 Commemoration Marches held at Oosterbeck, near Arnhem, on 8th September. The team consisted of Second-Lieutenant R. G. Spear, W.O.II (S.S.M.) Collins and sixteen rank and file. The march was a test of morale and bearing and the team covered a distance of 25 kilometres in three and a half hours. The team were the fastest team over the distance and beat all but two of other teams which marched only 15 kilometres. The team sang all the way and took tenth place overall and were awarded a prize. A total of 700 teams entered, with 20,000 marchers, this was the only British Army team entered in the March. It is hoped next year to enter a larger team, carrying weapons, and if they march to this year's form we hope to achieve even greater success.

2 Squadron. Our many gladiators in the fields of athletics and swimming were just beginning to adjust themselves to work again (after a highly successful "pot-hunting" season in both Regimental and R.A.F. Station Meetings), when the latest bombshell burst—the Nijmegen March. In this matter, it was once again a question of "2 Squadron to the Rescue."

Despite the short notice, the cudgels were taken up, and volunteers from other Squadrons assembled at Brueggen under Lieutenant Andrews and Sergeant Richardson. They were not kept idling; the team averaged 16 miles a day during training, and marchers' boots travelled on a conveyor-belt to the cobler, and back again! For a time, "D" Heavy Cable Troop stores resembled nothing so much as the English camp before the Battle of Agincourt (less, of course, the chain-mail), as marchers feverishly checked and re-checked their equipment before the great day. At last everything and everyone was pronounced ready, and the team went off to Nijmegen; from the 24th to the 27th July, every member successfully completed the gruelling 40 kilometres march each day, and on the final day the team marched past the V.I.P. stand with Regimental Colours flying—cheered in, inter alia, by the Chief Air Formation Signal Officer and the Commanding Officer. Of the 15-strong Regimental team, the eight taking part of our Squadron were Lieutenant Andrews, Sergeant Richardson, Corporals Whyles and Guy, Signalmen Boswell, Allen, Pickard and Nicoll.

As a matter of interest, we do so communicate! We provide the line communications for three major R.A.F. stations, and "Manana Will Do" is not one of our mottos. Project follows project, and one of our Troop's has laid so much HG cable recently that some wag produced a heraldic coat of arms—picks and shovels inter-twined with 40 pair ES and WCQ. One recently interviewed National Serviceman opted for civil life on the grounds that he wanted to go somewhere where work stopped sometimes, which probably accounts for the fact that we are, in the main, a very happy Squadron!

3 Squadron. During the past month we have seen the Squadron Commander sailing, the Second-in-Command converting and the Squadron Clerks playing golf. This has allowed our S.S.M. to get some rest.

Every day we pass the Regimental H.Q. garden and are reminded of the Administration Inspection that never was. I must explain that we have been preparing for this inspection for the past four months. The basis for the garden is, of course, roses provided by this Squadron.

One of the privileges of serving with the "Blue Jobs" is that from time to time we are allowed to take part in their sporting activities and so we have been invited to march in the station Battle of Britain parade. We had a good start to September with an R.S.M.'s Parade. It was a pleasant change from our normal routine and we soon discovered how 'orrible was our drill. At our daily square-bashing we have knowledge drummed into us by our seniors. Two of them with their dulcet voices have recently returned from Pirbright and are anxious to impart their newly improved skills into the Squadron. They told us that instead of the usual 120 paces to the minute, we now have to march at 116 paces to the minute. When the R.S.M. asked why this was so, a humorous member of one of the troops replied, "Practising for a funeral, Sir"! An unfortunate remark to make to an R.S.M.!

24th REGIMENT

Cricket. The Regiment has won the much coveted Northern Command Cricket Cup for the second year in succession. This major success culminated a highly successful season in which the Regiment won thirteen of the seventeen matches played.

The final was played on the Central Ground against the Light Infantry Brigade Depot; who proved worthy opponents. Fortune favoured first one team then the other, but ably skippered by Lieutenant Needham the Regiment gained a most exciting win.

Corporal McLaughlin, Lance-Corporal Cole, Signalman Critchlow and Major Evans played for the Corps during the season and, together with Lieutenant Needham, played regularly for Catterick Services.

Tennis. Captain G. R. Oehlers represented the Army and together with Mrs. Oehlers won the Open Mixed Doubles at the Army Championships.

28th REGIMENT

It is so long since this regiment appeared in print that some readers may well ask "where on earth did that lot come from." The short answer is "Germany" but whether from B.A.O.R. or not is a good question.

The regiment is in the unique position of being the only N.A.T.O. regiment in existence. It has three British Male Squadrons and one British W.R.A.C. Squadron. Attached, and forming part of the regiment for many purposes, are a Belgian Squadron, a Netherlands Squadron and a very independent Canadian Troop. The regiment is in two barracks (one owned by the British and one owned by the Germans). We have two Officers Messes, two Sergeants Messes and two cookhouses—we have our problems.

A short while ago we had a splendid fire. It occurred in a Dutch store, located in the German owned building (on charge to N.A.T.O.). It was put out by a British officer commanding a Belgian fire picquet assisted by a German fire brigade. The subsequent paper work is condemned, like the Flying Dutchman, to move forever from one "too difficult" tray to another.

We were delighted to see that 2nd Regiment had been working with a Danish Signal Company, the international outlook is indeed spreading.

As we are now largely cut off from the normal B.A.O.R. logistical services we have to rely on "self help." We realised what this entailed when the commanding officer decided to build a new football pitch. There were three basic difficulties. Firstly the selected site appeared to be more suitable for jungle training, secondly it was invested by a company of moles (German) and thirdly it had in the middle a disused concrete cricket table. We now have our new football field. We also have about two hundred blisters, several strained backs and about thirty U.S. hammers and jumpers. (It is not often that you see a jumper looking like a crochet hook). What the C.O. overlooked was that the concrete was about a yard thick and reinforced with steel. We also still have the moles. Any advice on mole clearance would be welcome. For the record we have tried gas, poison, traps, water and exhaust fumes. We have even offered them a posting to Rheindahlen.

Generally speaking the new football field is welcome. What is rather less welcome is a perfectly ghastly assault course which has sprung up beside it. Unfortunately someone found a lot of old railway sleepers and telegraph poles and gave them to W.O.II Issitt the new P.T.I. Before you could say "on your feet up" these had been transformed into an assault course which would make a marine commando pause. The British have shown a certain native caution towards this last venture. One of our attached squadrons has, however, been over it. (The latest report from the hospital was that they were doing as well as could be expected).

By the time these notes are published we will unfortunately have lost R.S.M. K. B. Bailey who goes to 64th Regiment T.A. In his place we welcome R.S.M. D. Spence from 21st Regiment.

So far as is known R.S.M. Bailey is the only man who has trained a guard of honour consisting of British, Dutch and Belgian soldiers, using French weapons and Belgian arms drill. When first confronted with this sort of thing R.S.M. Spence was heard to mutter something. No one quite caught what (which is probably just as well).

We will not bore the reader with a catalogue of our sporting successes. We would, however, like to mention the following individuals:—

Signalman Coupe — Army Cycling Champion.
Sergeant Lasota — Army Motor Cycling Team.
Signalman Keenan — B.A.O.R. Light Weight Boxing Champion.

We also won an unsporting victory over the Dutch Sporting Club Hoogardie of Tilburg. The annual football match against this club has become something of a tradition in this regiment and dates back long before Natoisation to the days of the liberation in 1945. This year it was our home fixture and some forty odd Dutch players and supporters visited us for two days.

The success of the whole venture was largely due to our Canadian families who not only accommodated our Dutch friends but also filled them up with a great deal of Amstel beer before the match. We consequently gained an ill deserved victory over a somewhat beerlogged opposition. (As our B.A.O.R. readers will appreciate this served the Dutch jolly well right for inventing Amstel beer).

Following the match we had an excellent social evening, and can now look forward to next year when we play away, and no doubt the boot will be on the other foot.

Now that we are more or less established as a N.A.T.O. unit we hope we will be able to keep you informed of the activities of this somewhat unusual organisation known as 28th Regiment.

30th Regiment

August was a busy month for the regimental sailors, some of whom returned with winter-like colds as a result of spending more time in the water than usual during a spell of very heavy weather. The month's events got under way with the Regiment giving assistance to the Lilliput Sailing Club during their regatta. Main success in the regatta was scored by Major A. Collyer, who came second in the Albacore race in *Cygnet*, the Regimental boat, recently donated by the Nuffield Trust.

This was followed by the Albacore National Championships, for which the weather was very rough, and most people had an uncomfortable sail, including Major Collyer, Captain Briggs, Corporals Phippard and Crumbie. The championship took place at Portsmouth, and they competed against another 105 boats, including one helmed by Major E. Glover, of 3rd Regiment.

The weather, however, turned up trumps for the A.S.A. Southern Command Championships, organised by the Regiment at Poole. In the Firefly event, Captain Briggs was tactfully beaten for second place by our Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Burrows. The second day saw nearly forty dinghies, in perfect weather, set sail for Studland Bay, competing for the Royal Signals' Cup for the Open Handicap (Poole), presented by the Corps to help foster good relations with local civilian clubs. On arrival in the bay, competitors were able to take refreshment from a Regimental marquee, established on the beach, which made a fitting finalé to a splendid sailing week-end.

August also saw the departure of our last National Service Officer, Second-Lieutenant K. G. Woolf, who left us for the comparative sanity of Cable and Wireless.

The Commanding Officer welcomed a new recruit to the Corps, none other than 15-year-old Christopher Barnaby, the son of W.O.II G. A. Barnaby, our new R.H.Q. Chief Clerk. Christopher is due to join the Junior Leaders Regiment later this month, and the Regiment will take a keen interest in his progress.

Finally, we hope readers will find the following account of 3 Squadron's recent three months' exercise on the Isle of Skye a source of interest and amusement.

The Road to the Isles — and back

A Squadron cannot live together under canvas for three months without getting to know and appreciate one another. Work, leisure and humour is shared, and it is with the latter two subjects in mind that this account of our sojourn on the Isle of Skye is written.

I departed with 3 Squadron main vehicle party from 30th Regiment, Blandford Camp, on 25th April, 1962, for an exercise on the Isle of Skye, arriving at Meanish Pier, Glendale, our permanent camping site, on 28th April. For the first few weeks the weather was hot and sunny and most of our leisure was spent in sunbathing, out in small boats, of which the Squadron had five, or in just renewing our acquaintance with the locals over a "wee half." Only Signalman M. F. Court was tough and mad enough to attempt swimming in the loch, although in spite of his protestations—"it's lovely"—he didn't repeat the experience. The first sizeable fish was caught by W.O.I H. Bell. The occasion is memorable, not because it was his first catch, but because with thoughts of a tasty breakfast to come, he entertained us all to a superb lesson in invective when he discovered that a wild cat had already disposed of all but the head.

On 16th May, the weather changed with a vengeance and a force ten gale and storm lashed the site for more than twenty-four hours, damaging aerials and tentage. In fact only three tents survived the onslaught, but Scottish Command quickly produced more, and it being an ill wind that blows nobody any good, we qualified for our rum ration for a couple of days. Storms are fascinating to watch, and even in our bedraggled state, we were overawed at the volume of spray thundering over the jetty. The flooding waterfall, which drops for two-hundred feet over the opposite cliffs appeared to be flowing up hill, due to the wind blowing the spray and surface water back up again. A full drum of diesel was seen to roll the one hundred yards down the pier, touching neither side, to land with a satisfying splash into the sea. This was accompanied at intervals by all manner of lesser kit, and, according to the lists submitted by some hopeful individuals, almost everything as per 1157 was blown out to sea.

Personnel of 3 Squadron on the Isle of Skye. In the background Loch Pooltiel

Left to right: Signalman Finch, Corporal Adcock, Signalman Miller, Lance Corporal Clements, Signalman Talls, Corporal Howse, Corporal Daly

Included in the replacement stores provided by Scottish Command were three Shelters Portable, Assembly T or portable light aircraft hangars. The instructions and pictures in the manual for assembly show twelve civilian workers erecting these with casual ease. We have twenty soldiers wondering just how they did it.

The roads on the island are narrow and far from straight, and to add to the hazards, cows and sheep seem to feel more at home on them than on grass. It is not surprising that there were a few mishaps with livestock. Signalman Boyes is credited with a sheep and Lance-Corporal Jack claimed a cow and a dog in one day, only to arrive back and find that his craftily-set rabbit snare had claimed a cat. He reckoned that his luck was out and gave up setting snares after that.

We lived off the local economy on 7s. 4d. per man, per day. Unfortunately, we were unable to eat chicken or salmon daily, as we had hoped, owing to the potato prices reaching in excess of £5 per hundredweight. Fishing added to our menu, and there were a few crabs for those who liked them. W.O.I Bell, Sergeant Hamilton and Corporal Adcock caught so many mackerel that we had to give them away. In one shoal of mackerel, six hooks on a darrow quickly produced 363 fish. Our Squadron Commander, Major Wellings, and Sergeant Cooke spent many evenings fishing for trout and salmon, and had limited, but enjoyable, success.

Our new C.O., Lieutenant-Colonel Burrows, visited the Squadron in June, and tactfully timed his visit to be immediately before our departure on a week's Whitsun leave. Reveille at 02.00 hours, although a little premature, was gladly accepted by all, and when we had crossed the Kyle of Lochalsh, we felt safely away. Even the long rail journey was welcomed when we remembered that there's the luxury of a "flush" type at the end of the corridor.

The 16th June saw us all back again, all the better for a break (no sick on leave) and we learned that the only excitement during our absence was another gale which had almost conquered an assembly T and which had severed an assault craft from its mooring and carried it out, and it was presumed to be at the bottom of the sea. This was not so, however, for a very battered assault craft was discovered by the local fishermen at the foot of a steep, rocky cliff three weeks later, and it was eventually recovered and returned to the Command Engineers Stores Depot.

There now followed a period of almost continual heavy rain, and we reached a stage where we not only expected, but accepted it. Owing to the peaty nature of the soil, it was rather like walking in "All-Bran," and before we went to bed it was necessary to check the drainage channels which had been dug *inside* the tent. Our sense of humour kept us going, and this was occasionally assisted by the misfortunes of others, which invariably had their funny side; like the plumbing attempt by Lance-Corporal Clements to a waste pipe beneath the sink in the Squadron Commander's residence. Somehow the joint just wouldn't wipe, and the surrounding wood would keep smouldering and catching fire. When the water was finally turned on, the joint produced a wonderful sprinkler effect and, leaving the job, plus a hole in the wall, Lance-Corporal Clements

The scene at Studland Bay when this year's winner of the Royal Signals Cup expresses his thanks

admitted defeat. The Squadron Commander finished the job, but his luck was not in. Next morning he was to discover that his early morning cup of tea had been made with sea water. Signalman Downes' mistake!

The nearest barber's shop was in Portree, 35 miles away, so it was favourite to give Signalman Quinn a shilling and chance one's luck. He usually managed to give satisfaction and once had to earn his money's worth when he had the enjoyable task of completely shaving an N.C.O.'s head. I believe the other ranks pooled their resources to make it a worthwhile bet.

At the end of our stay, the Squadron gave a dance in Portree. It was so successful that we all wished it had been held at the beginning of our visit, so that we might have exploited the successes.

31st July eventually arrived, and after waving goodbye to several knots of sad, though still smiling, girls on the route, we arrived at Kyleakin and prepared to cross to the mainland early on the morning of 1st August.

It would have been nice to have said that the long haul down to Blandford was accomplished without incident, but this would be untrue and also unfair to Craftsman Boniface, R.E.M.E., who did a first class job of roadside repair to ailing trucks, which were afflicted with dynamo, axle and brake troubles, long before Stirling, refuelling point and, more important, 26 Command Workshops, was reached. We all arrived at Blandford Camp, without any type of accident, by 5th August and, of course, to ensure that we had a really true "welcome home," it was pouring with rain.

50th (NORTHUMBRIA) REGIMENT

For anyone unfamiliar with 50th Division, our territory covers the counties of Northumberland, Durham and the North Riding of Yorkshire. As a Regiment, we are probably as large as most, being some 550 strong. The six squadrons are based on centres in Darlington, Middlesbrough, Sunderland, Gateshead and Newcastle, with the Regimental Headquarters in Darlington.

Our girls from 3 Squadron, in Middlesbrough, created a stir by winning the North Riding Association's 16-mile march for the second successive year against some 26 male teams! In case we tend to be carried away by this achievement, it is as well to remember that the "also-rans" included our men of 339 Squadron (Infantry Brigade) and of 3 Squadron itself!

Another notable event was the appointment of our popular Bandmaster, W.O.I F. Woodall, as Mayor of Richmond, Yorkshire. As an ex-Green Howard and a serving member of Royal Signals, he is a most appropriate representative of this ancient North Riding Town.

The Honorary Colonel, Colonel R. M. Percival, T.D., D.L., the Commanding Officer and the Adjutant attended the Mayor's inauguration ceremony.

A highlight of the T.A. year in this part of the world is

W.O.I F. W. Woodall, Mayor of Richmond, 1962

the annual band competition. On 17th June, the bands of seven Territorial Regiments met in the competition at South Shields. It is difficult to convey the atmosphere of these competitions—each band, supported by the Mayor of it's parent town, and the rivalry before a crowd of several thousand was fierce! It was with considerable pride and delight that Bandmaster Woodall received the winner's trophy—the Band was awarded 87 out of a possible 100 by Lieutenant-Colonel B. H. Brown, M.B.E., A.R.C.M., Director, Royal Military School of Music, who congratulated all those competing on the very high standards.

Camp was at the new Royal Signals Training Centre at Scarborough. Due largely to superhuman efforts by Major "Dolly" Gray and our Quartermaster, Lieutenant A. Page, the facilities were amongst the best we have had, it was a thoroughly successful camp.

Our first week was an all-out assault on the trade training headache. To squeeze everything in, we made a 6 a.m. reveille and worked through to 6 p.m. each day—rugged stuff, but well rewarded with every man and woman accounted for in the training! On the lighter side, the first week included an energetic and enjoyable all ranks' dance in the gymnasium, and a

[Courtesy: North of England Newspaper Co.

General Read presenting the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal to Sergeant Major Laycock

3 SQUADRON MARCHING TEAM
Staff Sergeant S. Kilpatrick, Corporal E. Durant, Private J. Twemlow, Corporal R. Carless, Private J. Lawton arriving at Acklam Park, Middlesbrough at the end of the North Riding March

moving playing of "Retreat" on Friday, 29th June. This was attended by the Chairman of the North Riding T. & A.F.A., Brigadier C. C. Fairweather, O.B.E., T.D., D.L., and by our Chief Signal Officer, Brigadier D. A. Pringle, O.B.E.

The new G.O.C. 50th Infantry Division Major-General J. A. J. Read, C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., spent most of Tuesday, 26th, with us. Although the weather was a little unkind the General saw all our training and must have spoken to everyone of the 450 odd Territorials at least once during the day! Other visitors during a hectic week were Colonel Hutchinson, D.S.O., the Durham T. & A.F.A. Secretary; Colonel Maurice Burnett, D.S.O., from the North Riding Association, and Colonel Gratton from the War Office.

On Saturday, 30th June, we had the Regimental Drum-head Service. This was conducted by the Division's senior chaplain, Major 'Bill' Hinckly, and the lesson was read by the Honorary Colonel, Colonel 'Ronnie' Percival, T.D., D.L. After the Service the Regiment Marched Past Colonel Percival. The Regimental Drill competitions followed and were most keenly contested. We were particularly pleased to have Lieutenant-Colonel E. E. Michell, A.D.W.R.A.C. Northern Command, with us and she helped in judging some of the W.R.A.C. competitions.

The second week of camp was all "Racing Green." This was an integrated brigade and static Signal Centre exercise based on the Fylingdales training area and Burniston, but with two lonely detachments well away in the Lake District and in Catterick. For July the weather was suitably brisk. Even in midsummer the Yorkshire Moors, for a midnight occupation of a headquarters, must give to many young Territorials, a realistic representation of the Antarctic as they crawl into their "bivvys" in the force 8 gales with rain beating across the heather!

It was adjudged a good exercise in the sense that we were all aware at the end of it of many things to be noted for "next time." One lesson not entirely unknown to T.A. Camps was the need for obtaining enough sleep when off shift!

As we go to press we are looking forward to a busy autumn of exercises, rifle meetings, recruiting displays and D.R. Trials. It leaves little hope of a dull moment!

Major General J. A. J. Read, C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., GOC 50 (N) Infantry Division talking to members of a Junior NCO's Course. Captain Doull is in attendance

[*Courtesy: North of England Newspaper Co.*

QUEEN'S ROYAL HUSSARS SIGNAL TROOP

As there has been no report from this Unit since our arrival in the Arabian Peninsular last November, we feel it is time to send one prior to our departure to Malaya and Singapore.

On our arrival we were welcomed by the unfortunate members of the 11th Hussars Signal Troop, who had been left behind to finish their tours, and new friends were quickly made.

In this Command the Troop is split up into four main parts, including two main bodies, one of which is in Aden, the other Sharjah on the Persian Gulf. There are also Radio Technicians on their own with detachments on the Yemeni Border.

It did not take our new Troop long to settle down and soon Christmas was upon them. In February we welcomed Lance-Corporals Jones and Lewis, who came at the right time, for the Mad Season was upon us. What with Telecomms, vehicle and Aden inspections times were pretty hard but, as usual, we managed to survive with good results. Later in the month we said good luck to Corporal Anderson, who left us to go on his T.I course.

April brought us a few more successes in that, Corporal Westgate and Lance-Corporals Hall and Wilson passed their T.II course, as a result of which the latter two gained their second stripes. We also congratulate Corporal Smith on making Sergeant.

Corporal Gee, Signalmen Reilly and Carter on exercise in the Protectorate

In May we saw a new face, that of Foreman Waite, who replaced W.O.II Edge. Our last National Serviceman, Lance-Corporal Cox, also returned to the U.K. about the same time.

June brought the first Corps week-end in which the Troop took an active part, although without very much success.

August saw us start our preparations for handing over to the 9/12th Lancers. This entailed another lot of inspections. We welcomed Sergeant Parlett and all hope he has a good time out here in the next two years.

The Troop has done a good deal towards keeping the morale of the Regiment high. We run the Unit cinema in the evenings and W.O.II Edge and Corporal Gee built the Regimental radio station "Radio Crossbelts."

Over Radio Sharjah one could here our announcers Corporal Westgate and Lance-Corporal Taylor introducing programmes.

At the end of September the few lucky ones of us move with the Regiment to Malaya, but we leave most of the Troop behind with the 9/12th Lancers. We would like to wish them the best of luck with their new Unit and hope that those returning to the U.K. this winter do not find it too cold.

Have you placed a standing order for a copy of The Wire?
Why not do so now?

213 SQUADRON

Looking back over the period since our last contribution to THE WIRE makes one realise that our summer months here in Northern Ireland have been busy and that they have included some very creditable performances for which much credit is due. Not that it has been all work and no play: in a number of instances we have tried to combine business and pleasure and probably succeeded.

In an effort to avoid the well-known and well-worn unofficial axis North for 39 Brigade (Dundrod-Nutt's Corner-Antrim-Randalstown . . . a route card engraved on all our hearts), the Squadron looked instead in other directions for routine Exercises. Spreading away from Lisburn south and west into parts of Ulster previously unknown to many members of the Squadron, we discovered the delights (and sometimes the discomforts!) of the high Sperrin range, the Glenelly Valley and the lakes of Enniskillen. It is possibly difficult to appreciate to the fullest extent this picturesque scenery at five o'clock in the morning; eyes are blurred after a night on the set, and by the effort of filling in those things called radio logs! But to most of us these Exercises were an enjoyable experience.

Great effort was put into preparations for the Brigade and Command Rifle Meetings. A "short list" was produced from previous results during our week's shooting at Magilligan and the competition shoots were then practised almost daily at Ballykinlar or Divis ranges, under the guidance of S.S.M. Rankin. A great improvement was evident and practices at times revealed a very high standard, but which, unfortunately, like the Irish weather, was liable to severe fluctuation! We hence approached the meetings themselves with some trepidation, hoping that our true best would show itself on the days. This unfortunately was not so: and although we did not disgrace ourselves everyone felt that we could have done far better. The Squadron produced five of the six shots to represent Northern Ireland Command at the Corps shoot and congratulations to Corporals Hassall, Johnson, Rennie and Signalmen Raby and Hindson on having acquitted themselves so well. No words on shooting would be sufficient without mentioning our team of butt markers, who gave such excellent service and encouragement throughout the preparations.

It was after the Rifle Meetings that practice began for the Command Motor Rally. Second-Lieutenant Dixon took the team on a number of practice runs over the local countryside and the Mournes. The competition itself was a series of mishaps so far as the team were concerned: among them, Second-Lieutenant Dixon's champ overturned and he was taken to hospital, while Lance-Corporal Ellis and Driver Harkins, R.A.S.C., were lucky to escape with minor injuries. No sooner had Second-Lieutenant Dixon returned from hospital than he found himself taken in again with an injury to his eye; at present on sick leave, we wish him a speedy recovery.

A high-light of the summer was Exercise "Mickey Finn." This was an escape and evasion Exercise run on the same lines as "Red Biddy" the year previously, an Exercise described in "Soldier" Magazine. Organised by H.Q., 39 Infantry Brigade Group, it was a competitive Exercise open to teams of six from Units within the Brigade and it constituted a real test of the qualities of leadership, team spirit and physical fitness. In all, 27 teams from Brigade took part. The Squadron and "H.Q." Company, 39 Infantry Brigade Group, combined to produce one team. There were sufficient volunteers to produce more than one, but bearing in mind our communication commitments in helping to control the Exercise from Brigade H.Q. in the field at Toome Bridge, it was only possible to select six men from all those who underwent the preliminary training.

The team finally consisted of Corporal McAleenan (team leader), Lance-Corporals Pow and Ellis and Signalman McClure, together with Rifleman Willis and Guardsman Farrell, of "H.Q." Company. Their first requisite was to get really fit. Route marches and circuit training were most helpful in this respect, along with practice in shooting, map reading, swimming and canoeing in preparation for the various phases of the Exercise ahead.

Briefly, these phases took the following form. First of all, a specially designed shoot for SLR and Bren on Ballykinlar ranges, followed by a 35-mile route march to Derryadd on the southern shore of Lough Neagh. Teams, which went sent off at intervals, then rested before being transported across the Lough by fishing vessels to embark upon a navigation of the River Bann in two-man canoes. It was at this stage that the evasion aspect of the Exercise crept in, for although teams were obliged to canoe for 12 miles to Kilrea, they were then confronted with the choice of continuing their passage by canoe in neutral waters for a further 15 miles or of alighting at Kilrea into enemy territory, thus risking earlier capture in their attempts to reach safety across the imaginary border at Magilligan, on the North coast of Ulster, and another 25 miles away. Immediately having won through to Magilligan, teams were again required to fire the range practice. Teams could dress as they liked for the Exercise and each member was issued with a 24-hour pack before leaving Ballykinlar; teams were also divested of the burden of arms and webbing. Money could be taken, but was to be confiscated if found; there was also a ban on the use of public and pre-positioned transport. Teams were allowed to proceed when "captured," but marks were deducted.

After the Parade, The SSM shows his Warrant to the Station Commander, Group Captain T. J. Hanlon, CHE RAF, and to his family

SSM McKay receives his warrant. The Orderly is Sergeant K. De Lecq-Le Montais, *sans blaque*!

222 SQUADRON

Many reinforcements to this Squadron are posted to Bahrain, and so this month we devote our contribution largely to our Troop at that station.

Before we write of "B" Troop, we are proud to report that on 25th August, the Aden element of the Squadron paraded under the O.C., Major G. W. A. Stephenson, for the honour of delivering to the S.S.M., W.O.II A. Y. McKay, his Warrant as a Regular Warrant Officer of Her Majesty's Forces. In view of the heat, the simplicity of the ceremonial was matched only by its sincerity, but the O.C. found time to point out, in a brief address, that everyone in authority in the unit had begun his career at the very bottom of the ladder: there was a great opportunity in the Service today for everyone if his heart was really set on getting on.

The presentation over, we marched smartly in the direction of the "Gentlemen's Rest" (our well-known unit canteen) to wish the S.S.M. good luck in the traditional manner, at a reception attended by the families who had watched the parade. "The sort of parade that does us good," one thirsty lineman was said to have volunteered afterwards!

Now for some news about our most distant out-troop:

"B" Airfield Troop, with its Headquarters in Bahrain, was formed under the command of Captain P. B. Leonard towards the end of September, 1961. It assumed at the same time responsibility for Sharjah and Masirah, each Station having had an Air Formation representative for a long period prior to the formation of the new Troop. Before this time the Squadron had personnel in Kuwait and also two Signalmen attached to 255 Squadron in Bahrain. These two men did a considerable amount of temporary installations on the airfield. They were probably the first Air Formation Signalmen to serve in Bahrain since the 1939/45 war.

When the advance party of the Troop arrived in Bahrain, Cable and Wireless Ltd. were responsible for all the Royal Air Force line communications except the very temporary ones already mentioned. The first few weeks were spent liaising with Cable and Wireless in preparation for the eventual take over from them and attempting to secure working and living accommodation, not an easy task owing to the generally overcrowded conditions caused by the ebb and flow of manpower to and from Kuwait.

By the beginning of November, Troop H.Q., having reached a working strength, was ready to commence its proper tasks but the installation and maintenance was still the responsibility of Cable and Wireless Ltd., and so the principle work consisted of tracing the run of the underground cables and planning for the future.

From the beginning the Troop has been made very welcome by all ranks of the R.A.F. and was now showing a very keen interest in all the Station activities, particularly sports. Although the Troop could not field a full soccer team it soon had its representatives in the Station and Section teams. It also had its own basket and volley ball teams and managed to field a seven-a-side rugger team. By the end of the cool season it had been runners-up in a seven-a-side rugger knock-out competition and, in conjunction with an R.A.F. Signals unit, won the Inter-Section soccer knock-out competition. It had also been represented in an Inter-Command cross country match at Aden, and had two regular players in the Station rugger team. In spite of somewhat trying living and weather conditions during the early days and an almost total lack of 'off Station' entertainment the Troop had always been happy, and by now its morale was soaring. During this period it celebrated its first Christmas in Bahrain.

On 1st April this year Troop "H.Q." assumed responsibility for the installation and maintenance of the line communications for the R.A.F. at Bahrain and it had by now increased the strength of its detachments at Sharjah and Masirah. While a considerable amount of work was going on at these Stations a complete rehabilitation scheme was started in Bahrain. The first major task was to bring all underground cables up to Royal Signals standards, a reasonably easy job made more difficult by the fact that the cables appeared to have been laid by people with considerably more enthusiasm than knowledge. The number of crossed joints was enough to give the least imaginative cable jointer nightmares. The cables were aged, and there was water only a foot or so beneath the sand, and these hazards were sufficient to keep a party fully occupied throughout the summer. At the same time, out of a very small Troop, other parties were working on line records, rehabilitation of internal and external D.P.s, rewiring of extensions and buildings and routine faulting. It has been particularly noticeable at Bahrain that the R.A.F. are extremely mobile, moving from office to office in a manner which has disconcerted more than one lineman engaged on routine maintenance.

"B" Airfield Troop, now commanded by Captain S. W. Read, is approaching its first birthday and the majority of the original Troop has gone either to civilian life or service in other parts. But there is no doubt that those who are left and those to come will find plenty to do for a long time.

236 SQUADRON

The photograph shows the latest team from the Squadron to climb Kilimanjaro. From left to right are Corporal Morgan, Lance-Corporal Lightfoot, Corporal Jones, Captain Gurney, Corporal Morris, Captain Glydon, Lance-Corporal Perrement,

Safaris in East Africa still take pride of place in leave activities. They extend from a simple family trip to the coast, to a tough climb up Kilimanjaro, or from an exciting search for rare mountain gorilla on the Congo border to a pleasant afternoon drive among the giraffe and other animals near Nairobi. However, last month we were reminded of the wilderness of East Africa by an event which took place nearer home. One night the guard on duty at one of the gates at R.A.F., Eastleigh, just a few hundred yards from our barracks rooms, was frightened into his hut by two lions. He telephoned for help and an R.A.F. policeman came and drove the animals away by "charging" them in his Land Rover.

The Wives' Group has not had a mention in this column for a long time. There have been two events of special interest in the last few weeks. A barbecue, given by the members of the group for themselves and their husbands, outside the Mercury Club, was followed by dancing and was a great success. (The Twist Competition was won by Signalman Haresnape, who really went to wash up the glasses. A wives' .22 shooting club has started holding regular meetings, with a number of wives proving themselves better shots than their husbands.

The following senior N.C.O.s have joined the Squadron in the last few months. Sergeant R. Lehan, Sergeant W. Smith, Staff Sergeant T. G. Armstrong, Sergeant M. H. Webb.

The photograph shows the latest team from the Squadron to climb Kilimanjaro. From left to right are Corporal Morgan, Lance-Corporal Lightfoot, Corporal Jones, Captain Gurney, Corporal Morris, Captain Glydon, Lance-Corporal Perrement, Officer-Cadet MacCulloch, Lance-Corporal Duggan

245 SQUADRON

After an absence of some months, the Squadron has decided to net in again. We are reporting from a hot, dusty Benghazi, where we are plagued by many electricity and water cuts at all hours of day and night. As is usual here, a large amount of the free time is spent either asleep or on the beach.

At the moment we are in the grip of a succession of visits and inspections. The climax being that inspection of all inspections—the administrative! Considerable self help is slowly making the unit respectable.

Corporal Thompson is again in the desert, this being, in fact, his fourth trip. This time he has gone as radio operator to a R.M.A., Sandhurst, expedition to Khufra. We hope to include a report from him in our next news letter.

The Officer Commanding, Major J. B. Stewart, has returned to us after trips to U.K. and Cyprus, caused by his recent injury sustained while upholding the honour of the unit cricket team.

The cricket team is suffering from a lack of players, but certainly not from lack of keenness. We beat the British Military Mission to Libya in our annual match, and thus regained the Alsopps Cup.

The Squadron also received a visit from the Near East Works Study Team and were thoroughly "gone over." They spent several days with us and carried out many mysterious tests and asked awkward questions—leaving us none the wiser.

This month saw us bidding farewell to the last of our National Servicemen. Some of them have been retained and move on to Germany.

Well, that's really the end of our news, and until the next time we write, we wish all our comrades of the Corps serving in colder places, a little of our warmth.

248 GURKHA SQUADRON

248 Gurkha Squadron small arms team, winners of the Royal Signals (Singapore) 1962 meeting

Sitting, left to right: Signalmen Balbahadur and Manbahadur, Lance Corporal Padambahadur, Captain Motilal Thapa (Team Captain), Major A. A. Dacre, Corporal Motilal, Signalman Jasbahadur

The Squadron was invited to enter the Royal Signals Singapore Small Arms Meeting, 1962, on 7th, 8th and 9th of August.

Although the team produced no brilliant individual, the overall standard was high enough to win the trophy for the highest aggregate of the meeting, the Rifle Team Cup, the Team S.M.G. Cup and the Team Snap Cup. Corporal Motilal Thapa won the trophy for the best "Class B" shot (less than five years' service).

261 SQUADRON

The Squadron came into being on 16th July, 1962, on the disbandment of 20th Regiment, and the run down to the new establishment will soon be complete with the departure of the last of our National Servicemen. There have also been some new arrivals, whom we welcome, Staff Sergeant K. J. Crosbie,

Corporal L. T. Reeves, Lance Corporal D. H. Harrison, Lance Corporal A. R. Good, with Tennis Trophies

Sergeant G. Reynolds and Corporal A. E. Booker among them.

The Squadron has been heavily committed in sporting activities this summer. The swimming season included a one-mile sea swim at Akrotiri, in which Corporal Ellison finished among the leaders, and Major Priestley, Signalman Bonner, Signalman Haste, Corporal Smith and Signalman Smith completed the course further down the field. The Squadron was represented in the Western Area and Army Minor Units swimming championships, and in the Royal Signals Inter-Unit championship on August 30th. In the latter the Squadron team were equal with 259 Squadron behind 9th Regiment. Corporal Ellison did particularly well in the freestyle and backstroke, Signalman Bonner in the freestyle, and Ian Brewin, Major (T.O.T.) W. Brewin's son, at present on holiday in Cyprus, helped the Squadron to several points in the freestyle and backstroke.

The Royal Signals (Cyprus) tennis championships were a triumph for Lance-Corporal Harrison, who won the Singles, the Open Doubles with Lance-Corporal Good, and the Inter-Squadron Doubles with Corporal Reeves. Our photograph shows them with their trophies.

In the Royal Signals (Near East) shooting competition the Squadron team, led by Sergeant Morrill, did well in the falling plate competition, clearing the plates in fine style while other teams had seven or eight plates still standing.

We send our best wishes to Lieutenant and Mrs. I. Graham, who were married in Coventry on August 11th.

262 SQUADRON

It was in 1939 when General Wavell created the Middle East Command, that Royal Signals came into their own in this theatre.

In the twenty-three years that followed, the Corps representation changed from Troops to Squadrons and then to Regiments. Now with the imminent passing of 15th Regiment, the full cycle has been completed and we are back to Independent Squadrons.

262 Squadron is new. We are based at Dhekelia and will serve the new District Headquarters. Our responsibilities will be many and varied, from Signal Centre working to Radio Relay and field wireless. We are a mixed Squadron, having a W.R.A.C. element and local civilian telephone operators.

Our main Royal Signals trades are technicians, radio relay men, radio operators, and drivers, so if any of you wish an interesting three years, with responsibility and time for play, why not come and join us.

1 SIGNAL SQUADRON KING'S AFRICAN RIFLES

It is with genuine regret that we announce the retirement of Major (Q.M.) C. Rolls, who has taken his release in Nairobi to take up the post of Secretary of the Karen Country (Golf) Club, near Nairobi.

After a career reaching back to 1930 embracing postings to India, Cyprus, France and finally East Africa, Cyril Rolls will be sorely missed as a king of the Q.M.'s department in addition to his endless flow of stories. Also a thorough all-round sportsman, Major Rolls excelled at rugger, hockey, tennis and cricket, being more familiar latterly on the hockey field as a first-class umpire. With equal aptitude he now is playing golf and making his mark in East African golfing circles.

We should like to wish both him and his wife Betty every success in their new venture, knowing that we speak for what must be thousands of friends and acquaintances.

Our "Uhuru" specialist, Captain P. Alexander, has been hopping Uganda-wards with increasing regularity, neck-deep in preparations for their Independence Celebrations in October. Working in co-operation with the Director of Civil Aviation, the Squadron is providing a sort of bush telegraph (without drums) from Entebbe to various isolated bush airfields in Uganda, giving a sort of search-rescue-meteorological wireless net. Interesting!

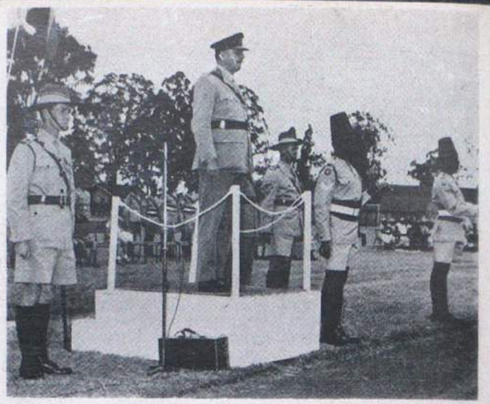
Major-General Dimoline, Colonel Commandant K.A.R., visited Buller Camp on the 13th August. This will be, regrettably his last visit in his official capacity as he relinquishes his appointment in July of next year.

The sun very kindly shone for an excellent parade on which W.O.II (S.S.M) C. Young was awarded his L.S. & G.C. Medal by The Colonel Commandant. After the parade followed the inevitable! The medal was well and truly wetted during which period Major-General Dimoline visited and partook of his wet. Thanks for the drink, Sergeant-Major, first this year.

Come rain or shine, the Signal Centre (sorry, Communication Centre) under the benevolent dictatorship of Major B. Toy, carries on the good work of 24 hour communication. With the main load of traffic received via printer and channelled through our two wireless nets we find our outlets a little snowed under towards evening, but we cope!

Renowned through East African Military circles, Sergeant-Major Young's gardens are a veritable picture, especially since the acquisition of a duck-pond and in the process of being built, a bird-bath. To quote Corporal P. Bunting of the Squadron Office Staff, "When's the christening?" He'll find out

Major-General W. A. Dimoline, C.B., C.M.G., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., presents the LS & GC Medal to W.O.II (SSM) C. Young. Major P. J. W. Stephens, OC I Signal Squadron KAR, is on his left



Major-General W. A. Dimoline, C.B., C.M.G., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., about to take the salute of the parade of I Signal Squadron KAR. 91 and 92 Companies KAR. Major P. J. W. Stephens of I Signal Squadron KAR is on the left

in about two days from now when he will be the central figure.

We old souls are walking past Sergeant "Paddy" McSorely's new hockey pitch with furtive mien in the hope that he doesn't spot us. We will, no doubt, be dragged in eventually to wheeze bronchially around the pitch to give him support while he scores the goals.

Cricket is in full swing with W.O.II G. Slater and Staff Sergeant (F.O.S.) A. Spurgin figuring in H.Q. East Africa Command, Army East Africa, and occasionally Combined Services sides.

The soccer team, manned 100 per cent. by A.O.R.s, is preparing for the fray. If keenness is anything to go by we should have a team of world beaters.

The Squadron had two competitors in both the Oxbridge Cup (Combined Oxford/Cambridge University team) and the East African Open Rifles meeting, the local Bisley. Staff Sergeant V. Purkis and Sergeant "Paddy" McSorely acquitted themselves extremely well but the standard was such of the eventual winners and in the overall standards of the meeting that they were not among the leaders although Sergeant McSorely came top of his class in the Snipers Cup.

Armed only with his pace-stick, S.S.M. C. Young (he's well figured this month) pushed off on safari to Victoria Falls, a distance of 1898 miles, which he completed in four and a half days, being held up en route for half a day with a burned-out valve. This is something of a feat as the roads covered are ninety per cent. murrum. After two days in the rest camp at Broken Hill Victoria Falls, he and his family tripped off up the Zambesi, stopping at night in the first convenient place. Briefly then, the route taken was Nairobi, Tanganyika border (Tunduma), Tunduma-Broken Hill, up the Zambesi to the Kariba Dam via Livingstone, Kariba to Kundolia Falls near Konona, on to Lake Manyara Reserve and thence to Amboseli Game Park and back to Nairobi. Puts Blackpool in the shade, doesn't it?. The only real scare was in Amboseli where, during the dark hours, animals could be heard rubbing against the car. Undeterred, taking out the aforementioned pace-stick, he valiantly went out to drive off the lions only to find two domestic cats!

In closing we should like to offer a warm welcome to the "Big Hat" brigade of Lieutenant Mullineaux from 210 Squadron, Staff Sergeant (F.O.S.) A. Spurgin from the School of Signals, and Sergeant "Jock" McEwan from C.A.F.S.O., H.Q. R.A.F. Germany. We hope that their stay will be a happy one.

We were sorry to bid adieu, in rapid succession to Staff Sergeant "Wally" Walker (F.O.S.) and Staff Sergeant K. Nichols. 'Bon Voyage' to them both.

INSURANCE

The Association is accredited Agent to a well-known Insurance Company and anyone who insures with this company on introduction of the Association benefits by a half-share in the Agents' Commission, the other half goes to Association Welfare. Further information from Royal Signals Association, 88, Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1.

SPORT

The Royal Signals (Cyprus) Central Rifle Meeting, 1962

Brigadier Honeybourne and Captain Hall

Who but a madman would choose to hold a rifle meeting in Cyprus in August? It cannot be denied that all shooters are slightly mad, but the answer is that authority, in its wisdom, decides to hold the Army in Cyprus Meeting early in September each year so, since we are not only mad but cunning, and range bookings are hard to get—we fix our meeting as close as possible to the Army one.

There must be something about Dhekelia Rifle Range that appeals—perhaps it is that there is not another full range in Cyprus? It certainly cannot be the heat, the dust devils, the granite-hard firing points, the hot surging wind which can drop from a 40 m.p.h. gale to zero in the course of one detail, or the non-existent permanent communications . . . All these drawbacks are compensated for by an ever-cheerful Cypriot range warden called Joe, who always produces the right targets at the right time, and by some miraculous means, always has available a store of cold drinks for dehydrated butt markers; and also another local character, Michael, in charge of the NAAFI Mobile Canteen, who appears like a genie with a fanfare on the horn, just managing to drive his canteen over the five-hundred yard point when you are firing at six-hundred. How does he get past the range sentry? Why bother to enquire—his meat pies are good, and everything stops for a can of cold lager beer.

The dedicated shooters assembled on the morning of the 14th, to devote the first morning to setting up and last-minute zeroing. No one is too worried on such days if the ammunition is late and someone has forgotten the drawing pins for the stats boards!

Sergeant G. E. Merrill of 261 Squadron was there with several new posers for the umpires, together with that professional young soldier Corporal J. Dark, late of 15th Regiment, and now, happily for them, translated to 9th Regiment. Someone felt that "he has been firing Class 'B' for the last six years," but doubting Thomases can be assured that unless his documents have been doctored he completes three years service on 7th October, 1962. He proved yet again his complete lack of competition nerves and collected a prize for rifle, S.M.C. and pistol.

Captain Danny Hall, a familiar figure for the past three years, is both the Unit Paymaster at 9th Regiment and their shooting

At rear: Majors C. Mitchell, J. L. McKellar, and I. Gram-Hanens
Front: Brigadier Honeybourne and Corporal Dark

The Score Board

Captain. This, his last year with the Regiment, must have given him great satisfaction because his team collected the Rifle Team Match Cup, the S.M.C. Team Match Cup and the Unit Small Arms Match Cup. A nice hat-trick. He and Sergeant S. E. Denton, the 9th Regiment R.E.M.E. Armourer, were 34 points ahead of the winning Royal Signals L.M.G. pair, but were quite happy to foregoe individual honours for team success.

W.O.II "Dixie" Dean didn't quite pull it off for Signals Branch this year, but his team were worthy runners-up in the S.M.C. Match and he collected an individual prize—as did Lance-Corporal R. W. Sawdon of the same Branch, with his bronze medal for pistol shooting.

The highlight of any meeting is always the falling plate match and this year was no exception. It was decided to limit the run-down to 50 yards, thinking that everyone would have had a surfeit of this particular shooting pleasure; but not a bit of it! A 50 yards dash is in favour of the old stagers, so the young and bold (Captain Bernard Hodgson in the van) were loud in their protests. One hundred yards it was, but 261 Squadron, led by that seasoned warrior Sergeant Merrill, swept the board. Ten plates down in 20 seconds and only 21 rounds expended, "a bumping pitch and a blinding light" (12.00 hours and 105°F. in the shade).

There was no doubt in any mind that the "Stats" were right on the ball, and in Captain "Jock" King's capable hands the butts really did their stuff. Major Ken Parsons last year's Secretary, will be glad to read that it was a most enjoyable meeting and that the only really serious argument was over

the merits and demerits of anklets (web) versus puttees (short)!

One word of sympathy for the unfortunate Bren pair who were disqualified. It happens to the best of us, and our eagle-eyed Fire Point Officer, Major Joe Waterworth, detected their cocked weapon during the run-down. It was a pity that this particular pair were well ahead on points when disaster struck. Better luck next time.

Brigadier C. T. Honeybourne, O.B.E., the Chief Signal Officer, presented the prizes. He must have been heartened by the enthusiasm shown by both competitors and range staff, because his short address was appropriate to the spirit of the meeting. Despite the run-down of Units and reduction of Regiments into Independent Squadrons, if Commanding Officers co-operate in successive years as they have done this year, Corps shooting in Cyprus will continue to thrive.

Cricket

ROYAL SIGNALS v. ROYAL ARMOURED CORPS
Played at the Oval on 7th September, 1962

R.A.C 223 for 9 declared (Lieutenant Harding 3 for 35), Royal Signals 101. Result: R.A.C. won by 122 runs.

Heavy rain prevented any play on the 6th September so that the match was reduced to a single innings game on the 7th.

Signals won the toss and put the R.A.C. into bat on a very wet wicket.

The R.A.C. openers batted comfortably and runs came at an even rate against the bowling of Harding and Walmsley. The latter's quick bowling gained little assistance from the wicket, and Wilkinson was soon brought on bowling leg breaks. With the score 51 he had Featherstonhaugh stumped by Cole.

Howard-Dobson then came in and was obviously intent on maintaining the good scoring rate. This he succeeded in doing, but wickets were falling due to steady bowling and fielding.

With the score 147 for 7 the back of the innings appeared broken. But Alexander and Lewis, finding that aggression paid off, put on 53 invaluable runs and the innings was eventually declared closed at 223 for 9.

Cole and Keech opened for the Signals with the weather now warm and sunny. The former was bowled with the score 11, but Crichlow came in to bat steadily, and the score mounted. However, at 46 Crichlow was bowled for 15, and from then on the innings collapsed due to good spin bowling by Hodgson and Sankey on a drying wicket. Only Walmsley, who scored 23, found any answer to the turning ball. Signals were finally all out for 101.

Army Beagles Association

The Army Beagles Association was formed on 4th May, 1961. Beagling is now a recognised Army Sport and details appear in "Games and Sports in the Army." All military packs are members and the object of the Association is to promote and encourage the sport in the Army. There are no financial arrangements, as the Association plans to work on a mutual self-help system.

The aims are as follows:

(a) To help and advise those wishing to start a pack of beagles in an Army Station.
(b) To effect a close connection between Army packs already in existence.
(c) To help and advise in cases where difficulties may arise.
(d) To encourage the breeding of a sound type of hunting beagle by Army packs.
(e) To ensure that close liaison is maintained with the Association of Masters of Harriers and Beagles, which is the recognised authority on hare hunting in the country.
(f) To maintain a roll of officers and other ranks capable of hunting hounds or having hunting experience.

Already the R.E. Beagles at Chatham have re-formed and are going well, and assistance has been given to other packs in a number of instances. It is to be hoped that the many advantages of being a recognised sport and the backing of a flourishing Association will encourage keen sportsmen to form more military packs. Should anyone wish for further information, their queries should be addressed to:

Major A. F. Mackain-Bremner, M.H.,
H.Q., School of Infantry,
Warminster, Wilts. (Tel. Warminster 3101, Ext. 13).

An annual meeting is held at the Aldershot Hound Show in May. There is a special military class of two couples of hounds from Army Hunts, which is always well supported and keen interest taken. All members of the Association look forward to seeing any Army Beaglers who will be able to come in May, 1963.

EDITOR'S NOTE: *Readers will be aware that the only pack managed by Royal Signals is the Pimpernel Beagles at 30th Regiment. Any serving officer or other rank who has management experience and wishes to be associated with this pack should notify the Regiment. It may then be possible for a posting to be arranged when a vacancy on the Regimental establishment is available.*

ROYAL SIGNALS GROUP, SINGAPORE
Shooting Report, 1962

Shooting, on a Corps basis, is very difficult in Singapore, because on this small island most events are on a unit basis.

Our one and only outing as a Corps was in the Royal Air Force Far East Meeting, held in May. The R.A.F. are extremely keen on shooting and hold a 10-day meeting for all R.A.F. in FARELF.

We were at a slight disadvantage firing at 600 yards with the S.L.R. versus their No. 4s. However, we came fifth out of twelve teams, the only Army team coming ahead of us being the R.E., who are very strong this year.

The team was:

Staff Sergeant Hammond Hayley Signalman Wan Sanpek	19th Regiment
Corporal Cunningham	249 Squadron
Major Hall	C.R. Signals
Sergeant Cole (Reserve)	18th Regiment

The Annual Corps Shoot was held on 7th, 8th and 9th August at Nee Soon. To give the Independent Squadrons an equal chance this year, the meeting was held on a Squadron basis, and the following nine teams took part:

H.Q., 1 and 2 Squadrons, 18th Regiment
H.Q., 1 and 2 Squadrons, 19th Regiment
237 Squadron (COMCAN)
248 (Gurkha) Squadron
249 Squadron (FARELF)

The weather was very kind, and the standard of shooting was reasonable, taking into consideration the amount of practice possible. Range allocations are few and far between out here.

The programme was the same as for the District Shoot, to be held in September, and both team and individual competitions were closely contested.

Brigadier R. H. E. Robinson, O.B.E., E.R.D., C.S.O., FARELF, presenting the champion shot prize to Staff Sergeant Hammond Hayley, 2 Squadron 19th Regiment

Royal Signals Corps Shoot Singapore 1st Team. 248 Gurkha Squadron

RESULTS

1st Team		248 (Gurkha) Squadron	1336
2nd Team		2 Squadron, 19th Regiment	1301
3rd Team		249 Squadron	1300
Champion Shot		Staff Sergeant Hammond Hayley	341
Runner-up		Major D. Hall	299
Third		Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Bradford	292
Champion A Class Shot		Staff Sergeant Hammond Hayley	216
Champion B Class Shot		Corporal Motilal Thapa	168
Champion M.O.R. Shot		Signalman Wan Saupek	187
1st S.M.G.		Staff Sergeant Hammond Hayley	125
1st L.M.G. Team		Major Hall/Sergeant Belcham, R.E.M.E.	
Falling Plate Cup		1 Squadron, 18th Regiment	

248 (Gurkha) Squadron also won the S.M.G. Cup, the Rifle Challenge Cup, and the Team Snap Cup.

Helped by contributions from the local tradesmen, the display of cups, tankards and trophies was worthy of a Corps Meeting. The prizes were presented by Brigadier R. H. E. Robinson, O.B.E., E.R.D., C.S.O., FARELF. We are told that 248 Squadron were still celebrating two days later!

On the final day, invited Corps Teams from the R.E., R.A O.C., R.E.M.E., and R.A.P.C. took part. The meeting was most enjoyable, mainly due to those unsung, hardworking heros, the officials, butt parties and administrative workers, who really put their backs into it. It was with great difficulty that Major Lane was persuaded, on his 21st run-down, that the firing point officer should not get to the firing point *before* the firers.

The District Meeting was held on 4th-7th September at Nee Soon. 18th and 19th Regiments entered for the Major Unit Competitions and 237 and 249 Squadrons for the Minor Units.

Captain Grayson who arrived just before the meeting, helped 237 Squadron to gain the first place among the Minor Units. Sad to relate though, no member of the Corps won through to the District 24, although both Major Hall (199) and Captain Grayson (198) were heard to say "just one more hit and I would have been in." The score required for "the 24" was 201.

We hope to do better next year when an all-out effort will be made to get a reasonable amount of practice in.

A.E.R. and T.A.

83rd REGIMENT, A.E.R.

For the majority of us camp started this year when we were "called up" on 14th July, 1962, and reported to our T.M.C. This "mobilisation sausage machine" was organised by the Depot concerned and it ran smoothly and well. It came as a surprise to many to find that a vast heap of paper is needed to get one man into the Army, but only one piece (ticket) is needed to get him out again!

Within 24 hours of arrival at our T.M.C., we were off again to Blandford, Dorset (with the exception of 409 Signal Park Squadron, which disappeared into the mysterious hinterland of Donnington, and which has never been heard of since—however, our scouts tell us that they had a wonderful time). From then on, under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Dick Mole, we swung into a fortnight's routine that has become familiar to us during the last nine years. The first week was devoted to individual training—with the range and a ceremonial parade to prevent any chance of monotony; the high spot of the second week was the exercise (during which, two Captains—who shall be nameless—excelled themselves as AN/TRC aerial-benders).

In general the weather was kind to us, except for the range and the exercise, when as usual, it rained. If we get good weather in future years for these events, we will suspect that something is wrong.

This year, we had the useful and unusual experience of sharing our camp with 57th Regiment, T.A. We made new friends and were able to learn about and appreciate each others problems. We don't know what they thought of us, but as far as we are concerned, we noted that they spent most of their time playing a fascinating game called "Sprats and Mackerels" which perhaps they will describe more fully in a WIRE contribution in the future.

The middle week-end was partly devoted to social activities, of course, and Bournemouth, Weymouth and places west, reaped the benefit of our presence. To many the Pavilion, Bournemouth, was a natural magnet, and doubtless, the effects of our presence there will be felt for some months to come. Others decided to develop their piscatorial aptitudes and spent a useful week-end of deep-sea fishing. One party of six officers achieved the magnificent total of one three-inch unidentifiable denizen of the deep, at a total cost of only £2/2/6 and twelve man-hours' labour.

This year we said *au revoir* to Captain (Q.M.) Rogers, who retires after 32 years of Regular and Reserve (but very active) service. The occasion was marked by the presentation of a suitable liquid container on the last day of camp. We wish him well and hope that he will at least visit us during future years. In his civil capacity, he continues his association with the Service; he is a Barrack Accountant and assures us that he is NOT paid out of soldiers' contributions in the form of barrack damages.

Not much has been said about our most important activity—the provision of communications when required. Sufficient to say, perhaps, that during the exercise "all systems were go" for most of the time, and when they were not go, we were able to learn from our mistakes; and after all, that is the object of it all.

We do not understand the rather serious young officer who told his wife that the object of his fortnight's camp was "to study the behaviour of malted fluids in open-ended containers." This subject has been fully investigated by many serious researchers and is fully documented.

44 (HOME COUNTIES) REGIMENT (CINQUE PORTS), T.A.

The Regiment this year carried out its annual Camp Training "over the border" in Cornwall, at Penhale, near Newquay, bringing together members of a Regiment which recruits from Dover to Chichester and north to the outskirts of London.

Under grey skies and among the sand dunes above Holywell Bay, the first week was occupied with trade training. The climax of this phase came on the Saturday morning with a Regimental Parade followed by a March Past, the salute being taken by the Honorary Colonel of the Regiment, Colonel Sir Henry d'Avigdor Goldsmid, Bart., D.S.O., M.C., T.D., D.L., J.P., M.C. Sir Henry presented Territorial Efficiency Medals to W.O.II G A. Stollery (Bognor), Staff Sergeant P. A. Tobutt (Canterbury), Sergeant P. A. Coles (Canterbury), and a Clasp to the Territorial Efficiency Medal to Staff Sergeant N. M. Nicholls (Canterbury).

A successful exercise in the second week put into practice much of the theory learnt in the previous week. Brigadier E. C. R. Blaker, O.B.E., C.S.O. Eastern Command, visited the Regiment during this period and spent a considerable time "in the field."

Major-General E. H. W. Grimshaw, C.B.E., D.S.O., spent the last Thursday of Camp with the Regiment, watching range firing at Millpool, near Bodmin, and later the Communication Races back at Penhale.

Turning to the social side, two well attended and enjoyable All Ranks Dances gave those with the energy, and inclination, the chance of "Twisting the night away."

Trips to the Lizard, Lands End, Boscastle and Tintagel gave many their first introduction to the magnificence of the Cornish coastline.

Officers were pleased to welcome at the Guest Night, Lieutenant-Colonel A. V. Brandle, M.B.E., a former C.R. Signals and now serving overseas. The Regiment is much indebted to Colonel Brandle for his gift of an altar frontal displaying the Regimental Badge.

One sad note, this was the last camp of the present C.R. Signals, Lieutenant-Colonel V. S. Gilliam, T.D., who shortly leaves the Regiment he has commanded for three years. He can be happy in the knowledge that the fifteen days in Cornwall under his leadership were a great success.

52nd (LOWLAND) REGIMENT (T.A.)

A most successful Annual Camp was held this year at Blandford in Dorset from 30th June to 14th July.

The first week was taken up with Squadron exercises of various kinds, but time was found to hold our usual sports afternoon, when Major Blake repeated his successes of previous years and once again won the 'Old Crocks Race' with all the speed and grace of an Ibbetson. Visits were paid in the evenings to Bournemouth, Weymouth, Poole and all parts South by a private bus service organised by 321 Squadron, under the able management of the company director, Corporal Harry McGhee.

Sergeant Dalzell, W.O.II Glover, Sergeant Agnew, Sergean Glenfield, after presentation of medals

The Commanding Officer's parade was held on Saturday, 7th July, when Long Service Medals were presented to Sergeants Glenfield, Agnew, Stanfield and Glover. Meritorious Service Certificates were awarded to S.S.M. Kelsey and S.S.M. Cairns. The W.R A.C. Long Service Medal was presented to Sergeant Dalziel, W.R.A.C., for eighteen years' continuous service. The first three days of the second week were spent on the Regimental "Three-day Exercise." Everyone buckled too, and practised all the lore learnt in the previous year's training. All went well and the troops succeeded in giving a very good account of themselves in all departments.

One point we would like to mention is the excellent "cuisine" enjoyed during camp. Until this camp we would not have believed that one factor could make such an impact on the success of exercise and training alike; the morale of the troops was constantly maintained at a high peak throughout the period of camp and they professed that this was the best two weeks training they had had for years. Our sincere thanks to the entire A.C.C. Staff at Blandford Camp.

Another aspect of this year's camp was associated with the local township of Blandford. The Regiment created an excellent impression on the population there who have stated that they would be delighted to have us back any time. Such was the feeling of cameraderie, in fact, that a local hostelry even issued an open invitation to members of the Regiment to return next year to spend a holiday, by courtesy of the management! Our Pipe Band were also popular guests wherever they went. They gave performances aided by the W.R A.C. country dance team in Blandford, Dorcester and Weymouth.

63rd REGIMENT, T.A.

The Regiment is spread over an area stretching from Southampton and Portsmouth in the South to Reading and Basingstoke in the North, with R.H.Q. at Salisbury in the middle. In command is Lieutenant-Colonel H. Shorter with Major K. Uttley as Training Major. Leading the Tribe of the Levites is Major J. Carr. (May his shadow never grow less.) The R.S.M. is W.O.I Houghney of ex-boy fame.

63rd Regiment is mixed, and the girls are "led" by Major Dawn Gibbs and Major Isobel Vaughan-Morgan (Senior W.R.A.C., T.A.).

Officers in Command 1, 2 and 3 Squadrons are, in that order, Major D. Gardener, Major E. Hutton and Captain A. Gollop.

1962 for the Regiment has meant C.D. Exercises and Camp. The exercises have been beneficial to all concerned, as mistakes were made by both Military and Civil Authorities. These errors are now well on the way to complete elimination.

Annual Camp took place in June at Barton Stacey, and opened with an exercise lasting the whole of the first week. This took place at Mob Locations and valuable experience was gained by the Regiment. It was apparent to all, that the personnel of the Regiment, who formed the "Out" stations, had a really good "Billet" attached to the Regular Units.

The second week consisted of "In Camp" activities. C.D. lectures, drill parades, competitions, and band practice for the Regimental W.R.A.C. Band. The week culminated in a Regimental Parade in honour of the Colonel-in-Chief, The Princess Royal. Credit is due to the W.R.A.C. Band for the very smart and proficient turn out on that occasion, as it is on all other parades. It is to their credit also, that there is now a waiting list for recruitment in the Band.

Since Camp, the Regimental activities have decreased, mainly due to the holiday season, but by the time these notes are in print, we shall have commenced "exercising" again.

The Regiment welcomes Major Pearson, who has arrived to take Major Uttley's place.

3 Squadron. Since Camp there has been very little to report. The major activities being Recruiting and Social. A display of Signals equipment was on view at the Southampton Show, and a topical item was the bouncing of B70 signals from a Met-Sonde balloon.

The Squadron held a very successful dance in August which was well attended by the members of the Regiment, and all reports were good.

The W.R.A.C. of this Squadron won the W.R.A.C. Drill Competition Cup, but this year it was the Southampton girls instead of the usual winners from the detachment at Portsmouth. Well done.

The Squadron also won the Men's Drill Cup—costly for the Squadron Commander, no doubt, if tradition is maintained.

Now that the holiday season is ending, it is hoped that the attendances will increase and the Training Programme comes into full effect. In this respect, 2 and 3 Squadrons are combining resources.

Careers and Opportunities

Radio Taxis Services, 1a, High Point, Highgate, London, N.6, have vacancies for Radio Operators. Shift hours. Wages from £12 to £14 per week, and more, according to experience.

Applications may be made to the firm direct, marking application for the attention of Mr. Gilmore, and mentioning Royal Signals Association.

Twickenham Golf Club, Twickenham, Middlesex.

Vacancy exists for Steward and Stewardess. Combined salary, £12 per week, plus free accommodation; flat consisting of one bedroom, sittingroom, kitchen and bathroom, free heating and lighting and all food. Man required to run bar. Wife to help make sandwiches and tea. Lunch for about six on Saturdays; open Sundays; one day off per week. No children.

Applications, in the first place, should be made direct to Royal Signals Association, 88, Eccleston Square, S.W.1.

Ministry of Defence, London, S.W.1.

Clerical Staff always required by the Ministry. Those with good educational background and past clerical experience. Application, in the first instance, to Royal Signals Association.

L. V. (Vic) Goodman and Arthur Atkinson

Ex-Sergeant G. R. Ient and wife

Pictures taken at Thirteenth Annual Dinner of the Aldershot Branch on 7th April

Royal Signals Association and Benevolent Fund

The following subscriptions were most gratefully received during August, 1962:

	£	s.	d.
24th Regiment (Warrant Officers and Sergeants)	1	5	6
24th Regiment (24 Unit Branch)	100	0	0
308 Squadron	5	0	0
M.E.S./S.R.D.E.	1	10	0
57th Regiment (Collection at Church Parade)	4	10	7
241 Squadron	6	0	0
58th Regiment (T.A.) (Proceeds of "At Home")	8	5	0
64th Regiment (T.A.), 3 Squadron	1	1	0
1st Regiment	44	14	9
205 Squadron	10	0	0
211 Squadron	5	0	0
257 Squadron	7	10	0
C.S.O., Far East Land Forces	2	0	0
228 Squadron (S.H.A.P.E.)	3	10	6
C.R. Signals, H.Q., Malta and Libya	6	3	0
234 Squadron	10	0	0
235 Squadron (COMCAN)	4	8	6
254 Squadron (Aden)	3	15	0
Chaplain's Branch, H.Q., B.A.O.R.	8	0	5
Mrs. Wall	6	10	0
The Portman Hunt Club	8	0	0
Regent Oil Company (Communications at Rally by 2 Squadron (41st Regiment, T.A.)	5	5	0
G. Kerridge	3	0	
J. Milburn	1	0	0
Major C. Robinson	1	0	6
Total Receipts	£254	12	9

Expenditure During August, 1962: (Includes Rent and Rates; Beds and Bedding; Furniture, Cots and Prams; General Assistance) £455 19 10

Analysis of Cases:

Widows and Dependants	3
Released and Discharged Soldiers	35
Total cases assisted	38

23 Cases of Soldiers who served during the 1939-1945 War	£366 17 5
15 Cases of Soldiers who did not serve during the War	£89 2 5

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 September, 1962. Also, on the same page, is a simple statement of income and expenditure.

SIGNALMAN, 1944-48. Paralysed from neck down as a result of accident in 1950. He is in the Star and Garter Home, Richmond, and the Fund made a grant to enable his parents to come from the North of England to visit him.

WIDOW OF CORPORAL, 1938-46, who died suddenly in 1961. One son aged 13, just starting at Nautical School. The Fund made a grant towards the cost of his uniform, and a most grateful letter was received from the widow.

SIGNALMAN, 1940-41. Married. Unable to work since 1953, owing to incurable disease. The Fund, in co-operation with the British Legion, made a grant to help him and his wife with essential clothing replacements.

SIGNALMAN, 1948-50, National Service. Disability pensioner. Off work since February with old injury incurred whilst serving. The Fund helped towards the cost of clothing for himself, wife and two children.

DRIVER, 1941-46. Married, one child. He has been ill for more than a year and unable to work. The Fund made a grant to help the family, and clothing has also been sent.

SIGNALMAN, 1949-51, National Service. Married, two children. He has a very serious disability which has prevented him from working since January, 1962. The Fund paid his gas account.

WIDOW OF DRIVER, 1940-46, who died 1957. One daughter, aged 11, just starting at Grammar School. The widow also looks after her invalid mother, aged 80. The Fund made a grant towards the cost of the child's school uniform.

Branch Officers Directory

ALDERSHOT BRANCH: A. V. Ient, Esq., 111, Gloucester Road, Aldershot. Tel. Aldershot 23658 (Home).

BLACKPOOL BRANCH: G. R. Shelton, Esq., 6, Gynn Avenue, Blackpool. Tel. Blackpool 151784 (Home).

BOURNEMOUTH BRANCH: S. J. Rouse, Esq., 125, Ensbury Park Road, Winton, Bournemouth. Tel. Winton 3709 (Home).

CATTERICK BRANCH: E. Close Esq., Rosedene, Hudswell, Richmond. Tel. Catterick Camp 2121, Ext. 165. (Business).

CHELTENHAM BRANCH: Major T. J. Wetherall, 308, Old Bath Road, Cheltenham. Tel. Cheltenham 53748 (Home). Tel. Cheltenham 55321, Ext. 4136 (Business).

EDINBURGH BRANCH: J. Wyllie Esq., 9, Piersfield Grove, E.8. Tel. Abbeyhill 1834 (Home). Tel. Edinburgh F.O.U. 1136 (Royal Signals Club).

HULL BRANCH: A. D. Drury, Esq., 76, Hayburn Avenue, National Avenue, Hull. Tel. Hull 41739 (Home).

LEEDS BRANCH: E. Speight, Esq., School House, Park Lane, Leeds, 3. (Treasurer, Captain Heptonstall). Tel. Leeds 24646.

LEICESTER: Captain F. E. Watson, The White House, Church Langton, Nr. Market Harborough. Tel. Leicester 23984/5 (Business).

LONDON (North) BRANCH: J. T. Murphy, Esq., 1, Marlborough Close, N.20. Tel. ENT 4336 (Home). Tel. WAN 5131 (Business).

NOTTINGHAM BRANCH: Captain J. B. France, 20, Ringwood Crescent, Woolaton Road, Nottingham. Tel. Derby 48531 (Business).

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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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☆

NOVEMBER • 1962

Vol. 16 *(New Series)* **No. 11**

Editorial

The Editor wishes to thank most sincerely all those who have made possible the publication of THE WIRE during the last fourteen years, including, of course, all those many thousands who pay to read it.

According to many, THE WIRE is now of as high standard as it has ever been. This is due, in the main, to those who contribute to it.

Contributors. The writers of 'Unit Notes,' a difficult and thankless task, are now mostly producing material which is of more than parochial interest. Those who write of their adventures in the course of duty or pleasure, and those who describe the sort of life they lead in foreign places are particularly good.

Finance. Alas, THE WIRE does not pay its way. It used to when the Corps was larger and the Editor exercised greater parsimony in production. All should be grateful to the farseeing members of the Central Committee of the Association, who have permitted the Editor to overspend by reasonably lavish production.

WELCOME

To the undermentioned Second-Lieutenants, on first commission in Royal Signals, who passed out of the Royal Military Academy in August, and after well-merited leave, are now at the School of Signals:

J. F. Storr	J. J. Ventham	G. W. Howard
P. L. Bye	D. W. Cook	B. Robinson
S. R. Carr-Smith	A. R. Bailey	W. Roper
R. A. Knox-Johnson	R. W. Stark	J. H. Lowe
A. M. Elliott	A. B. Grant	K. G. Turner
D. B. S. Yates	G. C. Saunders	I. S. Durrell

ENTERING R.M.A. SANDHURST

It would be appreciated if any serving or retired members of the Corps, of the Regular or Reserve Army, who have sons about to enter the R.M.A. Sandhurst, would notify this fact to the Senior Signal Officer on the staff there, at present Major J. M. W. Badcock, M.B.E.

There are many little ways in which boys can be helped and it is only right that we should "look after our own." It is not always possible, however, for the Staff on the spot to know who may be in this category unless this notification is given.

ARMY MOTOR CYCLE TRIALS

7th Regiment came third in the Team Championship, beating other Royal Signals teams. Sergeant K. M. Slaughter (7th) won the cup for the best Royal Signals Individual. A full account will be in the December number of THE WIRE.

MOVEMENT OF HEADQUARTER OFFICES

On 10th December, 1962

Headquarters Royal Signals — Extension 140
Royal Signals Institution — Extension 141
Royal Signals Association — Extension 143
move to
Cheltenham Terrace, Chelsea, London, S.W.3.

The telephone numbers noted against each are extensions on SLOane 3477.

Vale

MAJOR-GENERAL A. M. W. WHISTLER, C.B.E.

Michael Whistler was commissioned into Royal Signals in August, 1929, and did his initial training at the School of Signals as a member of 20 "Q" Course, and since 18, 19, 20 and 21 Courses overlapped, life was exciting at Catterick, with such other personalities as Tucker, Gambier, Ommanney and Hobson also there at one and the same time; it was no doubt a stimulating experience for the instructors!

He was subsequently posted to 2nd Divisional Signals in 1931, and after two years in Aldershot and London—4th Guards Brigade—set sail for India, where he was to serve through most of his formative years. During this important stage in the development of his career, horses, and all that goes with them, were his chief love and occupation, and in 1936/37 he attended the Equitation Course at Saugor, by which time he was not only an accomplished horseman, but also a very competent polo player. He was also a keen rider to hounds and, indeed, was Master of the Nerbudda Vale Hunt for three most successful years. He served in India until 1942, and by then he had risen, at a very early age, to command of Peshawar District/Landikotal Divisional Signals and then 25th Divisional Signals. This latter Regiment he formed from scratch, and took on active service until the middle of 1944 in the Arakan area of Burma, twice earning Mentions in Despatches.

Then it was back to the U.K. to attend a Staff College Course at Camberley, and this was really a turning point in his career, because after commanding 19th Divisional Signals in Burma and finishing the war as C.S.O., 12th Army, he broke away into a series of important staff appointments which undoubtedly helped him to develop on broader lines. In 1946 he was Deputy Controller of the Berlin Information Section (A.D.P.R., Berlin) and then, in 1947, he became M.A. to the Military Governor and C.-in-C. After a short tour as D.A.Q.M.G. of H.Q., 5 A.A. Group, he was promoted to become A.Q.M.G. in Q.3 in the War Office, where, again after a very short time, he had made his mark, and earned a nomination for the Joint Services Staff College, which he attended in 1949. On completion of this course he came back to the Corps once more, and for three years was C.R. Signals, 3rd Division, a post he filled with great distinction. It is also noteworthy that during this time he ran the polo in the Canal Zone and was put up to 5 handicap. His success led directly to his selection as G.S.O.1 Signals 5, and in this important appointment, which is really the focal point of the Directorate, his work was of the greatest importance, and seeds were sown which have perhaps led into the policies of today. From there he was selected for a Colonel's appointment on the staff, as A.Q.M.G. (Works) G.H.Q., Far East, but yet again, after another short tour he was promoted and appointed C.C.R. Signals 1 Corps in B.A.O.R. Here all his experience as a regimental officer, his knack of hitting on the nub of a problem, and his ability to get the best out of all his subordinates came very quickly to the fore, and the resounding success he made of it was recognised by his admission to the Order of the British Empire as a C.B.E. In September, 1960, he was again promoted, this time to Major-General, as the Signal Officer-in-Chief.

During his time in office he has roused the Corps, and introduced far-reaching policies, particularly where they affect the officers and men, which have already done much to raise morale and status. Never very orthodox, and a bit of a cavalier by nature (he was only put under arrest twice!), he has often referred to himself in this appointment as "poacher turned gamekeeper," and perhaps it is this refreshing attitude to life that has made him so successful. There is, too, another attribute that must not pass unmentioned, and that is his intensely human and friendly approach to all the problems that have faced him. The staff which served him in the War Office, in particular, would wish to bear witness to this, and his example to them, patience, good humour and the personal friendship extended to many will long be remembered.

The Corps is indeed sad that he has been moved on after only two years as Signal Officer-in-Chief, but all realise that his next appointment as Chairman of the B.J.C.E.B. and Director, Joint Signals Staff at The Ministry of Defence is one of the greatest importance, and it is clearly to the advantage of all that he has been so appointed. The Corps as a whole will wish to thank him for the lead he has given at this important time, to wish him every success in his new appointment, and to hope that his many friends will still see much of him and Michelette in the years to come in Corps circles.

As a tailpiece, perhaps his "profile," as produced by the American Staff for his visit to the U.S.A., might be mentioned. This stated that his hobbies were "fast horses, fast cars, fast women, slow fish"; he was an instant success over there as later events have proved.

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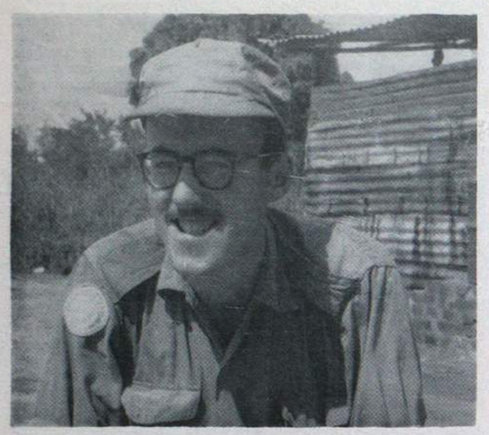
The United Nations Military Operation in Katanga

Part 1

By Signalman C. J. O'Connor, 24th Regiment



Signalman C. J. O'Connor in the uniform of the 35th Irish Battalion in Katanga

IN the month of June, 1960, the newspapers of the world were full of the usual news of rail disasters, H-Bomb Tests, etc., but also in June there appeared names in the World Press that had seldom appeared in it before. Names like Lumumba, Tshombe, Katanga, Balubas, etc. The Congo conflict had begun.

The Congo is a vast country (approximately 11 times the size of Great Britain). It is inhabited by a population of some 13½ millions, 600,000 of which are Europeans, mainly Belgian and a strong element of German. The main tribes of the Congo are the Baluba, Lulua and Konakat, and all are at some stage or another, at war with each other. The main port of supply in the Congo is the Port of Matadi, which lies in the basin of the Congo River. From there, most of the supplies for the towns and villages inland arrive here. Supplies for Katanga come across Lake Tanganyika from East Africa. All the major cities and towns have their own airports. There are six provinces in the Congo, Leopoldville, Kasai, Kivu, Katanga, Orientale and Equateur, all of which are linked by one railway track, which was operated before the trouble by the C.F.L. (Congo Freight Line). This is the sole inland transport system. Of all the provinces in the Congo, Katanga is by far the richest and its inhabitants have the highest standard of living. Katanga is very rich in uranium, iron ore, silver and especially copper. The copper that comes from Katanga is from the famous copper-belt, which also runs through Northern Rhodesia.

But there was a growing restlessness amongst the coloured population. Around them other African nations were gaining their freedom and independence. Finally, the Belgian government gave the Congolese their independence, in June, 1960. It was a tragic mistake. For such a vast country, there were only 13 people capable of governing the country—13 Congolese university students. Independence Day was met by such savagery and blood-spilling that will long be remembered by the European population of the Congo.

At this stage, the Belgian Government were after withdrawing the Belgian Army, but, seeing the turn events were taking, sent back its Army to protect the half-million Europeans that were still left in the Congo. The Belgian Army returned to the large cities and towns in each province where there were still Belgian civilians remaining. In Katanga, when the civilians had pulled out of North Katanga (area occupied by hostile Baluba tribe) and into Elisabethville, the Belgian troops occupied the giant airbase at Kamina, approximately 150 miles north-west of Elisabethville. The situation at this stage was very quiet in Katanga.

In Leopoldville at this time, when the harassed Congo Premier, Mr. Patrice Lumumba, burdened by the news of Katanga's secession, and knowing full well what it meant to the rest of the Congo, economically, now heard of the news of the return of the Belgian Army, accused Belgium of invading the Congo, and brought the case before the United Nations in New York. He sought U.N. military aid to bring peace to this now shattered country. There now existed in bush areas and jungle areas of the Congo, tribal war and famine, and in the cities, coloured troops ran amok through the streets, shooting, looting, raping European women and, worst of all, burning down one-time Belgian factories which this new nation now so badly needed. Complete chaos existed, no communications, no public services, no food supplies coming in, and no air or rail links anywhere. And so, in June, 1960, U.N.E.F. (United Nations Emergency Force) was formed.

The Coming of the "Blue Helmets"

The first U.N. Troops landed in the latter end of June, 1960. They were Swedish Troops, which were flown in from the Gaza Strip. They spent the first night at Leopoldville Airport and then they occupied a deserted Belgian Army Camp, Camp Martini, on the outskirts of Leopoldville. There were 650 Swedish Troops in all. They wore the Blue Helmets of the United Nations, with armbands on each arm, one denoting the fact they were U.N. troops and the other denoting their own nationality.

More and more U.N. troops began to arrive. The 32nd Irish Battalion arrived, spent a few days in Leopoldville and were then airlifted to the province of Kivu. Irish, Indian, Ghanaian, Nigerian, Moroccan, Tunisian, Swedish and Mali Federation troops began to arrive day by day. All U.N. troops were troops from countries that were not a major world power and did not possess colonies in Africa. U.N. set up its Supreme Headquarters in Leopoldville and Provincial Headquarters in each Province. The Blue Helmets had arrived, and by the end of July, 1960, there were over 14,000 U.N. troops in the Congo, in all provinces except Katanga, where the Belgian Army still remained.

Finally the U.N. decided to send its troops into Katanga to protect the Baluba tribe, that was being slowly exterminated by Tshombe's Belgian-led army. There were roughly 1,000,000 Balubas in Katanga, mostly in North Katanga, and they were pro-Lumumba. Therefore, Tshombe's Katanga was split in two halves. His army garrisoned Kongolo and Albertville in the North of Katanga, and also Kamina, Jadotville, Elisabethville and Shinkolobwe in the South. There was an area of Katanga, from Albertville in the North to Kamina in the South, that was occupied by the pro-Lumumba tribe. This area that the Balubas occupied was approximately 350 miles wide and 280 miles long. In July and August, 1960, Tshombe started the merciless slaughter of this tribe in order to open up Central Katanga once more. Baluba towns and villages were bombed and strafed by Katangan air force jets. Katangan troops moved into Baluba country, burning villages and killing the tribesmen.

Mali Federation troops were the first U.N. troops to arrive in this area. They occupied the Central Katangan mining town of Manono, where lived the political leader of the Baluba tribe in North Katanga, Mr. Andre Shabani. The next U.N. troops to arrive in Katanga, were troops of the 33rd Irish Battalion of the 9th Irish Brigade. The Battalion was over 700 strong. By the end of August, 1960, U.N. troops in Katanga numbered a little over 3,000 men. A small number of troops indeed to try and bring peace to a province the size of Katanga.

33rd Irish Battalion

This Battalion occupied an area probably twice the size of Yorkshire. Imagine this headache for the Battalion Commander. And, to make matters worse, the area that the Battalion was in was occupied by over 300,000 Baluba tribesmen who were not very friendly to U.N. Troops at that time. The work done by this Battalion was simply marvellous. "B" Company occupied the mining town of Manono. This Company replaced the Mali Federation contingent here. In this area the natives depended on giant copper mines for their very existence. The mines were not working, as the European mining technicians had withdrawn to the comparative safety of Elisabethville. Trouble was brewing in the area, and it finally exploded on 13th September, 1960. The natives in the area advanced on the town and attacked the police station, massacring the police and setting the station on fire. They then set off to destroy the town itself, and between them and their objective stood only 150 Irish troops. The Commander of the Irish Company and the local Baluba political chief, Mr. Andre Shabani, managed to quieten the natives. They did not burn the town, although they succeeded in burning the local Belgian Territorial Administration building. There were over 100 Europeans in Manono on that day, and, thanks to the Irish troops, not one of them was injured, although they were the main target for the Belgian-hunting Baluba warriors. Thus the day was saved by the Irish Company.

The Massacre at Niemba

September and October, 1960, saw more and more U.N. troops arrive in the Congo; two more Battalions were sent into Katanga; a Moroccan Battalion and an Ethiopian Battalion. The Moroccans reinforced the Irish Company at Manono and the Ethiopians occupied the towns of Kabalo and Kongolo. Kamina Base was now occupied by Swedish and Indians, plus the 32nd Irish Battalion that had arrived from Kivu Province. The U.N. pattern now became evident all over the Congo. First there was Supreme Headquarters in Leopoldville, then the capital city of each province possessed its own U.N. headquarters, e.g., Katanga (U.N. H.Q., Elisabethville), Kivu (U.N. H.Q., Goma), Orientale (U.N. H.Q., Stanleyville), etc. In Katanga, the Military Commander at this time was Colonel Henry Byrne (Ireland). His title was S.C.E.P. (Supreme Commander, Eastern Province). His H.Q., in Elisabethville, was manned by Swedish and Irish personnel. His communications were looked after by the Royal Canadian Signals Corps. Thus, at this stage, September/October, 1960, the situation in Katanga was very quiet.

Then, in November, 1960, there occurred an incident which shocked the world. The ambush and massacre of the Irish troops at Niemba. Nine Irish soldiers were killed and their bodies horribly mutilated. A routine patrol, composed of eleven men, they patrolled a stretch of road between Albertville and Niemba, a distance of some 70 miles. At a point on the road outside the Baluba village of Niemba, they were suddenly attacked by a horde of over 200 screaming Baluba warriors. They formed a tight circle around the two vehicles they had been travelling in and fought bravely back against those tremendous odds. They could not drive forwards or backwards as the Balubas had now dragged large tree trunks across the road. Bravely they fought until there were only three men left, and they pulled into the bush. One of the men, a married man, Private Thomas Kenny, was wounded twice in the back by arrows, fell on the ground and was being slowly clubbed to death. One of the other men, Private Anthony Browne, came running back through the bush, firing his S.M.G. at the tribesmen in an attempt to draw them off the now almost unconscious Private Kenny. He succeeded in doing so, as they now turned their attention on him. They closed in on him and when his magazine emptied, overpowered him and dragged him away alive. He was never seen again. Kenny lived to tell of this man's supreme bravery. For this action, Private A. Browne was posthumously awarded the highest military honour his country could give him, The Military Medal for Gallantry.

* * *

Parts two and three will continue in December and January.

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Obituaries

THE LATE COLONEL F. R. G. FORSYTH, M.C., D.L.

This well known soldier and sportsman died in a London hospital on 3rd September, 1962, at the age of 80. He was unmarried. His personality was well summed up by a relative in Scotland who wrote, "He was indeed a great character, and, although in later years he was rather a trial, he will best be remembered for all the fun and amusement he gave in his earlier years."

The family came from Warwickshire, and he was a son of the late Colonel F. A. Forsyth of the 5th Fusiliers. He was educated at Wellington College, and at the end of the last century ran away from home to join the Yeomanry for service in the South African War. Soon after the South African War he was commissioned in the 5th Fusiliers, his father's Regiment, but transferred to the Seaforth Highlanders in 1908, and saw service on the North West Frontier. He was then a very enthusiastic gentleman jockey, and won many races which accounted for his nickname to many, "The Chaser." Later he transferred to the 4th Royal Irish Dragoon Guards, and served in France during the 1914-1918 War. He was severely wounded at Ypres, and was awarded the Military Cross. He was also a Brigade Signal Officer at Gallipoli and was an A.D.C. to General Sir Colin Mackenzie, K.C.B., as well as holding many other confidential posts, including King's Messenger in the Secret Service.

In 1920 he came to Aberdeen, as Captain/Brevet Major, the Adjutant of the then 51st (Highland) Signal Company, R.E., which later became the 51st (Highland) Divisional Signals T.A. He instituted the Regimental Military Band and later the Regimental Pipes and Drums and the wearing of the Grant tartan.

From 1925 to 1928 he commanded 51st Signals, and during this period was appointed to be a Deputy Lieutenant of the County of the City of Aberdeen. Many will have heard Colonel Forsyth's tales of his fishing, and shooting, ocean racing with the *Sirius*, and of his continued zeal as a golfer where "James the Niblick" was always in evidence. He was a member of the Royal Aberdeen Golf Club and a Vice-Commodore of the Royal Torbay Yacht Club, Torquay. The Royal Humane Society honoured him with the award of their medal for life saving.

In 1939 Colonel Forsyth was recalled for service, first to Records, and later in various other posts in the United Kingdom.

In 1939 he was appointed Honorary Colonel of the newly formed 9th Divisional Signals T.A., which later became the 51st after the events at St. Valéry-en-Caux. He continued to hold the post of Honorary Colonel of the 51st (Highland) Divisional Signals T.A. till 1947.

Colonel Forsyth had many friends and was of a very philosophical disposition. He had two favourite quotations which were produced on many occasions. The first: "That a little nonsense now and then is relished by the wisest men"; and another, "Trusting that others will be to our virtues ever kind, and to our faults a little blind."

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL B. HOUGHTON BROWN, T.D.

He served in 56th City of London Signals T.A. for a considerable number of years before 1939. A member of Standard Telephones and Cables Limited, his work was mainly for their factory at Woolwich as an engineer concerned mainly with the installation of telephone systems. He commanded a Section of 56th out-stationed in Woolwich, and in 1957 was promoted to command the Artillery Company of that Unit.

In that year his Company was employed in an unusual role during their annual training as they provided the Signal Office and Staff for the Directors of a very large Army manoeuvre in which one Division opposed another. The directing Staff Headquarters was in the Barracks at Bedford.

In 1939 when City of London Signals produced a second Line Unit it also provided the nucleus in what was originally London District Signal Troop which by 1941 was London District Signals commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel B. Houghton Brown. A long article and many pictures in THE WIRE, February, 1941, recaptures a visit to London District Signals by the Colonel-in-Chief, H.R.H. Princess Royal, and interestingly also contains an article reprinted from *Motor Cycling* which inter alia asked trained motor cyclists to serve as Despatch Riders. The role of London District Signals, apart from manning all the military telephone switchboards in London, included the maintenance of wireless communications at all strategic points, this being aided by use of carrier pigeons. A very major requirement, however, was for Despatch Riders carrying amongst other things secret documents between members of the Cabinet. A fairly large number of casualties were incurred, particularly amongst the Despatch Riders while London was under bombardment.

He died on 5th October, 1962.

Recommended Reading

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THE WELFARE SECTION URGENTLY REQUIRES CLOTHING— MEN'S WOMEN'S AND CHILDREN'S

A Tribute

The late Lieutenant Colonel G. J. Morley Peel, M.B.E., T.D., and those who served in 1st Anti-Aircraft Divisional Signals T.A., before and during the 1939-43 war.

BY BRIGADIER G. C. WICKINS, C.B., C.B.E., T.D., D.L.

It is with deep regret that I read of the death of Colonel George John Morley Peel, M.B.E., T.D. Words are so inadequate to express feelings at such times. Memories of years of Territorial Service come crowding back. Morley, as he was known to many, worked with us in an endeavour to uphold the need for defence, believing in the motto of the Territorial Army, "Defence not Defiance."

He served in the Royal Flying Corps in the "Great War."

I met him in the early days of the interim war period when he joined the London Army Troops R.E. Territorial Force, reformed as the 3rd (London) Corps Signal Company T.A., and again re-formed as Anti-Aircraft Signals T.A. under the late Colonel M. W. Emley, O.B.E., T.D. When Colonel H. Carter, T.D., took command, Peel and I were Company Commanders.

As the international tension grew, the problem of Air Defence became increasingly important. Experiments were carried out by A.A. Signals in conjunction with the Army Air Defence Establishment and the Post Office. Eventually, when I was commanding the Unit, it was again re-formed as the 1st Anti-Aircraft Divisional Signals T.A. with Peel as Second-in-Command and Major A. Hemsley—later Lieutenant-Colonel A. Hemsley, M.B.E., T.D.—as a Company Commander.

The Unit was embodied at Munich and deployed over the wide area of the 1st A.A. Division. It should be emphasised that the T.A. Units during the interim war period were kept alive by the loyalty and enthusiasm of their personnel. The wonderful response to the immediate call-up of the whole Unit at Munich was something which anyone concerned will never forget. After Munich, Peel commanded the Unit and later the A.A. Signals of the 5th A.A. Division which covered S.E. England and Southern East Anglia. He maintained his contacts with T.A. Signals after the war. I hope this summary of his Army Service will indicate the extent to which he served his country throughout the anxious years of both world wars and the interim war period, including Munich.

Keenly interested in sports, he organised the Unit sports at our many T.A. camps. He was a skilled amateur actor.

He was a Freeman of the City of London and formerly of the Sun Insurance. He took a great interest in the Royal Masonic Institute for Boys and Girls and was a Past Grand Deacon of England.

Wanted

Will any Unit with stocks of unsold stable belts of the old obsolete pattern please contact P.R.I., 1 Signal Squadron (Command), The King's African Rifles, B.F.P.O. 10, who is interested in buying up stock.

The Eagle Book of Britain's Fighting Services

What a perfectly splendid book this is. Despite the fact that it is written "with the full co-operation of the Admiralty, the War Office and the Air Ministry," there isn't a dull page in it.

Being an "Eagle Book," it is obviously intended to be read by boys and their sisters, but there are very numerous old boys who will delight in it.

Copies (chained to a table) should be available in every Army Information Office, or equivalent in the other Services. A combined recruiting fund might well pay for a copy to be in every college and school library. It is the best buy, at 15/-, seen for a very long time. Published by Long Acre Press Ltd., 161/166, Fleet Street, London, E.C.4.

* * *

Since this review was written the author and compiler of the volume has been revealed as Major R. G. Blackman, who served Royal Signals for twenty-two years, 1939-1961. His last three Units were in order: Signal Training Centre, Far East, 14th Army Signal Regiment, and lastly and very happily, 'Training Major' in 43rd Wessex Signal Regiment, T.A. He is now a P.R.O. in the War Office.

The Wings of Pegasus

The Story of the Glider Pilots

BY BRIGADIER G. CHATTERTON D.S.O.

It is a remarkable achievement to have virtually created a new Arm of the Service, the Glider Pilot Regiment, to have formed it, trained it, expanded it, fought in it in several major battles and many small engagements and to finally disband it (very nearly).

Chatterton, by upbringing and temperament, was well suited to this task, and very well he did it.

His history is most interesting. If criticism were desirable, it could be said there is not enough of Chatterton, too many of the individual accounts by individual Staff Sergeant or Sergeant Pilots of their own experience in an operation. As schoolboy stories of heroism—excellent, but they do not really add much to Chatterton's objective account of the fighting which could well have been expanded.

From small beginnings, the Regiment imbued with as fine an *Espirit de Corps* as could be provided by Warrant Officers of the Household Brigade, accomplished rather more than could have been reasonably expected of it.

Chatterton had some advantages. A Regular Officer in the R.A.F. in the 1930s, his contemporaries were the Air Commodores and Air Vice Marshals of the 1940s, and friendship with those in high office much eased his burden.

He pays due tribute to Lieutenant-General F. A. M. Browning, K.C.V.O., K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O., who was the "Father" of Airborne Forces; but in the main, it was Chatterton versus the rest, in his successful efforts to get the right type of soldier-cum airman, and even more difficult, to get suitable machines for them to pilot.

That he succeeded is the measure of a great Commanding Officer.

MacDonald & Co. Publications Ltd., 2, Palmer Street, London, W.1., have given us a most excellent book, with very many good pictures and illustrations. Price 30/-.

Farewell Dinner to Brigadier Firth

The Dinner to mark the retirement of the General Secretary, Brigadier H. R. Firth, will be held in the Victory Hall, Victory Club, 73, Seymour Street, London, W.2, on Saturday, 8th December, 1962. The reception will be at 7 p.m. for 7.30 dinner, after which there will be dancing to music of the Corps Band.

The cost of tickets is £1 each, and applications should be made as soon as possible to the Dinner Committee Secretary, Miss M. Archer, 163, Westbourne Grove, London, W.11.

Royal Signals Amateur Radio Society

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PERSONAL COLUMN

London Gazette

From 11th September, 1962, to 5th October, 1962

Major-General A. M. W. Whistler, C.B.E., relinquished his appointment as Signal Officer-in-Chief, 13th September, 1962.

Brigadier F. J. Swainson, O.B.E., appointed Signal Officer-in-Chief, 13th September, 1962, granted temporary rank Major-General.

Lieutenant-Colonel A. P. Johnson, A.M.I.E.E., retired 15th September, 1962.

Captain W. D. Roche to T.A.R.O., 13th July, 1962.

Lieutenant M. F. Julien from T.A. to A.E.R., 1st August, 1962.

Lieutenant M. A. D. Fluendy to be Captain (T.A.), 7th August, 1962.

Second-Lieutenant W. R. Paton to be Lieutenant (T.A.), 30th June, 1962.

Second-Lieutenant S. S. Bowen to be Lieutenant (T.A.), 25th January, 1962.

Lieutenant P. Wardle to T.A.R.O., 3rd July, 1962.

Lieutenant C. F. Hinton to T.A.R.O., 31st July, 1962.

Brigadier D. White retired 28th September, 1962.

Major J. G. Melsom retired 21st August, 1962.

The undermentioned Officer Cadets to be Second-Lieutenants (S.S.C.), 28th July, 1962:

H. J. Des Forges
R. J. G. M. Romford
R. C. F. Holmwood
A. K. Wright

Lieutenant (T.O.T.) G. B. Miles to be Captain (T.O.T.) (S.S.C.), 7th September, 1962.

Lieutenant A. Muggoch to be Captain, 17th January, 1961 (T.A.).

W.O.II E. Phillips to be Lieutenant (Tfc. Offr.) 24th August, 1962 (T.A.).

Captain R. T. Clark to T.A.R.O., 4th June, 1962.

Captain J. E. T. Ray to T.A.R.O., 31st August, 1962.

Major E. A. Knott retired, 1st October, 1962.

Major B. W. Beale relinquished S.S.C., 1st October, 1962.

Colonel The Viscount Malden, T.D., appointed Honorary Colonel, 47th Regiment (Middlesex Yeomanry) T.A., 28th August, 1962, vice Major-General C.M.F. White, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O.

Captain J. E. Dunton (T.A.) retired 3rd October, 1962.

Second-Lieutenant R. Dorrell to be Lieutenant, 4th October, 1962.

Second-Lieutenant M. G. Vokes to be Lieutenant (T.A.), 30th September, 1962.

Lieutenant S. J. Lockett to be Captain, 8th October, 1962.

Second-Lieutenant T. B. Scarff to be Lieutenant (S.S.C.), 6th September, 1962.

Captain M. A. D. Fluendy to T.A.R.O., 8th August, 1962.

Movements—Officers

(Period 15th October—15th November, 1962)

Lieutenant-Colonel (T/Col.) F. P. Johnson, O.B.E.	... ...	To 11th Regiment (H.S.) for retirement
Lieutenant-Colonel F. G. G. Rapsey	,,	H.Q., A.F.M.E.D.
Lieutenant-Colonel G. Peat	... ... ,,	24th Regiment
Lieutenant-Colonel R. E. D. Mathews	,,	11th Regiment (H.S.) for retirement
Lieutenant-Colonel (Q.M.) L. Teal	... ,,	14th Regiment
Lieutenant-Colonel J. C. Clinch	... ,,	17th (Gurkha) Regiment
Major A. R. B. B. Dale, M.B.E.	... ,,	233 Squadron
Major J. C. Waller	... ... ,,	H.Q., COMCAN
Major J. H. Pearce	... ... ,,	Ministry of Defence
Major D. M. Humphries	... ... ,,	11th Regiment (H.S.)
Major J. P. Harrison	... ... ,,	24th Regiment
Major T. I. Ronald	... ... ,,	H.Q., Eastern Command
Major H. Rothwell	... ... ,,	2nd Regiment
Major E. W. Barrett	... ... ,,	Air Ministry
Major G. F. Lowe	... ... ,,	H.Q., East Africa Command
Major A. A. G. Anderson	... ... ,,	253 Squadron
Major E. M. T. Crump	... ... ,,	Nigeria Armed Forces
Major P. J. C. Lloyd	... ... ,,	H.Q., Army Works Study
Major J. A. Cleland	... ... ,,	G.H.Q., FARELF
Major T. H. Hesketh	... ... ,,	H.Q., Eastern Command
Major J. E. Taylor	... ... ,,	Canada (Exchange Tour)
Captain P. H. Massie	... ... ,,	Australia (Exchange Tour)
Captain C. B. Mercer	... ... ,,	632 Troop
Captain J. R. Roberts	... ... ,,	Army Air Corps Centre
Captain M. W. Simms-Reeve	... ... ,,	11th Regiment
Captain J. Smith	... ... ,,	63rd Regiment (T.A.)
Captain M. S. Jarrett	... ... ,,	R.M.C.S. (Course)
Captain G. W. Gittins	... ... ,,	R.M.C.S. (Course)
Captain D. A. Davies	... ... ,,	R.M.C.S. (Course)
Captain C. J. Gilbert	... ... ,,	R.M.C.S. (Course)
Captain R. A. Cemm	... ... ,,	Army Air Corps Centre (Course)
Lieutenant M. Allan	... ... ,,	633 Troop
Lieutenant M. R. Adams	... ... ,,	Junior Leaders Regiment
Lieutenant R. B. Ingram	... ... ,,	11th Regiment
Lieutenant N. A. Vandyck	... ... ,,	A.A.S., Harrogate
Lieutenant M. J. McCann	... ... ,,	228 Squadron
Lieutenant J. M. Scott	... ... ,,	11th Regiment
Lieutenant R. F. Maynard	... ... ,,	11th Regiment
Major (Q.M.) R. Hodgson	... ... ,,	H.Q., A.E.R.
Captain (Q.M.) K. B. Ulrich, M.B.E.	,,	11th Regiment for completion of S.S.C.
Lieutenant (Q.M.) D. M. B. Shields	,,	242 Squadron
Captain (Tfc. Offr.) S. J. Wyatt	... ,,	24th Regiment
Captain (Tfc. Offr.) A. J. E. Cheshire	,,	225 Squadron

Movements — Warrant Officers and Sergeants, November, 1962.

W.O.I E. H. W. Keay	... ...	To 11th Regiment
W.O.I F. Stockdale	... ...	,, 65th Regiment (T.A.)
W.O.I E. J. Ford	... ...	,, 43rd Regiment (T.A.)
W.O.II R. Adams	... ...	,, 14th Regiment (1 Squadron)
W.O.II J. E. Snell	... ...	,, 222 Squadron
W.O.II R. Johnstone	... ...	,, A.A.S., Harrogate
W.O.II P. D. Molony	... ...	,, 11th Regiment
W.O.II J. A. Rose	... ...	,, 8th Regiment
W.O.II T. J. Licence	... ...	,, 24th Regiment
W.O.II J. R. Woodvine	... ...	,, 14th Regiment (1 Squadron)
W.O.II J. A. Peck	... ...	,, 30th Regiment
W.O.II G. K. Rothwell	... ...	,, H.Q., Southern Command
Staff Sergeant J. Cooper	... ...	,, A.A.S., Harrogate
Staff Sergeant J. Galbraith	... ...	,, 22nd Regiment
Staff Sergeant J. Carrington	... ...	,, 5th Regiment, R.A. Troop
Staff Sergeant P. G. Thwaite	... ...	,, 224 Squadron
Staff Sergeant W. E. Payne	... ...	,, 8th Regiment
Staff Sergeant K. Nichols	... ...	,, 8th Regiment
Staff Sergeant J. A. Morris	... ...	,, 24th Regiment
Staff Sergeant E. P. D. Howe	... ...	,, 21st Regiment
Staff Sergeant T. F. Jackson	... ...	,, C.V.D., Ashchurch
Sergeant C. D. Matzen	... ...	,, 4th Regiment
Sergeant J. P. Jewell	... ...	,, 4th Regiment
Sergeant D. A. Newell	... ...	,, 11th Regiment (2 Squadron)
Sergeant A. G. Evans	... ...	,, School of Artillery
Seregant S. G. Jasper	... ...	,, 43rd Regiment (T.A.)
Sergeant W. Clemson	... ...	,, 239 Squadron
Sergeant W. G. Ayres	... ...	,, 22 Corps Engineer Regt. Troop
Sergeant E. S. Storie	... ...	,, 1st Regiment
Sergeant F. J. Loveday	... ...	,, Mons Officer Cadet School
Sergeant N. Wilby	... ...	,, 22nd Regiment
Sergeant C. C. King	... ...	,, 24th Regiment
Sergeant J. H. Goodman	... ...	,, 24th Regiment
Sergeant B. E. Dyer	... ...	,, 16th Regiment
Sergeant M. R. Wright	... ...	,, 228 Squadron
Sergeant L. H. Van Boeckel	... ...	,, School of Signals
Sergeant E. Parker	... ...	,, 8th Regiment
Sergeant J. Jackson	... ...	,, A.A.S., Harrogate
Sergeant B. Holder	... ...	,, A.A.S., Harrogate
Sergeant W. Coxon	... ...	,, 1st Regiment
Sergeant S. Tearse	... ...	,, 13th Regiment
Sergeant P. Johnson	... ...	,, 7th Regiment
Sergeant B. Law	... ...	,, 605 Troop
Sergeant S. H. Boxall	... ...	,, 235 Squadron
Sergeant R. A. Peake	... ...	,, 18th Regiment
Sergeant M. A. C. Read	... ...	,, Junior Leaders Regiment
Sergeant W. Maskill	... ...	,, 7th Regiment
Sergeant T. H. Hassett	... ...	,, 11th Regiment
Sergeant R. Morris	... ...	,, 252 Squadron
Sergeant J. Perry	... ...	,, 14th Regiment (1 Squadron)
Sergeant J. F. Sanderson	... ...	,, 238 Squadron
Sergeant P. J. Milne	... ...	,, 21st Regiment
Sergeant S. Brown	... ...	,, 242 Squadron
Acting Sergeant W. Moreland	... ...	,, 24th Regiment

CORRIGENDA

It is regretted that through error in the October WIRE, W.O.II R. A. Rankin was shown as W.O.I.

Births

HUMPHRIES.—To Corporal and Mrs. J. M. Humphries, on 4th September, 1962, a daughter, Kim Louise, at B.M.H., Hostert .

COLES.—To Corporal and Mrs. B. Coles, on 4th September, 1962, a daughter, Patricia Dawn, at B.M.H., Hostert.

HARRISON.—To Corporal and Mrs. A. Harrison, on 10th September, 1962, a daughter, Yvonne, at B.M.H., Hostert.

ROWLETT.—To Corporal and Mrs. M. D. Rowlett, on 9th September, 1962, a son, Leigh Mervyn, at B.M.H., Hostert.

RIDLEY.—To Lance-Corporal and Mrs. R. F. C. Ridley, on 23rd September, 1962, a daughter, Selina Ann, at B.M.H., Hostert.

WEIR.—To Staff Sergeant and Mrs. Weir, on 12th September, 1962, a daughter, at Girvan, Ayrshire, Scotland.

Marriages

INGLEDOW—WICKHAM.—Major J. W. Ingledow, on 17th August, 1962, to Miss M. A. Wickham, at St. Nicholas' Church, Linton, Kent.

DENNIES—SINGH.—Corporal A. W. Dennies, on 16th August, 1962, to Miss Mahadi Singh, at Register Office, Nottingham.

SOAMESON (R.E.M.E.).—Craftsman and Mrs. Soameson were married at St. Benedict's Church, Ealing, Middlesex, on 15th, September, 1962.

Deaths

HOUGHTON-BROWN.—Lieutenant-Colonel B. Houghton-Brown, T.D., died 5th October, 1962.

HOWELL.—On 29th September, 1962, at B.A.O.R., Signalman J. Howell, 23696348, 22nd Regiment; as a result of a traffic accident.

WILSON.—On 30th September, 1962, at B.A.O.R., Signalman A. C. W. Wilson, 23707551, 4th Regiment; as a result of a traffic accident.

BOWLER.—On 27th September, 1962, at B.A.O.R., Corporal M. G. J. Bowler, 23683633, 4th Regiment, as a result of an accident whilst taking part in an exercise. He was a life member.

PLATTS.—On 1st October, 1962, Dawn Lesley Platts, daughter of Signalman and Mrs. Platts, died at Tidworth Military Hospital, of natural causes.

Promotions

The following promotions were authorised up to the end of September, 1962:

Chief Clerks Roster

				New Sen. No.	Old Sen. No.
To W.O.II	14203628	S Sgt.	Edge, F. P. J.	660	610
To S Sgt.	22265193	Sgt.	Beasley, E. A.	910	1110
	22541687	Sgt.	Ellen, D. G.	920	1190
	22289417	Sgt.	Paterson, D. C.	930	1020

Administrative Roster

To Sgt.	22837531	Cpl.	Winton, P. A.	2470	2510
	22222070	Cpl.	Jeannette, G. H.	2480	2700

Technical Roster

To W.O.II	2549599	S Sgt.	Tombs, D. I.	610	370

Foreman of Signals Roster

To W.O.I	2549597	W.O.II	Hazel, D.	600	740
	2549473	W.O.II	Davis, W. G.	610	760
To W.O.II	22762504	S Sgt.	Boulter, R. C.	1120	1210
	22296112	S Sgt.	Willis, G. D.	1130	1080

Operating Roster

To Sgt.	22771408	A/Sgt.	Williams, A.	10080	14034
	22522181	Cpl.	Cox, R. W.	10090	14322
	23239221	Cpl.	Kirk, W. J.	10100	14500
	22515179	Cpl.	Loach, D.	10110	14530
	22845314	A/Sgt.	Breese, R. C.	10120	14640
	22509365	A/Sgt.	Barton, J. E. C.	10130	14780
	22828995	Cpl.	Wilson, F. J.	10140	2160
	22537484	Cpl.	Orton, K. J.	10150	3570
	22776194	A/Sgt.	Carr, J.	10160	4450
	22475129	Cpl.	Loud, T. E.	10170	4504
	22774748	A/Sgt.	Speight, C.	10180	15760
	22540724	Cpl.	Heavey, P. K.	10190	1072
	22296845	Cpl.	Pritchard, C.	10200	12640
	22515851	Cpl.	Griffiths, K. W.	10210	14590
	22515698	Cpl.	Mortimore, R. F.E.	10220	14880

Signal Centre Supervisors Roster

To W.O.I	22242510	A/W.O.I	Loudoun, G. E.	380	510
To W.O.II	22265389	S Sgt.	MacLeod, W. G.	1200	254

Regimental Duty Roster

To S Sgt.	2549730	Sgt.	Mann, E. J.	6960	3970 (Op.)
	22523200	Sgt.	Tearse, S.	6970	480 (Fd.)
	22538634	A/S Sgt.	Thomas, A. J.	6980	470 (Fd.)
	22563481	A/S Sgt.	Harvey, W. J.	6990	490 (Fd.)
	22470179	Sgt.	Leitch, A.	7000	3900 (Op.)
	22582367	Sgt.	Horne, J.	7010	4040 (Op.)
	14069002	Sgt.	Morris, R. O.	7020	420 (Fd.)
	22788792	Sgt.	Appleby, J. B.	7030	3850 (Op.)
	22522841	Sgt.	Elliott, R.	7040	3360 (Op.)
	21005086	Sgt.	Richardson, N.	7050	3880 (Op.)

Field Roster

To Sgt.	22265654	A/Sgt.	Thomas, B. A.	3440	2800
	22845309	A/Sgt.	Wallace, W. G.	3450	3230
	22537395	Cpl.	Cutler, B. W.	3460	590
	21005083	Cpl.	Sidey, F. R.	3470	1420
	22845293	Cpl.	Hacker, J. R.	3480	1680
	22970307	Cpl.	Thorburn, C.	3490	3490

INSERTIONS

Yeoman of Signals Roster

To W.O.I	2549469	W.O.I	Budden, W. F.	60
To W.O.II	19037714	W.O.II	Finister, R.	20
	2548646	W.O.II	Clark, J. N.	120
	2547742	W.O.II	Oakley, G.	160
	2548067	W.O.II	Drugan, J.	170
	2548937	W.O.II	Smithard, R. E.	250
	2549570	W.O.II	Weir, W.	270
	14453145	W.O.II	Davies, A. J. D.	300
	2549264	W.O.II	Ewens, R. M.	430
	19036979	W.O.II	Gubler, G. I. D.	440
	22471168	W.O.II	Francis, J. D.	450
	2549278	W.O.II	Leggett, C. W. J.	550
	2547737	W.O.II	Dixon, P. V.	650
	2547295	W.O.II	Reed, D.	600
To S Sgt.	2549024	S Sgt.	Alborough, D. H. A.	300

DELETIONS

Chief Clerks Roster

W.O.II	370	500

Administrative Roster

Sgt.	1860

Technical Roster

Sgt.	2480	2280

Foreman of Signals Roster

S Sgt.	780

Signal Centre Supervisors Roster

W.O.I	280				
W.O.II	200	700	740	750	780
	800	820	1090	1100	1150
S Sgt.	630				

Operating Roster

Sgts.	16	7710	1560	1750	10070

Regimental Duty Roster

W.O.II	3450	4020		
S Sgt.	790	2200	6270	

Field Roster

Sgt.	50	190	300	16	2290

OTHER DELETIONS

1488393 W.O.I Lombard, W. C., 160 Commissioned Lieut. Traffic Officer, 30th July, 1962.

2328387 W.O.I Taylor, L. J. (R. Duty) 570 Commissioned Lieut. (Q.M.), 26th September, 1962.

Forthcoming Events

4th Indian Air Formation Signals Officers' Reunion

The Sixteenth Annual Officers' Reunion Dinner will take place at the Dominions Hotel, Lancaster Gate, London, W.2, at 7.30 p.m., on Saturday, 17th November.

8th Board Meeting Royal Signals Association Trustee Limited

will be held on 30th November, 1962.

10th Annual General Meeting of the Royal Signals Institution

will be held at the War Office on 30th November, 1962.

Royal Signals Officers' Reunion

will be held at the Duke of York's Headquarters on 30th November, 1962.

Annual T.A./A.E.R. Royal Signals Officers' "At Home," 1962

will be held at Hyde Park Hotel on 1st December, 1962.

BAND ENGAGEMENTS

Nov. 18th	... ...	Middlesborough

Royal Signals Rugby Football Club Fixtures, 1962/3

24th Nov.	... ...	Cambridge LX Club—Cambridge
5th Dec.	... ...	Royal Artillery—Catterick
2nd March	... ...	Oxford Greyhounds—Oxford
20th March	... ...	Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst —Camberley

Royal Signals Hockey Club Fixtures, 1962/63

28th November	... ...	Durham University—Catterick
12th February	... ...	R.A.—Woolwich
13th February	... ...	R.M.C.S.—Aldershot
14th February	... ...	Aldershot Services—Aldershot
20th March	... ...	Welbeck College—Welbeck
12th-15th April	... ...	Scarborough Hockey Festival—Scarborough

CORPS CRESTED ASH TRAY

Available from Royal Signals Association.

Plain glass, 4½in. square, Corps Crest, in gold.

Price 4s. 6d., including postage.

Suitable especially for souvenir gifts and for personal use.

S.S.A.F.A. Conference 1962

Major-General Sir W. Ronald C. Penney, K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O., M.C., who is a member of the Council of S.S.A.F.A. and in another capacity Honorary Treasurer of the Berkshire Division of S.S.A.F.A., just before the opening of the S.S.A.F.A. Conference 1962. He is discussing with Brigadier H. R. Firth the affairs of the Royal Signals Trustee Association Limited. (The discussion was quite amicable)

Despite the Railway Strike the Annual Conference of S.S.A.F.A. on 2nd/3rd October, 1962, attracted nearly as many delegates as usual, including Lieutenant-Colonel V. C. Holland, O.B.E. (Retired Royal Signals), County Secretary of Derbyshire, and, as observers, the Welfare Section Royal Signals Association.

The matters discussed included difficulties of unaccompanied wives returning from overseas and obtaining their allowance books *and* of all things, the necessity to increase compulsory allotments in proportion to increase in basic pay. The observer was not alone in feeling that failure to do this was a gross reflection on the thinking of those in the Service ministries who are responsible for such things.

A Commandant of one of the Family Hostels asked for S.S.A.F.A. support in appealing to soldiers of families so provided for to make reasonable provision for them. It has always been a cardinal point of policy of Royal Signals Association that a first call on a soldiers salary exactly as if he were a civilian is to provide for his family. If through the exigencies of the Service this has to be in hostel, not house, seems to make little difference.

The Conference again drew attention to the failure to provide sufficient married quarters. If soldiers are to be permitted to marry young and draw marriage allowance it follows that there is a commonsense obligation to provide quarters. The Army Information Offices tend to hold out the bait of "Married Quarters" to the aspirant for enlistment with all too frequently subsequent disillusionment and frustration.

Illuminating talks were given about the Probation Service and by a representative of the Marriage Guidance Council.

All in all, as is customary, perhaps the best work of the Conference was done outside it by meetings of old friends all with different experience in the same theme.

No. 2 STAFF SERGEANTS COURSE, FARELF

On the morning of the 14th July, 1962, several woebegone faces could be seen gathered around a particular violent species of S.S.M. of the Alfred model. These were the fifteen senior N.C.O.s of the Corps in the Far East, who had been bullied, coaxed or detailed to attend this course under the banner of Signal Training Centre (Far East).

With two weeks gone, Staff Sergeant Bramhall and Sergeants Jones and Sanderson had left us due to either postings, or the whims of the M.O., and there were twelve little nigger boys left to sweat it out.

M. of I. was survived, despite the concoction that Staff Souter had us make and eat, and which he would have us believe was a genuine prawn cocktail. Immediately after his lesson Sergeant Bell proceeded to show us the innards of Mrs. Crippen laid out on a plate . . . or was it before? I can't really remember. Perhaps it was Mrs. Crippen that tasted awful!

On we plodded, through subject after subject, with varying successes, losing our voices on the Square during the day and finding them again in the bottom of a mug of beer at night, until the day the initiative test arrived. This was a test to see if you had achieved the required standard for classification as a Class One Ferret, and would stand you in good stead if you were contemplating a job as a professional snooper on Demob. Unfortunately it was only possible to make it last for a day, but in that short space of time Sergeants Hydon and Whitbread

No. 2 STAFF SERGEANTS COURSE, F.A.R.E.L.F

(*Back row*) : Sergeants. Harris, Flowers

Centre row (*standing*) : Staff Sergeants Souter, Clark, Sergeants Haydon, Devey, Smith, Staff Seargeant McPhail, Sergeant Whitbread

Front row (*seated*) : Sergeants Binding, Walker, Major D. Prince, Colonel A. F. Freeman, M.C., Commander R. Signals, Captain H. Nealon, W.O.II (S.S.M.) A. Alfred, Sergeant Bell

managed to travel 110 miles and eventually end up in a school of deportment. They then qualified as models and were given their diplomas by the principal of the Academy. When performing on the square the following day instead of the usual "head up, chin in, quick march," the following was overheard, "Hips back, pelvis out, that's right, dear, now just sway across the room." Other highlights worth a mention are Sergeants Smith and Walker who interviewed a famous Malayan film star, and Staff Sergeants Souter and McPhall who landed up in Changi Jail.

The course ended on the 21st September and a huge carousal was held in the Dolphin Restaurant in Orchard Road. The Commander Royal Signals was the guest of honour and after an excellent dinner he distributed his favourite smoke, genuine(?) Burmese cigars. The effect of these cigars was such that we feel future courses could greatly benefit from some instruction during the N.B.C. and First Aid lectures.

The party was concluded in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess where S.S.M. Alfred gave a marathon repertoire of stories that would make Max Miller look like a novice in a nunnery.

Mooring Facilities for Yachts

An attempt is being made to establish a national pool of information which will be available to any organisation interested in providing more moorings and more facilities for yachtsmen in the United Kingdom.

Will any yacht owner please contact the Honorary Secretary, The Royal Signals Yacht Club, 88, Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1, who will send a simple questionnaire for answering.

VACANCIES IN GOVERNMENT SERVICE

A number of vacancies, offering good career prospects, exist for :—

Cypher Operators
Teleprinter Operators } Male and Female

Write, giving details of education, qualifications and experience, to:—

Personnel Officer, G.C.H.Q. (CO/6),
Foreign Office,
53, Clarence Street, Cheltenham, Glos.

2nd REGIMENT

For the interest of all past members of 2nd Regiment, we reproduce a photograph of the new silver piece purchased from Officers Mess and Corps funds. It depicts an impressionist Royal Signals 'Jimmy' (silver Mercury with gold wings, helmet and caduceus) looking forward and striving ahead in association with the Second Division (Crossed Keys base in silver) and in the setting of a river obstacle in BAOR (silver river and marble hills).

3rd Regiment

As usual, the forlorn cry for help went up on Part I Orders: "Troops will submit WIRE notes to R.H.Q. by 11th October." Not as usual, the result has been fantastic. Suddenly everybody seems to want to get into print. Such things as the brief, but startling information that Corporal Bloggins of "X" Troop has had a baby, can no longer guarantee a mention. By the way, congratulations to Corporal and Mrs. Frape, of "Oscar" Troop on their new arrival, Kevin in September.

Last month you heard that Radio Relay Troop were doing a K.A.P.E.—here is their report.

Three weeks in London, "Keeping the Army in the Public Eye," gave the majority of the Troop a welcome change of scenery recently. Particularly Signalman Gembles, who, returning to his billet in the small hours of the morning, pulled a chain in the "small room" and a water cistern fell on his head; he spent the rest of the night in hospital.

Since their return, the Troop has been hard at it with the Griffin series of exercises.

3 Squadron produced a combined effort this month.

Owing to the heavy commitments on exercises the Squadron has not been in camp for very long periods. M.T. Troop, who have been particularly busy, have this week been given a short break and sent to the Channel Islands for the week-end to an exercise with the T.A. We all hope they enjoy themselves. The Squadron wish to congratulate Sergeant Dunn on being selected for the county rugby team.

1 Squadron did much better, with two entries: Notes on the D11 (we think from the Yeoman, W.O.II Gubler) and a complete short story from Air Support Troop!

First the DII:

At the beginning of September, the Regiment received the first three of nine D11 stations to arrive, and we were one of the very first units to be issued with D11s for operational use.

The next problem was to select crews for these stations and for someone to teach them. W.O.II (Y. of S.) Gubler was hastily rushed off to 30th Regiment to find out as much as he could from the experts, and at the time of writing, after three weeks of solid training, much progress has been made.

The operators were rather taken aback the first time they were faced with the numerous switches and the size of the equipment, but we are confidently mastering the situation and such phrases as "SSB Upper," "Remote the Printer," "Check my modulation" or "What shift do you want?" do not now bring amusing answers or blank stares.

The facilities available are tremendous, especially an FSK Duplex circuit, clearing traffic at approximately 133 words per minute, compared to one of our average morse nets plodding away at 14s. Teleprinter speeds are being quickly improved from day to day, and all the information we had tucked away on tape relay procedure has suddenly come to the forefront.

A successful three-day test was carried out, working into the COMCAN network, and we are indeed grateful to 14th Regiment for the assistance and advice given.

The aim is now for constant practice and to communicate further afield to discover the limits. We are very pleased with the D11, and if we are called "Soldiers of the 60's," then the D11/R230 is entitled to be called the "Equipment of the 60's," or, perhaps, the "Operator's Dream."

Air Support Troop

Airfield Detachment on Exercise "Soft Putty"

On the morning of 30th July, at 09.30 hours, we took off by Britannia for Greece, from R.A.F., Lyneham. I think everyone was looking forward to our arrival in Greece at this point, purely for some sunshine, after a dismal summer in England.

Our journey was very comfortable, and we were well looked after by the R.A.F. I might mention at this point that we had been joined by an officer who was to become our attached O.C., Captain Lennard, of 216 Squadron; this made our detachment up to 12, which included one officer, one sergeant, three corporals, one lance-corporal and six signalmen. We arrived at Larisa after five hours flying and left the aircraft to walk into a very hot afternoon.

Having collected our kit, we boarded vehicles of the Greek Army and, in convoy with five others, started a two-hour journey to Volnos. This was H.Q., Parachute Brigade, for our stay in Greece. We were not in Volnos, but across the bay in the tented lines of 216 Squadron. I would like to say that the camp was well sited with the sea a few hundred yards away, and very inviting it looked, after our journey. The next few days were spent in unpacking our freight, which had already arrived, and swimming.

On 5th August we "upped sticks," taking our tents and freight and moved to Larisa to H.Q. 28 (HTA) Hellenic Air Force, where we set up three C11-R210 stations, to take part in a Parachute Brigade exercise called "Quicksilver." We were working in close harmony with the Greek Army Signals during this exercise. We simulated our GLO and TAC links by working back to Volnos, as there was no carrier to work to. It was very successful and we had good results from our links both on T.G. and voice on the lower frequencies. The exercise was marred only by one of our cookers going "dis" on us, but our radio technician, Corporal Page was soon busy with soldering, etc. (He kept saying it would have to go to "M" Troop). We got it going again.

I would like to mention that it was on this first exercise that we discovered that there was to be a definite language barrier on the Greek-manned links, so henceforth we helped man some of their nets, also we tried endfed aerials with very good results. "Quicksilver" ended and we packed up and moved back to Volnos and pay parade.

On 12th September, Captain Lennard ran a training exercise for the Greek operators at Larisa, using us to pass traffic with a view to familiarising them for the major exercise at the end of the month.

Monday, the 17th, saw us again packing up and moving to Larisa for Exercise "Trojan Horse." It went off well, but it

AIR SUPPORT TROOP
The Troop en route to an exercise at Larisa
(On vehicle) : Corporal J. Ronney. *(Standing)* : Signalman M. Davidson, Lance-Corporal M. Halstead, Signalman G. Graham, Corporal G. Page, Captain P. B. Leonard (216 Paratroop Squadron), Sergeant M. D. McMahon. *(Standing)* : Corporal C. Pritchard and Signalman T. Vallier kneeling

was very hot at Larisa and we had our first casualty, Signalman Vallier, who went down with a slight dose of heat exhaustion. We spent an extra day at Larisa, owing to the fact that the transport sent for us could not find our location.

21st September was a 48-hour stand-down, and most of the men went to Athens. We had arrived back too late from Larisa, so we missed out. Some of us went swimming to a lovely spot about 45 kms. away. Corporals Pritchard and Page went hiking along the coast, beachcombing, and had to show at the end of their long walk two rather dilapidated walking sticks. After a good rest, we returned to work in preparation for the major exercise, Exercise "Fall Trap." Monday, 24th September, we "upped sticks" again and moved to Larisa, where the J.O.C. and A.S.O.C. had been set up. We were soon hard at work setting up our camp and remoting receivers, etc. On the morning of the 26th, at 04.00 hours, we opened up on the GLO and TAC to the Carriers *Hermes* and *Centaur*, and communications were established. I do not think anyone at the time knew what was in store for us the following day. It started to rain slightly at about 18.00 hours, by 23.00 hours it was a complete sheet of rain, and our location started to flood. Two of our masts collapsed and the other two leant over at precarious angles. By midnight it was decided to vacate our tents for the shelter of a Greek Air Force lecture room; so while half of us started transferring soaking bedding, clothes and food, etc., the other half maintained communications and aerials (which just would not stay up) we solved the problem by lashing the masts to small trees and fences. We then put up endfeds as standby aerials. The transmitter "bashar" had long since become a complete washout, with the transmitters covered with hessian and groundsheets, they worked merrily away while the rain poured down on them. The driest of the night were Corporals Ronney and Halstead, who sat quite happily through the lot at the other end of the remote lines, on shift, high and dry in the ASOC area, little knowing that the transmitter and everything was afloat—even the transmitter aerials at times!

Next morning showed a dismal picture—everyone either in drawers "dracula" (underpants) or swimming trunks. We spent the rest of the exercise in the lecture room drying out on shift and moving our floating transmitters (still working) into the lecture room, much to the bewilderment of the Greek Soldiers. By this time they had obviously decided that we were all quite mad.

During the next couple of days everything ran smoothly. Air Support on this exercise did well by providing not only their own two R.N. links but three others. Between ten operators this meant continual operating and aerial erecting.

AIR SUPPORT TROOP
Sunbathing in Volnos Northern Greece

Flight from Bulford

2 Squadron have also done well with the Radio Relay Troop classic already mentioned and the highlights of a trip to Cyprus from Sergeant-Major S. A. G. Hulse:—

The ambition of every soldier in this Regiment is 'To get away from Bulford.' Early in September the O.C. called me into his office and said, "Would you like to fly to Cyprus, you will be gone for about 14 days?" Thinking immediately of Jets and sleek hostesses, I accepted. Reluctantly, of course.

Came 05.45 hours, 24th September, 1962, and I was on my way to Middle Wallop and a meeting with a 'Beaver' and a Signals type (Captain K. A. C. Wilson) as a crew captain. Before I had recovered my senses I was strapped in, doors closed and we were airborne.

From then on we pushed gently on at 120 at about 7,000-8,000 feet, stopping at Lyons and Nice. We went down low over St. Tropez, but the beaches were bare. Arriving at Naples, a wonderful sight, at night we stayed at 'Palus,' a palace of luxury. The next stop was enforced through heavy winds, causing us to turn back. This was at Brindisi where we had a splendid room, five beds, one chair, a beautiful bath, 'wash basin,' etc., but no water. Third day out we landed at Athens where we felt the charm and manners of the true Greek and stayed overnight at Rhodes, an island at the moment unspoiled by the tourist.

After a few days in Cyprus trying to do some work and meeting old friends we again took off on our return flight.

The weather was excellent, and we roughed it overnight in Athens where we landed at the U.S.A.A.F. base. (Never seen so many people with little badges and big badges nearly all over them). Rome after a flight over the Casino and a most impressive highway. Here we stayed at Pension Woodcock, owned by a retired Major. The next day on to Paris after a flight over the Alps.

We met the clouds again halfway across the Channel and touched down at Biggin Hill for Customs and then on to Middle Wallop and the end of a trip full of interest and memories.

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8th REGIMENT

Exercise "Nighthawk IV"

The night of 1st/2nd September saw over 700 men of the Regiment deployed in a defensive position on Downholme Moor. The enemy was provided by detachments from 11th and 24th Regiments, 1 Loyals and from the upgrading courses of the Regiment.

The exercise was designed to give our trainees an idea of what the infantry soldier has to cope with and was the last of a series of four night exercises held during the summer as part of the military training of the potential tradesmen in the Regiment. Live night firing on a nearby range was also arranged.

During the afternoon of 1st September the defensive position was prepared and from 6 o'clock in the evening the enemy started patrol activity. From 9 o'clock until 5 o'clock next morning some activity took place every 10 minutes along some part of the front, as was evidenced by the colourful display of pyrotechnics and the battlefield illumination supplied equally by friend and foe.

The exercise finished with an attack at 5 o'clock on the morning of 2nd September by the massed might of the enemy forces, followed by an orderly withdrawal back to Loos Lines Square.

From the remarks of the returning soldiers a good time was had by all and without doubt they had learned a great deal as well. The Fijians, for example, now know how cold it can be in a trench all night on the Yorkshire Moors. A certain S.S.M., an ex-infantryman, also learned that experienced Radio Technicians are as good at patrolling as they are at repairing sets. A "Stirling" effort in fact.

Liaison With Industry

A series of exchange visits between the instructional staff, civilian and military, of the Regiment and civilian industry have been taking place. A team of 20 Officers, Warrant Officers, Senior N.C.O.s and civilian instructors recently visited the Plessey factory at Ilford, where they were welcomed in the Conference Room by officials of the firm and by tea and biscuits produced by some very attractive secretaries. We almost lost two technicians to civilian life as a result.

In Planning Control we saw how the various steps of design, construction and testing of a new project from receipt of a specification to production line planning take place.

Then to a production line which had a G.P.O. coin box in process of manufacture was visited. We left with two main impressions. First how monotonous much of the work seemed to be and second the number of inspectors who tested them at very frequent stages in manufacture.

We next saw other production lines where transistor radio receivers and television sets were being made. The production of printed circuits and the methods of inserting components into them was particularly interesting. We did note that although inspection and testing was frequently carried out it was much less than that carried out on Government contract work. This was particularly noticeable when we saw the production of the S.R. C42 where there were approximately 103 testers to 85 constructors, and the multiplicity of test equipment used should ensure a low fault liability when the Army receives the equipment.

After a very good lunch we then had a most interesting get-together with the Plessey officials who answered our many and varied questions as a result of our morning tour. Before leaving we invited Plessey's to send a team to visit the Regiment to see our training, our methods and our equipment, and this was accepted. During their visit to us they were very impressed with the standard to which technicians in Royal Signals are trained.

Without doubt the aim of improving relations between the Services and civilian industry is being achieved by such visits as these, and both sides mutually benefit from them.

13th REGIMENT

With the winter and festive season now approaching new cries are being heard around the barracks. O.C. H.Q. Squadron is busy trying to sell Christmas cards at a profit to the P.R.I. and concerning himself with the Christmas Fare and an All Ranks' dance. The other Messes are also planning their programmes.

The Training Officer and R.S.M. can be seen looking in barrack blocks and attics, sheds and stores for extra lecture room space in order to carry on the extensive training programme which has been planned. Already the Regiment has completed seven Military Proficiency Courses at Class III and II standard making a total of approximately 100 qualifications. Conversion courses are now nearly completed and there are many relieved faces around the camp. The most happy face is that of our Adjutant, Captain R. K. Ward, who has just been converted to a proud father of a baby girl. We have now said goodbye to Major M. W. Pollard and Captain J. Atkinson and in their places we have welcomed Major J. G. Baker and Captain G. Young.

Once again our main achievements have been won on the sports field. We have had a very successful year at cricket, swimming and especially the summer hockey. In this sport the Regiment again proved that they are one of the leading teams in Rhine Area by adding the Summer League title to the Winter League Cup which we won earlier in the year. These Leagues contain R.A.F., Civilian as well as a number of Army teams.

At the conclusion of the Summer League the team gained a very creditable draw against the rest of the League, eight goals being shared. Afterwards the cup and medals were presented by the Rhine Area Commander. Our first class umpire, Major D. Herberts, also gained recognition both for his ability and enthusiasm for the game by receiving a special medal.

The normal Winter League has now commenced and in the first match against our bogey team and keenest rivals 16th Regiment, we managed a win by the odd goal in three after a very fast and hard game.

We have been honoured by the R.A.F. Germany to act as hosts and provide the opposition to the R.A.F. College Cranwell during their forthcoming tour of B.A.O.R. The game takes place at the end of October.

Finally congratulations to four of our players who have been asked to play in the B.A.O.R. Hockey Trials.

We have to finish on a sad and tragic note with the announcement that Staff Sergeant R. M. Semple, R.A.P.C., passed away peacefully in R.A.F. Wegberg Hospital on 3rd October after a brief illness at the early age of 40.

He was buried with full military honours at the Rheindahlen Military Cemetery. The Bearers, Firing Party and Trumpeter were provided from the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess as he would have wished.

14th REGIMENT

Visitors included Major-General Batra, Signal Officer-in-Chief, India, and Brigadier H. W. LePatourel, v.c., Deputy Commander, 43 (Wessex) Division/District, who was making a farewell tour, prior to retirement from the Service.

Another 12 boys from the Apprentices' School, Harrogate, spent a week at Boddington, learning all about the intricacies of tape relay, and the Command Secretary looked in and ran the rule over our accounting procedure.

The first of a series of officer training days was held in the Tape Relay Centre and proved enjoyable and instructive. Much ground was covered in a short space of time, but everyone learned something. Next month we visit the Receiver Station at Bampton, and in December conclude with a trip to Transmitters at Droitwich.

Exercise "Fallex," described in great detail in a recent issue of *The Times*, went off without incident. We were involved operationally and administratively, and acquitted ourselves very creditably.

There are a few more officer changes to record; this time, slightly on the credit side. Majors J. W. Ingledow and H. W. Russell and Captain M. L. S. Read, W.R.A.C., have joined our happy band and we extend the usual hearty welcome.

Lieutenant H. Galloway is now enjoying the delight Donnington has to offer, and Captain K. E. Griffiths, W.R.A.C., is preparing for a spell of Mediterranean sunshine in Malta—*bon voyage*.

The third COMCAN Biennial Conference takes place during the first week of October, and great preparation is afoot to make the visit of the delegates interesting and entertaining. A detailed account of the proceedings will appear in our next contribution.

Winter sports are well under way. In the local soccer league, opposition is not very fierce, but in the District Challenge Cup, we travelled to Fremington, engaged 18 Company (Amph.), R.A.S.C., and retired the losers by 7 goals to 5 after extra time, in a stirring struggle which produced thrills and spills galore.

Hockey players, too, go from strength to strength, and our rugby gladiators emerged from their first encounter with the local Dowty Engineering Works victors by 9 points to nil. All very praiseworthy and most encouraging.

Finally, our congratulations to W.O.II R. W. Kay (2 Squadron) and W.O.s II A. Copestake and G. C. Curtis (3 Squadron) on their well-merited awards of Corps Shooting Colours for the season 1962. For the record, this is not W.O.II Copestake's first shooting distinction; he already holds Corps Colours for past outstanding performances and is now entitled to a "bar." Chabash.

3 Squadron. The summer has been a temporary lull in the technical and administrative rebuilding programme at Bampton. Ironically enough, however, with the advent of winter, it is returning in "full flood."

On the technical side, we are to see more and "bigger and better" towers, and a new and extensive coaxial aerial feeder system, and to complete the picture, a large extension of the receiver building, giving us long-awaited offices, workshops, equipment rooms and stores. Improvements to the domestic side of the station also now in hand are providing a new O.R.s Canteen, TV, Amateur Radio, Hobbies and Reading Rooms, and modernisation and expansion of the O.R.s dining room and cookhouse. As past visitors and Squadron members will recall, this is a really isolated location which is still found by use of an old but improved cart track. At last we are to get a proper approach road, and reckon we shall now be "really on the map."

Congratulations to Lance-Corporal A. J. Thompson who was married on 8th September.

16th REGIMENT

September has been rather a mixed month for us, with Exercise "Fallex 62" taking precedence, many members of the Regiment found themselves whisked away into the back of beyond. As always with exercises, the preparation is of paramount importance, and much of the work fell on our Second-in-Command, Major K. S. Newell.

Major (T.O.T.) P. F. R. C. Locke, W.O.I (F.O.S.) C. G. Hooper, and his merry band of technicians, were extremely hard pressed, but as usual most of the difficulties were surmounted and the necessary results produced. Their motto of course was "Service with a smile," though at times I must say they looked the worse for wear. Medium Radio Troop, ably led by Captain J. S. Howe, had their share of the work in providing radio communications and not forgetting Second-Lieutenant C. Garton of Cable Troop and Second-Lieutenant R. Ewing who arrived back at R.H.Q. looking like time expired subalterns, with that air of a "Job well done," though they were accused of eating too many field packs of hard tack. It would be impossible to name all the personnel who by their individual efforts made the success of the exercise possible, so to them all —well done!

As for most exercises we are usually entertaining various members of the A.E.R. and T.A. One notable personality was W.O.II "Taffy" Lloyd, ex-Superintendent Clerk at The War Office and now a Civil Servant. We hope you enjoyed your stay "Taff" and remember you are most welcome at any time. The same applies to Captain A. Laing who ably assisted The Command Group. Many members of the T.A. and A.E.R. staged at the Regiment during the exercise and there was a noticeable amount of "lamp swinging," this was probably due to all the reminiscences that usually go with these fleeting but pleasant visits.

We take this opportunity to say farewell to our Second-in-Command, Major K. S. Newell, who leaves us during October to take up an appointment in Fontainbleau. We offer sincere thanks for all the hard work he has put in, regimentally and socially. We wish him and Mrs. Newell the best of fortunes in their new posting. We welcome in as Second-in-Command Major J. T. R. Sylvester-Bradley, we hope his stay will be a happy one.

The Sergeants' Mess played off their scheduled football match against the Sergeants' Mess of 40 Advanced Engineer Stores Regiment. Result, 2—2 draw. Yes, and much drawing of bottles for the thirsty players, but I really think the spectators were even thirstier. With curry and cold buffet and a cinema show for the children it was a very enjoyable gathering.

Soccer. The Regimental XI opened its 1962/63 League programme with an away match against the reigning champions of the North Rhine Inter-Services Football League, R.A.F. Station, Bruggen, on Saturday, 6th October, 1962. Pre-match forecasts all indicated a close match, the casting vote in favour of Bruggen on their own ground. The Regiment, however, slammed the critics with a very fine win of five goals to nil. The many hard hours of evening training prior to the opening match, under the Regiment Soccer Officer, has appeared to do the trick. The side moved well and had the stamina to stay the full 90 minutes. Particularly outstanding in the first match in a side weakened by the absence of S.S.I. Edwards, on duty, and Signalman "Geordie" Bingham, on leave, were Lance-Corporal Brian Ransom and the wing-half pair of Lance-Corporal "Steve" Stevens and Signalman "Jock" Murray. The Regiment are now awaiting the outcome of The Army Challenge Cup match versus 28th Regiment, due to be played at St. Tonis on 10th October, 1962, with high hopes of a convincing win. Who knows, this *may* be our season.

Hockey. The Rhine Area Summer League finished with us in second place after a very successful run. Our old rivals and bogey team, 13th Regiment, were the winners. Well done, 13th.

The Winter League is now underway with some 20 teams competing and we anticipate a good hard winter season. The first game played was against 13th Regiment, who won by 2 goals to 1 after a very clever game. There were some very fine shots at goal and with proper respect to a good goalkeeper we feel we were unlucky not to have pulled this one off.

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DESCRIPTION

PATTERN "A"

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12/- per dozen, Home. 10/- per dozen, Overseas.

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A Way of Living

BY "GREEN DRAKE"

The main object of the exercise was to find a fisherman's paradise. Not too expensive, not too rigidly controlled and somewhere off the beaten track. Why not Jugoslavia? Distance was no great object. The guide books described the rivers and streams as being rich in fish with trout and grayling in abundance and river char, pike, barbel and chub thrown in for spinning and bait fishing if the trout and grayling were off the rise.

After three days of ambling along the autobahns and byways of Germany and Austria we arrived at an obscure frontier post about 20 miles beyond Villach in Austria. These 20 miles plus the Durzen Pass gave us a taste of roads to come in Jugoslavia. Friends who had been before warned us about questionnaires and lists of camp kit, cameras, radios and so on taken into the country. We must have looked honest people because there was no fuss, just a short questionnaire which did not even mention "name of grandmother" and about 14s. each for an entry visa. One question was "wife's date of birth" and I think I put 15th November, 1944 (about 18 years of age). The official at the counter didn't even blink when he compared my statement with my wife's passport. He just leered at me and what a wealth of feeling there is in the leer of a Jugoslav customs official.

The usual other queries of course, "benzin and money changing?" The answer, "here no benzin, no change" go six kilometres to some place which sounded like a very rude English word. True enough, after one or two enquiries of quaint looking peasants who understood that magical word "benzin" we queued up at a small wooden shack which contained two large drums with pumps, one super and one benzin. In the meantime my wife followed another queue to the local bank for change and returned after about fifteen minutes overloaded with thousands of dinars. My eighty marks worth took a bit of stuffing away in various pockets. This is about £7 and you may wonder how far one could travel and for how long on such a small amount. In fact, between us we changed £15 and that lasted us for nine days, including petrol, wine, vetegtables and two nights in hotels. If you ever go to Jugoslavia don't take a lot of money because there is nothing to spend it on except the bare necessities of life and when you leave the country the money changers are very reluctant to change back into pounds, lire or marks, and if they do you can depend upon it that the exchange rate is distinctly advantageous to them.

At this stage I feel sure you would like our first impressions after an hour in the country. A feeling of suspicion at the border, a lack of gaiety and everything looking a bit shoddy in the villages. An eastern look about the yellow orchred houses with shuttered windows. No nice shops or shop windows. Otherwise, beautiful Alpine scenery, pine forests and plenty of sun. This of course was the province of Slovenia; lower down in Croatia and along the Adriatic coast one sees a fair amount of desolate rocky country.

Our first main place of call was to be Lubliana. I wanted to try the river Kupi which was about 50 miles south of Lubliana at a place called Brod-na Kupi but more about this in the December issue.

(To be Continued)

18th REGIMENT

H.Q. Squadron is settling down again after one or two changes, both in the officer plot and accommodation.

We welcome Major S. J. Thompson, from 1 Squadron, as our new O.C., and Captain N. S. G. Sparshott, General List, as our Squadron Second-in-Command, Education, Messing and Fire Officer etc. Captain Sparshott may be remembered by many members of the Corps as, until recently, he was Camp Commandant, Troodos Leave Centre, in Cyprus.

Major (Q.M.) E. A. Carn has taken up a long-vacant appointment as Q.M. (non-Technical) and is working in close collaboration with Major (Q.M.) Banham our Q.M. (Technical).

The implementation of the above has necessitated some accommodation changes which, when accomplished, will give us all a bit more room and let us see what we have got!

Captain (Q.M.) W. Cloughley and his M.T. Troop continue to earn our thanks. He is in the middle of another C.I.V. They have, to date, earned eleven consecutive C.I.V. "Excellents" and hope to make the round dozen. This, in spite of the fact that the unit vehicle monthly mileage varies between 210,000 miles (June, 1962) and 180,000 miles (August, 1962). The average monthly mileage for 1962 is around the 170,000 mark, which is a startling sort of figure to run up on an island the same size and shape as the Isle of Wight.

1 Squadron. A quiet month socially, but with great activity on the work side, with the Squadron getting down solidly to familiarise themselves with the changes in the Signal Centre and T.R.C. With the swing "back to the book," several harassed-looking seniors were seen staggering from place to place, clutching much-thumbed copies of Vol. VIII and A.C.P. 127. Major J. L. Donne, our new O.C., seems to have permanently attached to him a volume weighing about 7lb. called a "Works Study Report," and it must be stated, to his credit, that to date he has not hit our civilian staff's union representative with it.

It is perhaps a sign of the times that in spite of a dearth of social activities, the sales of black coffee and aspirins reached an all-time record in the NAAFI!

With the changing over of the sports seasons, the crowd who ambled about with a football can now be seen on the sports field waving curved bits of wood at each other and uttering wild cries. There is no truth in the rumour we have had a firm offer from Borneo, for the rights—or should it be rites—of what the locals think is our rain-making ceremony. Captain J. Tonnison our new Second-in-Command will insist these people are playing hockey, but the sticks are still seen waving three minutes after the ball has gone down a monsoon drain.

"D" Troop held a barbecue on the beach at Changi and, according to one of their twist friends, a "fabulous" time was had by all. The tropical trimmings of a big moon, palm trees and warm sea always make a first-class start for a party, all that remains is to hope that the duty-free beer doesn't run out.

New faces in the Squadron, to whom we say "hello," are Corporal and Mrs. Hague, Corporal and Mrs. Smith, Corporal and Mrs. O'Gorman, Signalmen Jackson, Furby, Hopper, and Wilkins. We said *bon voyage* to Sergeant and Mrs. Baxter and to Signalman and Mrs. McCaskill.

Our congratulations to Staff Sergeant Souter and Sergeant Bell for passing out first and second, respectively, on the Staff Sergeants' Course held at S.T.C. (F.E.).

2 Squadron. The Amateur Radio Club VSIRS, one of 2 Squadron satellites, at long last obtained a W/S 53 TX, plus three AR 88 D receivers which, although being unserviceable, will soon be transformed into an efficient station, on all bands. VSIRS Club premises are now in a new location, namely, on the first floor of the building that used to be used as the old Sergeants' Mess, Meiktila Barracks (for the benefit of any ex-18th Regiment people).

The new location, apart from affording a good site "propagation wise," provided a hilarious hour or so for the "fatigue party" as they unloaded the equipment (at approximately 21.00 hours) and transferred it to the club room upstairs.

The "fatigue party" consisted of club members: W.O.I Beardmore, MRS. 389, a R.A.O.C. inspector; Staff Sergeant Dowsett, VS IHD, a R.E.M.E. artificer; Y. of S. Francis, VSICW, and F. of S. Buckley, VS ILB.

Each of the aforementioned "Hams" must have considered himself a budding "Jimmy Edwards" from the number of jokes that emanated from the party.

It requires some effort to carry a 53 Set PSV up a couple of flights of stairs, but to do it whilst almost doubling up with laughs is something one must experience to appreciate.

The party sat down for a rest and a smoke in the club transmitting room after completion of the chore and switched on the club's present rig.

The following stations in Italy and Bahrein were worked in the ensuing half-hour before the club retired to the Mess for a pint of beer:—11TGU : 11DH : 11CWN : MP4BDC.

STAMP COLLECTORS

THE JUNIOR LEADERS REGIMENT has restarted its Philatelist Club and will be most grateful to receive stamps from all Regiments, Squadrons, Detachments serving overseas.

Amateur radio enthusiasts receive many QSL cards with foreign stamps.

Envelopes containing stamps to please be addressed: Philatelist Club, Junior Leaders Regiment, Royal Signals, Denbury Camp, Newton Abbot, South Devon.

Six Weeks Aboard H.M.S. Eastbourne

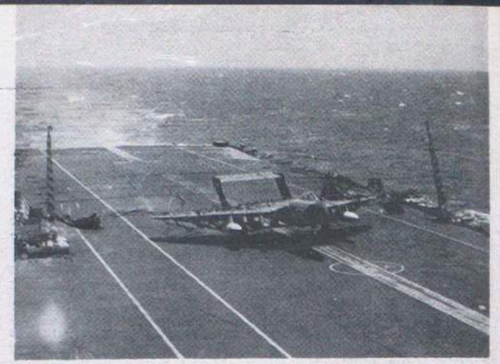
18th REGIMENT

H.M.S. *Eastbourne,* a frigate with the Far Eastern Fleet, is our affiliated ship. Before she returned home to the U.K., she did a final trip from Singapore to Australia. The Captain, Lieutenant-Commander Campbell, kindly invited the Regiment to send a party of people along for their final voyage in Eastern waters. In due course a party was selected from the host of volunteers, all keen for a visit to Australia, and the party was taken to the north of the island, with instructions to report to H.M.S. *Eastbourne* in the Naval base. From here it is well to let Corporal White, the spokesman of the party, take up the story in his own words:

H.M.S. Eastbourne left the dockyard at 10.30 hours on Friday, 10th August, bound for Geraldton, in S.W. Australia. For this first day we were mainly left to our own devices as the crew settled back into their familiar routine of being at sea once again. Thus, the four of us in the party, Signalmen Wood, Lyon, Shiel and myself had a brief breather in which to familiarise ourselves with the rather strange surroundings.

On the second day the Captain of the ship, Lieutenant-Commander Campbell, sent for us. He welcomed us officially aboard and then gave us an outline of exactly what this trip would consist of. We were about to start an exercise with the aircraft carrier *Ark Royal.* This would finish off the coast of Australia. From there the *Eastbourne* was going to turn round and head straight back for U.K., calling in at Penang in North Malaya. We would therefore have to transfer to another ship, which would return us to Singapore. When the Captain had finished with us, we were taken on a tour of the ship. H.M.S. *Eastbourne* is an anti-submarine frigate, and as such is not a large ship by Naval standards—but my goodness, the crew certainly mixed us up as we were led from the Stokers' Mess to the plotting room, to the radar room, to the magazine, to the wireless room, and so on. Crammed into this relatively small ship was the huge mass of complex machinery that could deliver the lethal punch required of a carrier escort. Being a small ship, she had a correspondingly small crew, and running the *Eastbourne* was very much a family affair. Unlike her larger and apparently more glamorous sister ships, everyone on board knew everyone else, and this had resulted in a tremendous spirit amongst the members of the crew. They were all very proud to wear H.M.S. *Eastbourne* on their hat band, and I must say that watching the way things were done, they were all quite justfied in their pride. Though the crew affectionately referred to their ship as "the old tub," just let any outsider try and call her that!

On the fourth day out, when we were starting to get into the routine of life at sea we began the main stage of our exercise. The Ark Royal began to do a lot of night flying. In addition to providing escort cover, we also assumed the responsibility of "safety ship," being the potential rescuers of any air crew that became involved in any difficulties. Everything went as smooth

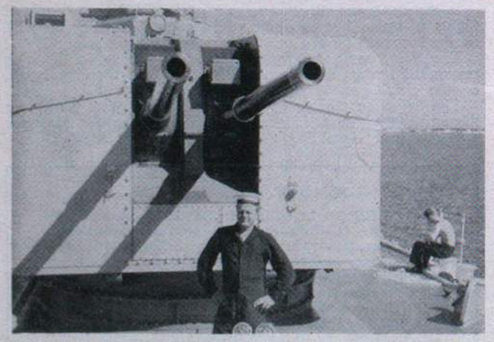


The Sea Venom landing into the safety net

as clockwork for several days—then suddenly in one day we had two spots of excitement. During the evening a sea venom lost its arrester gear (the device that stops an aeroplane when it lands). It therefore had to land into a safety net—a new device that is strung across the deck. The plane dives into it and is pulled up that way. The whole set-up looked a bit too flimsy to pull up seven tons of aeroplane doing over 100 m.p.h., but it worked perfectly—and a few moments later the crew climbed safely out—much to my personal relief.

Later on that evening, when it was dark, one of the Gannets (a turbo-prop aircraft) misjudged its landing and ended up hanging over the side. It suddenly burst into flames and the crew took to the water. The *Eastbourne* picked them up, so there was no harm done. At the time quite a high sea was running, and as the whole operation took less than a quarter-of-an-hour, it was a creditable effort.

After ten days at sea we arrived in Australia. We were staying there for a week and-a-half. What a time it was; the hospitality of Australians is legendary, but when I think about it, the way we were entertained was nothing short of fabulous. We had an open-day and it seemed that the whole of Northern Australia came aboard to look around. But this was the least we could do when we remembered the evening with West Australian Regiment, the kangaroo shoot, organised by one of the local farmers, the parties and dinners. When the time came to leave, over 3,000 people were on the quay waving goodbye. The journey back to Malaya was uneventful and more or less a repeat of the journey out, without the mishaps. On 14th September we finally docked at Penang, and it was time to say goodbye to our ship. I say "*our,*" for having spent five weeks aboard, we were really beginning to feel part of the crew. As they set out for U.K. and refitting, we regretfully said goodbye to our new-found friends, climbed aboard a helicopter for transfer to the *Ark Royal,* which was coming back to Singapore. The next day we were back in Singapore with happy memories of a very pleasant six weeks and a few snapshots of some of the highlights.



Able? Seaman Wittle (Cpl.) aboard H.M.S. Eastbourne

Lieutenants Eastgate and Ford with some of the demonstrating staff

Would it rain? Would it keep fine? So much depended on the weather on 15th September, when R.A.F., Changi, was 'at home' to the public on the occasion of the 22nd anniversary of the Battle of Britain. A few tropical downpours and nobody would turn up—in any case how many would come?

In the event, the Bomahs did their stuff and a clear cloudless sky provided the perfect stage for a breathtaking display of precision flying, not to mention an excellent static display, and a fun fair for adults and children, estimated at nearly 100,000.

The Regiment was identified with the occasion by a stand in one of the static display hangers, and a lot of 'behind-the-scenes' work such as P.A., telephones, Malay commentators and side shows.

The Regimental stand, prepared under the direction of Major D. E. Salisbury, O.C. 2 Squadron, had four main sections, viz., a jointing team working in a joint pit, a cable jointers' trailer with tools and gassing equipment on display, an Operations Troop 40 line F. and F. set up 'in the field' with extensions for the public to make internal calls over, and a Land Rover and trailer equipped for laying D10 cable. Lieutenant Eastgate, U.G. Troop Commander, and Lieutenant Ford, Operations Troop Commander, assisted by 1 and 2 Squadron personnel, provided the demonstration team.

The hockey season has just started, and the face of our new hockey officer, Lieutenant (Q.M.) E. R. C. Wall, relaxed into a smile as we annexed the Singapore Base District Six-a-side Cup for the fifth successive year. (PRI is trying to get an NCB on the insurance policy). Sixty-four teams took part in this traditional curtain-raiser to the season—the weather was very hot.

The soccer season out here dies hard—a final flicker was the postponed FEAF Championship final between R.A.F. Changi and R.A.F. Seletar. The Regiment was represented in the Changi side by Lance-Corporal Freeman who covered himself with glory by scoring the winning goal in the second period of extra time.

The Sepak Raga team entered the semi-final of the Malayan

ROYAL SIGNALS SINGAPORE—SMALL ARMS MEETING 1962
The C.S.O., Brigadier R. H. E. Robinson, presents the M.O.R. Champion Shot Cup to Signalman Wan Saupek, 1 Squadron, 19th Regiment

Armed Forces Knock-out Cup by defeating the Police Training School team in a rather undistinguished match played in the M.O.R. Camp—it is hoped that more fire will be shown in the semi-final.

During the month we have said farewell to Captain and Mrs. Barrett. Captain Barrett has gone up country to command the Gurkha Boys' Company—a job he has been looking forward to for some while. We welcome from U.K. Second-Lieutenant R. J. G. M. Rumford who joins 1 Squadron.

Signalman Mohamed Ghani bin Mohamed Desa was born in Permatang Sireh, Malaya, in April, 1941. He came of an Army family—his father was serving with the Royal Engineers until his retirement with the rank of Sergeant. Ghani came to Singapore in 1954 where his father was stationed at Gillman Barracks. During his leisure moments he turned his attention to the swimming pool and became very keen on swimming, although he did not distinguish himself in school events.

Ghani enlisted into the Army in June, 1961, and after Basic Training was posted to S.T.C. FARELF, Pasir Panjang, for trade training in the Corps. He was now concentrating on diving, and it was whilst stationed at S.T.C. that he gained his first swimming award.

Having qualified as a Cable Jointer BIII, Signalman Ghani was posted to 19th Regiment, Changi, in December, 1961. The excellent swimming facilities here, including an Olympic size pool, were to his liking and he trained hard for the coming season. When this started he was at once successful. Specialising in high tariff dives, he in turn annexed the Regimental, Corps, Far East Air Force, Singapore Base District and Inter-Services Championships for the five metre board; coupled with three one metre board championships.

To wind up the season, Signalman Ghani will go to Hong Kong having been chosen to represent Singapore Base District in the FARELF Championships.

Signalman Ghani's ambition, in addition to being a good cable jointer, is to represent Malaya at the next A.S.A. Games to be held at Bangkok.

CLOTHING is still URGENTLY required by the WELFARE SECTION

18191658 Signalman Mohd Ghani Bin Mohd Desa, 19th Regiment

22nd REGIMENT

There has been quite an upheaval during the month. We have said goodbye to Majors Mitchell and Bennet, both left on retirement. Major King has taken over as H.Q. Squadron Commander and Lieutenant (Q.M.) Finch as M.T.O.

W.O.I C. W. Johnston has left to take up his new appointment of R.S.M. at 1st Regiment and we welcome W.O.I P. W. H. Lafferty from 2nd Regiment as our new R.S.M.

H.Q. Squadron has been most successful in the Inter-Squadron Cricket Competition. The odds were certainly against us but we thrashed the others and won the competition. It is our intention to do the same at both Rugby and football, having already won the hockey.

Advanced Training in Norway

BY LANCE-CORPORAL TRACY

On the morning of the 2nd July, 1962, myself and two other Junior N.C.O.s, Lance-Corporal Stevens and Lance-Corporal Manson, set off for a four-week trekking expedition in Southern Norway. After a two-day journey by coach and ferry we arrived at the Base Camp in Isefjaer.

We had only been there a short time when we were told to get into the fjord and swim 50 yards, a test which all personnel attending the Leave Centre are required to pass before continuing with the course. On completing the swim we had a briefing for the first day's trek, and then some food and a good night's rest.

The first three days in Norway were spent trekking in and around Isefjaer; we found the countryside very beautiful but far too hilly.

We must have trekked well over the 100 kms mark and on our return the instructors informed us that it was just a warming up exercise. That evening we were briefed for the main trek, which was to last two weeks and would take us from Mykland to Dirdol, the latter being at the tip of the well-known Stavanger Fjord. We were required to visit five check points and pick up 24 hour ration packs at three of them. The first stage was completed in under the three days allowed but the time so saved came in handy as we progressed inland and found ourselves in the midst of mountains well over 3,000 feet high.

The mountains over which we trekked were covered in thick hard-packed snow 4-5 feet deep in many places. This, and the height of the mountains made us feel a little like mountain goats.

The local people we spoke to said that the course we had taken was, in many places, impassible during the winter months.

On the fourteenth day we arrived at Dirdol and were picked up by the transport from our base camp and, after an eight hour journey, we were once again back in Isefjaer none the worse for our long walk of just over 200 miles.

The thing, I think, which struck us most about the trek, was the honesty and helpfulness shown to us by all Norwegians we met. Their hospitality was at times so overwhelming that it became somewhat embarrassing. They just could not do enough for us. Everyone said before we left that some day we will return to this wonderful country Norway.

2 Squadron. Exercise "Rapier Thrust I" started the month, a sequel to Exercise "Sour Cream," it was approached with some trepidation by all of us. However, the sun shone this time (we were all awake to see it), a true aggressive spirit was developed by everyone, especially by the Duty Officer on Radio Control who had to chase around hords of flies that had been following us on our Westphalian tour.

Shortly after "Rapier Thrust I," Major Lloyd left for 1 Squadron and a battle for "Dipoles or Endfeds" and Captain Baxter took over command with a cry of "Put up both."

The next Exercise "Rapier Thrust II," our main Regimental Exercise of the year, was a great success for us, especially proving that manning our own rear links was the most successful way of keeping through.

244 Squadron. After a period of no postings there has been quite a change now in this Squadron. Staff Sergeant Anderson to T.A. in Belfast, Sergeant Grierson and Corporal Galacher to the Training Brigade, Corporals Day and Dickinson to Cyprus and Singapore respectively. As a change from the normal run of exercises, the Squadron was able to use the full effect of Fire Power from the air and to assist in bringing this to bear on the target in the recent 1 Divisional Fire Power Demonstration. The target was well plastered by guns, rockets and Napolm, and the A.C.T. crews suitably impressed. Between exercises A.C.T. and Tentacle crews have been visiting air bases to meet Air Crews they normally talk to but do not see.

Second Lieutenant Warner, the last of the National Service Officers in the Regiment, assisting in 'Forward Air Control.'

7th Battalion Chasseurs Alpins

205 SQUADRON

On Monday, the 6th of August, 1962, at about 1 o'clock in the afternoon, a three-ton truck pulled up outside Hagen Hauptbahnhof. This is of no significance to the casual reader, but it must strike a chord in the memories of Lieutenant Noonan, Lance-Corporal Clark, Signalmen Candon, Walker, Maher and Evans, all of 205 Squadron. These were the occupants of the truck, and for them it was the start of a thirty-six hour rail journey which was to end in a valley in the French Alps, Bourg St. Maurice, the Headquarters of the 7e Bn. Chasseurs Alpins.

The attachment had been arranged through the British Military Delegation to France, and was to last for three weeks. Its aim was to teach the party the rudiments of mountaineering, and to see something of the French Army.

The journey itself could have been very tedious. That it was not so was due to the company of two charming French girls, on whom the party tried out their very inadequate French. Enthusiasm for France increased during the journey, and "C'est jolie, la France" became a catch-phrase.

Lieutenant G. R. M. Noonan continues:

"We arrived in Bourgh St. Maurice at 15.00 hours on Tuesday the 7th of August. After looking in vain for a truck of some sort to take us to the barracks, we obtained directions from an innocent bystander and started to walk. Soon, very soon, we were to learn that carriage of personnel was not considered a suitable employment for vehicles of the Chasseurs Alpins.

On arriving at the barracks, I had a short interview with the acting C.O., Commandant Loplage, who welcomed us to his Battalion, and told me that we were to be attached to his training company at Vulmix, a village in the hills overlooking the town. I pointed out that as we did not know the way, it would be best if we went up there by truck. To our relief, a vehicle was produced, and off we went.

At the camp in Vulmix we were greeted by the O.C. of 3e Compagnie, Capitaine Cros. This company consisted of three Sections, each of exactly thirty-four men. Two Sections consisted of recruits in their second month of training, and one was a cadre of potential N.C.O.s. They all looked very lean and fit, and we were soon to learn why.

The following day we were to leave at 04.00 hours with the Company on a training march into the mountains. The peak we were to ascend was the Point du Clapey, 2,800 metres. It looked simple enough from the valley, but we were not then accustomed to judging heights and distances in the mountains.

That first day was agony. We were unfit, we were unaccustomed to the weight of the packs we carried, our feet were sore, and it was very hot. At 08.30 we halted for the first time that morning at a height of about 1,500 metres. We had marched along the road in the bottom of the valley for about two hours, and then started to climb a very steep and strong track, which twisted its way up the mountainside in a seemingly interminable series of hairpin bends. Then came our first halt. We stayed for ten minutes beside a spring, which bubbled beautifully cold, clear water out of the rock. We were terribly thirsty, having sweated about three months beer out of our systems in four hours, but we were only allowed a mouthful of water each. This was in our own interests of course, for if we had been allowed to drink our fill we would certainly have suffered severe stomach pains, and would have been unable to continue. Some of the party thought this not at all a bad idea.

However, we pressed on, mercifully now in the cool shade of a pine forest, but still climbing steeply, and, like Falstaff "larding the lean earth" as we went.

At 10,00 hours we left the forest, and started up a steep grassy ridge which led to the summit rocks of Point du Clopey. 11.00 hours found us mutinously seated, chewing bread and herrings, while No. 1 Section, the Cadre, sped onwards and upwards, led by Captain Cros. The other two Sections, surprisingly, were still some way behind us, and when they reached us, we continued with them.

Lance-Corporal Clark on "Les Lanchos" Training rocks

At 13.00 hours we reached the foot of the summit rocks, and here we halted. Only another 300 metres of the mountain remained above us, but the rocks looked difficult. The Captain had taken his Section over the top with the intention of bivouacking on the other side, and now 2 Section followed them. We stayed with the third Section, led by Sous-Lieutenant Lange. After a brief rest and more desperate chewing of the hard Army bread, we followed Lange and his lads down the way we had ascended, with the intention of making a bivouac at the lower edge of the forest. This descent took three hours.

We discovered that going down a steep slope is far more tiring than going up one. There is a tendency for the foot to slip inside the boot, making the foot very sore indeed. At every step, one's toes strike the front ends of one's boots, and after an extended period of this, one feels that one's feet consist of little lumps of raw flesh packed tight into one's toecaps. Violent oscillations of the knee cap also result from these descents.

We cooked a meal at the bivouac, and having disposed of this lay in our sleeping bags, watching the lights come on in the valley as the twilight deepened. We were very nearly asleep, when to our horror, the rest of the Section got up, fell in on the track, presented arms to the valley, and marched away. We noticed that they left all their equipment on the ground, and assumed they would return in due course, and so thought no more about it and went to sleep. We learned next day that they had gone on a night patrol exercise.

The next morning we were up at dawn, and having scrounged some excellent coffee from the Section, we continued the descent. This, we thought, was sheer madness. Ignoring the track altogether, Sous-Lieutenant Lange led his men at a run straight down the mountainside. We went down in a flurry of earth and stones, sometimes on our feet, sometimes sitting, and at times even horizontal. We managed to keep up, and even overtook some of the stragglers of the Section, but it was a very shaky-looking British detachment which arrived half an hour later on the valley road. We had descended 700 metres in this time, over 2,000 feet. All that remained now was a two and a half hour trudge back to camp."

A full account of the remaining nineteen days the party spent with the Chasseurs would take too long, but here is a list of the expeditions taken part in:—

Signalman Walker descending

Point du Clapey (2,800 metres)

Cinque Lacs (2,600 metres)

Mt. Pourri (3,800 metres)

Roc Noir (2 400 metres)

Glacier des Glaciers (2,500 metres)

Le Franchet (2,800 metres)

Le Roignais (3,000 metres)

Aigilles de Beaupré (2,800 metres)

The weather was glorious throughout their stay, except for one storm which caught some of the party half way up the summit ridge of Mt. Pourric, at about 3,400 metres. To make matters worse, one of the Frenchmen had just broken an ice axe and the party had to crampon rather hurriedly, and in considerable disarray, back down the glacier.

Apart from cut hands and blistered feet, the whole visit was accident free. Signalman Haher had a slightly twisted knee, but overcame this by ignoring it altogether, to which treatment it seemed to respond.

One day of the last week was devoted to weapon training, and all ranks learned how to strip, assemble, and fire the new "Cinquant-six" automatic rifle, and the famous little "P.M.," Machine pistol. The last Saturday morning was spent on the Chasseurs' "Parcours de Risque," or Battle Course. This was rather long, and would have been arduous had the party attempted to do it at speed. Fortunately, this was not a requirement.

The mountaineers returned to the Squadron on 27th August, looking about two stones lighter, but claiming to be very fit.

205 SQUADRON

On 8th August, 1962, "A" Troop 205 Squadron departed on Exercise "Tough Luck," a ten-day training camp designed to toughen us up a little, in conjunction with our normal radio communications training.

We all left in high spirits and arrived at our final destination at 23.00 hours that evening. No tents were erected in the dark and a pleasant evening was spent sleeping under a star filled, rain free sky. Some acute embarrassment was felt next morning, when we were awakened by girlish giggles which we soon discovered to come from the local village maidens passing on their way to work. Few of us the previous evening had bothered to don pyjamas, and the prospect of remaining in bed until nightfall did not appeal to us. However, the sight of Second-Lieutenant Brewis strolling nonchalently across the camp in his pillar box red pyjamas soon frightened them away. We were then able to scramble hurriedly into our clothes and go about our first day's work.

Training began in earnest once we had settled in, with each morning starting with a three mile run down to the Bullensee for an early morning swim. Emphasis was laid on sport and physical fitness and judging from the comments about aching muscles and blisters it seemed that it was having some effect. We also improved our operating drills in the form of radio exercises and a rosta to run a Tg and voice link back to Iserlohn, a distance of some hundred and fifty miles.

One morning whilst out on a route march we met a young German Lieutenant in a Panzer Unit, who were training in the same area. We were cordially invited over to their camp that evening for a few bottles of beer and a sing song. A tremendous time was had by both Units, and many friendships were formed, with hearty, lusty singing from either side. All too soon the evening came to an end and we left our German hosts with memories of a first-class evening's entertainment. Unfortunately their exercise ended that day and we were unable to return their hospitality. They did, however, visit us the next day, and some valuable time was spent looking at and trying each others equipment.

One highlight of the camp was a football match organised against the village team, when most of the village turned out to support their heroes. Everyone was highly amused at the sight of Signalmen floundering about in a sea of wet sand, lumbering after our fleet footed opponents. The final score (according to some) was a 6—3 win to the village and a hard game was played by both teams.

That evening we invited the village and the opposing team to a camp fire sing song and "Bier Fest" which lasted long into the night. A good time was had by all, though our early morning run and swim (when we chased a rather elusive 3-tonner!) the next morning was felt even more than on previous occasions.

Our recreational activities consisted of swimming and canoeing and a visit to Hamburg and Bremen, and without a doubt everyone had an enjoyable and valuable camp. At last it was time to journey back to Iserlohn, and we arrived fit and in high spirits (though some may dispute it!) ready for our autumn exercises. We extend our thanks to 4th Regiment for the loan of their canoeing equipment, with which we spent many of our leisure hours.

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Lance-Corporal Cooper with his winning catch

There are two events worth a report this month. Lance-Corporal Cooper had never fished in his life before joining the Squadron. Such are the facilities in East Africa, that he took up the sport and won the Command Fishing Championship the first time he entered. The second event was the departure of our last National Serviceman, Electronic Technician Lance-Corporal Michael. Although we are now a Regular Army Unit, it was a sad occasion for the Squadron, because these soldiers, who did so much for the Corps through the long years of National Service, have not been replaced by regular soldiers, but by civilians, who, although among the best of operators and technicians, do have their hair rather too long for the good of the S.S.M.'s peace of mind.

Lance-Corporal Mitchael receiving his travel documents from Movement Clerk Mrs. Cobbett (wife of a civilian operator) watched by Sergeant Smith, Orderly Room Sergeant

237 Squadron

Bangkok Detachment

By Sergeant G. C. Stanton,

Pictures by Private P. Trumper, British Army Public Relations Service

The little Thai Army corporal manoeuvred the Land Rover dexterously through the chaotic traffic jams of central Bangkok. His passenger, a young Lance-Corporal of Royal Signals, admired the score or so of towering Buddhist temples silhouetted against the evening sky, making a strange contrast with the multi-coloured neon signs of the city's shops and night clubs.

After half-an-hour's hair-raising drive, the driver pulled up outside a big house on the outskirts of the city, the residence of a British officer attached to the SEATO headquarters in Thailand. The British soldier leapt out of the vehicle, carrying a leather brief case and knocked on the door.

Three members of the Royal Signals detachment in Bangkok, are shown round one of the city's three hundred temples by their Land Rover driver, a corporal of the Thai Army. This is at the Temple of the Dawn, often known as the "Porcelain Temple," because the brilliant decorative work covering the pagodas turns out to be teacups, saucers, platters and plates to form flower patterns. This ingenious use of chinaware is repeated in a number of other temples around the city

"Classified signal for you, sir," said the N.C.O.

This was the Signals Despatch Service in action—just one of the routine jobs performed by the only British Army Unit in Thailand, the detachment of 237 Squadron.

That this is a Royal Signals unit with a difference is immediately apparent . . . the MEN are hand-picked and their ACCOMMODATION is in one of the best luxury hotels in the centre of Bangkok.

It is a small wonder that the men stationed here are saying that they have got "the best posting in the Army." Although their working hours are extremely long, they are able to enjoy their leisure time in the happy atmosphere of one of the most friendly and scenically beautiful cities in the world.

The Grand Hotel, where the detachment live, is in the centre of the city and is rated the third-best in all of Thailand. It is air-conditioned throughout and is the ideal "billet" for the men to get plenty of sleep and comfort during off-duty hours.

The food is excellent. Although it takes a man time to get used to delicacies like lobster and the various sea-foods which are a feature of the cuisine, there is also plenty of the sort of food which every British soldier enjoys, once he acquires the knack of ordering from the French menus!

Here, in the hotel, the soldiers are able to rub shoulders with people from all walks of life . . . rich businessmen, American tourists, soldiers and sailors of the American Armed Forces.

Their local overseas allowance is high—more than £4/15/- a week on top of his pay for the private soldier. "But when you reckon with the sky-high price of everything in the shops, it doesn't really seem to go very far," says Staff Sergeant R. Millington. "Just one small bottle of beer in a restaurant or night-club can cost anything from 7/- to 12/-!"

Quite a number of the detachment are learning the Thai language—an invaluable asset in Thailand, where English is not spoken so universally as in other Far East stations. W.O.II P. Davis, the Foreman of Signals, is already quite fluent and will shortly be taking the colloquial Thai examination.

There is so much to do and see in Bangkok that there's no danger of leisure-time boredom. The Detachment run frequent trips to local places of interest. They recently travelled the 90 miles north-west of Bangkok to see the remains of the original

Thailand . . . land of a thousand temples, and here, in Bangkok, two members of the Royal Signals detachment admire one of the lions "guarding" the entrance to one of the city's most famous and most ornate temples, the Chapel of the Emerald Buddha. This magnificent temple, with its glowing tiled roofs and rich golden pagodas, presents one of the most beautiful sights in Asia. Inside this chapel, the walls are covered with murals depicting the life of the Lord Buddha, and the ceiling is a deep, luminous blue. Ceremonies here are attended three times a year, with each change of season, by the King of Thailand. The soldier bending down is Lance-Corporal A. Moore, and the other is Signalman C. Bates

bridge over the River Kwai (of film fame), which British prisoners-of-war built and then blew up.

"There isn't an awful lot of it there now, but you can see the foundation bamboo stumps at the bottom of the river. On our way there, we saw the remains of the Japanese P.O.W. camps," said Lance-Corporal A. Moore.

Bangkok has been called the "Venice of the East" because of its maze of "klongs" (canals) which intersect the city. Most of the Detachment have been on the early morning "floating market" tour, and they all agree it is one of their most fascinating experiences. Small motor launches leave the main river dock at 7 a.m. and meet the hundreds of market boats on their way to Bangkok, heavily loaded with vegetables, flowers and every tropical fruit imaginable.

The Detachment holds a monthly party in different places, and once were even able to borrow a millionaire's yacht for an evening sail!

Opportunities for sport are unfortunately limited, soccer matches have been arranged against teams from Royal Navy and Merchant Navy ships, while the rugby players often get a game with one of the Royal Bangkok Sports Club teams.

245 SQUADRON

This month it is a much relieved Unit from which we write. At last after much feverish activity the Administrative Inspection is over and we have emerged practically unscathed. Also finished now is the U.V.I. and the results of this are not bad considering all things.

We were visited half way through the month by the C.S.O. COMCAN and C.R. Signals Malta and Libya, who came to sort some of the problems which are always occurring. Sport still takes up quite a piece of our afternoons with the end of the cricket season upon us. We ended up in an average position in the Area Cricket League after losing the last of our National Service cricketers at the beginning of August. Already we have started getting ready for the Basketball and Football Leagues.

Corporal Thompson returned to us from his trip into the desert with R.M.A. Sandhurst and we have included a short account of this trip at the bottom of this report. Lance-Corporal O'Reilly has also taken his turn in the desert now, having accompanied "A" Company R.H.F. on their Company Exercise.

Saturday, 8th September, saw the loss of Lance-Corporal Arscott to the ranks of 'Married Pads.' We wish him and his wife all the best in their new posting. We still can't understand what a man wants to get married for just before he is posted to Paris!

We now run weekend trips to the Blue Lagoon to give everybody a chance to swim, skin dive and in a lot of cases just sleep. Corporal Hollins and Lance-Corporal Millership seemed to have emerged as the experts at spear fishing and can always be relied on to bring home a load of fish.

Well, that seems to be about the end of the Squadron news other than the account of Corporal Thompson's visit to Kufra.

A Desert Trip

(Corporal Thompson is the veteran desert traveller of 245 Squadron. The trip recounted below is no less than his fifth trip into the wilderness around Benghazi. In fact he is becoming the Area authority on this sort of travel).

"Once again I had been selected to accompany an expedition into the desert. This time the party was from the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst. The party consisted of an officer instructor from Sandhurst, a doctor, an archaeologist and seven officer cadets. Also supplementing these was a Sergeant Brown of 62 Station Workshops, R.E.M.E., who was going in the capacity of mechanical adviser—I was travelling as the radio operator. Our transport consisted of four Land Rovers, three of which were of the type specially fitted for desert work. Our radio communications were provided by a C11/R210 station fitted on the back of one of the latter Land Rovers.

Our first stage was over the very rough road from Agedabia and we made our first stop several miles short of the Oasis Augila. Next day, not long after setting out from the night stop, we struck our first real trouble and one of the vehicles was found to have a broken axle shaft, probably the result of the rough ride the previous day. The leader of the party and Sergeant Brown set off back to Benghazi to get it repaired. Station Workshops did remarkably well and the two trucks were back in camp by eleven o'clock that evening. After a brief stop at Augila to purchase all the cold drinks available, we set off on our first compass bearing towards Bir El Rasc. The cadets were doing all the navigating, using sun compasses during the day and bubble compasses during the night. We did not hit Bir El Rasc first time, but we were not far away from it and arrived safely. Soon we had built a water well and everybody took this opportunity to cool off, the oasis rapidly becoming a nudist colony. Trouble at this time was being inexperienced with the 300-watt generators we had taken with us, but this was soon rectified by the able Sergeant Brown. Leaving this haven of peace, we took a new compass bearing towards Kufra.

I was pleasantly surprised to find a mild form of revolution had taken place in the town since I had been there last. No longer were there evil smells from the salt lakes, there were considerably less flies and even less dirty children asking for the traditional Arab "buckshees." This it was found, was due to the advent of a new chief of police. We were given a guest house with the almost unheard of luxury of a shower and a kitchen. We stayed here just over the day and then pressed on to Archenau, which was our real destination. Up to now we had not been held up very often with bogging down, and we were well within our schedule. We now made it a point to rest during the heat of the day, and I think this kept the vehicles, as well as ourselves, in good condition.

After reaching Archenau we travelled several miles out the other side, down a ravine, until held up by some large boulders. Here we made a fairly permanent camp; around the camp we found the spoor of gazelle, camel and what seemed to be cow, but which we decided, after much discussion, was only donkey. After camp was made, we split up into small parties and set out to explore the surrounding countryside. One party which set out looking for cave drawings were disappointed, and then started looking for pot holes. Needless to say, they immediately found some cave drawings. The same routine was followed the next day, and one of the party came back with a very large lizard. This was pickled for the doctor's collection and stored away amongst the growing pile of samples. A large paper press was used to preserve the cuttings of wild flowers and shrubs and drawing books were filled with diagrams of the cave drawings.

During the heat, Sergeant Brown and myself would indulge in that popular pastime of sleeping, and only stir to get a drink or brew tea.

Communications from Benghazi were not brilliant, but somehow control managed to get through to us and maintain our slender link with civilisation. On the return trip it was decided to try a new route. This turned out to be a great success and we could have easily made Kufra in one day. As there was yet no real hurry, we took it slowly and then, on reaching Kufra, we took time off to reorganise the vehicles. This done, we moved on to Bir El Rasc, and on arriving there spent some of our leisure time hunting for dates. We managed to find some real fine specimens of the fruit. It was now noticeable that the party had not spent much of its time in shaving—there were a couple of fine growths in evidence. After leaving the oasis we travelled through some pretty rough country to arrive at Agedabia, where time was spent in drinking the rather crude local mineral waters, but needless to say, after our days in the desert, we enjoyed it.

That night was spent only a few miles from Benghazi, and we prepared the loads on the vehicles so that the process of unloading in the morning would be greatly simplified.

Next day found us safely in camp again, tired but happy at accomplishing the trip. The interest of this trip and the comradeship which built up amongst the party made this a very good trip and one I would not have missed for anything in the world.

246 GURKHA SQUADRON

In order to decide which of the Squadron Officers should lead the Round-the-Colony Race Team, a trial climb was organised up a local hill known as Nameless (571 metres). A hot Sunday afternoon was chosen, and after a little refreshment in the Mess, the three set off. Major Kirkby, in a manner reminiscent of a mountain goat, won the honours. After six weeks of rigorous training, the great day arrived, and at 05.00 hours, the team set off. After having completed ten tortuous check points, the tired, but happy, team crossed the finishing line 13 hours and 58 minutes later, in ninth position. We did not win, but in view of the sudden change of plan, in the middle of the race, due to the unfortunate breakdown of one of the Squadron boats, it was a very creditable time. The effort of Corporal Gillet, who has now left the Squadron, was particularly commendable, as he only returned to us from Malaya a short time before the race and had little or no training. Corporal Gallagher, who had been out at a party until 03.00 the night before, looked remarkably fresh at the finish. It leads us to believe he has found the secret of good training. As the O.C. crawled away to his bed, to sleep for what eventually turned out to be something like 36 hours, he was heard to mutter, almost inaudibly, "Never again."

Our extensive upgrading training programme was interrupted when most of the Squadron was committed to providing communications for Operation "Seal I" in which the Brigade had the task of rounding up and returning the many thousands of refugees who flooded over the border from Communist China. It was not a pleasant task to return people who had marched for several days without food, but the economic strain of a further 50,000 unemployed and homeless people would have been too great for the already overcrowded Colony.

The Squadron Camp (Exercise "Three Down II") which took place from 7th July to 14th July, was very well organised by the S.S.M. and the Senior N.C.O.s. The site chosen was a small knoll in the middle of a large and sandy bay on the south side of the Island of Lan Tau. The Squadron, minus officers, moved over to the island by L.C.M. on Saturday, and by the time the officers arrived on Sunday, everyone was nicely settled in. Whilst we were there, Local Storm Warning No. 1 was hoisted. The storm itself passed to the south of the Colony, but the fringe effects were felt, and high winds and heavy rain knocked down a few tents during the night. Apart from this the weather was good, and we were able to get on with map-reading and initiative schemes.

On Monday morning, Lieutenant-Colonel Fletcher paid us a visit. He arrived just in time to join us in a climb up Lan Tau peak (935 metres). The climb was a strenuous one, due to a temperature of 90° in the shade and a humidity of 87%. What kept most people going was the thought of the ice-cold beer waiting to be drunk when we got back to camp.

Every morning at 07.00, the whole Squadron went swimming for half-an-hour, after which we had morning tea, followed by weapon training. After that, various schemes got under way. The evenings were spent in fishing, swimming and inter-Troop football competitions on the beach. There was no touch-line and the ball was only considered to be in touch when it became necessary to swim in order to retrieve it. Playing football in several feet of water was a new experience for most of us. The camp finished with a Squadron Nautch (the S.Q.M.S. had very thoughtfully packed the Marooni kit) which proved to be a very pleasant ending to a most enjoyable week.

Sporting activities are kept to a minimum in Hong Kong during the summer, due to excessive heat and humidity. However, despite the heat, we managed to win the Brigade Minor Units Basketball Trophy. It is a great pity that our efforts in the swimming pool were not so skillful as those on the basketball pitch, as in the Royal Signals and the Brigade swimming meetings we failed rather miserably.

Now that the weather is becoming cooler, competitions for the Inter-Troop Shield are well under way. The sports included in the competition are basketball, volleyball, hockey, football, swimming and shooting. Each Troop is providing at least two teams in every sport, and the finals of the knock-out competitions will be played on the Regimental Birthday.

Typhoon "Wanda" has recently struck the Colony, causing widespread devastation. The Squadron was fully employed, both during and after the storm, manning radio links to supplement failing telephone services. Radio detachments were also sent out to the badly-damaged area of Sha Tin to provide communications for relief work and the salvaging of 20 Recce Flight. "J" Troop line detachments worked hard throughout the day and night, assisting the New Territories Line Troop in restoring static telephone communications.

We were sorry to lose Captain Lettin when he went last month to take up his appointment as Adjutant of the Regiment in Seremban. He has done a great deal for the Squadron in many different fields. He has been replaced by Lieutenant Verdon, who has come (more or less) direct from Aden.

249 SQUADRON

Adventure Training

The theme of our notes this month is Adventure Training. Facilities for this type of training are probably better in Malaya than in other overseas stations; readily to hand are jungle, mountains, rivers and the sea. Within the Squadron we have a very active and well supported Adventure Training Club which is run by Corporal Holdsworth. It is largely due to his enthusiasm and drive that the club has risen from a small canoe club to a very thriving adventure training club in which the members pride themselves on their stamina and on leading an active outdoor life. Every weekend sees members setting forth on mountain climbing expeditions, exploration trips along remote Malayan rivers or journeys across to isolated islands around the coast of Singapore. On Sunday nights these energetic young regular soldiers can be found back in barracks very tired, with blistered hands or feet, after two or three wet nights sleeping out in primitive bivouacs, but with a tremendous spirit and a sense of achievement. They have done something worthwhile with their leisure time, have seen new and interesting things and places, have taken risks and have used their intelligence and skill to bring them safely back.

At the present time the Adventure Training Club has 30 active members, four canoes and the use of 18th Regiment's Nuffield Trust Falcon, *Peregrine*, which is also equipped with an outboard motor. Accounts of the club's activities are written up after each outing and the following are two typical expeditions; the first written by Corporal Towner on the ascent of Mount Ophir, the highest peak in Central Malaya, and the second by Corporal Holdsworth on an exploration trip down the Muar River.

Exercise "Big Climb I"

By Corporal Towner

Having been two whole weeks in 249 Squadron at Singapore, fresh from U.K., I discovered that a party of lads led by a certain Corporal Holdsworth were going into Malaya to climb a small mountain, Mount Ophir by name. Thinking it might be a good idea I put my name forward to go with them.

So, without any fuss, trouble or questions, I found myself on the Monday morning with the rest of the unfortunate party in a three-tonner making tracks for Mount Ophir. We reached the base camp in the afternoon and made "bivvies" by the side of a lovely cool reservoir in the shadow of Mount Ophir, and what a shadow it was, all 4,187 feet of it towering above us as if it were just daring us to climb it.

On the Tuesday morning after a peaceful night the first party of 10 led by a Corporal Rodgers started off for the top looking fit, clean and very confident. Some two hours later it was our turn. We had then had an addition to our party, none other than our O.C., Major Webb. We had been warned earlier by Corporal Holdsworth that the first part of the climb was the easiest. I am sure now that he meant the first quarter of a mile, the nice flat bit leading up to the base of the mountain, because sure as eggs there was nothing easy after that part. It was just grunt, groan and grumble from then on with very frequent stops to regain a little bit of breath and energy, both of which were scarce.

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1. Corporal Holdsworth and Signalman Birch at about the 35 mile mark for the first day a little tired but very pleased with what they have already seen.
2. Signalman Oragano and Signalman Pentland struggling with the fast current which sometimes took the canoe dangerously towards the bank (the thought of crocodiles always made the effort easier)
3. Corporal Appleby and Signalman Williams keeping a wary look out for anything big that moved in the water
4. After travelling 10 miles from Kong Kong down the River Johore and then the open sea the party stops on a little island off Singapore for a brew.
5. After marching 15 miles to reach Kong Kong before 1900 hrs, the party bedded down, then on Sunday they were changed and busy checking on sea routes for Singapore
6. Though our parties usually work in pairs, we overlooked it on this occasion owing to the fact that Lance-Corporals Scriven and Young are new to Malaya, but new or not their spirit of adventure is there
7. Corporal Rodgers and Signalman Abbott smiling confidently when told that if they don't make it by 1900 hrs the canoes will be gone.

This torture carried on for approximately four hours when we finally reached half way camp. I think most of the lads were feeling the same as me, that if this was only half way what was the next half going to be like. We found out the next day after coming out of the coma we had fallen into the night before. This time ours was the first party to go. After a disappointingly short downhill journey, up we went again and this time it needed handholds as well. An hour and a half of crawling brought us to one of the small peaks from which we could see the top of Mount Ophir, still some way away in the clouds. After a short rest and then on to the summit itself led by Major Webb. There were triumphant looks on everyone's face as we looked to the reservoir where we first camped. If some of you sarcastic readers wonder if it was all worth it the answer is "Yes" and to prove it I am going on the next climb as well.

Down the Muar River

By Corporal Holdsworth

Six enterprising members of 249 Squadron, all members of the Unit Canoe Club, under the leadership of Corporal Holdsworth set off to canoe down the River Muar from Segamat to Muar, a distance of approximately 150 miles.

The party consisted of Corporals Holdsworth and Appleby and Signalmen Birch, Williams, Oragano and Pentland.

The party left the Unit at 13.30 hours by transport and arrived at 17.30 hours where they launched their three wooden two-men canoes. After half an hour of paddling down the Segamat river they reached the junction of the Muar river and decided to camp for the night. They chose for their site a rubber plantation near Kampong, Tebbing Tingi, but unfortunately the mosquitoes were so bad that all efforts during the early evening had to be spent in building a large fire to keep them away.

The following morning the party paddled on through a game reserve and were rewarded with the sight of beautifully coloured birds of all sizes. The going at this stage was fairly easy as the current was carrying them at a fair rate and at tea time they landed having covered 35 miles. Leaving a party to make camp, Corporal Holdsworth and Signalman Pentland went off to a neaby Kampong to get fresh fruit and water. This sortie was not successful due to language difficulty and all they could obtain was a bunch of uneatable bananas, a small pineapple and some water.

After an uneventful night the party moved off at 08.00 hours on Friday morning in fine weather and by lunch time had reached Kampong Liang Batu. Their passage onwards was watched with great interest by a tribe of monkeys which followed on the bank chattering away. It was a boiling hot day and by early afternoon their water supplies had run out and everyone was extremely thirsty. In the late afternoon, however, it started to rain, making it extremely difficult to find a suitable camping site. In the end it was quite dark before the bedraggled crews could get ashore at Grisek. Whilst searching for a site, a pair of eyes of unknown ownership were picked up in the torch beam which were sufficiently frightening to set the crews paddling again. The site eventually chosen was not very satisfactory, two members making up their beds on top of an ants' nest and the whole expedition spent a thoroughly cold and uncomfortable night.

The following morning, Saturday, the crews still damp and rather miserable set off again and as the sun got stronger so things dried out and morale rose. That evening the party were luckier with their accommodation and a schoolmaster of a river-side school offered them the use of the school house for the night. The local Malays watched their coming with interest and were particularly fascinated with the solid fuel cubes. The schoolmaster also loaned a lamp and a bed, no doubt the expedition Commander commandered the latter.

On the Sunday morning the party started off on the last leg of their journey and after a hard day of paddling reached the outskirts of Muar. That night a party went into Muar to collect some beer and on their return to camp they were joined by members of the local police force.

After a very pleasant evening concluded by a sing song our weary travellers got to bed. The following morning Unit transport picked them up at the Muar ferry and brought them back to camp in time for tea. So ended a memorable and worthwhile weekend.

Congratulations to this party on doing something worthwhile. Who knows, Royal Signals may yet win the annual Devizes to Westminster Canoe race with men like these.

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Hong Kong is a place of extremes. The transport systems in the Colony are as fine as any in the world, yet in Saikung it is five hours march across centuries old paths to the nearest shop. Typhoon "Wanda," which struck the Colony in September is another extreme of nature that contrasts strongly with the excellent weather we are now enjoying.

"Wanda" has already been the subject of an article in The Wire. In her wake she left something like £8,000 worth of equipment damage to our submarine and overhead cables. The SWS Line Troops that comprise the Squadron have many weeks of work before the communication systems are permanently restored.

Further extremes were revealed by the typhoon. Some of our H.K.O.R. lost their houses. The cost of replacement of these houses is not more than £35. The rent of a furnished two bedroomed flat here is £80 per month. The longer the writer of these notes is here, the more apparent and revealing these contrasts become. The Common Market negotiations in Europe put 10,000 Hong Kong people out of work. The American discussions on cotton tariffs caused five factories to close. The place of the Army, and Royal Signals, in a community like this is unenviable in some ways, and most desirable in others. At the very least it is an experience that makes a strong impression on anyone serving here.

Training. In spite of "Wanda" we are running the first Technicians course in Hong Kong of any size. Twelve H.K.O.R. are training as line technicians, and with them we hope in the new year to overcome the problems caused by the shortage of British soldiers.

The Squadron has also undergone its bi-annual shooting sessions, and though we had only middling success in the Garrison shoot we hope to improve and win the Royal Signals Inter-Squadron Cup. S.S.M. R. Bell and Sergeant S. H. Lee have both shot well, as have Lance-Corporal R. Maynard and Signalman Keneally.

Work. In the New Territories the damage to overhead routes was severe, as it was on the airfield served by the Air Formation Signal Troop. It is at times like these that the efficient hard working soldiers make their invaluable presence felt. Long hours have been worked by many N.C.O.s and men, and it is to their credit that trunk communications have held throughout the natural disasters that have occurred this year.

Social. The annual launch trip was held in September, and over one hundred members of the Squadron and their families enjoyed the day swimming and eating at Clearwater Bay. The weather was excellent, the food a credit to Sergeant Barlow and Corporal Littlewood.

These functions are one of the few times when members of the Squadron from the out troops can meet their colleagues.

Greetings. To all past members of the Squadron we offer early but sincere Christmas Greetings. Though we have changed our name three times in three years the spirit and work remains much the same, as do our barracks and our equipment. May 1963 see a retention of the spirit, a reduction of the work, but a renewal of barracks and equipments!

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It's hello once again from us out here in Cyprus where the sun is blazing down and still no sign of rain.

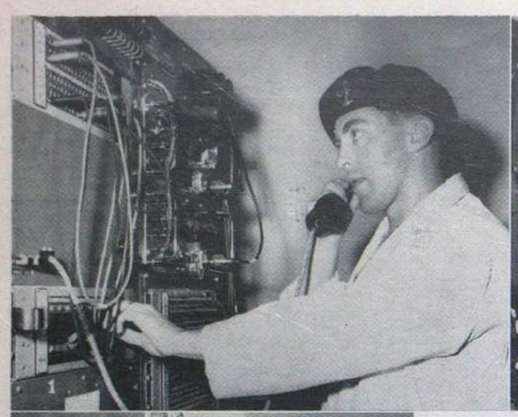
We extend a very warm welcome to the W.R.A.C. personnel who came to join us from Epskopi in the middle of September. We hope that they will enjoy their stay in Dhekelia.

The Squadron has been hard at work since our last entry in The Wire. Our vehicles have been given a really thorough going over by R.E.M.E., along with our well-cared-for arms.

On the operational side, our Technicians have been working their fingers to the bone in an all-out attempt to get the Signal Centre up to its fully-operational status by the designated date. In work of this calibre, troubles never come singly, as many of us have found out.

We congratulate one of our W.R.A.C. members, Private Cairns on winning a prize for being the best "twister" at a dance held at 9th Regiment.

We also congratulate Signalman Smith on being picked to play for the Corps at cricket. He belongs to our Episkopi detachment, and did well in helping us to beat Royal Engineers, Cyprus, by eight wickets.



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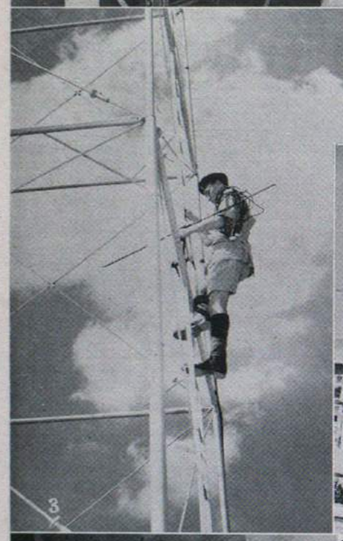

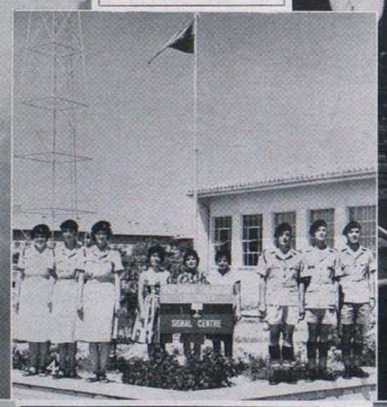

1. Corporal Scrase in system control.
2. Signalman Irwin operating a C11 set.
3. Lance-Corporal Chick on his way up one of the 60ft. Radio Towers.
4. (Left to right): Lance-Corporal Bowyer, Corporal Stead, Privates Brindle, Popi Daniel, Gavriella Zambakidou, Jassoulla Baghdades, Lance-Corporals Salisbury and Southall and Corporal Scrase.
5. Lance-Corporal Salisbury taking readings on the 63 KVA Generator.
6. Corporal Williams doing maintenance on a Teleprinter.
7. Signalmen Stuart and Freeman working on the telephone switchboard.

605 TROOP (LONDON DISTRICT)

Whenever we anticipate settling into normal routine, that is, the running of our Signal Centre and our twelve telephone exchanges and teleprinter terminals, coupled with efforts to keep abreast with A.C.E. courses, trade conversion, compassionate cases and the thousand and one troop problems; along comes the unexpected and unusual.

Two of these unexpected and unusual events have occurred. The first was the provision of an 'Alternative Arrangements Net' for the State Visit of President Tubman of Liberia on 10th July. R.S. No. 44 were used with stations manned as follows:—

Queen Victoria Memorial, Buckingham Palace: Captain W. Farmery and Staff Sergeant A. W. Peat; Arrival platform, Victoria: Staff Sergeant A. J. Cowe and Lance-Corporal R. Coules; H.Q. London District Horse Guards (Remoted to Operations Room): Sergeant J. Spiers and Corporal G. Eggleton.

Saluting Battery, Tower of London: Sergeant A. Todd with Lance-Corporal G. A. Savage; Saluting Battery, Hyde Park: Sergeant Donnelly with Lance-Corporal R. D. Chinery; Relay on the roof of London District Recruiting Centre, Great Scotland Yard: Corporal I. Holmes with Signalman G. W. Newsom and Signalman G. A. Hargreaves.

Regarding the latter, Corporal Holmes thinks it high time a lift was installed at the Recruiting Centre. Communications worked well and everything went without hitch except for the weather and some interference from a mini-cab net.

As the Royal Party left Victoria the heavens opened and everyone got a soaking.

The second of our unusual activities was the making up and manning from Troop resources of a recruiting stand which was set up at Victoria Station News Theatre, 30th July-2nd August and at Waterloo Station News Theatre 2nd-8th August. This was in connection with the showing of the Royal Tournament Film, which includes the Royal Signals Motor Cycle Display Team. The space in each case was very limited, but a good stand was produced by S.Q.M.S. Peat with our brass Jimmy as the centre piece.

The stand was manned by the following personnel working shifts duty:—S.Q.M.S. A. W. Peat, Staff Sergeant A. J. Cowe, Sergeant A. Todd, Lance-Corporal D. J. Le Carpentier, Signalman G. A. Hargreaves and Lance-Corporal G. A. Savage.

We do not know how many recruits we persuaded, but we did have some promising enquiries.

Other perennial activities included the provision and manning of switchboard and extensions for Stoney Castle C.C.F. Camp run by 2nd Battalion Scots Guards and used by 22 School Contingents between 21st July and 8th August.

This is one of the few occasions when the linesman can show his mettle and Lance-Corporal R. Coules and his detachment installed a line system which was a credit to their trade, and which survived three weeks of the gales and rain of this summer without a fault. The only mishap was due to a civilian vehicle knocking a pole down.

On Sunday, 29th July, the London District Motor Cycle trials, organised by our C.S.O., Lieutenant-Colonel P. G. Curry, O.B.E., were held at Tunnel Hill, near Pirbright. Lieutenant B. W. Giller and Lance-Corporal G. A. Savage laid out a gruelling cross country course and no competitor beat the bogey. Other members of the Troop assisted in timekeeping and manning P.A. equipment. For once the weather was kind and we had an enjoyable Sunday out in the country.

Sergeant Spiers was lent to 238 Squadron to assist in their recruiting duties. He did so well that they want him again. Unfortunately, the demands of Exercise "Fallex" prevented him going on tour again.

On the signalling side of our activities we have closed our exchange at the Duke of Yorks Headquarters. All the extensions have been transferred to the exchange in the magnificent new Chelsea Barracks. The Chelsea exchange opened on 3rd September, 1962, thanks to the loan of W.R.A.C. operators from 239 Squadron. We have also assumed responsibility for the Tower of London Exchange.

THE WELFARE SECTION STILL REQUIRES MORE CLOTHING

The problem of staffing telephone exchanges and teleprinter terminals in the London district is always with us. If any reader knows of suitable and willing civilian staff for these jobs we would be pleased to know of them.

SPORT

Shooting

Scottish Command Royal Signals Rifle Meeting, 1962, held at Dreghorn Ranges, Edinburgh

The annual Royal Signals Scottish Command Rifle Meeting had to be put back to October because of the call on all Regiments taking part in Exercise "Fallex 62" from 14th to 30th September with peak periods at weekends when Units had to perform in their signal role. As Regiments were competing in the Lord Lieutenants' Challenge Shield and Mercury Cup Competition and the closing date for results being sent into Secretary, T.A. Rifle Association, London, 6th/7th October, 1962, had to be the dates for the Meeting.

Although this was the fourth successive weekend on which Units were occupied in training it was fortunate that 6th/7th October fell within the "Indian Summer" now being enjoyed even in these northern latitudes.

The Mercury Cup match was fired-off on 6th October, 1962, with our usual three Regiments, 51st (Highland), 52nd (Lowland) and 61st (City of Edinburgh), taking part. Registers have been forwarded to Secretary T.A.R.A. London, and it is hoped that the result will be announced in the not too distant future.

The weather conditions were good although an oblique cross-wind did have an influence on the shooting and the afternoon light was not really as good as one would wish, especially during the Snap Shooting practice.

The Command Matches were fired off on Sunday, 7th October, 1962. They attracted quite good entries despite the War Office stringency on free travel to Rifle Meetings of this kind. Six teams entered for the Corps Shield and ten teams for the Falling Plates Competition, which is always very popular and is keenly contested. The Hardy Challenge Cup for the best individual shot and the Medal for the best young soldier were competed for concurrently with the Corps Shield Match.

The Pool Bull, elusive once again this year, and the .22 RF shoot attracted many competitors. The Pool Bull now starts off at 10 guineas for the next Meeting so the marksmen should keep well in practice for the event.

The Meeting brought out of doors T.A. Training to a happy conclusion for this year and was enjoyed by all who attended.

The results were as follows:—

Points

Scottish Command Corps Shield

Shield and Medals to winning team—1st: 51st (H) Regiment (T.A.) 488
2nd: 61st (City of Edinburgh) Regiment (T.A.) ... 448

Hardy Challenge Cup

Winner: W.O.II A. B. Peebles, 61st (City of Edinburgh) Regiment (T.A.) 74
Runner-up: Corporal H. Wisdom, 61st (City of Edinburgh) Regiment (T.A.) 72

Young Soldier—Best Shot—Medal

Winner: Signalman J. C. Evans, 51st (H) Regiment (T.A.) 59

.22 RF Competition

Winner: Signalman T. Cockett, 242 Squadron
Runner-up: Staff Sergeant Ramsay, 51st (H) Regiment (T.A.)

Pool Bull

None scored. Prize money carried forward to next year.

The assembled competitors were addressed by Colonel R. Linton, O.B.E., Chief Signal Officer, at the conclusion of the

Meeting before the prizes were presented. Colonel Linton expressed his satisfaction at so many having made the effort to attend after the lengthy September exercises and he stressed how agreeable it was that all Regiments in the Command should foregather at the Rifle Meeting and that there was a very considerable value attached to this sort of annual social reunion of Royal Signals T.A. Regiments in Scotland in addition to taking part in the Rifle Shooting Competitions. Colonel Linton congratulated the winners of the matches and individual awards.

He announced that efforts were being made to hold next year's meeting in June in a hope that better weather might grace the event. He then called upon Mrs. G. S. Fenton to present the prizes to the successful teams and individuals. Thanks were tendered to Mrs. Fenton for performing this pleasant duty with a big thank you and three hearty cheers.

Cricket

Royal Signals v. Royal Engineers

In reviewing the annual cricket match between Royal Signals and Royal Engineers, it would perhaps be kind to the former Corps to draw a polite veil over their batting in both innings. Though the stronger batting side on paper, they twice failed against steady, accurate bowling, spearheaded by the deceptively amiable Goodhall. This corpulent bowler on both occasions tore the heart out of the Signals middle batting by a combination of guile and a surprising degree of stamina. After Warner had taken the first two wickets in the first innings, Goodhall proceeded to occasion the removal of the next six Signals batsmen. Two of these batsmen were taken in the slips, while two others fell to perfectly legitimate catches taken by the highly vocal Engineers' 'keeper. Warner quickly removed the two remaining batsmen thus completing the debacle despite the fact that the Signals had worked themselves into a fairly promising position by the time lunch was taken. No batsman had been able to fully master the Sappers' attack, though no less than five of the recognised batsmen advanced to double figures with varying degrees of confidence.

Another misfortune to befall the Signals was that in both innings, potential 'sheet anchors' were swept away at critical stages of the game by a resolute attack, leaving normally prolific and aggressive run-getters to fend for themselves against tight, aggressive bowling without any respite or moral support from more conventional performers. The Signals' second innings followed the same slightly depressing course of its predecessor, six players getting into double figures without even properly consolidating useful beginnings of collaring the attack, while once again Goodhall broke the back of the middle batting, this time removing five of his six first innings victims and adding Lee to his tally for good measure.

When the Engineers batted, Atkey was able to play the all-important 'sheet-anchor' role. With four of his team mates scoring no less than 111 out of the other 126 runs scored, Engineers were able to build up a particularly useful lead on the second morning, which subsequently proved to be a match-winning effort. Iliffe should be especially congratulated for his part in the valuable ninth wicket stand, which yielded 56 invaluable runs. It was during this stand that the game slipped away irrevocably from the Signals grasp. The bowling now lost its earlier bite and penetration, while the ground fielding and catching never impeccable at the best of times, became more noticeably ragged. Only with their slick returns to the wicket did Signals outshine their opponents in the field.

In the final innings, Engineers were set to get 101 to win in something like 2½ hours, and this they achieved with five wickets in hand. Jones was finally caught for 44, aided and abetted by a continuation of the 'lives' generously given him in the first innings, while Atkey once again provided the necessary solidity in the final stages, completing two chanceless innings.

This match had its fair share of 'ifs and ands,' but if only Signals could have extended their second innings by another half an hour, simultaneously adding a further 30 runs to their total, the Sappers would have been obliged to chase after their target at an accelerated rate, a closer and certainly a more exciting finish would then have resulted.

Royal Signals—First innings 150 (Gaze 32, Hadley 31; Goodhall 6 for 60, Warner 4 for 54); second innings 136 (Goodhall 6 for 41).

Royal Engineers—First innings 186 (Atkey 50, Skillington 34; Lee 5 for 65, Wells 3 for 44); second innings 101 (Jones 44; Hughes 4 for 45).

Royal Signals Hockey

Despite a small turnout at the Corps hockey trial on Friday, 21st September, the team selected to play against the Thistles gave a display which augers well for the coming season.

During the first half the honours were extremely even but the Corps were unlucky not to take the lead when a flick, by McLuckie from close range, was miraculously deflected out of danger by the Thistles goalkeeper.

After the interval the Thistles attacked in strength and a neat goal was scored by their inside right. The Corps replied to this by forcing a short corner, and when this was taken Howie's searing shot brought another brilliant save from the Thistles goalkeeper.

Shortly afterwards a penalty flick was awarded against the Corps when goalkeeper Dale, having made a good save, was unable to get up off the ball, thereby preventing a possible goal by the Thistles. The flick was beautifully taken by Chisholm, the Thistles centre-half, and Dale was given no chance to save.

Despite this setback the Corps team fought back and both wingmen were responsible for mounting attacks which kept the Thistles defence at full stretch. Chisholm, for the Thistles, was a tower of strength at this time, and from one of his pin-point clearances, a good piece of play by the Thistles forward line resulted in a goal scored by their centre-forward.

Although the final result was a win for the Thistles, by three goals to nil, this margin gives no reflection of the way in which the Corps team played. From start to finish they played as a team and moved the ball about well. Particular mention must be made of Lance-Corporal T. E. Trent, of 30th Regiment, who made a very good debut at right-half. This young man should stand the Corps in good stead in the future.

The Corps was represented in this fixture by the following:—

Sergeant K. Dale	11th Regiment
Captain I. N. Lee	School of Signals
Second-Lieutenant S. R. Carr-Smith	School of Signals
Lance-Corporal T. E. Trent	30th Regiment
Lieutenant M. A. Best	School of Signals
Sergeant J. Callow	Army Apprentices School
Major H. Rothwell	Junior Leaders Regiment
Captain G. R. Oehlers	24th Regiment
Second-Lieutenant A. R. Bailey ...	School of Signals
Sergeant J. N. Howie	School of Signals
Lieutenant J. G. McLuckie	30th Regiment

Driving Championships Malaya

The Malaya Centre of the British Army Motoring Association was formed in February, 1962, and their first championship was held over a 3-day period in September, 1962. Some 57 Landrovers from 22 units of 17 Gurkha Division/Overseas Commonwealth Land Forces took part.

The event consisted of a 500 mile road and cross country circuit, followed by manoeuvring tests. The event was organised by the staff of C.R. Signals Malaya and proved a great success. It created considerable interest and enthusiasm and we feel that the event will now become an annual one.

One vehicle from 208 (COMWEL) Squadron, crewed by Lance-Corporal Meir, Signalman Gorden and Signalman Cooke, did exceptionally well in the road circuit. Two vehicles entered by 17 Gurkha Regiment also did well.

A.E.R. and T.A.

C.C.F. Signals at Blandford

The Signal Platoons of Christ's Hospital and Victoria College, Jersey, spent the first week of August with H.Q. A.E.R. at Blandford instead of going to annual camp.

This visit was a great success from every point of view. The Cadets spent the first three days learning to use wireless and line equipment strange to them (and to most Cadets), such as AN/TRC and SR C11, and in the evenings listened to interesting talks on various aspects of communications, given by officers of H.Q. A.E.R. and 30th Regiment. Many pertinent questions were asked by the Cadets, which certainly indicated how much they were interested. This was followed up by a four-day wireless exercise where seven small detachments ranged over most of Dorset and Somerset. A good deal of traffic was passed, mostly by CW, and frequency-changes at long range were indulged in, not always with immediate success!

H.Q. A.E.R. ungrudgingly provided the equipment and, what is more, first-class teaching during the first part of the week by instructors who would otherwise have been on leave. So we wish to express our gratitude to them. The Cadets thoroughly enjoyed this contact with a regular unit and undoubtedly derived great benefit from it. Such attachments can do nothing but good and may result in many cadets thinking seriously of service in either the Regular or the Reserve Army. Perhaps other Regular Units in the U.K. (or even B.A.O.R.) might consider following the lead of H.Q. A.E.R. For those of us who are really interested in signalling this is much the most profitable and enjoyable way of spending our annual camp.

410 SQUADRON, A.E.R.

In an earlier edition of THE WIRE it was said of the Squadron that Annual Camp was eagerly awaited because it was to be a full scale exercise. This proved to be so. After a few days at Blandford we moved to Marchwood where we were committed to providing communications for the Port Task Force exercise in Southampton Water. We took part in port landings and beach landings and although this was our first taste of such things we managed to do what was required of us. Getting our vehicles on and off landing craft, as the photograph shows, proved to be quite a novel experience.

The Squadron was congratulated on the communications and we wormed our way into the hearts of our mother Corps, the Royal Engineers, who were our hosts. The close co-operation by all participants of various Arms in this extensive exercise was most gratifying to find especially to a new Unit such as ourselves. We learned many new lessons which we hope to use in our own out of camp training and during further collective exercises.

Our visitors at Marchwood were Colonel T. H. C. Grigg and Colonel W. H. Oliver, M.B.E., E.R.D., during demonstration day and later by C.S.O. Scottish Command, Colonel R. Linton, O.B.E.

The beach landing

65th REGIMENT (T.A.)

Middlesex Tough Training Contest

In a moment of carefree recklessness the Regiment opted, for the first time, to compete in the Middlesex T.A.F.A. Tough Training Contest. It fell, not unnaturally, to No. 4 (Parachute) Squadron to take on the task and to put forward their six 'gladiators'—Major D. Reid, Cpl. J. Clift, Cpl. M. Wickens, Lance-Corporal R. McBide, Lance-Corporal T. Andrews and Lance-Corporal P. Duffy.

During recent months the Regiment has been fully committed with Annual Camp, the National Radio Show and Exercise "Fallex," so the team was only able to concentrate on preparing themselves for two weeks before the contest. However, we have grown to expect results from 'les paras' and they certainly produced them this time. They won the Adjacent Units Competition Cup and gained third place in the main County Championship. Competition was fierce; many of the

The team with their trophies. *Front row:* Lance-Corporal Andrews, Major Reid, Corporal Clift. *Back row:* Lance-Corporal Duffy, Lance-Corporal McBride, Corporal Wickens

thirty other teams being infanteers who had taken part in previous years and had spent months in preparation.

The contest included marching over 32 miles in under 12 hours, rifle and Bren shooting, watermanship on a raft, first aid and Civil Defence light rescue. On the first phase the team gained a strong lead through precise cross-country compass marching and increased their lead by maintaining a steady non-stop marching speed which conserved energy and kept the team complete throughout. It was a case of the 'hare and the tortoise'—the 'hares' passed us many times but paid the inevitable penalty for haste.

Signalman Duffy gave an outstanding performance for, despite badly blistered feet, he refused to give in to the pain and discomfort and through doing so kept the team complete and in a winning position. Our youngest member, J. Clift, showed that the 18-year-olds have what it takes and are equal in all respects to the rest of us. M. Wickens, T. Andrews (our team super-cook) and R. McBride bore the lion's share of carrying the Bren—no mean task even on a short march. Major D. Reid, as team leader, set the pace and, when spirits flagged as they will do near the end, became a one-man military band by whistling like a cagebird for the last eight miles. "Colonel Bogey" was 'murdered' a thousand times! Signalman F. Johnson, our volunteer base vehicle driver, did a splendid job by being at the right place at the right time and with a cheerful countenance throughout—especially at the finish when he lifted the footweary team from the finishing point back to our T.A. Centre via a stop at Major Reid's home where Mrs. Reid provided some welcome food fare and a little (even more welcome!) liquid celebration.

One event which will never be forgotten was the crossing of the River Thames near Hampton Court. The Q.M. let us have six motor inner tubes, two scrim nets and ten Mal poles. From these we made a raft. Due to shortage of time it could not be tested for 'floatability' before the contest, so it was with some understandable temerity that we inflated the inner tubes with footpumps on the river bank, launched the raft and clambered aboard. The Field Engineering and Mine Warfare Pamphlet No. 8, paragraph 229(a), proved a reliable textbook and we remained afloat, did not even get ourselves too wet and arrived in style at the other side of the wide river. On reaching the opposite bank the team carried the contraption for a full mile—we wished we'd used balsa wood in place of the iron-collared Mal poles! Full marks, however, were gained for our strict

The team paddling their raft across the River Thames at Hampton on Sunday morning

adherence to the textbook and to the rules of watermanship. Through lying flat on the raft and using hand paddles made of hardboard and shaped like a baseball glove we were able to paddle at speed without causing the raft to rock.

Naturally, having done it once and reached so high a place there are already murmurings about 'next year'—but the response is not so joyous while the blisters still tingle!

Back to training after the Radio Show. Training has been our main pre-occupation during September with the first fifty new members as a result of our stand at Earl's Court.

The fortnightly radio contacts with Nairobi continue—a concentrated teleprinter training weekend was held at our country house. No. 4 Squadron entered a team in the Middlesex Tough Training Contest and came in third in an entry of 30 teams. Congratulations.

The Annual Administration Inspection went off well. Our new C.S.O., Lieutenant-Colonel D. Pounds, inspected training. The Commanding Officer presented the Tiffen Awards to Signalman Dickson and Private Evans, W.R.A.C. These are awarded to the best new recruits for the current T.A. year. George Tiffen, Esq., generously donated the prizes.

On Tuesday evening, 16th October, we dined out our Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel E. W. Milner, O.B.E., T.D., after five years in command of the Regiment.

He is succeeded by the former Second-in-Command, Lieutenant-Colonel J. O. Hunter, M.B.E.

Amongst those present at the dinner were our Honorary Colonel, the Earl of Malmesbury, the B.G.S. (Signals) War Office, Lieutenant-Colonel D. L. Pounds, Colonel J. F. E. Goad, O.B.E., of the Skinners Company, the Secretary the City of London T. and A.F. Association, Group Captain R. G. Harman, D.F.C., the Clerk to the Skinners Company, Mr. Myles Glover, Mr. B. L. Muller, Director of Regentone, Mr. N. A. Temlow, Director of Pye Radio Company, and Mr. George Tiffen.

G. Tiffen, Esq. accompanies the C.O. and the R.S.M. inspecting morse training

Lieutenant-Colonel E. W. Milner, O.B.E., T.D.

In February, 1949, Eric Milner joined 1 Special Communications (City of London) Regiment, T.A. (later to be redesignated 65th Regiment (T.A.). In 1950 owing to his civilian job taking him abroad he was posted to T.A.R.O. for three years.

In April, 1953, he returned to England and to 1 Special Communications Regiment, T.A., in the rank of Captain. In 1954 he was promoted to Major and assumed command of H.Q. Squadron until 1957. In October, 1957, he was promoted to Lieutenant-Colonel and assumed command of the Regiment.

At this time the volunteer strength of the Regiment stood at about 60 all ranks of both sexes of which about 15 attended regularly on Drill Nights.

Lieutenant-Colonel Milner's first task therefore was recruiting. Owing to the Regiment being affiliated to the Worshipful Company of Skinners, the Commanding Officer's first Recruiting Drive was directed towards the Senior Boys and Old Boys of the Skinners Schools in the Tonbridge area. In 1959 as a result of exhibitions at these schools and personal letters from the Colonel to all old boys who were within an age group required by the Regiment, an additional Squadron was started at Tonbridge. This was known originally as the Skinners Squadron. The Regimental Recruiting figures for the first two years of Lieutenant-Colonel Milner's command were in 1958, 25, and in 1939, 71.

In February, 1959, Lieutenant-Colonel Milner 'persuaded' his wife to join the Regiment (Mrs. Milner had been a wartime Lieutenant-Colonel in the A.T.S.) and to take over the W.R.A.C. Squadron, which at this time was eleven strong. The W.R.A.C. recruiting figure for 1959 was 13 women.

In 1960 Lieutenant-Colonel Milner decided to have a Regimental Stand at the National Radio and Television Show at Earls Court. The Stand was a great success and the recruiting figures for 1960 were 120 men and 25 women. The Regiment also had a Stand at the Electrical Engineers Exhibition in the same year.

In 1961 the Colonel again arranged Regimental Stands at the Radio and Television Show and at the Electrical Engineers Exhibition. The recruiting figures for 1961 were 62 men and 25 women. In 1962 the Regiment had its largest ever Stand at Earls Court and the recruiting figures for 1962 so far are 48 men and 31 women.

In 1959 Lieutenant-Colonel Milner arranged to send a party of Royal Signals and W.R.A.C. to Germany for their annual training period. This was repeated in 1960 and 1961 and this year the Colonel arranged for an additional party of 40 men and women to train in Malta. The first time a T.A. Regiment has done so.

In 1958 the Lord Mayor of London first honoured the Regiment with a visit. This has been an annual event since that year, culminating in the current Lord Mayor dining with the Officers in February this year.

In June, 1962, Lieutenant-Colonel Milner was awarded an O.B.E. in the Queen's Birthday Honours. He and Major Milner probably have the unique record of being the only husband and wife to have both been awarded the O.B.E. in the Military Division.

We wish Lieutenant-Colonel Milner well in his rather 'youthful' military retirement. As Major Milner is not yet retiring we feel that many of the Colonel's past excuses for a late arrival home may be used against him by Major Milner after Drill Nights.

The C.O., Lieutenant-Colonel E. W. Milner, presents the Tiffen award to Private Lena Evans

Welfare Section

Below, an attempt is made to describe, with suitable anonimity, six cases from the Welfare Section files concluded during the first week in September, 1962 Also, on the same page, is a simple statement of income and expenditure.

WIDOW OF SIGNALMAN, 1942-47, who died in 1961, leaving his three children to be brought up on her State benefits! She lives in Margate, Kent, and one child is a laying-in patient in Great Ormond Street Hospital for sick children, London. The fund, quite rightly, helps her to pay fares to visit—where else could the money come from.

C.Q.M.S., 1938-46, writes: "Just to express my gratitude for all the very generous help you have given me and my family, and also for the address of the local branch of the Association." A heart attack in March stopped his earning capacity and he asked for, and received help, to clothe himself and his five children, who go to school.

SIGNALMAN, 1939-46. Married, one child, writes most grateful thanks for a small grant made to help him to send his wife on holiday after a severe illness.

SIGNALMAN, 1940-46. Married, helped to cost of surgical boots for partly paralysed child.

LANCE-CORPORAL 1927-33 *and* 1941-46, a Disability Pensioner. The Ministry of Pensions recommended the Association to provide the cost of fares to have a holiday with a married son after a severe illness.

DRIVER, 1940-46. Married, four children, writes: "My wife and children and myself want to thank you all for the help you have given us in the past and present."

Royal Signals Association and Benevolent Fund

The following subscriptions were most gratefully received during September, 1962:

	£	s.	d.
11th Regiment	6	18	8
24th Regiment	24	14	1
227 Squadron (A.L.F.C.E.)	6	0	0
326 Squadron (T.A.)	5	5	0
321 Squadron (T.A.)	5	0	0
4th Regiment (Wives' Club)	30	0	0
229 Squadron (Berlin)	10	0	0
10th Regiment (T.M. Troop)	2	2	6
Signal Troop attached 12th Regiment, R.A.	2	10	0
Royal Signals Troop, Queen's Royal Hussars	1	7	0
Federal Army Signal Squadron	2	13	0
219 Squadron (Tripolitania)		16	0
H.Q., Allied Forces, Northern Europe		10	0
J. B. Williams		2	6
R. G. Peck		2	6
K. J. Williams	1	0	0
W. H. Harris		1	0
B. A. Smith			6
G. W. Dyke		10	6
"Anon" Derby		2	6
W. H. Hobby		10	0
T. D. Briden		10	0
A. S. Crocker		4	4
C. P. Prescot	1	10	0
L. H. Morse		2	0
Brigadier Sir Ralph H. Rayner	1	1	0
Total	£105	10	7

Expenditure During September, 1962	£364	8	6
(Includes: Rent and Rates; Beds and Bedding; Furniture, Cots and Prams; General Assistance)			
Analysis of Cases:			
Family of soldier serving in FARELF 1			
Widows and Dependants 4			
Released and discharged soldiers 29			
Total cases assisted 34			
16 Cases of Soldiers who served during the 1939-45 War ...	£148	4	2
18 Cases of Soldiers who did not serve during the War ...	£216	4	4

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Clothing

Gifts of clothing have been gratefully received from the following, since early July:

Captain H. S. de N. Rogers, Mrs. G. M. Fraser, Colonel R. N. Seddon, O.B.E., Mrs. P. Walls, Major J. H. Walmsley-Cotham, R.S.M. F. Stockdale, Miss M. Archer, Major T. D. Shillcock, Lieutenant (T.O.T.) C. J. Bayfield, Major R. Lawrence, Sergeant J. McGhie, Mrs. K. A. C. Wilson, Brigadier F. S. Straight, C.B.E., M.C., Major G. Proudman, Captain C. A. M. Robertson, Mrs. P. F. W. Gahan, Lieutenant-Colonel J. H. Mansfield, T.D., A.I.B., Mrs. P. H. Palmer, 1st Regiment Wives' Club, Captain M. Thorman, Mrs. U. Worrall, Major W. R. G. Hencher, M.B.E., Major W. P. W. Robertson, Staff Sergeant A. J. Cowe, Captain D. Hunneyball, Martin Way, Captain W. G. Cunningham, Lieutenant C. J. Crow, East London (45th Essex Regiment, T.A.) Branch, Royal Signals Association, Croydon Branch, Royal Signals Association.

Careers and Opportunities

The appointments listed below form a very small fraction of all the introductions to "Jobs" which are available. Always prospective employers want more candidates than the Association can offer.

Retired Officer Appointments

There are two vacancies available now for Retired Officers (Combatant or Q.M. type Commissions) on the Staff of the C.S.O., H.Q. B.A.O.R.

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Applications should be made direct to Kuwait Oil Co. Ltd., Burgan House, 105, Wigmore Street, London, W.1, marked for attention of Ian Graham, Esq. Mention Royal Signals Association in application.

Radio Taxis Services, 1a, High Point, Highgate, London, N.6

have vacancies for Radio Operators. Shift hours. Wages from £12 to £14 per week, and more, according to experience.

Applications may be made to the firm direct, marking application for the attention of Mr. Gilmore, and mentioning Royal Signals Association.

Ministry of Defence, London, S.W.1

Clerical Staff always required by the Ministry. Those with good educational background and past clerical experience. Application, in the first instance, to Royal Signals Association.

Vacancy for an Officer in the Territorial Army on Consolidated Rates of Pay

There will be a vacancy in mid-August, 1963, in 327 Squadron, T.A. (Radio), as Permanent Staff Officer at Portsmouth.

Applications for this post are invited from ex-combatant officers (Regular or T.A.).

The Officer will be based at Hilsea, Portsmouth, and his duties will be to administer the T.A. (Active List) of 327 Squadron, T.A. (Radio).

Conditions of service are as laid down in T.A. Regs Appx XXII; upper age limit on application 53 years. Appointment will be for 3 years with extensions of 1, 2, or 3 years with War Office authority up to 60 years of age.

Salary £970–£1,060 per annum.

No accommodation is provided but there are a reasonable number of houses available by purchase in the area.

Applications should be made to: O.C. 327 Squadron T.A. (Radio), T.A. Centre, Peronne Road, Hilsea, Portsmouth.

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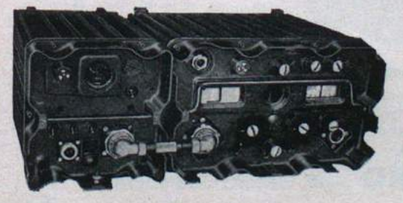
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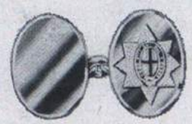

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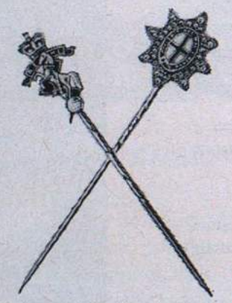

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THE WIRE

THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE

The Official Organ of the Signals Association

Editor:
BRIGADIER P. M. P. HOBSON, D.S.O.

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DECEMBER • 1962

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Editorial

As always the year passes with surprising rapidity and now already it is November and the General Secretary reaches for his pen to write a suitable message for Christmas.

First of all, of course, it is the new Secretary who writes this—and indeed he writes with no little diffidence and some trepidation—from the chair occupied for so long and with such distinction by Brigadier Firth.

We will have more to say about Brigadier 'Henry' in the January WIRE, sufficient to say now that his retirement from General Secretary will come as a matter of deep regret to a very large number of Officers, W.O.s, N.C.O.s and Men of the Corps, both serving and retired, who have come to know and appreciate his sterling qualities throughout the years.

At a recent meeting of the Central Committee of the Royal Signals Association your Chairman, with the unanimous acclaim of all present, placed on record:—

'This is the last meeting of the Central Committee of which our present General Secretary, Brigadier Firth, has officiated. It is difficult for me, and I believe it would be difficult for anyone else in the chair today, to express adequately in a few, or many words the debt that the Association owes him and by the term Association I mean the past and present officials, the Headquarters Staff, the Branches all over the country, in fact every individual member. It is a debt that will be very difficult to repay, try as hard as we all will. In his twelve years' service in the post he has never stinted himself and has even continued working from a hospital bed, such has been his pride in, and his loyalty to the Association and to the Corps. He has guided its affairs most effectively in his own inimitable way, especially through those very difficult post-war years and the fact that the Association is in the very healthy and thriving state that it is today is—and I say this without fear of contradiction—due almost wholly to him.'

You will be glad to hear that, for the time being anyway, Brigadier 'Henry' will continue as Editor of THE WIRE—so contributors to THE WIRE do not think you are going to get away with it!

Turning now to other matters we must place on record our deep appreciation for all the assistance and encouragement that the Association has received throughout the year whether it be gifts of money or clothing, articles for THE WIRE, kind letters or even a friendly visit.

And now 1963 is just around the corner and we wonder what lies ahead. The coming year will, of course, see our new regular Corps beginning to take its final shape—a new Corps whose spirit and outlook will be based on the best of our past traditions allied to the sensible changes appropriate to this day and age. One tradition that the Corps can be readily proud of is the loyal support that it invariably gives to the Association and—as in the past—this will undoubtedly be up to the usual high standard in 1963.

However, there is one way in which you can materially help in this coming year and that is by purchasing your Corps Magazine, THE WIRE. The standard we like to think has gone up and along with it costs so that we are now losing money on this publication. We must try and put this right. Will you help us to balance our books in 1963?

Finally, it is the pleasant duty of all at Association Headquarters to wish all members of our large Corps family, both serving and retired, a very Happy Christmas and the best of good fortune in 1963.

Vale

BRIGADIER D. WHITE, O.B.E.

Denis White was commissioned from "the shop" in January, 1930, and, following the pattern of those days, spent the first 18 months of his service at Catterick on Y.O. training, including a year's "Q" course.

After a further three years in U.K., with 3rd Divisional Signals, he set off on the first of his several appointments outside the Corps—a four-year secondment to the King's African Rifles. He returned to U.K. as Captain, and after some service with the T.A. and with the 3rd S.T.C. after mobilisation, he "escaped" to the war in the Middle East, first with East African Signals and then with the Sudan Defence Force.

Early in 1941 he became a temporary Lieutenant-Colonel, and after a short period at the Middle East Staff School and at G.H.Q., Middle East, he joined the staff of C.A.F.S.O., Middle East Air Force as G.S.O.1 Signals. Here he was able to use that organisational ability, for which he was known throughout his service, in the development of the relatively new Royal Signals commitment, the organisation of communications, both strategical and tactical, for the R.A.F. Early in 1944, his H.Q. moved into Italy, and before long the urge to be back with the troops became too great and he persuaded his master to release him for command of a Regiment. Taking over a Corps Signals in March, 1944, he saw the campaign in Italy to its close, and in June, 1945, was awarded the O.B.E. for his services in command.

After the war, White's administrative ability soon led him again to the staff, and in 1947 he began the first of three "A" appointments, two in the Far East and one in the War Office. Lost to Signals, as he was for ten years out of the last fifteen, this service on the staff without doubt contributed not a little to the prestige of his own Corps.

Sandwiched between two "A" appointments, came command of the Royal Signals Wing, where his staff experience and his clear brain were of the greatest value in the considerable reorganisation of courses and training then taking place in the School of Signals. Now, after nearly 33 years' service, he retires from his last appointment in the Army, that of C.S.O., Southern Command.

From his earliest days as a subaltern, Denis White has been a man with his own opinions, who was not afraid to state them. At times he tended not to suffer fools gladly, but nevertheless, he was liked and respected wherever he went. He had a particular flair for organisation and administration, and on several occasions, both as staff officer and as regimental commander, he was able to set right wrongs in both.

He will be remembered by those who served with him in Signals as a commander of strong views and as a loyal and devoted servant of the Corps. At Catterick, he will be remembered not least for the curries he dispensed—extremely hot, but extremely good, so admirably prepared by his wife.

Now we have to say to them both *au revoir*, and the best of good luck in retirement.

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(*Left to right*) Colonel Harris, Brigadiers McGill and Anderson, Colonels Warburg and Hancock

Sleight of hand? NO—just a firecracker to set the horses in motion!

Major General A. M. W. Whistler, C.B.E. Dined out at Headquarters Mess

Major-General A. M. W. Whistler, C.B.E., relinquished the appointment of Signal Officer-in-Chief on 13th September, 1962, after two years in office.

On 11th October, the Officers of the Corps expressed their appreciation of his very considerable contribution to the Corps over 33 years, and particularly during his period "at the reins," by dining him out at Headquarters Mess.

A large cross-section of officers, including many who had served with General Whistler, were present, and the Mess was the scene of colour and joviality associated with its great occasions.

In his reply to the toast, the General referred to the many phases through which the Corps has passed and the recent difficult period when shortages of tradesmen have made the Corps' task most difficult. He expressed his appreciation of the fine work by all ranks during this latter time.

As midnight approached, the General left the Mess to take up position as No. 2 on the Limber of the Cable Wagon. With the remaining numbers performed by equally adept companions, a team of willing horses, dressed in gayer coats than their four-legged predecessors, manned the ropes. The party moved off behind the Band to the strains of the Corps Quick March and Auld Lang Syne, the whole scene illuminated by 12 torch-bearers, found from young officers of 52 "Q" Course, who were being dined-in on this occasion. Whilst the Band countermarched and "horses" recovered their breath, the General was met by Mrs. Whistler, to leave in the slightly more comfortable seat of a staff car.

All ranks in the Corps will wish General Whistler every success in his new appointment in the Ministry of Defence, where he does a "two-hat" job as Chairman, British Joint Communications-Electronics Board and Director Joint Communications—Electronics Staff. He is the first incumbent in this post since its up grading to Major-General; a compliment to both himself and the Corps.

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The Royal Canadian Corps of Signals War Memorial Vimy Barracks, Kingston, Ontario

[National Defence Photograph

H.E. The Governor-General pressing the Morse Key to operate the mechanism unveiling the memorial plaque

FOR more than 25 years, the home of the Royal Canadian Corps of Signals has been at the Royal Canadian School of Signals, which is beautifully sited overlooking the St. Lawrence River, just to the east of Kingston, Ontario. Vimy Barracks consists of fine, well-spaced, modern buildings, surrounding a large parade square, which, due to an extension from its original size, has the probably unique feature of a group of old elm trees nearly at its centre. Their shade is much sought after by perspiring drill squads on hot summer days. The buildings in the barracks include some very well designed training accommodation, a very fine gymnasium, which also contains a full-size swimming pool, usable all the year round, and one of the most beautifully-sited and furnished officers' messes in Canada—if not in the Commonwealth. It is therefore appropriate and fitting that Vimy Barracks should be chosen as the site for a permanent memorial to Canadian Signallers who have died in the service of their country.

On 19th June, 1962, during her visit to Canada, Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal, who is Colonel-in-Chief of the Royal Canadian Corps of Signals, broke the ground at the site of the memorial, and this was the signal for the start of three and-a-half months of considerable activity, which culminated in the unveiling of the memorial, on 6th October.

The memorial is simple in concept, but greatly adds to the beauty and general appearance of the entrance to the barracks. It is in the form of a gateway at the main entrance, which has been enlarged to form dual carriageways. These run either side of a grassed island, upon which is mounted the central portion of the memorial. This consists of a hand-hewn limestone plinth, bearing a memorial plaque, which is surmounted by a bronze statue of Mercury. Outside the dual carriageways are two outward curving walls of matching material, each beginning and ending in limestone plinths similar to, but smaller than the central memorial. On a second grassed island, between the carriageways, within the barracks, a new gatehouse has been built, also of matching stone and the complete project is finished by the addition of floodlighting for the memorial, modern street lighting on the carriageways, and the planting of trees and shrubs in the vicinity.

The statue of "Jimmy" is an exact copy of the life-size Giovanni di Bologna statue, presently in the Museo Nazionale in Florence, and was especially cast in bronze for the Corps by Florentine craftsmen. The plaque on the central plinth was also made in Florence: the inscription on it, in English and in French, reads:

> TO THOSE IN THE ROYAL CANADIAN CORPS OF SIGNALS WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES FOR THEIR COUNTRY

H.R.H. The Princess Royal breaks the ground for the memorial on 19th June, 1962, watched by Brigadier C. S. McKee and a Royal Canadian Corps of Signals Apprentice Soldier in full dress uniform

The inscription is surmounted by the Corps badge.

The memorial commemorates not only those 382 members of the Corps who died whilst serving overseas during the Second World War, but also those who have died serving their country in the First World War and in United Nations operations abroad since the second. The concept of the memorial has developed during the last two or three years, during which the design, which was originally that of an officer of the Corps, has altered very little. Raising funds to pay for it was undertaken from January to April, 1962, and the estimated target of $20,000 (£6,600) was easily exceeded, thus ensuring perpetual maintenance of the memorial. Contributions came from all members of the Corps, past and present, and from relatives and others associated closely with it. The resultant memorial more than represents the original aspirations for it and fully justifies all the hard work that has gone into its development and production.

On Saturday, 6th October, His Excellency, Major-General Georges P. Vanier, D.S.O., M.C., C.D., Governor-General of Canada, unveiled and dedicated the memorial in the presence of almost a thousand members of the Corps, past and present, relatives and guests. Although the weather was somewhat dull, the rain, which had fallen recently and was still threatening, managed to restrain itself, at least for the duration of the ceremony. On arrival at the site, His Excellency was received by a Royal Salute from a 100-man guard of honour, found from among the young soldiers under training at the School. After inspecting the guard and meeting the Director of Music of the Band of the Royal Canadian Corps of Signals, which played during the afternoon, His Excellency then took his place on a special dais facing the centre of the memorial, together with Madame Vanier, the trustees of the memorial and other distingushed guests.

[National Defence Photograph

H.E. The Governor-General and Brigadier C. S. McKee inspecting the memorial after the ceremony

The service of dedication was conducted according to the Protestant Faith and the Roman Catholic Faith, which latter was in both English and French. During the service, His Excellency unveiled the memorial plaque by touching a morse key which operated the remote control mechanism in a suitably symbolic fashion. Later, when concluding his address to the gathering, His Excellency said:

"We know that when lasting peace is announced to the world, it will be a signalman somewhere who will give his time-honoured report: 'Through, sir.'"

Also during the service, Brigadier C. S. McKee, C.B.E., E.D., Honorary Colonel Commandant of the Royal Canadian Corps of Signals, read a telegram from Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal, expressing the hope that she would one day be able to see the memorial, for which she had broken the ground so recently.

Finally, after the Last Post, Two Minutes' Silence and Reveille, wreaths were laid on behalf of the Armed Forces and the People of Canada, on behalf of Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal and on behalf of the Royal Canadian Corps of Signals and other Commonwealth Signals Corps. The wreath laid on behalf of the Master of Signals and all ranks of the Royal Corps of Signals was laid by Colonel M. D. Price, O.B.E., from the British Army Staff in Washington, D.C., U.S.A.

After the conclusion of the ceremony, everyone present attended a tea and reception in the gymnasium nearby, when many members of the Corps, relatives and guests were presented to Their Excellencies.

A memorable day in the life of the Royal Canadian Corps of Signals was brought to an end by formal balls in the Officers' and Sergeants' Messes and a dance in the Corporals' Club.

PERSONAL COLUMN

Brigadier W. B. Rowett, (Retired)

Many friends of Brigadier "Bill" Rowett will be interested to hear that he is to join St. Martin's-in-the-Fields as Curate following the Bishop of London's Advent Ordination Service at 9.30 a.m. on Friday, 21st December, at St. Paul's.

Brigadier Rowett has a long standing connection with St. Martin's in that he, whilst serving at the War Office from 1940 to 1944, used to ring the bell-carillon for the lunch-hour services except when bell ringing was stopped and only used as an anti-Parachute Troop warning.

On one occasion, owing to an oversight, his bell ringing coincided for some five minutes with a concert being given by Dame Myra Hess, and rendered part of the concert inaudible. It is understood that this was "patched up" by the use of considerable tact on the part of Brigadier Rowett!

Later from 1955 to 1958 he used to conduct Evensong and Home-going Prayers on certain weekdays.

It is, therefore, fitting, that he should now become a permanent member of the team at this famous church and the best wishes of his friends go with him in his new appointment.

London Gazette

Extracts from Gazettes received between 9th October and 19th October.

Major-General A. M. W. Whistler, C.B.E., late Royal Signals, appointed Chairman, British Communications Electronics Board.

Brigadier F. J. Swainson, O.B.E., late Royal Signals, to be Major-General, 13th September, 1962.

Captain (Q.M.) H. Marjoram, B.E.M. (S.S.C.) to be Major (Q.M.) (S.S.C.), 11th October, 1962.

Lieutenant A. Richards (T.A.) to be Lieutenant (A.E.R.O.), 31st March, 1962.

Major (Hon. Lieutenant-Colonel) A. R. B. Dobson, O.B.E., T.D., relinquished the appointment of Honorary Colonel 42nd (Lancs.) Regiment (T.A.), 10th October, 1962, and retains the rank of Honorary Colonel.

Major (Brevet Lieutenent-Colonel) D. Coatesworth, M.B.E., M.SC., M.I.E.E., retired on 15th October, 1962.

Captain E. G. Thomas to be Major, 15th October, 1962.

Captain (Tfc. Offr.) N. J. Cowley to be Major (Tfc. Offr.) 16th October, 1962.

Lieutenant (T.O.T.) F. Iveson (S.S.C.) to be Lieutenant (T.O.T.), 1st October, 1962.

Lieutenant (Q.M.) J. V. Needham (S.S.C.) to be Lieutenant (Q.M.), 1st October, 1962.

Major D. S. A. Hutley, G.M., relinquished S.S.C., 10th October, 1962.

Second-Lieutenant J. L. Woodcock (T.A.) to be Lieutenant, 17th October, 1962.

Captain P. A. Davidson retired, 20th October, 1962.

Lieutenant J. C. Key (R.A.R.O.) resigned his commission 23rd September, 1962.

Major M. F. Ridgen (T.A.) to be Lieutenant-Colonel (T.A.), 23rd September, 1962.

Second-Lieutenant A. D. M. Lloyd (T.A.) to be Lieutenant (T.A.), 26th August, 1962.

Captain (Q.M.) A. H. Knight (S.S.C.) to be Major (S.S.C.), 27th October, 1962.

W.O.I (R.S.M.) L. J. Taylor, M.B.E., to be Lieutenant (Quartermaster) (S.S.C.), 26th September, 1962.

Lieutenant-Colonel W. J. G. Barnett, M.B.E., (A.E.R.O.) to be Lieutenant-Colonel (R.A.R.O.), 26th February, 1961.

Second-Lieutenant D. J. Lawrence (N.S.) to be Lieutenant (R.A.R.O.), 21st October, 1962.

Captain (Acting Major) G. M. Clark, T.D. (T.A.), to be Major (T.A.), 23rd October, 1962.

Second-Lieutenant D. A. B. Askew (N.S.) to be Lieutenant, 21st October, 1962.

Major (T.O.T.) L. R. Jefferson ceased to belong to T.A.R.O., 24th October, 1962.

Major O. B. Dillon to be Major (T.A.R.O.), 11th September, 1962.

Captain (Hon. Major) P. W. Shaw, T.D., ceased to belong to T.A.R.O., 24th October, 1962.

Captain M. A. B. Down to be Captain (T.A.R.O.) 15th March, 1961.

The undermentioned Officer Cadets from the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, to be Second-Lieutenants, Royal Corps of Signals, 4th August, 1962:

J. F. Storr	R. W. Stark
J. J. Ventham	J. H. Lowe
G. W. Howard	A. M. Elliott
P. L. Bye	A. B. Grant
D. W. Cook	K. G. Turner
B. Robinson	D. B. S. Yates
S. R. Carr Smith	G. C. Saunders
A. R. Bailey	J. S. Durrell
R. A. Knox-Johnston	W. Roper

Movements—Officers

Major G. F. Lowe	... ...	To H.Q., East Africa Command
Captain R. F. Hills	... ...	,, H.Q., 1 (BR.) Corps.
Lieutenant-Colonel G. S. Fenton, M.B.E.	... ...	,, 11th Regiment (H.S.)
Lieutenant A. M. F. Barker	... ...	,, 228 Squadron (SHAPE)
Major C. F. Bushell	... ...	,, H.Q., COMCAN
Major (Q.M.) E. R. Haxell	... ...	,, 11th Regiment (Cadre)
Major (Local Lt.-Col.) K. S. Newell		,, H.Q., A.A.F.C.E.
Major (Local Lt.-Col.) F. G. G. Rapsey	... ...	,, H.Q., A.F.M.E.D.
T/Captain S. J. Lechett	... ...	,, A.A.J.L.R.
Major F. D. McConnell-Wood	... ...	,, Pool of Military Supervisors on Film Production
Captain D. Gittens	... ...	,, School of Signals
Captain J. U. Liddell	... ...	,, 22nd Regiment
Lieutenant M. Allan	... ...	,, 633 Troop
Captain B. J. Burke	... ...	,, 11th Regiment (H.S.)
Major F. G. Bonnart	... ...	,, 21st Regiment
Lieutenant J. G. McLuckie	... ...	,, 11th Regiment (H.S.)
Lieutenant H. D. Flannery	... ...	,, 11th Regiment (Cadre)
Captain C. H. Glydon	... ...	,, A.A.S., Harrogate
Major H. E. Roper	... ...	,, 7th Regiment
Captain S. G. Walker	... ...	,, 11th Regiment (H.S.)
Major (Q.M.) G. Lynam	... ...	,, 219 Squadron
Lieutenant I. O. J. Sprackling	... ...	,, 208 Squadron
Captain D. S. Hopkins, M.B.E.	... ...	,, R.M.A.S.
Major G. M. Allan	... ...	,, Signals BR., G.H.Q., FARELF.
T/Lieut.-Colonel W. J. A. Collyer		,, School of Signals
Major D. M. Humphries	... ...	,, 238 Squadron (War Office)
Major (Q.M.) L. J. Bosher	... ...	,, 57th Regiment (T.A.)
Captain St. J. P. Arcedeckne-Butler		,, 11th Regiment (H.S.)
Captain D. B. Carnie	... ...	,, 11th Regiment (H.S.)
Captain J. G. Crowe	... ...	,, 11th Regiment (H.S.)
Captain A. D. Lewis	... ...	,, 11th Regiment (H.S.)
Captain T. E. Simpson	... ...	,, 11th Regiment (H.S.)

Movements — Warrant Officers and Sergeants

W.O.I F. L. Holt ... ... To 11th Regiment (2 Squadron)
W.O.I D. T. Neale ... ... ,, 2nd Regiment

W.O.II R. A. Margerrison ... ... ,, 14th Regiment
W.O.II P. Chilvers ... ... ,, 21st Regiment
W.O.II J. Critch ... ... ,, 2nd Regiment
W.O.II D. Hazel ... ... ,, A.A.S.,Harrogate

Acting W.O.II N. Salter ... ... ,, Junior Leaders' Regiment
Acting W.O.II C. A. Rushbrook ... ,, 28th Regiment

Staff Sergeant D. J. M. Hughes ... ,, 254 Squadron
Staff Sergeant S. Robertson ... ... ,, 259 Squadron
Staff Sergeant A. E. W. Cave ... ,, 239 Squadron
Staff Sergeant F. W. Jones ... ... ,, 252 Squadron
Staff Sergeant J. Horne ... ... ,, 24th Regiment
Staff Sergeant T. H. Jenkins ... ... ,, 24th Regiment
Staff Sergeant R. H. J. Brewin ... ,, 252 Squadron
Staff Sergeant L. N. Whitmore ... ,, C.A.F.S.O., H.Q., R.A.F., Germany

Staff Sergeant C. J. Wright ... ... ,, School of Signals
Staff Sergeant F. W. Matthews ... ,, U.K. Garrison Signal Troop

Sergeant N. Glassborrow ... ... ,, 14th Regiment (3 Squadron)
Sergeant M. Fraser ... ... ,, A.A.S., Harrogate
Sergeant C. Oliver ... ... ,, 13th Regiment
Sergeant P. W. Gray ... ... ,, 30th Regiment
Sergeant J. R. Moxon ... ... ,, 236 Squadron
Sergeant M. J. Bayliss ... ... ,, 8th Regiment
Sergeant P. G. McFarlane ... ... ,, 222 Squadron
Sergeant T. McEwan ... ... ,, 24th Regiment
Sergeant E. L. L. Rowson ... ... ,, Field Records H.Q., B.A.O.R.
Sergeant C. D. Matzen ... ... ,, 211 Squadron
Sergeant J. E. Stroud ... ... ,, 4th Regiment
Sergeant D. Patridge ... ... ,, 7th Regiment
Sergeant M. A. C. Read ... ... ,, Junior Leaders' Regiment
Sergeant H. J. Mahoney ... ... ,, 256 Squadron
Sergeant A. R. Cole ... ... ,, 228 Squadron
Sergeant D. McKenzie ... ... ,, A.F.N.E.
Sergeant D. T. Wear ... ... ,, 238 Squadron
Sergeant A. Davies ... ... ,, 8th Regiment
Sergeant W. Jones ... ... ,, 3rd Regiment
Sergeant T. H. Atkins ... ... ,, 253 Squadron

Births

ASKHAM.—To Sergeant and Mrs. F. A. Askham, on 17th October, 1962, a son, Philip Kenneth.

CHIVERTON.—To Sergeant and Mrs. J. F. Chiverton, on 3rd October, 1962, a son, David Alexander.

DUNNETT.—To Lance-Corporal and Mrs. M. Dunnett, on 21 July, 1962, a son, Stuart William Munro.

GRAHAM.—To Lance-Corporal and Mrs. R. Graham, on 13th August, 1962, a son, Ronald Victor.

LAKIN.—To Corporal and Mrs. R. Lakin, on 23rd September, 1962, a daughter, Deborah Elizabeth.

ROBINSON.—To Sergeant and Mrs. T. H. Robinson, on 17th September, 1962, a son, Peter William.

SPALDING.—To Signalman and Mrs. B. E. Spalding, on 10th October, 1962, a son, Barry.

GREEN.—To Corporal and Mrs. J. Green, a son, John Lee, born at B.M.H. Dhekelia on 23rd October, 1962.

SOUTHALL.—To Lance-Corporal and Mrs. D. Southall, a son, Dennis, born at B.M.H. Dhekelia on 28th October, 1962.

Marriages

FRENCH—EVANS.—Corporal G. E. W. French (28th Regiment) to Miss M. A. Evans, at St. James's Parish Church, Hatcham, on 29th September, 1962.

Deaths

SLANEY.—On 28th October, 1962, at 12, Cork Street, Leicester, 2311969, ex-C.S.M. M. E. Slaney. Served in Royal Signals 1929-1937, and 1939-1945. Life Member of the Association.

LEWIS.—On 8th November, 1962, at Blandford, Pauline, aged 11 months, daughter of Signalman and Mrs. G. F. Lewis, H.Q., A.E.R., Royal Signals.

KING.—2369085 ex-Sergeant G. B. King, died 21st August, 1962. Life Member of the Association.

SCOTT.—Colonel T. A. R. Scott, C.B.E., died 21st November, 1962. Served 1918-1954. Life Member of the Association.

OLD STABLE BELTS

The Officer Commanding and PRI of 1 Squadron K.A.R. would like to thank all Units and individuals who have responded to their advertisement about old pattern Royal Signals stable belts. The response has been overwhelming, and they now have sufficient stock, or options on stock, to last for at least five years.

Promotions

The following promotions and deletions were authorised up to the end of October, 1962:

Regimental Duty Roster

				New Sen. No.	Old Sen. No.	
To W.O.I	2586459	A/W.O.I	Spence, D.	1060	1540	
	3663339	A/W.O.I	Johnston, C. W.	1090	1670	
To W.O.II	22222602	A/W.O.II	Collins, L. N. D.	4510	5210	
	2549772	A/W.O.II	Freeman, D. J.	4520	5150	
	22540013	A/W.O.II	Burke, T.	4530	5170	
	22212751	S/Sgt.	Felton, T. R.	4540	4810	
To S Sgt.	22212938	A/S Sgt	Osborne, E. W.	7060	110	(Fd.)
	21034214	Sgt.	Stevelman, H. J.	7070	4150	(Op.)
	22537002	Sgt.	Johnson, P. S. W.	7080	550	(Fd.)
	22541897	A/S Sgt.	Haywood, V. L.	7090	1272	(Adm.)

Chief Clerks Roster

To S Sgt.	22212242	Sgt.	Whitmore, L. N.	940	1180	(Adm.)

Signal Centre Supervisors Roster

To W.O.I	19030220	W.O.II	Kennedy, W. R. S.	390	540

Technical Roster

To Sgt.	23498351	Swanborough, A. W.	3780	
	23486559	Stenner, L.	3790	
	22740087	Noden, D. H.	3800	
	22983392	Milne, N. W. W.	3820	

Operating Roster

To Sgt.	2276102	Cpl.	Gibb, O. G.	10230	11710
	23481142	Cpl.	Kerr, W. M.	10240	11800
	22144454	Cpl.	Smith, C. L.	10250	14970
	22983548	A/Sgt.	Markie, C.	10260	14990

Administrative Roster

To Sgt.	22890731	Cpl.	Hayward, B. J.	2490	2970
	23335456	Cpl.	Evan, J. T. E.	2500	3150

DELETIONS

Regimental Duty Roster

W.O.II	1620	1760	2650	3580	3980
S Sgt.	5160	5724	6900		

Foreman of Signals Roster

W.O.I 520

Technical Roster

W.O.I	90	
S Sgt.	550	
Sgt.	3661	2710

Operating Roster

Sgt. 7310 3750

Field Roster

Sgt. 1190 2590

INSERTIONS

Regimental Duty Roster

				New Sen. No.	
S Sgt.	2549628	S Sgt.	Catton	4134	Ex. Tech. No. 550

Field Roster

Sgt. 22537553 Sgt. Leverton 390

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Forthcoming Events

Royal Signals Rugby Football Club Fixtures, 1963

2nd March ... ... Oxford Greyhounds—Oxford
20th March ... ... Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst —Camberley

Royal Signals Hockey Club Fixtures, 1963

12th February ... ... R.A.—Woolwich
13th February ... ... R.M.C.S.—Aldershot
14th February ... ... Aldershot Services—Aldershot
20th March ... ... Welbeck College—Welbeck
12th-15th April ... ... Scarborough Hockey Festival—Scarborough

Royal Signals Association Football Club Fixtures, 1963

16th January ... ... Manchester University—Catterick.
6th February ... ... R.E.M.E.—Catterick.
9th February ... ... Sheffield University—Sheffield.
20th February ... ... Durham University—Durham.

17th Meeting of the Branch Representatives of the Royal Signals

which will be combined with the 17th Special General Meeting will be held at the Duke of York's Barracks on Saturday, 20th April, 1963.

39th Meeting of the Central Committee, Royal Signals Association

will be held on 30th May, 1963.

The Corps Weekend, Reunion and 8th Annual General Meeting of the Association

will take place at Catterick on Saturday, 29th June, and Sunday, 30th June, 1963.

☆

CR Signals Branch MELF

☆

Standing (Left to Right): Captain G. H. Morgan (OC 601 Troop), Major R. C. Walker (OC FRA Signal Squadron), Captain P. R. Buchanan (SAF Signal Officer), Major P. C. Tripp (OC TOS Signal Squadron)
Sitting (Left to Right): Major N. L. Baker (OC 650 Troop), Major R. Pope (OC 255 Squadron), Lieutenant Colonel T. I. G. Gray (CR Signals), Major P. A. MacF. Gillivray (OC 254 Squadron), Major G. W. A. Stephenson (OC 222 Squadron, Air Formation)

Two occasions to report during October, one happy and memorable, one sad. The happy occasion, a Middle East Command Royal Signals Officers' Conference (the first) held at H.Q. Mid-East during which many problems were discussed—some light, many heavy—and just a few resolved. However, even though all wrongs were not righted the conference was an undoubted success and will be repeated next year.

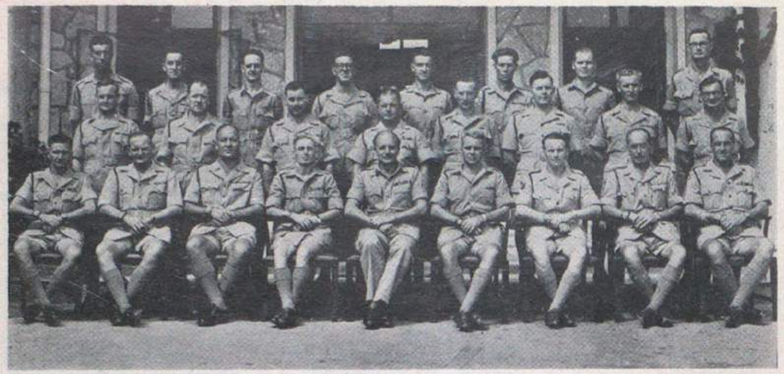
This occasion was marked by our new routine drink party on the patio of the Tarshyne Officers' Mess (a landmark of Aden?), though this particular party was graced by a power failure. One lady guest was heard to remark (though not with such technical finesse) that this was a "major electrical engineering achievement" on somebody's part. Unfortunately for her sex we shall have to take precautions against such an emergency in future, though we are not quite sure exactly what we can do. We also took the opportunity to hold the first full dress Officers' Dinner Night. The undoubted success of this venture, held in a Mess borrowed for the occasion and certainly not equipped for such functions, is owed to the officers and men of 254 Squadron who now operate under a new O.C., Major P. MacF. MacGillivray, and a new Administrative Officer, Captain G. A. W. Hickman.

The sad occasion was the departure from the Branch Staff of Mrs. S. S. Budd who has dealt with her mountains of work and all of us in a manner that makes her eligible to come through Kipling's "IF" with full marks. We miss her but wish her the best of luck in Paris which is where she goes with her husband, Staff Sergeant Budd, R.A.S.C., on promotion.

We welcome in her place Mrs. G. Eastwood, wife of R.Q.M.S. F. Eastwood of the Corps. He is R.Q.M.S. in charge of the stores at Camp Headquarters Mid-East and between the two of them we hope we shall lack for little!

Finally an interim report on the *Sy Tuarwa* which put into Aden en route for the South of France. As WIRE readers already know, she is being sailed home by Major L. D. Line and a crew consisting of Lieutenant M. J. L. Bygrave, Staff Sergeant Orr, L.A.C. Leston and 19-year-old Patricia Gaze. After repairs to engine and wireless set (76/R 209) they set forth on the most difficult leg of their journey, through the Red Sea, in good heart. We wish them God's speed.

Signal W.O.'s in Brainstorm Session



ROYAL SIGNALS NEAR EAST WARRANT OFFICERS CONVENTION, 1-3 OCTOBER, 1962

Front Row, left to right : WOII (RQMS) McGrath, T. R. W., WOII (RQMS) Redman, E. W., WOII (RQMS) Humble, L. G., WOI (RSM) Marris, R. V., Brigadier C. T. Honeybourne, O.B.E., WOI Hill, E. W., WOI Holloway, E. J., WOII (RQMS) Jones, D.A., WOII (RQMS) Newton, D. G.

Second Row, left to right : WOII Burman, V. F., WOII Dean, J., WOII Gilbert, J. R., WOII Fawcett, H. C., WOII (F. of S.) Milton, J.A., WOII Howells, R. N., WOII (RQMS) Taylor, J., WOII (RQMS) Little, N.R.

Third Row left to right : WOII Dathan, L., WOII Pinkney, C., WOII Watson, W., WOII Coyne, A., WOII Petherick, R. A., WOII Lacey, C. W., WOII Burns, A., WOII (F. of S.) Boulter, R.

"Definition: A brainstorm is a temporary mental upset marked by uncontrolled emotion and violent action."

The old principle of the Q.M.s Convention was put to good use recently but with a new angle when Brigadier C. T. Honeybourne, Chief Signal Officer of NEARELF, decided to hold a Warrant Officers' Conference with "brainstorming" as one of its objects.

Some thirty Royal Signals Warrant Officers from Units in Malta, North Africa and Cyprus were subjected to this American system of obtaining ideas. The fact that there were fifty-six ideas produced on one subject in ten minutes will give some idea of the success of the Convention.

In brief the principle of "brainstorming" is to use the brains of the group as one massive idea producing machine. The human brain is such that given an idea it will react by producing several more at once and, whereas in moderate thinking these are sorted out by the individual and many disregarded as irrelevant. In brainstorming they are all briefly expressed. The group result is in fact an "explosion" of ideas. Some of these ideas will of course be original trains of thought in their own right while others will be developments of the original. These latter are referred to as "hitch hikes."

It is essential in the use of this process that the thoughts recorded should be quite spontaneous and completely uninhibited. To give an example of the thinking here is one of the eight problems discussed at the Convention together with some of the ideas and "hitch hikes."

Problem: "Ideas for raising money for Unit P.R.I.s?

Idea	*"Hitch Hikes"*
1. Farms	Chicken Farms Broiler fowl service
2. Unit Lotteries	Unit Pools Unit Sweepstakes
3. Unit Creche	PRI Baby-sitting service on repayment PRI Home-Help service PRI gardening service PRI cleaning service car PRI garages to let

It was in fact this particular problem that produced the fifty-six ideas previously quoted and the above selection gives only an outline of the process. The reader can try it himself by jotting down straight away any additional ideas that come instantly into his mind after reading the above.

It can be seen that this system applies only to the simple, clear cut type of question and is of little use for the more complex argument. For this reason the Convention went on to discuss a range of more intricate problems in syndicate groups.

Some of these problems are listed below and Servicemen, particularly members of the Corps, may have their own constructive opinions on one or more of the subjects. If so they should make their suggestions through their Units.

Problem 1. Is there a need for the best W.O.s and N.C.O.s to extend their careers to the age of 55 years? If so, how can they best be employed in Regiments and Squadrons, so giving the benefit of their experience without upsetting and preventing career prospects of the younger members of the Corps?

Problem 2. How should the appointment of R.Q.M.S. be fitted into the career structure?

Problem 3. Is the present Confidential Report Form (AFB 2048) adequate? Can the system of reporting be improved?

Problem 4. How can delegation of authority be carried out so as to make maximum use of Warrant Officers and Senior N.C.O.s?

Problem 5. A number of Regiments and Squadrons in Royal Signals are being civilianised. Assuming that in a static Unit 50 per cent. of tasks are civilianised, how can we best ensure whole hearted co-operation between soldier and civilian?

Problem 6. Is the present posting policy of married soldiers suitable?

Ideas received as a result of this article could help to find an answer to some of the immediate problems facing the Corps.

One of the biggest highlights of the Convention was the Dinner Night held in 259 Squadron's Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess. Unfortunately the table, resplendent with silver, was of such length that those at the end missed Brigadier Honeybourne's anecdote of the famous message which was received as "have captured Rommel" when it should have been "have ruptured camel."

ANNUAL SUBSCRIBERS' ADDRESSES

Many copies of "The Wire" and of the Royal Signals List are returned by the Post Office with a note that the subscriber's address is unknown.

Will all annual subscribers please tell the Editor in good time of their new address.

1st Regiment

Cadets from the Royal Air Force College Cranwell visit 1st Signal Regiment—September, 1962

Whilst August is the month of holidays for all sensible Europeans, and we in Germany are no exception to this, September is invariably the month of exercises in B.A.O.R. Once more we have checked our equipment, loaded our vehicles and motored forth to far away places. Once more we have been blessed by the warmth of an Indian summer, so that our three weeks away from barracks were spent in pleasant conditions.

The Regiment took part in two exercises, both of which required communications for a Control Headquarters. We were thus able to indulge in a more permanent layout than usual, having the time and the cable to put our telephones and remote controls into buildings with what we hoped was Post Office skill. And if there seemed to be many more staff officers than usual, and many more radios needing remote controls, we can say we provided for them all, and that it all worked. Both our Armoured Brigade Squadrons, 200 and 207, exercised with us at the end of the month, and no doubt they will have their tales to tell, which it would be unfair (and perhaps indiscreet) to spoil. Suffice to say many good lessons were learnt and the Regiment brought the exercise season to a close with success.

Although we depreciate interminable notes of comings and goings, any change of R.S.M. is noteworthy and we welcome W.O.I C. W. Johnston in that capacity. Also we greet our Canadian exchange officer, Captain "Ted" Woodhouse, now installed as O.C. "O" Troop. Did he really get off the train at Verdun instead of Verden and come here via Paris? We shall never know. Whilst in the mood, we note the departure of two old members of the Regiment in Lieutenant J. M. Passmore, to Cambridge, and Sergeant A. G. Evans, stalwart of 2 Squadron for many years. Finally, in the list we include the Second-in-Command, Major J. C. Clinch, who after a short but happy stay with us, goes to command the Gurkha Signal Regiment.

Last month a party of cadets from the Royal Air Force College, Cranwell, spent the day with us, and tasted the joys of driving our Saracens and Ferrets. For a week of our exercise we were hosts to Captain Maurice Simocelli of the Italian Army, and for the past month Captain J. O. C. Alexander has been attached to us, paying for the privilege with a talk on his sailing adventures.

Major-General R. J. Moberly, C.B., O.B.E., Representative Colonel Commandant visited the Regiment on the 25th and 26th October, accompanied by Brigadier M. A. Charlton, O.B.E., C.C.R. Signals 1 (B.R.) Corps.

The customary full programme had been arranged, designed to enable the General to meet as many soldiers and their families as possible.

A quarter-guard under Sergeant J. Marr was mounted to receive the Representative Colonel Commandant, who then made a tour of the Barracks visiting each Squadron in turn to see accommodation, the new Squadrons clubs and some demonstrations of equipment.

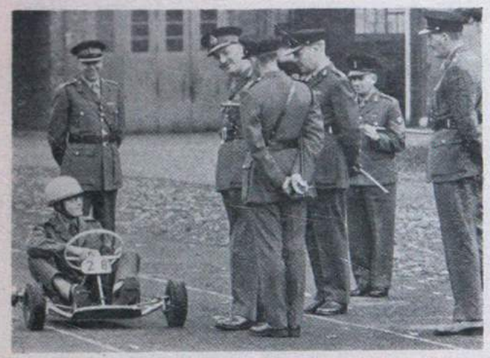
A coffee-party with the families was held in the Junior Ranks' Club, drinks were taken with the Warrant Officers and Sergeants and lunch in the Officers' Mess. Between times a display by the Regimental Fencing Team, B.A.O.R. champions, was put on in the gymnasium, and Signalman Edwards demonstrated his skill with a go-kart.

Throughout the visit General Moberly took every opportunity to see for himself and speak to the men, including a long interview on the telephone with Corporal J. Miller, of Romeo Troop, who was manning a distant Radio Relay terminal for a demonstration. He also took the opportunity to talk about Canada with our latest arrival, Captain E. A. Woodhouse, who is on loan to the Regiment from the Royal Canadian Corps of Signals.

The visit concluded with a supper party in the Officers' Mess, which brought to a pleasant end a stimulating and exciting day for the Regiment.

(Another photograph on Page 440)

Major-General Moberly meets Captain E. A. Woodhouse, Royal Canadian Corps of Signals, a member of 1st Regiment



Major-General R. J. Moberly, C.B., O.B.E., representative Colonel Commandant talks to Signalman Edwards after a Go-Kart demonstration at 1st Regiment

3rd REGIMENT

The last month has consisted mainly of preparations. The big "Force Role" Exercise is getting underway as these notes go to Press. Force Headquarters has been set up at Keevil Airfield, Brigade Airhead Troop is poised, checked and ready for its flight to Northern Ireland. H.M.S. *Centaur* is steaming towards the Irish Sea. Our Air Support Troop detachments are ready to spread out to the various airfields and F.A.C.s who will require their services. (We are providing the air support communications for both sides so as usual we just cannot win!) Exercise "Winged Coachmen" is about to begin. It is hoped that a full report will appear in next month's WIRE.

Exercise "Griffin IV," 23rd to 25th October, was the last of our "check" exercises to make sure that we are really "air portable." We were driven in 3-tonners to one of three different airfields, and from these we were flown to Colerne. For those who travelled in Hastings, this was a round trip, as they went from Bulford to Colerne, took off, flew around, landed again, unloaded and then drove to Keevil, which is halfway back to Bulford! The others, who travelled in Argosies from Benson, or Beverlies from Abingdon were luckier. They did at least get a change of scenery before and after the flight. The build-up took two days, but we had all our major communications engineered and working by 09.00 hours on the second day.

On Friday, 26th October,, the day after we had got back from "Griffin IV," we were paid a flying visit by the new S.O.-in-C., Major-General F. J. Swainson, O.B.E. He was with us for only a very short time, but he did manage to speak to all the Royal Signals members of the Regiment.

Another recent visitor was the Fire Inspector (luckily, two days after Guy Fawkes!). He seemed quite satisfied, even though our Fire Piquet put out an imaginary fire in a demonstration, while the real one, which he had started several hundred yards away, carried on burning, unnoticed! Eventually, when they got around to it, it took them just twelve minutes to get the real fire under control.

We are gratified to be able to tell you that we have converted at least one "outsider" to our Corps Magazine. Our Chief Clerk, Staff Sergeant G. F. Wallace, R A.S.C., discovered by chance that his photograph was in THE WIRE last month, and now, not only has he become a regular reader (and buyer) but he has even volunteered to become a contributor!

An Outsider Looking in on Royal Signals

It has been said to me since my arrival as Chief Clerk, 3 H.Q. and Signal Regiment, that I have the honour (hmm!!) to be the first non-Royal Signals Chief Clerk of a Signal Regiment. After having been for several years previously on staff work, I find the work, clericalwise, both interesting and exhausting. To date, I am still at a loss when faced with various trades and signals procedure. I can understand from this why I am the *first* R.A.S.C. Chief Clerk, and will likely be the last. The pace is far more hectic than the War Office, though the clerical procedures are not greatly at variance, except, perhaps, for the 'D' ROPO 'T' ROPO and 'P' ROPO systems. When first trying to fathom this one out, I felt like banging my head against a brick wall. Still, it soon sorted itself out in the wash, after several observations from Reading. If my tour with the Regiment goes as well as it started, then I will not be able to moan about my stay with the Signals, and I hope that I will have made a few more friends than the couple I already know in Catterick (take one pace forward, Staff Sergeant Penman).

Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess.

A photograph of our Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess, taken in the Garrison Gymnasium, demonstrates just how "integrated" a Regiment we now are. There are 18 different cap badges in the picture. Last but not least, congratulations to R.S.M. M. A. Barnes-Murphy on the news that he is be commissioned next March.

The annual 3 Division R.E./Royal Signals Reunion took place on Thursday, 8th November. 3 Division R.E. were the hosts this year, and the event was held in their Mess at Tidworth.

This event, a cordial reminder of the close ties we Signallers have with our "parents," the Sappers, took the form of a games social evening.

Both sides showed equal proficiency at darts, dominoes and poker dice, and it was a draw right up to the final game—shove ha'penny.

R.S.M. Friendship (R.E.), ably backed by one of his Staff Sergeants, formed the home team in this final battle, and R.S.M. Barnes-Murphy (Royal Signals) and Staff Sergeant Hayes represented the visitors. Side bets were made, the game was afoot, and the Royal Signals emerged triumphant.

The result 25—23, was close enough for honour to be retained on both sides.

Later, there was tombola, a draw and dancing. An excellent buffet was provided and, at the end of a very pleasant evening, R.S.M. Friendship presented the Shield, expressing the hope for the continuance of this event.

Members of the 3rd H.Q. and Signal RegimentW.O.'s and Sergeants Mess

Major General F. J. Swainson, O.B.E., with Lieutenant Colonel T. W. Baynes, O.B.E., Friday, 26th October, 1962

Accepting the shield on behalf of the Royal Signals Warrant Officers' and Sergeants, R.S.M. Barnes-Murphy thanked the R.E. Mess for an excellent evening and said that although neither he or R S.M. Friendship would be there next year, this event would be handed over to their successors.

The meeting finally broke up in the early hours of Friday morning, and already we are looking forward to next year, when we shall play host.

4th REGIMENT

Operation Westphalia Ball. At 8.30 p.m. on 24th October, the first Westphalia Ball, a combined project of the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Messes of 2nd, 4th and 7th Regiments came into being.

Four days before "B-Day," the area of Hammersmith Gymnasium, the home of 4th Regiment, became a hive of activity as lighting, decorations and furnishings appeared by the truck load.

Then as the rush died down the dancers arrived. Colour appeared in the form of the ladies' dresses, the scarlet of the officers' jackets and the white of the senior N.C.O.s' mess kit. In all, some 500 officers, seniors and their guests came from all over B.A.O.R.

Chief guest was the Representative Colonel Commandant, Major-General R. J. Moberly, C.B., O.B.E., and with him Brigadier and Mrs. M. A. Charlton, C.C. Royal Signals 1 (BR.) Corps. Music came from the dance band section of the Cameronians, whose playing inspired even the laziest to take the floor.

Buffet time produced a sight which must equal the most sumptuous feasts ever organised. Did the chicken ever look so plump, the lobsters so red, or the hams so inviting. Who was it who remarked: "Surely we are not going to spoil this marvellous display by eating it," and then proceeded to sample all the delicious delicacies. Could it have been the Colonel Commandant? Perhaps it was even more astonishing an effort when it is realised that three days previously, of the three catering representatives, one was very ill in hospital, one sick at home and the last one was still out on an exercise.

Dancing went on until 2 a.m., when all went their ways, happy with having met, talked, and drank with many old friends, and in the thought that 2nd, 4th and 7th Regiments had got together and finally achieved their goal. Of course, the hope is, that 1962 has produced the first of a series of such occasions, and possibly in the future closer ties will be achieved yet again.

Jottings. For a week, commencing 5th October, the unit took part in Exercise "Canada Cup." This was an inter-Brigade exercise, with 4th Division umpiring. Many were the gasps of astonishment and admiration at the palatial surroundings at the Control H.Q., furnished by 4th Regiment and H.Q. Company, 4th Division. One well-known gentleman said that he expected "jousting would commence at three," due to all the multi-coloured flags that were flying! A 2 Squadron radio detachment "found its way" into some wood occupied by elements of an American Armoured Infantry Battalion. Due to the detachment's musical capabilities (namely a guitar and clarinet), Corporal T. R. Jewitt, Signalmen J. Hood and J. D. Scarpe did not have to open their five-man compo packs. When visited, they were observed picking the remnants of Maryland chicken from their teeth with United States' matchsticks! Who said our radio operators lack initiative?

On 5th November the traditional fireworks display was held. The display was very much appreciated by both young and old, although the older fraternity seemed to appreciate the bar most! Hot dogs and roast potatoes were also on sale, and we nearly had fish and chips! Unfortunately, one of the hydro burners turned nasty, igniting some tentage, and some opinions are that the blaze was better than the bonfire.

Across the Skagerak by Canoe

BY SIGNALMAN T. RICHARDS

I think it was on the Denmark/Norway Ferry that the idea first occurred to us. Lieutenant Norris and myself were both instructors at the Adventure Leave Centre at the time, and we were on our way to rejoin the Unit. I don't know whether it was the comparative luxury of the ferry that put the idea there, or the thought of doing something different. Once the idea was there though, it stayed.

There then followed a considerable amount of preparation. We needed a guard vessel as escort boat. It sounds a simple thing, but when the Royal Norwegian Navy waded in to assist us, and produced a 47ft. converted smack, the size of the organisation backing us became clearer. We were most grateful for the help given by the Adventure Leave Centre, and it gave us great confidence throughout to know that lurking in the background was a large supporting organisation.

A canoe is a small thing; we were using a 17ft. Essex in fibreglass, and a little of this confidence faded when we sat in it for the first time.

The day came, and at 23.00 hours on the 29th June, we entered the water at the Toringen Light. We had 62 nautical miles to go, and a lot of water on each side and underneath.

For the first 2½ hours we had to contend with a 2-3 knot current that ran south-west from the coast of Norway, producing a short choppy sea. The sea rapidly moderated and we settled down to the long haul. The first drama was that we couldn't find Radio Luxembourg on our portable radio set, so instead of the Luxembourg International Show, we went on in silence.

At dawn the wind got up, and stayed, and for the rest of the journey we had to contend with quite a choppy sea. From the escort vessel came the clank of pots and pans, and at 07.30 breakfast appeared. The sea prevented us getting alongside for it to be passed down, so it was dangled in front of our eye in a fishing net, like a carrot. On reflection, there is nothing worse than seeing your breakfast hovering in front of you, getting closer and closer, but just too far away when you make a grab for it. Eventually we collected it and within about two seconds morale rose with the warm feeling spreading across our stomachs.

The sun broke through and all looked rosy, but as if to make sure we did not get too over-confident, the wind gusted up to force four, whipping up the sea, and then held at about this level for the rest of the journey. From a small canoe, those waves looked enormous.

Quite often we got involuntary cold baths as the waves broke over the canoe. Baling was a constant task, and by this stage you really knew that you have back and shoulder muscles.

At about 16.00 hours. Hirtshals came into view, and though it seemed years, it got closer every stroke. At 19.30 hours we came into harbour to be greeted with quite a lot of fuss. We felt wonderful, but were really interested in one thing only. It did not take us long before we achieved our aim—bed!

Next day we returned to Norway, this time *on* the escort boat. Facts and figures given to us by the Norwegian Navy were that we had travelled 72 miles in a force four wind in 20½ hours. Despite all the aches and pains, I think both Lieutenant Norris and myself would love to do it again, but we would certainly think twice about it.

7th Regiment

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1. Sergeant Slaughter receiving the Cup for the third team in the Army Motor-Cycle Trials. With him are the rest of the team—Sergeant Sankey and Signalman Everett

2. The Athletic Trophy presented to the German Schools in Herford, by Royal Signals, B.A.O.R., as reported in an earlier issue

3. General Moberly and Sergeant Barnett, N.C.O. commanding the Quarter-Guard

4. The Representative Colonel Commandant speaking to Captain Kahton, a visitor from India

5. Helicopter Trials. The radio relay loaded up and ready to go

6. Helicopter Trials. The aircraft with a complete relay station in the background

7th REGIMENT

The 1962 training season ended with Exercise "Fallex," which had, for the first time, a visibly N.A.T.O. flavour, and during which almost every North European language was encountered by our switchboard and teleprinter operators. In particular, we worked cheek-by-jowl with the German Signal Corps, whose equipment dates back as far as 1961. Their way of life is a little different from ours—for example they appeared on many occasions in Regimental track suits, and there was a complete absence of pre-war heel-clicking. On the other hand, there was a degree in similarity between us in that they invariably produced the required results by hard work and an almost British way of muddling through, "beating the pink" and relying too much on a few Chiefs and not enough on the many Indians. We were relieved, indeed, to see little sign of the teutonic efficiency of fiction, and a round-up of personal weapons "stolen" from off-duty personnel one night yielded as many German as British models!

At the close of "Fallex," we said goodbye to our helicopter pilots who have been with us, with two aircraft, for the last two months. Having these "choppers" fully integrated within the Regiment proved a great joy and made a change from the common run of events. Apart from the serious side of the trials, which went very well, we discovered, amongst other things, that the noise of the engine at close quarters causes heart-failure in a particular species of monkey, but leaves lions and vultures unmoved. The barracks are, of course, next to a zoo (they do say that when a gorilla once escaped, they had it cornered in a living block on three occasions before they discovered their mistake, but that is another story). Other discoveries were that the "chopper" is an ideal vehicle for "taking the mickey" out of a nudist colony and that it takes a man to walk under the rotating blades without stooping. Finally, it was shown that a "chopper" is a splendid instrument for sweeping the barracks square (but it makes the huts around the edge awfully dusty).

The visit of the Representative Colonel Commandant took place recently when General Moberly spent an afternoon with the Regiment, returning again on the following day for dinner; some photographs of his visit are shown.

The reconstruction of the Officers' Mess is now almost complete; the red composition floors are now covered in plastic tiles and the old ante-room and billiard room have been turned into one large room with a brick fireplace. The whole effect is quite pleasing, and a vast improvement over the original.

The Sergeants' Mess has also been tiled and the bar renovated on modern lines, complete with fish tank which, to date, awaits its occupants (this is about the only available married quarter in the area, so there's some merit in being a fish).

Sport has now come to the forefront and the square is used for hockey, basketball and volleyball—usually all at once. Volleyball is a new experiment and seems to be catching on. Shinty, fostered by C.S.M.I. Carpenter, has started once again, and a knock-out competition was won by the "Intrepid Funf" from the Sergeants' Mess: shinty, for the uninitiated is ice hockey without the ice, played in an enclosed space from which there is no escape, and using a walking stick "held the stupid way up"—there appears to be no holds barred.

We have recently said farewell to R.S.M. Keay and family who, after two and-a-half years, find themselves preparing to winter in Catterick, without the benefit of central heating. We are sure that R.S.M. and Mrs. Keay will have happy recollections of their last night in the Sergeants' Mess. He did, in his own word "go with a bang." We wish them luck and happy times in their new posting. At the same time we offer our congratulations to R.S.M. Gerrard on the assumption of his new appointment.

Finally, congratulations to our motor cycle trials team who, having won the B.A.O.R. championship, went on to be placed third in the Army Championship and beating all other operational regiments. Particular congratulations go to Sergeant Slaughter for winning the Signals Cup.

9th REGIMENT

"So they (Paul and Barnabas) being sent forth by the Holy Ghost, departed unto Seleucia; and from there they sailed to Cyprus."

"And when they were at Salamis, they preached the word of God in the Synagogues of the Jews."

—Acts 13, 4 and 5

9th Regiment which arrived in Cyprus somewhat later (not much, some say) is established outside Famagusta, only a few miles from ancient Salamis. Many a soldier and his family have picnicked on the beach near the famous ruins, and swum with mask and flippers among the remains of the ancient harbour, where St. Paul stepped ashore on his first mission.

The Regiment is situated in what is probably the best part of the island for it is at Famagusta that one finds the best beaches in Cyprus. This is a tremendous advantage, since life, especially for the married families with young children, centres upon the beach for the greater part of the year.

The sea and the sunshine are what make life pleasant here, and these are so much to the fore that our leisure hours are governed by it—bathing, sub aqua, boating, fishing, beach parties, sailing, water ski-ing . . . till winter comes. Then the direction of social and sporting activities changes rapidly, away from the sea to indoor activities such as the Mercury Theatre, and sports assume a predominantly British character in the shape of hockey, soccer, rugby and so on ("all the games you need a wash after").

Winter actually begins, they say, when Sergeant Winton looks meditatively at the sea beyond the reef, and mutters darkly that he must bring the Regimental boat out of the water next Saturday. This has indeed already been muttered and *Hermes* is now high and dry.

High and dry also are the modern accommodation blocks we have recently occupied. Nissen, Twynham and tent are but bad memories—the rains may come now and we won't care.

New also are the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess recently opened and the Junior Ranks' Club in the former Sergeants' Mess building, which has undergone R.E. improvement. The Saddle Club, too, are busy rebuilding their premises on a do-it-yourself basis.

Without wishing to bore with sports results, one unusual event must be mentioned. It appears that on 22nd September, back home Liverpool Football Club played against Everton. This apparently was an event of some moment, since the Regiment was split into two factions. A Liverpool/Everton game was promoted with evangelising fervour by those lucky enough to be born under the blue skies of Liverpool. This, despite the fact that winter had not yet started and *Hermes* was still afloat. It was a hot game, but of course "mad dogs and Englishmen . . . ."

The following goods are available from Association Headquarters:

Corps Ties—Heavy Weave	... ...	7/6	
Woollen	... ...	8/6	
Terylene	... ...	11/–	
Corps Scarves—Woollen	... ...	21/–	
Rayon Squares	... ...	21/–	
Cravats—Terylene	... ...	21/–	
Corps Cuff Links	... ...	8/6	
Association Buttonhole Badges or Brooches		3/–	Members only
Blazer Badges	... ...	45/–	
Crested Ash Trays	... ...	4/6	
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)	... ...	20/–	
Corps Plaques	... ...	29/6	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.

11th REGIMENT (DEPOT)

Winter is fast approaching Catterick once more and the early frosts are upon us.

As Lieutenant M. A. J. Mulcahy has now been absorbed into the turmoil of Recruit Training, the Regiment has a new WIRE notes scribe. I only hope he has the same gift of the pen as his predecessor!

Life here is never dull, recruits have been coming in so thick and fast, that it was necessary to form a new Recruit Training Squadron on 15th October, under the Command of Major T. I. McL. Robinson. Because of this expansion, there has been a population explosion amongst the Cadre, and recently we have welcomed many newcomers, including Captains W. G. Robinson, M. W. Simms-Reeve, Lieutenants C. J. Crow, F. R. Maynard, R. B. Ingram, J. M. Scott, J. J. Cullen, T. B. Scarff, Second-Lieutenants R. A. C. Siderfin, W.O.I Keay, W.O.II P. D. Molony and Staff Sergeant D. W. Newsham. We hope they will all have a pleasant tour in Catterick.

Equipment Demonstration. On 9th October, there was a display of current military equipment on Vimy Square for the benefit of the Territorial Army. The Regiment made good use of this display and, as can be seen, recruits were to be seen clambering in, out, under and over, all types of armoured vehicles. None of them got lost in the process and were all present at the end of a very interesting afternoon.

Entertainment. The recent Cary Garrison Theatre production of "Gilt and Gingerbread" was well supported by the Regiment, when they attended on the opening night, 22nd October. We hope they will continue to provide us with suitable entertainments in the future.

Best Recruits. Since the last notes, four intakes have left the Regiment and consequently there are four best recruits to report upon.

Signalman Jones, Best Recruit 7th September

No. 23911612 Signalman Jones passed off as Best Recruit of 5/6 Troops on 7th September.

Signalman Jones was born in Ffrith, near Wrexham, North Wales, and attended school in Flintshire. He left school at the age of fifteen and worked as an apprentice bricklayer for a short while. He did not enjoy this occupation very much, so joined a firm of radio and television engineers. After four years of part-time education at Denbighshire Technical College, he had acquired the intermediate radio and television services certificate. Signalman Jones thought that life was still not full enough for him and he was unable, in his job, to get any experience in transmitting or knowledge of transistors.

"I decided to try and acquire this knowledge in the Royal Signals," he said, so he went along to the Recruiting Office to enlist.

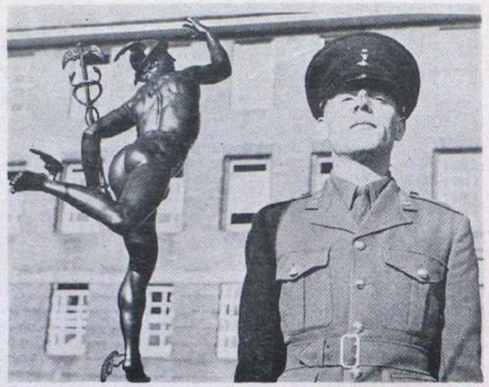
About training, Signalman Jones says that he enjoyed his training at the Depot Regiment, especially marching to a military band. "I like music," he said. "The Band on the square makes marching quite a pleasure." If there are any more Signalmen Jones's about, perhaps we can supply a skiffle group for weapon training.

Good luck to Signalman Jones, who now continues training as a radio technician.

* * *

What better start could any soldier ask for than to outshine the rest of the Troop on his first Pass-Off Parade.

Signalman Kerr, aged 23 years, of 14, Thorney Flat Street, Ayr, Scotland, has done just that, on 19th October. Born at Ayr, he finished at Newton Park Secondary Modern, and at the age of fifteen started mining. After seven years in the pits, he gave mining up because most of the local pits were closing down.



Signalman Kerr, Best Recruit, 19th October

He said: "I had to find a new trade and thought that the Army would be best to teach me one."

Now, at the age of 23, he starts a new career. The Army will certainly be glad to have him, for he is also an experienced boxer, having won the West Ayr Area Coal Board welterweight championship in 1959.

About training, he says: "I have enjoyed my basic training very much, especially the adventure training in the Lake District."

Mrs. Kerr can be very proud of her son, for he is the only one of nine children in the Forces.

Signalman Kerr's Troop Officer, Lieutenant A. M. P. Barker, said: "He had to work very hard to win the Best Recruit contest. The competition on this course was very tough."

* * *

Top Recruit 23927013 Signalman George Snelling, of Edgware, Middlesex, says: "*I found the life that suits me.*"

Snelling has certainly had a good look round before deciding on the life for him. When he left Camrose Secondary Modern School, at the age of fifteen, he joined the Norwegian Whaling Fleet at Grimsby, and sailed the Arctic seas for four years. George says: "I did not find this interesting enough and wanted to travel around the world." In 1956 he left whaling and joined the Merchant Navy as a cabin-boy. During the next three years, having travelled to most of the major ports in the world, he worked his way up to second steward.

Signalman Snelling, Best Recruit, 5th October

Again he became restless and tried the catering trade. In Jersey he worked as a chef in a hotel for a year and then returned to England.

It was while working as a chef in London that George acquired his first taste of Army life. He joined 302 Parachute Field Squadron Royal Engineers (T.A.), Kingsbury, and during his part-time soldiering, chalked up fourteen successful jumps to his credit.

Only a few months ago he met an old friend from Edgware, Corporal B. Harris, of the Royal Corps of Signals, over a drink. When Corporal Harris told him how he was enjoying his Army life, Sapper Snelling thought perhaps this might be the career for him.

Although when visiting the recruiting office he was advised to enlist in the Army Catering Corps, George was resolute about a career in the Royal Signals.

Now he is a Best Recruit, and at 26 years of age, with plenty of experience behind him. He certainly has a splendid chance of making a fine career out of the Army. He will now train as a Special Operator.

* * *

Twenty-year-old Signalman J. G. Jones, of 63, The Dell, Ridgeway, Birkenhead, was the top recruit of his intake of over 120, which passed out on Friday, 2nd November.

Signalman Jones, Best Recruit 2nd November

Signalman Jones attended school at the Birkenhead Institute and left in 1958 to become an apprentice flour-miller.

Whilst serving his apprenticeship, he attended the Outward Bound Sea School in North Scotland. This he found to be a most enjoyable experience and he enjoyed the adventurous open air life.

On completing his flour-milling apprenticeship, he found life in a Birkenhead flour mill too dull, so he decided to join the Army. He chose Royal Signals because he could learn a worthwhile trade and have the opportunity of seeing the world.

His hobbies include swimming, hill climbing and playing an assortment of musical instruments. He has appeared with his guitar in several well-known Liverpool skiffle groups.

Asked about his training, he said: "I enjoyed my basic training, especially adventure training near Ullswater.

Signalman Jones now goes on to train as a Line Technician.

* * *

Remembrance Sunday. Sunday, 11th November, was Armistice Sunday, and, as customary, a parade was held in Scotton Road, near St. Martin's Church. The Regiment provided a Squadron, commanded by Major T. I. McL. Robinson, and together with the Old Comrades' contingent and a Squadron from the School of Signals, the parade was led by our Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel S. W. Brackenbury, M.B.E. The salute was taken by Brigadier A. F. McGill, O.B.E.

Have You Heard . . . that two Brigadiers were arrested by an over-zealous sentry when driving down from Whinny Hill? They were escorted to the guard room because they did not have a pass to go to Camp Centre! However, a few quiet words in the guard room were sufficient to persuade the sentry that it was in order for them to proceed on their journey.

That Lieutenant C. J. Crow, when on duty as Orderly Officer, had an official 'phone call from Jamaica (please note—the Cuban crisis occurred a few days later; any connection is entirely coincidental—so he said).

Brigadier E. D. Good, C.B.E., leading the Old Comrades in the March Past at the Remembrance Sunday Parade

* * *

Sports News

Rugby. After a poor season last year, we appear to be making a better start this time. Our standards are not too high, and it is doubtful if we will win the Army Cup! However, with a basis of some 12 Cadre players and good scouting in the Recruit Squadrons, we have managed to raise a fair XV.

We have played two games to date and lost them both; however, the standard is improving.

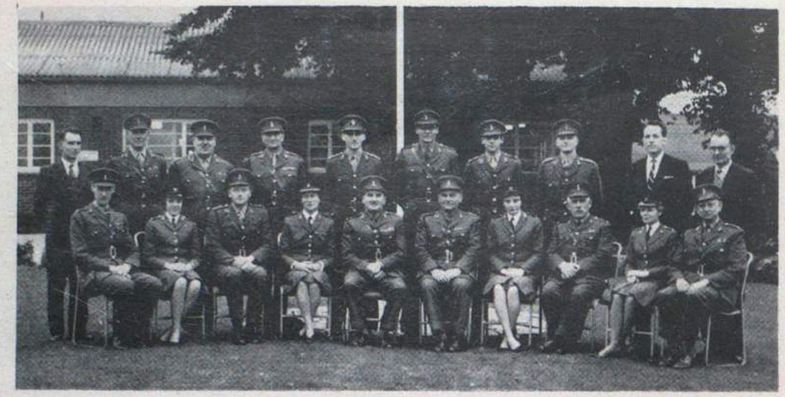
Soccer. The season opened with the Senior and Junior teams losing to 24th Regiment. The opposition in the senior game was very strong, but Clark, a recruit from 1 Squadron, played a great game; he scored four of our five goals, and the final score was 7—5 in favour of 24th Regiment. The junior team had the misfortune to lose by 9—5.

Administration Notes. Now that the A.F. B 198 is no longer in use, to assist in directing documents to the correct departments, would units please attach a note to the A.F. A 2026 stating the reason why the documents have been forwarded to the Depot Regiment.

Recruits inspecting Armoured Fighting Vehicles

THE WELFARE SECTION STILL REQUIRES MORE CLOTHING

14th Regiment



14th REGIMENT - OFFICERS TRAINING DAY, BAMPTON - 23 OCTOBER, 1962

Left to right, Back Row : Mr. J. Morton (Tech II), Major R. Barrett, Major H. W. Russell, Major M. Turner, Captain R. R. Fields, REME, Major J. W. Ingledow, Second Lieutenant H. J. Desforges, Captain C. M. Senior, Mr. J. D. Fenner (Sup. A), Mr. L. J. Prince (Tech. I)

Front Row: Major J. H. Walmesley-Cotham, Second Lieutenant A. M. Gelston, WRAC, Captain W. H. D. N. Robotham, Major M. K. Cavanagh, WRAC, Lieutenant Colonel W. E. Lyske, Major L. H. Dutton, Captain M. L. S. Read, WRAC, Major R. S. Cathmoir, Second Lieutenant A. K. G. Toby (WRAC), Major B. H. Parsonage

R.H.Q. and 1 Squadron. Having completed their deliberations in the Metropolis during the early part of the week, COMCAN Conference delegates assembled in Gloucester on 4th October with two objects in mind—to see how the Regiment works and to have a jolly good time—both of which missions were successfully accomplished.

Restricted mess accommodation made it necessary to house some of our guests in a nearby hotel, but any slight inconvenience involved in getting to and fro was more than compensated for by the very charming manner in which Second-Lieutenants Anthea Gelston and Ann Toby, W.R.A.C., performed the duties of transport conducting officers.

To welcome our visitors, a drink party was held in the Mess on the Thursday evening. Officers' ladies also attended, and music was dispensed by the Light Orchestra of the Corps Band, which had travelled down from Catterick for the occasion.

Friday morning saw the delegates at the Tape Relay Centre, Boddington, where Major Jock Cathmoir gave his inimitable "V.I.P. spiel."

After lunch, the party divided—some going to Droitwich and some to Bampton. Visitors to the "Spa" not only saw transmitters in action, but were also introduced to the "Bandits" and came away poorer, but wiser, men.

The visit to Gloucester ended with a Regimental dinner in the Mess on Friday night, where once again Fanfare Trumpeters and the Light Orchestra entertained us nobly. It was quite a remarkable and representative gathering, and an excellent time was had by all.

During the month, some sixty members of the Gloucestershire A.C.F. spent the first of three week-ends with us. The primary object of the visits is to select and exercise boxing, hockey, rugby and soccer teams for the A.C.F. Championships later on.

Yet another batch of apprentice tradesmen from Harrogate has spent a week in Boddington learning all about Tape Relay and, of course, there has also been the usual quota of casual visitors including communications engineers from Marconis at Chelmsford.

Winter sports continue to flourish, but perhaps most successful so far is the soccer team, which leads the local league and is making steady progress in District and Command competitions.

Less spectacular, but nonetheless praiseworthy, are the efforts of the rugby XV, which continues to hammer away, despite the odd reverse.

Not to be outdone, our girls are making quite a name for themselves in mixed hockey circles, and the basketballers so far have encountered little or no opposition.

Great stuff. Bash on.

3 Squadron. October has been an Indian Summer at Bampton, with trees and flower borders brightening the local scene.

The Squadron "line-party," plus a detachment from 2 Squadron, more aptly described in COMCAN as Aerial Riggers, under the expert guidance of Sergeant F. Henon, have made a good start on the construction of the new concentric rhombic aerial system. The keenness and enthusiasm shown by linemen when presented with a super task, covering some 300 acres and involving working "aloft" on lattice towers at heights up to 150ft. has been a significant feature. We are also pleased to add, for the record and the satisfaction of the party, that the new aerials work and are providing improved reception far beyond expectations. A tip to the lineman who may in future find himself functioning as an "aerial rigger" in a COMCAN unit: It can be, and is, a very active and satisfying occupation.

The Junior Ranks' Club, under a new committee, headed by Corporals E. E. Broughton, R.A.P.C., H. W. Long and M. Hargraves, held a games night and social, attended by wives and friends. This proved a great success and it is hoped will become a regular feature.

A special day to remember was Tuesday, 23rd October, the occasion of the Regimental Officers' Training Day, held this month at Bampton. A comprehensive programme of instruction was provided, broken at midday with a pleasant interlude for snacks at the now well-known "Plough," in Clanfield. Many past members and visitors will be interested to learn that mine host is Captain (Rtd.) A. Hawkins. The day's activities were rounded off with a mixed hockey match, which we reckon was as good a way as any of clearing the "hangover" from "single sideband," "frequency shift," "standing waves" and "circuit distortion.

We recall that annual inspections are almost "taboo" in THE WIRE contributions, but here is a tailpiece which sounds to us like a good idea.

Bonfire Night Celebrations ... 5th November
Annual Inspection ... ... 27th November

At the moment, the bonfire on the sports field is something gigantic and just waiting for the match. The camp has never looked so tidy!

16th REGIMENT

October is usually a quiet month for us, the month in which we begin to rearrange ourselves to normal, after the September exercises. But this was not to be. Out of the blue came the order "Administrative Inspection." It was accepted without fuss or panic, and the few days' notice given was well spent in thinking up the right answers; we now wait to see if they were. October brought with it not only the annual Administrative Inspection, but also the battle; I refer, of course, to the battle of the leaves (*not furlough*). Trees are a beautiful creation of nature. How does the song go—"There is nothing so beautiful as a tree"? They have been called many things this month and not one was beautiful. Have you ever tried sweeping up the fallen leaves? Yes, of course you have; do you still think they are beautiful? In Krefeld, as in most parts of Germany, they love 'em and they have got millions of them in every street, every garden, and especially in barracks. Why don't they chop the trees down, I'm sure Tara would sleep better next year.

Social events this month included a Corporals' dance, which turned out a very successful affair. The Sergeants' Mess are still wondering whether the invitation was for three P.M.C.s and and one member or vice versa. The only certainty was, they had invited four ladies. Ably organised by Corporal McCulloch, a good time was had by all.

We wish our new arrivals, Lieutenants (Tfc.) J. E. Gill, J. A. Nutt, W.O.II Foster, Staff Sergeant Halliday and Sergeant Johnson, a happy stay with 16th, and to those who have departed Captain (Tfc.) A. J. E. Cheshire and Sgt. Tooky *auf wiedesehen und gute reise.*

Frustration. The scene is the 25-yards ranges at Rheindahlen on a beautiful autumn morning. The occasion, H.Q. Squadron S.M.C. annual classification; lunch hour is rapidly approaching and the W.T.O. is anxious to get at his sandwiches and coffee. Details of three men are being classified. A detail of two men arrives on the firing point, and the W.T.O. is heard to say: "Sergeant Harding, who's the third man?" The dulcet tones of an R.P. Corporal are heard from the rear—"Arry Lime." Well now, after that spot of humour comes "Sports Report."

Hockey. We have, to date, played off four league games, winning three and losing one; the goal aggregate now stands at 17 for and 4 against. In the first round of the Army Cup Major Unit Competition, we were drawn to play 28th Regiment. After a very hard game, the final score was 5—2 in our favour, and we were through to the second round, which is to be played off by 1st December. The rumour that Mac McQuade is hanging up his stick is without basis. At long last we have been able to arrange games with a local German team, and we look forward to what promises to be some interesting matches with an international flavour.

A few of our enthusiasts were able to see the Scotland v. West Germany match at Duisburg and were rewarded with a first class game.

Angling. On Sunday, 7th October, the Kempener Club fished the last leg of the annual contest at the local pool. Fishing commenced at 15.00 hours and continued until 19.00 hours, despite a very strong cross wind that made fishing difficult. Representing the unit club were Staff Sergeant Hawtin, Sergeant Bonwick and Corporal Johnson, who were in the competition as guest members of the Kempener Club. Sergeant Bonwick took first prize and Staff Sergeant Hawtin the second prize. The prizes and the club trophy were presented later that evening in the Kempener Club H.Q. The German members of the club were very delighted that the club trophy had been won by an Englishman which, incidentally, was the first time ever in the history of the club. The trophy was presented by the Chairman, who had generously filled it with champagne. A very good evening's entertainment followed. We are now arranging a match with the Kempener Club for an inter-club trophy.

Until next month *petri heil.*

Handball. A venture has been made this season to start the Continental version of handball. A pitch has been painted on the square and one is about to be marked out on the grass; the latter should prove better for the leatherbound balls. A trial game was arranged last month to enable the ballplayers to acquire a knowledge of the rules and to arouse an interest in the Regiment. The game was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Association Football. The Regiment lost its 1st round Army Cup match to 28th Regiment, at St. Tonis, by 3—2. In a very exciting game which was decided by the last kick of the match, the Regiment XI played well below its league form. On merit, 28th Regiment were worthy winners.

In the 1st Division of the North Rhine Inter-Services Football League, the Regimental XI is now placed third, only one point behind the league leaders, R.A.F., Laarbruck. After five matches, they have gained a total of seven points, including good away wins against H Q., Rheindahlen Garrison (4—0) and R.A.F., Bruggen (5—0). In their last home game, against R.A.F., Laarbruck, the visitors fielding six of the current R.A.F., Germany, side, were fortunate to draw 2—2. Their second goal was scored with the last kick of the match.

A big loss to the Regimental XI was the departure, on release, of Lance-Corporal Dave Ransom. This speedy left winger was justly rated as the best left winger in the league. It will be very difficult to replace him.

Commendation. It is fitting to mention here the commendable action of two junior N.C.O.s of the Regiment, namely Corporal Leary and Lance-Corporal Mills. On the night of 4th October, whilst visiting a local cafe, they assisted the proprietor in arresting another German civilian who, having smashed the window of the cafe ran off. The two N.C.O.s gave chase and as Lance-Corporal Mills reached the man he turned and fired a gas pistol at point blank range into Lance-Corporal Mills's face. Mills fell to the ground, obviously in great pain. Corporal Leary, following close behind Mills, continued to chase the man, who he now knew to be armed; at this time Leary did not know what type of pistol the man had. He caught the man and with the aid of the proprietor disarmed him. In later investigations it was learnt that the man was awaiting entry into a mental home. We are pleased to say that Lance-Corporal Mills did not suffer any serious effects. This may possibly be only one of many incidents in Germany that helps to foster goodwill between the German people and British soldiers.

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Our entertainer, performing an Indian Classical dance

The C.O. Colonel W. W. Cock, after garlanding

18th REGIMENT

H.Q. Squadron. Deepavali was well and truly celebrated by the Indian other ranks of the Regiment on 20th October.

Under the guidance of S.S.M. Athinathan, the I.O.R.s turned the mess room into a festival hall, gaily decorated and pleasing to look at.

The I.O.R.s had invited some 130 guests, and as one myself, I can speak for all when I say well done, S.S.M. Athinathan and the I.O.R.s, 18th Regiment.

We were very well entertained with wine (Tiger beer), women (a charming Indian lady dancer), and song (by courtesy of certain Squadron Commanders who were in good form, but hardly good voice), ably supported by an all-Indian band, which could at a moment's notice turn from Indian classical music to "pops" and "ballads" without missing a beat.

The pace was well set by the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel W. W. Cock, who, after giving a very interesting and witty speech, was garlanded as in time-honoured procedure.

In the singing competition proper, the voices were of a very high standard, the eventual placings being: First, Signalman Gunasigaran; second, W.O.II Athinathan; third, W.O.I Sutherland (what a voice).

Altogether, a very memorable evening and, I think, the best so far. Our photographs can probably say more than simple words.

1 Squadron (Op). This month saw the introduction of a new shift working plan. The Squadron is divided into four syndicates. Three syndicates staff the Signal Centre, Exchanges and Tape Relay Hall, the fourth spend a complete week away from it all, on Regimental and trade training. The syndicates change weekly, so in a calendar month, each syndicate completes one week of training.

This month the training was devoted to "working up" for annual camp in November; everyone wants to go this year, this may be due to the fact that the W.R.A.C. are also attending the camp, for the first time. Palau Tekong, a small island off Singapore is the site of this year's camp. As there is little in the way of amenities on this small island this will be no "holiday" camp.

Our Y. of S. strength was doubled by the attachment of Staff Sergeant Albrough, from 237 Squadron, we also say "hello" to Corporals Daly and Dickinson. Congratulations to Lance-Corporal and Mrs. Mackay on the birth of a daughter.

2 Squadron (Line). It is a very true statement that in our day and age, nothing stands still for very long. This would appear to apply to our resident Clerk of Works (Auto projects) who quiet recently changed his beret for a cap, S.D., and his W.O.II badge of rank for the insignia of the Royal coat of arms.

Congratulations W.O.I (F. of S.) Davies, well done, and well deserved, which brings us to the object of his affections and his modern masterpiece of line communications, the auto exchange in Pasir Panjang.

This awe-inspiring conglomeration of racks, switches, uniselectors, test equipment, and Uncle Tom Cobley and all, is fast approaching completion; a thing of beauty and a joy to behold. A.T. & E. Installing Engineers, with the able assistance of W.O.I Davies, Staff Seregant (F. of S.) Burton, and a willing and hard-working gang of Malay O.R. cable jointers have changed an empty room into a technical installation that should provide communications worthy of the Royal Corps, in almost record-breaking time. We that remain after W.O.I Davies has departed will, I am sure, benefit from the fruits of his hard work and endeavour.

21st REGIMENT

"WIRE notes ready for typing, sir."

Monday morning was off to a good start, and before a thought could be marshalled, this delightful opening gambit was quickly followed by: "The C.O. likes them to be away on time, and expects you to do them." Checkmate.—Silence, and another Regimental Editor is installed in the best tradition.

Staff Changes. In the last two months, the Regiment has seen the following departures: Major J. W. Ingledow to 14th Regiment; Major T. H. Hesketh to H.Q., Eastern Command; Captain D. A. Davies to Staff College; Lieutenant P. R. Davies to 229 Squadron (Berlin); Lieutenants F. R. Maynard, T. B. Scarff and J. M. Scott to 11th Regiment Cadre; Lieutenant (T.O.T.) J. Mitchell to 253 Squadron (Singapore); Second-Lieutenants I. G. Dorward and M. J. Bowen to civilian life on completing their full-time National Service, and finally, Major (Q.M.) E. Launders to a well-earned retirement after 34½ years' service in the Corps. In addition, we have been sorry to lose Sergeant J. Warburton to realease; Sergeant P. Thornton to 24th Regiment, and Sergeant Jackson to 255 Squadron. In the meantime, we have welcomed Major J. R. Ellis, Major (T.O.T. J. F. Everard, Captain T. P. Canham, Staff Sergeant J. Baxter, Staff Sergeant K. A. Waterworth and Sergeant T. Martin.

Births. The Regiment congratulates Captain and Mrs. D. E. Burt, Lance-Corporal and Mrs. B. Webster, Lance-Corporal and Mrs. L. M. McPadden, Signalman and Mrs. H. Woodhall and Signalman and Mrs. R. Barton on the birth of a daughter each; and Sergeant and Mrs. A. King, Corporal and Mrs. R. D. Roberts, Corporal and Mrs. J. Hardy, Lance-Corporal and Mrs. G. Holden on the birth of a son each. Special congratulations go to Corporal and Mrs. Faragher for performing the "double act" in the form of twins (boy and girl) born on 18th September.

Marriages. Congratulations to Corporal J. Turner, Lance-Corporal G. Hunter-Rowe, Lance-Corporal D. G. Crisp, Signalmen R. F. Russell, D. Saxon D. G. Hughes, D. Haigh, C. C. Scott and T. McFarlane on their recent marriages.

Deaths. Our deepest sympathy is offered to Staff Sergeant and Mrs. I. Bower on the death of their youngest daughter, Marlies, and also to Corporal J. H. McLaren on the death of his wife.

Exercises. September was devoted to "Fallex." All elements of the Regiment were deployed and thoroughly enjoyed the changes involved in moving out from their airfields, and look forward to similar exercises in the future. During the exercise, we were delighted to have the 81st Regiment (A.E.R.) training alongside us and, of course, on the termination of the exercise, it was fortunately possible to squeeze in a few social activities. Firstly, an excellent lunch given by the officers of 81st Regiment, secondly an inter-Regimental soccer match, and thirdly an evening's entertainment for all ranks which the Officers and Senior N.C.O.s of 1 Squadron kindly and successfully organised. We were sorry to see them go, and hope to be able to renew our friendship next year.

From 29th September to 12th October, a Line Detachment from 3 Squadron was attached to 225 Squadron A.A.F., to provide them with local ground communication for 1st Division Exercise "Desert Rat" and 4th Division Exercise "Canada Cup," and on their return cheerfully announced that, due to a thoughtful, though not brilliant piece of staff-planning, all local lines had been laid for them prior to their arrival—no odds are offered for a repetition of this type of luck.

Visit of Representative Colonel Commandant. The Regiment was honoured to be able to welcome Major-General R. J. Moberly, C.B., C.B.E., on Monday, 29th October, when appropriately, he arrived at Laarbruch by helicopter. After lunching with the Station Commander, Group Captain C. S. G. Stanbury, D.S.O., D.F.C., A.F.C., R.A.F., and the officers of the Regiment, the General had coffee with our Warrant Officers and Sergeants in their Mess.

During his visit to R.H.Q., he met all persons who had consistently represented the Regiment at games and sport during the past year and presented them with their Regimental Colours. The General then visited Corporal and Mrs. Lawson's married quarter. Corporal Lawson had previously served as a clerk at the War Office when General Moberly was S.O.-in-C.

To complete his visit, the Regimental Wives' Club, under Mrs. D. M. Haslehust, organised an informal tea party, to which, for this special occasion, husbands were permitted to attend.

General Moberly presents Regimental Colours to WO I (F. of S.) D. Hazel

★

General Moberly with the Regimental Wives Club

★

Standing (*Left to Right*): Signalmen Coathup, Tiffany, Walker, Pearson, Barnes, Taundry, Mooney, Second Lieutenant Spear, Signalman Gulliver, Lance Corporal Frost, Signalmen Kirk, Dale, Corporal Lake, Sergeant Esdale

Kneeling (*Left to Right*): Signalman Caffynn, Sergeant Harding, Corporal Annis, WO II Collins

The above team finished 10th out of over 700 teams in the annual Airborne Memorial March near Arnhem, Holland. They were the only British team.

22nd REGIMENT

Regimental Headquarters. The weather has been wonderful for the time of the year, and our days on the range at Brackwede have been fun. Our numbers have increased with the formation of a Signal Park Troop now responsible for all 2 Squadron Stores and instruction for the Central Training Wing. We welcome this month the arrival of Captain J. Reid as Second-in-Command of H.Q. Squadron.

This month ended with a Hallowe'en Ball held in the Sergeants' Mess, attended by all the Officers and Seniors in the Regiment. W.O.II Peberdy is to be congratulated for a very excellent evening.

1 Squadron. We have recently said farewell to Lieutenant J. Sayers with his faithful and much maligned "pooch," who has now joined 244 Squadron. In his place we welcome Second-Lieutenant D. Henning, and we find we still have one animal on the Squadron strength. Staff Sergeant Andrews and Sergeant Wilby have also joined the Squadron and we extend a welcome to them.

Our belated congratulations to Corporal and Mrs. Stanley-Jones and Signalman and Mrs. Curt on the recent birth of a son and daughter respectively.

During the past month all three Troops have had their share of participating in exercises. Namely such as "Canada Cup," "Autumn Double" and "Slow Tempo" have proved, if nothing else, that we are versatile.

2 Squadron. Alas, our stores are now settled in the Signal Park and all the Regulars have moved over to the other Squadrons in the Regiment.

Troop Officers and Sergeants have been seen searching the dustbins and hedges for kit and pieces, and all the dead sacks have now been turned out. Many a worried soldier has been searching through Part I orders to see where he is.

We hope that all our customers have been satisfied and look now to the future.

244 Squadron. During October the Squadron 'took the field' once more in a series of three divisional exercises. We provided Air Support Communications for each Division in turn.

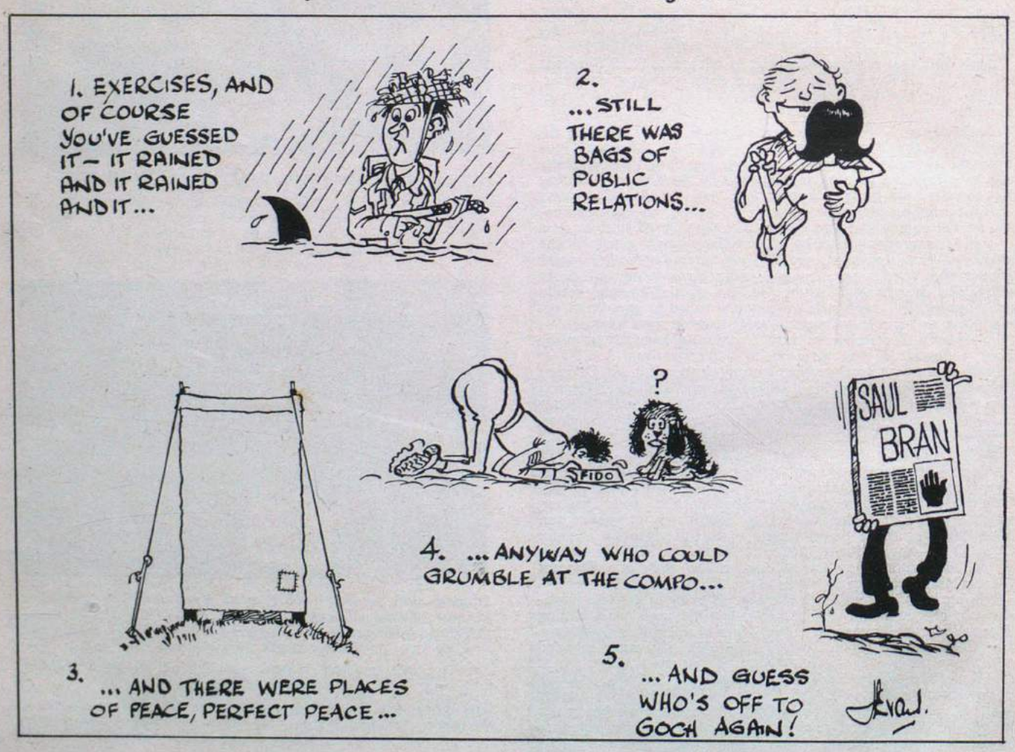
It was an interesting series of exercises and we were working constantly during a period of three weeks with aircraft of the Belgian, Dutch, German and Royal Air Forces.

Air Pilots in NATO speak English when flying and by the end of the exercise period an operator was able to tell the nationality of a pilot by his accent.

There were several outstanding incidents during these exercises, one of them being the arrival into the H.Q. area one night of an American helicopter, which had no landing facilities as well as being low on fuel. We watched with interest as the A.A.C. talked him down using CA5 and got him on the ground eventually by using Champ headlights to mark his landing spot.

On another, we provided Communications Ground to Air for a parachute drop which came from U.K. For this it was necessary to have a detachment at Hannover Airport and we are told that Lieutenant Brown and Corporal Young provided communications from seats in the airport restaurant. We also found it of great interest comparing the way in which each Division worked. All of them, however, showed great interest in Air Support Signals and were of great help to us.

Stop Press from 22nd Regiment



28th REGIMENT

(What's afoot in NATO)

To anyone who wants a second look at us in 1962, and who has been kind enough to read thus far, we wish the compliments of the season.

"The Netherlands Signal Squadron" associated with us is now one year old, and we ask the whole Corps to join in sending congratulations to them. Incidentally as they are the only Unit in the Royal Netherlands Army to have an English title and no serial number, and as Major Salamons was in part trained in Catterick, they are doubly entitled to a large Mention in this Despatch. Part of their anniversary celebrations seemed to consist of "Rolling 3-tonners over the Square, by Hand." Oddly enough the scream of agony that this strange rite evoked did not come from the R.S.M. but from the 'Best Q.M. in the Business,' Major "Paddy" Ryan, who was convinced that the 3-tonners would sink through the surface. He wasn't worried about future parades; after all, he retires next year, but he couldn't face the thought of the paper work involved in an inquiry into damage by a Netherlands vehicle to a German Square on loan to NATO, etc., etc., etc. However, all was well, and Netherlands Day came to a satisfactory conclusion—not even rain damped the spirits of these energetic line and DR artists.

We were asked on Halloween(!) to help President Kennedy to get results by 'putting on our Web Equipment.' This we had to do eventually despite our protests that the Wives' Club Bazaar was the most important event of the day. This combination of events is highly to be recommended to all Units in a rut. Personally we are not sure whether to believe the story which alleges that the R.S.M.'s lady was caught trying to flog (pardon the word) one Champ and trailer, O.C. 1 Squadron type, complete with occupants, for DM5 as a surprise packet on the bottle(d) stall. Mrs. Spence is said to have listened to reason and put it back in time to lead the convoy through the gates to victory. Both the exercise and the bazaar were highly successful, although the former cost several times more than the 800 DM (odd) made by the latter. Well done, the Regimental Ladies!

November the Fifth saw Guy Fawkes Nite, NATO style, and although we are still trying to explain it to our Allies, the main credit for the evening goes to the fire picquet (believed to have been Belgian) for thwarting the wholehearted attempt by H.Q. Squadron and the Regimental children to 'do away' with that lot in R.H.Q. The biggest bonfire for years almost saw the building off, and with it the red Fiat a certain Adjutant has recently bought (from the R.H.Q. coffee swindle?), but the stalwart Belgians were sober and on the spot. Comme toujours. Merci, 13 TTr.

It has been a successful two months for sport—the occupational therapy so good for cases of Natitis. The Regimental glider pilots—all six of them—have spent a little time in the lines away from the airfield; Major M. Petheram has been seen (briefly) amongst the mortals of H.Q. Squadron after a particularly fine leading performance in "Iolanthe"; Major P. Irwin is still missing after the Royal Signals Autumn Golf Meeting (and why not—he and W.O II Issitt swept the board); Sergeant Lasota has collected an ashtray from the Army M.C. Trials in U.K.; Signalman Coupe has won the Inter-Services Cycling in Germany (nothing unusual here, he has the habit), and the C.O. has bought one of those delightful coloured caps (wait for the photo next time, 3 Squadron!).

When (if ever) this goes to print Captain Daphne Chandler will have handed over command of the W.R.A.C.'s only operational Squadron. We shall miss you, Ma'am (my, but you frightened us in your combat kit on 31st October!)—and we wish you well.

Finally our thanks to 16th Regiment for scoring *that* goal in our first match of the Army Cup, and a Happy New Year to you all. Come on in! The Common Market is FUN!

30th Regiment

After the activity at Poole Harbour in late summer the coming of autumn has seen a change in Blandford activities. The Regimental Beagles have had their first hunt. The photograph shows the huntsman, W.O.II (F.-of-S.) G. H. Paul, in immaculate attire shortly after the start and before the pace became too much for the photographer. Our Commanding Officer, accompanied by Colonel Pentreath from the War Office, followed the hunt which after a while found the hare following its usual circular pattern through four fields. One of these was well endowed with mushrooms and although used as a grandstand there can be no doubt as to what the hunt followers had for breakfast the next day.

Our other photograph has a sentimental value for it shows St. George's Church, Blandford Camp, decorated for its last Harvest Thanksgiving. Demolition of the area to prepare the site for the new School of Signals begins next January.

Captain Carroll has won the Corps Golf Championship, thus rounding off a very successful season in Army golf. While on the subject of golf the Regiment has said goodbye to its most dedicated golf officer, Major J. F. Everard, whose Ford Classic had a boot like a golf professional's shop.

St. George's Church, Blandford Camp, decorated for its last harvest festival

We would like to remind our readers of the background to the Regimental Emblem which appears at the head of these notes. We are prompted to put this in our notes for this month because the Worshipful Company of Dyers have just had their annual Swan Dinner, which was attended by the Commanding Officer and Second-in-Command. The Dyers, in common with other Livery Companies, associate themselves with military units. In 1957 the Dyers adopted 10th Bn. The Parachute Regiment T.A. and later in 1960 they also adopted 30th Regiment. We believe that it is quite rare, if not unique, for a Regular Unit to be so associated with a Livery Company. The Dyers have old associations with the Vintners Company in the keeping of swans on the Thames which is said to go back to 1483. The cygnets are taken up each July for identification and to witness this the Wardens attend for a day the annual Swan Upping Voyage. Identification is now by one mark on the beak for the Dyers and two for the Vintners; those of the Queen, the Seigneur of Swans, are unmarked. It is appropriate therefore, for us to have a white swan as the Regimental emblem.

In November the Regiment said goodbye to Major D. V. Wellings, M.B.E., on his retirement. Major Wellings, father of the Officers' Mess, was dined out on 18th October, 1962, after eight years' continuous service with the Regiment. He joined the then 5th Corps Regiment in October, 1954, when he formed and assumed command of a War Office Team. In March, 1961, the Team combined with and assumed the name of 3 Squadron, 30th Regiment.

Regimental Beagles of 30th Regiment. The huntsman is W.O.II (F. of S.) G. H. Paul

Left to Right. W.O.II P. J. Doonan, Sergeant J. H. Custus, Staff Sergeant P. J. Tompkins, Sergeant D. Parry.

A check through records shows that he has taken part in seventy exercises and produced one hundred and ten reports. The first was New Moon in April, 1955, and it was in this year that he first took his Team to B.A.O.R. Since then he has visited all parts of B.A.O.R., England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. A search through his official diaries has produced a wealth of information which varies from "Gale wrecked ops and adm site" to "Report on new type of blanco No. 103" (March, '55).

Major Wellings has many hobbies and he is an accomplished pianist with a vast repertoire of songs, a member of the Magic Circle and useful card player. He has now put aside photography and model railway for carpentry until he has refurnished his house. Fishing and shooting are skills being acquired, for after three seasons in Skye, Dennis Wellings has decided to become a resident of the island. He has acquired Hamara Lodge in Glendale with its shooting rights over 18.000 acres of moor and the fishing rights of five lochs and three rivers stocked with salmon and trout. The purchase of a croft which he hopes to convert into Glendale's first pub should give relaxation throughout the winter months when he may need a stimulus to ensure his continued intoxication with the island.

Never one to be beaten by difficulties of cost or transportation he has purchased a furniture van and thus solved the moving problem.

He is assured of our best wishes for success in his venture but we regret that to draw him ceremoniously through the camp gates in his loaded pantechnicon is a feat beyond the Officers' combined strength.

On the 29th October a Regimental Parade was held at which the Commanding Officer presented awards to four members of the Regiment. A Meritorious Service Medal to Captain (Q.M.) T. W. Grigg, Long Service and Good Conduct Medals to W.O.II (F.-of-S.) J. Daw, B.E.M., W.O.II (F.-of-S) G. H. Paul and Sergeant F. H. Delpinto. The composite photograph shows the four recipients receiving their medals. The Blandford weather lived up to its reputation and was bright and sunny for the parade on which we were pleased to have present the Corps Band under its Director of Music, Lieutenant C. H. Pike.

Meanwhile other activities have taken place including a Fancy Dress Dance in the Sergeants' Mess. Our photograph shows four members of the bottom class at St. Trinians. No prizes will be given for recognising the participants

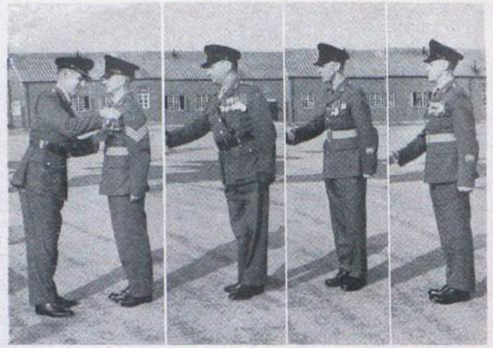
A Way of Life—Part 2

BY "GREEN DRAKE"

He is handsome and looks very bold;
But is false like a number of men;
He will feed in the heat and the cold;
But 'twill only be just now and then.

Thus spoke the Reverend James Martin one hundred years ago of the Chevin, Chavender or Chub.

But I am rushing ahead. In my last episode we were heading towards Lubliana in Jugoslavia having filled up with petrol six kilometres from the Austro/Jugoslav border. Roads are tar



Left to Right. Lieutenant-Colonel A. T. Burrows, M.B.E., Sergeant F. H. Delpinto, Captain T. W. Grigg, W.O.II G. H. Paul, W.O.II J. Daw, B.E.M.

macadam through most large country villages but liberally strewn with oxen and horse dung and these creatures seem to afford the normal method of transport, hooked up to crude little country carts but always in good fettle and with a wonderful homing instinct when driven by a peasant full of local wine or slivovice (plum brandy).

A quick circuit of Lubliana was enough to convince me that there was little to be seen or worth seeing in the centre. Rusty sign posts and the sun were sufficient to show that we were heading for Brod, about fifty kilometres south-east of Lubliana. Back on to dusty unsurfaced roads with a feeling that we were getting into the heart of the country. I hesitate to think of the result of a major breakdown in the heart of Jugoslavia. One sees an occasional "auto technica" and I have heard they are experts at improvising but they don't look very efficient.

We eventually reached Brod just as it was getting dark and stopped on the road bridge over the Kupi. Above the bridge was a broad, smooth, dry fly stretch and it was boiling with fish on the evening rise. I felt sure they were trout and blessed my good fortune, but it was too dark to see what they were and I had no ticket.

Near the bridge was the Hotel Kupi where we decided to put up for the night and where I could buy a fishing ticket for about 10s. per day. Conditions in the hotel were somewhat austere. Iron beds and bed tables and cold running water. Supper was a kind of stew with noodles and tough bits of meat not unlike goats flesh, with huge slices of bread and a glass of white wine. A breakfast of coffee in the Turkish style and dry bread was followed by the usual filling in of forms which is normal when one stays in any hotel in Jugoslavia. Supper, bed and breakfast worked out at 10s. for both of us.

The following morning having bought my ticket I hastened to the river. The long, smooth stretch above the bridge was full of chub, distinctive by their shoaling habit and that thick, stocky appearance. These were my trout of the previous evening and a trip of about fifteen miles up the river revealed chub in all the pools with here and there some nice grayling, and in the runs a few very small trout. It seemed such a pity to find quantities of chub in such a beautiful river because it is my experience that trout will never live with them if they are in great numbers.

One day of searching for trout was enough and after spending a very pleasant evening camping by the river we set off next morning to Ogulin from where we could fish the head waters of three rivers all within easy reach. In the local hotel where we experienced the usual rough and ready living, we were agreeably surprised to meet four dedicated German fishermen who very kindly suggested that we accompany them to a river about ten miles away. Our start next morning was delayed by a broken spring in the Germans car which meant a visit to the local "auto technicia," but eventually we set off and arrived at the river. All the rivers in north-west Jugoslavia are not unlike any mountain river in Wales or Scotland, clear, sparkling water with every variety of pools, falls and rapids. A haven for trout one would think, but a quick walk up the bank again showed it was full of chub. One of our German friends caught one trout, about 1 lb. and a barbel of about 1½ lb. I took several small chub on the fly, but I like to eat what I catch and I find chub uneatable.

The day finished with a good old party with plenty of wine

and slivovice which made up for the lack of edible fish.

This part of Jugoslavia was well out in the country with the usual cultivation of Indian corn, tomatoes, runner beans and potatoes. My wife visited the village Roman Catholic Church and gave the Mother Superior a gift of 1,000 dinar (about 10s.), and later in the afternoon this kindly woman brought us a present of freshly baked whole meal bread and some plums. We gathered that their life was not an easy one, with very little toleration and no help other than gifts from the peasants and a little money from some central Roman Catholic fund.

Bidding farewell to our German friends, we made for Rejecka, on the Adriatic coast, and that night we experienced one of those wind storms which start up soon after dusk, which meant a hasty check on tent guy ropes and a fervent prayer that we wouldn't take off. The camping ground was well situated, right on the beach, with good facilities, but the next night we had a violent thunderstorm for several hours and decided it was time to move on, feeling a bit damp but not too downhearted.

Recrossing the border at Trieste, I noted that the Jugoslav exchange bureau was very reluctant to take back my 10/- worth of dinar for Italian lire. They invited me to buy cigarettes, wine or benzine so that they could hold on to their precious foreign currency, but this is the normal procedure, and if you do change any money, the rate is definitely to their advantage.

Having arrived in Trieste it was a remarkable change to go round the open market and buy fresh fruit, vegetable and fish amongst a host of cheerful market women. It was nice to pop into a little restaurant and buy a well cooked lunch in a free, happy atmosphere.

We wouldn't have missed our trip to Jugoslavia for anything but it was so different and of course the fishing was most disappointing. It is "a way of life" which some people may like —but not me.

Boundary Riding at Richmond, 1962

Photo: North of England Newspaper Co., Ltd.
The Mayor is carried to midstream by the Wader

Catterick Camp has been the home of the Training Brigade, Royal Signals for many years now, and all who have been there will have become acquainted to some extent with the hospitable Borough of Richmond. Whether it has been the gateway to the outside world for the signalman going on leave, or the centre of entertainment for the same man on his nights out, or as his wife's shopping centre, I am sure that this description of one of Richmond's rarer historic customs will be of interest to all readers of THE WIRE.

The Riding of the Boundary of Richmond has taken place every seven years since the reign of the first Queen Elizabeth, and may, in actual fact, date back to even earlier times. It takes the form of a 16-mile perambulation of the Borough boundary, with frequent proclamation en route, claiming the boundary against neighbouring parishes, and is accomplished by the Mayor, Alderman and Burgesses of Richmond in procession.

On 19th September, this year, the second boundary riding during the reign of Queen Elizabeth II assembled at 08.30 outside the Town Hall, in this order:

a. Banner Bearer carrying the faded silken banner on which is emblazoned the ancient Arms of Richmond
b. The Halbardiers and Serjeants-at-Mace, bearing the large and small maces of the Borough of Richmond
c. The Mayor (with mace) accompanied by the Town Clerk in their civic robes
d. The Pinder, or Pioneer, with axe, who has to remove any obstructions in the path of the Riding
e. The Bellman and Town Crier to announce the proclamations
f. The Water Wader who has to carry the Mayor pick-a-back out to the middle of the River Swale on occasions when the boundary has to be proclaimed from such a spot
g. The Aldermen, Councillors and Burgesses of the Borough of Richmond, and, of course, the attendant crowd of spectators.

The opening proclamation took place at the centre of the Old Green Bridge and was followed by the scattering of newly-minted pennies to the children, who were given the day off school for the occasion. I must admit that some of the "children" scrambling for the pennies looked as if they were getting on in years, but no doubt they came from senior classes! This was also the opportunity for doffing the civic robes, apart from the Mayoral Chain, in anticipation of the long slog ahead.

At the island below the Church Mill the Water Wader carried the Mayor out to midstream for one of the proclamations, and brought gasps from the watching crowd when he stumbled on the cobbly bed of the river. Nothing daunted, the Mayor retained a firm seat until the Water Wader regained his balance, and was able to resume the journey, wet only up to his knees.

On at least one occasion during the perambulation, when a barbed wire fence barred the way, the Pioneer was required to clear the obstruction. Perhaps due to Royal Signals influence, instead of the axe of office, a pair of wirecutters materialised to remove the offending obstruction in double-quick time.

The ascent from the river, through pleasant countryside, to the stone tower, called Oliver Ducket, was steep enough to weed out the first lot of stragglers, but the Mayor was setting a goodly pace. Ordnance Survey maps show the Oliver Ducket tower to lie within Richmond Rural District, but the procession made a point of going round it, and thus claiming it for the Borough, as they usually do. No one disputed the claim.

Although the ascent had claimed quite a few of the original procession, the crowd was every bit as thick when the pause for refreshment came, just after passing the tower. Perhaps the fact that the refreshment consisted of meat pies, washed down with beer, had a lot to do with the crowd being so numerous; or was it that this was another occasion for the scattering of more pennies? Welcome indeed was the rest that it gave to the aching feet and wheezy bellows that were becoming rather evident.

Another break comes at Deepdale for further and fuller refreshments and to watch the races. Towards the end of the sports there is a race for councillors only, with the more mature members being allowed to start a little closer to the winning post. Coincidence brought Richmond to the fore again, in that the winner of this race was Councillor J. Richmond.

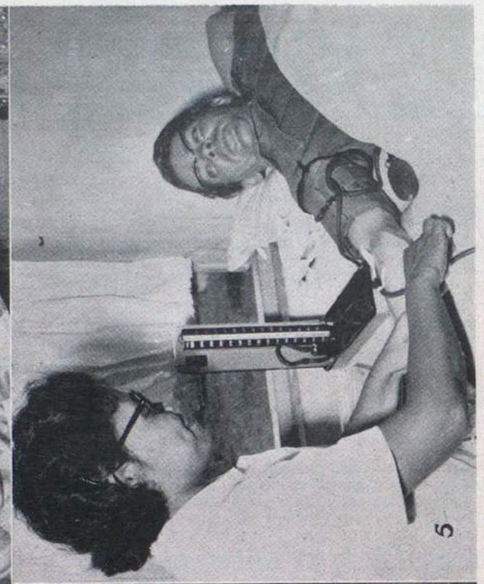
An all-too-short rest and the procession was under way again, but with the heartening thought that from now on it was down hill nearly all the way, until the last stretch along the river banks brought us to the Old Green Bridge and a final proclamation.

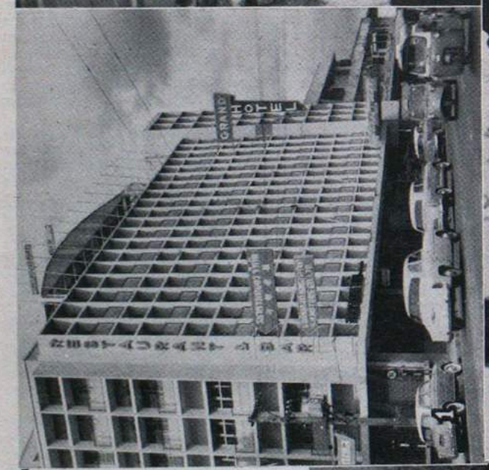
A detachment of twenty men from the Green Howards attended the procession in the role of tenants of the Borough, and in full combat kit, carrying rifles, they waded thigh deep along the last quarter-of-a-mile of river to Green Bridge, to the accompaniment of exploding thunderflashes. A most spectacular finish.

There was still, unfortunately, the last cobbly ascent to be made to the starting point of the old Town Hall, where The Roll is laid ready for signing. The Roll is signed by those who have successfully completed the course, in witness of the fact that Riding the Bounds has been once more accomplished in full, regardless of any vagaries of weather. This document is then carefully placed with the rest of the Borough Records. GOD SAVE THE QUEEN, THE MAYOR, AND THE LORDS OF THE MANOR. Once again the RIDING OF THE BOUNDS has been completed and proclaimed.

This may also be the last time if a proposed merging of the Borough with the surrounding Rural District comes into effect before 1969.

Acknowledgement must be expressed to Mr. J. K. Alldred, Town Clerk of Richmond, for his very friendly co-operation and for producing the programme and background information which has formed the basis of this article.





Focus on Bangkok

1. This is the detachment's "billet"—the Grand Hotel in Rama I Road, which is right in the centre of the city. The hotel is air-conditioned throughout and is rated the third-best in the whole of Thailand. 2. Not surprisingly, Thai silk is cheaper in Bangkok than anywhere else in the world. Pictured: Lance Corporals Ted Fallon (right) and Peter Whitham. 3. Staff Sergeant A. Millington, has been in Bangkok for two months. 4. Talking to two Buddhist priests in one of Bangkok's 300 magnificent temples are Lance Corporals Malcolm Platt (right) and Michael Furey. 5. Every member of the detachment has given blood to the Thai Red Cross and pictured here is the OC, Captain R. I. F. Amos

Expedition to India

By Corporal L. Tilson, 259 Squadron

Nicosia to Adana. Our party consisting of Lieutenant J. Cooper, R.A.E.C., Lieutenant E. Gill, R.A.E.C., Corporal G. Pratt, Intelligence Corps, Corporal G. Rushton, R.A.P.C., Signalman F. Larcombe and myself left Nicosia on Saturday, 14th July, 1962, on a Fairchild aircraft of the Turkish Airlines.

After a very pleasant one hour flight we landed at Adana in Southern Turkey at 7.30 p.m. local time. Adana is not a very inspiring town and as we were still pretty fresh, we decided to travel overnight to Ankara. We got our tickets without delay and were told that the bus would be leaving at 8 p.m. A party of us then made a recce into the town to get some food for the trip, in the shape of grapes, melons and bread. This was in fact to be a regular meal for us, as our budget only allowed us one good cooked meal a day.

Adana to Ankara. The bus finally left one hour late, at 9 p.m., and we began what was the first of a long series of bus rides across Asia. The route to Ankara took us across ranges of mountains and, as the night wore on, so we began to feel a little cold. It soon became apparent, even at this stage of our trip, that a crowded Asian bus is not the best spot to choose for a good night's rest.

We arrived at Ankara at 8.30 on the 15th and booked in at the Turist Hotel, a very cosy place with showers in the rooms and at a very moderate cost too. We awoke at about three and left the hotel for a very good meal of chicken and fried rice and then began to explore the city. Among various sights in Ankara we saw the CENTO building, the mausoleum at Ataturk and the well laid out Youth Park, where the fountains were playing, and a fun fair was in full swing. The park was very crowded and a good number of the people there were soldiers, who, I must confess, appeared to us a 'right scruffy lot.' After a pleasant stroll around, we returned to the hotel until the evening when we went further afield to buy postcards, but saw little else of interest.

The next day we arose early and set off for the Persian Embassy to obtain our visas. We encountered a little difficulty as it appeared that three photographs were required and most of us had only two. However, a quick trip to an obliging studio and we soon returned with the required number. Having obtained our visas we returned once more to our hotel for another excellent meal and slept for the entire afternoon.

Our brief drinking spell the same evening also produced a few laughs. The first six bottles served to the party were all deliciously ice cold, including the one that the waiter poured merrily all over Corporal Pratt's trousers! However, on asking for a second round we found that we had exhausted the supply from the ice box, and were delivered some really warm bottles. Nevertheless we managed to get them down, and after Mr. Cooper had changed the Turkish on the menu from 'cold beer' to 'hot beer' we left. The next morning, Tuesday the 27th, we again rose early, this time so that we could catch the train for the next phrase of our journey to Erzurum.

Ankara to Erzurum. We had hoped to travel 2nd class on our train journey, but on arrival at the station we found that all the seats had been sold and so we had to travel 3rd. A method of saving money was expounded by Mr. Cooper who stressed to the booking clerk the alliances between Britain and Turkey in CENTO and NATO and eventually persuaded the chap to sell us the tickets at the Forces rate! We were, however, to hear more about this scheme later. The train left at 11.30 a.m. and, like all means of transport we were to encounter, was packed. This meant that we did not all get in the same compartment but managed to spread ourselves into two adjoining ones. This was scientifically achieved by waiting until one of our local travelling companions went to the toilet and then stealing his seat.

We continued on our way east, some of us playing cards, some dozing, some looking at the scenery until we had our first visit from the ticket collector. He carefully examined our tickets, passports and military I.D. cards and having established that we were only on leave and not in fact NATO troops on exercise decided that we should not have reduced rate tickets.

From then on he returned every 15 minutes with a different official in a different coloured uniform, all of whom went through our documents and left, muttering and scratching their heads. When we reached Erzincan, the next large station, Mr. Cooper was marched off on 'Station Master's Orders' and returned to tell us that the ticket collector had got a rocket for his ill-mannered treatment of foreigners, but that we would probably have to pay the balance of our fare when we arrived at Erzurum. It was on this train journey that we first became aware of the extreme poverty that exists in Turkey. Many of the people are dressed in clothes that are literally more patches than original material. Also many go barefoot and those who own shoes will wear them until they fall to pieces round their feet. Nevertheless, this state does not distract from their cheerfulness and helpfulness to foreigners. We found ourselves being asked to share in whatever they had, from cigarettes to cucumbers. A habit which we did not indulge in with them was that of two men holding hands together when walking in the street. In fact it caused us much amusement, especially when we saw it being practised by two Military Policemen—on duty!

We finally arrived at Erzurum, after some 28 hours on the train, whereupon a further two hours were spent arguing with numerous officials over the price of our tickets. The result was that we paid not only the balance of our fares but also a further £5, the reason for which was explained to us only in Turkish. However, a letter to the Director of Tourism may possibly get us a little of our money back. We left the station, dirty and dishevelled and found ourselves a hotel where, once more, we were able to take a most welcome shower.

It was in Erzurum that we met four British doctors who had just left College and were travelling to the Khyber Pass in an old ambulance. However, the previous day they had driven it off the road and were now trying to repair the bodywork a bit. Mr. Cooper, who speaks a fair amount of Turkish, was able to fix them up with the use of an electric saw and also acquired some timber and nails. Taking leave of our medical friends we went for our daily meal and, having gorged ourselves to excess, returned to the hotel for a good night's sleep as we had to be up early in the morning for our next leg.

Erzurum to Dogubayazit. On Thursday, 19th July, we left Erzurum by bus at 6 a.m. We went first as far as Karakose, a journey of six hours or so and here we changed buses. We left after a half-hour stop and set off for the border town of Dogubayazit. It was on this trip that the local bus conductor fell for Corporal Pratt and insisted on holding his hand all the way. Our trip also took us through a very out-of-the-way village called Dyadin. We were made very welcome by everyone we saw here and almost the entire population came out to have a look at us. The children in particular were very eager to talk to us and after we had taken many photographs and distributed a few English cigarettes Mr. Cooper held a 'school' in the true Hans Andersen style, sitting on the edge of the village pond surrounded by dozens of ragged little children. We resumed our journey eventually and continued eastwards.

En route from Dogabayazit to Barzagan—on back of lorry Corporal Pratt, Lieutenant Cooper, Signalman Larcombe, Corporal Tilson

Dogubayazit to Barzagan. There was no official transport from Dogubayazit to the frontier post of Barzagan, a distance of some 22 miles, so rather than walk we hired a lorry. It had a leaky radiator, no bonnet, practically no floor left in the back and one of the back wheels was literally lashed on with a piece of rope! However, it made it, despite the fact that it stopped regularly to refill with water. At one such stop a small Turkish individual in dirty rags and a soldier's hat climbed aboard to be greeted with cries of "your turn to fetch the water," a distance of some 500 yards away. He refused, and spent the rest of the trip cowering in a corner as if he were terrified that we would throw him over the side—something we had seriously thought of doing. However, we decided to have a sing-song instead and thus, as the sun set behind Mount Ararat, a lorryload of six dirty, unshaven British soldiers all singing at the top of their voices arrived at the customs house.

Our customs inspection on entering Persia consisted of being locked in no-man's-land for a quarter of an hour on our own. Then the door opened and a Persian official said 'finished' and led us into Iran. We slept that night in a frontier hotel on the Persian side—all six in one room—and also had a very reasonable meal. However, instead of the large hunks of Turkish bread, we had to be content with wafer thin slices of the unleavened variety. We retired early as we had to be up at 5.30 the next day to catch our bus.

Barzagan to Tabriz. Arising the next morning at what we thought to be 5.30 we found that owing to an error of calculation, it was only 4.30—this naturally made the timekeeper very popular for a day or two. We left eventually at 6.00 in a bus that stopped at every little village and made several trips off the main road to smaller villages as it was carrying the mail. Every time the bus stopped the engine was switched off. Before we could resume the journey we all had to get off and push the thing down the road. On one such occasion just outside Tabriz we were a little annoyed by an exceeding overweight Persian, who sat complacently in his seat and let the tourists get out and push him down the street. Throughout the day we had been travelling alternately through desert and mountain ranges. There was very little to see except vast expanses of nothingness and an occasional mud hut.

We arrived at Tabriz around 5 p.m. and lost our way due to the fact that the driver insisted on taking our party to his bus garage and disorientated Mr. Cooper, who had some slight knowledge of the town. We ended up at a rather dingy hotel and once more slept six in one room. After a wash with water from an old oil drum on the landing we went out for a very welcome meal. After our meal we paid a visit to Flight-Lieutenant Shelley of the R.A.F. who is stationed in Tabriz and whose address Mr. Cooper had obtained from a friend in Cyprus. Here we were provided with soft drinks and tea and some wonderful cocktail snacks from Mrs. Shelley. Heaven alone knows what she must have thought of the motley crew that had descended on her household. However, we were very well looked after in spite of the fact that by now we were all bearded, and our clothes were extremely travel stained. When we left their home to return to our 'doss house' we went round in at least one complete circle before we found it again and arrived back somewhat later than intended. However, we were able to sleep the next morning, as our bus to Teheran did not leave until 2 p.m.

[To be Continued]

The United Nations Military Operation in Katanga

Part 2

By Signalman C. J. O'Connor, 24th Regiment

U.N. Aid to Balubas in Katanga

The obvious objective of the U.N. Mission in Katanga, as in the rest of the Congo, was to try and stop these warlike people from killing one another in tribal conflict and to alleviate their suffering. The obvious place to start this operation was in the villages in the brush and jungle areas where there were no supplies coming in.

In all the towns and villages that the U.N. occupied, supplies were specially flown in for the local population. Supplies like milk, bread, medicine, soap, etc; very essential daily needs. In addition to this, the Unit M.O. of the U.N. unit concerned, took a special "daily sick parade" in which the local population were treated for everything from bullet wounds to childbirth, broken bones to appendicitis operations.

In Elisabethville there were over 40,000 Balubas in the U.N. refugee camp set up in the Swedish lines; they were fed three times daily by Swedish troops. This camp was closely guarded by U.N. troops, as any of these people that wandered outside the area were either captured or shot on sight by the Katangan army in Elisabethville. This situation was a permanent headache for the U.N. representatives in Elisabethville. This was the U.N. position up to December, 1960. Having examined the U.N. forces and their positions, we will now take a close look at the Katangan forces.

The Katangan Army

The Katangan Army was originally known as the Gendarmerie Katangaise (the Katangan police). They were originally formed to protect the Belgian population living in the bush areas from warring tribesmen. They received the toughest of Commando-type jungle training, and each man was a trained parachutist. They were well armed, each man possessing the Belgian fully-automatic rifle, the FN. In addition to this weapon, each man knew how to operate the Belgian L.M.G., the Browning, M.M.G., 84 mm. mortars and anti-tank bazookas. Each of their Jeep-type vehicles possessed a mounted ½in. Browning. This was a weapon of the highest destructive power; it was originally intended for use against aircraft, but they were used frequently against the Baluba warriors.

As the Belgian army began its withdrawal to Belgium, all its equipment, weapons, ammunition, stores, rations, A.P.C.s, light tanks and trucks were handed over to the Katanga army. Also, there remained behind, 150 Belgian officers, ranging from a full Colonel to Second-Lieutenants. These were the mainstay of Tshombe's army. They planned the raids against the Balubas and superintended the maintenance of the army's equipment. The strength of the army, in early 1961, was over 9,000 well-trained, well-armed and experienced fighting men. It was at this stage that Tshombe introduced into his army an "International Brigade," so to speak. They were men of different nationalities, recruited for their fighting ability. Katanga, being a rich country, Tshombe was able to pay them well. The basic pay for a private soldier was £150 a month. The only condition that was imposed on the man was that one-third of his pay be spent in Katanga. So a system was adopted by the Katangan government. The man would receive one-third of his pay every month and the other two-thirds would be lodged in a bank in his own country and in his own country's currency.

No one knows exactly how many of these men Tshombe had in his service, but the U.N. deported more than 400, and there were still more left in Katanga. A conservative estimate would be 600-700.

The Mercenaries

Let us now examine these men who became known the world over as the mercenaries. A mixture of races, they were of all colours and all creeds; some of them were trained fighters already; more of them flocked to Katanga to fight for an ideal; and more came for the money. Poets, soldiers-of-fortune, murderers—they all came. The main nationality represented was, of course, Belgian, followed by German, French, South African, Rhodesian, Spanish, English, American and South American. To fully understand these men we have to examine one of them. I remember him well.

Before the conflict between the mercenaries and the U.N. troops, it was no surprise to walk into a bar in Elisabethville or Albertville and see a crowd of these men drinking with soldiers of the U.N. One day, my friends and I were drinking in a bar in Albertville and we started talking with a group of four men. They ranged in rank from a Lieutenant-Colonel to a Sergeant. There was no rank on these occasions between these men. The Lieutenant-Colonel told us, in perfect English, that he had been fighting one cause or another all his life. He was an ex-officer of the German army, who had seen action at Stalingrad and had, after the war, enlisted in the French Foreign Legion and had seen action for most of the five years he spent in the Legion. After his stay in the Legion, he settled in South America. He worked on a plantation and fought with Castro for 18 months. He then worked his passage on a steamer to South Africa, where he was employed in a bar in Johannesburg. When Tshombe looked for officers for his army, he immediately left for Katanga and received his commission as a Major in the Katangan army. For his bravery in fighting the tribesmen in North Katanga, he was promoted to Lieutenant-Colonel and given command of a mobile group. "That," he said, "is my life story." I asked him what he would do after Katanga. The answer he gave me was that he would seek another war somewhere. This was the typical view of these men; they were true fighting men in every sense of the word, as was to be proved later in the year, when they fought 3,000 well-armed and well-trained U.N. troops to a standstill. Some of these mercenaries—the idealists—were so inspired by the cause they were fighting for that they renounced their own nationality and became citizens of the State of Katanga. These men were true patriots; they fought, and died, side by side with men who had been born and lived all their lives in Katanga. What ever the world thought of the U.N. in trying to end Katanga's secession by force, they must never condemn these men entirely. Yes, they fought and killed innocent tribesmen, but when the country they were fighting for was in turn attacked by an army of well-trained, well-disciplined and well-armed men, and led by officers who had received the very best of military training, they did not flee like the cowards some people make them out to be. No, instead, they fought back and forced the U.N. Command to negotiate for a ceasefire in the September, 1961 fighting, although they were outnumbered by almost two to one in Elisabethville.

Although the majority of the mercenaries were deported after the fighting in September, the few that remained still fought gallantly and with great courage against the reinforced U.N. troops in the December, 1961, fighting in Elisabethville. Elisabethville was the scene of some of the bitterest hand-to-hand fighting that ever took place.

The September Fighting

By August, 1961, the U.N. representatives in Elisabethville were in a desperate position. The U.N. had now occupied Katanga for more than a year, and no concrete step had yet been taken to end Katanga's secession. Lumumba was dead, and in his place sat Mr. Cyrille Adoula, a quiet, but determined man. He kept on urging the U.N. Command to end Katanga's secession by force. The Leopoldville government now had an army of some 50,000 men, led by Major-General Joseph Mobutu. This army was poised to invade Katanga; they were poorly armed and badly-trained men; their weapons were out of date and their morale was nil. Now and then a mutiny occurred when officers or N.C.O.s were shot and killed. So in order to pacify the central government and to show Tshombe who was boss, the U.N. Command, in August 1961, seized Elisabethville and held the city for 24 hours. They occupied Elisabethville airport, the post office and all big factories and shops in Elisabethville and convoys of heavily-armed U.N. troops raced through the city at speeds sometimes exceeding 60 m.p.h. Not a shot was fired by either side, and, after 24 hours, the U.N. evacuated the strongpoints they had seized and returned to their camps. Both sides now knew that what the U.N. started was not finished. The Katangan army started a build-up of its forces in Elisabethville.

At this stage, the U.N. Command in the Congo had undergone a vast change. The Supreme Military Commander now was Lieutenant-General Sean Mac Keown (Ireland) a brilliant officer. He had succeeded General Karllson Von Horn (Sweden) in January, 1961, owing to General Von Horn's ill health. The civilian representative in Katanga now was Mr. Conor Cruise O'Brien (Ireland) and the Military Commander in Katanga was Brigadier Singappa Raja (India).

The strength of the U.N.O. forces in Elisabethville was 3,100 men of three different nationalities. They had no heavy weapons and no fighter aircraft; the heaviest weapon the U.N. possessed in Elisabethville was the 105 mm. anti-tank bazooka.

Opposed to the U.N. in Elisabethville were some 2,800 soldiers of the Katangan army, including some 300 mercenaries. They were supported by the Katangan air force, which consisted of three Fouga Magister French-manufactured jets and one WWII German Dornier bomber. At 02.00 hours on the morning of September 13th, 1961, a red flare was fired over Elisabethville and "Operation Morthoir" began.

The object of "Operation Morthoir" was to seize control of Elisabethville, President Tshombe and the Katangan government, the Elisabethville post office (to stop Katangan communications with the outside world and other elements of the Katangan army), the railway tunnel and roundabout, President Tshombe's palace and other parts of the city. When all these were seized the U.N. would then declare Katanga a province of the Central Government once more and bring in a high Central Government official from Leopoldville to administer Katanga. This, of course, depended on the success of the operation. The operation was a complete failure. The following contributed to the failure of the mission:

1. Instead of seizing the entire Katangan government, only one minister was taken by the U.N.O. troops.
2. Katangan troops were waiting for the U.N. troops at all their objectives.
3. Morale of the U.N. troops was low.
4. The 150 Irish troops surrounded at Jadotville.
5. The Katangan air force.
6. Superior armament of the Katangan forces.
7. The U.N. Baluba refugee camp at Elisabethville.
8. The humane way in which the U.N. Command conducted the campaign.

Let us now examine these factors.

The first part of the operation was to seize the entire Katangan government as they slept. Instead, only one minister was imprisoned; he was Minister Kibwe, and he was taken by Irish Military Police.

The second part of the operation was held up by the fact that Katangan troops were waiting for the U.N.O. troops at all their main objectives. This was evident at the Elisabethville post office. The post office is in open ground, which was in favour of the defenders. The post office was surrounded by Gurkha troops and the Katangan troops defending the post office were called upon to surrender. The U.N.O. appeal was met by a burst of machine-gun fire. For hours the battle raged around the post office; time and again the Gurkhas charged across the open ground, only to be driven back by intense machine-gun fire. In the end, the U.N. brought up Irish armoured cars, which advanced upon the post office pouring a veritable stream of fire upon the Katangan defenders. This resulted in some of the Gurkhas entering the post office, and in no time the post office was in U.N. hands, thanks to these fighting men from Nepal. Several times during the day the post office was counter attacked by Katangan troops. Each time they were driven back with heavy losses by the Gurkhas; the Gurkhas held the post office.

The Irish troops met stiff resistance at the roundabout but succeeded in seizing the hospital, the railway tunnel and the roundabout. For troops that were never in action before, they behaved admirably.

The third factor was the morale of the U.N. troops. Their morale was low; somehow they could not see themselves as the liberators they were told they were. They were fighting a cause they had no faith or heart in; some of them were fighting over 6,000 miles from their own countries. This especially affected the Irish troops. They were Catholic troops raised in the very best of Christian conditions; Katanga was a Catholic province, more so than any of the other provinces of the Congo.

Another factor which contributed to the defeat of the U.N. operation was the position of the Irish Company at Jadotville, 80 miles north-east of Elisabethville. As soon as the U.N. operation commenced in Elisabethville, this Company was surrounded by an estimated force of 2,000 Katangan troops. They called upon the Irish to surrender—the Irish refused. Katangan forces mortared the Irish positions all the night of the 13th September. They did not succeed in dislodging the Irish troops who fought back gallantly against odds of over ten to one.

On Friday, 15th, the Irish were still holding out, despite frequent attacks by the Katangan air force and constant mortaring by the Katangans. So on the morning of the 16th, the U.N. Command sent out a strong patrol of 160 Irish troops, 100 Gurkhas and six armoured cars to try and break through the Katangan lines at Jadotville and relieve the Irish Company. I was a member of this patrol. Six times on the road to Jadotville we were attacked by the now single jet which comprised the Katangan air force. This jet had complete control

of the skies; we could do nothing but run for the bush each time it came and attacked the convoy. It was impossible to hit it with Bren fire. Late that evening we reached the Lufra Bridge and commenced mortaring the Katangan positions on the opposite side of the river. The Irish and Gurkhas were very accurate in the mortaring of the Katangan positions, whole Katangan machine-gun emplacements disappeared as U.N. mortar bombs rained down upon them. We then received news from Elisabethville over the radio, that the Irish Company had surrendered that evening. They had held out for four days and three sleepless nights and fought magnificently against vastly superior odds and superior armament; no troops in the world could have done more. The imprisonment of the 150 Irish troops at Jadotville gave the Katangan army the upper hand. The heart went out of the U.N. operation.

Part III will be concluded in January, 1963.

224 SQUADRON

It seems a long time since we were last in print and many ask "do we still exist?" Indeed we still manage to thrive in "the back of beyond," to quote one trainee. As with all training units we frequently say goodbye to old faces and welcome new ones. Perhaps one of the farewells most prominent in our minds has been the one to Captain "Fred" Redding, who returned to the comparative calm of Civvy Street. On the evening before his departure he was "drummed out" in truly traditional style being transported to his home on a low trailer accompanied by the disharmonious voices of all his old friends singing "Old Soldiers Never Die."

We also extended our good wishes to Captain J. Ellingworth and in turn welcomed his replacement, Captain V. S. Smith, who is now tackling the job of Adjutant and tackling rugby into the bargain. This brings us inevitably to the field of sport which continues to feature well. Football, hockey and rugby have all got off to a good start and we hope will continue in their successes this season.

Hobbies and Clubs still flourish, one of the most prominent at the moment being the Fishing Club. It was noticed that fish were becoming quite scarce due to pike predominance, so all-out war was declared by Sergeant Clarke and Corporal Millar, who could be seen early on many a cold morning armed with rod and tackle. Results were good and all the six pike caught so far have averaged the 4½ lb mark.

The Sergeants' Mess Tramps Ball held on 27th October, 1962, proved a great success. Furniture was dispensed with in favour of wooden boxes and the walls and ceilings covered with well arranged decorations and a general dingy atmosphere prevailed. One Officer was heard to remark that the Sergeants' Mess looked virtually unchanged and indeed in better condition than the Officers' Mess which due to a combination of rain and renovations on the roof, resembled Niagara Falls.

Thanks to Sergeant Bowles and his band of followers, firework night went with a bang. Invitations were sent to the Unit children who gorged themselves on Sergeant Kitford's hot dogs and toffee apples. When all was over the Fire Picquet gained valuable practice in the art of fire-fighting—Sergeant Bowles directing operations and telling the Picquet Commander in no uncertain terms where to put the hose.

Corporal Millar, Sergeant Clarke, Second Lieutenant Wright

We now look forward to a wealth of Christmas activities with the P.R.I.'s life becoming more hectic as the days wear on. We hope to appear in print again if we survive the festive season.

228 SQUADRON

As we haven't appeared in print for at least six months, perhaps the best way to tell the story of 228 Squadron's life during the summer of 1962 is to record it through the eyes of the newly joined Squadron Commander . . . .

Before I took over from Major P. Montagnon on 10th May, 1962, I was looking forward to a few month's recuperation from the strain of preparing my last Squadron for disbandment whilst retaining its operational capability till the end.

In fact we held a full scale handover parade at Krefeld in which 10th Regiment formally passed on its duties to 71 Fernmelde Battalion of the Bundeswehr, on 31st March, and were completely handed over by 21st April.

So, as I said, I felt I needed a little relaxation, which is what I did not get. The remainder of May passed idly enough with only "Cleanex," "Shapex" and our Annual Administrative Inspection to keep us awake (must remember to congratulate Paul on his beautiful sense of timing).

Then, on 30th May, "Saceur" said 'go,' and we plunged into the most hectic five months of my long career in communications.

We had a plan on the stocks, prepared by my predecessor, to instal a brand new communications centre, complete with Staff Message Control, Teleconference Room and Teleconference Screen, Voice Console and an Intercom System with six-button telephones to taste, for a special project at SHAPE. The lot, in fact, and all tastefully decorated in Corps colours.

All to be established, manned by a variety of nationalities, virtually regardless of cost, "without delay."

Well, the whole of 228 Squadron buckled to. And so did all the Signals, and other Staffs at the Ministry of Defence, the War Office, the London Communications-Electronics Security Agency, SHAPE itself, and Uncle Tom Cobbley and all.

The job itself entailed taking over an existing barracks block, finding alternative accommodation for the inmates, knocking down a few walls and generally reshuffling the interior in accordance with our plan—which, needless to say, altered from day to day as new ideas and suggestions for better equipments were produced.

During June we were busy drawing up detailed plans, ordering materials, and re-housing displaced persons.

In July the contractors started on the building, we began collecting equipment by truck from Germany, Belgium, France and by ship from U.K. In August, we welcomed an Installation Team under Staff Sergeant Smethurst, very kindly provided by 30th Regiment who also sent Major W. T. A. Collyer over on a recce earlier, during which he and Staff Sergeant Smethurst formulated a detailed installation and wiring plan.

In August, installation began and so did a four-weeks' course for the crypto mechanics and electronic technicians which was run, at SAPE, by Mr. Boustead of LCESA. Finally, over the weekend of 24th/27th August, we delivered the trained technicians and the new equipments by 'plane to the various out-stations, spent a day at each place installing the gear, and opened the network at 00.01 hours on 1st September, 1962, as scheduled. It has gone like a bomb ever since.

I don't claim that this is a "record" but I have never seen a better example of co-ordinated effort by such a variety of Governmental establishments to produce such a speedy and efficient result. Needless to say, the whole project has been a communicator's dream, made even more enjoyable by the goodwill and co-operation of the international staff concerned, headed by Major-General G. H. Baker, C.B., C.M.G., C.B.E., M.C., for whom it has been a pleasure to work.

September was spent in absorbing and training the newly posted operating personnel, in planning a better voice system using a G.P.O. console, intercom and six button telephones, and in preparing for "Fallex," the SHAPE autumn manoeuvres, for which 20 new circuits were activated.

From 6th to 20th October we welcomed ten officers and 20 other ranks of 47th Regiment (T.A.), The Middlesex Yeomanry, under their Commanding Officer Lieutenant-Colonel S. R. Beazley, to SHAPE for their annual training spell, which proved to be both interesting and amusing.

On 20th October we relaxed for the wedding of the Squadron Second-in-Command, Captain J. D. Cathcart, to Miss C. M. Thomson of the British Embassy Staff, Paris. Our picture shows the happy couple and their stalwart escort outside the Embassy Church after the ceremony. This must be catching, because just about the same time our Corporal E. B. Manning persuaded Miss Margaret McCommon of the local R.M.P. Company to share his life . . . Ah, well.

Thus ended a busy, interesting and thoroughly enjoyable half year in the life of just one small Unit of the Corps, which is typical of the variety one has come to expect . . . .

One of the particular attractions of SHAPE is the number and variety of important visitors we receive in the course of a year. The officers' bar at SHAPE Restaurant compares favourably with the wartime Shephards' Hotel, Cairo, in this respect; and I have thoroughly enjoyed playing my humble part in showing them around.

And of all the memories of the last six months perhaps the best is of the night when three very junior cogs in the Signals machine enjoyed an evening in Paris with the visiting Signal Officer-in-Chief, and sitting over our brandy on the Place d'Alma, at peace with the world, he quoted the following 'bon mot' by the Director of Telecommunications:—

"This must be the only place in this troubled world where you can sit out under the stars sipping an after-dinner drink, watching the elegant world stroll by, and not feel guilty."

Captain and Mrs. Cathcart leaving the Embassy Church

Adventure Training — 249 Squadron

Adventure training is now firmly established as part and parcel of everyday life in 249 Squadron. Every week-end a small devoted band depart from Princess Mary Barracks to indulge in the delights of jungle treks or canoeing expeditions on the rivers of Malaya. However, of late it began to seem that everything worth doing had been done; even with the best will in the world, one jungle trek looks very much like another.

Suddenly, it was noticed that the name Pulau Tioman crept into the conversation. This island is quite large, some 11 miles long and lies approximately 30 miles to the east of the mainland. At first the Adventure Training Club were a bit dubious about it. Would permission be granted for three canoes and the Regiment's Nuffield boat *Peregrine* to make the trip. Finally Sergeant Prees approached the O.C., Major P. H. Webb, cap-in-hand, and asked for a week in which to accomplish what all the pundits proclaimed to be impossible. Various phrases were bandied around: "Shark-infested waters," "monsoon seasons," "sudden squalls," "hidden reefs," etc. By this time the Adventure Training Fanatics were determined to pull it off.

Major Webb gave his blessing and the personnel were then selected. The final shuffle came out as follows:

Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Bradford, Sergeant Prees (Falcon day Sailor); Corporal Holdsworth, Corporal Towner; Cpl. Rodgers, Signalman Abbott; Lance-Corporal Scriven, Signalman Pentland.

Staff Sergeant Bradford paid a visit to the Naval Base, who very kindly provided us with the necessary charts, and went one further and came up with a copy of the South China Pilot.

After much frantic dashing about, including one period when Staff Sergeant Bradford almost didn't make it, we finally departed at 09.00 hours on 16th October with a Land Rover towing the Falcon and its launching trailer, and a three-tonner containing canoes and canoeists.

Our start point was about three miles south of Mersing, Sri Pantai. We finally arrived at about 14.30 hours and immediately unloaded. When the Falcon was ready to be put in the water she looked more like a liberty ship than a sailing dinghy. She contained petrol, water, rations, personal kit, first aid kit, cameras, watches, compasses, spare paddles, amongst other things. We finally got under way at about 3 p.m. and set course for our first objective, a small island about six miles from shore, named Pulau Babi Kechil South. The weather was dull and the sea quite choppy and the wind not at all useful, so *Peregrine* was taken across on the motor. Our intrepid "canoedelers" made short work of the first stretch and we arrived after about 2½ hours. The island's population consisted of one very anti-social Chinese gentleman and his four even more unsociable dogs; the island was covered with coconut palms, and it seemed that all the aged gentleman had to do was wait until the coconuts fell from the trees, collect them up, and sell them to a chap who called by in a decrepit old boat at irregular intervals.

A brew was quickly made and quantities of stewed steak eaten, and no one seemed any the worse for the effort. Lance-Corporal Scriven industriously produced a large cheering bonfire, which was, of course, ignored by everyone. A bivvy was erected and everyone retired knowing that the next day would be a long, hard paddle. The party slept reasonably well, with the exception of Sergeant Prees, who went to see if *Peregrine* was still at her moorings every two hours, with visions of Regimental boards of inquiry as to why the Regiment's Nuffield boat was lost "in or about the South China Sea."

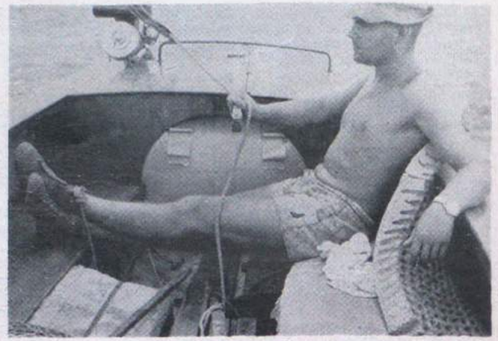
Next morning we were off to a reasonably early start, with a slight wind but soon, unfortunately, it died out, so once again *Peregrine* was on motor. The original intention was to make for a small island mid-way between Tioman and the mainland, Pulau Tokong Bahru, and stop there for a meal and a short rest, and then proceed to Tioman. However, it became increasingly obvious, as we slowly drew nearer, that Pulau Tokong Bahru was, in fact, nothing but an inaccessible rock protruding from the ocean. This meant, of course, that the paddlers would have no respite, but would either have to turn back or do the trip with no rest half way. The idea of turning back was repugnant to all concerned, so we pressed on. It was a very hot day with no wind at all, and soon there was no pleasure left—it became a long hard grind.

It was about this time that the shark/porpoise controversy arose. Large dorsal fins were seen about 200 yards in front of the canoe and immediately the word "shark" resounded across the ocean. *Peregrine*, with motor at full throttle, which sounds very impressive, but in actual fact it makes only about four knots, with the F. of S. brandishing the whisker pole, came to the rescue, and the offending creatures made off. It appeared to be a school of porpoise, but the canoeists were emphatic; "sharks," they said, so that's where it ended.

Pulau Tioman still remained obstinately on the horizon and refused to come any nearer; so it went on, paddle for an hour, rest for 10 minutes; blisters appeared, and then blisters on blisters; backs ache, stomachs rumble, but slowly we drew nearer. We were passed by one small fishing boat whose occupants looked in open-mouthed amazement at the minute craft and probably went on their way having confirmed that widely-held belief that all Englishmen are mad.

At last it became obvious that the journey was almost over, and none too soon, because black, evil-looking clouds were beginning to gather round the high peaks of the mountain of Tio-

Corporal Holdsworth takes up residence in "Hotel Tioman"



Sergeant Prees at the helm of Perigrine

man, and just as we came into shore, the rain started to fall down. Unfortunately, it was low tide and the beach was covered with coral which, whilst it was beautiful to look at, caused the Foreman some anxious moments and a couple of unpleasant-sounding scrapes on the centre-plate before we got ashore. Needless to say, the canoeists were exhausted, having paddled nearly 30 miles non-stop. A quick brew and more tins of stew and everyone started to come back to life.

Corporal Rodgers and Lance-Corporal Scriven set off with their Goloks on their usual task of annoying all living creatures in the immediate vicinity, whilst Corporal Towner lapsed into his civvy street occupation of beach-combing, finding nothing, much to his disgust. A fisherman's hut was discovered and immediately commandeered for sleeping accommodation, this proved to be very comfortable, and all concerned spent a very restful night. The next morning, after a conference over a breakfast of porridge and sausages, it was decided, due to the proximity of the monsoon season, to make good use of the clement weather and start back immediately.

There was very little wind to start with and, as usual, the canoes forged ahead and left *Peregrine* to flounder. However, as we progressed, a stiff breeze sprang up and *Peregrine*, in spite of the weight she was carrying was soon making fair speed. The canoes found it hard work with the wind and the heavy swell running. Once again the sharks/porpoises were in attendance and *Peregrine* was busy keeping them at bay. Again it was a long, hard day's paddling, and our destination seemed to sit mocking us on the horizon. As we drew slowly nearer, so the swell became bigger and the wind increased in strength. It was about this time when the water immediately behind Corporal Rodger and Signalman Abbott erupted and a large porpoise shot clear into the air and landed with a resounding smack; he repeated this gesture, much to the consternation of the occupants of the canoes, and then departed.

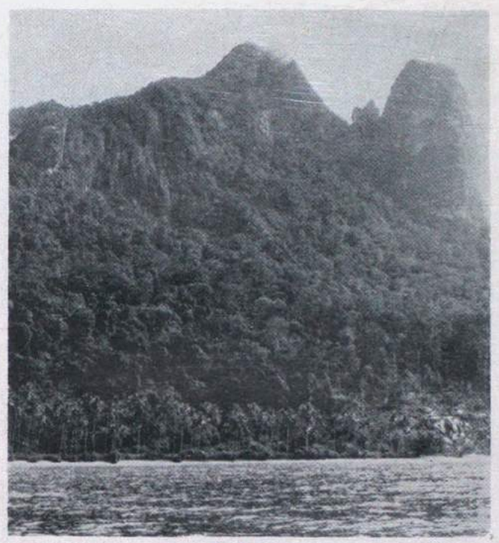
We approached our destination by a channel between two small islands, and it was here that Staff Sergeant Bradford discovered the meaning of the two small crosses on the chart; Sergeant Prees, who was at the helm, suddenly saw a large evil-looking rock in the middle of the channel, almost dead ahead; needless to say, immediate avoiding action was taken. The canoes kept to the shoreline and Corporals Holdsworth and Towner almost came to grief trying to land in very heavy surf. However, a safe beach was found and everyone got ashore in one piece. Food, of course, was the first thing, and then for the canoeists the exquisite relief of lying stretched full length to ease the almost permanent cricks in backs and legs.

As night fell, Lance-Corporal Scriven, our devoted heat and light expert, once again organised a mammoth bonfire which, once again, was completely ignored by all and sundry. The general concensus of opinion was that he seemed to derive too much pleasure from it and it would be a shame to tell him that no one really wanted a fire. It was during one of his forages in search of wood that Lance-Corporal Scriven was brutally assaulted by a coconut husk; the party was electrified by a horrible shriek and rushed to aid the stricken man, only to find that he had caught his foot in a coconut husk and nearly expired from shock.

The next morning the weather at last had broken, low cloud, driving rain and a strong wind which had whipped the sea into an unpleasant, choppy swell. The party spent most of the morning huddled under ponchos waiting for the wind to drop. By mid-day it was obvious that the bad weather was here to stay. Again after a short conference, a canoe was sent out to see how it fared, the result was that it would be a rough trip, but that it was possible. At this point the outboard motor began to act up, and it was not until much effort and many curses had been expended that it finally burst into life. This last part of the journey was by far the most unpleasant, the canoes shipped water constantly and had to be baled almost continuously. Fortunately, it was only about seven miles, but it necessitated a very unpleasant three hours in foul weather. When the battered, but still cheerful, party finally drew up near

Lance Corporal Scriven and Signalman Pentland smile in spite of blisters

All ashore on Pulau Babi Kechil South



Pulau Tioman

Mersing Harbour, it was discovered that there was a very heavy swell running. *Peregrine* went on ahead and almost came to a bad end, but was extricated only just in time. On returning to the canoes, it was discovered that by this time they had got into shallow water and could not be reached. *Peregrine* was then not without some consternation, taken through the breakers, and finally managed to get into Mersing Harbour. The canoeists had realised by this time that they were in the wrong place and put to sea again to come round into the harbour. Here they met with disaster and two nearly overturned. Signalman Abbott came off the worst, losing his poncho, one jungle boot and one sandal. The poncho was returned by the sea the next morning, up on the beach, barely 100 yards from where we spent the night.

After searching desperately for somewhere to stay the night, we finally parked ourselves at the Customs post. Here everyone attempted to sort out their sodden belongings and finally, at about 7 p.m. a very motley crew made their way to the Merdeka Hotel, where, we were assured by Corporal Rodger, the bar girls "were really something." Vast quantities of ale were consumed and certain members of the party were so overcome that they booked rooms in the hotel and stayed the night. The next morning was spent in drying-out clothing, etc., until mid-day when transport arrived to convey the party back to Singapore. Finally, a brief word to the old sweats: We know the young soldier of today does not seem up to the standard of the "old days" in many respects, but you can rest assured that as far as 249 Squadron, at least, is concerned, in the words of the sage: "THEYR'E ALL RIGHT MATE."

262 SQUADRON
Life In Cyprus

BY DOREEN WINFIELD

As the wife of a serving soldier in Cyprus, I would like to enlighten those wives who may be coming here in the near future so that they may have some idea of what happens in this part of the world. There is a very true saying, "Life is what you make it," and out here it can be made very pleasant. Although it is a far cry from home I have no regrets about coming here.

The domestic side of life is the same the world over but the shopping is vastly different from back home. Of course, if one gets into difficulties with the local shops there is always "old faithful," NAAFI, to fall back on. We have all the usual NAAFI shops here, including a large clothing shop that caters for every taste, a well stocked grocery shop and a separate ladies' department. To my mind, the latter is an excellent idea as I can do my personal shopping and send my husband for the groceries at the same time. Very well thought out, don't you think, ladies?

In B.M.H. Dhekelia one has first-class medical facilities and the staff go to great lengths to help make life as pleasant as possible. Within the hospital there are very good families' clinics and everything is extremely modern. On the educational side there are schools for children of all ages and also a kindergarten for children from the age of 3 up to normal school age. These schools are most modern in design, airy and light giving maximum air circulation in the hot summer months. The old stuffy classrooms are things of the past. Instead of learning to swim in the normal baths the children out here have the time of their lives in the blue Mediterranean. At weekends the whole family moves out to one of the glorious beaches within easy distance of home.

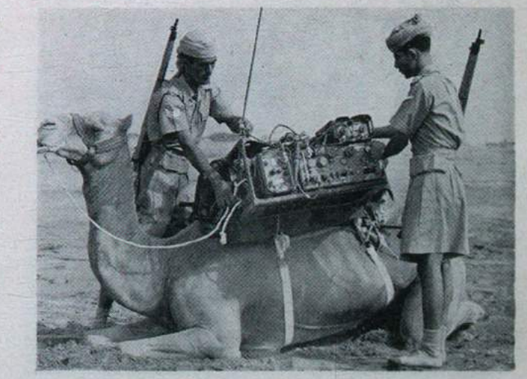
I have been talking about what goes on out here and I have omitted the most important thing—Quarters. The Quarter situation can be rather difficult at times, but this is easily overcome as there is adequate private accommodation and which, although expensive, allowances cover the cost of the rent. It is a fact that a great number of people prefer private houses to the Quarters.

This article has given you a small account of the life we live and I hope that everybody who comes out here will enjoy themselves as much as I have. If you would like further and fuller details, a letter to the O.C. of your future Squadron will do the trick.

Arrival. We welcome to the Squadron our new Traffic Officer, Major W. J. Thomas. We hope that he and Mrs. Thomas will enjoy their stay with us.

FEDERAL REGULAR ARMY SIGNAL SQUADRON

In Aden we are always hearing plaintive cries from men who wish that they had heard before of the F.R.A. Signal Squadron, and the opportunities that it offers. To avoid any further disappointment, we are now going to blow our trumpets loud and long and introduce ourselves. You will remember having heard of the Aden Protectorate Levies, well we are they, but with a new title, since we are now controlled by the Federal Government. The Squadron is a large one, with about 35 British Other Ranks and 230 Arabs. The B.O.R.s are really acting as a nucleus of instructors, teaching the Arab signallers the tricks of the trade. You will also have heard of the "barren rocks of Aden," but you have no need to worry about that, for the poem was written by an Aden colony type, who wasn't allowed to wander into the Protectorate for fear he might frighten the local women. Our hunting grounds in Mukeiras, Dhala and Ataq, are in wonderful country, where in winter ice is not unknown (outside the frig., too). These garrisons are about 6,000ft. above sea level, and in summer



Would you indent for a ground or a vehicle station?

the Aden-bound staff would give their right arms to be there. To be fair, it must be said that quite a few of our men are based in Aden itself, but manage to get into the Protectorate quite frequently. The Arabs are wonderful signallers, who consider it a great loss of face not to be "THROUGH." When being "THROUGH" often consists of a 100 miles on a C12 on ground wave, you can judge their capabilities. We know that the pocket book says that this is impossible, but the author hadn't served in our Squadron.

Of course, you shouldn't come here if your heart isn't too good, for the troops are fired upon from time to time, and a Battalion Commander was presented with a knife (in his back) recently, but it is this sort of thing that gives signalling a *raison d'etre*. This really is soldering.

The Squadron has been having a fairly hectic time recently, for, with the arrival of Major Walker, the new O.C., the tempo of operations and the political unrest in the area was stepped up. This warranted a bit of reorganisation to provide a continuously available and very mobile Tactical H.Q. for the force. Things have settled down a little now though, and we sport a Land Rover-borne Tactical H.Q., operating four HF nets and the ground to air link. The most comfortable vehicle in the desert in fact, is a three-ton truck, but an escarpment divides the Western Protectorate in two, almost, and only Land Rovers can ascend the pass. Consequently, we bounce from boulder to boulder, up the wadis, in Land Rovers. During our latest exercise, on the beach at a place called Shuqra, S.S.M. Bob Aitken popped in with the mail in a helicopter every afternoon, which proved a most useful method of checking our ground to air link. It is about time that signals had their "choppers."

We have our own O.R.s' club in Aden, appropriately named the Jimmy Club. By the time you read this account, we will probably be sitting down to our Christmas dinner there, or recovering from the Christmas social that we have planned. Despite the warmth, we play most games here, and, supported by the Arabs, we do very nicely.

Captain Barry Freeman has just increased the establishment by one son, on which we congratulate him, but I fear that he and his family will soon be leaving us to return to U.K. His relief, Captain Tim Cornwall, is at present suffering agonies at the Arabic Language School, but no doubt the £135 coloquial award will sooth his brow. We are jolly glad to see both Captain Peter Gregory and R.Q.M.S. Ken Attwell back from inter-tour leave in England. S.Q.M.S. Clive Rooke will now no doubt regain his happy smile once more.

A party of men from the Squadron, led by Sergeant Pete Stidworthy, took themselves to Djibuti a few weeks ago, to stay with the French Army there. At Djibuti airport they were met, much to their astonishment, by a Commandant Superieur, who turned out to be the Officer Commanding French Forces, Djibuti. The fame of our squadron certainly gets around. We hope to return the hospitality soon by entertaining the Frenchmen here.

You have possibly gained the impression that we consider ourselves a hell of a good bunch of men, but I am sure that you will forgive us, after all—we are!

Mukeiras Market place

Part of Tac HQ FRA in the Protectorate

601 TROOP

Since last appearing in print, the Troop has had several changes. The O.C. is now Captain G. H. Morgan, to whom, with his wife and family, we extend a hearty welcome. Captain Hunt is now gracing the Adjutant's chair in 3rd Regiment.

Sergeant Poole is off to the temperate climes of Kenya, and Signalman Edwards to Singapore. Lance-Corporal Smith has departed to 7th Regiment, but strangely the Land Rover still manages to cope with exercises without his tender care? Amongst the new arrivals are Staff Sergeant Hawkes (Yeoman of Signals), Corporals Caldwell, Williams and McVeigh and Signalmen Harlow and Kent.

Part of the Troop live and work aboard H.M.S. *Meon*, taking full watch keeping duties with the Royal Navy communications ratings in the radio room. Exercises keep the Troop at sea for roughly two weeks in every month so there is little time to be bored.

Social events are very scarce owing to the shortage of ladies, but we are planning a games evening with guests from H.M.S. *Meon* during September. Sport, apart from swimming, is a problem, as we are so few in numbers it is sometimes difficult to produce teams. Basketball has been tried with amazing results. Lance-Corporal Robinson and the O.C. made heroic efforts to hold the team together against the Parachute Brigade team, but we had to admit a glorious defeat. Signalman Atkins, appearing from the spectators during the last quarter of the match, played a most interesting game, much to the discomfort of the opposition who were not sure which side he was on.

Signalman Chapman is the star of a local football team, and the O.C. is hoping to improve his tennis in the near future.

Despite previous comments in THE WIRE, the Troop are not a shower of bearded wonders, although some would no doubt like to try to "grow a set."

On our return from a recent exercise we had the honour of being inspected by the Flag Officer Middle East. The Rear Admiral took great interest in the Troop, talking to every man. Signalman Edwards excelled himself by telling the Rear Admiral that having nearly completed his tour with the Troop he had just decided he didn't really like Bahrain.

What has happened to English beer? Signalman Watkins has just returned from U.K. having put on at least four stone. Now that the cooler weather will soon be with us we are getting ready for annual visits that seem to occur during this season. An account of one of our minor exercises appears elsewhere. To conclude, can any one send us some cool air or a little rain? All gifts gratefully received.

All aboard in the Persian Gulf. On Saturday afternoon the O.C. and seven members of 601 Troop (Ship) joined the permanent detachment on board H.M.S. *Meon* (Landing Ship Headquarters Small).

The heavily laden Land Rover had been loaded the previous day in an Assault Landing Craft (L.C.A.), not without several headaches. Due to a mix up in messages, the Land Rover was waiting in the wrong place to load and soon it was backwards and forwards between two points trying to catch the tide. At last it was put aboard the L.C.A., when a rock decided to come through the bottom of the craft. Eventually, however, it managed to reach its parent ship in another L.C.A. Once it was aboard H.M.S. *Anzio* all concerned breathed a well-earned sigh of relief. Even the O.C.'s party did not get aboard without incident. The ships boat expected to collect us did not materialise and after waiting nearly an hour the O.C. commandeered an Arab dhow to take us across the harbour. Fortunately, we made it before the ship sailed, but only just.

During Sunday, the passage down the Gulf to the island of Sir Abu Nu'air was uneventful apart from naval exercises in which we took no part. Not that it can be construed as a pleasure cruise with the heat well above 100 degrees. At least ice cream (home made and very good) was available in the ship's canteen. The daily tot is always looked forward to by all those aged 20 and above. The younger ones trying to look older with no effect on the stoney-hearted Petty Officer dispensing this Naval tradition.

We tried working back to our rear party in Bahrain on a schedule, using a ship's radio to our own C12. The circuit although successful was not perfect. Many peculiar effects of propagation are found all round this area.

On Monday an accident occurred just before reaching our destination, causing one of the ships of the Squadron (carrying our Land Rover) to alter course for the nearest place with an airfield to enable the casualties to be flown to hospital.

Unfortunately this delayed the assault phase of the exercise for 24 hours. The detachment going ashore were standing by the Quarter Deck at 04.00 hours on the original date waiting for the L.C.A. to collect them—every one on board thought we knew of the postponement.

Tuesday morning the assault phase went well. We were in contact with the Joint Operations Room on board H.M.S. *Meon* by A41 from the time the L.C.A. containing our Land Rover was lowered into the water. Dead on H Hour, a very wet detachment arrived on the beach. Just clear of the edge, the vehicle decided to sink into the sand up to its axles. While half of the bodies started to dig the vehicle out, the remainder unloaded the kit and in a very short time we were in contact by C12 with the H.Q. Ship. Once the Land Rover was again available we then moved across to our correct location and re-established ourselves. While this was going on the landing parties from the ships had landed and disappeared into the dawn.

An uneventful day followed, with plenty of traffic being passed between the ship and shore.

In the evening a beaching exercise was carried out by one of the Landing Ship Tanks. It beached immediately in front of our location, and when it became stuck the comments were at the least entertaining if not educational. On Monday morning all the beach organisation was struck and prepared for re-embarkation. Our own L.C.A., after several attempts, managed to beach and take us off. The sea was very choppy, and at times it was difficult to tell if we were sailing or flying.

Mid-day saw the ships departing in different directions for courtesy visits before returning to station. Our destination being Um Said, an oil company station in Quatter.

Tuesday and Wednesday found us recovering our energy and enjoying a steady passage northwards.

On Thursday, having arrived overnight, shore parties went swimming and in the evening a barbecue had been arranged at the Yacht Club. Eighty had been invited, and a most enjoyable evening resulted. One thousand tins of beer had been provided in addition to the mounds of chicken legs, sweet corn and the inevitable sausages, plus one young lady giving a demonstration (unintentional) of twisting.

Friday, a few of the ship's company received invitations to lunch with company officials, but the Troop were among the unlucky ones. The O.C., however, was very fortunate in being shown over the oil company's radio station, and was most impressed.

Sailing in the evening, having made excellent contact with our rear detachment, we set course north to Bahrain.

In the early hours of Sunday morning we arrived at Sitra jetty for refuelling and then up to our normal berth in the harbour.

Then having returned to our shore accommodation, we started work in earnest. The new Flag Officer Middle East was to inspect the Troop the following morning. By parade time the Troop were formed up under the O.C., and our battle scarred Land Rover gleaming in the sun. F.O.M.E. had a few words with all members of the Troop, and seemed quite interested in our job. Having recovered from both the trip and inspection, we are now busily preparing for the next exercise in 10 days time, when we visit (?) the island of Yas. Even the locals will not live there!

Anyone want a life on the ocean wave? It's a volunteer posting with rum (when you are at sea).

A view of the famous Taj Mahal, the furthest point reached by the expedition. The photograph was taken by one of the members of the expedition.

Cyprus to the Khyber Pass Return

BY MAJOR K. J. T. HOILE, 3RD EAST ANGLIAN REGIMENT, MILITARY OBSERVER IN CYPRUS

If you have ever tried to sort out 'bus timings with a Persian Moslem who speaks no English, working on calendars that are not only 600 years apart, but also differ with regard to the days of the week, you will realise one of the problems that faced the Royal Army Educational Corps expedition from Cyprus to the Khyber Pass and back.

The 9,000-mile journey, through four countries, over a period of six weeks, made the expedition the longest ever to be undertaken by troops of Near East Command. The party, led by Lieutenant J. Cooper, R.A.E.C., attached to 15th Signal Regiment, consisted of Lieutenant E. Gill (R.A.E.C.), Cpl. G. Pratt, (Intelligence Corps), Corporal G. Rushton (R.A.P.C.), Lance-Corporal LeRoy Tilson and Signalman F. Larcombe (Royal Signals).

The party travelled from Cyprus to Turkey by Turkish Airlines and thence by train, 'bus and lorry across Asia, through Iran and Pakistan to India.

It was quickly discovered that the amount of cash they had allowed for the journey would mean that the travellers would have to survive on one meal a day and use the cheapest possible hotels for their short rest periods.

Their journey, which took them through Ankara, Erzurum, Tabriz and Tehran, proved uneventful, apart from the fact that many of their fellow passengers caused them discomfort by removing their socks and shoes during the long 'bus journeys! The highlight of the outward journey was the party's visit to Isfahan, which is considered by many people to be the most beautiful city in the world. The town, with its blue domes, mosques and lush foliage, is in complete contrast to the arid plain which surrounds it, and the blue tiled workings and Hall of Pillars in the Masjid-i-Shah (The King's Mosque) is certainly one of the most beautiful sights in the world.

The journey, continued through Kerman and Zahidan, took the party through interminable desert sand, which showed no signs of habitation, and only the occasional heaps of bones of some unfortunate animal portrayed its viciousness.

During the short stop to see the Mosque Mahmand with its beautiful gardens and lucid pools, the party met a Cambridge graduate in Arabic and Persian, who had turned Moslem, and had become completely absorbed with the Persian way of life.

After four days of continuous travelling by train, the party arrived at Peshawar and, after obtaining the necessary documents, travelled by station wagon to the Khyber Pass, thus reaching their objective after twenty days of continuous travelling. Consisting of a fifteen-mile gap, in otherwise inaccessible territory, and guarded by a battalion of Khyber Rifles, stationed at Shagai, the magnificence of the ravine and the old-time

forts of Jamrud and Ali Masjid left a lasting impression on the travellers. Before returning, the party decided to visit Agra, in India, to see the Taj Mahal, one of the world's most famous and beautiful buildings. It was here that the adventurers reached their furthest point from Cyprus.

A naked Fakir running up and down the main street of Lahore caused amazement to a number of the younger members of the party, in spite of the fact that he was ignored by the local population.

The party returned by the same route to Zahidan and then swung north along the Afghan border through Meshed to Tehran. It was intended that the party would return by Royal Air Force aircraft from Tehran to Cyprus, but unfortunately this was not to be the case, and the party pushed on overland to Mersin, in Turkey, only to find that there was no boat to Cyprus for five days. The party returned to Adana, and during an overnight stay in a Turkish hotel witnessed a gun battle which took place under their windows. The battle was quickly joined by armed policemen, and the following day reports were circulated that a policeman had been killed. The party finally returned to Cyprus by air, tired, but delighted at having reached their objective.

Sports and Pastimes in Singapore

Pond Fishing

BY CORPORAL COMBER

A very popular sport in Singapore is fishing in man-made ponds, which can be found all over the island, but particularly in the vicinity of the COMCAN Receiver Station, Amoy Quee, on the Yio Chu Kang road. Fishing costs about 5/- for a day. At the same charge you can, at some of the pools, fish all night. If you are not yet a fisherman and want to try a day's fishing without investing in a lot of equipment, you can, at most ponds, hire a rod for a dollar.

If you live in camp, plan your fishing with care. You should interest a living-out member of the Squadron in the sport and so be assured of the chips to go with the fish! If you time your expedition soon after his duty-free beer ration arrives, you may have beer to wash your meal down too!

Fishing out here costs very little. You can get a good fibreglass rod for about £3 in Singapore's famed Change Alley or in North Bridge Road. One about 6ft. long is quite big enough. A spinning reel will cost a little under a pound (beware of cheap ones, since they only last a few outings). Five-bob will get you 200 yards of nylon spinning line. Beginners should use line of 8 to 10lb. breaking strain, as even a 2 or 3lb. fish is pretty strong as long as it is in the water. Hooks can be had, ready gutted, at six for a shilling. The most suitable sizes are 4 and 6; get a packet of each. Weights cost a few pence and a No. 4 or 5 is quite heavy enough if you are using a short rod. Bait can be bought at the pool, or you can buy and prepare your own outside. Raw or semi-cooked tapioca root is the best bait.

Ponds have a good variety of fish, the smallest and most common (which we usually give away to the locals, although they make quite good eating) being the Java, which weighs up to 1lb. Carp, in most ponds weigh up to 8lb. Then come the grass-eater and song fish (to give them their common English names) which grow up to about 20lb. With one of these on your line you are in for some good sport, and the chances are that the fish will win and carry away hook, line and sinker!

All these fish are good eating. The carp is very tasty and a four-pounder can have as much as 100z. of roe. The meatiest fish are the grass and song fish. A 5lb. beauty can, after cleaning and filleting, yield a good 3lb. of meat.

Having caught our fish, let's cook it! Scale it first with a sharp knife with a 3 or 4in. blade. If the fish is partly frozen first, it is easy to skin. Having caught a big one, we have to fillet it or it will not go in the pan. If you like fresh-water fish, go ahead and fry. If you are used to salt-water fish you should steep the fish for two minutes in a solution of a tablespoon of salt in a pint of hot water. Then wipe the fish dry and grill or fry.

Happy fishing and good eating!

Hockey

24th October, Royal Signals 4, R.M.A., Sandhurst 3
25th October, Royal Signals 3, R.A.M.C. 1

The first of our southern tours started with an enjoyable game at Camberley under ideal conditions. R.M.A. were soon attacking and our defence, though under constant pressure in the early stages, gradually settled down, but were unable to prevent R.M.A. going into the lead. The Corps forwards, meanwhile, were not taking their chances, and at half-time R.M.A. had increased their lead to two goals.

The second half started with the Corps team showing improved team work, and the score was levelled when Last scored two goals in quick succession from well-taken short corners. R.M.A. continued to give the Corps defence some anxious moments, but the Corps went into the lead when Briggs, from left-half, sent McLuckie away on the right wing to score from a very narrow angle. The Corps defence was handicapped when Walmsley pulled a muscle, but the forwards were now having more of the game, and the fourth goal came when Howie netted after a short corner. R.M.A. came back and eventually reduced the lead, but the Corps defence held out to give us a well-deserved victory.

We are indebted to the R.A.M.C. for the second game, played at Aldershot, as they provided the opposition when R.A.E.C., due to unavoidable circumstances, could not field a representative side. The Corps, forced to make one change from the previous match, Moynan replacing Ridge, soon settled down and the team as a whole were obviously benefiting from playing together the previous day. R.A.M.C., however, were presenting a solid defence, and the Corps were fortunate to take the lead when Byng scored following a short corner. R.A.M.C. scored a well-deserved equaliser shortly before half-time from a well-taken corner. The second half saw the Corps team gradually getting on top, and further goals came from Smith and Last, after spirited resistance from R.A.M.C.

The Corps was represented by: Sergeant Dale (11th Regiment), Major J. Ridge (247 Gurkha Squadron), Second-Lieutenant S. R. Carr-Smith (School of Signals), Lance-Corporal Trent (30th Regiment), Captain J. W. Walmsley (R.M. Signal Wing), Captain D. H. Briggs (30th Regiment), Lieutenant J. B. McLuckie (30th Regiment), Captain C. N. Last (305 Squadron, Parachute Brigade, T.A.), Major A. G. Smith (45th (Essex) Regiment, T.A.), Sergeant J. N. Howie (School of Signals), Captain A. B. Byng (School of Signals), Captain T. J. Moynan (A.A.S., Harrogate).

Eastern Command Royal Signals, T.A. Rifle Meeting

The Eastern Command Royal Signal T.A. Rifle Meeting was held on Sunday, 14th October, and, true to form for this meeting, the day was clear and bright. The ranges at Pirbright made an ideal setting for an event which is also something of a social occasion.

This year 54th (E.A.) Regiment were the organisers of the meeting, and it is to their credit that the prizegiving took place exactly on time. Brigadier E. C. R. Blaker, C.S.O., Eastern Command, presented the prizes and congratulated the winners on their performances, but mentioned that the practices may well be made more difficult next year.

The standard of shooting was very good and, during the day, a total of five pool bulls were scored. This high number of pool bulls is even more surprising when it is realised that most units were using the S.L. Rifle for the first time in competition. Many participants had not used the rifle before and were a little suspicious of it at first, but by the end of the afternoon, it was generally accepted as an improvement over the old rifle.

The keenness shown by all those present, from W.R.A.C. to Cadets, was most encouraging. The pool bull was busy all day, and it was only closed when ammunition ran out. A check after the meeting revealed that 50 per cent more ammunition had been used on the pool bull than in previous years.

During the day, a total of eight competitions were held, namely:

Open Individual.—Lieutenant Smith, 47th Regiment (T.A.).
Unit Challenge Trophy.—47th Regiment.
Young Soldiers' Competition.—Signalman Tarver, 305 Squadron.
Permanent Staff Competition.—W.O.II Walter, 47th Regiment.
W.R.A.C. Competition.—Corporal Hamilton 54 (E.A.) Regiment.
Cadet Cup.—S.Q.M.S. Taylor, 20 Squadron,, A.C.F.
Unit Team Competition.—47th Regiment "B" Team.
Falling Plate.—305 Squadron.

Rugby Football

Old Army Rugby Cup Rivals Clash

The second round of the Army Cup, between 8th Regiment and 1st Bn. The Duke of Wellington's Regiment was played on Wednesday, 24th October, under ideal conditions, on the Stadium ground at Catterick. Signals lost the toss and kicked off into a slight breeze. Both teams settled down quickly and there was some vigorous forward play in which the Signals eight really rattled the Duke's. It was Signals, too, who opened the score when, having failed to take advantage of two earlier penalty kicks, they were awarded one two yards from the Duke's line. They took this very quickly, and before anyone knew what had happened, Corporal Brooke was over, but Drika just failed to convert.

However, the Duke's then rallied and drew level a few minutes later when Pettigrew made no mistake with a penalty kick awarded for a scrum infringement. The Duke's backs looked dangerous when they got the ball, but 8th Regiment's covering was very good, and it was just before half-time when Pettigrew again made good use of a penalty award to put the Duke's ahead 6—3 at the half-way stage. Unfortunately, by then, Signals were reduced to only 14 men, one having incurred the displeasure of the referee.

In the second half 8th Signals used the wind to good effect and kept pushing the Duke's back into their own half with good kicks to touch. Their backs, however, were not handling well and it was from a dropped pass that the Duke's scored next. Their wing forward picked up the loose ball, passed to the scrum half, who covered 20 yards to score, and Pettigrew made no mistake with the kick. 8th Signals, however, fought back and with some very good short passing amongst the forwards and good backing-up, they kept the Duke's pinned in their own half. Wingman Turaga, who had two good runs in the first half, was next to score for 8th Signals. He took it beautifully, head high, a kick ahead made by the Duke's outside-half. He beat his wingman and ran straight and hard for the corner flag and, with a clever change of direction, rounded Bray, the Duke's full-back, to score a really good try. The kick failed.

8th Signals appeared to be the fitter team and in the last ten minutes their forwards continued the pressure. If the 8th Signals goal-kickers had been on form, the result might have been different, as four kickable penalties were missed in the second half. The final whistle went with the score 11—6 to the Duke's, who just deserved to win an exciting game, which was well refereed by Mr. Peter Heyward of the Durham Society.

Reserve Army Commanding Officers' Study Period

Front Row (left to right): **Colonels Collins, Jones, Grigg, Starr, Woodland, Wood, Brigadier Cox, Colonel Dicker, Brigadier McGill, Colonel Hallett, Brigadier Pringle, Colonel Grimwood-Taylor, Major General Swainson, Colonel Shrimpton, Brigadier Blaker, Colonel Randall, Brigadier Atkinson, Colonels MacKinnon, Linton, Vincent-Smith, Oliver, Horsfield, Brindley, Pentreath, Patterson**

Second Row: **Lieutenant Colonels Gibson, Vaigncourt-Strallen, Alexander, Rata, Robertson, Lawrie, Smith, Collison, Blackburne, Luttman-Johnson, Donald, Cunningham-Burley, Fenton, McMain, Pearcey, Milner, Long, Major Fox, Lieutenant Colonels Lang, Boyland, Sampson, Boyd, Shorter, Pounds, Hunter**

Third Row: **Majors Keefe, Costello, Kemp, Seys-Phillips, Jones, Lieutenant Colonel Yeatman, Majors Shaver, Hughes, Lieutenant Colonels Mason, Rigden, Major Perry, Lieutenant Colonel Tonry, Captain Playle, Lieutenant Colonel Brackenbury, Majors Swimdale, Chell, Watkeys, Milner (WRAC), Tait, Wotherspoon, Brealey, Crowe, Lieutenant Colonel Beckett, Major Johnson, Lieutenant Colonels Hancock, Davies, Mole, Majors Bird, Morton, The Earl Kitchener, Montagnon, Lieutenant Colonel Chambers, Majors Newman, Hardy**

Back Row: **Captain Graham, Second Lieutenant Dale, Lieutenant Colonels Emery, Brooker, Majors Johnson, Stewart, Read, Harris, Davis, Horner, McVicker, Captain Clement, Majors Flack, Gill, Captains Everett, Deprez**

The falling leaves of autumn were enlivened in Catterick by the annual Reserve Army Commanding Officers' Study Period, held at the School of Signals on Saturday, 20th, and Sunday, 21st October, 1962.

On the Friday afternoon, some 100 officers of A.E.R., T.A. and directing staff started to arrive in Catterick from places as far afield as Devonshire and Northern Ireland, ready to start bright and early on Day 1.

After a welcome and introduction by the S.O.-in-C., 5th Regiment (T.A.) gave a presentation which examined in digestible form, the statistics of Reserve Army recruiting and wastage. A number of challenging conclusions were considered, first by syndicates, later in open discussion.

A group photograph was then taken—it is hoped that the many faces and names appearing will be of interest to readers.

Lunch was followed by three presentations by the School of Signals, the day's study being concluded by mutually interesting presentations on A.E.R. and T.A. out-of-camp training. Commander, H.Q., A.E.R., described the impact of the first year of out-of-camp training for A.E.R. Category 1 units and its future implications. 64th Regiment (T.A.) presented the T.A. counterpart by means of a playlet which reminded the audience of the many calls made on training time.

In the evening, the congenial atmosphere of a guest night in Headquarter Mess—good food and pleasant company with the attendant opportunities for reminiscence, was enjoyed by all who attended.

Sunday morning, early, 'though perhaps not so bright, was the occasion for syndicate thought and discussion on the important problem of training Royal Signals A.E.R. and T.A. probationary officers.

The Study Period ended with an open discussion—always a popular feature, where so many and varied representatives are gathered together. This proved to be a useful exchange on all aspects of the Reserve Army.

N.B.—It has been decided that a "Royal Signals Reserve Army Liaison Letter" will be published in April and October each year. The letter will be distributed to units through C.S.O.s and H.Q., A.E.R.

H.Q., ARMY EMERGENCY RESERVE

During the last two hundred years Blandford Camp has been used at various times to house and train troops for various campaigns in which British Servicemen and in the last war, American Servicemen have taken part. So it has become the custom for our Remembrance Sunday ceremonies to be attended by representatives from the United States Air Force and the Royal Navy.

To explain why these ties with the camp exist, it is necessary to go back a little in history—to the 1914-18 War—when the Royal Navy raised the Anson and Collingwood Battalions of the Royal Naval Division, here in Blandford. These were part of the force which fought so gallantly at Gallipoli. It was during his stay in the camp that Sub-Lieutenant R. Brookes wrote his famous sonnet: "The Soldier," the first lines of which are now almost immortal:

"If I should die, think only this of me:
That there's some corner of a foreign field
That is forever England."

The Navy later erected a memorial at Collingwood Corner to commemorate all those that fell in this disastrous campaign.

During the Second World War—after being used by various units of the British Army—Blandford Camp was made over to the American Forces, who established part of it as the 22nd United States General Hospital, and later the camp was used as a concentration area for the invasion of Normandy, when half-a-million soldiers passed through it on their way to embark at Portland. The Americans, in 1945, built the Roosevelt Garden of Remembrance in which, it is understood, soil from all the original 48 States of America, together with seeds of some of the bushes and shrubs were brought from America and planted in the garden.

That then is the historical background of the present Remembrance Services, which started with a short memorial service at Roosevelt Park, attended by Colonel Edwin W. Turner, U.S.A.F., M.C., Commander of the 7505th U.S.A.F. Hospital, Swindon, who laid a wreath on behalf of the U.S. Consul General of Southampton, and Lieutenant-Colonel R. A. Wood, who laid a wreath on behalf of the officers and men of the hospital. Colonel T. H. C. Grigg, O.C. Troops and Commander, H.Q., A.E.R., and Lieutenant-Colonel A. T. Burrows, M.B.E., E.R.D., Commander, 30th Regiment, also laid wreaths during this moving little ceremony, which was watched by the wives and families of all those taking part.

The main Service of Remembrance was held in the camp cinema and was conducted by the Rev. R. Edwards, D.S.O., B.A., S.C.F.; also present at this service was Captain G. M. Sladen, D.S.O., D.S.C., R.N. (Retd.), who later took the salute at the march past of 30th Regiment and a detachment from 24th Regiment. During this service, two of the Corps Trumpeters, in full dress, played the Last Post and Reveille, whilst standing beside the Corps Roll of Honour.

The march past was followed by a short service at Collingwood Memorial, at which detachments of the Royal Naval Old Comrades, Royal Navy and Royal Marines were present. The wreaths were laid by Captain G. M. Sladen, on behalf of the Naval Old Comrades, by O.C. Troops, O.C. 30th Regiment, and Commander 7505th U.S.A.F. Hospital.

Wreath laying ceremony at Collingwood Memorial

45th (ESSEX) REGIMENT, T.A.

Quote from local newspaper, "SIGNALS HOME IN TRIUMPH, GERMAN CAMP BEST EVER." Unquote.

In our last notes we stated that we were looking forward to a Camp which would be a real test of skill and organisation and that we hoped to show our comrades in B.A.O.R. that we "part time" soldiers can fulfil our role when called upon to do so.

That we fulfilled our role there can be no doubt, and loud has been the praise that the Regiment has received from B.A.O.R.

It was a tough camp, which shook even some of the most hard-bitten veterans, but at the same time it was a great experience, it was enjoyable and the Regiment is now home with the feeling of a task well done by All Ranks, which many a "Doubting Thomas" thought we would be unable to accomplish and who thought that we had "bitten off more than we could chew."

Security precludes the writer from giving too factual an account of what took place, but he will do his best to tell an interesting and cohesive story which should paint an accurate picture of events.

Prior to Camp a great deal of pre-camp work and training was accomplished. Troops became acquainted with their Unit War Establishment Tables, continental driving signs were studied, the unpacking of equipment was practised, personnel were distributed in flights in order that those key personnel in the first instance arrived first and, as is usual, the inflow and outflow of paper at R.H.Q. increased by leaps and bounds.

On 10th September, 1962, the advance party under command of Major W. Hill, T.D., left for Belgium by train and boat to take over a Belgian Army Barracks at Tielen which was to be our base for the next fifteen days. A further small advance party under command of Captain E. A. Richardson detached itself from the main advance party and moved up to Leuth in Germany to take over an Exercise Area.

On 15th September, 1962, the Regiment concentrated at Wanstead by flights, five in all. It was rather like putting a quart into a pint bottle, but it worked and the mundane tasks of issuing arms, 24 hour ration packs, pay in both Sterling and Belgian francs, identity cards, NAAFI ration cards, international certifications of vaccination and movement documents began.

Here, too, the cooks came into their own, and with the assistance of W.O.I Fletcher, A.C.C., of the Royal Herbert Hospital, meals on an endless belt system (albeit "compo") were produced, so that over 300 officers and men were fed from the evening of the 15th September until breakfast on 17th September.

The canteen was open and going full blast under the able direction of Sergeant R. Hardy, L.A.D./R.E.M.E., T.A.

The Regiment commenced moving to Belgium on Saturday, 15th September.

Flight I, which included Major R. A. Chell, T.D., the Second-in-Command, various Troop Officers and Troop Sergeants of the "Activated Troops" and a large proportion of drivers, "took off" from Wanstead at 23.00 hours on this day and after a smooth bus journey to Heath Row, a quick flight to Brussels, a truck journey to advance base where a meal was provided, and then work commenced—to draw stores for the activated troops and all vehicles. By then they were in the thick of it.

The "thick of it" consisted of the complete drawing of all stores for the activated troops of the Regiment, to say nothing of 173 vehicles.

So it was for each flight until at 10.30 hours on Monday, 17th September, the final and fifth flight of the Regiment left Wanstead. An interesting point in the whole of this operation was that although we live in a fairly densely populated area, very few civilians realised that throughout two nights the Regiment was moving.

After passing through the advance base the Regiment found itself hard at work, not only did it run its own barracks, but it drew in 48 hours the Activated Troops Unit War Equipment and the vehicles of the whole Unit, checked same and prepared equipment for the activated tasks. This done the Regiment then moved some 80 miles into Germany. There they remained for a period of four days carrying out the role of the Regiment, and at the end of this period returned to Tielen having carried out a most successful exercise.

Now came the turn of the Quartermasters ("Loch ein Mal"). It is one thing to draw equipment and stores, it is quite another problem to hand it back. Visualise an L. of C. Signal Regiment, completely self-supporting, having driven over 200 miles, activated its equipment, tested it, used it, and now in the invidious position of returning same to Ordnance. To say that it was a Quartermaster's nightmare is to put it mildly. However, Lieutenant (Q.M.) R. R. Rose and his minions went to it, and all stores and equipments were returned from whence they came, "losing only a pair of pliers and two bits of wire" (stories tall, mark one).

At the same time our Second Quartermaster, Captain (Q.M.) J. A. Clarkson, Royal Signals, kindly lent to us by H.Q. Royal Signals, A.E.R., was hard put to it to pack up our Barracks in Tielen prior to our move down to a tent camp at Grobbendonk, where for the period 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th September we were to be the guests of a Regiment of the Royal Artillery.

The Gunners had obviously thrown their hearts into this project, and apart from the odd fatigue and guard, our men were asked to do nothing but enjoy themselves and for three days, the order of the day was sightseeing—Brussels, Antwerp, and rumour hath it that Squadrons were to be seen in Holland. Whether or not our visit has helped Britain into the Common Market, we know not, but one thing is certain, our Regiment appreciates the hospitality offered to us by the Belgian, Dutch and German people that we came into contact with.

And so, on Friday, 28th September, our stay on the Continent came to an end. A night train journey to Boulogne—the boat, all too reminiscent for many of the old and bold of the retreat from Dunkirk—and then Dover. Were the Customs kind? One officer does not think so, but by and large we were treated with that courtesy which is always extended to soldiers returning to the United Kingdom. Dover to London (courtesy of British Railways), Victoria to Wanstead (change at Mile End) and the end was in sight.

No better day could have been arranged. The sun shone on Wanstead Green and there to greet the Regiment was R.S.M. G. M. Derwent, M.B.E. Quickly and with his usual efficiency, the Regiment was drawn up in column of threes by Squadrons, and with Lieutenant Pike and the Staff Band of the Royal Signals at its head, the Regiment marched its last 800 yards to the Drill Hall.

The Mayor of Wanstead and Woodford (Councillor N. O. J. Robinson, J.P.) took the salute. The mass of week-end traffic was stopped on the A.12 to Southend and Clacton, and to the Regimental march, "Begone Dull Care," the 45th (Essex) Signal Regiment (T.A.) returned to its home.

A good camp—yes—and we returned in triumph.

Note.—The Regiment drove 39,147 miles whilst in B.A.O.R. Two paint scratches (stories tall mark II—not a bit of it).

STOP PRESS

"The privilege to march through the streets of Wanstead-Woodford with bayonets fixed, drums beating and colours flying." This high honour—Freedom of Entry of the Borough—is to be bestowed by the Wanstead-Woodford Borough Council on its adopted Regiment—the 45th (Essex) Regiment T.A. A full account will appear in THE WIRE shortly.

47th REGIMENT (T.A.) MIDDLESEX YEOMANRY (The Duke of Cambridge's Hussars)

Regimental Development Programme. *Forward!*—Was the Watchword given to all, by Major-General Whistler in his recent "Farewell Message" in THE WIRE—and one that is synonymous with our Regimental Development Programme.

Not for us!—any "Post Camp Let Up"—to reduce Morale and Technical Proficiency, raised so high, on the recent 15-day "Greenfields Operation," instead, it was—an eye to our Policy: *Increased Operational Efficiency*—and an ear to the Watchword: *Forward!*

Tactical Operations. The value of the Monthly Regimental Tactical Operations, in preparation for the "Greenfields Operation," proved so great that our Command team (Lieutenant-Colonel Beazley, Majors Williams and Pike) immediately prepared a new series, as part of our Regimental development programme for 1962-63, the first of the series being held in August, as an immediate "follow-up" to the "Greenfields Operation."

Operating in the Aldershot area, we were most grateful for the help of two Officers from the 41st Regiment (Princess Louise's Kensington Regiment) who ran the tactical battle, that provided the "live traffic."—Grateful also to our R.E.M.E. team for the improved efficiency of a variety of equipment items.

Following the programme, Tactical Operations have also been held in September, October and November.

Special Operations. Distance driving and map reading were the objectives of the Special Operations carried out by "B" Squadron under their Squadron Leader, Major T. D. W. Woodgate, in Surrey and Sussex during the first weekend of September.

Despite the operational requirements of map reading and the observation report, recreational activity was not forgotten, with a period specifically set aside for swimming—enjoyed by all!

"D" Squadron (our Primary Training Unit), under its new Squadron Leader, Captain F. Ruthven, was operational in the Pirbright area over the 20th/21st October.

Based on The Depot—Brigade of Guards—our recruits faced a formidable programme of: Drill, weapon training (SLR, SMG and LMG), fieldcraft, range discipline and firing, shining parade and a barrack room inspection.—"Their feet didn't touch!"—and the recruits' verdict: "Tough, but fun!"

The most popular item: The Weapons Circus and the Arms Stripping and Assembling Races. The value of healthy competition is truly amazing!

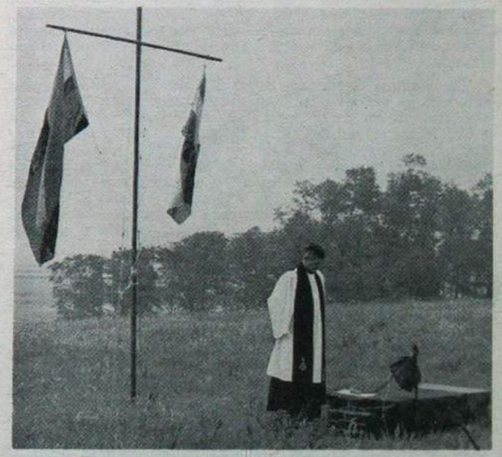
Lafone Day—27th October, 1917. On this day, Major A. M. Lafone, with the majority of his men of "B" Squadron, Middlesex Yeomanry, gave their lives in the heroic defence of "Point 720"—a hill Fort near Karm, in Palestine—against repeated atttacks from the Turkish Cavalry.

In recognition of his bravery in this action Major Lafone was awarded a posthumous Victoria Cross.

The "Lafone Day" Parade held each year on the nearest Sunday to the 27th October, followed its traditional form, when led by the Band and a strong contingent of the Middlesex Yeomanry Old Comrades' Association, the Regiment marched through the City of London to its annual Memorial Service for the fallen of three wars, at St. Martin's-in-Ludgate, and afterwards to the Middlesex Yeomanry War Memorial in St. Paul's Cathedral.

The sermon at the service was preached by our new Regimental Chaplain, the Reverend John G. Nicholls, with his usual forthrightness.

The "Last Post" and "Reveille" were sounded by the Trumpeter Corporal, Corporal G. Ffrench.



The Padre—the Rev. John G. Nicholls

MISMILAC. Our abbreviation for Miscellaneous Military Activity. During the period being reported, this includes our contribution to the support of "T.A. Week" sponsored by the County of London T.A. Association, in which we set up a communication link which the public could use from Battersea Park across the Thames, using a B70 radio relay set, as well as attracting the public to our Barracks by means of the Regimental Band playing in the forecourt of the Duke of Yorks H.Q., adjacent to a notice inviting all to partake of five free shots on our .22 range—prize—a bottle of beer for four "bulls." For the latter item, our thanks to the R.S.M. (W.O.I I. D. C. Currie) and Sergeant Gideon.

The "Tough Training" competition, sponsored by the Middlesex T.A. Association, was not won by our team but the pre-training provided a lot of fun for the team and a lot of laughs for the rest of us (who due to "unforeseen" circumstances were for one reason or another not in a position to volunteer for the team), to say nothing of good public relations! —the crowd was immense to watch the team unsuccessfully launch its improved rafts on the canal at Uxbridge—but in reality we all echo the C.O.'s words to Second-Lieutenant Manders and the team, "Well done, better luck next time!"

The Regimental Band has been working at high pressure, their engagements including playing for the dedication of the Surrey Rifles War Memorial at St. Giles' Church, Camberwell —supporting the Royal Signals KAPE team at Woodford Green —playing for the Cadet Festival at Dulwich, as well as practising for the forthcoming Berkshire and neighbouring counties Band Festival that they are entering for.

The Inter-Squadron Development Competitions are currently in full swing. Winners to date:—

Guard Mounting Competition—"C" Squadron (Uxbridge).
Communication Centre Competition—"C" Squadron (Uxbridge).
Cable Competition—"B" Squadron (Putney).
Miniature Range Competition—R.H.Q. (Chelsea).
Rifle Competition—R.H.Q. (Chelsea).
Sterling Competition—305 Parachute Squadron (Chelsea).

Recreational Activity. Whilst current Recreational Activity includes riding, boxing, judo and badminton—shooting stands above all, and the "Regimental Shoot" at the head of the fixture list.

The "Regimental Shoot" is essentially a family affair, and in addition to the military personnel, two coach loads of families and friends travelled to Pirbright for the occasion, at the end of September. In the ten competitions run there was something for all: "The Ladies' Competition" (.22), won by Mrs. Shorter; "The Young People's Competition." won by Steve Butler and Kim Parsons; "The Children's Competition" (air gun), won by Lesley Manders. In addition there were the military matches of which the most important were "The Milne Trophy" (open only to marksmen and 1st class shots), won by Corporal Nuthall, and "The Bronze Jimmy Trophy" (for the highest individual score), won by the C.O., Lieutenant-Colonel Beazley, and what a popular win that was too, by one who has done so much to raise our shooting standards over the past few years.

The Eastern Command, Royal Signals T.A., Rifle Meeting was a more serious affair, but our training paid off with 1st, 2nd and 3rd in the "Open Individual Shoot." First in the "Unit Trophy" and the "PSI Competition," 2nd in the "Young Soldiers' Competition," with our associated Squadron, 305 (Middlesex Yeomanry) Squadron (Parachute Brigade), winning the "Falling Plate Competition." Congratulations to Captain P. Ellis, our Weapon Training Officer, and Major K. Parsons of the Permanent Staff who has been such a tower of strength recently in connection with a rather ambitious shooting programme.

Other recent rifle meetings in which we've taken part include those of The Middlesex Territorial Association and Wandsworth Borough. In the latter, Major Parsons won a tankard for the "Highest Visitor's Individual Rifle Score."

Social Activity. "A" Squadron held a Social at Chelsea at the end of September, a great success, due to the efforts of Captain Lustig, who brilliantly timed it to follow a meeting of the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess.

More formal, but none the less successful, was the Annual Dinner of The Middlesex Yeomanry Old Comrades' Association, held on the Friday prior to "Lafone Day," at R.H.Q., Chelsea, at which Colonel The Viscount Malden, T.D., Honorary Colonel of the Regiment, presided. The Guest of Honour being Brigadier W. R. Smijth-Windham, C.B.E., D.S.O., F.R.G.S., A.M.I.E.E., who had strong connections with the Middlesex Yeomanry in Crete during the war.

During the course of the dinner, the Secretary of the Old Comrades' Association, Wing Commander A. Swinton-Vaughan, was presented with a camera as a token of the O.C.A.'s appreciation of his work as secretary.

305 SQUADRON (MIDDLESEX YEOMANRY) PARACHUTE BRIGADE GROUP (T.A.)

Some time has now passed since news of this Squadron's activities has apeared in THE WIRE. Nevertheless, the last year has proved one of the most active and interesting that we have ever experienced.

First in a series of overseas exercises was Exercise "Solinus," in North Africa. A rear link detachment, comprising Corporal Harding, Lance-Corporals Sutton and Cole, under the command of Sergeant Draper, flew out to Malta with a Company Group drawn from 44 Independent Parachute Brigade Group (T.A.).

The exercise was mounted in Malta and the objective was to destroy a nuclear stockpile belonging to the enemy—the ubiquitous "Phantasians"—represented by 40 Commando.

After the drop, on a D.Z. south of Derna, in darkness, they marched the remainder of the night and the following day, covering 27 miles of rock-strewn desert. Two more nights of marching and another 33 miles passed before the main objective was reached (tales are still being told of many "contacts" made with the enemy!) Subsequent recovery was pleasantly effected on the sunny shores of the Mediterranean.

Sergeant Goodier was also on Exercise "Solinus," attached to our counterpart, 216 Squadron. After the drop (just to keep his hand in) he did sterling work on one of the 500-mile radio links to Malta, from Exercise Control.

In August, another Company Group, drawn from the Brigade, flew out to Singapore on Exercise "Tiger Brew" to help train the Far East Air Force in dropping parachutists. This time the Signals element comprised the O.C., Major S. E. E. Crowe and the S.S.M., "Jimmy" Judd.

After a frustrating delay at Lyneham for 24 hours, when the S.S.M., a London Traffic Warden, was barely restrained from planting a parking ticket on the windscreen of the stationery Britannia, Singapore was reached via North Africa, Aden and Gan. The latter, a delightful island in the Indian Ocean, palm fringed and with clear blue sea, looks like paradise, but is not—no women! We flew on.

The unit was accommodated in bashas at Nee Soon Camp and began training immediately. Reveille, at 03.30 hours, was usual. After somewhat exhaustive periods of synthetic training (at 105° in the shade!) a series of parachute descents were made from Beverley, Hastings and Pioneer aircraft.

Ex Tiger Brew. The Brigade Commander, Brigadier A. J. Deane-Drummond, D.S.O., M.C., addressing us before the jungle training

This was followed by four days "up country" jungle experience; a complete eye-opener for the majority. Days were spent struggling, soaked in sweat, up slippery thorn-covered jungle hillsides and followed by nights in two-man bashas constructed from bamboos and vines. Gurkhas provided simulated C.T. ambushes. The S.S.M. proved adept at providing a brew of tea at the right moment, while the Squadron Commander busied himself with building a basha at the end of the day (appropriate, as he is in the furniture manufacturing business!).

There was time left for one more drop on to Quantan D.Z., 20 miles up the coast, thanks to the R.A.F., who managed to slip their Hastings aircraft, one by one, through low-lying cloud to a perfect fly-in over the D.Z.

Singapore itself was visited on the first and last few days, and wonderful swimming was possible in the various pools.

Preparations were well advanced in September for Exercise "Soft Putty." Again a radio crew of four from the Squadron provided communications for the Company Group, and Signalman Munton was radio operator with an umpire team, this time in Greece. A lot of tough soldiering was done around and about, and in Athens!

Camp followed in October, and comprised a Regimental training fortnight, laced with ballooning, at Westdown, Salisbury Plain. Here was our opportunity to train the recruits and trainees in the Squadron. At the same time, detachments of trained signallers flew out to B.A.O.R. to man the rear links of the Brigade's Parachute Battalions, which were on exercise. Brigade H.Q. was at Westdown, and a continuous radio link was maintained by the Squadron between H.Q. and Germany.

So much for the Squadron's main "operational" activities.

Meanwhile "back at the ranch," the Duke of York's, Chelsea, we had moved into and were redecorating our training rooms and offices. A splendid all ranks' club room was opened, the scene of many an informal dance, the walls in part decorated by shields presented by members of the Squadron depicting their previous units.

Training is carried out every Wednesday evening and at week-ends. Most notable of the hard-working instructors are the S.S.M., W.O.II Doran, Staff Sergeant Branigan, Sergeants Turner and Lawbury. Regular P.T. evenings are held on Tuesdays, run by Sergeant Draper, our enthusiastic A.P.S.I. As a change from trade training, Captain Holdaway, "the jumping Captain," organises rock climbing and scrambling in Snowdonia, combined with long-range radio exercises. A "fan tower" provides endless amusement for small boys (and maybe sometimes a recruit!) at galas and sports days in the London area.

Captain Last, formerly of 216 Squadron Parachute Brigade Group, has taken over as P.S.O. from Captain Watson and has infused much enthusiasm, together with his inimicable descriptive phraseology!

Successful airborne exercises have been held with each Battalion in the Brigade, involving ACT's D.Z.—airfield links and parachuting radio crews on Otterburn and Salisbury Plain.

As the year draws to a close, it is this thought that remains: Our extensive and varied training commitments will undoubtedly tax our resources to the full next year, and for this reason, we urgently require more personnel.

Relaxing after jungle training O.C. and Squadron Sergeant Major indicated by arrows.

Jungle training on Exercise Tiger Brew

ROYAL SIGNALS TROOP, 50th REGIMENT, T.A.

After much burning of the midnight oil (and the keys of the Troop typewriter) we hope to burst into print and let the rest of the Corps know that we are still alive and kicking. Our task is to provide rear link communications to Division. However, the Troop can, and does, turn their hands to any job. They find themselves laying lines, manning the local exchange, and even taking up jobs as gun numbers (the blisters on the hands and backs of Corporals Cartwright and Skinner testify to this experience).

The Troop Commander, Lieutenant Kerr, is ably backed up by Staff Sergeant Goldberg and the "G 1098 man," Sergeant Horne. Apart from their duties in the Troop, they invariably find themselves behind the wheel of a wagon or operating a set on an exercise. A favourite sport of the Troop is beating them at their own game. This is achieved on the sports field, the darts board, and on courses. The latest activity, after we have settled down from the season's last exercises and a change of barrack blocks, is to set up the Troop "Jimmy Club." This, we hope, will be a rendezvous for future darts matches against our neighbour and "Big Brother," 205 Squadron.

The emphasis for the August Bank Holidays was getting away from things. Corporal Witts and Signalman Blackmore nearly achieved this for ever. They were members of a small party from H.Q. Battery, which took a dilapidated ten-year-old van over the Alps, through Yugoslavia, to Athens. Judging from the postcards received by the Troop, they could well have faked a breakdown or a brigands' hold-up and stayed on for life. The rest of the Troop went away on Exercise "Exhaust Trail" in the Nuremberg area. Enquirers were told on the return to barracks that the exercise was "racing man, racing."

All good things come to an end, and here, as well as in other units, we have our share of hellos and goodbyes. Farewell and all the best to Corporals Witts and Greenhill; both will be sadly missed by both Royal Signals and Gunners alike. We bid a welcome to Corporals Cawthorne, Hearns and Golding, Signalmen Griffiths, Murphy, Nelson and Parker. May your stay with us be an enjoyable one.

51st (HIGHLAND) REGIMENT, T.A.

The news from 51 (H) Regiment must open on a note of regret for our many friends will detect the pen of a substitute 'Editor' and will be sorry to know that Major "Jim" Moonie is not in his accustomed chair as a result of a road accident in the late summer. However, after some time in hospital he is up and about again though not yet back to duty. We wish him a speedy return to full health.

Annual Camp this year was spent at Crowborough. The weather was not too kind but everyone enjoyed the excellent training facilities of this Camp and renewing acquaintance with the lovely Sussex countryside.

The W.R.A.C. members of the Regiment spent the middle weekend in France on a visit to their counterparts in the French

Army, the Personnel Feminine de L'Armee de Terre. They stayed in the modern barracks in Dieppe which is a 'school' for members of the P.F.A.T. and under their kind guidance were able to tread some of the ground trodden by members of a former 51 (H) Division in the anxious days of 1940. Tartan is still a passport in this part of France and everywhere from Dieppe to the heights of St. Valery they found kindness and hospitality all the way.

The new training year began well with a victory for our rifle shooting team at the C.S.O., Scottish Command, Rifle Meeting held in Edinburgh on 6th/7th October. Our team under the captaincy of Second-Lieutenant Stanley Tough won the day to bring home the splendid silver shield.

A week later Linemen and Radio Operators of 1 Squadron were called upon to provide communications for 51 (H) Division/District R.E. when they successfully demolished two tall chimneys in the Denabo area, near Peterhead. A most useful exercise for "Alpha" and "Charlie" Troops with a touch of 'operations' about it and an interesting day out with the Sappers.

53rd (W) REGIMENT (T.A.)

The recently re-formed Regimental football team, after a most heartening start in the T.A. Championship, went down in gallant defeat to the 5th Bn. The Welch Regiment. Injuries and the well-practised Welch, put them four goals down early in the game, but despite this, Signals rallied and held the stronger team for the rest of the clean, fast game. The Unit Sports Officer, W.O.II McFarland, has formed a team of some promise.

A Regimental hockey team, encouraged by the interest of the regular element, is now being formed, and has some reasonable expectations in the T.A. Championships, where opposition is admittedly lighter.

Recruiting goes well, particularly in the W.R.A.C. department, but the target is a high one. Like so many other T.A. Units, a desperate shortage continues at the junior officer level, and those ex-National Service officers who would be so valuable and for whom such a satisfying future exists in the Regiment, are still too busy with their careers to come from the "shadows" of civilian life. In part, the gap is being filled by officer cadets, several of whom have already been commissioned. A resourceful lot these—witness the cadet officer on line training at annual camp who, while carrying a ladder, met the G.O.C. head-on and rose to the occasion with a butt salute on the ladder. Despite trepidations and forebodings, the Regiment came through the September exercises, if not with flying colours, at least with sober satisfaction; these exercises would have taxed the Regiment at any time in its post war period.

The Regimental Association Football Team of 53 (W) Signal Regiment (TA), with, centre, the Unit Sports Officer, WO II F. McFarland, M.M.

Only the "Red Spider" year posed a greater physical problem, and that was eased by the "know-how" of the re-called reservists. By its very nature, the T.A. responds to major change in a somewhat ponderous way, but the changes in the past eighteen months have been revolutionary and abrupt. In recognising this, the implications of partial success are all the more promising, and some credit for this must go to the Regular Army Cadre of the Regiment.

The Regiment's paternal interest in the local branch of the Royal Signals Association, practically expressed by the P.S.O., Captain G. Carter, continues to produce results in this most active branch, while the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess, with the R.S.M. providing the main impetus, maintains its diverse and lively social activities.

Camp, next year, extremely early for us, is to be held, we hear, at Folkestone in mid-May, and we are to have Divisional Headquarters with us again. Could it be that they find our cuisine to their liking? Or is it the pleasure of our company? Cynics subscribe to the more mundane answer. Whatever the reason, their company, with certain well-concealed, but apprehensive reservations, is welcomed, and Signals are already training, extra curricularly, a mess team in high cockalorum and so on, pursuits in which Divisional Headquarters had some technical advantage at annual camp, 1962.

59th Regiment T.A.

Lieutenant-Colonel K. D. Patterson, O.B.E. T.D., with W.O.'s and Sergeants of the Unit.

The Regiment has had an interesting training year this year and went to camp at Scarborough in June, when Lieutenant-Colonel K. D. Patterson, O.B.E., T.D., our late Commanding Officer, dined with the Warrant Officers and Sergeants of the Unit (who were all dressed in Mess Kit as is shown in our photograph).

The annual Administrative Inspection went off very well in January and then the Regiment shot the S.L.R. in February and the S.M.R. in March.

Our training was stepped up and we had some very good radio and radio relay exercises, including one across the Pennines with sites at Altcar, Longridge, Sutton Bank and Scarborough. This was a useful exercise and much of value to the R.R. Troops was learnt and everyone enjoyed themselves at the detachment camp sites.

Our annual camp right on the sea at Burniston Barracks, Scarborough, was greatly enjoyed by all members of the Regiment and was enchanced by a visit of the Corps String Orchestra

for a short light concert which was attended by the C.S.O. Western Command, Colonel G. H. Starr. "Bos," the celebrated cartoonist, also did caricatures of all the Officers which were a great success.

We produced a stand with signal equipment at the huge Liverpool Show in July, during which a number of recruits for both the Regular Army and the T.A. were enlisted.

In September, our C.O., Lieutenant-Colonel K. D. Patterson, O.B.E., T.D., who had been with the Regiment for nine years, handed over to Lieutenant-Colonel L. F. Rigden, T.D., and was duly dined out in great style.

Major C. D. Davis was appointed Second-in-Command of the Regiment and Major W. P. Hines appointed to command 1 Squadron, vice Major J. J. Callander who retired from active T.A. service.

Captain T. S. Thorkilsen, another ex-R.A.F. member of the Regiment, left for Vancouver this month to a new civilian job. R.S.M. Davies left us on retirement and R.S.M. Nutton joined us from the Far East.

The .22 shooting competition has now got under way with two teams and we all hope that this will be reflected in a good standard of shooting at Altcar ranges next year.

The usual crop of Christmas festivities are nearly upon us and 84th Regiment, A.E.R., who are affiliated to us, start the ball rolling with a "hot pot" supper and social this weekend, when no doubt R.Q.M.S. Black will again be active on the piano to the vociferous enjoyment of all.

The Remembrance Day Parade this year was commanded by our Colonel and was a very impressive service held on St. George's Plateau in front of the Cenotaph in the centre of Liverpool. Seven hundred All Ranks of 21 Units marched past representing the Navy, Army and Air Force. Spectators included the Lord Mayor of Liverpool and most of the Council.

84th REGIMENT (A.E.R.)

The butcher, the baker and the candlestick maker, not to mention the Post Office engineer, assembled recently for their military highlight of the year—annual camp with the Eighty-Fourth. In fact, since we came to camp last year, the Regiment has enlisted very nearly 100 new recruits, some of whom have never seen any kind of military service before—how often it is remarked that their first taste of "the Army" comes as a pleasant surprise. Although we are based at Blandford, the Regiment assembled at Oswestry, and spent 24 hours in the care of the Royal Artillery Regiment responsible for the handling of our operational administration and supplies. This part of the exercise having proceeded smoothly, we were then called upon to make the 180 miles to Blandford, and this we did in a fleet of private cars, the sight of which would have warmed the heart of Mr. Frederick Karno himself—it is greatly to the credit of the Eighty-fourth that every single man arrived at the other end—pretty well on time.

The first week at Blandford was spent in training. Full technical courses and fast refresher courses were held for the tradesmen, while recruits had their own separate training facilities. During this time we had several distinguished visitors, and, indeed, an operational A.E.R. Regiment of this size must cause much interest in high places. From Southern Command we were visited by Major-General Metcalfe, C.B., C.B.E.; and from Western Command by the C.S.O., Colonel G. H. Starr. Camping with us was our R.E.M.E. L.A.D., and we were glad to welcome Colonel G. N. Preston, from the R.E.M.E. A.E.R. H.Q. Lieutenant-Colonel Bruce Donald, who was the C.O. of the now disbanded 10th Regiment, spoke to us on his experience of the technical and personal problems of his trunk communication regiment in the field. The salute at the regimental parade was taken by Colonel A. Ellison M.B.E., T.D., who is our Honorary Colonel, and he also presented A.E.R. efficiency awards to Major Ross, "one of the most senior Quartermasters in the Corps," Staff Sergeant Leutchford and Sergeant Cragg. Major Bill Lang took a film of the parade and the presentations, which was screened before the end of camp. In the second week there was a mobile exercise to prove out our new tradesmen and to show that a dry classroom is really the same as a wet field. On the whole, though, the weather was very kind to us, and this adds a great deal to the enjoyment of camp.

Shortly after the end of our camp, on a beautifully fine weekend at Sydling St. Nicholas, the Royal Signals A.E.R. sharpshooters from each Regiment assembled to decide the honour of the Fane Cup for the coming year. An exciting match this, in two competitions; one for the S.M.C. at 30 yards, and the other, a falling plate contest, at 200 yards, for rifle and bren. Nine teams produced very close results and the excitement was kept up to the last round. In the event, however, our team did stand out—and we have to add that it was Eighty-fourth—we value the honour, and promise to keep the cup highly polished.

Every year we lose some of our most stalwart fellow men, and this year we bade farewell to our Second-in-Command, Major A. G. Kneen, E.R.D., and to our R.S.M., Mr. Bob Shearon, who has served the corps for more than 30 years. Sad moments, these, but continually the Regiment gets younger, and as the out-of-camp training expands it gains more and more experience and still retains its youth. 53rd and 59th Regiments (T.A.), and 80 Week-End Training Centre have now given us technical and range facilities in South Wales and at Liverpool. In London, 47th Regiment (T.A.), at Putney, has given us much assistance with our out-of-camp activities, and it is in centres like these that the friendships made at camp are fostered through the fifty civilian weeks of the year; and it is on these friendships that the spirit of the Regiment is founded—successfully.

91st REGIMENT, A.E.R.

Our camp this year might well be described as that of a reconstructed Regiment in a camp requiring reconstruction.

The reorganisation of the A.E.R. has brought two major changes to 91st. First we have become an Operating Regiment, losing our Radio Relay Troops and other providing elements. Secondly, we have several new faces amongst us—in the main, officers and men from Category I Regiments who felt unable to accept the heavier commitment required by that category. These changes meant that throughout camp we were getting to know ourselves and our new role, and it was perhaps useful for the Regiment that we were required during camp to fulfil a positive role in an exercise of some importance.

We moved into Beavers Lane Camp, Hounslow, Middlesex, on Sunday, 16th September. To be honest we have camped at less austere locations, and it was very largely due to the energy of our advance party that the accommodation became, more or less, habitable. Beavers Lane Camp is at the end of one of the principal runways of London Airport and not even our advance party could alter that. Whilst the siting of the camp was, no doubt, ideal for aircraft recognition, most members of the Regiment considered the resultant insomnia and interference with all forms of communication cause for unambiguous comment. The Officers' Mess was a most interesting feature of the camp. Situated alongside the Q.M.'s stores it had at one time been a cookhouse, and will shortly become a garage. The almost complete absence of internal partitioning savoured of contemporary "open plan" living. Could this be the beginning of a new era in the design of such accommodation?

Unfortunately, we are not strong in numbers and in order to fulfil our role at camp we received considerable assistance from other Units. Apart from personnel from 65th Regiment, T.A., whose help we greatly appreciated, we had many regular

The tape centre, manned during this year's annual camp

In the teleprinter room. Major Lucas, Major Davis, Major-General Swainson, Brigadier Blaker, Major Hill, Lieutenant-Colonel Smith

officers and men with us. First, our thanks are due to Major (Tfc) N. Robinson, O.C. 600 Troop, from Blandford who brought with him four senior N.C.O.s. Major Robinson's preparatory work and unflagging energy throughout camp contributed much to any success we may have achieved. Next, from 30th Regiment, came Captain R. S. Rowland with his men to assist our administration, and very pleased we were to have him and his detachment with us. Last, but not least, came W.O.II Heard, from 24th Regiment, with four senior N.C.O.s and a large detachment of trainee operators. Without the knowledge and experience of W.O.II Heard and his N.C.O.s and without the efforts of his detachment, we would have been hard pressed to make an adequate showing.

We hope these regular officers and men would agree with us that over the two-week period the members of our Regiment and the regulars worked well together with an ever-increasing degree of co-operation. This fact augurs well for a situation which might arise on mobilization. We hope the regulars enjoyed their camp with us and did not find our methods too unconventional.

It is customary for an A.E.R. Unit to embark upon a three or four-day exercise during the second week of camp, but the most active period of our camp this year was during the second and third weekends. This change from the usual routine of camps meant that we did not have many opportunities for recreation or social activity, but the officers of the Regiment did have the privilege of entertaining Lieutenant-General Sir Roderick McLeod, K.C.B., C.B.E., G.O.C., Eastern Command, and G.O.C., U.K.L.F., designate together with Brigadier E. C. R. Blaker, O.B.E., Colonel T. H. C. Grigg, and other senior officers at a Guest Night held in their "open plan" Mess on the first Thursday of camp. We hope the General enjoyed his evening with the officers.

There was no opportunity at this camp to fire the usual range course and this gave our C.O. a chance to think up some fresh form of competition for the Scarborough Cup. This cup was presented by a former A.E.R. C.O. to be competed for every year by the Squadrons of the Regiment. Our Squadron existed largely on paper and the C.O. therefore decided that the competition should take the form of a 7-a-side football match between the Officers, the Sergeants and the Other Ranks. An unfit and largely unskilled band of officers under the able generalship of Captain E. Wall, R.A.P.C., succeeded, perhaps through cunning, but more likely through pure luck, in beating both the Sergeants and the Other Ranks, so winning the cup. This competition provided an amusing and enjoyable diversion during the last week of camp.

Unfortunately, although our C.O., Lieutenant-Colonel I. W. K. Smith, E.R.D., has only been with us a short while, he will relinquish command of 91st in a few months. We are sorry to see him go but at the same time welcome Major L. Hill, our Second-in-Command this year, who will be taking over command.

We look forward to an earlier camping date next season and please may it be in less urban surroundings.

[By Courtesy of the Cheltenham Newspaper Co. Ltd.

The Master of Signals meets Mr. P. Simnett

CHELTENHAM AND DISTRICT BRANCH

On Sunday, 4th November, the Branch was honoured to welcome the Master of Signals, Major-General Sir William A. Scott, K.C.M.G., C.B., C.B.E., who kindly came to Cheltenham especially to be present at the Dedication of the Branch Standard. The ceremony was performed at Morning Service in the 12th century Parish Church of St. Mary by the Rector, Canon Hugh E. Hopkins, O.B.E.

By kind permission of the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel W. E. Lyske, the parade was headed by a small party representing 14th Regiment and representatives of local branches of the Royal Naval Association. The Submariners Old Comrades' Association. The R.A.F. Association and the British Legion with their Standards paraded with us.

Our Standard Bearer, Mr. S. Wilcox, although new to the drill, carried the Standard in the best Catterick tradition, escorted by our oldest member, Mr. P. Simnett, who joined in the days when communications were handled by the Royal Engineers, and one of our youngest members, Mr. L. Flanagan, a member of T.A. Signals who served in the 1939-45 War. The parade was marshalled by Major L. Williams, and led by Major R. H. Farlow, M.B.E.

We now look forward to the first appearance of our Standard at the Catterick Reunion in the coming year.

[By Courtesy of The Cheltenham Newspaper Co. Ltd.

Members of the Cheltenham and District Branch of the Association on parade

Welfare Section

Below, an attempt is made to describe, with suitable anonymity, six cases taken from the Welfare Section files concluded during the first week in October, 1962. Also, on the same page, is a simple statement of income and expenditure.

LANCE-CORPORAL, 1930-54. Wife died two years ago and he is now obliged to give up work due to illness. The Fund made a grant to help with fuel and clothing and will be sending a clothing parcel.

SIGNALMAN, 1947-49, National Service. Lost his leg and is in hospital. The Fund made a grant to cover the cost of fares so that his wife can visit him in hospital.

WIDOW OF SIGNALMAN, 1939-54. The husband died suddenly, leaving the widow with a number of pressing debts to be cleared. The Fund helped her in doing this.

SIGNALMAN, 1940-58. Ran into financial difficulties culminating with a long period in hospital. The Fund was able to help in paying off some of the more pressing debts.

SIGNALMAN, 1941-45. Unemployed because of ill health over a number of years. The Fund has helped to pay off debts and provide some clothing.

SERGEANT, 1924-57. Unemployed for some months, due to ill health. The home was running into financial troubles over the payment of rates and life insurance. The Fund made a substantial contribution towards payment of these, and a most grateful letter has been received from the wife.

Royal Signals Association and Benevolent Fund

The following subscriptions were most gratefully received during October, 1962:

	£	s.	d.
8th Regiment	30	0	0
11th Regiment	30	13	7
24th Regiment (Officers' Mess)	3	18	0
24th Regiment (Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess)	3	13	0
224 Squadron	11	0	4
240 Squadron		10	0
Army Apprentices' School	4	9	3
14th Regiment (1 Squadron)	10	0	0
14th Regiment (3 Squadron)	8	2	0
M.E.S./S.R.D.E.	1	10	0
Signal Wing, School of Artillery		12	0
47th Regiment, T.A. (Sergeants' Mess)	2	0	0
53rd Regiment, T.A. (Sergeants' Mess)	10	0	0
C.S.O.'s Branch, Headquarters, Scottish Command		5	1
61st Regiment, T.A.	24	6	1
H.Q. 1 (BR) Corps		5	0
7th Regiment	75	14	9
253 Squadron		5	0
235 Squadron (COMCAN)		4	3
255 Squadron (Bahrain)		4	0
650 Troop		1	5
9th Regiment	13	9	6
219 Squadron		16	0
Milk Marketing Board (Tour of Britain Cycle Race)	25	0	0
Major B. W. Beale	2	10	0
Mrs. W. Heap		2	0
A. Davies		5	0
G. J. Feakes		2	0
C. W. Deakin			6
E. W. Menzie		1	0
K. S. Roe			6
G. R. Kirkman			6
M. Laird	1	13	0
E. J. C. Harrison		10	0
L. G. Toogood	1	0	0
H. W. Vaughan Thomas	1	0	0
W. C. Buchanan	2	0	0
R. C. C. Palmer		12	6
Total receipts	£285	6	4
Expenditure during October, 1962 (Includes: Rent and Rates; Beds and Bedding; Furniture; Cots and Prams; General Assistance)	£519	5	8

Analysis of Cases:

Family of soldier serving in U.K.	1	
Widows and dependants	6	
Released and discharged soldiers	36	
Total cases assisted	43	
26 Cases of Soldiers who served during the 1939/45 War	£403	11 1
17 Cases of Soldiers who did not serve during the War	£115	14 7

CORPS CRESTED ASH TRAY

Available from Royal Signals Association.

Plain glass, 4½in. square, Corps Crest, in gold.

Price 4s. 6d., including postage.

Suitable especially for souvenir gifts and for personal use.

EMPIRE FIELD OF REMEMBRANCE 1962

Again this year the Royal Signals Plot was surrounded by a total of twenty-five serving (T.A.) and ex-Service Members of the Corps, and the small private ceremony, as in past years, took place at 11.45 prior to the official Service of Opening and Dedication.

The Representative Colonel Commandant, the Chairman of the Association, the General Secretary, and the General Secretary Designate came to pay homage to their fallen comrades, and others present were Members of London, London (North), Croydon Branches, R.S.A. Headquarters, R.H.Q. Royal Signals and 65th Regiment (T.A.).

Twelve special crosses were planted on behalf of Units and Branches. The Royal Signals Association Headquarters cross was placed by the Representative Colonel Commandant.

Careers and Opportunities

The appointments listed below form a very small fraction of all the introductions to "Jobs" which are available. Always prospective employers want more candidates than the Association can offer.

Retired Officer Appointments

There are two vacancies available now for Retired Officers (Combatant or Q.M. type Commissions) on the Staff of the C.S.O., H.Q., B.A.O.R.

R.O. III (Training and Comsec)
R.O. II (S.W.S.)

These appointments carry a salary of £1,201 plus LOA £515 p.a., rent free quarters, free fuel and light up to a generous ceiling and many other 'perks'—cheap petrol, cigarettes and spirits, no motor tax. For further details write now to C.S.O., H.Q. B.A.O.R., B.F.P.O. 40.

Assistant Radio Engineer in Kuwait

Vacancy exists for Assistant Radio Engineer for service in Kuwait. Permanent position with prospects. Considerable knowledge and experience in the maintenance of VHF/UHF (up to 450 Mc/s) multi-channel radio systems and VHF single channel R.T. equipments. At least 5 years experience in maintenance of radio communication equipment. Age 30-40. Desirable to have H.N.C. or City and Guilds final. Salary not less than £2,500 tax free in Kuwait. Kit allowance £85.

Applications should be made direct to Kuwait Oil Co. Ltd., Burgan House, 105, Wigmore Street, London, W.1, marked for attention of Ian Graham, Esq. Mention Royal Signals Association in application.

Radio Taxis Services, 1a, High Point, Highgate, London, N.6

have vacancies for Radio Operators. Shift hours. Wages from £12 to £14 per week, and more, according to experience.

Applications may be made to the firm direct, marking application for the attention of Mr. Gilmore, and mentioning Royal Signals Association.

Ministry of Defence, London, S.W.1

Clerical Staff always required by the Ministry. Those with good educational background and past clerical experience. Application, in the first instance, to Royal Signals Association.

Vacancy for an Officer in the Territorial Army on Consolidated Rates of Pay

There will be a vacancy in mid-August, 1963, in 327 Squadron, T.A. (Radio), as Permanent Staff Officer at Portsmouth.

Applications for this post are invited from ex-combatant officers (Regular or T.A.).

The Officer will be based at Hilsea, Portsmouth, and his duties will be to administer the T.A. (Active List) of 327 Squadron, T.A. (Radio).

Conditions of service are as laid down in T.A. Regs Appx XXII; upper age limit on application 53 years. Appointment will be for 3 years with extension of 1, 2, or 3 years with War Office authority up to 60 years of age.

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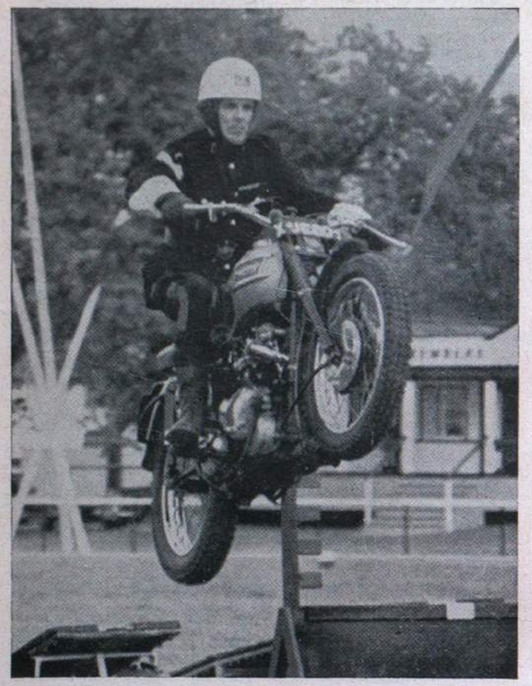
Applications should be made to: O.C. 327 Squadron T.A. (Radio), T.A. Centre, Peronne Road, Hilsea, Portsmouth.



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